



2013 PARTICIPATION SURVEY

US LACROSSE HEADQUARTERS
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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.

The primary source of data for this report is provided by the 67 US Lacrosse regional chapters. Each chapter reports participation at the youth level. Significant data is also obtained from US Lacrosse membership records, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Federation of State High School Associations and www.laxpower.com.

ABOUT US LACROSSE

US Lacrosse was founded on January 1, 1998, as the national governing body of men's and women's lacrosse. US Lacrosse is the result of a three-year strategic initiative to unify all national lacrosse associations in an effort to maximize human and financial resources, and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of lacrosse promotion and development.



US Lacrosse 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 more than one million lacrosse enthusiasts.

The US Lacrosse national headquarters is located in Baltimore and features a three-story administrative center, as well as the sport's national archives, the Lacrosse Museum and National Hall of Fame. US Lacrosse currently employs a staff of 80 at its national office and benefits from regular volunteer and intern assistance. Additionally, US Lacrosse has a network of 67 regional chapters throughout the country that help develop and promote the game at the grassroots level.

US Lacrosse, a 501 (c)(3) organization, relies on the growing membership support of more than 425,000 lacrosse players, coaches, officials and enthusiasts for a large portion of its operational funding. Additional funding programs include annual giving, planned giving, foundation and corporate giving, capital drives, grants, sponsorship, advertising and special events.

MISSION: US Lacrosse is the national governing body of lacrosse. Through responsive and effective leadership, we provide programs and services to inspire participation while protecting the integrity of the sport.

VISION: We envision a future which offers people everywhere the opportunity to discover, learn, participate in, enjoy and ultimately embrace the shared passion of the lacrosse experience.

LACROSSE TODAY

For more than a decade, lacrosse has been one of the fastest-growing team sports in the country, and that trend continued last year. In 2013, nearly 750,000 players participated in lacrosse on organized teams, an increase of nearly 25,000 players from the year before. More than half of the total players compete at the youth level (age 15 and below), but every segment of the game is showing continued growth patterns.

At the youth level, the US Lacrosse survey reveals more than 400,000 players on organized teams in 2013. The number of high school players topped 290,000 in 2013, and the sport continues to be the fastest-growing sport in the NFHS. The number of collegiate players (varsity and club) was over 36,000, growing 4.4 percent, with new varsity programs continuing to reach all corners of the country.

Major League Lacrosse, one of two professional lacrosse leagues, has grown to eight teams with a team beginning play in Florida in 2014, and thousands of players continue to participate on the field at the post-collegiate level.

Beyond the sheer participation numbers, lacrosse continues to grow in terms of exposure. ESPN and the CBS Sports Network have been expanding their collegiate and professional lacrosse offerings and ESPN will provide a global platform for the sport in 2014 with its coverage of the Federation of International Lacrosse World Championship from Denver. The sport is also highlighted through print and Internet vehicles, led by *Lacrosse Magazine*, which is read each month by the more than 425,000 members of US Lacrosse.



US Lacrosse reports that nearly 750,000 people played on organized teams in 2013.

Total Number of Lacrosse Players

Year	Players	% 1-yr Growth	Year	Players	% 1-yr Growth
2001	253,931	—	2009	568,021	8.4
2002	288,104	13.5	2010	624,593	10.0
2003	301,560	4.7	2011	684,730	9.6
2004	351,852	16.7	2012	722,205	5.5
2005	381,568	8.4	2013	746,859	3.4
2006	426,022	11.7			
2007	480,627	12.8			
2008	524,230	9.1			

LACROSSE PARTICIPATION IN 2013

Level	Male Players	Female Players	Total Players	% 1-Yr Growth
Youth	265,428	138,342	403,770	3.6
High School	169,095	120,951	290,046	2.8
College	21,748	14,767	36,515	4.4
Professional	240	0	240	0.0
Post-Collegiate	11,914	4,374	16,288	7.0
Total	468,425	278,434	746,859	3.4

Youth

Youth lacrosse participation (15 and under) topped 400,000 players in 2013 and remains the age level with the highest participation rates in the sport. Roughly 65 percent of youth players are boys, but both boys' and girls' youth lacrosse are growing at high rates. The number of boys playing lacrosse has risen 57 percent in the last five years and the number of girls playing has grown 43 percent.

