

Children and Nature in Germany

First Results of the 7. Youth Report Nature 2016

Hubert Koll, University of Cologne,
Rainer Brämer, German Walking Institut Marburg



Changed living conditions, changed relationship to nature

Richard Louv (USA): „nature deficit disorder“

George Monbiot (GB): „second environmental
crisis: the removal of children from the natural world“.



What has changed?

Urbanization

- more children grow up in urban areas
- no “wild spots” to play without supervision

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What has changed?

Outdoor laws and restrictions:

- No camping
- No campfire
- No fishing
- No playing
- No sledging
- No climbing trees

Space to play freely and gain experiences is sparse!

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What has changed?

Parents:

- fear of injuries → overprotection (helmets for kids e.t.c.)
- fear of kidnapping, traffic, wild animals...

Overprotective parents: kids are NOT allowed to play outside on their own



What has changed?

School: more full time schools

Parents: fully planned indoor free time schedule (sports, music, tutoring lessons...)

No time for outdoor activities



What has changed?

Full time media entertainment:

TV, internet, computer, tablet, PC, smart phone, playstation etc.

Children spend a lot of their free time in front of a screen

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Youth Report Nature

Documenting the changing relationship between young people and nature in Germany is the focus of this report.

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Youth Report Nature

Year	Survey
1997	2.541 students in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)
2000	1.630 students in South Tyrol
2002	1.200 students in NRW und Hesse
2003	1.405 students in NRW und Hesse
2006	2.202 students in NRW und Hesse
2010	3.032 students in NRW und 6 other states
2016	1.253 students in NRW

→ 13.000 students in 20 years

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7. Youth Report Nature 2016

Focus:

- experiences kids have with nature
- their knowledge about nature
- (attitudes concerning nature)

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Survey

- 1.253 students aged 12 and 15
- 11 schools in Cologne (urban area), Ruhr area (mixed area) und southern Westphalia (rural area);
- All types of schools: Hauptschule (lowest graduation), Real-/Geamtschule, Gymnasium (highest graduation)
- November 2015 to February 2016

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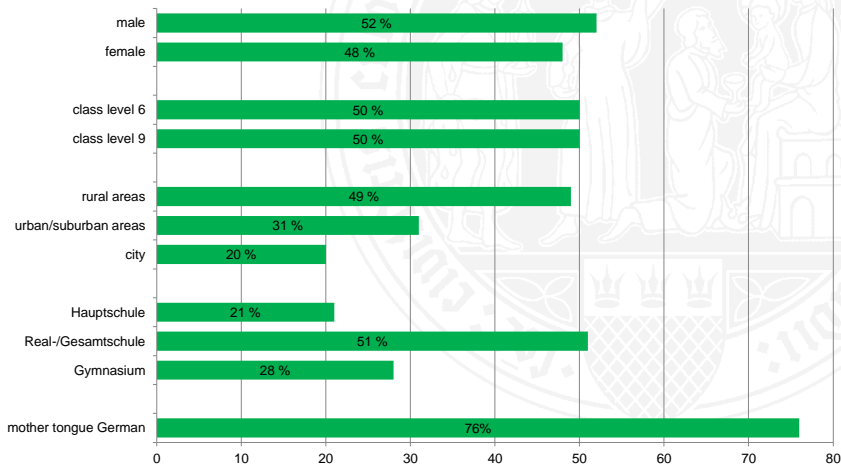
Survey

- written questionnaire
- open and closed questions
- 64 items
- duration 10-15 minutes
- students asked in school lessons

