

## Annual Digest of Statistics on Volunteering in Scotland 2006

### Introduction

This is the third annual digest of statistics on volunteering in Scotland produced by Volunteer Development Scotland, the National Centre for Excellence in Volunteering.

The digest presents in concise and readily accessible form statistical information available on the demographic, economic and social characteristics of volunteering in Scotland.

All the data in the digest are the latest available at February 2006. Some are provisional and are therefore subject to revision in the next annual digest.

It is hoped that the data presented will prove useful to a wide range of users and policy makers, as well as the general public.

### Definitions of terminology used in the digest

**Volunteering** is the giving of time and energy through a third party, which can bring measurable benefits to the volunteer, individual beneficiaries, groups and organisations, communities, environment and society at large. It is a choice undertaken of one's own free will, and is not motivated primarily for financial gain or for a wage or salary.

Volunteering can be sub-divided into:

- a) **Formal** – volunteering undertaken through an organisation, group or club to help others
- b) **Informal** – volunteering undertaken as an individual to help others

**Adults** – those aged 16 and over

**Volunteers managers** – anyone (employee or volunteer) who co-ordinates, supervises or manages volunteers.

**Volunteering opportunity** – a task, an assignment, or a role for a volunteer within a volunteer-involving organisation

### Data Sources

The sources for this digest are TNS System Three Scottish Opinion Poll November 2005; NFO System Three Opinion Poll March 2003; 2003 VDS/SAVM survey of Volunteer Managers; 2004 VDS Survey of Voluntary Services Managers in the NHS in Scotland; the Volunteer Scotland database and management information from the Central Registered Body in Scotland.

Data from the 2005 Annual Digest is also used for comparative purposes or where no updated data is available – this data is in *italics*.

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Limited extracts from this digest may be produced, provided the source is acknowledged.

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## 1. Formal Volunteering

Around 38% of adults in Scotland have volunteered formally in the past year. This equates to around 1.56 million adults.<sup>1</sup> This is a decrease from last year's figure of 43%, although it should be noted that the methodology has been altered slightly from last year and as such the question about volunteering was asked differently.

### % Volunteering by gender

	<b>% Women</b>	<b>% Men</b>
2005	38	38
2004	44	43

### % Volunteering by age

	<b>16 – 24</b>	<b>25 – 34</b>	<b>35 – 44</b>	<b>45 – 54</b>	<b>55 – 64</b>	<b>65+</b>
2005	36	35	39	44	44	31
2004	47	42	51	44	44	32

### % Volunteering by socio-economic group

	<b>AB</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>DE</b>
2005	56	42	31	26
2004	60	52	31	33

### % Volunteering by Scottish area

	<b>West</b>	<b>East/South</b>	<b>North</b>
2005	39	33	45
2004	42	40	50

### % Volunteering by working status (2003)

	<b>Full time</b>	<b>Part time</b>	<b>Not working</b>
2003	40	49	33

### % Volunteering by sector (2003)<sup>2</sup>

<b>Type of organisation</b>	<b>%</b>
Voluntary/charity/community/churches/religious organisations	76
Public sector	25
Through place of work	4
Other	6

<sup>1</sup> At Census 2001 the adult population of Scotland was 4,089,946

<sup>2</sup> Some respondents volunteered for more than one type of organisation, hence % total > 100

% Volunteering by activity<sup>3</sup>

Activity	%
Helping to raise money	68
Organising, helping to run an event	31
Helping with sports or recreational activities	19
Providing a service or offering support	24
Serving on a committee	30
Helping with administration or office duties	10
Working in the environment	5
Campaigning or advocacy	4
<i>Other unpaid activity</i>	<i>18</i>

% Volunteering by hours spent per month

Hours Spent	%
Up to 5 hours	53
6 – 10 hours	16
11 – 15 hours	9
16 – 20 hours	9
21 – 35 hours	5
36+ hours	5
<i>Don't know</i>	<i>3</i>

% Sources of information that people would use if they wished to become involved as a volunteer<sup>4</sup>

Source	%
Library	26
Volunteer Centre	19
CAB	8
Phone Book/Yellow Pages	6
Direct to an Organisation	21
Council/Hospital	10
Internet	25
Friends/Family	12
Local Paper	1
The Church	1
Job Centre	1
Others	1
<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>16</i>

<sup>3</sup> Some respondents volunteered for more than one type of organisation, hence % total > 100

<sup>4</sup> Question asked of both current volunteers and non-volunteers

## 2. Informal volunteering (2003)<sup>5</sup>

Around 81% of adults in Scotland have volunteered informally in the past year. This equates to 3.32 million adults, two thirds of whom did so because they saw a need with the remaining one third saying that they were asked to help. As volunteering is a strand within the concept of social capital, this figure for informal volunteering may be indicative of the levels and density of social networks and support within Scotland.

