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Study: Organized sports participation among children

2005

A smaller percentage of Canadian children participated regularly in organized sports activities in 2005 than in 1992, and the decline was larger for boys, according to a new study.

The study found that participation in sports rose with household incomes and the education levels of parents.

It also showed that sports participation rates among children were highest in smaller towns and cities, and that children in Canada's three largest cities were least likely to participate in organized sports on a regular basis.

The study, "Kids' sports," published today in the June 2008 edition of *Canadian Social Trends*, examined trends in participating in regular organized sports among children aged 5 to 14, using data from the 1992 and 2005 General Social Survey (GSS).

Soccer was the most frequently reported sport for both boys and girls in 2005, replacing swimming, which was most frequent in 1992.

In 2005, just over one-half (51%) of children in this age group, an estimated 2.0 million, regularly took part in organized sports during the 12 months prior to the survey. This proportion was down from 57% in 1992.

About half of these active children participated in more than one organized sport. Active children played on average about 2.6 times per week per sport during their sport's season.

Boys still more likely to participate, but gap is narrowing

Data from the 2005 GSS showed that boys aged 5 to 14 were still more likely to participate in organized sports than girls the same age, but the gap between them had narrowed.

In 1992, about two-thirds of boys (66%) were active participants; by 2005, this had declined to 56%. Participation among boys decreased in both the 5 to 10- and 11 to 14-year-old age groups, but among girls, the decline depended on their age.

In 2005, girls who were aged 5 to 10 played organized sports at about the same rate as in 1992. Older girls aged 11 to 14 were less likely to play sports than they were in 1992, but the decline was not as sharp as it was among boys the same age.

Note to readers

Data for this article came from the 1992 and 2005 General Social Survey (GSS), which asked respondents aged 15 and over to identify their own organized sports activities, as well as those of other household members.

In the 2005 GSS survey, 2,021 respondents identified 3,112 children aged 5 to 14 living in their household. For most children, the respondent was a parent, an older sibling or a grandparent.

Sport is defined as mainly team or organized activity such as hockey, baseball, basketball, golf, competitive swimming and soccer. A number of recreational physical activities were not defined as organized sports and were excluded, such as non-competitive aerobics, aqua fit, bicycling for recreation/transportation only, body building/body sculpting, car racing, dancing, fishing, fitness classes, hiking, jogging and non-competitive weight-lifting. Guidelines for determining whether a physical activity fell within scope as a "sport" were determined by Sport Canada.

Sports participation refers to sports in which a child regularly participated at least once a week during the 12 months prior to the survey.

In 2005, boys were not only less likely to participate regularly in organized sports than in 1992, but those who did were involved in slightly fewer sports — an average of 1.8 sports compared with 1.9 in 1992. In contrast, girls who participated played 1.7 organized sports on average, unchanged from 1992.

Household income and education of parents influence participation

Children from households with higher incomes were much more likely to participate in organized sports than those from lower-income families. The same was true of children whose parents were highly educated as opposed to those with parents who had a high school diploma or less.

For the purposes of this study, households were divided into five groups, or quintiles, ranked in order of their income. Each quintile represents one-fifth of the households that declared their income.

The study found that 68% of children in the one-fifth of households with the highest income participated in organized sports. Among the one-fifth with the lowest incomes, only 44% of children did so.

The gap between boys and girls narrowed as household income rose.

The relationship between a parent's level of education and sports participation of their children

was linked to household income. The children of university-educated parents were more likely to live in high-income households.

About 60% of children who had a parent with a graduate or first professional university degree played organized sports, compared with 42% of children whose parents had a high school diploma.

Place of residence influences sports participation

Rates of participation in 2005 among children aged 5 to 14 were highest in Atlantic Canada (61%) and lowest in British Columbia (44%) and Quebec (48%).

At the municipal level, rates were low in Canada's three largest cities (Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver) where less than half (47%) of children participated. Rates were highest in smaller cities and towns with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 (58%).