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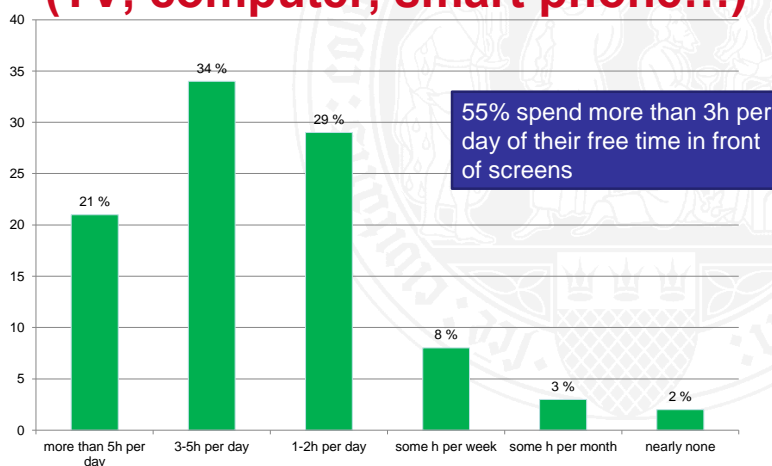
Statistics



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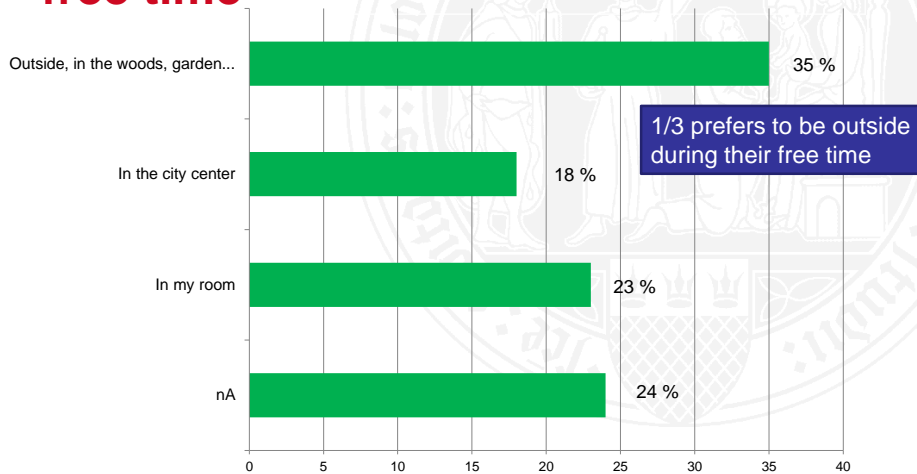
„How many hours do you spend watching screens?“ (TV, computer, smart phone...)



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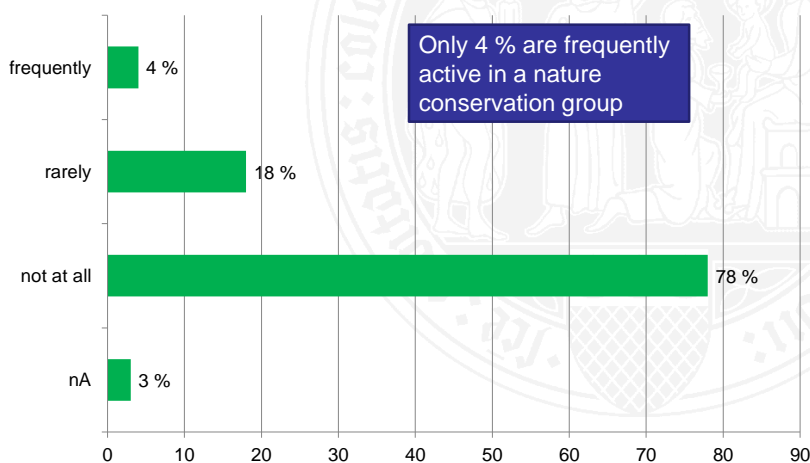
Favorite places for spending your free time



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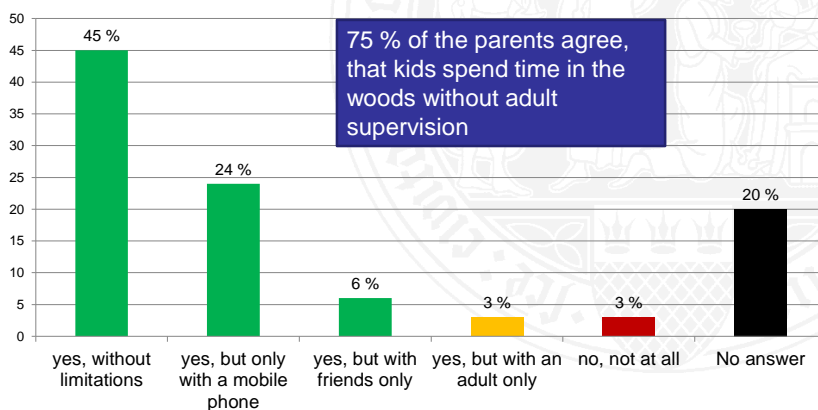
Active in a nature conservation group?



