

## Statistical News Release

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

### Introduction

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

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 eighth year.

### Response rates 2015

#### School response rates

- 2,045 state schools, 15 independent schools and 590 nurseries took part in the survey from all 32 local authorities in Scotland.
- This represents a response rate of 81.0% of all state and independent schools (excluding nurseries) surveyed in Scotland.
- 2,045 state schools responded in 2015, representing 80.3% of all listed primary, secondary and SEN schools in Scotland.

#### Pupil response rates

- 474,200 state school pupils, 5,961 independent school pupils and 21,398 nursery pupils took part in the survey across all 32 local authorities in Scotland.
- This represents a response rate of 69.7% of the total primary, secondary and SEN school roll in Scotland.

### National results 2015

- In 2015, a higher proportion of primary, secondary, SEN and independent pupils in Scotland normally travel to school actively compared to using either multi-mode or motorised transport. 49.7% of all school pupils (excluding nursery) use active travel modes compared to 42.0% who normally use motorised transport.
- The most commonly reported mode of travel to school across all pupils in Scotland is walking at 43.3%. The second most common travel mode across all pupils in Scotland is being driven at 22.4%.
- Across all pupils in Scotland, the percentage of pupils who normally cycle to school is at a high of 3.5%. This percentage was also reported in 2013.
- The percentage of pupils who report that they normally scoot or skate to school in 2015 is the highest level ever reported across all years of the survey, at 2.9%.
- Across all pupils in Scotland, the percentage of pupils who normally park and stride to school is at a high of 7.8%. This percentage was also reported in 2012 and 2014.

## National results 2008-2015

Across all years of the Hands Up Scotland Survey, active travel to school in Scotland is more frequently reported compared to motorised and multi-mode travel modes.

- The reported level of active travel to school has decreased from 51.8% in 2008 to 49.7% in 2015.
- The lowest percentage of active travel recorded in the Hands Up Scotland Survey was 49.3%, reported in 2010.
- The reported level of motorised travel to school has increased from 41.6% in 2008 to 42.0% in 2015.
- The highest percentage of motorised travel recorded in the Hands Up Scotland Survey was 43.0%, reported in 2009.
- The reported level of multi-mode travel (park and stride) has increased from 6.1% in 2008 to 7.8% in 2015.
- This peak value of park and stride travel was also reported in 2012 and 2014.

**Table 1: National Results (All schools excluding nursery) 2008 - 2015**

Year	Active travel <sup>1</sup>	Motorised travel <sup>2</sup>	Multi-mode travel	Other	Total
2008	51.8%	41.6%	6.1%	0.5%	<b>396,377</b>
2009	49.9%	43.0%	6.7%	0.4%	<b>415,804</b>
2010	49.3%	42.7%	7.4%	0.5%	<b>439,401</b>
2011	49.9%	42.2%	7.5%	0.3%	<b>427,104</b>
2012	49.7%	42.0%	7.8%	0.5%	<b>457,488</b>
2013	50.3%	41.8%	7.5%	0.4%	<b>467,397</b>
2014	50.4%	41.3%	7.8%	0.5%	<b>487,147</b>
2015	49.7%	42.0%	7.8%	0.4%	<b>480,161</b>

## National results by school type

### Nursery schools

- The majority of nursery school pupils normally travel to school using a motorised travel mode, at 49.8% compared to 46.3% active travel and 3.7% multi-mode travel.
- In 2015, the most commonly reported mode of travel to school in nursery pupils is being driven at 46.1%. The second most common travel mode among nursery pupils is walking at 39.3%.

### All state school (primary, secondary and SEN) comparison

- A higher percentage of primary school pupils travel to school using an active mode<sup>1</sup> at 54.2%, compared to 43.9% of secondary school pupils and 2.5%<sup>3</sup> of Special Education Needs (SEN) school pupils.
- In 2015, primary school pupils report the lowest levels of travel to school using motorised transport at 35.6%. This is less than the 51.4% of secondary school pupils and 92.9% of SEN school pupils who report normally doing so.
- A higher percentage of primary school pupils report normally travelling to school using park and stride (multi-mode travel) than secondary school pupils, at 10.0% compared to 4.1%<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Walk, cycle or scoot/skate

<sup>2</sup> Car, bus or taxi

<sup>3</sup> This value is based on walk and cycle only because the data for scoot/skate for SEN pupils has been suppressed. Please see the section on Confidentiality in accompanying Technical Notes.

<sup>4</sup> Value for SEN pupils has been suppressed and is therefore not presented here. Please see the section on Confidentiality in accompanying Technical Notes.

**Table 2: National Results (All state schools excluding nursery)**

School Type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Primary	44.6%	5.1%	4.5%	10.0%	26.8%	7.1%	1.7%	0.2%	<b>298,194</b>
Secondary	42.7%	1.0%	0.2%	4.1%	14.3%	35.9%	1.2%	0.7%	<b>173,841</b>
SEN	2.0%	0.5%	*	*	3.4%	41.0%	48.5%	4.6%	<b>2,165</b>

**State and independent school comparison**

- A higher percentage of state school pupils travel using active modes compared to independent school pupils, with half (50.1%) of all state school pupils either walking, cycling or scoot/skating compared to 17.6% of independent pupils.
- A higher proportion of independent school pupils than state school pupils use motorised transport to travel to school at 69.7% compared to 41.7%.
- 10.3% of independent school pupils in 2015 report multi-mode travel (park & stride), higher than state school pupils at 7.8%.

**Table 3: National Results (State schools excluding nursery and independent schools)**

School Type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
State schools	43.7%	3.5%	2.9%	7.8%	22.1%	17.8%	1.8%	0.4%	<b>474,200</b>
Independent	14.9%	1.3%	1.4%	10.3%	46.2%	23.2%	0.3%	2.4%	<b>5,961</b>

**Additional Information**

A National Results Summary report for the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2015 and supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2015 are available from Sustrans' website:

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

## Technical Notes

### Data collection

Data collection for the Hands Up Scotland Survey occurs on an annual basis in the second week of September. In 2015, data collection took place between the 7th and 11th September. In 2016 data collection will take place between 12th and 16th September.

All 32 local authorities in Scotland are invited to take part in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. As with the census, there is no quota-based sampling or selective participation mechanisms in the survey sampling design. As such, it is designed to acquire and record information about any and all pupils enrolled in nursery, primary, secondary, Special Educational Needs (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, survey sample size has increased considerably. Changes in results have not been tested for statistical significance.

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<sup>5</sup>. 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 schools nor is any data provided for 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. 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 Special Education Needs (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 (from 7,999 pupil responses in 2009 to 21,398 in 2015).

### Interpreting results

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 was the continuation of an overall trend.

The aggregated national-level results are not necessarily based on the same pupils each year as the same 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.

Where the sample size is small (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.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

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%.

### **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 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**

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>6</sup>.

A Parliamentary Order was passed designating Sustrans as Official Statistics Providers as of 1st June 2012 prior to the publication of Hands Up Scotland 20117. 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>8</sup>.

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 at [press@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:press@sustrans.org.uk) Non-media enquiries about Hands Up Scotland Survey and data requests should be made to Sustrans' Hands Up Scotland Team, Sustrans Research & Monitoring Unit, 5th Floor, Colston Tower, Bristol, BS1 4UX or email [HandsUpScotland@sustrans.org.uk](mailto: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>

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/about-this-site/index.html>

<sup>7</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>8</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats>