

# STATE OF PLAY

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CAMDEN, NJ  
YOUTH SURVEY  
**2020**



COMPILED BY  resonant  
education

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# INTRODUCTION

In 2020, with the support of the Sixers Youth Foundation and other local leaders, the [Aspen Institute's Project Play initiative](#) worked to collect information for the [State of Play Camden](#) report. The purpose of the State of Play Camden report is to conduct a scan and analysis of how well the health needs of youth in Camden, NJ are being met through sport.

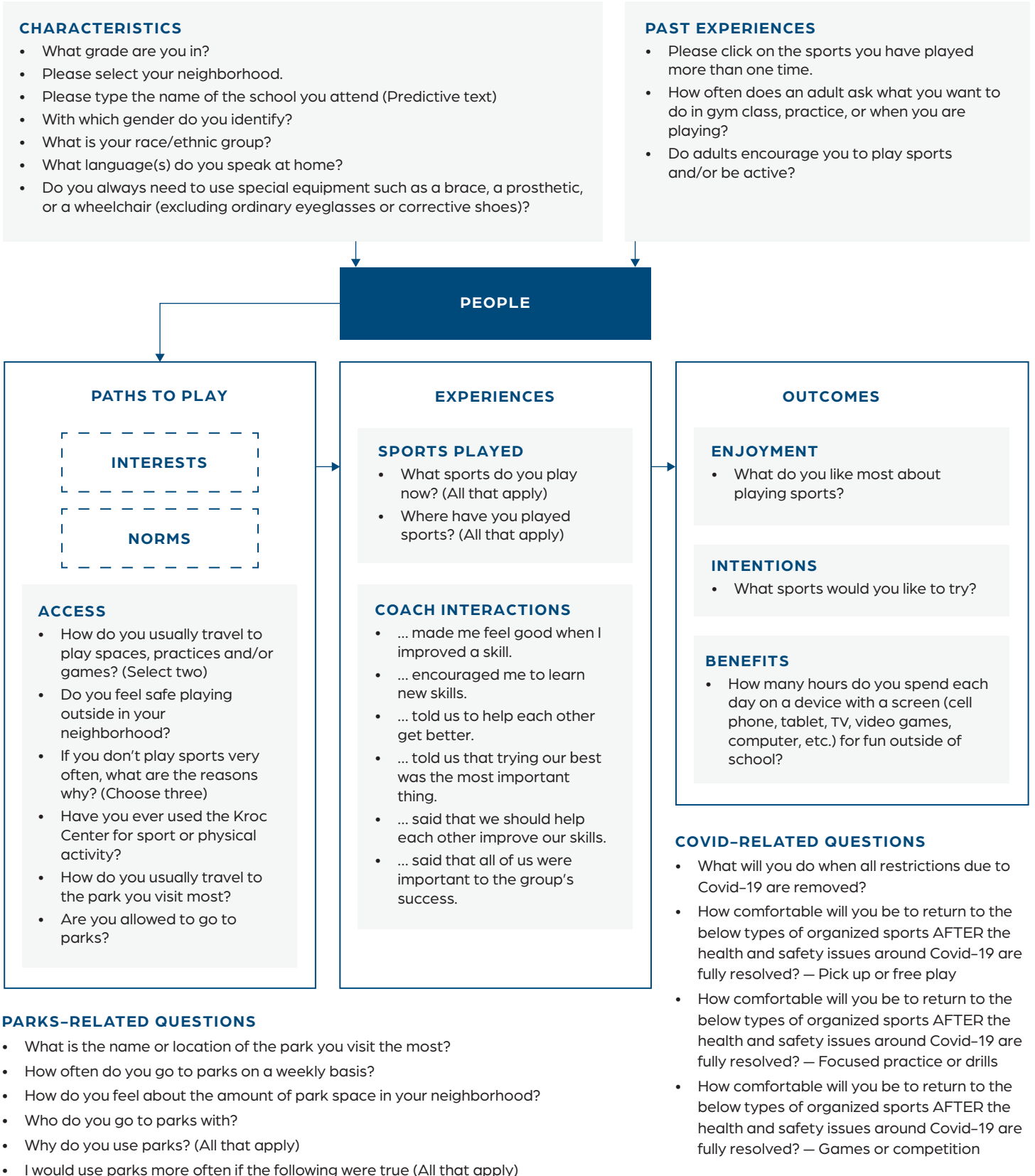
As part of the data collection process for this report, the Aspen Institute partnered with Resonant Education to administer the State of Play Youth Survey via Resonant Education's online survey collection platform. The survey was administered between March and December 2020 to youth in grades 3–12 living in Camden using open, multi-use links. Resonant Education provided these links to the Aspen Institute to share with their contacts within Camden at the school district/network and community-based organization level. These contacts then asked school-based educators to distribute the survey link to students, either by posting the link on their online platform as an optional assignment or via email directly to families. Contacts also distributed the links directly to families and students as available. In total, 615 responses were received. The survey is a statistically representative sample of Camden youth, considering the total population of Camden and of Camden youth aged 5–18 from US Census data. Due to challenges from the coronavirus pandemic, more survey responses were collected from public schools than charter and private schools, but all school types are included. The survey covered a wide array of topics related to involvement in sports and physical activity and asked participants to share the sports they are playing, wanted to play, and their reasons for engaging or not engaging in sport and play.

For the sake of this report, the questions were organized into four general areas. First, “people” related to questions about individual characteristics (age, gender, race/ethnicity) as well as their past experiences with

sports. Second, “paths to play” referred to individual interest in sports and access to physical activity (e.g., transportation, barriers to sports). Third, “experiences” referred to the frequency, location, and type of activity in which respondents engaged, as well as their interactions with coaches. Finally, “outcomes” were framed as the enjoyment respondents reported, their intentions for future activity, and general active behavior. Figure 1 outlines the proposed logic model for the survey around these four general areas, which provides the structure for the remainder of the report. Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, an additional set of questions was reviewed for this report relating to respondents' changes in activity due to the pandemic. Lastly, for the first six months of the survey administration, six questions were asked about park space related to usage and interest. These parks questions were removed in September 2020, given the impact of Covid-19. As such, only a portion of the sample (407) provided responses to these questions, primarily from Camden City Schools. These two groups of questions related to Covid-19 and parks are included within Figure 1 but outside of the logic model, given their specificity to the timing of this survey administration.

The remainder of this report will present survey results in the four general areas plus a section on Covid-19 and one on the questions related to public parks. In each case, an overall description of the results and general findings for the population will be presented, as well as analysis by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level. An additional ancillary analysis of all items by neighborhood is provided at the end of the report, along with an analysis disaggregating key questions for respondents with experience playing basketball compared to those without.

**Figure 1. Survey logic model.**



# PEOPLE: CHARACTERISTICS AND PAST EXPERIENCES

The box to the right outlines the five questions that were asked in relation to individual characteristics (“demographics” or “background information questions”). Because of the formats and distributions of data, some questions were recoded in order to simplify the presentation of results here.

The distribution of responses by Grade are provided in Figure 2. While responses were received from all grades between 3–12, the largest group of respondents came from 8th grade (28.0%), with relatively few responses from grades 10 and above (4.9%).

**Figure 2. Distribution of responses by grade.**

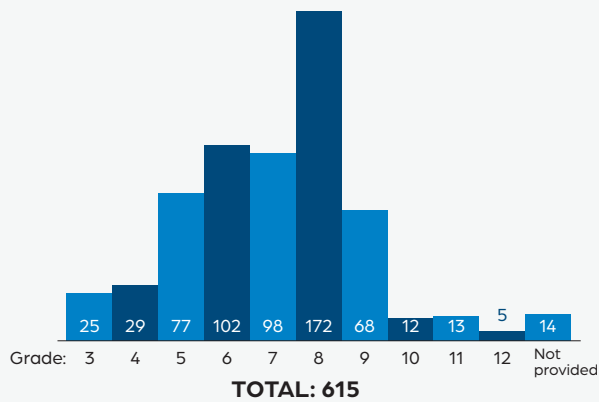
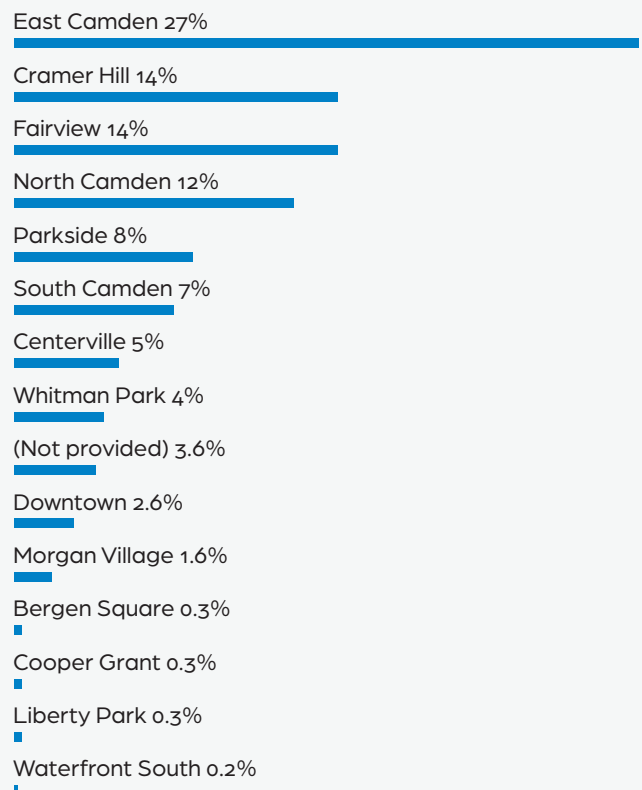


Figure 3 contains the distribution of responses by neighborhood. The largest response group came from East Camden (27.3%) with three other neighborhoods each comprising more than 10% of the sample: Fairview (14.1%), Cramer Hill (14.1%), and North Camden (12.2%). Although other response frequencies are listed in Figure 3, further analyses only considered these four groups separately, and recoded the remaining neighborhoods into an “other” category (32.3%), given that inferences drawn from such small sample sizes would likely be untenable. This deeper analysis of all items by neighborhood can be found at the end of the report.

## QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1. What grade are you in? (Multiple choice)
2. Please select your neighborhood. (Multiple choice. Recoded, simplified)
3. With which gender do you identify? (Male, Female, Prefer not to answer)
4. What is your race (or ethnic origin)? (Multiple choice with open-ended option. Recoded, simplified.)
5. What language(s) do you speak at home? (Select all that apply. Recoded, simplified.)
6. Do you always need to use special equipment such as a brace, a prosthetic, or a wheelchair (excluding ordinary eyeglasses or corrective shoes)? (Yes/No)

**Figure 3. Distribution of responses by neighborhood.**



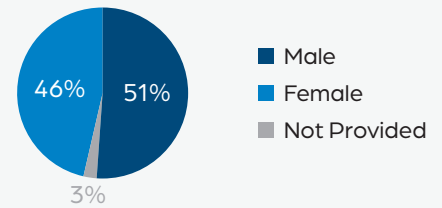
There was reasonable representation by gender, with 51.2% of responses coming from individuals identifying as female and 46.2% coming from those identifying as male. 2.6% of responses came from individuals selecting “prefer not to answer” or omitting an answer altogether (see Figure 4). Given this low portion and total number of responses, further analyses disaggregated by gender only refer to males and females within this report. However, the tables of all results in the appendix, which include respondents who selected “prefer not to answer” or left the answer blank in the Female category.

Race/ethnicity identification data are provided in Figure 5. As respondents could select from seven options, as well as enter their own identification, a large number of responses were present. As such, data were recoded for the purposes of these analyses. Ultimately, only respondents identifying as Black (32.7%) and Hispanic/Latinx (47.3%) yielded sufficient sample sizes to warrant consideration in these analyses. Given the varying individual responses, results were not provided for respondents identifying as multiracial or multiethnic as to avoid misrepresentation of the varying groups contained within that category.

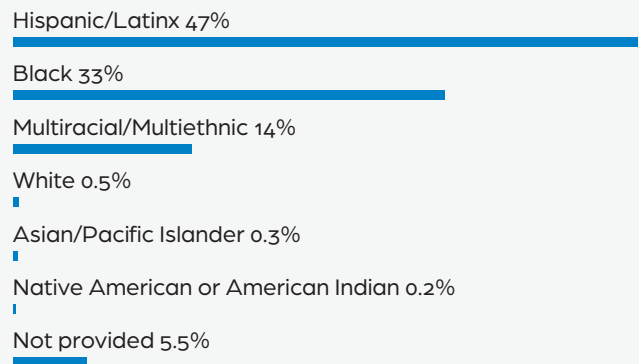
Responses by language are presented in Figure 6. The majority of respondents indicating English as their primary language (54.5%), with 38.0% of respondents indicating that they spoke both English and Spanish at home. 4.7% of respondents indicated speaking primarily Spanish at home.

With regard to the question, “Do you always need to use special equipment such as a brace, a prosthetic, or a wheelchair (excluding ordinary eyeglasses or corrective shoes)?”, 13.8% of respondents (n=85) indicated yes.

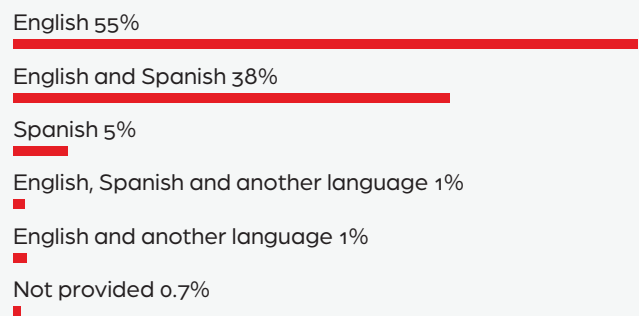
**Figure 4. Distribution of responses by gender.**



**Figure 5. Percentage of responses by race/ethnicity.**



**Figure 6. Percentage of responses by language.**



The box to the right outlines the three items referring to past athletic experiences. The question referring to previous sports played contained 36 possible responses, as well as an option to write-in additional sports. The frequency of each response is provided, and open-ended responses were recoded to either refer to one of the original options or to create additional categories. It should be noted that, given the high number of response options, few additional responses options were given. Results for the questions referring to adult inquiry and adult encouragement are provided using the original response options.

### QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1. Please click on the sports you have played more than one time. (Select all that apply. Frequency of each sport reported.)
2. How often does an adult ask what you want to do in gym class, practice, or when you are playing? (Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often)
3. Do adults encourage you to play sports and/or be active? (Yes, No, I don't know)

Figure 7 displays the top 10 sports previously tried by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level. (Full results can be found in Table 1.2 in the Appendix). Results are listed by the total frequency of responses. There are indeed differences for many sports by gender and race/ethnicity, though an exhaustive review of notable differences is beyond the scope of this report.

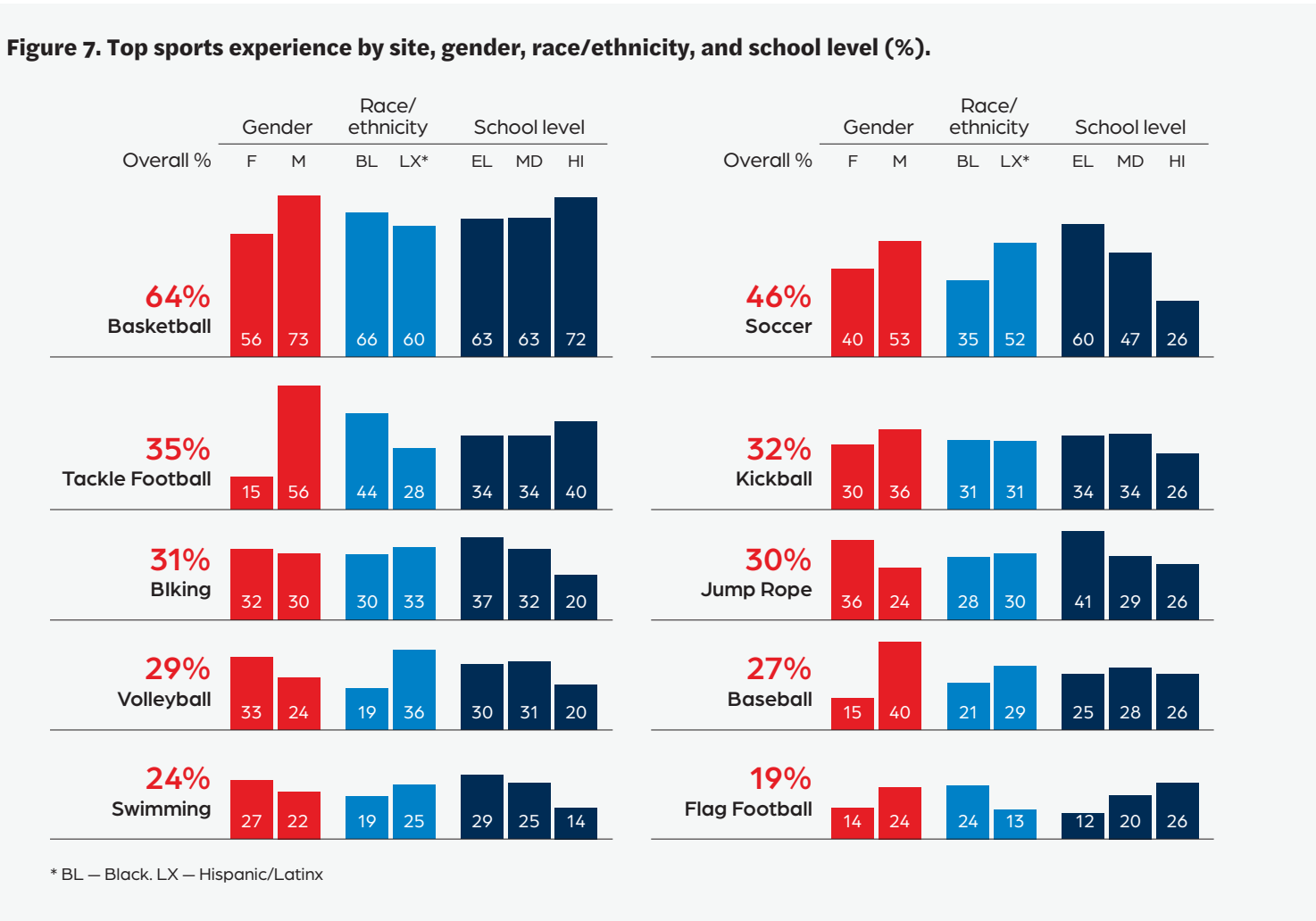
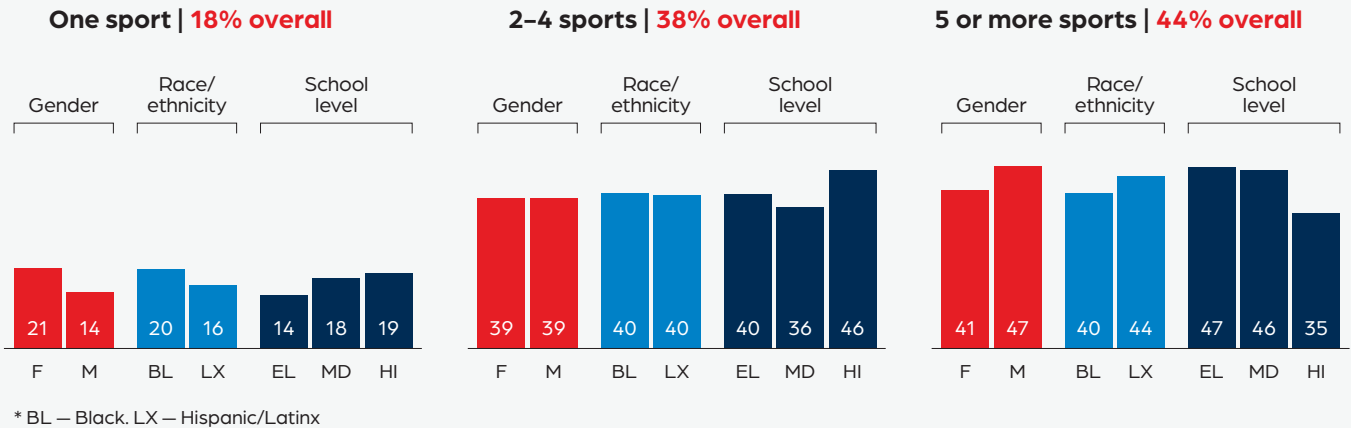


