

Volunteering in Canada



2000
National
Survey of
Giving,
Volunteering
and
Participating

How many? How much?

More than one in four Canadians (27% or 6.5 million) volunteered through a charitable or nonprofit organization, according to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).¹ This is a decline from 31% of Canadians in 1997.²

Volunteers contributed an average of 162 hours each during the year, up from 149 hours in 1997.

In total, Canadians volunteered 1.05 billion hours during the year. This is equivalent to 549,000 full-time jobs - roughly equal to the employed labour force of Manitoba.

Much comes from the few

Over one-third (34%) of all volunteer hours were contributed by the 5% of volunteers who gave 596 hours or more of their time.

Another 39% of all hours were contributed by the 20% of volunteers who gave between 188 and 595 hours during the year. Although these two groups represent only 25% of volunteers, and less than 7% of Canadians, they accounted for 73% of all volunteer hours.

Regional differences

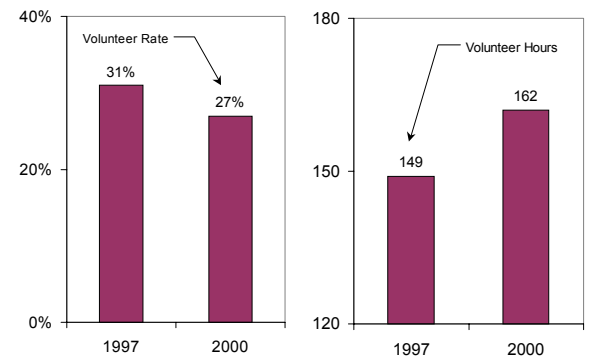
In Atlantic Canada, the percent of the population who volunteered was higher than the national average. These volunteers contributed more hours, on average, than volunteers in other provinces, and more than the national average.

Although the percentage of residents who volunteered was significantly higher than the national average in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, these volunteers contributed fewer hours than the national average.

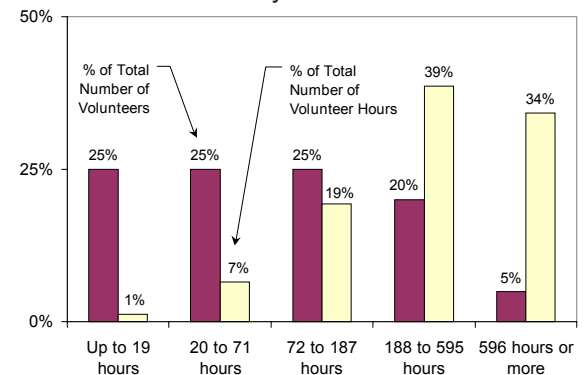
¹ Findings from the 2000 NSGVP are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over the one-year period from October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000 by Canadians aged 15 and older.

² 1997 figures are from the 1997 NSGVP, which is based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over the one-year period from November 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997 by Canadians aged 15 and older.

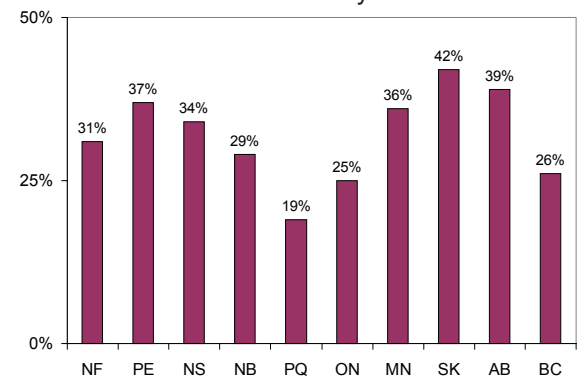
Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Volunteer Hours



