



PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS IN 2004
AND ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

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1 Background

In 1994 the First World Conference on Women's Sport was held in Brighton, England organised by the GB Sports Council. One of the main outcomes of the Conference was the Brighton Declaration – a ten principle commitment to gender equity in sport. In 2001, UK Sport, along with the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF), set up the UK Coordinating Group on Women and Sport (UKCGWS) in order to implement the Declaration.

In 2003, with the support of the home country sports councils and UK Sport as well as strategic sporting and non-sporting agencies across the UK, the UKCGWS published the *UK Strategy Framework for Women and Sport*. The aim of the Strategy was to 'change sporting culture in the UK to one that values the diversity of women and enables their full involvement in every aspect of sport'.

To challenge the inequality, the UKCGWS has set out three high-level objectives within the Framework. These are: women and girls' participation in sport; performance and excellence; and leadership. Against these objectives the UKCGWS has set specific, measurable and time-limited targets to be achieved by December 2005:

- increase participation by women and girls in a wide variety of sports, physical recreation activities and in physical education from 38 per cent to 43 per cent;
- increase the number of female athletes receiving funding from 476 to 506; and
- increase the number of women on strategic sports boards and committees from 23 per cent to 30 per cent.

The Sports councils, who have the greatest responsibility for sport, along with the WSF, have been tasked with taking the lead in promoting the strategy and targets, and monitoring the progress.

2 Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to report on the progress made towards meeting these three targets, one year into the Strategy Framework. The document also includes additional statistics and examples of good practice to build up a complete picture of women and girls' experience of participation in sport and exercise, grouped within the themes of participation, performance and excellence and leadership.





3 Methodology

The collation of statistics about women and girls' participation in sport is thwart with difficulties. Although there have been a number of studies carried out recently about sport that have been extremely useful in this report (examples include: *Sports Coaching in the UK (2004)*; *A Sporting Chance for Women (2004)*; *Working in Fitness (2004)*; and *An Investigation into Coverage of Women's Sports on the BBC Website (2004)*). They are specific studies, so looking at trends can be difficult as a result. Every attempt has been made to use the same sources of data as used in the initial setting of the targets, but there may be slight differences, for example the sources used in the measurement of women on strategic sports boards and executive committees. See **Appendix 1** for more information about the sources used to set the original target and the sources used in 2004 to measure against the target.

Other large national studies used to demonstrate participation in sports and other physical activities include the *2002 General Household Survey and the Survey of Young People and PE Teachers 1994-2002*, both providing trend information. To add more detail, a number UK/GB and home country English governing bodies in were asked about their membership base and the number who are female. It should be noted that sporting governing bodies vary in size and budget and some are run by volunteers or very small teams. As a result, they are at different stages of data management and not all of them were able to say how many women or girls they had as members or how this had changed over time.

Examples of other data sources include *the Labour Force Survey, the Continuous Household Survey and the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings*, WSF factfiles and various sporting and government websites.



4 Women's participation in sport and physical activity

Objective: increase participation by women and girls in a wide variety of sports, physical recreation activities and in physical education

Target: 5 per cent increase from 38 per cent in 1996 to 43 per cent by December 2005

Progress: 36 per cent in 2002

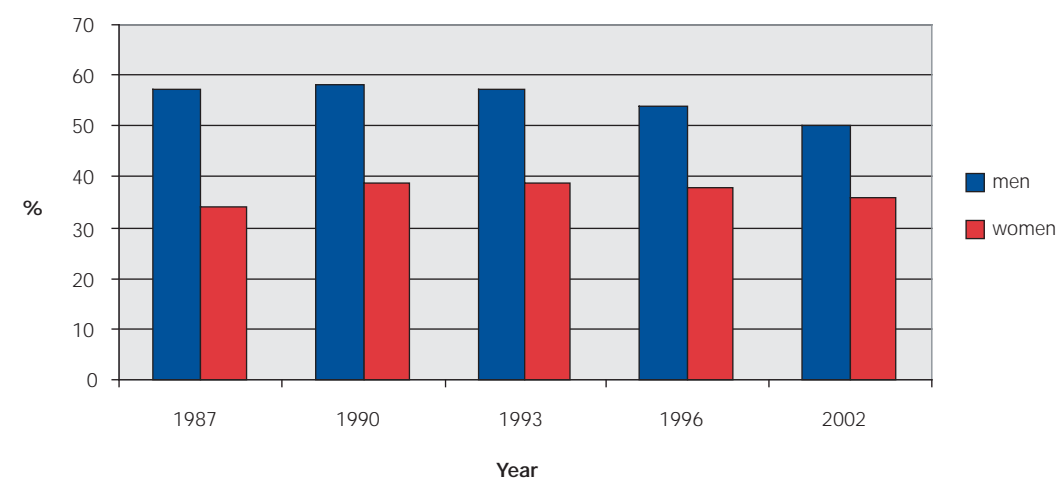
4.1 TRENDS

In 2002, 36 per cent of women aged 16 and over in Great Britain participated in sports, games and physical activities (excluding walking) in the four weeks before interview.¹ This is a slight decline from the 38 per cent in the 1996 General Household Survey (GHS) and the figure quoted in the original Framework Strategy (although still an increase from 34 per cent in 1987).

