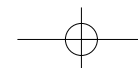
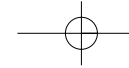


Sport England, 3rd Floor, Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London WC1B 4SE
Tel: 08458 508 508 Fax: 020 7383 5740 www.sportengland.org
SE/2328/1.5/09/05



Participation in Sport in Great Britain:
Trends 1987 to 2002





Contents

Introduction	2
The General Household Survey	3
Headline Findings	4
Overall Participation	5
Overall Participation by Gender	9
Sports Specific Participation by Gender	9
Overall Participation by Age	11
Sports Specific Participation by Age	13
Sports Specific Participation by Age and Gender	15
Overall Participation by Ethnicity	17
Overall Participation by English Region	18

Introduction

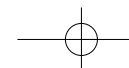
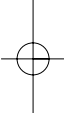
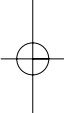
This fact sheet provides information about sports participation and is part of a series reporting on sports participation by adults using data from the 2002 General Household Survey. The other fact sheets currently in the series are:

Participation in Sport in England: 2002

Participation in Sport in England: Sport and the Family 2002

Participation in Sport in England: Sports Equity Index 2002

Copies of these fact sheets can be obtained from Sport England's website.



The General Household Survey

The General Household Survey (GHS) is a continuous survey carried out each year by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The survey is based on a representative sample of the general population and provides a wide range of information about adults and households in Great Britain, from health and education to jobs and leisure activities. Households are selected at random each year to take part in the survey and each adult in the household takes part in a face-to-face interview using a standard questionnaire. The most recent survey was carried out between April 2002 and March 2003 and involved 17,463 people aged 16 and over in 12,159 households.

Between 1987 and 2002, at three-year intervals (except 1999), a number of sports questions were included in the survey to establish national participation rates. Since 1987 these have taken a standard form that has enabled comparisons to be made over time. In 1996, new questions on the use of leisure facilities and competitive participation were introduced, thus enabling a broader analysis of participation in sport. In previous surveys, walking in the past 12 months had been asked as a separate question. In the 2002 survey walking was included as part of a list of sports, games and physical activities. The order of some of the questions changed

and there were also differences in the questions asking about leisure activities as some were replaced by questions asking about cultural activity. The change to the ordering of the questions and the context in which they were asked, in particular, walking, may have had an effect on the results.

This fact sheet compares data from 1996 and 2002 for England and looks at longer-term trends in sports participation from 1987 to 2002 for Great Britain. Specifically this fact sheet examines:

- 1 overall participation
- 1 participation by men and women
- 1 participation by ethnic group
- 1 participation in different sports
- 1 participation by age
- 1 participation by region

Adults were asked about their participation in sporting activities over two reference periods: the previous 12 months; and the previous 4 weeks. For the purpose of this fact sheet the 4 weeks reference period is mainly used since this is more closely aligned to regular participation.

All the data presented in this publication is taken from the General Household Surveys carried out in 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2002.

Headline Findings

In Great Britain, between 1987 and 2002, participation in sport reached a peak in 1990 with two out of three adults taking part on a regular basis (including walking). Instrumental to this trend was the growth in female participation. Between 1987 and 1990 regular participation (excluding walking) by women grew by five percentage points compared with only a one percentage point increase amongst men. The keep fit/aerobics phenomenon was key to this growth with 16% of women taking part regularly in 1990 compared with 12% in 1987. However, since 1990 growth in participation has slowed and in some areas been reversed. Overall adult participation in at least one activity (excluding walking) had fallen from 48% in 1990 to 43% by 2002.

Overall participation in sport and physical activity declined from 1996 to 2002. In England, this represented a 3 percentage point decrease from 46% of adults taking part in sport (excluding walking) in the four weeks before interview to 43% in 2002. The decline in overall participation is greater for men, with a 3 percentage point decrease in male participation from 1996 to 2002 and a two percentage point decrease in female participation over the same period.

In terms of specific sports, the decline in participation from 1996 to 2002 is primarily focused in two sports (cycling and cue sports) and in the younger age groups (16-19 year olds and 20-24 year olds). Both cue sports and cycling saw an 8 percentage point decline between 1996 and 2002 amongst 16-19 year olds. Men's participation was most likely to decline in the 16-19 and 20-24 age ranges whereas women's participation declined more evenly across the different age groups.

