

RUGBY UNION

PROFILE

There are just over 42,000 people who play rugby union in Australia.

On average, rugby union participants:

- Are male, aged between 18 and 24 years
- Reside in the capital city region of New South Wales
- Are Australian born
- Have never been married

Most participants only play rugby union, but for those who do participate in other sports, touch football, cricket and rugby league are popular.

AGE AND GENDER

Rugby union is played by 42,100 adults nationally, about three in every one thousand Australians aged 18 years and over, a participation rate of 0.3%. While it is played by 4,800 women, it is predominately a sport undertaken by men who comprise 88.6% (37,300 persons) of participants.

Like most other sports, participation declines with age. The participation rate for persons aged between 18-24 years is 1.2%, representing 53.3% of all participants in the sport. The 25-34 Year age group has a participation rate of 0.5%, and account for a further 33.1% of players. Participation rates decline further for persons aged 35 years and over, only 0.1% of this age participate in organised rugby union. Persons aged 35 and over who represent 51.8% of all participants in sport make up less than 14% of all rugby union players.

RESIDENCE

New South Wales and Queensland account for 82.3% of all rugby union players aged 18 years and over. However, in terms of participation rates, rugby union is most popular in the Territories. The rate in the Australian Capital Territory is 0.8% while that of the Northern Territory is 0.7%, compared to 0.6% in New South Wales, 0.4% in Queensland and 0.2% in Western Australia.

For all organised sport and physical activity, people living in non-capital city region have a higher participation rate than those living in capital cities – 31% compared to 26.2%. Rugby union also reflects this, with a non-capital city participation rate being 0.4% while that for capital-cities is 0.3%

BIRTHPLACE

The majority of rugby union players are Australian-born. Of the 42,100 participants, 82.1% (34,600 players) were born in Australia, and 13.7% (5,800 players) were born either in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand. Participation rates for both these groups were 0.4%.

MARITAL STATUS

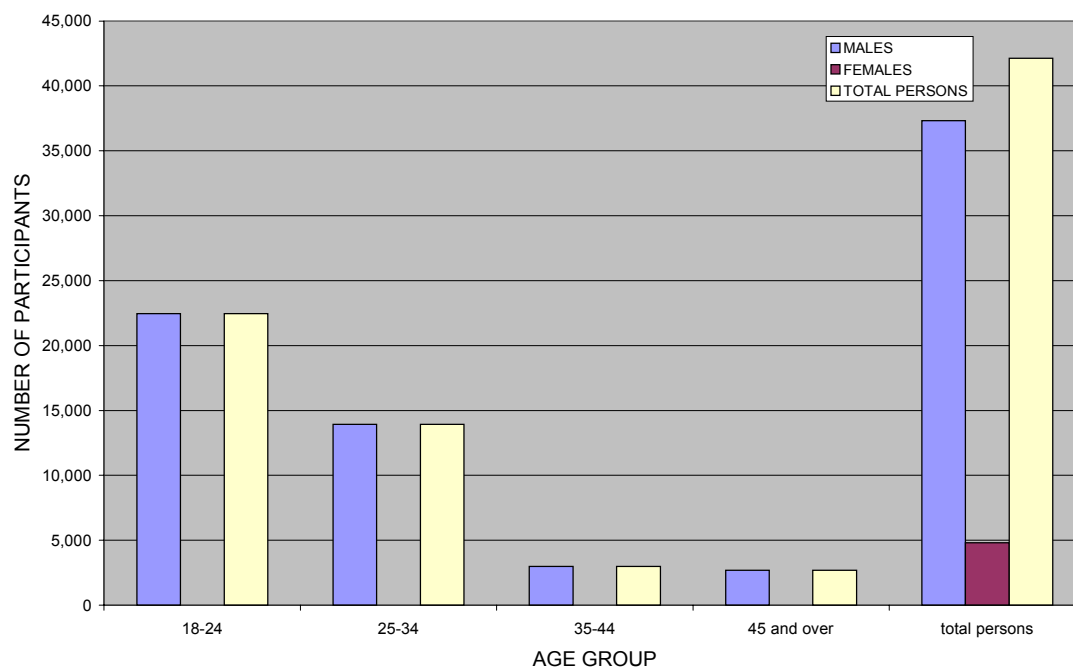
The predominant marital status of rugby union players is 'never married'. The proportion of players who have never been married (64.9%) is significantly more than both the proportion of never married people participating in all organised sport and physical activity (29.5%) and the percentage of Australians who have never been married (22.1%). The situation was reversed for married persons – 32.1% of participants are married, while for all organised sport and physical activity participants, and all Australians aged 18 years or over, the proportions in this category are 61.1% and 64.5% respectively.

