

# Travel to School in Scotland

## Hands Up Scotland Survey: Results for 2014

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National Summary Report  
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland  
May 2015



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Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. We're a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. We work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

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# 1 Executive Summary

## INTRODUCTION

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is an annual survey based on a large sample of pupils enrolled at schools in Scotland. The survey, first conducted in 2008, is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities.

The annual National Summary Report is designed to act as an introduction to the survey and to present and interpret the results at a national level.

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.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey has been designated an Official Statistic by Parliamentary Order. The survey is designed to provide reliable and up to date information on mode of travel to school in Scotland, both nationally and at a local authority level as well as by school type and year group. The large national dataset allows for links to be made at a local level between mode of travel to school and school transport policies and initiatives.

## NATIONAL RESPONSE 2014

In 2014, over half a million children from children from 2,052 schools and 539 nurseries took part in the survey from all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Responses were received from 70.9% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland and 80.6% of all state schools registered in Scottish Government Education Statistics<sup>1</sup>.

## NATIONAL RESULTS 2014 (excluding nursery)

### Active travel

50.4% of pupils surveyed in 2014 said that they normally travel to school in an active way without any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, and using a scooter or skateboard):

- Walking was the most frequent mode of travel with 44.2% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school
- 3.4% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 2.8% said that they normally use a scooter or skateboard to travel to school

### Motorised travel

41.2% of pupils surveyed in 2014 said that they normally travel to school using only a motorised mode of transport:

- 21.9% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school
- 17.7% of pupils said that they normally take the bus to school
- 1.6% said that they normally travel to school by taxi

### Multi-mode travel

In addition to those travelling solely by an active or motorised mode of travel to school, 7.8% 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)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

## NATIONAL RESULTS 2008-2014 (excluding nursery)

There are limitations to the comparability of data across years; although survey design and methodology have remained consistent, survey sample size has increased considerably (from 396,377 pupil responses in 2008 to 487,147 in 2014). Changes in results have not been tested for statistical significance.

Caution should also be applied when seeking to understand annual variations. A number of variables may impact on travel behaviour from year to year (e.g. weather conditions, school mergers, closures and relocations) as well as policies and schemes introduced by central and local government or individual schools.

Nursery school data has not been included in this summary as the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled since data was first collected (from 7,999 pupil responses in 2009 to 19,911 in 2014).

### Active travel

Overall levels of active travel to school not involving any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skate board) consistently remained between 49.3% and 49.9% from 2009 to 2012, with 2008, 2013 and 2014 showing slightly higher levels of active travel at 51.8% and 50.4% (2013 and 2014) respectively.

- The reported level of walking has decreased from 48.3% in 2008 to 44.2% in 2014
- The Hands Up Scotland Survey does not show a clear trend in cycling levels. From 2008-2012, the percentage of pupils reporting normal cycling to school remained between 2.8% and 3.0%, except in 2009 where the proportion was 2.3%. There was an increase to 3.5% in 2013 and a slight decrease to 3.4% in 2014
- The percentage of pupils who say they normally scooter or skateboard to school has increased from 0.7% (2008) to 2.8% (2014).

### Motorised travel

The Hands Up Scotland Survey does not show a clear trend in motorised travel<sup>2</sup> between 2008 (41.6%) and 2014 (41.2%). However, the survey has shown a small decrease in motorised travel each year between 2009 (43.0%) and 2014 (41.2%).

- The survey does not show a clear trend in car use, however it does show a small decrease in car use each year between 2009 (23.3%) and 2013 (21.4%) and a slight increase to 21.9% in 2014
- Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage point between 2008 and 2012 (18.1% to 18.2%), increasing slightly to 18.8% in 2013. However, the percentage of pupils who say they normally travel to school by bus decreased to 17.7% in 2014
- Taxi use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage point between 2009 and 2014 (1.6% to 1.7%), having increased slightly from 1.4% in 2008

### Multi-mode travel

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by park and stride has shown a small consistent increase each year from 2008 (6.1%) to 2012 (7.8%), decreasing slightly to 7.5% in 2013 then increasing to 7.8% in 2014.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The results presented in this report are accompanied by supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2014. This document is available from Sustrans' website:

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

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<sup>2</sup> Motorised travel includes Car, bus and taxi

## 2 Introduction

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is an annual survey based on a large sample of pupils enrolled at schools in Scotland. The survey was first conducted in 2008 and has followed a consistent survey design and methodology. The Survey is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities.

A Parliamentary Order was passed designating Sustrans as Official Statistics Providers as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 prior to the publication of Hands Up Scotland 2011<sup>3</sup>. 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 others<sup>4</sup>.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is designed to provide reliable and up to date information on mode of travel to school in Scotland, both nationally and at a local authority level as well as by school type and year group. The large national dataset allows for links to be made at a local level between mode of travel to school and school transport policies and initiatives. The specific aims of the survey are:

- Meet central and local government needs for policy relevant data on mode of travel to school in Scotland
- Be understandable and useful to stakeholders and so lead to a high level of use of the Hands Up Scotland Survey
- Produce high quality data in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*<sup>5</sup>

## 3 The National Summary Report

Hands Up Scotland Survey results have been reported in a series of annual reports published between 2009 and 2015. The annual National Summary Report is designed to act as an introduction to the survey and to present and interpret the results at a national level.

A short summary of key national level results for the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2014 is available in the form of a Statistical News Release. Supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2014 are also available. These documents can be downloaded from Sustrans' website:

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

Each local authority also receives their results in a comprehensive range of tables, including breakdown by school, in an Excel report. These documents of local authority results contain all data collected between 2008 and 2014.

Where users wish to undertake more detailed analyses for a specific project and these documents do not provide the required information or format, a data request may be submitted.

While this release focuses on the key results, the Hands Up Scotland Survey team can be contacted with feedback, requests or enquiries<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Official Statistics in Scotland are produced by the Scottish Government, Crown Bodies and a number of other public bodies named by Parliamentary Order in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> [eypmonitoring@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:eypmonitoring@sustrans.org.uk) 0191 269 9370

## 4 Policy context

The overall purpose of this National Summary Report is to put the results of the Hands Up Scotland Survey into a relevant policy context. The Scottish Government has outlined its overall purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth, and five strategic objectives, which are designed to ensure the purpose is delivered<sup>7</sup>. The five objectives are:

**Wealthier and Fairer** - Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.

**Smarter** - Expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life-long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.

**Healthier** - Help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.

**Safer and Stronger** - Help local communities to flourish, becoming a stronger, safer place to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.

**Greener** - Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey can provide information relevant to the 'Healthier' and 'Greener' objectives outlined by the Scottish Government.

The survey provides data on levels of active travel to school (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skateboard). Scotland's strategy for physical activity, *Let's Make Scotland More Active*<sup>8</sup>, and the UK Chief Medical Officers report *Start Active, Stay Active*<sup>9</sup> both recommend active travel as one way of making up the recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity daily for children, as well as outlining the links between physical activity and health.

The survey provides data for levels of motorised travel to school (being driven, travelling by bus or taxi). Levels of motorised travel have implications for greenhouse gas emissions, and the Scottish Government has outlined the need for behaviour change to make more sustainable transport choices as part of daily life in order to reduce Scotland's carbon footprint<sup>10</sup>. Levels of motorised travel also have implications for congestion, against which the Scottish Government has summarised its role as follows:

'To set the framework for the provision of sustainable, integrated and cost-effective public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure as alternatives to the car.'<sup>11</sup>

The survey also provides data on levels of cycling to school. The *Cycling Action Plan for Scotland*<sup>12</sup> sets out the shared vision of 10% of everyday journeys in Scotland to be made by bike by 2020, outlines a framework for delivery of this target and encourages the promotion of cycling and active travel to school.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey results also represent a large national dataset which allows for links to be made at a local level between mode of travel to school and school transport policies and initiatives.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/Strategic-Objectives>

<sup>8</sup> Let's Make Scotland More Active (2003), Physical Activity Taskforce

<sup>9</sup> Start Active, Stay Active (2011), UK Chief Medical Officers

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/carbon>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator/congestion>

<sup>12</sup> Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (2010, updated 2013), Transport Scotland

## 5 Comparability with other sources

The Hands Up Scotland survey is not directly comparable with any other current sources of Official Statistics in the UK. The Scottish Household Survey also provides information on travel to school in Scotland<sup>13</sup> and a list of the main statistical publications in relation to transport in Scotland is available from the Transport Scotland website<sup>14</sup>.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census<sup>15</sup> in England published data for usual mode of travel to school until 2011. Data was available at a school level and this question was made mandatory for schools with an approved School Travel Plan in January 2007. In 2011, the mandatory use of this question was discontinued. Data on travel to school data is not currently collected as part of the school census for Northern Ireland or Wales.

Other current sources of official statistics relating to travel to school in the UK include the National Travel Survey<sup>16</sup>, and the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland<sup>17</sup>.

## 6 Survey design

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is a joint project, managed by Sustrans and Officers from each local authority in Scotland. The survey was first conducted in 2008 and has followed a consistent survey design and methodology each year.

Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit is responsible for producing the survey format, guidance and data entry template to circulate to local authority officers. Local authority officers are responsible for distributing the surveys and guidance to schools. Data collection is conducted by school staff, instructed by their local authority officer, with support from Sustrans. Completed survey forms are returned by the school staff to their local authority officer, who takes responsibility for inputting data for each school and returning the data to Sustrans. Data cleaning, collation, analysis and reporting are conducted by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit.

Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2014, data collection took place between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September.

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. The survey is conducted by schools on a class-by-class basis. The number of pupils present at the time of the survey is recorded, and pupils are asked to raise their hand for each response option. A manual count is recorded on the survey form.

All pupils of primary and secondary school age are asked to respond to the Hands Up Scotland Survey themselves. Assistance may be provided to nursery or Special Educational Needs (SEN) school pupils by a parent, guardian or member of school staff when responding to the survey, depending on the level of support required.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Transport-Travel/TrendTraveltoSchool>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/statistics/statistical-publications>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-census>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-travel-survey-2012>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.drdni.gov.uk/northern\\_ireland\\_travel\\_survey.htm](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/northern_ireland_travel_survey.htm)



## 7 Sample and response

### SAMPLE

All local authorities in Scotland are invited to take part in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. The sample for the survey is designed to be as close to a census as possible in that it aims to systematically acquire and record information about the majority of pupils enrolled in nursery, primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools across Scotland.

This sample is designed to produce a large national dataset which can be used to examine information on mode of travel to school in detail at a national, local authority and school level as well as by school type and year group. The broad-based sample allows for links to be made at a local level between mode of travel to school and school transport policies and initiatives.

Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of equivalent Scottish school roll and as a percentage of all equivalent schools in Scotland are calculated using the Scottish Government's Education Statistics<sup>18</sup>. This is only available for state primary, secondary and SEN schools as the Scottish Government does not collect data for independent or nursery schools. It is therefore not possible to calculate equivalent survey receipt or response rates from these school types. This limitation also applies at a local authority level.

### NATIONAL RESPONSE RATE 2014

In 2014, all 32 local authorities in Scotland participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey.

In 2014 2,015 nurseries and 2,525 schools across Scotland received the survey from their local authority officers. The survey was sent to 2,484 state schools<sup>19</sup>, the equivalent of 97.3% of all state schools in Scotland.

A total of 539 nurseries and 2,052 schools responded to the Survey across Scotland. Responses were received from 2,036 state schools, the equivalent of 81.0% of state schools receiving the survey and 80.6% of all state schools in Scotland.

A full breakdown of the number of schools responding to the survey in 2014 is presented in Table 7.1

**Table 7.1 National sample size:** number of schools responding to survey, 2014<sup>20</sup>

School Type	Number of schools which received survey	% of all schools in Scotland which received survey	Number of schools which returned data	% of schools receiving survey which returned data	% of all schools in Scotland which returned data
Nursery	2,015	-	539	26.7%	-
Primary	2,048	100.0%	1,715	83.7%	83.87
Secondary	360	99.4%	279	77.5%	77.1%
SEN	76	52.8%	42	55.3%	29.2%
Independent	40	-	16	40.0%	-
All State Schools	2,484	97.3%	2,036	81.0%	80.6%
All Schools	2,525	-	2,052	80.4%	-

Responses were received from 19,911 nursery pupils and 487,147 school pupils in total across Scotland. Responses were received from 480,155 state school pupils, the equivalent of 70.9% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

<sup>19</sup> Not including nursery schools

<sup>20</sup> Table 1.3 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

A full breakdown of the number of pupils responding to the survey in 2014 is presented in Table 7.2.

