



Report of Results

Submitted to:

**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation &
Natural Resources**

January 2019



PennState
Harrisburg

Center for Survey Research

INTRODUCTION

The Lion Poll is an omnibus survey conducted by the Center for Survey Research (CSR) at Penn State Harrisburg. A total of 1,048 self-administered web surveys were completed by adult Pennsylvanians between September 21 and October 25, 2018. The Lion Poll used a quota-based invitation system to produce a final dataset that is representative of Pennsylvania's population by region and, separately, by age/sex combined categories. Project activity was directed by Stephanie L. Wehnau, Director of the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg.

The purpose of the Lion Poll is to provide timely and accurate data to agencies, organizations, and researchers with statewide interests and responsibilities. Sponsors of CSR's omnibus polls have used their results to track public policy issues; measure general attitudes, awareness, and knowledge of their organizations; and measure satisfaction with organizational services and performance.

Data Analysis Notes

The following notes should be taken into account when reviewing the final dataset:

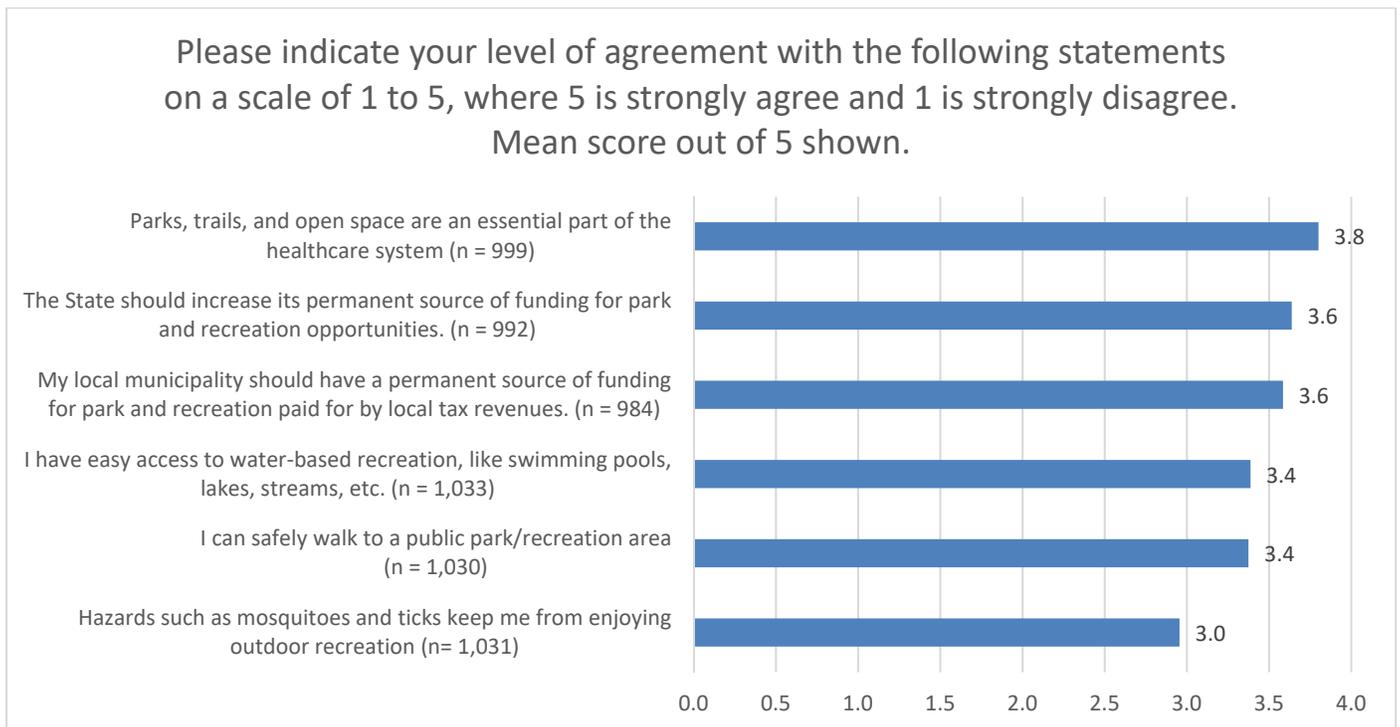
1. Results include discussion for relationships that are statistically significant (t-test, analysis of variance, or regression statistics are significant at the .05 level).
2. When reviewing figures, it is important to review the preceding text to determine which relationships are statistically significant. Figures may include information about relationships that are not statistically significant.
3. Data are not weighted; however, the final dataset is representative of Pennsylvania's population by region and by age/sex combined categories.
4. Percentages may not total to 100% due to the exclusion of 'Don't know' responses.
5. Cross-tabulations and frequencies may not add up to the sample size reported due to rounding in the weighting process and the exclusion of 'Don't know' and 'Declined to answer' responses.
6. See Appendices A and B of the Report of Methods for a map and list of the Lion Poll regions.
7. See Appendix C of the Report of Methods for the sponsored survey questions and standard demographics that were used in data collection.

