

How do children want to go to school? By bike, car or helicopter?

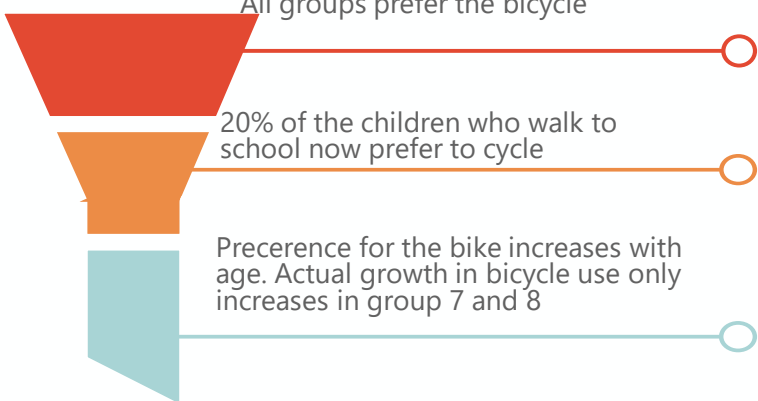
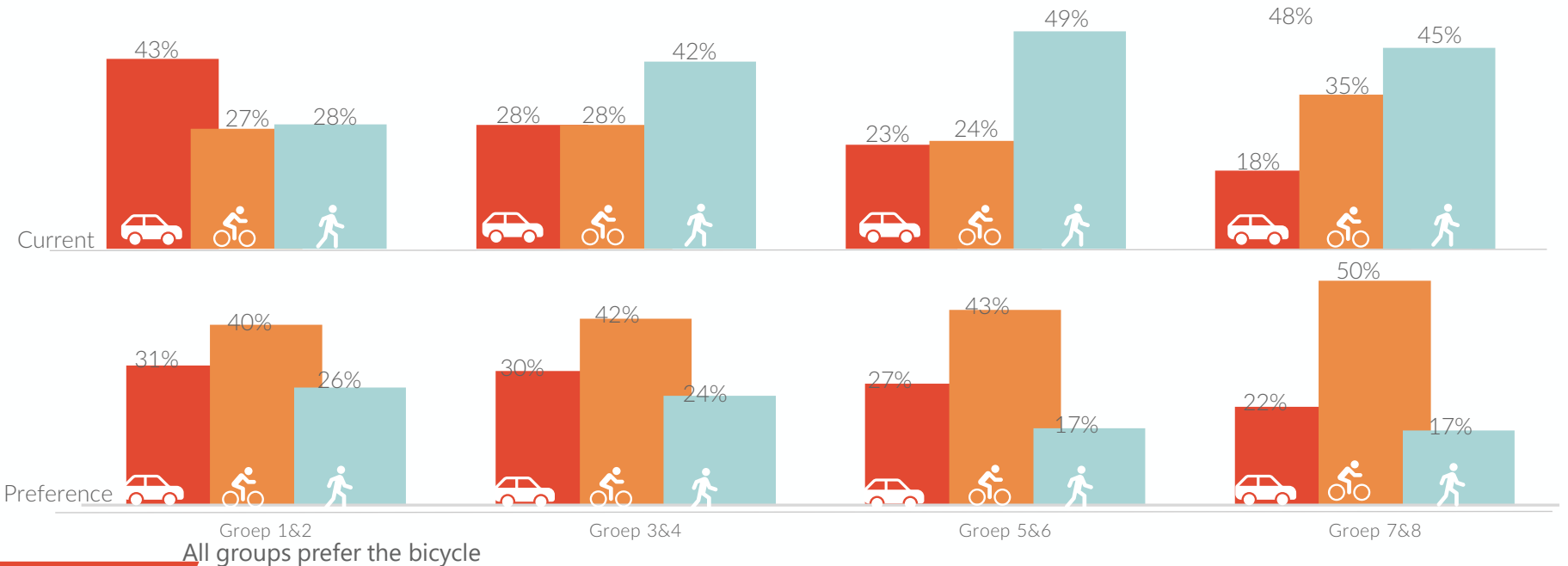
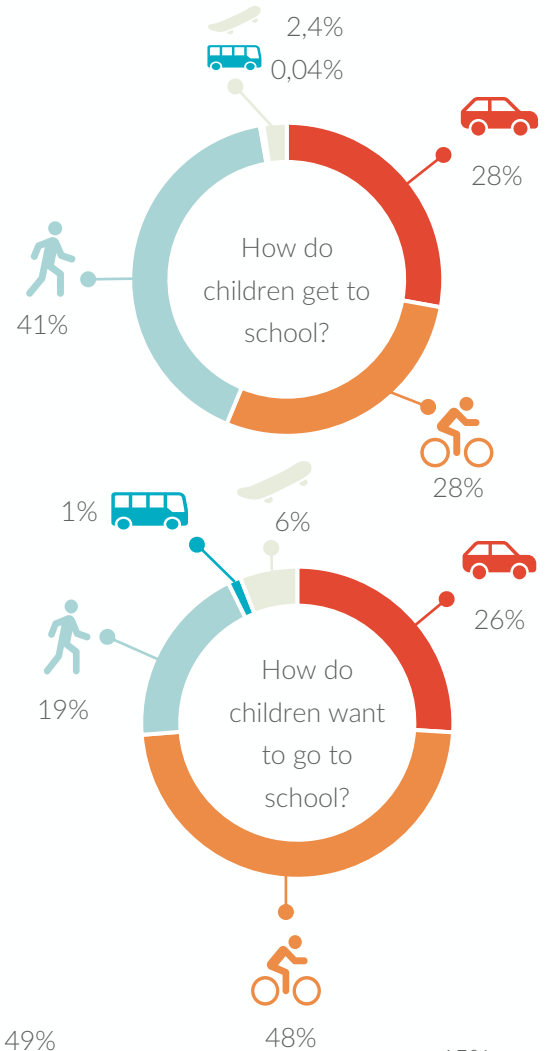
What is the role of transport choice for children? We want children to be able to go to and from school in a safe and pleasant way. That doesn't work everywhere yet. Traffic safety around primary schools remains a very important theme. The municipality of Tilburg works together with primary schools to improve traffic safety through the Tilburg Safe To School program.