Rural and small town Canada had rates of organized sports participation (49%) that were similar to those of mid-sized census metropolitan areas (51%).

GSS data showed that in large and mid-sized metropolitan areas, children participated less in organized sports in high-density areas (42%) where low-income families are more likely to be found. Participation was highest in low-density suburban areas (52%).

Family structure can affect participation

Family structure can also influence a child's participation, especially if two parents can share responsibilities.

However, children are more likely now than in the past to live in a lone-parent, step or blended family. GSS

data showed that participation by boys was almost the same for all family types, ranging from 54% to 58%, contrary to the situation for girls.

About 39% of girls in lone-parent families were participants, below the proportion of 48% among girls in intact two-parent families.

In two-parent families, children's sports participation rates were highest (75%) if both parents were involved in sports themselves, as participants, coaches, referees, sports administrators, as members of sports clubs or organizations, or even as spectators. When only one parent was involved, less than half (49%) of children participated. When neither parent was involved in sports, only 22% of their children regularly participated in organized sports.

In lone-parent families, 69% of children participated in organized sports if the parent was involved in sports in some way, while 27% of children regularly participated if their parent was not involved in sports.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4503.

The report "Kids' sports" is now available in the June 2008 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, Vol. 85 (11-008-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (11-008-XPE, \$24/\$39) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Assistive aids and devices for adults

2006

Roughly 6 out of every 10 Canadian adults aged 15 and over with disabilities used or needed technical aids or specialized equipment to help them perform one or more daily activities in 2006.

New data from the 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) show that just over 4.2 million people (16.6%) aged 15 and over had some form of disability.

An estimated 2.7 million people, or about 63% of this total, used or needed technical aids or specialized equipment to help them perform one or more daily activities.

Data showed that 61.3% of this population of 2.7 million had all the equipment they needed, that is, all their needs were met. About 28.9% used such equipment but needed more aids, while 9.9% had none of the equipment required.

PALS data also showed that adults who had the most severe disabilities were the least likely to have all their needs met for such aids or equipment. Individuals with a learning limitation such as dyslexia had more unmet needs for assistive devices than individuals with any other disability.

Respondents to the survey cited the cost of purchasing or maintaining assistive devices as the most frequent reason for unmet needs.

The use of specialized equipment is important because it can offset barriers to full participation in everyday activities by reducing the impact of barriers and activity limitations.

Even with assistive technology, slightly more than half of all people with disabilities (50.8%) experienced difficulty participating in everyday activities at least once per week or more as a result of their activity limitation.

Differences depending on the severity of the disability

The severity of a disability revealed some important differences as the level of met needs for technical equipment decreased as severity increased.

PALS data showed that an estimated 511,670 people had very severe disabilities and needed assistive aids. Of this group, 41.3% had all of the assistive technology they needed, compared with 75.9% of individuals with a mild disability.

More than half of (51.9%) of those with the most severe disabilities had some needs met, compared with 12.9% of the group with mild disabilities.

Note to readers

This is the third in a series of releases on data from The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS).

This report contains survey results on specialized equipment and aids for children aged 5 to 14 and adults 15 and older with disabilities. The main themes it explores are the use and requirements of such aids and equipment, funding sources, and related obstacles.

The first results, published in December 2007, examined the prevalence, type and severity of disability, by age and sex. The second results, published in May 2008, explored the educational experiences of Canadian children with activity limitations. Information on issues such as employment and income will be released later in 2008.

The survey was designed to collect information on adults and children with disabilities, that is, whose everyday activities are restricted because of a health condition or other limitation.

Funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and carried out by Statistics Canada, PALS provides essential information on the prevalence of different disabilities, the types of support available to people with disabilities, their employment profile, income and participation in social activities.

People with very severe disabilities were the only group in which the proportion of people with some met needs was higher than the proportion whose need were met completely.

On the other hand, people with the most severe disabilities were less likely to have none of their needs met, compared with individuals with mild or moderate degrees of disability.

