



Types of Transportation Students Use to Get to School over the years & How has NSW & WA used it differently?



Transportation to school has evolved over the years, these results will show the evolution of how students use transportation to school. As well as this, the evidence provided will compare the two states of NSW & WA, seeing which transport is most common between them.

Aim: To determine how transportation to school has changed over the years, which is more common, and to compare how more populated and less populated states (NSW & WA) use it differently.

Hypothesis: We hypothesised that the results will not drastically change over the years. However, the most common form of transportation to school would be car and bus, and car and bus will be used more in 2014 and 2012, than in 2010. It is inferred that NSW will use more public transport than in WA.

Method/Collection: The data for this investigation is retrieved from the Census At School website. The students that are surveyed are of all ages, all genders, from the year 2010, 2012 and 2014, and are from the states NSW and WA. This method was used, as it was faster and more efficient than gathering the data through personally surveying students.

Sample size: 200 people from each year, 100 from NSW and 100 from WA. The population for NSW Students are (approx) 750 000 each year, and the population of students in WA over the years are (approx) 450 000.

Types of Transportation Students Use to Get to School Over the Years

Year	Car	Bus	Walk	Train	Bike	Skateboard	Overall
2010	175	115	78	10	14	8	400
2012	167	105	79	26	12	11	400
2014	162	102	92	17	21	6	400

Types of Transportation Students Use to Get to School Over the Years



Interpretation

According to VicHealth, studies have shown that exercise in young Australian students has declined over the year, and only 1/5 of students walked, rode their bike, or used other physical ways of going to school. However, the results from our survey show that in 2014, almost a 1/3 students walked, rode a bike or skateboard to school, whereas only 1/4 of students in 2010 walked, rode a bike or skateboard to school. According to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, more citizens in NSW use more public transport than in WA. However, it was seen that public transport is widely available to WA in the more populated cities like Perth, just the same as it is widely available to populated cities in NSW like Sydney. The results from the survey match with this information as in every year each of the public transport results would be higher in NSW than in WA.

Types of Transportation Students Use to Get to School in NSW & WA

2010

State	Car	Bus	Walk	Train	Bike	Skateboard	Overall
NSW	85	63	40	6	3	3	200
WA	90	52	38	4	11	5	200

2014

State	Car	Bus	Walk	Train	Bike	Skateboard	Overall
NSW	76	58	44	13	7	2	200
WA	84	44	48	4	14	4	200

2012

State	Car	Bus	Walk	Train	Bike	Skateboard	Overall
NSW	79	59	32	22	4	4	200
WA	88	46	47	4	8	7	200

Reliability

The results could be more reliable by expanding the sample size to represent a more accurate representation of the population. However, the previous data that was gathered only sampled 100 students in each year, by increasing the sample size, the results were more reliable than the first test.

Strengths:

- The gathering of data from the Census at School website was very quick, and allowed more time to analyse the data.
- The overall sample size for our survey results were increased from 100-400, between the first trial and the final results. This represents a bigger part of the population and allowed for more accurate data.
- The data was randomly selected from those who took the survey, allowing less biased results.

Weaknesses:

- The Census at school website only targets the audience whom have access to the website and internet, this means that it does not accurately represent the population who do not use the internet

Results

In the results for our survey, it is seen that the usage of transport has not changed drastically, which is also to be said the same about the uses of transport to school over the different states. Through the years, it has kept a consistent trend of the buses and cars being the most common transportation. It has also been seen that in NSW, it is more common to take public transport to school than in WA. Whereas WA use cars and walk significantly more.

Conclusion

It was hypothesised that the most common forms of transportation to school would be car and bus, which was seen in the survey results. However, it was also hypothesised that cars and buses would be used more in 2014 and 2012, than in 2010, but the results have shown an increase in car and bus usage from 2010-2014. It was also inferred that NSW will use more public transport than WA, which was also seen as a trend in the survey results.

References

- <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/Census?opendocument&ref=CTA3>
- <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/physical-activity-and-sedentary-behaviour>
- https://bitre.gov.au/publications/2009/files/is_033.pdf