



## Free Swimming 2017-18

*A national analysis of Free Swimming in Wales*

November 2018

*sportwales*  
*chwaraeon cymru*

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This report is best viewed online and in colour

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## Executive summary

### Free public swimming in Wales 2017-18<sup>1</sup>

- ❁ In 2017-18, there were fewer than 125,000 free public swims for the 16 and under age group and just over 630,000 free public swims for the 60 and over age group.
- ❁ There has been a 16% fall in participation in free public swimming amongst males and females aged 16 or younger, compared to 2016-17.
- ❁ The number of under 8's, 8-11 year olds as well as 12-16 year olds who are swimming has fallen by 21%, 15% and 13% respectively since 2016-17.
- ❁ The 60 and over age group has seen a 5% fall in free public swimming participation, compared to 2016-17.
- ❁ The number of free public swims amongst males and females (60 or older) has fallen by 6% and 4% respectively over the last year.

### Paid swims in Wales 2017-18

- ❁ There has been an 18% rise in paid swims during school holidays for the 16 and under age group, compared to 2016-17.

### Free structured activities in Wales 2017-18<sup>1</sup>

- ❁ In 2017-18, there were 52,000 free structured activities for the 16 and under age group and 76,000 free structured activities for the 60 and over age group.
- ❁ During the last year, there has been a 9% rise in participation in free structured activities for people aged 16 or younger.
- ❁ Participation in free disabled structured sessions has fallen by 35% for people aged 16 or younger during the last year.
- ❁ There has been a 4% rise in participation for free structured activity for people aged 60 or older, compared to 2016-17.
- ❁ There has been a 10% fall in participation for free disabled structured sessions for people aged 60 or older during the last year.
- ❁ During the last year, participation in Aquafit/Therapy for people aged 60 or older has risen by 10%.

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<sup>1</sup> During the 2016-17 reporting period, Cardiff transferred the ownership and management of its swimming pools to a third party. As a result of this transition, accurate data was not available for the final period of 2016-17 (February-March) and the first two periods of 2017-18 (April-July). Therefore, annual figures for both Wales and Cardiff do not include these three periods of data.

## Background to the Free Swimming Initiative (FSI)

The Free Swimming Initiative (FSI) has been running in Wales since 2004, part of the scheme is to evaluate the impact and take-up of free swimming in Wales. The Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales (Data **Cymru**, formerly Data Unit Wales) have been involved in collecting, validating, analysing and disseminating free swimming participation data from local authorities since 2008.

The data is reported every two months during the financial year, during school holiday periods for 16 or younger and two-monthly periods for those aged 60 or older. Changes to the Free Swimming Initiative (FSI) minimum criteria<sup>2</sup> meant that Data **Cymru** were asked to collect participation information on weekend activities from local authorities. This includes 'dry-side' sports delivered as part of the initiative, as well those activities based in the swimming pool.

**During the 2016-17 reporting period Cardiff transferred the ownership and management of its swimming pools to a third party. As a result of this transition, accurate data was not available for the final period of 2016-17 (February-March) and the first two periods of 2017-18 (April-July). Therefore, annual figures for both Wales and Cardiff do not include these three periods of data.**

This report provides an analysis of the data up to and including financial year 2017-18. The numbers are counts of people participating in swimming in the two age groups (16 years and under; 60 years and over).

The data is sourced from Data **Cymru** from returns collected from the 22 local authorities in Wales.

Further information on local authority and pool level data can be found on the online Free Swimming Wales data portal:

<http://www.freeswimmingwales.net/>

This is the eleventh annual report from Data **Cymru** analysing participation rates for the Free Swimming Initiative in Wales. It looks at overall participation numbers and rates and how these have varied over time. Sections of the report look specifically at participation in four areas:

- ✿ Free public swimming in Wales;
- ✿ Free structured activities in Wales;
- ✿ Free weekend activities in Wales; and
- ✿ Paid swimming in Wales.

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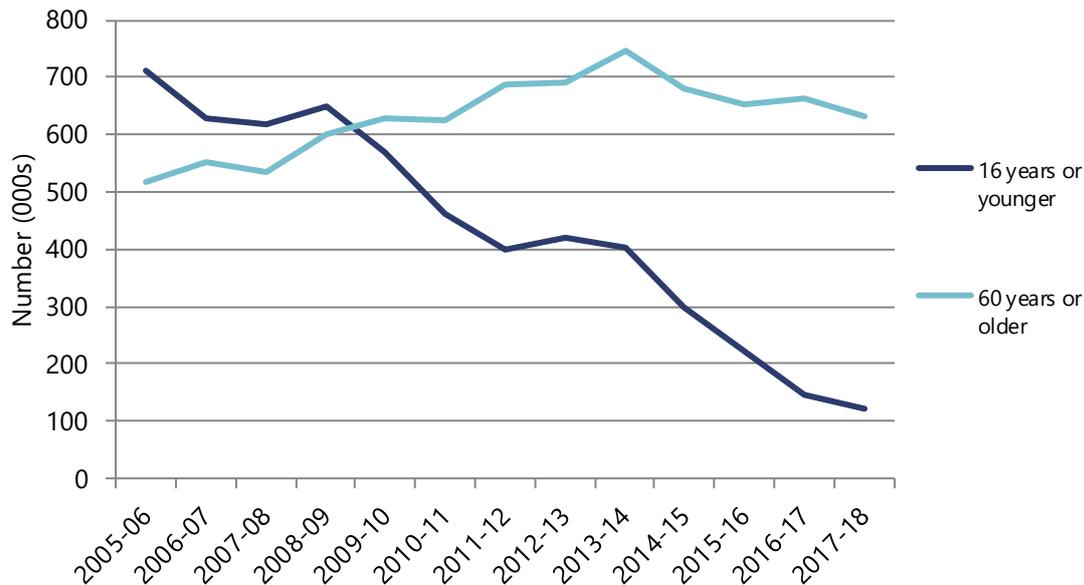
<sup>2</sup> For full details of the minimum criteria provision see Appendix 2 – Free Swimming minimum provision.

## Free public swims in Wales

The number of people aged 16 or younger participating in free public swims has fallen since 2005-06.

**Figure 1** shows that **2017-18 saw a decrease** in free public swims for people aged **16 or younger**<sup>3</sup>, with participation **falling by 16% compared to 2016-17**. The number of free public swims for those aged **60 or older**<sup>3</sup> **fell by 5%** compared to 2016-17.

**Figure 1: Number of free public swims in Wales**



Over 120 swimming pools in Wales have participated in the Free Swimming Initiative. Since 2004 several local authority pools have closed in Wales due to different reasons<sup>4</sup>.

Local authorities will occasionally need to temporarily close pools during the year for refurbishment and minor repairs. Both these factors will have an impact on the number of people able to participate in free swimming.

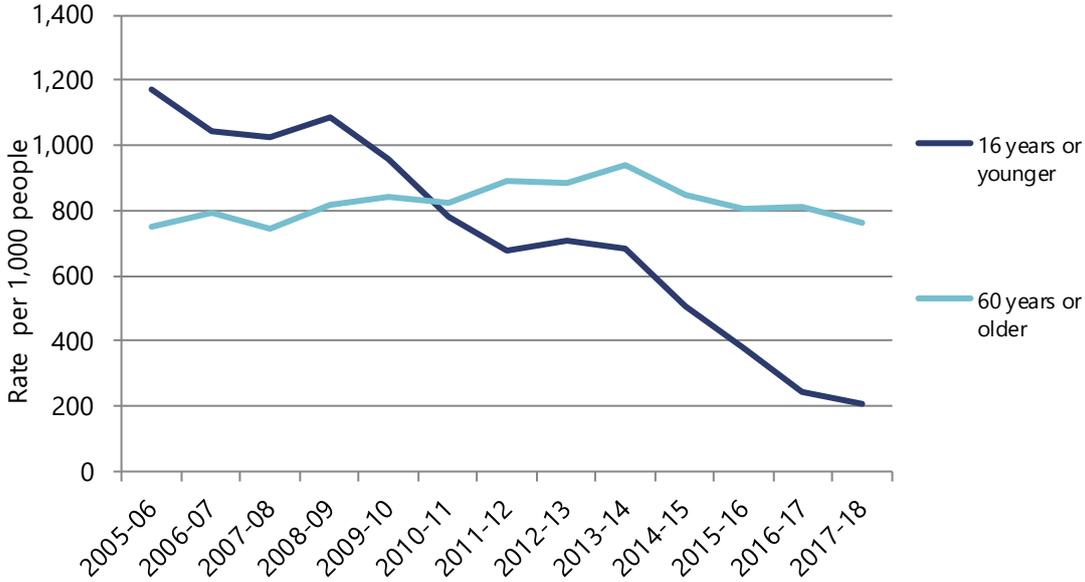
In contrast, during the Free Swimming Initiative, pools have also opened or been re-opened following refurbishment. For a map and details of pool closures see **Appendix 3 – Pool closures and openings**.

Participation rates, relative to the population, show a similar picture to the number of swims with **the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger**<sup>3</sup> **falling from 1,169 in 2005-06 to 206 per 1,000 people in 2017-18**. The 60 and over age group had shown a steady rise in the rate of participation per 1,000 people<sup>3</sup> until 2013-14 where the rate began to decrease. 2017-18 has seen a decrease since 2016-17, from 811 to 761 per 1,000 people, as shown in **Figure 2**.

<sup>3</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

<sup>4</sup> For details on pool closures see Appendix 3 – Pool closures and openings.

