

## Safety Belts Save Lives and Injuries

### BRITAX ACCIDENT REPORTS FOR 1961 ANALYZED:-

Of the 189 car occupants involved in accidents and known to have been wearing a Britax safety belt during 1961, only eight received injuries, one of them fatal\*, but the others were of a comparatively light nature.

These facts emerge from an analysis of reports on 132 car accidents in Britain. The reports were sent to Britax by the people best qualified to say how valuable safety belts are - the motorists involved. An accident report form is included with every Britax belt sold. The analysis confirms statistics, already compiled in Britain and Sweden, showing that the belts afford a very high degree of protection.

13 of the cars were completely wrecked; there were 60 cases of high-speed collisions and in 16 of these the cars rolled or somersaulted. Several of the vehicles were open sports cars and one of the drivers who escaped injury while secured by a belt was a disabled man, paralysed below the waist.

Reports showed that of the 14 front seat passengers who had not fastened their belts, five were severely hurt, while most of the rest sustained injuries. As far as is known, all the motorists concerned in the accidents reported were wearing the two-point diagonal belt, popular because of its simplicity and comfort, especially for women.

Most of the accidents involved more than one car and skidding on wet or icy roads was stated to be the main cause. Next came collisions at cross-roads or junctions, followed by accidents during overtaking. Some drivers blamed dazzling lights or unexpected obstacles in the road. Only 14 drivers admitted being at fault in misjudging speeds or braking distances. These cases could have been due to faulty eyesight or lack of concentration of which factors the drivers may not have been aware.

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(\*The only person killed was the passenger involved in a 70 m.p.h. smash, in which the car ploughed through a fence, demolished a gate post and knocked down a tree. The driver, also wearing a Britax belt was entirely uninjured, but the passenger was struck by an object entering the side window while the car was sliding on its side.)

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TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN THE YEAR 1961 132

Accidents involving one car: 39

Cause of accident:

Skidding on wet or icy roads	23
Hitting obstacles	5
Misjudgement of speed or braking distance	4
Dazzling lights	1
Burst tyres	4
Fell asleep at wheel	1
Cause unknown	1

Accidents involving more than one car: 93

Cause of accident:

Skidding on wet or icy roads	15
Collision at cross roads or side roads	27
Lack of signals or bad signals	14
Collision in line of traffic or when overtaking	26
Misjudgement of speed or braking distance	10
Brake failure	1

Injuries received by wearers of safety belts: 8  
(other than bruises or minor abrasions)

Fatal injuries	1
Injuries to legs	1
Injuries to head (child of 3)	1
Cracked finger	1
*Fractured ribs	
Fractured clavicle	1
*Concussion	2
Broken nose	1

\*One person received both fractured ribs and concussion in the same accident

State of car:

Write off	13
Extensive damage	60
Moderate damage	43
Minor damage	16

Cars which rolled or somersaulted: 16

TOTAL NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS SAVED FROM DEATH OR ANY INJURY 184