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VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2006

About 61.2 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2005 and September 2006, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The proportion of the population who volunteered was 26.7 percent. This is 2.1 percentage points lower than the volunteer rate in each of the prior 3 years and slightly lower than in 2002, the first year for which comparable data are available.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2006 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

Over the year ending September 2006, both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate were lower than in the previous year ending September 2005. About 30.1 percent of women and 23.0 percent of men did volunteer work in the year ended in September 2006, down from 32.4 and 25.0 percent, respectively, during the prior year. As in previous years, women volunteered at a higher rate than men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major characteristics. (See tables A and 1.)

Persons age 35 to 54 continued to be the most likely to volunteer (31.2 percent), while persons in their early twenties were the least likely (17.8 percent). While all age groups showed declines in volunteer rates from the prior year, the largest decline was among teenagers. The volunteer rate for females age 16 to 19 fell from 33.5 to 28.8 percent, and the volunteer rate for males of that age fell from 27.4 to 24.1 percent.

Whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (28.3 percent) than blacks (19.2 percent) and Asians (18.5 percent). Among Hispanics or Latinos, 13.9 percent volunteered.

Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (32.2 percent) than those who had never married (20.3 percent) and those with other marital statuses (21.3 percent). Parents with children under age 18 were substantially more likely to volunteer than were persons without children of that age, 34.4 percent compared with 23.6 percent.

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2002 through September 2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	September 2002		September 2003		September 2004		September 2005		September 2006	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes.....	59,783	27.4	63,791	28.8	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7
Men.....	24,706	23.6	26,805	25.1	27,011	25.0	27,370	25.0	25,546	23.0
Women.....	35,076	31.0	36,987	32.2	37,530	32.4	37,987	32.4	35,653	30.1
Age										
Total, 16 years and over.....	59,783	27.4	63,791	28.8	64,542	28.8	65,357	28.8	61,199	26.7
16 to 24 years.....	7,742	21.9	8,671	24.1	8,821	24.2	8,955	24.4	8,044	21.7
25 to 34 years.....	9,574	24.8	10,337	26.5	10,046	25.8	9,881	25.3	9,096	23.1
35 to 44 years.....	14,971	34.1	15,165	34.7	14,783	34.2	14,809	34.5	13,308	31.2
45 to 54 years.....	12,477	31.3	13,302	32.7	13,584	32.8	13,826	32.7	13,415	31.2
55 to 64 years.....	7,331	27.5	8,170	29.2	8,784	30.1	9,173	30.2	8,819	27.9
65 years and over.....	7,687	22.7	8,146	23.7	8,524	24.6	8,712	24.8	8,518	23.8
Race and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity										
White ¹	52,591	29.2	55,572	30.6	55,892	30.5	56,170	30.4	52,850	28.3
Black or African American ¹	4,896	19.1	5,145	20.0	5,435	20.8	5,879	22.1	5,211	19.2
Asian ¹	(2)	(2)	1,735	18.7	1,832	19.3	2,055	20.7	1,881	18.5
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.....	4,059	15.5	4,364	15.7	4,102	14.5	4,511	15.4	4,212	13.9
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,806	10.1	2,793	9.9	2,718	9.6	2,837	10.0	2,615	9.3
High school graduates, no college ⁴	12,542	21.2	12,882	21.7	12,709	21.6	12,594	21.2	11,537	19.2
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁵	15,066	32.8	15,966	34.1	16,414	34.2	16,452	33.7	15,196	30.9
College graduates.....	21,627	43.3	23,481	45.6	23,880	45.7	24,517	45.8	23,808	43.3
Employment status										
Civilian labor force.....	42,773	29.3	45,499	30.9	45,896	30.9	46,872	31.1	43,579	28.5
Employed.....	40,742	29.5	43,138	31.2	43,886	31.2	44,894	31.3	41,861	28.7
Full time ⁶	32,210	28.3	33,599	29.6	34,237	29.6	35,225	29.8	32,951	27.3
Part time ⁷	8,532	35.4	9,539	38.4	9,649	38.5	9,669	38.2	8,910	35.5
Unemployed.....	2,031	25.1	2,361	26.7	2,010	25.6	1,978	26.4	1,718	23.8
Not in the labor force.....	17,010	23.7	18,293	24.6	18,646	24.7	18,485	24.4	17,621	23.1

¹ Beginning in 2003, persons who selected this race group only; persons who selected more than one race group are not included.

Prior to 2003, persons who reported more than one race group were included in the group they identified as the main race.

