



VicHealth

INFORMATION SHEET

Walking School Bus Snapshot data

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

November 2007



What is snapshot data and how is it collected?

Key terms

Frequency of data collection and return rates

Results

What is snapshot data and how is it collected?

Snapshot forms are sent twice a year to all councils funded by VicHealth to deliver the Walking School Bus (WSB) program. The data collected provides a snapshot of how many schools and children are involved in the WSB program over one week at two points in the year. Councils forward the forms to schools that are involved in the WSB program who forward them onto route volunteers. Forms are then returned to the council for collation and returned to VicHealth for entering and analysis.

To have a better idea of participation rates in the WSB program across the state, the returned data is used to calculate coverage for all council areas involved in delivering the WSB program. The data presented here would be an underestimation of how many children and schools are involved in the WSB program as not all forms come back from all routes, schools or councils involved in the WSB program.

Data presented here relates to what happens on WSB in the **MORNING** in relation to children, routes and buses.

For more information on the Walking School Bus program see:
www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/wsb

Key terms

Route – schools may have a number of ‘routes’ depending on where children come to the school from. This is the path the bus follows from the children’s houses to the school.

Bus – individual Walking School Buses. This is a more reliable figure for determining how many children are walking to school than routes as it captures how many buses are operating throughout the week. One route may have one bus running on one morning (1 route; 1 bus) or it may have one bus operating each morning of the week (1 route; 5 buses).

Enrolled – children in the school whose parents have provided permission allowing them to walk on the Walking School Bus. Many more children are enrolled on the bus than actually walk on any one morning.

Children per bus – the actual number of children who walk on the bus during the snapshot period. This would include children formally enrolled as well as children who may not be enrolled but who join the bus anyway (often referred to as ‘taggers’ because they tag along with the bus).

Walks – we can refer to individual children per bus, we cannot refer to the total number of children enrolled. Individual children’s names are not collected which means we can’t distinguish if 5 walks means one child walked five mornings or five children walked once each morning. Therefore the term walks refers to the collective number of walks that occurred.

Walking School Bus snapshot data

Summary Results

Frequency of data collection and return rates

Snapshot period	Return Rate
November 2005	40 out of 49 funded organisations (82%)
May 2006	36 out of 48 funded organisations (75%)
November 2006	34 out of 52 funded organisations (65%)
May 2007	35 out of 52 funded organisations (67%)
November 2007	35 out of 51 funded organisations (69%)

Results - Council level

Table 1 Council level summary data

	Nov 2007	May 2007	Nov 2006	May 2006	Nov 2005
Council areas	51	52	52	48	49
Schools	141	198	198	158	157
Routes	255	356	337	237	267
Buses	487	693	594	474	565
Children enrolled	3542	4950	4396	3286	3501
Walks	4507	6584	5108	4550	4972
Route length	278 km	396 km	376 km	284 km	314 km
Time to walk the route	51 hrs	122 hrs	66 hrs	45 hrs	42 hrs

- The number of councils involved in the WSB program during 2005 and 2007 remained relatively stable with 48 to 52 councils involved.
- The number of schools these councils worked with varied from 157 schools in 2005, 198 schools in 2006 to 141 schools in 2007. Further analysis of the individual schools involved in WSB shows that since 2005, over 370 schools have been involved in the program.
- The number of buses running has fluctuated between 2005 and 2007. Most recently in November 2007, only 487 buses operated. The number of buses operating indicates that at least 974 volunteers would be involved in supporting the WSB program. This figure is based on two volunteers per bus but is likely to be an underestimation as there are often more than two volunteers per bus as volunteers come and go from the program.
- The number of children enrolled and walking on the WSB increased between November 2005 and May 2007 with over 6,500 walks occurring every week. However there has been a dramatic decline from 6,500 children walking per week in May 2007 to just 4,507 children walking per week in November 2007.
- In November 2007, the distance walked by children involved in the WSB is on average 280kms every week. The children are taking 51 hours to walk this distance.

Table 2 School level summary data

	November 2007	May 2007	Nov 2006	May 2006	Nov 2005
Schools per council area	4	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.2
Routes per school	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.7
Buses per school	3.4	3.5	3	3	3.6
Children enrolled per school	25.1	25	22.2	20.8	22.3
Children per bus	7.3	9.5	8.6	9.6	8.3
Route length - km per school	1.3	2	1.9	1.8	2
Time to walk the route - min per bus	21	37	20	17	16

Results - School level

- The number of schools that a council works with to implement the WSB has grown slightly from 3.2 schools in 2005 to 4 schools per council in November 2007.
- The number of WSB routes each school operates and the number of buses per school has remained relatively stable.
- The number of children per bus has fluctuated from 2005 to 2007. Most recently, only 7.3 children per bus has been recorded; this is below the average of previous years.
- The number of children enrolled in the WSB program is far greater than the number of children who walk on any one morning. This is not unexpected as children enrolled in the WSB don't necessarily walk all the time. Some only walk one or two mornings a week; some start walking with the bus and then 'graduate' to independent walking.
- The distance children walk to school on the bus has dropped slightly from 2kms in May 2007 to 1.3 kms in November 2007.

Walking School Bus snapshot data

Summary Results

November 2007

- In November 2007; 51 council areas were involved in delivering the WSB program. These 51 councils engaged 141 schools who operated 255 WSB routes, with 487 buses and 4,507 children waking to school as a direct result of the WSB program. These children will be supported by at least 974 volunteers.

