

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION SURVEY

Conducted By
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS
Based on Competition at the High School Level in the 2021-22 School Year

SPORT (Number of states reporting for boys/girls)	BOYS		GIRLS		COMBINED
	Schools	Participants	Schools	Participants	Participants
Adapted Sports (14/14)					
Basketball	27	573	21	507	1,080
Bocce – Indoor	147	829	144	811	1,640
Bowling	122	790	127	522	1,312
Corn Toss	22	99	22	86	185
Cross Country	2	2	2	1	3
Floor Hockey	78	375	78	122	497
Football	5	12	2	2	14
Golf	7	20	9	42	62
Handball	5	44	5	9	53
Soccer	99	444	98	223	667
Softball	96	421	96	258	679
Strength Training	10	70	10	70	140
Swimming	15	108	13	93	201
Tennis	57	282	57	316	598
Track and Field	100	323	82	215	538
Volleyball	1	10	1	10	20
Air Riflery (2/3)	61	510	63	461	971
Archery (6/6)	381	4,646	378	4,556	9,202
Badminton (6/9)	268	4,942	535	12,386	17,328
Baseball (48/28)	15,925	481,004	1,779	1,156	482,160
Basketball (51/51)	18,428	521,616	17,901	370,466	892,082
Bass Fishing (7/5)	768	10,626	89	343	10,969
Bocce – Outdoor (1/1)	256	6,860	252	4,683	11,543
Bowling (24/25)	2,981	31,470	3,246	25,749	57,219
Canoe Paddling (2/2)	59	1,045	62	1,003	2,048

SPORT (Number of states reporting for boys/girls)	BOYS		GIRLS		COMBINED
	Schools	Participants	Schools	Participants	Participants
Competitive Spirit (23/30)	755	3,657	7,236	140,552	144,209
Crew (6/6)	93	2,487	89	2,102	4,589
Cross Country (51/51)	15,710	231,387	15,448	191,323	422,710
Cycling (2/2)	12	99	12	49	148
Dance (8/9)	20	82	782	10,505	10,587
Dance Team, High Kick (2/3)	217	92	262	3,891	3,983
Dance Team, Jazz (4/4)	222	53	248	3,606	3,659
Dance/Drill (3/4)	37	73	330	4,507	4,580
Decathlon (5/4)	248	1,928	21	118	2,046
Drill Team (3/4)	7	71	101	2,487	2,558
Equestrian (3/4)	277	3,378	401	3,783	7,161
Fencing (6/6)	109	1,996	110	2,143	4,139
Field Hockey (5/17)	1	262	1,767	55,829	56,091
Figure Skating (2/2)	5	7	61	346	353
Flag Football (2/9)	40	685	662	15,716	16,401
Football – 11-Player (51/40)	13,733	973,792	2,289	3,094	976,886
Football – 6-Player (9/7)	394	6,696	76	167	6,863
Football – 8-Player (20/16)	1,069	20,243	95	128	20,371
Football – 9-Player (5/5)	327	7,996	124	244	8,240
Golf (50/49)	13,631	148,585	10,580	80,829	229,414
Gymnastics (7/27)	104	1,011	1,584	16,232	17,243
Heptathlon (2/4)	58	737	170	1,705	2,442
Ice Hockey (17/16)	1,568	33,153	699	8,939	42,092
Judo (3/2)	83	1,878	81	1,739	3,617
Kayaking (2/2)	2	77	10	295	372
Lacrosse (26/27)	3,077	107,865	3,028	96,762	204,627
Martial Arts (4/4)	230	12,837	34	332	13,169
Mixed 6–Coed Volleyball (1/1)	31	152	31	161	313
Mt. Biking (5/4)	41	493	29	141	634
Native Youth Olympics (2/2)	36	121	36	94	215

