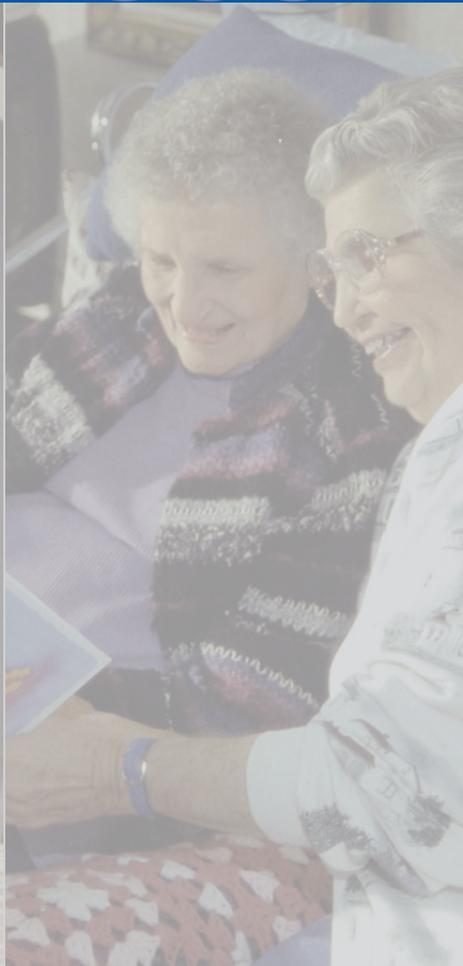


# Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings

## 2002-2005



Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 



# *Message from Chief Executive Officer*

As the echoes of the September 11 attacks were ringing in our ears, President Bush issued his call to service in early 2002. Between then and the devastation of Hurricane Katrina four years later, Americans increased their volunteer activities in their communities significantly, from 59.5 million Americans volunteering in 2002 to 65.4 million in 2005.

This upward trend in volunteering represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to tap into Americans' ingenuity, civic mindedness and generosity to build powerful new solutions to old problems in our communities. America needs more mentors saving our children and our country from generations of hopelessness, poverty and prison. We need more people caring for frail elderly, keeping them independent, healthy and out of institutions and despair. We need more college students reaching back into their communities to help other high school students succeed and follow them into college. In short, American communities need more volunteers – and we need them doing meaningful work that solves significant challenges.

Although the Corporation is a Federal agency, we long ago realized that the most important work toward building momentum around service actually happens at the state and local levels. That is why we have a strong network of field offices supporting every state, and led by State Office Directors. That is why we fund a State Service Commission in every state and require its members to be appointed by that state's Governor. And, that is why we place such a high priority on supporting volunteer centers and other volunteer infrastructure and networks serving cities and states.

This summary report, *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*, represents an important milestone in building service and volunteering momentum at the state level. Using first-time-available data funded by the Corporation and collected by the Census Bureau, the summary report presents an overview of volunteering at the national level and displays state rankings on important indicators, such as volunteering rate and intensity, young adult and college student volunteering rates, and volunteering among seniors. The full report includes a two-page profile for each state and the District of Columbia, and displays information on the number of people volunteering, the volunteering rate, the number of hours volunteered, the primary organizations at which volunteers perform work, and the types of activities volunteers perform in each state. This is the first time that this level of detailed information on volunteering has been published for each state.

Together with our partners, including volunteer and service-driven organizations across the country, we are committed to working toward a national goal of expanding the number of Americans who volunteer from 65.4 million to 75 million Americans by 2010. We hope his report will be a powerful tool to assist states and communities develop a strategy to increase the level of individual engagement in volunteer activities and build the infrastructure of nonprofits and communities to support more volunteer opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eisner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Eisner".

David Eisner

# *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*

## *A Summary*

### **OVERVIEW**

This summary report, *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*, displays an overview of volunteering at the national level and the state rankings on indicators such as volunteering rate and intensity, volunteering among seniors, and volunteering among college students and young adults. The full report, available at [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org), provides an overview of volunteering at both the national and regional level and presents state rankings on various volunteering indicators. The full report also contains two-page state profiles for each state and the District of Columbia and displays detailed volunteering information never before reported at the state level. These state profiles include information on the number of people volunteering, the volunteering rate, the number of hours volunteered, the pri-

mary organizations at which volunteers perform work, and the types of activities volunteers perform in each state.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Corporation for National and Community Service, with a mission to *Improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering*, is a United States government agency established in 1993 to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community service. Corporation programs provide valuable assistance to local nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, charities, and schools by engaging members and volunteers in education programs, tutoring or mentoring at-risk youth, building homes for low-income people, protecting the environment, responding to disasters, recruiting and managing community

volunteers, and building the capacity of local organizations. The Corporation is working with the USA Freedom Corps to promote a national culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility.

Data in the report were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) within the U.S. Department of Labor. At the request of USA Freedom Corps and through the support of the Corporation, the BLS, through the U.S. Census Bureau, has included a “volunteering” supplement in its Current Population Survey (CPS) since 2002. The CPS is a state-based survey administered to approximately 60,000 households nationwide to gather information on employment among the nation’s civilian noninstitutionalized population, age 16 or older. CPS data also include demographic characteristics such as age, sex, race, marital status, and educational attainment.

