

Waiheke School Road Safety Results

August 2018

Getting to and from school, about non walkers and cyclers, danger spots and how to make walking and cycling safer

Outline of report

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 - Getting to and from school
 - About non walkers and cyclers
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 - Any other comments
- Respondent profile

Background

About the Waiheke School Road Safety survey

Background:

- To help **develop better walking and cycling** options on Waiheke, Waiheke Local Board asked parents for their views on road safety when their children travel to and from school

Methodology:

- Our target audience was **parents of children** attending Te Huruhi School, Waiheke Primary School and Waiheke High School
- Parents were invited to take part in the survey by their schools, the survey was open for **12 days** (25 June-7 July) and we received **228** surveys
- The survey took on average **7 minutes** to complete

About the Waiheke School Road Safety survey

Reporting:

- This report shares the findings from the survey. Where relevant we have broken down results by distance between home and school, and school attended
 - Any differences mentioned in results are **indicative only** i.e. they have not undergone significance testing

Key insights

Key insights

- Driving is the most popular method of going to and from school on Waiheke (70% drive to school)
- Only 27% of students walk and 14% cycle. Both of these transport methods are associated with high levels of concern from parents (52% and 71% of parents worry when their children use these methods, respectively)
- Feedback consistently shows that road safety prevents children walking and cycling to school. The main issues are poor driver behaviour, and lack of footpaths, cycleways and pedestrian crossings
- There is a strong desire for children to walk and cycle to and from school, 69% of non-walkers/cyclers say that if road safety improved their kids would walk and cycle to school.

Key insights

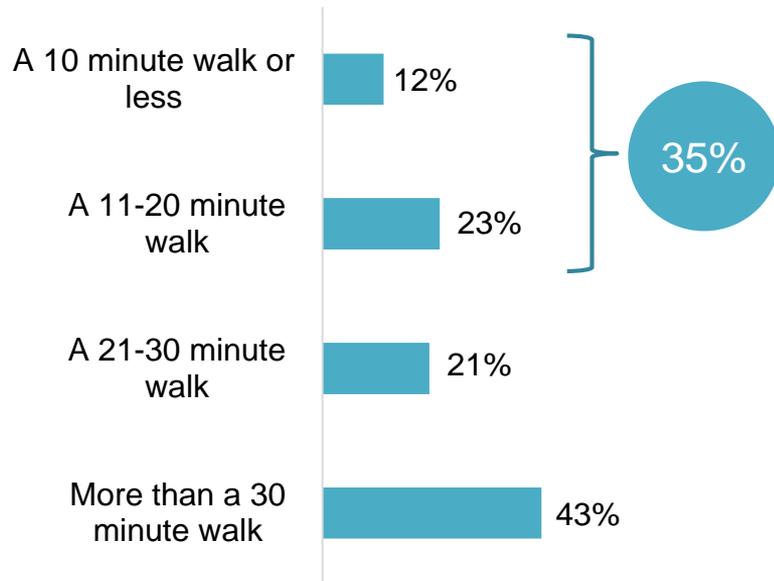
- Te Huruhi parents have more reasons for not letting their children walk or cycle to school, particularly dangerous roads (67%), and not enough footpaths (64%), pedestrian crossings (55%), or cycleways (48%)
- Te Huruhi students who aren't currently walking/cycling are particularly keen to walk home (81%), they say that pedestrian crossings (85%) and footpaths (70%) would make it easier for them.
- 23% of primary schools students (Waiheke Primary and Te Huruhi) are interested in walking school bus

Getting to and from school

35% of respondents live less than a 20 minute walk from school. Car is the most popular method of going to and from school, bussing and walking are more common when travelling home

