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**Joel Brunsvold**, Director  
Illinois Department of Natural  
Resources

**Paul Vehlow**  
Federal Aid Coordinator

**John E. Buhnerkempe**  
Chief, Division of Wildlife  
Resources

Federal Aid Project  
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tion Program

# THE 2001 ILLINOIS SHOOTING RANGE SURVEY: HUNTER USE, ATTITUDES, AND OPINIONS



Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.  
Program Leader and Principal Investigator  
Human Dimensions Research Program  
Illinois Natural History Survey

Report prepared by:  
Craig A. Miller, William L. Anderson,  
Linda K. Campbell, and Jessica Yeagle



January 5, 2003

# **THE 2001 ILLINOIS SHOOTING RANGE SURVEY: HUNTER USE, ATTITUDES, AND OPINIONS**

## **JOB COMPLETION REPORT**

**WILDLIFE HARVEST AND**

**HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-11  
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Prepared by  
Craig A. Miller, William L. Anderson,  
Linda K. Campbell, and Jessica Yeagle  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
Champaign, IL

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Brent Manning, Director  
Chief  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Resources

John E. Buhnerkempe,  
Division of Wildlife

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## **ABSTRACT**

A total of 1,324 (58%) resident Illinois Habitat Stamp purchasers (all current or former hunters) responded to the 2001 Illinois Shooting Range Survey. One-third (34%) of these hunters had used a shooting range during the past 12 months. The range users visited private ranges (92%) more frequently than public ranges (48%), primarily to engage in the shotgun shooting sports: sporting clays, trap, etc. Rifle shooting was also relatively popular on private ranges. Two-thirds (68%) of the hunters felt a need for more shooting ranges, with the need being highest (84%) in Administrative Region 2. Attitudes of hunters toward shooting sports are profiled, as are some personal characteristics of hunters. One-third (34%) of respondents belonged to the National Rifle Association.

## **OBJECTIVE**

To survey resident Illinois Habitat Stamp purchasers (i.e., hunters) to determine their uses, attitudes, and opinions of shooting ranges in Illinois. This survey compliments a previous survey conducted in 1990 to determine the number and location of shooting ranges in the state, and the facilities offered at each range (Anderson 1990).

## **METHODS**

A total of 2,500 Illinois residents were randomly selected from the population of 1999 Illinois Habitat Stamp holders. Individuals selected were mailed an 8-page, self-administered questionnaire and a letter of explanation on 19 October 2001 (Appendices A and B). The questionnaire addressed uses of shooting ranges in Illinois, and attitudes and opinions toward these ranges. Nonrespondents were sent a postcard reminder 10 days after the questionnaire, a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix C), followed 10 days later with second

postcard. There were 224 stamp purchasers who were not reached by the U.S. Postal Service, reducing the sample to 2,276 participants. We received 1,324 usable questionnaires for a response of 58%. All 102 counties in the state were represented (Appendices D and E). Coded data were transferred from the questionnaires to a computer file and analyzed using SPSS 6.0.

## **RESULTS**

### Uses of Shooting Ranges

All of the 1,324 participants in this survey were either current (96%) or former (4%) hunters. Among these hunters, 446 (34%) used  $\geq 1$  shooting ranges in Illinois during the 12 months prior to this survey (Table 1). Range use was about twice as high in Administrative Region 2 as in the other regions. Among the range users, 412 (92%) visited private ranges and 216 (48%) frequented public ranges. Of these, 243 (54%) used private ranges exclusively, 47 (10%) only used public ranges, and 169 (38%) used both types of ranges. A majority (61%) of these range users went to private ranges to engage in the shotgun shooting sports: sporting clays, trap, etc. (Table 2). Rifle shooting was also relatively popular on private ranges, with 46% of the range users participating. On public ranges, 29% of the range users participated in the shotgun shooting sports. Regardless of the type of shooting, hunter participation was much higher on private ranges than on public ranges.

