

# **NSRE 2000**

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service &  
N.O.A.A.**

**SUMMARY REPORT #1 FROM THE:**

**NATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATION  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT (NSRE 2000)  
(Versions 1 to 5 with Sample Frequencies  
and Weighted Population Estimates)**

**OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES**

## INTRODUCTION

This summary is the first in a series that provides sample frequencies and weighted population estimates from the 1999-2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (*NSRE 2000*). The *NSRE 2000*, in general, was conducted to discover and describe: (1) participation by Americans in outdoor recreation activities, (2) opinions concerning management of both public and private forests and grasslands, (3) the importance and value of our natural environment, (3) uses and values of wildlife and wilderness, (4) people's lifestyles, and (5) recreational trips people take away from home. The *NSRE 2000* data will be used by a variety of public and private organizations for both management and research purposes.

This summary, specifically, provides sample frequencies and weighted estimates from versions one to five of the *NSRE 2000* regarding participation by Americans in outdoor recreation activities. Version's one to five had a total target sample of 22,700 Americans above the age of 16. The average length of interviews for these survey's was 17 minutes. Data was collected from July 1999 through October 2000. A total of 22, 847 useable interviews were completed.

Data from versions one to five of the *NSRE 2000* were examined for differences in demographic profiles between those surveyed and the overall population of the country. Differences were found to warrant weighting the data. The weighting strategy used a combination of multi-variate and multiplicative weights accounting for age, race, sex, education, and urban/rural differences. This weighting adjustment assures better estimates of recreation participation and trends across the general population. Subsequently, the population estimates provided in this report are from weighted sample frequencies and percentages. Furthermore, the population estimates are based upon the noninstitutionalized civilian population. Estimates of the noninstitutionalized civilian population (207.3 million) differ from the civilian population estimates (212.4 million) in that they exclude persons residing in institutions, such as nursing homes, prisons, mental hospitals or correctional facilities. People residing in such institutions are not part of the *NSRE*'s telephone sample, hence they are not contacted for interviews or used in the generation of population estimates.

Another source of bias comes from language barriers and the exclusion of non-English speaking US residents. According to the 1990 Census, 10.3% of the U.S. population is Hispanic. For the non- English speaking segment of the Hispanic population, the *NSRE 2000* is being conducted in Spanish. The most difficult part of this process is getting the translation generic enough for overall comprehension by all the various Hispanic dialects. Please note that other non-English speaking U.S. residents are excluded from the *NSRE 2000* survey. The complexity of translation and interviewing process make it cost prohibitive to conduct multi-lingual interviews.

In viewing the frequencies and percentages presented in this summary, it is important to remember that individuals were asked about their personal participation in specific recreation activities. When all versions of the *NSRE 2000* have been completed, participants would have answered questions pertaining to approximately 80 outdoor recreation activities. However, for versions one to five questions were restricted to people's participation in approximately 50 outdoor recreation activities.

**AMERICAN'S PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION:  
NSRE 2000 Summary (Versions 1 to 5)**

**(With Sample Frequencies and Weighted Population Estimates)**

The emphasis of this summary is on the frequencies and percentages of participation by a sample of Americans in various outdoor recreation activities. Version's one to five of the *NSRE 2000* covered more than 50 activities, from casual walking outdoors to more challenging activities such as mountain biking and scuba diving. In this summary, weighted sample frequencies and percentages for each outdoor recreation activity incorporated in the *NSRE 2000* to date are provided. (\*Please note population percentages and numbers in all tables were generated from weighted data, and rounded to the nearest decimal point).

**NSRE 2000 Survey**

Outdoor Recreation Participation

I would like you to think about the outdoor recreation activities you took part in during the past 12 months. Include any outdoor activities you did around the home, on vacations, trips, or any other time. We are interested in a wide range of outdoor activities from walking, bicycling, and birdwatching to camping, boating, skiing, and so forth.

Q20 During the past 12 months, did you participate in any outdoor team sports, such as softball or soccer?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>*Percent</u>	<u>*Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	4101	21.9	45.4
2. No	16022	78.0	161.7
3. Don't know	4	0.1	0.2

Q28 During the past 12 months, did you do any type of bicycling for fun or exercise?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	9217	39.0	80.8
2. No	13616	60.9	126.2
3. Don't know	9	0.1	0.2

Q36 Did any of your bicycling occur on back-country roads, trails, or cross country, riding a mountain bike or hybrid bike?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	4542	20.9	43.3
2. No	15576	79.0	163.8
3. Don't know	16	0.1	0.2

Q38 Did you go horseback riding or do other equestrian activities?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2522	9.8	20.3
2. No	20312	90.2	187.0
3. Don't know	7	0.0	0.0

