2009 PARTICIPATION SURVEY

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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 62 US Lacrosse regional chapters that were active in 2009. 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 60 at its national office and benefits from regular volunteer and intern assistance. Additionally, US Lacrosse has a network of 63 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 300,000 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.

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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
2009: 296,743

1-yr Growth: 8.3%
Growth since inception: 579.1%

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 40 states and more than 560,000 people played on organized teams in 2009 compared to just over 250,000 in 2001. The sport is growing at almost every level of the game.

Youth lacrosse is the fastest-growing segment of the sport with more than 30,000 additional players picking up the sport last year. High school lacrosse is now sanctioned in 21 states with the addition of North Carolina and South Carolina in 2010 and Illinois in 2011. A record 60 teams will compete in NCAA Division I men's lacrosse in 2010 and new college varsity programs are popping up in states like Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Wisconsin and more. The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship routinely draws crowds in the neighborhood of 50,000 for games played in NFL stadiums. The pro lacrosse leagues stretch across the country and this summer's men's world championship is expected to feature a record 30 nations competing.

Lacrosse has become a regular feature on television with nearly 100 games scheduled to air in 2010, primarily on ESPNU and CBS College Sports. 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 300,000-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.

Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., is one of three NFL stadiums that have hosted the NCAA men's lacrosse championships in recent years. Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium and Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field are the others.

The University of Florida (women's) and Jacksonville University (men's and women's) began varsity lacrosse in 2010, bringing women's Division I lacrosse to the Sunshine State. A record 151 teams (60 men's and 91 women's) are playing at the NCAA Division I level in 2010.

LACROSSE PARTICIPATION IN 2009

Level	Male Players	Female Players	Total Players	% 1-Yr Growth
Youth	182,249	115,022	297,271	12.1
High School	136,710	90,914	227,624	4.0
College	18,746	12,868	31,614	6.0
Professional	180	0	180	-40.0
Post-Collegiate	8,525	2,817	11,342	12.6
Total	**346,410**	**221,611**	**568,021**	**8.4**

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
2009	568,021	8.4

YOUTH

297,271

2009 USL Participation Survey

Boys:	182,249
Girls:	115,022
Total:	297,271

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
2009:	297,271

1-yr Growth: 12.1%
8-yr Growth: 137.8%

Youth lacrosse (under age 15) continued to explode all around the country. US Lacrosse, and its network of regional chapters, have provided the infrastructure, leadership support and critical resources such as coaches and officials training, to allow passion for the sport to blossom at the youth level. In 2009, US Lacrosse debuted its U-15 National Championship, an event that featured teams competing from 20 states. Combined with the US Lacrosse U-13 and U-15 Youth Festivals, more than 125 teams took part in US Lacrosse national youth events in 2009.

Among the examples of growth:

- Minnesota is one of the quickly-developing lacrosse markets and features nearly 5,000 youth players. That's an increase of 18.1% over 2008 numbers.

- The Mid Atlantic and New York areas are often referred to as the hotbeds of the sport, but don't forget about New England. The New England region accounted for more than 41,000 youth lacrosse players in 2009, led by Massachusetts with over 18,000 players.

- Florida continued to be hot in more ways than one. The three US Lacrosse chapters in the state report a combined total of more than 7,000 youth players. There were fewer than one thousand youth players in the state in 2001. It's neighbor to the north, Georgia, reports just under 5,000 youth lacrosse players, nearly double the total from just three years prior.

- The burgeoning lacrosse scene in California is led by the San Francisco area, with more than 8,000 youth players reported by the Northern California Chapter. An additional 6,500 plus youngsters are playing the sport in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas.

- Lacrosse has deep roots in the Philadelphia area, but the sport is rapidly growing throughout the Keystone state. USL's three Pennsylvania chapters reported just under 19,000 youth players in 2009, an increase of 24.5% in just the last year.

HIGH SCHOOL

In the fall of 2009, Illinois voted to begin sanctioning lacrosse as a championship high school sport beginning in 2011. It's the third state to do so in the last two years, joining North Carolina and South Carolina, which will conduct championships in 2010. Those states follow on the heels of several other states, including Florida, Michigan and Minnesota, bringing the total of states with sanctioned championships to 21. This increased commitment is setting the stage for continued growth at the high school level.