The only age group to see an increase in participation was those aged 70 or over, where participation in at least one activity (excluding walking) in the previous four weeks increased from 12% to 14%. From 1996 to 2002 the previous trend for increased participation amongst 60-69 year olds has been reversed, as has increased participation in keep fit/yoga.

Over the past six years the gulf in participation between white adults and ethnic minority groups in England has grown. In 2002 44% of white adults participated in at least one activity (excluding walking) compared to 35% of adults from an ethnic minority group whereas in 1996 46% of white adults participated compared to 40% of adults from an ethnic minority group.

Overall Participation

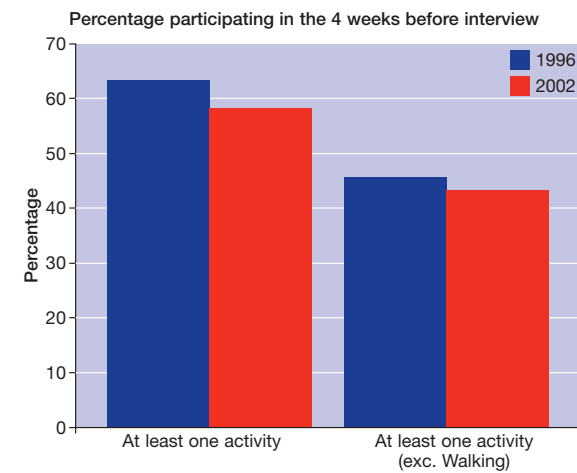
Table 1, Figures 1 and 2

Between 1996 and 2002 overall participation in sport and physical activity declined. In 1996 46% of adults took part in sport (excluding walking) in the four weeks before interview compared to 43% in 2002. Over a 12 month period 66% of adults took part in at least one activity (excluding walking) in both 1996 and 2002.

The biggest apparent decline from 1996 to 2002 can be seen in walking (44% in 1996 to 34% in 2002). However, this is probably not an actual decline but a result of changes in the way the question was asked from 1996 to 2002.

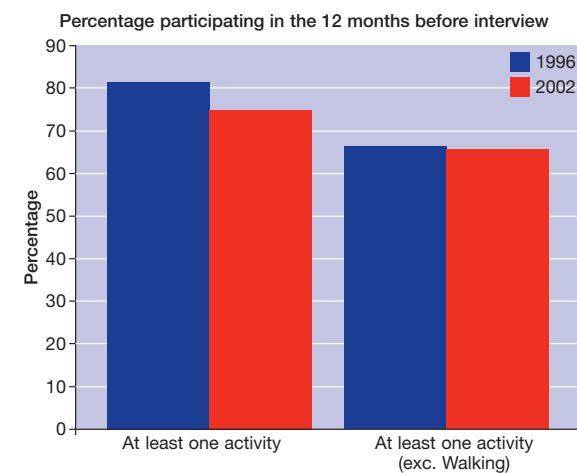
Most of the decline between 1996 and 2002 seems to be focused in two sports. Cycling fell from 12% to 9% participation in the four weeks before interview and cue sports fell from 11% to 9%.

Figure 1: Trends in overall participation for England



Base: All Adults

Figure 2: Trends in overall participation for England



Base: All Adults

Table 1: Trends in participation in sports activities (1996 and 2002) in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

