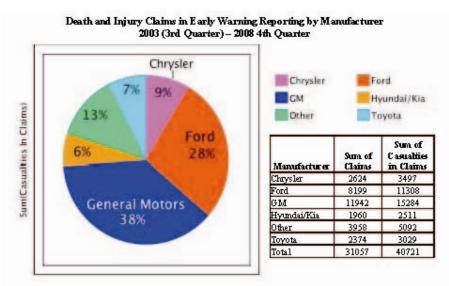
Public Safety at Risk:

Bankruptcies Leave Legacy of Defects, Injuries and Deaths



Safety Research & Strategies June 23, 2009 Under the terms of the bankruptcies, General Motors and Chrysler will shed all product liability claims for tens of millions of vehicles currently on the road, leaving thousands of individuals and families uncompensated for the permanent injuries or deaths caused by vehicle defects. Allowing these automakers to continue as new entities with no due care responsibilities for the vehicles built before bankruptcy will also decrease public safety. The story is in the numbers.

From the third quarter in 2003 to the fourth quarter in 2008, Chrysler fielded 2,464 death and injury claims, according to its Early Warning Reporting (EWR) data, which all automakers are required to file with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Collectively, they represent 3,497 individual fatalities and injuries. General Motors generated many more claims. In the same time period, the automaker received 11,942 claims, representing a total of 15,284 individual fatalities and injuries.¹



(Source: Quality Control Systems Corp.)

Chrysler's average annual number of death and injury claims in the reporting period is 477, resulting with an average of 636 casualties per year (casualties are individual deaths and injuries). For General Motors, the average annual claims rate is 2,171 with an average of 2,779 casualties per year. The average combined casualties per year for both companies is 3,415.

These claims can be expected to continue at the same pace, resulting in approximately 3,400 new casualties each year during the next couple of years. This is based on data showing that Americans are holding onto their vehicles longer. According to the latest survey by R.L. Polk and Company, the average age of the passenger car in the U.S. rose

¹ EWR require manufacturers to report claims on vehicles 10 years old or less. These counts are for nonduplicative claims.

from 9.2 to 9.4 years over the last year alone, due, in part, to the weak economy and the cost of a new car. The elusive economic recovery in the U.S. is likely to strengthen this trend.

	Total EWR Claims	Average EWR Claims per Year	here accord to the balance description of	Average Casualties in EWR Claims per Year
Chrysler	2,624	477	3,497	636
GM	11,942	2,171	15,284	2,779
Chrysler/GM Combined	14,566	2,648	18,781	3,415

Early Warning Reporting Claims, 2003 Qtr 3 - 2008 Qtr 4

An examination of the claims for all vehicle manufacturers required to report EWR data to NHTSA shows that Chrysler claims are approximately proportionate to its average market share of about 13.5 percent. However, GM commands a disproportionate number of claims, given its average market share of 25.25 percent over the same time period.

Manufacturer	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Average Market Share
GM	28.30%	27.50%	26.20%	24.50%	23.70%	21.30%	25.25%
Chrysler	14.10%	14.40%	14.90%	12.90%	12.90%	12.10%	13.55%

GM and Chrysler Market Share, 2003-2008

Source: Automotive News Data Center, U.S. Passenger and Light Truck Sales by Make

Neither General Motors nor Chrysler will have the data or the incentive to correct defects that emerge post-bankruptcy. Automakers use death and injury claim trends to identify defects, as does NHTSA, which collects this information. If people can not recover for the human and property damage caused by GM or Chrysler vehicles, these claims will not be filed. The automaker will be hampered in its quest to monitor the quality of its products in the field.

This will have serious consequences for public safety. First, the absence of death and injury claims will decrease the number of recalls and remedies for which GM and Chrysler will be responsible after the bankruptcies. Manufacturers typically resist recalls – especially if the defect is widespread – because recalls can be expensive and enforce a negative image of their brand in consumers' minds. In the last five years, both manufacturers have recalled millions of vehicles for extremely serious safety problems, including roofs that fly off their frames, seat belts that become unlatched in crashes, wiring that shorts causing engine fires, and broken brake pedals that don't apply the brakes.

