

2008 FA CENSUS

Executive Summary

In 2008, FA embarked on its first FA Census since 2001. The goal of this project was to be able to provide demographic information to the public and thereby increase the credibility of the FA organization. FA has grown over 20% per year since its inception in 1998. This growth continues to provide evidence to all interested parties that FA is a viable solution for the deadly disease of food addiction.

Sincere thanks are due to the many unnamed FA members who worked tirelessly on this project. Thanks also are due to the Board Members and other FA trusted servants who supported this project. We believe that having this information available will help us in our mission to spread the word about the power of FA to the still suffering food addict. Our growth is testimony to the fact that this program really works!

2008 Census Methodology

FA is a worldwide, anonymous fellowship and therefore keeps no membership records, making a membership count a rather daunting task. That said, with the help of many FA delegates and WSI and Intergroup contacts, we were able to produce what we think is a reasonable estimate of size of the FA fellowship. In the years to come, we will continue to refine our estimation methods and implement a web-based process which should hopefully improve both our efficiency and accuracy.

The 2008 Method included:

- FA Delegates reported attendance numbers for their meeting at the Annual Business Convention.
- For meetings without delegates, we followed up by telephone and email after the Convention to obtain this information.
- FA volunteers contacted members in all of our demographic areas to get an estimate of how many meetings per week FA members attend in that area.
- We then developed a factor that translates the reported attendance numbers into the actual number of FA members. This factor takes into account that FA members typically attend 2-3 meetings per week. Without this factor we would be double or triple counting members because they would be counted at each meeting they attend. This would result in a gross overstatement of the size of our membership.

Results

The 2008 Census results are reported in the statistical charts that follow. Highlights of this data are:

- FA total worldwide membership is 3,636, in 2001 it was 958.
- 410 FA meetings are currently held worldwide; in 2001 there were 122.
- FA worldwide membership has grown at over 20% per year.

- FA meetings are held in 6 countries. In 2008, 93% of our members are in the US and 7% are in Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand or UK. In 2001 FA meetings were in 3 countries.
- In 2008, meetings are held in 34 US states; in 2001 FA was in 16 states.
- The average meeting size is 19 members.
- 54% of FA members attend 2 FA meetings per week, 14% attend less than 2 meetings per week, and 32% attend over 2 meetings per week.
- There are 70 "FA Loners" (members actively working the FA program who do not access an FA meeting).

Using the FA Census Data

The FA Census Data will be used in our efforts to carry the message to the still-suffering food addict and also to help us run the FA organization and conduct FA business more effectively.

Carrying the Message:

The FA Census data, combined with future FA Survey data, will provide us with a more comprehensive profile of FA Demographics than we have had in the past. In general, people are very interested in the size and geographic scope of our organization. With this information we can enhance a wide variety of our external communication vehicles such as:

- Press Kits, Press Releases and Brochures.
- FA Fact File (coming soon).
- Letters to Health Care Professionals and Clergy.
- "Media Watch" letters.
- Interviews.
- Forwards to future FA Book Editions.
- Other ad hoc responses to the media and other external organizations.

Also, when our FA members at large are more fully informed about our demographics, they will be better prepared to answer questions at health fairs, colleges, high schools and other public venues.

Conducting FA Business:

The FA Census Data can also be used by a variety of internal committees in conducting necessary day-to-day business affairs. For example:

- Purchasing insurance.
- Investing in information technology and other systems.
- Establishing and maintaining bank relations.
- Planning and budgeting.
- Negotiating with outside vendors/suppliers.
- Guiding future decisions about FA organizational structure and roles.
- Deciding how best to communicate within our fellowship; including FA Loners.

Looking Ahead

As FA's growth continues, we will need a more stream-lined, web-based approach for the FA Census. Each year WSI contacts will be asked to input Census data directly into the FA Website and this data will be used to track the growth and geographic locations of our members.

