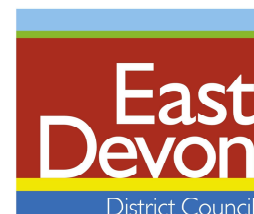


# East Devon Youth Survey (EDYs) Phase 2: Outline of results for Axe Valley Community College Survey

East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8HL.  
Research Officer, March 2006



## 1 Introduction

This report provides an initial outline of data collected from Axe Valley Community College in the second phase of the East Devon Youth Survey (EDYs). The survey aimed to explore some aspects of leisure affecting young people in East Devon.

It was accepted that the term 'youth' could mean a number of age bands, and the term often comes with negative associations. In this study we have taken youth to mean 'young people', specifically those at secondary school in the 12 to 18 year old band, with all their diversities, and hopefully without some of the baggage. This report does not include a survey of literature surrounding the theories of youth, nor a full methodology.

## 2 Research Background

Initially this research was requested by the Communities Directorate, East Devon District Council to determine sports facility usage and allied issues. Following proposed changes in the Council structure, and interest expressed by the Local Strategic Partnership Officer Group, Transport Group, and the Community Safety Group, the survey was extended to consider other issues affecting youth. The leisure content was required to remain within the survey and formed a dominant component. Health related questions were not included in this survey as it was considered that the survey was already becoming too overloaded, and that the NHS services were already producing survey proposals in this area.

The final survey aimed to look at young people's leisure activities in the broadest sense, taking into account sporting, and non-sporting activities. Other issues were to be considered in line with Government core indicators, and needs of key partners.

## 3 Methodology

By agreement with Axe Valley Community College, questionnaires were circulated to all students in their morning tutor groups one day during the first week of February 2005. It was accepted that a questionnaire survey had a number of advantages and disadvantages. The advantages were that the survey could gather data from a large number of pupils and the costs were relatively low, particularly in terms of staff time, and this process could be achieved within the current Council setting. Disadvantages included problems with surveys potentially treating participants

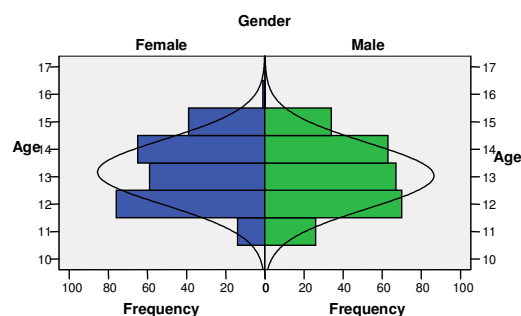
as a homogenous group, being impersonal, and not allowing elaboration of responses. Some students may have found a questionnaire a difficult way to express themselves, putting them at disadvantage to those who could express themselves more readily. Some elements of the survey were challenging, and the survey was quite lengthy for this type of study. It was however envisaged that the survey was the starting point of a process that would lead to a fuller dialogue later on. A number of open questions were included in the questionnaires to reduce some of the problems associated with this method. Ethical considerations needed to include issues around the age of participants.

The questionnaire was formulated by discussing what was required with members of the Local Strategic Partnership. This was not a process led or heavily involving those who would be surveyed, though the draft questionnaires were circulated at a local youth club, and school, for comment and amendments were made.

## 4 Findings

There are over 800 students at the school and 526 responded.

### 4.1 Age/sex



#### 4.2 Ethnicity

520 (98.7%) respondents entered their ethnicity:

##### Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
White	506	97.3
Asian or Asian British	6	1.2
Black or Black British	3	.6
Chinese or other ethnic group	3	.6
Other	2	.4
Total	520	100.0

#### 4.3 Disability

Most responded to the disability question, with 5.4% saying they had a recognised disability. Specific disabilities were not asked for, as again the data revealed would be below data protection threshold.