There was minimal variation among the provinces in the reporting of having all needs met for assistive devices or aids. On the other hand, the three territories were below the national average in terms of their residents having all of their needs met.

Level of needs met vary with different types of disabilities

The level of needs that had been met varied considerably across the different types of disabilities. Requirements and use were not the same across all disabilities.

Individuals using equipment specific to mobility, vision and pain limitations were among the most likely to report having all the equipment they needed. In 2006, 7 out of 10 respondents aged 15 and over with these limitations reported that their needs had been met.

Although relatively small in absolute numbers, 7 out of 10 respondents with communication disabilities (18,800) had none of the technical equipment or aids they required.

Age also affected the likelihood of needs being met. Seniors aged 65 and over were the most likely to have all the equipment they needed (68.3%). This proportion fell to about 56% for both people 40 to 64 and those aged 15 to 39.

There were no differences for all needs being met based on gender as the proportions for men and women were almost identical.

People with learning disabilities used on average 3.8 different types of assistive technology, more than any other type of disability. People with mobility limitations used 2.5 aids, the second highest average.

There was little variation between the average numbers of unmet needs across various disabilities. People with learning disabilities needed on average 1.6 assistive devices, compared with 1.4 aids needed by people with communication limitations.

Cost cited most frequently as reason for unmet needs for assistive devices

PALS results showed that most people with disabilities (or their immediate family) paid for the assistive devices themselves. For people with disabilities, this can be a major expense. Costs of assistive technology can vary from a few dollars to tens of thousands of dollars.

The cost of purchasing or maintaining assistive devices was the most frequently cited reason for unmet needs, accounting for 56.1% of all unmet needs for assistive devices.

Not knowing where to get the assistive device accounted for 9.2% of all unmet needs.

There was considerable variation within the specific disability types in terms of the reasons for unmet needs. Cost was the most common reason, ranging from a low of 38.0% for people with seeing limitations to a high of 70.3% for people with pain limitations.

Children and assistive aids and devices

The latter half of this report focuses exclusively on children aged 5 to 14 who had an activity limitation and used assistive aids and devices.

In 2006, 90,480 children in this age group used or needed assistive technology to help them participate in their daily activities. This total represented slightly more than one-half (51.8%) of the 174,810 children with disabilities in that age group in Canada.

The survey found that less than one-half (45.3%) of all children's needs for assistive technology were met completely.

One-quarter (24.6%) had none of the assistive technology they needed, while the remaining (30.1%) had some of the equipment they required, but needed more.

The most commonly cited reason for children not having the aids they needed was cost. More than one-half (56.6%) of respondents nationally stated cost was the main reason for unmet needs.

As was the case with adult respondents, PALS data showed that the burden of paying for a child's aids mostly fell on the child's parents and/or family members. Nationally, 21.4% of assistive devices were paid for through public funds such as the health care system or other government programs.

Of all children with disabilities who reported some unmet needs, 46.7% had a very severe disability. The number of children with partially met needs increased as the degree of severity increased.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The article "Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: A Profile of Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities" is now available as part of *The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Disability in Canada* (89-628-XWE2008005, free) series. A set of tables entitled "Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part II)" is also available from the same series (89-628-XWE2008006, free) under the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andrew MacKenzie (613-951-2544), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Study: 400 years of censuses in Québec City

Women outnumbered men in Québec City in 2006, according to the most recent census data, but it was not always that way. In fact, the situation was totally opposite for men in the decades following the arrival of the city's founder, Samuel de Champlain, on July 3, 1608.

In 1665, the first intendant of New France, Jean Talon, conducted a census that showed a substantial imbalance between the sexes. In a population of 547 people in Québec City, there were 50% more men than women.

This finding prompted one of Talon's first recommendations to the King, which was to promote immigration by women. As a result, more than 1,000 women, including some 900 "King's Daughters" arrived in New France between 1667 and 1673 to help populate the colony.

