

Redesigned for the 2000 model year, the Subaru Legacy has optional side airbags designed to protect drivers' and front passengers' chests. Front shoulder belts include standard crash tensioners designed to prevent slack from allowing excessive forward movement in a crash and devices to limit belt forces on occupants. Antilock brakes and daytime running lights are standard.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has evaluated the crashworthiness of the Legacy, based primarily on performance in a 40 mph frontal offset crash test into a deformable barrier. Head restraint and bumper designs are evaluated separately:

STRUCTURE / SAFETY CAGE: GOOD There was minimal to moderate intrusion into the driver footwell area and minimal rearward movement of the instrument panel.

RESTRAINTS / DUMMY KINEMATICS: GOOD Dummy movement was well controlled. After the dummy moved forward into the airbag, it rebounded into the seat without its head coming close to any stiff structure that could cause injury.

INJURY MEASURES: RIGHT LEG ACCEPTABLE Measures taken from the head, neck, and chest indicate low risk of injury to these body regions. However, the extent of the right tibia/femur displacement indicates the possibility of knee injury.

OVERALL EVALUATION: GOOD The driver space was maintained well in the frontal offset crash test. Dummy movement was well controlled. However, measures indicate the possibility of knee injuries. Optional side airbags and standard belt crash tensioners and daytime running lights are pluses