

# Research 6

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## Disability Sports Administration in Local Governments

## I. Overview

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this study is to investigate the current situations of sports and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities in prefectures, ordinance-designated cities, core cities, special cities and special wards, and to provide an evidence-based data to the government and relevant sectors for future policy development.

### 2. Data collection method

#### (1) Method

Written Questionnaire - Responded via mail or E-mail

#### (2) Questions

- Departments in charge of disability sports
- Sponsored or jointly sponsored disability sports competitions or events
- Sponsored or jointly sponsored disability sports classes
- Sponsored or jointly sponsored training courses for disability sports instructors or disability sports volunteers
- Sports facilities which improved accessibility
- Impact of transferring control of disability sports administration to MEXT

#### (3) Sample Size

A written questionnaire was sent to 173 local governments (prefectures and municipalities). In this survey, municipalities mean ordinance-designated cities, core cities, special cities, and special wards.

A total of 167 local governments (47 prefectures <100% response rate> and 120 municipalities <95.2% response rate>) responded. The response rate overall was 96.5%.

#### (4) Timeframe

August 18, 2014 – September 16, 2014

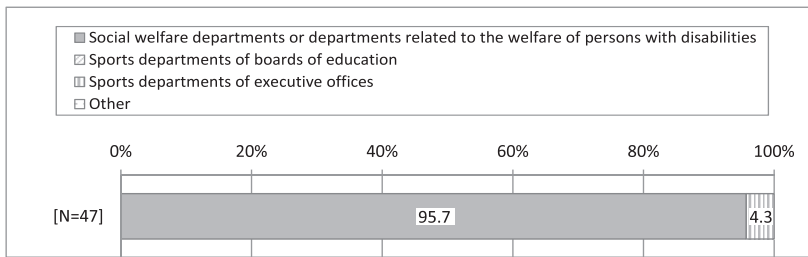
## II. Survey Results

### 1. Prefectures

#### (1) Departments in charge of disability sports and their implemented projects

##### ① Primary departments in charge of disability sports

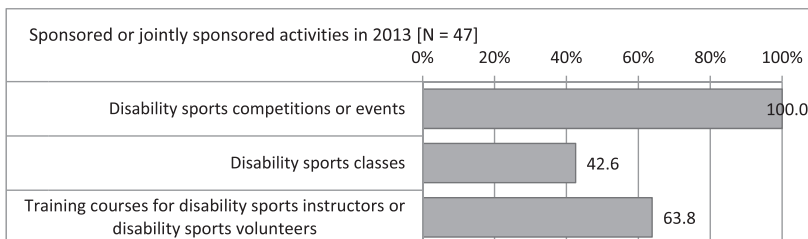
With prefectures, “Social welfare departments or departments related to the welfare of persons with disabilities” accounted for nearly all (95.7%) of the departments which take primary charge of disability sports, while “Sports departments of executive offices” played that role in 4.3% of cases (Figure 6-1).



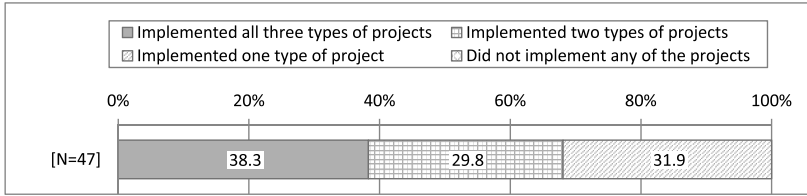
**Figure 6-1 Primary department in charge of disability sports**

##### ② Sponsored or jointly sponsored projects

Regarding the projects sponsored or jointly sponsored by prefectures in fiscal year 2013, all prefectures held “Disability sports competitions or events”, with 42.6% of prefectures implementing “Disability sports classes” and 63.8% holding “Training courses for disability sports instructors or volunteers” (Figure 6-2). In addition, 38.3% of prefectures implemented all three of the above types of activities; 29.8% implemented two of the types; and 31.9% implemented one of the types (Figure 6-3).