### % Volunteering by gender

<b>% Women</b>	<b>% Men</b>
81	78

### % Volunteering by age

<b>16 – 24</b>	<b>25 – 34</b>	<b>35 – 44</b>	<b>45 – 54</b>	<b>55 – 64</b>	<b>65+</b>
88	80	87	84	76	72

### % Volunteering by socio-economic group

<b>AB</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>DE</b>
84	83	80	78

### % Volunteering by working status

<b>Full time</b>	<b>Part time</b>	<b>Not working</b>
86	84	76

### Volunteering activities undertaken<sup>6</sup>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>%</b>
Visiting an elderly or sick person	37
Doing shopping for someone	32
Gardening, cleaning or other routine household jobs for someone	19
Decorating, or any kind of home or car repairs for someone	15
Babysitting or caring for children	35
Looking after a pet for someone	20
Giving advice about something or helping with letters or form filling	31
Transporting/escorting	31
Looking after property while someone was away	32
Helped in another way	5

<sup>5</sup> Latest data available

<sup>6</sup> These are the activities used for the survey. There are many other ways in which people help their friends and neighbours.

### 3. Volunteers Managers

a) Within all sectors (2003)<sup>7</sup>

% by Gender

<b>% Women</b>	<b>% Men</b>
68	32

% by Age

<b>16 – 24</b>	<b>25 – 34</b>	<b>35 – 44</b>	<b>45 – 54</b>	<b>55 – 64</b>	<b>65+</b>
8	27	32	27	6	-

% by Ethnicity

<b>White</b>	<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British</b>	<b>Black, Black Scottish or Black British</b>	<b>Other Ethnic Background</b>
94	3	-	1.5	1.5

% by Sector

<b>Sector</b>	<b>%</b>
Voluntary/community	83
Statutory/public	11
Private company	3
Educational institution	3

% by Classification of post/role

	<b>%</b>
Full-time dedicated post	47
Part-time dedicated post	21
Part of a full-time role	14
Part of a part-time role	7
Volunteering not part of role description	11

% by Remuneration

<b>Remuneration</b>	<b>%</b>
Paid	79
Unpaid (voluntary)	20
Honorarium (voluntary)	2

<sup>7</sup> Latest data available

b) Voluntary Services Managers within the NHS in Scotland 2005

Regional distribution of Voluntary Service Managers (VSM's)

Health Board Area	Number of VSM's	F/T Equivalent	Notes F/T equivalents relate to volunteering role
Argyll & Clyde	1	0.5	
Ayrshire & Arran	4	1.75	
Borders	1	0.5	
Dumfries and Galloway	2	1.5	
Fife	5	3	
Forth Valley	2	1	
Grampian	4	3	
Greater Glasgow	8	7	1 post vacant
Highland	2	2	Posts based in voluntary organisation who manage services for NHS Highland
Lanarkshire	4	3	
Lothian	4	3	
Orkney	1	0.25	
Tayside	7	5	
Western Isles	1	Less than 0.25	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>29.75</b>	
Argyll & Clyde	1		Post frozen

Regular surveys of Voluntary Service Managers (VSMs) in the NHS and voluntary hospices in Scotland have been carried out by the Volunteering in Health team since 2000. During this period, the number of VSMs in the NHS has risen from 25 in 2000 to a peak of 56 in 2003. With the ending of funding for the Primary Care Volunteering Grants projects, the number of VSMs declined slightly in 2005 to 45.

c) Voluntary Service managers in voluntary hospices in Scotland 2005

Regional distribution of VSM's by

Health Board Area	Number of hospices with VSM posts	Number of VSM's	F/T Equivalent	Notes
Argyll & Clyde	4	4	3	1 hospice works in partnership with the NHS 1 hospice has a vacant post
Ayrshire & Arran	1	1	0.75	
Forth Valley	1	1	0.5	
Greater Glasgow	3	3	2.5	
Highland	1	1	1	
Lanarkshire	1	1	0.75	
Lothian	2	4	3	
Scotland wide	2	3	3	Hospices have national remits
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14.5</b>	

#### 4. Volunteer Scotland database

This is a snapshot of data from the database as at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

a) Totals as at 1.12.05

	<b>TOTAL</b>
Volunteers Registered	24463
Organisations Registered	6616
Total Opportunities	9090
Opportunities Online	7051
Total Placements	57783
Placements Online	49787

NB.

- Number of placements is greater than number of opportunities because some opportunities have multiple placements for volunteers
- For data protection reasons, not all opportunities are visible on the website, hence figure for total opportunities online differs from that for total opportunities
- Please note that this data will change over time and will be updated with a further snapshot in the next annual digest of statistics on volunteering in Scotland

b) Of 9090 opportunities

- 7% pay childcare costs
- 40% have disabled access

c) Of 9090 opportunities

- 78% have volunteer support in place
- 73% have induction training for volunteers
- 64% have ongoing training for volunteers

d) Of 1983 opportunities

- 83% refund volunteers expenses

e) Of 6616 organisations

- 52% have a volunteering policy
- 63% have a health and safety policy which covers volunteers
- 63% have an equal opportunities policy which covers volunteers

f) Proportion of volunteer involving organisations registered by sector - of 5069 volunteer involving organisations

