

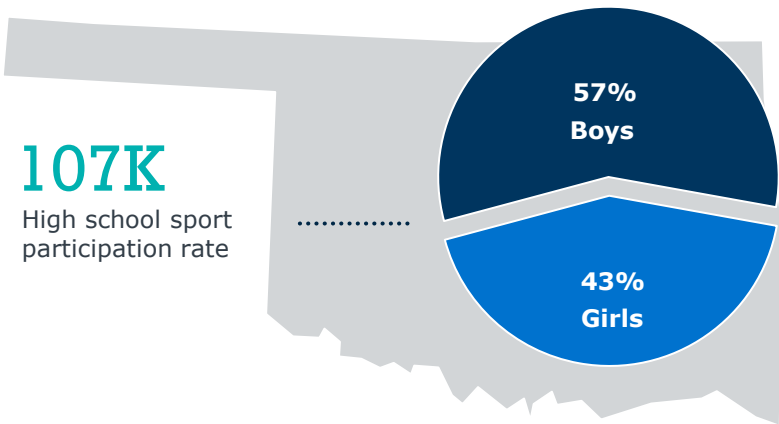
High School Sports Participation State Profile

State Profile: Oklahoma

Boys Account for Most High School Sport Participation

As of 2023-2024, the high school sports participation rate was 107,321 in Oklahoma. Mirroring the national trend, boys accounted for more than half of participation.

High School Sport Participation, Share of Girls v. Boys, 2023-24
n=107,321 (total participation)

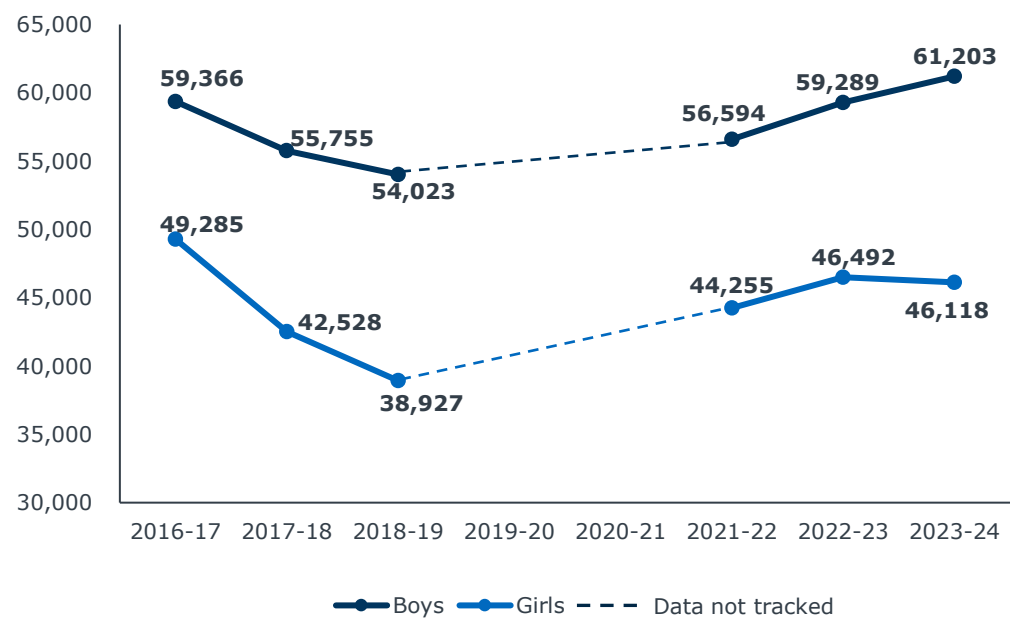


107K
High school sport participation rate

Gap Between Boys, Girls Expanding After Pandemic

Participation in high school sports is growing among boys and declining among girls over the last eight years. Girls' participation showed signs of recovery immediately after the pandemic but has started falling, resulting in an increase in the participation gap.

