

RESEARCH SUMMARY

FIVE-YEAR CHANGES IN COMMUNITY- LEVEL SPORT PARTICIPATION, AND THE ROLE OF GENDER STRATEGIES

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Background

The rate of participation in community-based sport by boys and men has been double that of girls and women. Contributing to this is the fact that some sports have been traditionally male-only or at least very male-dominated.

Aim

To investigate changes in participation in sport by gender and age across 10 major sports in Australia over a 5-year period. In conjunction with the analysis of participation trends, the gender strategies that were developed and implemented during this time were reviewed.

Results

There were 749,037 registrations in 2015 and 868,266 in 2019.

Between 2015-2019 increases in participation for women and girls across all age groups (4-84 years)

Highest increases for women and girls aged 4 (7%) and 5-9 (5%). For boys there was a considerable decrease in participation for those aged 5-9 years (-4%).

Discussion

This study provides evidence that whilst participation in sport is still dominated by males, the gap might be gradually closing and this is in line with recent strategies and investments into sport and wider cultural developments in society.

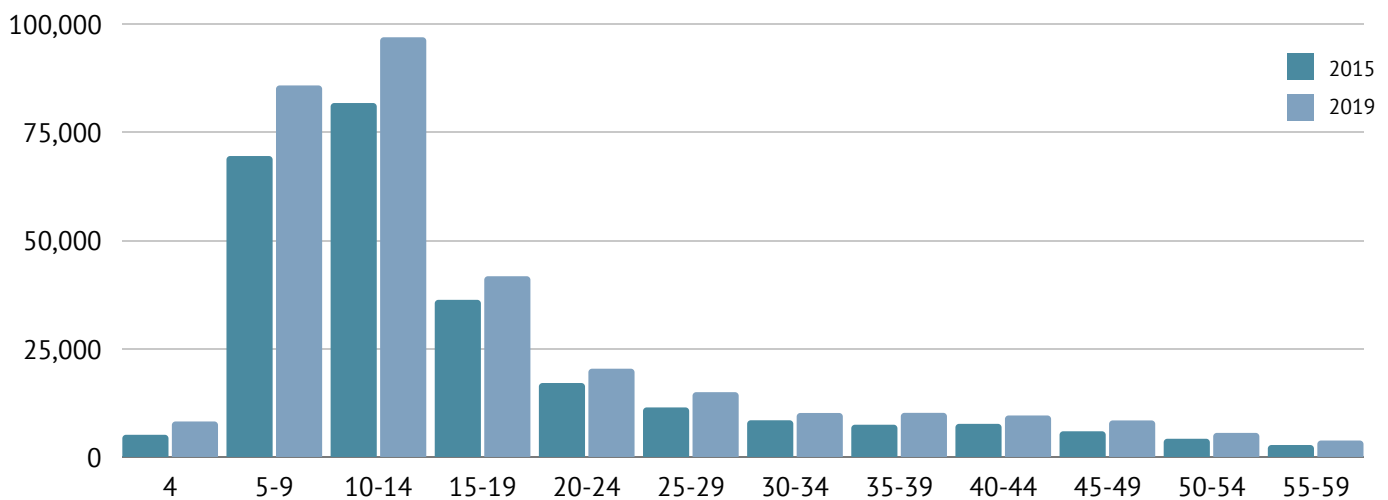
5-YEAR CHANGES IN PARTICIPATION

Australian football, basketball, cricket, football (soccer), gymnastics, hockey, netball, sailing, swimming, and tennis



FEMALE PARTICIPATION 2015, 2019

(players per age group)



SPORT PARTICIPATION RESEARCH PROJECT

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