

# Volunteerism in the United States

*Between September 2001 and September 2002,  
more than 1 in every 4 individuals  
performed volunteer activities;  
women, students, and college graduates  
were most likely to volunteer*

Stephanie Boraas

About 59 million people, or 27.6 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population, volunteered through or for an organization at some point from September 2001 to September 2002. Volunteers are a major source of labor in the United States, performing a variety of important tasks and contributing considerable time and effort to meeting the needs of their communities. The data in this article come from a special supplement to the September 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS).<sup>1</sup> The supplement collected information on the incidence of volunteering, the number and type of organizations through or for which persons volunteered, total hours spent volunteering, how people became involved in volunteering, and the kinds of work they performed as volunteers.<sup>2</sup>

### Incidence of volunteering

Some population groups are more likely than others to volunteer. Parents, for example, are likely to be involved with school or youth-related groups. Older people, many of whom are in the early years of retirement, are more likely to volunteer than young adults. High school students are increasingly participating in volunteer activities in order to fulfill community service requirements. College students receive information on volunteer opportunities from service groups on campus and from community groups that target the campus as a source of volunteers. In addition, many universities actively promote volunteering among students.<sup>3</sup>

During the September 2001–September 2002 reference period, women volunteered at a higher

rate (31.1 percent) than did men (23.8 percent), a relationship that held across age groups, education levels, and other major demographic characteristics. The gap between the volunteer rates of men and women tended to be greater among groups with relatively high rates, such as whites and the more highly educated. (See table 1.)

Whites had a considerably higher volunteer rate (29.4 percent) than blacks (19.2 percent). Individuals of Hispanic origin, who may be of any race, had the lowest rate, at 15.7 percent. This pattern held true for all age groups.

People aged 35 to 54 years are more likely to volunteer than those who are younger or older. About 1 in 3 people between the ages of 35 and 54 volunteered, a rate that may be partly explained by the fact that a great many individuals of those ages have teenaged or younger children at home. Parents with their own children under age 18 were more likely to volunteer than persons with no children that age, with volunteer rates of 36.5 percent and 23.7 percent, respectively. Parents often volunteer for organizations in which their children participate. Partly because married people are more likely to have children than are unmarried people, volunteer rates were higher among married persons (32.7 percent) than among the never married (21.2 percent) or persons of other marital status (22.1 percent).

Among persons 65 years or over, the volunteer rate declined with age. For example, 26.3 percent of 65- to 69-year-olds volunteered, compared with 25.0 percent of 70- to 74-year-olds, 22.9 percent of 75- to 79-year-olds, and 16.1

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**Table 1. Volunteers by selected characteristics, September 2002**

[Numbers in thousands]

| Characteristic   | Total, both sexes                     |            |                       | Men                                   |            |                       | Women                                 |            |                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|  | Civilian non-institutional population | Volunteers |                       | Civilian non-institutional population | Volunteers |                       | Civilian non-institutional population | Volunteers |                       |
|  |                                       | Number     | Percent of population |                                       | Number     | Percent of population |                                       | Number     | Percent of population |
| <b>Age</b>   |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |
| Total, 16 years and over .....                             | 214,429                               | 59,163     | 27.6                  | 103,148                               | 24,514     | 23.8                  | 111,281                               | 34,649     | 31.1                  |
| 16 to 24 years .....                                       | 35,470                                | 7,860      | 22.2                  | 17,851                                | 3,318      | 18.6                  | 17,619                                | 4,543      | 25.8                  |
| 16 to 19 years .....                                       | 16,158                                | 4,346      | 26.9                  | 8,214                                 | 1,888      | 23.0                  | 7,944                                 | 2,458      | 30.9                  |
| 20 to 24 years .....                                       | 19,312                                | 3,515      | 18.2                  | 9,637                                 | 1,430      | 14.8                  | 9,675                                 | 2,085      | 21.5                  |
| 25 years and over .....                                    | 178,959                               | 51,303     | 28.7                  | 85,298                                | 21,197     | 24.9                  | 93,662                                | 30,106     | 32.1                  |
| 25 to 34 years .....                                       | 36,907                                | 9,279      | 25.1                  | 17,983                                | 3,536      | 19.7                  | 18,924                                | 5,743      | 30.3                  |
| 35 to 44 years .....                                       | 43,888                                | 15,089     | 34.4                  | 21,661                                | 6,210      | 28.7                  | 22,226                                | 8,879      | 39.9                  |
| 45 to 54 years .....                                       | 39,172                                | 12,296     | 31.4                  | 19,098                                | 5,340      | 28.0                  | 20,075                                | 6,956      | 34.7                  |
| 55 to 64 years .....                                       | 25,993                                | 7,146      | 27.5                  | 12,431                                | 3,098      | 24.9                  | 13,562                                | 4,048      | 29.8                  |
| 65 years and over .....                                    | 32,998                                | 7,492      | 22.7                  | 14,124                                | 3,012      | 21.3                  | 18,874                                | 4,480      | 23.7                  |
| <b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>                            |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |
| White .....  | 177,628                               | 52,164     | 29.4                  | 86,321                                | 21,698     | 25.1                  | 91,307                                | 30,466     | 33.4                  |
| Black .....  | 26,039                                | 4,987      | 19.2                  | 11,696                                | 1,955      | 16.7                  | 14,344                                | 3,032      | 21.1                  |
| Hispanic origin .....                                      | 24,065                                | 3,769      | 15.7                  | 11,845                                | 1,522      | 12.9                  | 12,220                                | 2,246      | 18.4                  |
| <b>Educational attainment<sup>1</sup></b>                  |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |
| Less than a high school diploma .....                      | 26,999                                | 2,734      | 10.1                  | 12,970                                | 1,149      | 8.9                   | 14,029                                | 1,585      | 11.3                  |
| High school graduate, no college <sup>2</sup> .....        | 57,664                                | 12,293     | 21.3                  | 26,772                                | 4,612      | 17.2                  | 30,892                                | 7,681      | 24.9                  |
| Less than a bachelor's degree <sup>3</sup> .....           | 45,314                                | 14,919     | 32.9                  | 20,650                                | 5,734      | 27.8                  | 24,664                                | 9,185      | 37.2                  |
| College graduate .....                                     | 48,982                                | 21,357     | 43.6                  | 24,906                                | 9,702      | 39.0                  | 24,077                                | 11,655     | 48.4                  |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                      |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |
| Single, never married .....                                | 57,316                                | 12,177     | 21.2                  | 30,621                                | 5,300      | 17.3                  | 26,694                                | 6,877      | 25.8                  |
| Married, spouse present .....                              | 115,706                               | 37,823     | 32.7                  | 58,456                                | 16,764     | 28.7                  | 57,250                                | 21,059     | 36.8                  |
| Other marital status <sup>4</sup> .....                    | 41,408                                | 9,163      | 22.1                  | 14,071                                | 2,450      | 17.4                  | 27,337                                | 6,713      | 24.6                  |
| <b>Presence of own children under 18 years<sup>5</sup></b> |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |
| Without own children under 18 .....                        | 149,204                               | 35,371     | 23.7                  | 74,167                                | 15,143     | 20.4                  | 75,037                                | 20,227     | 27.0                  |
| With own children under 18 .....                           | 65,225                                | 23,793     | 36.5                  | 28,981                                | 9,371      | 32.3                  | 36,244                                | 14,421     | 39.8                  |
| <b>Employment status</b>                                   |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |                                       |            |                       |
| Civilian labor force .....                                 | 143,761                               | 42,396     | 29.5                  | 76,680                                | 19,539     | 25.5                  | 67,081                                | 22,857     | 34.1                  |
| Employed .....   | 135,794                               | 40,379     | 29.7                  | 72,511                                | 18,684     | 25.8                  | 63,283                                | 21,695     | 34.3                  |
| Full time <sup>6</sup> .....                               | 111,905                               | 31,910     | 28.5                  | 64,719                                | 16,683     | 25.8                  | 47,186                                | 15,227     | 32.3                  |
| Part time <sup>7</sup> .....                               | 23,889                                | 8,469      | 35.5                  | 7,792                                 | 2,001      | 25.7                  | 16,097                                | 6,468      | 40.2                  |
| Unemployed .....   | 7,968                                 | 2,016      | 25.3                  | 4,170                                 | 855        | 20.5                  | 3,798                                 | 1,162      | 30.6                  |
| Not in the labor force .....                               | 70,668                                | 16,767     | 23.7                  | 26,468                                | 4,976      | 18.8                  | 44,200                                | 11,792     | 26.7                  |