A plurality (43%) of hunters reported their shooting efforts stayed the same over the 5 years prior to this study (Table 3). Of the hunters whose shooting efforts increased, 53% indicated it was due to the purchase of new equipment and 47% gave credit to their shooting partners (Table 4). Of the hunters whose effort has decreased, 60% said it was due to a lack of time, whereas 31% said they had no range close to them (Table 5).

## Attitudes and Opinions of Shooting Ranges

Statewide, two-thirds (68%) of the hunters felt a need for more public shooting ranges where they live (Table 6). Expressed need was highest in Administrative Region 2 (84%) and lowest in Region 5 (62%). Statewide, approximately one-half (48%) of the hunters indicated the maximum distance they would be willing to travel to use a free public shooting range was 15 miles (Table 7). However, nearly as many (43%) said they would travel as far as 30 miles to use a free public range. Hunters in Administrative Regions 1 and 2 appear more willing to travel 30 miles than hunters in the other regions. If shooting ranges (public or private, free or fee) were available within the distance specified in Table 7, participation in shooting sports would apparently increase for 21% - 71% of the hunters (Tables 8-12).

When asked to indicate the greatest needs for shooting sports in the area where they lived, a majority (69%) of hunters reported "shotgun target ranges (for sighting in before deer season)" (Table 13). Majorities also stated "sporting clays" (51%) and "archery" (51%). Slightly lower percentages checked "handguns" (47%) and "trap and skeet" (46%).

## Membership in Shooting Organizations

One-third (34%) of the hunters were members of the National Rifle Association (Table 14). An additional 4% reported they belonged to the Illinois Rifle Association. Membership was low ( $\leq 2\%$ ) in the other organizations listed in Table 14.

Membership was also relatively low (12% statewide) in local sportsmen's clubs that own or lease ranges (Table 15). Membership in local clubs was highest in Administrative Region 2 (24%) and lowest in Region 5 (6%). Moreover, if hunters did belong to local clubs with ranges the ranges were usually (77%) open on weekends and weekdays (Table 16). In what appears to be a contradiction, hunters indicated that 40% of these ranges were open to non-members (Table

17) but that 73% offered special shooting events open to the public (Table 18). Approximately one-quarter (24%) of respondents shot at ranges where they were not a member (Table 19).

A small percentage (2%) of hunters used State Police shooting ranges to sight in their slug gun or muzzleloader before deer season (Table 20), whereas 18% used private shooting ranges as non-members for such purposes (Table 21).

### Shooting Companions

As might be expected, most hunters selected friends (68%) and family members (66%) for their shooting companions (Table 22). Approximately one-half (48%) of the hunters had youths shooting with them (Table 23).

### Traveling to Shoot

Few (8%) hunters reported they traveled to participate in shooting events in Illinois (Table 24). Similarly, 5% reported traveling to shoot at events in other states (Table 25).

### Reloading Ammunition

One-fourth (24%) of the hunters responded that they reloaded their own ammunition (Table 26).

### Attitudes Toward Shooting Sports

Attitudes of hunters toward the shooting sports are summarized in Table 27. Of the 20 categories listed, 17 were moderately/very/extremely important to a majority of the hunters. The most important categories were “shooting is a fun activity,” “to improve my shooting abilities,” and “to improve my proficiency as a hunter.” The categories that were relatively unimportant were “to win shooting matches,” “to be part of a club,” and “to compete with other hunters.”

### Personal Characteristics of Hunters

Selected characteristics of the hunters who participated in this survey are presented in Table 28. Hunters had been involved in shooting sports for an average of 29 years, 91% had lived in Illinois for >20 years, 96% were male, and 73% were married. Their median gross household income was \$45,000 to \$59,999, and they averaged 46 years of age.

### **REFERENCES**

Anderson, W.L. 1990. Survey of shooting ranges in Illinois in 1990. Ill. Dept. Conserv., Div. Wildl. Res. Admin. Rep. dated 13 September 1990. 21pp.+ Appendix.

Table 1. Did you use a shooting range during the past 12 months?