515 (97.7%) respondents responded to the disability question:

##### Do you have a disability

	Frequency	Percent
Valid No	487	94.6
Yes	28	5.4
Total	515	100.0

#### 4.4 Town

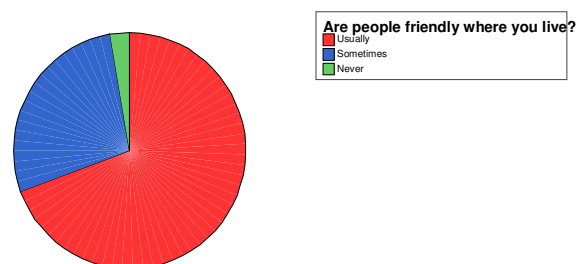
The majority of students were from Axminster, Seaton or Colyton but almost a third were from other locations in East Devon.

10 (1.9%) did not respond to this question

TOWN	Percent	Frequency
All Saints	0.4%	2
Axminster	29.4%	155
Axmouthe	1.9%	10
Beer	4.9%	26
Chard	6.1%	32
Chardstock	1%	5
Colyford	1.3%	7
Colyton	12.3%	65
Hawkchurch	1.3%	7
Honiton	2.3%	12
Kilmington	1.7%	9
London	0.2%	1
Lyme Regis	0.4%	2
Membury	0.4%	2
Millway	0.4%	2
Musbury	2.1%	11
Payhembury	0.4%	2
Seaton	23.6%	124
Shute	0.6%	3
Sidford	0.4%	2

Sidmouth	0.2%	1
Smallridge	0.2%	1
Smeatharpe	0.4%	2
Southleigh	0.4%	2
Tatworth	1.9%	10
Tytherleig	0.8%	4
Wexford	0.4%	2
Weycroft	0.4%	2
Whitford	1.1%	6
Willmington	0.8%	4
Wingham	0.4%	2
Winsham	0.4%	2
Total	98.1%	517

#### 4.5 Are people friendly where you live?



When asked "Are people friendly where you live?", almost 70% said that people were 'usually', around 28% said 'sometimes', and just under 3% said 'never'. This question was asked as a proxy for information on social inclusion.

#### 4.6 School

For this survey all respondents obviously came from Axe Valley Community College.

#### 4.7 How you normally get to school?

The main form of transport to school was school bus (47%), while 22% walked, 18% got a lift, 10% used a public bus, but 0% normally cycled.

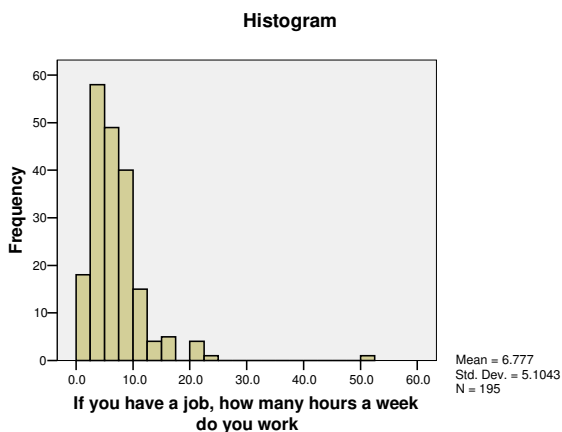
	Frequency	Percent
Valid Walk	118	22.7
Public Bus	53	10.2
School Bus	245	47.2
Lift in parent's car	74	14.3
Lift in friend's car	18	3.5
Taxi	11	2.1
Total	519	100.0

#### 4.8 How you normally get to leisure?

Around half of respondents (48%) said that they got a lift in a car to their leisure activity, almost 35% walked, 5% used public bus, but 8% cycled.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Walk	150	34.5
	Car	209	48.0
	Bus	20	4.6
	Cycle	36	8.3
	Train	16	3.7
	Motorbike	2	.5
	Other	2	.5
	Total	435	100.0

