

Volunteering in non-metro Ontario

Vol. 3, No. 20

Highlights

- **Between 43% and 50% of non-metro individuals provide unpaid work for groups or organizations. This is at about the same rate as metro individuals, depending upon the year.**
- **Volunteering is slightly higher among individuals 35 to 54 years of age and among those with a university degree.**
- **In addition to formal volunteering with an organization, many also provide direct help to others – both to help look after their home or to provide care for the individual.**

Why look at non-metro volunteers?

Volunteers shape communities by contributing time and skills to a wide range of community activities. The participation of volunteers strengthens the trust, solidarity and reciprocity within communities.

In this FactSheet, we focus on “formal volunteering” which is unpaid work by individuals for a group or organization. We compare the situation in metro and non-metro¹ Ontario²

Findings

In the period from 2004 to 2013, between 43% and 50% percent of Ontario’s non-metro population volunteered for a group or organization (Figure 1). These rates are similar to the participation in volunteering in metro areas.

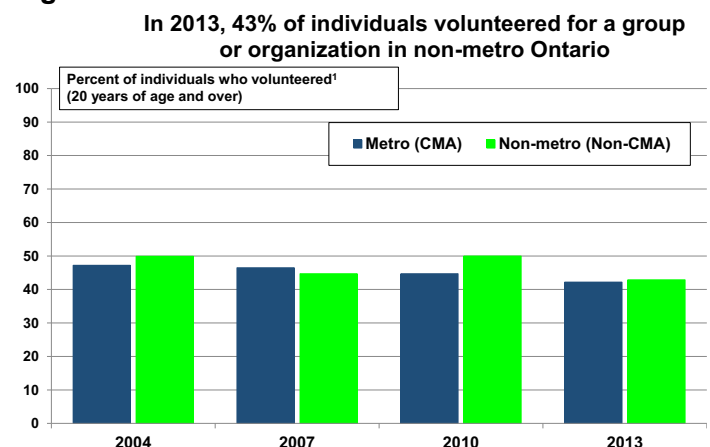
The volunteering rate (i.e. the percent who volunteer) is somewhat higher (in the range of 47% to 57%) in the age group of 35 to 54 years of age (Figure 2).

Males and females (20 years of age and over) have very similar volunteering rates (Figure 3).

In both metro and non-metro areas, individuals with a university degree are (somewhat) more likely to

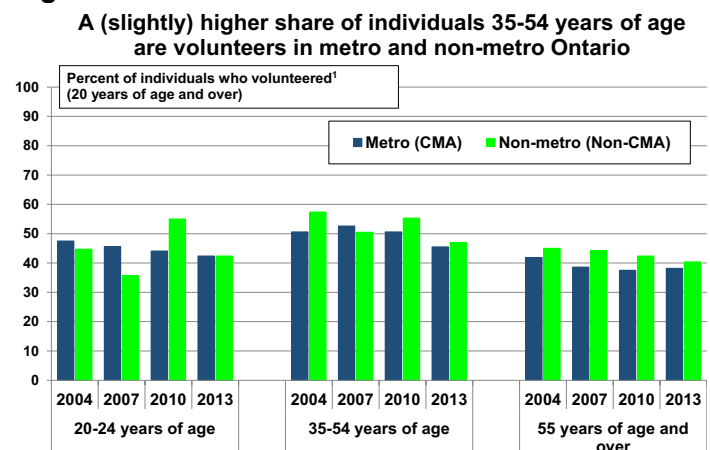
formally volunteer for a group or organization (55% to 75% in non-metro Ontario) (Figure 4).

Figure 1



1. Specifically, formal volunteering which is unpaid work on behalf of a group or organization. Source: Statistics Canada. Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and Statistics Canada. General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2013.

Figure 2



1. Specifically, formal volunteering which is unpaid work on behalf of a group or organization. Source: Statistics Canada. Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and Statistics Canada. General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2013.

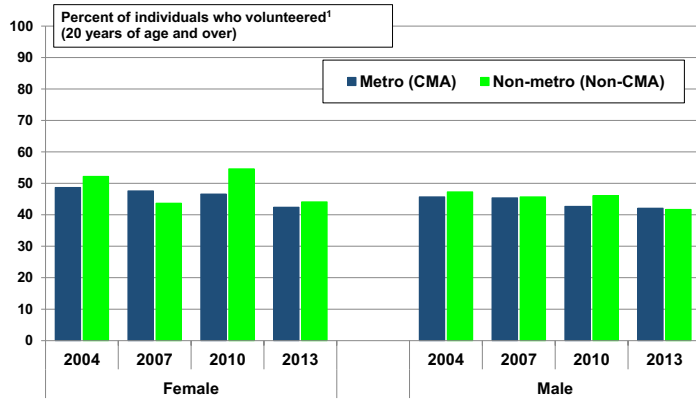
¹ Non-CMA is outside a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). See “Overview of Ontario’s rural geography” (June, 2013) (<http://ruralontarioinstitute.ca/file.aspx?id=1c38f15e-df4e-41a8-9c4d-7ad02cf55b0b>).

