



## CIRCLE

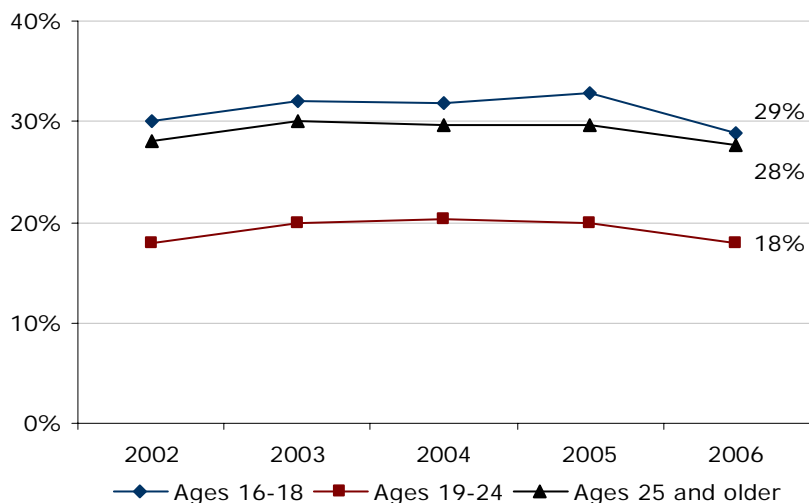
The Center for Information & Research on  
Civic Learning & Engagement

### Youth Volunteering in the States: 2002 to 2006

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Volunteer rates vary tremendously across states and age groups. In recent years, young people have exhibited rising volunteering rates, particularly high school students and college freshmen, but 2006 witnessed a drop in the volunteering rate among.<sup>2</sup> When comparing the volunteer rates for different age groups from 2002 to 2006, 16-18 year olds volunteer at consistently higher rates than their college-age peers, as found in previous literature.<sup>3</sup> Nationwide, the volunteer rate for 16-18 year olds was 30% in 2002 and 29% in 2006; in contrast, the rates for 19-24 year olds were 18% and 18%, respectively. Volunteer rates for the population aged 25 years and older also showed no change from 2002 to 2006 (28%).<sup>4</sup> The results found using the Current Population Survey (CPS) Volunteer Supplements are generally lower than other estimates of the volunteer rate for the population (both overall and among different age groups).<sup>5</sup> This fact sheet presents volunteer rates by state and age groups calculated using the CPS. The large size of the CPS allows a state-by-state comparison for different age groups, a feature rarely found in data sets on volunteering.

≡ Graph 1: National Volunteer Rate by Age



Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September Volunteer Supplements, 2002-2006

### ***State by State Volunteer Activity from 2002 to 2006***

The volunteer rate for 16-18 year olds varies by state and year, from a high of 47% to a low of 14% in 2006, as shown in Table 1, and from a high of 52% to a low of 16% in 2002, as shown in Table 5. This age group volunteered at the highest rates in 2005 in North Dakota (47%), Nebraska (45%), Vermont (45%), Washington (45%), and Alaska (44%). The top five states in 2002 were Montana (52%), Iowa (48%), Maryland (47%), Wisconsin (44%) and Alaska (43%). States displaying the lowest youth volunteer rates in 2005 were Nevada (14%), Georgia (20%), Oklahoma (20%), Louisiana (21%), and Colorado and New Jersey (22% each). In 2002, the bottom six states were Mississippi and the District of Columbia (16% each), Tennessee (17%), and Georgia, Nevada and Louisiana (19% each). The national volunteer rate for 16-18 year olds trended upward from 2002 to 2005, but fell from 30% in 2002 to 29% in 2006.

