



Traffic Safety Facts 2000

School Buses



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

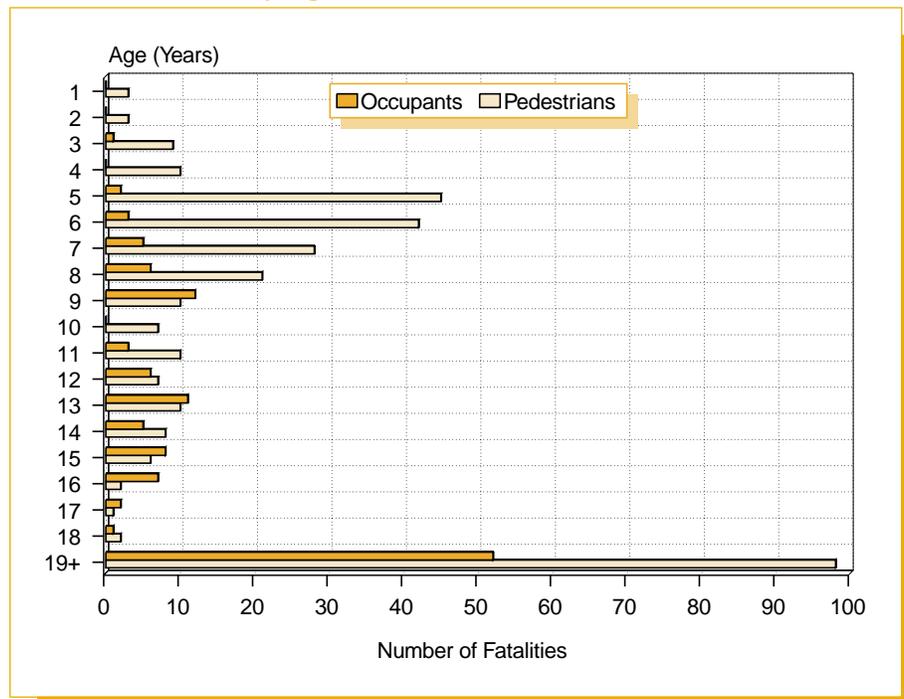
Since 1990 there have been about 407,000 fatal traffic crashes. Of those, 0.32 percent (1,313) were classified as school bus-related.

Since 1990, 1,450 people have died in school bus-related crashes — an average of 132 fatalities per year. Most of the people who lost their lives in those crashes (67 percent) were occupants of other vehicles involved. Nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 25 percent of the deaths, and school bus occupants accounted for 9 percent (drivers 2 percent, passengers 6 percent).

Since 1990, 224 school-age pedestrians (less than 19 years old) have died in school bus-related crashes. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) were killed by school buses, 5 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 30 percent by other vehicles involved in the crashes. More than half (51 percent) of all school-age pedestrians killed in school bus-related crashes were between the ages of 5 and 7.

“An average of 27 school-age children die in school bus-related traffic crashes each year — 7 school bus occupants and 20 pedestrians.”

Figure 1. Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School Bus-Related Crashes, by Age, 1990-2000



Note: Occupant fatalities shown are for occupants of school buses or vehicles used as school buses.

On average, 14 school-age pedestrians are killed by school buses (or vehicles used as school buses) each year, and 6 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 41 percent of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3:00 and 4:00 PM.

