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Technical information: (202) 691-6378 • cpsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/cps
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES — 2011

The **volunteer rate** rose by 0.5 percentage point to 26.8 percent for the year ending in September 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. About 64.3 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2010 and September 2011. The increase in the volunteer rate in 2011 followed a decline of equal size in 2010.

These data on volunteering were collected through a supplement to the September 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS). The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. 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. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. For more information about the volunteer supplement, see the Technical Note.

Volunteering Among Demographic Groups

The volunteer rate of **women** increased from 29.3 percent to 29.9 percent in the year ending in September 2011, while the volunteer rate for **men**, at 23.5 percent, changed little. Women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than did men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics. (See tables A and 1.)

By **age**, 35- to 44-year-olds and 45- to 54-year-olds were the most likely to volunteer (31.8 and 30.6 percent, respectively). Persons in their early twenties were the least likely to volunteer (19.4 percent). Among the **major race and ethnicity groups**, whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (28.2 percent) than did blacks (20.3 percent), Asians (20.0 percent), and Hispanics (14.9 percent). The volunteer rate for blacks increased in 2011. For all other major race and ethnicity groups, the volunteer rates were little different from the rates in 2010.

As in earlier years, **married persons** volunteered at a higher rate (32.3 percent) in 2011 than did those who had never married (20.9 percent) and those with other marital statuses (21.5 percent). The volunteer rate of **parents** with children under age 18 (33.7 percent) remained higher than the rate for persons without children (24.1 percent).

Individuals with higher levels of **educational attainment** engaged in volunteer activities at higher rates than did those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 42.4 percent of college graduates volunteered, compared with 18.2 percent of high school graduates and 9.8 percent of those with less than a high school diploma.

Table A. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2007 through September 2011

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	September 2007		September 2008		September 2009		September 2010		September 2011	
	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
Sex										
Total, both sexes	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4	63,361	26.8	62,790	26.3	64,252	26.8
Men	25,724	22.9	26,268	23.2	26,655	23.3	26,787	23.2	27,354	23.5
Women	35,114	29.3	35,535	29.4	36,706	30.1	36,004	29.3	36,898	29.9
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	60,838	26.2	61,803	26.4	63,361	26.8	62,790	26.3	64,252	26.8
16 to 24 years	7,798	20.8	8,239	21.9	8,290	22.0	8,297	21.9	8,578	22.5
25 to 34 years	9,019	22.6	9,154	22.8	9,511	23.5	9,140	22.3	9,691	23.3
35 to 44 years	12,902	30.5	13,016	31.3	12,835	31.5	12,904	32.2	12,566	31.8
45 to 54 years	13,136	30.1	13,189	29.9	13,703	30.8	13,435	30.3	13,420	30.6
55 to 64 years	9,316	28.4	9,456	28.1	9,894	28.3	9,830	27.2	10,449	28.1
65 years and over	8,667	23.8	8,749	23.5	9,129	23.9	9,184	23.6	9,547	24.0
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	52,586	27.9	53,078	27.9	54,078	28.3	53,556	27.8	54,432	28.2
Black or African American	5,010	18.2	5,325	19.1	5,712	20.2	5,580	19.4	5,934	20.3
Asian	1,887	17.7	2,022	18.7	2,060	19.0	2,207	19.6	2,304	20.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	4,279	13.5	4,662	14.4	4,873	14.7	4,982	14.7	5,151	14.9
Educational attainment ¹										
Less than a high school diploma	2,394	9.0	2,427	9.4	2,242	8.6	2,231	8.8	2,461	9.8
High school graduates, no college ²	11,379	18.6	10,998	19.1	11,408	18.8	10,887	17.9	11,049	18.2
Some college or associate degree	15,468	30.7	15,519	30.0	15,931	30.5	15,505	29.2	15,946	29.5
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	23,799	41.8	24,620	42.2	25,490	42.8	25,870	42.3	26,218	42.4
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	43,405	28.1	44,313	28.5	44,833	29.0	44,522	28.7	45,249	29.1
Employed	41,708	28.3	42,131	28.9	41,372	29.7	40,980	29.2	41,881	29.6
Full time ⁴	32,714	26.9	33,344	27.8	32,085	28.7	31,625	28.2	32,517	28.7
Part time ⁵	8,994	35.4	8,788	34.2	9,287	33.7	9,355	33.2	9,363	33.3
Unemployed.....	1,697	23.2	2,181	22.3	3,462	22.9	3,542	23.8	3,368	23.8
Not in the labor force.....	17,433	22.3	17,491	22.2	18,528	22.6	18,268	22.0	19,003	22.5

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁴ Usually work 35 hours or more a week at all jobs.

