
Use and Users of the Appalachian Trail: A Source Book



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Notes to Users of the electronic version of “Use and Users of the Appalachian Trail: A Source Book”

This Source Book is a compilation of data from a comprehensive user survey conducted on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) between May and October, 1999. This effort was led by researchers from the University of Vermont in partnership with The Pennsylvania State University, and carried out with the dedicated assistance of Trail club volunteers and seasonal staff. Funding for the survey was provided by the Appalachian Trail Park Office of the National Park Service and the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service.

A limited number of paper copies of this Source Book were distributed to the partners in the Cooperative Management System of the A.T. The electronic version of the Source Book attempts to provide for distribution of the survey data to interested parties while minimizing hardcopy reproduction costs.

The electronic version of the Source Book contains a large volume of information, covering over 490 pages in PDF format. To view this document you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or higher installed on your computer. Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 has been provided on this disk, to install it, open the Acrobat_Reader folder and double-click on the file ar405eng.exe.

Each of the 13 sections of the Source Book may be accessed separately from the Table of Contents page. **Click on the title of a section on the Table of Contents page to access that section.**

You may find it useful to print a hardcopy of Appendix A (the Study Questionnaire and Cover Letters) as a reference when using the electronic version of the Source Book.

Individual page numbers in this electronic version are based on the hardcopy text version of the Source Book, and are not totally compatible. The hardcopy text version did not include page numbers for introductory pages or section title pages.

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Introduction to the Study

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) is a vital part of America's national system of parks, trails, monuments, battlefields, recreation areas, and other significant natural and cultural resources. Established as the first National Scenic Trail by Congress with passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968, the AT is a continuous marked footpath extending approximately 2,160 miles across the Appalachian Mountains from the summit of Springer Mountain in Georgia to the summit of Katahdin in Maine. The AT forms a greenway that connects numerous public land areas in 14 states (Figure 1). These public lands include 8 National Forests, 6 units of the National Park System, and more than 60 state parks, state forests, and state wildlife areas. Preserved within this greenway is the remarkable story of citizen action in the public interest, together with a wide variety of natural and cultural resources making the AT a valuable part of America's heritage.

The initial route of the AT was constructed almost entirely by volunteers between 1923 and 1937, building upon the concepts of Benton MacKaye, a forward-thinking conservationist. During and since that time, volunteers affiliated with the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and its 31 member trail clubs have planned, constructed, reconstructed, and maintained the footpath and its associated system of overnight shelters, campsites, and facilities.

Shortly after the original completion of the AT, private land development began to encroach upon the Trail. The National Trails System Act provided for a long-term public land acquisition program, which to date has been successful in protecting more than 99% of the Trail treadway as public lands. Today, the AT is both a component of the National Trails System and a unit of the National Park System. Its remarkable decentralized, volunteer-based cooperative management system sets it apart as a premier example of a partnership program involving many levels of federal and state government, a dedicated non-profit organization (ATC), and private citizen volunteers. Annually, more than 4,000 volunteers contribute more than 175,000 hours of effort to the AT.

The AT is a complex unit of the National Park System, and a comprehensive survey of visitor use has never been undertaken. Therefore, little has been known about visitor use patterns, including visitor characteristics, motivations for use, and visitor attitudes about trail management issues and practices. The purpose of the survey was to gather basic information on visitor use

Figure 1. Map of the Appalachian Trail



and users of the AT that would help inform trail management organizations, including volunteer hiking groups, the ATC, the National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service. The study was also designed to provide important baseline data from which to measure and monitor changes in visitor use patterns. The study was conducted by Dr. Robert Manning, Research Data Specialist William Valliere, and Graduate Research Assistant James Bacon of the University of Vermont, and Dr. Alan Graefe and Graduate Research Assistant Gerard Kyle of Penn State University. Rita Hennessy was the National Park Service liaison to the study. A Study Advisory Board comprised of representative from the ATC and its member trail clubs, the National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service guided the study.

Study Methods

The primary study method consisted of a survey of a representative sample of visitors along the AT. With the help of the Study Advisory Board, a wide-ranging set of issues and variables was identified for inclusion in the study. These issues and variables were translated into a study questionnaire that is shown in Appendix A. To the extent feasible, study questions were designed to replicate visitor surveys that had previously been conducted on selected sections of the AT. The questionnaire was approved by the federal Office of Management and Budget prior to administration.

A detailed sampling plan was designed based on geographic divisions of the trail. For purposes of management, the AT is divided into four geographic regions – New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southwest Virginia, and the Deep South. To facilitate a more detailed sampling plan, the trail was further divided into twenty-two relatively homogeneous geographic segments based on physical features, park and wilderness boundaries, and volunteer hiking club jurisdictions. The regional divisions used in the sampling plan are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Geographic/ Administrative Divisions

NEW ENGLAND	MID-ATLANTIC	SOUTHWEST VA	DEEP SOUTH
1. Baxter St. Park	10. New York	15. Blue Ridge	19. North of Smokies-Pisgah/
2. 100 Mile Wilderness	11. New Jersey	Parkway	Cherokee NF
3. Western Maine	12. Pennsylvania	16. Outing Club of	20. Smoky Mtns.
4. NH-Mahoosucs	13. Maryland	VA Tech	21. NC-Nantahala NF
5. NH-White Mtns.	14. Shenandoah	17. Catawba	22. Georgia
6. NH-South		18. Mount Rogers	
7. Vermont			
8. Massachusetts			
9. Connecticut			

Sampling was conducted by a combination of employees, volunteers of local trail-maintaining clubs and the ATC, and staff hired specifically for this study. Sampling consisted of approaching randomly selected AT visitors, briefly explaining the study, and asking if visitors would be willing to participate in the study by providing their name and address and completing

a mail-back questionnaire at the completion of their visit. Detailed sampling instructions are shown in Appendix B. Sampling was designed to yield approximately 100 completed questionnaires for each of the twenty-two trail segments. In addition, thru hikers (visitors hiking the entire trail in one calendar year) were purposively sampled in Baxter State Park, Maine to insure that a large enough sample of this type of hiker was obtained for analysis purposes. The sampling plan was implemented in the summer and fall of 1999. A total of 2,847 AT visitors agreed to participate in the study and were mailed a questionnaire, cover letter, and postage-paid, self-addressed return envelope shortly after their visit. One week after the initial mailing, visitors were mailed a postcard thanking them for their participation and reminding them to complete and return the questionnaire. Visitors who did not return a completed questionnaire within three weeks of the initial mailing were mailed a second questionnaire, cover letter, and postage-paid, self-addressed return envelope. Finally, at the completion of the sampling period, all non-respondents were mailed a final copy of the questionnaire, cover letter, and postage-paid, self-addressed return envelope. This sampling procedure yielded 1,879 completed questionnaires representing a 66 percent response rate. The majority of completed questionnaires (84 percent) were obtained from summer visitors, while the remaining questionnaires (16 percent) were obtained from fall visitors. The number of completed questionnaires for each of the 22 trail segments is shown in Table 2 and by the four major geographic regions in Table 3.

Table 2. Number of Completed Questionnaires by the 22 Trail Segments

	Number	Percent
Baxter State Park	46	2.4
100 Mile Wilderness	91	4.8
Western Maine	115	6.1
NH-Mahoosucs	65	3.5
NH-White Mountains	169	9.0
NH-South	66	3.5
Vermont	103	5.5
Massachusetts	19	1.0
Connecticut	17	0.9
New York	76	4.0
New Jersey	63	3.4
Pennsylvania	63	3.4
Maryland	23	1.2
Shenandoah	49	2.6
Outing Club of Va. Tech	258	13.7
Catawba	24	1.3
Mount Rogers	67	3.6
North of Smokies-Pisgah/Cherokee NF	22	1.2
Smoky Mountains	123	6.5
NC-Nantahala NF	2	0.1
Georgia	100	5.3
Thru Hiker	318	16.9
Total	1879	100.0

Table 3. Number of Completed Questionnaires by the Four Geographic Regions

	Number	Percent
New England	691	36.8
Mid-Atlantic	274	14.6
Southwest Virginia	349	18.6
Deep South	247	13.1
Thru Hiker	318	16.9
Total	1879	100.0

Study Findings: A Sourcebook

Study findings have been organized into a “sourcebook” designed to be useful to trail management agencies, including local trail-maintaining clubs, the ATC, the National Park Service, and the USDA Forest Service. This sourcebook presents findings from all questions included in the questionnaire. These data are organized and presented according to the following six major subject headings used in the questionnaire:

Part A: Trip Description (type of visitor, length of trip, group type and size, fees paid, activities participated in, description of trail)

Part B: User Preparedness (contacts with agencies/organizations prior to trip, sources of information, knowledge of minimum impact/leave-no-trace, security)

Part C: The Visitor Experience (motivations, problem issues, most and least enjoyed elements, effect of conditions on experience, perceived crowding, attitudes toward alternative management practices, commercial uses, overall satisfaction)

Part D: Visitor Expenditures (expenditures by category, expenditures by location)

Part E: Previous Experience and Involvement (experience on the AT, importance of the AT, level of hiking activity, membership in hiking-related organizations, hiking-related volunteer activities, involvement in hiking, place attachment to the AT)

Part F: Visitor Characteristics (gender, age, education, employment, income, race/ethnicity, residence, marital status/children)

For each question, study data are analyzed and presented in four ways. First, data are broken down and presented by the two primary types of visitors to the AT – thru hikers and non-thru hikers. As noted above, thru hikers are defined as visitors who are hiking the entire AT in a calendar year. Non-thru hikers are defined as all other visitors. Readers should be cautioned

that, as noted above, thru hikers were purposively sampled to ensure an adequate sample size. Thus, while study data are designed to be representative of thru hikers, thru hikers do not represent as large a proportion of AT visitors as suggested in the tables. Second, a more detailed breakdown of visitors is presented. Four types of visitors are used in this analysis, including 1) day users (respondents who reported being “on the trail for one day only” on the day they were sampled), 2) overnight visitors (respondents who reported being “out for more than one day” on the day they were sampled), 3) section hikers (respondents who reported “hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail with the intent of hiking the entire trail over an extended period of time”), and 4) thru hikers. Third, study data are broken down into the four geographic regions used for AT administrative purposes. Thru hikers are shown separately in this analysis. For each of these first three analyses and presentations, tabular data (and graphic representations where appropriate) are presented followed by a series of narrative statements designed to summarize study findings. Verbatim responses to open-ended questions are presented in Appendix C. The fourth and final data analysis and presentation is organized by the 22 smaller geographic segments of the trail used for the purposes of this study. This final analysis is presented in Appendix D. Only non-thru hikers are included in this analysis. Readers are cautioned that trail segments with fewer than 30 completed questionnaires may contain insufficient data to generalize to the larger population of users on those trail segments.

Several statistical terms and symbols are used in the body of the sourcebook. Two measures of central tendency are used: mean and median. Mean refers to the simple arithmetic average of all responses. Median refers to the value such that about half of the responses are less than that value and about half of the responses are greater than that value. The median may be a more appropriate measure of central tendency when a relatively small percentage of respondents report very high or low responses. The symbol “N” is used to refer to the number of respondents who answered each question.

Additional information about the AT and this study can be obtained from several sources. The Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) of the National Park Service is the lead administrative agency for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Contact information is as follows:

Pamela Underhill – Park Manager*
Appalachian Trail Park Office
National Park Service
Harpers Ferry Center

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
(304) 535-6278
(www.nps.gov/appa)

*(The National Park Service contact for this study is Rita Hennessy, ATPO Recreation Planner)

The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) is the primary provider of public information about the Appalachian Trail. Contact information is as follows:

Appalachian Trail Conference
P.O. Box 807
(799 Washington Street)
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
(304) 535-6331
(www.appalachiantrail.org)

Additional information about the study can be obtained from the Principal Investigators as follows:

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PART A:

Trip Description

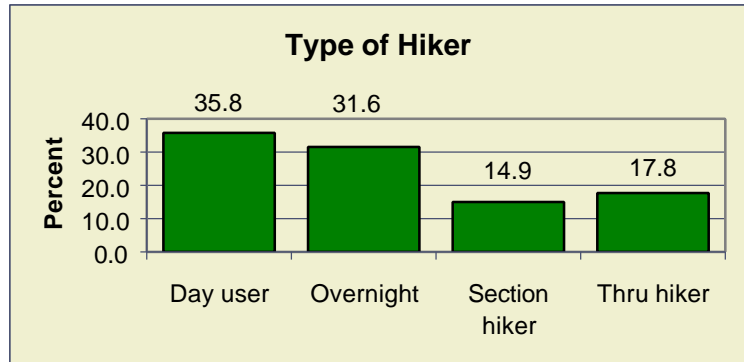
Part A: Trip Description. The following questions pertain to your recent trip on the Appalachian Trail, when you were contacted and agreed to participate in our visitor survey.

1. On this particular trip, were you a [check one]:
- day user (on the trail for one day only)
 - overnight user/backpacker (out for more than one day)
 - through hiker (hiking the length of the trail in one calendar year)
 - section hiker (hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail with the intent of hiking the entire trail over an extended period of time)

(QA1)

	Number	Percent
Day user	640	35.8
Overnight	566	31.6
Section hiker	266	14.9
Thru hiker	318	17.8

N=1790



- Approximately one third of hikers are day hikers and one third are overnight hikers. Thru hikers and section hikers make up the remainder.
- Thru hikers were over-sampled to obtain a minimum sample size for statistical purposes.
- Readers are advised that an analysis of hiker types by demographic variables appears in Part F of this report.

(QA1) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hiker	Total
Day user	30.1	35.8	77.6	42.3		35.8
Overnight	48.4	36.6	17.8	41.4		31.6
Thru hiker					100.0	17.8
Section hiker	21.4	27.6	4.7	16.3		14.9

- The southern regions of the trail included substantially higher numbers of day users.

2. How long was your trip? _____ # of days on trail _____ # of miles hiked

(QA2a & b)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Days on Trail	Miles Hiked	Days on Trail	Miles Hiked
Mean	7.2	71.0	148.4	1862.6
Median	2	13	167	2160
Range	1-210	1-2172	1-310	1-2182

N=1339, 1356; 305,297

- Overall users spent an average (median) of 2 days on the trail and hiked an average (median) of 13 miles along the trail.
- Thru hikers spent an average (median) of 167 days on the trail and hiked an average (median) of 2160 miles along the trail.

(QA2a&b) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Days on Trail	1.1(1)	4.3(3)	24.3(10)	148.4(167)	33.5 (3)
Miles Hiked	8.0(7)	36.7(20)	278.0(106)	1862.6(2160)	393.6 (18)

Mean (Median)

- Day users hiked an average (median) of 7 miles along the trail.
- Overnight hikers averaged (median) 3 days on the trail and hiked an average (median) of 20 miles along the trail.
- Section hikers spent considerably more time on the trail averaging (median) 10 days on the trail and hiking an average (median) of 106 miles along the trail.
- Thru hikers spent the most time on the trail averaging (median) 167 days on the trail and hiking an average (median) of 2160 miles along the trail.

(QA2a&b) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Days on Trail	8.6 (3)	11.4 (2)	2.1 (1)	4.6 (2)	148.4 (167)	33.4 (3)
Miles Hiked	88.1 (17)	122.6 (16)	16.9 (7)	38.9 (15)	1862.6 (2160)	392.9 (18)

Mean (median)

- Users in the southern regions of the trail averaged fewer days and miles hiked on the trail which is consistent with the heightened day use exhibited in QA1.

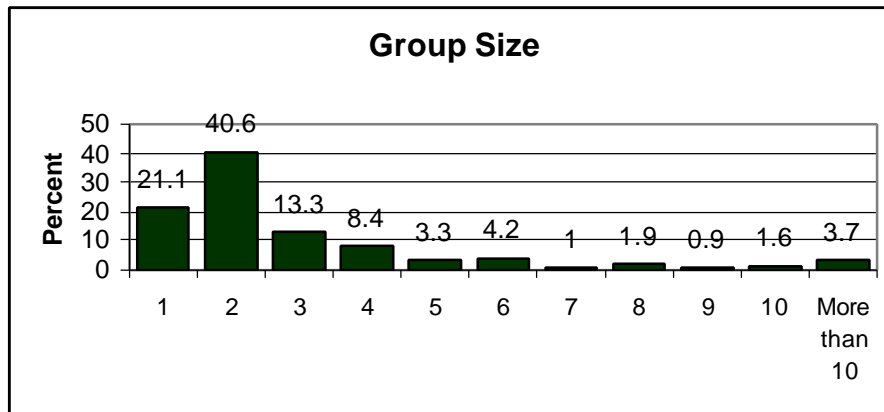
3. Including yourself, how many people were in your group?

(QA3)

Size of Group	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	309	21.1	185	62.7
2	595	40.6	79	26.8
3	195	13.3	17	5.8
4	123	8.4	8	2.7
5	49	3.3	2	0.7
6	61	4.2	1	0.3
7	15	1.0	2	0.7
8	28	1.9	0	0.0
9	13	0.9	0	0.0
10	24	1.6	0	0.0
More than 10	55	3.7	1	0.3
Mean	3.21		1.58	
Median	2.0		1.0	

N=1467;295

(QA3) Users (Non- Thru Hikers)



- Average (median) group size of non-thru hikers is 2 people.
- Average (median) group size of thru hikers is 1 person.
- Most thru hikers (62.7%) hike the trail alone.
- A substantial number of hikers (16.6%) reported being part of a relatively large group (5 or more people), and these groups constitute a relatively high percentage of all AT users.

(QA3) by Type of Hiker

Group Size	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
1	17.0	16.8	39.9	62.7	28.1
2	42.1	38.9	39.9	26.8	38.2
3	13.6	14.1	10.6	5.8	12.0
4	11.7	8.0	1.5	2.7	7.5
5	3.9	3.8	1.1	0.7	2.9
6	3.2	5.5	3.4	0.3	3.5
7	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.0
8	1.6	2.9	0.8	0.0	1.6
9	1.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.7
10	1.3	2.3	1.1	0.0	1.4
More than 10	3.3	5.9	0.4	0.3	3.3
Mean	3.20	3.73	2.15	1.58	2.94
Median	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0

- Day users, overnight users, and section hikers all tended to use the trail in groups of two.
- Thru hikers hiked alone (median=1.0) more than the other types of hikers.

(QA3) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hiker	Total
1	20.8	34.5	12.5	18.4	62.7	28.0
2	43.3	39.7	38.0	37.7	26.8	38.3
3	10.3	13.9	17.8	14.6	5.8	12.0
4	7.7	3.0	11.2	12.6	2.7	7.4
5	2.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	0.7	2.9
6	3.8	1.5	4.4	7.9	0.3	3.5
7	1.3	0.4	1.9	0.0	0.7	1.0
8	3.0	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.0	1.6
9	1.3	0.0	1.2	0.4	0.0	0.7
10	1.7	0.7	3.1	0.4	0.0	1.4
More than 10	5.0	2.2	3.7	2.1	0.3	3.2
Mean	3.41	2.41	3.58	3.08	1.58	2.94
Median	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0

- The average group size (median) was 2 and this was consistent across the regions.

4. Which of the following best describes the composition of your group? [check one]

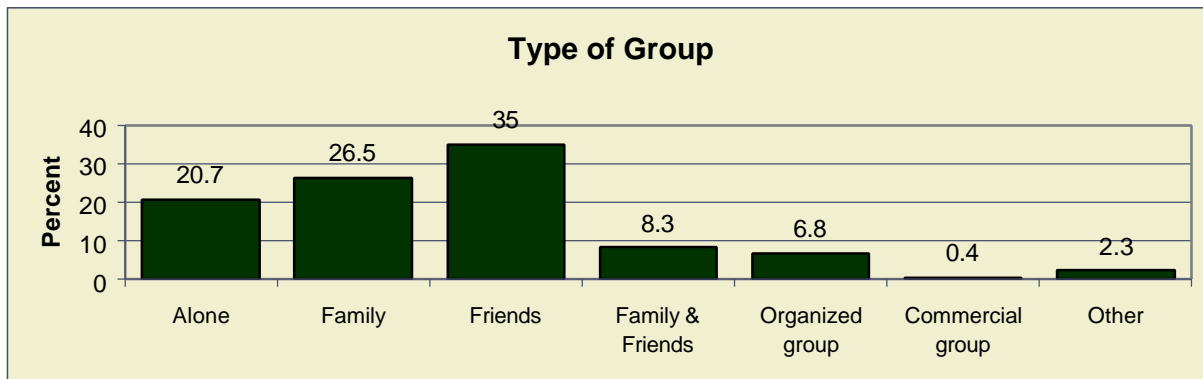
- Alone Family Friends Family & friends
 Organized group (club or other organization)
 Commercial group (group of people who paid a fee to participate in this trip)
 Other [please specify] _____

(QA4)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alone	306	20.7	181	57.5
Family	391	26.5	46	14.6
Friends	517	35.0	54	17.1
Family & Friends	122	8.3	4	1.3
Organized group	101	6.8	2	0.6
Commercial group	6	0.4	0	0.0
Other	34	2.3	28	8.9

N=1477; 315

(QA4) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Most users hike with groups that are comprised of family or friends.
- Only a small portion of users hike with an organized group (6.8%) or a commercial group (0.4%).
- Thru hikers generally hike alone (57.5%).

(QA4) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Alone	16.6	16.3	39.6	57.5	27.2
Family	31.5	24.9	18.5	14.6	24.5
Friends	34.9	35.5	33.6	17.1	31.8
Family & Friends	10.2	9.2	1.9	1.3	7.1
Organized group	5.2	10.3	3.4	0.6	5.7
Commercial group	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.3
Other	1.4	3.2	2.6	8.9	3.5

- Day users, overnight users, and section hikers were predominantly hiking with family or friends.
- Day (31.5%) and overnight (24.9%) users hiked with family more often than section and thru hikers.
- Section and thru hikers predominantly hiked alone (39.6% and 57.5% respectively).

(QA4) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Alone	20.6	35.2	11.2	17.5	57.5	27.2
Family	26.6	24.1	24.6	31.3	14.6	24.4
Friends	33.6	31.1	41.7	34.2	17.1	31.9
Family & Friends	8.7	2.6	11.5	9.2	1.3	7.0
Organized group	7.6	3.7	8.7	5.8	0.6	5.7
Commercial group	0.3	1.1	0	0.4	0	0.3
Other	2.6	2.2	2.2	1.7	8.9	3.5

- The Mid-Atlantic region exhibited a higher percentage of users who hike alone (35.2%).
- Southwest Virginia users most often hiked with friends (41.7%).

(QA4) “other”

	Number	Percent
Other Hikers	24	42.86
Companion	15	26.79
Work Related	9	16.07
Church Related	2	3.57
School Related	3	5.36
Dog or Pet	3	5.36

N=56

- The majority of AT users that chose “other” for group composition hiked with other hikers.

5. Did you pay any type of fee (trip fee, membership fee, etc.) to participate in this trip/hike? [check one]
 Yes No

(QA5)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	173	12.1	25	8.2
No	1260	87.9	281	91.8

N=1433; 306

- A relatively small percentage of thru-hikers (8.2%) and non-thru hikers (12.1%) paid a fee to participate in their trip/hike.
- User fees were most prevalent among organized groups and commercial groups.

(QA5) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	10.8	16.5	5.0	8.2	11.3
No	89.2	83.5	95.0	91.8	88.7

- Section hikers were least likely to pay a fee (only 5.0% did).

(QA5) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	20.8	5.7	5.2	5.1	8.2	11.4
No	79.2	94.3	94.8	94.9	91.8	88.6

- A higher percentage of users in the New England region (20.8%) paid a fee to participate in their hike.

6a. Please look at the following list of activities and tell us which activities you and your group did during this trip on the Appalachian Trail. [Check all that apply]

PARTICIPATED (✓)	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATED (✓)	ACTIVITY
	Day Hiking/Walking		Hunting
	Backpacking		Fishing
	Camping		Photography
	Viewing Scenery		Nature Study
	Picnicking		Jogging/Trail Running
	Horseback Riding		Other (please list _____)

(QA6a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Dayhiking	967	61.9	113	35.5
Backpacking	883	56.6	314	98.7
Camping	710	45.5	277	87.1
Viewing Scenery	1278	81.9	278	87.4
Picnicking	443	28.4	79	24.8
Horseback Riding	2	0.1	0	0.0
Hunting	5	0.3	0	0.0
Fishing	36	2.3	22	6.9
Photography	697	44.7	241	75.8
Nature Study	276	17.7	94	29.6
Jogging or Running	55	3.5	28	8.8
Other	106	6.8	26	8.2

- Users reported participating in a variety of activities and most users participated in more than one activity while on the AT.
- Viewing scenery was the most frequently reported activity (81.9%) for overall users.
- Backpacking was the most frequently reported activity (98.7%) for thru hikers.
- Photography was much more common among thru hikers (75.8%) than among non-thru hikers (44.7%).
- Respondents' primary activity is reported in question (QA6b).

(QA6a) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Dayhiking	98.4	45.4	28.6	35.5	57.5
Backpacking	11.9	96.1	94.7	98.7	63.7
Camping	6.7	80.2	77.1	87.1	52.5
Viewing Scenery	86.4	87.3	83.8	87.4	82.8
Picnicking	42.7	21.6	16.9	24.8	27.8
Horseback Riding	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hunting	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
Fishing	0.6	3.9	3.8	6.9	3.1
Photography	40.9	47.9	59.8	75.8	49.9
Nature Study	19.1	19.1	16.9	29.6	19.7
Jogging or Running	5.3	2.3	2.6	8.8	4.4
Other	7.5	6.7	7.5	8.2	7.0

- All types of users participated in various activities on the AT.
- Viewing scenery was the most reported activity (82.8%) among all types of hikers.

(QA6a) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Day hiking	54.6	59.5	78.8	61.5	35.5	57.5
Backpacking	67.9	63.5	26.4	59.9	98.7	63.7
Camping	53.4	56.2	20.6	46.6	87.1	52.5
Viewing scenery	80.6	86.9	81.4	80.6	87.4	82.8
Picnicking	26.8	28.5	34.7	23.9	24.8	27.8
Horseback riding	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.1
Hunting	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3
Fishing	4.2	1.1	0.6	0.8	6.9	3.1
Photo	45.6	47.1	39.8	46.2	75.8	49.9
Nature Study	16.5	23.7	16.6	15.8	29.6	19.7
Jogging or Running	3.0	4.4	4.0	3.2	8.8	4.4
Other	6.1	10.6	6.9	4.5	8.2	7.0

- Day hiking was more common in the Southwest Virginia region, while backpacking was more common in the northern regions and the Deep South.
- Fishing was reported more often in the New England region.

(QA6a) "Other" activities participated in

	Users (Non-Thru hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Arts/ creativity	4	4.2	1	4.5
Biking	1	1.0	1	4.5
Watching wildlife	7	7.3	2	9.1
Education/ historical	8	8.3	0	0.0
Leisure	8	8.3	5	22.7
Paddling	2	2.1	2	9.1
Rock climbing/ bouldering	13	13.5	3	13.6
Social	9	9.4	0	0.0
Spiritual	8	8.3	0	0.0
Swimming	19	19.8	8	36.4
Trail maintenance	17	17.7	0	0.0

N= 96; 22

- Swimming was the most frequently reported "other" activity participated in by both non-thru hikers and thru hikers.

(QA6a) "Other" by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Arts/ creativity	0.0	5.7	11.1	4.5	4.2
Biking	2.3	0.0	0.0	4.5	1.7
Watching wildlife	7.0	8.6	5.6	9.1	7.6
Education/ historical	7.0	8.6	11.1	0.0	6.8
Leisure	7.0	5.7	16.7	22.7	11.0
Paddling	0.0	5.7	0.0	9.1	3.4
Rock climbing/ bouldering	23.3	5.7	5.6	13.6	13.6
Social	4.7	11.4	16.7	0.0	7.6
Spiritual	9.3	5.7	11.1	0.0	6.8
Swimming	20.9	17.1	22.2	36.4	22.9
Trail maintenance	18.6	25.7	0.0	0.0	14.4

- Swimming was the most frequently reported "other" activity along the AT for all types of users except day users.
- Of the "other" activities reported, rock climbing/bouldering was more common among day users (23.3%) than any other type of hiker.

(QA6a) "Other" by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Arts/ creativity	2.8	6.9	0.0	9.1	4.5	4.2
Biking	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	4.5	1.7
Watching wildlife	5.6	6.9	10.0	9.1	9.1	7.6
Education/ historical	5.6	13.8	10.0	0.0	0.0	6.8
Leisure	8.3	10.3	5.0	9.1	22.7	11.0
Paddling	2.8	3.4	0.0	0.0	9.1	3.4
Rock climbing/ bouldering	2.8	3.4	55.0	0.0	13.6	13.6
Social	16.7	6.9	0.0	9.1	0.0	7.6
Spiritual	5.6	13.8	10.0	0.0	0.0	6.8
Swimming	41.7	13.8	0.0	0.0	36.4	22.9
Trail maintenance	8.3	20.7	10.0	54.5	0.0	14.4

- Of the reported "other" activities, rock climbing/bouldering was reported most frequently in the Southwest Virginia region (55.0%).
- Trail maintenance was reported most frequently in the Deep South region (54.5%).
- Swimming was reported most frequently in the New England region (41.7%).

6b. From the above list of activities (QA6a), which was your group's primary activity?

(QA6b)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Backpacking/ camping	695	48.4	280	89.5
Exercise	9	0.6	0	0.0
Fishing	3	0.2	0	0.0
Hiking/ walking	623	43.4	32	10.2
Nature study/ education	12	0.8	0	0.0
Rock climbing/ bouldering	7	0.5	0	0.0
Running/ jogging	9	0.6	0	0.0
Social	5	0.3	0	0.0
Spiritual	4	0.3	0	0.0
Trail maintenance	13	0.9	0	0.0
Viewing scenery	57	4.0	1	0.3

N= 1437; 313

- Backpacking/camping was the primary activity for most thru-hikers (89.5%), and about half of the non-thru hikers (48.4%).
- Hiking/walking was the primary activity for 43.4% of non-thru hikers.

(QA6b) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Backpacking/ camping	1.9	81.8	86.6	89.5	55.6
Exercise	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.5
Fishing	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2
Hiking/ walking	84.6	12.8	11.5	10.2	37.6
Nature study/ education	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.7
Rock climbing/ bouldering	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Running/ jogging	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Social	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.3
Spiritual	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.2
Trail maintenance	0.5	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.7
Viewing scenery	7.6	1.6	0.4	0.3	3.3

- The vast majority of day users (84.6%) reported "Hiking/walking" as their primary activity.
- Backpacking was the highest reported primary activity among overnight users (81.8%), section hikers (86.6%), and thru hikers (89.5%).

(QA6b) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hiker	Total
Backpacking/ camping	58.3	55.7	21.0	49.4	89.5	55.7
Exercise	0.3	0.4	1.0	1.3	0.0	0.5
Fishing	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Hiking/ walking	36.1	37.5	65.7	40.0	10.2	37.4
Nature study/ education	0.5	1.9	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.7
Rock climbing/ bouldering	0.2	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.4
Running/ jogging	0.3	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.5
Social	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3
Spiritual	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2
Trail maintenance	0.6	1.1	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.7
Viewing scenery	2.2	1.9	8.7	4.7	0.3	3.3

- The Southwest Virginia region reported significantly higher levels of hiking/ walking as the primary activity, and significantly lower levels of camping.

7. Overall, which of the following best describes the section of the Appalachian Trail that you visited? [check one]

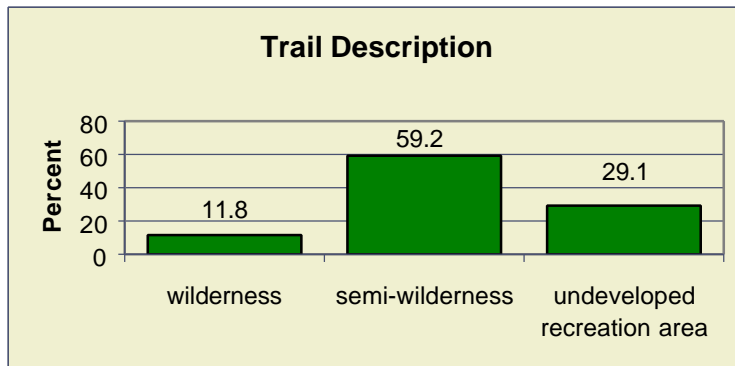
- wilderness – a place generally unaffected by the presence of people, providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.
- semi-wilderness – the kind of place where complete solitude is not expected, but the environment appears mostly unaffected by people
- undeveloped recreation area – the kind of place where a natural setting is provided but seeing other people is part of the experience.

(QA7)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
wilderness	173	11.8	31	12.0
semi-wilderness	871	59.2	137	53.1
undeveloped recreation area	428	29.1	90	34.9

N=1472; 258

(QA7) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Over half of thru hikers (53.1%) and non-thru hikers (59.2%) felt that the area they were in was “semi-wilderness”.
- About one-third of thru hikers (34.9%) and non-thru hikers (29.1%) felt the area was an “undeveloped recreation area”.

(QA7) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
wilderness	7.4	15.4	13.3	12.0	11.6
semi-wilderness	59.8	57.6	61.6	53.1	58.3
undeveloped recreation area	32.8	27.0	25.1	34.9	30.0

- The majority of all types of hikers (58.3%) would describe the portion of the AT they were on as “semi-wilderness”.

(QA7) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
wilderness	12.9	11.9	5.7	16.7	12.0	11.8
semi-wilderness	57.8	57.6	58.2	65.8	53.1	58.3
undeveloped recreation area	29.3	30.5	36.2	17.5	34.9	29.9

- In Southwest Virginia only 5.7% of hikers felt they were in “wilderness”.
- In the Deep South only 17.5% felt they were in an “undeveloped recreation area”.

PART B:

User Preparedness

Part B: User Preparedness. The following questions will help us to understand what types of information you are interested in and the best ways to provide that information to you.

1. Have you ever contacted any organization for information about the Appalachian Trail?

No Yes

a. If yes, what organization(s) did you contact? _____

b. How did you contact them?

letter phone personal visit Internet

other [please specify] _____

c. What type of information did you receive? _____

d. Was the information you received adequate in helping you plan your trip to your satisfaction?

Yes No

e. Did you purchase any information? Yes No

(QB1)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	687	47.2	230	73.5
No	767	52.8	83	26.5

N=1454; 313

- About half of the non-thru hikers reported contacting some organization for information about the Appalachian Trail.
- Nearly three-quarters of the thru-hikers had contacted an organization for trail-related information.

(QB1) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	31.6	51.0	75.0	73.5	51.7
No	68.4	49.0	25.0	26.5	48.3

- Section (75.0%) and thru (73.5%) hikers were more likely to contact an organization for information on the AT.
- Day hikers (31.6%) were least likely to contact an organization for information on the AT.

(QB1) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	51.6	59.8	34.0	38.7	73.5	51.9
No	48.4	40.2	66.0	61.3	26.5	48.1

- Trail users in the northern regions were more likely to have contacted an organization for information about the trail.
- Users in the Mid-Atlantic region were most likely to have contacted an organization (59.8%) while only one-third (34.0%) of those from Southwest Virginia had contacted any organization for information.

a. If yes, what organization(s) did you contact? _____

(QB1a)

- Verbatim responses to this question are shown in APPENDIX C and are organized by the 22 trail segments.

- Common responses to this question included:
 1. Hiking clubs such as the ATC, GATC, PATC
 2. Retail equipment stores such as REI and EMS
 3. Publications such as Outside Magazine and Backpacker Magazine

b. How did you contact them?

___ letter ___ phone ___ personal visit ___ Internet

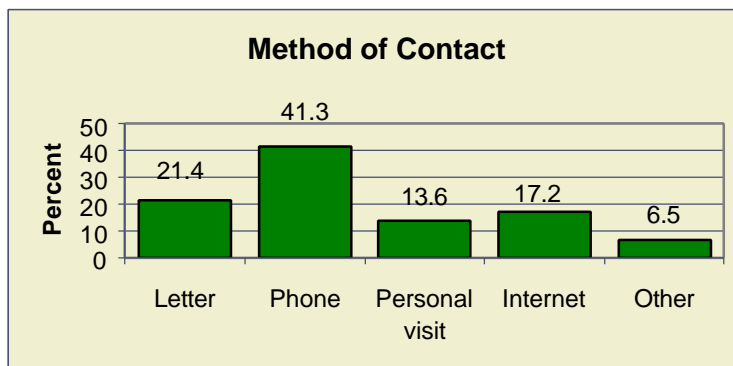
___ other [please specify] ___ (SEE APPENDIX C) ___

(QB1b)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Letter	148	21.4	41	17.1
Phone	286	41.3	125	52.1
Personal visit	94	13.6	20	8.3
Internet	119	17.2	42	17.5
Other	45	6.5	12	4.5

N=694; 240

(QB1b) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The telephone was the most common means of contacting an organization for both thru hikers and non-thru hikers.
- About one-fifth of non-thru hikers (21.4%) and thru hikers (17.1%) contacted an organization through a letter.
- Nearly another one-fifth of both thru hikers (17.5%) and non-thru hikers (17.2%) used the internet as a means of contacting an organization.

(QB1b) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Letter	17.3	18.3	28.8	17.1	20.1
Phone	31	43.2	47.8	52.1	43.9
Personal visit	24.9	11.2	6.3	8.3	12.3
Internet	19.8	21.2	10.2	17.5	17.5
Other	7.1	6.1	6.8	4.5	6.2

- Overall, all types of hikers utilized various methods to obtain information.
- The phone was the most common means of obtaining information (43.9%).
- Day users (24.9%) were most likely to utilize a personal visit to obtain information.

(QB1b) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Letter	22.4	19.6	14.7	27.8	17.1	20.3
Phone	46.1	38.0	33.3	39.2	52.1	44.1
Personal visit	10.3	12.3	32.4	7.2	8.3	12.2
Internet	15.5	21.5	13.7	19.6	17.5	17.3
Other	5.7	8.5	5.9	6.1	4.5	6.1

- The telephone was the most popular means of seeking information across all four regions.
- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were more likely (32.4%) than those in other regions (7.2-12.3%) to make a personal visit to a trail-related organization.

c. What type of information did you receive? _____

(QB1c)

- Verbatim responses to this question are shown in APPENDIX C and are organized by the 22 trail segments.

