

Hands Up Scotland Survey 2016

Statistical News Release (21 June 2017)

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

This statistical news release reports key results from the Hands Up Scotland Survey on mode of travel to schools and nurseries in Scotland. This document accompanies the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2016 National Summary Report and National Results tables.¹ The National Summary Report was reissued on 21 June 2017, with values from previous publication of the news release (25 May 2017) updated to include primary school pupils omitted in error.

The annual Hands Up Scotland Survey is published by Sustrans as an Official Statistic in Scotland. The survey is funded by Transport Scotland to provide an accurate and up-to-date picture of how pupils travel to school. The survey is now in its ninth year.

This year, the travel modes have been re-categorised to distinguish between public sustainable and private motorised transport:

- **Active travel:** walking, cycling and scooter/skate,
- **Public sustainable travel:** bus,
- **Multi-mode travel:** park and stride,²
- **Private motorised travel:** car and taxi.

National results 2016

Active travel

49.3% of pupils said they normally travel to school in an active way, with walking the most common mode of travel to school of all.

- 42.8% of pupils saying they normally walk to school.
- 3.6% of pupils said they normally cycle to school.
- 2.9% of pupils said they normally scooter or skate to school.

Public sustainable travel

16.6% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bus.

Multi-mode travel

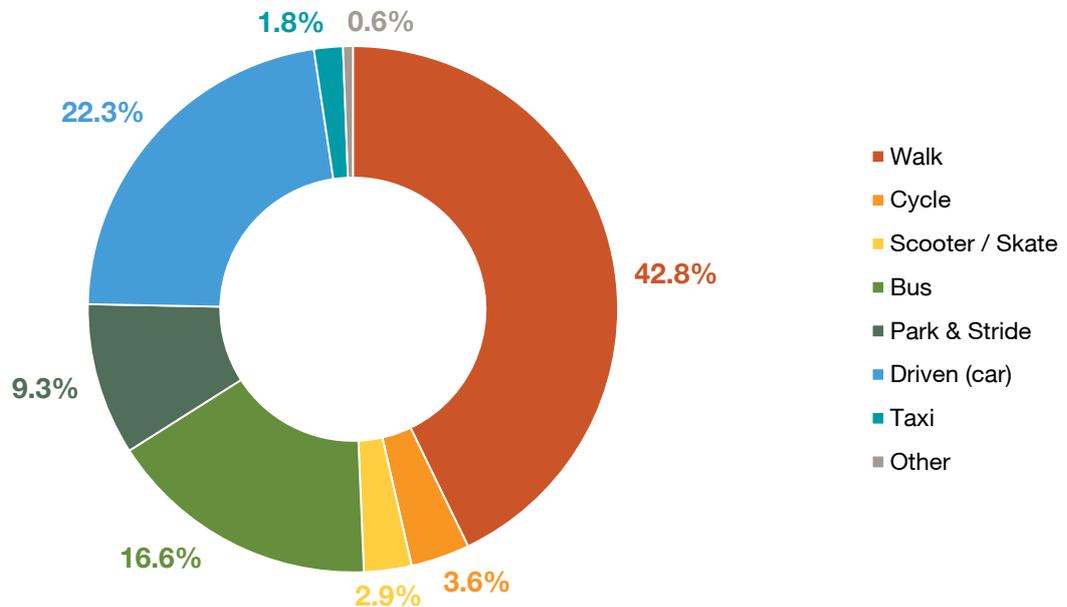
9.3% of pupils said they normally park and stride to school.

Private motorised travel

24.1% of pupils said they normally travel to school using private motorised transport:

- 22.3% of pupils said they are normally driven to school in a car.
- 1.8% said they normally travel to school by taxi.

Chart 1: National travel modes: all school pupil responses (excluding nursery), 2016.



Response rates 2016

School response rates

In 2016, 1,938 schools took part in the survey from 31 local authorities in Scotland. Of this, 1,923 state schools (primary, secondary and SEN) participated, which equates to 76.0% of all registered state schools in Scotland.

Pupil response rates

In total, 458,145 children took part the survey. Of this, 454,037 pupils from state school pupils participated, which equates to 66.3% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland.

National results 2016: by school type

Nursery schools

- 46.1% of nursery pupils reported normally travelling to school by an active mode.
- 3.3% of nursery pupils reported normally travelling to school using public sustainable transport.
- 4.5% of nursery pupils reported normally travelling to school using multi-mode travel.
- 45.4% of nursery pupils reported normally travel to school using private motorised transport.

