



PARTICIPATION SURVEY



2015 | USLACROSSE.ORG

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The US Lacrosse Participation Report is produced annually to monitor participation at different levels of the sport across the country. This report counts only participation on organized teams and does not include leisure time play of lacrosse.

There are several sources of data for this report, including US Lacrosse membership records, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Federation of State High School Associations, Laxpower.com and reports compiled by US Lacrosse regional staff members.

ABOUT US LACROSSE

US Lacrosse is the national governing body of lacrosse. Since 1998 we have been dedicated to providing leadership, support and resources to members of the lacrosse community. Fueled by a passion for the game, US Lacrosse plays a central role in the rapid growth of the sport throughout the United States and abroad. Devoted to promoting the game while preserving its integrity and spirit, US Lacrosse provides programs and services to more than 450,000 members in communities across the nation.

US Lacrosse headquarters are located in Maryland. More than 80 full- and part-time employees, as well as numerous volunteers and interns, work diligently to support and promote lacrosse.

A national board of directors determines policy, the officers of which meet monthly to monitor progress. Nine board committees meet regularly to help shape policy in their particular areas of the sport.

MISSION

We envision a future that offers anyone the lifelong opportunity to enjoy the sport of lacrosse.

VISION

As the sport's national governing body, US Lacrosse provides national leadership, structure and resources to fuel the sport's growth and enrich the experience of participants.

US Lacrosse offers the most comprehensive, responsive and user-friendly programs and services available in the lacrosse world, through which it has provided support to thousands of coaches, players, officials, administrators and fans. These programs include the Coaching Education Program, Officials Education Program, First Stick Program, the U.S. National Teams Program, National Team clinics, Positive Coaching Alliance partnership, Sports Science and Safety Committee and various financial grants.

US Lacrosse also promotes the sport through its publications and websites and through its National Teams program. Lacrosse Magazine, a monthly publication, is the most-widely read lacrosse publication in the world with more than 2.8 million copies distributed to members in 2015. The men's and women's national teams have combined to win 27 world championships.

Fueling the growth of the sport is a network of 68 regional chapters throughout the country. A percentage of every US Lacrosse member's dues are directed back to the regional chapter of their choice to help support local lacrosse initiatives.

Support Our Mission

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, US Lacrosse relies on the generosity of its members and donors to fund its activities and support its mission. The organization provides a leadership role in virtually every aspect of the game throughout the United States, and offers a number of programs and information services to its national membership and lacrosse enthusiasts throughout the country. To make a gift to US Lacrosse, please visit uslacrosse.org/donate.

LACROSSE TODAY

National participation topped 800,000 players on organized teams in 2015, the first time the sport passed that threshold. It's been a remarkable growth story since US Lacrosse first surveyed national lacrosse participation in 2001. There were just over 250,000 players back then and many states that now seen thousands of young players hit the fields each spring and summer had virtually no players at all just 15 years ago.

MILESTONE MOMENTS IN 2015

- Participation on organized teams topped 800,000 for the first time
- Participation at the high school level topped 300,000 for the first time
- Ohio became the 20th state with its state high school association to adopt lacrosse as a full championship sport
- The University of Denver became the first school west of the Mississippi River to win the NCAA Division I lacrosse championship
- Arizona State announced it was adding a Division I women's program and the Pac-12 Conference stated that it will begin sponsoring women's lacrosse as a championship sport
- Major League Lacrosse announced the formation of an expansion team, the Atlanta Blaze, which began play in 2016. The National Lacrosse League also relocated one of its franchise to Georgia for the 2015-16 season.
- The creation of the United Women's Lacrosse League, the first women's professional lacrosse league for the sport, was announced. The league begins play in 2016.



LACROSSE TODAY

LACROSSE PARTICIPATION IN 2015

Level	Male Players	Female Players	Total Players	% 1-Year Growth
Youth	287,519	157,061	444,580	1.8%
High School	176,039	129,083	305,122	2.7%
College	24,411	15,902	38,383	5.0%
Professional	240	0	240	0.0%
Post-College	8,515	3,274	11,789	-2.4%

* - Data for post-collegiate lacrosse is pulled from the US Lacrosse member database. Due to a change in the way that participation is collected, fewer adults self-identified themselves as players, resulting in the decrease in participation. Other empirical data indicates no decrease in the number of players at this level.