States' volunteer rates for college-age adults (19-24 year olds) were generally lower. For this group, the states displaying the highest volunteer rates in 2006 were Alaska (29%), Montana (29%), Utah (29%), Vermont (28%), and four states tied for 5<sup>th</sup> (27% each). In 2002, the top five were Utah (36%), Missouri (34%), the District of Columbia (31%), and Iowa and Nebraska (29% each). In 2006, the states with the lowest volunteer rate for this age group were Nevada (5%), New York (9%), Florida (10%), Georgia (10%), and New Mexico (10%). The bottom seven in 2002 were Massachusetts (11%), Nevada, Tennessee and Indiana (13% each), and Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina (14%). The national rate of volunteering for 19-24 year olds in 2006 was 18%, unchanged from 2002.

For those aged 25 years and older, 2006 volunteer rates ranged from 46% in Utah to 18% in Nevada. In 2002, the range remained the same with Utah leading volunteering at 49%, and New York, Florida and Nevada exhibiting the lowest rates at 22%. The range of the spectrum remained constant; similarly, the overall rate of volunteer activity in the population remained unchanged from 2002 to 2006 (28%).

### ***State by State Differences in Volunteer Activity across Age Groups***

Some states display large differences in volunteer activity across age groups, while other states have similar rates across age groups. This is especially true in the difference between 16-18 and 19-24 year olds. An interesting pattern emerged from the 2006 supplement data. Teenagers (aged 16-18) volunteer more, on average, than their 19-24 year old counterparts and the 25+ age group. Among young people, ages 19-24, no state had a volunteer rate of 30% or higher. Among 16-18 year olds, eight states had a volunteer rate of 40% or higher.

### ***Changes in Volunteer Activity within State Age Groups across Years***

From 2002 to 2006, a majority of states exhibited a decrease in volunteering rates among the population aged 16 to 18 year olds. Oregon had the largest decrease--16 percentage points. On the other hand, North Dakota had the largest increase—23 percentage points. When looking only to the older portion of the population, those aged 25 years and older the largest increase was 6 percentage points, found in Massachusetts.

Nationally, the 16-18 age group was down one percentage point and the 19-24 age group was unchanged from 2002 to 2006. But, volunteer rates for both groups were on the rise from 2002 to 2005. The recent drop in the volunteer rate in 2006 could mark the end of that upward trend or it could be the exception.

Some researchers credit the higher levels of volunteering for 16-18 year olds to school community service requirements. In 1999, 19 percent of students in high school reported that their schools required community service participation. An additional 67 percent reported that their schools arranged but did not require community service participation<sup>6</sup>. Maryland and the District of Columbia are the only states with a statewide community service requirement for public school students. In the District of Columbia, students are required to complete 100 hours of community service as part of public high school diploma requirements. In Maryland, students are required to perform 75 hours of community service before graduating from public high school, or to meet state-approved county-level standards. Currently, all Maryland counties have their own state-approved requirements in place<sup>7</sup>. Although most states do not have requirements, a growing number of districts have implemented them. The variation by school district makes it difficult to assess the impact of community service requirements on student volunteer activity. The CPS is not conducive to a study of district-level requirements due to sample size limitations.

