

CHAPTER 5

Trends in Time and Money Expenditures

Since the nationwide survey conducted by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in 1960-61, samples of the American public have listed reasons why they do not participate in outdoor recreation as often as they would like. As shown in table 24, two of the more frequent

Table 24. Outdoor Activity Constraints

(Percentage of respondents citing constraint)

Constraint	1960	1982-83
No constraints	28	6
Lack of time	52	56
Lack of money	13	20
Other reasons	84	54

historically listed constraints have been lack of time and lack of money. In the 1982-83 NRS, the respondents aged 16 and over were asked if their time and money expenditures had changed in the past 2 years and if they expected changes in the next 2 years. If they indicated a change in expenditures, the respondents were asked the reason(s) for the change.

The purpose of these questions was twofold: to find out if time and money expenditures were changing in the short term and to discover the reasons people gave for changing the amount of time and money they spent on outdoor recreation. The results provide some insight into what facilitates or limits participation in outdoor recreation.

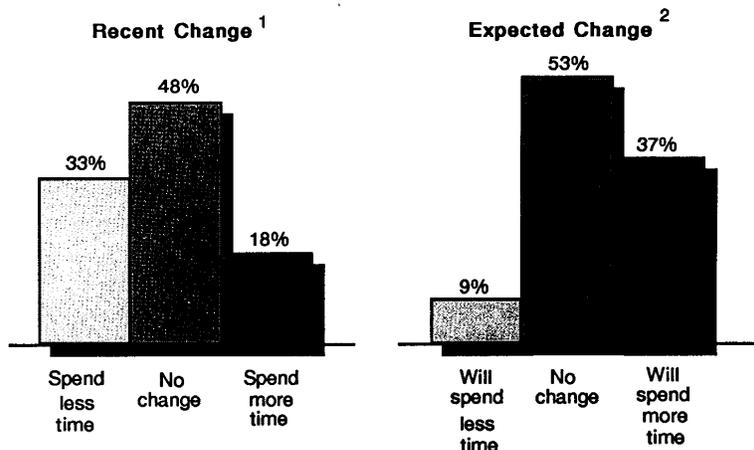
CHANGES IN TIME EXPENDITURES

Only persons 16 years and older were asked the questions about time expenditures. The first question asked if the respondent was spending more, less, or

about the same amount of time on outdoor recreation in the present (1982 or 1983) compared to 2 years earlier (1980 or 1981). The second question asked if the respondent expected to spend more, less, or the same amount of time on outdoor recreation 2 years in the future (1984 or 1985). Figure 9 shows that 18 percent of the adult respondents were spending more time presently compared to 2 years ago, but 33 percent were spending less time. A

slightly greater percentage (53 percent) of respondents said they would maintain their present time commitments for the next 2 years compared with those (48 percent) who had not changed during the 2 years prior to the survey. People were optimistic about spending more time in the future. Thirty-seven percent intended to spend more time engaging in outdoor recreation in the next 2 years and only 9 percent intended to spend less.

FIGURE 9
Recent and Expected Changes in Time Spent on Outdoor Recreation
 (Percentage of Respondents Age 16 or Older Who Cited Increasing, Decreasing, or Unchanging Allocations of Time.)



¹ Recent change in time spent on outdoor recreation compared to 2 years prior to the interview.

² Expected change in time spent on outdoor recreation during the 2 years following the interview.

The NRS activity questions provided two approximate indicators of the amount of time people spent in outdoor recreation—number of activities and number of days engaged in these activities during the 12 months prior to the interview. Figure 10 shows that the people who said they were spending more time now than 2 years ago were doing more activities than other respondents—an average of 10 in a list of 36. The entire sample aged 16 and over participated in an average of six activities. The people who said they planned to spend more time in the next 2 years already were slightly more active, with an average of eight activities in a year. Those spending less time or not changing their present or future level of activity averaged six activities, reflecting the sample's average. It appears from these results that about half of the adult population did not alter their allocation of time to outdoor recreation significantly over a 4-year time span.

Figure 11 shows the number of activity-days people said they engaged in outdoor recreation.¹ Respondents at least 16 years old spent an average of 35 activity-days participating in the recreation activities listed on the NRS questionnaire. The pattern was the same as that for the number of activities. People who spent more activity-days than the average also said they spent or intended to spend more time in outdoor recreation.

