

Pedestrian & School Bus Safety Fact Virginia 2009

Children are the most common pedestrians. Begin to teach and practice pedestrian safety with young children, but remember that young children need constant adult supervision around traffic.

Pedestrian Injuries in Virginia, 2009

- There were 99 pedestrian deaths in 2009. A majority (73%) involved motor vehicles.
- There were 465 hospital discharges related to pedestrian injuries. Motor vehicle were involved in 86% of these cases.
- The average length of hospital stay was 7 days, with a median charge for an episode of care of \$32,846 .
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) occurred in 38% of cases.

School Bus-Related Injuries in Virginia, 2007

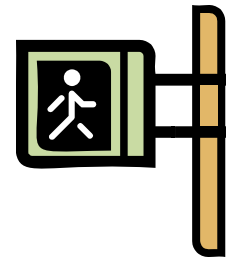
- In 2007, there were 295 injuries and 22 hospitalizations resulting from crashes involving school buses. Five of these hospitalizations were to children (<18 years).
- The median hospital charge per episode of care was \$19,609.

PREVENTION TIPS:

Pedestrian Safety

Children are the most common pedestrians and also the group that is most at risk for pedestrian-related injury and death. To avoid being hit by a moving vehicle, children should be taught to:

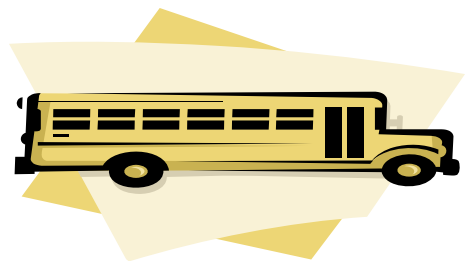
- Learn and obey traffic signals and signs.
- Cross the street at corners using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Never run out between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Always look LEFT, RIGHT and LEFT again before crossing the street.
- Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible
- Always watch for cars.
- Hold hands with an adult in parking lots.
- Never run out in the street for any reason.
- Play in safe places away from the street.
- Never play in driveways.



School Bus Safety

The school bus is one of the safest forms of highway transportation. However, getting on and off the school bus is often the most dangerous portion of the school bus ride.

- Stand at least 10 feet or 5 giant steps from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Never run, push, or shove by the bus stop.
- Get on only when the bus is completely stopped.
- Always hold the handrail getting on and off the bus.
- Get on and off the bus without pushing.
- Stay out of the “Danger Zone”, 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Cross the street 10 feet in front of the bus never behind, keeping eye contact with the driver.
- Stop at the edge of the bus and look left, right and left again for passing cars.
- Tell the bus driver if something drops near the bus; never bend down near or under the bus.



Injury and Violence Prevention Program
Virginia Department of Health
1-800-732-8333
www.vahealth.org/injury