Hands Up Scotland 2012

National Results Summary

May 2013

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Table of contents

1 Executive Summary 1
Summary of results 1
Active travel 2
Motorised travel 2
Multi-mode travel 2
Primary schools compared to secondary schools 2
State schools compared to independent schools 3
Nursery schools 3
Comparison with previous years 4
Active travel (2008-2012) 4
Motorised travel (2008-2012) 4
Multi-mode travel (2008-2012) 4
2 Introduction to Survey 5
Official Statistics in Scotland 5
3 Background Information 6
Response rates 6
Sampling methodology and weighting 7
Interpreting results 7
4 National Results 8

1 Executive Summary

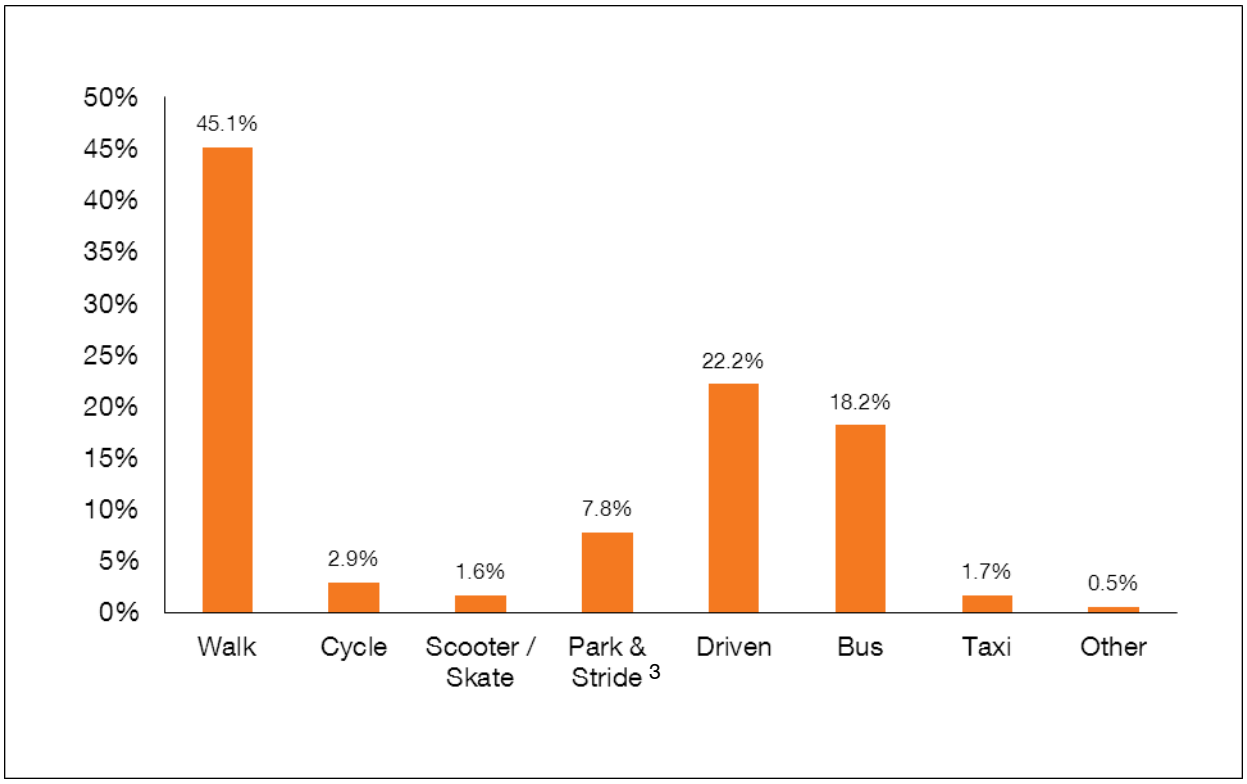
This report presents the national level data from the 2012 Hands Up Scotland Survey. It is accompanied by an Excel appendix document which presents all data at a national and local authority level and is available online from Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit[1]. Hands Up Scotland is the largest national dataset in Scotland designed to look at mode of transport to school across the country. The survey is funded by Transport Scotland and delivered by Sustrans in partnership with Scottish local authorities. Hands Up Scotland was first delivered in 2008 and is repeated annually. In each year the question 'How do you normally travel to school?' is asked.