<sup>1</sup> Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

<sup>2</sup> Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>3</sup> Includes the categories of some college, no degree; and associate's degree.

<sup>4</sup> Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

<sup>5</sup> Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

<sup>6</sup> Usually work 35 or more hours a week at all jobs.

<sup>7</sup> Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. Details for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

percent of persons aged 80 years or over.

School enrollment, rather than age, appears to be the important factor in the likelihood of volunteering among young people. The volunteer rate of young persons aged 16 to 24 years who were enrolled in school was almost double that of those not enrolled in school, as indicated in the following tabulation:

| <i>School enrollment status</i> | <i>Volunteers</i>             |                                  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 | <i>Number<br/>(thousands)</i> | <i>Percent of<br/>population</i> |
| Total, 16 to 24 years .....     | 7,860                         | 22.2                             |
| Enrolled in school .....        | 5,382                         | 28.5                             |
| Enrolled in high school .....   | 2,615                         | 29.9                             |
| Enrolled in college .....       | 2,767                         | 27.2                             |
| Not enrolled in school .....    | 2,478                         | 15.0                             |
| 16 to 19 years .....            | 527                           | 14.4                             |
| 20 to 24 years .....            | 1,951                         | 15.1                             |

As mentioned previously, many high schools and religious programs for youths emphasize community service, and college students are frequently exposed to on-campus and community groups that make volunteer opportunities easy to find and participation appealing.

Once schooling is completed, it appears to continue to affect participation in volunteer activities. Educational attainment is a strong predictor of volunteer rates. Among persons 25 years or over, 43.6 percent of college graduates volunteered during the year, double the volunteer rate of high school graduates with no college experience and more than 4 times the rate of high school dropouts. This relationship held approximately true across a variety of demographic and employment characteristics, including some of those given in the following tabulation, which shows the percent volunteering in each group:

| <i>Characteristic</i>            | <i>Less than<br/>high school<br/>diploma</i> | <i>High school<br/>graduate,<br/>no college</i> | <i>Less than<br/>bachelor's<br/>degree</i> | <i>College<br/>graduate</i> |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| White .....                      | 10.5   | 22.8  | 34.5                                       | 46.0                        |
| Men .....                        | 9.0  | 18.2  | 28.9                                       | 40.9                        |
| Women .....                      | 11.8   | 26.8  | 39.4                                       | 51.4                        |
| Black .....                      | 9.2  | 14.1  | 26.1                                       | 36.6                        |
| Men .....                        | 8.6  | 12.7  | 23.2                                       | 33.4                        |
| Women .....                      | 9.6  | 15.4  | 28.0                                       | 39.1                        |
| Hispanic .....                   | 8.4  | 16.3  | 25.2                                       | 31.9                        |
| Men .....                        | 5.8  | 13.4  | 22.9                                       | 27.2                        |
| Women .....                      | 11.0   | 19.2  | 27.2                                       | 36.4                        |
| Single, never<br>married .....   | 6.9  | 12.4  | 21.8                                       | 30.8                        |
| Married, spouse<br>present ..... | 11.8   | 24.5  | 37.0                                       | 47.2                        |
| Other marital<br>status .....    | 8.5  | 17.6  | 28.6                                       | 40.7                        |
| Employed .....                   | 11.3   | 22.1  | 33.3                                       | 43.9                        |
| Unemployed .....                 | 13.8   | 19.0  | 34.2                                       | 40.9                        |

|                             |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Not in labor<br>force ..... | 9.1  | 20.2 | 31.7 | 42.8 |
| Native born .....           | 11.1 | 22.5 | 34.1 | 47.0 |
| Foreign born .....          | 7.5  | 10.7 | 19.5 | 22.0 |

Employment status also affects the likelihood of volunteering. Overall, nearly 30 percent of all employed persons had volunteered during the reference period. By comparison, the volunteer rates of persons who were unemployed (25.3 percent) or not in the labor force (23.7 percent) were lower. Among the employed, part-time workers were more likely than full-time workers to have participated in volunteer activities—35.5 percent and 28.5 percent, respectively.

Among whites, the volunteer rate was highest for those who were employed (31.4 percent) and about the same for those who were unemployed and those who were not in the labor force (26.5 percent and 25.6 percent, respectively.) For both blacks and Hispanics, volunteer rates were similar for the employed and the unemployed (about 22 percent for blacks and about 17 percent for Hispanics). Volunteer rates for those not in the labor force were lowest for blacks (14.1 percent) and Hispanics (12.6 percent). (See table 2.)

## Hours spent volunteering

Volunteers spent a median 52 hours performing volunteer activities during the period from September 2001 to September 2002. While 28.2 percent of volunteers were reported to have spent 100 to 499 hours doing volunteer work, 21.5 percent spent only 1 to 14 hours volunteering. (See table 3.)

Some of the same groups that have high volunteer rates also devote a relatively large number of hours to volunteering. College graduates, for example, with a 43.6-percent volunteer rate, spent a median 60 hours volunteering in the reference period. Still, individuals in some groups with low volunteer rates also spent a large number of hours volunteering. Black men who are not high school graduates had a volunteer rate of only 8.6 percent, yet volunteered a median 78 hours during the reference period. Volunteers aged 65 years and over devoted the most time—a median 96 hours—to volunteer activities. Those aged 25 to 34 years spent the least time, volunteering a median 34 hours during the year.

