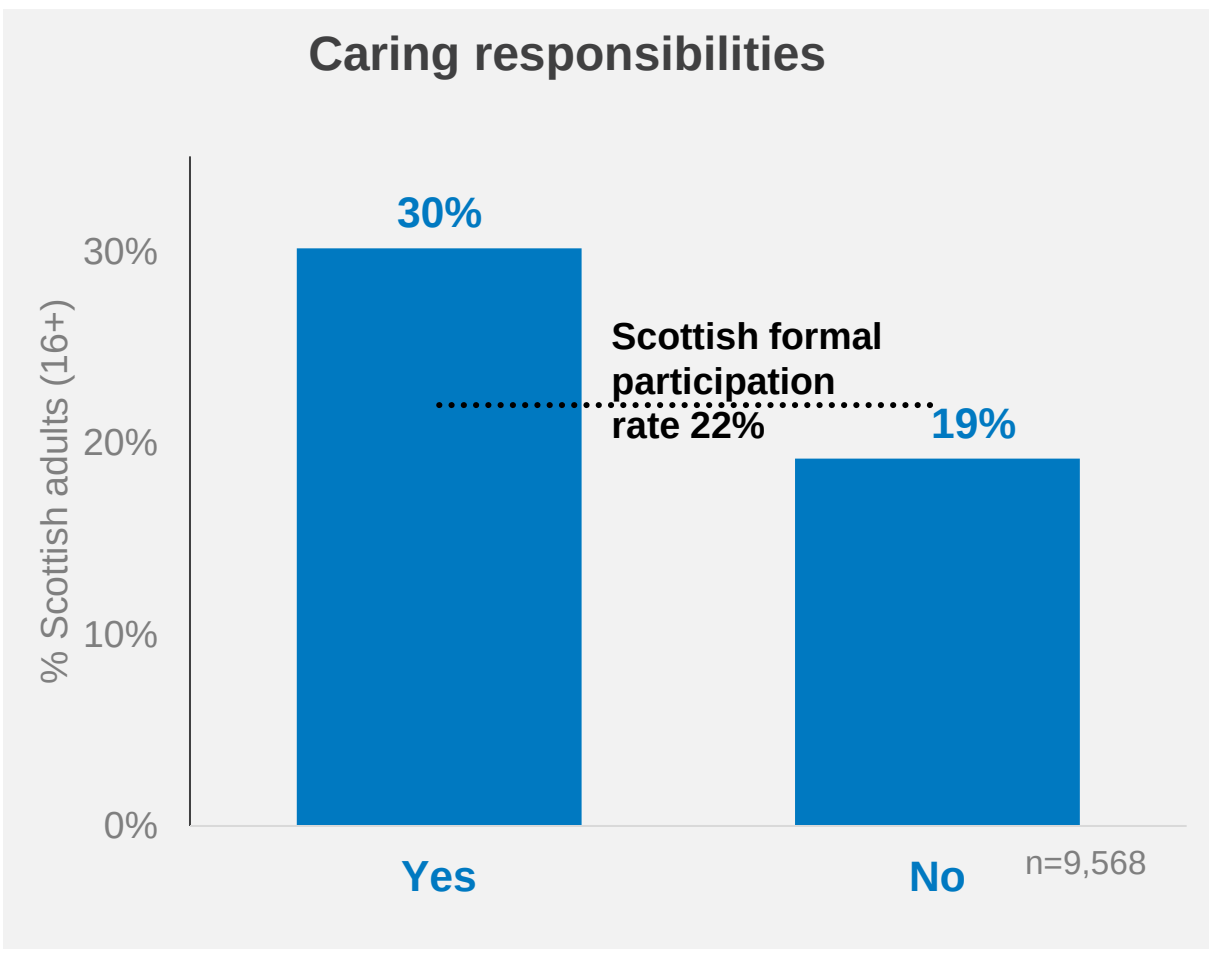
# Scottish Household Survey Cross Sectional Analysis: Caring responsibilities