## NATIONAL PROFILE

The national profile that follows provides readers an opportunity to examine volunteering at the National level. In this profile, we present a number of key findings on volunteering in the nation, including the numbers of volunteers and the volunteering rates for each of the past four years, 2002–2005. In addition, we present, for 2005, volunteer rates according to demographic characteristics, the distribution of hours volunteered, the types of main organizations at which volunteer activities were performed, and the most common activities performed by volunteers. These data are

presented through a series of graphics, a table, and bulleted findings.

## STATE RANKINGS OF VOLUNTEERING

This state rankings section contains six maps of the United States. Each map presents a single volunteering measure in different shades of the same color. The shades correspond to each state’s rank on the particular volunteering measure reported, the darker the shade, the higher the state’s ranking. On the opposite page of each map, we also present a table displaying each state along with its rate and ranking for the corresponding volunteering measure. States are listed in order of the highest rate to the lowest rate in each of these tables. In order to increase the reliability of the estimates and ensure more accurate comparisons across states for each of these measures, we used a combined three year data file (2003 to 2005). While using three years of data increases the reliability of the estimates, caution should still be used when interpreting state rankings as differences between some rankings may not be statistically significant.

1. **Volunteering Rates by State.** This map provides an overview of the volunteering rates across the states from 2003 to 2005
2. **Volunteering Intensity by State.** This map provides an overview of median hours volunteered annually across the states from 2003 to 2005. Half of the volunteers in a

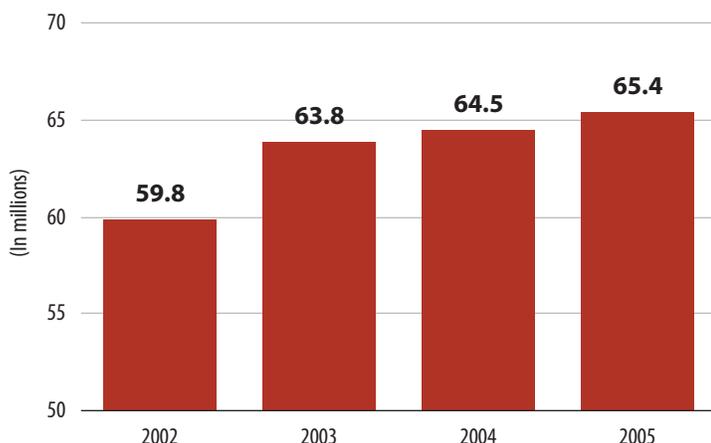
state contribute more than the median, and half contribute less.

3. **Senior Volunteering Rates by State.** This map provides an overview of the volunteering rates among persons aged 65 years or older across the states from 2003 to 2005.
4. **Baby Boomer Volunteering Rates by State.** This map provides an overview of the volunteering rates among Baby Boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, across the states from 2003 to 2005.
5. **Young adult Volunteering Rates by State.** This map provides an overview of the volunteering rates among persons aged 16 to 24 years across the states from 2003 to 2005.
6. **College Student Volunteering Rates by State.** This map provides an overview of the volunteering rates among college students across the states from 2003 to 2005.

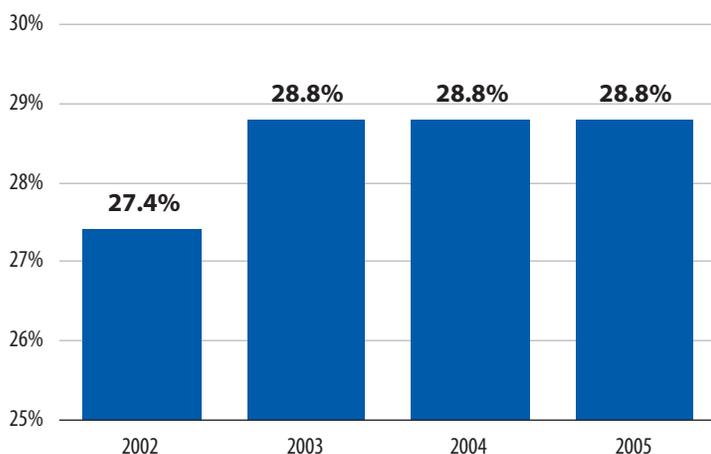


# United States

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE U.S.



## U.S. VOLUNTEERING RATE



## TRENDS AND HIGHLIGHTS

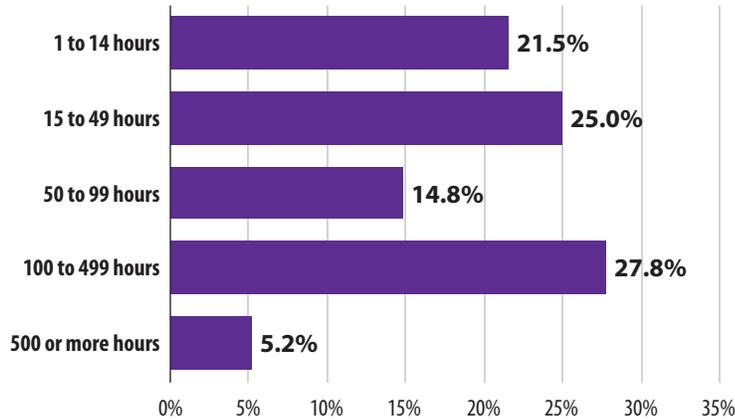
- Slightly more than 65 million people volunteered in the U.S. during 2005. From 2002 to 2005, the number of volunteers increased by about 5.6 million persons.
- While the number of volunteers has increased each year, the volunteering rate, after increasing from 2002 to 2003, has remained at a constant rate of 28.8% from 2003 to 2005.
- In 2005, women volunteered at a higher rate than men and married persons had a higher volunteering rate than non-married persons. This trend was true in every region and state.
- In 2005, persons 35 to 44 years old were the most likely age group to volunteer (34.5%). This is consistent with the trend observed in most cases among regions and states.