The typical respondents indicating decreased time expenditures for both the present and the future were aged 40 and over; earning an annual income of \$10,000 to \$15,000; Black; separated, divorced, or widowed; and/or engaged in 1 to 10 recreation activities from the NRS list. Those persons with increased time expenditures for both the present and the future typically were aged 25 to 40; working 1 to 20 hours per week; earning annual incomes of over \$25,000; married; engaged in over 15 outdoor recreation activities; in a family of at least four persons; college educated; and/or living in the suburbs within an SMSA.² People in a family of three indicated a reduced time expenditure over the prior 2 years but expected to spend more time in the future. In the opposite case, persons aged 16 to 24 expected to engage in less outdoor recreation 2 years in the future but were presently spending a great deal of time. In appendix A, tables A-11 and A-12 illustrate the relationship of these demographic characteristics to changes in time expenditure.

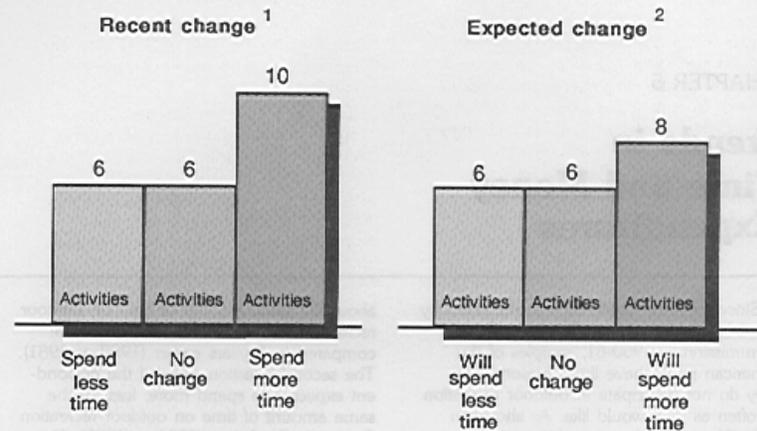
The respondents who did not indicate a change in their time expenditures over the prior 2 years or in the future included many people not working; with annual incomes of

¹Activity days are defined in chapter 1 and listed in table 1.

²These generalizations are based on a combination of central tendencies. Few individuals share all of these characteristics.

FIGURE 10
Average Number of Activities Engaged in by Persons Citing Various Changes in Time Spent on Outdoor Recreation

(Respondents Age 16 or Older)

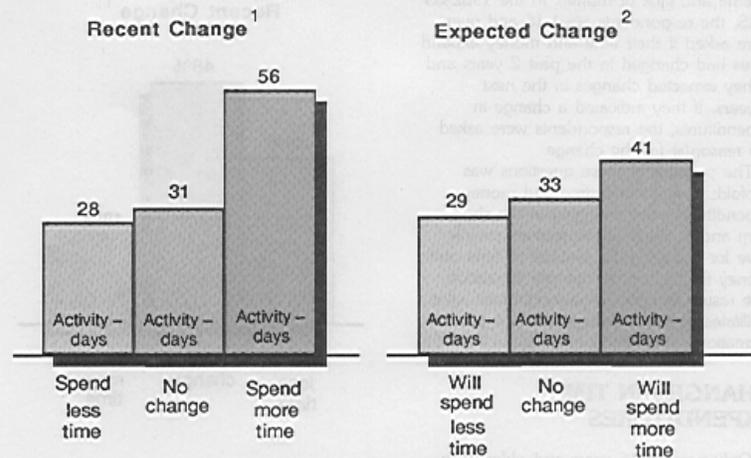


¹ Recent change in time spent on outdoor recreation compared to 2 years prior to interview.

² Expected change in time spent on outdoor recreation during the 2 years following interview.

FIGURE 11
Average Annual Number of Activity-Days of Participation by Persons Citing Various Changes in Time Spent on Outdoor Recreation

(Respondents Age 16 or Older)



¹ Recent change in time spent on outdoor recreation compared to 2 years prior to interview.

² Expected change in time spent on outdoor recreation during the 2 years following interview.

less than \$10,000; not engaged in any outdoor activities; in a family of one or two persons; with an education less than a high school level; and/or living in rural areas.