- Common responses to this question included:
 1. Planning materials such as maps, schedules, permits, weather reports
 2. Background information such as recent news, updates, or historic information
 3. General information such as rules and regulations, employment opportunities

d. Was the information you received adequate in helping you plan your trip to your satisfaction?

_____ Yes _____ No

(QB1d)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	641	94.4	220	92.8
No	38	5.6	17	7.2

N=679; 237

- The overwhelming majority of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers felt the information they received was adequate in helping to plan their Appalachian Trail trip.

(QB1d) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	94.7	92.7	96.6	92.8	94.0
No	5.3	7.3	3.4	7.2	6.0

- Likewise, the overwhelming majority of all types of hikers felt the information they received was adequate in helping to plan their Appalachian Trail trip.

(QB1d) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	94.2	95.5	93.0	94.7	92.8	94.0
No	5.8	4.5	7.0	5.3	7.2	6.0

- This pattern held true across all regions, with over 90% reporting that the information they received was adequate.

e. Did you purchase any information? ___ Yes ___ No

(QB1e)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	480	66.1	225	91.1
No	246	33.9	22	8.9

N=726; 248

- Two-thirds (66%) of non-thru hikers and nearly all thru hikers (91%) reported purchasing information about the Appalachian Trail.

(QB1e) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	58.3	62.9	77.1	91.1	72.3
No	41.7	37.1	22.9	8.9	27.7

- Thru hikers (91.1%) reported purchasing information more than any other type of hiker.

(QB1e) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	66.6	75.6	56.3	60.2	91.1	72.4
No	33.4	24.4	43.8	39.8	8.9	27.6

- Northern trail users were more likely to purchase information than users in the southern regions.
- About three-fourths (75.6%) of Mid-Atlantic users purchased information versus only 56.3% of those in Southwest Virginia.

2. Where would you most likely go to obtain each of the following types of information about the Appalachian Trail? [If you are not interested in a particular type of information please check the “Not Interested” column.]

Not Interested	Type of Information	If interested, where: [check each applicable column]									
		Sporting Goods	Newspapers	Books & Magazines	Brochures	Trailhead Signs	Ranger Or Volunteer	Visitor Center/	The Internet	Audio or video tapes	Trail clubs/ organization
	Map of location of trails and features										
	Rules and regulations for the area										
	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping										
	Types of plants and animals in the area										
	Hunting or fishing in the area										
	Trail safety										
	Trail history and philosophy										
	General forest and park information										
	Low impact camping										
	Volunteer opportunities										
	Places similar to this area										
	Other, please describe:										

(QB2)

If interested, where: [check each applicable column]

Not Interested	Type of Information	Percent of Respondents										
		Sporting Goods Stores	Newspapers	Books & Magazines	Brochures	Trailhead Signs	Ranger Or Volunteer	Visitor Center/ Ranger Station	The Internet	Audio or video tapes	Trail clubs/ organizations	
%												
Users (Non-Thru Hiker) (N=1461)												
1.4	Map of location of trails and features	36.1	2.1	33.4	15.6	20.7	14.2	32.8	26.8	0.8	35.2	
4.7	Rules and regulations for the area	4.3	0.7	17.3	13.2	32.4	25.3	42.6	14.1	0.3	19.0	
7.6	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	11.8	2.7	45.8	12.4	6.4	15.6	22.1	25.0	1.2	27.9	
9.2	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.4	1.6	49.6	12.5	7.0	19.3	27.7	13.7	0.7	10.6	
46.5	Hunting or fishing in the area	7.9	1.0	10.7	5.1	4.0	10.1	15.6	7.3	0.2	3.8	
9.8	Trail safety	4.0	1.4	30.8	11.2	15.7	24.2	31.7	12.7	0.8	20.9	
7.9	Trail history and philosophy	2.5	2.3	45.8	12.1	7.7	15.7	26.1	16.5	1.2	22.0	
2.4	General forest and park information	3.8	2.4	24.2	17.9	13.5	29.2	47.1	19.4	0.8	13.3	
10.3	Low impact camping	6.5	2.1	40.4	12.2	7.5	15.6	21.8	15.0	1.0	22.1	
17.5	Volunteer opportunities	2.3	3.7	7.9	6.1	1.8	18.6	21.4	14.1	0.2	37.0	
11.6	Places similar to this area	8.6	3.6	35.6	10.1	2.5	11.4	17.8	23.1	0.7	17.7	
11.6	Other, please describe:	8.6	3.6	35.6	10.1	2.5	11.4	17.8	23.1	0.7	17.7	
Thru Hikers Only (N=318)												
3.1	Map of location of trails and features	28.6	0.3	20.8	5.3	9.7	4.7	14.2	14.8	0.9	60.1	
7.9	Rules and regulations for the area	2.8	0.0	10.7	10.1	41.8	22.0	38.1	4.1	0.0	22.0	
7.5	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	11.6	0.6	50.0	6.0	4.4	8.5	9.4	29.6	6.0	33.6	
7.5	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.5	0.0	57.2	11.9	8.8	17.6	23.0	6.9	1.6	11.0	
50.0	Hunting or fishing in the area	6.0	0.3	6.9	5.0	6.6	14.8	17.3	1.3	0.0	5.3	
17.0	Trail safety	2.5	0.0	27.7	7.9	14.8	18.6	21.4	8.2	0.9	23.0	
8.5	Trail history and philosophy	2.2	1.9	53.1	10.7	6.3	9.7	19.2	10.7	2.5	32.4	
3.8	General forest and park information	2.8	0.6	15.4	12.9	22.3	24.8	47.8	8.2	0.9	14.5	
11.0	Low impact camping	5.0	0.0	47.5	6.9	12.3	13.5	17.0	11.3	1.9	22.3	
12.3	Volunteer opportunities	1.6	0.9	5.7	5.7	1.3	20.1	18.9	12.9	0.0	55.7	
19.5	Places similar to this area	5.3	1.9	34.6	5.7	0.9	9.4	13.2	19.5	0.9	16.7	
8.8	Other, please describe:	0.6	0.0	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	

- AT users were interested in most of the types of information listed, although only about half of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers were interested in information about fishing and hunting.
- The most popular information sources about the AT tended to be books/magazines, visitor centers/ranger stations, and trail clubs/organizations.
- Books and magazines were particularly popular for information about hiking and camping on the AT, plants and animals in the area, trail history and philosophy, and low impact camping.
- Sporting goods stores were considered a good place to find maps by both thru hikers (28.6%) and non-thru hikers (36.1%), but were not mentioned as a good source for any of the other types of information listed.

- Very few respondents used newspapers to find any of the types of information listed.
- Less than 20% mentioned brochures as a place where they would look for any of the types of information.
- Trailhead signs, likewise, were an uncommon source of information, except for information about rules and regulations, where they were listed by 32.4% of the non-thru hikers and 41.8% of the thru hikers.
- Ranger/volunteer contacts were most useful for information about rules and regulations (22% of thru hikers and 25% of non-thru hikers), trail safety (19% thru hiker/24% non-thru hiker) and general forest and park information (25% thru hiker/29% non-thru hiker).
- The Internet was more likely to be consulted for maps by non-thru hikers (27%) than by thru hikers (15%). Thru hikers were particularly likely (60%) to obtain maps through trail clubs/organizations.
- Audio or video tapes were infrequently used to obtain any type of information.
- Information about volunteer opportunities was most likely to be collected from trail clubs and organizations (56% of thru hikers and 37% of non-thru hikers).

(QB2) by Type of Hiker

If interested, where: [check each applicable column]

Not Interested	Type of Information	If interested, where: [check each applicable column]										
		Sporting Goods Stores	Newspapers	Books & Magazines	Brochures	Trailhead Signs	Ranger Or Volunteer	Visitor Center/ Ranger Station	The Internet	Audio or video tapes	Trail clubs/ organizations	
%		Percent of Respondents										
Day Users Only												
1.1	Map of location of trails and features	38.4	3.6	37.8	25.5	29.5	16.9	43.0	33.8	1.4	26.6	
5.2	Rules and regulations for the area	4.5	0.6	14.8	16.4	40.0	24.7	48.6	14.4	0.5	12.0	
8.6	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	15.3	3.3	47.0	16.1	9.1	17.3	28.0	25.3	1.3	21.6	
10.3	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.8	2.3	51.3	16.3	10.5	17.7	33.0	16.9	1.1	6.9	
45.6	Hunting or fishing in the area	9.5	2.2	9.5	8.4	6.1	10.9	20.8	10.8	0.3	2.7	
9.5	Trail safety	4.2	2.3	27.3	14.2	21.4	24.2	40.2	13.1	1.1	16.6	
8.9	Trail history and philosophy	3.1	3.6	46.3	15.9	10.8	15.6	31.7	18.3	1.9	16.6	
1.9	General forest and park information	5.3	3.0	23.4	21.3	14.4	25.2	53.9	21.4	1.3	10.6	
14.2	Low impact camping	8.3	2.8	38.4	15.0	8.4	15.0	28.4	16.1	0.9	19.7	
20.6	Volunteer opportunities	2.5	4.4	6.4	7.5	2.3	19.4	26.6	15.8	0.5	32.7	
8.4	Places similar to this area	11.7	5.6	38.6	13.6	3.6	12.0	24.5	28.8	1.3	16.3	
7.0	Other, please describe:	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.4	2.2	0.0	1.3	
Overnight Users Only												
1.6	Map of location of trails and features	42.4	1.2	37.6	11.0	17.7	14.5	32.9	25.6	0.5	33.6	
3.7	Rules and regulations for the area	4.8	0.7	21.9	12.4	29.5	28.6	43.5	15.7	0.0	20.0	
7.6	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	13.3	2.5	52.1	10.1	6.9	16.4	22.6	26.9	1.2	29.9	
9.5	Types of plants and animals in the area	5.1	0.9	52.7	11.3	6.0	23.0	26.7	13.1	0.2	11.0	
46.6	Hunting or fishing in the area	9.5	0.4	14.8	4.8	3.7	12.9	17.3	5.5	0.2	5.5	
11.1	Trail safety	4.8	0.4	35.2	8.8	13.4	26.3	31.1	12.9	0.7	19.3	
8.0	Trail history and philosophy	4.1	1.6	51.4	10.8	7.6	18.9	26.9	16.6	1.1	20.7	
2.7	General forest and park information	3.4	1.9	29.2	17.1	13.4	33.6	47.0	21.4	0.4	13.4	
8.3	Low impact camping	7.2	1.8	46.6	11.5	7.4	17.8	21.0	15.5	0.7	20.8	
17.5	Volunteer opportunities	2.3	3.5	9.9	5.7	1.6	21.9	23.0	15.0	0.0	39.2	
11.8	Places similar to this area	9.0	2.5	39.8	8.8	2.5	14.0	17.0	23.0	0.5	18.2	
9.2	Other, please describe:	0.9	0.0	2.1	0.7	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.0	1.2	

If interested, where: [check each applicable column]

Not Interested	Type of Information	Percent of Respondents									
		Sporting Goods Stores	Newspapers	Books & Magazines	Brochures	Trailhead Signs	Ranger Or Volunteer	Visitor Center/ Ranger Station	The Internet	Audio or video tapes	Trail clubs/ organizations
Section Hikers Only											
1.9	Map of location of trails and features	31.2	0.4	27.8	7.1	15.8	11.7	19.2	22.2	0.4	57.5
6.0	Rules and regulations for the area	5.3	0.8	18.0	10.5	31.2	23.7	38.3	14.7	0.4	33.5
6.0	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	8.3	1.9	45.9	12.0	3.4	13.5	15.0	28.6	1.1	41.0
9.0	Types of plants and animals in the area	1.5	1.9	54.5	8.6	3.8	18.0	23.3	11.7	0.8	18.4
57.1	Hunting or fishing in the area	5.3	0.4	9.4	0.8	1.9	7.1	8.3	5.6	0.0	3.0
8.6	Trail safety	4.5	1.9	38.0	10.9	12.8	22.6	22.2	15.0	0.0	36.8
6.0	Trail history and philosophy	0.4	1.9	48.9	8.3	4.5	12.0	19.2	16.2	0.0	39.5
2.6	General forest and park information	3.0	2.3	22.6	15.8	15.8	34.6	45.1	16.5	0.4	19.9
7.9	Low impact camping	4.9	2.6	43.2	9.8	7.9	14.7	14.7	16.2	1.1	33.1
14.3	Volunteer opportunities	3.0	4.1	8.3	5.6	1.5	15.8	14.7	13.5	0.0	50.0
19.2	Places similar to this area	3.8	2.3	34.6	7.5	1.5	8.3	10.9	19.5	0.0	21.1
9.4	Other, please describe:	0.4	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.5
Thru Hikers Only											
3.1	Map of location of trails and features	28.6	0.3	20.8	5.3	9.7	4.7	14.2	14.8	0.9	60.1
7.9	Rules and regulations for the area	2.8	0.0	10.7	10.1	41.8	22.0	38.1	4.1	0.0	22.0
7.5	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	11.6	0.6	50.0	6.0	4.4	8.5	9.4	29.6	6.0	33.6
7.5	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.5	0.0	57.2	11.9	8.8	17.6	23.0	6.9	1.6	11.0
50.0	Hunting or fishing in the area	6.0	0.3	6.9	5.0	6.6	14.8	17.3	1.3	0.0	5.3
17.0	Trail safety	2.5	0.0	27.7	7.9	14.8	18.6	21.4	8.2	0.9	23.0
8.5	Trail history and philosophy	2.2	1.9	53.1	10.7	6.3	9.7	19.2	10.7	2.5	32.4
3.8	General forest and park information	2.8	0.6	15.4	12.9	22.3	24.8	47.8	8.2	0.9	14.5
11.0	Low impact camping	5.0	0.0	47.5	6.9	12.3	13.5	17.0	11.3	1.9	22.3
12.3	Volunteer opportunities	1.6	0.9	5.7	5.7	1.3	20.1	18.9	12.9	0.0	55.7
19.5	Places similar to this area	5.3	1.9	34.6	5.7	0.9	9.4	13.2	19.5	0.9	16.7
8.8	Other, please describe:	0.6	0.0	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3

- All hiker types obtain information about volunteer opportunities primarily from trail clubs or organizations.
- Very little information was obtained from audio or video tapes by any of the hiker types.
- About half of all types of hikers were not interested in obtaining information about hunting or fishing in the area.
- Section hikers (60.1%) and thru hikers (57.5%) most frequently obtain maps of trails and features from trail clubs or organizations.
- Over 50% of all types of hikers use books and magazines to obtain information about plants and animals in the area.

(QB2) by Region

If interested, where: [check each applicable column]

Not Interested	Type of Information	Percent of Respondents										
		Sporting Goods Stores	Newspapers	Books & Magazines	Brochures	Trailhead Signs	Ranger Or Volunteer	Visitor Center/ Ranger Station	The Internet	Audio or video tapes	Trail clubs/ organizations	
%												
New England Region Only												
1.3	Map of location of trails and features	35.3	1.4	38.8	11.7	22.7	14.6	28.2	25.9	0.7	39.2	
4.6	Rules and regulations for the area	4.2	0.9	21.3	13.0	34.2	26.8	40.7	14.5	0.1	22.6	
8.1	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	9.6	2.6	48.6	10.7	7.5	17.2	21.7	23.0	0.9	30.0	
10.0	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.5	1.7	52.4	11.6	6.8	20.0	25.8	12.4	0.3	10.7	
47.0	Hunting or fishing in the area	8.1	0.9	12.7	4.1	3.2	10.9	12.6	5.9	0.0	4.2	
9.8	Trail safety	4.1	1.0	35.2	10.1	14.8	24.0	28.4	11.1	0.6	22.4	
7.2	Trail history and philosophy	2.5	1.9	48.6	10.3	7.8	16.1	25.2	14.5	0.7	23.6	
2.5	General forest and park information	3.0	1.9	28.1	16.2	14.2	29.5	44.6	16.5	0.4	14.2	
9.4	Low impact camping	4.3	1.6	43.6	11.7	8.0	15.9	21.6	13.2	0.7	22.3	
16.2	Volunteer opportunities	2.0	3.6	10.3	5.8	2.3	19.0	20.3	13.6	0.0	39.4	
12.3	Places similar to this area	6.5	3.2	38.2	9.3	2.0	12.4	16.5	21.4	0.3	17.9	
8.7	Other, please describe:	0.9	0.0	1.6	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.2	0.0	1.0	
Middle Atlantic Region Only												
1.5	Map of location of trails and features	36.1	2.2	31.8	11.7	17.2	13.9	26.3	23.7	1.1	48.5	
6.6	Rules and regulations for the area	2.2	0.0	19.0	12.4	38.3	28.1	37.6	12.4	0.4	25.9	
7.3	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	8.8	0.7	51.5	13.1	4.7	16.4	17.9	27.0	1.5	39.8	
10.6	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.3	1.1	52.2	9.9	6.6	20.8	25.2	13.9	0.7	15.7	
56.9	Hunting or fishing in the area	5.5	0.4	8.8	4.4	3.6	8.0	12.4	5.5	0.4	5.1	
11.3	Trail safety	3.3	0.4	32.5	10.2	17.9	28.8	30.7	16.1	1.1	29.9	
5.8	Trail history and philosophy	2.6	1.8	52.2	12.8	8.4	16.1	26.3	18.2	2.2	33.2	
2.6	General forest and park information	4.7	2.2	24.1	21.2	15.7	34.3	47.8	20.4	1.1	18.2	
12.4	Low impact camping	6.6	1.5	47.1	9.1	8.8	19.0	16.8	16.4	0.7	30.7	
20.1	Volunteer opportunities	1.8	2.2	6.9	6.2	1.5	17.9	15.3	13.1	0.0	46.0	
13.1	Places similar to this area	6.9	3.6	40.1	11.7	4.4	11.3	12.8	25.5	1.5	24.1	
8.4	Other, please describe:	1.1	0.7	2.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.0	2.6	

If interested, where: [check each applicable column]

Not Interested	Type of Information	Percent of Respondents										
		Sporting Goods Stores	Newspapers	Books & Magazines	Brochures	Trailhead Signs	Ranger Or Volunteer	Visitor Center/ Ranger Station	The Internet	Audio or video tapes	Trail clubs/ organizations	
Southwest Virginia Region Only												
1.4	Map of location of trails and features	38.1	3.7	23.5	26.4	22.1	12.0	36.7	31.2	0.9	21.5	
4.0	Rules and regulations for the area	6.3	0.6	8.0	14.0	30.1	18.1	40.7	14.0	0.6	9.5	
8.6	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	17.2	3.7	33.2	14.3	6.3	10.6	19.5	26.1	1.7	17.2	
7.4	Types of plants and animals in the area	4.3	1.7	41.3	16.3	8.9	13.5	27.5	16.3	1.4	7.7	
35.5	Hunting or fishing in the area	10.6	2.0	9.5	8.6	6.6	9.5	20.6	12.9	0.6	3.2	
10.6	Trail safety	4.3	2.6	19.5	12.6	15.8	16.9	31.8	12.6	0.9	13.5	
11.2	Trail history and philosophy	2.9	2.9	33.0	14.6	8.6	11.7	23.2	19.5	1.7	12.3	
2.6	General forest and park information	4.6	2.6	15.2	18.1	12.0	19.8	44.7	24.4	1.1	9.2	
11.7	Low impact camping	10.6	3.2	29.5	14.3	6.6	10.0	21.5	16.9	1.4	16.6	
17.5	Volunteer opportunities	3.2	4.6	3.4	6.3	1.4	16.3	24.4	16.0	0.9	28.9	
9.2	Places similar to this area	13.2	4.9	27.8	10.3	2.0	8.9	20.9	26.6	1.1	15.8	
6.9	Other, please describe:	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.9	1.7	2.6	0.0	1.1	
Deep South Region Only												
1.2	Map of location of trails and features	38.9	0.8	39.3	16.2	21.5	16.6	48.6	28.3	0.8	17.0	
2.8	Rules and regulations for the area	6.1	0.8	18.6	13.4	25.1	25.1	55.9	15.4	0.0	8.5	
4.0	Tips on A.T. hiking and camping	18.2	2.8	53.4	13.4	7.7	16.6	32.8	27.5	1.2	18.6	
8.5	Types of plants and animals in the area	3.6	1.6	52.2	11.7	6.5	21.5	34.4	13.0	0.4	4.5	
44.1	Hunting or fishing in the area	8.5	1.2	10.9	5.3	4.0	13.8	24.7	5.7	0.0	0.8	
5.3	Trail safety	6.1	2.0	32.8	12.1	16.6	25.9	42.1	13.0	0.4	13.0	
5.7	Trail history and philosophy	4.0	3.6	53.0	11.7	6.9	19.0	33.6	15.4	0.8	14.6	
1.2	General forest and park information	4.5	3.2	26.7	17.4	10.9	32.0	57.1	19.4	0.4	7.3	
8.5	Low impact camping	8.9	3.6	40.1	13.0	6.1	17.8	30.0	15.8	0.8	15.8	
17.4	Volunteer opportunities	2.8	4.9	7.7	6.9	1.2	22.3	29.6	14.6	0.0	27.9	
8.5	Places similar to this area	10.5	2.8	38.5	10.9	3.2	12.6	24.7	23.1	0.4	8.9	
6.5	Other, please describe:	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.0	0.4	

- Mid-Atlantic trail users were more likely than New England users to obtain many of the types of information listed from trail clubs and organizations.
- Hikers in the Southwest Virginia region were more likely than those from other regions to be interested in information about hunting or fishing in the area.
- Hikers in the two southern regions were less likely than those from the two northern regions to seek any kind of information from trail clubs and organizations.

3. How did you first learn about the Appalachian Trail? _____

(QB3)

- Verbatim responses to this question are shown in APPENDIX C and are organized by the 22 trail segments.

- Common responses to this question included:
 2. Word-of-mouth, other people
 3. Media such as signs and publications
 4. By association (i.e. grew up hiking it, summer camp, lived near it)

4. How would you rate your knowledge of minimum impact/leave-no-trace outdoor skills and practices? [Circle One]

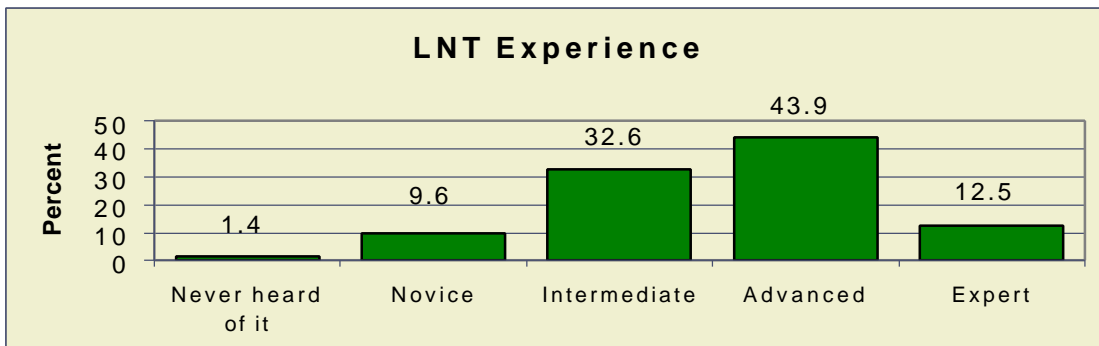
Never heard of it Novice Intermediate Advanced Expert

(QB4)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Never heard of it	21	1.4	0	0.0
Novice	149	9.6	2	0.6
Intermediate	476	32.6	36	11.5
Advanced	634	43.9	190	60.9
Expert	175	12.5	84	26.9

N=632; 152

(QB4) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Most AT users perceive their knowledge of minimum impact/leave-no-trace practices to be advanced or intermediate.
- Very few respondents had not heard of minimum impact/LNT programs or considered themselves just novices.
- The majority of thru hikers considered their knowledge to be advanced (61%) or expert (27%).

(QB4) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Never heard of it	2.9	0.2	0.4	0.0	1.1
Novice	17.5	6.6	1.2	0.6	8.6
Intermediate	38.5	31.7	21.6	11.5	29.0
Advanced	33.8	48.7	56.4	60.9	46.7
Expert	7.4	12.7	20.5	26.9	14.5

- The majority of all hiker types reported their knowledge of LNT/ Minimum Impact as intermediate or advanced.
- Section hikers (20.5%) and thru hikers (26.9%) were more likely to rate themselves as experts.

(QB4) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Never heard of it	0.5	0.8	4.1	1.3	0.0	21
Novice	6.4	8.6	17.8	12.4	0.6	151
Intermediate	29.8	31.2	36.9	36.9	11.5	512
Advanced	47.5	46.6	34.4	41.6	60.9	824
Expert	15.9	12.8	6.7	7.7	26.9	259

- Users from the two northern regions tended to rate their knowledge of minimum impact/leave no trace skills and practices higher than users of the two southern regions.

5. The following statements pertain to minimum impact practices and backcountry behavior. Please indicate whether you believe the following statements are true or false.

- a) True False When selecting a campsite in obviously impacted areas you should spread activities to places that have not been disturbed.
- b) True False The same rules and regulations apply to the entire Appalachian Trail.
- c) True False When hiking and encountering a horse party you should wait until the horses have come to a stop and then move quickly past them.
- d) True False I cannot ride my mountain bike on the Appalachian Trail, because it is not allowed.
- e) True False While backpacking, you should never camp next to a stream.
- f) True False If I wanted to ride my All Terrain Vehicle on the A.T. I could do so as long as I stay on the trail.
- g) True False When hiking in remote, lightly used locations it is best to camp on a site with no evidence of previous use to minimize your impact on the wilderness environment.
- h) True False Building temporary fire rings by moving rocks and logs at your campsite is an accepted low-impact behavior.
- i) True False When traveling on existing trails it is best to walk single file and stay on the main path to minimize impact.
- j) True False Hikers should not collect plants and rocks along the Appalachian Trail.

(QB5)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)			Thru Hikers		
	True	False	Number	True	False	Number
a. When selecting a campsite in obviously impacted areas you should spread activities to places that have not been disturbed.	9.7	90.3	1448	11.1	88.9	307
b. The same rules and regulations apply to the entire Appalachian Trail.	29.4	70.6	1432	12.8	87.2	312
c. When hiking and encountering a horse party you should wait until the horses have come to a stop and then move quickly past them.	27.5	72.5	1376	25.6	74.4	293
d. I cannot ride my mountain bike on the Appalachian Trail, because it is not allowed.	87.6	12.4	1408	96.8	3.2	310
e. While backpacking, you should never camp next to a stream.	68.9	31.1	1430	59.7	40.3	303
f. If I wanted to ride my All Terrain Vehicle on the A.T. I could do so as long as I stay on the trail.	.6	99.4	1445	0.6	99.4	311
g. When hiking in remote, lightly used locations it is best to camp on a site with no evidence of previous use to minimize your impact on the wilderness environment.	43.5	56.5	1429	72.9	27.1	310
h. Building temporary fire rings by moving rocks and logs at your campsite is an accepted low-impact behavior.	17.6	82.4	1431	8.4	91.6	309
i. When traveling on existing trails it is best to walk single file and stay on the main path to minimize impact.	99.3	.7	1457	99.0	1.0	313
j. Hikers should not collect plants and rocks along the Appalachian Trail.	97.6	2.4	1457	97.1	2.9	311

- Nearly all trail users knew that:
 - hikers should walk single file to minimize their impacts on the environment,
 - they should not collect plants and rocks along the trail, and
 - all terrain vehicles are not permitted on the trail.
- While most trail users realized that mountain biking is not allowed on the AT, the proportion getting this item correct was higher for thru hikers (97%) than for non-thru hikers (88%).
- About nine-tenths of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers knew that, in obviously impacted areas, they should not spread their campsites to areas that have not been disturbed.
- There was more uncertainty about proper campsite selection in lightly used areas, with 73% of thru hikers agreeing that it is best to camp on a site with no evidence of previous use, versus only 44% of non-thru hikers.
- Another area of uncertainty was the item stating that you should never camp next to a stream. Nearly one-third (31%) of non-thru hikers and 40% of thru hikers disagreed with this notion.
- Nearly one-third of non-thru hikers, but only 13% of thru hikers, did not realize that the same rules and regulations do not apply to the entire Appalachian Trail.
- About three-fourths of both groups understood that proper horse etiquette does not involve waiting for horses to stop and moving quickly past them.
- Over eighty percent of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers knew that building temporary fire rings is not an accepted low impact behavior.
- In general, thru hikers were slightly more knowledgeable than non-thru users about LNT principles, although both groups demonstrated high knowledge of most of the items listed.

(QB5) by Type of Hiker

	Day Users		Overnight		Section Hikers		Thru Hiker		Total	
	True	False	True	False	True	False	True	False	True	False
a. When selecting a campsite in obviously impacted areas you should spread activities to places that have not been disturbed.	9.0	91.0	9.6	90.4	13.5	86.5	11.1	88.9	10.2	89.8
b. The same rules and regulations apply to the entire Appalachian Trail.	32.4	67.6	29.2	70.8	24.8	75.2	12.8	87.2	26.7	73.3
c. When hiking and encountering a horse party you should wait until the horses have come to a stop and then move quickly past them.	31.2	68.8	24.4	75.6	26.7	73.3	25.6	74.4	27.4	72.6
d. I cannot ride my mountain bike on the Appalachian Trail, because it is not allowed.	86.0	14.0	86.7	13.3	95.0	5.0	96.8	3.2	89.5	10.5
e. While backpacking, you should never camp next to a stream.	64.1	35.9	73.4	26.6	63.6	36.4	59.7	40.3	66.2	33.8
f. If I wanted to ride my All Terrain Vehicle on the A.T. I could do so as long as I stay on the trail.	0.5	99.5	0.7	99.3	0.0	100.0	0.6	99.4	0.5	99.5
g. When hiking in remote, lightly used locations it is best to camp on a site with no evidence of previous use to minimize your impact on the wilderness environment.	37.2	62.8	46.7	53.3	49.4	50.6	72.9	27.1	48.4	51.6
h. Building temporary fire rings by moving rocks and logs at your campsite is an accepted low-impact behavior.	26.7	73.3	13.4	86.6	10.0	90.0	8.4	91.6	16.7	83.3
i. When traveling on existing trails it is best to walk single file and stay on the main path to minimize impact.	99.2	0.8	99.3	0.7	99.2	0.8	99.0	1.0	99.2	0.8
j. Hikers should not collect plants and rocks along the Appalachian Trail	96.7	3.3	97.8	2.2	98.8	1.2	97.1	2.9	97.4	2.6

- Each type of hiker generally knew that ATV's are not allowed on the trail, it is best to stay in a single file line when hiking existing trails, and that hikers should not collect plants and rocks along the AT.
- Thru hikers (72.9%) correctly answered the question concerning low use, remote, wilderness camping far more than day (37.2%) and overnight (46.7%) users.

(QB5) by Region

	New England		Mid-Atlantic		Southwest Virginia		Deep South		Thru Hikers		Total	
	True	False	True	False	True	False	True	False	True	False	True	False
a. When selecting a campsite in obviously impacted areas you should spread activities to places that have not been disturbed.	9.7	90.3	9.2	90.8	9.6	90.4	13.2	86.8	11.1	88.9	10.3	89.7
b. The same rules and regulations apply to the entire Appalachian Trail.	27.6	72.4	25.1	74.9	36.8	63.2	30.0	70.0	12.8	87.2	26.5	73.5
c. When hiking and encountering a horse party you should wait until the horses have come to a stop and then move quickly past them.	29.0	71.0	28.7	71.3	26.3	73.7	25.8	74.2	25.6	74.4	27.4	72.6
d. I cannot ride my mountain bike on the Appalachian Trail, because it is not allowed.	86.7	13.3	88.8	11.2	87.0	13.0	90.9	9.1	96.8	3.2	89.5	10.5
e. While backpacking, you should never camp next to a stream.	72.6	27.4	71.5	28.5	64.1	35.9	54.1	45.9	59.7	40.3	66.2	33.8
f. If I wanted to ride my All Terrain Vehicle on the A.T. I could do so as long as I stay on the trail.	0.8	99.2	0.0	100.0	0.3	99.7	0.8	99.2	0.6	99.4	0.6	99.4
g. When hiking in remote, lightly used locations it is best to camp on a site with no evidence of previous use to minimize your impact on the wilderness environment.	45.6	54.4	45.3	54.7	38.7	61.3	39.7	60.3	72.9	27.1	48.4	51.6
h. Building temporary fire rings by moving rocks and logs at your campsite is an accepted low-impact behavior.	10.6	89.4	18.1	81.9	30.5	69.5	24.1	75.9	8.4	91.6	16.7	83.3
i. When traveling on existing trails it is best to walk single file and stay on the main path to minimize impact.	99.5	0.5	100	0.0	98.7	1.3	98.3	1.7	99.0	1.0	99.2	0.8
j. Hikers should not collect plants and rocks along the Appalachian Trail	98.4	1.6	97.3	2.7	95.5	4.5	97.4	2.6	97.1	2.9	97.4	0.0

- There were few noticeable differences among regions in the responses to the minimum impact/LNT questions.
- Trail users in Southwest Virginia were somewhat less likely (63%) than those in the other regions (70-75%) to realize that the same rules and regulations do not apply to the entire Appalachian Trail.
- Users in the Deep South were least likely to agree that, while backpacking, you should never camp next to a stream.

6. According to accepted minimum impact practices for the Appalachian Trail,

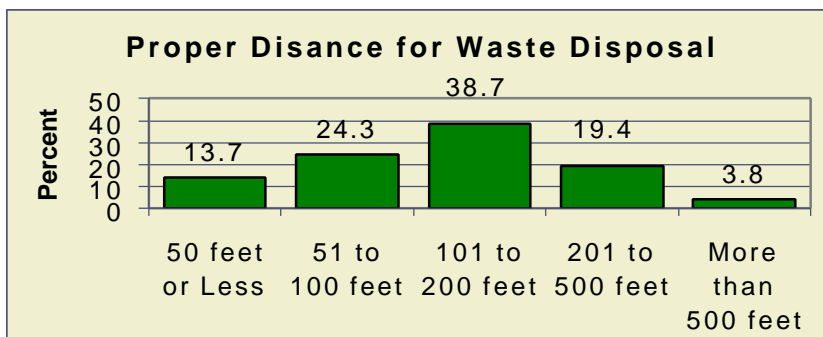
a. How far from a stream or water source (in feet) should you dispose of human wastes? _____ Feet

(QB6a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
50 feet or Less	182	13.7	8	2.6
51 to 100 feet	322	24.3	41	13.6
101 to 200 feet	513	38.7	177	58.6
201 to 500 feet	257	19.4	69	22.8
More than 500 feet	51	3.8	7	2.3
Mean	230.7		236.5	

N=1325; 302

(QB6a) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The majority of thru hikers (59%) believed that human waste should be disposed of between 101 and 200 feet from a stream or water source.
- The responses of non-thru hikers were more evenly distributed, with greater proportions stating that the proper distance for disposal of human wastes should be 51 to 100 feet (24% versus 14% of thru hikers) or 50 feet or less (14% versus just 3% of thru hikers).

(QB6a) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
50 feet or Less	23.4	7.8	5.6	2.6	11.7
51 to 100 feet	29.4	21.9	18.7	13.6	22.3
101 to 200 feet	27.0	44.3	51.6	58.6	42.4
200 to 500 feet	17.0	21.4	20.2	22.8	20.0
More than 500 feet	3.2	4.6	4.0	2.3	3.6
Mean	206.2	246.9	250.1	236.5	232.0

- Day users (23.4%) were far more likely to report that human waste should be disposed of within 50 feet or less of a stream or water source than any other type of hiker.

(QB6a) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
50 feet or Less	8.2	14.4	24.6	14.9	2.6	11.7
51 to 100 feet	17.8	22.0	29.9	38.1	13.6	22.3
101 to 200 feet	49.3	40.8	20.8	28.8	58.6	42.4
201 to 500 feet	19.8	20.0	20.5	16.3	22.8	20.0
More than 500 feet	4.9	2.8	4.2	1.9	2.3	3.6
Mean	246.9	213.7	256.5	174.1	236.5	231.8

- Trail users in the northern regions were more likely than those in the southern regions to report a distance of more than 100 feet from a stream or water source for disposal of human wastes.
- Hikers in the Deep South were most likely to state between 51 and 100 feet for the proper distance.

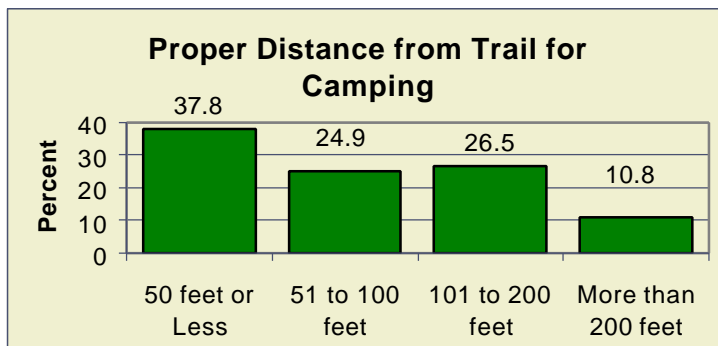
**6. According to accepted minimum impact practices for the Appalachian Trail,
b. How far from an established trail (in feet) should you camp? _____ Feet**

(QB6b)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
50 feet or Less	480	37.8	70	24.2
51 to 100 feet	316	24.9	77	26.6
101 to 200 feet	337	26.5	104	36.0
More than 200 feet	137	10.8	38	13.1
Mean	156.8		162.9	

N=1270; 289

(QB6b) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Non-thru hikers were most likely to state 50 feet or less (38%), while thru hikers were most likely to report between 101 and 200 feet (36.0%).

(QB6b) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
50 feet or Less	50.1	30.8	26.6	24.2	35.4
51 to 100 feet	26.5	21.7	27.9	26.6	25.2
101 to 200 feet	15.9	34.5	33.0	36.0	28.3
More than 200 feet	7.5	13.0	12.4	13.1	11.1
Mean	127.2	180.5	169.8	162.9	157.8

- Day users (50.1%) were far more likely to report that according to accepted minimum impact standards they should camp within 50 feet or less from an established trail.