**Figure 6-2 Disability sports projects implemented in FY 2013**

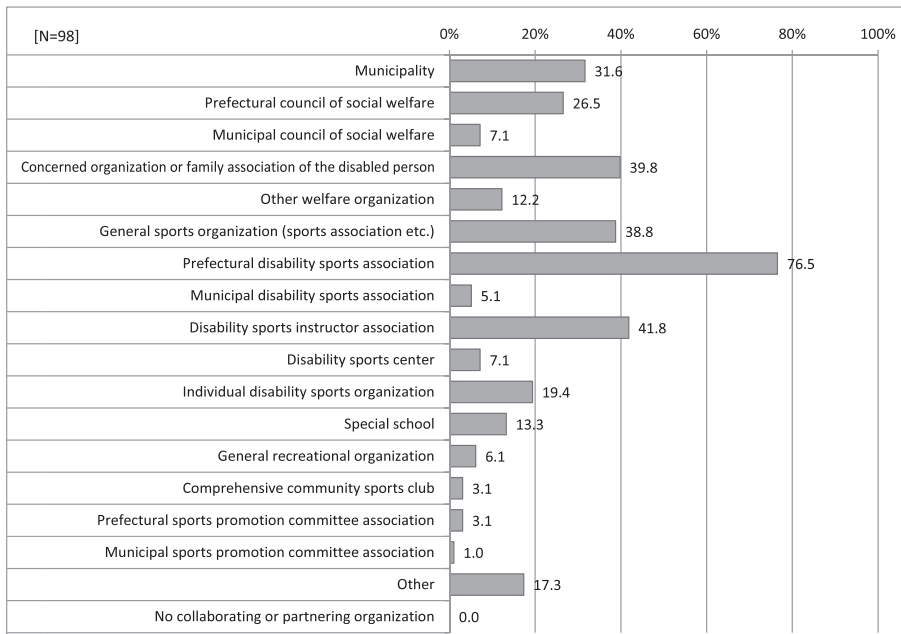


**Figure 6-3 Implementation of three projects in FY 2013**

(2) Disability sports competitions or events

① Collaborating organizations for disability sports competitions or events

Regarding the organizations which collaborated or partnered for disability sports competitions or events, the most common was “Prefectural disability sports association” (76.5%) followed by “Disability sports instructor association” (41.8%), and “Concerned organization or family association of the disabled person” (39.8%) (Figure 6-4).

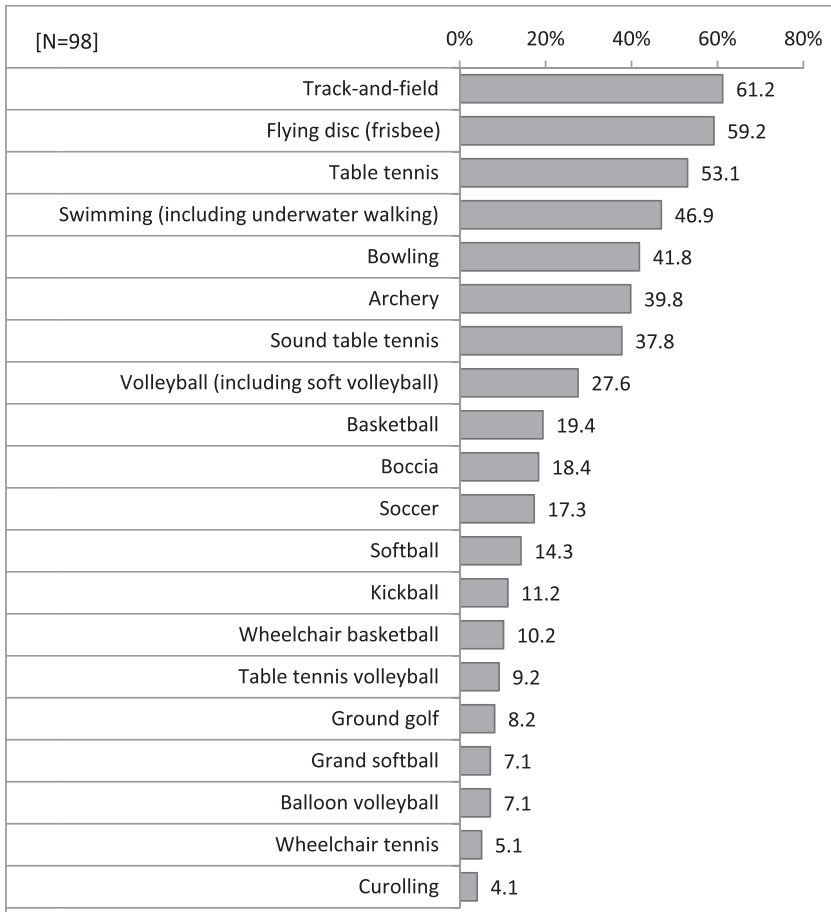


**Figure 6-4**

**Collaborating organizations for disability sports competitions or events**

② Implemented activities at disability sports competitions or events

Regarding the activities implemented at disability sports competitions or events, the most common was “Track-and-field” (61.2%) followed by “Flying disc (frisbee)” (59.2%), “Table tennis” (53.1%), and “Swimming (including underwater walking)” (46.9%), with the top positions occupied by activities which are held at the National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities (Figure 6-5).