Open-ended questions asked the respondents why they changed the amount of time spent on outdoor recreation to find out from the respondents directly what they perceived as limiting or facilitating the time they spent in outdoor recreation. Table 25 lists the percentages of responses to these followup questions concerning expenditure of time. In appendix A, tables A-13 through A-16 define the system used to code these open-ended responses and detail the percentages obtained for each response.

The facilitating factors that coincided with spending more time in outdoor recreation included the family, certain lifestyle changes (such as gain of a companion, doing more, enjoyment of a particular recreation activity, change in recreation activity), more time and/or money available, work-related reasons, gain of equipment, and access to or availability of physical resources. Increasing age of children was the most consistent response given for spending more time. Work-related reasons such as retirement or change in number of working hours also accounted for more time spent. As shown in chapter 1, the pursuit of outdoor recreation decreases as age increases. Retirement is perceived by the individual as an opportunity to spend more time in outdoor recreation. However, the amount of activity individuals pursue will likely be less than they pursued in younger years. As shown in table 4, the decline in activity begins when individuals are in their forties, well before retirement age for the majority of workers.

The primary competitors with outdoor recreation for an individual's time were work and school. Lifestyle changes, health problems, and lack of time/money also contributed to less time spent in outdoor recreation. Lifestyle changes in this category included "getting older" or "aging," the most consistent response. Family responsibilities such as child care also contributed to less outdoor recreation time spent. The age of children, not simply the presence of children in the household, influenced the amount of time parents spent in outdoor recreation.

CHANGES IN MONEY EXPENDITURES

The survey also asked similar questions regarding the expenditure of money on outdoor recreation. Only those respondents aged 16 and older who had spent money for outdoor recreation in the 12 months prior to their interview were asked the ques-

tions on how their expenditures had changed. A total of 65 percent of the sample spent money on outdoor recreation. Table 26 lists the demographic characteristics of the persons who said they had spent money on outdoor recreation during the past year. They were typically people who were in smaller households, White, earning greater incomes, and college graduates. Most respondents aged 60 and older said they did not spend money on outdoor recreation.

Figure 12 illustrates how much the respondents said they spent on outdoor recreation during the 12 months prior to the interview. A wide range of expenditure patterns is evident. Before the question about how much money they spent, the respondents were asked what they spent money on and were given a list of items. Figure 13 illustrates that user fees, sporting goods, and travel accounted for most of the spending with clothing and equipment as other major expense items. Other expenses included license fees, rentals, and special classes.

Respondents who cited more than one type of expenditure were asked, "On which one of these did you spend the most money?" "Travel costs for outdoor recreation" was the most frequent response.

Figure 14 indicates a slightly different picture for money expenditure changes than that shown for time expenditures. Respondents tended to spend a larger percentage of their money on outdoor recreation in 1982-83 than they did 2 years before, and expected to spend even more in the next 2 years. Less than half of the respondents said their expenses had remained the same or expected them to stay the same. Inflation appears to have influenced these responses, as an examination of the reasons for the change illustrates.

Income, age, marital status, and employment status showed a relationship with the expenditure of money. About one in five respondents in each age category said they were spending a smaller percentage of their income on outdoor recreation in 1982 than 2 years before. However, a disproportionate number of the younger respondents spent more in the present than 2 years ago, and most of the respondents aged 40 and over were spending about the same amount. The older respondents also intended to remain at the same expenditure level for the next 2 years. People who had never married claimed to be spending more of their income on outdoor recreation than 2 years before and expected to spend an even larger percentage in the future. As income level increased, the proportion of persons spending a larger percentage of their income on outdoor recreation increased. In appen-

dix A, tables A-17 and A-18 list the demographic characteristics of persons by their expenditures of money for outdoor recreation.

When the respondents were queried about why they were decreasing their money expenditures, about half listed lack of money or lack of time, as shown in table 27. Spending money on outdoor recreation was associated with lifestyle changes such as doing more activities and purchasing equipment. Inflation was a common constraint. Many people said they were spending an increasing percentage of their money (both over the prior 2 years and in the future) because of inflation; however, they did not indicate a decrease in their pursuit of outdoor recreation.

Figure 15 illustrates the relationship between time and money expenditures. Only respondents who spent money on outdoor recreation and were at least 16 years old are reflected in these percentages. The majority of the respondents who claimed they spent a larger percentage of their income on outdoor recreation also said they spent more time. The same correlation was shown for those spending the same or a smaller percentage of their income. However, this correlation was not perfect, showing that different factors influenced the amount of time and the amount of money spent on outdoor recreation.

