



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

PARTICIPATION IN NETBALL BY AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN 2003 – 2012

Report prepared by the Australian Sports Commission



Participation Data for Australian Children 5-14 Year Olds

This report presents data from the ***Children's Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities Survey (CPCLAS)*** which was administered by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012.

The ***CPCLAS*** collected information about participation in *organised sport outside of school hours* for Australian 5-14 year olds as recalled by their parents.

More details on the ***CPCLAS*** can be found via ABS cat. no. 4901.0 or the following link:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4901.0Main+Features1Apr%202012?OpenDocument>

This report has been prepared by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and includes some data that has not been presented in previous ABS ***CPCLAS*** publications. The ASC purchased custom data for select sports through the ABS Sports Unit.

The Children's Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities Survey

The *Children's Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities Survey* asked parents:

Which sports has [Child name] played or trained for outside of school hours since this time last year?

In each year the survey was administered, a number of parents responded:

*Netball**

* In this report the definition of netball participation includes indoor and/or outdoor netball.

Explanatory notes for interpreting the Children's Participation Data

Data from the **CPCLAS** should not be directly compared with results from other sport participation surveys, such as the **Exercise Recreation And Sport Survey (ERASS)** or the **ABS adult sport participation surveys**, without considering the difference in methodology, scope and years.

It should be noted that the **CPCLAS** data:

- Is based upon a different data collection process to the ERASS adults' data
- Is not collected in the same years as the ERASS and ABS adults' data
- Reflects parent responses, while the ERASS and ABS adults' data reflects participant responses
- Reflects participation outside of school hours only, while the ERASS and ABS adults' data also included measures of total participation
- Reflects organised participation only, while information on non-organised participation data was also collected for the ERASS and ABS adults
- Reports different participation frequency categories to the ERASS adults data (e.g. Regular participation for the children's data is defined as 27 times or more a year, while for the adults data is defined as 26 times or more a year)

How to interpret the Children's Participation Data

Some of the data in this report has not been publically released by the ABS. The ASC sourced custom data tables from the ABS containing information relevant for sports. Please note that the ASC did not have access to the raw data. As the ABS reported the total survey sample size (sample size in 2003 = 8,900; sample size in 2006 = 8,682; sample size in 2009 = 5,825; sample size in 2012 = 7,300), it was possible to compare the proportion of Australian children participating in a sport across the four time periods with significance testing. The ABS, however, did not report the sample sizes for the demographic (e.g. age or gender) categories, so it was not possible to conduct significance tests on demographic subgroups. As such, the interpretation of data relating to the demographic subgroups in this report is indicative only.

The ABS does not publically release data with high Relative Standard Errors (RSEs). It is important to note that estimations of netball participation for boys was associated with high (25% – 50%) RSEs and therefore should be interpreted with caution. Labels for data points have not been included on charts where they may be associated with high RSEs. For further information* related to RSEs associated with the data please refer to ABS cat. no. 4901.0.

Please note that scales may differ between charts.

Australian children's population (5–14 year olds) by year from ABS population estimates:

2003: 2,647,500	2006: 2,664,700
2009: 2,722,500	2012: 2,786,100

Participation frequency definitions:

- Annual defined as participating in a given sport at least once a year
- Regular defined as participating in a given sport at least 27 times a year
- Non-regular defined as participating in a given sport at least once but less than 27 times a year

*<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4901.0Technical%20Note1Apr%202012?opendocument&tabname=Notes&prodno=4901.0&issue=Apr%202012&num=&view=>

Summary of Trends

Summary of General Trends in Children's Participation Among 21 Selected Sports

Between 2003 and 2012 there was a significant increase in children's organised participation in the following sports:

- *Gymnastics* and *rugby union* had a significant increase in annual, regular and non-regular participation rates.
- *Rugby union* had a significant increase in annual and non-regular participation rates.
- *Touch football* and *football* had a significant increase in the non-regular participation rate.

Between 2003 and 2012 there was a significant decrease in children's organised participation in the following sports:

- *Hockey* had a significant decrease in annual, regular and non-regular participation rates.
- *Netball*, *tennis* and *softball* had a significant decrease in annual and regular participation rates.
- *Athletics* had a significant decrease in the annual participation rate.
- *Cricket*, *touch football* and *golf* had a significant decrease in the regular participation rate.

For information on general trends in children's organised participation across sports please refer to the following ABS reports:

1. [http://www.ausport.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/276914/ABS - Childrens participation in organised - 2003 - 2006.pdf](http://www.ausport.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/276914/ABS_-_Childrens_participation_in_organised_-_2003_-_2006.pdf)
2. [http://www.ausport.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/197829/childrens participation in organised sport 2003 2006 survey multi-variate analysis.pdf](http://www.ausport.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/197829/childrens_participation_in_organised_sport_2003_2006_survey_multi-variate_analysis.pdf)

Summary of General Trends in Children's Netball Participation

Organised netball participation

Between 2003 and 2012:

- The ABS estimation of the number of children annually participating in organised netball varied around 223,000 (in 2012) and 241,000 (in 2003).
- The ABS estimation of the percentage of Australian children annually participating in organised netball varied between 8.0% (in 2012) and 9.1% (in 2003).
- There was a statistically significant decline in the annual and regular participation rates for children's organised netball. There was, however, no significant change in the non-regular participation rate.

Comparison of regular v. non-regular organised netball participation

For all four time periods, the regular participation rate for children's organised netball was statistically higher than the non-regular participation rate.

Demographic analysis of organised netball participation

Far more girls than boys participated in organised netball at least once a year.

The ABS estimated that the annual organised netball participation rate for girls decreased about 2% between 2003 and 2012.

