

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2003

Children (Aged 14 & Younger)

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of mortality and severe injury for children in Illinois.

	<u>All Crashes</u>	<u>Crashes Involving Children (Aged 14 & Younger)</u>
Crashes:	437,289	41,692
Fatal Crashes:	1,308	62 ^a
Injury Crashes:	88,585	8,564 ^a
Total People Involved:	989,697 ^b	64,322 ^c
Total Fatalities:	1,454 ^b	66 ^c
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	131,279 ^b	10,757 ^c

^aNumbers only reflect crashes in which fatality or non-fatal injury was specifically a child

^bTotals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 989,697 total people = 980,219 occupants + 9,478 non-occupants

^cNumbers include children only (occupants and non-occupants)

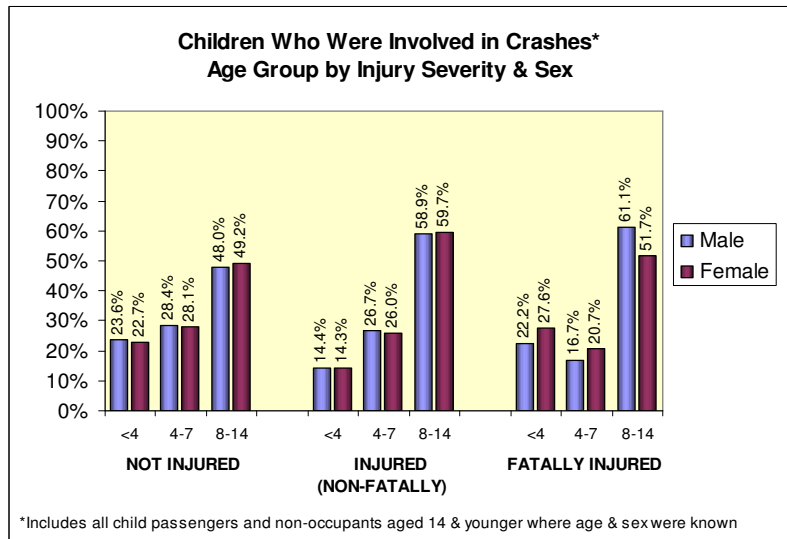
Children aged 14 and younger were involved in 41,692 (9.5%) of all 437,289 crashes that occurred in Illinois in 2003, either as passengers, drivers, pedestrians, pedalcyclists or other non-occupants of vehicles. Children accounted for 66 (4.5%) of all 1,454 traffic fatalities overall. They accounted for 65 (11.5%) of all 566 fatalities among passengers, pedestrians, pedalcyclists and other non-occupants.

	<u>All</u>		<u>Fatally Injured</u>	
	<u>Total All Ages</u>	<u>Children Aged 14 & Younger</u>	<u>Total All Ages</u>	<u>Children Aged 14 & Younger</u>
	<u>N</u>	<u>N (%)</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>N (%)</u>
Passengers	212,889	60,995 (28.7)	357	41 (11.5)
Pedestrians	6,207	1,606 (25.9)	190	22 (11.6)
Pedalcyclists	3,235	1,190 (36.8)	17	2 (11.8)
Other non-occupants	36	6 (16.7)	2	0 (0.0)
Subtotal	222,367	63,797 (28.7)	566	65 (11.5)
Drivers	767,330	525 (0.1)	888	1 (0.1)
Total	989,697	64,322 (6.5)	1,454	66 (4.5)

Demographics

Where age & sex were known, 30,254 (49.7%) of all 60,926 child passengers and 1,935 (69.2%) of all 2,795 child non-occupants aged 14 & younger were male.

Children aged 8 to 14 who were involved in crashes in any capacity other than as drivers were 1.3 times as likely to be non-fatally injured and 1.4 times as likely to be fatally injured as those aged 7 & younger.