<b>Organisation Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
National Voluntary Group (or part of)	1801	36
Local voluntary/community group with some paid staff	1486	29
Local voluntary/community group – all volunteers	734	14
Local Authority (or part of)	472	9
Other	449	9
NHS (or part of)	127	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5069</b>	

g) Proportion of volunteers registered by status – of 17242 volunteers

<b>Volunteer Status</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Incapacity Benefit/D.L.A	2834	16.4
Paid employment Full-time	2647	15.3
Retired/Early Retired	1953	11.3
Further Education/Training	1816	10.5
Unwaged	1574	9.1
Jobseeker's Allowance	1394	8
Income Support	1375	8
Paid Employment Part-time	1310	7.6
School	1153	6.7
Full time parent	415	2.4
Other	330	1.9
Self-Employed	272	1.6
Carer	133	0.8
Working Holiday	34	0.2
Asylum Seeker	2	0.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17242</b>	

## 5. Volunteering with children, young people and vulnerable adults

This data is a snapshot taken on 10/2/2006 from the management information held by the CRBS. This data will vary from day to day, and therefore will be updated in the next annual digest of volunteering in Scotland.

- a) **7,391** voluntary organisations are registered with the Central Registered Body in Scotland for free Disclosures for volunteers working with children, young people or vulnerable adults. **137** of these organisations act as intermediary organisations for other groups.
- b) Number of Disclosures for Volunteers by organisation purpose

Purpose of Organisation	Total	%
Support of Elderly	1,009	1.4%
Support of Vulnerable	2,804	3.8%
Enterprise Development	178	0.2%
Children & Families	7,165	9.6%
Equality & Law	73	0.1%
Youth	12,462	16.7%
Environment	142	0.2%
Housing	85	0.1%
Social Care	2,545	3.4%
Arts & Culture	817	1.1%
Sports & Leisure	10,784	14.4%
Disability	1,524	2.0%
Education & Learning	1,757	2.4%
Volunteers	7,810	10.5%
Faith/Religious Organisations	22,623	30.3%
Health	1,046	1.4%
Other	1,811	2.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,635</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- c) Volunteers by Gender

Gender	Total	%
Female	46,495	62.3%
Male	28,140	37.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,635</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- d) Volunteers by Age Range

Age Range	Total	%
Under 16	36	0.05%
16 - 24	12,220	16.4%
25 - 34	11,506	15.4%
35 - 44	19,260	25.8%
45 - 54	14,803	19.8%
55 - 64	10,413	14.0%
65+	6,397	8.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,635</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 6. The economic value of volunteering in Scotland

Data from the 2005 TNS System Three Omnibus Survey is used in this digest to calculate the economic value of volunteering in Scotland. This indicates the contribution of volunteers in Scotland in economic terms although it should be noted that volunteers should not be valued in purely economic terms, rather the added value of freely given time should be considered.

The TNS survey asked current volunteers in Scotland how many hours per month they give to their unpaid activities. While the survey cannot provide an actual figure for the total volunteering hours worked in Scotland, but by projecting the data in the survey, it can be estimated that a minimum of **168,969,432 hours** were worked by **1,554,179 volunteers** in 2005.

This equates to **4.8 million working weeks (of 35 hours)** and represents over **100,577 full time equivalent jobs**.

**Average Scottish weekly wage** = £379.9 p w \* x 4,827,698 = **2.1 billion per annum**

\*SOURCE: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. ONS. (2005)

This figure could be seen to represent a 'notional volunteer wage bill' for Scotland, and with the addition of employment overheads, we can estimate the cost to buy in the work carried out by volunteers in Scotland each year to amount the figure below.

(After calculating the total volunteer value, you can add an additional 20% to represent employment overheads such as pension and holiday pay)

**Annual value inc. employment overheads = £2.52 billion**

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**ANNUAL DIGEST OF  
VOLUNTEERING IN  
SCOTLAND:  
DISCUSSION PAPER**

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**APRIL 2006**

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## **Definitions of terminology used in the digest**

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Volunteering can be sub-divided into:

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- b) **Informal** – volunteering undertaken as an individual to help others

**Adults** – those aged 16 and over

**Volunteers managers** – anyone (employee or volunteer) who co-ordinates, supervises or manages volunteers.

**Volunteering opportunity** – a task, an assignment, or a role for a volunteer within a volunteer-involving organisation

### **Key to Socio-economic groups:**

AB – Managerial or professional

C1 – Supervisory or clerical

C2 – Skilled manual workers

DE – Unskilled/lowest grade workers

## ***Introduction***

This paper is a supplementary discussion of the data in the Annual Digest of Statistics 2006, produced by Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS). Other pieces of research, both by VDS and other organisations have been drawn upon throughout to compare and contrast findings.

Volunteering is a complex phenomenon and as such it is not our aim to simplify the statistical changes that have taken place in Scotland. Rather, we aim to provide a context within which the trends can be placed, and to suggest some possible factors which may have had an impact.