(QB6b) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
50 feet or Less	28.4	37.1	48.8	50.7	24.2	35.3
51 to 100 feet	20.2	29.7	26.0	30.9	26.6	25.2
101 to 200 feet	38.9	20.3	16.3	12.1	36.0	28.3
More than 200 feet	12.4	12.9	8.9	6.3	13.1	11.2
Mean	181.4	155.5	128.1	126.0	162.9	157.9

- Hikers in Southwest Virginia and the Deep South were much more likely than those in the northern regions to report a distance of 50 feet or less for camping near an established trail.

7. We are trying to determine visitors' perceptions of security on the Appalachian Trail. "Security" refers to feeling free from being threatened or attacked by other people on the trail.

a. On this trip, how secure did you feel:

while you were out on the A.T.	Very Secure	Reasonably Secure	Somewhat Insecure	Very Insecure
while leaving the A.T. (e.g. to go to town)	Very Secure	Reasonably Secure	Somewhat Insecure	Very Insecure

b. On this trip, how satisfied were you with:

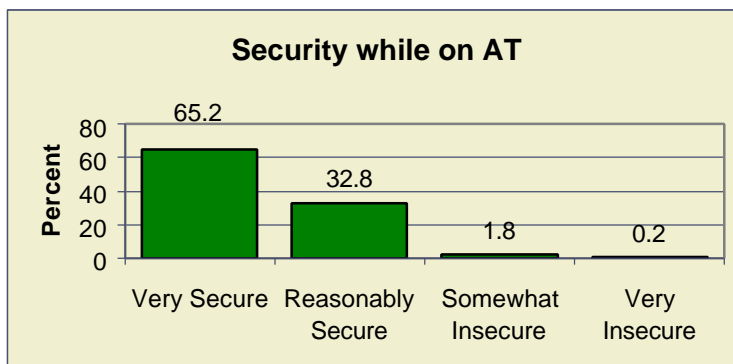
The level of security at trailheads and parking lots along the AT	Very Satisfied	Reasonably Satisfied	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
The level of assistance from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers along the AT	Very Satisfied	Reasonably Satisfied	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied

(QB7a) Feelings of security while out on the AT

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)			Thru Hikers	
	Scale	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Secure	1	950	65.2	234	74.5
Reasonably Secure	2	485	32.8	76	24.2
Somewhat Insecure	3	26	1.8	4	1.3
Very Insecure	4	3	0.2	0	0.0
Mean			1.4		1.3

N=1464; 314

(QB7a) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The majority of both thru hikers (75%) and non-thru hikers (65%) felt very secure while out on the Appalachian Trail.
- Non-thru hikers were slightly more likely (33%) than thru hikers (24%) to feel reasonably secure on the trail.
- Very few (less than 2%) thru hikers or non-thru hikers felt less than reasonably secure while out on the trail.

(QB7a) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Very Secure	1	67.8	64.2	58.8	74.5	66.5
Reasonably Secure	2	30.6	33.6	38.8	24.2	31.7
Somewhat Insecure	3	1.3	2.0	2.3	1.3	1.6
Very Insecure	4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2

- Feelings of security were relatively consistent across the hiker types.

(QB7a) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Very Secure	1	71.3	55.1	62.1	62.2	74.5	66.6
Reasonably Secure	2	27.8	40.4	34.7	37.4	24.2	31.6
Somewhat Insecure	3	0.9	4.2	2.5	0.4	1.3	1.7
Very Insecure	4	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2
Mean		1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4

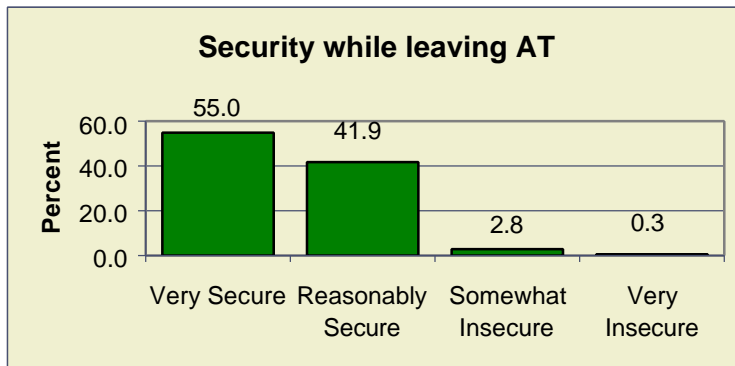
- There were only minor differences in feelings of security on the trail across regions.
- Hikers in the Mid-Atlantic region were least likely (55%) to feel “very secure” while out on the trail.

(QB7a) Feelings of security while leaving the AT

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)			Thru Hikers	
	Scale	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Secure	1	776	55.0	83	26.6
Reasonably Secure	2	574	41.9	210	67.3
Somewhat Insecure	3	39	2.8	19	6.1
Very Insecure	4	4	0.3	0	0.0
Mean			1.5		1.8

N=1393; 312

(QB7a) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- There was a more noticeable difference in perceptions of security while leaving the AT (e.g. to go to town) between thru hikers and non-thru hikers.
- The majority of non-thru hikers (55.0%) felt very secure when leaving the trail versus only 26.6% of thru hikers.
- Two-thirds of thru hikers reported feeling reasonably secure while leaving the AT.

(QB7a) Type of Hiker

	Scale	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Very Secure	1	64.8	55.9	34.0	26.6	50.3
Reasonably Secure	2	33.8	40.0	60.9	67.3	46.0
Somewhat Insecure	3	1.2	4.0	4.3	6.1	3.4
Very Insecure	4	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.2
Mean		1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4

- The vast majority of all types of hikers felt “very secure” or “reasonably secure” when leaving the AT.
- Day (64.8%) and overnight (55.9%) users reported feeling “very secure” far more than section (34.0%) and thru (26.6%) hikers.

(QB7a) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Very Secure	1	58.7	45.9	57.3	56.6	26.6	50.4
Reasonably Secure	2	39.1	49.0	40.7	38.6	67.3	46.0
Somewhat Insecure	3	2.1	4.7	1.7	3.9	6.1	3.4
Very Insecure	4	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.2
Mean		1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.5

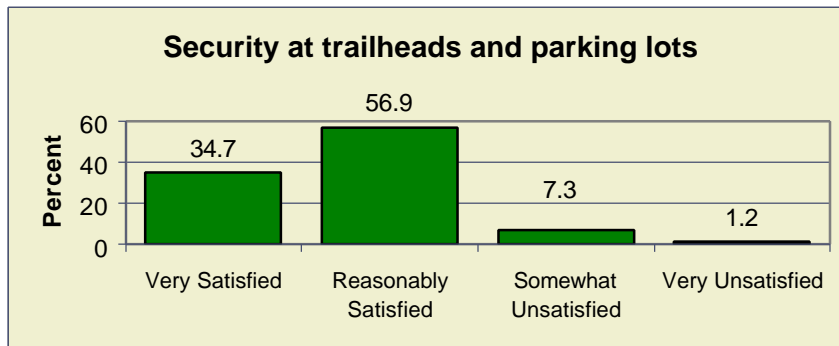
- Regional differences in feelings about security while leaving the trail mirrored those for feelings about security on the trail.
- Those in the Mid-Atlantic region were less likely (45.9%) than those in the other regions (57.3-58.7%) to feel “very secure” while leaving the trail.

(QB7b) Satisfaction with security at trailheads and parking lots

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)			Thru Hikers	
	Scale	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Satisfied	1	489	34.7	84	29.1
Reasonably Satisfied	2	799	56.9	173	59.9
Somewhat Unsatisfied	3	109	7.3	28	9.7
Very Unsatisfied	4	16	1.2	4	1.4
Mean			1.8		1.8

N=1413; 289

(QB7b) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Most thru hikers and non-thru hikers were reasonably satisfied with the level of security at trailheads and parking lots along the AT.
- About one-third of each group was very satisfied with security at trailheads and parking lots.
- Only about 10% of either thru hikers or non-thru hikers were unsatisfied with security at trailheads and parking lots along the AT.

(QB7b) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Very Satisfied	1	35.7	36.3	27.7	29.1	33.6
Reasonably Satisfied	2	56.4	55.4	60.2	59.9	57.3
Somewhat Unsatisfied	3	6.9	7.7	9.6	9.7	8.1
Very Unsatisfied	4	1.0	0.6	2.4	1.4	1.1
Mean		1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.5

- Feelings of security at trailheads and parking lots along the AT were generally consistent across the different types of hikers.

(QB7b) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Very Satisfied	1	36.3	33.6	27.7	40.3	29.1	33.7
Reasonably Satisfied	2	56.1	59.1	60.1	50.2	59.9	57.1
Somewhat Unsatisfied	3	6.0	6.9	10.6	9.5	9.7	8.0
Very Unsatisfied	4	1.6	0.4	1.7	0.0	1.4	1.2
Mean		1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8

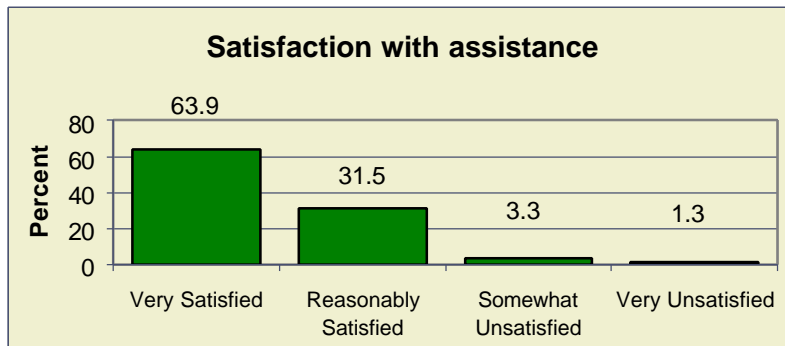
- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were slightly less likely to be “very satisfied” (28%) with security at trailheads and parking lots than hikers from other regions (34-40%).

(QB7b) Satisfaction with assistance from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)			Thru Hikers	
	Scale	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Satisfied	1	859	63.9	141	46.2
Reasonably Satisfied	2	452	31.5	147	48.2
Somewhat Unsatisfied	3	50	3.3	14	4.6
Very Unsatisfied	4	17	1.3	3	1.0
Mean			1.4		1.6

N=1378; 305

(QB7b) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Most AT users were “very satisfied” with the assistance they received from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers.
- AT users were generally more satisfied with the assistance they received from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers along the AT than they were with the level of security at trailheads and parking lots.
- Non-thru hikers (63.9%) were much more likely than thru hikers (46.2%) to report that they were very satisfied with the level of assistance from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers along the AT.

(QB7b) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Very Satisfied	1	56.7	68.9	60.2	46.2	59.3
Reasonably Satisfied	2	35.9	29.6	33.3	48.2	35.7
Somewhat Unsatisfied	3	5.4	0.9	5.6	4.6	3.8
Very Unsatisfied	4	1.9	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1
Mean		1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8

- Overall, each type of hiker reported being “very satisfied” with the assistance they received from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers.
- However, thru hikers (46.2%) were less likely to report being “very satisfied”.

(QB7b) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Very Satisfied	1	65.5	68.7	48.8	63.5	46.2	59.4
Reasonably Satisfied	2	31.2	27.4	41.3	32.4	48.2	35.6
Somewhat Unsatisfied	3	2.4	2.8	6.7	4.1	4.6	3.8
Very Unsatisfied	4	0.8	1.2	3.2	0.0	1.0	1.2
Mean		1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.5

- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were again slightly less likely to be very satisfied (48.8%) with the assistance from rangers, ridge runners, and volunteers along the AT than hikers from other regions (63.5-68.7%).

c. Have you encountered a security problem along the trail during the past 12 months?

Yes No

If yes, did the incident involve a personal threat or attack against you?

Yes No

Did the incident involve vandalism or theft of your personal property?

Yes No

Was the incident reported to law enforcement authorities? Yes No

Please describe the incident. (SEE APPENDIX C)

(QB7c) Security problems along the trail during the past 12 months

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	33	2.3	43	13.7
No	1433	97.7	272	86.3

N=1466; 315

- Only a small minority of AT users reported actually encountering a security problem along the trail during the past 12 months.
- Thru hikers, however, were much more likely to have encountered a security problem (13.7%) on the trail than non-thru hikers (2.3%).

(QB7c) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	2.2	1.4	4.2	13.7	4.3
No	97.8	98.6	95.8	86.3	95.7

- Only a small minority of each type of hiker reported actually encountering a security problem along the trail during the past 12 months.

(QB7c) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	2.0	3.4	2.8	0.8	13.7	4.3
No	98.0	96.6	97.2	99.2	86.3	95.7

- Nearly all the hikers in all regions reported not encountering a security problem along the Appalachian Trail during the past 12 months.
- Hikers in the Deep South were least likely to encounter a security problem along the trail (0.8%).

(QB7c) Did the incident involve a personal threat or attack against you?

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	9	14.8	7	14.6
No	46	85.2	41	85.4

N=55; 48

- Among the hikers who encountered a security problem along the trail in the last 12 months, only 15% of the incidents (both thru hikers and non-thru hikers) involved a personal threat or attack.

(QB7c) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	10.0	6.7	33.3	14.6	15.8
No	90.0	93.3	66.7	85.4	84.2

- Among the hikers who encountered a security problem along the trail in the last 12 months (N=76), section hikers reported a higher percentage (33.3%) involving personal threat or attack.

(QB7c) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	12.5	14.3	9.1	50.0	14.6	15.5
No	87.5	85.7	90.9	50.0	85.4	84.5

- The likelihood of a personal threat was greatest in the Deep South (50% of all reported security problems), but this finding should be interpreted with caution as it is based on the very small number of security incidents reported.

(QB7c) Did the incident involve vandalism or theft of your personal property?

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	4	7.5	13	27.7
No	51	92.5	34	72.3

N=51; 34

- For thru hikers, security incidents were more likely to involve vandalism or theft of property than threat of personal attack.
- Less than 10% of the incidents reported by non-thru hikers involved vandalism or theft of personal property, compared to 28% of the incidents reported by thru hikers.

(QB7c) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	5.0	7.1	10.5	27.7	17.0
No	95.0	92.9	89.5	72.3	83.0

- Thru hikers (27.7%) reported more security incidents involving vandalism or theft of property than any other type of hiker (5-10.5%).

(QB7c) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	8.7	0.0	9.1	16.7	27.7	16.7
No	91.3	100.0	90.9	83.3	72.3	83.3

- Only a small percentage of security incidents reported in any of the regions involved vandalism or theft of personal property.

(QB7c) Was the incident reported to law enforcement authorities?

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	8	17.4	17	37.8
No	39	82.6	28	62.2

N=39; 28

- The majority of security problems encountered on the Appalachian Trail were not reported to law enforcement authorities.
- Thru hikers were more than twice as likely (38%) as non-thru hikers (17%) to report the security problems they encountered to law enforcement authorities.

(QB7c) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	10.5	20.0	23.5	37.8	27.5
No	89.5	80.0	76.5	62.2	72.5

- Thru hikers were far more likely (38%) to report security problems to the authorities than day users (10.5%).

(QB7c) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	23.8	8.3	10.0	25.0	37.8	27.2
No	76.2	91.7	90.0	75.0	62.2	72.8

- Only a small percentage of the security problems encountered in any region were reported to law enforcement authorities.

d. Have you encountered a security problem at a trailhead or parking lot or within a few miles of the trail during the past 12 months?

Yes No

If yes, did the incident involve a personal threat or attack against you?

Yes No

Did the incident involve vandalism or theft of your personal property?

Yes No

Was the incident reported to law enforcement authorities? Yes No

Please describe the incident. (SEE APPENDIX C)

(QB7d) Security problem at a trailhead or parking lot in past 12 months

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	41	2.9	29	9.4
No	1416	97.1	280	90.6

N=1457; 280

- A very small percentage of AT users reported encountering a security problem at a trailhead or parking lot within a few miles of the trail during the past twelve months.
- As in the case of security incidents along the trail, thru hikers were much more likely (9%) than non-thru hikers (3%) to have encountered a security problem at a trailhead or parking lot.

(QB7d) Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	1.6	3.1	5.3	9.4	4.0
No	98.4	96.9	94.7	90.6	96.0

- Only a small percentage of each type of hiker experienced a security problem at a trailhead or parking lot within a few miles of the trail during the past twelve months.

(QB7d) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	3.1	2.3	1.9	3.8	9.4	4.0
No	96.9	97.7	98.1	96.2	90.6	96.0

- There was little variation across regions in the reporting of security problems at trailheads or parking lots.

(QB7d) Did the incident involve a personal threat or attack against you?

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	4	7.8	3	10.3
No	50	92.2	26	89.7

N=50; 29

- As in the case of incidents along the trail, only a very small percentage of security problems at trailheads or parking lots involved a threat of personal attack.

(QB7d) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	7.1	5.3	10.5	10.3	8.6
No	92.9	94.7	89.5	89.7	91.4

- Again, only a very small percentage of each type of user encountered a security problem involving a personal threat or attack.

(QB7d) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	8.4
No	84.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	89.7	91.6

- Hikers in the New England region were most likely to report a security problem at a trailhead or parking lot or within a few miles of the trail. However, these findings should be interpreted cautiously as they are based on a very small number of cases.

(QB7d) Did the incident involve vandalism or theft of your personal property?

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	16	31.9	5	17.2
No	34	68.1	24	82.8

N=50; 29

- Security incidents at trailheads/parking lots were more likely to involve vandalism or theft of property.
- Nearly one-third of the incidents reported by non-thru hikers involved theft or vandalism, compared to 17% of those reported by thru hikers.

(QB7d) Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	23.1	47.1	27.8	17.2	27.3
No	76.9	52.9	72.2	82.8	72.7

- Incidents of vandalism or theft of property were most common among overnight hikers (47.1%).

(QB7d) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	34.8	12.5	20.0	55.6	17.2	26.6
No	65.2	87.5	80.0	44.4	82.8	73.4

- Incidents of vandalism or theft of property were more common in New England (35%) and in the Deep South (56%), but these figures again are based on a very small number of incidents reported in each region.

(QB7d) Was the incident reported to law enforcement authorities?

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	22	52.5	13	50.0
No	20	47.5	13	50.0

N=42; 26

- Contrary to the reporting of incidents involving personal threat or attack, about half of the incidents involving vandalism or theft of property were reported to law enforcement authorities (thru hikers and non-thru hikers).

(QB7d) Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	41.7	70.6	41.7	50.0	52.2
No	58.3	29.4	58.3	50.0	47.8

- Of the types of hikers who did experience an incident involving vandalism or theft of property, the vast majority of overnight hikers (70.6%) reported these incidents to law enforcement authorities.

(QB7d) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	66.7	33.3	40.0	50.0	50.0	51.5
No	33.3	66.7	60.0	50.0	50.0	48.5

- Incidents of vandalism/theft were more likely to be reported in the New England region (67%), followed by the Deep South (50%). However, these findings should be interpreted cautiously as they are based on a small number of cases.

8. Are you aware of the Appalachian Trail Conference's Hiker Security Guidelines?
 Yes No

(QB8)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	206	14.8	120	38.2
No	1253	85.2	194	61.8

N=1459; 314

- The majority of AT users are not aware of the Appalachian Trail Conference's Hiker Security Guidelines.
- Thru-hikers, however, are much more likely (38%) to be aware of the guidelines than non-thru hikers (15%).

(QB8) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	6.5	11.2	36.6	38.2	18.1
No	93.5	88.8	63.4	61.8	81.9

- Section (36.6%) and thru (38.3%) hikers are far more likely to be aware of the Appalachian Trail Conference's Hiker Security Guidelines.

(QB8) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	13.4	23.2	9.6	11.8	38.2	18.4
No	86.6	76.8	90.4	88.2	61.8	81.6

- Awareness of the ATC Hiker Security Guidelines is highest in the Mid-Atlantic region (23%) and lowest in Southwest Virginia (10%).

9. When traveling on the Appalachian Trail, do you ever intentionally hike or camp near other people for reasons of safety or personal security?

No

Yes. Please explain (SEE APPENDIX C) _____

(QB9)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	212	15.4	126	40.6
No	1175	84.6	184	59.4

N=1387; 310

- A minority of AT users intentionally hike or camp near other people for reasons of safety or personal security.
- However, thru hikers are much more likely (41%) to hike or camp near others for security reasons than non-thru hikers (15%).

(QB9) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	13.1	13.7	22.5	40.6	19.8
No	86.9	86.3	77.5	59.4	80.2

- Again, thru hikers are much more likely (41%) to hike or camp near others for security reasons than other types of hikers.

(QB9) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	13.9	20.8	14.7	13.5	40.6	19.9
No	86.1	79.2	85.3	86.5	59.4	80.1

- Only a small minority (one-fifth or less) of users from any region reported hiking or camping near other people for reasons of safety or personal security.

PART C:
The Visitor Experience

1. People have many potential reasons for hiking. We would like to know what motivated you to hike on the Appalachian Trail on the trip when you were contacted for this study. Please indicate (1) how important each of the experiences listed below was to you as a reason to hike, and (2) the extent to which you attained each of these experiences on your hike. [Please circle one number under IMPORTANCE and one number under ATTAINED for each experience]

	IMPORTANCE					ATTAINED				
	Not at all Important				Extremely Important	Not at all Attained				Highly Attained
a. To be on my own	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b. To take risks	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c. To use my equipment	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d. To do something with my family	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
e. To be with members of my group	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
f. To meet new people	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
g. To learn about the countryside	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
h. To enjoy the view along the trail	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
i. To think about my personal values	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
j. To be close to nature	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
k. To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
l. To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
m. To get exercise	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
n. To relax physically	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
o. To help reduce built-up tension	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
p. To experience solitude	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
q. To be away from the family for a while	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
r. To share my skill and knowledge with others	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
s. To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
t. To show others I can do it	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
u. To test my endurance	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
v. To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

(QC1)**Users (Non-Thru Hiker) (N=1561)**

	Importance					Attained						
	Not at all Important				Extremely Important	Not at all Attained				Highly Attained		
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5		
	Percent				Mean	Percent				Mean		
a) To be on my own	23.9	11.5	23.0	24.9	16.6	3.0	16.2	10.4	26.6	23.9	22.9	3.3
b) To take risks	49.3	20.5	19.3	8.0	2.8	1.9	27.6	17.3	24.4	14.1	16.6	2.7
c) To use my equipment	34.0	16.5	22.9	14.9	11.7	2.5	14.8	7.6	21.5	21.3	34.8	3.5
d) To do something with my family	44.8	5.7	8.3	11.9	29.3	2.8	37.7	3.5	6.6	9.2	43.1	3.2
e) To be with members of my group	28.5	5.0	11.6	20.5	34.4	3.3	20.1	2.9	8.6	18.1	50.4	3.8
f) To meet new people	42.5	18.2	22.0	11.8	5.5	2.2	21.3	13.1	25.2	19.8	20.5	3.1
g) To learn about the countryside	11.4	11.4	29.4	29.3	18.4	3.3	6.6	9.5	27.6	30.5	25.8	3.6
h) To enjoy the view along the trail	0.6	1.2	6.8	27.6	63.9	4.5	0.6	1.7	9.1	22.9	65.7	4.5
i) To think about my personal values	12.7	12.3	21.8	25.7	27.4	3.4	6.9	8.8	22.2	28.3	33.7	3.7
j) To be close to nature	1.2	1.4	8.3	26.2	62.8	4.5	0.4	1.3	9.1	25.7	63.5	4.5
k) To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	41.8	19.6	18.3	11.5	8.8	2.3	33.3	15	18.8	15.3	17.7	2.7
l) To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	36.6	12.2	20.2	17.3	13.8	2.6	27.9	6.9	20.7	20	24.6	3.1
m) To get exercise	0.8	2.1	12.0	30.8	54.4	4.4	0.2	0.6	6.6	21	71.5	4.6
n) To relax physically	10.6	7.6	18.3	25.2	38.4	3.7	8.6	6.3	16	24.4	44.6	3.9
o) To help reduce built-up tension	12.2	9.2	17.1	24.3	37.2	3.7	7.1	4.7	16.3	25	46.9	4
p) To experience solitude	14.3	11.4	21.1	28.3	24.9	3.4	10.9	12.8	26.5	24.9	24.8	3.4
q) To be away from the family for a while	59.9	11.5	12.7	8.6	7.3	1.9	40.2	6.6	14.4	11.2	27.5	2.8
r) To share my skill and knowledge with others	41.1	17.4	22.2	12.7	6.6	2.3	28.3	14.3	25.4	16.1	16	2.8
s) To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	12.3	5.8	15.8	26.8	39.3	3.8	8.6	4.6	12.1	18.2	56.5	4.1
t) To show others I can do it	56.3	15.5	12.9	8.4	6.8	1.9	35.2	10	16.2	13.3	25.2	2.8
u) To test my endurance	21.3	11.6	21.9	25.3	19.8	3.1	12	6.8	17.6	25.1	38.5	3.7
v) To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	10.8	6.9	18.5	20.8	43.0	3.8	4.9	2.9	14	16.7	61.5	4.3

- For non-thru hikers, the most important reasons for hiking on the AT include being close to nature (mean=4.5 on 5-point scale), enjoying the view along the trail (4.5) and getting exercise (4.4).
- These same three reasons were also the most highly attained motives of AT non-thru hikers.
- Nearly all of the reasons showed a higher score on the attainment scale than on the importance scale, suggesting trail users' expectations were exceeded relative to these types of experiences.
- Reasons showing the greatest "over-attainment" include: using equipment (difference between attainment and importance=1.0), getting away from the family for awhile (0.9), taking risks (0.8), meeting new people (0.9), and showing others I can do it (0.9).

Thru Hikers Only (N=318)	Importance					Attained						
	Not at all Important	2	3	4	Extremely Important	Mean	Not at all Attained	2	3	4	Highly Attained	Mean
	Percent					Percent						
To be on my own	11.2	9.0	25.6	27.2	26.9	3.5	4.5	14.9	26.6	28.6	25.3	3.6
To take risks	28.6	15.4	26.7	18.6	10.6	2.7	10.5	6.5	30.4	27.8	24.8	3.5
To use my equipment	26.4	18.8	18.8	19.1	16.8	2.8	4.0	5.0	12.0	18.4	60.5	4.3
To do something with my family	64.6	9.1	8.4	5.4	12.5	1.9	53.7	5.7	9.2	8.1	23.3	2.4
To be with members of my group	59.8	8.2	12.7	7.2	12.0	2.0	45.8	6.6	12.1	5.5	30.0	2.7
To meet new people	11.8	11.2	31.6	26.2	19.2	3.3	1.0	3.2	11.9	21.9	61.9	4.4
To learn about the countryside	3.9	9.6	26.7	32.2	27.7	3.7	1.3	5.2	25.9	31.7	35.9	4.0
To enjoy the view along the trail	1.0	2.9	9.9	28.4	57.8	4.4	0.3	3.5	11.6	30.3	54.2	4.4
To think about my personal values	4.8	9.3	10.6	22.2	53.1	4.1	2.6	6.8	14.3	23.1	53.1	4.2
To be close to nature	2.6	1.6	8.3	27.2	60.3	4.4		2.3	11.9	30.0	55.8	4.4
To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	30.9	18.3	25.7	14.1	10.9	2.6	18.7	17.7	33.3	15.7	14.7	2.9
To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	58.2	13.2	10.2	8.6	9.9	2.0	44.2	8.6	16.8	12.0	18.5	2.5
To get exercise	6.4	7.1	22.4	27.9	36.2	3.8	1.0		4.9	12.0	82.1	4.7
To relax physically	27.4	13.2	19.7	19.4	20.3	2.9	22.5	10.9	16.2	19.2	31.1	3.3
To help reduce built-up tension	25.0	11.7	18.8	21.8	22.7	3.1	12.9	7.0	20.9	18.5	40.7	3.7
To experience solitude	8.4	10.0	20.0	31.0	30.6	3.7	8.8	19.3	23.9	24.2	23.9	3.4
To be away from the family for a while	47.7	10.7	17.9	9.4	14.3	2.3	19.4	4.1	13.6	16.0	46.9	3.7
To share my skill and knowledge with others	45.0	20.6	21.5	9.0	3.9	2.1	17.0	17.7	35.0	19.0	11.3	2.9
To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	14.7	6.5	8.1	15.3	55.4	3.9	5.7	4.1	7.8	13.2	69.3	4.4
To show others I can do it	31.0	17.4	23.5	11.3	16.8	2.7	12.8	7.4	16.4	12.8	50.7	3.8
To test my endurance	10.2	8.0	15.3	27.2	39.3	3.8	3.2	2.3	7.5	20.8	66.2	4.4
To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	2.9	1.3	6.7	15.1	74.0	4.6	0.7		4.6	10.4	84.4	4.8

- Like the non-thru hikers, the most important motives to thru hikers include being close to nature and enjoying the view along the trail.
- The single most important reason to thru hikers, however, was to experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail.
- Surprisingly, getting exercise was less important to thru hikers than it was to non-thru hikers; it is not surprising that thru hikers' attainment of getting exercise exceeded the importance they placed on exercise.
- Taking risks, using equipment and showing others they could do it were all relatively unimportant but were highly attained by the thru hikers.
- The only item where the importance exceeded the attainment for thru hikers was to experience solitude.
- Other reasons followed a pattern similar to that for the non-thru hikers, with most reasons' attainment scores exceeding their corresponding importance.

(QC1) by Type of Hiker

Motive Importance*	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) To be on my own	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.1
b) To take risks	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.7	2.1
c) To use my equipment	1.9	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.6
d) To do something with my family	3.0	2.7	2.2	1.9	2.6
e) To be with members of my group	3.4	3.6	2.5	2.0	3.1
f) To meet new people	1.9	2.3	2.8	3.3	2.4
g) To learn about the countryside	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.4
h) To enjoy the view along the trail	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5
i) To think about my personal values	3.2	3.5	3.7	4.1	3.5
j) To be close to nature	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5
k) To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.3
l) To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.5
m) To get exercise	4.5	4.2	4.2	3.8	4.3
n) To relax physically	3.9	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.6
o) To help reduce built-up tension	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.5
p) To experience solitude	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.4
q) To be away from the family for a while	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.0
r) To share my skill and knowledge with others	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.2
s) To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8
t) To show others I can do it	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.7	2.1
u) To test my endurance	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.2
v) To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	3.6	3.7	4.2	4.6	3.9

*Responses ranged from not at all important (1) to extremely important (5).

Motive Attainment*	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) To be on my own	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.6	3.3
b) To take risks	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.5	2.9
c) To use my equipment	2.9	4.0	3.9	4.3	3.7
d) To do something with my family	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.4	3.0
e) To be with members of my group	3.9	3.9	3.1	2.7	3.6
f) To meet new people	2.7	3.1	3.6	4.4	3.3
g) To learn about the countryside	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.7
h) To enjoy the view along the trail	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5
i) To think about my personal values	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	3.8
j) To be close to nature	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5
k) To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.7
l) To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.0
m) To get exercise	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7
n) To relax physically	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.8
o) To help reduce built-up tension	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.9
p) To experience solitude	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.4
q) To be away from the family for a while	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.0
r) To share my skill and knowledge with others	2.5	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8
s) To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.1
t) To show others I can do it	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.8	3.0
u) To test my endurance	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.4	3.8
v) To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.4

*Responses ranged from not at all attained (1) to highly attained (5).

- Importance and attainment ratings varied significantly across types of hikers for all of the reasons for hiking the Appalachian Trail except for being close to nature. This was among the top ranked reasons for all hiker groups.
- Section and thru hikers attached the most importance to being on their own, while day users placed the least importance on this reason for hiking the AT.
- Thru hikers stood out from all other groups in their high ratings (importance and attainment) for taking risks. Overnight and section hikers attached considerably less importance to taking risks, and day users were the least motivated to take risks.
- This same pattern held for the reason, showing others I can do it. Thru hikers reported higher importance and attainment scores than any other group.
- Day users placed far less importance than all other groups on using their equipment. They also reported lower attainment scores for this reason for hiking.
- Day users and overnight hikers placed greater importance on social interaction with their family or their own group, while thru hikers were most interested in meeting new people on the trail.
- Day users placed the most importance on getting exercise, while all groups reported very high attainment of the exercise motive.
- Thru hikers differed from the other groups in the low importance assigned to relaxing and reducing built up tension.
- Overnight hikers were more strongly motivated than other types of hikers to share their skill and knowledge with others.

(QC1) by Region

Motive Importance*	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a) To be on my own	3.1	3.3	2.6	3.0	3.1
b) To take risks	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.1
c) To use my equipment	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.7	2.6
d) To do something with my family	2.8	2.3	2.9	2.9	2.6
e) To be with members of my group	3.3	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.1
f) To meet new people	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.4
g) To learn about the countryside	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.4
h) To enjoy the view along the trail	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.5
i) To think about my personal values	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.5
j) To be close to nature	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.5
k) To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3
l) To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.5
m) To get exercise	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3
n) To relax physically	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.6
o) To help reduce built-up tension	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.5
p) To experience solitude	3.5	3.6	3.0	3.4	3.4
q) To be away from the family for a while	1.9	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.0
r) To share my skill and knowledge with others	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2
s) To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	3.9	3.4	4.0	3.6	3.8
t) To show others I can do it	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1
u) To test my endurance	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.2	3.2
v) To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	3.7	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.9

*Responses ranged from not at all important (1) to extremely important (5).

Motive Attainment*	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a) To be on my own	3.2	3.5	3.0	3.4	3.3
b) To take risks	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.9
c) To use my equipment	3.7	3.7	3.0	3.6	3.7
d) To do something with my family	3.2	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.0
e) To be with members of my group	3.8	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.6
f) To meet new people	3.2	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.3
g) To learn about the countryside	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.7
h) To enjoy the view along the trail	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.5
i) To think about my personal values	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.8
j) To be close to nature	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
k) To be creative by doing something such as sketching, painting, taking photographs	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7
l) To bring back pleasant memories of a prior visit	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0
m) To get exercise	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
n) To relax physically	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.8
o) To help reduce built-up tension	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.9
p) To experience solitude	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.4
q) To be away from the family for a while	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.0
r) To share my skill and knowledge with others	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.8
s) To reach a specific destination (e.g. mountain summit or lake)	4.2	3.8	4.3	3.9	4.1
t) To show others I can do it	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0
u) To test my endurance	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.8
v) To experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4

*Responses ranged from not at all attained (1) to highly attained (5).

- Reasons receiving the highest scores for both importance and attainment included being close to nature, enjoying the view, and getting exercise.
- Most of the items' attainment scores were higher than their importance, suggesting fulfillment of these motives.
- The only item that was attained below its importance score was experiencing solitude.
- The most important motives to Mid-Atlantic area hikers, like those from the other regions, were being close to nature, enjoying the views from the trail and getting exercise.
- Reasons receiving the highest scores for both importance and attainment included being close to nature, enjoying the view, and getting exercise.
- As in all regions, most of the items' attainment scores were higher than their importance, suggesting fulfillment of these motives.
- AT users in the New England region reported motives similar to those of the overall sample.
- Mid-Atlantic trail users rated being on their own as more important, and more highly attained, than users of any other region.
- Mid-Atlantic hikers also reported lower importance and attainment scores than hikers from the other regions for the motives, being with members of their group and reaching a specific destination.
- Mid-Atlantic hikers rated solitude as more important than hikers from the other regions
- The most important motives for hikers from Southwest Virginia were the same as those in the other regions (getting close to nature, views from the trail, and getting exercise).
- Southwest Virginia hikers stood out from the other regions in their relatively low ratings (importance and attainment) for meeting new people and being on their own.
- Respondents from the Southwest Virginia region also attached more importance, however, to being with members of their own group and reaching a specific destination.
- Those from Southwest Virginia attached less importance to experiencing solitude than those from the other regions.
- Deep South hikers reported higher attainment of the motive, to experience a hike on the Appalachian Trail, than hikers from other regions.

