



Research

The background of the slide is a photograph of a group of people, likely athletes, with their hands stacked in a huddle. One person's wrist with a blue digital watch is visible. The image has a soft, out-of-focus quality with some light flares.

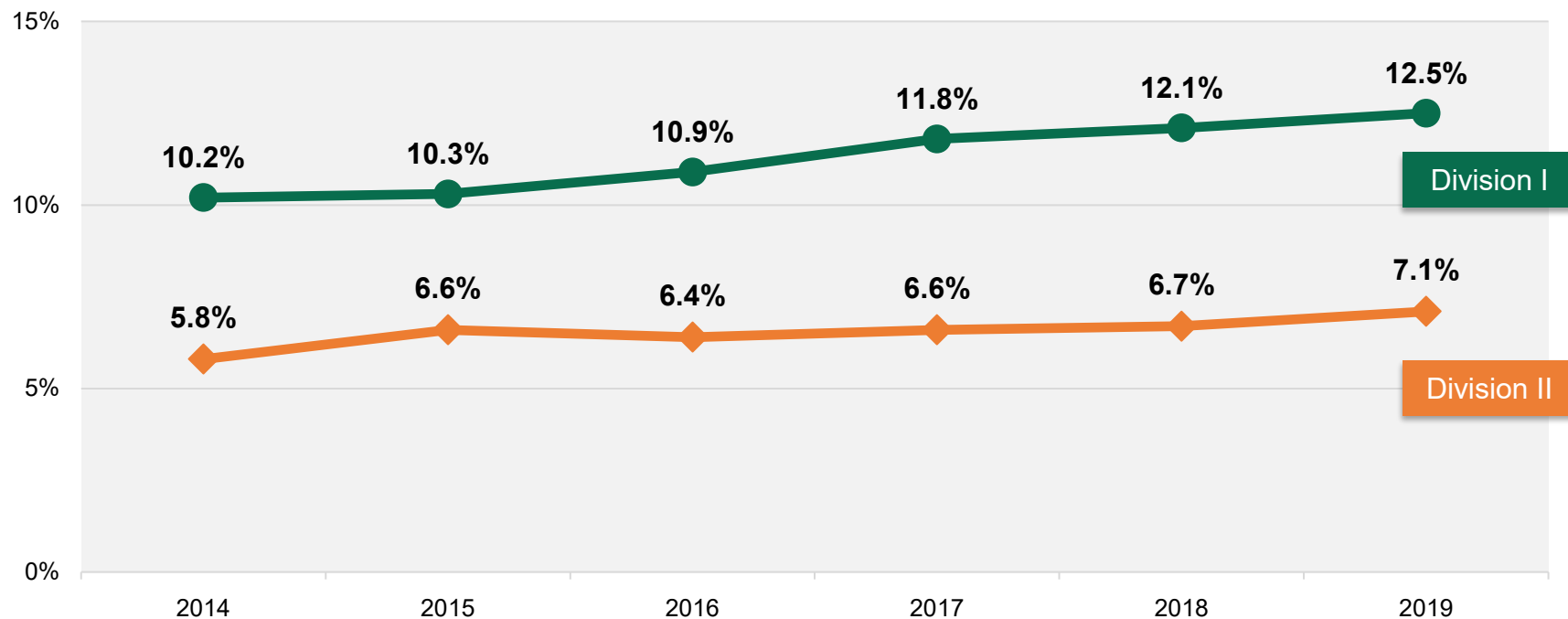
Trends in the Participation of International Student-Athletes in NCAA Divisions I and II

August 2020

Methodology

- ▶ Percentages are based on first-year student-athletes (nontransfers) at Division I or II colleges. Similar data are not available for Division III.
- ▶ Student-athletes with a non-U.S. home address were categorized as international. Students from the 50 U.S. states and U.S. territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, etc.) were considered domestic. See Detailed Methods slide for more information.
- ▶ Data include all first-year student-athletes who were in a 2019 Division I Academic Progress Rate cohort or in the 2019 Division II Academic Performance Census. This may exclude some Division I walk-ons and others who do not meet academic tracking inclusion criteria in Divisions I or II.

Overall Trends in International Student-Athlete Participation in Divisions I and II



Total Numbers

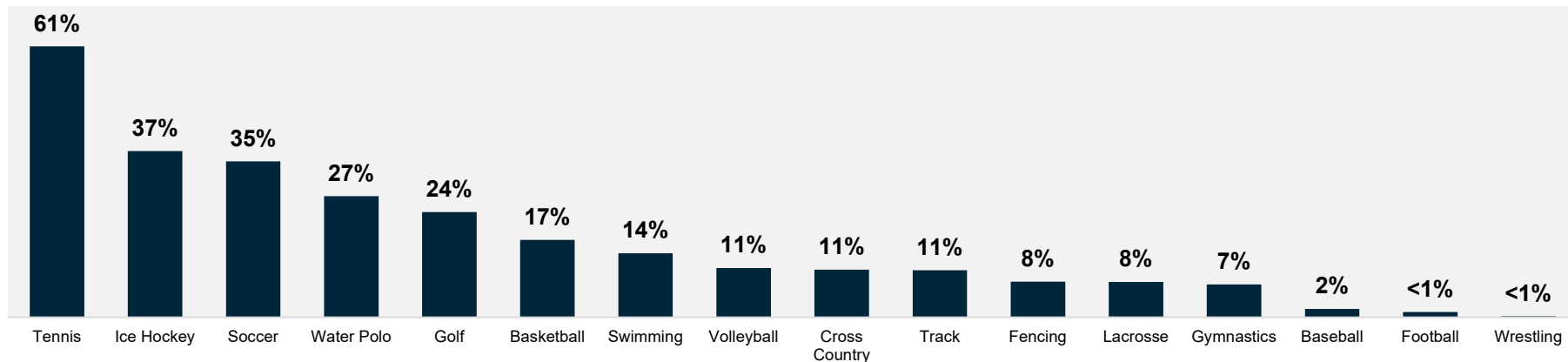
	2014	2019
DI	2,668	3,455
DII	1,593	2,175

