

WEBSITE USER & CONVERSION STUDY

November 9, 2021

Destination  Analysts

Destination Analysts

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

- Conducted May 2017 through December 2019
- Part of a cooperative study on behalf of state tourism offices in partnership with Miles
- The nine (9) states of Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oregon, South Dakota, and Wyoming participated

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

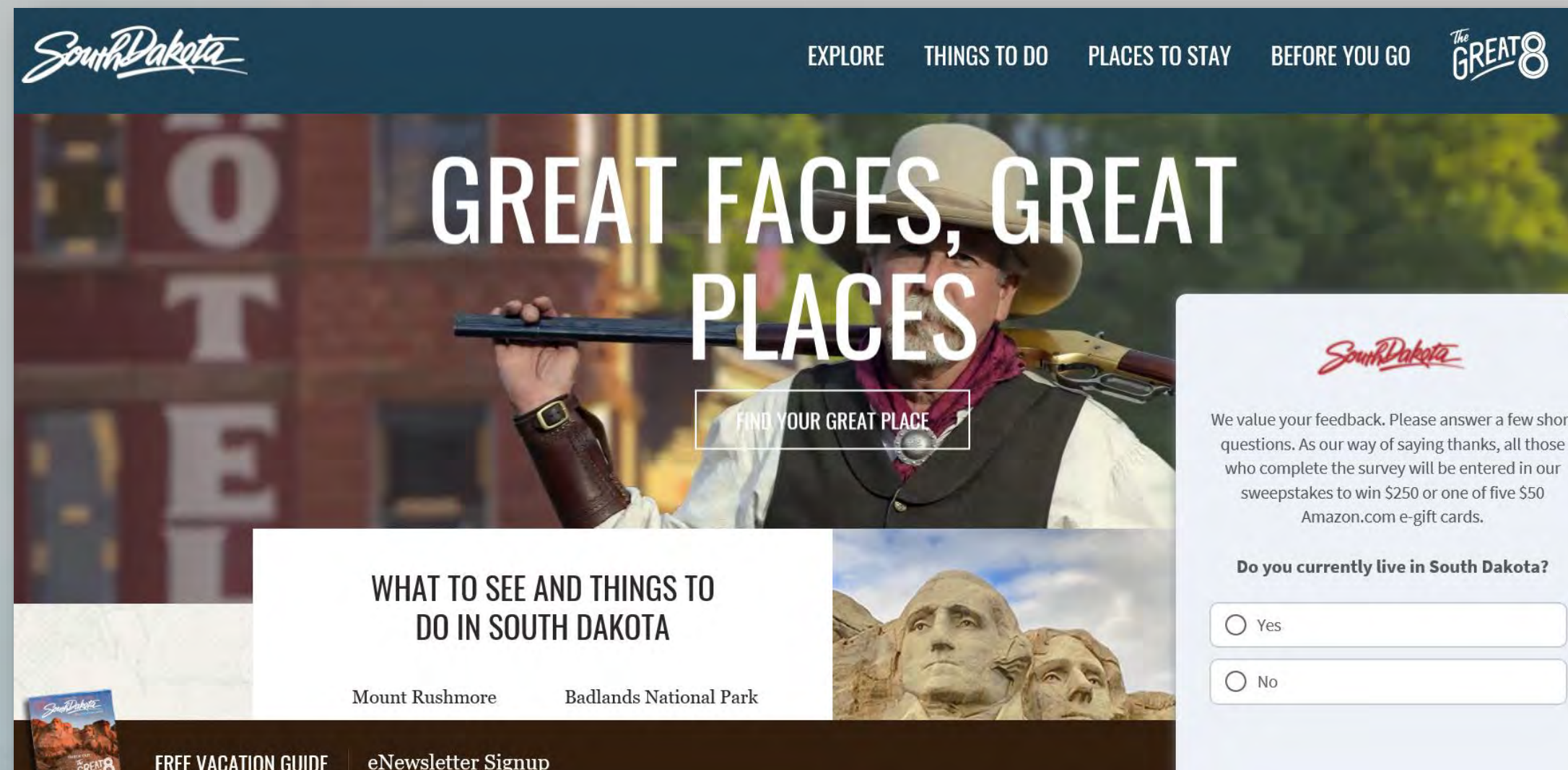
The primary objectives of this research were to:

- Determine Website Return on Investment
- Develop a Website User Profile

METHODOLOGY

The Website User & Conversion Study was comprised of two surveys:

Website User *Intercept* Survey



The screenshot shows the South Dakota website with a survey overlay. The website header includes the South Dakota logo and navigation links: EXPLORE, THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO STAY, BEFORE YOU GO, and The GREAT8 logo. The main banner features a cowboy holding a rifle with the text "GREAT FACES, GREAT PLACES" and a button "FIND YOUR GREAT PLACE". Below the banner, there's a section titled "WHAT TO SEE AND THINGS TO DO IN SOUTH DAKOTA" with links to "Mount Rushmore" and "Badlands National Park". The survey overlay on the right side of the page includes the South Dakota logo, a message about valuing feedback and a sweepstakes, and a question "Do you currently live in South Dakota?" with radio button options for "Yes" and "No". The footer of the website includes a "FREE VACATION GUIDE" and an "eNewsletter Signup" link.

South Dakota

EXPLORE THINGS TO DO PLACES TO STAY BEFORE YOU GO The GREAT8

GREAT FACES, GREAT PLACES

FIND YOUR GREAT PLACE

WHAT TO SEE AND THINGS TO DO IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mount Rushmore Badlands National Park

FREE VACATION GUIDE eNewsletter Signup

South Dakota

We value your feedback. Please answer a few short questions. As our way of saying thanks, all those who complete the survey will be entered in our sweepstakes to win \$250 or one of five \$50 Amazon.com e-gift cards.

Do you currently live in South Dakota?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Website User *Follow-up* Survey



METHODOLOGY

The Website User & Conversion Study was comprised of two surveys:

Website User *Intercept* Survey

Average State
Website User

TravelSouthDakota.com
Website User

412,150
completed surveys

38,247
completed surveys

Website User *Follow-up* Survey

Average State
Website User

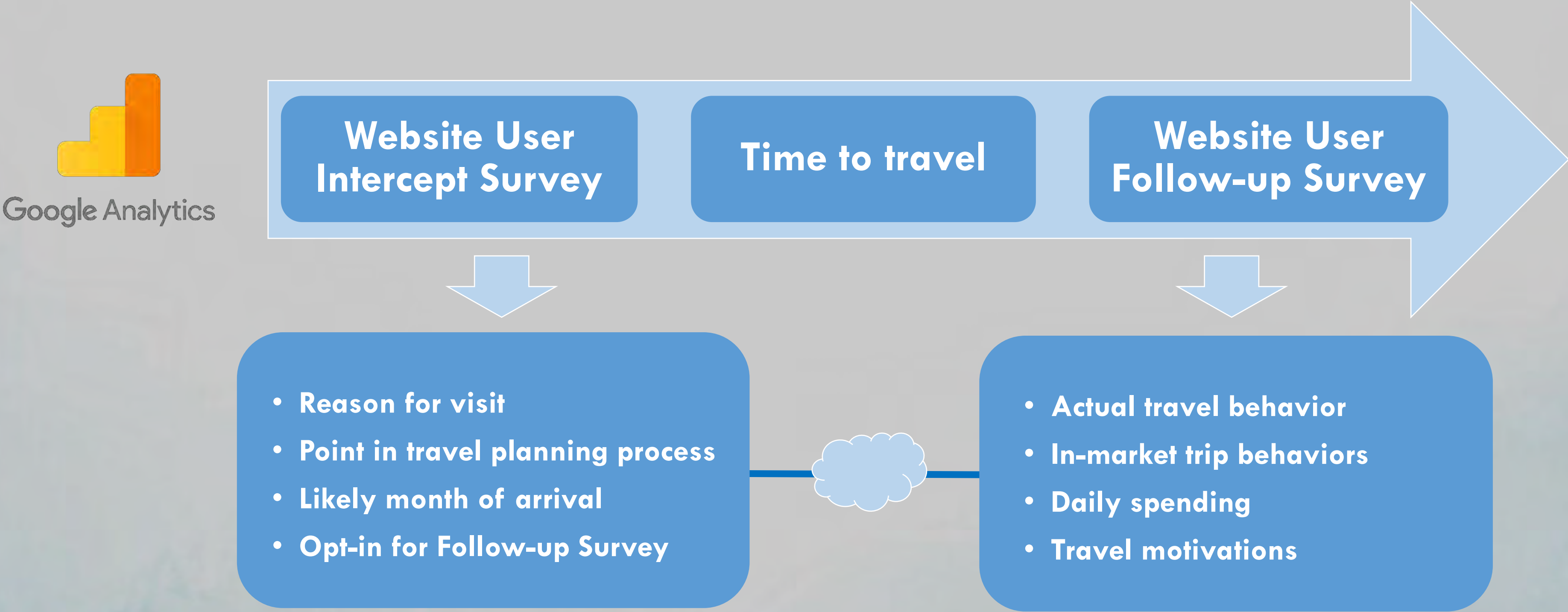
TravelSouthDakota.com
Website User

25,844
completed surveys

1,687
completed surveys

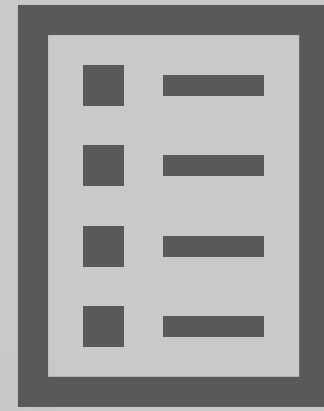
METHODOLOGY

The study’s overarching methodology is summarized in the following flow chart:



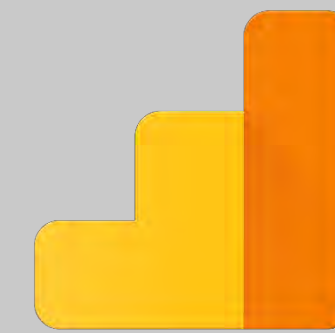
Data weighting: When examining combined data from multiple State Tourism Office (STO) websites, it is important to note that different STO websites experience different levels of user traffic due to a variety of factors. Data presented within this report that describes the average website user was weighted to account for these different levels of user traffic. With this weighting plan, the data accurately reflects the overall population of STO website users.

METHODOLOGY



Website User Intercept Survey

- Type of user
- Point in travel decision process
- Age
- Content sought



Google Analytics

- Pages viewed
- KPIs
- Other site behaviors
- Device used to access site

METHODOLOGY

The economic impact estimates derived for this report include all direct spending in the destination by two types of out-of-state visitors:

- Out-of-state visitors on **incremental trips** had not fully made up their mind to visit the destination when they came to the website and stated that the website influenced their decision to ultimately visit the state.
- Out-of-state website visitors who **extended their stay in the destination** can be leisure travelers, business travelers or convention/meeting attendees. Economic impact estimates for this group only include spending during reported “additional” days in-market generated by the website.

The chart below shows how the website’s total ROI estimates were calculated:



ROI ESTIMATES & KEY INSIGHTS

Website ROI Estimates

The profile below shows a summary of fundamental ROI findings and descriptive statistics emerging from this research. These findings were based on 13,149,428 real, new website users to participating State Tourism Office websites between May 2017 and December 2019.

Total Incremental Trips Generated by 9 participating STO Websites Studied	361,085 Trips
Total Visitor Spending on these Incremental Trips	\$725,165,691
Additional Trip Days from Trips Extended by 9 Participating STO Websites Studied	210,659 Days
Total Visitor Spending on Additional Trip Days from Trips Extended	\$85,466,465
Total Economic Impact from Visitor Spending Generated by 9 Participating STO Websites Studied	\$810,635,156
Average Visitor Spending economic impact generated per real new website user	\$57.03

Comparative ROI Findings by State

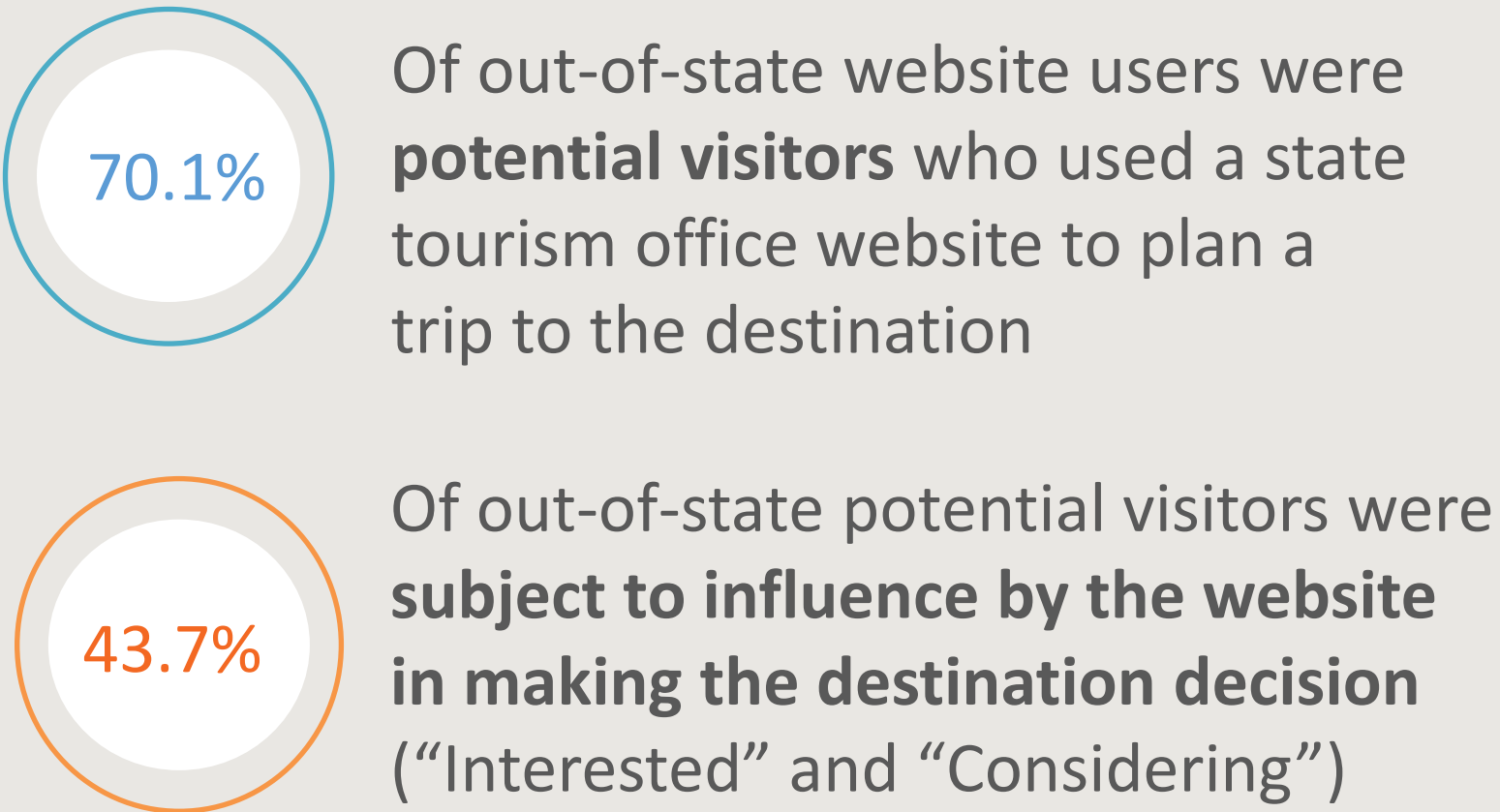
The key findings on the economic impact generated by the 9 participating State Tourism Office websites in the study are summarized below.

In order to make these comparisons, the figure of 1,000 real, new website users is the basis for all estimates shown below.

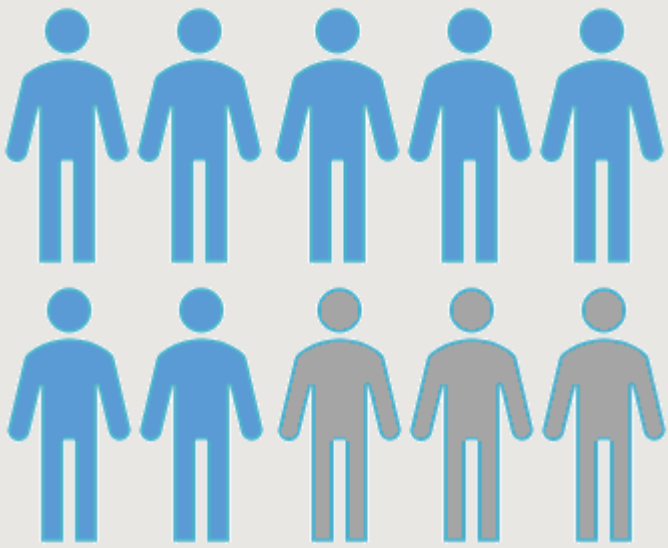
State Tourism Office Websites	Incremental trips generated (per 1,000 real, new users)	Average length of stay (days)	Average visitor spending per day on incremental trips	Total visitor spending on incremental trips	Days spent in-market on trips extended by website (per 1,000 real, new users)	Total visitor spending on trips extended by website	Total direct spending/ROI of the website (per 1,000 real, new users)	Total direct spending/ROI of the website per real, new website user
TravelSouthDakota.com	33	4.8	\$402.50	\$64,259	13	\$5,390	\$69,649	\$69.65
State A	41	4.1	\$372.87	\$62,833	24	\$8,911	\$71,744	\$71.74
State B	19	4.0	\$400.46	\$30,333	10	\$4,197	\$34,530	\$34.53
State C	32	3.5	\$366.66	\$41,242	12	\$4,307	\$45,549	\$45.55
State D	22	3.6	\$363.78	\$29,325	11	\$4,171	\$33,496	\$33.50
State E	28	7.1	\$377.69	\$74,746	17	\$6,558	\$81,304	\$81.30
State F	37	5.4	\$438.08	\$85,774	24	\$10,701	\$96,475	\$96.48
State G	18	5.8	\$420.42	\$43,423	10	\$4,254	\$47,677	\$47.68
State H	16	4.3	\$399.18	\$27,248	19	\$7,766	\$35,014	\$35.01
Average for all Participating States	27	4.7	\$393.52	\$50,808	16	\$6,224	\$57,032	\$57.03

STO WEBSITE USER OUT-OF-STATE KEY FINDINGS

Potential Visitors



Visitation to Destination



70.0% of survey respondents visited the destination post-use of the website

Destination Trip Details

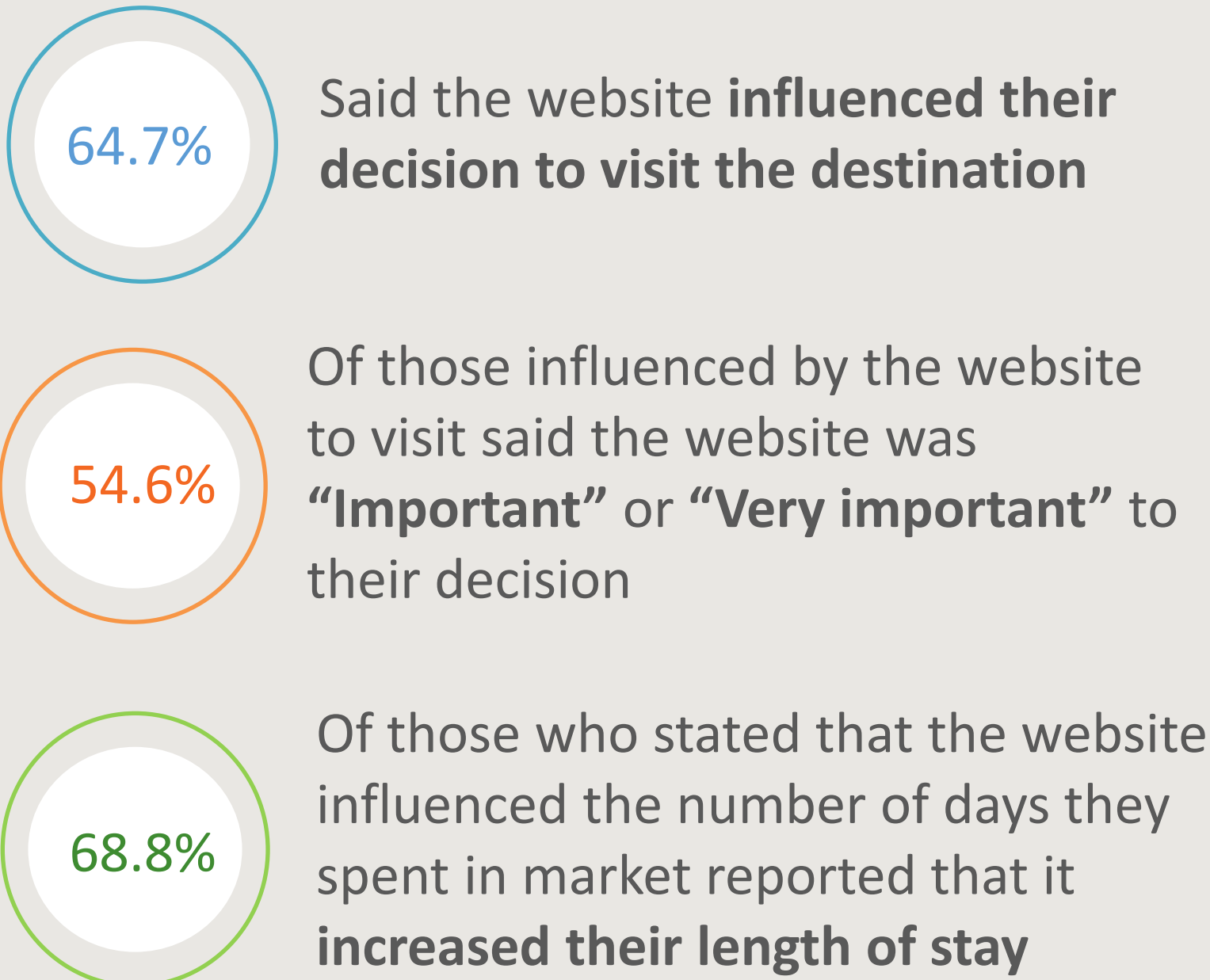


Likelihood to Recommend a State Tourism Office Website



Out-of-state website users who visited rated their likelihood to recommend the website to others planning a trip to the destination an **8.6** on average using a 10-point scale

