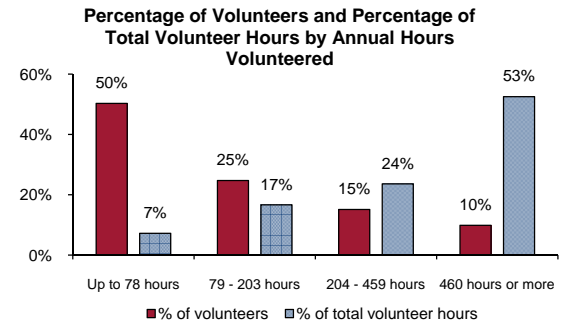


Volunteering in NOVA SCOTIA

According to the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), 48% of Nova Scotia residents aged 15 and over (376,500 people) volunteered in 2004. Each volunteer contributed an average of 195 hours, for a total of 73 million hours or the equivalent of approximately 38,000 full-time jobs.

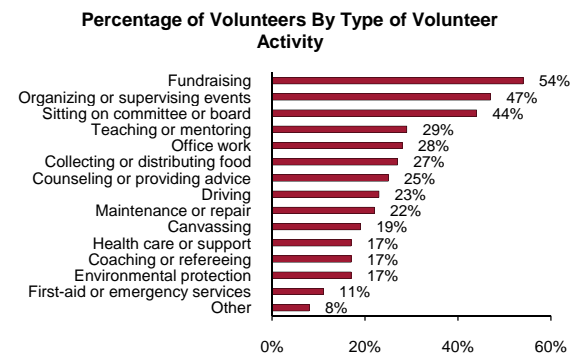
Much comes from the few

Although many Nova Scotians volunteer, the majority of volunteer hours are contributed by a small minority. One in ten volunteers contributed 53% of all hours. These volunteers contributed 460 hours or more over the course of the year. Another 24% of all volunteer hours came from the 15% of volunteers who contributed between 204 and 459 hours. Together, this top 25% of volunteers (representing 12% of all Nova Scotia residents) contributed 77% of total volunteer hours.



What volunteers do

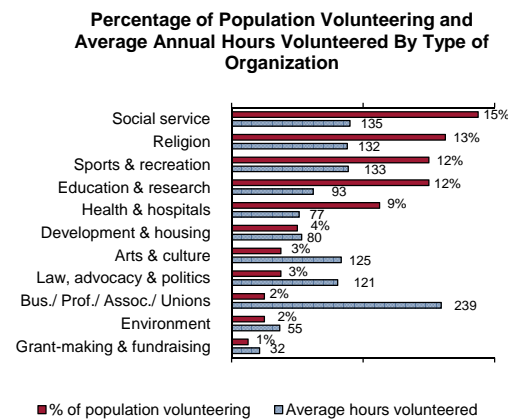
The most common activities performed by Nova Scotia volunteers were fundraising (54% of volunteers did this), organizing or supervising events (47%), and sitting on a committee or board (44%).



Compared to the rest of Canada, Nova Scotia volunteers were more likely to engage in fundraising (reported by 54% of volunteers in Nova Scotia vs. 46% of volunteers in the rest of Canada), sitting on a committee or board (44% vs. 36%), doing maintenance or repairs (22% vs. 18%), or canvassing (19% vs. 15%).

Where they volunteer

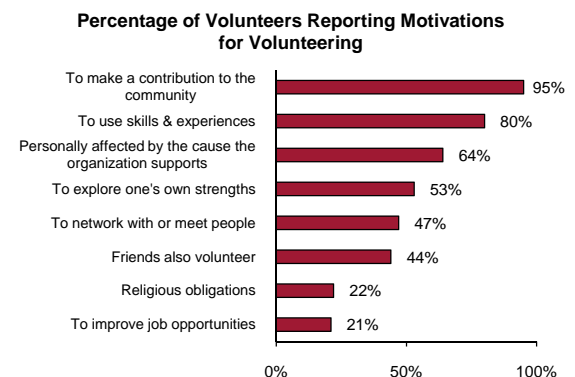
Nova Scotians were most likely to volunteer with Social Service organizations (15% volunteered), followed by Religious (13%), Sports & Recreation (12%), and Education & Research (12%) organizations. Smaller numbers volunteered with Business and Professional Associations and Unions, Environment (2% in each), and Grant-making, Fundraising & Voluntary Promotion (1%) organizations.