The geographic expansion of the sport is evident. In 2001, the first year of the US Lacrosse Participation Report, there were just five chapters that reported more than 5,000 youth players in their chapter area. In 2013, that number has grown to 23 and includes chapters from Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, Texas and Utah.

Among the states with the most youth players according to the US Lacrosse chapter surveys in 2013 were New York (55,298), Maryland (48,072), Massachusetts (41,152), New Jersey (37,747) and Pennsylvania (24,178). Seven other states had at least 10,000 youth players.



More than half of all lacrosse players are age 15 or younger.

US Lacrosse Annual Participation Survey

Year	Youth Boys	Youth Girls	Total Youth Players
2006	139,188	81,609	220,797
2007	155,866	85,715	241,581
2008	168,768	96,446	265,214
2009	182,249	115,022	297,271
2010	201,727	122,946	324,673
2011	230,356	130,919	361,275
2012	252,060	137,570	389,275
2013	265,428	138,342	403,770

High School

Over the last five years, lacrosse has been the fastest-growing team sport among National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) member schools. The number of schools sponsoring boys' lacrosse has increased 34.2 percent, considerably ahead of the second-fastest growing sport of water polo (13 percent). Over the last 10 years, the number of schools sponsoring boys' lacrosse has grown 96 percent.

On the girls' side, the number of schools has increased 36.2 percent in the last five years with ice hockey (13.9) coming in second. Over the last 10 years, girls' lacrosse programs have grown 126.6 percent.

As of 2013, the governing bodies for high school sports in 22 states have either formally sanctioned or recognized lacrosse. That number continues to grow with California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and South Carolina among the states added to that list since 2000.



Since 2008, more than 1,200 new high school lacrosse teams have been added.

Lacrosse also continues to grow dramatically at schools and states not under the NFHS umbrella for lacrosse with tens of thousands playing for these programs.

NFHS Growth Rates (2008 to 2013) • Number of Schools Sponsoring the Sport

Boys' Sports	2008	2013	Growth Rate	Girls' Sports	2008	2013	Growth Rate
Lacrosse	1,815	2,436	34.2%	Lacrosse	1,624	2,212	36.2%
Water Polo	698	789	13.0%	Ice Hockey	534	608	13.9%
Volleyball	2,006	2,257	12.5%	Water Polo	712	775	8.9%
Bowling	2,261	2,511	11.1%	Soccer	10,543	11,351	7.7%
Swimming	6,428	7,001	8.8%	Bowling	2,321	2,494	7.5%

US Lacrosse Annual Participation Survey (Varsity, JV, Freshmen and Club Players)

Year	HS Boys	HS Girls	Total HS Players
2006	96,777	65,244	162,021
2007	112,496	74,550	187,046
2008	131,092	87,731	218,823
2009	136,710	90,914	227,624
2010	149,400	105,914	255,314
2011	162,416	112,865	275,281
2012	166,471	115,677	282,148
2013	169,095	120,951	290,046

States with high school associations that sanction/recognize lacrosse:

*California	Michigan	Vermont
Colorado	Minnesota	Virginia
Connecticut	Missouri (girls only)	
Delaware	New Hampshire	
Florida	New Jersey	
Georgia	New York	
Illinois	North Carolina	
Maine	Pennsylvania	
Maryland	Rhode Island	
Massachusetts	South Carolina	

* - Individual sections within the state can choose whether or not to sponsor the sport.

College

In an era of difficult financial challenges, lacrosse has continued to blossom at the collegiate level. The NCAA Men’s Lacrosse Championship Weekend has become the envy of just about every other NCAA sport with crowds of more than 40,000 routinely filling NFL stadiums to see the games. Colleges large and small, in almost every corner of the country, have added programs in recent years.

One of the landmark additions to the college lacrosse scene was the University of Michigan adding both men’s and women’s varsity programs. The men began play in 2012 and the women began play in 2014.

