

Washington Results

2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission – Big Tent Committee – March 14, 2024

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Outline

- I. Background:** What is the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation (FHWAR)?
- II. Methods:** How do we measure participation and expenditures?
- III. Participation:** Who fishes, hunts, and watches wildlife in Washington?
- IV. Expenditures:** How much do folks spend on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching?
- V. Discussion**



Background: History of the FHWAR

Seeks to measure *participation* and *consumer expenditures* in **Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Watching**

Collaboration between **Associated of Fish and Wildlife Agencies** and **US Fish & Wildlife Service**

- Conducted under supervision of USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Fund
- Repeated approx. every **5 years** since 1955

Increasing costs require new approach

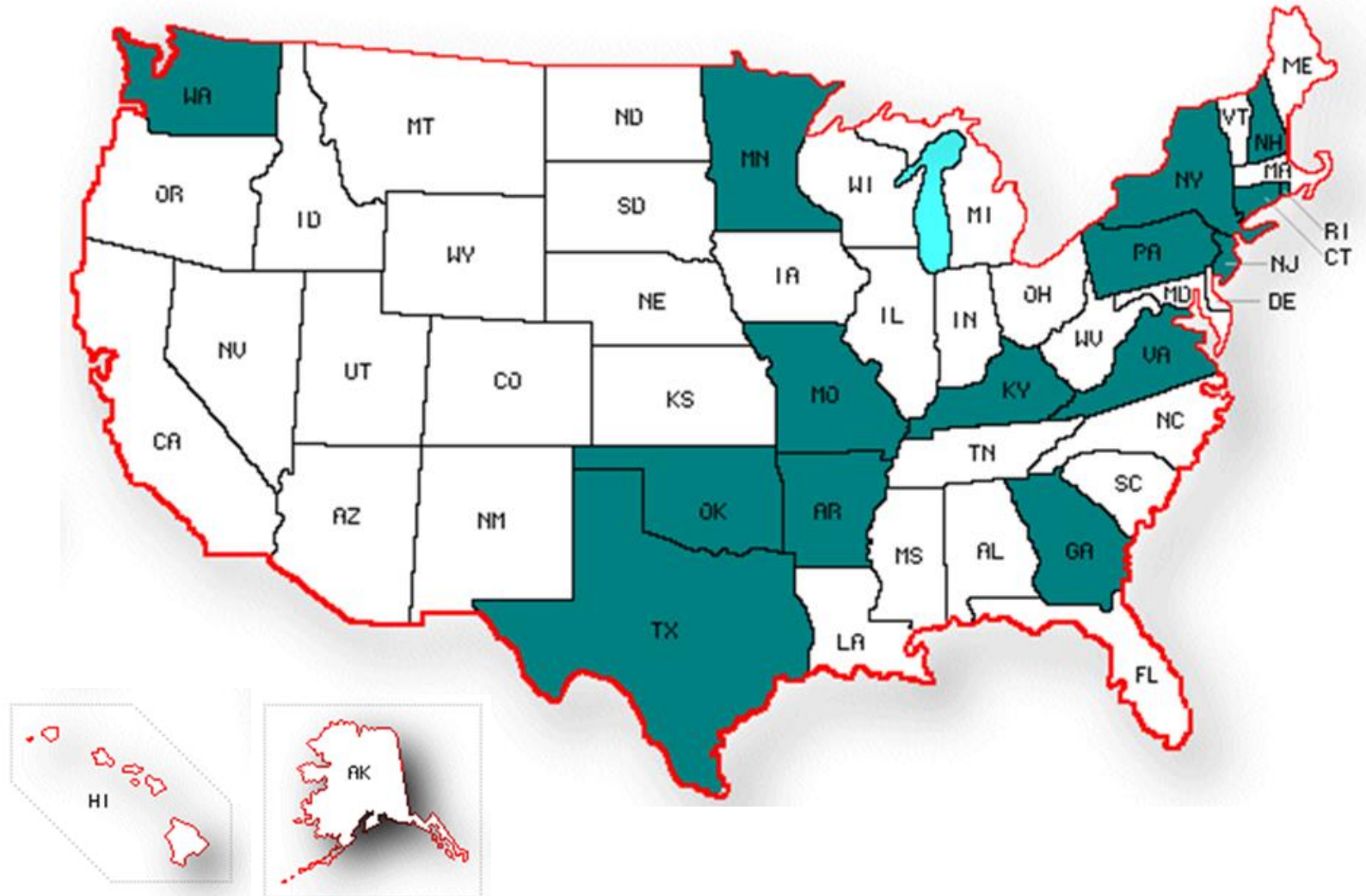
- New vendor: **National Opinion Research Center**
- New methods mean new “trend”



