



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

STATISTICS

Active travel (walking and cycling): April 2022 to March 2023

A range of information collected through the National Survey for Wales about active travel by people during April 2022 to March 2023.

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Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Main points](#)

[Cycling](#)

[Walking](#)

[Active travel by urban and rural classification](#)

[Active travel by general health](#)

[Terms and definitions](#)

[Quality information](#)

[Next update](#)

[We want your feedback](#)

[Contact details](#)

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Introduction

Active travel is measured as walking for at least 10 minutes or cycling as a means of transport to get to a particular destination. It does not include walking or cycling done for pleasure, health reasons or training. Information about active travel by people in Wales is collected through the [National Survey for Wales](#). Additional results are available in the National Survey for Wales interactive [results viewer](#).

Main points

The active travel questions in the most recent National Survey for Wales were asked of adults aged 16+ and over.

April 2022 to March 2023

- 6% of people cycled at least once a week for active travel purposes
- 51% of people walked at least once a week for active travel purposes

Frequency of active travel

The National Survey for Wales has included questions about active travel since 2013-14. People are asked how frequently they used a bicycle or walked as a means of transport, in the previous three months.

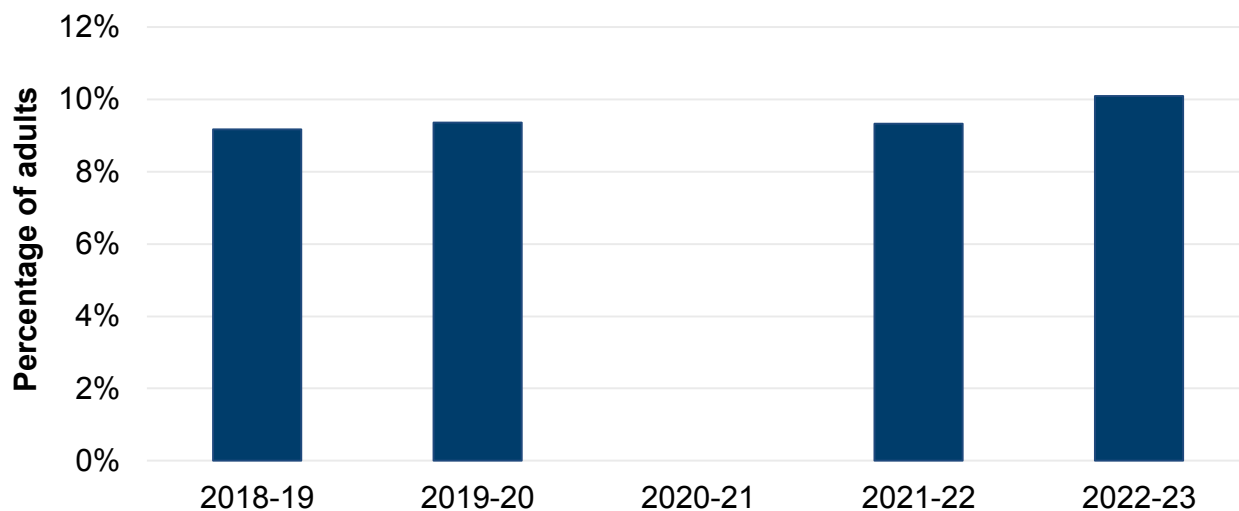
In 2022-23, 10% of adults cycled at least once a month for active travel purposes, which is broadly similar to previous years.

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Figure 1: Proportion of people that travelled by cycling at least once a month, 2018-19 to 2022-23 [Note 1] [Note 2] [Note 3]



Description of Figure 1: Figure 1 shows the proportion of people that travelled by cycling at least once a month for each of the financial years from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

