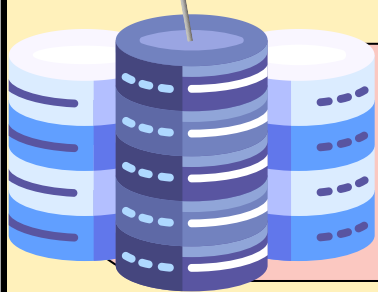


# Relative age effect: A head start for early-born football players

How does relative age effect (RAE) affect distinct variables as category, sex, club size, year group size, and birth quarter (Q1 = January to March, Q4 = October to December)?



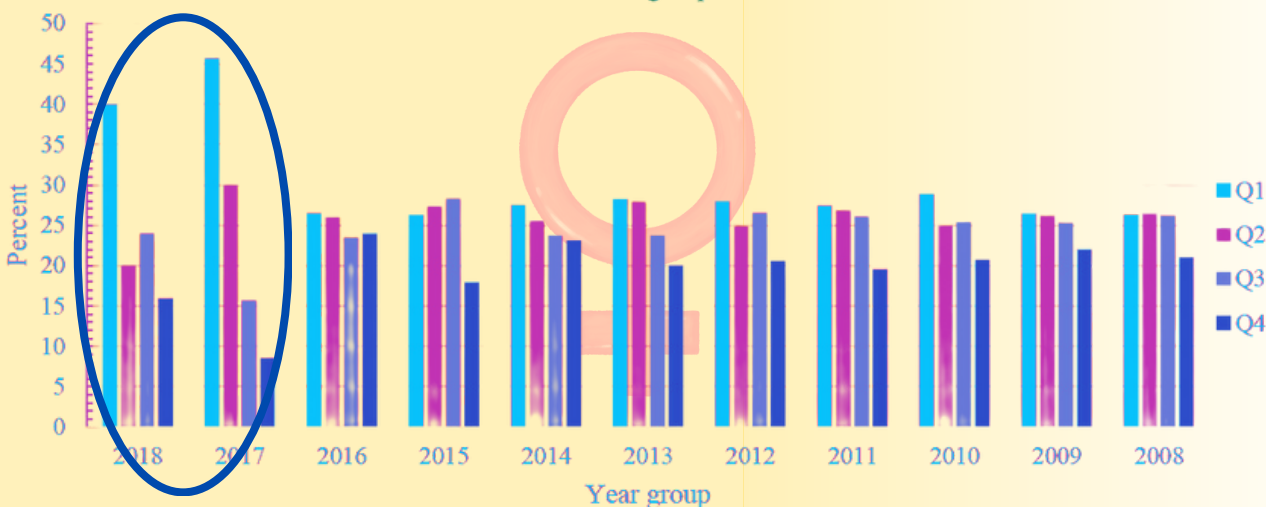
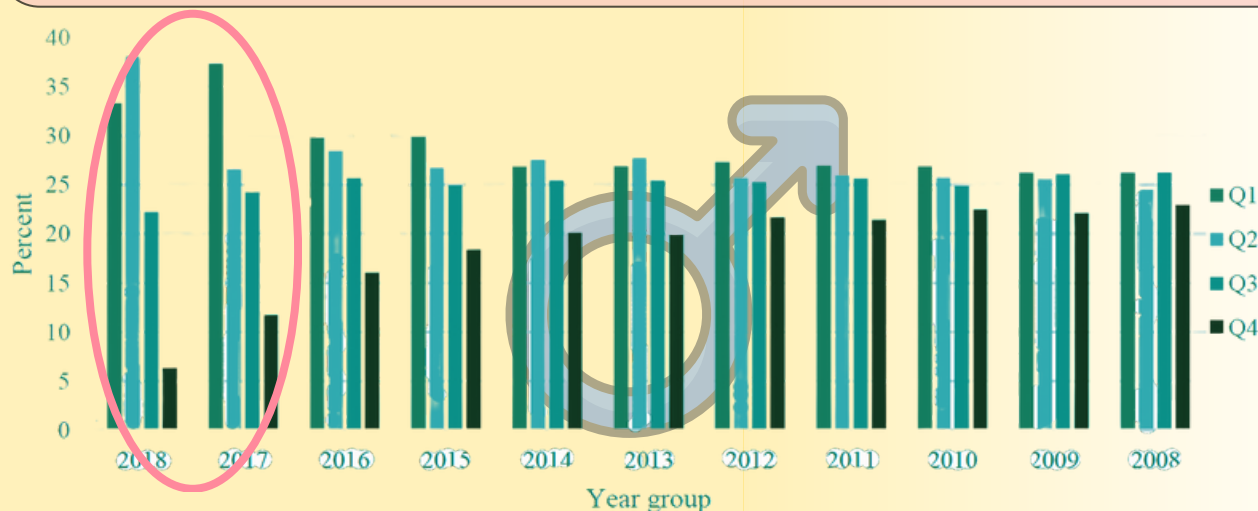
Data base of licensed players (Aged 2 to 12 years)

63,540 (80.18%)  
15,709 (19.82%)



RAE is more present on teams with selections and in grassroots levels

Quartile distributions of male and female youth players across age categories



Key findings

- 1 RAE was most pronounced in the early sport participation years (for both males and females)
- 2 RAE was significant in most age categories, but it dissipated within older age categories
- 3 Club size does not seem to yield RAE differences
- 4 Typical RAE pattern was found within smaller and medium year groups