All state school (primary, secondary and SEN) comparison

Primary school pupils reported the highest level of active travel to school at 53.6% of all pupils, followed by secondary school pupils at 42.9%.

The highest levels of bus usage are reported in secondary pupils at 35.1% compared to 27.0% of SEN pupils and 6.5% among primary school pupils. This is a shift from previous years where SEN pupils recorded the highest levels of bus travel.

11.7% of primary school pupils reported travelling to school using multiple modes, compared to 4.8% of secondary school pupils.

Secondary school pupils reported the lowest levels of travel to school using private motorised transport of all pupils, at 16.2%, followed by 27.9% of primary school pupils and 53.5% of SEN school pupils.

Table 1: National travel modes: by school type (state schools), 2016.

School type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Bus	Park & Stride	Driven (car)	Taxi	Other	Total
Nursery	38.6%	3.3%	4.2%	3.3%	4.5%	44.2%	1.2%	0.7%	17,933
Primary ³	44.1%	5.1%	4.4%	6.5%	11.7%	26.3%	1.6%	0.3%	293,360
Secondary	41.8%	0.9%	0.2%	35.1%	4.8%	14.8%	1.4%	1.0%	158,826
SEN	1.7%	*	*	27.0%	3.5%	2.9%	50.6%	14.0%	1,851

State and independent school comparison

Pupils in state schools reported higher active travel levels compared to independent schools in 2016, with half of state school pupils (49.7%) either walking, cycling or scooter/skating, compared to 14.5% of independent school pupils.

A lower percentage of state school pupils (16.6%) reported normally travelling to school by bus compared to 24.0% of independent school pupils.

9.3% of state school pupils reported travelling to school using multiple modes, compared to 16.2% of independent school pupils.

A lower percentage of state school pupils normally travel using private motorised modes at 24.0% compared to 42.8% of independent school pupils.

Table 2: National travel modes: by school type (state schools and independent schools), 2016.

School type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Bus	Park & Stride	Driven	Taxi	Other	Total
State schools ³	43.1%	3.6%	2.9%	16.6%	9.3%	22.2%	1.8%	0.6%	454,037
Independent	10.8%	2.4%	1.3%	24.0%	16.2%	41.9%	0.9%	2.6%	4,108

National results comparison: 2010-2016

Across all years of the Hands Up Scotland Survey, active travel to school has consistently remained the most frequently reported mode of travel to school across Scotland.

- Within the active travel category, overall there has been a steady decline in pupils reporting walking to school, from 45.8% in 2010 to 42.8% in 2016.
- The survey has recorded an increasing trend in cycling from 2.8% in 2010 to 3.6% in 2016. This has remained fairly consistent since 2013 (between 3.4% and 3.6%).
- The percentage of pupils who say they normally scooter or skate to school has increased from 0.7% in 2010, to 2.9% in 2016. As with cycling, the percentage of pupils who scooter or skate to school has remained fairly consistent since 2013 (between 2.8% and 2.9%).

Overall, bus use has decreased from 18.2% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2016. This is the lowest ever reported bus use, with a reduction in bus use of 1.2% from 2015.

The percentage of pupils normally travelling to school by park and stride has increased from 7.4% in 2010 to 9.3% in 2016. This has risen by 1.5% between 2015 and 2016.

Levels of private motorised transport use have fluctuated over the last seven years, between a high of 24.5% in 2010 and a low of 23.0% in 2013. In 2016, 24.1% of pupils reported travelling by car or taxi.

- The survey does not show a clear trend in car use, which has fluctuated between a low of 21.4% (2013) to a high of 23.3% (2009). Overall, sole car use has decreased from 22.9% in 2010 to 22.3% in 2016. Overall sole car use has not changed between 2015 and 2016.
- Taxi use is the least frequently reported of all the private motorised travel modes, however this has increased very slightly from 1.6% in 2010 to 1.8% in 2016.

Table 3: National travel categories: all schools (excluding nursery) 2008 – 2016.

