



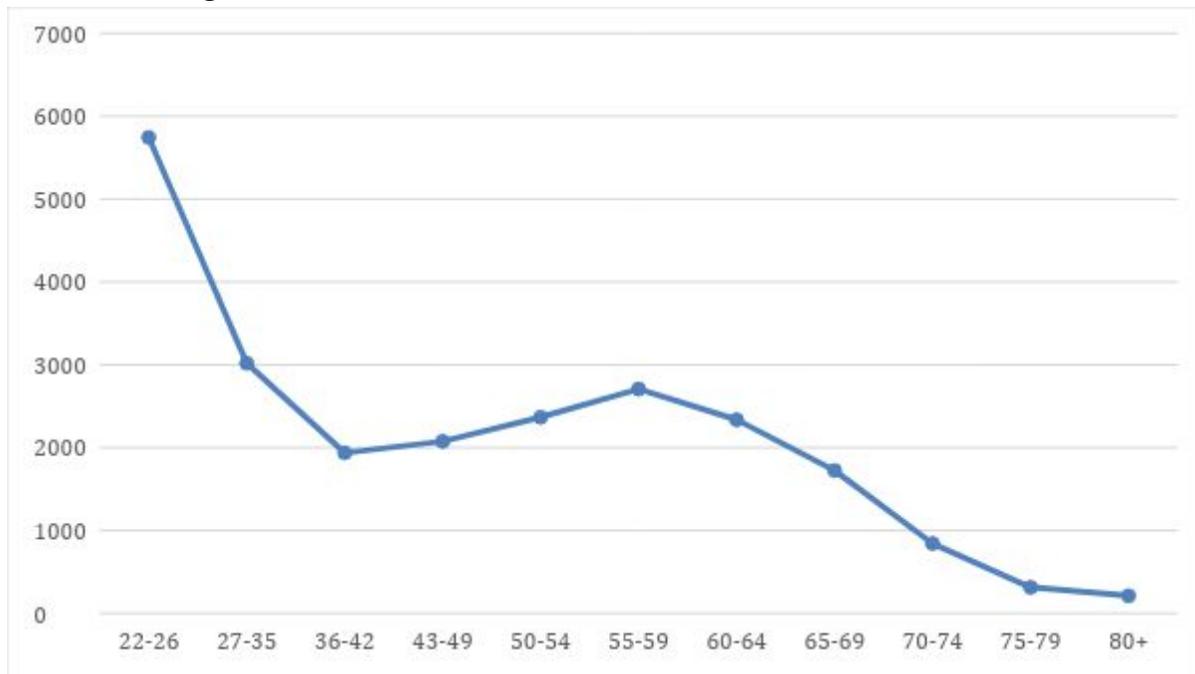
# ROWING GROWING

## Rowing is Growing 2017 – Masters Rowing

*Rowing continues to grow across the United States. People of all ages are joining this ultimate team sport, embracing a lifetime of activity and competition. Continuing the “Rowing Is Growing” series is this masters rowing report.*

Masters rowing includes a broad spectrum of athletes, not applying solely to older rowers as the name may suggest. Masters athletes range in age from 21 to 80 and sometimes, even older. Classification is based on age, and handicaps are then assigned based on those classifications. allows for both the young and old to fairly compete side by side throughout their rowing careers. Making up approximately 36% of total USRowing membership, masters rowing keeps recent college graduates as well as competitive veteran athletes involved in the sport.

### AA-J Masters Age Classification



*-from USRowing member data*

The majority of masters athletes are in the AA category—21 - 26 years old—which comprises 25% of all masters’ athletes. A portion of this age group also contains Senior National Team members and other elite athletes training for international racing. The next two largest groups of masters athletes are in the A category—27 – 35—and the E category—55 - 59. The level of