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



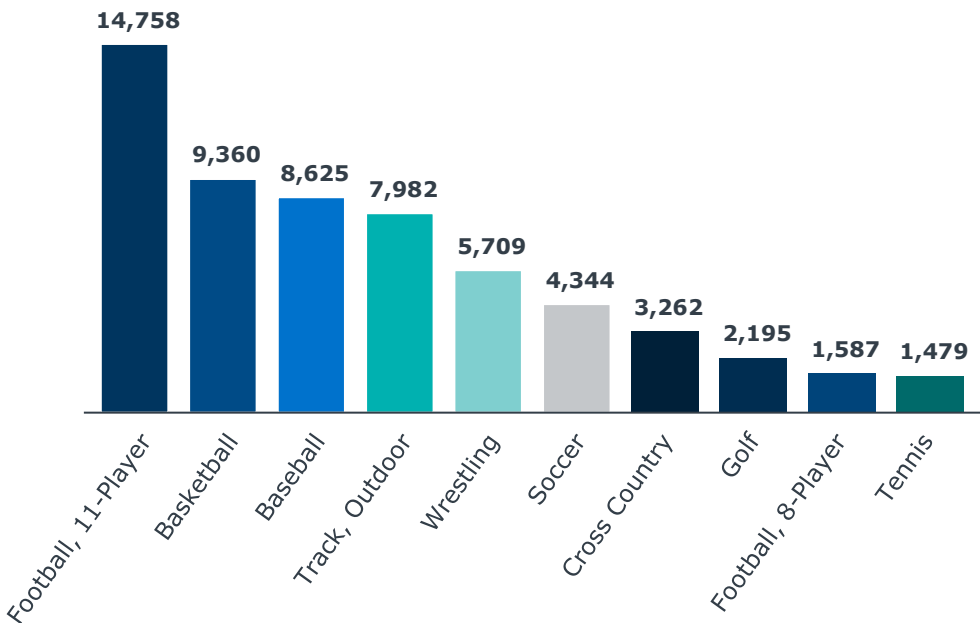
Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Top Boys' and Girls' Sports

Football Takes Two Spots in Boys' Top 10

Like most states, 11-player football was the biggest boys' sport as of 2023-2024. Unlike other states, 8-player football was also in the top 10. The remaining sports largely reflect national trends.

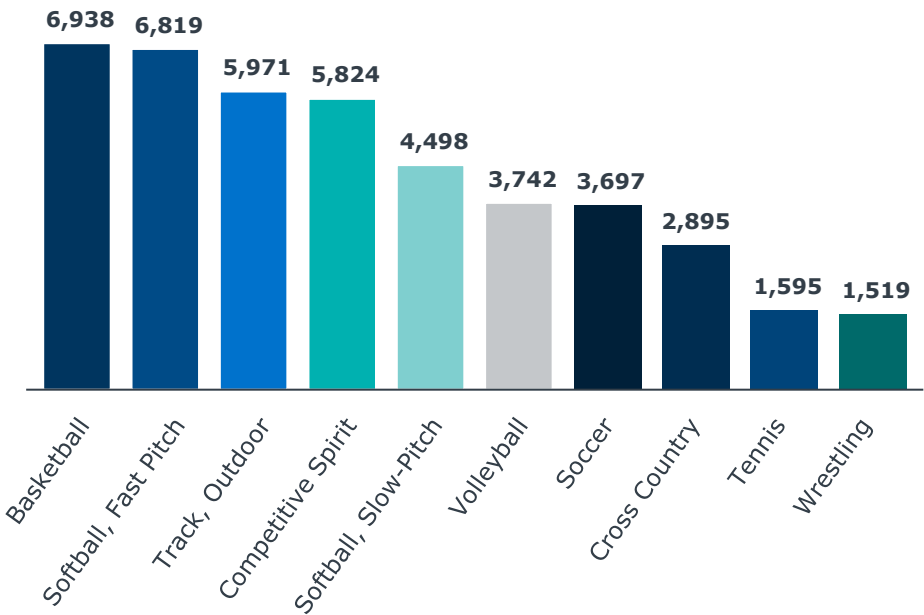
Top 10 Boys' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024
n =61,203 (boys' participation rate)



Softball Takes Two Spots in Girls' Top 10

The top girls' sports in vary more from national trends. For example, both fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball were in the top 10. Additionally, wrestling was the 10th largest sport and not in the to 10 nationally.

Top 10 Girls' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024
n =46,118 (girls' participation rate)



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:

- Competitive Spirit
- Football, 11-Player
- Outdoor Track & Field
- Swimming & Diving
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

In comparison, participation fell in the last year and across the last eight years among four sports.

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Cross Country
- Soccer

Because the participation rate double counts multi-sport athletes, it is possible some of these declines may be attributed to growing specialization.

