



# 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

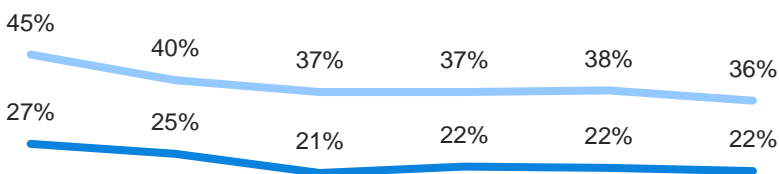
**Formal Volunteering** is defined here as giving unpaid help through clubs or organisations.

**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



2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19  
 — At least once in the last 12 months — At least once a month



At least once a month  
 At least once in the last year

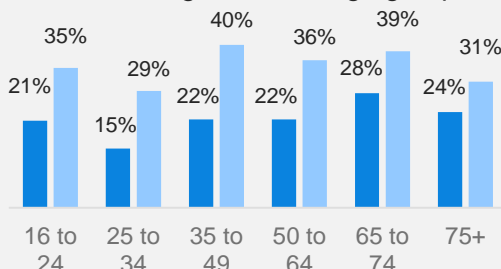
**22%** **37%**



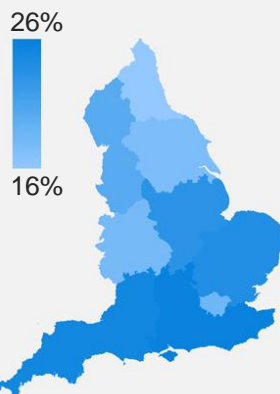
**21%** **34%**

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

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



**Around 1 in 4** living in either the South West or the South East volunteered at least **once a month** compared to around **1 in 6** in the North East...



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



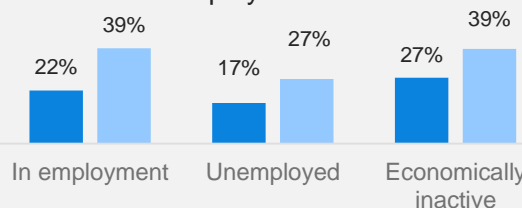
At least once a month  
 At least once in the last year

**29%** **44%**

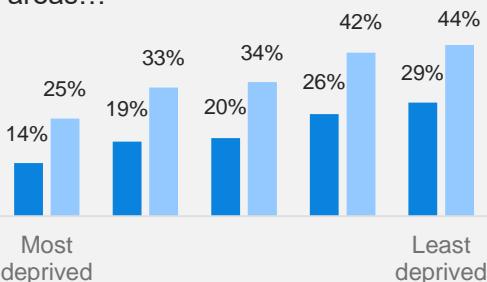


**20%** **34%**

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



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%**

*"The cause was really important to me"*



**31%**

## Most common barriers to formal volunteering

*"I have work commitments"*



**49%**

*"I do other things in my spare time"*



**35%**