The 2012 Hands Up Scotland Survey has been produced as Official Statistics in Scotland. 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[2].

Summary of results

In 2012, more than 457,000 pupils from 1,982 schools and 523 nurseries across Scotland responded to the Hands Up Scotland Survey (including 76.2% of all state schools in Scotland).

Chart 1-1 Travel modes at a national level, excluding nursery schools (2012)



[1] http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/scotland/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland-2012
[2] http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats
[3] Park and stride to school means that pupils are driven part of the way to school by car and walk the rest of the way

Active travel

49.7% of pupils surveyed in 2012 said that they normally travel to school in an active way without any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, and using a scooter or skate board):

- Walking was the most frequent form of travel with 45.1% of pupils saying that they normally walk to school [Table 4-3, Chart1-1]
- 2.9% of pupils said they normally travel to school by bicycle and 1.6% said that they normally scoot or skate to school [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]

Motorised travel

42.0% of pupils surveyed in 2012 said that they normally travel to school using only a form of motorised transport:

- 22.2% of pupils said that they are normally driven to school [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]
- 18.2% of pupils said that they normally take the bus to school [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]
- 1.7% said that they normally travel to school by taxi [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1]

Multi-mode travel

In addition to those travelling solely by an active *or* motorised mode of travel to school, 7.8% of pupils said that they normally park and stride to school (i.e. they are driven part of the way to school by car and walk the rest of the way) [Table 4-3, Chart 1-1].

Primary schools compared to secondary schools

Primary school pupils are more likely to say that they normally travel to school actively, compared to secondary school pupils (54.4% of primary compared to 43.5% of secondary pupils):

- 47.8% of primary schools pupils said they normally walk to school compared to 42.2% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-5]
- 4.1% of primary school pupils said they normally cycle to school compared to 1.1% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-5]
- 2.5% of primary school pupils said they scoot or skate to school compared to 0.2% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-5]

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

- 26.5% of primary school pupils surveyed in 2012 said they normally travel to school by car compared to 14.1% of secondary school pupils [Table 4-5]
- 35.8% of secondary school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus compared to 7.5% of primary school pupils [Table 4-5]

State schools compared to independent schools

Independent school pupils are less likely to travel to school in an active way than those in state schools (primary, secondary and special education needs (SEN), excluding nursery schools):

- 14.9% of independent school pupils surveyed in 2012 said that they normally walk to school compared to 45.6% of state school pupils [Tables 4-4 & 4-5]
- 0.8% of independent school pupils said they normally cycle to school, compared to 3.0% of state school pupils [Tables 4-4 & 4-5]
- 1.1% of independent school pupils said they normally scoot or skate to school, compared to 1.7% of state school pupils [Tables 4-4 & 4-5]

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

- 42.3% of independent school pupils surveyed in 2012 said they normally travel to school by car compared to 21.8% of state school pupils [Tables 4-4 & 4-5]
- 27.8% of independent school pupils said they normally travel to school by bus, compared to 18.0% of state school pupils [Tables 4-4 & 4-5]

Nursery schools

Nursery school pupils are slightly more likely to travel to school actively than travel to school by motorised transport:

- 48.0% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to nursery school actively without any form of motorised transport (42.0% walk, 3.0% cycle and 3.0% scoot or skate) [Table 4-5]
- 47.4% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school solely by motorised transport (43.9% travel by car, 2.8% travel by bus and 0.7% travel by taxi [Table 4-5]
- In addition to this, 4.3% of nursery school pupils were reported as normally travelling to school by park and stride [Table 4-5]

Comparison with previous years

The Hands Up Scotland Survey has been conducted annually since 2008. The following is a brief comparison of data on a national level from the Hands Up Scotland Survey since 2008 (for all primary, secondary, SEN and independent schools). Caution should be applied when seeking to understand annual variations. A number of variables may impact on travel behaviour from year-to-year (e.g. changing weather conditions, school mergers, etc) 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 nursery school data has only been collected since 2009. Furthermore, the number of nursery school respondents has more than doubled in this time (from 7,999 pupils in 2009 to 19,411 pupils in 2012).

