

EAST LANSING, Mich. - June 19 - For the first time in eight years, participation in high school sports in which post-season tournaments are sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association dropped below the 300,000 mark during the 2011-12 school year, but the decrease was still slower than the drop in the general student population at member schools

A total of 297,317 participants took part in the 28 tournament sports offered by the Association in the past year – a 1.5 percent decrease from the 2010-11 school year figure of 301,921.

Student enrollments at MHSAA member schools were down by 3.7 percent for the past school year. Girls participation was down 1.2 percent from a year ago with 124,724; and the boys total of 172,593 was down 1.7 percent. Since 2006-07, the student population at MHSAA member schools is down from 531,903 to 487,651 – a drop of 8.2 percent. Participation in that time span has dropped from 313,093, a decrease of 5.0 percent. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

Records for participation in 2011-12 were set in four sports – two for boys and two for girls. Once again, cross country and lacrosse numbers hit all-time highs in both genders.

Also of note in this year's survey:

- Only two sports exhibited a drop in participation that was well beyond that of the drop in student enrollment. Boys golf was down 6.6 percent, and boys swimming and diving was down 4.7 percent.
- Boys tennis continues a downward slide, with this year's participation of 6,815 the lowest point since the Association began tracking the numbers in 1991-92. Its losses since 2006-07 are the highest in terms of percentage of any sport at 21.5 percent (1,868 participants). By comparison, girls tennis participation is stable - up 0.6 percent in the same time period.
- Girls cross country set another record at 8,135, and participation in the sport is up 15.0 percent since 2006-07. In that same time period, boys cross country participation is up 6.1 percent.
- Basketball figures dropped 1.9 percent for boys and girls in 2011-12; also continuing a decline faster than the drop in student enrollments, and participation in both sports are at their lowest points since the Association began tracking the numbers in 1991-92. Since the 2006-07 survey, girls participation is down 10.9 percent and the boys number is down 8.8 percent – the second highest drops in raw numbers of all sports – girls are down 2,100 participants, boys 2,131.
- In terms of raw numbers, football has seen the biggest drop since 2006-07, down 3,203 participants – a drop of 6.9 percent
- A total of nine sports have participating dropping at a faster rate since 2006-07 than enrollment numbers would suggest – boys tennis, girls swimming & diving, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls skiing, girls gymnastics, softball, and girls track & field.

- Seven sports have seen significant increases in participation since 2006-07 – boys & girls cross country, boys and girls bowling, boys swimming & diving, and boys and girls lacrosse. In percentages, girls lacrosse is up 30.3 percent –and boys lacrosse is up 26.2 percent.
- Ten sports had increases in participation in 2011-12 (7 girls-3 boys) and 18 sports had drops (7 girls-11 boys).

The participation figures are gathered annually from MHSAA member schools to submit to the National Federation of State High School Associations for compiling its national participation survey. Results of Michigan survey from the 2000-01 school year to the present may be viewed on the MHSAA Website – mhsaa.com – and clicking on **Schools > Administrators > Sports Participation**.

The following chart shows participation figures for the 2011-12 school year from MHSAA member schools for sports in which the Association sponsors a post-season tournament:

SPORT	Boys		Girls	
	SCHOOLS (A)	PARTICIPANTS	SCHOOLS (A)	PARTICIPANTS (B)
Baseball	645/651/6	18,000	-	0/26
Basketball	742/744/2	21,966	693/736	17,040/3
Bowling	336/348/3	3,630	325/345	2,952/7
Competitive Cheer	-	-	334/337	7,480
Cross Country	605/627/0	8,694	592/621	8,135/0
Football - 11 player	648/667/38	42,743	-	0/107
Football - 8 player	14/23/1	254	-	1
Golf	543/561/50	7,021	340/335	3,514/75
Gymnastics	-	-	64/72	702
Ice Hockey	252/277/11	3,804	17	256/13
Lacrosse	123/120/7	5,018	83/85	2,447/11
Skiing-Alpine	97/103/0	861	91/104	691/0
Soccer	482/491/18	14,324	469/470	13,654/55
Softball-Fast Pitch	-	-	620/639	14,675
Swimming & Diving	258/274/0	5,314	276/284	6,015/0
Tennis	322/337/2	6,807	358/357	9,754/8
Track & Field- Outdoor	671/683/0	23,253	665/676	16,819/0

Volleyball	-	-	710/716	20,408
Wrestling	470/488/97	10,904	-	0/143

(A) The first number is the number of schools, reporting sponsorship on the Sports Participation Survey. The second number indicates schools sponsoring the sport including primary and secondary schools in cooperative programs as of May 22, 2012. The third number indicates the number of schools that had girls playing on teams consisting primarily of boys.

(B)The second number indicates the number of additional girls playing on teams consisting primarily of boys and entered in boys competition|.