
Debbie Maltman, Gemma Jackson, Alan Stevenson & Matthew Linning
Volunteer Scotland, Research and Evaluation

deborah.maltman@volunteerscotland.org.uk
gemma.jackson@volunteerscotland.org.uk
alan.stevenson@volunteerscotland.org.uk
matthew.linning@volunteerscotland.org.uk

www.volunteerscotland.org.uk @VolScot
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1. Overview of Scottish Household Survey (SHS)
Scottish Household Survey (SHS) methodology

• The Scottish Household survey (SHS) is an annual survey based on a random sample of the Scottish adult population.

• Face-to-face interviews are conducted in private households.

• Some questions are asked on a biennial basis, which are specified in the SHS questionnaire.

• The current SHS sample size is 9,400.

• To ensure the SHS is representative of the wider Scottish population, weightings are applied, see methodology here.

• Given its scale and rigour SHS is the ‘gold standard’ for volunteering evidence in Scotland – indeed, it is the most robust dataset of its type across the UK.
SHS Survey Focus

• **Age** – SHS interviews adults aged 16+ (for information on youth volunteering under 16 see [Youth volunteering in Scotland, 2016](#)).

• **Formal Volunteering** – up until 2017 the SHS has had an exclusive focus on ‘formal volunteering’ defined as “......... giving up time to help any groups, clubs or organisations in an unpaid capacity.”

• **Informal Volunteering** – from 2018 the SHS will include questions on informal volunteering, defined as “......... individuals giving help outside groups, clubs or organisations.”

• **Time Series** – SHS data goes back to 1999 but due to a change in the research methodology only data from 2007 – 2017 is analysed in this presentation.

• **Local Authority Data** – the volunteering rates from 2007 - 2017, along with the averages over the period, are included in Appendix 1.
Volunteer Scotland Analysis

- This presentation builds upon Chapter 11 of the SHS.
- Volunteer Scotland’s analysis is structured as follows:
  - Participation in formal volunteering
  - Frequency of formal volunteering
  - Hours volunteered
  - Groups and activities and supported
  - Demographic variations
- A time series analysis is completed by comparing the most recent year’s data (2016 or 2017) to 2007, or years identified as special interest cases.
- The statistical significance of changes over time are analysed.
- Areas for further analysis are also identified.
- We would like to thank the Scottish Government for undertaking an editorial overview of this work and providing valuable feedback.
2. Participation in formal volunteering
Number of Current, Past and Non Volunteers (2016)

- **Current Volunteers** = Those who have undertaken formal volunteering at least once in the past year.

- **Past Volunteers** = Those who have formally volunteered at some point in the past, but not in the current year.

- **Non-Volunteers** = Those who have never formally volunteered.

How have the proportions of current, past and non-volunteers changed over time?

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016

Volunteering participation has flatlined at 27% - 28% for the last five years. However there has been a statistically significant decrease in current volunteers from the high rate of 31% in 2008 to 28% in 2017.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2017

Past volunteers rates have also seen a statistically significant decrease from 2008 to 2016.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2016
Current, Past and Non-Volunteer Rates (2007 – 2016)

In contrast, the number of non-volunteers has shown a statistically significant increase between 2008 and 2016.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2016
Participation in Formal Volunteering Summary

• For the last 5 years adult volunteering participation rates have flatlined at 27% - 28%.

• However there has been a statistically significant decrease between 2010 and 2017, from 31% to 28%.

• Almost half (49%) of Scottish Adults (16+) have never Volunteered.

• The proportion of non-volunteers is increasing: from 44% in 2007 to 49% in 2017 (statistically significant).

• Initiatives to increase adult volunteering participation in Scotland have a very large target market – 73% of the adult population = 3,300,000 people (2016 data).
3. Frequency of formal volunteering
Number of regular and occasional volunteers (2016)

Regular = Volunteering at least once a month.

Occasional = Volunteering less than once a month, but at least once a year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>No of Volunteers</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>760,000</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td>460,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,220,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How have the percentages of regular and occasional volunteers changed over time?

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016
Regular and Occasional Volunteering Rates (2007 – 2016)

From 2007, there has been a slight (1%) increase in regular volunteering. This increase is not statistically significant.

During the same time period there has been a statistically significant decrease (from 13% in 2007 to 10% in 2016) in occasional volunteers.

Regular volunteers can be broken down into those volunteering weekly and those volunteering monthly. How have these groupings changed over time?