Website Influence on Destination Decision and Length of Stay



These out-of-state visitors increased their length of stay by an average of **2.1 days**

Out-of-State Website ROI

\$57.03

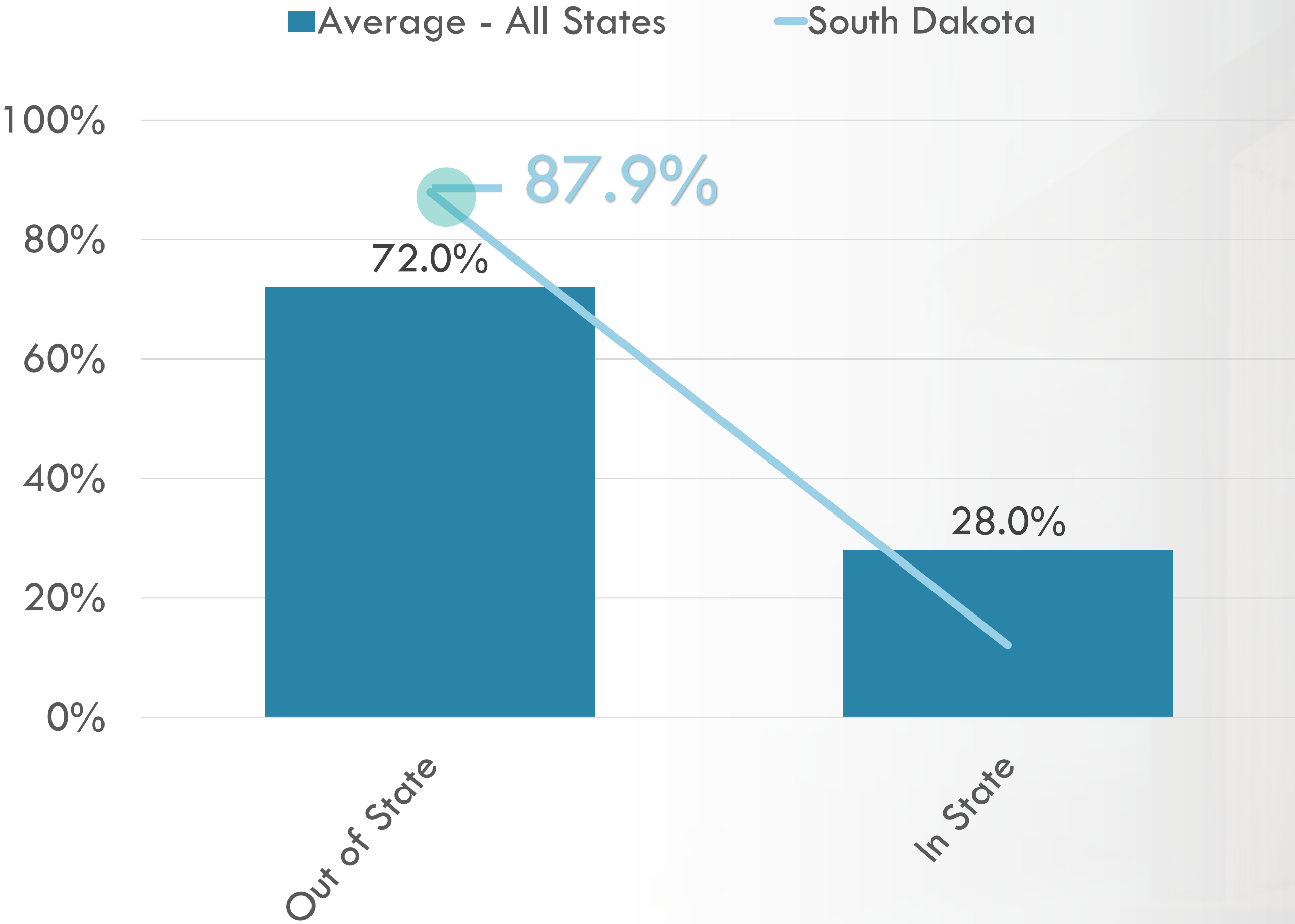
per real, new
website user

A man in a yellow shirt and cap is running while holding a laptop. He has a backpack on his back. The background is dark blue.

WEBSITE USER INTERCEPT SURVEY DETAILED FINDINGS

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Comparative ROI Findings by State



Question: Do you currently live in [STATE]?
Base: All respondents; 412,150 responses.

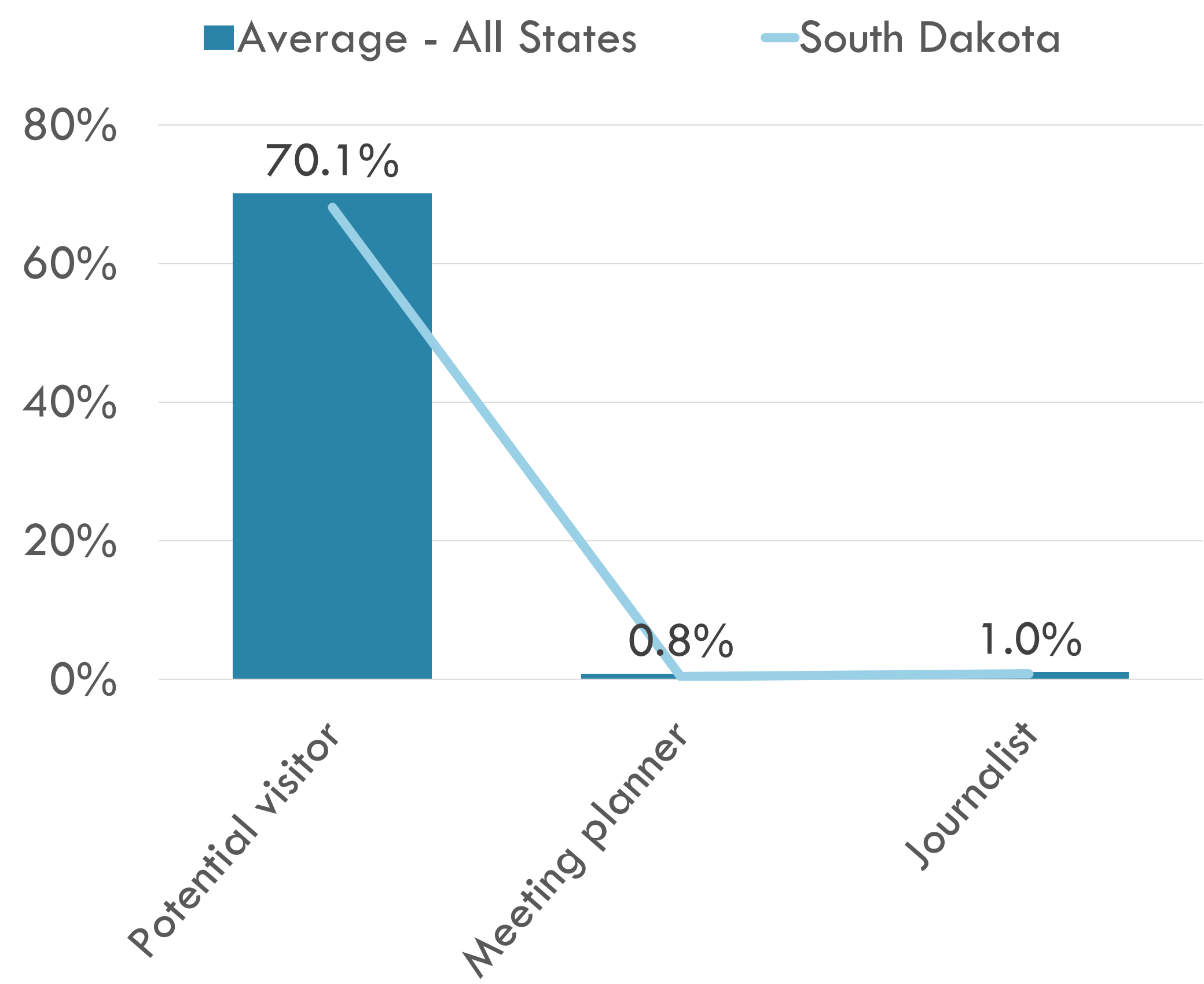
A hand holding a model airplane against a sunset sky. The background is a dark, moody image of a hand holding a small model airplane, with a sunset or sunrise sky in the background. The text 'Out-of-State Website Users' is overlaid in white.

Out-of-State Website Users

Destination  Analysts

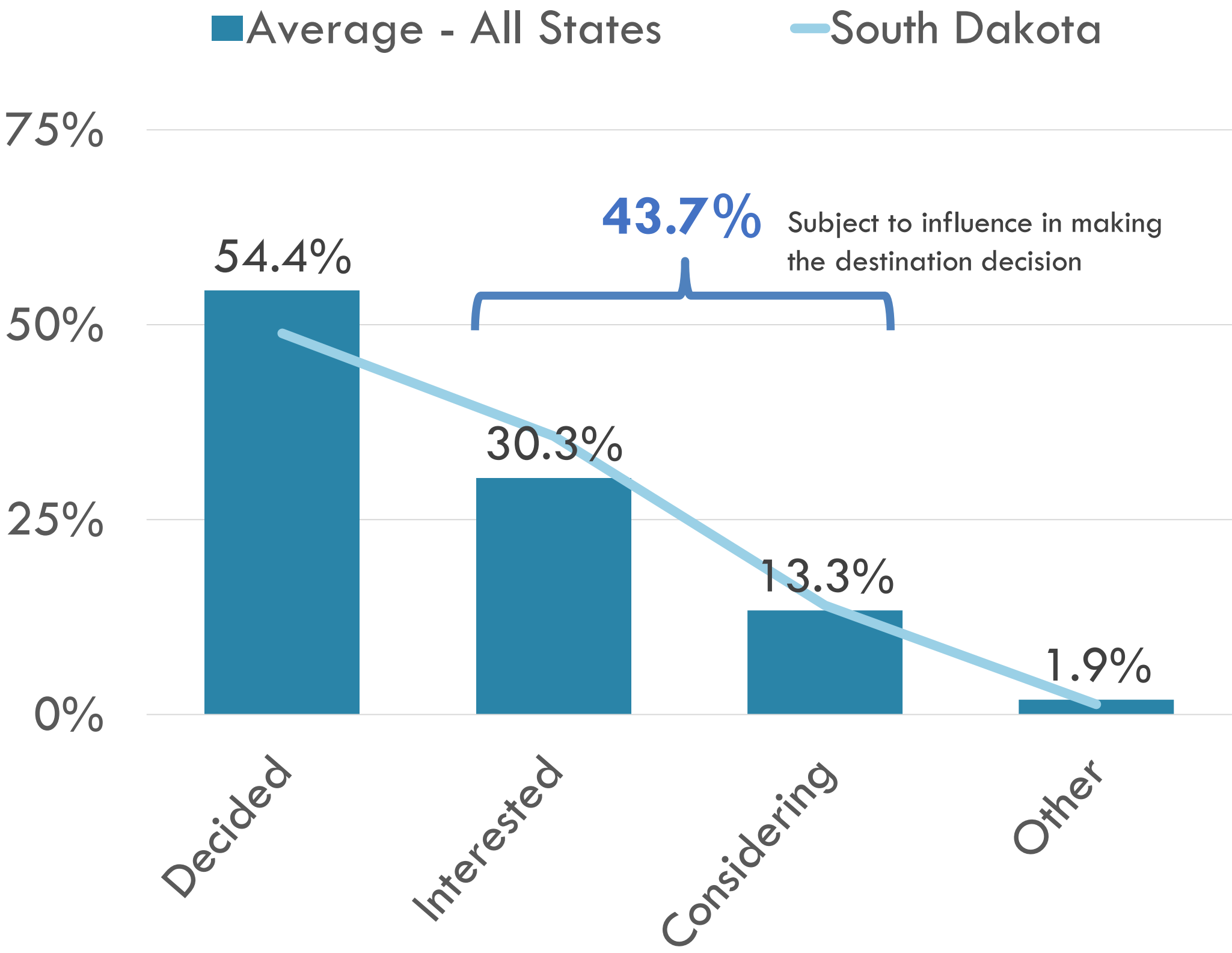
Point in Travel Decision Process

Type of Site User



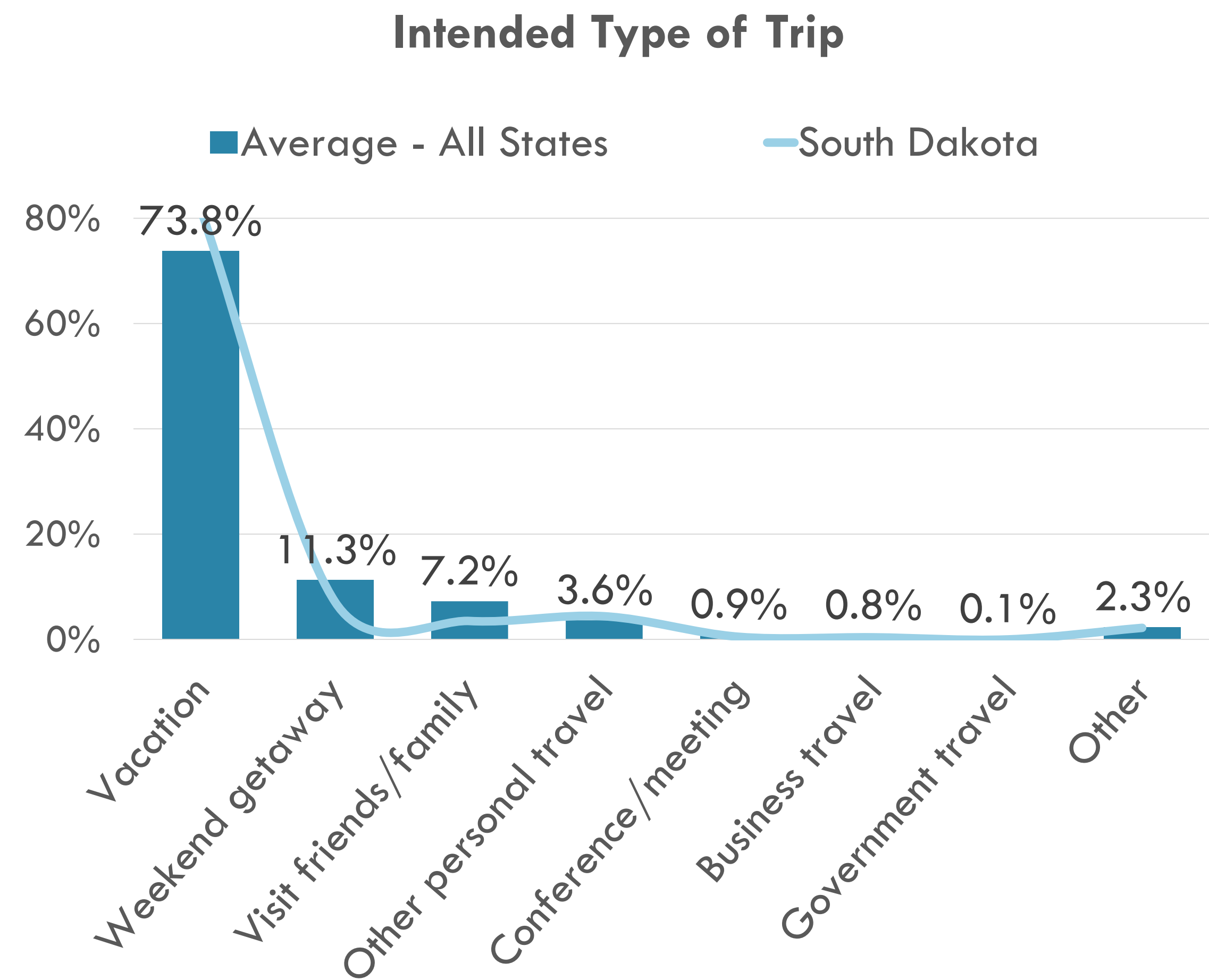
Question: Which of the following best describes you? (Select one)
Base: All out-of-state respondents planning a trip; 258,379 responses.

Point in Travel Decision Process

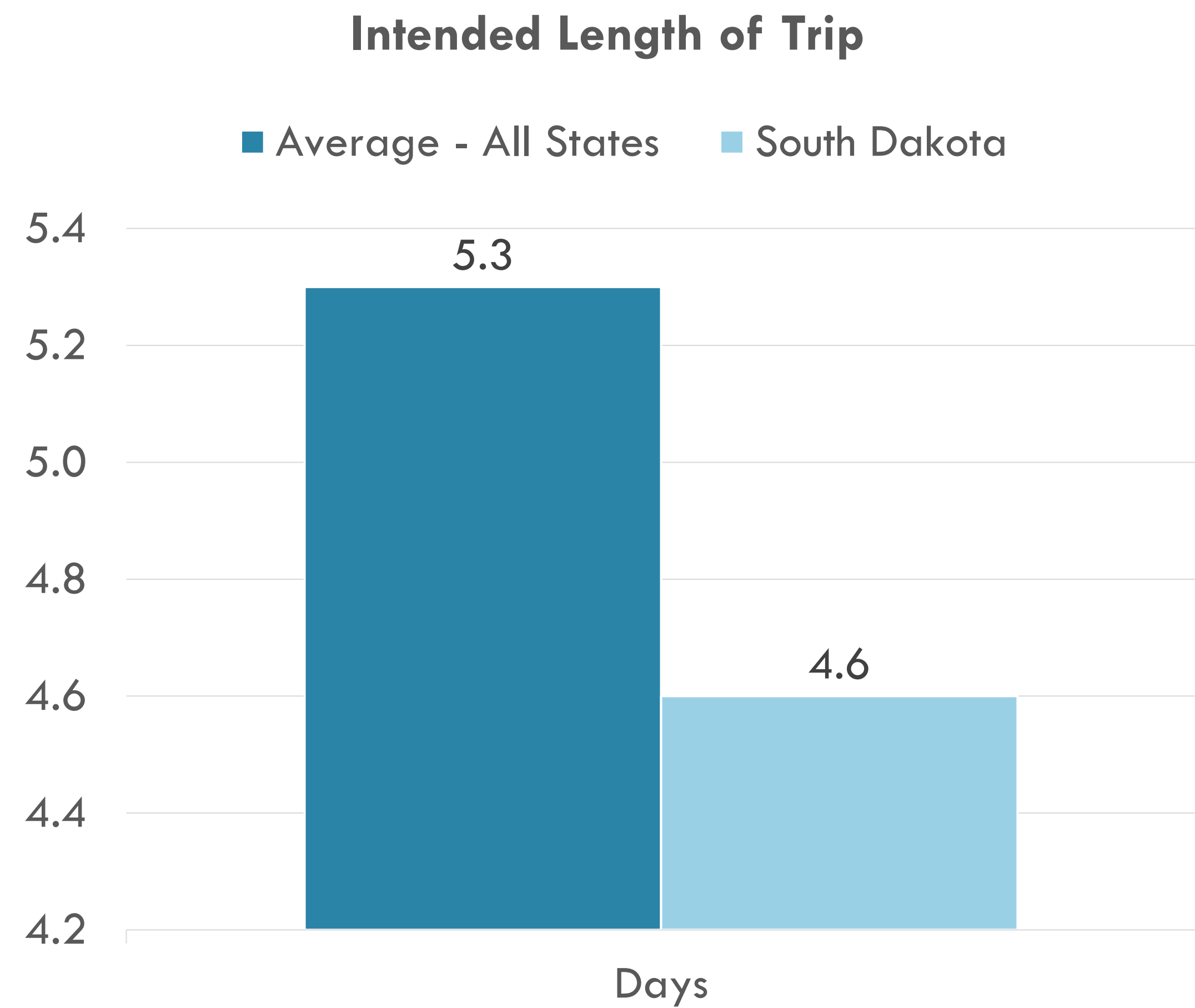


Question: Which of the following best describes you? (Select one)
Base: All in-state respondents planning a trip; 126,147 responses.

