

Sport and Recreation Profile: Gardening

Findings from the 2007/08
Active New Zealand Survey



INTRODUCTION

Content

This sport and recreation profile presents information about participation in gardening among New Zealand adults aged 16 years and over. It is compiled from information collected through the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey and includes:

- participation levels;
- profile of participants;
- participation patterns; and
- volunteering levels.

Methodology

Definition of Gardening

In the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey, participants reported whether they had participated in gardening for sport and recreation purposes. Gardening for occupational purposes is not included in this profile.

Sample

A total of 4,443 adults aged 16 years and over participated in the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey. Among the participants, 2,113 (745 men, 1,368 women) reported gardening at least once during the 12 months preceding the interview. The 4,443 interviews (which were completed over a 12-month period beginning in March 2007) were stratified by month and by the 17 regional sports trust catchment areas.

The Survey

The Active NZ Survey (an interviewer-administered, face-to-face self-report survey) consisted of two data collection tools:

1. a sport and recreation survey; and
2. a seven-day physical activity recall diary.

The sport and recreation survey was used to collect information about participation levels in various sport and recreation activities. Participants reported the sport and recreation activities they participated in over three different timeframes: during the 12 months, four weeks and seven days preceding the interview. Participants reported a range of other sport and recreation information including where they participated in activities, their participation in volunteering, instruction to improve performance and involvement in clubs and centres.

The seven-day physical activity recall diary assessed the frequency, intensity and duration of sport and recreation activities participated in during the seven days preceding the interview. The following information was collected for each day of the previous week:

1. the specific activities participated in (e.g. gardening);
2. the day on which the activity was undertaken (e.g. gardened on Monday and Thursday);
3. the total time spent participating in each specific sport and recreation activity (e.g. 60 minutes spent gardening on Monday);
4. the amount of time spent at a moderate intensity (e.g. of the 60 minutes spent gardening on Monday, 20 minutes was spent at a moderate intensity); and
5. the amount of time spent at a vigorous intensity (e.g. of the 60 minutes spent gardening on Monday, 10 minutes was spent at a vigorous intensity).

The information from the diary was used to determine the time spent and the intensity at which adults participated in gardening during any one week.

Ethnic Groupings

In the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey, participants were able to identify with multiple ethnicities. Consequently, the same person could be represented in different ethnic groups (e.g. Māori and NZ European). Therefore, when the percentages for each ethnic group are summed they do not equal 100 percent. Ethnic-specific findings should only be compared with estimates for the total New Zealand population as comparisons between ethnic groups (e.g. Māori versus Pacific) are not valid.

Socioeconomic Position

The NZiDep tool was used to measure the socioeconomic position of participants. The tool consists of eight questions which assess different domains of socioeconomic position. Based on the number of deprivation indicators reported, participants were grouped into one of five groups ranging from the least (Quintile 1) to the most (Quintile 5) disadvantaged socioeconomic group. The five groups were:

Quintile 1 – no deprivation characteristics;

Quintile 2 – one deprivation characteristic was reported;

Quintile 3 – two deprivation characteristics were reported;

Quintile 4 – three or four deprivation characteristics were reported; and

Quintile 5 – five or more deprivation characteristics were reported.

Further information about the Active NZ Survey methodology is available at www.sparc.org.nz/activenzsurvey.

Information Reported

All findings relate to the New Zealand adult population aged 16 years and over. They are based on responses from at least 100 participants and have a relative standard error of less than 25 percent unless stated otherwise. All estimates have been weighted to correct for differences between the sample population and the general New Zealand population. Percent estimates (e.g. 50%) with a 95 percent confidence interval (e.g. 95% CI: 45-55) have also been age-standardised to the 2006 New Zealand adult population. Estimates without a 95 percent confidence interval represent proportions within the sport-specific population (i.e. adults who participated in the activity), and have not been age-standardised.

Confidence intervals have been used to indicate if significant differences exist between different groups (e.g. men versus women) in the population. Findings are generally considered significantly different if there is no overlap between the confidence intervals of the percentage estimates being compared.

The Active NZ Survey is a nationally representative survey of all New Zealand adults. The findings in this profile are not directly comparable with other sources of information about gardening. This is because methodological differences (e.g. the way data is collected, the definitions used) contribute to differences in findings between different data sources.

