

# Pressure Sensor Analysis of Interaction Between Occupant and Seatback

UNECE EqOP Task Force 2

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024



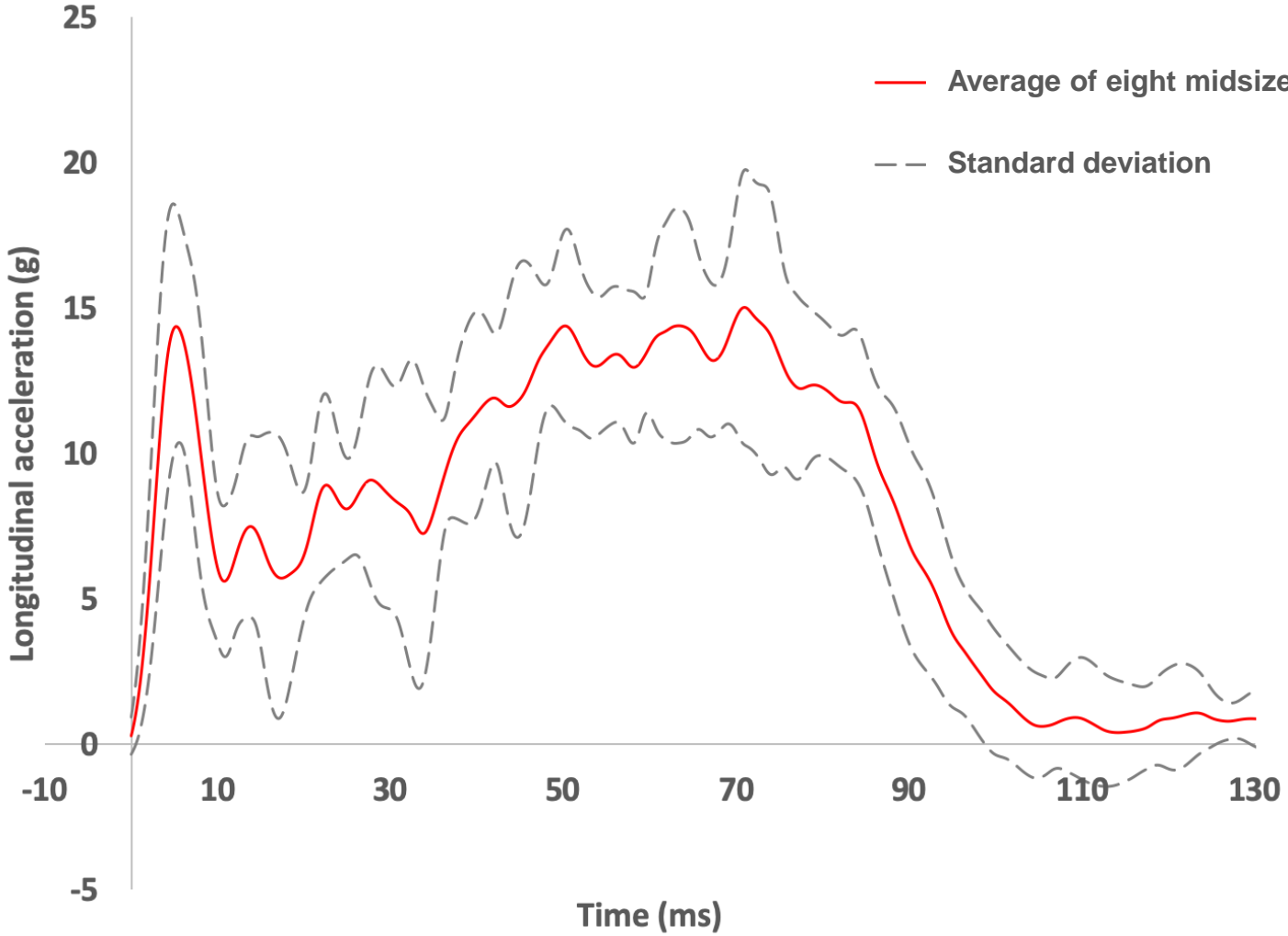
**Marcy Edwards**  
Senior Research Engineer



