

## 2015 Athletic Facts

### Fact File 36

#### The decline in jumps numbers from 2010 to 2015

**Background.** In FF 36 we examine the numbers of male athletes who have competed in the vertical and horizontal jumps over the last 5 years.

**Procedure.** The following analysis uses Power of 10 data. The P10 site is financed by UKA from a Sport England grant. For this trend comparison we have taken as the starting point 2010 which is the year UKA changed the coaching structure which many claimed would reduce the number of specialist coaches for the more technical events. The numbers for 2015 are up to September 10th. While there may be a few more additions during the remaining period of 2015 past analysis shows these should be so minimal as not to affect this study's conclusions. The numbers for the various age groups are detailed below together with the cut off performance below which numbers are not recorded. The lower target performances have not changed from 2010 to 2015 so actual numbers are directly comparable.

#### Numbers of vertical male jumpers

Table 1. Distribution in 2010 and 2015

	Min Height	Numbers 2010	Numbers Sept 2015	Decline
<b>High Jump</b>				
Senior	1.73 m	270	203	24.8%
U20	1.70 m	219	194	11.4%
U17	1.65 m	420	303	27.9%
U15	1.50 m	556	514	7.6%
<b>Pole Vault</b>				
Senior	3.00 m	241	209	13.3%
U20	2.80 m	123	108	12.2%
U17	2.65 m	116	95	18.1%
U15	2.20 m	111	99	10.8%

#### Numbers of horizontal male jumpers

	Min distance	Numbers 2010	Numbers Sept 2015	Decline
<b>Long Jump</b>				
Senior	5.80 m	355	309	13.0%
U20	5.70 m	315	246	21.9%
U17	5.40 m	548	461	15.9%
U15	4.80 m	726	660	9.1%
<b>Triple Jump</b>				
Senior	11.80 m	277	218	11.8%
U20	11.50 m	246	196	11.5%
U17	11.00 m	508	361	28.9%
U15	10.00 m	424	323	23.8%

**Trends in drop out rates.** An U15 in 2010 will be U20 in 2015. Comparing numbers of U15's in 2010 with the U20's in 2015 gives a measure of the drop out rate over the last 5 years. If the number of U15's from 2015 reduce at the same rate over the next 5 years then the numbers of under 20's in 2020 may be predicted.

Table 2. Drop out rates and a prediction

**High Jump   Pole Vault   Long Jump   Triple Jump**

2010 U15	556	111	726	424
2015 U20	194	108	246	196
Drop Out	65.1%	2.8%	66.1%	53.8%
2015 U15	514	99	660	323
	<b>High Jump</b>	<b>Pole Vault</b>	<b>Long Jump</b>	<b>Triple Jump</b>
<b>2020 U 20</b>				
<b>Predicted</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>149</b>

**Comments.** There has been a decline in numbers over the last 5 years in all the jumps and age groups. This is a similar pattern to the decline in the throwing events and hurdles recorded in the preceding Fact Files. Of the jumps the least technical is the long jump and it is in this discipline that there are the most competitors. In contrast the numbers in the most technical event – the pole vault – are relatively small but the drop out rate for this event is very low. The numbers competing in the U20 age group in 2015 are only slightly down on the 2010 U15 numbers indicating a very high commitment by those who take up this most difficult of events.

The biggest decline in the high jump has been in the U17 age group (27.9%) The U17 age group also shows the biggest decline in the pole vault (18.1%) and the triple jump (28.9%). The U20 age group shows the largest fall in the long jump at 21.9%.

In the recent Fact Files on the the decline in competitors for the technical events we have quoted different mission statements taken from the athletics document submitted by England Athletics and UKA to Sport England prior to the 2013 – 2017 funding cycle.. Here are 2 more.

- ***Sport England research points to significant un-met demand in the years ahead. Athletics' potential has still to be reached.***
- ***The affiliated sport (competing club members) has grown from 98,000 to 120,000 in three years (2009-2012) and our plans prepare to respond positively to continual growth in the coming years.***

Signed by : **John Graves**, Exec Chair England Athletics and **Niels de Vos**, Chief Executive UKA.

In reality, **continual growth** was always going to be difficult! There are no official statistics which recognise that there is a decline. The powers that be are in denial. The latest ABAC Fact Files have been prepared with the intention of contributing to the debate. Let us hope the DCMS is reading and watching..

End