If walking is included in the overall participation rates, then 53 per cent of women participated in some form of activity in 2002, a decline of 5 percentage points since 1996 (58 per cent).

As **Figure 1** shows, the difference between men and women's participation is getting smaller. In 1987, women were 40 per cent less likely than men to participate in an activity, but by 2002, they were 28 per cent less likely.

Figure 1: Proportion of men and women participating in sports, games and physical activities (excluding walking) in the 4 weeks before interview; Great Britain; 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2002



Source: General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

¹ General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

4.1.1 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is not sampled in the GHS. The last time that people in Northern Ireland were asked about participation in the four weeks before interview was in 1999.² The proportion of women in Northern Ireland participating in sports, games and physical activities (excluding walking) was 35 per cent.

Data on participation levels for 2003 are based on activities in the previous 12 months. Female participation in the previous 12 months (excluding walking) was 49 per cent - the corresponding figure for Great Britain was 60 per cent. In 1996 the figure was 40 per cent, compared with 60 per cent in Great Britain, showing a large increase in participation, but still lower than in Great Britain as a whole.³

4.2 POPULAR ACTIVITIES

Walking is the most popular activity that all women participate in, followed by keep fit/yoga and any swimming.

Table 1: Top ten most popular sports and physical activities participated in by women; Great Britain; 1987, 1996 and 2002

Activity	1987 (%)	1996 (%)	2002 (%)
Walking	35	41	34
Keep fit/yoga	12	17	16
Swimming	..	17	15
Cycling	7	8	6
Cue sports	5	4	4
Weight training/lifting	2	4	4
Tenpin bowling	1	3	3
Running	3	2	3
Tennis	1	2	2
Horse riding	0	1	2

.. Comparable figures not available

Source: General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

Of the current top ten activities that women participate in, there was little change between 1996 and 2002, except for walking which saw a decline back to 1987 levels. Overall, the picture is of a slight decline or a staying the same in most activities. There was more change between 1987 and 1996, where increases were seen in keep fit and yoga, cycling, weight training, tenpin bowling, tennis and horse riding. But some of the numbers and proportions are so small, it is difficult to say whether something has really changed or whether it is sample size.

The biggest difference between men and women's participation rates were in the following sports:

- ❑ Cue sports – 15 per cent of men, 4 per cent of women (11 per cent difference).
- ❑ Football – 10 per cent of men, less than 0.5 per cent of women (9.5 per cent difference).
- ❑ Keepfit/yoga – 7 per cent of men, 16 per cent of women (9 per cent difference).
- ❑ Golf – 9 per cent of men, 1 per cent of women (8 per cent difference).
- ❑ Cycling – 13 per cent of men, 6 per cent of women (7 per cent difference).

² The Continuous Household Survey, 1999, Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland

³ The Continuous Household Survey, 1996 and 2003

4.3 FACTORS DETERMINING PARTICIPATION

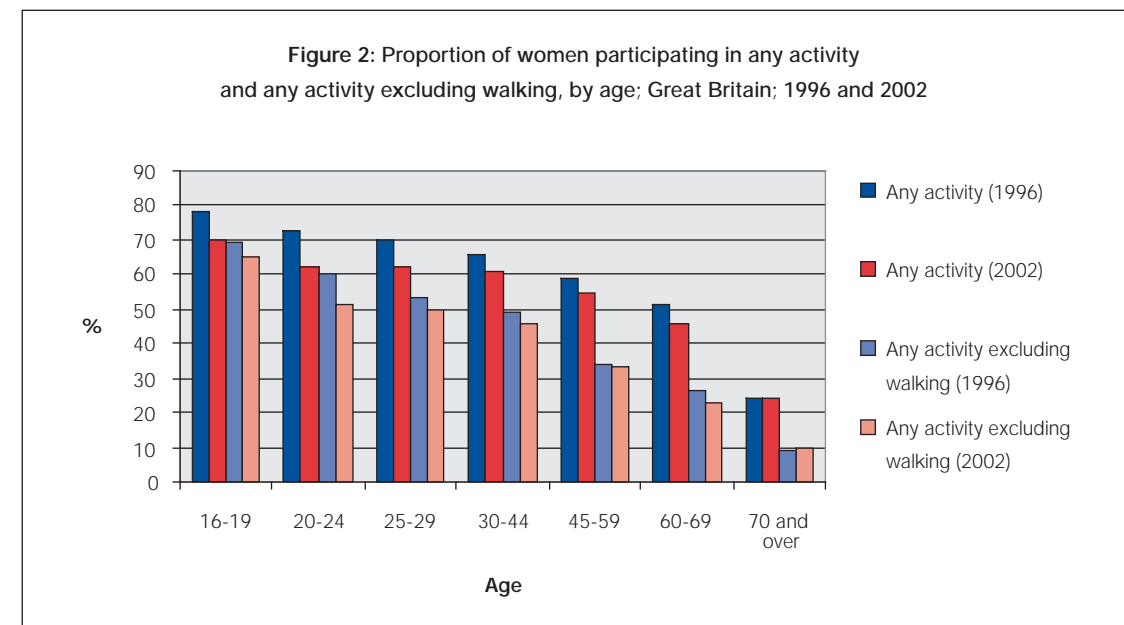
4.3.1 Age

Age has a considerable impact upon activity levels. If women aged 50 and over are omitted from the overall participation rate (excluding walking) the figure would be 48 per cent in 2002-03 instead of 36 per cent.⁴

Participation in exercise and physical activity declines with age from 65 per cent of women aged 16 to 19, to 10 per cent of those aged 70 and over (see *Figure 2*).