Table 1 – Volunteering in 2006, by State

<i>State</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 16-18 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 19-24 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+</i>
Alabama	23%	18%	26%	5% points	-7% points
Alaska	44%	29%	40%	15% points	-7% points
Arizona	28%	13%	26%	15% points	-7% points
Arkansas	29%	24%	25%	5% points	1% point
California	29%	15%	24%	14% points	-5% points
Colorado	22%	26%	33%	-4% points	-8% points
Connecticut	35%	19%	31%	15% points	-6% points
Delaware	23%	14%	25%	9% points	-8% points
District of Columbia	24%	23%	32%	1% point	-9% points
Florida	23%	10%	19%	13% points	-4% points
Georgia	20%	10%	24%	10% points	-11% points
Hawaii	32%	21%	24%	11% points	1% point
Idaho	32%	22%	36%	10% points	-10% points
Illinois	28%	20%	29%	8% points	-6% points
Indiana	37%	16%	33%	21% points	-11% points
Iowa	40%	27%	38%	13% points	-7% points
Kansas	36%	18%	39%	18% points	-16% points
Kentucky	34%	26%	29%	8% points	-1% point
Louisiana	21%	14%	19%	6% points	-2% points
Maine	32%	16%	35%	16% points	-14% points
Maryland	34%	17%	28%	17% points	-6% points
Massachusetts	35%	14%	30%	21% points	-9% points
Michigan	37%	21%	32%	16% points	-4% points
Minnesota	43%	27%	41%	16% points	-8% points
Mississippi	28%	25%	22%	3% points	4% points
Missouri	36%	13%	32%	23% points	-12% points
Montana	37%	29%	39%	7% points	-7% points
Nebraska	45%	25%	42%	20% points	-11% points
Nevada	14%	5%	18%	10% points	-10% points
New Hampshire	33%	25%	32%	8% points	-4% points
New Jersey	22%	15%	24%	7% points	-6% points
New Mexico	23%	10%	27%	13% points	-12% points
New York	23%	9%	19%	14% points	-4% points
North Carolina	31%	15%	27%	16% points	-7% points
North Dakota	47%	19%	38%	28% points	-11% points
Ohio	30%	20%	31%	10% points	-8% points
Oklahoma	20%	25%	31%	-5% points	-8% points
Oregon	26%	27%	33%	-2% points	-7% points
Pennsylvania	31%	18%	28%	13% points	-6% points
Rhode Island	26%	20%	24%	6% points	-2% points
South Carolina	24%	23%	30%	1% point	-7% points
South Dakota	38%	26%	36%	12% points	-7% points
Tennessee	31%	21%	25%	11% points	-1% point
Texas	26%	20%	28%	6% points	-6% points
Utah	43%	29%	46%	15% points	-13% points
Vermont	45%	28%	36%	18% points	-2% points
Virginia	23%	24%	30%	-2% points	-6% points
Washington	45%	23%	34%	23% points	-4% points
West Virginia	31%	12%	27%	19% points	-8% points
Wisconsin	38%	25%	36%	13% points	-8% points
Wyoming	36%	27%	35%	9% points	-6% points
<b>National</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>11% points</b>	<b>-6% points</b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2006 Volunteer Supplement<sup>8</sup>. Differences found by subtracting the volunteer rate for the older group from that of the younger group, and rounding to the nearest whole number.