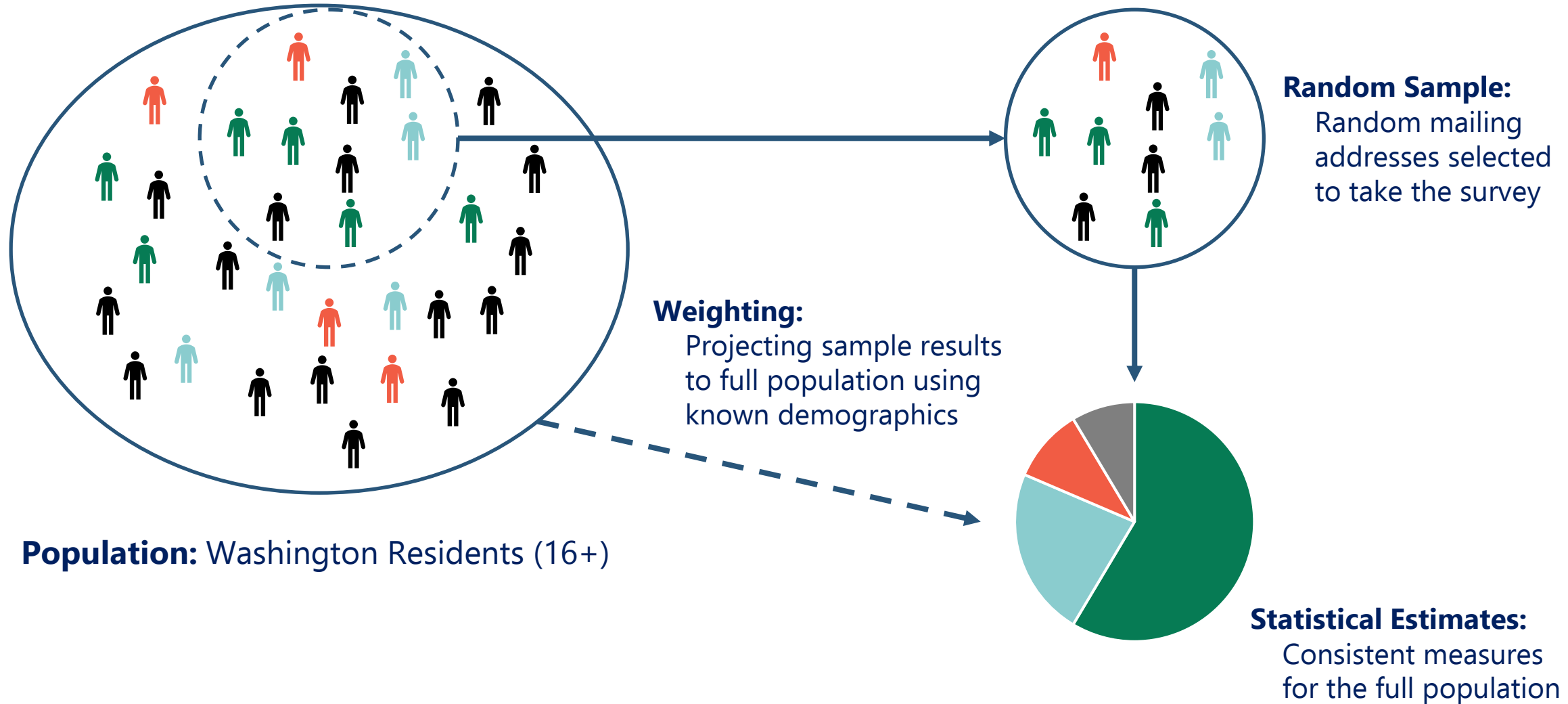
State Opt-In Program

Washington is **one of 15 states** that “bought in” for more detailed, **state-level results**

