



Visitor Study Data Discussion 3: Race/Ethnicity and Age Equitable Use

Overview: In this handout, demographic characteristics are compared between the survey sample region-wide and the 2020 Census regional population. BIPOC visitors and young people visited in lower proportion than would be expected given the regional population. The overlap of age and racial/ethnic disparities highlights the potential benefits of investment in youth access to the regional system.

Race and Ethnicity

Racial/ethnic disparities exist regardless of geography, including comparisons to the regional population (system-wide), county, city, or suburban county (implementing agency), or 1.5 miles from the park or trail (oversampled unit).

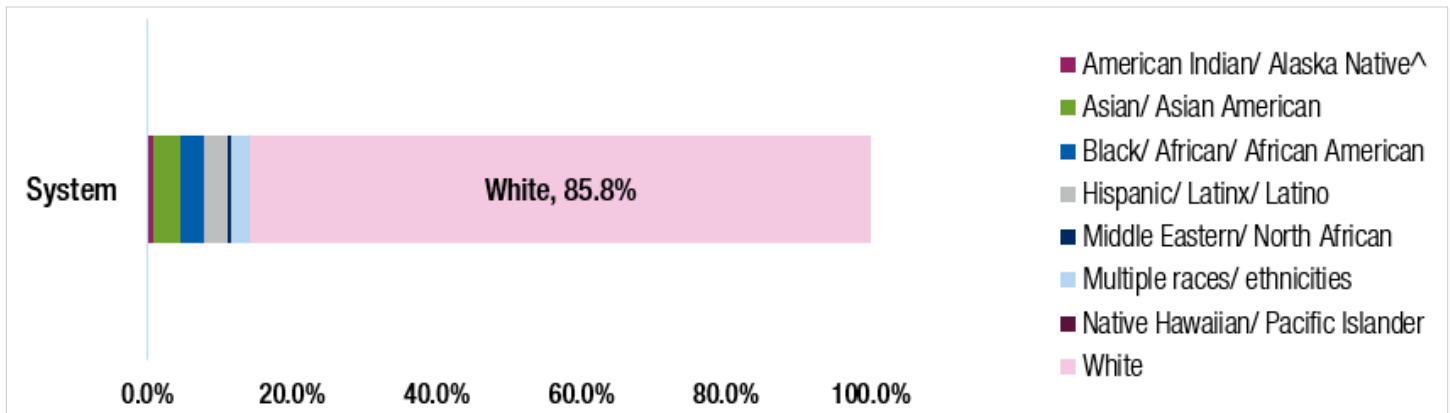


Figure 1: Visitation by race/ethnicity across the entire regional park and trail system.

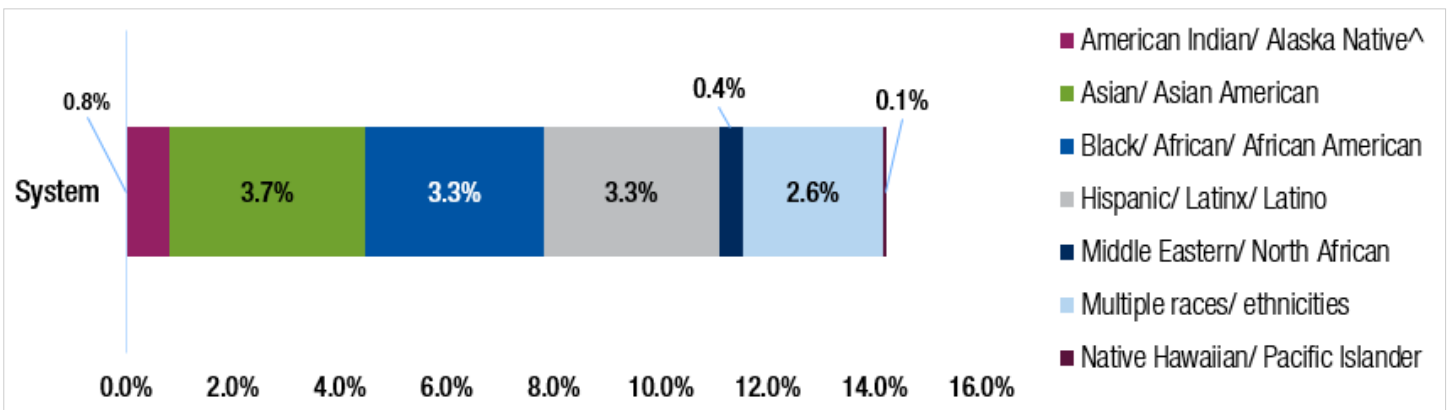


Figure 2: Visitation by race/ethnicity, excluding white, across the entire regional park and trail system.