	Statewide (n=1,324)	Administrative Region				
		1 5 (n=322)	2 (n=175)	3 (n=153)	4 (n=384)	5 (n=290)
Yes	34%	34%	60%	35%	29%	24%
No	66	66	40	65	71	76

Table 2. Which of the following shooting ranges in the state of Illinois did you use in the past 12 months. (n=446)

Private Range Shooting Type	Number of Visits to Range in Past 12 Months				
	0	1 – 5	6 – 10	11 – 30	More than 30
Rifle	54%	28%	10%	4%	4%
Shotgun (sporting clays, trap, etc.)	39	35	11	7	8
Shotgun (slugs, sighting for deer)	56	35	7	1	1
Muzzleloader	81	13	4	2	<1
Handgun	59	23	9	5	4
Archery	61	17	7	7	8

  

Public Range Shooting Type	Number of Visits to Range in Past 12 Months				
	0	1 – 5	6 – 10	11 – 30	More than 30
Rifle	90%	9%	1%	<1%	<1%
Shotgun (sporting clays, trap, etc.)	71	18	5	2	4
Shotgun (slugs, sighting for deer)	93	6	1	0	1
Muzzleloader	97	2	1	0	0
Handgun	87	9	2	1	1
Archery	79	12	6	2	1



Table 3. In the last five years, has your total shooting effort.....  
(n = 1,302)

Shooting Effort	Percent Response
Increased	30
Decreased	26
Stayed the same	43

Table 4. If your total shooting effort increased the last five years, has it been due to...  
(n=394)

	Percent Response
Increased free time	37
Purchased new equipment	53
Greater financial resources	27
Shooting partners	47
More access to shooting range	21
Involved in new type of shooting	33
Other <sup>a</sup>	7

<sup>a</sup>Other reasons include: practice, more interest, took advantage of public hunting areas, setup own range/purchased land, more predators, joined private club.

Table 5. If your total shooting effort decreased, has it been due to...  
(n=349)

	Percent Response
Lack of time	60
Lack of interest	16
Lack of financial resources	13
No one to shoot with	14
Too many regulations	11
No range close to me	31
Noise complaints	3
Too much equipment needed	1
Health problems	17
Other <sup>a</sup>	5

<sup>a</sup>Other reasons include: other responsibilities, bow hunt, lack of game, lack of areas to hunt, age.

Table 6. Do you feel there is a need for more public shooting ranges where you live?

	Statewide (n=1,324)	Administrative Region				
		1 5 (n=322)	2 (n=175)	3 (n=153)	4 (n=384)	
Yes	68%	68%	84%	67%	65%	62%
No	32	32	16	33	35	38

Table 7. What is the maximum distance you would be willing to travel to use a free public shooting range?

	Statewide (n=1,214)	Administrative Region				
		1 5 (n=299)	2 (n=170)	3 (n=139)	4 (n=347)	
15 miles	48%	45%	30%	53%	51%	55%
30 miles	43	49	51	38	41	39
50 miles	7	6	16	7	6	5
>50 miles	2	<1	3	2	2	1

Table 8. If there was a free public shooting range located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports... (n = 1,278)

	Percent Response
Increase greatly	30
Increase slightly	41
Stay the same	29

Table 9. If there was a daily fee public shooting range located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports...(n = 1,265)

	Percent Response
Increase greatly	12
Increase slightly	37
Stay the same	52

Table 10. If there was a private shooting range, open to the public for a fee and located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports....  
(n = 1,262)

	Percent Response
Increase greatly	10
Increase slightly	30
Stay the same	60

Table 11. If there was a private shooting range, open to members only and located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports...  
(n = 1,259)

	Percent Response
Increase greatly	5
Increase slightly	16
Stay the same	79

Table 12. If a range was located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would you participate in other shooting sports you don't take part in now? (n=1,240)

	Percent Response
Yes	57
No	43

Table 13. What do you see as the greatest needs for shooting sports in the area where you live? (1,158)

	Percent Response
Shotgun target range (for sighting in before deer season)	69
Trap and skeet	46
Sporting clays	51
Handgun	47
High-powered rifle	41
Muzzleloading rifle	31
Small bore rifle	30
Cowboy (western) shoots	10
Indoor range	29
Silhouettes	20
Small bore air rifle range	10
Archery	51
Other <sup>a</sup>	1

<sup>a</sup>Other needs include: Improved habitat, change in farming practices, free areas to hunt, long distance shoots, small game targets, bounty on coyotes, 3-D archery range, competition with moving wildlife silhouettes, public hunting acreage, safety courses.

