

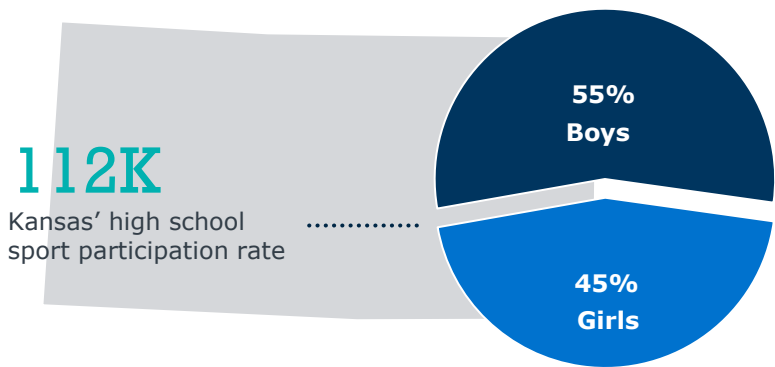
High School Sports Participation State Profile

State Profile: Kansas

Boys Account for Most High School Sport Participation

As of 2023-2024, the high school sports participation rate was 112,051 in Kansas. Mirroring the national trend, boys accounted for more than half of participation.

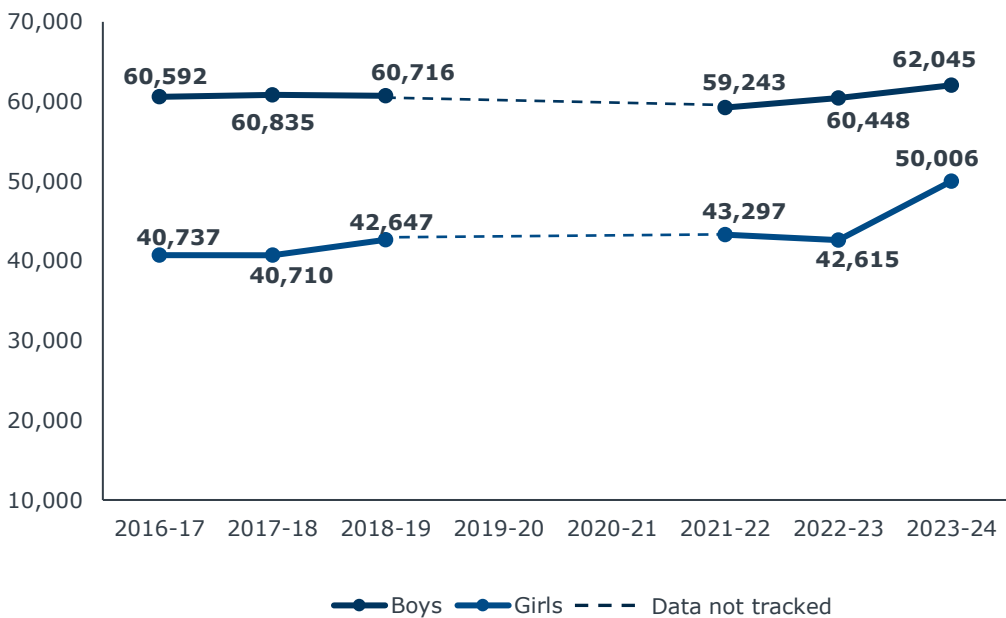
High School Sport Participation, Share of Girls v. Boys, 2023-24
n=112,051 (total participation)



Gap Between Boys, Girls Closing After Pandemic

Participation in high school sports is growing faster among girls than boys over the last eight years, at 23% and 2%, respectively. Kansas is one of few states where the gap in participation is shrinking.