SPORT	BOYS		GIRLS		COMBINED
	Schools	Participants	Schools	Participants	Participants
(Number of states reporting for boys/girls)					
Other Sports (5/5)	40	346	166	1,499	1,845
Riflery (8/7)	197	1,471	173	907	2,378
Rock Climbing (3/3)	222	2,264	195	1,414	3,678
Rodeo (2/3)	7	26	58	426	452
Roller Hockey (1/1)	12	108	5	45	153
Rugby (4/4)	91	2,288	43	468	2,756
Sailing (4/4)	58	482	53	434	916
Skiing – Alpine (12/13)	609	5,040	643	4,631	9,671
Skiing – Cross Country (11/11)	303	4,638	315	4,528	9,166
Snowboarding (6/6)	62	667	62	508	1,175
Soccer (51/51)	12,539	436,465	12,071	374,773	811,238
Soft Tennis (2/2)	15	147	14	152	299
Softball – Fast Pitch (5/50)	12	536	15,454	340,923	341,459
Softball – Slow Pitch (2/5)	42	1,507	358	5,580	7,087
Squash (3/3)	6	138	47	1,500	1,638
Surfing (2/2)	45	864	40	385	1,249
Swimming & Diving (49/49)	7,831	123,208	8,079	149,751	272,959
Synchronized Swimming (0/2)			30	312	312
Team Tennis (10/10)	1,844	30,607	1,894	35,475	66,082
Tennis (47/47)	9,632	145,858	9,987	176,185	322,043
Track and Field – Indoor (20/20)	3,030	65,316	3,059	61,109	126,425
Track and Field – Outdoor (51/51)	17,070	569,262	17,028	456,697	1,025,959
Trap Shooting (3/3)	401	2,807	390	2,136	4,943
Ultimate Frisbee (5/5)	48	951	44	377	1,328
Unified Basketball (11/10)	660	5,018	33	2,859	7,877
Unified Bass Fishing (2/1)	2	13	1	4	17
Unified Bocce (1/1)	1	6	1	5	11
Unified Bowling (8/8)	344	2,825	154	1,832	4,657
Unified Cheer (2/2)	541	272	558	9,022	9,294
Unified Corn Toss (1/1)	3	69	2	48	117

SPORT (Number of states reporting for boys/girls)	BOYS		GIRLS		COMBINED
	Schools	Participants	Schools	Participants	Participants
Unified Cross Country (1/1)	1	4	1	4	8
Unified Cycling (1/1)	2	15	2	15	30
Unified Flag Football (4/3)	76	623	42	334	957
Unified Golf (1/1)	10	16	3	16	32
Unified Soccer (5/5)	96	661	91	578	1,239
Unified Softball (2/2)	200	5,411	203	4,946	10,357
Unified Strength Training (0/1)			2	90	90
Unified Tennis (1/1)	9	172	272	4,690	4,862
Unified Track and Field – Outdoor (13/14)	446	4,245	423	3,700	7,945
Unified Volleyball (3/4)	37	167	36	249	416
Volleyball (25/51)	2,682	66,487	16,532	454,153	520,640
Volleyball - Beach (2/4)	33	718	380	6,489	7,207
Water Polo (7/7)	850	19,164	882	18,215	37,379
Weightlifting (7/7)	803	14,812	708	10,445	25,257
Wrestling (51/46)	10,797	231,874	4,802	31,654	263,528

NFHS ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

(As of 2021-22 school year)

TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

Schools			Participants		
1.	Basketball	18,428	1.	Football – 11-Player	973,792
2.	Track and Field – Outdoor	17,070	2.	Track and Field – Outdoor	569,262
3.	Baseball	15,925	3.	Basketball	521,616
4.	Cross Country	15,710	4.	Baseball	481,004
5.	Football – 11-Player	13,733	5.	Soccer	436,465
6.	Golf	13,631	6.	Wrestling	231,874
7.	Soccer	12,539	7.	Cross Country	231,387
8.	Wrestling	10,797	8.	Golf	148,585
9.	Tennis	9,632	9.	Tennis	145,858
10.	Swimming & Diving	7,831	10.	Swimming & Diving	123,208

TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

Schools			Participants		
1.	Basketball	17,901	1.	Track and Field – Outdoor	456,697
2.	Track and Field – Outdoor	17,028	2.	Volleyball	454,153
3.	Volleyball	16,532	3.	Soccer	374,773
4.	Softball – Fast Pitch	15,454	4.	Basketball	370,466
5.	Cross Country	15,448	5.	Softball – Fast Pitch	340,923
6.	Soccer	12,071	6.	Cross Country	191,323
7.	Golf	10,580	7.	Tennis	176,185
8.	Tennis	9,987	8.	Swimming & Diving	149,751
9.	Swimming & Diving	8,079	9.	Competitive Spirit	140,552
10.	Competitive Spirit	7,236	10.	Lacrosse	96,762

ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION SURVEY TOTALS

Year	Boys Participants	Girls Participants	Total	Year	Boys Participants	Girls Participants	Total
1971-72	3,666,917	294,015	3,960,932	1998-99	3,832,352	2,652,726	6,485,078
1972-73	3,770,621	817,073	4,587,694	1999-00	3,861,749	2,675,874	6,537,623
1973-74	4,070,125	1,300,169	5,370,294	2000-01	3,921,069	2,784,154	6,705,223
1975-76	4,109,021	1,645,039	5,754,060	2001-02	3,960,517	2,806,998	6,767,515
1977-78	4,367,442	2,083,040	6,450,482	2002-03	3,988,738	2,856,358	6,845,096
1978-79	3,709,512	1,854,400	5,563,912	2003-04	4,038,253	2,865,299	6,903,552
1979-80	3,517,829	1,750,264	5,268,093	2004-05	4,110,319	2,908,390	7,018,709
1980-81	3,503,124	1,853,789	5,356,913	2005-06	4,206,549	2,953,355	7,159,904
1981-82	3,409,081	1,810,671	5,219,752	2006-07	4,321,103	3,021,807	7,342,910
1982-83	3,355,558	1,779,972	5,135,530	2007-08	4,372,115	3,057,266	7,429,381
1983-84	3,303,599	1,747,346	5,050,945	2008-09	4,422,662	3,114,091	7,536,753
1984-85	3,354,284	1,757,884	5,112,168	2009-10	4,455,740	3,172,637	7,628,377
1985-86	3,344,275	1,807,121	5,151,396	2010-11	4,494,406	3,173,549	7,667,955
1986-87	3,364,082	1,836,356	5,200,438	2011-12	4,484,987	3,207,533	7,692,520
1987-88	3,425,777	1,849,684	5,275,461	2012-13	4,490,854	3,222,723	7,713,577
1988-89	3,416,844	1,839,352	5,256,196	2013-14	4,527,994	3,267,664	7,795,658
1989-90	3,398,192	1,858,659	5,256,851	2014-15	4,519,312	3,287,735	7,807,047
1990-91	3,406,355	1,892,316	5,298,671	2015-16	4,541,959	3,324,306	7,866,265
1991-92	3,429,853	1,940,801	5,370,654	2016-17	4,563,238	3,400,297	7,963,535
1992-93	3,416,389	1,997,489	5,413,878	2017-18	4,565,580	3,415,306	7,980,886
1993-94	3,472,967	2,130,315	5,603,282	2018-19	4,534,758	3,402,733	7,937,491
1994-95	3,536,359	2,240,461	5,776,820	2019-20	Data unavailable due to COVID-19 pandemic.		
1995-96	3,634,052	2,367,936	6,001,988	2020-21	Data unavailable due to COVID-19 pandemic.		
1996-97	3,706,225	2,474,043	6,180,268	2021-22	4,376,582	3,241,472	7,618,054
1997-98	3,763,120	2,570,333	6,333,453				

SUMMARY OF ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION

(Data from 2021-22 school year)

TOTALS BY STATE

State	Boys	Girls	Total ¹	State	Boys	Girls	Total ¹
1. Texas	506,798	339,363	846,161	27. Kansas	59,243	43,297	102,540
2. California	434,235	328,588	762,823	28. Oklahoma	56,594	44,255	100,849
3. Ohio	225,957	152,397	378,354	29. Louisiana	62,676	37,377	100,053
4. Pennsylvania	166,590	148,507	315,097	30. Connecticut	54,706	43,231	97,937
5. Illinois	181,622	133,217	314,839	31. South Carolina	59,431	37,514	96,945
6. New York	170,338	143,066	313,404	32. Oregon	52,830	41,654	94,484
7. Florida	162,376	129,128	291,504	33. Nebraska	45,565	31,913	77,478
8. Michigan	156,424	114,999	271,423	34. Utah	44,413	32,838	77,251
9. New Jersey	150,603	113,536	264,139	35. Arkansas	34,786	25,694	60,480
10. Massachusetts	122,124	93,724	215,848	36. Idaho	30,313	22,467	52,780
11. Minnesota	111,427	98,133	209,560	37. Maine	26,751	22,768	49,519
12. Georgia	113,140	77,708	190,848	38. New Mexico	27,167	19,843	47,010
13. North Carolina	103,643	76,612	180,255	39. Nevada	23,365	17,034	40,399
14. Missouri	96,175	80,056	176,231	40. New Hampshire	21,450	17,898	39,348
15. Virginia	93,785	70,439	164,224	41. West Virginia	21,502	16,212	37,714
16. Wisconsin	88,262	63,673	151,935	42. Hawaii	18,903	13,978	32,881
17. Washington	83,137	66,039	149,176	43. Rhode Island	18,323	13,758	32,081
18. Indiana	86,999	61,851	148,850	44. Montana	17,645	14,156	31,801
19. Colorado	79,171	66,100	145,271	45. South Dakota	16,801	14,407	31,208
20. Alabama	90,110	51,355	141,465	46. North Dakota	15,231	11,130	26,451
21. Iowa	78,817	52,240	131,057	47. Delaware	14,795	11,170	25,965
22. Arizona	68,931	51,702	120,633	48. Wyoming	11,562	8,687	20,249
23. Tennessee	68,308	41,290	109,598	49. Alaska	8,802	7,660	16,462
24. Mississippi	68,606	39,324	107,930	50. Vermont	7,385	5,800	13,185
25. Kentucky	56,311	48,457	104,768	51. Dist. Of Columbia	1,893	1,176	3,069
26. Maryland	60,471	44,051	104,522				

¹ Reflects participation rate, i.e., individual who participated in two sports is counted twice, three sports – three times, etc.