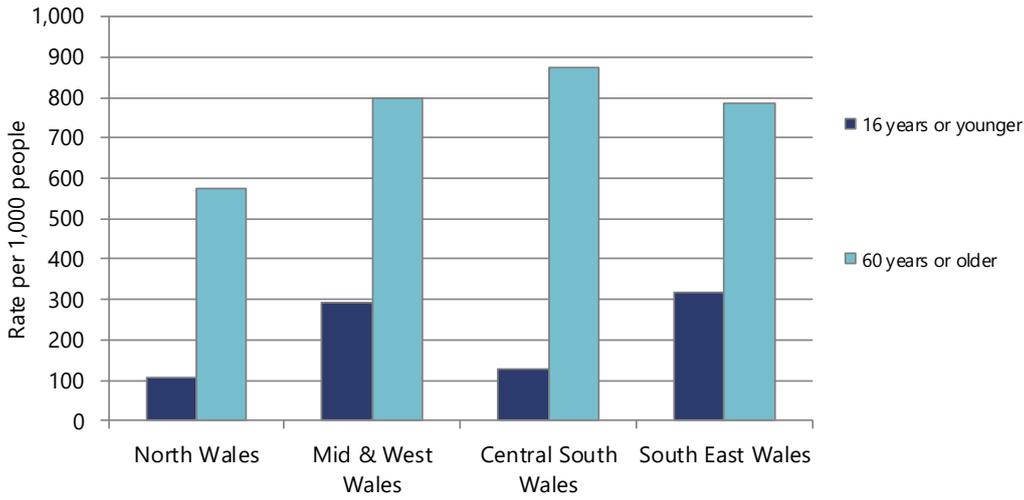
**Figure 2: Rate of free public swimming participation per 1,000 people in Wales**



At a regional level, the rate of free public swims for the 16 and under age group per 1,000 people in Mid & West Wales was 293, Central South Wales<sup>5</sup> was 128 and South East Wales was the highest at 318 per 1,000 people for 2017-18. North Wales shows the lowest rate at 108 per 1,000 people.

**Figure 3** shows that the Central South Wales<sup>5</sup> region has the highest rate of free public swims for people 60 or older with a rate 875 per 1,000 people in 2017-18. North Wales has the lowest rate in 2017-18 with 576 per 1,000 people.

**Figure 3: Rate of free public swimming participation per 1,000 people, by region, 2017-18<sup>5</sup>**

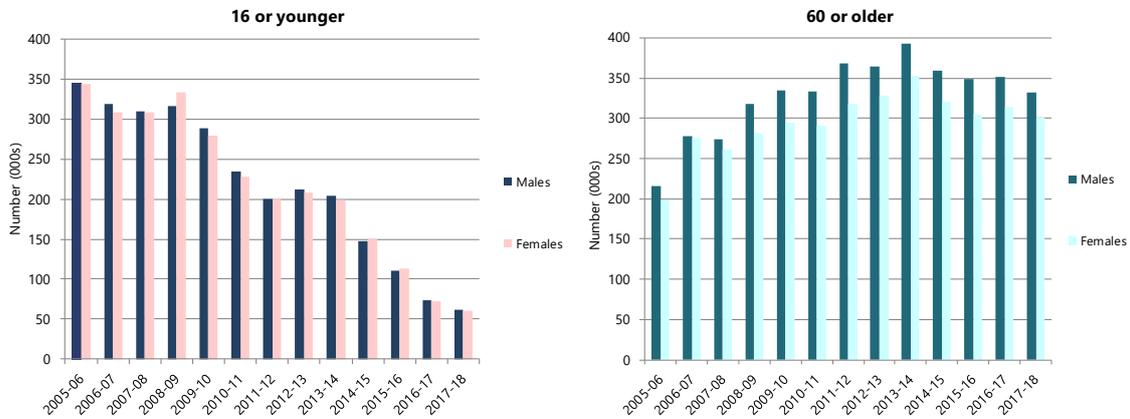


**Figure 4** shows that since 2005-06, free public swimming<sup>6</sup> has generally been more popular amongst males in the 60 and over age group. For 2017-18 this is still the case for the 60 and over age group.

<sup>5</sup> Central South Wales region data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

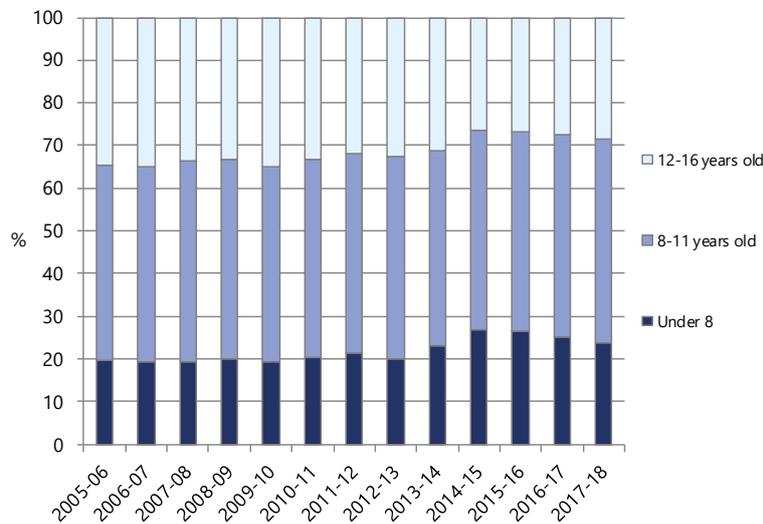
For the 16 and under age group, 2017-18 has seen slightly more males than females participating in free public swimming.

**Figure 4: Number of free public swims for people aged 16 or younger and 60 or older in Wales<sup>6</sup>**



**Figure 5** shows that 48% of free public swims<sup>6</sup> for the 16 years and under age group were aged 8-11, this age group has had the highest proportion of participation since 2005-06. The proportion of free public swims for 2017-18 for each age group has remained similar to 2016-17.

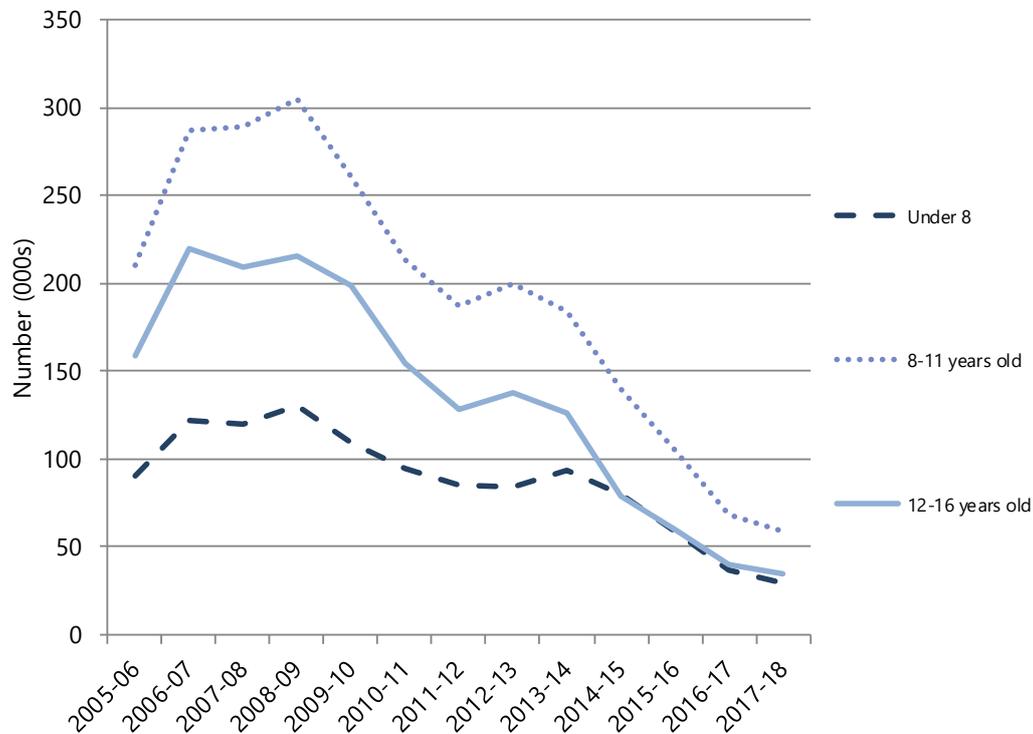
**Figure 5: Percentage of free public swims, by age, in Wales<sup>6</sup>**



<sup>6</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

As seen in **Figure 6**, the number of free public swims<sup>7</sup> for people aged 8-11 and 12-16 has showed a general decrease since 2008-09 with the under 8 age group falling at a slower rate. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, all age groups saw a decrease, but at a slower than seen previously.

**Figure 6: Number of free public swims, by age, in Wales<sup>7</sup>**

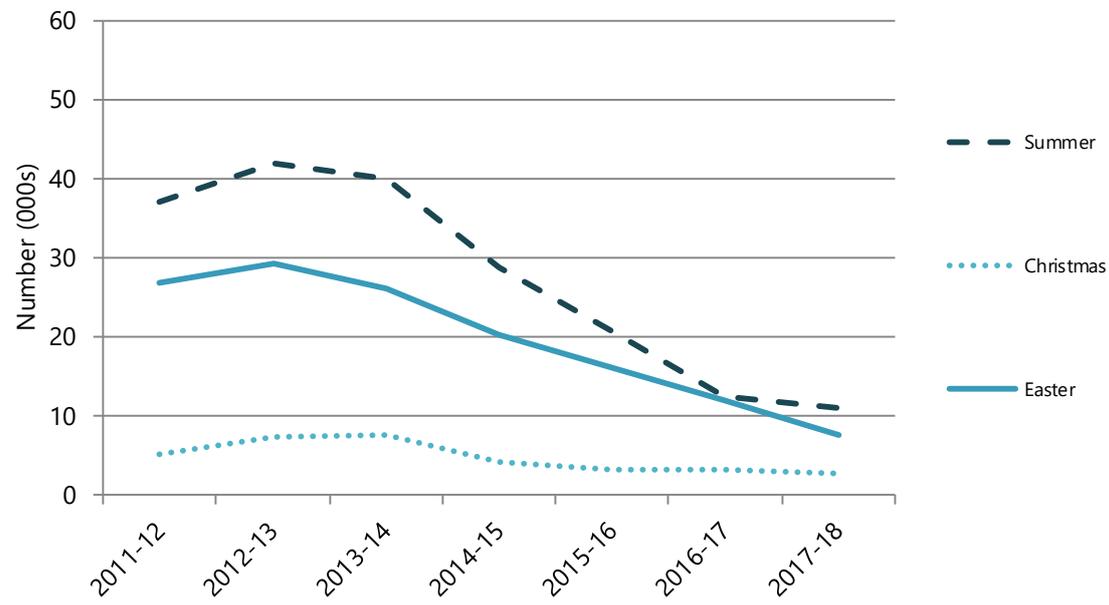


Free public swims per week for each holiday period<sup>8</sup> for the 16 years and under age group are shown in **Figure 7** and **Figure 8**. While historically, the summer holiday has had the highest swims per week, 2017-18 saw more swims per week in both Whitsun and February half term holidays. The average number of swims per week in the summer holidays decreased from 12,500 in 2016-17 to 11,000 in 2017-18. The Christmas holiday has consistently had the fewest public swims per week, where many pools may temporarily close for refurbishment or generally there are fewer people visiting pools.

