

TITLE IX, WOMEN AND SPORT: AN UPDATE

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DID YOU KNOW?
 AN INTERDISCIPLINARY
 GROUP OF SCHOLARS
 CONTRIBUTES TO THE
TITLE IX BLOG, A
 SOURCE OF
 INFORMATION ON NEW
 AND DEVELOPING
 TITLE IX LEGAL ISSUES.
 THE BLOG CAN BE
 ACCESSED AT [HTTP://
 TITLE-
 IX.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://title-ix.blogspot.com/).



In 2003, SWS published a Fact Sheet on the myths and realities of Title IX. This 2011 update highlights new and ongoing developments and controversies related to Title IX, and explores the status of women in a variety of athletic arenas

YOUTH

During the 2006-2007 school year, the total number of school-aged girls participating in organized sport exceeded 3 million for the first time [5, 13]. However, the number of high school girls participating in varsity athletics has *not* grown in recent years; between the 2003-2004 and 2007-2008 school years, the number of athletic opportunities for girls in high school dropped by 4 percentage points. Although girls comprise 50% of high school students nationally, they receive 41.1% of athletic opportunities [16].

Since 2003, a growing body of research has examined the interaction of gender with race/ ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and community in shaping sports participation among youth. A nationally representative study of youth in grades 3-12 found that girls participate less than boys in sports in urban and rural areas, while boys' and girls' rates of sports participation were more equal in suburban settings. This may be due, in part, to family and community resources; gender gaps in sports participation decline in communities with higher median incomes. In addition, Asian, African-American, and Hispanic girls are more likely to be non-athletes than their White counterparts [12, 13].

COLLEGE

Both men and women's participation in collegiate varsity athletics has increased over the past 30 years; however, women's participation has increased at a faster pace [17]. Since the passing of Title IX, women's representation in collegiate varsity athletics has grown from 30,000 to 175,000 through the 2008-2009 school year [5]. In 1978, the average number of athletic teams that colleges and universities offered to female athletes was only slightly greater than 2.00 while the average number of athletic teams offered had grown to 8.65 by 2007 [1].

For 2005-06, females comprised approximately 55% of all students attending NCAA member institutions. Across all divisions, with the exception of Division I non-football, 41% to 45% of all athletes were women. For schools in the highest division without football teams, women comprised almost 50% of the athlete population [3, 16]. During the 2007-08 academic year, according to the NCAA, approximately 412,768 athletes participated in the varsity sports for which the NCAA sponsors championships. Of that group, 57.4% were male. The average NCAA member institution provided 232 athletic opportunities to males compared to 168 athletic opportunities for females [4].

In 2007, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a study of NCAA data from 1991-2 through 2004/ 5. They found

that while women's participation and women's teams had grown faster than men's throughout this time period, men's participation levels remained greater, both in the absolute and relative to their respective institutional enrollments. This GAO report confirms results from a Women's Sports Foundations study of college athletics – between 1995/ 6 and 2004/ 5, men's participation grew 6%, while women's grew more than 20% [2, 17].

OLYMPICS [14, 15, 18]

Participation of Women in the Winter Games

2002:	36.9%
2006:	38.2%
2010:	40.4%

Participation of Women in the Summer Games

2000:	38.2%
2004:	40.8%
2008:	<45%

TITLE IX TIMELINE

July 2003
 Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issues new statement on Title IX compliance. This statement discouraged the elimination of teams as a means of satisfying proportionality, but did not make such actions unlawful.

March 2005
Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education goes before the Supreme Court. The Court finds that retaliation following complaints of sex discrimination is itself a form of discrimination covered under Title IX.

March 2005
 The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issues a new policy clarification related to the third prong of Title IX compliance. Schools may assess female student's interest in athletics solely from an emailed survey, with non-response interpreted as a lack of interest.

Funding and Scholarships

In 2005–2006, male athletes received 55% (\$2,175,200) of the scholarship money available for intercollegiate athletics, while women received 45% (\$1,799,000) of those funds [3].

During 2005–2006, NCAA Division I athletic departments devoted 68% (\$247,300) of available recruiting dollars to male athletes compared with the 32% (\$115,900) allocated to recruit female athletes [3, 16].

