

ILLINOIS STATE CAMPGROUNDS: PATTERNS
AND PARAMETERS OF PARTICIPATION

by

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An Abstract

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The purpose of this research project is to make more explicit the nature of visitation patterns to Illinois State campgrounds and isolate those factors that act to modify the patterns. The patterns referred to are produced by individuals purchasing campground permits at the 57 state park campgrounds included in the study area. Only those individuals who originate their camping trips in Illinois counties are included in the analysis. Data for numbers of campground permits sold to residents of Illinois counties were provided by the Illinois Bureau of Parks and Monuments. A choropleth map shows the pattern of campground permit sales per thousand county residents and a potential map is used to indicate the pattern of origins of those persons who purchase permits.

In the first part of the analysis, stepwise multiple regression was utilized to relate a series of structural variables to the dependent variable, the number of campground permits sold to each thousand county residents. The resulting multiple R of .727 suggests that the ten structural variables analyzed are useful measures of campground permit sales. Two income variables were indicated to be the most important variables associated with campground permit sales. The per cent of county residents with incomes under \$3,000 per year was most strongly and positively related to the dependent variable. The

variable representing incomes over \$10,000 was the second most important and showed a negative relationship. A negative relationship was found between the dependent variable and the per cent of the county population listed as migrant. The negative relationship between median age and campground sales indicates that those counties with younger populations show higher propensities for campground visitation.

The second part of the research is concerned with distance friction. The hypothesis tested is that individuals are expected to visit state campgrounds near their home county more frequently than campgrounds requiring greater travel distance, *ceteris paribus*. A visual examination of the test results supports the hypothesis. The number of permits sold per thousand county residents very clearly decreases with travel distance, although an inelastic relationship is noted beyond the 150-200 mile zone.