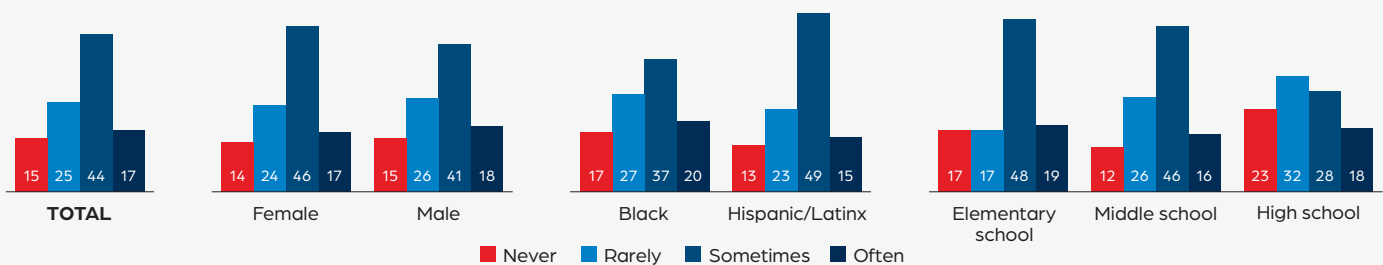
Figure 8 displays the total number of sports previously played by key background variables. Overall, 81.9% of respondents indicated having played more than one sport in the past, with only few small differences by gender or race/ethnicity.

**Figure 8. Number of sports played by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level (%).**

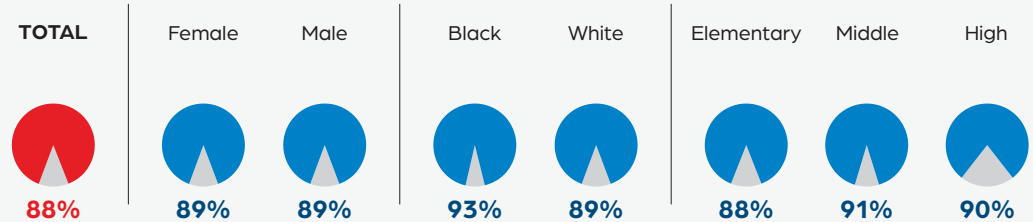


Figures 9 and 10 display data for questions regarding adults' inquiry into respondents' interests and encouragement to play sports, respectively. Most respondents (60.4%) reported that adults sometimes or often inquired about their interests in gym class, practice, or during play, with few differences among characteristic variables of interest (see Figure 9). Figure 10 shows the percentage of respondents agreeing that adults encourage them to play sports and be active. Overall, 88.4% of respondents agreed with that statement, again with little variance across key characteristic variables.

**Figure 9. Response frequency to “How often does an adult ask what you want to do in gym class, practice, or when you are playing” by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level (%).**



**Figure 10. Percentage agreement with adult encouragement of physical activity.**





# PATHS TO PLAY

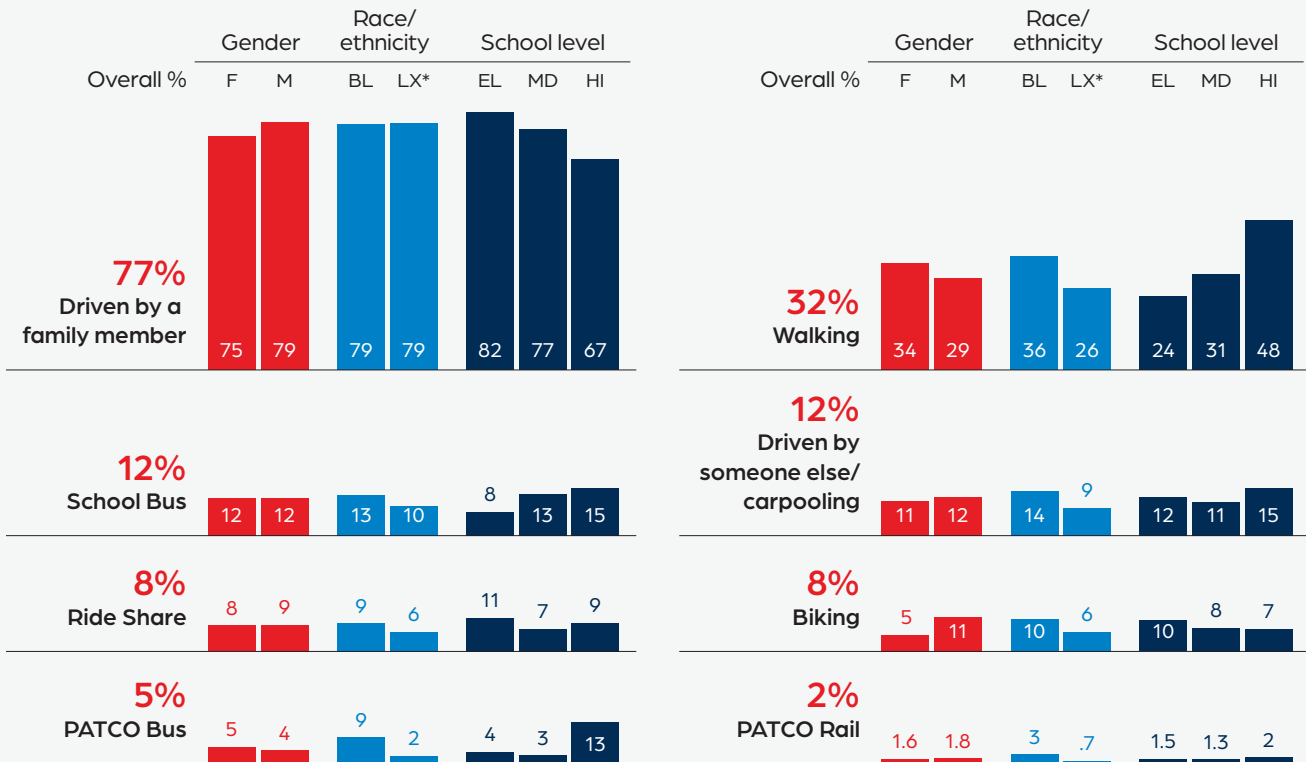
“Paths to play” refers to access and barriers to physical activity and sports involvement. The box to the right outlines the three questions included in this area, including inquires about transportation, reasons for not playing sports, and having a safe space to play.

Respondents were asked, “How do you usually travel to play spaces, practices and/or games?” and given the option to select any applicable responses from the eight options given, as well as write-in other modes of transportation. Figure 11 displays the frequency of responses across each background characteristic and school level. Overall, the most popular form of transportation by far was driven by family member, selected by 76.7% of all respondents. There was little variation by site, gender, or race/ethnicity.

## QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1. How do you usually travel to play spaces, practices and/or games? (Select all with open-ended. Frequencies for each response and open-ended responses re-coded.)
2. If you don't play sports very often, what are the reasons why? (Select all with open-ended. Frequencies for each response and open-ended responses re-coded.)
3. Do you feel safe playing outside in your neighborhood? (Always, Sometimes, Rarely, Never. % not always feeling safe.)
4. Have you ever used the Kroc Center for sport or physical activity? (Yes, No, I don't know)
5. How do you usually travel to the park you visit most? (Walking, Driven by parent, Biking, Driven by someone else/carpooling)

**Figure 11. Transportation to play spaces, practices and/or games by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level (%).**



\* BL – Black. LX – Hispanic/Latinx

Respondents were then asked to identify any contributing factors if they did not play sports. This question appeared to be challenging to respondents. Many respondents indicated that this question was not applicable, as they did indeed play sports. In fact, according to Figure 8, over 80% of respondents play multiple sports. Thus, results from this question should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 12 shows the major categories of responses, with reasons indicating options that were provided on the survey in blue, and other text representing reasons provided directly by respondents. The most popular responses were time (39.0% of comments), physical reasons (21.0%), and socially related factors, for example, “My friends don’t play sports”, (19.8%).

**Figure 12. Major categories of responses (provided options indicated in blue)**

**TIME 39%**

**No time to play due to family responsibilities**

**No time to play due to schoolwork**

Example coded comment: “My mom is too busy to get me into a sport.”

**PHYSICAL 21%**

**I don’t want to get hurt**

Example coded comment: “I might hurt myself.”

**SOCIAL 20%**

**My friends don’t play sports**

**Sports are too serious**

**I don’t feel welcome in athletic activities**

Example coded comment: “When I play a sport and fail, people will laugh at me.”

**INTEREST RELATED 19%**

**I am not interested in sports**

Example coded comment: “I don’t feel like playing at the moment.”

**ABILITY 18%**

**I’m not good enough to play**

**ACCESS 11%**

**The fields, gyms, and/or courts are bad quality**

**Not enough information available about sports programs**

Example coded comment: “No sports at my school.”

**COST 10%**

**Sports are too expensive**

**TRANSPORTATION 10%**

**I don’t have a way to get to practices/games**

Example coded comment: “I would miss most practices because I wouldn’t always have a ride.”

**OTHER 8%**

**Too many bad coaches**

**I don’t feel safe at the fields, gyms, or courts**

Example coded comment: “My grades are bad.”

**COVID-19 1%**

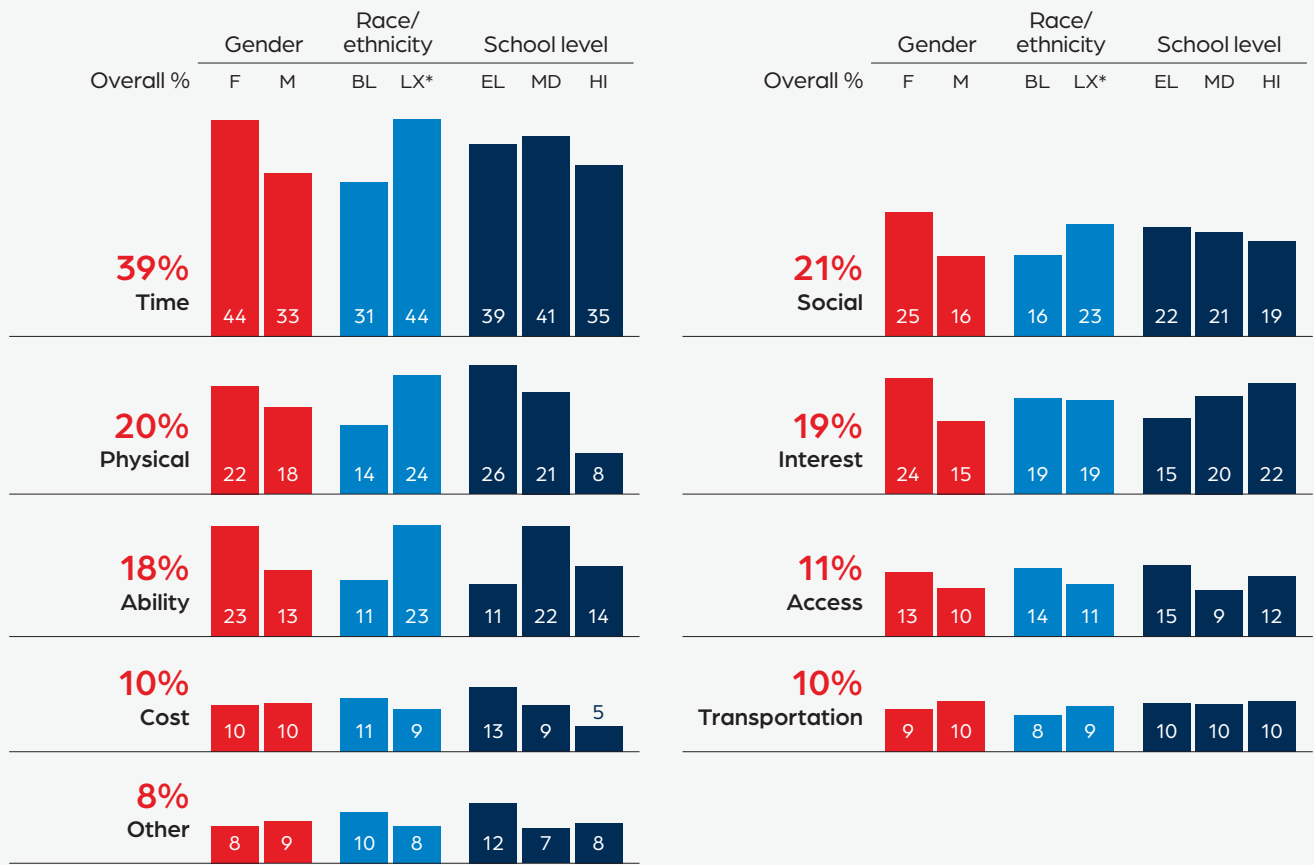
Example coded comment: “Because I want to stay safe from the virus.”

NOTE: Statements in bold were selectable options on the survey; Percentages refer to the amount of comments that included one of these reasons. As comments could site multiple reasons, the total percentage exceeds 100.

In examining Figure 13, which disaggregates the barriers results by gender, race/ethnicity and school level, there are multiple notable differences. These include:

- Girls (43.8%) are more likely than boys (33.1%) to list time as a barrier to play.
- Hispanic/Latinx respondents are more likely than Black respondents to list time, physical, and ability factors as barriers.

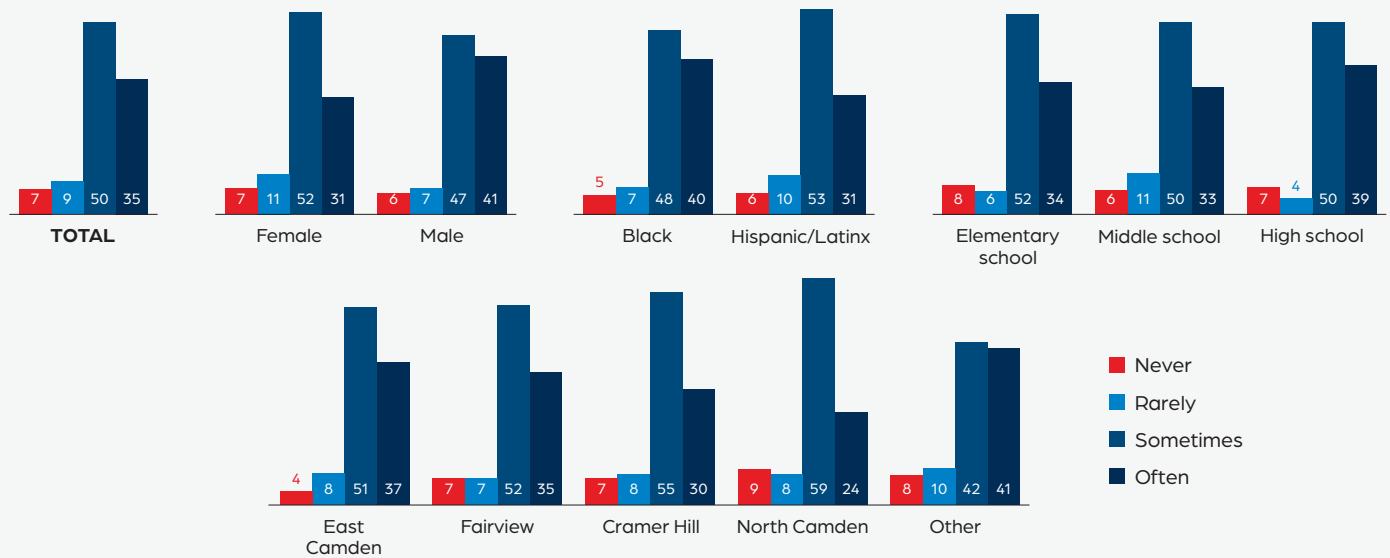
**Figure 13. Barriers to play by site, gender, and race/ethnicity, %**



\* BL – Black. LX – Hispanic/Latinx

Respondents were also asked if they felt safe playing outside in their neighborhood, with response options of Always, Sometimes, Rarely, or Never. Figure 14 shows the full distribution of responses across all four categories, while Figure 15 shows these responses recoded, representing the percentage of responses that were not “Always,” disaggregated by neighborhood. Overall, 64.8% of respondents did not always feel safe, though that rate varied by neighborhood. The respondents from the neighborhood listed as Other in Figure 14, which represents the collection of other neighborhoods reported outside of the four main shown in this report (East Camden, Fairview, Cramer Hill, and North Camden) had the lowest rate of feeling unsafe (59.4%). North Camden residents had the highest (76.0%). Overall, a majority of respondents – regardless of neighborhood – had at least some concern for their safety when playing outside.

