



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport

Empowering a
thriving community

People's Pulse Report

Active Travel Community Insights 2020-21





Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Transport acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Western Australia and pays our respects to Elders both past and present and future.

We acknowledge the members of all Aboriginal communities, their cultures and continuing connection to Country throughout the State.

About this Report

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication.

The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information. May 2023.

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Alternative formats

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Community survey data

The Department of Transport regularly collects data on community perceptions and attitudes, participation and behaviour. This data provides valuable insight into people who walk, wheel and ride in WA, and provides important insight and context to the changing patterns of the community's active transport behaviour.

The Department of Transport's current vision is to collect, analyse and report on a robust set of data that can provide insights on network use and attitudes from people of all ages and abilities, and thus inform state planning and policy decisions to improve the lives of all Western Australians.

Why we collect data

Collecting transport data helps us to better understand transport choices and behaviours and, guide infrastructure investment in local communities to support the growth of active transport.

It also helps us to:

- undertake evidence based active transport planning;
- establish baseline data before infrastructure interventions; and
- monitor and evaluate transport projects.





Key insights: Community survey data

Insights from 2020-21

Key insights

This report provides insight into the perceptions and behaviours of people who walk, wheel and ride across WA. This report draws upon the community survey data collected in 2020 and 2021.

The findings provided have been drawn from the National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey and from DoT Surveys. A brief overview of the community surveys is provided below, followed by key insights from 2020 and 2021.

National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey

Insights from the 2021 WA Report

Cycling and Walking Australia and New Zealand is the Australasian lead reference group for walking and bike riding on transport and recreation networks.

The National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey (NWCPS) provides insight into walking and cycling activity across Australia.

The survey provides data on walking and cycling participation at a national and state or territory level and within each state or territory divided between capital city and regional (non-capital city) areas.

National surveys of cycling participation have been undertaken every two years since 2011, providing valuable insight into trends over time. The survey

is administered using telephone interviews with a representative sample of Australians using both mobile and landline telephone numbers. In Western Australia 2,221 individuals were surveyed from across 887 households in 2021.

These surveys measure what proportion of the Perth population rode a bicycle in a specified period. This information is different to what is collected through counts on the bike network, however, together provide valuable insight into bike riding activity.

DoT Community Surveys

DoT undertakes surveys to monitor community sentiment towards, and participation in, bike riding and walking.

In 2020, DoT's Peoples' Voice Survey commenced, which initially started as online surveys of Perth and Peel residents to monitor riding behaviours and the level of bike riding participation in the community during and following the first COVID-19 lockdown period. A total of 3,293 surveys were collected in April and 1,659 in May 2020. This data helped to unpack patterns in the bike counter data on a more time-specific basis.

Data was also collected from individuals in June (1,685 surveys), October 2020 (838 surveys) and May 2021 (823 surveys). Data will continue to be collected annually (in May).

DoT also administers other community tracking projects and ad hoc data collection. Data from these sources, where relevant, have been provided in this report.

Key Insights: NWCPS 2021

Bike riding participation

Approximately 113,000 more Western Australians were riding a bicycle weekly in 2021 compared with the same period in 2019.

- The NWCPS reported 21 per cent rode a bicycle in 2021, up from 16 per cent in 2019 – this equates to 4 in 20 people in 2021, up from 3 in 20 people in 2019.

DoT Peoples' Voice Survey data from April-May 2020 found that weekly bike riding participation in Perth increased from 17 to 22 per cent from the beginning of April 2020 to late May 2020 following the COVID-19 related restrictions (i.e., approximately 78,000 more people per week over that period).

Taken in parallel, the data suggest that the elevated rates of weekly participation in bike riding observed following COVID-19 restrictions in April 2020 were retained into 2021.

Who is riding?

Almost half (46.7 per cent) of all Western Australians have participated in bike riding over the past year, and 1 in 5 have ridden in the past week.