From 2003 to 2012 the ABS estimated that over three quarters of annual participants in organised netball were aged 9 years or older. The age demographic for regular participants in organised netball was older than the age demographic for annual participants.

Organised* Participation in Netball^

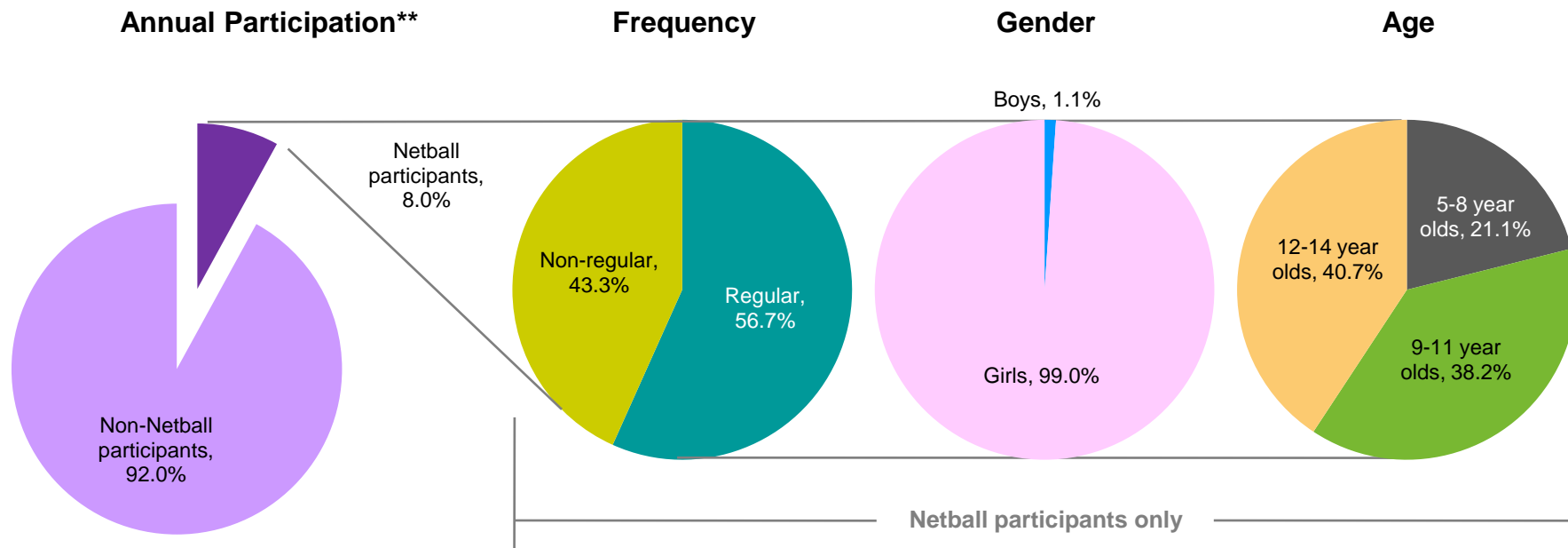
* The CPCLAS refers to "organised sport" as a sport which is played or trained for outside of school hours and is organised by a school, club or association

^ Includes indoor and outdoor netball.

Current Participation Status (2012)

Interpretive Notes

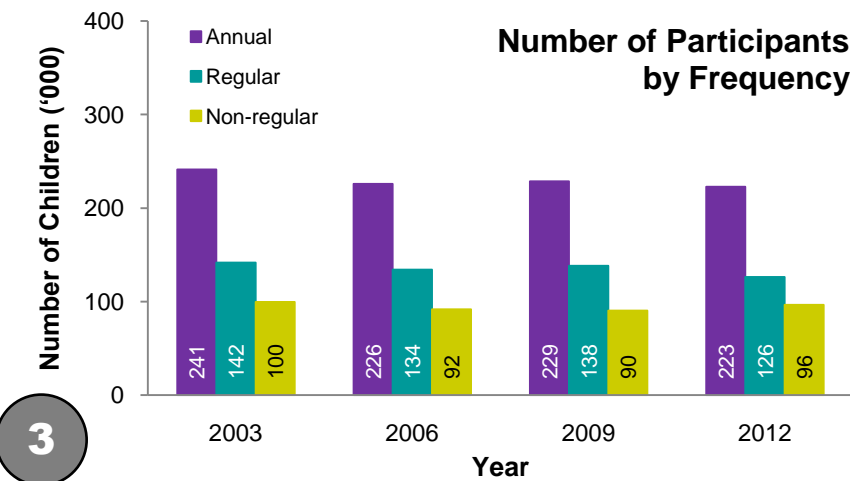
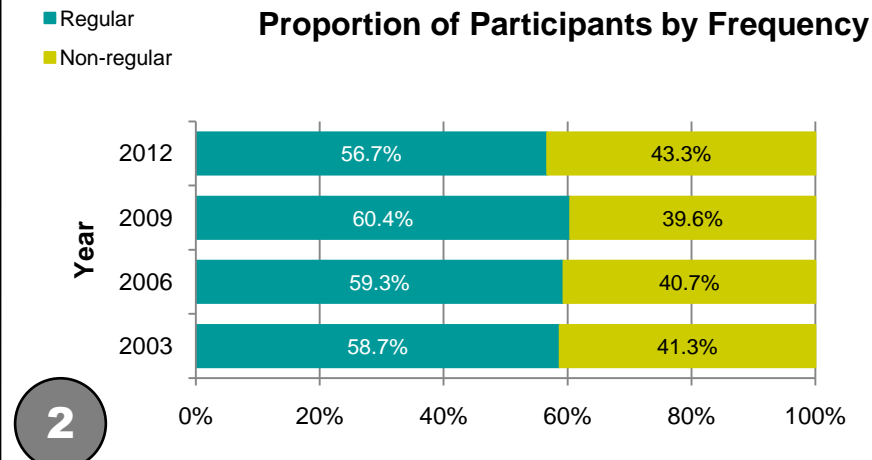
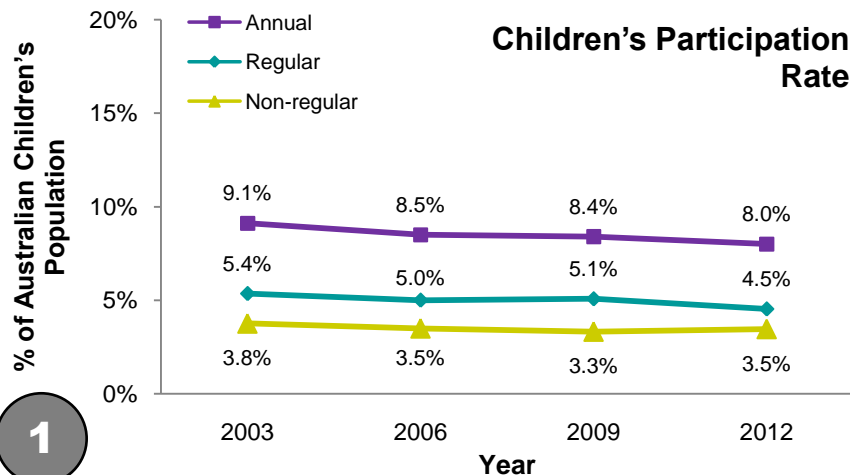
- 8.0% of the Australian children's population participated in organised netball at least once in 2012.
- There was a statistically significantly higher proportion of regular organised netball participants (56.7%) than non-regular (43.3%).
- The vast majority of annual organised netball participants were girls (99.0%)*.
- The proportion of annual organised netball participants increased with age*.



