

Traffic Safety Facts

2007–2016 Data

January 2018

DOT HS 812 476



Key Findings

- From 2007 to 2016, there were 1,282 people of all ages killed in school-transportation-related crashes—an average of 128 fatalities per year.
- From 2007 to 2016, there were 281 school-age children killed in school-transportation-related crashes: 58 were occupants of school transportation vehicles, 116 were occupants of other vehicles, 98 were pedestrians, 8 were pedalcyclists, and 1 was another nonoccupant.
- More school-age pedestrians were killed from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. than any other hours of the day.
- Thirty-four (35%) of the school-age pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes from 2007 to 2016 were 8 to 13 years old.
- Less than two-thirds (62%) of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school-transportation-related crashes were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses (2007 to 2016).
- Among school-age child occupants killed in school-transportation-related crashes, two times more died in other vehicles (116), than school transportation vehicles (58).
- Among the 118 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 50 were drivers and 68 were passengers.
- Impacts to the front of school transportation vehicles occurred in 45 percent of fatal school-transportation-related crashes.



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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 factsheet “school-age” children are defined as children 18 and younger

This fact sheet includes 10 years of data, from 2007 to 2016. 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

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 in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico is not included in U.S. totals).

Overview

From 2007 to 2016 there were 320,874 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those crashes, 1,147 (0.4%) were classified as school-transportation-related.

Between 2007 and 2016, there have been 1,282 people killed in school-transportation-related crashes—an average of 128 fatalities per year. Occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 9 percent of the fatalities, and nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 20 percent of the fatalities. Most (70%) of the people who lost their lives in these crashes were occupants of other vehicles involved (Table 1).

From 2007 to 2016, 98 school-age pedestrians (18 and younger) have died in school-transportation-related crashes. Sixty percent were struck by school buses, 2 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 38 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 (2007-2016). Among the 118 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 50 were drivers and 68 were passengers. Among the 216 pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes, 163 were struck by school vehicles and 52 were struck by other vehicles.

From 2007 to 2016, three drivers and four passengers have 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, 2007–2016

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			
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
2015	8	5	13	11	0	11	4	87	115
2016	4	9	13	15	5	20	6	80	119
Total	50	68	118	163	52	216**	46	902	1,282
Average	5	7	12	16	5	22	5	90	128

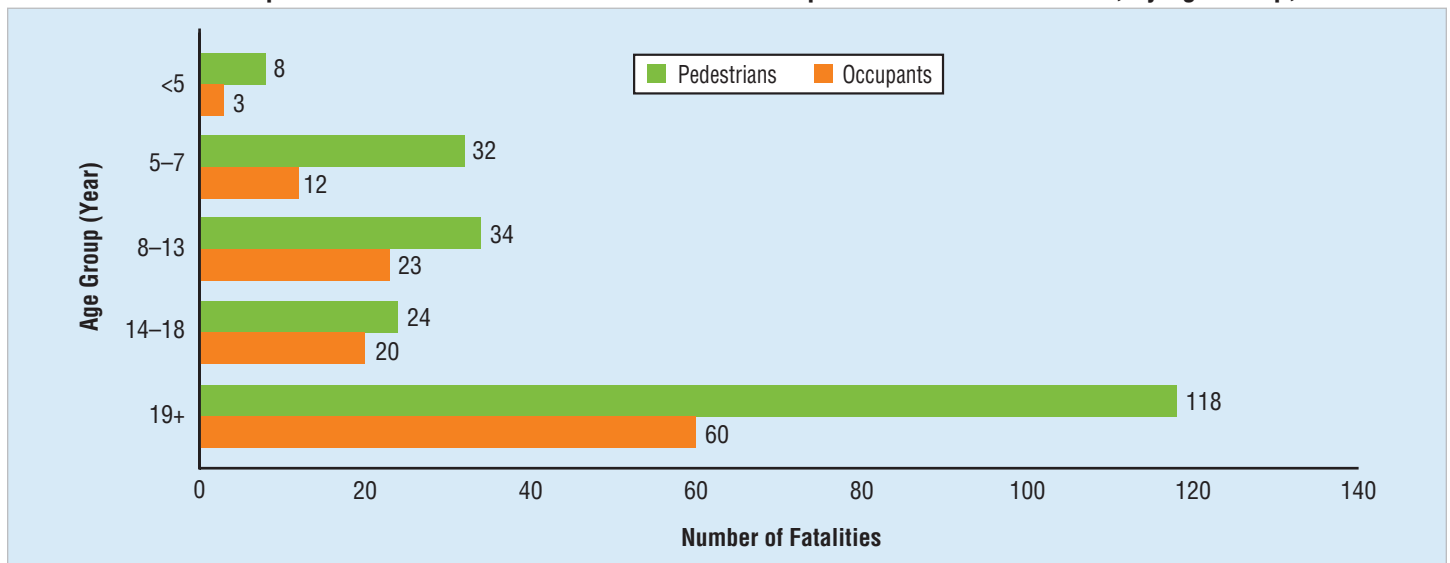
Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2007-2015 Final File, 2016 Annual Report File (ARF).
 *Includes school bus body type and non-school bus used as school bus.
 **Includes 1 pedestrian fatality in which the striking vehicle was not identified.

