

Hands Up Scotland 2011

National Results Summary

July 2012



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It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today.
www.sustrans.org.uk

Head Office
Sustrans
2 Cathedral Square
College Green
Bristol
BS1 5DD

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Registered Charity No. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland)
VAT Registration No. 416740656

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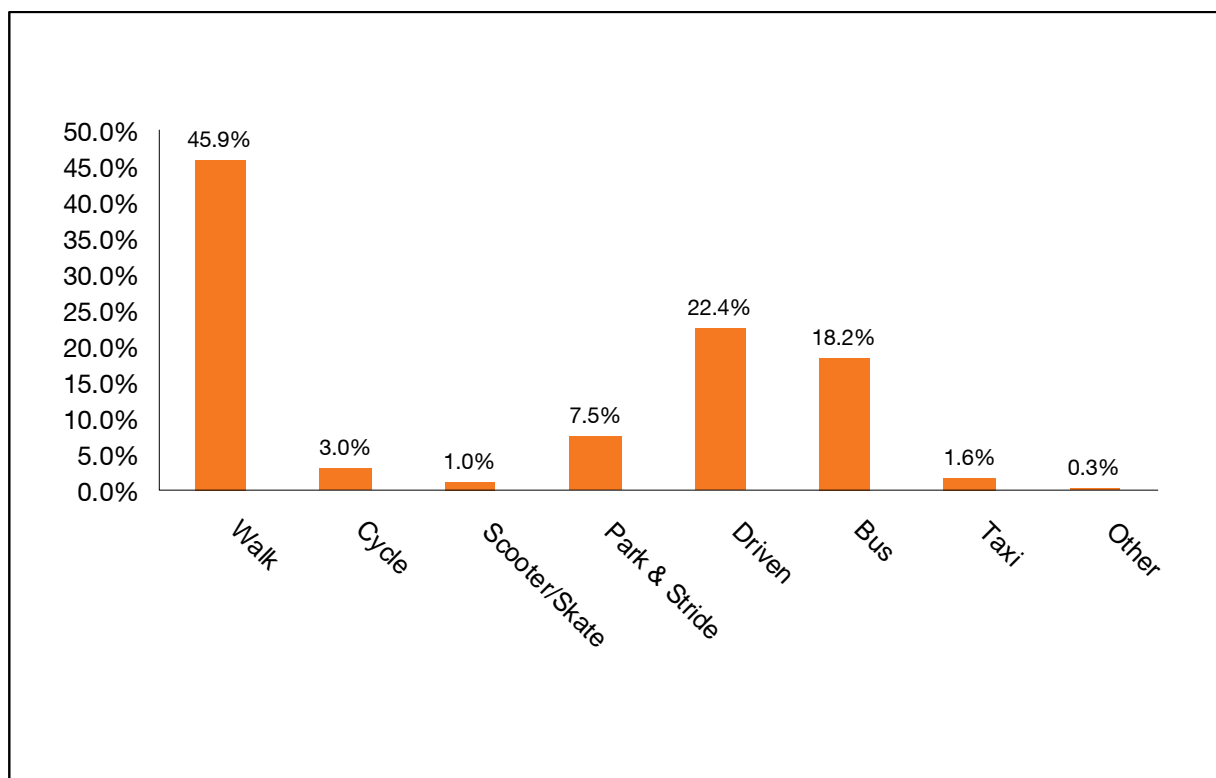
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1 Executive Summary

This report presents the national level data from the 2011 Hands Up Scotland Survey. It is accompanied by an Excel appendix document which presents the data at a national and local authority level and is available from [Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/research-and-monitoring/evidence-for-sustrans-work/working-with-young-people)¹. Hands Up Scotland is the largest national dataset in Scotland designed to look at mode of transport to school across the country. The survey is funded by Transport Scotland and delivered by Sustrans in partnership with Scottish local authorities. Hands Up Scotland was first delivered in 2008 and is repeated annually. In each year the question 'How do you normally travel to school?' is asked.

2011 is the first year in which Hands Up Scotland has been produced as Official Statistics in Scotland.

