



"Who Volunteers in Lane County?"

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Volunteerism

- An individual who sacrifices their personal or work time for the good of the community



Volunteerism

- **Non-profit organizations**
 - Operate within limited budgets
 - Attempt to maximum social good
 - Rely heavily on volunteer labor
 - 59 million Americans
 - Median: 52 hours annually



Data

- 2004 Needs Assessment Survey
 - Helps UW identify the most crucial issues and changing needs facing Lane County communities
- 1205 Observations
 - Random sample
 - Telephone surveys
 - Omitted: cell phone numbers and households without a home phone



Previous Studies

Employment

- 30 % of employed people volunteer in relation to 25.3% of unemployed (COM)
- Individuals in retirement are more likely to volunteer than young adults (REG)

Gender

- 31.1% of women volunteer compared to 23.8% of men. (COM)

Income

- Volunteering increases with wage (REG)

Household size

- Married people volunteer more in comparison to singles
- Parents with children under 18 years old showed volunteer more relative to childless individuals (REG)

Age

- 1 in every 3 people between 35 and 54 volunteered (COM)
- 25-34 year old group volunteered the least with a median of 34 hours (COM)

Less Studied

Area, Ethnicity, Housing Type



Included Independent Variables

- **AGE:** 25-39, 40-54, 55-64, 65 or better, Refused
- **AREA:** Oakridge, Cottage Grove, Florence, Rural, Springfield
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Employed Full time, Employed Part time, Not working, looking for work, Not working, not looking for work, Student or Participating in job training, Retired
- **GENDER:** Male
- **HOUSING:** With Friends, Own, Rent
- **INCOME:** \$20,001 to \$34,000, \$34,001 to \$50,000, \$50,001 to \$75,000, \$75,001 to \$100,000, Over \$100,000 or more, Don' t Know, Refused
- **ETHNICITY:** White
- **HOUSEHOLD SIZE:** Under 7, 7-17, 65+

Excluded Independent Variable

- **AGE:** 18-24
- **AREA:** Eugene
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Other
- **GENDER:** Female
- **HOUSING:** Other
- **INCOME:** Under \$10,000,
\$10,000-\$20,000
- **ETHNICITY:** Non-white
- **HOUSEHOLD SIZE:**
18-65

Data vs. Population

	Average	
	Sample 2004	Lane County Population 2000
Age		
65+	23.40%	13.30%
Area		
Eugene	33.28%	44.00%
Employment		
Looking	5.56%	7.30%
Gender:		
Female	58.42%	50.80%
Housing		
Own	74.11%	62.30%
Income	»\$35,000.00	\$36,942.00
Race:		
White	93.11%	90.60%
Household Size:	2.79	2.42
Population:	1205	326,666

**» denotes approximate

Theoretical Equations

- **Choosing to Volunteer =**
f (area, gender, age, ethnicity, housing type, employment, income, household size) + ε
- **Human Service Organization Volunteerism =**
f (area, gender, age, ethnicity, housing type, employment, income, household size) + ε
- **Religious Organization Volunteerism =**
f (area, gender, age, ethnicity, housing type, employment, income, household size) + ε
- **School Volunteerism =**
f (area, gender, age, ethnicity, housing type, employment, income, household size) + ε

Comparison of Means vs. Regression

- **Comparison of Means**
 - projections are based on the means or averages of the sample
 - only examines one characteristic in relation to another
 - lacks significant predictive power
- **Regression**
 - determines how different independent factors influence another dependent factor
 - considers the influences of all the variables
 - based on mathematical relationships between variables

Results

Age

- Individuals between the ages of 25-39 volunteered 14.5% more
- 55-64 year olds volunteered 19.3% more, significant in Human Services
- + 65 were not more likely to volunteer time overall, were significantly more likely to donate time to human services by approximately 17%
- 40-54 were not more likely to volunteer at a significant level

Results

Area

- Individuals that live in Florence volunteered 13% more than those in Eugene
- Residents in Springfield are 6.9% less likely
- Oakridge/Cottage Grove/Rural areas: did not show statistically different probabilities of volunteerism from those of Eugene

Results

Employment

- Individuals that work full time volunteer 19.4% less than those that responded “other”
- full-time workers were about 10% less likely to volunteer than part-time workers
- People not employed and not looking for a job had significantly lower probabilities
- Retired people were less likely to volunteer at human service organizations by 11%

Results

Ethnicity

- Not statistically significant

Gender

- Males volunteered 7.1%
less than females

Housing

- Not statistically significant



Results



Household Size

- Individuals that have 7-17 year olds volunteered 3.0% more at schools
- Having children under the age of seven increases the likelihood of volunteerism with human services by 6%
- Total household size is associated with an increase in volunteering at schools of 2%
- Having individuals over 65 was not significant

Results

Income

- \$20k-\$34k was not statistically significant over those that generated less income
- People in the \$50k-\$75k range volunteered 6.5% more at religious organizations
- \$75k-\$100k range volunteered more at schools by 9.8%
- \$100k range volunteered more at schools by 10.9%

Conclusion

“The success of these nonprofits relies heavily on volunteer hours donated by concerned and caring citizens (Grooters).”

Enable the United Way in Lane County and its surrounding areas to focus resources enlisting volunteers from targeted groups



Extensions

- Extensions of the Study
 - 1) Time-series analysis using future assessments
 - 2) Expanded to also include other counties or the entire state of Oregon.
 - 3) Account for psychographics
 - 4) Donation activity

Suggestions

- Possibly include psychographics into survey:
 - Why do you volunteer?
 - Feels Good, Directly Benefit, Indirectly Benefit
- Attempt to collect more precise responses:
 - Volunteer hours, Age, Income, etc.
- Maintain database of all survey findings for future studies

Questions?

