Sport & Recreation Spatial

Sport Participation Rates- Victoria 2016

August 2018

VicHealth™ VICTORIA VICTORIA UNIVERSITY MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA Federation UNIVERSITY • AUSTRALIA

Rates of Participation in Club-Based Sport

This report provides the results of an analysis of **participation in Victorian club-based sport** across the lifespan. It combines data from Victorian State Sporting Associations (SSAs) for 12 major sports: **Australian Football League, Basketball, Bowls, Cricket, Football (Soccer), Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Sailing, Swimming, and Tennis** (Figure 1).

A participant, or player, is defined as a registered member of a Victorian sporting club that is affiliated with one of the 12 SSAs, in 2016, who was aged between 4 and 100 years and resided in Victoria. These SSAs recorded a total of 1,062,750 player registrations in 2016. Those for which age or postcode was missing or invalid (11.8% of registrations. See Table 1 for more detail) were excluded from the analysis, and adjustments to counts were made in postcodes that were partly allocated to a Local Government Authority (LGA) outside Victoria (see the note on data accuracy on page 19 of this report). **This report provides a summary of the 937,368 player registrations** for which complete and valid data was recorded. It should be noted that, because a person could be a registered player of more than one sport, when data for multiple sports are combined the total number of registrations is greater than the number of individual players.

The variable tabulated and graphed, for Victoria as a whole and for each sex and/or geographical region, is the age-specific participation rate, defined as the number of player registrations in each age range, expressed as a percentage of the estimated resident population (ERP) in that age range, as at 30 June 2015 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

Table 1 shows the numbers of registered participants in each sport.

Table 2 shows a summary of participation counts and rates, and also provides a key to the profiles displayed in the figures.

Table 3 shows participation rates for each Local Government Area (LGA).

Figure 1 shows the participation rates for Victoria for the 11 separate sports

Figure 2 shows overall comparative participation rates for Victoria in 2015 and 2016.

Figures 3 – 7 are based on 2016 data only

Figure 3 shows the overall participation rates for Victoria.

Figure 4 shows the participation rates for each sex.

Figure 5 shows the participation rates for the four Victorian regions defined on page 18 of this report.

Figures 6a – 6d show, separately for each region, the participation rates for each sex.

Figures 7a and 7b show, separately for each sex, the participation rates for each region.

Figure 8 shows the rankings of LGAs by participation rate within each of the four Victorian regions.

Results

Data Quality

- Table 1 summarises the total participant numbers provided by each state sporting association (SSA) and the number able to be used in the Sport Participation Research Project (SPRP) reports. Overall, 88.2% of records were complete with regard to date of birth, sex and postcode, and hence were able to be used in this analysis and reporting; this is approximately the same as last year (86%). This amounts to over 937,000 player records integrated for these reports. Whilst eight of the included sports have good quality player data management systems, four – Sport H, Sport J, Sport B and Sport K – had particularly high proportions of missing data. Again, this is an improvement from the previous year when five sports had high proportions of missing data.

Specific Sports

- 8 sports had an increase in total number of participants in 2016 compared to 2015 (Sport A, Sport B, Sport D, Sport E, Sport F, Sport G, Sport J and Sport L) (Table 1).

- For six of the 12 sports (Sport E, Sport A, Sport I, Sport G, Sport L and Sport K), there was a peak in participation rates at age 10-14, and for two sports (Sport D and Sport F), the peak age of participation was 5-9 years. Sport K had a second lower peak in middle age (45-49 years). Three sports had peaks in older ages, with Sport B peaking at ages 55-69 years, Sport J at ages 65-69 and Sport H at ages 75-79 (Figure1).

- For the majority of sports there was a significant drop in the participation rate at ages 15-19 immediately after the peak at 10-14 years (Figure 1 and 2).

- The highest participation rate was 18% for Sport E for age 10-14 years, followed by Sport D at 16% for age 5-9 years (Figure 1).

- Whilst there were substantial differences in participation rates for different sports among young children and adolescents, by age 30 participation rates were below 2% for all sports. Thereafter, rates remained at these levels for all sports except Sport J and Sport H (Figure 1).

- Based up on the individual sports reports, age related participation increases in 2016 compared to 2015:

    - Sport D had a higher proportion of very young participants aged 4, and also 10-34 year olds.

    - Sport E had a higher proportion of participants from ages 4 through to 60 years.

    - Sport J had a higher proportion of young participants across all age groups.

    - Sport F had a higher proportion of 5-19 year olds.

    - Sport C had a higher proportion of young participants aged 5-9 years.

- Sport A had a higher proportion of young participants aged 4-14 years.
- Sport B had a higher proportion of participants aged 4-84 years.
- Sport G had a higher proportion of participants aged 5-19 years.

Sports overall

- As detailed above, 8 of the 12 sports had a slight increase in participation rates for various age groups, particularly the very young 4 year olds and 5-9 year olds.
- The profile of sport participation in Victoria changed little between 2015 and 2016. However, overall there was a slightly higher proportion of young participants, 5-9 year olds in 2015 (Figure 2). Whilst this seems to contradict the individual sport increases, this overall decrease is somewhat due to the 'Sport K effect'. The participation rate for Sport K for ages 4-9 decreased considerably in 2016 compared to 2015 because of a change in data-management structure, as detailed in the Sport K reports. As a consequence of this large decrease, the overall integrated rates are showing a decline.
- The integration of data from all 12 included sports shows that overall participation peaked for ages 5-14 years, representing a participation rate of 62.2% for ages 5-9 and 70% for ages 10-14. Approximately one quarter of 4 year olds (23.6%) were participants (Table 2, Figure 3).
- After the peak at 5-14 years the participation rate dropped by more than half for the next age group 15-19 years, representing a participation rate of 32.8%. There was another large decline (to 15.8%) in the next age group 20-24 and then a steady progressive decline until a small rebound at ages 65-74 years. From ages 30-85+ fewer than 10% of Victorians participated in these sports (Figure 3).

Sex

- Participation rates were higher for males than females in all age groups (Figure 4). Overall, the male participation rate (21.1%) was double that of the female (10.6). The proportional differences in 2015 were females 51.5% of the male participation rate, and in 2016 51.2%, indicating no real proportion increase in female participation rates compared to males from the previous year (Table 2).
- The largest difference in participation rates was for the 5-9 and 10-14 year age groups, where around 30% more males participated in these sports than females for 5-14 years (80% vs 52%).
- While the participation rates beyond age 19 were much lower, the difference between male and female participation rates was proportionally greater, with the male rates being more than double the female rates in all age groups.
- Notwithstanding the large discrepancies between rates of participation, the profile across the lifespan was similar for both males and females.

Region

- For all ages, except 4 year olds, participation rates were higher in regional areas than metropolitan areas (Figure 5).

- For the very young (age 4) the highest participation rate of 26.8% was within the Metropolitan – Other region. For ages 5 to 44 years the highest participation rates were within Regional – Other areas. For ages 50-79 years, the highest participation rates were in Regional – Growth areas.

- The highest participation rate recorded was 85.1% for 10-14 year olds, followed closely by 5-9 year olds (75.9%), within Regional – Other areas.

- The largest differences in participation rates by region were within the 5-14 years, with Regional – Other having approximately double the participation rates of Metropolitan – Growth areas (80% vs 43%).

- While the participation rates beyond age 19 were much lower, the relative difference across regions was similar, with the highest rate being around double the lowest rate in all age groups.

Sex and Region

- The sex-specific age profiles of participation rates had broadly similar features across all regions. However, there were differences in the detail, such as the absolute and relative magnitudes of the peak participation rates for males and females in each region (Figure 6a-6d).

- For males, the highest participation rates were within the Regional – Other area (97.3% for those aged 10-14 and 87.8% for those aged 5-9 years) (Table 2, Figure 6d). The Regional – Growth participation rate for males aged 5-14 was also high at 88% (Table 2, Figure 6c).

- Female participation within the regional areas was also much higher than in the metropolitan areas. The highest female participation rate was 72.1% for 10-14 year olds, followed by 63.1% for 5-9 year olds within Regional – Other. Regional – Growth also had a high rate of participation for females aged 5-9 and 10-14 years (55.3% and 61.6% respectively) (Figure 6c-6d).

