

TITLE IX

FACT SHEET

Does Your College Have an Athletic Participation Gap?

May 2013

What is an athletic participation gap?

The participation gap is the percentage point gap between the percentage of students who are girls and the percentage of athletic participation opportunities (counted as roster spots) provided to girls. For example, if at school A, girls are 45% of all students but receive only 35% of all the athletic opportunities, school A has a participation gap of 10 percentage points.

To find out if your college has an athletic participation gap, use The Equity in Athletics Data available on the U.S. Department of Education's website.

This information comes from the schools themselves and is submitted annually to the Department of Education under the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act, a federal law passed in 1994.¹

- To start, go to <http://ope.ed.gov/athletics>. To find your school's information, click on the top link in the right-hand sidebar: "Get data for one institution." You can search your school by name, location, size, or a variety of other characteristics.
- After searching, you will be prompted to select an institution. The institution page will list general information at the top, including the school's address, numerical information on the student body as a whole, contact information for the Athletics department, and information about when the data was submitted.
- Below, there are four tabs: "Participants," "Coaching Staff and Salaries," "Revenues and Expenses," and "Supplemental Info." "Participants" is the default page that will appear when you click on your institution's name.

Sanctifying Body, NCAA Division III (with football)

Participants Coaching Staff and Salaries Revenues and Expenses Supplemental Info			
Athletics Participation			
		Number of participants as of the day of the first scheduled contest	
Varsity Teams		Men's Teams	Women's Teams
Baseball		28	
Basketball		14	13

To determine if your school has a participation gap, you have to calculate the percentages yourself. First, take a look at the entire student body:



Number of Full-time Undergraduates: 1,841

Men: 865

Women: 976

This school has 1,841 undergraduates, 865 of whom are men and 976 of whom are women. To calculate the percentage of students who are female, simply divide the total number of women by the total number of undergraduates and multiply by 100:

$$976 / 1,841 = 0.530, * 100 = \mathbf{53.0\% \text{ women}}$$

To compare this percentage with the percentage of athletic opportunities allocated to women, look at the numbers under “Total Participants Men’s and Women’s Teams” near the bottom of the chart:

Athletics Participation		
	Number of participants as of the day of the first scheduled contest	
Varsity Teams	Men's Teams	Women's Teams
Baseball	28	
Basketball	14	13
Field Hockey		23
Football	57	
Golf	11	
Ice Hockey	26	20
Lacrosse	43	24
Rowing	23	39
Soccer	38	23
Softball		19
Squash	14	17
Swimming and Diving	21	22
Tennis	12	14
Track and Field, Indoor	26	33
Track and Field, Outdoor	24	32
Track and Field, X-Country	15	18
Volleyball		14
Total Participants Men's and Women's Teams	352	311
Unduplicated Count of Participants (Number of individuals who participated on at least one varsity team.)	310	254

This school has 352 participants on men’s teams, and 311 on women’s teams, for a total of 664 participants on all teams. Calculate the percentage of participants who are female in the same way you calculated it for the total number of undergraduates.

$$311/664 = 0.468, * 100 = \mathbf{46.8\% \text{ women}}$$

Now, simply compare the two percentages. **The female share of enrollment is 53.0%, and the female share of participation opportunities is 46.8%, so the athletic participation gap is 53.0% - 46.8% = 6.2 percentage points.**

In addition to information about participation, this tool also provides information about coaching staff and salaries, financial aid, recruitment, expenses, and revenues. Some of this information may be useful to you for a conversation with a coach, athletic director, or Title IX coordinator at your school. For more detailed information on how this information relates to Title IX, please refer to “Check it Out: Is the Playing Field Level for Women and Girls at Your School?”

Are you concerned about sports inequities at your school?

Call NWLC @ 1.855.HERGAME