










School Bus Safety






School is here again, and with it more than 330,000 Connecticut kids will get there in a school bus. While school buses are a safe form of transportation—nationally, they constitute .3% of fatal crashes—they do have some risks. Nearly 75% of the school-age children who are killed each year in school transportation-related crashes are pedestrians. It is important to keep kids safe while getting on and off the bus.



FOR KIDS:

-  Wait for the bus in a safe place, away from traffic and the street.
-  Line up facing the bus door, not along the side of the school bus.
-  Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you, before you enter the school bus.
-  Never cross the street behind the school bus.
-  After getting off the school bus, move onto the sidewalk, out of traffic.
-  Wait for a signal from the bus driver before you cross the street. Walk at least 10 steps away from the front of the bus so that the bus driver can see you.
-  Drivers have to follow certain rules around school buses, but not all of them do, so watch carefully when getting on and off the bus.

FOR ADULTS:

-  Drive carefully on neighborhood streets and around school zones. Always expect the unexpected.
-  When the lights are flashing on a school bus, come to a complete stop.
-  Red flashing lights indicate that the bus is stopped and students are getting on or off.
-  Don't start driving until the red lights stop flashing. Be aware that a child may dash across the street.
-  The fine in Connecticut for passing a stopped school bus is \$450.

Sources: NHTSA, CT DOT, American Red Cross, National Safety Council

REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

Relative risks of school travel

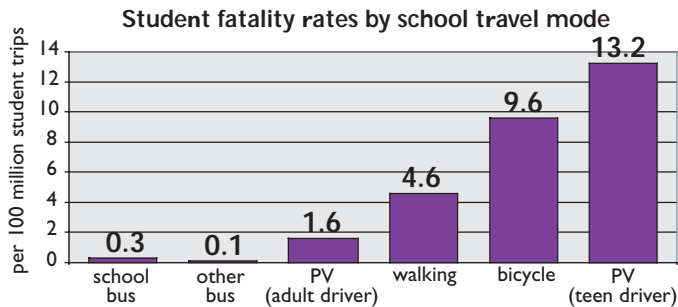
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Each year approximately 800 school aged children are killed in motor vehicle crashes during normal school travel hours (about 14% of the 5,600 child deaths that occur annually on U.S. roads). Almost all of these (98%) occur in passenger vehicles, or to pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists. A disproportionate share of these passenger vehicle related deaths (approx 450 of 8000, or 55%) occur when a teenager is driving.

When school travel modes are compared the fatality rates for passenger vehicles (PV) driven by teenagers is roughly 8 times higher than the rate for those driven by adults. School buses and other buses have the lowest fatality rates.

We can reduce the risks associated with school travel by promoting improvements in school bus pick-up and drop-off locations, improvements in passenger vehicle pick-up and drop-off locations, promotion of bicycle helmet use, and enforcement of teenage graduated driver licensing laws. •



Source: Transportation Research Board, Special Report # 269, 2002.

For more information, please contact:

Safe Kids Connecticut 860-545-9988

or your local Safe Kids Chapter or Coalition

Greater Waterbury 203-709-3655

supported by St. Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Medical Association

Litchfield County 860-626-8201

supported by Education Connection

Valley Parish Nurse Community 203-732-1337

supported by Griffin Hospital

Windham County 860-456-6978

supported by Windham Hospital

Fairfield County 203-853-7115

supported by Danbury Hospital and Greenwich Hospital

New London County 860-442-0733

supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

Welcome to our Newest Chapter



We would like to welcome our newest chapter: Safe Kids Litchfield County. They will cover the area of Litchfield County and be led by Education

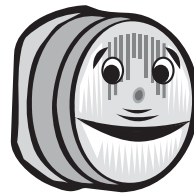
Connection. The chapter is off to an enthusiastic start and will have their first event, Walk to School Day on October 4th. Congratulations! •

Thank You to a Safety Star!

Thank you to the Connecticut Elks Association for their continued generous support of Safe Kids Connecticut. We appreciate their long-time dedication and exemplary support for keeping kids safe! •



Be Alert!



Don't forget about changing the time and changing your batteries. Check the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors when you change the time on October 29th. •

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