# Background

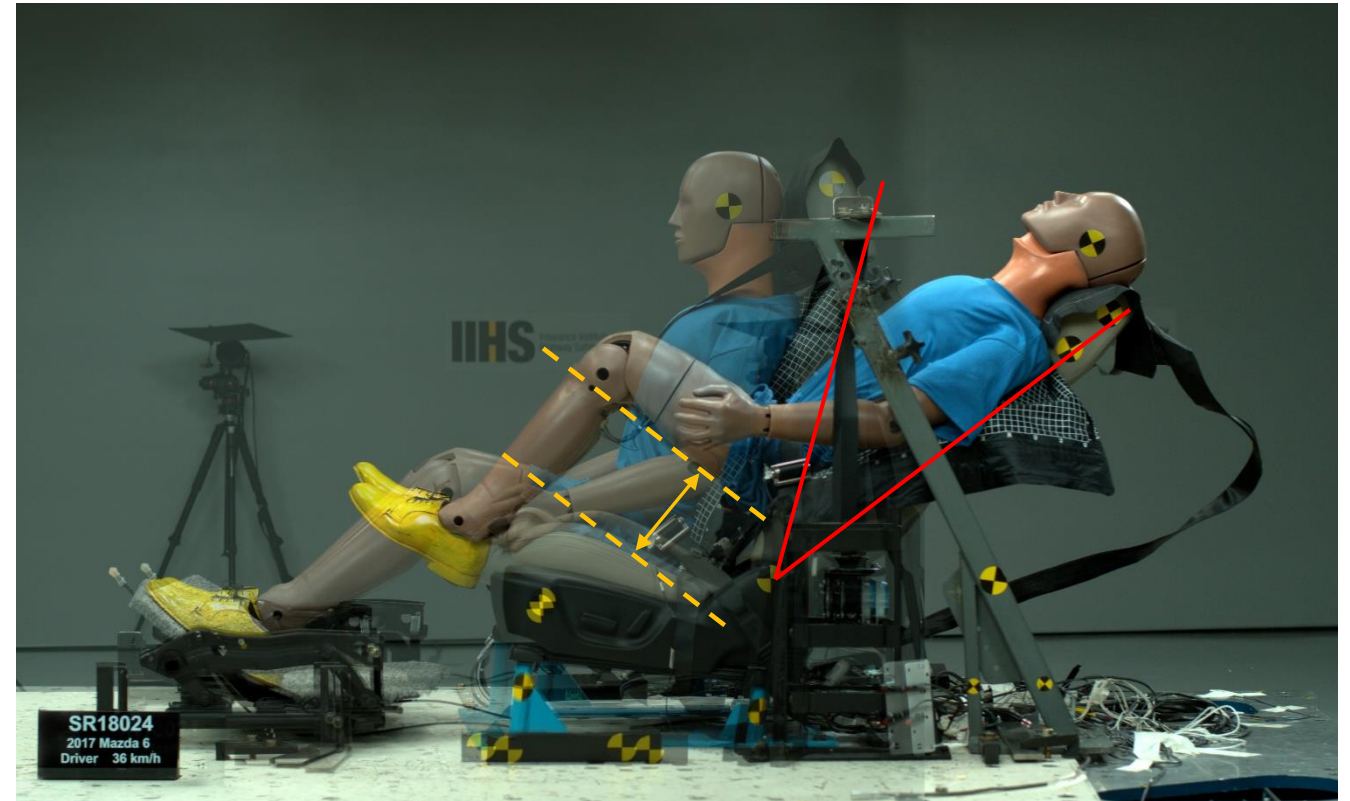


# Sled test conditions FMVSS 301R test 36 km/h delta v

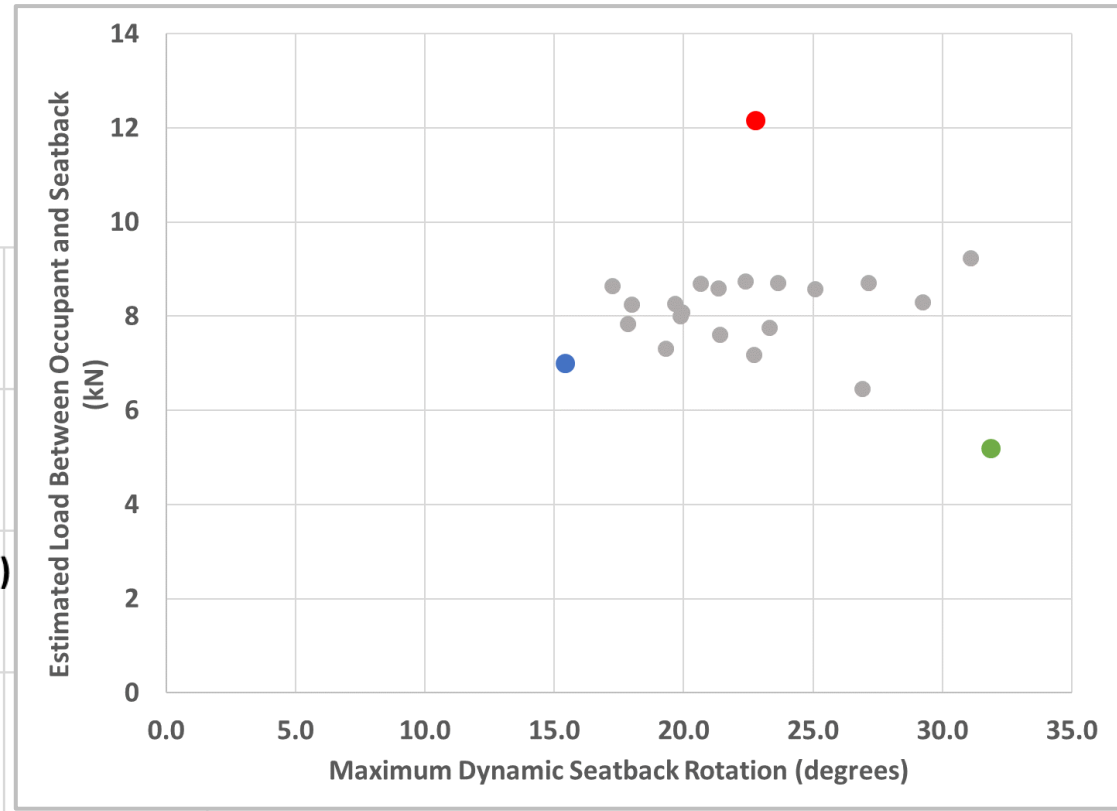
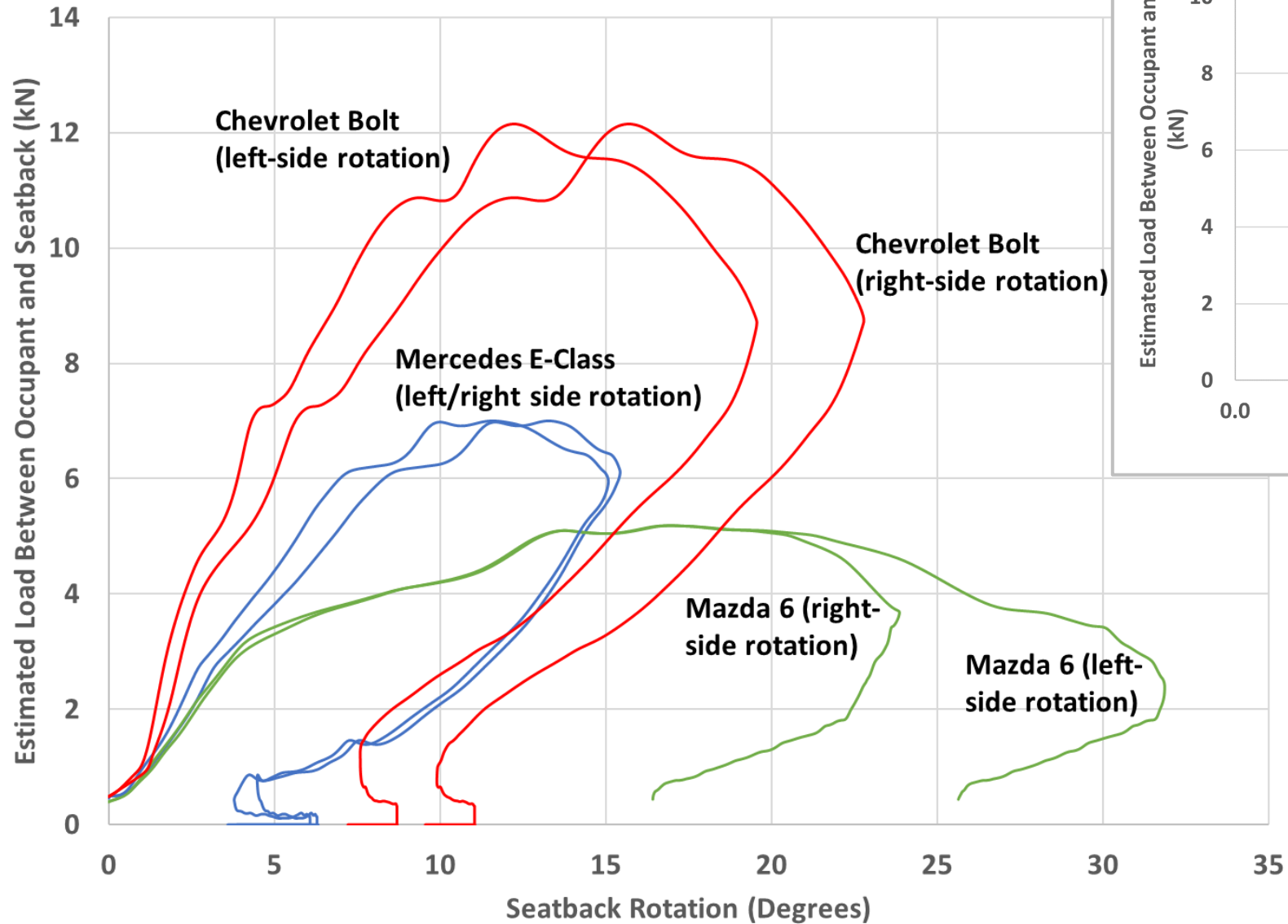


# Data collection

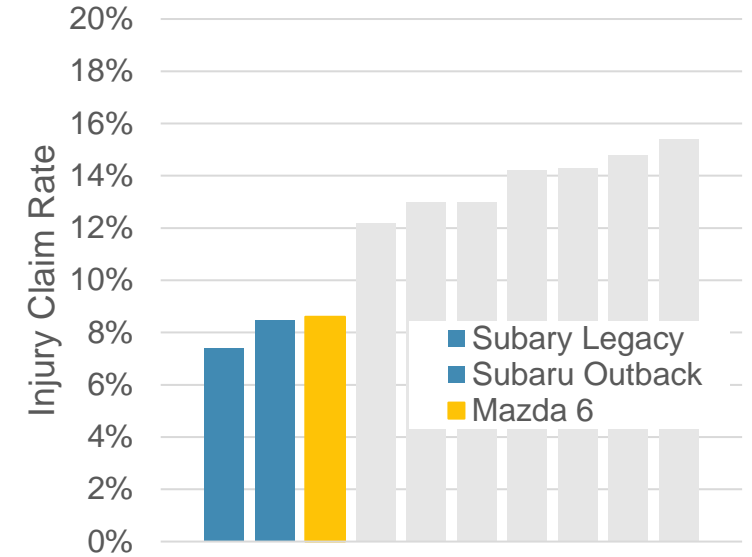
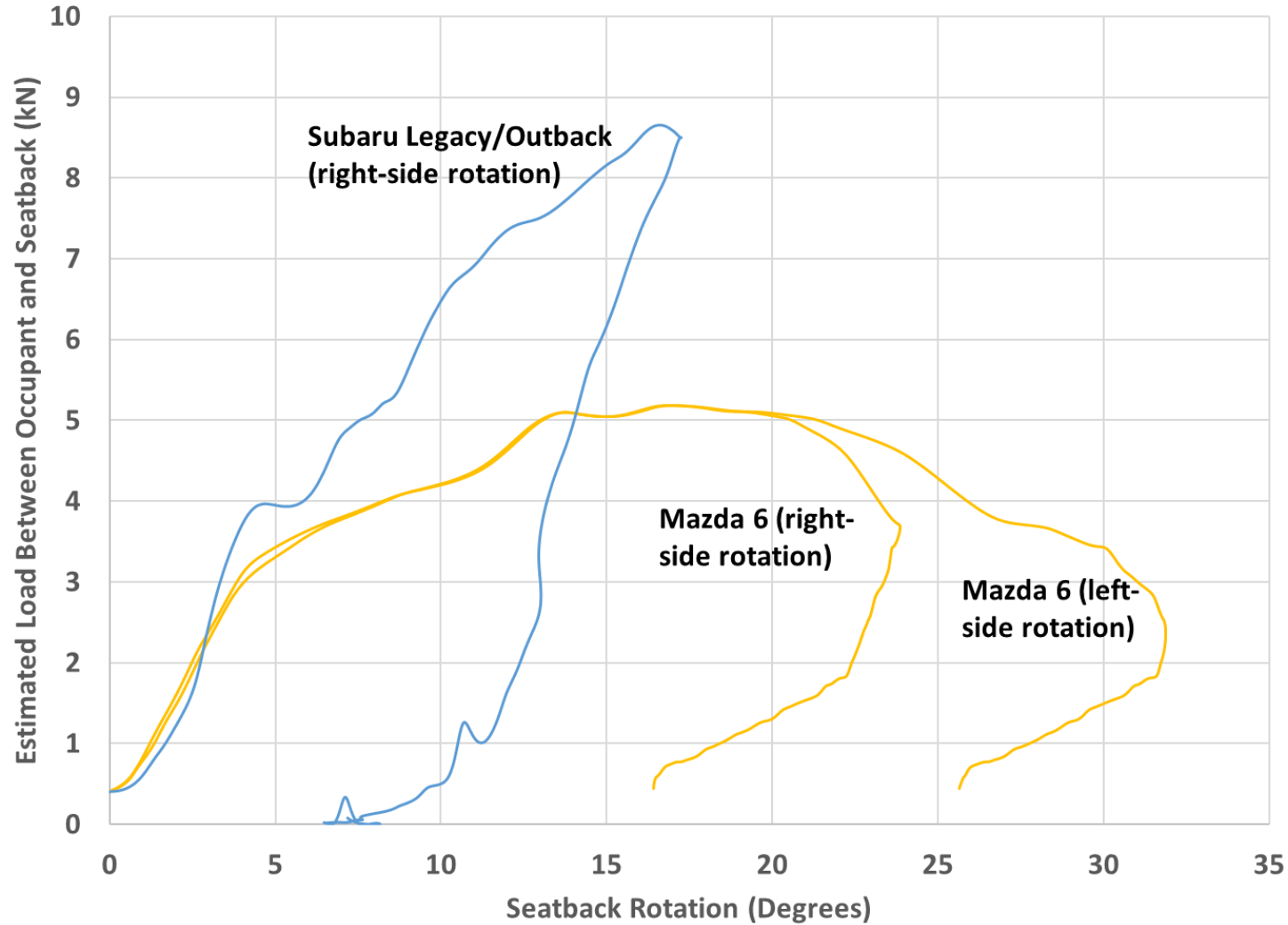
- ▶ Occupant retention metrics
  - Maximum dynamic seatback rotation
  - Vertical pelvis displacement
- ▶ Dummy injury metrics
- ▶ XSensor pressure sensor mats