**Figure 14. “Do you feel safe playing outside in your neighborhood?” by gender, race/ethnicity, school level, and neighborhood.**



**Figure 15. Portion of respondents who do not always feel safe playing outside in their neighborhood.**

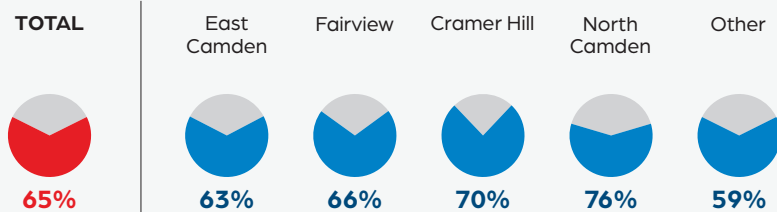


Figure 16 displays the portion of respondents indicating use of the Kroc Center by neighborhood. The highest use rate came from North Camden (46%), with the lowest coming from Fairview (29%).

**Figure 16. Use of Kroc Center by neighborhood.**

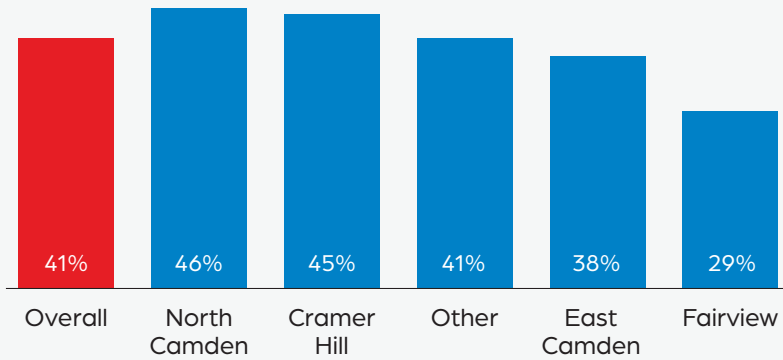
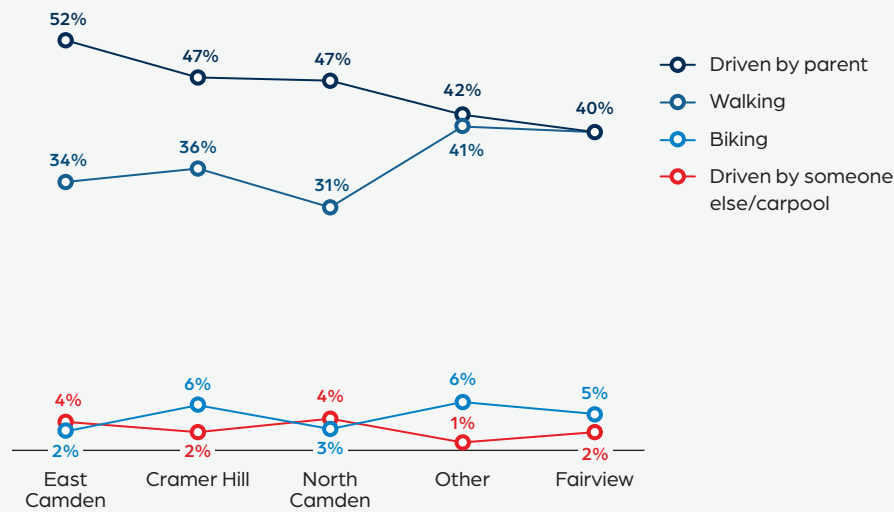


Figure 17 shows the preferred method of travel to parks, disaggregated by neighborhood. Walking and being driven by a parent are the two most common selections, though each mode of transportation has significant variance by neighborhood. (Note that responses selected by less than 1% of all respondents were not included, such as use of PATCO bus or rail.)

**Figure 17. Method of travel to park by neighborhood.**



## EXPERIENCES: SPORTS PLAYED AND COACH INTERACTIONS

“Experiences” refer to respondents’ involvement in sports and physical activity – including what sports they play and where – as well as their interactions with coaches. The box to the right outlines the questions asked in this area, their response formats, and any recoding of variables that took place for the purposes of this report.

Figure 18 displays the frequency with which respondents reported playing sports in various settings, disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity and by school level. The most popular responses overall included at a playground or park (56.1%), at school during P.E. (54.8%), at school during recess (49.9%), and at school on a team (47.3%). There were some notable differences by subgroup, including:

- Boys are more likely than girls to play at a rec center on a team (+12.2%) or on a travel team (+11.7%). Girls are more likely than boys to play at school on a team (+14.8%).
- Black respondents (23.9%) were more likely than Hispanic respondents (13.1%) to play at a rec center on a team.

### QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

#### SPORTS PLAYED

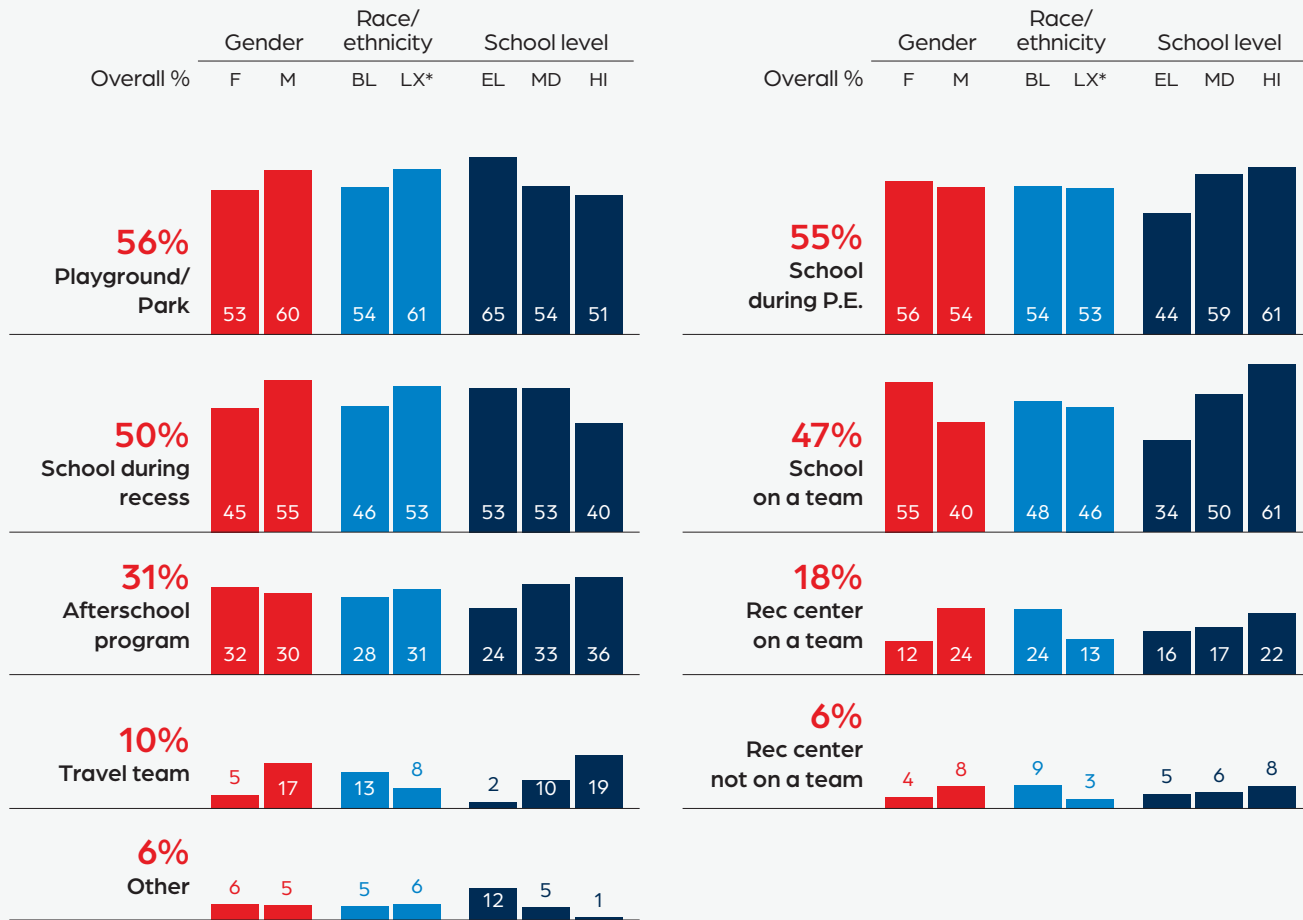
1. Where have you played sports? (Select all with open-ended)
2. What sports do you play now? (Select all with open-ended)

#### COACH INTERACTIONS

3. The coach made me feel good when I improved a skill.
4. The coach encouraged me to learn new skills.
5. The coach told us to help each other get better.
6. The coach told us that trying our best was the most important thing.
7. The coach said that we should help each other improve our skills.
8. The coach said that all of us were important to the group’s success.

(Almost never, Rarely, Sometimes, Frequently, Almost Always, Not applicable)

**Figure 18. Sports locations by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level (%).**



\* BL – Black. LX – Hispanic/Latinx

Figure 19 displays the results for current sports played by gender and race/ethnicity. Results are listed by the total frequency of responses. There are indeed differences for many sports by gender and race/ethnicity, though an exhaustive review of notable differences is beyond the scope of this report.

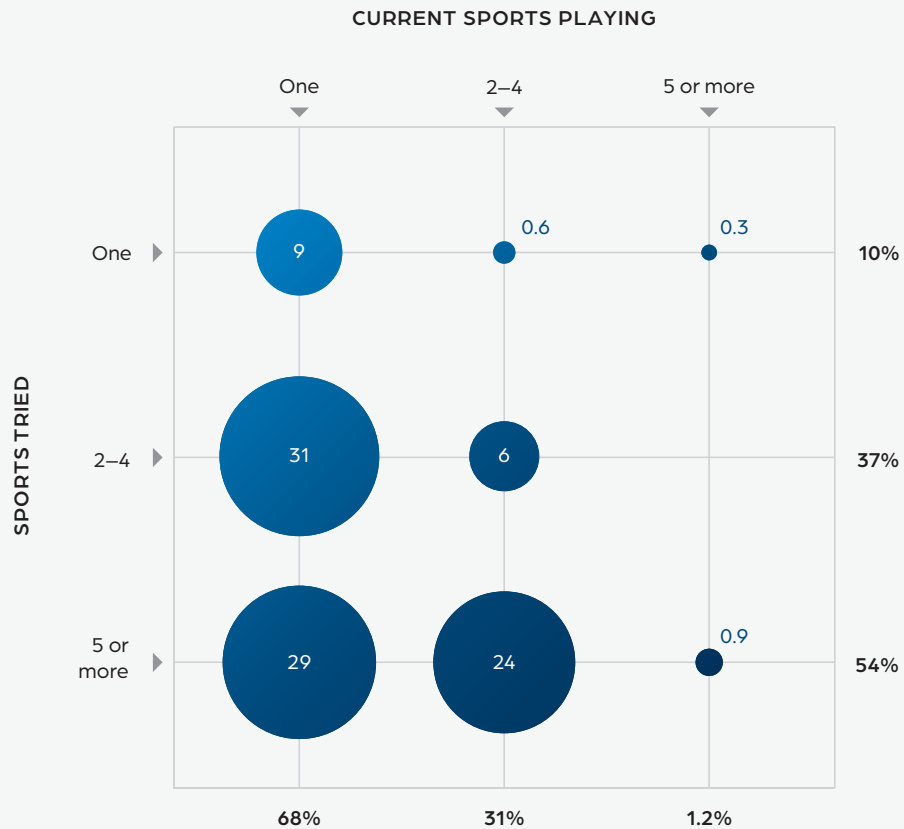
**Figure 19. Current sports played by gender, race/ethnicity, and grade level.**

	Total	Gender		Race/ethnicity		School level		
		F	M	Black	Hisp/Latinx	Elem.	Middle	High
Basketball	<b>38.4%</b>	34.3%	43.3%	34.3%	39.5%	44.3%	37.1%	36.7%
None	<b>24.7%</b>	27.6%	21.1%	24.4%	24.4%	14.5%	26.3%	34.7%
Tackle Football	<b>23.1%</b>	9.5%	38.4%	30.8%	18.9%	24.4%	21.5%	26.5%
Soccer	<b>19.7%</b>	17.8%	21.8%	8.5%	27.8%	32.1%	19.6%	5.1%
Biking	<b>14.0%</b>	16.5%	11.3%	10.4%	18.6%	24.4%	12.6%	4.1%
Volleyball	<b>11.2%</b>	17.1%	5.3%	6.5%	14.1%	10.7%	13.2%	6.1%
Free Play	<b>10.2%</b>	11.4%	8.5%	12.4%	7.2%	13.7%	10.5%	4.1%
Kickball	<b>10.1%</b>	10.8%	9.5%	9.0%	9.3%	13.0%	10.2%	7.1%
Baseball	<b>8.9%</b>	6.3%	12.3%	3.5%	12.7%	9.2%	9.4%	6.1%
Jump Rope	<b>8.9%</b>	12.7%	4.9%	8.0%	10.7%	11.5%	9.1%	5.1%
Cheer/Dance	<b>8.3%</b>	15.2%	1.1%	11.4%	4.5%	6.9%	8.9%	8.2%
Swimming	<b>8.0%</b>	9.5%	6.0%	5.5%	9.3%	8.4%	9.1%	3.1%
Flag Football	<b>7.0%</b>	6.0%	8.1%	9.0%	4.1%	4.6%	8.6%	5.1%
Boxing	<b>5.2%</b>	2.5%	8.1%	4.0%	6.5%	3.1%	6.2%	4.1%
Softball	<b>5.2%</b>	8.9%	1.4%	1.5%	7.6%	0.8%	7.5%	3.1%
Track and Field	<b>4.4%</b>	5.4%	3.2%	9.5%	2.4%	2.3%	4.6%	7.1%
Tennis	<b>4.1%</b>	5.1%	2.8%	2.0%	6.5%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%
Weightlifting	<b>4.1%</b>	1.0%	7.4%	4.0%	4.5%	3.1%	4.0%	6.1%
Skateboarding	<b>3.7%</b>	3.2%	4.6%	3.0%	3.1%	3.8%	4.6%	1.0%
Karate	<b>3.3%</b>	2.9%	3.5%	2.5%	3.1%	3.8%	3.2%	2.0%
Gymnastics	<b>3.3%</b>	6.0%	0.4%	5.5%	2.4%	5.3%	3.2%	1.0%
Parkour	<b>3.1%</b>	0.6%	6.0%	4.5%	2.4%	3.1%	3.5%	2.0%



Figure 20 shows the number of sports currently played compared to the number of sports previously tried. While 90% of respondents reported having tried multiple sports in the past, only 32.0% reported currently playing more than one sport. This may indicate that young athletes try multiple sports before narrowing their commitments, but it may also indicate that, even with qualifying restrictions, respondents emphasize the “now” component of the question: “What sports do you play now? ... Note: Even with restrictions on playing sports, what sports do you consider yourself to play regularly (e.g. participate in a team or often play with friends)?” This is also supported by the high portion of respondents indicating that they are not currently playing any sports (24.7%). It is important to note that a large number of respondents took the survey right at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March, 2020. As things began to rapidly shut down, it is understandable if youth were not sure how to answer this question.

**Figure 20. Comparing sports tried to sports currently played (%).**

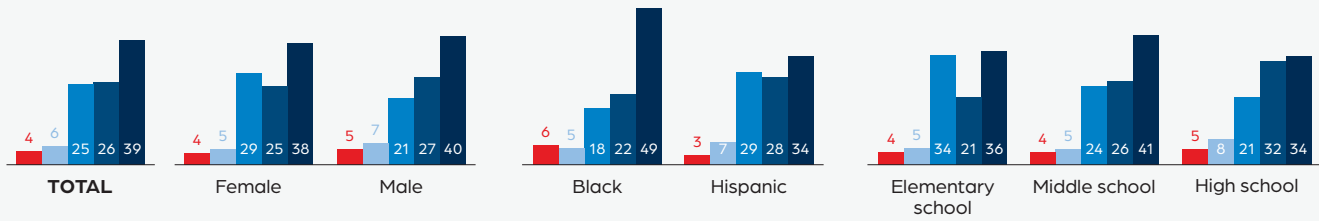


The six items related to interactions with coaches and the overall distribution of responses are presented in Figure 21. Generally, respondents indicated positive interactions with coaches on each item, with the percentage of positive (i.e., Frequently and Almost Always) responses ranging from 59.4% to 70.1% across the six items. The most notable subgroup difference is that Black respondents were more likely to indicate agreement with three items: “The coach made me feel good when I improved a skill”, “The coach encouraged me to learn new skills”, and “The coach said that all of us were important to the group’s success.”