*As the ABS did not report the survey sample sizes for the demographic (e.g. age or gender) categories it was not possible to conduct a significance test on the demographic subgroups

**Based on the 2012 ABS population estimate for Australian 5-14 year olds

2003 – 2012 Participation by Frequency



Interpretive Notes

Between 2003 and 2012, the ABS estimation of the number of children annually participating in organised netball varied around 223,000 (in 2012) and 241,000 (in 2003).

Between 2003 and 2012, the ABS estimation of the percentage of Australian children annually participating in organised netball varied between 8.0% (in 2012) and 9.1% (in 2003).

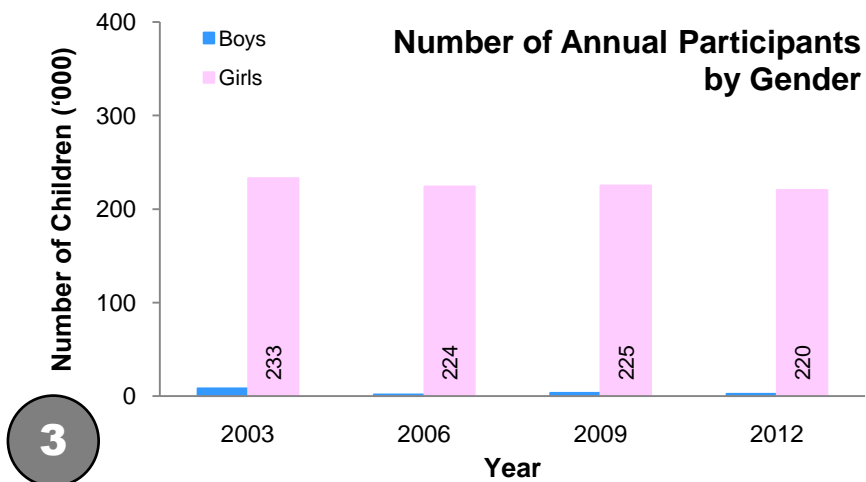
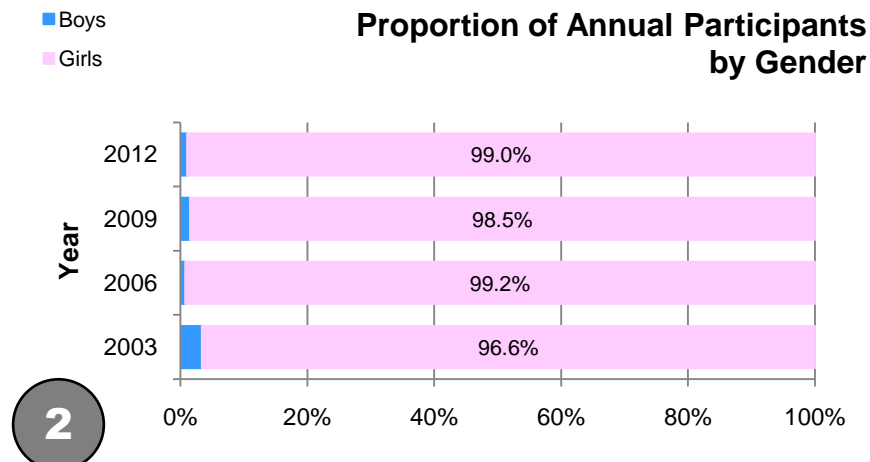
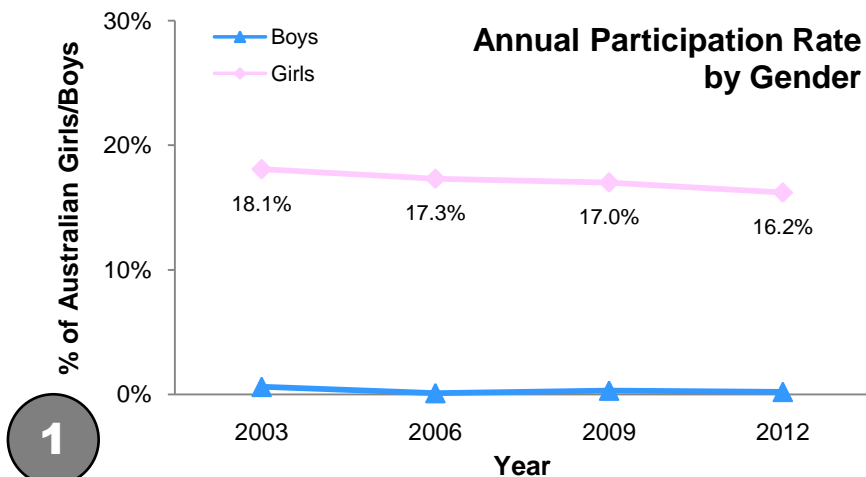
Between 2003 and 2012, there was a statistically significant decline in the annual and regular participation rates for children's organised netball. There was, however, no significant change in the non-regular participation rate.

