

# TITLE IX

## FACT SHEET

# Does Your College Have an Athletic Participation Gap?

March 2014

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

- 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)

| Athletics Participation |   |               |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| Varsity Teams           | Number of participants as of the day of the first scheduled contest |               |
|                         | 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  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| Varsity Teams  | Number of participants as of the day of the first scheduled contest |               |
|  | 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<br>(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***