Change in Participation Rates, 2016-17 to 2023-24



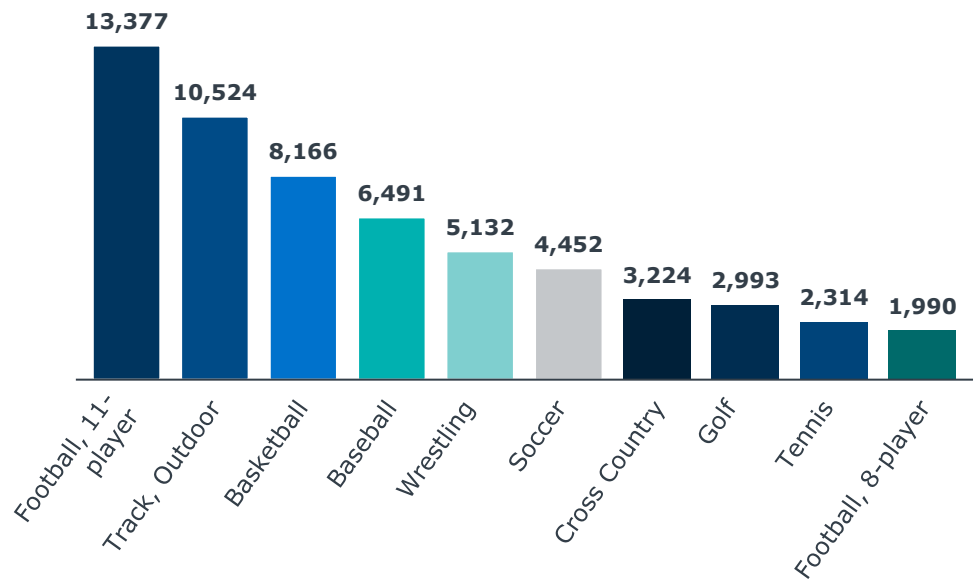
Top Boys' and Girls' Sports

Football Takes Two Spots in Top 10 Sports

Like most states, football was the biggest boys' sport as of 2023-2024. The remaining top 10 sports similarly reflect national trends. The biggest exception is 8-player football, which is the 10th largest sport in Kansas and not in the top 10 nationally.

Top 10 Boys' Sports by Participation Rate, 2022-2023

n=62,045

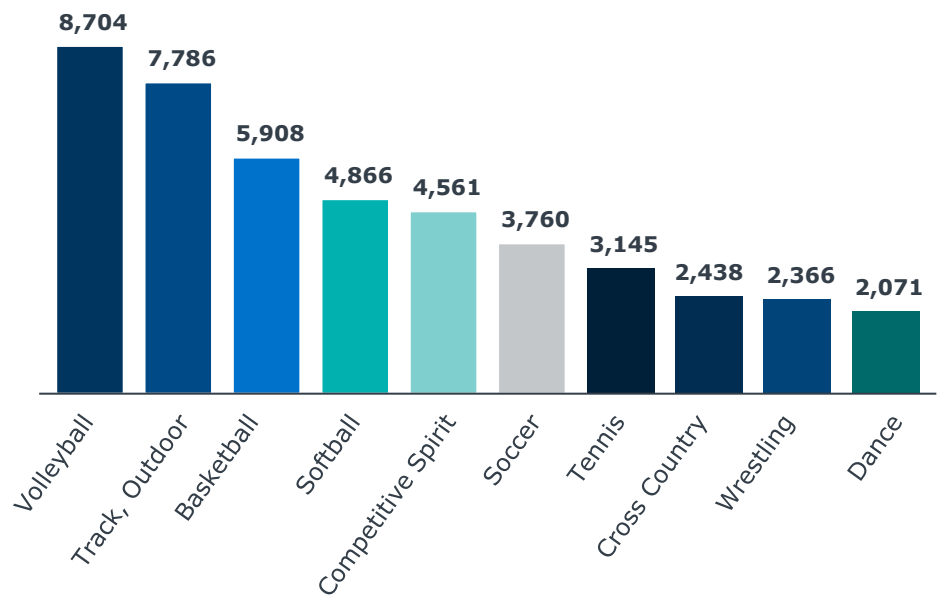


Wrestling Breaks Top 10 Sports Among Girls

The top girls' sports in Kansas also largely reflect national trends. The biggest deviation was wrestling. While wrestling is the 9th largest sport among girls in Iowa, it did not make the top 10 nationally.