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

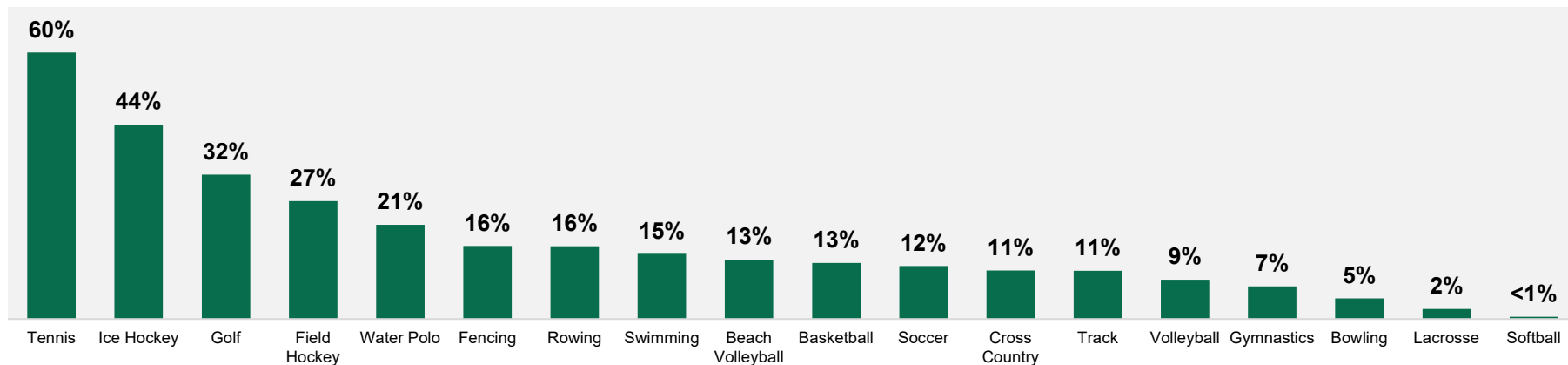
Division I



Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division I Men's Sports

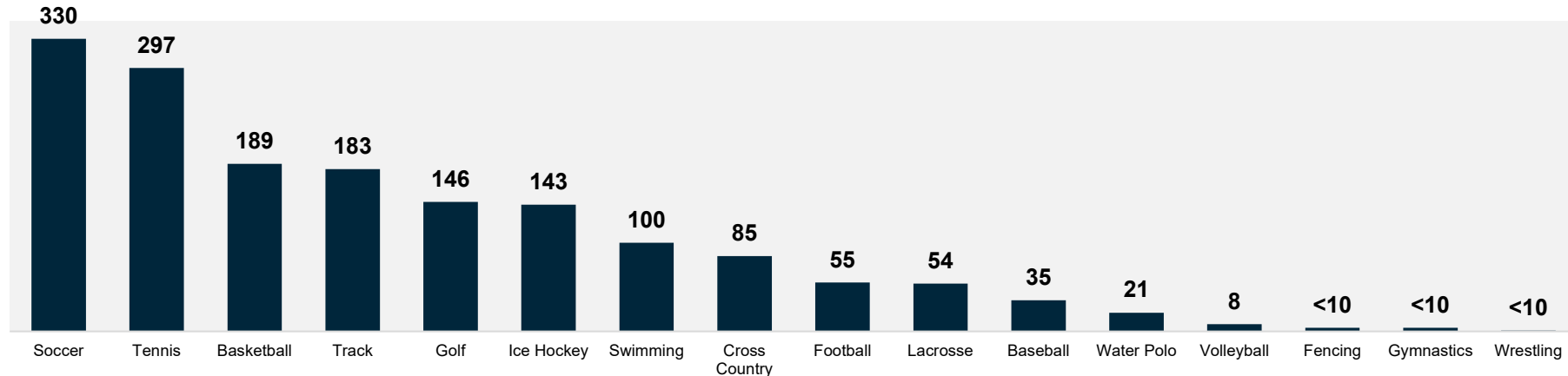


Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division I Women's Sports

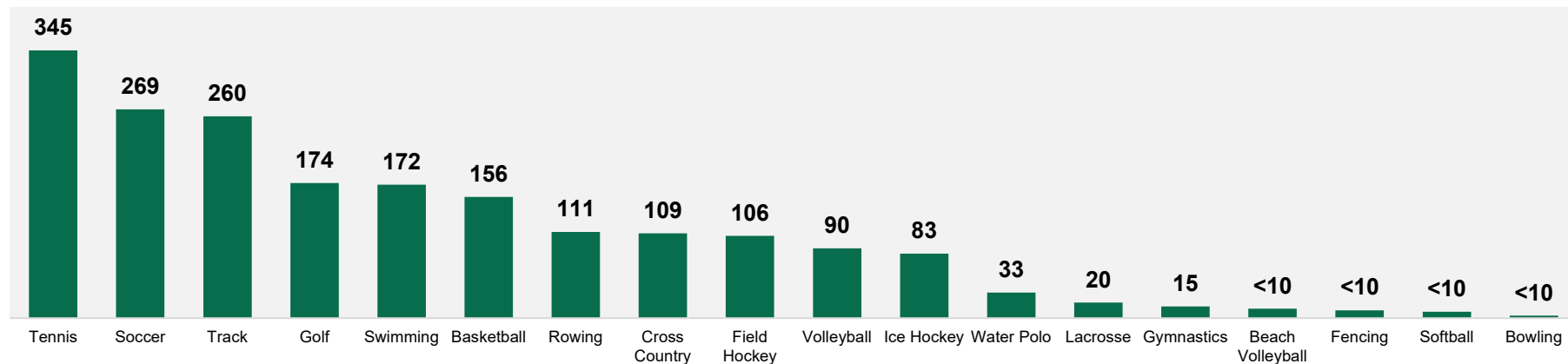


Note: Sports with >200 Division I student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2019).

Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division I Men's Sports



Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division I Women's Sports



Note: Sports with >200 Division I student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2019).

Top Ten Home Countries by Percentage of First-Year Division I International Student-Athletes

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CANADA	27.4%	28.3%	24.4%	23.1%	22.2%	22.0%
UNITED KINGDOM	9.1%	7.5%	8.4%	6.9%	8.6%	8.2%
AUSTRALIA	5.3%	5.1%	5.2%	5.4%	5.0%	5.7%
GERMANY	6.4%	6.5%	5.3%	6.2%	6.2%	5.3%
SPAIN	3.5%	4.5%	4.6%	4.1%	4.8%	5.0%
SWEDEN	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.3%	3.8%
NEW ZEALAND	2.2%	2.2%	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%
NETHERLANDS	2.1%	1.2%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%	2.4%
NORWAY	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	1.9%	1.7%	2.1%
FRANCE	2.2%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%	2.2%	2.0%

Note: Nations sorted by the highest (by percentage) representation of first-year international student-athletes in 2019. In 2014, international first-year student-athletes came from 120 nations and independent territories; in 2019, this number rose to 126. Two countries tied for 10th in the 2014 top 10 did not make the 2019 list: Jamaica (1.5% in 2014, 1.2% in 2019) and Serbia (1.5% in 2014, 1.3% in 2019).

Top Ten Home Countries by Number of First-Year Division I International Student-Athletes

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CANADA	730	769	714	736	738	761
UNITED KINGDOM	243	205	244	221	285	282
AUSTRALIA	142	140	151	173	167	198
GERMANY	170	177	156	198	207	183
SPAIN	94	123	134	132	160	172
SWEDEN	105	104	111	118	108	131
NEW ZEALAND	58	60	75	93	88	92
NETHERLANDS	55	32	55	65	80	82
NORWAY	40	45	48	62	57	73
FRANCE	58	55	62	74	72	70

Note: Nations sorted by the highest number of first-year international student-athletes in 2019. In 2014, international first-year student-athletes came from 120 nations and independent territories; in 2019, this number rose to 126. Two countries tied for 10th in the 2014 top 10 did not make the 2019 list: Jamaica (40 in 2014, 42 in 2019) and Serbia (40 in 2014, 45 in 2019).

Top Three Home Countries Among First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division I

Division I Men's Sports							
Soccer	N	Tennis	N	Basketball	N	Track	N
UNITED KINGDOM	47	SPAIN	27	CANADA	43	KENYA	25
CANADA	35	UNITED KINGDOM	19	AUSTRALIA	20	JAMAICA	22
GERMANY	35	GERMANY	18	NIGERIA	14	CANADA	20

Division I Women's Sports							
Tennis	N	Soccer	N	Track	N	Golf	N
SPAIN	30	CANADA	99	CANADA	48	CANADA	23
CANADA	25	UNITED KINGDOM	28	UNITED KINGDOM	27	UNITED KINGDOM	17
UNITED KINGDOM	21	GERMANY	23	AUSTRALIA	21	THAILAND	14

Note: Sports included are the four sports with the highest number of first-year international SA participants. The top three home countries for first-year international SAs in the 2019 APR cohort are listed.

Percentage Change in the Number of International Student-Athletes in Division I from 2014 to 2019

Division I Men's Sports			
	2014	2019	% change
FOOTBALL	24	55	129%
BASKETBALL	125	189	51%
CROSS COUNTRY	57	85	49%
SOCCER	226	330	46%
TRACK	139	183	32%
SWIMMING	79	100	27%
TENNIS	251	297	18%
BASEBALL	32	35	9%
ICE HOCKEY	131	143	9%
GOLF	135	146	8%
LACROSSE	51	54	6%

Division I Women's Sports			
	2014	2019	% change
TRACK	147	260	77%
CROSS COUNTRY	62	109	76%
SOCCER	167	269	61%
BASKETBALL	99	156	58%
FIELD HOCKEY	69	106	54%
WATER POLO	23	33	43%
ROWING	82	111	35%
SWIMMING	139	172	24%
GOLF	147	174	18%
VOLLEYBALL	80	90	13%
TENNIS	338	345	2%
ICE HOCKEY	86	83	-3%

Note: Sports with >30 first-year international DI student-athletes in 2019. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Change in the Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division I from 2014 to 2019

Division I Men's Sports

	2014	2019	% point diff.
WATER POLO	3%	27%	24%
TENNIS	50%	61%	11%
SOCCER	24%	35%	11%
BASKETBALL	12%	17%	6%
CROSS COUNTRY	8%	11%	3%
SWIMMING	12%	14%	3%
TRACK	9%	11%	2%
GOLF	22%	24%	1%
FOOTBALL	1%	1%	1%
ICE HOCKEY	37%	37%	1%
LACROSSE	8%	8%	0%
BASEBALL	2%	2%	0%
WRESTLING	0%	0%	0%
GYMNASTICS	8%	7%	0%
FENCING	10%	8%	-2%
VOLLEYBALL	15%	11%	-4%

