Equity conversation Stories are important data:

September 2, 2021

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Observations from recent parks research







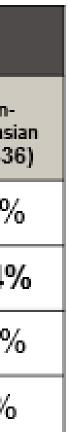
Statistics offer a partial story

- This table shows:
 - A difference in how white and "nonwhite" visitors feel about park and trail safety during one visit in summer 2016.
 - Little data disaggregation and outdated naming terms.
 - How might statistics "hide" the impact of safety events?

	Total (n=5459)	Ethnicity	
Concerned About Safety		Caucasian	Non-
Not at all	91%	(n=4295)	Caucasi (n=83
Very little	8%	*92%	85%
Moderately	1%	7%	*14%
Substantially	<1%	1% <1%	<1% 1%

Results from 2016 Visitor Study, "On this park/trail visit, were you concerned about your safety?"







Qualitative data give important context

Qualitative research can ask:

- What does it mean to feel concern about safety?
- Could these meanings look different to different communities?
- What are the ripple effects of a onetime event?

- **Qualitative data analyzes:**
- **Stories**
- In-depth observations
- Photos
- **Emphasizes:**
- Meanings What does safety mean?
- Feelings How does this event impact the person?
- Histories- How does a safety event fit with my community's history?



Safety Findings: Youth & Parks Research

Safety meanings: Research found 9 dimensions of safety: • "We can't know it's safe unless we get more information." (e.g., ice fishing)

Safety involves events and feelings:

- The world feels unsafe right now because of strangers. • "My kids were targeted by police in the parks. It is frightening."
- "I get the message I don't fit in here."

- One family member's incident informs wider community "I know someone who got hurt sledding. It's dangerous"
- Community histories shape experiences of safety: Severe racist incident affects entire community for years





Reflection question:

create a more welcoming regional park system?

Reflection question

How can hearing perspectives on meanings, feelings and histories help us to