- From the perspective of regional differences for each sex, the profiles of participation rates were similar in shape for males and females, but the male rates were consistently higher than the female rates (Figure 7a-7b).

LGA

- There was considerable variation in participation rates across Victorian LGAs, and between LGAs within the four designated regions (Table 3, Figure 8).

- The lowest participation rate was 6.0% in the City of Melbourne, in the Metropolitan – Other region. The lowest participation rates in the other regions were as follows: Metropolitan – Growth: Melton, 9.9%; Regional – Other: West Wimmera, 15.3%; and Regional – Growth: Bass Coast, 17.3%.

- The highest participation rate was 39.9% in Buloke Shire, in the Regional – Other area. The highest participation rates of the other regions were as follows: Regional – Growth: Surf Coast, 29.5%; Metropolitan – Other: Bayside, 29%; and Metropolitan – Growth: Cardinia, 16.8%.

- For all four regions there was a fairly steady trend ranging from the lowest participation to the highest. However in the regional areas, the highest participation rate was considerably higher than the next highest.

Table 1. Number of players per sport Victoria 2015 and 2016

Sport	2015 Players	2016 Players	2016 % excluded	2016 Players with complete data
Sport A	112,054	115,479	4.8	109,822
Sport B	21,563	27,678	21.1	21,844
Sport C	20,970	19,824	6.6	18,516
Sport D	172,135	187,777	2.6	182,852
Sport E	167,508	204,049	5.2	193,479
Sport F	47,015	52,556	14.0	45,195
Sport G	64,089	70,135	1.5	69,074
Sport H	45,606	39,386	18.4	32,108
Sport I	110,730	105,518	5.8	99,342
Sport J	88,429	89,688	30.7	62,097
Sport K	198,072	141,671	33.4	94,269
Sport L	8,509	8,989	2.3	8,771
Total	**1,056,680**	**1,062,750**	**11.8**	**937,368**

