

Travel to School in Scotland

Hands Up Scotland Survey: Results for 2014

National Summary Report
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland
May 2015



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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 1st June 2012 prior to the publication of Hands Up Scotland 2011³. 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 others⁴.

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:

- x Meet central and local government needs for policy relevant data on mode of travel to school in Scotland
- x Be understandable and useful to stakeholders and so lead to a high level of use of the Hands Up Scotland Survey
- x Produce high quality data in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics⁵

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 enquiries⁶.

³ 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

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 Scotland¹³ and a list of the main statistical publications in relation to transport in Scotland is available from the Transport Scotland website¹⁴.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census¹⁵ 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

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 Education Statistics¹⁸. 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 schools¹⁹, the equivalent of 97.3% of all state schools in Scotland.

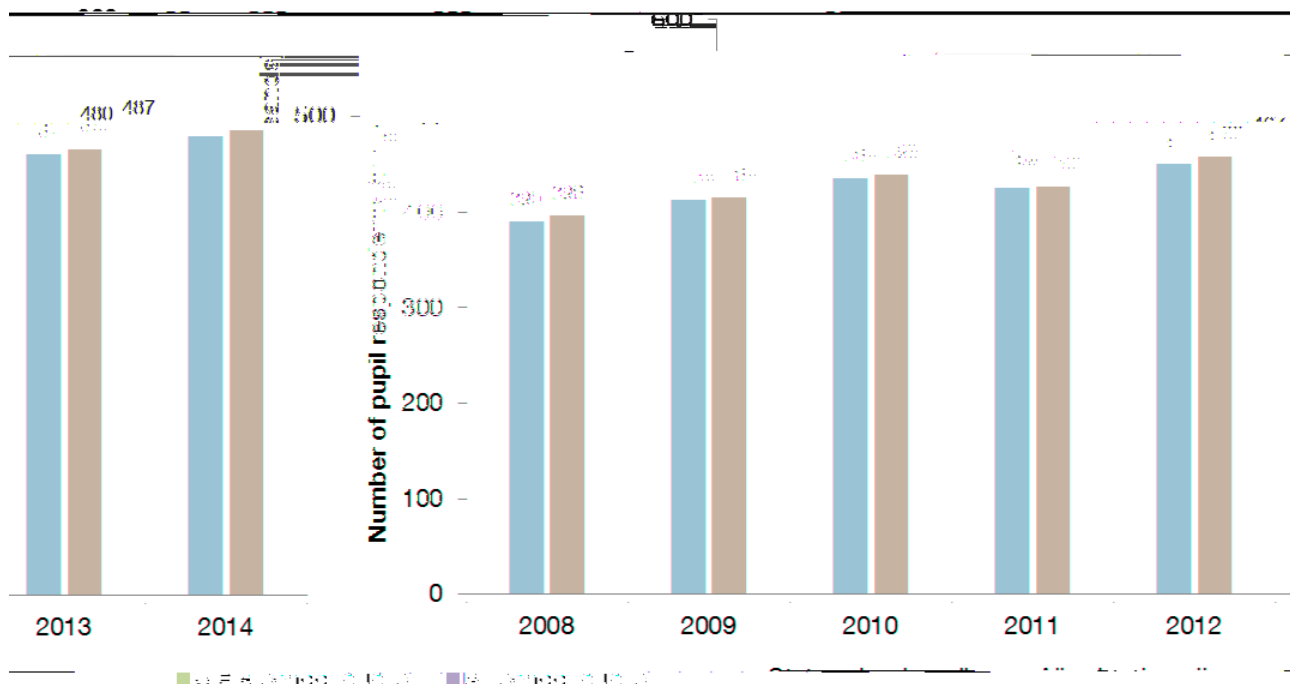
A total of 539 nurseries and 2,052 schools responded to the Survey across Scotland. Responses were received from 2,036 state schools, the equivalent of 81.0% of state schools receiving the survey and 80.6% of all state schools in Scotland.

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, 2014²⁰

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%	83.87F

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.

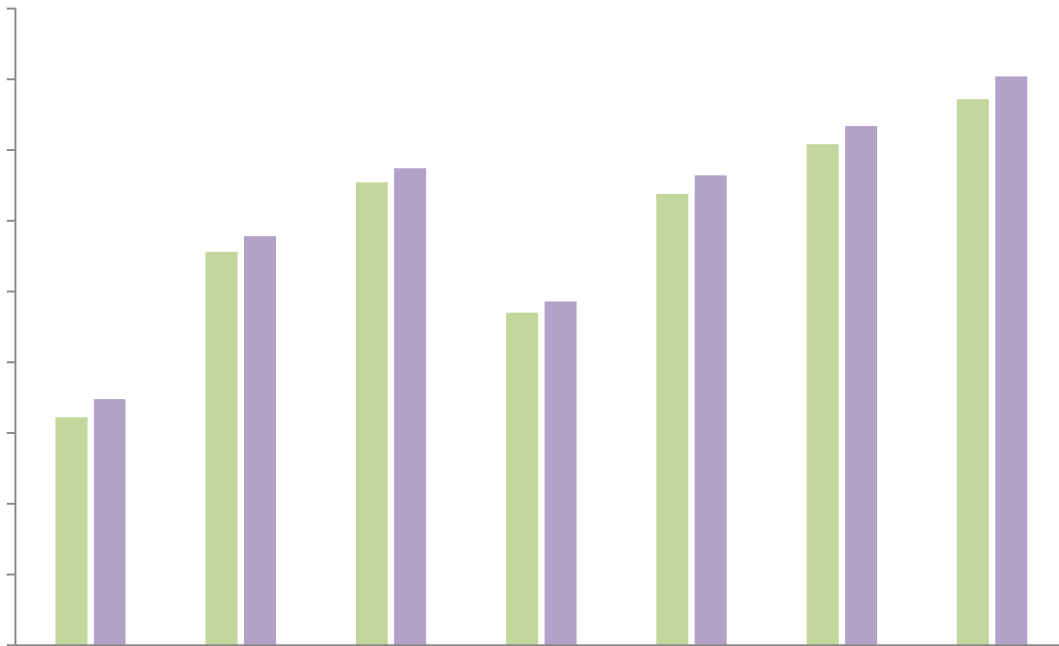
State school responses to the Hands Up Scotland Survey have increased from 63.2% of all state schools in Scotland in 2008 to 80.6% in 2014. The percentage of state schools responding to the survey has increased in every year apart from 2011 when it decreased slightly to 68.4% (from 70.9% in 2010), as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