## Number and types of organizations

Most volunteers provided their services through or for one or two organizations—69.1 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively. About a third of all volunteers (33.9 percent) worked the most hours during the year for religious organizations. Educational or youth-service-related organizations accounted for the second-largest share of volunteers, 27.2 percent. Another 12.1 percent of volunteers

**Table 2. Volunteer rates by sex, race, Hispanic origin, and selected characteristics, September 2002**

| Selected characteristics   | White |      |       | Black |      |       | Hispanic |      |       |
|--|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------|------|-------|
|  | Total | Men  | Women | Total | Men  | Women | Total    | Men  | Women |
| <b>Age</b>   |       |      |       |       |      |       |          |      |       |
| Total, 16 years and over .....                                     | 29.4  | 25.1 | 33.4  | 19.2  | 16.7 | 21.1  | 15.7     | 12.9 | 18.4  |
| 16 to 19 years .....   | 28.6  | 24.3 | 33.0  | 18.8  | 16.3 | 21.1  | 18.1     | 15.3 | 20.9  |
| 20 to 24 years .....   | 19.3  | 15.7 | 22.9  | 13.1  | 9.9  | 15.8  | 9.4      | 7.6  | 11.3  |
| 25 to 34 years .....   | 26.8  | 20.8 | 32.7  | 20.2  | 15.6 | 24.0  | 16.9     | 12.9 | 21.0  |
| 35 to 44 years .....   | 37.1  | 30.8 | 43.4  | 22.4  | 19.1 | 25.2  | 20.6     | 15.7 | 25.4  |
| 45 to 54 years .....   | 33.5  | 29.4 | 37.6  | 20.4  | 19.3 | 21.2  | 16.1     | 15.1 | 17.1  |
| 55 to 64 years .....   | 28.8  | 26.1 | 31.4  | 20.6  | 19.1 | 21.7  | 13.2     | 12.0 | 14.2  |
| 65 years and over .....  | 23.9  | 22.2 | 25.2  | 13.9  | 14.9 | 13.3  | 6.9      | 6.2  | 7.4   |
| <b>Employment status among persons aged 16 years and over</b>      |       |      |       |       |      |       |          |      |       |
| Employed .....   | 31.4  | 27.1 | 36.6  | 21.9  | 18.9 | 24.6  | 17.0     | 14.0 | 21.1  |
| Unemployed .....   | 26.5  | 21.3 | 32.6  | 21.5  | 18.2 | 24.6  | 17.9     | 12.3 | 25.5  |
| Not in the labor force .....                                       | 25.6  | 20.1 | 28.9  | 14.1  | 12.1 | 15.5  | 12.6     | 9.0  | 14.4  |
| <b>School enrollment status among persons aged 16 to 24 years</b>  |       |      |       |       |      |       |          |      |       |
| Enrolled in high school .....                                      | 32.3  | 26.0 | 39.5  | 18.2  | 17.0 | 19.4  | 19.6     | 15.6 | 23.9  |
| Enrolled in college .....  | 28.3  | 25.2 | 31.1  | 23.9  | 19.7 | 26.4  | 19.6     | 19.4 | 19.7  |
| Not enrolled in school .....                                       | 16.0  | 13.0 | 19.1  | 10.5  | 8.4  | 12.7  | 8.6      | 7.2  | 10.3  |
| <b>Educational attainment among persons aged 25 years and over</b> |       |      |       |       |      |       |          |      |       |
| Less than a high school diploma .....                              | 10.5  | 9.0  | 11.8  | 9.2   | 8.6  | 9.6   | 8.4      | 5.8  | 11.0  |
| High school graduate, no college <sup>1</sup> .....                | 22.8  | 18.2 | 26.8  | 14.1  | 12.7 | 15.4  | 16.3     | 13.4 | 19.2  |
| Less than a bachelor's degree <sup>2</sup> .....                   | 34.5  | 28.9 | 39.4  | 26.1  | 23.2 | 28.0  | 25.2     | 22.9 | 27.2  |
| College graduate .....   | 46.0  | 40.9 | 51.4  | 36.6  | 33.4 | 39.1  | 31.9     | 27.2 | 36.4  |

<sup>1</sup> Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the categories of some college, no degree; and associate's degree.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid

volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. Details for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations, and 8.6 percent volunteered the most hours for hospitals or other health organizations. (See table 4.)

Older volunteers were more likely to volunteer for religious organizations, such as churches, than their younger counterparts. For example, 45.2 percent of volunteers aged 65 years and over performed volunteer activities mainly through or for a religious organization, compared with 28.6 percent of volunteers aged 25 to 34 years. The most common type of organization for which 25- to 34-year-olds volunteered (34.3 percent) was in education or youth services.

Among volunteers with children under age 18, 45.9 percent of mothers and 37.9 percent of fathers volunteered mainly for an education or youth-service-related organization, such as a school or Little League baseball. Parents were more than twice as likely to volunteer for such organizations as persons with no children of that age. In contrast, volunteers with no children under 18 were about twice as likely as parents to volunteer for a social or community service organization, such as a homeless shelter or a senior citizen center.

### Volunteer activities for main organization

Volunteers performed many different types of activities. Among the more commonly reported (volunteers could report more than one activity) were teaching or coaching (24.4 percent); canvassing, campaigning, or fundraising (22.9 percent); collecting, making, serving, or delivering goods (22.2 percent); and serving on a board, committee, or neighborhood association (16.3 percent). (See table 5.)

The distribution of activities differed across major demographic groups. For example, parents of children under 18 were much more likely to teach or coach than were persons with no children of that age, and college graduates were more than twice as likely as those with less than a high school diploma to do consulting or administrative work.

### How volunteers get involved

The data show that there are two primary ways in which individuals become involved in volunteering: two in 5 did so on

**Table 3. Volunteers by annual hours of volunteer activities and selected characteristics, September 2002**

[Numbers in thousands]