Table 14. Do you belong to any of the following organizations? (1,324)

Organizations	Percent Response
National Rifle Association	34.0
National Shooting Clays Association	0.5
Illinois Rifle Association	3.5
American Sporting Clays Association	0.2
County Rifle Association	0.1
Illinois Sporting Clays Association	0.1
National Skeet Shooting Association	0.5
Illinois Skeet Shooting Association	0.2
Illinois Trapshooters Association	1.4
Other <sup>a</sup>	5.4

<sup>a</sup>Other organizations include: NWTF, IL Bowhunters, GOTF, GOA, PVF, DU, PFE, North American Hunting Club, Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., ATA, IHMSA, USPSA, Association of traditional hunting archers, United Bow Hunters, National Muzzleloading Rifle Assoc., IWF, SASS, National Tactical Officers Assoc., International Black Powder Hunting Assoc., Amateur Trapshooting Assoc., Illini Muzzleloaders, IDPA.

Table 15. Do you belong to a local sportmen's club that owns or leases a range?

	Statewide (n=1,283)	Administrative Region				
		1 5 (n=313)	2 (n=173)	3 (n=145)	4 (n=372)	5 (n=290)
Yes	12%	16%	24%	15%	8%	6%
No	88	84	76	85	92	94

Table 16. How often is the range open for shooting? (n=174)

	Percent Response
During weekends and weekdays	77
On weekends only	7
On special days for organized shoots	12
Approximately 1 day per month	2
Other	2

Table 17. Does the public have access to that range as non-members? (n=149)

Percent Response	
Yes, for a fee	30
Yes, at no cost	10
No	60

Table 18. Does the range where you belong offer any of the following... (n=116)

Percent Response	
Wing shooting clinics	10
Hunter education courses without live fire	41
Hunter education courses with live fire	41
Special shooting events open to public (sportsmen's days, etc.)	73

Table 19. Do you shoot at a range but do not belong as a member? (n=1,257)

Percent Response	
Yes	24
No	76

Table 20. Do you use State Police shooting ranges to sight in your slug gun or muzzleloader before deer season? (n=1,283)

Percent Response	
Yes	2
No	98

Table 21. Do you use private shooting ranges as a non-member to sight in your slug gun or muzzleloader before deer season? (n=1,279)

Percent Response	
Yes	18
No	82

Table 22. Which of the following best describes those who usually accompany you shooting? (n=1,203)

	Percent Response
Friends	68
Family	66
Coworkers	12
Neighbors	7
I usually visit the range alone	6
Other	0

Table 23. Do any youths shoot with you? (n=1,275)

	Percent Response
Yes	48
No	52

Table 24. Do you travel to participate in shooting events in Illinois? (n=1,289)

	Percent Response
Yes <sup>a</sup>	8
No	92

<sup>a</sup>Examples of shooting events given: DU-fun shoots, Prairie State Games, ATH registered shoots, NSCA events, Black Powder Shoots, National Guard matches/ILA matches, IDPA events, 3-D shoots.

Table 25. Do you travel to participate in shooting events in other states (outside of Illinois)? (n=1,288)

	Percent Response
Yes <sup>a</sup>	5
No	95

<sup>a</sup>Examples of shooting events given: DU-fun shoots, 3D-shoots, Black Powder shoots, handgun shoots.