SURVEY RESULTS

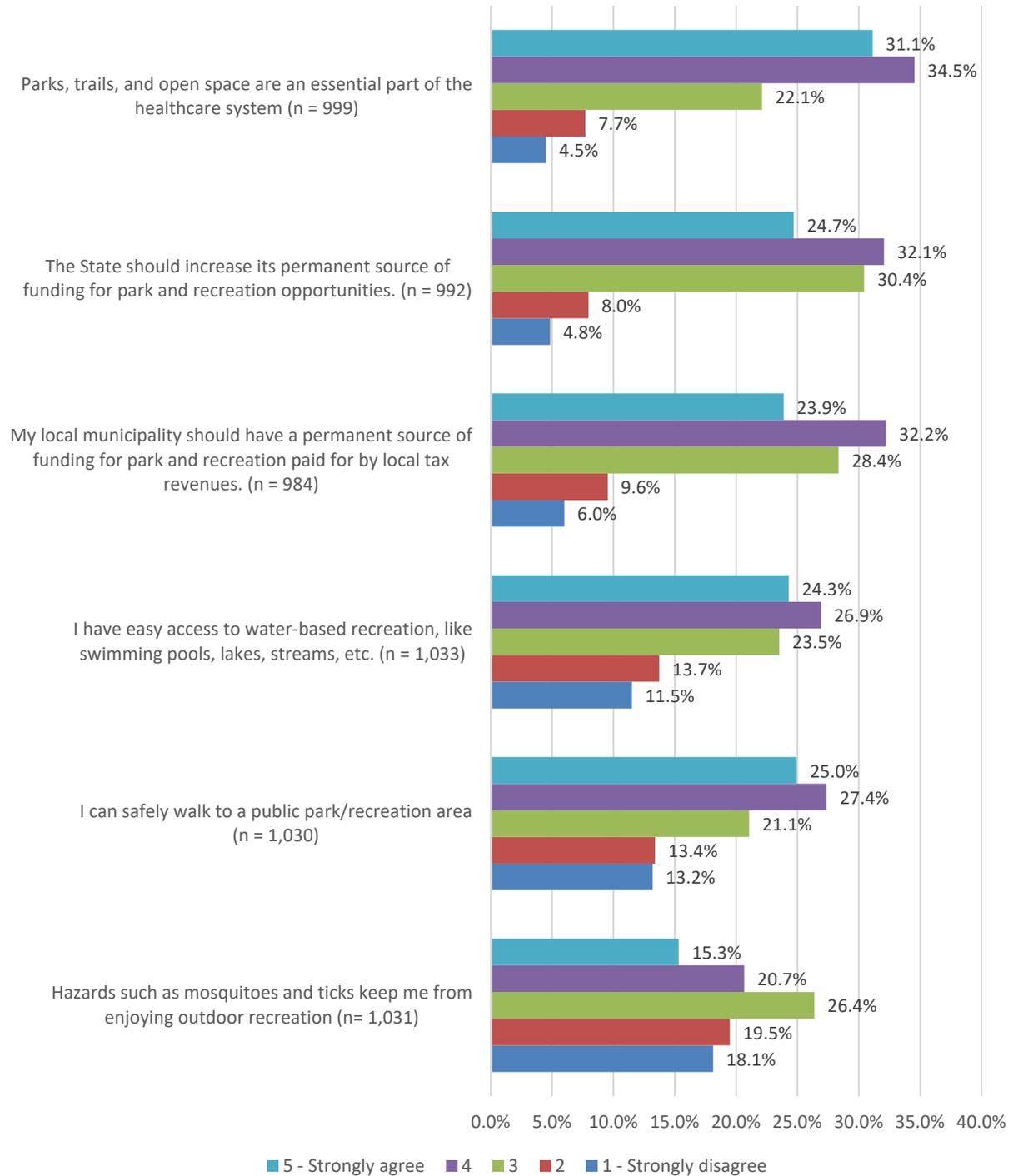
Attitudes toward Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a series of statements about parks and outdoor recreation on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represented Strongly Disagree and 5 represented Strongly Agree. The items were analyzed by looking at the mean score out of five, with a higher score representing a higher level of general agreement among respondents. Overall, respondents were most in agreement that parks, trails, and open space are essential parts of the healthcare system (mean = 3.8; $n = 999$), but were slightly less likely to say that the state should increase its permanent source of funding for park and recreation opportunities (mean = 3.6; $n = 992$) or that their local municipality should have a permanent source of funding for park and recreation paid for by local tax revenues (mean = 3.6; $n = 984$). Interestingly, overall, there were no difference in the mean respondent score between attitudes toward state and local funding; however, there were some difference by demographic sub-group, which will be discussed later.

