

SWIMMING

PROFILE

There are just over 166,600 people over the age of 18 years who participate in swimming in Australia.

On average, swimming participants:

- Are female
- Will be married
- Reside in the capital city regions of New South Wales or Victoria
- Are Australian born
- Work as intermediate clerical sales and service workers.

Most participants in swimming will participate in at least one other sport and physical activity. There is a wide range of sports that swimmers undertake, the most popular being aerobics and fitness, netball and cycling.

AGE AND GENDER

There are 166,600 adults who participate in organised swimming, and unlike the majority of other organised sports and physical activities, more females participate in this sport than males. Indeed, 59.5% of participants are females (99,200), while 40.5% (67,400) are male. For women, the greatest numbers of participants is in the 18-24 year age group, and a decline of participation numbers is evident with each successively older age group. In contrast, while the number of men participating in each age group is similar, the greatest number of male swimmers comes from the 35-44 year age group than any other.

As with the majority of sports and physical activities, the greatest participation rates are observed for the 18-24 year age group – 46,200 swimmers are aged 18-24, a participation rate of 2.5%. However, whereas participation rates in most sports show a steady decline with increased age, the participation rate in swimming remains constant for the 25-34 and 35-44 year age groups, with rates of 1.5% and 1.6% respectively. Overall, 13 in every one thousand Australian adults take part in this sport; this is a participation rate of 1.3%.

RESIDENCE

In regard to participation rates, swimming is most popular in the Australian Capital Territory where 1.7% of the adult population participate in the sport. Only Queensland with a participation rate of 1.5%, also have a participation rate above the Australian average of 1.3%. South Australia has the lowest participation rate in Australia. Only 1% of the adult population in South Australia participates in organised swimming.

For all organised sport and physical activities, people residing in non-capital city region participate in sport at a greater rate than those people living in capital-cities, 31% compared to 26.2%. However, for swimming the reverse is true. The

participation rate in swimming by capital-city residents is 1.4%, higher than the rate of non-capital city residents, which is 1.1%.

BIRTHPLACE

Of the 166,600 people who participate in swimming, 77.4% were born in Australia; this is a participation rate of 1.4% of all Australian-born persons aged 18 years or more. The proportion of swimmers born in Australia is higher than the percentage of all Australian adults who were born in this country (72.6%). Of the overseas born swimming participants, 12.3% were born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand (a participation rate of 1.6%), and 10.2% were born in “other countries” (a participation rate of 0.8%).

MARITAL STATUS

Just over 50% of swimmers are married (85,200 participants), lower than both the proportion of married people participating in organised sport and physical activities (61.1%) and the percentage of all Australians who are married (64.5%).

The 63,900 participants who have never been married represent 38.4% of all swimmers. In comparison, 29.5% of all organised sport and physical activity participants and 22.1% of all people aged 18 years or more are in this category.

Participation in swimming by separated, divorced or widowed persons (17,500 persons or 10.5% of all participants) is similar to the proportion of all sport and physical activity participants with this marital status (9.4%).

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

More than 83% of people who take part in swimming are employed, a greater number than the percentage of all sport and physical activity participants who work (73.1%) and the percentage of all adults who are employed (61.7%). The proportion of swimmers who are unemployed and not in the labour force (7.8%) is similar to the proportion of all sports participants and all Australian adults with this labour force status, at 9% and 7.8% respectively.

OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

Just over one-quarter - 25.1% - of all swimmers are employed as intermediate clerical, sales and service workers, a significantly higher proportion than the percentages of both all sport and physical activities participants and all Australian adults with an occupation classified in this group – 14.9% and 12.4% respectively. There is also a high percentage of swimmers employed as professionals (17.4%).

More swimmers work in the health and community service industries (14.3%) and the education industry (10.9%) than in any other industry.

INCOME

People who participate in swimming generally earn lower incomes compared with participants in all sport and physical activities – 41.3% of swimmers earn \$13,000 or less per annum, while 30.4% of all sport and physical activity participants are in this group. For higher incomes, 17.1% of people who take part in swimming have an annual income of more than \$38,000. In comparison, for all sports participants, 23.2% of people have incomes in this range.

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

The highest educational qualification attained by more swimmers than any other qualification is a secondary school certificate, held by 40.8% of people involved. This percentage is lower than the proportions of all persons with this qualification (51.6%) and all organised sport and physical activity participants with a secondary school certificate (45.2%).