| Characteristic   | Total volunteers | Percent distribution of total annual hours spent volunteering at all organizations |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
|--|------------------|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  |                  | Total  | 1 to 14 hours | 15 to 49 hours | 50 to 99 hours | 100 to 499 hours | 500 or more hours | Not reporting annual hours | Median annual hours <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Sex</b>   |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| Total, both sexes .....                                    | 59,163           | 100.0  | 21.5          | 24.1           | 14.8           | 28.2             | 5.9               | 5.5                        | 52                               |
| Men .....  | 24,514           | 100.0  | 21.1          | 23.4           | 14.5           | 28.9             | 6.6               | 5.4                        | 52                               |
| Women .....  | 34,649           | 100.0  | 21.8          | 24.6           | 15.0           | 27.6             | 5.4               | 5.6                        | 50                               |
| <b>Age</b>   |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| Total, 16 years and over .....                             | 59,163           | 100.0  | 21.5          | 24.1           | 14.8           | 28.2             | 5.9               | 5.5                        | 52                               |
| 16 to 24 years .....                                       | 7,860            | 100.0  | 25.2          | 27.9           | 14.2           | 22.0             | 4.1               | 6.6                        | 40                               |
| 16 to 19 years .....                                       | 4,346            | 100.0  | 23.7          | 29.4           | 15.2           | 22.0             | 2.8               | 6.9                        | 40                               |
| 20 to 24 years .....                                       | 3,515            | 100.0  | 27.1          | 26.0           | 12.9           | 22.0             | 5.7               | 6.3                        | 36                               |
| 25 years and over .....                                    | 51,303           | 100.0  | 21.0          | 23.5           | 14.9           | 29.1             | 6.2               | 5.3                        | 52                               |
| 25 to 34 years .....                                       | 9,279            | 100.0  | 29.2          | 26.5           | 13.6           | 23.2             | 3.5               | 4.0                        | 34                               |
| 35 to 44 years .....                                       | 15,089           | 100.0  | 21.0          | 24.8           | 16.3           | 27.8             | 5.8               | 4.3                        | 52                               |
| 45 to 54 years .....                                       | 12,296           | 100.0  | 20.5          | 23.0           | 15.9           | 29.7             | 5.7               | 5.3                        | 53                               |
| 55 to 64 years .....                                       | 7,146            | 100.0  | 18.1          | 21.9           | 14.2           | 32.2             | 7.4               | 6.1                        | 60                               |
| 65 years and over .....                                    | 7,492            | 100.0  | 14.2          | 19.4           | 12.8           | 35.4             | 10.0              | 8.2                        | 96                               |
| <b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>                            |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| White .....  | 52,164           | 100.0  | 21.4          | 24.4           | 15.1           | 28.1             | 5.8               | 5.2                        | 52                               |
| Black .....  | 4,987            | 100.0  | 21.0          | 22.2           | 12.6           | 29.8             | 7.0               | 7.5                        | 52                               |
| Hispanic origin .....                                      | 3,769            | 100.0  | 22.9          | 26.6           | 14.9           | 24.3             | 5.2               | 6.0                        | 44                               |
| <b>Educational attainment<sup>2</sup></b>                  |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| Less than a high school diploma .....                      | 2,734            | 100.0  | 26.0          | 21.6           | 13.8           | 25.3             | 6.1               | 7.2                        | 48                               |
| High school graduate, no college <sup>3</sup> .....        | 12,293           | 100.0  | 24.1          | 22.7           | 14.0           | 26.8             | 6.1               | 6.3                        | 50                               |
| Less than a bachelor's degree <sup>4</sup> .....           | 14,919           | 100.0  | 21.1          | 23.3           | 14.5           | 29.7             | 6.4               | 5.1                        | 52                               |
| College graduate .....                                     | 21,357           | 100.0  | 18.4          | 24.4           | 15.8           | 30.6             | 6.2               | 4.7                        | 60                               |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                      |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| Single, never married .....                                | 12,177           | 100.0  | 24.3          | 27.3           | 14.4           | 23.1             | 4.7               | 6.1                        | 40                               |
| Married, spouse present .....                              | 37,823           | 100.0  | 20.8          | 23.2           | 15.1           | 29.8             | 6.0               | 5.2                        | 53                               |
| Other marital status <sup>5</sup> .....                    | 9,163            | 100.0  | 20.8          | 23.6           | 14.1           | 28.5             | 7.1               | 6.0                        | 52                               |
| <b>Presence of own children under 18 years<sup>6</sup></b> |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| Men:   |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 15,143           | 100.0  | 20.6          | 23.6           | 13.9           | 28.5             | 7.2               | 6.2                        | 52                               |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 9,371            | 100.0  | 21.9          | 23.1           | 15.4           | 29.7             | 5.7               | 4.1                        | 52                               |
| Women:   |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 20,227           | 100.0  | 20.8          | 24.6           | 14.4           | 28.2             | 5.5               | 6.4                        | 52                               |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 14,421           | 100.0  | 23.2          | 24.4           | 15.9           | 26.9             | 5.2               | 4.4                        | 50                               |
| <b>Employment status</b>                                   |                  |  |               |                |                |                  |                   |                            |                                  |
| Civilian labor force .....                                 | 42,396           | 100.0  | 23.2          | 25.0           | 15.2           | 26.8             | 4.9               | 4.9                        | 48                               |
| Employed .....   | 40,379           | 100.0  | 23.3          | 25.0           | 15.2           | 26.8             | 4.8               | 4.9                        | 48                               |
| Full time <sup>7</sup> .....                               | 31,910           | 100.0  | 24.0          | 25.3           | 14.8           | 26.2             | 4.8               | 4.9                        | 46                               |
| Part time <sup>8</sup> .....                               | 8,469            | 100.0  | 20.9          | 23.7           | 16.5           | 28.8             | 5.1               | 5.0                        | 52                               |
| Unemployed .....   | 2,016            | 100.0  | 21.8          | 25.7           | 15.3           | 27.2             | 5.9               | 4.1                        | 50                               |
| Not in the labor force .....                               | 16,767           | 100.0  | 17.2          | 21.7           | 13.8           | 31.8             | 8.5               | 7.0                        | 72                               |

<sup>1</sup> For those reporting annual hours.<sup>2</sup> Data refer to persons 25 years and over.<sup>3</sup> Includes high school diploma or equivalent.<sup>4</sup> Includes the categories of some college, no degree; and associate's degree.<sup>5</sup> Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.<sup>6</sup> Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.<sup>7</sup> Usually work 35 or more hours a week at all jobs.<sup>8</sup> Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. Details for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

**Table 4. Volunteers by type of main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and by selected characteristics, September 2002**

[Numbers in thousands]

