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# National Summary Report

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland  
May 2014



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There are limitations to the comparability of data across years, as although survey design and methodology have remained consistent, survey sample size has increased considerably (from 396,377 pupil responses in 2008 to 467,397 in 2013). Changes in results have not been tested for statistical significance.

Caution should also be applied when seeking to understand annual variations. 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.

Nursery school data has not been included in this summary as the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled since data was first collected (from 7,999 pupil responses in 2009 to 19,737 in 2013).

Overall levels of active travel to school not involving any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skate board) 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 reported level of walking has decreased from 48.3% in 2008 to 44.1% in 2013

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 percentage of pupils who say they normally scooter or skateboard to school has increased from 0.7% (2008) to 2.8% (2013). The level of scooting/skating 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 motorised travel between 2008 (41.6%) and 2013 (41.8%). However, the survey has shown a small decrease in motorised travel each year between 2009 (43.0%) and 2013 (41.8%).

The survey does not show a clear trend in car use between 2008 (22.0%) and 2013 (21.4%). However, it has shown a small decrease in car use each year between 2009 (23.3%) and 2013 (21.4%)

Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage point between 2008 and 2012 (18.1% to 18.2%), increasing slightly to 18.8% in 2013

Taxi use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage point between 2009 and 2013 (1.6% to 1.7%), having increased slightly from 1.4% in 2008

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by 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

The results presented in this report are accompanied by supplementary National Results tables in Excel including a breakdown of results at a local authority level and data collected from 2008-2013. This document is available from Sustrans' website:

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



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 delivered<sup>16</sup>. The five objectives are:

The Hands Up Scotland Survey can provide information relevant to the 'Healthier' and 'Greener' objectives outlined by the Scottish Government.

The survey provides data on levels of active travel to school (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skateboard). Scotland's strategy for physical activity,<sup>7</sup> and the UK Chief Medical Officers report<sup>8</sup> both recommend active travel as one way of making up the recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity daily for children, as well as outlining the links between physical activity and health.

The survey provides data for levels of motorised travel to school (being driven, travelling by bus or taxi). Levels of motorised travel have implications for greenhouse gas emissions, and the Scottish Government has outlined the need for behaviour change to make more sustainable transport choices as part of daily life in order to reduce Scotland's carbon footprint<sup>9</sup>. Levels of motorised travel also have implications for congestion, against which the Scottish Government has summarised its role as follows:

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 Scotland<sup>12</sup> and a list of the main statistical publications in relation to transport in Scotland is available from the Transport Scotland website<sup>13</sup>.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census<sup>14</sup> 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 with an approved School Travel Plan in January 2007. In 2011, the mandatory use of this question was discontinued. Data on travel to school data is not currently collected as part of the school census for Northern Ireland or Wales.

Other current sources of official statistics relating to travel to school in the UK include the National Travel Survey<sup>15</sup>, and the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland<sup>16</sup>.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is a joint project, managed by Sustrans and Officers from each local authority in Scotland. The survey was first conducted in 2008 and has followed a consistent survey design and methodology each year.

Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit are responsible for producing the survey format, guidance and data entry template to circulate to local authority officers. Local authority officers are responsible for distributing the surveys and guidance to schools. Data collection is conducted by school staff, instructed by their local authority officer, with support from Sustrans. Completed survey forms are returned by the school staff to their local authority officer, who takes responsibility for inputting data for each school and returning the data to Sustrans. Data cleaning, collation, analysis and reporting are conducted by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit.

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 9



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



The total number of pupil respondents to the Hands Up Scotland Survey consistently increased from 396,377 in 2008 to 439,401 in 2010. Total pupil respondents decreased to 427,104 in 2011, before increasing to 457,488 in 2012 and 467,397 in 2013. The number of state school pupil respondents to the Hands Up Scotland Survey followed a similar pattern between 2008 and 2012, as shown in Chart 7.1.

State school pupil responses to the Hands Up Scotland Survey have increased from 57.3% of all state school pupils enrolled in Scotland in 2008 to 67.7% in 2013. The percentage of state school pupils responding to the survey

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 and 2,017 in 2013. 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 78.7% in 2013. 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.

state school responses to survey as % of all schools in Scotland,

2008-2013<sup>23</sup>



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 Scotland survey increased year on year from 7,999 pupils in 2009 to 13,349 in 2010, 14,038 in 2011, 19,411 in 2012 and 19,737 in 2013. 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.

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 2013, ten local authorities<sup>24</sup> received survey responses from 100.0% of all primary schools in the local authority and fourteen<sup>25</sup> received responses from 100.0% of all secondary schools.

There was a notable increase in the percentage of primary schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey in Aberdeenshire, from 84.8% of all primary schools in the local authority in 2012 to 95.3% in 2013 (an increase of 15 schools); Falkirk, from 60.0% in 2012 to 78.0% in 2013 (9 schools); Highland, from 36.4% in 2012 to 58.0% in 2013 (38 schools); and Western Isles from 55.6% in 2012 to 100.0% in 2013 (9 schools).

In 2013, there was a notable increase in the percentage of secondary schools responding to the survey in Glasgow City, from no responses in 2012 to 35.5% of all secondary schools in the local authority in 2013 (11 schools) and Highland, from 51.7% in 2012 to 65.5% in 2013 (4 schools).

In 2013 there was a notable decrease in the percentage of primary schools responding to the Hands Up Scotland Survey in Glasgow City, from 68.6% of all primary schools in the local authority in 2012 to 59.7% in 2013 (a decrease of 13 schools) and East Dunbartonshire from 86.5% in 2012 to 67.6% in 2013 (7 schools).

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<sup>24</sup> Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders, Shetland Islands, Western Isles

<sup>25</sup> Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Renfrewshire, Scottish Borders, Shetland Islands, Western Isles



Primary school pupils are more likely to say that they normally travel to school actively, compared to secondary school pupils (55.3% of primary compared to 43.1% of secondary pupils):

46.0% of primary schools pupils said they normally walk to school compared to 42.0% of secondary school pupils







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 percentage of pupils who say they normally scooter or skateboard to school has increased from 0.7% (2008) to 2.8% (2013). The level of scooting/skating has increased in every year apart from 2009 when it decreased slightly to 0.6%

The Hands Up Scotland Survey has shown a small decrease in motorised travel each year between 2009 (43.0%) and 2013 (41.8)



by school type and year group, 2013<sup>29</sup>

P1-4	44.1%	4.4%	4.6%	9.4%	28.8%	6.9%	1.6%	0.2%	137,972
P5-7	50.1%	5.4%	3.8%	10.3%	21.0%	7.7%	1.5%	0.2%	91,621
S1-3	41.0%	1.0%	0.1%	4.8%	12.8%	38.3%	1.3%	0.7%	65,747
S4-6	39.9%	0.9%	0.3%	3.8%	15.8%	37.3%	1.3%	0.7%	50,434

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.
3. Survey receipt and response rates as a percentage of Scottish school roll and as a percentage of all schools in Scotland 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.
4. Nursery data is presented separately, and has not been included in data for 'All Schools'. Independent school data is included in data for 'All Schools'.
5. Data for 'primary' and 'secondary' and 'SEN' are comprised of results from state-funded schools only.
6. Data for 'all state schools' is comprised of 'primary', 'secondary and 'SEN' data

