

US Lacrosse Participation Survey 2006



US Lacrosse National Headquarters

113 W. University Parkway • Baltimore, MD 21210

Ph: 410.235.6882 • Fax: 410.366.6735

www.uslacrosse.org • www.laxmagazine.com

An official publication of the national governing body of lacrosse

One for all.



US Lacrosse

Lacrosse – a game steeped in tradition and yet constantly evolving – is what inspires its national governing body. US Lacrosse, an organization made up of the constituents it serves, is dedicated to providing leadership, support and resources to members of the lacrosse community. Fueled by the passion for the game, US Lacrosse plays a central role in the rapid growth of the sport throughout the United States.

Our Mission

Through responsive and effective leadership, US Lacrosse strives to provide programs and services to inspire participation while protecting the integrity of the game.

Our 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.

About the Organization

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 58 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 215,000 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.

Media members desiring more information about the sport should contact:

Brian Logue
Director of Communications
US Lacrosse
113 W. University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21210
(410) 235-6882 x106
www.uslacrosse.org • www.laxmagazine.com
blogue@uslacrosse.org



About This Survey

Following the completion of each calendar year, US Lacrosse publishes this report to gauge the growth of the sport of lacrosse. Data is compiled using a number of internal and external sources, including surveys of 58 US Lacrosse regional chapters throughout the country.



Lacrosse Today

America's first sport is rapidly becoming one of America's favorite sports. Since 2001, the number of people playing lacrosse has grown by nearly 68 percent. The lacrosse movement spans all ages and touches virtually every corner of the country. The fast-paced play appeals to players and spectators, as well as making it a television favorite, and the skills required make the sport accessible to players of all sizes.

Sports Illustrated devoted nine pages in an April 2005 feature on the sport's growth, and other major print publications have published articles about the sport's rise. Both professional leagues have deals with national television networks—Major League Lacrosse on ESPN2 and the National Lacrosse League on Versus. In addition, CSTV and the ESPN networks will combine to televise more than 60 college lacrosse games in 2007.

US Lacrosse Estimate on Number of Lacrosse Players in 2006

Youth (non-high school, age 15 and under).....	220,797
High School	169,625
College.....	26,651
Post-Collegiate Club.....	8,649
Professional	300
Total	426,022

US Lacrosse Estimate on Number of Lacrosse Players Nationally

2001	253,931
2002	288,104
2003	301,560
2004	351,852
2005	381,568
2006	426,022

US Lacrosse Membership*

Dec. 1990.....	7,025	Dec. 1999.....	62,407
Dec. 1991.....	7,865	Dec. 2000.....	78,354
Dec. 1992.....	9,515	Dec. 2001.....	95,410
Dec. 1993.....	9,259	Dec. 2002.....	118,415
Dec. 1994.....	10,693	Dec. 2003.....	142,717
Dec. 1995.....	12,191	Dec. 2004.....	165,328
Dec. 1996.....	13,596	Dec. 2005.....	178,175
Dec. 1997.....	14,123	Dec. 2006.....	213,876
Dec. 1998.....	43,626		

* - Figures prior to 1998 are for the Lacrosse Foundation, one of eight national organizations that merged in 1998 to form US Lacrosse



Youth

Participation at the youth level has seen an explosion over the last several years. Data collected from US Lacrosse's 58 regional chapters following the 2006 calendar year indicated more than 220,000 youth players played the sport. Since 1999, the number of youth members (age 15 and under) has grown from over 40,000 to over 125,000. There are examples of the growth coming from all over the country:

- In California, there are more than 10,000 youth lacrosse players, an increase of 232 percent since 2001.
- In Georgia there are more than 100 youth teams playing in several leagues around the state. In 2001, there were just 20 youth teams in the state.
- Five years ago in Minnesota there were roughly 500 youth lacrosse players and girls' youth lacrosse was virtually non-existent. In 2006, there were nearly 5,000 youth players, including more than 1,000 girls.
- In Texas, there are more than 5,200 youth players participating on 275 teams around the state. In 2001, there were only about 30 youth teams in the Lone Star state.
- The growth of youth lacrosse is not limited to non-traditional areas. Regions of the country where lacrosse has been played for years are also seeing tremendous growth. An example is Connecticut, which features more than 12,000 current youth members of US Lacrosse. In 2001, it was estimated there were 4,300 youth players in the state.