**Table 7.2 National sample size:** number of pupils responding to survey, 2014<sup>21</sup>

School Type	Number of respondents	% of Scottish school roll
Nursery	19,911	-
Primary	302,357	78.5%
Secondary	175,919	61.8%
SEN	1,879	26.9%
Independent	6,992	-
All State Schools <sup>22</sup>	480,155	70.9%
All Schools	487,147	-

### NATIONAL RESPONSE RATE 2008-2014

The total number of pupil respondents to the Hands Up Scotland Survey consistently increased from 396,377 in 2008 to 439,401 in 2010. Total pupil respondents decreased to 427,104 in 2011, before increasing to 457,488 in 2012, 467,397 in 2013 and 487,147 in 2014. The number of state school pupil respondents to the Hands Up Scotland Survey followed a similar pattern between 2008 and 2012, as shown in Chart 7.1.

State school pupil responses to the Hands Up Scotland Survey have increased from 57.3% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland in 2008 to 70.9% in 2014. The percentage of state school pupils responding to the survey has increased in every year apart from 2011 when it decreased slightly to 63.5% (from 64.9% in 2010), as shown in Table 7.3.

**Table 7.3 National sample size:** state school pupil responses to survey as % of Scottish school roll, 2008-2014<sup>23</sup>

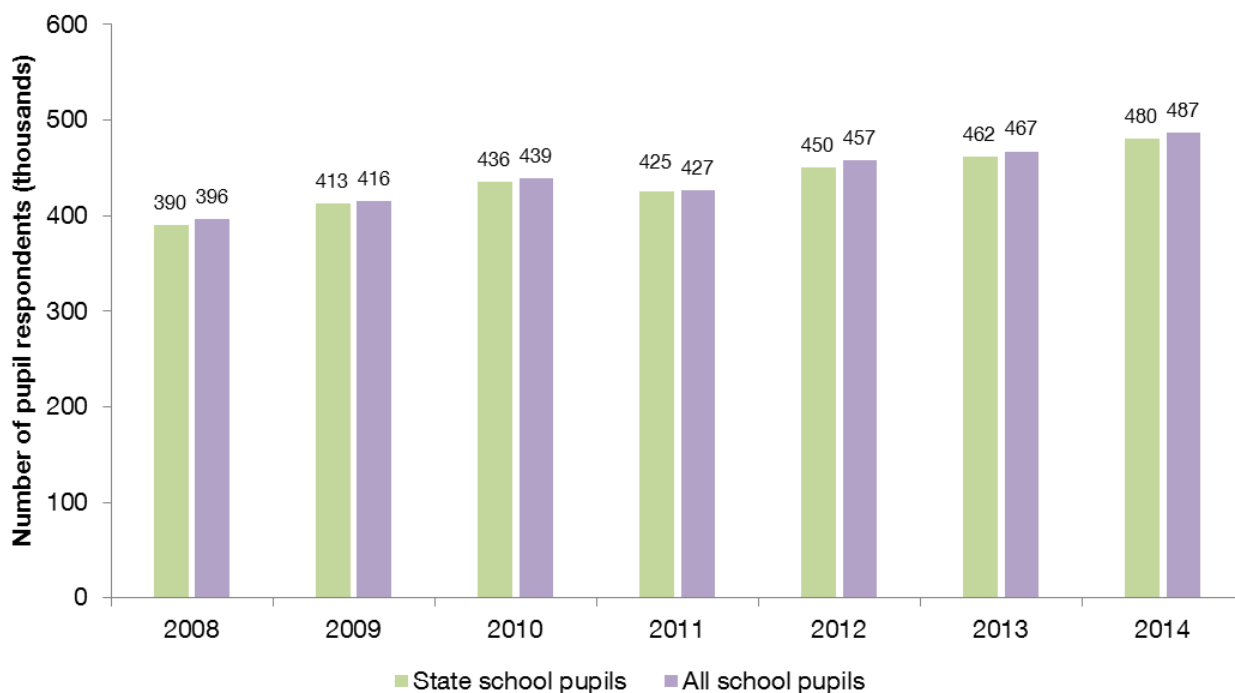
Year	% of Scottish school roll
2008	57.3%
2009	61.2%
2010	64.9%
2011	63.5%
2012	67.1%
2013	67.7%
2014	70.9%

<sup>21</sup> Table 1.1 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

<sup>22</sup> Not including nursery schools

<sup>23</sup> Table 1.1 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

**Chart 7.1 National sample size:** pupil responses and response rate for the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2014



The total number of schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey consistently increased from 1,824 in 2008 to 1,987 in 2010. Total schools responding decreased to 1,893 in 2011, before increasing to 1,982 in 2012, 2,017 in 2013 and 2,052 in 2014. The number of state schools and pupils responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey followed a similar pattern between 2008 and 2012, as shown in Chart 7.2.

