

The Importance of Opportunities for Women in Sports



Clara Slate-Liu, Chaminade University of Honolulu



INTRODUCTION

Women's soccer has experienced exponential growth in recent years, both in the United States and around the world. As a lifelong athlete, I have experienced first hand the health benefits of playing sports. Research has been done that confirms these benefits. A study done in 2018 by Dr.Stracciolini from the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine suggests that playing sports positively impacts females throughout their lives, enhancing physical health, mental well-being, and social skills.

I hypothesized that increased visibility and popularity of women's soccer would be reflected in rising game attendance over time. Using the Women's Football dataset from Kaggle that data on championships, FIFA rankings, the presence of foreign players, market worth, attendance, and transfer money across six top professional leagues, the UEFA Women's Champions League, and the last four Women's World Cups, I examined the attendance rates for the top 2 women's professional leagues in the world.

METHODS

Using the Frontera and Stampede super computers at TACC, I imported this data into R Studio, where I specifically focused on the NWSL, WSL, and World Cup attendance. Using R, I calculated average attendance rates for each year, and created line graphs and bar charts to visualise these trends.

RESULTS

The results of my analysis are shown in four graphs:

- **Figure 1** shows attendance rates from 2013–2024 for the NWSL showing a steady increase in average attendance rates. Average attendance for the 2014 season was 2,760 people. In 2024, the average attendance was 11,089, an increase of over 300%.
- **Figure 2** shows attendance rates from 2011–2024 for the WSL showing a consistent upward trend in attendance. The 2014 average was 670 and the 2023–2024 season average was 6,988, representing almost an order of magnitude increase.
- **Figure 3** illustrates the Women's World Cup Attendance from years 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2023, illustrating that attendance rates for the Women's World Cup tournaments fluctuated, counter to my hypothesis, however with a notable peak in 2023. Despite some variation, the overall trend indicates growth.
- **Figure 4** illustrates attendance rates for the women's world cup's championship games in 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2023, highlighting the increasing attendance at the championship games since 2011 reflecting the global rise in popularity of women's soccer.

