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Australian Sports Commission

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## History of children's participation data for sport and physical recreation in Australia

Over the past 15 years many government initiatives have adopted sport and physical recreation participation estimates as a performance indicator. National participation data at a sport level is a key input into the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC's) national sport organisation (NSO) Participation Investment Categorisation Framework. The table below summarises the history of children's participation data for sport and physical recreation in Australia since 2000.

	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities survey	AusPlay survey
<b>OVERVIEW</b>		
Purpose	Monitoring, reporting and informing policy	Monitoring, reporting, informing policy, investment, product development and enhancing sport delivery
Reference period	2000, 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012	2015-18
Funding source	ABS	ASC
Data owner	ABS	ASC
Data collector	ABS	ORC International
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>		
Data collection period	Data collection in April of the five survey years (for 2012 this was over a 2-week period in April)	Continuous data collection each year across the entire 12 months
Survey type	Supplement to the ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS)*	Standalone survey
Target audience	The scope of the survey was children aged 5-14 years who were usual residents of private dwellings except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Children of certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys</li> <li>&gt; Children of overseas residents in Australia</li> <li>&gt; Children of members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia</li> <li>&gt; Children living in Indigenous communities (excluded for operational reasons)</li> </ul>	Children aged 0-14
Mode of data collection	Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) was introduced during 2003 and while information was collected using a paper form for the majority of households in 2003, computer assisted interviewing was used for all survey interviews in the 2006, 2009 and 2012 surveys. Information was collected from any responsible adult in the household who was asked to respond on behalf of the children in the household.	CATI conducted with a responsible parent or guardian who was asked to respond on behalf of a randomly selected child in the household
Sample design	Random sub-sample of ABS LFS	50% landline and 50% mobile. Landline sample stratified by state/part of state (for NSW, Vic, Qld, SA, WA) and territory. Quotas set for each stratum.
Sample source	Multi-stage area sampling using the ABS LFS frame	Overlapping dual sample frame - landline and mobile RDD samples

	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities survey	AusPlay survey
Interviewee selection	Maximum of three children interviewed per household. In households with four or more children aged 5-14 years, three children randomly selected	One randomly selected child per household based on last birthday method. Child randomly selected from children aged 0-14 for whom the respondent was a parent or guardian.
Annual sample size	7,300 (2012)	3,849 (2016)
Question topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Characteristics of children who participated in organised sport and selected activities undertaken for recreation and leisure outside of school hours in the 12 months prior to interview (2012)</li> <li>&gt; Basic demographics of the children and their responding adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Children's organised sport and recreation participation behaviours outside of school hours in the 12 months prior to interview</li> <li>&gt; Basic demographics of the selected child</li> <li>&gt; Payment for participation</li> <li>&gt; Barriers</li> <li>&gt; Switching behaviours</li> <li>&gt; Information about the responding parent or guardian (participation behaviours, payment, motivations, barriers, involvement in non-playing roles, extensive demographics, etc.)</li> </ul>

\* For more information on the **LFS** visit the ABS website.

## Comparing ABS and AusPlay results

It is the nature of surveying that if several surveys examine one topic, results from one survey can differ from those of the others. This is particularly likely where there are differences in interviewee selection, sample design, sample size, questionnaire design and how the survey is conducted. The ABS and AusPlay surveys differ in each of these aspects and any comparison of survey data should take these methodological differences into account.

The scope and definition of sports in ABS surveys changed over the years and therefore ABS time series comparisons should be made with caution.

All ABS methodology information in this document was extracted from the **Explanatory Notes** of catalogue 4901.0 - Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, April 2012 (as of 31 October 2016).

## About AusPlay

AusPlay is a key part of the ASC's *Play.Sport.Australia* participation strategy. It is the ASC's first comprehensive national participation survey to better understand sport participation trends in Australia, to inform policy decisions and guide strategy with a strong evidence base. AusPlay fills a major gap in national data following the ABS decision in 2014 to cease funding for all sport and recreation data collection.

## AusPlay results

The first AusPlay data will be published in late 2016 through the **Clearinghouse for Sport**. Data will be added over time, most of which will be publicly available.

## Sport Market Insights

Sport Market Insights (SMI) is responsible for managing the ASC's community sport research agenda and conducts sector-wide primary research for the benefit of all Australian sports.

## Further information

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- > Website: [researchinsport.com.au](http://researchinsport.com.au)
- > More information on sport participation is available on the **Clearinghouse for Sport**. For sport participation visit: [clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge\\_base/sport\\_participation](http://clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/sport_participation)

For more sport market insights: [researchinsport.com.au](http://researchinsport.com.au)