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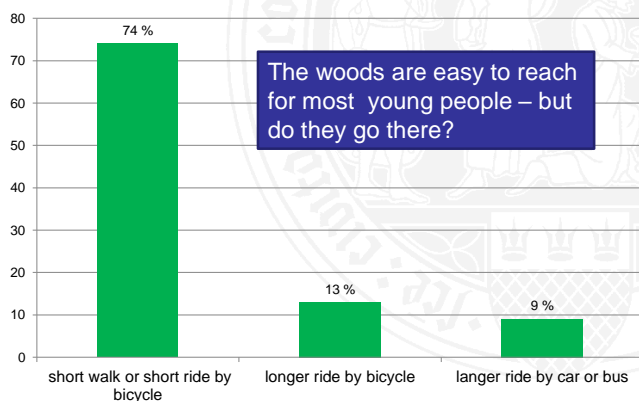
„Do your parents allow you to be without supervision in the woods?“



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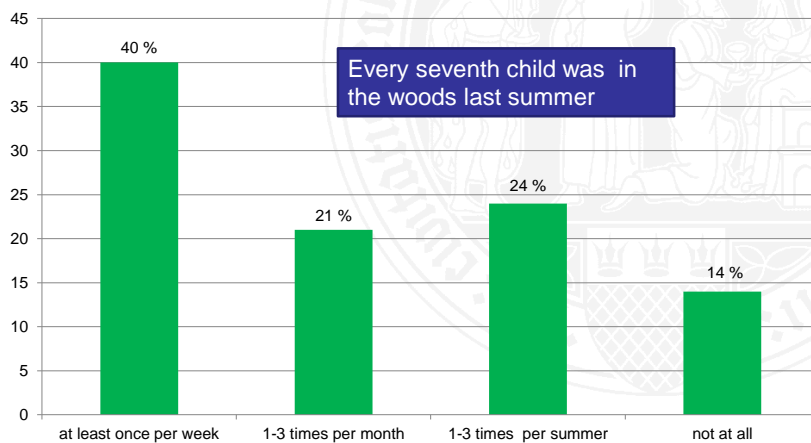
„How far is it from your place to the nearest forest?“



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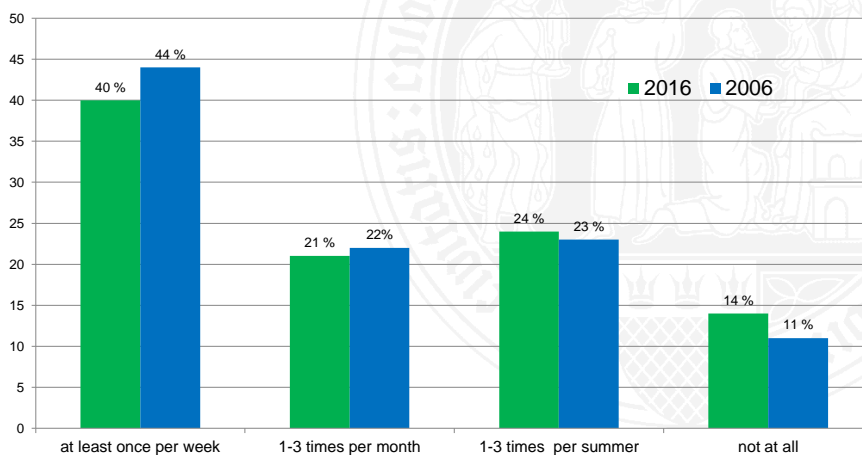
„How often were you in the woods last summer?“