For more information, including detailed national-level volunteering tables for 2002–2005, go to [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

## U.S. VOLUNTEERING RATES AND ANNUAL HOURS PER TYPICAL VOLUNTEER, 2005

BY GENDER			BY RACE/ETHNICITY			BY AGE		
	Hours	Rate		Hours	Rate		Hours	Rate
Male:	52	25.0%	White:	50	30.4%	16 to 24 years:	36	24.4%
Female:	50	32.4%	Non-White:	50	22.0%	25 to 34 years:	36	25.3%
BY MARITAL STATUS			Black:	52	22.1%	35 to 44 years:	48	34.5%
Married:	52	34.1%	Asian:	40	20.7%	45 to 54 years:	50	32.7%
Other:	44	23.1%	Other:	50	23.7%	55 to 64 years:	56	30.2%
NATION	50	28.8%	Hispanic:	40	15.4%	65 years and over:	96	24.8%

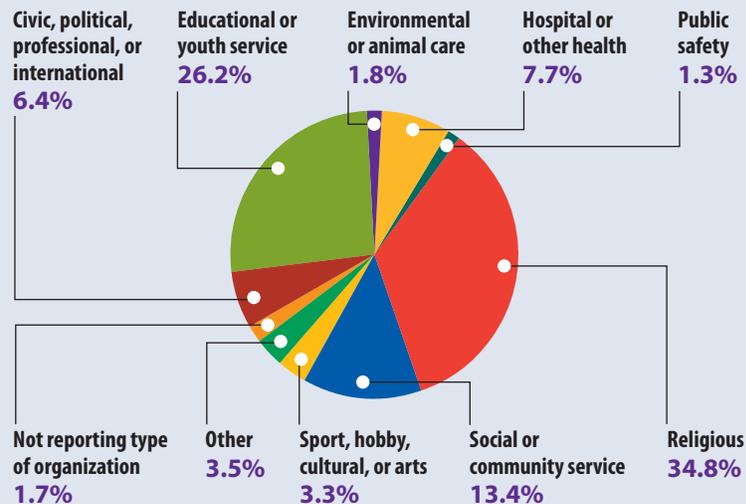
## HOW MUCH TIME DO PEOPLE IN THE U.S. SPEND VOLUNTEERING? \*



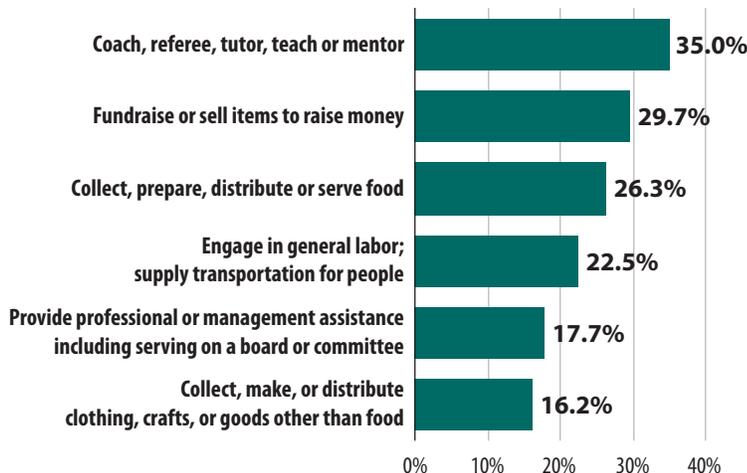
- In 2005, volunteers in the U.S. spent a median of 50 hours on volunteer activities.
- The largest group of volunteers reported contributing between 100 and 499 hours (27.8%), followed closely by those who donated between 15 and 49 hours (25.0%).

## WHERE DO PEOPLE IN THE U.S. VOLUNTEER? \*

- The greatest percentage of volunteers in the U.S. volunteered primarily through religious organizations (34.8%).
- Over a quarter of volunteers donated time to educational or youth service organizations and approximately 13.4% of volunteers donated time to social or community service organizations.



## WHAT ACTIVITIES DO U.S. VOLUNTEERS PERFORM? \* †



- Over one-third of volunteers reported coaching, refereeing, tutoring, teaching, or mentoring.
- Fundraising or selling items to raise money was the second most popular volunteer activity, performed by nearly 30% of volunteers.
- The third most common activity performed was collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food (26.3%).

\*Percents are based on 2005 data.

†The program activities data is not cumulative. Collectively it is more than 100% because an individual might perform more than one type of volunteering activity.