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007 - 2016

Weekly and monthly participation rates have remained remarkably constant for the last 10 years:

- Weekly rates fluctuating between 11 - 13%.
- Monthly rates fluctuating between 5 – 6%.

Movements between 2007 – 2016 are not statistically significant.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007 - 2016
Frequency of Volunteering Summary

• More people volunteer regularly (17% ‘at least once a month’) than occasionally (10% ‘a few times a year’).

• Regular volunteering has flat-lined between 2007-2016. (A 1% increase that is not statistically significant).

• The statistically significant decrease in occasional volunteering (from 13% in 2007 to 10% in 2016) is driving the overall decline in participation rates.
4. Hours volunteered
Volunteering Hours (2007 – 2016)

The number of volunteering hours has remained relatively static over the past 10 years, with a peak in 2010.

The factors underpinning the peak of 195 million hours in 2010 is unclear. Further analysis will be undertaken to better understand the reasons for this increase in hours.

Breaking down the number of hours into low, medium and high intensity volunteering, provides additional insights.

Intensity of Volunteering (2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Hours per Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>&lt;5 hours/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>6-15 hours/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>16+ hours/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of volunteers contribute modest amounts of time each month - less than 5 hours.

However there is a hard core of “high intensity” volunteers that contribute over 16 hours a month.

How have the percentages of low, medium and high intensity volunteers changed over time?

Intensity of Hours Volunteered (2007 – 2016)

High and medium intensity volunteering has remained very stable during the last 10 years:

- High intensity fluctuating between 5 - 6%.
- Medium intensity fluctuating between 7 – 8%.

However, there has been a statistically significant decrease in low intensity volunteering – from 18% in 2007 to 15% in 2016.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2016 – VS Secondary Analysis
The Civic Core (2016)

‘Civic Core’ = the high intensity volunteers, contributing 16+ hours/month.

They comprise 19% of volunteers, but deliver 65% of volunteering hours.

How does this change over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2016 – VS Secondary Analysis
The Civic Core (2007 – 2010)

Between 2007 and 2010 the civic core (under 21% of volunteers) consistently provide two thirds or more of total volunteering hours.

Medium intensity volunteers (23% -27% of volunteers), provide between 21% and 24% of total hours.

Low intensity volunteers (between 54% and 59% of volunteers) contribute 9% -10% of total hours.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2010 – VS Secondary Analysis
The Civic Core (2011 – 2016)

Between 2011 and 2016 the civic core (18% - 19% of volunteers) consistently provide around two thirds of total volunteering hours.

Medium intensity volunteers (25% -26% of volunteers), provide between 23% and 25% of total hours.

Low intensity volunteers (between 56% - 57% of volunteers) contribute 10% -11% of total hours.

How does this convert to the Scottish population?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2011-2016 – VS Secondary Analysis
Scottish Population (2016)

- **Civic core** = 225,000 adults contributing 102 million hours.
- **Other volunteers** = 990,000 contributing 55 million hours.
- **Non-volunteers** = 3,300,000 contributing 0 hours.

**What is the economic value of adult volunteering in Scotland?**

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016
Economic Value (2007 – 2016)

The trend in economic value over the last 10 years mirrors, to an extent, the fluctuation in total volunteering hours.

From £1.86 billion in 2007, it increased to £2.53 billion in 2010, and then fell back to £2.26 billion in 2016.

This represents a major contribution to the Scottish economy = 1.5% of total GDP (£150 billion, 2016).

Note: The economic value is calculated using the current cost (ASHE) each year and does not account for inflation.
Hours Volunteered Summary

• The majority of Scottish adults (73%) do not contribute any volunteering hours.

• Most volunteers are low or medium intensity volunteers (81%) and contribute 35% of volunteering hours.

• The ‘Civic Core’ comprise 19% of volunteers, but contribute 65% of volunteering hours.

• These trends are consistent over the last 10 years.

• Volunteering has an economic value of £2.26 billion.

• This represents a major contribution to the Scottish economy of 1.5% of total GDP (£150 billion, 2016).
5. Which groups and activities do Scotland's volunteers support?
Groups & Organisations Volunteers Support: Top 8 (2017)

The top 8 groups and organisations are those with involvement from more than 10% of volunteers.

