

RECREATION

Quality of Life

Every year, millions of people spend an increasing amount of time in pursuit of beneficial leisure and recreation experiences. Studies indicate that recreation is vital for individuals' physical, social, emotional, and mental health and well-being. As well, recreation is crucial for economic development and county tourism.

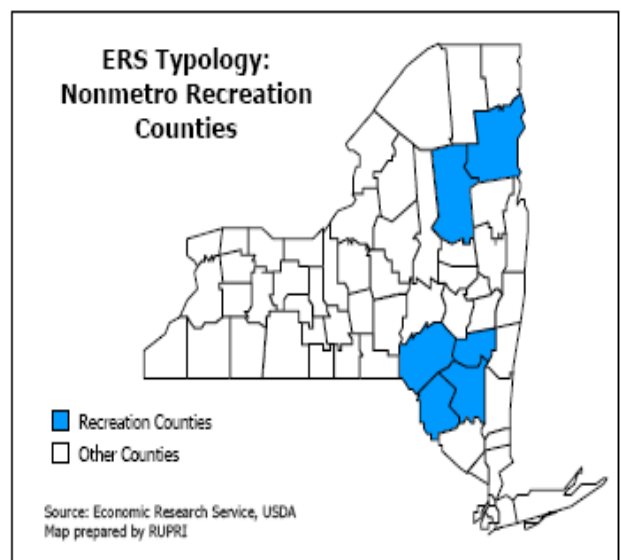
As the world's leading industry, recreation and leisure spending accounts for approximately one trillion dollars a year. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the U.S. Department of Labor, the overall employment in the leisure and hospitality industry will grow by 17.8 percent. The arts, entertainment, and recreation division will grow by 28 percent and add 497,000 new jobs by 2012. Job growth will stem from public participation in arts, entertainment, and recreation activities—reflecting increasing incomes, leisure time, and awareness of the health benefits of physical activity.

Nonmetro Recreation Counties– NYS

The Economic Research Service's classification of nonmetro recreation counties captures the recreational opportunities and development in many rural parts of the nation. The classification is based on a number of factors, including employment and income derived from recreation-related activities, seasonal housing units within the county, and receipts from hotels and motels. Nationally, 334 counties are classified as nonmetro recreation counties, and 6 are located in New York.

About the Indicator:

Local and state-level data related to economic impact of recreation, culture, arts and entertainment come from the US Census Bureau; Census 2000 and 2002-2004 Economic Census. Information pertaining to Allegany County residents living with a disability comes from the US Census Bureau; Census 2000. National Center on Accessibility accounts for national survey data on recreation factor for those living with disabilities. Youth specific data is available through the Rural Justice Institute–GIS at Alfred University.



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Allegany County

According to the 2000 US Census, 1,597 individuals report working in the "Art, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services" industry (7.4% of total population). In addition, there are 4,885 vacant housing units used for seasonal, recreational and occasional use.

Allegany County Employment & Income Derived from Recreation-Related Activities

Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation		Accommodation & Food Service	
Establishments	Receipts (\$1,000)	Establishments	Receipts (\$1,000)
17	N/A	89	37,432

Recreation for those with Disabilities

About 43 million Americans have disabilities. Consider the impact of disabilities upon health messages and physical fitness/recreation:

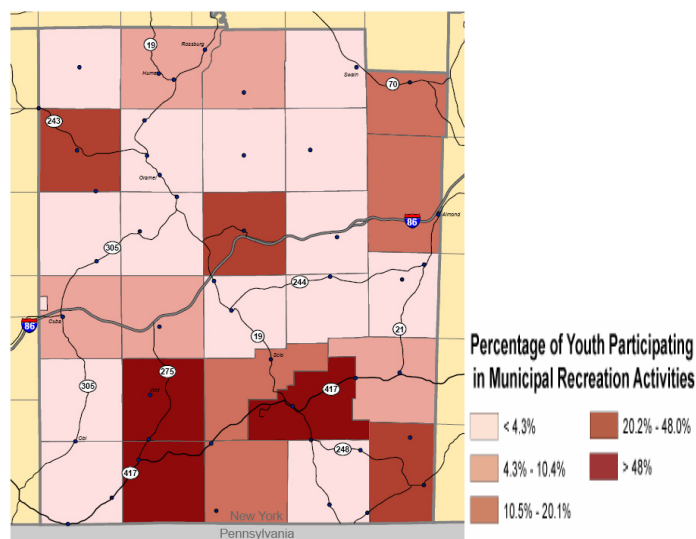
- 19.2 million Americans are limited to only a quarter-mile walk.
- 18.2 million can carry just 10 pounds or less, about equivalent to a grocery bag.
- 12.8 million have trouble reading the print you are now reading.
- 7.7 million cannot hear normal conversation.
- Approximately 2.5 million New Yorkers, or one in five adults, have disabling conditions.
- According to the US Census, approximately 9,018 (19.3%) Allegany County residents, age 5 and older, are living with a disability.
- National Center on Accessibility reports that barriers most frequently encountered for those living with a disability in relation to recreation include (1) 1/3 cited health-related barriers and (2) 1/2 reported a physical limited condition. The most common assistive devices and/or accommodations were mobility aids, a companion, and architectural modifications.

Youth & Recreation

A number of studies of adolescents, public health, recreation and education point to comprehensive approaches as a means of fostering youth participation and development (Carnegie, 1995). Research also notes that youth participation in recreation, cultural events and sports has an impact on the youth's perception of community belonging and opportunity for positive adult role modeling.

The map presents the percentage of youth (ages 0-20) participating in recreation activities according to a 2004 Allegany County Youth Bureau statistical report which cited figures from a 2000 survey.

% of Youth Participating in Municipal Recreation Activities



Source: Allegany County Youth Bureau, US Census Bureau, Alfred University, NYS GIS Clearinghouse, ESRI