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More women of color graced fashion magazine covers in 2015

By Keith J. Kelly

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Rihanna was the most popular non-white choice on fashion magazine covers in 2015.

Fashion magazines that came under a lot of criticism a year ago for a lack of diversity are slowly making strides when it comes to featuring non-white models on their covers.

While the number of models of color is up this year compared with a year ago, the glossies still overwhelmingly feature white models or stars, according to a new report slated to be released Wednesday.

Overall, this year's covers were 77.2 percent white, a slight improvement over last year's 82.7 percent, according to Evolve Media's [The Fashion Spot Magazine Diversity Report](#).

Singer [Rihanna](#) was the most popular non-white choice, gracing five covers of the 45 titles surveyed around the globe.

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“We are starting to see small improvements in racial diversity in magazines and on the runways, but there is still a long way to go,” said Jennifer Davidson, managing editor of *The Fashion Spot*, which looked at 462 issues that appeared in 2015.

The report found that some magazines with no models of color on the cover last year made major strides this year. Teen Vogue featured six out of 15 models in total after having covers with only white models last year.

Harper's Bazaar ran one model-of-color cover featuring Rihanna after running none last year. British *Harper's Bazaar* also showed only one MOC this year, up from none a year ago.

Elle in the US ran six MOCs out of 21 cover models, but the same diversity was not evident on the other side of the Atlantic. British *Elle* had none in 2015.

In the US, *Vogue* ran five out of 20, compared with three out of 13 a year ago. On its overseas publications, the results were divided. French *Vogue* went from zero to two this year.

The MOCs were shut out of *Vogue* editions in Australia, Portugal, Russia and the Ukraine, while Taiwan, Thailand, India and China came out on top in terms of diversity.

In the US, *Cosmo* slipped to only one out of 13 cover models, compared to two out of 17 last year.

Marie Claire had two out of 15, slightly better than a year ago when it had two out of a field of 16.