² Data for Asians were not tabulated in 2002.³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.⁴ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.⁵ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Due to the introduction of revised population controls in January 2003, January 2004, January 2005, and January 2006, estimated levels for 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 are not strictly comparable with each other or with those for 2002. See the Technical Note for further information.

Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment volunteered at higher rates than did those with less education. More than 4 in 10 college graduates volunteered, compared with about 2 in 10 high school graduates and less than 1 in 10 of those with less than a high school diploma.

Among employed persons, 28.7 percent had volunteered during the year ended in September 2006. By comparison, 23.8 percent of unemployed persons and 23.1 percent of those not in the labor force volunteered. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—35.5 versus 27.3 percent.

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2005 to September 2006. Men reported spending about 52 hours volunteering and women reported about 50 hours. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a high of 104 hours for volunteers age 65 and over to a low of 36 hours for those 25 to 34 years old. (See table 2.)

Number and Type of Organizations

Most volunteers were involved with either one or two organizations—68.5 and 19.8 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. Parents also were somewhat more likely to volunteer for more than one organization than were persons without children under 18. (See table 3.)

In 2006, the main organization—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (35.0 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational/youth service related (26.4 percent). Another 12.7 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer mainly for religious organizations than were their younger counterparts. For example, 44.7 percent of volunteers age 65 and over did their service mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 30.1 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24 years.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years old, 46.1 percent of mothers and 36.5 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational/youth service-related organization, such as a school or sports team. Volunteers without children under 18 were considerably more likely than parents to volunteer for other types of organizations, such as hospitals or other health organizations and social or community service organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

When volunteers were asked the main activity they performed for their main organization, fundraising (10.9 percent) and tutoring or teaching (10.8 percent) were the most frequently reported. Men and women tended to engage in different main activities. Men who volunteered were most likely to engage in general labor (11.5 percent) or to coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (10.2 percent), while women volunteers were most likely to fundraise (12.5 percent), or tutor or teach (12.5 percent). (See table 5.)

Educational attainment influenced the types of activities volunteers performed. College graduates were more likely than those with less education to provide professional or management assistance or to tutor or teach. They were least likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food or to engage in general labor.

Parents were considerably more likely than those without children to engage in some types of volunteer activities that are frequently related to children, including coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams, tutoring or teaching, mentoring youth, and fundraising.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

About 43 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. A slightly smaller proportion, about 2 in 5 volunteers, became involved on their own initiative; that is, they approached the organization. (See table 6.)

Technical Note

The data in this release were collected through a supplement to the September 2006 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the nation’s civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over. The purpose of this supplement to the CPS was to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the “true” population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the “true” population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and for information on estimating standard errors, see the “Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error” section of *Employment and Earnings*.

In January 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, the Census Bureau introduced adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. The 2003 adjustment resulted in an increase to the estimates for all population categories. This increase was partly offset by downward adjustments in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Consequently, estimated levels of volunteers for September 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 are not strictly comparable with one another, or with estimated levels for September 2002. These adjustments to the levels, however, should have had only negligible effects on the volunteer rates. In addition to the population control adjustments, new questions on race and ethnicity were introduced into the CPS in January 2003. For a discussion of the changes introduced into the CPS in January 2003, see “Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective in January 2003,” in the February 2003 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/rvcps03.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in

January 2004, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2004,” in the February 2004 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps04adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2005, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2005,” in the February 2005 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps05adj.pdf>. For a discussion of the changes introduced in January 2006, see “Adjustments to Household Survey Population Estimates in January 2006,” in the February 2006 issue of *Employment and Earnings*, available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps06adj.pdf>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September 2006 supplement, questions on volunteer activities were asked of all households. Efforts were made to have household members answer the volunteer questions for themselves. (Generally, one member of the household answers all the questions in the CPS on behalf of the entire household.) Self-response was considered important for the volunteer supplement because research indicated that self-respondents could more easily answer questions on the characteristics of the volunteer activity. About 70 percent of the responses were self-reports.

The survey was introduced as follows: “This month, we are interested in volunteer activities, that is, activities for which people are not paid, except perhaps expenses. We only want you to include volunteer activities that you did through or for an organization, even if you only did them once in a while.”

Following this introduction, respondents were asked the first supplement question: “Since September 1st of last year, have you done any volunteer activities through or for an organization?”

If respondents did not answer “yes” to the first question, they were asked the following question: “Sometimes people don’t think of activities they do infrequently or activities they do for children’s schools or youth organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of these types of volunteer activities?”

Respondents were considered volunteers if they answered “yes” to either of these questions. This is the same method of identifying volunteers as was used in each of the four prior supplements.