#### 4.9 Jobs

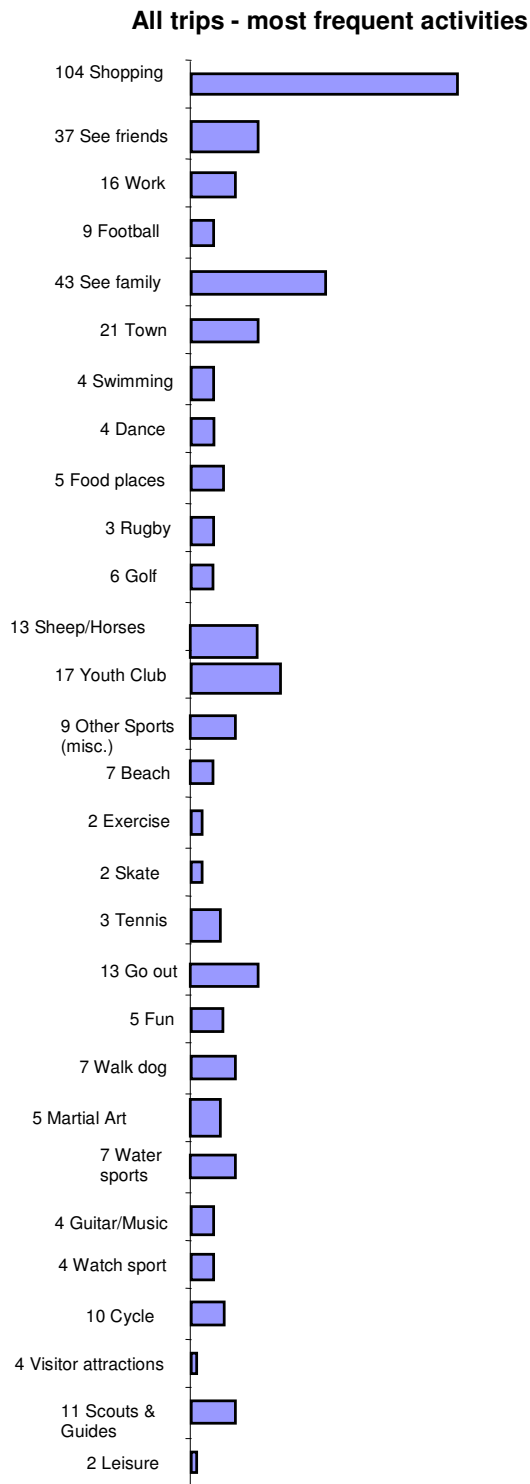


Just under 40% of respondents said they had a job. The mean hours worked was 6 hours per week.

#### 4.10 Frequent Trips

##### 4.10.1 Reason for trips

School journeys were excluded from this section. The most frequent trips were for shopping, and town, or to see friends and family, followed by youth club or work.

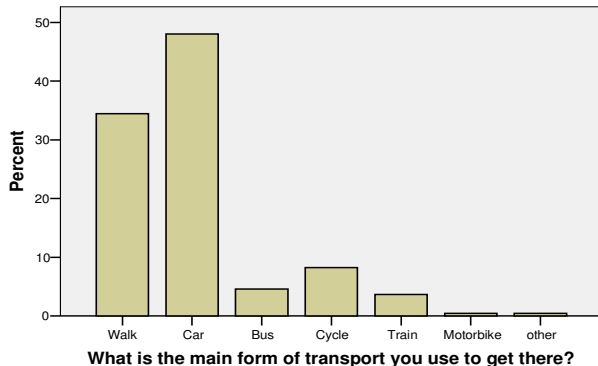


#### 4.11 Mode of transport

For each of the “most frequent” trips most students went by car though walking was also very prevalent.