⁵ 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 in the year ending in September. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data. See the Technical Note for further information.

Volunteers by Employment Status

Among employed persons, 29.6 percent volunteered during the year ending in September 2011. By comparison, 23.8 percent of unemployed persons and 22.5 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—33.3 percent compared with 28.7 percent. (See table 1.)

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering

Volunteers of both sexes spent a median of 51 hours on volunteer activities during the period from September 2010 to September 2011. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a high of 96 hours for volunteers age 65 and over to a low of 32 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—69.6 and 19.4 percent, respectively. Individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than were those with less education. (See table 3.)

In 2011, the **main organization**—the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year—was most frequently religious (33.2 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational or youth service related (25.7 percent). Another 14.3 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer for religious organizations than were their younger counterparts. For example, 44.9 percent of volunteers age 65 and over did their service mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 26.5 percent of volunteers age 16 to 24.

The type of main organization for which individuals volunteered also varied by educational attainment. Volunteering mainly for religious organizations decreased as educational attainment increased. Among volunteers with less than a high school diploma, 47.8 percent volunteered mainly for religious organizations, compared with 31.3 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher. Volunteering primarily for educational or youth service organizations increased with educational attainment. Of volunteers with less than a high school diploma, 22.7 percent volunteered mainly for this type of organization, compared with 26.7 percent of those with a bachelor's degree and higher.

Among volunteers with children under 18 years old, 45.9 percent of mothers and 37.3 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an educational or youth service organization, such as a school or scouting group. Volunteers without children under 18 were more likely than parents to volunteer for other types of organizations, such as social or community service organizations and hospitals or other health organizations.

Main Volunteer Activity for Main Organization

Fundraising (11.0 percent) and collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food (10.6 percent) were the activities volunteers performed most frequently for their main organization. Men and women tended to engage in different main activities. Men who volunteered were most likely to engage in general labor (13.3 percent); coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (10.1 percent); or fundraise (8.9 percent).

Female volunteers were most likely to fundraise (12.6 percent); collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (12.5 percent); or tutor or teach (10.7 percent). (See table 5.)

Educational attainment influenced the types of activities volunteers performed. College graduates were more likely than those with less education to tutor or teach or to provide professional or management assistance. They were least likely to collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food. Volunteers with less than a high school diploma were more likely to collect, prepare, and distribute food than those with higher levels of education.

Parents were considerably more likely than those without children to engage in volunteer activities that are related to children—including coaching, refereeing, or supervising sports teams; and mentoring youth.

How Volunteers Became Involved with Main Organization

Among volunteers, 41.9 percent became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. About the same proportion (41.6 percent) 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 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS—a monthly survey of about 60,000 eligible 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.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

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.

A full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and for information on estimating standard errors is available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

The Census Bureau introduces adjustments to the population controls for the CPS as part of its annual update of population estimates. For this reason, the data for 2011 presented in this release are not strictly comparable with data for 2010 and earlier years. Additional information is available on the internet at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

Volunteer questions and concepts

In the September 2011 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 69 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 nine prior supplements.

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 reference period for the questions on volunteering was about 1 year, from September 1, 2010, through the survey week in September 2011. The reference period for other characteristics—such as labor force status, educational attainment, and marital status—refer to the survey

reference week in September 2011. It is possible that these characteristics were different at the time volunteer activities were performed.

One new question was added to the 2008 survey to determine whether or not respondents had donated money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations in the past 12 months. Two questions asked in the 2007 supplement were removed in 2008. These questions asked how often respondents who had attended public meetings or who had worked with others in their neighborhood to fix a problem did so.

Definitions

Volunteers are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2010, through the survey period in September 2011. 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.

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 provided 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 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 asked 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 identified which of them was the main activity for the main organization.

Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2011

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics in September 2011	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	239,972	64,252	26.8	116,532	27,354	23.5	123,441	36,898	29.9
16 to 24 years	38,203	8,578	22.5	19,478	3,799	19.5	18,726	4,779	25.5
16 to 19 years	16,802	4,436	26.4	8,598	2,041	23.7	8,203	2,395	29.2
20 to 24 years	21,402	4,142	19.4	10,879	1,758	16.2	10,522	2,385	22.7
25 years and over	201,769	55,674	27.6	97,054	23,555	24.3	104,715	32,119	30.7
25 to 34 years	41,508	9,691	23.3	20,769	4,023	19.4	20,739	5,668	27.3
35 to 44 years	39,458	12,566	31.8	19,410	5,332	27.5	20,048	7,234	36.1
45 to 54 years	43,859	13,420	30.6	21,501	5,760	26.8	22,358	7,660	34.3
55 to 64 years	37,201	10,449	28.1	17,888	4,491	25.1	19,313	5,958	30.9
65 years and over	39,743	9,547	24.0	17,486	3,949	22.6	22,257	5,598	25.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	193,281	54,432	28.2	94,935	23,292	24.5	98,346	31,140	31.7
Black or African American	29,179	5,934	20.3	13,196	2,374	18.0	15,983	3,560	22.3
Asian	11,494	2,304	20.0	5,429	1,007	18.6	6,065	1,296	21.4
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	34,613	5,151	14.9	17,858	2,221	12.4	16,755	2,930	17.5
Educational attainment ¹									
Less than a high school diploma	25,188	2,461	9.8	12,584	1,038	8.2	12,604	1,423	11.3
High school graduates, no college ²	60,682	11,049	18.2	29,587	4,726	16.0	31,096	6,322	20.3
Some college or associate degree	54,026	15,946	29.5	24,986	6,259	25.0	29,040	9,687	33.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	61,873	26,218	42.4	29,898	11,531	38.6	31,976	14,687	45.9
Marital status									
Single, never married	70,650	14,744	20.9	37,488	6,642	17.7	33,163	8,102	24.4
Married, spouse present	121,798	39,289	32.3	61,958	17,732	28.6	59,840	21,557	36.0
Other marital status ⁴	47,524	10,219	21.5	17,086	2,980	17.4	30,438	7,240	23.8
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵									
Without own children under 18	172,501	41,535	24.1	86,497	18,113	20.9	86,004	23,422	27.2
With own children under 18	67,472	22,716	33.7	30,035	9,241	30.8	37,437	13,476	36.0
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	155,679	45,249	29.1	82,954	21,234	25.6	72,724	24,015	33.0
Employed	141,525	41,881	29.6	75,477	19,857	26.3	66,048	22,024	33.3
Full time ⁶	113,410	32,517	28.7	65,219	17,144	26.3	48,191	15,374	31.9
Part time ⁷	28,115	9,363	33.3	10,259	2,713	26.4	17,857	6,650	37.2
Unemployed	14,153	3,368	23.8	7,477	1,377	18.4	6,676	1,991	29.8
Not in the labor force	84,294	19,003	22.5	33,577	6,120	18.2	50,717	12,883	25.4

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2010, through the survey period in September 2011. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 2. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2011