Figure 1. NWSL

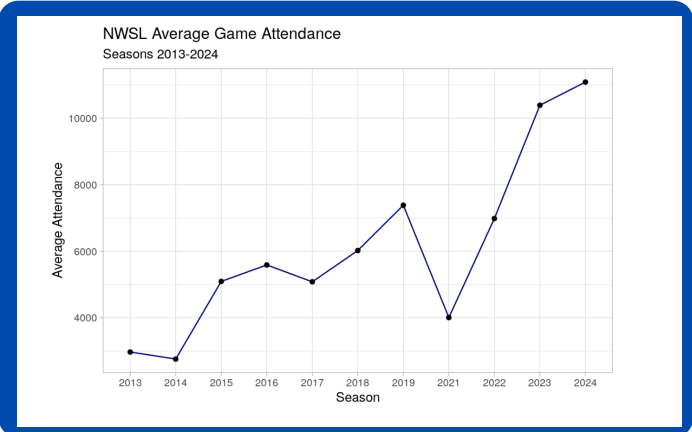


Figure 2. WSL

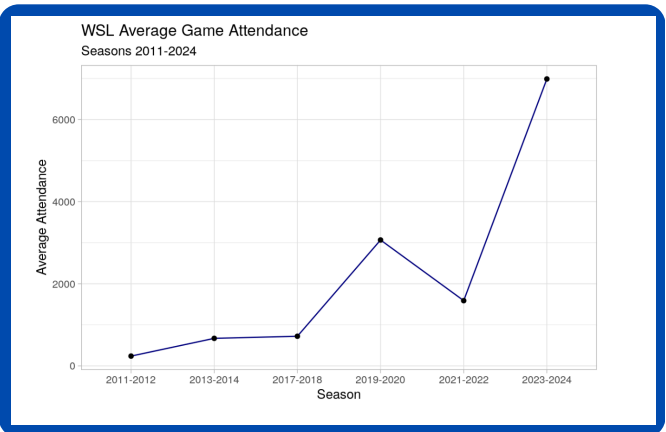


Figure 3. World Cup

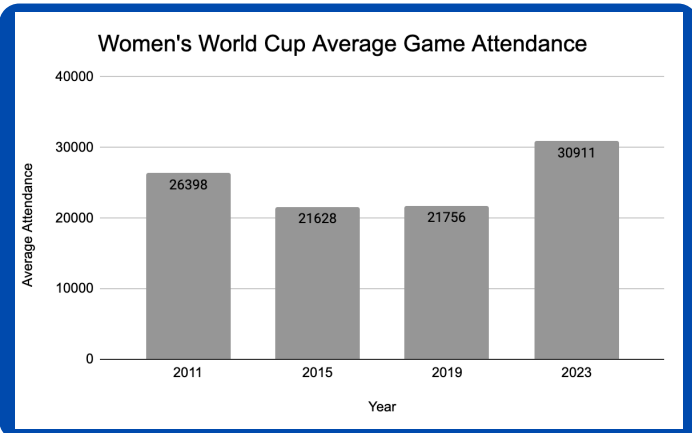
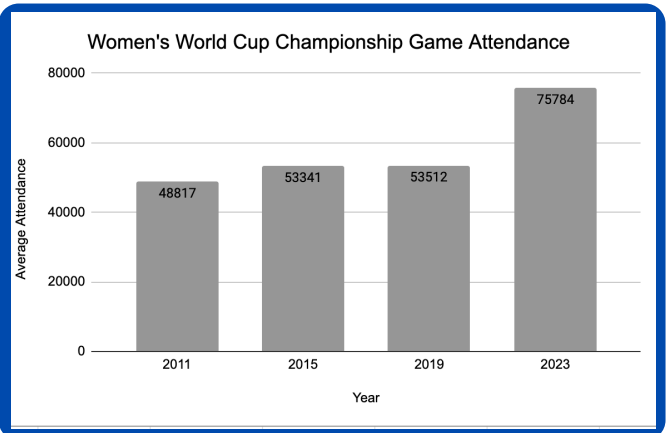


Figure 4. World Cup Championship Game



CONCLUSION

My research illustrated that women's soccer game attendance rates have dramatically increased over the past ten years for both professional domestic leagues and international play. This growth indicates the need for more opportunities for female athletes to compete at higher levels. It also encourages greater participation in sports among young girls. As more women and girls get involved in soccer, we can expect improvements in physical health, mental well-being, and overall improved health outcomes. Additionally, increased opportunities advances gender equality in sports.

Thank you to group lead Dr.Gaither, mentor Alexis-Rachelle Ramelb, and all SPICE leads for your continous support.