Table 7.4 National sample size: state school responses to survey as % of all schools in Scotland, 2008-2014²⁴

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

²⁴ 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 Scotl and 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 authorities²⁵ received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools in the local authority and 15²⁶ received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools.

²⁵ Clackmannanshire, Fife, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders

²⁶ 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):

- x Walking was the most frequent mode of travel with 44.2% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school
- x 5.4% of pupils said they normally use a scooter or skateboard to travel to school

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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):

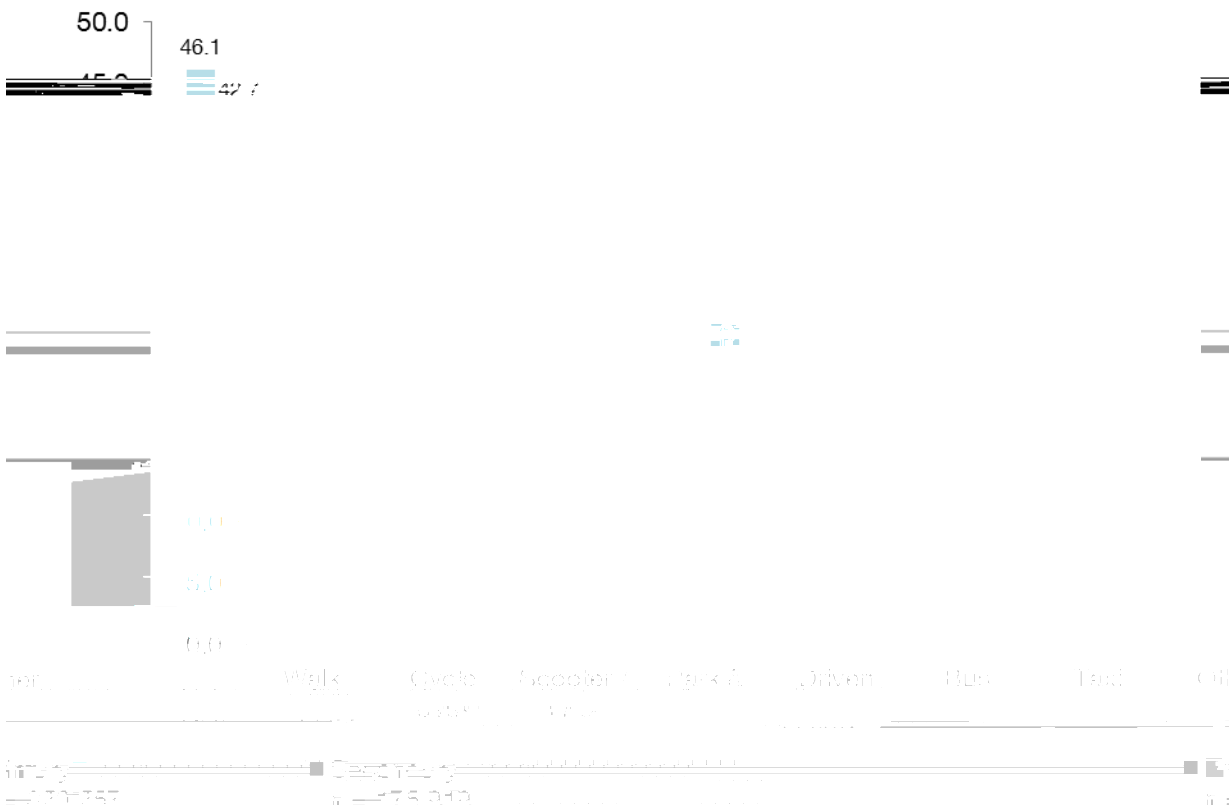
- x 46.1% of primary schools pupils said they normally walk to school compared to 42.7% of secondary school pupils
- x 5.0% of primary school pupils said they normally cycle to school compared to 0.9% of secondary school pupils
- x 4.3% of primary school pupils said they scoot or skate to school compared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

- x 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
- x 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



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.

- x 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%)
- x 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
- x 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, 2008-2014²⁷

Year	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	
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Table 8.4 Travel modes at a national level: by school type and year group, 2014³⁰

School Type & Year Group	Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Primary									
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
Secondary									
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
SEN									
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
Independent									

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 11 th 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 rol l and as a

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 influence³².

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