



## Youth Volunteering in the States: 2002 to 2007

By Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Emily Kirby Hoban and Karlo Barrios Marcelo<sup>1</sup>  
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The volunteering rate for Americans of high-school age (16-18) has now declined for two years. It is three percentage points lower than it was in 2002 and six percentage points lower than the highest rate seen in 2005. Although short-term changes in the rate of volunteering should be interpreted with caution, and with a larger historical context in mind, it is a concern that our nation's youth are now less likely to volunteer than are people who are 25 years or older. This decline may reflect a decrease in the portion of schools that offer service-learning and continued lack of federal- and state-level policies that allow for systematic integration of service into education.

This fact sheet provides rates of volunteering for teenagers and young adults by state in 2002 and 2007. It also summarizes state policies relevant to youth volunteering. Much of the important variation is actually at the local level; to illustrate how communities differ, this fact sheet provides quick profiles of Boston and Salt Lake City (where youth volunteers have very different profiles).

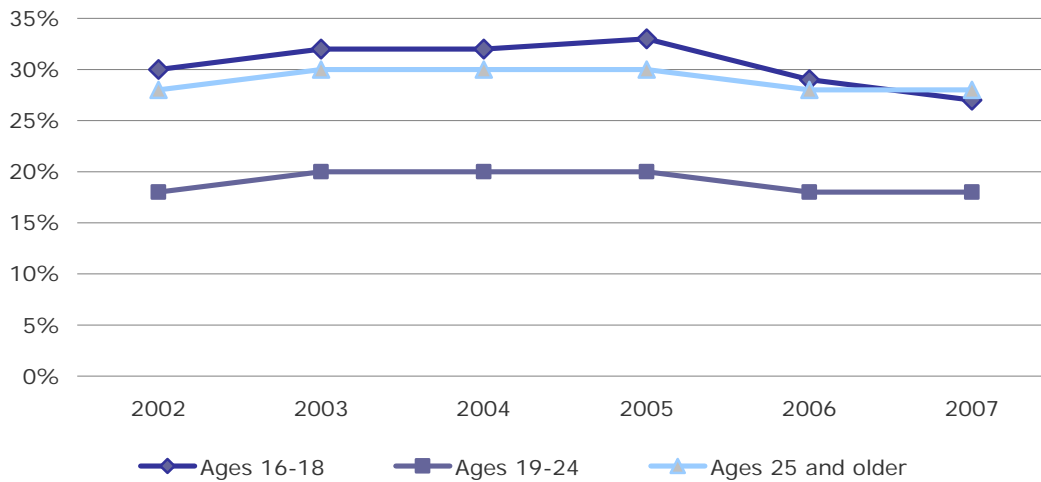
This fact sheet presents volunteer rates by state and age groups calculated using the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is a joint product of the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Bureau of the Census. The large size of the CPS allows a state-by-state comparison for different age groups, a feature rarely found in data sets on volunteering.<sup>2</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>3</sup>

### The Trend Since 2002

Volunteer rates vary tremendously across states and age groups and change from year to year. The data for 2007 show some decline in volunteering among young people, particularly high school students and college freshmen.<sup>4</sup> The rate of volunteering for 16-to-18 year-olds peaked in 2005, at 33%, but has since declined by six percentage points. Traditionally, the 16-to-18 year-old cluster volunteered at a slightly higher rate than other age groups, but in 2007, people 25 or older volunteered at a slightly higher rate than 16-to-18 year-olds. The volunteer rate for the population aged 25 years and older has changed very little (2% or less) since 2002, and was 28% in 2007.<sup>5</sup>

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**Figure 1: Volunteering Rates Among 20-to-29 Year-Olds, By College Experience**



Source: Census Population Survey, September Volunteering Supplement, 2002-2007.

### State by State Volunteer Activity from 2002 to 2007

The volunteer rate for 16-to-18 year-olds varies by state and year, from a high of 48% to a low of 14% in 2007, as shown in Map 1 and Table 1, and from a high of 52% to a low of 16% in 2002, as shown in Table 6. This age group volunteered at the highest rates in 2007 in Oregon (48%), Vermont (47%), Arkansas (44%), Utah (44%), North Dakota (43%) and Kansas (43%). 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 2007 were Nevada (14%), West Virginia (15%), Kentucky and New Mexico (18% each), and New York and South Carolina (19% 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-to-18 year-olds trended upward from 2002 to 2005, but overall fell from 30% in 2002 to 27% in 2007. This is a continuing trend of slight decline which started in 2006.

States' volunteer rates for college-age adults (19-to-24 years-old) were generally lower. For this group, the states displaying the highest volunteer rates in 2007 were Vermont (30%), North Dakota (29%), Maine and Washington (28% each), and Washington D.C. (27%). In 2002, the top five were Utah (36%), Missouri (34%), the District of Columbia (31%), and Iowa and Nebraska (29% each). In 2007, the states with the lowest volunteer rate for this age group were New Jersey (8%), Tennessee and Delaware (9% each), New York (10%), Louisiana, Mississippi, and Nevada (13% each). 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 2007 was 18%, unchanged from 2002.