Characteristics in September 2011	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	64,252	100.0	21.4	24.8	15.0	27.7	5.7	5.3	51
Men	27,354	100.0	20.7	24.9	15.1	28.1	5.8	5.4	52
Women	36,898	100.0	22.0	24.7	14.9	27.5	5.6	5.3	50
Age									
Total, 16 years and over	64,252	100.0	21.4	24.8	15.0	27.7	5.7	5.3	51
16 to 24 years	8,578	100.0	24.2	28.0	14.8	21.1	4.3	7.5	38
16 to 19 years	4,436	100.0	22.3	30.8	17.1	20.6	3.0	6.2	39
20 to 24 years	4,142	100.0	26.3	25.0	12.3	21.7	5.8	8.9	36
25 years and over	55,674	100.0	21.0	24.3	15.1	28.7	5.9	5.0	52
25 to 34 years	9,691	100.0	29.8	25.9	13.8	22.0	3.6	4.9	32
35 to 44 years	12,566	100.0	23.6	25.7	15.1	27.1	4.6	3.8	48
45 to 54 years	13,420	100.0	19.3	25.5	16.2	28.8	5.5	4.7	52
55 to 64 years	10,449	100.0	18.8	24.2	15.4	29.0	6.9	5.7	53
65 years and over	9,547	100.0	13.5	19.3	14.3	37.4	9.5	6.1	96
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity									
White	54,432	100.0	21.4	25.0	15.1	27.8	5.7	5.0	51
Black or African American	5,934	100.0	21.0	22.0	13.8	28.4	6.5	8.3	52
Asian	2,304	100.0	23.0	26.1	15.9	25.7	4.3	5.0	48
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,151	100.0	26.1	24.7	13.6	24.6	5.8	5.3	40
Educational attainment ²									
Less than a high school diploma	2,461	100.0	26.3	22.1	12.0	24.9	7.0	7.7	45
High school graduates, no college ³	11,049	100.0	22.5	24.3	13.6	27.7	6.2	5.8	50
Some college or associate degree	15,946	100.0	22.3	24.1	14.7	28.1	6.2	4.6	52
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	26,218	100.0	19.1	24.6	16.2	29.9	5.5	4.6	56
Marital status									
Single, never married	14,744	100.0	25.2	27.2	14.6	21.3	4.5	7.2	38
Married, spouse present	39,289	100.0	20.1	24.1	15.5	29.8	5.9	4.5	52
Other marital status ⁵	10,219	100.0	21.0	23.9	13.9	29.0	6.7	5.6	52
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶									
Men:									
No own children under 18 years old	18,113	100.0	20.1	25.3	14.8	27.1	6.5	6.2	52
With own children under 18 years old	9,241	100.0	21.9	24.1	15.8	29.9	4.5	3.8	52
Women:									
No own children under 18 years old	23,422	100.0	20.6	23.8	14.9	28.4	6.4	5.9	52
With own children under 18 years old	13,476	100.0	24.4	26.4	15.0	25.9	4.2	4.1	44
Employment status									
Civilian labor force	45,249	100.0	23.0	26.0	15.3	25.9	4.8	5.0	48
Employed	41,881	100.0	22.9	26.1	15.3	26.1	4.6	4.9	48
Full time ⁷	32,517	100.0	23.6	26.4	15.4	25.3	4.4	4.9	45
Part time ⁸	9,363	100.0	20.7	24.9	15.2	28.7	5.4	5.0	52
Unemployed	3,368	100.0	23.5	25.7	14.1	23.6	7.2	6.0	45
Not in the labor force	19,003	100.0	17.8	21.8	14.5	32.2	7.8	6.0	66

¹ For those reporting annual hours.

² Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

³ Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

⁵ Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

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

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Table 3. Volunteers by number of organizations for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2011

