



School Traffic Survey: Results

Summary of findings

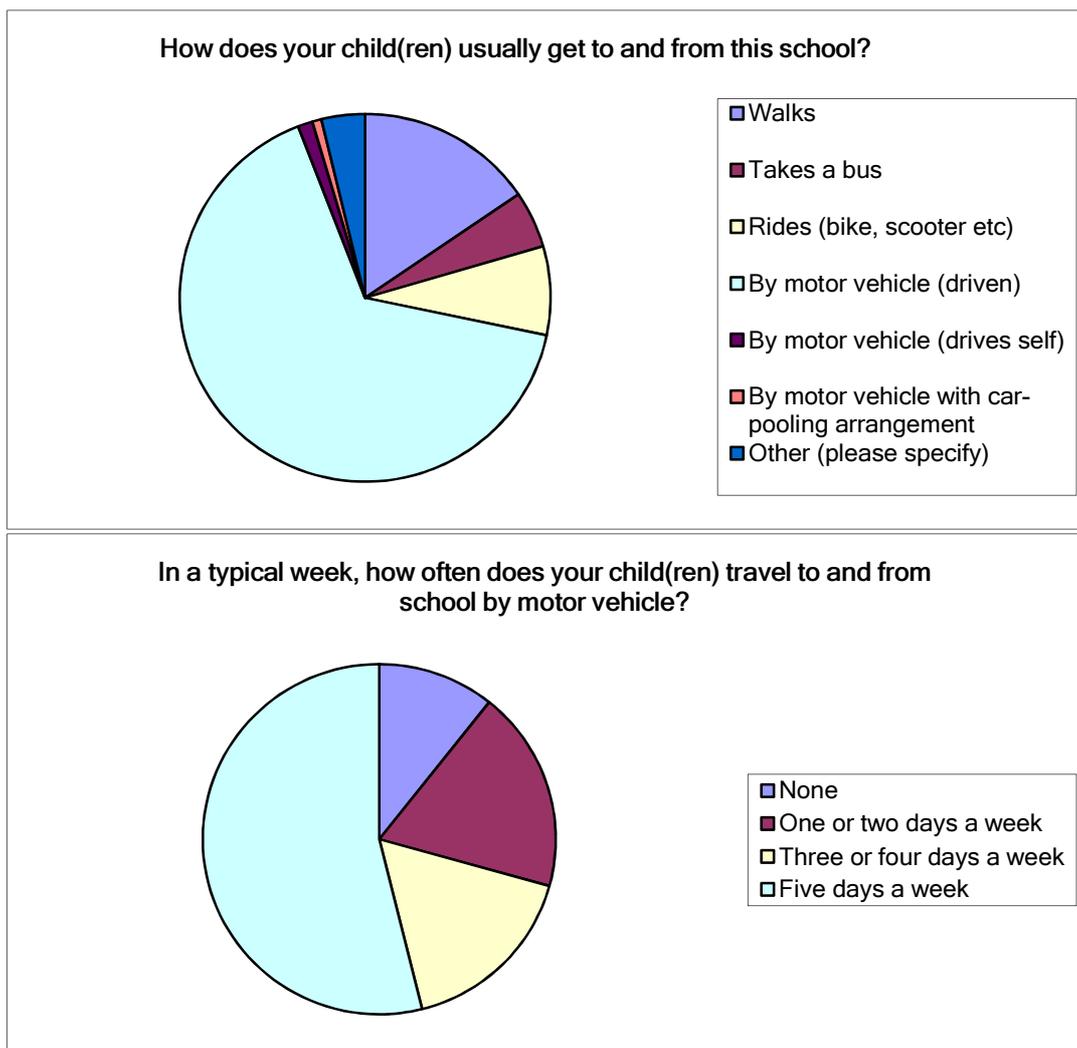
It is clear that parking and traffic difficulties are major issues for many schools. An alarming majority of parents consider roads around our schools unsafe, traffic volumes unmanageable, and parking, pickup and set-down at school difficult. There is a high level of frustration and concern among parents despite school staff clearly working hard on the issue in many schools.