For those ages 25 and older, 2007 volunteer rates ranged from 43% in Utah to 19% in Nevada and New Jersey. In 2002, the range remained approximately 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 2007 (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-to-18 and 19-to-24 year-olds. Teenagers (ages 16 to 18) volunteer more, in an average year, than their 19-to-24 year-old counterparts. While this pattern is still true in 2007, teenagers volunteered at a slightly lower rate than the 25+ age group, because the volunteering rate for 16-to-18 year-olds declined for two years in a row while the rate for the 25+ age group

remained constant. Among young people ages 19 to 24, no state had a volunteer rate higher than 30%. Among 16-to-18 year-olds, seven states had a volunteer rate of 40% or higher (See Map 1).

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

From 2002 to 2007, a majority of states exhibited a decrease in volunteering rates among the population of 16-to-18 year olds. Montana had the largest decrease—25 percentage points. On the other hand, North Dakota had the largest increase—19 percentage points. Larger year-to-year variations in volunteering rates for the 16-to-18 year-old group may be related to changes in educational policies and requirements (see below). When looking only at those aged 25 and older, no state had an increase larger than four percentage point, confirming the general stability of volunteering rates in this age group. The only notable decline was seen in New Jersey, where the volunteering rate for the 25+ age group fell by eight percentage points, to 19% in 2007.

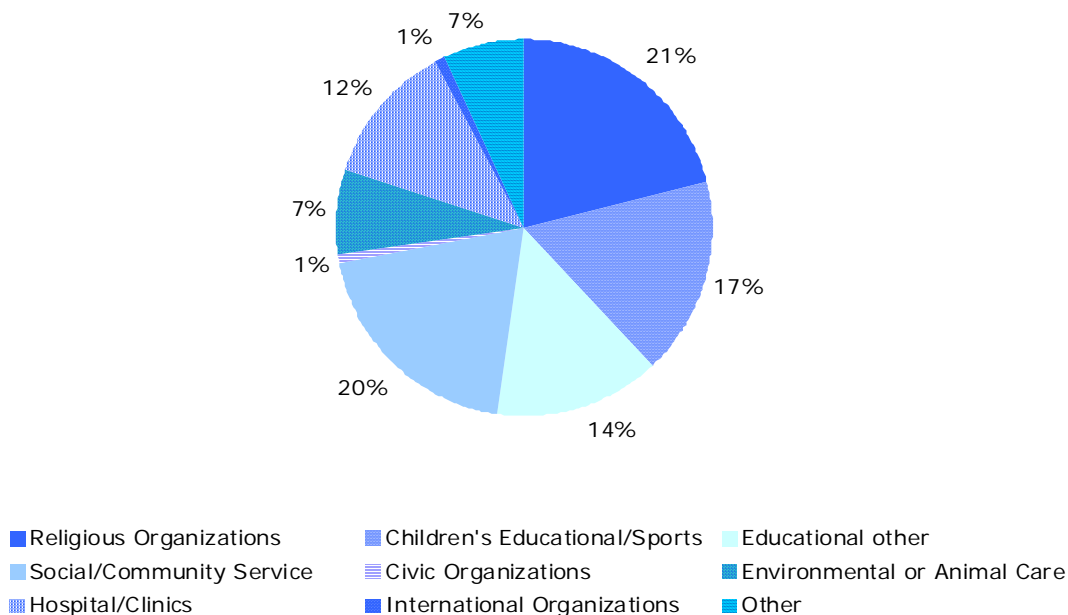
Nationally, the volunteer rate for the 16-to-18 age group was down three percentage points and the rate for the 19-to-24 age group was unchanged from 2002 to 2007. However, volunteer rates for both groups were on the rise from 2002 to 2005. A continuing trend of decline in the high school age group (16-18) is a cause for concern, especially because the 16-to-18 age group now volunteers at a lower rate than the 25+ group. We would need to continue examining the rates of volunteering in the next few years to understand the long-term trend in high school age volunteering.

**Profiles of Two Metropolitan Areas with Unique Volunteering Patterns**

Although there appear to be somewhat consistent patterns in volunteering among young people across the country, we also found that volunteering pattern can vary greatly by certain aspects of a city or metropolitan areas. In this fact sheet, we conducted analysis on two major metropolitan areas that had both large enough sample (for accuracy) and distinct volunteering patterns. These metropolitan areas included Boston and Salt Lake City. The great Boston area was chosen because of the high concentration in college and universities while Salt Lake City was chosen because of a relatively high rate of religious affiliation.<sup>6</sup> The two metropolitan areas were compared on places of volunteering and duration and intensity of volunteering.

