



US Lacrosse

PARTICIPATION SURVEY

2008



ABOUT THIS SURVEY

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

The primary source of data for this report are surveys completed by the 60 US Lacrosse regional chapters that were active in 2008. 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.

US Lacrosse policy is determined by a national board of directors, the officers of which meet monthly to monitor the progress of the corporation. Men's and women's divisions under the board address the issues specific to the play of each version of the game; councils within and/or between each division represent each constituency of the game; and committees throughout the organization focus on specific areas of operation.

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 50 at its national office and benefits from regular volunteer and intern assistance. Additionally, US Lacrosse has a network of 62 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 over 275,000 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, advertising and special events.

MISSION: Through responsive and effective leadership, US Lacrosse strives to 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.



US Lacrosse

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US Lacrosse Membership

1998: 43,696
1999: 62,407
2000: 78,354
2001: 95,410
2002: 118,415
2003: 142,717
2004: 165,328
2005: 178,175
2006: 213,876
2007: 235,087
2008: 274,055

1-yr Growth: 16.6%

Growth since inception: 527.2%

LACROSSE TODAY

For the last decade, lacrosse has been one of the fastest-growing team sports in the country. US Lacrosse chapters have been established in 39 states and more than 500,000 played on organized teams in 2008 compared to just over 250,000 in 2001.

Youth lacrosse participation has more than doubled in just seven years. This fall, North Carolina and South Carolina became the 19th and 20th state high school associations to formally recognize or sanction lacrosse as an official sport. The collegiate level has seen dramatic geographic expansion in the last few years, and that trend continues. Alabama, Colorado, Nebraska, Texas and Wisconsin are among the many states that have new varsity collegiate programs coming within the next two years. Even NCAA Division I men's lacrosse, which has significant challenges that have limited its growth, will have 60 programs operating in 2010, an all-time high.

Lacrosse has become a staple of the college-based television channels CBS College Sports and ESPNU. More than 60 men's and women's games appeared on the networks the last two years with many more on regional cable networks. The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship has begun routinely drawing crowds in the neighborhood of 50,000 for games played in NFL stadiums.

The sport also receives additional exposure through several sport-specific print and Internet-based publications, including Lacrosse Magazine, a monthly periodical that is mailed to each of the 275,000-plus US Lacrosse members; Lacrosse Magazine Online (www.laxmagazine.com), a news-based Web site; and the US Lacrosse Web site (www.uslacrosse.org), which provides extensive background information about the sport and the leadership provided by US Lacrosse to support the sport's healthy growth.



The 2008 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., drew a championship game record crowd of 48,970 fans to see Syracuse defeat Johns Hopkins.

LACROSSE PARTICIPATION IN 2008

Level	Male Players	Female Players	Total Players	% 1-Yr Growth
Youth	168,768	96,446	265,214	9.8
High School	131,092	87,731	218,823	8.7
College	18,148	11,674	29,822	5.4
Professional	300	0	300	0.0
Post-Collegiate	7,933	2,138	10,071	9.3
Total	326,241	197,989	524,230	9.1



Detroit Mercy is one of the NCAA's newest Division I lacrosse programs.

LACROSSE GROWTH SINCE 2001

The following numbers represent the total number of lacrosse players nationally since US Lacrosse began tracking data in 2001.

Year	Players	% 1-yr Growth
2001	253,931	—
2002	288,104	13.5
2003	301,560	4.7
2004	351,852	16.7
2005	381,568	8.4
2006	426,022	11.7
2007	480,627	12.8
2008	524,230	9.1



2008 USL Participation Survey

Boys:	168,768
Girls:	96,446
Total:	265,214

2007 USL Participation Survey

Boys:	155,866
Girls:	85,715
Total:	241,581

2006 USL Participation Survey

Boys:	139,188
Girls:	81,609
Total:	220,797

Number Youth Players

2001:	125,000
2002:	137,500
2003:	150,000
2004:	186,048
2005:	204,384
2006:	220,797
2007:	241,581
2008:	265,214

1-yr Growth: 9.8%

7-yr Growth: 112.2%

Youth lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing segments of the sport, both in areas that have traditionally offered the sport and in new lacrosse-playing regions throughout the country. US Lacrosse has provided the infrastructure and leadership support to nurture the growth while the exciting action, cool equipment and increased exposure has attracted boys and girls of all ages and fueled the demand for more playing opportunities. US Lacrosse hosts U-13 and U-15 National Youth Festivals each year to provide players the opportunity to compete nationally in a non-pressure environment. In 2009, US Lacrosse will conduct a national championship tournament at the U-15 level.