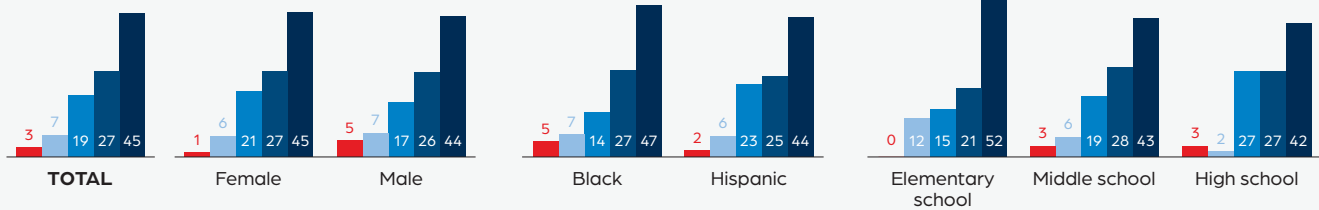
**Figure 21. Frequency of responses to coach interaction items by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level (%).**

**The coach made me feel good when I improved a skill**

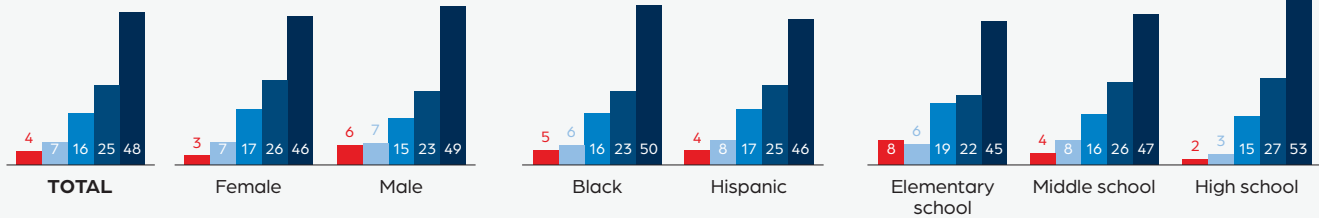
Almost never Rarely Sometimes Frequently Almost always



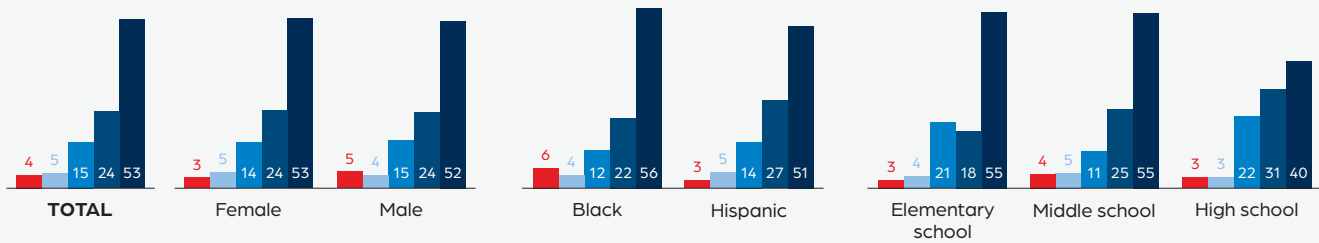
**The coach encouraged me to learn new skills**



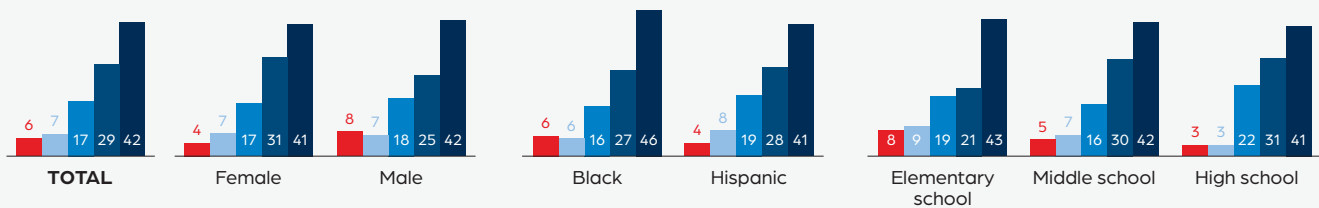
**The coach told us to help each other get better**



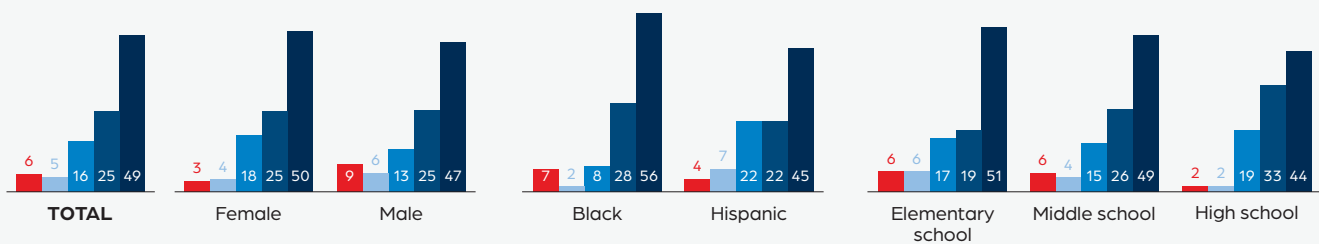
**The coach told us that trying our best was the most important thing**



**The coach said that we should help each other improve our skills**



**The coach said that all of us were important to the group's success.**



# OUTCOMES OF PARTICIPATION

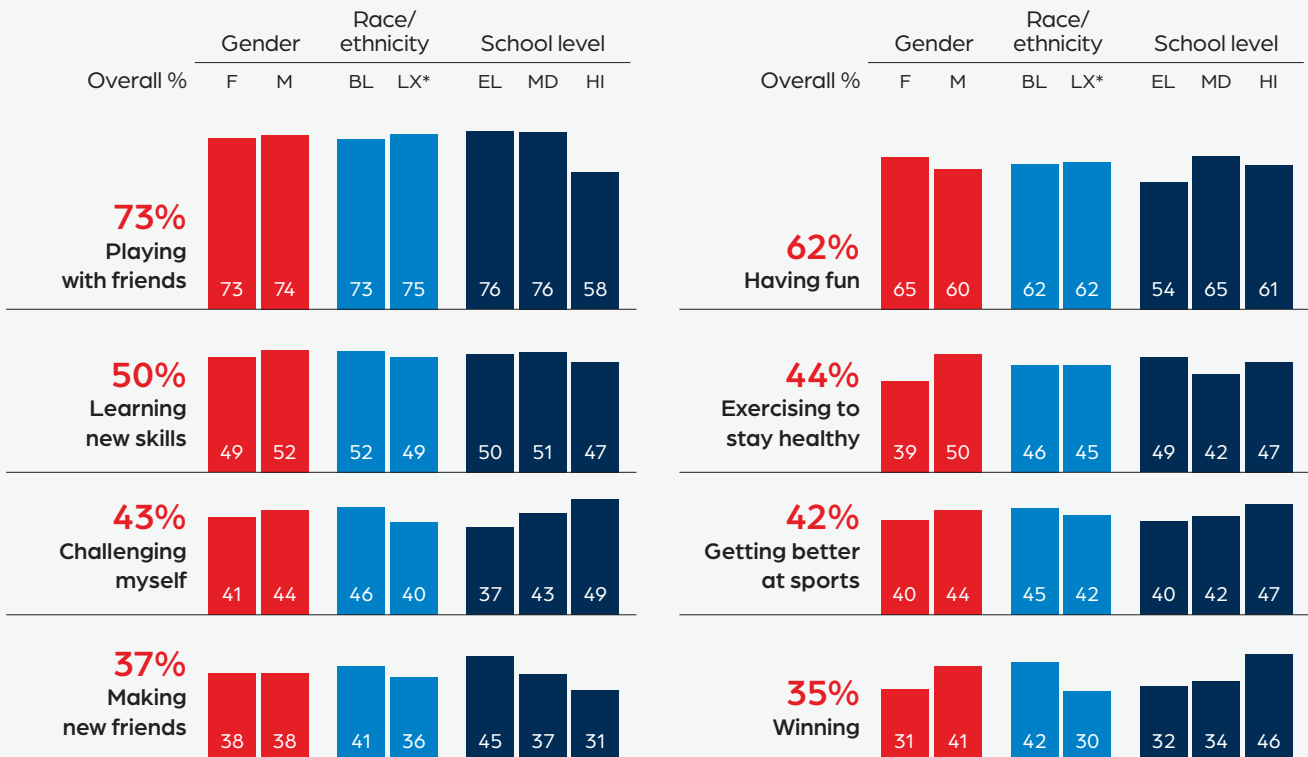
“Outcomes” refer to three items that could be viewed as results of participating in sports and physical activity. These questions refer to enjoyment of current activities, intentions for additional activities, and device screen time. The box to the right outlines the questions asked in this area, their response formats, and any recoding of variables that took place for the purposes of this report.

When asked what respondents liked most about playing sports, the “playing with friends” (72.5%) and “having fun” (61.8%) were endorsed most frequently (see Figure 22). In comparing subgroups, there are several areas where respondents differed based on gender and race/ethnicity. For example, boys were somewhat more likely to select “exercising to stay healthy” and “making a good play” than girls.

### QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1. What do you like most about playing sports? (Select all with open-ended. Frequencies for each response and open-ended responses re-coded)
2. What sports would you like to try? (Select all with open-ended. Frequencies for each response and open-ended responses re-coded)
3. How many hours do you spend each day on a device with a screen (cell phone, tablet, TV, video games, computer, etc.) for fun outside of school? (0–2 hours, 2–5 hours, 5–10 hours, 10+ hours)

**Figure 22. Frequency of responses for “What do you like most about playing sports?”**



**Figure 22 (continued). Frequency of responses for “What do you like most about playing sports?”**

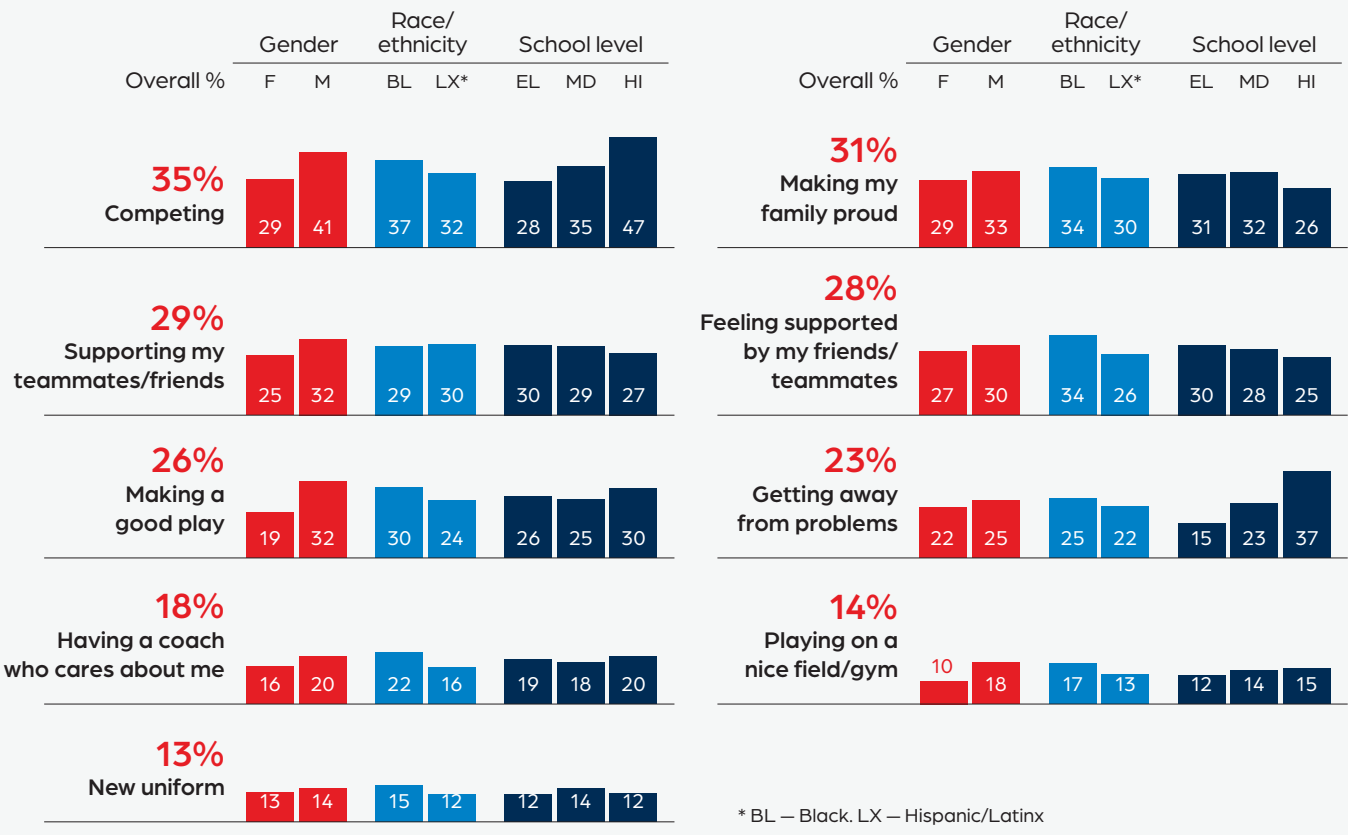


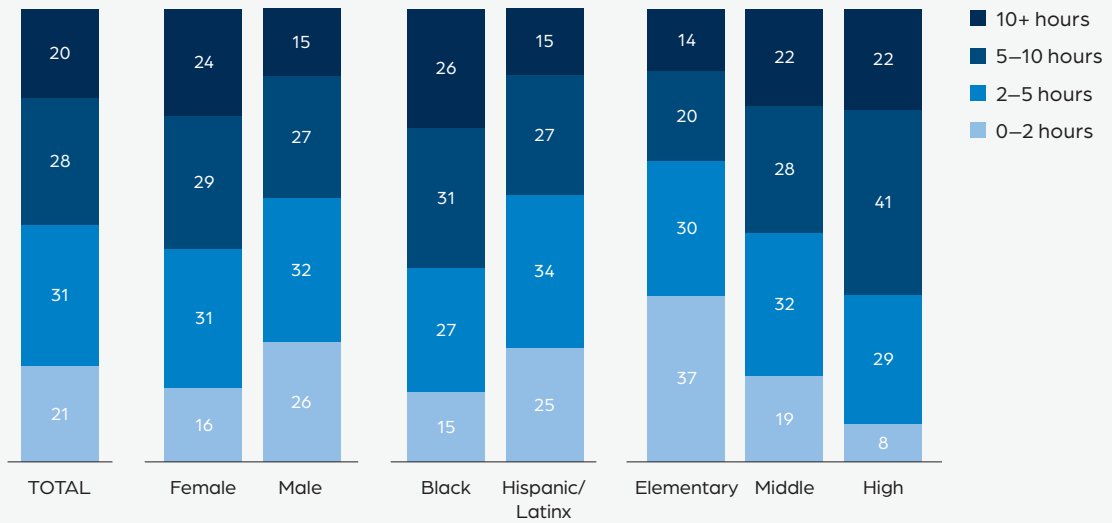
Figure 23 displays the frequency with which respondents indicated interest in trying various new sports. There are several notable differences across the subgroups in Figure 23, although an exhaustive review of all sports is beyond the scope of this review.

**Figure 23. Frequency of responses for “What sports would you like to try?”**

	Total	Gender		Race/ethnicity		School level		
		F	M	Black	Hisp/Latinx	Elem.	Middle	High
Basketball	21.1%	21.0%	22.2%	26.9%	19.2%	23.7%	18.3%	30.6%
Boxing	16.7%	15.2%	18.7%	15.4%	19.9%	14.5%	17.5%	17.3%
Karate	15.6%	15.9%	13.7%	13.9%	15.1%	20.6%	15.3%	8.2%
Volleyball	12.8%	19.4%	6.3%	8.0%	18.6%	14.5%	12.6%	12.2%
Swimming	12.8%	14.9%	10.9%	15.9%	11.3%	19.8%	12.1%	6.1%
Parkour	12.4%	10.8%	13.4%	9.5%	14.1%	9.9%	14.2%	8.2%
Tackle Football	12.2%	8.9%	16.5%	15.9%	8.9%	11.5%	9.7%	23.5%
Fencing	12.0%	7.6%	16.2%	12.4%	10.0%	8.4%	14.2%	8.2%
Gymnastics	10.6%	17.8%	2.8%	10.9%	11.3%	12.2%	11.3%	6.1%
Weightlifting	10.2%	6.3%	14.8%	9.5%	11.3%	11.5%	9.4%	11.2%
Skateboarding	10.2%	10.5%	9.9%	5.0%	13.7%	13.0%	11.3%	1.0%
Rock Climbing	10.1%	8.9%	10.9%	8.0%	12.0%	13.0%	10.2%	5.1%
Track and Field	10.1%	11.4%	8.5%	16.4%	6.9%	9.2%	9.7%	14.3%
Soccer	9.8%	8.6%	10.6%	10.4%	8.9%	14.5%	9.9%	2.0%
Figure Skating	9.4%	14.0%	4.6%	9.5%	10.0%	10.7%	11.6%	1.0%
Cheer/Step	8.9%	17.1%	0.4%	10.9%	6.9%	11.5%	8.1%	10.2%
None	8.8%	9.5%	8.1%	7.0%	10.0%	6.9%	8.1%	15.3%
Tennis	8.8%	8.6%	9.5%	4.5%	10.3%	9.9%	10.8%	1.0%
Flag Football	8.1%	7.0%	9.9%	9.0%	5.2%	5.3%	8.9%	9.2%
Baseball	7.5%	6.7%	8.5%	7.5%	6.5%	9.9%	7.0%	6.1%
Rowing	7.3%	8.3%	6.0%	6.5%	8.2%	9.2%	8.1%	2.0%
Biking	7.0%	7.0%	7.4%	5.5%	7.9%	10.7%	6.7%	4.1%
Ice Hockey	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%	6.0%	7.9%	9.9%	6.5%	3.1%
Softball	6.2%	9.5%	2.8%	4.0%	7.6%	6.1%	7.0%	3.1%
Cross Country	6.0%	5.7%	6.3%	5.0%	6.2%	6.1%	6.2%	6.1%
Free Play	5.9%	7.3%	3.9%	6.0%	4.5%	6.1%	5.4%	7.1%
Wrestling	5.9%	3.5%	8.5%	4.5%	5.2%	5.3%	7.0%	3.1%
Golf	5.4%	3.5%	7.4%	1.0%	7.9%	3.8%	7.3%	0.0%

Figure 24 displays the frequency of responses for screen time usage. The frequency of each of the four response options was distributed relatively evenly across the total sample, though there were some variations by subgroup. For example, boys were more likely to indicate 0-2 hours of screen time than girls but less likely to indicate 10+ hours of screen time. Additionally, Black respondents were more likely to indicate 10+ hours of screen time than Hispanic/Latinx respondents.

**Figure 24. Frequency of screen time by site, gender, and race/ethnicity.**



# IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Three questions were asked in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on physical activity, outlined in the box to the right.

When asked about their post-Covid intentions, the largest portion of respondents were unsure as to how their physical activity would change. While most respondents (53.0%) indicated they would either be similarly or more active, the high rate of uncertainty (32.5%) – combined with the notable portion of respondents who selected an inconclusive response to other Covid-related questions – suggests that uncertainty might be the central theme of these results.