'Other certificates' and bachelor degree qualifications are held by proportionally more swimmers than all sports and physical activity participants – 22.6% of swimmers have an 'other certificate' and 18.9% hold bachelor degrees. In comparison, an 'other certificate' qualification is held by 16.5% of all sport and physical activity participants, while 15.5% have a bachelors degree.

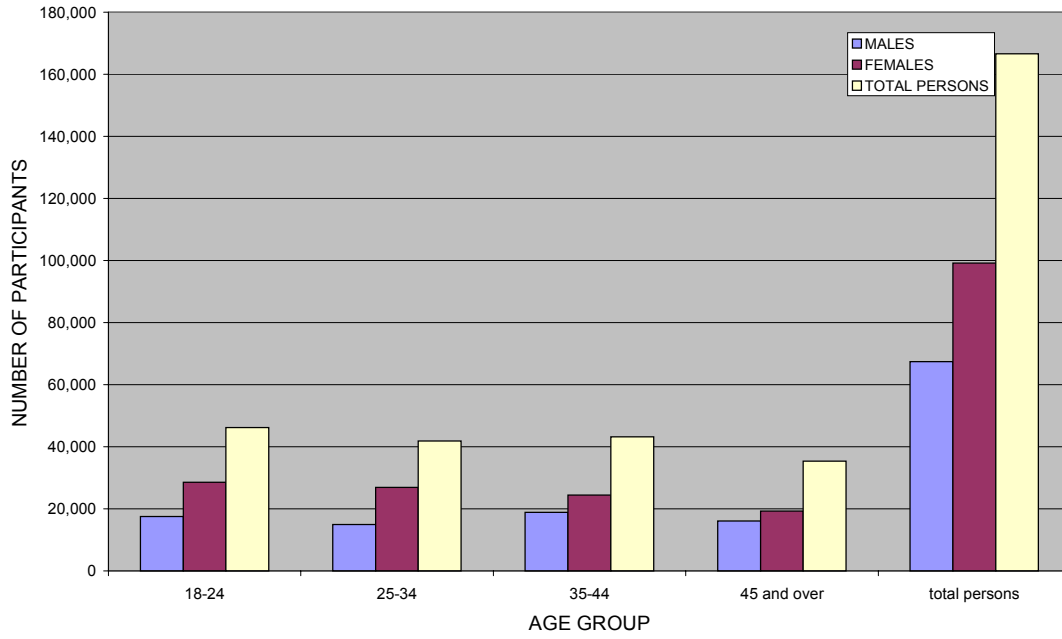
OTHER ORGANISED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

People who participate in swimming are more likely to participate in additional sports or activities with over 70% of participants taking part in at least one other sport or activity.

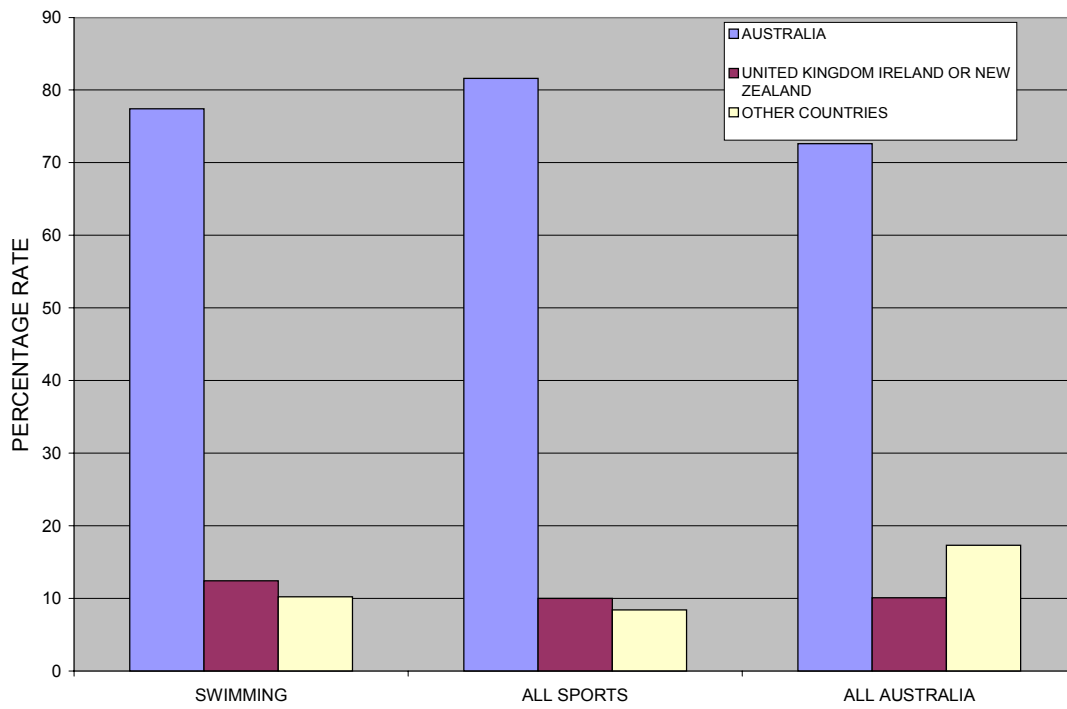
Swimming is the only sport or physical activity undertaken by 28.7% (47,800) of people in this sport. Over 37% of participants take part in one additional sport or activity, while 22.1% (36,900 people) taking part in two others and a further 11.8% (19,700 people) participating in three or more sports or physical activities.