A full reference list is available at the end of the paper for further reading, and all VDS research papers are available on our website: [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

## ***Background to the data***

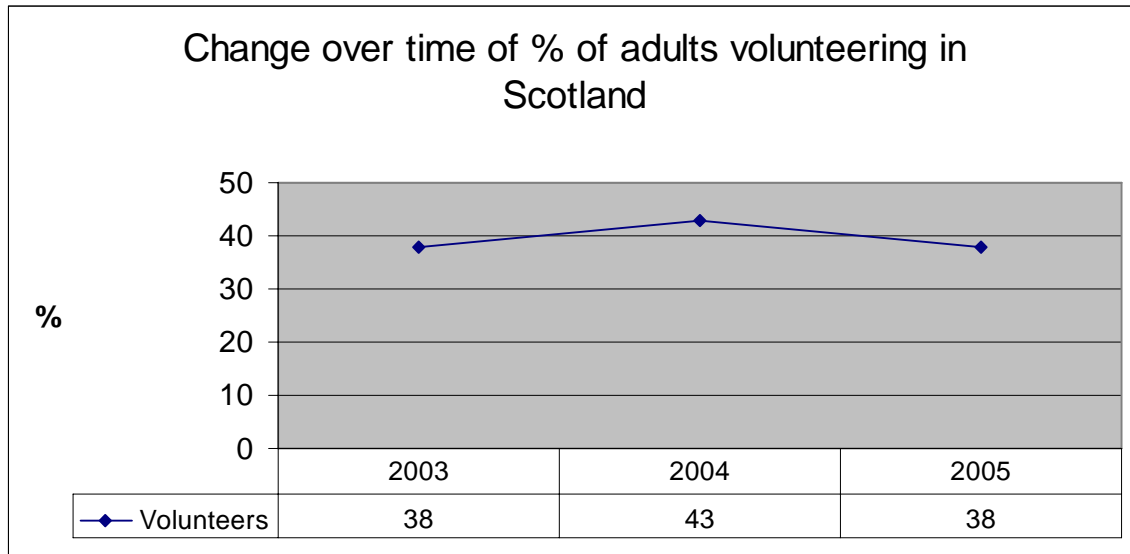
TNS/NFO System Three Omnibus Survey - Previous surveys and other work into measuring levels of volunteering have discovered that by not using the word 'volunteering' or 'voluntary', higher levels of unpaid activity are recorded (for a full discussion of this please see VDS: 2002). As such, VDS does not provide a definition, or use the word volunteer in the omnibus surveys, instead providing a list of volunteering activities from which individuals can choose whether or not they took part.

In 2006, the methodology was changed slightly, and instead of giving a list of activities and asking people to choose which they did as an indicator of volunteering levels, a list was given and respondents were asked simply whether they had taken part in any activities on the list. A further question was then asked to discover which activities they had undertaken. We recognise that this method may have impacted on the overall figure of volunteering in Scotland, although this extent of this is not clear.

Data from VolunteerScotland and CRBS is gathered on the IT systems within VDS and CRBS respectively, and a snapshot of this is taken for the digest. This provides information that can be tracked over time for the purpose of identifying trends.

The economic value of volunteering in Scotland is calculated based on data on hours spent on volunteering. The average Scottish weekly wage is used to calculate the value to Scotland's economy. It should be noted however, that volunteers' value to organisations and society should not be stated in purely economic terms, and instead the focus should be on the added value that volunteers, in freely giving their time, bring.

## 1. Formal Volunteering



The graph above shows that the overall number of adults volunteering in Scotland has fluctuated over the last three years. Despite the decrease in the number of volunteers between 2004 and 2005, the amount of time given by volunteers has increased which has implications for volunteering. If there are less people engaging as volunteers, organisations may begin to rely more heavily on their existing volunteers. Although some individuals may be perfectly happy to help out more, others may feel pressured, and may stop volunteering. This may lead to even less volunteers and an escalating issue of volunteer commitment to organisations. On the other hand, volunteers giving more time may be in response to need, particularly in the light of more expectations on organisations as regards service provision.

A literature review undertaken as part of work for the Volunteering Strategy, found that there were incidences of 'episodic volunteering' in Scotland (Danson:2003) which may have an impact on the drop in overall number, as people dip in and out at various times of their lives.

This issue may benefit from further investigation to understand better the nature of volunteering commitment.

