



Insurance Institute for Highway Safety  
Highway Loss Data Institute

## IIHS NEWS RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. ET, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

February 24, 2021

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VNR: Wed. 2/24/2021, 10:30-11 a.m. ET; repeat 1:30-2 p.m. ET (KU) GALAXY 17  
SD transponder 17/slot 1 (dl12025H) bandwidth 6 MHz; symbol rate 3.9787 FEC ¾  
HD transponder 17-upper (dl12049H) bandwidth 18 MHz; symbol rate 13.235 FEC ¾

### **Choices expand for safety-conscious consumers, as 90 vehicles earn IIHS awards**

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety is recognizing 49 models for providing the highest level of safety — more than double the number that earned the *TOP SAFETY PICK+* award last year.

Another 41 vehicles earn *TOP SAFETY PICK* (without the plus), bringing the total number of 2021 award winners to 90, compared with 64 in February 2020.

"With these awards, we want to make it easy for consumers to find vehicles that provide good protection in crashes, sufficient lighting and effective front crash protection," IIHS President David Harkey says. "Manufacturers have stepped up to meet the challenge, and the list of great options has grown to an impressive size this year."

Both awards require good ratings in all six IIHS crashworthiness tests — driver- and passenger-side small overlap front, moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraints. Award winners must be available with front crash prevention that earns a superior or advanced rating in both vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-pedestrian evaluations.

Last but not least, *TOP SAFETY PICK* winners must be available with good or acceptable headlights. The "plus" designation is given to models that have good or acceptable headlights across all trim levels and packages.

Of all manufacturers, Hyundai Motor Group, including the Hyundai, Kia and Genesis brands, has the most 2021 awards — 12 regular *TOP SAFETY PICK*s and five pluses. Volvo has the most *TOP SAFETY PICK+* awards with nine.

Only one automaker, Mitsubishi, has failed to earn a single award so far. The low number of awards for General Motors — one *TOP SAFETY PICK* and one *TOP SAFETY PICK+* — is striking for such a large manufacturer.

This year two minivans, the Honda Odyssey and Toyota Sienna, qualify for the *TOP SAFETY PICK+* award. A pickup truck, the Ram 1500 crew cab, qualifies for *TOP SAFETY PICK* and is the only winner from Stellantis, the company created by the recent merger of Fiat Chrysler and Peugeot. A year ago, there were no minivans or pickups in the winner's circle.

#### **Headlight improvements**

IIHS has been using a two-tier award system since 2013 as a way to phase in new requirements that may be tough for all manufacturers to meet immediately. Over the years, IIHS has used *TOP SAFETY PICK+* to introduce new crash tests and crash avoidance criteria before making them part of the requirements for the regular *TOP SAFETY PICK* award.

Headlight ratings were first incorporated into *TOP SAFETY PICK+* criteria for the 2017 award year. To qualify for the highest award, vehicles had to at least have good or acceptable headlights available as an option. The following year, that requirement became part of the base award.

As manufacturers showed they could produce headlights with better lighting and less glare, IIHS decided to encourage them to make this improved equipment standard. Starting in 2020, only vehicles with good or acceptable headlights across the board could earn *TOP SAFETY PICK+*.

The strategy seems to be working. A year ago, only 23 vehicles qualified for the higher-tier award. Today, the number has more than doubled, and the majority of awards handed out for 2021 models include the plus sign.

### **Front crash prevention**

Vehicles don't have to have front crash prevention as standard equipment to qualify for either award, but a voluntary manufacturer commitment is helping on that front. Twenty automakers have signed the pledge to equip at least 95 percent of vehicles they make with vehicle-to-vehicle automatic emergency braking beginning in the 2022-23 production year.

All 49 *TOP SAFETY PICK+* winners and 31 *TOP SAFETY PICK* winners have standard systems that meet the vehicle-to-vehicle requirement. Forty-eight of the *TOP SAFETY PICK+* winners and 26 of the *TOP SAFETY PICK* winners also meet the pedestrian crash prevention criterion with their standard systems. The others qualify based on optional equipment.