Our survey was completed by more than 1100 parents from 73 ACT public schools.

Mode of travel

Two-thirds of parents surveyed said their children usually travel to and from school by car.

Around half travel by car five days a week. This is similar to other, larger, surveys of school travel, suggesting that we have a representative set of respondents.

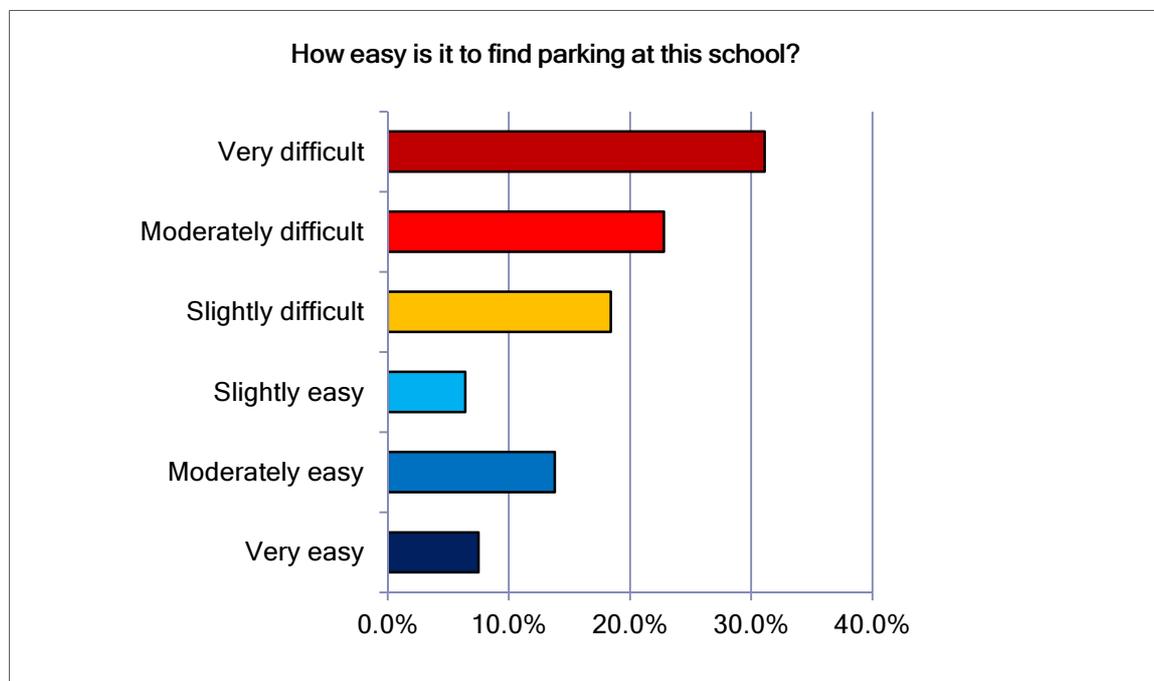


Parking

Most parents find it hard to park at school.

Over 70% of parents surveyed (72.3%) say it is difficult to find parking at school (either 'very difficult', 'moderately difficult' or 'slightly difficult').

Nearly a third of parents (31%) find it 'very difficult' to find parking at their school.



Parents noted that parking was an even greater problem when there is a special event at the school. In some cases, the lack of parking is deterring parents from attending school events, engaging in the school, and even from volunteering.