The most popular other organised sport or physical activity swimmers take part in is aerobics and fitness (45,400 participants). Also popular are netball (13,000 participants), cycling (11,300 participants) and martial arts and tennis, in each of which, 8,400 swimmers participate.

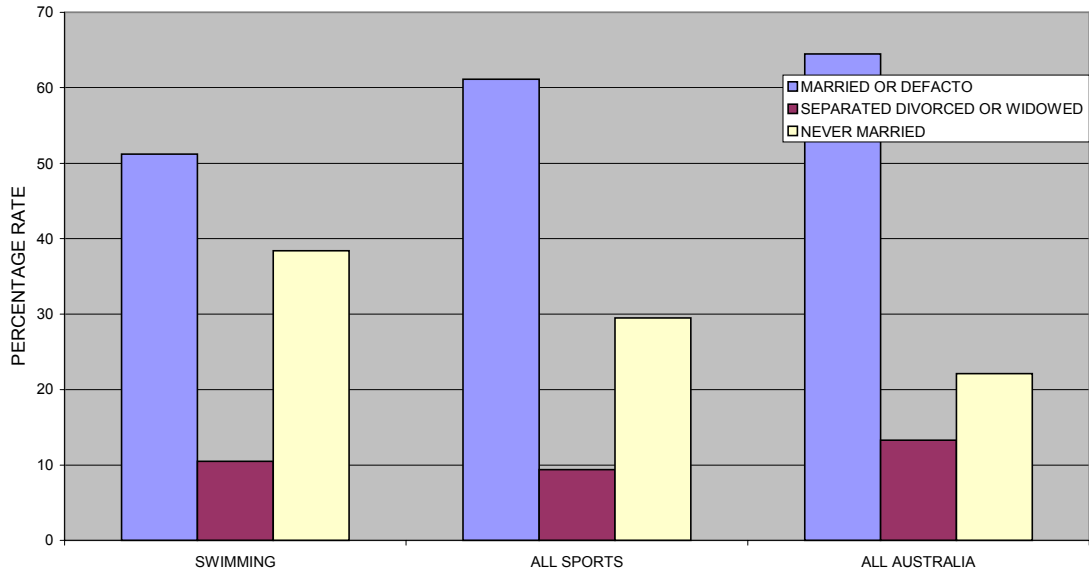
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND GENDER