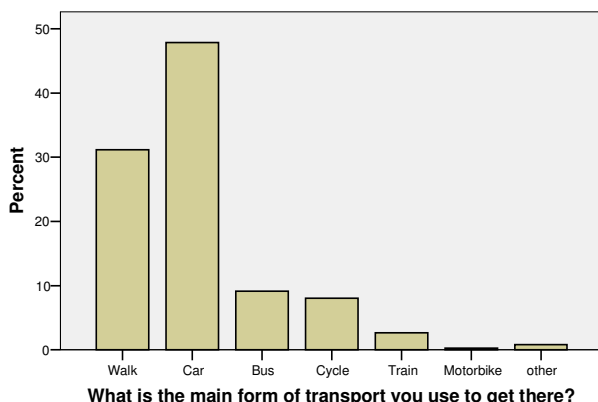
##### 4.11.1 Most frequently made (non-school) Journey

What is the main form of transport you use to get there?



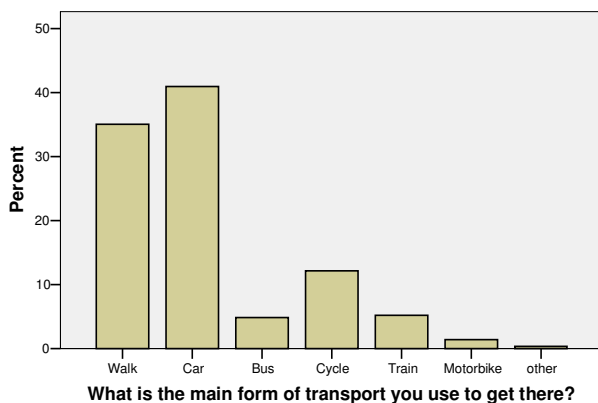
##### 4.11.2 2<sup>nd</sup> most frequent (non school) journey

What is the main form of transport you use to get there?



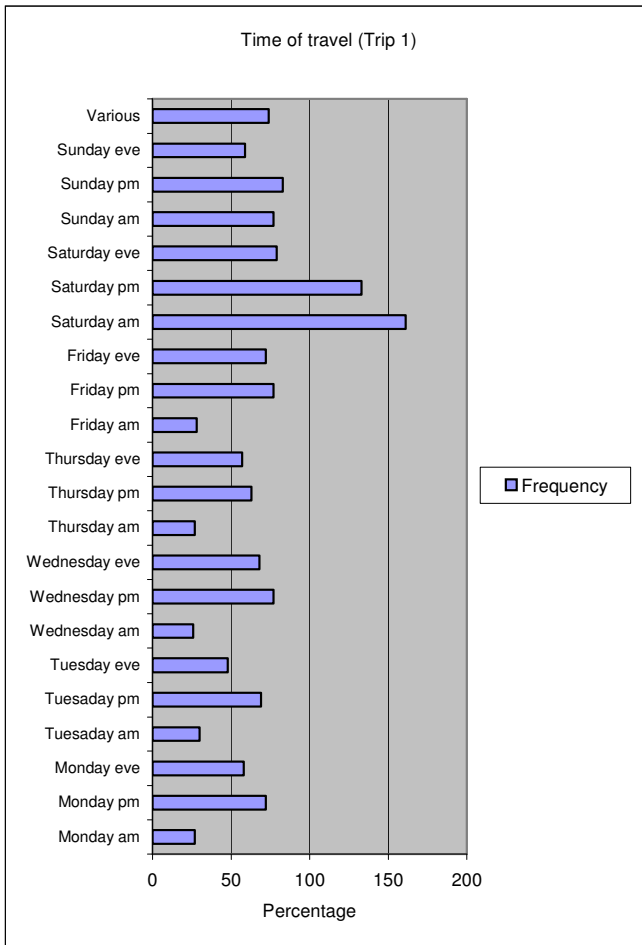
##### 4.11.3 3<sup>rd</sup> most frequent (non-school) journey

What is the main form of transport you use to get there?



#### 4.10.4 Time of travel

Most (non-school) trips were made on Saturday mornings, this number of trips was closely followed by Saturday afternoons, with fewer trips made most evenings. Not surprisingly, the smallest frequencies occurred on weekday mornings, presumably coinciding with term time attendance at school.

