

The Volunteering Gap

October 2012



Church Urban Fund commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct a piece of research about volunteering in England.

The research shows that there is a 'volunteering gap' in England, as only a third of people give up their time to volunteer for any kind of project.

A great deal of regional variation is seen in the kind of volunteering people do: volunteers in the north are more likely to volunteer to help socially disadvantaged people, than volunteers living in the South or in London.

In this summary document, we have included data to evidence statements made in recent Church Urban Fund press releases. If you would like to download the full results of the research please visit:

www.cuf.org.uk/research/volunteering-gap.

1. Only a third (33%) of people aged 15+ in England give up their time to volunteer for any kind of project.

BASE: ALL ADULTS AGED 15+ IN ENGLAND

	TOTAL	SEX		AGE						SOCIAL GRADE				STANDARD REGION				ACTIVE IN RELIGION	
		MALE	FEMALE	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	NORTH	MIDLANDS	SOUTH	LONDON	ACTIVELY PRACTISING	NOT ACTIVELY PRACTISING
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(j)	(k)
DOES VOLUNTEER**	33%	29%	36%	34%	27%	34%	29%	37%	35%	44%	40%	23%	20%	26%	37%	39%	26%	45%	25%
DOES NOT VOLUNTEER**	67%	71% ^b	64%	66%	73% ^{gh}	66%	71%	63%	65%	56%	60%	77% ^{ij}	80% ^{ij}	74% ^{no}	63%	61%	74% ^{no}	55%	75% ^j

* ABC1s defined as upper/middle/lower middle class, C2 and DE are skilled working class and working class

** Does or does not volunteer in one of the categories included in the survey (see page 2)

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i - j/k

* small base

2. Only 17% of people give their time to charities or community groups.

BASE: ALL ADULTS AGED 15+ IN ENGLAND

	TOTAL	SEX		AGE						SOCIAL GRADE				STANDARD REGION				ACTIVE IN RELIGION	
		MALE	FEMALE	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	NORTH	MIDLANDS	SOUTH	LONDON	ACTIVELY PRACTISING	NOT ACTIVELY PRACTISING
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(j)	(k)
Charity or other voluntary groups	17%	15%	19%a	15%	14%	14%	16%	21%	23%cd	26%kl	20%kl	8%	12%	11%	21%mp	22%mp	11%	24%k	14%
School, college or playgroups	8%	5%	12%a	11%h	6%	4%dfh	8%h	9%h	3%	11%l	10%l	8%	4%	7%	9%	9%	7%	11%k	6%
Churches, temples, mosques or other	7%	5%	8%a	3%	4%	6%	8%cd	%c	10%cd	10%kl	8%kl	4%	3%	6%	6%	8%	5%	21%k	1%
Sport or leisure clubs	5%	6%b	4%	6%	5%	4%	3%	9%fh	3%	8%kl	5%	3%	3%	3%	5%	7%mp	2%	4%	5%
Sporting events	4%	5%b	2%	8%defh	2%	3%	3%	5%h	1%	7%kl	4%l	2%	1%	3%	6%mp	4%	1%	2%	3%
Political group or trade union	1%	2%	1%	-	1%	1%	1%	3%ce	1%	3%l	1%	1%l	-	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%k	*
Local Council / local community	1%	*	1%	-	*	-	1%	1%	1%	*	1%l	*	-	*	1%	*	*	*	1%
Care home / social care	*	-	1%a	-	-	-	1%	*	1%	1%	*	*	1%	-	1%	*	-	1%	*
Brownies / scouts / cubs	*	*	*	-	-	-	1%	-	*	1%	*	-	-	-	*	*	-	*	*
Gardening / flower shows	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	1%	-	1%	-	-	-	*	*	-	*	-
Museum	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	*	-	-
Other	2%	2%	1%	*	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%c	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%m	2%m	*	1%	1%
Don't know	*	*	*	1%	*	1%	-	-	*	-	*	*	1%	*	1%o	-	*	1%k	-
None of these	67%	71%b	64%	66%	73%gh	66%	71%	63%	65%	56%	60%	77%ij	80%ij	74%no	63%	61%	74%no	55%	75%j

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i - j/k * small base

3. Volunteers living in the north of England volunteer to help the socially disadvantaged much more (19% of all volunteers) than those living in the South (12% of volunteers) or London (4% of volunteers).

11% of volunteers in the North said that they help people who are homeless or in poor housing conditions, compared to 2% in the South and 4% in London.

8% of Northern volunteers help people with drug, alcohol or substance abuse problems versus 4% in the South and London.

Only 2% of volunteers based in London support people with debt or low incomes.

Volunteers living the midlands and the south are more likely to help people with a disability or serious illness than volunteers in the north or London.