“The more we dug into it, the more we believed that this is just a sport of the future,” said Dave Brandon, Michigan’s athletic director. “Lacrosse’s trend lines in every way we could measure were impressive and made us believe that this is a place where we could grow and be a part of something that would over time be very big.”

Michigan is hardly alone. A staggering 60 new college programs began play in 2013 with 39 more in 2014. Over the last five years, lacrosse is the fastest growing sport at the NCAA level, and hundreds more compete at the club level.

Four new schools (Boston University, Furman, Monmouth and Richmond) started Division I men’s programs in 2014 and growth on the women’s side is even stronger. From 2014 to 2015, a total of 12 new programs will open on the Division I level.



Michigan became the first school with a BCS football team to add varsity men’s lacrosse since 1981.

NCAA Growth Rates (2008 to 2013) • Number of Schools Sponsoring the Sport

Men's Sports	2008	2013	Growth Rate	Women's Sports	2008	2013	Growth Rate
Lacrosse	239	319	33.5%	Lacrosse	301	416	38.2%
Volleyball	82	105	28.1%	Golf	516	611	18.4%
Indoor Track	575	651	13.2%	Bowling	52	60	15.4%
Outdoor Track	687	742	8.0%	Indoor Track	645	733	13.6%
Swimming	389	416	6.9%	Ice Hockey	81	89	9.9%

US Lacrosse Annual Participation Report (Varsity, Junior College and Club Players)

Year	College Men	College Women	Total College Players
2006	16,444	10,207	26,651
2007	16,961	11,321	28,282
2008	18,148	11,674	29,822
2009	18,746	12,868	31,614
2010	19,326	13,105	32,431
2011	20,397	13,532	33,929
2012	21,080	13,887	34,967
2013	21,478	14,767	36,515

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 currently has eight franchises (Boston, Charlotte, Chesapeake, Denver, Florida, Long Island, Ohio and Rochester).

The MLL is regularly featured on the ESPN networks and CBS Sports Network. MLL teams play a 14-game schedule from April through August followed by a four-team single elimination playoff.

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 2013-14 season, the league has nine franchises (Buffalo, Calgary, Colorado, Edmonton, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Rochester, Toronto and Vancouver).



Major League Lacrosse is one of two professional lacrosse leagues in North America.

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 nearly 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

The Federation of International Lacrosse (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.

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 world championship results in the five divisions that the FIL sponsors.

Year	Event	Location	Champion	U.S. Finish
2013	Women’s Senior	Oshawa, Canada	U.S.	1st
2012	Men’s U19	Turku, Finland	U.S.	1st
2011	Women’s U19	Hannover, Germany	U.S.	1st
2011	Men’s Indoor	Prague, Czech Republic	Canada	3rd
2010	Men’s Senior	Manchester, England	U.S.	1st



The United States has won 27 world championships since 1974.

Upcoming World Championships

Year	Event	Location	Dates
2014	Men's Senior	Denver, Colorado	July 10-19, 2014
2015	Women's U19	Edinburgh, Scotland	July 23 - August 1, 2015
2015	Men's Indoor	Syracuse/Buffalo, N.Y.	Sept. 18-26, 2015
2016	Men's U19	Coquitlam, Canada	July 7-16, 2016
2017	Women's Senior	Guildford, England	July 13-22, 2017

Federation of International Lacrosse

Member Nations (28)

Australia
 Austria
 Bermuda
 Canada
 Czech Republic
 Denmark
 England
 Finland
 France
 Germany
 Hong Kong
 Ireland
 Iroquois/Haudenosaunee
 Israel
 Italy
 Japan
 Korea
 Latvia
 Netherlands
 New Zealand
 Norway
 Scotland
 Slovakia
 Spain
 Sweden
 Switzerland
 United States
 Wales

Associate Members (22)

Argentina
 Belgium
 Bulgaria
 China
 Colombia
 Costa Rica
 Estonia
 Guatemala
 Hungary
 Jamaica
 Mexico
 Peru
 Phillipines
 Poland
 Portugal
 Russia
 Serbia
 Singapore
 Slovenia
 Thailand
 Turkey
 Uganda