



Sunflower State Signal

Official Publication of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Director's Corner



Hello everyone, it's that time again for stats and data. The FRA has released the 2019 numbers for crossing and trespass incidents nationwide.

It is a lot of data to comb through and it is hard to determine what to share and what to leave out. Instead of writing the information out in article form I hope you will be able to use this format as a quick reference guide. The more we know the more we can target our core groups.

While you are stuck at home during this unusual time, I hope you will take the time to look over the data and think of ways to target these populations. Please feel free to come to me or Aaron with ideas. We are always looking for new ways to reach the people of Kansas.

Stay safe out there!

Please feel free to contact me anytime at jmays@kscapitol.com or on my cell 785-817-0949

Jessica Mays



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FRA RELEASES 2019 STATISTICS

**Incidents Down .75%,
Deaths & Injuries Down 1.29%**

Nationally, the United States has seen a slight decrease in Railroad related incidents for 2019. After a rise of 2.8 percent in total injuries and deaths in 2018. The slight .75 percent decrease in all incidents and a 1.29 percent decrease in injuries and deaths is a relief.

2019 U.S. TOTALS:

Crossings:
Total Incidents: 2,217
Injuries: 793
Fatalities: 299

Trespassing:
Total Incidents: 997
Injuries: 462
Fatalities: 535

* Suicides: Deaths 113, Injuries 17

The general breakdown of these cases tends to follow the same demographic and incident trends as in the past. Both crossing and trespass incidents vary greatly in motivation and type of incident, so it is important to look at them separately.

**Suicides are not included in trespass numbers*

NATIONAL CROSSING OVERVIEW:

Males: 70.64%
Automobiles: 46.10%
Truck & Trailer: 15.88%
Gated Crossings: 49.17%
Did not stop at crossing: 33.77%
Stopped on crossing: 27.49%
Went around gates: 16.77%

Age:

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| under 18: 1.3% | 45-54: 11.82% |
| 18-24: 10.33% | 55-64: 13.49% |
| 25-24: 16.24% | 65+: 10.10% |
| 35-44: 17.14% | |

NATIONAL TRESPASS OVERVIEW:

Stuck by on track equipment: 79.01%
Slipped fell on stumbled: 9.72%
Walking on tracks: 42.49%
Laying on tracks: 20.08%
Standing on tracks: 9.63%

Age:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 0-12: .4% | 40-59: 30.79% |
| 13-19: 6.62% | 60+: 7.82% |
| 20-29: 18.25% | Unknown: 15.35% |
| 30-39: 20.76% | |

Kansas FRA 2019 Statistics

2019 KANSAS INCIDENTS:

TOTAL: 42

Total Crossings: 32 Total Trespass: 10
 Injuries: 7 Injuries: 7
 Fatalities: 5 Fatalities: 3
 Suicides: 0

Incidents Down 8.7%
Deaths & Injuries Down 46.3%

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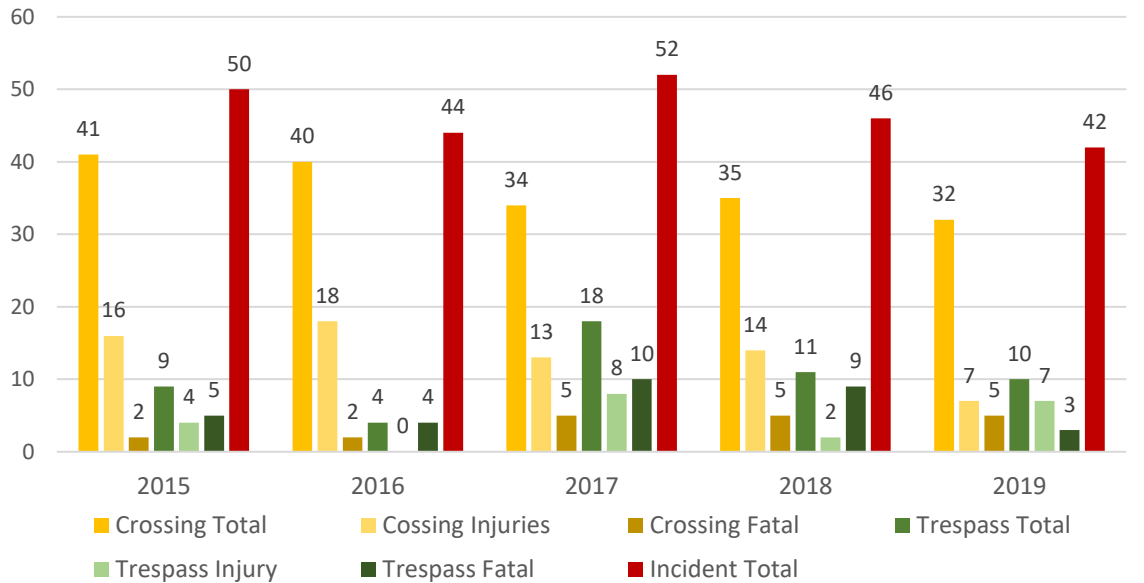
Mitch Sothers
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Kansas Incidents 5 year Comparison