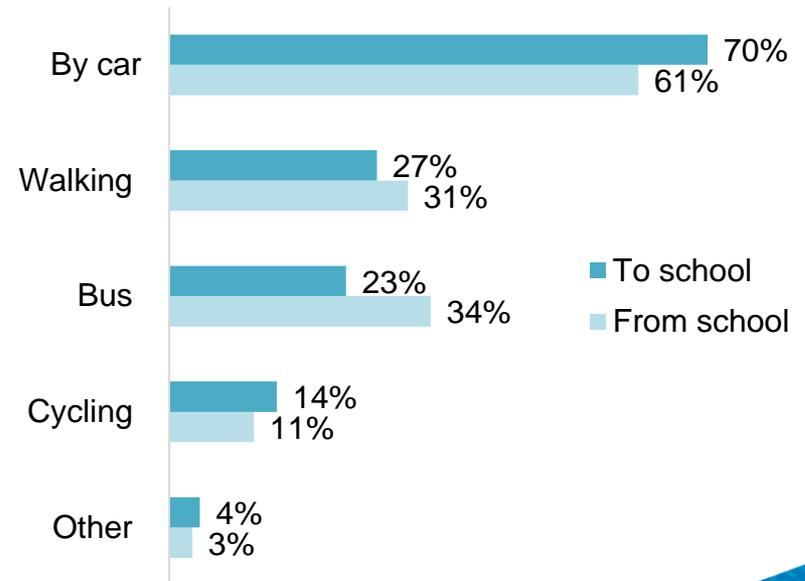
Living distance to school

Q1C Approximately, how far is school from your home?



How they get to/from school

Q2A/Q3A How does your child usually get to school/home from school in the morning/afternoon?



80% of those from Waiheke Primary drive **to school** (80%) and only 20% walk. Two-thirds of Te Huruhi and Waiheke High students drive to school. Bussing is much more popular for Waiheke High students (29%)

How they get to school

How they get to school by school attended

Q1C Approximately, how far is school from your home?

		Te Huruhi School (n=53)	Waiheke Primary School (n=88)	Waiheke High School (n=87)
By car	 70%	64%	80%	63%
Walking	 27%	28%	20%	32%
Bus	 23% ■ To school	13%	24%	29%
Cycling	 14%	11%	16%	13%
Other	 4%	6%	5%	3%

Base: All respondents (n=228)

Indicatively higher than the percentage for overall **Indicatively lower** than the percentage for overall

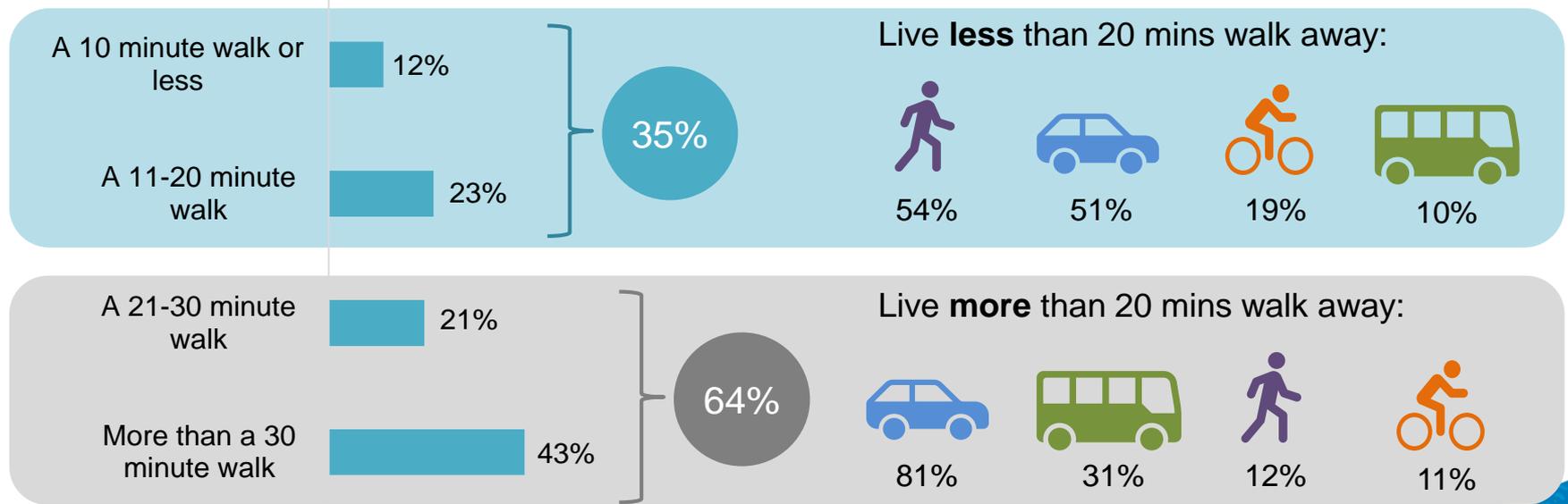
Half of those who live less than 20 mins walk away walk (54%) and/or drive (51%) to school. Most of those who live more than a 20 minute walk away drive to school (81%).