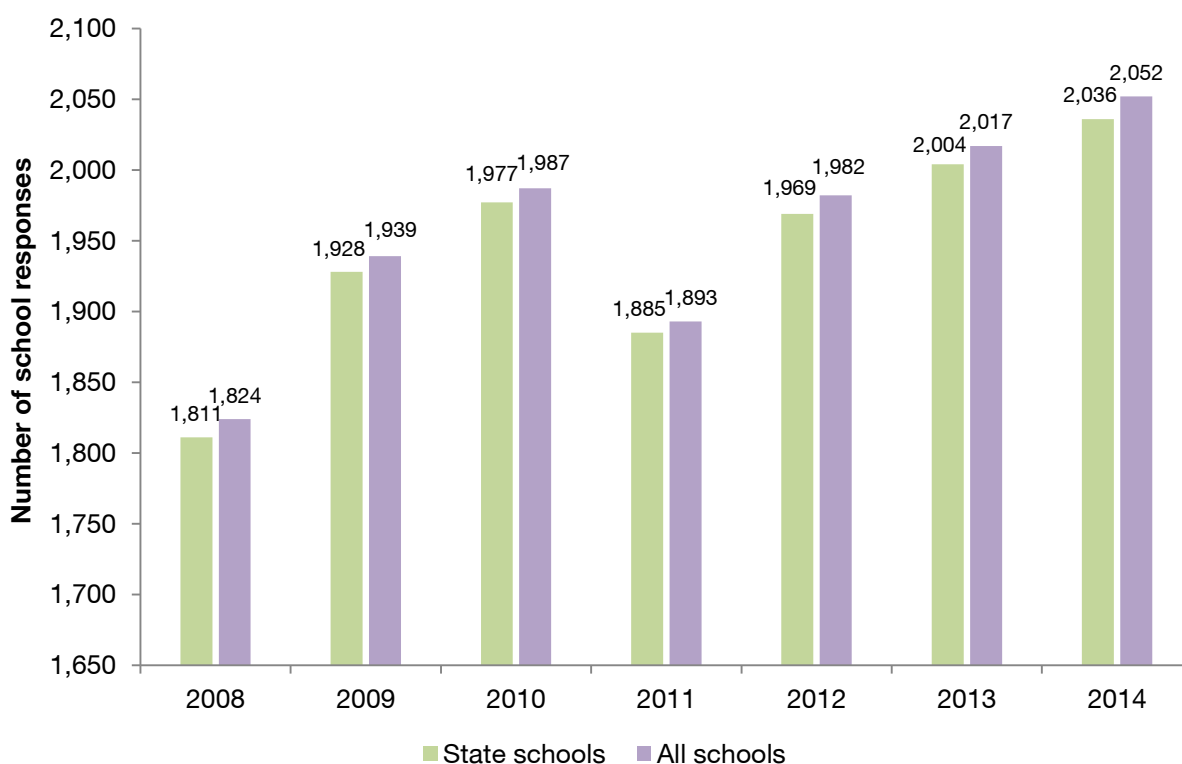
State school responses to the Hands Up Scotland Survey have increased from 63.2% of all state schools in Scotland in 2008 to 80.6% in 2014. The percentage of state schools responding to the survey has increased in every year apart from 2011 when it decreased slightly to 68.4% (from 70.9% in 2010), as shown in Table 7.4.

**Table 7.4 National sample size:** state school responses to survey as % of all schools in Scotland, 2008-2014<sup>24</sup>

Year	% of Scottish schools
2008	63.2%
2009	67.7%
2010	70.9%
2011	68.4%
2012	76.2%
2013	78.7%
2014	80.6%

**Chart 7.2 National sample size:** school responses to the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2014

<sup>24</sup> Table 1.3 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>



No nursery schools were approached to participate in the first Hands Up Scotland Survey in 2008. Since then, a concerted effort has been made to increase participation among nursery schools.

The total number of nursery pupil responses to the Hands Up Scotland survey increased year on year from 7,999 pupils in 2009 to 13,349 in 2010, 14,038 in 2011, 19,411 in 2012, 19,737 in 2013 and 19,911 in 2014. The total number of nursery schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland survey has increased year on year from 238 schools in 2009 to 387 in 2010, 423 in 2011, 523 in 2012 and 540 in 2013, decreasing slightly to 539 in 2014.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE RATES 2012-2014

All 32 local authorities in Scotland have participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey since 2010 (29 and 31 local authorities participated in 2008 and 2009 respectively).

In 2014, seven local authorities<sup>25</sup> received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools in the local authority and 15<sup>26</sup> received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools.

<sup>25</sup> Clackmannanshire, Fife, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders

<sup>26</sup> Aberdeenshire, Angus, East Lothian, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders, Shetland Islands, West Dunbartonshire, West Lothian

## 8 National Results

### NATIONAL RESULTS 2014 (excluding nursery)

#### Active travel

50.4% of pupils surveyed in 2014 said that they normally travel to school in an active way without any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, and using a scooter or skateboard):

- Walking was the most frequent mode of travel with 44.2% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school
- 3.4% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 2.8% said that they normally use a scooter or skateboard to travel to school

#### Motorised travel

41.2% of pupils surveyed in 2014 said that they normally travel to school using only a motorised mode of transport:

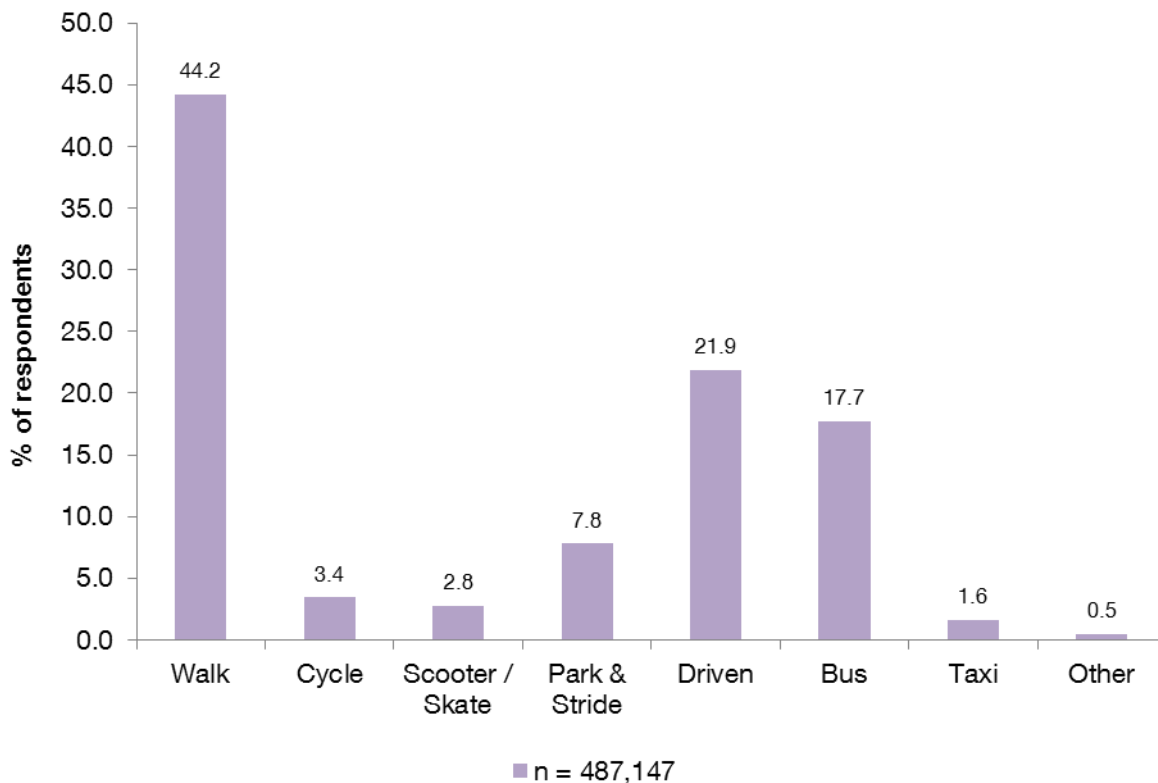
- 21.9% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school
- 17.7% of pupils said that they normally take the bus to school
- 1.6% said that they normally travel to school by taxi