Intended Type of Trip



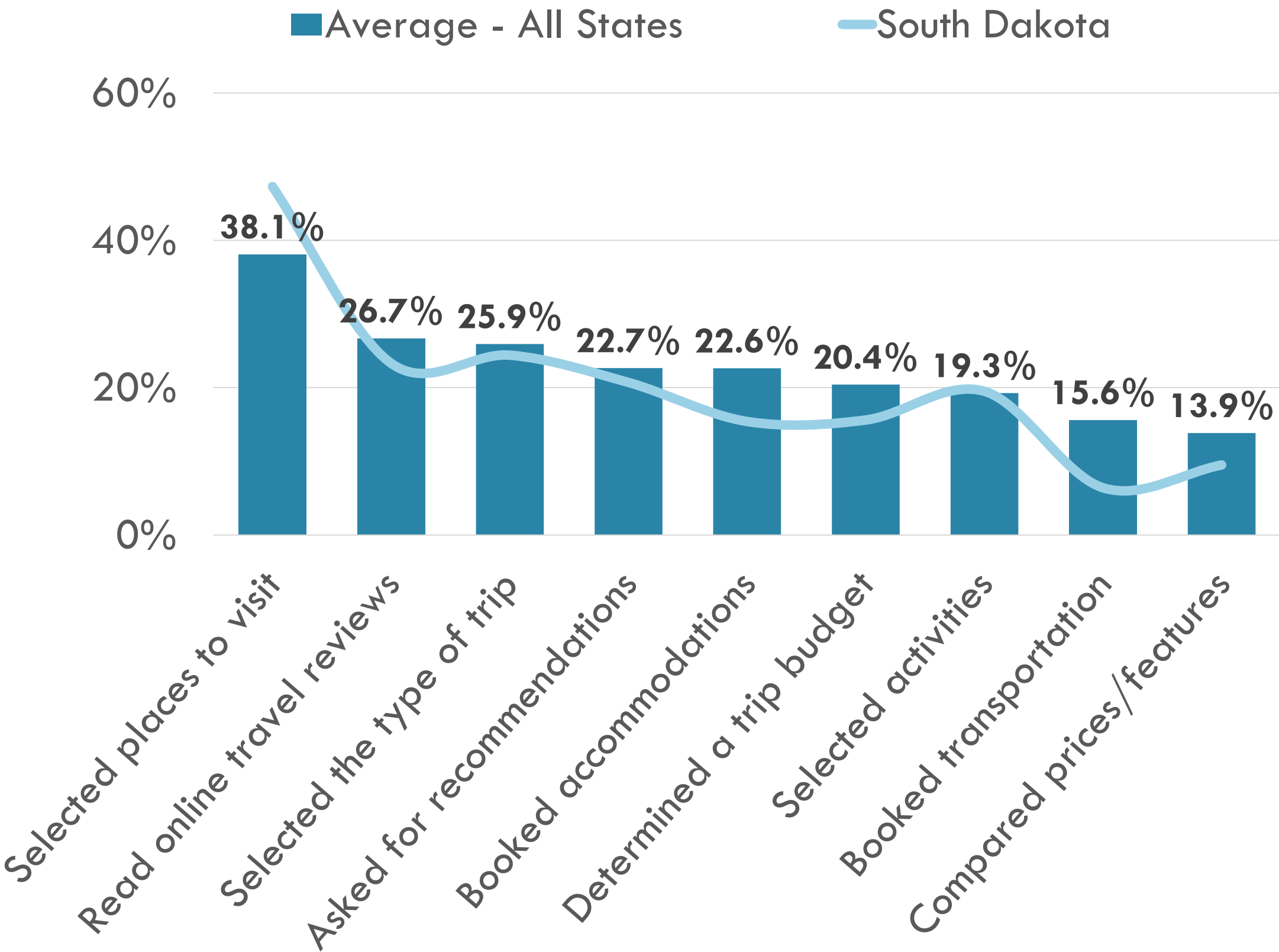
Question: Which best describes the type of travel to [STATE] you are planning or considering? (Select one) Base: All respondents gathering information for a trip; 242,043 responses.



Question: How many days are you likely to stay in [STATE] on this planned or potential trip? Base: All respondents gathering information for a trip; 242,043 responses.

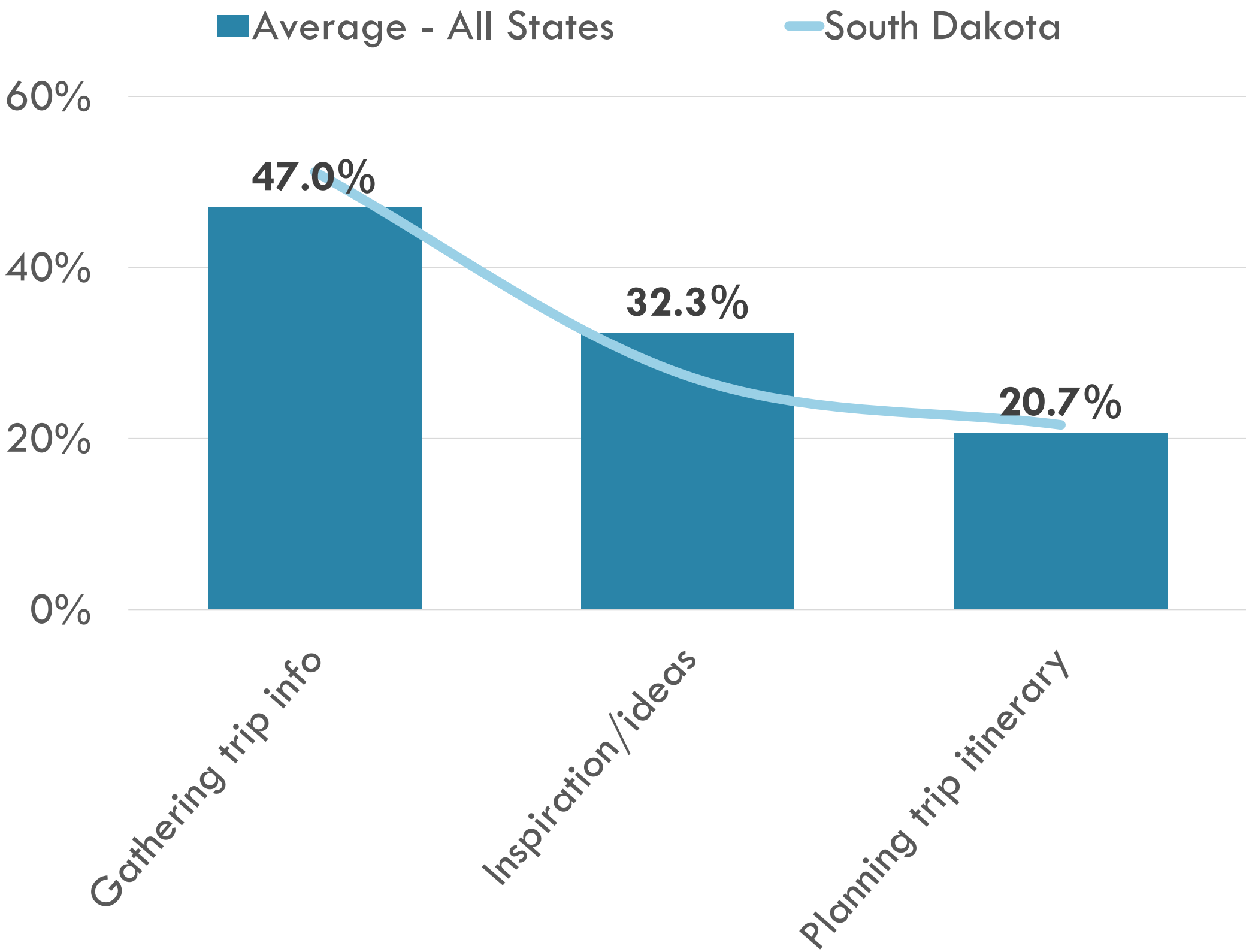
Travel Planning Tasks Completed & Primary Objective of Website Visit

Travel Planning Tasks Completed



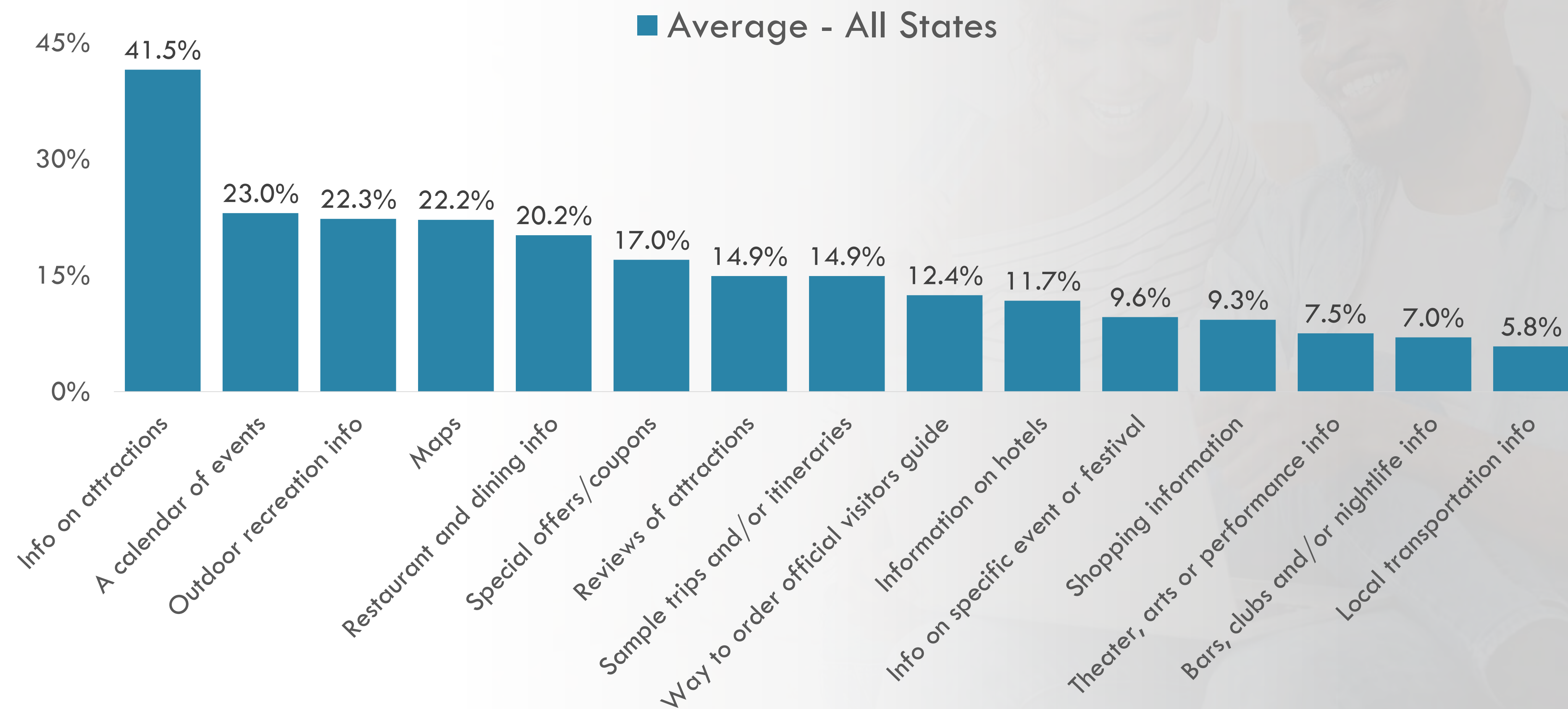
Question: Which of the following have you already done for this planned or potential trip? (Select all that apply) Base: All respondents gathering information for a trip; 242,043 responses.

Primary Objective of Website Visit



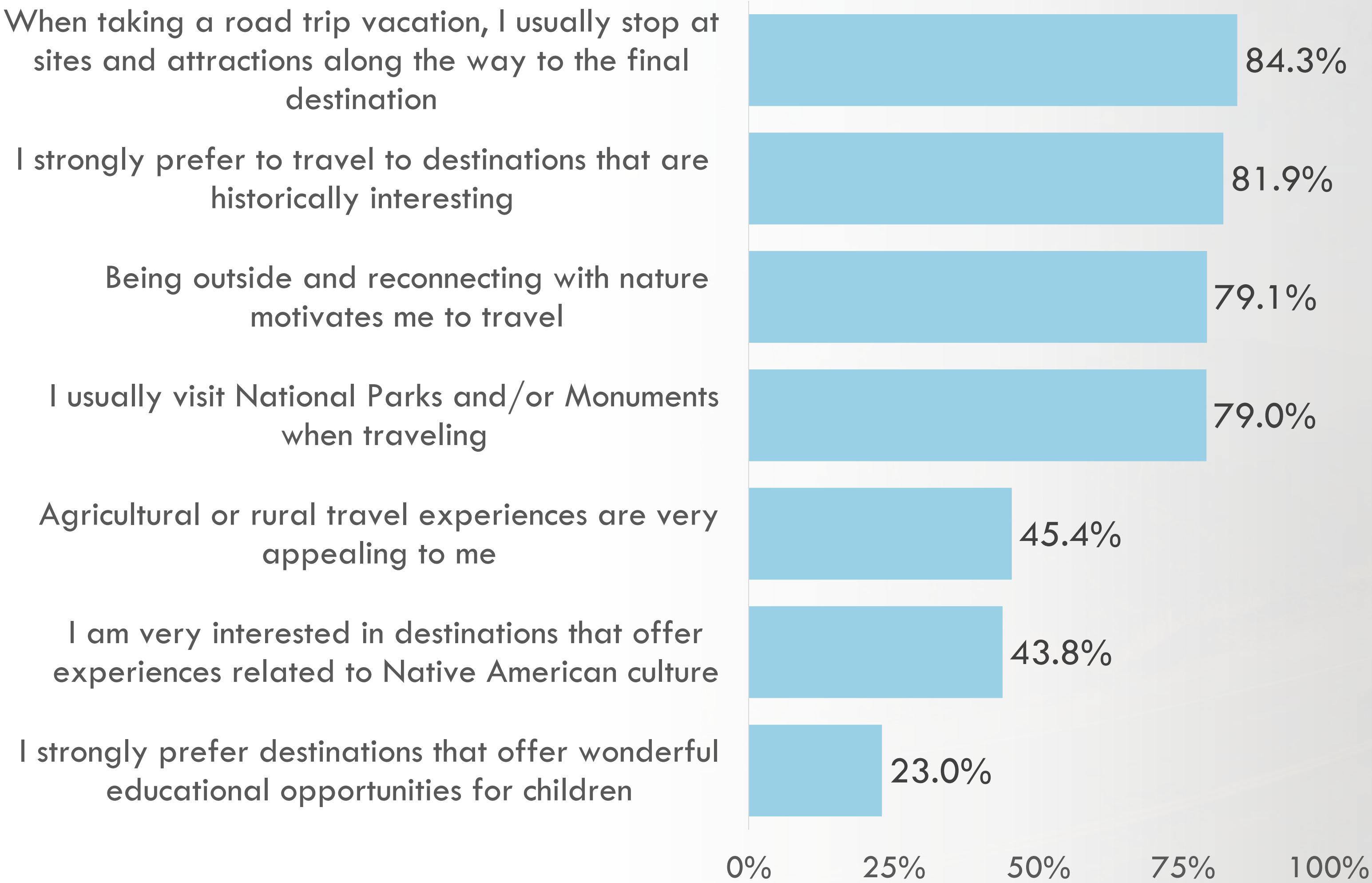
Question: Which best describes your primary objective for using our website? (Select one) Base: All respondents gathering information for a trip; 242,043 responses.

Information Sought on Website



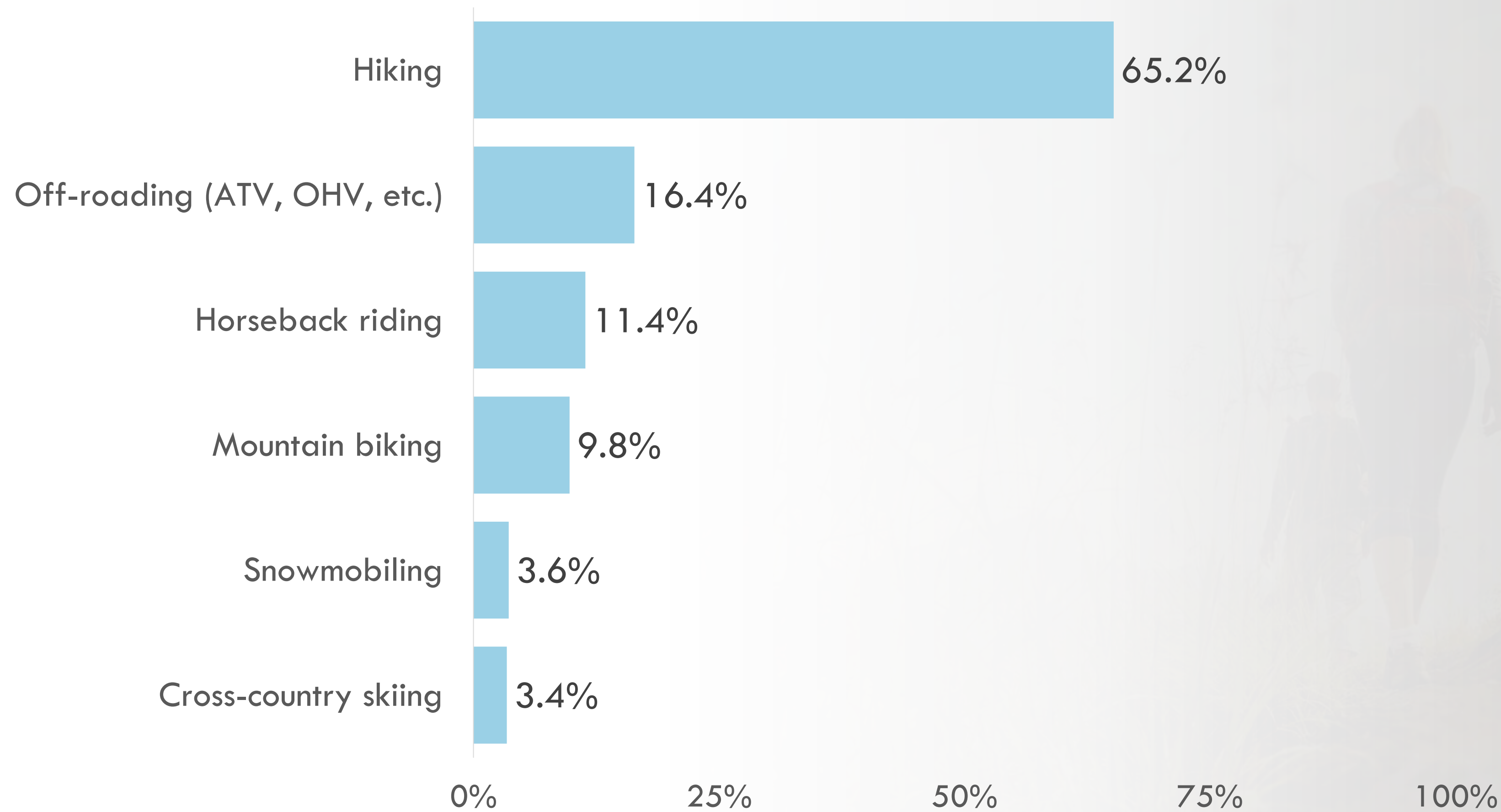
Question: Which types of information were you SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR when you arrived at this website?
(Please select only those items that you had in mind before arriving at this website.) Base: All respondents; 246,247 responses.
*Question and answer choices not asked for every state website.

Custom Question: TravelSouthDakota.com User Psychographics



Question: How well do the following statements describe you? Please use the 5-point scale where “1” equals “Does not describe me at all” and “5” equals “Describes me completely” to rate how well each statement describes you. Base: All out-of-state follow-up respondents; 1,588 responses.

Custom Question: Activities Participated in During a Leisure Trip to South Dakota

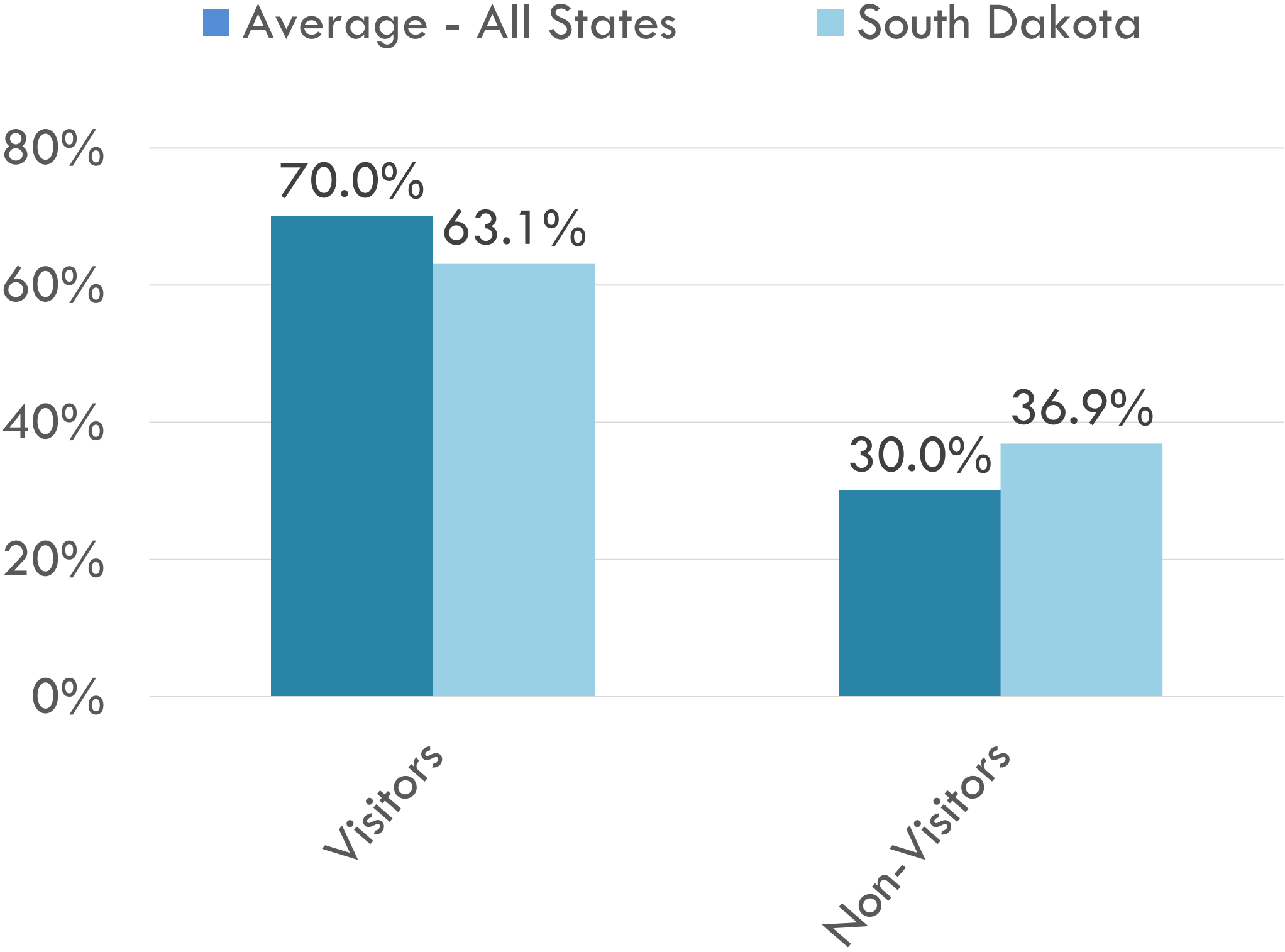


Question: In the past year, which of the following activities have you participated in during a leisure trip? (Select all that apply) Base: All out-of-state follow-up respondents; 1,606 responses.

