

# Chasing Equity:

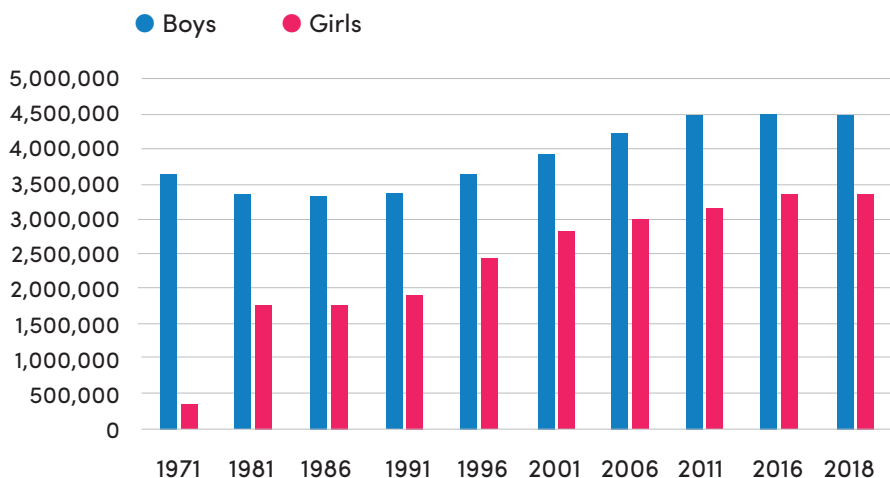
## The Triumphs, Challenges, and Opportunities in Sports for Girls and Women



The report shines a light on the current landscape for girls and women in sport reflected in the Women's Sports Foundation's latest data from more than 500 research reports and results from a new national survey of more than 2,300 female leaders in women's sport.

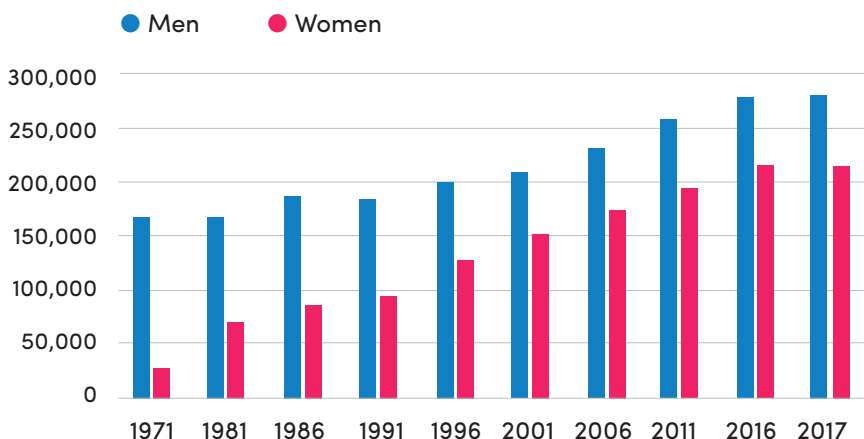
### Access for girls and women is on the rise but gaps still persist.

High School Athletics Participation Survey Totals 1971-72 to 2018-19



Source: National Federation of State High School Associations 2018-19 Athletics Participation Summary

College Sports Participation 1971-72 to 2017-18



Source: NCAA Sponsorship & Participation Rates Report 1981-82 to 2017-18

Kids 6-12 who play sports on a regular basis

Boys | Girls

**38.6%** | **31.4%**

(Aspen Institute, 2018)

**2X**

The drop-out rate for girls of color in urban and rural centers is twice that of suburban white girls (Sabo & Veliz, 2008)

Title IX Knowledge and Compliance Remains Low

**87%**

The percent of NCAA schools that offered disproportionately higher rates of athletic opportunities to male athletes compared to their enrollment. (U.S. Department of Education, 2019)

**27%**

The percent of high schools with a strong record of compliance. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

**83%**

The percent of college coaches who say they have never received any formal Title IX training. (Staurowsky & Weight, 2013)

**51%**

The percent of high school athletic administrators who don't know who their Title IX coordinator is. (GAO, 2017)

## Many factors can limit participation

Cost  
**73%**

73% of female leaders who said the greatest concern regarding girls' participation in sport was the ability of their parents to afford participation fees. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

Gender role beliefs  
**32%**

32% of girls who report that sometimes boys make fun of them or make them feel uncomfortable when they practice sports. (Zarrett, Cooky, & Veliz, 2019)

Injuries  
**4X**

College female soccer players experience 4 times ACL injuries compared to male soccer players. (Covassin, Moran, & Elbin, 2016)

Mental health  
**48%**

48% of female collegiate athletes who report having had depression or anxiety symptoms. (Brown, Hainline, Kroshus, & Wilfert, 2014)

Lack of role models  
**77%**

77% of female leaders who reported that lack of exposure to female coaches as role models limits girls' sports participation. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

Media coverage  
**3.2%**

3.2% of sports media coverage devoted to women's sports. (Cooky, Messner, and Musto, 2015)

Media coverage  
**70%**

70% of female leaders who say lack of media coverage limits girls' sport participation. (Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

## Progress has been made, though women are still far from fair treatment

**1971 : 90%**  
**2019 : 43%**

Decline of female head coaches in women's college sports  
(Sabo, Veliz, & Staurowsky, 2016)

**31%**

The percent of female coaches who believe that they would risk their job if they spoke up about Title IX and gender equity  
(Sabo, Veliz, & Staurowsky, 2016)

**63%**

The percent of female leaders in women's sports who reported experiencing sex discrimination in the workplace  
(Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

**60%**

The percent of female leaders who reported being paid less for doing the same job as a man  
(Female Leaders in Sport Survey, 2019)

**5.6X**

The gap per player between the potential bonus for winning the Soccer World Cup for the U.S. Women's Team, \$200,000, and the U.S. Men's Team, \$1,114,429  
(Murray & Morris, 2019)

Staurowsky, E. J., Watanabe, N., Cooper, J., Cooky, C., Lough, N., Paule-Koba, A., Pharr, Williams, S., Cummings, S., Issokson-Silver, K., & Snyder, M. (2020). Chasing Equity: The Triumphs, Challenges, and Opportunities in Sports for Girls and Women. New York, NY: Women's Sports Foundation. All data full citations can be found in this main report.

To learn more about the report findings visit  
[WomensSportsFoundation.org/ChasingEquity](https://WomensSportsFoundation.org/ChasingEquity)

Keep being inspired    

 **Women's Sports  
Foundation**