## STATE RANKINGS: VOLUNTEERING RATE\*

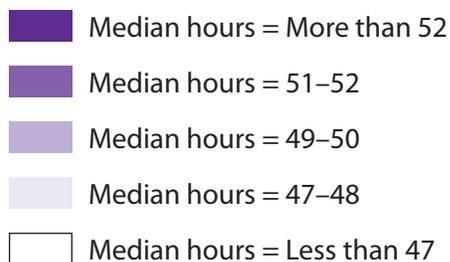
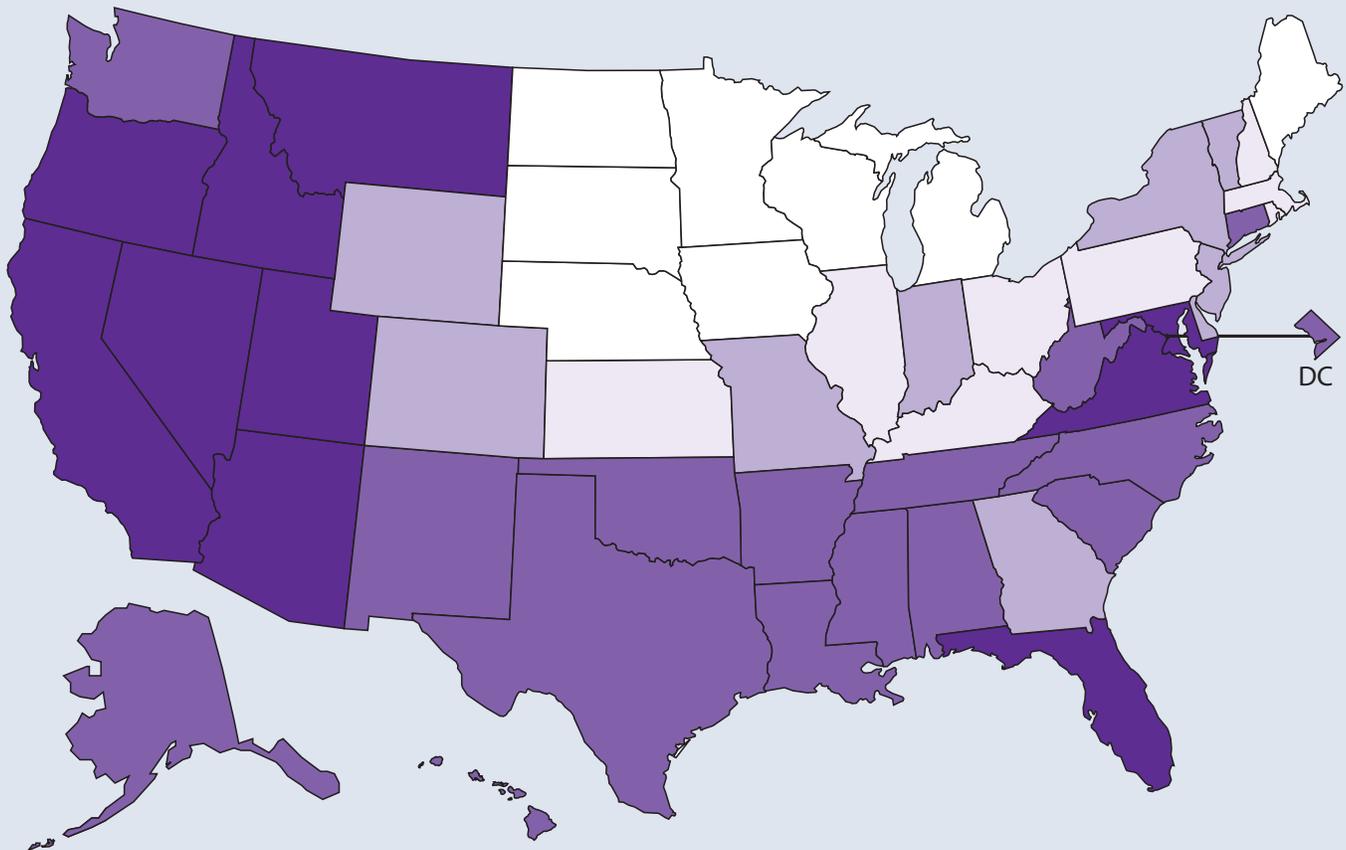
This table displays a state by state comparison of volunteering rates for 2003 to 2005. States are listed in order of the highest volunteering rate to the lowest volunteering rate. As exhibited, states varied greatly in their reported volunteering rates over this 3 year period, ranging from a high of 48% to a low of 18.8%.

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	48.0%	18	Michigan	32.1%	35	South Carolina	28.0%
2	Nebraska	42.8%	19	New Hampshire	32.0%	36	Massachusetts	27.0%
3	Minnesota	40.7%	20	Missouri	31.9%	37	Delaware	26.7%
4	Iowa	39.2%	21	Connecticut	30.8%	38	New Jersey	26.5%
5	Alaska	38.9%	21	Pennsylvania	30.8%	39	Mississippi	26.4%
6	Wyoming	38.8%	21	District of Columbia	30.8%	40	California	26.1%
6	South Dakota	38.8%	24	Ohio	30.7%	41	Georgia	25.9%
8	Kansas	38.6%	25	Maryland	30.3%	41	Tennessee	25.9%
9	Vermont	38.1%	26	Oklahoma	30.0%	43	Arkansas	25.6%
10	Montana	37.9%	27	Kentucky	29.8%	44	Hawaii	25.4%
11	Wisconsin	37.0%	28	Illinois	29.7%	45	Rhode Island	24.9%
12	Washington	36.8%	29	Indiana	29.5%	45	Arizona	24.9%
13	North Dakota	36.5%	30	North Carolina	29.1%	47	West Virginia	24.6%
14	Idaho	35.5%	31	Virginia	29.0%	48	Florida	24.1%
15	Oregon	33.6%	32	Alabama	28.9%	49	Louisiana	22.7%
16	Maine	33.2%	33	New Mexico	28.5%	50	New York	21.3%
17	Colorado	32.8%	34	Texas	28.3%	51	Nevada	18.8%

\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.

