

# Traffic Safety Facts

2005 Data

## 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.*

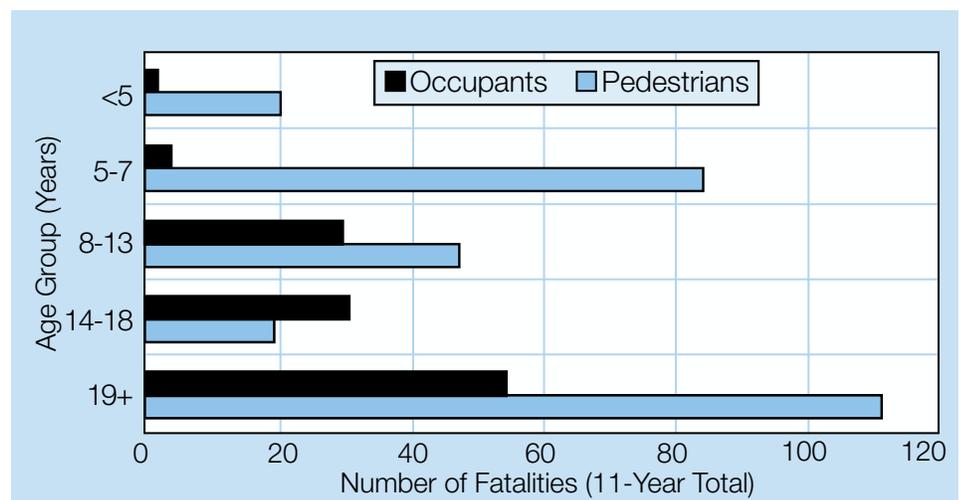
Since 1995 there have been about 416,295 fatal traffic crashes. Of those, 0.33 percent (1,368) were classified as school transportation-related.

Since 1995, 1,509 people have died in school transportation-related crashes — an average of 137 fatalities per year. Most of the people who lost their lives in those crashes (70%) were occupants of other vehicles involved. Nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 22 percent of the deaths, and occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 8 percent.

Since 1995, 170 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19) have died in school transportation-related crashes. Nearly two-thirds (65%) were killed by school buses, 5 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 30 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.

*“An average of 21 school-age children die in school transportation-related traffic crashes each year — 6 occupants of school transportation vehicles and 15 pedestrians.”*

Figure 1  
**Total Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes, by Age Group, 1995-2005**



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 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, 1995-2005**

Time of Day	Occupants*	Pedestrians	Total
Midnight-6:59 a.m.	8	10	18
7-7:59 a.m.	30	34	64
8-8:59 a.m.	15	14	29
9-9:59 a.m.	3	3	6
10-10:59 a.m.	4	0	4
11-11:59 a.m.	0	5	5
Noon-12:59 p.m.	2	4	6
1-1:59 p.m.	1	7	8
2-2:59 p.m.	16	25	41
3-3:59 p.m.	22	54	76
4-4:59 p.m.	10	11	21
5-11:59 p.m.	8	3	11
<b>11-Year Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>289</b>

*“From 1995 to 2005, nearly one-half of the school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between 5 and 7 years old.”*

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

Between 1995 and 2005, 97 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes (55%) involved at least one other vehicle. In the 44 single-vehicle crashes, 57 occupants — 14 drivers and 43 passengers — were killed. In the 53 multiple-vehicle crashes, 31 drivers and 31 passengers died. In the 44 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (24 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (7 crashes), the vehicle overturning (4 crashes), the vehicle colliding with a train (3 crashes), other non-collision (2 crashes), and collision with a non-fixed object (2 crashes).

In 52 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 1995, 6 drivers and 13 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, 1995-2005**

Principal Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle	Type of Crash				Total	
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple Vehicle			
	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities
Front	17	21	33	40	50	61
Right Side	6	8	9	11	15	19
Left Side	4	5	9	9	13	14
Rear	4	10	1	1	5	11
Top	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undercarriage	0	0	1	1	1	1
Non-Collision	12	12	0	0	12	12
Other/Uknown	1	1	0	0	1	1
<b>11-Year Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>119</b>

*“Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occur in 52 percent of fatal school transportation-related crashes.”*

Table 3  
**School-Age Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 1995-2005**

Vehicle Maneuver	School Bus Body Type	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Body Type	Total
Going Straight	47	4	34	85
Slowing or Stopping in Traffic Lane	4	0	1	5
Starting in Traffic Lane	31	3	1	35
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	2	2
Turning Right	9	0	0	9
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	2	0	0	2
Changing Lanes	0	0	2	2
Other/Unknown	0	0	1	1
<b>11-Year Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>170</b>

#### 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/nca](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca). 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*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists* (formerly titled *Pedalcyclists*), *Children*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Pedestrians*, *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.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nca).

Table 4  
**School Transportation-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities, 1995-2005**

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
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
2005	3	3	4	5	0	0	2	2	3	3	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>
Average	3	4	4	5	1	1	1	1	4	5	5	6

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

Table 5  
**Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes, 1995-2005**

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			
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	93	133
2005	5	5	10	27	3	30	7	87	134
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>1,509</b>
Average	4	7	11	21	5	26	4	97	137

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