

Parks Use Demographics

Raintry Salk, PhD
Principal Researcher

Joel Huting
Research Manager

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Committee of the Whole



2016 Regional Parks System Visitor Study

- Data collected from Regional Park System visitors in all 117 regional park and trail units open to the public
 - Memorial Day-Labor Day
 - Council and agencies provided survey intercept locations
 - Data collection was randomized—day, time, park/trail, intercept location within park/trail
- Study designed to provide representative data for the 10 regional park implementing agencies and the region
 - Proportional to annual number of visits to each unit
 - Parks and trails with higher # of visits had higher survey quotas, proportional
 - Not representative of individual regional parks and trails
- 5,459 regional park and trail visitors participated in study

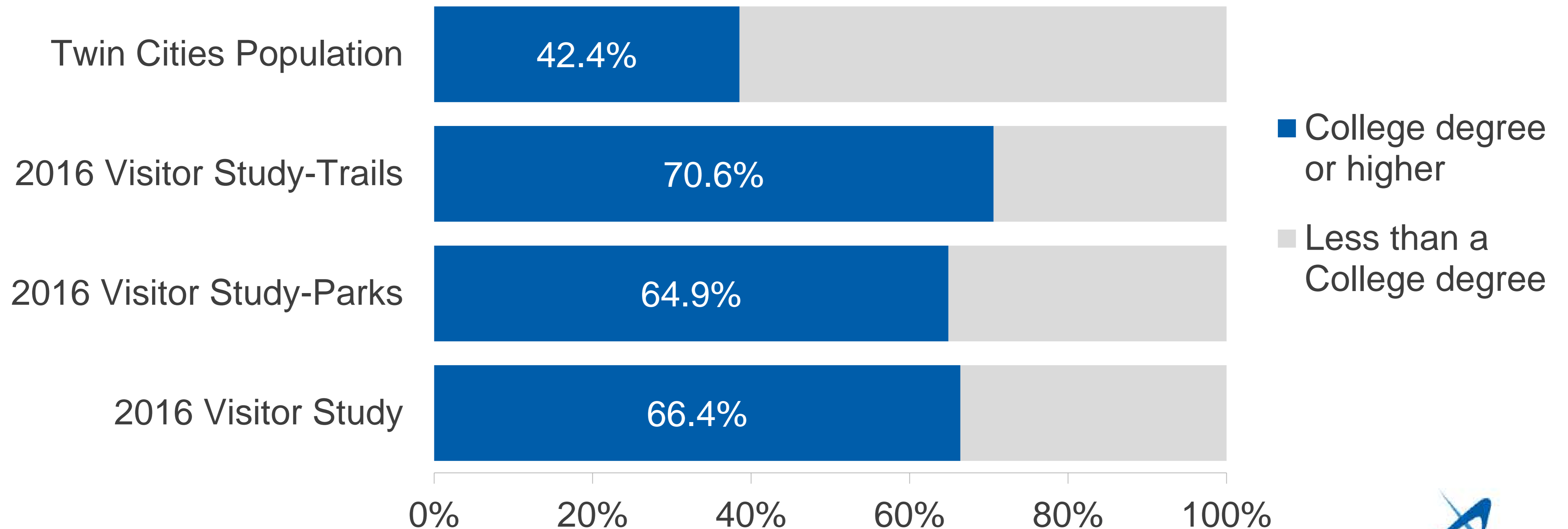
Additional Analysis in 2018

- Explore sociodemographic differences:
 - Between Regional Parks System visitors and population in region
 - Among agency-level regional park jurisdiction visitors and their respective local population
 - Further refined across each agency's portion of regional parks and their regional trails
- Socioeconomic and demographic variables explored:
 - Race and Ethnicity*
 - Annual Household Income*
 - Disability Status*
 - Age*
 - Educational Attainment
 - Gender

* Subpopulations identified in *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*