Division I Women's Sports

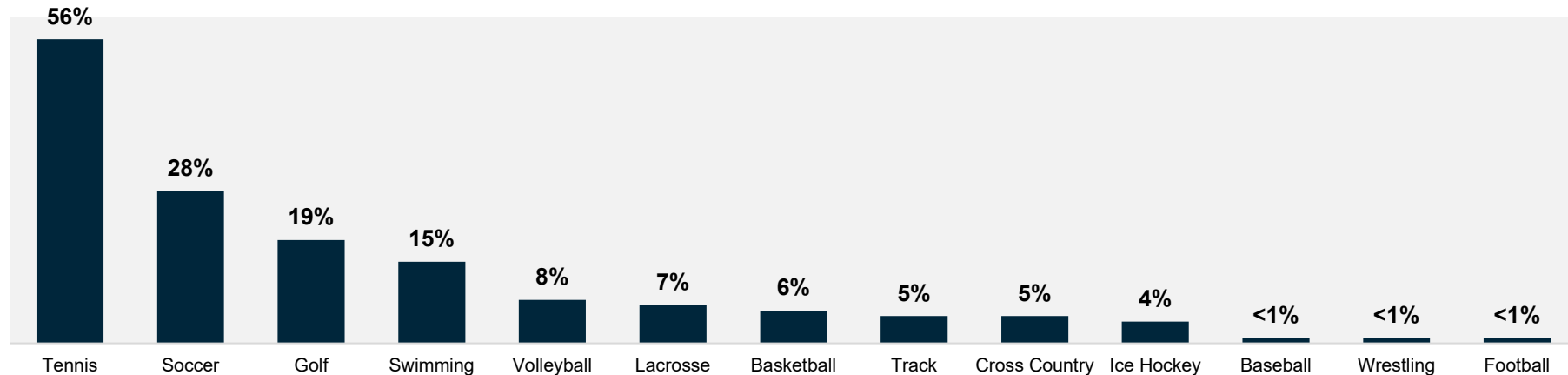
	2014	2019	% point diff.
TENNIS	51%	60%	9%
FIELD HOCKEY	19%	27%	8%
FENCING	11%	16%	6%
CROSS COUNTRY	6%	11%	5%
BASKETBALL	8%	13%	5%
TRACK	6%	11%	4%
SOCCER	8%	12%	4%
GOLF	30%	32%	3%
SWIMMING	13%	15%	2%
ROWING	14%	16%	2%
WATER POLO	19%	21%	2%
BOWLING	3%	5%	1%
VOLLEYBALL	8%	9%	1%
LACROSSE	2%	2%	0%
SOFTBALL	1%	1%	-1%
GYMNASTICS	8%	7%	-1%
ICE HOCKEY	51%	44%	-8%

Note: Graphic is limited to those sports with >200 Division I student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes. Figures rounded to the nearest whole number.

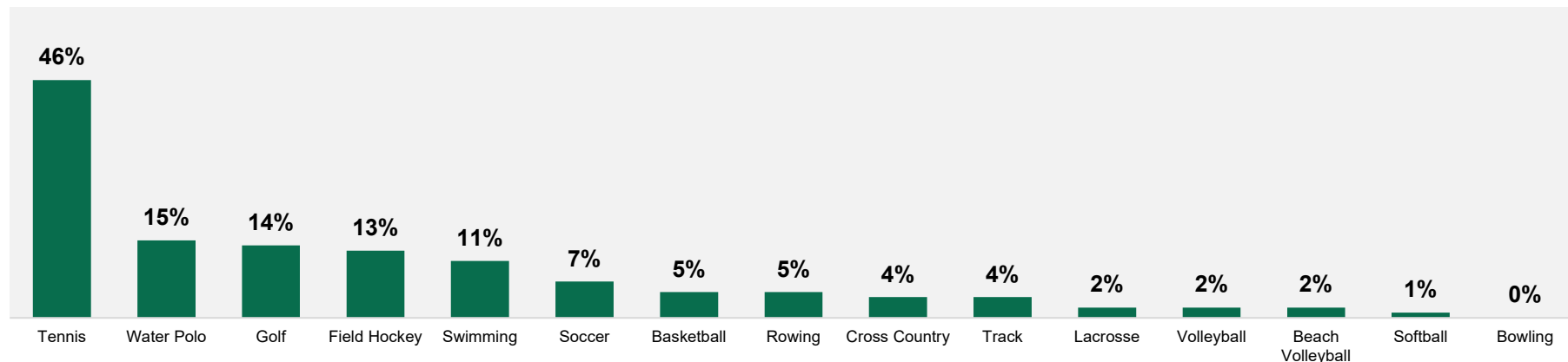
Division II



Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division II Men's Sports

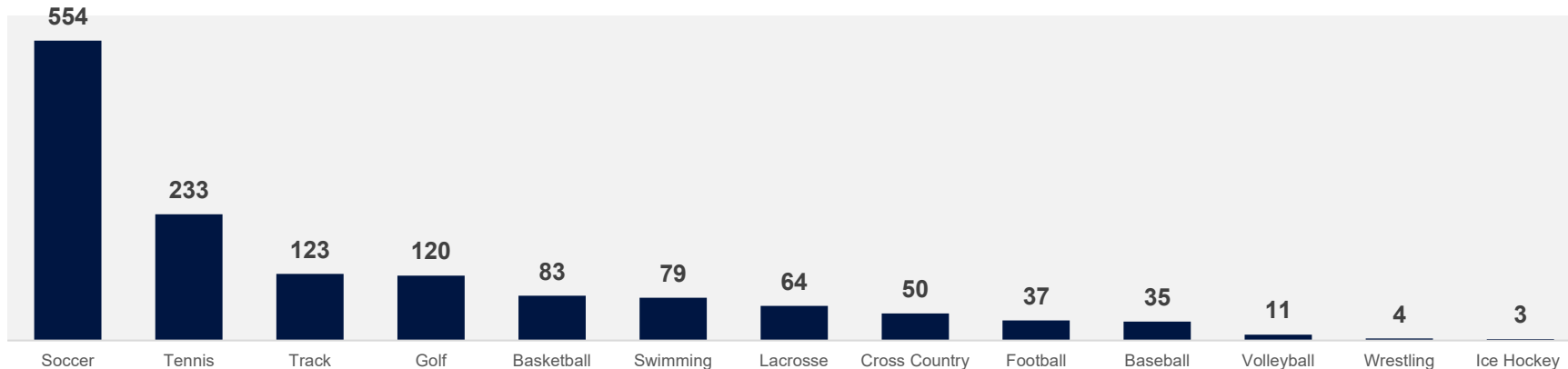


Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division II Women's Sports

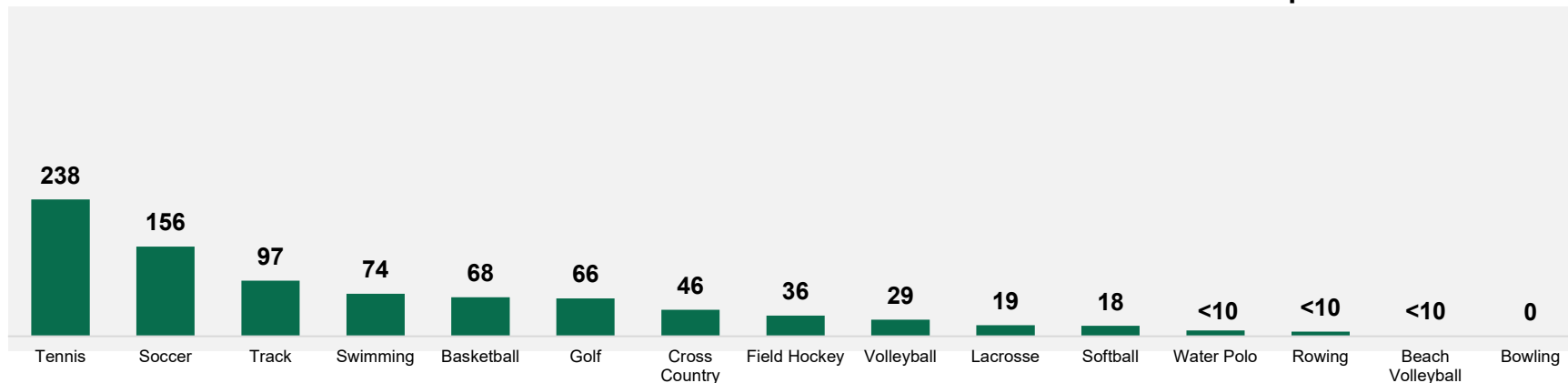


Note: Sports with >200 Division II student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2019).

Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division II Men's Sports



Number of First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division II Women's Sports



Note: Sports with >200 Division II student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes (2019).

Top Ten Home Countries by Percentage of First-Year Division II International Student-Athletes

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CANADA	20.7%	20.7%	19.9%	17.4%	16.4%	14.4%
UNITED KINGDOM	12.4%	11.3%	11.9%	10.5%	9.4%	10.1%
GERMANY	8.5%	7.2%	6.9%	8.4%	7.5%	8.8%
SPAIN	5.8%	5.9%	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	6.1%
SWEDEN	4.3%	5.3%	5.3%	4.7%	5.0%	4.2%
BRAZIL	5.6%	4.5%	5.4%	4.7%	4.6%	3.8%
AUSTRALIA	3.6%	4.4%	3.7%	3.3%	4.1%	3.5%
NORWAY	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	2.3%	2.4%	2.9%
FRANCE	2.4%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	2.4%
ITALY	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.4%

Note: Nations sorted by the highest (by percentage) representation of first-year international student-athletes in 2019. In 2014, international first-year student-athletes came from 110 nations and independent territories; in 2019, this number rose to 114. Two countries in the 2014 top 10 did not make the 2019 list: Serbia (2.3% in 2014, 0.8% in 2019) and Mexico (2.0% in 2014, 1.9% in 2019).