- Only state in the West
- Larger sample sizes in these states allow for reliable estimates
- Other states aggregated to census regions



Basics of Survey Sampling Methods



2022 Methods: The Survey Instrument

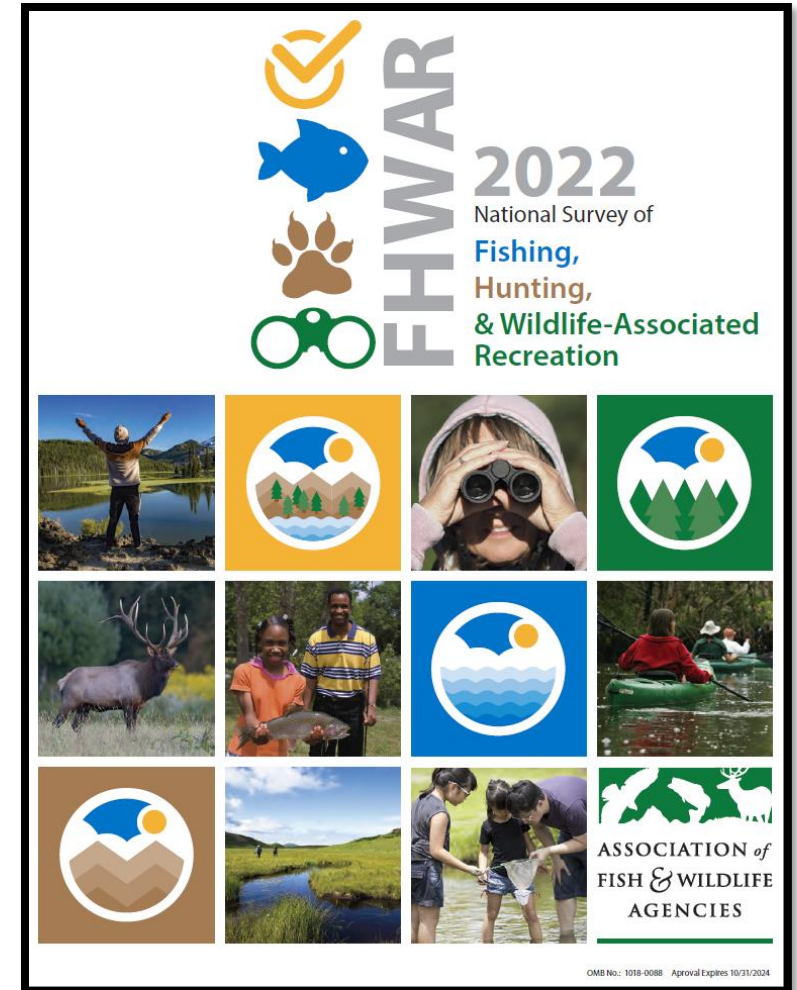
Conducted via **phone**, **web**, and **paper**

Offered in **English** and **Spanish**

Mail contacts included **\$10 cash** incentive

4,403 WA respondents

- ~**28%** response rate
- Includes other US residents who reported participating in WA



2022 Methods: The Survey Instrument

FISHING

This year (from January 1, 2022 until today), did you do any recreational fishing in the United States? *Please do not include occasions when you only observed others fishing.*

- Yes → Go to question 3
- No → Skip to question 32 on page 14

HUNTING

This year (from January 1, 2022 until today), did you do any hunting in the United States? *Please do not include occasions when you only observed others hunting or when you only scouted.*

- Yes → Go to question 3
- No → Skip to question 32 on page 14

WILDLIFE WATCHING – AWAY FROM HOME

This year (from January 1, 2022 until today), did you take any trips or outings to any location more than one mile away from home within the United States for the primary purpose of observing, photographing, or feeding wildlife? Do not include trips to zoos, circuses, aquariums, museums, or scouting for game.

