PARTICIPATION IN BASEBALL BY AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN 2003 – 2012

Report prepared by the Australian Sports Commission
Participation Data for Australian Children 5-14 Year Olds

This report presents data from the *Children’s Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities Survey (CPCLAS)* which was administered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012.

The *CPCLAS* collected information about participation in *organised sport outside of school hours* for Australian 5-14 year olds as recalled by their parents.

More details on the *CPCLAS* can be found via ABS cat. no. 4901.0 or the following link: [http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4901.0Main+Features1Apr%202012?OpenDocument](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4901.0Main+Features1Apr%202012?OpenDocument)

This report has been prepared by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and includes some data that has not been presented in previous ABS *CPCLAS* publications. The ASC purchased custom data for select sports through the ABS Sports Unit.
The Children’s Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities Survey asked parents:

Which sports has [Child name] played or trained for outside of school hours since this time last year?

In each year the survey was administered, a number of parents responded:

Baseball
Explanatory notes for interpreting the Children’s Participation Data

Data from the CPCLAS should not be directly compared with results from other sport participation surveys, such as the Exercise Recreation And Sport Survey (ERASS) or the ABS adult sport participation surveys, without considering the difference in methodology, scope and years.

It should be noted that the CPCLAS data:
• Is based upon a different data collection process to the ERASS adults’ data
• Is not collected in the same years as the ERASS and ABS adults’ data
• Reflects parent responses, while the ERASS and ABS adults’ data reflects participant responses
• Reflects participation outside of school hours only, while the ERASS and ABS adults’ data also included measures of total participation
• Reflects organised participation only, while information on non-organised participation data was also collected for the ERASS and ABS adults
• Reports different participation frequency categories to the ERASS adults data (e.g. Regular participation for the children’s data is defined as 27 times or more a year, while for the adults data is defined as 26 times or more a year)
How to interpret the Children’s Participation Data

Some of the data in this report has not been publically released by the ABS. The ASC sourced custom data tables from the ABS containing information relevant for sports. Please note that the ASC did not have access to the raw data. As the ABS reported the total survey sample size (sample size in 2003 = 8,900; sample size in 2006 = 8,682; sample size in 2009 = 5,825; sample size in 2012 = 7,300), it was possible to compare the proportion of Australian children participating in a sport across the four time periods with significance testing. The ABS, however, did not report the sample sizes for the demographic (e.g. age or gender) categories, so it was not possible to conduct significance tests on demographic subgroups. As such, the interpretation of data relating to the demographic subgroups in this report is indicative only.

The ABS does not publically release data with high Relative Standard Errors (RSEs). It is important to note that most of the baseball data was associated with high (25% – 50%) RSEs and therefore should be interpreted with caution. Labels for data points have not been included on charts where they may be associated with high RSEs. For further information* related to RSEs associated with the data please refer to ABS cat. no. 4901.0.

Please note that scales may differ between charts.

Australian children’s population (5–14 year olds) by year from ABS population estimates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,647,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,664,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2,722,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,786,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation frequency definitions:

- Annual defined as participating in a given sport at least once a year
- Regular defined as participating in a given sport at least 27 times a year
- Non-regular defined as participating in a given sport at least once but less than 27 times a year

*http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4901.0Technical%20Note1Apr%202012?opendocument&tabname=Notes&prodno=4901.0&issue=Apr%202012&num=&view=
Summary of Trends
Summary of General Trends in Children’s Participation Among 21 Selected Sports

Between 2003 and 2012 there was a **significant increase** in children’s organised participation in the following sports:

- **Gymnastics** and **rugby union** had a significant increase in annual, regular and non-regular participation rates.
- **Rugby union** had a significant increase in annual and non-regular participation rates.
- **Touch football** and **football** had a significant increase in the non-regular participation rate.

Between 2003 and 2012 there was a **significant decrease** in children’s organised participation in the following sports:

- **Hockey** had a significant decrease in annual, regular and non-regular participation rates.
- **Netball**, **tennis** and **softball** had a significant decrease in annual and regular participation rates.
- **Athletics** had a significant decrease in the annual participation rate.
- **Cricket**, **touch football** and **golf** had a significant decrease in the regular participation rate.

For information on general trends in children’s organised participation across sports please refer to the following ABS reports:

Summary of General Trends in Children’s Baseball Participation

**Organised baseball participation**
Between 2003 and 2012:
- The ABS estimation of number of children participating annually in organised baseball varied around 10,600 (in 2009) and 22,600 (in 2003).
- The ABS estimation of the percentage of Australian children annually participating in organised baseball varied between 0.39% (in 2009) and 0.85% (in 2003).

The 2009 annual participation rate for children’s organised baseball was found to be statistically significantly lower than the 2003, 2006 and 2012 annual participation rates. There was no statistical difference between the 2003, 2006 and 2012 annual participation rates.

**Comparison of regular v. non-regular organised baseball participation**
In 2006 and 2012 the regular participation rate for children’s organised baseball was statistically significantly higher than the non-regular participation rate. In 2003 and 2009 there was no significant differences between the regular and non-regular participation rates.

