

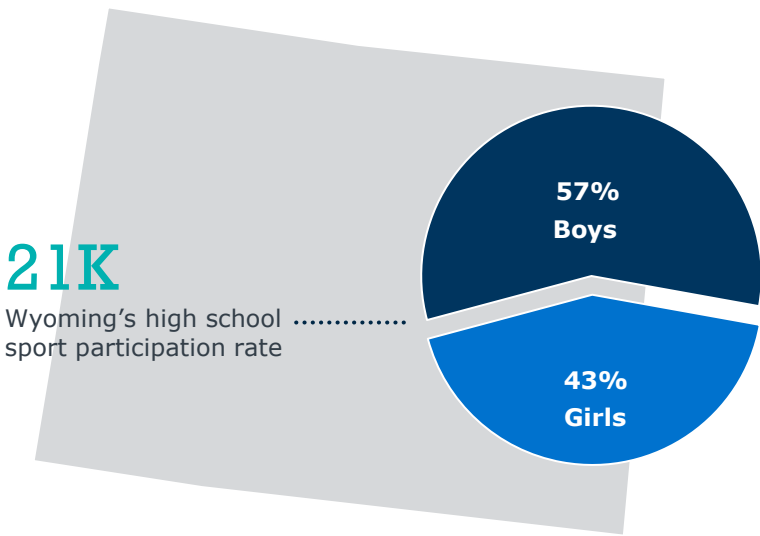
High School Sports Participation State Profile

State Profile: Wyoming

Boys Account for Most High School Sport Participation

As of 2023-2024, the high school sports participation rate was 21,213 in Wyoming. Mirroring the national trend, boys accounted for more than half of participation.

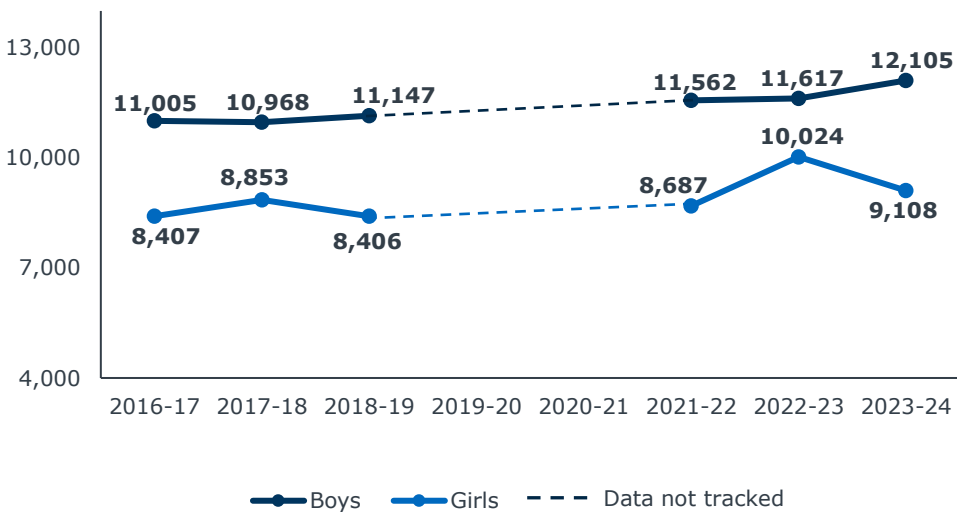
High School Sport Participation, Share of Girls v. Boys, 2023-24
n = 21,213



Gap Between Boys, Girls Persists After Pandemic

Participation in high school sports is growing among boys and girls in Wyoming over the last eight years and has surpassed pre-pandemic totals.