These days, the situation has changed considerably. The 2006 Census showed that women outnumbered men by more than 23,000 in Québec City, predominantly in older age groups.

To mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec City, the June 2008 edition of *Canadian Social Trends* depicts the city's history through various censuses in an article entitled "City of Québec 1608-2008: 400 years of censuses."

The census witnessed various milestones in the history of the city. In 1825, it showed that the population of Québec City had passed the 20,000 mark, with a total count of 22,101.

The first census of industries, conducted in 1827, identified 14 types of industries, the largest of which was sawmills. In 1831, the population was classified by religion for the first time. Three-quarters of the population of Lower Canada was Catholic.

The pattern of decennial censuses that began in the latter half of the 19th Century continued into the 20th, providing valuable demographic information about Québec City.

Early in the 20th century, Québec City enjoyed a population boom. The city's third century can be divided into two distinct periods of growth.

First, its population expanded from 68,840 in 1901 to 171,979 in 1961, following a pattern of almost continuous growth at a pace that did not begin to slow until after 1931. Subsequently, despite an increase in 1971, the population remained stable until 2001.

The 2006 Census enumerated a population of 491,140 in Québec City, and, like Canada's population as a whole, it continues to age. Seniors aged 65 and

over accounted for more than 16% of its total population in 2006, an historic high.

The article "City of Québec 1608-2008: 400 years of censuses" is now available in the June 2008 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 85 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (11-008-XPE, \$24/\$39) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

March 2008

Prices farmers received for their commodities rose 9.8% in March 2008 from the same month a year earlier, as significant gains in crop prices offset declines in livestock prices.

Prices that producers received for crops continued their double-digit increases, up 35.4% in March 2008 compared with March 2007. According to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI), farmers received higher prices for all crops except fruit and vegetables.

However, prices for livestock and animal products were 9.6% below their March 2007 level, the seventh consecutive year-to-year decline as cattle and hog prices continued to fall. Hog, cattle and calf prices have posted 10 months of year-to-year decreases. For the last seven months, those declines have been double-digit for hog prices.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities were up 0.6% in March from February 2008, as the increase in the crops index outpaced the decrease in the livestock and animal products index.

The FPPI stood at 116.3 (1997=100) in March 2008, up from the revised February 2008 index of 115.6.

The total crops index was up 0.3% in March compared with the revised February index, as all prices except fruit, vegetables and potatoes recorded increases. Continued demand and tightening supplies pushed grain and oilseed prices to record levels.

The overall livestock and animal products index was down 0.2% in March compared with the revised February index, as prices for hogs and dairy were lower.

After increasing in February 2008, hog prices fell 3.2% in March. High feed grain prices and a strong Canadian dollar continue to put downward pressure on

hog prices. Producers exported a record number of hogs in the first quarter of 2008, an increase of 26.4% compared with the same period a year earlier. A larger number of the exports were weaners destined for finishing in the United States.

The cattle and calf index increased 2.8% in March 2008, only the second month-to-month increase since early 2007. The difficulties facing hog producers have also confronted cattle producers.

Note: The month-to-month growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index is not a weighted average of the monthly growth rates of its crop and livestock components. This is due to monthly basket shifts from one month to the next. Also, the annual basket update influences the 12-month (e.g., March 2007 to March 2008) growth rates as well as December to January comparisons. Therefore, the total index growth rate may occasionally lie outside the range of its components, depending on the variation of the price movements, the difference between the monthly baskets, and the correlation between price changes

and basket changes. These factors may also affect the indexes themselves. In contrast, if the Farm Product Price Index was a simple fixed-weight basket index, then period-to-period movements in the index would measure pure price change effects only and the apparent paradox described above would not occur.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The March 2008 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 8, no. 3 (21-007-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website under *Free Internet publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)