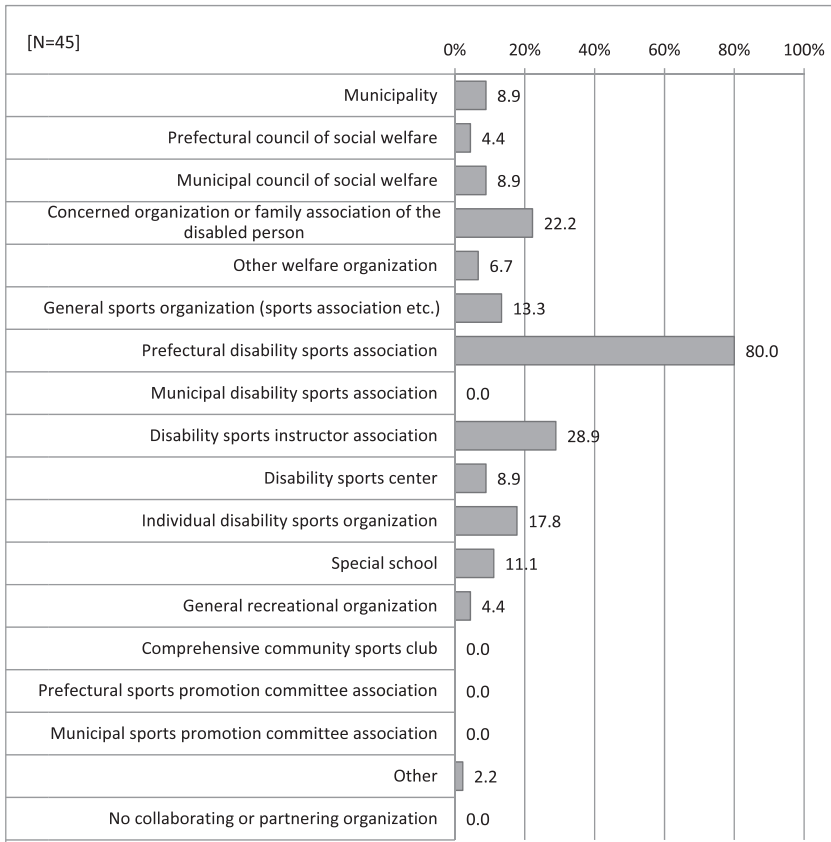


**Figure 6-5**  
Implemented activities at disability sports competitions or events (top 20)

## (3) Disability sports classes

## ① Collaborating organizations for disability sports classes

Regarding the organizations which collaborated or partnered for disability sports classes, the most common was “Prefectural disability sports association” (80.0%) followed by “Disability sports instructor association” (28.9%) and “Concerned organization or family association of the disabled person” (22.2%) (Figure 6-6).



**Figure 6-6 Collaborating organizations for disability sports classes**

② Implemented activities at disability sports classes

Regarding the activities implemented at disability sports classes, the most common was “Swimming (including underwater walking)” (48.9%) followed by “Flying disc (frisbee)” (31.1%), “Table tennis” (28.9%), and “Boccia” (24.4%) (Figure 6-7).

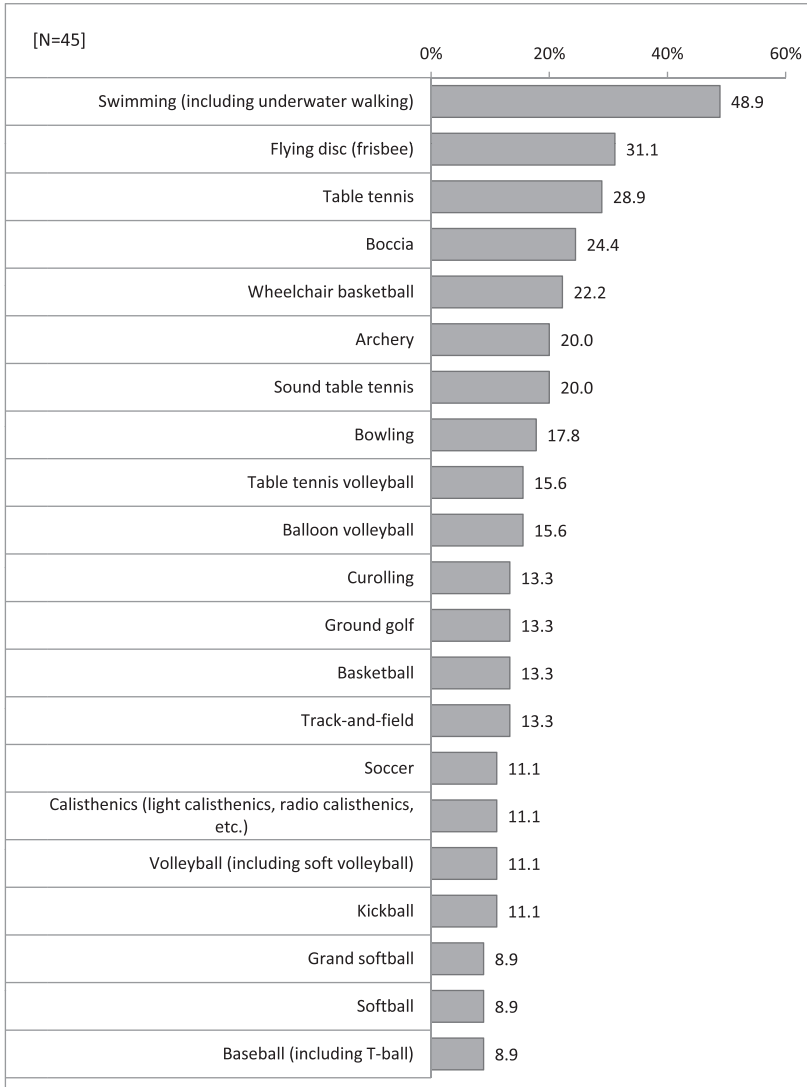
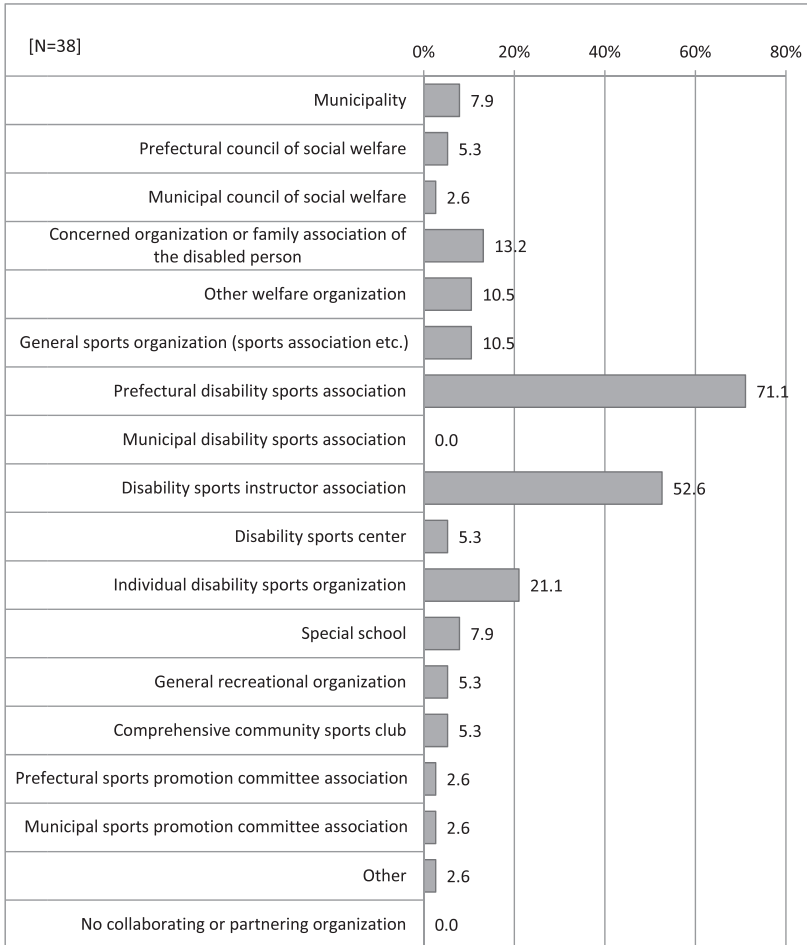