WEBSITE USER FOLLOW-UP SURVEY DETAILED FINDINGS

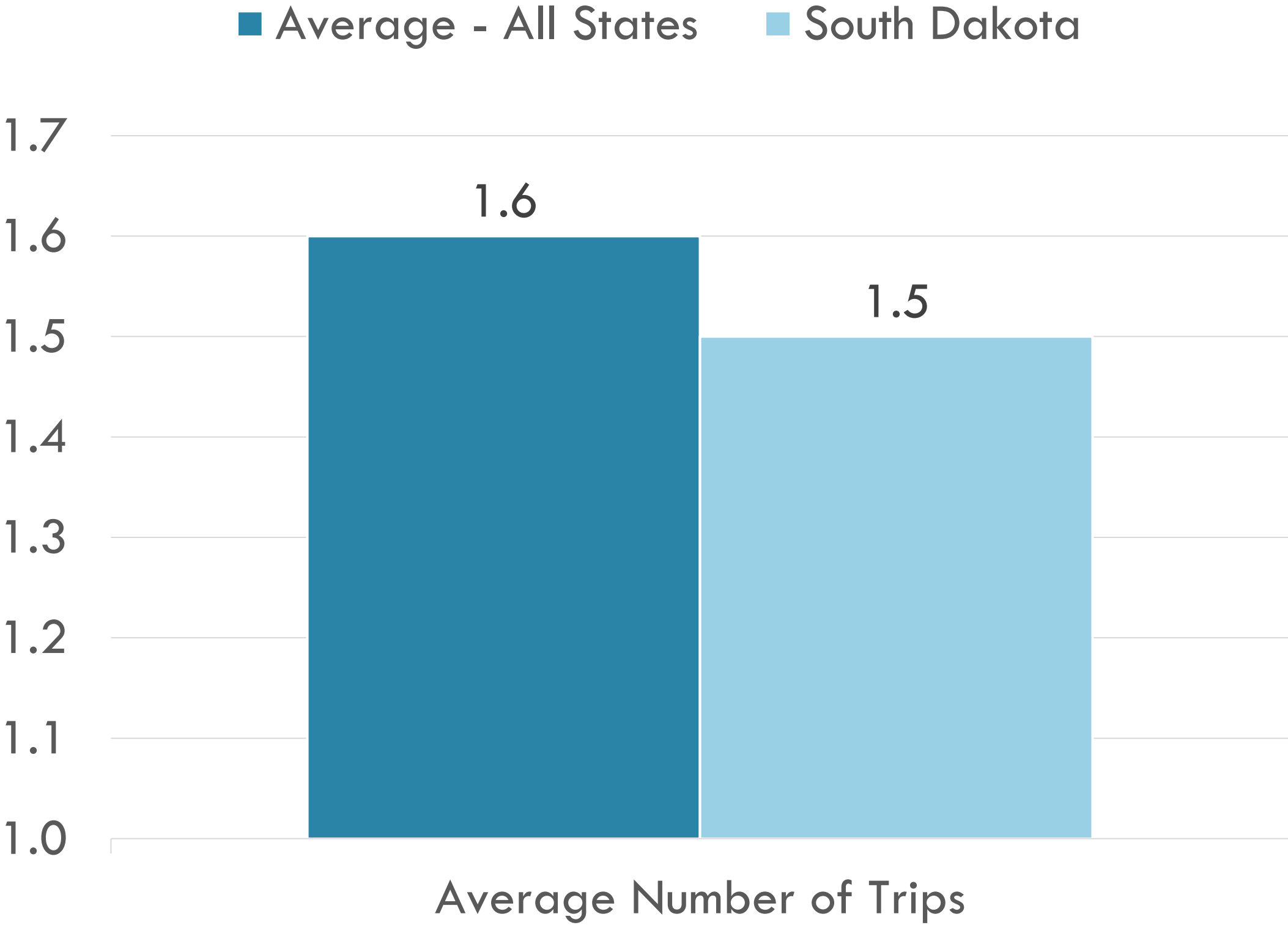
Visitation After Using State Destination Website

Visitation After Using State Destination Website
– Out-of-state



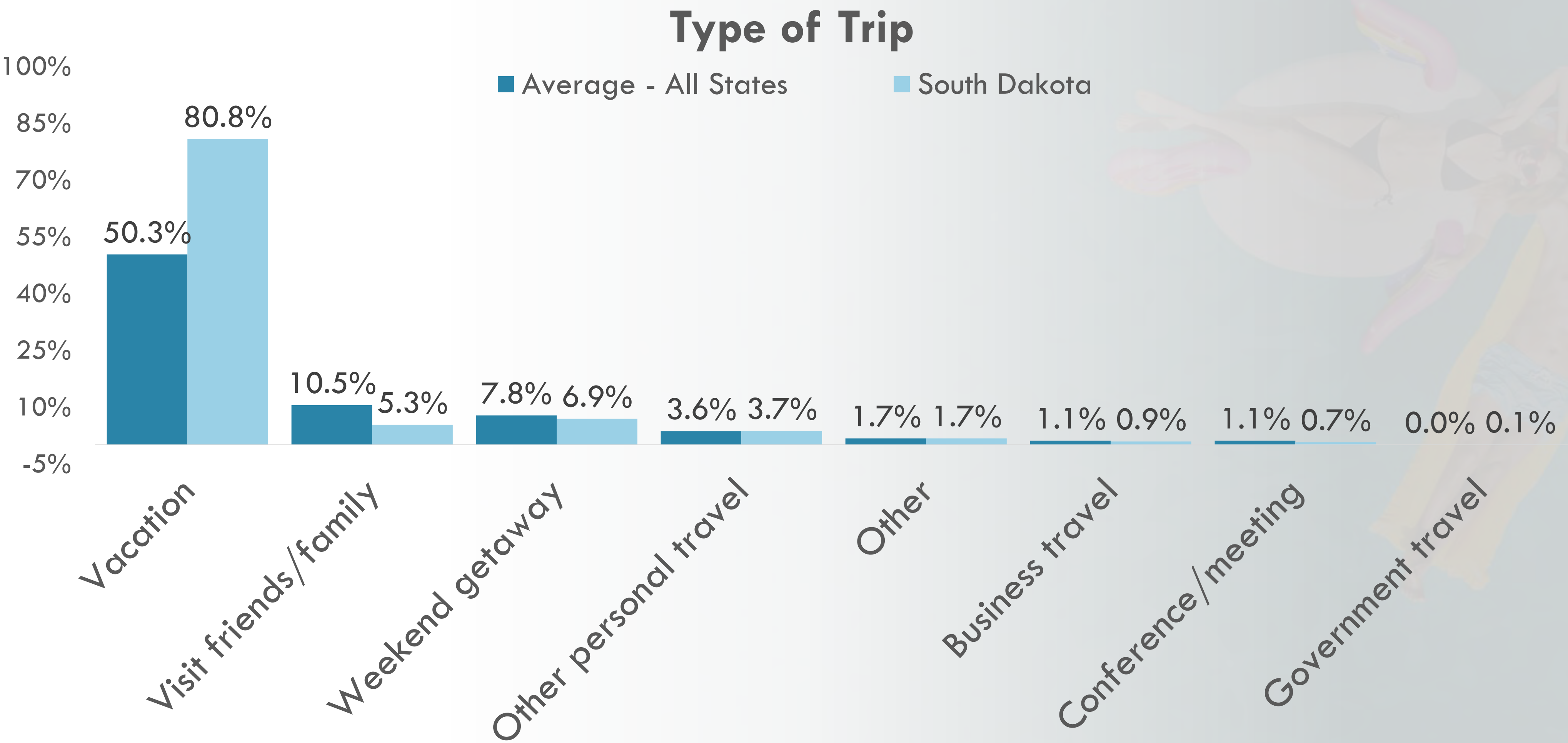
Question(s): Since visiting our website, how many trips to or within [STATE] have you made?
(Select one) Base: All out-of-state respondents who used the website; 18,067 responses.

Average Number of Trips



Question(s): Since visiting our website, how many trips to or within [STATE] have you made?
(Select one) Base: All in-state respondents who used the website; 5,576 responses.

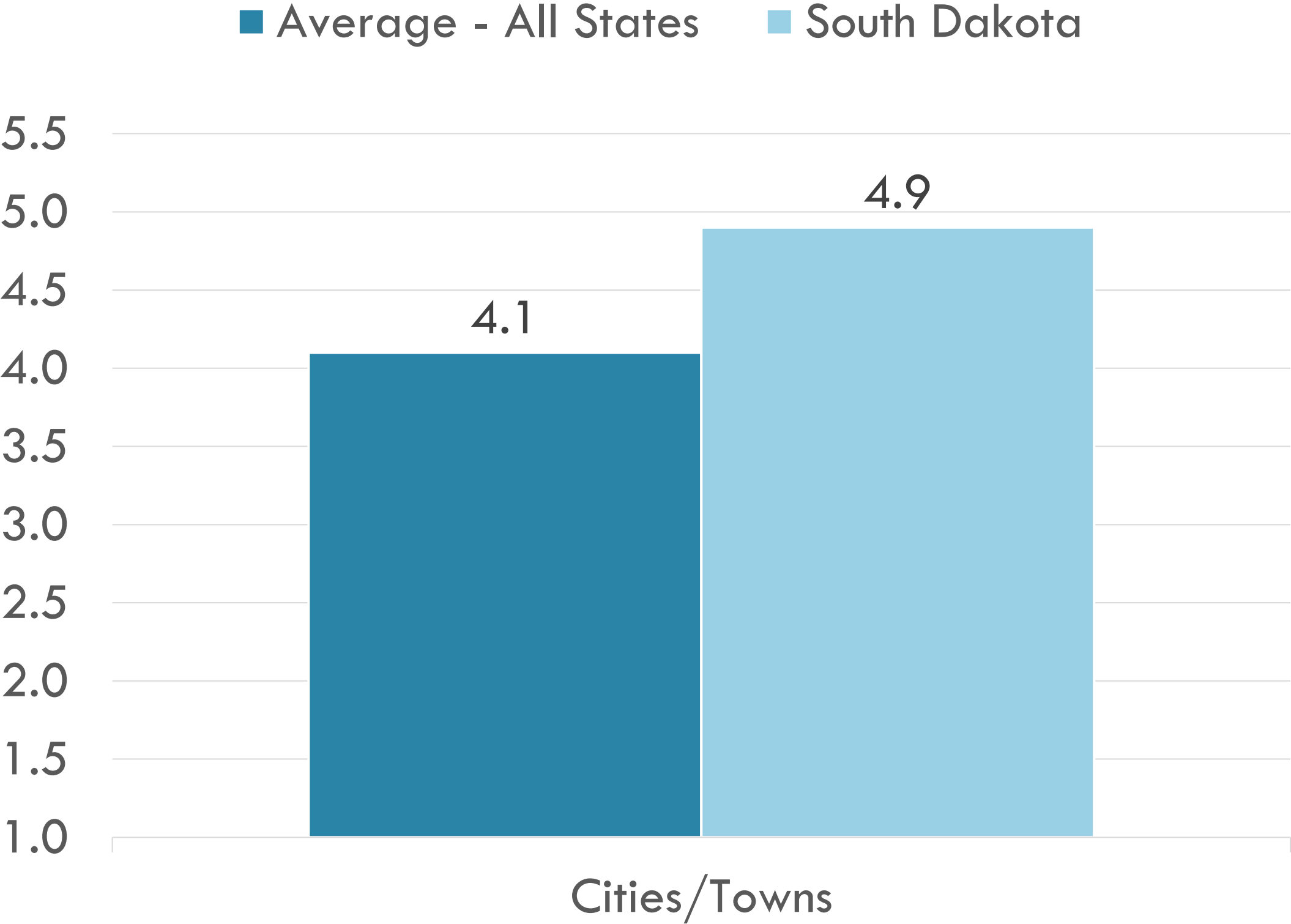
Profile of Follow-up Survey Respondents



Question: Which of the following best describes the primary reason for your most recent trip to or within [STATE]? (Select one) Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,806 responses.

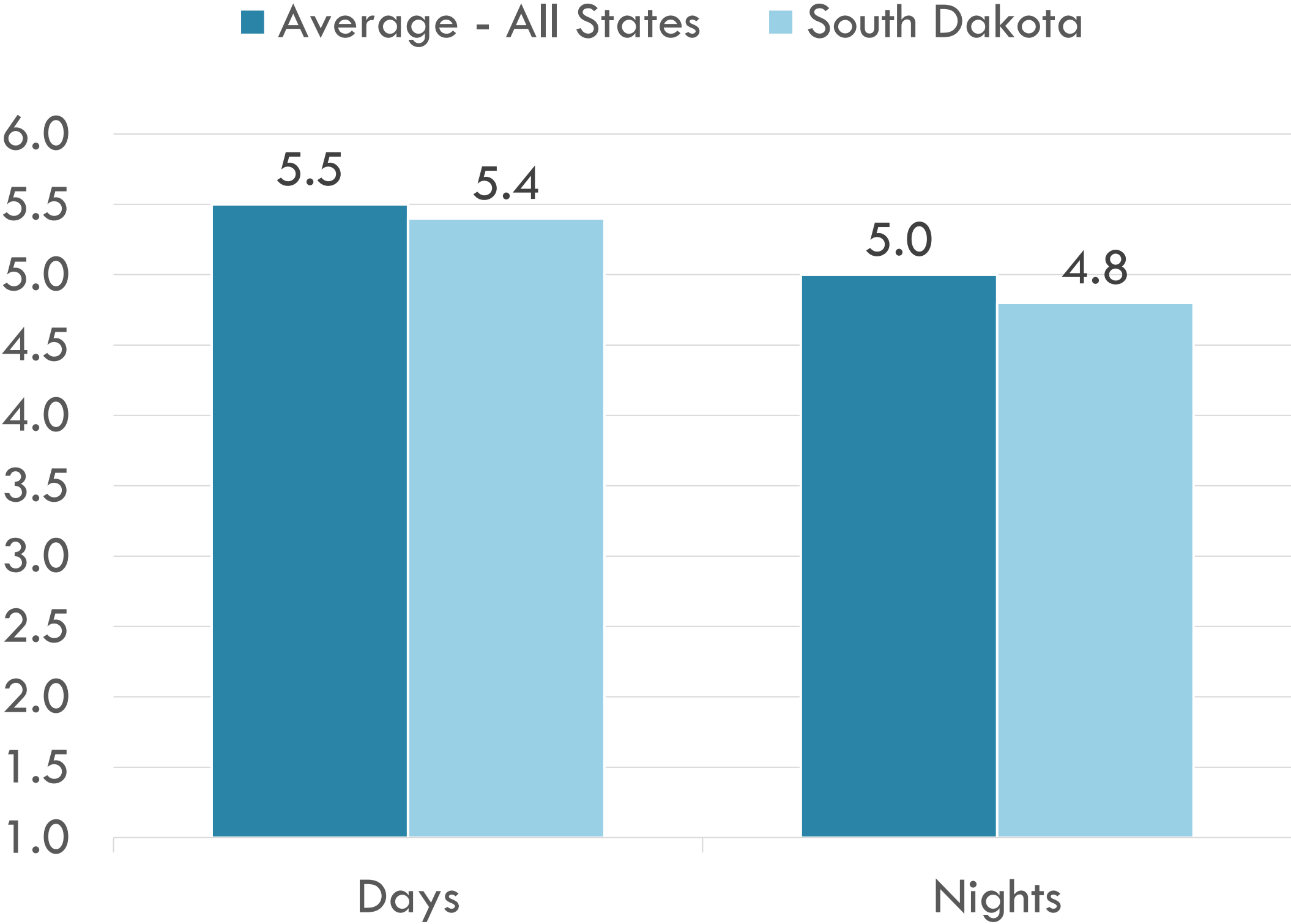
Profile of Follow-up Survey Respondents

Cities/Towns Visited



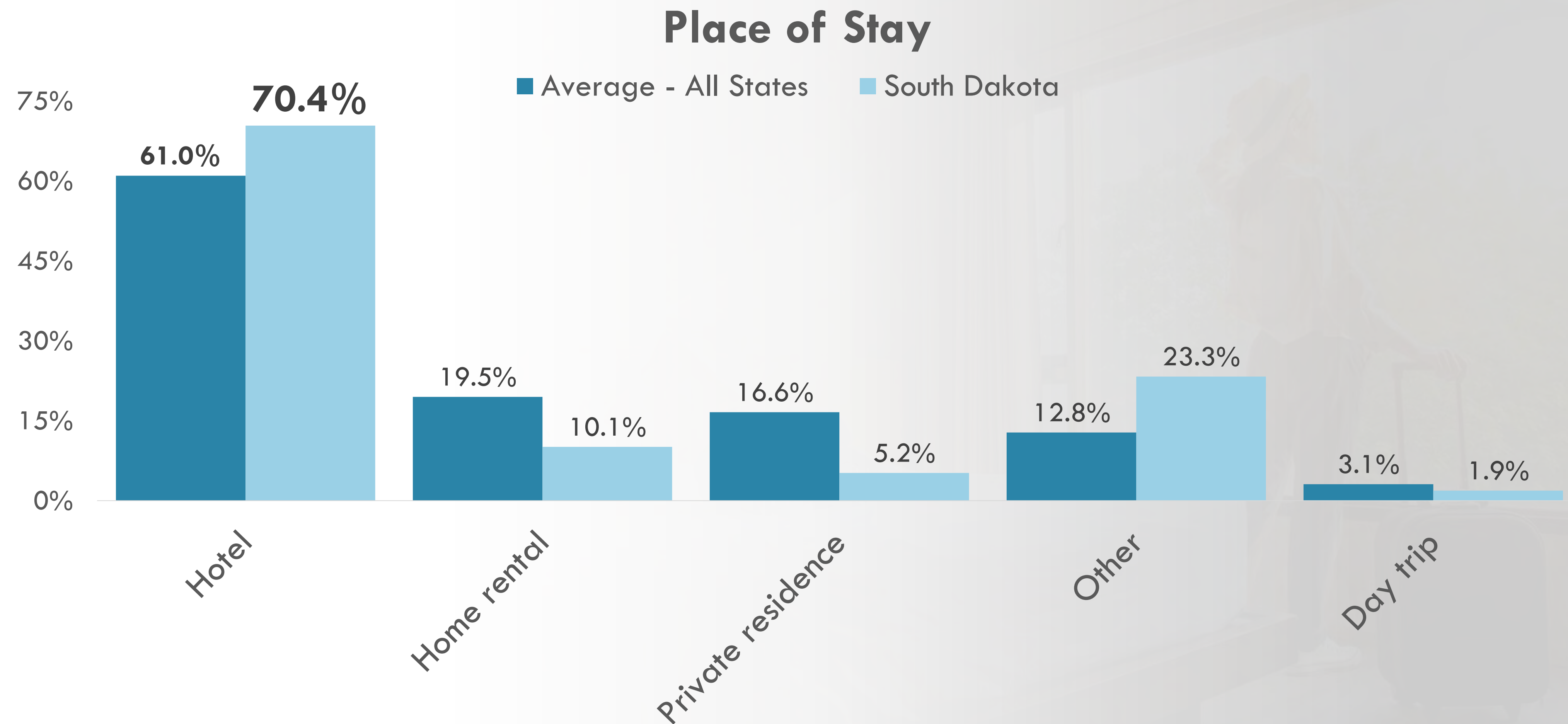
Question(s): During your trip to or within [STATE], how many different cities/towns did you visit?
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,806 responses.

Average Length of Stay



Question(s): How many total days and nights did you spend in [STATE] on this trip?
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,806 responses.

