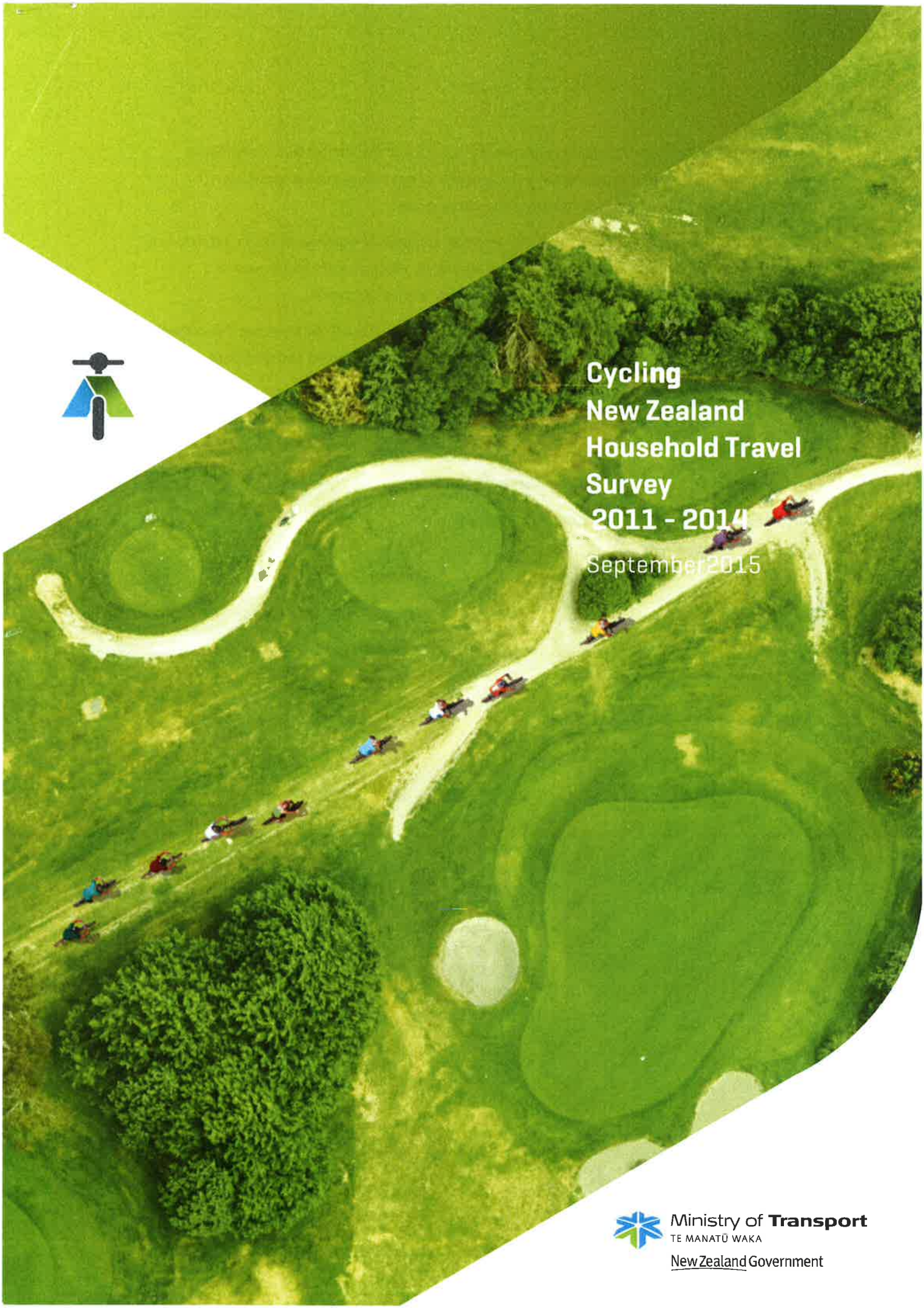


Cycling New Zealand Household Travel Survey 2011 - 2014

September 2015

Ministry of Transport
TE MANATŪ WAKA
New Zealand Government

Additional information

For more information about the background to the survey see the Ministry of Transport website at www.transport.govt.nz/research/TravelSurvey/

