

School safety survey

Methodology

Ipsos online panel survey conducted July 19 to 25, 2025. 697 respondents completed the survey, aged 18 years and over and meeting the criteria of having a valid B.C. driver's licence. Survey data is weighted using B.C. Census data to reflect the overall population of drivers in B.C. 640 respondents answered the survey section relating to observed and self-reported behaviours in school zones as well as any observed near misses and collisions. This section of the survey was limited to those with BC driver's licences and having driven in the last two years in a school zone that is in effect.

Summary of findings

Observed unsafe behaviours in school zones

Speeding is, by far, the most frequently observed unsafe behavior in school zones, with roughly half of B.C. drivers ranking this as the number one behaviour they see most frequently from others in school zones.

- B.C. drivers who have driven in the last two years in a school zone that is in effect were presented with a list of unsafe behaviours and asked to rank order their top five in order of how frequently they observe these behaviours by others in a school zone. Speeding is ranked number one most often, with approximately half (48%) who rank this behaviour as number one, 68% who rank it within their top three most frequently observed unsafe behaviours in a school zone and 78% who rank it within their top five.
- Other behaviours are much less likely than speeding to be frequently seen in a school zone, with no more than 8% ranking any other behaviour as their number one most frequently observed unsafe behaviour.
- After speeding, the other most frequently observed unsafe behaviours in school zones include:
 - **Distracted driving:** 34% of BC drivers rank distracted driving within their top 3 of most frequent unsafe behaviours observed in school zones and 52% rank it within their top 5.

- **Unsafe drop-off/pick-up outside of designated areas:** 30% rank this behaviour within their top 3 most frequently observed unsafe behaviours in school zones and 56% rank it within their top 5.
- **Illegal parking or stopping:** 28% rank this behaviour in their top 3 most frequent unsafe behaviours observed in school zones and 52% rank it within their top 5.
- **Children crossing mid-block:** 27% rank this behaviour in their top 3 most frequent unsafe behaviours observed in school zones and 51% rank it within their top 5.

Speeding in school zones

- When asked how often they have noticed other drivers going over the speed limit in a school zone, almost all drivers (91%) report seeing this behaviour at least 'sometimes' (15% say they 'always' see this behaviour, 46% see it 'frequently', and 30% see it 'sometimes'). Less than 10% say they see other drivers speeding in a school zone 'rarely' (8%) or 'never' (<1%).
- When it comes to the drivers themselves, approximately one-third (31%) acknowledge speeding in a school zone themselves at least sometimes, with 4% of BC drivers reporting they 'always' speed in school zones, 7% saying they 'frequently' do so, and 20% reporting that they 'sometimes' speed in school zones while in effect.

Near misses and collisions in school zones

More than one-third of B.C. drivers who have driven in a school zone while it's in effect in the past two years say they have witnessed a collision or near miss; with half of those incidents involving a child.

- Slightly less than one-third of BC drivers report having seen a near miss (29%) while just under one-tenth (7%) report having witnessed a collision while in a school zone that was in effect.
- Fully half (50%) of drivers who have seen a collision or near miss in a school zone say that incident involved a child.