In the last 10 years we have seen that most crossing incidents happen around 2 am, 8 am, noon, & 6 pm

KANSAS CROSSING OVERVIEW:

Males: 71.88%
 Automobiles: 50%
 Truck & Trailer: 12.5%
 Gated Crossings: 59.38%
 Did not stop at crossing: 28.13%
 Stopped on crossing: 28.13%
 Went around gates: 15.63%

Age:

under 18: 0% 45-54: 18.74%
 18-24: 25% 55-64: 12.5%
 25-24: 12.5% 65+: 9.38%
 35-44: 21.88%

KANSAS TRESPASS OVERVIEW:

Stuck by on track equipment: 70%
 Walking on tracks: 50%

Age:

0-19: 0% 40-59: 30%
 20-29: 30% 60+: 20%
 30-39: 20%

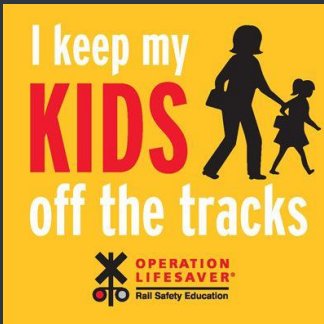
2019 Crossing Incident Counties:

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| 5 | Johnson | 1 | Dickinson |
| 4 | Butler | 1 | Ford |
| 3 | Wyandotte | 1 | Geary |
| 2 | Coffey | 1 | Gove |
| 2 | Douglas | 1 | Hamilton |
| 2 | Harvey | 1 | Kingman |
| 2 | Marion | 1 | Osage |
| 1 | Atchison | 1 | Reno |
| 1 | Bourbon | 1 | Sedgwick |
| 1 | Brown | | |

2019 Kansas Average: 3.5 people hit or killed by a train every month

2019 Trespass Incident Counties:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 3 | Shawnee |
| 2 | Sedgwick |
| 1 | Harper |
| 1 | Reno |
| 1 | Riley |
| 1 | Wabaunsee |





Spread the Word From Home

Things have been strange this year. So, while in “lock down” please update on social media.

People are on social media more than ever right now just to connect with the outside world.

Please share posts from & to OLI, KSOLI and other OLI states. This way when people start traveling again, they will have it in the back of their minds “See Tracks? Think Train!”



What We Have Learned in 10 years

Analyzing more data always paints a clearer picture of what is going on. Looking at five years can give us an overview of trends, but 10 years gives us a larger number of circumstances to look at. However, with railroad incidents in Kansas whether it's one year or ten, the pattern and demographic is almost always the same. These are the demographics KS OL must reach in order to lower our track tragedies.

FRA Statistic Details

Crossings: Male drivers age 25-55 in automobiles that did not stop at the crossing, most were moving across the tracks when hit generally around 2 am, 8 am, noon, or 6 pm.

Trespassing: primarily ages 40-59, struck by on track equipment while walking, generally on a Monday or Saturday in June, July, or September around 10pm.



Kansas Operation Lifesaver Out & About & Getting Creative



Debbie Romine is an OLAV and bus driver, with stay-at-home orders in place bus drivers all over the state are delivering lunches to students on their routes. Debbie took her friendly companion Casey Bear with her on her route and handed out pencils, activity & coloring books with lunches to keep kiddos busy and informed while stuck at home.



John Lagesse found a true believer and a new use for zipper pulls!

Upcoming Events

May 22 - 24: Four State Farm Show: Pittsburg State University

June 11th: Board & Committee Meeting, 1:00 in Ottawa

August 27th: Board & Committee Meeting: 10:00 am BNSF TTC, Overland Park

September 21 – 27: Rail Safety Week

November 12th: Board & Committee Meeting: 11:00 am Topeka Public Library

November 18 – 19: OLI State Leadership Conference, Omaha, NE