



SPORTS EQUITY INDEX

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Sport England
16 Upper Woburn Place
London
WC1H 0QP
Tel: (020) 7273 1500
Fax: (020) 7273 1868
Email
info@english.sports.gov.uk
www.sportengland.org

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SPORT ENGLAND'S SPORTS EQUITY INDEX

INTRODUCTION

Narrowing and ultimately overcoming the inequities we find in the levels of participation in sport by different groups in society is a high policy priority for Sport England and for many if not all of its partner agencies. To assess the extent of inequity and the progress that is being made towards 'social inclusion in sport' requires empirical evidence of where we are now and the ability to assess what we have achieved

The Sports Equity Index has been formulated to provide the evidence base to underpin sports equity policy and initiatives in England. It has been devised to:

- assist all those involved in sports development to better understand the levels of inequity that currently exist in sports participation in England; and
- provide the evidence base for determining policy priorities, setting targets and measuring achievements.

The Sports Equity Index does this by providing an analysis of the relative propensity of different groups within the population to take part in sport. The analysis is based on national sports participation data taken from the General Household Survey (1996) and Sport England's Young people and sport survey (1999). The socio-demographic groups included in the analysis are gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic group, age and for young people key learning stage.

Participation rates have been converted into two 'Sports equity indexes' that show the relative propensity of different socio-demographic groups in the population (adults and young people) to take part in sport compared with:

- the average participation rates for the population as a whole; and
- the highest participation rate found amongst the different socio-demographic groups

The indexes have been applied separately for the adult population (aged 16 years and above) and for young people (aged 6 to 16 years). Indexes 1 and 2 are for the total adult population. At this level of aggregation it is possible to compare social class differences across all groups. Indexes 3 and 4 provide more detailed analysis by different age groups. At this level of detail analysis of social class differences is limited by sample sizes.

The indexes help to provide an indication of which groups in the population are participating at levels above expected and which are participating below expectation and thus which groups need to be targeted in order to improve participation levels. They also provide some indication of the degree of difficulty that may be experienced in getting certain groups in the population to participate and how much we need to achieve if we are to make significant inroads into sporting inequities.

THE SPORTS EQUITY INDEXES

Sports Equity Index (1) Adults – benchmarked against the average

This index relates the rates of participation¹ for different socio-demographic groups to the average participation rate for the population as a whole (45.8%). It does this for all adults aged 16 years and over. The group most likely to take part in sport (when sample size is taken into account) is 'males without a disability' which has an index of 132. This means that this group is 32% more likely to take part in sport than adults generally. Sport equity index 1 shows amongst other things that:

- those in the AB social class group are much more likely to take part in sport than their counterparts in the DE social groups. For example males in AB social class groups are 23% more likely to take part in sport than the average (123) whereas males in social groups DE are at around the national average level of participation (99);
- women in the AB social class groups have participation rates 4% above the national average (104) while their counterparts in the DE groups are 40% less likely to take part than average (60).

Sports Equity Index (2) Adults – benchmarked against the 'best'

This index relates the rates of participation for different socio-demographic groups for all adults aged 16 years and over to the highest participant group in the population ('males without a disability' participation rate 60.3%). The highest participant group is set at 100 on the index and all other participation rates are indexed against this score.

When compared to this benchmark norm the group least likely to take part in sport (DE with a disability) has an index of 35 that is this group is 65% less likely to take part in sport than 'males without a disability'.

Sports Equity Index (3) Adults in different age groups – benchmarked against the population average

This Index relates the rates of participation for different socio-demographic groups (including different age groups) to the average participation rate for the population as a whole (45.8%). The average is set at 100 on the index and all other participation rates are indexed against this score.

The group most likely to take part in sport (when sample size is taken into account) is '16 to 19 year old males' with an index score of 198. This means that this group is 98% more likely to take part in sport than adults generally.

¹ Participation in sport is defined as having taken part in sports or physical activities on at least one occasion in the last 4 weeks excluding walking. All adult participation rates have been obtained from the 1996 General Household Survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics. For more information on methodology and results from the GHS refer to other Sport England publications on 'sports participation'.

