

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2011/12 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISION DATA

The following is a summary of California school bus collision data for FY 2011/12. 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

Number of School Buses/Mileage: The total number of school buses operated in California during FY 2011/12 increased to 25,152 from 21,483; a 15 percent increase from the previous year. The number of miles traveled increased to 240,988,640 from 199,314,160; a 21 percent increase from the previous year.

Collisions: School bus collisions in FY 2011/12 decreased to 1,561 from 1,763; a 12 percent decrease from the previous year. Of the collisions, two resulted in fatalities. However, none of the fatalities involved a school pupil passenger. The last school pupil passenger death occurred in 1995.

Injury Collisions: The total number of injury collisions in FY 2011/12 increased to 273 from 270 the previous year; a one percent increase.

School Bus Driver-at-Fault Collisions: School bus drivers were determined to be at fault in 327 school bus collisions for FY 2011/12; a decrease of 295 school bus driver at-fault collisions from the previous year. This indicates a 52 percent decrease. Of the school bus driver-at-fault collisions, 254 (72 percent) occurred in Type 1 school buses and 73 (28 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 1,234 (79 percent) of the total school bus collisions.

Summary of Fatal Collisions: Below is a summary of the fatal collisions that occurred during FY 2011/12.

On January 9, 2012, in the city of Modesto, a collision involving a school bus occurred resulting in a fatality. A driver of a school bus was traveling eastbound on 13th Street at approximately 30 miles per hour. As the school bus traveled through the intersection, another vehicle traveling northbound in the direction of the school bus, failed to stop at a posted stop sign, and consequently drove directly into the path of the oncoming school bus. The school bus driver applied the brakes and steered to the left attempting to avoid the collision, but was unable to avoid impact with the other vehicle. As a result, the driver of the other vehicle sustained major injuries, and later succumbed to those injuries. The school bus driver was found to be not at fault for the collision.

On April 17, 2012, in the city of Humbolt, a collision involving a school bus occurred resulting in a fatality. While navigating a left turn from eastbound School Street onto northbound Rhonerville Road, a school bus driver hit a pedestrian who was walking in the crosswalk. As a result, the pedestrian succumbed to fatal injuries. The school bus driver was found to be at fault for violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21950(a), Right of Way at Crosswalks.

TABLE 1
FISCAL YEAR 2011/12
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS – TOTAL COLLISIONS

CATEGORY	FY 2011/12
Total Fatal Collisions	2
School bus vs. other motor vehicle	1
School bus vs. pedestrian	1
Total Injury Collisions	273
School bus vs. pedestrian	18
School bus vs. other motor vehicle	125
School bus vs. motor vehicle on other road	0
School bus vs. parked motor vehicle	7
School bus vs. bicycle	6
School bus vs. fixed object	17
School bus vs. other object	2
Non-Collision	97
Total Property Damage Collisions	1,286
School bus vs. pedestrian	1
School bus vs. other motor vehicle	832
School bus vs. motor vehicle on other road	12
School bus vs. parked motor vehicle	226
School bus vs. bicycle	3
School bus vs. animal	13
School bus vs. fixed object	167
School bus vs. other object	24
Non-Collision	5
Not Stated	3
Total Collisions	1,561

Note: Non-Collisions: 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

**FY 09/10 through FY 2011/12
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS - PUPILS KILLED/INJURY**

CATEGORY	FY 2011/12	FY 2010/11	FY 2009/10
Total Pupil Passengers Killed	0	0	0
Total Pupil Passengers Injured	217	304	242
Severe Injuries	0	9	0
Other Visible Injuries	54	58	35
Complaint of Pain	163	237	207
Total Pupil Pedestrians Killed	0	0	0
Total Pupil Pedestrians Injured	9	11	20
Severe Injuries	1	0	2
Other Visible Injuries	5	8	12
Complaint of Pain	3	3	6

TABLE 3

**FISCAL YEAR 2011/12
SCHOOL PUPIL PASSENGERS (Age 5 -18) KILLED AND INJURED
BY EXTENT OF INJURY
AND TYPE OF SCHOOL BUS INVOLVED**

