

Who are Quebec's Volunteers?

Personal and economic characteristics

Nineteen percent of Quebec residents (1.1 million people) volunteered an average of 159 hours each, according to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.¹ 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 Quebec aged 30 to 44 were the most likely to volunteer (21% volunteered in 2000), followed closely by those aged 45 to 64 (20%). Those aged 65 and older were the least likely to volunteer (16%).

Although comparatively few Quebecers aged 65 and older volunteered, this group contributed the most hours on average (283). Volunteers aged 15 to 29 contributed the fewest hours on average (122).

Volunteers aged 65 and older accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of total volunteer hours. Although they made up only 12%* of volunteers, they contributed 22% of all volunteer hours.

Education

Close to three in ten Quebecers with some post-secondary education (28%) or a university degree (27%) volunteered. In comparison, just under one sixth (14%) of those with a high school diploma or less volunteered.

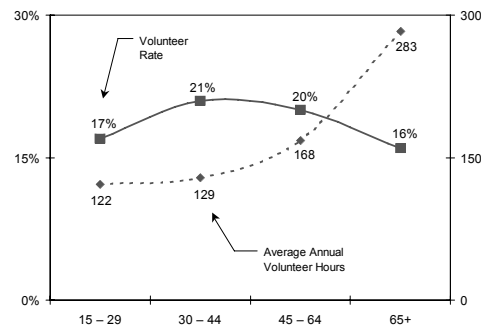
In most provinces, volunteer hours tend to increase with the level of formal education. In Quebec, however, those with a high school diploma or less volunteered the most hours on average (177). In contrast, those with a university degree volunteered only 132 hours on average.

Volunteers with a high school diploma or less also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of the total hours volunteered. They made up only 34% of volunteers, but contributed 38% of all volunteer hours.

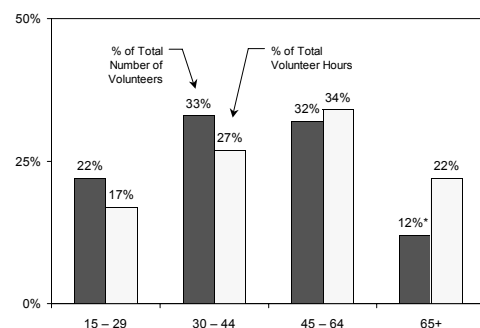
¹ NSGVP estimates are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over a one-year period by Canadians aged 15 and older.

* Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

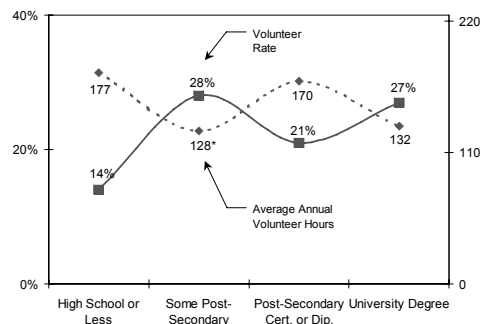
Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Age



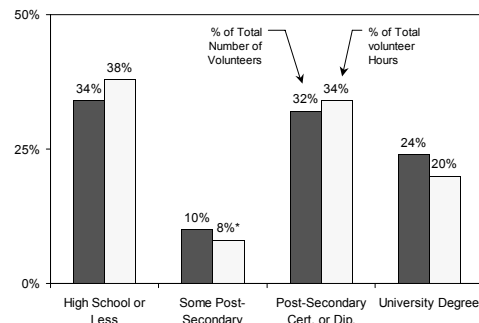
Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Age



Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Education



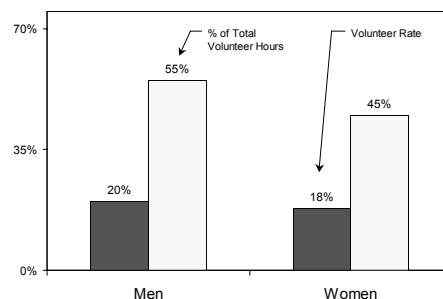
Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Education



Sex

Men in Quebec were slightly more likely than women to volunteer (20% of men volunteered, compared to 18% of women) and contributed more hours on average (170 versus 148). Men also accounted for a higher percentage of the total hours volunteered (55% versus 45% for women). Quebec is the only province in Canada where the rate of volunteering was higher among men than women.

Volunteer Rate and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Sex

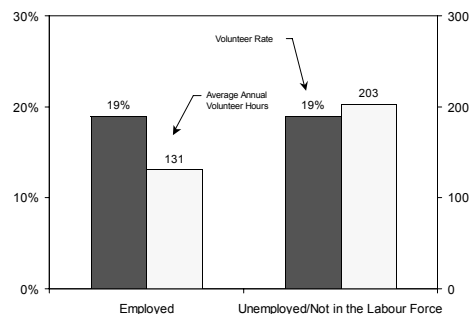


Labour force status

Quebec is the only province where the volunteer rate was the same (19%) for both those who were employed and those who were unemployed or not in the labour force.

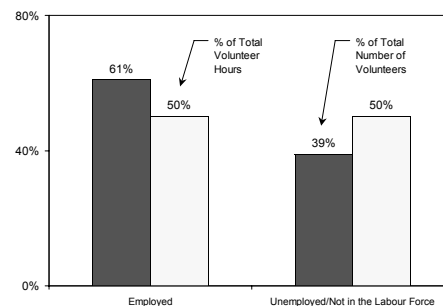
However, volunteers who were unemployed or not in the labour force contributed significantly more hours on average (203) than employed volunteers (131).

Volunteer Rate and Average Annual Volunteer Hours by Labour Force Status



Volunteers who were unemployed or not in the labour force also accounted for a disproportionately large percentage of the total hours volunteered. Although they made up 39% of volunteers, they accounted for 50% of all volunteer hours.

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

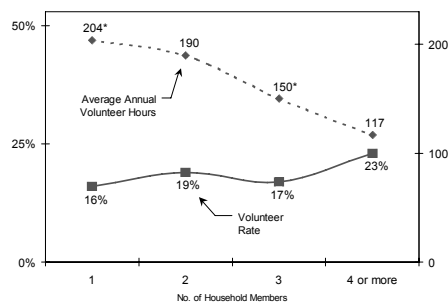


Household size

Quebecers living in households with four or more members were more likely to volunteer than those residing in smaller households (23% versus 19% or less).

However, volunteers living in single-member households contributed the most hours on average (204*), while those living in households with four or more members contributed the fewest (117).

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



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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