For all four time periods, the regular participation rate for children's organised netball was statistically higher than the non-regular participation rate.

Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating across the four time periods. A one sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare regular and non-regular participation rates.

Annual Participation Demographic Analysis

Annual Participation by Gender

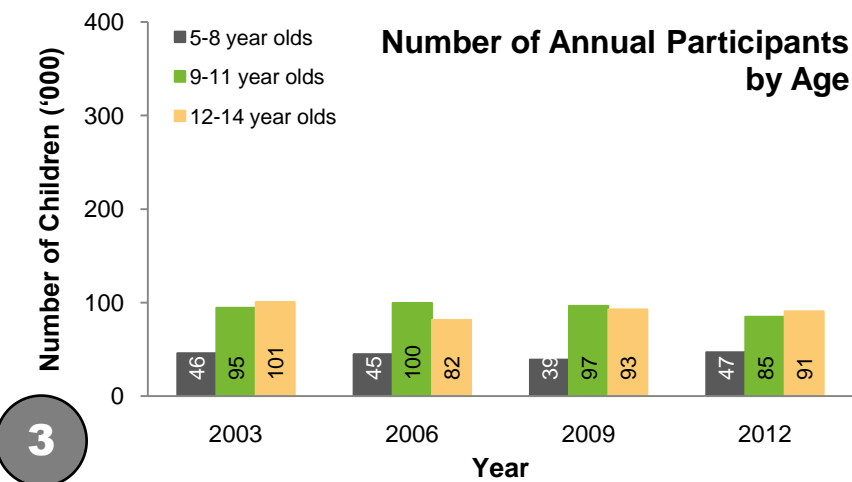
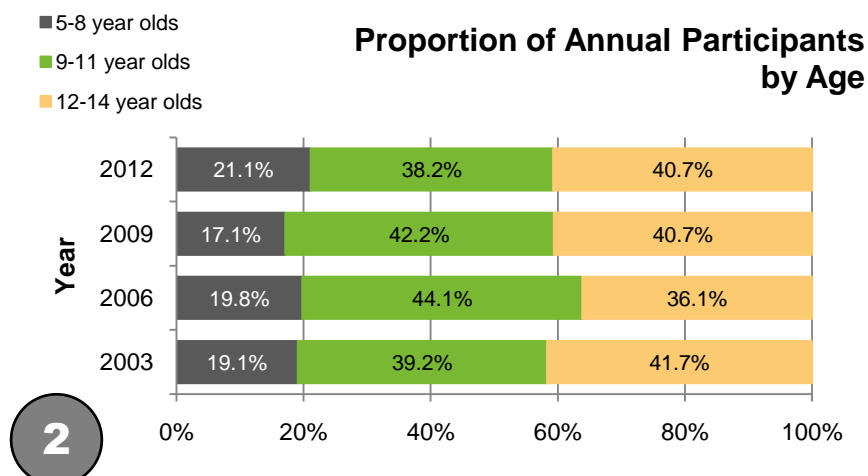
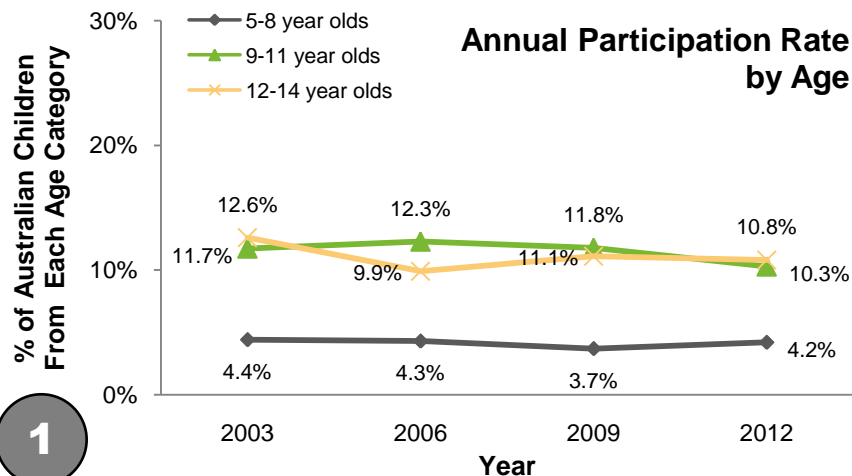


Interpretive Notes

The data presented on this slide appears to indicate the following:

- Far more girls than boys participated in organised netball at least once a year.
- The proportion of girls to boys participating in organised netball annually was similar over the years.
- While the annual organised netball participation rate for girls decreased 1.9% between 2003 and 2012, the number of girls participating in organised netball during this time period decreased only slightly. The explanation for the larger decline in the participation rate is that the Australian population for 5-14 year old girls increased over the years.