A new question was added to the 2006 survey: “Sometimes people don’t think of activities they do through religious organizations as volunteer activities. Since September 1st of last year, have you done any of this type of volunteer activity?” It

was asked of respondents who had answered “no” to the previous two questions. To maintain historical comparability with estimates from previous surveys, these individuals were not counted as volunteers in these tabulations, even if they answered “yes” to the new question. If respondents who answered “yes” to this new question had been included as volunteers, the number of volunteers would have been 64.2 million, and the volunteer rate would have been 28.0 percent.

Respondents classified as volunteers were asked further questions about the number and type of organizations for which they volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how they became involved with the main organization for which they volunteered, the type of activities they performed for the main organization, and what their main activity was. The questions in previous surveys about why non-volunteers didn’t volunteer and if they had ever volunteered were discontinued in 2006.

The reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2005, through the survey week in September 2006. The reference period for other characteristics, such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status, refer to the survey reference week in September 2006. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. The count of volunteers only includes persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who taught acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer. However, a woman who, on her own, organized softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of this survey.

Organizations are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples include churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this study, organizations are grouped into eight major categories,

including religious, youth, and social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

In the 2005 survey, one organization category, immigrant/refugee assistance, was added to the questionnaire as a possible response. Responses that were collected in this category may have been distributed over at least six of the major organization categories in previous years. For this reason, the addition of the new response category created a break in the comparability of organizations between 2005 and prior years. Because few people reported volunteering for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations and because the group was not a definite subset of any of the major organization categories, those persons who did report that they volunteered for immigrant/refugee assistance organizations were placed in the “other” group.

The *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a respondent volunteered for only one organization, it was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents had to provide information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the type of main organization. For these respondents, the follow-up questions on activities and how they became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they think they spent the most time volunteering.

Activities are the specific tasks the volunteer did for an organization. Examples include tutoring, fundraising, and serving food. The activity categories were modified in 2005; thus creating a break in the comparability of activities between 2005 and prior years.

In 2006, a new question was added that asks respondents on which of the activities they mentioned they spent the most time. Previously, respondents reported all of the activities they did for their main organization. The new question identifies which of them is the main activity for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2006

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2006	Total, both sexes			Men			Women		
	Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers		Civilian noninstitutional population	Volunteers	
		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population		Number	Percent of population
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	229,420	61,199	26.7	110,925	25,546	23.0	118,495	35,653	30.1
16 to 24 years	37,027	8,044	21.7	18,696	3,574	19.1	18,331	4,470	24.4
16 to 19 years	16,751	4,426	26.4	8,497	2,046	24.1	8,254	2,380	28.8
20 to 24 years	20,276	3,618	17.8	10,199	1,528	15.0	10,077	2,090	20.7
25 years and over	192,393	53,155	27.6	92,229	21,972	23.8	100,164	31,183	31.1
25 to 34 years	39,301	9,096	23.1	19,611	3,547	18.1	19,690	5,549	28.2
35 to 44 years	42,696	13,308	31.2	21,059	5,329	25.3	21,638	7,979	36.9
45 to 54 years	43,055	13,415	31.2	21,075	5,840	27.7	21,980	7,574	34.5
55 to 64 years	31,618	8,819	27.9	15,214	3,823	25.1	16,404	4,995	30.5
65 years and over	35,721	8,518	23.8	15,269	3,432	22.5	20,452	5,086	24.9
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	186,669	52,850	28.3	91,242	22,320	24.5	95,427	30,529	32.0
Black or African American	27,109	5,211	19.2	12,181	1,948	16.0	14,928	3,263	21.9
Asian	10,155	1,881	18.5	4,853	776	16.0	5,302	1,104	20.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	30,324	4,212	13.9	15,590	1,695	10.9	14,734	2,517	17.1
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	28,068	2,615	9.3	13,735	1,077	7.8	14,333	1,538	10.7
High school graduates, no college ²	60,098	11,537	19.2	28,916	4,590	15.9	31,181	6,947	22.3
Less than a bachelor's degree ³	49,250	15,196	30.9	22,306	5,702	25.6	26,944	9,494	35.2
College graduates	54,977	23,808	43.3	27,272	10,603	38.9	27,705	13,205	47.7
Marital status									
Single, never married	64,101	12,982	20.3	34,285	5,734	16.7	29,816	7,248	24.3
Married, spouse present	119,991	38,579	32.2	60,365	17,175	28.5	59,626	21,404	35.9
Other marital status ⁴	45,328	9,638	21.3	16,276	2,637	16.2	29,053	7,001	24.1
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	163,860	38,627	23.6	81,834	16,696	20.4	82,026	21,931	26.7
With own children under 18	65,559	22,572	34.4	29,091	8,850	30.4	36,469	13,722	37.6
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	153,163	43,579	28.5	81,852	20,030	24.5	71,312	23,549	33.0
Employed	145,953	41,861	28.7	78,368	19,384	24.7	67,584	22,477	33.3
Full time ⁶	120,865	32,951	27.3	70,054	17,025	24.3	50,810	15,925	31.3
Part time ⁷	25,088	8,910	35.5	8,314	2,359	28.4	16,774	6,552	39.1
Unemployed	7,211	1,718	23.8	3,483	646	18.5	3,727	1,072	28.8
Not in the labor force	76,256	17,621	23.1	29,073	5,516	19.0	47,183	12,105	25.7