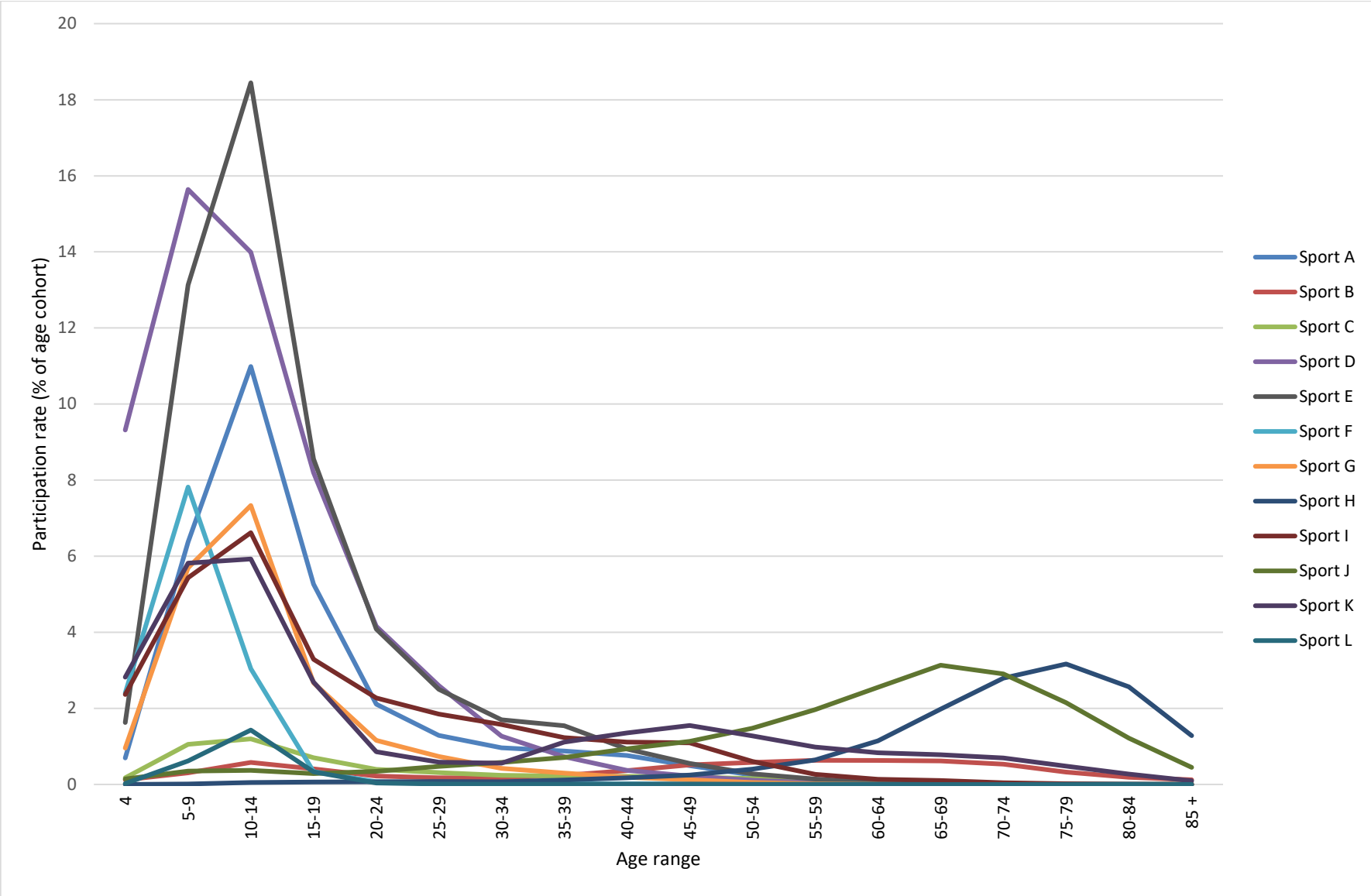

Figure 1. Age-specific participation rates by sport, 2016, Victoria

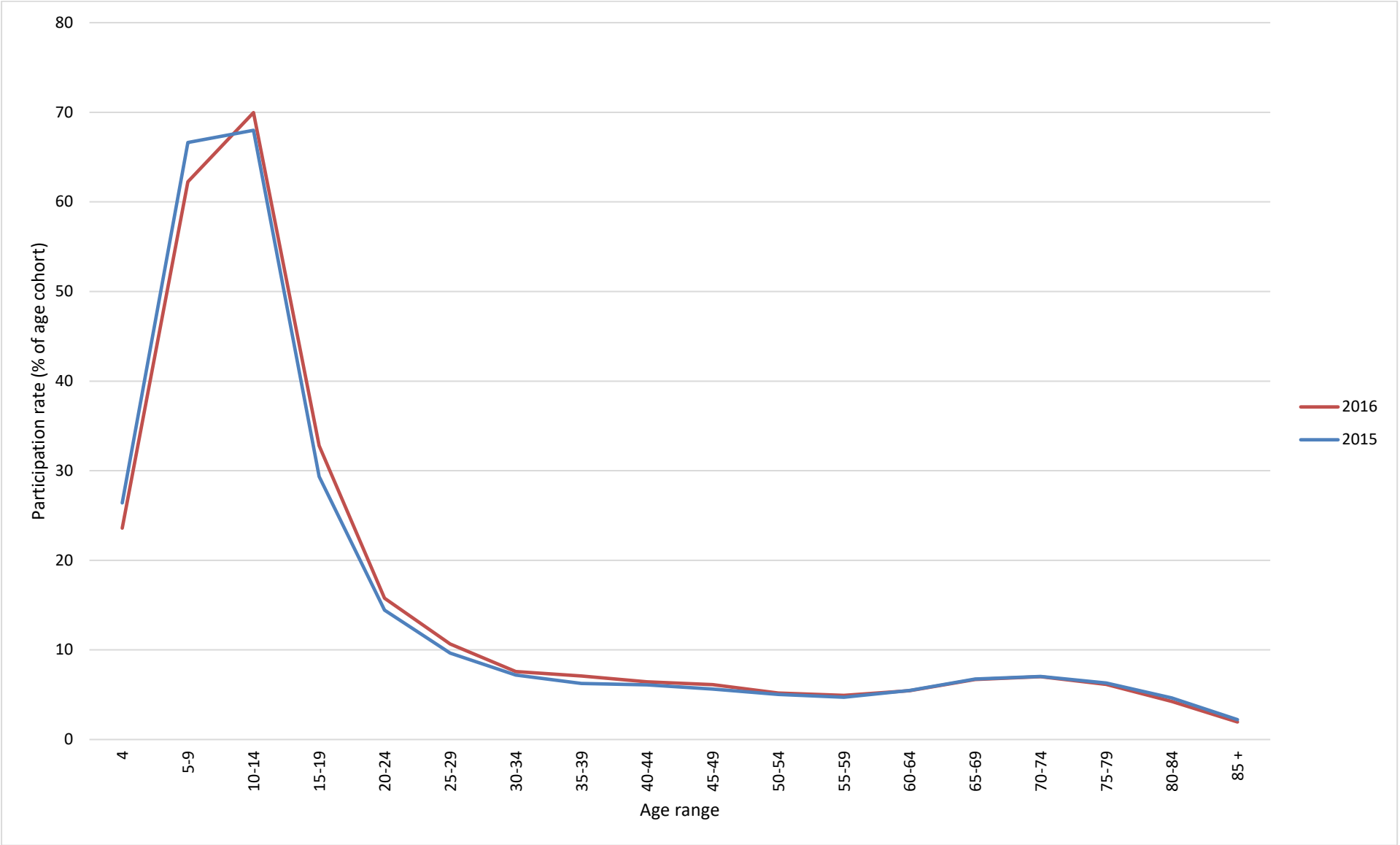

Figure 2: Age-specific participation rates: 2015, 2016, Victoria

Table 2. Participation rates[1]: Victoria 2016

Region	Sex	Figure		Age range																	
				4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
Victoria	Persons	3	n	18,037	228,144	238,087	118,206	67,059	48,675	34,364	28,514	26,723	24,239	19,844	17,478	17,158	18,872	14,731	9,865	4,968	2,404	937,368
			ERP[2]	76,423	366,518	340,294	360,436	425,014	456,395	452,811	402,192	415,587	394,838	382,659	355,315	314,193	281,932	210,413	160,358	116,804	122,769	5,936,729
			Rate (%)	23.6	62.2	70.0	32.8	15.8	10.7	7.6	7.1	6.4	6.1	5.2	4.9	5.5	6.7	7.0	6.2	4.3	2.0	15.8
Victoria	Males	4	n	11,810	141,811	147,077	79,262	48,908	36,653	25,693	20,249	18,254	16,797	14,150	12,508	11,920	12,826	10,000	6,891	3,476	1,775	620,058
			ERP[2]	39,355	188,057	174,623	184,594	217,609	227,631	225,199	200,060	203,814	194,209	187,776	173,825	152,922	137,319	101,556	75,690	50,886	45,347	2,935,494
			Rate (%)	15.5	75.4	84.2	42.9	22.5	16.1	11.4	10.1	9.0	8.6	7.5	7.2	7.8	9.3	9.8	9.1	6.8	3.9	21.1
Victoria	Females	4	n	6,228	86,333	91,010	38,944	18,151	12,022	8,671	8,264	8,469	7,443	5,695	4,970	5,238	6,046	4,731	2,974	1,493	629	317,309
			ERP[2]	37,070	178,461	165,671	175,842	207,405	228,764	227,612	202,132	211,773	200,629	194,883	181,490	161,271	144,613	108,857	84,668	65,918	77,422	3,001,235
			Rate (%)	8.1	48.4	54.9	22.1	8.8	5.3	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.7	2.9	2.7	3.2	4.2	4.3	3.5	2.3	0.8	10.6
Metropolitan - Growth	Persons	5	n	2,983	35,296	36,608	18,422	10,336	7,899	5,666	4,727	3,707	2,788	1,983	1,507	1,383	1,424	1,026	664	270	137	136,826
			ERP[2]	19,272	88,406	77,520	77,378	79,626	90,031	100,123	89,115	85,746	77,463	70,456	60,408	49,568	40,894	27,860	19,594	12,801	11,319	1,154,240
			Rate (%)	15.5	39.9	47.2	23.8	13.0	8.8	5.7	5.3	4.3	3.6	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.5	3.7	3.4	2.1	1.2	11.9
Metropolitan - Other	Persons	5	n	10,374	124,432	127,700	60,046	34,752	25,290	17,379	14,325	14,565	14,523	12,251	10,577	9,823	10,494	8,109	5,147	2,642	1,293	503,721
			ERP[2]	38,705	185,380	172,775	190,482	265,284	289,488	273,033	232,371	237,052	223,143	212,181	195,083	170,325	153,227	116,534	91,589	68,794	74,867	3,346,525
			Rate (%)	26.8	67.1	73.9	31.5	13.1	8.7	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.5	5.8	5.4	5.8	6.8	7.0	5.6	3.8	1.7	15.1
Regional- Growth	Persons	5	n	1,994	26,464	27,273	13,906	8,399	5,996	4,345	3,589	3,229	2,788	2,398	2,413	2,710	2,987	2,291	1,547	780	354	113,463
			ERP[2]	7,753	37,461	35,327	37,303	37,510	34,897	35,420	35,018	38,368	37,198	38,385	37,795	35,221	32,674	24,285	18,055	13,046	13,654	578,543
			Rate (%)	25.7	70.6	77.2	37.3	22.4	17.2	12.3	10.2	8.4	7.5	6.2	6.4	7.7	9.1	9.4	8.6	6.0	2.6	19.6
Regional- Other	Persons	5	n	2,686	41,952	46,506	25,832	13,571	9,490	6,973	5,873	5,222	4,140	3,212	2,982	3,242	3,967	3,305	2,507	1,277	620	183,357
			ERP[2]	10,692	55,271	54,672	55,273	42,594	41,979	44,235	45,688	54,421	57,034	61,637	62,029	59,079	55,137	41,734	31,120	22,163	22,929	857,421
			Rate (%)	25.1	75.9	85.1	46.7	31.9	22.6	15.8	12.9	9.6	7.3	5.2	4.8	5.5	7.2	7.9	8.1	5.8	2.7	21.4
Metropolitan - Growth	Males	6a, 7a	n	1,995	23,120	24,184	13,093	7,810	6,128	4,333	3,503	2,665	2,063	1,468	1,150	1,019	1,035	716	499	206	108	95,094
			ERP[2]	9,916	45,022	39,565	39,530	40,758	44,058	49,129	44,772	42,553	38,494	34,873	29,709	24,305	19,990	13,750	9,498	5,668	4,423	575,326
			Rate (%)	10.3	51.4	61.1	33.1	19.2	13.9	8.8	7.8	6.3	5.4	4.2	3.9	4.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	3.6	2.5	16.5
Metropolitan - Growth	Females	6a, 7b	n	988	12,176	12,424	5,329	2,526	1,771	1,334	1,224	1,042	725	515	357	365	388	310	164	64	29	41,732
			ERP[2]	9,356	43,384	37,955	37,848	38,868	45,973	50,994	44,343	43,193	38,969	35,583	30,699	25,263	20,904	14,110	10,096	7,133	6,896	578,914
			Rate (%)	5.1	28.1	32.7	14.1	6.5	3.9	2.6	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.6	0.9	0.4	7.2
Metropolitan - Other	Males	6b, 7a	n	6,643	77,053	78,728	39,816	25,633	19,557	13,649	10,694	10,341	10,241	8,947	7,639	6,999	7,279	5,663	3,713	1,896	982	335,473
			ERP[2]	19,924	94,922	88,626	97,245	135,421	145,409	136,787	115,615	116,199	109,483	103,623	94,555	81,514	73,248	55,206	42,196	29,636	27,265	1,647,239
			Rate (%)	17.2	81.2	88.8	40.9	18.9	13.4	10.0	9.2	8.9	9.4	8.6	8.1	8.6	9.9	10.3	8.8	6.4	3.6	20.4

