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2005 Outdoor Recreation Participation Study | *Quick Facts*

Total Americans age 16+ that participated in an outdoor activity: 161.6 million or 72%

- The majority of Americans 16 and older participated in between one and three outdoor activities (62.6%) in 2005.
- The top five outdoor activities by number of outings Americans participated in by activity at least once in the prior year:
 - Bicycling – 3.1 billion
 - Trail running – 1.3 billion
 - Fishing – 1 billion
 - Hiking – 800 million
 - Camping – 347 million

Total outings declined: 11% in 2005

- In 2005, Americans 16 and older took a total of 7.3 billion outings compared to 8.3 billion outings in 2004. Bicycling and fishing accounted for the bulk of the decline:
 - Bicycling declined from 3.9 billion outings in 2004 to 3.1 billion outings in 2005.
 - Fishing declined from 1.4 billion outings in 2004 to 1.1 billion outings in 2005.
- Median number of outings declined from 51 in 2004 to 45 in 2005.

Shift in activity participation reveals movement towards “Done in a Day” activities:

- Overnight backpacking (22.5% decline) is the one activity that declined dramatically in participation over an eight year period.
- Snowshoeing and trail running increased significantly over the eight year period (83% and 22% growth respectively).

Many Americans seem to be trying outdoor activities, but not embracing these sports as part of their daily lives:

- Fly-fishing peaked in 2004 but then declined 19.9% from 2004 to 2005.
- Telemark skiing peaked in 2000, then declined in 2001, and stabilized after that time period.
- Except for bicycling, bird watching and trail running, the majority of individuals participate only one or two times each year in each activity.

Severe weather in 2005 may have had an impact on participation:

- Sit-on-top kayaking increased 34.4% from 2003 and 22.4% from 2004. (Snowy winters mean available water for kayaking.)
- Fly-fishing declined 19.9% in 2005. (Too much snow run off is bad for fly-fishing as is a bad hurricane season.)
- Bicycling total outings declined by 800,000 from 2004 to 2005. (Bicycling can be affected by a strong hurricane season and bitter cold.)

Adventure/sports travel is an area for growth:

- In 2005, one in four Americans 16 and older (or 59.5 million Americans) took a vacation specifically to participate in an outdoor activity. This is a fraction of the total 161.6 million participants.
- Leading vacation activities:
 - Swimming – 20%
 - Hiking/backpacking – 18%
 - Fishing – 14%
 - Camping – 14%

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- More Americans are participating in water-sports vacations such as swimming in 2005 (20%) than in 2003 (15%). Participation in camping vacations is also greater in 2005 (14%) than it was in 2003 (11%).
- One-third of active travelers are over the age of 45.

The 2005 participant is adding more activities to his/her repertoire:

- Total outings declined slightly (5%) in 2005 from 1998 (6.2 billion outings in 1998 compared to 5.9 billion outings in 2005). This is due in large part to the decline in bicycle outings (25% decline) in 2005 (4.1 billion outings in 1998 compared to 3.1 billion outings in 2005).
- The total number of activities in which Americans 16 years of age and older participate has increased from an average of 2.8 activities in 1998 to 3.6 activities in 2005.

Total Americans between ages 16 and 24 that participated in outdoor activities: 86.5%

- These young adults took 21.7 billion total outings in 2005 and participated in an average of 4.2 outdoor activities.
- Activities experiencing growth:
 - Cross-country skiing has increased from 2004 to 2005.
 - Trail running has grown from 2003 to 2005.
 - Snowshoeing and Telemark skiing saw greater participation in 2005 than in 1998.
- Young adults are participating less in Backpacking and in Bicycling (both mountain and paved road) in 2005 than in 1998.
- Total outings (all activities combined) have declined, but only directionally, not significantly, from 68 outings annually in 2004 to 60 outings in 2005.
 - Average number of natural rock climbing outings declined significantly in 2005 (3) from 2003 (8).
- Hispanic and Black/African American participants tend to be young adult males:
 - Hispanic participants: male (66%), 16 to 24 year olds (42%).
 - Black/African American participants: male (60%), 16 to 24 year olds (40%).
 - Caucasian/White participants: male (54%) 16 to 24 year olds (20%).

Total female Americans that participated in outdoor activities: 74.5 Million

- Participation in outdoor activities among female Americans ages 16+ remained stable from 2004 (63.7% or 73.2 Million) to 2005 (64.2% or 74.5 Million).
- Female participants, on average, took significantly less outings in 2005 (28.4) than in 2004 (38.3).
- Females took 21.2 billion total outings in 2005 and participated in an average of 3 outdoor activities.
- Bicycling saw the most dramatic drop in the number of outings for American females.
 - Females averaged 18 paved road biking outings in 2005 compared to 28 in 2004.
 - Females averaged 10 mountain biking outings in 2005 compared to 17 in 2004.
- Fewer female participants in 2005 are between the ages of 16 and 24 than were in 2003.
- More female participants were married (57%) in 2005 compared to 2004 (53%) and 2003 (52%).
- Female participation in specific activities has fluctuated over time:
 - Female participation in fly-fishing declined from 2004 to 2005.
 - Car-camping participation declined from 2003 to 2005.
 - Biking participation declined from 1998 to 2005.
 - Participation in kayaking and snowshoeing increased substantially from 2004 to 2005.

22 Outdoor activities tracked:

- 13 Activities tracked since 1998 – backpacking; bicycling on paved roads, dirt, and single track bicycling; car camping and camping away from car; canoeing; cross country/Nordic skiing; hiking; rafting; snowshoeing; Telemark skiing; and trail running.
- 9 Additional activities added since 1998 – bird watching; climbing on natural rock; artificial wall climbing; ice climbing; fly-fishing; non-fly fishing; sit-on-top kayaking; touring/sea kayaking; and whitewater kayaking.
- For the first time in 2005, participation data for hunting and motorized off-road activities was also collected, but not added to totals.

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