Walking distance to school

Q1C *Approximately, how far is school from your home?*

How they get to school by walking distance from school

Q2A *How does your child usually get to school in the morning?*



Base: All respondents (n=228)

The majority of parents worry when their children cycle or walk to/ from school, almost none worry if their child is driven. Anxiety levels for cycling/busing are slightly reduced in the afternoons.

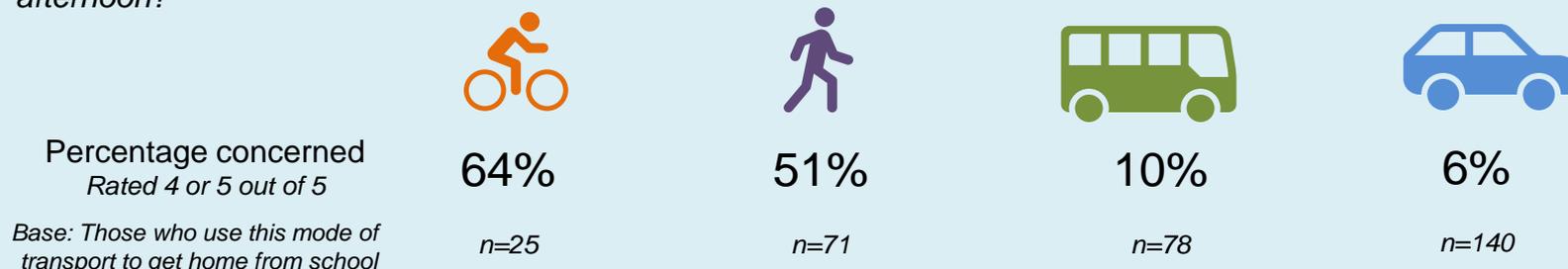
Concern levels for child when travelling to school

Q2B How concerned are you about your child's safety when using the following types of school transport in the morning?



Concern levels for child when travelling home from school

Q3B How concerned are you about your child's safety when using the following types of school transport in the afternoon?



About non walkers and cyclers

Reasons for not walking/cycling to school: demographic differences

Key take outs:

- Those living **less than 20 minutes away** are more likely to feel that roads are too dangerous (64%) and that there are not enough footpaths (50%). 22% also mention that school is on the way of their commute.
- **Te Huruhi** parents have more reasons for not letting their children walk or cycle to school, particularly dangerous roads (67%), not enough footpaths (64%), pedestrian crossings (55%) or cycleways (48%), and that school is too far away for walking and cycling (45%)

A popular reason among those who live less than 20 minutes away is 'School is on the way of commute' (22%)

		Live <20 mins away (n=28)	Live >20 mins away (n=119)	Te Huruhi School (n=33)	Waiheke Primary School (n=63)	Waiheke High School (n=51)
The roads are too dangerous	56%	64%		67%		45%
There are not enough footpaths	43%	50%		64%		24%
There are not enough cycle lanes	37%	29%		48%		29%
There are not enough pedestrian crossings	37%			55%		25%
Timing/ it would take too long	36%	18%			44%	24%
It's too far away	28%	0%	34%	45%		
It's easier for us to drive/ bus	24%	18%		33%	13%	33%
There is too much traffic	24%			15%		
The roads are too windy/ steep	23%				30%	16%
My child is too young/ can't cross roads yet	20%			30%	29%	2%

Base: Those who have children that don't walk or cycle to school (n=147)

Q2C Why doesn't your child walk/cycle to school?