| Characteristics  | Total volunteers | Percent distribution of volunteers, by type of main organization <sup>1</sup> |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
|--|------------------|---|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
|  |                  | Total   | Civic, political, professional, or international | Educational or youth service | Environmental or animal care | Hospital or other health | Public safety | Religious | Social or community service | Sport, hobby, cultural, or arts | Other | Not reporting type of organization |
| <b>Sex</b>   |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| Total, both sexes .....                                    | 59,163           | 100.0   | 6.1  | 27.2                         | 1.6                          | 8.6                      | 1.4           | 33.9      | 12.1                        | 4.0                             | 3.5   | 1.5                                |
| Men .....  | 24,514           | 100.0   | 7.6  | 25.5                         | 1.7                          | 6.7                      | 2.3           | 33.0      | 12.7                        | 5.0                             | 3.9   | 1.6                                |
| Women .....  | 34,649           | 100.0   | 5.1  | 28.5                         | 1.6                          | 10.0                     | .8            | 34.5      | 11.7                        | 3.2                             | 3.3   | 1.4                                |
| <b>Age</b>   |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| Total, 16 years and over .....                             | 59,163           | 100.0   | 6.1  | 27.2                         | 1.6                          | 8.6                      | 1.4           | 33.9      | 12.1                        | 4.0                             | 3.5   | 1.5                                |
| 16 to 24 years .....                                       | 7,860            | 100.0   | 4.8  | 31.0                         | 1.8                          | 9.0                      | 1.7           | 30.5      | 12.9                        | 3.1                             | 3.5   | 1.6                                |
| 16 to 19 years .....                                       | 4,346            | 100.0   | 4.6  | 34.1                         | 1.6                          | 7.7                      | 1.0           | 30.7      | 13.2                        | 3.1                             | 2.8   | 1.2                                |
| 20 to 24 years .....                                       | 3,515            | 100.0   | 5.0  | 27.3                         | 2.0                          | 10.7                     | 2.5           | 30.3      | 12.6                        | 3.0                             | 4.4   | 2.2                                |
| 25 years and over .....                                    | 51,303           | 100.0   | 6.3  | 26.7                         | 1.6                          | 8.6                      | 1.4           | 34.4      | 12.0                        | 4.1                             | 3.5   | 1.5                                |
| 25 to 34 years .....                                       | 9,279            | 100.0   | 5.5  | 34.3                         | 1.8                          | 8.6                      | 1.9           | 28.6      | 11.5                        | 3.2                             | 3.4   | 1.1                                |
| 35 to 44 years .....                                       | 15,089           | 100.0   | 4.6  | 39.3                         | 1.4                          | 6.6                      | 1.2           | 29.3      | 9.5                         | 3.9                             | 3.1   | 1.0                                |
| 45 to 54 years .....                                       | 12,296           | 100.0   | 6.4  | 25.5                         | 1.6                          | 8.7                      | 1.4           | 34.5      | 11.0                        | 5.1                             | 3.8   | 2.0                                |
| 55 to 64 years .....                                       | 7,146            | 100.0   | 9.3  | 13.0                         | 2.3                          | 10.4                     | 1.1           | 41.1      | 13.4                        | 4.0                             | 3.8   | 1.7                                |
| 65 years and over .....                                    | 7,492            | 100.0   | 7.9  | 6.5                          | 1.0                          | 10.5                     | 1.2           | 45.2      | 17.6                        | 4.2                             | 4.0   | 2.0                                |
| <b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>                            |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| White .....  | 52,164           | 100.0   | 6.4  | 27.2                         | 1.8                          | 8.8                      | 1.5           | 32.9      | 12.2                        | 4.1                             | 3.6   | 1.4                                |
| Black .....  | 4,987            | 100.0   | 3.5  | 27.4                         | .3                           | 6.7                      | .6            | 45.3      | 10.0                        | 1.6                             | 2.9   | 1.7                                |
| Hispanic origin .....                                      | 3,769            | 100.0   | 4.2  | 32.9                         | .6                           | 6.4                      | 1.1           | 36.6      | 10.7                        | 2.8                             | 3.3   | 1.3                                |
| <b>Educational attainment<sup>2</sup></b>                  |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| Less than a high school diploma .....                      | 2,734            | 100.0   | 4.6  | 22.6                         | .3                           | 6.4                      | 1.2           | 45.8      | 13.4                        | 1.6                             | 2.8   | 1.3                                |
| High school graduate, no college <sup>3</sup> .....        | 12,293           | 100.0   | 6.0  | 25.4                         | 1.2                          | 8.2                      | 1.8           | 36.9      | 11.7                        | 3.9                             | 3.6   | 1.3                                |
| Less than a bachelor's degree <sup>4</sup> .....           | 14,919           | 100.0   | 5.9  | 26.8                         | 1.7                          | 8.9                      | 2.0           | 34.4      | 11.6                        | 3.9                             | 3.6   | 1.3                                |
| College graduate .....                                     | 21,357           | 100.0   | 7.0  | 27.9                         | 1.9                          | 8.8                      | .7            | 31.5      | 12.2                        | 4.7                             | 3.6   | 1.7                                |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                      |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| Single, never married ....                                 | 12,177           | 100.0   | 6.1  | 28.4                         | 2.2                          | 9.6                      | 1.7           | 27.2      | 14.8                        | 4.0                             | 4.4   | 1.6                                |
| Married, spouse present .....                              | 37,823           | 100.0   | 6.0  | 28.2                         | 1.3                          | 7.7                      | 1.4           | 36.6      | 10.4                        | 4.0                             | 3.0   | 1.5                                |
| Other marital status <sup>5</sup> .....                    | 9,163            | 100.0   | 6.7  | 21.9                         | 2.0                          | 11.2                     | 1.2           | 31.6      | 15.6                        | 3.7                             | 4.6   | 1.5                                |
| <b>Presence of own children under 18 years<sup>6</sup></b> |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| Men:   |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 15,143           | 100.0   | 9.0  | 17.8                         | 2.2                          | 8.0                      | 2.4           | 33.4      | 15.5                        | 4.9                             | 4.9   | 1.9                                |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 9,371            | 100.0   | 5.3  | 37.9                         | .9                           | 4.5                      | 2.1           | 32.5      | 8.1                         | 5.2                             | 2.2   | 1.3                                |
| Women:   |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 20,227           | 100.0   | 6.5  | 16.1                         | 2.2                          | 12.8                     | .8            | 37.3      | 14.7                        | 3.8                             | 4.1   | 1.6                                |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 14,421           | 100.0   | 3.1  | 45.9                         | .6                           | 6.0                      | .7            | 30.5      | 7.5                         | 2.4                             | 2.2   | 1.0                                |
| <b>Employment status</b>                                   |                  |   |  |                              |                              |                          |               |           |                             |                                 |       |                                    |
| Civilian labor force .....                                 | 42,396           | 100.0   | 6.4  | 28.9                         | 1.8                          | 8.6                      | 1.6           | 32.1      | 11.5                        | 4.2                             | 3.5   | 1.4                                |
| Employed .....   | 40,379           | 100.0   | 6.4  | 28.8                         | 1.7                          | 8.6                      | 1.7           | 32.2      | 11.5                        | 4.2                             | 3.5   | 1.4                                |
| Full time <sup>7</sup> .....                               | 31,910           | 100.0   | 6.7  | 28.2                         | 1.7                          | 8.7                      | 1.9           | 31.6      | 11.8                        | 4.3                             | 3.7   | 1.4                                |
| Part time <sup>8</sup> .....                               | 8,469            | 100.0   | 5.2  | 31.2                         | 1.8                          | 8.1                      | .8            | 34.8      | 10.3                        | 3.5                             | 2.9   | 1.4                                |
| Unemployed .....   | 2,016            | 100.0   | 5.4  | 31.8                         | 2.2                          | 8.1                      | .9            | 30.2      | 12.6                        | 4.4                             | 3.6   | .8                                 |
| Not in the labor force ....                                | 16,767           | 100.0   | 5.6  | 23.0                         | 1.2                          | 8.7                      | .9            | 38.3      | 13.5                        | 3.4                             | 3.6   | 1.8                                |

<sup>1</sup>Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. (See the appendix for more details.)

<sup>2</sup>Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

<sup>3</sup>Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>4</sup>Includes the categories of some college, no degree; and associate's degree.