If walking is included in the total, participation rates range from 70 per cent for women aged 16 to 19, to 24 per cent for those aged 70 and over, indicating that for older women walking makes up a large proportion of the exercise that they do.

Even though younger women are still more likely to do exercise in comparison with older women, since 1996, the decline in physical activity is more marked among the younger age groups, particularly the 20-24 year-olds: a decline from 73 per cent to 62 per cent if walking is included in the total or a decline from 60 to 51 per cent if walking is discounted.



Source: General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

The decline in participation as women get older is not consistent across activities. The proportion of women participating in walking is most popular for women age 45 to 59 (40 per cent); keep fit/yoga is most popular for women aged 25 to 29 (26 per cent) and swimming is most popular for women aged 30 to 44 (22 per cent).⁵

4.3.2 Socio-economic factors

Women who were economically inactive had lower participation rates than those who were in work or unemployed.⁶

⁴ Sport England analysis of the GHS, 2002

⁵ General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

⁶ Economically inactive people are people who want a job but have not been seeking work in the past 4 weeks; those who want a job and are seeking but are not available to start; and those who do not want a job, e.g., they have personal money, or have caring responsibilities. Unemployed people are those people aged 16 and over who are without a job want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start in the next two weeks or are out of work have found a job and are starting in the next two weeks

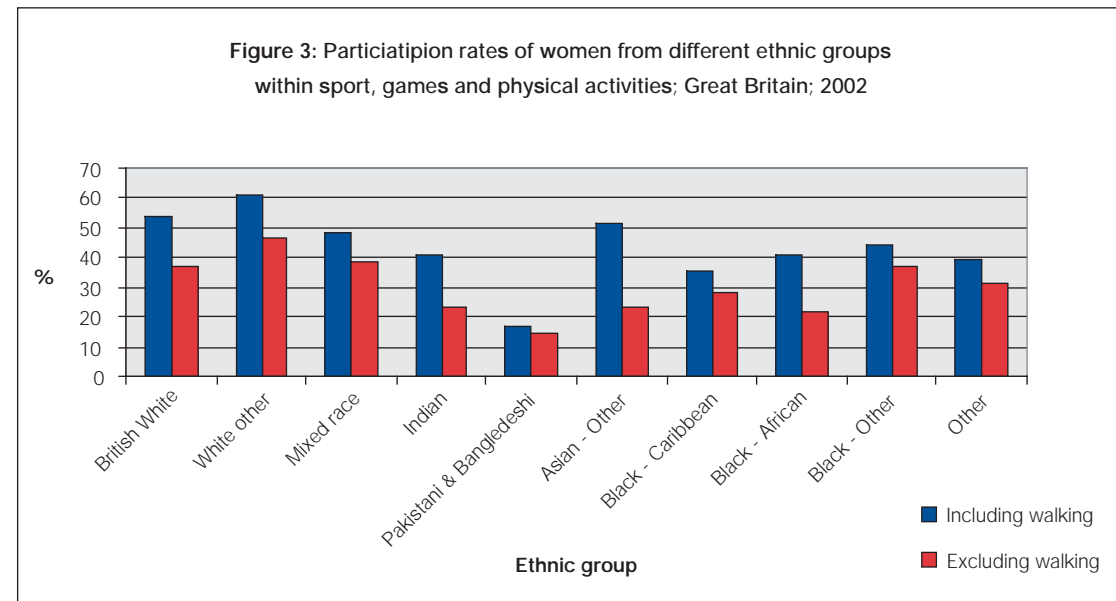


Around 40 per cent of economically inactive women had participated in at least one sports activity in the four weeks before interview (including walking) in 2002 compared with 64 per cent of women who worked full-time or were unemployed. Economically inactive people tend to be older, but even with age taken into account these differences may not be solely attributed to age.

4.3.3 Ethnicity

For women from ethnic minority communities the participation rate in some form of physical activity (excluding walking) in 1996 was 32 per cent compared with the national average for all women of 38 per cent.⁸ In 2003 this had declined to 26 per cent (the national average is 36 per cent).⁹ As **Figure 3** shows, women in the White Other group do the most physical activity (48 per cent), while Pakistani and Bangladeshi women do the least (14 per cent).

For all groups, if walking is included in the total, then participation rate increases. This is particularly noticeable for the Asian Other group: whose participation in physical activity more doubles from 24 per cent to 51 per cent.