US Lacrosse Estimate of Number of Youth Lacrosse Players in 2006

US Lacrosse Chapter Survey.....220,797



High School

Examining data from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) annual participation survey shows that lacrosse has the fastest growth rate of any high school sport over the last 10 years.

That growth has resulted in the following states either sanctioning or formally recognizing boys' and/or girls' lacrosse since 2000: California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Lacrosse now has official status from the governing state high school associations in 17 states.

As the number of teams playing the sport has increased, so has the level of play. More and more of the top athletes at high schools are choosing to play lacrosse and the top collegiate recruits are increasingly coming from more diverse areas. Among the top collegiate freshmen in 2007 is Notre Dame's Will Yeatman. The San Diego native is a tight end for the Irish football team in addition to his role as an attackman in lacrosse.



The 2006 U.S. Men's Team had Colorado (Christian Cook) and Illinois (Todd Rassas) high school graduates on the team, marking the second straight time the U.S. had two players away from the Eastern seaboard. Hilary Harkins, a California high school product, recently became the first native of her state to be selected to one of the U.S. Women's National Teams.

Kent Denver finished 11th in the 2006 Lacrosse magazine rankings of the top high school girls' lacrosse programs, the highest ranking ever for a team west of the Mississippi. Missouri's Rockhurst Jesuit, which had a perfect 27-0 season, ranked 22nd in the boys' rankings in the same publication.

Fastest-Growing NFHS Sports

Men's and Women's	10yr growth	Men's	10yr growth	Women's	10yr growth
Lacrosse	200.2	Bowling	175.6	Water Polo	291.9
Bowling	168.6	Lacrosse	158.8	Lacrosse	259.7
Water Polo	121.6	Water Polo	53.0	Ice Hockey	169.7
Ice Hockey	69.4	Ice Hockey	52.6	Bowling	161.7
Soccer	39.7	Soccer	29.3	Golf	61.2

Based on data from the annual NFHS participation survey. Percentages are based on the number of teams from 1995-96 to 2005-06 for a 10-year growth rate. Minimum of 100 total teams (each gender) to be included in total.



The numbers from the NFHS survey show tremendous growth and they only represent a portion of the high school lacrosse being played around the country. Significant areas, such as Pennsylvania with nearly 200 boys' teams, are not included in this data because it will not be state sanctioned until 2009. There are numerous other examples from other states.

US Lacrosse Estimate of Number of High School Lacrosse Players in 2006

NFHS Survey	117,021
Additional data from US Lacrosse chapters.....	52,604
Total	169,625

College

Over the last 10 years, no sport has grown faster at the NCAA level than lacrosse, and the sport appears poised for a new wave of growth. A total of 29 new varsity programs have been announced, including 26 in 2008 alone. Among the major universities that will be adding varsity programs in the coming years are the University of Florida, University of Louisville, University of South Carolina and the United States Naval Academy.

While the majority of varsity collegiate lacrosse programs are still located in the East, lacrosse is expanding throughout the country at the collegiate level. New varsity programs are coming to Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, Tennessee and several other states.

In women's lacrosse, the 2006 NCAA Division I tournament featured three teams from outside of the East — Northwestern, Notre Dame and Stanford — and ended with Northwestern winning its second consecutive championship. At the Division III level, Colorado College has played in five straight NCAA tournaments and reached the semifinals in 2005.

In men's lacrosse, Denver and Notre Dame both qualified for the 2006 NCAA tournament and finished the season ranked in the national Top 20. In Division III, Whittier (Calif.) College has played in the NCAA tournament three times this decade, reaching the semifinals in 2003.



