

Metadata: Active transport to and from school

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Active transport to and from school
Domain	Transport domain
Rationale	<p>The activities of walking and cycling are beneficial for our health and for the environment. These benefits include increasing our physical activity, producing less air pollution and producing no greenhouse gases (British Medical Association, 2012).</p> <p>For children, using active transport (such as walking, cycling or scooters) to and from school is an important way for them to get some physical activity each day. With the high child obesity rate, this is a relatively easy way to increase physical activity in children.</p>
Indicator definition and units	Active transport is defined for children aged 5–14 years as usually travelling to and from school by walking, cycling, or other non-motorised modes such as skates (Ministry of Health 2014).
Data source	New Zealand Health Survey, conducted by the Ministry of Health.
Numerator and denominator	<p>Numerator: Children aged 5–14 years who usually walk, bike, skate or use other physical activity to get to and from school.</p> <p>Denominator: All children aged 5–14 years (estimated usually resident population).</p>
Survey question	<p>Active transport to and from school was asked about in the child questionnaire of the New Zealand Health Survey, for children aged 5–14 years. The question asked was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does [child's name] usually get to and from school? [Multiple responses possible] <i>Walk / Bike / Skate or other physical activity / Car / School bus / Public transport / Other / Not applicable, for example, is home schooled</i> <p>A primary caregiver answered the child questionnaire as a proxy for the child.</p>
Time period	<p>National data is available for 2006/07, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 (and annually after this).</p> <p>DHB-level data was requested for the four-year period 2011–2015 from the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Data collection:</p> <p>2011/12 data onwards: Survey data was collected for the 12-month period from 1 July to 30 June.</p> <p>2006/07: Survey data was collected from October 2006 to November 2007.</p>

Population coverage	<p>Since 2011, the New Zealand Health Survey results refer to the usually resident population of all ages, who are living in permanent dwellings, aged-care facilities and student accommodation. The following people were not included in the survey: people living in institutions, such as for long-term hospital care, hospital- and dementia-level care in aged-care facilities, and in prisons; the homeless; short-term visitors; and tourists.</p> <p>The child survey covers children aged 0–14 years, and the question was only asked for children aged 5–14 years.</p>
Time trend analysis	Results between survey years have been compared, and statistically significant differences are noted (based on 95% confidence intervals not overlapping, or a <i>t</i> -test if required).
Reporting variables	Results are presented by sex, age group, ethnic group (total response), socioeconomic deprivation (NZDep2013 quintiles) and district health board (DHB).
Confidence intervals	95% confidence intervals were calculated by the Ministry of Health using jack-knife weights. Confidence intervals are presented in brackets in the text and tables, and as error bars on graphs.
Limitations of indicator	There is some uncertainty in the estimates due to taking a sample, reflected in the 95% confidence intervals.
Limitations of data source	The survey results may under- or over-estimate indicators due to the nature of self-reported information.
Created by	Ministry of Health New Zealand
Related indicators	<p>Main means of travel to work</p> <p>Household travel by mode of transport</p> <p>Unmet need for a GP due to lack of transport</p>
For more information	<p>For more information on the New Zealand Health Survey, visit the New Zealand Health Survey website:</p> <p>http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/surveys/current-recent-surveys/new-zealand-health-survey</p>
References	<p>British Medical Association. (2012). <i>Health transport = healthy lives</i>. http://bma.org.uk/transport</p> <p>Ministry of Health. (2014). <i>Indicator Interpretation Guide 2013/14: New Zealand Health Survey</i>. Wellington: Ministry of Health.</p>
Additional data sources	<p>Data from the New Zealand Household Travel Survey (<i>TP007 Mode share of journeys to school</i>) are also used to complement this indicator.</p> <p>The NZ Household Travel Survey has been carried out in 1989/90, 1997/98, and on-going since 2003, by the Ministry of Transport. The results are presented for full-time students aged 5–12 years who travelled to their education facility from home, for journeys commencing between 6am and 9:30am.</p>

	<p>For more information, see the Ministry of Transport website: http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/tmif/travelpatterns/tp007/</p>
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