



2011-2012 8 & UNDER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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This report focuses on the foundation of USA Hockey's membership – the 8 & under age category. Analysis of USA Hockey's membership data has shown that growth in this age category will positively impact the larger 9 to 14 age groups for many years.

During the last four seasons, concentrated growth efforts in the 8 & under age category has produced positive results:

- The 8 & under segment has seen a 20% increase in membership since the 2007-08 season
- In 2011-12, there was a record number of 8 & under participants with over 107,000 registered members

This report examines the 8 & under membership category, both at the National and Affiliate level for the past five seasons and past three seasons at the local association level. This is done to help all levels of USA Hockey's structure understand their past performance and create achievable growth goals for the 2012-13 season.

To continue to increase participation and membership, USA Hockey must remain focused on the following two key initiatives:

- Attracting new players each season in the crucial 8 & under age category
- Retaining participants from one season to the next in local youth hockey programs

Putting growth initiatives into action requires a coordinated effort between USA Hockey national staff and youth hockey volunteers at the grassroots level. USA Hockey provides resources for local associations to use in both the acquisition and retention of 8 & under players.

The 2 and 2 Challenge, explained in greater detail later in this report, is a comprehensive program utilizing existing national growth programs, resources and tools to help local youth hockey leaders achieve their 2 and 2 Challenge goals. Their goals are to add two additional new players and retain two more players, than the previous season's total.

Combining growth of the game at the youngest age levels with USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) will ensure the future health of the hockey in the U.S.

HOW TO READ THE DATA CHARTS IN THIS REPORT

Total number of 8 & under players

Number of players acquired

BOYS & GIRLS 8U						2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL*
TOTAL	89423	91622	95775	105394	107387	110902	(3515)	1993	112875
	-0.6%	2.5%	4.5%	10.0%	1.9%				
NEW	38013	39580	41967	48254	45991	51008	(5017)	(2263)	48735
	-2.4%	4.1%	6.0%	15.0%	-4.7%				
RET	51410	52042	53808	57140	61396	59894	1502	4256	64140
	0.8%	1.2%	3.4%	6.2%	7.4%				
LOST	15899	15305	15184	15620	19229	# OF ASSOCIATIONS			1372
	7.8%	-3.7%	-0.8%	2.9%	23.1%	AVERAGE # PLAYERS/ASSOCIATION			78.3

Number of players that left youth hockey

National 2 and 2 Challenge Goals, see pages 6 & 7 for more information

Number of players retained

2011-12 KEY TAKEAWAYS—NATIONAL

Total

- The total number of children ages 8 & under registered in 2011-12 increased by 1,993 (1.9%) to 107,387.
- The 2011-12 season represents the fourth consecutive year of growth in the 8 & under age category and the all-time largest total of members in this age group.

Acquisition

- For the first-time in four seasons, new players decreased from 48,254 in 2010-11 to 45,991; a decrease of 2,263 (-4.7%).
- Even though the acquisition total decreased, it is the second-highest total for new players entering youth hockey ever.

Retention

- Retained players increased by 4,256 (7.4%) to 61,396.
- The increase in retained players was the largest positive gain over the past four seasons.

BOYS & GIRLS 8U					
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BOYS 8U					
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	77128	78782	81978	89907	91199
%	-0.8%	2.1%	4.1%	9.7%	1.4%
NEW	31733	33013	34819	40058	37875
%	-2.3%	4.0%	5.5%	15.0%	-5.4%
RET	45395	45769	47159	49849	53324
%	0.3%	0.8%	3.0%	5.7%	7.0%
LOST	12672	12161	11932	12350	15149
%	6.7%	-4.0%	-1.9%	3.5%	22.7%

GIRLS 8U					
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	12295	12876	13798	15487	16188
%	0.8%	4.7%	7.2%	20.3%	4.5%
NEW	6285	6604	7149	8197	8116
%	-2.7%	5.1%	8.3%	24.1%	-1.0%
RET	6010	6272	6649	7290	8072
%	4.7%	4.4%	6.0%	16.2%	10.7%
LOST	3234	3145	3253	3272	4081
%	12.5%	-2.8%	3.4%	4.0%	24.7%

2011-12 KEY TAKEAWAYS—WYOMING

Total – Second consecutive year of growth.

- The total number of children ages 8 & under registered in Wyoming increased by 53 (+11.5%) to 515.
- 515 players was the peak total for the last five seasons.

Acquisition

- New players increased by 41 (+18.1%) to 267.
- The 2011-2012 season marked the highest amount of new players entering the game in the past five seasons.

Retention

- Retained players increased by 12 (+5.1%) from 2010-11 to 248.
- 248 players is the peak total for retained 8 & under players in Wyoming over the past five seasons.

