

Volunteer
Scotland

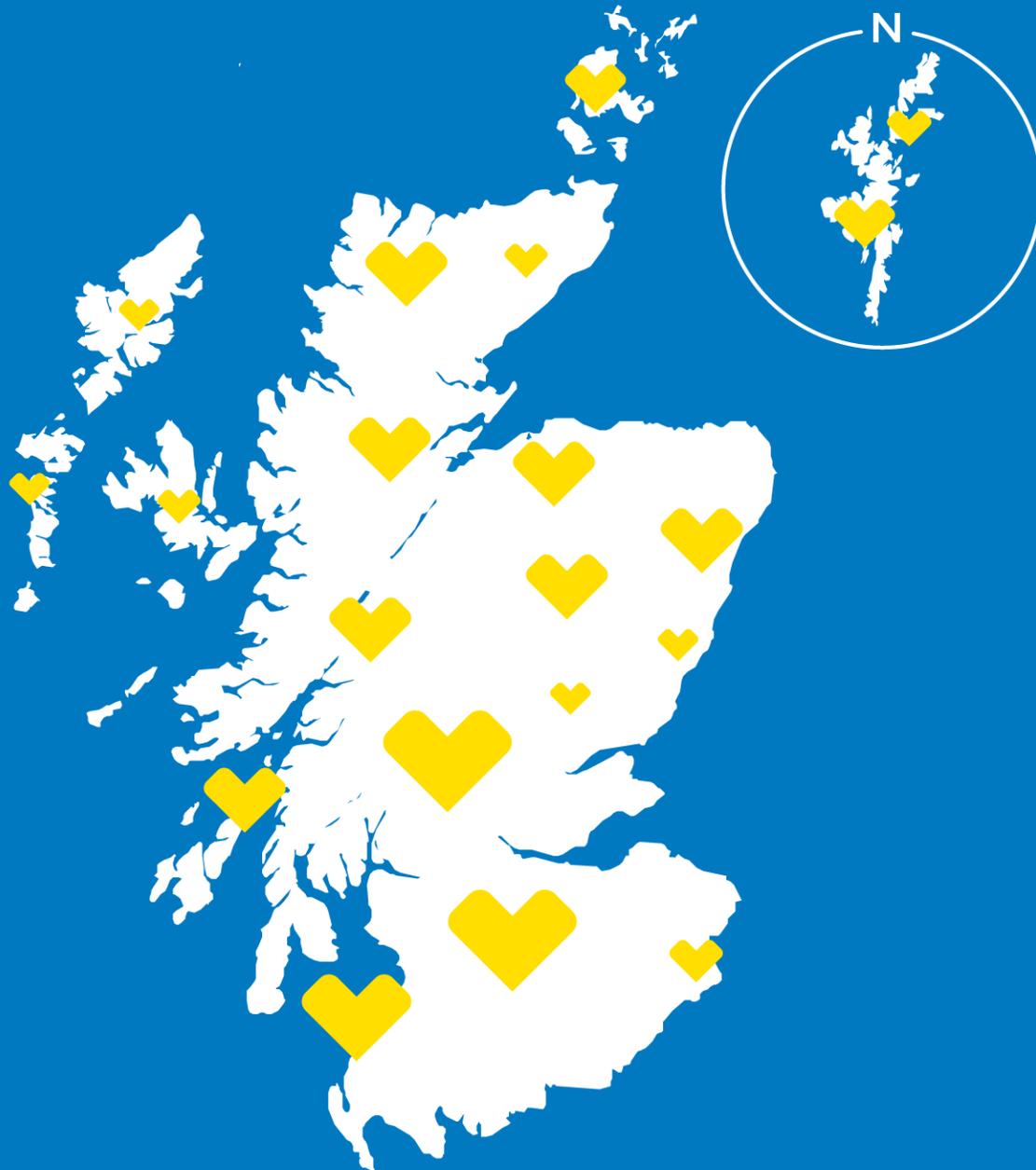


Ipsos
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Impact of COVID-19 on volunteer participation in Scotland

Summary presentation
15 July 2020

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Structure



- Highlights
- Methodology & definitions
- Trend in volunteering participation – before, during and after COVID-19
- Characteristics of volunteering during COVID-19
- Expected volunteering participation after COVID-19

Highlights



Volunteering participation during COVID-19

- Volunteering participation in Scotland has increased by 26% due to COVID-19 (from 48% to 74%)
- Informal volunteering has much higher participation (35%) compared to mutual aid (16%) and formal volunteering (13%)
- Befriending (68%), food shopping (57%) and helping with household tasks (30%) have the highest volunteering participation

Volunteering participation after COVID-19

- Compared to the SHS 2018 data, all types of volunteering are expected to be higher after the COVID-19 crisis is over:
 - Formal volunteering – from 26% to 37%
 - Mutual aid – from 0% to 32% (not recorded in SHS)
 - Informal volunteering – from 36% to 47%
 - Total volunteering – from 48% to 59%
- The impact on volunteering participation is greater in encouraging more people to volunteer than increasing the amount of time they devote to volunteering.

