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 Data Management

## Cache Status

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# Stephen Curry and the Three-Point Revolution

Stephen Curry is widely regarded as the greatest shooter in basketball history, and he is

*"credited with revolutionizing the game by popularizing the three-point shot across all levels"* ([Wikipedia](#)).

The data back this up: when the NBA first adopted the 3-point line in 1979, teams averaged only about 2.8 three-point attempts per game. By 2024–25, that number has exploded to roughly 37–38 three-point attempts per game ([Wikipedia](#), [WBUR](#)).

As one analyst noted, Curry has become:

*"perhaps the figurehead in the NBA's Three-Point Revolution™"* ([FiveThirtyEight](#)).

In short, the style of play that Curry and the Golden State Warriors exemplified – high-volume, deep shooting – has spread across the league. Teams shot 22.4 threes per game in 2014–15, but by the 2024–25 season that had risen to 37.6 ([WBUR](#)), and many coaches now prioritize spacing and threes over older mid-range strategies. Some commentators joke we're even seeing more threes than twos – one analyst quipped that we might as well rename it the “two-point line” ([WBUR](#)).

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## 1 The Data Tell the Story: Shot Selection Shift

**Context:** In 2014–15, Curry's Warriors led the league in 3-point volume and won a championship. Analysis of that season shows that the Warriors took many more threes than any other team – and they scored huge value from them. That year, all of the top 3-point shooting teams made the conference finals ([FiveThirtyEight](#)).

*In other words, teams that shot a lot of threes and hit them at a high rate tended to win; the correlation between 3-point rate and winning percentage was the highest ever recorded* ([FiveThirtyEight](#)).

Golden State's deep shooting and ball-movement offense proved to be a championship formula, and other teams took notice.

Use the dropdown to switch between **League Average** and individual players to see this shift.

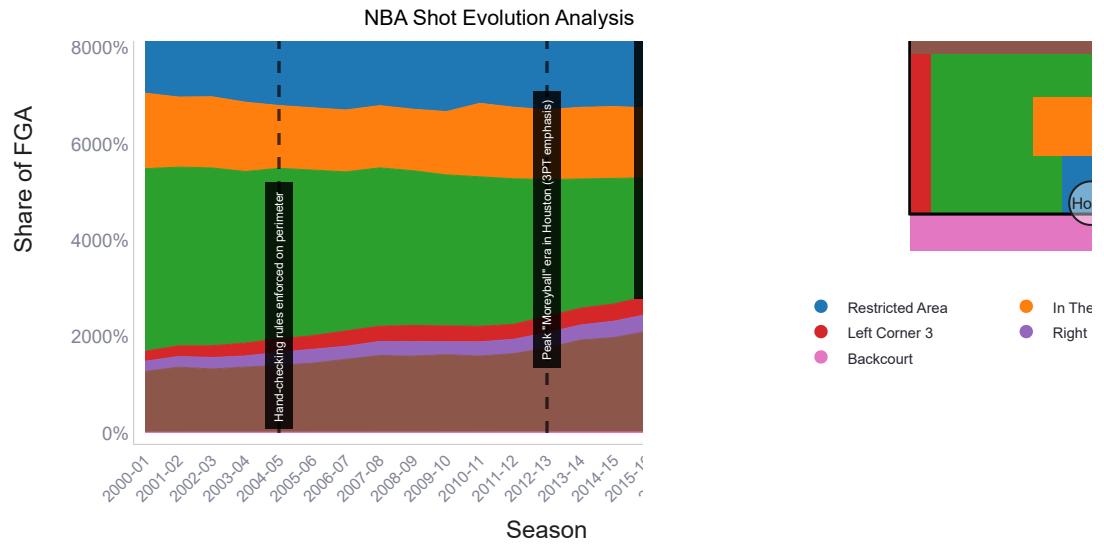
Select View:

League Average

### League-wide Shot Distribution by Zone (2000–)

### NBA Shot Zones on the Half Court





## Key Insights (League Average)

3-Point Shot Share

**41.9%**

↑ +25.0% since 2000-01

Mid-Range Shot Share

**9.7%**

↓ -28.2% since 2000-01

Restricted Area Share

**27.9%**

↓ -1.5% since 2000-01

> View League Average Data

## 2 Curry's Individual Impact & Records

Curry's individual shooting numbers have consistently defied expectations. He broke Ray Allen's single-season 3-point record (269) during the 2012–13 season (with 272 threes), and then smashed that record again with 402 threes in 2015–16 ([NBA.com](#)).