From 2004 to 2008, Chrysler has issued 109 recalls affecting 11.4 million vehicles. GM launched 129 recalls affecting 19 million. For example, in 2004, General Motors recalled 92,863 Chevrolet Malibus with sticky accelerator arm pedals that wouldn't return to idle

when the driver took his foot off the gas. In 2006, Chrysler recalled 42,469 2002-2003 Jeep Liberty vehicles originally sold in Salt-Belt states with front suspension upper control ball joints that had a tendency to separate while driving – meaning the driver would suddenly have no steering capability.

	Recalls by Calendar Year and Manufacturer						
		Chrysler	General Motors				
Year	Total Number of Recalls Vehicles Affected		Total Recalls	Number of Vehicles Affected			
2004	29	5,842,746	41	10,272,219			
2005	11	766,162	30	4,997,923			
2006	29	2,349,919	17	1,369,916			
2007	27	2,063,506	20	538,214			
2008	13	361,065	21	1,754,720			
Total	109	11,383,398	129	18,932,992			

These are defects with potentially catastrophic consequences. If neither company is responsible for the past and future claims involving 40 million vehicles, few will file death or injury claims. If death and injury claims data do not reflect the status of real-world problems on the road, safety is compromised. And, if GM and Chrysler no longer bear the liability for uncorrected defects, the automaker has few motivations to fix the pre-bankruptcy problems.

General Motors EWR Claims by State, 2003 Qtr 3 - 2008 Qtr 4

State	Counts of EWR Claims with Deaths and Injuries	Total Casualties in EWR Claims	Deaths in EWR Claims	Injuries in EWR Claim:
ALABAMA	295	368	56	312
ALASKA	30	39	1	31
ARIZONA	259	354	61	293
ARKANSAS	191	246	27	219
CALIFORNIA	935	1288	189	1099
COLORADO	152	189	12	173
CONNECTICUT	89	95	1	9.
DC	8	8	0	
DELAWARE	41	49	0	4
FLORIDA	727	903	70	833
GEORGIA	387	472	27	445
HAWAII	34	41	5	30
IDAHO	45	55	6	4
ILLINOIS	497	628	71	55
INDIANA	281	353	24	32
IOWA	82	94	4	9
KANSAS	97	113	8	10
KENTUCKY	272	335	21	31-
LOUISIANA	344	442	51	39
MAINE	53	69	5	6-
MARYLAND	172	204	13	19
MASSACHUSETTS	178	201	2	199
MICHIGAN	495	600	63	53
MINNESOTA	107	119	5	11-
MISSISSIPPI	240	306	38	26
MISSOURI	332	413	28	38
MONTANA	53	64	8	5
NEBRASKA	54	72	3	6
NEVADA	108	149	27	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE	36	39	0	3
NEW JERSEY	293	340	11	329
NEW MEXICO	90	129	24	10
NEW YORK	486	597	28	565
NORTH CAROLINA	327	411	10	40
NORTH DAKOTA	16	21	1	2
оню	481	606	25	58
OKLAHOMA	186	243	29	21
OREGON	88	119	10	10
PENNSYLVANIA	497	586	37	549
RHODE ISLAND	30	37	3	3-
SOUTH CAROLINA	216	271	29	24
SOUTH DAKOTA	2.8	35	4	3
TENNESSEE	335	420	34	38
TEXAS	1213	1670	290	138
UTAH	58	103	20	8
VERMONT	23	30	4	20
VIRGINIA	233	287	17	27
WASHINGTON	122	162	13	149
WEST VIRGINIA	191	249	17	232
WISCONSIN	214	274	11	263
WYOMING	28	38	9	2
US TERRITORIES/FOREIGN	193	348	110	23