- **For each activity:**
- Days and trips
 - Some details on species
 - Expenses by state



2022 Methods: The Survey Instrument

WILDLIFE WATCHING – AROUND THE HOME

The next questions are about your experiences with wildlife around your home, meaning the area within a one-mile radius of your home. We're interested in whether you took a special interest in observing or viewing wildlife, not just simply noticing wildlife while doing something else such as gardening or exercising. By wildlife we mean birds, mammals, fish, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. Do not include farm animals or pets.

This year (from January 1, 2022 until today), did you do any of the following wildlife-watching activities around your home, or not?

Did you closely observe wildlife or try to identify unfamiliar types of wildlife?

Did you photograph or take cellphone pictures of wildlife?

Did you feed birds or other wildlife?

Did you maintain natural areas such as wooded lots, hedgerows, or open fields of at least one-quarter acre for the benefit of wildlife, not including farmland?

Did you maintain plantings such as shrubs or agricultural crops for the benefit of wildlife?

Did you visit parks or natural areas to observe, photograph, or feed wildlife?

→ Asked three times throughout 2022 and early 2023 to reduce recall error



2022 Results: Headline National Results

How many people **Fish**, **Hunt**, or **Watch Wildlife** in the US?

FISHING



15%

39.9 million
participants
\$99.4 billion
in spending

HUNTING



6%

14.4 million
participants
\$45.2 billion
in spending

WILDLIFE WATCHING



57%
(28%)

148 million
participants
\$250 billion in
spending

US Population (16+): 259 million; Spending estimates include trip and equipment expenditures



2022 Results: Headline Washington Results

How many people
Fish,
Hunt, or
Watch Wildlife
in Washington?

FISHING



17%

1.2 million
participants
\$2.16 billion
in spending

HUNTING



4%

290 thousand
participants
\$1.15 billion
in spending

WILDLIFE WATCHING



71%
(35%)

6.2 million
participants
\$5.8 billion in
spending

Includes residents and non-residents; Spending estimates include trip and equipment expenditures