Educational Attainment

Visitors skew **college-educated**



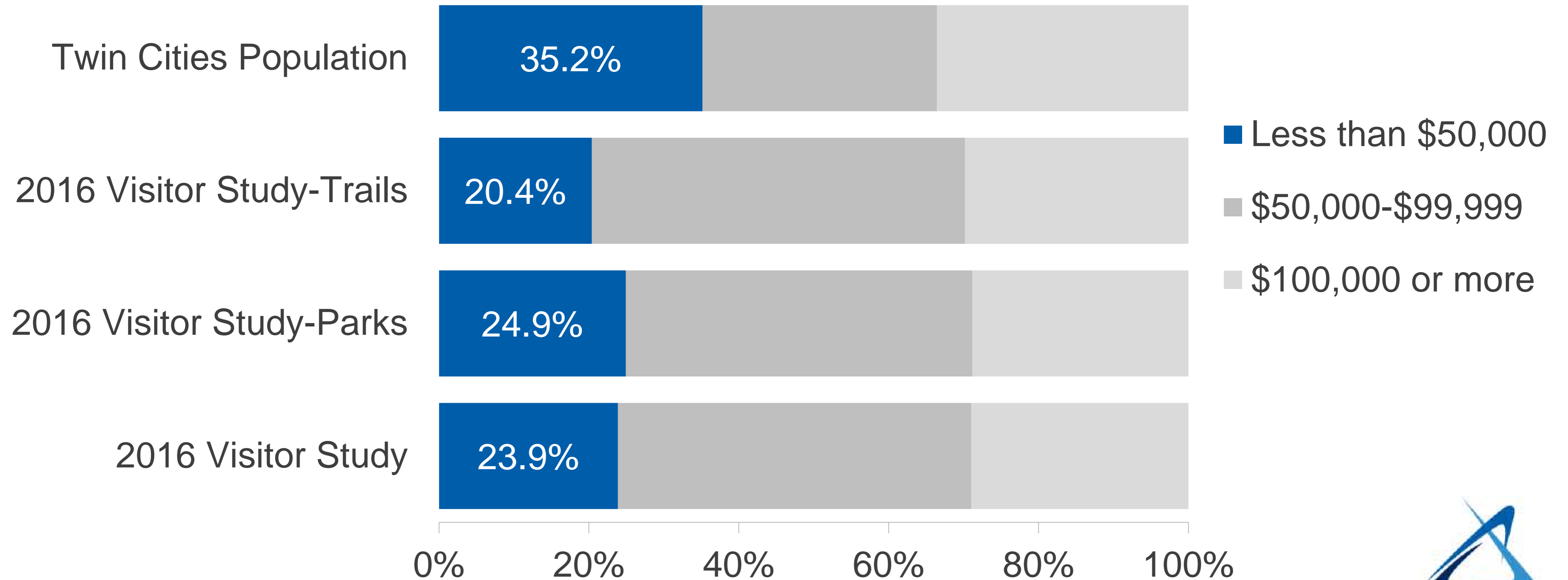
Sources:

Twin Cities Population—U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2012-2016
Regional Park System—*2016 Regional Park System Visitor Study*



Household Income

Fewer **lower-income** visitors than the region

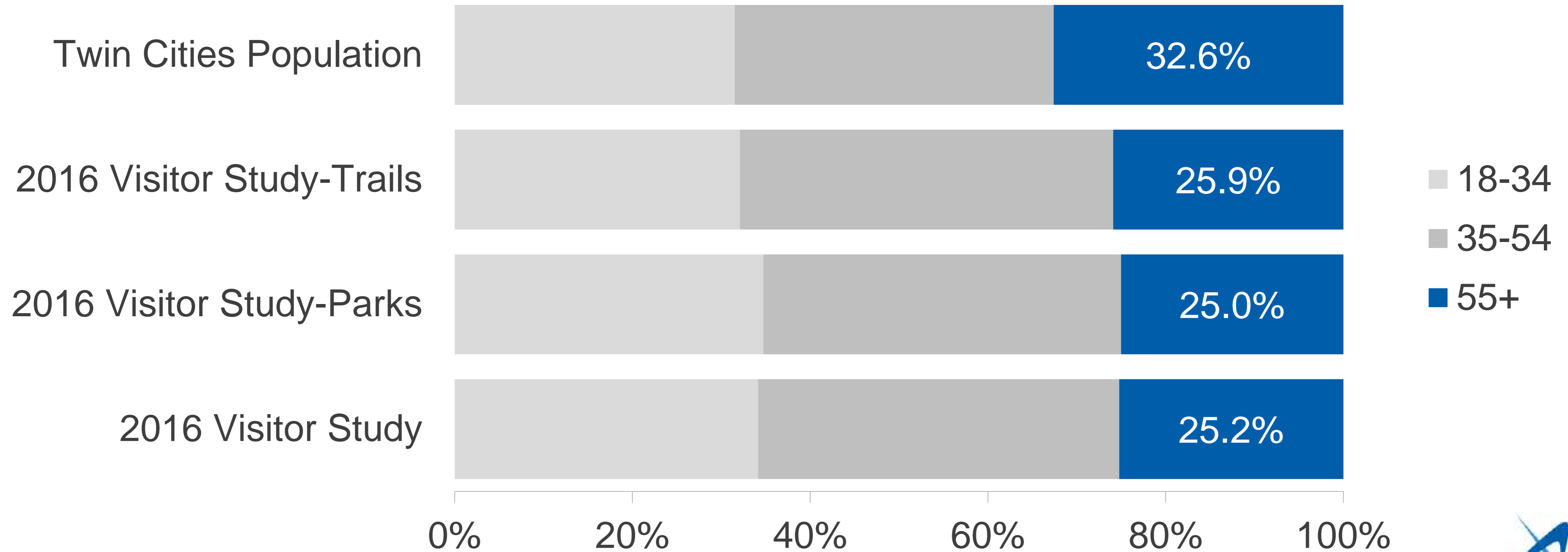


Sources:
Twin Cities Population—U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, 2012-2016*
Regional Park System—*2016 Regional Park System Visitor Study*