The groups and organisations are not mutually exclusive - volunteers can volunteer with more than one type of group and organisation.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2017 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children's activities associated with schools</td>
<td>266,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local community or neighbourhood groups</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport / exercise (coaching or organising)</td>
<td>215,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious groups</td>
<td>190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The elderly</td>
<td>139,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's activities outside schools</td>
<td>253,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbies / recreation / arts / social clubs</td>
<td>215,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, disability and social welfare</td>
<td>202,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education for adults</td>
<td>76,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental protection</td>
<td>89,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens groups</td>
<td>51,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political groups</td>
<td>51,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety, first aid</td>
<td>51,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2017
Volunteer Activities: Top 8 (2016)

- **Generally helping out**: 526,000 (43%)
- **Doing whatever is required**: 358,000 (29%)
- **Helping to organise or run events or activities**: 344,000 (28%)
- **Providing advice or assistance to others**: 164,000 (14%)
- **Committee work**: 224,000 (18%)
- **Education or training or coaching**: 216,000 (18%)
- **Office work or administration**: 130,000 (11%)

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016

The top 8 volunteer activities are those with involvement from more than 10% of volunteers.

The volunteer activities are not mutually exclusive - volunteers can volunteer with more than one type of activity.
Volunteer Activities: All (2016)

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016
A change in the categories of groups and organisations in 2012 makes analysis prior to 2012 problematic, which is why 2012 is the start point for analysis.

**Sources:** Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2014 – 2017

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**Changes in Groups and Organisations Volunteered with (2012 – 2016)**

From 2012 the groups that Volunteers give their time to has changed.

The statistically significant changes (blue columns on the graph) are:

- **Increases in:**
  - Children’s activities associated with Schools, 4%
  - Environmental Protection, 3%
  - Political Groups. 2%
  - Local Community or neighbourhood groups, 1%

- **Decreases in:**
  - Trade Union activities, -1%
  - Health, disability and social welfare, -6%

From 2007 the types of activities undertaken by has changed.

The statistically significant changes are:

Increases in:
- Generally helping out, 7%
- Doing whatever is required, 7%
- Education or training or coaching, 4%
- Advocacy, 1%

Decreases in:
- Providing transport or driving, -2%
- Providing advice or assistance, -2%

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007 - 2016
Groups and Activities Summary

• The groups that volunteers are volunteering with are changing, as are the types of volunteering activities undertaken.

• These changes in some areas are expected and reflect changes in wider society, for example increases in participation with environmental protection groups, increase in involvement with school activities and decreases in trade union activities.

• However there are some unexpected results, for example those involved in wildlife protection and domestic animal welfare have remained constant, and those involved with health, disability and social welfare have decreased.

• Further analysis on those stating that they “do whatever is required” or “generally helping out” is required to understand if volunteers are looking for more flexible volunteering opportunities, or if the categories for responses on the SHS questionnaire are not representing the types of help individuals are giving, leading individuals to pick more general categories.
6. Which groups in society are more likely to volunteer?
Levels of Volunteering: by Age (2017)

The 35-44 age group has the highest participation rate at 33%.

The 75+ age group has the lowest participation rate at 20%.

Do the same age groups have consistently higher/lower participation rates?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

The 75+ age group have had the lowest participation rates each year.

The 35-44 age group has had the highest rate (circled in blue) in all but two years:

2011, where the 45-59 age group had the same participation rate.

2016, where the 16-24 age group had the highest participation rate of 32%.

The decrease in volunteering in the 25-34 (29% to 23%) and 45-59 (33% to 29%) age groups are statistically significant.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Gender (2017)

The female participation rate of 30%, is 4% higher than the male participation rate of 26%.

This equates to 700,000 females and 560,000 males.

Are female participation rates always higher than male participation rates?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

Since 2007 female participation rates have been consistently higher than male participation rates.

In 2017 female participation rates were 4% higher than males, the same difference as in 2007. The changes for both genders are not statistically significant.

Is the female participation rate higher in all age groups?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Age & Gender (2017)

In 2017 female participation rates were higher in all but one age group.

For the 75+ age group male participation rates were 4% higher than females.

Is this always the case?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Age & Gender (2007 – 2017)

Only the 16-24 and 75+ age groups have male participation rates that have been higher than females.

For the 16-24 age group male participation rates were higher than female participation rates in 3 of the 11 years (2008, 2009 and 2016).

For the 75+ age group male participation rates were higher than female participation rates in 5 of the 11 years (2009, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2017).

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Age & Gender (2007 – 2017)

For the 25-34 age group female participation rates were higher in all but 1 year, 2008, where the rates were equal.

For the 35-44 age group female participation rates are always higher than male participation rates.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Age & Gender (2007 – 2017)

For the 45-59 age group female participation rates are always higher than male participation rates.

