

Table 1211. Participation in High School Athletic Programs by Sex: 1979 to 2008

[Data based on number of state associations reporting and may underrepresent the number of schools with and participants in athletic programs]

Year	Participants ¹		Sex and sport	Most popular sports, 2007–2008 ²	
	Males	Females		Schools	Participants
1979-80	3,517,829	1,750,264			
1985-86	3,344,275	1,807,121	MALE		
1986-87	3,364,082	1,836,356	Football (11-player)	13,987	1,108,286
1987-88	3,425,777	1,849,684	Basketball	17,861	552,935
1988-89	3,416,844	1,839,352	Track & field (outdoor)	15,835	548,821
1989-90	3,398,192	1,858,659	Baseball	15,720	478,029
1990-91	3,406,355	1,892,316	Soccer	11,122	383,561
1991-92	3,429,853	1,940,801	Wrestling	10,090	259,688
1992-93	3,416,389	1,997,489	Cross country	13,485	221,109
1993-94	3,472,967	2,130,315	Golf	13,647	159,958
1994-95	3,536,359	2,240,461	Tennis	9,576	156,285
1995-96	3,634,052	2,367,936	Swimming & diving	6,428	111,896
1996-97	3,706,225	2,474,043			
1997-98	3,763,120	2,570,333	FEMALE		
1998-99	3,832,352	2,652,726	Basketball	17,564	449,450
1999-20	3,861,749	2,675,874	Track & field (outdoor)	15,772	447,520
2000-01	3,921,069	2,784,154	Volleyball	15,009	397,968
2001-02	3,960,517	2,806,998	Softball (fast pitch)	14,846	371,293
2002-03	3,988,738	2,856,358	Soccer	10,543	346,545
2003-04	4,038,253	2,865,299	Cross country	13,294	190,349
2004-05	4,110,319	2,908,390	Tennis	9,694	172,455
2005-06	4,206,549	2,953,355	Swimming & diving	6,766	147,197
2006-07	4,321,103	3,021,807	Competitive spirit squads	4,510	111,307
2007-08	4,372,115	3,057,266	Golf	9,447	69,243

¹ A participant is counted in the number of sports participated in. ² Ten most popular sports for each sex in terms of number of participants.

Source: National Federation of State High School Associations, Indianapolis, IN, *The 2007–2008 High School Athletics Participation Survey* (copyright); <<http://www.nfhs.org/>>.