

# Who are Nova Scotia's Volunteers?

## Personal and economic characteristics

Thirty-four percent of Nova Scotia residents (253,000 people) volunteered an average of 186 hours each, according to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.<sup>1</sup> Whether individuals volunteer and how many hours they contribute vary with a number of personal and economic characteristics. This fact sheet explores the relationship between volunteering and age, education level, sex, labour force status, and household size.

### Age

Residents of Nova Scotia aged 45 to 64 were the most likely to volunteer (41% volunteered in 2000), while those aged 65 and older were the least likely to do so (23%).

Volunteers aged 45 to 64 contributed the most hours on average (216), followed closely by those aged 65 and older (205\*). Volunteers aged 15 to 29 contributed the fewest hours on average (130\*).

Volunteers aged 45 to 64 also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours. Although they made up only 37% of volunteers, they contributed 43% of all volunteer hours. Those aged 15 to 29, on the other hand, accounted for a disproportionately small percentage of volunteer hours (22% of volunteers, 15%\* of volunteer hours).

### Education

Volunteering in Nova Scotia increased with the level of formal education attained. More than half of Nova Scotians (56%) with a university degree volunteered. In contrast, among those with a high school diploma or less, fewer than one in three (29%) volunteered.

Volunteers with some post-secondary education volunteered the most hours on average (194). Those with a high school diploma or less contributed the fewest (177).

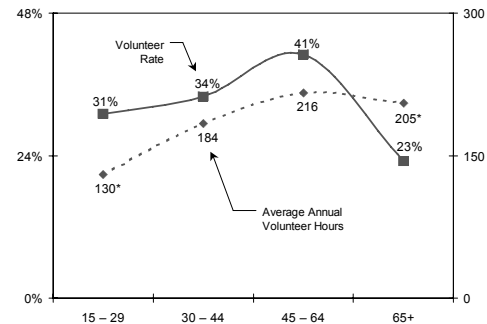
Volunteers with some post-secondary education also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of the total hours volunteered. They made up 38% of volunteers, but contributed 40% of all volunteer hours.

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

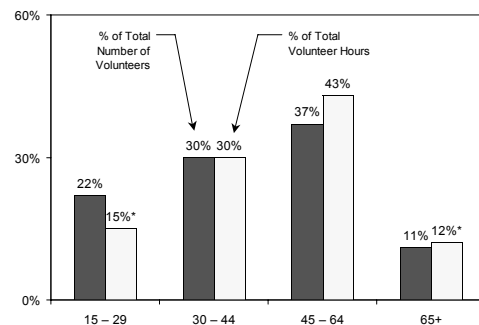
<sup>2</sup> This category includes the completion of a trade certificate or diploma, graduation from a community college or CEGEP, and some university.

\* Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

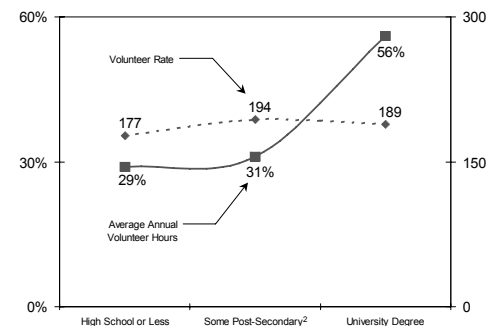
**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Age**



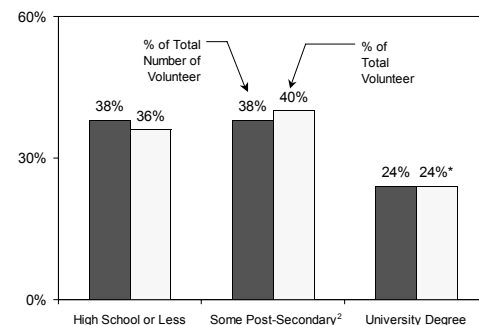
**Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Age**



**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Education**



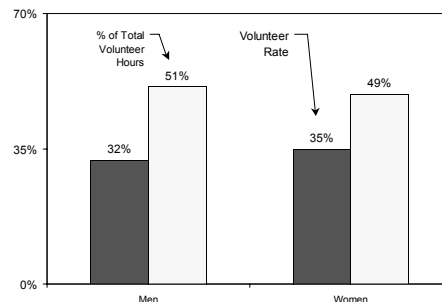
**Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Education**



**Sex**

Women in Nova Scotia were more likely than men to volunteer (35% of women volunteered, compared to 32% of men). However, men who volunteered contributed more hours on average than did women (206 versus 170) and accounted for a slightly higher percentage of the total hours volunteered (51% versus 49%).

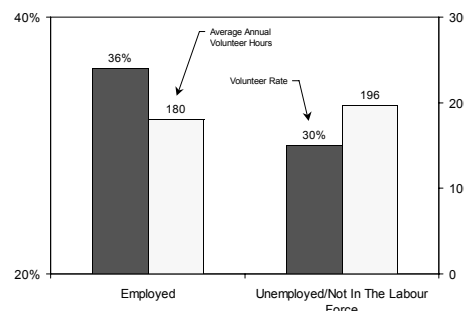
**Volunteer Rate and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Sex**



**Labour force status**

Employed Nova Scotians were more likely to volunteer (36%) than were those who were unemployed or not in the labour force (30%).

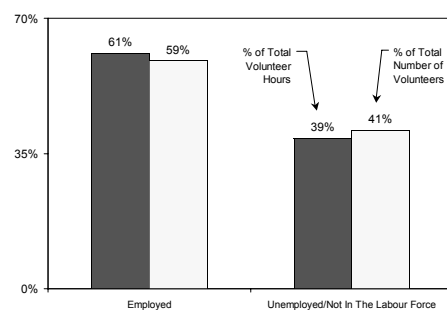
**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Labour Force Status**



However, volunteers who were unemployed or not in the labour force contributed more hours on average (196) than did employed volunteers (180).

Volunteers who were unemployed or not in the labour force accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of the total hours volunteered. Although the disparity is not large, this group made up 39% of volunteers, but contributed 41% of all volunteer hours.

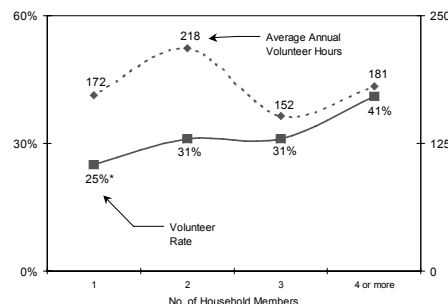
**Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Labour Force Status**



**Household size**

Nova Scotians living in larger households were more likely to volunteer. Over four in ten (41%) of those living in households with four or more members volunteered, while only one quarter (25%\*) of those living in single-member households did so.

**Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Number of Household Members**



However, volunteers living in two-member households contributed the most hours on average (218). Those living in households with three members contributed the fewest hours (152).

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](http://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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