# Pressure sensor results



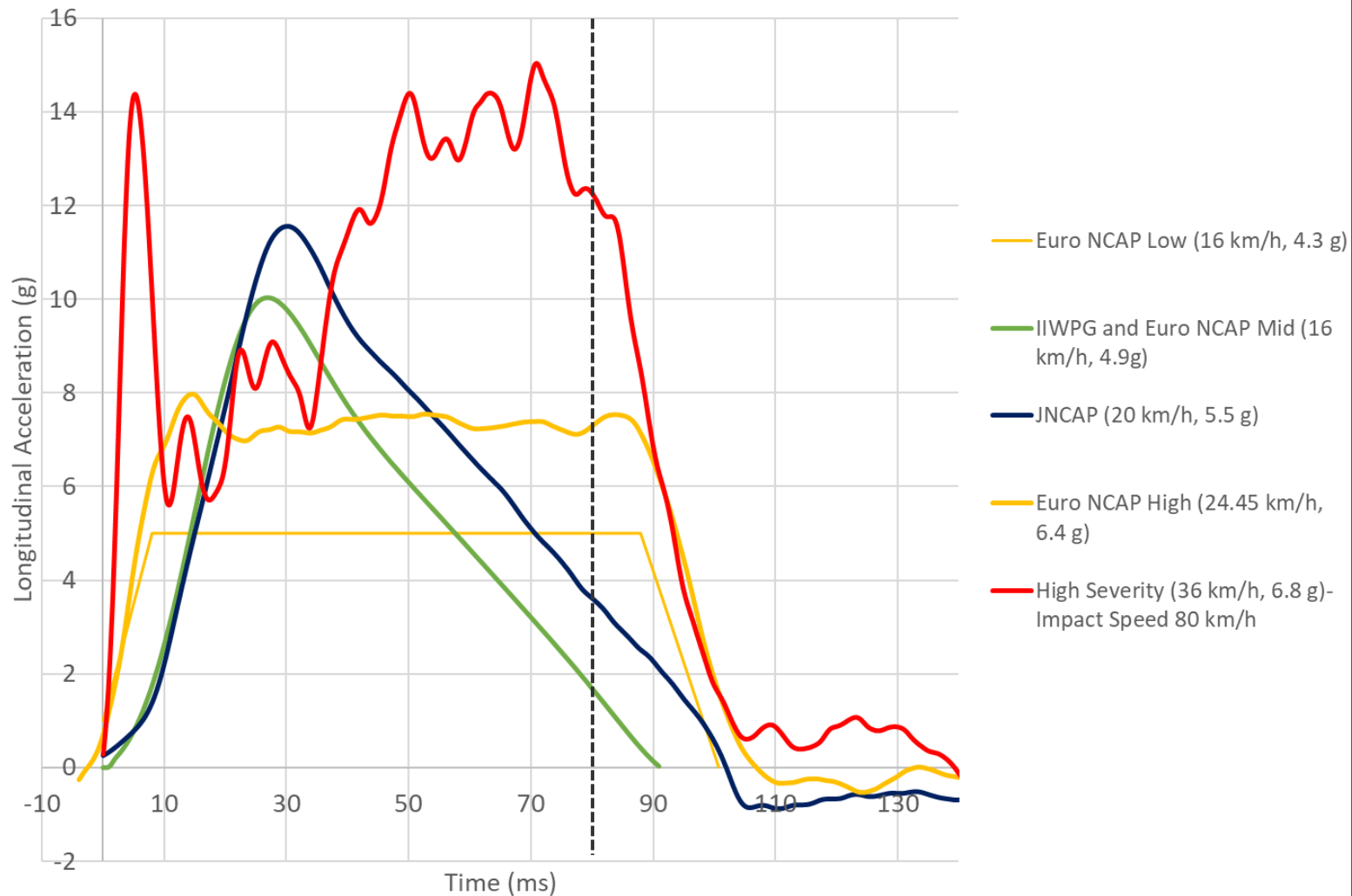
# Optimizing Seat Designs for Low- and High-Severity Occupant Protection



# Load distribution – pressure sensor

# Crash pulse comparison

EuroNCAP, JNCAP, IIWPG and FMVSS 301 Acceleration Pulses



## Subset of tests for analysis

	Test ID	Injury claim rate	Max seatback rotation
Industry benchmark	SR18034	-	26.9°
Midsize cars	SR18022	7.4%	17.3°
	SR18024	8.6%	31.9°
	SR18031	12.2%	29.2°
	SR18028	14.3%	22.7°
	SR18023	15.4%	23.3°

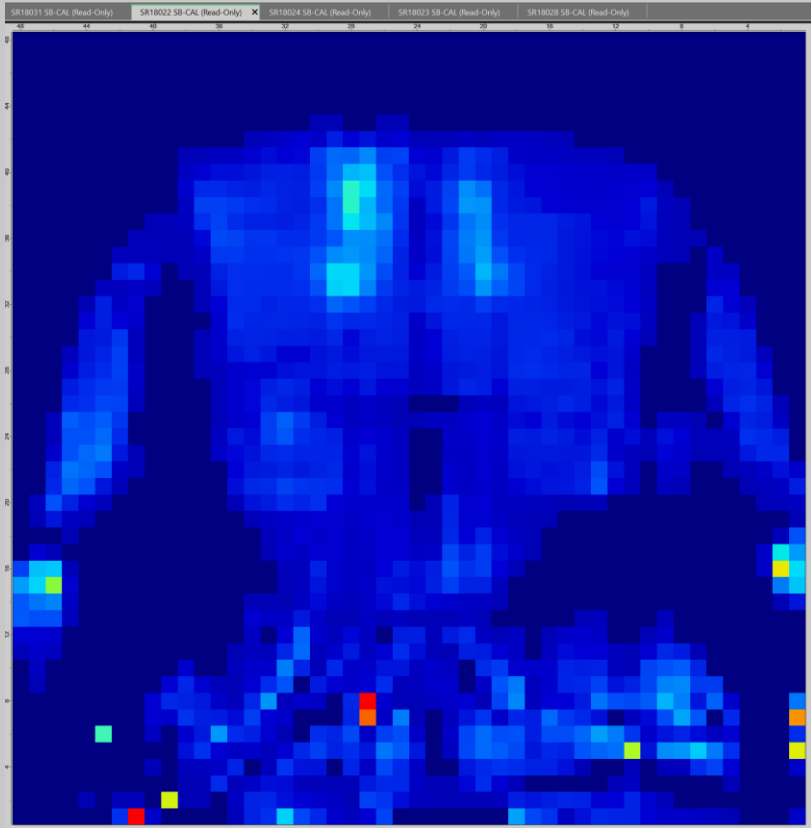
# High severity seat testing and pressure mat