Top Ten Home Countries by Number of First-Year Division II International Student-Athletes

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CANADA	330	386	359	329	325	314
UNITED KINGDOM	198	210	214	198	187	220
GERMANY	136	134	124	159	148	192
SPAIN	92	109	112	121	130	132
SWEDEN	68	98	96	88	99	91
BRAZIL	89	84	97	88	92	82
AUSTRALIA	57	81	66	62	81	77
NORWAY	22	30	29	44	48	63
FRANCE	39	38	40	43	49	53
ITALY	16	22	24	44	44	52

Note: Nations sorted by the highest number of first-year international student-athletes in 2019. In 2014, international first-year student-athletes came from 110 nations and independent territories; in 2019, this number rose to 114. Two countries in the 2014 top 10 did not make the 2019 list: Serbia (37 in 2014, 18 in 2019) and Mexico (32 in 2014, 41 in 2019).

Top Three Home Countries Among First-Year International Student-Athletes in Division II

Division II Men's Sports							
Soccer	N	Tennis	N	Golf	N	Track	N
UNITED KINGDOM	97	GERMANY	31	CANADA	22	KENYA	20
GERMANY	55	UNITED KINGDOM	16	UNITED KINGDOM	17	CANADA	16
SPAIN	44	BRAZIL	15	SWEDEN	13	JAMAICA	11

Division II Women's Sports							
Swimming	N	Tennis	N	Track	N	Soccer	N
CANADA	15	GERMANY	27	JAMAICA	14	UNITED KINGDOM	29
GERMANY	10	SPAIN	21	CANADA	11	GERMANY	26
AUSTRALIA	8	UNITED KINGDOM	15	GERMANY	11	CANADA	25

Note: Sports included are the four sports with the highest number of international SA participants. The top three home countries for first-year international SAs in the 2019 APC cohort are listed.

Percentage Change in the Number of International Student-Athletes in Division II from 2014 to 2019

Division II Men's Sports			
	2014	2019	% change
LACROSSE	41	64	56%
SOCCER	363	554	53%
TRACK	87	123	41%
BASEBALL	26	35	35%
SWIMMING	62	79	27%
GOLF	108	120	11%
TENNIS	226	233	3%
BASKETBALL	85	83	-2%
CROSS COUNTRY	52	50	-4%
FOOTBALL	43	37	-14%

Division II Women's Sports			
	2014	2019	% change
FIELD HOCKEY	5	36	620%
SWIMMING	40	74	85%
BASKETBALL	37	68	84%
TRACK	59	97	64%
TENNIS	167	238	43%
SOCCER	116	156	34%
GOLF	50	66	32%
CROSS COUNTRY	43	46	7%

Note: Sports with >30 first-year international DII student-athletes in 2019. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Change in the Percentage of International Student-Athletes in Division II from 2014 to 2019

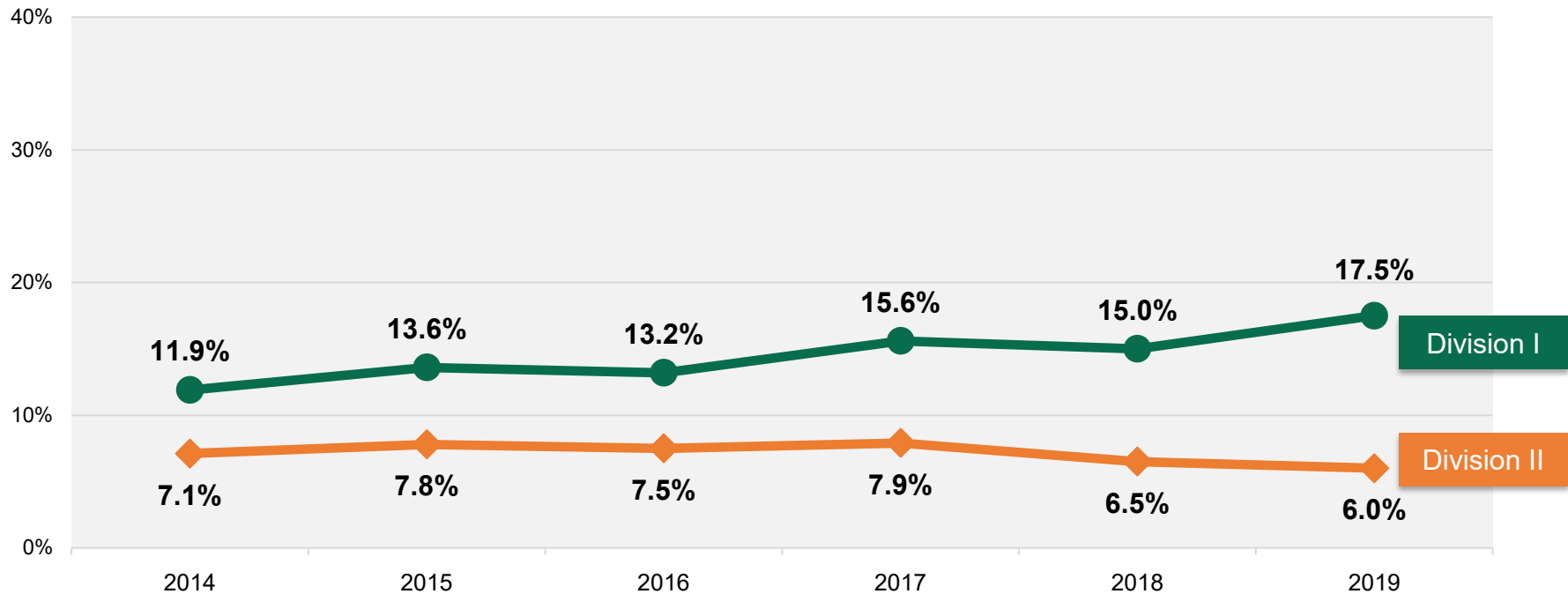
Division II Men's Sports			
	2014	2019	% point diff.
SOCCER	23%	28%	6%
TENNIS	52%	56%	4%
ICE HOCKEY	0%	4%	4%
GOLF	16%	19%	3%
BASKETBALL	3%	6%	3%
LACROSSE	6%	7%	1%
TRACK	4%	5%	1%
SWIMMING	14%	15%	0%
CROSS COUNTRY	5%	5%	0%
BASEBALL	1%	1%	0%
WRESTLING	1%	1%	0%
FOOTBALL	1%	1%	0%
VOLLEYBALL	8%	8%	-1%

Division II Women's Sports			
	2014	2019	% point diff.
TENNIS	30%	46%	15%
WATER POLO	2%	15%	14%
FIELD HOCKEY	2%	13%	11%
SWIMMING	7%	11%	4%
GOLF	12%	14%	3%
BASKETBALL	3%	5%	2%
SOCCER	6%	7%	1%
TRACK	3%	4%	1%
ROWING	5%	5%	0%
CROSS COUNTRY	4%	4%	0%
LACROSSE	2%	2%	0%
VOLLEYBALL	2%	2%	0%
SOFTBALL	1%	1%	0%
BOWLING	0%	0%	0%

Note: Graphic is limited to sports with >200 Division II student-athletes. Data shown are for first-year student-athletes. Figures rounded to the nearest whole number.

