

Volunteering in Ontario

How many? How much?

One quarter of Ontario residents (25% or 2.4 million 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 32% in 1997.

However, Ontario volunteers contributed more time, on average, in 2000, giving 165 hours of their time, an increase of 13% from the 1997 average of 146 hours.

In total, Ontarians volunteered 393.5 million hours in 2000, the equivalent of almost 205,000 full-time jobs. This is a substantial decline from 1997, when they volunteered 421.6 million hours.

Much comes from the few

Slightly more than half (51%) of all volunteer hours in Ontario were contributed by the 10% of volunteers who gave 388 hours or more of their time. An additional 24% of volunteer hours were contributed by the 15% of volunteers who gave between 178 and 387 hours during the year.

Combined, these two groups accounted for 25% of volunteers, but 75% of all volunteer hours.

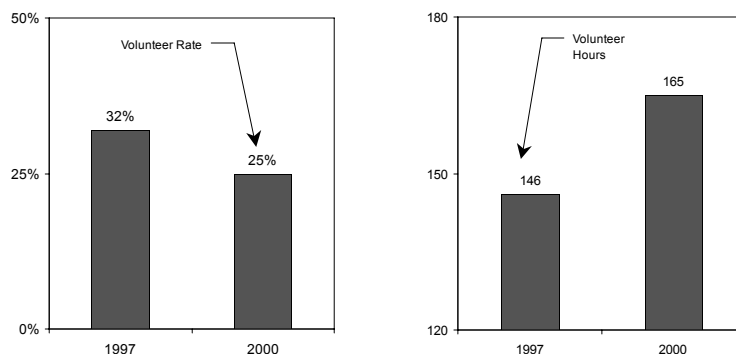
What volunteers do

While Ontario's volunteers engaged in a wide range of voluntary activities, the most common were helping to organize activities (56% of volunteers), canvassing, campaigning, or fundraising (41%), and serving as a member of a board or committee (40%). This pattern is broadly similar to most other provinces.

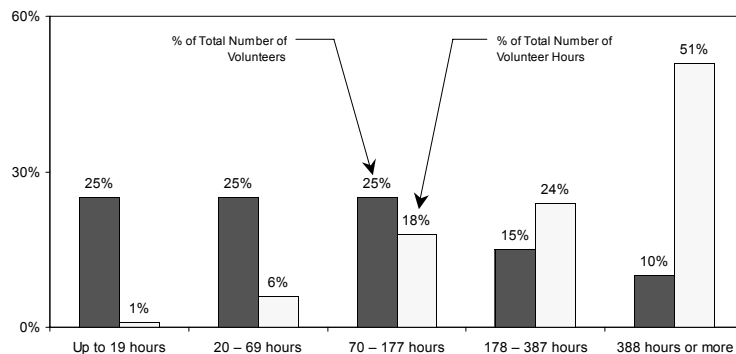
¹ NSGVP estimates are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over a one-year period by Canadians aged 15 and older.

* Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

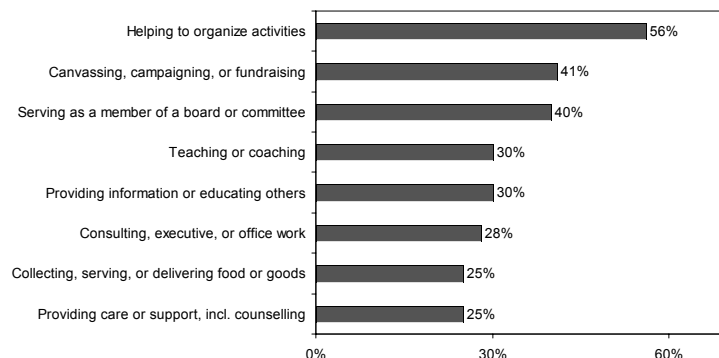
Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Volunteer Hours



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



Percentage of Volunteers Engaging in Each Type of Volunteer Activity

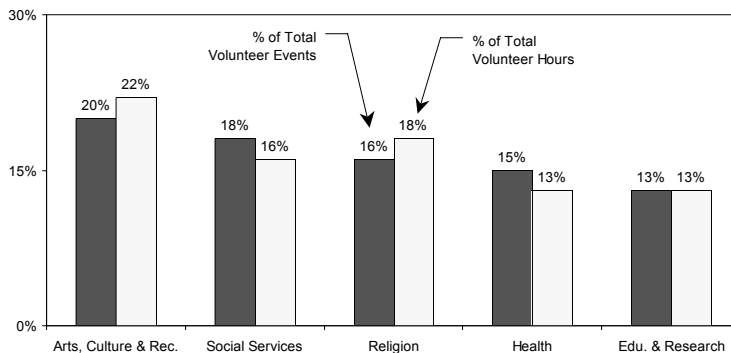


Where they volunteer

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

- Arts, Culture, and Recreation (20% of volunteer events² and 22% of volunteer hours),
- Social Services (18% of events and 16% of hours),
- Religion (16% events and 18% hours),
- Health (15% and 13%), and
- Education and Research (13% and 13%).

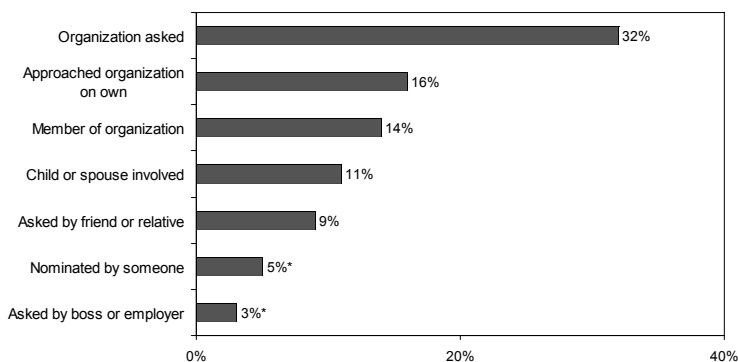
Percentage of Volunteer Events and Volunteer Hours by Type of Organization



How volunteers get involved

As in the rest of Canada, by far the most common way for Ontarians to become volunteers was to be asked by someone in the organization (32%). Half as many volunteers (16%) became involved after approaching the organization on their own, and slightly fewer (14%) volunteered because they were members of the organization.

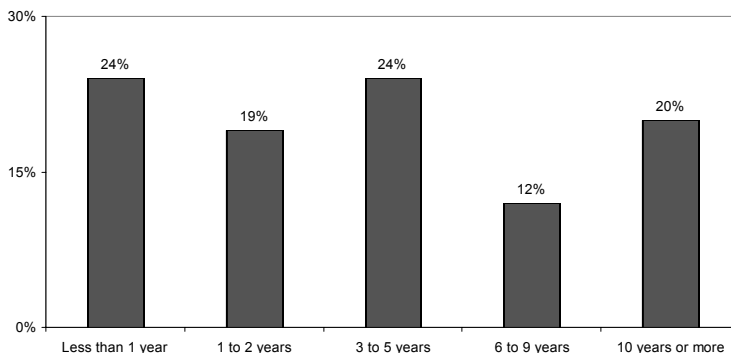
Percentage of Volunteer Events by Method of Becoming Involved



How long volunteers have been involved

Almost a quarter (24%) of Ontario volunteers had been involved with the same organization for less than a year. Almost half had been involved for between one and five years (19% for one to two years, and 24% for three to five years). These figures are all close to the national average. At the other end of the spectrum, 20% of Ontario volunteers had been involved with the same organization for more than 10 years.

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.

Note. Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding

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.

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