Comparing visitation to population across implementing agencies

The share of visitors of color was compared with 2020 regional population within each implementing agency. Implementing agencies with larger populations of color had greater disparities between visitation and population. Differences between parks and trails are not statistically significant.

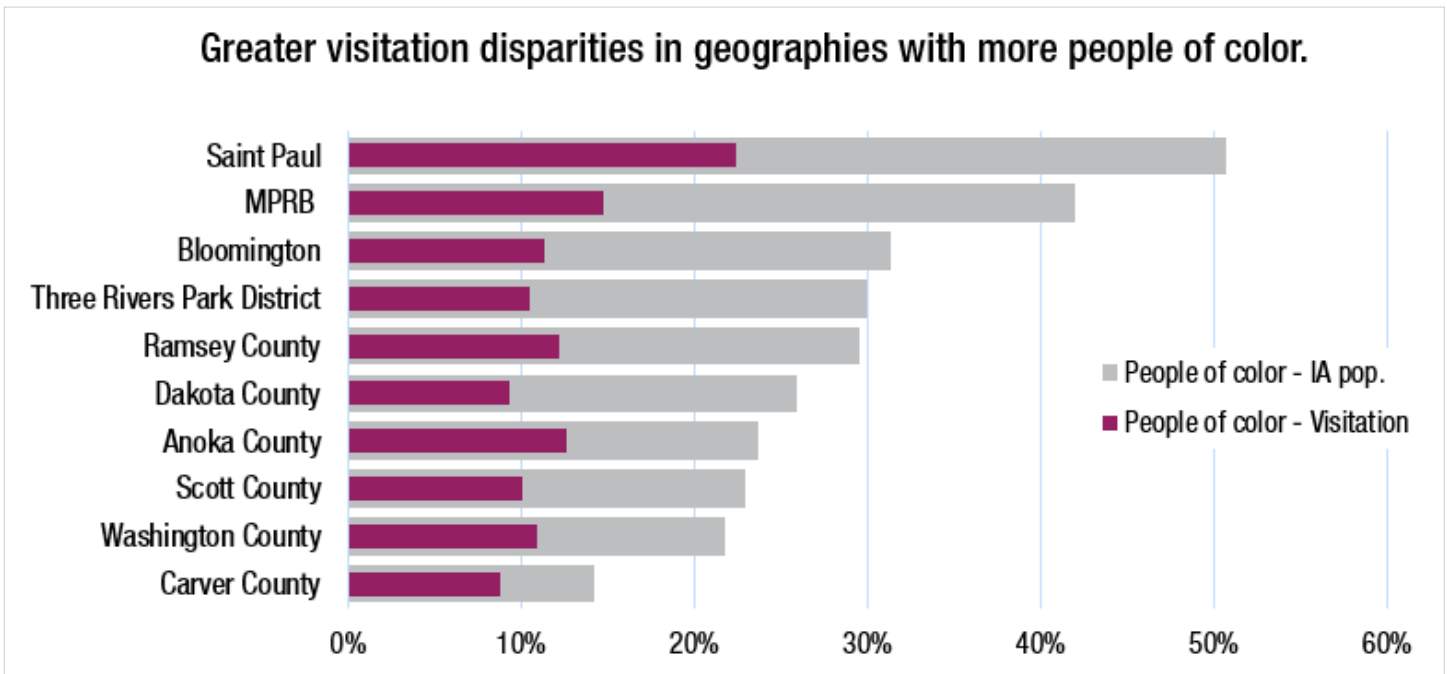


Figure 3: Comparisons of system visitation by visitors of color to implementing agency 2020 population (percent)



Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What findings stand out to me?
- How does my system have influence to respond to these trends? What factors lie outside of our control? How would I like the Council to respond?
- What else would I like to know?
- What are the implications for my work?

Age

Young people ages 12-24 are underrepresented in both park and trail visitation systemwide, as are age 25-44 in trail visitation. In contrast, age groups 45-64 and over 65 are overrepresented in park and trail visitation relative to their proportion in the population.

