



Does Participation in Organized Team Sport Influence Athletic Identity in Person's with Spinal Cord Injury

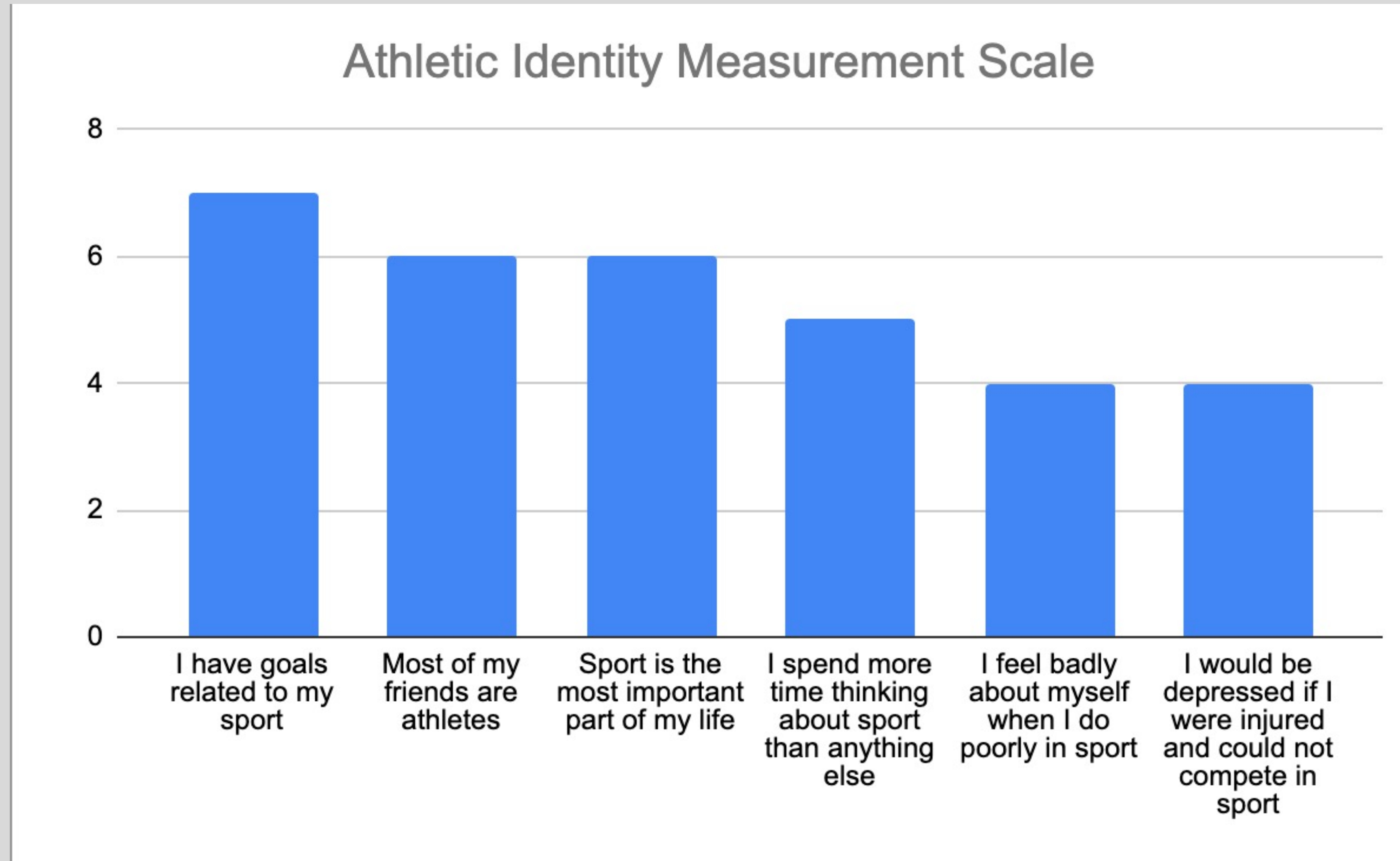


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BACKGROUND

- Spinal cord injuries (SCI) occur to more than 12,000 people per year in the United States³.
- Taking part in sport allows people with SCI to promote greater independence, improved physical health, better sleep routines, etc.^{4 & 6}.
- Participating in team-based sport allows the individual to experience teamwork and promotes relationships with people with similar disabilities².
- Athletic Identity refers to how much a person identifies themselves with the role of an athlete⁵. For individuals with SCI increasing Athletic Identity can develop a greater acceptance and transition to their new functionality and lived experience⁷.