Annual Participation by Age



Interpretive Notes

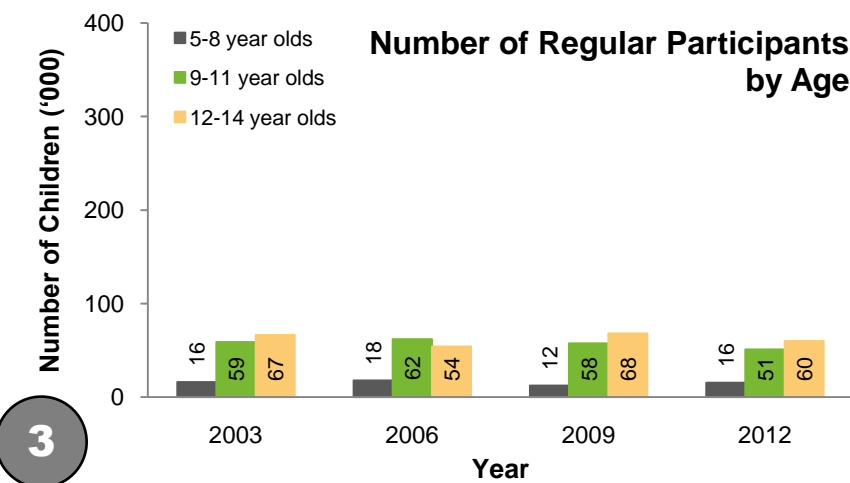
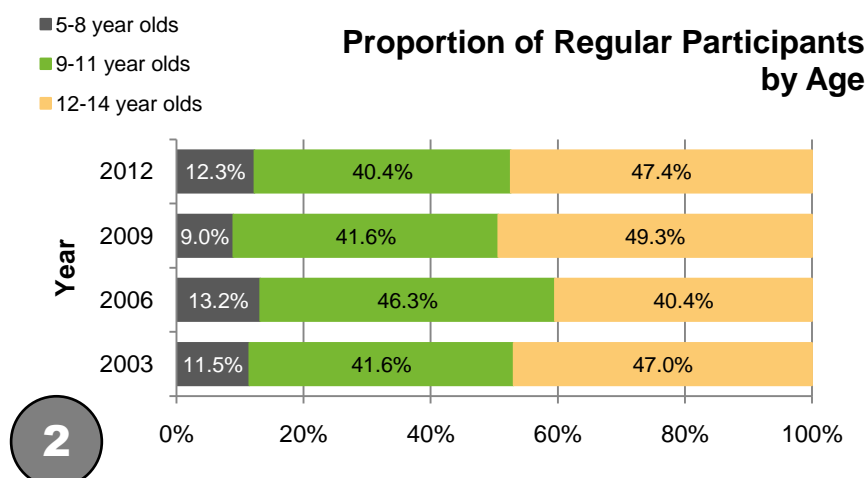
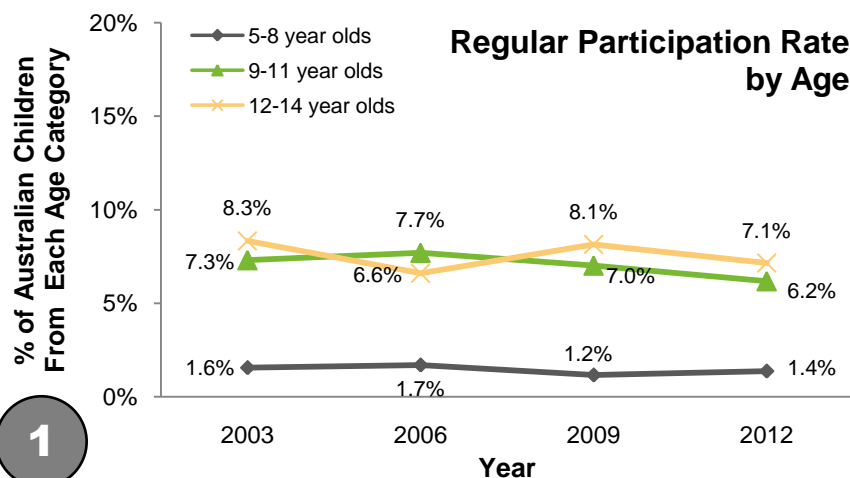
The data presented on this slide appears to indicate the following:

- From 2003 to 2012 the ABS estimated that over three quarters of organised netball participants were aged 9 years or older.
- Between 2003 and 2012 the proportion of annual participants in organised netball from each age group remained relatively stable.

Regular* Participation Demographic Analysis

* For regular participation, age was the only demographic with sufficient data for analysis.

Regular Participation by Age



Interpretive Notes

The data presented on this slide appears to indicate the following:

- The regular organised netball participation rates for each age category followed a similar pattern to annual participation.
- The age demographic for regular participants in organised netball was older than the age demographic for annual participants.
- Between 2003 and 2012 the number of 9-11 and 12-14 year olds participating regularly in organised netball decreased slightly.