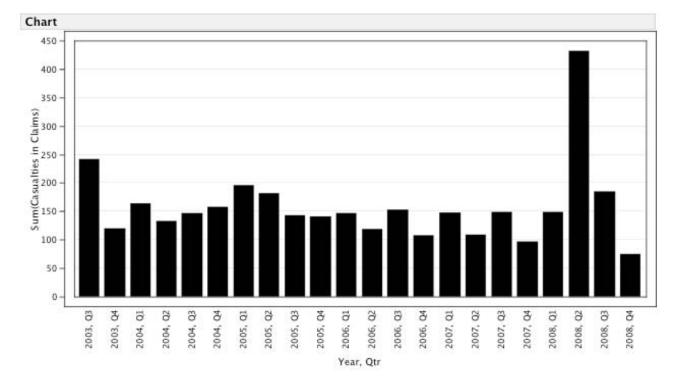
Counts of **EWR Claims** with Deaths in Total Deaths and EWR Casualties in Injuries in Injuries EWR Claims Claims **EWR Claims** State ALABAMA ARIZONA ARKANSAS CALIFORNIA COLORADO CONNECTICUT DC DELAWARE FLORIDA GEORGIA HAWAII **IDAHO** ILLINOIS INDIANA **IOWA** KANSAS KENTUCKY LOUISIANA MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN MINNESOTA MISSISSIPPI MISSOURI MONTANA NEBRASKA **NEVADA** NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEW MEXICO NEW YORK NORTH CAROLINA OHIO OKLAHOMA OREGON PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTH DAKOTA TENNESSEE TEXAS UTAH VERMONT VIRGINIA WASHINGTON WEST VIRGINIA WISCONSIN

Chrysler EWR Claims by State, 2003 Qtr 3 - 2008 Qtr 4

WYOMING

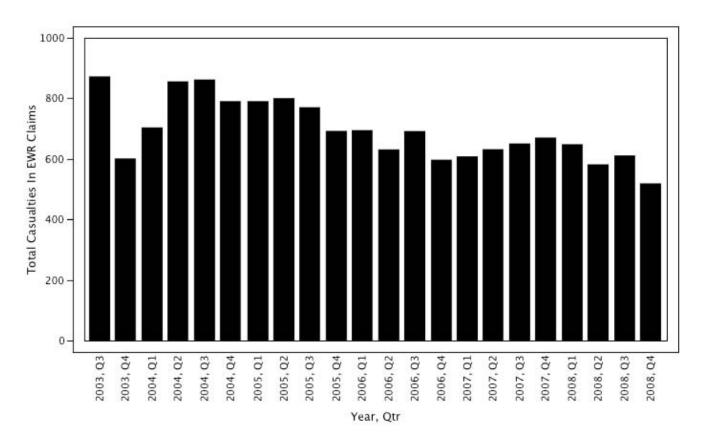
US TERRITORIES/FOREIGN

	Chrysler	Chrsyler - Avg	GM -	GM - Avg	Chrysler/GM	Chrysler/GM Combined -
01-1-	- Total	Claims	Total	Claims	Combined -	Avg Claims
State	Claims	per Year	Claims	per Year	Total Claims	per Year
Alabama	60	10.91	295	53.64	355	64.55
Alaska	0	0.00	30	5.45	30	5.45
Arizona	44	8.00	259	47.09	303	55.09
Arkansas	29	5.27	191	34.73	220	40.00
California	206	37.45	935	170.00	1141	207.45
Colorado	31	5.64	152	27.64	183	33.27
Connecticut	25	4.55	89	16.18	114	20.73
DC	1	0.18	8	1.45	9	1.64
Delaware	12	2.18	41	7.45	53	9.64
Florida	211	38.36	727	132.18	938	170.55
Georgia	71	12.91	387	70.36	458	83.27
Hawaii	16	2.91	34	6.18	50	9.09
Idaho	10	1.82	45	8.18	55	10.00
Illinois Indiana	86 48	<u>15.64</u> 8.73	497 281	90.36	583 329	106.00 59.82
lowa	48	2.00	82	51.09 14.91	93	16.91
Kansas	13	2.00	97	17.64	110	
Kentucky	43	7.82	272	49.45	315	20.00 57.27
Louisiana	43 55	10.00	344	62.55	313	72.55
Maine	12	2.18	53	9.64	65	11.82
Maryland	48	8.73	172	31.27	220	40.00
Massachusetts	53	9.64	172	32.36	220	40.00
Michigan	85	15.45	495	90.00	580	105.45
Minnesota	27	4.91	107	19.45	134	24.36
Mississippi	49	8.91	240	43.64	289	52.55
Missouri	49 60	10.91	332	60.36	392	71.27
Montana	8	1.45	53	9.64	61	11.09
Nebraska	12	2.18	54	9.82	66	12.00
Nevada	24	4.36	108	19.64	132	24.00
New Hampshire	11	2.00	36	6.55	47	8.55
New Jersey	100	18.18	293	53.27	393	71.45
New Mexico	32	5.82	90	16.36	122	22.18
New York	100	18.18	486	88.36	586	106.55
North Carolina	46	8.36	327		373	67.82
North Dakota	0	0.00	16	2.91	16	2.91
Ohio	78	14.18	481	87.45	559	101.64
Oklahoma	34	6.18	186	33.82	220	40.00
Oregon	38	6.91	88	16.00	126	22.91
Pennsylvania	141	25.64	497	90.36	638	116.00
Rhode Island	10	1.82	30	5.45	40	7.27
South Carolina	53	9.64	216	39.27	269	48.91
South Dakota	4	0.73	28	5.09	32	5.82
Tennesee	60	10.91	335	60.91	395	71.82
Texas	309	56.18	1213	220.55	1522	276.73
Utah	18	3.27	58	10.55	76	13.82
Vermont	4	0.73	23	4.18	27	4.91
Virginia	58	10.55	233	42.36	291	52.91
Washington	23	4.18	122	22.18	145	26.36
West Virginia	39	7.09	191	34.73	230	41.82
Wisconsin	27	4.91	214	38.91	241	43.82
Wyoming	5	0.91	28	5.09	33	6.00
US Territories/Foreign	84	15.27	193	35.09	277	50.36



