# Traficic Salety Factis 2006 Data 

## School Transportation-Related Crashes

"An average of 20 schoolage children die in school transportation-related traffic crashes each year -5 occupants of school transportation vehicles and 14 pedestrians."

A school transportation-related crash is a crash which involves, either directly or indirectly, a school bus body vehicle, or a non-school bus functioning as a school bus, transporting children to or from school or school-related activities.

Since 1996 there have been about 417,705 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those, 0.33 percent $(1,387)$ were classified as school transportation-related.

Since 1996, 1,536 people have died in school transportation-related crashes - an average of 140 fatalities per year. Most of the people who lost their lives in those crashes ( $72 \%$ ) were occupants of other vehicles involved. Non occupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 20 percent of the deaths, and occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 7 percent.

Since 1996, 159 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19) have died in school transportation-related crashes. Over two-thirds ( $67 \%$ ) were killed by school buses, 6 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 28 percent by other vehicles involved in the crashes. One-half ( $50 \%$ ) of all school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between the ages of 5 and 7 .

Figure 1
Total Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes, by Age Group, 1996-2006


Note: Occupant fatalities shown are for occupants of school buses and non-school buses used as school buses.

## "From 1996 to

2006, one-half of the school-age pedestrians killed in school transportationrelated crashes were between 5 and 7 years old."

On average, 10 school-age pedestrians are killed by school transportation vehicles (school buses and non-school bus vehicles used as school buses) each year, and 4 are killed by other vehicles involved in school bus-related crashes.

More school-age pedestrians are killed in the afternoon than in the morning, with 32 percent of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3 and 4 p.m.

Table 1
Total Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 1996-2006

| Time of Day | Occupants $^{*}$ | Pedestrians | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Midnight-6:59 a.m. | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| 7-7:59 a.m. | 20 | 32 | 52 |
| 8-8:59 a.m. | 14 | 14 | 28 |
| 9-9:59 a.m. | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 10-10:59 a.m. | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| 11-11:59 a.m. | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Noon-12:59 p.m. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1-1:59 p.m. | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 2-2:59 p.m. | 15 | 22 | 37 |
| 3-3:59 p.m. | 23 | 51 | 74 |
| 4-4:59 p.m. | 10 | 12 | 22 |
| 5-11:59 p.m. | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 11-Year Total | $\mathbf{1 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 7 3}$ |

*Does not include occupants of other vehicles in school transportation-related crashes.
Between 1996 and 2006, 96 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes ( $57 \%$ ) involved at least one other vehicle. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, 48 occupants - 14 drivers and 34 passengers - were killed. In the 55 multiple-vehicle crashes, 34 drivers and 32 passengers died. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object ( 23 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle ( 6 crashes), the vehicle overturning ( 4 crashes), the vehicle colliding with a train (2 crashes), other non-collision (2 crashes), and collision with a non-fixed object (2 crashes).

In 53 percent of all crashes involving fatalities to occupants of a school transportation vehicle, the principal point of impact was the front of the vehicle.

Since 1996, 6 drivers and 7 passengers have died in school bus body vehicles providing transportation for purposes other than school or school-related activities (churches, civic organizations, etc.). In 1987, one such multi-vehicle crash resulted in the deaths of 27 occupants, including the driver.

Table 2
Total Occupant Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Principal Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle, 1996-2006

| Principal Impact <br> Point on School <br> Transportation Vehicle | Type of Crash |  |  |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Single-Vehicle |  | Multiple Vehicle |  |  |  |
|  | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities |
| Front | 17 | 21 | 34 | 43 | 51 | 64 |
| Right Side | 6 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 19 |
| Left Side | 3 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 14 |
| Rear | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Top | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Undercarriage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Collision | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| Other/Unknown | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11-Year Total | 41 | 48 | 55 | 66 | 96 | 114 |

Table 3
School-Age Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 1996-2006

| Vehicle Maneuver | School Bus Body Type | Vehicle Used as School Bus | Other Body Type | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Going Straight | 48 |  | 28 | 79 |
| Slowing or Stopping in Traffic Lane | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Starting in Traffic Lane | 26 | 3 | 1 | 30 |
| Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| Leaving a Parked Position | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Maneuvering to Avoid an Animal, Pedestrian, Object, Other Vehicle, etc. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Turning Right | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Turning Left | 13 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Backing Up (Other Than for Parking) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Negotiating a Curve | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Entering Parked Position | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Changing Lanes | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other/Unknown | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 11-Year Total | 106 | 9 | 44 | 159 |

> "Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occur in 53 percent of fatal school transportationrelated crashes."

## For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-421, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted on 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/ncsa. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are Overview, Alcohol, African American, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists (formerly titled Pedalcyclists), Children, Hispanic, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Pedestrians, Race and Ethnicity, Rural/Urban Comparisons, Speeding, State Alcohol Estimates, State Traffic Data, and Young Drivers. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CMSWeb/index.aspx.

Table 4
School Transportation-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities, 1996-2006

| Year | School Bus Body Type |  |  |  | Vehicle Used as School Bus |  |  |  | Total |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Single-Vehicle Crash |  | Multiple Vehicle Crash |  | Single-Vehicle Crash |  | Multiple Vehicle Crash |  | Single-Vehicle Crash |  | Multiple Vehicle Crash |  |
|  | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities |
| 1996 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 1998 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| 1999 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| 2000 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 10 |
| 2001 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| 2002 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2003 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| 2004 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 2005 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| Total | 31 | 38 | 45 | 55 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 41 | 48 | 55 | 66 |
| Average | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Note: Does not include occupants of other vehicles in school transportation-related crashes.

Table 5
Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes, 1996-2006

| Year | Occupants of School Transportation Vehicle* |  |  | Pedestrians |  |  | Other Non occupants | Occupants of Other Vehicles | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Driver | Passenger | Total | Struck by School Vehicle* | Struck by Other Vehicle | Total |  |  |  |
| 1996 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 16 | 7 | 23 | 2 | 101 | 136 |
| 1997 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 5 | 97 | 131 |
| 1998 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 3 | 24 | 7 | 91 | 128 |
| 1999 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 20 | 6 | 26 | 4 | 127 | 167 |
| 2000 | 8 | 13 | 21 | 19 | 7 | 26 | 1 | 99 | 147 |
| 2001 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 18 | 4 | 22 | 6 | 95 | 141 |
| 2002 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 4 | 20 | 6 | 100 | 129 |
| 2003 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 5 | 27 | 2 | 100 | 140 |
| 2004 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 3 | 30 | 3 | 93 | 133 |
| 2005 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 27 | 3 | 30 | 7 | 87 | 134 |
| 2006 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 3 | 21 | 2 | 119 | 150 |
| Total | 48 | 66 | 114 | 221 | 47 | 268 | 45 | 1,109 | 1,536 |
| Average | 4 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 4 | 24 | 4 | 101 | 140 |

*Includes school bus body type and non-school bus used as school bus.

