

Title IX at Twenty: The Changing Status of Women in Intercollegiate Sport from 1972 to 1992

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Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments calls on educational institutions which receive federal funding to refrain from discrimination based on gender. (Although Title IX was enacted by Congress in 1972, compliance with the provisions of Title IX was not required by institutions of higher education until 1978.) Twenty years after the enactment of Title IX, its impact, both positive and negative, on intercollegiate athletics is still being argued.

A number of researchers support the sentiment that over ninety percent of women's intercollegiate teams were coached by females when Title IX was born. Now at its twentieth birthday, less than 47.3 percent of the nation's intercollegiate women's teams are coached by females. Nor has there been any change in the twenty years of Title IX's life from the status of less than one percent of coaches for men's intercollegiate teams being female.

This massive decrease in the representation of women in the coaching ranks is exceeded in scope by the decreasing representation of women as athletic administrators. Indeed, twenty years ago more than 90% of women's intercollegiate program were directed by females, yet today, less than 16% have females leading them. Perhaps more striking is the fact that over 30% of all NCAA institutions have no female in the athletic administration at all!

There is good news however. The number of teams on campus which invite female athletes to participate has increased significantly. Sadly however, not all good news is all good. The changing nature of the sports selected for offering to intercollegiate female athletes has resulted in teams which carry smaller rosters. Thus fewer women have the opportunity to gain the benefits of athletic participation.

Data representing the status of women in intercollegiate athletics gathered for the time period beginning one year prior to the compliance date of Title IX and extending fifteen years to 1992 was presented. The data were gathered using a questionnaire format involving all NCAA (and AIAW when it existed) institutions. Except for the first three years of data, questionnaires have been sought out information for the year of their mailing and the preceding year. The data cover periods of significant turmoil in athletics including the demise of the AIAW, NCAA absorption of women's athletics, the *de facto* removal of intercollegiate athletics from Title IX's jurisdiction in 1984 and its restoration of jurisdiction in 1988 following the veto override of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and even the first throes of cost cutting/reform now under way by the NCAA.

In addition to these data, information obtained from several related but separate studies (These studies include the 1984 and 1988 update/comparison of, "Perceived Causes for the Declining Role of Women in Intercollegiate Athletics" and the 1991 study, "Job Stasis and Factors Auguring Against Lateral and Vertical Employment Changes of Senior Women Administrators. These studies help to illuminate the historical factors responsible for the changing descriptive data compiled in the

longitudinal study, “The Status of Women in Intercollegiate Athletics—15 Year Update”.) conducted by the proposers was interwoven to develop a clear picture of the many faces of women’s athletics during the last twenty years.