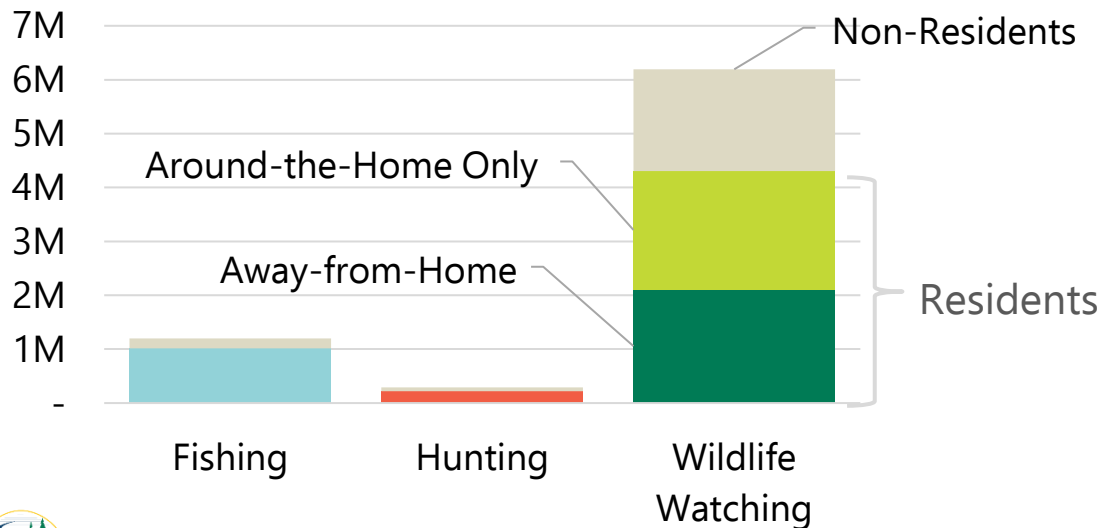


2022 Results: Headline Washington Results

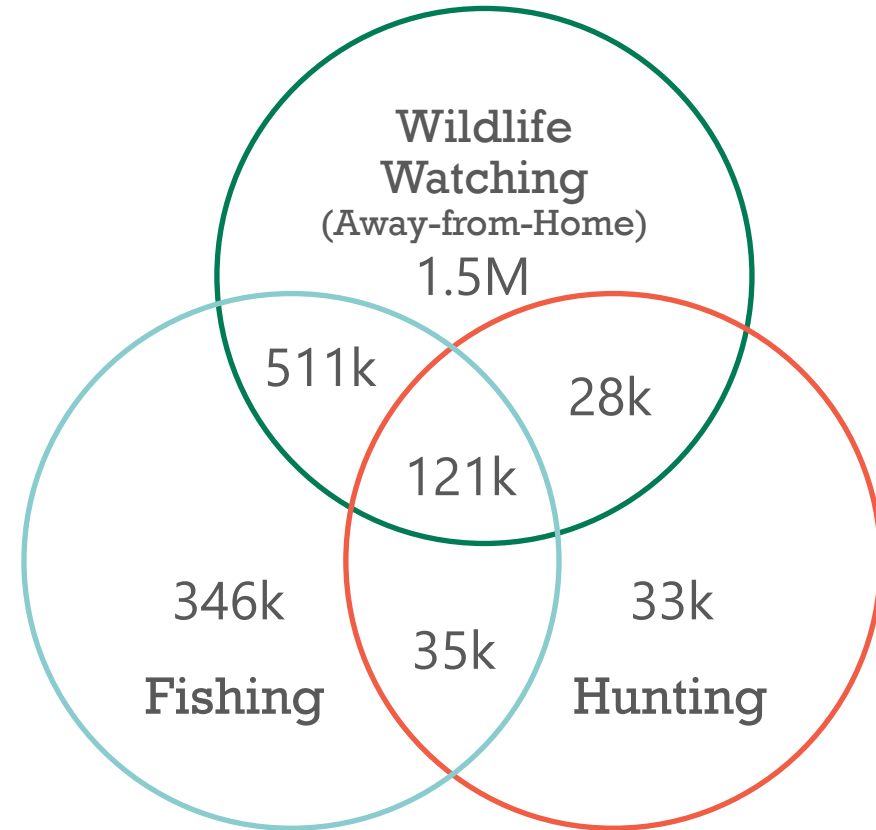
How many people **Fish**,
Hunt, or **Watch Wildlife** in
Washington?

4.4M residents (72%)

2.5M away-from-home (41%)



Participation in Multiple Activities
Among Washington Residents



2022 Results: Participant Demographics

FISHING

- **Lowest non-resident** participation (15%)
- **Men twice as likely** to have fished than women (23% vs. 10%)
- **Younger** than overall population
- **Hispanic** (24%) and **Asian** (19%) identifying Washingtonians more likely to participate



2022 Results: Participant Demographics

HUNTING

- **Women** make up larger share in Washington than nationally (41% vs. 22%)
- Participation is **highest amongst 35 to 64 years old**
- **Asians** report highest participation rate (6%)



2022 Results: Participant Demographics

WILDLIFE WATCHING

- **1.9 million non-resident** participants (30% of all participants)
- Participation rate considerably **higher than national rate** (71% vs. 54%)
- **Younger** residents more likely to participate, especially away-from-home
- **More educated** residents more likely to participate



2022 Results: Participant Demographics

OVERALL

- **Higher income** residents more likely to participate across all activities
- **Black** Washingtonians participate at lower rates
- Participation *rates* higher in **more rural areas**
- More *participants* live in **more urban areas**



