

# TOUCH FOOTBALL

## PROFILE

There are just under 141,600 people over the age of 18 years participating in touch football in Australia.

On average, touch football participants:

- Are male, aged 34 years and under
- Reside in non-capital city regions of New South Wales and Queensland
- Are Australian born
- Will be married
- Work full time, as intermediate clerical and service workers or trades persons

Participants in touch generally play only this sport. Of those who do participate in other sports and physical activities, the most popular are rugby league, golf, netball and indoor cricket.

## AGE AND GENDER

There are 141,600 adults play touch nationally; this is a participation rate of 1.1% of the population aged 18 years or over. Whereas males make up 54.8% of all participants in all sports and physical activities, nearly three quarters of players are male (74.4%) and have a participation rate of 1.6%. Only 0.6% of Australian females aged 18 years or over participate in touch football.

The greatest numbers of players are in the 25-34 year age group for both males and females— 45.9% of male touch players and 48.7% of female touch players are in this age group. The sport is also popular with the 18-24 year age group in which there are 42,400 participants, 30,100 males and 12,300 females.

Participation rates are high for both 25-34 year olds and 18-24 year olds, with 2.4% and 2.3% of persons in each respective age group participating in touch football. The participation rate declines to 0.1% for the 45 years and older age group. Overall, 1.65% of Australian adults participate in touch football.

## RESIDENCE

There are 73,500 people who take part in touch in New South Wales and 50,400 people in Queensland. These two states account for about 87% of players nationally.

However, Queensland has a higher participation rate than New South Wales (2.2% compared with 1.6%), but the sport is also popular in the Northern Territory where the rate is also 2.2%, and the Australian Capital Territory where 2.1% of adults participate. South Australian and Western Australia have the lowest recorded participation rates, with only 0.3% of their respective adult population participating in touch football.

For all organised sport and physical activities, people living in non-capital city regions have a participation rate of 31% which is higher than the rate for capital city residents which is 26.2%. For touch, the rate of 1.6% for non-capital city participants is double that of 0.8% for players living in capital cities.

### **BIRTHPLACE**

Of the 141,600 participants, only 11.3% were born outside of Australia (116,100). The proportion of Australian-born people who play touch football (88.7%) is much higher than the percentage of Australian-born people in the population (72.6%). The participation rate for Australian-born players is 1.3% which is higher than the rate of those born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand (0.8%) and for people born in “other countries” (0.2%).

### **MARITAL STATUS**

The participation rate of touch players who have never been married is nearly twice that of married players – 1.9% and 1% respectively. The proportion of players who have never been married (38.4%) is significantly more than both the proportion of never married people participating in organised sport and physical activities (29.5%) and the percentage of adults who have never been married (22.1%). The situation is reversed for married persons – 57% of participants are married, while for organised sport and physical activity participants and all people aged 18 years or more, the proportions in this category are 61.1% and 64.5% respectively.

### **LABOUR FORCE STATUS**

Employed players comprise 89.1% of all adult touch players. The proportion of players who work full time (76.5%) is substantially higher than the proportion of Australian adults employed full time (43.8%) and is also higher than the percentage of participants in all sport and physical activities engaged in full time work (53.3%). This position is reversed for part time workers. Indeed, 12.6% of touch football players work part time, while the corresponding proportions for all adults and participants in all sports and physical activities who work less than 35 hours per week is 17.9% and 19.8% respectively.

### **OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY**

The most popular occupations of touch footballers are intermediate clerical, sales and service workers, with 22.1% and 20.5% of touch football participants in these occupations respectively. In comparison, the proportions for all Australians who are intermediate clerical, sales and service workers or trades persons and related workers are 12.4% and 9.1% respectively. Associate professionals is another popular occupation group for touch players, with a proportion of 14.2%, nearly two and a half times the proportion of all Australians with this occupation.

Nearly one fifth (18.4%) of touch participants work in the retail industry. This is more than double the percentage of all people in the retail trade (9%) and higher than the proportion of all sport and physical activity participants in this industry (10.5%). The next most popular industry of touch players is construction with 12.8% of players in this industry. This is also more than double the percentage of all people (5.1%) and of all sport and physical activity participants (5.8%) in this industry.