## VOLUNTEERING INTENSITY BY STATE\*

This map illustrates differences between the states in their median annual hours volunteered for 2003 to 2005. Over 63 million persons aged 16 years or older performed volunteer work per year over the 3 year period, with a median annual number of hours volunteered of 51. During this same period, the state median volunteering hours ranged from 36 to 96.



\*Rankings are based on 3-year median for 2003–2005.

### TOP STATES

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Utah     | 6. California |
| 2. Idaho    | 6. Nevada     |
| 3. Arizona  | 6. Oregon     |
| 3. Maryland | 9. Florida    |
| 3. Montana  | 9. Virginia   |

For more information, including detailed state-level volunteering tables for 2002–2005, go to [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

## STATE RANKINGS: VOLUNTEER INTENSITY\*

This table displays a state by state comparison of annual median hours spent on volunteer activities per volunteer for 2003 to 2005. States are listed in order of the highest median hours per volunteer to the lowest median hours per volunteer. Hours reported varied greatly across the states over this 3 year period, ranging from 36 hours to 96 hours.

Rank	State	Hours	Rank	State	Hours	Rank	State	Hours
1	Utah	96	11	Mississippi	52	35	Georgia	49
2	Idaho	64	11	New Mexico	52	36	Illinois	48
3	Arizona	60	11	North Carolina	52	36	Kansas	48
3	Maryland	60	11	Oklahoma	52	36	Kentucky	48
3	Montana	60	11	South Carolina	52	36	Massachusetts	48
6	California	56	11	Tennessee	52	36	New Hampshire	48
6	Nevada	56	11	Texas	52	36	Ohio	48
6	Oregon	56	11	Washington	52	36	Pennsylvania	48
9	Florida	54	11	West Virginia	52	36	Rhode Island	48
9	Virginia	54	27	Colorado	50	44	Maine	46
11	Alabama	52	27	Delaware	50	45	Michigan	45
11	Alaska	52	27	Indiana	50	45	Minnesota	45
11	Arkansas	52	27	Missouri	50	47	Nebraska	44
11	Connecticut	52	27	New Jersey	50	48	Iowa	43
11	District of Columbia	52	27	New York	50	49	South Dakota	40
11	Hawaii	52	27	Vermont	50	49	Wisconsin	40
11	Louisiana	52	27	Wyoming	50	51	North Dakota	36

\*Rankings are based on 3-year median for 2003–2005.



## STATE RANKINGS: SENIOR VOLUNTEERING RATE\*

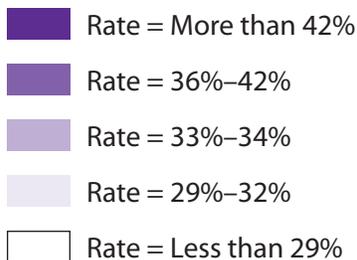
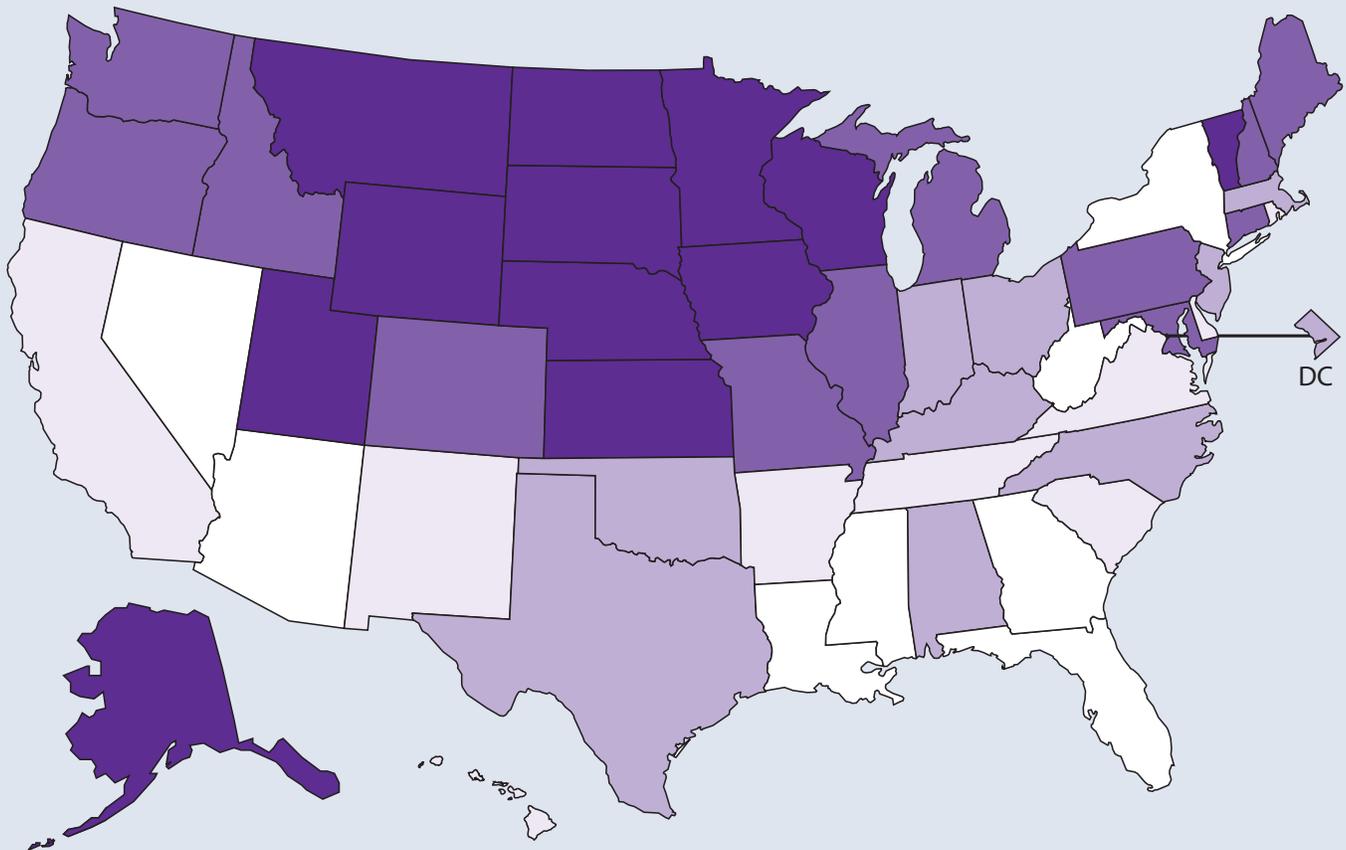
This table displays a state by state comparison of volunteering rates among persons 65 years or older for 2003 to 2005. States are listed in order of the highest senior volunteering rate to the lowest senior volunteering rate. As exhibited, volunteering rates among seniors varied widely across the states over this 3 year period, ranging from a high of 51.8% to a low of 13.7%.