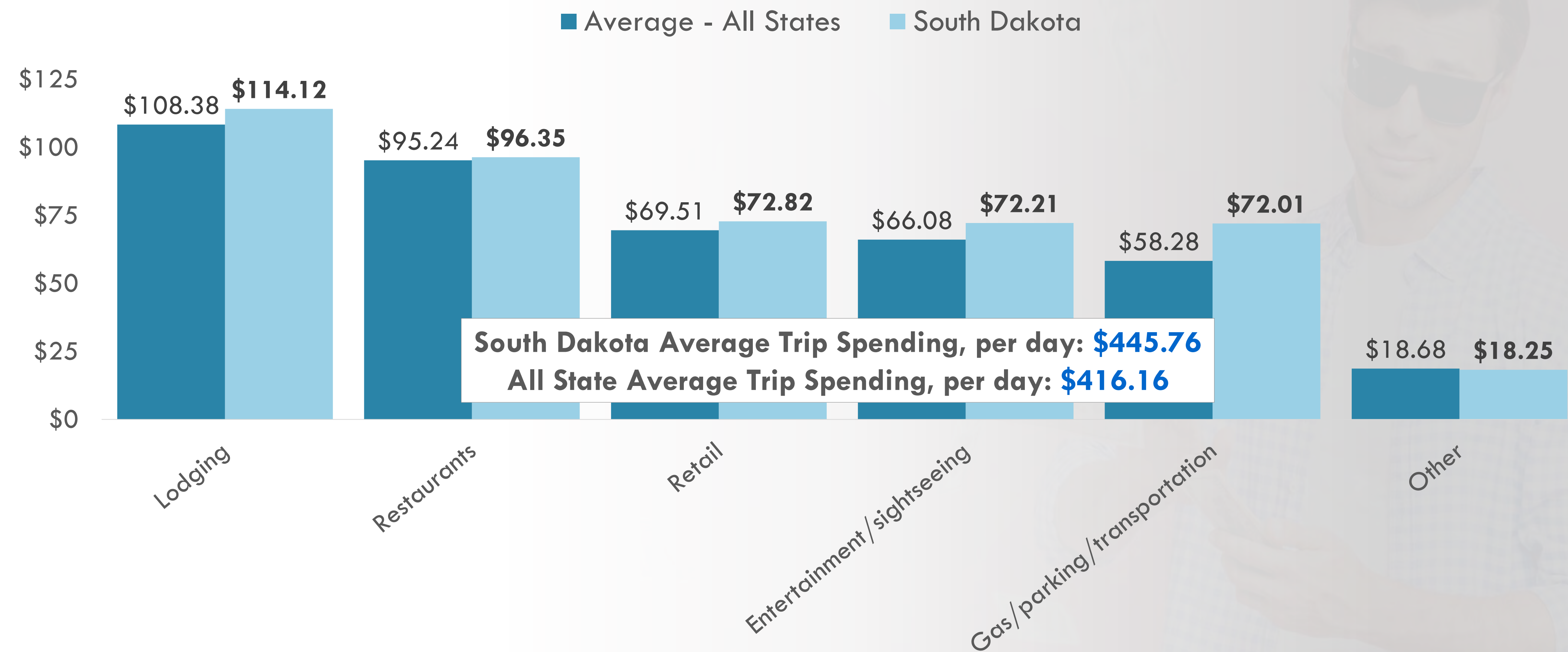
Place of Stay in the Destination



Question: While on this trip, where did you stay in [STATE]? (Select one)
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,806 responses.

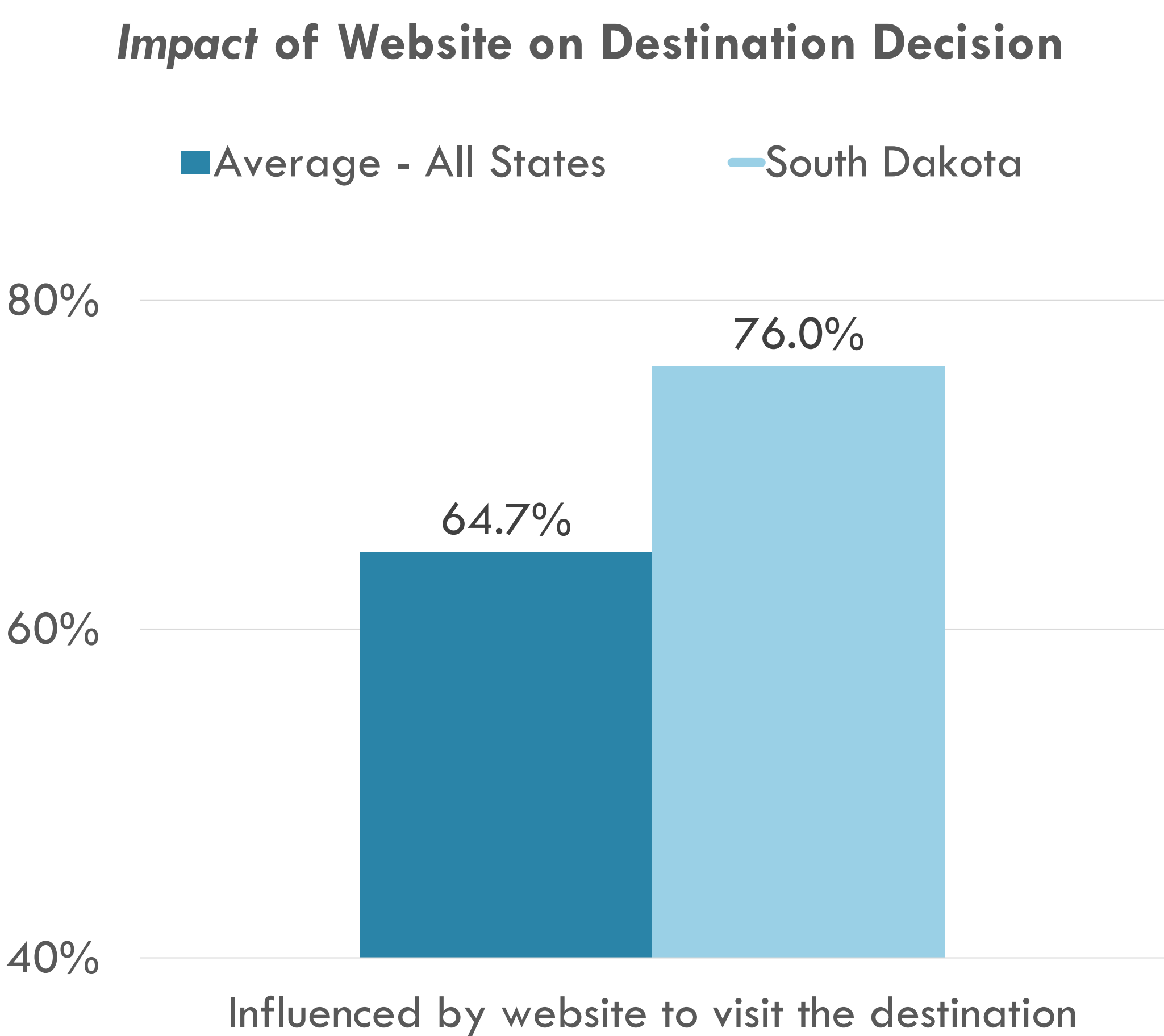
Visitor Spending in the Destination

Spending Per Travel Party, Per Day

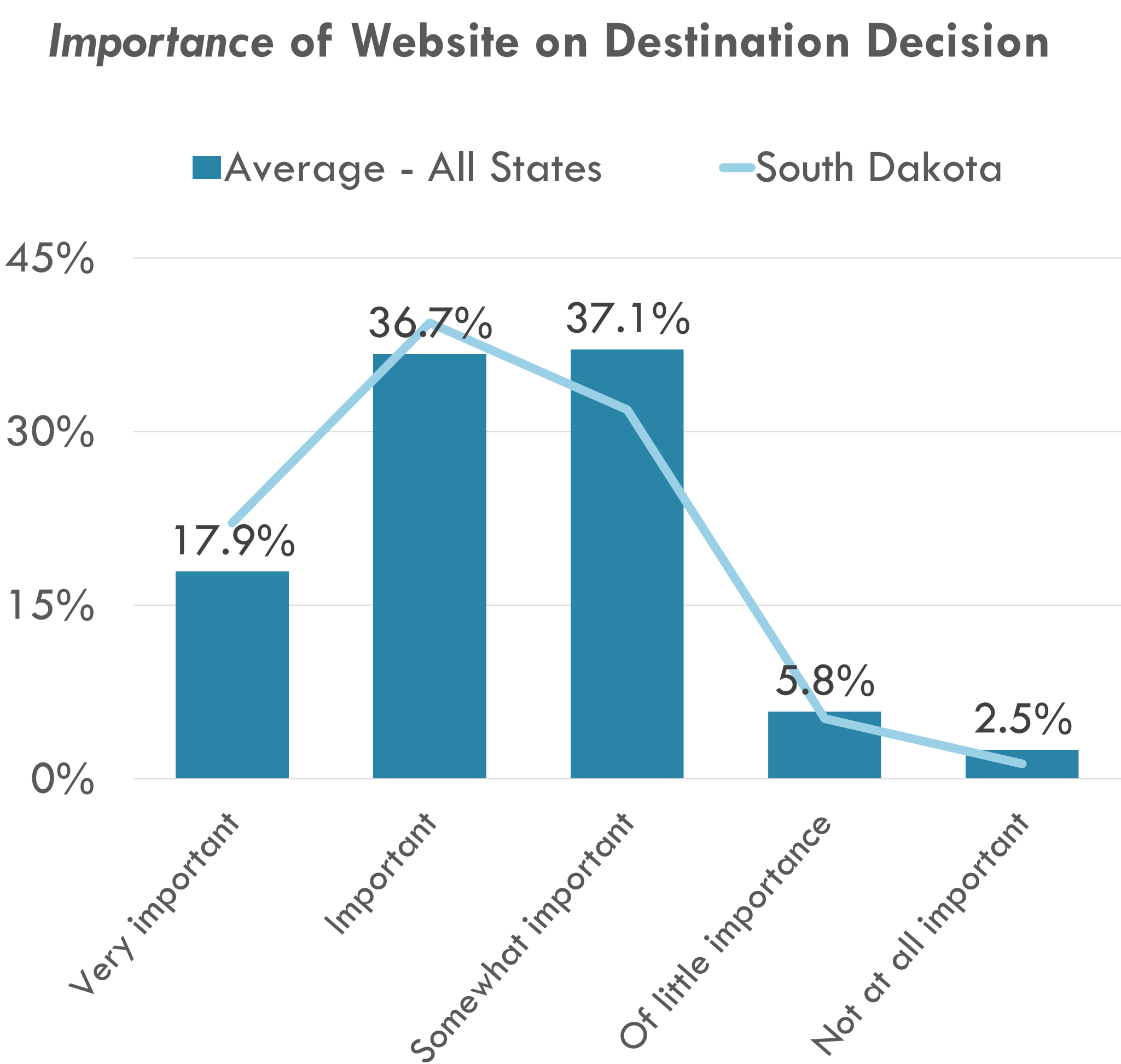


Question: While on this trip, approximately how much IN TOTAL did you spend PER DAY while in [STATE] on each of the following?
Please only INCLUDE spending inside [STATE] and EXCLUDE any spending made outside [STATE] or before arriving in [STATE].
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,479 responses.

Impact of Website on Destination Decision



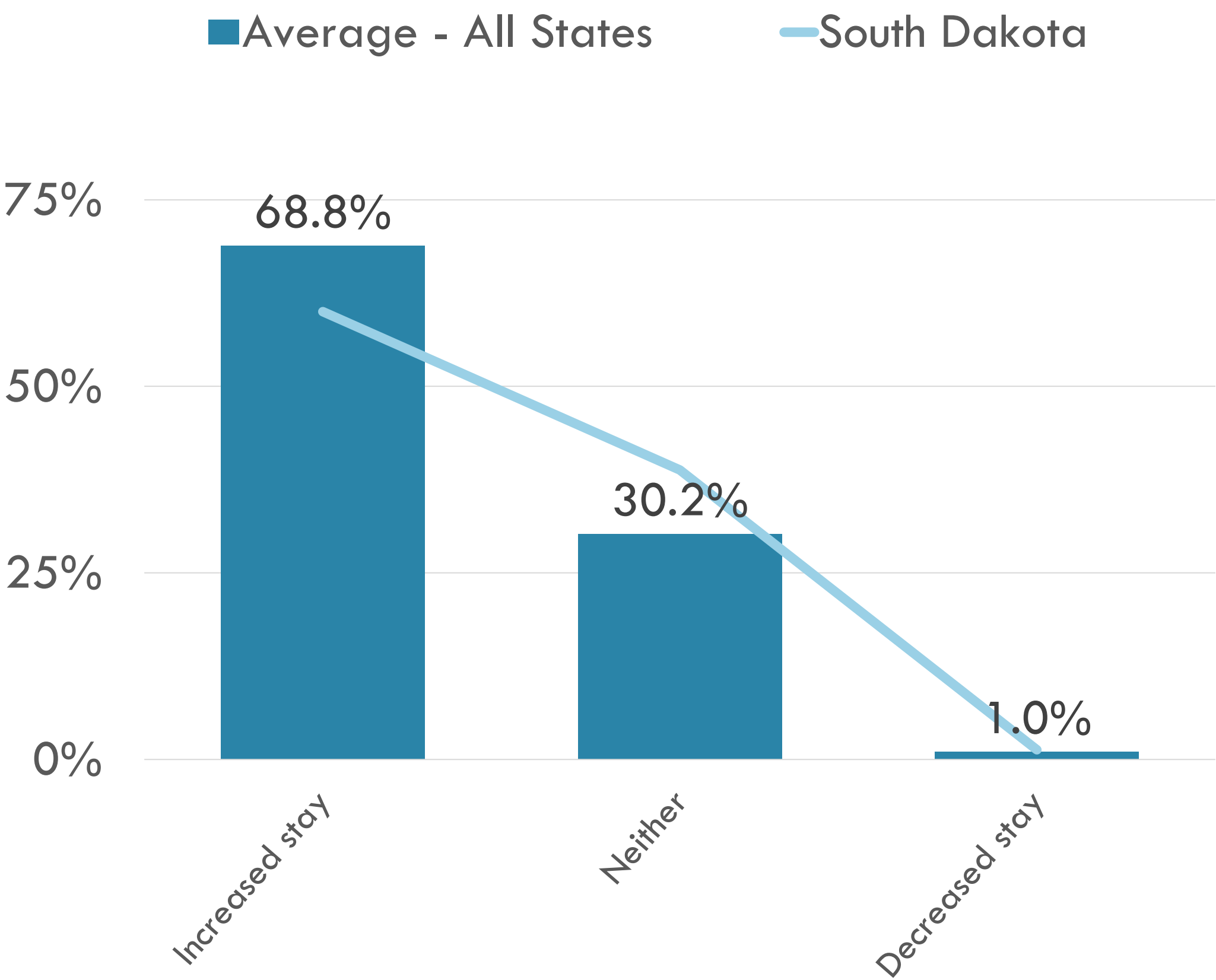
Question: Do you feel that our website helped you make your decision to take this trip to [STATE]? Base: All out-of-state visitors who were potentially influenced by the website in the destination decision; 11,356 responses.



Question: Do you feel that our website helped you make your decision to take this trip to [STATE]? Base: All in-state visitors who were potentially influenced by the website in the destination decision; 3,893 responses.

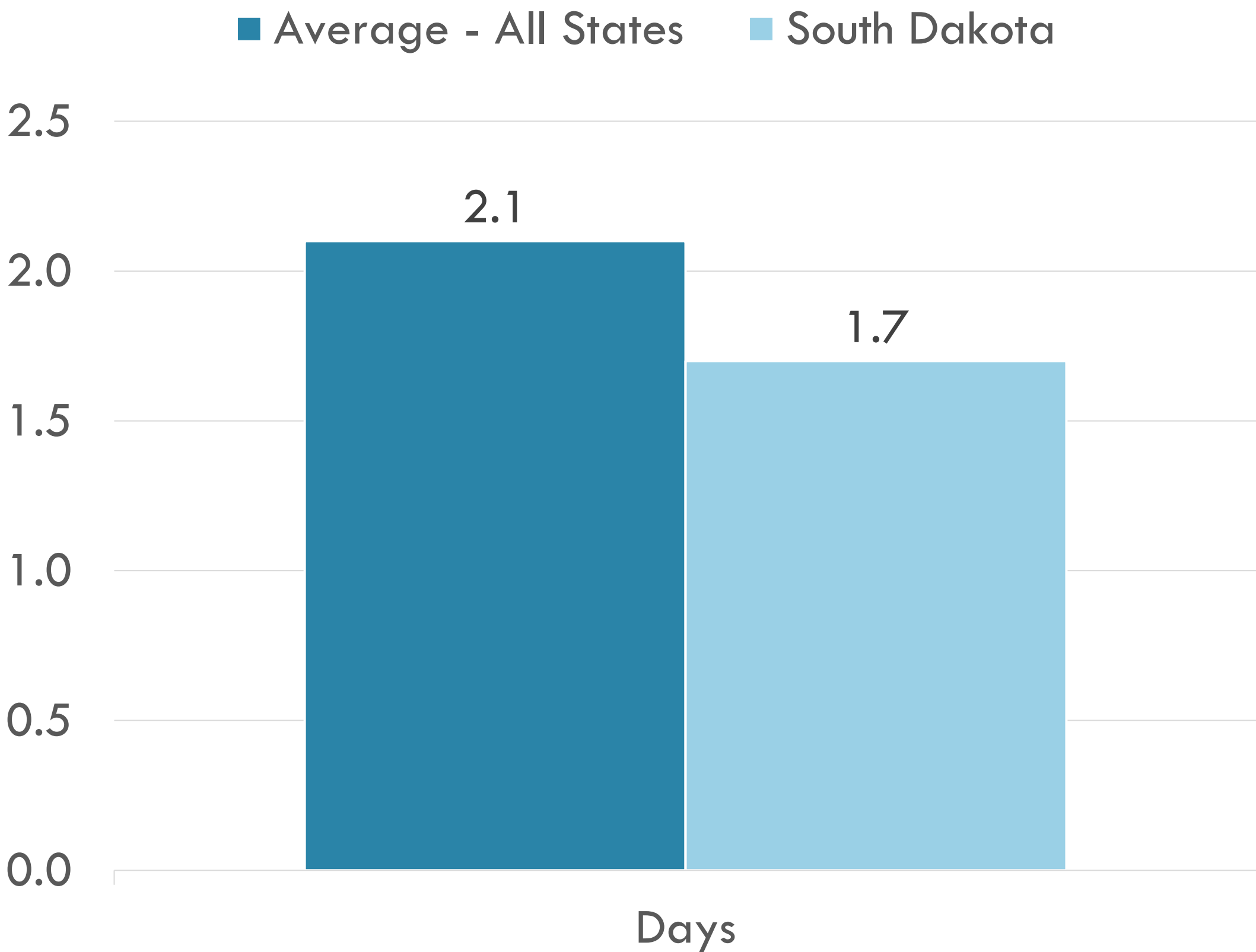
Impact of Website on Length of Stay

Impact of Website on Length of Stay



Question(s): How did our website influence the number of days you spent in [STATE] on this trip? (Select one) How many days did you increase the length of your stay as a result of using our website? Base: All out-of-state business or conference travelers or those who reported that the website did not influence their destination decision but did influence their length of stay; 960 responses.

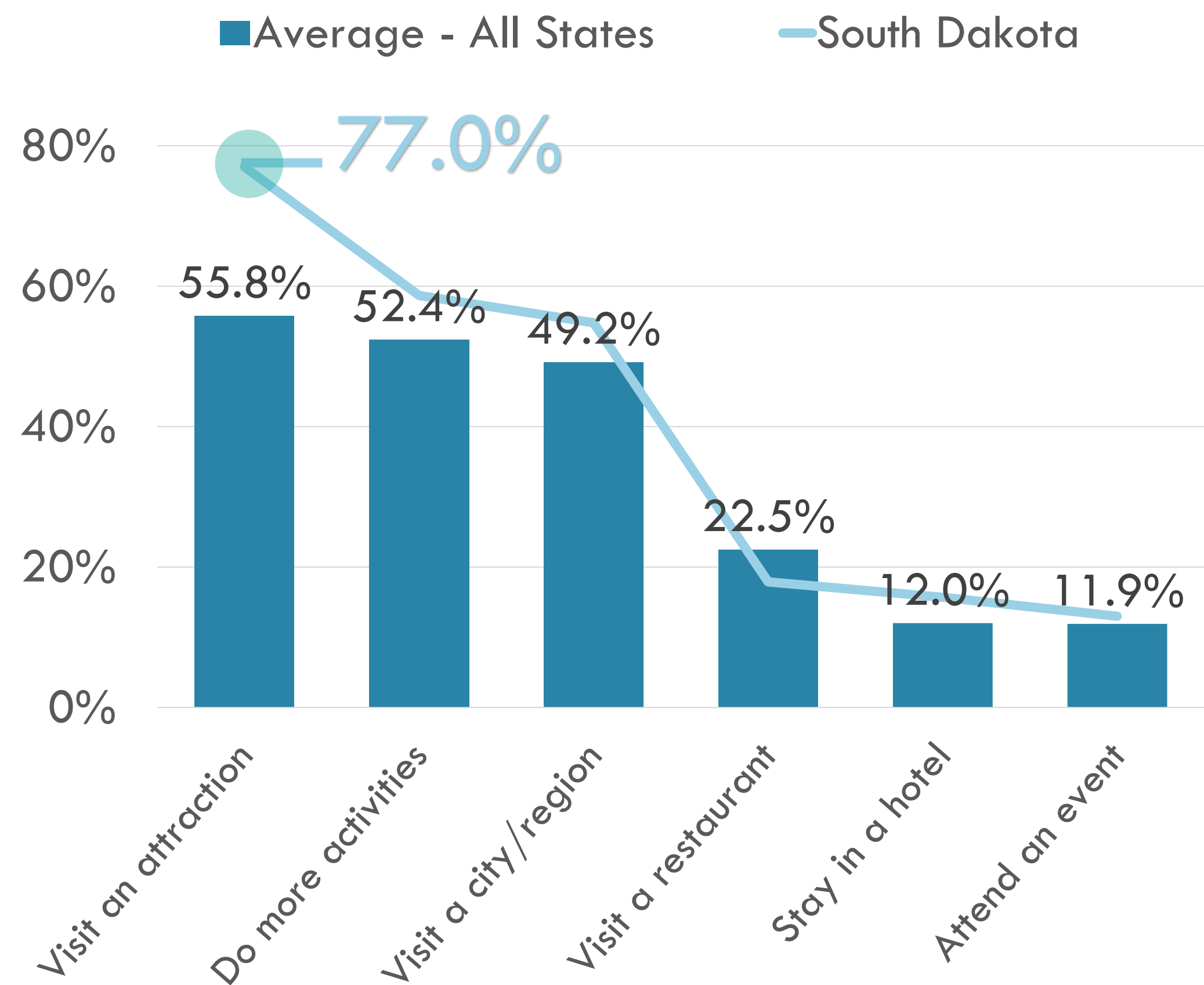
Average Increase on Length of Stay



Question(s): How did our website influence the number of days you spent in [STATE] on this trip? (Select one) How many days did you increase the length of your stay as a result of using our website? Base: All in-state business or conference travelers or those who reported that the website did not influence their destination decision but did influence their length of stay; 172 responses.

