

## SUMMARY OF 2003 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISION DATA

The following is a summary of California school bus collision data for the 2003 calendar year. This data reflects those collisions which occurred while school buses were transporting one or more students to or from school, or school-related activities. School pupil transportation agencies may use this information to identify primary collision factors and direct their training resources accordingly. This data should assist school pupil transportation agencies in reducing incidents of school bus-involved collisions and ensure the safe transportation of California's school pupils.

### SYNOPSIS

**Mileage:** In 2003, 25,199 school buses were operated in California; a decrease of 972 from 2002. These vehicles traveled 355,184,350 miles; a 2.2 percent increase in miles traveled when compared to the 2002 calendar year.

**Collisions:** The total number of school bus collisions in 2003 decreased by 118 to 2260; a 5.0 percent decrease from 2002. Of the 2003 collisions, 6 resulted in fatalities; a 100 percent increase from the previous year. However, none of the fatalities involved school pupil passengers. The last school pupil passenger death occurred in 1995.

**Injury collisions:** The total number of injury collisions in 2003 increased to 417 from 412 the previous year; a 1.1 percent increase.

**School Bus Driver-at-Fault Collisions:** School bus driver error was the primary collision factor for 933 school bus collisions for 2003; a 2.8 percent decrease from the previous year. Of the driver-at-fault collisions, 770 (82.5 percent) occurred in Type 1 school buses and 163 (17 percent) occurred in Type 2 school buses.

- ❖ A Type 1 school bus is a vehicle designed to carry more than 16 passengers and the driver.
- ❖ A Type 2 school bus is a vehicle designed to carry not more than 16 passengers and the driver, or a vehicle manufactured on or after April 1, 1977, having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, and designed to carry not more than 20 passengers and the driver.

**Other Drivers-at-Fault Collisions and Causes Other than Driver-at-Fault:** Drivers of other vehicles were responsible for 1,069 (52 percent) of the total school bus collisions. Collisions attributed to non-specific causes totaled 258 (11.4 percent) of the school bus collisions.

**TABLE 1**

**2003 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISION STATISTICS**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Fatal Collisions</b>	<b>6</b>
School bus vs. pedestrian	1
School bus vs. motor vehicle	4
School bus vs. bicycle	1
<b>Injury Collisions</b>	<b>417</b>
School bus vs. pedestrian	21
School bus vs. motor vehicle	230
School bus vs. motor vehicle on other road	1
School bus vs. parked motor vehicle	10
School bus vs. bicycle	8
School bus vs. fixed object	17
School bus vs. other object	2
Non-Clsn	124
Not stated	4
<b>Property Damage Collisions</b>	<b>1,837</b>
School bus vs. pedestrian	3
School bus vs. motor vehicle	1,285
School bus vs. motor vehicle on other road	6
School bus vs. parked motor vehicle	255
School bus vs. bicycle	8
School bus vs. animal	21
School bus vs. fixed object	197
School bus vs. other object	37
Non-Clsn	11
Not stated	14
<b>Total Collisions</b>	<b>2,260</b>

**Note:** Non-Collisions (Non-Clsn): These collisions do not reflect an impact with any party or object. These school bus collisions are a result of injury to a pupil inside the school bus due to acceleration, deceleration, or other movement of the vehicle. For example, a driver brakes firmly, the pupil hits their head on the seat in front of them, and is injured (as a result of the rapid deceleration).

TABLE 2

2001 – 2003 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISION PUPIL INJURY STATISTICS

CATEGORY	2001	2002	2003
Pupil Passengers Killed	0	0	0
<b>Total Pupil Passengers Killed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<u>Pupil Passengers Injured:</u>			
Severe Injuries	2	0	6
Moderate Injuries	101	88	80
Possible Injuries	526	337	302
<b>Total Pupil Passengers Injured</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>388</b>
Pupil Pedestrians Killed	1	0	0
<b>Total Pupil Pedestrians Killed</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<u>Pupil Pedestrians Injured:</u>			
Severe Injuries	0	0	0
Moderate Injuries	1	2	0
Possible Injuries	2	0	1
<b>Total Pupil Pedestrians Injured</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

**TABLE 3**

**2003 SCHOOL BUS PASSENGERS KILLED AND INJURED BY EXTENT OF INJURY, PRIMARY COLLISION FACTOR (PCF), AND PUBLIC, PRIVATE, OR CONTRACTUAL (Contr.) SCHOOL BUS TYPE I OR II (SB I or II)**