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



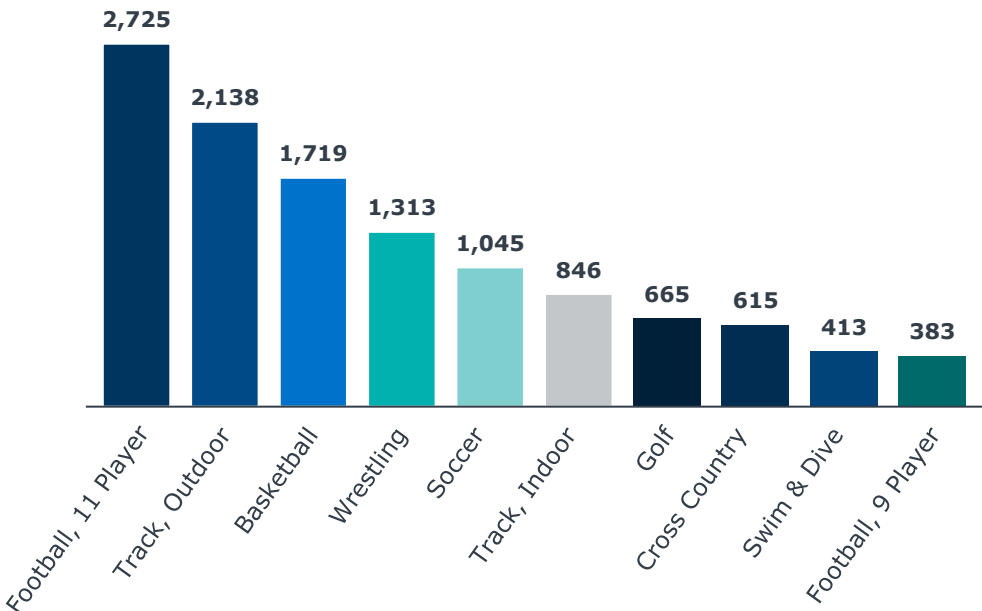
Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Top Boys' and Girls' Sports

Football, Track Take Two Spots Each in Top 10

Like most states, 11-player football was the biggest boys' sport as of 2023-2024. Meanwhile, 9-player football was the 10th largest sport in the state. At the same time, both indoor and outdoor track were among the top 10.

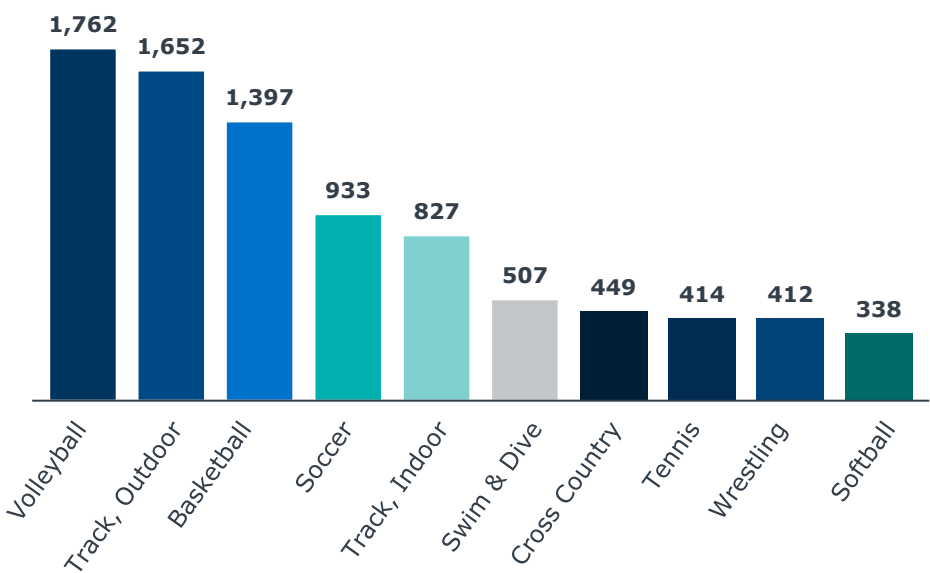
Top 10 Boys' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024
n= 12,105



Wrestling Emerges As Top Sport Among Girls

The top girls' sports in Wyoming also largely reflect national trends. The biggest deviation was wrestling. The ninth largest sport in the state is not in the top 10 nationally.

Top 10 Girls' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024
n= 9,108



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

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Participation

Boys

Areas of Consistent Growth

Nine 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:

- Cross Country
- Football, 9-Player
- Football, 11-Player
- Golf
- Indoor Track & Field
- Outdoor Track and Field
- Soccer
- Skiing, Alpine
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

In comparison, participation fell in the last year and across the last eight in two sports.