Chart 1-1 Travel modes at a national level, excluding nursery schools (2011)



Active travel

49.9% of pupils surveyed in 2011 said that they normally travel to school in an active way without any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skate board):

- Walking was the most frequent form of travel with 45.9% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school [Table 4-3, Chart1-1]
- 3.0% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 1.0% said that they normally scoot or skate to school [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]

¹ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/research-and-monitoring/evidence-for-sustrans-work/working-with-young-people>

Motorised travel

42.2% of pupils surveyed in 2011 said that they normally travel to school using only a form of motorised transport:

- 22.4% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]
- 18.2% of pupils said that they normally take the bus to school [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]
- 1.6% said that they normally travel to school by taxi [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]

Multi-mode travel

In addition to those travelling solely by an active *or* motorised mode of travel to school, 7.5% of pupils said that they normally park and stride to school (i.e. they are driven part of the way to school by car and walk the rest of the way) [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]

Primary schools compared to secondary schools

54.3% of primary school pupils said that they normally travel to school actively, compared to 43.3% of secondary school pupils:

- 48.8% of primary school pupils said they normally walk to school compared to 41.8% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-4]
- 4.0% of primary school pupils said they normally cycle to school compared to 1.3% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-4]
- 1.5% of primary school pupils said they scoot or skate to school compared to 0.2% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-4]

Car use decreases from primary to secondary school, with increased use of public transport among secondary school pupils:

- 26.6% of primary school pupils surveyed in 2011 said they normally travel to school by car compared to 15.3% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-4]
- 35.5% of secondary school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus compared to 7.7% of primary school pupils [Table 4-4].

State schools compared to independent schools

Independent school pupils are less likely to travel to school in an active way than those in state schools²:

- 18.2% of independent school pupils surveyed in 2011 said that they normally walk to school compared to 46.2% of state school pupils
- 0.3% of independent school pupils said they normally cycle to school, compared to 3.0% of state school pupils
- 0.1% of independent school pupils said they normally scoot or skate to school, compared to 1.0% of state school pupils

A higher proportion of independent school pupils than state school pupils use motorised transport to travel to school:

- 45.9% of independent school pupils surveyed in 2011 said they normally travel to school by car compared to 22.4% of state school pupils
- 30.2% of independent school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus, compared to 18.1% of state school pupils

Nursery schools

Nursery school pupils are more likely to travel to school by motorised transport than travel to school actively:

- 50.1% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school solely by motorised transport (46.4% travel by car, 3.0% travel by bus and 0.7% travel by taxi [Table 4-4])
- 45.1% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to nursery school actively without any form of motorised transport (41.6% walk, 1.8% cycle and 1.7% scoot or skate) [Table 4-4]
- In addition to this, 4.3% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by park and stride [Table 4-4].

For more information on any aspect of Hands Up Scotland please contact Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit: SCYPmonitoring@sustrans.org.uk. A technical report is available on request.

² State school results have been calculated using the 'primary school' and 'secondary school' results presented in table 4-4. As no data was collected from independent SEN schools, no SEN school results have been included in the comparison between state school and independent school results as this would not be comparable

2 Introduction to Survey

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is the largest national dataset to look at mode of travel to school across Scotland. The Survey is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities. The Survey was first conducted in 2008 in partnership with School Travel Coordinators across Scotland. The process has been repeated in 2009, 2010 and 2011 using the same methodology. Assuming Hands Up Scotland continues in future years we will be able to plot trends in the travel behaviours of Scottish school pupils over time.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey runs on an annual basis in the autumn of each year. Data collection is conducted by schools, instructed by their local authority officer, with support from Sustrans. In 2011 data collection took place between the 12th and 16th September (the same week as the 2008, 2009 and 2010 surveys). The question asked in the Hands Up Scotland Survey is, 'How do you normally travel to school?', with the following response options: Walk, Cycle, Scooter/Skate, Park and Stride (driven part of the way by car and walk the rest), Driven, Bus, Taxi and Other. Completed forms are returned by the school to their local authority officer, who collates school-level datasets and returns the data to Sustrans. Overall collation, analysis and reporting is conducted by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit.