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2006

Characteristics in September 2006	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations							Median annual hours ¹
		Total	1 to 14 hour(s)	15 to 49 hours	50 to 99 hours	100 to 499 hours	500 hours and over	Not reporting annual hours	
Sex									
Total, both sexes	61,199	100.0	21.1	24.9	14.7	28.6	5.6	5.2	52
Men	25,546	100.0	20.7	24.5	15.0	28.9	5.7	5.2	52
Women	35,653	100.0	21.4	25.3	14.4	28.4	5.4	5.1	50
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	61,199	100.0	21.1	24.9	14.7	28.6	5.6	5.2	52
16 to 24 years	8,044	100.0	23.5	27.4	15.3	22.7	4.0	7.1	40
16 to 19 years	4,426	100.0	22.2	29.7	16.4	21.4	3.6	6.8	40
20 to 24 years	3,618	100.0	25.0	24.7	13.9	24.2	4.6	7.6	40
25 years and over	53,155	100.0	20.7	24.5	14.6	29.5	5.8	4.8	52
25 to 34 years	9,096	100.0	28.1	27.2	14.7	22.2	3.4	4.4	36
35 to 44 years	13,308	100.0	22.6	26.8	14.9	27.0	4.9	3.8	48
45 to 54 years	13,415	100.0	19.9	25.2	15.5	29.4	5.2	4.8	52
55 to 64 years	8,819	100.0	18.1	23.0	15.2	31.9	7.0	4.8	63
65 years and over	8,518	100.0	13.8	18.9	12.0	38.8	9.4	7.1	104
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	52,850	100.0	20.8	25.1	14.8	29.1	5.4	4.7	52
Black or African American	5,211	100.0	21.0	21.6	14.9	26.1	7.0	9.5	52
Asian	1,881	100.0	30.7	25.5	12.6	21.2	4.4	5.6	30
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,212	100.0	22.5	26.0	14.2	25.5	5.1	6.7	42
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,615	100.0	22.6	23.1	15.7	24.0	7.2	7.4	50
High school graduates, no college ³	11,537	100.0	22.7	23.1	12.9	28.9	5.8	6.5	52
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁴	15,196	100.0	21.8	24.9	14.2	29.4	5.7	4.1	52
College graduates	23,808	100.0	18.8	25.2	15.6	30.5	5.7	4.2	55
Marital status									
Single, never married	12,982	100.0	24.3	27.4	14.4	23.8	4.3	5.9	40
Married, spouse present	38,579	100.0	19.8	24.2	15.1	30.5	5.6	4.8	52
Other marital status ⁵	9,638	100.0	21.9	24.6	13.5	27.4	7.2	5.5	50
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	16,696	100.0	20.2	24.5	14.3	28.6	6.6	5.8	52
With own children under 18 years old	8,850	100.0	21.6	24.4	16.5	29.4	4.1	4.0	52
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	21,931	100.0	20.2	24.2	14.0	30.2	5.8	5.5	52
With own children under 18 years old	13,722	100.0	23.3	26.9	15.1	25.5	4.8	4.4	44
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	43,579	100.0	22.5	26.2	15.0	27.1	4.7	4.6	48
Employed	41,861	100.0	22.4	26.3	15.1	27.1	4.6	4.5	48
Full time ⁷	32,951	100.0	23.0	26.6	15.3	26.3	4.3	4.5	48
Part time ⁸	8,910	100.0	20.1	25.1	14.3	29.9	5.8	4.8	52
Unemployed	1,718	100.0	23.7	24.8	12.3	27.3	6.2	5.6	48
Not in the labor force	17,621	100.0	17.7	21.7	14.0	32.4	7.6	6.6	70