Top 10 Girls' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024

n=50,006



Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Participation

Boys

Areas of Consistent Growth

Five sports grew both in the last year and across the last eight years. This trend may signal emerging and/or sustainable recruitment areas. They included:

- Football, 11-player
- Golf
- Outdoor Track & Field
- Soccer
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

In comparison, participation fell in the last year and across the last eight years among two sports. Because the participation rate double counts multi-sport athletes, it is possible some of these declines may be attributed to growing specialization.

- Baseball
- Basketball

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Football, 11-Player	13,377	1%	5%
Track and Field, Outdoor	10,524	5%	6%
Basketball	8,166	-1%	-8%
Baseball	6,491	-4%	-1%
Wrestling	5,132	6%	8%
Soccer	4,452	4%	4%
Cross Country	3,224	3%	-19%
Golf	2,993	11%	23%
Tennis	2,314	7%	-8%
Football, 8-player	1,990	7%	-1%
Swimming & Diving	1,464	3%	-6%
Bowling	1,168	0%	27%
Football, 6-player	343	1%	N/A
Unified Bowling	285	N/A	N/A
Competitive Spirit	107	N/A	N/A
Dance	15	N/A	N/A

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

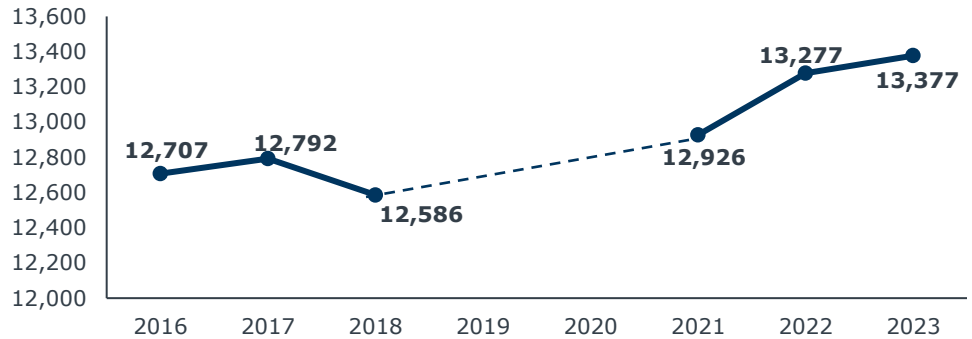
Boys

Biggest Sport

Steady Growth in Football

Boys' participation in football increased 5% between 2016 and 2023, with increases every year except for 2018.

Change in Boys' Football Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

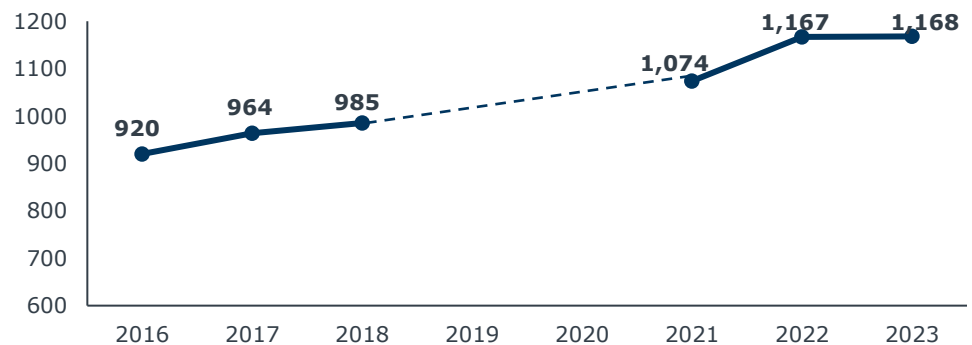


Fastest Growth

Steady Growth in Bowling

Bowling is poised to take over swimming and diving as the 11th largest sport if participation trends continue.