**Boston – Universities May Offer Short-Term and Sporadic Volunteering Opportunities**

≡ Figure 2: Places of Volunteering for Boston 19-24 Old Youth (2007)



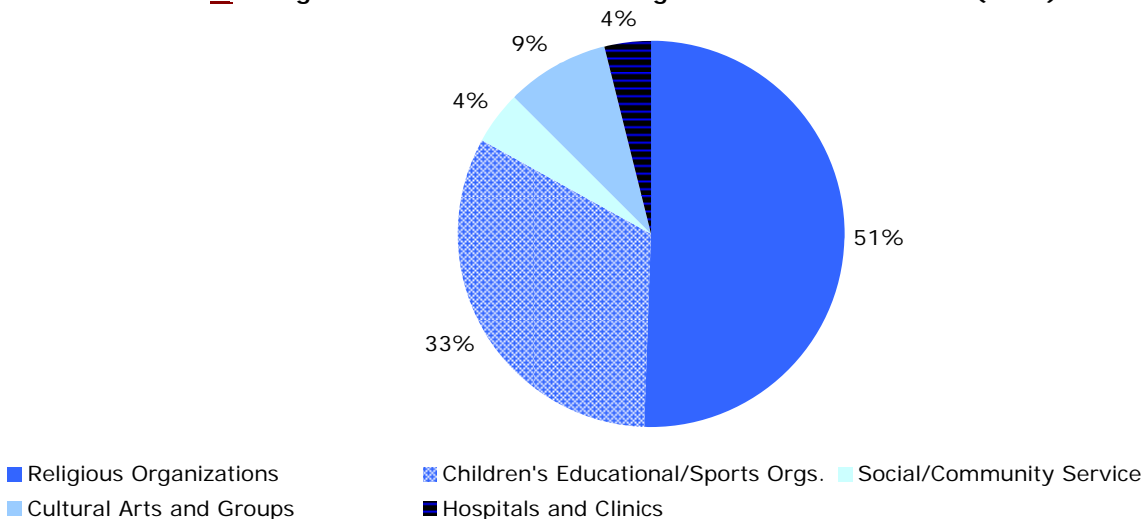
Source: Census Population Survey September Volunteering Supplement, 2007

The Greater Boston area, which includes Boston, Worcester, Providence and other cities surrounding Boston, Massachusetts, was noted for the large variations in volunteering rates across age groups. Boston's 16-to-18 year-olds volunteered at an average rate of 36% from 2005 to 2007,<sup>7</sup> which then drops to 21% for the 19-to-24 year-olds, and back up at 27% for those who aged 25 and older. A notable characteristic of volunteering in the Greater Boston area is a relatively low volunteering rate among college-age youth (19-24). Some might be surprised, given that Boston area is known for its many colleges and universities, and institutions of higher education often provide structured volunteering opportunities. It is estimated that there are 250,000 college students living in the Greater Boston area. Furthermore, educational attainment is a strong predictor of volunteering.<sup>8</sup> However, hosting a large number of students may not necessarily be associated with higher community-level volunteering rates in the long-run because students are also not likely to stay in the area for more than a few years and they may have weaker ties to the community. Consistent with this notion, Greater Boston's 19-to-24 year-olds volunteered for fewer weeks (6 weeks) and for a fewer hours (27 hours) a year than the average of other major metropolitan areas. The most popular places for volunteering among Boston youth were educational institutions, totaling about 31% of all 19-to-24 year-old volunteers, followed by religious organizations and social/community organizations.

**Salt Lake City: Religious Organizations as a Centralized Volunteering Resource**

The Salt Lake City (SLC) area boasts one of the highest volunteering rates in the U.S. for all age groups. Salt Lake City volunteers are also noted for a relatively small decline in the volunteering rate for the 19-to-24 year-old group. On average from 2005-2007, 43% of Salt Lake City's 16-to-18 year-olds, 36% of 19-to-24 year-olds, and 40% of those who were age 25 and older volunteered. Salt Lake City volunteers are also noted for the regularity of their volunteering. They spent more weeks volunteering than volunteers in other large cities. On average, Salt Lake City's 19-to-24 year-olds spent 77 hours over 18 weeks a year on volunteering.<sup>9</sup> While many factors are related to volunteering rates,<sup>10</sup> perhaps the most notable feature of Salt Lake City volunteers is their affiliation with religious organizations. As seen in the chart below, about half of 19-to-24 year-old SLC volunteers did performed their services at or through religious organizations. This is especially notable in contrast to their peers in the Boston area, where only 21% of volunteers donated their time at religious organizations. Young people's connection to religious organizations might be one of the reasons for the relatively high volunteering rate of 19-to-24 year-olds in the Salt Lake City area, as religious organizations may provide another institution that offers opportunities for volunteering and connections to the local communities.

**Figure 3: Places of Volunteering for SLC 19-24 Old Youth (2007)**



Source: Census Population Survey, September Volunteering Supplement 2007

**Integration of Volunteering in the Educational System**

Some researchers attribute the levels of volunteering for 16-to-18 year-olds to educational policies related to community service and how service-learning can be incorporated into public school educational system. A recent study by Corporation for National and Community Service<sup>11</sup> found that the portion of public schools that make community service available has grown from 64% in 1999 to 68% in 2008. However, the portion of schools that meet the criteria for "service-learning" has declined from 32% in 1999 to 24% in 2008. Service-learning is defined