<sup>5</sup>Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

<sup>6</sup>Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children.

Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and unrelated children.

<sup>7</sup>Usually work 35 or more hours a week at all jobs.

<sup>8</sup>Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. Details for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.

**Table 5. Volunteer activities for main organization for which activities were performed and selected characteristics, September 2002**

[Numbers in thousands]

| Characteristics  | Total volunteers | Percent distribution of volunteer activities for main organization <sup>1</sup> |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
|--|------------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|--------------------------------|
|  |                  | Ac-tivities to protect the environment or animals                               | Ac-tivities to support emergency preparedness or relief | Ac-tivities to support public health or safety | Board, committee, or neighborhood association member | Canvass, campaign, or raise funds | Collect, make, serve, or deliver goods | Construction, maintenance | Consulting or administrative work | Organize, supervise, or help with events or activities <sup>2</sup> | Provide care or transportation | Teach or coach | Other | Not reporting type of activity |
| <b>Sex</b>   |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| Total, both sexes .....                                    | 59,163           | 4.6   | 4.8   | 8.3  | 16.3   | 22.9                              | 22.2                                   | 9.7                       | 14.0                              | 43.2  | 12.3                           | 24.4           | 16.8  | 1.4                            |
| Men .....  | 24,514           | 5.3   | 5.8   | 9.0  | 17.9   | 20.9                              | 17.6                                   | 16.0                      | 14.3                              | 40.4  | 12.0                           | 27.1           | 16.1  | 1.4                            |
| Women .....  | 34,649           | 4.1   | 4.0   | 7.8  | 15.1   | 24.2                              | 25.5                                   | 5.2                       | 13.8                              | 45.1  | 12.6                           | 22.4           | 17.3  | 1.5                            |
| <b>Age</b>   |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| Total, 16 years and over .....                             | 59,163           | 4.6   | 4.8   | 8.3  | 16.3   | 22.9                              | 22.2                                   | 9.7                       | 14.0                              | 43.2  | 12.3                           | 24.4           | 16.8  | 1.4                            |
| 16 to 24 years .....                                       | 7,860            | 6.4   | 5.4   | 9.0  | 6.3  | 19.4                              | 20.5                                   | 13.2                      | 8.4                               | 38.2  | 10.3                           | 26.7           | 18.8  | 2.3                            |
| 16 to 19 years .....                                       | 4,346            | 7.3   | 4.8   | 8.9  | 5.5  | 19.7                              | 21.9                                   | 13.5                      | 6.4                               | 38.5  | 8.9                            | 25.8           | 19.4  | 2.2                            |
| 20 to 24 years .....                                       | 3,515            | 5.2   | 6.1   | 9.1  | 7.3  | 19.0                              | 18.8                                   | 12.9                      | 11.0                              | 37.8  | 12.1                           | 27.8           | 18.0  | 2.5                            |
| 25 years and over .....                                    | 51,303           | 4.4   | 4.7   | 8.2  | 17.8   | 23.4                              | 22.5                                   | 9.1                       | 14.8                              | 43.9  | 12.7                           | 24.0           | 16.5  | 1.3                            |
| 25 to 34 years .....                                       | 9,279            | 4.5   | 4.9   | 9.1  | 11.8   | 22.4                              | 19.4                                   | 8.4                       | 11.2                              | 45.6  | 12.5                           | 28.1           | 15.2  | 1.5                            |
| 35 to 44 years .....                                       | 15,089           | 4.8   | 4.6   | 8.0  | 16.7   | 25.3                              | 21.3                                   | 9.5                       | 14.0                              | 47.7  | 14.6                           | 30.7           | 14.3  | 1.2                            |
| 45 to 54 years .....                                       | 12,296           | 4.2   | 5.0   | 8.9  | 20.3   | 25.0                              | 21.7                                   | 9.4                       | 16.3                              | 45.3  | 12.9                           | 24.7           | 15.3  | 1.5                            |
| 55 to 64 years .....                                       | 7,146            | 5.1   | 5.4   | 8.8  | 21.9   | 25.5                              | 23.5                                   | 10.0                      | 18.8                              | 40.8  | 10.8                           | 17.7           | 17.3  | 1.0                            |
| 65 years and over .....                                    | 7,492            | 2.7   | 3.3   | 5.5  | 19.6   | 16.3                              | 29.0                                   | 8.0                       | 14.8                              | 34.8  | 10.3                           | 10.5           | 23.6  | 1.4                            |
| <b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>                            |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| White .....  | 52,164           | 4.9   | 4.8   | 8.3  | 16.6   | 23.2                              | 21.9                                   | 9.8                       | 14.0                              | 43.3  | 12.0                           | 24.4           | 16.8  | 1.3                            |
| Black .....  | 4,987            | 2.9   | 4.4   | 8.2  | 15.2   | 21.6                              | 26.1                                   | 8.8                       | 13.9                              | 42.9  | 15.0                           | 25.2           | 17.1  | 2.2                            |
| Hispanic origin .....                                      | 3,769            | 2.8   | 3.3   | 7.3  | 9.1  | 18.9                              | 23.3                                   | 8.8                       | 9.4                               | 36.3  | 10.4                           | 24.3           | 20.2  | 1.7                            |
| <b>Educational attainment<sup>3</sup></b>                  |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| Less than a high school diploma .....                      | 2,734            | 1.9   | 3.3   | 5.3  | 8.0  | 14.6                              | 30.0                                   | 12.1                      | 7.2                               | 32.8  | 9.6                            | 12.8           | 21.7  | 1.0                            |
| High school graduate, no college <sup>4</sup> .....        | 12,293           | 3.9   | 4.2   | 6.9  | 14.2   | 23.2                              | 25.3                                   | 9.7                       | 10.0                              | 42.2  | 12.3                           | 19.2           | 17.1  | 1.2                            |
| Less than a bachelor's degree <sup>5</sup> .....           | 14,919           | 4.7   | 5.5   | 8.4  | 16.3   | 24.1                              | 23.7                                   | 9.1                       | 14.0                              | 45.3  | 14.5                           | 24.1           | 16.7  | 1.1                            |
| College graduate .....                                     | 21,357           | 4.8   | 4.5   | 9.1  | 22.2   | 24.1                              | 19.1                                   | 8.5                       | 19.2                              | 45.4  | 12.0                           | 28.2           | 15.4  | 1.5                            |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                      |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| Single, never married ...                                  | 12,177           | 6.2   | 5.0   | 9.5  | 9.1  | 20.9                              | 20.0                                   | 11.7                      | 10.7                              | 39.0  | 10.3                           | 23.8           | 18.6  | 2.1                            |
| Married, spouse present .....                              | 37,823           | 4.3   | 4.7   | 7.7  | 18.9   | 23.8                              | 22.3                                   | 9.8                       | 14.8                              | 45.0  | 13.2                           | 26.0           | 15.4  | 1.3                            |
| Other marital status <sup>6</sup> .....                    | 9,163            | 4.1   | 4.5   | 8.8  | 15.2   | 21.6                              | 24.9                                   | 6.5                       | 15.0                              | 40.9  | 11.7                           | 18.2           | 20.1  | 1.0                            |
| <b>Presence of own children under 18 years<sup>7</sup></b> |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| Men:   |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 15,143           | 5.5   | 5.9   | 9.4  | 17.9   | 20.6                              | 18.4                                   | 16.5                      | 15.2                              | 38.3  | 10.9                           | 20.7           | 18.1  | 1.6                            |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 9,371            | 5.1   | 5.6   | 8.4  | 17.9   | 21.5                              | 16.4                                   | 15.2                      | 12.8                              | 44.0  | 13.9                           | 37.5           | 13.0  | 1.0                            |
| Women:   |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 20,227           | 4.6   | 4.1   | 8.2  | 14.9   | 22.3                              | 26.2                                   | 5.8                       | 14.2                              | 40.2  | 10.3                           | 18.5           | 19.0  | 1.7                            |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 14,421           | 3.4   | 4.0   | 7.1  | 15.5   | 27.0                              | 24.5                                   | 4.4                       | 13.2                              | 51.9  | 15.7                           | 27.9           | 14.8  | 1.3                            |
| <b>Employment status</b>                                   |                  |   |   |  |  |                                   |  |                           |                                   |   |                                |                |       |                                |
| Civilian labor force .....                                 | 42,396           | 5.0   | 5.2   | 8.8  | 16.6   | 24.5                              | 20.7                                   | 10.2                      | 14.4                              | 44.7  | 12.9                           | 26.3           | 15.6  | 1.3                            |
| Employed .....   | 40,379           | 4.9   | 5.2   | 8.8  | 16.9   | 24.6                              | 20.6                                   | 10.1                      | 14.4                              | 44.7  | 12.8                           | 26.3           | 15.5  | 1.3                            |
| Full time <sup>8</sup> .....                               | 31,910           | 4.8   | 5.3   | 9.0  | 17.3   | 25.0                              | 19.9                                   | 10.6                      | 14.1                              | 44.1  | 12.4                           | 26.2           | 15.0  | 1.4                            |
| Part time <sup>9</sup> .....                               | 8,469            | 5.0   | 4.8   | 8.1  | 15.6   | 23.0                              | 23.4                                   | 8.2                       | 15.3                              | 46.6  | 14.5                           | 26.8           | 17.3  | 1.2                            |
| Unemployed .....   | 2,016            | 6.7   | 5.1   | 8.8  | 10.9   | 22.9                              | 22.7                                   | 11.5                      | 15.2                              | 45.1  | 14.3                           | 26.4           | 17.5  | 1.2                            |
| Not in the labor force .....                               | 16,767           | 3.8   | 3.7   | 6.9  | 15.5   | 18.7                              | 26.0                                   | 8.4                       | 12.9                              | 39.3  | 11.0                           | 19.4           | 19.9  | 1.7                            |

