

*Park Rx America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.*

**Introducing outdoor recreation early in life fosters lifelong outdoor activity participation and enjoyment.**

“Introducing outdoor recreation and physical activities early in life has a lasting effect. Among adults who are current outdoor participants, 75 percent had physical education and 42 percent enjoyed outdoor activities in elementary school.”

The Outdoor Foundation. (2013). Outdoor Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Author.

**Non-Hispanic whites visit parks at disproportionately high amounts, while African Americans and Hispanic Americans are under-represented in park use.**

“Non-Hispanic whites were “over-represented” among visitors by about the same degree in both survey years. That is, they constituted roughly eight or nine percentage points more of the visitors than their share of the sample as a whole. This is consistent with research reviewed above showing that non-Hispanic whites tend to participate more frequently than members of other race/ethnic groups in a range of outdoor activities, including visits to national parks. African Americans were the most “under-represented” visitor group in both years, making up 11% and 12% of the sample in CSAP1 and CSAP2, but only four and seven percent of the visitors. The degree of under-representation (a seven percentage point difference in 2000 and five points in 2008-09) declined slightly between the two surveys. The change might reflect an increase in visitation by African Americans, but it is small enough that chance variation between the two samples cannot be ruled out. A third iteration of the national survey will be needed to establish a trend.”

Taylor, Patricia A., Burke D. Grandjean, and James H. Gramann. 2011. National Park Service comprehensive survey of the American public, 2008–2009: Racial and ethnic diversity of National Park System visitors and non-visitors. Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/SSD/NRR—2011432. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
<b>Ages 6-12</b>	66%	43%	57%	65%
<b>Ages 13-17</b>	62%	45%	51%	67%
<b>Ages 18-24</b>	60%	39%	50%	57%
<b>Ages 25-44</b>	59%	39%	49%	56%
<b>Ages 45+</b>	39%	26%	45%	38%



**Outdoor recreation among adolescent girls reached an all-time low in 2013.**

“Outdoor participation rates declined among adolescent girls. With just over half of adolescent girls participating in outdoor recreation, the participation rate is the lowest recorded since this report began in 2006.”

The Outdoor Foundation. (2013). Outdoor Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Author.

**Non-Hispanic white park visitors tend to view their park experiences more positively than African American and Hispanic park visitors, who are more likely to view the parks as unsafe or unpleasant.**

“As shown in the table, white non-Hispanic visitors tended to be more positive about their park experiences than visitors in other race/ethnic groups. Hispanic visitors had higher percentages of agreement, and therefore more negative opinions, than non-Hispanic whites on all 13 items. For African American and Asian visitors, the comparison is 10 of 13, while for American Indians it is seven of 13.”

*Report numbers based on 08-09, and are compared to an earlier report from 2000*

Taylor, Patricia A., Burke D. Grandjean, and James H. Gramann. 2011. National Park Service comprehensive survey of the American public, 2008–2009: Racial and ethnic diversity of National Park System visitors and non-visitors. Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/SSD/NRR—2011432. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

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**Children who do not participate in outdoor activities do not do so because of lack of interest, young adults do not participate in outdoor activities due to lack of time.**

“Youth who do not participate in outdoor activities say they are not interested in the outdoors. For young adults, lack of time is a bigger barrier than lack of interest.”

The Outdoor Foundation. (2013). Outdoor Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Author.

**Caucasian populations participate in outdoor activities at the highest rate, while African Americans do so at the lowest rate.**

“Outdoor participation is highest among Caucasians and lowest among African Americans.”

The Outdoor Foundation. (2013). Outdoor Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Author.

**Lack of access to recreational facilities results in low levels of park visitation among minorities, especially African Americans.**

“Substantial research has shown that the low participation of minorities, and particularly African Americans, in employment or in visits to local parks results from their lower level of access to those jobs or recreational facilities.”

Weber, J., & Sultana, S. (2012). Why Do So Few Minority People Visit National Parks? Visitation and the Accessibility of "America's Best Idea". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 1-28. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00045608.2012.689240>

**About two-thirds of outdoor activity participants are at least 25 years old, and 70% of outdoor activity participants are white.**

The Outdoor Foundation. (2013). Outdoor Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Author.

**Caucasian park users visited the park a few times a week, while Asian park users visited the park between once a week and once a month, and African-American and Hispanic park users reported using the park about once a month.**

“The Caucasian park users visited the park significantly more often than the other groups ( $F(3, 432) D 13.20, p < .000$ ), which did not differ significantly from each other (Table 2). The Caucasian park users visited the park less than three or four times a week and more than once a week. The Asian park users visited the park, on average, between once a week and once a month, and the African-American and Hispanic park users reported that they averaged one visit a month to the park. All four groups of park users reported that they would like to be able to visit Lincoln Park more frequently (i.e., approximately three or four times a week).”

Tinsley, H. E. A., Tinsley, D. J., & Croskeys, C. E. (2002). Park Usage, Social Milieu, and Psychosocial Benefits of Park Use Reported by Older Urban Park Users from Four Ethnic Groups. *Leisure Sciences*, 24, 199-218.

**Hispanic Americans who do participate in outdoor activities do so as often as Caucasians.**

“Although Hispanic Americans have one of the lowest outdoor participation rates, those who do participate go outside as often as Caucasians, who have the highest participation rate.”

The Outdoor Foundation. (2013). Outdoor Participation Report. Boulder, CO: Author.

