



School Transportation-Related Crashes

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.

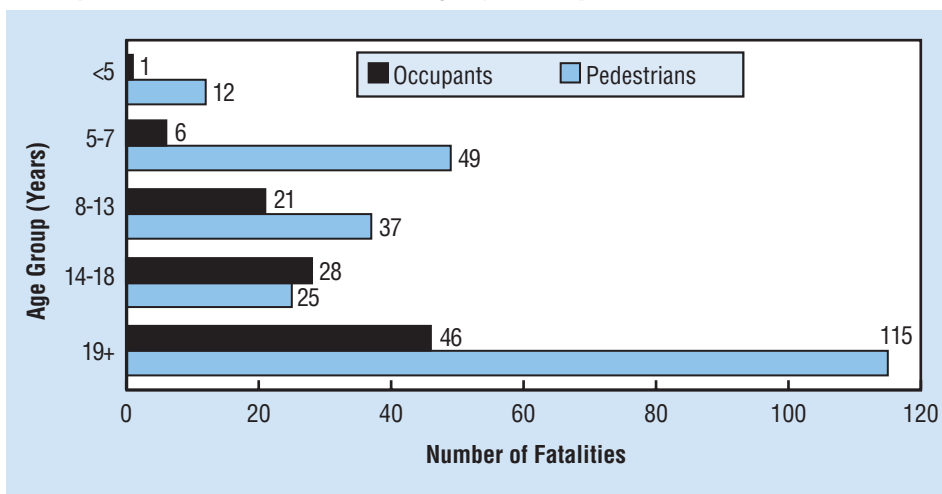
Since 2001 there were 363,839 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those, 1,236 (0.34%) were classified as school transportation-related.

Since 2001, 1,368 people have died in school transportation-related crashes—an average of 137 fatalities per year. Occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 7 percent of the fatalities, and nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 21 percent of the fatalities. Most (72%) of the people who lost their lives in these crashes were occupants of other vehicles involved.

Since 2001, 123 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19) have died in school transportation-related crashes. Over two-thirds (69%) were struck by school buses, 5 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 26 percent by other vehicles involved in the crashes. There were 49 (40%) school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes between the ages of 5 and 7.

An average of 18 school-age occupants of school transportation vehicles (6) and pedestrians (12) die in school transportation-related traffic crashes each year.

Figure 1
Total School Bus Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Age Group, 2001–2010



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

On average, 9 school-age pedestrians are killed by school transportation vehicles (school buses and non-school bus vehicles used as school buses) each year, and 3 are killed by other vehicles involved in school bus-related crashes.

More school-age pedestrians have been killed between the hours of 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. than any other time of day.

Table 1

School-Age (Age <19) Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 2001–2010

Time of Day	Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Pedestrians	Pedalcyclists	Other* Nonoccupants	Total
Midnight–6:59 a.m.	0	13	13	0	0	26
7–7:59 a.m.	6	53	30	1	0	90
8–8:59 a.m.	6	16	11	1	0	34
9–9:59 a.m.	0	4	0	1	0	5
10–10:59 a.m.	4	4	0	0	0	8
11–11:59 a.m.	0	0	1	0	0	1
Noon–12:59 p.m.	1	4	1	1	0	7
1–1:59 p.m.	1	2	5	0	0	8
2–2:59 p.m.	9	13	15	4	0	41
3–3:59 p.m.	21	47	35	2	1	106
4–4:59 p.m.	4	14	8	1	0	27
5–11:59 p.m.	4	13	4	1	0	22
Total	56	183	123	12	1	375

*Includes persons on personal conveyances such as skateboards, scooters, wheelchairs, etc.

From 2001 to 2010, 49 (40%) school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between 5 and 7 years old.

Between 2001 and 2010, 84 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes (56%) involved at least one other vehicle. In the 37 single-vehicle crashes, 41 occupants—17 drivers and 24 passengers—were killed. In the 47 multiple-vehicle crashes, 23 drivers and 38 passengers died. In the 37 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (25 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (5 crashes), the vehicle overturning (4 crashes), and collision with a non-fixed object (1 crash).

Table 2

Total School Bus Occupant Fatalities (All Ages) in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle, 2001–2010

Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle	Type of Crash				Total	
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle		Crashes	Fatalities
	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities		
Front	17	21	24	29	41	50
Right Side	8	8	6	8	14	16
Left Side	2	2	9	12	11	14
Rear	1	1	6	7	7	8
Top	0	0	1	4	1	4
Undercarriage	1	1	0	0	1	1
Non-Collision	7	7	0	0	7	7
Other/Unknown	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total	37	41	47	61	84	102

Table 3

School Transportation-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities (All Ages), 2001–2010

Year	School Bus Body Type				Vehicle Used as School Bus				Total			
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle		Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle		Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle	
	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities
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
2007	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	3
2008	3	3	6	9	1	1	3	6	4	4	9	15
2009	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	1	3	4
2010	8	8	6	6	1	1	1	1	9	9	7	7
Total	30	34	36	45	7	7	11	16	37	41	47	61
Average	3	3	4	5	1	1	1	2	4	4	5	6

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

From 2001 to 2010, nearly three-fourths (74%) of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in crashes were struck by a school bus or a vehicle functioning as a school bus, while 26 percent were struck by a vehicle of another body type. More than one-third (35%) of school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school transportation-related crashes were struck by a school bus or a vehicle functioning as a school bus that was going straight.

Table 4

School-Age (Age <19) Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 2001–2010

Vehicle Maneuver	School Bus Body Type	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Body Type	Total
Going Straight	40	3	20	63
Slowing or Stopping in Traffic Lane	1	0	0	1
Starting in Traffic Lane	20	1	0	21
Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle	0	0	7	7
Leaving a Parked Position	5	0	0	5
Maneuvering to Avoid an Animal, Pedestrian, Object, Other Vehicle, etc.	0	0	1	1
Turning Right	6	0	0	6
Turning Left	11	1	0	12
Negotiating a Curve	1	1	3	5
Entering Parked Position	1	0	0	1
Changing Lanes	0	0	1	1
Total	85	6	32	123

Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 49 percent of fatal school transportation-related crashes.

Table 5

Fatalities (All Ages) in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, 2001–2010

Year	Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles*			Pedestrians			Other Non-occupants	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Total
	Driver	Passenger	Total	Struck by School Vehicle	Struck by Other Vehicle	Total			
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	19	3	22	2	118	150
2007	4	1	5	16	2	19**	6	112	142
2008	4	15	19	20	1	21	8	104	152
2009	2	3	5	13	8	21	1	91	118
2010	6	10	16	21	5	26	4	83	129
Total	40	62	102	199	38	238	45	983	1,368
Average	4	6	10	20	4	24	5	98	137

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

**Includes 1 pedestrian fatality in which the striking vehicle was not identified.

Since 2001, three drivers and one passenger have died in school bus body vehicles providing transportation for purposes other than school or school-related activities (churches, civic organizations, etc.).

For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or via the following e-mail address: ncsaweb@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at www.nhtsa.gov/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 *Alcohol-Impaired Driving*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists*, *Children, Large Trucks, Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Overview*, *Passenger Vehicles*, *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 www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx.



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