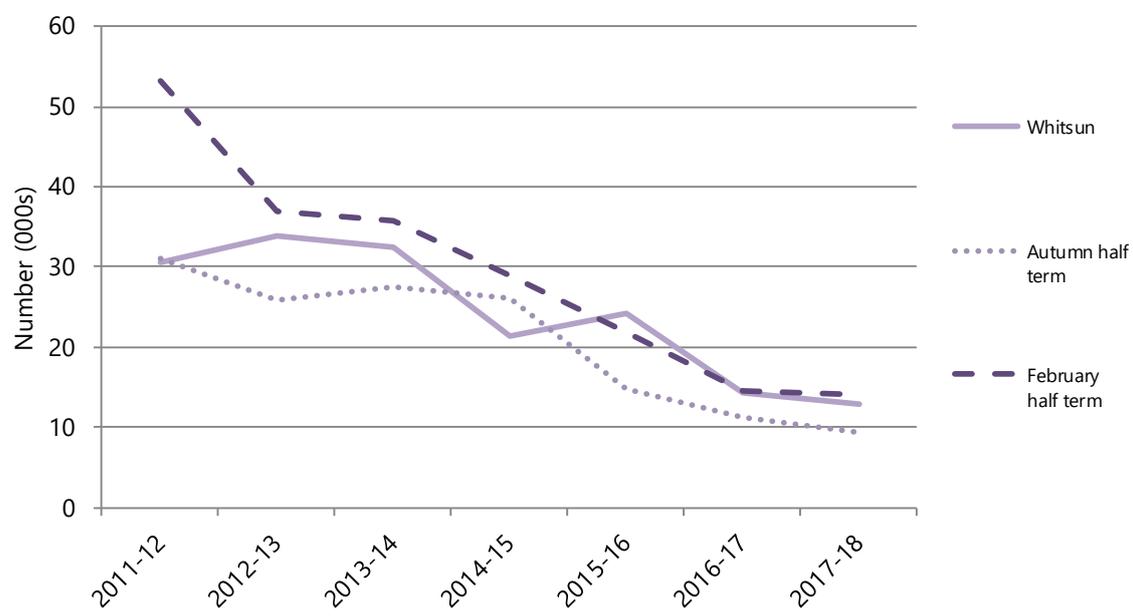
<sup>7</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

<sup>8</sup> Wales level data for February half term 2017, Easter 2017 and Whitsun 2017 excludes data for Cardiff.

**Figure 7: Number of free public swims per week for people aged 16 or younger, by holiday period, in Wales<sup>9</sup>**



**Figure 8: Number of free public swims per week for people aged 16 or younger, by half term holiday period, in Wales<sup>9</sup>**

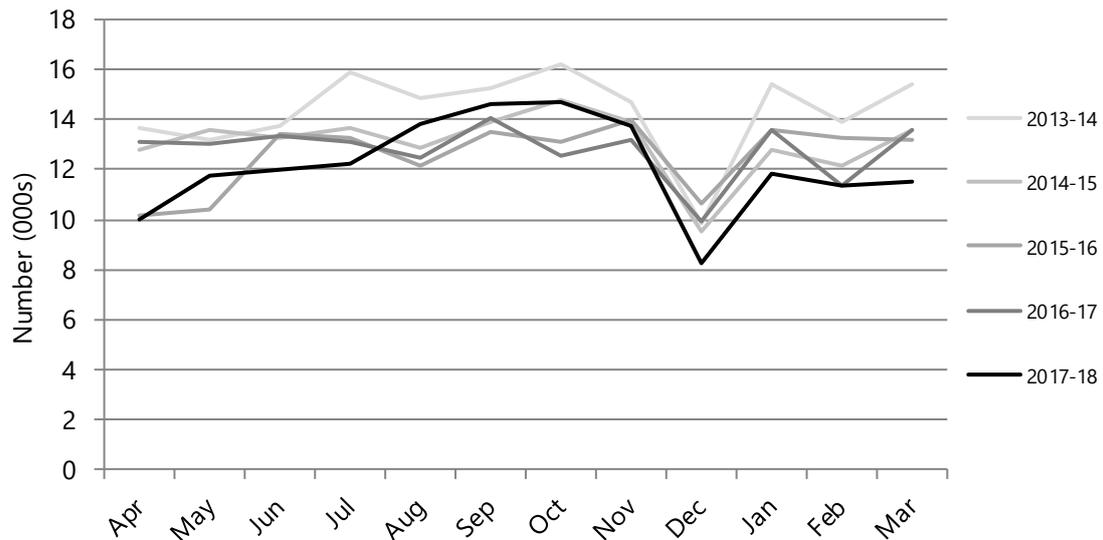


Free public swims per week for people aged 60 or older<sup>10</sup> show a different trend, this is shown in **Figure 9**. During 2017-18, free public swims peaked during October 2017. Historically, December has

<sup>9</sup> Wales level data for February half term 2017, Easter 2017 and Whitsun 2017 excludes data for Cardiff.

shown the fewest free public swims per week for this age group, and this is the case for 2017-18. April 2017<sup>10</sup> saw the largest decrease in swims per week for people aged 60 or older, while October 2017 saw the largest increase in swims per week. By overlaying the years, it shows the general change in the number of free public swims per week for people aged 60 or over compared to the previous four years.

**Figure 9: Number of free public swims per week for people aged 60 or older, by month, in Wales<sup>10</sup>**

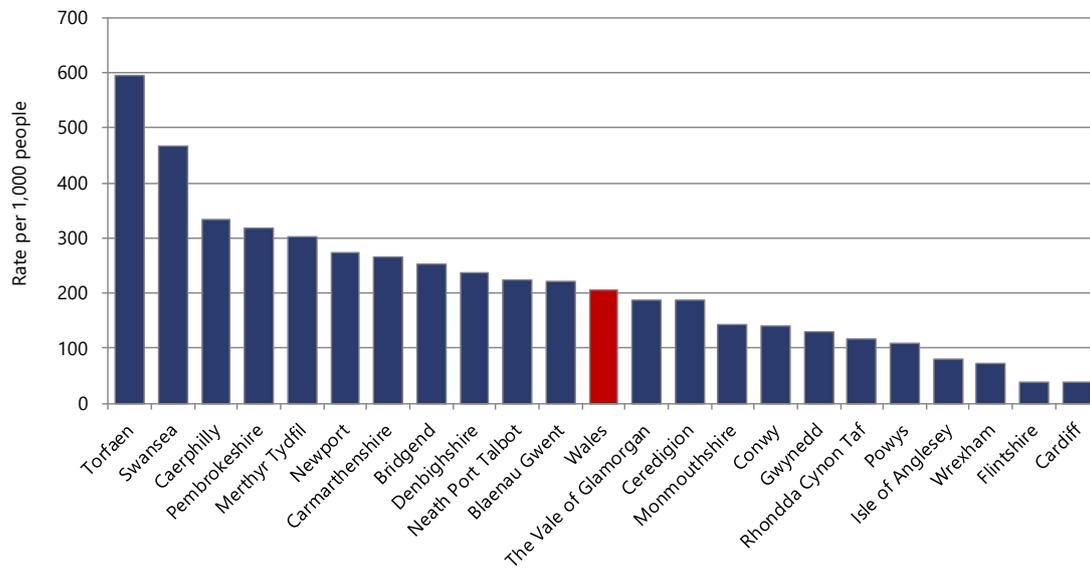


For individual authorities, **Figure 10** shows that in 2017-18 the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger<sup>11</sup> ranged from 37 in Cardiff to 595 in Torfaen.

<sup>10</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

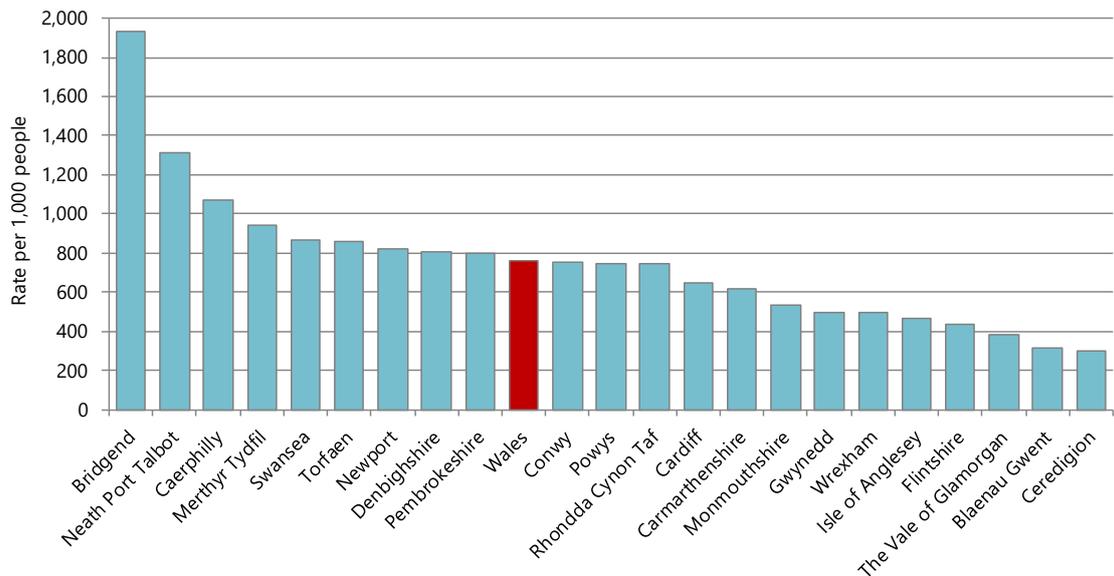
<sup>11</sup> Annual figures for Cardiff exclude period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

**Figure 10: Rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger, by local authority, 2017-18<sup>12</sup>**



**Figure 11** shows that the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 60 or older<sup>12</sup> ranged from 295 in Ceredigion to 1,931 in Bridgend.