**2. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the Appalachian Trail?
[Please circle one number for each item]**

	EXTENT OF PROBELM			
	Not a Problem	A Small Problem	A Big Problem	Don't Know/ No Opinion
a. Trail poorly maintained	0	1	2	3
b. Trail poorly marked (difficult to find your way)	0	1	2	3
c. Trail too developed	0	1	2	3
d. Litter on the trail	0	1	2	3
e. Damage to soil and vegetation	0	1	2	3
f. Vandalism/graffiti	0	1	2	3
g. Too many other hikers	0	1	2	3
h. Groups encountered were too large	0	1	2	3
i. Some hikers were inconsiderate	0	1	2	3
j. Too many places congested with people	0	1	2	3
k. Not enough people on the trail	0	1	2	3
l. Too many rules and regulations	0	1	2	3
m. Regulations not adequately publicized	0	1	2	3
n. Not enough information available to hikers	0	1	2	3
o. Not enough information available on how to prepare for a safe hike	0	1	2	3
p. Not enough restrooms/outhouses along the trail	0	1	2	3
q. Not enough water available along the trail	0	1	2	3
r. Clearing of vegetation	0	1	2	3
s. Condition of shelters	0	1	2	3
t. Lack of overnight food storage facilities	0	1	2	3
u. Too many facilities along the trail	0	1	2	3
v. Not enough parking at the trailhead	0	1	2	3
w. Lack of public transportation between trailheads	0	1	2	3
x. Too many rangers/management staff on the trail	0	1	2	3
y. Too few rangers/management staff on the trail	0	1	2	3
z. Too many overnight shelters/camping areas	0	1	2	3
aa. Too few overnight shelters/camping areas	0	1	2	3
bb. Shelters/campsites too crowded	0	1	2	3
cc. Traffic noise from nearby roads	0	1	2	3
dd. Development that can be seen from the trail	0	1	2	3
ee. Dogs off leash	0	1	2	3
ff. Trail erosion	0	1	2	3
gg. Too many dogs	0	1	2	3
hh. Too many "social trails" or "informal trails"	0	1	2	3
ii. Conflict between different type of visitors	0	1	2	3
jj. Evidence of human waste (e.g. toilet paper, feces, etc.)	0	1	2	3
kk. Noisy/rowdy people	0	1	2	3
ll. Evidence of too many campers (fire rings, etc.)	0	1	2	3
mm. Feeling of being unsafe/insecure	0	1	2	3
nn. Campsites too heavily impacted	0	1	2	3
oo. Problems with bears	0	1	2	3
pp. Problems with rodents at shelters/campsites	0	1	2	3
qq. Theft of personal property	0	1	2	3
rr. Lack of privacy at shelters/campsites	0	1	2	3

(QC2)**User (Non-Thru Hiker) (N=1561)**

	Extent Of Problem				Mean
	Not a Problem	A Small Problem	A Big Problem	Don't Know/No Opinion	
	0	1	2	3	
a. Trail poorly maintained	59.8	34.6	4.7	0.9	0.4
b. Trail poorly marked (difficult to find your way)	62.0	32.7	5.0	0.3	0.4
c. Trail too developed	51.7	37.1	9.6	1.5	0.6
d. Litter on the trail	50.7	40.7	8.2	0.4	0.6
e. Damage to soil and vegetation	30.4	49.2	19.1	1.4	0.9
f. Vandalism/graffiti	60.9	32.3	5.9	0.9	0.4
g. Too many other hikers	45.8	40.2	12.7	1.3	0.7
h. Groups encountered were too large	57.9	27.4	13.2	1.5	0.6
i. Some hikers were inconsiderate	64.3	28.0	6.4	1.3	0.4
j. Too many places congested with people	50.2	37.7	10.9	1.2	0.6
k. Not enough people on the trail	93.8	3.7	0.5	2.0	0.1
l. Too many rules and regulations	82.8	11.7	2.6	2.9	0.2
m. Regulations not adequately publicized	57.8	31.6	7.6	3.0	0.5
n. Not enough information available to hikers	64.9	26.5	5.6	3.0	0.4
o. Not enough information available on how to prepare for a safe hike	72.0	20.3	4.4	3.3	0.3
p. Not enough restrooms/outhouses along the trail	73.0	19.7	4.8	2.5	0.3
q. Not enough water available along the trail	49.3	34.3	14.0	2.4	0.6
r. Clearing of vegetation	63.8	27.0	5.7	3.6	0.4
s. Condition of shelters	59.9	24.2	4.3	11.6	0.4
t. Lack of overnight food storage facilities	62.7	18.1	4.3	15.0	0.3
u. Too many facilities along the trail	77.6	11.6	2.2	8.6	0.2
v. Not enough parking at the trailhead	67.1	24.2	4.6	4.1	0.4
w. Lack of public transportation between trailheads	51.4	21.7	10.7	16.2	0.5
x. Too many rangers/management staff on the trail	90.1	3.8	0.8	5.3	0.1
y. Too few rangers/management staff on the trail	69.1	19.5	4.6	6.8	0.3
z. Too many overnight shelters/camping areas	84.9	5.3	1.2	8.6	0.1
aa. Too few overnight shelters/camping areas	73.0	14.5	2.9	9.7	0.2
bb. Shelters/campsites too crowded	46.6	30.9	10.0	12.6	0.6
cc. Traffic noise from nearby roads	59.6	31.0	6.5	2.9	0.5
dd. Development that can be seen from the trail	61.9	27.1	8.1	2.9	0.5
ee. Dogs off leash	67.3	21.1	8.4	3.2	0.4
ff. Trail erosion	35.7	45.2	16.6	2.5	0.8
gg. Too many dogs	72.7	16.8	6.7	3.8	0.3
hh. Too many "social trails" or "informal trails"	68.4	16.6	3.2	11.8	0.3
ii. Conflict between different type of visitors	76.2	14.6	3.1	6.1	0.2
jj. Evidence of human waste (e.g. toilet paper, feces, etc.)	59.1	29.9	8.4	2.5	0.5
kk. Noisy/rowdy people	68.0	25.2	4.4	2.4	0.4
ll. Evidence of too many campers (fire rings, etc.)	57.1	30.4	8.9	3.6	0.5
mm. Feeling of being unsafe/insecure	83.2	13.5	1.8	1.5	0.2
nn. Campsites too heavily impacted	48.1	32.5	11.5	7.9	0.6
oo. Problems with bears	80.7	11.1	1.1	7.2	0.1
pp. Problems with rodents at shelters/campsites	45.0	27.5	14.4	13.1	0.7
qq. Theft of personal property	85.2	6.5	1.2	7.1	0.1
rr. Lack of privacy at shelters/campsites	65.6	19.3	3.3	11.8	0.3

Thru Hikers Only (N=318)

	Extent Of Problem				Mean
	Not a Problem	A Small Problem	A Big Problem	Don't Know/No Opinion	
	0	1	2	3	
a. Trail poorly maintained	34.3	58.4	6.9	0.4	0.7
b. Trail poorly marked (difficult to find your way)	31.6	59.3	9.1	0	0.8
c. Trail too developed	37	41.5	19.3	2.2	0.8
d. Litter on the trail	28.4	58.5	13.1	0	0.9
e. Damage to soil and vegetation	17.2	56.9	25.2	0.7	1.1
f. Vandalism/graffiti	34.5	58.5	6.9	0	0.7
g. Too many other hikers	26.7	46.2	25.3	1.8	1.0
h. Groups encountered were too large	27	39.4	32.5	1.1	1.1
i. Some hikers were inconsiderate	31.8	54.4	13.5	0.4	0.8
j. Too many places congested with people	28.2	46.9	24.9	0	1.0
k. Not enough people on the trail	94.5	3.6	0.4	1.5	0.0
l. Too many rules and regulations	51.6	38.5	9.5	0.4	0.6
m. Regulations not adequately publicized	72	23.6	2.2	2.2	0.3
n. Not enough information available to hikers	82.5	14.2	1.5	1.8	0.2
o. Not enough information available on how to prepare for a safe hike	90.5	6.6	1.8	1.1	0.1
p. Not enough restrooms/outhouses along the trail	76.3	18.2	5.5	0	0.3
q. Not enough water available along the trail	37	46.2	16.5	0.4	0.8
r. Clearing of vegetation	50.9	36.7	8.6	3.7	0.6
s. Condition of shelters	52.2	42	5.1	0.7	0.5
t. Lack of overnight food storage facilities	66.3	23.4	8.8	1.5	0.4
u. Too many facilities along the trail	64.2	25.5	9.1	1.1	0.4
v. Not enough parking at the trailhead	72.2	3.7	0.4	23.8	0.1
w. Lack of public transportation between trailheads	57.7	19.5	4	18.8	0.3
x. Too many rangers/management staff on the trail	86	5.2	0.7	8.1	0.1
y. Too few rangers/management staff on the trail	70	18.3	4.4	7.3	0.3
z. Too many overnight shelters/camping areas	80.9	13.2	2.9	2.9	0.2
aa. Too few overnight shelters/camping areas	76	17	4.4	2.6	0.3
bb. Shelters/campsites too crowded	32.6	48.7	17.9	0.7	0.9
cc. Traffic noise from nearby roads	32.2	54.2	12.8	0.7	0.8
dd. Development that can be seen from the trail	38.8	48.4	12.5	0.4	0.7
ee. Dogs off leash	56.6	32.5	10.2	0.7	0.5
ff. Trail erosion	18	53.7	27.2	1.1	1.1
gg. Too many dogs	70.2	18.4	9.9	1.5	0.4
hh. Too many "social trails" or "informal trails"	63.9	19	3.7	13.4	0.3
ii. Conflict between different type of visitors	68.1	27.1	2.9	1.8	0.3
jj. Evidence of human waste (e.g. toilet paper, feces, etc.)	23	55.8	20.8	0.4	1.0
kk. Noisy/rowdy people	57.3	39.1	3.6	0	0.5
ll. Evidence of too many campers (fire rings, etc.)	33.7	47.3	18.7	0.4	0.9
mm. Feeling of being unsafe/insecure	88.3	11.3	0	0.4	0.1
nn. Campsites too heavily impacted	32.2	52.7	14.3	0.7	0.8
oo. Problems with bears	89	9.9	0.4	0.7	0.1
pp. Problems with rodents at shelters/campsites	12.4	44.7	42.2	0.7	1.3
qq. Theft of personal property	92	6.2	0	1.8	0.1
rr. Lack of privacy at shelters/campsites	71	22.4	5.5	1.1	0.3

- Most of the items listed were “not a problem” for the majority of trail users.
- Problems generally were rated as slightly more severe by thru hikers than by non-thru hikers.
- Various forms of environmental impact tended to receive the highest problem ratings for thru and non-thru hikers.
- The biggest problem to both groups was damage to soil and vegetation; this was rated as at least a small problem by 68.3% of non-thru hikers and 83.1% of thru hikers.
- Hiker ratings of trail erosion closely mirrored responses to damage to soil and vegetation.
- “Social problems” like too many hikers, congestion, and crowded shelters/campsites represent a second tier of problems on the trail.
- Thru hikers were particularly sensitive to encountering groups that were too large (71.9% considered at least a small problem), inconsiderate hikers (67.9%), evidence of human waste (76.6%), and problems with rodents at shelters or campsites (86.9%).
- The only problems considered more severe by non-thru hikers than thru hikers were information-related items (e.g. regulations not adequately publicized, not enough information available to hikers) and some items related to trail access (e.g. lack of trailhead parking and public transportation between trailheads).
- Thru hikers were more likely to consider the trail poorly marked (68.4% versus 37.7% of non-thru hikers).

(QC2) by Type of Hiker

Problem*	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) Trail poorly maintained	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5
b) Trail poorly marked (difficult to find your way)	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5
c) Trail too developed	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6
d) Litter on the trail	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.6
e) Damage to soil and vegetation	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9
f) Vandalism/graffiti	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5
g) Too many other hikers	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.7
h) Groups encountered were too large	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.6
i) Some hikers were inconsiderate	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5
j) Too many places congested with people	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.7
k) Not enough people on the trail	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
l) Too many rules and regulations	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.2
m) Regulations not adequately publicized	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
n) Not enough information available to hikers	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
o) Not enough information available on how to prepare for a safe hike	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
p) Not enough restrooms/outhouses along the trail	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
q) Not enough water available along the trail	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7
r) Clearing of vegetation	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4
s) Condition of shelters	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4
t) Lack of overnight food storage facilities	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
u) Too many facilities along the trail	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
v) Not enough parking at the trailhead	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
w) Lack of public transportation between trailheads	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.5
x) Too many rangers/management staff on the trail	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
y) Too few rangers/management staff on the trail	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
z) Too many overnight shelters/camping areas	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
aa) Too few overnight shelters/camping areas	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
bb) Shelters/campsites too crowded	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6
cc) Traffic noise from nearby roads	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.5
dd) Development that can be seen from the trail	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.5
ee) Dogs off leash	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4
ff) Trail erosion	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.9
gg) Too many dogs	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
hh) Too many "social trails" or "informal trails"	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
ii) Conflict between different type of visitors	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
jj) Evidence of human waste (e.g. toilet paper, feces, etc.)	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.6
kk) Noisy/rowdy people	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
ll) Evidence of too many campers (fire rings, etc.)	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6
mm) Feeling of being unsafe/insecure	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
nn) Campsites too heavily impacted	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
oo) Problems with bears	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
pp) Problems with rodents at shelters/campsites	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.8
qq) Theft of personal property	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
rr) Lack of privacy at shelters/campsites	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

*Responses ranged from "not a problem" (0) to "a big problem" (2).

- Most of the problems listed showed significant differences across trail user groups.
- In an exception to this pattern, two of the problems that received the lowest ratings (i.e. were “not a problem”) did not vary. All user groups agreed that “not enough people on the trail” and “too many rangers/management staff on the trail” were not a problem.
- Thru hikers were more likely than any other group to think that there were too many rules and regulations.
- Day users were more likely than any other group to think there is not enough parking available at trailheads.
- In general, section hikers and thru hikers were more sensitive to both resource impacts such as trail erosion and social impacts such as too many hikers and groups that were too large or inconsiderate.
- Section hikers and thru hikers also rated problems at shelters and campsites (e.g. human waste, too many campers, rodents) as more severe than day users or overnight hikers.

(QC2) by Region

Problem*	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a) Trail poorly maintained	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
b) Trail poorly marked (difficult to find your way)	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
c) Trail too developed	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6
d) Litter on the trail	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6
e) Damage to soil and vegetation	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
f) Vandalism/graffiti	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
g) Too many other hikers	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
h) Groups encountered were too large	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6
i) Some hikers were inconsiderate	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
j) Too many places congested with people	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7
k) Not enough people on the trail	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
l) Too many rules and regulations	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
m) Regulations not adequately publicized	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
n) Not enough information available to hikers	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
o) Not enough information available on how to prepare for a safe hike	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
p) Not enough restrooms/outhouses along the trail	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
q) Not enough water available along the trail	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7
r) Clearing of vegetation	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
s) Condition of shelters	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
t) Lack of overnight food storage facilities	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
u) Too many facilities along the trail	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
v) Not enough parking at the trailhead	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
w) Lack of public transportation between trailheads	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5
x) Too many rangers/management staff on the trail	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
y) Too few rangers/management staff on the trail	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
z) Too many overnight shelters/camping areas	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
aa) Too few overnight shelters/camping areas	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
bb) Shelters/campsites too crowded	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
cc) Traffic noise from nearby roads	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5
dd) Development that can be seen from the trail	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5
ee) Dogs off leash	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
ff) Trail erosion	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9
gg) Too many dogs	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
hh) Too many "social trails" or "informal trails"	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
ii) Conflict between different type of visitors	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
jj) Evidence of human waste (e.g. toilet paper, feces, etc.)	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6
kk) Noisy/rowdy people	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
ll) Evidence of too many campers (fire rings, etc.)	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
mm) Feeling of being unsafe/insecure	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
nn) Campsites too heavily impacted	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
oo) Problems with bears	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
pp) Problems with rodents at shelters/campsites	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.8
qq) Theft of personal property	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
rr) Lack of privacy at shelters/campsites	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

*Responses ranged from "not a problem" (0) to "a big problem" (2).

- New England trail users rated soil and vegetation damage and congestion-related problems as more severe than hikers in other regions.
- Conversely, litter on the trail was considered less of a problem in New England than elsewhere.
- Other items considered to be a smaller problem in the New England region were not enough information available to hikers and not enough water available along the trail.
- Mid-Atlantic hikers were least concerned about too many hikers but encountered the most difficulty with lack of water available along the trail.
- Encroachment of traffic noise and development that can be seen from the trail also stood out as more noticeable problems in the Mid-Atlantic region than elsewhere.
- Not enough parking at trailheads was more of a problem in Southwest Virginia than elsewhere.
- Congestion-related problems tended to be less severe in the Deep South region.
- Problems at shelters and campsites, such as rodents and evidence of human waste, were greater in the Deep South than elsewhere along the trail.

3. What did you enjoy most about your trip on the Appalachian Trail?

(QC3)

- **Verbatim responses to this question are shown in APPENDIX C and are organized by the 22 trail segments.**
- **Common responses to this question included:**
 - 1. Scenery, natural views, beauty**
 - 2. Personal challenge, accomplishment, the experience**
 - 3. Other visitors: both escape or avoidance of others, and comradery and sharing experiences with others**

4. What did you enjoy least about your trip on the Appalachian Trail?

(QC4)

- Verbatim responses to this question are shown in APPENDIX C and are organized by the 22 trail segments.
- Common responses to this question included:
 1. Too many people, crowds, rude or bad behavior of others
 2. Resource conditions such as privies, parking access, weather
 3. Personal: user preparedness, experience, physical pain or injury

5. If you could ask managers to improve some things about the way people experience the Appalachian Trail, what would you ask them to do?

(QC5)

- Verbatim responses to this question are shown in APPENDIX C and are organized by the 22 trail segments.
- Common responses to this question included:
 1. Provision of user education and information: LNT, minimum-impact practices, and trail etiquette
 2. Additional resources or management actions such as more signs, privies, shelters
 3. Manage group size and use levels

6. People can experience a variety of conditions on the Appalachian Trail. We would like to know how the following types of conditions might affect your hiking experience. Please indicate the extent to which each item would negatively or positively affect the quality of your experience on the Appalachian Trail. [Please circle one number for each item. Remember, these are hypothetical conditions and we would like to know how you would feel if you encountered them]

CONDITION ENCOUNTERED	EFFECT ON EXPERIENCE				
	Extremely Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Extremely Positive
a. You hear aircraft while hiking	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
b. You encounter inconsiderate people	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
c. You rarely see other people along the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
d. You frequently socialize with members of your group	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
e. You do not learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
f. You rarely see wildlife	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
g. You rarely hear wildlife while hiking	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
h. You rarely see litter along the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
i. You rarely see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
j. You frequently see litter along the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
k. You see wildlife frequently	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
l. You rarely encounter inconsiderate people	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
m. You frequently see other people along the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
n. You rarely socialize with members of your group	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
o. You learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
p. You run short of food or water	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
q. You do not wear the proper clothing	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
r. You see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2

(QC6)**Users (Non-Thru Hiker) (N=1561)**

	Effect On Experience					Mean
	Extremely Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Extremely Positive	
	-2	-1	0	1	2	
	Percent					
a. You hear aircraft while hiking	8.7	42.2	47.3	1.5	0.3	-0.6
b. You encounter inconsiderate people	50.6	39.1	9.2	0.7	0.4	-1.4
c. You rarely see other people along the trail	1.2	6.7	32.4	36.4	23.3	0.7
d. You frequently socialize with members of your group	0.5	3.2	32.8	43.1	20.4	0.8
e. You do not learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	10.8	47.6	36.4	3.6	1.6	-0.6
f. You rarely see wildlife	30.6	53.0	14.5	1.5	0.4	-1.1
g. You rarely hear wildlife while hiking	26.7	52.8	17.4	2.3	0.8	-1.0
h. You rarely see litter along the trail	1.5	1.3	3.2	16.5	77.4	1.7
i. You rarely see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	1.2	2.5	5.7	29.5	61.0	1.5
j. You frequently see litter along the trail	84.6	10.1	3.1	1.2	1.0	-1.8
k. You see wildlife frequently	1.1	1.6	6.1	29.4	61.9	1.5
l. You rarely encounter inconsiderate people	0.7	1.2	4.1	25.6	68.5	1.6
m. You frequently see other people along the trail	10.0	38.3	35.1	14.3	2.2	-0.4
n. You rarely socialize with members of your group	14.9	41.1	38.2	4.9	0.9	-0.6
o. You learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	0.6	1.4	19.0	52.8	26.2	1.0
p. You run short of food or water	47.4	40.9	9.9	1.1	0.6	-1.3
q. You do not wear the proper clothing	50.8	39.9	7.8	1.1	0.4	-1.4
r. You see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	43.6	48.0	7.0	0.8	0.6	-1.3
Thru Hikers Only (N=318)						
a. You hear aircraft while hiking	3.7	49.8	44.7	1.8	0	-0.6
b. You encounter inconsiderate people	46.4	43.4	9.1	0.4	0.7	-1.3
c. You rarely see other people along the trail	0.4	7.4	31.4	35.8	25.1	0.8
d. You frequently socialize with members of your group	0.4	3.3	29.8	50.4	16.2	0.8
e. You do not learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	15	59.3	23.4	2.2	0	-0.9
f. You rarely see wildlife	44.4	44.7	10.5	0.4	0	-1.3
g. You rarely hear wildlife while hiking	40	45.8	13.5	0.4	0.4	-1.3
h. You rarely see litter along the trail	1.5	1.1	3.3	15.3	78.9	1.7
i. You rarely see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	0.7	1.5	6.9	32.5	58.4	1.5
j. You frequently see litter along the trail	85.8	10.9	1.5	1.1	0.7	-1.8
k. You see wildlife frequently	1.1	0	2.2	25.5	71.2	1.7
l. You rarely encounter inconsiderate people	0.4	0.7	4	24.6	70.2	1.6
m. You frequently see other people along the trail	9.1	39.8	31.8	17.5	1.8	-0.4
n. You rarely socialize with members of your group	11.4	44.3	38.5	4.4	1.5	-0.6
o. You learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	0	2.2	11	54.9	31.9	1.2
p. You run short of food or water	43.6	45.4	8.1	2.6	0.4	-1.3
q. You do not wear the proper clothing	51.1	40.1	8.1	0.7	0	-1.4
r. You see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	34.5	57.5	6.5	0.4	1.1	-1.2

- Conditions most likely to positively affect users' experience included rarely seeing litter or resource damage, seeing wildlife frequently, not encountering inconsiderate people, and learning about the area.
- Not surprisingly, the most negative events included seeing litter frequently, encountering inconsiderate people, seeing resource damage, and various personal factors such as running short of water, food or clothing.
- There were few differences between thru hikers and non-thru hikers in the effects of various kinds of conditions on the visitors' quality of experience, although thru hikers were more negatively impacted by seeing litter and resource damage along the trail, and not seeing wildlife or learning about the natural/cultural history of the area.

(QC6) by Type of Hiker

Condition Encountered*	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6
a) You hear aircraft while hiking	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4
b) You encounter inconsiderate people	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7
c) You rarely see other people along the trail	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8
d) You frequently socialize with members of your group	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.9	-0.7
e) You do not learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.2
f) You rarely see wildlife	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.2	-1.1
g) You rarely hear wildlife while hiking	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7
h) You rarely see litter along the trail	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
i) You rarely see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8
j) You frequently see litter along the trail	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.5
k) You see wildlife frequently	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
l) You rarely encounter inconsiderate people	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4
m) You frequently see other people along the trail	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6
n) You rarely socialize with members of your group	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0
o) You learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	-1.3	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3
p) You run short of food or water	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4
q) You do not wear the proper clothing	-1.4	-1.3	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3
r) You see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6

*Responses ranged from “extremely negative” (-2) to “extremely positive” (+2).

- There was little variation in the responses to this battery of questions across hiker types.
- Thru hikers, however, reported a more negative effect from the condition “you frequently socialize with members of your group.”

(QC6) by Region

Condition Encountered*	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a) You hear aircraft while hiking	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6
b) You encounter inconsiderate people	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4
c) You rarely see other people along the trail	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7
d) You frequently socialize with members of your group	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
e) You do not learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7
f) You rarely see wildlife	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2
g) You rarely hear wildlife while hiking	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1
h) You rarely see litter along the trail	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7
i) You rarely see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
j) You frequently see litter along the trail	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8
k) You see wildlife frequently	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5
l) You rarely encounter inconsiderate people	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
m) You frequently see other people along the trail	-0.5	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
n) You rarely socialize with members of your group	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6
o) You learn about the natural/cultural history of the area	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
p) You run short of food or water	-1.3	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3
q) You do not wear the proper clothing	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4
r) You see soil and vegetation damage along the trail	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3

*Responses ranged from “extremely negative” (-2) to “extremely positive” (+2).

- There were few differences between hikers in the different regions in terms of the effects of various kinds of conditions on the visitors’ quality of experience.
- New England hikers were more negatively impacted than those in other regions by seeing other people along the trail.
- Mid-Atlantic hikers were the most positively impacted by seeing wildlife frequently along the trail.

7a. Approximately how many people (excluding members of your own group) did you see along the Appalachian Trail on the day you were contacted for this study?

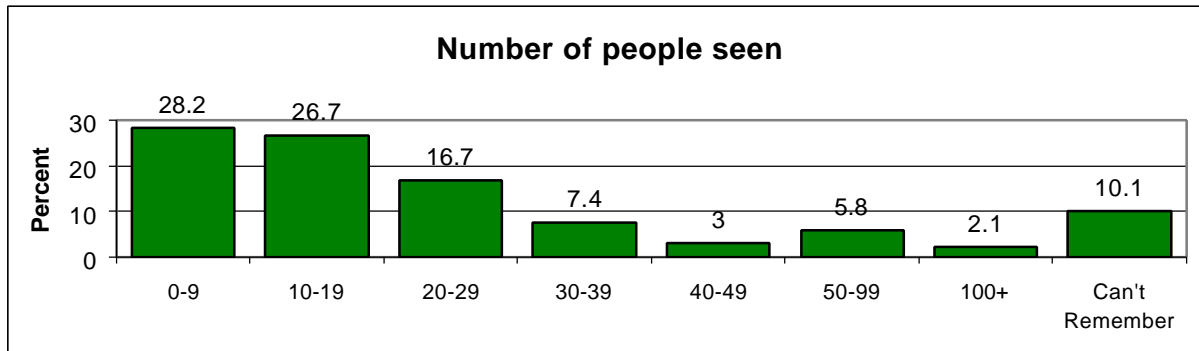
Number of people: _____ ÿ Can't remember

(QC7a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-9	368	28.2	64	25.7
10-19	349	26.7	51	20.5
20-29	218	16.7	23	9.2
30-39	97	7.4	10	4.0
40-49	39	3.0	4	1.6
50-99	76	5.8	5	2.0
100+	28	2.1	3	1.2
Can't Remember	132	10.1	89	35.7
Average number seen	21.8		17.3	

N=1164; 157

(QC7a) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Thru hikers reported seeing an average of 17 people along the trail on the day they were contacted for the study and non-thru hikers reported seeing an average of 22 people.
- About one-fourth of both groups saw fewer than 10 people, with another quarter seeing between 10 and 19.
- Thru hikers were much more likely to state that they can't remember (35.7% versus 10.1% of non-thru hikers), probably reflecting the difficulty of answering the question in light of the number of days they were out on the trail.

(Q7a) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
0-9	29.9	29.3	38.9	40.0	32.3
10-19	30.5	29.1	28.1	31.9	29.8
20-29	19.8	19.7	13.3	14.4	18.1
30-39	9.0	8.1	7.4	6.3	8.1
40-49	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.5	3.3
50-99	5.9	7.8	5.4	3.1	6.1
100+	1.4	2.7	3.9	1.9	2.3
Can't Remember	2.7	3.4	2.5	5.8	14.3
Average number seen	18.7	20.9	21.3	17.3	19.7

- The majority of all hiker types saw twenty or fewer people on the AT on the day they were contacted.
- However, the average number of people seen was relatively consistent across all user types (19.7 people).

(Q7a) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
0-9	23.9	53.6	25.5	33.5	25.7	32.4
10-19	30.7	23.2	30.1	34.1	20.5	30.0
20-29	19.8	11.8	23.2	16.5	9.2	18.1
30-39	10.1	4.5	9.3	6.0	4.0	8.0
40-49	3.7	1.4	5.0	2.2	1.6	3.2
50-99	8.2	4.5	5.8	4.9	2.0	6.1
100+	3.5	0.9	1.2	2.7	1.2	2.3
Can't Remember	5.4	12.7	9.3	9.9	35.7	16.6
Average number seen	28.6	13.7	19.6	19.5	17.3	21.8

- Hikers in New England reported seeing the highest number of other people (29 per day), while those in the Mid-Atlantic reported the lowest numbers (14 per day).
- The number of other hikers seen in Southwest Virginia and the Deep South were about the same (20 per day), and were in between the levels encountered in New England and the Mid-Atlantic.

7b. How acceptable was the number of people you saw along the Appalachian Trail that day?
 [Circle one number]

Very Unacceptable Very Acceptable

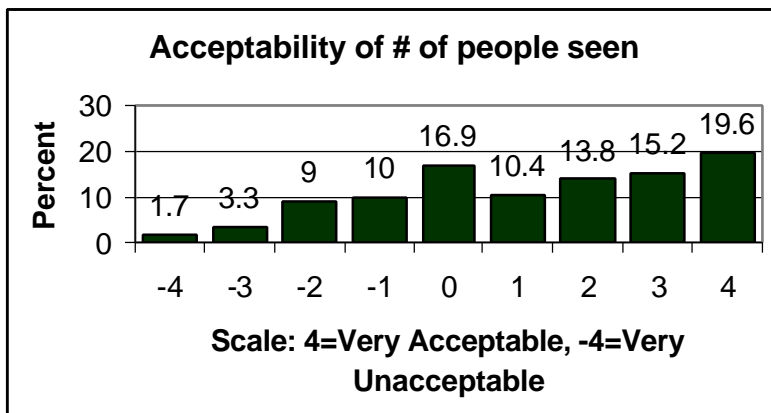
-4 -3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3 +4

(QC7b)

	Level of Acceptability	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Unacceptable	-4	23	1.7	3	1.3
	-3	41	3.3	9	4.0
	-2	117	9.0	19	8.5
	-1	129	10.0	22	9.9
	0	210	16.9	45	20.2
	+1	136	10.4	21	9.4
	+2	178	13.8	29	13.0
	+3	197	15.2	31	13.9
Very Acceptable	+4	251	19.6	44	19.7
Mean		1.2		1.1	

N=1283; 223

(QC7b) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Trail users generally responded favorably to the number of other hikers encountered; however, about one-fourth of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers rated their number of encounters in the unacceptable range.

(Q7b) by Type of Hiker

	Level of Acceptability	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Very Unacceptable	-4	1.3	2.0	2.6	1.3	1.7
	-3	3.3	3.2	3.1	4.0	3.3
	-2	9.5	8.3	10.1	8.5	9.0
	-1	8.6	13.3	6.6	9.9	10.0
	0	14.4	19.0	15.0	20.2	16.9
	+1	10.0	10.3	12.3	9.4	10.4
	+2	15.3	12.3	14.5	13.0	13.9
Very Acceptable	+3	15.1	16.1	14.5	13.9	15.2
	+4	22.4	15.5	21.1	19.7	19.5
Mean		1.3	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2

- Each hiker type tended to rate the number of people they saw on the trail as acceptable.

(Q7b) by Region

	Level of Acceptability	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwestern Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Very Unacceptable	-4	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.7
	-3	2.9	2.5	2.6	4.0	4.0	3.3
	-2	7.0	11.7	4.6	8.5	8.5	9.0
	-1	4.5	11.4	12.8	9.9	9.9	10.0
	0	14.0	14.2	14.8	20.2	20.2	16.9
	+1	9.1	10.7	11.7	9.4	9.4	10.4
	+2	17.7	12.8	13.3	13.0	13.0	13.8
Very Acceptable	+3	16.1	15.7	15.3	13.9	13.9	15.1
	+4	27.2	18.9	24.0	19.7	19.7	19.6
Mean		0.9	1.7	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.2

- Hikers in the New England and Southwest Virginia regions reported somewhat lower mean scores for the acceptability of encounters with others, although they were also most likely to consider their encounters “very acceptable.”

**7c. Was the number of people you saw along the trail more or less than you expected to see?
[Circle one number]**

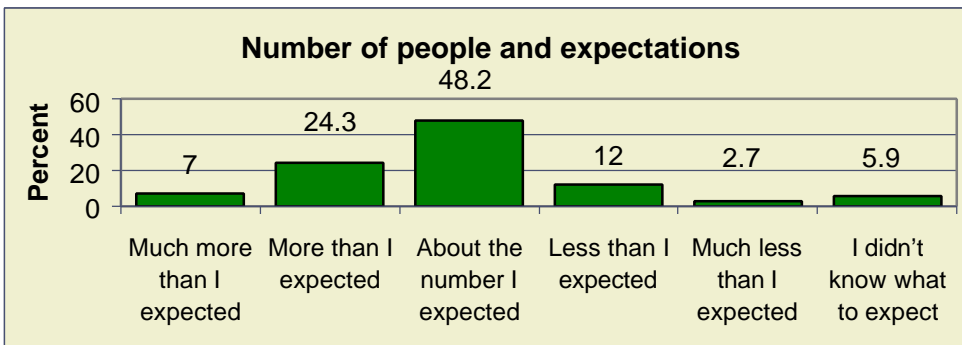
1	Much more than I expected
2	More than I expected
3	About the number I expected
4	Less than I expected
5	Much less than I expected
6	I didn't know what to expect

(QC7c)

	Scale	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Much more than I expected	1	91	7.0	34	13.5
More than I expected	2	317	24.3	77	30.7
About the number I expected	3	628	48.2	104	41.4
Less than I expected	4	156	12.0	16	6.4
Much less than I expected	5	35	2.7	1	0.4
I didn't know what to expect	6	77	5.9	19	7.6
Mean		2.8		2.5	

N=1304; 251

(QC7c) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Nearly one-half of non-thru hikers (48.2%) and thru hikers (41.4%) saw about the number of other hikers they expected.
- Thru hikers were more likely (44.2%) than non-thru hikers (31.3%) to see more people than they expected to see.
- Twice as many non-thru hikers (14.7%) saw fewer people than expected vs. thru hikers (6.8%).
- Relatively few from either group (5.9-7.6%) stated that they didn't know what to expect.

(Q7c) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Much more than I expected	1	5.2	7.0	11.4	13.5	8.1
More than I expected	2	22.2	25.8	27.5	30.7	25.6
About the number I expected	3	52.3	47.2	39.4	41.4	46.9
Less than I expected	4	12.1	12.0	11.9	6.4	11.1
Much less than I expected	5	3.1	2.0	3.4	0.4	2.3
No opinion	6	5.1	6.0	6.4	7.6	6.0
Mean		3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.9

- The largest segment of all types of hikers (46.9% overall) reported seeing about the number of people that they expected.
- Section hikers (11.4%) and thru hikers (13.5%) were almost twice as likely to report that the number of people they encountered was much more than they expected as day (5.2%) or overnight (7.0%) hikers.

(Q7c) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Much more than I expected	1	9.0	3.2	6.4	6.5	13.5	8.0
More than I expected	2	28.5	22.3	20.8	19.6	30.7	25.3
About the number I expected	3	46.3	46.6	52.3	49.7	41.4	47.1
Less than I expected	4	9.0	17.8	11.3	14.1	6.4	11.1
Much less than I expected	5	1.6	3.2	3.5	4.0	0.4	2.3
I didn't know what to expect	6	5.6	6.9	5.7	6.0	7.6	6.2
Mean		2.6	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.9

- New England hikers were most likely to see more people than they expected (37.5% versus about 26.1-27.2% for the other regions).
- For all regions, however, the most common response (46.3-52.3%) was that users saw about the number of other people that they expected to see.

**7d. Was the number of people you saw along the trail more or less than you preferred?
[Circle one number]**

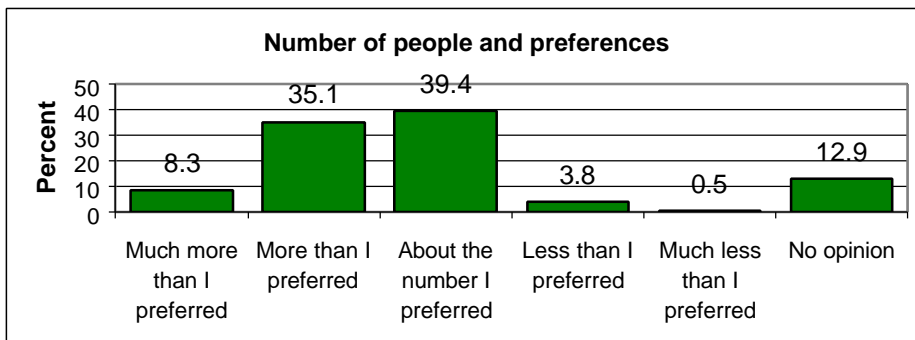
1	Much more than I preferred
2	More than I preferred
3	About the number I preferred
4	Less than I preferred
5	Much less than I preferred
6	No opinion

(QC7d)

	Scale	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Much more than I preferred	1	108	8.3	30	12.0
More than I preferred	2	458	35.1	106	42.4
About the number I preferred	3	513	39.4	89	35.6
Less than I preferred	4	49	3.8	5	2.0
Much less than I preferred	5	6	0.5	2	0.8
No opinion	6	168	12.9	17	6.8
Mean			2.5		2.3

N=1303; 250

(QC7d) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Responses to how the number of people encountered compares to the number they would prefer to see were similar to those for the previous question about expectations, although only about one-third of the hikers encountered about the number they would prefer.
- The majority of thru hikers (54.4%) reported seeing more than they preferred to see, compared to 43.4% of non-thru hikers.

(Q7d) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Much more than I preferred	1	6.0	9.6	9.3	12.0	8.7
More than I preferred	2	35.6	35.0	34.6	42.6	36.4
About the number I preferred	3	42.8	38.0	35.9	35.7	39.0
Less than I preferred	4	3.8	3.6	4.2	2.0	3.5
Much less than I preferred	5	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.5
No Opinion	6	11.1	13.6	15.6	6.8	11.9
Mean		2.9	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.1

- In general, all types of hikers reported encountering as many or more people than they preferred (84.1%).

(Q7d) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Much more than I preferred	1	9.7	7.3	8.8	4.5	12.0	8.9
More than I preferred	2	39.3	25.2	35.7	34.7	42.4	36.3
About the number I preferred	3	36.2	45.1	39.9	40.7	35.6	38.8
Less than I preferred	4	2.6	6.5	4.2	3.0	2.0	3.5
Much less than I preferred	5	0.3	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.7
No opinion	6	11.7	15.9	10.6	16.1	6.8	11.9
Mean		2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.9

- As with expectations, New England AT hikers were most likely (49.0%) to have seen more people than they would prefer.
- Only one-third (32.5%) of the Mid-Atlantic users reported seeing more people than they prefer to see.

7e. How crowded did you feel on the Appalachian Trail on that day? [Circle one number]

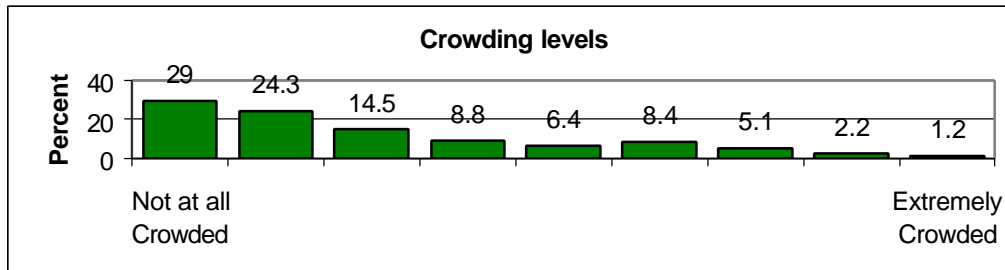
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded		Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

(QC7e)

	Crowding Level	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not at all Crowded	1	374	29.0	60	25.8
	2	313	24.3	45	19.3
	3	187	14.5	34	14.6
	4	114	8.8	26	11.2
	5	82	6.4	18	7.7
	6	109	8.4	30	12.9
	7	66	5.1	10	4.3
	8	29	2.2	6	2.6
Extremely Crowded	9	16	1.2	4	1.7
Mean			3.0		3.4

N=1290; 233

(QC7e) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Crowding levels, measured on a 9-point perceived crowding scale, were relatively low, averaging 3.0 for non-thru hikers and 3.4 for thru hikers.
- The majority of non-thru hikers (53.3%) reported a score in the “not at all crowded” range (1-2), compared with 45.1% of thru hikers.

