

WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION SURVEY

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Participation in Recreation and Culture in Washington State

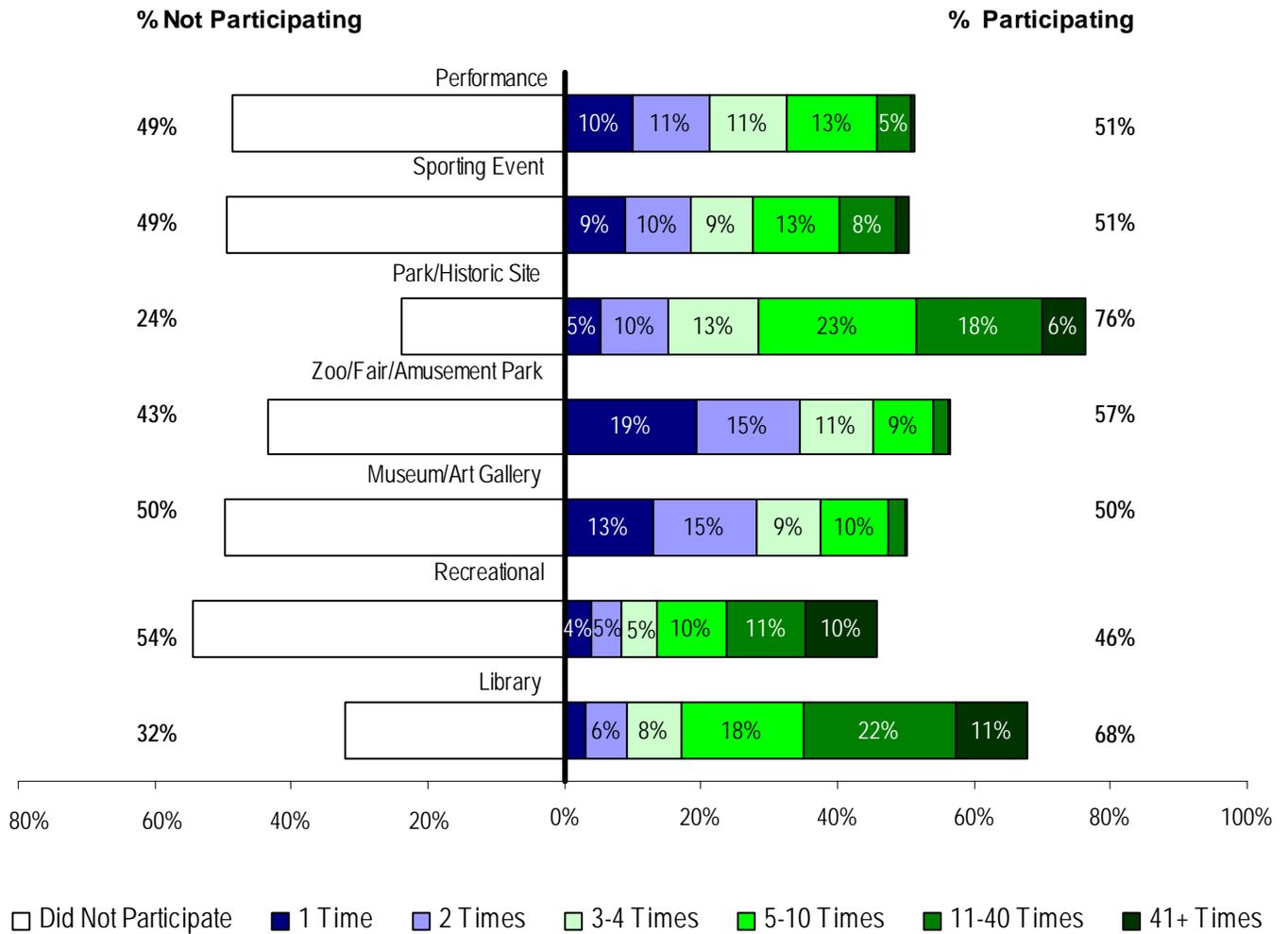
By Erica Gardner

The 2006 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 activities.”

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 2006 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). Roughly half of the respondents said they attended a performance, attended a sporting event, or went to a museum or art gallery. Less than half of respondents reported participation in a recreational activity.