Change in Boys' Bowling Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

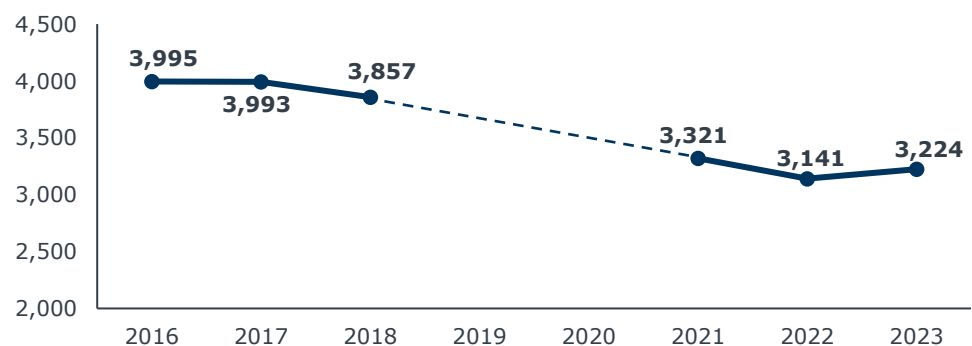


Largest Decline

Recent Increase in XC, But Mostly Consistent Declines

Cross country participation is down 19% since 2016. The drop in participation has slowed and increase, albeit slightly, in 2023.

Change in Boys' Cross Country Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24



Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Participation

Girls

Areas of Consistent Growth

Five sports grew both in the last year and across the last eight years. This trend may signal emerging and/or sustainable recruitment areas. They included:

- Bowling
- Outdoor Track & Field
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

In comparison, participation fell in the last year and across the last eight years among three sports. Because the participation rate double counts multi-sport athletes, it is possible some of these declines may be attributed to growing specialization.

- Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Softball

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Volleyball	8,704	0%	1%
Track and Field, Outdoor	7,786	2%	9%
Basketball	5,908	-3%	-15%
Softball, Fast Pitch	4,866	-2%	-2%
Competitive Spirit	4,561	N/A	N/A
Soccer	3,760	1%	6%
Tennis	3,145	9%	26%
Cross Country	2,438	2%	-12%
Wrestling	2,366	23%	2013%
Dance	2,071	N/A	N/A
Swimming & Diving	1,774	4%	-11%
Golf	1,418	-3%	26%
Bowling	864	5%	5%
Unified Bowling	231	N/A	N/A
Gymnastics	94	-7%	-14%
Football, 11-Player	15	N/A	-25%
Football, 8-player	3	N/A	-63%
Baseball	2	N/A	-90%

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

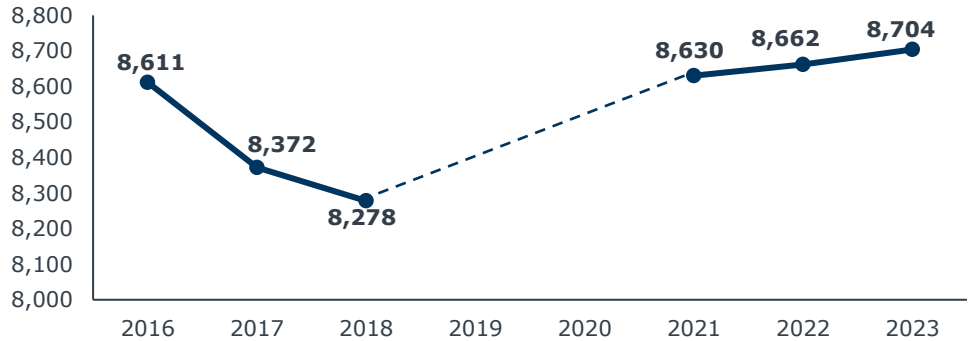
Girls

Biggest Sport

Volleyball Recovers From Pre-Pandemic Declines

Overall, participation in volleyball is up just slightly from 2016 (+1%). However, it was up 5% in 2023 since slipping to 8,278 participants in 2018.