Table 2 – Volunteering in 2005, by State

<i>State</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 16-18 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 19-24 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+</i>
Alabama	38%	22%	33%	16% points	-6% points
Alaska	39%	23%	40%	16% points	-11% points
Arizona	28%	15%	27%	13% points	-7% points
Arkansas	24%	20%	25%	4% points	-4% points
California	31%	17%	28%	14% points	-6% points
Colorado	34%	26%	35%	8% points	-7% points
Connecticut	38%	28%	31%	10% points	1% point
Delaware	32%	15%	30%	17% points	-9% points
District of Columbia	12%	26%	35%	-14% points	-11% points
Florida	28%	14%	23%	14% points	-4% points
Georgia	27%	20%	27%	7% points	-5% points
Hawaii	33%	19%	25%	14% points	-1% point
Idaho	36%	25%	35%	11% points	-7% points
Illinois	33%	19%	31%	14% points	-7% points
Indiana	34%	22%	30%	12% points	-4% points
Iowa	44%	21%	41%	23% points	-13% points
Kansas	39%	24%	40%	15% points	-11% points
Kentucky	44%	19%	32%	25% points	-4% points
Louisiana	22%	20%	23%	2% points	-2% points
Maine	40%	24%	34%	16% points	-4% points
Maryland	39%	23%	31%	16% points	-3% points
Massachusetts	27%	16%	28%	11% points	-8% points
Michigan	43%	24%	33%	19% points	-2% points
Minnesota	44%	33%	42%	11% points	-5% points
Mississippi	25%	20%	24%	5% points	-2% points
Missouri	27%	22%	33%	5% points	-9% points
Montana	35%	32%	39%	3% points	-6% points
Nebraska	41%	27%	45%	14% points	-14% points
Nevada	14%	11%	20%	3% points	-8% points
New Hampshire	34%	21%	33%	13% points	-8% points
New Jersey	30%	16%	28%	14% points	-6% points
New Mexico	21%	13%	30%	8% points	-14% points
New York	29%	16%	21%	13% points	0% points
North Carolina	24%	24%	31%	0% points	-7% points
North Dakota	48%	19%	38%	29% points	-11% points
Ohio	36%	21%	32%	15% points	-6% points
Oklahoma	33%	30%	33%	3% points	-2% points
Oregon	36%	25%	35%	11% points	-5% points
Pennsylvania	36%	17%	30%	19% points	-6% points
Rhode Island	39%	18%	27%	21% points	-3% points
South Carolina	28%	19%	29%	9% points	-6% points
South Dakota	34%	22%	42%	12% points	-17% points
Tennessee	25%	21%	28%	4% points	-6% points
Texas	27%	20%	30%	7% points	-7% points
Utah	46%	34%	49%	12% points	-11% points
Vermont	44%	28%	41%	16% points	-6% points
Virginia	34%	18%	31%	16% points	-7% points
Washington	52%	24%	36%	28% points	0% points
West Virginia	34%	16%	27%	18% points	-5% points
Wisconsin	59%	27%	39%	32% points	-2% points
Wyoming	59%	32%	37%	27% points	3% points
<b><i>National</i></b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>3% points</b>	<b>-6% points</b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2005 Volunteer Supplement<sup>9</sup>. Differences found by subtracting the volunteer rate for the older group from that of the younger group, and rounding to the nearest whole number.

**Table 3 – Volunteering in 2004, by State**

<i>State</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 16-18 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 19-24 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+</i>
Alabama	26%	19%	29%	7% points	-8% points
Alaska	47%	24%	40%	23% points	-7% points
Arizona	25%	18%	26%	7% points	-6% points
Arkansas	32%	18%	25%	14% points	-3% points
California	30%	19%	27%	11% points	-4% points
Colorado	35%	21%	33%	14% points	-8% points
Connecticut	41%	24%	31%	17% points	0% points
Delaware	33%	18%	27%	15% points	-4% points
District of Columbia	37%	22%	30%	15% points	-4% points
Florida	26%	15%	26%	11% points	-7% points
Georgia	23%	21%	26%	2% points	-5% points
Hawaii	42%	23%	27%	19% points	1% points
Idaho	38%	30%	38%	8% points	-6% points
Illinois	27%	20%	30%	7% points	-7% points
Indiana	42%	19%	28%	23% points	0% points
Iowa	50%	26%	40%	24% points	-7% points
Kansas	48%	19%	43%	29% points	-14% points
Kentucky	32%	18%	30%	14% points	-7% points
Louisiana	23%	15%	23%	8% points	-5% points
Maine	37%	15%	34%	22% points	-10% points
Maryland	39%	18%	31%	21% points	-6% points
Massachusetts	29%	13%	30%	16% points	-11% points
Michigan	35%	27%	33%	8% points	-3% points
Minnesota	28%	28%	43%	0% points	-11% points
Mississippi	13%	24%	28%	-11% points	-9% points
Missouri	37%	32%	34%	5% points	0% points
Montana	33%	18%	40%	15% points	-15% points
Nebraska	56%	23%	47%	33% points	-14% points
Nevada	18%	10%	18%	8% points	-5% points
New Hampshire	39%	22%	34%	17% points	-5% points
New Jersey	26%	19%	27%	7% points	-6% points
New Mexico	24%	27%	32%	-3% points	-6% points
New York	24%	16%	22%	8% points	-4% points
North Carolina	33%	23%	33%	10% points	-7% points
North Dakota	36%	20%	36%	16% points	-11% points
Ohio	34%	24%	31%	10% points	-3% points
Oklahoma	30%	22%	31%	8% points	-6% points
Oregon	32%	17%	36%	15% points	-14% points
Pennsylvania	37%	23%	33%	14% points	-5% points
Rhode Island	28%	15%	26%	13% points	-7% points
South Carolina	42%	19%	29%	23% points	-2% points
South Dakota	29%	29%	39%	0% points	-10% points
Tennessee	29%	15%	25%	14% points	-6% points
Texas	34%	17%	30%	17% points	-8% points
Utah	49%	45%	48%	4% points	-2% points
Vermont	47%	30%	36%	17% points	0% points
Virginia	20%	16%	29%	4% points	-12% points
Washington	47%	31%	37%	16% points	0% points
West Virginia	33%	14%	24%	19% points	-3% points
Wisconsin	42%	28%	37%	14% points	-5% points
Wyoming	42%	30%	41%	12% points	-7% points
<b>National</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2% points</b>	<b>-6% points</b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2004 Volunteer Supplement<sup>10</sup>. Differences found by subtracting the volunteer rate for the older group from that of the younger group, and rounding to the nearest whole number.