SR18022

Injury claim rate = 7.4% Max seatback rotation = 17.3 degrees

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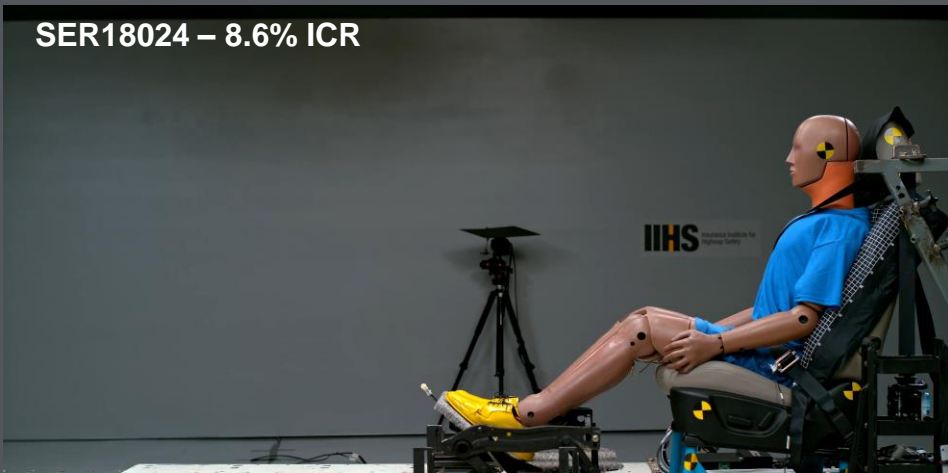
SER18022 – 7.4% ICR