RESULTS

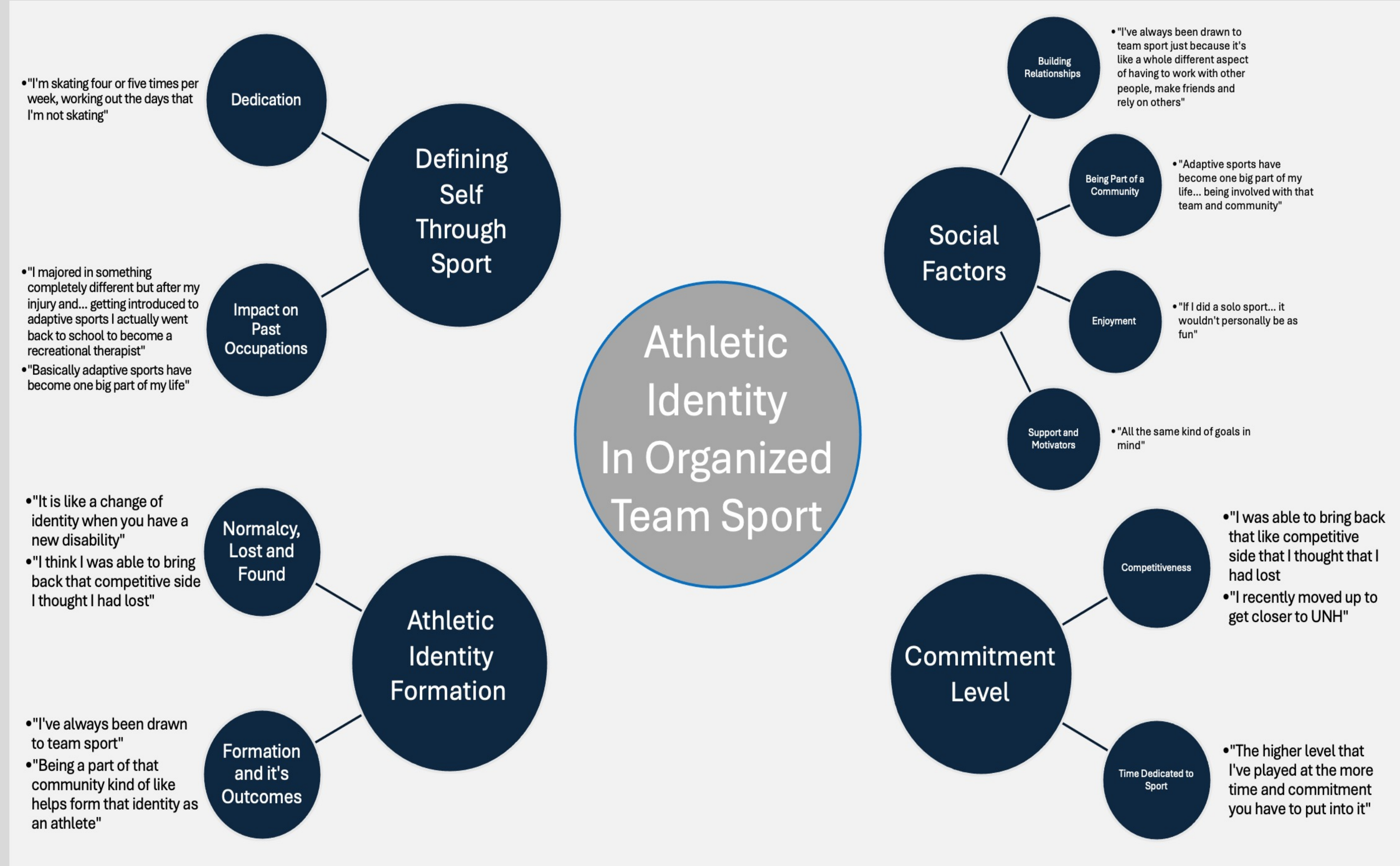


DISCUSSION

- Being on an organized team sport means
- Creating the support an athlete needs
 - Helping athletes better reach for their goals
 - Aiding in redefining what sport is to a person after injury
 - Promoting a sense of a competitive community for like-minded athletes
- Having high Athletic Identity can
- Aid in building a dedication to their sport
 - Promote a physical lifestyle
 - Create a life that prioritizes sport
- The influence of high athletic identity combined with participation in team sport
- Redefining identity
 - Creating opportunities for growth
 - Promoting personal development
- Limitation in sample size

METHODS

- Design & Recruitment**
This study used a convergent mixed methods exploratory case report
Convenience sampling was used via adaptive sport organizations
- Participant**
Individual with a lumbar level spinal injury who participates in sled hockey
- Data Collection**
Quantitative: Demographic Questionnaire, Athletic Identity Measurement Scale (AIMS)¹
Qualitative: Zoom Interview
- Data Analysis**
Quantitative: Descriptive Statistic
Qualitative: Inductive Thematic Analysis via Interview Transcription



CONCLUSIONS

- Increased Diversity within Sample**
- A sample size that contains
 - A wide variety of ages
 - Spinal cord injuries that occurred earlier in life
 - Adaptive sport was not introduced until later in life
 - Sport was not accessible geographically
- Competitive vs. Recreational**
- Exploring the differences between
 - Support within the teams
 - Relationships
 - Dedication of athletes
 - Perceived sense of being an athlete
 - Difference in Athletic Identity

References



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