TOTAL PARTICIPATION SINCE 2001

Year	Players	% 1-Year Growth	# New Players
2001	253,931	-	-
2002	288,104	13.5	34,173
2003	301,560	4.7	13,456
2004	351,852	16.7	50,292
2005	381,568	8.4	29,716
2006	426,022	11.7	44,454
2007	480,627	12.8	54,605
2008	524,230	9.1	43,603
2009	568,021	8.4	43,791
2010	624,592	10.0	56,572
2011	684,730	9.6	60,137
2012	722,205	5.5	37,475
2013	746,859	3.4	24,654
2014	772,772	3.5	25,913
2015	802,044	2.2	17,198



YOUTH

Youth lacrosse (14 and under) is approaching nearly 450,000 players on teams, the largest segment of play in the sport. There are thriving recreation lives in all corners of the country and a growing club and travel team landscape as well. Youth lacrosse participation has doubled in the last decade.

For the second consecutive year there were 14 states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia) with at least 10,000 participants at the youth level with New York once again leading the way. There were 56,335 youth players in New York in 2015.

US LACROSSE ANNUAL PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Year	Youth Boys	Youth Girls	Total Youth	1-Yr Growth
2006	139,188	81,609	220,797	
2007	155,866	85,715	241,581	9.4%
2008	168,768	96,446	265,214	9.8%
2009	182,249	115,022	297,271	12.1%
2010	201,727	122,946	324,673	9.2%
2011	230,356	130,919	361,275	11.3%
2012	252,060	137,215	389,275	7.8%
2013	265,428	138,342	403,770	3.7%
2014	279,771	145,065	424,836	5.2%
2015	287,519	157,061	444,580	1.8%



HIGH SCHOOL

National high school lacrosse participation topped 300,000 students for the first time in 2015, and since US Lacrosse began monitoring participation levels in 2001, lacrosse has been the fastest-growing team sport among National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) member schools. That held true in the five-year period from 2010 to 2015 with boys' and girls' lacrosse each seeing just under a 30 percent increase of the number of schools sponsoring the sport. Indoor track was the only other sport with a growth rate above 10 percent.

There is room for considerable more growth. In 2015, Ohio voted to become the 20th state high school association to sponsor lacrosse as a full championship sport, and was followed by Illinois with a vote in early 2016. Two other states have some level of formal recognition from the state governing body, but more than half of the states in the United States still do not have lacrosse as an official sport. Additionally, only about 15 percent of the schools that traditionally report data to the NFHS currently sponsor lacrosse.



The participation numbers from US Lacrosse listed below include the hundreds of high school teams that are not included in the NFHS data, either because their state does not collect lacrosse data, they are private schools that are not part of the NFHS structure or they are school-based club teams.

NFHS GROWTH RATES (2010 TO 2015) - NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SPONSORING SPORT

Boys Sports	2010	2015	Growth Rate
Lacrosse	2,068	2,677	29.5%
Indoor Track	2,546	2,823	10.9%
Volleyball	2,089	2,287	9.5%
Bowling	2,451	2,639	7.7%
Water Polo	758	807	6.5%

Girls Sports	2010	2015	Growth Rate
Lacrosse	1,885	2,446	29.8%
Indoor Track	2,511	2,816	12.2%
Ice Hockey	560	615	9.8%
Bowling	2,435	2,640	8.4%
Water Polo	745	805	8.1%

US LACROSSE ANNUAL PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Year	HS Boys	HS Girls	Total HS	1-Yr Growth
2006	96,777	65,244	162,021	
2007	112,496	74,550	187,046	15.4%
2008	131,092	87,731	218,823	16.9%
2009	136,710	90,914	227,624	4.0%
2010	149,400	105,914	255,314	12.2%
2011	162,416	112,865	275,281	7.8%
2012	166,471	115,677	282,148	2.5%
2013	169,095	120,951	290,046	2.8%
2014	172,815	124,423	297,238	2.5%
2015	176,039	129,083	305,122	2.7%

COLLEGE

Lacrosse continues to flourish on college campuses and 42 new programs in 21 states began play in 2015. Including 2014 and programs that began play in 2016, a total of 115 programs have started in just a three-year period. It's been a very strong run adding to a decades long growth pattern in the sport.

The growth of the sport was on full display in 2015 as the University of Denver became the first team west of the Mississippi River to win the NCAA Men's Division I championship. Denver's roster featured players from 17 states, the District of Columbia and two Canadian provinces.

Another milestone moment was Arizona State announcing the addition of a new women's lacrosse program and the subsequent announcement that the Pac-12 will begin sponsoring women's lacrosse as a championship sport. The Pac-12 became the third Power Five conference, joining the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big Ten, to sponsor lacrosse as a championship sport.