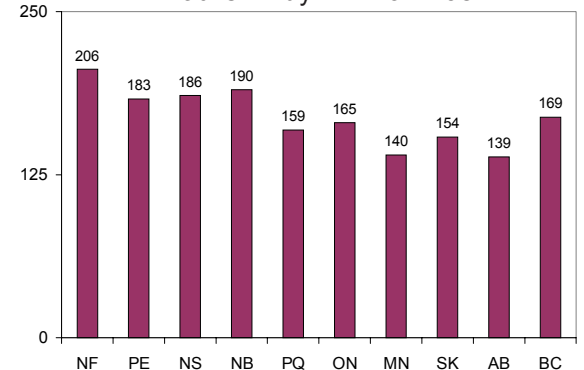
Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Volunteer hours by Annual Volunteer Hours



Volunteer Rate by Province



Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Province



For more
information
and results
of the
2000 and 1997
surveys visit
our Web site

What volunteers do...

Volunteers undertake a wide range of activities. The most common was organizing or supervising events, which accounted for 57% of all volunteer events.³

The second most common volunteer activity was acting as an unpaid board or committee member (41% of all volunteer events).⁴

And where they volunteer...

Although volunteers contribute to many types of organizations, most volunteering happened in:

- Arts, culture and recreation organizations (26% of volunteer hours)
- Social services organizations: (20%)
- Religious organizations: (16%)
- Education and research organizations (11%)
- Health organizations (9%)

How volunteers get involved

More volunteers get involved because they were asked by an organization (30%) than in any other way.

But those volunteers who first became involved by approaching an organization on their own (16% of volunteers) contributed almost 50% more hours on average than those who were asked by an organization to volunteer (134 vs. 89 respectively).

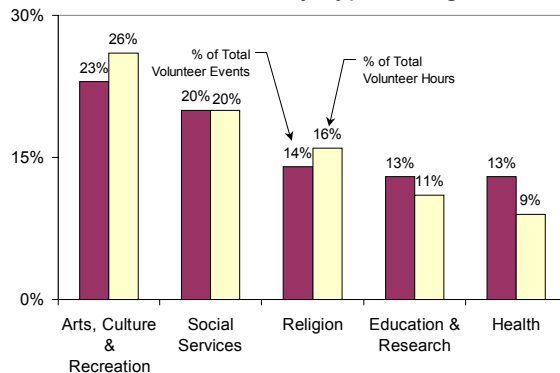
³ When a person volunteers for a specific organization for any length of time, this constitutes a volunteer event.

⁴ The percentages do not add up to 100% since many volunteers engage in more than one type of activity for an organization.

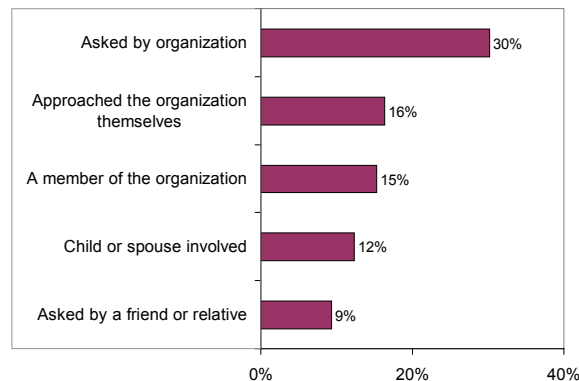
Percentage of Volunteer Events by Type of Volunteer Activity



Percentage of Volunteer Hours and Percentage of Volunteer Events by Type of Organization



Percentage of Volunteer Events by the Method of Involvement in Volunteering



More information on the 2000 and 1997 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, including the full text of the highlight report, *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, is available on-line, and free.

© 2002 Canadian Centre for Philanthropy

Research Program
 Canadian Centre for Philanthropy
 425 University Avenue, Suite 600
 Toronto, Ontario M5G 1T6
 Tel: 416.597.2293 • Fax: 416.597.2294
 E-mail: ccpresearch@ccp.ca



Canadian Centre for Philanthropy™
 Le Centre canadien de philanthropie MC



VOLONTAIRES
 BÉNÉVOLES
 CANADA