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER_ SUMMARY					
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	430	441	437	462	515
%	19.4%	2.6%	-0.9%	5.7%	11.5%
NEW	244	188	186	226	267
%	48.8%	-23.0%	-1.1%	21.5%	18.1%
RETAINED	186	253	251	236	248
%	-5.1%	36.0%	-0.8%	-6.0%	5.1%
LOST	84	100	104	87	107
%	-25.0%	19.0%	4.0%	-16.3%	23.0%

BOYS_8 & UNDER_ SUMMARY					
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	380	383	372	392	432
%	19.5%	0.8%	-2.9%	5.4%	10.2%
NEW	211	156	150	187	215
%	52.9%	-26.1%	-3.8%	24.7%	15.0%
RETAINED	169	227	222	205	217
%	-6.1%	34.3%	-2.2%	-7.7%	5.9%
LOST	71	85	81	70	85
%	-19.3%	19.7%	-4.7%	-13.6%	21.4%

GIRLS_8 & UNDER_ SUMMARY					
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	50	58	65	70	83
%	19.0%	16.0%	12.1%	7.7%	18.6%
NEW	33	32	36	39	52
%	26.9%	-3.0%	12.5%	8.3%	33.3%
RETAINED	17	26	29	31	31
%	6.3%	52.9%	11.5%	6.9%	0.0%
LOST	13	15	23	17	22
%	-45.8%	15.4%	53.3%	-26.1%	29.4%

RETENTION INCREASES WITH AGE

The older a player gets and/or the more seasons a player plays, the more likely that player will stick with youth hockey. So while retention rates are high from Squirts on up, the overall growth of hockey relies on acquiring more 8 & under players.

Wyoming's retention results for 2011-12 by age segment:

- **26.6% of all 4 Year Olds returned as 5 Year Olds** – National Average 37.4%
- **47.9% of all 5 Year Olds returned as 6 Year Olds** – National Average 56.2%
- **64.0% of all 6 Year Olds returned as 7 Year Olds** – National Average 68.9%
- **69.9% of all 7 Year Olds returned as 8 Year Olds** – National Average 76.1%

- **83.0% of all Squirts returned in 2011-12** – National Average 84.7%
- **85.5% of all Pee Wees returned in 2011-12** – National Average 90.6%
- **88.1% of all Bantams returned in 2011-12** – National Average 93.9%

GRADUATION RATE OF 8 & UNDERS

Thanks to the concentrated focus on growing the 8 & under base level, local programs are seeing more players graduating onto the 9 to 14 age groups.

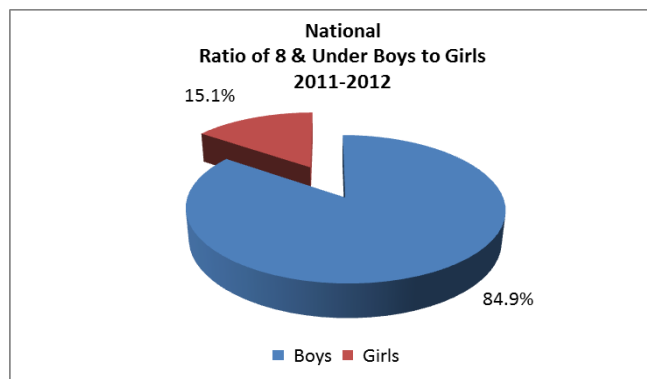
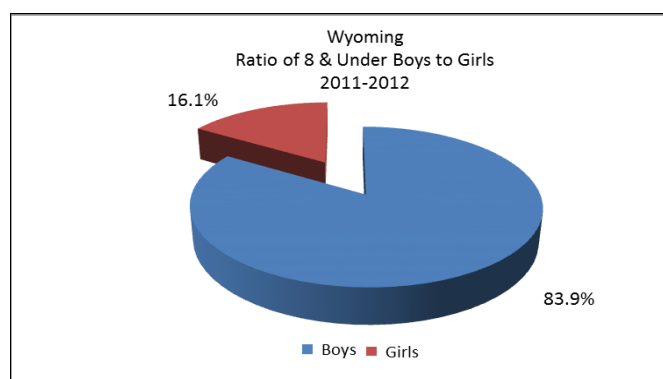
BOYS & GIRLS GRADUATING FROM 8 TO 9

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
8 TO 9	23314	23281	23108	23468	24618
%	-1.4%	-0.1%	-0.7%	1.6%	4.9%

RATIO OF BOYS TO GIRLS—8 & UNDERS

Boys represented 83.9% of all 8 & unders in Wyoming, while girls represented 16.1%.

Nationally, boys represented 84.9% of all 8 & unders, while girls represented 15.1%.