Indicatively higher

than the percentage for overall

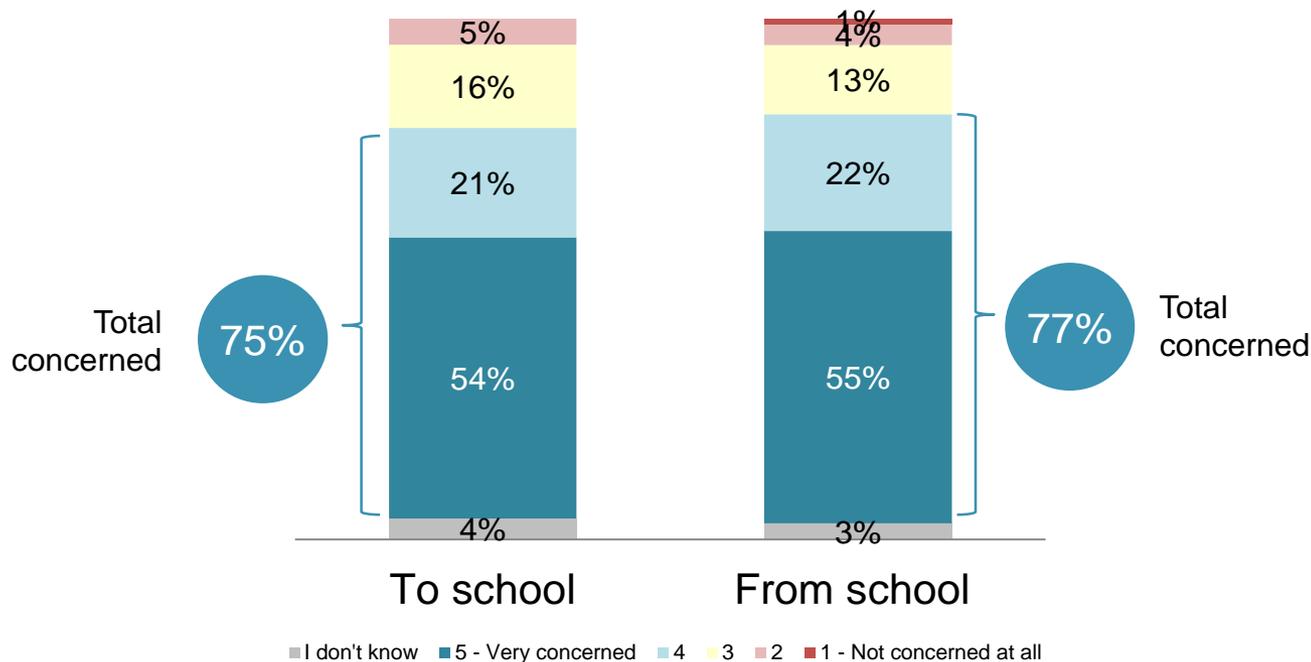
Indicatively lower

than the percentage for overall

Over three quarters of parents whose children don't currently walk/cycle to school would be concerned about their safety if they had to.

Concern levels if non walking/cycling child had to walk to/from school

Q2D/Q3D If your child were to walk/cycle to school/home from school, how concerned would you be about their safety?



These concern levels are **much higher** than for those who currently have children walking to and from school (52% and 51%, respectively)

Base: Those whose children don't walk or cycle to (n=147) or from (n=143) school

Parents consistently mention lack of cycleways, footpaths, and pedestrian crossings, speedy drivers and drivers who don't give way at pedestrian crossings/to cyclists, and narrow, bumpy, and windy roads as reasons why they would be concerned if their children had to walk or cycle to school



Q3D Why do you say that? (Following question about how concerned they would be if their child had to walk to school)

Why they would be concerned:

"There are absolutely zero cross-walks between our house and the school"

"Too many erratic, speedy drivers on Island"

"We don't have footpaths and the cars tend to drive pretty fast."