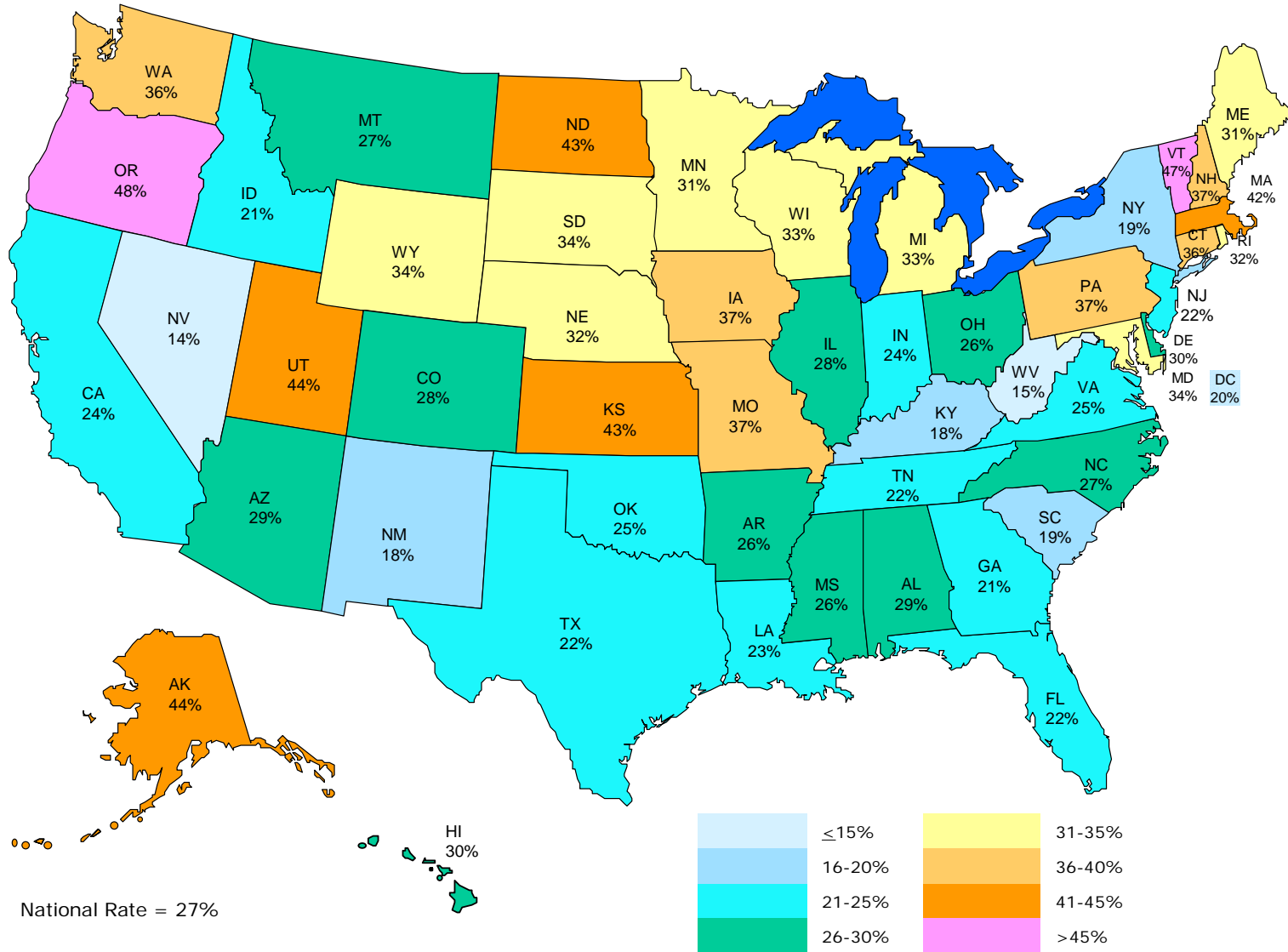
as “*curriculum-based community service that has clearly stated learning objectives; addresses real community needs in a sustained manner over a period of time; and assists students in drawing lessons from the service through regularly scheduled, organized reflection or critical analysis.*”<sup>12</sup> These findings suggest that volunteering opportunities are not available or encouraged for all students. In fact, research continues to find socioeconomic and racial gaps in availability of service opportunities.<sup>13</sup>

These issues are thought to be partially related to policies and regulations related to volunteering in educational settings. In a study by the Corporation for National and Community Service, researchers found that only 19% of principals knew about a policy that encourages integration of service-learning with academic curriculum, while 28% of the principals did not know if there were any policy or not. The remaining 53% of the principals reported that their district had no specific policy encouraging them to incorporate service-learning into curriculum.<sup>14</sup>