Table 4 – Volunteering in 2003, by State

<i>State</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 16-18 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 19-24 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+</i>
Alabama	23%	24%	28%	-1% point	-4% points
Alaska	36%	25%	42%	11% points	-12% points
Arizona	26%	14%	25%	12% points	-8% points
Arkansas	32%	17%	29%	16% points	-7% points
California	29%	17%	26%	12% points	-5% points
Colorado	40%	24%	34%	16% points	-5% points
Connecticut	42%	19%	31%	23% points	-2% points
Delaware	18%	13%	27%	5% points	-12% points
District of Columbia	20%	28%	30%	-8% points	-4% points
Florida	31%	19%	25%	12% points	-2% points
Georgia	22%	23%	27%	-1% point	-5% points
Hawaii	29%	13%	26%	16% points	-7% points
Idaho	38%	29%	37%	9% points	-5% points
Illinois	31%	21%	32%	10% points	-7% points
Indiana	37%	19%	32%	18% points	-6% points
Iowa	45%	18%	42%	27% points	-14% points
Kansas	44%	23%	38%	21% points	-7% points
Kentucky	31%	17%	30%	14% points	-8% points
Louisiana	25%	11%	25%	14% points	-9% points
Maine	44%	15%	35%	29% points	-9% points
Maryland	38%	18%	31%	20% points	-6% points
Massachusetts	21%	19%	27%	2% points	-7% points
Michigan	28%	23%	32%	5% points	-8% points
Minnesota	34%	29%	42%	4% points	-12% points
Mississippi	29%	29%	29%	-1% point	0% points
Missouri	29%	24%	31%	5% points	-5% points
Montana	41%	26%	40%	16% points	-9% points
Nebraska	52%	24%	44%	28% points	-12% points
Nevada	23%	22%	21%	1% points	2% points
New Hampshire	37%	22%	32%	15% points	-3% points
New Jersey	36%	19%	28%	17% points	-3% points
New Mexico	38%	17%	27%	21% points	-3% points
New York	29%	13%	23%	16% points	-4% points
North Carolina	23%	17%	27%	6% points	-8% points
North Dakota	45%	19%	42%	26% points	-13 points %
Ohio	40%	20%	32%	20% points	-5% points
Oklahoma	25%	22%	29%	4% points	-6% points
Oregon	33%	31%	33%	1% point	-2% points
Pennsylvania	39%	19%	32%	19% points	-5% points
Rhode Island	19%	12%	24%	7% points	-9% points
South Carolina	32%	17%	28%	15% points	-5% points
South Dakota	41%	28%	41%	13% points	-10% points
Tennessee	28%	16%	28%	13% points	-8% points
Texas	33%	18%	29%	15% points	-6% points
Utah	54%	50%	49%	3% points	2% points
Vermont	36%	25%	40%	12% points	-10% points
Virginia	32%	17%	32%	15% points	-8% points
Washington	39%	31%	38%	9% points	-4% points
West Virginia	35%	18%	24%	17% points	1% point
Wisconsin	39%	21%	38%	17% points	-11% points
Wyoming	53%	25%	39%	28% points	-1% point
<b><i>National</i></b>	<b><i>32%</i></b>	<b><i>20%</i></b>	<b><i>30%</i></b>	<b><i>12% points</i></b>	<b><i>- 6% points</i></b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2003 Volunteer Supplement<sup>11</sup>. Differences found by subtracting the volunteer rate for the older group from that of the younger group, and rounding to the nearest whole number.