<sup>1</sup>Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. (See the appendix for more details.)

<sup>2</sup>This category may have been chosen by such a large proportion of respondents because of the word "help." Because all volunteers "help" in some way, the category may have become a "catch-all" response.

<sup>3</sup>Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

<sup>4</sup>Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>5</sup>Includes the categories of some college, no degree; and associate's degree.

<sup>6</sup>Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

<sup>7</sup>Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other re-

lated and unrelated children.

<sup>8</sup>Usually work 35 or more hours a week at all jobs.

<sup>9</sup>Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. Details for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Details will sum to greater than 100 percent because respondents could choose more than one activity.

**Table 6. Volunteers by how they became involved with main organization for which volunteer activities were performed and by selected characteristics, September 2002**

[Numbers in thousands]

| Characteristic   | Total volunteers | Percent distribution of how volunteers became involved with main organization <sup>1</sup> |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
|--|------------------|--|---|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|---|
|  |                  | Total  | Ap-<br>proached<br>the<br>organi-<br>zation | Was asked by— |                     |                                     |   |                 | Other | Not<br>reporting<br>how<br>involvement<br>came<br>about |
|  |                  |  |   | Total         | Boss or<br>employer | Relative,<br>friend, or<br>coworker | Someone<br>in the<br>organiza-<br>tion or<br>school | Someone<br>else |       |   |
| <b>Sex</b>   |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| Total, both sexes .....                                    | 59,163           | 100.0  | 40.1  | 43.0          | 1.5                 | 14.1                                | 25.8  | 1.4             | 14.9  | 2.1   |
| Men .....  | 24,514           | 100.0  | 39.3  | 43.8          | 1.5                 | 15.2                                | 25.5  | 1.3             | 14.8  | 2.0   |
| Women .....  | 34,649           | 100.0  | 40.6  | 42.3          | 1.4                 | 13.4                                | 26.0  | 1.4             | 14.9  | 2.2   |
| <b>Age</b>   |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| Total, 16 years and over .....                             | 59,163           | 100.0  | 40.1  | 43.0          | 1.5                 | 14.1                                | 25.8  | 1.4             | 14.9  | 2.1   |
| 16 to 24 years .....                                       | 7,860            | 100.0  | 40.7  | 40.2          | .9                  | 16.1                                | 20.8  | 2.1             | 16.2  | 2.9   |
| 16 to 19 years .....                                       | 4,346            | 100.0  | 40.6  | 39.6          | .2                  | 14.9                                | 21.8  | 2.5             | 16.7  | 3.1   |
| 20 to 24 years .....                                       | 3,515            | 100.0  | 40.9  | 40.8          | 1.9                 | 17.7                                | 19.6  | 1.6             | 15.6  | 2.7   |
| 25 years and over .....                                    | 51,303           | 100.0  | 40.0  | 43.4          | 1.6                 | 13.8                                | 26.6  | 1.3             | 14.7  | 2.0   |
| 25 to 34 years .....                                       | 9,279            | 100.0  | 38.1  | 44.1          | 3.0                 | 14.6                                | 25.0  | 1.4             | 15.6  | 2.2   |
| 35 to 44 years .....                                       | 15,089           | 100.0  | 39.8  | 44.0          | 1.6                 | 13.1                                | 27.9  | 1.2             | 14.4  | 1.8   |
| 45 to 54 years .....                                       | 12,296           | 100.0  | 39.7  | 43.7          | 1.4                 | 13.7                                | 27.1  | 1.2             | 14.7  | 2.0   |
| 55 to 64 years .....                                       | 7,146            | 100.0  | 40.6  | 43.3          | 1.2                 | 14.7                                | 26.0  | 1.1             | 14.2  | 1.9   |
| 65 years and over .....                                    | 7,492            | 100.0  | 42.6  | 40.8          | .3                  | 13.5                                | 25.5  | 1.5             | 14.4  | 2.1   |
| <b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>                            |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| White .....  | 52,164           | 100.0  | 40.0  | 43.3          | 1.5                 | 14.2                                | 26.0  | 1.3             | 14.7  | 2.0   |
| Black .....  | 4,987            | 100.0  | 40.5  | 42.1          | 1.3                 | 13.6                                | 25.1  | 2.0             | 14.7  | 2.8   |
| Hispanic origin .....                                      | 3,769            | 100.0  | 40.4  | 40.9          | 1.8                 | 12.9                                | 24.5  | 1.5             | 16.4  | 2.3   |
| <b>Educational attainment<sup>2</sup></b>                  |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| Less than a high school diploma ..                         | 2,734            | 100.0  | 39.2  | 45.2          | .6                  | 15.1                                | 27.6  | 1.7             | 13.7  | 1.9   |
| High school graduate, no college <sup>3</sup> ..           | 2,293            | 100.0  | 40.3  | 43.4          | 1.2                 | 14.7                                | 26.1  | 1.2             | 14.6  | 1.8   |
| Less than a bachelor's degree <sup>4</sup> .....           | 14,919           | 100.0  | 39.4  | 43.1          | 1.8                 | 13.8                                | 26.1  | 1.3             | 15.8  | 1.6   |
| College graduate .....                                     | 21,357           | 100.0  | 40.3  | 43.3          | 1.7                 | 13.1                                | 27.0  | 1.2             | 14.0  | 2.3   |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                      |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| Single, never married .....                                | 12,177           | 100.0  | 41.5  | 39.9          | 1.6                 | 16.2                                | 20.1  | 1.9             | 15.6  | 3.0   |
| Married, spouse present .....                              | 37,823           | 100.0  | 39.4  | 44.3          | 1.4                 | 13.3                                | 28.0  | 1.3             | 14.4  | 1.9   |