**Demographic analysis of organised baseball participation**
Both the age and gender estimates for organised children’s baseball reported high RSEs (in the range of 25%-50%). Therefore, fluctuations across the four time periods for the different age and gender categories should be interpreted with caution.

Across all four time periods, more boys than girls were estimated to participate in organised baseball at least once a year.
Organised* Participation in Baseball

* The CPCLAS refers to “organised sport” as a sport which is played or trained for outside of school hours and is organised by a school, club or association
Current Participation Status (2012)

**Interpretive Notes**

- 0.7% of the Australian children’s population participated in organised baseball at least once in 2012.
- The proportion of children participating in organised baseball regularly was statistically significantly higher than the proportion participating non-regularly.
- The majority of annual organised baseball participants were boys*.
- Almost half of annual organised baseball participants were aged 12-14 years*.

**Annual Participation**

- Non-Baseball participants, 99.3%
- Baseball participants, 0.7%

**Frequency**

- Regular
- Non-regular

**Gender**

- Boys
- Girls

**Age**

- 5-8 year olds
- 9-11 year olds
- 12-14 year olds

*As the ABS did not report the survey sample sizes for the demographic (e.g. age or gender) categories it was not possible to conduct a significance test on the demographic subgroups

**Based on the 2012 ABS population estimate for Australian 5-14 year olds

A one sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare regular and non-regular participation rates
2003 – 2012 Participation by Frequency

Interpretive Notes

Between 2003 and 2012, the ABS estimation of number of children participating annually in organised baseball varied around 10,600 (in 2009) and 22,600 (in 2003).

Between 2003 and 2012, the ABS estimation of the percentage of Australian children annually participating in organised baseball varied between 0.39% (in 2009) and 0.85% (in 2003).

The 2009 annual participation rate for children's organised baseball was found to be statistically significantly lower than the 2003, 2006 and 2012 annual participation rates. There was no statistical difference between the 2003, 2006 and 2012 annual participation rates.

In 2006 and 2012 the regular participation rate for children's organised baseball was statistically significantly higher than the non-regular participation rate. In 2003 and 2009 there was no significant differences between the regular and non-regular participation rates.

Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating across the four time periods. A one sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare regular and non-regular participation rates.
Demographic Analysis*

* Demographic analysis by gender and age is only available for annual participation due to high RSEs/small sample sizes for regular participation. Limited data is available for regular participation as a result of ABS confidentialisation processes.
Interpretive Notes

The gender estimates were associated with high RSEs (in the range of 25%-50%). Therefore, fluctuations across the four time periods for the different gender categories should be interpreted with caution.

The data presented on this slide appears to indicate the following:

- Across all four time periods, more boys than girls were estimated to participate in organised baseball at least once a year.
Participation by Age

Interpretive Notes

The age category estimates were associated with high RSEs (in the range of 25%-50%). Therefore, fluctuations across the four time periods and comparisons of the difference age categories should be interpreted with caution.
Sport Comparison
### Ranking of Selected Sports According to Annual Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Ranking</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>2003 Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Australian Football</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Track and Field Athletics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Ranking</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>2003 Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Surf Lifesaving</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Horse activities</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Surf sports</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Table represents a ranking of 21 selected sports
Table sorted on 2012 rankings
#1 ranking = sport with the highest participation among the 21 selected sports

Annual defined as participating in a given sport at least once a year
Regular defined as participating in a given sport at least 27 times a year
Non-regular defined as participating in a given sport at least once but less than 27 times a year

NB. Sports are sorted on annual participation rates in descending order

In 2012 sports with regular organised participation rates statistically significantly higher than non-regular organised participation rates were swimming, football, netball, basketball, tennis, gymnastics, rugby league, horse activities and baseball

In 2012 sports with non-regular organised participation rates statistically significantly higher than regular organised participation rates were cricket, athletics, touch football, surf lifesaving and golf

Note: A one sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare regular and non-regular participation rates.
Between 2003 and 2012 there was a statistically significant increase in children annually participating in organised gymnastics, rugby league and rugby union.

In this same period there was a statistically significant decrease in children annually participating in organised netball, tennis, athletics, hockey and softball.

Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Tests at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating in 2003 and 2012.
Between 2003 and 2012 there was a significant increase in children regularly participating in organised gymnastics and rugby union.

In this same period there was a significant decrease in children regularly participating in organised netball, tennis, cricket, hockey, softball, touch football and golf.

Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Tests at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating in 2003 and 2012.
2003 v. 2012 Non-regular Participation Rates for Selected Sports

Non-regular defined as participating in a given sport at least once but less than 27 times a year

NB. Sports are sorted on 2012 non-regular participation rates in descending order

Between 2003 and 2012 there was a significant increase in children non-regularly participating in organised **football, gymnastics, touch football, rugby league** and **rugby union**.

In this same period there was a significant decrease in children non-regularly participating in organised **hockey**.

Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Tests at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating in 2003 and 2012.