SER18028 – 14.3% ICR



SER18024 – 8.6% ICR



SER18023 – 15.4% ICR



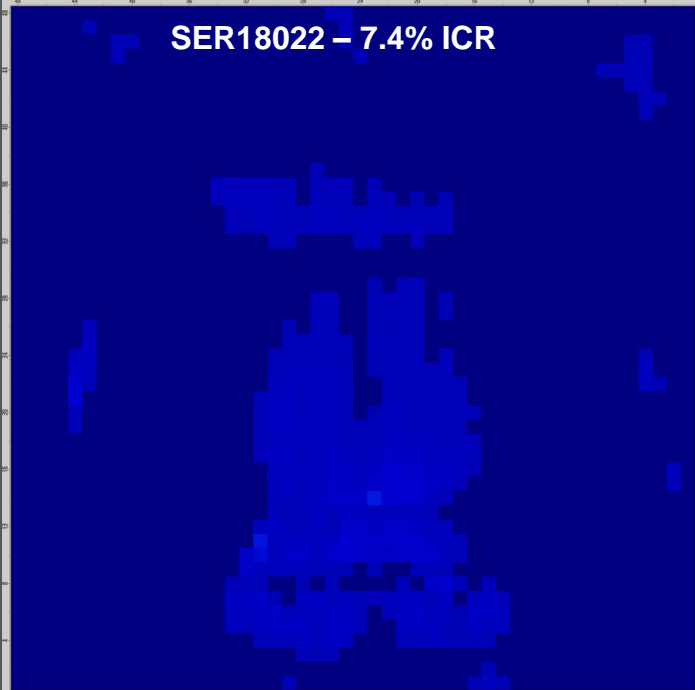
SER18031 – 12.2% ICR



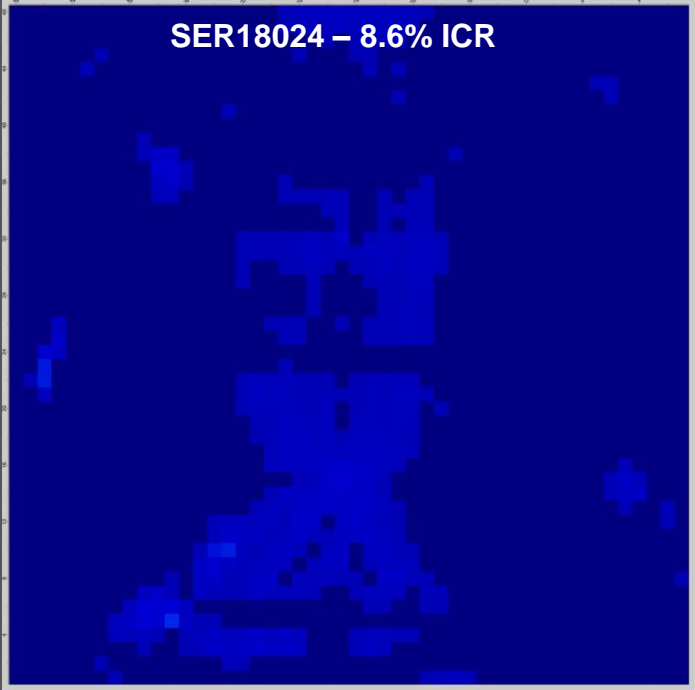
SER18034 – industry benchmark



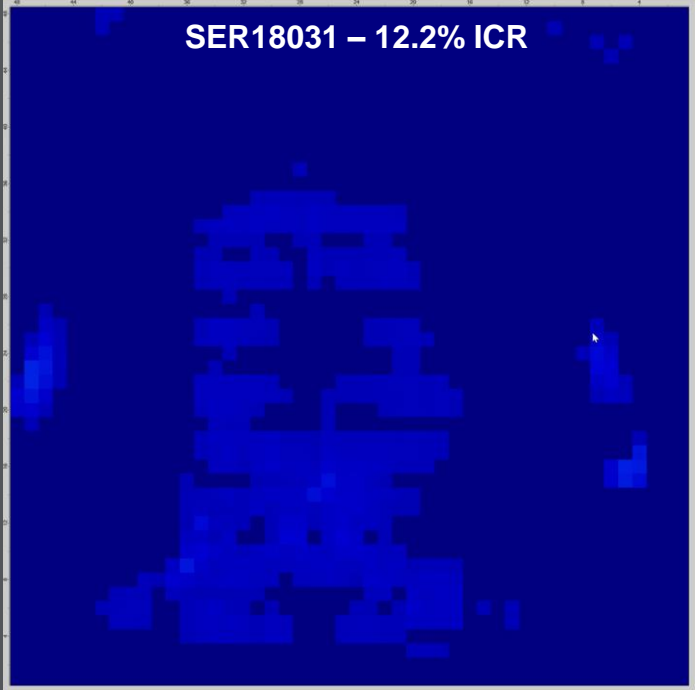
SER18022 – 7.4% ICR



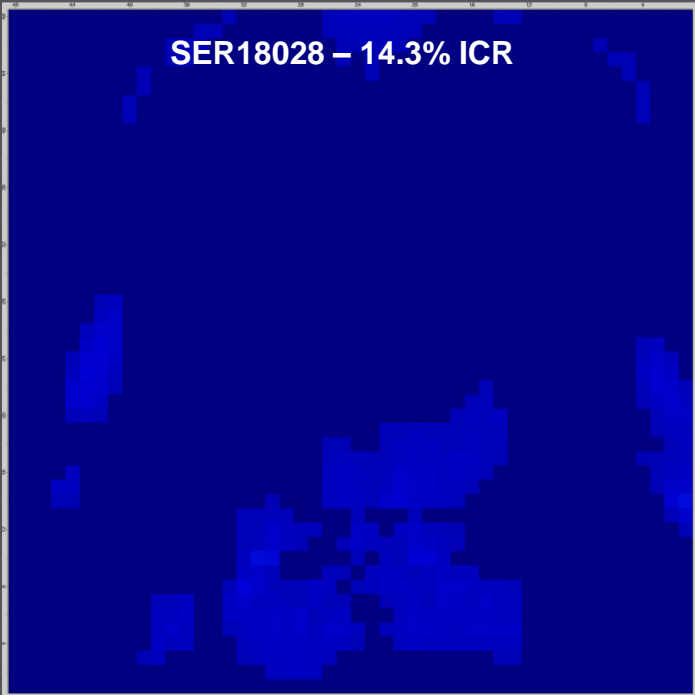
SER18024 – 8.6% ICR



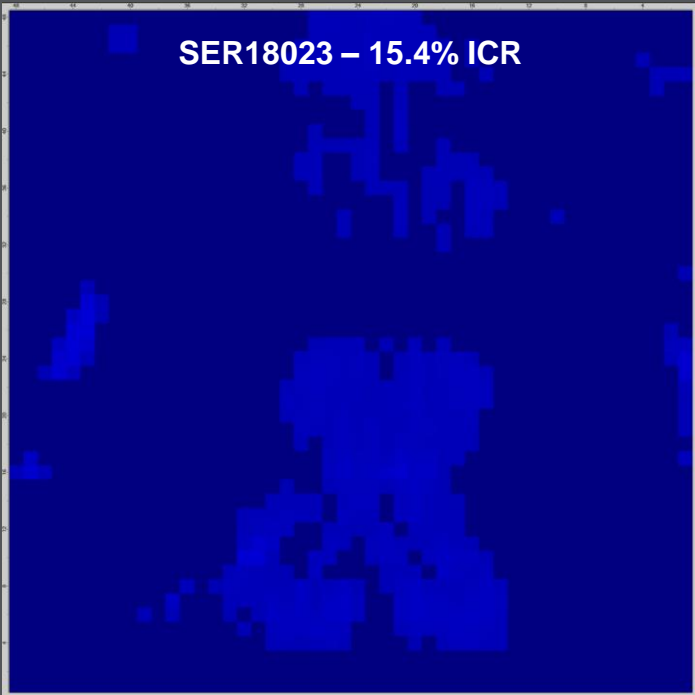
SER18031 – 12.2% ICR



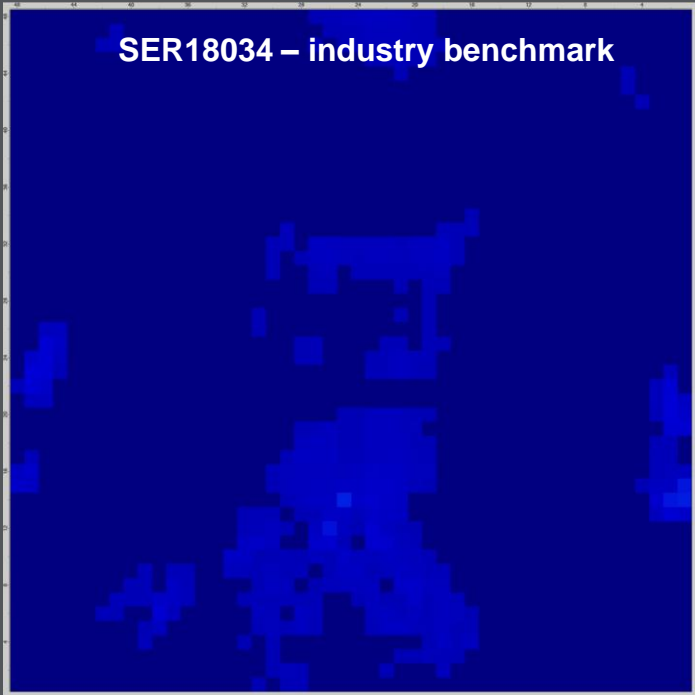
SER18028 – 14.3% ICR

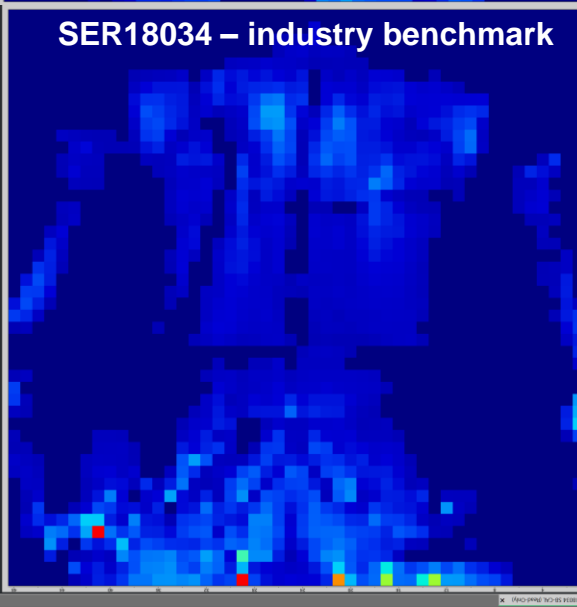
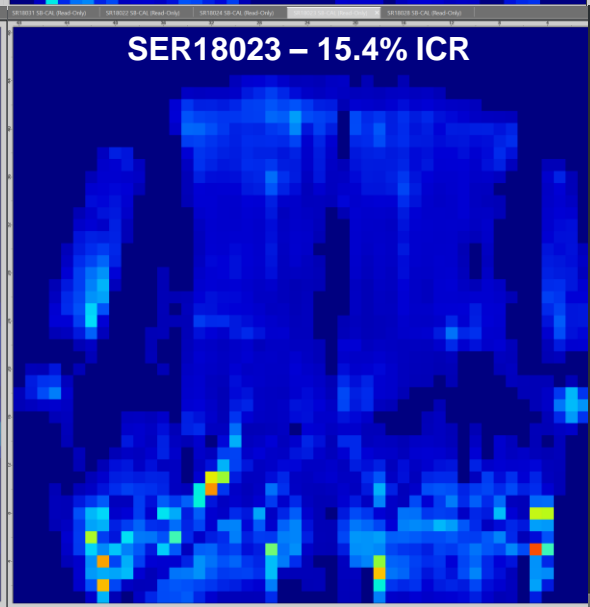
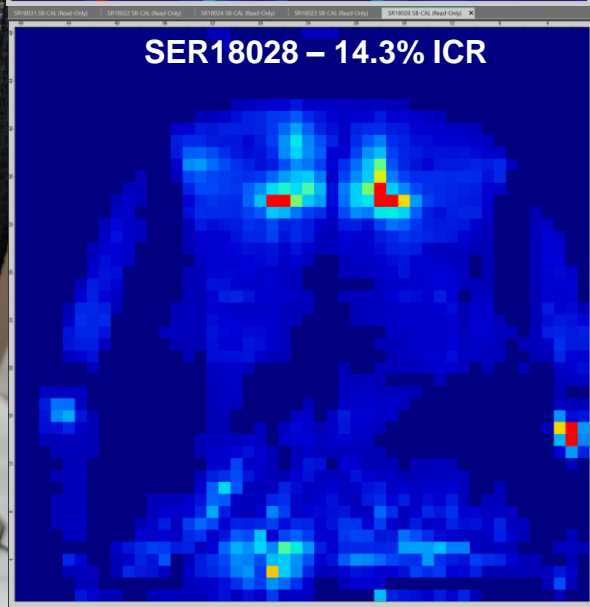
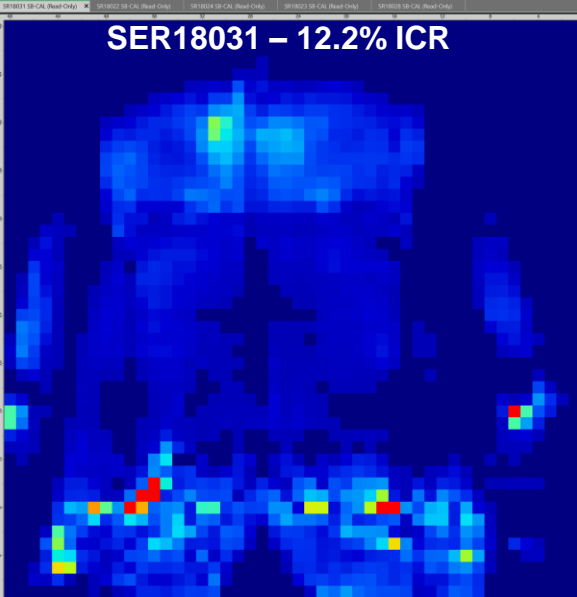
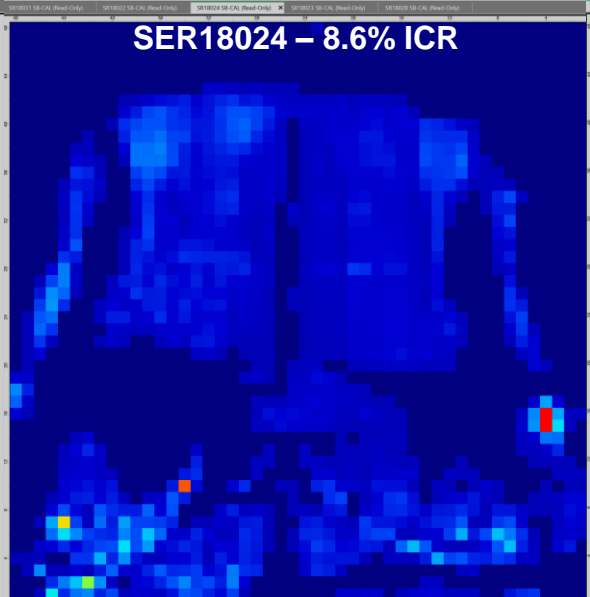
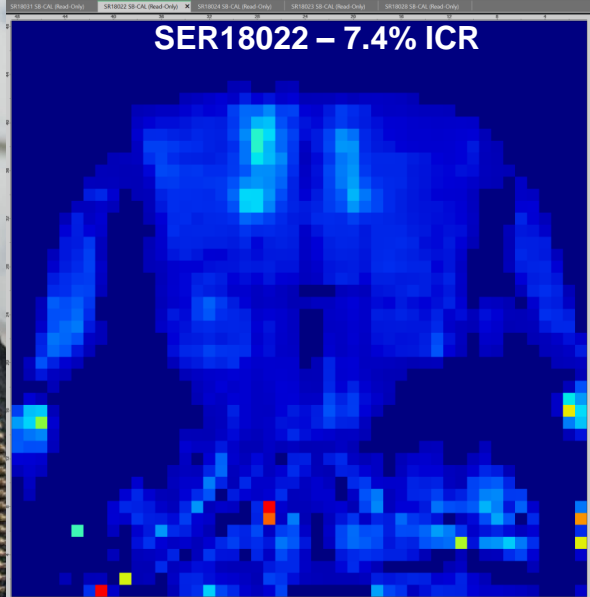