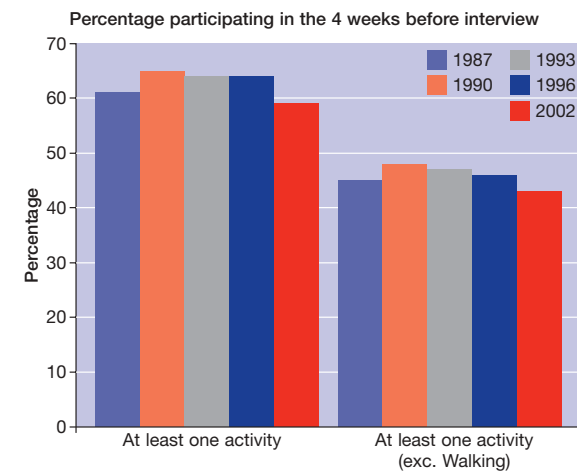
	Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview		Percentage participating in the 12 months before interview	
	1996	2002	1996	2002
At least one activity	63.4	58.3	81.5	74.9
At least one activity (exc.walking)	45.8	43.4	66.3	65.6
Walking	43.9	34.1	68.2	45.1
Any swimming	14.8	13.9	40.3	34.8
Swimming: indoor	12.7	12.1	35.6	30.4
Swimming: outdoor	3.0	2.9	15.5	12.6
Keep fit/yoga	12.4	12.2	20.7	21.6
Snooker/pool/billiards	11.3	9.2	19.3	16.9
Cycling	11.6	9.0	22.2	19.2
Weight training	5.9	5.9	10.2	9.7
Running (jogging, etc)	4.5	5.0	8.1	8.9
Any soccer	4.7	4.8	8.4	9.1
Soccer: outdoor	3.7	3.9	6.8	7.5
Soccer: indoor	2	1.8	4.7	4.7
Golf	4.5	4.5	10.8	11.7
Tenpin bowling/skittles	3.4	3.3	15.9	15.5
Badminton	2.5	1.8	7.2	6.3
Tennis	2.2	1.9	7.6	7.2
Any bowls	1.6	1.2	4.4	3.8
Fishing	1.6	1.6	5.1	5.4
Weight lifting	1.2	1.3	2.6	2.4
Table tennis	1.5	1.2	5.4	4.7
Squash	1.3	1.2	4.3	3.7
Horse riding	1.1	1.1	3.1	3.5
Base	13,402	12,841	13,402	12,841

Table 2, Figure 3

Data for Great Britain shows that the decline in participation from 1996 to 2002 follows on from a decline since 1990 when participation rates for at least one activity (excluding walking) in the previous four weeks were as high as 48%. The most significant rise in participation rates took place between 1987 and 1990 when there was a four percentage point rise in the proportion of adults taking part in at least one activity (including walking) in the previous 4 weeks (from 61% to 65%) and a three percentage point increase in those taking part in an activity excluding walking (from 45% to 48%). Since 1990, however, participation rates have fallen slightly with an average decline of 0.5% per year in the six years between 1996 and 2002.

Participation rates in most sports have remained stable. As mentioned previously, the biggest changes in individual sports are in cycling and cue sports from 1996 to 2002, but rates in most other individual activities show little change between 1993 and 2002, with the exception of walking. Since 1987, only four sports (swimming, keep fit/yoga, cycling and ten pin bowling) show an increase in 2002.

Figure 3: Trends in overall participation for Great Britain



Base: All Adults

Table 2: Trends in participation in sport activities (1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2002) in Great Britain

Persons aged 16 and over

GB

Activity	Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview					Percentage participating in the 12 months before interview				
	1987	1990	1993	1996	2002	1987	1990	1993	1996	2002
**At least one activity	61	65	64	64	59					
**At least one activity (exc.walking)	45	48	47	46	43					
Walking	38	41	41	45	35	8	8	8		
Any swimming	13	15	15	15	14	4	4	4	4	5
Keep fit/yoga	9	12	12	12	12	9	9	8	7	7
Snooker/pool/billiards	15	14	12	11	9	6	5	5	4	5
Cycling	8	9	10	11	9	10	10	10	8	8
*Weight training				6	6				7	8
*Weight lifting	5	5	5	1	1	8	7	8	8	9
Soccer	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Golf	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Running (jogging, etc)	5	5	5	5	5	7	6	6	6	7
Tenpin bowls/skittles	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Badminton	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Tennis	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	3
Lawn/carpet bowls	2	2	2	2	1	6	6	6	5	6
Fishing	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4
Table tennis	2	2	2	2	1	4	4	3	3	4
Squash	3	3	2	1	1	4	4	4	4	4
Horse riding	1	1	1	1	1	7	6	7	8	9
Base=100%	19,529	17,574	17,552	15,696	14,819					

Includes only activities in which more than 1.0% of all persons participated in the 4 weeks before interview.

*In 1987-93 these categories were combined. In 1996 they were asked separately.

** Total include those activities not separately listed.

Overall Participation by Gender

Table 3

A greater proportion of men take part in sport than women. In 2002, 65% of men in England took part in at least one activity (including walking) in the previous 4 weeks compared with 53% of women.