### **INCOME**

The majority of touch players - 54.1% - earn more than \$30,000, compared with 36% of all sport and physical activity participants and 28.2% of Australian adults with this income. In fact, over 20% of people who participate in touch football earn an income of over \$50,000 per annum. For lower incomes, the position is reversed – 39% of participants in all sports and physical activities and 45.5% of Australian adults earn an income of \$19,000 or less while just 18.6% of persons who take part in touch football have an income in this group.

### **HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION**

The highest educational qualification attained by more touch football players than any other qualification is a secondary school certificate, held by 42.1% of all people involved.

However this percentage was lower than the proportions of all organised sport and physical activity participants with a secondary school certificate (45.2%) and of all persons with this qualification (51.6%).

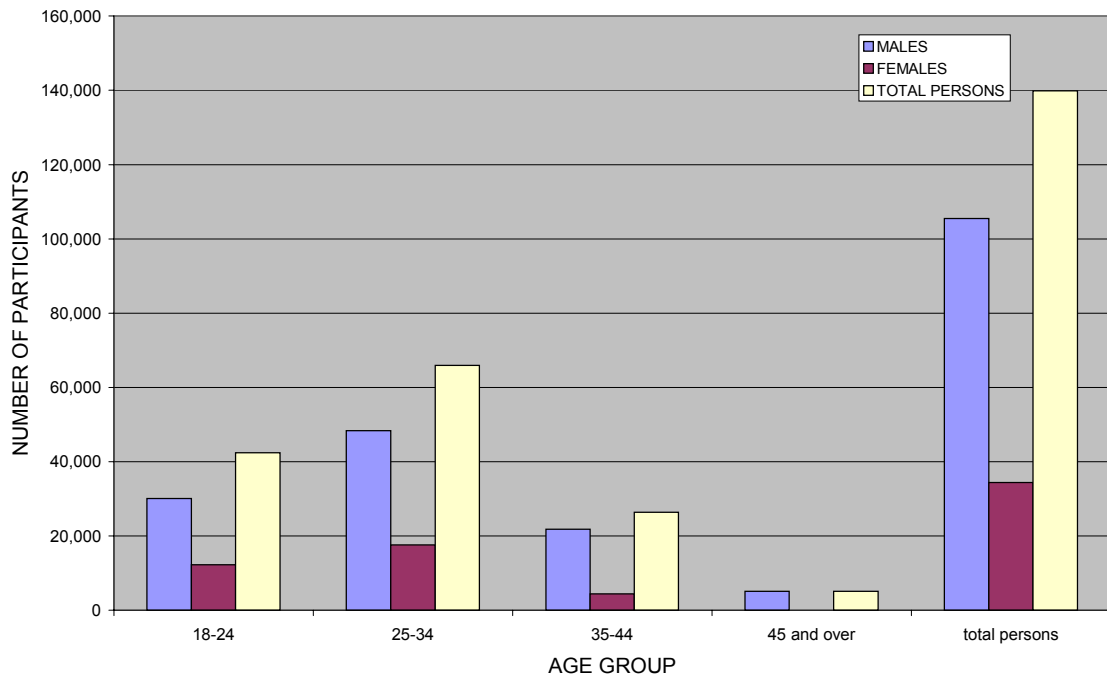
Nearly 23.7% of touch players have a trade certificate or apprenticeship. This proportion is almost twice that of participants in all sports and physical activities (13.1%) and the percentage of all people (12.3%) with a trade certificate or apprenticeship.

