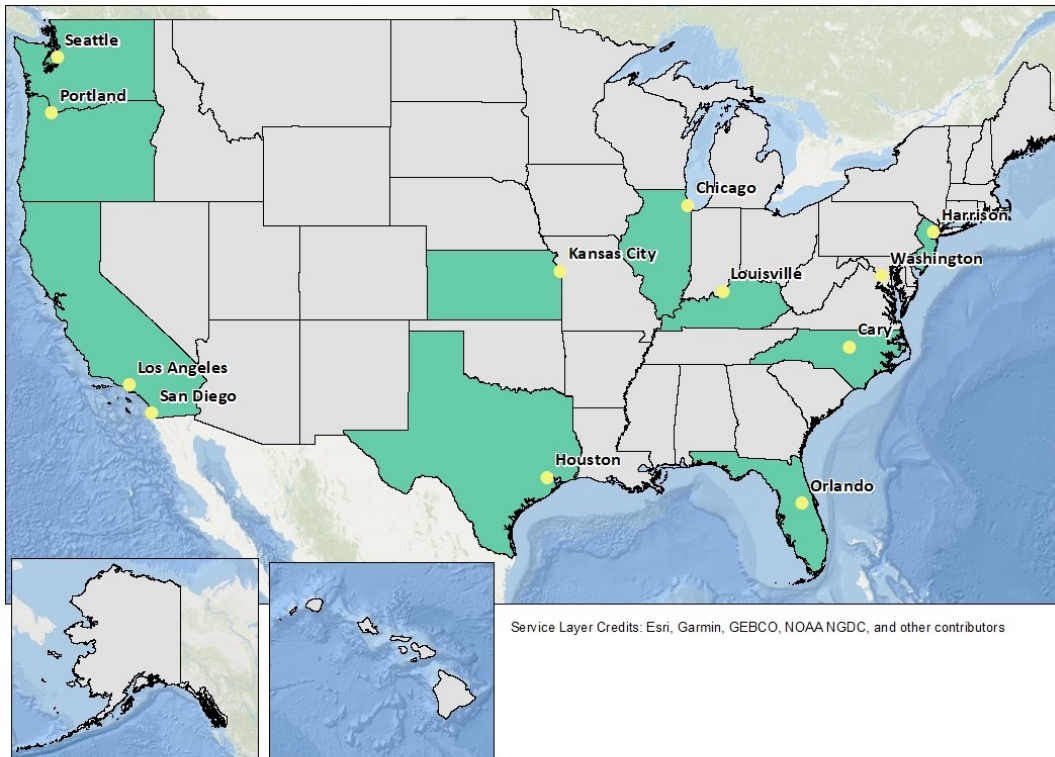




2022 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL)

Figure 1. National Women's Soccer League Locations



2022 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **344:** Number of players on the National Women's Soccer League
- **69:** Approximate number of foreign-born players (20% of the league's population)
- **24:** Number of countries foreign-born players represent
- **12:** Number of teams in the National Women's Soccer League

Figure 2. List of National Women's Soccer League Teams and Locations

Team	Location	Year Established
Chicago Red Stars	Chicago, IL	2007
NJ/NY Gotham FC	Harrison, NJ	2007
OL Reign	Seattle, WA	2012
Portland Thorns FC	Portland, OR	2012
Washington Spirit	Washington, DC	2012
Houston Dash	Houston, TX	2013
Orlando Pride	Orlando, FL	2015
North Carolina Courage	Cary, NC	2017
Racing Louisville FC	Louisville, KY	2019
Angel City FC	Los Angeles, CA	2020
Kansas City Current	Kansas City, KS	2020
San Diego Wave FC	San Diego, CA	2021

- Prior to the formation of the **National Women's Soccer League** in 2012, eight teams were part of the former Women's Professional Soccer League
- The North Carolina Courage and Portland Thorns FC each won **two league titles**
- The **Washington Spirit** won the 2021 league title championship

