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Water Issues in New York and New Jersey

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Abstract Text:

In 2005, Rutgers University formed a partnership with the University of Idaho to assess water quality attitudes in New York and New Jersey. A 53-question public opinion survey was developed and conducted to document public awareness, attitude, and actions taken towards water quality issues.

The survey was sent to a random sample of 1825 residents with a 37% response rate. The Dillman method was used to analyze the results. The questions were categorized by how respondents felt about the environment, drinking water issues, preserving water resources. Among the most important issues identified by respondents were, clean drinking water, rivers, lakes, and beaches. The survey also gathered demographic information about the respondents.

This poster will summarize the results of the survey, highlighting some of the key water quality issues that were identified by the respondents. Statistically significant results from demographic comparisons will also be presented.

The results from this survey will be used as a baseline for future public opinion surveys in attempt to monitor behavior change and other impacts. They will also provide project partners with an opportunity to better focus research, educational, and extension efforts that are provided by the USDA CSREES Regional Water Quality Coordination Program.

Impact Statement:

This project is part of a larger effort to build institutional partnerships and increase the capacity of citizens, landowners, agencies, and community leaders to better address and document public awareness, attitude, and action taken towards water quality issues.