Source: Sport England analysis of the General Household Survey, 2002

4.3.4 Disability

In 2000-01, 33 per cent of women with a disability in England took part in some physical activity (excluding walking) in comparison with 44 per cent of men. Swimming was the most popular sport for women (15 per cent).

Only 3 per cent of women with a disability aged 16 to 59 are members of a sports club compared with 11 per cent of disabled men.¹⁰

4.3.5 Regional differences

Participation in at least one activity in the four weeks before interview (excluding walking) varied geographically across Great Britain. Women in the South West did the most (43 per cent of women) while women in the North East did the least (30 per cent of women in the North East).¹¹

⁷ General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

⁸ Sports Participation and Ethnicity in England: National Survey 1999/2000, Sport England

⁹ Sport England analysis of the GHS, 2002

¹⁰ Adults with a disability and sport: national survey 200-2001, Sport England

¹¹ Sport England analysis of the GHS, 2002

4.4 FACILITIES

Men are four times more likely to have used an outdoors sports facility¹² than women (19 per cent compared with 5 per cent) and more than twice as likely to have played an activity in an outdoor natural setting¹³ (22 per cent compared with 10 per cent). Some variation in the type of facility used will reflect the differences in sports participation.¹⁴

4.5 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Of those women who say they took part in sports in the previous four weeks (excluding walking) 31 per cent were members of a sport or health and fitness club, an increase from 25 per cent in 1996.¹⁵ While the proportion of men belonging to a sports or fitness club was higher (44 per cent), the growth since 1996 was not so great (41 per cent). The larger increase in female membership may be due to the increase in private health clubs (membership of private clubs doubled between 1997 and 2002 to reach 3.4 million)¹⁶ which are popular for women, as well as men, as they offer more female friendly facilities like yoga classes and modern cardiovascular machines. However, there may be an age and social-economic bias towards younger and more well off women.

Table 2 shows membership figures for a selection of sporting organisations across England and Great Britain.¹⁷

On average, women make up around one in four members. There are large differences between organisations. Understandably female only groups would be expected to have 100 per cent female membership (e.g. English Ladies' Golf Association (ELGA)), while at the other end of the spectrum the Amateur Boxing Association has just 0.4 per cent membership. Netball is traditionally considered a female activity, which would explain why it has an almost total female membership base, but, the England Netball Association is not a female-only organisation and men can join if they choose. Discounting netball, women's golf and women's cycling from the total average membership, the average declines to 22 per cent.

There are some organisations where low participation might be expected because there is an alternative female organisation, for example, the ELGA and the Women's Cycle Racing Association. It might be suggested that these organisations originated because women were not getting the support and opportunities to participate through the traditional route. Sports that are traditionally considered male sports, for example football, rugby and cricket still have extremely low membership.



¹² Either a court, course, pitch, playing field or outdoor swimming pool

¹³ Either the countryside, rivers, lakes or seaside

¹⁴ Sport and Leisure, General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics and Sport England analysis of the GHS, 2002

¹⁵ Sport and Leisure, General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics (figures unweighted). Clubs includes health and fitness centre, social club, youth clubs and sports clubs

¹⁶ Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools, Leisure Intelligence, May 2004

¹⁷ All of the England and GB priority sports' governing bodies were contacted, as well as two of the developmental sports. Effort was made to contact some alternatives in Wales and Scotland, although in the time available it was not possible to contact them all, some did not split their membership details by sex



5 Girls' participation in sport and physical activity

Table 2: Female membership at selected sporting organisations, 2004

Governing bodies	Date ¹	Number of clubs	Number of affiliated members	Members who are female	Proportion of members who are female (%)
English Ladies' Golf Association	Nov-04	1,785	132,538	132,538	100
England Netball	2003-4	2,994	56,278	56,098	100
Women's Cycle Racing Association ²	2004	34	308	261	85
British Gymnastics	Nov-04	988	120,000	94,000	78
Amateur Swimming Association (GB)	Nov-04	1,262	162,000	80,604	50
England Hockey	Nov-04	1,100	77,000	37,000	48
Lawn Tennis Association (GB)	Nov-04	2,663	325,636	146,536	45
British Triathlon	Nov-04	308	6,420	1,465	40
British Orienteering	Nov-04	-	8,137	3,150	39
Badminton Association of England	2003-4	1,809	50,080	19,030	38
Amateur Athletics Association (GB)	Nov-04	461	41,775	15,446	37
Amateur Rowing Association (England)	Oct-04	534	20,622	7,315	35
England Squash	2003-4	900	27,059	4,870	18
English Golf Union	2003-4	1,915	739,504	127,544	17
British Cycling	2004	1,180	15,588	1,703	11
The FA ³	2003-4	-	1,000,000	101,173	10
English and Wales Cricket Board	2001-2	6,385	215,788	14,538	7
Rugby Football Union ⁴ (England)	Nov-04	1,800	167,000	11,000	7
England Basketball	2003-4	789	14,900	789	5
Rugby Football League (England)	Nov-04	422	61,051	1,000	2
Amateur Boxing Association of England ⁵	2003-4	-	8,450	30	0.4
Royal Yachting Association (UK figures)	2002	1,559	93,539	-	-
British Canoeing Union	2003	628	26,481	-	-
British Equestrian Federation	2004	1,269	183,052	-	-
Welsh Badminton Union	Nov-04	-	-	-	-
Total (excluding netball, women's golf and women's cycling)⁶			3,061,010	667,193	22
Total (including netball, women's golf and women's cycling)⁶		30,785	3,250,134	856,090	26

