

## **SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007/08 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISION DATA**

The following is a summary of California school bus collision data for FY 2007/08. 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 FY 2007/08, 25,319 school buses were operated in California; a decrease of 503 from the previous year. These vehicles traveled 312,948,446 miles; a 1 percent decrease in miles traveled compared to the previous year.

**Collisions:** The total number of school bus collisions in FY 2007/08 decreased to 2,215 from 2,345; a 6 percent decrease from the previous year. Of the collisions, five resulted in fatalities. However, none of the fatalities involved school pupil passengers. The last school pupil passenger death occurred in 1995.

Below is a summary of the five school bus-involved fatal collisions that occurred during FY 2007/08.

- ❖ A fatal collision involving a school bus occurred on 9/4/07, in Shasta County. A school bus driver was stopped at a red light at an intersection, waiting to make a left turn. As the light turned green to proceed, the school bus driver waited for the driver of a vehicle in the adjacent intersection to make a left turn. After the driver completed the turn, the school bus driver proceeded to make a left turn when a pedestrian suddenly and quickly entered the roadway, taking large steps into the path of the school bus. The school bus driver immediately applied the brakes in an attempt to avoid striking the pedestrian; however, the school bus struck the pedestrian with its right bumper. The force knocked the pedestrian to the ground where he then slid across the roadway and struck his head on the curb. The pedestrian later succumbed to his injuries. The school bus driver was found not-at-fault.
  
- ❖ A fatal collision involving a school bus occurred on 12/14/07, in San Diego County. A school bus driver was approaching a red light when the driver of another vehicle approached the school bus from behind and made an unsafe turning movement to the left to go around the school bus. The driver of the other vehicle struck the rear of the school bus, causing both the school bus and his own vehicle to spin around. The other driver's vehicle became embedded under the school bus. The driver of the other vehicle sustained fatal injuries at the scene. The school bus driver was found not-at-fault.

- ❖ A fatal collision involving a school bus occurred on 3/18/08, in Placer County. While traveling northbound on State Route 65, a school bus driver noticed another vehicle, traveling southbound, cross the double yellow lines into her lane. The school bus driver honked her horn, but the driver of the other vehicle did not respond and kept coming toward the school bus. The school bus driver attempted to move the bus to the right shoulder to avoid the other vehicle, but was unsuccessful as the other vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed. The other vehicle struck the right front of the school bus. The driver of the other vehicle sustained fatal injuries at the scene. The school bus driver was found not-at-fault.
- ❖ A fatal collision involving a school bus occurred on 4/23/08, in San Joaquin County. A school bus driver was slowing as she approached a well-known dangerous intersection. As she began to slow down, she observed another vehicle enter the intersection directly ahead of her. The school bus driver took evasive action to avoid the collision by applying brakes, honking the horn, and swerving to the left, away from the approaching vehicle. However, the school bus driver was unable to move out of the path of the other vehicle before the right front corner of the school bus collided with the left front side of the other vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle later succumbed to her injuries. The school bus driver was found not-at-fault.
- ❖ A fatal collision involving a school bus occurred on 5/21/08, in Fresno County. A school bus driver was traveling eastbound on a roadway in the far most right lane. A cyclist was riding his bike eastbound on the same roadway on the asphalt shoulder. Suddenly and without warning the cyclist veered left directly into the path of the school bus. The school bus driver then veered left in an attempt to avoid the cyclist but was unsuccessful. The cyclist collided with the right front bumper of the school bus and was ejected onto the asphalt surface. The cyclist later succumbed to his injuries. The school bus driver was found not-at-fault.

**Injury collisions:** The total number of injury collisions in FY 2007/08 decreased to 332 from 391 the previous year; a 16 percent decrease.

**School Bus Driver-at-Fault Collisions:** School bus driver error was the primary collision factor for 903 school bus collisions for FY 2007/08; a one percent increase from the prior year. Of the driver-at-fault collisions, 742 (82 percent) occurred in Type 1 school buses and 161 (18 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 and/or collisions attributed to non-specific causes were responsible for 1079 (48 percent) of the total school bus collisions.

**TABLE 1**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2007/08**  
**CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS STATISTICS – TOTAL COLLISIONS**

CATEGORY	FY 2007/08
<b>Fatal Collisions</b>	<b>8</b>
School bus vs. other motor vehicle	3
School Bus vs. pedestrian	2
School Bus vs. parked motor vehicle	0
School Bus vs. Bicycle	1
<b>Injury Collisions</b>	<b>332</b>
School bus vs. pedestrian	17
School bus vs. other motor vehicle	174
School bus vs. motor vehicle on other road	1
School bus vs. parked motor vehicle	6
School bus vs. bicycle	9
School bus vs. fixed object	18
School bus vs. other object	2
Non-Clsn	104
Not Stated/Unknown	1
<b>Property Damage Collisions</b>	<b>1,875</b>
School bus vs. pedestrian	2
School bus vs. other motor vehicle	1,263
School bus vs. motor vehicle on other road	10
School bus vs. parked motor vehicle	297
School bus vs. bicycle	2
School bus vs. animal	18
School bus vs. fixed object	222
School bus vs. other object	49
Non-Clsn	11
Not stated/Unknown	1
<b>Total Collisions</b>	<b>2,215</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 abruptly, the pupil hits their head on the seat in front of them and is injured (as a result of the rapid deceleration of the brakes).