Figure 6-7 Implemented activities at disability sports classes (top 20)

(4) Training courses for disability sports instructors or volunteers

Regarding the organizations which collaborated or partnered for training courses, the most common was “Prefectural disability sports association” (71.1%) followed by “Disability sports instructor association” (52.6%) (Figure 6-8).

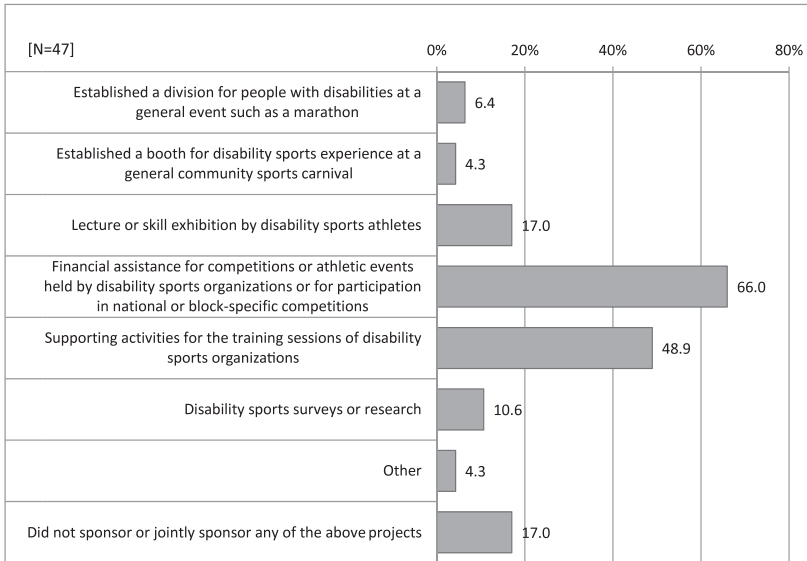


**Figure 6-8 Collaborating organizations for training courses**



(5) Other disability sports projects

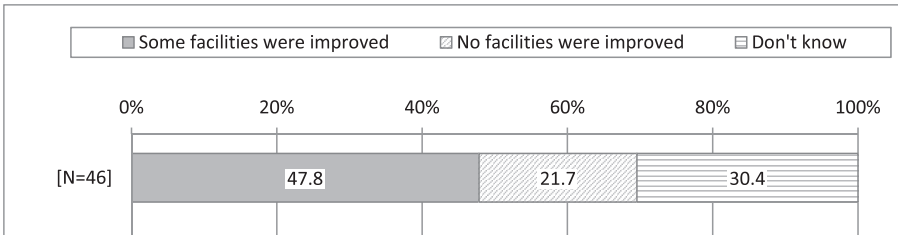
Regarding the disability sports projects other than “Disability sports competitions or events”, “Disability sports classes”, and “Training courses for disability sports instructors or volunteers”, the most common was “Financial assistance for competitions or athletic events held by disability sports organizations or for participation in national or block-specific competitions” (66.0%) followed by “Supporting activities for the training sessions of disability sports organizations” (48.9%) (Figure 6-9).



**Figure 6-9 Implementation of other projects**

(6) Sports facilities with improved accessibility

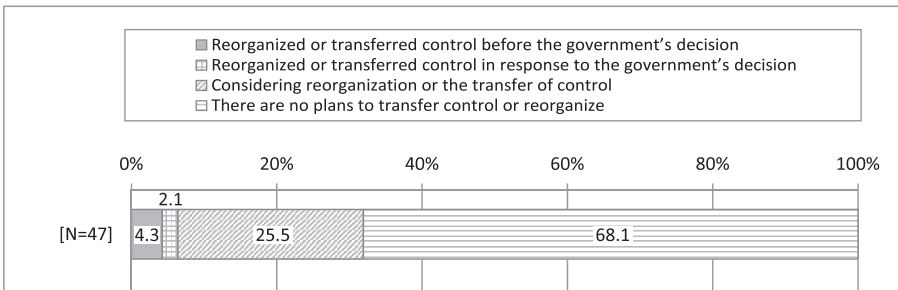
Regarding the sports facilities for which prefectures improved accessibility over the past three years, “Some facilities were improved” responses totaled 47.8% followed by “No facilities were improved” (21.7%) (Figure 6-10).