Characteristics in September 2011	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	64,252	100.0	69.6	19.4	7.0	2.2	1.4	0.4
Men	27,354	100.0	71.0	18.7	6.8	1.9	1.3	.3
Women	36,898	100.0	68.5	19.9	7.2	2.5	1.5	.4
Age								
Total, 16 years and over	64,252	100.0	69.6	19.4	7.0	2.2	1.4	.4
16 to 24 years	8,578	100.0	75.1	16.5	5.2	1.5	.9	.7
16 to 19 years	4,436	100.0	71.2	19.1	6.4	2.0	.9	.5
20 to 24 years	4,142	100.0	79.3	13.7	4.0	1.1	.9	1.0
25 years and over	55,674	100.0	68.7	19.8	7.3	2.4	1.5	.3
25 to 34 years	9,691	100.0	75.2	16.7	5.9	1.3	.6	.3
35 to 44 years	12,566	100.0	68.5	20.5	7.3	2.5	1.1	.2
45 to 54 years	13,420	100.0	66.6	20.5	8.2	2.5	2.0	.3
55 to 64 years	10,449	100.0	67.4	20.6	7.1	2.8	1.8	.3
65 years and over	9,547	100.0	67.0	20.5	7.6	2.6	1.8	.5
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity								
White	54,432	100.0	68.1	20.1	7.5	2.4	1.5	.3
Black or African American	5,934	100.0	78.6	14.6	4.2	1.1	1.0	.4
Asian	2,304	100.0	80.5	13.8	4.2	1.2	.1	.2
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,151	100.0	81.7	12.8	3.8	.9	.6	.2
Educational attainment ¹								
Less than a high school diploma	2,461	100.0	88.2	8.4	2.3	.3	.5	.3
High school graduates, no college ²	11,049	100.0	79.1	14.6	4.5	.9	.6	.3
Some college or associate degree	15,946	100.0	70.8	20.1	5.8	1.9	1.1	.4
Bachelor's degree and higher ³	26,218	100.0	61.2	23.0	9.9	3.4	2.2	.2
Marital status								
Single, never married	14,744	100.0	73.7	17.3	5.7	1.8	.9	.6
Married, spouse present	39,289	100.0	67.8	20.4	7.6	2.4	1.5	.3
Other marital status ⁴	10,219	100.0	70.6	18.5	6.5	2.3	1.9	.3
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁵								
Men:								
No own children under 18 years old	18,113	100.0	71.6	18.2	6.3	1.9	1.6	.4
With own children under 18 years old	9,241	100.0	69.8	19.6	7.8	1.9	.7	.2
Women:								
No own children under 18 years old	23,422	100.0	69.3	19.5	7.1	2.3	1.3	.4
With own children under 18 years old	13,476	100.0	67.2	20.8	7.3	2.8	1.8	.3
Employment status								
Civilian labor force	45,249	100.0	69.4	19.5	7.2	2.1	1.4	.3
Employed	41,881	100.0	69.2	19.6	7.3	2.2	1.5	.3
Full time ⁶	32,517	100.0	69.5	19.3	7.3	2.1	1.4	.3
Part time ⁷	9,363	100.0	67.8	20.4	7.3	2.6	1.7	.3
Unemployed	3,368	100.0	71.9	19.3	5.7	1.5	1.2	.4
Not in the labor force	19,003	100.0	70.1	19.1	6.6	2.5	1.3	.4

¹ Data refer to persons 25 years and over.
² Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.
³ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.
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, 2010, through the survey period in September 2011. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any 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 2011