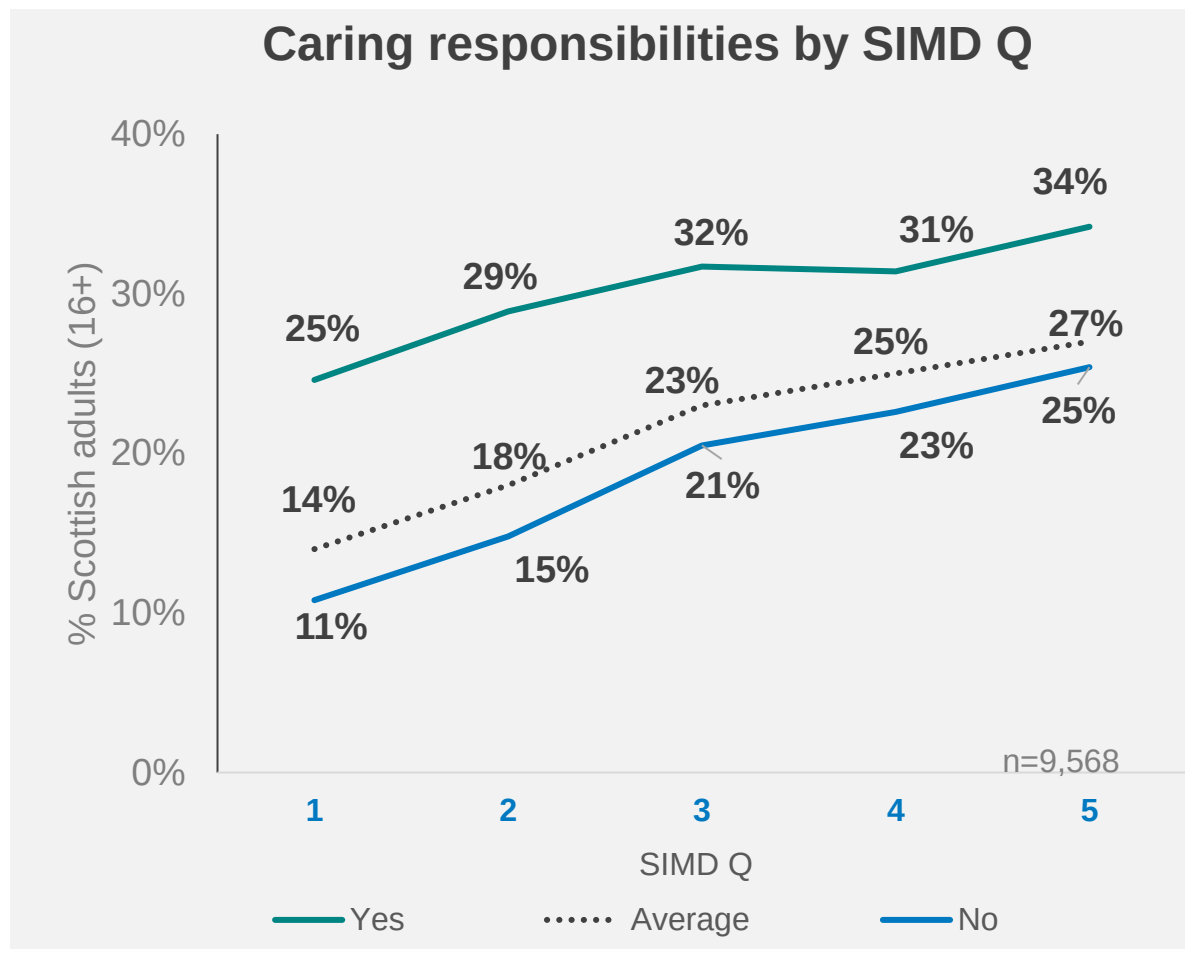
This summary builds on Volunteer Scotland's time series analysis of the 2022 Scottish Household Survey (SHS), considering the impact of caring responsibilities on formal volunteer participation. Caring responsibilities is defined as anything adults do to look after, give any regular help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either long-term physical, mental ill-health or disability; or problems related to old age. Two aspects of volunteering and caring responsibilities are considered: Whether the participation rates for adults with a caring responsibility for are higher or lower than the national average and if the amount of time given to weekly caring responsibilities has an impact on volunteer participation rates.

## Key Takeaways:

- This evidence suggests that caring responsibilities are not always a barrier to volunteering. In fact, adults with a caring responsibility have higher participation rates. This applies up to the point where caring responsibilities reach 50 hours a week or more, suggesting that can be a barrier to volunteering.
- Formal volunteer participation is higher for adults with a caring responsibility, irrespective of level of deprivation as measured by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles (SIMD Q).
- Formal volunteer participation decrease the more time Scottish adults give to caring responsibilities. The sample size is too small to allow for SIMD Q analysis of time given to caring responsibilities.

