

Information about the Virginia LMSC

Chris Stevenson, LMSC Top 10 Recorder and Webmaster

November, 2015

The Virginia LMSC is one of 52 LMSCs in US Masters Swimming. Those LMSCs are also grouped into eight zones, ours being the southernmost of the ten-member Colonies Zone. The purpose of this report is to provide a thumbnail profile of our membership.

How Old Are We? LMSC Age Distribution

In 2015, there were 1159 members of the LMSC, 54% of whom are female and 46% of whom are male. The distribution by age is shown in figure 1 and table 1.

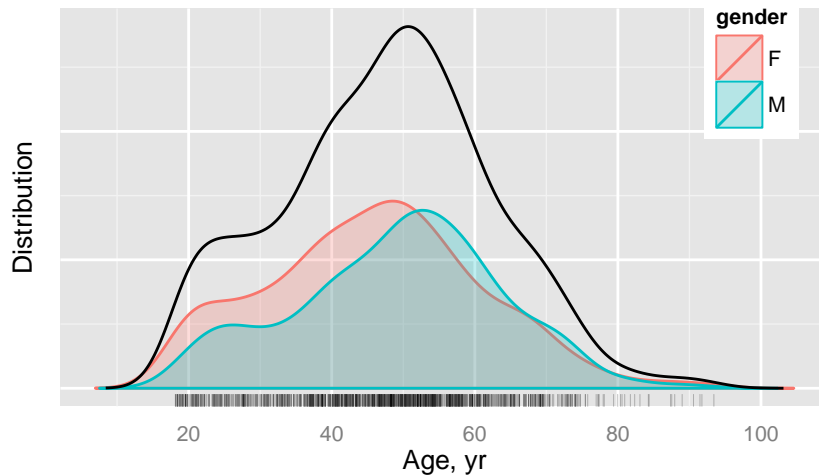


Figure 1: Density distribution of the age of LMSC members. The black line is for the entire LMSC, while the filled colored curves are for males and females. The peak age density for the LMSC is around 50 years.

Table 1: Distribution of ages by age group.

Age Group	F	M	Sum
18-24	65	36	101
25-29	38	29	67
30-34	45	28	73
35-39	67	37	104
40-44	73	57	130
45-49	94	67	161
50-54	80	92	172
55-59	56	70	126
60-64	37	48	85
65-69	40	33	73
70-74	14	26	40
75-79	9	2	11
80-84	3	5	8
85-89	2	2	4
90-94	3	1	4
Sum	626	533	1159

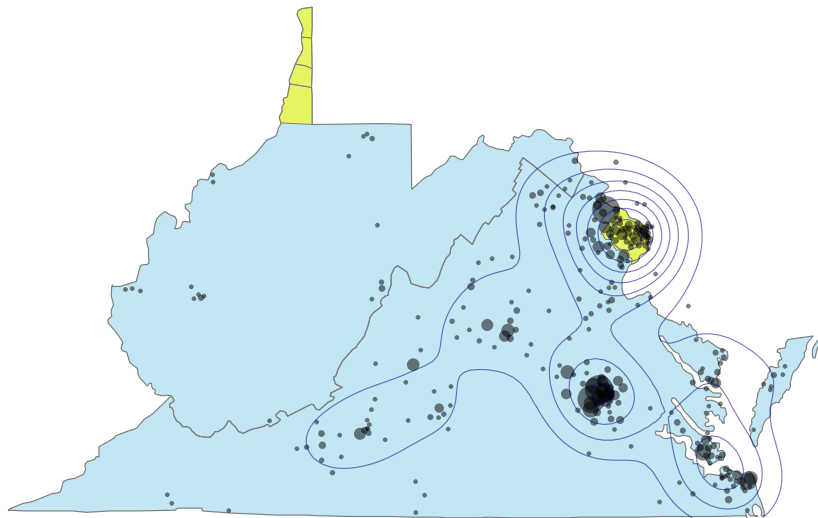
The median age of the LMSC is 48.3 years, but females skew younger than males (median ages of 46.6 and 50.6 years, respectively). Roughly speaking, females are more numerous at younger ages (60% of membership below 50 years) while males are more numerous at older ages (53% of membership above 50 years).

Besides the difference in genders, two other features of the age distribution are worth noting. The growth curve is rather flat through much of the 20s, and is more pronounced and extends farther for males than females. There is also a slight bump in the late sixties, presumably associated with retirement.

Where Do We Swim? LMSC Geographic Distribution

The Virginia LMSC serves most of the counties in the states of Virginia and West Virginia.¹ As seen in table 2, the vast majority of our members reside in the state of Virginia. There is, however, no requirement that a member register for the LMSC in which s/he resides; we have 56 members who live in 22 states (and the District of Columbia) other than VA and WV.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of members in the Virginia-West Virginia area. The main clusters of members are in the northern Virginia, Richmond, and Virginia Beach areas. Arlington and Fairfax counties—despite not being within LMSC borders—have the highest density of members.