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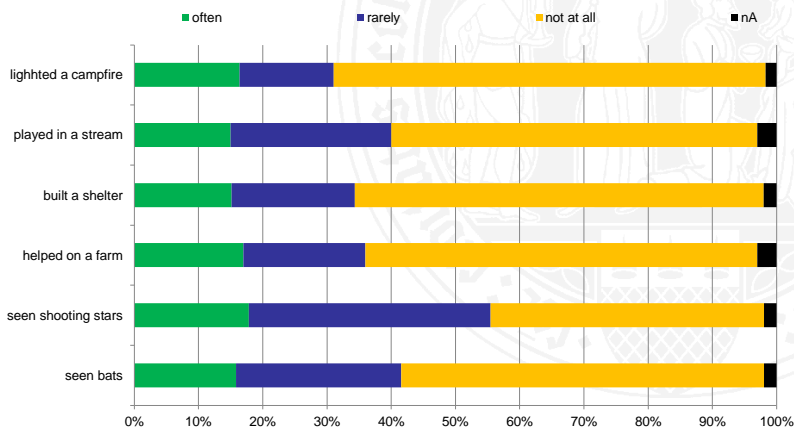
„How often were you in the woods last summer?“



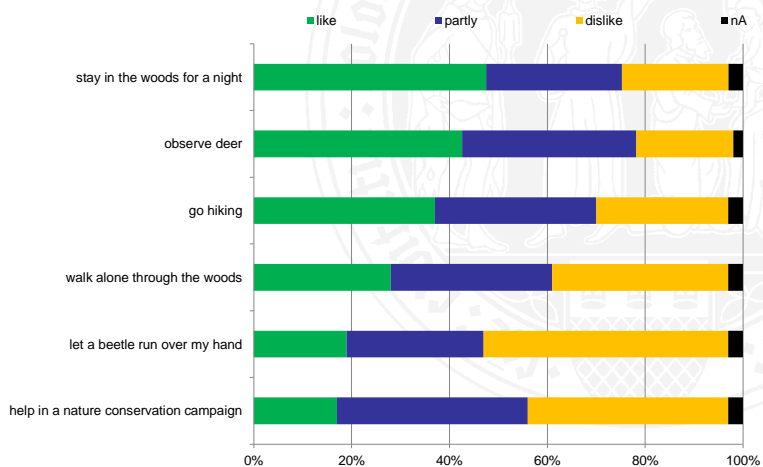
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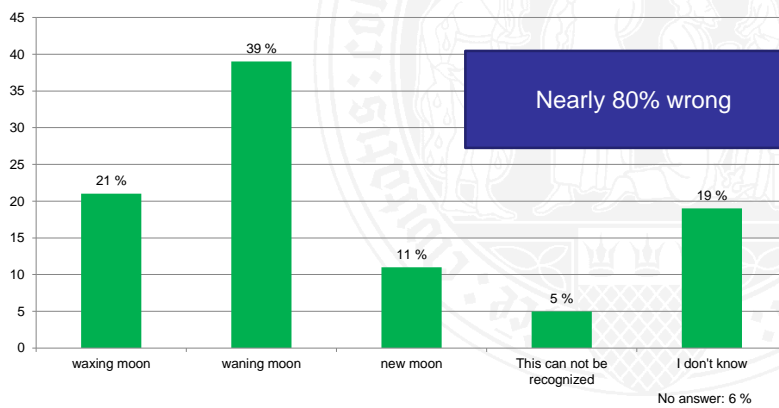
Experience: „What did you do or see last year?“