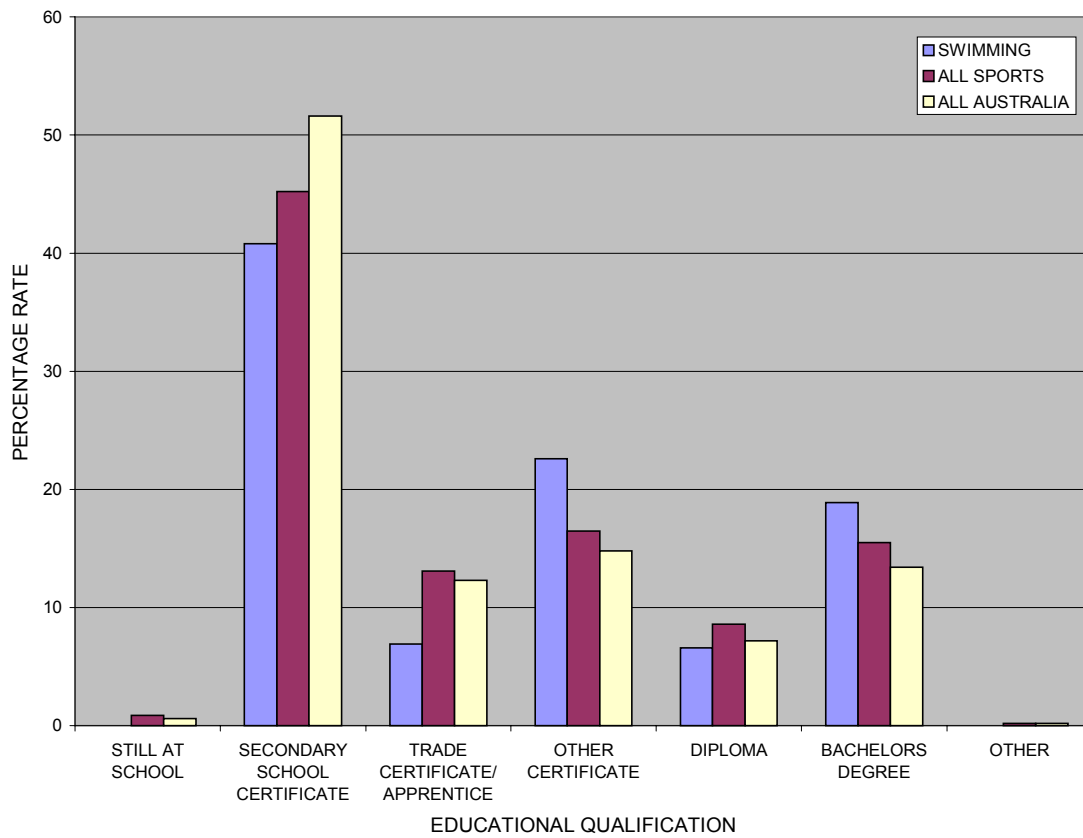
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



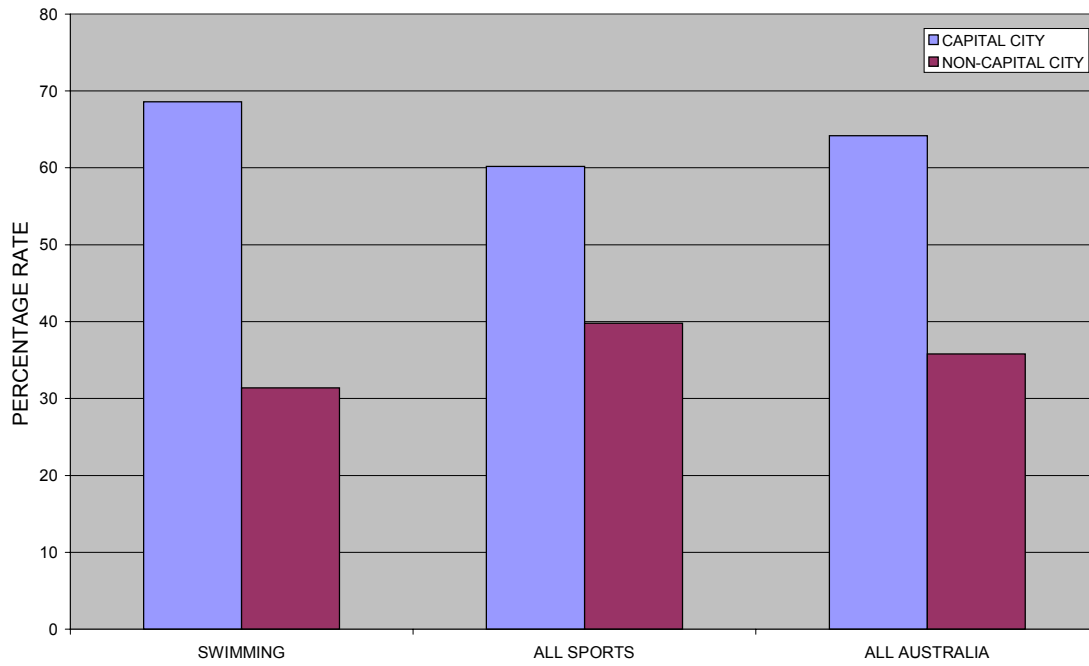
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