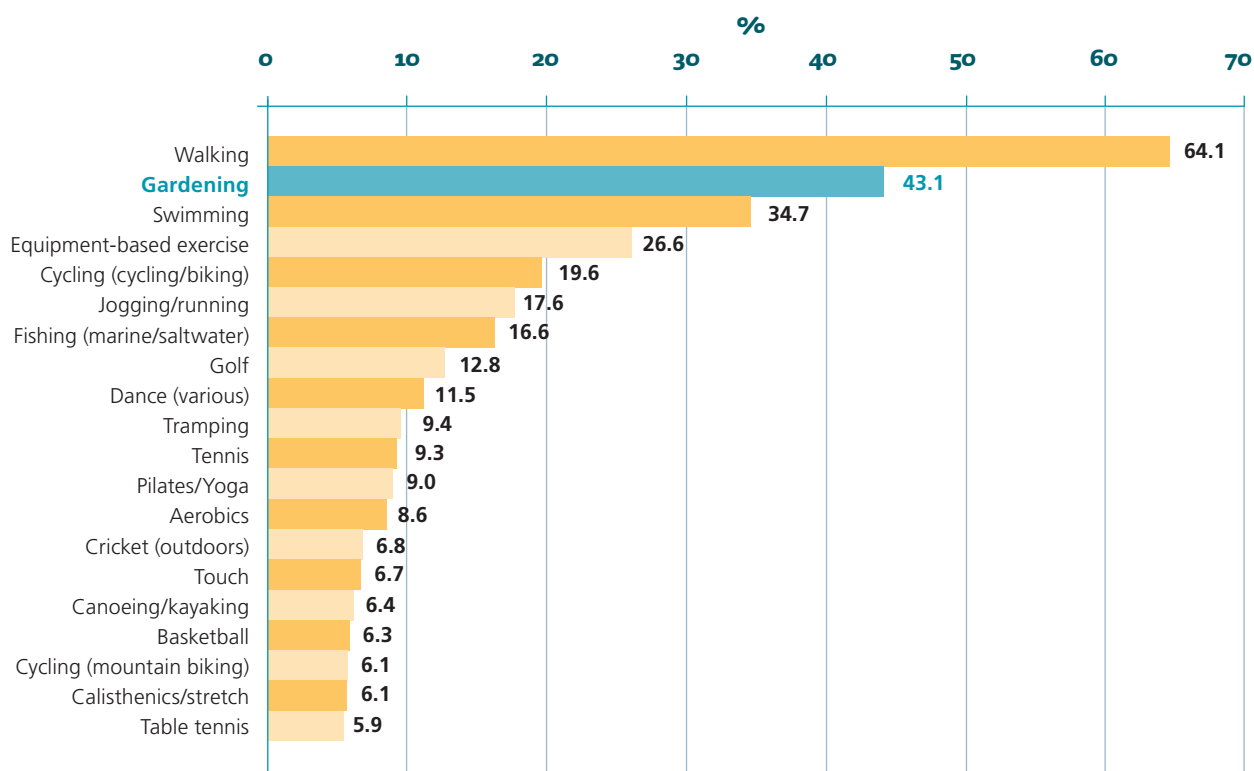
FINDINGS

Participation Levels

2007/08 Participation Levels

Over 12 months, 43.1 percent (95% CI: 41.2-45.1) of all New Zealand adults (1,414,635 people) had participated in gardening at least once. Figure 1 presents 20 sport and recreation activities with the highest participation levels among all New Zealand adults¹. Gardening had the second highest participation rate among various sport and recreation activities.

Figure 1: Sport and recreation activities with the highest participation levels



¹ Figure 1 is based on information presented in the document titled 'Sport and Recreation Participation Levels' which is available at www.sparc.org.nz/activenzsurvey.

Profile of Participants

Demographic Profile

Table 1 presents demographic information about gardening participation. For example, among all men in New Zealand 37.6 percent participated in gardening at least once over 12 months.

Table 1 shows men (compared with women), adults aged 16 to 34 years (compared with adults aged 35 years and over) and adults who self-identified as Māori, Pacific or Asian (compared with all New Zealand adults) were significantly less likely to have participated in gardening. Participation patterns did not differ significantly by socioeconomic position.