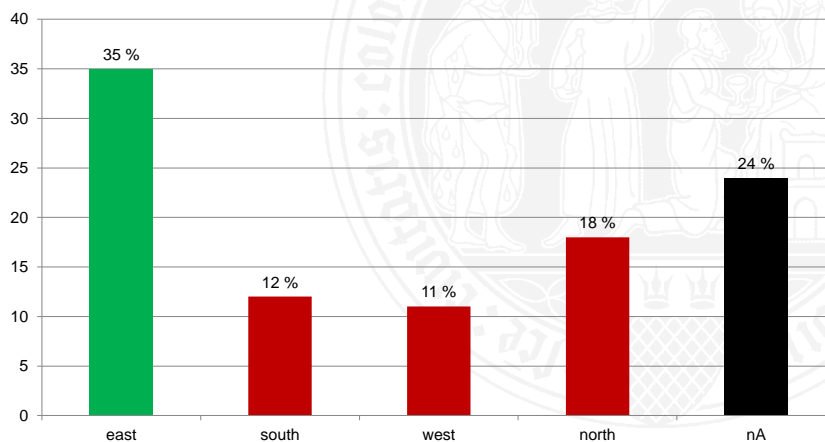
“I would like to...”



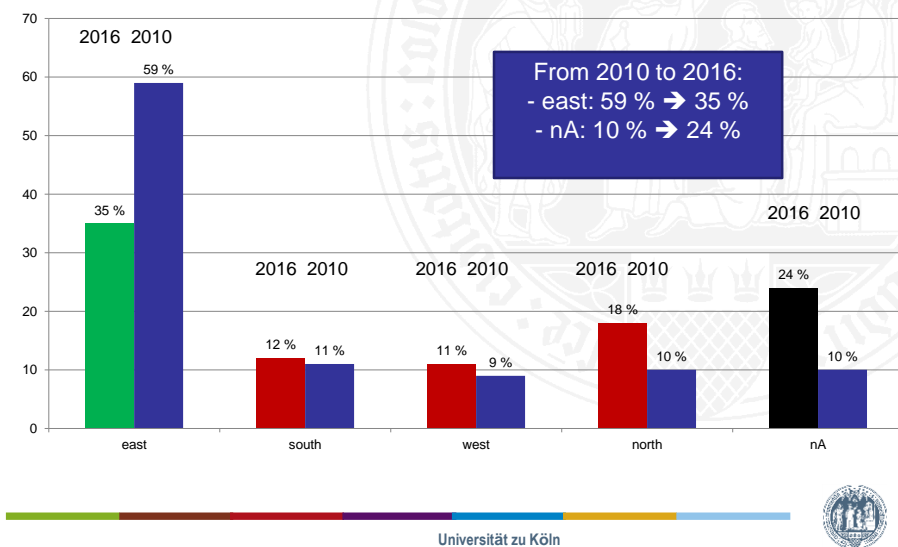
„When the moon looks like this ☾, it is...“



