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# Strength, power and aerobic capacity of transgender athletes: a cross-sectional study

Theme: Participation

Strength, power and aerobic capacity of transgender athletes: a cross-sectional study

Co-authored by Blair Hamilton, Andrew Brown, Stephanie Montagner-Moraes, Cristina Comeras-Chueca, Peter G Bush, Fergus M Guppy, Yannis P Pitsiladis

# **Abstract**

**Objective:** The primary objective of this cross-sectional study was to compare standard laboratory performance metrics of transgender athletes to cisgender athletes.

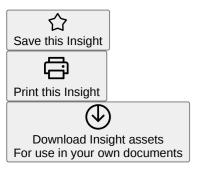
**Methods:** 19 cisgender men (CM) (mean±SD, age: 37±9 years), 12 transgender men (TM) (age: 34±7 years), 23 transgender women (TW) (age: 34±10 years) and 21 cisgender women (CW) (age: 30±9 years) underwent a series of standard laboratory performance tests, including body composition, lung function, cardiopulmonary exercise testing, strength and lower body power. Haemoglobin concentration in capillary blood and testosterone and oestradiol in serum were also measured.

**Results:** In this cohort of athletes, TW had similar testosterone concentration (TW  $0.7\pm0.5$  nmol/L, CW  $0.9\pm0.4$  nmol/), higher oestrogen (TW  $742.4\pm801.9$  pmol/L, CW  $336.0\pm266.3$  pmol/L, p=0.045), higher absolute handgrip strength (TW  $40.7\pm6.8$  kg, CW  $34.2\pm3.7$  kg, p=0.01), lower forced expiratory volume in 1 s:forced vital capacity ratio (TW  $0.83\pm0.07$ , CW  $0.88\pm0.04$ , p=0.04), lower relative jump height (TW  $0.7\pm0.2$  cm/kg; CW  $1.0\pm0.2$  cm/kg, p<0.001) and lower relative  $\dot{V}O_2$ max (TW  $45.1\pm13.3$  mL/kg/min/, CW  $54.1\pm6.0$  mL/kg/min, p<0.001) compared with CW athletes. TM had similar testosterone concentration (TM  $20.5\pm5.8$  nmol/L, CM  $24.8\pm12.3$  nmol/L), lower absolute hand grip strength (TM  $38.8\pm7.5$  kg, CM  $45.7\pm6.9$  kg, p=0.03) and lower absolute  $\dot{V}O_2$ max (TM  $3635\pm644$  mL/min, CM  $4467\pm641$  mL/min p=0.002) than CM.

**Conclusion:** While longitudinal transitioning studies of transgender athletes are urgently needed, these results should caution against precautionary bans and sport eligibility exclusions that are not based on sport-specific (or sport-relevant) research.

#### Access the full study here

#### For a summary of the research, click here



#### Was this Insight helpful?



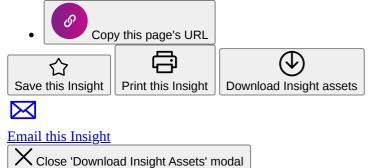


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#### New legislation for gender identity and sex characteristics in Queensland sport

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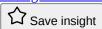
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#### Change in Action Week - Rangatahi FINALIST - Sylvia Brunt

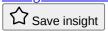
Change in Action Week - Innovative Impact FINALIST - Wāhine Toa



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#### Change in Action Week - Innovative Impact FINALIST - Wāhine Toa

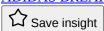
Change in Action Week - Rangatahi Winner - Carmel College



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#### **Change in Action Week - Rangatahi Winner - Carmel College**

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#### ADIDAS BREAKING BARRIERS RESEARCH

Kiwi women take clean sweep of the Ski Podium at The North Face Frontier 4- Competition



Kiwi women take clean sweep of the Ski Podium at The North Face Frontier 4- Competition
GUIDE TO CREATING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

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GUIDE TO CREATING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

By Emma Evans - Sport New Zealand
A 2024 SURVEY FOR: Women in Trail and Ultrarunning

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# A 2024 SURVEY FOR: Women in Trail and Ultrarunning

By Ali Pottinger - Squadrun

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#### 2022 IWG: Kirsten Spencer - Sport as a social development tool

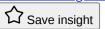
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# 2022 IWG: Erin Hatton - Driving transformational change

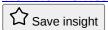
**Understanding Period Poverty Infographic** 



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## **Understanding Period Poverty Infographic**