Methodology



Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey

- Survey of 1,014 adults aged 16+ in Scotland
- Telephone interviews
- Conducted 22 – 29 June 2020
- Weighting to ensure representative sample:
(by age, gender, tenure and Scottish
Parliament region)

Volunteer Scotland design

- Questionnaire designed by Volunteer Scotland
- Focus on volunteering participation:
 - Before COVID-19 (March 2019 – Feb 2020)
 - During COVID-19 (March – June 2020)
 - After COVID-19 (once the crisis is over and we are no longer in a pandemic)
- Modelled on SHS participation question
- But split across three categories:
 - Formal volunteering
 - Mutual aid
 - Informal volunteering

Classification of volunteering



- **Formal volunteering** - *through a charity, formally organised group, club or an organisation* – the key distinguishing feature is that the volunteering is provided through formally constituted groups, including registered charities, employers, clubs and societies.
- **Mutual aid** - *through an informal group set up by people in your area to support and help others in your local community* – the key distinguishing feature is that the volunteering is provided through non-constituted groups without legal/charitable status. This category refers specifically to groups on Facebook, WhatsApp, etc. set up to support communities or issues in society.
- **Informal volunteering** - *as an individual to help other people outside your family, or to support your local community* – the key distinguishing feature is that the volunteering is provided directly by the individual to the beneficiary/local community/environment and not through any form of group.

The background features a light blue map of Scotland overlaid on a darker blue background. Numerous green hearts of varying sizes are scattered across the map, representing data points for volunteering participation. In the top right corner, there is a circular inset map of the United Kingdom, also with a green heart in the Scottish region, and a north arrow labeled 'N'.

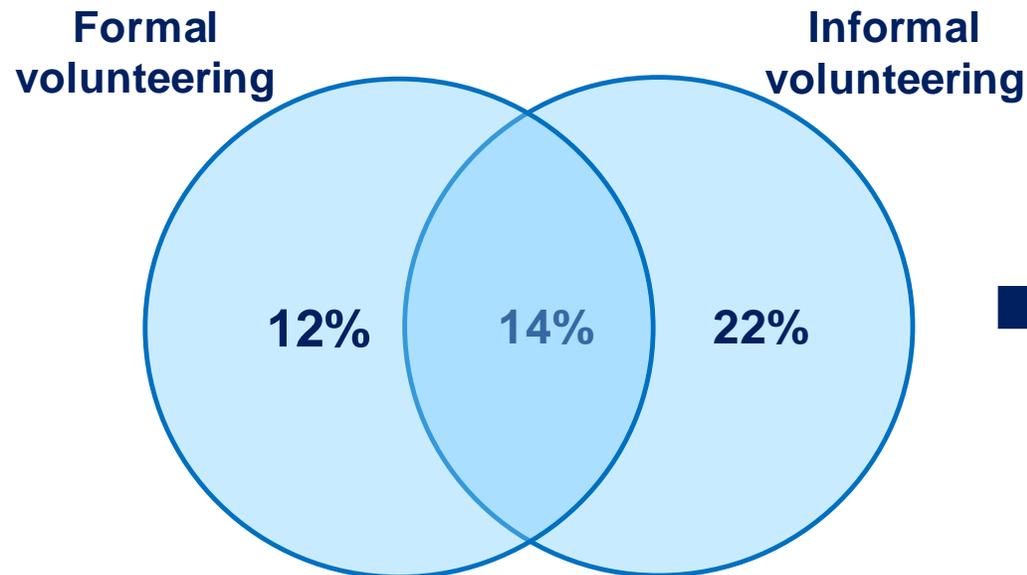
Trend in volunteering participation

Before, during and after COVID-19

Scottish Household Survey 2018 Baseline



Adult volunteering participation rate (age 16+)

