Community Life Survey: Formal Volunteering

This factsheet summarises official statistics on formal volunteering at least once a month and at least once in the last year by adults (16+) in England, based on data from the 2017-18 Community Life Survey.

**Formal Volunteering** is defined here as giving unpaid help through clubs or organisations.

- **22%** of adults formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **38%** of adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

These rates are slightly lower than in 2013-14.

- **21%** of adults formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **35%** of adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

Monthly volunteering was similar among men and women, but women were more likely than men to have volunteered once in the last year.

- **23%** of adults formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **40%** of adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

**25%** of those living in the South West, and South East volunteered at least once a month compared with **16%** of those living in the North East.

Adults living in Rural areas were more likely to volunteer formally...

- **29%** of adults living in Rural areas formal volunteering at least once a month.
- **49%** of adults living in Rural areas formal volunteering at least once in the last year.

- **21%** of adults living in Urban areas formal volunteering at least once a month.
- **35%** of adults living in Urban areas formal volunteering at least once in the last year.

**Economically inactive adults** were more likely to have volunteered monthly than those in employment...

- **22%** of economically inactive adults formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **34%** of economically inactive adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

- **19%** of adults in employment formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **40%** of adults in employment formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

**Most common reasons for volunteering**

- “I wanted to improve things/help people” **46%**
- “The cause was really important to me” **31%**

**Most common barriers to volunteering**

- “I have work commitments” **51%**
- “I do other things in my spare time” **37%**

For more information see [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey--2](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey--2)