One of the components in Tilburg Safe To School is stimulating walking and cycling. A signal that the municipality regularly receives is that parents experience unsafe traffic situations due to the amount of cars during pick-up and drop-off moments. This in turn leads to more parents bringing their children to school by car, which further reduces road safety.

At the same time, it turns out how important it is that children walk or cycle to school at an early age. Learned young is done old. Children who meet the bicycle at an early age continue to cycle more often in their adult lives. This is especially important for children because learning to ride a bike contributes to the independence and freedom of children. Children who cycle are more often independent, more resilient, more self-reliant, less anxious and more often have more friends because they can reach them themselves. Moreover, cycling kilometers during the primary school period is important in order to be able to cycle properly and assess traffic situations as soon as children go to secondary school. In other words: cycling to the primary school contributes to reducing the number of accidents with children who're 12 years and older.

But what do children want? The municipality of Tilburg together with Breda University of applied sciences researched how children currently go to school and how they themselves want to travel. For this research more than a thousand primary school children were surveyed, spread over ten primary schools in the municipality. It turned out that children want to cycle more. This applies to all ages. The share of children who now come by car is slightly larger than the share of children who prefer to come by car. The largest group of children who prefer to cycle is currently pedestrians: about 20% of the children who walk now prefer to cycle. The older children get, the greater their preference is for cycling.

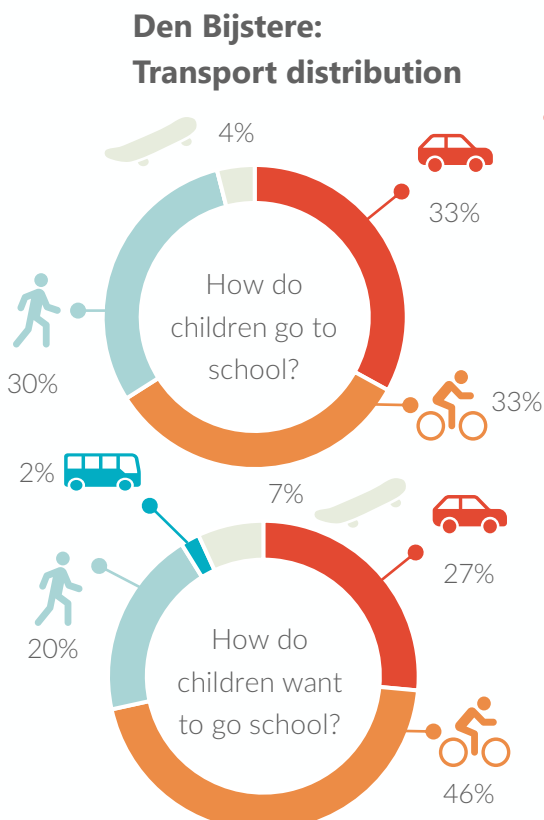
Fun fact: the favorite means of transport in the answer category 'different': helicopters, airplanes and limousines.



But, how about this at your school?

Den Bijstere

Relatively few children walk to Den Bijstere, which means that more children cycle as well as being brought by car. Despite the fact that the current situation of Den Bijstere deviates from the average of the other schools in Tilburg, the desired situation matches almost seamlessly. On average, children want to cycle more often and be brought to school less often by car.



Den Bijstere: Current/ preference difference

current vs preference	
Car	- 6
Bike	+ 13
Walking	- 10

Den Bijstere: deviation average

current %	preference %
Car + 5	Car + 1
Bike + 5	Bike - 2
Walking - 11	Walking + 1