

High School Sports Participation State Profile

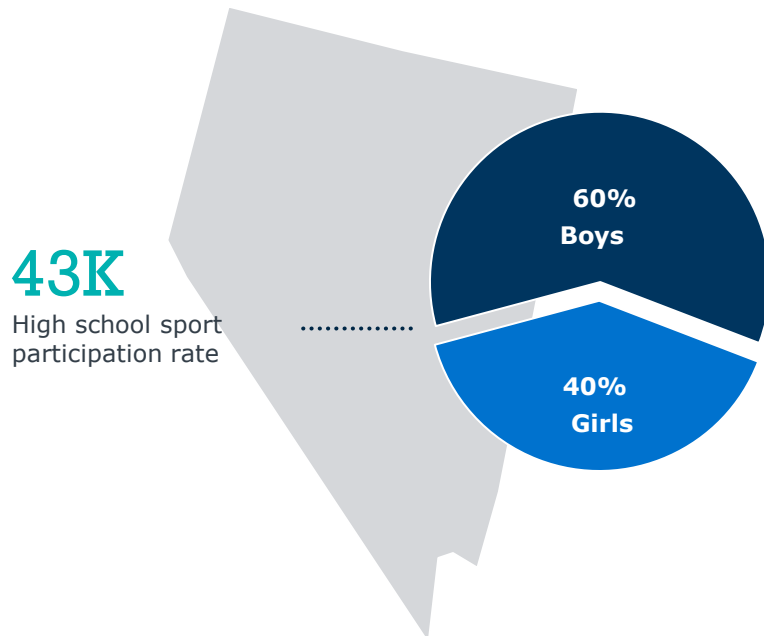
State Profile: Nevada

Boys Account for Most High School Sport Participation

As of 2023-2024, the high school sports participation rate was 43,659 in Nevada. Mirroring the national trend, boys accounted for more than half of participation.

High School Sport Participation, Share of Girls v. Boys, 2023-24

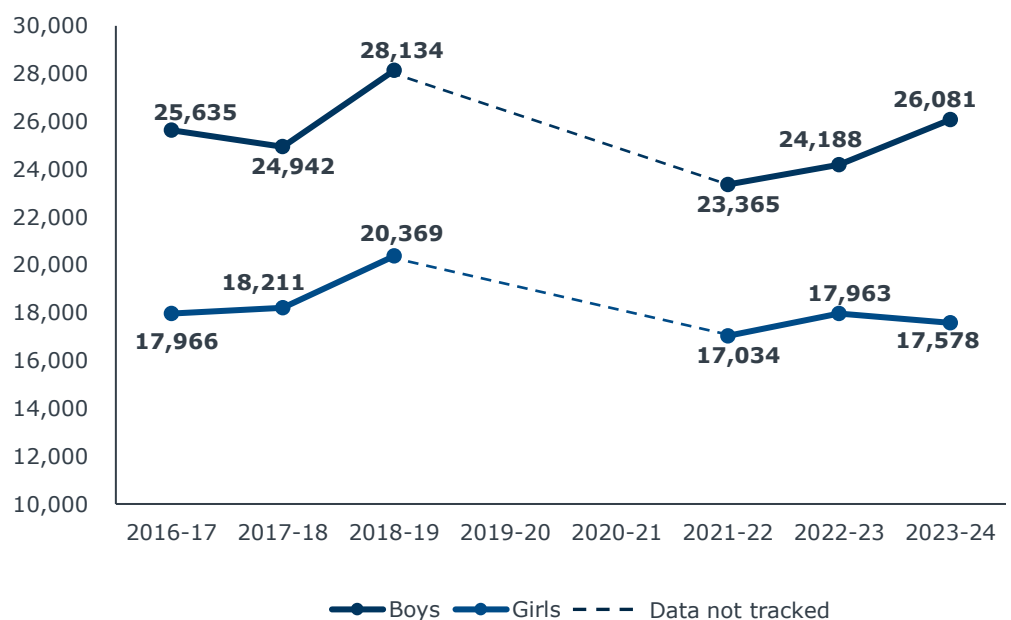
n=43,659 (total participation)



Gap Between Boys, Girls Expanding After Pandemic

Participation in high school sports is growing slightly among boys and declining among girls over the last eight years. Over the last two years, the gap in participation expanded as boys increased and girls declined.