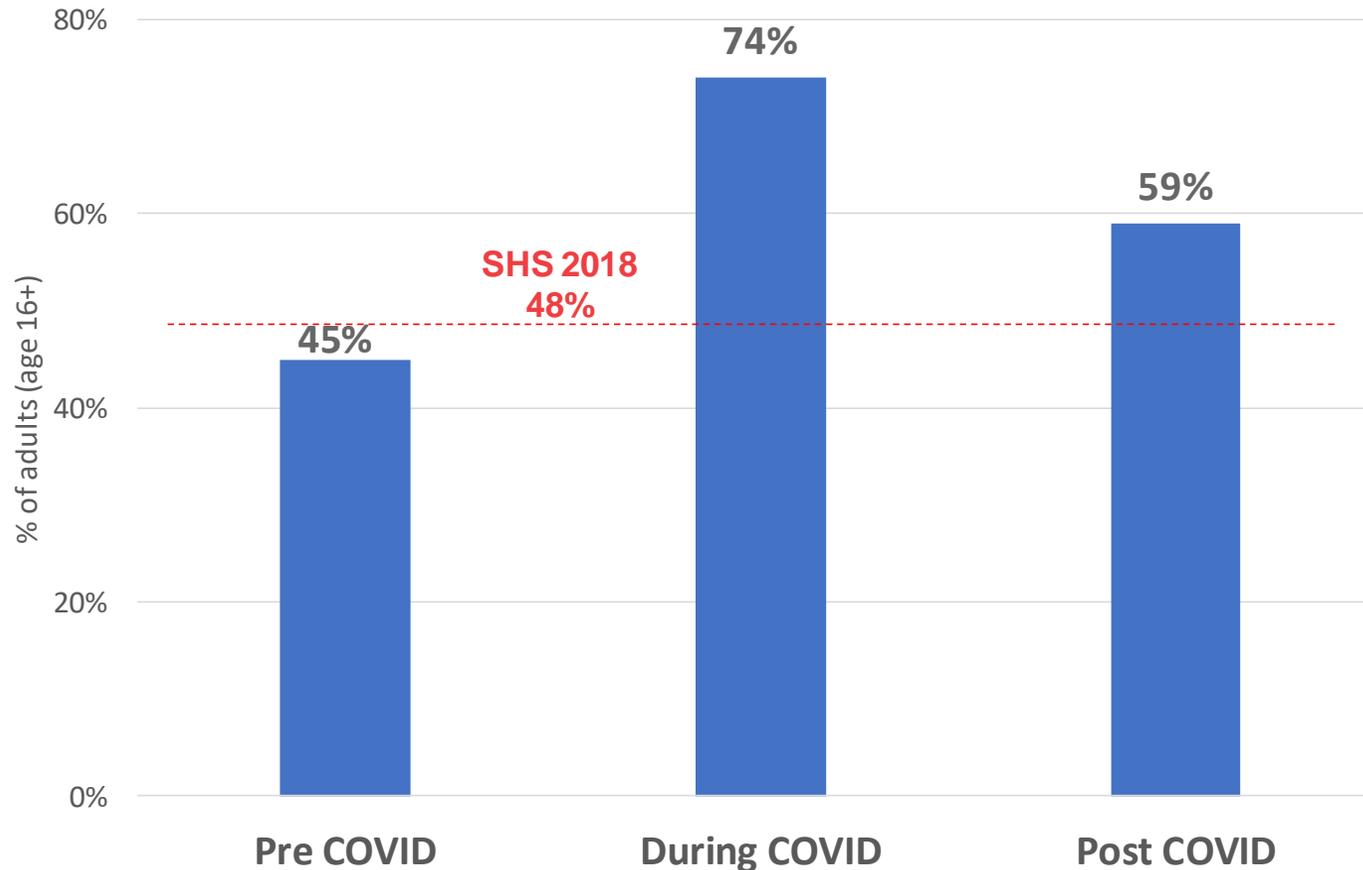


Source: [SHS 2018](#) n = 9,700

- 'Volunteering participation rate' is the proportion of adults who have volunteered at least once in the last year

