

WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION SURVEY

Research Brief No. 54
April 2009

Participation in Recreation and Culture in Washington State

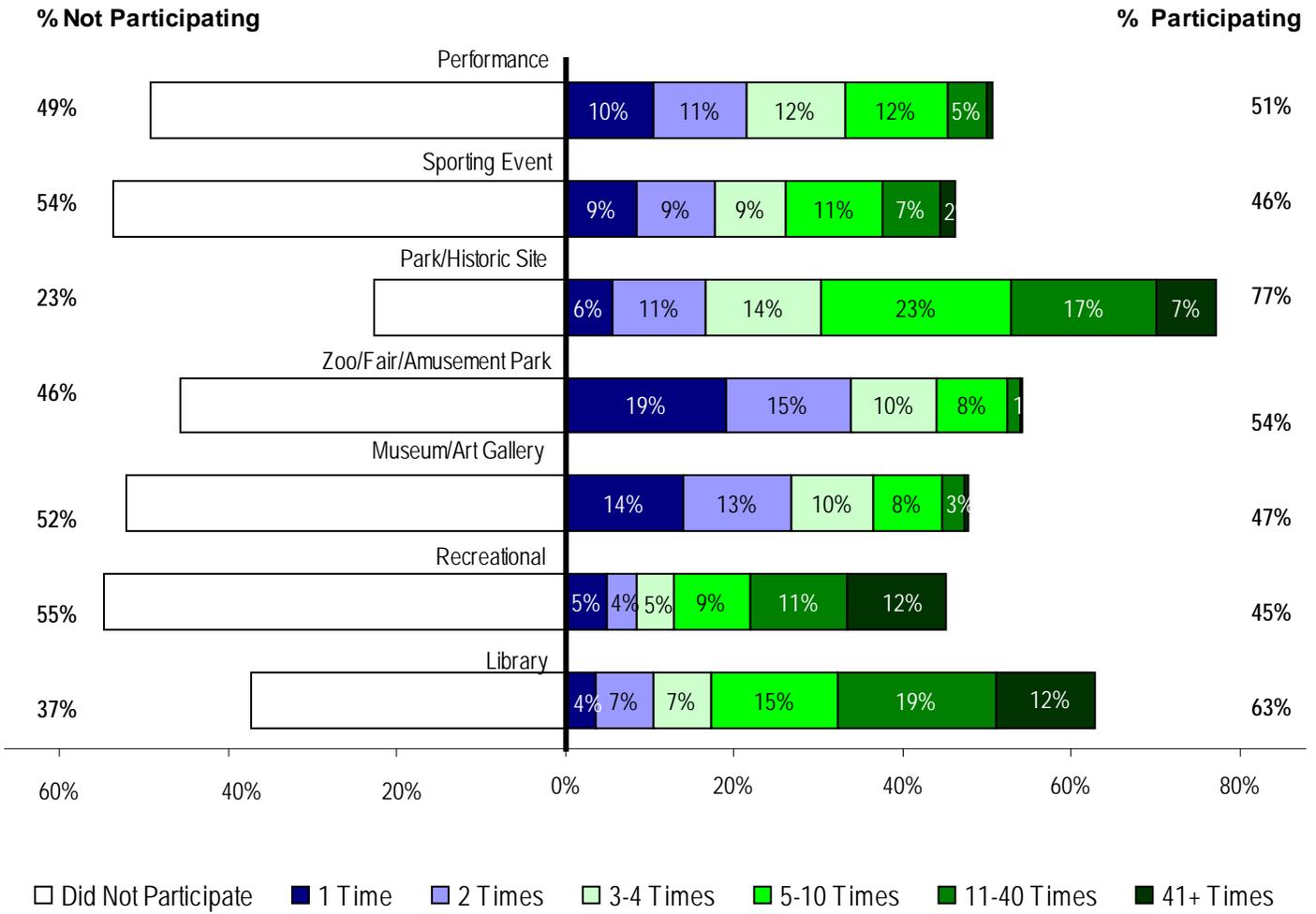
By Erica Gardner

The 2008 Washington State Population Survey (WSPS) asked questions pertaining to recreational and cultural activities that Washington residents do in their free time. One half of the survey respondents were asked, “During the last 12 months, how many times have you taken part in the following types of recreational or cultural activities in Washington State.”