SUMMARY

As in past surveys, the most frequently cited constraint on outdoor recreation participation was lack of time, followed by lack of money. Respondents aged 16 and older were asked about changes in their allocations of time and money to outdoor recreation over the prior 2 years, and about any anticipated changes in the next 2 years (figures 9 and 14). About half cited no change, past or future. Of those whose time allocations had changed, the number who cited a decrease in time spent was almost double the number of those who claimed to be spending more time on outdoor pursuits. By contrast, about four times as many respondents anticipated a rise as expected a decline in time spent over the next 2 years. Relatively few respondents cited a reduction in dollar expenditures for outdoor recreation, either past or future.

The most common reasons cited for changes in time spent in outdoor pursuits were related to the changing stages of the life-cycle. Next to old age, the most constraining life-condition seems to be the early child-rearing years. This is followed by a rapid increase as the children become older.

Table 25. Reason for Spending More Time or Less Time on Outdoor Recreation

(Percent)

Reason for spending more time	Respondents citing reason ¹	Reason for spending less time	Respondents citing reason ¹
Lifestyle changes, includes gain of companion, change in recreation activity, enjoyment of a specific activity	25	Work, includes school	26
More time and/or money available	23	Lifestyle changes, includes aging	25
Family	22	Lack of time and/or money available	18
Work, includes retirement	14	Poor health	16
Health	8	Family responsibilities	11
Equipment gain	4	Lack of equipment	2
Resource opportunity	4	Resource opportunity	2

¹Age 16 and older.**Table 26. Characteristics of Respondents Who Spent Money on Outdoor Recreation**

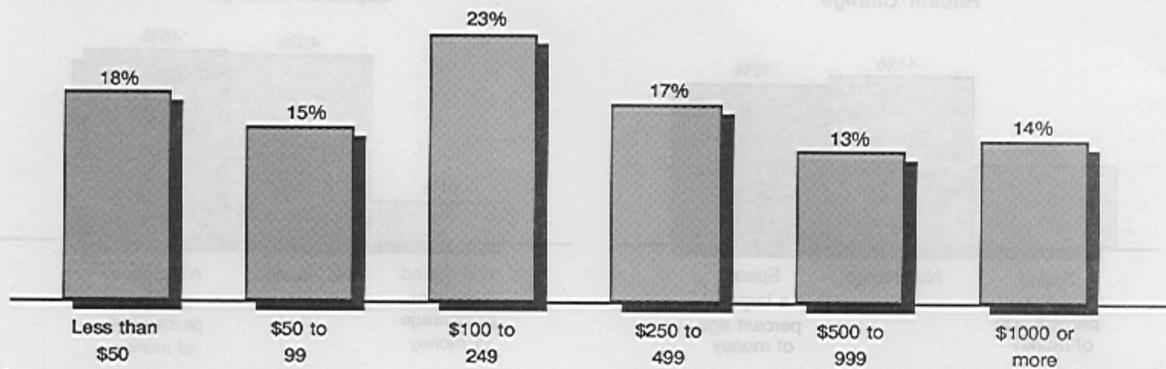
Demographic characteristic	Percentage who spent money	Demographic characteristic	Percentage who spent money
Total Sample	64	Family size	
Sex		1	44
Male	73	2	61
Female	56	3	70
Age		4	73
16 to 24	70	5 or more	68
25 to 39	78	Residence	
40 to 59	65	SMSA ¹ , center city	57
60 and older	37	SMSA, not center city	69
Race		Not SMSA	65
White	67	Work hours per week	
Black	46	0	53
Other	60	1 to 20	69
Education		21 to 39	76
0 to 11 years	5	40	73
12 to 15 years	48	41 or more	79
16 or more years	47	Activity participation	
Annual income (dollars)		No activities	5
Less than 10,000	38	1 to 5 activities	53
10,000 to 14,999	52	6 to 10 activities	81
15,000 to 24,999	72	11 to 15 activities	92
25,000 to 49,999	78	16 to 20 activities	96
50,000 or more	83	Over 20 activities	99
Marital status		Region	
Single, never married	67	Northeast	64
Single, formerly married	44	North Central	64
Married	69	South	62
		West	69

¹Percentage of respondents aged 16 and older who answered "yes" to the question "Did you spend any money in the past 12 months on outdoor recreation?"²Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area.

