

2008/09 TAKING PART SURVEY: VOLUNTEERING FACTSHEET

CONTEXT

This factsheet provides an overview of adult volunteering in England. It is based on data from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) 2008/09 Taking Part survey. This detailed survey of England's adult and child population has been in place since July 2005. Between 2005/06 and 2008/09, it has collected data on more than 92,400 adults and over 9,200 children. Please see the DCMS website¹ for further information.

VOLUNTEERING

- ◀ In 2008/09, 25.0% of people in England had done voluntary work of some kind
- ◀ People aged 16-24 (27.6%), 45-64 (26.5%) and 65-74 (27.8%) are most likely to volunteer while those aged 25-44 (22.7%) and 75+ (21.9%) are the least likely
- ◀ Women (27.4%) are more likely than men (22.5%) to volunteer – rates range from 31.6% of 16-24 year old women to 20.1% of 25-44 year old men
- ◀ Volunteering rates are higher among adults who live in households with 2+ adults and children (27.0%) than lone parent households (19.7%)
- ◀ White people (25.4%) are more likely to volunteer than BME people (22.0%)
- ◀ People who own their home outright (29.3%) have higher rates of volunteering than those who live in local authority housing (15.2%)
- ◀ Volunteering is higher among people with access to a car (27.2% compared to 15.4% of people without car access)
- ◀ People who have a degree (32.4%) are more likely than those with less than five GCSEs (21.1%) to volunteer
- ◀ Those in professional or managerial positions (31.9%) are more likely to volunteer than those who have never worked or are long-term unemployed (22.9%).

TYPES OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering covers a wide range of activities. The top five volunteer activities are: providing practical help, raising funds, helping to run an event, being a member of a committee and leading a group.

Volunteering activities vary by sex, for example:

- ◀ 18.8% of male volunteers are involved in coaching or tuition compared to 9.4% of female volunteers

- ◀ 42.8% of women's volunteering involves practical help compared to 28.7% of men's (Table 1).

Table 1: Volunteering activity

	%	+/-
All volunteers		
Practical help	36.6	1.8
Raise/handle money or sponsor	35.3	1.8
Organise/help run activity or event	31.9	1.8
Member of a committee	23.2	1.6
Lead the group	13.7	1.3
Coaching or tuition	13.5	1.3
Befriend or mentor people	12.7	1.3
Male volunteers		
Raise/handle money or sponsor	33.9	2.8
Organise/help run activity or event	33.8	2.8
Practical help	28.7	2.7
Member of a committee	25.2	2.6
Coaching or tuition	18.8	2.3
Lead the group	15.2	2.2
Befriend or mentor people	12.4	2.0
Female volunteers		
Practical help	42.8	2.5
Raise/handle money or sponsor	36.5	2.4
Organise/help run activity or event	30.4	2.3
Member of a committee	21.7	2.0
Befriend or mentor people	12.9	1.7
Lead the group	12.5	1.6
Coaching or tuition	9.4	1.4

VOLUNTEERING IN CULTURE AND SPORT

- ◀ 5.3% of people volunteer in the sports sector.
- ◀ 1.6% in the arts
- ◀ 1.2% in heritage
- ◀ 0.3% in museums and galleries
- ◀ Only a very small number of people volunteer in libraries, so it is not possible to report statistics for this sector.

Men (7.0%) are more likely than women (3.7%) to volunteer in the sports sector and the heritage sector (1.5% men and 0.9% women), but equally likely to volunteer in the arts (1.8% of women and 1.6% of men volunteer in the arts) (Table 2).

