



18. Sports and Recreation Services

WHAT IS THE SERVICE?

The goal of Sport and Recreation Services is to enable the delivery of quality programs and facility services to enhance quality of life and encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. It is a developer of citizen and community participation.

The three main types of programming are:

- ▶ Registered programs – residents register/commit to participate in structured activities such as swimming lessons, dance or fitness classes or day camps. In some municipalities, this also includes house leagues (baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, swimming, etc.)
- ▶ Drop-in programs – residents are not required to register and are able to participate in structured or unstructured sports and recreation activities such as public swimming or skating, basketball, fitness or open access to gyms. Residents also have the option of obtaining memberships to access these activities
- ▶ Permitted programs – residents and/or community organizations obtain permits or short-term rental of sports and recreation facilities such as sports fields, meeting rooms and arenas (e.g., a hockey league renting ice)

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES?

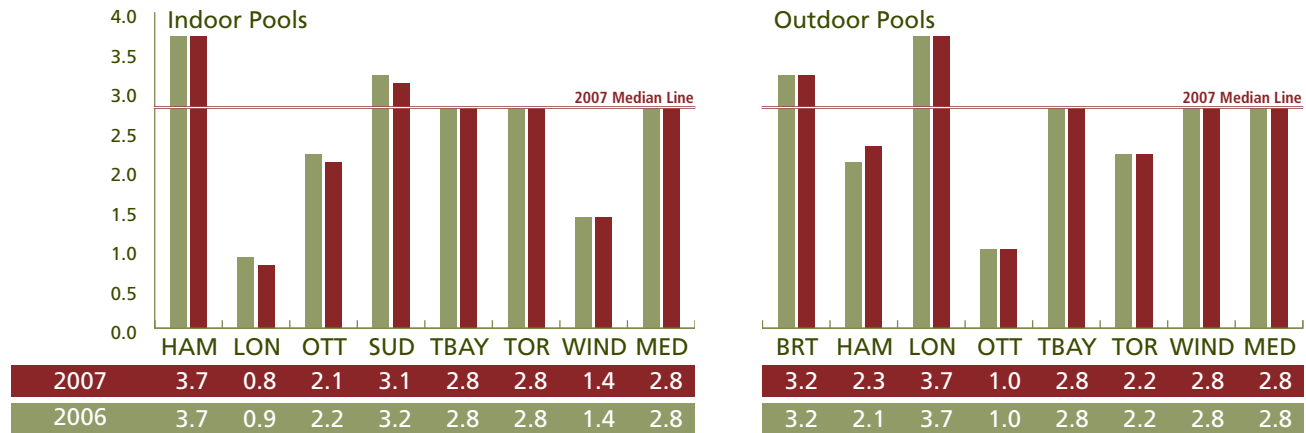
Municipalities are tasked with achieving high levels of participation in order to promote healthy lifestyles. Some of the major delivery issues facing Sports and Recreation Services include:

- ▶ Accessibility - programs and services need to be geographically accessible to a varying degree to all municipal residents
- ▶ Aging infrastructure and facilities - the older the facility, the higher the operating cost
- ▶ Funding – competition for capital dollars between facility 'state of good repair' and 'new growth' requirements
- ▶ Affordability - user fee levels that balance funding needs and the ability to pay
- ▶ Programming - multiple service demands from different age, ethnic and cultural groups, special interest or sport groups with limited resources
- ▶ Equity - differences in service levels and standards for both the urban and rural areas in municipalities

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

How many indoor/outdoor pool locations with municipal influence are there?

FIG.18.1 Number of Operational Indoor and Outdoor Pool Locations per 100,000 Population