Q42 Was any of your horseback riding done on trails, back roads, or cross country?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1809	8.0	16.6
2. No	18323	92.0	190.7
3. Don't know	3	0.0	0.0

Q45 Did you go picnicking?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	13768	55.2	114.4
2. No	9045	44.7	92.7
3. Don't know	30	0.1	0.2

Q51 Did you go to a gathering of family or friends in an outdoor area away from a home?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	17404	73.3	152.0
2. No	5400	26.4	54.7
3. Don't know	39	0.3	0.6

Q58 Did you visit an outdoor nature center, a nature trail, a visitor center, or a zoo?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	14189	57.1	118.4
2. No	8605	42.7	88.5
3. Don't know	48	0.2	0.4

Q68 Did you visit prehistoric structures, or archaeological sites?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	5242	20.6	42.7
2. No	17500	78.9	163.6
3. Don't know	99	0.5	1.0

Q74 Did you visit any historic sites, buildings, or monuments?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	12081	46.7	96.8
2. No	10630	52.7	109.3
3. Don't know	131	0.6	1.2

Q80 Did you go walking for exercise or pleasure?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	19855	83.8	173.7
2. No	2982	16.2	33.6
3. Don't know	3	0.0	0.0

Q83 Did you go day hiking?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	8036	33.4	69.2
2. No	14768	66.5	137.9
3. Don't know	36	0.1	0.2

Q93 Did you go backpacking on trails or cross country?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2677	10.8	22.4
2. No	20150	89.2	184.9
3. Don't know	12	0.0	0.0

Q101 Did you camp at developed sites with facilities such as tables and toilets?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	6361	25.4	52.7
2. No	16468	74.6	154.6
3. Don't know	11	0.0	0.0

Q109 Did you camp at a primitive site without facilities?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	3976	15.4	31.9
2. No	18847	84.6	175.4
3. Don't know	16	0.0	0.0

Q131 Did you visit a wilderness or other primitive, roadless area?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	8460	33.2	68.8
2. No	14301	66.4	137.7
3. Don't know	80	0.4	0.8

Q134 During the past 12 months, did you gather mushrooms, berries, firewood, or other natural products?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	7126	27.4	56.8
2. No	15706	72.5	150.3
3. Don't know	10	0.1	0.2

Q136 During the past 12 months, did you view, identify, or photograph birds ?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	7919	33.3	69.0
2. No	14827	66.6	138.1
3. Don't know	25	0.1	0.2

Q142 During the past 12 months did you view, identify, or photograph wildlife besides birds for example, deer, bears, snakes, butterflies, turtles?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	10696	41.9	86.9
2. No	12048	58.0	120.2
3. Don't know	24	0.1	0.2

Q148 Did you view, identify, or photograph salt or freshwater fish?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	5688	23.4	48.5
2. No	17057	76.5	158.6
3. Don't know	27	0.1	0.2

Q151 During the past 12 months did you view, identify, or photograph wildflowers, trees, or other natural vegetation?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	10598	42.5	88.1
2. No	12125	57.3	118.8
3. Don't know	42	0.2	0.4

Q154 During the past 12 months did you view or photograph natural scenery?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	13852	55.1	114.2
2. No	8872	44.7	92.7
3. Don't know	42	0.2	0.4

Q152 Did you go hunting during the past 12 months?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2915	11.0	22.8
2. No	19919	89.0	184.5
3. Don't know	3	0.0	0.0

Q153 Did you hunt big game?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2023	8.2	17.0
2. No	18109	91.8	190.3
3. Don't know	3	0.0	0.0

Q159 Did you hunt small game?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1702	7.0	14.5
2. No	18427	93.0	192.8
3. Don't know	6	0.0	0.0

Q165 Did you hunt waterfowl such as ducks or geese?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	624	2.3	4.8
2. No	22219	97.7	202.5
3. Don't know	4	0.0	0.0

Q171 Did you do any winter activities such as ice skating, snowboarding, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, or sledding in the past 12 months?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	6594	25.8	53.5
2. No	16232	74.1	153.6
3. Don't know	12	0.1	0.2

Q174 Did you go downhill skiing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1890	8.3	17.2
2. No	18245	91.7	190.1
3. Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0



Q173 Did you go snowboarding?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	818	4.6	9.5
2. No	19317	95.4	197.8
3. Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0

Q180 Did you go cross-country skiing or ski touring?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1052	3.9	8.1
2. No	19081	96.1	199.2
3. Don't know	2	0.0	0.0

Q189 Did you go snowmobiling?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1253	5.3	11.0
2. No	18881	94.7	196.3
3. Don't know	1	0.0	0.0

Q202 During the past 12 months, did you go sightseeing, driving for pleasure, or driving ATVs or motorcycles?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	15625	63.1	130.8
2. No	7204	36.9	76.5
3. Don't know	11	0.0	0.0