#### Multi-mode travel

In addition to those travelling solely by an active or motorised mode of travel to school, 7.8% 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).

Results for all schools (excluding nursery schools) are displayed in Table 8.1 [page 15] and Chart 8.1.

**Chart 8.1 Travel modes at a national level: all school pupil responses (excluding nursery), 2014**



## PRIMARY & SECONDARY RESULTS COMPARISON 2014

Primary school pupils are more likely to say that they normally travel to school actively, compared to secondary school pupils (55.4% of primary compared to 43.8% of secondary pupils):

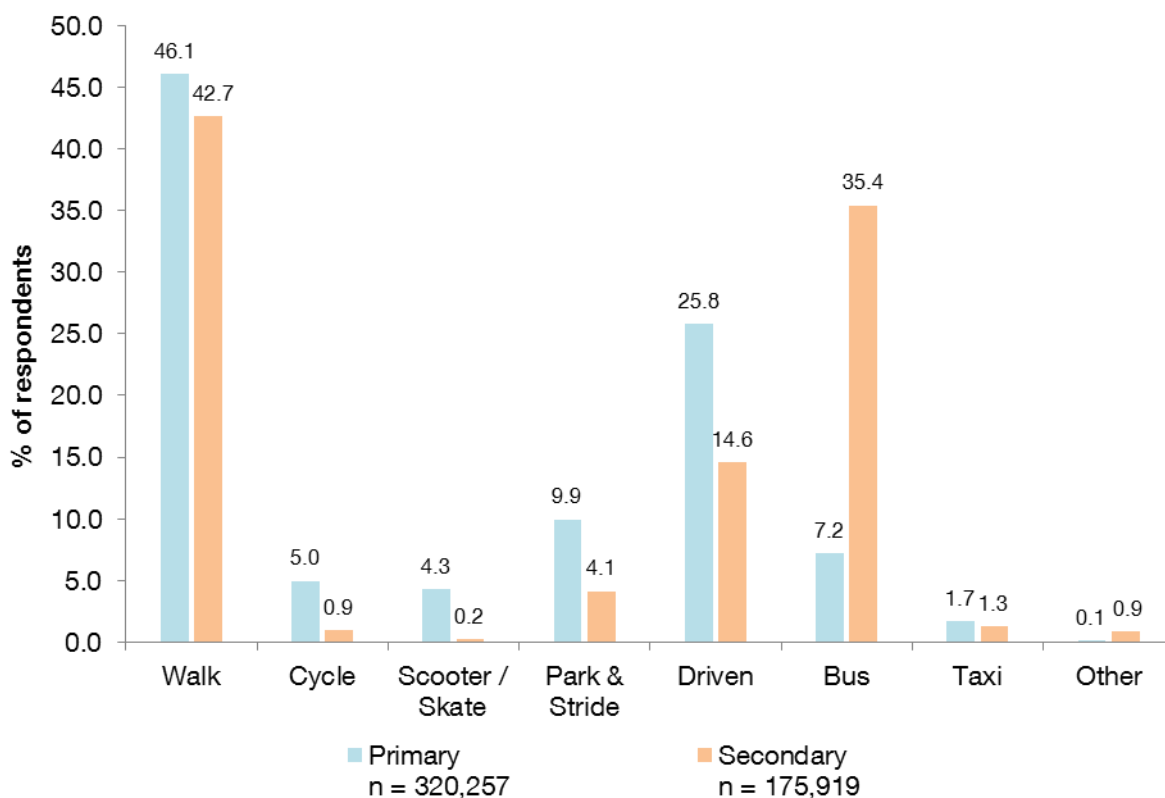
- 46.1% of primary schools pupils said they normally walk to school compared to 42.7% of secondary school pupils
- 5.0% of primary school pupils said they normally cycle to school compared to 0.9% of secondary school pupils
- 4.3% of primary school pupils said they scoot or skate to school compared to 0.2% of secondary school pupils

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

- 25.8% of primary school pupils surveyed in 2014 said they normally travel to school by car compared to 14.6% of secondary school pupils
- 35.4% of secondary school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus compared to 7.2% of primary school pupils

Results for primary and secondary schools are displayed in Table 8.3 [page 15] and Chart 8.2.

