



US Lacrosse
PARTICIPATION SURVEY
2007



ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The US Lacrosse Participation Survey is produced annually by US Lacrosse. The survey is a compilation of data from multiple sources that is used 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 58 US Lacrosse regional chapters that were active in 2007. Data is also used from the US Lacrosse database, National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Federation of State High School Associations, Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association 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 60 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 250,000 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 game.

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

113 W. University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21210
410.235.6882
www.uslacrosse.org

Media members interested in learning more about the sport of lacrosse and US Lacrosse should contact:

Public Relations Coordinator

Colleen Sperry Aungst
410.235.6882 x155
caungst@uslacrosse.org

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

LACROSSE TODAY

For the last decade lacrosse has been one of the fastest-growing teams sports in the country. That growth is evidenced by one of the newest US Lacrosse chapters — the Alaska Chapter. The 60 regional chapters of US Lacrosse operate in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Since 2001, the first year the US Lacrosse Participation Survey was published, the number of active players has grown 89.3 percent from 253,931 active players to 480,627 players in 2007.

In recent years lacrosse has seen expansion at the collegiate, professional and international levels, but the epicenter of the growth has come at the youth and high school levels. More than 90 percent of the current players are in high school or younger and new programs are being developed all over the country.

Lacrosse also has a greater spotlight in the public eye. Collegiate lacrosse has a significant presence on CSTV and the ESPN networks with more than 60 games being televised nationally and numerous others showing on local and regional broadcasts. Major League Lacrosse also has a weekly game of the week package on ESPN2.

The sport also receives additional exposure through several print and Internet-based publications, including Lacrosse magazine, a monthly periodical that is mailed to each of the 250,000-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 various US Lacrosse initiatives to help develop the sport. In 2007, the two US Lacrosse Web sites averaged more than 120,000 unique visitors each month.

LACROSSE PARTICIPATION IN 2007

Level	Male Players	Female Players	Total Players	% 1-Yr Growth
Youth	155,866	85,715	241,581	9.4
High School	119,826	81,424	201,250	18.6
College	16,961	11,321	28,282	6.1
Post-Collegiate	7,476	1,738	9,214	6.5
Professional	300	0	300	0.0
Total	300,429	180,198	480,627	12.8

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



The 2007 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium set records for attendance with 52,004 attending the Division I semifinals and 48,443 attending the championship game.



The University of Florida is one of several Division I schools that has announced new women's varsity programs recently. Among the others are Cincinnati, Fresno, Louisville, Navy, Rhode Island and South Carolina.



2007 US Lacrosse Participation Survey

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

2006 US Lacrosse Participation Survey

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

Number Youth Players Annually

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

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 of the country. US Lacrosse has provided the infrastructure to support and nurture the growth while the exciting action, cool equipment and increased exposure appeals to boys and girls of all ages and has fueled the demand for more playing opportunities.

Among the examples of growth:

- The Potomac Chapter of US Lacrosse, which covers the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and Northern Virginia, reports there were more than 11,500 youth players in 2007. That's more than double the 5,700 youth participants in the region just six years ago in the 2001 US Lacrosse survey.
- Oregon reported just 150 youth players in 2001, but in 2007 there were more than 70 youth programs in the state with nearly 3,000 players. The game is now played by youth players as early as first grade.
- In 2001, there were approximately 700 youth players in the entire state of Texas. There are now nearly 5,000 players in the state. An example of the growth is the North Texas Youth Lacrosse Association, which features more than 100 boys and girls teams.
- Georgia is one of the leaders of the growth of the sport in the South. The Georgia Youth Lacrosse Association and Georgia Middle School League reported more than 3,400 players on 179 teams in 2007. In 2001, there were less than 500 players statewide.
- Connecticut has one some of the strongest youth programs in the country and the sport is continuing to explode. Participation has more than tripled over the last six years with more than 13,000 participants in 2007.