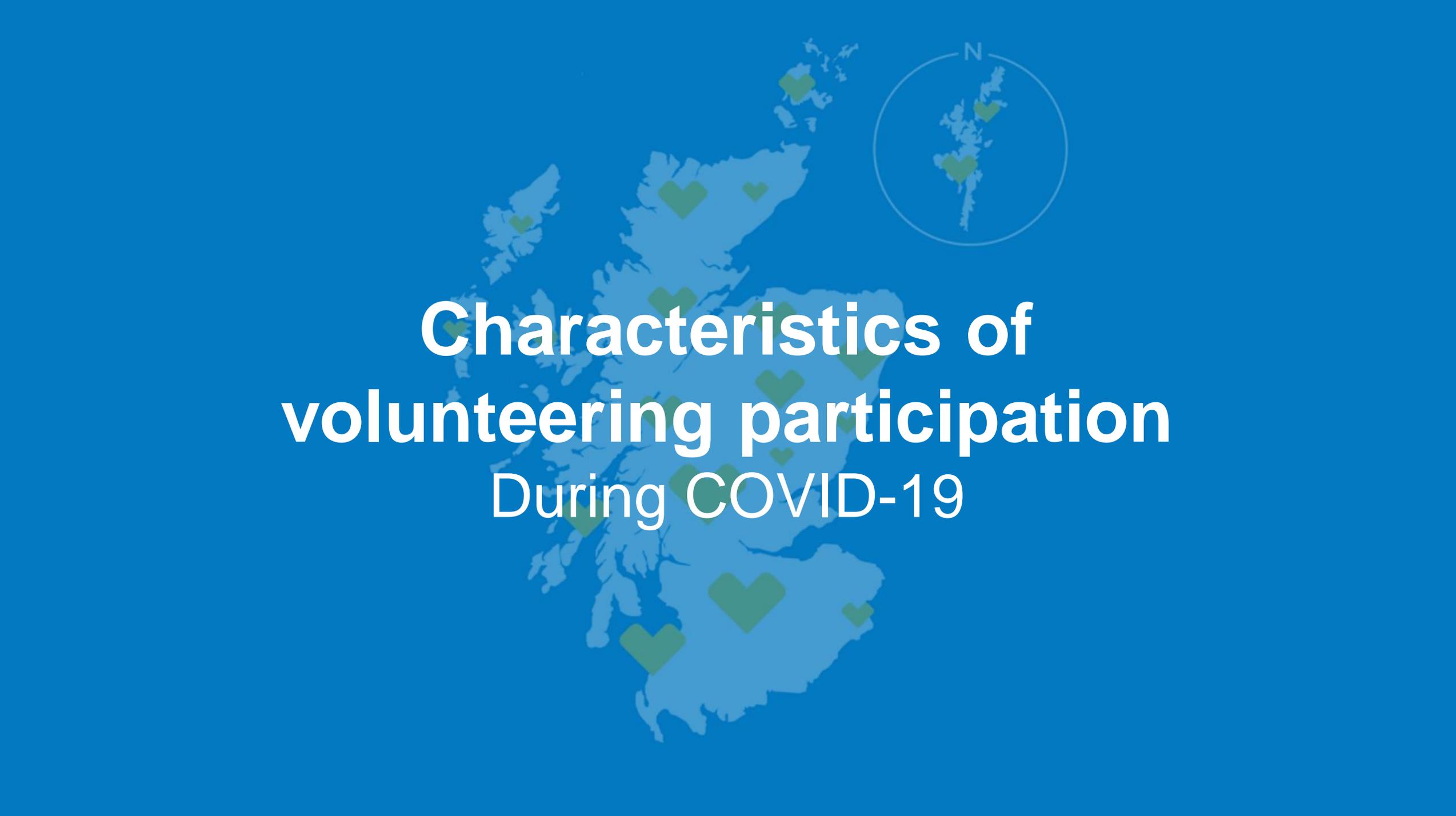
- Formal volunteering rate = 26%
- Informal volunteering rate = 36%
- Total volunteering rate = 48%

Trend in total volunteering participation (formal, mutual aid and informal)



- Volunteering participation pre-COVID is comparable to SHS 2018 (45% vs. 48%)
- Major increase in volunteering participation during COVID-19 to 74% (Note: this rate is for 3 months compared to pre-COVID being 12 months)
- Expected volunteering participation post-COVID is 14% higher than pre-COVID (59% vs. 45%)