Table 1: Proportion of all New Zealand adults (16 years and over) who participated in gardening at least once over 12 months

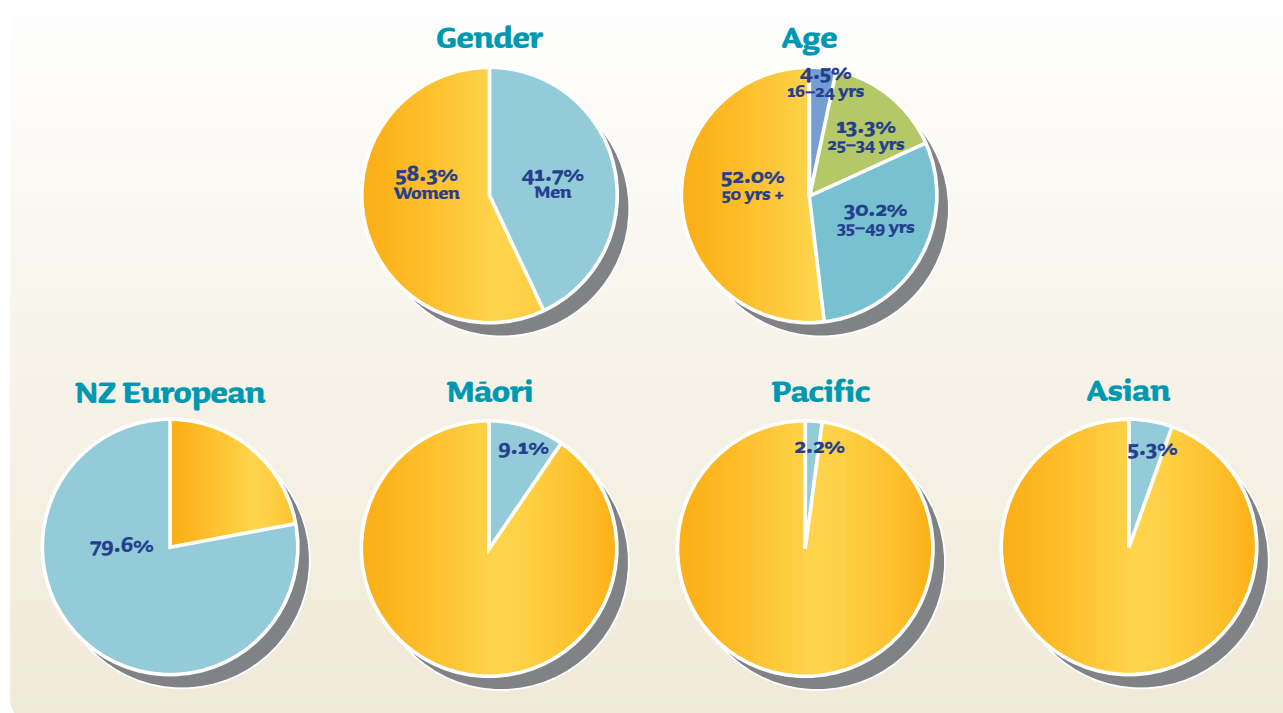
	Percentage (95% CI)	Population ²
Total Population	43.1 (41.2–45.1)	1,414,635
Gender		
Men	37.6 (33.6–41.6)	590,298
Women	48.4 (45.2–51.5)	824,337
Age Group		
16–24 years	11.6 (7.9–15.2)	63,471
25–34 years	34.6 (30.6–38.7)	188,529
35–49 years	45.1 (41.9–48.3)	426,669
≥ 50 years	59.6 (56.8–62.3)	735,966
Ethnic Group		
Māori	36.4 (32.4–40.3)	128,459
Pacific	18.0 (12.6–23.4)	31,133
NZ European	47.4 (45.1–49.6)	1,125,576
Asian	34.6 (29.2–39.9)	75,085
Socioeconomic Position		
Quintile 1	44.2 (41.9–46.6)	974,940
Quintile 2	41.4 (37.5–45.3)	229,135
Quintile 3	39.6 (34.3–44.9)	99,567
Quintile 4	42.4 (36.8–48.0)	79,851
Quintile 5	42.7 (34.8–50.5)	31,146

² The column indicates the number of New Zealand adults who participated in gardening. For example, 590,298 men participated in gardening at least once over 12 months.

Figure 2 presents information about people who gardened at least once over 12 months. For example, among adults who participated in gardening 41.7 percent were men and 58.3 percent were women. A large proportion of adults who gardened were:

- aged 50 years and older; and
- self-identified as New Zealand European.

Figure 2: Demographic profile of adults who participated in gardening



Participation in Other Sport and Recreation Activities

On average, adults who gardened at least once over 12 months took part in 5.1 different sport and recreation activities over 12 months (the national average was 4.6). Irrespective of gender, a large proportion of adults who participated in gardening also participated in walking, swimming, equipment-based exercise, cycling and jogging/running. In addition, men also participated in saltwater fishing and golf while women also participated in pilates/yoga.

