

RAC Member Priorities Tracker

Walking

In December 2020, 381 of our members¹ took part in a survey telling us their views and experiences about walking and what could be done to make it easier and safer for them to walk more often.

Satisfaction with existing infrastructure

When members were asked how satisfied they were with the quality and availability of dedicated walking infrastructure:

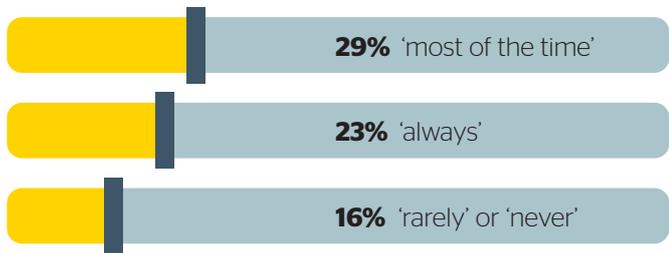


55% were satisfied with 'controlled crossings (e.g. at traffic lights)' vs. **31%** were satisfied with 'uncontrolled crossings (e.g. without lights such as mid-block and on side roads)'

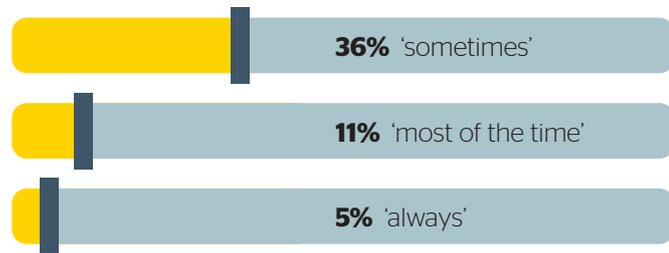
Walking behaviour at signalised intersections



Just over half (**52%**) of all members 'wait for the green pedestrian light to cross the road' most of the time or more⁴



Just over half (**52%**) of all members feel 'they wait too long at signalised intersections to cross the road'

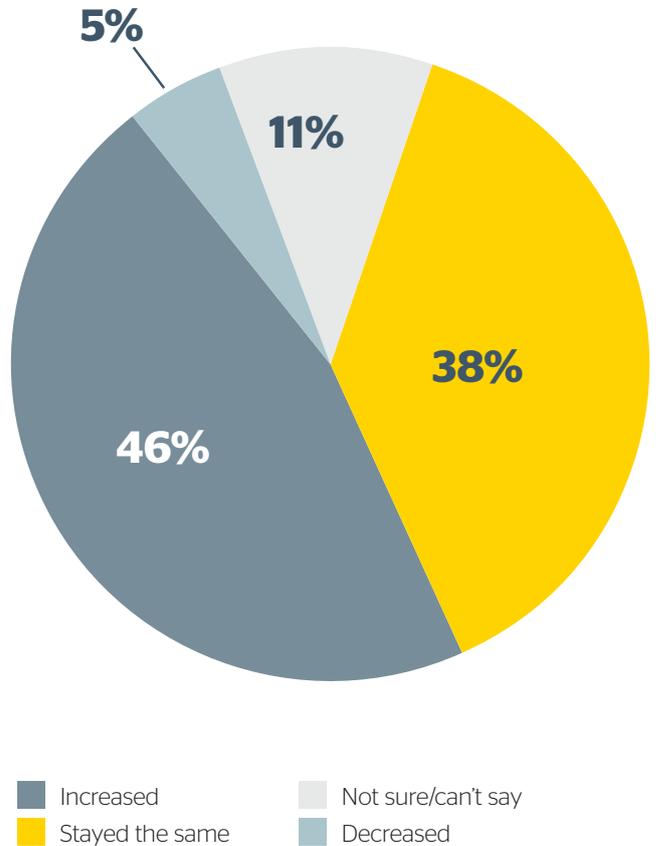


¹ 285 from the Perth and Peel regional and 96 from regional WA. Age, gender and location sampling quotas were applied, and data has been post-weighted to be representative of RAC's membership (which is broadly consistent with the WA population profile) - the margin of error at total sample level is +/-5% at the 95% confidence level.
² Respondents who were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'.
³ Regular walkers are those who walk outside for more than 10 minutes five or more days a week (158 respondents).
⁴ A further 17% said 'sometimes' and 15% said 'not applicable to me'.

Connection to our local area

Over the last 12 months, nearly half (**46%**) of members estimate the amount of people walking and using the streets and public spaces in their local area has increased.

Just **5%** thought that the amount of people walking in their local area declined in the last year.



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Walking

What stops us walking more often?

When asked what, if anything, stops them from walking more often, the top three responses include:

Nothing stops me from walking more frequently **(31%)**

Weather **(23%)**

Not practical due to distance **(19%)**

Members across different locations, stages of life and age groups gave varied responses:

Those living in the North-east sub-region⁵ of Perth identified a 'lack of footpaths' as their top response **(31%)**

The top response of those aged 29 and under is walking more often is 'not practical due to distance' **(41%)**

Parents under 45 years of age identified the 'need to do school drop off/pick-ups on the way to/from work' as a key barrier to walking more often⁶ **(24%)**

Approximately 1 in 4 **(23%)** women under 45 years of age living in Perth say concerns about 'personal safety' stops them from walking more often, compared with just **11%** for all respondents

Approximately 1 in 5 **(18%)** of those aged 45 years or older identify 'health or physical constraints / disability' as a key barrier to walking more often

Priorities for government action

The top priorities⁷ to encourage people to walk more include:

43% 

Better planning of communities to provide more destinations / amenities / transport services within walking distance

38% 

Build on / improve the network of footpaths

Regional members listed this as their top priority **(42%)**

29% 

Activities to promote walking as both a viable and safe mode of transport and recreational activity

26% 

Invest in improved public transport services

25% 

Better use of technologies to improve pedestrian safety and experiences

⁵ The Northeast sub-region consists of the City of Swan, the Shire of Mundaring and the Shire of Kalamunda.

⁶ This was the second top response, weather was the first.

⁷ Respondents were asked to identify their top three priorities from a prompted list.



For further information
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