**Figure 6-10 Improvement of accessibility at sports facilities**

(7) Impact of transferring control of disability sports administration to MEXT

Regarding the reorganization or transferring of control of prefectural departments in charge of disability sports, “There are no plans to transfer control or reorganize” responses made up about 70% (Figure 6-11). A total of 6.4% had transferred control or undergone reorganization.



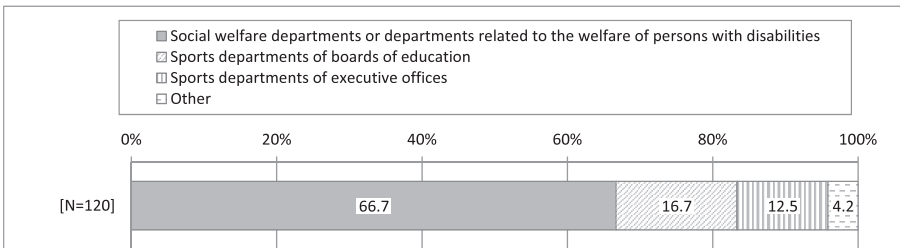
**Figure 6-11  
Reorganization or transfer of control of departments  
in charge of disability sports**

**2. Municipalities (ordinance-designated cities, core cities, special cities, and special wards)**

(1) Departments in charge of disability sports and their implemented projects

① Primary departments in charge of disability sports

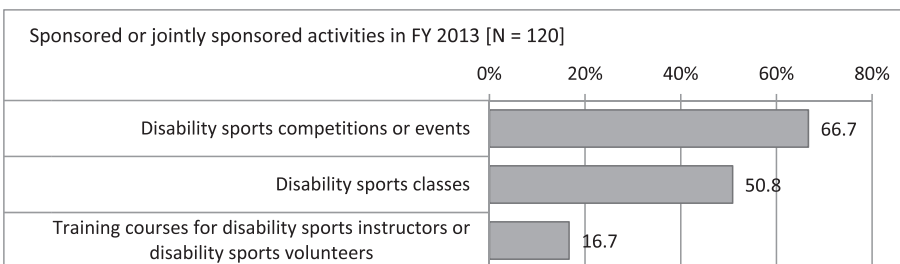
With municipalities, “Social welfare departments or departments related to the welfare of persons with disabilities” (66.7%) was the most common type of department which takes primary charge of disability sports, followed by “Sports departments of boards of education” (16.7%) (Figure 6-12).



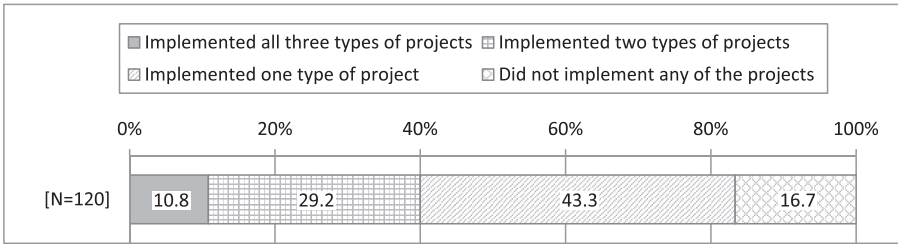
**Figure 6-12 Primary department in charge of disability sports**

② Sponsored or jointly sponsored projects

Regarding the projects sponsored or jointly sponsored by municipalities in fiscal year 2013, the most common was “Disability sports competitions or events” (66.7%) followed by “Disability sports classes” (50.8%) and “Training courses for disability sports instructors or disability sports volunteers” (16.7%) (Figure 6-13). Also, of those three types of projects, 10.8% of municipalities implemented all three, 29.2% implemented two types, and 43.3% implemented one type, with 16.7% of municipalities not implementing any of the three (Figure 6-14).



**Figure 6-13 Disability sports projects implemented in FY 2013**

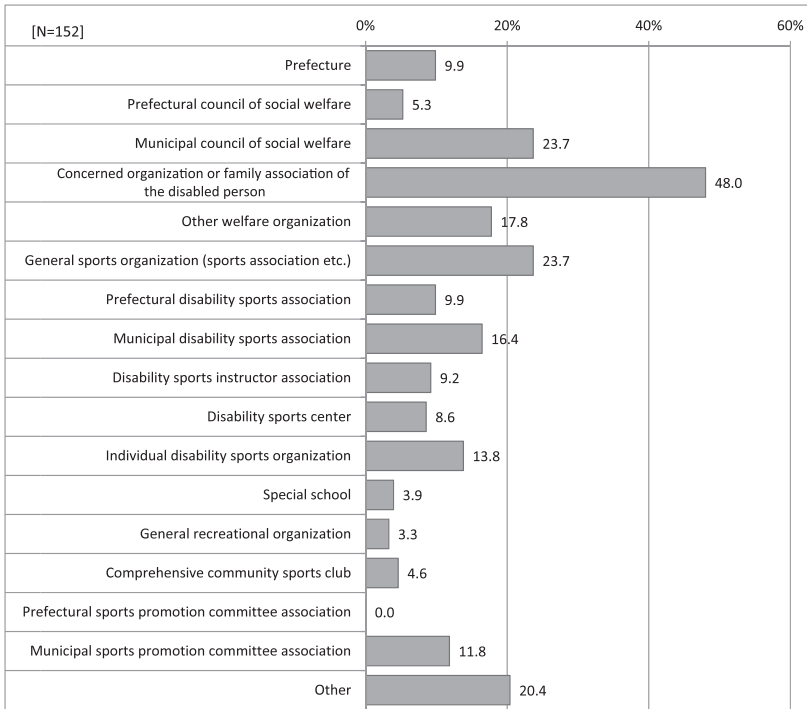


**Figure 6-14 Implementation of three projects in FY 2013**

(2) Disability sports competitions or events

① Collaborating organizations for disability sports competitions or events

Regarding the organizations which collaborated or partnered for disability sports competitions or events, the most common was “Concerned organization or family association of the disabled person” (48.0%) followed by both “Municipal council of social welfare” and “General sports organization (sports association etc.)” at 23.7% each (Figure 6-15).