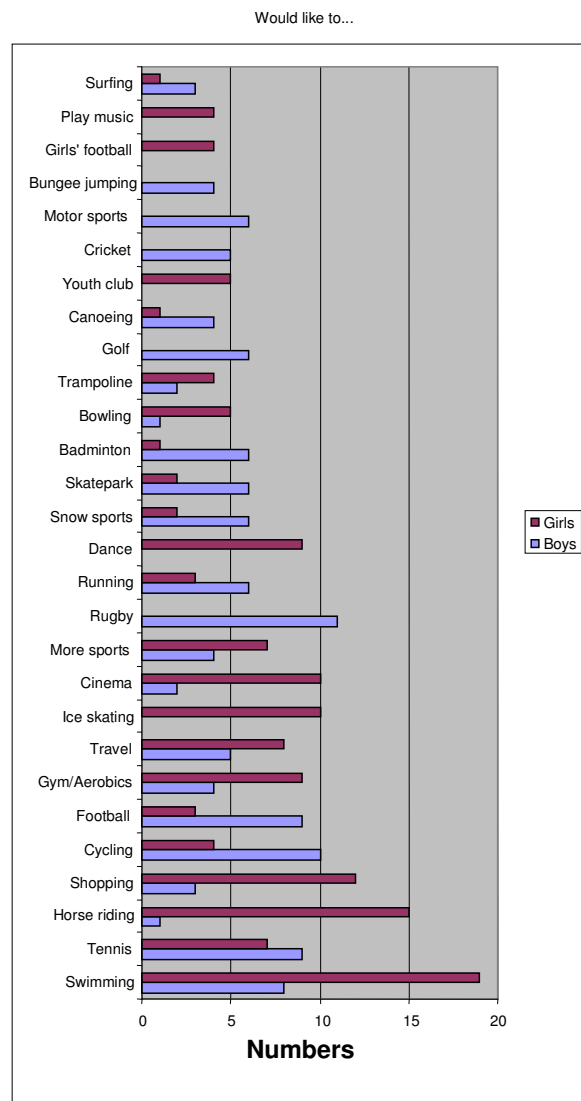
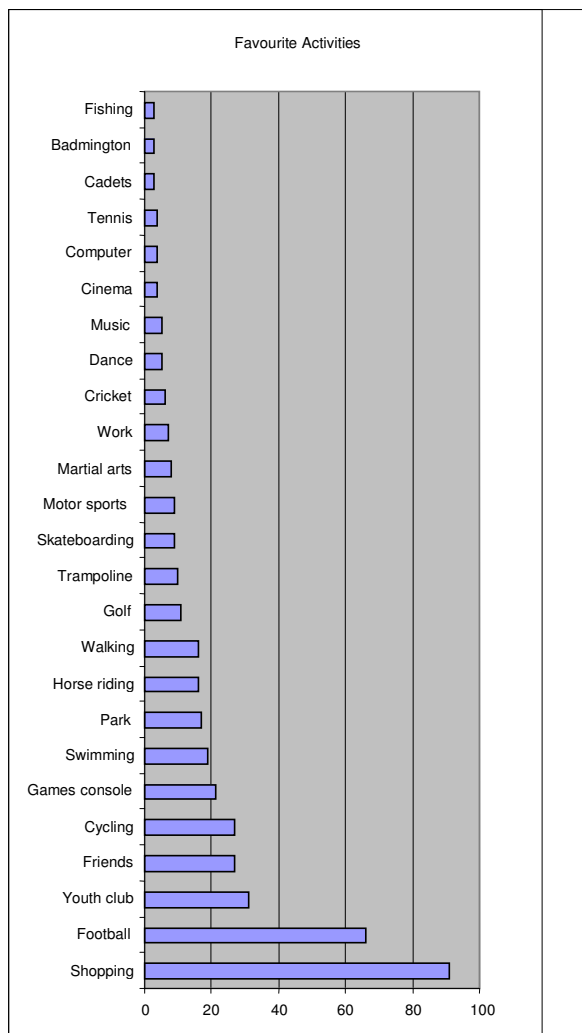


#### 4.12 Places used

Axe Valley Sports Centre, the local skatepark, and the District’s swimming pools were the 3 most commonly used facilities from the list given.