"Lack of footpaths, cars going too fast, blind corners, lack of pedestrian crossings"

"People drive too fast and aggressively, pass bicycles too close and where it is not appropriate to pass. There are not enough cycle lanes and footpaths for it to be safe for my child to bike or walk to school. "

"No footpaths - 60k speed zone on windy road "

"...cars speed on the Onetangi straight and other roads to school, there are not enough pedestrian crossings, it's too far away, there are not enough footpaths and cycle lanes don't reach all roads on the way to school making the roads are too dangerous. Waiheke Island is not a safe place for kids to ride bikes overall, the roads are too dangerous."

"Traffic, everybody speeding to work...no safe crossings and lack of footpaths."

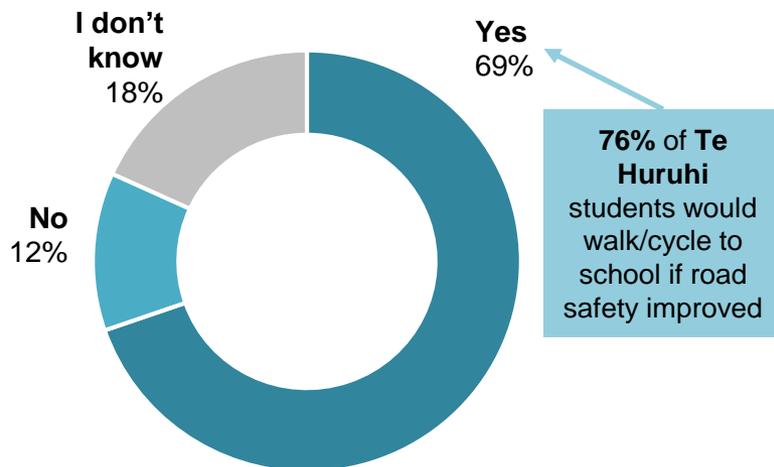
"The roads are too dangerous, pot holes and no pavements."

"Between my house .. and school.. all but 1 road dosent have safe pathways..no proper crossing ."

Over two thirds (69%) of parents whose children don't currently walk/cycle to school would be happy to let them do so if road safety improved, Te Huruhi parents are particularly keen to let their kids walk/cycle to/from school

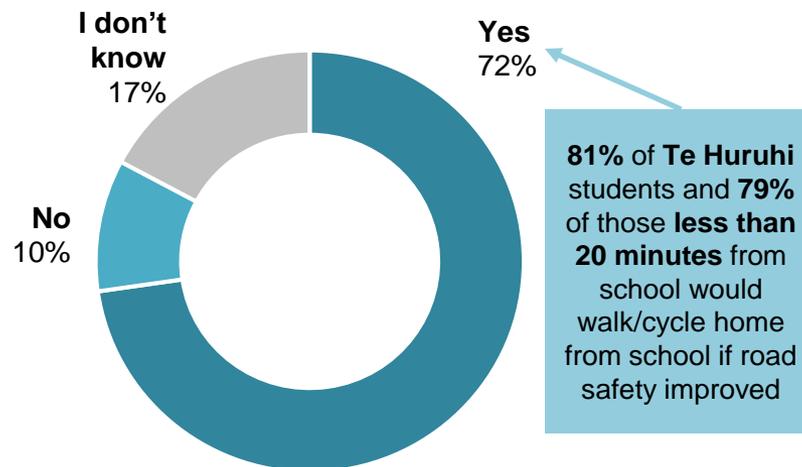
Would you let your child walk/ cycle **to school** if road safety improved?

Q2F *If road safety improved on your child's route to school, would you let them walk or cycle to school?*



Would you let your child walk/ cycle **from school** if road safety improved?

Q3F *If road safety improved on your child's route home from school, would you let them walk or cycle home from school?*



Base: Those whose children don't walk or cycle to (n=147) or from (n=143) school

Danger spots and making things safer

Danger Spots: Donald Bruce Rd / Alison Rd Roundabout

No pedestrian crossings; heavy traffic at school times



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?