Note: Some data were supplied rounded, while some are exact numbers. As a result the total figures and proportions for all organisations should be taken as a guide to overall membership
- data unavailable.
¹ Some information was supplied by telephone and e-mail, if no date was given it has been assumed that these figures are correct as 'November 04'.
² Although the WCRA is a women's cycling group, they do have some male members.
³ Includes the Women's FA.
⁴ Includes the Women's Rugby Football Union, which has its own board, but is affiliated to the RFU.
⁵ The women's figure includes only those who compete. There are no records of women who go along to clubs but box for recreational purposes.
⁶ The total members includes only those organisations that are able to split their membership by sex.

Sources: Governing bodies and Sport England records

4.6 COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

Just 5 per cent of all women participated in competition in the 12 weeks before interview.¹⁸ Among women who participated in sports, 14 per cent had participated competitively, an increase from 10 per cent in 1996. As would be expected, the youngest group (16 to 19-year-olds) are the most likely to compete competitively. They also saw the largest increase in competitive participation: from 14 per cent in 1996 to 31 per cent in 2002.¹⁹

4.7 TIME SPENT ON EXERCISE

According to the 2000 Time Use Survey, women aged 16 and over spent 11 minutes a day doing exercise compared with 18 minutes for men.

¹⁸ Sport England analysis of the GHS, 2002

¹⁹ Sport and Leisure, General Household Survey, 2002, Office for National Statistics

5.1 SPORT WITHIN LESSONS

In 2002, 82 per cent of girls and boys aged 6 to 16 in England took part in sports in lessons at least ten times, a decline of 3 percentage points from 85 per cent for both sexes in 1994. Although there has been an overall decrease in activity in lessons, increases have been seen across a number of sports, particularly: football; rounders; and tennis, while participation has decreased in: other games skills; aerobics; and gymnastics.²⁰

5.2 SPORT OUTSIDE LESSONS

With respect to activities not organised by schools, 83 per cent of girls participated in some kind of activity (excluding walking) at least ten times a year in 2002, compared with 87 per cent of boys. There has not been much change in girls' overall activity levels outside of school since 1994.

Extra-curricular sports, which are sports organised by schools but outside lesson time have done much to increase young girls' participation in sport (see Table 4). Around 40 per cent of girls took part in extra-curricular sports in 2002 a 4 percentage point increase from 1994 (36 per cent). Boys still did more extra-curricular sports (44 per cent compared with 39 per cent in 1996). Netball remains the most popular sport although increases have been seen particularly in football; athletics and rounders.

Table 4: Proportion of girls who did extra-curricular sports and change between 1994 and 2002, for selected activities, England

Activity	1994 (%)	2002(%)	Difference between 1994 and 2002 (percentage point change)
Any extra curricular sport	36	40	+4
Football	3	7	+4
Athletics	4	7	+3
Rounders	4	7	+3
Basketball	1	3	+2
Climbing, abseiling, potholing	0	2	+2
Hockey	4	5	+1
Cricket	1	2	+1
Gymnastics, trampolining	4	5	+1
Swimming, diving lifesaving	3	2	-1
Tennis	4	3	-1
Dance classes	5	5	=
Cross country, jogging, road running	2	2	=
Netball	12	12	=
Rugby	0	*	+*

Source: Young people and sport in England, 1994-2002, Sport England

²⁰ Young people and sport in England, 1994-2002, Sport England



5.3 GROWTH OF GIRLS' FOOTBALL

According to research carried out by the market research company BRMB, 85 per cent of girls aged 7-15 in England took part in some form of footballing activity in May 2003 and as much as 65 per cent of that age group were playing football at least once a week – a figure of 1.5 million girls.²¹

5.4 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Just 36 per cent of girls participated in some form of sport in 2002 as a member of a sports club (compared with 51 per cent of boys), a slight increase of 1 percentage point since 1994. Swimming continues to be the most popular sport among girls (12 per cent), followed by dance classes (9 per cent) and gymnastics (8 per cent).²²

5.5 COMPETITIVE PARTICIPATION

As a result of girls being less likely to be a member of a sports club, they are significantly less likely to participate in a competition against other local clubs than boys. (15 per cent compared with 27 per cent of boys). However, girls' participation in competitions against other schools has increased between 1994 and 2002 (from 22 to 27 per cent), as well as at clubs (from 10 to 15 per cent), against other clubs (from 10 to 16 per cent) and at an international level (from 0 to 3 per cent).

