

CHARLESTOWN

Play Across Boston

Active Facts



Figure 1: Types of Programs in Charlestown Offering Sports and Physical Activities to Youth (1999-2000)

Type of Program	Number in Charlestown	Number in Boston	% in Charlestown
Non-Profit	8	155	5%
For Profit	0	18	0%
Boston Public School	2	35	6%
Non-public School	0	15	0%
Total	10²	223	4%

Play Across Boston (PAB) is a project of the Harvard Prevention Research Center at the Harvard School of Public Health undertaken in collaboration with Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society and a broad-based Community Advisory Board. PAB has worked since 1999 to describe youth sports and physical activity programs in Boston. Due to limited documentation of the local challenges to physical activity and sport promotion, **Play Across Boston** conducted a comprehensive community-based assessment of physical activity resources for Boston youth. In addition, we collected data concerning the presence and condition of publicly accessible parks, facilities and playgrounds in 12 Boston neighborhoods¹. For more detailed information, please refer to the full Play Across Boston Report (www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc).

As we work with our partners toward creating greater opportunities, **Play Across Boston** data provide a solid basis upon which to achieve our goals of improving community health and reducing disparities in physical activity access and participation. This **Active Facts** outlines the types of recreational programs and facilities available to **Charlestown** youth.

Youth Sports and Recreational Activities in Charlestown

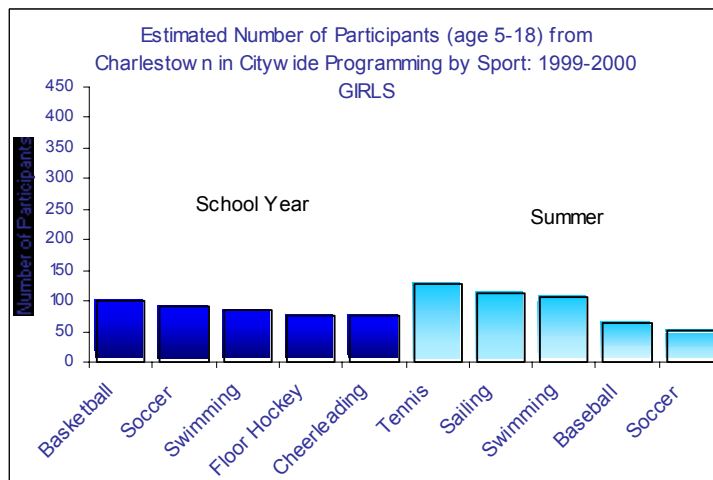
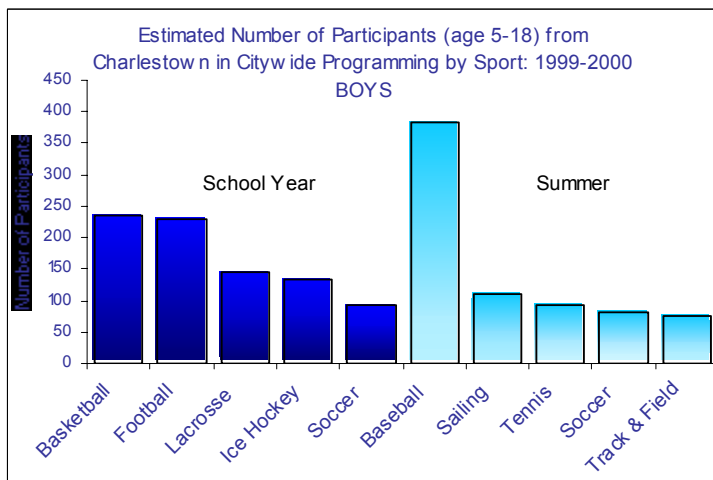
In 1999-2000, 10 different sports and physical activity programs² based in Charlestown responded to the **Play Across Boston** survey. Of those 10 programs, many were non-profit and nearly half did not charge a participation fee. Of the non-profit programs, most either offered a single sport or were league sports, comprised of

multiple teams playing a single sport. Figure 1 describes the types of programs available in Charlestown and Boston overall.

As for participation in citywide programs, Charlestown youth represent about 4% of all youth sports and physical activity participants in Boston, yet comprise 2% of Boston's 95,251 5-18 year olds. This means that Charlestown youth participate at a higher level than youth from other neighborhoods. Of the many sports and activities offered throughout the city, basketball appears to be the favorite for boys during the school year and baseball appears to be the favorite during the summer. Girls also favored basketball during the school year and preferred tennis during the summer. In Charlestown, boys have a greater level of sports participation than girls.