## Caring responsibilities



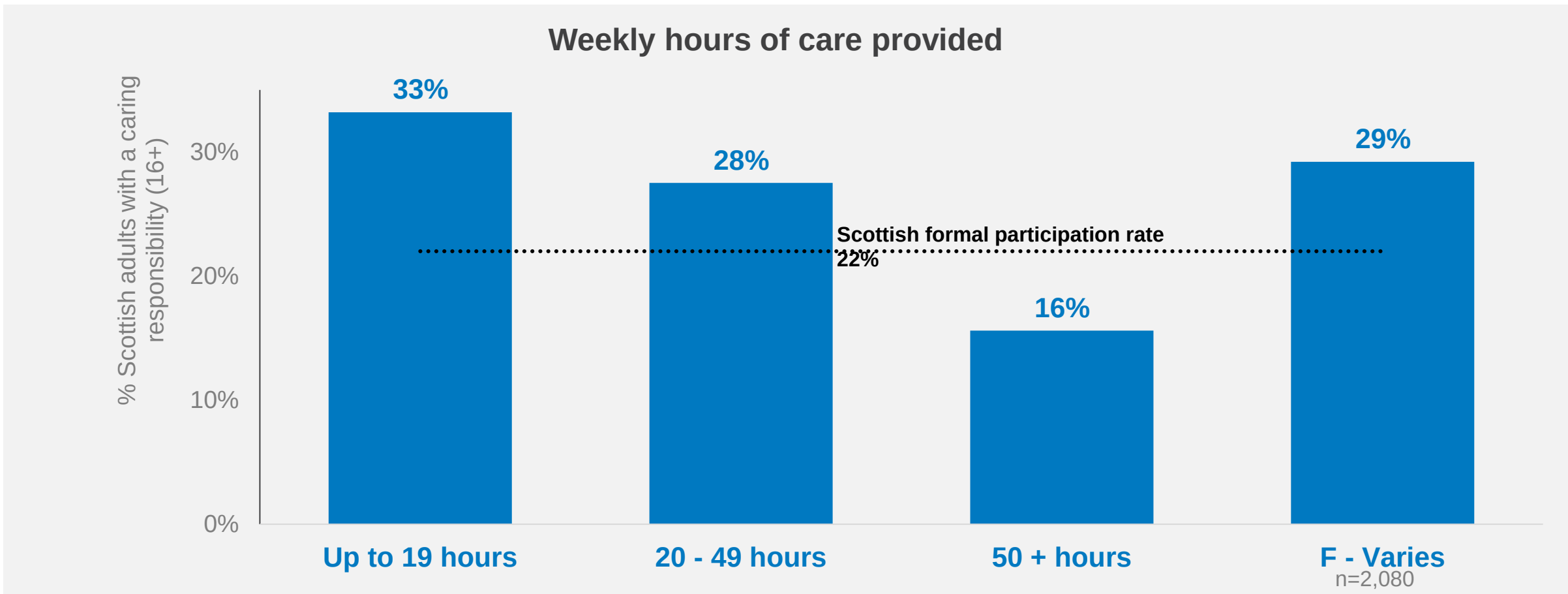




Formal volunteer participation rates are:

- 8 percentage points (pp.) higher than the average formal volunteer participation rate for adults who have caring responsibilities.
- 3 pp. lower than the Scottish average formal volunteer participation for adults without caring responsibilities.

As with the overall trends, formal volunteer participation is higher for adults who have caring responsibilities, irrespective of the level of deprivation. Conversely, volunteer participation is lower for adults who do not have any caring responsibilities, irrespective of the level of deprivation

## Weekly hours of care provided




Participation rates are:

- 11 percentage points (pp.) higher than the average formal volunteer participation for adults who provide up to 19 hours of care a week.
- 6 pp. higher than the average formal volunteer participation for adults who provide up to 20-49 hours of care a week.
- 7 pp. higher than the average formal volunteer participation for adults whose hours of care vary week to week.
- 8 pp. lower than the average formal volunteer participation for adults who provide 50 or more hours of care a week

**For additional data please see our time series and additional cross sectional analysis summaries.**