The group least likely to take part in sport (again when sample size is taken into account) is '70+ DEs' with an index score of 13. This means that this group is 87% less likely to take part in sport than adults generally.

Sports equity index 3 shows that:

- age is the major factor which impacts on levels of participation. Because age is such an important influence on participation rates the rankings are also provided separated into the different age groupings to assist with comparisons
- although age has a significant impact on participation rates there are examples where other factors such as socio- economic group can overcome age differences. For example those aged 45 to 59 years in social group AB rank higher on the index (27, 115) than those aged 30 to 44 years in social group DE (35,97)
- gender has a significant impact on adult participation rates. For example the highest participant group for females is 16 to 19 year olds ranked at number 15 (149). This is 45 index points below the equivalent age group for males at number 2 (194)
- people with a disability are more likely to have a lower position on the Index than those without. For example 45 to 59 year olds without a disability rank at number 34 on the index (a score of 99 which is broadly equivalent to the average for the population as a whole) whereas 45 to 59 year olds with a disability rank at number 42 with a score of 63 which is 37% below the average
- ethnic minorities have lower levels of participation in sport compared with the white population in the same age groups. For example adults from an ethnic minority community aged 16 to 19 years are ranked at number 13 (150) compared with the white population in the same age group ranked at number 5 (175)

Sports Equity Index (4) Adults in different age groups – benchmarked against the 'best'

This index relates the rates of participation for different socio-demographic groups (including different age groups) to the highest participant group in the population (16 to 19 year old males, participation rate 89%). The highest participant group is set at 100 on the index and all other participation rates are indexed against this score.

When compared to this benchmark norm the group least likely to take part in sport ('70+ DE's) has an index of 7 (with a participation rate of 5.9%), that is this group is 93% less likely to take part in sport than '16 to 19 year old males'.

Sports Equity Index (5) Young people – benchmarked against the average

The overall young people's participation rate² of 86.6% has been taken as the ranking norm (i.e. given a rank of 100) and participation rates for each of the socio-demographic groups have been indexed against this.

The group most likely to take part in sport (when sample size is taken into account) is 'males at key stage 1' which has an index of 104, that is this group is 4% more likely to take part in sport than young people generally.

The group least likely to take part in sport (after sample size is taken into account) is 'ethnic minority communities at key stage 3' which has an index of 84, that is this group is 16% less likely to take part in sport than young people generally.

Sports equity index 5 shows that:

- there is a smaller variation overall in the rates of participation amongst the young than amongst adults (a range of 104 to 84 index points compared with 218 to 13 for adults)
- young males are more likely to take part than their female counterparts (the top 3 places in the index are 'occupied' by males)
- girls are dropping out of sport at Key Stage 3 (12 in the rankings with a score of 93 compare with 8 in the rankings and equal to the national average at Key Stage 2)
- young people from ethnic minority communities are less likely to take part in sport than their white counterparts (the last 3 positions in the rankings at 14, 15 and 16 are all occupied by ethnic minorities and range between 8% and 16% less than the national average for all young people)

Sports Equity Index (6) Young people – benchmarked against the 'best'

The highest participation rate of 89.7% for 'males at key stage 1' has been taken as the ranking norm for benchmarking purposes (i.e. given a rank of 100) and the participation rates for each of the socio-demographic groups have been indexed against this. This shows how far participation in sport amongst each group in society varies from the highest participant levels and what perhaps the other groups can aspire to.

² Participation rates derived from the 1999 Young people and sport national survey. Participation is defined as 'participation in at least one sports or exercise activity on at least 10 occasions in the last 12 months.

Note information on SEG and disability not available

The key stages are as follows:

<i>Key Stages</i>	<i>School Years</i>	<i>Age Groups</i>
1	1 & 2	5 to 7
2	3, 4, 5 & 6	7 to 11
3	7, 8 & 9	11 to 14
4	10 & 11	14 to 16

When compared to this benchmark norm the group least likely to take part in sport (when sample size is taken into account) 'ethnic minority communities at key stage 3' has an index of 81, that is this group is 19% less likely to take part in sport than 'males at key stage 1'.