- Males are significantly more likely to have ridden in the past week than females, however increases in weekly riding are observed across both genders in 2021 compared to 2019.
- The highest (weekly) participation was among children aged under 10. Participation tends to decline as age increases. When comparing to 2019, the highest increases in participation are observed among children and those aged between 30-49 years.

In the 2021 survey, 1.9 per cent reported to ride an e-rideable (e.g., e-scooter, e-skateboard, Segway) in a typical week.

2021: Rode a bicycle (including e-bicycles)

21.4% over past week

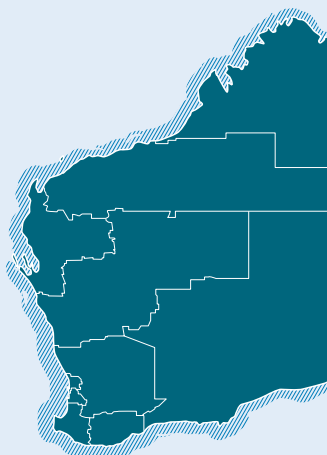
= 561,900 Western Australians

(15.6% in 2019)

46.7% over past year

= 1.22 million Western Australians

(40.8% in 2019)



Source: [NWCPS 2021](#)



Comparison to the rest of Australia

Participation in bike riding in WA in 2021 was higher than the Australian average.

- **Past year:** 46.7 per cent in WA, compared to the Australian average of 40.1 per cent.
- **Past week:** 21.4 per cent in WA, compared to the Australian average of 18 per cent.

Please note: NWCPS data estimates provided are based on a 95 per cent confidence interval. Data has also been weighted by age and gender to be representative of the WA population using ABS census data.

Table 1: Rode a bicycle in the past week (Gender)

Gender	2019	2021
Males	17.3%	26.5%
Females	10.4%	16.4%

Table 2: Rode a bicycle in the past week (Age)

Age	2019	2021
0-9 Years	34.9%	49.9%
10-17 Years	32.7%	40.1%
18-29 Years	8.2%	10.2%
30-49 Years	9.8%	18.3%
50+ Years	6.6%	10.0%

Key Insights: DoT Community Data 2021

Community behaviour

DoT's Peoples' Voice Survey provides detailed data on active transport and public transport trips made by Western Australians, including trip purpose, frequency, and duration. Several key insights from the May 2021 survey have been provided.

When looking at the types of trips made by bicycle riders over the past month, 72 per cent of bike riding trips were for recreational purposes. Trips for sport, health or fitness significantly increased in 2021 to 62 per cent, up from 52 per cent in 2020.

Bike riding trip purpose: May 2021



72%

recreational / outdoor

71% in 2020



62%

for sport, health or fitness

52% in 2020



17%

shopping / personal appointments

18% in 2020



15%

community to or from work

10% in 2020

Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

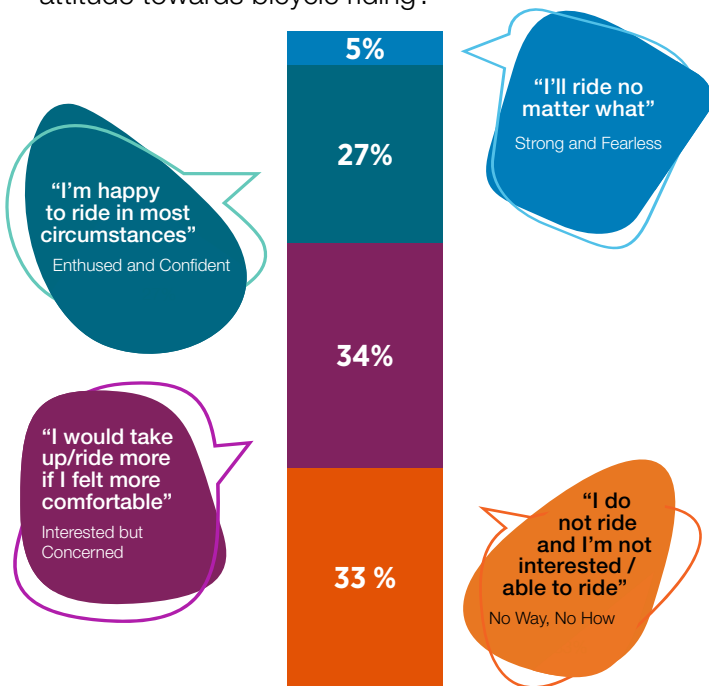
Bike riding typologies

Participants were asked to describe themselves as a person who rides using the following statements:

- “I’ll ride no matter what” - Strong and Fearless.
- “I’m happy to ride in most circumstances” - Enthused and Confident.
- “I would take up/ride more if I felt more comfortable” - Interested but Concerned.
- “I do not ride and I’m not interested/able to ride” - No Way, No How.

Bike rider typology: Attitude towards bike riding - May 2021

Question: Which phrase best describes your attitude towards bicycle riding?



Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

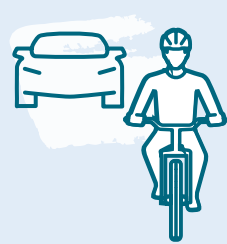
The ‘Interested but Concerned’ segment is of considerable importance as these people identify as being interested in riding more if they felt comfortable.

In the 2021 survey, 34 per cent identified as an ‘Interested but Concerned’ bicycle rider, highlighting an opportunity to facilitate change and encourage uptake in bike riding activity among this segment.


DoT have adopted the bike rider typology from Geller’s work (2006) who classified riders into four segments. DoT uses the self-ascribed methodology (i.e., participants self-select the option they most identify with) proposed by Hosford et al. (2020).

Community sentiment towards walking, riding and scooting

Participants in DoT’s Peoples’ Voice Survey collected in May 2021 reported they would be motivated to increase their walking and riding by:



38%
More accessible paths, facilities and on road safety features
29% Oct 2020



30%
More accessible paths for all ages and abilities
26% Oct 2020



23%
Having somewhere to park my bike at the places that I want to go
19% Oct 2020



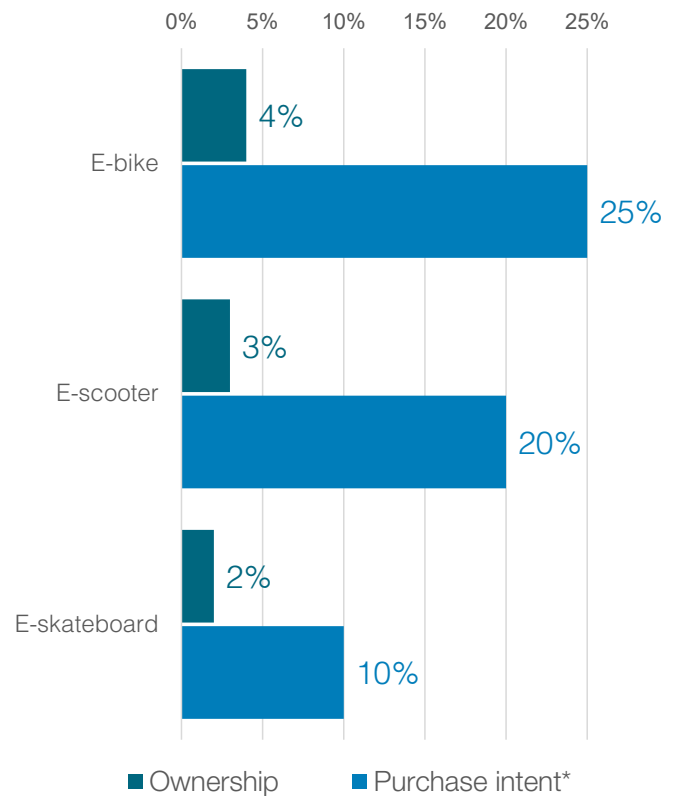
20%
Feeling more confident to ride my bike where I need to go
20% Oct 2020

2021: E-rideable ownership and consideration to purchase

E-rideable ownership and perceptions of e-scooters were explored in the first wave of the Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research. Data indicated ownership of e-rideables is low (3-4 per cent), however 1 in 4 (25 per cent) stated they would consider purchasing an e-bike and 1 in 5 (20 per cent) an e-scooter in the next 12-months. While the benefits of e-scooters in helping people to travel around Perth are recognised, there are some concerns regarding their use.