By Cheycoda Cocks - Sport Manawatu Well Wāhine Week Case Study



Participation

#### Well Wāhine Week Case Study

By Helayna Ruifrok - Sport Gisborne Tairawhiti Netball Resources for Clubs and School Administrators



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#### **Netball Resources for Clubs and School Administrators**

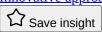
By Jenna Murie - Netball New Zealand
Girls Smash Modified Girls Only Cricket Programme



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# **Girls Smash Modified Girls Only Cricket Programme**

By Jess Davidson - New Zealand Cricket <u>Innovative approaches to encouraging women's participation in Golf</u>



Participation

# Innovative approaches to encouraging women's participation in Golf

By Roxanna Holdworth - This is ME

Netball Volunteer Programme



Participation

#### **Netball Volunteer Programme**

By Jenna Murie - Netball New Zealand

Mind. Set. Engage. Rugby's mental wellbeing programme.



#### Mind. Set. Engage. Rugby's mental wellbeing programme.

Sport as a Social Development Tool



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#### **Sport as a Social Development Tool**

By Kirsten Spencer - Auckland University of Technology Netball Player Development Programme

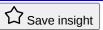


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## **Netball Player Development Programme**

By Alysha Jensen - Netball New Zealand

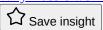
COACHING GIRLS GUIDE: HOW TO GET (AND KEEP) GIRLS PLAYING



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# COACHING GIRLS GUIDE: HOW TO GET (AND KEEP) GIRLS PLAYING

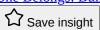
Why Aussie women's sport needs to talk about fertility



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#### Why Aussie women's sport needs to talk about fertility

She Belongs: Building Social Connection for Lasting Participation in Sport



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#### She Belongs: Building Social Connection for Lasting Participation in Sport

By Canadian Women & Sport - Canadian Women & Sport Sport for Sustainable Development: Designing Effective Policies and Programmes



Participation

#### **Sport for Sustainable Development: Designing Effective Policies and Programmes**

The Volunteer Capacity of Community Sports Clubs to Support Women and Girls in Sport

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The Volunteer Capacity of Community Sports Clubs to Support Women and Girls in Sport

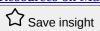
Huge uptick in girls and women playing football in New Zealand

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Huge uptick in girls and women playing football in New Zealand

Resources on Male Allyship



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**Resources on Male Allyship** 

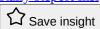
Rally Report Insights: Body Confidence



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**Rally Report Insights: Body Confidence** 

Rally Report Insights: Mental Health



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**Rally Report Insights: Mental Health** 

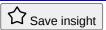
What type of uniforms do women want to wear when they referee or umpire sport?



Participation

What type of uniforms do women want to wear when they referee or umpire sport?

Women & Padel: Start of a love story



Participation

Women & Padel: Start of a love story

Empowering young women to lead their experiences - Journeys Central Otago



#### **Empowering young women to lead their experiences - Journeys Central Otago**

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand

Creating safe environments for young women to be active their way



Participation

#### Creating safe environments for young women to be active their way

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand

Kōhine māia



Participation

#### Kōhine māia

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand Yeah! Girls Move - Cricket not the way you know it



Yeah! Girls Move

Participation

# Yeah! Girls Move - Cricket not the way you know it

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand

For young women, by young women - WORD girls-only programme



Participation

# For young women, by young women - WORD girls-only programme

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand Not just for the "sporty", the Not-So-Sports-Club

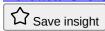
Not just for the "sporty", the Not-So-Sports-(



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#### Not just for the "sporty", the Not-So-Sports-Club

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand Manawatū Cricket Association case study



#### Manawatū Cricket Association case study

By Cheycoda Cocks - Sport Manawatu Backyard Smash & Sista Smash



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#### **Backyard Smash & Sista Smash**

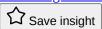
By Roxanna Holdworth - This is ME The female-friendliness of New Zealand's tennis clubs



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#### The female-friendliness of New Zealand's tennis clubs

Removing Period Poverty As a Barrier to Participation



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#### **Removing Period Poverty As a Barrier to Participation**

By Roxanna Holdworth - This is ME

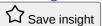
Te Awamutu AFC starts 2024 off strong with growing demand



Participation

## Te Awamutu AFC starts 2024 off strong with growing demand

Five things to know about women and sport



Participation

#### Five things to know about women and sport

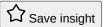
Has the Olympics become too sexualised? How sex and gender debates drove online discourse



Participation

#### Has the Olympics become too sexualised? How sex and gender debates drove online discourse

Pacific Women's Leadership Programme Impact - Sela Vaenuku



IWG: Claire Badenhorst - Iron regulation throughout the lifespan - An active female perspective