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	51.8%	18	Maryland	27.0%	35	Michigan	23.4%
2	Minnesota	42.2%	19	Delaware	26.7%	35	Pennsylvania	23.4%
3	Nebraska	40.6%	20	Missouri	26.4%	37	New Mexico	23.0%
4	South Dakota	38.0%	21	Indiana	25.8%	38	Kentucky	22.7%
5	North Dakota	35.7%	21	Maine	25.8%	38	Florida	22.7%
6	Iowa	35.5%	23	Arizona	25.7%	40	West Virginia	22.5%
7	Kansas	34.9%	24	Ohio	25.6%	41	California	21.5%
8	Washington	32.8%	25	Connecticut	25.5%	42	Arkansas	21.1%
9	Oregon	32.0%	26	Illinois	25.4%	43	New Jersey	21.0%
10	Vermont	31.8%	27	New Hampshire	25.2%	44	Massachusetts	20.9%
11	Wisconsin	31.4%	28	Oklahoma	25.0%	45	Alabama	20.1%
12	Montana	31.2%	29	Mississippi	24.6%	46	Louisiana	18.6%
13	Alaska	31.0%	30	Texas	23.7%	46	Tennessee	18.6%
14	Idaho	29.9%	30	North Carolina	23.7%	46	Rhode Island	18.6%
15	Wyoming	29.1%	32	South Carolina	23.6%	49	Hawaii	17.6%
16	Virginia	28.4%	32	Georgia	23.6%	50	New York	17.4%
17	Colorado	27.9%	34	District of Columbia	23.5%	51	Nevada	13.7%

\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.

## BABY BOOMER VOLUNTEERING RATES BY STATE\*

This map illustrates differences between the states in their rates of volunteering among baby boomers for 2003 to 2005. Over 25 million people born between 1946 and 1964 performed volunteer work per year over the 3 year period, for a national Baby Boomer volunteering rate of 33.3%. During this same period, the state Baby Boomer volunteering rates ranged from 21.9% to 50.7%.



\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.

TOP STATES		
1. Utah	5. Wyoming	10. Alaska
2. Nebraska	7. Vermont	12. Wisconsin
3. South Dakota	8. Kansas	
4. Minnesota	9. North Dakota	
5. Iowa	10. Montana	

For more information, including detailed state-level volunteering tables for 2002–2005, go to [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