Region	Sex	Figure		Age range																	
				4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
Metropolitan - Other	Females	6b, 7b	n	3,731	47,380	48,973	20,228	9,120	5,733	3,730	3,631	4,224	4,282	3,304	2,937	2,824	3,215	2,445	1,434	746	311	168,248
			ERP[2]	18,781	90,458	84,149	93,237	129,863	144,079	136,246	116,756	120,853	113,660	108,558	100,528	88,811	79,979	61,328	49,393	39,158	47,602	1,699,286
			Rate (%)	9.6	52.4	58.2	21.7	7.0	4.0	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.8	3.0	2.9	3.2	4.0	4.0	2.9	1.9	0.7	9.9
Regional - Growth	Males	6c, 7a	n	1,359	16,543	16,744	9,377	5,938	4,328	3,090	2,445	2,162	1,921	1,678	1,721	1,826	2,025	1,563	1,055	524	262	74,558
			ERP[2]	4,113	19,533	18,244	19,068	19,194	17,295	17,584	17,024	18,662	18,114	18,692	18,351	17,185	16,007	11,680	8,732	5,607	5,037	285,119
			Rate (%)	17.5	84.7	91.8	49.2	30.9	25.0	17.6	14.4	11.6	10.6	9.0	9.4	10.6	12.7	13.4	12.1	9.3	5.2	26.1
Regional - Growth	Females	6c, 7b	n	636	9,922	10,528	4,530	2,461	1,668	1,255	1,144	1,068	867	721	692	884	962	728	493	256	92	38,905
			ERP[2]	3,638	17,928	17,083	18,235	18,316	17,602	17,836	17,994	19,706	19,084	19,693	19,444	18,036	16,667	12,605	9,323	7,439	8,617	293,424
			Rate (%)	8.2	55.3	61.6	24.8	13.4	9.5	7.0	6.4	5.4	4.5	3.7	3.6	4.9	5.8	5.8	5.3	3.4	1.1	13.3
Regional - Other	Males	6d, 7a	n	1,814	25,096	27,421	16,976	9,528	6,641	4,622	3,608	3,086	2,571	2,058	1,998	2,076	2,486	2,059	1,624	850	422	114,933
			ERP[2]	5,401	28,580	28,188	28,751	22,236	20,869	21,699	22,649	26,400	28,118	30,588	31,210	29,918	28,074	20,920	15,264	9,975	8,622	427,810
			Rate (%)	17.0	87.8	97.3	59.0	42.8	31.8	21.3	15.9	11.7	9.1	6.7	6.4	6.9	8.9	9.8	10.6	8.5	4.9	26.9
Regional - Other	Females	6d, 7b	n	873	16,856	19,085	8,856	4,044	2,849	2,352	2,265	2,136	1,569	1,155	984	1,165	1,481	1,247	883	427	198	68,423
			ERP[2]	5,295	26,691	26,484	26,522	20,358	21,110	22,536	23,039	28,021	28,916	31,049	30,819	29,161	27,063	20,814	15,856	12,188	14,307	429,611
			Rate (%)	8.2	63.2	72.1	33.4	19.9	13.5	10.4	9.8	7.6	5.4	3.7	3.2	4.0	5.5	6.0	5.6	3.5	1.4	15.9

[1] Player registrations per 100 residents
[2] ERP = Estimated resident population