5.6 TIME SPENT ON EXERCISE

22 per cent of girls in years 2 to 11 spent less than one hour a week (outside of school lessons) on exercise compared with just 12 per cent of boys. Of 22 per cent, 7 per cent did no activity at all. In reverse, only 11 per cent of girls did over 10 hours of activity a week compared with 28 per cent of boys.²³



²¹ The FA

²² Young people and sport in England, 1994-2002, Sport England

²³ Young people and sport in England, 1994-2002, Sport England

Women and girls' participation – implications for the UK Strategy Framework for Women and Sport

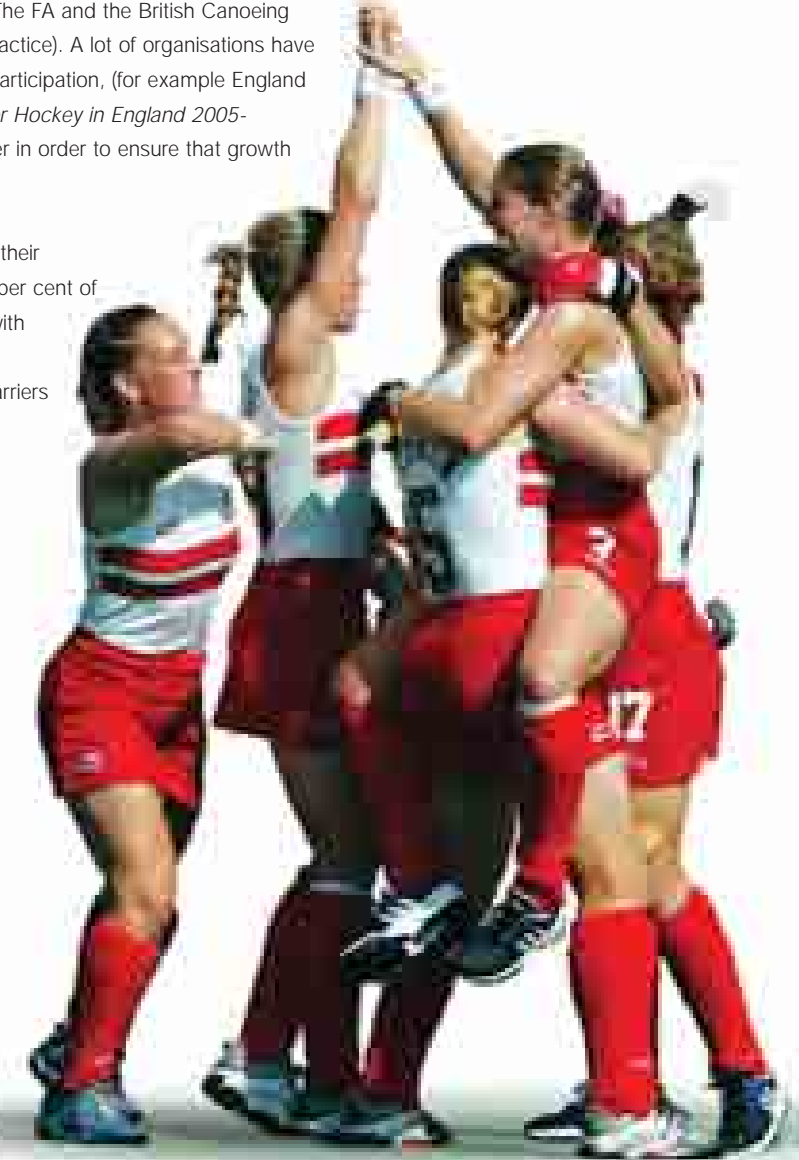
Women's overall participation in sport and fitness activities has decreased since the strategy targets were set. However, the gap between men's and women's participation is closing due to the drop in male activity.

Using the GHS as the measure of participation, it is unlikely that by December 2005 the target of 43 per cent women's participation in the Strategy Framework will be reached. From the evidence produced in this report so far, there are three groups that could be focused on: women over 50, 20-24-year-olds (who have seen a large decline since 1996) and women from ethnic minority groups.

As the Sport England study into young people shows, there has been an increase in girl's participation in activity outside of school lessons, however, within school lessons there has been a decline.

Women and girls make up 51 per cent of the population but membership of many governing bodies does not reflect this, with certain organisations being particularly poor. Many organisations are aware of the inequalities and are putting in place programmes to rectify this, for example, The FA and the British Canoeing Union (see *Appendix 2* for examples of good practice). A lot of organisations have strategies in place to increase young people's participation, (for example England Hockey's *Uniting the Hockey Family: strategy for Hockey in England 2005-2009*). However, they need to monitor by gender in order to ensure that growth is happening for both boys and girls.

It is not enough that governing bodies increase their proportional representation of women. Only 31 per cent of all women belong to a sports club, compared with 44 per cent of men yet there are enormous improvements that can be made in removing barriers to club membership for many women and girls.