#### 4.13 Favourite Activities

When asked what their current favourite activities were, the predominant answers were shopping, football, youth club and seeing friends.



#### 4.14 Would like to do

When asked what they would like to do, the most popular request (by a significant margin) was for swimming. Tennis was next, followed by shopping, cycling and football.

Swimming, tennis, horseriding, and shopping were preferred by girls, while cycling and football were preferred by boys.

Horseriding dance and iceskating were almost exclusively female requests whereas golf and motorsport were exclusively male responses.

Interestingly a small number of girls (and exclusively girls) expressed a wish to go to a youthclub

#### 4.15 Problems in doing what would like to do

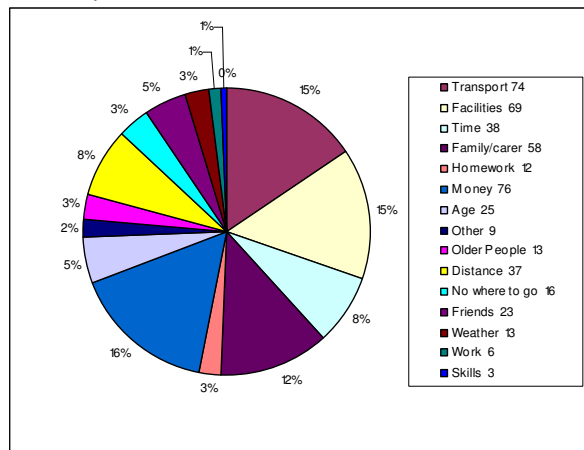
Respondents listed 467 problems they encountered in doing what they wanted. The types of problems were placed into general categories before being ranked by frequency. Outlines of the types of problems encountered have been given for each of the headings.

Of those saying they had a problem around 16% related to facilities. Around a third of the responses relating to facilities said that there was nothing, or not much, for people of their age to do. Apart from ice-skating no significant sport or activity appeared in the problem section.

##### 4.15.1 Transport

Around 15% of respondents, to the question on problems, said they had problems doing what they wanted due to transport.

The main problems were no availability of transport nearby, or having to rely on parents for a lift.



#### 4.15.2 Facilities

Of those saying they had a problem 15% related to facilities. Several mentions were made of having no facilities for their particular sport or pastime. Some of the mentions related to being stopped from playing football in the park, or their favoured activity had been displaced by others.

#### 4.15.3 Time

Around 8% of those responding to the question of problems said they did not have enough time. One reason for not having enough time was already being involved in other activities.

#### 4.15.4 Family/Carers

One eighth said they had problems doing what they wanted due to family. The main reason given by respondents for not being able to do what they wanted by family was parents stopping them from doing things. Although most responses were non specific, ie 'parents no allowing me', some said either their parents did not trust them, or they did not trust other people (safety issues). Other family factors preventing people from doing the activities included domestic duties, or siblings.

#### 4.15.5 Homework

Some 3% of those responding to the question on problems said that homework was an issue. The overall problem appeared to be that they thought that there was too much homework and coursework and that

this prevented them from having time to do other things.

#### 4.15.6 Money

Money, or lack of it, (was the predominant issue, with transport). 16% of those saying they had a problem with this.

#### 4.15.7 Age

5% felt that age was a problem, either from not being able to get into clubs or other activities, use facilities on their own, or with friends, or that facilities tended to be tailored to older people.

#### 4.15.8 Older people

A few said that older people were a problem, mainly because they seemed to complain about things that young people did, and telling them off, or preventing them from doing things.

#### 4.15.9 Distance

The distance to activities was seen by around 8% as a problem. Either the activities they wanted to do were too far away, (in, for example, Exeter), or that they lived in a rural location away from most activities. Obviously this is linked to the transport issue.

#### 4.15.10 Nowhere to go

The category 'nowhere to go' differed slightly from lack of facilities, though they may be grouped together.

