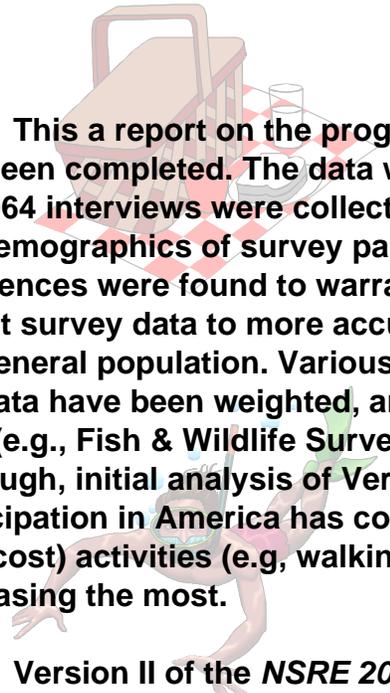


NSRE 2000 UPDATE

NATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

February 15, 2000



This a report on the progress of the *NSRE 2000* survey. To date Version I of *NSRE 2000* has been completed. The data were collected from July 1999 through November 1999. A total of 5,064 interviews were collected. These data have been examined for differences between the demographics of survey participants (a sample) and the census of population. Enough differences were found to warrant weighting the data. The purpose of weighting data is to adjust survey data to more accurately represent outdoor recreation participation and trends of the general population. Various weighting strategies are being examined. Until reviews of how the data have been weighted, and comparisons have been made with other national survey data (e.g., Fish & Wildlife Survey) no data releases will be made outside of the sponsors. Although, initial analysis of Version I data indicates, in general, that outdoor recreation participation in America has continued to increase over the last five years, with the simple (low cost) activities (e.g, walking, bicycling, hiking, picnicking, family gatherings etc) increasing the most.

Version II of the *NSRE 2000* is expected to be completed around February 18, 2000. To date, Version II has just over 4,300 completed interviews. This version contains questions pertaining to people's recreation participation, wilderness values and opinions, leisure lifestyles, environmental values and opinions, and demographics. Version III is presently being programmed, and is expected to be ready within the next 2-3 weeks.

Two overall goals of the *NSRE 2000* survey are to achieve sufficient sample sizes for production of state-level reports, and to estimate days of participation by state for water-based activities with 8-10 percent national participation rates. To achieve these goals, it was necessary to formulate a sampling strategy that would ensure that each version of *NSRE 2000* attained a given quota of urban, near urban, and rural telephone interviews. Although, Versions I and II employed a strictly proportional sampling allocation, a strategy has been developed which, over-all the *NSRE 2000* Versions, will achieve these goals.

The *NSRE 2000* is being conducted from three centers: the Human Dimensions Research Laboratory and the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the Center for Applied Social Research at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. These centers operate Monday through Sunday for six-to-eight-hour shifts. To date, 10,500 hours have been completed on data collection alone.

Production has been slower than was originally anticipated due to some unexpected problems. For instance, the length of the surveys (over 15 minutes) results in lowered response rates and number of surveys completed per hour. Furthermore, low unemployment rates has made recruiting and retaining staff difficult.

For further information regarding the content, progress and results of the *NSRE 2000* survey, contact Gary T. Green on (706)-559-4269 or ggreen@fs.fed.us. Information may also be obtained at <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/recreation/>