6 Performance and excellence

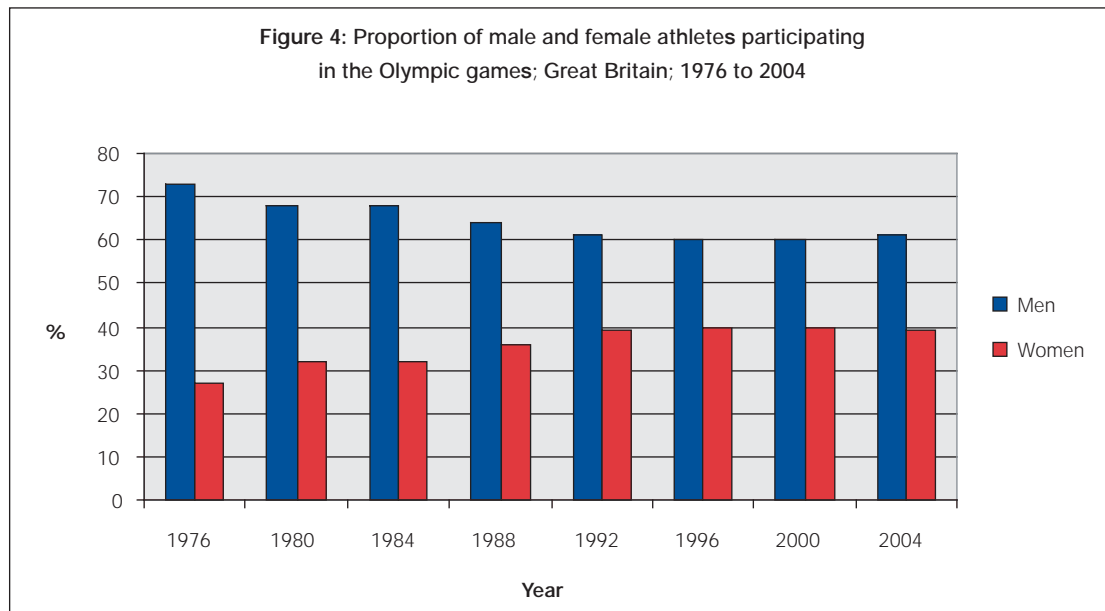
Objective: enable women and girls with sporting ability to achieve excellence in the sport of their choice

Target: increase in the number of female athletes receiving funding from 476 to 506 by December 2005

Progress: Overall increase in elite female athletes getting funded by four of the sports councils between 2001-02 and 2003-4. However, this number is likely to decline by the end of 2004-05

6.1 OLYMPICS

Women made up 39 per cent of the British entrants (total 272) to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens (compared with 41 per cent of all athletes at the Games in total) and it has been around this proportion since 1992 (See **Figure 4**). British women won 39 per cent of the medals that Team GB brought home in 2004, compared with 34 per cent in 2000. Women won 50 per cent of the bronze medals; 29 per cent of the silver medals and 33 per cent of the gold medals.²⁴



Source: Women's Sports Foundation, 2004

In terms of medal ratio, around 10 per cent of both men and women won a medal. Therefore, had the GB team had as many women as men in it, we may have won another six medals, lifting GB above Germany and Italy in the medals table. A shining example from the Games was of course Kelly Holmes, who won gold medals in the 800m and 1500m.

Women have fewer opportunities to win medals at the Games as they participate in fewer sports and are involved in fewer events (see **Table 5**). However, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has a policy that any new sports wishing to be included in the Olympic programme must include female events. In 2004 there was an increase in events in comparison with 2000 and previous years.²⁵

²⁴ Women's Sports Foundation, 2004

²⁵ Women in the Olympic Movement fact sheet, International Olympic Committee website

Table 5: A comparison of the number of sports and events that women and men can participate in at the Olympics, 1948, 2000 and 2004

	1948	2000	2004
	Number of sports		
Women	5	25	27
Men	17	28	28
	Number of events		
Women	19	132	135
Men	136	166	166

Source: Women in the Olympic Movement, International Olympic Committee website, 2004

The inclusion of women in Olympic teams is not uniform throughout the countries represented at the Games. At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, 42 of the 160 countries competing did not send any women athletes. By Sydney, 190 out of the out of the 199 nations represented had female participants and 53 teams had 50 per cent or more athletes.

Women made up 40 per cent of the GB paralympians at Athens in 2004 and won 43% of the medals.

6.2 FUNDING

Through National Lottery funding in the 4 years leading to the 2004 Olympics, UK Sport invested more than £80 million in UK sportswomen and men including £15 million in the Paralympic team.

Table 6 shows the number of elite women receiving funding from UK Sport (through their World Class Performance Programme (WCPP); sportscotland and Sports Council for Northern Ireland (through their Talented Athlete Programmes (TAP)); Sports Council for Wales (through Elite Cymru) and also Sport England (through their WCPP) and where possible the average amount per head. The data for 2004-05 give a snap shot of the year so far, and the number may change over the next few months until the end of the financial year.