Q203 Did you go sightseeing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	13767	53.8	111.5
2. No	9070	46.2	95.8
3. Don't know	9	0.0	0.0

Q207 Did you go driving for pleasure on country roads or in a park, forest, or other natural setting?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	13727	53.4	110.7
2. No	9110	46.5	96.4
3. Don't know	9	0.1	0.2

Q197 Did you drive off-road for recreation using a 4-wheel drive, ATV, or motorcycle?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	3924	17.5	36.3
2. No	16203	82.5	171.0
3. Don't know	7	0.0	0.0

Q221 During the past 12 months did you go fishing in either fresh or saltwater?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	8378	34.2	70.9
2. No	14447	65.7	136.2
3. Don't know	14	0.1	0.2

Q222 Did you go freshwater fishing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	7391	29.6	61.4
2. No	15436	70.3	145.7
3. Don't know	20	0.1	0.2

Q234 Did you go fishing in cold water such as mountain rivers, lakes, or streams for trout?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2934	13.1	27.2
2. No	17167	86.7	179.7
3. Don't know	33	0.2	0.4

Q228 Did you go fishing in warm water rivers, lakes, or streams for bass, bream, catfish, pike, walleye, crappie, or perch?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	5144	22.9	47.5
2. No	14936	76.7	159.0
3. Don't know	55	0.4	0.8

Q241 Did you go saltwater fishing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2282	10.0	20.7
2. No	20535	89.8	186.2
3. Don't know	30	0.2	0.4

Q247 Did you go fishing for ocean-to-freshwater migratory fish such salmon, shad, or steelhead trout?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	998	4.3	8.9
2. No	21746	95.2	197.4
3. Don't know	101	0.5	1.0

Q256 During the past 12 months did you go sailing, motor boating, water skiing, jet skiing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, tubing, surfing, sailboarding, or any other form of boating?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	9586	36.7	76.1
2. No	13237	63.3	131.2
3. Don't know	15	0.0	0.0

Q257 Did you go sailing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1366	5.1	10.6
2. No	21476	94.9	196.7
3. Don't know	5	0.0	0.0

Q266 Did you go canoeing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2558	9.5	19.7
2. No	20284	90.5	187.6
3. Don't know	5	0.0	0.0

Q272 Did you go kayaking?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	824	3.2	6.6
2. No	22022	96.8	200.7
3. Don't know	1	0.0	0.0

Q278 Did you go rowing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1113	4.4	9.1
2. No	21724	95.6	198.2
3. Don't know	9	0.0	0.0

Q290 Did you go motorboating?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	6569	24.4	50.6
2. No	16270	75.6	156.7
3. Don't know	8	0.0	0.0

Q296 Did you go waterskiing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2040	8.2	17.0
2. No	20803	91.8	190.3
3. Don't know	3	0.0	0.0

Q302 Did you go boating using a personal watercraft such as jet skis, wave runners, etc.?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2259	9.5	19.7
2. No	20579	90.5	187.6
3. Don't know	8	0.0	0.0

Q284 Did you go rafting, tubing, or any other type of floating on rivers or other flowing water?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	2452	9.7	20.1
2. No	20383	90.3	187.2
3. Don't know	10	0.0	0.0

Q308 Did you go sailboarding or windsurfing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	182	0.8	1.7
2. No	22660	99.2	205.6
3. Don't know	4	0.0	0.0

Q314 Did you go surfing?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	307	1.5	3.1
2. No	22536	98.5	204.2
3. Don't know	3	0.0	0.0

Q319 During the past 12 months, did you go swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, or visit a beach or other waterside area?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	14922	60.1	124.6
2. No	7898	39.8	82.5
3. Don't know	15	0.1	0.2

Q326 Did you go swimming in streams, lakes, ponds, or the ocean?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	11239	43.8	90.8
2. No	11597	56.2	116.5
3. Don't know	10	0.0	0.0

Q332 During the past 12 months did you go snorkeling?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	1714	6.6	13.7
2. No	21125	93.3	193.4
3. Don't know	8	0.1	0.2

Q337 During the past 12 months did you go scuba diving?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	447	1.9	3.9
2. No	22398	98.1	203.4
3. Don't know	1	0.0	0.0

Q209 During the past 12 months did you visit beaches for any outdoor recreation activities?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	9789	39.5	81.9
2. No	13035	60.4	125.2
3. Don't know	20	0.1	0.2

Q211 During the past 12 months, did you visit a waterside other than a beach for recreation activities?

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number in Millions</u>
1. Yes	6973	27.1	56.2
2. No	15793	72.6	150.5
3. Don't know	72	0.3	0.6