CONCLUSION

This fact sheet uses empirical data available from large scale national surveys on participation in sport in England to demonstrate the inequities that exist in 'the propensity to take part in sport' between different groups in society. It shows in a new and graphical way how participation is impacted by age, gender, social class, ethnicity and disability and importantly the way that these socio-demographic characteristics combine to create inequity.

Although the indexes do not explain the reasons why inequities occur they do highlight the challenge that all those involved in sports development face. The outcomes can be used to identify priority target groups at national regional or local levels and provide a benchmark against which progress can be assessed. The indexes provide an excellent starting point for the preparation of a sports strategy. Sporting inequities occur, however, as a consequence of a complex interaction of cultural, social, geographical and economic factors and a better understanding of how these impact differently on different groups in society is a pre-requisite to the design of successful intervention initiatives.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Sports Equity Index and how it can be applied locally contact Nick Rowe, Head of Research and Strategy, Sport England.

Nick Rowe/Sarah Moore

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SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (1) ADULTS (Aged 16+)
Participation benchmarked against the average (45.8%)

Rank	Group	Index
1	Ethnic minority communities AB*	134
2	Without a disability Male	132
3	AB Without a disability	127
4	AB Male	123
5	White Male	118
6	White AB	116
7	White Without a disability	114
8	AB Female	104
9	Ethnic minority communities Male	103
Norm	All adults	100
10	DE Male	99
11	Without a disability Female	96
12	Ethnic minority communities Without a disability	91
13=	White Female	86
13=	DE Without a disability	86
15	AB With a disability	80
16	With a disability Male	77
17	White DE	74
18	Ethnic minority communities Female*	70
19	White With a disability	64
20	Ethnic minority communities DE*	61
21=	Ethnic minority communities With a disability *	60
21=	DE Female	60
23	Female With a disability	54
24	DE With a disability	46

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (2) ADULTS (aged 16+)
Participation benchmarked against the 'best' (60.3%)

Rank	Group	Index
1	Ethnic Minority communities AB*	102
Norm	Without a disability Male	100
2	AB Without a disability	97
3	AB Male	93
4	White Male	90
5	White AB	88
6	White Without a disability	87
7	AB Female	79
8	Ethnic minority communities Male	78
9	DE Male	75
10	Without a disability Female	73
11	Ethnic minority communities Without a disability	69
12=	White Female	65
12=	DE Without a disability	65
14	AB With a disability	61
15	With a disability Male	59
16	White DE	56
17	Ethnic minority communities Female*	53
18	White With a disability	49
19	Ethnic minority communities DE*	46
20=	Ethnic minority communities With a disability *	45
20=	Female DE	45
22	Female With a disability	41
23	DE With a disability	35

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (3) Adults (by age groups)
Participation benchmarked against the average (45.8%)

Rank	Age	Group	Index
1	16-19	AB*	218
2	16-19	Male	194
3	16-19	With a disability*	183
4	20-24	Male	177
5	16-19	White	175
6	16-19	Without a disability	171
7	20-24	AB*	165
8	25-29	Male	164
9	16-19	DE	163
10	25-29	AB	155
11	20-24	White	154
12	20-24	Without a disability	152
13=	16-19	Ethnic minority communities	150
13=	30-44	AB	150
15	16-19	Female	149
16=	30-44	Male	148
16=	20-24	With a disability	148
18	20-24	DE	145
19	25-29	Without a disability	143
20	25-29	White	142
21	20-24	Female	131
22	30-44	Without a disability	130
23=	30-44	White	129
23=	20-24	Ethnic minority communities*	129
25	25-29	DE	124
26	25-29	Female	118
27	45-59	AB	115
28	25-29	With a disability	113
29	30-44	With a Disability	110
30	30-44	Female	108
31	25-29	Ethnic minority communities*	107
32	45-59	Male	102
33	30-44	Ethnic minority communities	101
Norm	All Adults		100
34	45-59	Without a disability	99
35	30-44	DE	97
36	45-59	White	89
37	60-69	AB	83
38	45-59	Female	76
39=	60-69	Male	75
39=	60-69	Without a disability	75
41	60-69	White	67
42	45-59	With a disability	63
43	45-59	DE	59
44	60-69	Female	57
45	60-69	With a disability	50
46	45-59	Ethnic minority communities*	47
47	60-69	DE*	46
48	70+	AB	44
49=	70+	Male	36
49=	70+	Without a disability	36
51	70+	White	27
52	60-69	Ethnic minority communities*	26
53	70+	Female	20
54	70+	With a disability	17
55	70+	DE	13
56	70+	Ethnic minority communities*	12