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



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

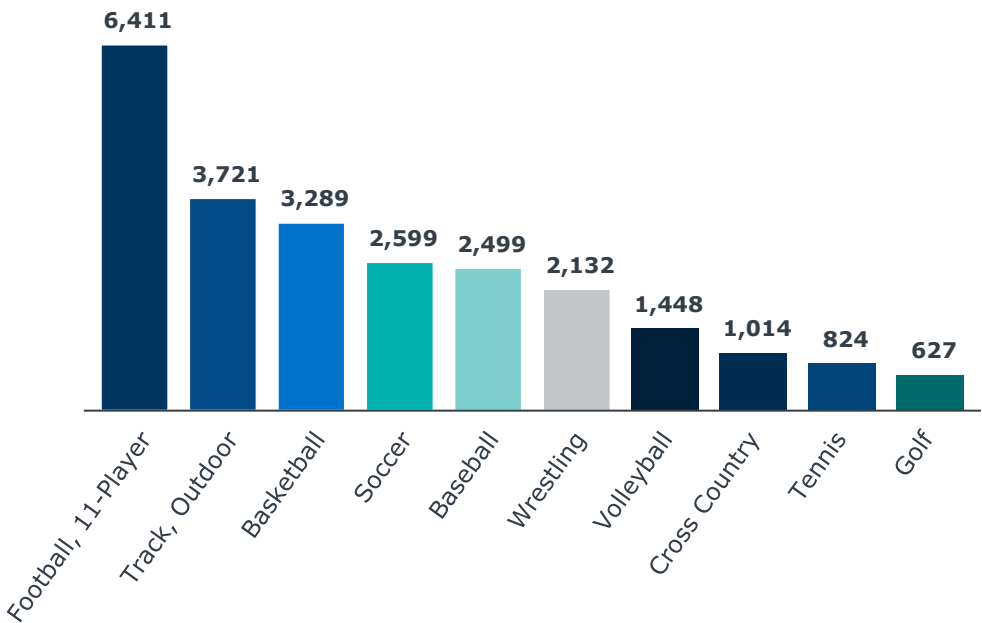
Top Boys' and Girls' Sports

Football Takes Top Spot

Like many other states, football was the biggest boys' sport as of 2023-2024. The biggest deviation from national trends was volleyball, which was the seventh largest sport in Nevada and not in the national top 10.

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

n = 26,081 (boys' participation rate)

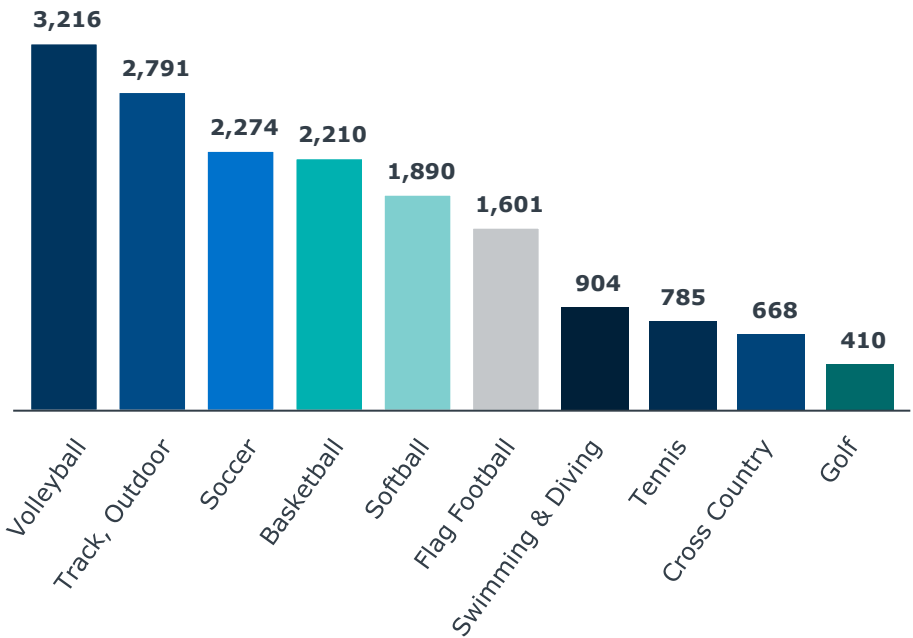


Flag Football Emerges as Top 10 Sport

The top girls' sports in Nevada largely reflect national trends. The biggest deviation is flag football, which is the eighth largest sport in the state and not in the top 10 nationally.

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

n = 17,578 (girls' participation rate)



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

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Participation

Boys

Areas of Consistent Growth

Six 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
- Volleyball
- 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.