### Volunteering by gender

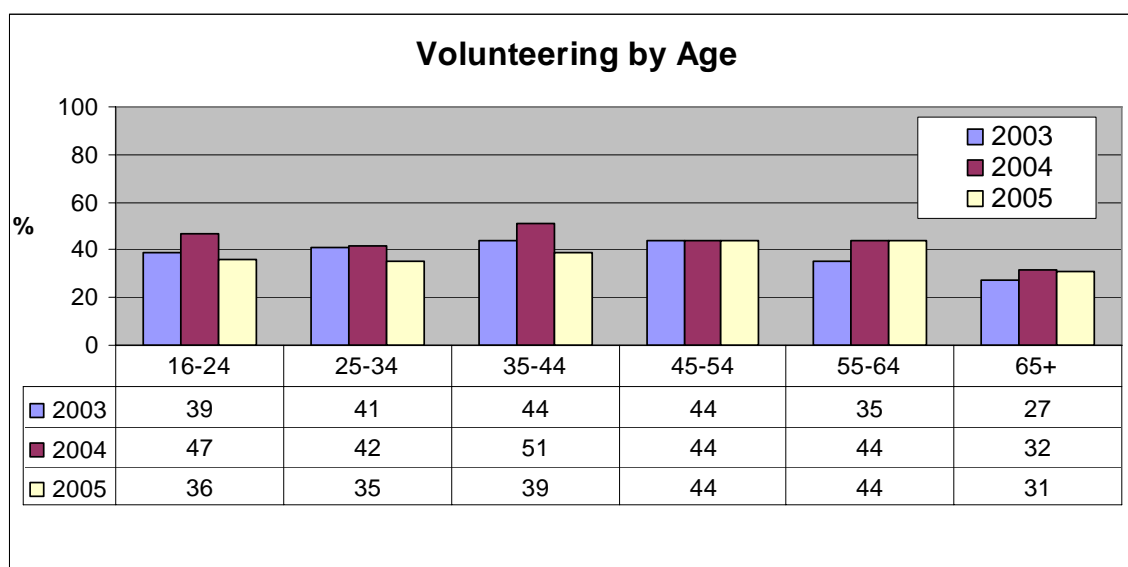
For the first time since VDS started gathering statistical information on volunteering in Scotland, the figures show that men and women are equally likely to volunteer. Previous studies have indicated that women are more likely to volunteer than men (VDS 2004, 2005). As the numbers of people involved have decreased overall, this means that there has been a greater decline in the number of women volunteering than men since 2004.

The Scottish Household Survey 2004 is still showing higher numbers of female volunteers than males.

Within the gender divide, there are some interesting patterns of volunteering. Women are more likely to take on fundraising roles, or roles around administration and office duties, while men are more likely to take on roles around sports and recreation. In addition, men are likely to spend more time on their volunteering than women, e.g. men are more likely than women to volunteer for over 36 hours per month.

There are also some differentiations in the sources of information that men and women use to get information about volunteering. Men are more likely to use the internet to access information, and women are more likely to use the Volunteer Centre or ask a friend or family member.

## Volunteering by age



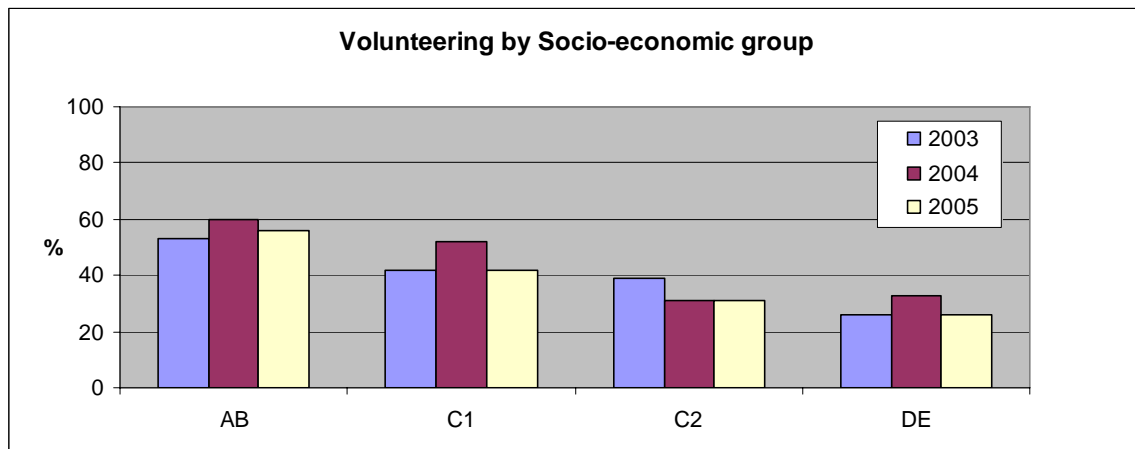
The number of those volunteering in the different age groups have generally risen and fallen in line with the overall number of volunteers, with the exception of those in the age groups 45-54 and 55-64, which have remained at a high level despite the overall drop between 2004 and 2005. The numbers of those volunteering from the 45-54 age groups has not altered since 2003 despite the overall numbers both rising and falling in that time. Throughout this time period, those aged over 65 remain the least likely to volunteer, which does not fit with theory that older people have more time to give to volunteering once they leave the labour market, although anecdotal evidence indicates that they are seeking something satisfying and worthwhile to do with their time. It is interesting that those in age groups 16-24, 25-34 and 35-44 have all decreased significantly since 2004, in particular for the 16-24 category as there have been a number of initiatives in that time to involve young people in their communities.