Physical Activity Levels

As part of New Zealand's physical activity guidelines adults are recommended to participate in at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity³ physical activity on most, if not on all, days of the week. To meet this guideline, participation in at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week was required.

When compared to the proportion of all New Zealand adults who achieved this guideline (48.2%; 95% CI: 46.3-50.1), a similar proportion of adults who gardened achieved the guideline (51.5%; 95% CI: 48.9-54.2).

³ Moderate-intensity physical activity was defined as activity that causes a slight, but noticeable, increase in breathing and heart rate.

Participation Patterns

Participation Setting

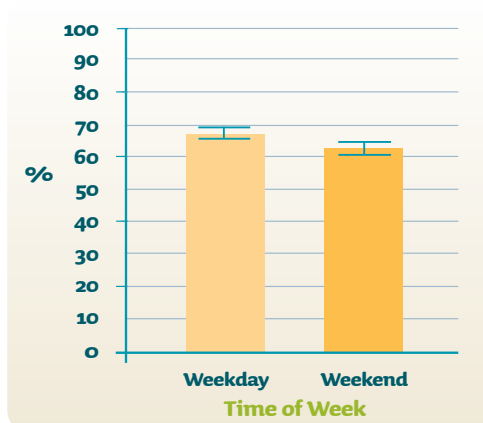
During any one month, 37.2 percent (95% CI: 35.3-39.1) of all New Zealand adults (1,219,760) gardened at least once. Among these adults, the most common location⁴ for gardening was 'at home or someone else's home' (96%).

People can belong to different types of clubs or centres in order to participate in sport. The clubs/centres examined in this survey included: sport and physical activity clubs, social clubs, fitness centres and some other type of club/centre. Among adults who participated in gardening during any one month, 1.9 percent of adults (24,879 people) belonged to at least one type of club or centre in order to participate in gardening.

Time Spent Participating

During any one week, 28.3 percent (95% CI: 26.5-30.2) of all New Zealand adults (929,743 people) participated in gardening at least once. On average, adults gardened two days out of seven, for an average of 100 minutes on any one day. The average time spent gardening per week was 237 minutes. Adults were significantly more likely to garden on weekdays compared with weekend days (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Adult participation in gardening, by time of week



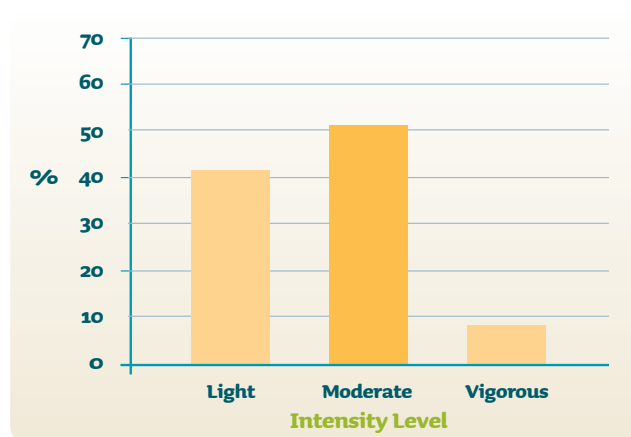
⁴ Adults who reported gardening during the four weeks preceding the interview also reported the locations where they gardened in the last four weeks. Participants were asked to identify a location from a list of nine general locations (e.g. at home).

Intensity of Participation

Individuals participate in sport and recreation activities at varying levels of intensity (i.e. light intensity, moderate intensity⁵, vigorous intensity⁶). During any one week, 30.4 percent (95% CI: 28.5-32.3) of all New Zealand adults who gardened (300,624 people) achieved more than 2.5 hours of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity physical activity through participation in gardening alone.

Figure 4 displays the proportion of total gardening time per week that was undertaken at each level of intensity. During any one week, 50.9 percent of gardening time was spent at moderate intensity and 7.4 percent was spent at vigorous intensity. The remaining 41.7 percent of the time was spent participating at light intensity.

Figure 4: Adult participation in gardening, by intensity level



Volunteering Levels

Among all New Zealand adults, few adults (0.03 %; 1,034 people) volunteered for gardening at least once over 12 months. Among adults who gardened at least once over 12 months, 25.1 percent (354,919 people) volunteered in at least one sport or recreation activity. Less than one percent of gardeners volunteered for gardening over 12 months (532 people).

⁵ Moderate-intensity physical activity was defined as activity that causes a slight, but noticeable, increase in breathing and heart rate.

⁶ Vigorous-intensity physical activity was defined as activity that makes you 'huff or puff'.



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