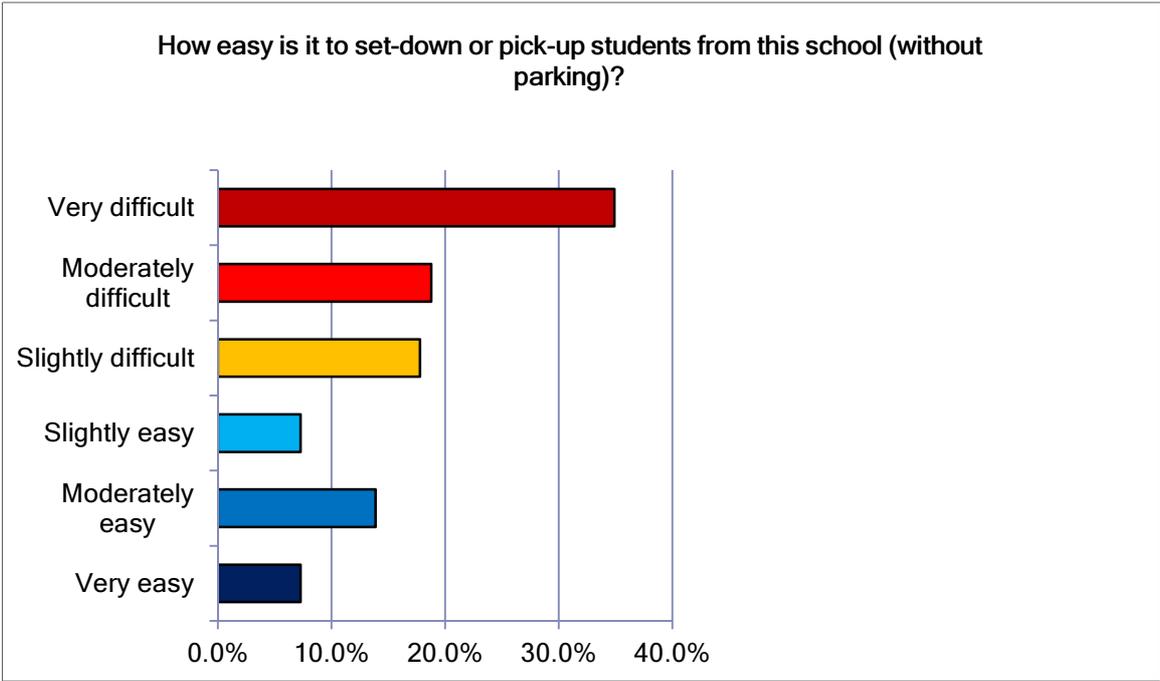
Set-down and pick-up

Most parents find it difficult to pick-up and drop-off their children at school (without parking).

Over 70% say it is difficult to set-down and drop-off (71.5% responded either 'very difficult', 'moderately difficult' or 'slightly difficult').

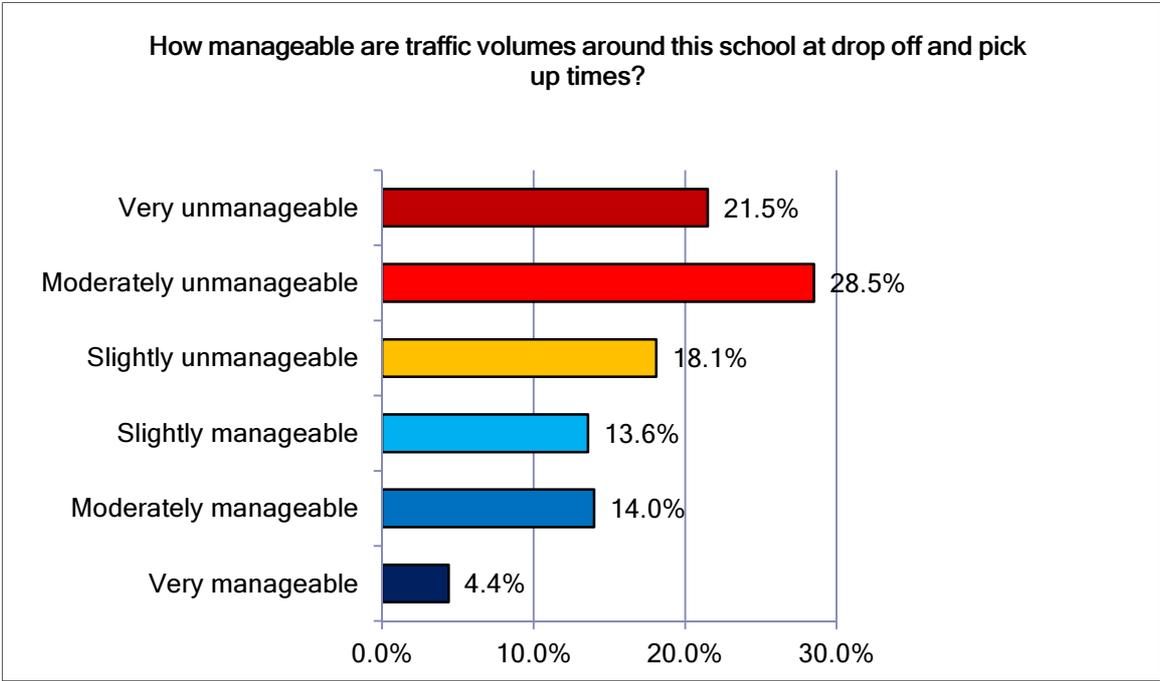
Over a third of parents (35%) find set-down and pick up 'very difficult'.