Active travel (2008-2012)

Overall, levels of active travel to school without any form of motorised transport (walking, cycling, using a scooter or skate board) have consistently remained between 49.3% and 49.9% since 2009 - with 2008 being slightly higher (51.8%):

- Levels of cycling to school have remained fairly consistent between 2008 and 2012. With the exception of a reduction in 2009, reported levels of cycling have been within 0.1 percentage points of the current figure (2.9%) in each year of the survey
- There has been a decrease in walking (from 48.3% in 2008 to 45.1% in 2012)
- Between 2008 and 2012 there has been an overall increase in scooting/skating to school (from 0.7% in 2008 to 1.6% in 2012)

Motorised travel (2008-2012)

Overall, levels of motorised travel to school have also remained fairly consistent between 2008 (41.6%) and 2012 (42.0%) – with 2009 being slightly higher (43.0%):

- There is no clear trend in car use. The current level of car use is similar to that of 2008 (22.2% currently and 22.0% in 2008), although car use levels have been as high as 23.3% in 2009
- Bus use has remained fairly consistent, varying by no more than 0.1 percentage points over the last five years
- There is a slight upward trend in use of taxis to school - an increase of 0.3 percentage points from 2008 to 2012

Multi-mode travel (2008-2012)

The percentage of pupils travelling to school by park and stride has increased each year of the survey (from 6.1% in 2008 to 7.8% in 2012).

A full set of national and local authority level data from 2008 to 2012 is presented in the accompanying Excel appendix document, available online from Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit[1].

[1] http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/scotland/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland-2012

2 Introduction to Survey

The Hands Up Scotland Survey is the largest national dataset to look at mode of travel to school across Scotland. The Survey is funded by Transport Scotland and is a joint project between Sustrans and Scottish local authorities. The Survey was first conducted in 2008 in partnership with School Travel Co-ordinators across Scotland. The process has been repeated annually using the same methodology, providing data from 2008-2012.

The Hands Up Scotland Survey runs on an annual basis in the autumn of each year. Data collection is conducted by schools, instructed by their local authority officer, with support from Sustrans. In 2012 data collection took place between the 10th and 14th September (the same week as in all previous years). The question asked in the Hands Up Scotland Survey is, 'How do you normally travel to school?', with the following response options: Walk, Cycle, Scooter/Skate, Park and Stride (driven part of the way by car and walk the rest), Driven, Bus, Taxi and Other. Completed forms are returned by the school to their local authority officer, who collates school-level datasets and returns the data to Sustrans. Overall collation, analysis and reporting is conducted by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit.

Official Statistics in Scotland

Hands Up Scotland 2012 has been produced as an Official Statistic in Scotland. This means the statistics are produced in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Official Statistics in Scotland are produced by the Scottish Government, Crown Bodies and a number of other public bodies named by Parliamentary Order. 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[1]. A Parliamentary Order was passed designating Sustrans as Official Statistics Providers as of 1st June 2012 prior to the publication of Hands Up Scotland 2011.