### Efficiency at Scale

Remarkably, as Curry's shot volume went up, his efficiency did not drop. By late 2015, Curry was attempting nearly 29 field goals (15.5 threes) per 100 possessions – career highs – yet his shooting percentage actually improved ([FiveThirtyEight](#)).

Analysts have shown that Curry's enormous volume combined with elite shooting added far more scoring value than any other player. In one study of 2014–15 data:

- **Stephen Curry:** Accumulated 371 “points added” from efficient shooting (on ~1,600 shots)
- **Kyle Korver:** Next highest, with 247 points added

Data analysis illustrates that Curry's unprecedented range and volume put him in a class of his own: he remained a deadly efficient shooter even as his offensive load soared.

#### Curry vs. The Field

Curry's shooting records extend to career totals. In fact, Curry needed only 762 games to surpass Reggie Miller's total (which took Miller 1,389 games) ([NBA.com](#)).

- On January 12, 2022, Curry broke Ray Allen's all-time record to become the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers.
- By 2025, he has led the league in total 3-pointers made a record eight times.

These milestones underline how rapidly and consistently Curry has hit long-range shots compared to any predecessor.

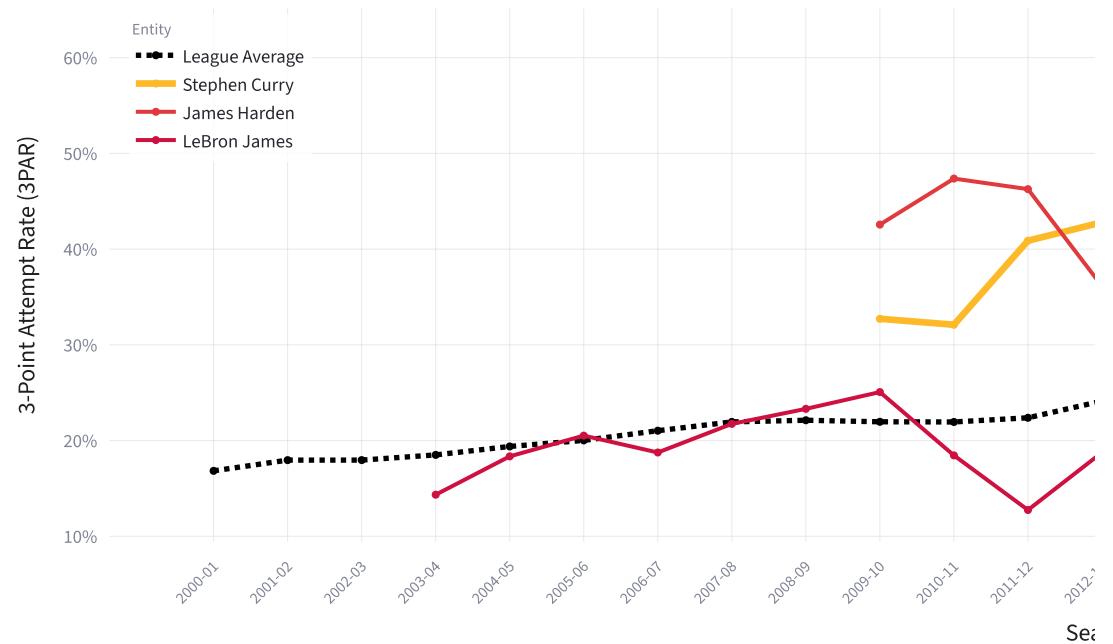
Compare Curry's 3-Point Attempt Rate (3PAR) to the League Average and other stars:

Compare other stars:

James Harden × LeBron James ×



## The 3-Point Revolution: Curry vs. The Field



## 3 Beyond the Numbers: Reshaping the Game

Curry's impact goes beyond just raw numbers; he reshaped how the game is played. His shooting range and quick release forced defenses to guard him out to 30 feet.