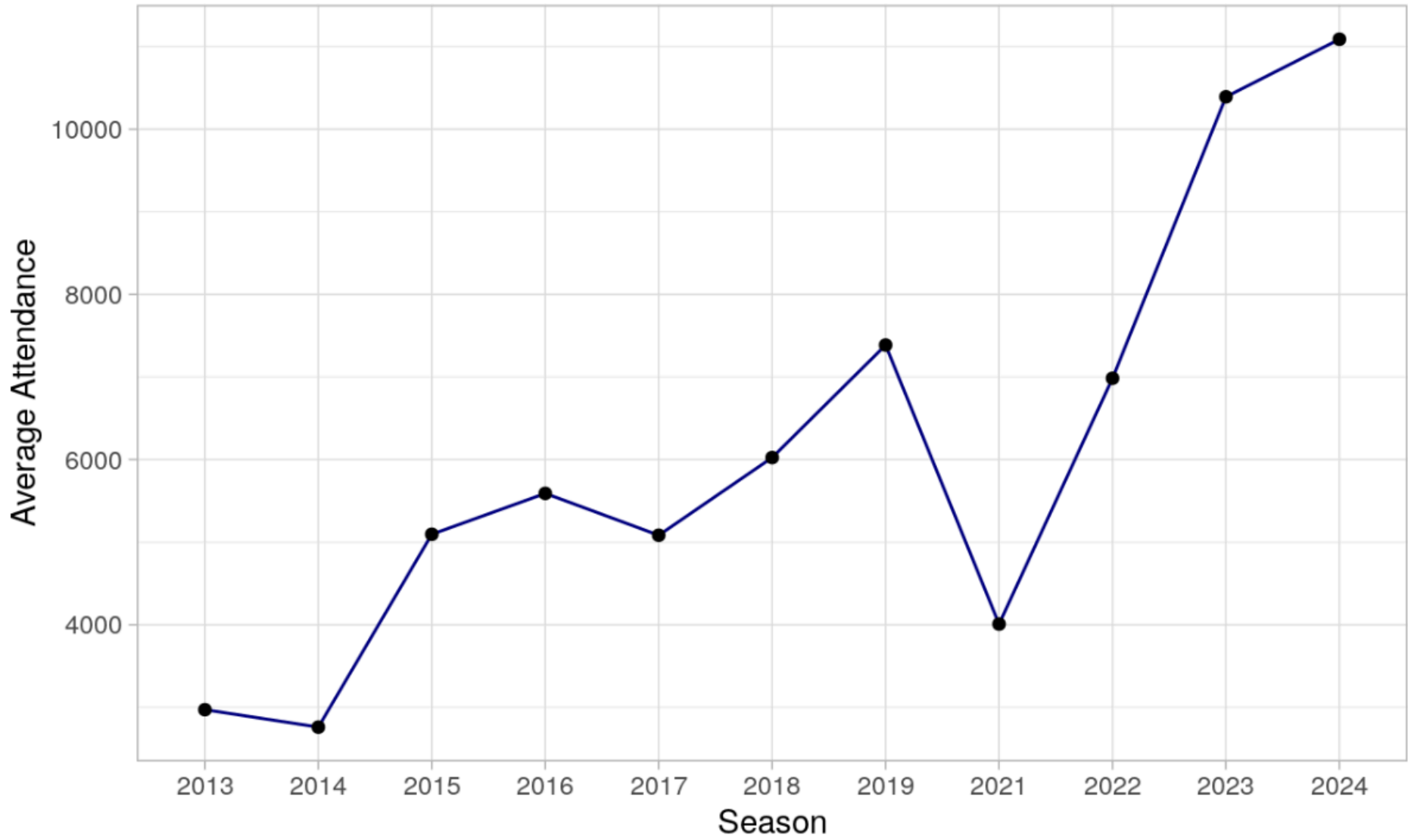


REFERENCES:



NATIONAL WOMENS SOCCER LEAGUE

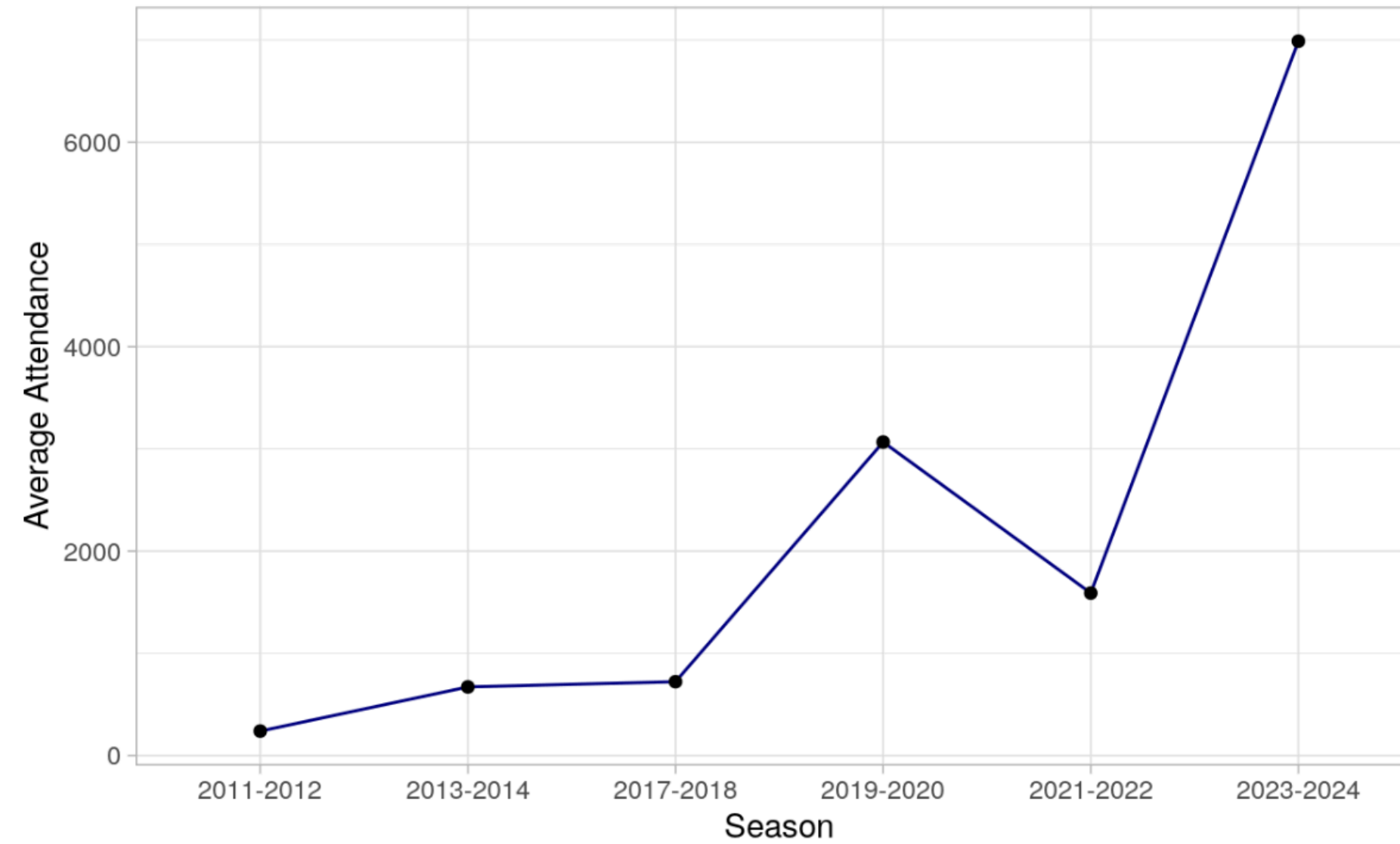
NWSL Average Game Attendance
Seasons 2013-2024