The decline in overall participation from 1996 to 2002 is greater for men, with 51% of men taking part in sport in the previous four weeks

(excluding walking) in 2002 compared with 54% in 1996. For women, participation over the same period fell from 39% to 37%.

However, the gap in walking between men and women has significantly decreased from 1996 to 2002, with 8% more men than women walking 2 miles or more in 1996, and only 1% more men than women walking 2 miles or more in 2002.

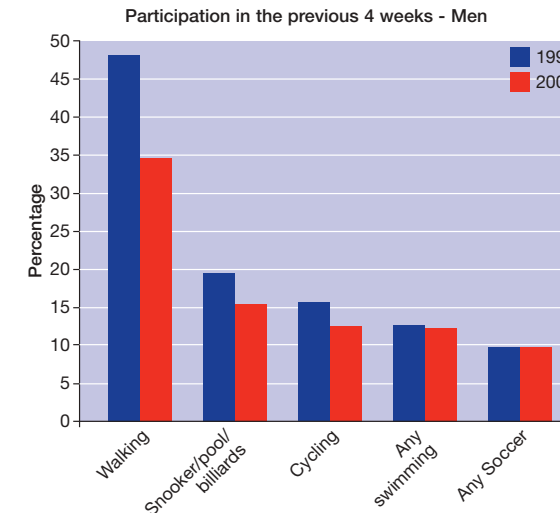
Sports Specific Overall Participation by Gender

Table 3, Figures 4 and 5

The decline in participation in cue sports seems to be almost entirely amongst men with a 4 percentage point decrease in men participating in cue sports from 1996 to 2002 compared to a 1 percentage point decrease in the number of women. The big decrease in cycling was across both men and women

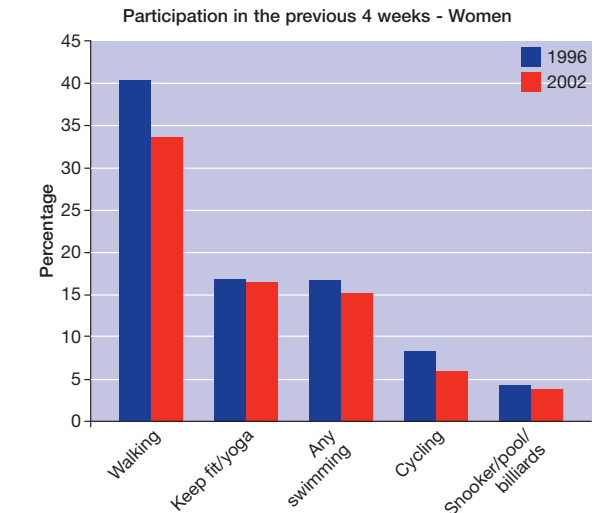
(with a decrease from 16% to 13% for men and 8% to 6% for women from 1996 to 2002). For men, only two sports (ten pin bowling and weightlifting) show an increase between 1996 and 2002. For women only weight training and running/jogging show any increase.

Figure 4: Top five activities among men



Base: All Men

Figure 5: Top five activities among women



Base: All Women

Table 3: Trends in participation in sport activities (1996 and 2002) by gender for England
Activity: Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview	Men		Women	
	1996	2002	1996	2002
At least one activity	70.5	64.6	57.4	52.7
At least one activity (exc.walking)	53.9	51.1	38.9	36.6
Walking	48.1	34.6	40.4	33.7
Any swimming	12.7	12.3	16.7	15.2
Swimming: indoor	10.5	10.3	14.6	13.6
Swimming: outdoor	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.6
Keep fit/yoga	7.0	7.1	16.9	16.5
Snooker/pool/billiards	19.5	15.4	4.3	3.8
Cycling	15.6	12.5	8.3	5.9
Weight training	9.1	8.6	3.1	3.5
Running (jogging, etc)	7.2	7.1	2.3	3.1
Any soccer	9.8	9.8	0.5	0.5
Soccer: outdoor	7.8	8.1	0.3	0.3
Soccer: indoor	4.2	3.6	0.2	0.2
Golf	8.0	8.3	1.5	1.3
Tenpin bowling/skittles	3.9	4.1	2.9	2.7
Badminton	3.0	2.2	2.0	1.5
Tennis	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.6
Any bowls	2.1	1.6	1.2	0.9
Fishing	3.1	3.1	0.2	0.2
Weight lifting	2.0	2.4	0.6	0.6
Table tennis	2.3	1.8	0.9	0.7
Squash	2.3	2.2	0.5	0.4
Horse riding	0.5	0.4	1.6	1.6
Base	6,161	7,186	7,241	8,510

Includes only activities in which more than 1.0% of all persons participated in the 4 weeks before interview.