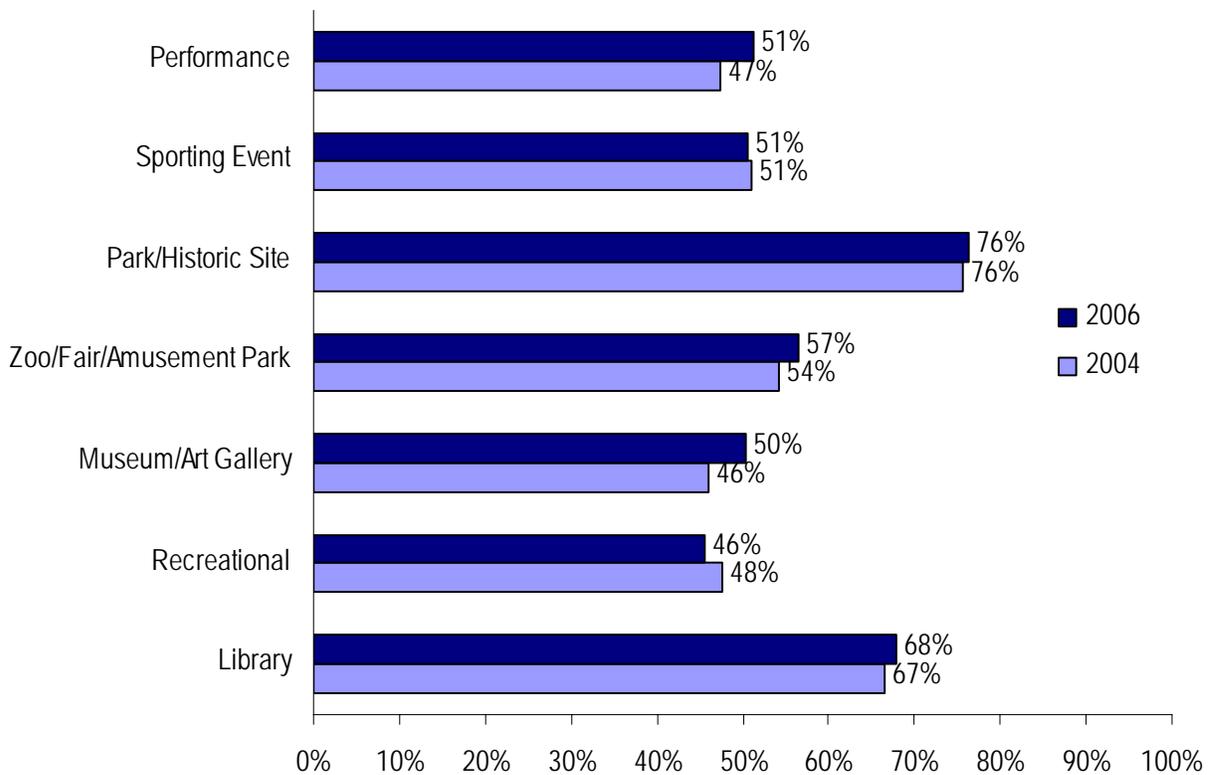
Some activities were done less frequently, such as going to a museum or art gallery, or going to the zoo, fair, or amusement park where the majority of respondents participating went one or two times. Respondents going to or attending performances, sporting events, or parks or historic sites were more likely than those going a museum or art gallery, or a zoo, fair, or amusement park to attend more than once or twice. However, most attended 10 or fewer times. While the majority of those using library services or a recreational activity did so one to 10 times, 23 percent of those participating in a recreational activity (computation not shown), and 16 percent of those using a

library (computation not shown) did so more than 40 times. Ten percent of those participating in a recreational activity did so more than 100 times (computation not shown).

Comparing 2004 and 2006 WSPS Responses

The 2004 WSPS was the first year the recreation and culture questions were asked. In 2004 the question was a little different. Instead of asking how many times a respondent participated in an activity, the question simply asked if the respondent participated. In Figure 1, the 2006 responses were recoded to be consistent with the 2004 responses. Overall, there was very little change over the two year period, only performance activities and museum and/or art gallery activities showed a statistically significant change. The percentage of respondents saying that they had attended a performance was 51 percent in 2006, showing a statistically significant increase of four percentage points from 2004. In addition, 2006 respondents were significantly more likely to report going to a museum and/or art gallery. In 2006, 50 percent of respondents reported going to a museum and/or an art gallery compared to 46 percent in 2004.