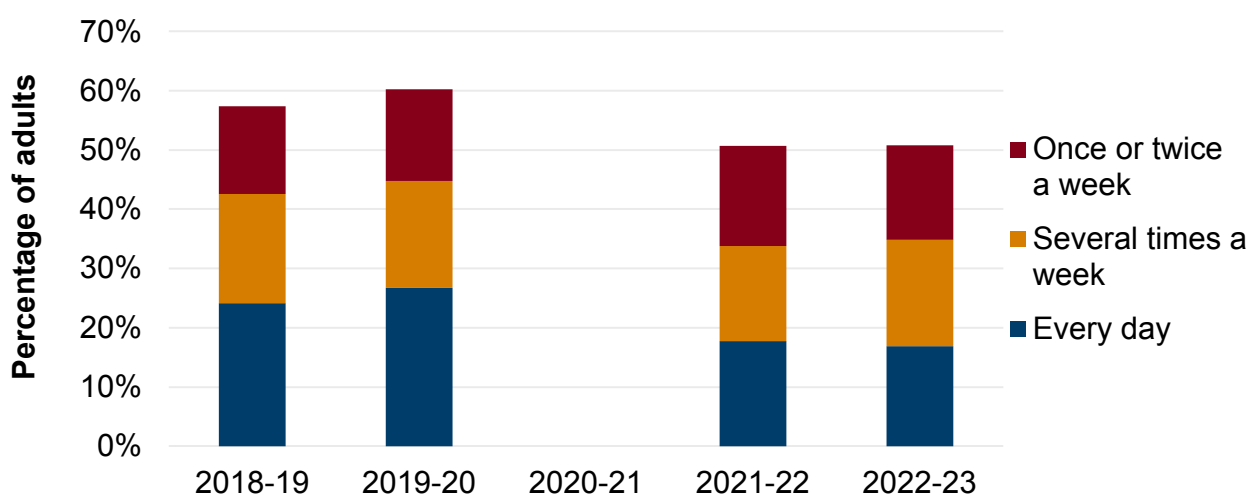
[Note 1] Data not publicly available for 2020-2021 due to changes in the National Survey for Wales as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Note 2] The National Survey for Wales changed mode from face-to-face to telephone and online data collection for 2021-22 and 2022-23. Care should be taken when making direct comparisons to earlier results.

[Note 3] The questions in the 2017-18 National Survey for Wales on Active Travel differ to previous questions and therefore data are not directly comparable with previous statistical bulletins.

The percentage of people who frequently walked for at least 10 minutes is much greater than the percentage that frequently cycled as a means of transport. In 2022-23, 51% of people actively travelled at least once or twice a week by walking, a similar proportion compared to 2021-22.

Figure 2: Frequency of active travel by walking, 2018-19 to 2022-23
[Note 1]



Description of Figure 2: Figure 2 shows the proportion of people that travelled by walking by frequency of active travel and year from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

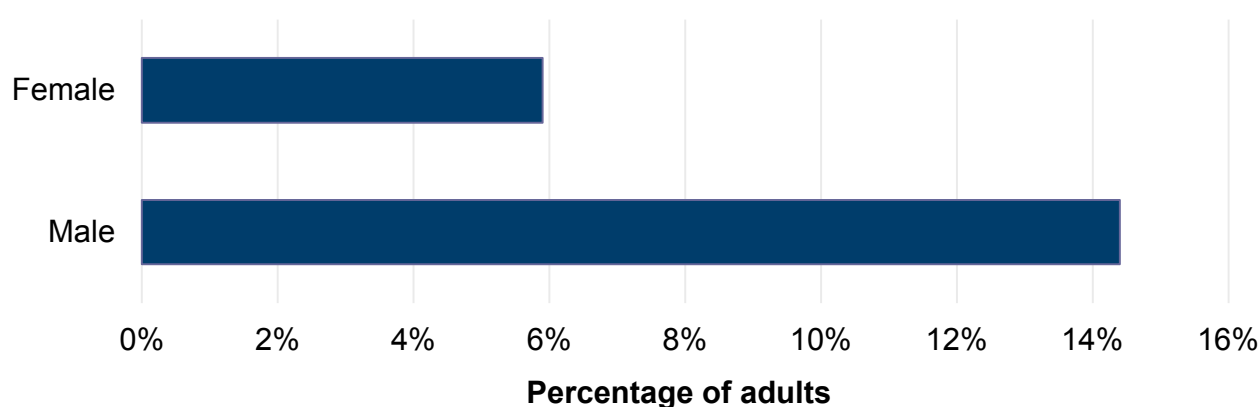
Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Data not available for 2020-2021 due to changes in the National Survey for Wales as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Cycling

When asked how frequently they had used a bicycle as a means of transport in the previous three months, men were more likely to cycle, and to do so more frequently than women.