Age Group

Visitors skew **younger**

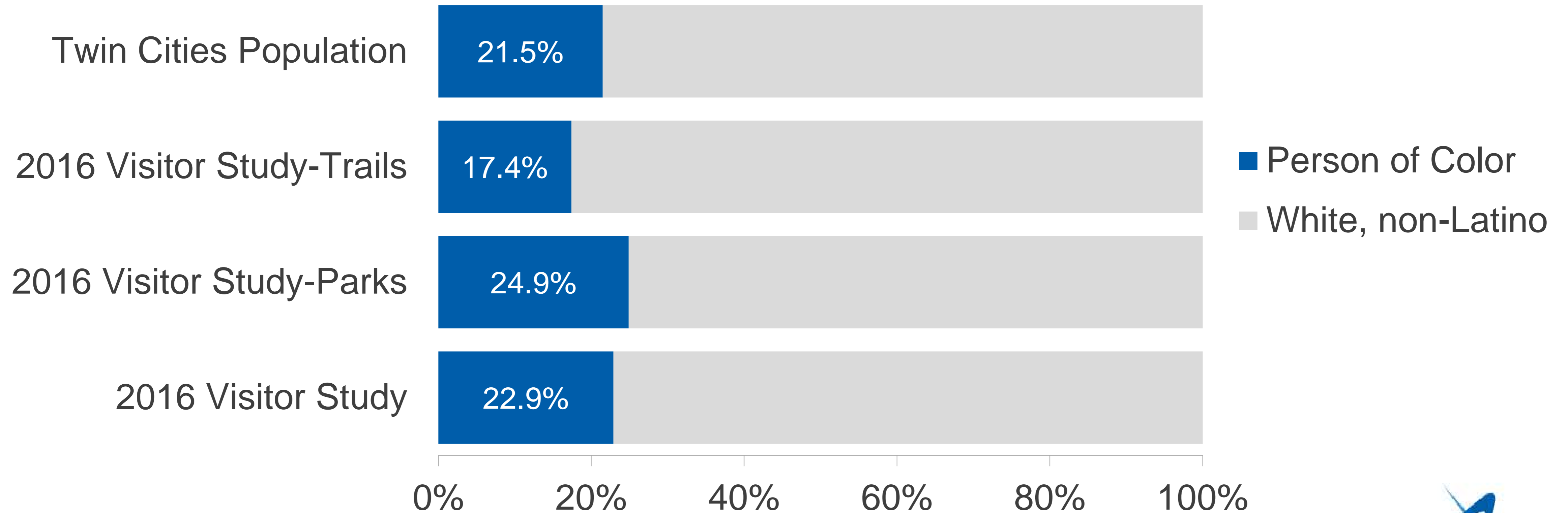


Sources:
Twin Cities Population—U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2012-2016
Regional Park System—2016 *Regional Park System Visitor Study*