Table 5 – Volunteering in 2002, by State

<i>State</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 16-18 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 19-24 year olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24</i>	<i>Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+</i>
Alabama	26%	23%	30%	3% points	-6% points
Alaska	43%	24%	37%	19% points	-4% points
Arizona	24%	17%	24%	6% points	-4% points
Arkansas	27%	18%	30%	9% points	-9% points
California	30%	15%	25%	15% points	-5% points
Colorado	33%	21%	30%	12% points	-5% points
Connecticut	34%	15%	30%	19% points	-6% points
Delaware	28%	17%	29%	11% points	-8% points
District of Columbia	16%	31%	27%	-15% points	0% points
Florida	28%	19%	22%	9% points	0% points
Georgia	19%	14%	23%	5% points	-8% points
Hawaii	34%	15%	28%	19% points	-5% points
Idaho	39%	24%	37%	15% points	-8% points
Illinois	26%	18%	29%	8% points	-9% points
Indiana	25%	13%	31%	12% points	-14% points
Iowa	48%	29%	41%	19% points	-5% points
Kansas	37%	21%	38%	16% points	-11% points
Kentucky	34%	20%	30%	14% points	-6% points
Louisiana	19%	14%	24%	5% points	-8% points
Maine	36%	20%	32%	17% points	-6% points
Maryland	47%	16%	33%	31% points	-5% points
Massachusetts	29%	11%	24%	18% points	-5% points
Michigan	41%	20%	32%	21% points	-4% points
Minnesota	29%	23%	41%	6% points	-16% points
Mississippi	16%	24%	26%	-8% points	-4% points
Missouri	33%	34%	31%	-1% point	3% points
Montana	52%	28%	37%	23% points	1% point
Nebraska	35%	29%	41%	6% points	-10% points
Nevada	19%	13%	22%	6% points	-8% points
New Hampshire	35%	25%	30%	11% points	-2% points
New Jersey	26%	15%	27%	11% points	-8% points
New Mexico	30%	19%	28%	10% points	-6% points
New York	27%	15%	22%	13% points	-2% points
North Carolina	24%	14%	27%	10% points	-9% points
North Dakota	24%	19%	37%	5% points	-16% points
Ohio	26%	20%	31%	6% points	-9% points
Oklahoma	22%	21%	30%	2% points	-9% points
Oregon	41%	19%	33%	22% points	-5% points
Pennsylvania	33%	17%	31%	16% points	-9% points
Rhode Island	29%	15%	23%	13% points	-3% points
South Carolina	26%	15%	30%	10% points	-11% points
South Dakota	24%	26%	40%	-1% point	-15% points
Tennessee	17%	13%	23%	3% points	-9% points
Texas	33%	16%	29%	18% points	-8% points
Utah	39%	36%	49%	3% points	-12% points
Vermont	34%	22%	36%	12% points	-10% points
Virginia	21%	20%	29%	2% points	-9% points
Washington	32%	19%	34%	13% points	-12% points
West Virginia	37%	21%	26%	16% points	1% point
Wisconsin	44%	19%	37%	25% points	-9% points
Wyoming	27%	25%	38%	2% points	-13% points
<b><i>National</i></b>	<b><i>30%</i></b>	<b><i>18%</i></b>	<b><i>28%</i></b>	<b><i>12% points</i></b>	<b><i>-7% points</i></b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2002 Volunteer Supplement<sup>12</sup>. Differences found by subtracting the volunteer rate for the older group from that of the younger group, and rounding to the nearest whole number.