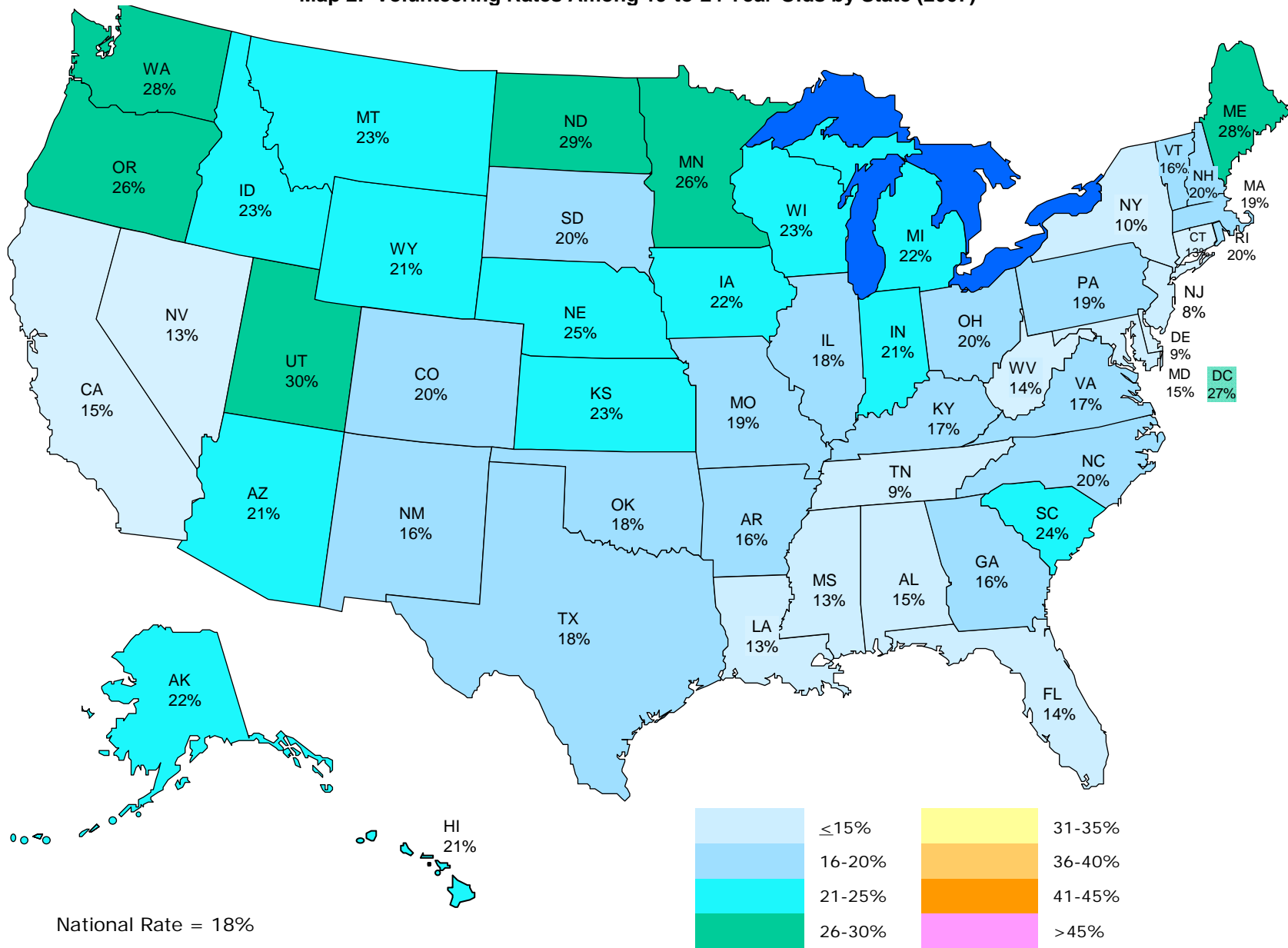
A few states have made it mandatory for students to engage in volunteering. As of 2008, Maryland and the District of Columbia are the only areas/states that include service-learning as part of high school graduation requirements. In the District of Columbia, students are required to complete 100 hours of community service<sup>15</sup> while 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.<sup>16</sup> Currently, all Maryland counties have their own state-approved requirements in place.<sup>17</sup> An additional eight states (AR, CT, DE, IA, MN, OK, RI, and WI) allow service-learning activities to be counted towards high school graduation credit. As seen in Table 8, various states at least encourage the use of service-learning as part of public school education by setting learning standards, providing funding for the creation of service-learning programs, and/or simply encouraging teachers to incorporate service-learning as an important part of students’ development and achievement.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, a growing number of districts have implemented them.<sup>19</sup> For example, Crook County in Oregon restructured its high school curriculum to meet the general learning objective of promoting active citizenship by incorporating service-learning. In another example, District 51 in Maine has made service-learning a part of the district’s comprehensive assessment system to measure students’ overall achievement.

Despite these notable efforts, it is difficult to assess the impact of community service requirements on student volunteer activity at the state level because each state has different ways of implementing the state-wide policy, and districts within the state could have additional requirements for service-learning even if the state has no specific policy regarding service-learning. The CPS is not conducive to a study of district-level requirements, due to sample-size limitations. At the time of writing, the incoming federal administration had a goal of integrating service into education by providing opportunities for all middle and high school students to perform a substantial amount of service each year.<sup>20</sup> Outcomes of such initiatives are yet to be seen in the coming years, but it may pave a way for many more young people to make service and volunteering a part of their lives early on.

