

Data Summary: Rail-Related Injuries for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area

This data summary details rail-related injuries occurring between 2011 and 2020 in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area consisting of Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Wise, Kaufman, Collin, Dallam, Hunt, and Parker counties. The full profile, including data figures and county-level incident maps, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SKWDallasRailProfile>.

Overview

- 306 rail-related injuries occurred in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area between 2011 and 2020, for an average of 31 injuries per year. More injuries occurred in 2020 than in 2011 (32 and 24).
- Tarrant County had the most injuries (37%), followed by Dallas (27%) and Denton (12%) counties.
- Children ages 0 to 19 years accounted for 11% of injuries.
- Most injuries (96%) involved trains or other on-track equipment while 4% did not involve on-track equipment.
- Trespassing¹ and railroad crossing² incidents accounted for the same proportion of injuries (50% and 50%). However, trespassing injuries were more often fatal (42%) compared to railroad crossing injuries (24%).
- Railroad crossing injuries were most frequent between 12:00 PM and 2:59 PM, while trespassing injuries were most frequent between 3:00 PM and 5:59 PM.

Railroad Crossing Circumstances¹

- Those injured in railroad crossing incidents were most often motor vehicle occupants (84%) and pedestrians (11%).
- Going through or around the gates was the reported activity most often associated with injury at railroad crossings among highway users (41%).
- Most (78%) railroad crossing injuries occurred when the weather was clear, 18% during cloudy weather, and 4% when it was raining.
- 38% of railroad crossing injuries occurred during dark or low-light hours. Of those, 60% occurred at crossings that were not illuminated by streetlights or special lights.

Trespassing Circumstances²

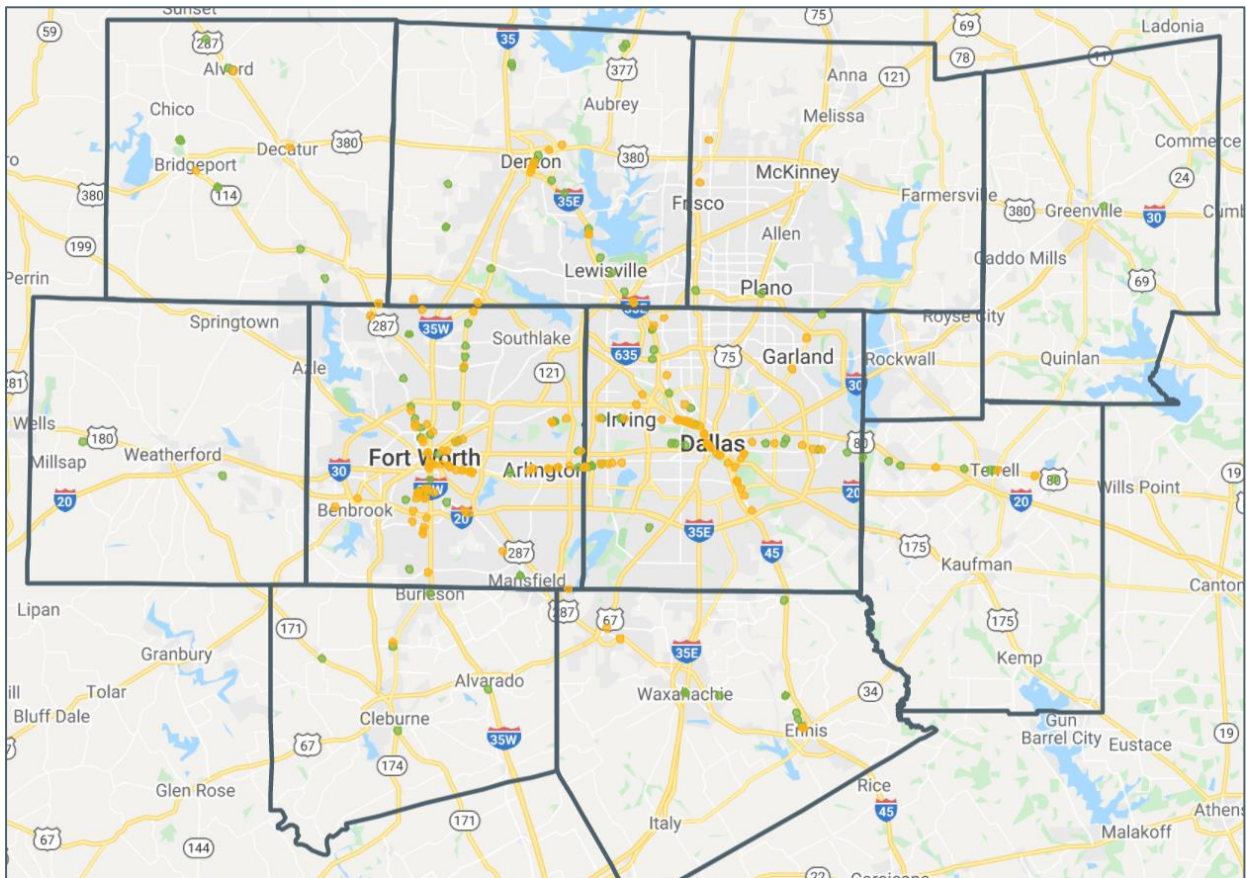
- 68% of trespassers who were injured were struck by on-track equipment. Of those, 63% were reported as on the tracks at the time of impact. Of those struck on, beside, or between the tracks, 46% were walking, 30% were lying down, and 11% were standing at the time of impact.

¹ Trespassing injuries occur when a person is injured while on private railroad property without permission. They are most often pedestrians taking a shortcut across or along tracks, but also include loiterers and those engaging in recreational activities such as hunting or jogging.

² Railroad crossing injuries are when a person or highway user is struck by a train while attempting to cross at a designated crossing where tracks intersect a roadway or walkway at the same level.



Rail-Related Injuries by Incident Type; Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Wise, Kaufman, Collin, Dallam, Hunt and Parker Counties, TX



● Railroad crossing injury ● Trespassing injury

The full report and other rail safety resources for families, educators and community partners can be downloaded from the Safe Kids Rail Safety Station online hub at safekids.org/RailSafetyStation.