Among the examples of growth:

- In just the last year, nearly 1,000 new youth players have picked up the game in Colorado, a one-year increase of 18.7 percent. The number of youth players in the state has nearly tripled since 2001.
- New Jersey featured more than 26,000 youth players in 2008 and has been one of the fastest-growing areas of the country. When US Lacrosse conducted its first participation survey in 2001, there were approximately 3,500 youth players in the state.
- Washington State continued its strong decade-long growth, going from 2,353 youth players in 2007 to 3,435 in 2008, a dramatic 46 percent increase. Neighboring Oregon was also on the rise in 2008, going from 2,837 players to 3,663, a 29.1 percent increase.
- The Hudson Valley (N.Y.) Chapter of US Lacrosse saw a 24 percent rise in its youth membership from 2007 to 2008. There are more than 7,000 youth players in the chapter.
- The state of Florida is gaining serious momentum and more than 6,300 players were reported by the three US Lacrosse chapters in the state. There were fewer than one thousand youth players in the state in 2001.

HIGH SCHOOL

218,823



North Carolina and South Carolina voted last fall to become the 19th and 20th state high school associations to formally recognize or sanction lacrosse as a championship sport. Championship play will begin in 2010 in both states and the vote follows on the heels of several other states that have made the move in recent years, including Florida, Michigan and Minnesota. With organized high school lacrosse already being played in 40 states, the opportunity for further support and development at the high school level is evident.

According to data from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), lacrosse trails only bowling for the highest growth rate of any sport over the last decade (see chart on right) in terms of new teams, with nearly 2,300 programs (combined boys and girls) added in that span. But that growth is only part of the story. The NFHS reported 1,815 schools with boys' programs and 1,624 schools with girls programs in 2008. But there are hundreds more programs at the high school level, including club programs, private schools that do not report data to the NFHS, and states where lacrosse is not yet recognized officially at the high school level. According to Laxpower.com, there were a total of nearly 2,900 boys high school programs and more than 2,200 girls programs in 2008.

In addition to the significant increase in high school participation, the quality of play is also improving dramatically throughout the country:

- The U.S. Women's World Cup roster features two Colorado high school products, and one of the top goal scorers in NCAA's men's lacrosse is Cornell's Ryan Hurley, a Minnesota high school graduate.
- 2009 NCAA Division I men's lacrosse rosters featured players from 34 states, as did NCAA Division I women's rosters.
- Kent Denver (Colo.) boys, Brother Rice (Mich.) boys and La Costa Canyon (Calif.) girls all went undefeated and finished the year ranked among the Top 25 teams in the country by Lacrosse Magazine.

2008 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (NFHS & USL data)

Boys:	131,092
Girls:	87,731
Total:	218,823

2007 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (NFHS & USL data)

Boys:	119,826
Girls:	81,424
Total:	201,250

2006 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (NFHS & USL data)

Boys:	101,667
Girls:	67,958
Total:	169,625

Number H.S. Players Annually

2001:	100,925
2002:	120,781
2003:	119,079
2004:	133,857
2005:	147,042
2006:	169,625
2007:	201,250
2008:	218,823

1-yr Growth: 8.7%

7-yr Growth: 116.8%

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports

Boys 10-yr

1. Bowling	206.0%
2. Lacrosse	181.8%
3. Indoor Track	60.4%
4. Ice Hockey	44.8%
5. Water Polo	27.1%

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports

Girls 10-yr

1. Lacrosse	219.1%
2. Bowling	218.4%
3. Ice Hockey	97.1%
4. Water Polo	52.8%
5. Golf	43.6%

* NFHS growth rates based on number of teams from annual NFHS survey. Only sports with at least 500 programs were included.



In an era when the addition of new collegiate sports is rare, lacrosse is the exception to the rule. From 1998 to 2008, a total of 77 new NCAA lacrosse programs were added and the sport is poised for further growth. Twenty-one new varsity programs were launched in 2009 and 40 more have already been announced to begin play in 2010 or 2011. More important than just the sheer numbers however, is the geographic diversity of the new programs that will help fuel future growth. A sampling of new men's and women's programs:

School	State	Level	Year
Aurora University	Illinois	MD3	2011
Carthage College	Wisconsin	MD3, WD3	2009/2010
Centre College	Kentucky	MD3, WD3	2011
Dana College	Nebraska	NAIA W	2010
University of Florida	Florida	WD1	2010
Fort Lewis College	Colorado	WD2	2010
Fresno State University	California	WD1	2009
Georgia State University	Georgia	WD1	2011
Indiana Tech	Indiana	NAIA M&W	2010
Jacksonville University	Florida	MD1, WD1	2010
Millsaps College	Mississippi	MD3, WD3	2011
Southwestern University	Texas	MD3	2010

The popularity of the sport is evidenced by record crowds in excess of 50,000 for the NCAA men's championship at NFL stadiums and more than 60 collegiate games scheduled to appear on national television in 2009. In addition to varsity lacrosse, there is significant organized play at the college club level. There are nearly 300 men's collegiate club teams, most of which compete in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association, which conducts national championships for two levels of college club play. Nearly 200 women's college club teams compete under the US Lacrosse Women's Division Intercollegiate Associates umbrella. Sixteen teams compete in the annual US Lacrosse WDIA national championship.