Sport Comparison

Ranking of Selected Sports According to Annual Participation

2012 Ranking	SPORT	2003 Ranking	↑ ↓
1	Swimming	1	-
2	Football	2	-
3	Australian Football	6	↑ 3
4	Netball	3	↓ 1
5	Basketball	5	-
6	Tennis	4	↓ 2
7	Gymnastics	9	↑ 2
8	Cricket	7	↓ 1
9	Rugby League	10	↑ 1
10	Track and Field Athletics	8	↓ 2
11	Rugby Union	14	↑ 3

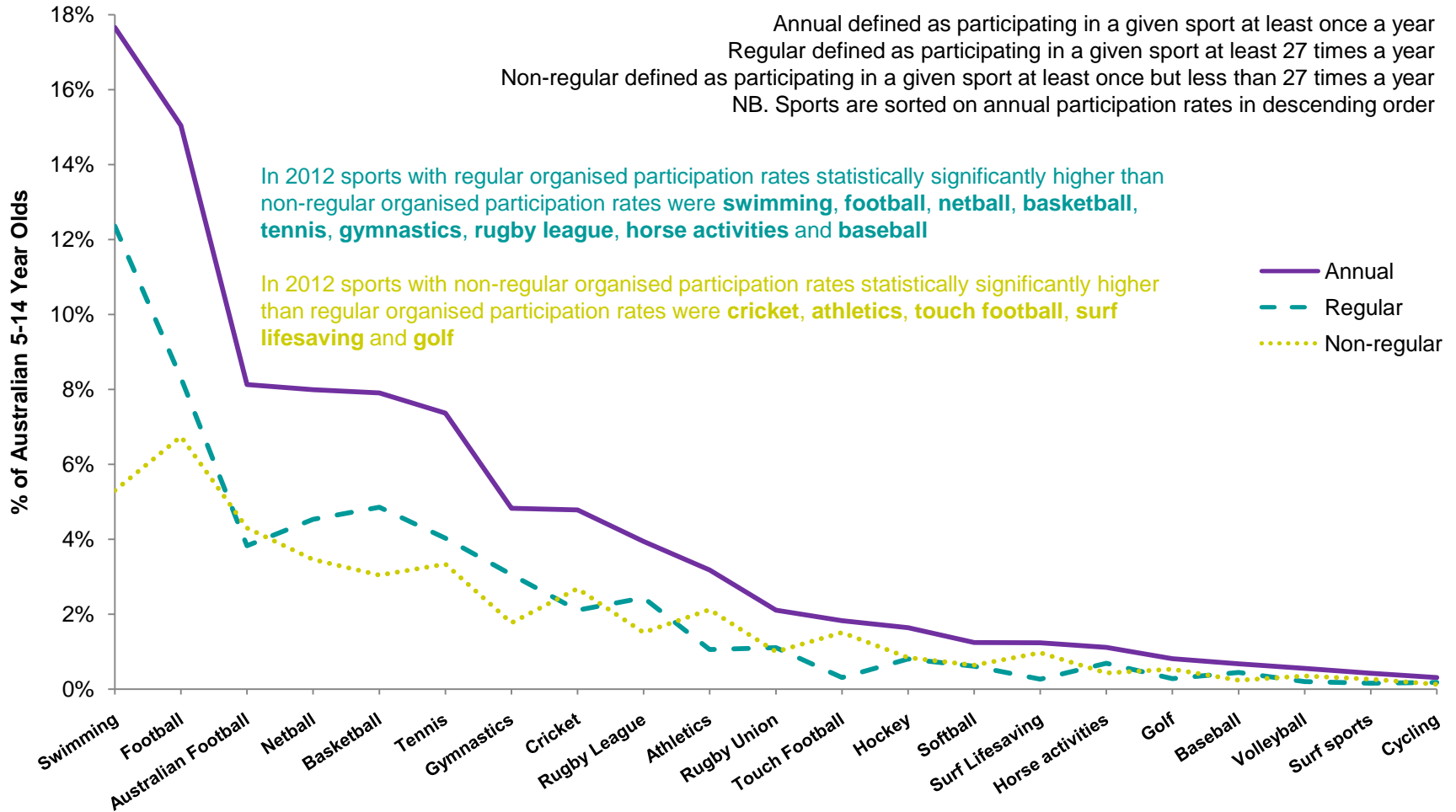
2012 Ranking	SPORT	2003 Ranking	↑ ↓
12	Touch Football	13	↑ 1
13	Hockey	11	↓ 2
14	Softball	12	↓ 2
15	Surf Lifesaving	16	↑ 1
16	Horse activities	15	↓ 1
17	Golf	17	-
18	Baseball	18	-
19	Volleyball	19	-
20	Surf sports	21	↑ 1
21	Cycling	20	↓ 1

