Volunteering Among Older Adults: Population Projections, 2007-2050

The Baby Boomer generation has the potential to change the face of older adults living in America simply due to their unprecedented numbers. Using population projections from the Census Bureau and survey data from the Current Population Survey, we estimated how this population shift will affect the number of older volunteers in America in the near future. [For more details on these estimates, please see the next page.]

| Year | Estimated number of senior volunteers: | | | Population |
	Medium	High	Low	
2007	8,962,364	9,896,570	8,028,158	37,849,672
2008	9,163,826	10,118,307	8,209,345	38,690,169
2009	9,354,948	10,329,456	8,380,440	39,481,666
2010	9,534,794	10,528,431	8,541,157	40,243,713
2011	9,753,081	10,769,340	8,736,821	41,121,053
2012	10,129,195	11,182,647	9,075,742	42,551,388
2013	10,499,218	11,591,039	9,407,397	43,972,925
2014	10,852,970	11,982,493	9,723,446	45,340,117
2015	11,221,754	12,389,776	10,053,731	46,790,727
2016	11,593,615	12,799,768	10,387,463	48,202,339
2017	11,974,340	13,220,730	10,727,951	49,694,108
2018	12,378,898	13,667,517	11,090,278	51,256,025
2019	12,791,177	14,122,728	11,459,625	52,881,867
2020	13,231,497	14,609,131	11,853,863	54,631,891
2021	13,660,692	15,083,700	12,237,685	56,342,480
2022	14,084,456	15,552,113	12,616,799	58,108,724
2023	14,512,666	16,024,445	13,000,886	59,908,972
2024	14,939,874	16,495,528	13,384,220	61,667,654
2025	15,380,247	16,983,497	13,776,998	63,523,732
2026	15,780,099	17,427,093	14,133,106	65,258,123
2027	16,130,810	17,813,418	14,448,203	66,906,315
2028	16,460,582	18,178,001	14,743,163	68,487,883
2029	16,787,060	18,538,676	15,035,443	70,025,994
2030	17,074,868	18,856,991	15,292,744	71,453,471
2031	17,288,865	19,095,366	15,482,364	72,593,355
2032	17,443,046	19,269,665	15,616,427	73,585,748
2033	17,584,457	19,429,184	15,739,730	74,528,299
2034	17,739,603	19,602,544	15,876,663	75,511,556
2035	17,926,685	19,810,418	16,042,951	76,641,415
2036	18,088,580	19,990,912	16,186,247	77,655,404
2037	18,182,573	20,096,631	16,268,514	78,431,855
2038	18,228,797	20,149,806	16,307,789	79,022,342
2039	18,254,137	20,179,685	16,328,589	79,512,337
2040	18,287,665	20,217,864	16,357,467	80,049,634
2041	18,314,986	20,249,460	16,380,513	80,512,930
2042	18,350,857	20,290,775	16,410,938	81,002,090
2043	18,404,619	20,351,925	16,457,313	81,549,858
2044	18,492,165	20,449,024	16,535,306	82,181,654

2045	**18,620,969**	20,592,316	16,649,623	82,959,312
2046	**18,779,953**	20,769,909	16,789,997	83,767,137
2047	**18,932,174**	20,940,643	16,923,706	84,520,807
2048	**19,083,471**	21,110,673	17,056,270	85,256,856
2049	**19,223,829**	21,268,013	17,179,645	85,959,986
2050	**19,370,963**	21,430,683	17,311,244	86,705,637

Methodological Note: Projecting Numbers of Volunteers

These volunteer projections are based on two data sources: the September CPS Volunteering Supplements from 2003 through 2005, and interim projections of the U.S. population developed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Using the pooled CPS volunteer supplements, we created a model which estimates the probability of an individual's choice to volunteer, based on a number of factors, including socioeconomic, demographic and household characteristics. For each of these predicted volunteering probabilities, we also estimated the standard error to determine the range of possibilities. The volunteer probability for older adults is the sample average of the predicted probabilities of all adults age 65 plus. Sample averages of the estimated standard errors were used to form confidence intervals around this estimated volunteer rate.

The estimates for the 65-and-over population in the far right column come from interim population projections published by the Census Bureau. These interim projections, which are based on the results of the 2000 Census, use estimated birth rates, death rates, and net immigration rates among selected population subgroups to forecast changes in population sizes. Because the interim projections were originally produced in 2000, the projected population sizes for recent years differ from more up-to-date population estimates. These differences will be resolved when the Census Bureau releases its final population projections based on the 2000 Census; the final projections are not available at this time.[1]

Finally, the "medium" estimate for the number of 65-and-over volunteers is the projected number of people age 65 plus for each year, multiplied by the average estimated volunteer probability for this age group. The "high" and "low" estimates are formed from the endpoints of the estimated 95% confidence interval around this predicted rate.

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[1] For more details about the Census Bureau's interim population projections, see
http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/usinterimproj/ .