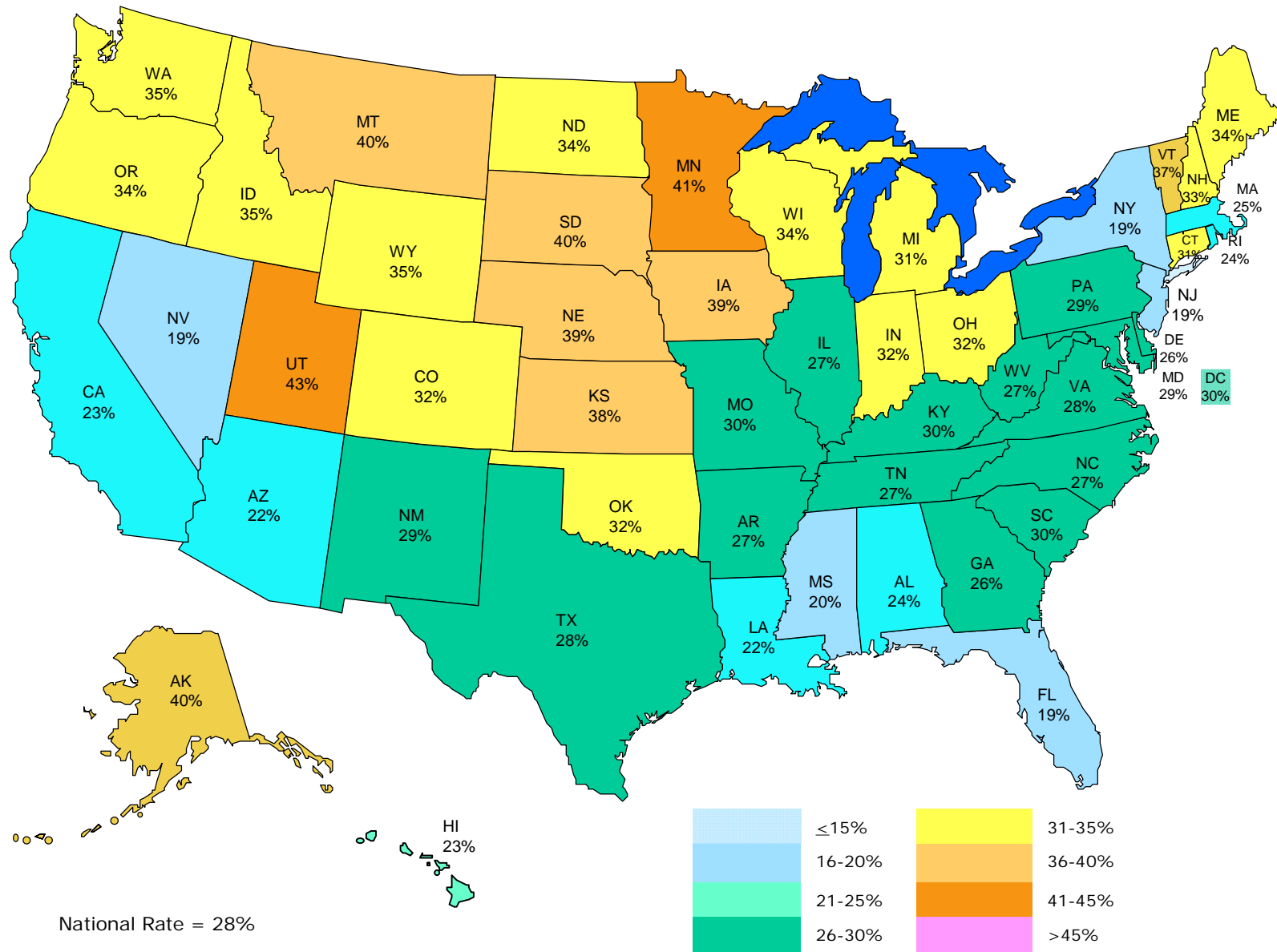
≡ Map 1: Volunteering Rates Among 16-to-18 Year-Olds by State (2007)



≡ Map 2: Volunteering Rates Among 19-to-24 Year-Olds by State (2007)



Map 3: Volunteering Rates for Age 25 and Older by State (2007)