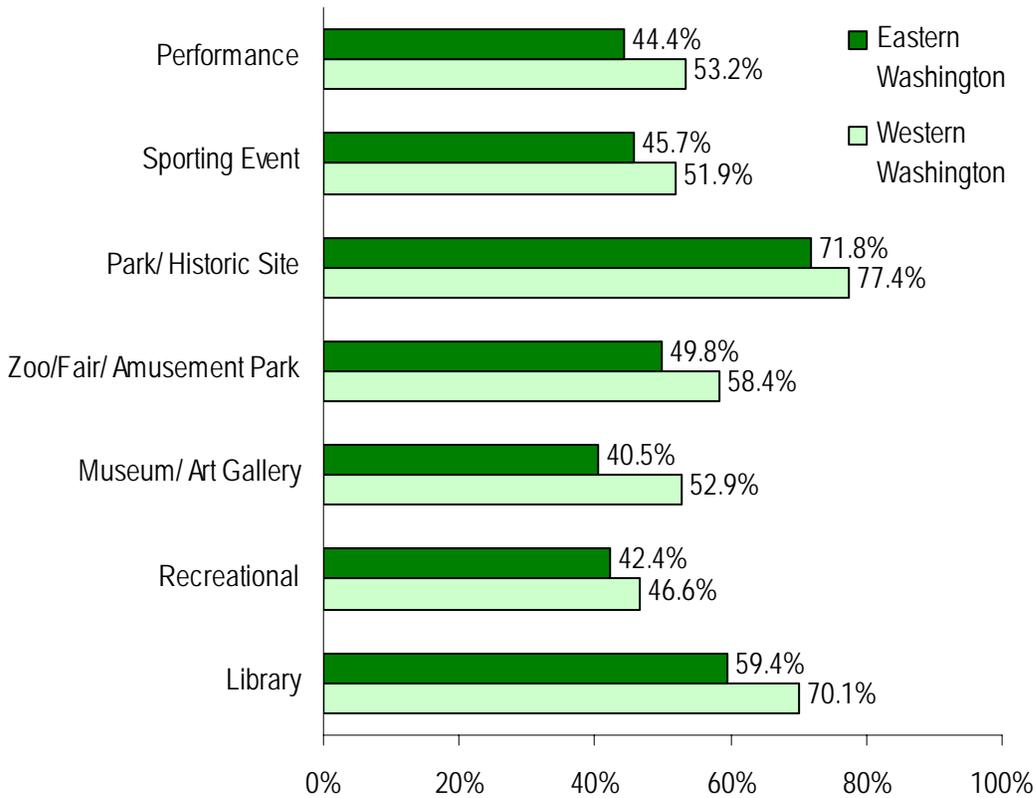
Figure 2: Participation Rates in Recreation and Cultural Activities: 2004 vs. 2006



Eastern versus Western Washington¹ Participation Rates

In Figure 2, 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 Western Washington residents reported statistically significant higher participation rates than Eastern Washington residents (see Figure 2). The difference between the two regions was smallest for recreational activities (just over four percent) and largest for museum and/or art galleries (over 12 percent).

Figure 3: 2006 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 2: Regional Variation in Overall Participation Rates: 2006

	North Puget	West Balance	King County	Puget Metro	Clark County	East Balance	Spokane County	Yakima/ Tri-Cities
Performance	57%	36%	63%	48%	40%	40%	53%	40%
Sporting Event	48%	37%	58%	52%	40%	39%	55%	43%
Park/ Historic Site	80%	70%	79%	76%	81%	69%	76%	69%
Zoo/Fair/ Amusement Park	50%	45%	58%	66%	50%	51%	49%	49%
Museum/ Art Gallery	53%	42%	62%	47%	42%	41%	45%	35%
Recreational	51%	32%	51%	45%	46%	39%	51%	37%
Library	69%	62%	75%	68%	65%	61%	60%	56%

Regional Differences² in 2006 Recreation and Cultural Participation Rates

In this next section regional differences were examined using the 2006 WSPS data. Differences mentioned were statistically significant at the five percent level unless mentioned otherwise.³ Not every significant difference was mentioned.