Those activities included:

- *Performance*- Attended a music drama, or dance performance, not including school performances (includes orchestras, choral groups, rock/pop concerts, musicals, opera, plays, "in the park" performances, dinner theatre)
- *Sporting Event*- Attended an amateur or professional sports event (includes auto racing, horse racing, gymnastics, wrestling, demolition, derbies, ice skating, etc.)
- *Park/Historic Site*- Visited a park or historical site- national, state, or local (includes monuments)
- *Zoo/Fair/Amusement Park*- Visited a zoo, fair, or amusement park (includes circuses, Cirque De Soleil, state, county, and local fairs, water parks)
- *Museum/Art Gallery*- Visited a museum or art gallery (includes cultural centers such as the Makah Cultural Center, interpretive centers)
- *Recreational*- Participated in an activity at a recreational or athletic facility such as a sports field, arena, golf course, or ski area (includes community and private gyms, health clubs, all types of sports fields, climbing walls, ice skating rinks, tracks, driving ranges, tennis courts, etc.)
- *Library*- Used the services of a library (includes checking out books, using reference materials, using internet access, attending book readings)

Figure 1: Frequency of Participation in Various Recreation and Cultural Activities



Frequency of Participation Reported in 2008 WSPS

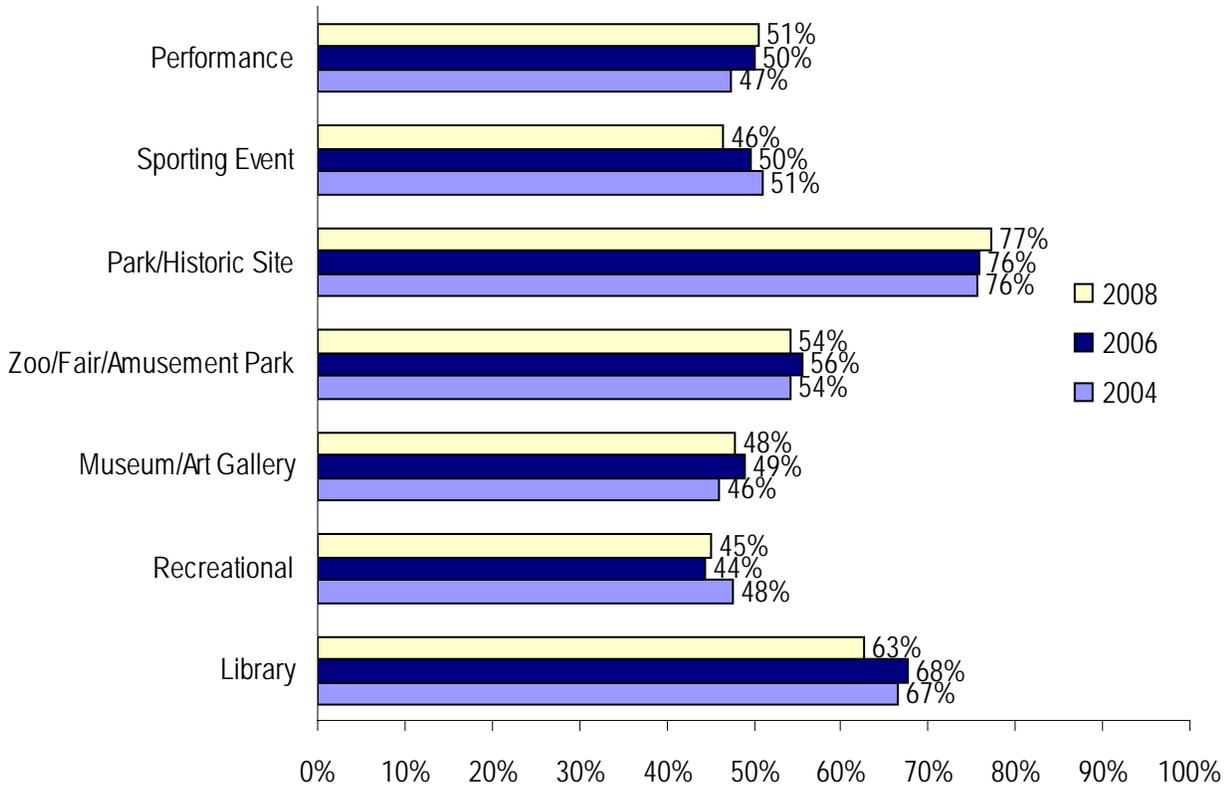
Reports of participation varied across the different activities both in terms of overall participation and number of times participated. Respondents were most likely to say they had gone to a park or a historic site, followed by a library, and a zoo, a fair, or an amusement park (See Figure 1). Just over half of the respondents said they attended a performance. Less than half of respondents went to a museum or art gallery, attended a sporting event, or reported participation in a recreational activity