** Total includes those activities not separately listed.

Overall Participation by Age

Tables 4 and 5, Figures 6 and 7

Participation in sport declines with age. In 2002, 73% of adults aged 16 to 19 years of age took part in at least one activity (excluding walking) during the previous 4 weeks, compared with 61% of 20-24 year olds, and 54% of 30-44 year olds. At the older end of the scale, 39% of those aged 45-59 took part in at least one activity compared with 27% of those aged 60-69 and 14% of those aged 70 or over.

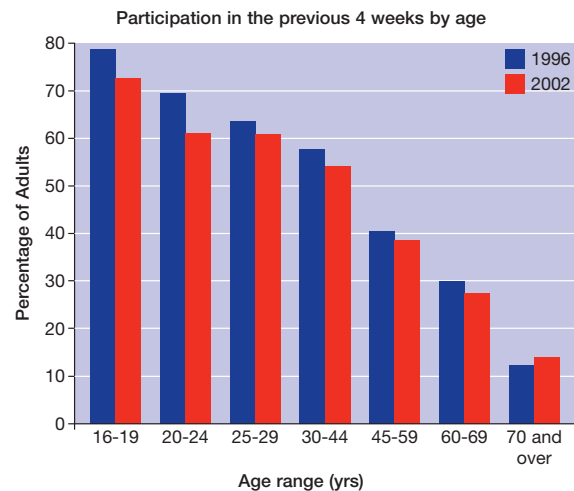
In Great Britain, all age groups experienced a rise in participation between 1987 and 1990. However, since 1990 most have seen a decline, most notably in the 16-19 and 20-24 age groups. In contrast, there has been an increase in the oldest age group with participation rising for those aged 70 or over.

Since 1996 in England the age groups with the biggest decreases are 16-19 and 20-24 year olds. Participation in at least one activity (excluding walking) decreased by 6 percentage points among 16-19 year olds from 79% in 1996 to 73% in 2002 and by 9 percentage points for 20-24 year olds from 70% in 1996 to 61% in 2002. For the first time participation amongst 20-24 year olds and 25-29 year olds is the same at 61%. In previous years participation has always been higher in the younger 20-24 age range.

The only increase in 2002 in England is in the 70 plus age range where participation in at least one activity (excluding walking) in the

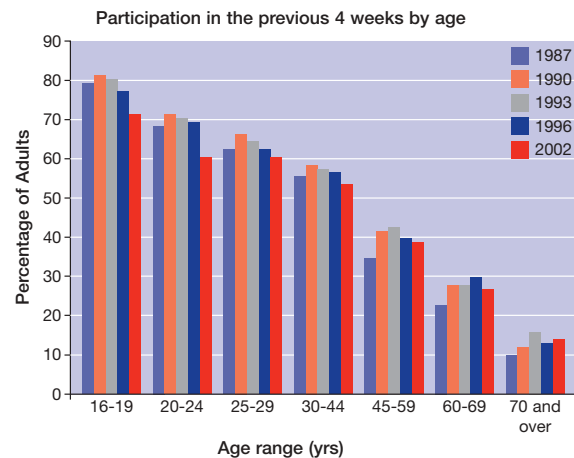
previous four weeks increased from 12% to 14% from 1996 to 2002. The trend for rising participation amongst 60-69 year olds across Great Britain from 1987 to 1996 peaked in 1996 and has since declined in 2002 (from 30% in 1996 to 27% in 2002).