SER18023 – 15.4% ICR



SER18034 – industry benchmark

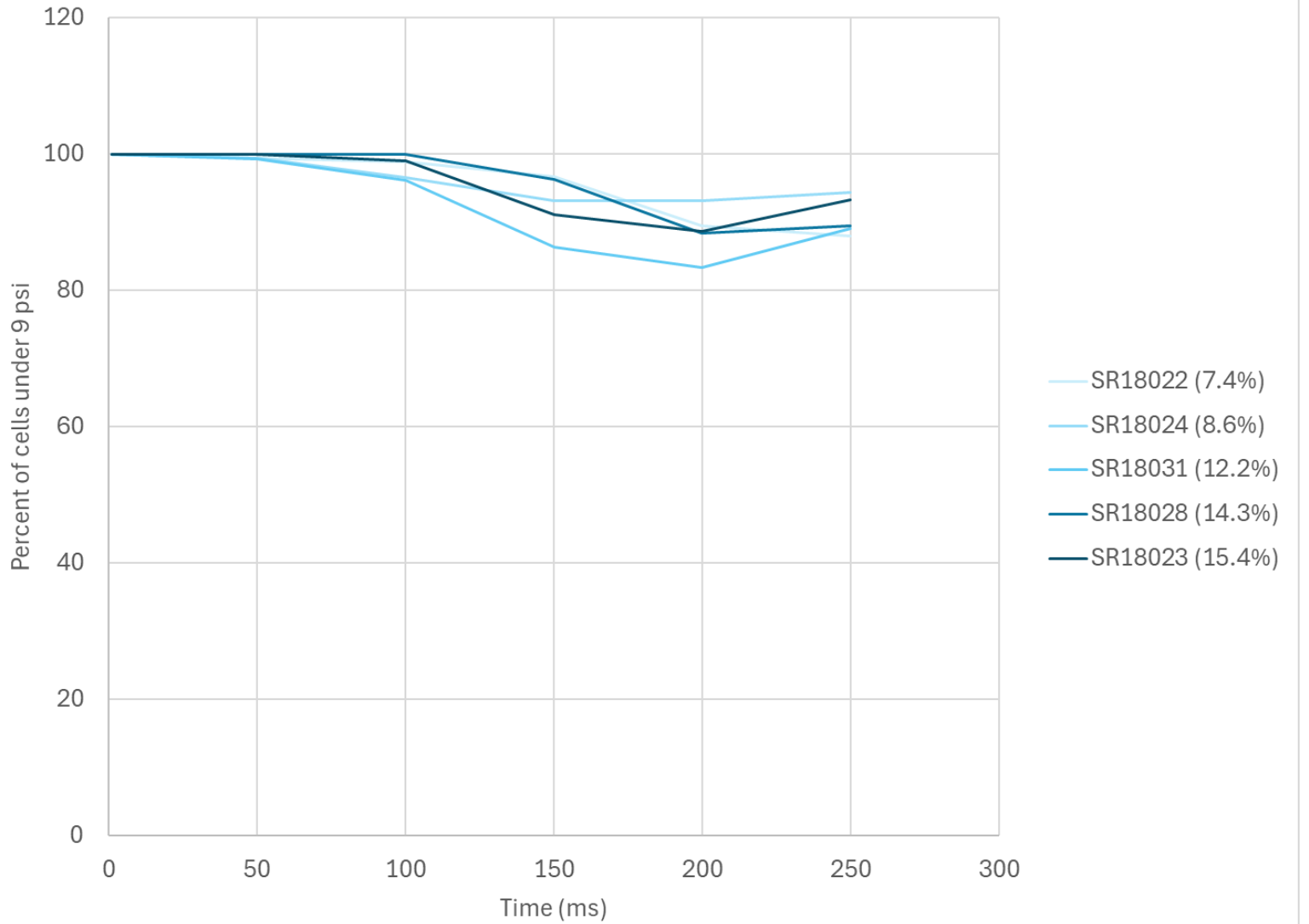




Snapshots taken at 80 ms

ICR = Injury claim rate

# Pressure distribution



SER18022 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

**SER18022 – 7.4% ICR**

SER18022 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18024 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

**SER18024 – 8.6% ICR**

SER18022 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18024 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18031 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

**SER18031 – 12.2% ICR**

SER18022 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18024 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18031 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18028 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

**SER18028 – 14.3% ICR**

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SER18031 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

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SER18023 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

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SER18022 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18024 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

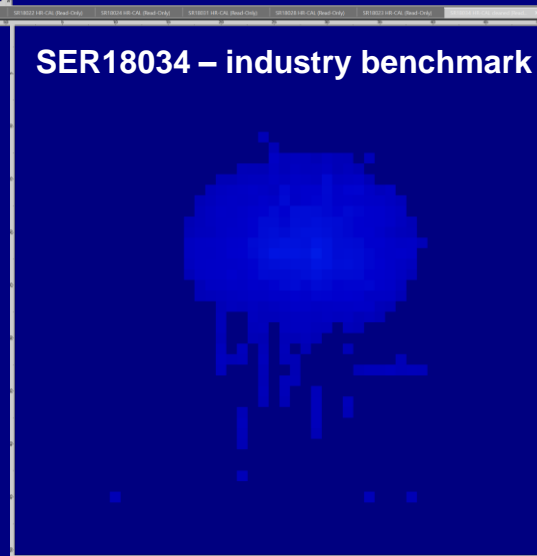
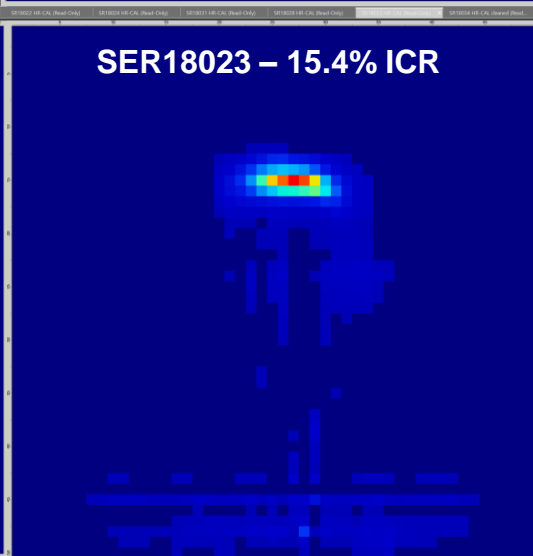
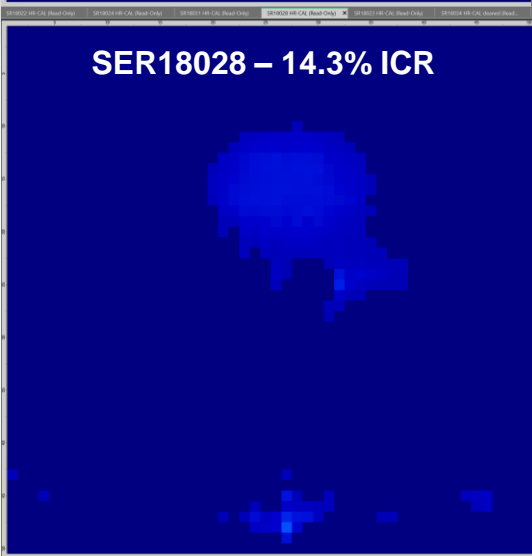
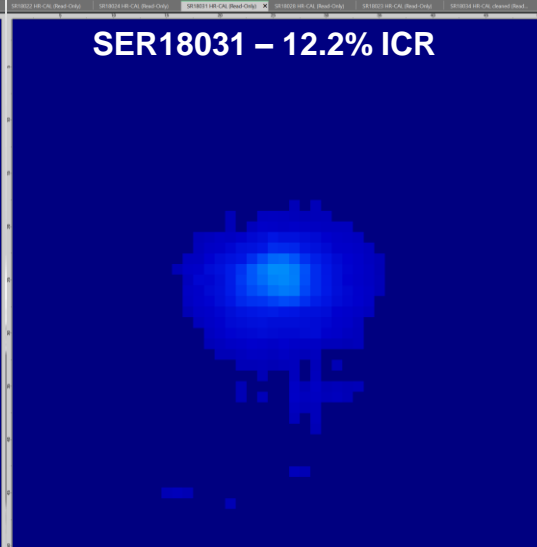
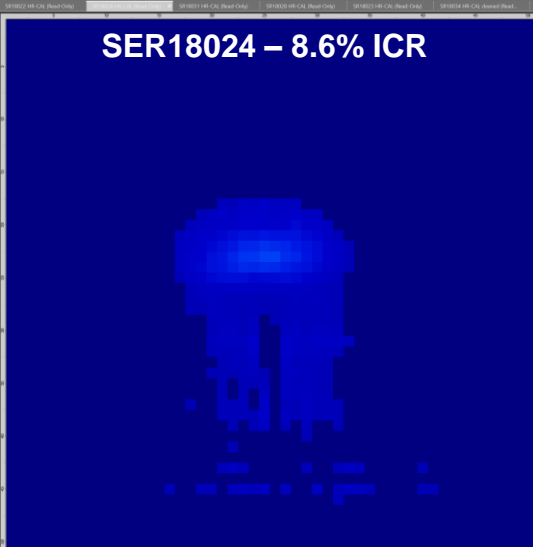
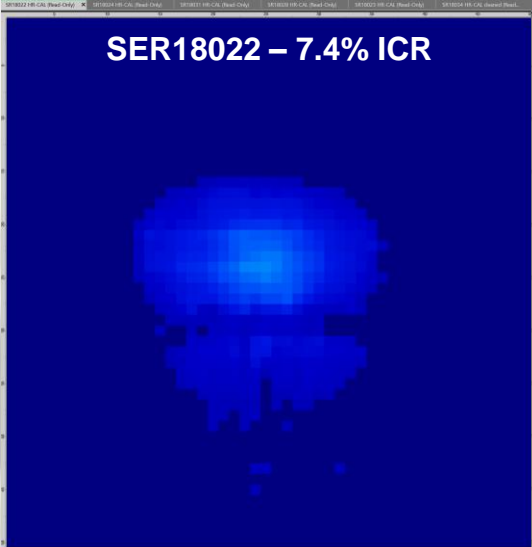
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SER18028 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

