

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 usually travel to and from school by walking, cycling, or other non-motorised modes such as skates (Ministry of Health 2023a).
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, excluding those that responded ‘don’t know’ or ‘refused’ for this question.
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 style="padding-left: 40px;">How does [child’s name] usually get to and from school? [Multiple responses possible]</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Walk / Bike / Skate or other physical activity / Car or taxi / School bus or school van / Public transport / Other / Not applicable, for example, is home schooled / Don’t know / Refused</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 2023b).</p>
Time period and time scale	The survey is conducted over a period of 12 months from July to the following June. National data is available annually from 2011/12 onward.
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. Data for health districts (the former District Health Board areas) was not updated in the December 2023 NZHS release.

Metadata

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. 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	<p>The survey results may under- or over-estimate indicators due to the nature of self-reported information.</p> <p>The survey is designed to have a sample size of approximately 14,000 adults and 5,000 children in a normal year (without disruption to data collection due to COVID-19 pandemic). Due to impacts from the COVID-19 epidemic, sample sizes for 2019/20 onwards have been lower than this. This means that results are based on a survey population that is smaller than that of a typical pre-Covid survey. Smaller sample sizes mean it is harder to confirm trends, due to greater uncertainty in the calculated results.</p> <p>In December 2023 the Ministry of Health advised that results published in 2022 for the 2021/22 year were affected by an error in assigning New Zealand Index of Deprivation (NZDep) decile. The errors were corrected for the latest survey results release. Full details regarding the error can be found on the Ministry of Health website. For the Active transport indicator, the greatest impact was on results by NZDep2018 Quintile. However, all changes were within the original margin of error given for the results.</p>
Created by	New Zealand Ministry of Health
Related indicators	<p>Number of motor vehicles</p> <p>Road traffic injury deaths and hospitalisations</p> <p>Unmet need for GP services due to lack of transport</p> <p>Main mode of transport to work</p> <p>Household travel time by mode of transport</p>
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	<p>Ministry of Health. 2023a. Questionnaires and Content Guide 2022/23: New Zealand Health Survey. Wellington: Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Ministry of Health. 2023b. Methodology Report 2022/23: New Zealand Health Survey. Wellington: Ministry of Health.</p>