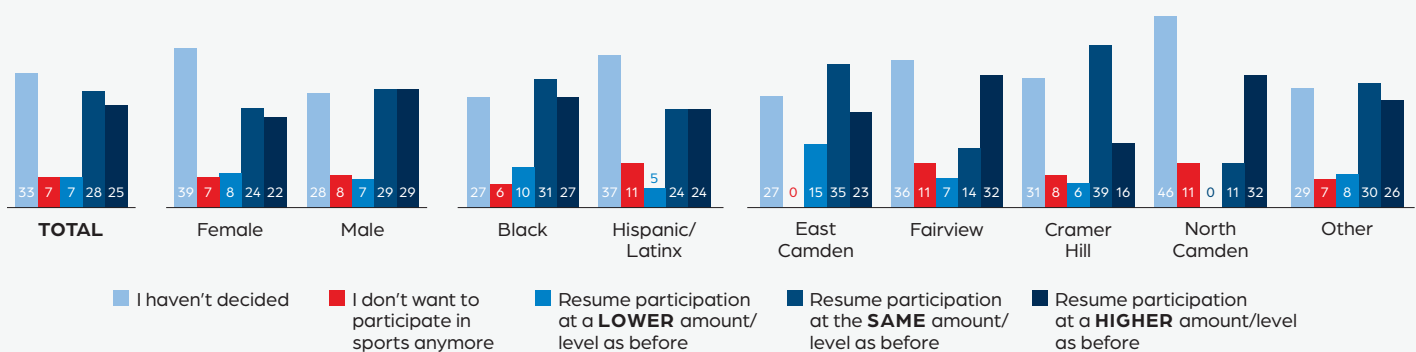
Respondents were then asked how comfortable they would be in three types of activities, following resolution of the pandemic. In each case, the majority of respondents indicate at least slight comfort returning to pickup or free play (50.5%), focused practice or drills (52.0%), and games or competition (60.2%). However, these were narrow majorities, indicating that a large portion of respondents were either unsure or indicated some level of discomfort in returning to these activities.

## QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1. What will you do when all restrictions due to COVID-19 are removed?  
(I haven't decided; I don't want to participate in sports anymore; Resume participation at a LOWER amount/level as before; Resume participation at the SAME amount/level as before; Resume participation at a HIGHER amount/level as before)
2. How comfortable will you be return to pickup or free play AFTER the health and safety issues around coronavirus are fully resolved?
3. How comfortable will you be return to focused practice or drills AFTER the health and safety issues around coronavirus are fully resolved?
4. How comfortable will you be return to games or competition AFTER the health and safety issues around coronavirus are fully resolved?

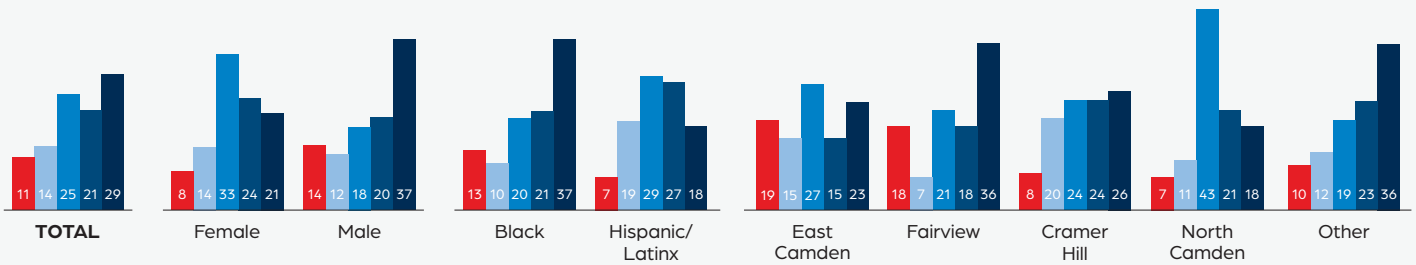
(Extremely uncomfortable; Slightly uncomfortable; Neither uncomfortable nor comfortable; Slightly comfortable; Extremely comfortable)

**Figure 25. Post-Covid intentions by gender, race/ethnicity, and neighborhood.**

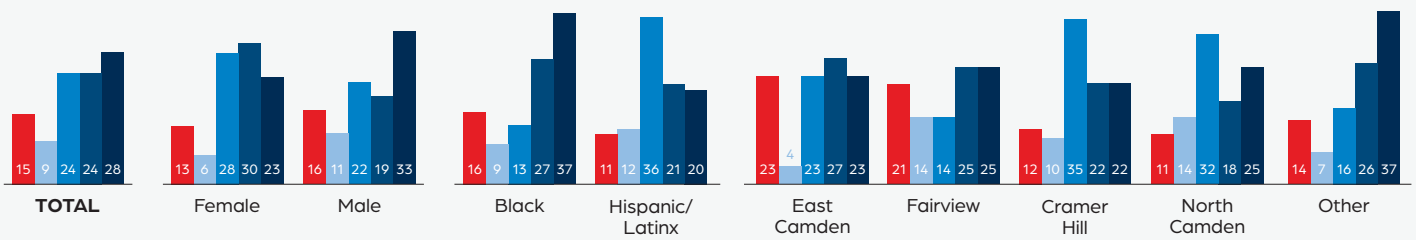


**Figure 26. Post-Covid comfort with pickup or free play by gender, race/ethnicity, and neighborhood.**

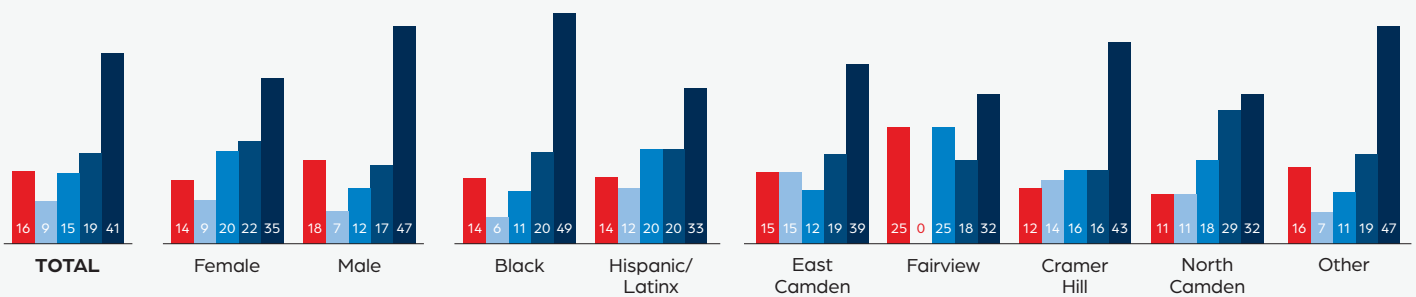
Post-Covid comfort with pickup or free play



Post-Covid comfort with focused practice



Post-Covid comfort with games or competition



■ Extremely uncomfortable    
 ■ Slightly uncomfortable    
 ■ Neither uncomfortable nor comfortable    
 ■ Slightly comfortable    
 ■ Extremely comfortable



# ENGAGEMENT WITH PARKS

Several questions were asked about engagement with parks as part of the partnership between the Aspen Institute and the Trust for Public Land focused on a shared commitment to capture youth voices around the use of park spaces. As noted previously, these six questions were only included in the survey during the first six months of survey administration. These parks questions were removed in September 2020, given the impact of Covid-19 and the inability for youth to safely visit parks, along with the conclusion of the data collection needs for the Camden Parks and Open Space Plan produced by the Trust for Public Land. As such, only a portion of the sample (407) provided responses to these questions, primarily from Camden City Schools. The box to the right contains the parks-related questions, their response format, and any recoding used to simplify data. It should be noted that one question was omitted from this analysis (“What is the name or location of the park you visit the most?”), as the response format was open-ended and could not be readily recoded within the scope of this analysis.

## QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

1. Are you allowed to go to parks? (Yes, No, I don't know.)
2. How often do you go to parks on a weekly basis? (I don't go to parks, Sometimes (once a week), A lot (more than once per week))
3. How do you feel about the amount of park space in your neighborhood? (Not enough, The right amount, Too many)
4. Who do you go to parks with? (With my parents, Friends, On my own)
5. Why do you use parks? (To play sports, To enjoy nature, To exercise, To hang out with my friends, To relax, To enjoy quiet time on my own, To cool off from the heat, Other (please specify))
6. I would use parks more often if the following were true (check all that apply) (A park was closer to my home, The parks had more events and activities, The parks had better equipment, courts, or fields, The parks were bigger, The parks had more shade, The park was cleaner, The parks were safer, The parks were easier to get to)

Figure 27 displays the results for the question, “Are you allowed to go to parks?” Overall, 81.4% of respondents indicated they were allowed, with the highest percentage of permission coming from Cramer Hill (91.7%), and the highest rate of respondents reporting they were not allowed to visit parks coming from North Camden (12.8%).

**Figure 27. “Are you allowed to go to parks?” by neighborhood.**

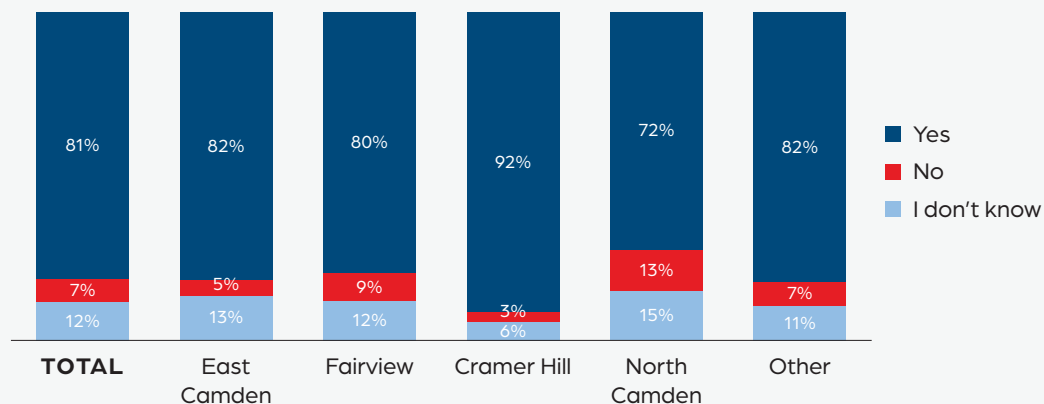
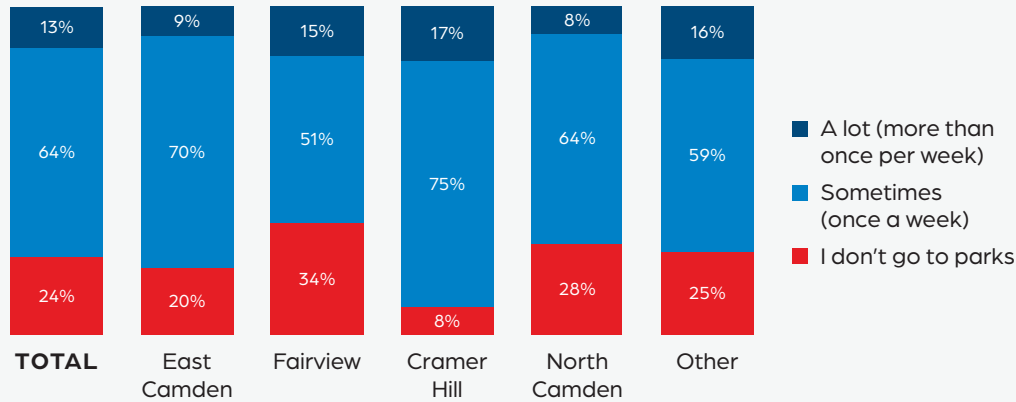


Figure 28 shows the frequency with which respondents reported visiting parks. Overall, 12.7% indicated that they go to parks more than once per week, 63.7% indicated visiting parks once weekly, and the 23.5% said they did not visit parks.

**Figure 28. “How often do you go to parks on a weekly basis?” by neighborhood.**



With regards to park availability, most respondents indicated that they felt the amount of park space in their neighborhood was sufficient (58.8% selecting “the right amount”). 35.8% of respondents indicated there were not enough parks, while only 5.4% selected “too many.” This finding varied by neighborhood, however, with residents from Fairview (40.7%) most likely to indicate an insufficient number of parks (see Figure 29).

**Figure 29. “How do you feel about the amount of park space in your neighborhood?” by neighborhood.**

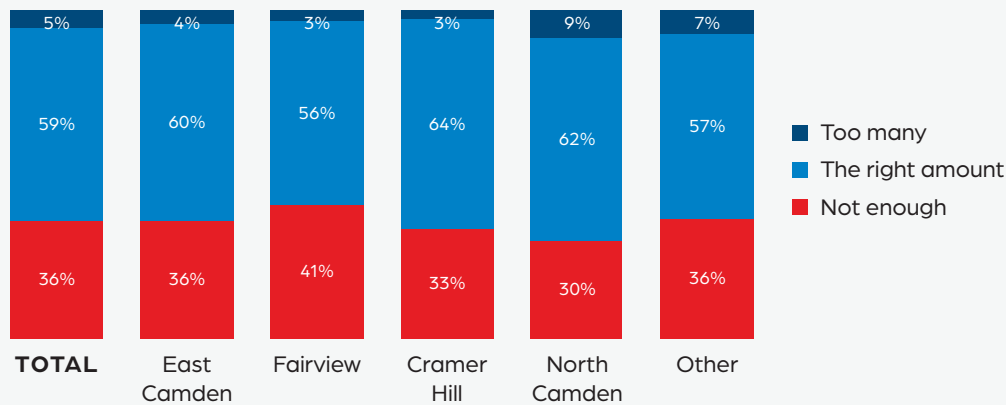


Figure 30 shows responses to the question, “Who do you go to parks with?” Most respondents indicated visiting parks with their parents (54.4%), with fewer indicating visiting with friends (37.7%) or on their own (7.8%). It should be noted that each of these response categories varied significantly by neighborhood.

**Figure 30. “Who do you go to parks with?” by neighborhood.**

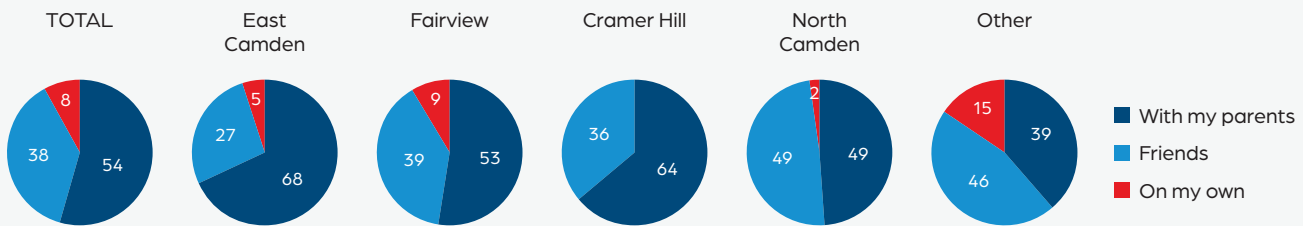
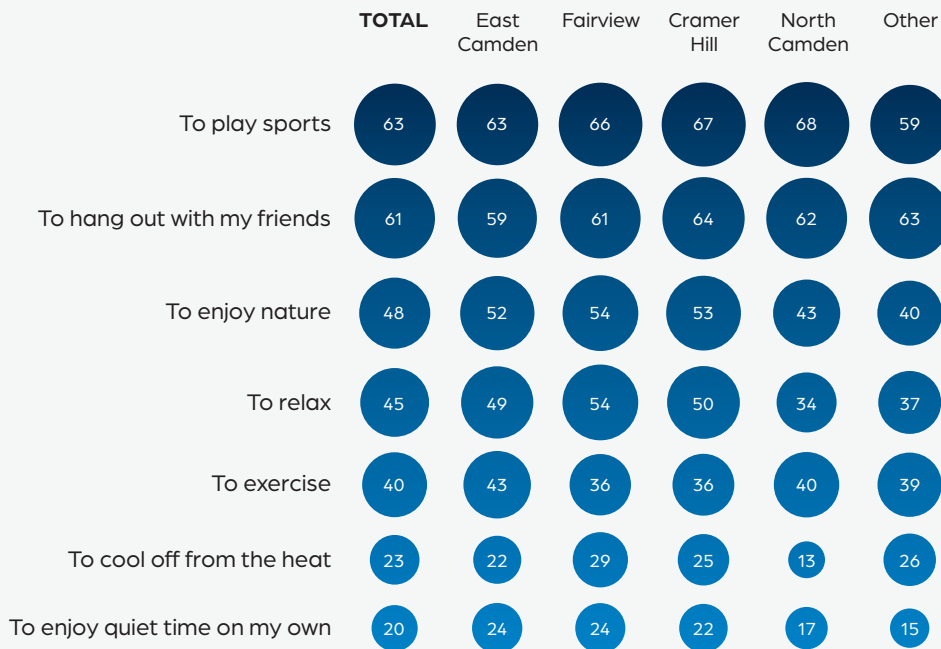


Figure 31 shows the reasons respondents use parks, disaggregated by neighborhood. Note that no responses provided as a write-in were of sufficient size or were outside of the existing reporting scheme to be included in Figure 31. Playing sports and hanging out with friends were the most popular response options overall, with around 40% of respondents endorsing those options regardless of neighborhood. “To cool off from the heat” and “to enjoy quiet time on my own” were selected least often.

**Figure 31. “Why do you use parks?” by neighborhood (%).**



Finally, Figure 32 shows conditions under which respondents would use parks more often. This table includes the percentage of all responses, regardless of previous indications of being allowed to use parks. Interestingly, most options received somewhat similar endorsement, ranging from more shade (32.4% of all responses) to increased cleanliness (49.0%). Only if “the parks were easier to get to” (22.5%) was selected somewhat less often than other responses. Each reason did have some variance by neighborhood.