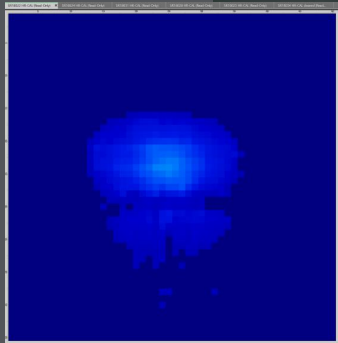
SER18023 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

SER18034 HR-CAL (Read-Only) x

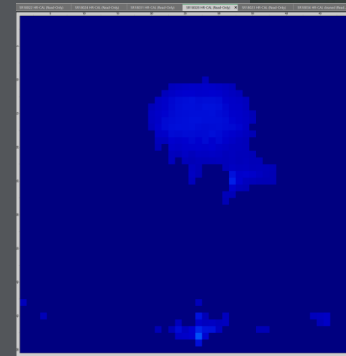
**SER18034 – industry benchmark**



SER18022 – 7.4% ICR



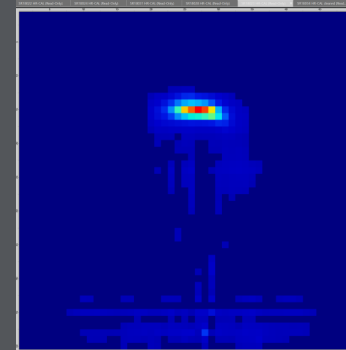
SER18028 – 14.3% ICR



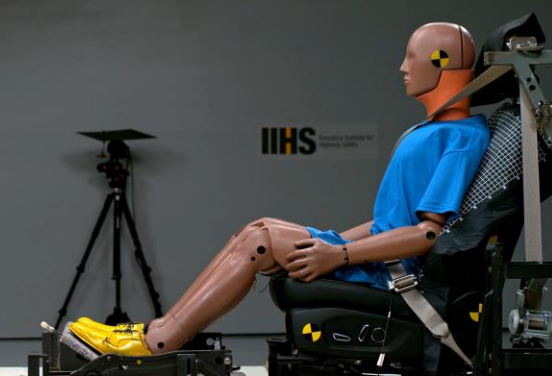
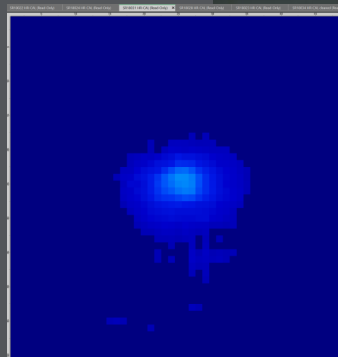
SER18024 – 8.6% ICR



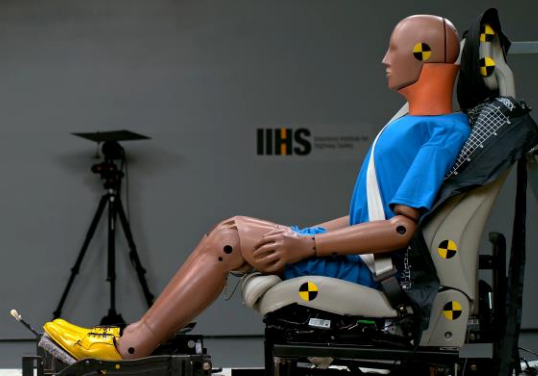
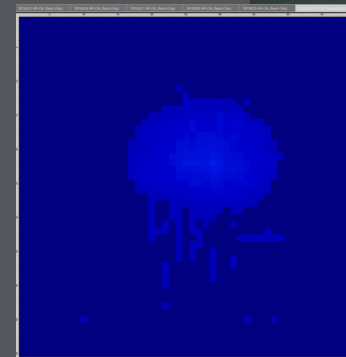
SER18023 – 15.4% ICR



SER18031 – 12.2% ICR



SER18034 – industry benchmark



# Takeaways

- ▶ Multiple factors affect injury claim rate outcomes for rear impacts
  - Crash speed
  - Pre-impact occupant position
  - Occupant kinematics
  - Vehicle mass
  - Vehicle energy absorption
  - Seat energy absorption
  - Distribution of force transferred to occupant
- ▶ Analysis of distribution of load may be one piece of the puzzle
  - Pressure sensors promising tool
- ▶ Human surrogate fidelity is very important for analysis of load distributions to be meaningful.

# Future work

# Continue to reduce whiplash injury in low-severity rear impacts

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## Active safety technology

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Automatic emergency braking

## Integrated safety

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Pre-impact interventions for rear impacts

## Robust seat and restraint design that protect many occupants

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Different crash severities

Varied occupant positions

Range of occupant sizes and sex

# Continue to reduce whiplash injury in low-severity rear impacts

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Active safety technology

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Automatic emergency braking

Integrated safety

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Pre-impact interventions for rear impacts

