

Trends in Trail Activities

October 10, 2012 - Santa Fe, New Mexico

Surveys of Outdoor Recreation Participation

- Outdoor Recreation Participation Report
 - Annual Survey by the Outdoor Foundation
 - 2011 most recent survey
- National Survey on Recreation & the Environment (NSRE)
 - USDA Forest Service
 - 2009 most recent surveys
- NSRE National Kids Survey
 - USDA Forest Service/University of Tennessee/University of Georgia
 - Conducted 2007-2009

Top 5 in Outdoor Recreation

Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Participation Rate:

1. Running, Jogging, and Trail Running
2. Fishing
3. Road Biking, Mountain Biking, and BMX
4. Camping
5. Hiking

Participation in Trail Activities

- Running/Jogging 17.7%
- Bicycling (road/paved) 14.1%
- Hiking 12.1 %
- Bicycling 2.4%
(mountain/non-paved)
- Trail Running 2.0%

Trail Sports vs. Team Sports

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| ■ Running/Jogging | 17.7% |
| ■ Bicycling (road/paved) | 14.1% |
| ■ Hiking | 12.1 % |
| ■ Basketball | 8.1% |
| ■ Soccer | 4.6% |
| ■ Baseball | 4.4% |
| ■ Bicycling (mt/non-paved) | 2.4% |
| ■ Trail Running | 2.0% |

Youth Outdoor Activities

1. “Just hanging out or playing outdoors”
2. Being physically active by **biking, jogging, walking**, skateboarding, etc.
3. Playing music or using other electronic devices outdoors.
4. Playing or practicing team sports
5. Reading/studying outdoors.

Participation Trends

| Activity | 2005-2009 % Participating | % Change 1982-83 to 2005-09 |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Walk for Pleasure | 85% | 118% |
| Day Hiking | 34% | 228% |
| Running or Jogging | 34% | 78% |
| Bicycling | 38% | 59% |
| Outdoor Team Sports | 27% | 50% |

Trends & Projections

- "...what people now choose to do for outdoor recreation is different from previous generations..."
- "...nature-based recreation is growing and is likely to continue to grow."
- Participation in all activities is projected to grow due to population growth.

Sources

- “Outdoor Recreation Participation Report 2012”
 - www.outdoorfoundation.org
- “Outdoor Recreation Trends & Futures: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment”. H. Ken Cordell, 2012. USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station.
 - <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/>