

Traffic Safety Facts

2005–2014 Data

May 2016

DOT HS 812 272



Key Findings

- From 2005 to 2014, there were 1,332 people of all ages killed in school-transportation-related crashes—an average of 133 fatalities per year.
- From 2005 to 2014, there were 304 school-age children who died in school-transportation-related crashes: 53 were occupants of school transportation vehicles, 130 were occupants of other vehicles, 111 were pedestrians, 9 were pedalcyclists, and 1 was another nonoccupant.
- More school-age pedestrians were killed from 7 to 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. than any other hours of the day.
- Forty (36%) of school-age pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes from 2005 to 2014 were 8 to 13 years old.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school-transportation-related crashes were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses (2005 to 2014).
- Among school-age child occupants killed in school-transportation-related crashes, more than twice as many died in other vehicles (130), than school transportation vehicles (53).
- Among the 110 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 46 were drivers and 64 were passengers.
- Impacts to the front of school transportation vehicles occurred in 51 percent of fatal school-transportation-related crashes.



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
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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. In this fact sheet school-age children are defined as children 18 and younger.

This fact sheet includes 10 years of data, from 2005 to 2014. Information on school-transportation-related crashes is presented as follows.

- Overview
- Person Type
- Age Group
- School Age Fatalities by Time of Day
- School Bus Occupant Fatalities by Impact Point and Crash Type
- School Bus Occupant Fatalities
- Vehicle Maneuver and Pedestrian Fatalities

Overview

From 2005 to 2014 there were 331,730 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those crashes, 1,191 (0.4%) were classified as school-transportation-related.

From 2005 to 2014, there were 1,332 people killed in school-transportation-related crashes—an average of 133 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 (Table 5).

From 2005 to 2014, there were 111 school-age pedestrians 18 and younger who died in school-transportation-related crashes. Sixty-one percent were struck by school buses, 3 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 36 percent by other vehicles (passenger cars, light trucks and vans, large trucks, and motorcycles, etc.) involved in the crashes.

Person Type

Table 1 shows fatalities by person type in school-transportation-related crashes (2005 to 2014). Among the 110 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 46 were drivers and 64 were passengers. Among the 237 pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes, 183 were struck by school vehicles, and 53 were struck by other vehicles.

From 2005 to 2014, 3 drivers and 3 passengers died in school bus body vehicles providing transportation for purposes other than school or school-related activities (churches, civic organizations, etc.).

Table 1

Fatalities (All Ages) in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Year and Person Type, 2005–2014

| Year | Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles* | | | Pedestrians | | | Other Nonoccupants | Occupants of Other Vehicles | Total |
|--------------|--|-----------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | Driver | Passenger | Total | Struck by School Vehicle | Struck by Other Vehicle | Total | | | |
| 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 | 88 | 132 |
| 2013 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 6 | 22 | 5 | 93 | 131 |
| 2014 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 21 | 7 | 28 | 4 | 77 | 120 |
| Total | 46 | 64 | 110 | 183 | 53 | 237** | 45 | 940 | 1,332 |
| Average | 5 | 6 | 11 | 18 | 5 | 24 | 5 | 94 | 133 |

Source: FARS 2005–2013 Final File and 2014 ARF.

*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.