Figure 3: Proportion of people that travelled by cycling at least once a month by sex, 2022-23



Description of Figure 3: Figure 3 shows the proportion of people that travelled by cycling at least once a month by sex in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

People without a limiting long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were more likely to have cycled at least once a month compared with those with a limiting illness. Please see definitions section for an explanation on terminology use.

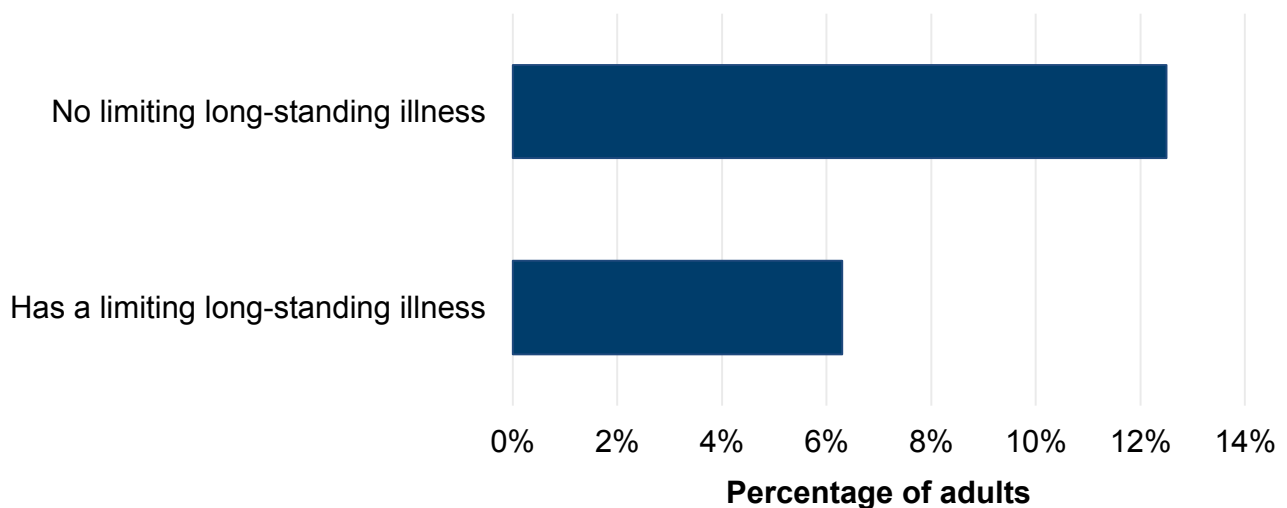
Figure 4: Proportion of people that travelled by cycling at

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least once a month by limiting long-standing illness, 2022-23



Description of Figure 4: Figure 4 shows the proportion of people that travelled by cycling at least once a month by limiting long-standing illness in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