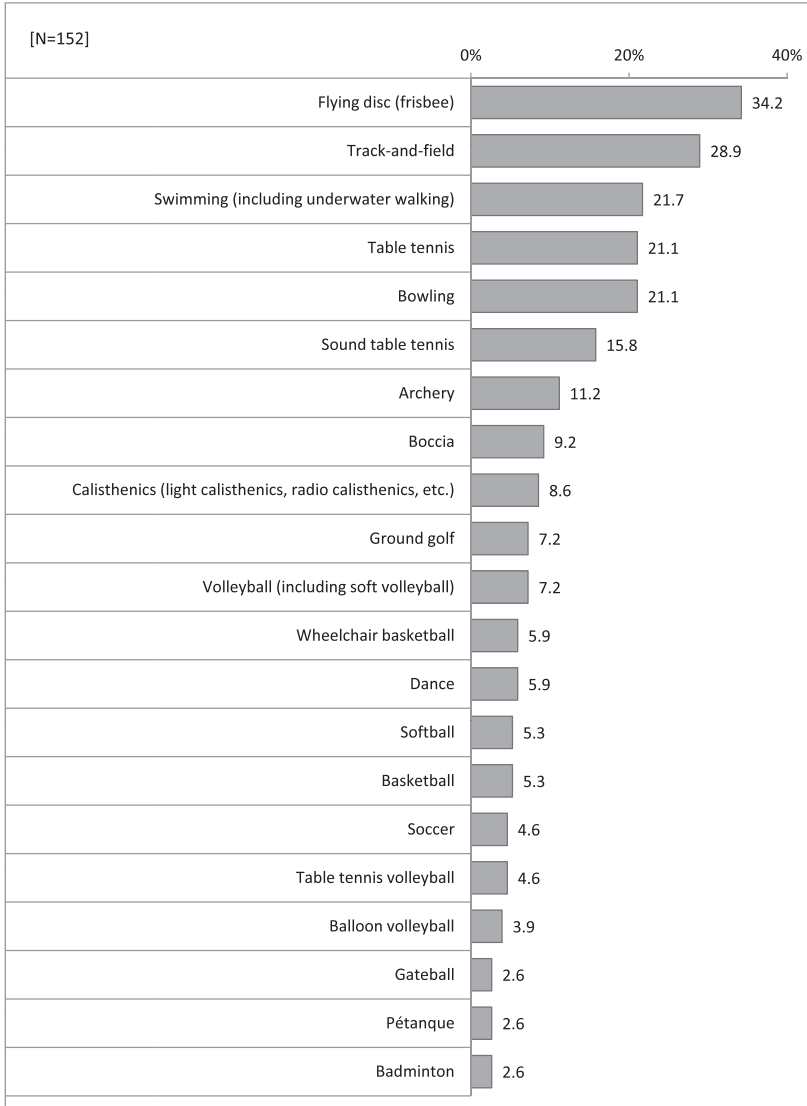


**Figure 6-15**

**Collaborating organizations for disability sports competitions or events**

② Implemented activities at disability sports competitions or events

Regarding the activities implemented at disability sports competitions or events, the most common was “Flying disc (frisbee)” (34.2%) followed by “Track-and-field” (28.9%) and “Swimming (including underwater walking)” (21.7%), with the top positions occupied by activities which are held at the National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities (Figure 6-16).