Some activities, such as going to a museum or art gallery, or going to the zoo, fair, or amusement park, were done less frequently. Over half of respondents going to a museum or art gallery, or a zoo, fair, or amusement park went only one or two times. Most respondents who participated in an activity reported doing the activity between one and 10 times (with the exception of recreation activities). Just over half of respondents who reported participation in recreation activities did so more than 10 times.

Trend in WSPS Responses

Figure 2 shows participation rates for 2004, 2006, and 2008. Overall the 2008 participation rates were consistent with participation in prior years with the following exceptions. Respondents in 2008 reported higher levels of participation in performance activities than in 2004. In addition, respondents in 2008 were less likely to participate in sporting events or go to the library compared to both 2004 and 2006.

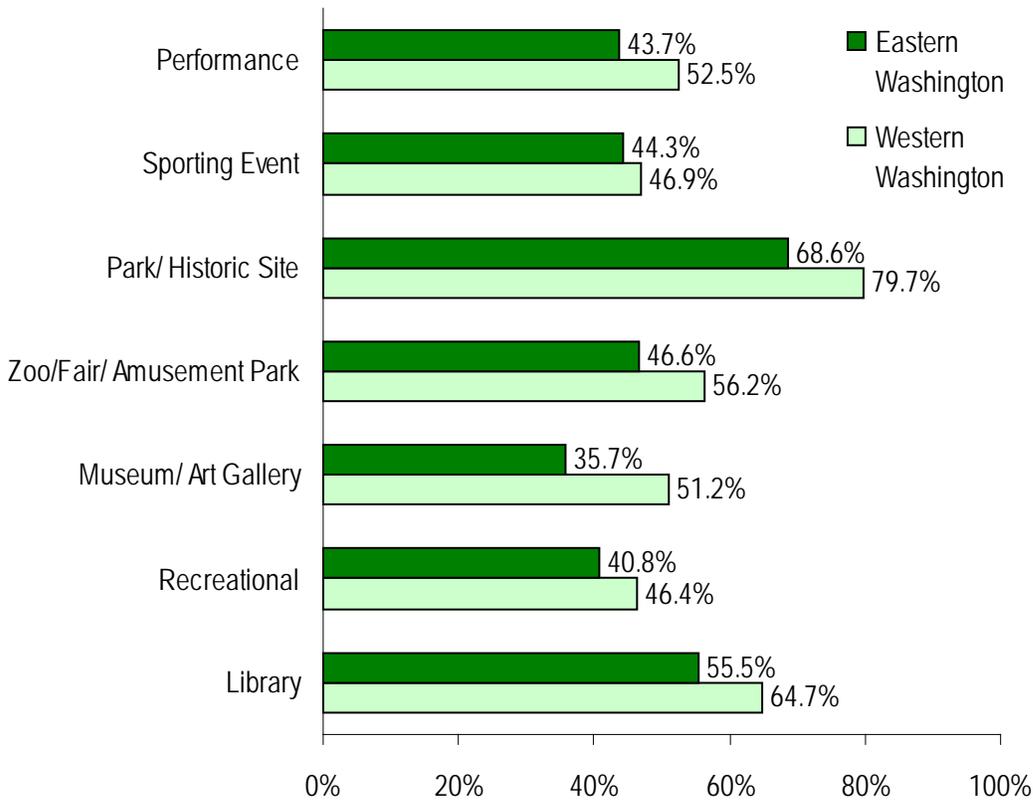
Figure 2: Participation Rates in Recreation and Cultural Activities: 2004-2008