Year	Active travel	Public sustainable travel	Multi-mode travel	Private motorised travel	Other	Total
2008	51.8%	18.2%	6.1%	23.4%	0.5%	396,377
2009	49.9%	18.1%	6.7%	24.9%	0.4%	415,804
2010	49.3%	18.2%	7.4%	24.5%	0.5%	439,401
2011	49.9%	18.2%	7.5%	24.0%	0.3%	427,104
2012	49.7%	18.2%	7.8%	23.9%	0.5%	457,488
2013	50.3%	18.8%	7.5%	23.0%	0.4%	467,397
2014	50.4%	17.7%	7.8%	23.5%	0.5%	487,147
2015	49.7%	17.9%	7.8%	24.1%	0.4%	480,161
2016 ³	49.3%	16.6%	9.3%	24.1%	0.6%	458,145

Technical Notes

Data collection

Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2016 data collection took place between 12th and 16th September. In 2017 data collection will take place between 11th and 15th September.

All 32 local authorities in Scotland are invited to take part in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. The survey is designed to record information about any and all pupils enrolled in nursery, primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools in Scotland.

This approach 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.

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

There are limitations to the comparability of data across years; although survey design and methodology have remained consistent, response rates have varied considerably over the 9 years that the Hands Up Scotland Survey has been conducted.

Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of equivalent schools in Scotland and equivalent Scottish school roll are calculated using the Scottish Government Education Statistics. Data on both the number of schools and their pupil roll is available for state primary, secondary and SEN schools from the Scottish Government. Pupil roll numbers are not published for state nursery or independent schools in Scotland.

Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of Scottish/LA school roll and as a percentage of all schools in Scotland/LA are calculated using Scottish Government Education Statistics. As above 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

'All state schools' includes primary, secondary and SEN schools only.

'All schools' includes primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools only.

Nursery data is presented separately as the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled since data was first collected.

Interpreting results

The aggregated national-level results are not necessarily based on the same pupils each year as the same local authorities/schools/pupils might not respond to the survey each year. The 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. For further information regarding school participation please refer to Table 1.5 Local authority response rates: number of schools surveyed, and Table 1.6 Local authority response rates: number of schools returning data, in the Hands Up Scotland Survey National Results data tables, available from Sustrans' website, available at:

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

Where the number of responses is low (totalling less than 100), care should be taken when interpreting results. Moreover, fields with a small number of responses may see large changes in percentage between years.

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.

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 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.

Due to rounding, row percentages may not always add up to 100%, and category totals may not always add up to the values presented for individual travel modes.

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 77.0% 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 was the continuation of an overall trend.

In 2016, an online survey platform was made available in addition to paper survey forms. Local authority officers were able to decide which method was most suitable to offer to schools in their area. The majority of local authorities offered both options, whilst some selected online only, and some continued with paper survey forms. Between 2015 and 2016, the percentage of state schools responding to the survey decreased from 81.1% to 75.5%. However, it is not possible to ascertain whether this decrease in response rates was a result of the change in data collation method, or other unrelated factors.

In 2016, schools in East Dunbartonshire took part during October, meaning that their results are not considered comparable with the rest of the data, and have therefore been excluded from all national level results for 2016. Sensitivity tests indicate that the exclusion of East Dunbartonshire responses cannot account for the total decrease in survey response rates between 2015 and 2016.

Confidentiality

Where a percentage represents a value of between one and four pupils, it has been suppressed to maintain anonymity of respondents and replaced with an asterisk (*). Where suppressed data is included in the mode category calculation, the value for that category has also been suppressed.

Official Statistics Publication

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.

A Parliamentary Order was passed designating Sustrans as Official Statistics Providers as of 1st June 2012 prior to the publication of Hands Up Scotland Survey 2011 results. 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.

More information on the standards of Official Statistics in Scotland is available at:

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

Enquiries

For media enquiries relating to the information contained in this, or any other Hands Up Scotland Survey documents, please contact Sustrans' Press Office on 0131 346 3010 or email: press@sustrans.org.uk

Non-media enquiries about Hands Up Scotland Survey and data requests should be made to Sustrans' Hands Up Scotland Survey Team, Sustrans Research & Monitoring Unit, 2 Cathedral Square, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5DD or email: HandsUpScotland@sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit assesses the impacts of Sustrans' work and evaluates 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>

Endnotes

¹ Documents available at: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland>

² Park and stride: driven part of the way by car and walk the rest.

³ Values from previous publication of the report (25 May 2017) updated to include primary school pupils omitted in error.