FIGURE 12

Money Spent for Outdoor Recreation During 12 Months Prior to Interview

(Percentage of Respondents Age 16 and Older Who Cited Different Expenditures¹)

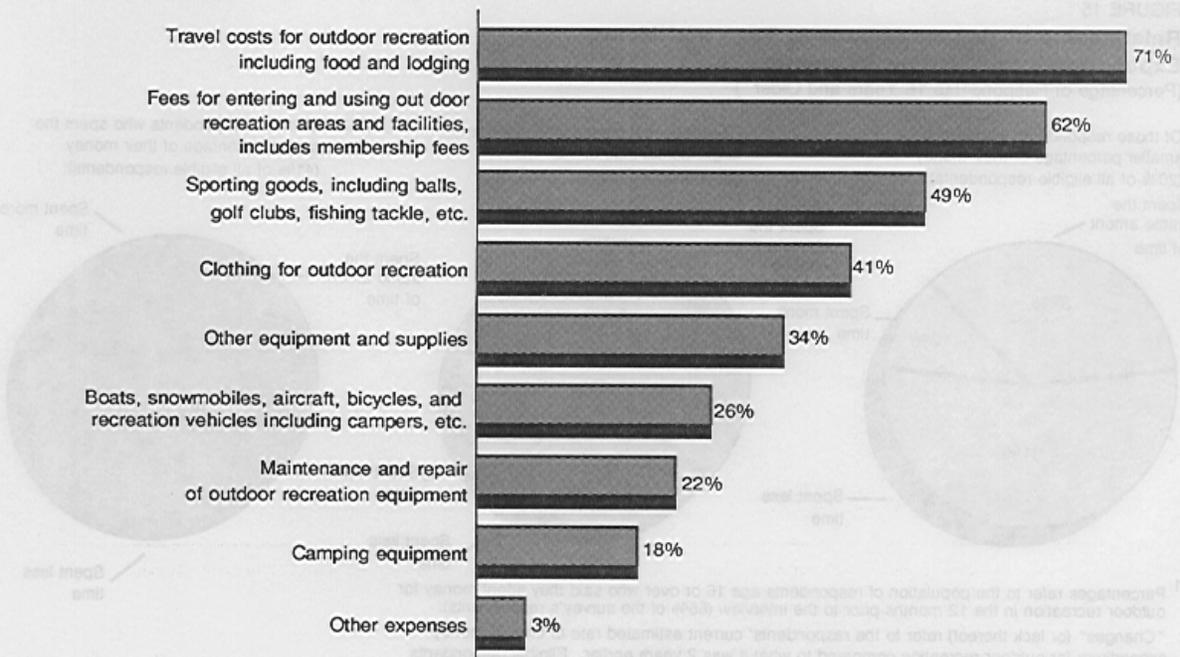


¹ Percentages refer to the population of respondents age 16 or over who said they spent money for outdoor recreation in the 12 months prior to the interview (65% of the survey's respondents).

FIGURE 13

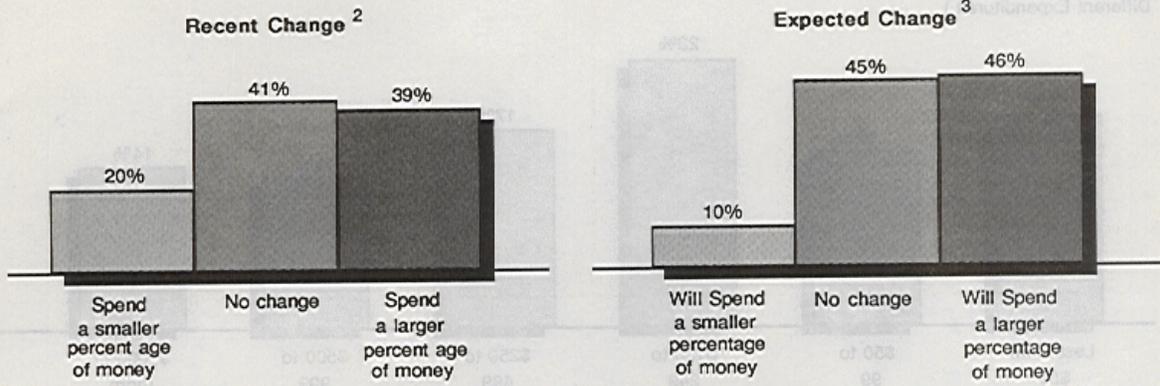
Purchases for Outdoor Recreation in Prior Year

(Percentage of Respondents 16 Years and Older Citing Each Purpose¹)



¹ Percentages refer to the population of respondents age 16 or over who said they spent money for outdoor recreation in the 12 months prior to the interview (65% of the survey's respondents). Respondents were asked to indicate all categories in which they spent money.