For the 60-74 age group female participation rates were higher in all but 1 year, 2008, where the rates were equal.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Participation Rates: by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles – SIMDQ (2017)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles ranks areas in Scotland on a scale of:
1 – Most deprived 20% of the population to
5 – Least deprived 20% of the population.

In 2017 participation rates increased from 19% in SIMD Q1 (20% most deprived) to 37% in SIMD Q5 (20% least deprived).

How do the numbers of volunteers in each SIMDQ compare?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017
The proportion of total volunteers in each SIMD Q (2017)

If deprivation had no impact on volunteer participation rates the number of volunteers in each SIMD Q would be equal to 0.25 million (20% of the volunteering population).

The number of volunteers in each SIMD Q, increases from 0.16M in SIMD Q1 to 0.35M in SIMD Q5.

SIMD Q1 has 90,000 less volunteers than the quintile average, while SIMD Q5 has 100,000 more volunteers.

How has volunteering participation varied by SIMD Q over time?

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016 & Mid Year Population Estimates 2016 – VS Secondary Analysis
Levels of Volunteering: by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles (2007 – 2017)

From 2007 the participation rates for SIMD Q1 are consistently the lowest across all quintiles.

Participation rates are highest in the least deprived quintiles, 4 and 5, in all years. The decrease in the participation rates for SIMD Q4 and Q5 are statistically significant.

The gap in participation rates between SIMD Q1 and SIMD Q5 is decreasing over time, from 23% in 2007 to 18% in 2017.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Employment Status (2017)

In 2017 participation rates were highest amongst:
- Self Employed
- Part Time Employed
- In Education

with all three groups having a participation rate of 32%. This could reflect the flexibility and additional time individuals have within these groups.

Participation rates are lowest for permanently sick or disabled at 13%, and for the unemployed at 24%.

Do the same groups have consistently high participation rates?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

Between 2011 and 2014 self-employed individuals had the highest participation rates.

In 2015 and 2016 the highest participation rates changed to individuals in education or a government work / training scheme.

In 2017 the highest participation rate of 32% was equal across three groups:

- Self-employed
- Part-time employed
- In education

From 2011 -2017 permanently sick or disabled participation rates were consistently the lowest.

The decrease in participation rates of the self-employed and those employed part-time are statistically significant.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2011 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Educational Qualifications (2016)

Individuals educated to a degree level had the highest participation rates of 42%.

Those with no qualifications have the lowest participation rates of 11%.

Are the participation rates by educational qualification consistent over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Educational Qualifications (2007-2016)

Individuals educated to a degree level had the highest participation rates between 2007 and 2016.

Those with no qualifications or unknown qualifications had the lowest participation rates during the same period.

The changes in participation levels are statistically significant across all educational qualification levels with the exception of degree level qualifications and unknown qualifications.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Income Level (2017)

In 2017 individuals with an income over £40,000 had the highest participation rates of 39%.

Those with an income between £6,001 and £10,000 had the lowest participation rate of 20%.

The lowest income group of £0 - £6,000 had a higher participation rate (23%) than the next two highest income bands.

Are the highest / lowest participation rates attributed to the same income bands over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

The highest income band has the highest participation rate each year between 2007 and 2017.

Income bands between £0 and £20,000 had the lowest participation rates each year.

The decrease in participation in the following income bands is statistically significant:
- £15,001 - £20,000
- £25,001 - £30,000
- £30,001 - £40,000
- Over £40,000

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Urban / Rural Classification (2017)

Remote and Accessible rural areas had the highest participation rates of 31% in 2017.

Large Urban areas had the lowest participation rates of 26% in 2017.

Are rural participation rates always higher than urban participation rates?

To answer this question Urban and Rural classifications are recoded into two classes.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2017

Between 2007 and 2017 rural participation rates have been consistently higher than urban participation rates.

The gap between the participation rates has decreased during this time, with the difference in participation rates decreasing from 10% in 2007 to 2% in 2017.

The 9% decrease in rural participation rates is statistically significant. The 1% decrease in urban rates is not statistically significant.

Have the rates decreased at a steady rate over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017

The decrease in remote rural participation rates of 14% is almost double the decrease in other rural areas, and seven times higher than the decrease in urban participation rates.

Rural participation has always been significantly higher than urban participation. The decrease requires further analysis to better understand why rural volunteering participation rates are decreasing – particularly the major decline in 2017.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017
Levels of Volunteering: by Ethnicity (2016)

In 2016 the participation rate for minority ethnic groups (25%) was slightly below the participation rate for white ethnic groups (27%).