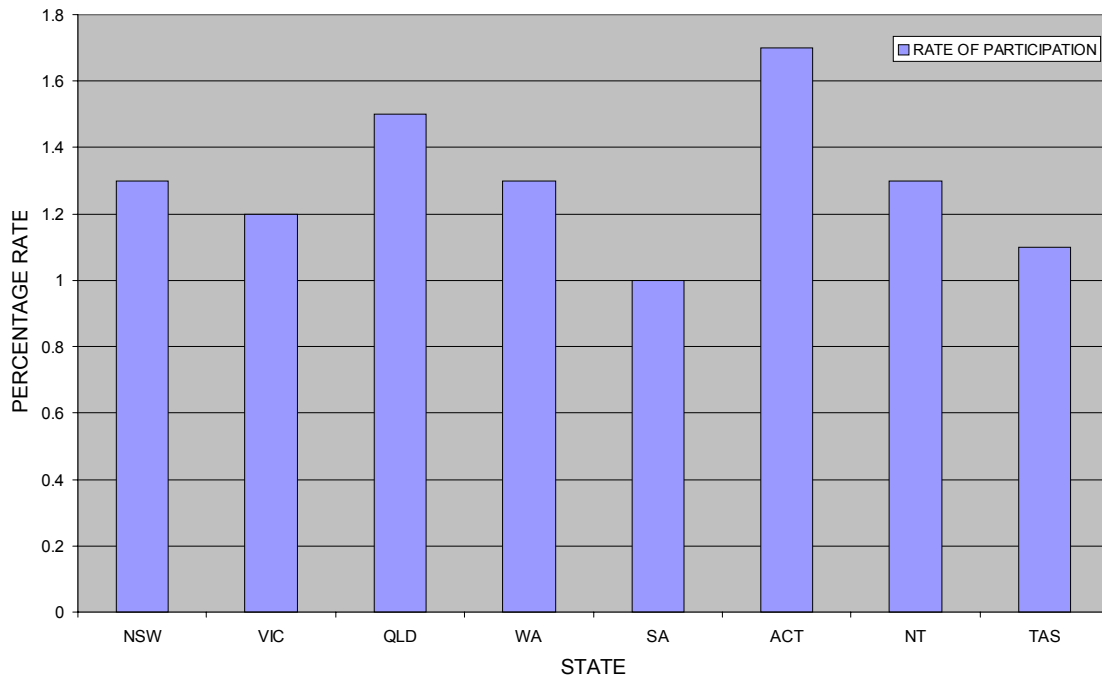
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



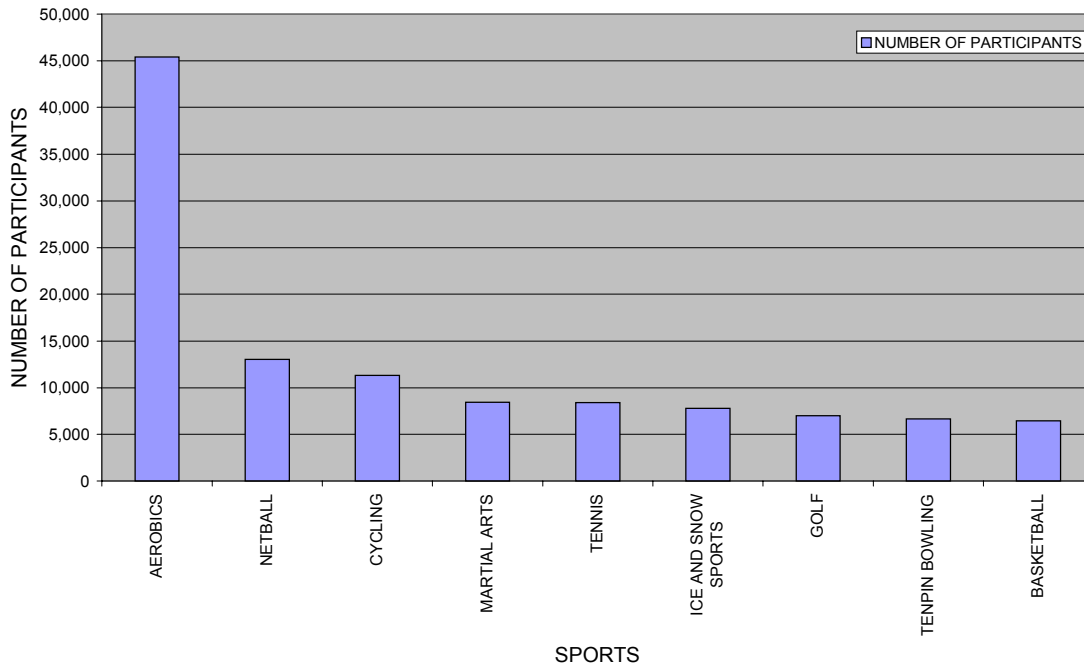
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY SWIMMING PARTICIPANTS



NUMBER OF OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY SWIMMING PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

