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# Recreation Statistics Update<sup>1</sup>



Update Report No. 6  
January, 2005

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## American Indian and Alaskan Native Participation in Land-based Outdoor Recreation Activities<sup>2</sup>

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The United States' 2000 Census showed that 2.48 million (0.9%) of the 281.4 million U.S. residents reported their race as "American Indian or Alaska Native." These Census respondents were also asked to provide the name of their principal tribal affiliation. The Native American population in the U.S. grew by more than one-half million people, or 26 percent, between 1990 and 2000. This growth was twice the overall national population growth rate of 13 percent.

Just under half (48%) of Native Americans live in the West census region, followed by the South with 29 percent. The Midwest is third (16%) followed by the Northeast with just under 7 percent. The five states with the largest Native American populations are California, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Together, these states comprise almost 47 percent of the U.S. Native American population. Just under one-fourth live in either California or Oklahoma. Alaska has the largest proportion of overall population who are Native Americans at 15.6 percent, followed by New Mexico (9.5 %), and South Dakota (8.3%). Oklahoma is fourth at 7.9 percent. Just 1.0 percent of California's 33.9 million people in 2000 were Native Americans. The top five tribal groupings nationally are Cherokee, Navajo, Sioux, Chippewa, and Latin American Indian.

Shown in the table below are percentages of Native Americans and of Whites, 16 or older, in the United States who participated in the 25 outdoor recreation activities listed. Generally, the percentages are fairly close to one another. Over 80 percent of both populations walked for pleasure, about three quarters of each attended outdoor family gatherings, nearly 60 percent went driving for pleasure, over 40 percent visited a wilderness or primitive area, and about 40 percent went biking. Percentages of American Indians were noticeably greater for the activities of driving motor vehicles off-road, visiting a farm or other agricultural setting, hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, and rock climbing. Percentages of Whites participating were noticeably greater only for the activities of orienteering and gardening or landscaping for pleasure. There are many more similarities than differences in percentages of each population participating in the various activities as the outdoor recreation of choice.

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<sup>1</sup>This update is based on research information generated for the Forest Service's 2005 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Assessment Update Report.

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Percentages of Native Americans and Whites, 16 or older, participating in land-based outdoor recreation activities, 2000-2004.

Activity	Percent of American Indians participating	Percent of Whites participating
Walk for pleasure	82.2	85.5
Family gathering	74.1	75.1
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	64.1	70.2
Driving for pleasure	58.2	59.1
Picnicking	57.3	56.7
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	43.7	45.8
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	42.7	44.4
Bicycling	38.2	40.6
Day hiking	36.4	37.6
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	36.0	34.4
Developed camping	33.9	31.9
Primitive camping	31.3	30.7
Drive off-road	27.4	23.1
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	25.5	21.1
Mountain biking	22.2	19.4
Hunting	18.9	14.0
Big game hunting	17.9	11.8
Backpacking	16.0	11.0
Mountain climbing	13.4	11.0
Small game hunting	12.0	9.1
Horseback riding (general)	11.5	8.9
Rock climbing	9.5	6.9
Horseback riding on trails	9.0	4.9
Migratory bird hunting	5.4	3.0
Orienteering	1.3	2.1

This Recreation Statistics Update Report is based on recent data that updates the estimated participation statistics reported in **Outdoor Recreation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century America**, published by Venture Publishing, College Station, PA. Copies of **Outdoor Recreation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century America** may be obtained from Venture Publishing at their website (<http://www.venturepublish.com>) or telephone at 1-814-234-4561. To see more of our research, please visit our website (<http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends>).