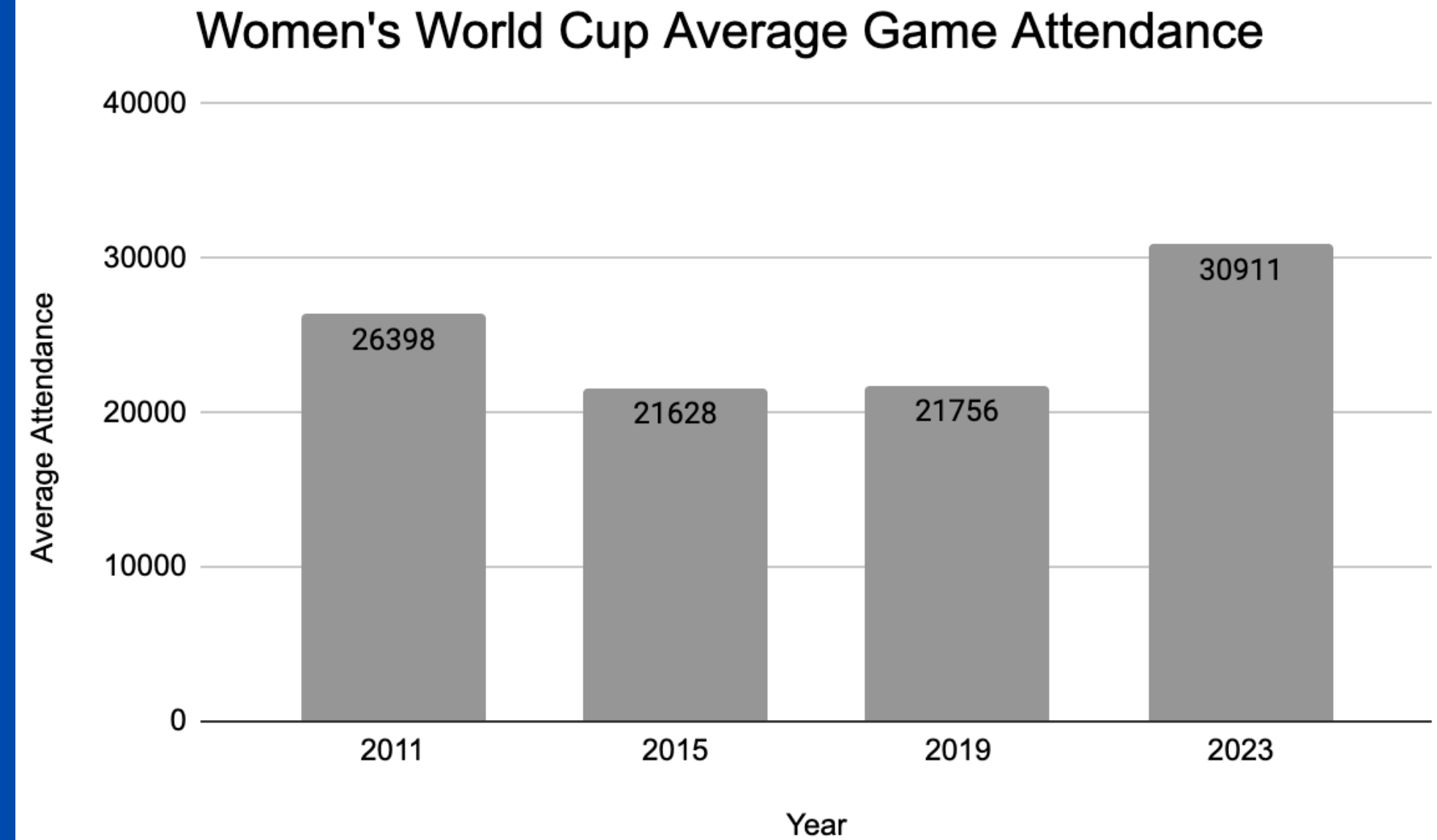
WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

