Sports participants by guideline self-defined sports participants: differences and similarities

Play the Game Conference
Cologne, Germany
5 October 2011

Remco Hoekman
Senior researcher
What to expect:

Definition of sports participant
What definition is used for policy purposes and how is this definition established and where is it used for

When do people define themselves as sports participant
What are the key characteristics for self defined sports participants and how does the self-definition differ by backgrounds characteristics.

Differences, similarities and explaining variables
What are the most remarkable differences and similarities between the self-defined sport participants and the participants by definition.

Policy and research implications
What for implications has this on sport policy and how can researchers use this knowledge in developing standards for sport participation research.
Definition of sports participants in the Netherlands

Guideline for Sport Participation Research

Showcard with 44 sports (and categorie other) including walking, swimming, biking

Frequency of at least 12 times in last 12 months

Current level: 63%  ➔ ambition: 75% in 2016
Self-defined sports participants

Frequency of participation - regularity

Sport club context

Competition

Intensive physical activity

Isn’t this also where policy is about?! Social cohesion – health – societal aspects of sport
## Differences and similarities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Self-defined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-34</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35-54</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 55+</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower education</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average education</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High education</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low income</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average income</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High income</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sports participation by definition

68% of the cases match definition and self-definition
Explaining variables

Logistic regression on group sports participants by definition
Dependent variable = own perception on being sports participant or not

Sport club and sport frequency most powerfull explaining sport variables

Women and older age groups have an other perception of sport than is defined by the current guideline
Implications for policy

Does definition of sport meet the policy objectives of sport?
What definition would best meet policy demands?
Which sporting context contributes to policy targets
Develop a sporting index (Sport England)

Could a wrong perception of sport create aversion to new sport initiatives?
‘Sport for all’ should not focus on sport for all groups
Elderly define sport differently and are more triggered by physical activity and recreational activities
Implications for research

Definition based on 12 times a year is arguable
Frequency of 12 times a year is not perceived to be regular enough to be a sports participant by the people
What are benefits of sport related to this monthly participation

Difficult to question on a social construct like sport
What people define as sport differs strongly

Further study needed – challenges for MEASURE
Contribution of sport participation characteristics to policy targets with regard to societal aspect of sport and health
Thanks for your attention!

Remco Hoekman
senior researcher

More information see:
www.measuresport.eu
www.mulierinstituut.nl
Or email to: r.hoekman@mulierinstituut.nl
Used dataset

National survey on Injuries and Physical Activity in the Netherlands (OBiN)

CATI and online questionning

N: about 11.000 per year

Datasets of 2009 and 2010 included
Overview of outcomes

In 68% of the cases the sport participation by definition and by self-definition matches

Different perceptions of sport exist

Traditional sport is recognized as sport – new forms of sport are less perceived as true sport by the public

Elderly define sport differently and find themselves less sportactive than is assumed based on the definition