

Volunteering in Alberta

Fact Sheet #33

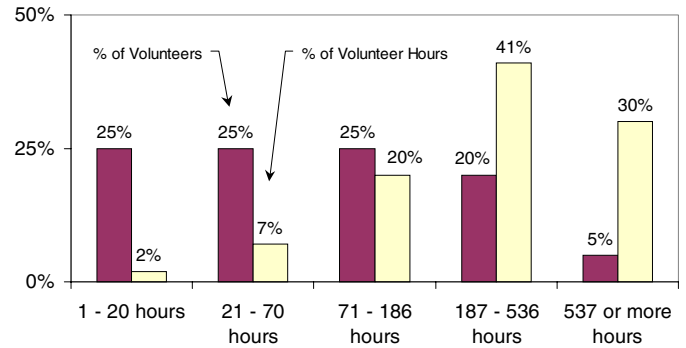
How many? How much?

Forty percent of Albertans aged 15 and over volunteered for a charitable or nonprofit organization, according to the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).¹

Between 1987 and 1997 there was no increase in the percentage of Albertans who volunteered. The volunteer rate increased in all other provinces, however.

Volunteers contributed an average of 146 hours each during the year for a total of 128 million hours. This is equivalent to 67,000 full time jobs, or 4% of Alberta's labour force.

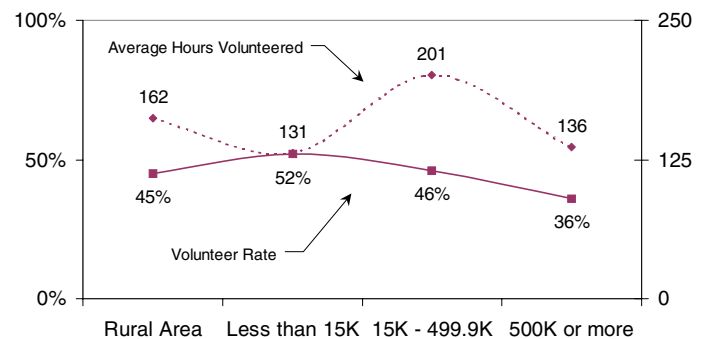
Percentage of Albertan Volunteers and Percentage of Hours Volunteered



Much comes from the few

Thirty percent of all volunteer hours were contributed by the top 5% of volunteers who gave 537 hours or more of their time. The next 20% of volunteers who gave between 187 hours and 536 hours per year accounted for 41% of all volunteer hours. Combined, these groups comprised just 25% of volunteers, but contributed 71% of all volunteer hours.

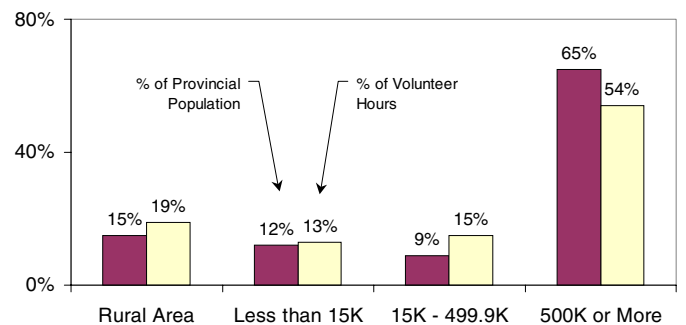
Percentage of Albertans Volunteering and Average Hours Volunteered by Size of Community



Variations in volunteering by size of community

The volunteering patterns for Alberta as a whole were similar to those in large urban areas of the province where the majority of the population resides. There were differences, however, between volunteering patterns in large urban areas and those in smaller communities.

Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours and Percentage of Population in Alberta by Size of Community²



A higher percentage of Albertans who lived in small towns (less than 15,000 residents) volunteered, compared to those who lived in cities and towns with 500,000 or more residents.

Volunteers in towns of 15,000 to 499,999 residents contributed the highest average number of volunteer hours annually. These volunteers contributed 15% of all volunteer hours, but accounted for only 9% of the provincial population.

Volunteers in large cities and towns (500,000 or more residents) contributed 54% of all volunteer hours.

1. Findings from the NSGVP are 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.

2. Due to a smaller number of respondents in Alberta, data is presented using four community sizes instead of the six sizes shown in the Ontario and B.C. fact sheets.

What volunteers do...

Alberta volunteers do everything from fundraising to providing care for others. The most common volunteer activities were:

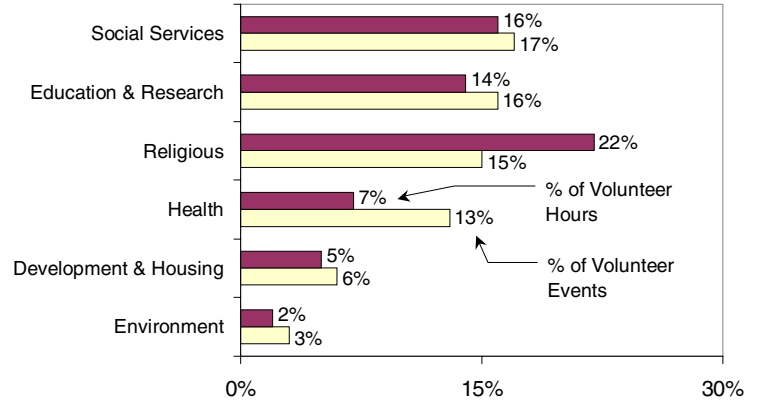
- 🍁 Organizing or supervising activities or events³ (51%)
- 🍁 Canvassing, campaigning or fundraising (49%)
- 🍁 Serving as an unpaid member of a board or committee (37%)
- 🍁 Teaching or coaching (29%)
- 🍁 Providing care or support to others (27%)

...And where they volunteer

In Alberta most volunteering occurred in five types of organizations:

- 🍁 Arts, culture and recreation organizations
- 🍁 Social service organizations
- 🍁 Education and research organizations
- 🍁 Religious organizations
- 🍁 Health organizations

Percentage of Volunteer Hours and Percentage of Volunteer Events in Alberta by Type of Organization⁴



QUICK facts...

The top four motivations cited by volunteers were:

- 🍁 To help a cause in which they personally believe (97%)
- 🍁 To use their skills and experiences (80%)
- 🍁 They or someone they knew had been personally affected by the cause for which they volunteered (75%)
- 🍁 To explore their own strengths (59%)

3. Each occurrence of volunteering for an organization reported by an individual volunteer constitutes one volunteer event. Percentages do not add up to 100% because many volunteers engaged in more than one type of activity.
 4. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



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VOLUNTEER
 BÉNÉVOLES
 CANADA

More information on the results of the NSGVP, including the full text of the highlight report *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, is available online at our Website: www.nsgvp.org

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