Walking

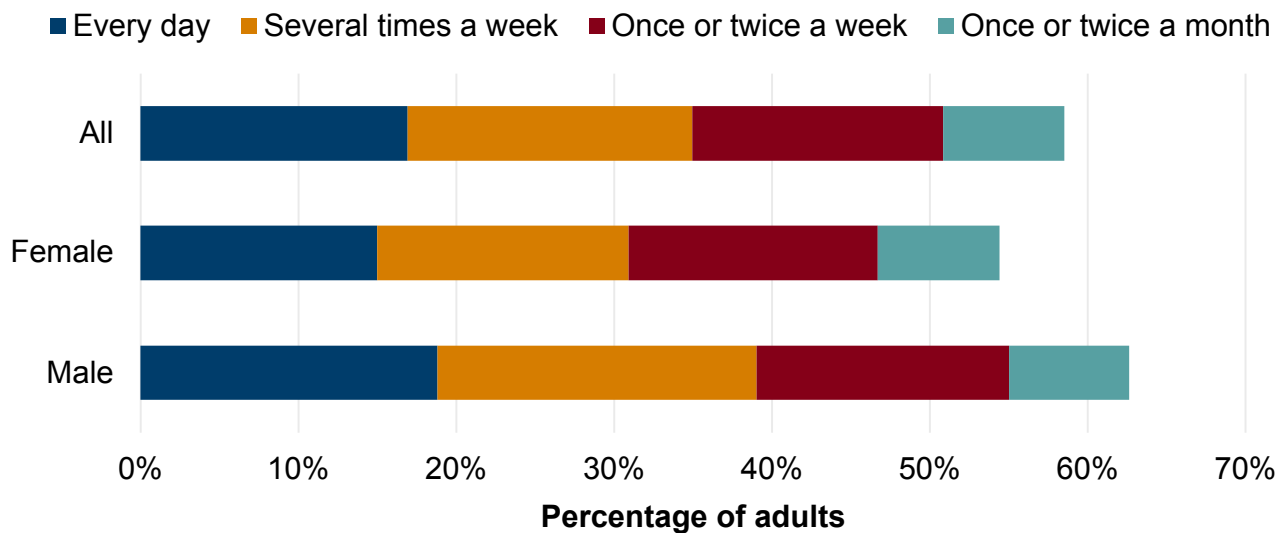
When asked how frequently they had walked for more than 10 minutes as a means of transport in the previous three months 17% said they walked for more than 10 minutes every day, 18% stated they walked several times a week and 16% once or twice a week. A further 8% walked once or twice a month and 41% said they walked less often or never.

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Figure 5: Frequency of active travel by walking by sex, 2022-23

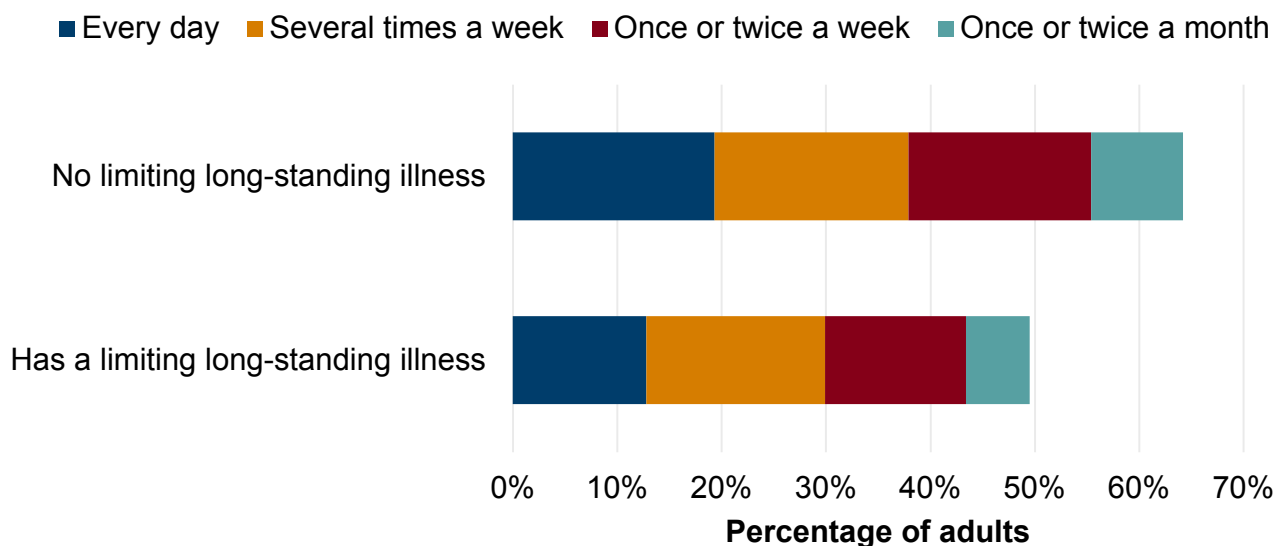


Description of Figure 5: Figure 5 shows the proportion of people that travelled by walking by frequency of active travel and sex in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

People with a limiting long-standing illness, disability or infirmity were less likely to walk every day (13%) for more than 10 minutes than those without a limiting illness (19%).