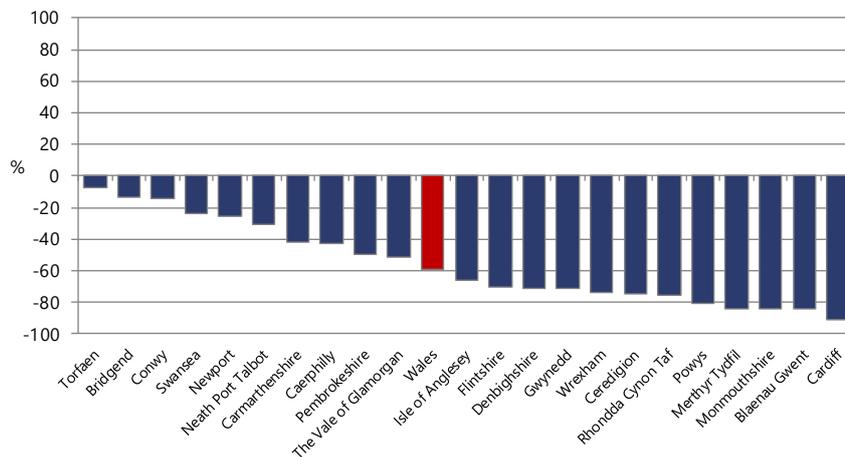
**Figure 11: Rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 60 or older, by local authority, 2017-18<sup>12</sup>**



<sup>12</sup> Annual figures for Cardiff exclude period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

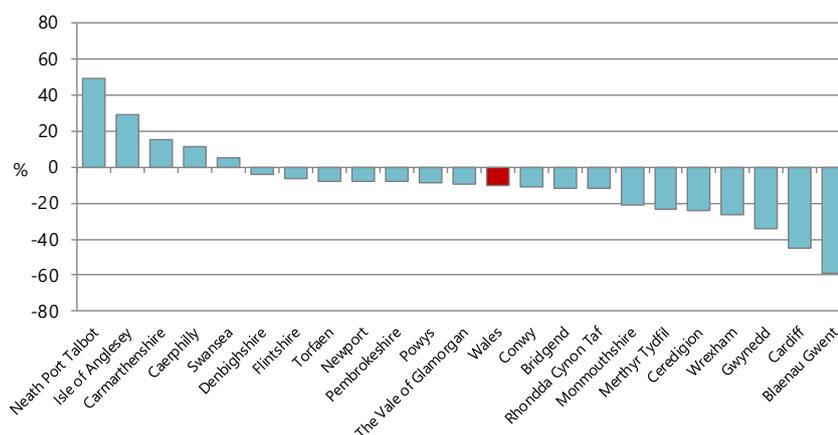
The percentage change in the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger<sup>13</sup> from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is shown in **Figure 12**. The highest percentage decrease between these years was in Cardiff (91%), and the lowest percentage decrease was in Torfaen (7%). Overall, the rate for Wales<sup>14</sup> decreased by 59% over the same three-year period.

**Figure 12: Percentage change in the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger, by local authority, 2014-15 to 2017-18<sup>15</sup>**



For people aged 60 or older the percentage change in the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people<sup>15</sup> from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is shown in **Figure 13**. The highest percentage decrease between these years was in Blaenau Gwent (59%), and the highest percentage increase was in Neath Port Talbot (49%). Overall, the rate for Wales<sup>14</sup> decreased by 10% over the same period.

**Figure 13: Percentage change in the rate of free public swims per 1,000 people aged 60 or older, by local authority, 2014-15 to 2017-18<sup>15</sup>**



<sup>13</sup> Both Cardiff and Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

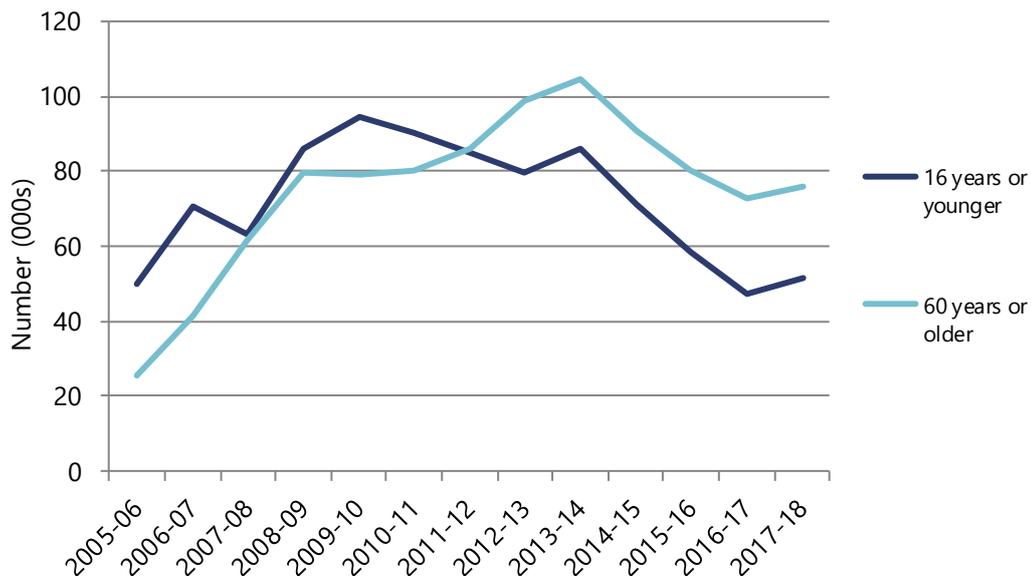
<sup>14</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

<sup>15</sup> Both Cardiff and Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

## Free structured activities in Wales

The number of people aged 16 or younger participating in free structured activities<sup>16</sup> peaked in 2009-10 at 94,000, while for those aged 60 or older, 2013-14 saw a peak of 105,000. **2017-18 saw the numbers for both age groups rise for the first time since 2013-14.** 2017-18 saw the number of people aged 16 or younger participating in free structured activities rise by 9% to 52,000 and the number of people aged 60 or older participating rise by 4% to 76,000 as shown in **Figure 14.**

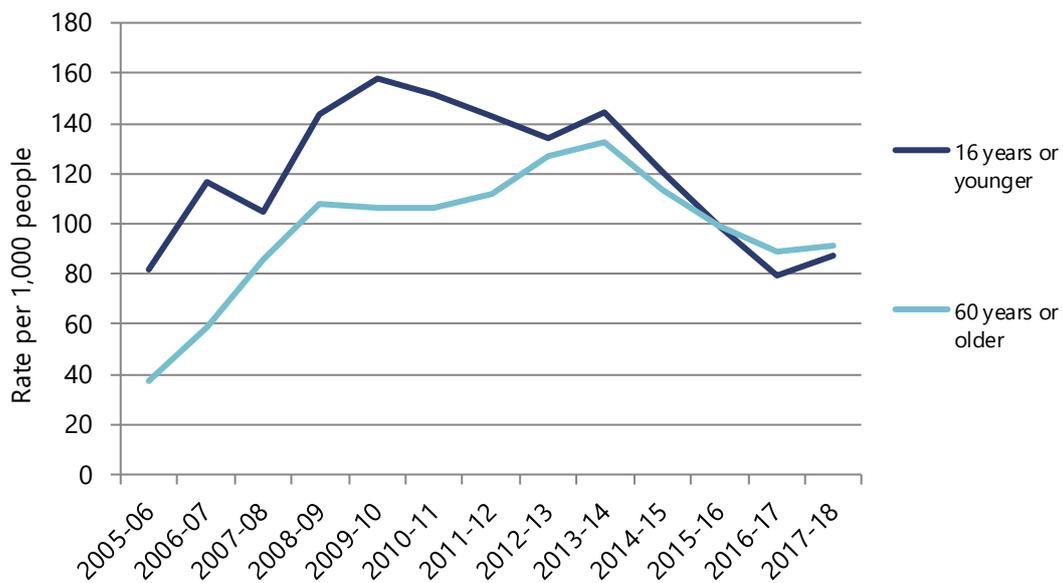
**Figure 14: Number of free structured activity participation in Wales<sup>16</sup>**



**Figure 15** shows that the rate of participation in free structured activities per 1,000 people<sup>16</sup> has followed a similar pattern since 2005-06, with the rate of those aged 16 or younger being consistently higher than the participation rate of those aged 60 or older. However, in 2017-18, for the third consecutive year, the rate of participation in free structured activities per 1,000 people for those aged 16 or younger is below the participation rate of those aged 60 or older. **Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, structured activity participation rates increased to 87 per 1,000 people for those aged 16 or younger and 92 per 1,000 people for those aged 60 or older.**

<sup>16</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

Figure 15: Rate of free structured activity participation per 1,000 people, in Wales<sup>17</sup>



In 2017-18, the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people<sup>18</sup> for the 16 and under age group was highest in Central South Wales<sup>18</sup> at 126 per 1,000 people and lowest in North and South East Wales at 65 and 66 per 1,000 people respectively, as seen in [Figure 16](#).

For the 60 and over age group, South East Wales was the highest at 130 per 1,000 people and the North, Mid & West and Central South Wales<sup>18</sup> were 80, 63 and 110 per 1,000 people, respectively.

[Figure 17](#) shows, in pictorial form, the level of free structured activity participation for people aged 16 or younger in Wales during 2017-18. It's clear that swimming lessons has the highest participation amongst the 16 and under age group, ranging between 45% and 70% of total structured activities over the past 11 years.