2022 Results: Washington Expenditures

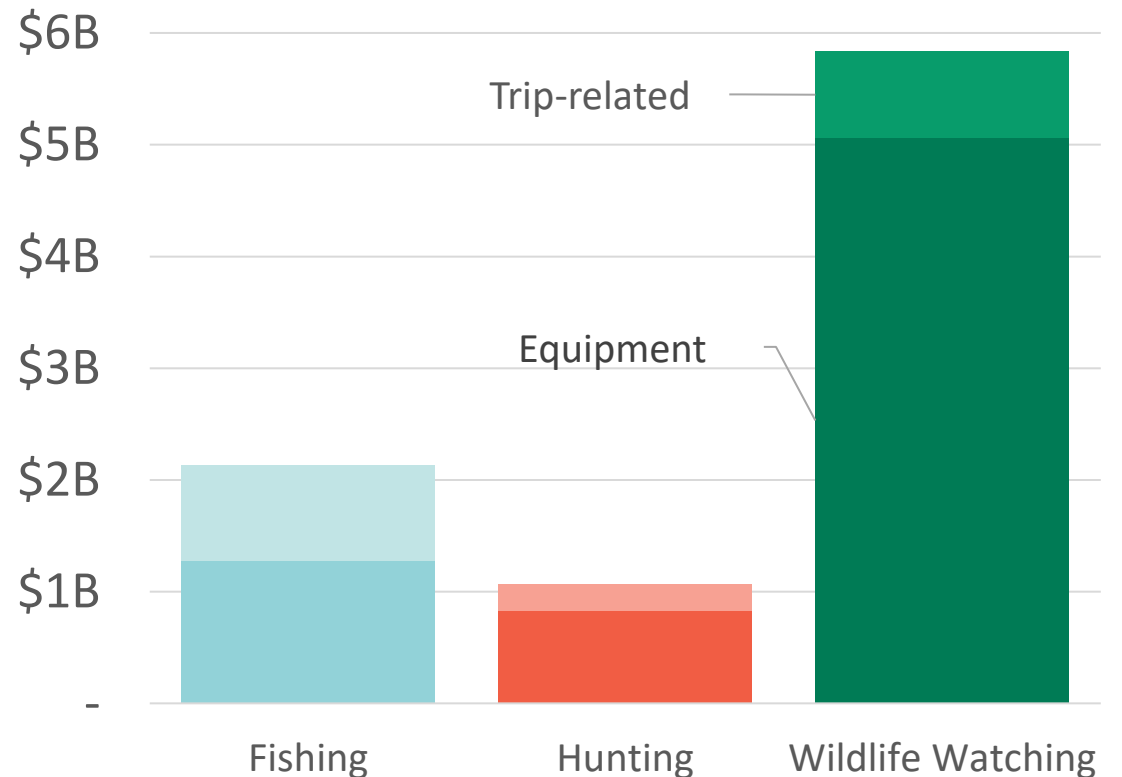
How much did people spend to **Fish**, **Hunt**, or **Watch Wildlife** in Washington?