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2006

Characteristics in September 2006	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of the number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed						
		Total	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Not reporting number of organizations
Sex								
Total, both sexes	61,199	100.0	68.5	19.8	7.3	2.4	1.7	0.3
Men	25,546	100.0	69.6	19.3	7.0	2.3	1.5	.2
Women	35,653	100.0	67.8	20.1	7.5	2.5	1.8	.3
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	61,199	100.0	68.5	19.8	7.3	2.4	1.7	.3
16 to 24 years	8,044	100.0	73.8	18.0	5.4	1.5	.8	.5
16 to 19 years	4,426	100.0	71.3	19.6	5.9	1.8	1.0	.4
20 to 24 years	3,618	100.0	76.8	16.1	4.7	1.1	.5	.7
25 years and over	53,155	100.0	67.7	20.1	7.6	2.6	1.8	.2
25 to 34 years	9,096	100.0	74.6	16.5	5.6	1.7	1.3	.3
35 to 44 years	13,308	100.0	67.0	20.9	8.0	2.3	1.5	.2
45 to 54 years	13,415	100.0	64.6	21.6	8.3	2.9	2.3	.2
55 to 64 years	8,819	100.0	66.7	19.7	8.1	3.3	1.9	.3
65 years and over	8,518	100.0	67.5	20.5	7.3	2.6	1.9	.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	52,850	100.0	67.3	20.5	7.7	2.5	1.7	.3
Black or African American	5,211	100.0	75.7	14.7	5.3	2.3	1.3	.7
Asian	1,881	100.0	80.0	15.4	3.2	.2	1.1	.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,212	100.0	78.8	14.5	4.6	.9	.8	.4
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,615	100.0	87.2	9.3	2.2	.8	.3	.2
High school graduates, no college ²	11,537	100.0	77.0	16.1	4.3	1.3	1.0	.3
Less than a bachelor's degree ³	15,196	100.0	70.5	19.0	6.8	2.3	1.2	.2
College graduates	23,808	100.0	59.3	23.9	10.3	3.5	2.7	.3
Marital status								
Single, never married	12,982	100.0	72.7	18.0	5.6	2.0	1.3	.4
Married, spouse present	38,579	100.0	66.8	20.9	7.8	2.6	1.7	.2
Other marital status ⁴	9,638	100.0	69.9	17.9	7.6	2.3	1.9	.4
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	16,696	100.0	70.4	18.7	6.8	2.4	1.4	.3
With own children under 18 years old	8,850	100.0	68.0	20.5	7.3	2.2	1.8	.2
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	21,931	100.0	69.0	19.6	7.1	2.3	1.6	.4
With own children under 18 years old	13,722	100.0	65.8	21.0	8.2	2.8	2.1	.2
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	43,579	100.0	68.0	20.1	7.6	2.4	1.7	.3
Employed	41,861	100.0	67.8	20.2	7.6	2.4	1.7	.3
Full time ⁶	32,951	100.0	68.2	20.0	7.6	2.3	1.7	.2
Part time ⁷	8,910	100.0	66.3	21.0	7.8	3.0	1.6	.3
Unemployed	1,718	100.0	72.7	18.4	5.3	1.8	1.8	—
Not in the labor force	17,621	100.0	69.9	19.0	6.7	2.4	1.6	.4

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁴ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁵ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁶ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁷ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2006

