



CANADIAN KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR GIVING AND VOLUNTEERING

www.givingandvolunteering.ca

Volunteering

Who volunteers and how much time do they contribute?

By Province + Age

According to the 2018 General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering, and Participating, over 24 million people Volunteered.

Almost eight in ten Canadians (79%) volunteered time to some form of pro-social activity during the one-year period prior to the survey. Just over two-fifths (41%) were formal volunteers, meaning they contributed time to charitable or nonprofit organizations, and about three-quarters were informal volunteers, meaning they volunteered their time directly without going through an organization. Nationally, formal volunteers contributed an average of 131 hours each, contributing a grand total of just under 1.7 billion volunteer hours annually to charitable and nonprofit organizations.

FORMS OF VOLUNTEERING



Formal Volunteering

41%



Informal Volunteering

74%



Help people directly

71%



Improve Community

28%

FORMAL VOLUNTEER RATE + AVERAGE HOURS BY AGE



15-24 yrs

52% ⌚ 86h av.



55-64 yrs

37% ⌚ 146h av.



25-34 yrs

37% ⌚ 121h av.



65-74 yrs

39% ⌚ 181h av.



35-44 yrs

46% ⌚ 105h av.



75 yrs and over

30% ⌚ 223h av.



45-54 yrs

42% ⌚ 133h av.

FORMAL VOLUNTEER RATE + AVERAGE HOURS BY PROVINCE

For most provinces, the formal volunteer rate is at or slightly above the national rate. In comparison to the national ratios, it is higher in Saskatchewan (55%) and lower in Quebec (32%).

44%

⌚ 148h

BC

46%

⌚ 141h

AB

55%

⌚ 139h

SK

49%

⌚ 118h

MB

42%

⌚ 122h

ON

32%

⌚ 126h

QC

48%

⌚ 124h

PE

46%

⌚ 161h

NL

42%

⌚ 117h

NB

45%

⌚ 145h

NS

Canadians under the age of 45 contribute smaller proportions of total volunteer hours to charitable or nonprofit organizations than one would expect given their numbers. Driven by their tendency to contribute many hours when they volunteer, those 65 years of age and older account for significantly larger percentages of total volunteer hours to charitable or nonprofit organizations than one might expect given their numbers.

Source: General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2018, Statistics Canada.

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