Information on cyclist risk is available in the fact sheet Risk on the road: Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, available at www.transport.govt.nz/research/Pages/LatestResults.aspx

For further information on statistics for crashes involving cyclists, see www.transport.govt.nz/research/roadcrashstatistics/. This includes links to publications such as *Motor Vehicle Crashes in New Zealand*, the annual statistical statement produced by the Ministry of Transport.

Enquires relating to crash statistics may be directed to the Ministry of Transport, PO Box 3175, Wellington, or by email on **info@transport.govt.nz**.

A selection of fact sheets is available via the research section of the Ministry of Transport website.

These include:

Crash fact sheets

- Alcohol and drugs
- Cyclists
- Diverted attention
- Fatigue
- Motorcyclists
- Overseas drivers
- Pedestrians
- Speed
- Trucks
- Young drivers

Travel survey fact sheets

- Comparing travel modes
- Cycling
- Driver travel
- Motorcycling
- Public transport
- Risk on the road
  - Introduction and mode comparison
  - Drivers and their passengers
  - Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists
- Walking

Key facts

- Cycling makes up 1.6 percent of total time travelled and just over 1 percent of the number of trip legs.
- Males spend more time cycling than females for all age groups.
- 63 percent of those 5-12 years old, 51 percent of those 13-17 years old and 27 percent of those 18 years and over have cycled at some stage in the last year.
- 18 percent of people reported cycling in the last month.
- Those in smaller towns or rural settings were more likely to have cycled in the previous month than those in main urban centres.
- 69 percent of households of a family with children have one or more bicycles.
- 76 percent of those living alone do not have a bicycle.

Overview

The New Zealand Household Travel Survey is an ongoing survey of household travel conducted for the Ministry of Transport. Each year, people in 4,600[1] households throughout New Zealand are invited to participate in the survey by recording all their travel over a two-day period. Each person in the household is then interviewed about their travel and other related information.

This fact sheet looks at cycling on New Zealand roads and footpaths – who cycles, where to, and how the patterns have changed over time. Note that this travel survey captures cycling in the road/footpath environment; off-road activities such as mountain biking are not included in these estimates. This fact sheet uses data from 67,956 people in 26,919 households, collected between July 2003 and June 2014, focussing on July 2011 – June 2014 (24,851 people in 9,788 households). Professional driver trips[2] (including cycling trips such as mail and pamphlet delivery) have been excluded from the analysis.

Words shown in blue (and which are not headings) are defined in the glossary at the end of this sheet.