**Table 1 – Volunteering in 2007, by State**

State	Volunteer Rate Among 16-to-18 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-24 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+
Alabama	29%	15%	24%	13% points	-5% points
Alaska	44%	22%	40%	22% points	-10% points
Arizona	29%	21%	22%	8% points	2% points
Arkansas	26%	16%	27%	10% points	-7% points
California	24%	15%	23%	9% points	-5% points
Colorado	28%	20%	32%	8% points	-9% points
Connecticut	36%	13%	31%	22% points	-11% points
Delaware	30%	9%	26%	21% points	-9% points
District of Columbia	20%	27%	30%	-7% points	-6% points
Florida	22%	14%	19%	9% points	-3% points
Georgia	21%	16%	26%	5% points	-8% points
Hawaii	30%	21%	23%	8% points	2% points
Idaho	21%	23%	35%	-2% points	-13% points
Illinois	28%	18%	27%	10% points	-6% points
Indiana	24%	21%	32%	3% points	-10% points
Iowa	37%	22%	39%	15% points	-11% points
Kansas	43%	23%	38%	20% points	-10% points
Kentucky	18%	17%	30%	0% points	-12% points
Louisiana	23%	13%	22%	10% points	-5% points
Maine	31%	28%	34%	3% points	-5% points
Maryland	34%	15%	29%	20% points	-9% points
Massachusetts	42%	19%	25%	23% points	3% points
Michigan	33%	22%	31%	11% points	-5% points
Minnesota	31%	26%	41%	5% points	-14% points
Mississippi	26%	13%	20%	13% points	-3% points
Missouri	37%	19%	30%	17% points	-5% points
Montana	27%	23%	40%	4% points	-16% points
Nebraska	32%	25%	39%	7% points	-11% points
Nevada	14%	13%	19%	1% points	-6% points
New Hampshire	37%	20%	33%	17% points	-7% points
New Jersey	22%	8%	19%	14% points	-6% points
New Mexico	18%	16%	29%	2% points	-12% points
New York	19%	10%	19%	9% points	-6% points
North Carolina	27%	20%	27%	8% points	-5% points
North Dakota	43%	29%	34%	15% points	0% points
Ohio	26%	20%	32%	6% points	-10% points
Oklahoma	25%	18%	32%	7% points	-11% points
Oregon	48%	26%	34%	21% points	-1% points
Pennsylvania	37%	19%	29%	17% points	-4% points
Rhode Island	32%	20%	24%	12% points	1% points
South Carolina	19%	24%	30%	-5% points	-9% points
South Dakota	34%	20%	40%	14% points	-15% points
Tennessee	22%	9%	27%	13% points	-13% points
Texas	22%	18%	28%	4% points	-8% points
Utah	44%	30%	43%	14% points	-8% points
Vermont	47%	16%	37%	31% points	-8% points
Virginia	25%	17%	28%	8% points	-7% points
Washington	36%	28%	35%	8% points	-4% points
West Virginia	15%	14%	27%	1% points	-12% points
Wisconsin	33%	23%	34%	11% points	-8% points
Wyoming	34%	21%	35%	13% points	-10% points
<i>National</i>	27%	18%	28%	11% points	-6% points

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2007 Volunteer Supplement.<sup>21</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 2006, by State**

State	Volunteer Rate Among 16-to-18 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-24 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+
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>22</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 2005, by State**

State	Volunteer Rate Among 16-to-18 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-24 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+
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>National</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>23</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 2004, by State**

<i>State</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 16-to-18 year-olds</i>	<i>Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-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>24</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 2003, by State

State	Volunteer Rate Among 16-to- 18 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-24 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+
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>National</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>12% points</b>	<b>- 6% points</b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2003 Volunteer Supplement.<sup>25</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 – Volunteering in 2002, by State

State	Volunteer Rate Among 16-to-18 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-24 year-olds	Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-18 and 19-24	Difference in Volunteer Rates between ages 16-24 and 25+
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>National</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>12% points</b>	<b>-7% points</b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September 2002 Volunteer Supplement.<sup>26</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 7 – Change in Volunteer Rate by State From 2002 to 2007**

State	Change in Volunteer Rate Among 16-to-18 year-olds	Change in Volunteer Rate Among 19-to-24 year-olds	Change in Volunteer Rate Among Population Age 25+
Alabama	3% points	-8% points	-6% points
Alaska	1% points	-2% points	3% points
Arizona	5% points	4% points	-2% points
Arkansas	-1% points	-2% points	-3% points
California	-6% points	0% points	-2% points
Colorado	-5% points	-1% points	2% points
Connecticut	2% points	-2% points	1% points
Delaware	2% points	-8% points	-3% points
District of Columbia	4% points	-4% points	3% points
Florida	-6% points	-5% points	-3% points
Georgia	2% points	2% points	3% points
Hawaii	-4% points	6% points	-5% points
Idaho	-18% points	-1% points	-2% points
Illinois	2% points	0% points	-2% points
Indiana	-1% points	8% points	1% points
Iowa	-11% points	-7% points	-2% points
Kansas	6% points	2% points	0% points
Kentucky	-16% points	-3% points	0% points
Louisiana	4% points	-1% points	-2% points
Maine	-5% points	8% points	2% points
Maryland	-13% points	-1% points	-4% points
Massachusetts	13% points	8% points	1% points
Michigan	-8% points	2% points	-1% points
Minnesota	2% points	3% points	0% points
Mississippi	10% points	-11% points	-6% points
Missouri	4% points	-15% points	-1% points
Montana	-25% points	-5% points	3% points
Nebraska	-3% points	-4% points	-2% points
Nevada	-5% points	0% points	-3% points
New Hampshire	2% points	-5% points	3% points
New Jersey	-4% points	-7% points	-8% points
New Mexico	-12% points	-3% points	1% points
New York	-8% points	-5% points	-3% points
North Carolina	3% points	6% points	0% points
North Dakota	19% points	10% points	-3% points
Ohio	0% points	0% points	1% points
Oklahoma	3% points	-3% points	2% points
Oregon	7% points	7% points	1% points
Pennsylvania	4% points	2% points	-2% points
Rhode Island	3% points	5% points	1% points
South Carolina	-7% points	9% points	0% points
South Dakota	10% points	-6% points	0% points
Tennessee	5% points	-4% points	4% points
Texas	-11% points	2% points	-1% points
Utah	5% points	-6% points	-6% points
Vermont	13% points	-6% points	1% points
Virginia	4% points	-3% points	-1% points
Washington	4% points	9% points	1% points
West Virginia	-22% points	-7% points	1% points
Wisconsin	-11% points	4% points	-3% points
Wyoming	7% points	-4% points	-3% points
<b>National</b>	<b>-3% points</b>	<b>0% points</b>	<b>0% points</b>

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September Volunteer Supplement.<sup>27</sup>  
Differences found by subtracting 2002 estimates from the 2006 estimates and rounding to the nearest whole number.

