

Who are Canada's Volunteers?

Fact Sheet # 4



The demographics of volunteers

The volunteering behaviour of Canadians varies with their age, education, sex, and labour force status, according to analysis of data from the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering, and Participating (NSGVP).*

Age

Thirty-seven percent of Canadians 35–44 years old volunteered, making them more likely to contribute than others. Only 23% of seniors volunteered, making them least likely to contribute.



However, seniors had the highest average hours volunteered annually (202 hours), and average hours volunteered decreased steadily as the age of individuals decreased.

-  One out of four volunteers were 35-44 years old.
-  Canadians 35-44 years old contributed 24% of all volunteer hours.

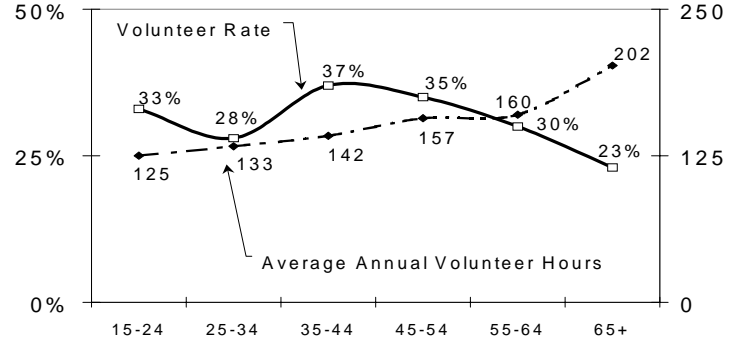
Education

Almost half of Canadians with a university degree volunteered, and were more likely to contribute their time than others. Only 21% of Canadians with less than a high school diploma volunteered, and were least likely to volunteer.

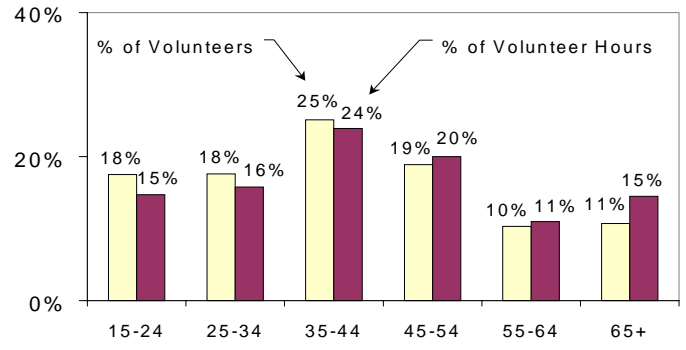
Canadians who earned a high school diploma, and those who earned a university degree, had the highest average hours volunteered annually (159 hours for both groups). Those with less than a high school diploma had the lowest average hours volunteered annually (126 hours).

-  Fifty-one percent of all volunteers had obtained a post-secondary certificate/diploma or a university degree.
-  Those with a post-secondary certificate/diploma or a university degree contributed 52% of all volunteers hours.

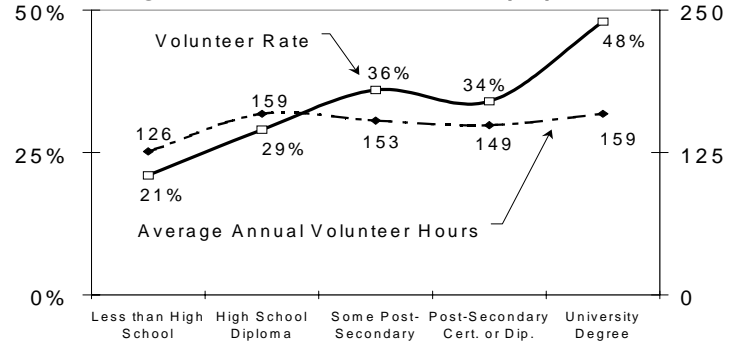
Percentage of the Population Volunteering and Average Hours Volunteered Annually by Age Group



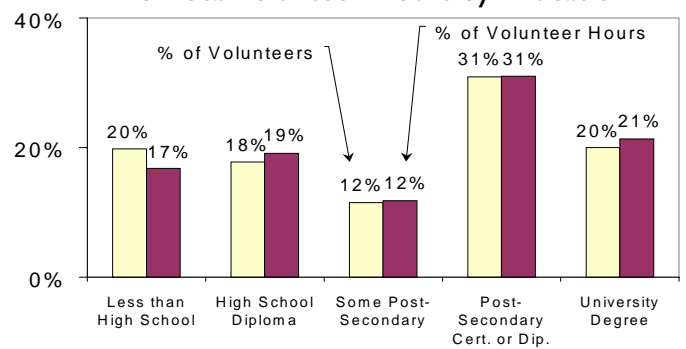
Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Age Group



