

Traffic Safety Facts

2004 Data

DOT HS 809 914

School Transportation-Related Crashes

“An average of 23 school-age children die in school transportation-related traffic crashes each year — 6 occupants of school transportation vehicles and 17 pedestrians.”

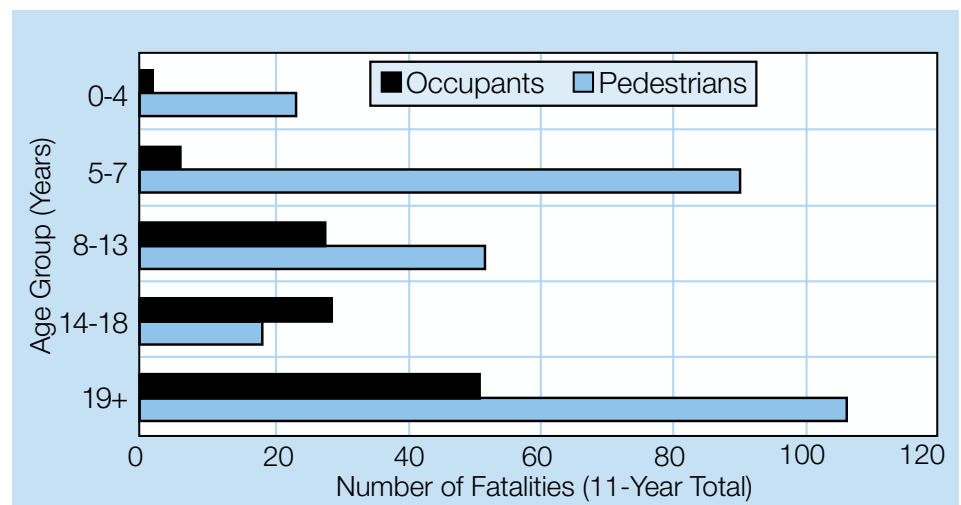
A school transportation-related crash is a crash which involves, either directly or indirectly, a school-bus-body vehicle or a non-school bus functioning as a school bus, transporting children to or from school or school-related activities.

Since 1994 there have been about 413,169 fatal traffic crashes. Of those, 0.32 percent (1,341) were classified as school transportation-related.

Since 1994, 1,479 people have died in school transportation-related crashes — an average of 134 fatalities per year. Most of the people who lost their lives in those crashes (70%) were occupants of other vehicles involved. Nonoccupants (pedestrians, pedalcyclists, etc.) accounted for 22 percent of the deaths, and occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 8 percent.

Since 1994, 182 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19 years old) have died in school transportation-related crashes. Nearly two-thirds (64%) were killed by school buses, 5 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 31 percent by other vehicles involved in the crashes. Nearly one-half (49%) 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, 1994-2004



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

On average, 11 school-age pedestrians are killed by school transportation vehicles (school buses and non-school bus vehicles used as school buses) each year, and 5 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 36 percent of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Table 1

Total Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 1994-2004

Time of Day	Occupant Fatalities*	Pedestrians (School Age)	Total Fatalities
midnight-6:59 a.m.	7	9	16
7-7:59 a.m.	29	27	56
8-8:59 a.m.	13	15	28
9-9:59 a.m.	3	5	8
10-10:59 a.m.	2	0	2
11-11:59 a.m.	0	5	5
noon-12:59 p.m.	3	4	7
1-1:59 p.m.	1	6	7
2-2:59 p.m.	15	27	42
3-3:59 p.m.	23	66	89
4-4:59 p.m.	9	14	23
5-11:59 p.m.	8	4	12
11-Year Total	113	182	295

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

Between 1994 and 2004, 91 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes (55%) involved another vehicle. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, 54 occupants — 12 drivers and 42 passengers — were killed. In the 50 multiple-vehicle crashes, 30 drivers and 29 passengers died. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (22 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (7 crashes), the vehicle overturning (4 crashes), the vehicle colliding with a train (3 crashes), other noncollision (2 crashes), and collision with object not fixed (1 crash).

In 46 percent of all crashes involving fatalities among occupants of school transportation vehicles, the principal point of impact was the front of the vehicle.

Since 1994, 6 drivers and 15 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 death of 27 occupants, including the driver.

“From 1994 to 2004, nearly half of school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between 5 and 7 years old.”

Table 2

Total Occupant Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Principal Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle, 1994-2004

Principal Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle	Type of Crash				Total	
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple Vehicle			
	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities
Front	14	18	28	35	42	53
Right Side	6	8	10	12	16	20
Left Side	4	5	10	10	14	15
Rear	4	10	1	1	5	11
Top	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undercarriage	0	0	1	1	1	1
Noncollision	12	12	0	0	12	12
Other/Unknown	1	1	0	0	1	1
11-Year Total	41	54	50	59	91	113

“Impacts to the front of school transportation vehicles occur in 46 percent of fatal school transportation-related crashes.”

Table 3

School-Age Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 1994-2004

Vehicle Maneuver	School Bus Body Type	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Body Type	Total
Going Straight	52	4	37	93
Slowing or Stopping in Traffic Lane	5	0	1	6
Starting in Traffic Lane	35	3	1	39
Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle	0	0	8	8
Leaving a Parked Position	4	0	0	4
Maneuvering to Avoid an Animal, Pedestrian, Object, Other Vehicle, etc.	0	0	3	3
Turning Right	6	0	0	6
Turning Left	11	0	0	11
Backing Up (Other Than for Parking)	0	1	0	1
Negotiating a Curve	1	1	3	5
Entering Parked Position	3	0	0	3
Changing Lanes	0	0	2	2
Other/Unknown	0	0	1	1
11-Year Total	117	9	56	182

For more information:

Information on school transportation-related traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NPO-101, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 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 www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/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, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Speeding, Children, Young Drivers, Pedestrians, Pedalcyclists, Motorcycles, Large Trucks, State Traffic Data, and State Alcohol Estimates*. 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*.

Table 4
School Transportation-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities, 1994-2004

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
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	3	4
1995	2	8	3	4	1	1	0	0	3	9	3	4
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
Total	30	43	41	48	11	11	9	11	41	54	50	59
Average	3	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	4	5	5	5

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

Table 5
Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes, 1994-2004

Year	Occupants of School Transportation Vehicle*			Pedestrians			Other Nonoccupants	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Total
	Driver	Passenger	Total	Struck by School Vehicle*	Struck by Other Vehicle	Total			
1994	2	2	4	28	9	37	2	64	107
1995	0	13	13	24	10	34	4	72	123
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	90	130
Total	42	71	113	228	60	288	42	1,036	1,479
Average	4	6	10	21	5	26	4	94	134

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