(QC7e) by Type of Hiker

	Crowding Level	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Not at all Crowded	1	31.6	25.4	29.9	25.8	28.4
	2	24.7	24.3	23.5	19.3	23.6
	3	14.1	16.3	12.4	14.6	14.6
	4	8.0	9.9	8.5	11.2	9.2
	5	6.2	6.8	5.6	7.7	6.6
	6	8.6	8.0	8.1	12.9	9.0
	7	4.6	5.0	6.8	4.3	5.0
	8	1.8	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.3
Extremely Crowded	9	0.4	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.3
Mean		2.9	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.1

- Day users reported the lowest level of crowding (mean = 2.9).

(QC7e) by Region

	Crowding Level	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Not at all Crowded	1	23.7	41.9	27.1	30.8	25.8	28.5
	2	23.6	25.2	23.8	25.8	19.3	23.5
	3	16.3	9.3	14.8	15.2	14.6	14.5
	4	9.5	6.5	8.7	10.1	11.2	9.2
	5	7.2	5.3	5.8	6.1	7.7	6.6
	6	9.5	6.1	9.0	7.6	12.9	9.1
	7	6.5	2.4	7.2	1.5	4.3	5.0
	8	2.8	1.6	2.2	1.5	2.6	2.3
Extremely Crowded	9	0.9	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.3
Mean		3.3	2.5	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.1

- Crowding ratings were highest in New England (average=3.3), followed closely by Southwest Virginia (3.2).
- Crowding ratings were lowest in the Mid-Atlantic region.

7f. What is the highest number of people per day you think would be acceptable to meet along this section of the Appalachian Trail?

Maximum number of people acceptable: _____

7g. What is the maximum number of people per day you would prefer to meet along this section of the Appalachian Trail?

Maximum number of people preferred: _____

7h. What is the maximum number of people per day you could tolerate meeting along this section of the Appalachian Trail before you would no longer hike this section of the trail?

Maximum number of people tolerable: _____

7i. What is the maximum number of people per day you think you should see along this section of the Appalachian Trail before managers start to limit use? In other words, at what point should the managers of the Appalachian Trail begin to restrict public use? (If you feel that public use should not be limited or restricted, you may check the box indicated.)

Maximum number of people allowed: _____

Or

- Public use of the Appalachian Trail should not be limited.

(QC7f-i)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)	Thru Hikers
	Mean	
f. Acceptable	29.5	27.5
g. Preferred	12.7	10.8
h. Maximum Tolerable	58.0	48.5
i. Maximum That Should Be Allowed*	72.2	47.7

*Public use of the Appalachian Trail should not be limited = 1024
N=1202; 216

- Trail users showed an ability to discriminate among the number of people per day that would be acceptable, preferred, tolerable, and that should be allowed.
- All of these values were slightly to moderately higher for non-thru hikers than for thru hikers.
- Generally, hikers preferred to see far few hikers (10-12 per day) than they would accept (28-30 per day).
- However, they could tolerate about twice as many (49-58 per day) as they found acceptable.
- When asked directly what is the maximum number of people per day that should be seen on the trail before managers start to limit use, the responses were similar to the maximum numbers visitors said they could tolerate.
- It is important to note that the "maximum that should be allowed" figures are based on a minority of the total sample. The majority of respondents (72.5%) stated that "public use of the Appalachian Trail should not be limited."

(Q7f-i) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
f. Acceptable	48.7	28.2	34.5	27.5	36.5
g. Preferred	33.3	12.6	10.6	10.8	19.5
h. Maximum Tolerable	51.7	55.3	80.0	48.4	56.7
i. Maximum That Should Be Allowed	76.3	70.8	66.3	47.7	68.3

- Day users preferred to see almost three times as many people (mean = 33.3) on the trail as any other type of hiker (mean = 10.6-12.6).

(Q7f-i) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
f. Acceptable	34.7	23.3	27.8	25.1	27.5	29.2
g. Preferred	13.3	11.3	13.6	11.8	10.8	12.4
h. Maximum Tolerable	58.4	44.4	68.8	58.7	48.5	56.5
i. Maximum That Should Be Allowed	84.3	87.5	42.1	54.7	47.7	68.4

- Preferred numbers of contacts with other hikers were consistent across regions, averaging 11-14 people per day.
- Acceptable levels varied more, with New England standing apart with an average of 35 people per day, versus 25-28 per day for the other regions.
- Hikers in the Mid-Atlantic region reported the lowest values for acceptable and maximum tolerable numbers of other hikers on the trail.

7j. Approximately how many miles did you hike on the Appalachian Trail on the day you were contacted for this study?

Number of miles: _____

☺ Can't remember

(QC7j)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-9	746	59.8	22	10.4
10-19	423	33.9	113	54.6
20-29	28	2.2	38	18.1
30+	6	0.5	5	2.4
Can't Remember	46	3.7	30	14.5
Mean	8.8		14.6	

N=1248; 207

- Most non-thru hikers hiked less than 10 miles on the day they were contacted on the Appalachian Trail.
- Thru hikers averaged nearly twice as many miles per day (15) as non-thru hikers (9).
- The majority of thru hikers (54.6%) reported hiking between 10 and 19 miles per day, compared to 33.9% of non-thru hikers.

(QC7j) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
0-9	75.7	64.2	25.6	12.6	55.2
10-19	23.0	33.7	67.6	65.7	39.5
20-29	0.9	1.9	5.9	21.7	5.0
30+	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.3
Can't Remember	1.1	1.1	0.9	2.4	5.5
Mean	7.7	8.5	11.9	14.6	9.6

- As expected, the vast majority of day and overnight hikers reported hiking less than ten miles on the day they were contacted for the study, while most section and thru hikers reported hiking between 10 and 20 miles.

(QC7j) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
0-9	56.2	48.5	81.9	67.2	12.6	54.8
10-19	41.4	45.1	16.6	31.8	65.7	39.4
20-29	2.0	5.5	0.7	1.0	21.7	5.0
30+	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.8
Can't Remember	4.0	4.3	3.7	3.1	2.4	5.7
Mean	9.0	9.9	7.8	8.1	14.6	9.6

- Hikers in the Mid-Atlantic region reported the greatest distances covered (9.9 miles), while those in Southwest Virginia (7.8 miles) and the Deep South (8.1 miles) reported the shortest distances.
- Over three-fourths (81.9%) of those in Southwest Virginia and two-thirds in the Deep South (67.2%) hiked less than 10 miles.

8. [This question is for overnight hikers only. Please think back about your camping location on the day you were contacted for this survey when answering these questions. Day hikers should skip to question 9]

a. On the day you were contacted for this study, what type of camping/overnight facility did you use? [check one]

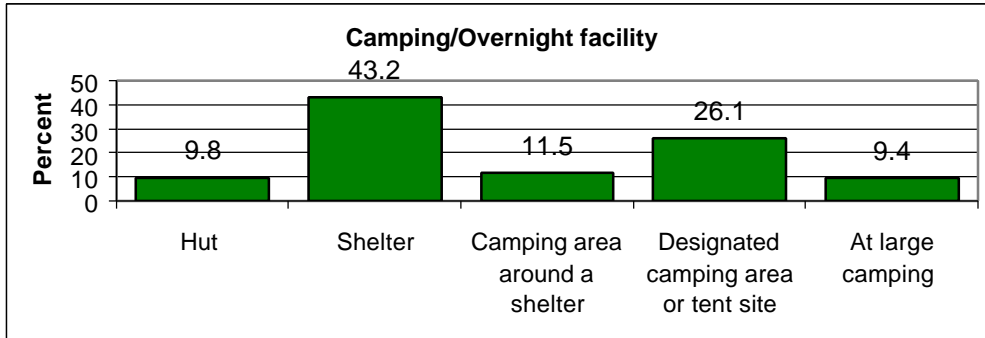
- Hut (skip to question 9 on next page)
- Shelter
- Camping area around a shelter
- Designated camping area or tentsite
- At large camping (undesignated campsites)

(QC8a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hut	71	9.8	11	4.9
Shelter	312	43.2	131	58.7
Camping area around a shelter	83	11.5	31	13.9
Designated camping area or tent site	189	26.1	34	15.2
At large camping	68	9.4	16	7.2

N=723; 223

(QC8a) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The reader should be aware that the terminology for the various types of camping areas may vary across regions and types of hikers and thus affect the study findings.
- Among those who camped during their AT visit, the most common choice of overnight site used was a shelter for both thru hikers (58.7%) and non-thru hikers (43.2%).
- Designated camping areas or tent sites were used by about one-fourth (26.1%) of non-thru hikers and (15.2%) of thru hikers.
- Areas around shelters were used by a small portion of thru hikers (13.9%) and non-thru hikers (11.5%).
- Huts were an infrequent choice of AT users but were twice as likely to be used by non-thru hikers (9.8%) as by thru hikers (4.9%).
- Generally, more experienced campers tended to use shelters while less experienced users stayed in designated camping areas or tentsites.

(QC8a) by Type of Hiker

	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Hut	12.2	4.4	4.9	8.6
Shelter	36.4	61.0	58.7	47.5
Camping area around a shelter	10.7	13.2	13.9	12.1
Designated camping area or tent site	30.3	15.6	15.2	23.3
At large camping	10.3	5.9	7.2	8.5

- Overnight hikers were twice as likely to use designated camping areas or tent sites.
- The vast majority of section hikers (61.0%) and thru hikers (58.7%) stayed in shelters.

(QC8a) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Hut	14.4	6.9	4.2	0.9	4.9	8.7
Shelter	37.6	39.3	32.4	74.8	58.7	46.8
Camping area around a shelter	11.1	16.6	12.7	5.4	13.9	12.1
Designated camping area or tent site	31.1	23.4	32.4	8.1	15.2	23.6
At large camping	5.8	13.8	18.3	10.8	7.2	8.9

- Shelters were used much more frequently in the Deep South (74.8%) than in any other region (32.4-39.3%).
- Designated camping areas or tent sites, conversely, were used much less in the Deep South (8.1%) than elsewhere (23.4-32.4%).
- Camping in the area around a shelter was less common in the Deep South (5.4%) than elsewhere (11-17%), probably reflecting the greater availability of space within the shelters in the Deep South.
- Hut use was greater in New England (14.4%) than in any other region (1-7%).
- Generally, regional variations may reflect the availability of various types of camping facilities within the regions.

b. Approximately how many parties of campers were camped within sight and sound of you on the day you were contacted for this study?

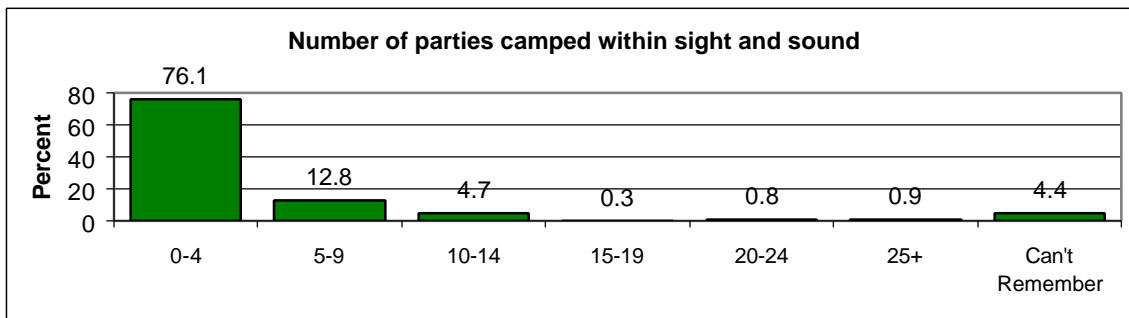
Number of parties: _____ ÿ Can't remember

(QC8b)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-4	504	76.1	132	60.0
5-9	85	12.8	35	15.9
10-14	31	4.7	3	1.4
15-19	2	0.3	2	0.9
20-24	5	0.8	4	1.8
25+	6	0.9	2	0.9
Can't Remember	29	4.4	42	19.1
Mean	3.2		3.4	

N=658; 205

(QC8b) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The majority of overnight AT users reported camping within sight and sound of between zero and four other parties of campers.
- Thru hikers were more likely to not remember the number of other camping parties, reflecting the difficulty of answering the question for a particular night when they spent many nights out on the trail.

(QC8b) by Type of Hiker

	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
0-4	79.8	76.5	60.0	78.4
5-9	14.8	12.6	15.9	15.0
10-14	3.7	8.2	1.4	4.1
15-19	0.0	1.1	0.9	0.5
20-24	1.0	0.5	1.8	1.0
25+	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.0
Can't Remember	1.6	1.5	19.1	8.1
Average number seen	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.3

- Once again, thru hikers are more likely to not remember the number of other parties camped within sight and sound of them on the day they were contacted for this study.

(QC8b) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
0-4	72.4	87.7	86.6	86.6	60.0	78.5
5-9	20.0	6.2	6.0	6.6	15.9	14.8
10-14	5.2	4.6	3.0	5.7	1.4	4.2
15-19	0.3	0.8	0	0	0.9	0.5
20-24	1.5	0	0	0	1.8	1.0
25+	0.6	0.8	4.5	0	0.9	1.0
Can't Remember	4.5	6.2	4.5	1.7	19.1	8.8
Average number seen	3.7	2.5	3.4	2.8	3.4	3.3

- Overnight users in New England were most likely to report higher numbers of other parties camped within sight and sound of their campsite, with 27.6% reporting 5 or more parties compared to just 12-13% in the other regions.
- The average number of other campers within sight and sound of one's party ranged from 2.5 in the Mid-Atlantic region to 3.7 in New England.

**c. How acceptable was the number of parties camped within sight and sound of you on that day?
[Circle one number]**

Very Unacceptable					Very Acceptable			
-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

(QC8c)

	Level of Acceptability	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Unacceptable	-4	21	3.2	6	2.9
	-3	14	2.1	0	0
	-2	32	4.9	6	2.9
	-1	48	7.3	12	5.9
	0	111	16.9	50	24.4
	+1	52	7.9	19	9.3
	+2	82	12.5	25	12.2
	+3	98	14.9	27	13.2
Very Acceptable	+4	200	30.4	60	29.3
Mean			1.6		1.7

N=658; 205

- The majority of both thru-hikers and non-thru hikers considered the number of parties camped within sight and sound of them to be in the acceptable range.
- Nearly one-third of both groups rated the number as “very acceptable.”
- Only 17.5% of non-thru hikers and 11.7% of thru hikers considered the number of other parties camped within sight and sound of them unacceptable, and most of these felt the number was just slightly unacceptable.

(QC8c) by Type of Hiker

	Level of Acceptability	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Very Unacceptable	-4	3.6	2.1	2.9	3.2
	-3	2.6	1.5	0.0	1.6
	-2	5.2	4.6	2.9	4.3
	-1	6.7	8.7	5.9	6.9
	0	16.9	18.5	24.4	18.8
	+1	8.1	6.7	9.3	8.3
	+2	12.1	13.3	12.2	12.5
	+3	13.3	19.0	13.2	14.4
Very Acceptable	+4	31.4	25.6	29.3	29.9
Mean		1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6

- The majority of each type of hiker considered the number of parties camped near them to be acceptable.
- Thru hikers more often reported being indifferent (“0” level of acceptability) than other users.

(QC8c) by Region

	Level of Acceptability	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Very Unacceptable	-4	2.9	2.9	8.7	0.9	3.1	3.1
	-3	2.3	2.2	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.6
	-2	5.0	3.6	5.8	5.5	4.4	4.4
	-1	9.4	5.8	4.3	4.6	7.0	7.0
	0	19.9	13.0	11.6	15.6	18.7	18.7
	+1	8.8	5.8	11.6	5.5	8.2	8.2
	+2	13.5	13.8	1.4	14.7	12.4	12.4
Very Acceptable	+3	12.6	16.7	20.3	16.5	14.5	14.5
	+4	25.7	36.2	34.8	34.9	30.1	30.1
Mean		1.4	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.6

- Ratings of acceptability for the number of parties camped within sight and sound of one's campsite were relatively consistent across regions.
- More than 80% of the hikers in all regions considered the number of hikers they saw to be in the "acceptable" range.
- Those in New England were slightly less likely to consider the number "very acceptable" (25.7%) than those in other regions (34.8-36.2%).

**d. Was the number of parties camped within sight and sound of you more or less than you expected?
[Circle one number]**

1	Much more than I expected
2	More than I expected
3	About the number I expected
4	Less than I expected
5	Much less than I expected
6	I didn't know what to expect

(QC8d)

	Scale	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Much more than I expected	1	31	4.7	10	4.7
More than I expected	2	118	17.8	26	12.3
About the number I expected	3	302	45.6	114	54.0
Less than I expected	4	119	18.0	35	16.6
Much less than I expected	5	38	5.7	6	2.8
I didn't know what to expect	6	54	8.2	20	9.5
Mean			3.3		3.3

N=662; 211

- About half of both thru hikers (54.0%) and non-thru hikers (45.6%) reported that the number of parties camped within sight and sound of them was about what they expected.
- Both groups were about equally likely to encounter fewer parties than expected camped within sight and sound of them.
- Less than one-tenth of both groups reported not knowing what to expect in terms of other parties camped within sight and sound of them.

(QC8d) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Much more than I expected	1	4.8	3.6	4.7	4.7
More than I expected	2	20.0	15.2	12.3	16.6
About the number I expected	3	43.5	49.7	54.0	47.5
Less than I expected	4	17.6	18.3	16.6	17.7
Much less than I expected	5	5.7	6.1	2.8	5.1
I didn't know what to expect	6	8.6	7.1	9.5	8.4
Mean		3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3

- Overnight hikers were more likely to report that the number of parties camped within sight and sound of them was more than they expected.

(QC8d) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Much more than I expected	1	4.9	2.2	7.2	5.5	4.7	4.7
More than I expected	2	21.0	10.3	18.8	16.4	12.3	16.5
About the number I expected	3	47.6	47.8	36.2	42.7	54.0	47.7
Less than I expected	4	15.0	25.0	17.4	19.1	16.6	17.6
Much less than I expected	5	4.6	5.1	8.7	8.2	2.8	5.0
I didn't know what to expect	6	6.9	9.6	11.6	8.2	9.5	8.5
Mean		3.1	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3

- There was relatively little variation across regions in how the number of parties camped within sight and sound of AT users compared to their expectations.
- The proportion of hikers seeing more parties than they expected within sight and sound of their campsite ranged from 12.5% in the Mid-Atlantic region to 25.9% in New England.

**e. Was the number of parties camped within sight and sound of you more or less than you preferred?
[Circle one number]**

1	Much more than I preferred
2	More than I preferred
3	About the number I preferred
4	Less than I preferred
5	Much less than I preferred
6	No opinion

(QC8e)

	Scale	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Much more than I preferred	1	43	6.5	16	7.5
More than I preferred	2	186	28.1	56	26.4
About the number I preferred	3	310	46.8	103	48.6
Less than I preferred	4	24	3.6	8	3.8
Much less than I preferred	5	2	0.3	0	0
No opinion	6	97	14.7	29	13.7
Mean			3.1		3.0

N=662; 212

- While very few respondents saw less than they preferred to see, about half of both thru hikers (48.6%) and non-thru hikers (46.8%) reported seeing about the preferred number of other parties camped within sight and sound of them.
- About- one-third of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers saw more than they preferred to see camping within sight and sound of them.

(QC8e) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Much more than I preferred	1	6.7	5.6	7.5	6.7
More than I preferred	2	29.9	26.8	26.4	27.7
About the number I preferred	3	46.6	46.5	48.6	47.5
Less than I preferred	4	3.1	3.5	3.8	3.6
Much less than I preferred	5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.2
No opinion	6	13.8	16.7	13.7	14.2
Mean		3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1

- Preferences for the number of parties camped within sight and sound were relatively consistent across hiker types.

(QC8e) by Region

	Scale	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Much more than I preferred	1	6.6	5.1	7.2	7.3	7.5	6.8
More than I preferred	2	34.3	16.2	30.4	21.8	26.4	27.7
About the number I preferred	3	43.5	54.4	39.1	52.7	48.6	47.3
Less than I preferred	4	2.9	5.1	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.7
Much less than I preferred	5	0.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.2
No opinion	6	12.4	19.1	17.4	14.5	13.7	14.4
Mean		3.0	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1

- Hikers in New England (40.9%) and Southwest Virginia (37.6%) were more likely than those in the Deep South (29.1%) or the Mid-Atlantic (21.3%) to report seeing more campers than they preferred to see camped within sight and sound of their group.
- The largest segment of users within each region (39.1-54.4%), however, reported seeing about the number of other parties they preferred to see camped within sight or sound of them.

f. How crowded did you feel in camp that night? [Circle one number]

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded		Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

(QC8f)

Crowding Level	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not at all Crowded	281	42.9	91	44.6
	129	19.7	37	18.1
	81	12.4	25	12.3
	38	5.8	14	6.9
	31	4.7	10	4.9
	43	6.6	16	7.8
	26	4.0	1	0.5
	11	1.7	5	2.5
Extremely Crowded	15	2.3	5	2.5
Mean	2.7		2.6	

N=655; 204

- Crowding ratings at the campsite were lower than those reported while hiking on the trail, averaging 2.7 for non-thru hikers and 2.6 for thru hikers using the 9-point crowding scale.
- The most common response for both thru hikers (44.6%) and non-thru hikers (42.9%) was a crowding level of 1 (not at all crowded) at their campsite.

(QC8f) by Type of Hiker

	Scale	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Not at all Crowded	1	41.5	42.1	44.6	43.3
	2	21.0	19.5	18.1	19.4
	3	11.7	14.9	12.3	12.4
	4	5.7	6.7	6.9	6.0
	5	6.2	2.1	4.9	4.8
	6	5.3	8.2	7.8	6.7
	7	4.3	4.1	0.5	3.2
	8	1.4	1.5	2.5	1.9
Extremely Crowded	9	2.9	1.0	2.5	2.4
Mean		2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7

- Overall, each hiker type reported low levels of crowding at campsites.

(QC8f) by Region

	Crowding Level	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Not at all Crowded	1	35.2	57.4	48.5	45.5	44.6	43.3
	2	20.5	21.3	13.2	19.1	18.1	19.3
	3	15.2	6.6	4.4	15.5	12.3	12.3
	4	7.6	0.7	8.8	4.5	6.9	6.1
	5	4.7	5.1	2.9	5.5	4.9	4.8
	6	7.6	5.9	5.9	4.5	7.8	6.9
	7	4.7	1.5	5.9	3.6	0.5	3.1
	8	2.1	0.0	4.4	0.9	2.5	1.9
Extremely Crowded	9	2.3	1.5	5.9	0.9	2.5	2.3
Mean		2.9	2.1	3.0	2.4	2.6	2.7

- Only one-third (35.2%) of those camping in New England gave a crowding score of 1 for their camping area, compared to about half of the campers in the other regions.
- Average crowding scores for camping areas were higher in Southwest Virginia (3.0) and New England (2.9) than in the Deep South (2.4) or the Mid-Atlantic (2.1).

g. What is the highest number of parties of people that would be acceptable to camp within sight and sound of where you camped?

Maximum number of parties acceptable: _____

h. What is the maximum number of parties of people you would prefer to camp within sight and sound of where you camped?

Maximum number of parties preferred: _____

i. What is the maximum number of parties of people you could tolerate camping within sight and sound of where you camped before you would no longer camp in this section of the trail?

Maximum number of parties tolerable: _____

j. What is the maximum number of parties of people that you think should camp within sight and sound of where you camped before managers start to limit use? In other words, at what point should managers of the Appalachian Trail begin to restrict public use? (If you feel that public use should not be limited or restricted, you may check the box indicated.)

Maximum number of parties allowed: _____

Or

- Public use of the Appalachian Trail should not be limited.

(QC8g-j)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)	Thru Hikers
	Mean	
g. Acceptable	5.2	6.4
h. Preferred	2.9	3.2
i. Maximum Tolerable	7.3	8.3
j. Maximum That Should Be Allowed*	8.7	10.2

*Public use of the Appalachian Trail should not be limited = 477
N=606; 198

- As in the case of hiker perceptions of acceptable numbers of hikers on the trail, respondents were able to report the number of parties that they would prefer, accept, tolerate and should be allowed to camp within sight and sound of their group.
- Both thru hikers and non-thru hikers would **prefer** to see, on average, no more than 3 parties camped within sight and sound of them.
- Both groups, as well, would **accept** seeing about twice as many parties as they would prefer camped within sight and sound of them.
- The maximum number of parties they would **tolerate** within sight and sound of their campsite was about 7 for non-thru hikers and about 8 for thru hikers.
- The maximum number of groups within sight and sound of each other that should be allowed (9 for non-thru hikers and 10 for thru hikers) again should be interpreted in light of the large number of respondents (59% of overnight campers) who indicated that public use of the Appalachian Trail should not be limited.

(QC8g-j) by Type Hiker

	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
g. Acceptable	18.4	6.7	6.4	12.2
h. Preferred	2.7	3.4	3.2	3.0
i. Maximum Tolerable	13.1	9.7	9.6	11.3
j. Maximum That Should Be Allowed*	8.0	10.3	10.2	9.0

- Acceptable crowding levels were highest amongst overnight hikers.
- Preferred crowding levels were consistent across hiker types.

(QC8g-j) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
	Mean					
g. Acceptable	5.5	4.7	4.3	5.2	6.4	5.5
h. Preferred	3.1	2.7	2.2	3.0	3.2	2.9
i. Maximum Tolerable	7.9	6.8	6.4	6.4	8.3	7.5
j. Maximum That Should Be Allowed*	8.8	10.0	8.1	7.8	10.2	9.0

- There was relatively little variation across regions in the pattern of responses to these crowding tolerance questions.
- In all regions, the preferred number of groups camped within sight and sound of each other was 2-3 and the acceptable number ranged from 4-6.
- The maximum tolerable number of groups camped within sight and sound of each other ranged from 6-8.

9. Listed below are a number of management actions that might be applied to the Appalachian Trail. Please indicate the extent to which you would support or oppose each management action as it would apply to the section of the Appalachian Trail you hiked on the day you were contacted for this study. [Circle one number for each management action]

	LEVEL OF OPPOSITION/SUPPORT				
	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Oppose Nor Support	Support	Strongly Support
a. Provide more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
b. Provide more signs along the trail about appropriate use	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
c. Limit the number of people allowed to use the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
d. Require all hikers to have minimum supplies and equipment (e.g., adequate water, appropriate shoes/boots)	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
e. Charge a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
f. Put more rangers along the trail to educate hikers about appropriate use and safety	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
g. Put more rangers along the trail to enforce rules and regulations	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
h. Require dogs to be on a leash	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
i. Prohibit dogs	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
j. Restrict horse use to certain sections of the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
k. Prohibit horses	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
l. Prohibit campfires except at shelters	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
m. Prohibit all campfires	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
n. Require a permit for overnight use	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
o. Restrict group size	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
p. Restrict use of the trail by commercial groups	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
q. Restrict development of cell phone towers and similar structures	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
r. Provide primitive toilets at shelters and popular campsites	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
s. Provide primitive toilets at popular day use sites	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
t. Require campers to use shelters or designated campsites	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
u. Prohibit use of radios and cell phones	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
v. Provide wooden bridges over streams	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
w. Clear selected vegetation to improve views from the trail	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
x. Provide fire grates at campsites	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
y. Provide log tables at shelters	-2	-1	0	+1	+2

(QC9)**Users (Non-Thru Hiker) (N=1561)**

	Level Of Opposition/Support					Mean
	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Oppose Nor Support	Support	Strongly Support	
	-2	-1	0	1	2	
	Percent					
a. Provide more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail	0.8	1.7	13.6	47.6	36.3	1.2
b. Provide more signs along the trail about appropriate use	4.8	14.6	26.6	40.3	13.7	0.4
c. Limit the number of people allowed to use the trail	31.4	33.9	21.5	10.6	2.7	-0.8
d. Require all hikers to have minimum supplies and equipment (e.g., adequate water, appropriate shoes/boots)	16.9	25.2	28.2	21.6	8.0	-0.2
e. Charge a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education	21.2	24.7	22.8	26.0	5.3	-0.3
f. Put more rangers along the trail to educate hikers about appropriate use and safety	7.5	21.1	34.2	30.8	6.5	0.1
g. Put more rangers along the trail to enforce rules and regulations	11.8	23.7	34.4	24.3	5.8	-0.1
h. Require dogs to be on a leash	10.1	15.6	22.4	24.7	27.1	0.4
i. Prohibit dogs	31.4	25.8	21.1	8.7	12.8	-0.6
j. Restrict horse use to certain sections of the trail	3.5	6.5	20.9	33.3	35.8	0.9
k. Prohibit horses	8.9	19.7	32.0	14.3	25.2	0.3
l. Prohibit campfires except at shelters	12.1	25.2	20.2	21.6	20.9	0.1
m. Prohibit all campfires	39.4	32.1	18.3	5.5	4.6	-1.0
n. Require a permit for overnight use	26.2	27.3	19.9	19.1	7.6	-0.5
o. Restrict group size	9.8	14.4	16.9	33.4	25.6	0.5
p. Restrict use of the trail by commercial groups	7.0	15.3	25.1	28.8	23.7	0.5
q. Restrict development of cell phone towers and similar structures	3.8	4.2	12.0	25.4	54.6	1.2
r. Provide primitive toilets at shelters and popular campsites	3.0	4.5	14.7	44.0	33.8	1.0
s. Provide primitive toilets at popular day use sites	2.7	6.2	16.8	44.5	29.7	0.9
t. Require campers to use shelters or designated campsites	16.4	26.6	22.2	23.0	11.8	-0.1
u. Prohibit use of radios and cell phones	14.0	23.8	29.0	17.1	16.1	0.0
v. Provide wooden bridges over streams	6.1	14.3	37.6	31.3	10.7	0.3
w. Clear selected vegetation to improve views from the trail	17.5	24.1	22.7	26.6	9.1	-0.1
x. Provide fire grates at campsites	9.3	16.4	36.2	30.4	7.7	0.1
y. Provide log tables at shelters	6.5	11.7	30.5	37.7	13.5	0.4

- Non-thru hikers were most supportive of the management strategies of providing more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail (83.9% support or strongly support), restricting development of cell phone towers and similar structures (80.0% support), and providing primitive toilets at popular campsites (77.8% support) and day use sites (74.2% support).
- The majority of non-thru hikers (69.1%) support restricting horse use to certain sections of the trail, while only 10.0% oppose this option.
- Non-thru hikers were most opposed to prohibiting all campfires (71.5% opposed or strongly opposed) and limiting the number of people allowed to use the trail (65.3% opposed).

Thru Hikers Only (N=318)

	Level Of Opposition/Support					Mean
	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither Oppose Nor Support	Support	Strongly Support	
	-2	-1	0	1	2	
	Percent					
a. Provide more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail	0.7	5.2	20.1	42.8	31.2	1.0
b. Provide more signs along the trail about appropriate use	9	18.7	28.1	31.5	12.7	0.2
c. Limit the number of people allowed to use the trail	33.6	32.8	16.4	13.4	3.4	-0.9
d. Require all hikers to have minimum supplies and equipment (e.g., adequate water, appropriate shoes/boots)	31.8	31.4	17.4	12.9	6.4	-0.7
e. Charge a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education	43.8	27.3	14.2	13.9	0.7	-1.0
f. Put more rangers along the trail to educate hikers about appropriate use and safety	13.1	24.3	32.8	23.5	6.3	-0.1
g. Put more rangers along the trail to enforce rules and regulations	22.3	32.3	25.7	16	3.7	-0.5
h. Require dogs to be on a leash	16.9	21.3	20.6	20.6	20.6	0.1
i. Prohibit dogs	39.9	25.6	16.1	8.1	10.3	-0.8
j. Restrict horse use to certain sections of the trail	4.9	1.9	12.9	25.5	54.8	1.2
k. Prohibit horses	4	7	22.1	16.9	50	1.0
l. Prohibit campfires except at shelters	19.9	30.1	14.7	19.9	15.4	-0.2
m. Prohibit all campfires	53.7	26.7	11.9	4.8	3	-1.2
n. Require a permit for overnight use	46.6	28	14.6	9.7	1.1	-1.1
o. Restrict group size	8.9	6.6	8.1	34.3	42.1	0.9
p. Restrict use of the trail by commercial groups	3.3	12.2	20	33	31.5	0.8
q. Restrict development of cell phone towers and similar structures	1.9	4.9	11.9	21.6	59.7	1.3
r. Provide primitive toilets at shelters and popular campsites	1.5	1.5	13	40.1	43.9	1.2
s. Provide primitive toilets at popular day use sites	3.4	5.2	16.8	39.2	35.4	1.0
t. Require campers to use shelters or designated campsites	32.2	38.9	11.5	12.2	5.2	-0.8
u. Prohibit use of radios and cell phones	24	26.2	25.5	10.7	13.7	-0.4
v. Provide wooden bridges over streams	4.8	10.3	35.9	29.7	19.4	0.5
w. Clear selected vegetation to improve views from the trail	18.4	20.6	23.2	28.3	9.6	-0.1
x. Provide fire grates at campsites	7.7	12.2	42.1	30.3	7.7	0.2
y. Provide log tables at shelters	2.2	2.9	20.1	49.8	24.9	0.9

- Thru hikers agree with the non-thru hikers in their strong support for management strategies of providing more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail (74.0% support or strongly support), restricting development of cell phone towers and similar structures (81.3% support), and providing primitive toilets at popular campsites (84.0% support) and day use sites (74.6% support).
- Thru hikers (80.3%) were even more likely than non-thru hikers (69.1%) to support restricting horse use to certain sections of the trail.
- Thru hikers were much more likely than non-thru hikers to oppose requiring a permit for overnight use and charging a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education.
- Three-fourths of thru hikers (74.7%) supported the idea of providing log tables at shelters, compared to only half (51.2%) of the non-thru hikers.

(QC9) by Type of Hiker

Management Action*	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) Provide more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1
b) Provide more signs along the trail about appropriate use	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4
c) Limit the number of people allowed to use the trail	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-0.8
d) Require all hikers to have minimum supplies and equipment (e.g., adequate water, appropriate shoes/boots)	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.3
e) Charge a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	-1.0	-0.4
f) Put more rangers along the trail to educate hikers about appropriate use and safety	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.0
g) Put more rangers along the trail to enforce rules and regulations	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2
h) Require dogs to be on a leash	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.4
i) Prohibit dogs	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	-0.8	-0.6
j) Restrict horse use to certain sections of the trail	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.0
k) Prohibit horses	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.4
l) Prohibit campfires except at shelters	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.1
m) Prohibit all campfires	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.2	-1.0
n) Require a permit for overnight use	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8	-1.1	-0.6
o) Restrict group size	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.6
p) Restrict use of the trail by commercial groups	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.5
q) Restrict development of cell phone towers and similar structures	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2
r) Provide primitive toilets at shelters and popular campsites	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0
s) Provide primitive toilets at popular day use sites	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
t) Require campers to use shelters or designated campsites	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.8	-0.2
u) Prohibit use of radios and cell phones	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.1
v) Provide wooden bridges over streams	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
w) Clear selected vegetation to improve views from the trail	-0.1	-0.3	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
x) Provide fire grates at campsites	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
y) Provide log tables at shelters	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.5

*Responses ranged from "strongly oppose" (-2) to "strongly support" (+2).

- Day users and overnight hikers generally expressed more support than section and thru hikers for information-based strategies like providing more signs and other information about appropriate use of the trail.
- All groups were equally opposed to limiting the number of people allowed on the trail.
- Thru hikers stood out from all groups in strong opposition to several management options, including charging a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and education, requiring a permit for overnight use, and requiring use of a shelter or designated campsite.
- Section and thru hikers were much more likely than day users or overnight hikers to favor prohibiting horses on the AT.
- Section and thru hikers were also far more likely to support restrictions on group size.

(QC9) by Region

Management Action*	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a. Provide more information to hikers about appropriate use of the trail	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1
b. Provide more signs along the trail about appropriate use	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4
c. Limit the number of people allowed to use the trail	-0.7	-1.1	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8
d. Require all hikers to have minimum supplies and equipment (e.g., adequate water, appropriate shoes/boots)	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3
e. Charge a fee to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education	-0.1	-0.6	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4
f. Put more rangers along the trail to educate hikers about appropriate use and safety	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
g. Put more rangers along the trail to enforce rules and regulations	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.2
h. Require dogs to be on a leash	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4
i. Prohibit dogs	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.2	-0.6
j. Restrict horse use to certain sections of the trail	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
k. Prohibit horses	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.4
l. Prohibit campfires except at shelters	0.4	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.1
m. Prohibit all campfires	-0.8	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.0
n. Require a permit for overnight use	-0.5	-0.8	-0.4	0.0	-0.6
o. Restrict group size	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.6
p. Restrict use of the trail by commercial groups	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5
q. Restrict development of cell phone towers and similar structures	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2
r. Provide primitive toilets at shelters and popular campsites	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0
s. Provide primitive toilets at popular day use sites	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9
t. Require campers to use shelters or designated campsites	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	0.2	-0.2
u. Prohibit use of radios and cell phones	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.1
v. Provide wooden bridges over streams	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
w. Clear selected vegetation to improve views from the trail	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
x. Provide fire grates at campsites	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
y. Provide log tables at shelters	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5

*Responses ranged from "strongly oppose" (-2) to "strongly support" (+2).

- New England hikers expressed the strongest support for providing primitive toilets at shelters and popular campsites and day use areas.
- New England trail users were more supportive of restrictions on campfires than users from other regions.
- Mid-Atlantic users were more negative about limiting the number of people on the trail than users in other regions.
- The majority of Mid-Atlantic hikers (59%) opposed charging fees to help pay for trail maintenance and hiker education, compared to 39-50% in the other regions.
- Mid-Atlantic trail users also expressed the most opposition to requiring campers to use shelters or designated campsites. Over half of the Mid-Atlantic hikers (53%) were opposed to such regulations, versus 36-43% of the users in the other regions.
- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were more likely than those in other areas to support the idea of providing more signs along the trail about appropriate use.
- Southwest Virginia hikers expressed the least support for restricting group size on the trail. Less than half of them (49%) supported restricting group size, compared to 57-64% of those in the other regions.

