

Travel to School in Scotland

Hands Up Scotland Survey: National Summary Report 2015

About Sustrans

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.

Make your move and support Sustrans today.

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3.5% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 2.9% said that they normally use a scooter or skate

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 is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities.

A Parliamentary Order designates Sustrans as Official Statistics Provider⁶ as of 1st June 2012. 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 others⁷. 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 specific aims of the survey are to:

Meet central and local government needs for policy relevant data on mode of travel to school in Scotland⁸.

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.⁹

⁶Official 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.

3 The National Summary Report

Hands Up Scotland Survey results have been reported in a series of annual reports published between 2009 and 2016. 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 2015 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 2008-2015 are also available. These documents can be downloaded [IURP6XVWUD0pZIEVLWH](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland)

<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 spreadsheet report.

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 delivered¹¹.

The five objectives are:

The Hands Up

to make more sustainable

5 Comparability with other sources

The

7 Response rates²⁴

7.1 National response rate 2015

In 2015, all 32 local authorities in Scotland participated in the Hands Up Scotland Survey. 1,889 nurseries and 2,544 schools across Scotland received the survey from their local authority officers. The survey was sent to 2,508 state schools²⁵, the equivalent of 98.5% of all state schools in Scotland (100% of primary schools and 99.7% of secondary schools).

A total of 590 nurseries and 2,060 schools responded to the survey across Scotland. Responses were received from 2,045 state schools²⁵, the equivalent of 81.5% of state schools receiving the survey and 80.3% of all state schools in Scotland.

A full breakdown of the number of schools responding to the survey in 2015 is presented in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 National sample size: number of schools responding to survey, 2015²⁶

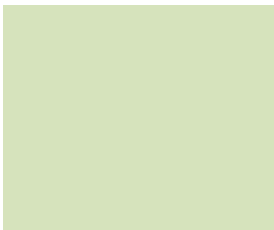
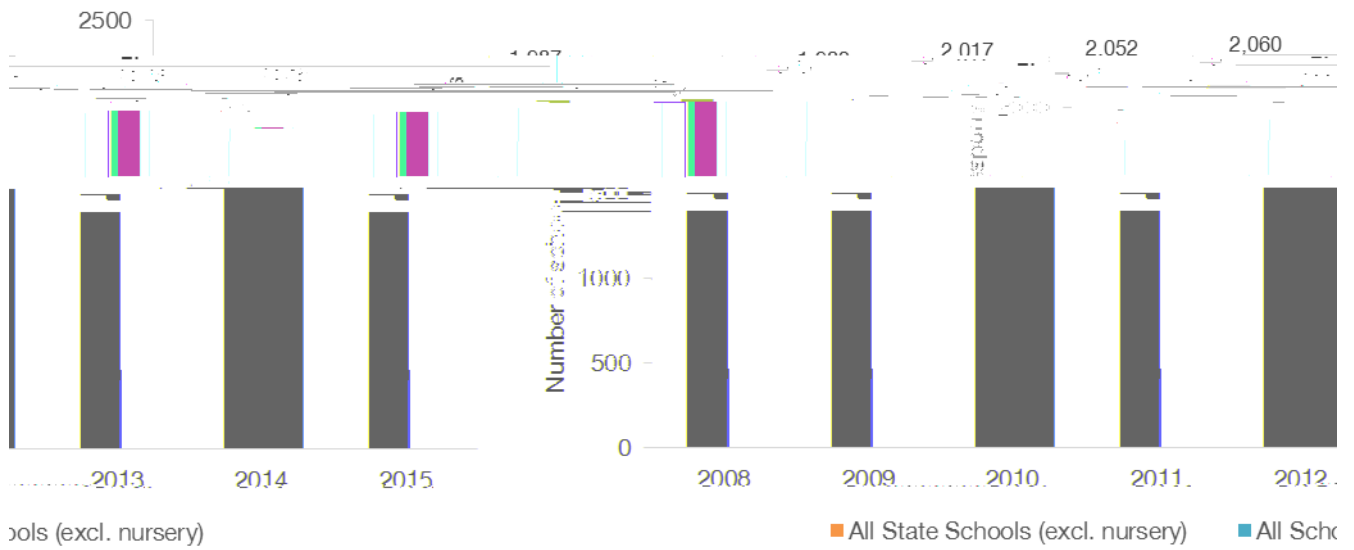


Table 7-2 National sample size: Number and percentage of pupils responding to survey, out of total Scottish state school roll for each school type 2015²⁷