### **OTHER ORGANISED SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN**

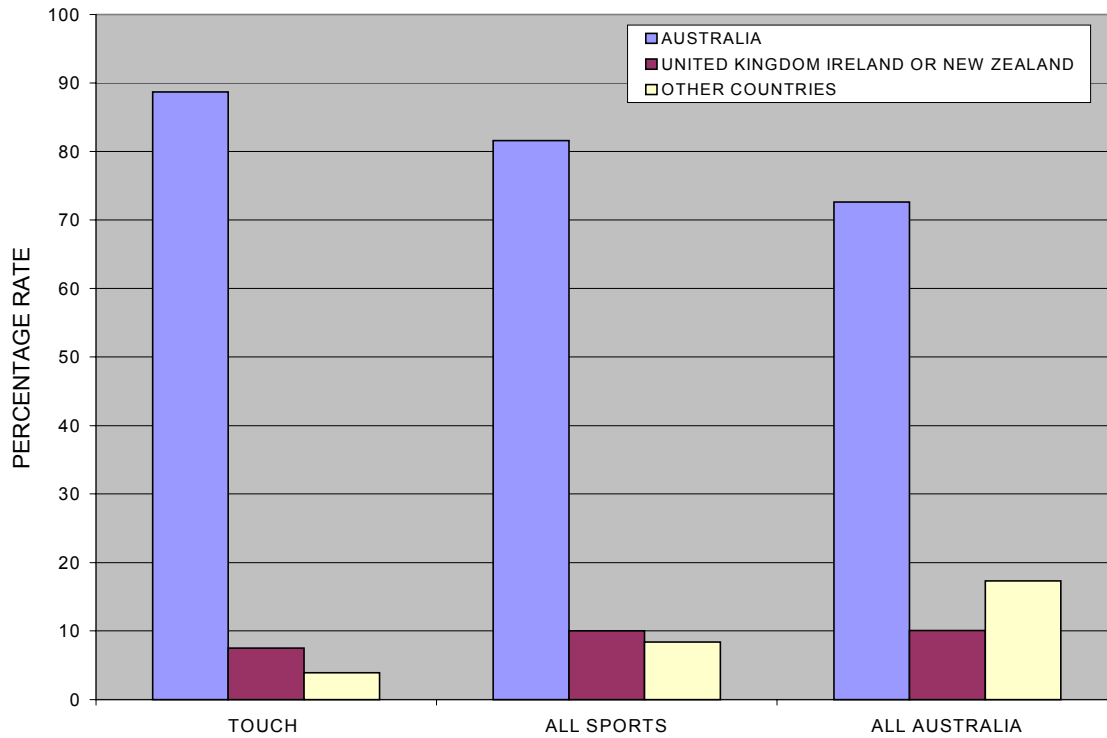
Touch is the only organised sport or physical activity undertaken by 42.2% (59,700 people) of players. A further 37.6% (53,200 people) participate in one additional sport or physical activity, while 11.5% (16,300 people) take part in two other sports or physical activities and 8.7% (12,400) take part in three or more other sports or physical activities.

Touch football players take part in a wide range of other sports and physical activities, the most popular of which being rugby league (11,000 participants). Golf and netball, both of which have 9,600 participants, indoor cricket (9,300 players) and outdoor cricket (8,900 players) are also popular with touch football players.

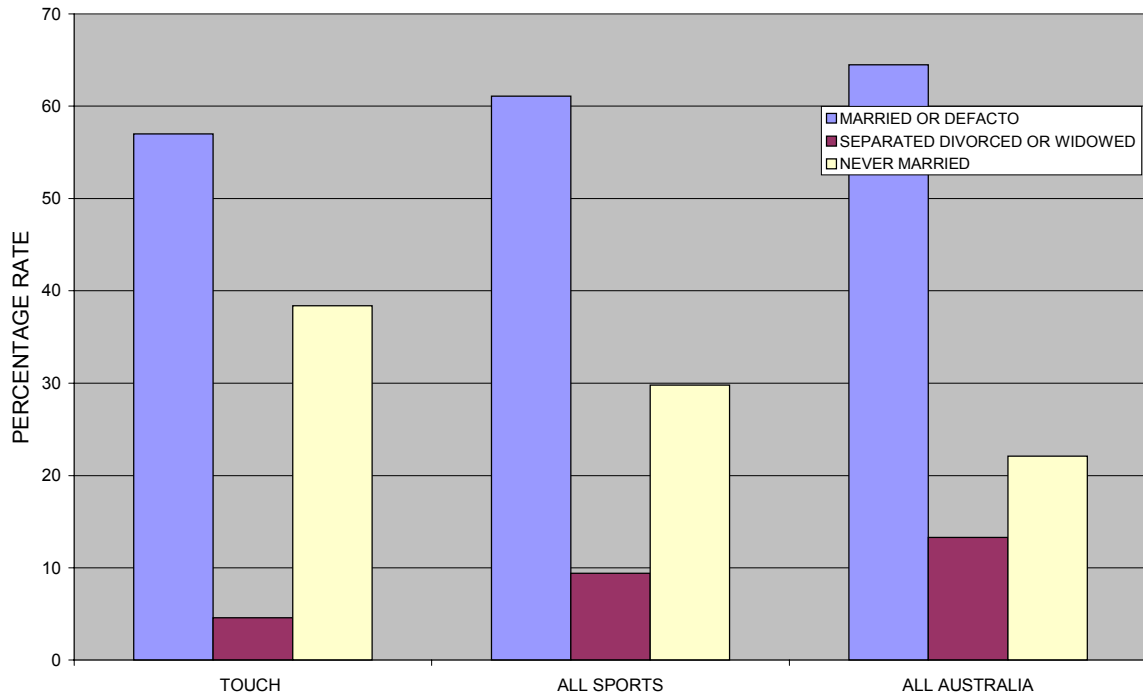
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND GENDER



