

Volunteering in Ontario

Fact Sheet #14

National Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating

How many? How much?

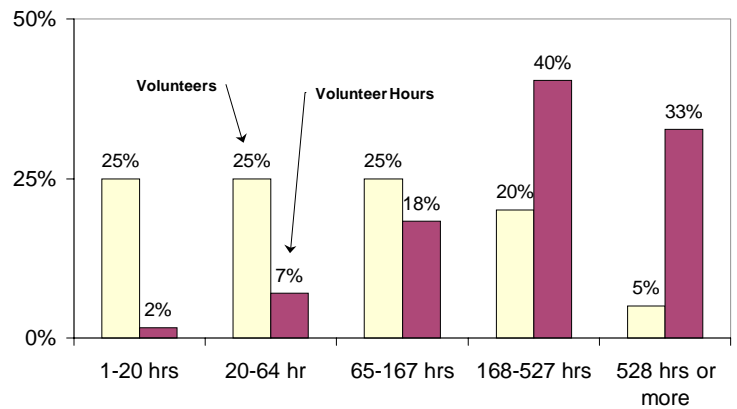
Almost one in three (32%) Ontarians aged 15 and over volunteered for a charitable or nonprofit organization between November 1, 1996 and October 31, 1997, according to data from the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).

Volunteers contributed an average of 146 hours each during the year.

In total, the amount of time volunteered was 422 million hours.

This total number of hours volunteered in Ontario is equivalent to 220,000 full time jobs – roughly equal to 4% of Ontario's labour force in 1997.

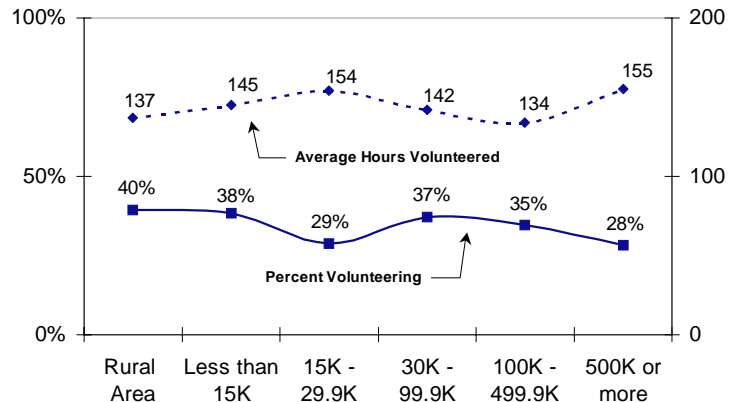
Percentage of Ontario Volunteers Volunteers Hours by Number of Hours Contributed Annually



Much comes from the few

One-third of all volunteer hours were contributed by 5% of volunteers – those who gave 528 hours or more of their time. The 20% of volunteers who gave between 177 and 527 hours per year account for 40% of all volunteer hours. Although these two groups combined account for only 25% of volunteers, they contributed 73% of all volunteer hours.²

Percentage of Ontario Population Volunteering and Average Hours Volunteered by Size of Community



Variations in Volunteering by size of community

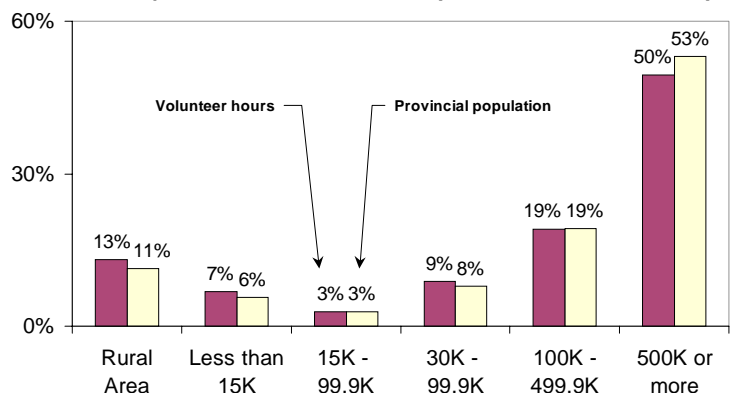
Ontario-wide statistics tend to reflect volunteering patterns found in large urban areas of the province. By comparing provincial volunteering in different community sizes, we highlight the variations found among urban and rural areas of Ontario.

A higher percentage of Ontarians who live in rural areas volunteered compared to those who live in cities and towns in the province.

However, 69% of all volunteer hours were contributed by those who are residents of cities with populations of 100,000 or more.

Rural volunteers contributed 13.1% of all volunteer hours.

Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours and Percentage of Population in Ontario by Size of Community



¹Findings from the NSGVP are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over the 1-year period from November 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997 by Canadians aged 15 and older.

²Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

What volunteers do...

Ontario volunteers do everything from fundraising to providing transportation for others. The most common activities are as follows:³

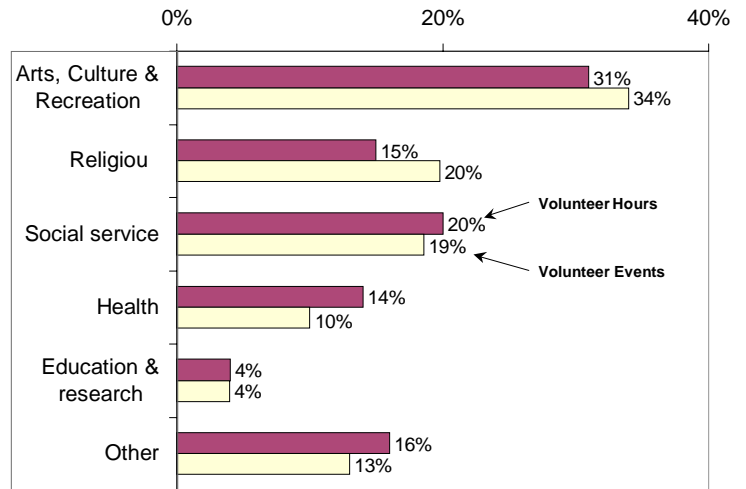
- ✻ Organizing or supervising activities or events (50%).
- ✻ Canvassing, campaigning or fundraising (44%).
- ✻ Serving as an unpaid member of a board or committee (38%).
- ✻ Teaching or coaching (28%).
- ✻ Consulting, executive, office or administrative work (28%).
- ✻ Providing information or helping to educate people, influence public opinion or lobby others on behalf of an organization (27%).
- ✻ Collecting, serving, or delivering food (22%).
- ✻ Providing care or support to others (22%).

...And where they volunteer

In Ontario, most volunteering occurs in 5 types of organizations:

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

Percentage of Volunteer Hours and Percentage of Volunteer Events⁴ in Ontario by Type of Organization



QUICK facts...

58% of volunteers are active in one organization

26% are active in two organizations

11% are active in three organizations

6% are active in four or more organizations

³Percentages do not add up to 100% because many volunteers engage in more than one type of activity.

⁴Each organization reported by an individual volunteer constitutes one volunteer event (an "event" is one volunteer activity). Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



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We would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Government of Ontario for the production of these fact sheets.

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.ccp.ca/nsgvp

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