Has this difference changed over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Ethnicity (2007 - 2016)

The difference in participation rates between those of white ethnicity and minority ethnic groups has decreased from a 7% difference in 2007 to a difference of 2% in 2016.

During this period the participation rate for white ethnic groups has had a statistically significant decrease of 4%, while the participation rate for minority ethnic groups has increased slightly by 1%.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007-2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Religion (2016)

‘Other Christian’ had the highest participation rates in 2016 of 42%. Roman Catholic has the lowest participation rates of 22%.

How do the participation rates for religion change over time?

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2016
Levels of Volunteering: by Religion 20012 -2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Other Christian</th>
<th>Church of Scotland</th>
<th>Another religion</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Roman Catholic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Other Christian’ had the highest participation rate each year between 2012 and 2016.

Roman Catholic or no religion had the lowest participation rates during the same period.

There is a statistically significant decrease in the participation rate for those recording no religion, from 27% in 2012 to 24% in 2016.

Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2012-2016

Please note: a change in the categories of religions in 2012 makes analysis prior to 2012 problematic, which is why 2012 is the start point for analysis.
Groups in Society Summary

• In Scotland you are more likely to volunteer in 20016/2017 if:
  • You are female
  • Aged 35-44
  • Live in SIMD Q5 (least deprived)
  • Are self employed / part time employed or in education
  • Earn over £40,000
  • Live in a rural area
  • Are of white ethnicity
  • Are ‘other Christian’

• Comparing the demographics of volunteers between 2007 and 2016/2017 shows that a volunteer in 2007 would be from approximately the same demographic background as a volunteer in 2016/2017.

• Further analysis of SHS data to compare and understand different demographic subgroups, e.g. gender will allow Volunteer Scotland to build a more complete understanding of the differences between demographic subgroups and why certain groups consistently have higher participation rates.
7. Reasons for stopping volunteering and encouragements to participate
Reasons for stopping volunteering: Top 7 (2016)

The top 7 reasons for stopping volunteering are those cited by at least 6% of past-volunteers.

The reasons for stopping are not mutually exclusive – past-volunteers can stop volunteering for more than one reason.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016
Reasons for stopping volunteering: All (2016)

- I didn't have the time any longer: 34%
- I moved house: 13%
- Through illness: 10%
- I started paid employment: 8%
- My circumstances changed: 8%
- I had children: 7%
- I had achieved what I wanted to achieve: 6%
- Other reasons: 4%
- I had new caring responsibilities: 4%
- I got bored or lost interest: 3%
- I wanted a change: 3%
- Things could have been better organised: 1%
- I didn't feel appreciated: 1%
- It was costing me money: 1%

% of Adults volunteering

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016

From 2007 - 2016 the reasons for past-volunteers stopping volunteering has remained relatively unchanged, with the exception of:

- A statistically significant increase in past-volunteers stopping volunteering as they no longer have the time.
- A statistically significant decrease in past-volunteers providing 'other reasons' for stopping volunteering.

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007 – 2016
Encouragements to volunteer: All (2016)

- If it fitted in with my other commitments: 14%
- If it fitted in with my interests and skills: 6%
- If someone asked me to do something: 4%
- If I thought I could help others: 3%
- If I could volunteer when I felt like it: 2%
- If I knew more about the opportunities: 2%
- If it was good fun: 2%
- If it would improve my career/job: 1%
- If it helped me gain qualifications: 1%
- If it would improve my skills: 1%
- If someone I knew volunteered with me: 1%
- Other: 1%
- If I had more confidence: 1%

% of Adults Volunteering

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2016
Changes in encouragements to undertake volunteering (2007 – 2016)

From 2007 - 2016 the responses to "What if, anything, might encourage you to undertake work or activities on an unpaid basis" have changed:

The statistically significant changes are:

- **Increases in:**
  - If it fitted with my other commitments (+8%)
  - If it fitted with my interest and skills (+2%)

- **Decreases in:**
  - If I was sure I wouldn’t be out of pocket (-1%)
  - If more people like me volunteered (-1%)
  - If it would effect my benefits (-1%)
  - If I had more confidence (-1%)
  - If someone I knew volunteered with me (-2%)
  - If I thought I could help others (-3%)

Sources: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2007 – 2016
Reasons for stopping volunteering and encouragements to participate summary

• The reasons for past-volunteers stopping volunteering participation have remained relatively unchanged between 2007 and 2016.

• In 2016 the biggest reason past-volunteers give for stopping volunteering is that they no longer have time.