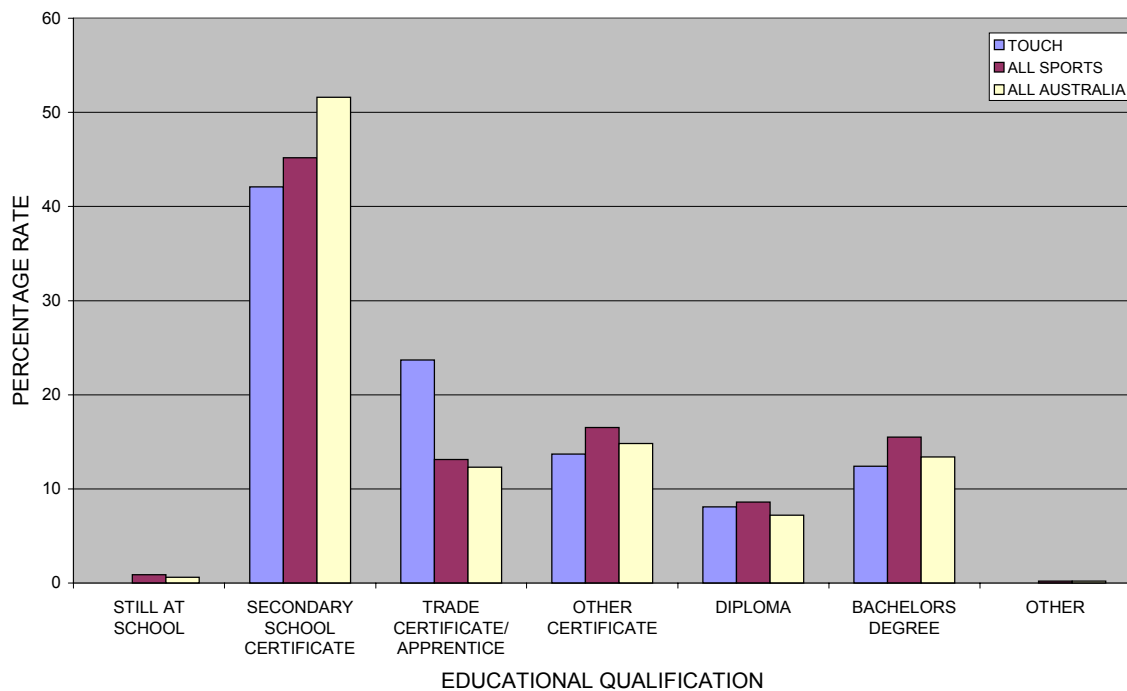
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



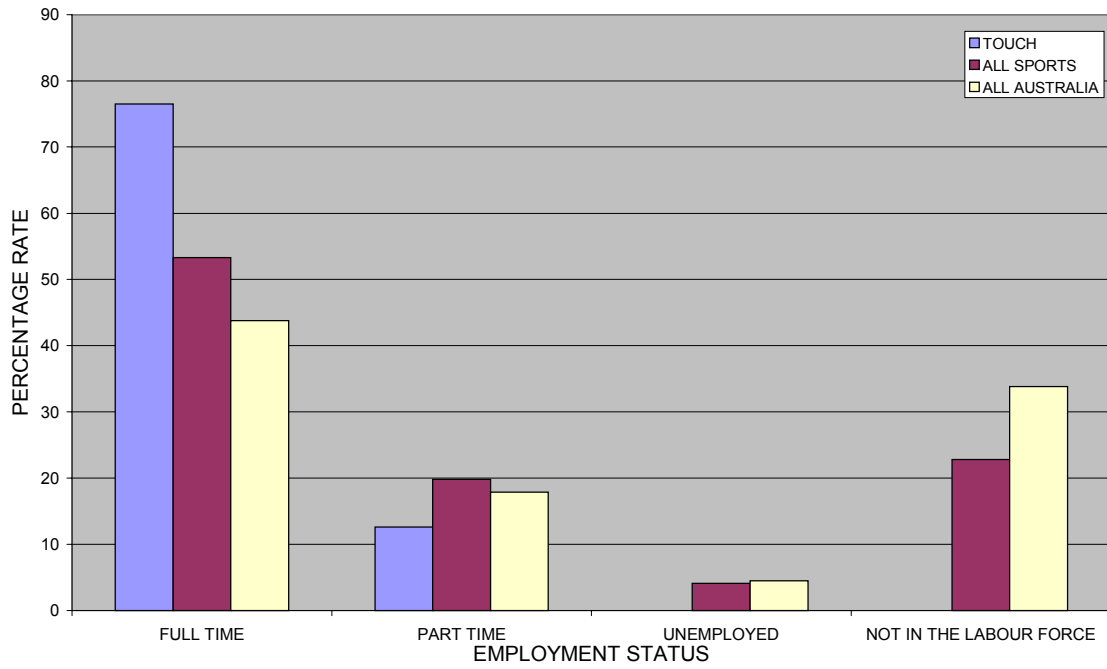
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