Change in Girls' Volleyball Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

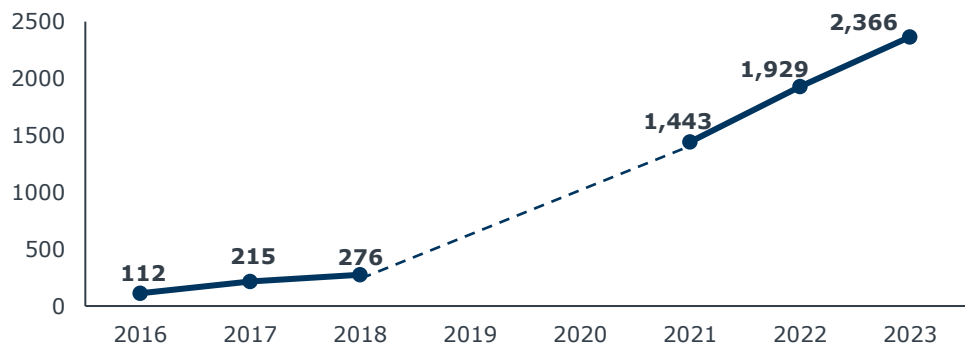


Fastest Growth

Sharp Increases in Wrestling

Participation in wrestling is growing quickly. Specifically, participation increased 2,013% between 2016 and 2023, with yearly increases.

Change in Girls' Wrestling Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

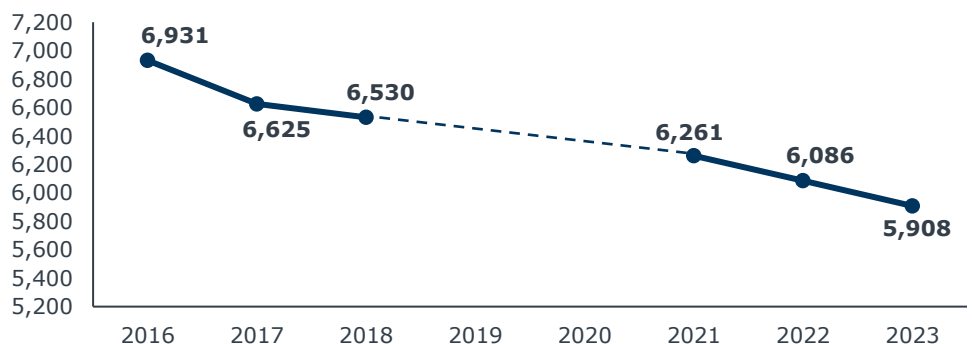


Largest Decline¹

Steady Decline in Basketball

Basketball participation has dropped every year since 2016, for a total decline of 15%.

Change in Girls' Basketball Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24



Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Appendix: About the Data

Data in this report come from the National Federation of State High School Association's "[High School Athletics Participation Survey](#)."

Limitations of the Data

- The numbers cited in this report reflect the "participation rate." An individual who participated in two sports is counted twice, three sports – three times and so on.
- Participation rates are not adjusted for population changes.
- Most states exclude data from independent schools, unless they are part of the state league, which varies by state and sport.
- Data do not include club sport participation.
- Some states did not report data for all years included in the report. Meanwhile, others appear to have reported duplicate data in a few cases. These cases are called out in the report when applicable.

Definitions

"Adapted" refers to sports that are modified (e.g., rules, equipment) for special-needs students.

"Unified" refers to sports that are open to special-needs students but aren't adapted to meet their needs.

Appendix: National High School Sports Participation

2023-2024 Top 10 Sports in USA by Participation

Top Boys' Sports

1. Football – 11-Player	1,031,508
2. Track and Field – Outdoor	625,333
3. Basketball	536,668
4. Baseball	471,701
5. Soccer	467,483
6. Wrestling	291,874
7. Cross Country	239,874
8. Tennis	157,835
9. Golf	155,174
10. Swimming and Diving	116,799
Total Boys' Participation	4,638,785

Top Girls' Sports

1. Track and Field – Outdoor	506,015
2. Volleyball	479,125
3. Soccer	383,895
4. Basketball	367,284
5. Softball – Fast Pitch	345,451
6. Tennis	195,766
7. Cross Country	192,969
8. Competitive Spirit	181,023
9. Swimming and Diving	138,174
10. Lacrosse	101,204
Total Girls' Participation	3,423,517

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.