Percentage of the Population Volunteering and Average Hours Volunteered Annually by Education



Percentage of Volunteers and Percentage of Total Volunteer Hours by Education



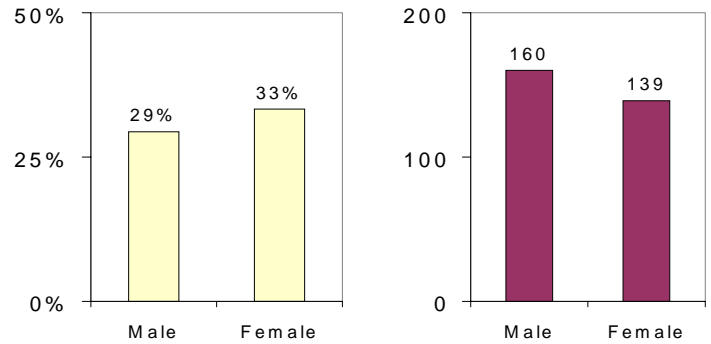
*Findings from the NSGVP are based on reports of volunteer activity by Canadians aged 15 and older over the one year period from November 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997.

Sex

Women are more likely to volunteer than men, although when men volunteer they tend to contribute a higher number of hours annually than women do.

The majority of all volunteers were women (54%), and they contributed the majority of all volunteer hours (51%).

Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Hours Volunteered Annually by Sex

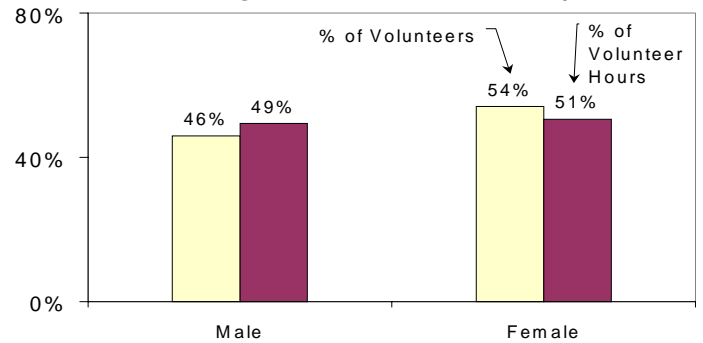


Labour force status

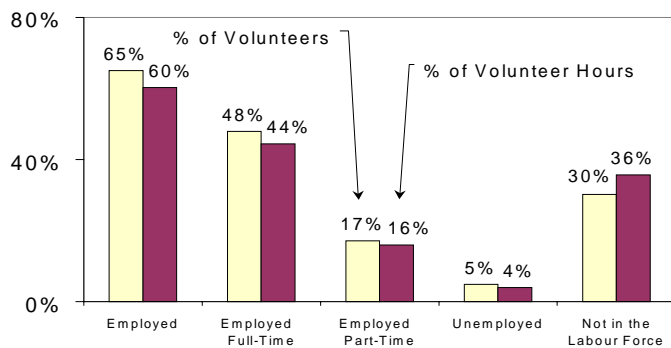
A higher percentage of Canadians employed part-time volunteered than those who were employed full-time, unemployed, or not in the labour force. However, those not in the labour force contributed a higher number of average hours annually than other Canadians.

- ✻ Forty-eight percent of volunteers were employed full-time.
- ✻ Those employed full-time contributed more than 4 out of every 10 volunteer hours.

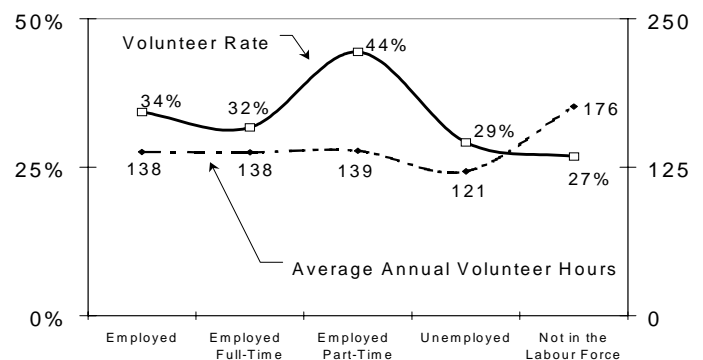
Percentage of Total Volunteers and Percentage of Volunteer Hours by Sex



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



Percentage of Population Volunteering and Average Annual Hours Volunteered by Labour Force Status



Canadian Centre for Philanthropy
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BÉNÉVOLES
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We would like to acknowledge the support provided by Community Foundations of Canada 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 on-line at our Web site: www.ccp.ca

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