“Can be difficult crossing Alison Road near the roundabout to get to Donald Bruce Road. Found this extremely stressful when the kids were younger going to the primary school. Certainly wouldn't have let them cross on their own at that age.”

Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Surfdale Shops

No pedestrian crossing; reversing angle-parked cars unsafe for cyclists; no footpaths on side streets.



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?



“All along the main road where cycle paths end (several places) or are put behind parked cars (Surfdale). We need a cycle path, or several, that is/are continuous on main road.”

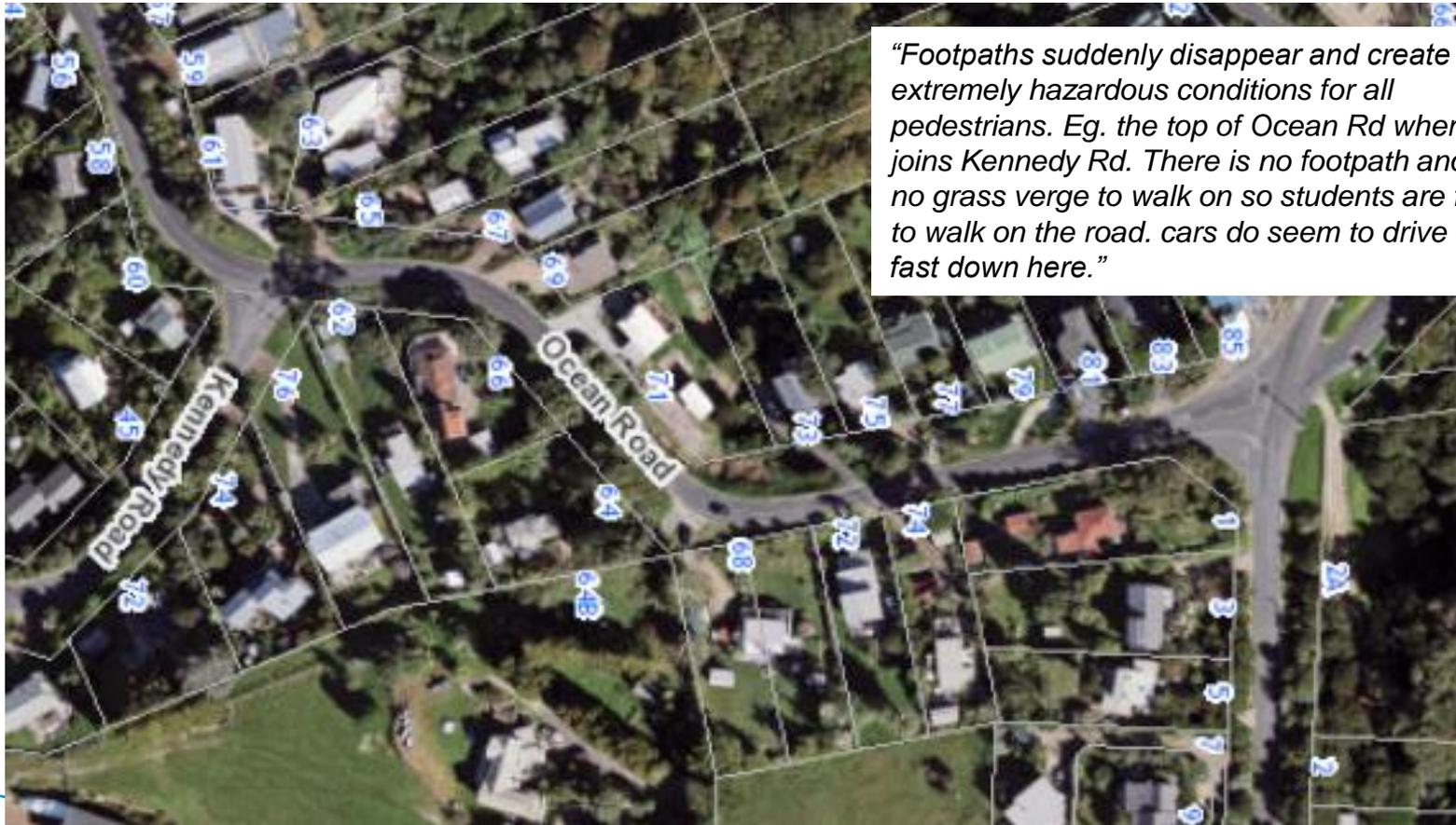
Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Ocean Rd (WISCA to Kennedy Rd)

No footpath



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?