Respondents were equally likely to say that they have easy access to water-based recreation, like swimming pools, lakes, and streams (mean = 3.4; $n = 1,033$) and that they can safely walk to a public park or recreation area (mean = 3.4; $n = 1,030$). Finally, the lowest level of agreement was found with the statement that hazards such as mosquitos and ticks keep me from enjoying outdoor recreation (mean = 3.0; $n = 1,031$); however, this represents a positive attitude toward outdoor recreation. The following figures show the mean scores for each item and the proportion of respondents that chose each level of agreement for each item.



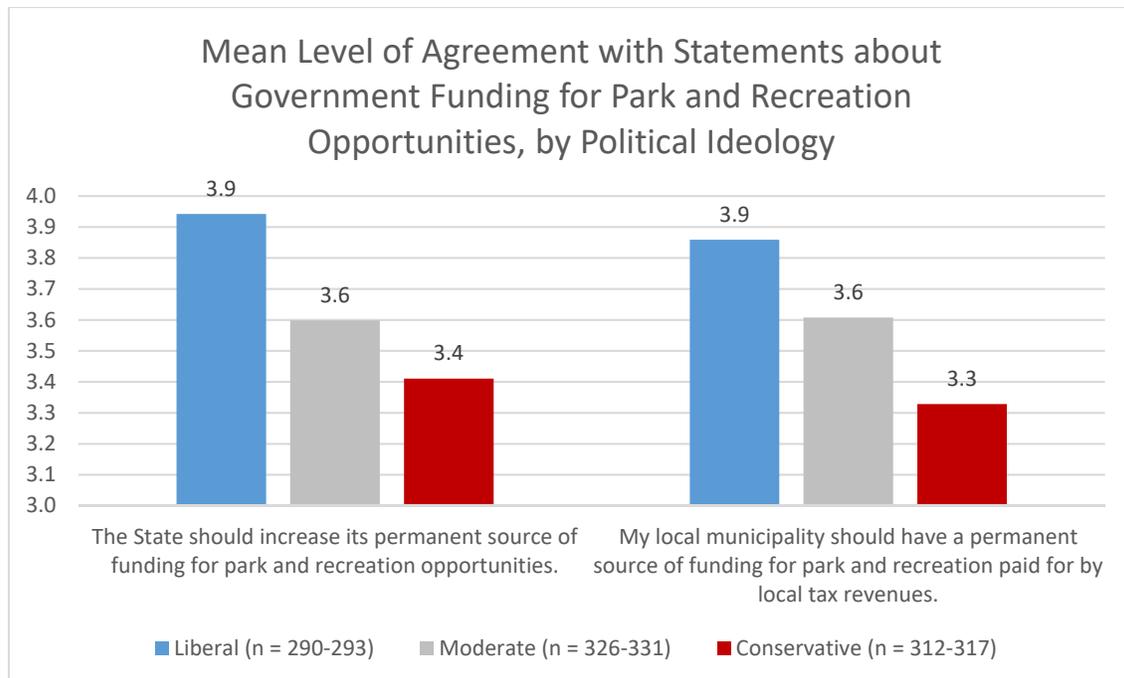
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is strongly agree and 1 is strongly disagree.



