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 12 months by adults (16+) in England, based on data from the 2018-19 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.
- **36%** of adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

These rates are lower than in 2013-14.

**Percentage who took part in formal volunteering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>At least once in the last 12 months</th>
<th>At least once a month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Formal monthly volunteering** was least prevalent among the 25-34 age group...

**People living in Rural areas were more likely to volunteer formally**...

- **29%** of adults formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **44%** of adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

**People who were economically inactive were more likely to have volunteered monthly** than those in employment or who were unemployed...

- **39%** of adults formally volunteered at least once a month.
- **44%** of adults formally volunteered at least once in the last year.

**People living in the least deprived areas were more likely to volunteer than those living in the most deprived areas**...

**Most common reasons for formal volunteering**

- **“I wanted to improve things/help people”**
- **45%**

**Most common barriers to formal volunteering**

- **“I have work commitments”**
- **49%**

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