Key indicators of the shift:

- **Pull-up Revolution:** Over eight seasons of tracking data, 54% of Curry's 3-point attempts were pull-up jumpers (shots off the dribble), showcasing that he created his own looks and thrived under pressure.
- **League Follows Suit:** League-wide, the share of pull-up threes jumped from about 23% in 2013–14 to a peak of 30% by 2019–20, as other players emulated his style.
- **The Math of Moreyball:** Coaches like Mike D'Antoni and Daryl Morey seized on the math: when a roughly 35% three-point shot is often worth more points than a 40% long two, it makes sense to "take the smart ones" – i.e., shoot threes.

By 2017–18 the Houston Rockets were attempting about 50% of their shots from three (the NBA's first 50%-of-shots 3-point rate). Today almost every team plays "pace and space": in 2024–25, the Boston Celtics even became the first team in history to attempt more threes than twos in a game ([WBUR](#)).

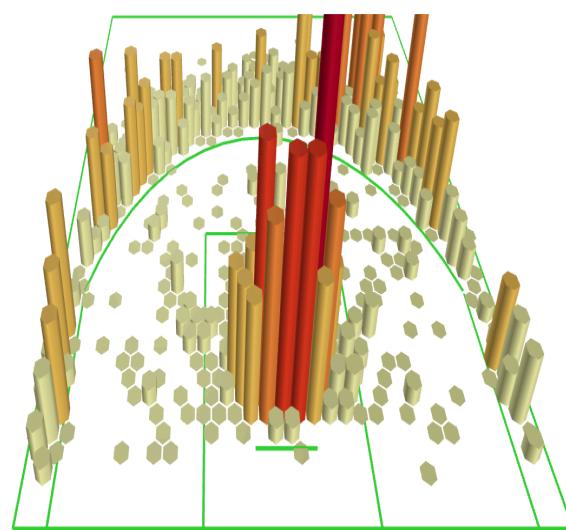
In short, Curry's success convinced teams and players at all levels to shoot from farther out, and now long-range shooting dominates the NBA landscape.

## 3D Shot Map: Where Curry Bends the Defense

Explore the 3D map below to see the volume and location of Curry's shots. Note the density beyond the arc.

Select a season:

2024-25



Standard NBA half-court mapped to Chase Center, San Francisco. Height represents shot frequency in that zone.

## Shot Statistics

Total Shots	FG%	3PT Made	3PT%
1,258	44.8%	311/784	39.7%

> View Shot Data

## Questions & Conclusion

**The ongoing debate:** Some fans and even players have lamented an overload of 3-point shooting (worse ratings or “boring” offense). Stars like LeBron James and NBA commissioner Adam Silver have publicly mused about whether teams are taking too many threes. Such debates show how deeply Curry has changed the game: what used to be a rare, exciting play has become commonplace.

*But on balance his influence has opened up basketball. As one analyst put it, the 3-point line has “made the sport better” by diversifying play and rewarding perimeter skill.*

### Conclusion

Stephen Curry’s career is a chronicle of a shooting revolution in action. Through astonishing statistics and championship success, he forced every team to re-think offense. The Warriors’ four titles in eight years (with Curry as the star) have made “lots of threes” into a winning blueprint.

Even youth basketball and the WNBA have moved their lines back to emulate today’s range. Whether his influence is universally loved or debated, one thing is clear: **Curry’s unprecedented shooting ability has permanently shifted the NBA toward a game where the three-point shot is the most potent weapon on the floor.**

Sources: Authoritative sports analytics and journalism sources document Curry’s impact and league trends, including: [FiveThirtyEight](#), [NBA.com Analysis](#), [WBUR Commentary](#), and [Wikipedia](#).

Data source: [NBA API](#)

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