

# Blocked Crossings Fast Facts

Office of Railroad Safety

December 2023

In December 2019, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) established a webpage for the public and law enforcement to report blocked highway-rail grade crossings.

Blocked crossings occur when stopped trains impede the flow of motor vehicle or pedestrian traffic at railroad tracks for extended periods of time. Blocked crossings pose potential safety risks: frustrated individuals may be tempted to crawl between stopped railcars, and blocked crossings can hinder emergency services' access to individuals and hospitals.

Communities have long dealt with the issue of blocked crossings, and any regulations regarding blocked crossings are at the state or local level. FRA has no regulatory authority; thus, it focuses on providing data, investigating crossings that have 3 different incidents in a 30-day window, and facilitating local solutions with railroads and local authorities.

The data collected from the webpage helps FRA to identify where chronic problems exist and to better assess the underlying causes and overall impacts of blocked crossings. The FRA Blocked Crossing webpage, [www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings](http://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings), requests specific information from users reporting blocked crossings such as date, time, location, and duration. It is not to be used to report emergencies at crossings.

## Data Highlights from December 20, 2019 to December 31, 2023

- **Reports, incidents, investigations:**
  - 82,290 total reports received
  - 62,862 incidents at 13,706 crossings
  - 906 investigations performed
  
- **Top 4 railroads reporting incidents:**
  - Union Pacific Railroad 25,331
  - Norfolk Southern 19,108
  - CSX Transportation 15,364
  - BNSF Railway 8,714
  
- **Top 5 states reporting incidents:**
  - Texas 14,496
  - Ohio 11,165
  - Illinois 9,159
  - Indiana 5,824
  - Iowa 3,659

## State Laws

For information on states' statutory provisions concerning blocked crossings, visit [Compilation of State Laws - 7th Edition-eLibrary.pdf \(dot.gov\)](#)