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Football, 11-Player	14,758	1%	-6%
Basketball	9,360	-1%	-10%
Baseball	8,625	-5%	-7%
Track and Field, Outdoor	7,982	2%	13%
Wrestling	5,709	53%	58%
Soccer	4,344	-3%	-0.4%
Cross Country	3,262	-3%	-5%
Golf	2,195	-3%	13%
Football, 8-player	1,587	-1%	2%
Tennis	1,479	-1%	12%
eSports	1,127	107%	N/A
Swimming & Diving	628	2%	3%
Competitive Spirit	147	4%	17%

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

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

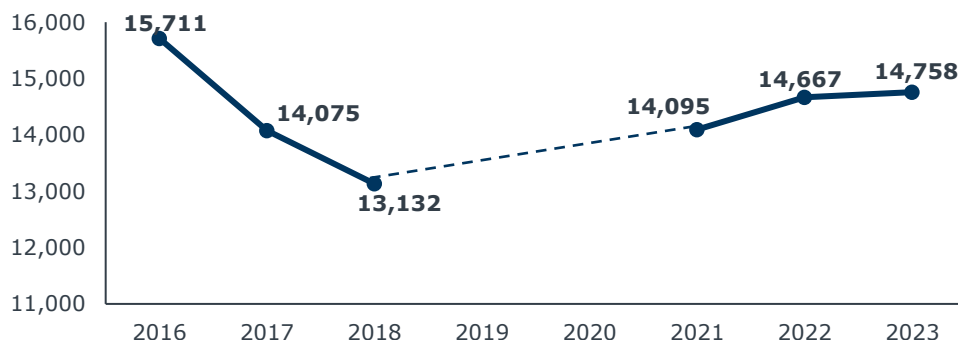
Boys

Biggest Sport

Football Not Yet Recovered from Pre-Pandemic Decline

Participation in football decreased 6% between 2016 and 2023. However, it is showing signs of growth. Participation increased 12% from 2018 to 2023.

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

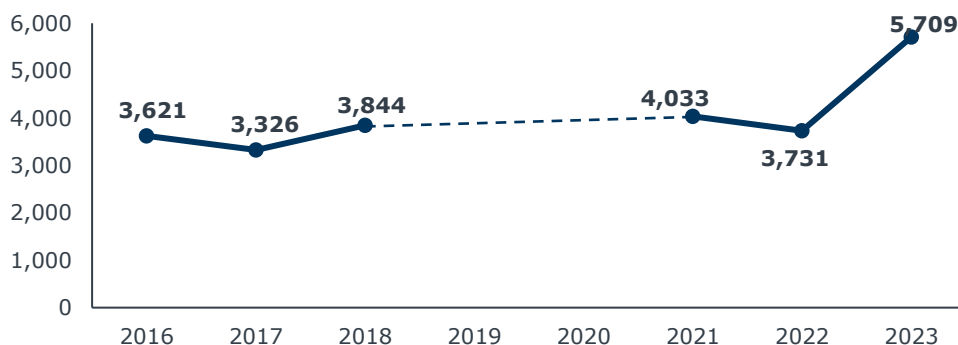


Fastest Growth

Mostly Growth for Wrestling

Participation in wrestling increased 58% between 2016 and 2023, despite two years of declines.

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

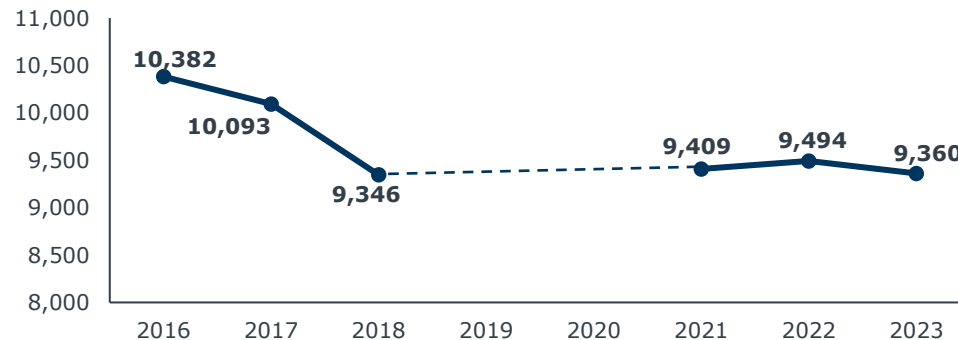


Largest Decline

Basketball Participation Leveling Off After Declines

Participation in basketball declined 10% between 2016 and 2023. Most of the decline occurred before the pandemic.