• The encouragements to undertake participation in volunteering has change between 2007 and 2016.

• In 2016 more people are looking for opportunities that fits with their interest and skills and that fits with their other commitments.

• Further analysis into those who stopped volunteering due to a lack of time and those who would be encouraged to volunteer if it fitted with their commitments is required, in order to understand if specific demographic groups are answering in these categories, or if the answers are representative of the wider Scottish population.
8. Summary highlights and what’s next
Summary Highlights: Participation

- For the last 5 years adult volunteering participation rates have flatlined at 27% - 28%.

- There has been a statistically significant decrease between 2010 and 2017, from 31% to 28%.

- Almost half (49%) of Scottish adults (16+) have never volunteered.

- The proportion of non-volunteers is increasing: from 44% in 2007 to 49% in 2017.

- Initiatives to increase adult volunteering participation in Scotland have a very large target market – 73% of the adult population = 3,300,000 people (2016 data).
Summary Highlights: Frequency & Intensity

• There are 1.2 million volunteers in 2017
  o Regular volunteers (at least once/month) = 760,000
  o Occasional volunteers (at least once/year) = 460,000

• The statistically significant decrease in occasional volunteering (from 13% to 10%) is driving the overall decline in participation rates

• 81% of volunteers are low intensity (< 5 hours/month) or medium intensity (6 – 15 hours/ month), but they only contribute 35% of volunteering hours.

• 19% of volunteers are high intensity (16+ hours/month), but they contribute 65% of volunteering hours = the ‘Civic Core’

• There has been a statistically significant decrease in ‘low intensity’ volunteering from 18% in 2007 to 15% in 2016
Summary Highlights: Economic Contribution

• Volunteers contributed 157 million hours in 2016

• The equivalent of over 102,000 FTEs a year.

• Which equals the number employed in two cities the size of Stirling

• Scottish volunteering has an economic value of £2.26 billion

• This represents a major contribution to the Scottish economy of 1.5% of total GDP (£150 billion in 2016)
Summary Highlights: Volunteer Demographics

In Scotland you are more likely to volunteer if:
- You are female
- Aged 35-44
- Live in SIMD Q5 (least deprived)
- Are self employed / part time, employed or in education
- Earn over £40,000
- Live in a rural area
- Are of white ethnicity.
- Are ‘other Christian’

You are more likely to support:
- Children’s groups in and outside schools
- Local community groups
- Sports & exercise
- Health, disability and social welfare

Your role is more likely to involve:
- Generally helping out
- Raising money
- Doing whatever is required
- Helping organise / run an event
What next

• Further analysis to explore these findings in more detail, focusing on statistically significant changes. For example, why are rural participation rates decreasing at a much higher rate than urban rates?

• Analysis of subsets of the population e.g. male / female to build a better understanding of volunteers within each group.

• Creation of volunteer ‘personas’ for each of the sub groups analysed. A ‘persona’ is a profile of the typical volunteers within a specific demographic group, for example male volunteers. ‘Personas are constructed by statistical analysis which identifies the most likely characteristics that the group of volunteers has, e.g. age, education etc.

• Expanding the analysis to include further details from the Scottish Household Survey, e.g. including health and community engagement in the analysis of volunteering data.

• In 2018 the SHS has included questions on informal volunteering. We can then compare formal and informal volunteering in Scotland for the first time.
## Appendix 1: SHS Local Authority Data

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Source: Scottish Household Survey (SHS), 2007 - 2017

The Scottish Government provide a breakdown of volunteering by local authority as part of their SHS analysis, which is found here.

These figures are used by Volunteer Scotland on our interactive map which allows comparison of participation rates between areas.

As the sample size for each local authority can be small, under 100 in some cases, it is not possible to provide additional analysis on the Local Authority Data. Due to the large fluctuations in rates year on year, Volunteer Scotland recommends using the average and not individual years.
Appendix 2: Technical Note and Data Sources

Technical notes for the this report can be found here (1.5mb,.pdf). Explanations of the secondary analysis undertaken (including the volunteer core) and definitions used in this report are outlined in this note.

Data tables for all charts can be found here (0.1mb,.xlsx).

Technical notes for they survey’s used in this report can be accessed via:

➢ Scottish Household Survey website

Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to computer rounding, multiple response, or the exclusion of ‘don’t know’ or other categories.
Data Sources

• Scottish Household Survey, 2007-2017

• Mid Year Population Estimates, 2007-2017

• Average Scottish Wage Excluding overtime 2007-2017