

Introduction

For our project, we chose to research whether the cost of participating in sports is a factor people consider and if it discourages people from participating. We surveyed people from age 12 to 19 in our school to get their opinions. We all participate in sports with our club, school and some with county, therefore we acknowledge that the costs can build up, especially when people are involved with many sports.

Methodology and Assumptions

To collect our data, we used Microsoft Forms and sent it to every year group in the school. We avoided leading questions and tried to give students as much freedom to fill in their own answers as possible. As we found that more first years filled in our survey than any of the older year groups. Before sending out the survey we assumed that horse riding and gymnastics would be the most expensive and one that people quit. We also thought that camogie and football would be the most common sport people play.

Survey

In our survey, we included a number of questions, some closed questions, multiple choice and some open ended. We got 116 responses. The survey was sent to all students in our school. The responses were from girls ages 12-19 living in the southwest of Ireland. We thought it was important to collect responses from a number of different ages to collect the most accurate data. The questions we included in our survey were:

1. What year are you in? (Closed question)
2. Do you play sports? (Open ended)
3. If yes, what sports do you play? (Open ended)
4. Have you ever considered the cost of your sport? (Closed question)
5. Do you know anyone that has quit their sports due to the cost? (Closed question)
6. If yes, what sport did they quit? (Open ended)
7. How much does your cost a year? (Multiple choice)
8. What makes your sport expensive? (Open ended)
9. What sport do you think is the most expensive? (Open ended)

Issues

An issue we came across when sorting our data was that we did not use equal intervals in our Q7, how much does your sport cost a year? This was an issue as when we went to find the mid-interval values, it made it more difficult. As many of our questions were open ended and everyone answered in their own words, this made it difficult for the software to categorise the data. To solve this issue, we went through each answer and counted the number of each answer to ensure everyone's responses were accounted for.

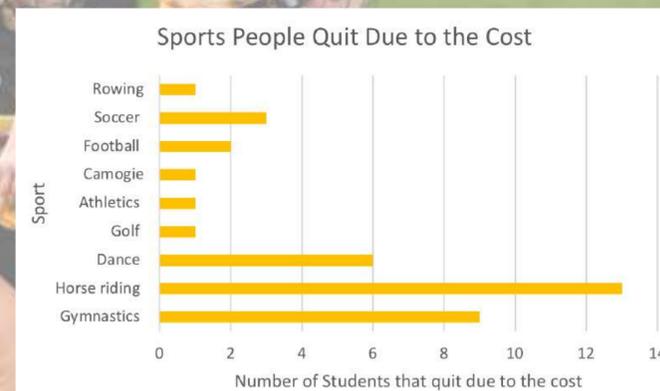
Does the cost of playing sports discourage people from playing?

Analysis

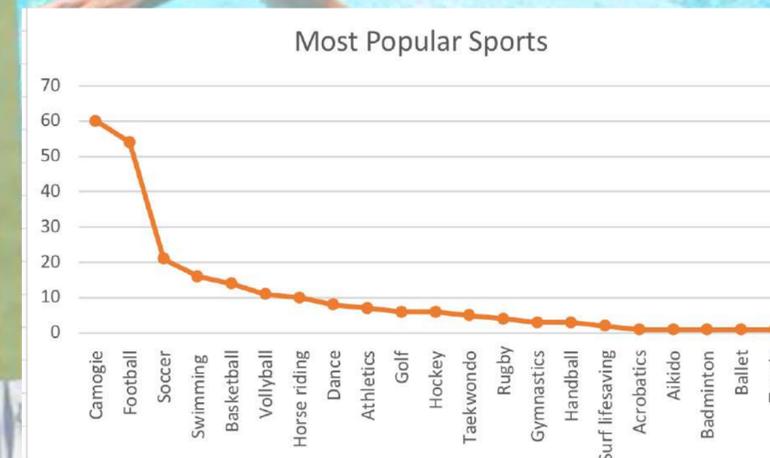
From our results, we learned that our assumptions were correct and horse riding and gymnastics were the most expensive sports people participate in. We analysed our results and matched the results of who said they do horse riding and gymnastics with their estimated cost they spend each year on the sport. We discovered that the most common answers for these sports were €900-€1250 and €1250+ for horse riding and gymnastics. We also found that the most popular sports were camogie and football and the most common answer to the amount they spend each year were €200-€450, from this information, we think that camogie and football correlate with these answers making them cheaper than many other sports. After finding the mid-interval values, we found the mode and the median answers to the cost of people's sports per year. We found out that on average, students in our school spend between €200-€450 a year on their sport. We discovered that majority of students that answered our survey spend between €50-€200, which is the mode.

We asked students what sports they play, the most common was camogie (60 answered), Gaelic football (54 answered) and soccer (21 answered), therefore we think that camogie and Gaelic football are the cheapest sports that people in our school take part in.

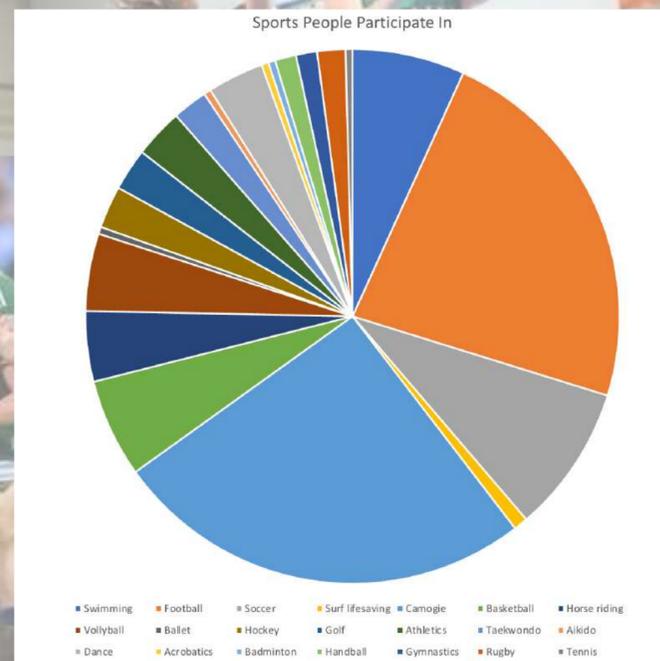
Results



Our survey showed that our assumptions were correct and that horse riding and gymnastics were the sports that people quit most often.



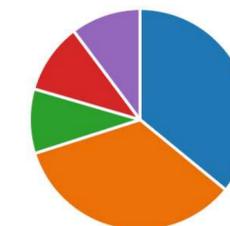
This graph represents the popularity of sports that students in our schools participate in.



Here, the graph represents the different sports that students in our school participate in.

The Amount People Spend on their Sport Annually

€50-200	42
€200-450	40
€450-900	11
€900-1250	12
€1250+	12



This shows the amount of money students in our school spend on their sports each year.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we found this project very interesting while learning a lot about if the cost affects people's input in participating in sports. We found that some of our assumptions were correct, that gymnastics and horse riding were the most expensive sports and ones that people quit most often. We were shocked to learn a lot of people spend over €900 on sports every year. If we were to further our studies, we would like to compare results to a mixed or all boys school to see if there is a similar fall off in participation due to cost or does the extra funding that boys sports traditionally receive mitigate the effects of cost being a factor in playing sports. To keep people participating in sports, we recommend that clubs do more fundraising, that way they could reduce the cost of gear for players or reduce the cost of registration. We also think that clubs could offer a system where people can donate their old equipment that they have grown out of etc that other club members can purchase at a low price or at no charge.