

HUMAN VERTEBRAL COLUMN

Anatomical Reference & Distribution Chart

[Lateral View Diagram Placeholder]

Region	Count	Characteristics
Cervical (C1-C7)	7	Small bodies, bifid spinous processes, transverse foramina for vertebral arteries. C1 (Atlas) and C2 (Axis) are specialized for head rotation.
Thoracic (T1-T12)	12	Heart-shaped bodies, long inferiorly slanted spinous processes. Feature costal facets for rib articulation.
Lumbar (L1-L5)	5	Large, kidney-shaped bodies designed for weight bearing. Short, blunt spinous processes.
Sacrum (S1-S5)	5 (Fused)	Triangular bone formed by fusion; anchors the spinal column to the pelvis via sacroiliac joints.
Coccyx	4 (Fused)	The "tailbone"; small terminal segment of the column. Provides attachment for various muscles and ligaments.

Primary Functions

- Protection of the spinal cord and nerve roots.
- Structural support for the head and trunk.
- Facilitation of flexibility and movement.
- Shock absorption via intervertebral discs.

Total Vertebrae: 33 (Pre-fusion) | 26 (Post-fusion adult)