



Traffic Safety and Children

What's the Fair Share?

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2000-2005 Traffic Fatalities

For children ages 0-14:

- 5,732 killed riding in a motor vehicle
- 863 killed while bicycling
- 3,680 killed while walking
- Another 5,127 killed in unspecified traffic accidents



For adolescents ages 15-19:

- 16,701 killed while riding in a motor vehicle
- 407 killed while bicycling
- 2,037 killed while walking
- 9,776 killed in unspecific traffic accidents

Source: CDC Childhood Injury Report. Patterns of Unintentional Injuries among 0-19 Year Olds in the United States, 2000-2006.

<http://www.cdc.gov/SafeChild/images/CDC-ChildhoodInjury.pdf>





Safety of travel to and from school

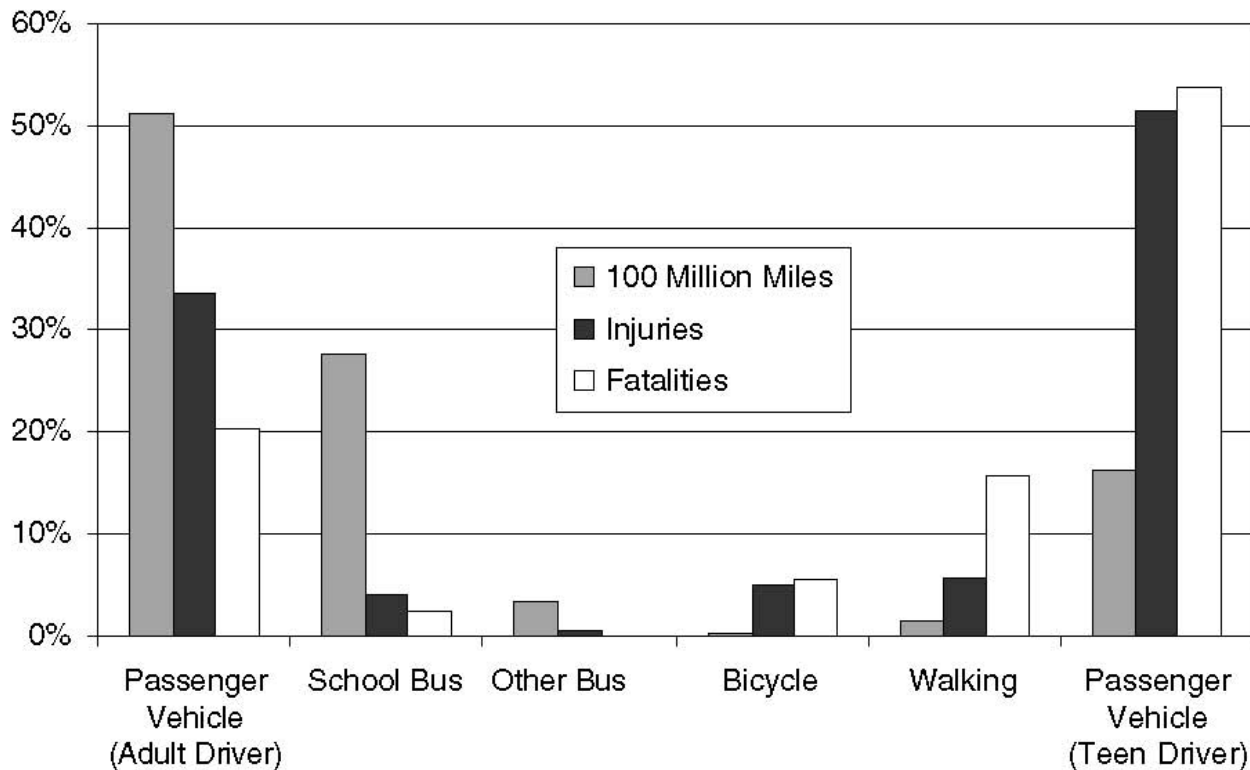


FIGURE 3-2 Comparisons of percent miles, percent injuries, and percent student fatalities by travel mode.

Source: The Relative Risks of School Travel: A National Perspective and Guidance for Local Community Risk Assessment. Transportation Research Board, 2002. <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/Onlinepubs/sr/sr269.pdf>





Putting it in perspective

Bike/ped is a significant share of overall traffic deaths for children ages 0-14

- 29.5% while walking and bicycling
- 37.2% while riding in a car
- 33.3% in unspecified traffic accidents

For school-related travel, walking and bicycling has a lower mode share but higher share of fatalities:

- Approximately 14% of trips
- Less than 2% of miles traveled
- 11% of injuries
- 24% of fatalities





What are we investing in protecting children in cars?

- Child safety seats:
 - Design and testing
 - Consumer Purchases
 - Education about installation
- Crash test ratings
- Auto manufacturers designs and safety precautions
 - Seat belts
 - Air bags
 - Engineering changes within the vehicle
- Safety campaigns (buckle up, booster seats, etc.)





What are we investing in protecting children who walk and bike?

- Bike helmets:
 - Design and testing
 - Consumer purchases
 - Education about fit
- Auto manufacturers designs to decrease impact on pedestrians
- Safe Routes to School infrastructure upgrades and education and enforcement
- Safety campaigns (slow down in school zones)
- Crossing guards





Federal Safety Funds – FY2008

- Safe Routes to School: \$150 million
- Highway Safety Improvement Program: \$1.3 billion
- NHTSA 402 Safety Funds: \$225 million
- Less than 1 percent of safety funding is spent on bike/ped





What's the fair share?

- Triple Safe Routes to School funding over FY09
- “Fair share for safety”—match safety fund expenditures to actual fatality rates
- But...given all that is spent on child occupant protection, is that enough?





For More Information

- Questions or comments? Contact:
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