Fastest-Growing NCAA Sports

Men's and Women's	10yr growth	Men's Growth	10yr growth	Women's	10yr growth
Lacrosse	51.3	Lacrosse	24.4	Golf	123.6
Soccer	45.6	Soccer	19.3	Rowing	90.5
Golf	43.4	Cross Country	17.5	Lacrosse	83.3
Baseball/Softball	25.7	Golf	16.9	Soccer	77.3
Cross Country	21.7	Indoor Track	15.3	Softball	38.9

Based on data from the annual NCAA participation survey. Percentages are based on the number of teams from 1994-95 to 2004-05 for 10-year growth. Minimum of 100 total teams (each gender) to be included in total. (NCAA data from 2006 was not available at the time this publication went to press).



Despite the rapid growth of varsity collegiate lacrosse, there is demand for even more playing opportunities. There are well over 400 club teams competing at universities.

US Lacrosse Estimate of Number of College Lacrosse Players in 2005

NCAA varsity players.....	13,569
Junior college, club players.....	13,082
Total.....	26,651

Professional

Major League Lacrosse, a 10-team men’s professional outdoor league, recently completed its sixth season, a season that included expansion to the West with teams in Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The MLL, which hosted its league championship game in Los Angeles, recently announced a longterm agreement with ESPN.

The National Lacrosse League has 13 teams competing in the 2006-07 season. This men’s professional indoor league dates to 1987 and features teams in both Canada and the U.S. The league has recently added teams in Chicago, Minneapolis, Phoenix and Portland and made its debut in New York City this year. The league is in its first season with a national television deal on Versus.

Professional Lacrosse Franchises

Major League Lacrosse

- Boston Cannons (2001)
- Chicago Machine (2006)
- Denver Outlaws (2006)
- Long Island Lizards (2001)
- Los Angeles Riptide (2006)
- New Jersey Pride (2001)
- Philadelphia Barrage (2004)
- Rochster Rattlers (2001)
- San Francisco Dragons (2006)
- Washington Bayhawks (2007)

National Lacrosse League

- Arizona Sting (2004)
- Buffalo Bandits (1992)
- Calgary Roughnecks (2002)
- Chicago Shamrox (2006)
- Colorado Mammoth (2003)
- Edmonton Rush (2006)
- Minnesota Swarm (2005)
- New York Titans (2006)
- Philadelphia Wings (1987)
- Portland LumberJax (2006)
- Rochester Knighthawks (1995)
- San Jose Stealth (2004)
- Toronto Rock (1999)



US Lacrosse Estimate of Number of American Professional Lacrosse Players in 2006

MLL and NLL 300

Post-Collegiate Club

While only a select handful of lacrosse players are able to go on to play professional lacrosse, there are large numbers who continue to play, and even pick up the game, after college. Post-collegiate club lacrosse is played in both league formats and tournaments that draw teams from all over the country. Surveys of US Lacrosse chapters indicate that there are more than 8,500 active competitors.

US Lacrosse Estimate of Post-Collegiate Club Lacrosse Players in 2006

Total 8,649

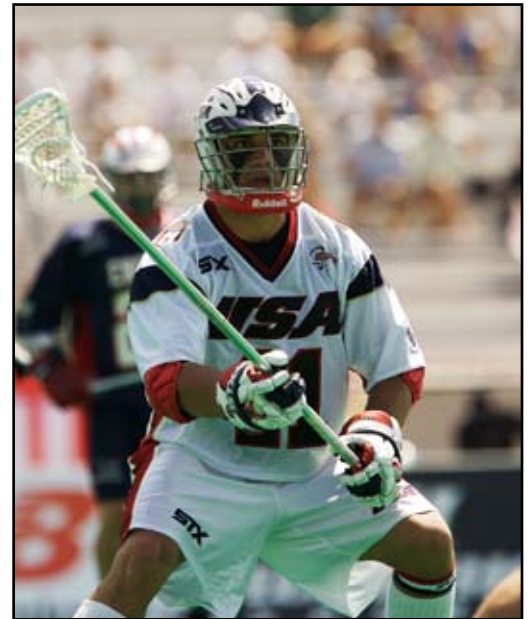


International

Organized lacrosse is now played in more than 20 countries on five continents (Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America).