Characteristics in September 2006	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of volunteers by type of main organization ¹										
		Total	Civic, political, professional, or international	Educational or youth service	Environmental or animal care	Hospital or other health	Public safety	Religious	Social or community service	Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts	Other	Not determined
Sex												
Total, both sexes	61,199	100.0	6.1	26.4	1.6	8.1	1.3	35.0	12.7	3.7	3.4	1.5
Men	25,546	100.0	7.9	23.9	1.6	6.1	2.3	34.9	13.5	4.6	3.6	1.7
Women	35,653	100.0	4.9	28.2	1.6	9.6	.6	35.1	12.1	3.1	3.4	1.4
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	61,199	100.0	6.1	26.4	1.6	8.1	1.3	35.0	12.7	3.7	3.4	1.5
16 to 24 years	8,044	100.0	4.5	31.7	2.0	8.0	1.3	30.1	13.3	3.2	4.2	1.8
16 to 19 years	4,426	100.0	4.4	35.6	1.9	7.2	.8	30.0	11.9	3.3	3.3	1.6
20 to 24 years	3,618	100.0	4.6	27.1	2.0	8.9	2.0	30.1	15.0	3.2	5.2	1.9
25 years and over	53,155	100.0	6.4	25.6	1.6	8.2	1.3	35.8	12.6	3.8	3.3	1.5
25 to 34 years	9,096	100.0	5.8	34.3	1.7	8.8	1.5	28.4	11.6	3.1	3.5	1.4
35 to 44 years	13,308	100.0	4.2	39.0	1.0	6.1	1.3	31.4	9.9	3.1	2.7	1.2
45 to 54 years	13,415	100.0	6.7	26.3	1.9	7.5	1.3	35.9	12.3	3.7	2.7	1.7
55 to 64 years	8,819	100.0	7.8	13.0	2.1	10.4	1.6	41.2	13.9	4.7	3.7	1.5
65 years and over	8,518	100.0	8.5	7.4	1.4	9.4	1.0	44.7	16.9	4.5	4.6	1.6
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	52,850	100.0	6.3	26.4	1.8	8.4	1.4	34.2	12.8	3.9	3.4	1.4
Black or African American	5,211	100.0	4.6	26.1	.4	5.2	.6	43.3	11.9	1.8	3.7	2.5
Asian	1,881	100.0	5.1	25.6	.6	9.8	.2	39.8	9.8	3.1	4.0	1.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,212	100.0	3.1	35.6	.4	5.5	.7	35.1	10.4	3.9	3.5	1.7
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,615	100.0	4.0	21.2	.8	6.0	1.9	43.1	14.4	3.1	4.4	1.2
High school graduates, no college ³	11,537	100.0	6.0	23.2	1.0	8.2	2.2	39.8	12.4	3.0	3.0	1.2
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁴	15,196	100.0	6.0	26.7	1.4	8.6	1.6	35.4	12.5	3.6	3.4	1.0
College graduates	23,808	100.0	7.1	26.6	2.1	8.1	.7	33.2	12.6	4.3	3.4	1.9
Marital status												
Single, never married	12,982	100.0	5.9	28.8	2.2	9.6	1.6	27.1	14.9	4.0	4.4	1.5
Married, spouse present	38,579	100.0	6.0	26.8	1.4	7.0	1.3	38.6	10.9	3.6	2.8	1.5
Other marital status ⁵	9,638	100.0	6.9	21.6	1.9	10.5	1.0	31.6	16.7	3.3	4.8	1.7
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	16,696	100.0	9.1	17.2	2.0	7.3	2.5	35.3	16.0	4.8	4.2	1.6
With own children under 18 years old	8,850	100.0	5.7	36.5	.9	3.8	2.0	34.2	8.8	4.0	2.4	1.7
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	21,931	100.0	5.7	17.0	2.3	12.0	.8	38.1	14.8	3.8	4.1	1.4
With own children under 18 years old	13,722	100.0	3.5	46.1	.6	5.9	.4	30.2	7.8	1.9	2.1	1.4
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	43,579	100.0	6.3	28.1	1.7	8.2	1.6	33.3	12.2	3.8	3.4	1.5
Employed	41,861	100.0	6.3	27.8	1.7	8.2	1.6	33.6	12.2	3.8	3.3	1.5
Full time ⁷	32,951	100.0	6.9	27.2	1.7	8.1	1.7	33.3	12.3	3.8	3.4	1.5
Part time ⁸	8,910	100.0	4.1	30.4	1.7	8.4	1.0	34.5	11.7	3.8	3.1	1.5
Unemployed	1,718	100.0	5.2	33.4	2.7	7.7	1.6	27.7	14.1	3.0	3.7	.9
Not in the labor force	17,621	100.0	5.8	22.3	1.4	8.0	.8	39.2	13.8	3.5	3.7	1.5