**TABLE 2**

**2005 through FISCAL YEAR 2007/08  
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS - PUPIL INJURY STATISTICS**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>FY 07/08</b>
<b>Total Pupil Passengers Killed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Pupil Passengers Injured</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>284</b>
<u>Pupil Passengers Injured:</u>			
Severe Injuries	0	2	0
Other Visible Injuries	60	63	61
Complaint of Pain	340	322	223
<b>Total Pupil Pedestrians Killed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Pupil Pedestrians Injured</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<u>Pupil Pedestrians Injured:</u>			
Severe Injuries	1	1	0
Other Visible Injuries	4	7	4
Complaint of Pain	4	2	8

**TABLE 3**

**FISCAL YEAR 2007/08  
SCHOOL PUPIL PASSENGERS (Age 5 -18) KILLED AND INJURED  
BY EXTENT OF INJURY, MOTOR VEHICLE  
AND TYPE OF SCHOOL BUS INVOLVED**

<b>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>138</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>101</b>
Public SB I	0	94	0	24	69
Public SB II	0	21	0	4	20
Private SB I	0	2	0	5	0
Private SB II	0	1	0	4	2
Contr. SB I	0	14	0	2	8
Contr. SB II	0	6	0		2
<b><u>Other Motor Vehicle:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>106</b>
Public SB I	0	75	0	13	62
Public SB II	0	2	0	0	0
Private SB I	0	3	0	0	3
Private SB II	0	1	0	0	1
Contr. SB I	0	36	0	0	35
Contr. SB II	0	6	0	3	5
<b><u>Parked Motor Vehicle:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Public SB I	0	3	0	1	3
<b><u>Fixed Object:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>
Public SB I	0	5	0	4	3
Public SB II	0	5	0	0	2
Contr. SB I	0	7	0	1	6
<b><u>Other Object:</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Public SB I	0	2	0	0	2
<b><u>Pedestrian</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
SB Public I	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>224</b>

**TABLE 4**

**FISCAL YEAR 2007/08  
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>
Drvr. Alc/Drg	9	2	0	0	2	1	14
Impeding Traffic	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unsafe Speed	199	57	5	9	106	37	413
Too Close	4	1	0	0	4	0	9
Wrong Side	25	6	1	1	6	4	43
Improper Pass	45	8	6	0	52	16	127
Lane Change	57	18	7	1	48	7	138
Improper Turn	323	56	20	10	145	36	590
Right-of-Way Auto	90	18	2	2	22	10	144
Right-of-Way Pedestrian	3	1	0	0	1	1	6
Pedestrian Violation	5	0	0	0	2	0	7
Stop Sign or Signal	42	7	0	0	8	8	65
Start or Backing	154	33	6	1	72	27	293
Hazardous Parking	4	0	0	0	2	0	6
Other Equipment	2	1	0	0	2	2	7
Other Haz.	14	5	2	0	7	3	31
Other Improper Driving	84	14	3	1	41	5	148
Not Driver	83	12	4	0	26	8	133
Unknown	21	6	0	0	3	1	31
Not Stated	9	2	1	1	7	3	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>2,229</b>

**NOTE:** The total number of school bus collisions identified in this table (Table 4) differs by fifteen 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.

**TABLE 5**

**FISCAL YEAR 2007/08  
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>
Drvr. Alc/Drg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsafe Speed	72	19	3	3	50	12	159
Too Close	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Wrong Side	3	0	1	1	1	1	7
Improper Pass	12	2	0	0	9	5	28
Lane Change	10	4	1	0	12	2	29
Improper Turn	212	36	10	7	83	16	364
Right-of-Way Auto	21	6	0	0	10	2	39
Right-of-Way Pedestrian	3	1	0	0	1	1	6
Stop Sign or Signal	5	0	0	0	0	3	8
Start or Backing	88	15	3	0	34	8	148
Hazardous Parking	3	0	0	0	2	0	5
Other Hazard	3	0	1	0	1	1	6
Other Equipment	2	1	0	0	1	1	5
Other Improper Driving	54	7	2	0	23	4	90
Not Stated	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>903</b>

**TABLE 6**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2007/08**  
**SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS BY MONTH**

Month	Fatal	Injury	PDO	TOTAL
<b>2007</b>				
July	0	12	65	77
August	0	13	77	90
September	1	45	196	242
October	1	29	217	247
November	0	24	150	174
December	1	21	151	173
<b>2008</b>				
January	2	32	162	196
February	0	31	173	204
March	1	33	157	191
April	1	30	207	238
May	1	39	201	241
June	0	23	119	142
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>2,215</b>