Community Life Survey: Charitable Giving

This factsheet summarises official statistics on charitable giving by adults (16+) in England, based on data from the 2017-18 Community Life Survey.

75% of respondents gave money to charitable causes in the last 4 weeks, donating an average of £22*

The percentage of people who donated in 2017-18 was lower than in 2013-14, but the average amount donated per person has remained consistent.

Who was more likely to have given to charitable causes in the last 4 weeks?

- Women were more likely to have given to charitable causes than men (79% vs 70%).
- People aged 35 and older were more likely to have given to charitable causes than people aged 16-34.
- People living in rural areas were more likely to have given to charitable causes than people living in urban areas (74% vs 78%).
- People who live in the least deprived areas were more likely to have given to charitable causes than those who live in the most deprived areas.
- ...but rates were similar between regions, ethnic groups and between those with or without a limiting long term illness/disability.

How did people donate?

- 32% of people gave money through collection tins...
- ...and 28% bought goods from charity shops or catalogues
- 28% of those who donated, gave to medical research...
- ... and 26% donated to hospitals and hospices
- 40% of people said they would be encouraged to start donating or to donate more if they had more money...
- ... and 30% said having confidence that the charity or organisation uses the money effectively would encourage them to start donating or to donate more.

*Figure excludes those who gave more than £300. For more information see https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey-2.