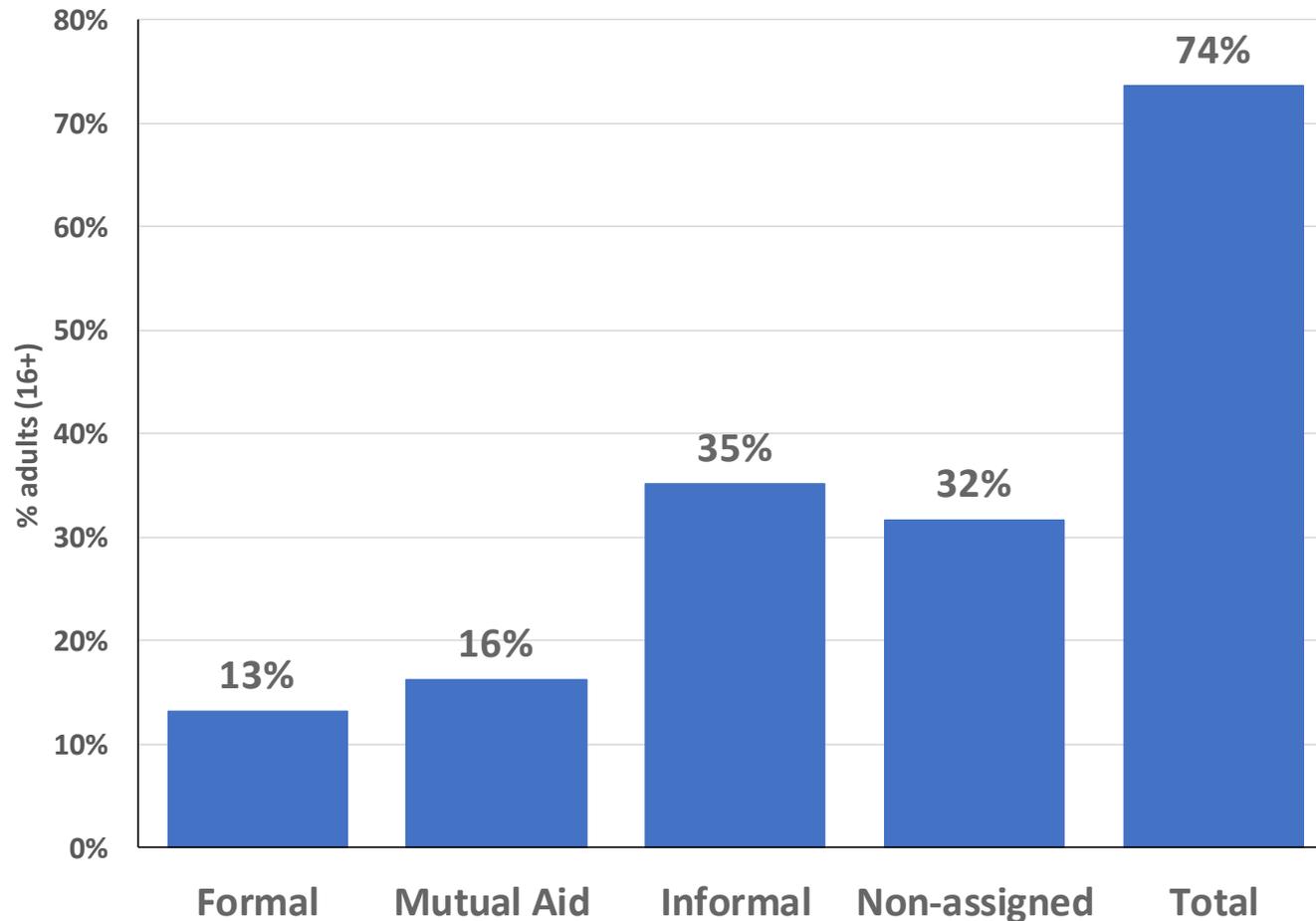
Sources: Volunteer Scotland survey - June 2020 and SHS 2018 n = 1,014

A map of Norway is centered on a blue background. The map is light blue and features several green hearts of varying sizes scattered across its territory, representing volunteering participation during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the top right corner, there is a circular inset map of Norway, also with a north arrow and a few green hearts, providing a smaller-scale view of the country. The text is overlaid on the map in white.

Characteristics of volunteering participation During COVID-19

Volunteering participation during COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal – March to June 2020)