Restraint Use by Child Passengers

Restraint use was reported for 53,062 (87.0%) of all 60,995 child passengers aged 14 and younger who were involved in crashes.* Children who did not use seat belts or child restraints properly were 1.6 times more likely to be non-fatally injured and 8.5 times more likely to be fatally injured in crashes than children who did use restraints properly.

Proper Restraint Use Reported	Passengers Aged 14 And Younger	Injured N (%)	Fatally Injured N (%)
Yes	53,062	6,371 (12.0)	18 (0.034)
No	7,933	1,554 (19.6)	23 (0.290)
Total	60,995	7,925 (13.0)	41 (0.067)

Improperly Used Child Restraints

When child restraints were used improperly, children were 15.5 times more likely to be fully or partially ejected from the vehicle during the crash.† They were also 7.2 times more likely to become trapped in the vehicle, requiring emergency workers to extricate them after the crash.‡

Child Restraint Use	Passengers Aged 14 and Younger	Ejected N (%)	Trapped/Extricated N (%)
Used Properly	10,448	15 (0.14)	13 (0.12)
Used Improperly	224	5 (2.23)	2 (0.89)

Seating Location of Child Passengers in Vehicle

Children who were involved in crashes in Illinois in 2003 as passengers were more likely to be non-fatally injured and fatally injured if they were seated in the front of the vehicle.

- Just 14,924 (25.2%) of all 59,141 child passengers were seated in the front of vehicles involved in crashes, but 14 (37.8%) of all 37 child passenger fatalities were among children seated in the front‡
- Among all children who were involved in crashes as passengers, those seated in front were 1.9 times as likely to be fatally injured as those seated in back.

Seating Location^a	Uninjured N (%)	Non-Fatally Injured N (%)	Fatally Injured N (%)
Front	12,562 (24.4)	2,348 (30.8)	14 (37.8)
Back	35,517 (69.0)	4,806 (63.0)	20 (54.1)
Other	3,401 (6.6)	470 (6.2)	3 (8.1)
Total	51,480 (100.0)	7,624 (100.0)	37 (100.0)

^a For all children aged 14 & younger where seating location was known

* Percent using restraints was defined as the number of children for whom seat belt use or proper child restraint use was reported divided by the total number of children involved in crashes

† Where child restraint use and ejection/entrapment/extrication were known

‡ Where seating location was known

Geographic Facts

- Just 5,716 (14.8%) of all 38,670 crashes involving child occupants took place in Chicago, compared with 124,710 (31.3%) of all 398,619 crashes in which no child occupant was involved.
- In contrast, 1,232 (44.7%) of all 2,755 crashes involving child non-occupants such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists took place in Chicago, compared with 129,194 (29.7%) of all 434,534 crashes in which no child non-occupant was involved.

	Occupants		Non-Occupants (i.e. pedestrians, etc.)	
	Crashes Involving Child Passengers n (%)	Crashes Involving No Child Passengers n (%)	Crashes Involving Child Non-Occupants n (%)	Crashes Involving No Child Non-Occupants n (%)
Chicago	5,716 (14.8%)	124,710 (31.3%)	1,232 (44.7%)	129,194 (29.7%)
Suburban Cook County	9,122 (23.6%)	81,171 (20.4%)	542 (19.7%)	89,751 (20.7%)
Chicago Collar Counties	10,294 (26.6%)	74,525 (18.7%)	392 (14.2%)	84,427 (19.4%)
Rest of State - Urban	7,467 (19.3%)	59,429 (14.9%)	300 (10.9%)	66,596 (15.3%)
Rest of State - Rural	6,071 (15.7%)	58,784 (14.7%)	289 (10.5%)	64,566 (14.9%)

Note: Counties were stratified according to criteria defined by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for the Illinois Department of Public Health
 URL: <http://app.idph.state.il.us/brfss/default.asp>

Time of Day/Day of Week

Crashes involving child passengers and crashes involving child non-occupants such as pedestrians and pedalcyclists were both concentrated during the day time, roughly between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. Crashes involving child non-occupants were particularly concentrated before and after typical school hours (7:00 am to 9:00 am and 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm).