Characteristics in September 2011	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	64,252	100.0	5.4	25.7	2.3	7.7	1.3	33.2	14.3	3.8	3.9	2.4
Men	27,354	100.0	7.0	23.9	2.1	5.7	2.4	32.8	14.9	4.9	3.9	2.5
Women	36,898	100.0	4.3	27.0	2.4	9.2	.5	33.5	13.8	3.1	3.9	2.3
Age												
Total, 16 years and over	64,252	100.0	5.4	25.7	2.3	7.7	1.3	33.2	14.3	3.8	3.9	2.4
16 to 24 years	8,578	100.0	4.0	29.4	2.9	8.1	1.5	26.5	15.1	4.1	3.8	4.5
16 to 19 years	4,436	100.0	3.6	34.6	2.4	6.5	.7	29.0	13.4	3.8	2.9	3.1
20 to 24 years	4,142	100.0	4.5	23.8	3.5	9.9	2.4	23.8	17.0	4.4	4.9	5.9
25 years and over	55,674	100.0	5.6	25.1	2.2	7.6	1.3	34.2	14.2	3.8	3.9	2.1
25 to 34 years	9,691	100.0	4.6	30.8	2.3	9.3	1.7	27.7	14.2	3.1	4.0	2.2
35 to 44 years	12,566	100.0	4.5	39.4	1.8	5.7	1.1	28.3	11.3	3.4	3.1	1.4
45 to 54 years	13,420	100.0	5.4	27.5	2.2	7.1	1.2	34.1	12.6	3.8	4.0	2.1
55 to 64 years	10,449	100.0	7.0	14.8	3.0	8.6	1.7	37.6	16.0	4.3	4.4	2.6
65 years and over	9,547	100.0	7.1	8.2	1.7	8.1	.8	44.9	18.3	4.5	4.2	2.2
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity												
White	54,432	100.0	5.7	25.7	2.6	8.0	1.4	31.9	14.4	4.1	4.1	2.2
Black or African American	5,934	100.0	3.2	23.9	.2	6.4	.8	44.5	13.1	1.5	3.1	3.4
Asian	2,304	100.0	5.5	29.0	.5	6.5	.2	35.5	14.7	3.9	1.8	2.1
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,151	100.0	3.8	36.6	1.2	6.0	.5	32.9	10.4	2.7	3.3	2.5
Educational attainment ²												
Less than a high school diploma	2,461	100.0	4.9	22.7	1.5	4.4	1.5	47.8	10.7	1.4	3.1	2.2
High school graduates, no college ³	11,049	100.0	5.0	22.3	1.4	7.1	2.2	39.0	14.4	3.4	3.6	1.8
Some college or associate degree	15,946	100.0	5.6	24.7	2.4	7.5	1.6	33.5	15.0	3.5	4.1	2.0
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	26,218	100.0	6.0	26.7	2.5	8.2	.7	31.3	13.9	4.4	4.0	2.2
Marital status												
Single, never married	14,744	100.0	5.3	26.7	3.1	9.1	1.5	24.4	17.2	4.2	4.5	3.9
Married, spouse present	39,289	100.0	5.4	26.7	1.8	6.7	1.2	36.9	12.3	3.7	3.5	1.8
Other marital status ⁵	10,219	100.0	5.9	20.3	3.0	9.4	1.3	31.3	18.0	3.9	4.6	2.3
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶												
Men:												
No own children under 18 years old	18,113	100.0	7.9	17.0	2.7	6.6	2.8	32.7	17.7	4.9	4.6	3.0
With own children under 18 years old	9,241	100.0	5.2	37.3	1.0	3.9	1.5	32.8	9.4	4.8	2.5	1.7
Women:												
No own children under 18 years old	23,422	100.0	5.2	16.1	3.2	11.3	.6	36.2	16.6	3.7	4.5	2.6
With own children under 18 years old	13,476	100.0	2.8	45.9	1.1	5.5	.3	28.8	9.0	1.9	3.0	1.7
Employment status												
Civilian labor force	45,249	100.0	5.7	27.1	2.4	7.7	1.5	31.7	13.7	4.0	3.9	2.3
Employed	41,881	100.0	5.7	26.6	2.3	7.8	1.5	32.3	13.6	4.0	3.9	2.3
Full time ⁷	32,517	100.0	6.0	26.5	2.3	8.0	1.7	31.5	13.9	4.0	3.8	2.3
Part time ⁸	9,363	100.0	4.5	26.9	2.5	7.0	1.0	34.7	12.9	4.1	4.1	2.3
Unemployed	3,368	100.0	5.3	33.4	2.9	7.4	1.1	25.4	14.2	3.5	4.1	2.6
Not in the labor force	19,003	100.0	4.9	22.2	2.1	7.6	.9	36.6	15.8	3.5	4.0	2.5

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 persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2010, through the survey period in September 2011. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 5. Main volunteer activity for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2011

