

Road casualties are the biggest killer of young people.

This survey is designed for secondary schools, colleges and youth workers to use with groups of 11-18 year-olds, to get their views on how safe they are when walking or cycling in your area.

You can use the survey as part of a lesson to get the students thinking about and discussing road safety - see the ideas below. You and the students can use the results to plan further road safety activities, such as a local campaign to raise awareness among drivers, or a creative project to explore what can be done to help teenagers in the area be safer.

To carry out the survey, simply ask for a show of hands for each question, marking the number of students that answer yes or no in the boxes, encouraging everyone to give honest answers.

Lesson and activity ideas

We recommend you run this survey as part of a lesson, workshop or class discussion on road safety to engage students in this critical topic and get them thinking about how they can help keep themselves and others safe. You could use it as a springboard to engage students in a creative project or campaign promoting safer driving and safer streets. You could:

- Survey local roads for hazards (e.g. speeding traffic, narrow pavements, parked cars) and road safety measures (e.g. crossings, cycle paths, 20mph/30km/h limits). Show the features on a map or make a photo display. Explore what are the safest routes and what improvements are needed. What can authorities do and what can drivers do to protect people?
- Explore the aftermath of crashes, including consequences for drivers who cause serious crashes and the impact on people who are injured or bereaved. Ask pupils to write a fictional newspaper article or play about a crash. You could invite in a police or fire officer for pupils to interview, to help them understand the impact.
- Explore the science behind road safety, such as stopping distances and visibility, using discussion, demonstrations and experiments. Why is fast traffic more dangerous, especially for people on foot and bicycle? Measure out stopping distances at different speeds. What speed is safest for drivers in built-up and busy areas? How does wearing high-vis help make people on foot and bicycle more visible to drivers?

For more advice and ideas on teaching road safety, go to www.roadsafetyweek.org/teachingguide.

Before teaching road safety, always check whether any children have been bereaved or injured by a road crash, and be sensitive to their feelings. They may wish to be excluded from lessons that refer to road death or injury.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Q1: Thinking of an average week, how many journeys would you say you make on foot or bike? (e.g. if they walk or cycle to and from school each week day, count this as 10 journeys)

- This many said 14 or more
- This many said 10-13 journeys
- This many said 7-9 journeys
- This many said 3-6 journeys
- This many said 1-2 journeys
- This many said usually none

Q2: Do you cycle?

- This many said yes, most days
- This many said yes, at least once a week
- This many said yes, a few times a month
- This many said yes, but less than once a month
- This many said no, I never cycle

Q3: Would you like to be able to get out and about more or make more journeys on foot than you do at the moment?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q4: If there were more safe pavements, paths and walking routes in your area, do you think it would enable you to get out and about more or make more journeys on foot?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q5: Would you like to be able to cycle more than you do at the moment, or start cycling if you don't already?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

More questions →

Q6: If you would like to cycle more or start cycling, what are the things preventing you from doing this? (Pupils may put their hands up for all that apply)

- This many said lack of safe routes (i.e. no cycle paths)
- This many said they would feel nervous cycling on local roads
- This many said being worried about being mugged, attacked or harassed
- This many said my parents would be worried
- This many said a lack of places to securely store my bike
- This many said I haven't got a bike/other gear

Q7: Do you think your area should have more pavements, footpaths and cycle paths?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q8: Do you think traffic in your area is too fast for the safety of people on foot and bicycle (such as kids, families, young people and elderly people)?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q9: Do you think the dangers on roads in your area put people off walking and cycling?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q10: When you walk and cycle, do you usually consider what's the safest route and use this?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q11: If you cycle, do you usually wear high-vis gear, such as a fluorescent and reflective bib, jacket, backpack, reflective strips or snap-wraps (not including lights and reflectors on your bike)?

- This many said I don't cycle
- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q12: Have you ever put yourself in danger, or had a near-miss, while walking or cycling, because you were distracted (such as by your phone or a friend or due to listening to music)?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q13: Do you think measures are needed in your area to slow down traffic, to protect pedestrians and cyclists?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

Q14: Do you think better traffic enforcement is needed in your area to ensure drivers obey the law (like not speeding or drink driving)?

- This many said YES
- This many said NO

FOR IDEAS ON HOW TO USE THE RESULTS TO TEACH AND PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY, SEE www.roadsafetyweek.org/teachingguide



This survey is part of www.roadsafetyweek.org, a global resource developed by Brake, the road safety charity, in partnership with insurers RSA, for anyone interested in organising a Road Safety Week, or a similar awareness-raising event, in their country, locality or organisation.

Our aim is to encourage more Road Safety Weeks to spring up around the world during the [UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety](#), and help more organisations, government agencies and communities take action to improve road safety and prevent casualties.

Brake has domestic operations in the [UK](#) and [New Zealand](#), and coordinates national Road Safety Week [UK](#) and [NZ](#). Brake also offers internationally relevant guidance, resources, research and webinars, which can be accessed by organisations around the world to help you promote road safety and support road crash victims. Sign up for our free email [bulletin for educators](#) sent three times a year, with road safety news, events and resources