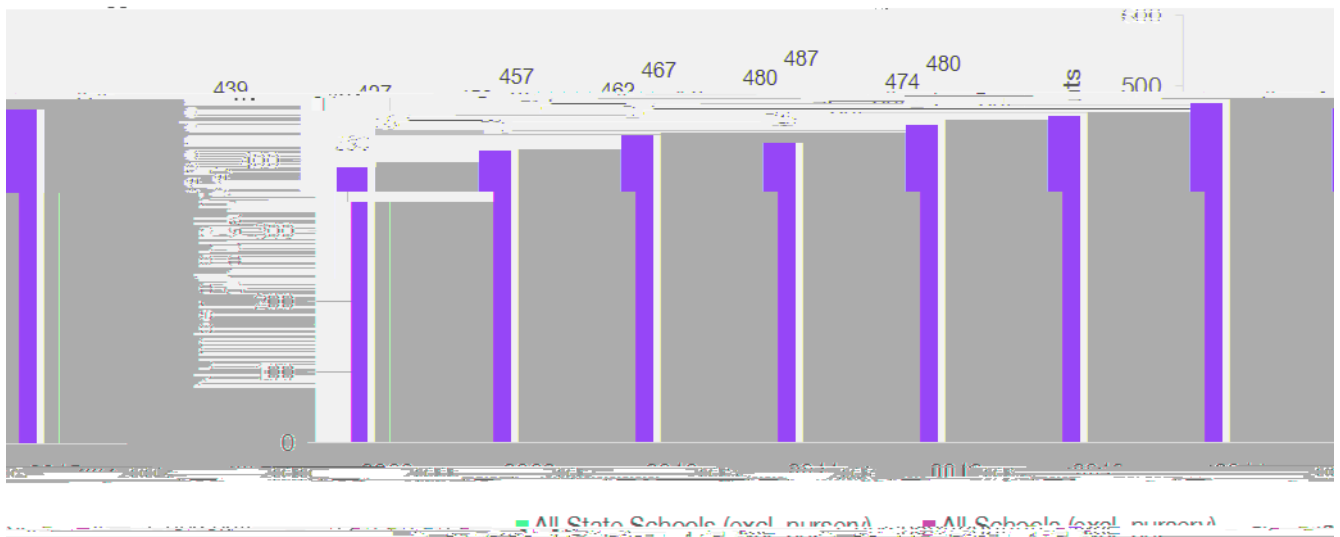
School Type	Number of pupil respondents	% of Scottish state school roll
Nursery	21,398	N/A
Primary	298,194	76.2%
Secondary	173,841	61.7%
SEN	2,165	31.3%

Chart 7-1 National sample size: Number of schools (excluding nursery) responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2015



The total number of pupil respondents from all schools to the Hands Up Scotland Survey increased from 396,377 in 2008 to 439,401 in 2010. Total pupil respondents decreased to 427,104 in 2011, before increasing year-on-year to 487,147 in 2014. Between 2014 and 2015 the number of pupil respondents has decreased slightly to 480,161 (Chart 7-2).

Chart 7-2 National sample size: Number of pupils (excluding nursery) responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey, 2008-2015



The percentage of state school pupils responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey has increased from 57.3% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland in 2008 to 69.7% in 2015, a slight decrease from 70.9% in 2014. Pupil response rates in 2015 have dipped slightly to 69.7% of the Scottish School roll (Table 7-4, page 12).

7.4 Local authority response rates 2008-2015

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 2015, 12 local authorities³² received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools, 18 local authorities³³ received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools and 4 local authorities³⁴ received responses from 100.0% of all SEN schools.

³² Angus, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders, Stirling, West

8 National results

8.1 National results 2015 (all schools excluding nursery)

Active travel

49.7% of pupils surveyed in 2015 said that they normally travel to school in an active way (walking, cycling, and using a scooter or skateboard) without any form of motorised transport:

Walking was the most frequent mode of travel with 43.3% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school.

3.5% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 2.9% said that they normally use a scooter or skateboard to travel to school.

Motorised travel

42.0% of pupils surveyed in 2015 said that they normally travel to school using only a motorised mode of transport:

22.4% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school

8.2 National results 2008-2015 (all schools excluding nursery)

The following is a brief summary of national results from the Hands Up Scotland Survey for primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools³⁵.

Active travel

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.

In 2008, 51.8% of pupils reported travelling actively to school. This percentage has decreased to 49.7% in 2015.

The reported level of walking has decreased from 48.3% in 2008 to 43.3% in 2015.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey shows a broadly increasing trend in cycling from 2.8% in 2008 to 3.5% in 2015.

The percentage of pupils who say they normally scooter or skateboard to school has increased from 0.7% (2008) to 2.9% (2015).

Motorised travel

The Hands Up Scotland Survey shows fluctuations in motorised travel between 41.3% (2014) and 42.7% (2010). Motorised travel has increased from 41.6% in 2008 to 42.0% in 2015.

The survey does not show a clear trend in car use, which has fluctuated between a low of 21.4% (2013) to 23.3% (2009). Overall, car use has increased from 22.0% in 2008 to 22.4% in 2015.

Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying between a minimum of 17.7% (2014) and a maximum of 18.8% (2013). Overall, bus use has decreased from 18.2% in 2008 to 17.9% in 2015.

Taxi use is the least frequently reported of all the motorised travel modes, increasing from 1.4% to 1.7% in 2015.

Multi-mode travel

In 2015, 10% of primary school pupils report travelling to school using multiple modes⁴¹, compared to 4.1% of secondary school pupils⁴².

Results for all state schools are displayed in Chart 9-1 and Table 9-3 (page 21).

For a breakdown of these results by school type (primary, secondary and SEN) and year group, please see Table 9-3 (page 21).

Chart 9-1 National travel modes: All state school (primary, secondary and SEN) comparison of travel modes, 2015⁴²

9.3 State and independent school comparison 2015

Active Travel

Pupils in state schools (primary, secondary and SEN) report higher normal travel to school through active modes compared to independent schools in 2015, with half of state school pupils (50.1%) either walking, cycling or scoot/skating compared to 17.6% to db.(nd)-2(e)15(p)-4(e)4(nd)-2(e)4(nt)12()-4(sc)4(JET EM

Motorised travel

A lower percentage of state school pupils normally travel using motorised modes at 41.7% compared to 69.7% of independent school pupils.

Table 9-3 National travel modes: by school type and year group, 2015⁴⁷

School Type	Walk	Cycle		
Year Group				

10 Technical notes

10.1 Data collection

- 10.1.1** 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.
- 10.1.2** 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.
- 10.1.3** 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.
- 10.1.4** 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.

10.2 Response rates

- 10.2.1** 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.
- 10.2.2** 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 Statistics⁵⁰. 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.
- 10.2.3** 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.

⁵⁰ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Summarystatsforschools>

10.3 School type

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