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It looks like Obama was a bigger draw in 2009 than Trump in 2017

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By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

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Overhead photos appear to show a smaller turnout for Donald Trump's inauguration on Friday than Barack Obama drew in 2009, when he was sworn in for his first term as president.

Look at the two photos below:

One image shows the crowd on the National Mall at Trump's inauguration Friday. It's the photo where you can see lots of white — what appear to be tarps — covering the ground.

The other image is the crowd that turned out for Obama's 2009 inauguration.



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Globe political reporter Matt Viser also tweeted the images on Friday.



Trump slams D.C., promises power to the people

“The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer,” Trump said.

Inaugural crowds are sure to be huge — but how huge?

News website [Vox](#) has another comparison of Friday's crowd and the one that turned out in 2009.

The [Associated Press reported Friday](#) that “crowds on the National Mall, where people without tickets could view the inauguration on video screens, grew steadily throughout the morning. But less than two hours before the swearing-in, there were still wide swaths of empty space.”

Counting crowds at major public events is [difficult, and estimates can vary widely](#).

Estimates of the size of the crowd that gathered on the National Mall for Trump's inauguration were not

immediately available Friday afternoon.

At least one estimate of Friday's turnout is not expected until Monday, the [AP](#) has reported. That estimate will come from Christopher Geldart, the District of Columbia's homeland security director.

The 2009 crowd, by one widely-reported estimate, was 1.8 million people, which was believed to be the largest inaugural crowd in history.

But Steve Doig, a journalism professor at Arizona State University who specializes in measuring crowd sizes, told the AP that based on an analysis he had done, he estimated there were just 800,000 people in the crowd for the 2009 inauguration.

To see more photos from Trump's inauguration, [click here](#).

To see more photos from the 2009 inauguration, [click here](#).

Matt Karolian of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](#)

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