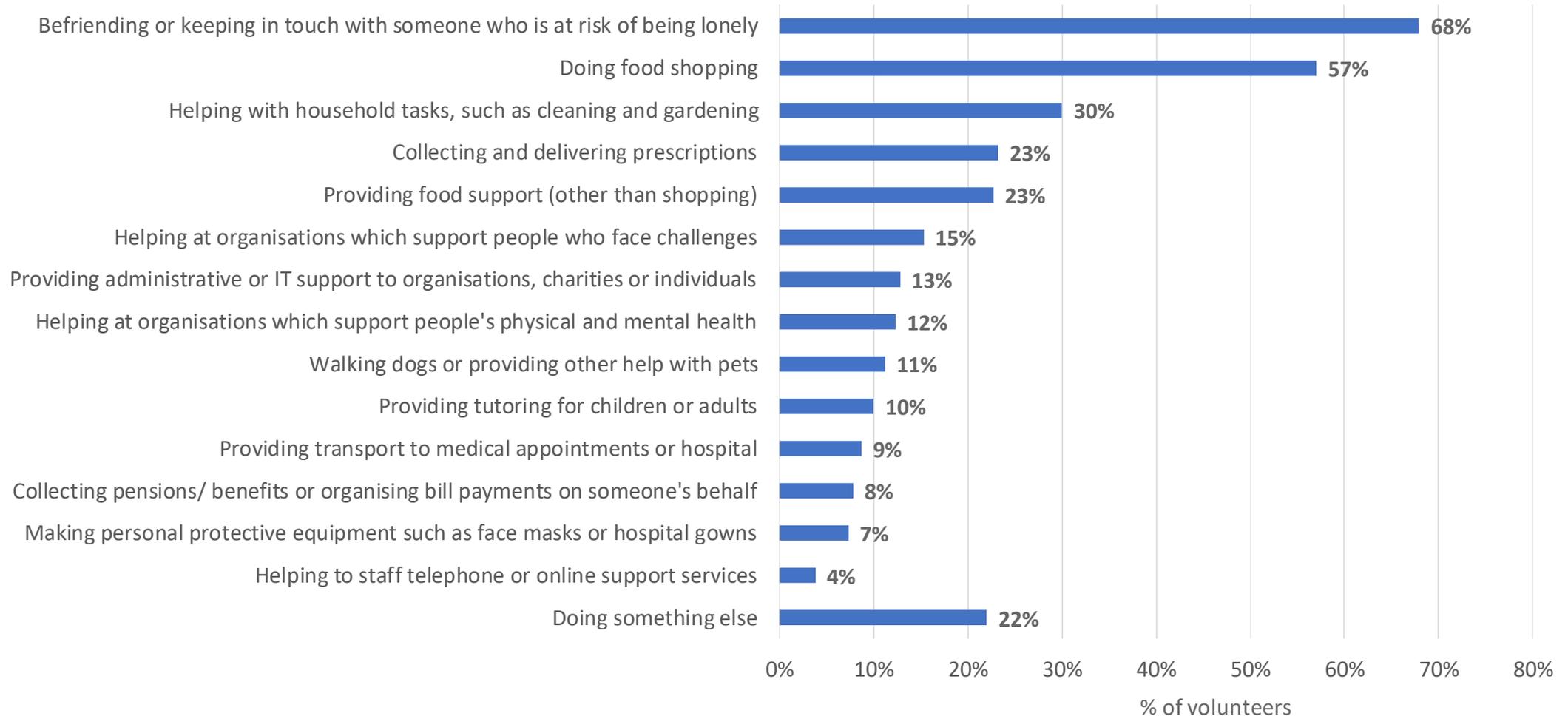
- Formal volunteering is only 13% reflecting the decline due to social distancing and lockdown measures
- Mutual aid at 16% has significant participation
- Informal volunteering has had the highest engagement at 35%
- ‘Non-assigned’ are respondents who did not identify with any of the above categories but undertook one or more volunteering activities (32%).

Source: Volunteer Scotland survey - June 2020

n = 1,014

Volunteering activities during COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal)



Source: Volunteer Scotland survey - June 2020

n = 742

Volunteering activities during COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal)



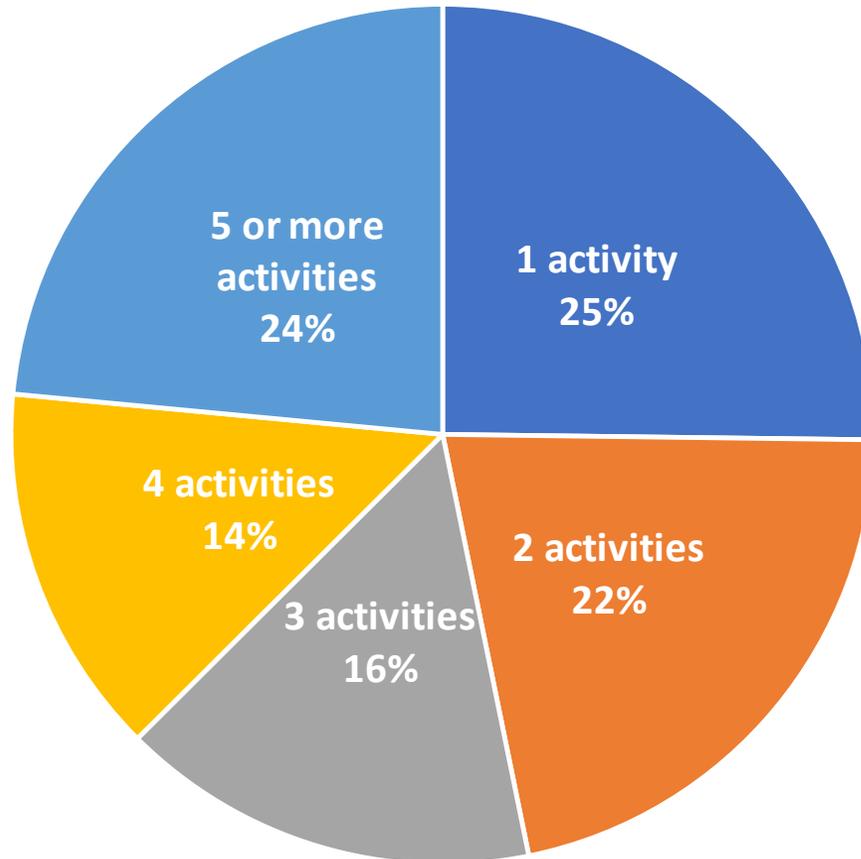
- Befriending (68%), food shopping (57%) and helping with household tasks (30%) have the highest volunteering participation
- Hypothesis - a significant proportion of this support is likely to comprise informal volunteering and mutual aid
- Formal volunteering and mutual aid participation through organisations is lower:
 - 15% - helping at organisations which support people who face challenges such as poverty, disability or homelessness
 - 12% - helping at organisations which support people's physical and mental health
 - 4% - helping to staff telephone or online support services