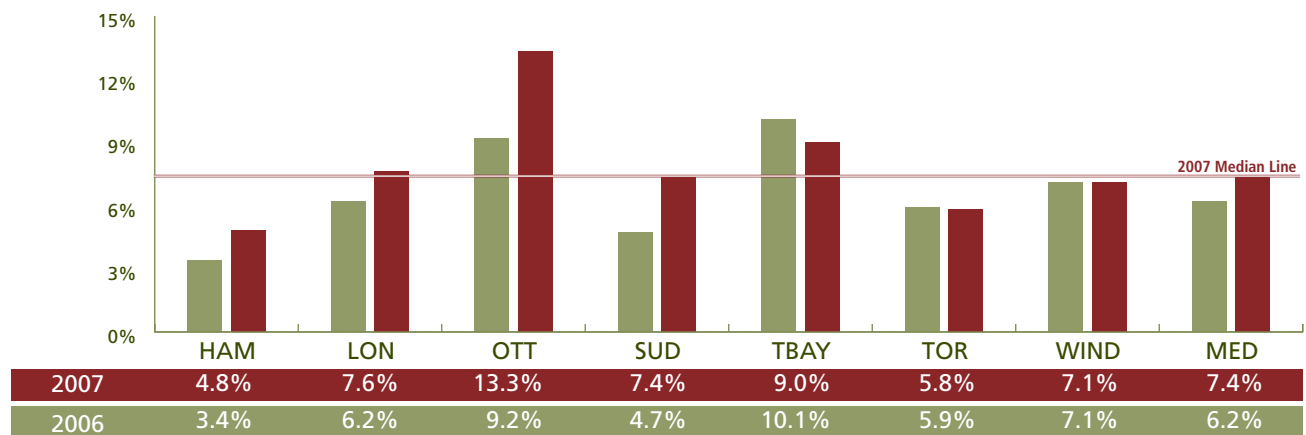


Note: The municipal government does not operate any indoor pools in Brant or any outdoor pools in Sudbury.

Figure 18.1 shows the number of operational, indoor and outdoor pool locations per 100,000 population where the municipality has some control or influence over the programming offered.

What percentage of the municipal population participates in registered programs?

FIG. 18.2 Annual Number of Unique Users for Directly-Provided Registered Programs as a Percentage of Population



Note: Brant data not available for 2007 and 2006.

Figure 18.2 identifies what proportion of the population (unique users) is taking part in directly-provided registered recreation programs. Individuals who registered for more than one program are counted only once; therefore, this graph represents 'unique users'. The number of unique users highlighted here does not include those who use drop-in, permit based or programming provided by alternate sport and recreation service providers. Five of the eight municipalities noticed an increase in unique users registering for programs in 2007 over 2006.

How much are registered programs being used?

FIG.18.3 Number of Participant Visits for Directly-Provided Registered Programs per Capita

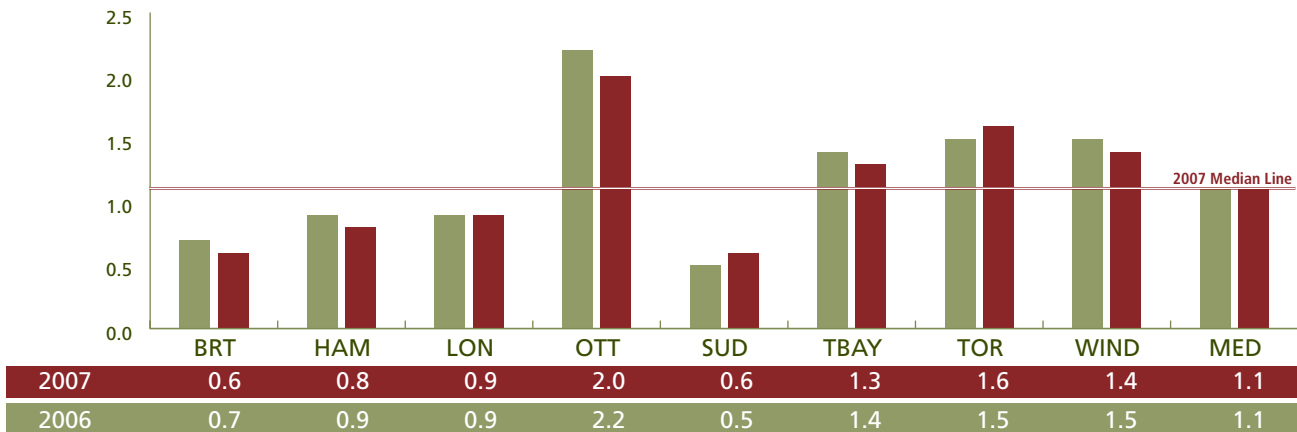


Figure 18.3 shows the number of participant visits to directly-provided registered programs on a per capita basis. Most municipalities experienced a slight decrease in their participant visits figures for 2007. Although there was an increase in unique users for 2007, the above figures indicate that the number of individual participant visits has decreased.

WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER WHEN REVIEWING THESE RESULTS?

Each municipality's results are influenced to varying degrees by a number of factors, including:

- ▶ Transportation – access and the number of program locations
- ▶ Number of programs offered – according to the locations, time and day of the week those programs are offered
- ▶ Capacity of programs offered - limits imposed by facilities and/or staff
- ▶ User fees - influence the decisions of residents to register, and the frequency of registration
- ▶ Frequency and duration - length of classes, number of classes, number of sessions, etc.
- ▶ Formal vs. informal programming - the mix of participant visits will be influenced by the extent to which municipal staff offer directly-provided registered programs relative to drop-in and permitted opportunities

For more information about the results, contact the Municipality's representative listed in Appendix F, page 94.