

Table 573. **Volunteers by Selected Characteristics: 2008**

[In percent, except as noted. Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2007, through September 2008. Data represent the percent of the population involved in the activity]

Type of main organization ¹	Total, both sexes	Sex		Educational attainment ²			
		Men	Women	Less than a high school diploma	High school graduate, no college ³	Less than a bachelor's degree ⁴	College graduates
Total volunteers (1,000)	61,803	26,268	35,535	2,427	10,998	15,519	24,620
Percent of population	26.4	23.2	29.4	9.4	19.1	30.0	42.2
Median annual hours ⁵	52	52	52	48	52	52	60
Civic and political ⁶	5.5	6.8	4.4	3.4	4.6	5.5	6.3
Educational or youth service.	26	24.8	27	21.9	23.2	25.1	27.8
Environmental or animal care	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.6	1.1	2.1	2.1
Hospital or other health	8.2	6.4	9.5	6.0	8.7	8.0	8.0
Public safety	1.3	2.1	0.6	1.5	1.8	1.3	0.8
Religious	35.1	34.6	35.5	47.0	40.6	36.4	32.1
Social or community service.	13.5	13.7	13.4	12.5	12.6	13.7	13.8
Sport and hobby ⁷	3.3	3.8	2.8	1.2	3.0	3.2	3.6

¹ Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. See headnote for more details. ² Data refer to persons 25 years and over. ³ Includes high school diploma or equivalent. ⁴ Includes the categories, some college, no degree; and associate's degree. ⁵ For those reporting annual hours. ⁶ Includes professional and/or international. ⁷ Includes cultural and/or arts.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *News*, USDL 09-0078, 23 January 2009. See also <<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/volun.pdf>>.