Performance

King County and North Puget residents reported the highest participation rates in performance activities.⁴ Puget Metro and Spokane County reported participation rates that landed them in the middle of the other regions.⁵ West Balance, Clark County, East Balance, and Yakima/Tri-Cities residents reported participations rates that were significantly lower than North Puget, King County, Puget Metro, and Spokane.

Sporting Event

Both King County and Spokane County residents reported the highest level of participation in sporting events.⁶ West Balance, East Balance, Clark County, and Yakima/Tri-Cities residents all reported lower levels of sporting event participation than the other regions.⁷

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 (King)
- Puget Metro (Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston)
- Clark County (Clark)
- East Balance (Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman)
- Spokane County (Spokane)
- Yakima-Tri Cities (Benton, Franklin, Yakima)

³ Logistic regression was used to test whether the regional responses were significantly different from each other.

⁴ North Puget residents' rate of participation was not statistically significantly lower than Spokane County residents' rate.

⁵ Spokane County's and Puget Metro's participation rates were not statistically different from each other and Spokane County's rates were not significantly different from North Puget's participation rates.

⁶ King County participation rates in sporting events were significantly higher than all but Spokane County and Puget Metro regions. Spokane County participation rates in sporting events were significantly higher than all but North Puget, King County, and Puget Metro.

⁷ The participation rate for Clark County and Yakima/Tri-Cities was not significantly different from North Puget's participation rate.

Park/Historic Site

King County, North Puget, and Clark County residents had the highest participation rates for park/historic site activities. These participation rates were significantly higher than the participation rates for West Balance, East Balance, and Yakima/Tri-Cities, whose residents had the lowest participation rates in park and/or historic sites. Puget Metro's and Spokane County's participation in park/historic sites over the last year were in the middle of the other regions. These two regions' participation rates were not significantly different from any of the other region.

Zoo/Fair/Amusement Park

Most regions reported similar participations rates ranging from 45 percent to 51 percent reporting that they had been to a zoo, fair, or amusement park at least once in the last year. The participation rates of North Puget, West Balance, Clark County, East Balance, Spokane County, and Yakima/Tri-Cities were not statistically different from each other. Sixty-six percent of Puget Metro residents reported that they had been to a zoo, fair, or amusement park in the last year. This participation rate was statistically higher than any other region. King County residents also reported a high level of participation in zoo, fair, or amusement parks in the last year (58 percent). King County's participation rate was statistically higher than all but Puget Metro's rate.

Museum/Art Gallery

Residents in King County were more likely to report having gone to a museum or an art gallery in the last year than residents in any other region. After King County residents, North Puget residents had the highest reports of having gone to a museum or art gallery.⁸ Only 35 percent of Yakima/Tri-Cities residents went to a museum or an art gallery, proportionately less than North Puget, King County, Puget Metro, and Spokane County residents.

Recreational

Fifty-one percent of North Puget, King County, and Spokane county residents participated in recreational activities, a significantly higher participation rate than West Balance, East Balance, and the Yakima/Tri-Cities regions. Puget Metro and Clark County residents reported participation rates that landed them in the middle of the eight regions. Both Puget Metro and Clark County residents had significantly higher recreational participation rates than residents in West Balance and Yakima/Tri-Cities regions.

Library

Use of library services varied across regions, with King County reporting the highest rate of usage (at 75 percent) and Yakima/Tri-Cities reporting the lowest rate of usage (56 percent). A significantly higher percentage of King County residents reported using library services than any other region, with the exception of North Puget. The percentage of Yakima/Tri-Cities residents that reported using library services was significantly lower than North Puget, King County, Puget Metro, and Clark County regions.

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⁸ North Puget residents were significantly more likely than West Balance, Clark, East Balance, and Yakima/Tri-city residents to go to a museum or an art gallery in the last year. North Puget resident were also less likely to go to a museum or art gallery than King County residents.