**Figure 32. “I would use parks more often if the following were true...” by neighborhood.**

	Cleaner	Closer to my home	Had better facilities	More events	Were safer	Were bigger	More shade	Easier Access
East Camden	54.2%	55.6%	51.4%	50.0%	46.5%	43.7%	33.1%	23.9%
Fairview	49.2%	44.1%	42.4%	45.8%	45.8%	28.8%	30.5%	27.1%
Cramer Hill	41.7%	52.8%	47.2%	38.9%	47.2%	27.8%	27.8%	19.4%
North Camden	48.9%	55.3%	42.6%	38.3%	42.6%	34.0%	31.9%	27.7%
Other	45.2%	39.5%	41.9%	46.0%	41.9%	28.2%	33.9%	17.7%
Total	49.0%	48.8%	45.8%	45.8%	44.6%	34.3%	32.4%	22.5%

## CONCLUSIONS

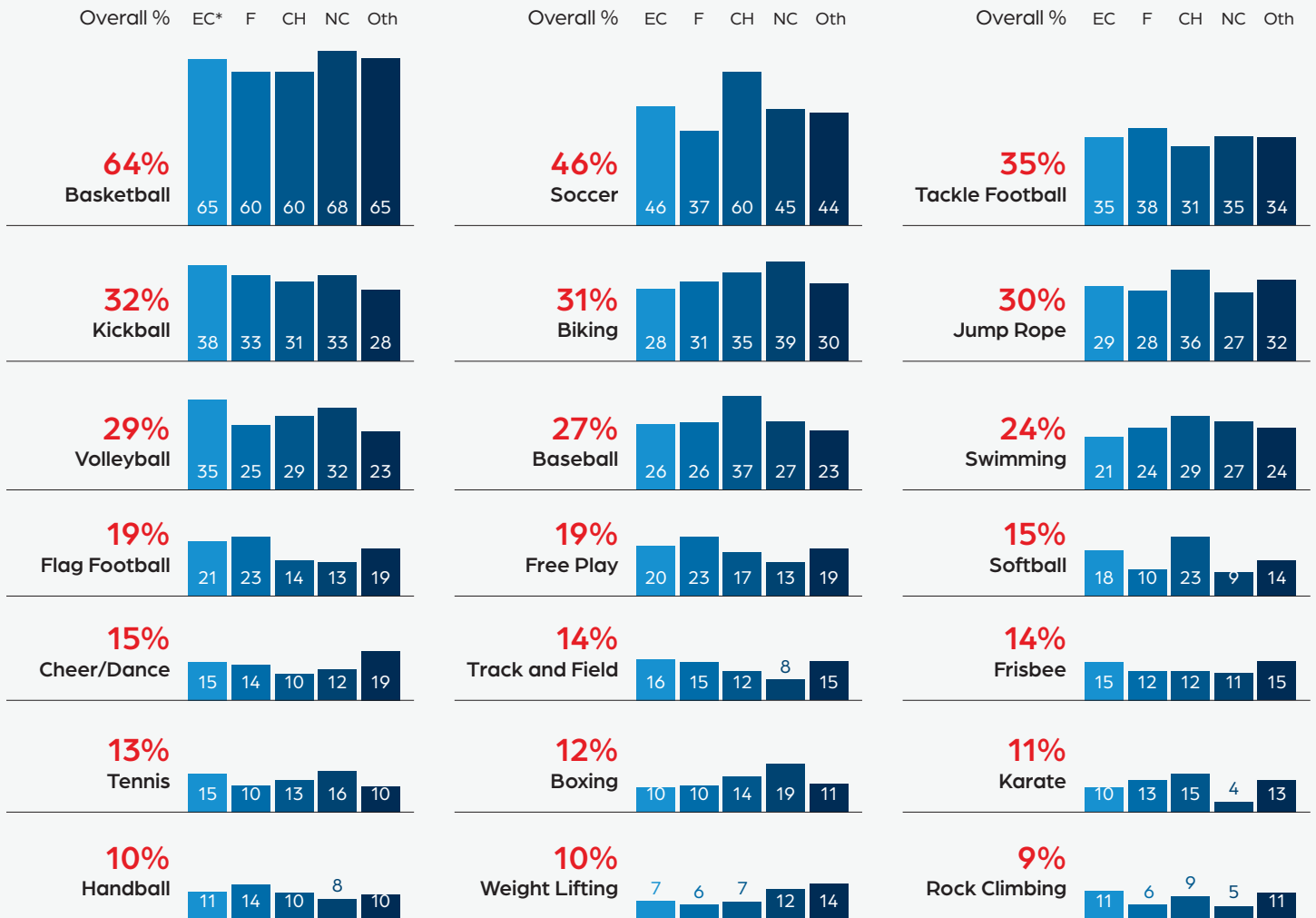
Overall, the survey results showed a positive climate for sports and physical activity among Camden area youths, with high levels of activity and frequent engagement in sports for many survey respondents. However, there are currently only a limited number of sports offered and respondents have indicated an interest in expanding beyond these existing opportunities. Girls especially currently exhibit lower rates of participation than boys. Additionally, while adults do appear to be interested and encouraging regarding physical activity, coach interactions could be more positive. Among issues that may hinder physical activity, many survey respondents indicated a perceived lack of safety in their neighborhood at times. Respondents also listed time availability as their biggest barrier to play. Lastly, some data suggested – not surprisingly – that their involvement in sports was negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

While there are some differences among survey responses based on subgroup analyses, the data showed more similarity among racial/ethnic and gender identity than differences. When differences did exist, they suggested a quantitative, rather than qualitative, difference in sports and physical activity. That is, while the proportion of responses to some questions varied, these results did not suggest a wholly different engagement with sports and activity based on respondent characteristics. However, there is room to improve, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a need to increase access to high-quality and diverse athletic experiences for all children in Camden, regardless of race or gender.

# ANCILLARY ANALYSIS: NEIGHBORHOOD

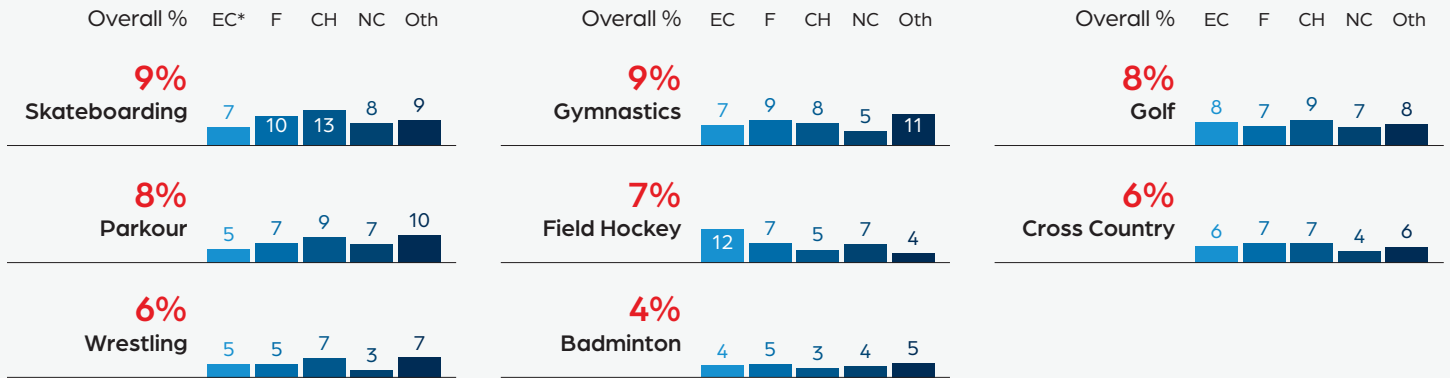
Additional ancillary analyses were requested in order to examine results by neighborhood. As shown in Figure 3, only four neighborhoods yielded sufficient sample sizes to be reported separately, with the remaining responses reported in an “Other” category. The results for all questions examined in this report are contained in Figures 33–44. While there are some differences of considerable magnitude when comparing the highest neighborhood to the lowest, no over-arching themes or trends were observed. These tables should be examined with more specific inquiry in order to extract potential findings relevant to neighborhood-based interventions.

**Figure 33. Sports experience by neighborhood.**



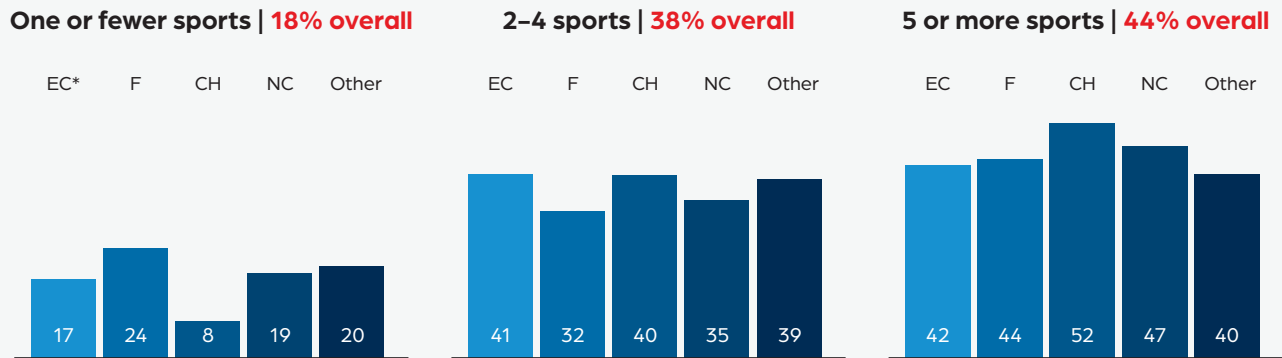
\* EC – East Camden; F – Fairview; CH – Cramer Hill; NC – North Camden; Oth – Other.

**Figure 33 continued. Sports experience by neighborhood.**



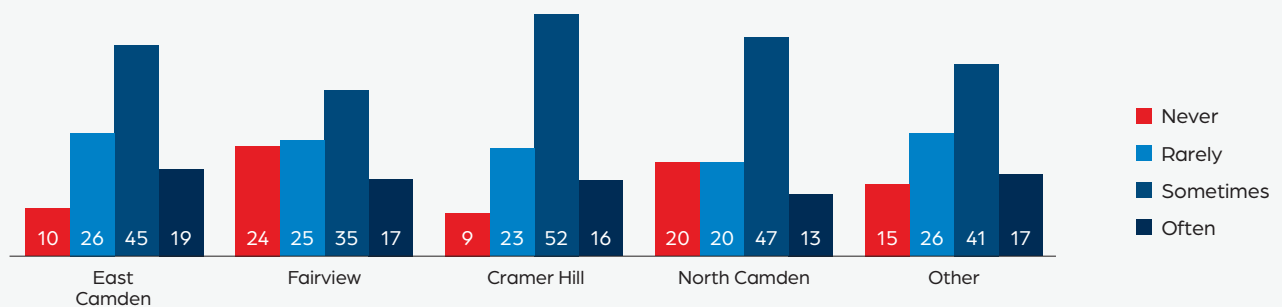
\* EC – East Camden; F – Fairview; CH – Cramer Hill; NC – North Camden; Oth – Other.

**Figure 34. Number of sports played by neighborhood.**

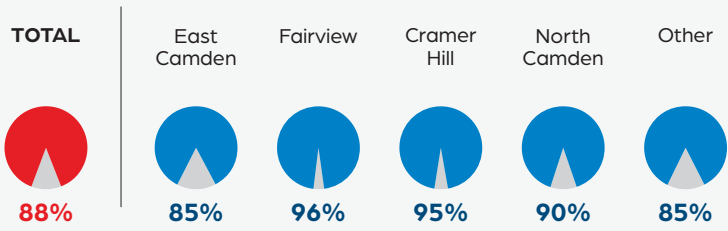


\* EC – East Camden; F – Fairview; CH – Cramer Hill; NC – North Camden.

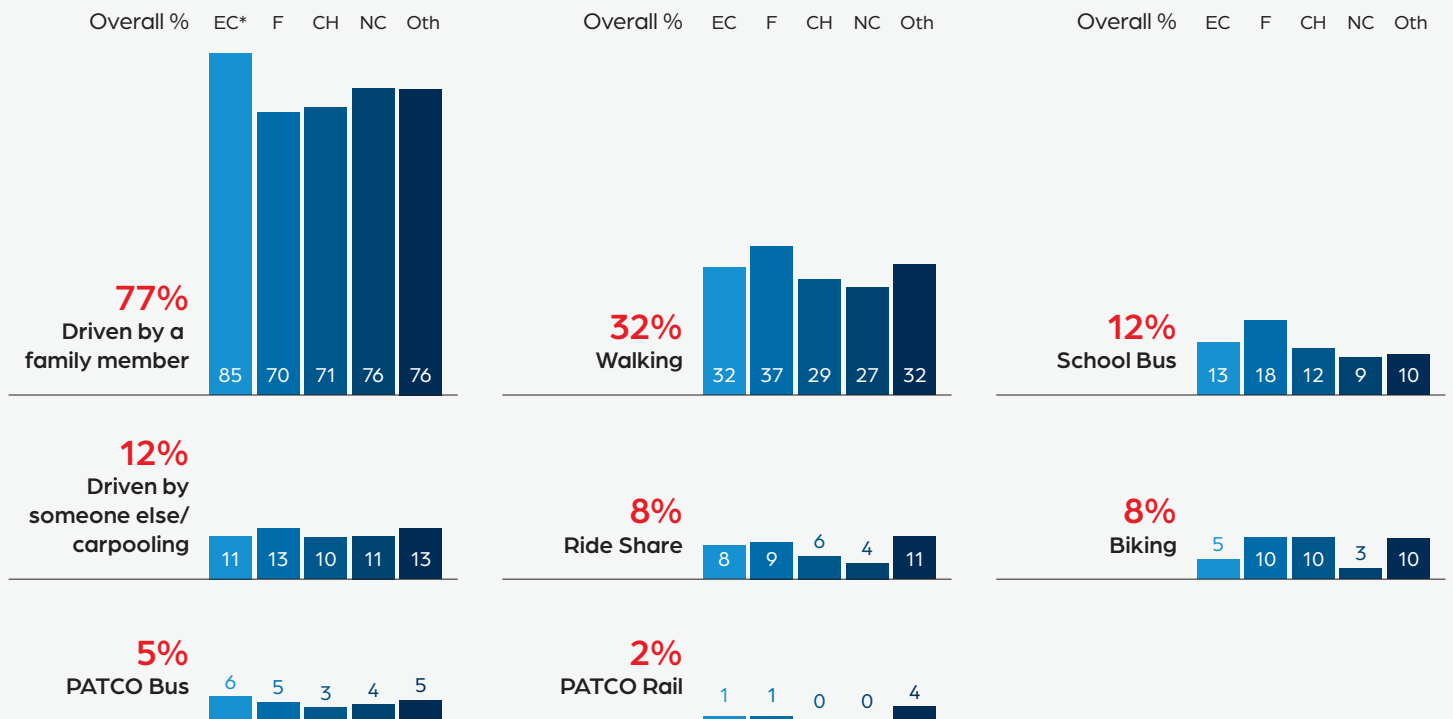
**Figure 35. “How often does an adult ask what you want to do in gym class, practice, or when you are playing?” by neighborhood.**



**Figure 36. Percentage agreement with adult encouragement of physical activity by neighborhood.**



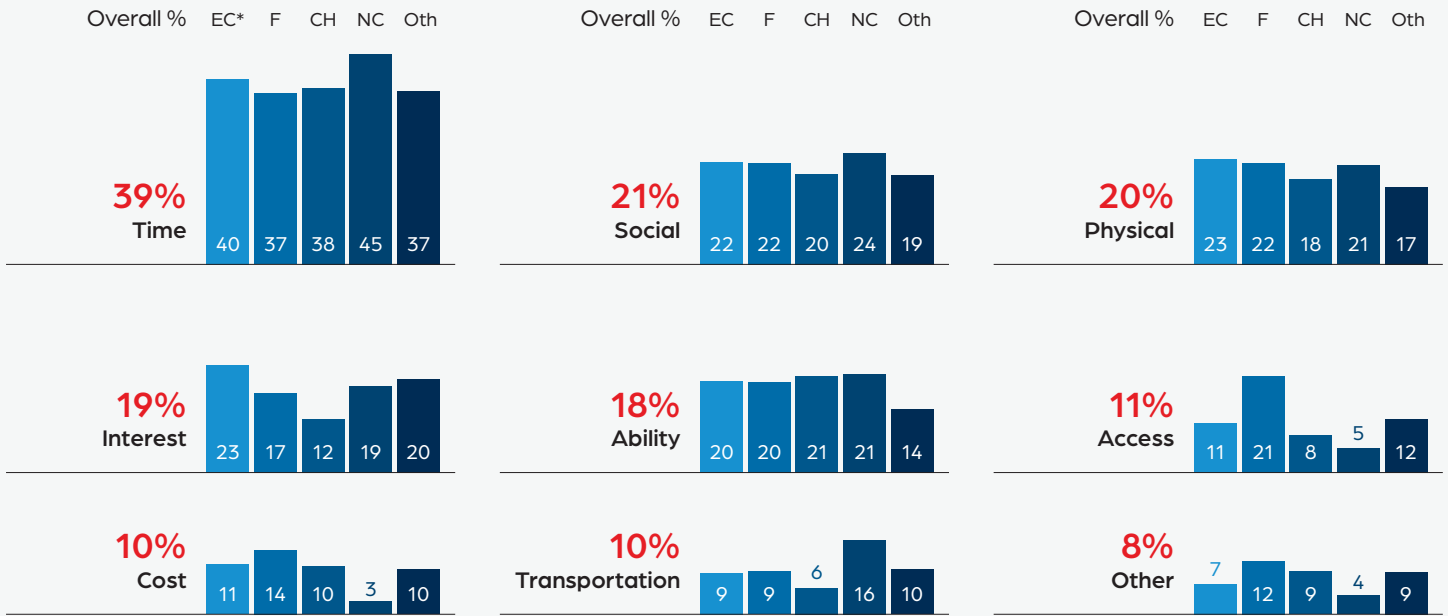
**Figure 37. Transportation by neighborhood.**



\* EC – East Camden; F – Fairview; CH – Cramer Hill; NC – North Camden; Oth – Other.