**Table 6 – Change in Volunteer Rate by State From 2002 to 2006**

<i>State</i>	<i>Change in Volunteer Rate Among 16-18 year olds</i>	<i>Change in Volunteer Rate Among 19-24 year olds</i>	<i>Change in Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+</i>
Alabama	-3% points	-5% points	-4% points
Alaska	1% point	5% points	3% points
Arizona	4% points	-4% points	2% points
Arkansas	2% points	6% points	-5% points
California	-1% point	0% points	-1% point
Colorado	-11% points	5% points	3% points
Connecticut	1% point	4% points	1% point
Delaware	-5% points	-3% points	-4% points
District of Columbia	8% points	-8% points	5% points
Florida	-5% points	-9% points	-3% points
Georgia	1% point	-4% points	1% point
Hawaii	-2% points	6% points	-4% points
Idaho	-7% points	-2% points	-1% point
Illinois	2% points	2% points	0% points
Indiana	12% points	3% points	2% points
Iowa	-9% points	-3% points	-4% points
Kansas	-2% points	-3% points	1% point
Kentucky	0% points	6% points	-1% point
Louisiana	2% points	0% points	-5% points
Maine	-4% points	-4% points	3% points
Maryland	-13% points	1% point	-5% points
Massachusetts	6% points	3% points	6% points
Michigan	-4% points	1% point	0% points
Minnesota	14% points	4% points	0% points
Mississippi	12% points	1% point	-4% points
Missouri	3% points	-21% points	1% point
Montana	-15% points	1% point	2% points
Nebraska	10% points	-4% points	1% point
Nevada	-5% points	-8% points	-4% points
New Hampshire	-2% points	0% points	2% points
New Jersey	-4% points	0% points	-3% points
New Mexico	-7% points	-9% points	-1% point
New York	-4% points	-6% points	-3% points
North Carolina	7% points	1% point	0% points
North Dakota	23% points	0% points	1% point
Ohio	4% points	0% points	0% points
Oklahoma	-3% points	4% points	1% point
Oregon	-16% points	8% points	0% points
Pennsylvania	-2% points	1% point	-3% points
Rhode Island	-3% points	5% points	1% point
South Carolina	-2% points	8% points	0% points
South Dakota	14% points	0% points	-4% points
Tennessee	14% points	8% points	2% points
Texas	-7% points	4% points	-2% points
Utah	4% points	-7% points	-3% points
Vermont	11% points	6% points	0% points
Virginia	2% points	4% points	1% point
Washington	13% points	4% points	0% points
West Virginia	-6% points	-9% points	1% point
Wisconsin	-6% points	6% points	-1% point
Wyoming	9% points	2% points	-3% points
<b>National</b>	-1% point	0% points	0% points

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September Volunteer Supplement.<sup>13</sup>  
Differences found by subtracting 2002 estimates from the 2006 estimates and rounding to the nearest whole number.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Sincere thanks to Mark Hugo Lopez, Peter Levine, and Emily Hoban Kirby for their helpful comments on earlier drafts. All remaining errors in fact or interpretation are our own.

<sup>2</sup> See "Volunteering Among Young People" by Mark Hugo Lopez and Karlo Barrios Marcelo, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement.

<sup>3</sup> For example, see the *Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Generational Portrait*, by Scott Keeter, Cliff Zukin, Molly Andolina, and Krista Jenkins, September 2002, available through the CIRCLE website.