OTHER ORGANISED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

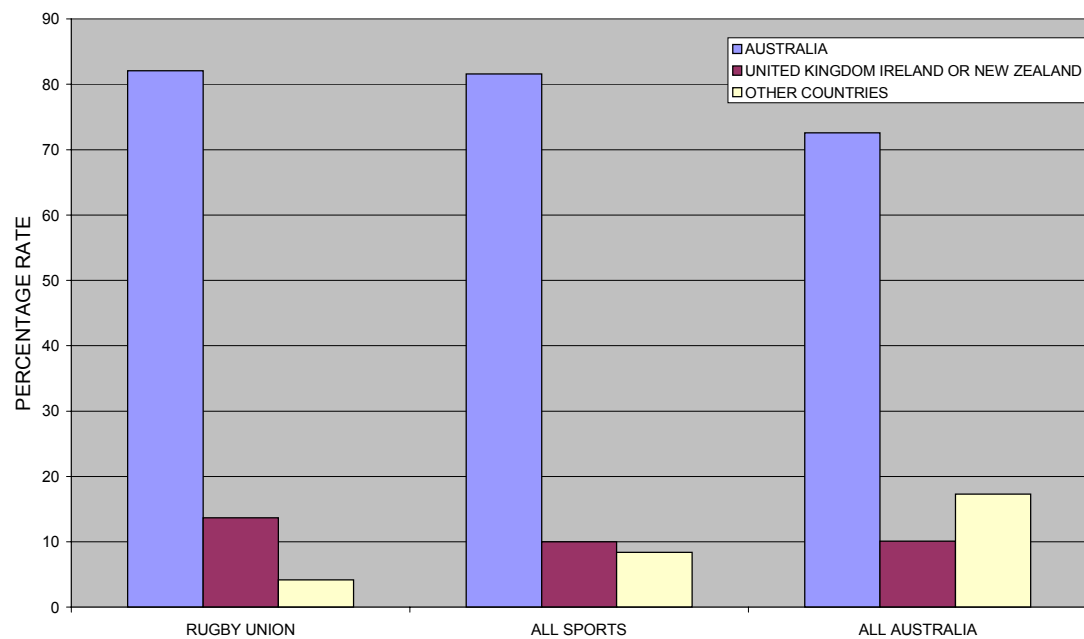
Rugby union is the only organised sport or physical activity undertaken by, a little less than 50% (20,300 people) of all participants in only this sport. A further 31.6% (13,300 people) participate in one additional sport or physical activity, while 7.8% (3,300 people) take part in two others and 12.3% (5,200 people) play in three or more other sports or physical activities.

Of the other organised sports and physical activities played by participants in rugby union, touch football, with 7,100 people who play both sports is the most popular. Other pursuits favoured by union players are outdoor cricket (4,600 participants) and rugby league (3,400).

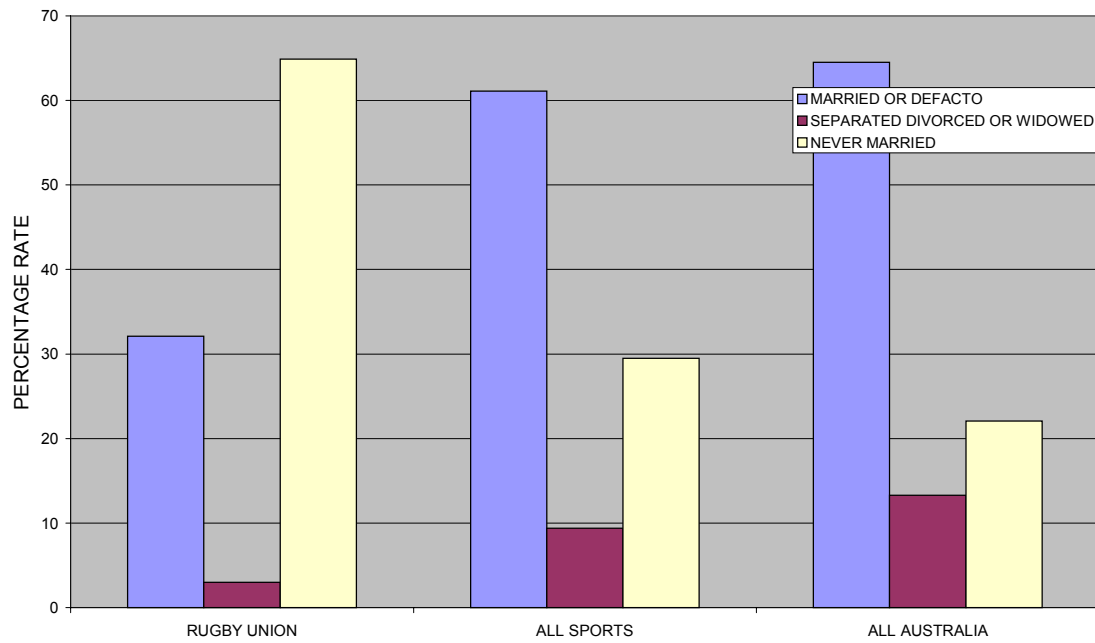
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND GENDER