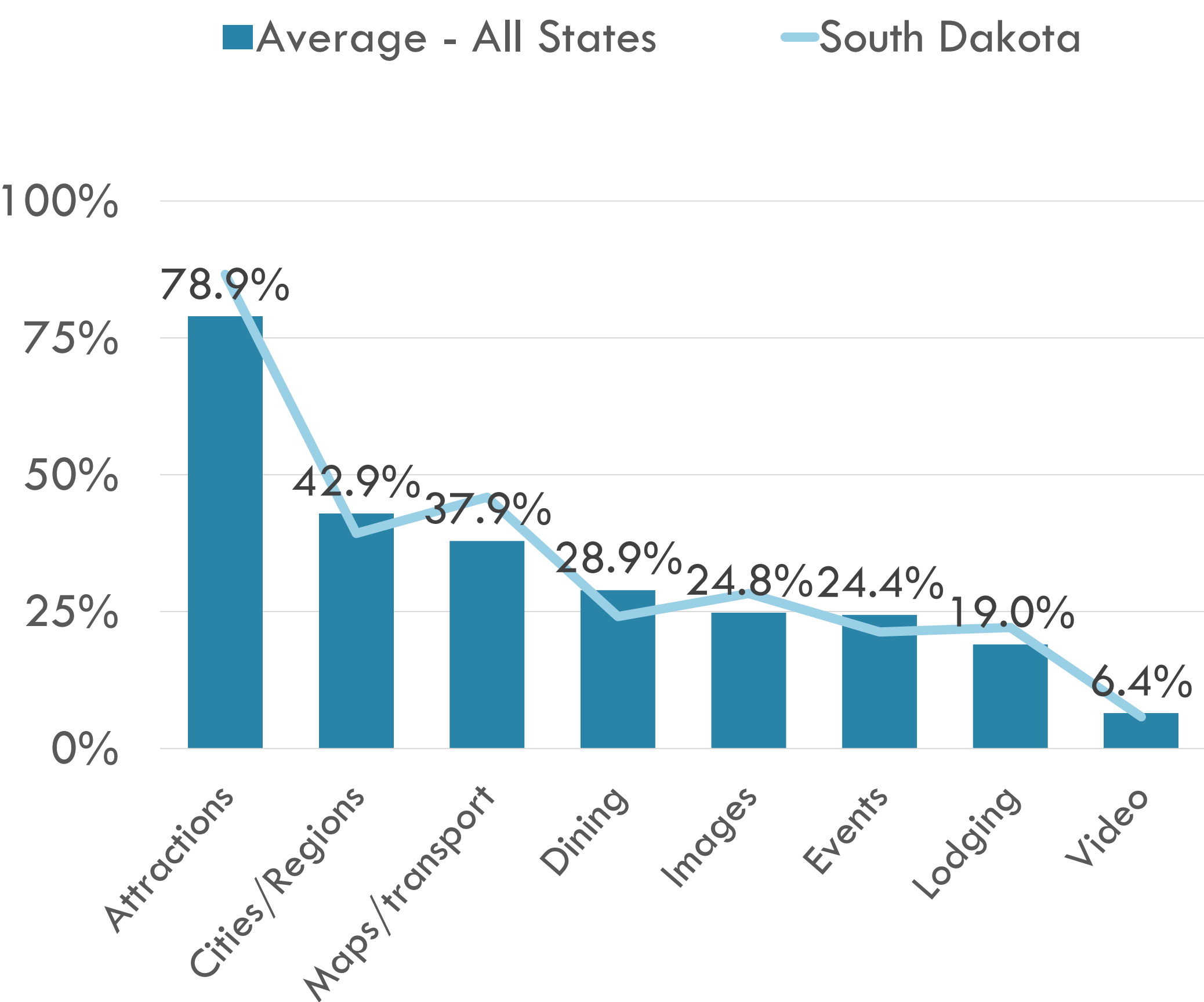
Trip Decisions Influenced and Influential Website Content

Trip Decisions Influenced



Question: Did the website influence you to do any of the following? (Select all that apply)
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,798 responses.

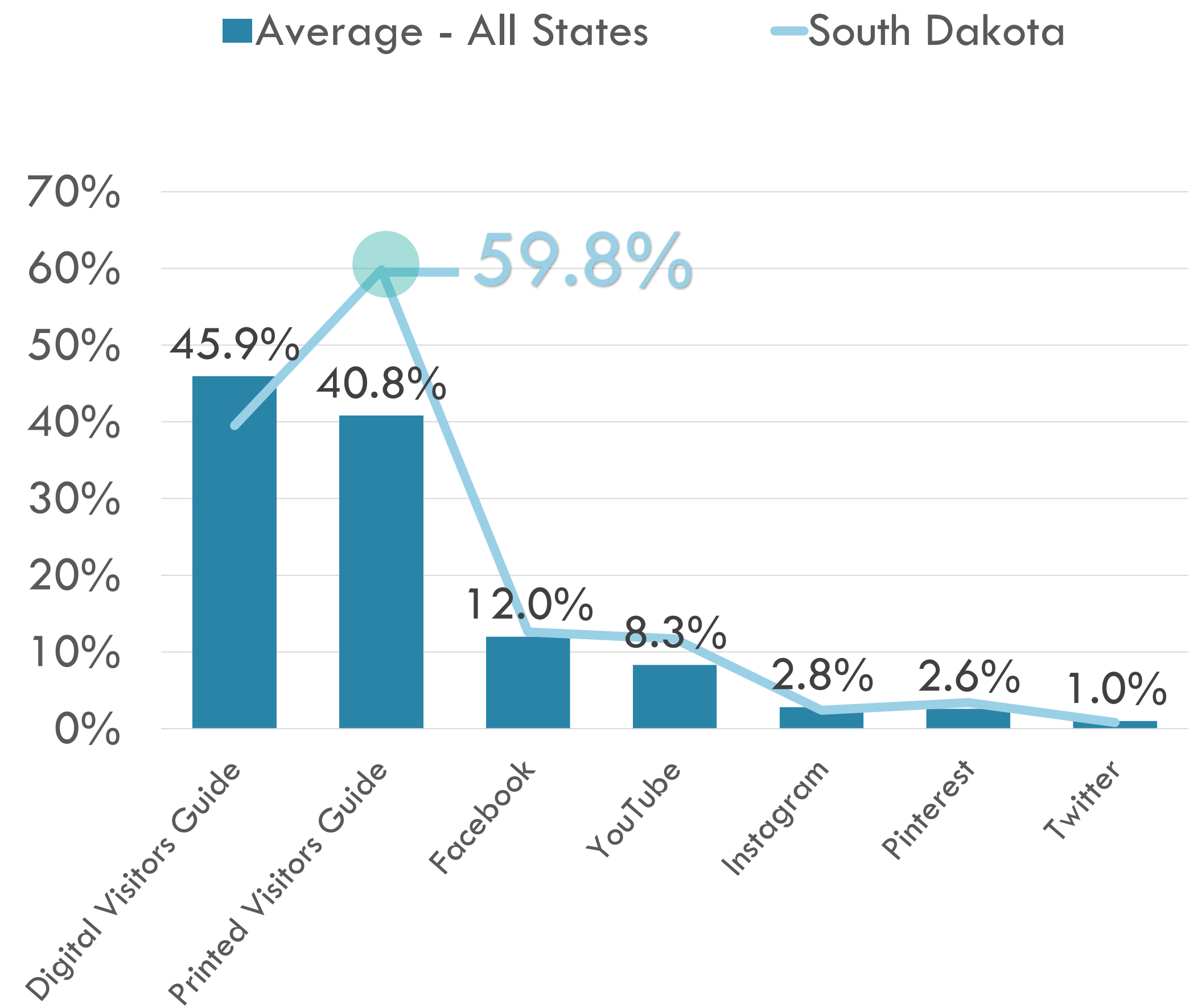
Most Influential Website Content



Question: What types of content on our website were most influential in planning this trip? (Select all that apply)
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,798 responses.

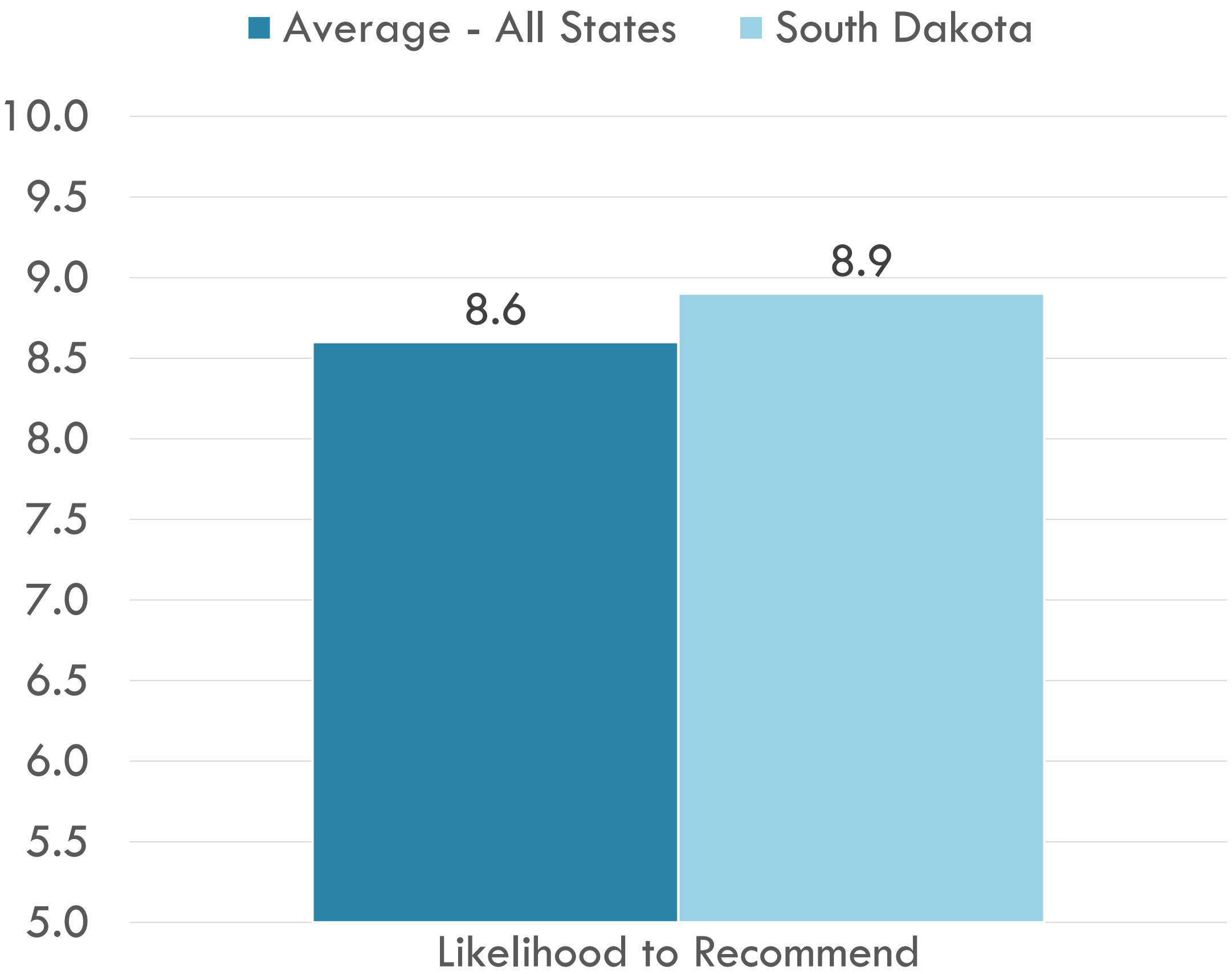
Official Resources Used and Likelihood to Recommend Website

Official STO Resources Used



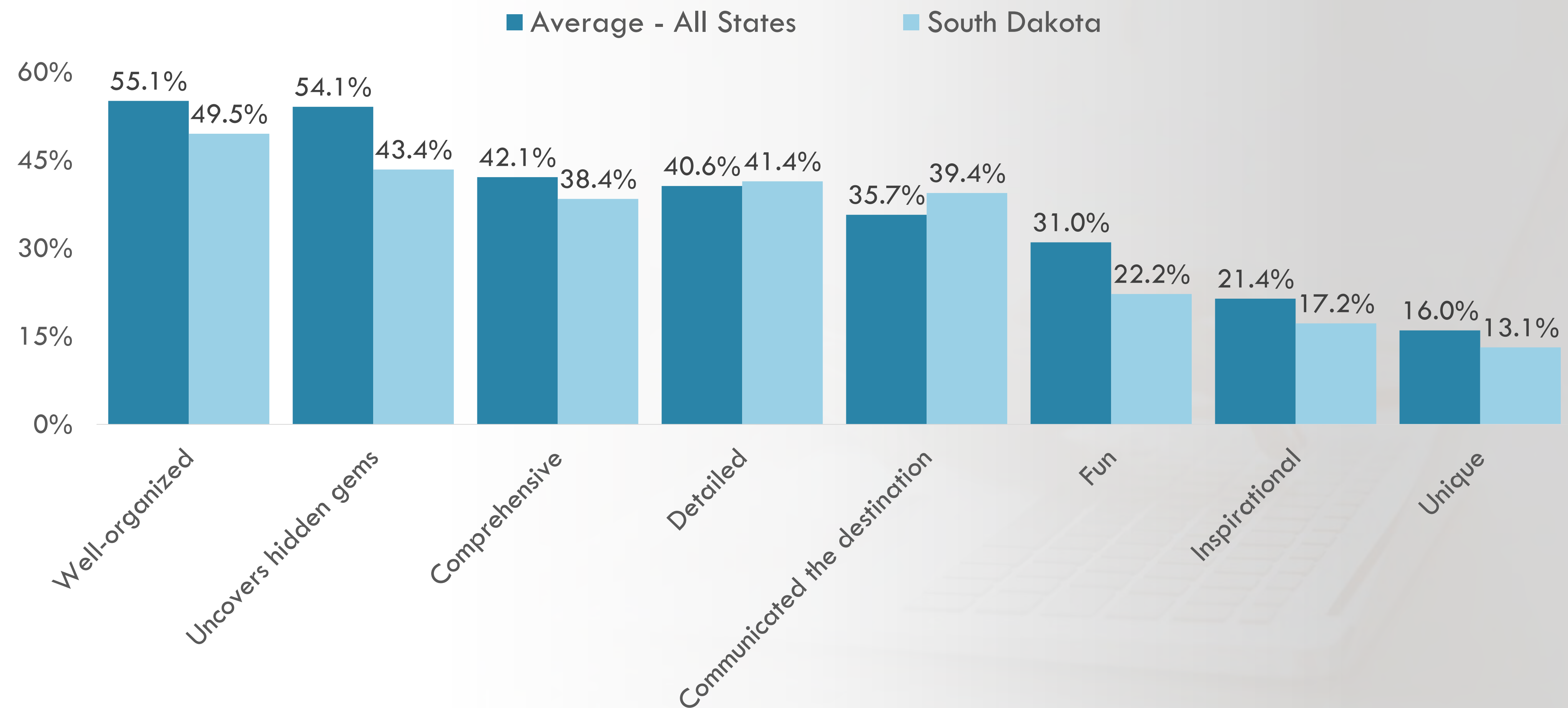
Question: Which of these other resources did you use to plan your trip to [STATE]? (Select all that apply)
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 15,798 responses.

Likelihood to Recommend Website— 10 Point Scale



Question: How likely would you be to recommend this website to others planning a trip to or within [STATE]?
Base: All respondents who visited after using the website; 23,642 responses.

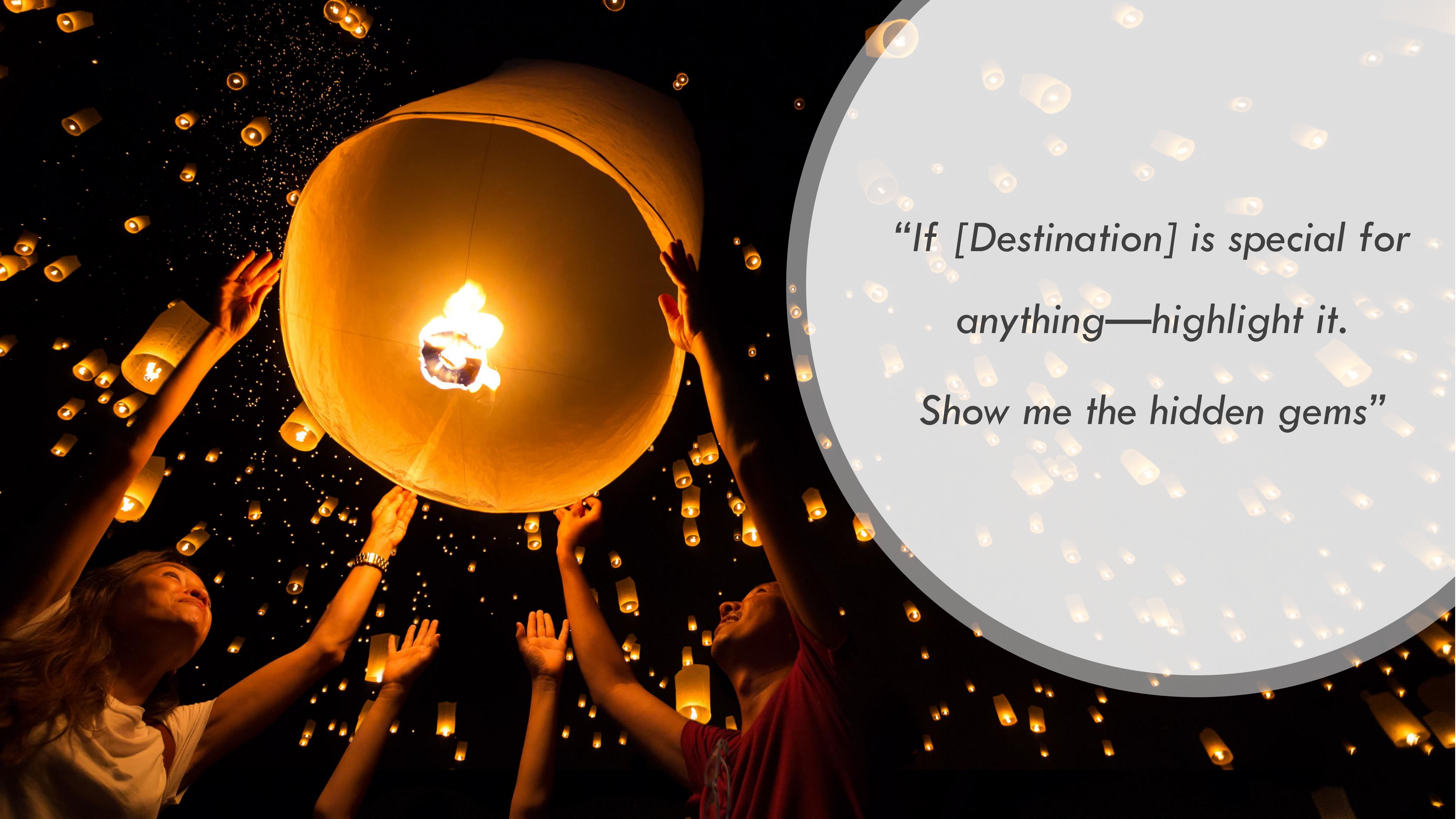
Descriptions of Website Content



Question: Which of these words and phrases (if any) describe the content available on our website? (Select all that apply). Base: All respondents who used the website; 23,642 responses.