Table 2: Volunteering in culture and sport

	%	+/-
All		
Arts	1.6	0.2
Museum/gallery	0.3	0.1
Heritage	1.2	0.2
Sport	5.3	0.4
Men		
Arts	1.6	0.3
Heritage	1.5	0.3
Sport	7.0	0.7
Women		
Arts	1.8	0.3
Heritage	0.9	0.2
Sport	3.7	0.5

¹http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/4828.aspx

PROFILE OF SPORTS VOLUNTEERS²

- People aged 16-24 (9.1%) are more likely to volunteer in sport than those aged 25-44 (5.7%) and 45-64 (5.2%)
- Lone parents (2.8%) are more likely to volunteer in sport than lone pensioners (0.9%)
- Those who own their homes outright (4.6%) are more likely to volunteer in sport than those in housing association homes (2.5%).

TYPES OF VOLUNTEERING IN CULTURE AND SPORT

The types of volunteering activities undertaken vary across the culture and sport sectors (Table 3).

- Sport volunteers are more likely to do coaching and tuition (37.7%) than arts volunteers (25.2%) but less likely to offer practical help (24.0%) than arts (34.4%) volunteers
- Arts volunteers are more likely to help organise/run events (59.5%) than sport volunteers (40.5%)
- Arts volunteers have higher rates of befriending or mentoring (18.9%) than sport volunteers (9.9%)
- Heritage volunteers are more likely to be a committee member (43.4%) than (28.0%) volunteers
- Heritage volunteers are also more likely to lead groups (31.9%) than sport (16.0%) volunteers.

Table 3: Types of volunteering in culture and sport

	%	+/-
Sport		
Raise/handle money or sponsor	40.6	4.4
Organise/help run activity or event	40.5	4.4
Coaching or tuition	37.7	4.4
Member of a committee	28.0	4.0
Practical help	24.0	3.8
Lead the group	16.0	3.3
Befriend or mentor people	9.9	2.7
Arts		
Organise/help run activity or event	59.5	7.6
Raise/handle money or sponsor	36.7	7.5
Member of a committee	35.2	7.4
Practical help	34.4	7.4
Lead the group	27.3	6.9
Coaching or tuition	25.2	6.7
Befriend or mentor people	18.9	6.1
Heritage		
Organise/help run activity or event	54.0	8.7
Member of a committee	43.4	8.7
Raise/handle money or sponsor	40.6	8.6
Practical help	32.7	8.2
Lead the group	31.9	8.2

Heritage-related volunteering includes a number of activities that are less common in the other sectors. These include high rates for giving

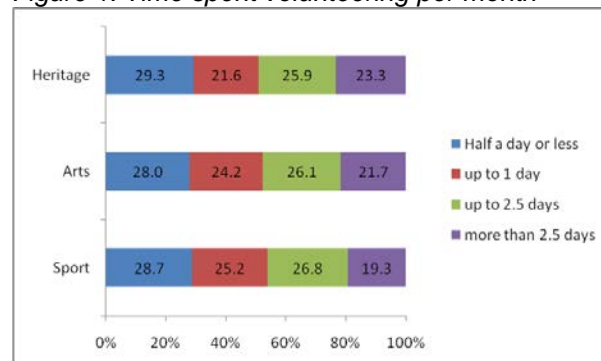
² Due to very small numbers, it is not possible to provide a profile of volunteers in the cultural sectors.

information and advice (28.3%), providing secretarial or administrative support (30.5%), representing people, schemes or causes (34.6%) and conservation/restoration (33.0%).

TIME SPENT ON VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

The time spent on volunteer activities is relatively consistent across the arts, heritage and sport. Around half of all culture and sport volunteers spend a day or less volunteering per month (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Time spent volunteering per month



Notes

Data ranges have been calculated using a 95% confidence interval. There is thus a 95% probability that the true percentage lies within the range given. Estimates have been rounded to one decimal place.

The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in partnership with four arm's length bodies (Arts Council England, English Heritage, Sport England, and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council). Survey fieldwork is conducted by TNS-BMRB.

For a more complete breakdown of all data see DCMS website.

The responsible statistician at DCMS for this publication is Neil.Wilson@culture.gsi.gov.uk

The report was written, and is based on analysis by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (<http://www.kkp.co.uk>). It complements 2008/09 Taking Part data previously released by DCMS.