Age Group

From 2007 to 2016, there were 281 school-age children who died in school-transportation-related crashes: 58 were occupants of school transportation vehicles, 116 were occupants of other vehicles, 98 were pedestrians, 8 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 between 2007 and 2016. Among all school-age pedestrians killed in school-transportation-related crashes, 32 (33%) were 5 to 7 years old and 34 (35%) were 8 to 13 years old.

Figure 1
Total School Bus Occupant and Pedestrian Fatalities in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Age Group, 2007–2016



Source: FARS 2007-2015 Final File, 2016 ARF.
 Note: Occupant fatalities shown are for occupants of school buses and non-school buses used as school buses.

On average, 6 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 281 school-age fatalities between 2007 and 2016, more school-age pedestrians were killed from 6 to 7 a.m., and from 3 to 4 p.m. than

any other hours of the day. There were two times more fatalities among occupants of other vehicles (116) than occupants of school transportation vehicles (58).

Table 2

School-Age (18 and Younger) Fatalities in School-Transportation-Related Crashes, by Time of Day and Person Type, 2007–2016

Time of Day	Occupants of School Transportation Vehicles	Occupants of Other Vehicles	Pedestrians	Pedalcyclists	Other* Nonoccupants	Total
Midnight-5:59 a.m.	2	1	2	0	0	5
6-6:59 a.m.	2	11	21	0	0	34
7-7:59 a.m.	8	25	19	1	0	53
8-8:59 a.m.	3	9	8	0	0	20
9-9:59 a.m.	0	5	0	1	0	6
10-10:59 a.m.	1	5	0	0	0	6
11-11:59 a.m.	1	3	0	0	0	4
Noon-12:59 p.m.	1	2	2	0	0	5
1-1:59 p.m.	2	2	1	0	0	5
2-2:59 p.m.	8	10	5	3	1	27
3-3:59 p.m.	18	22	24	2	0	66
4-4:59 p.m.	8	14	9	0	0	31
5-11:59 p.m.	4	7	7	1	0	19
Total	58	116	98	8	1	281

Source: FARS 2007–2015 Final File, 2016 ARF.

*Includes people 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 vehicle. There were 91 crashes in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. Sixty percent of

those crashes (55) involved at least one other vehicle. Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 45 percent of fatal school-transportation-related crashes and impacts to the right side of the school transportation vehicle occurred in 12 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, 2007–2016

Initial Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle	Crash Type				Total	
	Single-Vehicle		Multiple-Vehicle			
	Crashes*	Fatalities	Crashes*	Fatalities	Crashes*	Fatalities
Front	13	15	28	32	41	47
Right Side	6	7	5	10	11	17
Left Side	0	0	12	19	12	19
Rear	1	1	8	9	9	10
Top	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undercarriage	3	8	1	1	4	9
Non-Collision	12	13	0	0	12	13
Other/Unknown	1	1	1	2	2	3
Total	36	45	55	73	91	118

Source: FARS 2007–2015 Final File, 2016 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 36 single-vehicle crashes, 45 occupants—19 drivers and 26 passengers—were killed. In the 55 multiple-vehicle crashes, 31 drivers and 42 passengers died in the school buses. In the 36 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (22 crashes), the vehicle overturning (6 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (7 crashes), and one other crash.

Table 4

School-Transportation-Related Crashes Involving School Bus Occupant Fatalities (All Ages), by Year, Vehicle Occupied, and Crash Type, 2007–2016

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
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
2015	2	3	5	6	1	1	3	3	3	4	8	9
2016	2	7	2	2	0	0	4	4	2	7	6	6
Total	31	40	38	50	5	5	17	23	36	45	55	73
Average	3	4	4	5	1	1	2	2	4	5	6	7

Source: FARS 2007–2015 Final File, 2016 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 2007 to 2016, less than two-thirds (62%) of the school-age pedestrians fatally injured in crashes were struck by school buses or vehicles functioning as school buses, while 38

percent were struck by vehicles of other body types. Of school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school-transportation-related crashes, 32 percent 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, 2007–2016

Vehicle Maneuver	School Bus Body Type	Vehicle Used as School Bus	Other Body Type	Total
Going Straight	29	2	30	61
Slowing in Road	1	0	0	1
Accelerating in Road	2	0	0	2
Starting in Road	14	0	0	14
Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle	0	0	2	2
Leaving/Entering a Parked Position	1	0	0	1
Turning Right	2	0	1	3
Turning Left	8	0	0	8
Negotiating a Curve	2	0	4	6
Total	59	2	37	98

Source: FARS 2007–2015 Final File, 2016 ARF.

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For More Information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), NSA-230, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or by e-mail at ncsarequests@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 the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol-Impaired Driving*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists*, *Children*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Passenger Vehicles*, *Pedestrians*, *Rural/Urban Comparison of Traffic Fatalities*, *Speeding*, *State Alcohol Estimates*, *State Traffic Data*, *Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes*, 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 found at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/>.



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