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (3a) Participation benchmarked against the average (45.8%) for separate age groups

Rank	Age	Group	Index
1	16-19	AB*	218
2	16-19	Male	194
3	16-19	With a disability*	183
5	16-19	White	175
6	16-19	Without a disability	171
9	16-19	DE	163
13=	16-19	Ethnic minority communities	150
15	16-19	Female	149

Rank	Age	Group	Index
4	20-24	Male	177
7	20-24	AB*	165
11	20-24	White	154
12	20-24	Without a disability	152
16=	20-24	With a disability	148
18	20-24	DE	145
21	20-24	Female	131
23=	20-24	Ethnic minority communities*	129

Rank	Age	Group	Index
8	25-29	Male	164
10	25-29	AB	155
19	25-29	Without a disability	143
20	25-29	White	142
25	25-29	DE	124
26	25-29	Female	118
28	25-29	With a disability	113
31	25-29	Ethnic minority communities*	107

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

Rank	Age	Group	Index
13=	30-44	AB	150
16=	30-44	Male	148
22	30-44	Without a disability	130
23=	30-44	White	129
29	30-44	With a disability	110
30	30-44	Female	108
33	30-44	Ethnic minority communities	101
35	30-44	DE	97

Rank	Age	Group	Index
27	45-59	AB	115
32	45-59	Male	102
34	45-59	Without a disability	99
36	45-59	White	89
38	45-59	Female	76
42	45-59	With a disability	63
43	45-59	DE	59
46	45-59	Ethnic minority communities*	47

Rank	Age	Group	Index
37	60-69	AB	83
39=	60-69	Male	75
39=	60-69	Without a disability	75
41	60-69	White	67
44	60-69	Female	57
45	60-69	With a disability	50
47	60-69	DE*	46
52	60-69	Ethnic minority communities*	26

Rank	Age	Group	Index
48	70+	AB	44
49=	70+	Male	36
49=	70+	Without a disability	36
51	70+	White	27
53	70+	Female	20
54	70+	With a disability	17
55	70+	DE	13
56	70+	Ethnic minority communities*	12

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (4) Adults (by age groups)
Participation benchmarked against the 'best' (89%)

Rank	Age	Group	Index
1	16-19	AB*	112
Norm	16-19	Male	100
2	16-19	With a disability*	94
3	20-24	Male	91
4	16-19	White	90
5	16-19	Without a disability	88
6	20-24	AB*	85
7=	25-29	Male	84
7=	16-19	DE	84
9	25-29	AB	80
10	20-24	White	79
11	20-24	Without a disability	78
12=	16-19	Female	77
12=	16-19	Ethnic minority communities	77
12=	30-44	AB	77
12=	30-44	Male	76
12=	20-24	With a disability	76
17	20-24	DE	74
18=	25-29	White	73
18=	25-29	Without a disability	73
20	20-24	Female	68
21	30-44	Without a disability	67
22=	30-44	White	66
22=	20-24	Ethnic minority communities*	66
24	25-29	DE	64
25	25-29	Female	61
26	45-59	AB	59
27	25-29	With a disability	58
28	30-44	With a disability	57
29	30-44	Female	56
30	25-29	Ethnic minority communities*	55
31	45-59	Male	53
32	30-44	Ethnic minority communities	52
33	45-59	Without a disability	51
34	30-44	DE	50
35	45-59	White	46
36	60-69	AB	43
37	45-59	Female	39
38=	60-69	Male	38
38=	60-69	Without a disability	38
40	60-69	White	34
41	45-59	With a disability	32
42	45-59	DE	30
43	60-69	Female	29
44	60-69	With a disability	26
45=	45-59	Ethnic minority communities*	24
45=	60-69	DE*	24
47	70+	AB	23
48	70+	Male	19
49	70+	Without a disability	19
50	70+	White	14
51	60-69	Ethnic minority communities*	13
52	70+	Female	10
53	70+	With a disability	9
54	70+	DE	7
55	70+	Ethnic minority communities*	6