## STATE RANKINGS: BABY BOOMER VOLUNTEERING RATE\*

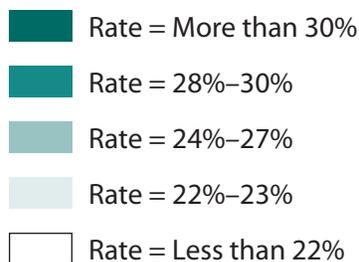
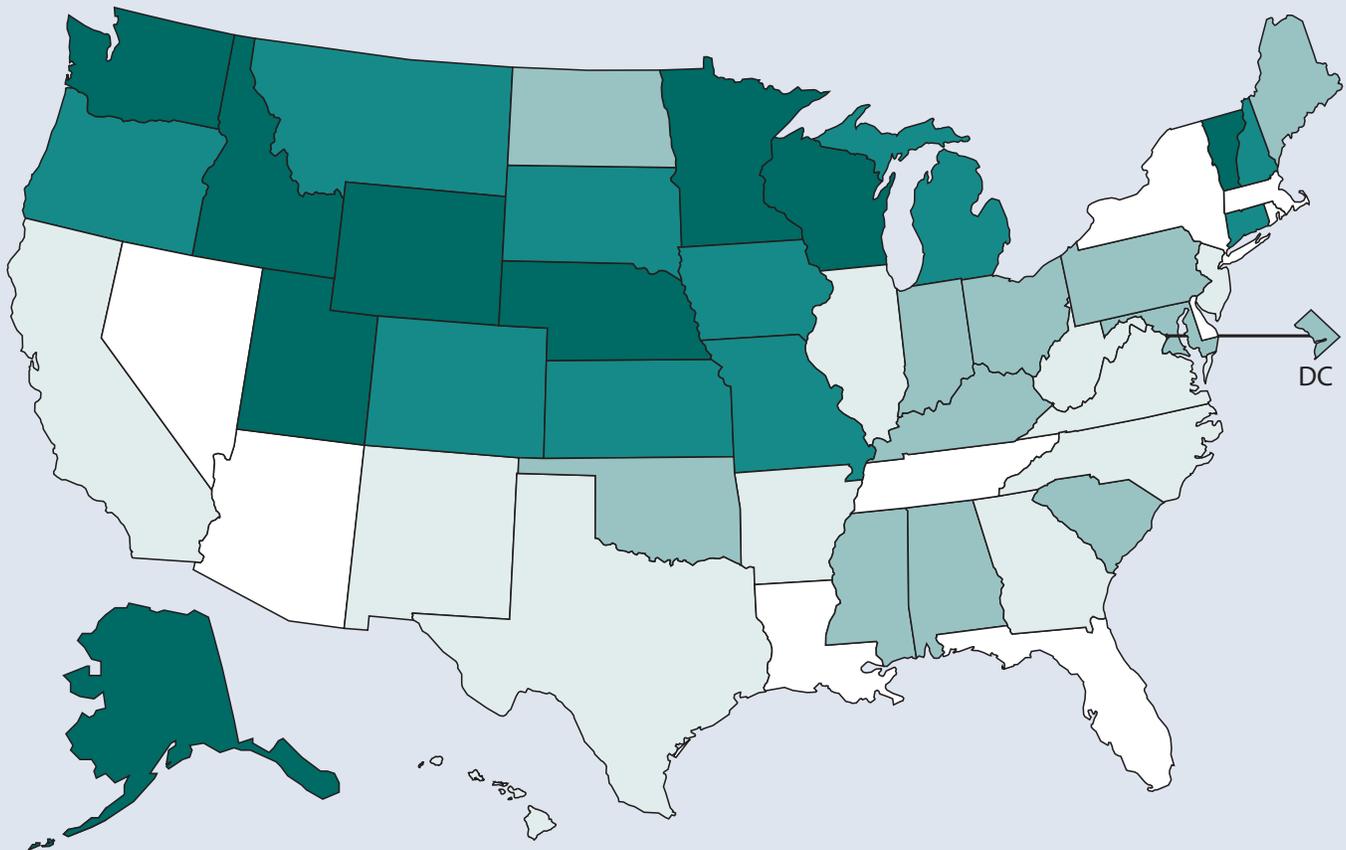
This table displays a state by state comparison of volunteering rates among Baby Boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, for 2003 to 2005. States are listed in order of the highest Baby Boomer volunteering rate to the lowest Baby Boomer volunteering rate. Volunteering rates among Baby Boomers varied greatly across the states over this 3 year period, ranging from a high of 50.7% to a low of 21.9%.

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	50.7%	18	Pennsylvania	37.0%	35	Virginia	32.5%
2	Nebraska	48.2%	18	New Hampshire	37.0%	36	New Mexico	31.7%
3	South Dakota	46.9%	20	Illinois	36.5%	37	California	30.5%
4	Minnesota	46.1%	21	Oregon	36.2%	38	Rhode Island	30.1%
5	Iowa	45.1%	22	Maryland	35.9%	39	Arkansas	30.0%
5	Wyoming	45.1%	23	Connecticut	35.8%	40	Hawaii	29.9%
7	Vermont	45.0%	24	Missouri	35.6%	41	South Carolina	29.6%
8	Kansas	44.6%	25	Oklahoma	34.3%	42	Delaware	29.1%
9	North Dakota	43.2%	26	Massachusetts	34.0%	43	Tennessee	28.7%
10	Montana	43.1%	27	District of Columbia	33.8%	44	Arizona	28.2%
10	Alaska	43.1%	28	Ohio	33.6%	45	Mississippi	27.9%
12	Wisconsin	42.8%	29	Kentucky	33.3%	46	Georgia	27.8%
13	Washington	42.0%	30	New Jersey	33.1%	47	Florida	27.4%
14	Colorado	38.7%	31	Texas	33.0%	48	West Virginia	25.9%
15	Maine	38.4%	32	Indiana	32.9%	49	Louisiana	25.7%
15	Michigan	38.4%	33	Alabama	32.7%	50	New York	25.3%
17	Idaho	37.8%	33	North Carolina	32.7%	51	Nevada	21.9%

\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.

## YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERING RATES BY STATE\*

This map illustrates differences between the states in their rates of volunteering among young adults for 2003 to 2005. Over 8 million people aged 16 years old to 24 years old performed volunteer work per year over the 3 year period, for a national young adult volunteering rate of 24.2%. During this same period, the state young adult volunteering rates ranged from 15.8% to 45.4%.



\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.

### TOP STATES

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Utah       | 6. Wisconsin |
| 2. Wyoming    | 7. Nebraska  |
| 3. Washington | 8. Idaho     |
| 4. Vermont    | 9. Alaska    |
| 5. Minnesota  |              |

For more information, including detailed state-level volunteering tables for 2002–2005, go to [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

## STATE RANKINGS: YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERING RATE\*

This table displays a state by state comparison of volunteering rates among young adults, those aged 16 to 24 years old, for 2003 to 2005. States are listed in order of the highest young adult volunteering rate to the lowest young adult volunteering rate. As exhibited, volunteering rates among young adults varied greatly across the states, ranging from a high of 45.4% to a low of 15.8%.