### **Near misses**

The extensive list of criteria for both awards means many vehicles check all boxes but one. Twelve vehicles are only lacking good or acceptable headlights, while seven don't have pedestrian crash prevention that earns a superior or advanced rating. Only five fall short on crashworthiness. All five lack a good rating in the passenger-side small overlap front test.

**See the following pages for the full list of winners.**

### **For more information, go to [iihs.org](http://iihs.org)**

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) is an independent, nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing the losses — deaths, injuries and property damage — from motor vehicle crashes. IIHS is wholly supported by auto insurers.



## 2021 TOP SAFETY PICK+

**G**

Good ratings in the driver-side small overlap front, passenger-side small overlap front, moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests



Advanced or superior rating for available front crash prevention — vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-pedestrian evaluations

**A G**

Acceptable or good headlights standard

<b>Small cars</b>	Honda Insight Mazda 3 hatchback Mazda 3 sedan Subaru Crosstrek Hybrid
<b>Midsize cars</b>	Honda Accord Kia K5 built after November 2020 Mazda 6 Nissan Altima Nissan Maxima built after November 2020 Subaru Legacy Subaru Outback Toyota Camry
<b>Midsize luxury cars</b>	Acura TLX Lexus ES 350 Lexus IS Tesla Model 3 Volvo S60 Volvo S60 Recharge Volvo V60 Volvo V60 Recharge
<b>Large luxury cars</b>	Audi A6 Audi A6 allroad Audi A7 Genesis G70 Genesis G90
<b>Small SUVs</b>	Mazda CX-3 Mazda CX-5 Mazda CX-30 built after September 2020 Nissan Rogue Subaru Forester Volvo XC40
<b>Midsize SUVs</b>	Ford Explorer Hyundai Palisade Mazda CX-9 Subaru Ascent Toyota Highlander
<b>Midsize luxury SUVs</b>	Acura RDX Cadillac XT6 Hyundai Nexo Lexus NX Mercedes-Benz GLE-Class with optional front crash prevention Volvo XC60 Volvo XC60 Recharge Volvo XC90 Volvo XC90 Recharge
<b>Large SUVs</b>	Audi e-tron Audi e-tron Sportback
<b>Minivans</b>	Honda Odyssey Toyota Sienna

# 2021 TOP SAFETY PICK

**G**

Good ratings in the driver-side small overlap front, passenger-side small overlap front, moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests



Advanced or superior rating for available front crash prevention — vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-pedestrian evaluations

**A G**

Acceptable or good headlights **available**, but not standard; vehicles qualify for the award only when equipped with those headlights

<b>Small cars</b>	Honda Civic hatchback excluding Type R performance variant Honda Civic sedan Hyundai Veloster with optional front crash prevention Kia Forte with optional front crash prevention Kia Soul with optional front crash prevention Nissan Sentra Subaru Crosstrek with optional front crash prevention Subaru Impreza sedan with optional front crash prevention Subaru Impreza wagon with optional front crash prevention Subaru WRX with optional front crash prevention Toyota Corolla hatchback Toyota Corolla sedan
<b>Midsize car</b>	Hyundai Sonata
<b>Midsize luxury cars</b>	Audi A4 Audi A5 Sportback BMW 3 series Mercedes-Benz C-Class with optional front crash prevention
<b>Large car</b>	Kia Stinger with optional front crash prevention
<b>Small SUVs</b>	Chevrolet Equinox Ford Escape Honda CR-V Hyundai Kona with optional front crash prevention Hyundai Tucson with optional front crash prevention Hyundai Venue Kia Seltos built after August 2020; with optional front crash prevention Kia Sportage with optional front crash prevention Lexus UX Lincoln Corsair Toyota C-HR Toyota RAV4 Toyota RAV4 Prime Toyota Venza
<b>Midsize SUVs</b>	Ford Edge Kia Sorento Kia Telluride Volkswagen Tiguan
<b>Midsize luxury SUVs</b>	Lexus RX Lincoln Aviator Mercedes-Benz GLC with optional front crash prevention
<b>Large SUV</b>	Audi Q8
<b>Large pickup</b>	Ram 1500 crew cab with optional front crash prevention

For details on these and other ratings, go to [iihs.org/ratings](https://www.iihs.org/ratings).