Trends by Sport

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Basketball Student-Athletes

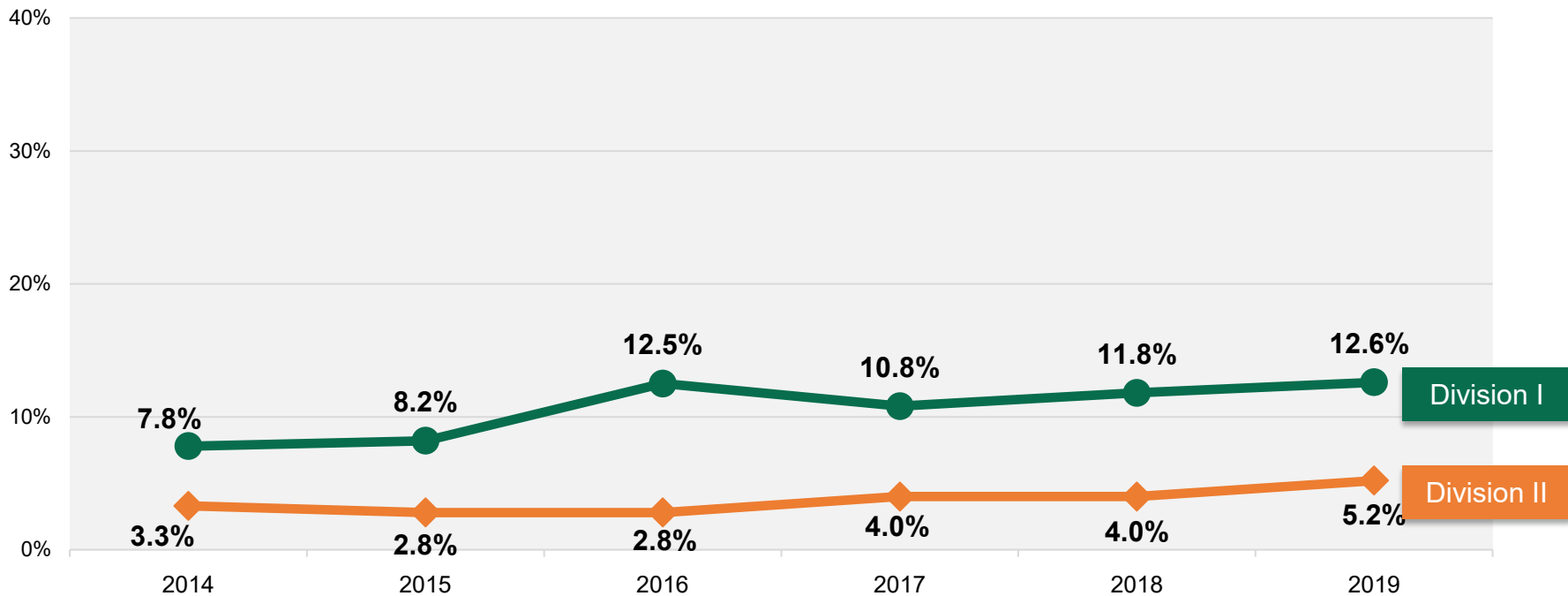


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	125	189
DII	37	83

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Basketball Student-Athletes

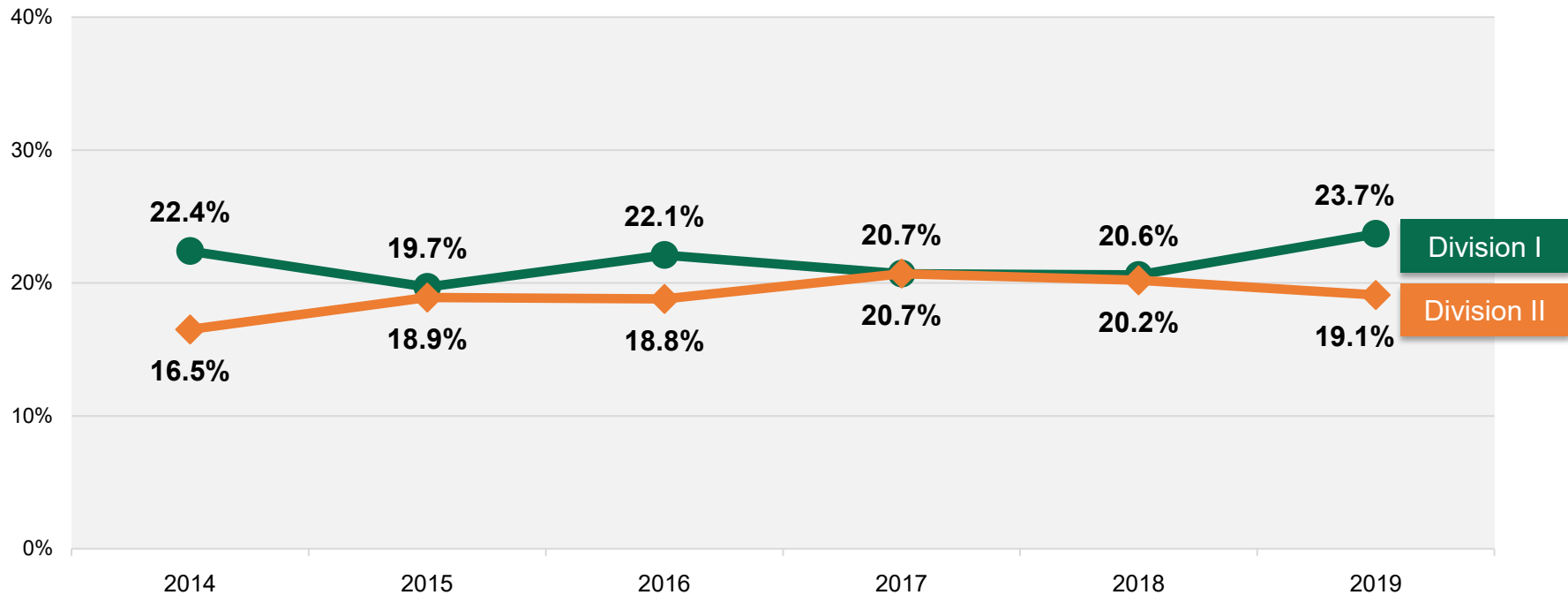


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	99	156
DII	37	68

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Golf Student-Athletes

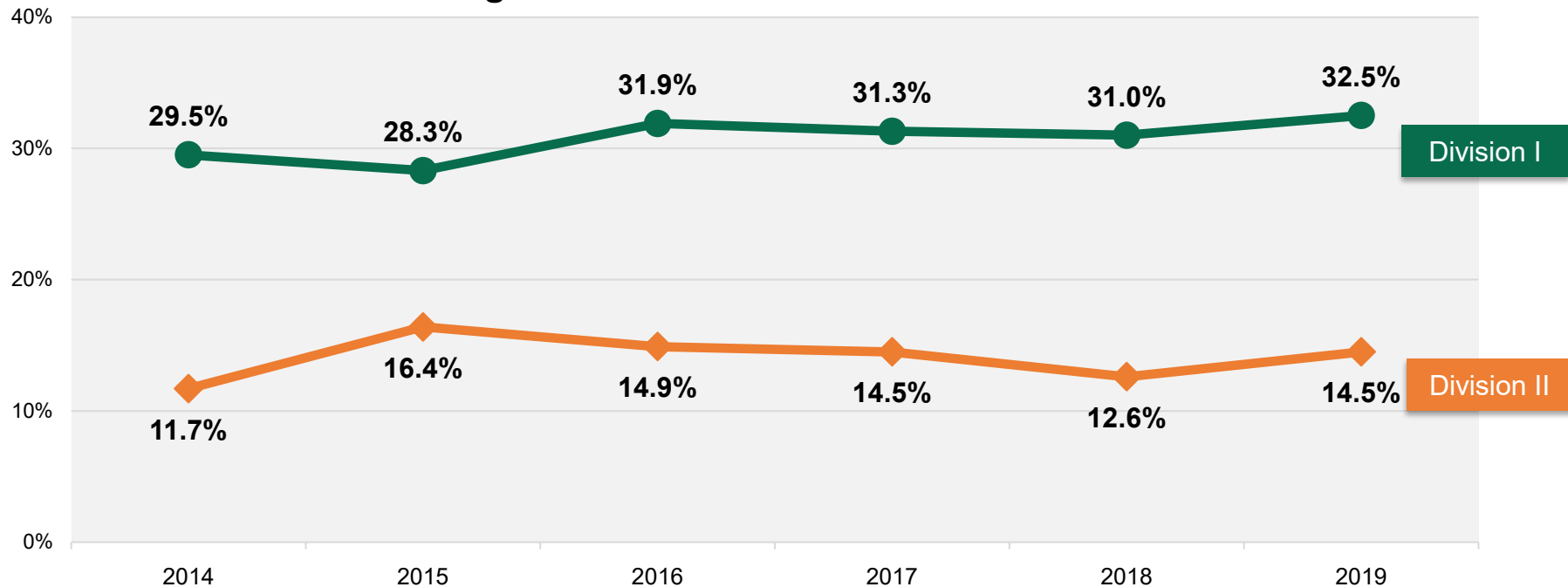


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	135	146
DII	108	120