Figure 6: Frequency of active travel by walking, by limiting long-standing illness, 2022-23



Description of Figure 6: Figure 6 shows the proportion of people that travelled by walking by frequency of active travel and limiting long-standing illness in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

Active travel by urban and rural classification

There was little difference between the frequency of cycling for active travel purposes between those living in rural and urban areas in 2022-23.

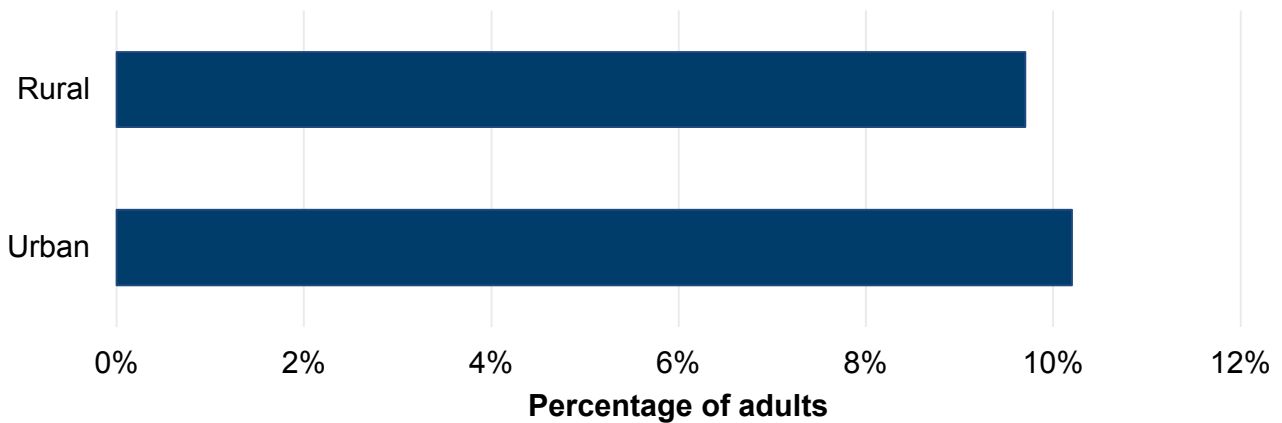
Figure 7: Proportion of people that travelled by cycling at

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least once a month by urban and rural classification, 2022-23