- Basketball
- Football, 6-Player

Because the participation rate double counts multi-sport athletes, it is possible some of this decline 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	2,725	24%	6%
Track and Field, Outdoor	2,138	17%	19%
Basketball	1,719	-1%	-3%
Wrestling	1,313	9%	17%
Soccer	1,045	4%	19%
Track and Field, Indoor	846	15%	38%
Golf	665	8%	26%
Cross Country	615	6%	3%
Swimming and Diving	413	-1%	4%
Football, 9-Player	383	9%	17%
Tennis	321	0%	23%
Football, 6-Player	172	-12%	-27%
Skiing, Cross Country	102	-4%	13%
Skiing, Alpine	98	9%	61%

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

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

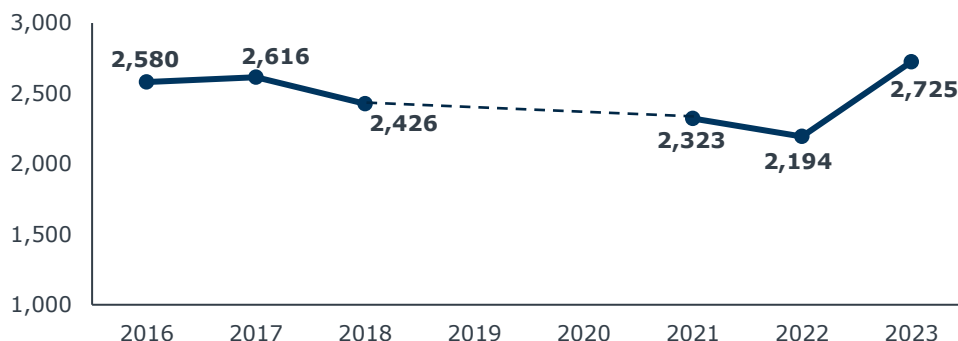
Boys

Biggest Sport

Modest Growth in 11-Player Football Participation

Participation in 11-player football increased 6% between 2016 and 2023, despite three consecutive years of decline.

Change in Boys' 11-Player Football Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

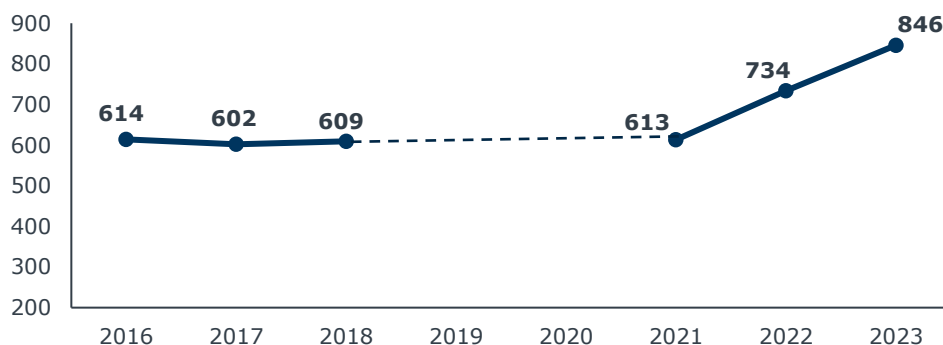


Fastest Growth

Steady Growth in Indoor Track and Field

Participation in indoor track and field increased every year but one between 2016 and 2023, for 38% total growth.

Change in Boys' Indoor Track and Field Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

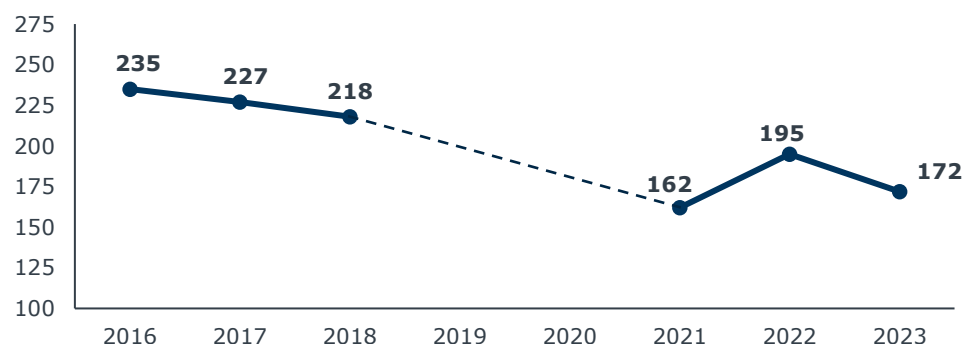


Largest Decline

6-Player Football Shrinking

Participation in 6-player football fell every year but one between 2016 and 2023, for a total decline of 27%.

Change in Boys 6-Player Football Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24



1) Excludes sports with fewer than 100 participants.