1-yr Growth: 9.4%
6-yr Growth: 94.2%

States With Most Youth Players

1. Maryland	50,856
2. New York	38,645
3. Massachusetts	18,242
4. Pennsylvania	16,810
5. New Jersey	16,192
6. Connecticut	13,346
7. California	10,366
8. Virginia	10,232
9. Ohio	5,865
10. New Hampshire	5,433
11. Colorado	5,269
12. Florida	4,870
13. Texas	4,735
14. Minnesota	3,940
15. Georgia	3,426

HIGH SCHOOL

201,250



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

High school lacrosse was the fastest-growing segment of the sport in 2007 and there is vast potential for the sport to keep growing at this level. Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Pennsylvania are among the state high school associations that have recently awarded official status to lacrosse as a sanctioned or recognized sport. Only 18 state high school associations have sanctioned or recognized lacrosse, to the room for further growth is apparent.

1-yr Growth: 12.8%
6-yr Growth: 99.4%

According to data from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), lacrosse has the highest growth rate of any sport over the last decade (see chart on right), with more than 2,300 programs (combined boys and girls) added in that span. But that growth is only part of the story. The NFHS reported 1,588 schools with boys' programs and 1,840 schools with girls programs in 2007, but there are hundreds more programs at the high school level. This includes club programs, private schools that do not report data to the NFHS and states where lacrosse is not recognized officially at the high school level. According to Laxpower.com, a leading lacrosse Web site, there were more than 2,700 boys high school programs and 2,000 girls programs in 2007.

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports

Boys 10- yr

1. Bowling	187.0%
2. Lacrosse	166.0%
3. Water Polo	64.0%
4. Ice Hockey	52.0%
5. Indoor Track	40.6%

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports

Girls 10- yr

1. Lacrosse	308.0%
2. Ice Hockey	250.0%
3. Bowling	189.5%
4. Golf	55.4%
5. Soccer	50.7%

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

Growth Rates of NFHS Sports

Boys & Girls 10-yr

1. Lacrosse	227.1%
2. Bowling	188.2%
3. Water Polo	132.1%
4. Ice Hockey	76.1%
5. Soccer	40.0%

- The U.S. Women's Elite team roster has three Colorado high school products.
- The 2008 U.S. U-19 men's team includes a player from Ohio and the 2003 team, the most recent men's U-19 team to compete, had a player from Texas. Each of the last two U.S. men's senior teams have had players from Colorado and Illinois.
- The state of Texas produced 33 players that were recruited to NCAA men's programs for 2008, including three at Division I schools.
- 17 California high school recruits were recruited to NCAA Division I women's programs for 2008.
- St. Ignatius (Calif.) finished 18th in *Lacrosse* magazine's annual high school rankings in 2007, following its perfect 18-0 season. The Cherry Creek (Colo.) girls' team ranked 14th in the same rankings.



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

In an era when the addition of new collegiate sports is rare, lacrosse is the exception to the rule. From 1996 to 2006, a total of 152 new NCAA lacrosse programs were added and the sport is poised for further growth. Twenty-seven new varsity programs were launched in 2008 and 23 more have already been announced to begin play in 2009 or 2010. A sampling of new men's and women's programs:

School	State	Level	Year
Adrian College	Michigan	MD3, WD3	2008
Birmingham Southern College	Alabama	MD3, WD3	2009
Carthage College	Wisconsin	MD3, WD3	2009/2010
University of Cincinnati	Ohio	WD1	2008
University of Detroit-Mercy	Michigan	MD1, WD1	2009
University of Florida	Florida	WD1	2010
Fresno State University	California	WD1	2009
Hendrix College	Arkansas	MD3	2008
University of Louisville	Kentucky	WD1	2008
University of Rhode Island	Rhode Island	WD1	2010
Rollins College	Florida	MD2, WD2	2008
University of South Carolina	South Carolina	WD1	2010
U.S. Naval Academy	Maryland	WD1	2008

