

What People are Saying

...about the government's failure to mandate female dummies in crash tests

"You bring up a subject in your book that's really important to me...[cars] are not necessarily designed for a woman's safety...it might be designed for men's bodies, and women's bodies are different...try as I will, [a seatbelt] usually ends up going across my neck...it's not good."

- Terry Gross, host, National Public Radio's *Fresh Air*, "How Cars Became a Gendered Technology," March 28, 2024 while interviewing author Nancy Nichols.

"The federal government has their standards...and they have their dummies, and those dummies historically have been made for men... There has been a push by women legislators to get that changed...but it's still quite concerning. And as a result of that, women are more likely to be injured in a crash."

- Nancy Nichols, author, "Women Behind the Wheel: An Unexpected and Personal History of the Car," speaking on National Public Radio's *Fresh Air*, "How Cars Became a Gendered Technology," March 28, 2024.

"[T]he gendered passenger/driver norm is so prevalent that...the male crash-test dummy [is] still the standard dummy for the driver's seat."

- Caroline Criado-Perez, author, "Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men," published 2019, page 189.

"NHTSA identified greater risks faced by females and older individuals at least two decades ago, but has not completed actions to address them...NHTSA does not have a comprehensive plan to address existing risks and limitations in the information dummies provide."

- U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), "DOT Should Take Additional Actions to Improve the Information Obtained from Crash Test Dummies," Report GAO-23-105595, published March 8, 2023. The GAO is an independent, nonpartisan government agency within the legislative branch that provides auditing, evaluative, and investigative services for the U.S. Congress and is the supreme audit institution of the federal government.

"Crash test dummies right now for adults are based on – really back to the seventies – are based on an adult male...that is not applicable to most females... The stature of different types of people needs to



be taken into consideration... I'm really thankful for [Senator Fischer's] work on this, and very pleased with the GAO's report that came out as a result of that work... I do hope NHTSA takes...those recommendations seriously to really look at the different types of people who are operating in our vehicles to ensure safety."

- Jennifer Homendy, Chair of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), during a hearing held by the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee titled, "National Transportation Safety Board Investigations Report," March 6, 2024. Chair Homendy was responding to a question from Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE), who indicated concern about the current crash test dummy regime. The NTSB is the independent U.S. government investigative agency responsible for civil transportation accident investigation.