

The role of seniors

Seniors, defined as Canadians aged 65 and older, accounted for a large portion of all charitable giving and volunteering in Canada, contributing 17% of the value of all donations, and 17% of all volunteer hours, according to the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP).¹

Giving: How many? How much?

Seventy-seven percent of Canadian seniors made direct financial donations to charities in 2000, contributing a total of \$854 million. They also made an average annual donation of \$308. This is down from 1997 when 80% of seniors made financial donations to charities, contributing a total of \$925 million.²

Differences by age

Seniors aged 75 years and older were less likely than those aged 65 to 74 to make donations, but they contributed more money, on average. Eight out of ten (80%) 65-74 year olds made charitable donations, compared to 72% of those aged 75 and older. Seniors aged 65-74 years made an average annual donation of \$294, compared to \$330 for those aged 75 and older.

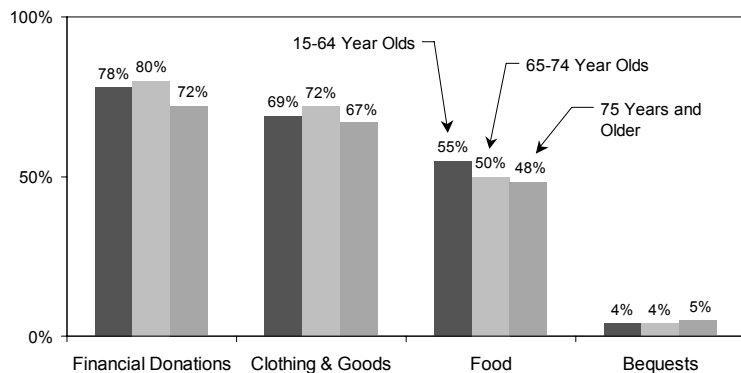
Where the money goes

Seniors gave 9% more of their donations to religious organizations than did their younger counterparts (56% vs. 47%). Overall, donors aged 65 and older gave \$481 million to religious organizations, \$178 million to health organizations, and \$69 million to social services organizations.

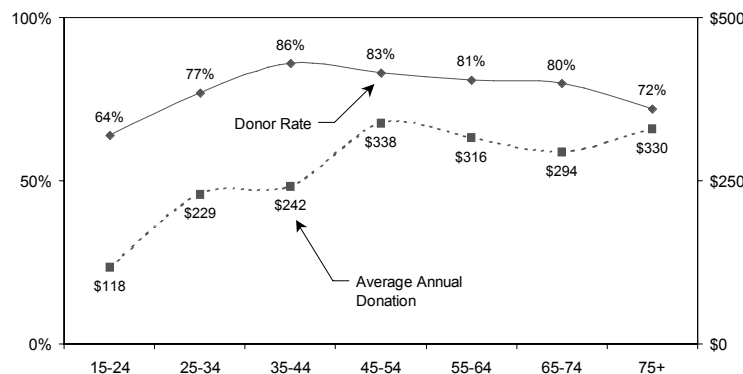
¹ NSGVP estimates are based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over a one-year period by Canadians aged 15 and older.

² 1997 figures are from the 1997 NSGVP, which is based on reports of charitable giving and volunteering over a one-year period by Canadians aged 15 and older.

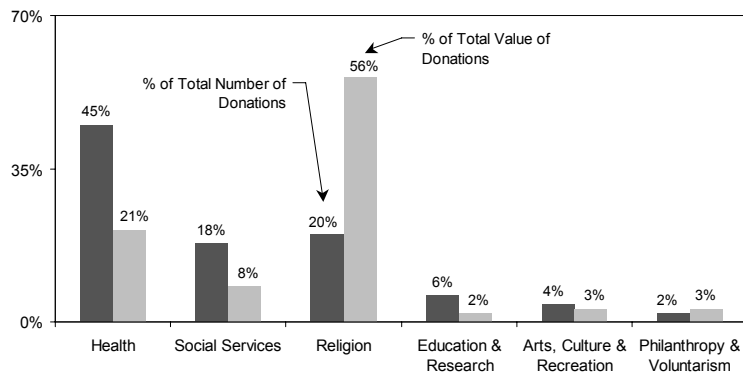
Percentage of Population Making Donations by Type of Donation and Age



Donor Rate and Average Annual Donation by Age



Percentage of Donations and Percentage of the Total Value Donations by Organization, 65 Years and Older



Volunteering: How many? How much?