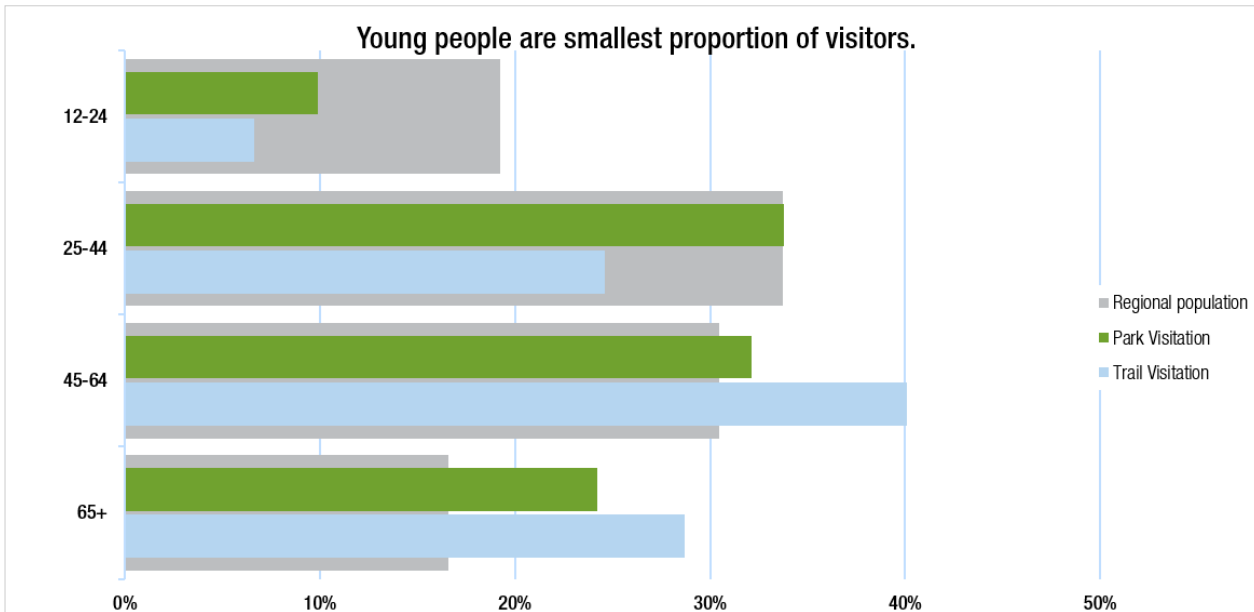


Figure 4: Surveyed visitors 12 and older for parks, trails compared with the seven-county regional population (percent).

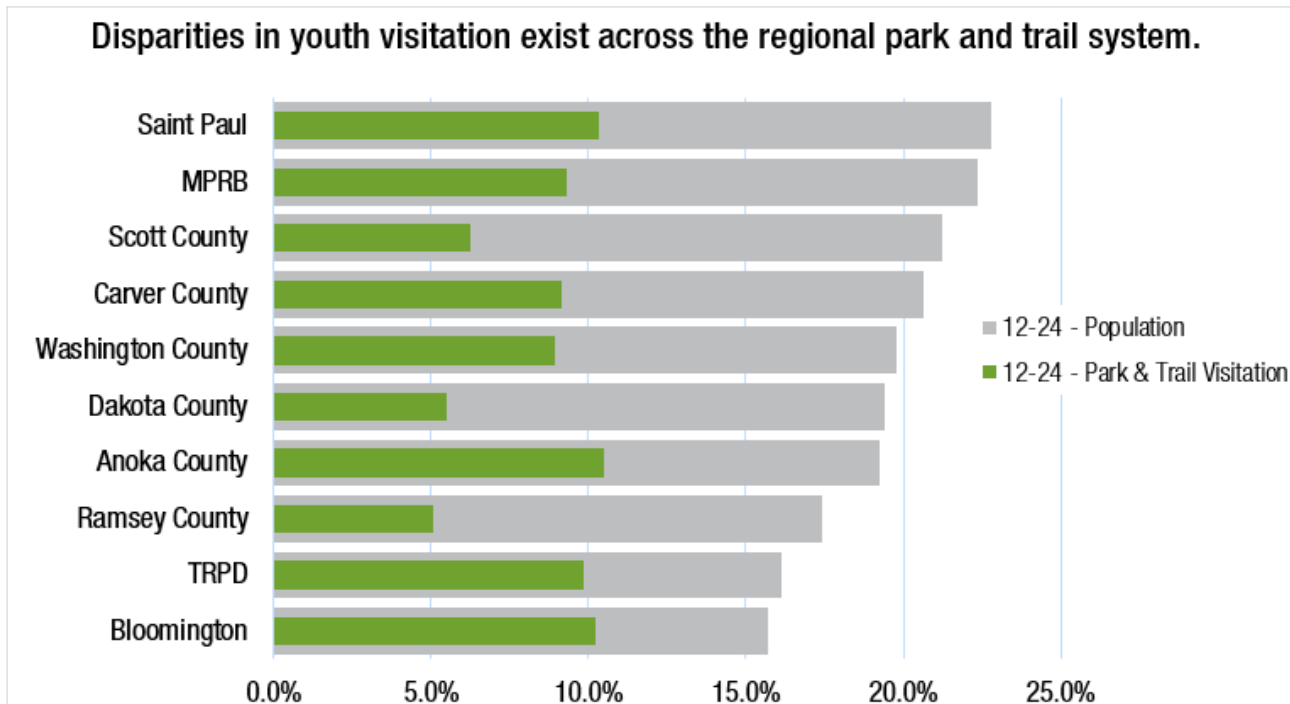


Figure 5: Comparison of system visitation by ages 12-24 to implementing agency population (percent).