<sup>4</sup> Our volunteer numbers are based on the 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 United States Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) September Volunteer Supplements. For each survey, approximately 56,000 households (about 95,000 individuals) were interviewed. Since employment information is asked only of those respondents age 16 and older, we dropped 15 year olds from my data. All data are publicly available, and all programs used to generate these data are available upon request.

Following the 2000 Census, CPS updated its population controls and weights. The 2003 September Supplement used the updated weights. In order to use the 2002 CPS data we had to incorporate the revised weights into the existing data file. Special thanks to Ken Robertson at the Bureau of Labor Statistics for his helpful assistance regarding the re-weighting of the CPS 2002 file. Weights are adjusted for population totals for various race and geographic groups, and for missing data due to individuals' failure to respond to the survey. For further discussion of the weights, see Technical Paper 63RV, Current Population Survey Design and Methodology, US Census Bureau and US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2002 (<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf>). For more information on the September Supplements for 2002 and 2003, see the Current Population Survey September Volunteer Supplement File: Technical Documentation, CPS-02 and CPS-03 (2002: <http://www.nber.org/cps/cpssep02.pdf>; 2003: <http://www.nber.org/cps/cpssep03.pdf>).

<sup>5</sup> See (2) above for a full discussion of factors causing variation in estimates of volunteer activity. A problem considered in this paper is the possibility that the interviews of college-age students in the CPS may be answered by a proxy (e.g., the individual's parent) since the individual has a high likelihood of not being in the house for an interview. In fact, upon examining the data, younger individuals are more likely to be recorded through proxy interviews than older participants in the CPS. Below are the unweighted percent of self-reports (that is, not proxy interviews) by age for the 2002 and 2003 CPS supplements.

**Table 4: Percent of individuals in age-year group that were self interviews**

Year/ Age	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25+
2002	45%	46%	46%	44%	46%	52%	54%	62%	66%	71%	77%
2003	43%	45%	45%	43%	47%	53%	53%	58%	66%	68%	77%
2004	38%	40%	39%	37%	43%	48%	52%	57%	64%	66%	75%
2005	36%	39%	39%	37%	40%	45%	48%	56%	62%	66%	74%
2006	34%	35%	35%	36%	41%	45%	52%	53%	62%	63%	73%

Source: Current Population Survey September Volunteer Supplement, 2002 - 2006.

The numbers reflect the percent of completed interviews that were self interviews. Weights were not used in these calculations.

It may be that the proxy answering for younger respondents (those 15-23 years old) will inaccurately report volunteering for the absent individual, underestimating true involvement in volunteer activity for that age group.

<sup>6</sup> See Niemi, Richard and Chapman, Chris (1999). *The Civic Development of 9th - Through 12th-Grade Students in the United States: 1996 and 1999*, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/2000028.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, see <http://www.mssa.sailorsite.net/require.html>.

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<sup>8</sup> In order to calculate the volunteer rate, we used all individuals who responded to the September Supplement. Individuals are considered volunteers if they performed unpaid work through or for an organization from September 1 of the previous year through the survey week of the relevant year. We divided the weighted number of individuals classified as volunteers by the weighted number of individuals asked the September Supplement. That is,

$$\text{Volunteer Rate} = \frac{\text{[weighted \# of volunteers]}}{\text{[weighted \# of noninstitutionalized civilians interviewed]}} \text{See (iv) above.}$$

All calculations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>9</sup> In order to calculate the volunteer rate, we used all individuals who responded to the September Supplement. Individuals are considered volunteers if they performed unpaid work through or for an organization from September 1 of the previous year through the survey week of the relevant year. We divided the weighted number of individuals classified as volunteers by the weighted number of individuals asked the September Supplement. That is,

$$\text{Volunteer Rate} = \frac{\text{[weighted \# of volunteers]}}{\text{[weighted \# of noninstitutionalized civilians interviewed]}} \text{See (iv) above.}$$

All calculations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>10</sup> See (9) above.

<sup>11</sup> See (9) above.

<sup>12</sup> See (9) above.

<sup>13</sup> See (9) above.