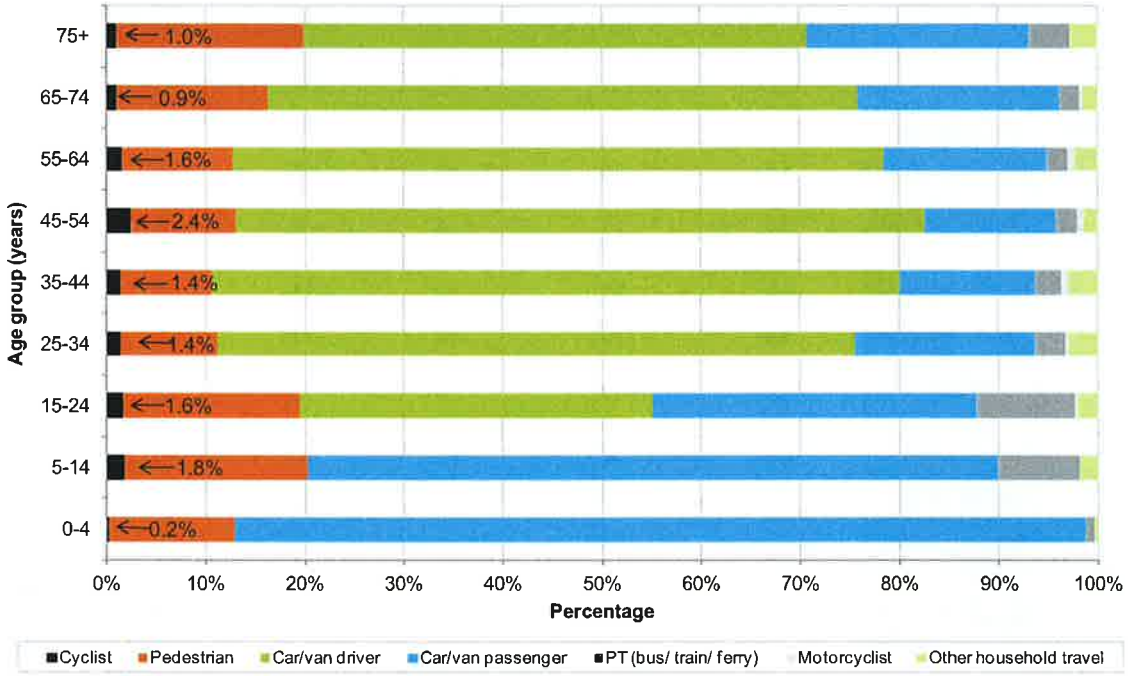
[1] Prior to 2008, 2,200 households per year were sampled.

[2] Professional driver trips are those done to transport goods or people as a professional, for example, courier trips, taxi drivers trips, bus driver trips, paper route delivery trips.

Mode share by age group

Figure 2 shows travel patterns for various age groups. School-aged children, young adults and older road users were the most likely to choose active travel modes (walking and cycling). Those 5–14 and 45–54 years old spend the greatest percentage of their travel time cycling, at about 2 percent of their total travel time.

Figure 2: Mode share of travel time (percentage of total time spent travelling by each mode of travel)



Cycling makes up only 1–2 percent of overall travel time and trip legs (see Figure 1). As there are far fewer cycling trips observed than walking trips, less detail is able to be obtained from the survey, but there is still a great deal of information available for those who do cycle.