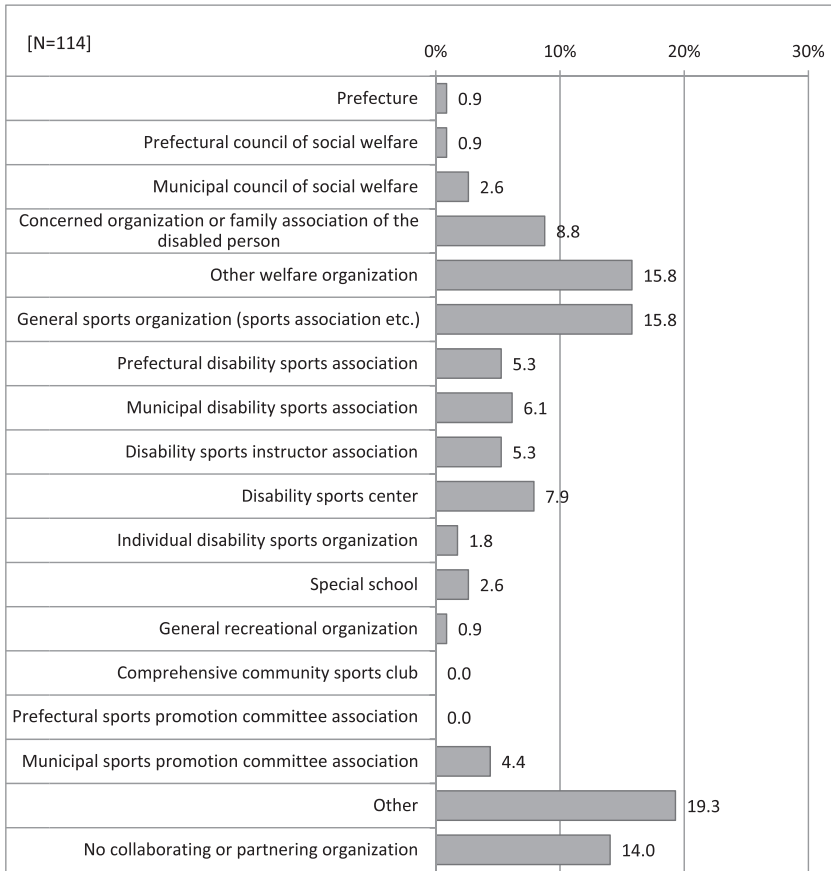


**Figure 6-16**  
**Implemented activities at disability sports competitions or events (top 20)**

(3) Disability sports classes

① Collaborating organizations for disability sports classes

Regarding the organizations which collaborated or partnered for disability sports classes, the most common were “Other welfare association” and “General sports organization (sports association etc.)” at 15.8% each (Figure 6-17).



**Figure 6-17 Collaborating organizations for disability sports classes**

② Implemented activities at disability sports classes

Regarding the activities implemented at disability sports classes, the most common was “Swimming (including underwater walking)” (30.7%) followed by “Table tennis” (14.9%), “Boccia” (14.0%), and “Flying disc (frisbee)” (14.0%) (Figure 6-18).

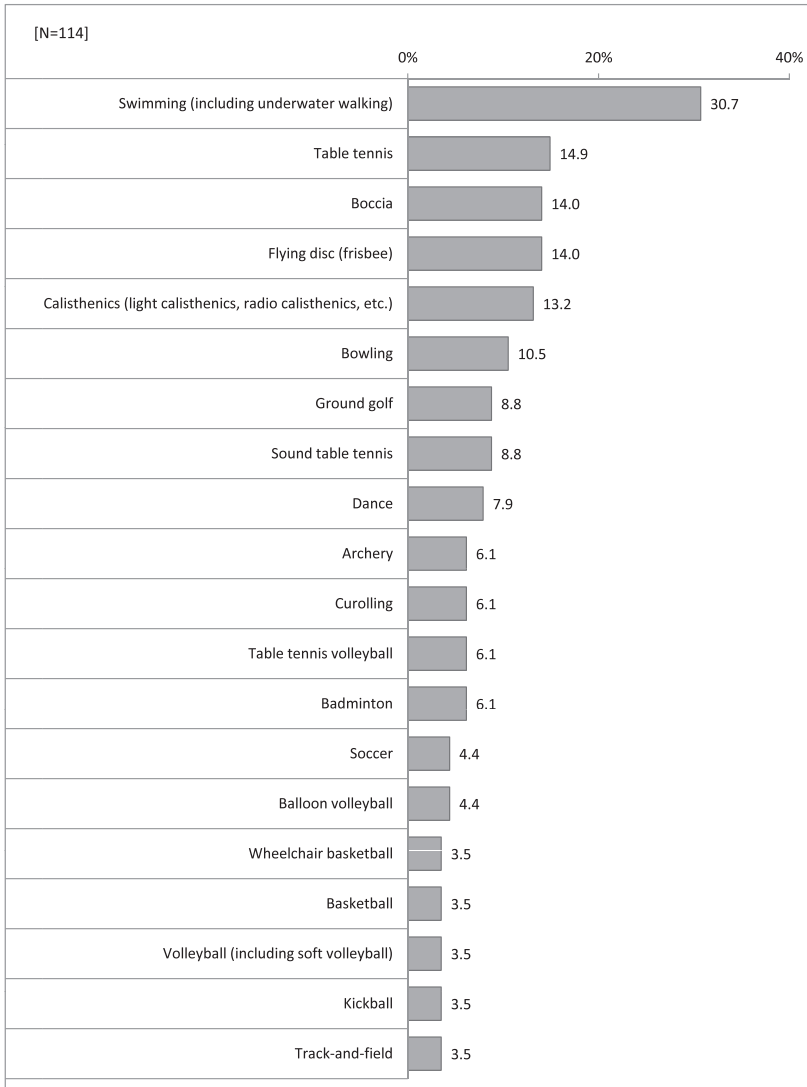
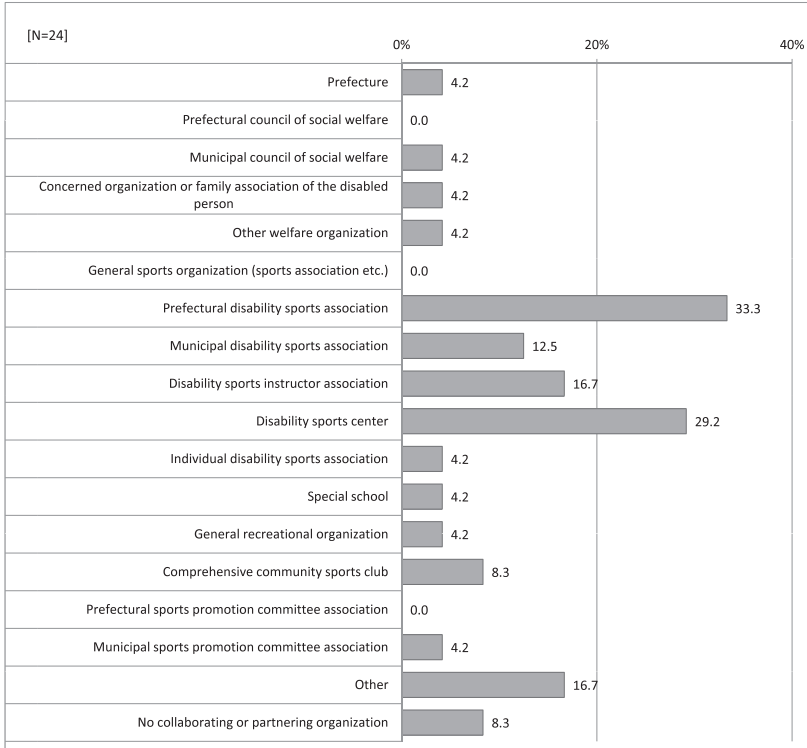