	March 2007 ^r	February 2008 ^r	March 2008 ^p	March 2007 to March 2008 % change	February to March 2008
Farm Product Price Index	105.9	115.6	116.3	9.8	0.6
Crops	107.2	144.6	145.1	35.4	0.3
Grains	107.6	168.1	169.9	57.9	1.1
Oilseeds	92.0	132.6	139.6	51.7	5.3
Specialty crops	107.8	176.1	184.4	71.1	4.7
Fruit	116.8	119.3	115.9	-0.8	-2.8
Vegetables	115.8	114.8	113.7	-1.8	-1.0
Potatoes	125.5	128.4	128.3	2.2	-0.1
Livestock and animal products	106.3	96.3	96.1	-9.6	-0.2
Cattle and calves	108.7	91.6	94.2	-13.3	2.8
Hogs	75.2	56.2	54.4	-27.7	-3.2
Poultry	99.9	106.5	106.7	6.8	0.2
Eggs	99.4	98.0	99.6	0.2	1.6
Dairy	135.6	138.6	137.1	1.1	-1.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

Crude oil and natural gas: Supply and disposition

March 2008 (preliminary)

Canadian production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons declined 4.4% in March, compared with the same month a year earlier.

Domestic receipts and deliveries to the export market were both down in March compared with the

same month a year earlier. In March 2008, nearly two-thirds of Canada's total production went to the export market.

Domestic sales of natural gas rose 7.5% from the same month in 2007. This advance was led by large increases in sales to the residential and commercial sectors, according to natural gas sales data.

Marketable natural gas production in March 2008 declined 3.3% from March 2007. Natural gas

exports, which made up two-thirds of marketable natural gas production, were up from same month a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

Note: Preliminary data are available on CANSIM at the national level to March 2008 inclusive. At the

national and provincial level detailed information is available for crude oil (126-0001) up to February 2008 inclusive, and for natural gas (131-0001) up to December 2007 inclusive.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

Crude oil and natural gas: Supply and disposition (key indicators)

	March 2007	March 2008 ^P	March 2007 to March 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent			
Supply ¹			
Production	14 095.0	13 474.7	-4.4
Imports ²	4 735.9	3 176.4	-32.9
Disposition			
Refinery receipts ³	9 221.4	8 602.2	-6.7
Exports	9 047.4	8 588.2	-5.1
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas			
Supply ⁴			
Marketable production ⁵	14 631.9	14 153.5	-3.3
Imports	1 299.4	1 762.5 ^E	35.6
Disposition			
Domestic sales ⁶	7 947.1	8 544.4	7.5
Exports	8 761.0	9 386.9	7.1

^P preliminary

^E use with caution

1. Disposition may differ from supply because of inventory change, own consumption, losses and adjustments.

2. Data may differ from International Trade Division estimates because of timing and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export.

3. Volumetric receipts at refineries of all domestic and imported crude oils for refinery processing or storage.

4. Disposition may differ from supply because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations.

5. Receipts from fields after processing for the removal or partial removal of some constituents and impurities and that meet specifications for residential, commercial and industrial use; and including other adjustments.

6. Domestic sales includes residential, commercial, industrial and direct sales (for example direct, non-utility, sales for consumption where the utility acts solely as transporter).

Electric power statistics

March 2008

Data on electric power are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

March 2008

Data on coal and coke are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Social Trends, Summer 2008, no. 85
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Canadian Social Trends, Summer 2008, no. 85
Catalogue number 11-008-XPE (\$24/\$39).

Farm Product Price Index, March 2008, Vol. 8, no. 3
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
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Report on Energy Supply-demand in Canada, 2006
Catalogue number 57-003-XWE
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**Real Estate Agents, Brokers, Appraisers and Other
Real Estate Activities**, 2006
Catalogue number 63-238-XWE
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**The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation
Survey: Disability in Canada: "Participation and
Activity Limitation Survey 2006: A Profile of
Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities"**,
no. 5
Catalogue number 89-628-XWE2008005
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**The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation
Survey: Disability in Canada: "Participation and
Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part II)"**,
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2

The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.0 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities compared with a lower level of imports. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansion-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles

Within the releases of the census and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.




Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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