*“What makes [Destination]
unique that I can’t do somewhere
else? Get into what makes
[Destination] unique.”*





*“If [Destination] is special for
anything—highlight it.
Show me the hidden gems”*

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The following presents the demographic profile of website users who visited after using a state tourism office website.



Average Age
53.9 years old



Gender
Female: 59.8%
Male: 39.1%



Household Income
\$90,909



Marital Status
Married/partnered: 76.9%
Single: 17.7%
Children under 18: 17.0%



Ethnicity
Caucasian – 83.5%
Non-Caucasian – 11.0%



Education
College Graduate – 65.3%

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

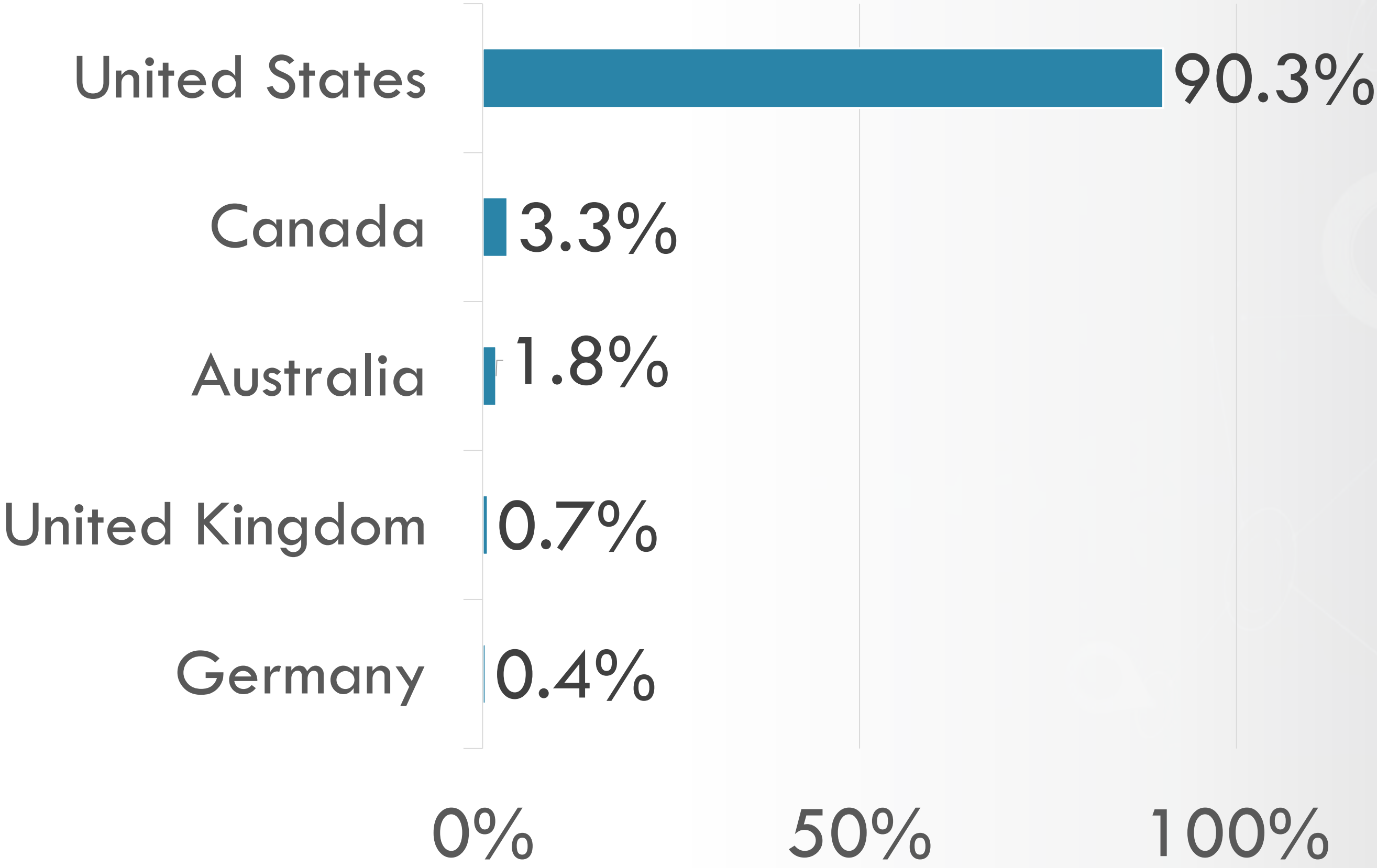
	South Dakota	Average—All States
Female	56.8%	59.8%
Male	41.2%	39.1%
Mean age	56.7	53.9
Mean household income	\$92,405	\$90,909
Married/Partnered	78.9%	76.9%
Single	15.1%	17.7%
% with Children under 18	13.7%	17.0%
College graduate or more	60.2%	65.3%
Caucasian ethnicity	90.0%	83.5%
Non-Caucasian ethnicity	5.0%	11.0%

SITE BEHAVIOR INSIGHTS FROM GOOGLE ANALYTICS

Destination  Analysts

Potential Visitors—Residence

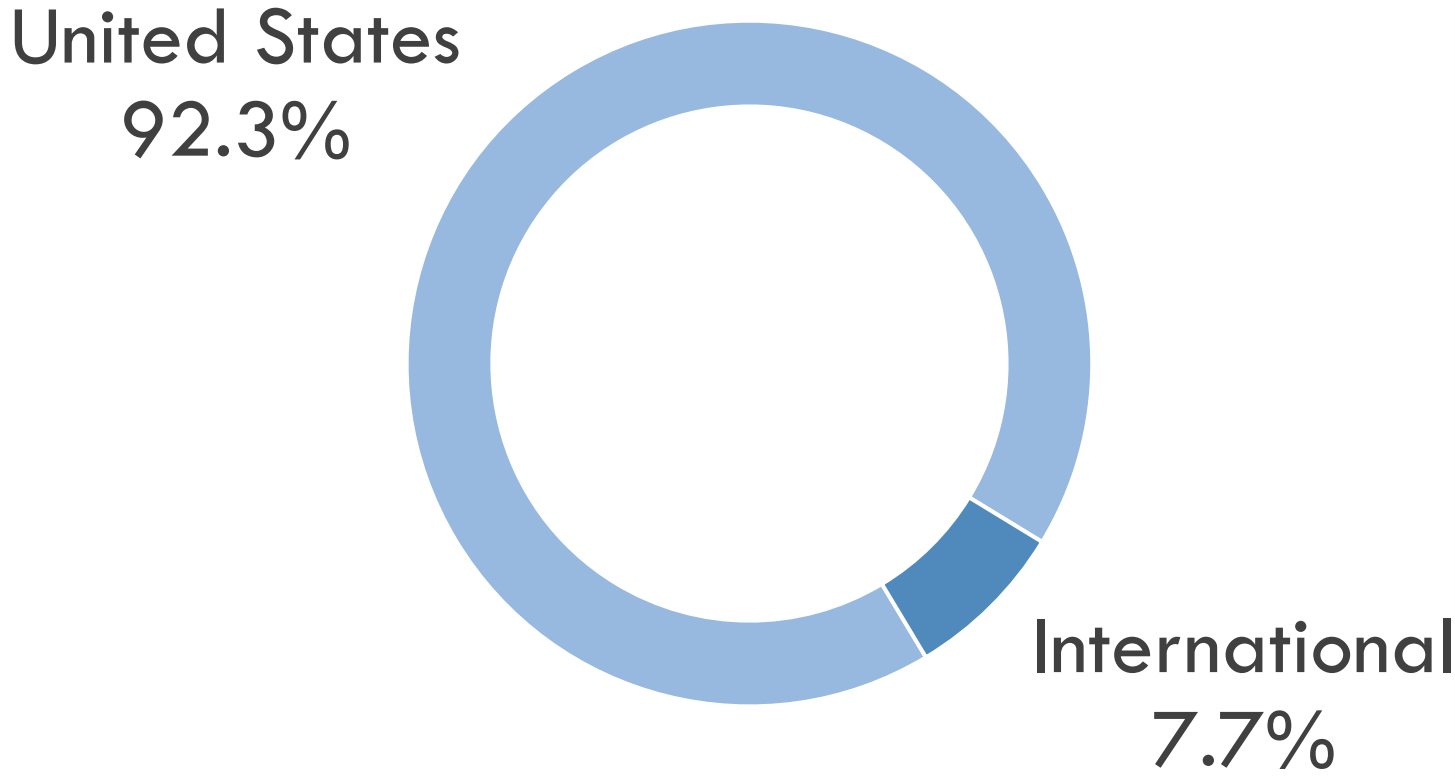
Average—All States



Potential Visitors—Residence

South Dakota

Residence



Top Countries*

- Canada (51.6%)
- United Kingdom (16.6%)
- Australia (6.4%)

*% of all international potential visitors.
Out of 39 countries.

Top U.S. Cities**

- Chicago (1.8%)
- Omaha (1.4%)
- Minneapolis (1.3%)

** % of all domestic potential visitors.
Out of 2,456 U.S. cities.

Potential Visitors—Website Use

Average Session Duration
Average—All States

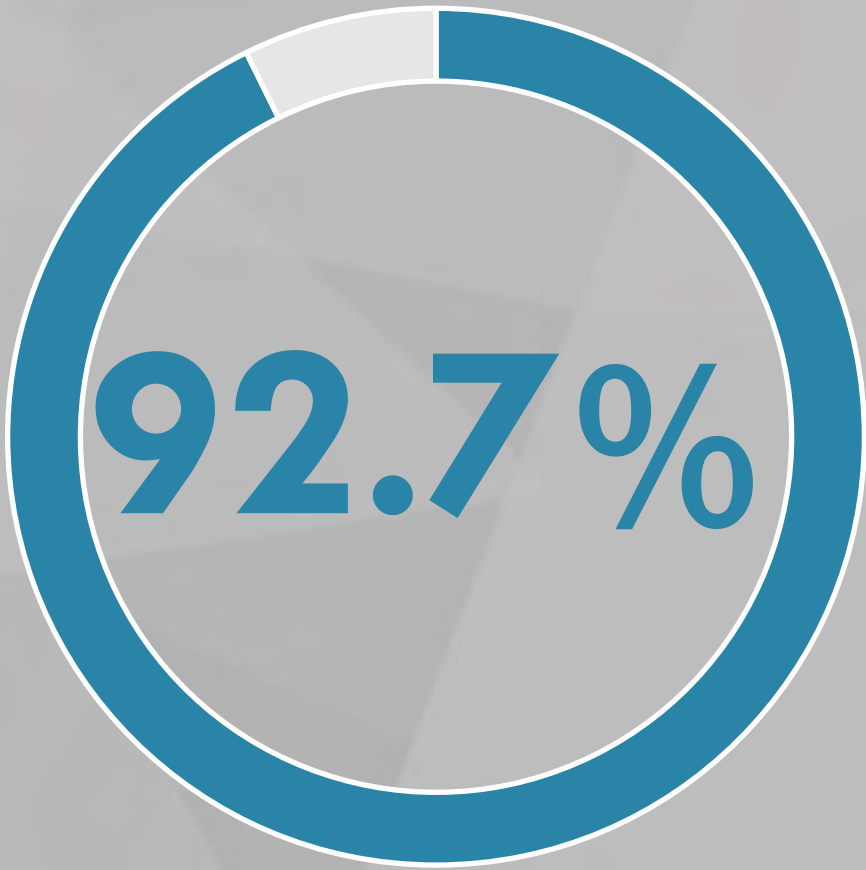
Average Number of Pages

Average Session Duration

Percent of New Users



00:08:57



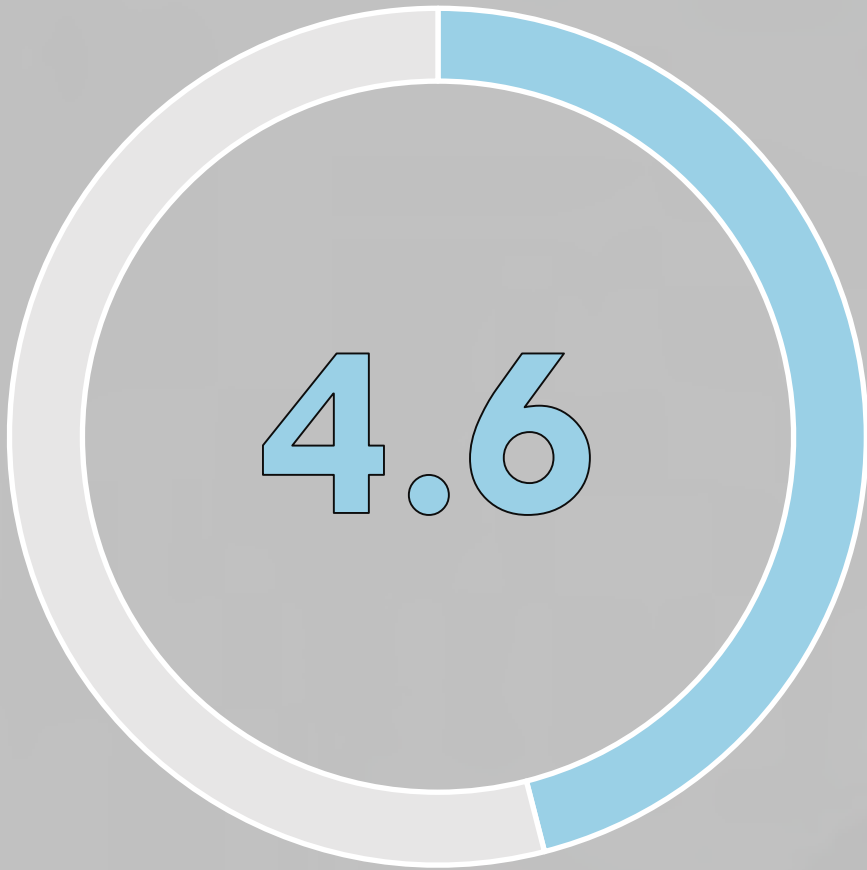
Potential Visitors—Website Use

Average Session Duration
South Dakota

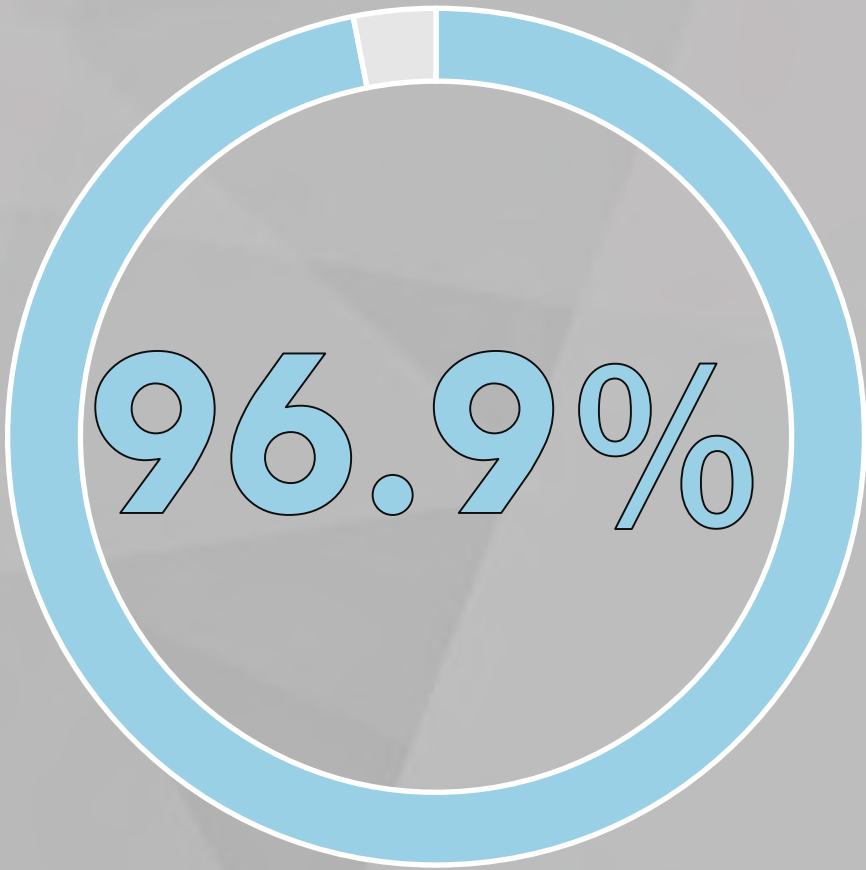
Average Number of Pages

Average Session Duration

Percent of New Users



00:07:40



Travel Planning Stage—Website Use

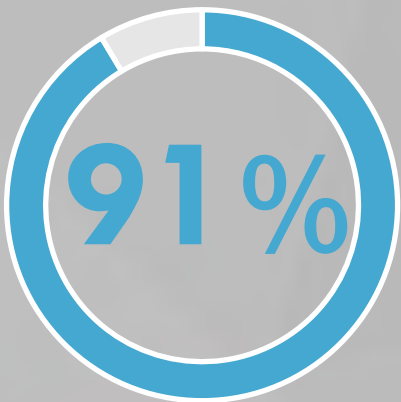
Average—All States

Average Number of Pages	Average Session Duration	Percent of New Users
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DECIDED



00:09:44

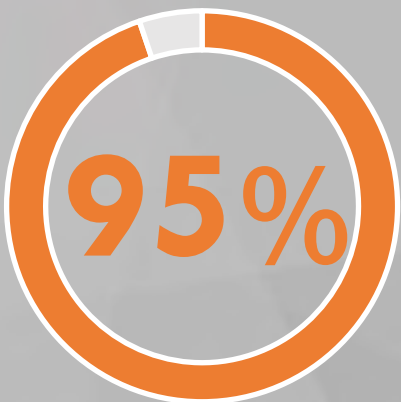


Of potential visitors who already decided to visit were new users

INTERESTED



00:08:40

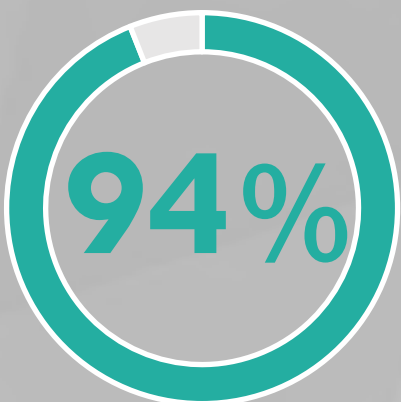


Of potential visitors who were interested in visiting were new users

JUST
CONSIDERING



00:08:06



Of potential visitors who were considering travel destinations were new users

Travel Planning Stage—Website Use

South Dakota

Average Number of Pages

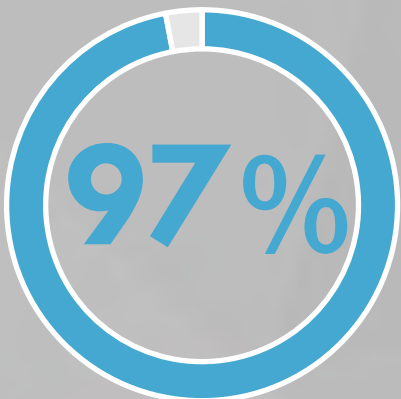
Average Session Duration

Percent of New Users

DECIDED



00:07:54



Of potential visitors who already decided to visit were new users

INTERESTED



00:07:49



Of potential visitors who were interested in visiting were new users

JUST
CONSIDERING



00:07:25



Of potential visitors who were considering travel destinations were new users

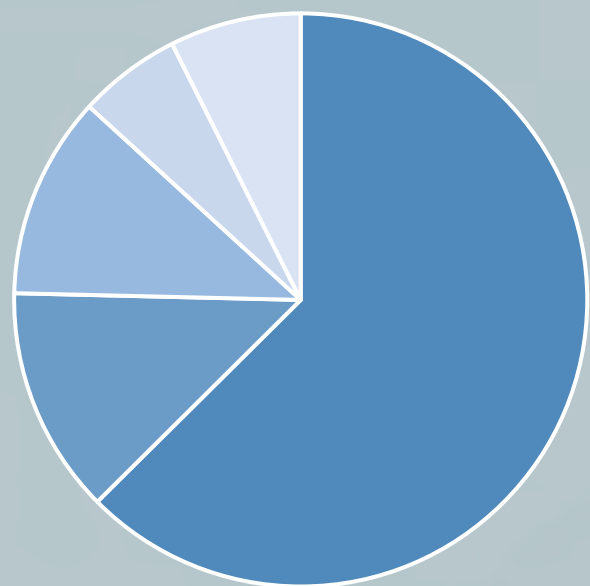
Travel Planning Stage—Site Acquisition

Average—All States

Site Acquisition

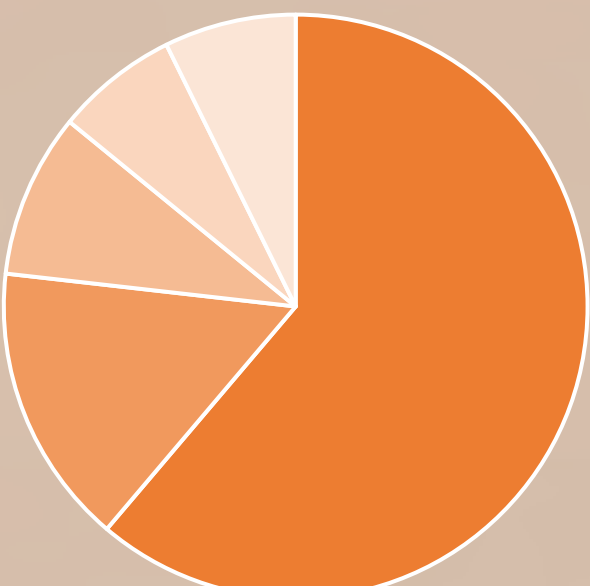
DECIDED

- Organic Search (62.5%)
- Paid Search (12.8%)
- Direct (11.4%)
- Email (5.8%)
- Other (7.4%)