2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the passage of Title IX.



Also, check out the Women Talk Sports Network (<http://www.womentalksports.com/>) for more coverage of women's sports!

Leadership

Athletic Directors

As of 2007, 21.3% of athletic directors in the NCAA were women, an increase of several percentage points since 2006.

In one of the few studies focused on this area, only 10% of the 423 high school athletic directors surveyed were female.

Among all NCAA college and university athletics directors, 93% were white and 17% were women (7.8% at the Division I level, 15.6% at the Division II level, and 27.1% at the Division III level) [1, 16].

Administration

As of 2007, 11.6% of NCAA schools had no women present in their athletics administrations. This is down from 14.5% in 2006.

Similarly, 2007 saw the highest number of women employed in college athletics ever, at a count of nearly 15,000 nationwide [1].

Coaches

Between 2004 and 2008, 2 to 3% of men's college teams were coached by women. In comparison, 42.8% of women's college teams are coached by a woman. However, 2008 saw the highest number ever before of paid female assistant coaches in varsity college athletics, with over 11,000 nationwide [1].

In Ohio between 2002-3 and 2005-6, the wage gap for coaches of women's teams increased from around \$7,500 to \$13,440. There was also a gap in assistant coach compensation, with assistant coaches of women's teams earning on average \$5,000 to \$6,000 less than assistant coaches of men's teams were making [16].

Percentage of Female Coaches When Athletic Director is Male:

	<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>	<u>Division III</u>
2008	43.9	32.2	45.2
2006	43.3	34.8	44.2
2004	44.5	37.8	35.9
2002	44.4	37.8	44.4

Percentage of Female Coaches When Athletic Director is Female:

2008	50.0	38.9	49.3
2006	48.5	42.6	45.0
2004	49.4	47.7	46.3
2002	53.4	45.5	48.6

Acosta and Carpenter (2008)

TITLE IX TIMELINE

October 2006
New debate and controversy are sparked by James Madison University's announcement that it will cut 10 of its varsity sports to comply with Title IX's proportionality prong

April 2007
The U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear the last appeal of the Michigan High School Athletic Association; the MHSAA is thus required to change their seasonal scheduling of several girl's sports.

January 2009
Fitzgerald v. Barnstable School Committee finds that claims filed under Title IX do not preclude simultaneous use of Section 1983, which protects against the deprivation of any rights guaranteed by the Constitution and federal laws.

Women and Sports Leadership: The 2010 Numbers Are In! [6-10]

	<u>NBA</u>	<u>MLB</u>	<u>MLS</u>	<u>NFL</u>	<u>WNBA</u>
Women broadcasters on television and radio	5%	3%	7.7%	4%	N/ A
League office	44%	39%	36%	27.5%	69%
Head/ Assistant Coaches	0%	0%	0%	0%	57%
General Manager/ Personnel Director	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%
Vice Presidents	18%	19.6%	12%	15%	13%
Senior Administrators	25%	19%	16%	17%	65%
Professional Administrators	39%	31%	29%	28%	54%

Did You Know?

In late 2010, ESPN began ESPNW, an online network presence for women's sports fans. Check it out at <http://espn.go.com/espnw/>!



A 2009 study of televised sports coverage found that coverage of women's sports has *declined* in the past half-decade; women's sports received a mere 1.6% of airtime on early evening/ late night television sports news [11]

Did You Know?

The Tucker Center at the University of Minnesota supports research on women and girls in sport. They publish a Center newsletter, keep up an active on-site blog, and report new and exciting research on women in sport (<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/tuckercenter/>)

TITLE IX TIMELINE

February 2009
U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and Patty Murray introduce the High School Sports Information Collection Act. The bill would require high schools to release data regarding their male and female athletic programs.

April 2010
The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) withdraws its 2005 policy clarification, stating that measuring students' athletic interests and abilities requires the use of multiple measures and indicators.

July 2010
Bialiger v. Quinnipiac University finds that competitive cheer is not recognized as a Title IX eligible sport.



For More Information

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