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (4a) Participation benchmarked against the 'best' (89%) by separate age groups

Rank	Age	Group	Index
1	16-19	AB*	112
Norm	16-19	Male	100
2	16-19	With a disability*	94
4	16-19	White	90
5	16-19	Without a disability	88
7=	16-19	DE	84
12=	16-19	Female	77
12=	16-19	Ethnic minority communities	77

Rank	Age	Group	Index
3	20-24	Male	91
6	20-24	AB*	85
10	20-24	White	79
11	20-24	Without a disability	78
12=	20-24	With a disability	76
17	20-24	DE	74
20	20-24	Female	68
22=	20-24	Ethnic minority communities*	66

Rank	Age	Group	Index
7=	25-29	Male	84
9	25-29	AB	80
18=	25-29	White	73
18=	25-29	Without a disability	73
24	25-29	DE	64
25	25-29	Female	61
27	25-29	With a disability	58
30	25-29	Ethnic minority communities*	55

Rank	Age	Group	Index
12=	30-44	AB	77
12=	30-44	Male	76
21	30-44	Without a disability	67
22=	30-44	White	66
28	30-44	With a disability	57
29	30-44	Female	56
32	30-44	Ethnic minority communities	52
34	30-44	DE	50

Rank	Age	Group	Index
26	45-59	AB	59
31	45-59	Male	53
33	45-59	Without a disability	51
35	45-59	White	46
37	45-59	Female	39
41	45-59	With a disability	32
42	45-59	DE	30
45=	45-59	Ethnic minority communities*	24

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

Rank	Age	Group	Index
36	60-69	AB	43
38=	60-69	Male	38
38=	60-69	Without a disability	38
40	60-69	White	34
43	60-69	Female	29
44	60-69	With a disability	26
45=	60-69	DE*	24
51	60-69	Ethnic minority communities*	13

Rank	Age	Group	Index
47	70+	AB	23
48	70+	Male	19
49	70+	Without a disability	19
50	70+	White	14
52	70+	Female	10
53	70+	With a disability	9
54	70+	DE	7
55	70+	Ethnic minority communities*	6

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (5) Young people
Participation benchmarked against the average (86.6%)

Rank	Age	Group	Index
1	Key Stage 1	Male	104
2=	Key Stage 2	Male	103
2=	Key Stage 4	Male	103
2=	Key Stage 2	White	103
2=	Key Stage 4	Ethnic minority communities*	103
6	Key Stage 1	White	102
7	Key Stage 3	Male	101
8	Key Stage 2	Female	100
Norm	All Young People		100
9	Key Stage 3	White	99
10	Key Stage 1	Female	98
11	Key Stage 4	White	97
12=	Key Stage 3	Female	93
12=	Key Stage 4	Female	93
14	Key Stage 2	Ethnic minority communities	92
15	Key Stage 3	Ethnic minority communities	89
16	Key Stage 1	Ethnic minority communities*	84

Source: Young people & sport 1999

Note: Information on SEG and disability not available

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid

SPORTS EQUITY INDEX (6) Young people
Participation benchmarked against the 'best' (86.6%)

Rank	Age	Group	Index
Norm	Key Stage 1	Male	100
1	Key Stage 2	Male	100
2=	Key Stage 4	Male	99
2=	Key Stage 2	White	99
2=	Key Stage 4	Ethnic minority communities*	99
2=	Key Stage 1	White	99
6	Key Stage 3	Male	98
7	Key Stage 2	Female	97
8=	Key Stage 3	White	95
8=	Key Stage 1	Female	95
10	Key Stage 4	White	93
11=	Key Stage 3	Female	90
11=	Key Stage 4	Female	90
13	Key Stage 2	Ethnic minority communities	89
14	Key Stage 3	Ethnic minority communities	86
15	Key Stage 1	Ethnic minority communities*	81

Source: Young people & sport 1999

Note: Information on SEG and disability not available

* Small sample size therefore findings not necessarily valid