INTERESTED

- Organic Search (61.2%)
- Paid Search (15.6%)
- Direct (9.1%)
- Email (6.8%)
- Other (7.3%)



JUST CONSIDERING

- Organic Search (62.6%)
- Paid Search (11.2%)
- Email (9.0%)
- Direct (7.6%)
- Other (9.6%)



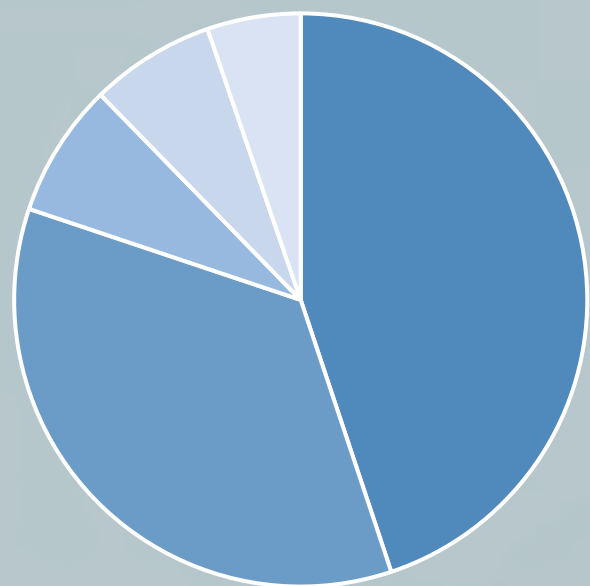
Travel Planning Stage—Site Acquisition

South Dakota
Average Session Duration

Site Acquisition

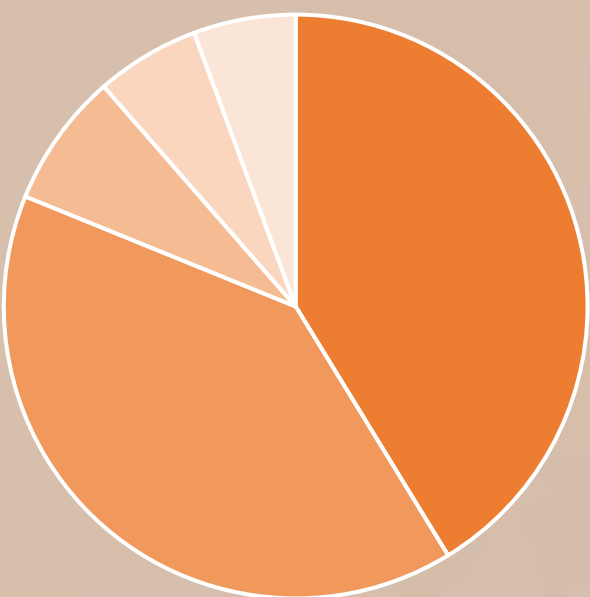
DECIDED

- Organic Search (43.4%)
- Paid Search (34.1%)
- Direct (7.3%)
- Email (6.8%)
- Referral (5.1%)



INTERESTED

- Paid Search (39.4%)
- Organic Search (38.1%)
- Direct (7.1%)
- Email (5.5%)
- Referral (5.4%)



JUST CONSIDERING

- Paid Search (40.1%)
- Organic Search (36.3%)
- Referral (6.7%)
- Social (5.8%)
- Direct (5.7%)



Travel Planning Stage—Top Pageview Types

Average—All States

Top Pageview Types

DECIDED



35.6%

Things to do/Attractions



17.1%

Regions/Cities



14.9%

Travel Guide/Newsletter



12.5%

Articles/Stories/Blogs

INTERESTED



35.2%

Things to do/Attractions



17.1%

Travel Guide/Newsletter



14.0%

Regions/Cities



12.9%

Articles/Stories/Blogs

JUST CONSIDERING



36.5%

Things to do/Attractions



14.5%

Articles/Stories/Blogs



14.3%

Regions/Cities



12.9%

Travel Guide/Newsletter

Travel Stages—South Dakota Engagement by Planning Stage

DECIDED TOP PAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



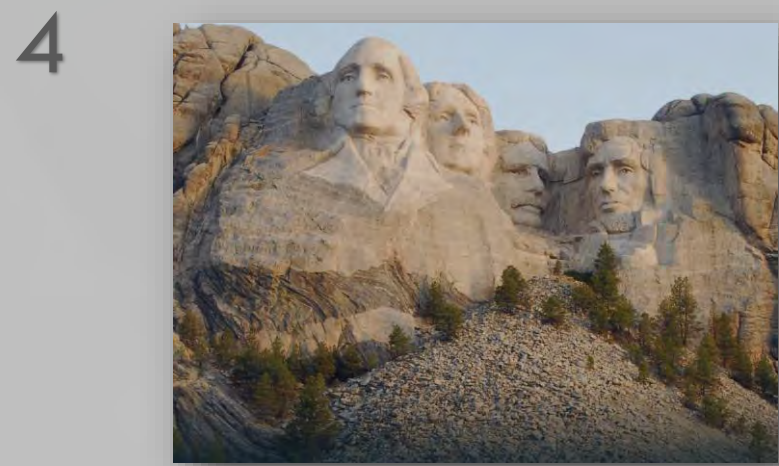
Request Free Vacation Guide
(18.0%)



Custer State Park
Buffalo Roundup (8.4%)



Places to Stay (2.4%)

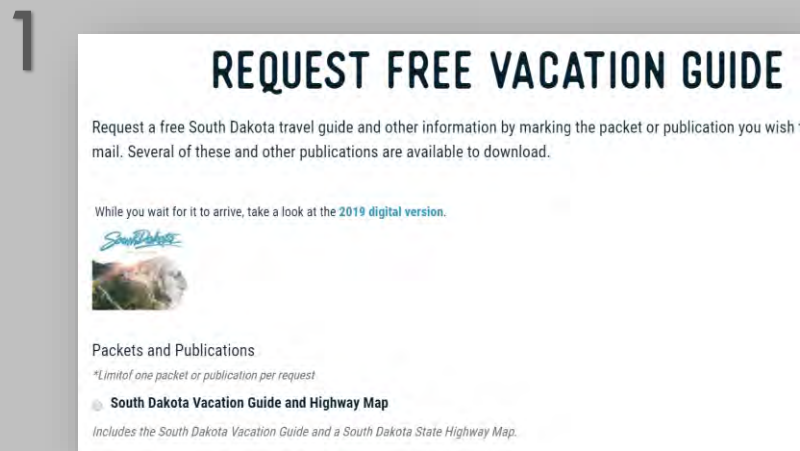


Mount Rushmore (2.3%)



Dignity of Earth & Sky
(1.9%)

INTERESTED TOP PAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



Request Free Vacation Guide
(22.3%)



Custer State Park
Buffalo Roundup (6.3%)



Mount Rushmore (4.2%)

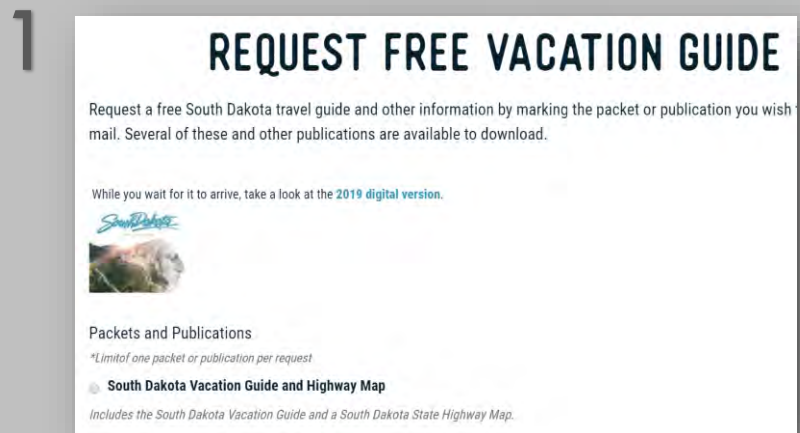


Places to Stay (3.1%)



National & State Parks (1.4%)

CONSIDERING TOP PAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



Request Free Vacation Guide
(14.6%)



Mount Rushmore (5.6%)



Custer State Park
Buffalo Roundup (4.9%)




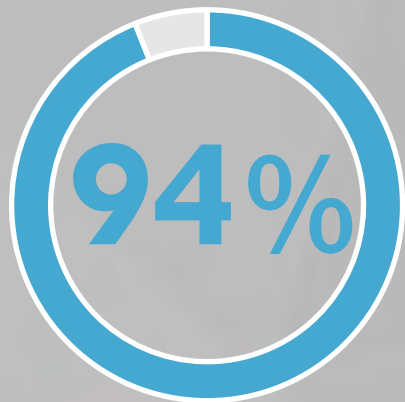

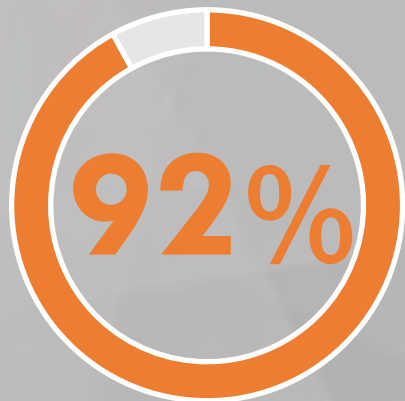

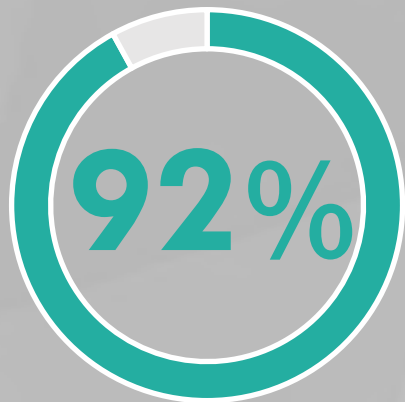
Places to Stay (2.8%)



Dignity of Earth & Sky
(2.4%)

Generations—Website Use

Average—All States

	Average Number of Pages	Average Session Duration	Percent of New Users
MILLENNIALS	 4.4	00:07:53	 Of potential visitors who already decided to visit were new users
GEN X	 4.7	00:08:58	 Of potential visitors who were interested in visiting were new users
BABY BOOMERS	 4.2	00:08:50	 Of potential visitors who were considering travel destinations were new users

Generations—Website Use

South Dakota

Average Number of Pages

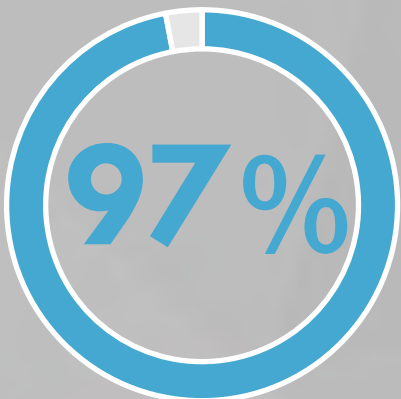
Average Session Duration

Percent of New Users

MILLENNIALS



00:06:26

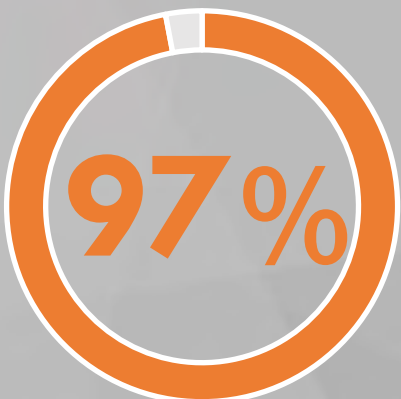


Of potential visitors who already decided to visit were new users

GEN X



00:07:37

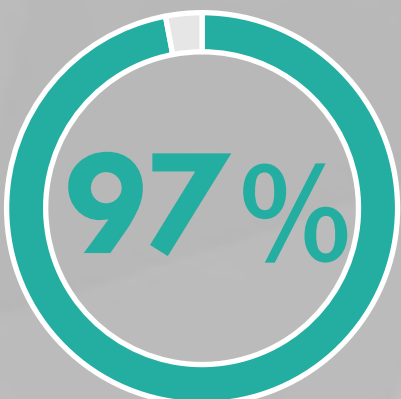


Of potential visitors who were interested in visiting were new users

BABY BOOMERS



00:07:00



Of potential visitors who were considering travel destinations were new users

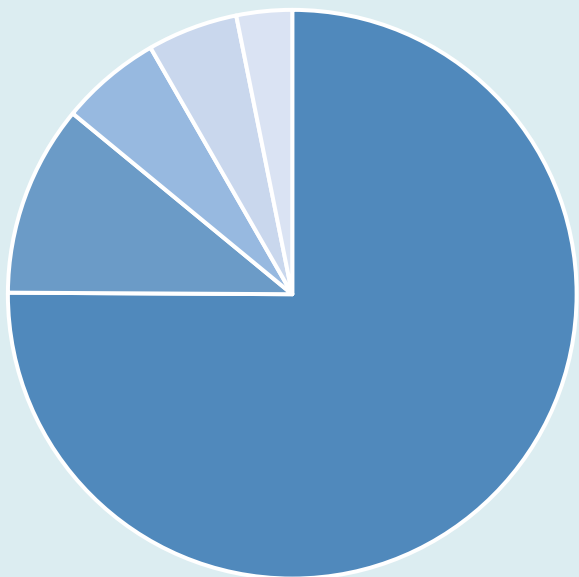
Generations—Site Acquisition

Average—All States

Site Acquisition

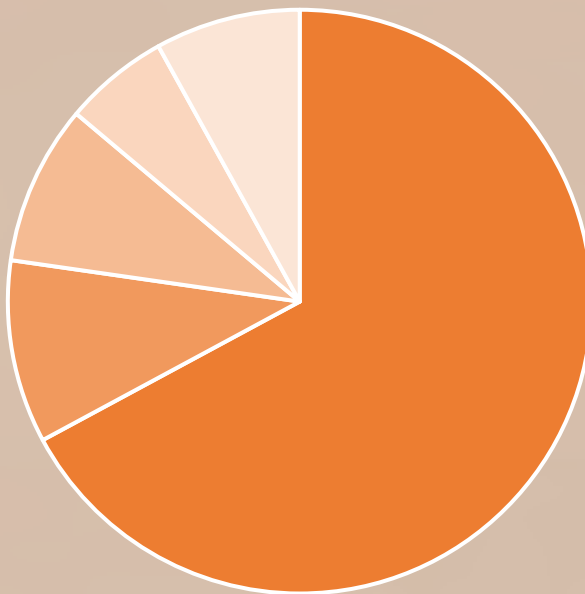
MILLENNIALS

- Organic Search (64.2%)
- Direct (9.3%)
- Referral (4.9%)
- Paid Search (4.4%)
- Other (2.7%)



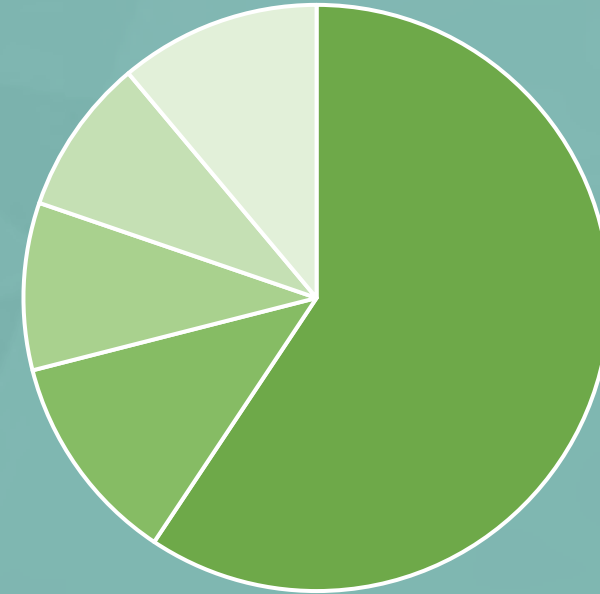
GEN X

- Organic Search (57.6%)
- Direct (8.7%)
- Paid Search (7.6%)
- Referral (5.0%)
- Other (6.9%)



BABY BOOMERS

- Organic Search (50.8%)
- Email (10.0%)
- Direct (7.9%)
- Referral (7.4%)
- Other (9.5%)



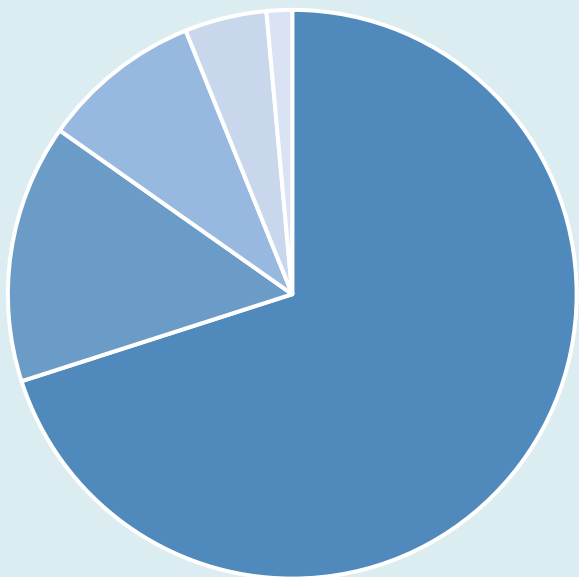
Generations—Site Acquisition

South Dakota
Average Session Duration

Site Acquisition

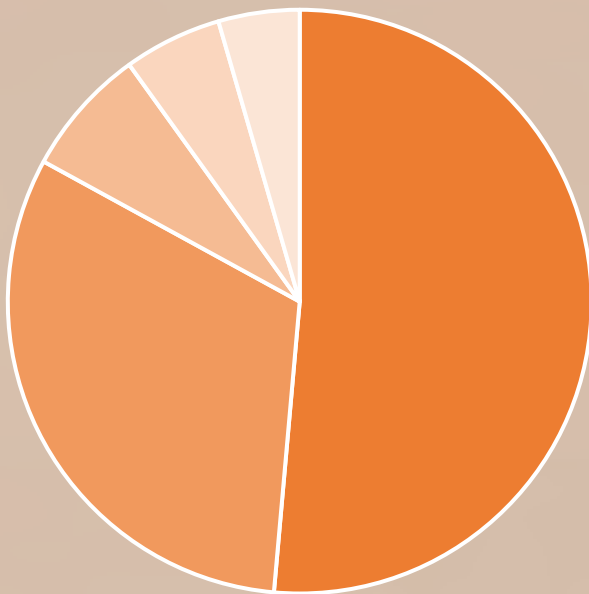
MILLENNIALS

- Organic Search (67.6%)
- Paid Search (14.2%)
- Direct (8.8%)
- Referral (4.5%)
- Email (1.4%)



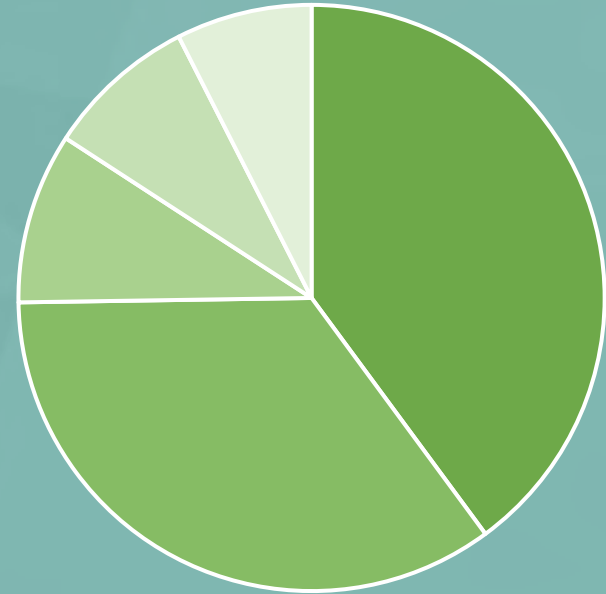
GEN X

- Organic Search (49.2%)
- Paid Search (30.2%)
- Direct (6.8%)
- Referral (5.2%)
- Social (4.3%)



BABY BOOMERS

- Organic Search (37.3%)
- Paid Search (32.6%)
- Social (8.8%)
- Email (7.8%)
- Direct (7.0%)



Generations—Top Pageview Types

Average—All States

Top Pageview Types

MILLENNIALS



41.1%

Things to do/Attractions



14.9%

Regions/Cities



13.7%

Articles/Stories/Blogs



8.6%

Travel Guide/Newsletter

GEN X



36.4%

Things to do/Attractions



15.6%

Regions/Cities



13.3%

Articles/Stories/Blogs



12.5%

Travel Guide/Newsletter

BABY BOOMERS



32.4%

Things to do/Attractions



15.6%

Regions/Cities



15.3%

Travel Guide/Newsletter



14.2%

Articles/Stories/Blogs

Travel Stages—South Dakota Engagement by Generation

MILLENNIALS TOP PAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



GEN X TOP PAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



BABY BOOMERS TOP PAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Official tourism websites generate economic impact**
- 2 Those who use official tourism websites also use the destination's other official resources**
- 3 Decided visitors spend more time and look at more content on the website**
- 4 Official tourism websites can generate economic value by inspiring visitors to extend their stays**

thank
you



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