Characteristics in September 2011	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	64,252	5.6	9.2	6.5	4.2	10.6	3.7	11.0	3.1	4.6	7.3	3.9	9.3	13.4	7.4
Men	27,354	10.1	7.2	6.6	5.4	8.0	2.2	8.9	3.6	2.8	8.7	4.0	13.3	12.7	6.7
Women	36,898	2.3	10.7	6.5	3.4	12.5	4.7	12.6	2.8	6.0	6.3	3.9	6.3	14.0	8.0
Age															
Total, 16 years and over	64,252	5.6	9.2	6.5	4.2	10.6	3.7	11.0	3.1	4.6	7.3	3.9	9.3	13.4	7.4
16 to 24 years	8,578	6.6	10.4	9.3	1.7	8.5	3.4	9.5	2.9	3.5	1.5	5.2	13.0	16.8	7.8
16 to 19 years	4,436	6.8	10.2	9.4	2.2	9.1	3.8	9.5	1.3	2.3	1.5	5.5	14.6	15.6	8.2
20 to 24 years	4,142	6.3	10.6	9.1	1.2	7.9	2.9	9.5	4.5	4.9	1.5	4.9	11.3	18.2	7.4
25 years and over	55,674	5.5	9.0	6.1	4.6	10.9	3.7	11.2	3.2	4.8	8.2	3.7	8.7	12.9	7.4
25 to 34 years	9,691	6.5	10.6	8.8	3.2	9.2	3.8	11.5	4.3	4.0	5.1	3.7	9.3	13.9	6.4
35 to 44 years	12,566	9.9	10.6	7.9	3.1	9.4	3.0	12.8	2.6	4.0	6.4	3.1	8.8	10.8	7.6
45 to 54 years	13,420	6.2	8.9	6.5	4.6	10.0	2.8	12.4	3.0	4.7	9.0	3.5	8.3	12.4	7.6
55 to 64 years	10,449	2.8	8.5	4.5	5.7	11.6	3.5	10.4	3.6	5.1	11.1	4.4	8.8	12.9	7.1
65 years and over	9,547	.6	6.2	2.1	7.0	15.0	6.2	8.1	2.5	6.6	9.7	4.3	8.2	15.6	8.1
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity															
White	54,432	5.7	8.9	6.4	3.9	10.4	3.7	11.6	3.1	4.5	7.8	3.8	9.4	13.5	7.3
Black or African American	5,934	5.6	10.0	8.6	7.0	12.4	3.6	7.7	3.2	4.7	3.2	5.2	7.5	12.6	8.6
Asian	2,304	2.6	12.9	5.0	4.8	10.3	3.7	7.0	3.5	6.1	6.2	4.1	9.2	14.7	9.9
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,151	8.2	10.9	6.6	4.1	10.6	4.2	10.5	2.2	4.6	2.8	3.5	9.5	15.0	7.4
Educational attainment ²															
Less than a high school diploma	2,461	2.9	4.8	3.0	7.8	18.0	5.6	8.6	1.3	4.4	1.3	2.7	15.5	16.9	7.2
High school graduates, no college ³	11,049	5.7	6.6	4.8	5.5	15.7	4.6	11.6	3.1	4.6	3.6	3.1	10.9	12.7	7.4
Some college or associate degree	15,946	5.2	8.4	6.0	4.2	11.4	3.9	12.1	3.3	5.2	6.1	3.9	9.6	13.4	7.3
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁴	26,218	5.8	10.8	7.0	4.3	7.9	3.1	10.8	3.3	4.7	12.1	4.0	6.5	12.3	7.4
Marital status															
Single, never married	14,744	5.2	9.0	7.8	2.8	9.6	3.7	10.0	3.0	3.8	4.1	4.7	12.1	17.0	7.1
Married, spouse present	39,289	6.2	9.7	6.5	4.7	9.9	3.4	11.6	3.0	4.7	8.8	3.7	8.2	11.9	7.5
Other marital status ⁵	10,219	3.8	7.5	4.6	4.6	14.4	4.6	10.2	3.7	5.6	6.3	3.7	9.1	14.2	7.7
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁶															
Men:															
No own children under 18 years old	18,113	5.2	7.1	5.5	5.7	9.0	2.6	8.7	4.0	3.1	9.4	4.5	14.0	14.3	6.9
With own children under 18 years old ..	9,241	19.8	7.4	8.6	4.6	6.0	1.5	9.2	2.8	2.1	7.3	2.9	11.8	9.7	6.1
Women:															
No own children under 18 years old	23,422	1.6	8.8	5.6	4.2	13.1	5.3	11.4	3.2	6.2	6.6	4.5	6.6	15.0	8.0
With own children under 18 years old ..	13,476	3.4	14.1	8.0	2.2	11.5	3.8	14.7	2.1	5.6	5.8	2.9	5.7	12.2	8.1
Employment status															
Civilian labor force	45,249	7.0	9.2	7.2	4.0	9.6	3.0	11.8	3.4	3.9	7.9	3.9	9.5	12.4	7.2
Employed	41,881	7.1	9.2	7.2	4.1	9.3	3.0	11.9	3.5	3.8	8.3	4.0	9.2	12.1	7.1
Full time ⁷	32,517	8.1	8.7	7.5	4.2	9.1	2.7	12.1	3.8	3.3	8.8	3.7	9.4	11.7	6.8
Part time ⁸	9,363	3.9	10.9	6.1	3.8	10.2	3.9	11.4	2.6	5.4	6.6	4.8	8.4	13.6	8.4
Unemployed	3,368	5.3	9.0	7.1	2.5	13.2	4.0	9.5	2.5	4.8	3.3	3.0	12.7	15.8	7.4
Not in the labor force	19,003	2.4	9.3	4.8	4.8	12.9	5.2	9.2	2.4	6.4	6.0	4.0	8.7	15.8	8.1

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 persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁴ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2010, through the survey period in September 2011. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2011