¹ Data for some Boston neighborhoods were combined for the purposes of the Play Across Boston Report

² Includes only those programs who responded to the Play Across Boston Survey



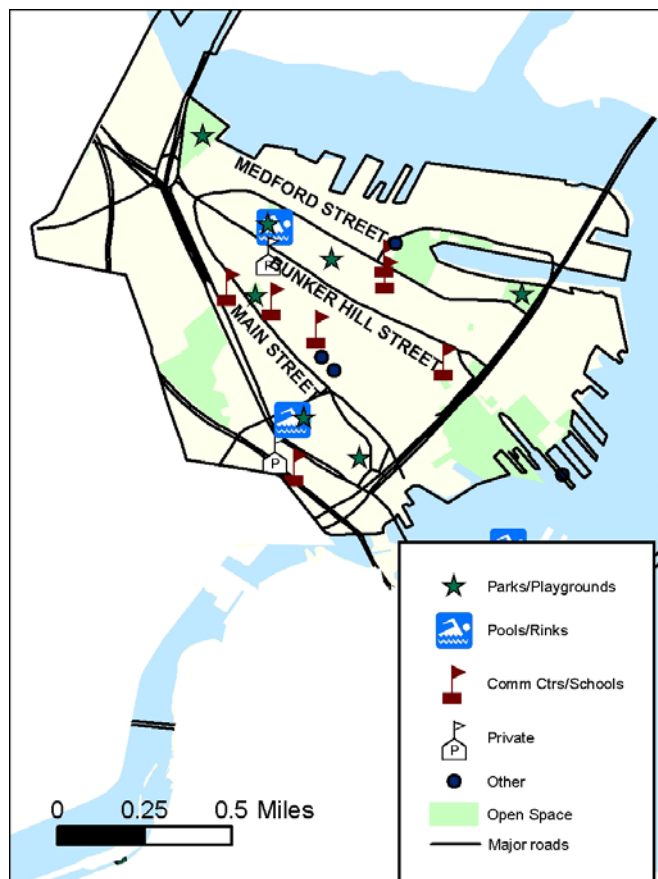
Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic Facilities in Charlestown

Making the shift from once being the home of Boston's historic Naval Yard and now becoming an increasingly residential neighborhood, Charlestown is filled with many parks, playgrounds and other facilities for youth sports and recreation. In 2000-2001, PAB surveyed 11 different public complexes in Charlestown to document the types of facilities and amenities available. These sites included 7 parks and playgrounds operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, 1 rink operated by the former MDC, currently the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), 1 Community Center and 1 Boston Community School (community center housed within Boston Public Schools). In total, these complexes housed 7 playgrounds, 7 handball courts, 6 basketball courts, 4 tennis courts, 3 pools, 1 track, 1 ice rink and more! In addition, Charlestown has several private facilities which host youth sports activities, including the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club. Assessments of playground quality indicate that Charlestown playgrounds ranked high.

Charlestown has...

- 7 Playgrounds
 - 7 Handball courts
 - 6 Basketball courts
- ... and more!

Recreational Facilities in Charlestown



Future Directions in Charlestown

Charlestown ranks high out of the 12 Boston neighborhoods¹ in its facilities per youth ratio, indicating that relative to other neighborhoods in Boston, in Charlestown there are more facilities available per 100 youth. Additionally, Charlestown ranks high in participation rates in sports and physical activity programs. Thus, in the future, due to its overall high rankings, Play Across Boston recommends that Charlestown continue to serve as a model for other neighborhoods and work to maintain its resources for youth, while increasing opportunities for girls.

Public Recreational Facilities in Charlestown

	Charlestown	Boston	% in Charlestown
Overall Recreational Complexes	11	230	5%
Ball Fields			
Baseball	1	36	3%
Softball	5	69	7%
Little League	1	46	2%
Football	1	11	9%
Soccer	1	33	3%
Track	1	8	13%
Ball Courts			
Tennis	4	92	4%
Basketball (Full)	6	155	4%
Street Hockey	3	17	18%
Handball	7	18	39%
Other Recreational Facility Types			
Pool	3	28	11%
Ice Rink	1	13	8%
Other Recreational Facility	2	35	6%
Playgrounds			
Playgrounds	7	155	5%
Schoolyard Initiative Sites	1	29	3%
Total	44	809	5%

Information for this publication was obtained from Play Across Boston, Census 2000, and the City of Boston's website.

For more information on programs available in your neighborhood, please contact:
 Boston Centers for Youth & Families
 617-635-4920
www.cityofboston/bcyf
 or
 The Mayor's Youthline
 617-635-2240
www.bostonyouthzone.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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