Those saying they had nowhere to go appeared to not necessarily to want to do any particular activity, but just have somewhere to go; for example somewhere to go out to, that was warm and dry, and away from home, e.g. like a café.

#### 4.15.11 Friends

These problems related to either friends or not enough of them. This was an issue for around 5% of respondents with a problem.

#### 4.15.12 Weather

The cold, dark (not strictly weather) and wet prevented some from going out and doing things.

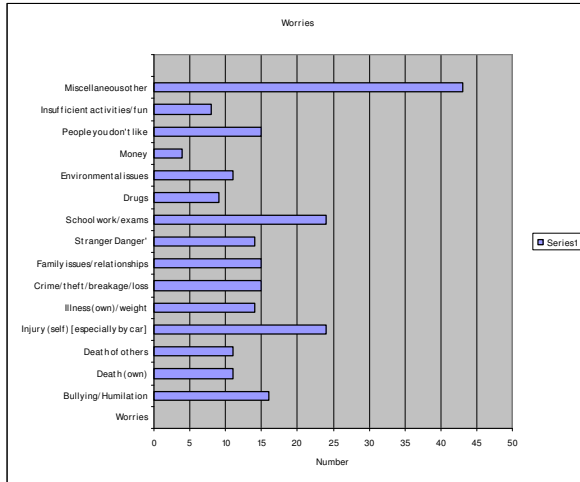
#### 4.15.13 Work

A few said their paid work prevented them from doing the activities they wanted to.

#### 4.15.14 Skills

A few mentioned that they did not have the skills to do the things they'd like.

#### 4.16 Worries



Just under a half of all respondents said that they had a worry. The most prominent worry, around 10%, was to do with being injured (especially by a car).

Another main worry (10%) was school work, though bullying (7%) also features. Other significant issues were illness, crime, family relationships, and "stranger danger". "Stranger danger" mainly related to fear of some form of attack, including kidnap, by strangers.

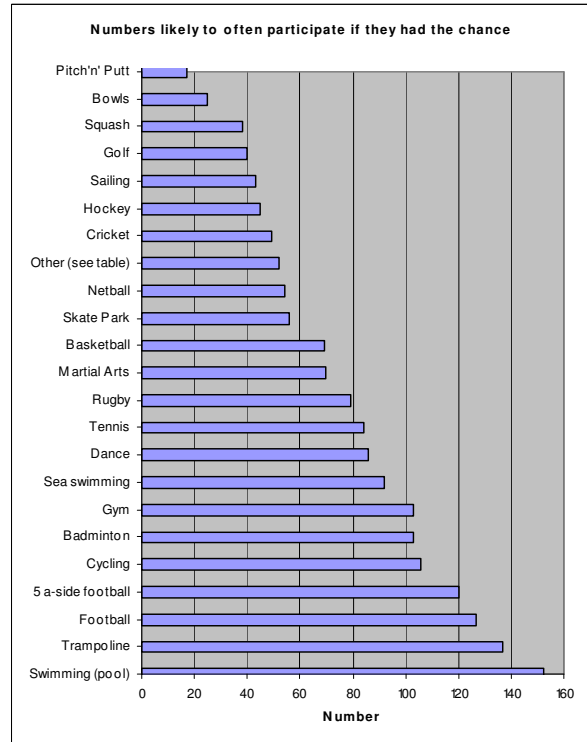
6% of worries were also about having to meet people that weren't liked (different age, lifestyle etc).

#### 4.17 Activities from pre-defined list

We asked about a set of specific physical activities (linked to what East Devon District provides).

From the list we asked students whether they were likely to participate and how often. The following shows numbers of students likely to often participate in the activities.

