



## Sport Participation in Canada

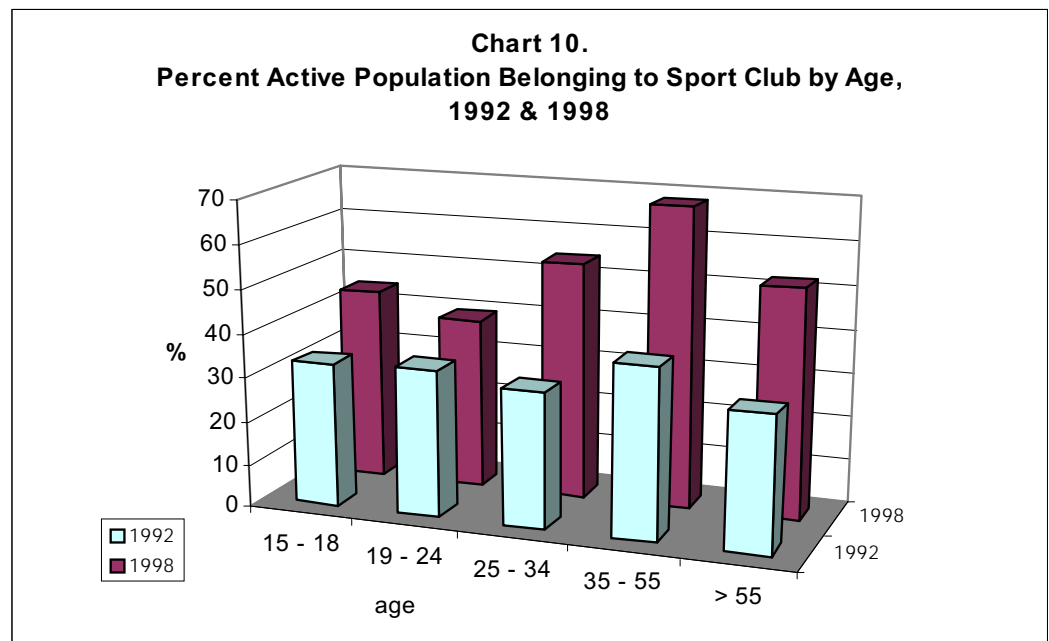
## Chapter 7

### 7.0 Belonging to Sport Clubs and/or Community Leagues on the Rise

In 1998, 19% of all Canadians (aged 15 and older) reported belonging to a club, a local community league or other local or regional amateur sport organization (20% males, 18% females), up 4 percentage points from the 15% belonging to sport clubs or leagues in 1992 (20% males, 12% females).

*Over half (55%) of active Canadians belonged to a local club, community league or other local amateur sport organization in 1998.*

When looking only at ‘Active’ Canadians, that is, those reporting regular participation in sport, we find that over half (55%) belonged to a local club or community league in 1998. This represents a substantial (20 percentage point) increase in the proportion of active Canadians belonging to sport clubs over 1992 (34%).



	15 - 18	19 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 54	> 55
1998	44.1	29.2	54.1	68.5	52.4
1992	32.7	33.6	31	38.8	31

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992 and 1998

*There is a surge in women belonging to sport clubs. In 1998 almost three-quarters (71%) of active females belonged.*

### **7.1 Surge in Women Belonging to Sport Clubs**

The real difference lies in the proportion of women belonging to sport clubs/leagues. While nearly half (46%) of active males belonged to a sport club or community league in 1998, almost three-quarters (71%) of active females belonged. Furthermore, the data indicate that 8 out of 10 active women between 25-34, and nearly all active women aged 35-54 (93%) belonged to sport clubs in 1998.

Why this surge in women belonging to sport clubs and community leagues? Perhaps women, more so than men, are seeking partners to play sports with, thus joining a sport club or league is a source of many worthy opponents. Joining a community league or sport club also provides the guidance, expertise and incentives required to learn new sports or to improve ones game.

### **7.2 More 35-54 year-olds belonging to Sport Clubs**

Another notable trend in sport club/community league membership is the concentration of particular age groups. Active Canadians between 35-54 years of age represented nearly 40% of the total belonging to local clubs or leagues in 1992. By 1998, the rate of belonging to leagues increased for all ages, but especially for this age group. The largest surge occurred in the 35-54 age category increasing 30 percentage points (from approximately 40% to 70%) from 1992 to 1998. Other age groups also showed increases in rates of belonging to clubs/leagues although at lower rates. Both 25-34 year olds and persons aged 55 and older reported increases in the proportion belonging to sport clubs (increases of 23 and 21 percentage points respectively).

