Texas Youth Hunting Program

Jon Purvis
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Youth Hunting Program

- Offers youth hunts that are safe, educational, and affordable
- Introduces youth to hunting and outdoors
- Hunter education required; sometimes given at start of hunt as separate event
- Gives opportunity to those without equipment, location, and/or knowledge
TYHP Participants

- Urban youth
- Single parent children
- No family background in hunting or outdoors
- Hunting families without family land or lease
Texas Youth Hunting Program

- More than 1,450 hunts to more than 9,000 hunters since starting in 1996

- Applications, participant and guardian information, hunt location and type, and exit surveys were paper files in multiple boxes in storage
TYHP Project Goals

- Reduce number of paper files
- Characterize hunts and participants
- Determine if participants remain active in hunting and outdoors in future
Existing TYHP Database

- Filemaker Pro
- Only has 2010-12 data
- No analysis capability given current staff expertise
- Not designed by expert
New TYHP Database

- Expected to hold all data gathered by TYHP
- MS-Access 2010
- Access forms used for data entry
- Access queries and reports to be created for common tasks
New TYHP Database

- Lookup tables to limit values
- Main People table holds all contact info, with other tables containing evaluations and hunt data
- 2010-12 Hunter and Hunts data imported, but kept in separate tables
TYHP Data Analysis

- SAS 9.2 used for all error checks and analysis
- Data cleansing done where possible
- Basic data characterization
- Participant demographics and hunt distribution
Participant Retention

- 1996-2012 cleaned data given to TPWD Licensing

- Matched data based on driver’s license, hunting license, and SSN, as well as combinations of name, address, and age

- All matching purchase records from 2001-2013 pulled from point-of-sale system

- Calculated number of purchases and amount spent year, as well as number of years a purchase was made
Analysis Issues

- Possibility of missing paper files
- Inconsistent recording of data across years
- No way to know true number of unique participants
- No license sales data before 2001
- Cannot know if lack of identifying data or lack of purchase responsible for non-matches
Results

- 9,063 youth participant records
- 1,457 hunts led by 408 uniquely named hunt masters
- About 700 hunters and 115 hunts per year currently
- Have had hunts in 91 Texas counties
Results

• 16.11% Female, 79.36% Male, 4.53% Unknown

• 62 African-American, 17 American Indian, 19 Asian, 1,529 Caucasian, 488 Hispanic, 48 Other, and 6,900 Unknown

• 17.82% Rural, 77.12% Urban, 5.0% Unknown
Results

Youth Participant Age

- Average age = 13.35, range = 6 - 26
Results

• Hunters from 12 states: AR, CO, FL, LA, MO, NE, NM, OK, TN, TX, UT, WY

• Hunters from at least 198 TX counties; Harris County (Houston) provided 15.98% of total known

• Distance traveled from 1 – 1,205 miles; average = 172

• Average 6.74 hunters and 7.07 volunteers per hunt
• 1,761 unique individuals found in license sales

• 8.88 purchases on average, range 1 – 57

• $201.16 spent on average; range $0.00 - $2694.00; 76 spent at least $1,000.00

• 116 different license types purchased
Results

Average number seasons = 6.13, range = 1 - 13
TYHP Future Plans

- Standardize data collected
- Use fuzzy logic and other means to identify unique individuals
- Website and new database being built by contractor to enable quicker entry of data by hunt masters
- Data entry and analysis of exit surveys; mail survey of participants
Should you ask a Question during Seminar?

- Do you actually HAVE a question?  
  - No  
    - Are you trying to show off?  
      - Yes  
        - Go for it.  
      - No  
        - Are you sure it's not a dumb question or that the speaker already answered it?  
          - Maybe  
            - Are you trying to show off?  
              - Yes  
                - Proceed with Caution.  
              - No  
                - Do you really need to ask the question in public or could you follow up with him/her later?  
                  - No  
                    - Doesn't matter.  
                  - Yes  
                    - Are you the Seminar organizer asking a question because no one else is and the awkward silence is making everyone uncomfortable?  
                      - Yes  
                        - Thank God. Please ask the question and let's get out of here!  
                      - No  
                        - Ok, you have a legitimate question. Do you actually care about the answer?  
                          - No  
                            - Not really, I just want to show off.  
                          - Yes  
                            - FINE, ASK YOUR QUESTION.