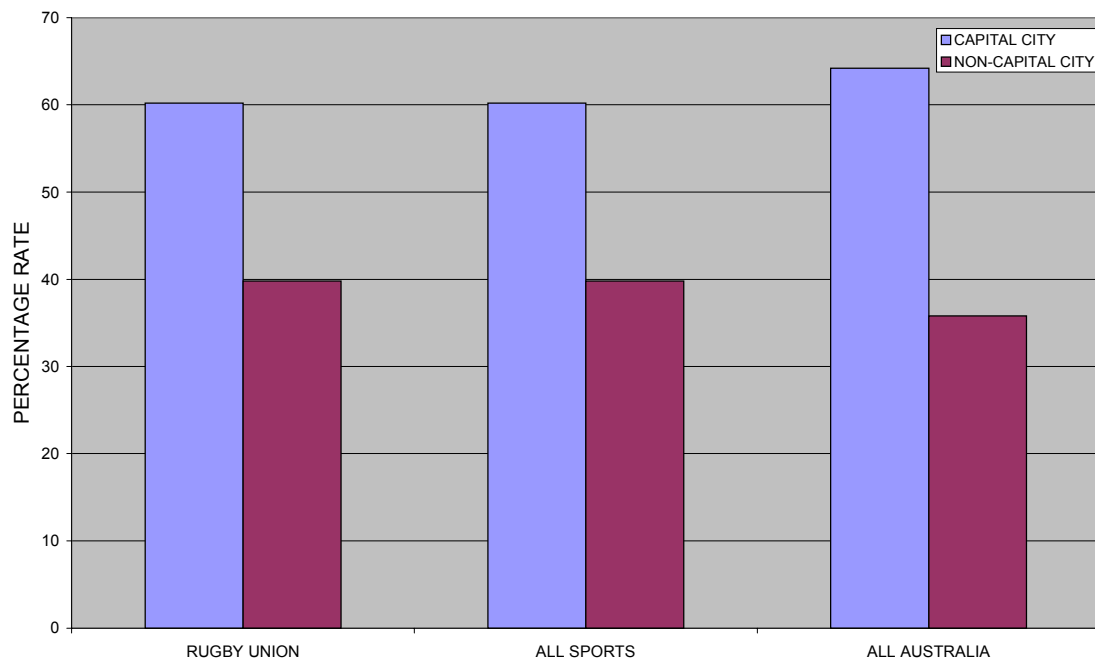
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



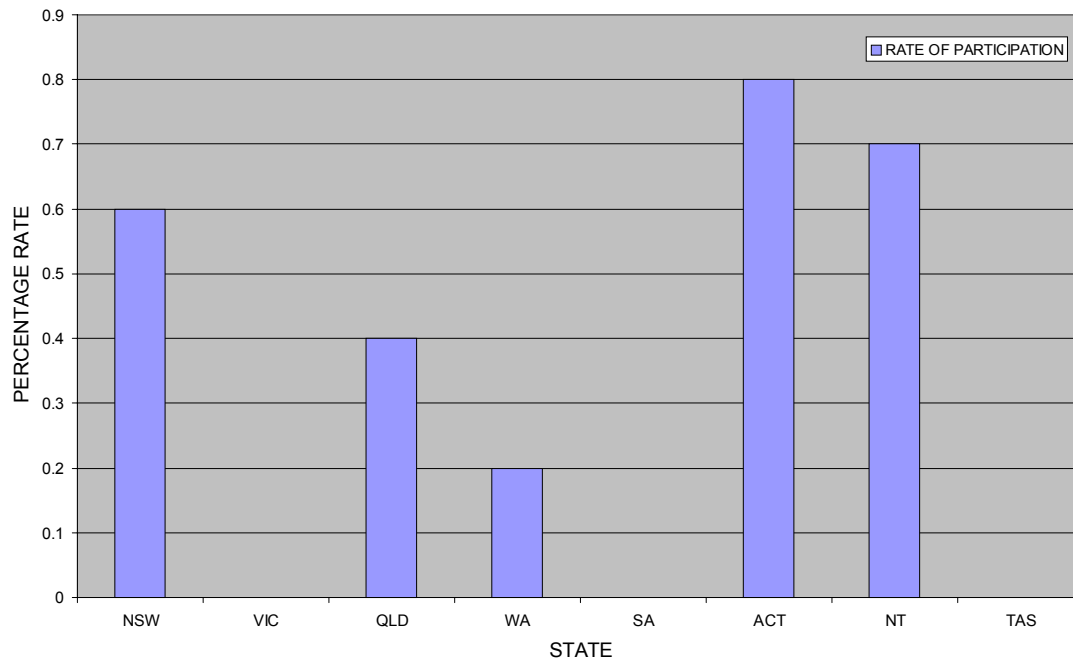
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



NUMBER OF SPORTS PLAYED BY RUGBY UNION PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