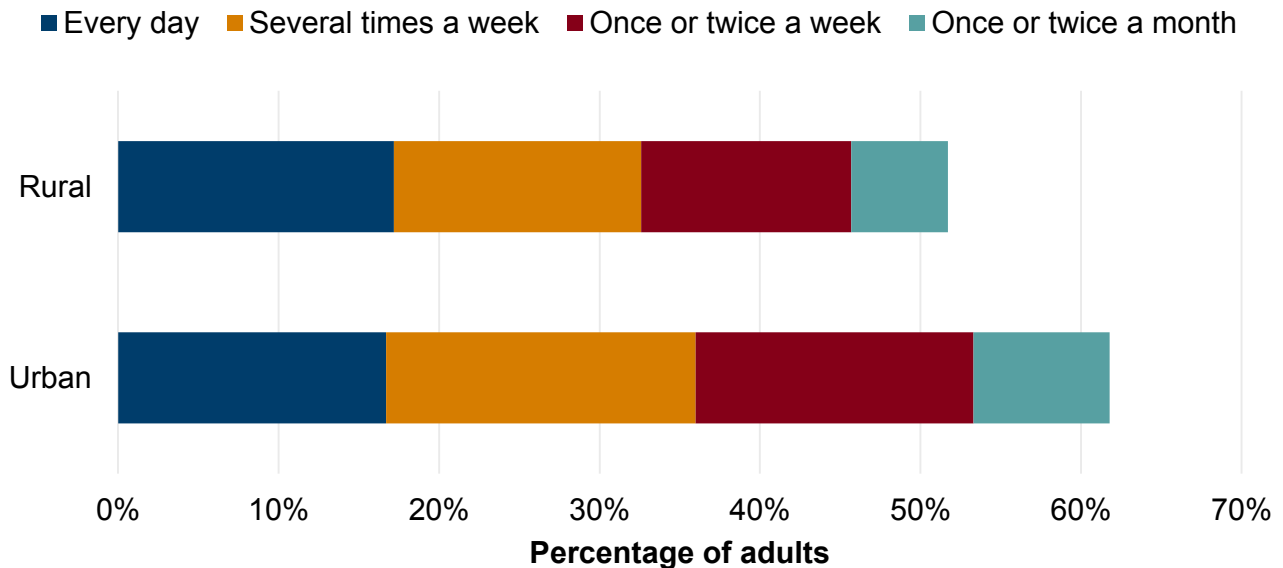


Description of Figure 7: Figure 7 shows the proportion of people that travelled by cycling at least once a month by those living in rural and urban areas in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

62% of people in urban areas walked for more than 10 minutes as a means of transport at least once a month, compared with 52% of people in rural areas. 17% of people in both urban and rural areas reported that they walked daily as a means of transport in 2022-23.

Figure 8: Frequency of active travel by walking by urban and rural classification, 2022-23



Description of Figure 8: Figure 8 shows the proportion of people that travelled by walking by frequency of active travel and urban and rural classification in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

Active travel by general health

National Survey respondents were asked to rate their general health from 'very bad' to 'very good'. As might be expected, there was a clear relationship between both walking and cycling for active travel purposes and respondents' general health. People who were in 'very good' or 'good' health were more likely

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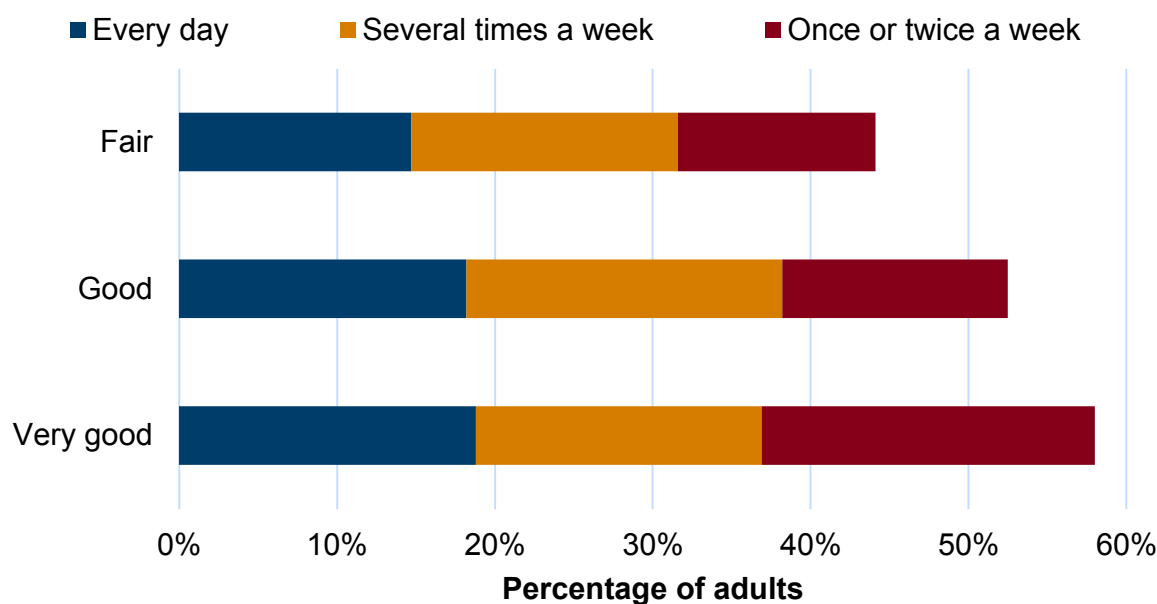
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to walk regularly. However, it is not possible to draw conclusions from these statistics about the nature of the relationship – some people may be healthy because they walk and others may choose to travel actively because they are already healthy.

19% of people in very good health and 18% of people in good health walked as a means of transport every day compared with 15% in fair health. Only 36% of people in bad or very bad health walked as a means of transport at least once per month in 2022-23.

