

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2009

School Transportation

Although national studies (such as the 2002 report "School Bus Safety: Crashworthiness Research" by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) verify statistically the safety of school bus transportation, any event involving these vehicles has the potential to affect the lives of many children.

	All Crashes	School Transportation-Related Crashes
Crashes:	292,439	1,655
Fatal Crashes:	832	0 ^a
Injury Crashes:	63,382	100 ^a
Total People Involved:	682,674 ^b	2,432 ^c
Total Fatalities:	911 ^b	0 ^c
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	89,188 ^b	205 ^c

^a Numbers only reflect crashes in which fatality or non-fatal injury was specifically a child aged 18 or younger

^b Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 682,674 total people = 673,838 occupants + 8,836 non-occupants

^c Numbers include children aged 18 or younger (passengers and non-occupants)

There were just 1,655 school transportation-related crashes* in Illinois in 2009, accounting for 0.6% of all 292,439 crashes. Even though there were a few fatalities in school transportation-related crashes (2 out of 911 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2009), none were among children aged 18 or younger.

School Hours

School transportation related crashes were concentrated before and after typical school hours, with 1,028 (62.1%) of all 1,655 such crashes taking place either 7:00-8:59 am or 2:00-3:59 pm.

Time of Day	School Transportation Related Crashes	Injuries		Fatalities	
		All	School Age	All	School Age
midnight-6:59 am	70	25	14	0	0
7-7:59 am	281	72	23	1	0
8-8:59 am	287	114	63	0	0
9-9:59 am	64	4	0	0	0
10-10:59 am	50	17	3	1	0
11-11:59 am	75	18	3	0	0
noon-12:59 pm	76	30	4	0	0
1-1:59 pm	63	38	18	0	0
2-2:59 pm	179	55	13	0	0
3-3:59 pm	281	90	36	0	0
4-4:59 pm	121	47	19	0	0
5-11:59 pm	108	27	9	0	0
Total	1655	537	205	2	0

(Where time of day was known)

* Crashes involving direct contact with a school bus or with vehicles being used as a school bus (stopped school buses are included). In addition, vehicles passing a stopped school bus in a crash were included if they involved a child non-occupant such as a pedestrian or pedalcyclist (aged 18 or younger).

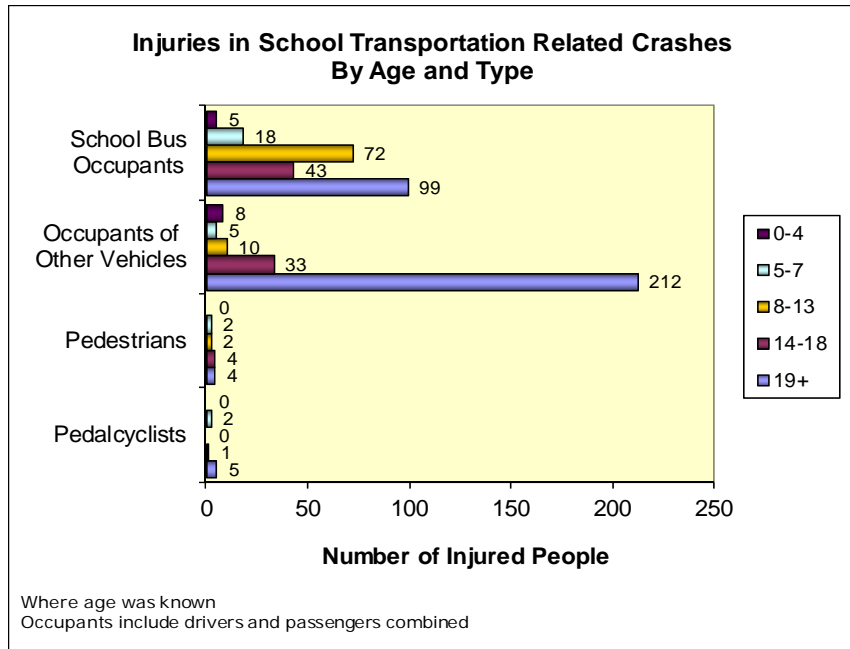
Note: Data as of October 4, 2010; with 292,439 crash records, 539,717 vehicle records and 673,839 person records.

The law regarding the reporting threshold for Property Damage Only crashes was amended effective January 1, 2009, resulting in decreased reporting of crashes in this specific category. It did not affect the reporting of injury or fatal crashes. For details of the reporting amendment, see also <http://app.idph.state.il.us/emsrpt/crash.asp>.

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Injured Occupants and Pedestrians

- Where age was known, 205 (38.2%) of the 537 occupants and pedestrians injured in school transportation-related crashes were children aged 18 or younger.
- Among the 205 children who were injured in school transportation-related crashes, 3 (1.5%) were pedalcyclists and 8 (3.9%) were pedestrians.
- 165 (80.5%) of the 205 children who were injured in school transportation-related crashes were occupants of buses or vehicles being used as buses.



Road Use and Geographic Facts

- 1,441 (87.1%) of all 1,655 school transportation-related crashes took place on roads or highways that were classified as "urban" use
- 811 (49.0%) of all 1,655 school transportation-related crashes took place in Cook County
 - In comparison, Cook County accounts for just 31.2% of the average vehicle miles traveled in Illinois[†]

	Crashes Involving School Transportation n (%)	Crashes Not Involving School Transportation n (%)
Chicago	470 (28.4%)	81,514 (28.0%)
Suburban Cook County	341 (20.6%)	56,170 (19.3%)
Chicago Collar Counties	402 (24.3%)	58,378 (20.1%)
Rest of State - Urban	260 (15.7%)	47,816 (16.4%)
Rest of State - Rural	182 (11.0%)	46,906 (16.1%)

Note: Counties were stratified according to criteria defined by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for the Illinois Department of Public Health
URL: <http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/default.asp>

[†] Source: Illinois Travel Statistics 2009, Illinois Department of Transportation