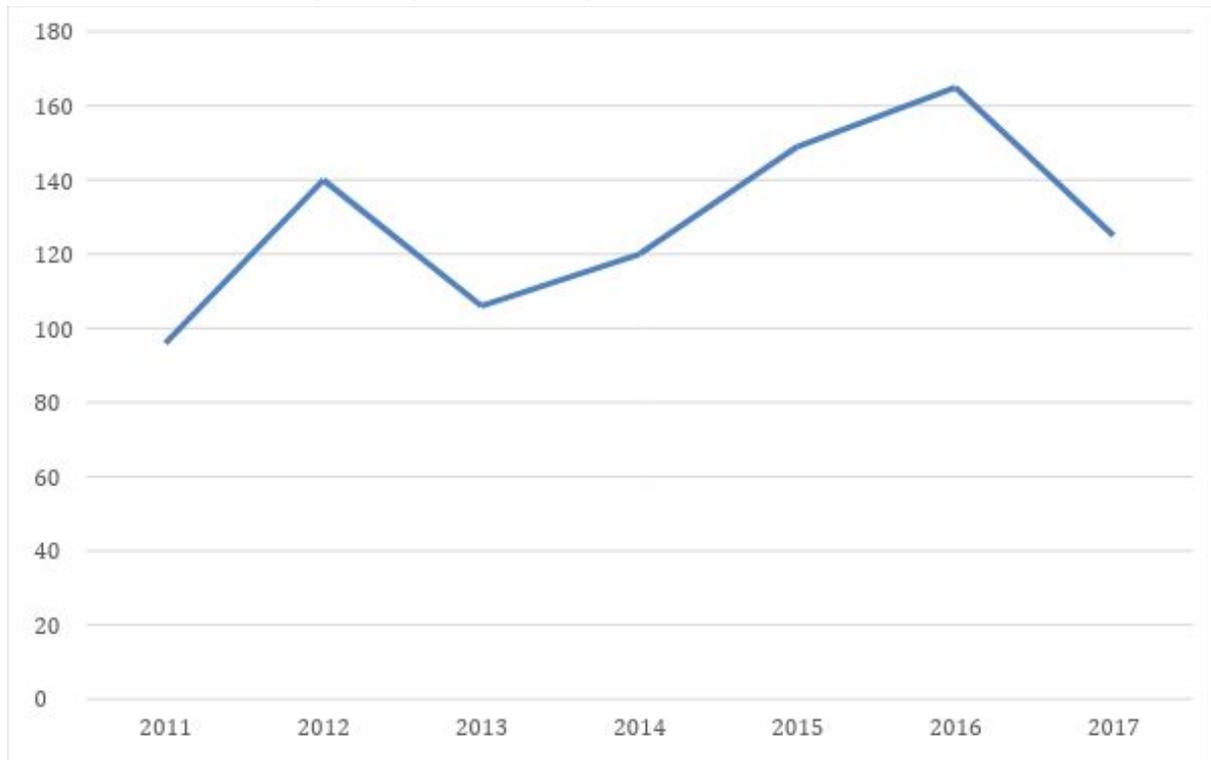
racing opportunities for athletes 50+ continues to grow. At the 53<sup>rd</sup> Head of the Charles Regatta, approximately 23% of entries were men and women 50 and older. In addition, the 2017 Masters Nationals Championships received a total of 825 entries for 50+ races (D-J categories), approximately 55% of all entries for racing.

In 2017, approximately 23,314 members were eligible to race in Masters categories, and total Championship membership grew by 3.4% in 2017. A portion of that increase is reflected in the growing masters rowing community.

## Masters National Championships

The largest attended regatta ever hosted by USRowing was the 2016 Masters National Championships. Held on Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester, Massachusetts, over 2,150 entries from 166 clubs, representing 32 states, broke the previous record more than 150 athletes and 16 clubs. Today, that regatta continues to be one of the largest in the nation, drawing in thousands of spectators and athletes. In the 2017 men's single (various age categories) alone, there were 170 entries. The four with coxswain was most popular among female athletes coming in at 157. Competitor ages of boats for the women's 4+ ranged from 24 to 70.