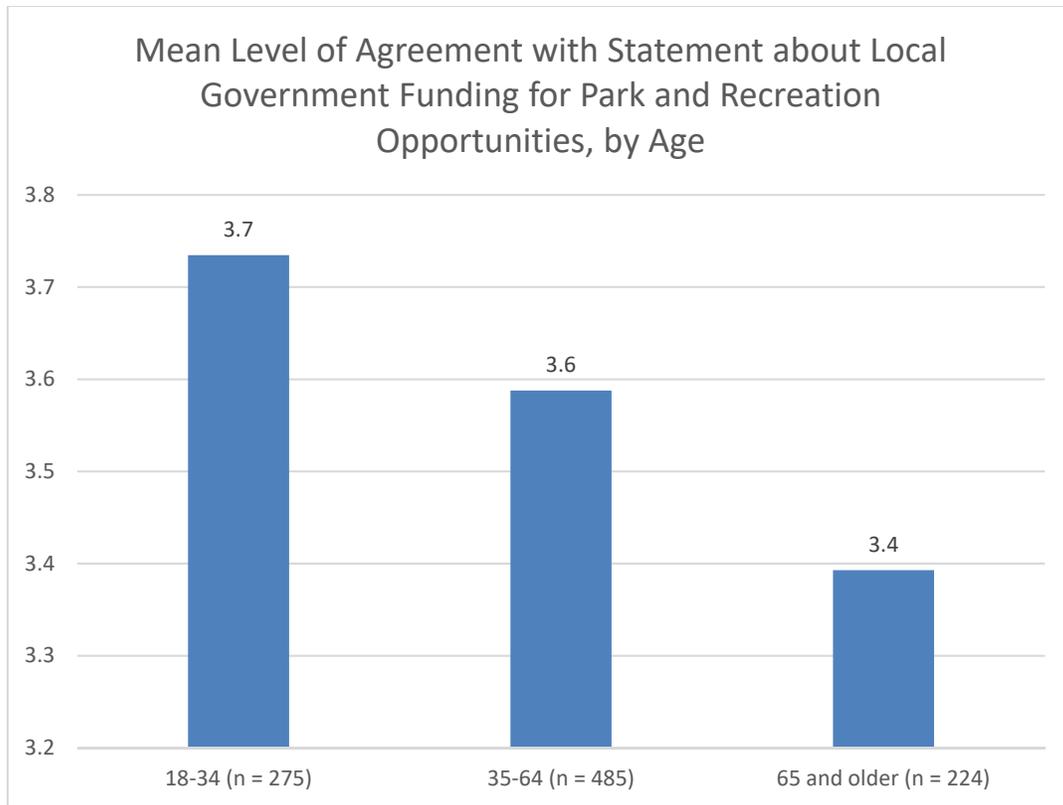
The difference between respondents' attitudes toward recreation as part of the healthcare system and the roles of the state and local municipalities in providing funding for parks and outdoor recreation is demonstrated by the fact that two-thirds of respondents (65.6%; $n = 999$) said '4' or '5' to the statement that parks, trails, and open space are an essential part of the healthcare system; whereas about 10% fewer respondents gave the same ratings to the statements that the State should increase its permanent source of funding for park and recreation opportunities (56.8%; $n = 992$) and that their local municipality should have a permanent source of funding for park and recreation paid for by local tax revenues (56.1%; $n = 984$).