Robust seat and restraint design that protect many occupants

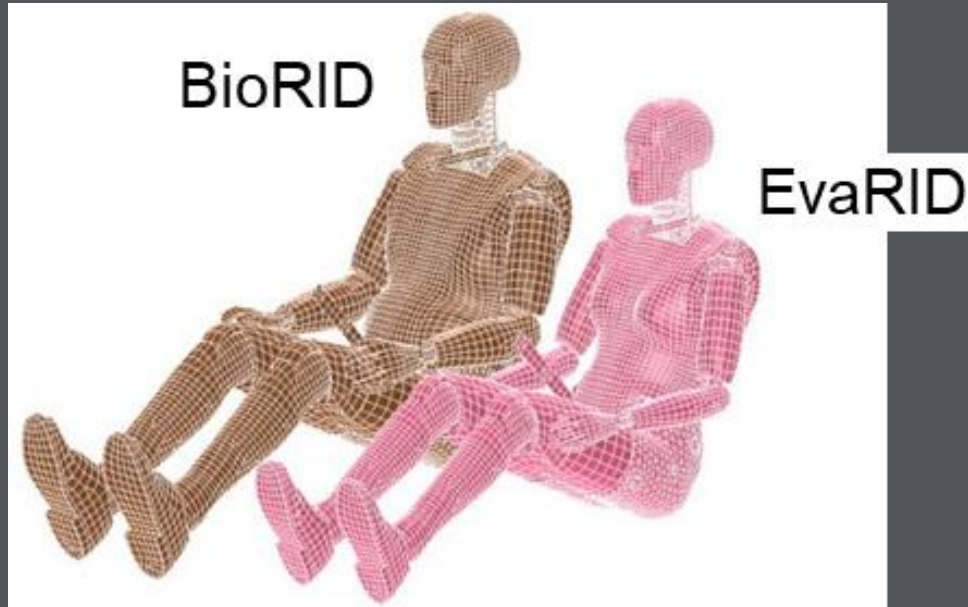
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Different crash severities

Varied occupant positions

Range of occupant sizes and sex

# Rear impact parameter study



- ▶ Large scale parametric study on the occupant position, occupant anthropometry, seat construction and performance factors that influence dummy outcomes
- ▶ Project completion – Spring 2025

- 50<sup>th</sup> male and 50<sup>th</sup> female rear impact finite element ATDs

# Parameter study progress

Identify study parameters and outputs



## Inputs

Seat and head restraint characteristics (geometry, strength, material properties)

-

Pre-impact braking pulse

-

Crash pulse

-

Seatbelt tensioning

-

Occupant (BioRID and EvaRID)

## Outputs

Injury metrics

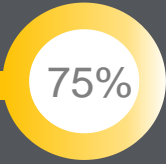
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Seat and occupant motion

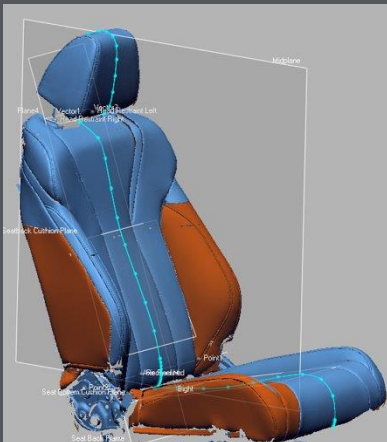
# Parameter study progress

Identify study parameters and outputs

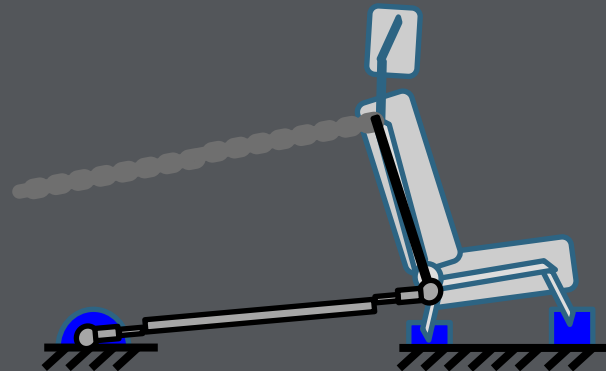
Seat parameter testing



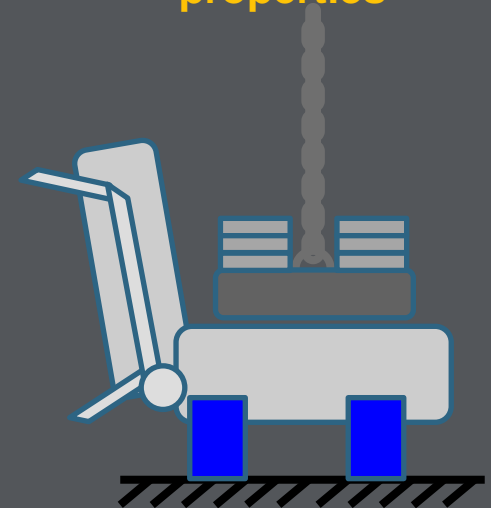
**Seat geometry parameterization**



**Frame strength**



**Cushion/trim properties**





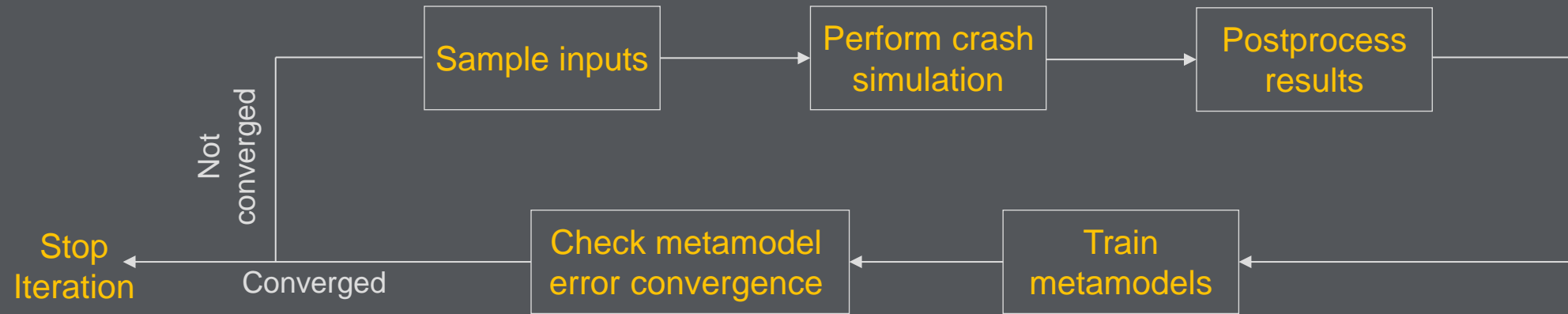
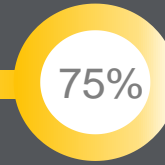
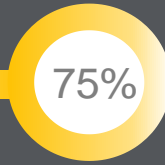
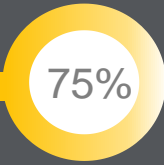
# Parameter study progress

Identify study parameters and outputs

Seat parameter testing

Generic seat model definition

Simulation methodology and scripting

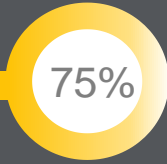


# Parameter study progress

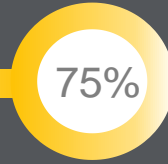
Identify study parameters and outputs



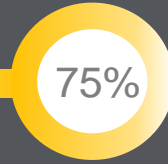
Seat parameter testing



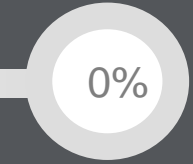
Generic seat model definition



Simulation methodology and scripting



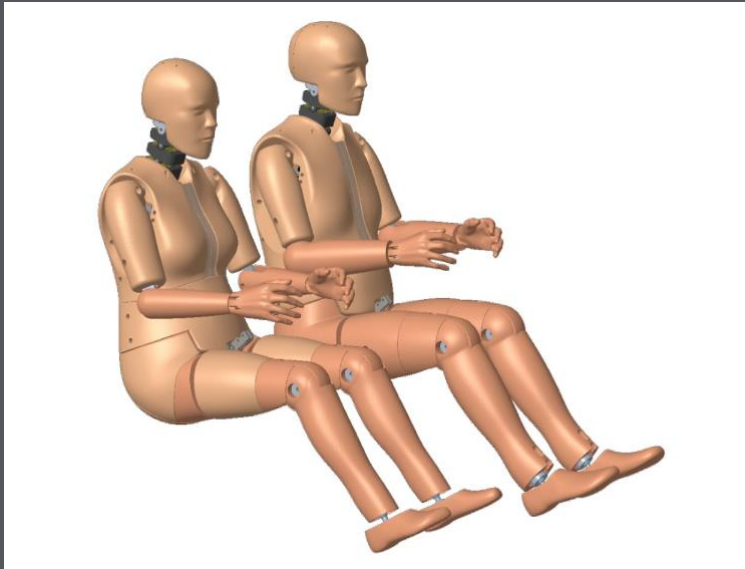
Simulation run and Data analysis



## Outcomes

- Correlation between input and outputs
  -
- Correlations between injury metrics
  -
- Sensitivity of injury metrics to change
  -
- Influence of impact conditions

# Alternate rear impact tools



50<sup>th</sup> female and 50<sup>th</sup> male SET tools

- ▶ Evaluate physical seat evaluation tools (SET) tools to identify if the output metrics from these tools can help us set limits to further reduce rear impact injuries

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety  
Highway Loss Data Institute

**iihs.org**



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**THANK YOU**



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