- The same pattern was true for restricting use of the trail by commercial groups. While 46% of Southwest Virginia hikers expressed support, the proportion in the other regions who supported restricting use of the trail by commercial groups was higher, ranging from 52-57%.
- Hikers in the Deep South were more likely to support prohibiting dogs on the trail. Nearly one-third of them (32%) were in support of prohibiting dogs, compared to just 15-23% in the other regions.
- Deep South hikers were neutral about requiring a permit for overnight use. While a majority of hikers in the other regions (ranging from 52-63%) opposed requiring such a permit, only 42% of those in the Deep South were opposed to requiring a permit for overnight use.
- Deep South trail users were more likely (44% support) than those in the other regions (26-37%) to favor requiring campers to use shelters or designated campsites.

10. Do you think that commercial uses of the Appalachian Trail should be allowed? “Commercial uses” are defined as groups whose members pay a fee to participate in the trip. [check one]

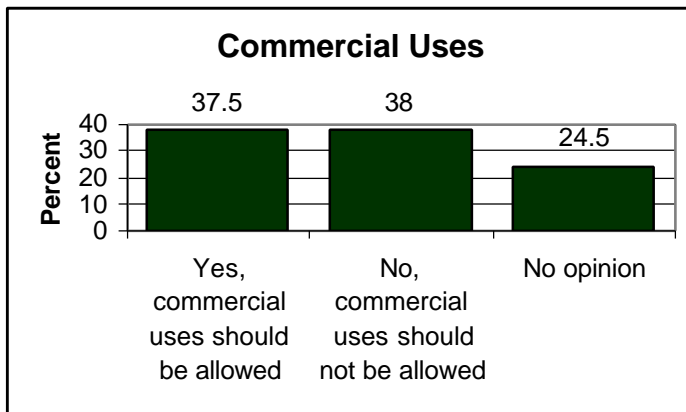
- Yes, commercial uses should be allowed**
 No, commercial uses should not be allowed
 No opinion

(QC10)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes, commercial uses should be allowed	466	37.5	102	39.2
No, commercial uses should not be allowed	473	38.0	106	40.8
No opinion	305	24.5	52	20.0

N=1244; 260

(QC10) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Appalachian Trail users were almost evenly divided about whether or not commercial use of the trail should be allowed. About 40% of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers felt that commercial uses should be allowed, with an equal proportion feeling they should not be allowed.
- Less than one-quarter of non-thru hikers (25%) and thru hikers (20%) did not have an opinion about whether commercial uses should be allowed.

(QC10) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes, commercial uses should be allowed	39.1	36.1	36.2	39.2	37.7
No, commercial uses should not be allowed	33.3	40.1	44.0	40.8	38.4
No Opinion	27.6	23.8	19.8	20.0	23.8

- There was little variation in opinions about commercial use of the AT among hiker types.

(QC10) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Deep South	Southwest Virginia	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes, commercial uses should be allowed	37.1	40.5	36.0	36.5	39.2	37.8
No, commercial uses should not be allowed	39.6	34.2	38.7	37.6	40.8	38.5
No opinion	23.2	25.3	25.3	25.9	20.0	23.7

- There was little regional variation in opinions about commercial use of the AT.

**11. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
[Circle one number for each statement]**

	LEVEL OF AGREEMENT				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/ No	Agree	Strongly Agree
(a) I thoroughly enjoyed my trip on the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
(b) I was pleased by the job being done by managers of the trail	1	2	3	4	5
(c) There is not enough parking at trailheads	1	2	3	4	5
(d) My use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much	1	2	3	4	5
(e) I cannot imagine a better trip than the one I took on the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
(f) I thought the trail and its surroundings were in good condition	1	2	3	4	5
(g) Information about the Appalachian Trail is hard to find	1	2	3	4	5
(h) I use the Appalachian Trail more in the off-season to avoid crowding	1	2	3	4	5
(i) My trip on the Appalachian Trail was well worth the money I spent on it	1	2	3	4	5
(j) I use the Appalachian Trail more during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid crowding	1	2	3	4	5
(k) I use the Appalachian Trail less now because of crowding	1	2	3	4	5
(l) There is not enough information provided at trailheads	1	2	3	4	5
(m) The number of people on the trail was about right	1	2	3	4	5
(n) I was disappointed with some aspects of my trip on the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
(o) I use the Appalachian Trail more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding	1	2	3	4	5
(p) I do not want to have any more trips like that trip on the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
(q) I use the Appalachian Trail more now than I used to	1	2	3	4	5
(r) I use a different section of the Appalachian Trail to avoid crowding	1	2	3	4	5

(QC11)**Users (Non-Thru Hiker) (N=1561)**

	Level Of Agreement					Mean
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/ No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	
	1	2	3	4	5	
(a) I thoroughly enjoyed my trip on the Appalachian Trail	0.3	0.8	1.7	31.6	65.5	4.6
(b) I was pleased by the job being done by managers of the trail	0.4	3.0	10.5	48.8	37.3	4.2
(c) There is not enough parking at trailheads	13.1	29.6	37.0	16.4	3.9	2.7
(d) My use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much	2.4	10.7	28.7	42.7	15.6	3.6
(e) I cannot imagine a better trip than the one I took on the Appalachian Trail	5.3	25.4	29.5	27.5	12.2	3.2
(f) I thought the trail and its surroundings were in good condition	0.7	4.4	7.4	66.5	21.0	4.0
(g) Information about the Appalachian Trail is hard to find	30.9	43.9	15.3	8.4	1.5	2.1
(h) I use the Appalachian Trail more in the off-season to avoid crowding	4.2	20.3	38.9	27.6	9.1	3.2
(i) My trip on the Appalachian Trail was well worth the money I spent on it	0.9	0.5	17.2	36.0	45.4	4.3
(j) I use the Appalachian Trail more during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid crowding	6.2	24.9	46.3	17.1	5.5	2.9
(k) I use the Appalachian Trail less now because of crowding	15.4	40.4	35.1	7.6	1.5	2.4
(l) There is not enough information provided at trailheads	8.0	34.4	29.0	25.1	3.5	2.8
(m) The number of people on the trail was about right	2.9	19.6	27.2	44.6	5.6	3.3
(n) I was disappointed with some aspects of my trip on the Appalachian Trail	16.5	40.8	19.4	20.8	2.5	2.5
(o) I use the Appalachian Trail more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding	8.4	30.8	34.8	20.2	5.8	2.8
(p) I do not want to have any more trips like that trip on the Appalachian Trail	62.2	29.7	5.5	1.6	1.0	1.5
(q) I use the Appalachian Trail more now than I used to	3.0	15.4	34.8	32.9	13.9	3.4
(r) I use a different section of the Appalachian Trail to avoid crowding	7.3	25.4	43.8	19.6	3.9	2.9

- Most non-thru hikers and thru hikers thoroughly enjoyed their trip on the Appalachian Trail.
- The vast majority of the non-thru hikers were pleased with the job being done by managers of the trail (86.1%) and felt that the trail and its surroundings were in good condition (87.5%).
- Substantial minorities of non-thru hikers reported making any adjustments in their trail visitation to avoid crowding on the trail. For example,
 - 22.6% use it during the early or later times of the day,
 - 26.0% reported using the trail more on weekends,
 - and 23.5% use a different section of the trail to avoid crowding.

Thru Hikers Only (N=318)

	Level Of Agreement					Mean
	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral/ No Opinion 3 Percent	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5	
(a) I thoroughly enjoyed my trip on the Appalachian Trail	0.4	0.7	1.8	22.0	75.1	4.7
(b) I was pleased by the job being done by managers of the trail	0.7	4.1	12.2	57.2	25.8	4.0
(c) There is not enough parking at trailheads	10.4	14.9	72.0	2.6		2.7
(d) My use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much	9.4	14.7	39.8	24.8	11.3	3.1
(e) I cannot imagine a better trip than the one I took on the Appalachian Trail	3.3	20.3	15.9	30.6	29.9	3.6
(f) I thought the trail and its surroundings were in good condition	1.1	5.9	10.7	65.3	17.0	3.9
(g) Information about the Appalachian Trail is hard to find	52.7	39.2	7.0	1.1		1.6
(h) I use the Appalachian Trail more in the off-season to avoid crowding	4.0	18.3	54.2	16.1	7.3	3.0
(i) My trip on the Appalachian Trail was well worth the money I spent on it			2.2	28.0	69.7	4.7
(j) I use the Appalachian Trail more during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid crowding	6.7	21.5	56.3	11.9	3.7	2.8
(k) I use the Appalachian Trail less now because of crowding	12.6	29.0	49.1	5.6	3.7	2.6
(l) There is not enough information provided at trailheads	11.8	46.7	28.3	12.5	0.7	2.4
(m) The number of people on the trail was about right	5.6	27.0	30.0	34.1	3.3	3.0
(n) I was disappointed with some aspects of my trip on the Appalachian Trail	10.3	19.9	15.8	51.1	2.9	3.2
(o) I use the Appalachian Trail more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding	5.6	18.2	55.8	14.9	5.6	3.0
(p) I do not want to have any more trips like that trip on the Appalachian Trail	60.2	26.4	7.4	3.3	2.6	1.6
(q) I use the Appalachian Trail more now than I used to	1.9	9.3	46.8	21.6	20.4	3.5
(r) I use a different section of the Appalachian Trail to avoid crowding	6.7	13.5	66.7	9.4	3.7	2.9

- Non-thru hikers (58.3%) were more likely than thru hikers (36.2%) to state that their use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much.
- Non-thru hikers (28.6%) were also more likely than thru hikers (13.2%) to believe that there is not enough information provided at trailheads.
- While virtually all (97.7%) thru hikers agreed that their trip on the AT was well worth the money they spent on it, the majority (54.0%) also agreed that they were disappointed with some aspects of their trip on the Appalachian Trail.
- Thru hikers were less likely than non-thru hikers to believe that information about the Appalachian Trail is hard to find. Nearly all thru hikers (91.9%) and 74.8% of non-thru hikers disagreed with this statement.
- Thru hikers were slightly less likely (37.4%) than non-thru hikers (50.2%) to agree that the number of people on the trail was about right.

(QC11) by Type of Hiker

Statement*	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) I thoroughly enjoyed my trip on the Appalachian Trail	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6
b) I was pleased by the job being done by managers of the trail	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.2
c) There is not enough parking at trailheads	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7
d) My use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.5
e) I cannot imagine a better trip than the one I took on the Appalachian Trail	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.2
f) I thought the trail and its surroundings were in good condition	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0
g) Information about the Appalachian Trail is hard to find	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.0
h) I use the Appalachian Trail more in the off-season to avoid crowding	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.1
i) My trip on the Appalachian Trail was well worth the money I spent on it	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.3
j) I use the Appalachian Trail more during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid crowding	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9
k) I use the Appalachian Trail less now because of crowding	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.4
l) There is not enough information provided at trailheads	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.8
m) The number of people on the trail was about right	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.3
n) I was disappointed with some aspects of my trip on the Appalachian Trail	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.2	2.6
o) I use the Appalachian Trail more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9
p) I do not want to have any more trips like that trip on the Appalachian Trail	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5
q) I use the Appalachian Trail more now than I used to	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4
r) I use a different section of the Appalachian Trail to avoid crowding	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9

*Responses ranged from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5).

- Day users were more likely than the other hiker types to believe that information about the AT is hard to find and that there is not enough information provided at trailheads.
- Thru hikers were the least likely to state that their use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much.
- Day users were the least likely to report that they use the AT more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding.
- Thru hikers generally expressed even more satisfaction with their AT trip than non-thru hikers.
- Thru hikers were more likely than the other groups to indicate that they were disappointed with some aspect of their trip on the Appalachian Trail.

(QC11) by Region

Statement*	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a. I thoroughly enjoyed my trip on the Appalachian Trail	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6
b. I was pleased by the job being done by managers of the trail	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.2
c. There is not enough parking at trailheads	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.7
d. My use of the Appalachian Trail has not changed much	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5
e. I cannot imagine a better trip than the one I took on the Appalachian Trail	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2
f. I thought the trail and its surroundings were in good condition	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
g. Information about the Appalachian Trail is hard to find	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.0
h. I use the Appalachian Trail more in the off-season to avoid crowding	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.1
i. My trip on the Appalachian Trail was well worth the money I spent on it	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.3
j. I use the Appalachian Trail more during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid crowding	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.9
k. I use the Appalachian Trail less now because of crowding	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4
l. There is not enough information provided at trailheads	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.8
m. The number of people on the trail was about right	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3
n. I was disappointed with some aspects of my trip on the Appalachian Trail	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6
o. I use the Appalachian Trail more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.9
p. I do not want to have any more trips like that trip on the Appalachian Trail	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5
q. I use the Appalachian Trail more now than I used to	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4
r. I use a different section of the Appalachian Trail to avoid crowding	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.9

*Responses ranged from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5).

- Hikers in New England showed few differences from the overall sample in their responses to this set of questions.
- New England hikers were most likely to agree that they cannot imagine a better trip than the one they took on the Appalachian Trail.
- New England hikers were also slightly more likely than those in the other regions to state that they use the trail less now because of crowding.
- New England trail users were slightly less likely to agree that the number of people on the trail was about right.
- Hikers in the Mid-Atlantic region showed few differences from the overall sample in their responses to this set of questions.
- Mid-Atlantic hikers were slightly less likely than those in the other regions to state that they use the trail less now because of crowding, and more likely to feel that the number of people on the trail was about right.
- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were less likely than those in other regions to be pleased with the job being done by managers of the trail.
- Southwest Virginia hikers were more likely to feel that there is not enough parking at trailheads and that information about the AT is hard to find.

- Hikers in Southwest Virginia are least likely to report using the Appalachian Trail more on weekdays than weekends to avoid crowding.
- Hikers in the Deep South showed no distinct differences from the overall sample in their responses to this set of questions.

12. We would like to know how satisfied you were with your hike on the Appalachian Trail on the trip when you were contacted for our study. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being most satisfied, how satisfied were you with this trip on the Appalachian Trail? _____

(QC12)

Satisfaction Level (1 - 10)	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-5	36	2.8	4	1.5
6	39	3.1	10	3.8
7	110	8.7	10	3.8
8	413	32.5	73	27.5
9	356	28.1	73	27.5
10	315	24.8	94	35.8
Mean	8.5		8.8	

N=1269; 265

- Appalachian Trail hikers reported very high levels of overall satisfaction with their trip on the AT.
- Thru hikers tended to report higher satisfaction levels than non-thru hikers.
- Over one-third of thru hikers (35.8%) and one-quarter of non-thru hikers (24.8%) reported the highest possible score of "10" for their trip on the Appalachian Trail.

(QC12) by Type of Hiker

Satisfaction Level (1-10)	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
1-5	1.7	4.1	3.0	1.5	2.6
6	2.6	3.9	2.6	3.8	3.2
7	7.8	9.5	9.4	3.8	7.9
8	34.0	35.1	25.5	27.5	31.9
9	28.3	25.3	33.6	27.5	28.0
10	25.7	22.0	26.0	35.8	26.3
Mean	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.8	8.6

- Overall, each hiker type reported high levels of satisfaction.
- Again, thru hikers tended to report higher satisfaction levels than other types of hikers.

(QC12) by Region

Satisfaction Level (1 - 10)	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
1-5	3.4	3.0	2.2	2.0	1.5	2.6
6	2.3	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.2
7	6.4	11.2	10.9	9.0	3.8	7.8
8	33.3	29.2	36.0	29.7	27.5	31.7
9	27.9	27.9	25.1	32.7	27.5	28.0
10	26.7	25.8	21.8	22.6	35.8	26.7
Mean	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.8	8.6

- Hiker satisfaction levels were generally consistent across geographic regions.

PART D:
Visitor Expenditures

1a. Which of the following best describes how you handled your expenses for your trip along the Appalachian Trail?

- _____ I paid all my expenses and the expenses of _____ other people. (Please indicate the number of people).
(In part 1b below, please report all of these expenses).
- _____ I paid all my own expenses. *(Please report your expenses in part 1b).*
- _____ I shared expenses. *(In part 1b, please indicate your personal expenses & your portion of the shared expenses).*
- _____ Someone else paid my expenses. *(Please go to question 2 below).*

(QD1a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Paid all my own expenses and expenses of others	321	23.8	30	10.6
Paid all my own expenses	677	50.2	202	71.1
Shared expenses	281	20.8	39	13.7
Someone else paid my expenses	69	5.1	13	4.6

N= 1348; 284

- One-half of the non-thru hikers paid their own expenses; most of the remainder paid the expenses of others or shared expenses.
- More than two-thirds of thru hikers paid only their own expenses.

(QD1a) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Paid all my own expenses and expenses of others	27.3	23.6	16.0	10.6	21.4
Paid all my own expenses	50.5	41.4	68.8	71.1	54.0
Shared expenses	17.5	28.1	12.9	13.7	19.6
Someone else paid my expenses	4.7	6.8	2.3	4.6	5.0

- The majority of all user types except overnight hikers paid their own expenses (54.0%).
- Day users (27.3%) and overnight users (23.6%) were more likely to pay own expenses and expenses of others.
- Overnight hikers more likely than other groups to share expenses.
- Section hikers were similar to thru hikers in that about two-thirds just pay their own expenses.

(QD1a) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Paid all own and others	27.7	17.4	21.6	23.4	10.6	21.5
Paid all my own	43.7	62.5	54.3	48.6	71.1	53.9
Shared expenses	21.7	19.0	18.8	23.4	13.7	19.6
Someone else paid mine	6.9	1.2	5.3	4.6	4.6	5.0

N=1632

- Nearly two-thirds (62.5%) of hikers in the Mid-Atlantic paid expenses for only themselves.

(QD1a1)

# of others paid expenses for	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	163	61.3	15	75.0
2	38	14.3	4	20.0
3	33	12.4	1	5.0
4	16	6.0	0	0.0
5	11	4.1	0	0.0
8	1	0.4	0	0.0
9	2	0.8	0	0.0
10	2	0.8	0	0.0

N= 266; 20

- The majority of thru hikers who paid the expenses of other hikers paid for only one additional hiker.
- No thru hikers paid expenses for more than three people, but non-thru hikers paid expenses for up to ten people.
- The vast majority, however, of non-thru hikers paid expenses for three or fewer people.

(QD1a1) by Type of Hiker

# of others paid expenses for	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
1	55.4	61.0	80.6	75.0	62.1
2	13.2	18.1	8.3	20.0	14.9
3	16.5	10.5	2.8	5.0	11.7
4	6.6	5.7	5.6	0.0	5.7
5	7.4	1.9	0.0	0.0	3.9
8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
9	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.7
10	0.0	1.0	2.8	0.0	0.7

- Of those respondents who reported paying the expenses of others, the majority of each type of hiker paid expenses for 1 other person.

(QD1a1) by Region

# of others paid expenses for	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
1	61.0	69.4	56.9	60.5	75.0	62.2
2	11.3	16.7	19.6	15.8	20.0	14.7
3	13.5	2.8	13.7	15.8	5.0	11.9
4	7.1	5.6	3.9	5.3	0.0	5.6
5	4.3	2.8	5.9	2.6	0.0	3.8
8	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
9	0.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
10	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7

- Nearly 70% of hikers in the Mid-Atlantic paid expenses for only themselves.
- New England and the Mid-Atlantic are the only sections where hikers paid expenses for eight or more people.

1b. In the spaces provided, please list your estimated expenses for your trip along the Appalachian Trail. For each type of expense, please indicate the amount you spent (a) in preparation for your trip before leaving home, (b) during your trip in communities along the Appalachian Trail and (c) on the trail itself.

(QD1b) OVERALL USERS (NON-THRU HIKERS)

Type of Expense	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	1.86	20.03	1.65	23.54
Packaged food and beverages	22.31	11.42	2.45	36.18
Personal items	5.40	4.93	0.59	10.92
Equipment for your trip	87.72	10.07	3.74	101.53
Lodging expenses:	1.06	6.98	1.22	9.26
Hotel/motel	1.03	14.46	2.43	17.92
Camping or shelter fees	0.63	2.91	2.32	5.86
Other	0.25	1.25	1.83	3.33
Auto Expenses:	1.16	2.49	0.12	3.77
Gas and oil	6.74	7.68	0.06	14.48
Repairs/service	0.53	2.08	0.01	2.62
Parking and tolls	4.45	0.61	0.05	5.11
Permit or user fees	0.21	0.72	0.32	1.25
Guide or outfitter fees	0.19	0.29	0.06	0.54
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.29	2.40	0.06	2.75
All other expenses for this trip	11.24	7.15	0.95	19.34
Total	145.07	95.47	17.86	258.4

* average dollars spent

- Readers are advised that all numbers for this question are in average dollars spent. All non-responses were coded as \$0.00, assuming that respondents who did not enter an amount did not spend money on that item.
- Average trip expenditures of non-thru hikers equaled \$258.40.
- The largest portion of trip expenditures (average=\$145.07) occurred at home or in the user's home community, followed by communities along the AT (average=\$95.47), and on the trail (average=\$17.86).
- The single most costly expense for hikers was equipment for their trip (\$101.53).
- The amount spent on guide or outfitter fees did not average over \$0.30 for any of the three categories.
- The largest amount spent in communities along the AT was in restaurants (\$20.03).
- The second largest total expense (second to equipment) was packaged food and beverages (\$36.18).

THRU-HIKERS ONLY

Type of Expense*	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	5.60	327.00	25.41	358.01
Packaged food and beverages	235.20	308.40	35.80	579.40
Personal items	60.70	68.99	4.89	134.58
Equipment for your trip	538.30	148.10	13.60	700.00
Lodging expenses:	0.06	78.13	9.07	87.26
Hotel/motel	0.75	240.90	11.07	252.72
Camping or shelter fees	0.02	11.80	11.75	23.57
Other	0.13	6.56	2.72	9.41
Auto Expenses:	3.96	15.00	0.52	19.48
Gas and oil	4.41	17.31	0.00	21.72
Repairs/service	0.69	8.74	0.00	9.43
Parking and tolls	0.07	1.77	0.06	1.90
Permit or user fees	0.06	0.68	1.35	2.09
Guide or outfitter fees	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.94
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.03	34.14	1.70	35.87
All other expenses for this trip	92.15	46.68	39.95	178.78
Total	942.13	1315.14	157.89	2415.16

* average dollars spent

- Thru hikers spent an average of \$700.00 on equipment for the trip, \$148.10 of this in communities along the AT.
- Thru hikers spent about \$300.00 for packaged food and beverages in communities along the AT.
- Thru hikers averaged only \$0.94 on guides or outfitter fees.
- Thru hikers reported spending an overall average of \$2,415.16 for their trip on the AT.
- Unlike the non-thru hikers, the majority of the money spent by thru hikers was spent in communities along the Appalachian Trail.

(QD1b) by Type of Hiker**DAY USERS ONLY**

Type of Expense	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	1.53	7.73	0.11	9.37
Packaged food and beverages	4.46	3.33	0.56	8.35
Personal items	1.67	3.93	0.06	5.66
Equipment for your trip	27.54	2.05	0.11	29.7
Lodging expenses:	0.64	2.20	0.00	2.84
Hotel/motel	0.30	5.25	0.16	5.71
Camping or shelter fees	0.48	2.66	0.25	3.39
Other	0.00	0.47	0.01	0.48
Auto Expenses:	0.16	0.52	0.00	0.68
Gas and oil	4.70	5.50	0.11	10.31
Repairs/service	0.26	2.01	0.00	2.27
Parking and tolls	0.22	0.36	0.05	0.63
Permit or user fees	0.24	0.37	0.18	0.79
Guide or outfitter fees	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.11
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.23	0.69	0.02	0.94
All other expenses for this trip	2.34	4.38	0.94	7.66
Total	44.81	41.50	2.58	88.89

* average dollars spent

- Very little money was spent on the trail by any type of hiker.
- The majority of preparatory items such as equipment for the trip and packaged food and beverages were purchased at home or in the home communities of all types of hikers.
- As expected, day users spent less (average=\$88.89) for their trip than other types of hikers.
- Day users spent slightly more money at home or in their home community (\$44.81 total) as in communities along the trail (\$41.50 total).

OVERNIGHT HIKERS ONLY

Type of Expense	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	2.30	14.27	1.63	18.2
Packaged food and beverages	20.88	4.16	2.03	27.07
Personal items	6.89	2.99	1.14	11.02
Equipment for your trip	94.02	7.27	3.93	105.22
Lodging expenses:	0.64	3.58	2.57	6.79
Hotel/motel	1.01	8.13	2.27	11.41
Camping or shelter fees	1.07	1.49	3.70	6.26
Other	0.67	0.76	4.13	5.56
Auto Expenses:	2.49	0.76	0.19	3.44
Gas and oil	8.26	6.71	0.04	15.01
Repairs/service	0.31	0.92	0.04	1.27
Parking and tolls	0.57	0.50	0.08	1.15
Permit or user fees	0.28	1.31	0.43	2.02
Guide or outfitter fees	0.03	0.52	0.05	0.6
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.11	1.65	0.01	1.77
All other expenses for this trip	5.23	3.89	0.21	9.33
Total	144.76	58.91	22.45	226.12

* average dollars spent

- Overnight hikers spent almost three times as much (average=\$226.12) on their trips as day users.
- About two-thirds of the money spent by overnight hikers was spent in their home community.

SECTION HIKERS ONLY

Type of Expense	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	2.35	65.54	5.88	73.77
Packaged food and beverages	72.64	48.97	7.75	129.36
Personal items	12.43	12.50	0.90	25.83
Equipment for your trip	240.08	37.56	13.33	290.97
Lodging expenses:	0.19	26.84	1.65	28.68
Hotel/motel	3.10	53.96	8.90	65.96
Camping or shelter fees	0.27	4.91	4.68	9.86
Other	0.04	1.73	1.79	3.56
Auto Expenses:	1.13	11.77	0.30	13.2
Gas and oil	10.29	15.95	0.00	26.24
Repairs/service	1.75	5.00	0.00	6.75
Parking and tolls	24.16	1.58	0.02	25.76
Permit or user fees	0.06	0.52	0.53	1.11
Guide or outfitter fees	0.98	0.47	0.30	1.75
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.90	8.92	0.31	10.13
All other expenses for this trip	47.73	23.02	2.86	73.61
Total	418.10	319.24	49.20	786.54

* average dollars spent

- Section hikers spent over three times as much (average=\$786.54) as other overnight hikers.
- The dollars spent by each section hiker were more evenly distributed between their home community and communities along the Appalachian Trail.

(QD1b) by Region**NEW ENGLAND REGION ONLY**

Type of Expense*	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	2.08	27.01	1.95	31.04
Packaged food and beverages	27.25	12.63	2.95	42.83
Personal items	6.04	4.09	1.12	11.25
Equipment for your trip	99.08	13.29	5.68	118.05
Lodging expenses:	0.82	9.25	2.60	12.67
Hotel/motel	1.89	18.04	3.46	23.39
Camping or shelter fees	1.33	3.01	4.85	9.19
Other	0.47	1.96	3.91	6.34
Auto Expenses:	0.65	4.72	0.27	5.64
Gas and oil	6.77	9.18	0.09	16.04
Repairs/service	0.69	1.89	0.03	2.61
Parking and tolls	0.54	0.98	0.07	1.59
Permit or user fees	0.33	1.49	0.46	2.28
Guide or outfitter fees	0.41	0.31	0.14	0.86
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.23	3.36	0.02	3.61
All other expenses for this trip	16.01	10.11	0.96	27.08
Total	164.59	121.32	28.56	314.47

* average dollars spent

- More was spent on restaurants in communities in the New England region than in any other region (\$27.01).
- More was spent on hotel/motel expenses in communities in the New England region than in any other region (\$18.04).
- Camping or shelter fees in the New England region were the most expensive. Hikers averaged \$4.85 on the trail in this region, while no other region averaged over a dollar.
- Hikers in the New England region tended to spend more money in communities along the trail for entertainment than hikers on other regions.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION ONLY

Type of Expense*	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	2.07	25.78	1.92	29.77
Packaged food and beverages	26.03	21.19	2.64	49.86
Personal items	6.65	6.44	0.36	13.45
Equipment for your trip	115.60	8.34	2.19	126.13
Lodging expenses:	3.10	9.89	0.35	13.34
Hotel/motel	0.00	16.28	0.73	17.01
Camping or shelter fees	0.04	4.81	0.63	5.48
Other	0.20	0.89	0.57	1.66
Auto Expenses:	0.87	0.47	0.00	1.34
Gas and oil	7.58	8.20	0.00	15.78
Repairs/service	0.27	0.87	0.00	1.14
Parking and tolls	23.36	0.86	0.04	24.26
Permit or user fees	0.27	0.14	0.07	0.48
Guide or outfitter fees	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.13
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.64	0.99	0.12	1.75
All other expenses for this trip	10.07	9.18	2.88	22.13
Total	196.75	114.46	12.50	323.71

* average dollars spent

- More was spent at home on equipment for the trip by Mid-Atlantic (\$115.60) hikers than hikers in any other region.
- Mid-Atlantic hikers spent more in communities along the trail on packaged food and beverages (\$21.19) than any other region.
- Overall, more money was spent by Mid-Atlantic hikers (\$323.71) than in any other region.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGION ONLY

Type of Expense*	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	0.87	5.41	1.83	8.11
Packaged food and beverages	12.99	4.62	0.76	18.37
Personal items	3.38	1.59	0.10	5.07
Equipment for your trip	41.74	5.14	1.36	48.24
Lodging expenses:	0.00	1.11	0.00	1.11
Hotel/motel	0.06	6.84	3.35	10.25
Camping or shelter fees	0.04	2.05	0.19	2.28
Other	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.11
Auto Expenses:	0.10	0.49	0.00	0.59
Gas and oil	3.66	4.70	0.07	8.43
Repairs/service	0.14	3.01	0.00	3.15
Parking and tolls	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.15
Permit or user fees	0.05	0.01	0.15	0.21
Guide or outfitter fees	0.02	0.18	0.01	0.21
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.00	1.95	0.14	2.09
All other expenses for this trip	0.09	0.47	0.00	0.56
Total	63.24	37.71	7.98	108.93

* average dollars spent

- Hikers in Southwest Virginia spent less than hikers in any other region of the trail (\$108.93), averaging less than half the overall total for all regions.
- Hikers in the Southwest Virginia region spent only \$48.24 on equipment for the trip.

DEEP SOUTH REGION ONLY

Type of Expense*	Where Expenditures Were Made			Total
	At Home or in your Home Community	In Communities along the Appalachian Trail	On the Trail	
Restaurant	2.43	14.81	0.25	17.49
Packaged food and beverages	17.56	6.83	3.22	27.61
Personal items	5.02	10.31	0.08	15.41
Equipment for your trip	89.95	9.98	3.40	103.33
Lodging expenses:	0.95	5.65	0.05	6.65
Hotel/motel	1.15	13.19	0.14	14.48
Camping or shelter fees	0.15	1.77	0.12	2.04
Other	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.33
Auto Expenses:	4.42	1.34	0.00	5.76
Gas and oil	10.05	7.10	0.00	17.15
Repairs/service	0.94	2.61	0.00	3.55
Parking and tolls	0.63	0.06	0.05	0.74
Permit or user fees	0.03	0.19	0.46	0.68
Guide or outfitter fees	0.04	0.57	0.00	0.61
Fees at other attractions/entertainment	0.47	1.93	0.00	2.40
All other expenses for this trip	14.96	6.08	0.10	21.14
Total	148.75	83.75	7.87	240.37

* average dollars spent

- Hikers in the Deep South spent more on personal items (\$15.41) than any other region.
- Hikers in the Deep South spent less for their trip than hikers in New England or the Mid-Atlantic, but they spent over twice as much as those in Southwest Virginia.

2. About how many miles (one-way) do you live from the Appalachian Trail?

- _____ one-way distance to nearest point on Appalachian Trail
 _____ one-way distance to section you hiked on the day you were contacted for this survey

(QD2)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Mean	N	Mean	N
One-way distance to nearest point on AT	150.4	1286	529.5	269
One-way distance to section hiked on day contacted	252.9	1173	1019.5	158

- Non-thru hikers live an average of about 150 miles from the nearest point on the AT, but live about 250 miles away from the section they were hiking when contacted.
- Thru hikers live about 530 miles away from the nearest point on the AT, and about 1000 miles away from the section they were hiking when contacted.

(QD2) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
One-way distance to nearest point on AT	113.4	155.5	215.9	529.5	216.2
One-way distance to section hiked on day contacted	141.6	249.4	490.6	1019.5	342.4

- In general, all types of hikers traveled hundreds of miles to the AT.
- Day users tend to live closer to the trail than the other types of hikers.
- Overnight hikers live an average of 150 miles from the nearest point on the AT and 250 miles from the section where they were contacted.
- Section hikers tend to live about twice as close to the trail as thru hikers.
- Thru hikers live farther from the nearest point on the AT (average 529.5 mi.) and from the section they were hiking when contacted for the study (average 1019.5 mi.) than any other type of hiker.

(QD2) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
One-way distance to nearest point on AT	167.2	151.7	58.3	219.4	529.5	216.1
One-way distance to section hiked when contacted	322.7	247.3	104.9	267.4	1019.5	343.9

- Users in the Southwest Virginia region tend to live relatively close to the AT, about 58 miles away.
- Users traveled the farthest to hike the New England region. Hikers in this region live about 320 miles away from the section where they were contacted.
- The Deep South region attracts people who do not live close to the AT; users averaged a distance of approximately 220 miles away from the nearest point on the AT.

PART E:
Previous Experience and
Involvement

1a. Was this your first time on the Appalachian Trail? [check one]

_____ Yes [If yes, skip to question 2] _____ No

1b. About how many days have you spent on the A.T. in the last 12 months?

___ days

1c. In what year did you make your first visit to the A.T.? _____ year

1d. Do you prefer a particular time to hike along the Appalachian Trail? _____ Yes

_____ No

If yes, when? (e.g., season, month, day of the week, time of day, etc.)

(QE1a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	195	13.5	87	30.3
No	1248	86.5	200	69.7

N= 1443; 287

- The vast majority of non-thru hikers have hiked the trail before (86.5%).
- Nearly one-third of thru hikers had never been on the AT before (30.3%).

(QE1a) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	12.7	15.7	10.6	30.3	16.3
No	87.3	84.3	89.4	69.7	83.7

- Section hikers were more likely than any other group (89.4%) to have previous experience on the AT.
- Over 80% of all types of non-thru hikers had been on the Appalachian Trail before.
- Again, thru hikers were less likely than other types of hikers to have been on the AT before (30.3% were first-timers).

(QE1a) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	12.2	12.1	14.0	18.0	30.3	16.3
No	87.8	87.9	86.0	82.0	69.7	83.7

- Nearly one-fifth of the hikers in the Deep South had never been on the trail before.
- New England and the Mid-Atlantic regions had the highest number of returning users.

(QE1b)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)	Thru Hikers
Mean	15.7	145.4
Median	8	165
Range	0-210	0-240

N= 1255; 219

- Non-thru hikers spent an average (median) of 8 days on the AT during the previous 12 months, while thru hikers spent an average (median) of 165 days.

(QE1b) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Days	10.8 (5)	11.2 (6)	34.7 (20)	145.4 (165)	34.9 (10)

Mean (median)

- There was little difference between day users and overnight hikers in frequency of hiking the AT. The median value for both types of users was 5-6 days during the past year.
- Section hikers, not surprisingly, reported more days on the trail during the previous 12 months (mean=35, median=20 days).

(QE1b) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Days	16.5 (8)	21.4 (10)	12.7 (7)	10.7 (6)	145.4 (165)	34.9 (10)

Mean (median)

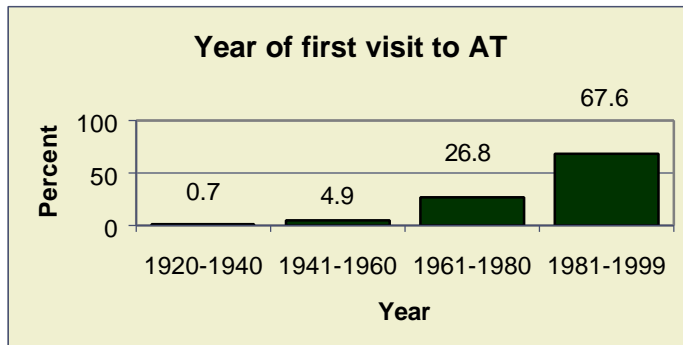
- Hikers in the Mid-Atlantic spent the most time on the trail in the last 12 months (mean=21.4 days).
- Hikers in the Deep South spent the least time on the trail in the last 12 months (mean=10.7days).

(QE1c)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1920-1940	8	0.7	0	0.0
1941-1960	59	4.9	9	4.2
1961-1980	325	26.8	40	18.7
1981-1999	819	67.6	165	77.1

N= 1211; 214

(QE1c) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Over three-quarters of thru hikers and two-thirds of non-thru hikers made their first trip to the AT since 1980.
- About one-quarter of non-thru hikers made their first trip to the AT between 1961 and 1980.
- Only 5.6% of non-thru hikers and 4.2% of thru hikers made their first trip to the AT before 1961.

(QE1c) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
1920-1940	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.5
1941-1960	5.0	4.2	5.7	4.2	4.7
1961-1980	28.9	33.4	32.2	18.7	29.3
1981-1999	65.3	62.1	61.2	77.1	65.4

- Approximately two-thirds of all types of hikers have made their first trip to the AT since 1980.

(QE1c) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
1920-1940	0.2	2.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.6
1941-1960	6.1	3.2	4.9	3.2	4.2	4.8
1961-1980	35.7	33.6	21.3	29.3	18.7	31
1981-1999	58	60.9	73.0	67.6	77.1	69.8
Average Year	1983	1984	1984	1986	1987	

- More respondents in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions reported visiting the AT before 1981 than in the southern regions.
- Southwest Virginia hikers were newer to the trail than hikers in any other region (73.0% have made their first visit since 1980.)