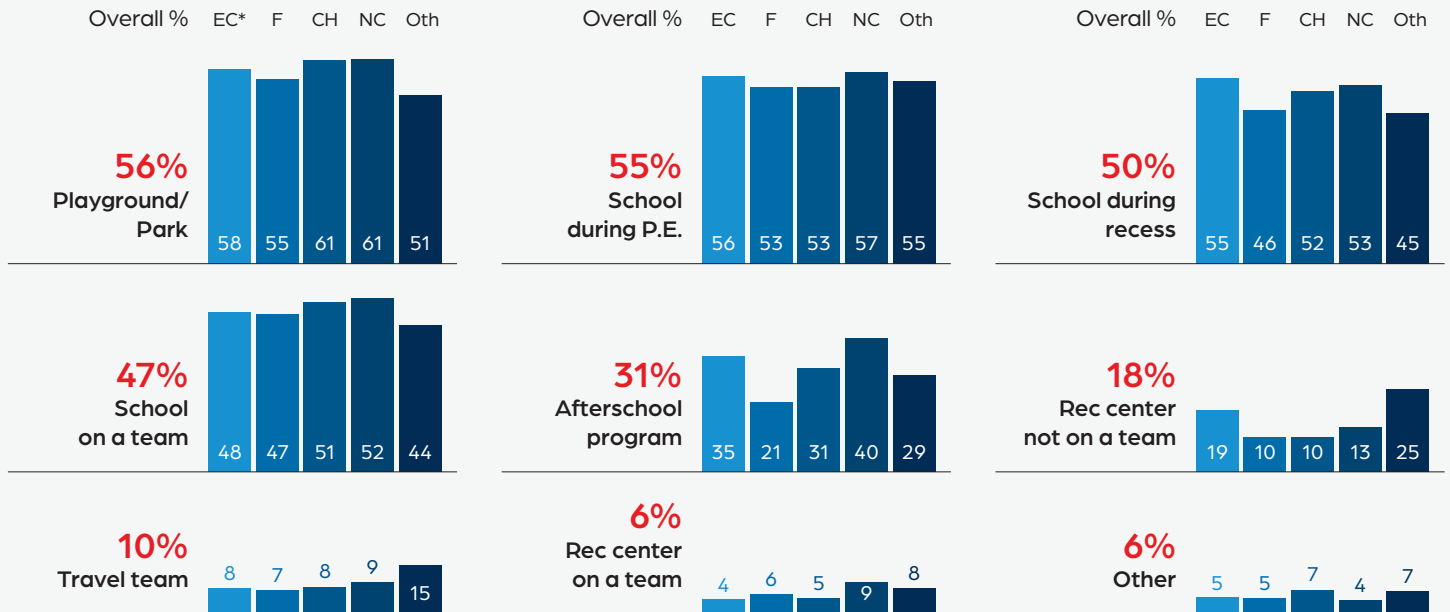


**Figure 38. Barriers to sports and physical activity by neighborhood.**



\* EC – East Camden; F – Fairview; CH – Cramer Hill; NC – North Camden; Oth – Other.

**Figure 39. Sports by location by neighborhood.**

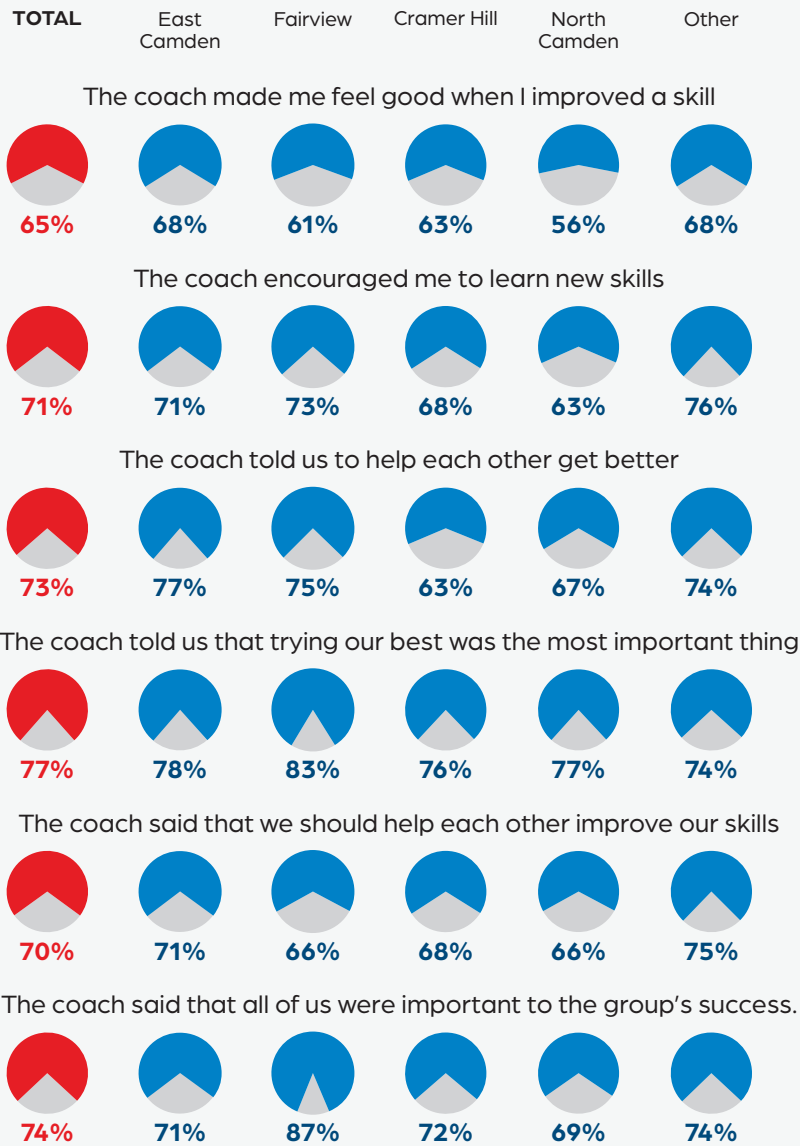


\* EC – East Camden; F – Fairview; CH – Cramer Hill; NC – North Camden; Oth – Other.

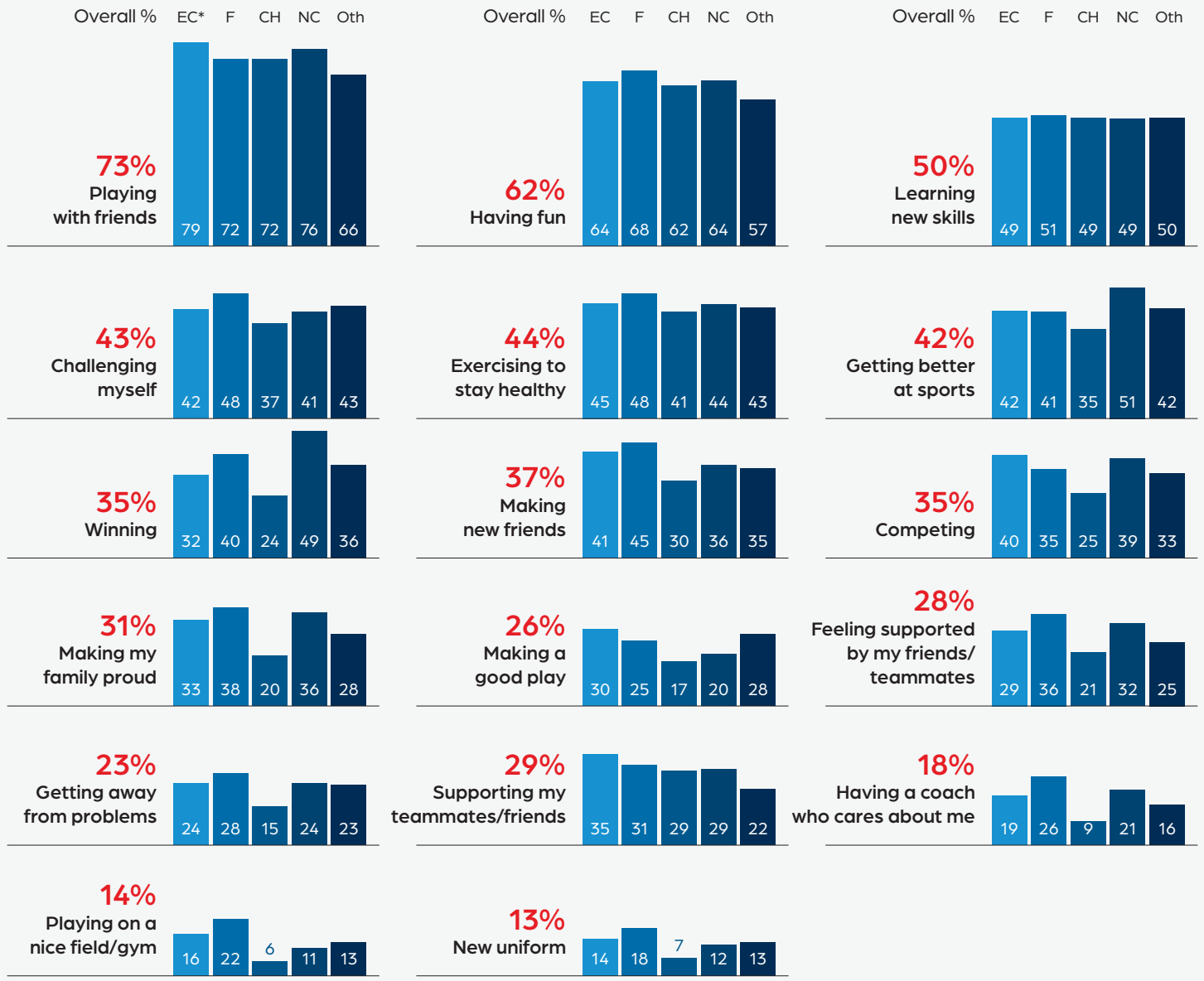
**Figure 40. Current sports played by neighborhood.**

	Total	East Camden	Fairview	Cramer Hill	North Camden	Other
Basketball	<b>38.4%</b>	44.6%	36.8%	46.0%	30.7%	33.3%
Tackle Football	<b>23.1%</b>	25.6%	28.7%	23.0%	18.7%	20.2%
Soccer	<b>19.7%</b>	26.2%	10.3%	23.0%	20.0%	16.7%
Biking	<b>14.0%</b>	15.5%	10.3%	20.7%	14.7%	11.1%
Volleyball	<b>11.2%</b>	15.5%	8.0%	11.5%	13.3%	8.1%
Free Play	<b>10.2%</b>	13.7%	13.8%	5.7%	6.7%	9.1%
Kickball	<b>10.1%</b>	13.7%	5.7%	13.8%	9.3%	7.6%
Baseball	<b>8.9%</b>	11.3%	5.7%	13.8%	9.3%	6.1%
Jump Rope	<b>8.9%</b>	10.1%	9.2%	11.5%	9.3%	6.6%
Cheer/Dance	<b>8.3%</b>	7.7%	9.2%	4.6%	4.0%	11.6%
Swimming	<b>8.0%</b>	8.9%	5.7%	9.2%	6.7%	8.1%
Flag Football	<b>7.0%</b>	11.9%	5.7%	8.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Boxing	<b>5.2%</b>	6.0%	3.4%	3.4%	10.7%	4.0%
Softball	<b>5.2%</b>	7.1%	1.1%	10.3%	4.0%	3.5%
Track and Field	<b>4.4%</b>	7.7%	5.7%	2.3%	2.7%	2.5%
Tennis	<b>4.1%</b>	5.4%	1.1%	6.9%	2.7%	3.5%
Weight Lifting	<b>4.1%</b>	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%	2.7%	5.6%
Skateboarding	<b>3.7%</b>	2.4%	1.1%	5.7%	2.7%	5.6%
Karate	<b>3.3%</b>	2.4%	3.4%	2.3%	1.3%	5.1%
Gymnastics	<b>3.3%</b>	3.6%	2.3%	2.3%	2.7%	4.0%
Parkour	<b>3.1%</b>	3.0%	2.3%	5.7%	1.3%	3.0%

**Figure 41. Agreement with coach interaction items by neighborhood.**



**Figure 42. “What do you like most about playing sports?” by neighborhood.**

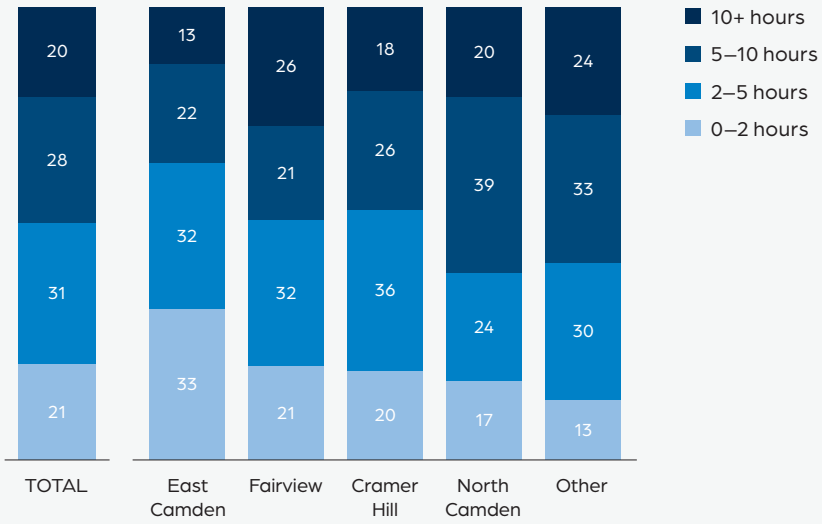


\* EC — East Camden; F — Fairview; CH — Cramer Hill; NC — North Camden; Oth — Other.

**Figure 43. “What sports would you like to try?” by neighborhood.**

	Total	East Camden	Fairview	Cramer Hill	North Camden	Other
Basketball	<b>21.1%</b>	22.0%	27.6%	16.1%	22.7%	19.2%
Boxing	<b>16.7%</b>	17.3%	14.9%	14.9%	17.3%	17.7%
Karate	<b>15.6%</b>	14.9%	19.5%	14.9%	14.7%	15.2%
Volleyball	<b>12.8%</b>	17.9%	18.4%	13.8%	9.3%	7.1%
Swimming	<b>12.8%</b>	13.7%	14.9%	11.5%	17.3%	10.1%
Parkour	<b>12.4%</b>	14.3%	3.4%	16.1%	10.7%	13.6%
Tackle Football	<b>12.2%</b>	13.7%	16.1%	5.7%	10.7%	12.6%
Fencing	<b>12.0%</b>	9.5%	8.0%	14.9%	16.0%	13.1%
Gymnastics	<b>10.6%</b>	11.3%	12.6%	12.6%	9.3%	8.6%
Weightlifting	<b>10.2%</b>	8.9%	10.3%	12.6%	9.3%	10.6%
Skateboarding	<b>10.2%</b>	10.7%	11.5%	8.0%	9.3%	10.6%
Rock Climbing	<b>10.1%</b>	14.9%	12.6%	8.0%	8.0%	6.6%
Track and Field	<b>10.1%</b>	8.9%	12.6%	6.9%	8.0%	12.1%
Soccer	<b>9.8%</b>	10.1%	13.8%	11.5%	8.0%	7.6%
Figure Skating	<b>9.4%</b>	8.9%	6.9%	13.8%	6.7%	10.1%
Cheer/Step	<b>8.9%</b>	8.9%	9.2%	5.7%	6.7%	11.1%
None	<b>8.8%</b>	7.1%	9.2%	8.0%	8.0%	10.6%
Tennis	<b>8.8%</b>	11.3%	5.7%	13.8%	9.3%	5.6%
Flag Football	<b>8.1%</b>	7.1%	11.5%	8.0%	5.3%	8.6%
Baseball	<b>7.5%</b>	4.2%	8.0%	9.2%	6.7%	9.6%
Rowing	<b>7.3%</b>	6.0%	5.7%	9.2%	6.7%	8.6%
Biking	<b>7.0%</b>	8.9%	3.4%	9.2%	8.0%	5.6%
Ice Hockey	<b>6.7%</b>	6.0%	6.9%	9.2%	6.7%	6.1%
Softball	<b>6.2%</b>	7.1%	5.7%	6.9%	8.0%	4.5%
Cross Country	<b>6.0%</b>	7.7%	2.3%	5.7%	6.7%	6.1%
Free Play	<b>5.9%</b>	6.0%	5.7%	4.6%	4.0%	7.1%
Wrestling	<b>5.9%</b>	7.1%	5.7%	4.6%	5.3%	5.6%
Golf	<b>5.4%</b>	7.1%	4.6%	6.9%	6.7%	3.0%

**Figure 44. Frequency of screen time use by neighborhood (%).**



## ANCILLARY ANALYSIS: BASKETBALL

Additional ancillary analyses were requested in relation to individuals playing basketball. In order to establish a relevant sample, the question related to current sports played (“What sports do you play now?”) was used. It should be noted that, because of the large number of respondents indicating no sports currently played (likely due to Covid-19 restrictions), this may not accurately identify all those who consistently play basketball. Thus, results should be interpreted with caution.

In total, 236 respondents (123 male, 108 female, and 5 not providing gender identification; 20.0%, 17.6%, and 0.8% of all respondents, respectively) indicated currently playing basketball. For these analyses, the male and female basketball players were compared to two other “control” groups of both females (n=207,33.7%) and males (n=161, 26.2%) who had not played basketball. Comparisons were made based on the 10 variables, listed below, seen as relevant to these analyses.