Change in Boys' Basketball 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

Four 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:

- Softball, Slow Pitch
- Wrestling
- Baseball
- Football, 11-Player

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
- Softball, Fast Pitch
- Competitive Spirit
- Soccer
- Swimming & Diving

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Basketball	6,938	-1%	-14%
Softball -- Fast Pitch	6,819	-4%	-6%
Track and Field -- Outdoor	5,971	-2%	2%
Competitive Spirit	5,824	-4%	-37%
Softball -- Slow Pitch	4,498	2%	0.1%
Volleyball	3,742	-6%	9%
Soccer	3,697	-1%	-10%
Cross Country	2,895	1%	-5%
Tennis	1,595	-6%	10%
Wrestling	1,519	66%	2,010%
Golf	1,445	-7%	13%
Swimming & Diving	620	-4%	-31%
E-Sports	483	28%	N/A
Baseball	45	22%	50%
Football -- 11-Player	24	14%	118%
Football -- 8-player	3	-70%	200%

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

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

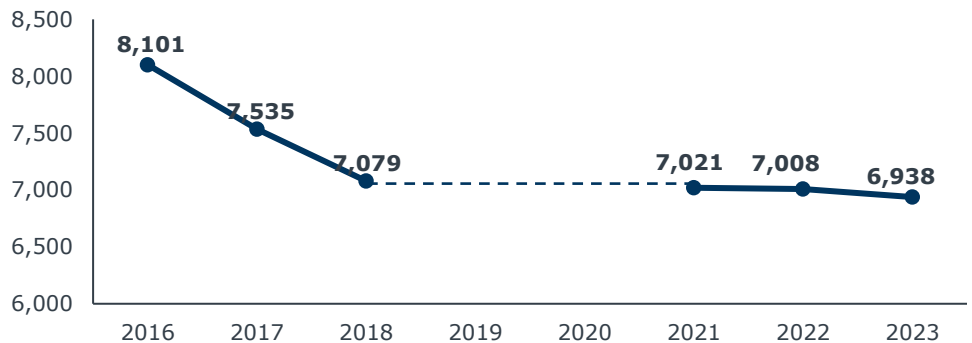
Girls

Biggest Sport

A Steady Decline in Basketball Is Slowing Down

Participation in basketball fell every year since 2016, for a total decline of 14% by 2023. The pace of decline has slowed down since 2018.

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

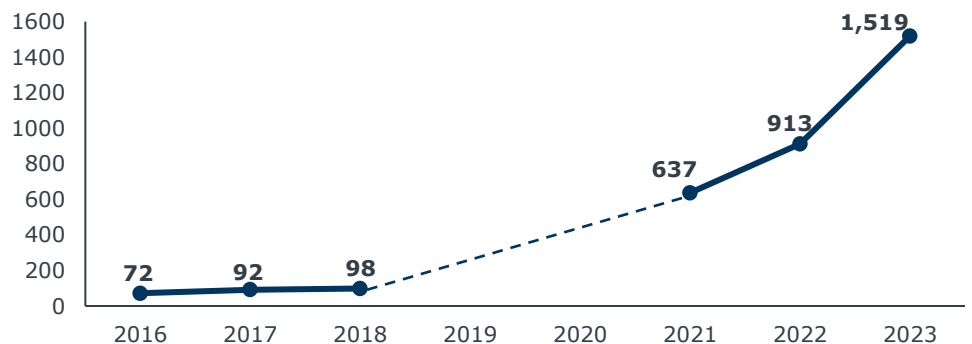


Fastest Growth

Wrestling Small but Growing Fast Among Girls

Participation in wrestling increased 2,010% between 2016 and 2023. The Fastest growth happened immediately after the pandemic.

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

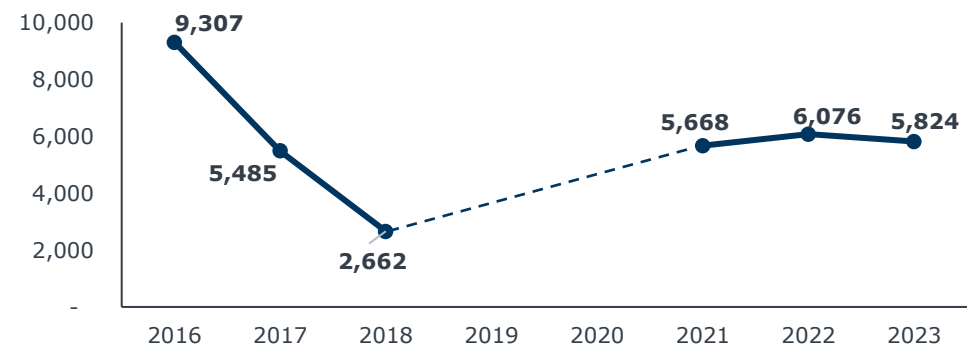


Largest Decline

Competitive Spirit Stable After Sharp Decline

Participation in competitive spirit declined 37% between 2016 and 2023. Since 2021, the rate of decline has slowed.

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.