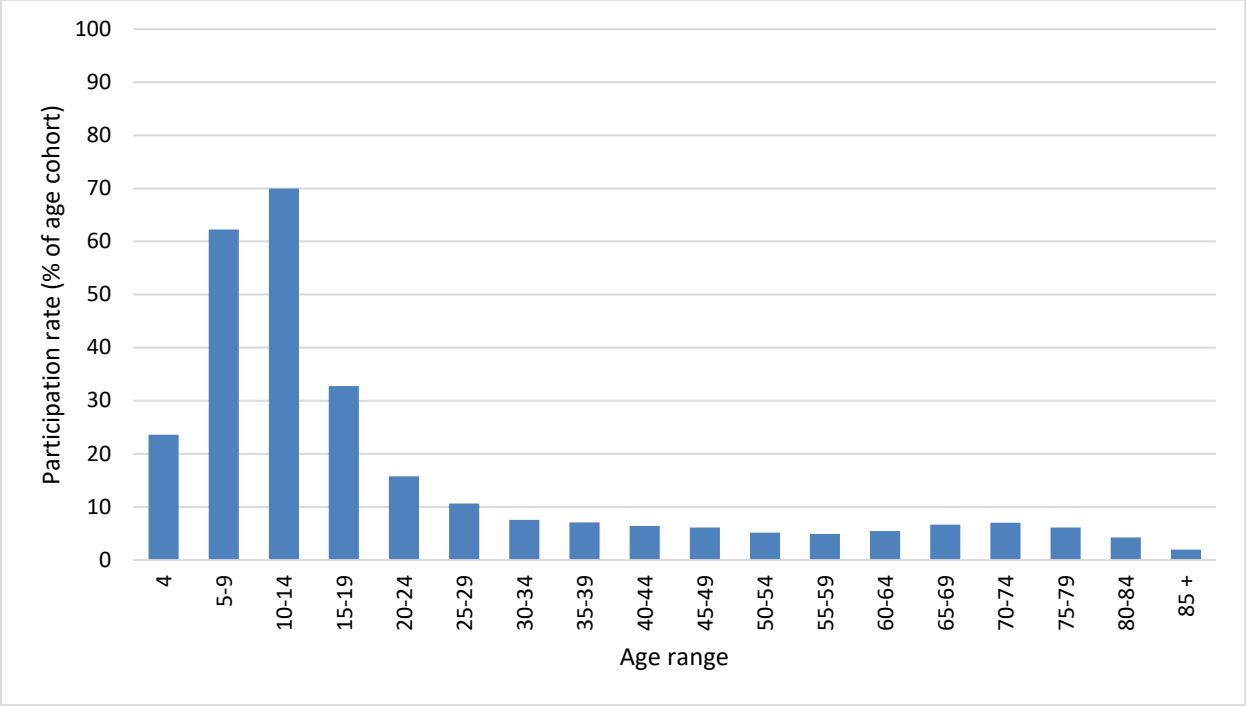

Figure 3. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Victoria

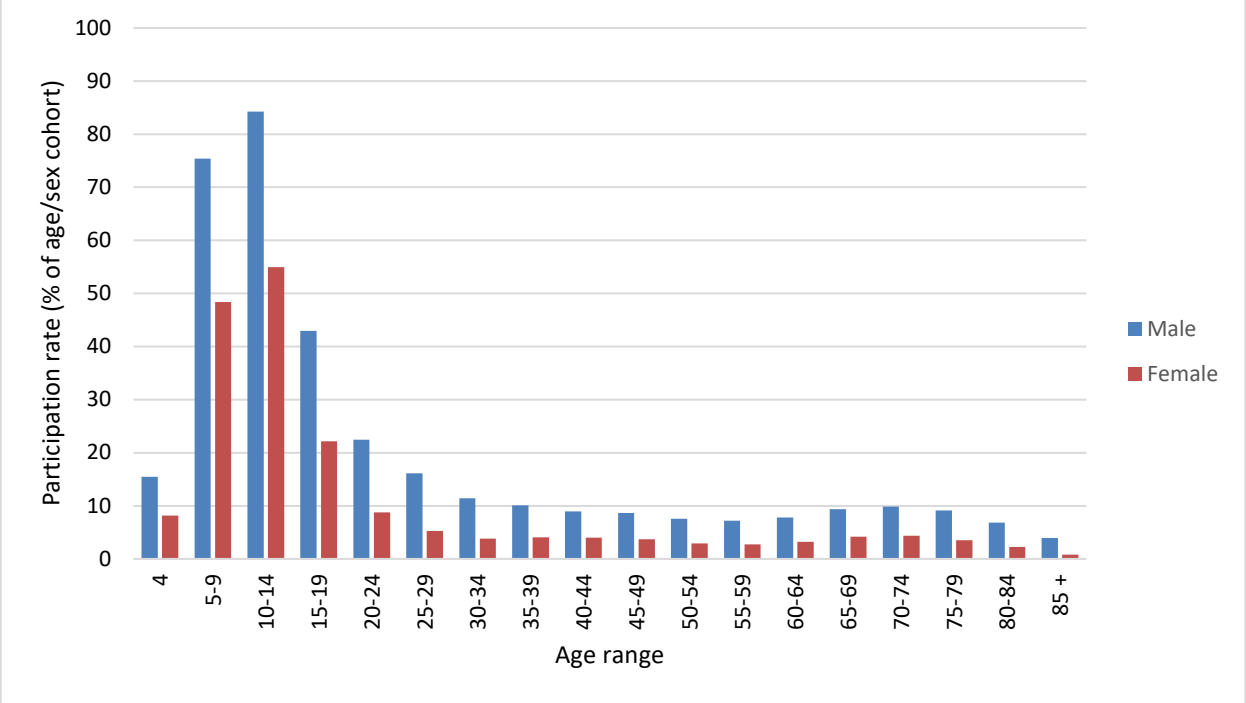

Figure 4. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Victoria: by sex

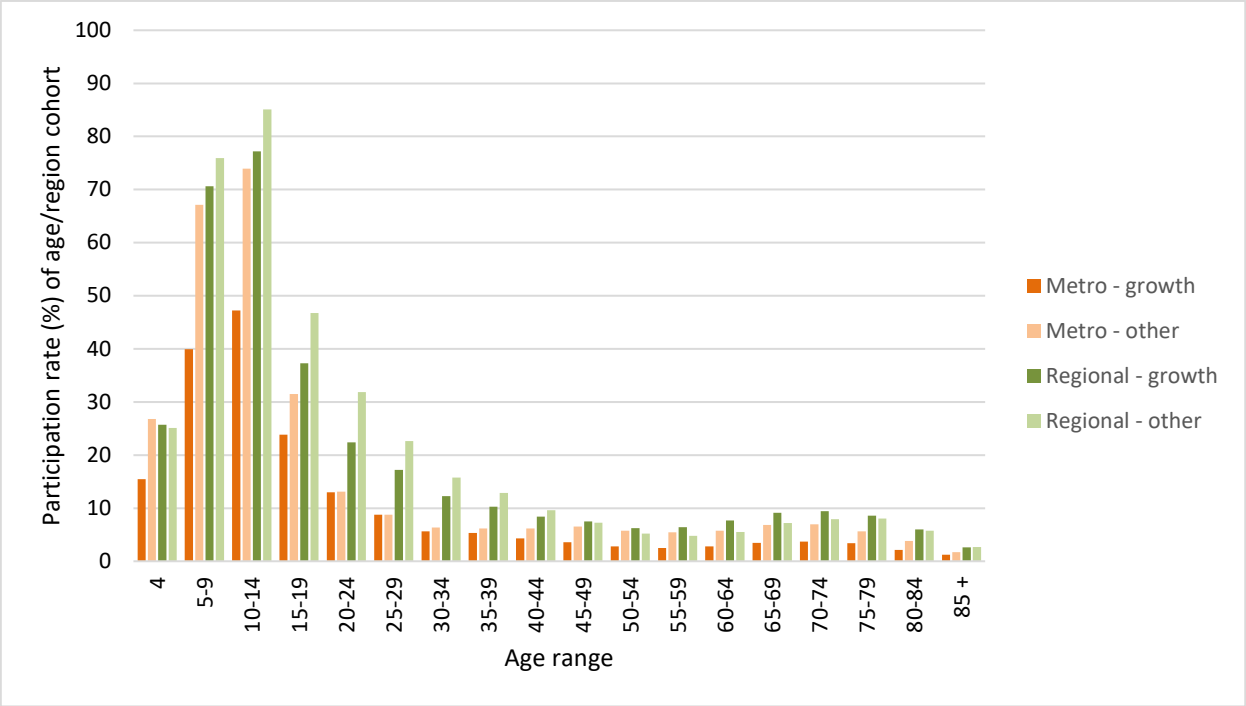

Figure 5. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Victoria: by region

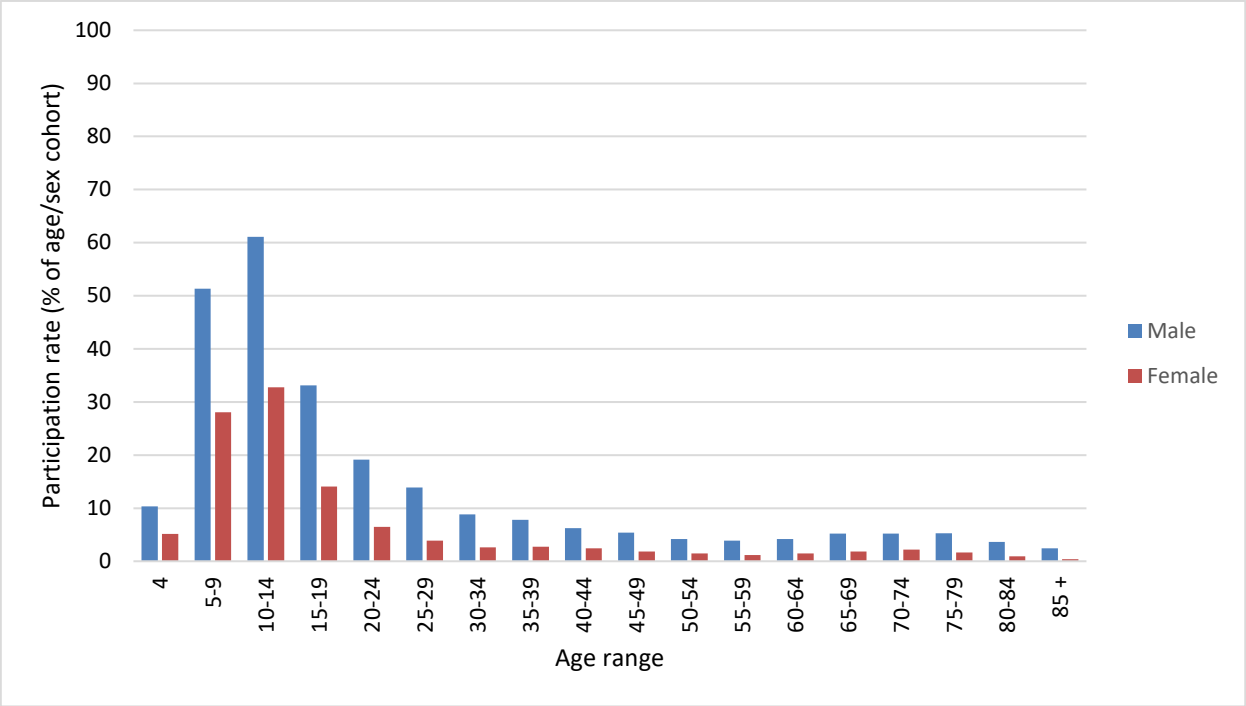

Figure 6a. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Metropolitan – Growth: by sex

