

Redesigned for the 2000 model year, the Mazda MPV has optional side airbags designed to protect drivers' and front passengers' heads and chests. Front shoulder belts include devices to limit belt forces on occupants in crashes. Antilock brakes are optional.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has evaluated the crashworthiness of the Mazda MPV, 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: ACCEPTABLE There was moderate intrusion into the driver footwell area and minimal to moderate rearward movement of the instrument panel.

RESTRAINTS/DUMMY KINEMATICS: GOOD Dummy movement was well controlled. After the dummy rebounded from the airbag, it moved toward the driver door, but its head didn't contact any stiff structure that could cause injury.

INJURY MEASURES: RIGHT LEG POOR Measures taken from the chest indicate low risk of injury to this body region. However, forces on the head and neck were moderately high when the dummy's head loaded the airbag, indicating the possibility of head and neck injuries. Forces on the right leg indicate the likelihood of lower leg injury.

OVERALL EVALUATION: ACCEPTABLE The driver space was maintained reasonably well in the frontal offset crash test, although footwell intrusion contributed to the likelihood of leg injuries. Optional side airbags with head protection are pluses.