<sup>17</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

<sup>18</sup> Central South Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

Figure 16: Rate of free structured activity participation per 1,000 people, by region, 2017-18<sup>19</sup>

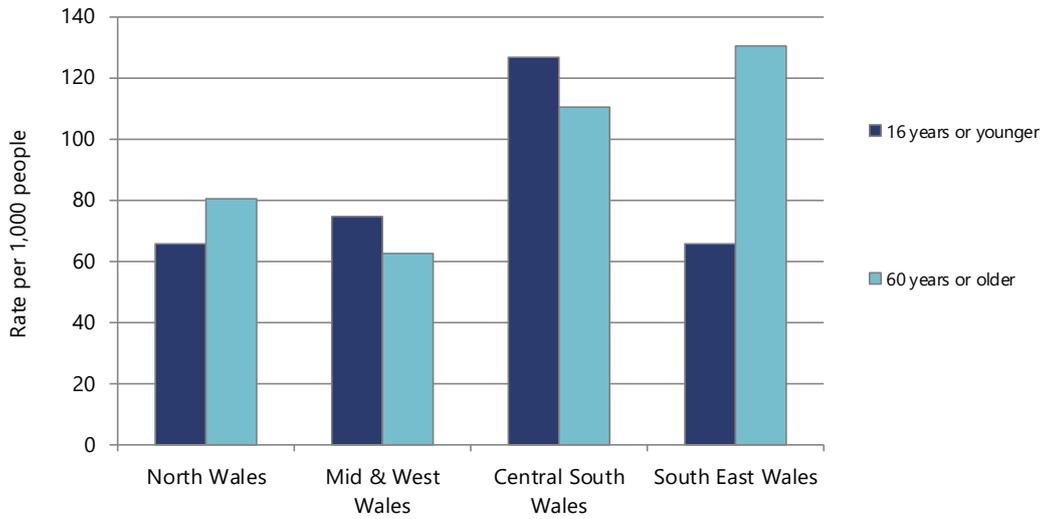
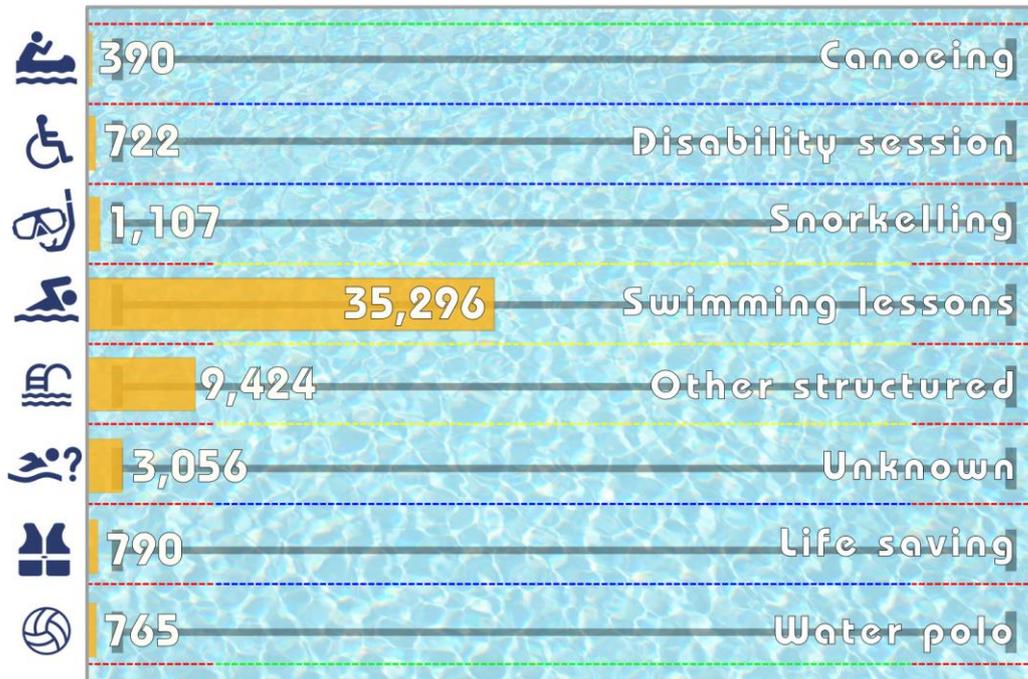


Figure 17: Number of free structured activity participation for people aged 16 or younger in Wales, 2017-18<sup>20</sup>

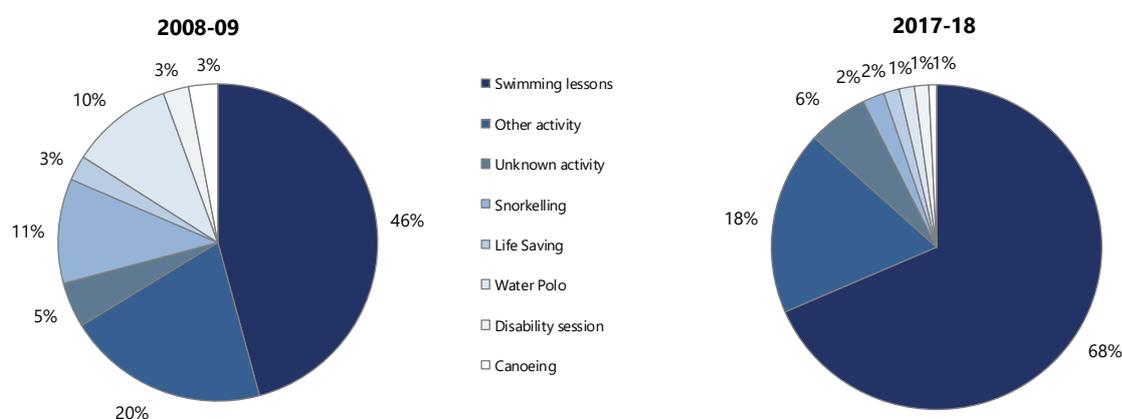


<sup>19</sup> Central South Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

<sup>20</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

Local authorities offer different types of free structured activity. Among the 16 and under age group, swimming lessons have had the highest level of participation since 2008-09. **Figure 18** shows that between 2008-09 and 2017-18, the proportion of structured activities that were 'swimming lessons' increased from 46% to 68%, 'snorkelling' decreased from 11% to 2% and 'water polo' decreased from 10% to 1%. The 'other' category includes activities such as diving, aqua scooters, paddle boats and water walkers etc. and are now 18% of participated structured activities for this age group. In 2017-18, authorities are unable to report a category for 6% of free structured activities, these have been captured as 'unknown activity'. Participation in 'disabled sessions' for people aged 16 or younger has decreased by 35% (1,117 to 722), between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

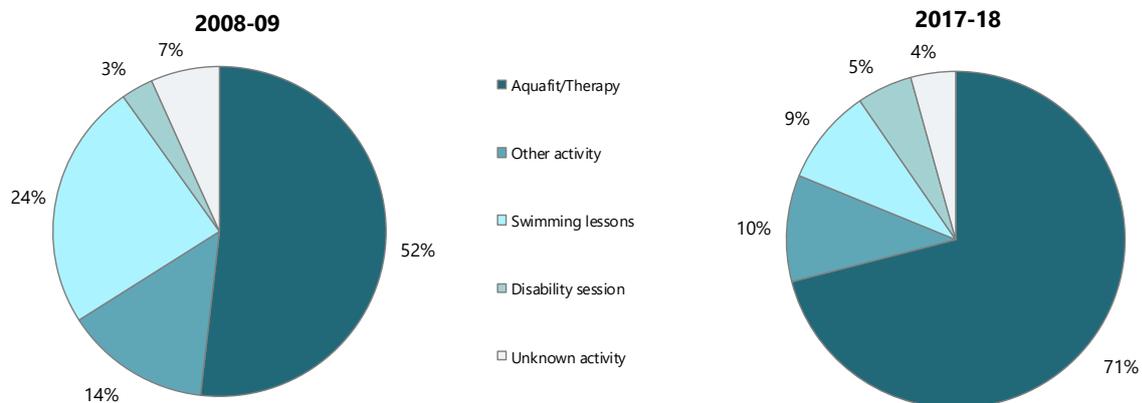
**Figure 18: Percentage of free structured activities for people aged 16 or younger, in Wales, 2008-09 and 2017-18<sup>21</sup>**



For the 60 and over age group, 'Aquafit/Therapy' has the highest level of participation and has done since 2008-09. Between 2008-09 and 2017-18, the participation proportions (shown in **Figure 19**) in Aquafit/Therapy increased from 52% to 71%. Between 2008-09 and 2017-18 swimming lessons decreased from 24% to 9%, 'other' activities decreased from 14% to 10% and 'disability sessions' increased from 3% to 5%. In 2017-18, authorities were unable to report the category of 4% of participation in free structured activities in this age group, these have been captured as 'unknown activity'.