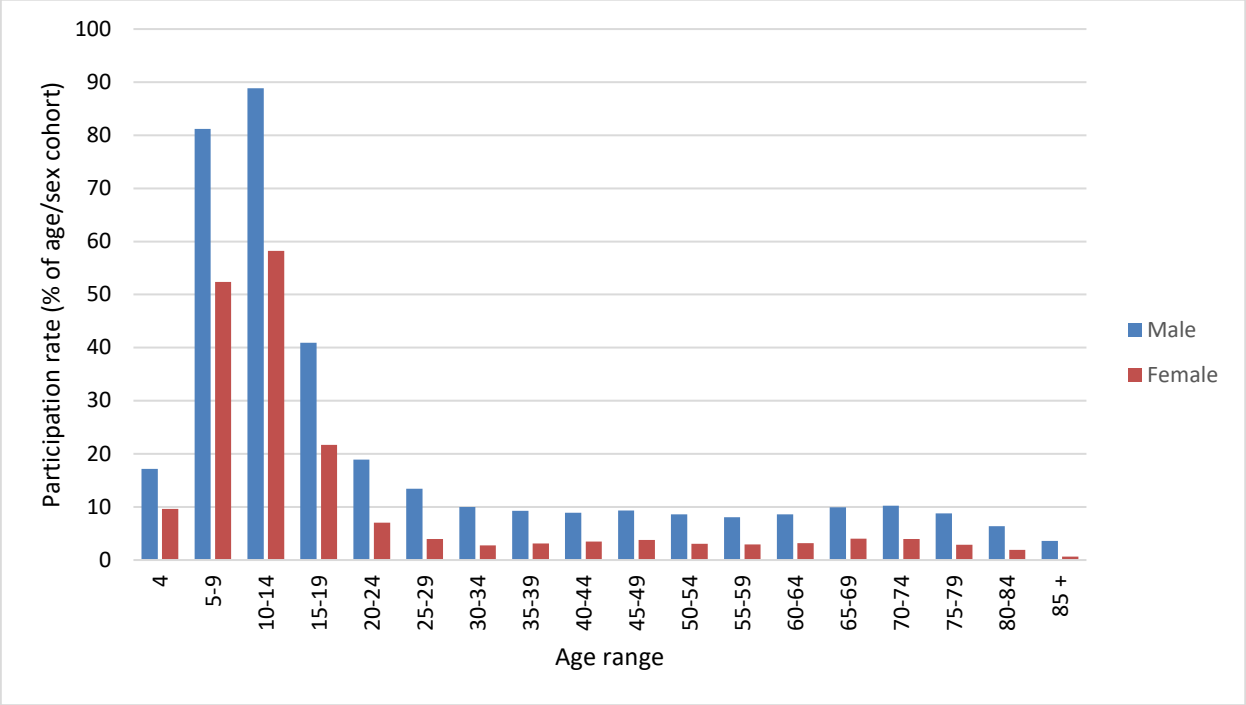

Figure 6b. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Metropolitan – Other: by sex

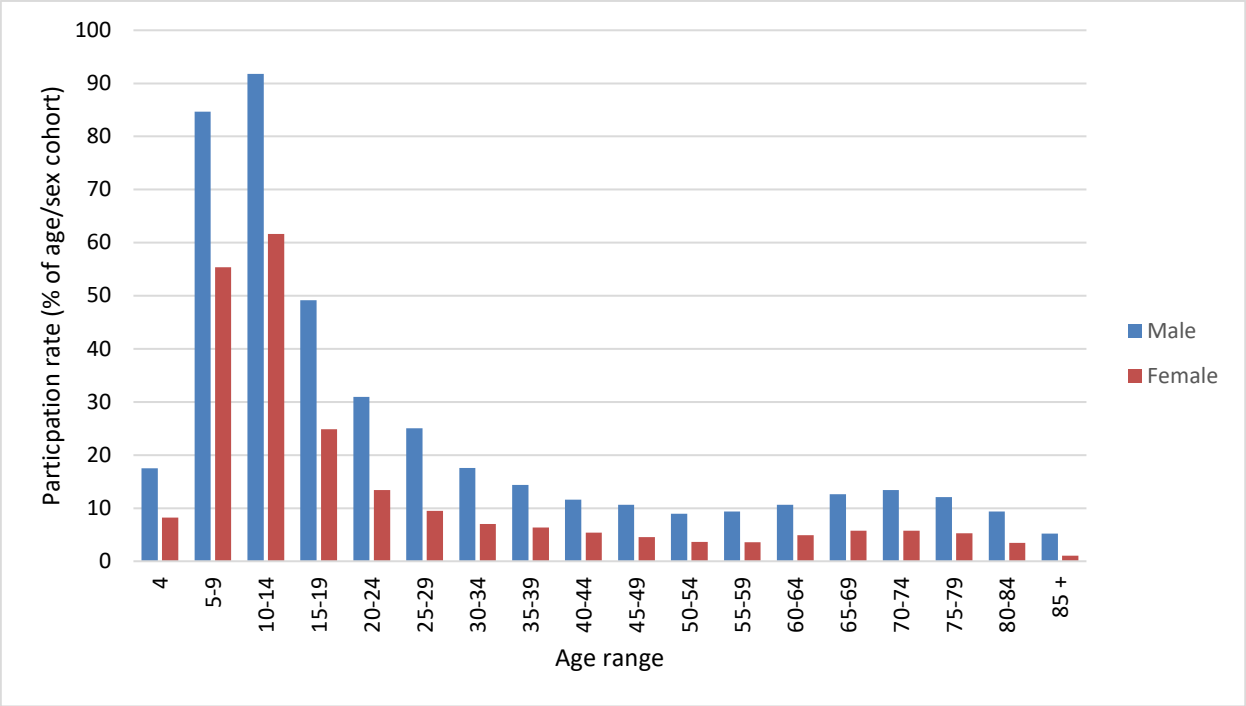

Figure 6c. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Regional – Growth: by sex

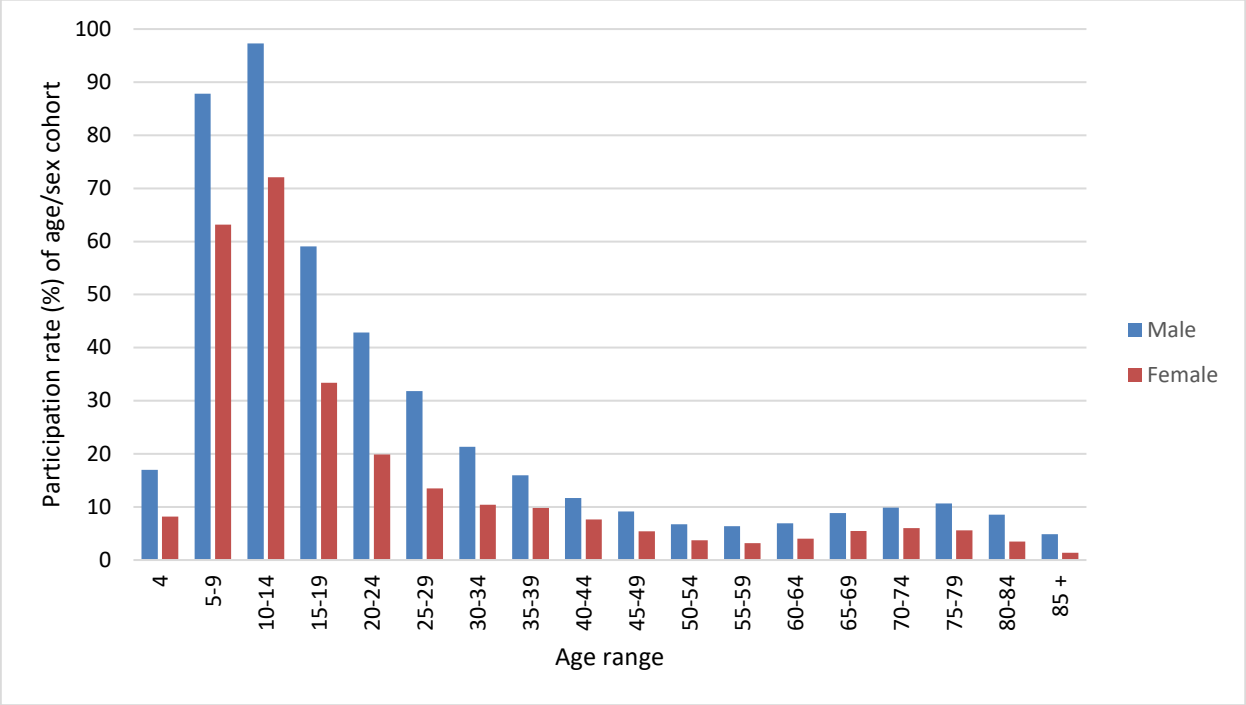

Figure 6d. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, Regional – Other: by sex