Characteristics in September 2011	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	64,252	100.0	41.6	41.9	1.3	15.3	23.8	1.2	13.0	3.6
Men	27,354	100.0	40.7	43.0	1.3	16.5	23.8	1.1	12.5	3.8
Women	36,898	100.0	42.2	41.0	1.3	14.4	23.8	1.3	13.3	3.4
Age										
Total, 16 years and over	64,252	100.0	41.6	41.9	1.3	15.3	23.8	1.2	13.0	3.6
16 to 24 years	8,578	100.0	40.8	40.3	.5	16.6	21.2	1.9	14.0	5.0
16 to 19 years	4,436	100.0	38.8	44.3	.1	15.9	26.3	1.9	13.1	3.8
20 to 24 years	4,142	100.0	42.9	35.9	.8	17.4	15.8	1.9	14.9	6.3
25 years and over	55,674	100.0	41.7	42.1	1.5	15.1	24.2	1.1	12.8	3.4
25 to 34 years	9,691	100.0	40.3	43.5	2.3	18.1	21.8	1.2	12.7	3.5
35 to 44 years	12,566	100.0	42.2	42.5	1.5	13.9	26.1	.9	12.4	2.8
45 to 54 years	13,420	100.0	40.8	42.5	1.5	14.2	25.4	1.1	13.2	3.5
55 to 64 years	10,449	100.0	41.4	42.1	1.5	15.7	23.5	1.1	13.0	3.5
65 years and over	9,547	100.0	44.1	39.6	.3	14.3	23.4	1.4	12.8	3.4
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity										
White	54,432	100.0	41.7	42.3	1.4	15.6	23.9	1.3	12.6	3.4
Black or African American	5,934	100.0	43.5	37.4	1.1	11.9	23.0	1.2	14.2	4.8
Asian	2,304	100.0	38.8	42.4	1.3	14.5	25.7	.6	14.8	4.0
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	5,151	100.0	45.0	40.1	1.4	14.6	22.2	1.7	11.3	3.7
Educational attainment ³										
Less than a high school diploma	2,461	100.0	43.4	42.3	.5	14.8	25.1	1.7	11.4	2.9
High school graduates, no college ⁴	11,049	100.0	41.6	41.8	1.2	16.5	23.0	1.0	12.9	3.7
Some college or associate degree	15,946	100.0	40.6	42.3	1.5	14.8	24.6	1.1	14.0	3.2
Bachelor's degree and higher ⁵	26,218	100.0	42.3	42.1	1.6	14.8	24.4	1.1	12.2	3.4
Marital status										
Single, never married	14,744	100.0	40.8	40.4	1.4	17.7	19.6	1.6	14.0	4.8
Married, spouse present	39,289	100.0	41.2	43.1	1.3	14.3	26.2	1.0	12.5	3.1
Other marital status ⁶	10,219	100.0	44.2	39.2	1.2	15.7	20.7	1.5	13.2	3.5
Presence of own children under 18 years ⁷										
Men:										
No own children under 18 years old	18,113	100.0	40.9	42.4	1.4	17.6	22.0	1.2	12.6	4.0
With own children under 18 years old	9,241	100.0	40.3	44.2	1.1	14.5	27.4	1.0	12.2	3.3
Women:										
No own children under 18 years old	23,422	100.0	43.0	39.7	1.4	16.1	20.6	1.5	13.6	3.7
With own children under 18 years old	13,476	100.0	40.9	43.4	1.2	11.4	29.5	1.0	12.7	3.0
Employment status										
Civilian labor force	45,249	100.0	40.7	42.7	1.8	16.1	23.5	1.1	13.0	3.5
Employed	41,881	100.0	40.6	43.0	1.9	16.2	23.7	1.2	12.8	3.6
Full time ⁸	32,517	100.0	40.6	43.0	2.2	16.4	23.2	1.1	12.7	3.7
Part time ⁹	9,363	100.0	40.6	43.3	.8	15.5	25.3	1.5	13.0	3.2
Unemployed	3,368	100.0	42.1	38.8	.5	15.6	21.6	1.0	16.2	3.0
Not in the labor force	19,003	100.0	43.7	39.8	.3	13.4	24.6	1.4	12.8	3.7

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 persons with a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Includes persons with bachelor's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

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, 2010, through the survey period in September 2011. 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. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.