<sup>21</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

**Figure 19: Percentage of free structured activities for people aged 60 or older, in Wales, 2008-09 and 2017-18<sup>22</sup>**

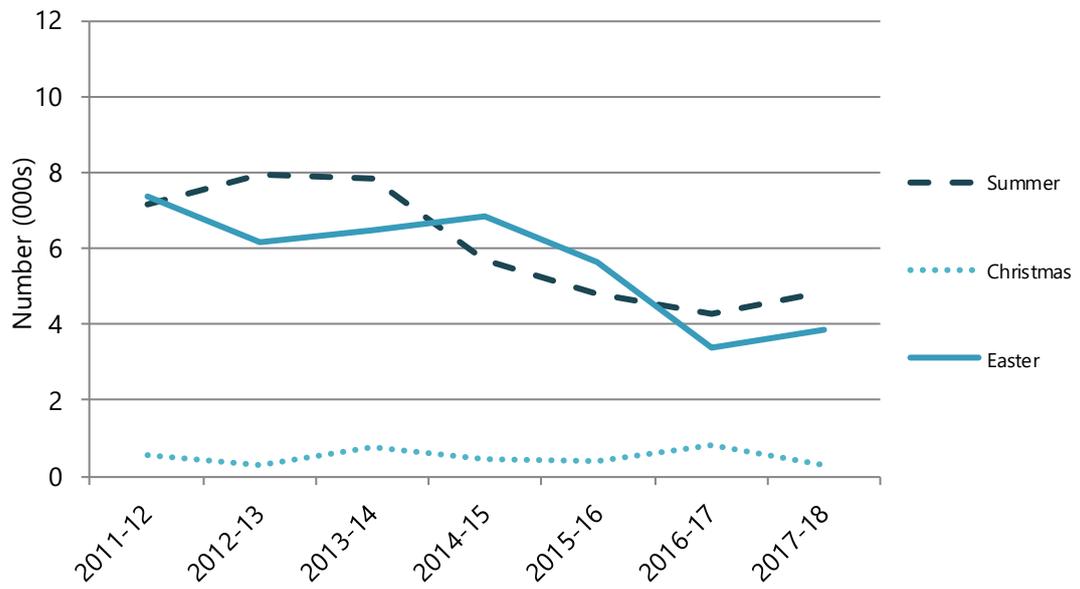


**Figure 20** and **Figure 21** show the number of free structured activities per week for the 16 and under age group<sup>23</sup> from 2011-12 to 2017-18. For each of the last seven years there has been fewer numbers participating in free structured activities during the Christmas holidays. This tends to be when pools close for refurbishments or generally there are fewer people visiting pools during the Christmas school holiday.

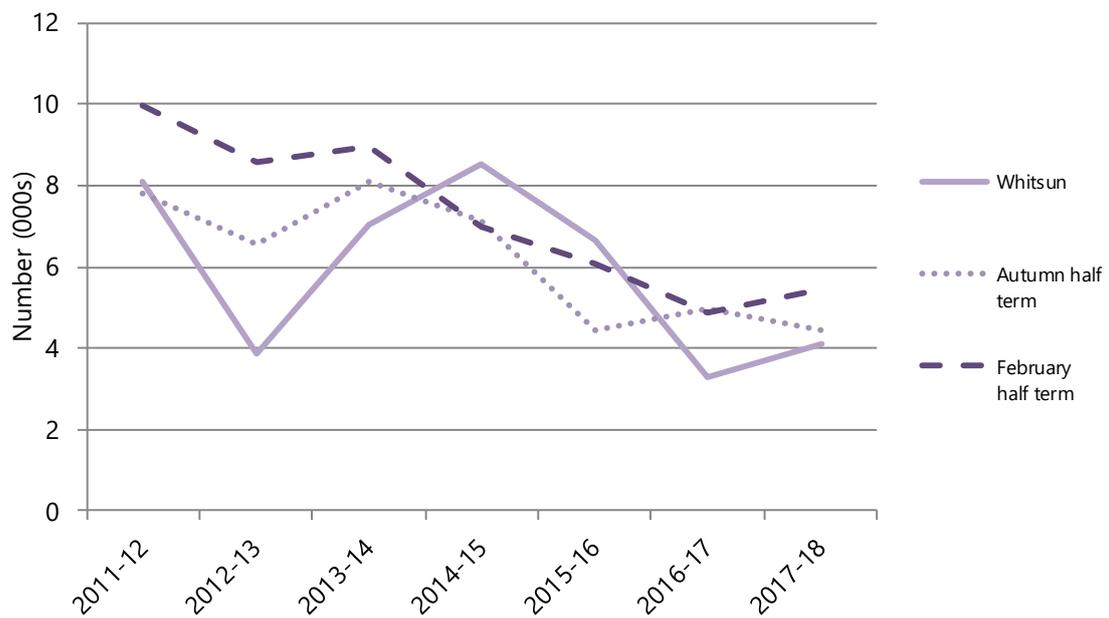
As shown in **Figure 20** while participation in free structured activities<sup>23</sup> for the 16 and under age group is usually highest in summer, 2017-18 saw an increase to 29,000 (nearly 5,000 per week). Easter, Whitsun and February half term holiday periods saw an increase in participation in structured activities, while Autumn half term and Christmas holiday periods saw a fall in the number participating in structured activities per week, with both periods seeing a decrease of around 520 swims per week between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

<sup>22</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

**Figure 20: Number of free structured activities per week for people aged 16 or younger, by holiday period, in Wales<sup>23</sup>**



**Figure 21: Number of free structured activities per week for people aged 16 or younger, by half term holiday period, in Wales<sup>23</sup>**

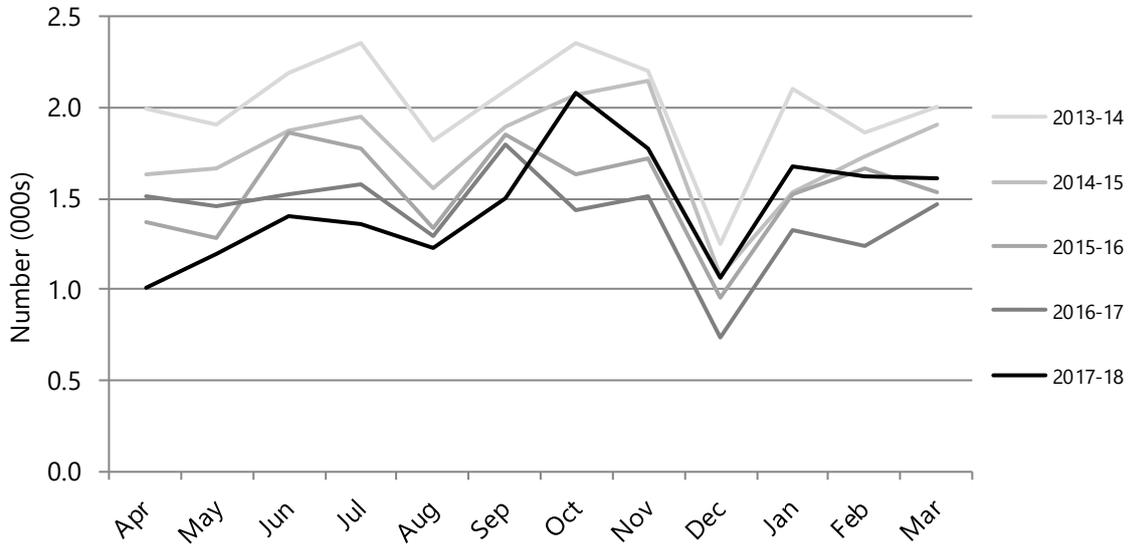


**Figure 22** overlays the annual number of free structured activities per week<sup>23</sup> for people aged 60 or older by month to show the similar trends over the last five years i.e. peaks during Autumn and

<sup>23</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

troughs in December. 2017-18 saw an increase in the number of free structured activity participation in October 2017, peaking at around 2,000 swims per week.

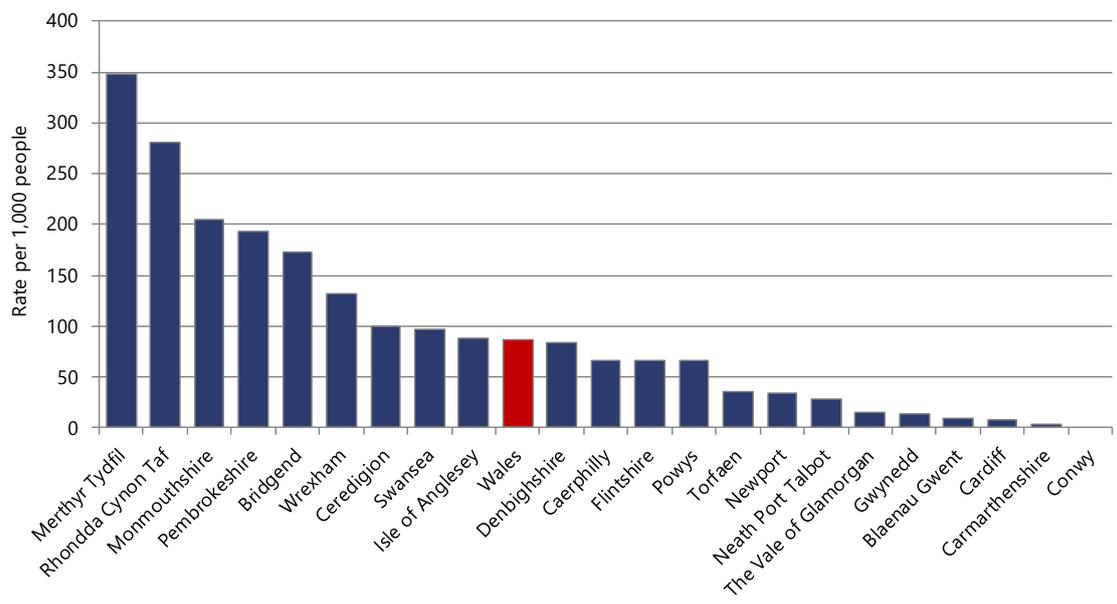
**Figure 22: Number of free structured activities per week for people aged 60 or older, by period in Wales<sup>23</sup>**



In 2017-18, **Figure 23** shows that for individual authorities the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger<sup>24</sup> ranged from 0 in Conwy to 347 in Merthyr Tydfil.