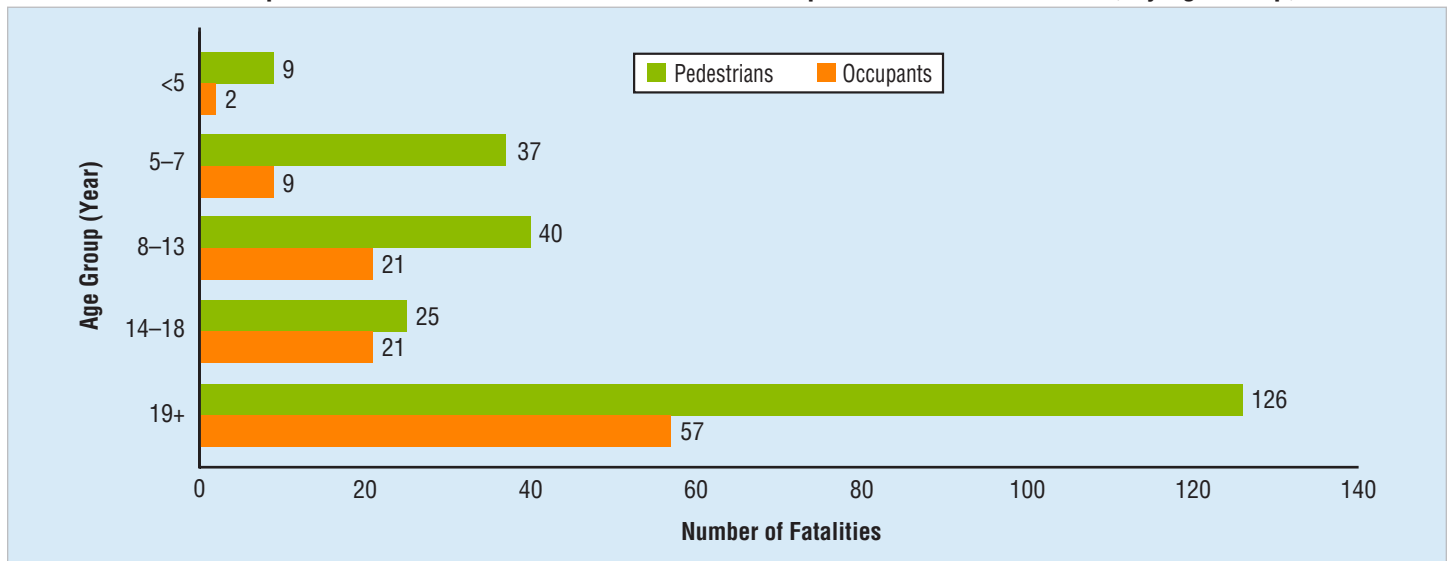
Age Group

From 2005 to 2014 there were 304 school-age children who died in school-transportation-related crashes: 53 were occupants of school transportation vehicles, 130 were occupants of other vehicles, 111 were pedestrians, 9 were pedalcyclists, and 1 was other nonoccupant.

Figure 1 presents the total number of school bus occupant and pedestrian fatalities in school-transportation-related crashes by age group from 2005 to 2014. Among all school-age pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes, 37 (33%) were 5 to 7 years old and 40 (36%) were 8 to 13 years old.

Figure 1

Total School Bus Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Age Group, 2005–2014



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2005–2013 Final File, 2014 Annual Report File (ARF).

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

On average, 7 school-age pedestrians killed were struck by school transportation vehicles (school buses and non-school-bus vehicles

used as school buses) each year, and 4 by other vehicles involved in school-bus-related crashes.

School Age Fatalities by Time of Day

Table 2 provides school age (18 and younger) fatalities in school-transportation-related crashes by time of day. Among the 304 school age fatalities from 2005 to 2014, more school-age pedestrians were killed from 7 to 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. than any other

hours of the day. There were more than twice as many fatalities among occupants of other vehicles (130) than occupants of school transportation vehicles (53).

Table 2

School-Age (18 and Younger) Fatalities in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Time of Day and Person Type, 2005–2014

| Time of Day | Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles | Occupants of Other Vehicles | Pedestrians | Pedalcyclists | Other* Nonoccupants | Total |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| Midnight–6:59 a.m. | 2 | 12 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| 7–7:59 a.m. | 6 | 26 | 28 | 1 | 0 | 61 |
| 8–8:59 a.m. | 5 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| 9–9:59 a.m. | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| 10–10:59 a.m. | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 11–11:59 a.m. | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Noon–12:59 p.m. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| 1–1:59 p.m. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 2–2:59 p.m. | 8 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 27 |
| 3–3:59 p.m. | 11 | 33 | 24 | 2 | 1 | 71 |
| 4–4:59 p.m. | 9 | 14 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| 5–11:59 p.m. | 4 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 24 |
| Total | 53 | 130 | 111 | 9 | 1 | 304 |

Source: FARS 2005–2013 Final File, 2014 ARF.