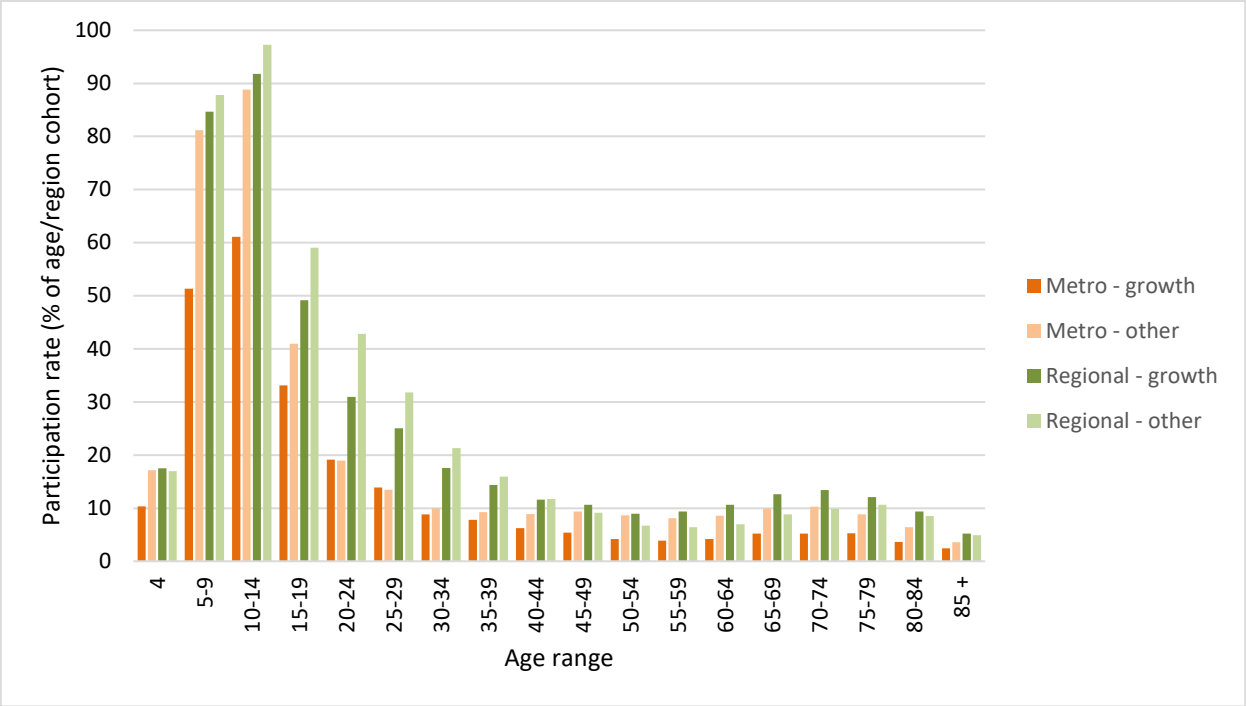

Figure 7a. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, males: by region

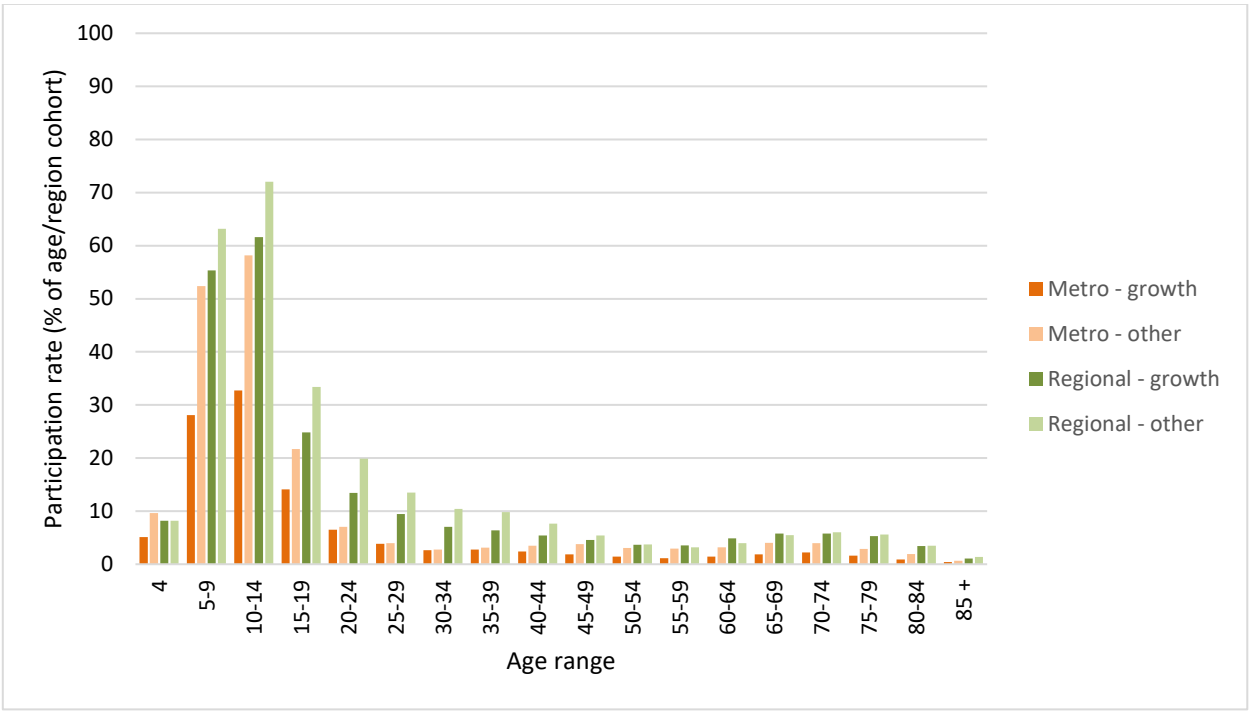

Figure 7b. Age-specific participation rates, 2016, females: by region

Table 3. Participation rates: by Local Government Area

LGA name	Participation Rate[1]	Rank[2]	LGA name	Participation Rate[1]	Rank[2]	LGA name	Participation Rate[1]	Rank[2]
Metropolitan - growth			Nillumbik (S)	25.55	2	Hepburn (S)	16.02	39
Cardinia (S)	16.80	1	Port Phillip (C)	11.45	18	Hindmarsh (S)	29.27	6
Casey (C)	12.55	3	Stonnington (C)	17.72	9	Horsham (RC)	24.36	14
Hume (C)	11.57	4	Whitehorse (C)	17.73	8	Indigo (S)	19.01	33
Melton (S)	9.85	7	Yarra (C)	9.81	20	Latrobe (C)	18.55	34
Mitchell (S)	15.28	2	Yarra Ranges (S)	18.63	6	Loddon (S)	27.59	9
Whittlesea (C)	11.07	5	**Regional - growth**			Macedon Ranges (S)	20.75	21
Wyndham (C)	10.37	6	Ballarat (C)	17.97	5	Mansfield (S)	20.40	24
Metropolitan - other			Bass Coast (S)	17.33	7	Mildura (RC)	18.23	35
Banyule (C)	18.33	7	Baw Baw (S)	20.46	2	Mitchell (S)	23.87	15
Bayside (C)	28.98	1	Greater Bendigo (C)	18.89	4	Moira (S)	17.13	38
Boroondara (C)	21.77	4	Greater Geelong (C)	19.85	3	Mount Alexander (S)	28.81	8
Brimbank (C)	7.25	23	Moorabool (S)	17.64	6	Moyne (S)	17.73	36
Darebin (C)	10.47	19	Surf Coast (S)	29.46	1	Murrindindi (S)	20.35	25
Frankston (C)	16.31	12	**Regional - other**			Northern Grampians (S)	19.68	27
Glen Eira (C)	16.13	13	Alpine (S)	19.29	29	Pyrenees (S)	31.45	3
Greater Dandenong (C)	6.29	24	Ararat (RC)	19.80	26	Queenscliffe (B)	26.51	10
Hobsons Bay (C)	14.46	16	Benalla (RC)	19.15	32	South Gippsland (S)	31.47	2
Kingston (C)	17.25	10	Buloke (S)	39.94	1	Southern Grampians (S)	19.29	30
Knox (C)	17.15	11	Campaspe (S)	23.47	16	Strathbogie (S)	25.91	12
Manningham (C)	16.04	14	Central Goldfields (S)	20.86	20	Swan Hill (RC)	24.79	13
Maribyrnong (C)	9.05	21	Colac-Otway (S)	26.07	11	Towong (S)	20.70	22
Maroondah (C)	18.66	5	Corangamite (S)	31.07	4	Wangaratta (RC)	22.21	17
Melbourne (C)	6.05	25	East Gippsland (S)	17.57	37	Warrnambool (C)	20.46	23
Monash (C)	13.04	17	Gannawarra (S)	28.97	7	Wellington (S)	21.11	19
Moonee Valley (C)	14.55	15	Glenelg (S)	21.98	18	West Wimmera (S)	15.34	40
Moreland (C)	8.68	22	Golden Plains (S)	19.17	31	Wodonga (RC)	30.70	5
Mornington Peninsula (S)	22.86	3	Greater Shepparton (C)	19.65	28	Yarriambiack (S)	16.02	39