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized to determine which mean scores differed by demographic sub-groups. ANOVA evaluates all demographic groups at the same time, ensuring that differences are actually explained by a specific demographic, eliminating the chance that the difference shows up in one demographic because it is correlated to another demographic. **For the highest-rated statement that parks, trails, and open space are an essential part of the healthcare system, there were no significant differences by any demographic sub-group, which is an interesting finding, as it indicates universal agreement among respondents, regardless of gender, age, race/ethnicity, household composition, education, annual household income, population density of county of residence, region, voter registration status, political party affiliation, or political ideology.**

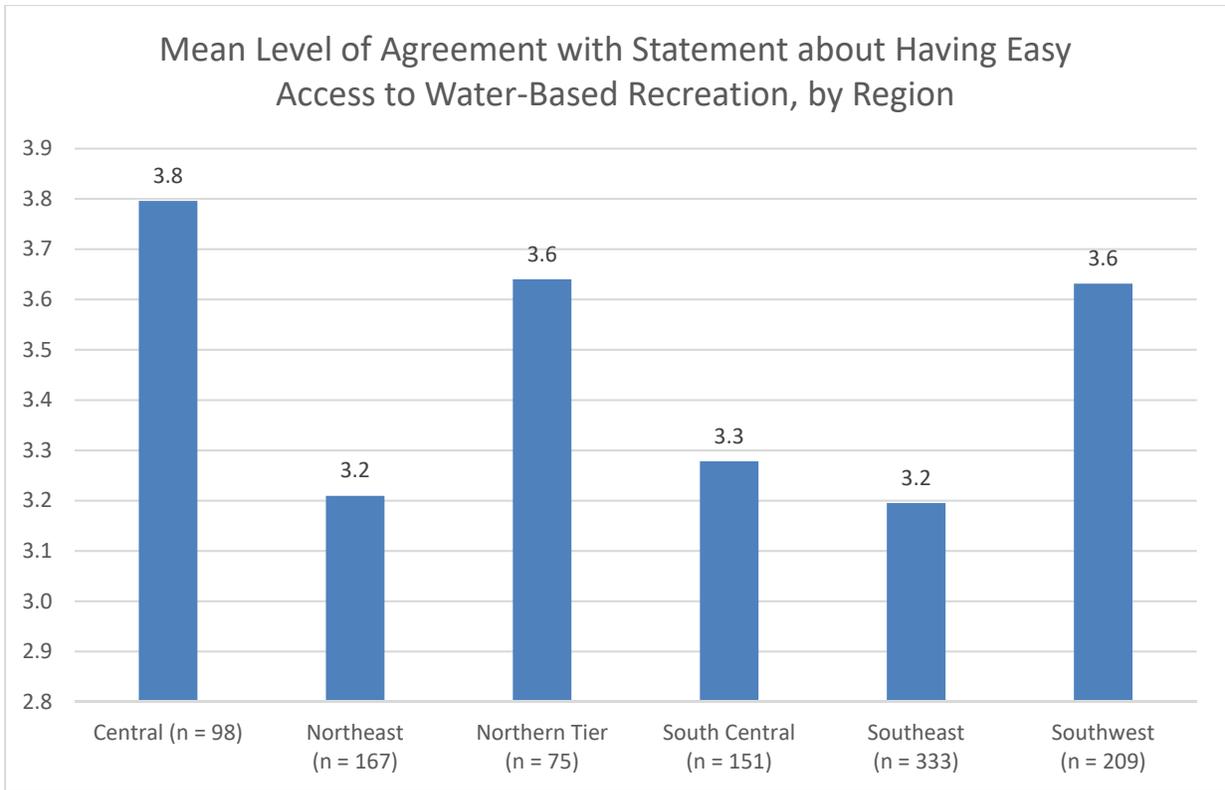
Respondents were divided by political ideology over whether the State should increase its permanent source of funding for park and recreation opportunities. Respondents who identified as liberal were more likely to indicate agreement with this statement (mean = 3.9; $n = 293$) than those who identified as conservative (mean = 3.4; $n = 312$). Similarly, liberal respondents were more likely to find agreement with the statement that local municipalities should have a permanent source of funding for park and recreation paid for by local tax revenues (mean = 3.9; $n = 290$) than conservatives (mean = 3.3; $n = 317$), as seen in the figure below. However, differences by political party affiliation did not reach statistical significance in either ANOVA test.