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Golf Student-Athletes

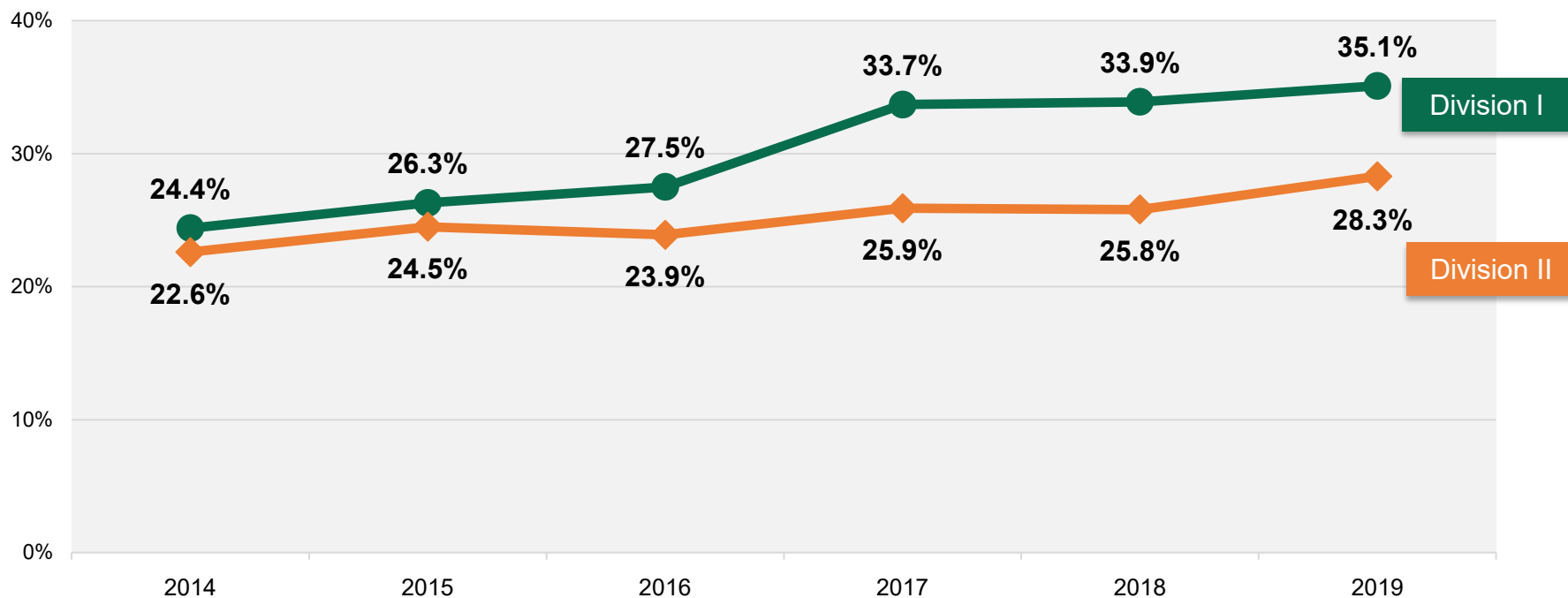


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	147	174
DII	50	66

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Soccer Student-Athletes

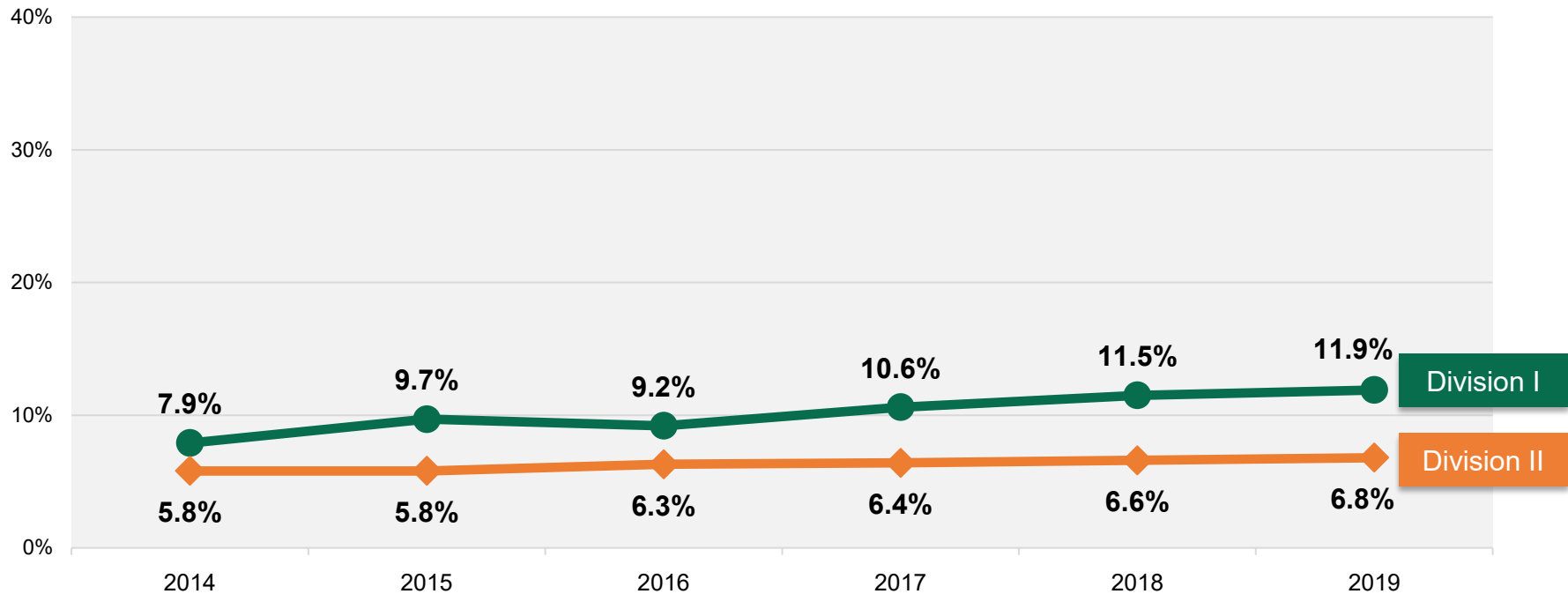


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	226	330
DII	363	554

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Soccer Student-Athletes

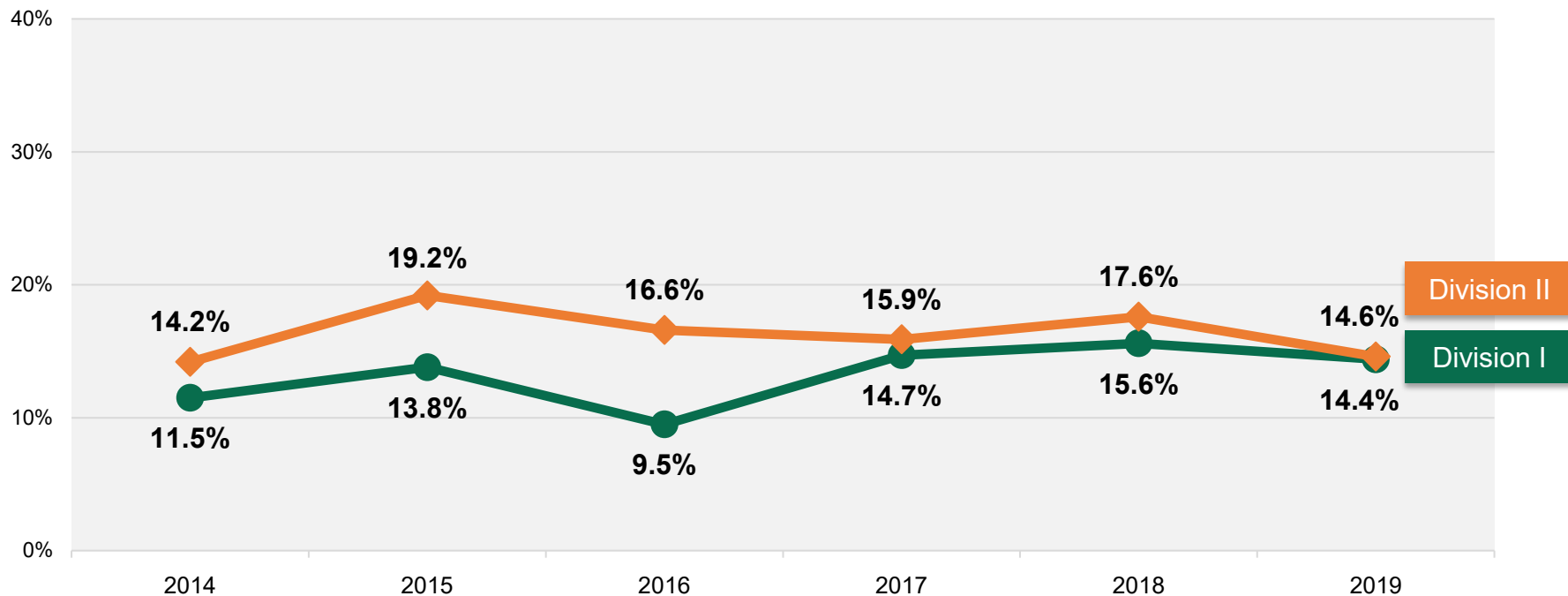


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	167	269
DII	116	156

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Swimming & Diving Student-Athletes