“Footpaths suddenly disappear and create extremely hazardous conditions for all pedestrians. Eg. the top of Ocean Rd where it joins Kennedy Rd. There is no footpath and also no grass verge to walk on so students are forced to walk on the road. cars do seem to drive quite fast down here.”

Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Sea View Rd

No pedestrian crossing at Ostend Rd end; children have to cross twice to use footpath



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?

“Sea View Road is bad. Kids have to cross from the Ostend side to the other side, and then back again to the school. I’m not sure what genius thought this one up!”



Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Belgium St intersection with Belgium St, Whakarite Rd, near Sea View Rd and Calais Tce

No pedestrian crossing; busy, complex intersection



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?

“Sea View Road is bad. Kids have to cross from the Ostend side to the other side, and then back again to the school. I’m not sure what genius thought this one up! Belgium Road is very congested and the footpath and parked cars make it very difficult to cycle.”



Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Wharf Rd / Belgium St Intersection

Lack of visibility at corner; right turning traffic from Belgium St



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?

“Crossing the corner at Wharf Rd and Belgium St intersection is too dangerous for a young child to navigate. Some cars speed around that corner when it looks like they were intending to go straight ahead.”



Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Erua Rd

No footpath



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?



Base: All respondents who chose to comment (n=205)

Danger Spots: Onetangi Rd

Traffic speed, inconsistent cycle paths



Q4A Are there any particular roads or areas on route [to/from school] that you think are particularly unsafe?



There are parts of the Onetangi to school route that has a separated walking and/or biking path, suddenly these disappear or are on the road with nothing separating them from traffic. The worst parts are where there is a biking lane, that suddenly disappears and then continues on the other side of a heavily trafficked road as Onetangi Strait leads into Ostend, on a bend. Who thought that was a good idea?

Te Huruhi school students are more likely to need pedestrian crossings (85%) and footpaths (70%) to make walking and cycling easier. 23% of those at primary schools are interested in walking school buses.

Ways to make walking/cycling easier

Q4B What would make it easier for your child to walk and cycle to and from school?

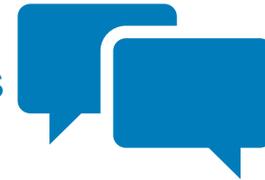
		Live <20 mins away (n=81)	Live >20 mins away (n=119)	Te Huruhi School (n=33)	Waiheke Primary School (n=63)	Waiheke High School (n=51)
More footpaths	63%			70%	69%	52%
More pedestrian crossings	61%	67%		85%	52%	
More cycle paths	57%	46%	64%			51%
Have cycling groups	18%	12%		26%		
Have walking school buses	17%			23%	23%	8%
Other	12%					

Base: All respondents (n=228)

Indicatively higher than the percentage for overall **Indicatively lower** than the percentage for overall

Any other comments

Other comments show a genuine desire for Waiheke's children to walk and cycle to and from school, and disappointment that this is not always possible due to road safety issues and driver behaviour



Q4C Do you have any other comments about children walking or cycling to school or safety on school routes?

Any other comments

"I love to see kids walking and riding. I do think in general Waiheke is not an ideal place for young kids, particularly on bikes to be self-commuting."

"Thank you for this survey. I believe our children should be able to walk/bike/scooter to school in safety. I live less than a km from the school but notice the vast majority of kids living close are travelling by car."

"I get that we don't have footpaths on 90% of the roads, but for the love of god can we please get them on school routes."

"I am really disappointed that the road and lack of any footpath doesn't allow my children the independence to walk or ride to school."

