

30th May 2014

Statistical News Release

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

INTRODUCTION

This statistical news release reports findings from the Hands Up Scotland Survey on mode of travel to schools and nurseries in Scotland.

The annual Hands Up Scotland Survey is published today by Sustrans as Official Statistics 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 sixth year.

RESULTS FROM 2013

Response

In 2013, over 467,000 children from 2,017 schools and 540 nurseries took part in the survey from all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

Overall results

50.4% of pupils in Scotland said they normally travel to school actively, without using any form of motorised transport:

- 44.1% of pupils said they normally walk to school
- 3.5% of pupils said they normally cycle to school
- 2.8% said they normally scoot or skate to school

41.8% of pupils in Scotland said they normally travel to school using only a form of motorised transport:

- 21.4% of pupils said they are normally driven to school
- 18.8% of pupils said they normally take the bus to school
- 1.6% said they normally travel to school by taxi

In addition to this, 7.5% of pupils in Scotland said they normally 'park and stride' to school (i.e. they are driven part of the way to school and walk the rest).

Primary school compared to secondary school

A higher percentage of primary school pupils travel to school actively (i.e. walk, cycle, scoot or skate) than secondary school pupils:

- 55.3% of primary school pupils said they normally travel to school actively, compared to 43.1% of secondary school pupils

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

- 25.5% of primary school pupils said they normally travel to school by car compared to 13.9% of secondary school pupils

- 36.9% of secondary school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus compared to 7.7% of primary school pupils

State schools compared to independent schools

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

- 44.3% of independent school pupils said they normally travel to school by car compared to 21.1% of state school pupils
- 26.4% of independent school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus, compared to 18.7% of state school pupils

SEN schools

- 40.5% of SEN school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by bus and 50.3% by taxi
- 3.3% of SEN school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by car
- 1.0% of SEN school pupils were reported as normally walking to school and 0.4% cycling

Nursery schools

- 44.6% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by car, 2.9% by bus and 0.7% by taxi
- 41.0% were reported as normally walking to school, 2.8% cycling and 3.8% travelling by scooter or skateboard
- 3.8% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by 'park and stride'

RESULTS 2008-2013

National results for primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools show a slight increase in pupils travelling by scooter or skateboard and a slight decrease in car use, with little change over time between levels of motorised and non-motorised travel overall:

- Although the reported level of walking has decreased from 48.3% (2008) to 44.1% (2013), overall levels of active travel to school have consistently remained between 49.3% and 49.9% between 2009 and 2012, with 2008 and 2013 showing slightly higher levels of active travel at 51.8% and 50.4% respectively
- The percentage of pupils who say they normally scoot or skate to school has increased from 0.7% (2008) to 2.8% (2013). The level of scooting/skating to school has increased in every year apart from 2009 when it decreased slightly to 0.6%
- The Hands Up Scotland Survey does not show a clear trend in cycling levels. The percentage of pupils reporting normally cycling to school decreased to 2.3% in 2009 and increased to 3.5% in 2013 but otherwise has remained between 2.8% (2008) and 3.0% (2011)
- The Hands Up Scotland Survey does not show a clear trend in car use between 2008 (22.0%) and 2013 (21.4%). However, the survey has shown a small decrease in car use each year between 2009 (23.3%) and 2013 (21.4%)
- 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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A National Results Summary report for the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2013 and supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2013 are available from Sustrans' website:

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

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 2013, data collection took place between the 9th and 13th September. In 2014 data collection will take place between 8th and 12th 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.

School type

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

Interpreting results

6. Data is not weighted to take into account variables which may affect survey responses (e.g. weather) or change in the sample of schools/pupils from year to year. This may have implications for year on year comparison; particular caution should be applied when attempting to draw conclusions from small percentage point changes.

Official Statistics Publication

7. 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 influence¹.

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

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

Enquiries

8. Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical News Release should be made to Sustrans Scotland Press Officer Janice Fenny at Sustrans Scotland, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ or phone 0131 346 3010.

Non-media enquiries about information contained in this document should be addressed to EYP Monitoring Team, Sustrans Research & Monitoring Unit, Cross House, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4XX or email 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>

¹ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/about-this-site/index.html>