[1] http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/NatStats

3 Background Information

Response rates

- All local authorities are invited to take part in Hands Up Scotland. In 2012, all 32 local authorities in Scotland participated and the total sample comprised of 457,488 primary, secondary, independent and SEN pupils (from 1,982 schools[1]) across Scotland [Table 4-1 & 4-2]. This compares to: 32 local authorities in 2011 (427,104 pupils from 1,893 schools); 32 local authorities in 2010 (439,401 pupils from 1,987 schools); 31 local authorities in 2009 (415,804 pupils from 1,939 schools); and 29 local authorities in 2008 (396,377 pupils from 1,824 schools)

- The total number of nursery schools responding has continued to increase, in keeping with previous years. No nursery schools were approached in the first Hands Up Scotland in 2008. Since then, a concerted effort has been made to increase participation among nursery schools. In 2012, the nursery school sample comprised of 19,411 pupils from 523 nursery schools across Scotland [Table 4-1 & 4-2]. This compares to: 14,038 pupils (from 423 nursery schools) in 2011; 13,349 pupils (from 387 nursery schools) in 2010 and 7,999 pupils (from 238 nursery schools) in 2009

- This year there was a notable increase in response rate within a number of areas: in East Dunbartonshire, 86.5% of primary schools responded in 2012 (compared to 13.5% of primary schools in 2011) and 87.5% of secondary schools responded (compared to 37.5% of secondary schools in 2011); in Orkney Islands, 85.0% of primary schools responded in 2012 (compared to 50.0% in 2011) and 60.0% of secondary schools responded (compared to 20.0% of secondary schools in 2011); in Edinburgh City, 52.2% of secondary schools responded in 2012 (compared to 25.0% in 2011)

- In Glasgow City there was a notable increase in the primary school response rate: 68.6% of primary schools responded in 2012 (compared to 30.2% of primary schools in 2011). However, the secondary school response rate in Glasgow has continued to decline in 2012 (from 13.5% of secondary schools in Glasgow responding to the survey in 2011, to no secondary schools in Glasgow responding in 2012). We are exploring how best to support Glasgow City data collection for Hands Up Scotland 2013

- Response rates as a percentage of the school roll and as a percentage of all schools in Scotland have been calculated using the Scottish Government's Education Statistics. 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 the response rates from pupils at these school types as a percentage of the equivalent national school roll [Table 4-1] or as a proportion of all schools in Scotland [Table 4-2]

- The above limitation also applies at a local authority level [Tables 1.2, 1.5, 1.6 & 1.7 of the Excel appendix]

[1] Not including nursery schools

Sampling methodology and weighting

- It should be noted that weather conditions have an impact on travel choices. As the Hands Up Scotland Survey is carried out over a one week period, weather conditions may differ considerably from year to year. This has the potential to impact upon pupil travel behaviours, although the phrasing of the question – 'How do you normally travel to school?' – aims to overcome this limitation as much as possible
- As we do not record the names of respondents we do not know whether the same pupils are responding each year, and data is not weighted to take this (or the fact that the same schools may not respond each year) into account. This may impact upon results
- Whereas all primary and secondary school pupils are asked to respond to the Hands Up Scotland Survey themselves, due to the age of nursery school pupils, assistance is often provided to these pupils by a parent or guardian when responding to the Survey

Interpreting results

- Due to the unique structure of nursery schools, nursery data is presented separately throughout this report, and has not been included in the overall data at the national and local authority level. Independent school data is, however, amalgamated into the overall data, other than in the sample size tables, as noted above
- All 'primary school' and 'secondary school' results are comprised of results from state schools only. A separate breakdown of independent school results by year group is provided in table 4-6
- All 'SEN' data is from state SEN schools only
- Data presented as 'state schools' is therefore comprised of all 'primary school', 'secondary school' and 'SEN' data
- Where the sample size is small (totalling less than 100), care should be taken when interpreting results. It should also be noted that there are instances where sample sizes are small due to the size of the local authority. Moreover, fields/local authorities with a small number of responses may see large changes in percentage between years
- Due to rounding, row percentages may not always add up to 100%
- Where a percentage represents a value of between one and four pupils, it has been replaced with an asterisk (*) for data confidentiality purposes. Where data is missing/not available it has been replaced with a dash (-)
- 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 (-)
- 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 [e.g. Table 3.2 of the Excel appendix]

For more information on any aspect of Hands Up Scotland please contact Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit: EYPmonitoring@sustrans.org.uk.