#### 4.17.1



#### 4.17.2 What else would you like to do?

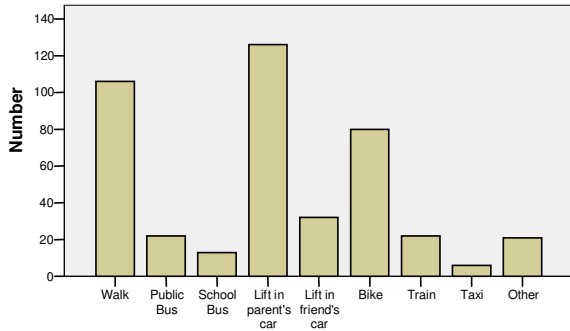
This is a list of other activities that were requested but were not on the standard list above.

	Number	Percent
Archery	3	.6
Athletics	2	.4
Athletics	2	.4
Boxing	2	.4
Canoeing	2	.4
Drama Group	2	.4
Football in sports	1	.2
Freestyle biking	2	.4
Gymnastics	1	.2
Horseriding	1	.2
Horseriding	2	.4
Horseriding	6	1.1
Ice skating	2	.4
Javelin	1	.2
Jogging	3	.6
Mountain Biking	2	.4
Paintballing	1	.2
Rounders	2	.4
Running	2	.4
Shooting	2	.4
Skating	2	.4
Skim boarding	2	.4
Surfing	1	.2
Table tennis	4	.8
Track	1	.2
Volleyball	1	.4

#### 4.17.3 Transport to activities

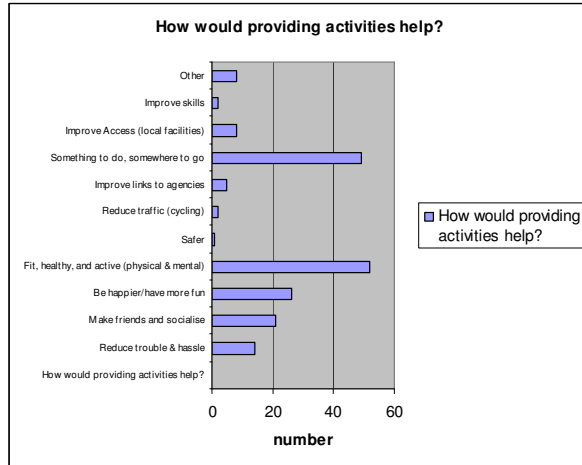
When asked which form of transport would be preferred to get to activities it was clear that 'parents car' was an acceptable option followed by walking and cycling.

**What would be your preferred choice of transport for getting to activities?**



#### 4.17.4 How activities can help you and your friends

The students responded to the question on how the activities they wished for could help them or their friends.



An interest in health and fitness as well as a need for 'something to do' dominated. Fun, socialisation and keeping out of trouble also featured.

#### 4.18 How we could ask in future

Around 60% of the students responding to this question said we should do a survey in the future, around 25% wished for a face to face discussion, and the rest suggested web based survey, or other means

#### 4.19 How would you like to hear the results

From the students responding to the question asking how they would like to be informed, around 33% said in a class or tutor group and less (28%) suggested via a leaflet; 22% suggested at school assembly.

#### 5. Action

The results of this survey will be communicated directly to all LSP partners for discussion, and to others involved in the initiative, including the school. The results will be posted on the Council website. This survey will be added to results from similar studies at Sidmouth College and Kings schools for comparison, and for validity. Further surveys may be undertaken at a later date depending on response by partners to the initial stages.

It is also hoped that schools will be able to participate in further discussions or surveys through school councils, part of Citizenship, or ICT (e.g. electronic surveys) curricula, or other activities.

The new 'Leisure East Devon' Trust will also view the results to determine how they may tailor activities for young people and ensure equality in service.

#### Acknowledgements

East Devon District Council wishes to thank the students and staff of Axe Valley Community College. Thanks also goes to Sidmouth Youth Club for initial comments and suggestions on the survey format, and our Local Strategic Partners, Peter Jeffs (East Devon District Council), Danielle Graysmark (Devon County Council Youth), Paul Kelly (Devon and Cornwall Police), and Dominique Holmes (East Devon Primary Care Trust). The Community Safety Partnership kindly donated part of the cost of the initial survey.