(QE1d)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	773	61.7	131	60.4
No	479	38.3	86	39.6

N= 1252; 217

- About 60% of both thru hikers and non-thru hikers have a time that they prefer to hike the AT.

(QE1d) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	55.9	65.8	68.2	60.4	61.7
No	44.1	34.2	31.8	39.6	38.3

- Day users are somewhat less likely (55.9%) than overnight (65.8%) or section hikers (68.2%) to have a preferred time to hike the AT.

(QE1d) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	63.9	55.1	62.9	61.7	60.4	61.5
No	36.1	44.9	37.1	38.3	39.6	38.5

- The percentage of hikers who have a time they prefer to hike the AT is generally consistent across regions.

(QE1d)

	Number	Percent
Anytime	7	0.8
Anytime except summer	29	3.3
Spring	46	5.2
Fall	400	44.9
Spring & Fall	170	19.1
Summer	111	12.5
Winter	40	4.5
Anytime except winter	35	3.9
Weekdays	22	2.5
Weekends	9	1.0
Morning	17	1.9
Evening	5	0.6

N= 891

- Almost 45% of users prefer to hike in the fall.

(QE1d) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Anytime	1.0	0.3	1.3	0.8	0.8
Anytime except summer	5.2	2.3	0.7	4.0	3.3
Spring	4.9	3.0	9.2	6.3	5.2
Fall	38.1	55.7	41.2	41.3	45.0
Spring & Fall	23.5	13.0	20.3	21.4	19.1
Summer	9.1	14.7	13.1	13.5	12.3
Winter	4.9	4.0	3.9	4.8	4.4
Anytime except winter	2.9	3.3	8.5	2.4	4.0
Weekdays	2.3	2.7	2.0	3.2	2.5
Weekends	2.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.0
Morning	4.2	0.7	0.0	1.6	1.9
Evening	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.6

- Overnight hikers were especially likely (55.7%) to prefer hiking the AT during the fall.
- Day users (23.5%) and section hikers (20.3%) were more inclined to prefer both spring and fall hiking.

(QE1d) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hiker	Total
Anytime	0.8	1.6	0.6	0.0	0.8	0.8
Anytime except summer	1.1	2.4	6.5	5.1	4.0	3.3
Spring	3.1	5.7	7.1	6.8	6.3	5.2
Fall	52.1	45.5	32.7	43.6	41.3	44.9
Spring & Fall	13.7	15.4	28.0	23.9	21.4	19.1
Summer	18.5	8.9	5.4	6.8	13.5	12.5
Winter	2.2	6.5	4.2	9.4	4.8	4.5
Anytime except winter	3.6	5.7	5.4	2.6	2.4	3.9
Weekdays	3.4	4.1	0.6	0.0	3.2	2.5
Weekends	0.3	0.8	4.2	0.0	0.0	1.0
Morning	1.1	3.3	3.0	1.7	1.6	1.9
Evening	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.8	0.6

- Preferred times to hike on the AT were generally consistent across regions.
- Hikers from Southwest Virginia were not as likely (32.7%) as those from other regions (44-52%) to report fall as their preferred season for hiking the AT.
- Hikers from Southwest Virginia were most likely, however, to report spring and fall as their preferred hiking time (28.0%).
- New England hikers were more likely (18.5%) to prefer hiking in summer than hikers in the other regions (5-9%), although summer hiking was relatively less preferred among hikers from all regions.

2. Which of the following was the most important reason for your visit to the Appalachian Trail? [check only one]

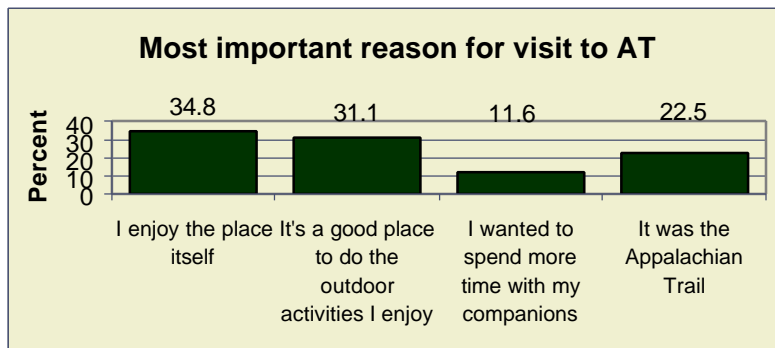
- I went there because I enjoy the place itself
- I went there because it's a good place to do the outdoor activities I enjoy
- I went there because I wanted to spend more time with my companions
- I went there because it was the Appalachian Trail

(QE2)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
I enjoy the place itself	493	34.8	48	17.1
It's a good place to do the outdoor activities I enjoy	441	31.1	41	14.6
I wanted to spend more time with my companions	164	11.6	9	3.2
It was the Appalachian Trail	318	22.5	182	65.0

N= 1416; 280

(QE2) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The most common reason for visiting the trail for non-thru hikers was because of enjoyment of the place (34.8%).
- The most common reason for visiting the trail for thru hikers was because it was the Appalachian Trail (65.0%).
- The least common reason for visiting the trail for both thru hikers and non-thru hikers was to spend more time with companions.

(QE2) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
I enjoy the place itself	40.2	34.3	24.3	17.1	32.1
It's a good place to do the outdoor activities I enjoy	33.6	34.1	19.7	14.6	28.4
I wanted to spend more time with my companions	11.9	15.7	2.7	3.2	10.2
It was the Appalachian Trail	14.3	15.9	53.3	65.0	29.3

- The most important reason for both section (53.3%) and thru (65.0%) hikers was “because it was the Appalachian Trail”.
- About one-third of both day users and overnight users indicated the most important reason for their visit was that the AT is a good place to do the outdoor activities they enjoy.
- “I wanted to spend more time with my companions” was the least cited reason for visiting the AT among all hiker types.

(QE2) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
I enjoy the place itself	34.8	29.0	37.3	38.3	17.1	31.9
It's a good place to do the outdoor activities I enjoy	33.7	24.7	35.9	25.2	14.6	28.4
I wanted to spend more time with my companions	11.4	12.4	12.7	9.6	3.2	10.2
It was the Appalachian Trail	20.1	34.0	14.1	27.0	65.0	29.5

- Southwest Virginia has the smallest percentage of hikers that are hiking the trail simply because it is the AT (14.1%).
- Hikers in the Mid Atlantic region and thru hikers are more often hiking the trail specifically because it is the AT.
- The two most common answers for New England and for Southwest Virginia hikers are because of enjoyment of the place and because it is a good place to do outdoor activities.

3. For this trail trip, how important was it to you that the trail was part of the Appalachian Trail [circle one number]

Not at all Important

Extremely Important

1

2

3

4

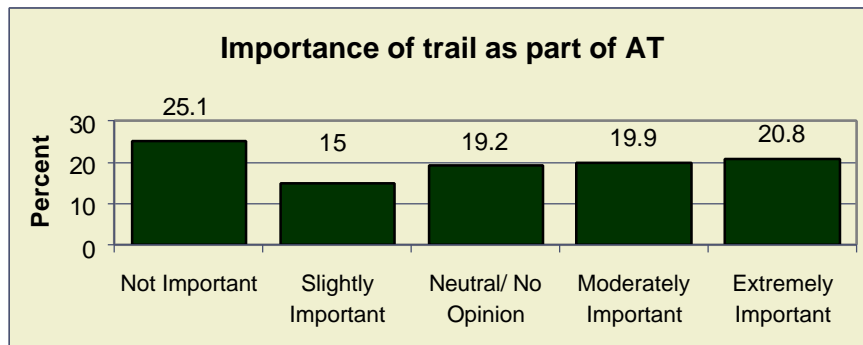
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(QE3)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not Important	357	25.1	12	4.2
Slightly Important	214	15.0	10	3.5
Neutral/ No Opinion	273	19.2	20	7.0
Moderately Important	284	19.9	43	15.1
Extremely Important	296	20.8	199	70.1

N= 1424; 284

(QE3) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The fact that the trail was part of the AT was extremely important to thru hikers (70.1%), but was substantially less important to non-thru hikers.

(QE3) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Not Important	31.6	28.4	3.4	4.2	21.7
Slightly Important	18.1	16.8	5.4	3.5	13.3
Neutral/ No Opinion	21.8	20.6	9.6	7.0	17.1
Moderately Important	18.6	19.8	23.8	15.1	19.2
Extremely Important	9.9	14.4	57.9	70.1	28.8

- Section hikers were again similar to thru hikers in reporting that it was extremely important that they were hiking part of the Appalachian Trail.
- Nearly one-third of day users (31.6%) and overnight hikers (28.4%) indicated it was not important that they were on the AT.

(QE3) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Not Important	32.5	12.0	26.7	17.4	4.2	21.6
Slightly Important	14.2	13.1	21.5	10.9	3.5	13.1
Neutral/ No Opinion	16.9	14.3	24.1	24.3	7.0	17.2
Moderately Important	17.7	26.3	16.0	24.3	15.1	19.1
Extremely Important	18.8	34.4	11.7	23.0	70.1	29.0

- Users in the New England region reported that it was "Not Important" that the trail was part of the AT more than in the other regions (32.5%).
- Those in the Mid-Atlantic were more likely (34.4%) than those in any other region to feel that it was "extremely important" that they were on the Appalachian Trail.
- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were least likely (11.7%) to state that being on the AT was "extremely important."

4. In a typical year, how often do you hike;

	Per week	Per month	Total miles hiked per year
(a) Along the Appalachian Trail			
(b) Other trails			

(QE4)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)			Thru Hikers		
	Per Week	Per Month	Per Year	Per Week	Per Month	Per Year
(a) Along the AT	8.1(2)	6.0(2)	100.1(50)	28.0(3.5)	35.4(2)	571.7(100)
(b) Other Trails	4.6(2)	9.1(2)	131.2(60)	8.3(2)	16.3(4.5)	201.7(100)

Means(Median)

- Non-thru hikers averaged 100.1 miles a year on the AT and 131.2 miles on other trails.
- Thru hikers averaged significantly more miles on the AT than on other trails.

(QE4) by Type of Hiker

		Day user		Section hiker	Thru Hikers	Total
		Overnight				
(a) Along the Appalachian Trail						
	Per week	2.5	11.1	16.1	28.0	11.5
	Per month	3.3	3.8	21.2	35.4	9.2
	Total miles hiked per year	66.9	63.0	232.3	571.7	154.9
(b) Other trails						
	Per week	3.6	5.2	5.7	8.3	5.2
	Per month	8.4	8.8	12.1	16.3	10.3
	Total miles hiked per year	124.7	115.0	180.0	201.7	142.1

*Means

- Day users and overnight hikers reported similar levels of hiking participation (63-67 miles per year on the AT and 115-125 miles on other trails).
- Not surprisingly, section hikers reported more frequent hiking trips with the majority of their trail miles (232) on the AT.
- For day users and overnight users, about one-third of their total annual hiking was on the AT.

(QE4) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
(a) Along the Appalachian Trail						
Per week	12.7	9.9	1.8	5.3	28.0	11.5
Per month	7.1	9.3	3.1	4.1	35.4	9.2
Total miles hiked per year	105.5	140.5	76.5	71.5	571.7	154.9
(b) Other trails						
Per week	4.9	3.1	4.7	5.7	8.3	5.2
Per month	11.0	6.3	8.7	7.0	16.3	10.3
Total miles hiked per year	123.8	154.1	121.5	138.4	201.7	142.1

*Means

- Non-thru hikers in the southern regions averaged significantly more miles on other trails than on the AT.
- Total miles hiked per year was relatively consistent across geographic regions.

5. How many days long was the longest backcountry trip you have ever taken? ___ days

(QE5)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)	Thru Hikers
Mean	17.4	114.1
Median	6	149
Range	1-240	1-365

N= 1327; 234

- The longest backcountry trip non-thru hiker's ever took averaged (median) 6 days.
- The longest backcountry trip thru hiker's ever took averaged (median) 149 days.

(QE5) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Days	8.5 (3)	16.5 (6)	35.0 (15)	114.1 (149)	33.4 (7)

Mean (median)

- The longest backcountry trips reported by overnight users were twice as long as those reported by day users.
- Section hikers reported a longest trip that, on average, was twice as long as that reported by overnight hikers and quadruple that of day hikers.

(QE5) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Days	20.7 (7)	21.3 (7)	10.7 (4)	11.8 (5)	114.1 (149)	33.6 (7)

Mean (median)

- Users in the northern regions reported taking backcountry trips that were on average twice as long as those reported in the southern regions.

6. Do you belong to any hiking/outdoor clubs? ____Yes ____No

(QE6)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	506	35.0	122	42.2
No	939	65.0	167	57.8

N= 1445; 289

- The majority of both non-thru hikers and thru hikers do not belong to a hiking or outdoor club.
- 35% of non-thru hikers and 42.2% of thru hikers belong to a hiking/outdoor club.

(QE6) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	25.0	39.2	47.9	42.2	35.9
No	75.0	60.8	52.1	57.8	64.1

- The majority of all types of hikers do not belong to any hiking/outdoor clubs (64.1%).
- Day users were less likely than any other group (25%) to belong to a club.
- Section hikers were the most likely (47.9%) to belong to a hiking/outdoor club.

(QE6) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	42.7	41.7	21.9	23.9	42.2	36.2
No	57.3	58.3	78.1	76.1	57.8	63.8

- Only about one-fifth of Southwest Virginia (21.9%) and the Deep South (23.9%) hikers belong to hiking/outdoor clubs.
- About two-fifths of New England (42.7%) and Mid-Atlantic (41.7%) hikers belong to hiking/outdoor clubs.

7. Do you belong to any trail maintenance organizations? _____ Yes _____ No

(QE7)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	286	19.8	61	21.2
No	1158	80.2	227	78.8

N= 1444; 288

- About one fifth of both non-thru hikers and thru hikers belong to a trail maintenance organization.

(QE7) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	15.5	20.6	27.5	21.2	19.9
No	84.5	79.4	72.5	78.8	80.1

- The vast majority of all types of hikers (80.1%) do not belong to any trail maintenance organizations.
- As in the case of hiking clubs, day users were the least likely (15.5%) and section hikers the most likely (27.5%) to belong to a trail maintenance organization.

(QE7) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	22.6	27.4	13.6	11.6	21.2	20.0
No	77.4	72.6	86.4	88.4	78.8	80.0

- Respondents in the northern regions are more likely to belong to a trail maintenance organization.

8. Do you subscribe to any hiking/outdoor magazines? _____ Yes _____ No

(QE8)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	604	41.7	144	50.3
No	843	58.3	142	49.7

N= 1447; 287

- Approximately half of thru hikers subscribe to hiking/outdoor magazines, while most non-thru hikers (58.3%) do not.

(QE8) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	30.7	46.3	56.6	50.3	42.9
No	69.3	53.7	43.4	49.7	57.1

- Less than one-third of the day users subscribe to hiking/outdoor magazines.
- Section hikers were more likely than any other group (56.6%) to subscribe to hiking/outdoor magazines.

(QE8) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	45.4	48.1	33.9	35.0	50.3	43.2
No	54.6	51.9	66.1	65.0	49.7	56.8

- About one-third of hikers in Southwest Virginia and the Deep South subscribe to hiking/outdoor magazines.
- About half of New England and Mid-Atlantic hikers subscribe to hiking/outdoor magazines.

9. Please rate your level of backcountry experience on the following scale [circle one number]

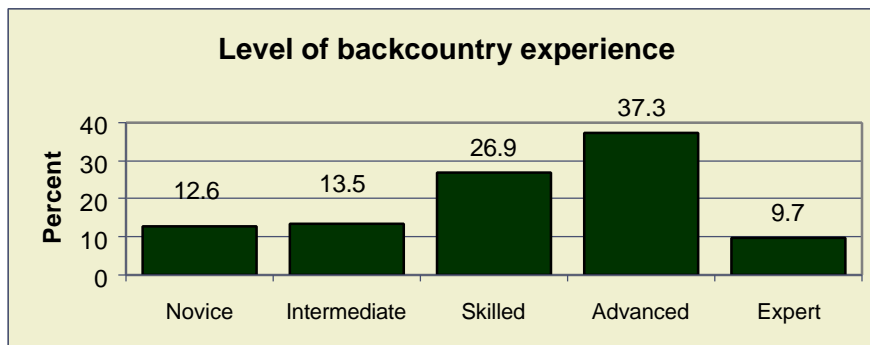
Novice					Expert
	1	2	3	4	5

(QE9)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Novice	182	12.6	1	0.3
Intermediate	195	13.5	11	3.8
Skilled	387	26.9	33	11.5
Advanced	537	37.3	160	55.7
Expert	140	9.7	82	28.6

N= 1441; 287

(QE9) Users (Non-thru hikers)



- The vast majority of thru hikers rated themselves as advanced or expert in backcountry experience.
- About one-quarter of non-thru hikers rate themselves as novice or intermediate in backcountry experience.

(QE9) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Novice	21.7	7.4	2.3	0.3	10.6
Intermediate	20.6	10.9	3.4	3.8	12.0
Skilled	26.9	30.0	21.1	11.5	24.4
Advanced	25.6	40.9	56.6	55.7	40.3
Expert	5.3	10.9	16.6	28.6	12.7

- As expected, the self-reported level of backcountry experience increased from day users, to overnight users, to section hikers and thru hikers.
- Over two-fifths of day users rated their backcountry experience as novice or intermediate.
- Thru hikers (28.6%) were most likely to rate their level of backcountry experience as “Expert”.

(QE9) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Novice	7.7	11.4	22.4	14.6	0.3	10.6
Intermediate	11.2	12.9	18.2	14.6	3.8	11.9
Skilled	25.6	26.1	27.6	30.0	11.5	24.3
Advanced	42.8	39.8	25.3	35.2	55.7	40.3
Expert	12.7	9.8	6.5	5.6	28.6	12.8

- Reported experience levels were generally consistent across geographic regions.
- Southwest Virginia showed the highest proportion of novice hikers (22.4%).

10a. Have you volunteered for any trail maintenance or management activities in the past 12 months?

___ Yes

___ No

10b. If yes, what are they? _____

(QE10a)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	287	19.8	47	16.2
No	1163	80.2	243	83.8

N=1450; 290

- Less than one-fifth of both non-thru hikers and thru hikers have volunteered for trail maintenance or management activities in the past 12 months.

(QE10a) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Yes	16.1	23.2	22.1	16.2	19.3
No	83.9	76.8	77.9	83.8	80.7

- There was little variation between types of hikers in terms of volunteering for trail maintenance or management activities, although day users and thru hikers were least likely to volunteer.

(QE10a) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Yes	21.6	21.0	17.3	16.9	16.2	19.2
No	78.4	79.0	82.7	83.1	83.8	80.8

- Volunteers' participation in trail maintenance or management activities is relatively consistent across geographic regions.

(QE10b)

	Number	Percent
Maintenance	136	43.3
Construction	32	10.2
Clean-up	22	7.0
Conservation	9	2.9
Education	3	1.0
Organization/ Membership	73	23.2
General	39	12.4

N=314

- The most common type of volunteer activities (43.3%) involved maintenance.

(QE10b) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Maintenance	47.3	37.5	43.6	51.1	43.5
Construction	10.8	10.0	9.1	11.1	10.2
Clean-up	10.8	5.0	7.3	4.4	7.0
Conservation	2.2	5.0	1.8	0.0	2.9
Education	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.0
Organization/ Membership	18.3	27.5	27.3	17.8	23.3
General	10.8	12.5	10.9	15.6	12.1

- Overnight hikers were the least likely to participate in maintenance activities.
- Overnight and section hikers were the most likely to participate in organization membership activities.

(QE10b) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hiker	Total
Maintenance	41.7	51.0	47.2	23.7	51.1	43.3
Construction	10.2	3.9	9.4	18.4	11.1	10.2
Clean-up	7.1	5.9	9.4	7.9	4.4	7.0
Conservation	3.1	0.0	1.9	10.5	0.0	2.9
Education	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	1.0
Organization/ Membership	23.6	21.6	30.2	21.1	17.8	23.2
General	12.6	17.6	1.9	15.8	15.6	12.4

- The Deep South region was more likely to engage in construction activities (18.4%) than the other regions, and less likely to participate in trail maintenance.
- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were more likely than those in other regions (30.2%) to volunteer for organization membership activities.

11. The following statements relate to your involvement in hiking. The statements sound similar to each other, so please read each one carefully and respond to each one as honestly as you can.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I have little or no interest in hiking	1	2	3	4	5
b. Hiking says a lot about who I am	1	2	3	4	5
c. You can tell a lot about a person by seeing them hiking	1	2	3	4	5
d. Hiking is very important to me	1	2	3	4	5
e. Hiking offers me relaxation when pressures build up	1	2	3	4	5
f. Participating in hiking is one of the most satisfying things I do	1	2	3	4	5
g. When I participate in hiking I can really be myself	1	2	3	4	5
h. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking	1	2	3	4	5
i. Hiking has a central role in my life	1	2	3	4	5
j. Participating in hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I do	1	2	3	4	5
k. I enjoy discussing hiking with my friends	1	2	3	4	5
l. When I participate in hiking others see me the way I want them to see me	1	2	3	4	5
m. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities	1	2	3	4	5
n. I don't really know much about hiking	1	2	3	4	5
o. The decision to go hiking was not entirely my own	1	2	3	4	5
p. I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking	1	2	3	4	5
q. Hiking interests me	1	2	3	4	5
r. I am knowledgeable about hiking	1	2	3	4	5
s. The decision to go hiking was primarily my own	1	2	3	4	5
t. Hiking is pleasurable	1	2	3	4	5
u. Even if close friends recommended another recreational activity, I would not change my preference for hiking	1	2	3	4	5
v. Most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking	1	2	3	4	5
w. To change my preference from hiking to another leisure activity would require major rethinking	1	2	3	4	5
x. I really enjoy hiking	1	2	3	4	5

(QE11)

USERS (NON-THRU HIKERS)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I have little or no interest in hiking	76.8	19.1	2.1	1.0	1.0
b. Hiking says a lot about who I am	1.9	7.1	25.7	44.7	20.6
c. You can tell a lot about a person by seeing them hiking	2.8	12.7	40.7	37.2	6.6
d. Hiking is very important to me	0.4	3.6	13.0	46.7	36.2
e. Hiking offers me relaxation when pressures build up	0.3	2.4	12.0	52.5	32.8
f. Participating in hiking is one of the most satisfying things I do	0.4	5.8	15.3	45.5	33.0
g. When I participate in hiking I can really be myself	0.7	2.4	26.8	45.5	24.7
h. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking	8.8	31.4	32.7	19.5	7.6
i. Hiking has a central role in my life	11.6	26.3	28.8	23.6	9.7
j. Participating in hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I do	1.2	5.7	14.3	52.5	26.3
k. I enjoy discussing hiking with my friends	1.1	8.6	23.1	50.5	16.7
l. When I participate in hiking others see me the way I want them to see me	2.2	7.3	50.2	29.3	10.9
m. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities	8.8	33.1	32.5	18.7	6.9
n. I don't really know much about hiking	39.5	42.5	9.8	6.5	1.7
o. The decision to go hiking was not entirely my own	41.4	27.9	9.0	19.1	2.7
p. I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking	2.0	7.1	18.9	52.1	19.9
q. Hiking interests me	0.2	0.6	3.6	53.5	42.2
r. I am knowledgeable about hiking	1.2	4.7	12.4	54.5	27.3
s. The decision to go hiking was primarily my own	1.5	15.6	10.6	34.8	37.5
t. Hiking is pleasurable	0.2	0.3	2.3	46.2	51.0
u. Even if close friends recommended another recreational activity, I would not change my preference for hiking	2.7	15.3	33.6	30.3	18.1
v. Most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking	11.6	39.9	25.6	19.0	3.9
w. To change my preference from hiking to another leisure activity would require major rethinking	7.0	22.9	33.6	23.6	12.8
x. I really enjoy hiking	0.3	0.6	4.1	43.8	51.2

THRU HIKERS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I have little or no interest in hiking	81.2	15.0	2.4	0	1.4
b. Hiking says a lot about who I am	0.3	7.0	22.0	47.0	23.7
c. You can tell a lot about a person by seeing them hiking	3.5	12.6	40.2	36.4	7.3
d. Hiking is very important to me	0	2.8	11.9	46.2	39.2
e. Hiking offers me relaxation when pressures build up	0.3	5.9	12.2	51.7	29.7
f. Participating in hiking is one of the most satisfying things I do	0.4	6.0	11.2	52.6	29.8
g. When I participate in hiking I can really be myself	0.7	2.8	24.0	47.7	24.7
h. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking	6.7	29.8	31.6	25.3	6.7
i. Hiking has a central role in my life	8.7	26.6	29.4	24.8	10.5
j. Participating in hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I do	1.0	5.9	15.4	52.4	25.2
k. I enjoy discussing hiking with my friends	1.0	5.2	17.4	61.8	14.6
l. When I participate in hiking others see me the way I want them to see me	1.8	6.7	50.2	31.9	9.5
m. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities	7.1	33.6	32.5	21.6	5.3
n. I don't really know much about hiking	51.6	43.5	3.9	0.7	0.4
o. The decision to go hiking was not entirely my own	56.3	23.4	4.5	14.0	1.7
p. I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking	0.7	2.1	9.5	56.5	31.2
q. Hiking interests me	0	0.3	1.7	52.8	45.1
r. I am knowledgeable about hiking	0.7	0.3	4.2	57.7	37.1
s. The decision to go hiking was primarily my own	1.0	7.3	2.8	29.7	59.1
t. Hiking is pleasurable	0.3	1.0	4.2	47.4	47.0
u. Even if close friends recommended another recreational activity, I would not change my preference for hiking	4.3	20.0	37.5	26.4	11.8
v. Most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking	14.0	41.4	23.9	17.9	2.8
w. To change my preference from hiking to another leisure activity would require major rethinking	8.6	30.5	31.9	21.5	7.5
x. I really enjoy hiking	0.7	1.4	4.9	41.3	51.7

- 76.8% of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, "I have little or no interest in hiking," but only 42.2% strongly agreed with the statement, "hiking interests me."
- Only 22.9% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking."
- Approximately three-quarters of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement, "I have little or no interest in hiking."
- About half of the respondents strongly agreed with both statements, "hiking is pleasurable" and "I really enjoy hiking."

(QE11) Average Involvement with Hiking by Type of Hiker.

	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) I have little or no interest in hiking	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
b) Hiking says a lot about who I am	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.7
c) You can tell a lot about a person by seeing them hiking	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
d) Hiking is very important to me	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.1
e) Hiking offers me relaxation when pressures build up	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.2
f) Participating in hiking is one of the most satisfying things I do	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.0
g) When I participate in hiking I can really be myself	3.8	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9
h) I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.9
i) Hiking has a central role in my life	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.0	2.9
j) Participating in hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I do	3.9	4.0	4.3	3.9	4.0
k) I enjoy discussing hiking with my friends	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7
l) When I participate in hiking others see me the way I want them to see me	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4
m) I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.8
n) I don't really know much about hiking	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9
o) The decision to go hiking was not entirely my own	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.8	2.1
p) I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking	3.5	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.8
q) Hiking interests me	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
r) I am knowledgeable about hiking	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.0
s) The decision to go hiking was primarily my own	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.4	3.9
t) Hiking is pleasurable	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.5
u) Even if close friends recommended another recreational activity, I would not change my preference for hiking	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.2	3.5
v) Most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.6
w) To change my preference from hiking to another leisure activity would require major rethinking	3.0	3.2	3.4	2.9	3.1
x) I really enjoy hiking	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.5

*Responses ranged from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5).

- The majority all hiker types strongly disagreed with the statement that "I have little or no interest in hiking" (mean=1.3).
- The vast majority of all types of hikers either agree or strongly agree with statements concerning the enjoyment, relaxation, and satisfaction they get from hiking.
- Section and thru hikers were more likely to strongly agree with the statement "the decision to go hiking was primarily my own" (mean=4.2 and 4.4 respectively) and strongly disagree with the statement "the decision to go hiking was not entirely my own" (mean=1.8 for both).

(QE11) Average Involvement with Hiking by Region.

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a. I have little or no interest in hiking	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3
b. Hiking says a lot about who I am	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.8
c. You can tell a lot about a person by seeing them hiking	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3
d. Hiking is very important to me	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.0	4.1
e. Hiking offers me relaxation when pressures build up	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2
f. Participating in hiking is one of the most satisfying things I do	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0
g. When I participate in hiking I can really be myself	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.9
h. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.9
i. Hiking has a central role in my life	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.9
j. Participating in hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I do	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.0
k. I enjoy discussing hiking with my friends	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.7
l. When I participate in hiking others see me the way I want them to see me	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.4
m. I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.8
n. I don't really know much about hiking	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.9
o. The decision to go hiking was not entirely my own	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.1
p. I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.8
q. Hiking interests me	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.4
r. I am knowledgeable about hiking	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.0
s. The decision to go hiking was primarily my own	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.9
t. Hiking is pleasurable	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
u. Even if close friends recommended another recreational activity, I would not change my preference for hiking	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.5
v. Most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6
w. To change my preference from hiking to another leisure activity would require major rethinking	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.1
x. I really enjoy hiking	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5

*Responses ranged from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5).

- New England hikers agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I am knowledgeable about hiking" (mean=4.1).
- New England respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I enjoy discussing hiking with my friends." But were less likely to agree or strongly agree that, "Most of my friends are in some way connected with hiking."
- Respondents in the Mid-Atlantic region were than any other region more strongly disagreed with the statement, "I have little or no interest in hiking" (mean=1.2).
- Mid-Atlantic hikers were most likely to answer that they strongly agree with the statements, "Hiking is pleasurable" and "I really enjoy hiking".
- Hikers in the southern regions felt like their life was less organized around hiking than hikers in the north. The average ratings for the statement, "I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities" were 2.6.

- Southwest Virginia hikers were least likely to strongly agree with any of the following statements, "Hiking is very important to me", "Participating in hiking is one of the most satisfying things I do", "Participating in hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I do", "Hiking interests me".
- Southwest Virginia hikers felt least educated regarding hiking. Their average response for the statement, "I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking" was the lowest rating at 3.4 on the five-point scale.
- Southwest Virginia respondents were most likely to strongly disagree or disagree with the statement, "I am knowledgeable about hiking."
- Deep South respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, "Hiking has a central role in my life."
- The vast majority of thru hikers agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I am knowledgeable about hiking."
- Even though they were taking the time to thru hike the AT, most thru hikers strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, "I find that a lot of my life is organized around hiking activities."
- Most thru hikers agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I consider myself to be an educated consumer regarding hiking."

12. Please specify your estimated total investment on hiking equipment to date. [Circle the appropriate amount]

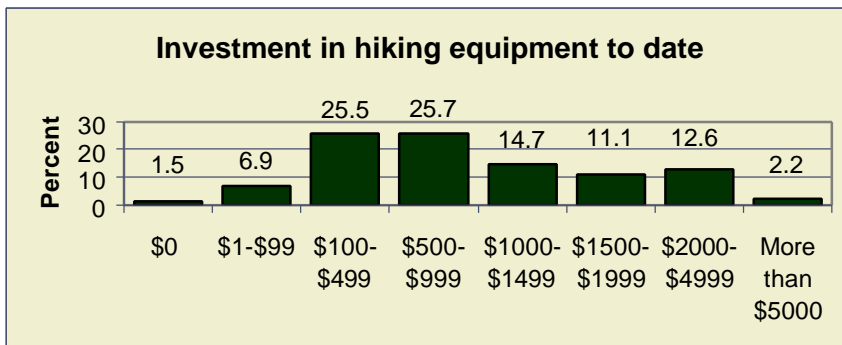
\$0 \$1-\$99 \$100-\$499 \$500-\$999
\$1000-\$1499 \$1500-\$1999 \$2000-\$4999 More than \$5000

(QE12)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0	21	1.5	1	0.4
\$1-\$99	99	6.9	0	0.0
\$100-\$499	365	25.5	7	2.5
\$500-\$999	368	25.7	39	13.8
\$1000-\$1499	210	14.7	58	20.6
\$1500-\$1999	159	11.1	56	19.9
\$2000-\$4999	180	12.6	103	36.5
More than \$5000	31	2.2	18	6.4

N= 1433; 282

(QE12) Users (Non-thru hikers)



- Most non-thru hikers had spent less than \$1000 on hiking equipment to date. Approximately one-quarter had spent \$100-\$499 and another quarter had spent \$500-\$999.
- Most thru hikers had spent \$1500 to \$5000 on hiking equipment to date. Approximately 20% had spent \$1500-\$1999 and 36.5% had spent \$2000-\$4999.

(QE12) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
\$0	3.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	1.3
\$1-\$99	13.2	2.9	0.4	0.0	5.8
\$100-\$499	37.0	19.4	12.0	2.5	21.8
\$500-\$999	22.3	32.5	19.4	13.8	23.8
\$1000-\$1499	10.9	16.5	20.2	20.6	15.7
\$1500-\$1999	4.4	13.9	19.8	19.9	12.4
\$2000-\$4999	7.7	12.8	22.9	36.5	16.4
More than \$5000	1.3	1.6	5.4	6.4	2.9

- As expected, the amount spent on hiking equipment increased from day users to overnight hikers to section hikers and thru hikers.
- Day users (3.1%) were most likely to report spending \$0 to date than any other type of hiker.
- Section (5.4%) and thru (6.4%) hikers were approximately five-times as likely to report spending more than \$5,000 than day (1.3%) and overnight (1.6%) users.

(QE12) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
\$0	0.5	0.4	4.6	1.3	0.4	1.3
\$1-\$99	4.1	4.7	15.6	5.5	0.0	5.8
\$100-\$499	20.1	24.0	31.3	34.0	2.5	21.7
\$500-\$999	27.0	27.1	22.8	24.3	13.8	23.7
\$1000-\$1499	16.1	15.9	11.4	13.6	20.6	15.6
\$1500-\$1999	13.6	12.8	6.2	8.9	19.9	12.5
\$2000-\$4999	16.1	13.6	6.2	10.2	36.5	16.5
More than \$5000	2.5	1.6	2.0	2.1	6.4	2.9

- Users in the Southwest Virginia region reported spending the least amount of money on hiking equipment to date.
- About half of New England and Mid-Atlantic hikers had spent between \$100 and \$1000 on hiking equipment.
- 18.6% of New England hikers had spent more than \$2000 on hiking equipment.

13. About how much did you spend on all expenses relating to hiking in the last 12 months? [Circle the appropriate amount]

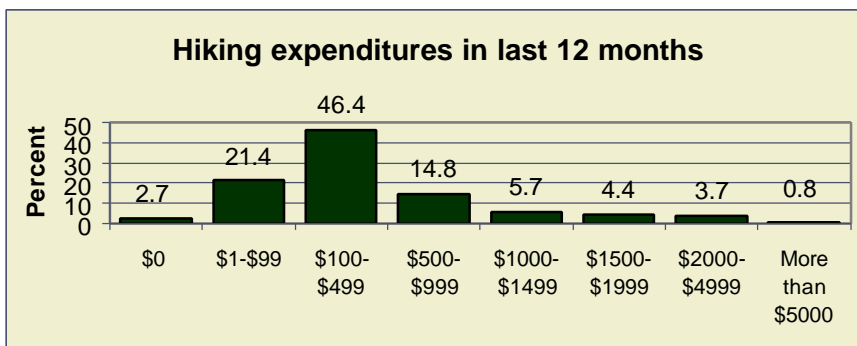
\$0 \$1-\$99 \$100-\$499 \$500-\$999
\$1000-\$1499 \$1500-\$1999 \$2000-\$4999 More than \$5000

(QE13)

	Users (Non-Thru Hiker)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
\$0	39	2.7	0	0.0
\$1-\$99	307	21.4	3	1.1
\$100-\$499	664	46.4	19	6.7
\$500-\$999	212	14.8	25	8.8
\$1000-\$1499	82	5.7	26	9.2
\$1500-\$1999	63	4.4	27	9.5
\$2000-\$4999	53	3.7	123	43.3
More than \$5000	12	0.8	61	21.5

N= 1432; 284

(QE13) Users (Non-thru hikers)



- Almost half of non-thru hiker spent \$100-\$499 in hiking related expenses in the last 12 months.
- Overall, thru-hikers spent more money on hiking in the last 12 months than non-thru hikers.

(QE13) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
\$0	5.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.2
\$1-\$99	33.9	15.3	5.8	1.1	18.2
\$100-\$499	43.7	55.1	35.7	6.7	40.0
\$500-\$999	9.7	16.4	24.0	8.8	13.9
\$1000-\$1499	2.8	5.8	12.0	9.2	6.2
\$1500-\$1999	1.6	4.4	9.7	9.5	5.1
\$2000-\$4999	1.8	2.0	10.9	43.3	10.2
More than \$5000	0.8	0.4	1.9	21.5	4.3

- As compared to hiking related expenditures to date, expenditures in the past twelve months were lower.
- However, the same relationship is exhibited where day and overnight hikers reported lower amounts than section and thru hikers.
- Thru hikers (21.5%) were far more likely to report spending more than \$5,000 than other types of hikers.

(QE13) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
\$0	1.1	1.9	6.5	3.0	0.0	2.3
\$1-\$99	15.3	20.2	36.2	20.1	1.1	18.1
\$100-\$499	49.7	42.4	42.7	46.6	6.7	39.8
\$500-\$999	15.6	17.5	8.8	17.5	8.8	13.8
\$1000-\$1499	6.3	6.2	2.6	7.7	9.2	6.3
\$1500-\$1999	5.5	5.8	2.6	2.1	9.5	5.2
\$2000-\$4999	5.2	4.3	0.7	3.0	43.3	10.3
More than \$5000	1.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	21.5	4.3

- Users in the Southwest Virginia region spent the least amount on hiking related expenses in the last 12 months; \$1-99 (36%), \$0 (6.5%).