Figure 6: Trends in participation by age (1996 and 2002) in England



Base: All Adults

Figure 7: Trends in participation by age (1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2002) in Great Britain



Base: All Adults

Table 4: Trends in participation in sport activities (1996 and 2002) by age in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview	Year	Age							Total
		16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 +	
At least one activity	1996	85.8	80.5	76.6	72.6	63.2	55.5	29.4	63.4
	2002	76.9	69.0	69.4	66.5	58.7	50.2	29.3	58.3
At least one activity (exc. walking)	1996	78.7	69.5	63.6	57.8	40.4	29.9	12.4	45.8
	2002	72.7	61.0	60.9	54.1	38.5	27.4	13.9	43.4
Base	1996	698	879	1,253	3,721	3,167	1,704	1,980	13,402
	2002	668	797	878	3,622	3,337	1,662	1,877	12,841

Table 5: Trends in participation in sports activities (1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2002) by age in Great Britain

Persons aged 16 and over

GB

Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview	Year	Age							Total
		16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 +	
At least one activity	1987	86	77	74	71	56	47	26	61
	1990	87	81	78	73	63	54	31	65
	1993	86	80	77	73	64	51	33	64
	1996	86	81	77	73	63	55	31	64
	2002	77	69	70	67	59	50	30	59
At least one activity (exc. walking)	1987	80	69	63	56	35	23	10	45
	1990	82	72	67	59	42	28	12	48
	1993	81	71	65	58	43	28	16	47
	1996	78	70	63	57	40	30	13	46
	2002	72	61	61	54	39	27	14	43
Base	1987	1,384	1,821	1,827	5,162	4,140	2,654	2,541	19,529
	1990	1,096	1,439	1,723	4,695	3,778	2,437	2,406	17,574
	1993	899	1,379	1,649	4,768	3,959	2,301	2,597	17,552
	1996	829	1,039	1,441	4,372	3,686	2,024	2,305	15,696
	2002	767	929	1,006	4,151	3,853	1,951	2,162	14,819

Sports Specific Participation by Age

Tables 6 to 10

Of the top four participant sports (excluding walking) in England in 2002, the biggest decreases in participation occur amongst 16-19 year olds in cue sports and cycling. Both sports declined by 9 percentage points between 1996 and 2002 amongst 16-19 year olds. Significant decreases also occurred in the 20-24 year old age group with a 6 percentage point decrease in cycling and a 3 percentage point decrease in cue sports.

Four age groups experienced an increase in participation in specific sports from 1996 to 2002. Soccer participation increased by 3 percentage points among 25-29 year olds, any swimming increased by nearly 1 percentage point amongst those aged 45-59 and keep fit/yoga increased by 1 percentage point in the 25-29, 45-59 and 70 and over age ranges.

Table 6: Trends in participation in snooker/pool/billiards by age (1996 and 2002) in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in cue sports in the 4 weeks before interview								
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 & over	Total
1996	39.8	29.2	19.5	11.5	6.4	4.2	1.6	11.3
2002	31.3	26.1	16.5	9.2	4.7	2.9	2.0	9.2
Base	698	879	1,253	3,721	3,167	1,704	1,980	13,402
	668	797	878	3,622	3,337	1,662	1,877	12,841

Table 7: Trends in participation in cycling by age (1996 and 2002) in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in cycling in the four weeks before interview								
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 & over	Total
1996	26.4	17.6	13.7	15.7	9.8	6.5	2.2	11.6
2002	17.3	11.5	11.8	12.7	7.8	4.4	1.7	9.0
Base	698	879	1,253	3,721	3,167	1,704	1,980	13,402
	668	797	878	3,622	3,337	1,662	1,877	12,841

Table 8: Trends in participation in any soccer by age (1996 and 2002) in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in soccer in the four weeks before interview								
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 & over	Total
1996	25.4	13.2	8.5	5.4	1.0	0.1	0.0	4.7
2002	23.2	12.5	11.8	5.4	0.8	0.1	0.0	4.8
Base	698	879	1,253	3,721	3,167	1,704	1,980	13,402
	668	797	878	3,622	3,337	1,662	1,877	12,841

Table 9: Trends in participation in any swimming by age (1996 and 2002) in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in swimming in the four weeks before interview								
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 & over	Total
1996	20.2	18.5	19.7	22.8	11.9	8.9	3.1	14.8
2002	19.3	17.5	17.2	20.1	12.7	7.4	3.1	13.9
Base	698	879	1,253	3,721	3,167	1,704	1,980	13,402
	668	797	878	3,622	3,337	1,662	1,877	12,841