Official Statistics in Scotland

2011 is the first year in which Hands Up Scotland has been produced as Official Statistics in Scotland. Official Statistics in Scotland are produced by the Scottish Government, Crown Bodies and a number of other public bodies named by Parliamentary Order. The primary aim of official statistics in Scotland is to provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy and society to support the formulation and monitoring of economic and social policies by government and others³. A Parliamentary Order was passed designating Sustrans as Official Statistics Providers as of 1st June 2012.

³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats>

3 Background Information

Response rates

- All local authorities are invited to take part in Hands Up Scotland. In 2011, all 32 local authorities in Scotland participated and the total sample comprised of 427,104 primary, secondary, independent and SEN pupils (from 1,893 schools⁴) across Scotland. This compares to: 32 local authorities in 2010 (439,401 pupils from 1,987 schools); 31 local authorities in 2009 (415,804 pupils from 1,939 schools); and 29 local authorities in 2008 (396,377 pupils from 1,824 schools) [Table 4-1]
- In 2011 there has been a marked increase in participation among nursery schools. No nursery schools were approached in the first Hands Up Scotland in 2008. Since then, a concerted effort has been made to increase participation among nursery schools. In 2011, the nursery school sample comprised of 14,038 pupils (from 423 nursery schools) across Scotland. This compares to: 13,349 pupils (from 387 nursery schools) in 2010 and 7,999 pupils (from 238 nursery schools) in 2009
- One notable decrease in response rate in 2011 was among schools in Glasgow City. Here, response rates reduced from 33,120 pupils in 2008, 30,214 pupils in 2009 and 28,179 pupils in 2010 to 11,328 pupils in 2011. It is not possible to say with certainty why the response was lower in 2011, although factors including the merging of schools within Glasgow may have impacted on delivery
- Response rates as a percentage of the school roll have been calculated using the Scottish Government's school statistics. This is only available for state primary, secondary and SEN schools as the Scottish Government does not collect school roll data for independent or nursery schools. It is therefore not possible to calculate the response rates from pupils at these school types as a percentage of the equivalent national school roll [Table 4-1]
- The above limitation also applies at a local authority level [Table 1.2 of the Excel appendix]

Sampling methodology and weighting

- It should be noted that weather conditions have an impact on travel choices. As the Hands Up Scotland Survey is carried out over a one week period, weather conditions may differ considerably from year to year. This has the potential to impact upon pupil travel behaviours, although the phrasing of the question – 'How do you normally travel to school?' – aims to overcome this limitation as much as possible
- As we do not record the names of respondents we do not know whether the same pupils are responding each year, and data is not weighted to take this (or the fact that the same schools may not respond each year) into account. This may impact upon results
- Whereas all primary and secondary school pupils are asked to respond to the Hands Up Scotland Survey themselves, due to the age of nursery school pupils, assistance is often provided to these pupils by a parent or guardian when responding to the Survey

⁴ Not including nursery schools

Interpreting results

- Due to the unique structure of nursery schools, nursery data is presented separately throughout this report, and has not been included in the overall data at the national and local authority level. Independent school data is, however, amalgamated into the overall data, other than in the sample size tables, as noted above
- All 'primary school' and 'secondary school' results are comprised of results from state schools only. A separate breakdown of independent school results by year group is provided in table 4-5
- SEN data is from state SEN schools only. As we received no responses from independent SEN schools, the comparison between independent and state school results does not include results for SEN schools. Results presented in the executive summary for state schools have therefore been calculated using 'primary school' and 'secondary school' data
- Where the sample size is small (totalling less than 100), care should be taken when interpreting results. It should also be noted that there are instances where sample sizes are small due to the size of the local authority. Moreover, fields/local authorities with a small number of responses may see large changes in percentage between years
- Due to rounding, row percentages may not always add up to 100%
- Where a percentage represents a value of between one and four pupils, it has been replaced with an asterisk (*) for data confidentiality purposes. Where data is missing/not available it has been replaced with a dash (-)
- Where a particular school type does not exist within a local authority (e.g. there are no SEN or independent schools), the data cells in the Excel appendix document have been greyed out
- Although the accompanying Hands Up Scotland 2011 Excel appendix document includes results from four consecutive years of Hands Up Scotland, due to the importance of considering broader factors such as national campaigns, changeable weather patterns and the impact of economic factors, it is important to avoid attempting to draw conclusions too soon by comparing year-on-year results. However, as the Hands Up Scotland continues to be delivered in future years we will be able to establish whether any trends are emerging over time

