The National Center’s Data System: Improvements Ahead

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Harnessing the Power of Data to Support Kids Walking and Biking Webinar
July 27, 2016
The National Center’s Data System

Developed in 2007 through an agreement with FHWA

Purpose: Provide a centralized and standardized means of monitoring school travel patterns and parents’ perceptions about active school travel
Data Collection Instruments

Parent Survey

Parent Survey About Walking and Biking to School

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

Your child’s school wants to learn your thoughts about children walking and biking to school. This survey will take about 5-10 minutes to complete. We ask that each family complete only one survey per school-year. Children should participate in the survey with the help of their parent or guardian.

Thank you for participating in this survey.

1. What is the grade of the child who brought home this survey? ○ Grade Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

2. Is the child who brought home this survey male or female? ○ Male ○ Female

3. How many children do you have in Kindergarten through 8th grade? ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ More than 4

4. What is the street intersection nearest your home? Please name the names of two intersecting streets.

and

5. How far does your child live from school? ○ Less than ½ mile ○ ½ mile to 1 mile ○ More than 1 mile ○ 1 ½ mile to 2 miles ○ 2 miles to 3 miles ○ More than 2 miles

6. On most days, how does your child arrive and leave for school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrive at school</th>
<th>Leave from school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>Bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bus</td>
<td>School Bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family vehicle (only children in your family)</td>
<td>Family vehicle (only children in your family)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool (Children from other families)</td>
<td>Carpool (Children from other families)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)</td>
<td>Transit (city bus, subway, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)</td>
<td>Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. How long does it normally take your child to get to/from school? (Select one choice per column, mark box with X)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel time to school</th>
<th>Travel time from school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5 minutes</td>
<td>Less than 5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 minutes</td>
<td>5-10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20 minutes</td>
<td>11-20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20 minutes</td>
<td>More than 20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Not sure</td>
<td>Don’t know / Not sure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Travel Tally

Safe Routes to School Students Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet

Soldiers of Capital Letters Only - Blue or Blue Ink Only

School Name: ____________________________
Teacher’s First Name: ______________________
Teacher’s Last Name: _______________________
Grade: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Monday’s Date (Mark count as completed)

Number of Students Enrolled in Class: __________________________

- Please conduct counts on two of the following three days Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. (Three days would provide better data if counted)
- Please do not conduct these counts on Mondays or Fridays.
- Before asking your students to make their hands, please read all possible answer choices so that they know their choices. Each student may only answer once.
- Ask your students a group like the question “How did you arrive at school today?”
- Then, record each answer choice and record the number of students that used each hand and each mode of transportation. Place just one character or number in each box.
- Follow the same procedure for the question “How do you plan to leave from school after school?”
- You can conduct the counts once per day but during the count please ask students both the school arrival and departure questions.
- Please conduct this course regardless of weather conditions (e.g., ask these questions on rainy days, too).

Step 1: Fill in the weather conditions and number of students in each class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weather</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Bike</th>
<th>School Bus</th>
<th>Family Vehicle</th>
<th>Carpool</th>
<th>Transit</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunny</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloudy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: “How did you arrive at school today?” Record the number of hands for each answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bus</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Vehicle</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample AM 6 1
Sample PM 3 1
Tues. AM
Tues. PM
Wed. AM
Wed. PM
Thurs. AM
Thurs. PM

Please list any disruptions to these counts or any unusual travel conditions to/from the school on the days of the tally.
Use of Data System to Date

As of July 2015, SRTS data system had:

- **1.4 million** parent surveys
- **317,000** travel tallies
- from **14,000** schools
Openness of the Data System

- Open to anyone who signs up at saferoutesdata.org
Openness of the Data System

- Can see any school’s data collection activity
Openness of the Data System

- Including which forms they used, when they used them and how many they collected
Openness of the Data System

- Under agreement with FHWA, data in system are owned by state DOTs
- Users create data accounts and allow others to view, edit, and download reports
Data System Reports

- Reports like these

- School Morning Arrival Travel Mode Comparison

- Issues reported to affect the decision to parents of children who:
  - Walk/Bike
  - School Bus
  - Family Vehicle/Carpool

- Child's Participation in After School Programs
- Convenience of Driving
- Adults to Bike/Walk With
- Safety of Intersections and Crossings
- Crossing Guards
- Violence or Crime
- Sidewalks or Pathways
- Time
- Weather or climate
- Amount of Traffic Along Route
- Speed of Traffic Along Route
- Distance

- Percent of Responses

- Time 1: September 2011 morning
  - Walk: 26%
  - Bike: 39%
  - School Bus: 6%
  - Family Vehicle/Carpool: 34%

- Time 2: September 2012 morning
  - Walk: 32%
  - Bike: 37%
  - School Bus: 7%
  - Family Vehicle/Carpool: 42%

- "Other" category not included.
- Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
What’s Next for the Data System?

- Two main improvements:
  1. Going Paperless
  2. Going Mobile-friendly
What will Stay the Same?

- Paper forms will still be available
- The National Center will continue to process paper forms **until November 15**. Thereafter, users will have to enter in paper forms via saferoutesdata.org
How will the Data System Change?

- Introduction of “self-service” online parent survey
- Introduction of online classroom tally
- Creation of mobile friendly online data entry, making it easier than ever to enter paper forms into saferoutesdata.org
Thank you!

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