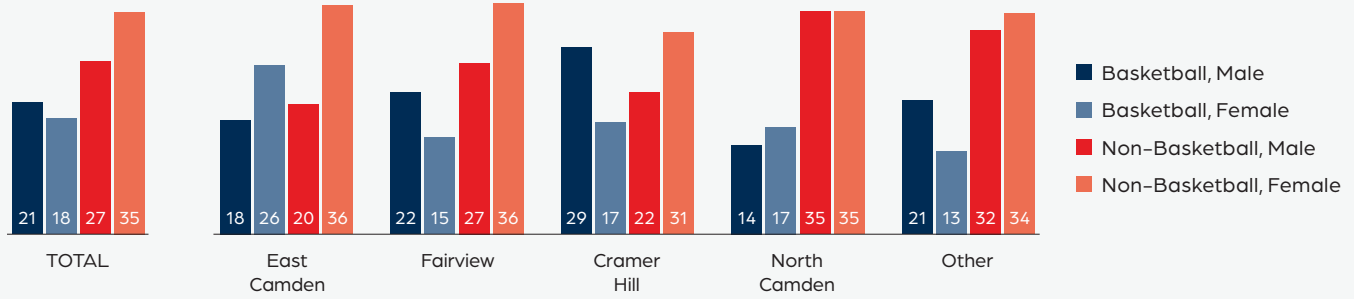
### VARIABLES USED TO COMPARE BASKETBALL PLAYERS

1. Neighborhood
2. Grade
3. Race/ethnicity
4. Adult inquiry
5. Adult encouragement
6. Transportation
7. Barriers
8. Coach interactions
9. Like most about sports
10. Device usage

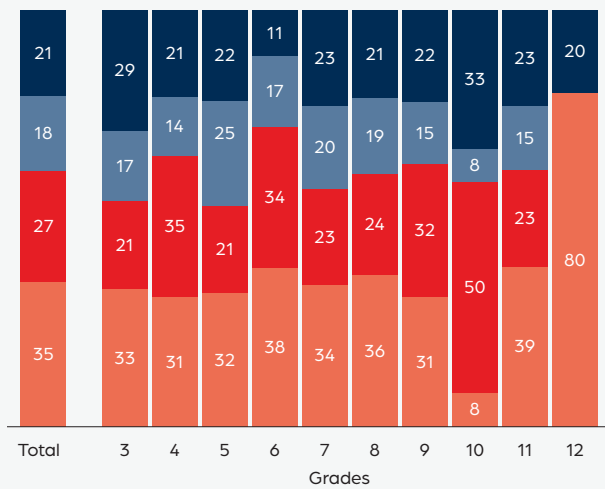
Figures 45–52 show the results for these analyses, presenting a large amount of data relevant to further understanding the experiences of basketball players. The most noteworthy differences are listed below:

- Girls who did not play basketball were more likely to identify as Hispanic/Latinx and less likely to identify as Black than other groups (see Figure 45).
- Social issues (e.g., items coded under social include “My friends don’t play sports”, “Sports are too serious” or “I don’t feel welcome in athletic activities”) were a much lesser barrier to sports for males who played basketball (5.7%) compared to those males who did not play basketball (24.2%). A similar difference was seen for interest-related barriers (see Figure 49).
- Both boys and girls who play basketball were more likely to list “exercising to stay healthy” as something they liked most about playing sports (see Figure 51).

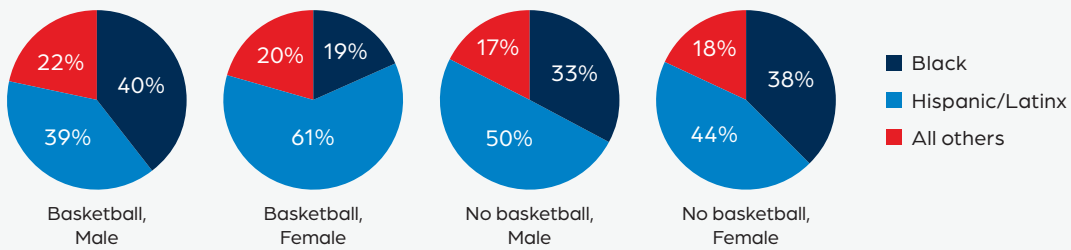
**Figure 45. Basketball players by neighborhood (%).**



**Figure 46. Distribution of basketball players by grade (%).**



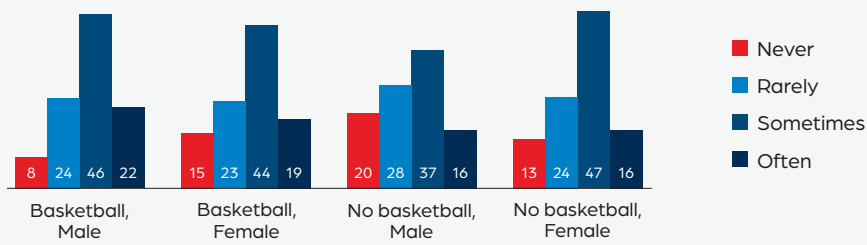
**Figure 47. Basketball players by race/ethnicity.**



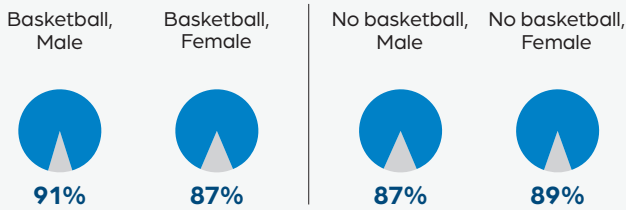
Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.



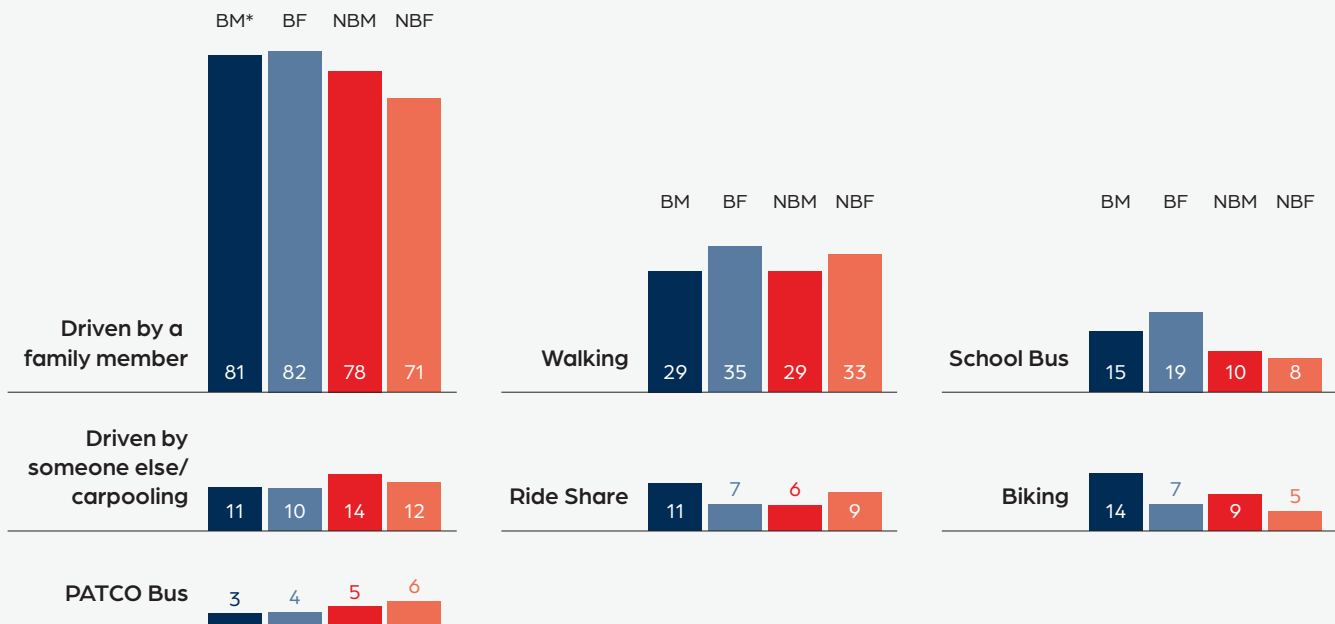
**Figure 48. “How often does an adult ask what you want to do in gym class, practice, or when you are playing?” by basketball experience (%).**



**Figure 49. Adult encouragement by basketball experience.**

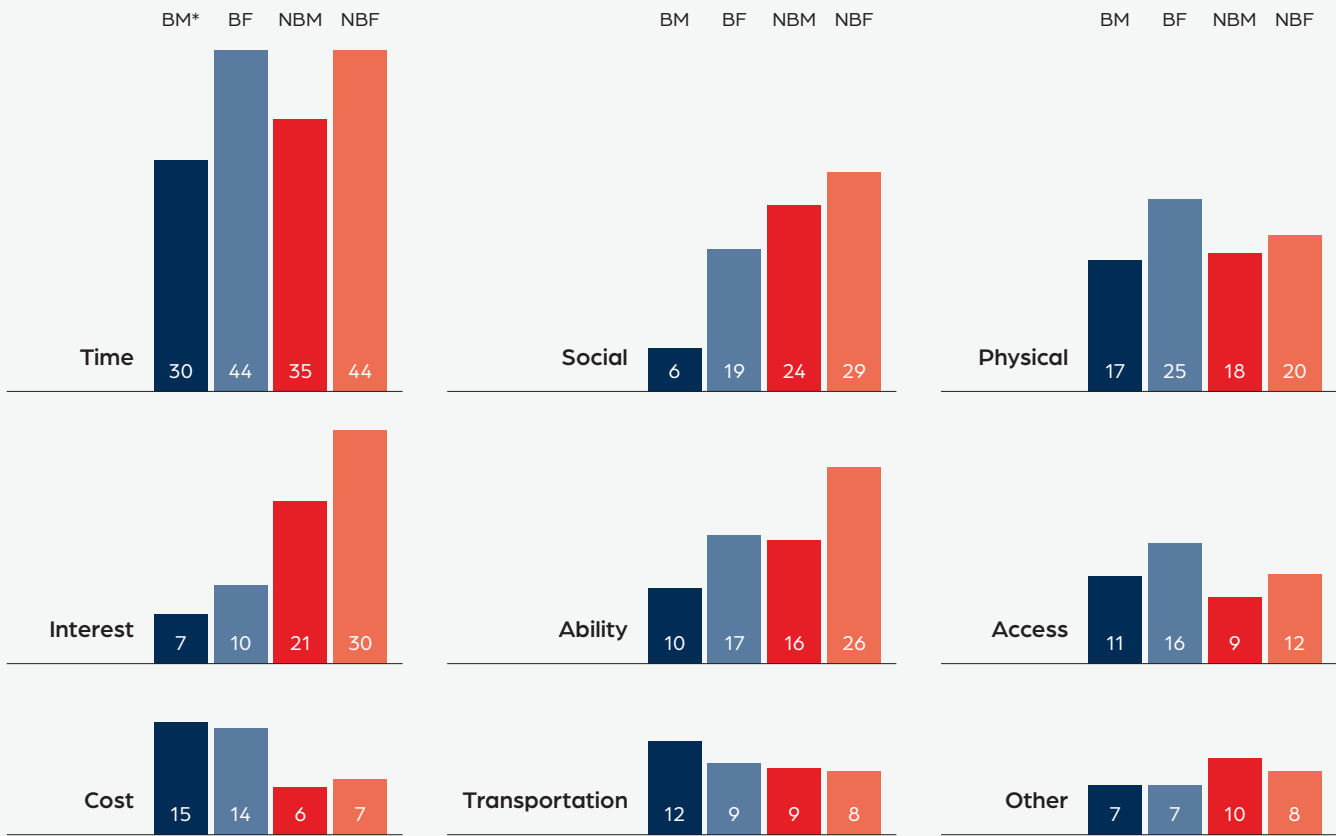


**Figure 50. Transportation by basketball experience (%).**



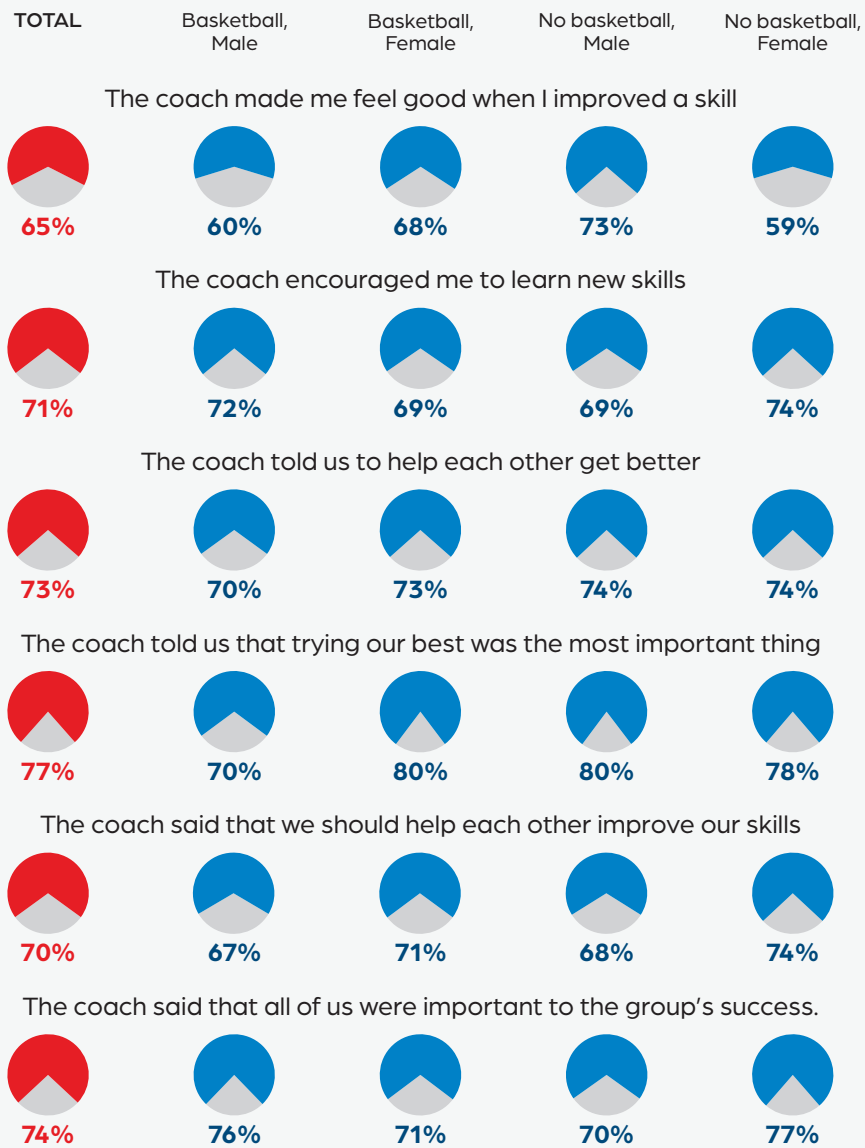
\* BM – Basketball, Male; BF – Basketball, Female; NBM – No basketball, Male; NBF – No basketball, Female.

**Figure 51. Barriers to sport by basketball experience (%).**



\* BM – Basketball, Male; BF – Basketball, Female; NBM – No basketball, Male; NBF – No basketball, Female.

**Figure 52. Coach interactions by basketball experience.**

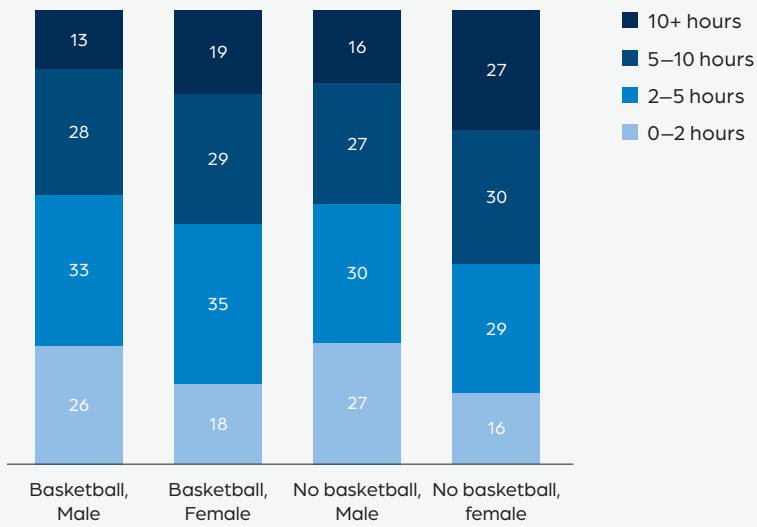


**Figure 53. “What do you like most about playing sports?” by basketball experience (%).**



\* BM – Basketball, Male; BF – Basketball, Female; NBM – No basketball, Male; NBF – No basketball, Female.

**Figure 54. Frequency of screen time use by basketball experience (%).**



# APPENDIX

Figure 1.1. Sports experience (played more than one time) by gender, race/ethnicity, and school level.

	Total	Female	Male	Black	Hispanic/Latinx	Elementary	Middle	High
Basketball	64%	56%	73%	66%	60%	63%	63%	72%
Soccer	46%	40%	53%	35%	52%	60%	47%	26%
Tackle Football	35%	15%	56%	44%	28%	34%	34%	40%
Kickball	32%	30%	36%	31%	31%	34%	34%	26%
Biking	31%	32%	30%	30%	33%	37%	32%	20%
Jump Rope	30%	36%	24%	28%	30%	41%	29%	26%
Volleyball	29%	33%	24%	19%	36%	30%	31%	20%
Baseball	27%	15%	40%	21%	29%	25%	28%	26%
Swimming	24%	27%	22%	19%	25%	29%	25%	14%
Flag Football	19%	14%	24%	24%	13%	12%	20%	26%
Free Play	19%	20%	17%	21%	16%	21%	20%	13%
Softball	15%	21%	10%	12%	18%	12%	18%	12%
Cheer/Dance	15%	28%	1%	19%	10%	16%	15%	17%
Track and Field	14%	16%	12%	20%	9%	5%	15%	25%
Frisbee	14%	13%	14%	12%	12%	23%	13%	5%
Tennis	13%	11%	15%	9%	16%	12%	13%	11%
Boxing	12%	9%	16%	13%	11%	12%	12%	11%
Karate	11%	9%	12%	12%	10%	15%	11%	8%
Handball	10%	9%	12%	10%	10%	11%	12%	7%
Weight Lifting	10%	6%	14%	12%	7%	10%	9%	12%
Rock Climbing	9%	11%	7%	9%	9%	14%	9%	5%
Skateboarding	9%	9%	9%	10%	8%	10%	9%	7%
Gymnastics	9%	15%	2%	13%	7%	12%	8%	4%
Golf	8%	6%	10%	5%	9%	12%	8%	4%
Parkour	8%	4%	12%	9%	5%	8%	8%	6%
Field Hockey	7%	8%	6%	6%	9%	8%	8%	3%
Cross Country	6%	7%	5%	6%	6%	2%	7%	8%
Wrestling	6%	3%	9%	8%	3%	9%	5%	5%
Badminton	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Street Hockey	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%	2%
Rowing	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%