**Chart 8.2 Travel modes at a national level:** primary and secondary pupil responses, 2014



## STATE & INDEPENDENT RESULTS COMPARISON 2014

Pupils at independent schools are less likely to travel to school in an active way than those in state schools (primary, secondary and special education needs (SEN), excluding nursery schools):

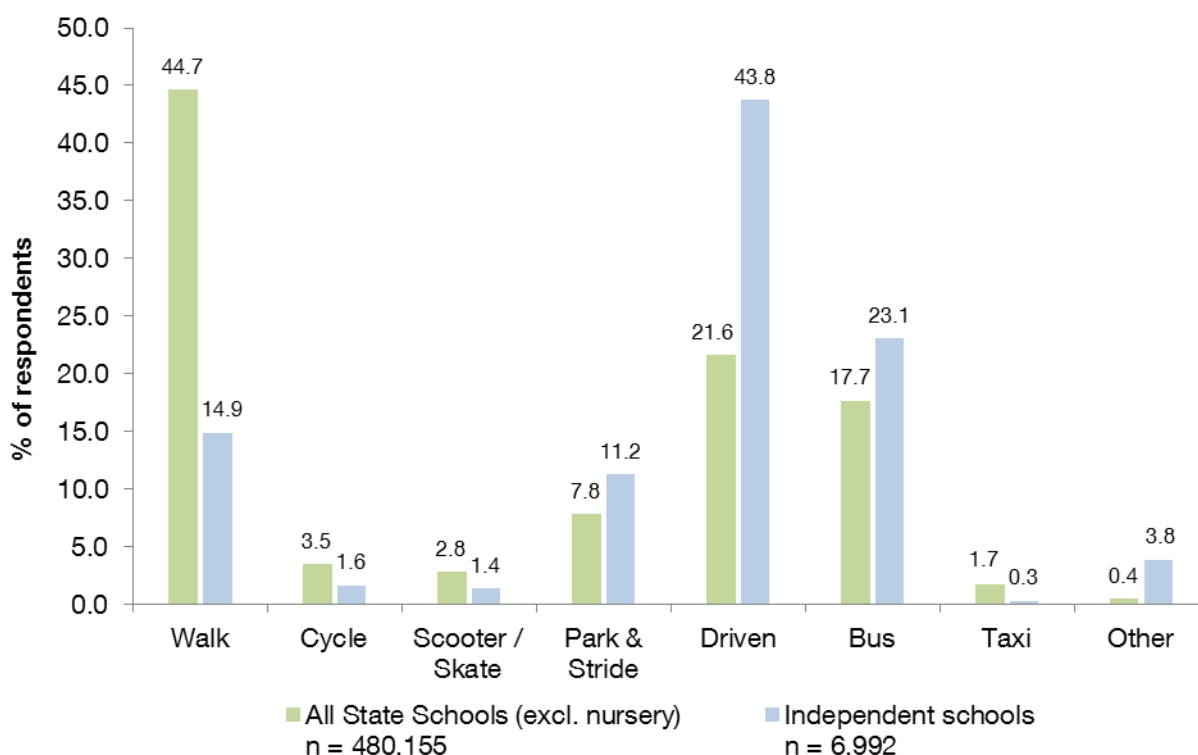
- 14.9% of independent school pupils surveyed in 2014 said that they normally walk to school compared to 44.7% of state school pupils
- 1.6% of independent school pupils said they normally cycle to school, compared to 3.5% of state school pupils
- 1.4% of independent school pupils said they normally scoot or skate to school, compared to 2.8% of state school pupils

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

- 43.8% of independent school pupils surveyed in 2014 said they normally travel to school by car compared to 21.6% of state school pupils
- 23.1% of independent school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus, compared to 17.7% of state school pupils

Results for all state schools (excluding nursery) and independent schools are displayed in Table 8.2, Table 8.3 [both page 15] and Chart 8.3.

**Chart 8.3 Travel modes at a national level: state school (excluding nursery) and independent pupil responses, 2014**



## SEN RESULTS 2014

The majority of SEN pupils were reported as travelling to school by a motorised mode of transport, however within this car use by SEN pupils makes up a very small proportion in comparison to the overall survey results.

- 86.3% of SEN pupils were reported as normally travelling to school solely by motorised transport (39.5% taxi, 43.1% bus and 3.7% car)
- 2.0% of SEN school pupils were reported as normally walking to school and 0.3% cycling

Results for SEN schools are displayed in Table 8.3 [page 15].

## NURSERY RESULTS 2014

Nursery school pupils are slightly more likely to travel to school by an active mode than a form of motorised transport:

- 49.3% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to nursery school actively without any form of motorised transport (41.4% walk, 3.6% cycle and 4.3% scoot or skate)
- 46.1% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school solely by motorised transport (42.5% travel by car 2.7% travel by bus and 0.9% travel by taxi)
- In addition to this, 4.4% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by park and stride

Results for nursery schools are displayed in Table 8.3 [page 15].

## NATIONAL RESULTS 2008-2014 (excluding nursery)

The following is a brief summary of results from the Hands Up Scotland Survey at a national level results from primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools.

There are limitations to the comparability of data across years, as although survey design and methodology have remained consistent, survey sample size has increased considerably (from 396,377 pupil responses in 2008 to 487,147 in 2014) and results have not been tested for statistical significance.

Caution should also be applied when seeking to understand annual variations. A number of variables may impact on travel behaviour from year to year (e.g. weather conditions, school mergers) as well as policies and schemes introduced by central and local government or individual schools.

Nursery school data has not been included in this summary as the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled since data was first collected (from 7,999 pupil responses in 2009 to 19,911 in 2014).

### Active travel

Overall levels of active travel (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skate board) to school without any form of motorised transport consistently remained between 49.3% and 49.9% between 2009 and 2012, with 2008, 2013 and 2014 showing slightly higher levels of active travel at 51.8% (2008) and 50.4% (2013 and 2014) respectively.

- The reported level of walking has decreased from 48.3% in 2008 to 44.1% in 2013, increasing slightly to 44.2% in 2014
- The Hands Up Scotland Survey does not show a clear trend in cycling levels. The percentage of pupils normally cycling to school was generally between 2.8% and 3.0% in the years 2008 to 2012, except for 2009 where the proportion was 2.3%. Since 2012 the proportion cycling has been slightly higher at 3.5% and 3.4% in 2013 and 2014 respectively
- The proportion of pupils who report normally scooting or skateboarding to school has generally increased year on year between 2008 to 2014, from 0.7% to 2.8%.



## Motorised travel

The Hands Up Scotland Survey has shown a small decrease in motorised travel each year between 2009 (43.0%) and 2014 (41.3%). However, the survey does not show a clear trend in motorised travel between 2008 (41.6%) and 2014.

