

Impact of Demographics on Activity Participation

This report will analyze to what extent basic demographics affect the residents' reported activity participation. This includes the total number of activities they participate in, their activity preference, and level of outdoor experience. Activity preference is divided into the following categories: non-participant, walking, casual, and active. Outdoor experience levels consist of: outdoor beginner, casual/recreational, avid adventurer, and serious outdoor athlete. Numbers given are means for each category based on the subgroup of the independent factor (i.e. Income class). Statistically significant differences between subgroups are indicated by either asterisks or subscripts, as indicated by the key below each table.

Income Class:

A resident's reported income class had a significant impact on their activity participation. Members of the working poor income class participated in more total activities than all other classes, and significantly more activities than the lower middle and upper middle class. Members of the working poor income class tended towards activities classified as "active" or "casual", while all other income classes were more likely to participate in "walking" or "casual" activities.

Income Class	Total Activities	Activity Preference	Outdoor Experience
Working Poor	8.40 ^{ab}	3.06 ^{ab}	2.20
Lower Middle	5.82	2.29	2.23
Upper Middle	6.10	2.47	2.27
Upper	6.55	2.36	2.63
a=Lower Middle, b=Upper middle			

Education Level:

There was not a steady trend in the variance of responses for activity participation based on a resident's education. Responses were fairly even among all education levels. The only group to report significantly different results than the rest was the group with a high school degree. This group reported having less outdoor experience (at a statistically significant level) than those with some college, a B.S. or B.A., or a Ph.D./terminal degree.

Education	Total Activities	Activity Preference	Outdoor Experience
Some High School	5.60	2.20	2.00
High School Degree	6.25	2.25	1.43 ^{abc}
Some College	7.04	2.69	2.23
B.S. or B.A.	6.06	2.46	2.30
M.S. or Equivalent	5.47	2.23	2.37
Ph.D./terminal degree	5.21	2.14	2.33
a=some college, b=B.S. or B.A., c=M.S. or equivalent			

Age:

Age appears to influence residents' activity participation in a reasonably significant way. Outdoor experience levels and activity preferences were mostly level across

the board, with a small trend of younger residents participating in more active endeavors. In total activities however, there is an obvious decline in number of activities participated in by residents, with the number of activities reported by those in the age group of 65 and up being significantly lower than all other groups. So while older age groups have a higher level of outdoor experience, younger groups are involved in a broader range of activities.

Age	Total Activities	Activity Preference	Outdoor Experience
18-24	7.46	2.79	2.13
25-44	6.27	2.43	2.34
45-64	6.15	2.49	2.20
65+	3.33*	1.89	2.26
*Statistically different than all other groups			

Race:

There were not any significant differences in activity participation among the different races. Residents who reported their race as “other” participate in more activities, participate in higher intensity activities, and had greater outdoor experience. However, none of this was at a statistically significant level. It should be noted that over 90 percent of residents surveyed were white, so this does not allow for an accurate representation of activity among these groups. It does however provide insight into the composition of spectators and participants at the RiverRocks Festival.

Race	Total Activities	Activity Preference	Outdoor Experience
White	6.30	2.45	2.26
Black	4.83	2.50	1.67
Other	8.67	3.33	3.00
Hispanic	5.00	2.00	2.50

Years in Hamilton County:

The number of years a resident has lived in the Hamilton County area had very little influence on any of the activity participation factors. The only possible trend could be seen in that people who have lived in Hamilton County for less than 5 years participate in more total activities. This most likely is accounted for by the fact that younger people, who naturally will have been in the area for a shorter amount of time, also participate in more activities. However, none of the differences were statistically significant.

Years in HC	Total Activities	Activity Preference	Outdoor Experience
0-5	6.38	2.32	2.22
6-10	6.12	2.42	2.29
11-15	5.82	2.73	2.37
16+	6.21	2.54	2.22