\$9 billion across all activities

\$1.9 billion on trips

\$7.2 billion on equipment

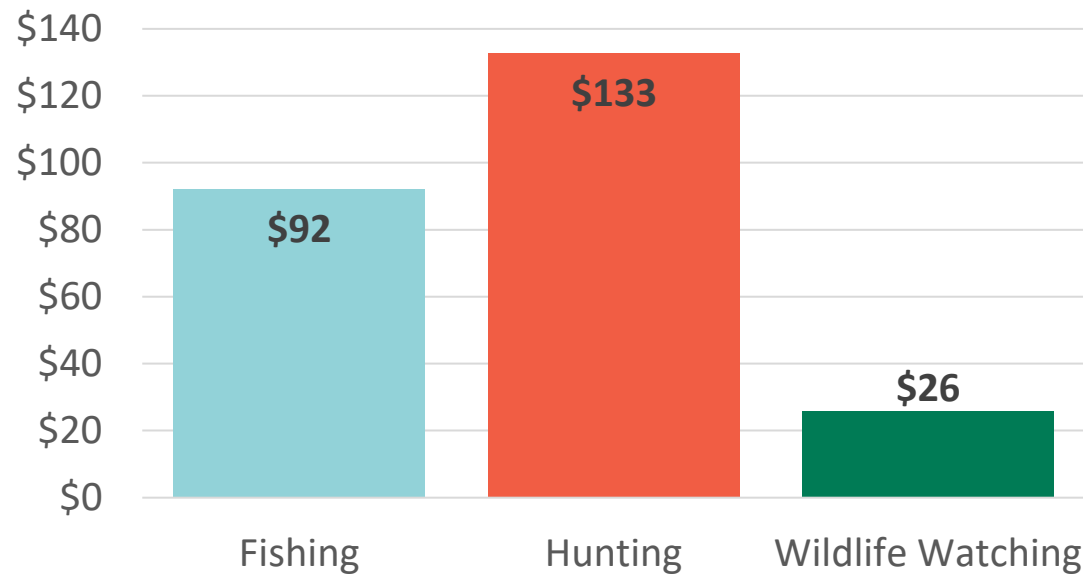
Expenditures by Activity



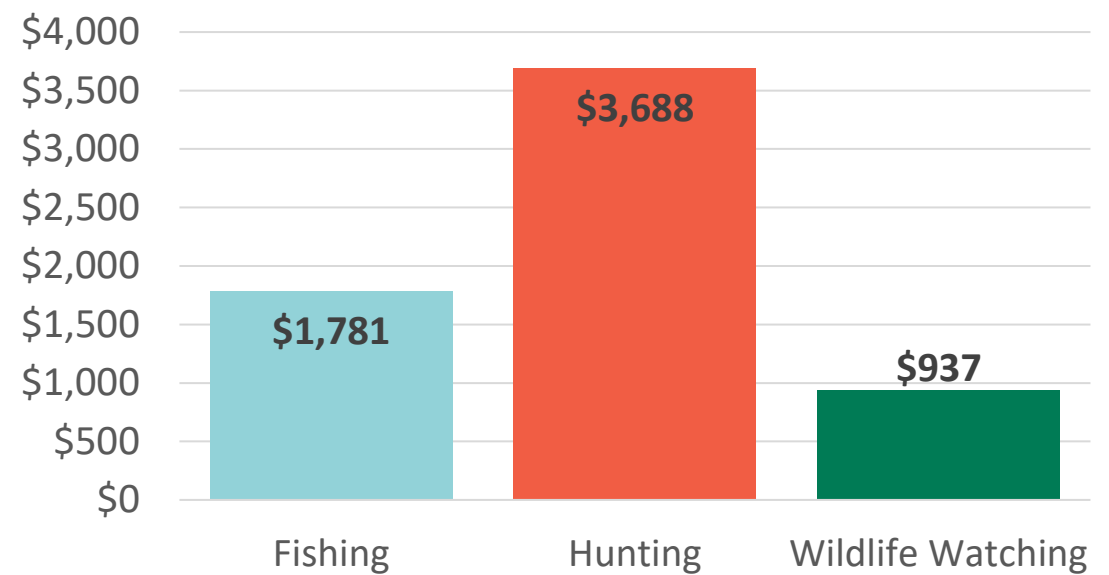
2022 Results: Washington Expenditures

How much did people spend to **Fish**, **Hunt**, or **Watch Wildlife** in Washington?