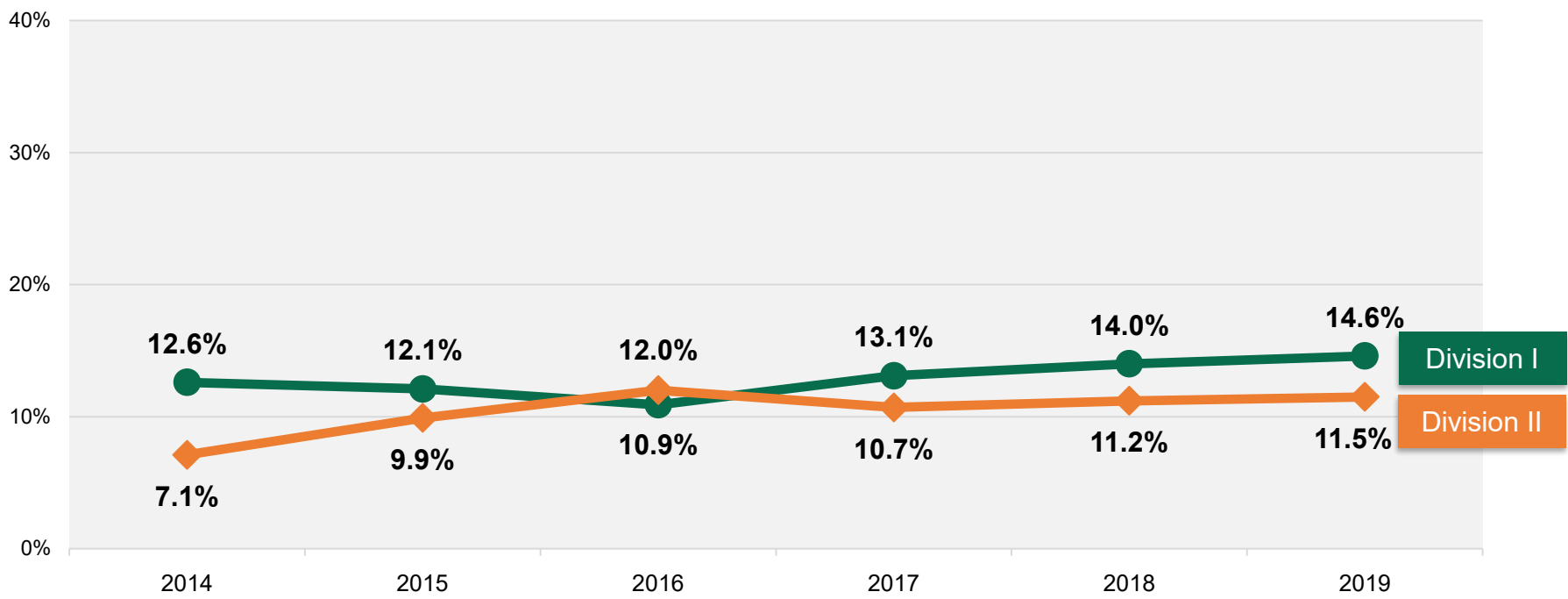


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	79	100
DII	62	79

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Swimming & Diving Student-Athletes