Various influences have been identified regarding the involvement of young people in volunteering. It has been identified, for example that external influences play an important role in likelihood to volunteer. “Encouragement by parents and schools are significant factors in young people deciding to volunteer” (Danson: 2003). In addition, the increase in numbers of people accessing tertiary education has an influence as it ‘delays financial independence... known to lead to a much lower level of volunteering in the early 20’s age group, but this is likely to be exacerbated by graduate debt, and other financial factors not seen before’ (NFP Synergy, 2003:8).

Again, across the age categories, there are different activities undertaken, different amounts of time given to volunteering, and different sources of information used to find out about volunteering. Those aged 16-24 are least likely to serve on a committee, but most likely to work in the environment, while these are the most and least likely activities respectively for those 65 years and older. Those aged 35-44 are most likely to help to raise money or organise events. Those aged 65 years and over are most likely to volunteer for more than 36 hours per month.

The likelihood of accessing information about volunteering via the Internet decreases with age. Of all age groups, those aged over 65 years are less likely to know where to go for information about becoming involved in their community. This is interesting in the light of a paper by John Wilson looking at the motivation around volunteering (Wilson, 2000:6) which argues that “work is a form of social integration which encourages volunteering” and that “withdrawing from the labour force weakens social integration” (Wilson 2000:12). Therefore it would seem that although those in age group 65+ have additional free time available to volunteer, they have less social networks than before, and therefore may be unable to find information or know where to ask.

## Volunteering by socio-economic group

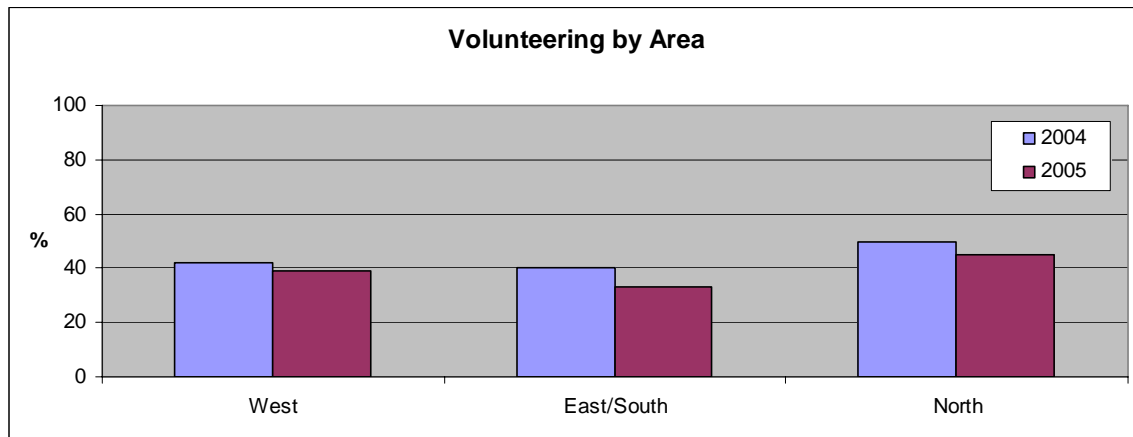


There is a correlation between volunteering and socio-economic group with those from managerial or professional groups being more likely to volunteer than those in semi or unskilled work. A noticeable exception to this is in 2004, where those in C2 were less likely to volunteer than those in the DE group. It is also worth noting that the level of volunteering in C2 did not fall back down to the previous level this year. Previous research carried out (NFO: 2003) indicated that those in lower socio-economic groups were less likely to think that everyone had something to contribute to volunteering.

There are also patterns of activity, time spent on volunteering, and sources of information on volunteering across the socio-economic groups. Those in the managerial or professional group are likely to undertake roles such as helping to raise money. Those in the clerical and skilled manual groups are less likely to undertake roles such as campaigning or advocacy, but more likely to work in the environment. Those in unskilled or non-earning groups, are least likely to serve on a committee, or help to run an event, but likely to be involved in campaigning or advocacy.

Those in the managerial or professional group, AB, are the least likely to volunteer on a full-time basis.

## Volunteering by Scottish area



As can be seen from the graph, those living in the North of Scotland are most likely to volunteer and those in the East/South least likely. Within this wider picture, there are patterns around the types of activity undertaken. Those in the West are most likely to volunteer in sports and those in the North more likely to volunteer in the environment and provision of support. Those in the East and South are least likely to take part in committee work or campaign.

## Volunteering by activity

As found in previous research carried out into volunteering activity (VDS: 2005, Davis Smith: 1997), helping to raise money, is the most popular activity with volunteers. The least popular activity is campaigning or advocacy. Looking at the year on year change within activities, committee work has increased in popularity, while working in the environment has decreased.

In this year's poll, due to the change of style of question, an 'other' option was included for those who did not identify their unpaid work to fit in with the categories given. 18% of respondents identified that they participated in 'other unpaid activity'. This merits further investigation, as it infers that people are undertaking voluntary activity outwith the

categories that we use to capture volunteering levels, and therefore we could be excluding volunteers from being 'counted' in our survey work. This 'other' option could also have had an impact on the categories of activity which have decreased from last year's poll such as administration and environmental work.