Table 1. Fatalities in School Bus-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 1990-2000

Time of Day	Occupant Fatalities*	Pedestrians (School Age)	Total Fatalities
12:00-6:59 AM	9	8	17
7:00-7:59 AM	32	28	60
8:00-8:59 AM	14	18	32
9:00-9:59 AM	7	7	14
10:00-10:59 AM	4	0	4
11:00-11:59 AM	0	8	8
12:00-12:59 PM	5	6	11
1:00-1:59 PM	3	6	9
2:00-2:59 PM	10	28	38
3:00-3:59 PM	22	92	114
4:00-4:59 PM	11	19	30
5:00-11:59 PM	7	4	11
Total	124	224	348

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

Between 1990 and 2000, 96 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school bus or a vehicle functioning as a school bus died. More than half of those crashes (55 percent) involved another vehicle. In the 43 single-vehicle crashes, 57 occupants — 9 drivers and 48 passengers — were killed. In the 53 multiple-vehicle crashes, 25 drivers and 42 passengers died. In the 43 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (21 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (10 crashes), the vehicle overturning (7 crashes), the vehicle colliding with a train (4 crashes), and collision with object not fixed (1 crash).

In 45 percent of all crashes involving fatalities to occupants of a school bus or vehicle used as a school bus, the principal point of impact was the front of the vehicle.

Since 1990, 6 drivers and 16 passengers have died in school buses 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.

“From 1990 to 2000, more than half of all school-age pedestrians killed in school bus-related crashes were 5 to 7 years old.”

Table 2. Occupant Fatalities in School Bus-Related Crashes by Principal Impact Point on School Bus Vehicle, 1990-2000

Principal Impact Point on Bus	Type of Crash					
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle		Total	
	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities	Crashes	Fatalities
Front	13	15	30	39	43	54
Right Side	6	8	8	13	14	21
Left Side	2	3	11	11	13	14
Rear	4	10	3	3	7	13
Top	1	2	0	0	1	2
Undercarriage	0	0	1	1	1	1
Noncollision	17	19	0	0	17	19
Total	43	57	53	67	96	124

“Impacts to the front of the school bus occur in 45 percent of fatal school bus-related crashes.”

Table 3. School-Age Pedestrians Killed in School Bus-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 1990-2000

Vehicle Maneuver	Striking Vehicle			
	School Bus	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Vehicle	Total
Going Straight	62	7	45	114
Slowing or Stopping in Traffic Lane	6	0	2	8
Starting in Traffic Lane	51	2	2	55
Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle	0	0	8	8
Leaving a Parked Position	5	1	0	6
Maneuvering to Avoid an Animal, Pedestrian, Object, Other Vehicle, etc.	0	0	4	4
Turning Right	8	0	0	8
Turning Left	8	0	0	8
Backing Up (Other Than for Parking)	2	0	1	3
Negotiating a Curve	2	0	3	5
Entering Parked Position	2	0	0	2
Changing Lanes	0	0	1	1
Other/Unknown	0	1	1	2
Total School-Age Pedestrians Killed	146	11	67	224

Table 4. School Bus-Related Crashes Involving Occupant Fatalities, 1990-2000

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
1990	5	7	4	4	0	0	0	0	5	7	4	4
1991	0	0	6	10	4	6	1	1	4	6	7	11
1992	3	3	4	4	2	3	0	0	5	6	4	4
1993	5	5	2	5	2	2	1	1	7	7	3	6
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	1	1	2	3	8	10	8	10
Total	30	41	43	55	13	16	10	12	43	57	53	67

*Includes one crash with 21 occupant fatalities.

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

Table 5. Fatalities in School Bus-Related Crashes, 1990-2000

Year	Occupants of School Bus*			Pedestrians			Other Nonoccupants	Occupants of Other Vehicle	Total
	Driver	Passenger	Total	Struck by School Bus*	Struck by Other Vehicle	Total			
1990	4	7	11	32	7	39	1	64	115
1991	2	15	17	21	5	26	5	86	134
1992	1	9	10	21	8	29	2	83	124
1993	1	12	13	32	8	40	2	86	141
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	12	20	16	9	25	1	98	144
Total	34	90	124	248	74	322	35	969	1,450
Average	3	8	11	23	7	29	3	88	132

*Includes school bus body type and vehicle used as school bus.

For more information:

Information on school bus traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NRD-31, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 1-800-934-8517. FAX messages should be sent to (202) 366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nCSA>. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.