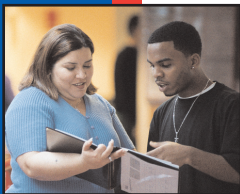


ISSUE BRIEF:

Volunteering in America: 2007 City Trends and Rankings



*As part of its mission to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through volunteering and service, the Corporation for National and Community Service conducts research on the volunteering habits of Americans. In April 2007, **Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings in Civic Life** was released. This report provided a snapshot of volunteering on a state level. Now, for the first time, the Corporation provides volunteer information for 50 major metropolitan areas in **Volunteering in America: 2007 City Trends and Rankings**. By presenting information at an even more local level, the Corporation hopes to provide a tool for local governments, community leaders, service organizations, nonprofits, and volunteers nationwide who are working to increase service participation and solve our nation's most pressing problems.*



TOP 10 CITIES FOR VOLUNTEER RATE

Minneapolis, MN	40.5%
Salt Lake City, UT	38.4%
Austin, TX	38.1%
Omaha, NE	37.8%
Seattle, WA	36.3%
Portland, OR	35.8%
Kansas City, MO	34.9%
Milwaukee, WI	34.4%
Charlotte, NC	34.3%
Tulsa, OK	33.7%

BOTTOM 5 CITIES FOR VOLUNTEER RATE

Riverside, CA	20.6%
Virginia Beach, VA	19.3%
New York, NY	18.7%
Miami, FL	16.1%
Las Vegas, NV	14.4%

continued

KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ While volunteer rates vary considerably, many top-ranked metro areas are in the central part of the country.
- ◆ Metro areas with high levels of community attachment, as demonstrated by higher homeownership rates, tend to have higher volunteer rates.
 - The Minneapolis metro area has the highest volunteering rate, and also the highest rate of home ownership of all the areas profiled in the report.
 - High proportions of residents living in multi-unit housing can also have a negative effect on volunteering.
- ◆ Longer commutes can curtail opportunities to volunteer.
 - New York has the longest average commuting time of all the metropolitan areas profiled in the report and also has one of the lowest volunteering rates.
 - If the national average commuting time decreased by just three minutes, we could expect to see a growth in volunteering by 2.3 percentage points.
- ◆ The capacity of a community's associations and organizations expands or limits volunteering opportunities.
 - The Austin, TX metropolitan area has the largest number of small nonprofits and also has the third highest volunteering rate of all the profiled metro areas.
- If nonprofits are able to increase their volunteer retention rates nation-wide by just 4 percentage points to 71%, we could expect a rise in the overall volunteer rate of 3.2 percentage points.
- ◆ Volunteer rates increase as the level of education increases, and are generally lower in high poverty areas.
 - Los Angeles has the lowest graduation rate and the highest percentage of population living below the poverty line, while ranking in the bottom ten for volunteer rates.
 - If the national average for high school graduation rates rose from 83% to 87%, we could expect a 4.1 percentage point rise in the nation's volunteering rate.
- ◆ Suburbs and rural areas have similar volunteer rates (29% and 30%), while urban areas lag behind (24%).

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Corporation for National and Community Service improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, the Corporation provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The data used in this report were collected through a supplement to the September 2004, 2005, and 2006 Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households (approximately 100,000 adults), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The purpose of the September supplement is to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering, the characteristics of volunteers, and civic life indicators in the United States. Most metropolitan areas used in this report follow the same geographic boundaries as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) publishes a comprehensive definition of MSA boundaries every 10 years to reflect population changes documented by the decennial Census.