The Table represents a ranking of 21 selected sports

Table sorted on 2012 rankings

#1 ranking = sport with the highest participation among the 21 selected sports

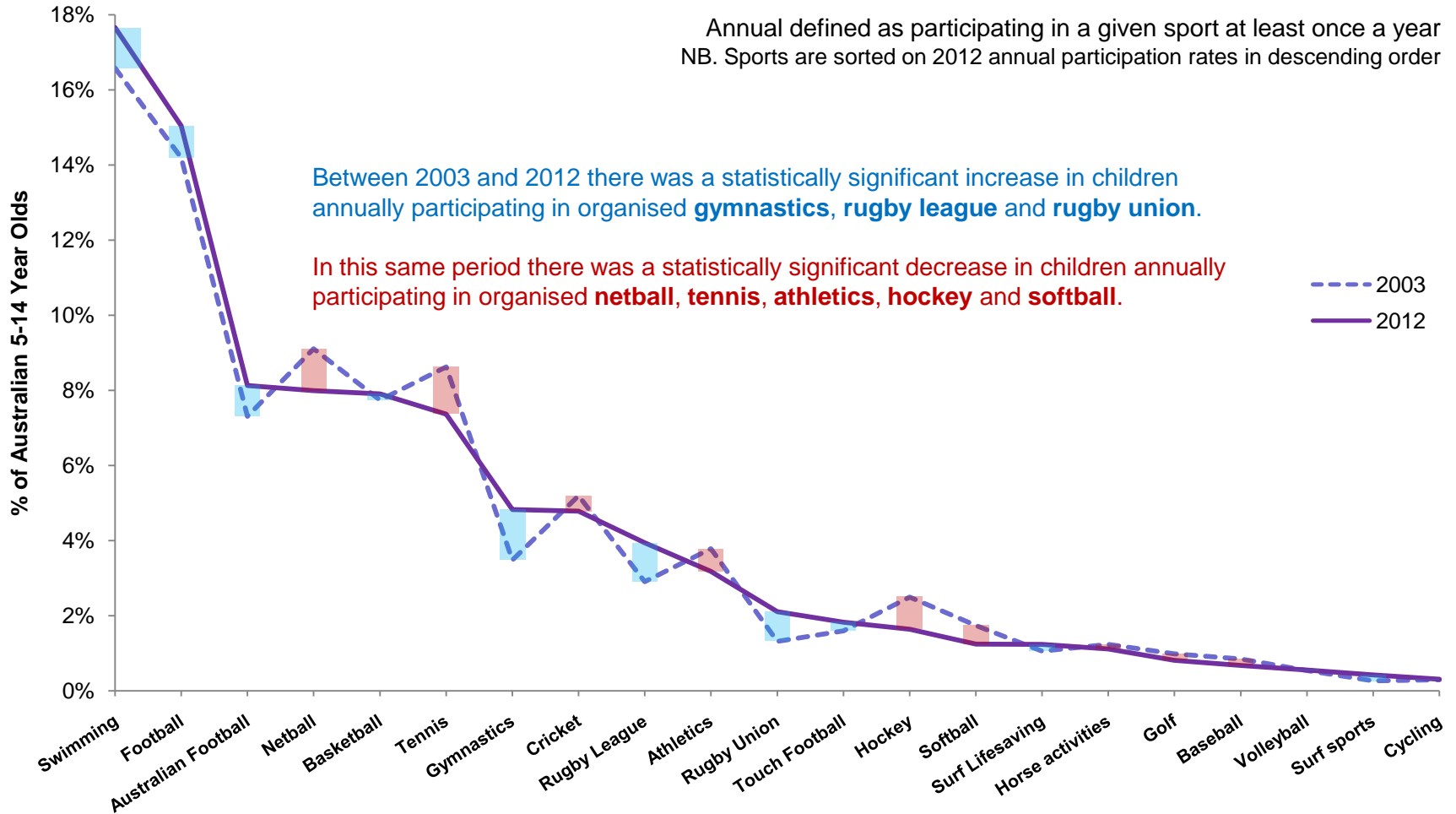
2012 Annual v. Regular v. Non-regular Participation Rates for Selected Sports



Note: A one sample Difference in Proportions T-Test at 95% confidence level was used to compare regular and non-regular participation rates.

2003 v. 2012 Annual Participation Rates for Selected Sports

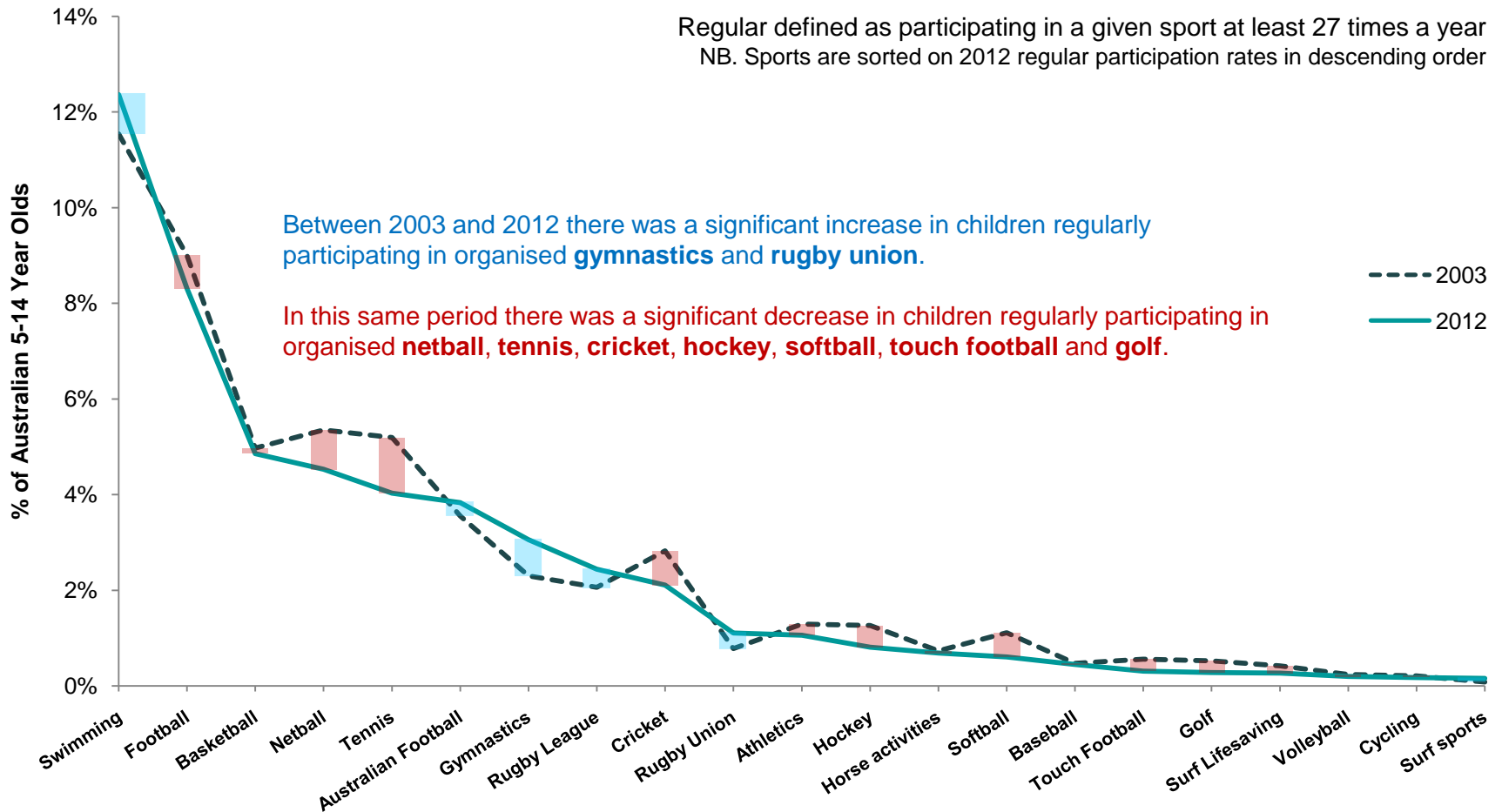
Annual defined as participating in a given sport at least once a year
 NB. Sports are sorted on 2012 annual participation rates in descending order



Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Tests at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating in 2003 and 2012.

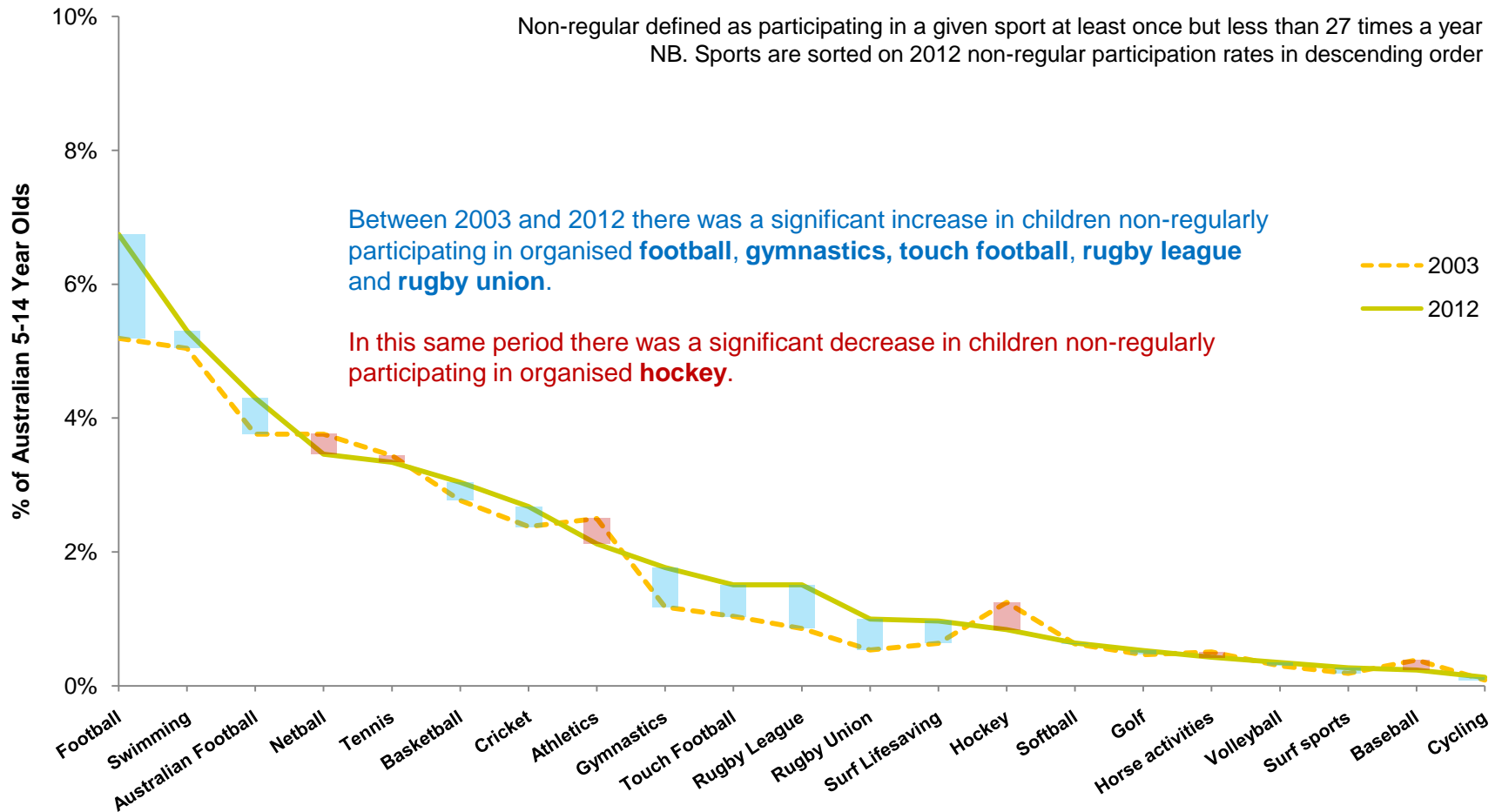
2003 v. 2012 Regular Participation Rates for Selected Sports

Regular defined as participating in a given sport at least 27 times a year
 NB. Sports are sorted on 2012 regular participation rates in descending order



Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Tests at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating in 2003 and 2012.

2003 v. 2012 Non-regular Participation Rates for Selected Sports



Note: A two sample Difference in Proportions T-Tests at 95% confidence level was used to compare the percentage of Australian 5-14 year olds participating in 2003 and 2012.