4 National Results

The National Results presented in this report are accompanied by an Excel appendix document which presents Hands Up Scotland 2011 data at a national and local authority level (alongside Hands Up Scotland data from 2008 to 2010). This document is available from [Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit](#)⁵.

Table 4-1 National sample size (number of pupils responding to survey 2011)

School Type	No. of respondents	% of Scottish school roll
Nursery	14,038	-
Primary	266,013	72.7%
Secondary	157,579	53.1%
SEN	1,237	18.5%
Independent	2,275	-
All Schools⁶	427,104	-

Table 4-2 National sample size (number of schools responding to survey 2011)

School Type	No. of schools which received survey	No. of schools which returned data	% of schools which returned data	No. of schools with data split by class	% of schools with data split by class
Nursery	865	423	48.9%	Not applicable	
Primary	2,081	1,593	76.5%	1,215	58.4%
Secondary	366	257	70.2%	202	55.2%
SEN	117	35	29.9%	9	7.7%
Independent	24	8	33.3%	5	20.8%
All Schools⁴	2,588	1,893	73.1%	1,431	55.3%

⁵ <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/resources/research-and-monitoring/evidence-for-sustrans-work/working-with-young-people>

⁶ Not including nursery schools

Table 4-3 Travel modes at a national level, excluding nursery schools (2011)

Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
45.9%	3.0%	1.0%	7.5%	22.4%	18.2%	1.6%	0.3%	427,104

Table 4-4 Travel modes at a national level by school type (2011)

School Type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Nursery	41.6%	1.8%	1.7%	4.3%	46.4%	3.0%	0.7%	0.5%	14,038
Primary	48.8%	4.0%	1.5%	9.6%	26.6%	7.7%	1.6%	0.2%	266,013
Secondary	41.8%	1.3%	0.2%	4.0%	15.3%	35.5%	1.3%	0.6%	157,579
SEN	2.4%	*	0.0%	*	4.8%	56.8%	34.6%	1.1%	1,237
Independent	18.2%	0.3%	*	3.9%	45.9%	30.2%	*	1.1%	2,275

Table 4-5 Travel modes at a national level by school type and year group (2011)

School Type & Year Group	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Primary Years 1-4	47.2%	3.2%	1.7%	9.5%	30.0%	6.7%	1.5%	0.2%	138,525
Primary Years 5-7	53.0%	4.6%	0.8%	10.6%	21.8%	7.5%	1.5%	0.1%	92,395
Secondary Years 1-3	41.2%	1.4%	0.2%	4.3%	14.5%	36.5%	1.3%	0.5%	73,478
Secondary Years 4-6	40.6%	0.9%	0.2%	3.5%	16.9%	35.6%	1.3%	0.9%	49,749
SEN Primary Years 1-4	*	0.0%	0.0%	*	*	45.0%	49.5%	0.0%	111
SEN Primary Years 5-7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%	40
SEN Secondary Years 1-3	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%	56.0%	37.1%	*	116
SEN Secondary Years 4-6	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	53.5%	41.2%	0.0%	114
Independent Primary Years 1-4	13.4%	*	*	10.1%	63.1%	11.9%	*	0.0%	328
Independent Primary Years 5-7	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%	8.9%	49.2%	28.6%	*	*	370
Independent Secondary Years 1-3	16.7%	*	0.0%	1.5%	28.5%	51.8%	*	*	467
Independent Secondary Years 4-6	27.8%	*	0.0%	2.5%	23.4%	41.8%	*	4.2%	529