



# 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.

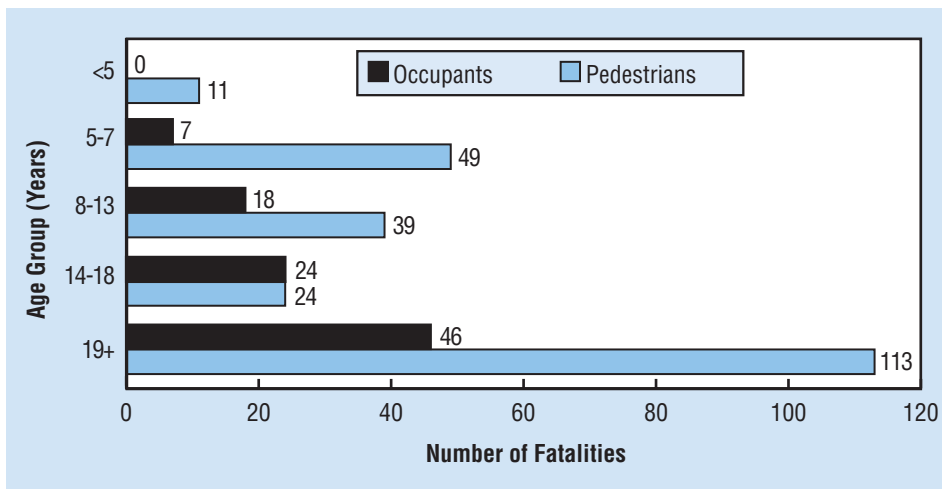
Since 2002 there were 355,834 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those, 1,221 (0.34%) were classified as school transportation-related.

Since 2002, 1,351 people have died in school transportation-related crashes—an average of 135 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 (for more information see Table 5).

Since 2002, 123 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19) have died in school transportation-related crashes. Two-thirds (66%) were struck by school buses, 6 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 28 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 (Figure 1).

*An average of 17 school-age occupants of school transportation vehicles (5) 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, 2002–2011**



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

*From 2002 to 2011, 49 (40%) school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between 5 and 7 years old.*

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 4 are killed by other vehicles involved in school bus-related crashes.

More school-age pedestrians have been killed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. than any other times of day (as shown in Table 1).

Table 1

### School-Age (Age<19) Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 2002–2011

Time of Day	Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Pedestrians	Pedalcyclists	Other* Nonoccupants	Total
Midnight–6:59 a.m.	1	13	14	0	0	28
7–7:59 a.m.	7	51	32	1	0	91
8–8:59 a.m.	4	18	11	0	0	33
9–9:59 a.m.	0	3	0	1	0	4
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	3	1	1	0	6
1–1:59 p.m.	2	1	5	0	0	8
2–2:59 p.m.	6	15	15	4	0	40
3–3:59 p.m.	16	47	30	2	1	96
4–4:59 p.m.	4	14	8	1	0	27
5–11:59 p.m.	4	13	6	2	0	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>365</b>

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

Between 2002 and 2011, 82 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. Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 48 percent and impacts to the right side of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 15 percent of fatal school transportation-related crashes (see Table 2). In the 35 single-vehicle crashes, 35 occupants—17 drivers and 18 passengers—were killed. In the 47 multiple-vehicle crashes, 24 drivers and 36 passengers died (see Table 3). In the 35 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (21 crashes), the vehicle overturning (7 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (5 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, 2002–2011

*Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 48 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	14	14	25	30	39	44
Right Side	7	7	5	8	12	15
Left Side	1	1	8	11	9	12
Rear	1	1	6	7	7	8
Top	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undercarriage	1	1	1	1	2	2
Non-Collision	10	10	0	0	10	10
Other/Unknown	1	1	2	3	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>95</b>

Table 3

**School Transportation-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities (All Ages), 2002–2011**

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
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
2011	3	3	5	6	1	1	1	1	4	4	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

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

From 2002 to 2011, nearly three-fourths (72%) of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in crashes were struck by a school bus or a vehicle functioning as a school bus, while 28 percent were struck by a vehicle of another body type. Of school age pedestrians fatally injured in school transportation-related crashes, more than one third (36%) were struck by a school bus or a vehicle functioning as a school bus that was going straight (Table 4).

Table 4

**School-Age (Age <19) Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 2002–2011**

Vehicle Maneuver	School Bus Body Type	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Body Type	Total
Going Straight	40	4	24	68
Accelerating in Traffic Lane	1	0	0	1
Starting in Traffic Lane	18	1	0	19
Stopped in Road	1	0	0	1
Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle	0	0	6	6
Leaving/Entering a Parked Position	6	0	0	6
Maneuvering to Avoid	0	0	1	1
Turning Right	6	0	0	6
Turning Left	8	1	0	9
Negotiating a Curve	1	1	3	5
Changing/Merging Lanes	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>123</b>

Table 5

**Fatalities (All Ages) in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, 2002–2011**

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			
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	84	130
2011	7	4	11	11	9	20	5	87	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1,351</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>98</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 2002 to 2011, among the 95 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 41 were drivers and 54 were passengers. Among the 236 pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes, 192 were struck by school vehicles and 43 were struck by other vehicles. Since 2002, two 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](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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