Table 26. Do you reload your own ammunition? (n=1,282)

	Percent Response
Yes	24
No	76

Table 27. Attitudes Toward Shooting Sports. Please rank the following reasons why you shoot on a scale of “Not Important” to “Extremely Important”.

	n	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Shooting is a central part of my life	1241	17%	20%	28%	22%	13%
To learn about firearms or bows	1203	13%	16%	28%	26%	17%
To improve my shooting abilities	1222	7%	9%	22%	34%	28%
Shooting is a fun activity	1229	6%	6%	21%	37%	30%
Increase amount of game I harvest	1231	15%	13%	29%	23%	20%
To share my experience with friends	1225	13%	14%	28%	30%	16%
To learn more about my sport	1210	15%	16%	28%	28%	13%
To compete with other shooters	1216	38%	21%	23%	13%	5%
To remain a part of the heritage of shooting	1235	13%	11%	20%	22%	34%
To share my skills and knowledge with others	1223	16%	15%	28%	22%	19%
To be part of a club	1218	59%	20%	15%	5%	1%
To share my experience with family	1228	10%	13%	20%	29%	28%
To test my hunting equipment	1237	10%	10%	20%	30%	30%
To maintain a rural American tradition	1236	11%	10%	21%	24%	34%
For the challenge	1228	10%	8%	27%	29%	26%
Shooting is my favorite activity	1216	19%	21%	26%	21%	13%
To win shooting matches	1208	65%	16%	12%	4%	3%
To maintain a family tradition	1223	22%	13%	23%	19%	23%
To interact with other shooters	1218	25%	19%	29%	19%	8%
To improve my proficiency as a hunter	1242	8%	8%	20%	28%	36%



Table 28. **Background Information.** The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in shooting sports in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by checking the responses that apply. All responses will be kept confidential.

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How many years have you been involved in shooting sports? Mean = 29 years (n=1,182)

Do you hunt? (n=1,307)

Yes	96%
No	0
I used to hunt, but stopped	4

How many years have you lived in Illinois? (n=1,309)

Less than one year	0%
1-5 years	1
6-10 years	2
11-15 years	2
16-20 years	5
More than 20 years	91

What is your county of residence? (see Appendix D)

What is your gender? (n=1,322)

Male	96%
Female	4%

What is your marital status? (n=1,310)

Single (never married)	16%
Married	73
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	11

Table 28 – continued.

Table 28. Continued – page 2.

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What is your approximate total (gross) household income? (n=1,169)

Less than \$15,000	6%
\$15,000 to \$29,999	18
\$30,000 to \$44,999	24
\$45,000 to \$59,999	20
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12
\$75,000 or more	20

Please give your age. Mean = 46 years (n=1,307)

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Appendix A

# Illinois Shooting Range Survey

ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Postage-paid return envelope provided

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
and the  
Illinois Natural History Survey

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary.

**Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about shooters and shooting sports in Illinois .**

**Section 1. Shooting Activity.** Please tell us about your shooting activities during the past 12 months and your experiences related to shooting.

1. Did you use a shooting range during the past 12 months?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please go to Question 3)

2. Which of the following shooting ranges in the state of Illinois did you use in the past 12 months?

**Private Range**

Shooting Type	Number of visits to range in past 12 months			
Rifle	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Shotgun (sporting clays, trap, etc.)	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Shotgun (slugs, sighting for deer)	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Muzzleloader	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Archery	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Handgun	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30

**Public Range**

Shooting Type	Number of visits to range in past 12 months			
Rifle	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Shotgun (sporting clays, trap, etc.)	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Shotgun (slugs, sighting for deer)	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Muzzleloader	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Archery	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30
Handgun	_____ 1-5	_____ 6-10	_____ 11-30	_____ more than 30

3. In **the last five years**, has your total shooting effort  
 \_\_\_\_\_ increased (please go to **question 4**)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ decreased (please go to **question 5**)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ stayed the same (please go to **question 6**)

4. If your total shooting effort **increased the last five years**, has it been due to (please check all that apply)

increased free time                       purchased new equipment  
 greater financial resources               shooting partners  
 more access to range                       involved in new type of shooting  
 other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. If your total shooting effort **decreased**, has it been due to (please check all that apply)

lack of time                                       lack of interest  
 lack of financial resources                   no one to shoot with  
 too many regulations                           no range close to me  
 noise complaints                                too much equipment needed  
 health problems  
 other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you feel there is a need for more public shooting ranges where you live?

