

# Injury Surveillance System



Men's Lacrosse  
2003-04



## INTRODUCTION

The NCAA Injury Surveillance System (ISS) was developed in 1982 to provide current and reliable data on injury trends in intercollegiate athletics. Injury data are collected yearly from a representative sample of NCAA member institutions and the resulting data summaries are reviewed by the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports. The committee's goal continues to be to reduce injury rates through suggested changes in rules, protective equipment or coaching techniques based on data provided by the Injury Surveillance System. Injury data are also presented to NCAA sport committees and national sports science meetings.

During the 1982-83 academic year, injury data were collected only on the sport of football. Since that time, the ISS has been expanded to include five additional NCAA fall sports (field hockey, football, men's soccer, women's volleyball and men's volleyball); NCAA winter sports (men's basketball, women's basketball, men's gymnastics, women's gymnastics, men's ice hockey, women's ice hockey and wrestling); and NCAA spring sports (baseball, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, spring football and softball). This report presents information regarding injuries in **men's lacrosse** since the **1984-85 season**.

## METHODS

### Sampling

Participation in the NCAA Injury Surveillance System (ISS) is voluntary and limited to the 1,265 institutions (as of December 2003). NCAA ISS participants are selected from the population of schools sponsoring a given sport. Selections are random within the constraints of having a minimum of 10 percent representation of NCAA Divisions I, II and III, and region (East, South, Midwest and West) (See **Table 1**). This sampling scheme assures a true cross-section of NCAA institutions, which can be used to express injury rates representative of the total population of NCAA institutions sponsoring a particular sport.

The regional distribution of schools is the same for all sports in the ISS although different from regional distributions as noted in the NCAA championship manuals. **Figure 1** documents the regional distribution of states used in the ISS.

It is important to emphasize that this system does not identify EVERY injury that occurs at NCAA institutions in a particular sport. Rather, it collects a sampling that is representative of a cross-section of NCAA institutions.

### Data Reporting

Injury and exposure data are recorded by certified and student athletics trainers from participating institutions. Information is collected from the first official day of preseason practice to the final tournament contest.