## **Volunteering by hours spent per month**

Most people volunteer for up to five hours per month. This has consistently been the case in previous years (VDS: 2005, VDS: 2004a). Those aged 65+, those in socio-economic groups C1 and C2, and those in the East and South are most likely to volunteer for over thirty-six hours per month.

## **Sources of information for becoming a volunteer**

16% of adults in Scotland would not know where to go for information about volunteering if they wanted to become involved. This number includes both volunteers and non-volunteers. Those in group C2 are the least likely to know where to access information, and those in group C1 are most likely to seek information about volunteering through the Benefits Agency.

The library is the source that most people state they would use, followed by the Internet. Choice of internet as a source of information is correlated with socio-economic group, with those in the managerial and professional group being the most likely to use it. Volunteer Centres have increased in popularity as a source, from 15% in 2004, to 19% in 2005 and remain most likely to be used by the managerial and professional group (AB).

There are significant differences in where volunteers would seek information compared with non-volunteers. One quarter of those who do not volunteer do not know where to get information about becoming involved. Non-volunteers are most likely to use their local library, while volunteers would go direct to an organization. The internet is the second choice for both volunteers and non-volunteers. Volunteers are more likely to use the Volunteer Centre than non-volunteers.

Overall, the Internet, Volunteer Centres and friends/family have all increased as possible sources about volunteering since 2004, while the CAB has decreased. The number of people who would not know where to go has also gone down. Those in the North of Scotland are the most likely to know where to go, as well as the most likely to approach an organization directly. Variations such as this may not simply be a matter of geography, but the volunteer infrastructure in place 'the tradition of volunteering, the age and stage of the Volunteer Centre...' (Danson: 2003).

According to the Expenditure and Food Survey by the Office of National Statistics 2004, 44% of households in Scotland have access to the internet. This figure has been increasing year on year, with government targets in place to ensure that the so called 'digital divide' is decreased. The widening of access to the Internet most certainly has an effect on its use as a key source of information for people, and volunteering is no

exception. However, research by VDS into volunteering and disability (Reilly: 2005) indicated that the Internet was not well used by disabled people in Scotland as a route into volunteering. This is supported by the Scottish Household Survey (Scottish Executive: 2004) which details that individuals are less likely to have access to the Internet if they have a disability or long term illness. Therefore, for people who have access to the Internet, it is a key route into volunteering, but for those who do not, it may be a barrier to information, particularly if organisations rely heavily on websites to recruit and provide information.

Research has shown that friends and family are a key route into volunteering, and this seems to increasingly be the case. Research undertaken in 2003 (NFO: 2003) indicated that there was a correlation between the propensity to volunteer and other members of the family volunteering. However, there is a concern that those who are not linked into social groups may continually be excluded, as discussed by Danson (2003). 'However, the socially excluded...are the least well informed about volunteering, and the least networked into existing volunteers'. In addition, there is evidence (NFO:2003) that those in lower socio-economic groups are more concerned about not being out of pocket and not having Social Security benefit affected than other groups, which should be taken into account when recruiting or providing information for prospective volunteers. This links in with research carried out in 2005 into the 'Role of Asking' in volunteering which set out to further investigate the finding that 60% of adults in Scotland had never been asked to volunteer. Findings indicated that the preferred method of recruitment was being asked face to face by a trusted source. In particular, the non-volunteers felt it was important that it be someone they knew so as not to be duped into something unsuitable or not enjoyable (Baird:2005).

## **2. *Informal Volunteering***

81% of adults in Scotland volunteer informally: two thirds because they saw a need while the other third because they were asked. This is indicative of the concept of social capital and the contribution that volunteering can make (for further discussion on this see VDS: 2004b).

There are key demographic differences between formal and informal volunteering. Those aged 16-24 are more likely to volunteer informally than any other age group which is interesting in the light of data into formal volunteering which indicates that the number of volunteers in this age group has decreased significantly.

Likelihood to volunteer informally is correlated with socio-economic class which may be an indicator of levels of social networks within classes. In addition, those in the higher socio-economic groups are twice as likely to undertake activities such as giving advice or providing transport which may imply class divides in Scotland around access to information and access to private transport. In addition, those in the North of Scotland are most likely to volunteer informally which again could be attributed to rurality and strength of local networks.

Research carried out by VDS into Black and Minority Ethnic communities and volunteering in Scotland (Reilly: 2005) indicated that the majority of volunteering taking place within these communities was of an informal nature. Volunteering was a 'way of life' and was linked to faith groups and cultural settings. As such, the figures on informal volunteering may provide us with a good indicator of the levels of informal networks and communities throughout Scotland, which are not indicated by data on formal volunteering.

### **3. *Volunteers Managers***

Again, the information on Volunteer Managers within all sectors (3a in the Annual Digest) has not changed. Indications from this are that there are twice as many female volunteers managers as male in Scotland, and that the majority are aged between 25 and 54.