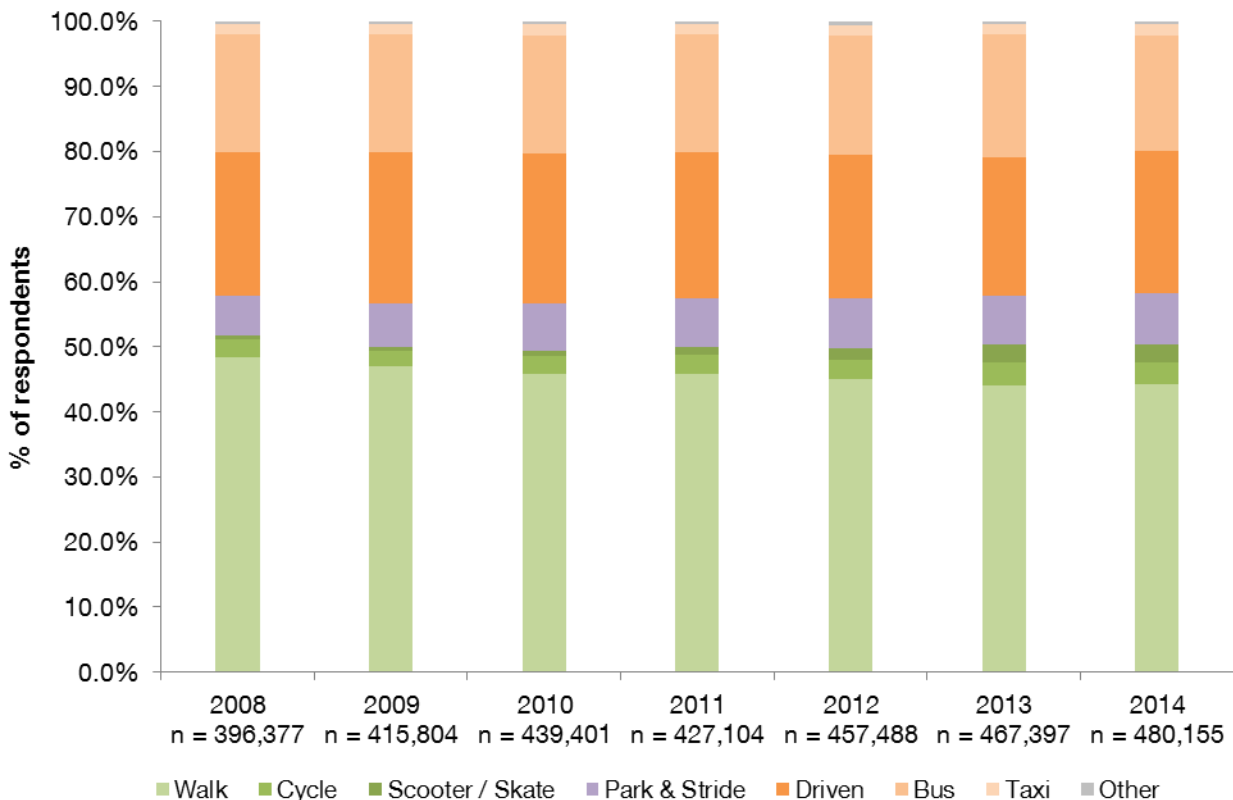
- The survey has shown a small decrease in car use each year between 2009 (23.3%) and 2013 (21.4%). However, the survey shows a slight increase in car use in 2014 (21.9%)
- Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage point between 2008 and 2012 (18.1% to 18.2%), having increased slightly to 18.8% in 2013, the survey shows a decrease in the percentage of pupils reporting normally traveling to school by bus to 17.7% in 2014
- Taxi use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage point between 2009 and 2014 (1.6% to 1.7%), having increased slightly from 1.4% in 2008.

## Multi-mode travel

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by park and stride has shown a small consistent increase each year from 2008 (6.1%) to 2014 (7.8%), apart from a slight decrease to 7.5% in 2013.

Results for all schools (excluding nursery schools) from 2008 to 2014 are displayed in Table 8.1 [page 15] and Chart 8.4.

**Chart 8.4 Travel modes at a national level:** all school (excluding nursery) pupil responses, 2008 - 2013



## DATA TABLES

**Table 8.1 Travel modes at a national level: excluding nursery schools, 2008-2014<sup>27</sup>**

Year	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
2008	48.3%	2.8%	0.7%	6.1%	22.0%	18.2%	1.4%	0.5%	396,377
2009	47.0%	2.3%	0.6%	6.7%	23.3%	18.1%	1.6%	0.4%	415,804
2010	45.8%	2.8%	0.7%	7.4%	22.9%	18.2%	1.6%	0.5%	439,401
2011	45.9%	3.0%	1.0%	7.5%	22.4%	18.2%	1.6%	0.3%	427,104
2012	45.1%	2.9%	1.6%	7.8%	22.2%	18.2%	1.7%	0.5%	457,488
2013	44.1%	3.5%	2.8%	7.5%	21.4%	18.8%	1.6%	0.4%	467,397
2014	44.2%	3.4%	2.8%	7.8%	21.9%	17.7%	1.6%	0.5%	487,147

**Table 8.2 Travel modes at a national level: all state schools excluding nursery schools, 2008-2014<sup>28</sup>**

Year	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
2008	48.7%	2.8%	0.7%	6.1%	21.7%	18.2%	1.4%	0.4%	389,799
2009	47.1%	2.4%	0.6%	6.7%	23.1%	18.1%	1.6%	0.4%	413,118
2010	46.0%	2.8%	0.7%	7.5%	22.7%	18.2%	1.6%	0.5%	435,770
2011	46.0%	3.0%	1.0%	7.5%	22.3%	18.2%	1.6%	0.3%	424,829
2012	45.6%	3.0%	1.7%	7.7%	21.8%	18.0%	1.7%	0.5%	450,192
2013	44.4%	3.5%	2.8%	7.5%	21.1%	18.7%	1.6%	0.4%	461,707
2014	44.7%	3.5%	2.8%	7.8%	21.6%	17.7%	1.7%	0.4%	480,155