May 2007

- In May 2007; 52 council areas were involved in delivering the WSB program. These 52 councils engaged 198 schools who operated 356 WSB routes, with 693 buses and 6,584 children walking to school as a direct result of the WSB program. These children will be supported by at least 1,386 volunteers.

November 2006

- In November; 2006 52 council areas were involved in delivering the WSB program. These 52 councils engaged 198 schools who operated 337 WSB routes, with 594 buses and 5108 children walking to school as a direct result of the WSB program. These children will be supported by at least 1,188 volunteers.

May 2006

- In May 2006; 48 council areas were involved in delivering the WSB program. These 48 councils engaged 158 schools who operated 237 WSB routes, with 474 buses and 4,550 children walking to school as a direct result of the WSB program. These children will be supported by at least 948 volunteers.

November 2005

- In November; 2005 49 council areas were involved in delivering the WSB program. These 49 councils engaged 157 schools who operated 267 WSB routes, with 656 buses and 4,972 children walking to school as a direct result of the WSB program. These children will be supported by at least 1,130 volunteers.

For more information on the councils involved see table 3.

Table 3 Council Level Snapshot Data

	Nov-07			May-07			Nov-06			May-06			Nov-05		
Council	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus
Bass Coast	3	9	4	4	3	7	2	2	5.5	-	-	-	1	2	7
Baw Baw	2	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	7.9	3	14	9.3
Bayside	8	68	9	5	44	11.3	7	38	8.8	6	41	9	6	54	9.2
Bendigo	3	14	12	1	15	9.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Boorondara	9	40	9	6	25	8.4	5	17	8.4	5	28	9.5	3	21	8.4
Brimbank	9	21	6	7	24	7	7	16	4.1	5	14	6.4	4	8	7.1
Cardinia	3	12	4	2	9	4.7	3	8	5.4	1	10	10.4	6	22	5.4
Casey	7	20	10	5	20	9.2	3	11	8.8	2	7	13	5	27	12.7
Central Goldfields	3	6	7	3	8	9	3	7	7.1	2	5	7.6	1	3	7.7
Dandenong	2	6	9	3	7	11.4	2	4	15.5	2	4	9	3	22	11.6
Darebin	-	-	-	3	9	6.7	3	8	3.9	4	19	3.7	4	24	4.7
E.Gippsland	2	5	7	4	11	7.8	6	13	10	7	11	13.5	4	8	11.3
Geelong	8	55	7	7	55	7.1	6	43	6	4	28	6.1	3	11	5.7
Glen Eira	4	5	11	4	6	8.3	1	4	6	1	5	9	1	5	11.6
Grampians Pyrenees	6	10	22	6	16	20.3	3	10	7.8	4	7	6.9	1	1	14
Hobson Bay	2	4	7	5	8	15.8	2	4	7.8	3	7	11.4			
Horsham / Wimmera	-	-	-	2	4	8.3	5	7	8.3	7	7	10.6	3	3	8.7
Hume	4	11	14	3	11	14.2	4	11	11.5	-	-	-	1	5	10.8

Table 3 Continued

Council	Nov-07			May-07			Nov-06			May-06			Nov-05		
	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus
Indigo	2	8	6	1	3	9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Kingston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	5.3	3	8	6.3
Knox	1	5	11	2	4	11.5	-	-	-	1	1	6	1	4	22.3
La Trobe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	10.7	4	14	8.9
Macedon Ranges	6	27	10	7	21	12.8	6	21	10	5	12	12.6	5	12	9.4
Manningham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	21.8	2	4	19.5
Maribyrnong	3	6	5	2	8	3.6	1	5	6	1	2	5	2	7	7
Maroondah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	30	5.3
Melbourne	2	4	9	-	-	-	2	3	10.7	2	4	9	2	3	10.3
Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	1	3	10.7
Mitchell	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	14.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Moira	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	14.5	1	2	12.5	1	2	10.5
Mooney Valley	11	41	9	8	40	9.5	8	38	9.1	7	24	8.8	5	13	5.8
Moreland	4	11	7	5	11	11.9	5	6	9.8	2	1	5	2	1	7
Mornington Peninsula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	15	1	5	11.4

Table 3 Continued

Council	Nov-07			May-07			Nov-06			May-06			Nov-05		
	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus	School	Buses	Child per bus
Murrindindi	3	8	3	2	10	9.3	2	7	5.6	3	11	6.9	-	-	-
Nillumbik	7	28	13	7	29	18	7	21	13.2	7	17	16.3	7	23	11
Shepparton	1	3	3	2	3	4	1	3	8.7	-	-	-	4	22	8.6
Stonnington	1	2	11	1	2	11.5	3	5	9.6	3	7	6.3	2	6	11.8
Surf Coast	4	5	6	4	14	4.4	4	5	6.6	-	-	-	2	0	0
Swan Hill	3	8	14	5	10	13	6	7	10.3	4	5	16.6	4	5	14
Wangaratta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	15	7
Warrnambool	4	7	18	2	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wellington	6	15	8	-	-	-	8	26	7.2	8	26	8.5	7	23	8.2
Whitehorse	3	10	13	3	9	18.6	-	-	-	4	8	14.1	4	6	9.2
Wodonga	2	3	11	2	3	7.3	2	3	8	2	3	6	2	3	3.3
Wyndham	1	0	0	2	1	7	2	3	8.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarra	-	-	-	3	4	4.5	2	7	5.9	2	4	6.3	2	1	4

Key: - Data not provided

* Not part of the WSB at that time