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#### IWG: Claire Badenhorst - Iron regulation throughout the lifespan - An active female perspective

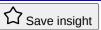
"Beginning Day 1" Checklist: How to Coach and Support Women and Teen Girl Athletes

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#### "Beginning Day 1" Checklist: How to Coach and Support Women and Teen Girl Athletes

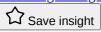
**Nutrition For Female Athletes** 



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#### **Nutrition For Female Athletes**

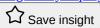
Coaching through a Gender Lens Infographic



Participation

#### Coaching through a Gender Lens Infographic

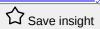
Angel City Equity House Podcast: Myth Busters presented by Gatorade



Participation

#### **Angel City Equity House Podcast: Myth Busters presented by Gatorade**

2022 IWG: Emily Davidson - She Loves Golf Presentation



Participation

#### 2022 IWG: Emily Davidson - She Loves Golf Presentation

<u>Hikurangi Golf Club president Felice Croft encouraging more women into the sport</u>



## Hikurangi Golf Club president Felice Croft encouraging more women into the sport

Running and periods: The myths about exercise and your menstrual cycle, debunked

Participation

Running and periods: The myths about exercise and your menstrual cycle, debunked

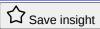
<u>Updated Pregnancy guidance from UK Sport</u>



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#### **Updated Pregnancy guidance from UK Sport**

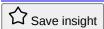
IWG: Daenin Roth - Grassroots Role Models Inspiring Change



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#### **IWG: Daenin Roth - Grassroots Role Models Inspiring Change**

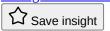
IWG: Dr Riki Tesler: Social capital and health among participants in the cachibol league in Israel



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#### IWG: Dr Riki Tesler: Social capital and health among participants in the cachibol league in Israel

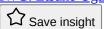
Young Women Profile - September 2021



Participation

#### Young Women Profile - September 2021

IWG: Etsuko Ogasawara - New Way of Thinking to Promote Physical Activity for Girls



Participation

#### IWG: Etsuko Ogasawara - New Way of Thinking to Promote Physical Activity for Girls

New Zealand Football Performance & Prevention - Considerations for Female Athletes



# New Zealand Football Performance & Prevention - Considerations for Female Athletes IWG: Christine Young - Women in Taekwondo - Over 40 is not Over the Hill



Participation

#### IWG: Christine Young - Women in Taekwondo - Over 40 is not Over the Hill

Co-Designing Effective Programmes for Young Girls: Insights and Principles



**Participation** 

#### **Co-Designing Effective Programmes for Young Girls: Insights and Principles**

By Briana irving - Aktive - Auckland Sport & Recreation How To Co-Design A Programme With Participants

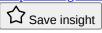




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# **How To Co-Design A Programme With Participants**

By Briana irving - Aktive - Auckland Sport & Recreation <u>Empowering Disengaged Girls Through A Participant-Centered Programme</u>

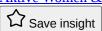


**Participation** 

**Participation** 

# **Empowering Disengaged Girls Through A Participant-Centered Programme**

By Briana irving - Aktive - Auckland Sport & Recreation Aktive Women & Girls Facility Guide



Women & Girls Facility Guide

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# **Aktive Women & Girls Facility Guide**

Insights to Young Women's Participation - Webinar #1 "Rethinking the offering"

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# Insights to Young Women's Participation - Webinar #1 "Rethinking the offering"

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand

Insights to Young Women's Participation - Webinar #2 "Empowering young women to lead their experiences"



# Insights to Young Women's Participation - Webinar #2 "Empowering young women to lead their experiences"

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand

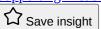
IWG: Helen Parker - Transgender competitors in women's sport - Change for the better?



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#### IWG: Helen Parker - Transgender competitors in women's sport - Change for the better?

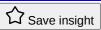
Supporting Disabled Teenage Girls to be Active



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#### **Supporting Disabled Teenage Girls to be Active**

400 Games: Melony O'Connor Reaches Refereeing Milestone in Sal's NBL



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#### 400 Games: Melony O'Connor Reaches Refereeing Milestone in Sal's NBL

By Amy McClintock - Basketball New Zealand

Insights to Young Women's Participation - Webinar #3 "Focus on Wellbeing and creating a safe environment"



Participation

# Insights to Young Women's Participation - Webinar #3 "Focus on Wellbeing and creating a safe environment"

By Rachel Howells - Sport New Zealand

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