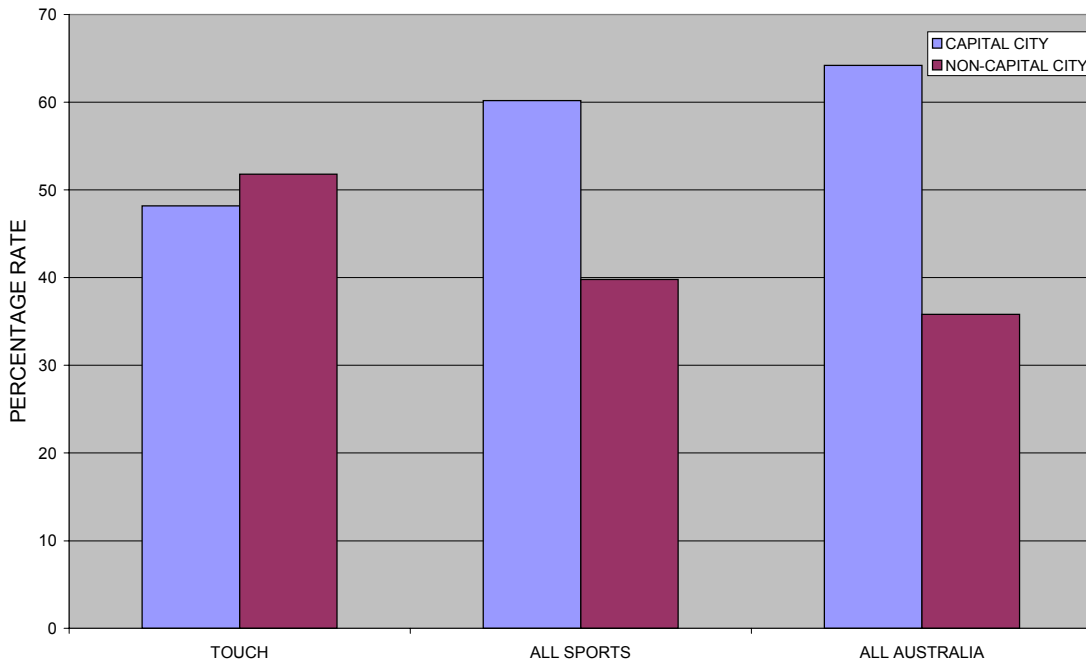
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