Guiding Discussion Questions:

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Relationship Between Age and Race/Ethnicity

Age 12-24 is the most underrepresented of age groups. Visitors under 25 were 35.8% people of color, compared with less than 15% in the sample overall. Efforts to make the regional system more welcoming to communities of color would almost certainly result in more visitors under 25. Programs that prioritize BIPOC youth would reach an important segment of underserved users.

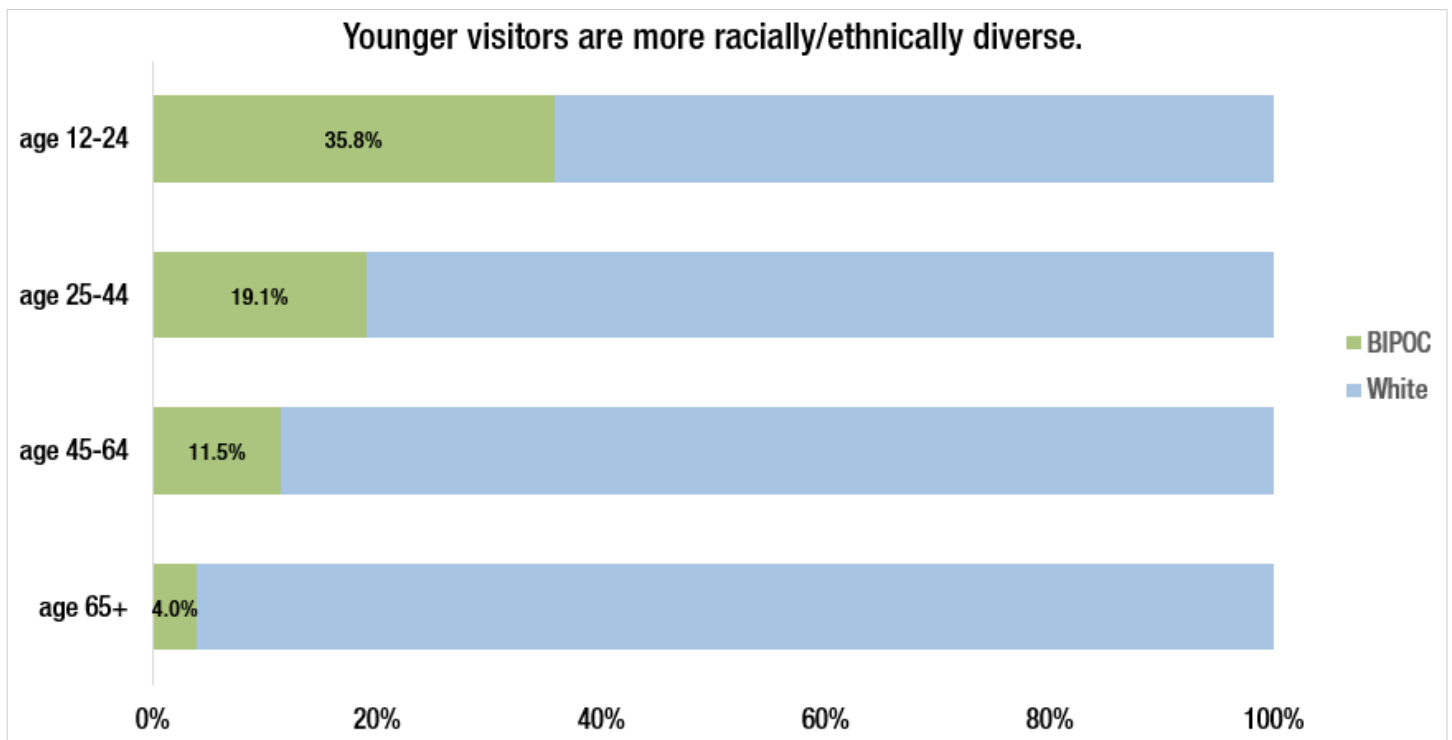


Figure 6: Percent of BIPOC and white visitors, by age.

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