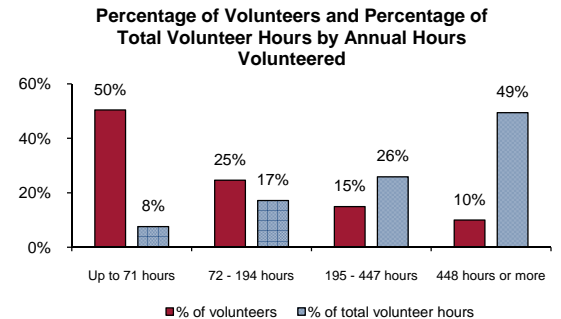


Volunteering in ALBERTA

According to the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), 48% of Alberta residents aged 15 and over (1.2 million people) volunteered in 2004. Each volunteer contributed an average of 175 hours, for a total of 214.5 million hours or the equivalent of approximately 112,000 full-time jobs.

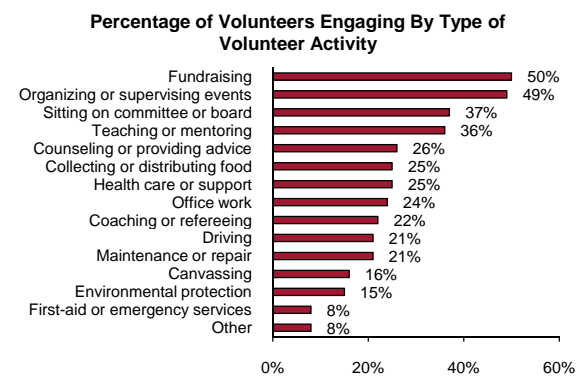
Much comes from the few

Although many Albertans volunteer, the majority of volunteer hours are contributed by a small minority. One in ten volunteers contributed 49% of all hours. These volunteers accounted for 448 hours or more over the course of the year. A further 26% of volunteer hours came from the 15% of volunteers who contributed between 195 and 447 hours. Together, this top 25% of volunteers (representing 12% of all Alberta residents) contributed 75% of total volunteer hours.



What volunteers do

The most common activities performed by Alberta volunteers were fundraising (50% of volunteers did this), organizing or supervising events (49%), sitting on a committee or board (37%), and teaching, educating, or mentoring (36%).

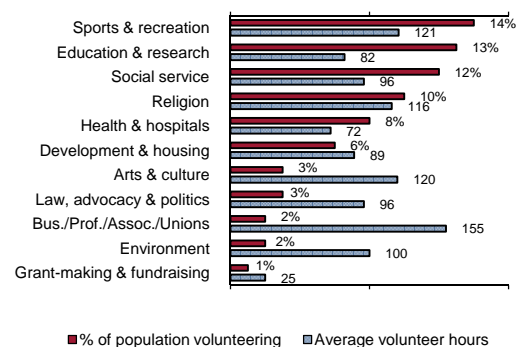


Compared to the rest of Canada, Alberta volunteers were more likely to fundraise (reported by 50% of Alberta volunteers vs. 45% of volunteers in the rest of Canada), teach, educate, or mentor (36% vs. 30%), provide health care or support (25% vs. 18%), and coach, referee, or officiate (22% vs. 18%).

Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Hours Volunteered By Type of Organization

Where they volunteer

Albertans were most likely to volunteer with Sports & Recreation organizations (14% volunteered), followed by Education & Research (13%), and Social Service (12%), organizations. Smaller numbers volunteered with Law, Advocacy & Politics (3%), Associations & Unions (2%), and Grant-making Fundraising (1%) organizations.

