

## ISSUE BRIEF:

# UNITED STATES

## Key Volunteering and Civic Life Statistics (2007)<sup>1</sup>



### NATIONAL TRENDS

#### NATIONAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

(age 16 and older)

61.2 million

#### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER RATE

26.7%

#### NATIONAL TOTAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED

8.1 BILLION

#### TOP PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE

Religious Organization	35.3%
Educational and youth services organization	27.0%

#### TOP VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Fundraise or sell items to raise money	28.8%
Collect, prepare, distribute or serve food	25.2%
Engage in general labor	22.0%
Tutor or teach	20.9%

### HISTORICAL TRENDS

Change in Volunteer Numbers (2005-2006)	Decrease of 4.2 million (65.4 to 61.2 million)
Change in Volunteer Rate (2005-2006)	Decrease of 2.1 percentage points (28.8% to 26.7%)
Change in Volunteer Numbers (2002-2006)	Increase of 1.4 million (59.8 to 61.2 million)
Change in Volunteer Rate (2002-2006)	Decrease of .7 percentage points (27.4% to 26.7%)
Change in Volunteer Numbers (1989-2006)	Increase of 23.2 million (38.0 to 61.2 million)
Change in Volunteer Rate (1989-2006)	Increase of 6.3 percentage points (20.4% to 26.7%)

### REGIONAL TRENDS

#### VOLUNTEER RATES BY REGION OF THE COUNTRY

1. Midwest	32.1%
2. West	26.8%
3. South	24.5%
4. Northeast	24.2%



(Continued)

## STATE TRENDS

### TOP 10 STATES FOR VOLUNTEER RATE

### RATE

1. Utah	45.9%
2. Nebraska	42.4%
3. Minnesota	40.4%
4. Alaska	38.8%
5. Kansas	38.3%
6. Iowa	38.0%
7. Montana	37.7%
8. Wyoming	37.3%
9. South Dakota	37.2%
9. Vermont	37.2%

### BOTTOM 5 STATES FOR VOLUNTEER RATE

### RATE

47. Mississippi	24.2%
48. Florida	21.8%
49. Louisiana	21.2%
50. New York	20.1%
51. Nevada	17.5%

### TOP 10 STATES FOR CIVIC LIFE

### INDEX SCORE

1. Montana	126.0
2. Vermont	123.4
3. Alaska	121.8
4. South Dakota	121.7
5. Wyoming	119.0
6. Minnesota	118.6
7. Iowa	118.0
8. Oregon	116.7
9. Maine	114.9
10. Missouri	113.9

### BOTTOM 5 STATES FOR CIVIC LIFE

### INDEX SCORE

47. Texas	91.1
48. New York	88.7
49. Georgia	88.2
50. Louisiana	87.6
51. Nevada	86.3

### TOP 5 STATES FOR VOLUNTEER RETENTION

### RATE

1. Minnesota	76.4%
2. Idaho	76.0%
3. Iowa	75.9%
4. Wyoming	75.5%
5. Indiana	73.0%

**TOP 6 STATES WITH VOLUNTEER RATE  
INCREASES FROM 2002-2006**

**CHANGE**

District of Columbia	+ 2.6 percentage points
Massachusetts	+ 2.2 percentage points
Rhode Island	+ 1.7 percentage points
Oklahoma	+ 1.6 percentage points
North Carolina	+ 1.4 percentage points
Tennessee	+ 1.3 percentage points

**TOP 5 STATES WITH VOLUNTEER RATE  
INCREASES FROM 1989-2006**

**CHANGE**

1. Connecticut	+ 14.8 percentage points
2. Alabama	+ 13.6 percentage points
3. Vermont	+ 12.9 percentage points
4. New Hampshire	+ 12.6 percentage points
5. Missouri	+ 11.8 percentage points

**TOP 5 STATES FOR OLDER ADULT  
VOLUNTEERING (age 65 and older)**

**RATE**

1. Utah	49.7%
2. Nebraska	42.3%
3. Minnesota	40.9%
4. South Dakota	37.9%
5. North Dakota	37.3%

**TOP 5 STATES FOR BABY BOOMER  
VOLUNTEERING (born 1946 to 1964)**

**RATE**

1. Nebraska	49.3%
2. Utah	49.1%
3. Minnesota	46.0%
4. Kansas	45.3%
5. Iowa	43.6%

**TOP 10 STATES FOR COLLEGE STUDENT  
VOLUNTEER RATE (ages 16-24)**

**RATE**

1. Utah	55.4%
2. Idaho	48.0%
3. Oklahoma	45.2%
4. Alaska	44.5%
5. Vermont	43.6%
6. Nebraska	39.6%
7. Minnesota	39.3%
8. Colorado	38.9%
9. Wisconsin	38.2%
10. Michigan	38.1%

## NATIONAL TRENDS

- In 2006, 61.2 million Americans contributed over 8.1 billion hours of volunteer service, totaling over \$150 billion in service to America.
- The U.S. volunteering rate dropped from 27.4% in 2002 to 26.7% in 2006 after seeing a few years at 28.8%. However, this proportion is still historically high when compared to 1974 and 1989.
- Religious organizations continue to be the most popular venue through or with which volunteers serve, with 35.3% of volunteers serving in these organizations.
- Volunteer service through or with educational and youth organizations has grown over recent years, with 27.0% of America's volunteers currently serving in this capacity.
- Older volunteers (ages 65 and older) served a median of 100 hours per year in 2006.
- Currently, 32.2% of Baby Boomers are volunteers. As this group ages, they could double the number of older volunteers by 2034.

## REGIONAL TRENDS

- Among all regions, the Midwest had the highest volunteer rate for all adults, college students, Baby Boomers, and older adults, and the highest volunteer retention rate at 71%.
- The Midwest was the only region to increase its volunteer hours between 2005 and 2006.
- The Midwest had the highest civic life index among all regions, with a score of 108.4.
- The Northeast is the only region where professional or management services ranks within the top four volunteer activities.

- The South had the largest number of volunteers of all the regions in the U.S (20.4 million).
- The South had the largest percentage of volunteers serving through or with religious organizations (40.1%).
- On average, almost one in four volunteers (24.3%) in the West chose to tutor or teach, the highest percentage for any region.

## STATE TRENDS

- Utah boasts the highest volunteer rate for every age category except for adults age 45-54. Nebraska leads the way in volunteer rate for this age group, with 51.3% participating.
- Connecticut saw the largest growth in volunteer rate since 1989, rising 14.8 percentage points from 15.9% to 30.7%.
- The District of Columbia saw the largest increase in volunteer rate between 2002 and 2006, with their volunteer rate rising 2.6 percentage points.
- Virginia's college students provided a median of 68 hours of service per year, the highest median number of hours for this population in the nation.
- Montana scores the highest on the state Civic Life Index with a score of 126, compared to the national score set at 100. Vermont follows closely behind with a score of 123.4.
- Minnesota has the highest volunteer retention rate, with 76.4% of their volunteers returning to service the following year.

To read *Volunteering in America: 2007 State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life* and other Corporation research reports visit [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov).

<sup>1</sup>Although the report is being released in 2007, the data is from 2002-2006 and 1989.

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