**Table 8 – State-Level Policies Regarding Service-learning in K-12 Public Schools (2007-2008)**

State	High school graduation requirement	Service-learning counts as credits toward graduation	Policies and rules regulating service-learning	Service-learning as part of educational standard	State encourages the use of service-learning as a way of increasing educational achievement	Funding available for creating service-learning programs	No mention of service-learning
Alabama							x
Alaska							x
Arizona							x
Arkansas		x	x				
California			x		x		
Colorado							X
Connecticut		x			x		
Delaware		x					
District of Columbia	x						
Florida					x		
Georgia			x				
Hawaii							X
Idaho			x	x			
Illinois			x				
Indiana					x		
Iowa		x					
Kansas							X
Kentucky							X
Louisiana			x				
Maine				x			
Maryland	x						
Massachusetts						x	
Michigan				x	x		
Minnesota		x				x	
Mississippi				x	x	x	
Missouri							
Montana			x				
Nebraska							X
Nevada							X
New Hampshire							X
New Jersey				x		x	
New Mexico				x		x	
New York							X
North Carolina					x		
North Dakota							X
Ohio							X
Oklahoma		x					
Oregon							X
Pennsylvania							X
Rhode Island		x					
South Carolina					x		
South Dakota							X
Tennessee					x		
Texas					x		
Utah			x				
Vermont				x		x	
Virginia							X
Washington							X
West Virginia							X
Wisconsin		x					
Wyoming							X

Source: Learning and Service Clearinghouse (2008). *State and school district policy for K-12 service-learning (2008 update)* and Education Commission of the States (2008). *Recent state policies/activities in service-learning/community service.*

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Sincere thanks to Peter Levine of CIRCLE and Carla Manuel of Corporation for National and Community Service for their helpful comments on earlier drafts. All remaining errors in fact or interpretation are our own.

<sup>2</sup> Although CPS is the largest available dataset for state-to-state comparison of volunteering rate, some smaller states may have smaller sample sizes, which would result in greater error rates. Percentages are given as estimates and should *not* be used to calculate specific statistics such as the number of youth who engage in volunteering in a given state. Readers who are interested in obtaining more accurate average volunteering rates should average multiple-year volunteering rates. Volunteering rates for each state from 2002 to 2007 are available on this fact sheet.

<sup>3</sup> See note 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: 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%
2007	38%	39%	39%	38%	43%	47%	51%	57%	58%	66%	75%

Source: Current Population Survey September Volunteer Supplement, 2002 - 2007.

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>4</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>5</sup> Our volunteer numbers are based on the 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 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 the 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>6</sup> See <http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/RCMSCY.asp> for more information. For county-level religious affiliation map, see <http://robslink.com/SAS/democd31/church.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> For the metropolitan area analyses, we used three-year average (2005, 2006, and 2007) from CPS data in order to increase accuracy.

<sup>8</sup> The general Boston area profile can be found at [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov)

<sup>9</sup> The estimates are based on CPS volunteering supplement 2005 to 2007. Due to a small sample size, a three-year average was used to compute estimated volunteering hours and number of weeks.

<sup>10</sup> See [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov) for analysis factors that are associated with volunteering rates in each city.

<sup>11</sup> National Corporation for National and Community Service (2008). Community Service and Service-Learning in America's Schools. Retrieved November 13, 2008, at [http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/role\\_impact/performance\\_research.asp](http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/role_impact/performance_research.asp)

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid., P. 23*

<sup>15</sup> For more information, see <http://www.k12.dc.us/Dcps/curriculum/comserve1.html>

<sup>16</sup> For more information, see <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/servicelearning/>

<sup>17</sup> For more information, see <http://www.mssa.sailorsite.net/require.html>

<sup>18</sup> Learn and Service America Clearinghouse (2008). *State and school district policy for K-12 service-learning*. Retrieved November 10, 2008 at [http://servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/two-page\\_fs/Policy\\_in\\_K-12\\_SL\\_Short\\_FS\\_FINAL\\_Mar08.pdf](http://servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/two-page_fs/Policy_in_K-12_SL_Short_FS_FINAL_Mar08.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> For more examples of district-level policies and practice in service-learning, see <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/78/58/7858.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/service/>

<sup>21</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,

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

All calculations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>22</sup> See (21) above

<sup>23</sup> See (21) above

<sup>24</sup> See (21) above.

<sup>25</sup> See (21) above.

<sup>26</sup> See (21) above.

<sup>27</sup> See (21) above.