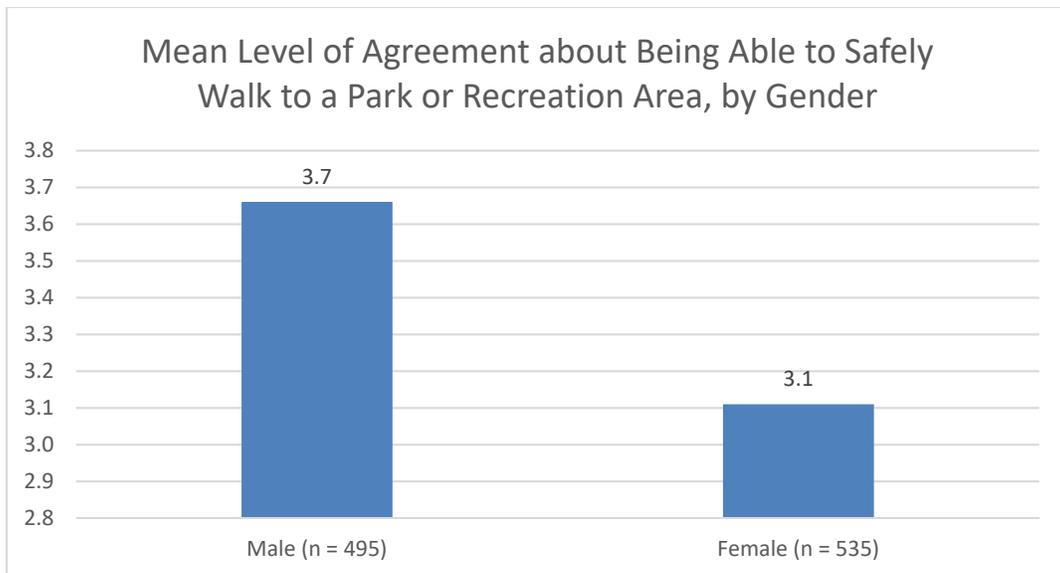
In addition to the differences explained by political ideology, single adult households were also more likely to say that local municipalities should have a permanent source of funding for park and recreation paid for by local tax revenues (mean = 3.8; $n = 214$) than multiple adult households (mean = 3.5; $n = 770$). Age also predicted attitudes toward local municipal funding of park and recreation, with respondents between the ages of 18-34 (mean = 3.7; $n = 275$) and those between the ages of 35-64 (mean = 3.6; $n = 485$) indicating higher levels of agreement than those respondents who were 65 or older (mean = 3.4; $n = 224$), as seen in the next figure. There were no other significant differences by demographic sub-groups in ANOVA analysis.