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	45.4%	18	New Hampshire	27.7%	35	Texas	22.7%
2	Wyoming	37.2%	19	Colorado	27.6%	36	West Virginia	22.6%
3	Washington	35.7%	20	North Dakota	27.1%	37	New Jersey	22.4%
4	Vermont	33.3%	21	Indiana	26.9%	38	California	22.0%
5	Minnesota	33.1%	21	Ohio	26.9%	39	Georgia	21.9%
6	Wisconsin	32.2%	23	Maine	26.4%	40	New Mexico	21.8%
7	Nebraska	32.0%	24	Pennsylvania	26.2%	41	Arkansas	21.7%
8	Idaho	30.9%	25	Oklahoma	26.0%	42	Virginia	21.5%
9	Alaska	30.7%	26	Maryland	25.9%	43	Florida	20.3%
10	Connecticut	30.5%	27	District of Columbia	25.2%	44	Tennessee	20.2%
11	Iowa	29.8%	28	Kentucky	24.7%	45	Rhode Island	19.7%
12	Kansas	29.7%	29	South Carolina	24.0%	46	Delaware	19.5%
13	Montana	29.5%	30	Alabama	23.9%	47	Massachusetts	19.4%
14	South Dakota	28.7%	31	Mississippi	23.7%	48	New York	19.2%
15	Michigan	28.4%	32	Hawaii	23.5%	49	Arizona	19.1%
16	Oregon	28.0%	33	Illinois	23.4%	50	Louisiana	17.9%
17	Missouri	27.8%	34	North Carolina	23.1%	51	Nevada	15.8%

\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.



## STATE RANKINGS: COLLEGE STUDENT VOLUNTEERING RATE\*

This table displays a state by state comparison of volunteering rates among college students for 2003 to 2005. States are listed in order of the highest college student volunteering rate to the lowest college student volunteering rate. Volunteering rates among college students varied greatly across the states over this 3 year period, ranging from a high of 62.9% to a low of 21.4%.

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	62.9%	18	Ohio	34.4%	35	Hawaii	29.6%
2	Idaho	44.4%	19	North Dakota	33.7%	36	Texas	29.2%
3	Oklahoma	43.0%	20	Mississippi	33.1%	37	North Carolina	28.8%
4	Vermont	41.5%	21	New Hampshire	32.0%	38	California	28.5%
5	Nebraska	41.5%	22	Arkansas	31.7%	39	South Carolina	28.3%
6	Wyoming	40.3%	23	Connecticut	31.5%	40	Louisiana	27.8%
7	Alaska	40.1%	23	Kansas	31.5%	41	West Virginia	27.4%
8	Minnesota	39.9%	25	Maine	31.4%	42	Delaware	26.4%
9	Missouri	38.9%	26	New Mexico	31.3%	43	Florida	25.9%
10	Colorado	38.3%	27	Illinois	31.2%	44	Rhode Island	25.8%
11	Washington	37.6%	28	Oregon	31.1%	45	New Jersey	25.0%
12	Michigan	37.4%	28	Iowa	31.1%	46	Virginia	24.6%
13	Indiana	37.3%	30	District of Columbia	31.0%	47	Massachusetts	24.0%
14	Wisconsin	36.2%	30	South Dakota	31.0%	47	Tennessee	24.0%
15	Pennsylvania	35.1%	32	Arizona	30.8%	49	Nevada	23.6%
16	Alabama	34.8%	33	Kentucky	30.4%	50	New York	23.4%
17	Montana	34.6%	34	Maryland	30.2%	51	Georgia	21.4%

\*Rankings are based on 3-year rate for 2003–2005.



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**Corporation for National and Community Service**

**Office of Research and Policy Development**

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**Senior Corps**, the network of programs that helps Americans age 55 or older use their skills and experience in service opportunities that address the needs of their communities. Senior Corps includes the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program;

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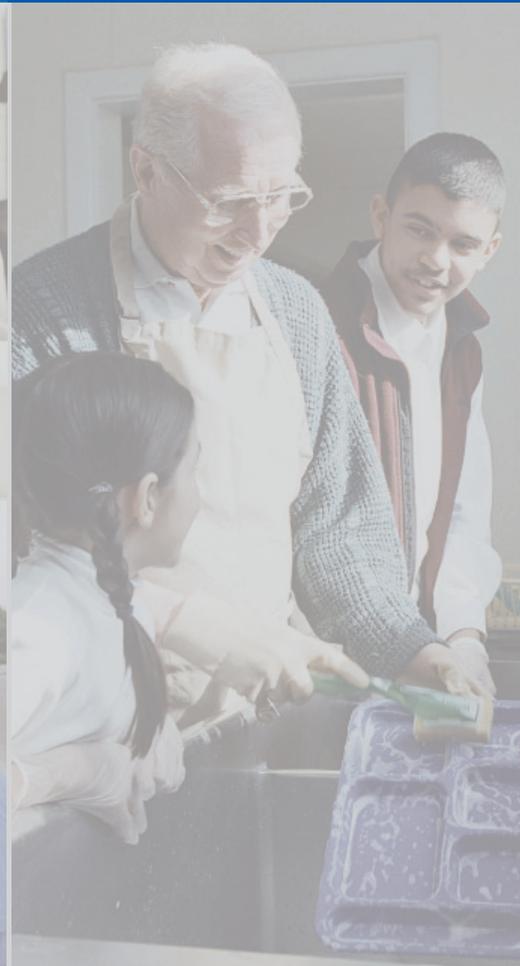
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\*RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.



The Corporation for National and Community Service's mission:

*Improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering*