[1] Player registrations per 100 residents

[2] In descending order of participation rate within each region

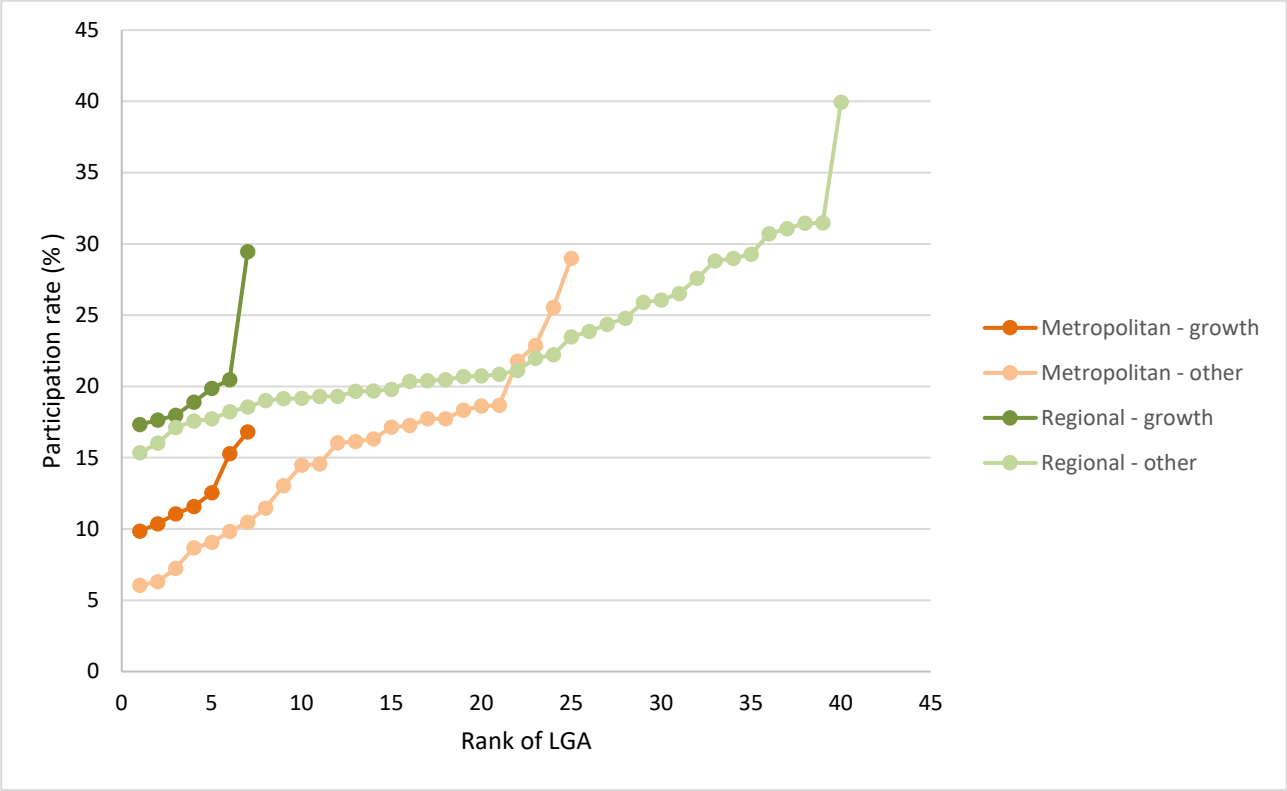

Figure 8. Participation rates, 2016: LGAs by region

Definition of the four Sport Participation Research Project (SPRP) regions

For the purpose of regional breakdowns included in standard reports prepared under the Sport Participation Research Project (SPRP), four regions have been defined by the SPRP research team in consultation with Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth. Each region consists of a group of local government areas (LGAs), listed here in alphabetical order. B =Borough, C = City, RC = Rural City, S = Shire.

There are two driving principles behind the designation of these four regions:

- The patterns of sport participation in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas are known to differ substantially.
- Within both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, projected growth in population is very uneven.

The Metropolitan - Growth region consists of the seven LGAs containing the four growth corridors designated by the Metropolitan Planning Authority. Six of the seven are within the current Melbourne Metropolitan Area designated by the State Government. The seventh, Mitchell Shire, is currently designated Non-metropolitan.

The Regional - Growth region consists of the LGAs containing the three largest regional centres, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, together with four LGAs which are expected, according to State Government population projections, to experience high population growth during the period up to 2021. Each of these four LGAs is on the outer periphery of one or more of Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat.

The Metropolitan – Other region consists of the remaining 25 LGAs within the designated Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

The Regional – Other region consists of the remaining 40 LGAs outside the designated Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

Metropolitan – Growth (7)
Cardinia (S)
Casey (C)
Hume (C)
Melton (C)
Mitchell (S)
Whittlesea (C)
Wyndham (C)

Metropolitan – Other (25)
Banyule (C)
Bayside (C)
Boroondara (C)
Brimbank (C)
Darebin (C)
Frankston (C)
Glen Eira (C)
Greater Dandenong (C)
Hobsons Bay (C)
Kingston (C)
Knox (C)
Manningham (C)
Maribyrnong (C)
Maroondah (C)
Melbourne (C)
Monash (C)
Moonee Valley (C)
Moreland (C)
Mornington Peninsula (S)
Nillumbik (S)
Port Phillip (C)
Stonnington (C)
Whitehorse (C)
Yarra (C)
Yarra Ranges (S)

Regional – Growth (7)
Ballarat (C)
Bass Coast (S)
Baw Baw (S)
Greater Bendigo (C)
Greater Geelong (C)
Moorabool (S)
Surf Coast (S)

Regional – Other (41)
Alpine (S)
Ararat (RC)
Benalla (RC)
Buloke (S)
Campaspe (S)
Central Goldfields (S)
Colac-Otway (S)
Corangamite (S)
East Gippsland (S)
Gannawarra (S)
Glenelg (S)
Golden Plains (S)
Greater Shepparton (C)
Hepburn (S)
Hindmarsh (S)
Horsham (RC)
Indigo (S)
Latrobe (C)
Loddon (S)
Macedon Ranges (S)
Mansfield (S)
Mildura (RC)
Moira (S)
Mount Alexander (S)
Moyne (S)
Murrindindi (S)
Northern Grampians (S)
Pyrenees (S)
Queenscliffe (B)
South Gippsland (S)
Southern Grampians (S)
Strathbogie (S)
Swan Hill (RC)
Towong (S)
Wangaratta (RC)
Warrnambool (C)
Wellington (S)
West Wimmera (S)
Wodonga (RC)
Yarriambiack (S)

Reference:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2015). *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, Cat. No. 3235.0. Released at 11.30am (Canberra time) 18 August 2015. http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3235.02014?OpenDocument Accessed 28 Jun 2016.

The Sport Participation Research Project is funded by VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria, and conducted by Associate Professor Rochelle Eime, Dr Jack Harvey and Melanie Charity (Victoria University and Federation University).

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Data accuracy

This report is based on 2015 and 2016 player registration data provided by 12 sports in Victoria. Data screening checks led to some anomalies being identified in the player registration data, and to the extent that it was possible these were resolved after consultation with the separate sports. Counts of participants in local government areas (LGAs) are estimates based on the fractional allocation of residential postcodes to LGAs using correspondence tables published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Some postcode areas cross state borders, requiring mathematical 'border effect' adjustments. The results in this report are based on the datasets as they stand at the date of publication.