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

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Girls Participation

Girls

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:

- Indoor Track and Field
- Outdoor Track and Field
- Skiing, Alpine
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

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

- Basketball
- Swimming & Diving
- Volleyball

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
Volleyball	1,762	-4%	-3%
Track and Field, Outdoor	1,652	4%	17%
Basketball	1,397	-4%	-8%
Soccer	933	4%	23%
Track and Field, Indoor	827	5%	50%
Swimming & Diving	507	-5%	-2%
Cross Country	449	4%	-3%
Tennis	414	10%	52%
Wrestling	412	50%	3,333%
Softball	338	-6%	N/A
Golf	231	0%	12%
Skiing, Alpine	95	32%	48%
Skiing, Cross Country	91	-6%	40%

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

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

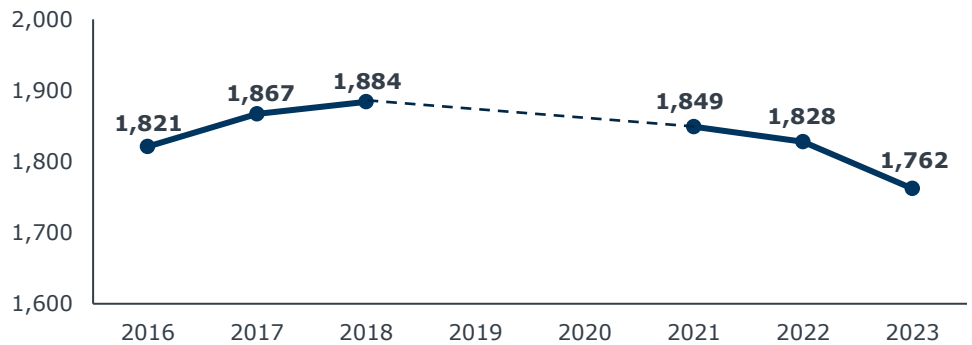
Girls

Biggest Sport

Volleyball Down After Pre-Pandemic Growth

Participation in girls' volleyball is down 3% since 2016. Despite this decline, volleyball remains the most popular sport for girls in Wyoming.

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

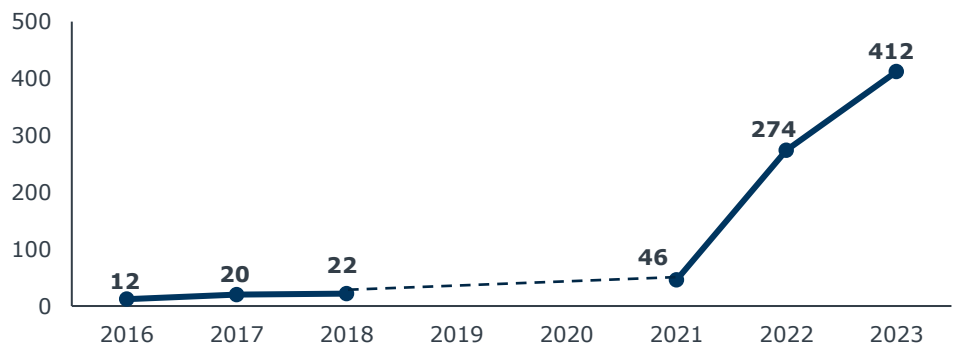


Fastest Growth

Wrestling Small but Growing Fast Among Girls

Since the pandemic, wrestling has showed quick signs of growth. Specifically, participation among girls increased nearly 900% between 2021 and 2023.

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

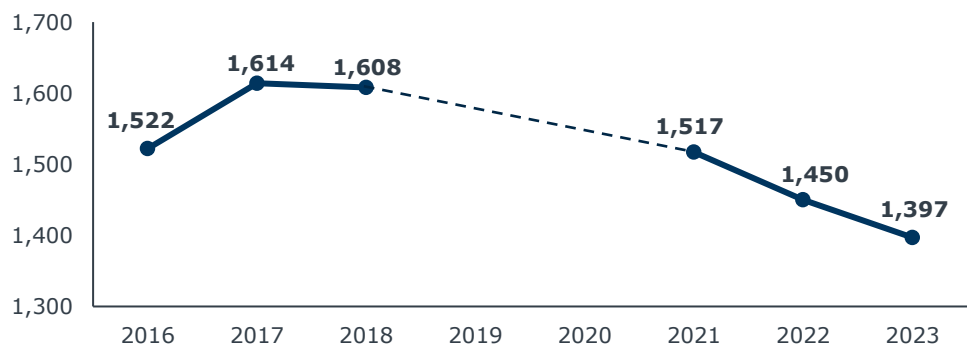


Largest Decline

Basketball Participation Shows Steady Decline

Participation in basketball fell every year but one since 2016, for a total decline of 8% by 2023.

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.