**Table 8.3 Travel modes at a national level: by school type, 2014<sup>29</sup>**

School Type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Nursery	41.4%	3.6%	4.3%	4.4%	42.5%	2.7%	0.9%	0.9%	19,911
Primary	46.1%	5.0%	4.3%	9.9%	25.8%	7.2%	1.7%	0.1%	302,357
Secondary	42.7%	0.9%	0.2%	4.1%	14.6%	35.4%	1.3%	0.9%	175,919
SEN	2.0%	0.3%	*	*	3.7%	43.1%	39.5%	11.3%	1,879
Independent	14.9%	1.6%	1.4%	11.2%	43.8%	23.1%	0.3%	3.8%	6,992

<sup>27</sup> Table 2.1 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

<sup>28</sup> Table 2.2 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

<sup>29</sup> Table 2.3 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

**Table 8.4 Travel modes at a national level: by school type and year group, 2014<sup>30</sup>**

School Type & Year Group	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
<b>Primary</b>									
P1-4	44.4%	4.7%	4.8%	9.8%	28.5%	6.1%	1.6%	0.1%	153,478
P5-7	50.0%	5.6%	3.9%	10.9%	21.2%	6.8%	1.5%	0.1%	100,665
<b>Secondary</b>									
S1-3	43.0%	1.0%	0.1%	4.8%	13.0%	36.1%	1.3%	0.6%	74,414
S4-6	41.4%	0.7%	0.3%	3.9%	16.0%	35.9%	1.1%	0.7%	58,362
<b>SEN</b>									
P1-4	*	*	0.0%	0.0%	7.8%	24.9%	64.9%	0.0%	205
P5-7	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	29.3%	62.4%	0.0%	133
S1-3	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	46.9%	38.7%	11.7%	222
S4-6	*	0.0%	0.0%	*	2.2%	39.6%	32.2%	24.9%	273
<b>Independent</b>									
P1-4	9.5%	3.6%	4.0%	11.4%	56.5%	14.2%	*	*	1,735
P5-7	16.7%	*	1.2%	13.3%	47.2%	18.5%	*	2.0%	1,897
S1-3	15.2%	1.3%	*	9.3%	36.6%	34.1%	*	3.4%	994
S4-6	18.3%	0.8%	*	9.3%	32.8%	28.0%	*	10.5%	1,459

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The results presented in this report are accompanied by supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2014. This document is available from Sustrans' website:

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

<sup>30</sup> Table 2.4 in supplementary National Results Excel file available to download from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

## 9 Technical notes

### Data collection

1. Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2014, data collection took place between the 8th and 12th September. In 2015 data collection will take place between 7th and 11th September.
2. Pupils of primary and secondary school age are asked to respond to the Hands Up Scotland Survey themselves. Assistance may be provided to nursery or SEN school pupils by a parent, guardian or member of school staff when responding to the Survey, depending on the level of support required.

### Response rates

3. Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of Scottish school roll and as a percentage of all schools in Scotland are calculated using Scottish Government Education Statistics<sup>31</sup>. This is only available for state primary, secondary and SEN schools. It is therefore not possible to calculate these receipt or response rates from nursery or independent school types.

### School type

4. Nursery data is presented separately, and has not been included in data for 'All Schools'. Independent school data is included in data for 'All Schools'.
5. Data for "primary" and "secondary" and "SEN" are comprised of results from state-funded schools only.
6. Data for 'all state schools' is comprised of 'primary', 'secondary and 'SEN' data

### Interpreting results

7. In 2013 a prize draw was offered to schools as an incentive for returning responses from all year groups by Sustrans Scotland. Between 2012 and 2013, the percentage of state schools responding to the survey increased from 76.2% to 78.7%. However, it is not possible to ascertain whether a proportion of these schools were encouraged by the incentive or whether this increase in school responses reflects the continuation of an overall trend (the percentage of state schools responding to the survey has increased in every year apart from 2011 when it decreased slightly to 68.4% from 70.9% in 2010).
8. The same schools/pupils may not respond to the survey each year and survey data is not weighted to take this into account. This may have implications for year on year comparison; particular caution should be applied when attempting to draw conclusions from small percentage point changes.
9. 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.
10. A number of variables may impact on travel behaviour from year to year (e.g. weather conditions, school mergers, closures and relocations) as well as policies and schemes introduced by central and local government or individual schools. Therefore, caution should be applied when seeking to understand annual variations.
11. As the Hands Up Scotland Survey is carried out over a one week period, weather conditions may differ considerably from year to year. It should be noted that weather conditions have an

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

impact on travel choices and may influence pupil response to the survey, although the phrasing of the survey question aims to overcome this limitation as much as possible.

12. Scottish local authorities have differing characteristics in terms of number of schools, school roll, school types, pupil characteristics, school distribution (urban/rural) and geography. It should be noted that these factors have an impact on travel choices and may influence pupil response to the survey. This may have implications for comparison of results between local authorities.
13. Due to rounding, row percentages may not always add up to 100%.

### **Confidentiality**

14. Where a percentage represents a value of between one and four pupils, it has been replaced with an asterisk (\*). Where data is missing/not available it has been replaced with a dash (-).
15. Where data is not available for a particular year group or school type (because it has not been provided for that particular year group or school type) it has been replaced with a dash (-).
16. Where a particular school type does not exist within a local authority (e.g. there are no SEN or independent schools), the data cells have been shaded out.

### **Official Statistics Publication**

17. The Hands Up Scotland Survey has been designated an Official Statistic in Scotland by Parliamentary Order and is produced in line with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The code covers a range of measures, such as relevance, integrity, quality, accessibility, value for money and freedom from political influence<sup>32</sup>.

More information on the standards of official statistics in Scotland is available at:

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

### **Enquiries**

18. Media enquiries about information contained in this report should be made to Sustrans Scotland Press Officer David Livey at Sustrans Scotland, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ or 0131 346 3010.

Non-media enquiries about information contained in this document should be addressed to EYP Monitoring Team, Sustrans Research & Monitoring Unit, 2nd floor, Higham House, Higham Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8AF or email [EYPmonitoring@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:EYPmonitoring@sustrans.org.uk).

Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit assess the impacts of Sustrans' work and evaluate the interventions of partners and clients across the UK, including extensive work with schools and young people – more information is available at:

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/research-monitoring-and-evaluation>

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/about-this-site/index.html>