**Purchase intent percentages are based on those who would consider (definitely consider + consider) in the next 12 months.*

Source: Transport System Perception and Sentiment



2021: Perception of e-scooters

58% agree

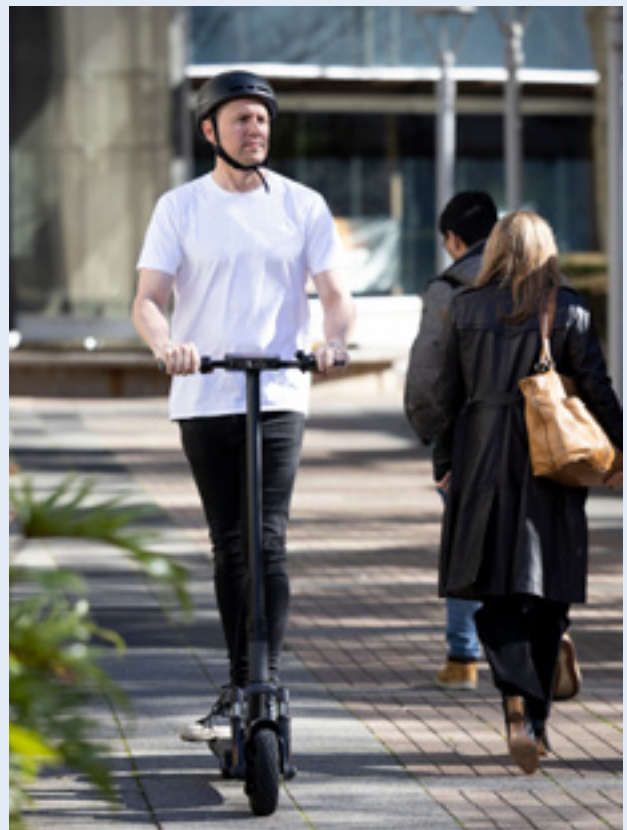
'e-scooters give people more ability to travel around Perth'

27% agree

'e-scooters and pedestrians can safely share footpaths'

Percentages are based on those who agree (strongly agree + agree)

Source: Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research Wave 1



Walking

Walking participation has been taken from the DOT Peoples' Voice Survey. This is based on people who have walked, run or jogged outside for five minutes or more. In 2021, approximately 74 per cent of Western Australians walked for at least five minutes in the last week.

Participation is similar among males and females. In 2021, there was lower participation among those aged 18-34 years. Participation increased with age.

Trip purpose - 2021:

- 73% walked for recreation / to be outdoors
- 62% walked for sport, health or fitness
- 36% walked for a shopping related trip or personal appointment.



Walking participation - May 2021

74% Weekly or more

Walked, run or jogged for at least 5 minutes.
(75% in May 2020)

Table 3: Walking participation (Gender)

Gender	2020	2021
Males	75%	76%
Females	76%	73%

Table 4: Walking participation (Age)

Age	2020	2021
18-34 Years	76%	67%
35-54 Years	73%	77%
55+ Years	77%	79%

Further information

The report referenced data from the Transport System Perceptions and Sentiment Tracking Research. This research involves four waves of data collection administered via an online survey to collect baseline and tracking data pertaining to attitudes, behaviours and sentiments towards the transport system, mode choice and use. The four waves were:

Wave 1 – November/December 2021 (n = 1,001*)

Wave 2 – March/April 2021 (n = 1,003*)

Wave 3 – June 2022 (n = 1,047*)

Wave 4 – scheduled for September/October 2022

All data is weighted to 2016 ABS census data.

*n = sample size

More information can be found on the [DoT website](#) by visiting the following:

- Community surveys
- WA Bike Network Reports



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