Figure 3: Percentage of the population who cycled in the last year

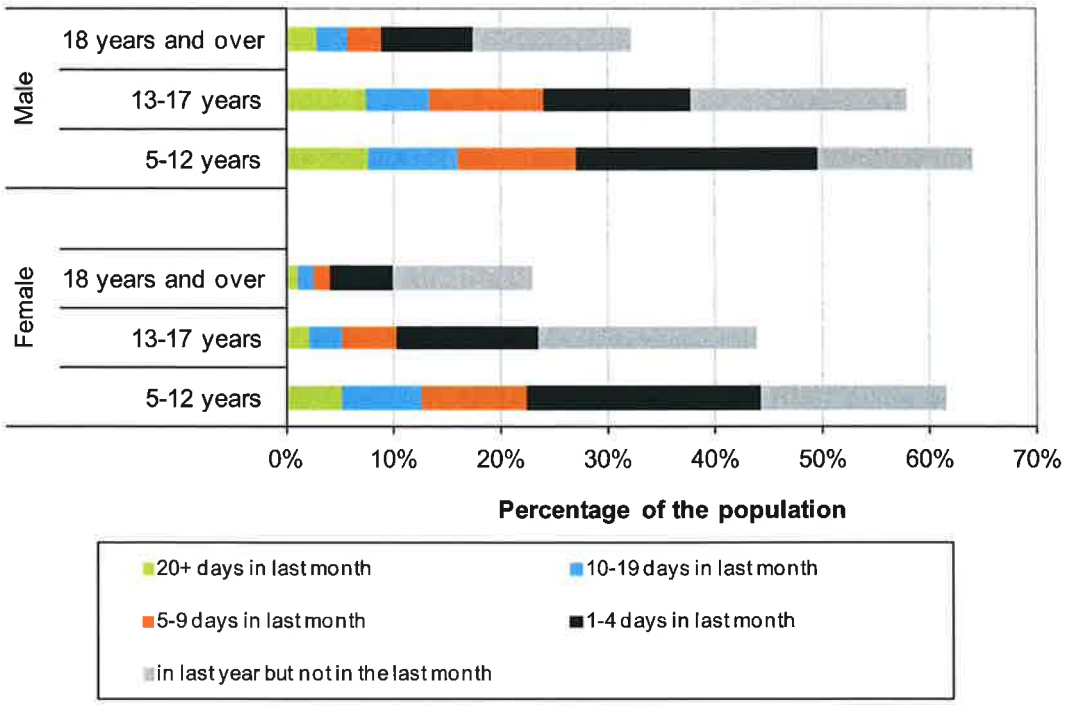
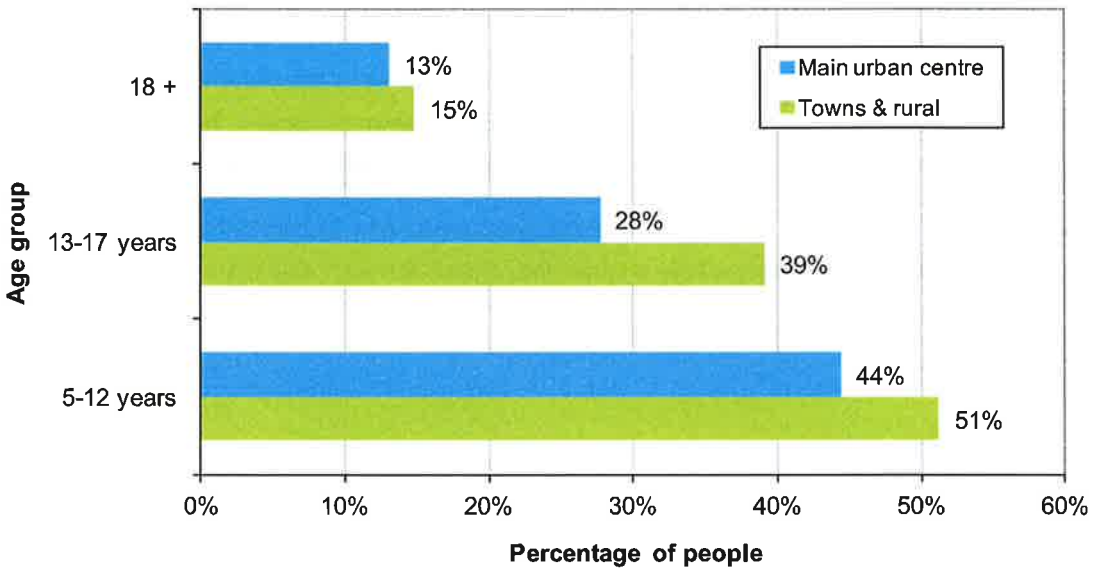


Figure 3 shows that males aged 5–12 years are most likely to have cycled in the past year, followed by females aged 5–12 years. In all age groups females are less frequent cyclists than males.

Figure 4: Percentage of age groups who have cycled in the last month by age and residential area



Teenagers and adults living in town or rural settings are more likely to have cycled in the last month than those in main urban centres. Similar age patterns appear to hold whether in an urban or rural household.

