

# Pedestrian counts

Pedestrian counts provide data on how people move around in the city. The counts give an indication of activity levels and destinations that attract people. A pedestrian traffic survey may be used in planning as a tool for strengthening and improving certain routes. Pedestrian data is also helps understanding the hierarchy of streets in the city.



Langelinie, Copenhagen city centre



Mozarts Plads, Copenhagen

## Method

To count pedestrians, stand by an edge (such as a building) of the street or space and ensure an unobstructed view of all people passing by. Stand with your back against the edge and create a "counting line" by looking at an elevated object across the space and imagining a line running from yourself to that object.

## When & where?

Counts are usually carried out from 8:00 am to midnight for 10 minutes every hour. Experience shows that this gives a reliable spot sample that can be extrapolated to full hours by multiplying with 6. A continuous flow of people is needed for the 10 minute spot sample to be accurate; if very few people are recorded additional reference counts may be needed. Similarly, large groups of people followed by long pauses in the flow may generate inaccurate data. Pedestrian counts can be carried out in any space where the entire flow of pedestrians is observable from one location. Counts can be carried out by the same person in different locations during one hour to get a better picture of the movement pattern.

## Instructions for counting pedestrians

Count the people passing your "counting line" and note the final number on your registration sheet:

- Count ALL pedestrians walking or running in the street passing your "counting line".
- Count pedestrians moving in both directions.
- Count pedestrians in both directions, unless instructed to do otherwise.
- Count children, also children being carried or in prams/strollers.
- Count people on skateboards and roller skates.
- DO NOT count people on bicycles as pedestrians. If bicycle count is required it should be registered separately.
- DO NOT count people waiting for transport or by street lights. Only people in movement should be counted.

## Preparations

Make a time schedule. Make registration sheets. Check the weather – avoid rain and extreme heat or cold.

# Stationary activities mapping

Mapping of stationary activities provides a snapshot of the people spending time in, but not moving through, a public space. Mapping gives an overview of the stationary activities occurring throughout the day, such as standing, sitting, playing, working, engaging in sports and cultural or commercial activities.



Ahlefeldtsgade, Copenhagen city centre



Public bath in the harbour, Copenhagen

## Method

Stationary activities mapping is a "behavioural mapping" method, where the activities in question are registered on a plan drawing. The mapping contains information on what activities are taking place and where, and is meant to be a snapshot of all activities in the mapped space at that time. Stationary activities mapping is carried out by walking through the entire space, from one end to the other, looking forward and registering all activities passed on the way. Do not turn around to check what has happened since you passed! It is only the activities you see in the moment you pass that should be mapped. Walk the same route through the space each time you carry out your mapping.

Plot type and location of all stationary activities on the plan drawing/survey sheet. Note the number of people participating together with the correct symbol (see legend provided). When finished, sum up all activities separately and note the totals on your survey sheet.

## Where & when?

It is generally sufficient to carry out stationary activities mappings every 2nd hour from 10 am-10 pm, but mapping every hour gives a more accurate data set. The mapping

method is suitable for a wide variety of spaces such as squares, playgrounds, sport facilities and parks, but also for street sections.

## Instructions for mapping of activities

Plot the following activities on the plan drawing as accurately as possible:

- People standing – looking at street performers or shop windows, talking etc.
- People waiting for public transport – bus stops etc.
- People sitting – on benches, cafe chairs, stairs etc.
- People lying down
- Children playing
- People engaged in physical activity/sports – playing football etc. DO NOT count people jogging.
- People engaged in cultural activities – performing, painting, playing music etc.
- People engaged in commercial activities – street vendors, fastfood stands, waiters etc.
- DO NOT plot people walking or running through the space.
- DO NOT plot people involved in roadwork