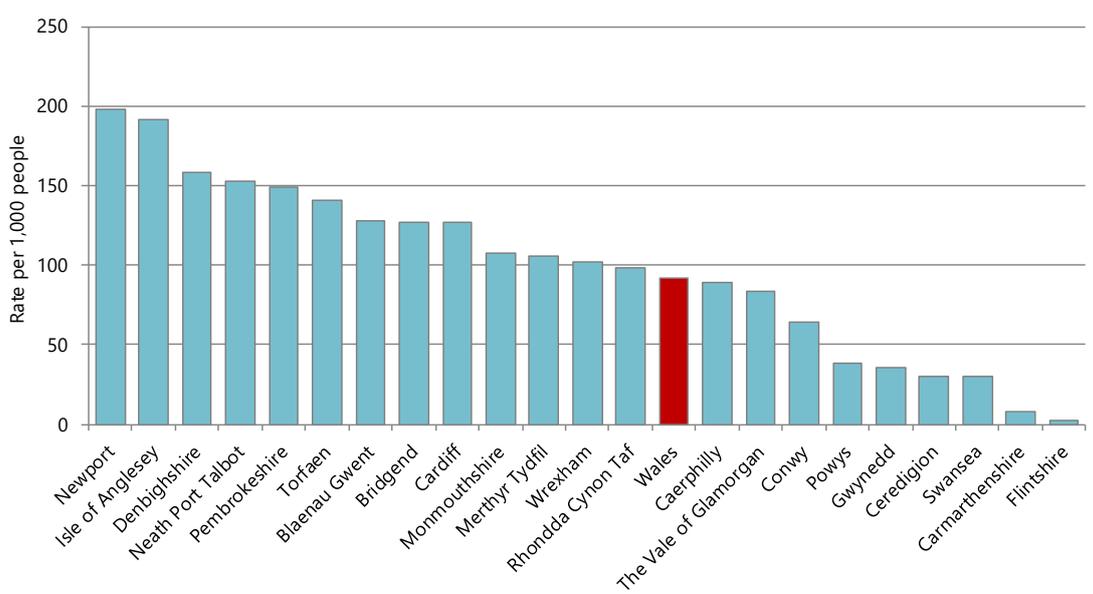
<sup>24</sup> Both Cardiff and Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

**Figure 23: Rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger, by authority, 2017-18<sup>25</sup>**



For the 60 and over age group, **Figure 24** shows the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people<sup>25</sup> ranged from 2 in Flintshire to 198 in Newport.

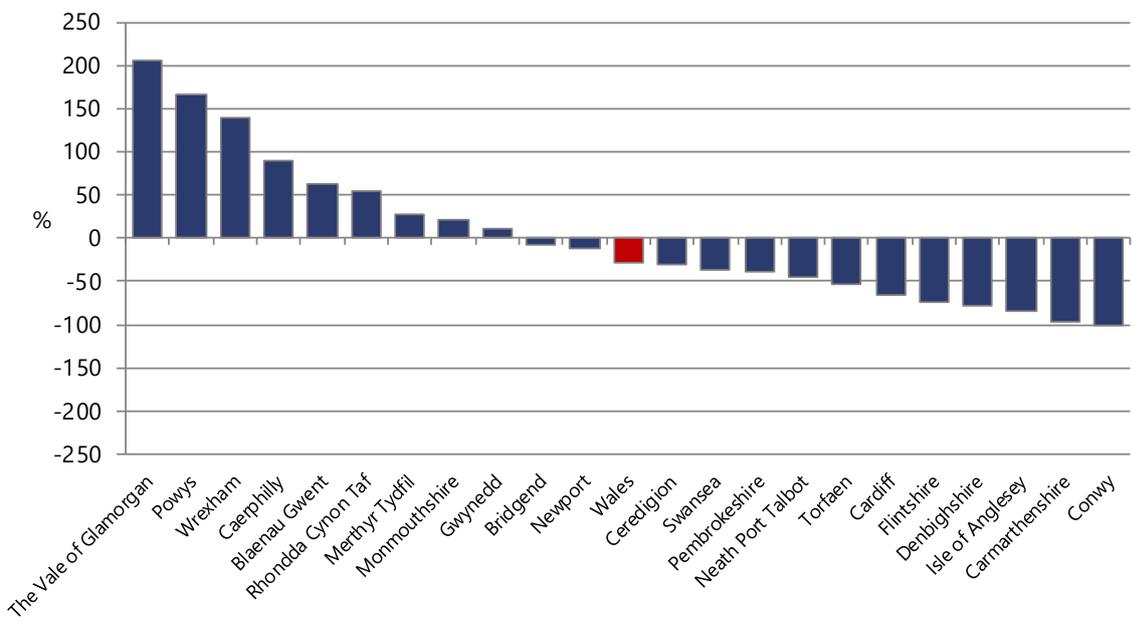
**Figure 24: Rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people aged 60 or older, by local authority, 2017-18<sup>25</sup>**



<sup>25</sup> Both Cardiff and Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

The percentage change in the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is shown in **Figure 25**. The highest percentage decrease between these years was in Conwy (100%), and the highest percentage increase was in The Vale of Glamorgan (206%). Overall, the rate for Wales<sup>26</sup> decreased by 28% over the same period.

**Figure 25: Percentage change in the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people aged 16 or younger, by local authority, 2014-15 to 2017-18<sup>27</sup>**

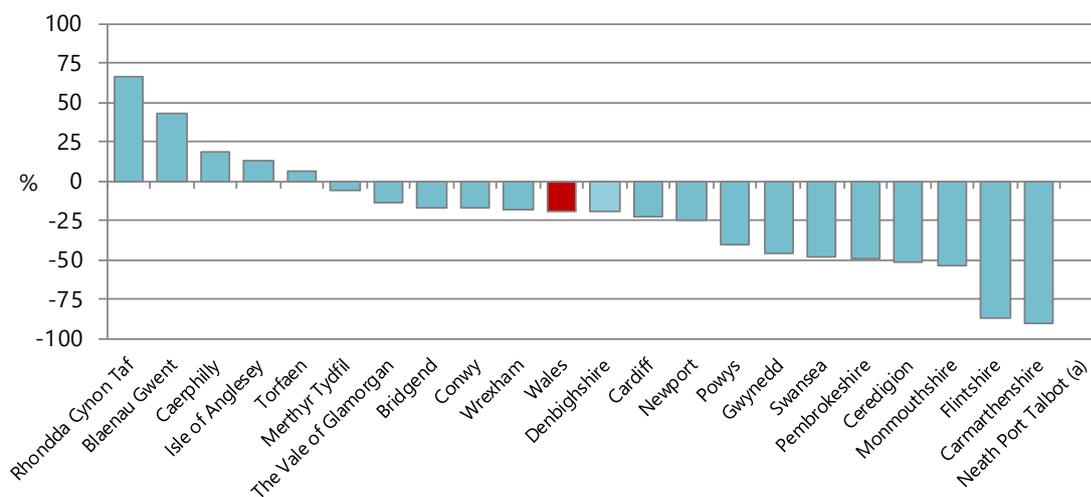


For the 60 and over age group the percentage change in the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people<sup>27</sup> from 2014-15 to 2017-18 is shown in **Figure 26**. The highest percentage decrease between these years was in Carmarthenshire (91%), and the highest percentage increase was in Rhondda Cynon Taf (66%). Overall, the rate for Wales<sup>26</sup> decreased by 19% over the same period.

<sup>26</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

<sup>27</sup> Both Cardiff and Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

Figure 26: Percentage change in the rate of free structured activities per 1,000 people aged 60 or older, by local authority, 2014-15 to 2017-18<sup>27</sup>



(a) Not available

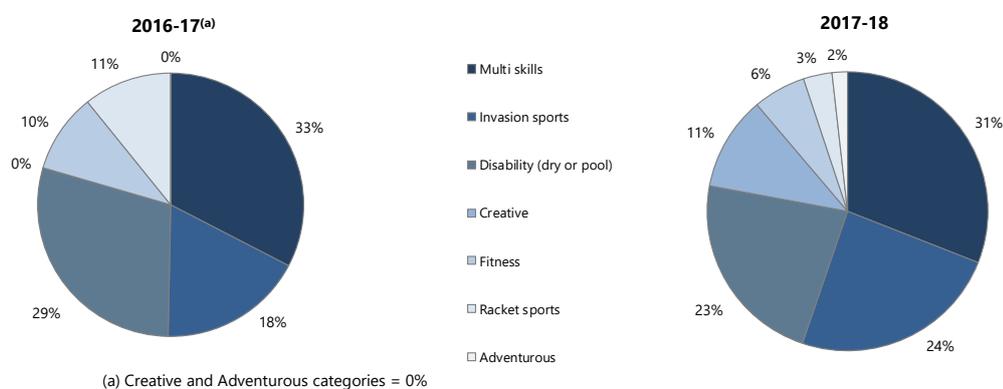
It should be noted that the difference in the change in the rate of participation in free structured activities could be down to the ability of the authority to record and report on the data rather than a true reflection of what is offered.

## Free weekend activities in Wales

In 2010-11, when the minimum criteria changed for the 16 and under age group, local authorities were asked to report on the weekend activities which are delivered as part of the initiative. The criteria allowed authorities to deliver non-aquatic 'dry-side' activities. Public swimming and structured activities were also reported at this level; however the analysis looks at these 'dry-side' activities.

**Figure 27** shows that between 2016-17 and 2017-18, 'multi skills'<sup>28</sup> decreased its proportion to 31%, and 'disability (dry or pool)' decreased its proportion to 23%. The proportions of the activities in 2017-18 were 31% 'multi skills'<sup>28</sup>, 24% 'invasion sports'<sup>29</sup>, 23% 'disability (dry or pool)', 11% 'creative'<sup>30</sup>, 6% 'fitness'<sup>31</sup> activities, 3% 'racket sports'<sup>32</sup> and 2% 'adventurous'<sup>33</sup> activities.

**Figure 27: Percentage of 'dry-side' weekend activities for people aged 16 or younger, in Wales, 2016-17 and 2017-18<sup>34</sup>**



<sup>28</sup> Multi skills activities include co-ordination, movement, thinking and body awareness.

<sup>29</sup> Invasion sports include basketball, football, rugby, hockey, netball, dodgeball, volleyball and lacrosse.

<sup>30</sup> Creative sports include gymnastics, dance, cheerleading, trampolining and street dance.

<sup>31</sup> Fitness activities include aerobics, boxercise, walking and jogging.

<sup>32</sup> Racket sports include badminton, squash, table tennis and tennis.