Yes     No

7. What is the maximum time from your home that you would be willing to travel to use a free public shooting range?

15 miles               30 miles               50 miles               more than 50 miles

8. If there was a **FREE public** shooting range located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports (choose one):

increase greatly               increase slightly               stay the same

9. If there was a **DAILY FEE public** shooting range located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports (choose one):

increase greatly               increase slightly               stay the same

10. If there was a **PRIVATE** shooting range, **open to the public for a fee** and located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports (choose one):

increase greatly               increase slightly               stay the same

11. If there was a **PRIVATE** shooting range, **open to members only** and located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would your participation in shooting sports (choose one):

increase greatly               increase slightly               stay the same

12. If a range was located within the distance mentioned in question 7, would you participate in other shooting sports you don't take part in now?

Yes                       No

13. What do you see as the greatest needs for shooting sports in the area where you live? Please check all that apply.

shotgun target range (for sighting in before deer season)

trap and skeet

sporting clays

handgun

high-powered rifle

archery

muzzleloading rifle

small bore rifle

Cowboy (western) shoots

indoor range

silhouettes

small bore air rifle range

other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you belong to any of the following organizations:

National Rifle Association

National Shooting Clays Assoc.

Illinois Rifle Association

American Sporting Clays assoc.

County Rifle Association

Illinois Sporting Clays Assoc.

National Skeet Shooting Assoc.

Illinois Skeet Shooting Assoc.

Illinois Trapshooters Assoc.

Other : \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you belong to a local sportsmen's club who owns or leases a range?

Yes

No (please go to **question 19**)

16. How often is the range open for shooting?

during weekends and week days

on weekends only

on special days for organized shoots

approximately 1 day per month

other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

17. Does the public have access to that range as non-members?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, for a fee      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, at no cost      \_\_\_\_\_ No

18. Does the range where you belong offer any of the following (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ wing shooting clinics  
\_\_\_\_\_ hunter education courses **without** live fire  
\_\_\_\_\_ hunter education courses **with** live fire  
\_\_\_\_\_ special shooting events open to public (sportsmen's days, etc.)

19. Do you shoot at a range but do not belong as a member?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

20. Do you use State Police shooting ranges to sight in your slug gun or muzzleloader before deer season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

21. Do you use private shooting ranges as a non-member to sight in your slug gun or muzzleloader before deer season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

22. Which of the following **best** describes those who **usually** accompany you shooting?

\_\_\_\_\_ Friends      \_\_\_\_\_ Family  
\_\_\_\_\_ Coworkers      \_\_\_\_\_ Neighbors  
\_\_\_\_\_ I usually visit the range alone      \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

23. Do any youths shoot with you?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

24. Do you travel to participate in shooting events in Illinois?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (please give examples): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ No

25. Do you travel to participate in shooting events in other states (outside of Illinois)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (please give examples): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ No

26. Do you reload your own ammunition?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Section 2. Attitudes Toward Shooting Sports** Please rate the following reasons why you shoot on a scale of “Not Important” to “Extremely Important”. Circle the number that matches your response.

	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Extremely Important</u>
Shooting is a central part of my life	1	2	3	4	5
To learn about firearms or bows	1	2	3	4	5
To improve my shooting abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Shooting is a fun activity	1	2	3	4	5
Increase amount of game I harvest	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
To share my experience with friends	1	2	3	4	5
To learn more about my sport	1	2	3	4	5
To compete with other shooters	1	2	3	4	5
To remain a part of the heritage of shooting	1	2	3	4	5
To share my skills and knowledge with others	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
To be part of a club	1	2	3	4	5
To share my experience with family	1	2	3	4	5
To test my hunting equipment	1	2	3	4	5
To maintain a rural American tradition	1	2	3	4	5
For the challenge	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
Shooting is my favorite activity	1	2	3	4	5
To win shooting matches	1	2	3	4	5
To maintain a family tradition	1	2	3	4	5
To interact with other shooters	1	2	3	4	5
To improve my proficiency as a hunter	1	2	3	4	5