WSL Average Game Attendance

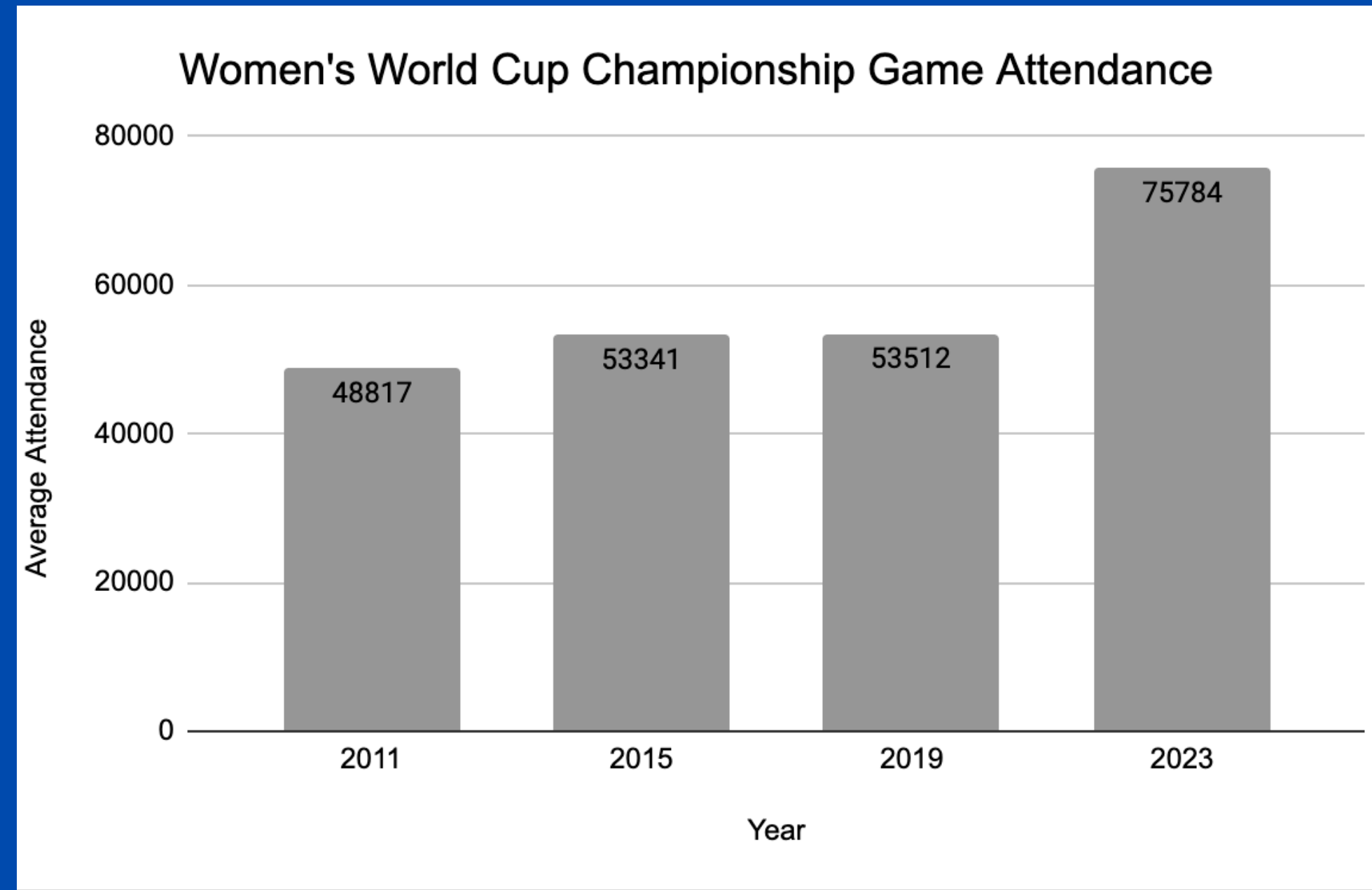
Seasons 2011-2024



WOMENS WORLD CUP



WOMENS WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



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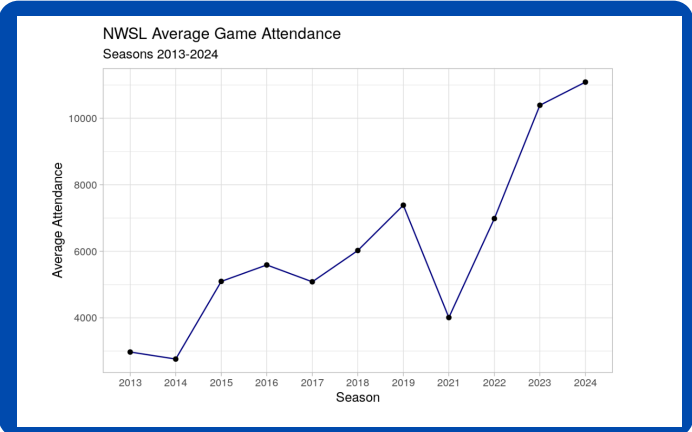