<b>PCF and SB Type</b>	<b>Total Killed</b>	<b>Total Injured</b>	<b>Severe Injury</b>	<b>Other Visible Injury</b>	<b>Complaint of Pain</b>
<b><u>Non-Clsn.:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>144</b>
Public SB I	0	125	1	31	93
Public SB II	0	8	0	6	2
Private SB I	0	1	0	1	0
Private SB II	0	5	0	0	5
Contr. SB I	0	52	0	11	41
Contr. SB II	0	5	0	2	3
<b><u>Pedestrian:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Public SB I	0	1	0	0	1
<b><u>Other Motor Vehicle:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>116</b>
Public SB I	0	90	5	20	65
Public SB II	0	6	0	1	5
Private SB I	0	2	0	0	2
Private SB II	0	1	0	0	1
Contr. SB I		41	0	0	41
Contr. SB II		3	0	1	2
<b><u>MV On Other Road:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Public SB I	0	1	0	0	1
<b><u>Parked Motor Vehicle:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Public SB I	0	4	0	1	3
Public SB II	0	2	0	2	0
<b><u>Fixed Object:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>
Public SB I	0	30	0	3	27
Contr. SB I	0	2	0	0	2
<b><u>Other Object:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Public SB I	0	3	0	0	3
<b><u>Not Stated:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
Public SB I	0	5	0	0	4
Contr. SB I	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>302</b>

**TABLE 4**

**2003 SCHOOL BUS TYPE I AND II COLLISIONS BY PRIMARY COLLISION FACTOR (PCF)**

<b>PCF</b>	<b>Public SB I</b>	<b>Public SB II</b>	<b>Private SB I</b>	<b>Private SB II</b>	<b>Contractual SB I</b>	<b>Contractual SB II</b>	<b>Total</b>
Driver Alcohol or Drugs	13	1	0	0	0	0	14
Impede Traffic	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unsafe Speed	244	38	8	7	76	44	417
Too Close	10	2	0	1	4	2	19
Wrong Side	42	4	1	1	6	4	58
Improper Pass	44	7	2	1	27	9	90
Lane Change	66	11	3	2	37	16	135
Improper Turn	359	38	11	5	105	39	557
Right-of-Way Auto	132	19	4	1	28	14	198
Right-of-Way Pedestrian	7	0	0	0	2	1	10
Pedestrian Violation	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Stop Sign or Signal	26	8	4	2	4	11	55
Start or Backing	185	22	7	11	41	39	305
Hazardous Parking	5	0	0	0	0	1	6
Brakes	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Other Equipment	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other Haz.	15	3	2	0	9	0	29
Other Improper Driving	93	9	3	2	13	16	136
Not Driver	113	10	2	0	25	4	154
Unknown	32	5	1	0	15	3	56
Not Stated	11	1	1	0	5	7	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>2,276</b>

**NOTE:** The total number of school bus collisions identified in Table 4 differs by 16 collisions from the total number of school bus collisions in Table 1. The reason for the difference is that Table 4 includes

school bus collisions where two school buses were involved and accounts for each school bus separately. In other words, Type 1 school buses were involved in six collisions with another Type 1; and Type 1 school buses were involved in 10 collisions with Type 2 school buses.

**TABLE 5**

**2003 SCHOOL BUS TYPE I AND II AT-FAULT COLLISIONS BY PRIMARY COLLISION FACTORS (PCF)**

<b>PCF</b>	<b>Public SB I</b>	<b>Public SB II</b>	<b>Private SB I</b>	<b>Private SB II</b>	<b>Contractual SB I</b>	<b>Contractual SB II</b>	<b>Total</b>
Impede Traffic	1						1
Unsafe Speed	87	15	4	1	29	10	146
Too Close	3	0	0	1	3	1	8
Wrong Side	16	1	0	1	1	1	20
Improper Pass	6	4	0	0	6	4	20
Lane Change	20	4	2	0	11	4	41
Improper Turn	234	28	8	2	59	24	355
Right-of-Way Auto	45	7	0	0	7	6	65
Right-of-Way Pedestrian	7	0	0	0	2	1	10
Stop Sign or Signal	6	0	0	0	1	0	7
Start or Backing	108	10	2	6	21	16	163
Hazardous Parking	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
Brakes	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other Equipment	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Hazard	2	0	1	0	1	0	4
Other Improper Driving	57	4	2	1	6	7	77
Not Driver	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Not Stated	5	0	0	0	1	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>933</b>

**TABLE 6**  
**SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS BY MONTH**  
**2003**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Injury</b>	<b>PDO</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
January		41	156	197
February		33	163	196
March		35	190	225
April		28	146	174
May	1	62	198	261
June		22	125	147
July		17	69	86
August	2	15	50	67
September	1	48	205	254
October		52	232	284
November		34	162	196
December	2	30	141	173
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>2,260</b>

Questions regarding this information may be directed to Commercial Vehicle Section at (916) 445-1865.