- Football, 11-Player
- Skiing, Alpine

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Football, 11-Player	6,411	-3%	-3%
Track & Field, Outdoor	3,721	5%	7%
Basketball	3,289	-1%	6%
Soccer	2,599	4%	12%
Baseball	2,499	163%	-3%
Wrestling	2,132	9%	6%
Volleyball	1,448	2%	27%
Cross Country	1,014	7%	-9%
Tennis	824	3%	3%
Golf	627	1%	-9%
Swimming & Diving	619	0%	-23%
Football, 8-Player	388	3%	-6%
Bowling	345	10%	21%
Skiing, Alpine	165	-12%	-40%

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

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

Boys

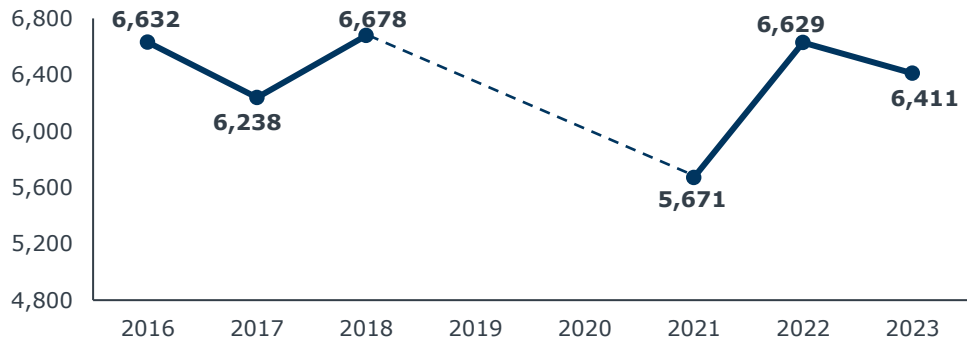
Biggest Sport

Football Experiences

Volatile Participation

Overall, participation in football declined 3% between 2016 and 2023, with declines after each growth year.

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

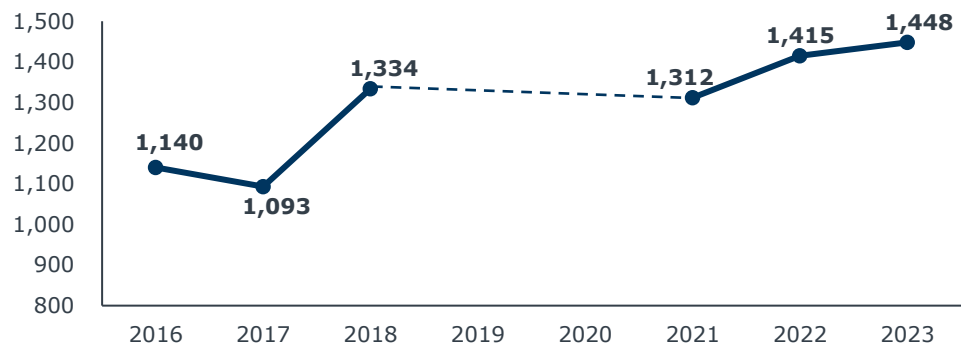


Fastest Growth

Steady Growth in Wrestling

Participation in volleyball increased 27% from 2016 to 2023. Growth was fastest between 2017 and 2018 and only declined slightly during the pandemic.

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

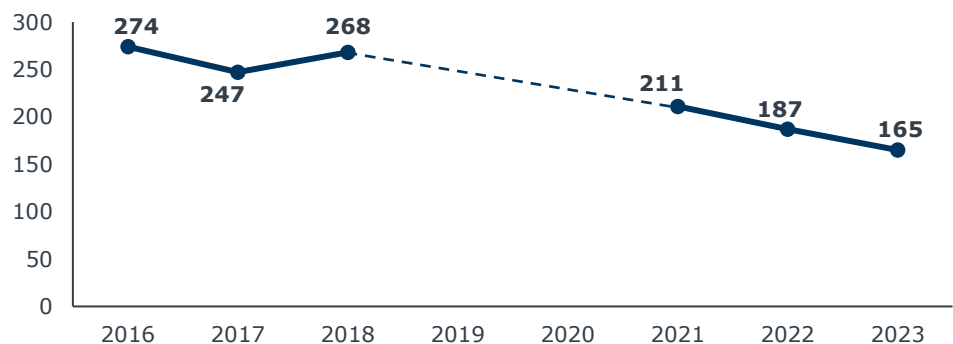


Largest Decline

Alpine Skiing Small and Shrinking

Participation in alpine skiing fell every year but one, with a total decline of 40% between 2016 and 2023.