Race and Ethnicity

Fewer **people of color** visit trails

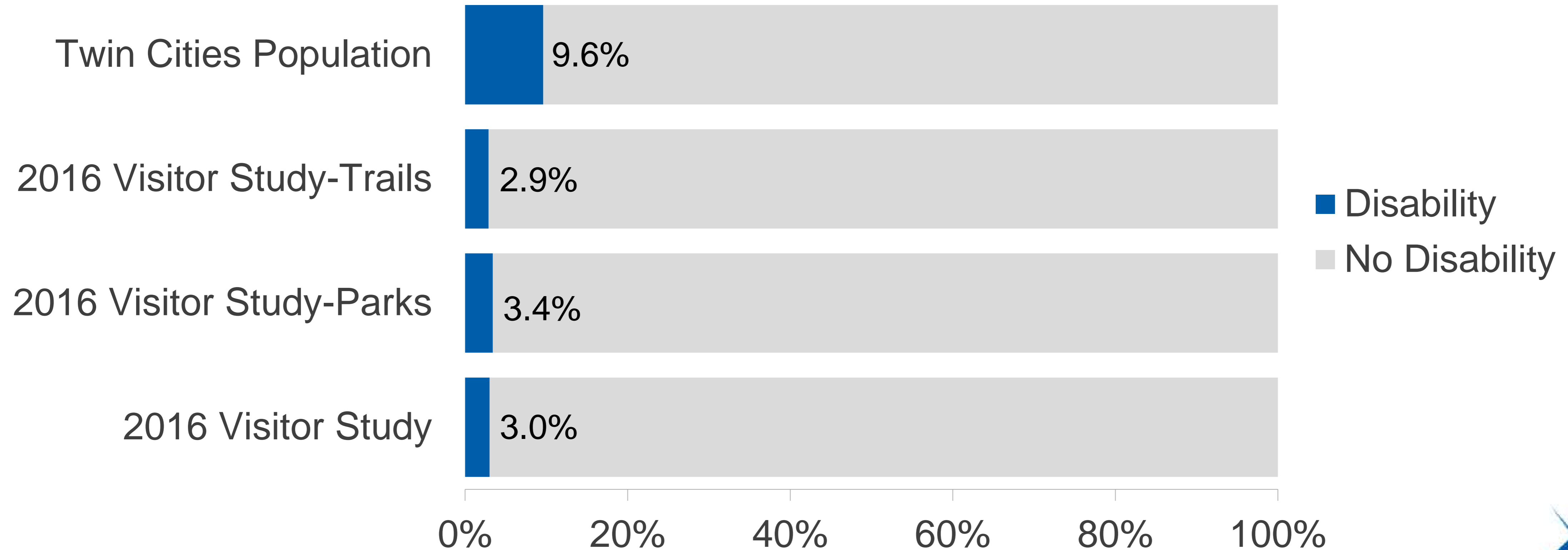


Sources:
Twin Cities Population—U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, 2012-2016*
Regional Park System—*2016 Regional Park System Visitor Study*



Disability Status

Fewer **people with disabilities** visit the system

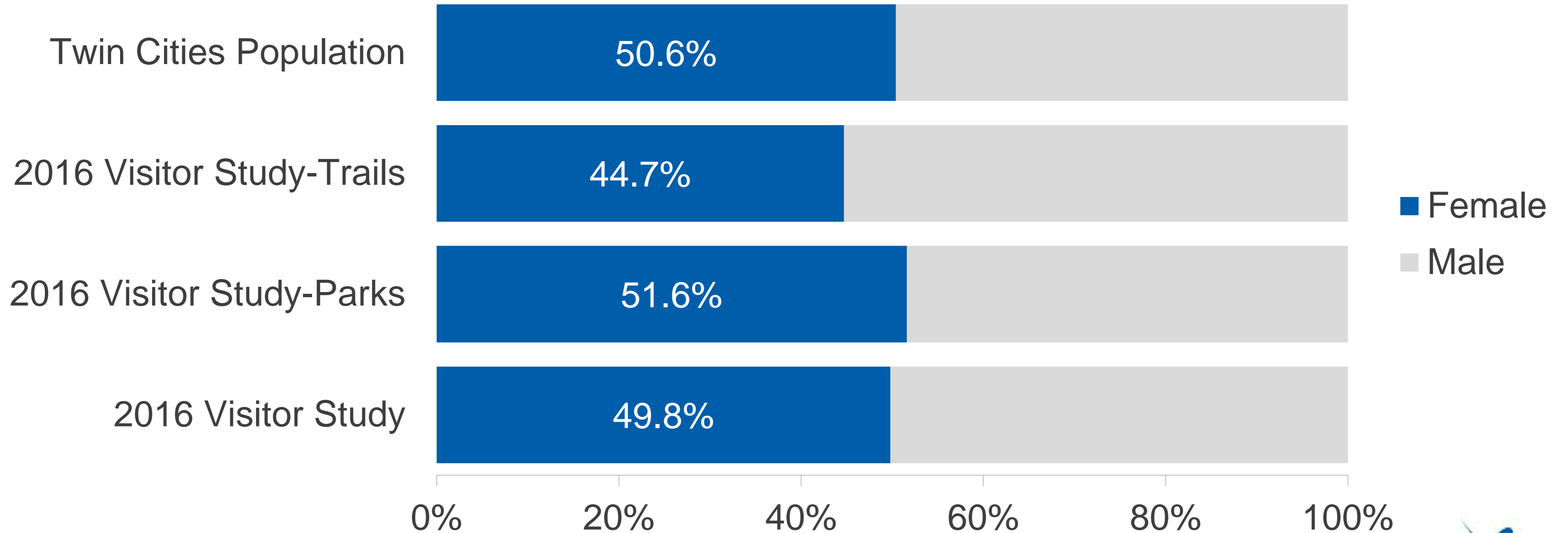


Sources:
Twin Cities Population—U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2012-2016
Regional Park System—*2016 Regional Park System Visitor Study*



Gender

Fewer **women** visit trails



Sources:

Twin Cities Population—U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2012-2016

Regional Park System—*2016 Regional Park System Visitor Study*



Summary

- The current *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* directs us to:

“Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents, such as across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin and ability”

- Results reveal existing disparities
 - Regional and Agency-level
- Other potential focal areas include: educational attainment and gender