- Overall, the total number of women being funded in financial year 2004-05 (as at November 2004) by all five sports councils was 509, compared with 668 men.²⁶
- As a proportion of all athletes funded through the various programmes, women make up 40 per cent. Although it was higher in 2003-04 (46 per cent) it has been around 40 figure (give or take a few percentage points) for the previous four years.
- The largest difference between male and female funding from UK Sport were in artistic and rhythmic gymnastics (ten women and no men were funded in 2003-04) and disability athletics (24 men and 7 women).
- The sportswomen who received the most money from UK Sport in 2003-04 were swimmers and rowers (12 and 11 per cent of all money going to women respectively).
- The most commonly funded sportswomen were athletes and swimmers (29 and 26 per cent) respectively.

²⁶ Information supplied by UK Sport, Sports Council for Northern Ireland, Sports Council for Wales and sportscotland



Female elite athletes still receive less money than their male equivalents:

- ❑ Women received £1.17 million from UK Sport in 2004-05 in comparison with £1.95 million going to men. Per head, this is £5,211 for each woman, compared with £5,780 for each man.
- ❑ Sport England and Sports Council for Wales each gave less money overall to female athletes and less per athlete than their male counterparts.
- ❑ Only in Northern Ireland in 2001-02 and 2004-05 and in Scotland in 2002-03 did women receive more funding per head than men.

There are signs that the amount of money given out to athletes is declining. Although there had been a decline in Lottery money available to sport due to fewer lottery tickets are being bought, this trend appears to be changing.

- ❑ Sportscotland awarded £1,153,462 in 1999-00 to women compared with £821,363 in 2003-04. The amount per athlete also declined over this time and in addition they received less money per person than the men.
- ❑ Sports Council for Northern Ireland awarded £140,172 to elite female athletes in 2000-01, compared with £96,290 in 2003-04. The amount per athlete also declined over this time.

A new approach to funding elite athletes will impact on the number of elite male and female athletes being funded. From the information in **Table 6** we can tell that between 2001-02 and 2003-04 there was an overall increase in the number of elite female athletes being funded from four of the Sports councils from 588 to 602. (This figure does not include funding from Sport England as data are not available prior to 2004-05.) However, this is due to increases in numbers Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. While the financial year is not yet over, it is likely that by the end of 2004-05 the number of elite female athletes being funded from these sports councils will not be as high as in previous years. The number of elite women funded by UK Sport has been continually declining since 2001-02. UK Sport has revised its policy to focus its funding on likely medal winners in Beijing 2008.

Table 6: Funding from sports councils for elite female athletes, United Kingdom, 2001-02 to 2004-05

Funding organisation	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04				2004-05 ¹			
	Number of female athletes	% of all funding going to female athletes	Amount per female athlete on average	Amount per male athlete on average	Number of female athletes	% of all funding going to female athletes	Amount per female athlete on average	Amount per male athlete on average	Number of female athletes	% of all funding going to female athletes	Amount per female athlete on average	Amount per male athlete on average	Number of female athletes	% of all funding going to female athletes	Amount per female athlete on average	Amount per male athlete on average
Sports Council for Northern Ireland (TAP)	13	28	£10,097	£9,381	16	33	£9,294	£10,303	11	61	£8,754	£10,577	1	25	confidential	14,400
sportscotland (TAP)	209	46	£4,948	£5,029	217	46	£4,676	£4,054	259	55	£3,171	£3,415	100	39	£2,488	£2,630
UK Sport (WCPP)	316	41	£7,680	£8034	297	41	£7,830	£8,973	256	40	£9,098	£10,157	225	40	£5,211	£5,780
Sports Council for Wales (Elite Cymru)	50	36	-	-	63	38	-	-	76	44	-	-	76	44	-	-
Sub total	588	43	-	-	593	42	-	-	602	46	-	-	402	40	-	-
Sport England (WCPP) ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107	58	-	-
Total for all five schemes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	509	46	-	-

- data not available

1 Figures are for the financial year up to November 2004

2 Figures are for September 2004

Sources: UK Sport (WCPP); Sports Council for Wales (Elite Cymru); sportscotland (TAP); Sports Council for Northern Ireland (TAP) and Sport England (WCPP)

Performance and excellence – implications for the UK Strategy Framework for Women and Sport

The year 2004 has been a great one for many elite female athletes. The achievements of those women who won medals at the Olympics and Paralympics, particularly the achievements of Kelly Holmes and Tanni Grey-Thompson, raised the profile of women in the sport media for a short period, and will hopefully inspire many girls and women. Yet, had women participated in as many sports or events as men in the Olympics, GB could have finished higher in the medals table.

The target set by the UK Strategy was for the number of women being funded to increase from 476 to 506. From the information that is available we can tell that between 2001-02 and 2003-04, there was an overall increase in the number of women being funded. However, it is likely that by the end of 2004-05 the number will not be as high as in previous years, as mentioned, due to the changes in policy to focus money on likely medal winners. And although this should also affect men too it is still clear that more men than women are getting funded and they are being awarded a larger share of the money. Women are going to have to compete harder for a share from a smaller pot.

With respect to the proportion of women getting funding, while there is little change on the overall average (40 per cent), there have been consistent improvements in the proportion of athletes getting funding in Wales, which is a positive step towards equality.