Volunteering participation during COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal)



Number of activities per volunteer



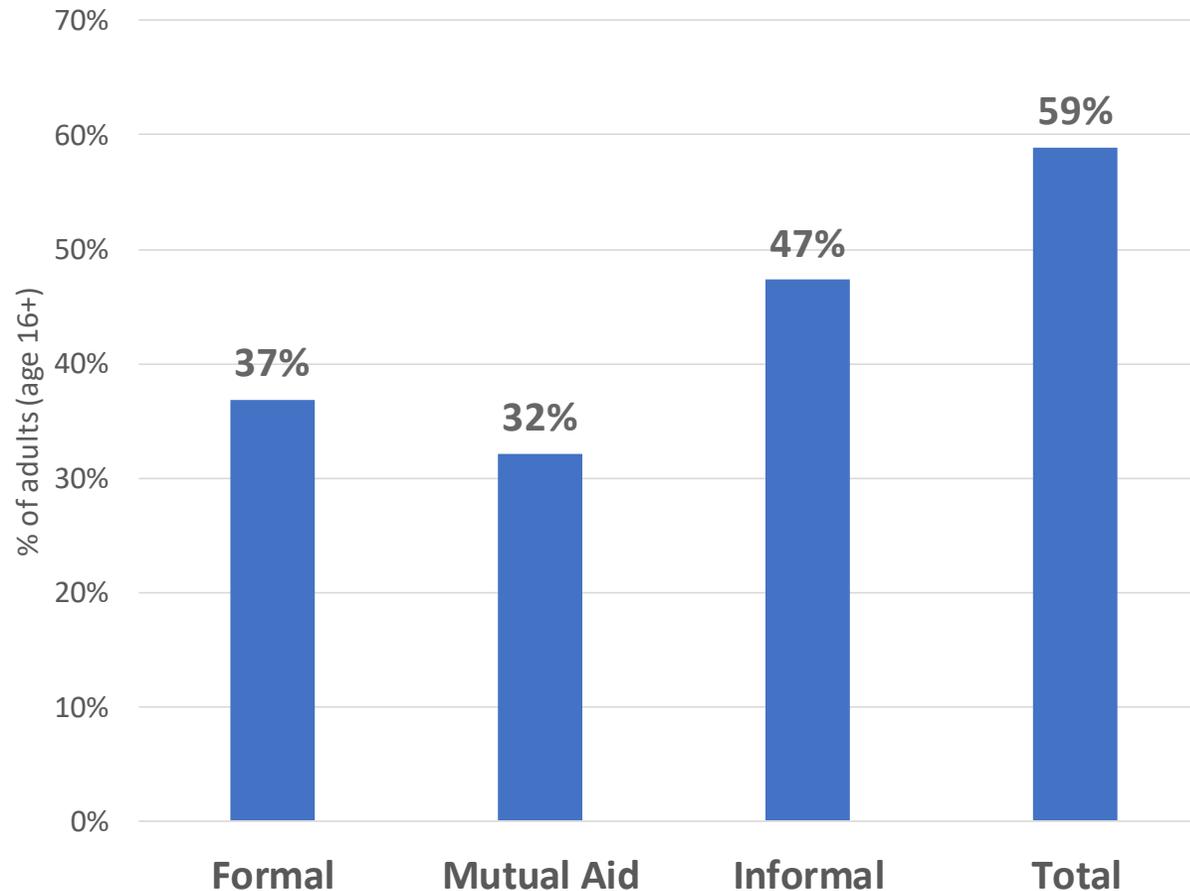
- The majority of volunteers (53%) are undertaking 3 or more volunteering activities
- For many volunteers this is likely to reflect combinations of informal volunteering, mutual aid and formal volunteering

A map of New Zealand is shown in a light blue color against a darker blue background. Numerous green hearts of varying sizes are scattered across the map, representing expected volunteering participation. In the top right corner, there is a circular inset map of New Zealand with a north arrow and a few green hearts, providing a regional context.