Table 10: Trends in participation in keep fit/yoga by age (1996 and 2002) in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in keep fit/yoga in the four weeks before interview								
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 & over	Total
1996	21.1	19.9	18.0	16.0	10.1	7.8	3.1	12.4
2002	14.1	15.8	18.7	15.5	11.5	7.5	4.1	12.1
Base	698	879	1,253	3,721	3,167	1,704	1,980	13,402
	668	797	878	3,622	3,337	1,662	1,877	12,841

Sports Specific Participation by Age and Gender

Tables 11 and 12

Tables 11 and 12 break down the age profile by gender for England. They show that between 1996 and 2002 the proportions of men and women who have walked more than two miles in the previous 4 weeks have decreased across all age groups, with the lowest decrease occurring in the 70 plus age range (1% for women, 3% for men) despite the effect of the difference in questions asked for walking between 1996 and 2002.

The proportions of both men and women taking part in swimming declined for all age groups except 45-59 year olds and men aged 70 or over.

For keep fit/yoga, women's involvement declined most substantially in the younger age groups. Participation amongst 16-19 year olds dropping by 7 percentage points and 6 percentage points for 20-24 year olds. Small increases of 1 or 2 percentage points occurred in the 25-29, 45-59 and 70 plus age ranges.

The overall decline in cue sports is mainly amongst men. Men of all ages have participated significantly less in 2002 than 1996. Only those aged 70 plus have increased participation by 1 percentage point. Men's participation in cue sports saw the biggest decline amongst 16-19 and 20-24 year olds with decreases of 12 and 7 percentage points respectively.

In cycling, participation declined for both men and women. Women's participation decreased by between 2 and 4 percentage points in all age groups, apart from the oldest where participation increased by less than 1 percentage point in the 70 plus age range.

The decline in men's participation is concentrated in the youngest age groups, with participation amongst 16-19 year olds decreasing by 15 percentage points and 11 percentage points for 20-24 year olds.

Table 11: Trends in participation in top 5 sports activities (1996 and 2002) by age and gender in England

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Men	Year	Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview							Total
		Age							
		16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 +	
Walking	1996	55.8	58.3	45.4	51.6	51.2	48.5	28.9	48.1
	2002	26.0	26.7	28.5	37.5	39.3	38.5	26.3	34.6
Snooker/pool/ Billiards	1996	55.5	45	32.6	21.4	12.4	8.5	3.6	19.5
	2002	43.3	37.6	27.6	16.1	8.9	5.6	4.6	15.4
Cycling	1996	38.7	25.4	17.8	19.7	12.7	7.9	4.1	15.6
	2002	24.2	14.4	16.5	17.0	11.1	6.3	2.4	12.5
Any swimming	1996	18.5	17.3	14.1	20.2	9.4	7.6	2.8	12.7
	2002	17.4	15.5	13.4	18.1	10.8	5.8	3.6	12.3
Any soccer	1996	47.7	27.1	18.3	11.5	1.8	0.2	0	9.8
	2002	45.2	25.4	23.7	10.9	1.6	0	0	9.8
Base	1996	346	398	568	1,699	1,487	812	851	6,161
	2002	318	359	390	1,671	1,575	792	826	5,931

Top 5 sports for men in 2002

Table 12: Trends in participation in top 5 sports activities (1996 and 2002) by age and gender in England

Women aged 16 and over

England

Women	Year	Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview							Total
		Age							
		16-19	20-24	25-29	30-44	45-59	60-69	70 +	
Walking	1996	45.7	42.4	43.2	44.6	46.7	41.3	18.6	40.4
	2002	30.5	31.0	32.6	38.3	39.8	34.6	18.1	33.7
Keep fit/yoga	1996	30.2	28.1	24.7	21.4	14.6	10.8	3.6	16.9
	2002	22.8	22.3	25.5	20.8	16.2	10.6	4.6	16.5
Any swimming	1996	21.9	19.5	24.4	25.0	14.0	10.1	3.3	16.7
	2002	21.2	19.1	20.4	22.0	14.4	8.8	2.7	15.2
Cycling	1996	14.2	11.2	10.4	12.3	7.1	5.3	0.7	8.3
	2002	10.6	9.0	7.7	8.8	4.7	2.6	1.2	5.9
Snooker/pool/ Billiards	1996	24.4	16.2	8.6	3.3	1.2	0.2	0.1	4.3
	2002	19.7	16.4	7.2	2.9	0.8	0.5	0.2	3.6
Base	1996	352	481	685	2,022	1,680	892	1,128	7,240
	2002	350	438	488	1,951	1,762	870	1,051	6,910