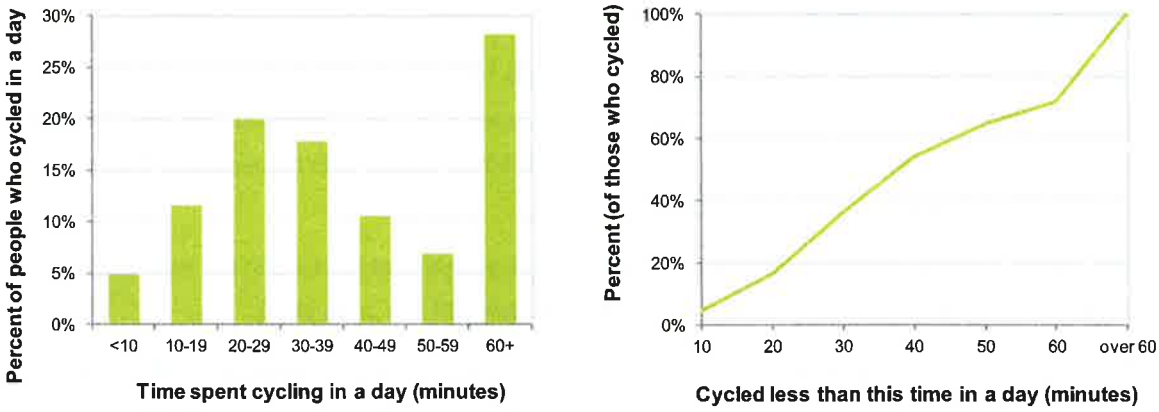
Table 4: Cycling trips by trip purpose/destination and age group

Age group	Purpose/ destination	*Trip legs in sample*	Trip legs per year (million)	Time spent cycling per year (million hours)	Distance cycled per year (million km)	Percent of cycling time excluding return home
5–17 years	Home	*302*	8.0	1.9	15.5	
	Work	*17*	*Sample too small*	*Sample too small*	*Sample too small*	5%
	Education	*131*	3.3	0.9	7.5	36%
	Social/Shopping/ Personal business	*127*	3.6	0.7	5.8	28%
	Recreational	*118*	3.1	0.8	5.7	30%
	Total (excluding travel home)	*401*	10.6	2.5	20.0	100%
18+ years	Home	*852*	21.6	9.0	120.7	
	Work	*352*	9.1	2.9	44.0	25%
	Education	*98*	2.6	0.7	7.5	6%
	Social/Shopping/ Personal business	*372*	8.4	2.2	23.4	19%
	Recreational	*354*	9.5	5.7	78.7	49%
	Total (excluding travel home)	*1,200*	30.2	11.4	154.2	100%

Table 4 shows different patterns in the distribution of purposes for cycling between those under 18 years old and those 18 years and over. For those under 18 years old, 36 percent of cycling time is spent travelling for education, and 30 percent is recreational, whereas for those over 18 years old this shifts to nearly half (49 percent) for recreation and 25 percent for work. This is also shown in Figure 5.

Nearly half of those who cycled on their travel days (43 percent) cycled less than 5 km in a day. 29 percent cycled between 5 and 10 km and 28 percent cycled 10 km or more in a day (Figure 6).