**Section 3:** The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in shooting sports in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by checking the responses that apply. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. How many years have you been involved in shooting sports? \_\_\_\_\_ Years
2. Do you hunt? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I used to hunt, but stopped
3. How many years have you lived in Illinois?  
\_\_\_\_\_ less than one year  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6-10 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 11-15 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 16-20 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ more than 20 years
4. What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_ County
5. What is your gender?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Male  
\_\_\_\_\_ Female
6. What is your marital status?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Single (never married)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Married  
\_\_\_\_\_ Divorced/Separated/ Widowed
7. What is your approximate total (gross) household income?  
\_\_\_\_\_ less than \$15,000  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15,000 to \$29,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30,000 to \$44,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$45,000 to \$59,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$60,000 to \$74,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ over \$75,000
8. Please give your age. \_\_\_\_\_ years

## COMMENTS

**RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!**

Your input will help us understand more about shooting sports in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## Appendix B

Dear Illinois Hunter,

You are one of a select group of Illinois hunters asked to provide information about your shooting activities in Illinois. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire even if you have not used a shooting range in Illinois. A postage-paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire.

The information you and other hunters provide will allow the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to develop new shooting ranges that meet the needs of hunters in Illinois.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. If you have questions regarding this survey, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

John Buhnerkempe  
Acting Chief, Wildlife Resources

## Appendix C

Dear Illinois Hunter,

As one of a select group of Illinois hunters during the 2000-2001 season, you have been asked to provide information about your shooting activities and use of shooting ranges in Illinois. We recently mailed you a survey questionnaire regarding your shooting activities. We have not received your completed questionnaire. Perhaps you recently mailed the questionnaire and it has not yet arrived in our office. If so, we thank you.

**If you have not returned your completed questionnaire to us, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy of the questionnaire for your convenience.** The information you and other selected hunters furnish the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is vital for the agency to provide shooting opportunities in Illinois.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

John Buhnerkempe  
Acting Chief, Wildlife Resources

Appendix D.

What is your county of residence? (n=1,324)

County	Number of Residents	County	Number of Residents	County	Number of Residents
Region 1		Region 3		Region 5	
Boone	4	Champaign	18	Alexander	2
Bureau	10	Clark	5	Clay	10
Carroll	4	Coles	14	Crawford	15
DeKalb	12	Cumberland	7	Edwards	11
Fulton	16	DeWitt	4	Effingham	25
Henderson	4	Douglas	10	Fayette	17
Henry	16	Edgar	8	Franklin	13
JoDaviess	8	Ford	4	Gallatin	4
Knox	12	Iroquois	3	Hamilton	4
LaSalle	22	Livingston	5	Hardin	5
Lee	8	Macon	17	Jackson	27
Marshall	11	McLean	19	Jasper	4
McDonough	7	Moultrie	7	Jefferson	5
Mercer	2	Piatt	3	Johnson	7
Ogle	7	Shelby	10	Lawrence	7
Peoria	37	Vermilion	19	Marion	7
Putnam	5	Subtotal	153	Massac	4
Rock Island	16			Perry	23
Stark	1	Region 4		Pope	5
Stephenson	13	Adams	37	Pulaski	3
Tazewell	36	Bond	9	Richland	13
Warren	8	Brown	9	Saline	21
Whiteside	22	Calhoun	4	Union	16
Winnebago	22	Cass	9	Wabash	7
Woodford	19	Christian	14	Wayne	9
Subtotal	322	Clinton	29	White	22
		Greene	13	Williamson	4
Region 2		Hancock	12	Subtotal	290
Cook	62	Jersey	9		
DuPage	21	Logan	4		
Grundy	5	Macoupin	28		
Kane	19	Madison	24		
Kankakee	5	Mason	11		
Kendall	9	Menard	7		
Lake	10	Monroe	21		
McHenry	20	Montgomery	9		
Will	24	Morgan	16		
Subtotal	175	Pike	9		
		Randolph	22		
		Sangamon	25		
		Schuyler	3		
		Scott	4		
		St. Clair	48		
		Washington	8		
		Subtotal	384		

Appendix E

Administrative regions in Illinois.