An improvement to pick-up and set down-areas or 'kiss and drop' zones is clearly needed at many schools. In some cases this may mean widening roads or creating or extending drop-off areas. However, many parents called for existing set-down areas to be supervised at the beginning and end of the school day so that there is a clear system for how they work, so that parents are moved on if their children are not yet there to be picked up and so that parents do not park in these areas. This would not necessarily involve a change to roads, but could require staff to be allocated or a program involving volunteers or senior students to be implemented.



Traffic Volume

Nearly 70% say that traffic volumes are unmanageable around the school around 9am and 3pm; 21% saying 'very unmanageable'.



Some parents noted worse traffic congestion where several schools are co-located or nearby (especially two primary schools such as a public and a private school).

Safety

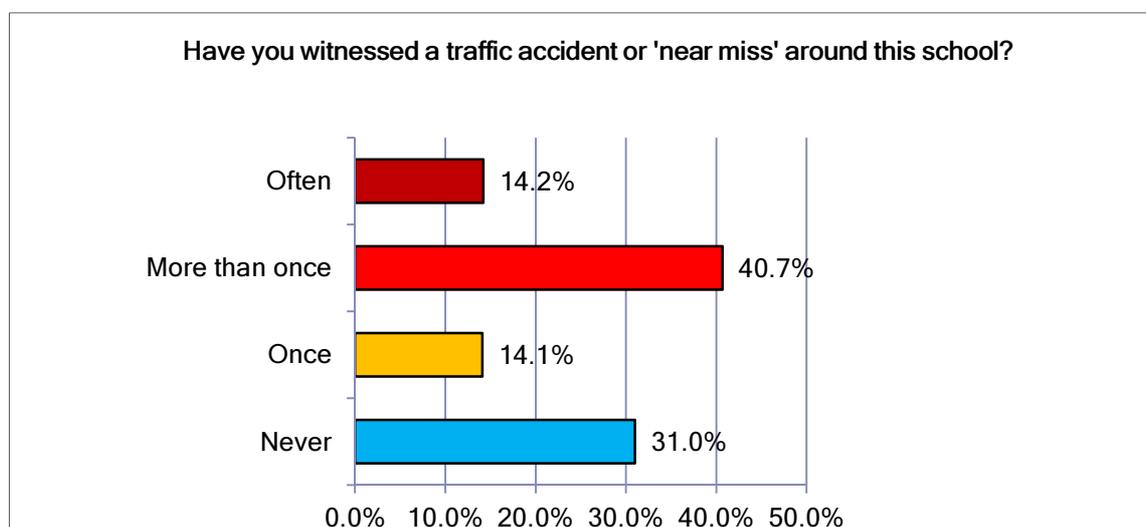
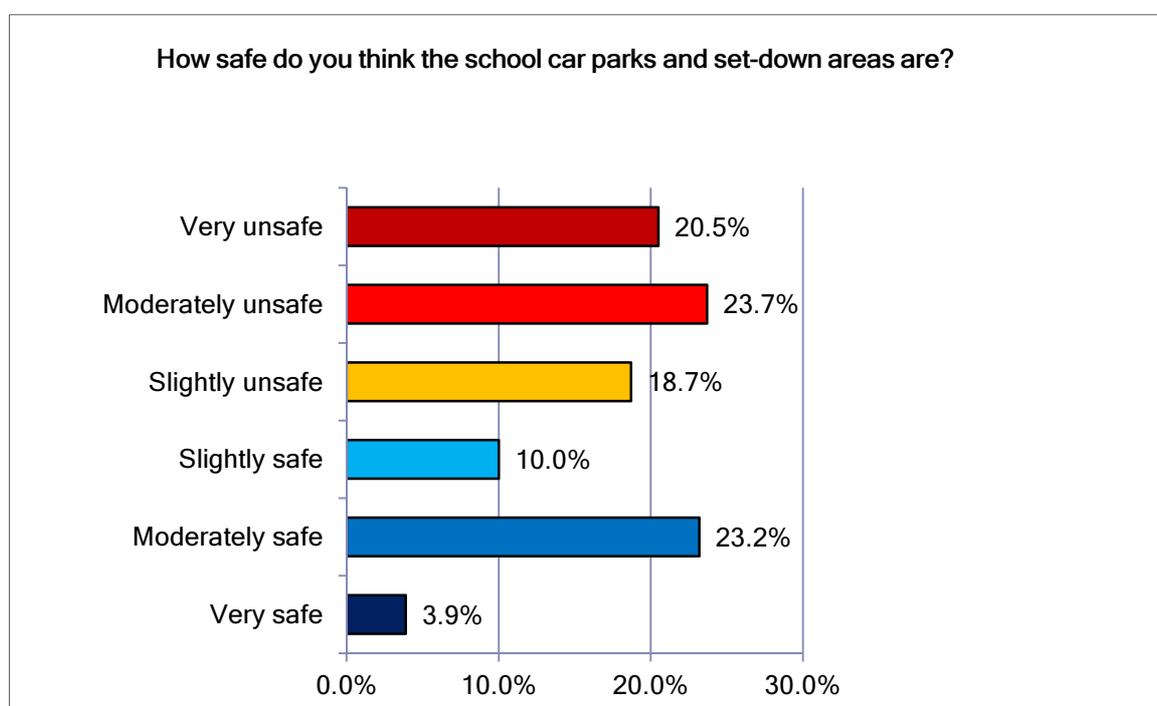
Nearly two-thirds of parents surveyed say their school car parks and set-down areas are unsafe (63% of parents responded either 'very unsafe', 'moderately unsafe' or 'slightly unsafe').

Across the ACT, **a fifth of parents believe the roads around their school are 'very unsafe'**, but this varies from school to school. At some schools up to half of respondents rate their school roads as 'very unsafe'.

Perceptions of safety were similar for children who walked or were driven to school but school roads were perceived as safer by those who took buses.

Alarming, nearly 70% of parents (68%) have witnessed an accident or near miss around their school. Across the ACT 14% say this happens 'often'.

Parents' comments show that there seems to be a genuine issue with **school crossings** being unclear, parked on, mis-understood and ignored. Many people are very worried about safety and plead for solutions to be found quickly.



Improvements

We asked parents what measures would make traffic safer at their school.

- More than half of respondents asked **for more parking** (62%)
- Around half cited **improvements to school crossing** (additional crossings, making them clearer, installing lights at crossings, supervision, bollards to stop parking on or near crossings)
- Nearly half requested **pull-off bays along the road-side** (47%).
- Many parents also called for tougher enforcement of speed zones and parking and traffic infringements (around 40%).

Schools are already working on these issues, with Principals calling for cooperation and for traffic compliance in their newsletters, working with nearby businesses and road users and holding chat sessions with parents to find solutions.

Some parents have been involved extensively with ACTPLA, TAMs and ACT Roads in trying to improve roads, or in developing school traffic plans with ETD.