



FACTS ABOUT INJURIES TO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

More than 53 million children in the United States spend almost one-fourth of their waking hours in school or on school property. An estimated 10 to 25 percent of the accidental injuries sustained by children ages 14 and under each year occur in and around schools.

- An estimated 2.2 million children ages 14 and under sustain school-related injuries each year. Annually, one in 14 students suffers a medically attended or temporarily disabling injury at school.
- Studies indicate that school-age children are nine times more likely to sustain an accidental injury than to be the victim of an intentional injury while at school.
- Children ages 10 to 14 account for 46 percent of school-related injuries.
- Boys are three times more likely to sustain a school-related injury than girls.
- The most frequent causes of school-related injuries requiring hospitalization are falls (43 percent) and sports activities (34 percent).
- The total annual cost of school-related injuries to children ages 14 and under exceeds \$109 billion. School-related injuries to children ages 14 and under result in an estimated \$3.4 billion in medical spending alone each year.

Playgrounds injuries are the leading cause of injury among children ages 5 to 14 in the school environment.

- Approximately 13,000 playground equipment-related injuries occur on school playgrounds during school hours.
- Of all playground equipment-related injuries, nearly 70 percent involve falls to the surface, and 10 percent involve falls onto equipment.
- Lack of supervision is associated with 40 percent of playground injuries. A recent study found that children play without adult supervision more often on school playgrounds (32 percent of the time) than playgrounds in parks (22 percent) or at childcare centers (5 percent).

Athletics, including both physical education classes and organized sports, account for the majority of injuries among secondary school students. Approximately 715,000 sports- or recreation-related injuries occur in and around schools each year.

- Most organized sports-related injuries (62 percent) occur during practices rather than during games.
- The majority of organized sports injuries are from falls, collisions, overexertion or being struck by an object. Almost 75 percent of all school-related spinal cord injuries occur during sports activities.
- A recent survey found that among athletes ages 5 to 14, 15 percent of basketball players, 28 percent of football players, 22 percent of soccer players, 25 percent of baseball players and 12 percent of softball players have been injured while playing their respective sports.

In 2003, 20 children ages 14 and under were killed, and in 2003 more than 6,200 were injured, in school bus-related incidents. More than 45 percent of these deaths were child pedestrians, rather than bus occupants.

- More than half of all school-age pedestrians killed in school bus-related crashes are between the ages of 5 and 7.
- Many of bus-related child pedestrian deaths occur when children are boarding or exiting the school bus, due to the driver's "blind spot," which extends approximately 10 feet around the bus.
- Most school bus-related deaths among school-age pedestrians occur in the afternoon.
- Of students who are nonfatally injured in school bus-related incidents, 90 percent are bus occupants.
- School bus-related injuries alone account for \$29.8 million in medical costs.