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2006

Characteristics in September 2006	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of main volunteer activity for main organization ¹													
		Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams	Tutor or teach	Mentor youth	Be an usher, greeter, or minister	Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food	Fundraise or sell items to raise money	Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	Provide general office services	Provide professional or management assistance, including serving on a board or committee	Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	Engage in general labor; supply transportation to people	Other	Equal time among all
Sex															
Total, both sexes	61,199	5.8	10.8	5.5	4.2	8.8	3.2	10.9	2.9	4.5	8.1	4.3	7.9	14.0	9.1
Men	25,546	10.2	8.4	5.4	5.2	6.7	2.0	8.7	3.6	2.6	9.7	4.3	11.5	13.2	8.5
Women	35,653	2.7	12.5	5.6	3.4	10.4	4.1	12.5	2.4	5.9	7.0	4.2	5.3	14.6	9.4
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	61,199	5.8	10.8	5.5	4.2	8.8	3.2	10.9	2.9	4.5	8.1	4.3	7.9	14.0	9.1
16 to 24 years	8,044	6.5	11.7	7.8	2.6	7.9	3.0	9.9	3.1	2.8	2.2	6.0	11.2	16.0	9.3
16 to 19 years	4,426	6.9	9.4	7.5	2.5	8.7	3.5	10.6	1.7	2.2	2.1	7.1	11.7	16.2	9.8
20 to 24 years	3,618	6.0	14.6	8.3	2.8	7.0	2.2	9.0	4.8	3.5	2.2	4.6	10.7	15.7	8.8
25 years and over	53,155	5.7	10.6	5.2	4.4	9.0	3.3	11.1	2.8	4.8	9.0	4.0	7.4	13.7	9.0
25 to 34 years	9,096	7.4	13.7	8.2	2.8	6.9	2.8	12.1	3.8	3.3	5.7	4.1	7.8	13.5	7.8
35 to 44 years	13,308	10.0	13.4	6.5	3.0	7.3	2.9	12.0	2.4	3.6	7.2	3.3	6.0	13.6	8.8
45 to 54 years	13,415	5.4	9.4	5.5	5.0	8.4	2.7	12.4	2.9	4.5	10.2	3.8	8.4	12.8	8.6
55 to 64 years	8,819	2.8	8.9	2.8	5.4	10.2	3.4	9.6	3.3	5.3	12.7	4.3	7.7	13.3	10.2
65 years and over	8,518	.7	6.8	1.7	6.3	13.4	5.3	7.8	1.9	8.1	9.7	5.0	7.1	16.1	10.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	52,850	6.0	10.8	5.3	4.1	8.7	3.2	11.2	2.8	4.6	8.5	4.1	7.9	14.2	8.7
Black or African American	5,211	5.7	10.4	6.8	5.5	9.3	4.1	8.6	3.4	4.0	5.5	5.7	6.8	11.7	12.6
Asian	1,881	3.4	12.2	4.7	3.9	10.8	3.1	8.9	3.7	4.4	7.2	4.6	8.6	17.2	7.3
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,212	7.4	11.3	6.5	3.9	10.7	4.1	10.4	2.1	4.1	3.8	4.1	7.0	15.1	9.4
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	2,615	4.4	8.2	3.3	4.5	17.3	5.0	7.7	1.3	3.3	2.5	3.0	11.4	16.6	11.5
High school graduates, no college ³	11,537	5.4	8.3	3.9	4.9	13.1	3.8	11.9	2.4	5.2	5.0	3.4	8.8	14.5	9.3
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁴	15,196	5.7	10.3	5.0	4.3	9.1	3.3	12.5	2.9	5.4	6.4	3.9	7.6	13.8	9.7
College graduates	23,808	6.0	12.3	6.1	4.2	5.9	2.8	10.1	3.2	4.3	13.3	4.4	6.1	13.0	8.2
Marital status															
Single, never married	12,982	6.0	9.7	7.6	3.0	7.9	3.2	10.8	3.8	3.6	4.8	5.6	9.9	15.3	8.8
Married, spouse present	38,579	6.2	11.6	5.2	4.6	8.5	2.9	10.9	2.8	4.4	9.3	3.9	7.5	13.0	9.2
Other marital status ⁵	9,638	4.1	9.2	4.0	4.0	11.5	4.6	11.1	2.0	6.1	7.9	3.8	6.6	16.3	8.9
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	16,696	5.5	7.5	5.0	5.6	7.7	2.4	9.3	3.9	3.1	10.2	5.0	12.2	13.8	8.7
With own children under 18 years old ..	8,850	18.9	9.9	6.1	4.6	4.6	1.3	7.5	3.0	1.7	8.8	3.1	10.2	12.1	8.1
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	21,931	1.8	10.4	4.7	4.1	11.3	4.6	10.9	2.8	6.4	7.3	4.8	6.1	15.2	9.5
With own children under 18 years old ..	13,722	4.2	15.9	7.2	2.3	8.9	3.4	15.0	1.7	4.9	6.3	3.3	3.9	13.6	9.4
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	43,579	7.0	10.9	6.0	4.2	7.9	2.7	11.6	3.2	3.7	8.9	4.1	8.0	13.2	8.7
Employed	41,861	7.2	10.9	6.0	4.2	7.9	2.7	11.7	3.2	3.7	9.0	4.0	7.9	13.1	8.6
Full time ⁷	32,951	8.0	10.4	6.0	4.5	7.7	2.5	11.7	3.3	3.3	9.7	3.7	8.1	12.5	8.7
Part time ⁸	8,910	4.1	12.8	6.2	3.3	8.3	3.2	11.5	2.8	5.0	6.3	5.0	7.4	15.4	8.5
Unemployed	1,718	3.9	10.7	4.8	3.3	8.7	4.4	10.6	2.1	4.2	6.5	6.5	9.8	15.0	9.6
Not in the labor force	17,621	2.9	10.5	4.4	4.1	11.1	4.5	9.1	2.2	6.5	6.2	4.7	7.6	16.1	10.0