| Other marital status <sup>5</sup> .....                    | 9,163            | 100.0  | 41.0  | 41.6          | 1.4                 | 14.5                                | 24.3  | 1.2             | 15.8  | 1.6   |
| <b>Presence of own children under 18 years<sup>6</sup></b> |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| Men:   |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 15,143           | 100.0  | 40.0  | 42.9          | 1.4                 | 15.8                                | 24.0  | 1.5             | 14.9  | 2.2   |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 9,371            | 100.0  | 38.2  | 45.3          | 1.7                 | 14.2                                | 28.0  | 1.1             | 14.8  | 1.7   |
| Women:   |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| No own children under 18 years .....                       | 20,227           | 100.0  | 41.4  | 40.8          | 1.4                 | 15.1                                | 22.6  | 1.5             | 15.3  | 2.4   |
| With own children under 18 years .....                     | 14,421           | 100.0  | 39.5  | 44.5          | 1.5                 | 10.9                                | 30.8  | 1.3             | 14.2  | 1.8   |
| <b>Employment status</b>                                   |                  |  |   |               |                     |                                     |   |                 |       |   |
| Civilian labor force .....                                 | 42,396           | 100.0  | 39.2  | 43.7          | 1.9                 | 14.5                                | 25.7  | 1.4             | 15.1  | 2.0   |
| Employed .....   | 40,379           | 100.0  | 39.0  | 43.9          | 2.0                 | 14.5                                | 25.9  | 1.3             | 15.2  | 2.0   |
| Full time <sup>7</sup> .....                               | 31,910           | 100.0  | 38.3  | 44.6          | 2.3                 | 15.1                                | 25.9  | 1.2             | 15.2  | 1.9   |
| Part time <sup>8</sup> .....                               | 8,469            | 100.0  | 41.6  | 41.0          | .8                  | 12.3                                | 26.1  | 1.6             | 15.1  | 2.3   |
| Unemployed .....   | 2,016            | 100.0  | 43.3  | 40.7          | 1.6                 | 15.0                                | 21.6  | 2.3             | 14.3  | 1.7   |
| Not in the labor force .....                               | 16,767           | 100.0  | 42.4  | 41.1          | .3                  | 13.1                                | 26.1  | 1.4             | 14.2  | 2.4   |

<sup>1</sup>Main organization is defined as the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. (See the appendix for more details.)

<sup>2</sup>Data refer to persons 25 years and over.

<sup>3</sup>Includes high school diploma or equivalent.

<sup>4</sup>Includes the categories of some college, no degree and associate's degree.

<sup>5</sup>Includes divorced, separated, and widowed persons.

<sup>6</sup>Own children include sons, daughters, stepchildren, and adopted children. Not included are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related and

unrelated children.

<sup>7</sup>Usually work 35 or more hours a week at all jobs.

<sup>8</sup>Usually work less than 35 hours a week at all jobs.

NOTE: Data on volunteers relate to persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities for an organization at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. Details for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups.



their own initiative, approaching the organization for which they did volunteer work, and another 2 in 5 were asked to become a volunteer, most often by somebody in the organization. (See table 6.)

THE RESULTS FROM THE 2002 VOLUNTEER SUPPLEMENT show

that about 59 million people, or slightly more than 1 in 4 persons aged 16 years and over, volunteered in the year prior to September 2002. The propensity to volunteer varied by demographic and labor force characteristics. Future surveys will track changes in the number and characteristics of volunteers.<sup>4</sup> □

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that focuses on obtaining information on employment and unemployment among the Nation's civilian noninstitutional population aged 16 years and over. For a detailed discussion of the survey and its concepts, definitions, and methodology, see "Technical Notes to the Household Survey," published in *Employment and Earnings* and on the Internet at <http://stats.bls.gov/cps/cpseetn.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on volunteer work in the United States, see Richard B. Freeman, "Working for Nothing: The Supply of Volunteer

Labor," Working Paper 5435 (National Bureau of Economic Research, January 1996).

<sup>3</sup> For example, the Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 900 college and university presidents, seeks to encourage community service among students in higher education. (See the organization's mission statement on the Internet at <http://www.compact.org/aboutcc/>.)

<sup>4</sup> For more information on the September 2002 volunteer supplement, see the technical note to the December 2002 news release, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.tn.htm>.

## APPENDIX: Concepts and Definitions

*Volunteers* are persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities at any point from September 1, 2001, through the survey week in September 2002. The count of volunteers includes only persons who volunteered through or for an organization; the figures do not include persons who volunteered in a more informal manner. For example, a woman who teaches acting to children through a local theater would be considered a volunteer; by contrast, a woman who, on her own, organizes softball games for the children in her neighborhood would not be counted as a volunteer for the purpose of the survey.

*Organizations* are associations, societies, or groups of people who share a common interest. Examples are churches, youth groups, and civic organizations. For the purpose of this article, organizations are classified into eight major categories, including religious, youth, and social or community

service organizations. (See table 4.)

A volunteer's *main organization* is the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year. If a survey respondent volunteered for only one organization, that was considered the main organization, even if exact hours were not obtained.

In order to identify the type of main organization, respondents had to provide information about the organization and, for those who volunteered for more than one organization, annual hours worked for each. Some respondents did not provide the information necessary to determine the type of main organization. For these respondents, the followup questions on activities and how the individuals became involved with the main organization asked them to report on the organization for which they thought they spent the most time volunteering.