Death and Injury Claims in Early Warning Reporting by Quarter: Chrysler 2003 (3rd Quarter) – 2008 4th Quarter

Death and Injury Claims in Early Warning Reporting: General Motors 2003 (3rd Quarter) – 2008 4th Quarter



Source: Quality Control Systems Corp. (www.quality-control.us)

Summary Counts for GM

Year, Qtr	Counts of EWR Claims with Deaths and Injuries	Total Casualties In EWR Claims	Deaths in EWR Claims	Injuries in EWR Claims
2003, Q3	688	873	128	745
2003, Q4	486	602	70	532
2004, Q1	565	704	102	602
2004, Q2	707	856	75	781
2004, Q3	659	862	78	784
2004, Q4	664	791	69	722
2005, Q1	668	791	78	713
2005, Q2	631	801	89	712
2005, Q3	569	771	58	713
2005, Q4	550	693	64	629
2006, Q1	540	695	52	643
2006, Q2	503	631	58	573
2006, Q3	507	692	71	621
2006, Q4	439	597	102	495
2007, Q1	470	609	62	547
2007, Q2	443	632	68	564
2007, Q3	479	651	82	569
2007, Q4	533	671	66	605
2008, Q1	500	649	47	602
2008, Q2	442	582	51	531
2008, Q3	493	612	51	561
2008, Q4	406	519	41	478

Summary Counts for Chrysler

Year, Qtr	Counts of EWR Claims with Deaths and Injuries	Total Casualties In EWR Claims	Deaths in EWR Claims	Injuries in EWR Claims
2003, Q3	170	242	48	194
2003, Q4	76	120	22	98
2004, Q1	135	164	21	143
2004, Q2	111	133	25	108
2004, Q3	119	147	20	127
2004, Q4	123	158	25	133
2005, Q1	148	196	20	176
2005, Q2	135	182	31	151
2005, Q3	106	143	22	121
2005, Q4	105	141	22	119
2006, Q1	101	147	26	121
2006, Q2	92	119	15	104
2006, Q3	115	153	26	127
2006, Q4	82	108	15	93
2007, Q1	119	148	27	121
2007, Q2	88	109	19	90
2007, Q3	98	149	28	121
2007, Q4	81	97	18	79
2008, Q1	101	149	22	127
2008, Q2	324	432	77	355
2008, Q3	136	185	27	158
2008, Q4	59	75	7	68

Source: Quality Control Systems Corp. (<u>www.quality-control.us</u>)