1-yr Growth: 6.1%
6-yr Growth: 39.4%

Growth Rates of NCAA Sports

Men's 10- yr

1. Lacrosse	25.4%
2. Soccer	10.9%
3. Volleyball	10.8%
4. Ice Hockey	8.1%
5. Basketball	8.0%

Growth Rates of NCAA Sports

Women's 10- yr

1. Ice Hockey	257.1%
2. Water Polo	205.0%
3. Golf	75.0%
4. Lacrosse	65.2%
5. Rowing	57.8%

Growth Rates of NCAA Sports

Men's and Women's 10-yr (Min. 50 teams each gender)

1. Lacrosse	44.6%
2. Ice Hockey	44.4%
3. Soccer	28.5%
4. Softball	26.8%
5. Golf	26.3%

The popularity of the sport is evidenced by record crowds in excess of 50,000 for the NCAA men's championship, and 60 collegiate games scheduled to appear on national television in 2008. 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 US Lacrosse WDIA national championship, which will be held in Denver in 2008. The final will be played at Invesco Field at Mile High and will be telecast nationally on CSTV.

• NCAA growth rate data from 1995-96 to 2005-06.

PROFESSIONAL

300



2007 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Americans in MLL/NLL)
Men:..... 300

2006 US Lacrosse Participation Survey (Americans in MLL/NLL)
Men:..... 300

Major League Lacrosse Teams

- Boston Cannons (2001)
- Chicago Machine (2006)
- Denver Outlaws (2006)
- Long Island Lizards (2001)
- Los Angeles Riptide (2006)
- Philadelphia Barrage (2004)
- New Jersey Pride (2001)
- Rochester Rattlers (2001)
- San Francisco Dragons (2006)
- Washington Bayhawks (2007)
(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, expanded to 10 franchises in 2006 with the addition of new teams in Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The MLL signed a 10-year agreement with ESPN in 2007, and the league has a tape-delayed game of the week package that airs on ESPN2.

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. Two franchises, Arizona and Boston, did not participate in the 2007-08 season due to an off-season labor dispute that threatened the viability of the season.

National Lacrosse League Teams

- 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 (2005)
- Rochester Knighthawks (1995)
- San Jose Stealth (2004)
- Toronto Rock (1999)

POST-COLLEGIATE CLUB

9,214

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.

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.

2007 US Lacrosse Participation Survey
Men:..... 7,476
Women: 1,738
Total: 9,214

2006 US Lacrosse Participation Survey
Men:..... 6,947
Women: 1,702
Total: 8,649

INTERNATIONAL



IFWLA Member Nations

- Australia
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Germany
- Haudenosaunee Nation
- Ireland
- Japan
- Korea
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- United States
- Wales

ILF Member Nations

- Australia
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Finland
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Ireland
- Iroquois Nation
- Italy
- Japan
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- South Korea
- Sweden
- United States
- Wales

Organized lacrosse is now played in more than 25 countries around the globe and is governed by the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) and the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF). The two organizations are scheduled to merge in August of 2008.

In addition to the members of the international governing bodies, development efforts are underway in 34 nations under the direction of the International Lacrosse Development Committee.

US Lacrosse governs all aspects of the U.S. men's and women's national teams and plays a leading role financially in supporting men's and women's lacrosse development internationally.

World championships are conducted at the senior and U-19 level every four years.

Recent World Championships

Event	Year	Location	Winner	U.S. Finish
IFWLA U-19 World Champ.	2003	Towson, Md.	U.S.	First
ILF U-19 World Champ.	2003	Towson, Md.	U.S.	First
IFWLA World Cup	2005	Annapolis, Md.	Australia	Second
ILF World Championship	2006	Ontario, Canada	Canada	Second
ILF Indoor World Champ.	2007	Nova Scotia, Canada	Canada	Third
IFWLA U-19 World Champ.	2007	Ontario, Canada	U.S.	First

Upcoming Championships

Event	Year	Location
ILF U-19 World Champ.	2008	British Columbia, Canada
IFWLA World Cup	2009	Prague, Czech Republic
ILF World Champ.	2010	Manchester, England

ILF Affiliate Members

- Argentina
- Austria
- Bermuda
- Latvia
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Slovenia
- Tonga