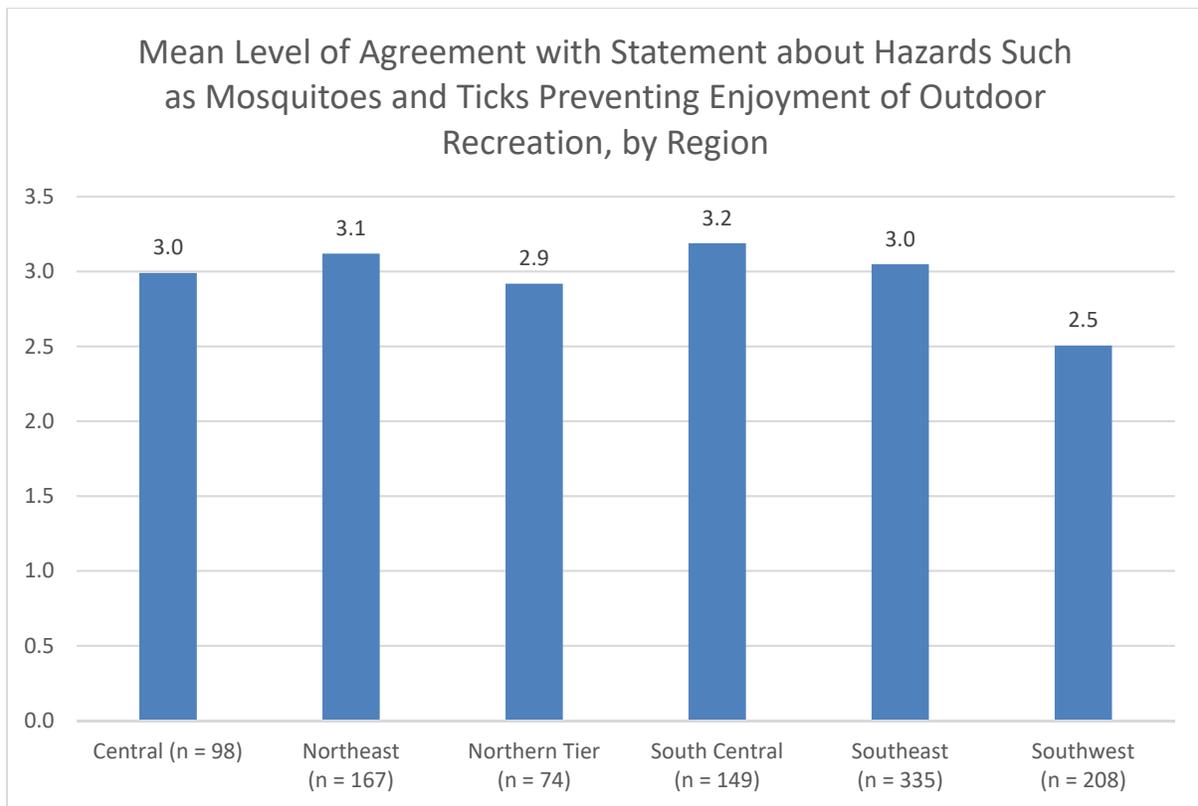
Responses for whether respondents felt that they had easy access to water-based recreation, like swimming pools, lakes, and streams varied significantly by Pennsylvania region, with respondents in the Central region indicating higher levels of agreement (mean = 3.8; $n = 98$) than those in the South Central (mean = 3.3; $n = 151$), Northeast (mean = 3.2; $n = 167$) and Southeast (mean = 3.2; $n = 333$) regions, as seen in the next figure. There were no other significant differences by demographic sub-groups in ANOVA analysis.