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 just under 2,500 programs (combined boys and girls) added in that span. That growth is only part of the story. The NFHS reported 1,984 schools with boys' programs and 1,780 schools with girls programs in 2009. 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, a top lacrosse web site, there were more than 3,000 boys high school programs and nearly 2,400 girls programs in 2009.

Among the examples of growth:

- In 2009, Florida featured more than 125 boys and nearly 100 girls teams (including high school club teams). As recently as 2005, there were just 72 boys and 42 girls teams. The growth rate in the state is 98 percent in just five seasons.

- The Pacific Northwest states of Oregon and Washington haven't reaped the benefits of sanctioning yet, but the number of boys and girls teams in those two states has grown from 102 to 150 in the last five years, a growth rate of 47 percent.

- Their neighbor to the south, California, has seen even faster growth. The Golden State has added more than 140 boys and girls programs over the last five years with 362 teams in 2009 - a growth rate of 64 percent since 2005.

227,624

2009 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (NFHS & USL data)

Boys: 136,710
Girls: 90,914
Total: 227,624

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

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
2009: 227,624

1-yr Growth: 4.0%
8-yr Growth: 125.5%

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports Boys 10-yr

1. Bowling 208.4%
2. Lacrosse 175.0%
3. Indoor Track 53.5%
4. Ice Hockey 39.2%
5. Volleyball 38.1%

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports Girls 10-yr

1. Lacrosse. 208.0%
2. Bowling 187.4%
3. Ice Hockey 78.9%
4. Water Polo..... 46.3%
5. Golf..... 38.0%

* NFHS growth rates based on number of teams from annual NFHS survey. (minimum 500 teams)

COLLEGE

In an era when the addition of new collegiate sports is rare, lacrosse is the exception to the rule. From 1999 to 2009, the number of varsity NCAA lacrosse programs grew from 410 to 557, and the growth shows few signs of slowing. Thirty-six new varsity programs began play in 2010 and another 33 are set to come on board in 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
Centre College	Kentucky	MD3, WD3	2011
Dana College	Nebraska	NAIA W	2010
University of Florida	Florida	WD1	2010
Georgia State University	Georgia	WD1	2011
Indiana Tech	Indiana	NAIA M&W	2010
Jacksonville University	Florida	MD1, WD1	2010
Mercer University	Georgia	MD1, WD1	2011/2012
Mesa State College	Colorado	MD2, WD2	2011
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 nearly 100 collegiate games scheduled to appear on national television in 2010. 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. Twenty-four teams will compete in the US Lacrosse WDIA national championship in 2010.

31,614

2009 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Varsity and Club)

Men: 18,746
Women: 12,868
Total: 31,614

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

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
2009: 31,614

1-yr Growth: 6.0%
8-yr Growth: 55.8%

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 (1998-2008).

PROFESSIONAL

180

2009 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Americans in MLL/ NLL)

Men: 180

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)
Orlando Titans (2010)
Philadelphia Wings (1987)
Rochester Knighthawks (1995)
Toronto Rock (1999)
Washington Stealth (2010)
(Year moved to current location)

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 featured 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 2010 season features two franchis shifts - New York moving to Orlando for Florida's first professional lacrosse franchise and San Jose moving to Washington state.

POST-COLLEGIATE CLUB

11,342

2009 US Lacrosse Participation Survey

Men: 8,525
Women: 2817
Total: 11,342

2008 US Lacrosse Participation Survey

Men: 7,933
Women: 2,138
Total: 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 70 teams that stretches from New England 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.

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. Following is a list of the recent international championships and scheduled international play:

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
Women's World Cup	2009	Prague, Czech Republic	U.S.	First

Upcoming Championships

Event	Year	Location
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
France
Finland
Germany
Haudenosaunee Nation
Hong Kong
Ireland
Iroquois Nation
Italy
Japan
Korea
Latvia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Scotland
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
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