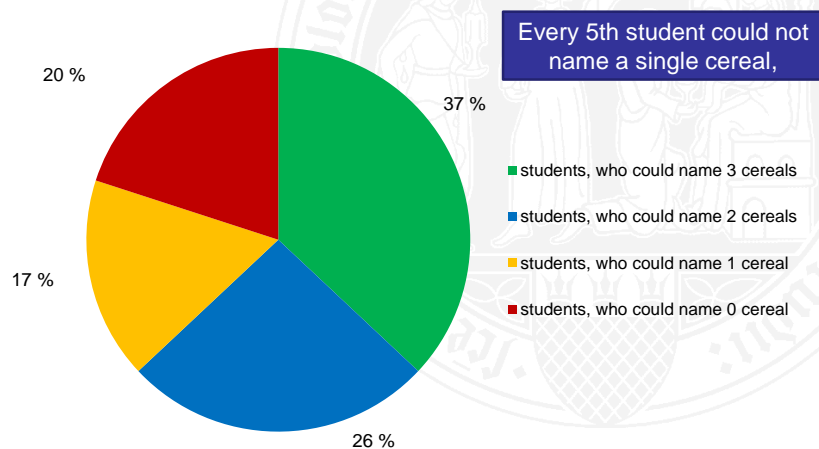
„Where does the sun rise?“



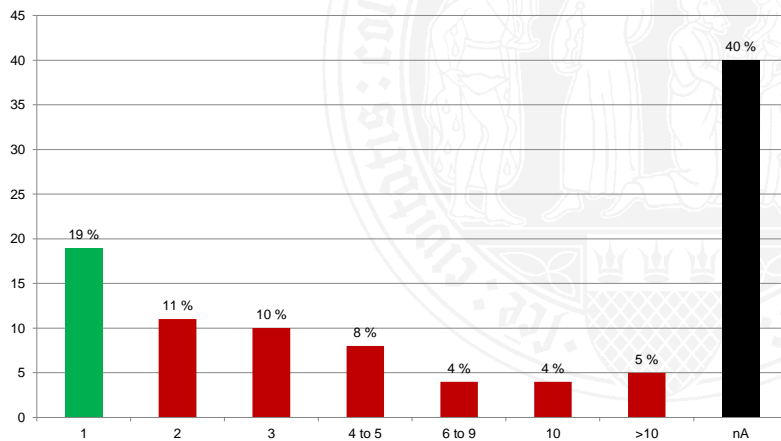
„Where does the sun rise?“ (2016 compared to 2010)



„Name three cereals growing in Germany“



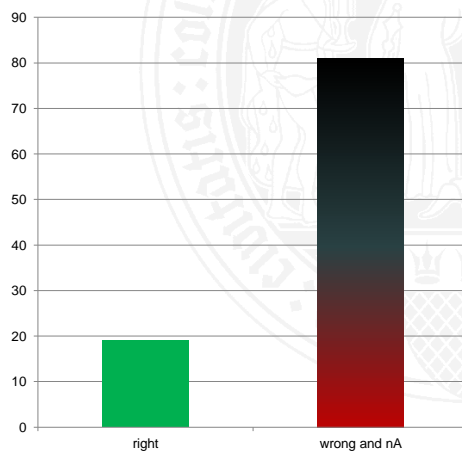
„How many eggs can a chicken lay per day?“



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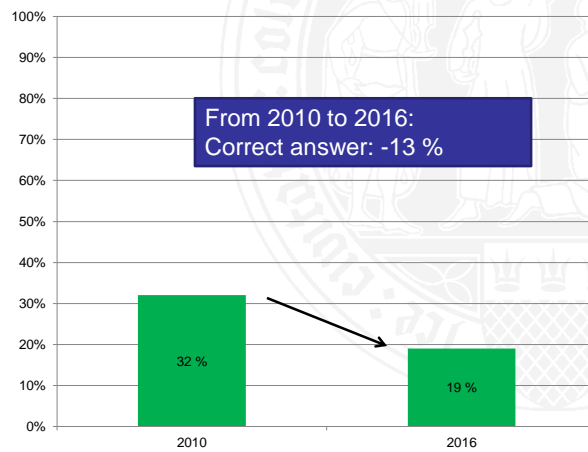
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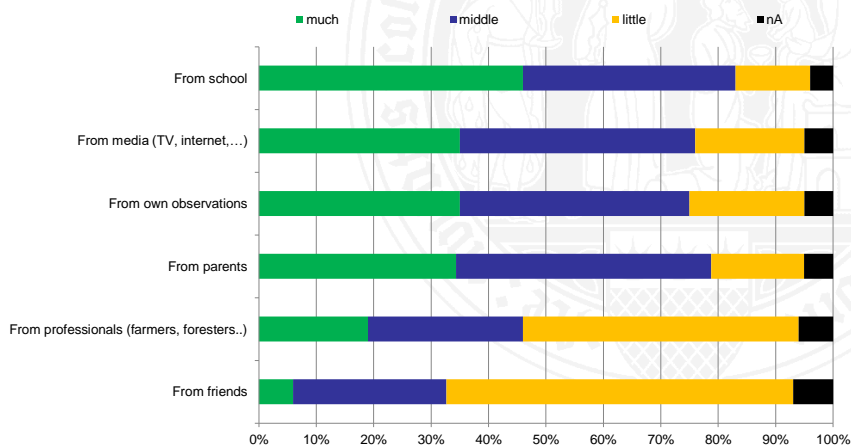
„How many eggs can a chicken lay per day?“



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„Where did you get your information about nature?“



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Summary

Most students...

...live near the woods.

...are more often in the woods than expected.

...have little experience with nature.

...know little about nature.

Knowledge is deteriorating and experience is less frequent.

Students have gained most of their knowledge about nature in school.