Figure 2. WSL 🇬🇧

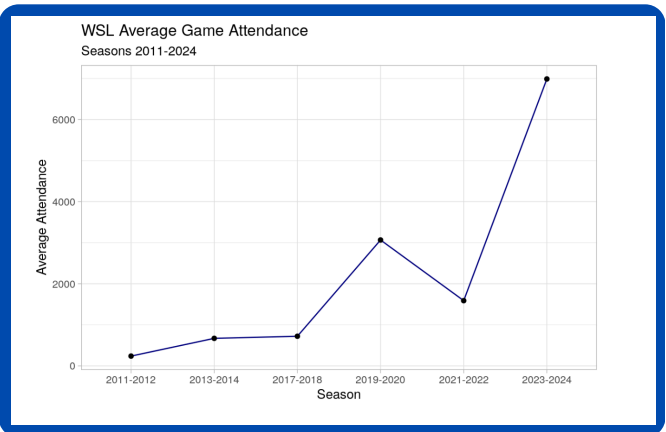


Figure 3. World Cup

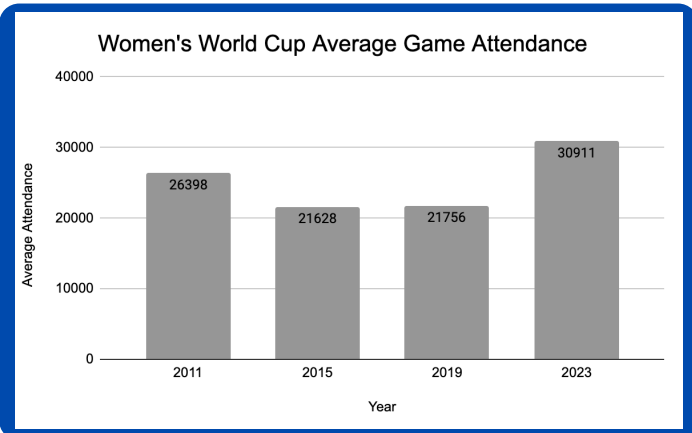
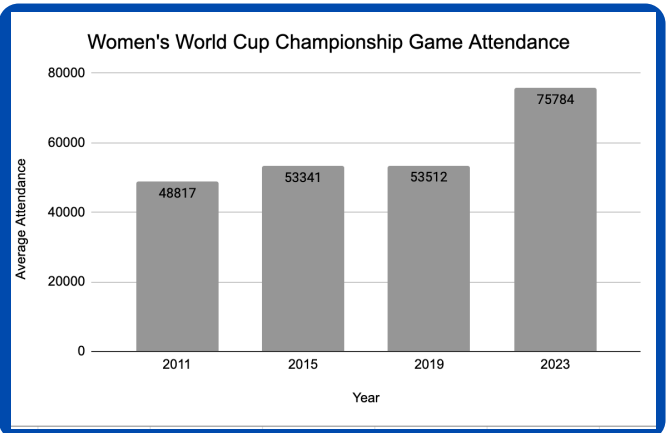


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