

Sources of Data on Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

This fact sheet identifies sources of information so organizations can acquire the best available data for estimating the number of wood stoves, fireplace inserts and fireplaces in their geographic area.

U.S. Census Data

American Housing Survey (AHS) - The largest, regular national housing sample survey in the United States, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau to obtain up-to-date housing statistics for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). National data are collected every other year, from a fixed sample of about 50,000 homes, plus new construction each year. In 47 metropolitan areas, additional surveys are conducted every 4-6 years, to measure local conditions. These data sets include information on ownership of wood stoves, fireplaces with inserts (fireplaces with a fan-forced air circulation system to force the heat into the room), and fireplaces without inserts. Information on heating equipment is provided in Table 1-4 of each metropolitan area report. The table block entitled "Main Heating Equipment" gives the number of households using wood stoves or fireplaces as their primary source of heat. A second table block entitled "Other Heating Equipment" shows the number of households that use wood stoves or fireplaces as a supplementary heat source.

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ahs.html>



U.S. Census Summary File 3 (SF 3), Table QT-H8 - This data set contains information on housing characteristics, including primary home heating fuel (electricity, utility gas, wood, solar, etc.). This data is part of the Year 2000 sample data set, which is information compiled from the questions asked of a sample of all people and housing units. The primary home heating fuel information (this survey does not include information on wood use for supplemental heating) can be retrieved for geographic areas ranging from the national level down to the census block group.

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTGeoSearchByListServlet?ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&state=qt&qtr_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_QTH8&lang=en&ts

Market Research Firms - Note: these are two examples of firms that we know have conducted hearth products surveys. There may be other firms that can provide similar data. EPA does not endorse either of these firms.

Simmons Market Research Bureau - Simmons conducts a national consumer study by surveying many consumers nationwide (over 27,000) about product ownership and buying patterns. Their survey includes

questions on wood-burning stove ownership, wood-burning fireplace insert ownership, and whether these products had been purchased in the last 12 months. Data is available for geographic areas including the national level, Nielsen marketing region level (e.g., Northeast, Middle Atlantic), State level, and 12 top marketing metropolitan areas (e.g., Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles). Data can be obtained from Simmons for a fee (a minimum fee of \$2,500 was recently quoted), or older data may be available from university libraries.

<http://www.smr.com/> 1-800-999-7672.

Mediamark Research Inc. - Mediamark also conducts a national consumer study by surveying many consumers nationwide (approximately 26,000) about product ownership and buying patterns. Their survey includes questions about ownership of coal/wood stoves and fireplaces, whether these products had been purchased in the last 12 months, and the dollar amount spent in the last 12 months. Data is available for geographic areas including the national level, Nielsen marketing region level (e.g., Northeast, Middle Atlantic), State groups, and top marketing metropolitan areas (e.g., Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles). Data can be obtained from Mediamark for a fee (a minimum fee of \$1,200 was recently quoted), or older data may be available from university libraries.

<http://www.mediamark.com> 1-800-310-3305

U.S. EPA

EPA also estimates wood burning emissions at the county level as part of the National Emissions Inventory. These data are available at

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eiinformation.html>. EPA's Emissions Inventory contact is Roy Huntley, huntley.roy@epa.gov, 919-541-5398.

Other Studies

Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA) Study -

MARAMA sponsored a survey of wood burning in the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union States (Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the Penobscot Indian Nation, Rhode Island, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Vermont). Although the survey covered a limited population size, it provides information on wood stove and fireplace usage, and on the amount of wood burned in surveyed households. Information on MARAMA's Residential Wood Combustion Surveys are available at <http://www.marama.org/visibility/ResWoodCombustion/>. The survey questions are shown in *Final Technical Memorandum No. 3* and detailed survey results are given presented in *Final Technical Memorandum No. 4* and in the associated *Technical Memorandum No. 4 database*.

OMNI Test Laboratories/Environmental Services

In 2003, Dr. James E. Houck (research scientist, OMNI Consulting Services) and David R. Broderick (environmental engineer, OMNI Environmental Services) compiled a list of residential wood combustion surveys, reports containing the results of surveys and related publications. The list, organized by geographic area, can be found at <http://omni-test.com/Publications/Comp2.pdf>. Reports have included or compiled survey information for use in air quality evaluations, for marketing considerations and for energy utilization studies. The surveys conducted in the last ten years include contact information as well as the survey sample size and the survey area population.