¹ The LMSC does not include the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax or the West Virginia counties of Hancock, Brook, Ohio and Marshall.

Table 2: Home state of LMSC members.

State	Number	Percent
VA	1071	92.4 %
WV	32	2.8%
MD	7	0.6%
NC	6	0.5%
DC	5	0.4%
Others	38	3.3%

Figure 2: Distribution of members in and near the LMSC. The LMSC border is indicated by the blue fill; the counties colored yellow are not in the Virginia LMSC. The size and shadings of the gray/black circles indicate numbers of members, and the contour lines indicate membership density.

How Many Renew? LMSC Retention Rates

In 2015, our membership renewal rate was 62.5%, which is our highest rate since 2011; at the national level, the renewal rate was 63% in 2014. Complete retention statistics are given in table 3 for the years since 2009.

We've had 3404 unique members since 2009, and 220 of them have renewed every year since.

Year	Number	Renew	New
2009	1002	NA	NA
2010	1100	610 (55.5%)	NA
2011	1071	691 (64.5%)	347 (32.4%)
2012	1132	688 (60.8%)	387 (34.2%)
2013	1155	677 (58.6%)	419 (36.3%)
2014	1149	689 (60.0%)	391 (34.0%)
2015	1159	724 (62.5%)	368 (31.8%)

Table 3: Retention of members in the Virginia LMSC. A 'renewal' is a 2015 member who was also a member in 2014. The New and Renew numbers to not add to the total because of members who returned after letting their membership lapse for at least one year.

How Many Compete? LMSC Participation Rates

How many of our members participated in pool or open water events? Examining this question can help determine what services our members value. Similar to previous years, I examined participation in a number of sanctioned, recognized and other events over the past 12 months.

	2015	2014	2013	2012
<i>Pool</i>	17.8 %	22.8 %	21.0 %	27.2 %
<i>OW</i>	16.1 %	16.4 %	17.6 %	14.9 %
<i>Pool only</i>	14.4 %	17.8 %	17.3 %	23.9 %
<i>OW only</i>	12.8 %	11.5 %	13.9 %	11.6 %
All Events	30.6 %	34.3 %	34.8 %	38.8 %

There are limitations to this analysis; nevertheless, it seems clear that participation in pool events has been declining over the past few years, while participation in OW over that time has held steady. Nationally, participation in pool events is about 25%. The loss of the Jack King event in 2014-2015 is worth noting.

Club (swimmers)	2015 By Event (%)		Any Event (%)		
	Pool	OW	2015	2014	2013
1693 (26)	46	0	46		
AFMS (21)	0	5	5		
BAM1 (7)	43	0	43	72	
BWST (10)	0	20	20	14	27
CMAS (14)	21	0	21	80	
CPYM (17)	88	52	94	86	100
FAC (28)	29	7	36		
FAFF (12)	8	8	17	0	0
HRMS (8)	75	0	75		
LAMS (19)	0	5	5	18	23
LTSM (14)	0	7	7	0	3
LTVA (11)	27	0	27	0	
MAC (6)	33	16	50	71	44
PATS (9)	11	0	11		
POWM (183)	5	25	28	27	18
QMST (16)	31	0	31	40	45
RCA (10)	50	30	50	41	75
RSMS (9)	56	0	56	0	
SHYM (6)	16	16	33	50	66
SNOW (1)	100	0	100	0	0
STON (5)	60	0	60	87	77
SUWC (6)	0	17	17		
UC12 (309)	6	24	30	32	41
URMS (6)	33	16	33	28	71
VMST (313)	21	11	37	42	45
VTAC (4)	25	0	25	17	9
WCMS (2)	0	100	100	100	75
WINM (5)	0	60	60		
WVM (8)	0	25	25	100	100

26% participated in an event: 14% in pool, 16% in OW)

Table 4: Participation rates in events by type. The relative importance of pool vs OW are best viewed by comparing the *pool only* and *OW only* values.

Pool events included in the analysis:

- Commonwealth Games*
- VMST Fall meet
- VMST David Gregg
- RCA Dive Into Spring
- SCY and LCM Zones
- SCY and LCM Nationals

OW events included

- John Shrum (Chris Greene)
- Lake Moomaw
- Reston Lake
- Chesapeake Bay Swim*
- Peluso OW Series*

Table 5: Participation rates by club, in percentages. For 2015 the participation rate is broken down by event type, and overall participation is shown over the past three years. Note that some 2015 clubs did not exist in 2013-2014.

CPYM (Crozet PARC YMCA Masters) participation rates are routinely the highest among clubs with 10 or more swimmers, almost every one of their members competes.

Overall participation of UC12 (unattached) swimmers is right at the LMSC average; however, such swimmers seem to favor OW events over pool events. Although the data aren't shown here, that is a pattern that holds in other years as well.