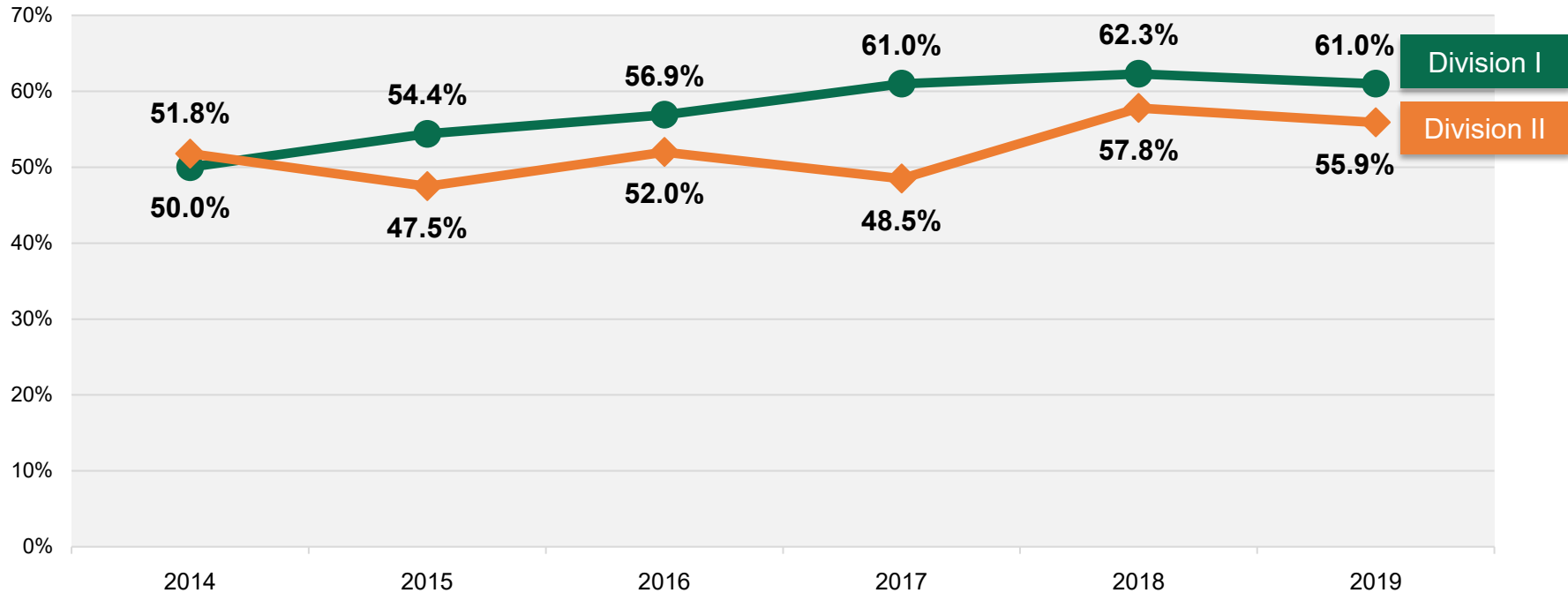


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	139	172
DII	40	74

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Tennis Student-Athletes

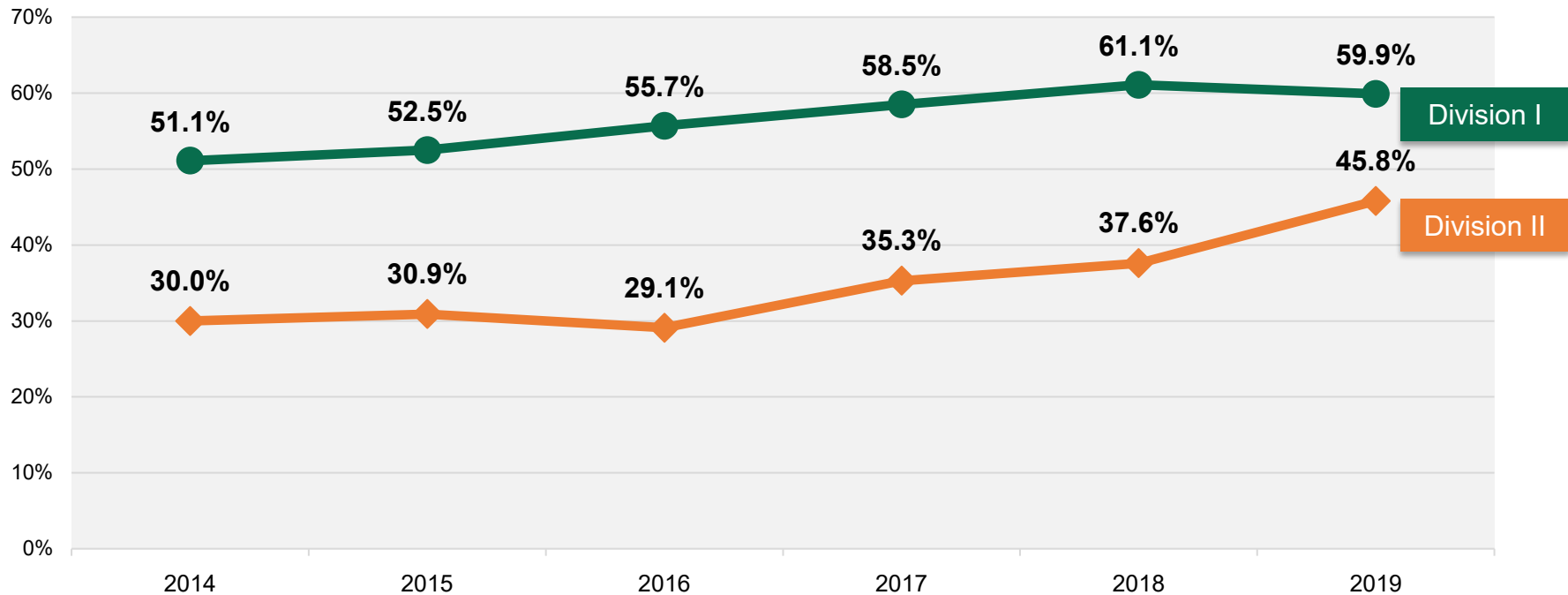


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	251	297
DII	226	233

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Tennis Student-Athletes

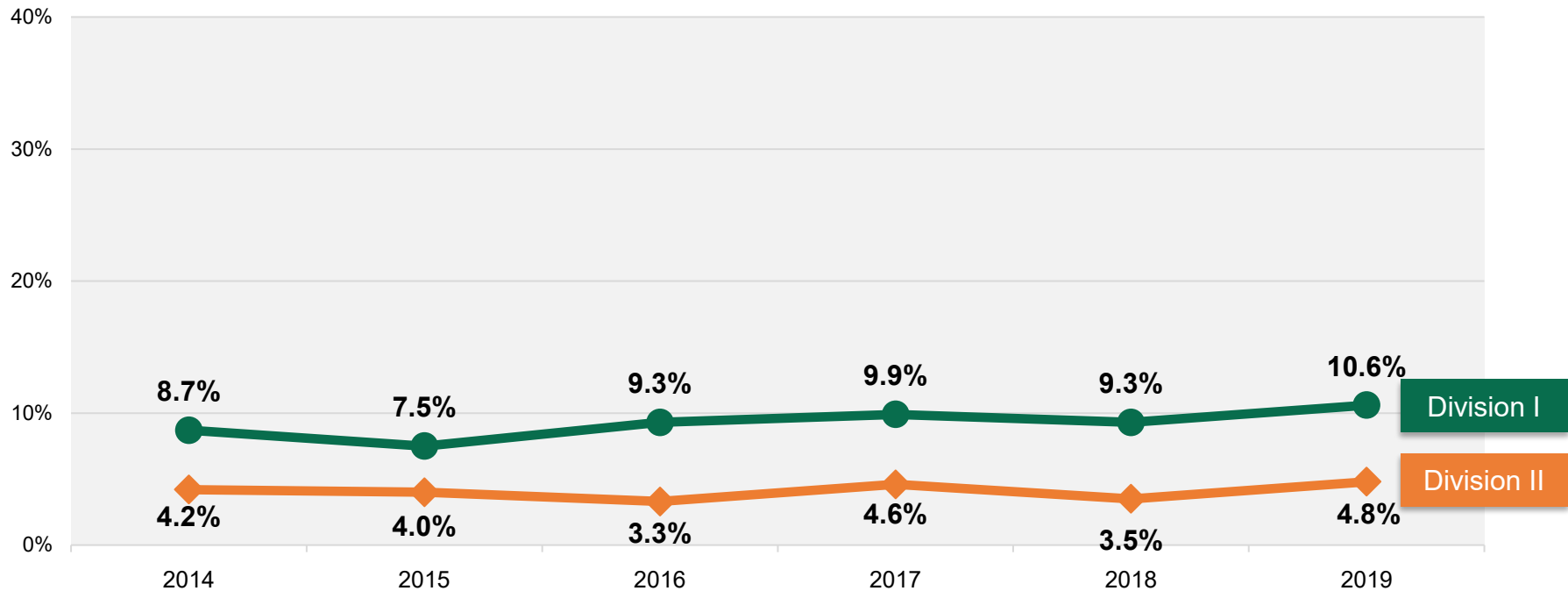


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	338	345
DII	167	238

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Men's Track & Field Student-Athletes

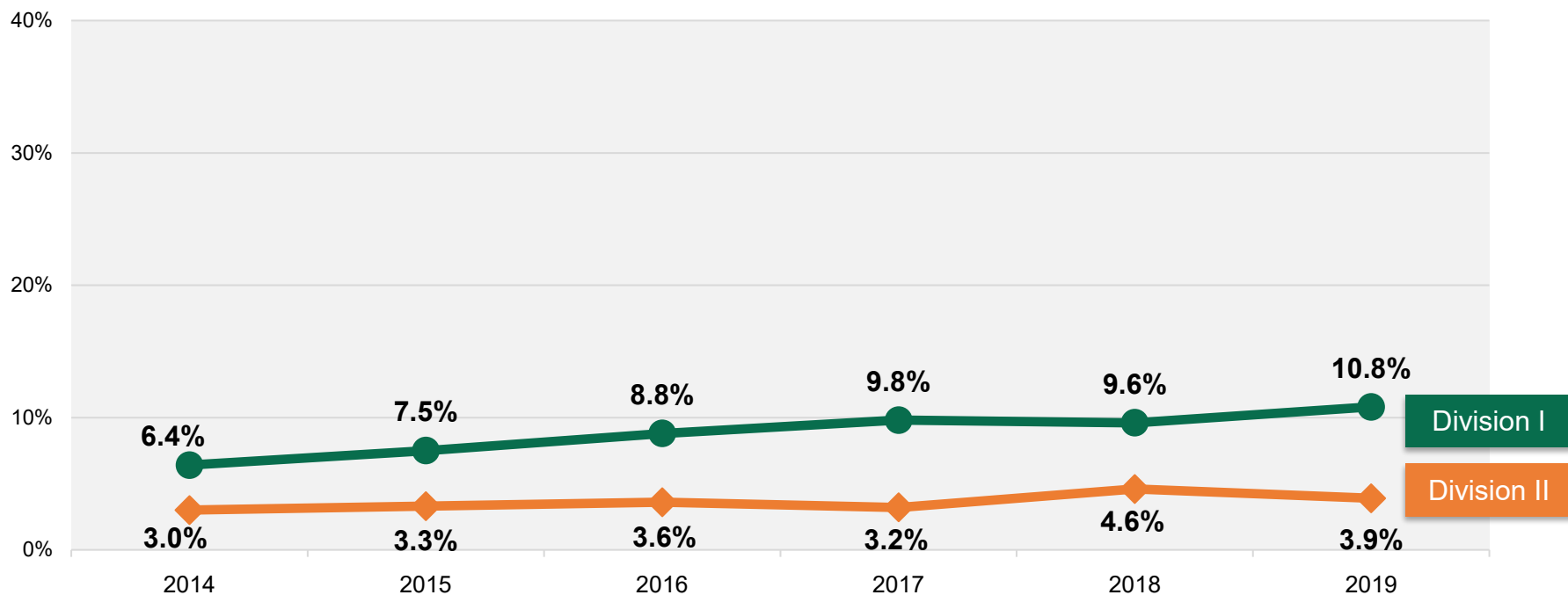


Total Numbers

	2014	2019
DI	139	183
DII	87	123

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Trends in Percentage of International Women's Track & Field Student-Athletes



Total Numbers		
	2014	2019
DI	147	260
DII	59	97

Note: Data shown are for first-year student-athletes.

Detailed Methodology

- ▶ Prospective student-athletes (PSAs) who wish to compete in Division I or Division II must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. All PSAs are assigned a unique NCAA ID number in the process.
- ▶ Home country is captured during registration when PSAs enter their address. Previous country is inputted for PSAs submitting high school transcripts from an additional country. NCAA research determined home country using the country listed in all cases except for PSAs listing a U.S. address who also listed a non-U.S. previous country. In those cases, home country was set to the previous country. For example, the home country for a PSA residing in the U.S. during senior year of high school who was previously enrolled at a high school in Argentina is Argentina.
- ▶ Matching on NCAA ID, we merged home country with Division I and Division II academic cohort data, which allowed us to examine home country and international status for student-athletes in each sport's cohort. Due to data corrections and the movement of schools or sports in and out of each division, data for each academic cohort is rerun annually, which may result in slight changes to the percentages previously reported.
- ▶ Home country for Division III student-athletes was not included because Division III student-athletes are not required to register with the Eligibility Center. For this population, the only source of international participation is the [NCAA Demographic Database](#).
- ▶ The number and percentage of international student-athletes within the academic data is higher than captured in the NCAA Demographics Database. This may be because of the cohort restrictions (e.g. Division I academic cohorts are typically limited to student-athletes on scholarship) or because international student-athletes' race/ethnicity is entered for them by someone who may assign a racial category other than "nonresident alien," which is one of the race/ethnicity options within the NCAA Demographics Database.



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