### **7.3 Club/League Membership Increases with Education and Income**

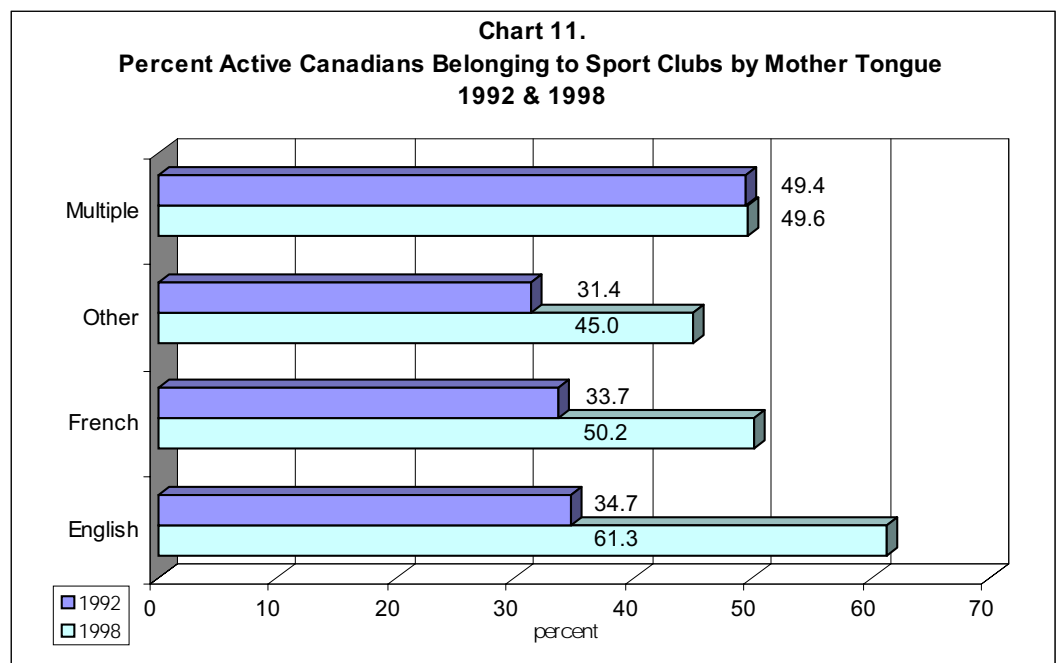
The likelihood of belonging to a sport club /community league increases as the level of education rises. This pattern held true in both 1992 and again in 1998. In 1992, the proportion of active Canadians belonging to sport clubs ranged from a low of 29% for those with some secondary schooling or less, to a high of 42% of persons holding a university degree. By 1998, the proportion of active persons from each education category belonging to sport clubs increased by an average of 20 percentage points. The greatest increase in belonging to leagues occurred among persons with some college/ some trade school or with high school diplomas, this category increased 26 percentage points between 1992 and 1998.

A similar pattern emerges when looking at club membership and household income – with the rate of belonging to clubs/leagues increasing with increases in household income.

#### 7.4 Anglophones most likely to belong to sport clubs/community leagues

In 1992, little difference was reported between the proportion of active Anglophones (35%), Francophones (34%) and Allophones (other than English or French) (31%) and their likelihood of belonging to sport clubs or community leagues. Canadians speaking multiple languages were the ones reporting the highest rate of belonging to sport clubs/ community leagues at almost 50 percent.

By 1998, we see a different picture altogether. The proportion of English-speaking active Canadians belonging to clubs/leagues soared from over one-third (35%) in 1992 to almost two-thirds (61%) in 1998 – ranking as the linguistic group with the highest proportion of club membership. Active Francophones and active persons speaking multiple languages followed with 50 percent reporting belonging to clubs/community leagues. Active Allophones (persons speaking neither French nor English) reported the lowest rate of belonging to clubs/community leagues, yet still quite high at 45%.



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992 and 1998

## 7.5 Belonging to Clubs or Local Leagues by Selected Sports

Table 7 shows the rate of Canadians belonging to sport clubs or community leagues for selected sports by sex. The first set of rates indicate the proportion of all adult Canadians who belong to clubs by specific sport during the previous 12 months. The second set of rates show the proportion of active men and women who belong to clubs or leagues for selected sports. Of Canadians who curl, over one-half (54%) belonged to a sport club or league. Similarly, one-half of adults who bowl belonged to a club or league, and hockey ranked third at 43%. The sport showing the lowest rate of belonging to sport clubs / local leagues by its participants was basketball at 24%.

Table 7.

Canadians (15 years and older) Belonging to Sport Clubs / Community Leagues by Sport\* by Sex, 1998