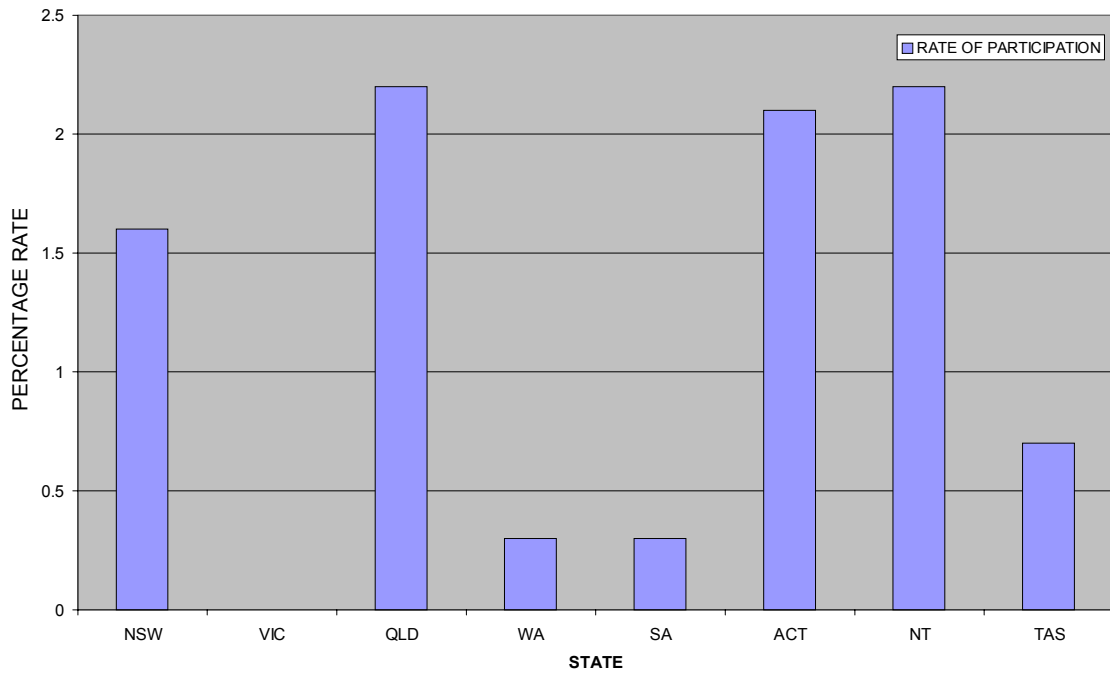
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS



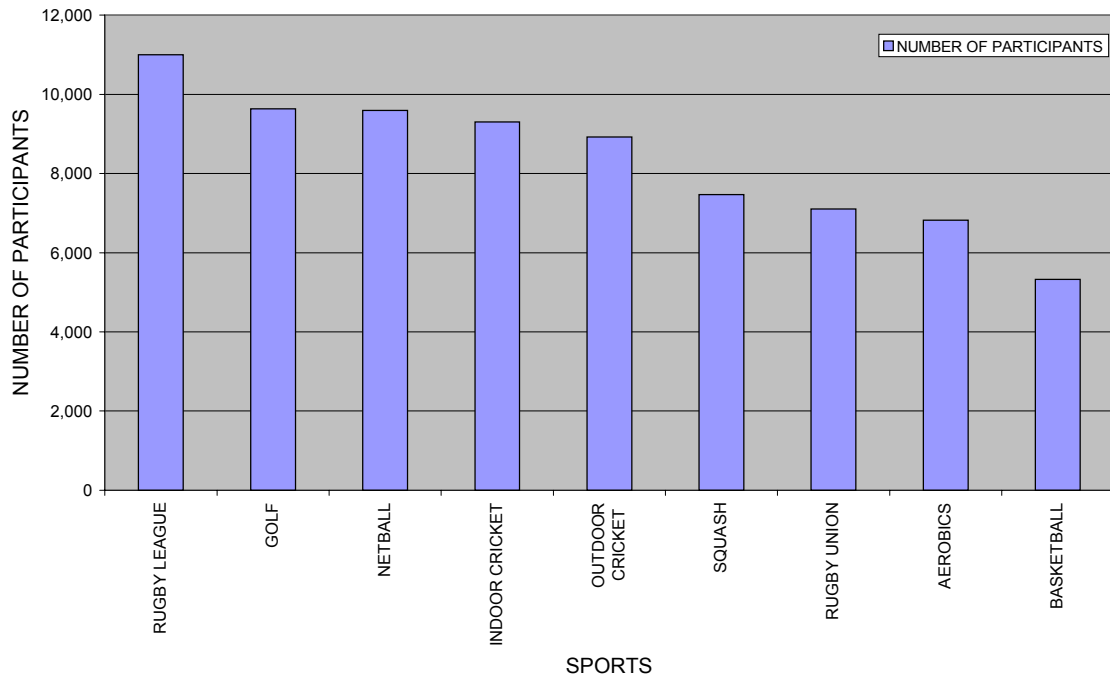
### RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY TOUCH FOOTBALL PARTICIPANTS



NUMBER OF OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY TOUCH FOOTBALL PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