The International Lacrosse Federation (ILF) governs men's international play and had a record 21 nations competing for the 2006 ILF Championship, which was won by Canada. The ILF World Championship is held every four years. The ILF also conducts an U-19 World Championship also held every four years. The next U-19 championship will be held in 2008 in British Columbia, Canada. The ILF has 19 member nations and eight affiliates.

The International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) governs women's international play. The United States and US Lacrosse played host to the 2005 World Cup, which saw Australia defeat the U.S., ending a string of four straight World Cup titles for the U.S. A record 10 nations competed in the 2005 World Cup. The IFWLA also conducts a U-19 World Championship every four years and Canada will play host the 2007 IFWLA U-19 World Championship. The IFWLA has 12 member nations.



Nations with Officially Recognized Lacrosse

Argentina (ILF Affiliate)
Australia (IFWLA, ILF)
Austria (ILF Affiliate)
Bermuda (ILF Affiliate)
Canada (IFWLA, ILF)
Czech Republic (IFWLA, ILF)
Denmark (ILF)
England (IFWLA, ILF)
Finland (ILF)
Germany (IFWLA, ILF)
Haudenosaunee Nation (IFWLA)
Hong Kong (ILF)
Ireland (IFWLA, ILF)
Iroquois Nation (ILF)
Italy (ILF)
Japan (IFWLA, ILF)
Latvia (ILF Affiliate)
Netherlands (ILF)
New Zealand (IFWLA, ILF)
Scotland (IFWLA, ILF)
Slovakia (ILF Affiliate)
Slovenia (ILF Affiliate)
South Korea (ILF)
Spain (ILF Affiliate)
Sweden (ILF)
Tonga (ILF Affiliate)
United States (IFWLA, ILF)
Wales (IFWLA, ILF)



Did You Know?

- A championship game record crowd of 47,062 watched the 2006 NCAA Men's Division I final between Virginia and Massachusetts at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field. **The NCAA Division I men's basketball championship is the only other NCAA championship to have drawn more spectators.** The largest crowd ever to watch a lacrosse game was the 49,562 that watched the NCAA semifinals at "The Linc" in 2006. The NCAA men's championships move to Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium for 2007 and Boston's Gillette Stadium in 2008.

- Northwestern captured the NCAA Division I women's lacrosse championship in 2005, becoming the **first team away from the Eastern seaboard to win a NCAA lacrosse championship.** The Wildcats repeated as champions in 2006, defeating Dartmouth before 5,685 at Boston University's Nickerson Field, a championship game record.

- A crowd of 19,432 watched the 2005 National Lacrosse League championship game between the Toronto Rock and Arizona Sting, setting a league record. **The game was also broadcast live in the U.S. (NBC) and Canada (Score).**

- The Denver Outlaws, a Major League Lacrosse expansion franchise, attracted **an average crowd of 11,634 fans to Invesco Field in 2006**, a MLL single-season record.

- A crowd of 6,820 - **the largest ever to watch a women's lacrosse game in the United States** - was on hand at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Md., for the championship game of the 2005 IFWLA World Cup between Australia and the United States.

- More than **20,000 fans came to Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium to watch the inaugural Inside Lacrosse Faceoff Classic** in March 2007, a four-team regular season doubleheader that featured the men's teams from Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Syracuse and Virginia.

- Pro football Hall of Famer Jim Brown is probably the most famous former lacrosse star (he was an All-American at Syracuse and is a member of the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame), but many other great athletes have **strong lacrosse ties, including former NHL star Wayne Gretzky and current NFL All-Pro lineman Patrick Kerney.**

- **Lacrosse is the official team sport for the state of Maryland.** It is also the official summer sport of Canada.

- The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association of America's 2007 State of the Industry survey, **rated lacrosse as the top sport in terms of sales growth for the year.** The survey rated lacrosse to have a 31 percent increase in sales, ahead of fitness walking (22), aerobic training (20), soccer (20) and yoga/pilates (20).