Eastern versus Western Washington¹ Participation Rates

In Figure 3, any participation in an activity in the last 12 months for Western Washington residents is compared with any participation in an activity in the last 12 months for Eastern Washington residents. Across each activity examined, with the exception of sporting events, Western Washington residents reported statistically significantly higher participation rates than Eastern Washington residents (see Figure 3). The largest difference between Eastern and Western Washington was for visiting a museum and/or art galleries and visiting parks or historic sites. Fifty-one percent of the Western Washington residents surveyed reported going to a museum or Art Gallery in the last year, compared to 36 percent of Eastern Washington residents. Similarly nearly 80 percent of Western Washington residents reported going to a park or historic site compared to only 69 percent of Eastern Washington residents.

Figure 3: 2008 Recreation and Cultural Participation Rates: Eastern versus Western Washington



¹ Eastern Washington includes the following counties: Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, Spokane, Benton, Franklin, and Yakima.

Western Washington includes the following counties: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom, Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Clark.

Table 1: Regional Variation in Overall Participation Rates: 2008

	Performance	Sporting Event	Park/ Historic Site	Zoo/Fair/ Amusement Park	Museum/ Art Gallery	Recreational	Library
North Puget	50%	43%	77%	49%	50%	41%	60%
West Balance	35%	37%	73%	45%	38%	31%	54%
King County	63%	51%	83%	57%	60%	51%	70%
Puget Metro	54%	47%	78%	54%	46%	42%	67%
Clark County	41%	35%	82%	51%	39%	47%	63%
East Balance	40%	37%	66%	46%	32%	36%	53%
Spokane County	51%	50%	73%	45%	41%	47%	61%
Yakima/Tri-Cities	40%	48%	67%	49%	34%	41%	53%
Snohomish County	52%	47%	79%	59%	48%	49%	62%
Pierce County	45%	50%	78%	66%	50%	48%	62%
State	51%	46%	77%	54%	48%	45%	63%

Regions with bolded cells have significantly different participation rates from the state ($p < .05$)

Regional Variation² in 2008 Recreation and Cultural Participation Rates

In this next section regional variation was examined using the 2008 WSPS data. Regional differences from the state participation rate are noted below.³ The reader should note that the survey question referred to activities in Washington State. Washington residents may participate in these activities outside of Washington. This may be an issue for Clark County residents in particular as Portland, Oregon offers many of the activities the survey asked about.

North Puget

The level of participation in the seven activities reported by North Puget residents was not significantly different from Washington State overall.

West Balance

West Balance residents were less likely to participate in all activities except park/historic site activities compared to Washington State residents overall.

King County

With the exception of attending a zoo/fair/amusement park, King County residents were more likely to have participated in each of the activities compared to Washington residents overall.

² The regions used in the WSPS include the following counties:

- North Puget (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom)
- West Balance (Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific Skamania, Wahkiakum)
- King County
- Puget Metro (Kitsap, Thurston)
- Clark County
- East Balance (Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman)
- Spokane County
- Yakima-Tri Cities (Benton, Franklin, Yakima)
- Snohomish County
- Pierce County

³ A Rao-Scott Chi-Squared test was used to test whether each region participation rate was different from the state participation rate.

Puget Metro

The level of participation in the seven activities reported by Puget Metro residents was not significantly different from Washington State overall.

Clark County

Clark County residents were less likely than other Washington State residents to report going to a performance, sporting event, or a museum/art gallery in Washington State. It is possible that these Washington residents participated in these and other activities at higher levels, but just not in Washington State.

East Balance

East Balance residents were less likely to participate in all seven activities compared to Washington State residents overall.

Spokane

Spokane residents were less likely to go to a zoo, fair, or amusement park and museum or art gallery than Washington State residents overall.

Yakima/Tri-Cities

Yakima/Tri-Cities residents reported lower participation levels in performance activities, going to parks or historic sites, and using the services of a library, compared to Washington residents overall.

Snohomish County

The level of participation in the seven activities reported by Snohomish County residents was not significantly different from Washington State overall.

Pierce County

Pierce County residents were more likely to report going to a zoo/fair/amusement park compared to other Washington State residents. Pierce County residents were less likely to report going to performance activities compared to Washington residents overall.

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