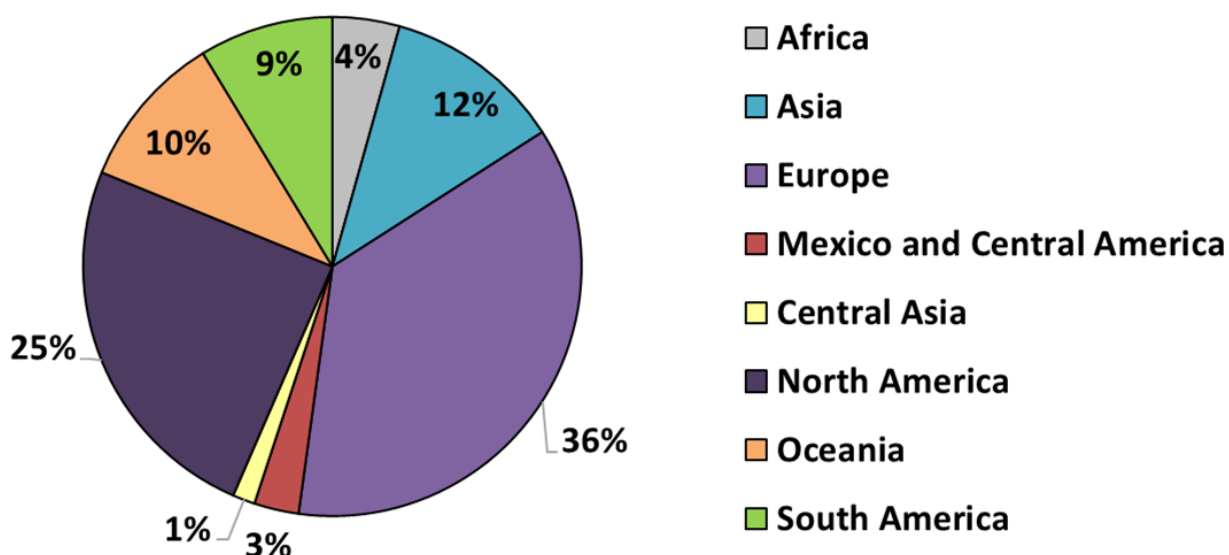
2022 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL)

Figure 3. Birthplace of NWSL Players by Team

Team Name	Foreign-born Players	Native-born Players
Orlando Pride	34%	66%
Angel City FC	29%	71%
Houston Dash	23%	77%
Racing Louisville FC	22%	78%
San Diego Wave FC	22%	78%
North Carolina Courage	21%	79%
Portland Thorns FC	21%	79%
OL Reign	19%	81%
NJ/NY Gotham FC	17%	83%
Chicago Red Stars	13%	88%
Kansas City Current	12%	88%
Washington Spirit	10%	90%
Total	20%	80%

The NWSL teams with the largest shares of foreign-born players include the **Orlando Pride** (34%), **Angel City FC** (29%), and **Houston Dash** (23%). Conversely, the teams with the lowest shares of foreign-born players include the **Washington Spirit** (10%), **Kansas City Current** (12%), and the **Chicago Red Stars** (13%).

Figure 4. World Region of Birth among Foreign-born NWSL Players



Nearly **three-fourths (73%)** of immigrant NWSL players were born in countries in Europe, North America (Canada), or Asia.

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Figure 5. Detailed Country of Birth among Foreign-born NWSL Players

Country		Percent
Africa	Cameroon	1.4%
	Ghana	1.4%
	Liberia	1.4%
Asia	Japan	10.1%
	China	1.4%
Europe	England	10.1%
	France	4.3%
	Sweden	4.3%
	Germany	2.9%
	Ireland	2.9%
	Scotland	2.9%
	Wales	2.9%
	Finland	1.4%
	Iceland	1.4%
	Malta	1.4%
	Spain	1.4%
Mexico and Central America	Mexico	1.4%
	Costa Rica	1.4%
Central Asia	Afghanistan	1.4%
North America	Canada	24.6%
Oceania	Australia	5.8%
	New Zealand	4.3%
South America	Brazil	7.6%
	Argentina	1.4%



- In 2022, more than half (58%) of NWSL players were born in **Canada, England, Japan, Brazil, or Australia**.
- In 2020, immigrants from these five countries comprised only **5%** of the foreign-born population in the United States.
- In 2020, the top five countries of birth among immigrants in the United States include **Mexico** (24%), **India** (6%), **China** (5%), **Philippines** (4%), and **Vietnam** (3%).

Analysis in this fact sheet is based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2020 distributed through IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org as well as source data from the individual team rosters on the NWSL website (www.nwslsoccer.com). Team rosters were accessed on September 1, 2022 and reflect the players who were on each team on that date.

Please note that the terms “immigrant” and “foreign born” are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

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Institute for Immigration Research

The Immigrants, Athletes, and Inclusion Initiative

This initiative aims to study immigration and inclusion in sports through original, data-driven research on the contributions of immigrants in professional and collegiate sports. We examine inclusion in two ways: 1) the degree to which immigrant athletes are represented in sports; and 2) how highlighting the stories and contributions of immigrant athletes can lead to greater understanding and inclusion of immigrants generally.

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR)

The IIR's mission is to produce valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary research on immigrants and immigration to the United States and to disseminate this information through peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as in print and digital formats that make this research easily accessible to policy-makers, the media, the business community, and the general public. The Institute for Immigration Research is a joint venture between George Mason University and the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA.

www.iir.gmu.edu

4400 University Drive, MSN 1D7

Fairfax, VA 22030

703.993.5833