Eighteen percent of seniors volunteered for a charity or nonprofit in 2000, compared to 27% for all age groups, and down from 23% in 1997.

Seniors volunteered a total of 179 million hours in 2000, up from 161 million hours in 1997.

Differences by age

Canadians aged 75 and older were less likely to volunteer than were 65-74 year olds (15% vs. 21%), and they contributed fewer hours on average (265 hours vs. 272 hours).

What volunteers do and where they volunteer

Forty-seven percent of volunteers aged 65 and over organized and/or supervised events, compared to 58% of 15-64 year old volunteers.³

Thirty-six percent provided care or support, including individual counselling, compared to 25% of volunteers aged 15-64.

The majority of volunteering by seniors occurred in three types of organizations:

- Arts, culture, and recreation organizations (25% of total seniors volunteer hours)
- Social services organizations (24% of total hours)
- Religious organizations (18% of total hours).

Barriers to volunteering

Top reasons volunteers aged 65 and over don't volunteer more:

- Already made a contribution to volunteering (50%)
- No extra time (49%)
- Health problems (39%).

Top reasons non-volunteers aged 65 and over don't volunteer:

- Health problems (58%)
- Give money instead of time (45%)
- Already made a contribution to volunteering (43%).

³ Percentages do not add up to 100% because many volunteers engaged in more than one type of activity.

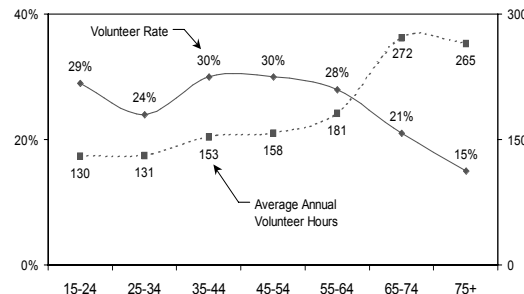
For more information on the 1997 and 2000 National Survey for Giving, Volunteering and Participating, including full text of the highlight report, *Caring Canadians*, *Involved Canadians*, please visit www.givingandvolunteering.ca.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our funder, Canadian Heritage, for the production of this fact sheet.

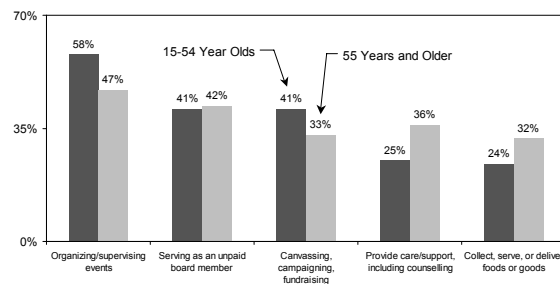
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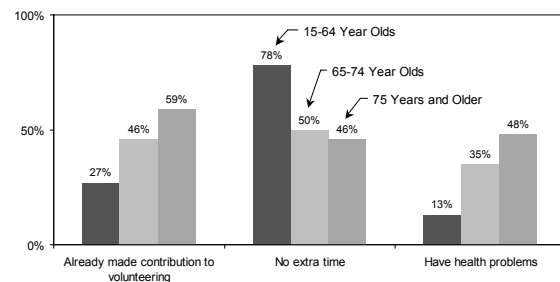
Volunteer Rate and Average Hours Volunteered



Volunteer Activities by Age



Barriers to Volunteering More by Age



Barriers to Volunteering by Age

