

How many? How much?

Approximately one in three residents of Nova Scotia (34% or 253,000 people) volunteered through a charitable or nonprofit organization, according to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.¹ This is a decrease from 38% in 1997.

However, volunteers in Nova Scotia contributed more time, on average, in 2000, giving 186 hours of their time, an increase of 32% from the 1997 average of 141 hours.

In total, Nova Scotians volunteered 47.2 million hours in 2000, or the equivalent of almost 25,000 full-time jobs. This is a substantial increase since 1997, when they volunteered 40 million hours.

Much comes from the few

Almost half (46%*) of all volunteer hours in Nova Scotia were contributed by the 10% of volunteers who gave 482 hours or more of their time. Another 27%* of volunteer hours were contributed by the 15% of volunteers who gave between 220 and 481 hours during the year.

Combined, these two groups accounted for 25% of volunteers, but 73% of all volunteer hours.

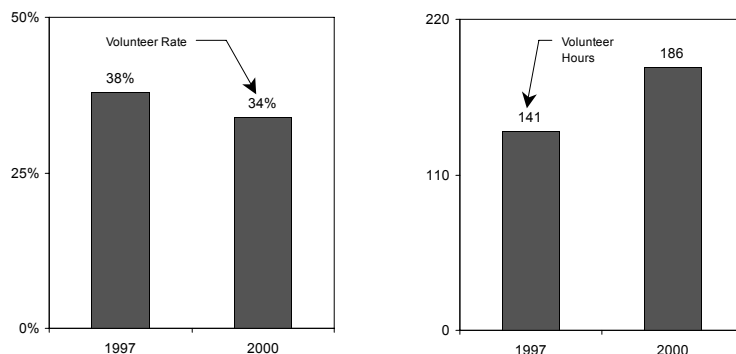
What volunteers do

While Nova Scotia's volunteers engaged in a wide range of voluntary activities, the most common were helping to organize activities (60% of volunteers), canvassing, campaigning, or fundraising (55%), and serving as a member of a board or committee (43%). This pattern is broadly similar to most other provinces.

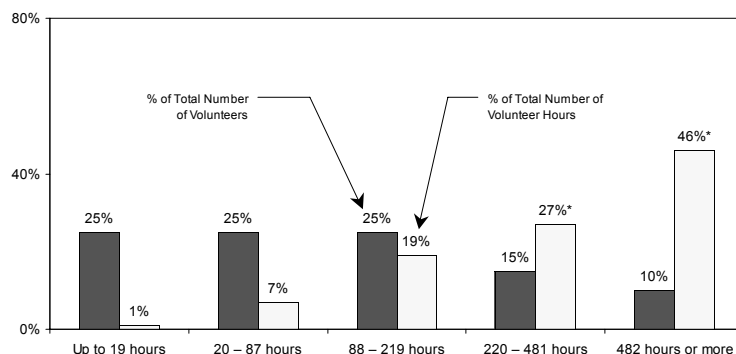
¹ NSGVP estimates are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over a one-year period by Canadians aged 15 and older.

* Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

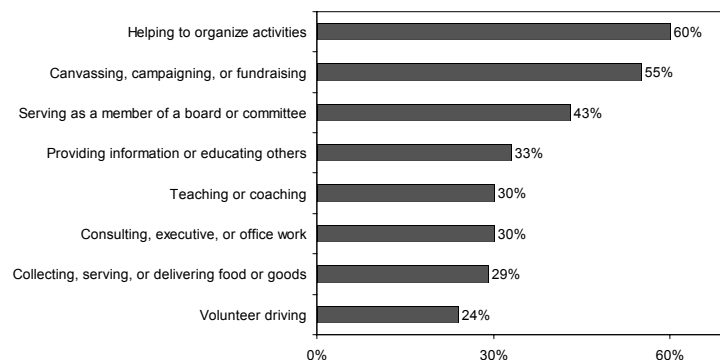
Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Volunteer Hours



Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Annual Hours Volunteered



Percentage of Volunteers Engaging in Each Type of Volunteer Activity

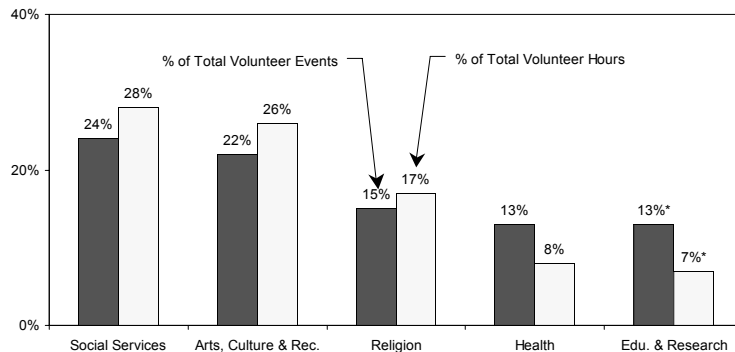


Where they volunteer

Although volunteers contributed time to many types of organizations, most volunteering occurred in organizations devoted to:

- Social Services (24% of volunteer events² and 28% of volunteer hours),
- Arts, Culture, and Recreation (22% of events and 26% of hours),
- Religion (15% events and 17% hours),
- Health (13% and 8%), and
- Education and Research (13%* and 7%*).

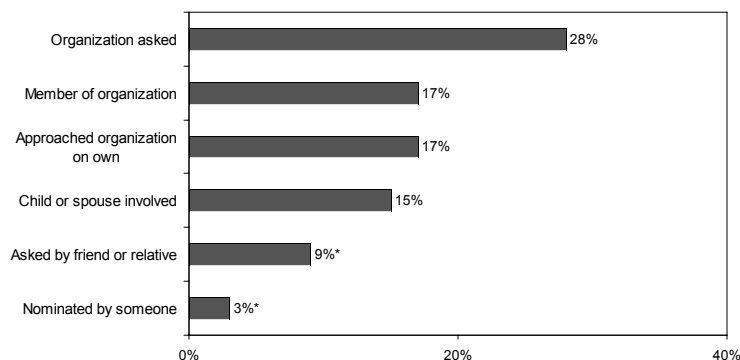
Percentage of Volunteer Events and Volunteer Hours by Type of Organization



How volunteers get involved

As in the rest of the country, by far the most common way for Nova Scotians to become volunteers was to be asked by someone in the organization (28%). Two thirds as many volunteers (17%) became involved after approaching the organization on their own, or because they were members of the organization. Another one in seven volunteers (15%) became involved because their child or spouse was involved. Volunteers in Nova Scotia were least likely to become involved because they were asked by a friend or relative outside the organization (9%*) or were nominated by someone (3%*).

Percentage of Volunteer Events by Method of Becoming Involved

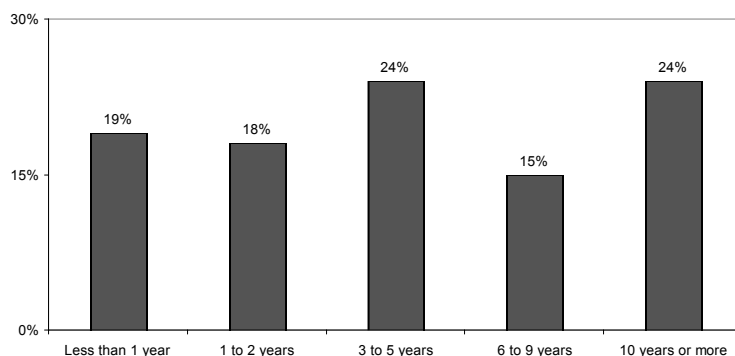


Volunteers in Nova Scotia were more likely than volunteers in any other Atlantic province to volunteer because their child or spouse was involved, but less likely to volunteer because they were asked by the organization.

How long volunteers have been involved

Compared to Canada as a whole, Nova Scotia volunteers were more likely to have volunteered for the same organization for more than five years. Almost four in ten (39%) Nova Scotia volunteers had been involved with the same organization for six or more years, compared to just 33% of Canadian volunteers.

Percentage of Volunteers by Length of Involvement



² A “volunteer event” is defined as all voluntary activities for a particular organization, regardless of whether those activities took the form of a single episode of volunteering or multiple episodes of volunteering over time.

For more information on the 1997 and 2000 National Survey for Giving, Volunteering and Participating, including full text of the highlight report, *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, please visit www.givingandvolunteering.ca.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our funder, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), for the production of this fact sheet.

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