2 AND 2 CHALLENGE

The 2 & 2 Challenge is a comprehensive growth program for local associations. It is a blueprint that guides youth hockey leadership through national programs and tools to realize their growth goal of acquiring two additional players and retaining two more players than last season.

By participating in the 2 and 2 challenge, your program will achieve the following:

1. Drive participation in the 8 & under age group to ensure continued growth as these players graduate to older age levels.
2. Establish itself as the best youth sports option in your community.

To complete the 2 and 2 Challenge, associations utilize three programs that drive growth – **Retention**, **Acquisition** & **Conversion**.

RETENTION—*Welcome Back Week*

Reaching out with a personal invitation to return to youth hockey is crucial. For this program, associations coordinate phone calls inviting families back to youth hockey.



ACQUISITION—*Try Hockey For Free Days*

Try Hockey events provide associations the opportunity to attract new families to the rink. Last season over 17,000 kids were introduced to youth hockey through this program.



CONVERSION—*Transition Program*

Children that sample youth hockey don't always become a new hockey player. A low-cost, low-commitment program to easily transition families from try hockey to youth hockey will significantly increase the likelihood of adding more new players.



By taking advantage of all three national programs, associations will be recognized as achieving the 2 and 2 Challenge and be rewarded with starter equipment and will receive national recognition. If programs choose, they can participate in additional national initiatives to achieve a higher status.

To learn more and to accept the 2 and 2 Challenge, visit www.2and2Challenge.com or call (719) 538-1124.



2 AND 2 CHALLENGE GOALS

ASSOCIATION

The 2 and 2 Challenge goals for every association are to add two additional new players and retain two additional players than the previous season's 8 & under totals.

Below is an example of an association that achieved their 2 and 2 Challenge goals from this past season and their new goals for 2012-13:

Previous three seasons results				2 and 2 challenge results and goals			
BOYS & GIRLS 8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	70	85	94	89	5	9	98
NEW	30	38	44	40	4	6	46
RETAINED	40	47	50	49	1	3	52
LOST	13	7	8				

If the achieve their 2 and 2 Challenge Goals again in 2012-13, this program will enjoy a 4.3% increase.

TOTAL: 46 new + 52 retained = 98 total players

NEW: 44 + 2 = 46 new players

RETAINED: 50 + 2 = 52 retained players

WYOMING

WYOMING	2011-12 GOAL	2011-12 ACTUAL	2012-13 GOAL
TOTAL	502	515	555
NEW	246	267	287
RETAINED	256	248	268

Based on 10 associations that registered 5 players or more, the 2012-13 goals are:

- TOTAL:** 515 + 40 = 555 (+7.8%)
- NEW:** 267 + 20 = 287 (+7.5%)
- RETAINED:** 248 + 20 = 268 (+8.1%)

NATIONAL

NATIONAL	2011-12 GOAL	2011-12 ACTUAL	2012-13 GOAL
TOTAL	110,902	107,387	112,875
NEW	51,008	45,991	48,735
RETAINED	59,894	61,396	64,140

Based on 1,372 associations that registered 5 players or more, the 2012-13 goals are:

- TOTAL:** 107,387 + 5,488 = 112,875 (+5.1%)
- NEW:** 45,991 + 2,744 = 48,735 (+6.0%)
- RETAINED:** 61,396 + 2,744 = 64,140 (+4.5%)



ASSOCIATIONS ACCOMPLISHING THEIR 2 AND 2 CHALLENGE GOALS

Congratulations to Jackson Youth Hockey and Pinedale Hockey Association for successfully meeting the 2 and 2 Challenge goals. While many associations grew, only two associations were able to successfully meet all components of the 2 and 2 Challenge Goals.

WYOMING'S 2011-12 ASSOCIATION PERFORMANCE

<u>Association</u>	<u>Net Growth</u>
1. Jackson Youth Hockey	+25
2. Pinedale Hockey Association	+10
3. Rock Springs Youth Hockey	+9
4. Casper Amateur Hockey Club	+7
5. Gillette Hockey Association (GHA)	+3
6. Laramie Amateur Hockey Club	0
7. Riverton Ice Hockey Association	-3
8. Douglas Youth Hockey Association	-7
9. Park County Youth Hockey Association	-9
10. Cheyenne Youth Hockey Association	-13

WYOMING ASSOCIATIONS

WYH0004 CASPER AMATEUR HOCKEY CLUB

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	78	78	85	82	3	7	89
NEW	27	32	45	34	11	13	47
RETAINED	51	46	40	48	(8)	(6)	42
LOST	10	13	20				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	67	70	80	TOTAL	11	8	5
NEW	21	31	43	NEW	6	1	2
RETAINED	46	39	37	RETAINED	5	7	3
LOST	8	12	16	LOST	2	1	4
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			94.1%				5.9%