Change in Boys' Alpine Skiing 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

Two 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

Areas of Steady Decline

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

- Basketball
- Skiing, Alpine
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Volleyball	3,216	-3%	8%
Track & Field, Outdoor	2,791	1%	0.2%
Soccer	2,274	-2%	-0.2%
Basketball	2,210	-1%	-8%
Softball	1,890	-6%	-15%
Flag Football	1,601	-2%	1%
Swimming & Diving	904	-4%	-28%
Tennis	785	-1%	0.1%
Cross Country	668	4%	-25%
Golf	410	-10%	14%
Wrestling	408	11%	N/A
Bowling	267	1%	22%
Skiing, Alpine	154	-17%	-26%

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

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

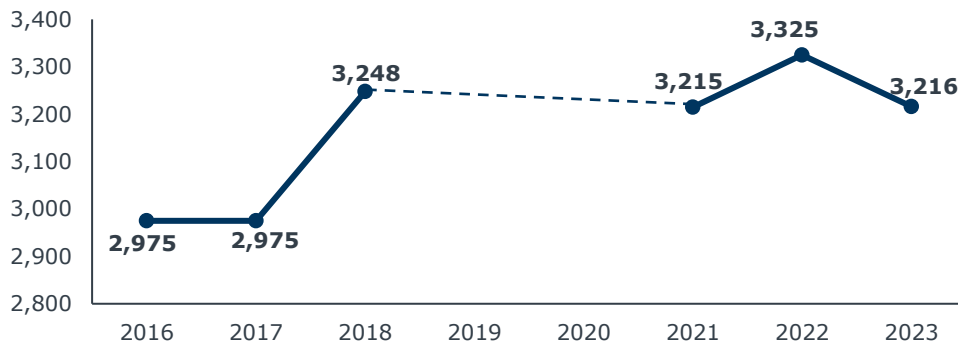
Girls

Biggest Sport

Volleyball Maintaining Pre-Pandemic Growth

Participation in volleyball is up 8% since 2016 but is down slightly since the pandemic.

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

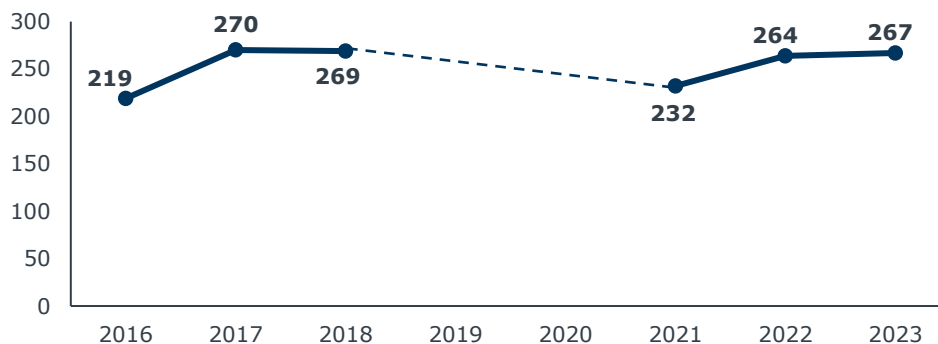


Fastest Growth

Bowling, the Fastest Growing Sport, Still Small

While participation in bowling increased 22% between 2016 and 2023, the participation rate is still less than 300 (12th largest girls' sport in the state).

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

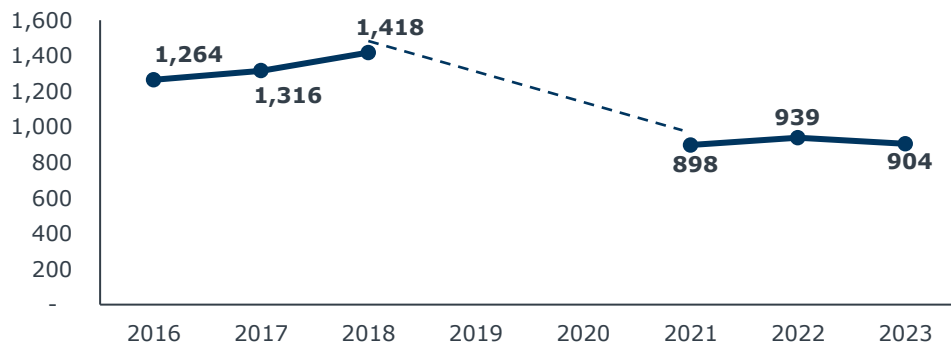


Largest Decline

Swimming Struggling to Rebound from Pandemic Fall

Participation in swimming and diving fell 28% between 2016 and 2023. While the sport was growing before the pandemic, it took a hit immediately after and has not recovered.

Change in Girls' Swimming & Diving 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.