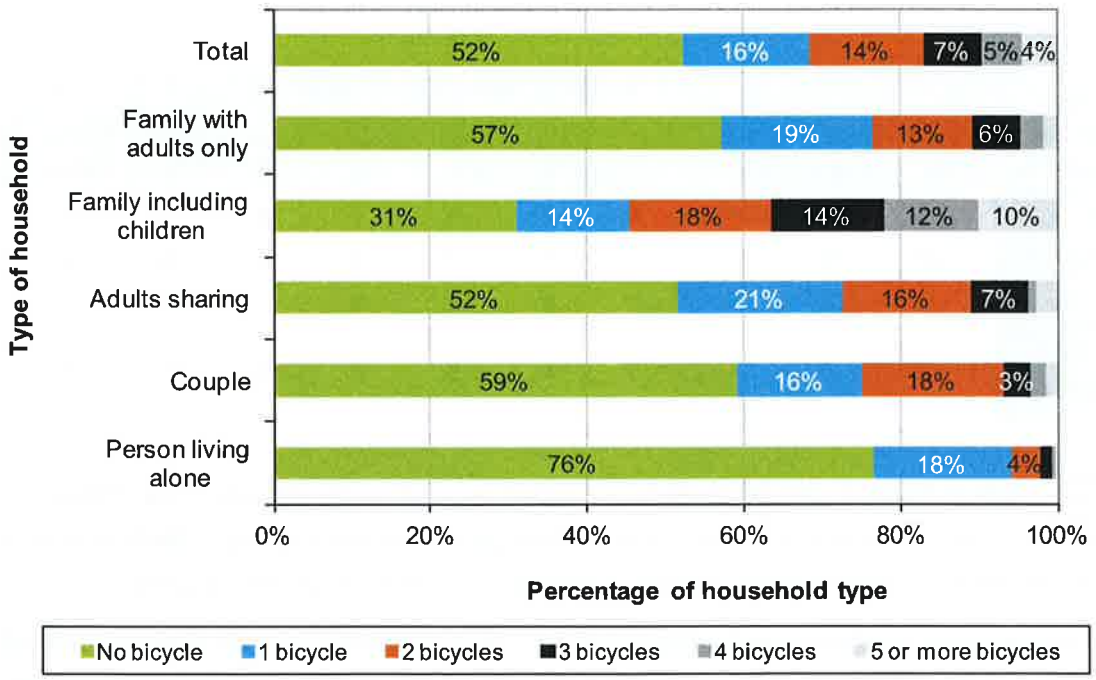
Figure 7: Time spent cycling in a day by those who cycled



Of those who cycled on their travel days, 12 percent cycled for between 10 and 19 minutes and 20 percent cycled for between 20 and 29 minutes. 28 percent cycled for over an hour in a day (Figure 7).

Bicycle ownership

Figure 8: Percentage of households with bicycles



Each household was asked how many bicycles in working order the household owned (excluding children's tricycles). Households with children are far more likely to have bicycles: nearly 70 percent of households of a family with children have one or more bicycles. Adults sharing a house are next

For those aged 13–17, the average time spent cycling per week decreased from 52 minutes in 1989/90 to 13 minutes in 2003–06. It has since stayed fairly steady between 9 and 12 minutes per person per week. The distance cycled per week has also decreased substantially from 7.9km in 1989/90 to just 2.2 km in 2003–06, and has since varied between 1.4 km and 2.1 km per person per week.

While cycling by adults (18 years and over) declined between 1989/90 and 1997/98 (from 8 minutes to 5 minutes per person per week and from 1.4 km to 1.2 km per person per week), it has since increased. Since 2003–06 adult cycling has increased from 5 minutes per person per week, to 7 minutes, and from 1.3 km per person per week to 1.6 km.

Table 6: Trends in minutes spent cycling each week per person[4] by age group

	Minutes cycling per week										
Age group (years)	1989 / 90	1997 / 98	2003 –06	2004 –07	2005 –08	2006 –09	2007 –10	2008 –11	2009 –12	2010 –13	2011 –14
5 - 12	28	15	11	9	8	7	9	8	6	4	4
13 -17	52	31	13	12	12	11	12	11	10	9	10
18+	8	5	5	6	7	6	8	8	8	7	7
Total 5 or over	15	9	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7

Table 7: Trends in km cycled each week per person by age group

	Km cycled per week										
Age group (years)	1989 / 90	1997 / 98	2003 –06	2004 –07	2005 –08	2006 –09	2007 –10	2008 –11	2009 –12	2010 –13	2013 –14
5 - 12	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5
13 -17	7.9	4.8	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.5
18+	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6
Total 5 or over	2.2	2.0	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4

[4] Per person is defined as per population in that age group

spent cycling for those 18 years and older has increased from 20 minutes per cyclist per week in 2003–06 to 26 minutes per cyclist per week in 2011–14.