NCAA GROWTH RATES (2010 TO 2015) - NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SPONSORING SPORT

Men's Sports	2010	2015	Growth Rate
Lacrosse	262	350	33.6%
Volleyball	90	113	25.6%
Indoor Track	601	681	13.3%
Outdoor Track	706	780	10.5%
Water Polo	41	44	7.3%

Women's Sports	2010	2015	Growth Rate
Lacrosse	344	470	36.6%
Golf	557	651	16.9%
Indoor Track	673	772	14.7%
Bowling	57	64	12.3%
Outdoor Track	767	861	12.3%

US LACROSSE ANNUAL PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Year	College Men	College Women	Total College	1-Yr Growth
2006	16,444	10,207	26,651	
2007	16,961	11,321	28,282	6.1%
2008	18,148	11,674	29,822	5.4%
2009	18,746	12,868	31,614	6.0%
2010	19,326	13,105	32,431	2.6%
2011	20,397	13,532	33,929	4.6%
2012	21,080	13,887	34,967	3.1%
2013	21,478	14,767	36,515	4.4%
2014	22,907	15,476	38,383	5.1%
2015	24,411	15,902	40,313	5.0%

PROFESSIONAL

There are two professional lacrosse leagues operating in North America – Major League Lacrosse and the National Lacrosse League.

Major League Lacrosse is an outdoor league that played its first season in 2001. The league had eight franchises in 2015 (Boston, Charlotte, Chesapeake, Denver, Florida, Long Island, Ohio and Rochester), and announced an expansion franchise for Atlanta following the season.

The league has several television deals in place annually with CBS Sports Network currently airing the league's All-Star game and playoff games. The new Lax Sports Network also carries all 63 regular season games live and/or on-demand.

The National Lacrosse League is an indoor league that dates to 1987. The NLL features teams in both the U.S. and Canada with a heavy percentage of players coming from Canada, where box lacrosse is the country's official summer sport. The season runs from January through April and is then followed by the playoffs in May. For the 2015-16 season, the league has nine franchises (Buffalo, Calgary, Colorado, Georgia, New England, Rochester, Saskatchewan, Toronto and Vancouver).

POST-COLLEGIATE CLUB

There are numerous former high school and college lacrosse players that give back to the game as coaches and officials, and many also continue to play at the post-collegiate club level. On the men's side there are more than a dozen adult leagues that primarily take place in the spring and summer, including the American Lacrosse League, a league of more than 40 teams along the East Coast. Men's post-collegiate play also includes competition for older players in Masters, Grandmasters and Supermasters divisions, and there are numerous tournaments around the country for all levels of play. There are nearly 100 organized women's post-collegiate club teams around the country that play in both local/regional leagues and tournaments throughout the year. More information about post-collegiate club playing opportunities for men and women are available on the US Lacrosse website at uslacrosse.org/postcollegiatelax



INTERNATIONAL

2015 was a busy year in international lacrosse with the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) conducting two world championships. Scotland played host to the women's U19 championships in the summer and the Onondaga Nation hosted the men's indoor world championship in the fall. In addition, the FIL welcomed Taiwan and Turkey as full members of the organization.

The FIL was formed in the summer of 2008 as the new governing body for men's and women's lacrosse at the international level. The organization is the result of a merger between the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) and the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF). The IFWLA had been sponsoring women's world championships since 1982 and the ILF had been sponsoring men's world championships since 1974.

The FIL is a member of SportAccord and the International World Games Association.

US Lacrosse governs all aspects of the U.S. men's and women's national teams and plays a leading role in supporting men's and women's lacrosse development internationally. World Championships are conducted through the FIL at the senior and U19 level every four years for both men and women. The United States has been dominant on the world stage, winning a total of 27 world championships since 1974.

Listed below are the most recent FIL World Championship Results

Year	Event	Location	Champion	U.S. Finish
2015	Men's Indoor	Onondaga Nation	Canada	3rd
2015	Women's U19	Edinburgh, Scotland	Canada	2nd
2014	Men's Senior	Denver, Colorado	Canada	2nd
2013	Women's Senior	Oshawa, Canada	U.S.	1st
2012	Men's U19	Turku, Finland	U.S.	1st

UPCOMING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year	Event	Location	Dates
2016	Men's U19	Coquitlam, Canada	July 7-16
2017	Women's Senior	Guildford, England	July 13-22
2018	Men's Senior	Manchester, England	July 10-19
2019	Women's U19	TBA	July
2019	Men's Indoor	Langley, Canada	Sept. 19-28
2020	Men's U19	Limerick, Ireland	July 9-18