BASE: ALL ADULTS AGED 15+ IN ENGLAND WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED PERSONAL TIME

	TOTAL	SEX		AGE						SOCIAL GRADE				STANDARD REGION				ACTIVE IN RELIGION	
		MALE	FEMALE	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	NORTH	MIDLANDS	SOUTH	LONDON	ACTIVELY PRACTISING	NOT ACTIVELY PRACTISING
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(j)	(k)
Socially disadvantaged young people & children	14%	15%	12%	23% ^{gh}	13%	15%	14%	9%	8%	15%	18% ^k	8%	8%	19%^p	16% ^p	12%	4%	13%	13%
People who are homeless or in poor housing conditions	5%	4%	5%	7%	3%	8%	3%	4%	3%	7%	4%	5%	2%	11%^o	4%	2%	4%	6%	3%
People with drug, alcohol or substance abuse problems	4%	6%	3%	5%	5%	7%	1%	5%	2%	7%	3%	2%	3%	8%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
People with debt problems or low income	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	4%	6%	4%	2%	1%	7%	3%	3%	2%	3%	5%
People with a disability or serious illness	17%	15%	19%	18%	15%	14%	16%	18%	20%	20%	17%	16%	14%	11%	21%^p	21%^{mp}	7%	17%	21%
Elderly people requiring care or assistance	15%	11%	18% ^a	8%	10%	8%	15%	20% ^{ce}	23% ^{cde}	16%	13%	12%	16%	11%	16%	16%	12%	21% ^k	10%
The health, safety & environment of the community	12%	15%	9%	10%	11%	13%	13%	12%	11%	15% ^l	12%	9%	6%	14%	16% ^p	10%	5%	10%	12%
People who are isolated or lonely	9%	6%	11%	10%	5%	7%	7%	11%	12%	10%	12%	4%	5%	14%	7%	8%	9%	15% ^k	4%
Families affected by family crisis	7%	6%	8%	6%	2%	11%	5%	10%	6%	10%	7%	4%	4%	11%	4%	7%	6%	11% ^k	5%
People with depression or mental health problems	6%	6%	7%	9%	4%	8%	7%	8%	4%	8%	5%	6%	6%	12% ^o	5%	5%	5%	8%	6%
People in need of emergency care, support or rescue	5%	5%	6%	6%	2%	3%	9%	2%	8%	6%	6%	2%	4%	6%	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%

Those who have experienced bereavement	4%	2%	6%	-	2%	4%	2%	13% ^{cd} ^{fh}	5%	8% ^j	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	5%	5%	7%	3%
People living overseas affected by international crisis	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	2%	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	7%	2%	4%	2%	5%	1%
People who have a history of crime	3%	5%	2%	4%	1%	3%	2%	5%	3%	5%	2%	2%	1%	4%	5%	3%	1%	4%	4%
Children / school children	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	4% ^h	1%	7% ^h	-	1%	2%	7% ^{ij}	1%	1%	5%	2%	1%	3%	1%
Those injured through armed conflict	2%	2%	2%	-	1%	-	4%	5% ^e	3%	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	-	3%	3%
Refugees or asylum seekers living in the UK	1%	1%	2%	3%	-	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	*	-	1%	3% ^o	*	4% ^o	2%	1%
The church	1%	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	3%	1%	-	-	2%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	-
Other	1%	-	2%	2%	-	2%	-	1%	1%	2%	*	-	2%	-	1%	1%	2%	1%	-

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i - j/k * small base

4. Only 19% of people who volunteer do so for more than 10 hours every 4 weeks.

BASE: ALL ADULTS AGED 15+ IN ENGLAND WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED PERSONAL TIME

	TOTAL	SEX		AGE						SOCIAL GRADE				STANDARD REGION				ACTIVE IN RELIGION	
		MALE	FEMALE	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	NORTH	MIDLANDS	SOUTH	LONDON	ACTIVELY PRACTISING	NOT ACTIVELY
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(j)	(k)
1-10	59%	58%	60%	51%	62%	72% ^{cgh}	67% ^h	52%	53%	56%	59%	63%	62%	57%	52%	59%	79% ^{mno}	61%	58%
11-20	9%	10%	9%	6%	2%	7%	9%	8%	19% ^{cde}	11%	7%	7%	12%	7%	10%	10%	7%	12%	10%
21-30	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%	-	1%	7% ^{ef}	8% ^{ef}	4%	5%	4%	2%	5%	6%	3%	-	5%	4%
31-40	3%	1%	4% ^a	6%	-	1%	2%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	4%	4%	2%	3%	-	3%	2%
41+	3%	4%	3%	4%	-	1%	3%	5%	5%	2%	6%	2%	1%	2%	5%	2%	6%	2%	2%
Don't know	2%	1%	2%	8% ^{fgh}	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	5% ^{ik}	-	-	6% ^{no}	-	*	1%	1%	1%
None of these	20%	24%	17%	23%	30% ^h	19%	19%	23%	13%	23%	17%	23%	17%	20% ^p	24% ^p	22% ^p	6%	16%	24%

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i - j/k

* small base