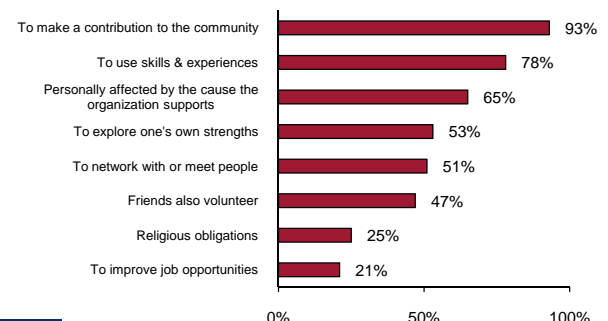


Volunteers contributed the largest average of hours to Business and Professional Associations and Unions (155), followed by Sports & Recreation organizations (121), Arts & Culture (120), and Religious (116) organizations. They contributed much fewer hours to organizations working in the areas of Health & Hospital (72) and Grant-making, Fundraising & Voluntarism Promotion (25).

Percentage of Volunteers Reporting Motivations for Volunteering

The motivations of volunteers

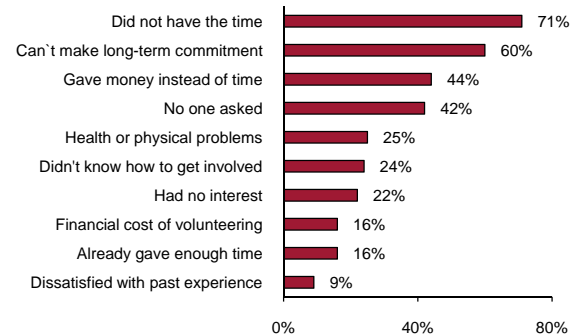
Alberta volunteers were most likely to say they volunteered because they wanted to make a contribution to the community (93%), to use their skills and experiences (78%), or had been personally affected by the cause the organization supports (65%). Comparatively few volunteers volunteered in order to fulfill religious beliefs or obligations (25%) or to improve their job opportunities (21%).



Barriers to volunteering

Albertans who did not volunteer were most likely to say it was because they did not have the time (71%), were unable to make a long-term commitment (60%), or donated money instead of volunteering (44%). They were much less likely to report the costs of volunteering (16%), having contributed enough time already (16%), or dissatisfaction with previous volunteer experiences (9%) as reasons for not volunteering.

Percentage of Non-Volunteers Reporting Barriers to Volunteering



Personal and economic characteristics of Alberta volunteers: age and sex¹

Alberta residents aged 35 to 44 were most likely to volunteer (59% volunteered), followed by those 15 to 24 (51%). The likelihood of volunteering decreased with age among those 45 years and older, with residents 65 years and older being the least likely to volunteer (34%). However, volunteers aged 65 and older tended to contribute the most hours on average (254), followed by those aged 45 to 54 (216).

Albertans aged 45 to 54 contributed a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours, given their numbers (they made up 19% of the population but contributed 24% of total volunteer hours). By contrast, those aged 25 to 34 contributed a disproportionately smaller percentage (19% of the population vs. 13%^E of total hours).

Women in Alberta were more likely to volunteer than were men (51% vs. 44%) and tended to contribute more hours on average (189 for women vs. 159 for men).

Accordingly, female residents contributed a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours, given their numbers (they made up 50% of the population but contributed 57% of total volunteer hours).

Percentage of Population Who Volunteer and Distribution of Volunteer Hours by Age and Sex

	% Volunteering	Average Volunteer Hours	% of Pop.	% Volunteer Hours
Age				
15 to 24	51%	154	19%	18%
25 to 34	40%	143 ^E	19%	13% ^E
35 to 44	59%	158	20%	22%
45 to 54	50%	216	19%	24%
55 to 64	46%	158	11%	10%
65 and over	34%	254	12%	13% ^E
Sex				
Male	44%	159	50%	43%
Female	51%	189	50%	57%

^E Use with caution

¹ Volunteering tends to vary with the personal and economic characteristics of the individual. This fact sheet focuses on age and sex, but many other characteristics are important. For more information, readers should refer to *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, available at http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/pdf/CSGVP_Highlights_2004_en.pdf

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