Expected volunteering participation After COVID-19

Volunteering participation after COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal)



Source: Volunteer Scotland survey - June 2020

n = 1,014

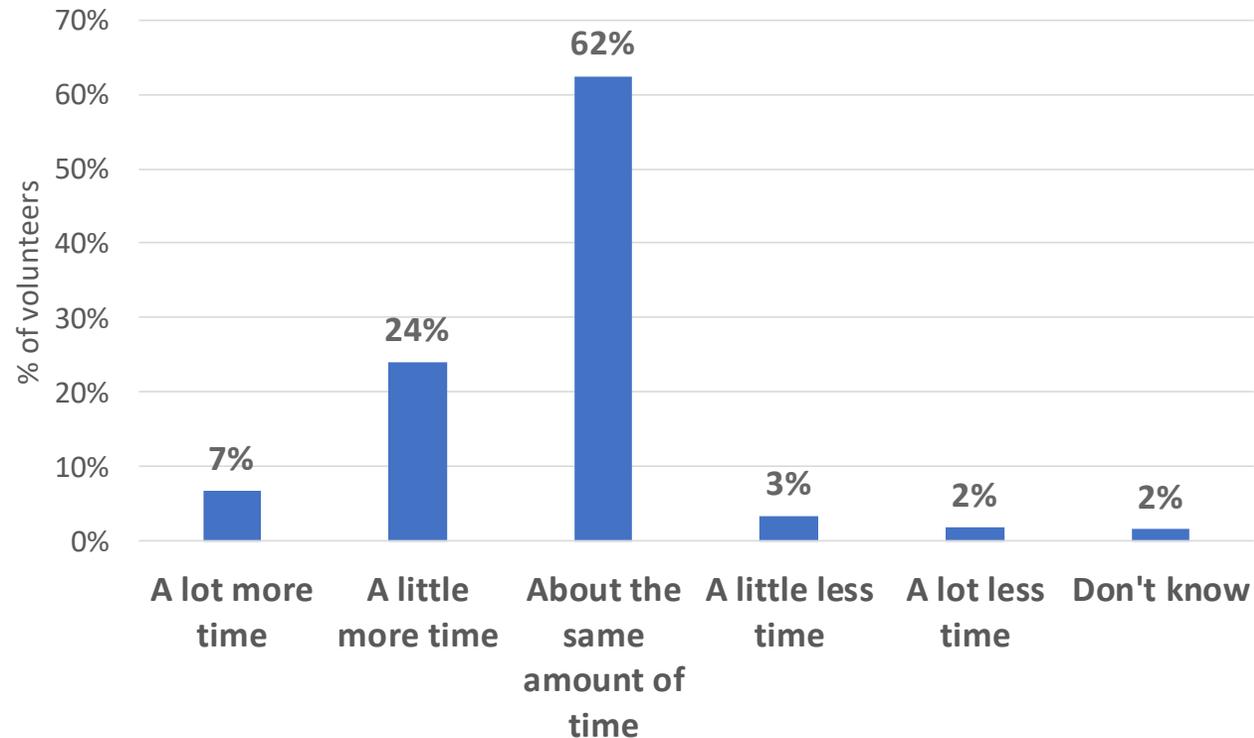
- 14% more people expect to be volunteering after COVID-19 than before (59% vs. 45%)
- Compared to SHS 2018 data, all types of volunteering have increased:
 - Formal volunteering – from 26% to 37%
 - Mutual aid – from 0% to 32% (not recorded in SHS)
 - Informal volunteering – from 35% to 47%
 - Total volunteering – from 48% to 59%

Volunteering participation after COVID-19

(formal, mutual aid and informal)



Amount of time devoted to volunteering after COVID-19 compared to before



- The majority of volunteers (62%) expect to be volunteering for about the same amount of time
- 31% are expecting to devote more time, but for 24% this is only 'a little more time'
- Only 5% are expecting to devote less time
- **Conclusion:** COVID-19 is expected to have a greater impact on the number of people volunteering than the amount of time they devote to volunteering once the crisis is over.

Source: Volunteer Scotland survey - June 2020 n = 599