

Volunteering in Halton

In 2010, over 13 million Canadians volunteered their time through a group or an organization¹. It represents about 47% of the population aged 15 and over. This is a one percentage point increase since 2007 when the last Canada Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participation was taken.

There are many ways an individual can contribute one's time to the community on behalf of a group or an organization. This includes any unpaid help one provides to schools, religious groups, sports or community associations.

Examples of volunteer work include: canvassing; fundraising; board and committee membership; teaching and mentoring; organizing and supervising an event; providing health care and support; serving and delivering food and goods; volunteer driving; etc.

The 2010 survey was conducted from September 14 to December 10, 2010. Over 15,000 Canadians aged 15 and over were contacted. They were asked how they: gave money and other resources to individuals and to organizations; and how they volunteered their time to help others during a 12 month period preceding the survey.

The volunteer rate varies among different age groups. In general, younger people are more likely to volunteer than older people. In Ontario, over 58% of the people aged 15 to 24 had volunteered in 2010. As people age, the volunteer rate declines. About 38% of seniors reported volunteer activities.

In terms of average annual volunteer hours, the contribution from the two older age groups is significant. Adults aged 55 to 64 spent an average of 246 hours volunteering. This is about 50% higher than the average (164 hours) for Ontario. They are closely followed by seniors (65 and older) at 222 hours (35% above the provincial average).



¹ Statistics Canada, Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Table Report, 2010, (Catalogue no. 80-649-X-2011001)

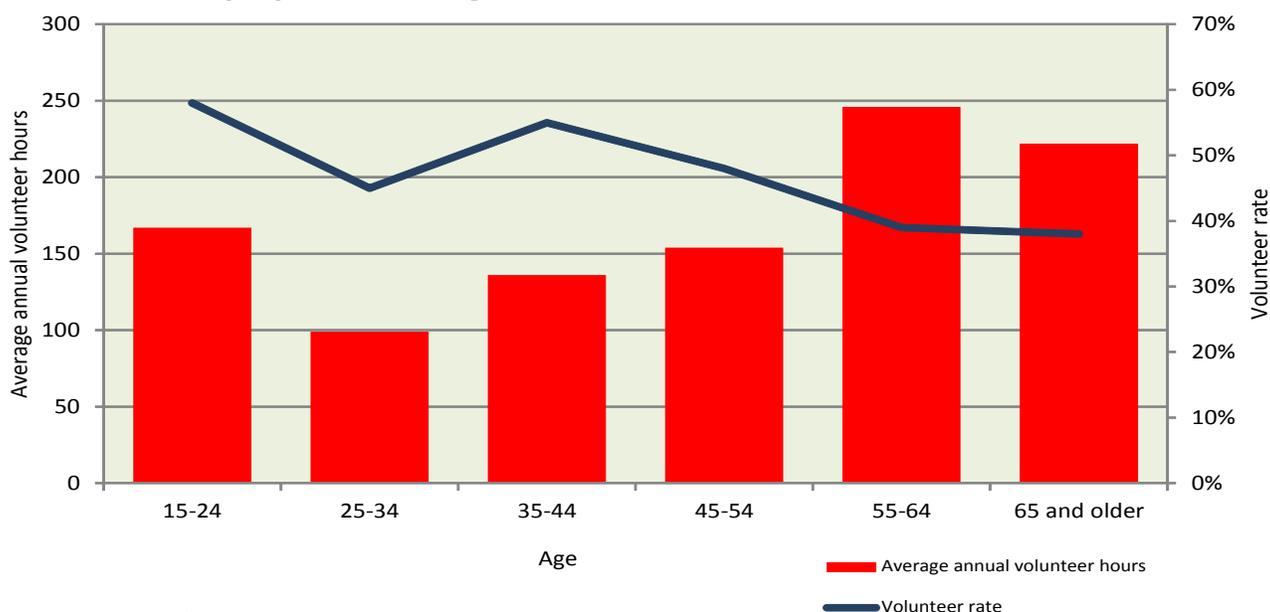
In Halton Region, over half (59%) of the population aged 15 and over volunteer their time through an agency, a group or an organization. As in 2007, Halton's volunteering rate is still higher than both the provincial (47.7%) and national (47%) averages. With a volunteer rate of 59%, it is estimated that there were about 235,000 volunteers in Halton in 2010.

In 2007, volunteers in Halton spent an average of 165 hours helping others. In 2010, the average hours contributed by volunteers in Halton increased to 188 hours¹. Collectively, Halton volunteers contributed over 44 million hours in the 12 month reference period.

The number of volunteer hours when converted into employment is equivalent to 23,055 full time year-round jobs (assuming 40 hours of work per week for 48 weeks). In other words, without volunteers, Halton will need to hire a workforce of more than 23,000 persons to do the work. It represents about 9% of Halton's employment².

Another way to measure the impact of volunteers in Halton is to convert the full time employment into economic contribution. By multiplying the number of volunteer hours by an hourly wage of \$28.15 (average hourly wage in health care and social assistance industry³ for Ontario – December 2009)⁴, Halton volunteers collectively have contributed over \$1.25 billion worth of time to the economy.

Volunteer rate, average annual volunteer hours, population aged 15 and over, Ontario 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, CSGVP, 2010

1 Given that the number of respondents in Halton is low in the 2010 survey, the estimate of average hours is less precise than those reported in 2007.

2 According to Halton Region, Best Planning Estimates of Population, Occupied Dwelling Units and Employment, 2007-2021, April 2007, total employment for Halton (2009) is 254,646 people

3 This sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in providing health care by diagnosis and treatment, providing residential care for medical and social reasons and providing social assistance, such as counselling, welfare, child protection, community housing and food services, vocational rehabilitation and child care, to those requiring such assistance.

4 Statistics Canada, Employment, Earnings and Hours, December 2009, Catalogue No. 72-002_x



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