	Number Belonging to Clubs			Rate of Belonging to Clubs			Active Club Participation Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Active Total	Active Males	Active Female
	000s	000s	000s	%	%	%	%	%	%
Population 15 years and older	24,260	11,937	12,323						
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,599</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>2,261</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>71.3</b>
Hockey (ice)	641	x	x	2.6	5.1	0.3	42.8	42.4	49.2
Golf	734	511	223	3.0	4.3	1.8	40.7	38.6	46.8
Baseball	542	373	169	2.2	3.1	1.4	40.5	39.1	43.8
Volleyball	262	133	129	1.1	1.1	1.0	35.2	33.8	36.9
Soccer	294	215	80	1.2	1.8	0.6	39.8	39.1	42.3
Basketball	188	136	52	0.8	1.1	0.4	23.9	24.7	21.9
Tennis	266	174	92	1.1	1.5	0.7	40.4	40.1	41.1
Football	128	x	x	0.5	1.0	0.1	33.1	34.0	25.0
Swimming	362	139	224	1.5	1.2	1.8	32.3	32.2	32.6
Curling	167	83	84	0.7	0.7	0.7	53.5	46.4	63.2
Skiing, downhill/alpine	257	125	132	1.1	1.0	1.1	39.1	36.5	41.9
Cycling	207	129	78	0.9	1.1	0.6	34.0	36.0	31.2
Badminton	167	90	77	0.7	0.8	0.6	41.4	45.2	37.7
Weightlifting	181	137	44	0.7	1.1	0.4	41.6	46.6	31.4
Bowling, 10 pin	139	63	77	0.6	0.5	0.6	49.3	47.7	51.3
Softball	87	40	47	0.4	0.3	0.4	41.4	33.9	51.1
Skiing, cross-country	192	89	103	0.8	0.7	0.8	37.5	42.8	33.9

\* Persons may report participating in more than one sport.

Estimates under 35,000 are not reliable and have been suppressed.

Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1998

Table 8.

## Profile of Canadians (15 years and older) who Belong to Sport Clubs\*, 1998

	Total			Male			Female		
	000s	TP %	Active TP %	000s	MP %	Active MP %	000s	FP %	Active FP %
Total	4,599	19.0	55.4	2,338	19.6	45.5	2,261	18.4	71.4
Age group									
15-18	494	30.1	44.1	288	33.5	41.9	206	26.3	47.6
19-24	484	20.0	39.2	249	20.6	32.7	235	19.5	49.5
25-34	963	20.9	54.1	445	19.2	39.7	518	22.6	78.5
35-54	2,012	21.5	68.5	1,004	21.4	54.2	1,008	21.6	92.9
55+	647	10.4	52.4	352	12.3	49.0	294	8.7	57.0
Level of education									
Some secondary or less	844	13.4	47.1	473	15.3	42.4	371	11.6	54.7
Some college/trade/high school	1,199	19.8	58.5	570	20.0	45.2	628	19.6	79.9
Diploma/some University	1,438	23.2	57.0	664	22.5	43.4	774	23.9	77.9
University degree	1,105	27.0	58.1	623	27.3	51.5	481	26.5	69.7
Family income									
Less than \$20,000	218	9.4	37.5	65	7.0	23.5	152	11.1	50.3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	201	11.0	41.9	98	11.8	35.9	102	10.3	49.8
\$30,000 to \$49,999	841	19.7	57.4	392	19.3	46.1	449	20.1	72.9
\$50,000 to \$79,999	1,168	26.4	63.7	592	24.5	47.0	576	28.7	100.6
\$80,000 or more	1,010	31.9	63.0	610	30.8	53.7	400	33.7	85.8
Province of residence									
Newfoundland	84	18.8	70.6	41	18.7	53.1	43	18.8	106.5
Prince Edward Island	29	27.0	106.9	15	29.3	89.7	14	24.7	151.2
Nova Scotia	201	26.4	81.1	109	29.4	67.4	92	23.5	105.6
New Brunswick	137	22.4	70.7	64	21.4	55.9	73	23.4	93.5
Quebec	1,088	18.1	47.6	521	17.7	39.2	568	18.5	59.2
Ontario	1,718	18.7	58.8	896	19.9	48.1	822	17.6	77.5
Manitoba	142	15.9	53.7	65	14.8	40.1	77	17.0	75.6
Saskatchewan	139	17.6	52.0	74	19.0	41.7	65	16.3	72.1
Alberta	511	22.6	61.3	276	24.4	51.9	235	20.8	78.1
British Columbia	550	17.2	48.0	276	17.5	39.2	274	16.9	62.0
Labour force participation									
Full time	2,631	23.1	57.9	1,573	22.8	48.4	1,057	23.6	81.7
Part time	387	24.0	71.9	88	24.1	50.5	300	24.0	82.3
Student with/without	626	26.4	41.3	333	27.7	36.3	293	25.1	48.9
Not in labour force	864	12.8	55.3	303	12.3	41.3	561	13.1	67.6
Mother tongue									
English only	2,663	23.4	61.3	1,352	23.8	48.9	1,311	23.0	83.0
French only	796	18.4	50.2	363	18.0	39.9	434	18.8	64.0
Other only	279	11.8	45.0	165	13.6	40.2	114	9.9	54.5
Multiple languages	852	20.5	49.6	449	21.8	43.7	403	19.2	58.5

\* Sport club includes sport clubs, local community leagues or other local/regional amateur sport organizations.

The participation rate is calculated using total Canadian population 15 years + for each designated category.

Note: Some percentages are greater than 100%. This may indicate that respondents still belong to a sport club/ community league but are no longer active.

TP% = percentage of total pop. MP% = percentage of male pop. FP% = percentage of female pop.

Source: General Social Survey, 1998