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁶ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁷ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁸ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race. 1.8 percent of volunteers did not report the type of activity.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2006

Characteristics in September 2006	Total volunteers (thousands)	Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization ¹								
		Total	Approached the organization	Was asked by:					Other	Not reporting how became involved
				Total ²	Boss or employer	Relative, friend, or co-worker	Someone in the organization/school	Someone else		
Sex										
Total, both sexes	61,199	100.0	40.8	43.3	1.4	14.2	26.5	1.1	13.5	2.3
Men	25,546	100.0	40.1	44.3	1.5	15.4	26.1	1.3	13.3	2.3
Women	35,653	100.0	41.4	42.6	1.3	13.4	26.9	.9	13.7	2.3
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	61,199	100.0	40.8	43.3	1.4	14.2	26.5	1.1	13.5	2.3
16 to 24 years	8,044	100.0	40.8	40.3	1.1	14.7	22.4	1.8	15.7	3.2
16 to 19 years	4,426	100.0	40.3	41.2	.4	14.3	24.4	2.0	15.7	2.9
20 to 24 years	3,618	100.0	41.5	39.1	1.9	15.2	19.9	1.6	15.7	3.6
25 years and over	53,155	100.0	40.8	43.8	1.4	14.1	27.2	1.0	13.2	2.2
25 to 34 years	9,096	100.0	40.5	45.2	2.5	17.1	24.3	1.1	12.1	2.2
35 to 44 years	13,308	100.0	41.3	43.9	1.7	12.2	29.0	.9	13.0	1.8
45 to 54 years	13,415	100.0	39.2	44.6	1.3	14.2	28.0	.9	13.9	2.4
55 to 64 years	8,819	100.0	40.5	43.6	1.1	14.6	26.6	1.2	13.8	2.0
65 years and over	8,518	100.0	43.4	41.2	.2	13.5	26.5	.8	13.0	2.3
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	52,850	100.0	40.5	43.9	1.3	14.4	26.9	1.1	13.5	2.2
Black or African American	5,211	100.0	42.6	40.3	1.8	11.9	25.0	1.4	13.8	3.3
Asian	1,881	100.0	45.8	38.1	1.4	14.0	22.2	.5	12.6	3.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,212	100.0	43.3	40.5	1.7	13.2	24.1	1.5	13.0	3.2
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,615	100.0	41.6	41.4	.9	15.5	24.7	.2	15.3	1.7
High school graduates, no college ⁴	11,537	100.0	40.3	43.4	1.2	14.2	26.8	1.0	14.2	2.2
Less than a bachelor's degree ⁵	15,196	100.0	39.9	45.4	1.4	15.1	27.7	1.1	13.1	1.6
College graduates	23,808	100.0	41.6	43.3	1.6	13.3	27.3	1.0	12.6	2.5
Marital status										
Single, never married	12,982	100.0	41.6	40.7	1.6	15.8	21.4	1.6	14.8	2.8
Married, spouse present	38,579	100.0	40.6	44.6	1.2	13.3	28.9	1.0	12.8	2.0
Other marital status ⁶	9,638	100.0	40.5	42.0	1.6	15.5	23.7	.9	14.9	2.6
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	16,696	100.0	40.3	43.3	1.5	16.5	24.1	1.3	13.7	2.6
With own children under 18 years old	8,850	100.0	39.5	46.1	1.6	13.4	29.8	1.3	12.4	1.9
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	21,931	100.0	42.2	41.4	1.3	14.7	24.0	1.0	14.0	2.5
With own children under 18 years old	13,722	100.0	40.1	44.7	1.1	11.2	31.4	.8	13.3	1.9
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	43,579	100.0	39.6	44.5	1.8	14.8	26.7	1.0	13.8	2.1
Employed	41,861	100.0	39.3	44.8	1.9	14.9	26.9	1.0	13.7	2.2
Full time ⁸	32,951	100.0	38.9	45.0	2.3	15.3	26.4	1.0	13.8	2.2
Part time ⁹	8,910	100.0	40.9	43.8	.4	13.4	28.9	.8	13.2	2.1
Unemployed	1,718	100.0	44.9	38.6	1.1	12.4	22.8	2.4	15.5	1.0
Not in the labor force	17,621	100.0	44.0	40.4	.2	12.9	26.0	1.2	12.9	2.7

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See the Technical Note for more details.

² Includes persons who did not specify who asked them to volunteer, not shown separately.

³ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

⁴ Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate degree.

⁶ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

⁷ Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included

are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

⁸ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁹ Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2005, through the survey period in September 2006. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. In addition, persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race and, therefore, are classified by ethnicity as well as by race.