NATIONAL VISITATION REPORT

Earlier this year, AASLH’s Public History Research Lab conducted a survey of the field to find out how visitation to history organizations changed in 2020 and what effect last year’s disruptions had on operations and staffing. As our field continues to adjust to a “new normal,” this year’s National Visitation Report offers us an opportunity to step back and assess the impact of the pandemic on history organizations. Below is a summary of our findings.

70 PERCENT DECLINE

In 2020, history organizations reported a decline in visits of nearly 70 percent compared to 2019.

IN OTHER WORDS...

That means that for every 10 visits that occurred in 2019, there were only 3 in 2020.

9 MONTHS BELOW CAPACITY

Last year, history organizations were closed an average of 23 weeks, and only partially open for 16 more.

MOST KEPT STAFF

65 percent of history organizations avoided staffing cuts like layoffs and furloughs, but the impact on individual history professionals remains unclear.

Based on responses to AASLH’s “National Visitation Survey” from 968 history institutions, gathered in Spring 2021.

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