As regards Voluntary Service managers within the NHS (3b in the Annual Digest), the number has decreased following a peak of 56 in 2003. This is due to the ending of funding for the Primary Care Volunteering Grants projects.

Numbers of Voluntary Service Managers within voluntary hospices (3c in the Annual Digest), have increased since 2004. There has been an increase in the numbers of voluntary hospices with a VSM post, an increase in the number of VSMS and an increase in F/T equivalents as a result.

### **4. *VolunteerScotland database***

The number of volunteers registered on the database has now reached almost 25,000, almost three times the number in 2003. There are 6,616 organisations registered, offering a total of 9,090 volunteering opportunities, again a substantial increase from 2003.

For the Annual Digest, data is gathered on some of the policies held by organisations. As this information is not all compulsory on the database, or defaults to a 'no' answer if the organisation does not specifically say 'yes', it is merely indicative of policies and practices carried out by organisations. The database indicates that the majority of organisations registered have volunteer support and training in place, refund expenses and have policies for volunteers such as health and safety and equal opportunities. A minority of organisations pay childcare costs or have disabled access.

The majority of organisations registered on the database are national voluntary groups or local voluntary or community groups with some paid staff.

### **5. *CRBS data***

Research shows that 84% of adults in Scotland would not be put off volunteering by the need for a disclosure, were they to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults. This is an increase from 83% in 2004, although it is worth noting that the number of people stating that they would not be willing to help with these kinds of activities has risen from 6% to 9%, and is more common with non-volunteers.

The data on CRBS over time indicates an increased uptake in free disclosures for volunteers in the voluntary sector, in the period since 2003. Legislation in Scotland around the protection of children will have had an impact on the level of take up of these checks.

## **6. *Economic value of volunteering in Scotland***

Previous to this years Annual Digest, data from the Scottish Household Survey was used to calculate the economic value of volunteering. VDS now collects data on the numbers of hours spent monthly on volunteering activity and this can therefore be projected to estimate the economic value of volunteering in Scotland.

As was stated earlier in this paper, despite the overall drop in volunteer numbers, people are giving more time to their volunteering. As such, the economic contribution to Scottish society has increased.

Further to publication of the 'Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit' (IVR:2005), we have included an additional calculation to take into account the employment overheads that would be in addition to the total value of £2.1 billion, if the volunteering had to be paid for by an employer. The calculation of economic value plus the 20% provides a notional volunteer wage bill for Scotland, if the time wasn't given for free.

The figures for economic value are based on the average Scottish weekly wage of £437 per week. The toolkit suggests that each volunteer role is calculated at an average wage for the role undertaken e.g. a volunteer driver would be the financial equivalent of a taxi driver. For the purpose of a national figure, we could not go into that level of detail for each volunteering role.

## **7. Conclusions**

The overall change in the number of people volunteering in Scotland over the last three years confirms what we already know; that volunteering is fluctuant. We are aware that volunteering is influenced by life stage and many other factors, and we are also aware that volunteering is not a constant; people dip in and out throughout their lives. Those who start early are most likely to always have some links with volunteering, but they may take time out for example while studying, or during parenthood. For these, and many other reasons, we see the numbers volunteering in Scotland changing year to year. Interestingly, however, we also see that as time goes on, the pool of volunteers are giving more time than before. This could be as a result of increased need, or a willingness to give more time to a specific cause. Either way, the impact on Scotland is increasing, as we can see from the increased economic value of volunteering, as well as from our knowledge of the many ways in which volunteering touches the lives of Scottish people.

It is important, however, in the light of this, to take into account the fact that 16% of adults in Scotland would not know where to go for information if they wished to volunteer. This number is decreasing each year, but is still at a significant level. There is a role here for volunteer involving organisations in engaging with new ways of involving people and for Volunteer Centres, in ensuring that they play a prominent role in the sharing of information about volunteering.

A further issue, centres around socially excluded groups and their decreased likelihood to be involved as volunteers. Research has indicated that this is due to lack of access to social networks which include existing volunteers. However, for these groups, the issue of being out of pocket for volunteering, and impact on Social Security benefit is an important one, and therefore work has to be undertaken to ensure that frontline staff in Job Centres and Benefits Offices are fully informed and able to advise. Good practice also indicates that no volunteer should be left out of pocket from their volunteering, and organisations must incorporate expense costs into funding applications and ensure that volunteers can claim back easily.

The number of people volunteering informally in Scotland is far more than those volunteering formally. This is an indicator of social capital and indicates informal social networking within neighbourhoods. This informal volunteering, may therefore, be a potential route for some into more formalised volunteering, and so this must be taken into consideration as a target group for future volunteering effort. Research into 'Asking' indicated that people in Scotland were willing to volunteer, and saw the value of it, but had never been asked to volunteer, which indicates that there is still ground to be covered in the recruitment of volunteers.

There are a number of interesting issues which have arisen from the statistics on volunteering in Scotland since 2003. There is scope for further investigation into some of the arising issues, in particular around routes into volunteering and the apparent lack of knowledge of Scottish people about how to become involved as a volunteer.

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