2008 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Varsity and Club)

Men: 18,148
 Women: 11,674
 Total: 29,822

2007 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Varsity and Club)

Men: 16,961
 Women: 11,321
 Total: 28,282

2006 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Varsity and Club)

Men: 16,444
 Women: 10,207
 Total: 26,651

No. College Players Annually

2001: 20,293
 2002: 23,179
 2003: 24,331
 2004: 23,162
 2005: 24,502
 2006: 26,651
 2007: 28,282
 2008 29,822

1-yr Growth: 5.4%
 7-yr Growth: 47.0%

Growth Rates of NCAA Sports Men's 10-yr

1. Lacrosse 28.5%
2. Cross Country 15.4%
3. Golf 14.2%
4. Soccer 13.6%
5. Indoor Track 12.3%

Growth Rates of NCAA Sports Women's 10-yr

1. Golf 56.8%
2. Lacrosse 49.8%
3. Soccer 32.0%
4. Rowing 29.7%
5. Softball 22.1%

* NCAA growth rates based on number of teams from annual NCAA survey. Only sports with at least 100 programs were included.

PROFESSIONAL

300



There are two men’s professional lacrosse leagues that operate in North America — Major League Lacrosse and the National Lacrosse League.

Major League Lacrosse is an outdoor league that debuted with a Summer Showcase tour in 2000 and played its first season in 2001. The league, headquartered in Boston, underwent a contraction following the 2008 season and will feature six franchises in 2009, including the league’s first foray into Canada with the Toronto Nationals. The MLL signed a 10-year agreement with ESPN in 2007, and the league is regularly featured on ESPN outlets.

The National Lacrosse League is an indoor league that began operations in 1987. The NLL features teams from both the U.S. and Canada and a heavy percentage of the players come from Canada, where indoor box lacrosse is the country’s official summer sport. The 2009 season marked the return of the league to the New England area with the addition of the Boston Blazers.

2008 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Americans in MLL/ NLL)

Men:300

Major League Lacrosse (Outdoor)

- Boston Cannons (2001)
- Chicago Machine (2006)
- Denver Outlaws (2006)
- Long Island Lizards (2001)
- Toronto Nationals (2009)
- Washington Bayhawks (2007)
- (Year moved to current location)

National Lacrosse League (Indoor)

- Boston Blazers (2009)
- Buffalo Bandits (1992)
- Calgary Roughnecks (2002)
- Colorado Mammoth (2003)
- Edmonton Rush (2006)
- Minnesota Swarm (2005)
- New York Titans (2006)
- Philadelphia Wings (1987)
- Portland LumberJax (2005)
- Rochester Knighthawks (1995)
- San Jose Stealth (2004)
- Toronto Rock (1999)
- (Year moved to current location)

POST-COLLEGIATE CLUB

10,071

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 50 teams that stretches from New Hampshire to Virginia. Men’s post-collegiate play also includes competition for older players in Masters, Grandmasters and Supermasters divisions. There are more than 70 organized women’s post-collegiate club teams around the country with most play taking place in tournaments held throughout the year.

More information about post-collegiate club playing opportunities are available on the US Lacrosse Web site at www.uslacrosse.org.

2008 US Lacrosse Participation Survey

Men:7,933
 Women:2,138
 Total:10,071

2007 US Lacrosse Participation Survey

Men:7,476
 Women:1,738
 Total:9,214

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).

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 through the FIL are conducted at the senior and U-19 level every four years. Here's a list of the recent international championships:

Recent World Championships

Event	Year	Location	Winner	U.S. Finish
Women's U-19 World Champ.	2003	Towson, Md.	U.S.	First
Men's U-19 World Champ.	2003	Towson, Md.	U.S.	First
Women's World Cup	2005	Annapolis, Md.	Australia	Second
Men's World Championship	2006	Ontario, Canada	Canada	Second
Men's Indoor World Champ.	2007	Nova Scotia, Canada	Canada	Third
Women's U-19 World Champ.	2007	Ontario, Canada	U.S.	First
Men's U-19 World Champ.	2008	Brit. Col., Canada	U.S.	First

Upcoming Championships

Event	Year	Location
Women's World Cup	2009	Prague, Czech Republic
Men's World Champ.	2010	Manchester, England
Women's U-19 World Champ.	2011	Göttingen, Germany
Men's Indoor World Champ.	2011	Prague, Czech Republic
Men's U-19 World Champ.	2012	Turku, Finland

FIL Member Nations

- Australia
- Austria
- Bermuda
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Finland
- Germany
- Haudenosaunee Nation
- Hong Kong
- Ireland
- Iroquois Nation
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- United States
- Wales

FIL Affiliate Members

- Argentina
- Bulgaria
- Costa Rica
- France
- Norway
- Poland
- Switzerland