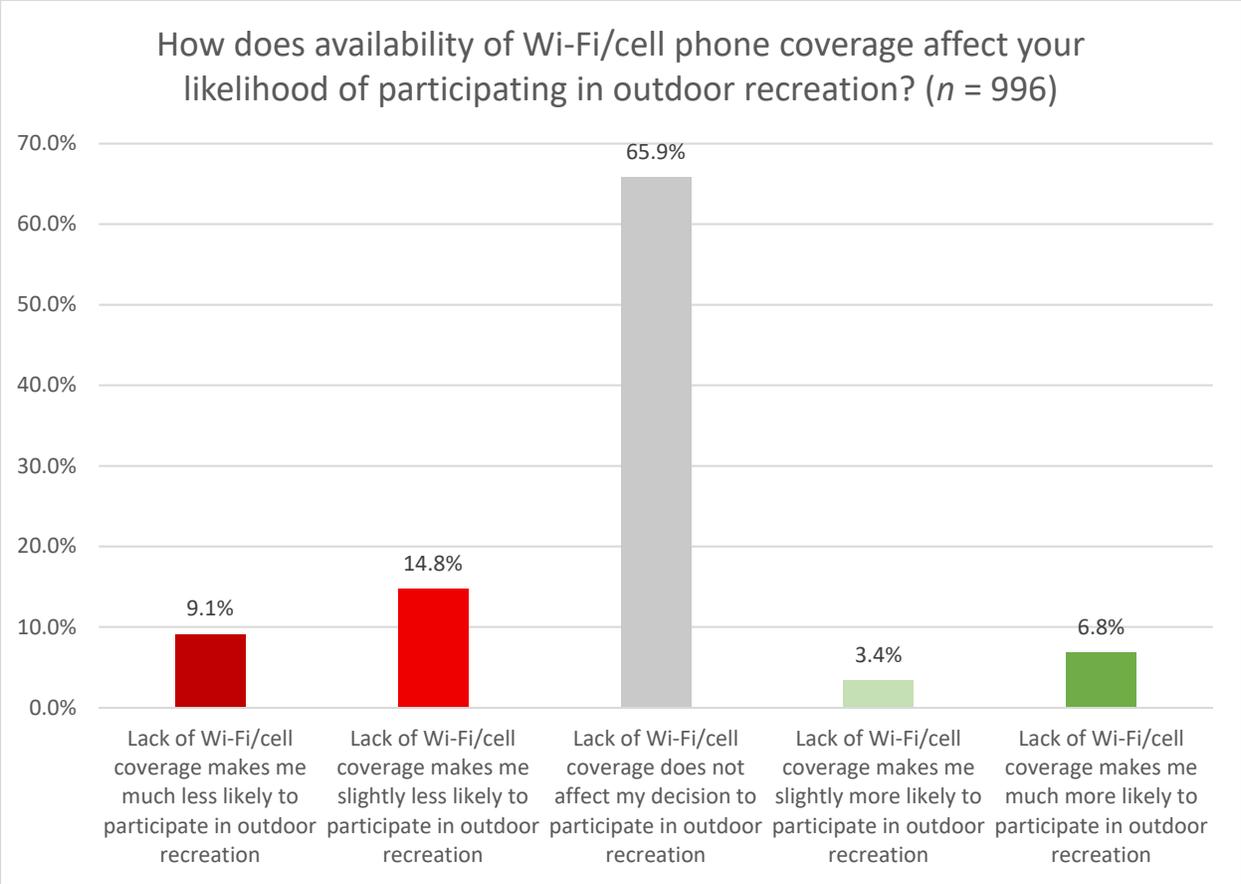
Male respondents were more likely to indicate that they could safely walk to a public park or recreation area (mean = 3.7; $n = 495$) than female respondents (mean = 3.1; $n = 535$) as seen in the next figure. There were no other significant differences by demographic sub-groups in ANOVA analysis.



Finally, respondents differed by region and whether they had minors living in the home as to their level of agreement with the statement that hazards such as mosquitos and ticks keep them from enjoying outdoor recreation. Respondents with minors in the home were slightly more likely to agree with this statement (mean = 3.1; $n = 305$) than respondents with no minors living in the home (mean = 2.9; $n = 726$). Additionally, respondents living in the Southwest region were significantly less likely to indicate agreement with this statement (mean = 2.5; $n = 208$) than those living in the Central (mean = 3.0; $n = 98$), Northeast (mean = 3.1; $n = 167$), South Central (mean = 3.2; $n = 149$) and South (mean = 3.0; $n = 335$) regions, as seen in the next figure. There were no other significant differences by demographic sub-groups in ANOVA analysis.



Respondents were then asked whether the availability of Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage affects their likelihood of participating in outdoor recreation. Overall, two-thirds of respondents (65.9%; $n = 996$) indicating that such availability had no impact on their decision to participate in outdoor recreation. Just 10.2% of respondents said that lack of Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage makes them more likely to participate in outdoor recreation, while nearly one in four (23.9%) said that having no Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage makes them less likely to participate in outdoor recreation, as seen in the next figure.



Responses differed between the youngest and oldest respondents. Specifically, respondents between the ages of 18-34 were more likely to say that having no Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage makes them less likely to participate in outdoor recreation (33.2%; $n = 286$) than respondents who were 65 or older (16.7%; $n = 215$). In contrast, respondents between the ages of 18-34 were less likely to say that having no Wi-Fi or cell phone coverage had no effect (52.1%); than those between the ages of 35-64 (70.5%; $n = 495$) and those 65 or older (73.5%), as seen in the next figure. There were no other significant differences by demographic sub-groups in ANOVA analysis.

How does availability of Wi-Fi/cell phone coverage affect your likelihood of participating in outdoor recreation? By Age

