

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Active transport to and from school
Domain and topic	Transport
Indicator definition and units	The percentage of children aged 5–14 years who ‘regularly travel 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 (NZHS).
Numerator	Children aged 5–14 years participating in the NZHS who usually walk, bike, skate or use other physical activity to get to and from school.
Denominator	All children aged 5–14 years participating in the NZHS.
Methodology	<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> <p>How does [child’s name] usually get to and from school? [Multiple responses possible]</p> <p><i>Walk / Bike / Skate or other physical activity / Car / School bus / Public transport / Other / Not applicable, for example, is home schooled</i></p> <p>A primary caregiver answered the child questionnaire as a proxy for the child. Question non-response (where respondents did not answer the question or answered “don’t know”) was adjusted for in analysis, so that the results still represent the whole population.</p> <p>Time trends: Results between survey years have been compared, and statistically significant differences are noted (based on <i>t</i>-tests using age-standardised results).</p> <p>Population groups: Results between population groups have been compared using adjusted rate ratios (except for between different age groups).</p> <p>For more details, see the NZHS Methodology report (Ministry of Health 2021).</p>
Time period and time scale	<p>The survey is conducted over a period of 12 months from July to the following June.</p> <p>National data is available for 2006/07 and then annually from 2011/12 onward. DHB-level pooled data is presented for the four-year period 2017–20.</p>

Metadata

	The NZHS did not collect data in regions that were in COVID-19 Alert Levels 3 or 4 or when there was uncertainty about potential community outbreaks, so the 2020/21 NZHS results refer to data collected between September 2020 and August 2021. The 2019/20 NZHS results refer to the data collected between July 2019 to March 2020.
Population coverage	New Zealand usually resident population of all ages. The child survey covers children aged 0–14 years, though the specific question for this indicator was only asked for children aged 5–14 years.
Spatial Coverage	National, with rates also presented by District Health Board.
Measures of frequency	Results are presented by sex, age group, ethnic group (total response) and neighbourhood deprivation (NZDep2018 quintiles).
Confidence interval methodology	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. The sample sizes for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 surveys are smaller than normal as the survey was suspended during heightened COVID-19 alert levels to reduce the risk to researchers.
Created by	New Zealand Ministry of Health
Related indicators	Number of motor vehicles Road traffic injury deaths and hospitalisations Unmet need for GP services due to lack of transport Main mode of transport to work Household travel time by mode of transport
For more information	For more information on the New Zealand Health Survey, visit the New Zealand Health Survey website: https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/surveys/new-zealand-health-survey
References	Ministry of Health. 2014. <i>Indicator Interpretation Guide 2013/14: New Zealand Health Survey</i> . Wellington: Ministry of Health. Ministry of Health. 2021. <i>Methodology Report 2020/21: New Zealand Health Survey</i> . Wellington: Ministry of Health.