SB Type	Complaint of Pain	Other Visible Injury	Severe Injury	Total Killed	Total Injured
<u>Non-Collision:</u>	88	41	0	0	129
Public SB I	49	26	0	0	75
Public SB II	4	4	0	0	8
Private SB I	7	2	0	0	9
Contr. SB I	24	7	0	0	31
Contr. SB II	4	2	0	0	6
<u>Pedestrian:</u>	2	0	0	0	2
Public SB I	2	0	0	0	2
Contr. SB I	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Other Motor Vehicle:</u>	53	10	0	0	63
Public SB I	29	5	0	0	34
Public SB II	3	1	0	0	4
Private SB I	2	0	0	0	2
Private SB II	1	0	0	0	1
Contr. SB I	12	3	0	0	15
Contr. SB II	6	1	0	0	7
<u>Parked Motor Vehicle:</u>	3	0	0	0	3
Public SB I	1	0	0	0	1
Public SB II	2	0	0	0	2
<u>Fixed Object:</u>	17	2	0	0	19
Public SB I	12	2	0	0	14
Public SB II	1	0	0	0	1
Contr. SB I	4	0	0	0	4
<u>Other Object:</u>	0	1	0	0	1
Public SB I	0	1	0	0	1
Total	163	54	0	0	217

TABLE 4

**FISCAL YEAR 2011/12
TYPE I AND TYPE II SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS
BY PRIMARY COLLISION FACTOR**

PCF	SB Public I	SB Public II	SB Private I	SB Private II	SB Contractual I	SB Contractual II	Total
Drvr Alc/Drg	11	3	1	1	4	1	21
Unsafe Speed	131	49	10	12	52	21	275
Too Close	4	1	0	0	0	0	5
Wrong Side	13	2	0	0	1	1	17
Improper Pass	38	9	0	0	16	3	66
Lane Change	35	11	6	0	35	3	90
Improper Turn	236	43	11	11	106	27	434
Right-of-Way Auto	52	19	4	3	22	10	110
Right-of-Way Pedestrian	3	0	0	0	4	0	7
Ped Violation	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Stop Sign/Signal	20	4	1	1	9	4	39
Starting/ Backing	132	39	6	4	49	12	242
Hazardous Parking	4	1	0	0	1	1	7
Brakes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Equipment	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
Other Haz	9	0	0	0	3	1	13
Other Improper Drvr	59	13	4	0	16	4	96
Not Driver	64	16	4	2	26	8	120
Unknown	10	2	0	2	4	0	18
Not Stated	9	3	0	1	3	2	18
Total	837	216	47	37	351	99	1,587

NOTE: The total number of school bus collisions identified in this table (Table 4) differs by 26 collisions from the total number of school bus collisions in Table 1. The reason for the difference is Table 4 includes school bus collisions where two school buses were involved and accounts for each school bus separately.

TABLE 5

**FISCAL YEAR 2011/12
TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2 SCHOOL BUS DRIVER AT-FAULT COLLISIONS
BY PRIMARY COLLISION FACTOR**

PCF	SB Public I	SB Public II	SB Private I	SB Private II	SB Contractual I	SB Contractual II	Total
Unsafe Speed	25	7	0	0	9	3	44
Wrong Side	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Improper Pass	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
Unsafe Lane Change	6	1	0	0	1	1	9
Improper Turning	84	19	1	2	25	9	140
Right-of-Way Auto	12	1	0	1	3	3	20
Right-of-Way Pedestrian	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Traffic Signs/ Signals	1	3	1	1	1	0	7
Unsafe Start/ Backing	35	4	1	2	13	2	57
Hazardous Parking	2	2	0	0	1	1	6
Other Haz		3	0	0	0	0	3
Other Improper Drv	19	5	1	1	3	2	31
Not Stated	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total	191	45	6	7	57	21	327

TABLE 6**FISCAL YEAR 2011/12
TOTAL SCHOOL BUS COLLISIONS BY MONTH**

	Fatal	Injury	PDO	TOTAL
Month				
2011	0	131	675	806
July	0	6	40	46
August	0	12	75	87
September	0	36	144	180
October	0	28	164	192
November	0	23	125	148
December	0	26	127	153
2012	2	142	611	755
January	1	22	140	163
February	0	28	126	154
March	0	29	157	186
April	1	22	126	149
May	0	27	48	75
June	0	14	14	28
TOTAL	2	273	1,286	1,561