Figure 9: Frequency of active travel by walking by general health, 2022-23



Description of Figure 9: Figure 9 shows the proportion of people that travelled by walking by frequency of active travel and general health in 2022-23.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

Terms and definitions

Urban and rural

“Urban” includes settlements with a population of 10,000 or more and small towns and their fringes, where the wider surrounding area is less sparsely populated. “Rural” includes all other areas.

Disability

The Welsh Government accepts the social definition of disability, in which it is recognised that barriers in society act to disable people who have impairments or health conditions or who use British Sign Language.

The National Survey for Wales, which is the source of data for this release, captures data using the medical definition of disability used in the Equality Act 2010 (“a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term impact on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities”).

Quality information

The National Survey for Wales is carried out by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Welsh Government. The results reported in this bulletin are based on interviews completed between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

32,550 addresses were used with interviewers conducting telephone interviews with a randomly selected adult (aged 16+) in the household. A total of 11,140 telephone interviews were achieved.

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For more details see the [National Survey for Wales Technical report](#).

Interpreting results

Figures quoted in this bulletin are based on only those respondents who provided an answer to the relevant question. Some topics in the survey were only asked of a sub-sample of respondents and other questions were not asked where the question was not applicable. Missing answers can also occur for several reasons, including a refusal or an inability to answer a particular question.

Where a relationship has been discussed between two factors, this does not mean it is a causal relationship. More detailed analysis is required to identify whether one factor causes change in another, or if other factors are actually more important.

The results are weighted to ensure that the results reflect the age and sex distribution of the Welsh population.

Quality report

A summary [quality report](#) is available, containing detailed information on the quality of the survey as well as a summary of the methods used to compile the results.

Context

The [Active Travel Act \(UK legislation\)](#) places a duty on local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel, to build and improve their infrastructure for walking and cycling and to promote walking and cycling

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every year.

Relevance

These statistics are used to inform government, media and society and are used within Welsh Government for policy formulation and monitoring. There are no other current official statistics data sources about active travel in Wales. Some specific uses of these figures will include monitoring the impact of Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

Accuracy

These figures are based on the [National Survey for Wales](#). Further information on the accuracy of this survey can be found in the [quality report](#).

Timeliness and punctuality

The figures were collected for 2022-23 and a first release of the [National Survey for Wales 2022-23](#) was published in July 2023.

Accessibility and clarity

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the [Statistics & Research website](#).

Comparability and coherence

The questions in the 2017-18 National Survey for Wales on Active Travel differ

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to previous questions and therefore data are not directly comparable with previous statistical bulletins. The table below shows questions that were included in 2022-23 on active travel. This bulletin included analysis over multiple survey years where the survey questions have been the same as shown in table below. No questions on active travel by children were asked in 2022-23. In 2020-21 despite questions being asked, these were via telephone interview and information was not publicly made available.

Categories of questions asked on active travel (adults) in 2022-23 survey

Active Travel - Adults	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
How often used bike to get somewhere	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
How often walked for 10 mins to get somewhere	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Walks (10 mins+) or cycles at least once a week as means of transport	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

N: not asked

Y: asked

Related publications

[The Department for Transport produce a report on Walking and cycling statistics for England.](#)

[Transport Scotland produce a report on Transport and Travel in Scotland.](#)

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The Department for Infrastructure produce a series of tables on Active Travel and Public Transport trends in Northern Ireland.

Symbols

Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole numbers. There may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total shown.

National Statistics status

The **United Kingdom Statistics Authority** has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the **Code of Practice for Statistics**.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in February 2011 **following a full assessment against the Code of Practice**.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Added to and refined information about dimensions of quality and described

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links to policy.

- Improved our understanding of the various data sources and the methodology behind them, including their strengths and limitations.
- Added new relevant data sources to provide a broader view of the topic.
- Improved visuals by de-cluttering and standardising charts and tables.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. Under section 10(8) of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, where the Welsh Ministers revise the national indicators, they must as soon as reasonably practicable (a) publish the indicators as revised and (b) lay a copy of them before the Senedd. These national indicators were laid before the Senedd in 2021. The indicators laid on 14 December 2021 replace the set laid on 16 March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Wellbeing of](#)

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Wales report.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Next update

August 2024 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.transport@gov.wales

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SB 30/2023

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