FIGURE 14
Recent and Expected Changes in Money Spent on Outdoor Recreation
 (Percentage of Respondents 16 Years and Older¹)



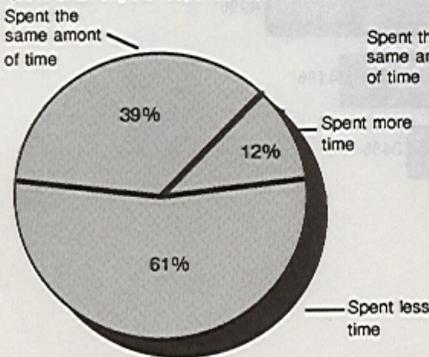
¹ Percentages refer to the population of respondents age 16 or over who said they spent money for outdoor recreation in the 12 months prior to the interview (65% of the survey's respondents).

² Reported change in percentage of respondent's available money which was spent on outdoor recreation compared to 2 years prior to interview.

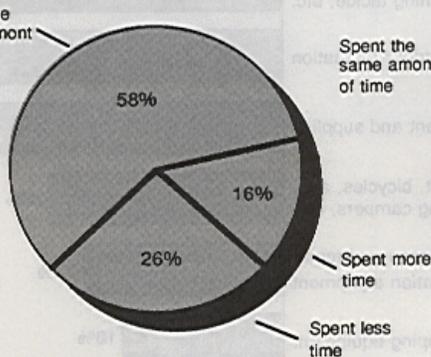
³ Expected change in percentage of respondent's available money which will be spent on outdoor recreation during 2 years following interview.

FIGURE 15
Relationship of Recent Change in Time and Money Expenditures for Outdoor Recreation
 (Percentage of Respondents 16 Years and Older¹)

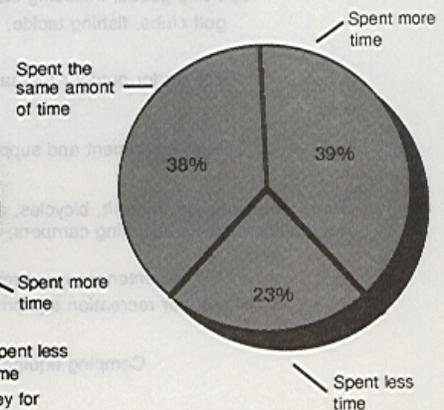
Of those respondents who spent a smaller percentage of their money (20% of all eligible respondents):



Of those respondents who spent a larger percentage of their money (39% of all eligible respondents):



Of those respondents who spent the same percentage of their money (41% of all eligible respondents):



¹ Percentages refer to the population of respondents age 16 or over who said they spent money for outdoor recreation in the 12 months prior to the interview (65% of the survey's respondents).

"Changes" (or lack thereof) refer to the respondents' current estimated rate of time or money expenditure for outdoor recreation compared to what it was 2 years earlier. Eligible respondents were first divided into three categories (the three circles) based on whether their estimated rate of dollar expenditure (percentage of available dollars) had declined, stayed the same or risen. Each category was then further divided into three sectors based on the percentage of respondents within it whose estimated expenditure of time had declined, stayed the same or risen.

Table 27. Reason for Spending a Larger Percentage or a Smaller Percentage of Money on Outdoor Recreation
(Percentage of respondents)

Reason for spending a larger percentage	Respondents citing reason ¹	Reason for spending a smaller percentage	Respondents citing reason ¹
Lifestyle changes, includes doing more recreation activities	26	Lack of time and/or money available	38
Time and/or money availability, includes inflation	49	Lifestyle changes	23
Equipment gain	11	No need for or lack of equipment	21
Family	9	Family responsibility	8
Work	3	Work responsibility	6
Resource opportunity	2	Poor health	3
Health	1	Lack of resource opportunity	2

¹Age 16 and older.