Volunteers tended to contribute the largest number of hours for Associations & Unions (239) and Social Services organizations (135 on average), followed closely by Sports & Recreation (133) and Religious (132) organizations. They contributed fewer hours to organizations working in the areas of Health & Hospital (77), Environment (55), and Grant-making, Fundraising & Voluntary Promotion (32).

The motivations of volunteers

Nova Scotia volunteers were most likely to say they volunteered because they wanted to make a contribution to the community (95%), wanted to use their skills and experiences (80%), or had been personally affected by the cause the organization supports (64%). Comparatively few volunteers volunteered in order to fulfill religious beliefs or obligations (22%) or to improve their job opportunities (21%).



Volunteering in NOVA SCOTIA

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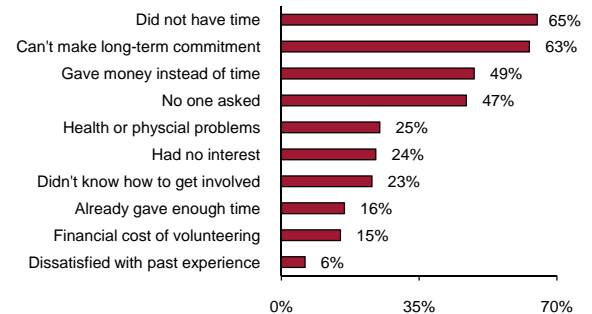
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Barriers to volunteering

Nova Scotians who did not volunteer were most likely to say they did not do so because they did not have the time (65%), were unable to make a long-term commitment (63%), or donated money instead of volunteering (49%). They were much less likely to report having contributed enough time already (16%), the costs of volunteering (15%), or dissatisfaction with previous volunteer experiences (6%) as reasons for not volunteering.

Percentage of Non-Volunteers Reporting Barriers to Volunteering



Single individuals contributed a slightly smaller percentage of total volunteer hours than could be expected given their numbers (they made up 25% of the population but contributed 20% of volunteer hours).

Personal and economic characteristics of Nova Scotia volunteers: age and marital status¹

Nova Scotians aged 35 to 44 were most likely to volunteer (61% volunteered), followed by those aged 15 to 24 (54%) and those aged 55 to 64 (49%). Although residents 65 years and older were least likely to volunteer (35%), they tended to contribute more hours, on average (258) than any other age group.

Widowers and widows in Nova Scotia were least likely to volunteer (30%). Those who were married (50%), divorced or separated (49%), or single (49%) were all roughly as likely to volunteer. Those who were separated or divorced tended to contribute the most hours (221^E on average), followed by married or common-law couples (207 hours). Those who were single tended to volunteer the least (153 hours).

Percentage of Population Who Volunteer and Distribution of Volunteer Hours by Age and Marital Status

	% Volunteering	Average Volunteer Hours	% of Pop.	% Volunteer Hours
Age				
15 to 24	54%	177 ^E	16%	16% ^E
25 to 34	42%	158 ^E	16%	11% ^E
35 to 44	61%	171	19%	21%
45 to 54	47%	206	19%	19%
55 to 64	49%	230	14%	17%
65 and over	35%	258	16%	15%
Marital Status				
Married or common-law	50%	207	63%	69%
Single, never married	49%	153	25%	20%
Separated or divorced	49%	221 ^E	6%	7% ^E
Widow or widower	30%	195 ^E	6%	4% ^E

^E Use with caution

¹ Volunteering tends to vary with the personal and economic characteristics of the individual. This fact sheet focuses on age and marital status, but many other characteristics are important. For more information, readers should refer to *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, available at http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/pdf/CSGVP_Highlights_2004_en.pdf.

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