Top 5 sports for women in 2002

Overall Participation by Ethnicity

Table 13

Adults who described themselves as white were more likely to participate in sport than adults of any of the black and ethnic minority groups. In 2002, 44% of white adults had taken part in at least one activity (excluding walking) in the previous 4 weeks compared with 33% of black adults (Black Caribbean, Black African, Black other), 30% of Indians and 22% of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

From 1996 to 2002, the gap in participation between white and ethnic minority groups widened. 44% of white adults participated in at least one activity (excluding walking) in the four weeks before interview in 2002 and 35% of adults from an ethnic minority group compared to 46% of white adults and 40% of adults from ethnic minorities in 1996.

Analysis of trends and sports specific participation by ethnicity is not possible due to the small sample sizes.

Table 13: Trends in participation in sport activities (1996 and 2002) by ethnic group

Persons aged 16 and over

England

Percentage participating in the 4 weeks before interview								
	Year*	Ethnicity						Total
		White	All Ethnic Minority Groups	Indian	Pakistani and Bangladeshi	Black (Caribbean, African, Other)	Other (Chinese, none of the above)	
At least one activity	1996	63.9	55.2	51.6	38.7	55.4	68.3	63.4
	2002	59.4	45.5	46.3	25.9	43.7	56.5	58.3
At least one activity (exc. walking)	1996	46.1	40.4	36.7	25.8	40.2	53.3	45.8
	2002	44.1	34.6	30.4	21.7	33.2	45.1	43.4
Base	1996	12,701	695	188	124	184	199	13,401
	2002	11,482	1,326	202	160	418	546	12,841

Overall Participation by English Region

Table 14, Figure 8

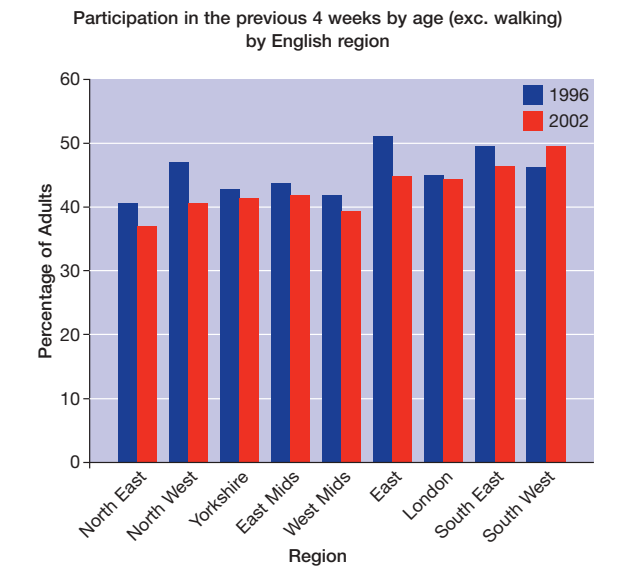
From 1996 to 2002 participation in all the English regions decreased, with the exception of the South West region where four-week participation increased by four percentage points from 46% in 1996 to 50% in 2002. The biggest decreases in participation can be seen in the North West region (from 47% in 1996 to 41% in 2002) and the East region (from 51% in 1996 to 45% in 2002).

Overall, of the English regions, participation in 2002 was highest in the South West region (50% of adults), South East region (46%) and East region (45%). The rate was lowest in the North East region (37%).

Table 14: Participation in sport activities (1996 and 2002) by English region
Persons aged 16 and over

Sports Council Region	Year			
	1996	2002	1996	2002
North East	40.6	37.1	966	695
North West	47.0	40.7	1,739	1,770
Yorkshire	42.8	41.4	1,362	1,292
East Midlands	43.7	41.9	1,182	1,106
West Midlands	41.9	39.4	1,456	1,317
East	51.1	44.8	1,359	1,396
London	45.0	44.4	1,661	1,640
South East	49.6	46.4	2,244	2,249
South West	46.3	49.6	1,433	1,376
England	45.8	43.4	13,402	12,841
Total	45.6	43.2	15,698	14,819

Figure 8: Trends in participation by English region (1996 and 2002)



Base: All Adults