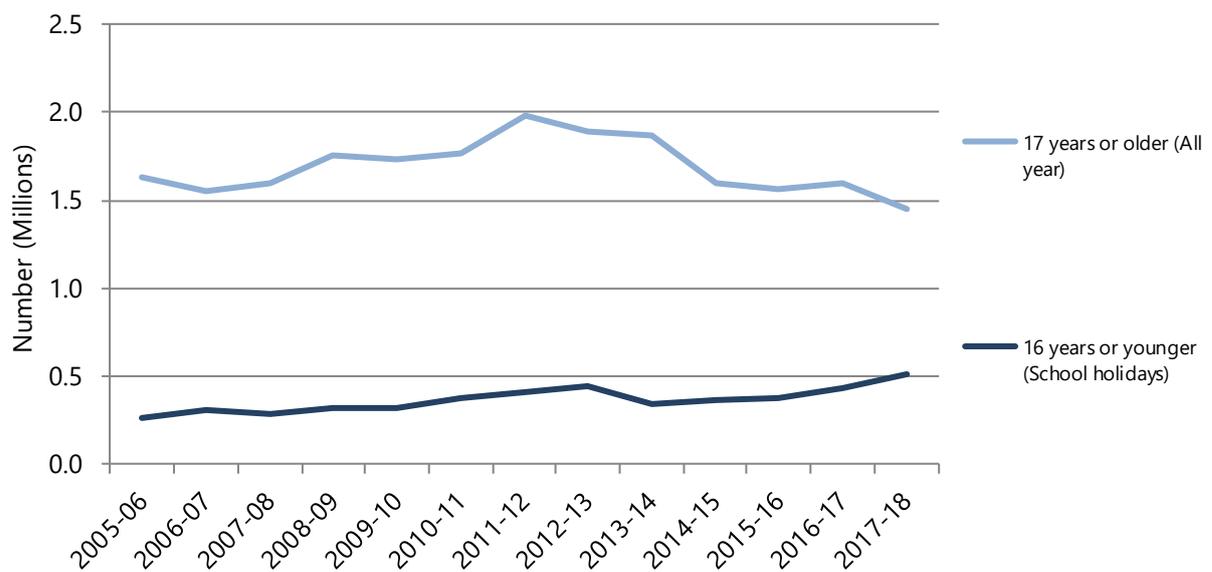
<sup>33</sup> Adventurous sports include climbing, mountain biking, cycling, skiing, triathlon and outdoor water activity.

<sup>34</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period's 1 and 2 (April-July) of the collection.

## Paid swims in Wales

Paid swims are collected as general comparison to the free swimming data. **Figure 28** shows the trend over time for the number of paid swims<sup>35</sup> for both people aged 16 or younger and 17 or older. Paid swims for the 17 and over age group is collected all year round and peaked in 2011-12 at almost 2 million; 2017-18 has seen a decrease of 9% compared to 2016-17. Paid swims for the 16 and under age group peaked this year and has been steadily growing since 2013-14 with 2017-18 seeing an increase of 18% on the previous year.

**Figure 28: Number of paid swims in Wales<sup>35</sup>**



<sup>35</sup> Wales level data excludes data for Cardiff for period 6 of 2016-17 (February-March) and period's 1 and 2 of 2017-18 (April-July) collection.

## Appendix 1 – Sport Wales regions

For the purposes of this report the Welsh local authorities have been grouped into the following Sport Wales regions:

**North Wales region** - Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham

**Mid & West Wales region** - Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot

**Central South Wales region** - Bridgend, The Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil

**South East Wales region** - Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport

## Appendix 2 – Free Swimming minimum provision

The minimum provision criteria for the two age groups are:

### 16 years and under

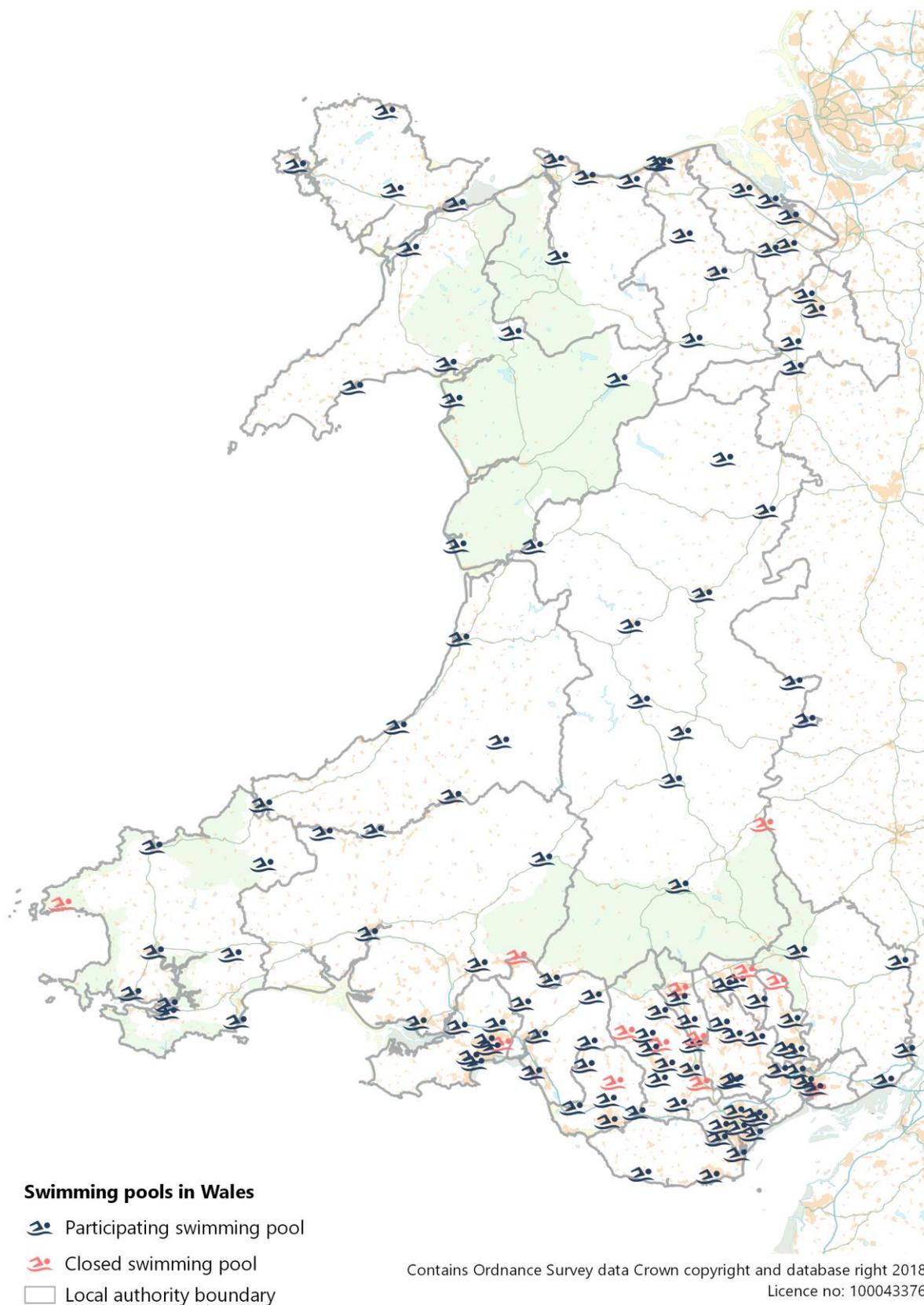
1. 14 hours of free swimming per week per local authority area during school holidays of which a minimum of seven hours would be a structured session.
2. One dedicated structured session for disabled children per week per local authority area during all school holidays.
3. Two hours of free (swimming/dry-side/aquatic) activity per weekend per local authority.

### 60 years and over

1. Free swimming for adults aged 60 or older during all public swimming sessions outside school holidays.
2. A minimum of one hour per day per local authority and a minimum of one hour per week per pool, will be dedicated to a free structured activity.

## Appendix 3 – Pool closures and openings

Figure 29: Participating swimming pools and closed pools



**Table 1** shows a list of pools that have closed and when they closed since the start of the Free Swimming Initiative.

**Table 1: Pool closures**

Centre name	Where	Details
Blaenavon Pool	Torfaen	Closed in 2007
Llangeinor Pool	Bridgend	Closed in 2007
Edwardsville Pool	Merthyr Tydfil	Closed in 2008
Gwaunfarren Pool	Merthyr Tydfil	Closed in 2008
Afan Lido Leisure Complex	Neath Port Talbot	Closed in 2009
Lliswerry Leisure Centre	Newport	Closed in 2009
St David's Pool	Pembrokeshire	Closed in 2009
Treherbert Pool	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Closed in 2009
Brynamman Open Air Pool	Carmarthenshire	Closed in 2011
Cefn Hengoed Leisure Centre	Swansea	Closed in 2011
Hay Pool	Powys	Closed in 2013
Nantyglo Sports Centre	Blaenau Gwent	Closed in 2013
Nova Leisure Centre	Denbighshire	Closed in 2014
Plas Madoc Leisure Centre	Wrexham	Closed in 2014
Splott Pool	Cardiff	Closed in 2014
Cymmer Swimming Pool	Neath Port Talbot	Closed in 2015
Hawthorn Swimming Pool	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Closed in 2015
Rhondda Fach Sports Centre	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Closed in 2018

**Table 2** shows a list of pools that have opened or re-opened following major refurbishment.

**Table 2: Pool openings**

Centre name	Where	Details
Buckley Leisure Centre	Flintshire	Opened in 2005
Fishguard Leisure Centre	Pembrokeshire	Opened in 2006
Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre	Merthyr Tydfil	Opened in 2008
Ynysawdre Pool	Bridgend	Opened in 2008
Llandudno Swimming Centre	Conwy	Re-opened following major refurbishment in 2008
Western Leisure Centre	Cardiff	Re-opened following major refurbishment in 2008
Plas Madoc Leisure Centre (renamed Splash Magic)	Wrexham	Re-opened in 2014

Centre name	Where	Details
Aberavon Leisure and Fitness Centre (replacement for Afan Lido Leisure Complex)	Neath Port Talbot	Opened in 2016
Cymmer Swimming Pool (renamed Afan Valley Swimming Pool)	Neath Port Talbot	Re-opened in 2016
Nova Leisure Centre	Denbighshire	Re-opened in 2016
Splott Swimming Pool (renamed STAR Hub)	Cardiff	Re-opened in 2016

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