



# School-Transportation-Related Crashes

A school-transportation-related crash is a crash that 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.

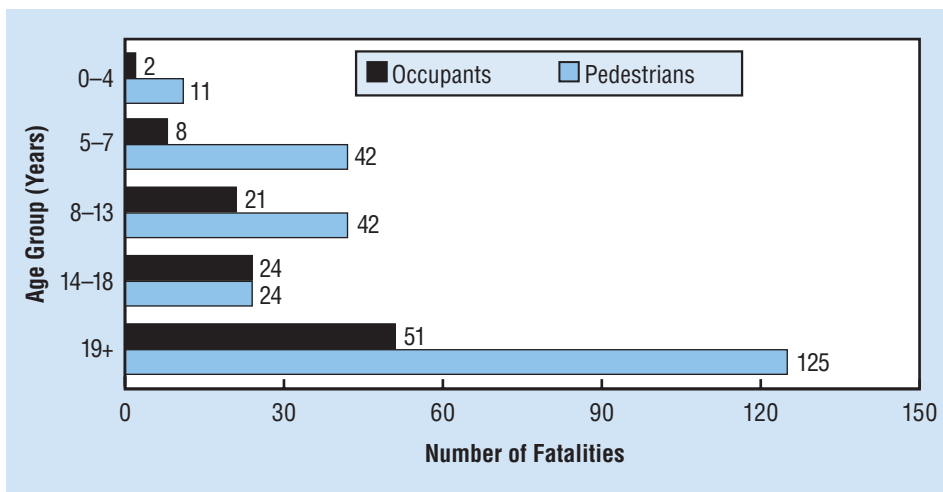
Since 2003 there were 348,253 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those, 1,222 (0.35%) were classified as school-transportation-related.

Since 2003, there have been 1,353 people killed in school-transportation-related crashes—an average of 135 fatalities per year. Occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 8 percent of the fatalities, and nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 21 percent of the fatalities. Most (71%) of the people who lost their lives in these crashes were occupants of other vehicles involved (for more information see Table 5).

Since 2003, 119 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19) have died in school-transportation-related crashes. Sixty-five percent were struck by school buses, 5 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 30 percent by other vehicles (passenger cars, light trucks and vans, large trucks, and motorcycles, etc.) involved in the crashes. There were 42 (35%) school-age pedestrians 5 to 7 years old killed in school transportation-related crashes and a similar number and percentage who were 8 to 13 years old (Figure 1).

*From 2003 to 2012, 174 school-age children died in school-transportation-related crashes, 55 were occupants of school transportation vehicles and 119 were pedestrians.*

Figure 1  
**Total School Bus Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School-Transportation-Related Crashes by Age Group, 2003–2012**



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

*From 2003 to 2012, both 5 to 7 and 8 to 13 age groups each had 42 (35%) school-age pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes.*

On average, 8 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 have been killed from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. than any other times of day (Table 1).

Table 1

### School-Age (Age<19) Fatalities in School-Transportation-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 2003–2012

Time of Day	Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Pedestrians	Pedalcyclists	Other* Nonoccupants	Total
Midnight–6:59 a.m.	2	11	18	0	0	31
7–7:59 a.m.	7	41	28	1	0	77
8–8:59 a.m.	5	15	10	0	0	30
9–9:59 a.m.	0	4	0	1	0	5
10–10:59 a.m.	4	2	0	0	0	6
11–11:59 a.m.	0	0	1	0	0	1
Noon–12:59 p.m.	1	1	2	1	0	5
1–1:59 p.m.	2	1	5	0	0	8
2–2:59 p.m.	6	14	12	3	0	35
3–3:59 p.m.	16	45	29	0	1	91
4–4:59 p.m.	8	14	8	0	0	30
5–11:59 p.m.	4	13	6	2	0	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>344</b>

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

Between 2003 and 2012, there were 89 crashes in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes (58%) involved at least one other vehicle. Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 49 percent and impacts to the right side of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 15 percent of fatal school-transportation-related crashes (Table 2). In the 37 single-vehicle crashes, 39 occupants—19 drivers and 20 passengers—were killed. In the 52 multiple-vehicle crashes, 27 drivers and 40 passengers died (Table 3). In the 37 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (22 crashes), the vehicle overturning (8 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (5 crashes), and collision with a non-fixed object (1 crash) (i.e., pedestrian, pedalcyclist, railway vehicle, live animal, and ridden animal or animal-drawn conveyance).

Table 2

### Total School Bus Occupant Fatalities (All Ages) in School-Transportation-Related Crashes by Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle, 2003–2012

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

Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle	Type of Crash				Total	
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle			
	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities
Front	16	17	28	35	44	52
Right Side	7	7	6	9	13	16
Left Side	0	0	8	11	8	11
Rear	1	1	7	8	8	9
Top	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undercarriage	1	1	1	1	2	2
Non-Collision	11	12	0	0	11	12
Other/Unknown	1	1	2	3	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>106</b>

Table 3

**School Transportation-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities (All Ages), 2003–2012**

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
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
2011	3	3	5	6	1	1	1	1	4	4	6	7
2012	3	5	5	7	1	1	1	1	4	6	6	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

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

From 2003 to 2012, seventy percent of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in crashes were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses, while 30 percent were struck by vehicles of other body types. Of school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school-transportation-related crashes, one-third (33%) were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses that were going straight (Table 4).

Table 4

**School-Age (Age <19) Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 2003–2012**

Vehicle Maneuver	School Bus Body Type	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Body Type	Total
Going Straight	36	3	24	63
Slowing to Traffic Lane	1	0	0	1
Accelerating in Traffic Lane	2	0	0	2
Starting in Traffic Lane	16	1	0	17
Stopped in Road	1	0	0	1
Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle	0	0	6	6
Leaving/Entering a Parked Position	5	0	0	5
Maneuvering to Avoid	0	0	1	1
Turning Right	6	0	1	7
Turning Left	9	1	0	10
Negotiating a Curve	1	1	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>119</b>

Table 5

**Fatalities (All Ages) in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, 2003–2012**

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			
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	84	130
2011	7	4	11	12	9	21	5	86	123
2012	6	8	14	18	9	27	3	87	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1,353</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>135</b>

\*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.

From 2003 to 2012, among the 106 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 46 were drivers and 60 were passengers. Among the 244 pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes, 195 were struck by school vehicles and 48 were struck by other vehicles (Table 5). Since 2003, two drivers and two passengers 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](mailto:ncsaweb@dot.gov). General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at [www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA](http://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](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx).



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