WYH0011 CHEYENNE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	54	68	55	72	(17)	(13)	59
NEW	25	39	19	41	(22)	(20)	21
RETAINED	29	29	36	31	5	7	38
LOST	19	10	19				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	50	57	47	TOTAL	4	11	8
NEW	22	31	16	NEW	3	8	3
RETAINED	28	26	31	RETAINED	1	3	5
LOST	13	10	15	LOST	6	0	4
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			85.5%				14.5%

WYH0015 DOUGLAS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	21	32	25	36	(11)	(7)	29
NEW	5	21	11	23	(12)	(10)	13
RETAINED	16	11	14	13	1	3	16
LOST	4	3	9				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	16	24	18	TOTAL	5	8	7
NEW	4	15	8	NEW	1	6	3
RETAINED	12	9	10	RETAINED	4	2	4
LOST	3	2	7	LOST	1	1	2
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			72.0%				28.0%

WYH0060 GILLETTE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (GHA)

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	15	20	23	24	(1)	3	27
NEW	2	11	15	13	2	4	17
RETAINED	13	9	8	11	(3)	(1)	10
LOST	1	1	3				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	15	20	21	TOTAL	0	0	2
NEW	2	11	13	NEW	0	0	2
RETAINED	13	9	8	RETAINED	0	0	0
LOST	1	1	3	LOST	0	0	0
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			91.3%				8.7%

WYH0080 JACKSON YOUTH HOCKEY

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	84	88	113	92	21	25	117
NEW	42	39	54	41	13	15	56
RETAINED	42	49	59	51	8	10	61
LOST	10	17	13				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	76	76	97	TOTAL	8	12	16
NEW	37	30	46	NEW	5	9	8
RETAINED	39	46	51	RETAINED	3	3	8
LOST	10	12	10	LOST	0	5	3
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			85.8%				14.2%

WYH0003 LARAMIE AMATEUR HOCKEY CLUB

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	36	28	28	32	(4)	0	32
NEW	23	12	15	14	1	3	17
RETAINED	13	16	13	18	(5)	(3)	15
LOST	7	12	9				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	28	21	24	TOTAL	8	7	4
NEW	16	8	13	NEW	7	4	2
RETAINED	12	13	11	RETAINED	1	3	2
LOST	5	9	7	LOST	2	3	2
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			85.7%				14.3%

WYH0050 PARK COUNTY YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	30	34	25	38	(13)	(9)	29
NEW	18	14	6	16	(10)	(8)	8
RETAINED	12	20	19	22	(3)	(1)	21
LOST	13	6	7				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	28	32	24	TOTAL	2	2	1
NEW	16	12	6	NEW	2	2	0
RETAINED	12	20	18	RETAINED	0	0	1
LOST	11	5	7	LOST	2	1	0
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			96.0%				4.0%

WYH0008 PINEDALE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	27	20	30	24	6	10	34
NEW	13	8	16	10	6	8	18
RETAINED	14	12	14	14	0	2	16
LOST	7	5	0				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	24	19	25	TOTAL	3	1	5
NEW	12	8	11	NEW	1	0	5
RETAINED	12	11	14	RETAINED	2	1	0
LOST	6	4	0	LOST	1	1	0
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			83.3%				16.7%

WYH0040 RIVERTON ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	20	28	25	32	(7)	(3)	29
NEW	11	18	14	20	(6)	(4)	16
RETAINED	9	10	11	12	(1)	1	13
LOST	7	3	14				

BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	18	22	20	TOTAL	2	6	5
NEW	9	13	12	NEW	2	5	2
RETAINED	9	9	8	RETAINED	0	1	3
LOST	5	2	12	LOST	2	1	2
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			80.0%				20.0%

WYH0009 ROCK SPRINGS YOUTH HOCKEY

BOYS & GIRLS_8 & UNDER				2 AND 2 CHALLENGE			
	09-10	10-11	11-12	11-12 GOAL	VS. GOAL	VS. ACTUAL	12-13 GOAL
TOTAL	37	29	38	33	5	9	42
NEW	15	14	23	16	7	9	25
RETAINED	22	15	15	17	(2)	0	17
LOST	9	10	6				
BOYS_8 & UNDER				GIRLS_8 & UNDER			
	09-10	10-11	11-12		09-10	10-11	11-12
TOTAL	29	24	31	TOTAL	8	5	7
NEW	11	13	18	NEW	4	1	5
RETAINED	18	11	13	RETAINED	4	4	2
LOST	7	8	5	LOST	2	2	1
RATIO BOYS TO GIRLS			81.6%				18.4%