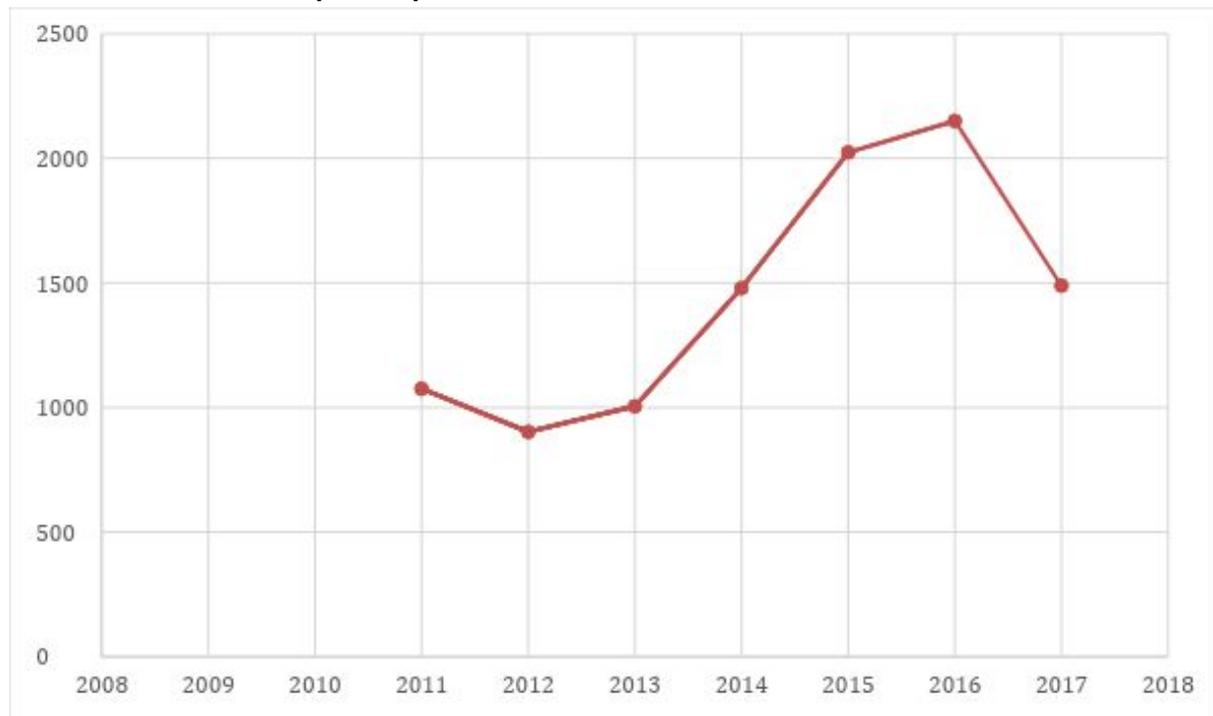
## Masters National Championship Club Participation 2011-2017



*-from RegattaCentral*

Over the past 5 years, USRowing Masters Nationals has continued to grow in numbers. From 2011 to 2017, the number of entries has increased by 6% (75 entries) and club participation has increased by 29% (28 clubs). Athletes compete for national championship titles in more than 200 categories.

## Masters National Championship Entries 2011-2017



*-from RegattaCentral*

USRowing hosts three Regional Championships in addition to the Masters National Championship: Northwest, Southwest, and Northeast/Mid-Atlantic. In 2017, these regattas were the biggest they have ever been, and the total number of entries in 2017 surpassed total entries from all regional regattas the previous year by over 349 entries. Northwest Regionals has continued to be the largest regional championship for the last five years and reached over 1,250 entries in 2017.

## Future Expansion

The goal of a masters rower can be anything from recreational exercise to national and international competitions. Much of the growth of masters rowing can be seen at the FISA World Rowing Masters Regatta. This regatta is held every year and offers international racing to rowers from all over the world. This regatta often attracts over 3,000 participants. At the 2017 World Rowing Masters Regatta, 64 clubs from the USA competed in Copenhagen, Denmark, with a total of 835 entries. More US participants competed at this regatta in 2017 than in any past year.

For ex-college athletes and 40+ novices alike, rowing is an ideal sport for all levels. The shorter 1000-meter racing distance combined with the ability to race in a variety of boat classes and in mixed entries allows for flexibility in competition. Plans for the 2018 USRowing Masters Nationals, being held in Oakland, CA, are on track to provide more masters with even more opportunities for racing.