4 National Results

The National Results presented in this report are accompanied by an Excel appendix document which presents Hands Up Scotland 2012 data at a national and local authority level (alongside Hands Up Scotland data from 2008 to 2011). This document is available online from Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit[1].

Table 4-1 National sample size (number of pupils responding to survey 2012)

School Type	No. of respondents	% of Scottish school roll
Nursery	19,411	-
Primary	282,468	76.2%
Secondary	166,169	56.6%
SEN	1,555	22.0%
Independent	7,296	-
All State Schools[2]	450,192	67.1%
All Schools	457,488	-

Table 4-2 National sample size (number of schools responding to survey 2012)

School Type	No. of schools which received survey	% of all schools in Scotland which received data	No. of schools which returned data	% of schools receiving survey which returned data	% of all schools in Scotland which returned data
Nursery	1,412	-	523	37.0%	-
Primary	2,062	99.9%	1,671	81.0%	80.9%
Secondary	333	91.2%	260	78.1%	71.2%
SEN	117	76.0%	38	32.5%	24.7%
Independent	30	-	13	43.3%	-
All State Schools	2,512	97.2%	1,969	78.4%	76.2%
All Schools	2,542	-	1,982	78.0%	-

[1] http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/scotland/scotland/what-we-do/schools-and-universities/hands-scotland-2012
[2] Not including nursery schools

Table 4-3 Travel modes at a national level, excluding nursery schools (2012)

Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
45.1%	2.9%	1.6%	7.8%	22.2%	18.2%	1.7%	0.5%	457,488

Table 4-4 Travel modes at a national level for state schools, excluding nursery schools (2012)

Walk	Cycle	Scooter/ Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
45.6%	3.0%	1.7%	7.7%	21.8%	18.0%	1.7%	0.5%	450,192

Table 4-5 Travel modes at a national level by school type (2012)

School Type	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Nursery	42.0%	3.0%	3.0%	4.3%	43.9%	2.8%	0.7%	0.3%	19,411
Primary	47.8%	4.1%	2.5%	9.8%	26.5%	7.5%	1.6%	0.2%	282,468
Secondary	42.2%	1.1%	0.2%	4.3%	14.1%	35.8%	1.3%	1.0%	166,169
SEN	1.8%	*	0.0%	*	3.6%	20.5%	59.0%	15.0%	1,555
Independent	14.9%	0.8%	1.1%	11.0%	42.3%	27.8%	0.2%	2.0%	7,296

Table 4-6 Travel modes at a national level by school type and year group (2012)

School Type & Year Group	Walk	Cycle	Scooter /Skate	Park & Stride	Driven	Bus	Taxi	Other	Total
Primary Years 1-4	45.8%	3.4%	2.5%	9.7%	30.1%	6.8%	1.5%	0.1%	141,459
Primary Years 5-7	51.7%	4.5%	1.9%	10.6%	21.8%	7.8%	1.5%	0.2%	94,674
Secondary Years 1-3	41.6%	1.0%	0.1%	4.7%	13.9%	36.6%	1.3%	0.8%	72,611
Secondary Years 4-6	40.0%	1.0%	0.4%	3.8%	16.1%	36.1%	1.3%	1.4%	54,056
SEN Primary Years 1-4	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	18.4%	77.0%	0.0%	87
SEN Primary Years 5-7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	27.3%	63.6%	*	22
SEN Secondary Years 1-3	3.6%	*	0.0%	*	3.6%	39.1%	49.3%	3.6%	138
SEN Secondary Years 4-6	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	49.6%	42.6%	*	129
Independent Primary Years 1-4	13.7%	1.8%	3.8%	12.7%	59.5%	7.8%	*	*	1,305
Independent Primary Years 5-7	15.5%	*	1.2%	14.6%	48.3%	18.9%	*	0.9%	1,372
Independent Secondary Years 1-3	15.6%	0.3%	*	10.3%	40.0%	30.3%	*	3.3%	1,994
Independent Secondary Years 4-6	20.3%	*	0.0%	9.2%	32.0%	35.0%	*	3.3%	1,595