Trip-related Expenditures per Trip



Expenditures per Participant



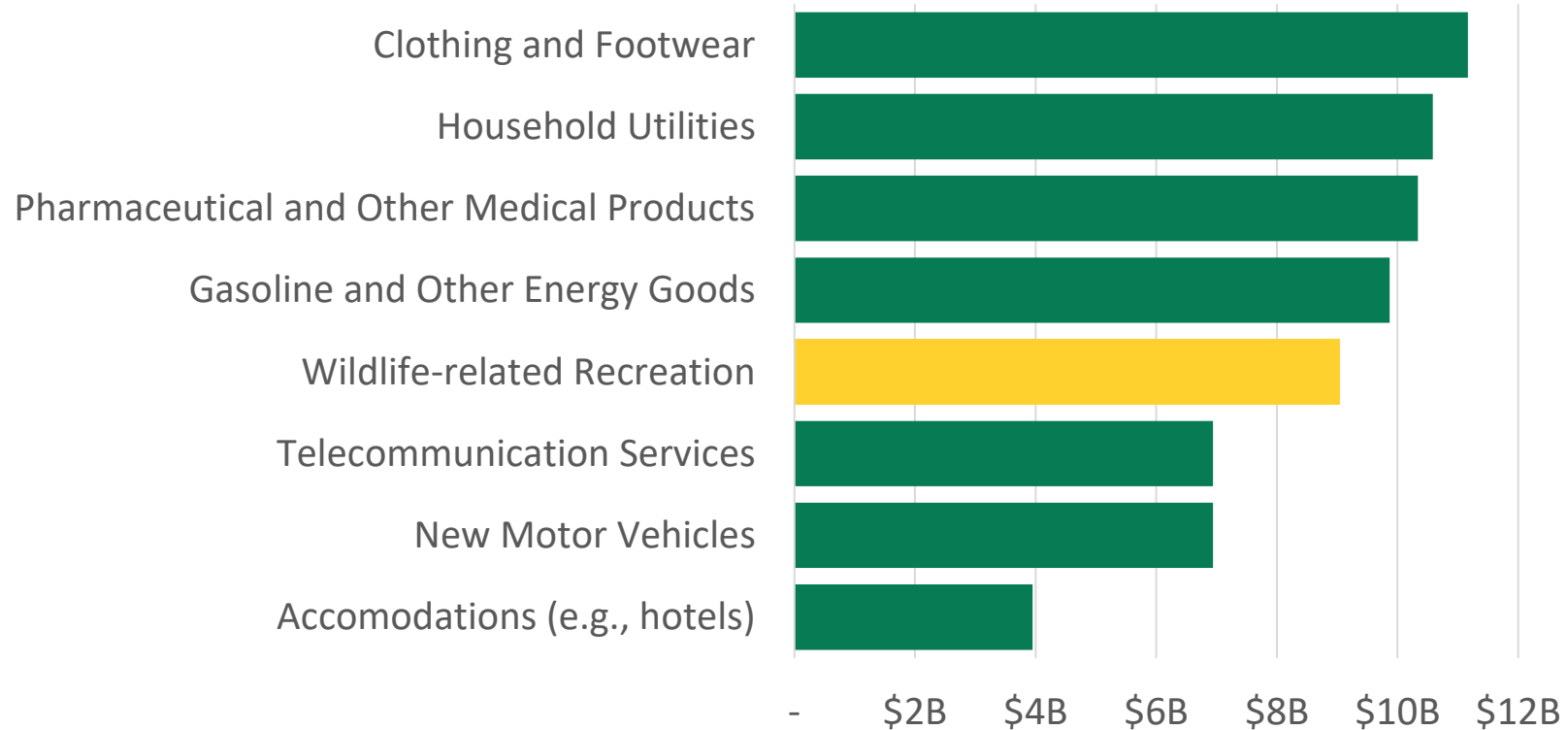
2022 Results: Washington Expenditures

How much did people **spend** relative to other products?

\$630M in annual State General Fund revenues*

\$324M in 2021-2023 State General Fund appropriations

Consumer Expenditures in Washington by Product



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "[SAPCE3 Personal consumption expenditures \(PCE\) by state by type of product](#)" (accessed Friday, December 8, 2023).

*Preliminary estimate subject to revision



Discussion: Big Takeaways

- 1. Washingtonians who fish, hunt, and watch wildlife are as diverse as the overall population**
- 2. Fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching activity is an important part of Washington's economy (\$9 billion in total expenditures)**



Full Report Available Online

Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation in Washington Participation and Expenditures in 2022



Author: Braeden Van Deynze, PhD



January 18, 2024

Appendix – Statistical Tables

The charts, tables, and analysis contained in this report are based on statistical tables which present point estimates of participation and expenditures by activity for Washington residents and participating residents of other U.S. states aged 16-years-old and older. The tables presented in this Appendix are analogous to similar tables presented in the National report, with the exception of the expenditures table (Table 3) as described in the Methods.

Table 1. Anglers, Hunters and Wildlife Watchers 16 Years Old and Older, Days of Participation, and Trips: 2022

This table comes from the National data collection and represents state residents and non-residents who did activities in Washington.

Type of activity	Participants		Days of Participation		Trips	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
FISHING						
Total, all fishing	1,198,109	100	12,612,417	100	9,316,755	100
Freshwater	812,378	68	9,302,997	74	6,548,148	70
Saltwater	388,834	32	3,309,420	26	2,768,606	30
HUNTING						
Total, all hunting	290,593	100	2,567,757	100	1,813,167	100
Big game	214,208	74	1,510,414	59	1,006,421	56



Questions?

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