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Airbag Non-Deployment in Fatal 2003-2007 Saturn Ion and 2005-2007 Chevrolet Cobalt Crashes

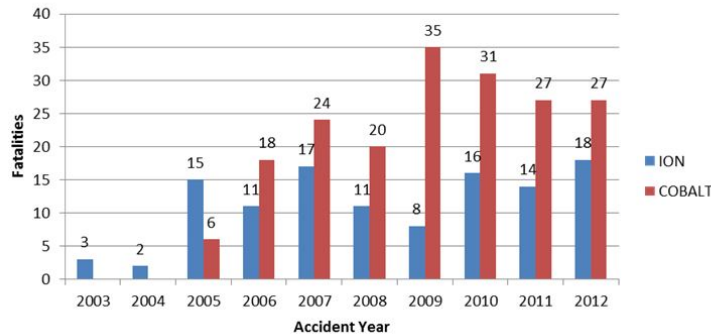
A study of airbags that did not deploy in fatal crashes was conducted for the Center for Auto Safety.

Data from NHTSA’s Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS)¹ database was used for the study. FARS data from 2002 to 2012 accident years were used. The Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) system² was used to analyze the data.

The computer analysis looked at 2003-2007 Saturn Ion and 2005-2007 Chevrolet Cobalt vehicles. Crashes that were not rear impacts were selected. Front seat occupants who died in those crashes and whose available airbags did not deploy were identified.

The database contained the records of at least 303 deaths in which the available airbags did not deploy as indicated in the below chart that summarizes the results.

**DEATHS IN 2003-2007 SATURN IONS AND
2005-2007 CHEVROLET COBALTS
WITH AIRBAG NON-DEPLOYMENT
BY CALENDAR YEAR**



2002-2012 Fatal Accident Reporting System for front seat occupants;
Excludes: cases coded with rear damage area and cases with unknown or not-reported airbag deployment
Total=303, 115 Ion and 188 Cobalt.

The Center for Auto Safety provided the study to NHTSA saying: “NHTSA could and should have initiated a defect investigation to determine why airbags were not deploying in Cobalts and Ions in increasing numbers. As the agency has done in past investigations, special investigation teams should have been sent out to acquire more information on the crashes found in FARS and determine in which ones the airbag did not deploy due to the ignition key defect.”

¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatal Accident Reporting System, 2002-2012

² SAS Institute, Inc., Statistical Analysis Software, Cary, NC