14. Below is a list of statements that address your feelings about the AT. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the statements below.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. This trail means a lot to me	1	2	3	4	5
b. I enjoy hiking along the Appalachian Trail more than any other trail	1	2	3	4	5
c. I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
d. I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail	1	2	3	4	5
e. I identify strongly with this trail	1	2	3	4	5
f. Hiking here is more important than hiking in any other place	1	2	3	4	5
g. I feel no commitment to this trail	1	2	3	4	5
h. I wouldn't substitute any other trail for the type of recreation I do here	1	2	3	4	5
i. I have a lot of fond memories about the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
j. I know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it	1	2	3	4	5
k. People should be free to do whatever they want along the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
l. I have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and the people who hike along it	1	2	3	4	5
m. Managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
n. I treat the Appalachian Trail better than most people who hike along it	1	2	3	4	5
o. Everyone should be able to hike along the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
p. The Appalachian trail means more to me than any other trail I can think of	1	2	3	4	5
q. I don't tell many people about this trail	1	2	3	4	5
r. For me, lots of other trails could substitute for the Appalachian Trail	1	2	3	4	5
s. I will (or do) bring my children to this place	1	2	3	4	5
t. People who have used this place longest should have priority using it	1	2	3	4	5

(QE14)

USERS (NON-THRU HIKERS)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. This trail means a lot to me	0.4	2.9	17.6	46.4	32.6
b. I enjoy hiking along the Appalachian Trail more than any other trail	3.7	20.5	41.1	22.0	12.6
c. I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail	1.8	14.0	35.7	30.8	17.7
d. I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail	5.2	28.5	37.9	20.0	8.4
e. I identify strongly with this trail	4.0	17.5	35.0	29.9	13.6
f. Hiking here is more important than hiking in any other place	9.5	35.9	37.9	11.1	5.7
g. I feel no commitment to this trail	22.7	43.6	20.6	11.7	1.4
h. I wouldn't substitute any other trail for the type of recreation I do here	9.1	45.2	36.2	7.5	2.0
i. I have a lot of fond memories about the Appalachian Trail	0.9	3.2	12.7	46.7	36.5
j. I know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it	38.9	37.5	19.4	3.1	1.1
k. People should be free to do whatever they want along the Appalachian Trail	49.1	39.3	7.0	3.4	1.2
l. I have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and the people who hike along it	3.9	15.7	36.6	32.2	11.6
m. Managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail	14.9	36.6	32.3	14.4	1.8
n. I treat the Appalachian Trail better than most people who hike along it	0.8	8.5	45.9	36.7	8.2
o. Everyone should be able to hike along the Appalachian Trail	1.3	8.3	16.6	51.2	22.5
p. The Appalachian trail means more to me than any other trail I can think of	6.8	30.0	31.0	20.3	11.8
q. I don't tell many people about this trail	20.5	52.5	22.0	4.3	0.6
r. For me, lots of other trails could substitute for the Appalachian Trail	9.4	35.1	32.8	19.3	3.4
s. I will (or do) bring my children to this place	1.1	2.5	23.4	48.2	24.8
t. People who have used this place longest should have priority using it	28.7	47.1	19.8	3.6	0.9

THRU HIKERS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. This trail means a lot to me	0	1.0	5.2	42.4	51.4
b. I enjoy hiking along the Appalachian Trail more than any other trail	4.5	20.2	39.4	22.0	13.9
c. I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail	0.7	7.0	21.3	38.0	33.1
d. I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail	3.1	26.6	42.7	17.8	9.8
e. I identify strongly with this trail	1.0	7.0	23.4	43.0	25.5
f. Hiking here is more important than hiking in any other place	9.1	37.4	37.4	10.1	5.9
g. I feel no commitment to this trail	35.1	46.3	11.6	6.3	0.7
h. I wouldn't substitute any other trail for the type of recreation I do here	12.6	49.0	28.3	8.0	2.1
i. I have a lot of fond memories about the Appalachian Trail	0.3	0.7	2.4	25.8	70.7
j. I know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it	14.0	43.4	34.6	5.6	2.4
k. People should be free to do whatever they want along the Appalachian Trail	37.1	45.5	8.0	5.9	3.5
l. I have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and the people who hike along it	1.1	2.8	13.0	51.8	31.3
m. Managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail	18.7	30.7	33.6	15.5	1.4
n. I treat the Appalachian Trail better than most people who hike along it	0	9.4	35.3	42.3	12.9
o. Everyone should be able to hike along the Appalachian Trail	2.8	7.8	13.8	48.8	26.9
p. The Appalachian trail means more to me than any other trail I can think of	3.9	22.9	24.6	27.5	21.1
q. I don't tell many people about this trail	28.1	50.9	16.8	2.8	1.4
r. For me, lots of other trails could substitute for the Appalachian Trail	13.7	42.3	26.4	15.5	2.1
s. I will (or do) bring my children to this place	1.4	1.1	28.0	41.9	27.6
t. People who have used this place longest should have priority using it	32.2	46.2	18.9	2.4	0.3

- Almost 80% of AT users agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "this trail means a lot to me."
- Approximately three quarters of the respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, "I know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it."
- Nearly 90% strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, "People should be free to do whatever they want along the Appalachian Trail," but only 16.2% felt that managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail.
- Only 9.3% of respondents that they strongly disagree or disagree with the statement, "I treat the Appalachian Trail better than most people who hike along it."
- Over half of thru hikers strongly agreed that this trail means a lot to them.
- Nearly three quarters of thru hikers agreed or strongly agreed that they are very attached to the Appalachian Trail.
- 68.5% of thru hikers agreed or strongly agreed that they identify strongly with this trail.
- Over 80% of thru hikers agreed or strongly agreed that they "have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and to the people who hike along it."
- Almost half of the thru hikers agreed or strongly agreed that "the Appalachian trail means more to them than any other trail they could think of."

(QE14) Average Attachment to the Appalachian Trail by Type of Hiker.

	Day User	Overnight Hiker	Section Hiker	Thru Hiker	Total
a) This trail means a lot to me	3.9	3.9	4.4	4.4	4.1
b) I enjoy hiking along the Appalachian Trail more than any other trail	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.2	3.2
c) I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail	3.3	3.3	3.9	4.0	3.5
d) I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.0	3.0
e) I identify strongly with this trail	3.0	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.3
f) Hiking here is more important than hiking in any other place	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.7
g) I feel no commitment to this trail	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3
h) I wouldn't substitute any other trail for the type of recreation I do here	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.5
i) I have a lot of fond memories about the Appalachian Trail	3.9	4.0	4.5	4.7	4.1
j) I know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.4	1.9
k) People should be free to do whatever they want along the Appalachian Trail	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7
l) I have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and the people who hike along it	2.9	3.1	3.8	4.1	3.3
m) Managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5
n) I treat the Appalachian Trail better than most people who hike along it	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4
o) Everyone should be able to hike along the Appalachian Trail	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
p) The Appalachian trail means more to me than any other trail I can think of	2.8	2.8	3.5	3.4	3.0
q) I don't tell many people about this trail	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.1
r) For me, lots of other trails could substitute for the Appalachian Trail	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.7
s) I will (or do) bring my children to this place	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9
t) People who have used this place longest should have priority using it	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0

*Responses ranged from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5).

- Feelings of connectedness to the AT seemed to decline from thru hikers to day users.
- Thru hikers were more likely to agree or strongly agree to statements concerning identity with the AT.
- Section (mean=4.5) and thru hikers (mean=4.7) more strongly agree with the statement "I have a lot of fond memories about the Appalachian Trail than day (mean=3.9) or overnight users (mean=4.0).
- Thru hikers more strongly agree (mean=4.1) with the statement "I have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and the people who hike along it" than the other types of hikers (means range from 2.9 to 3.8).

(QE14) Average Attachment to the Appalachian Trail by Region.

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Total
a. This trail means a lot to me	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.1
b. I enjoy hiking along the Appalachian Trail more than any other trail	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2
c. I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.5
d. I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.0
e. I identify strongly with this trail	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.3
f. Hiking here is more important than hiking in any other place	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7
g. I feel no commitment to this trail	2.4	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.3
h. I wouldn't substitute any other trail for the type of recreation I do here	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
i. I have a lot of fond memories about the Appalachian Trail	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1
j. I know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9
k. People should be free to do whatever they want along the Appalachian Trail	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
l. I have a special connection to the Appalachian Trail and the people who hike along it	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3
m. Managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5
n. I treat the Appalachian Trail better than most people who hike along it	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4
o. Everyone should be able to hike along the Appalachian Trail	3.7	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9
p. The Appalachian trail means more to me than any other trail I can think of	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0
q. I don't tell many people about this trail	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
r. For me, lots of other trails could substitute for the Appalachian Trail	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.7
s. I will (or do) bring my children to this place	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9
t. People who have used this place longest should have priority using it	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0

*Responses ranged from "strongly disagree" (1) to "strongly agree" (5).

- New England hikers were most likely to agree (mean=2.8) with the statement, "I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail" than hikers in any other region.
- New England hikers strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, "hiking here is more important than hiking in any other place".
- Hikers in the New England region were more apt to agree or strongly agree that managers need to restrict use along the Appalachian Trail.
- New England hikers are most likely to agree (mean =3.0) with the statement "I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail
- New England hikers felt less of a connection to the AT than other regions as they were less likely to strongly agree that this trail means a lot to them.

- Mid-Atlantic hikers strongly agreed (mean=2.8) with the statement, "I get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail".
- Mid-Atlantic hikers strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, "I feel no commitment to this trail."
- Southwest Virginia hikers strongly agreed with the statement, "I am very attached to the Appalachian Trail".
- Deep South hikers more strongly agree that they get more satisfaction out of visiting this trail than from visiting any other trail than hikers in the other regions.
- Hikers in the Deep South strongly disagreed or disagreed that they know the Appalachian Trail better than the people who manage it.
- More Deep South hikers agreed or strongly agreed that they will, or do, bring their children to the trail than in hikers in the other regions.

PART F:

Visitor Characteristics

PART F: Background Information. The information in this section will help us to better understand who is using the Appalachian Trail. The results will be reported only as overall averages.

1. What is your gender? _____ Female _____ Male

(QF1)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Female	452	31.0	51	17.6
Male	1005	69.0	239	82.4

N= 1457; 290

- Most non-thru hikers (69.0%) and thru hikers (82.4%) are male.

(QF1) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Female	39.2	26.2	20.8	17.6	28.6
Male	60.8	73.8	79.2	82.4	71.4

- Nearly 40% of the day users on the AT are female.
- Only one-fourth of overnight hikers and one-fifth of section and thru hikers are female.

(QF1) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Female	30.0	25.3	40.1	28.3	17.6	28.8
Male	70.0	74.7	59.9	71.7	82.4	71.2

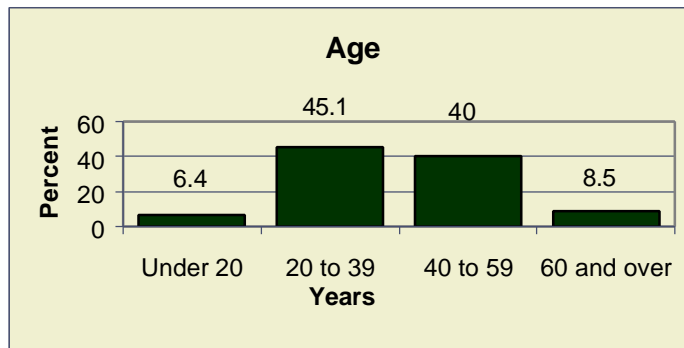
- Southwest Virginia has the largest percentage (40.1%) of female hikers.

2. What is your age? ____ Years

(QF2)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 20	94	6.4	9	3.1
20 to 39	658	45.1	195	67.0
40 to 59	584	40.0	77	26.5
60 and over	124	8.5	10	3.4
Mean=38.8			Mean=33.5	
Median=39.0			Median=28.0	
N= 1460; 291				

(QF2) Users (Non-thru hikers)



- Most thru hikers (67.0%) are between the ages of 20 and 39.
- The most common age group of non-thru hikers is also 20 to 39 (45.1%).
- The second most common age group for both thru hikers and non-thru hikers is 40 to 59.

(QF2) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Mean	38.8	36.4	43.3	33.5	37.8
Median	38.0	36.5	44.0	28.0	37.0

- Thru hikers tend to be the youngest type of hiker on the AT, and section hikers the oldest.
- There is little difference in the age distribution of overnight and day users.

(QF2) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Mean	39.8	40.3	35.3	39.6	33.5	38.0
Median	40.0	39.0	31.0	39.0	28.0	37.0

- Average age was relatively consistent across the geographic regions as well as the thru hiker population.

3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [Check one of the following]

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8th grade or less | <input type="checkbox"/> college graduate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> some high school | <input type="checkbox"/> some graduate school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high school graduate or GED | <input type="checkbox"/> masters, doctoral, or professional degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> business school, trade school, some college | |

(QF3)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
8th grade or less	1	0.1	0	0.0
Some high school	29	2.0	2	0.7
high school graduate or GED	111	7.6	27	9.3
Business school, trade school, some college	280	19.2	61	21.0
College graduate	448	30.7	135	46.4
Some graduate school	160	11.0	28	9.6
Masters, doctoral, or professional degree	429	29.4	38	13.1

N= 1458; 291

- The most common level of education for both thru hikers and non-thru hikers is a college graduate.
- The second most common level of education for non-thru hikers is a masters, doctoral or professional degree (29.4%).
- The second most common level of education for thru hikers is business school, trade school, some college (21.0%).
- Overall, non-thru hikers have more formal education than thru hikers, although both groups are highly educated.

(QF3) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
8th grade or less	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
some high school	1.1	2.3	3.1	0.7	1.7
high school graduate or GED	5.4	10.3	7.7	9.3	8.0
Business school, trade school, some college	18.8	21.1	16.1	21.0	19.5
College graduate	34.1	27.9	29.5	46.4	33.5
some graduate school	11.3	10.6	11.1	9.6	10.8
Masters, doctoral, or professional degree	29.0	27.7	32.6	13.1	26.5

- Day users, overnight hikers and section hikers show similar levels of educational attainment.
- Thru hikers stand out from the other three groups with the smallest proportion reporting a masters, doctoral, or professional degree.

(QF3) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
8th grade or less	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
some high school	2.8	1.9	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.8
high school graduate or GED	8.1	6.7	6.1	9.4	9.3	7.9
business school, trade school, some college	17.4	19.1	24.0	17.9	21.0	19.5
college graduate	29.4	32.2	31.9	31.1	46.4	33.3
some graduate school	9.6	10.5	15.3	9.4	9.6	10.7
masters, doctoral, or professional degree	32.5	29.6	21.7	31.1	13.1	26.7

- Hikers across the four regions have similar levels of education.

4. Are you presently:

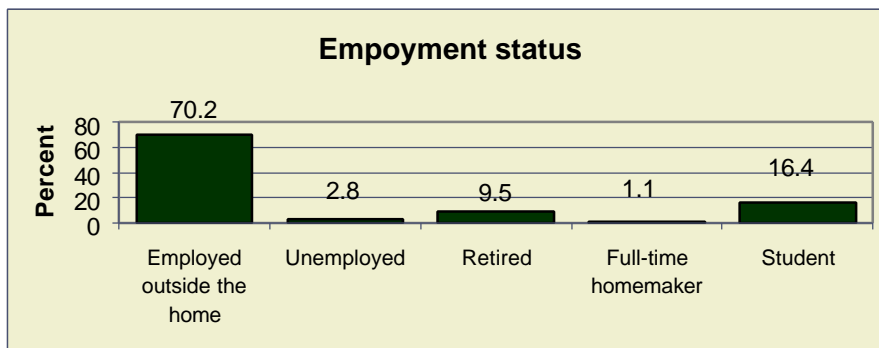
Employed outside the home ® **full time** **part time** ® **Occupation:** _____
 Unemployed
 Retired ® **Previous occupation:** _____
 Full-time homemaker
 Student® **full time** **part time**

(QF4)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employed outside the home	968	70.2	121	43.4
Unemployed	38	2.8	104	37.3
Retired	131	9.5	30	10.8
Full-time homemaker	15	1.1	0	0.0
Student	226	16.4	24	8.6

N= 1387; 279

(QE4) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Most non-thru hikers (70.2%) are employed outside the home, whereas only 43.4% of thru hikers are.
- Many thru hikers (37.3%) are unemployed, whereas only 2.8% of non-thru hikers are unemployed.
- Almost twice as many non-thru hikers are students as compared to thru hikers.

(QF4) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Employed outside the home	72.2	72.6	60.9	43.4	65.7
Unemployed	1.9	1.9	6.7	37.3	8.6
Retired	8.4	4.9	20.9	10.8	9.6
Full-time homemaker	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.9
Student	16.0	19.8	10.7	8.6	15.1

- Day users, overnight, and section hikers are all predominantly employed outside the home, whereas thru hikers (37.3%) are more likely to be unemployed.
- Section hikers are more likely than any other group (20.9%) to be retired.

(QF4) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Employed outside the home	72.0	70.8	64.3	72.6	43.4	65.7
Unemployed	3.1	2.4	1.0	4.6	37.3	8.6
Retired	11.4	12.4	4.8	7.3	10.8	9.7
Full-time homemaker	0.5	1.6	2.4	0.5	0.0	0.9
Student	13.0	12.8	27.6	15.1	8.6	15.1

- Southwest Virginia has the highest percentage of student hikers, and the smallest percentage of retired hikers.
- New England and the Mid-Atlantic have the highest percentage of retired hikers.

(QF4)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Full-time	949	88.0	105	80.2
Part-time	130	12.0	26	19.8

N= 1079;131

- Most employed hikers have full time employment.

(QF4) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Full-time	88.1	86.4	91.2	80.2	87.1
Part-time	11.9	13.6	8.8	19.8	12.9

- This pattern held true across all types of hikers, with over four-fifths of all groups reporting full-time employment.

(QF4) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Full-time	89.2	86.2	88.4	86.0	80.2	87.1
Part-time	10.8	13.8	11.6	14.0	19.8	12.9

- Most employed hikers in all regions have full time employment.

(QF4) Non-Thru hikers

	Number	Percent
Administrative	18	1.8
Arts, design, entertainment, media	60	6.0
Community, social, counseling	51	5.1
Education, training	142	14.2
Farming, agricultural	11	1.1
Food service	38	3.8
Healthcare and support	94	9.4
Labor	39	3.9
Legal	24	2.4
Maintenance	5	0.5
Management, business, financial	115	11.5
Military	9	0.9
Protective services	16	1.6
Sales, retail	53	5.3
Sciences	40	4.0
Technical	160	16.0
Trade	88	8.8
Other	35	3.5

N=998

- The most common occupations of non-thru hikers were education/training (14.2%), management, business, financial (11.5%), or technical (16%) occupations.

(QF4) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Administrative	1.0	1.4	3.5	3.4	1.8
Arts, design, entertainment, media	4.5	5.8	12.6	3.4	6.0
Community, social, counseling	4.5	7.5	4.2	1.7	5.2
Education, training	13.9	15.6	16.8	9.2	14.3
Farming, agricultural	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1
Food service	2.6	3.5	3.5	9.2	3.8
Healthcare and support	11.3	7.5	8.4	10.1	9.4
Labor	3.1	2.6	4.2	9.2	3.8
Legal	2.6	2.0	3.5	0.8	2.3
Maintenance	0.5	0.3	0.0	1.7	0.5
Management, business, financial	14.1	11.0	8.4	9.2	11.6
Military	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.9
Protective services	1.0	2.0	1.4	2.5	1.6
Sales, retail	7.3	4.9	2.1	2.5	5.2
Sciences	5.5	4.3	0.7	1.7	3.9
Technical	16.0	17.6	13.3	15.1	16.1
Trade	4.7	9.5	12.6	16.0	8.9
Other	4.5	2.3	4.2	3.4	3.5

- There is little apparent difference in the occupational patterns of the various types of hikers (14.1%).
- Day users reported the most management, business, financial occupations.
- Section hikers reported the most “art, design, entertainment and media” occupations (12.6%).

(QF4) Occupation by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Administrative	2.1	1.3	1.6	0.7	3.4	1.8
Arts, design, entertainment, media	5.4	11.9	6.5	2.7	3.4	6.0
Community, social, counseling	5.9	5.0	4.9	6.1	1.7	5.1
Education, training	15.0	17.6	16.8	9.5	9.2	14.2
Farming, agricultural	1.0	1.3	0.5	2.0	0.8	1.1
Food service	2.6	1.9	3.8	4.7	9.2	3.8
Healthcare and support	10.3	6.3	10.3	8.8	10.1	9.4
Labor	3.6	1.9	3.2	3.4	9.2	3.9
Legal	3.4	2.5	2.2	1.4	0.8	2.4
Maintenance	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.7	1.7	0.5
Management, business, financial	11.6	9.4	11.4	15.5	9.2	11.5
Military	0.3	1.3	2.2	1.4	0.0	0.9
Protective services	2.1	1.9	0.5	0.7	2.5	1.6
Sales, retail	5.4	4.4	4.9	8.8	2.5	5.3
Sciences	5.2	3.8	4.3	2.7	1.7	4.0
Technical	14.7	17.0	18.4	16.2	15.1	16.0
Trade	8.8	7.5	3.2	11.5	16.0	8.8
Other	2.6	5.0	4.3	3.4	3.4	3.5

- The Mid Atlantic region reported the most “art, design, entertainment, media” occupations (11.9%).
- The Deep South region reported the most “trade” occupations (11.5%)

(QE4) (Previous Occupation)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Administrative	6	4.7	1	3.4
Community, Social Services, Counseling	5	3.9	4	13.8
Education, Training	35	27.6	1	3.4
Farming, Agricultural	0	0.0	1	3.4
Food Service	2	1.6	0	0.0
Healthcare	7	5.5	1	3.4
Labor	7	5.5	5	17.2
Legal	1	0.8	0	0.0
Management, Business, Financial	18	14.2	5	17.2
Military	4	3.1	5	17.2
Protective Services	6	4.7	3	10.3
Sales, Retail	5	3.9	0	0.0
Sciences	1	0.8	0	0.0
Technical	19	15.0	2	6.9
Trade	6	4.7	0	0.0
Other	5	3.9	1	3.4

N=127;29

- Of the retired non-thru hikers education/training was the highest reported previous occupation (27.6%).
- The most common former occupations of thru hikers were labor, management, and military (17% each).

(QF4) (Previous Occupation) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Administrative	4.2	7.1	3.9	3.4	4.5
Community, Social Services, Counseling	0.0	3.6	7.8	13.8	5.8
Education, Training	41.7	14.3	21.6	3.4	23.1
Farming, Agricultural	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.6
Food Service	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	1.3
Healthcare	4.2	3.6	7.8	3.4	5.1
Labor	4.2	10.7	3.9	17.2	7.7
Legal	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Management, Business, Financial	10.4	17.9	15.7	17.2	14.7
Military	0.0	7.1	3.9	17.2	5.8
Protective Services	6.3	3.6	3.9	10.3	5.8
Sales, Retail	6.3	3.6	2.0	0.0	3.2
Sciences	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.6
Technical	14.6	10.7	17.6	6.9	13.5
Trade	2.1	7.1	5.9	0.0	3.8
Other	4.2	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.8

- Retired hikers of all types were previously employed in a wide range of occupations.
- Day hikers (41.7%) and section hikers (21.6%) were especially likely to be previously employed in education/training.

(QF4) (Previous Occupation) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hiker	Total
Administrative	5.7	3.2	0.0	6.3	3.4	4.4
Community, Social Services, Counseling	2.9	6.5	0.0	6.3	13.8	5.7
Education, Training	25.7	25.8	46.2	31.3	3.4	23.9
Farming, Agricultural	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.6
Food Service	1.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Healthcare	5.7	3.2	7.7	6.3	3.4	5.0
Labor	8.6	3.2	0.0	0.0	17.2	7.5
Legal	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Management, Business, Financial	14.3	12.9	7.7	18.8	17.2	14.5
Military	2.9	3.2	7.7	0.0	17.2	5.7
Protective Services	4.3	3.2	15.4	0.0	10.3	5.7
Sales, Retail	2.9	9.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1
Sciences	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Technical	12.9	16.1	15.4	25.0	6.9	13.8
Trade	5.7	3.2	0.0	6.3	0.0	3.8
Other	4.3	6.5	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.8

- Previous occupation varied by region as well.
- Education and training occupations were especially common among hikers in the Southwest Virginia region (46.2%).

(QF4) Full or Part-time Student

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Full-time	230	85.8	18	58.1
Part-time	38	14.2	13	41.9

N= 268; 31

- Most (85.8%) student non-thru hikers are full time students, and 58.1% of student thru hikers are full-time students.

(QF4) (Full/Part-Time Student) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Full-time	87.7	85.3	83.9	58.1	83.2
Part-time	12.3	14.7	16.1	41.9	16.8

- The majority of student hikers among all hiker types were full-time students.
- However, thru hikers stood out from the other hiker types with only 58% full-time students (versus 84-88%).

(QF4) (Full/Part-Time Student) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Full-time	86.5	78.6	90.1	82.1	58.1	82.9
Part-time	13.5	21.4	9.9	17.9	41.9	17.1

- The vast majority of student hikers in all regions (79-90%) are full-time students.

5. How many weeks of vacation did you take last year? _____ Weeks

(QF5)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	33	2.5	12	4.9
1	82	6.2	11	4.5
2	286	21.5	35	14.3
3	290	21.8	23	9.4
4	225	16.9	16	6.6
5	101	7.6	7	2.9
6	67	5.0	14	5.7
7	16	1.2	0	0.0
8	44	3.3	7	2.9
9	10	0.8	3	1.2
10	42	3.2	5	2.0
10 to 20	97	7.3	23	7.2
More than 20	40	3.0	87	27.4

N= 1333; 244

- Many non-thru hikers took 2 or 3 weeks of vacation last year (21.5% and 21.8%, respectively).
- The most common response for thru hikers was over 20 weeks of vacation (27.4%).

(QF5) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Mean	4.6	5.3	9.0	15.5	7.2

- Section hikers reported about twice as much vacation time (9 weeks) as day users or overnight hikers.

(QF5) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Mean	6.8	4.9	4.4	4.5	15.5	7.0

- Hikers in New England reported more vacation time (6.8 weeks) than hikers in other regions.

6. What was your total household income (before taxes) in 1998? [Check one of the following]

- less than \$20,000 \$40,000 to \$59,999 \$80,000 to \$99,999
 \$20,000 to \$39,999 \$60,000 to \$79,999 \$100,000 or more

(QF6)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
less than \$20,000	240	17.8	97	36.1
\$20,000 to \$39,999	245	18.2	66	24.5
\$40,000 to \$59,999	272	20.2	36	13.4
\$60,000 to \$79,000	202	15.0	30	11.2
\$80,000 to \$99,000	156	11.6	10	3.7
\$100,000 or more	234	17.3	30	11.2

N= 1349; 269

- Overall, non-thru hikers have higher incomes than thru hikers.
- 60.6% of thru hikers earn less than \$40,000 compared to only 36% of non-thru hikers.
- 43.9% of non-thru hikers earn more than \$60,000 compared to only 26.1% of thru hikers.

(QF6) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
less than \$20,000	19.6	19.1	11.2	36.1	20.9
\$20,000 to \$39,999	17.3	18.5	19.9	24.5	19.3
\$40,000 to \$59,999	20.6	19.5	20.7	13.4	19.1
\$60,000 to \$79,000	13.9	14.1	19.5	11.2	14.3
\$80,000 to \$99,000	11.4	10.0	15.4	3.7	10.3
\$100,000 or more	17.2	18.9	13.3	11.2	16.1

- There is relatively little difference in the incomes reported by the different types of non-thru hikers.
- Thru hikers reported lower income levels than other types of hikers.

(QF6) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Less than \$20,000	15.3	14.4	27.0	16.2	36.1	20.8
\$20,000 to \$39,999	17.5	20.4	18.0	17.6	24.5	19.2
\$40,000 to \$59,999	20.7	18.8	19.0	21.8	13.4	19.0
\$60,000 to \$79,000	15.3	14.4	14.2	15.7	11.2	14.3
\$80,000 to \$99,000	11.3	14.0	9.7	12.0	3.7	10.3
\$100,000 or more	19.9	18.0	12.1	16.7	11.2	16.3

- Hikers in Southwest Virginia were most likely to report incomes lower than \$20,000.

7. In what race or ethnic group would you place yourself?

Ethnicity (Select one): Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino
Race (Select one or more): Black or African American Asian American
 White American Indian or Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

(QF7) (Ethnicity)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	17	2.0	6	3.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	816	98.0	146	96.1

N= 833; 152

- Only a very small percentage of both non-thru hikers (2.0%) and thru hikers (3.9%) are Hispanic or Latino.

(QF7) (Ethnicity) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Hispanic or Latino	2.2	1.9	2.0	3.9	2.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	97.8	98.1	98.0	96.1	97.7

- This pattern held true across all types of hikers.

(QF7) (Ethnicity) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Hispanic or Latino	1.3	5.3	0.6	2.3	3.9	2.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	98.7	94.7	99.4	97.7	96.1	97.7

- Hispanic or Latino hikers are most common in the Mid-Atlantic (5.3%) and least common in Southwest Virginia (0.6%).

(QF7) (Race)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Black or African American	23	1.6	2	0.7
Asian American	17	1.2	4	1.4
White	1365	96.5	269	96.8
American Indian or Alaskan Native	7	0.5	2	0.7
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	3	0.2	1	0.4

N= 1415; 278

- Only a very small percentage of non-thru hikers and thru-hikers are not white.
- Hiker racial group makeup does not change substantially for thru hikers versus non-thru hikers.

(QF7) (Race) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Black or African American	1.8	0.9	2.7	0.7	1.5
Asian American	1.3	1.3	0.4	1.4	1.2
White	95.7	97.2	96.9	96.8	96.5
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.5
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.2

- Likewise, racial background is relatively consistent across all categories of hikers.

(QF7) (Race) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Black or African American	1.8	2.4	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.5
Asian American	1.4	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.4	1.2
White	96.3	95.7	97.4	96.4	96.8	96.5
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.2

- There is little racial variation across the geographic regions of the trail.

8. In which of the following kinds of places did you spend the most time while growing up (to age 18)? [Please mark only one]

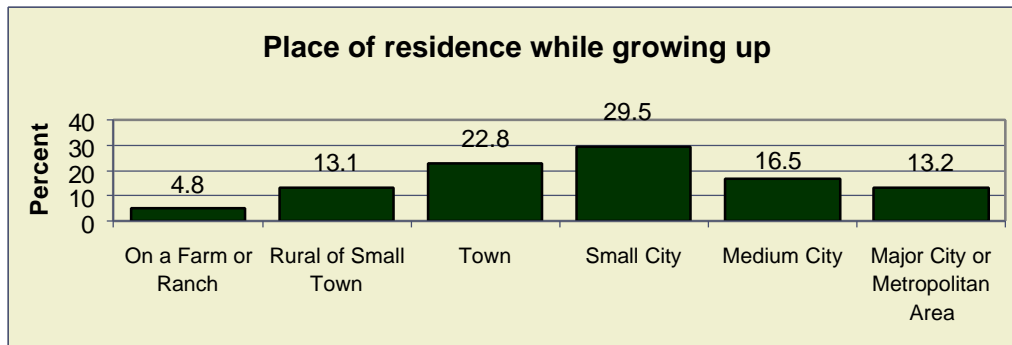
- On A Farm Or Ranch
- Rural Or Small Town (Under 1,000 Population)
- Town (1,000 - 5,000 Population)
- Small City (5,000 - 50,000 Population)
- Medium City (50,000 - 1 Million Population)
- In A Major City Or Metropolitan Area (Over One Million People)

(QF8)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
On a Farm or Ranch	70	4.8	20	6.9
Rural of Small Town	191	13.1	40	13.7
Town	331	22.8	52	17.9
Small City	429	29.5	83	28.5
Medium City	240	16.5	61	21.0
Major City or Metropolitan Area	192	13.2	35	12.0

N= 1453; 291

(QF8) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- Both non-thru hikers and thru hikers are most likely to have grown up in a small city.
- The second most common place to have grown up for non-thru hikers is in a town (22.8%)
- The second most common place to have grown up for thru hikers is in a medium city (21.0%)

(QF8) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
On a Farm or Ranch	5.9	3.4	5.3	6.9	5.2
Rural of Small Town	12.3	15.6	10.3	13.7	13.3
Town	19.7	24.5	25.6	17.9	21.8
Small City	29.1	30.4	29.0	28.5	29.4
Medium City	17.9	14.5	17.2	21.0	17.2
Major City or Metropolitan Area	15.0	11.6	12.6	12.0	13.1

- There is little variation in place of residence while growing up across various types of hikers.

(QF8) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
On a Farm or Ranch	3.4	5.6	5.8	6.4	6.9	5.2
Rural of Small Town	12.3	11.7	14.4	15.4	13.7	13.2
Town	28.9	21.1	17.6	15.0	17.9	22.0
Small City	32.9	27.1	29.2	23.5	28.5	29.4
Medium City	12.3	13.9	21.8	23.9	21.0	17.3
Major City or Metropolitan Area	10.1	20.7	11.2	15.8	12.0	13.0

- Users in the northern regions were more apt to grow up in towns than hikers in the southern regions.
- The Mid-Atlantic region reported the most “Major City or Metropolitan Area” inhabitants (20.7%) during youth.

9. In which of the following kinds of places do you live now? [Please mark only one]

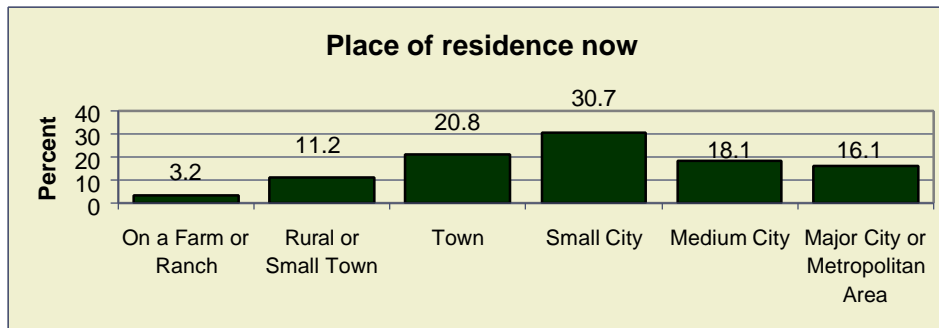
- On A Farm Or Ranch
- Rural Or Small Town (Under 1,000 Population)
- Town (1,000 - 5,000 Population)
- Small City (5,000 - 50,000 Population)
- Medium City (50,000 - 1 Million Population)
- In A Major City Or Metropolitan Area (Over One Million People)

(QF9)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
On a Farm or Ranch	46	3.2	13	4.5
Rural or Small Town	163	11.2	39	13.5
Town	303	20.8	50	17.3
Small City	448	30.7	77	26.6
Medium City	264	18.1	51	17.6
Major City or Metropolitan Area	235	16.1	59	20.4

N= 1459; 289

(QF9) Users (Non-Thru Hikers)



- The most common place for non-thru hikers (30.7%) and thru hikers (26.6%) to live now is in a small city.
- 20.4% of thru hikers live in a major city, versus only 16.1% of non-thru hikers.

(QF9) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
On a Farm or Ranch	2.7	3.1	3.8	4.5	3.3
Rural or Small Town	9.4	13.4	11.4	13.5	11.6
Town	18.7	22.6	22.3	17.3	20.2
Small City	32.4	30.7	26.1	26.6	29.9
Medium City	20.6	14.4	19.7	17.6	18.0
Major City or Metropolitan Area	16.3	15.9	16.7	20.4	16.9

- Day users are more likely than the other types of hikers to currently live in a small city (32.4%) or medium city (20.6%).

(QF9) by Region

	New England	Mid- Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
On a Farm or Ranch	2.2	4.1	4.2	3.4	4.5	3.4
Rural or Small Town	12.3	13.2	6.7	11.8	13.5	11.6
Town	27.5	22.2	13.7	10.1	17.3	20.2
Small City	32.7	21.8	41.2	21.5	26.6	30.0
Medium City	13.8	14.7	27.5	21.1	17.6	18.0
Major City or Metropolitan Area	11.5	24.1	6.7	32.1	20.4	16.8

- Hikers in Southwest Virginia are most likely to live in a small city (41.2%) or a medium city (27.5%).
- Nearly one third of hikers in the Deep South live in a major city, while only 6.7% of hikers from Southwest Virginia live in a major city.

10. What is your marital status?

___ Married ___ Single ___ Divorced ___ Widowed

(QF10)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Married	748	51.3	96	33.0
Single	561	38.5	168	57.7
Divorced	135	9.3	27	9.3
Widowed	14	1.0	0	0.0

N=1458; 291

- About half (51.3%) of non-thru hikers are married compared to one-third (33.0%) of thru hikers.
- Nearly 10% of both non-thru hikers and thru hikers are divorced.

(QF10) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Married	50.2	49.5	56.6	33.0	48.1
Single	40.2	40.8	30.6	57.7	41.8
Divorced	8.5	9.4	11.3	9.3	9.3
Widowed	1.1	0.4	1.5	0.0	0.7

- About half of all hiker types except thru hikers are married.
- Only a small percentage of all types of hikers are divorced (9.3%) or widowed (0.7%).
- Thru hikers are most likely to be single (57.7%).

(QF10) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Married	51.1	50.7	47.6	57.4	33.0	48.3
Single	38.3	39.2	43.5	31.5	57.7	41.7
Divorced	9.3	9.3	8.6	9.8	9.3	9.3
Widowed	1.2	0.7	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.8

- Marital status does not vary substantially by region.

11. How many children reside in your household? _____

(QF11)

	Users (Non-Thru Hikers)		Thru Hikers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	915	66.7	216	87.1
1	139	10.1	14	5.6
2	214	15.6	11	4.4
3	76	5.5	5	2.0
4	21	1.5	1	0.4
5	4	0.3	1	0.4
6	1	0.1	0	0.0
7	1	0.1	0	0.0
8	1	0.1	0	0.0

N= 1372; 248

- Most thru hikers (87.1%) have no children.
- Two-thirds of non-thru hikers (66.7%) have no children.

(QF11) by Type of Hiker

	Day user	Overnight	Section hiker	Thru hiker	Total
Mean	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.6

- There is little difference in the number of children in the household for different types of non-thru hikers.

(QF11) by Region

	New England	Mid-Atlantic	Southwest Virginia	Deep South	Thru Hikers	Total
Mean	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.6

- The average number of children per household (approximately 1 child) is relatively consistent across the geographic regions of the trail.