"1. Definitely need really proper foot paths especially for school children 2. Some of drivers are really aggressive."

"Exercise during a commute is such a great way to add activity to a life; it's a shame that we don't make it a priority for our tamariki by facilitating the process with proper infrastructure."

"I think the school's road safety education has been good, but am still concerned about driver behaviour."

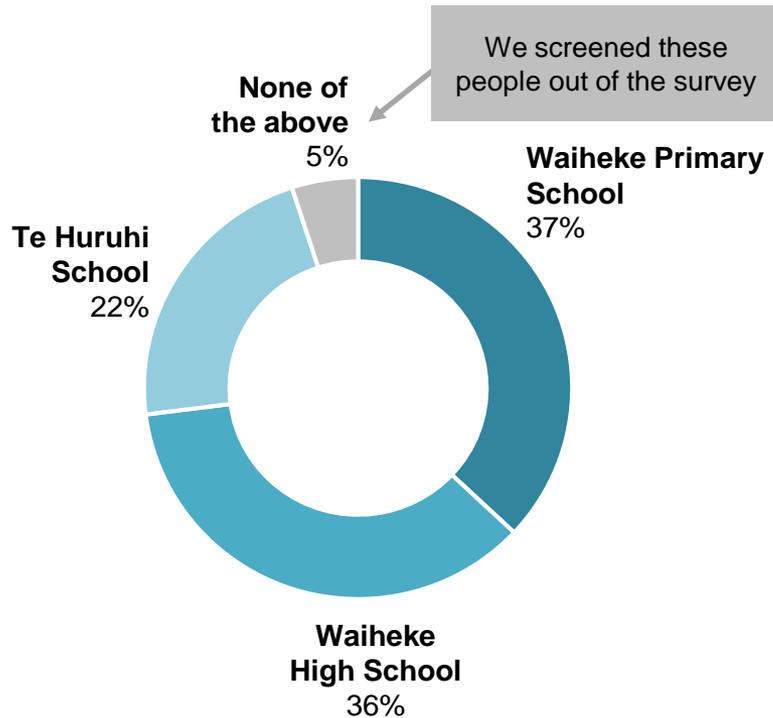
"I wish more children would do it as it would mean less cars / traffic thereby making it safer. Outside schools is one of the most dangerous places for a child in terms of being hit by a car."

Respondent profile

Survey feedback was well spread across school and year

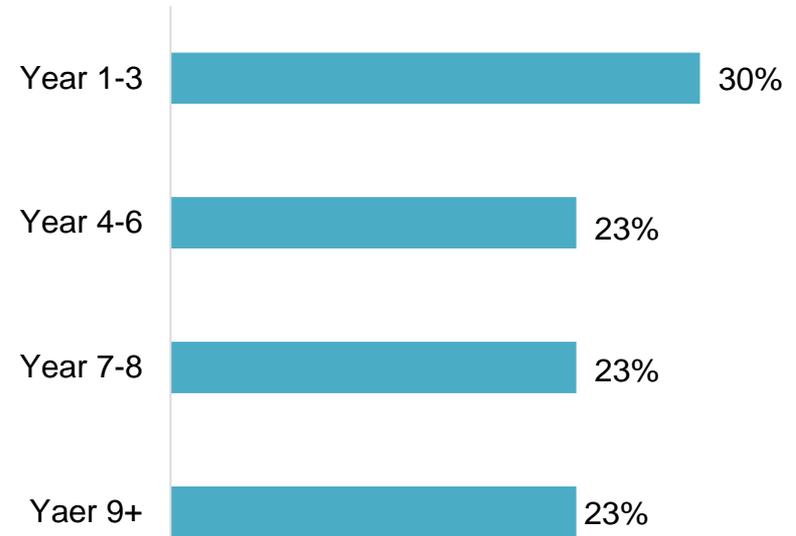
School attended

Q1A Which school does your child go to?



Year

Q1A Which school does your child go to?



Base: Everyone who clicked into the survey (n=239)

Base: All eligible respondents (n=228)

Questions?

Please contact Allannah Bates or Christine Shue