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

School Bus Occupant Fatalities by Impact Point and Crash Type

Table 3 shows the total number of school bus occupant fatalities in school-transportation-related crashes by initial impact point on the school transportation vehicles. There were 86 crashes in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. Sixty percent of those crashes (52) involved at least one other vehicle.

Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicles occurred in 51 percent of fatal school-transportation-related crashes and impacts to the right side of school transportation vehicles occurred in 10 percent.

Table 3

Fatal Crashes and Total School Transportation Occupant Fatalities (All Ages) in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle and Crash Type, 2005–2014

| Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle | Crash Type | | | | Total | |
|---|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Single-Vehicle | | Multiple-Vehicle | | | |
| | Crashes* | Fatalities | Crashes* | Fatalities | Crashes* | Fatalities |
| Front | 15 | 17 | 29 | 37 | 44 | 54 |
| Right Side | 4 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 14 |
| Left Side | 0 | 0 | 8 | 14 | 8 | 14 |
| Rear | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Top | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Undercarriage | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Non-Collision | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 |
| Other/Unknown | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | 34 | 37 | 52 | 73 | 86 | 110 |

Source: FARS 2005–2013 Final File, 2014 ARF.

*Only includes school-transportation-related crashes in which there was a fatality in a school transportation vehicle.

School Bus Occupant Fatalities

Table 4 provides the information on school-transportation-related crashes involving school bus occupant fatalities. In the 34 single-vehicle crashes, 37 occupants—18 drivers and 19 passengers—were killed. In the 52 multiple-vehicle crashes, 28 drivers and 45 passengers died in the school buses. In the 34 single-vehicle crashes,

the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (21 crashes), the vehicle overturning (5 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (7 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 4

School-Transportation-Related Crashes Involving School Bus Occupant Fatalities (All Ages), by Year, Vehicle Occupied, and Crash Type, 2005–2014

| 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 |
| 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 |
| 2013 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 2014 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| Total | 30 | 33 | 38 | 53 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 20 | 34 | 37 | 52 | 73 |
| Average | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 |

Source: FARS 2005–2013 Final File, 2014 ARF.

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

Vehicle Maneuver and Pedestrian Fatalities

Table 5 presents the number of school-age pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes by vehicle maneuver and vehicle type. From 2005 to 2014, almost two-thirds (64%) of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in crashes were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses, while 36

percent were struck by vehicles of other body types. Of school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school-transportation-related crashes, more than one-third (34%) were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses that were going straight.

Table 5

School-Age (18 and Younger) Pedestrians Killed in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Vehicle Maneuver and Vehicle Type, 2005–2014

| Vehicle Maneuver | School Bus Body Type | Vehicle Used as School Bus | Other Body Type | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Going Straight | 36 | 2 | 31 | 69 |
| Slowing in Road | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Accelerating in Road | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Starting in Road | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Leaving/Entering a Parked Position | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Turning Right | 6 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Turning Left | 8 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Negotiating a Curve | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Total | 68 | 3 | 40 | 111 |

Source: FARS 2005–2013 Final File, 2014 ARF.

This fact sheet contains information on motor vehicle fatalities and fatal crashes based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a census of fatal crashes within the

50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (although Puerto Rico data is not included in this fact sheet).

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For More Information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NSA-230, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or by e-mail at ncsaweb@dot.gov. General information on highway traffic safety can be found 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 NCSA are *Alcohol-Impaired Driving*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists*, *Children*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Passenger Vehicles*, *Pedestrians*, *Rural/Urban Comparisons*, *Speeding*, *State Alcohol Estimates*, *State Traffic Data*, *Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes*, and *Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes is 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 found at www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx.



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