Figure 6-18 Implemented activities at disability sports classes (top 20)

(4) Training courses for disability sports instructors or volunteers

Regarding the organizations which collaborated or partnered for training courses, the most common was “Prefectural disability sports association” (33.3%) followed by “Disability sports center” (29.2%) (Figure 6-19).

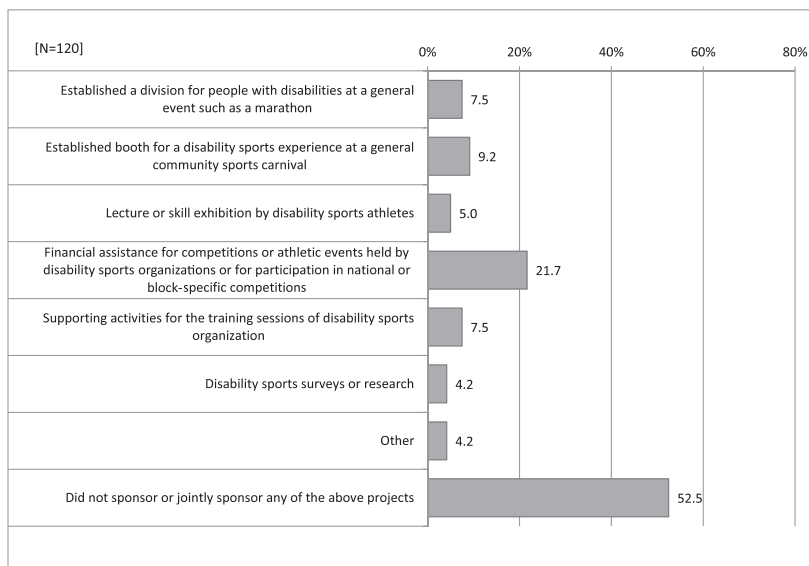


**Figure 6-19 Collaborating organizations for training courses**



## (5) Other disability sports projects

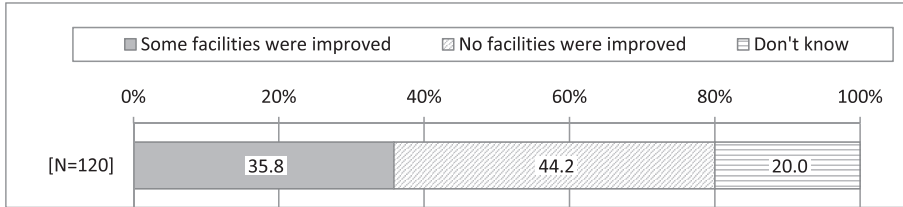
Regarding the disability sports projects other than “Disability sports competitions or events”, “Disability sports classes”, and “Training courses for disability sports instructors or disability sports volunteers”, about half of the municipalities did not sponsor or jointly sponsor any disability sports projects (Figure 6-20). “Financial assistance for competitions or athletic events held by disability sports organizations or for participation in national or block-specific competitions” responses totaled 21.7%.



**Figure 6-20 Implementation of other projects**

(6) Sports facilities which improved accessibility

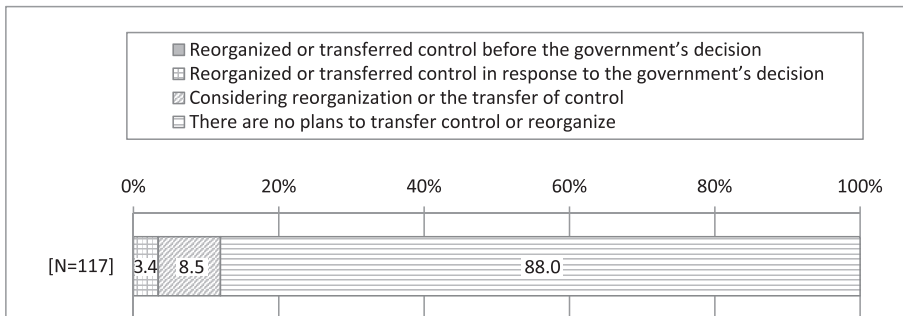
Regarding the sports facilities for which municipalities improved accessibility over the past three years, “Some facilities were improved” responses totaled 35.8% while “No facilities were improved” came in at 44.2% (Figure 6-21).



**Figure 6-21 Improvement of accessibility at sports facilities**

(7) Impact of transferring control of disability sports administration to MEXT

Regarding the reorganization or transferring control of municipal departments in charge of disability sports, “There are no plans to transfer control or reorganize” responses made up about 90% (Figure 6-22). A total of 3.4% had transferred control or undergone reorganization.



**Figure 6-22 Reorganization or transfer of control of departments in charge of disability sports**