As of November 2008, we have taken the first step towards this goal. WSI Contacts now have the capability of inputting their meeting attendance numbers directly into the FA Website. Next steps will include:

- Communicate and educate WSI Contacts about their Census role and ask them to input meeting attendance numbers directly into the website. This will allow us to test the WSI Contact response level.
- Enhance the website to include the capability for WSI Contacts to enter the number of meetings that their members are attending.
- In 1Q 2009, communicate with WSI Contacts to update both meeting attendance and number of meetings attended per week for the 2009 Census. Depending on our response rate, develop a plan to follow up for meetings where we get no response from the WSI Contact.
- Work in conjunction with the 12 Step Committee to implement a plan to determine how many FA Members on the outlying area phone list are "FA Loners", meaning they have no access to an FA meeting.

2008 FA Census - Worldwide
By Country (Includes 70 Loners)

Country	# of Meetings	# of Members	% of Total Members
Australia	5	58	1.6
Canada	16	103	2.8
Germany	4	22	0.6
New Zealand	1	8	0.2
UK	7	45	1.2
USA	377	3,393	93.3
Loners in Other Countries		6	0.2
Total Worldwide	410	3,636	100.0%

2008 FA Census - USA Only
By State (Includes 46 Loners)

State	Meetings	Members	% of US Members
AK	2	9	0.3
CA	115	1,375	40.5
CO	3	8	0.2
DC	5	38	1.1
DE	3	8	0.2
FL	23	199	5.9
GA	5	32	0.9
HI	2	8	0.2
IA	2	17	0.5
ID	2	15	0.4
IL	1	5	0.1
MA	37	278	8.2
MD	21	170	5.0
ME	19	205	6.0
MI	36	318	9.4
MT	1	8	0.2
NC	19	106	3.1
NH	2	13	0.4
NJ	5	20	0.6
NM	1	3	0.1
NV	1	9	0.3
NY	27	176	5.2
OH	9	111	3.3
OR	3	19	0.6
PA	9	66	2.0
RI	1	10	0.3
TN	1	6	0.2
TX	10	73	2.2
UT	1	5	0.1
VA	1	6	0.2
VT	1	4	0.1
WA	7	53	1.5
WI	1	5	0.1
WV	1	4	0.1
Loners in Other States		13	0.4
Total - USA	377	3,393	100.0%

2008 FA Census - Australia			
By State			
State	# of Meetings	# of Members	% of Australia Members
NSW	2	30	51.4
Victoria	3	26	45.1
Loners		2	3.4
Total Australia	5	58	100.0%

2008 FA Census - Canada			
By Province			
Province	# of Meetings	# of Members	% of Canada Members
AB	12	71	69.1
BC	3	11	10.6
Ontario	1	16	15.5
Loners		5	4.8
Total Canada	16	103	100.0%

2008 FA Census - Germany			
By State			
State	# of Meetings	# of Members	% of Germany Members
Baden-Württemberg	2	8	36.4
Berlin	1	2	9.1
Hessen	1	3	13.6
Loners		9	40.9
Total Germany	4	22	100.0%

2008 FA Census - New Zealand			
By Island			
Island	# of Meetings	# of Members	% of New Zealand Members
North Island:			
Wellington	1	8	100.0
Total New Zealand	1	8	100.0%

2008 FA Census - UK			
By County			
County	# of Meetings	# of Members	% of UK Members
Brin	1	2	4.4
Bristol	1	2	4.4
East Sussex	2	18	40.0
Greater London	1	9	20.0
Liverpool	1	3	6.7
West Sussex	1	9	20.0
Loners		2	4.4
Total UK	7	45	100.0%

2008 FA Census - Loners By Country	
Country	# of Loner Members
Australia	2
Canada	5
France	1
Germany	9
India	1
Israel	1
Qatar	1
Sweden	1
UAE	1
UK	2
USA	46
Total Worldwide Loners	70

2008 FA Census - US Loners

By State

State	# of Loner Members
AK	1
AR	2
AZ	3
CA	4
CO	1
CT	1
FL	2
HI	4
IA	2
ID	2
IN	1
KS	1
KY	1
MD	1
MO	3
MT	3
NC	2
NJ	1
OH	3
OR	1
TN	3
TX	1
UT	1
VA	1
WY	1
Total US Loners	46