² We focus on non-metro Ontario. A list of selected studies with data at the Ontario level is shown in an on-line

[Appendix.](#)

Figure 3

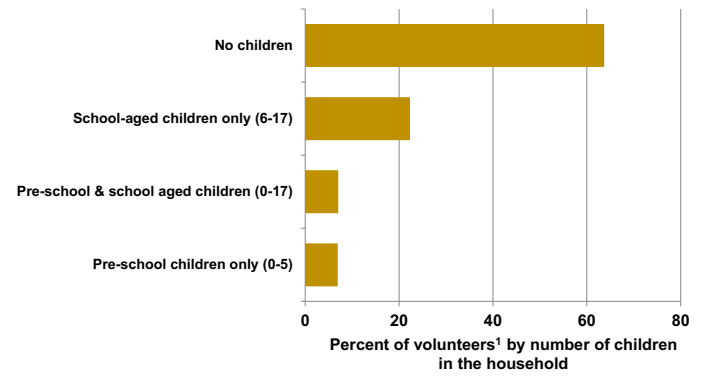
A similar share of females and males are volunteers in each of metro and non-metro Ontario



1. Specifically, formal volunteering which is unpaid work on behalf of a group or organization. Source: Statistics Canada. Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and Statistics Canada. General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2013.

Figure 5

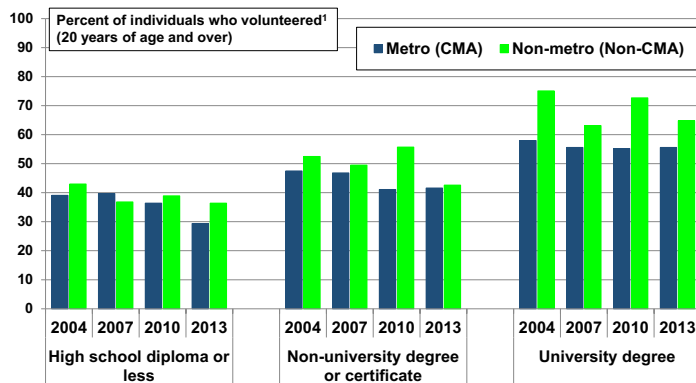
64% of volunteers¹ have no children in their household, non-metro² Ontario, 2013



1. Specifically, formal volunteering which is unpaid work for a group or organization. 2. Non-CMA is outside a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). See "Overview of Ontario's rural geography" (June, 2013) (<http://ruralontarioinstitute.ca/file.aspx?id=1c38f15e-df4e-41a8-9c4d-7ad02cf55b0b>) Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey Giving, Volunteering & Participating, 2013.

Figure 4

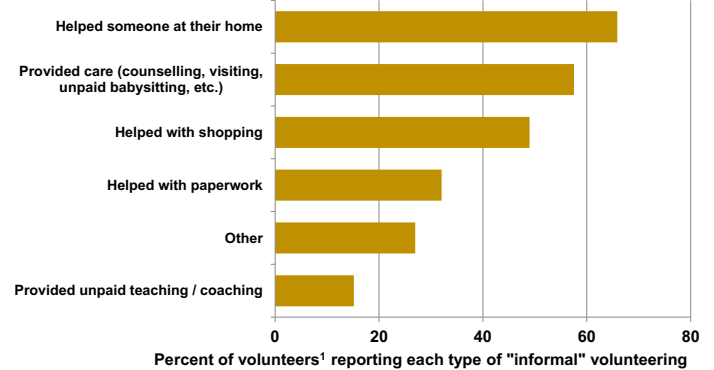
Individuals with a university degree are more likely to volunteer for an organization in metro and non-metro Ontario



1. Specifically, formal volunteering which is unpaid work on behalf of a group or organization. Source: Statistics Canada. Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and Statistics Canada. General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participation, 2013.

Figure 6

66% of volunteers¹ also did informal volunteering by helping someone at their home, non-metro² Ontario, 2013



1. Specifically, formal volunteering which is unpaid work for a group or organization. 2. Non-CMA is outside a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). See "Overview of Ontario's rural geography" (June, 2013) (<http://ruralontarioinstitute.ca/file.aspx?id=1c38f15e-df4e-41a8-9c4d-7ad02cf55b0b>) Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey Giving, Volunteering & Participating, 2013.

Within the group of non-metro volunteers, 64% had no children in the household in 2013 while 22% had school-aged children 6 to 17 years of age (Figure 5).

In addition to their unpaid work for a group or organization as "formal" volunteers, many also helped individuals on an informal basis. For example, 66% helped others with various tasks around their home³ and 56% helped to care for individuals⁴ (Figure 6).

In 2013, 49% helped someone with shopping⁵. Also, 32% helped someone with paperwork⁶.

³ This includes cooking, cleaning, gardening, maintenance, painting, shoveling snow, car repairs, etc.

⁴ This includes health-related or personal care such as emotional support, counselling, providing advice, visiting the elderly, unpaid babysitting, etc.

⁵ This includes doing any shopping, driving someone to the store or to an appointment, etc.

Summary

Non-metro individuals provide unpaid work for groups or organizations at about the same rate as metro individuals (between 43% and 50% are volunteers in non-metro areas, depending upon the year).

Volunteering is slightly higher among individuals 35 to 54 years of age and among those with a university degree.

In addition to formal volunteering, many also provide direct help to others – to help look after someone's home or to provide care to the individual.

Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of *Focus on Rural Ontario*. Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRageltie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.

⁶ This includes tasks such as writing letters, doing taxes, filling out forms, banking, paying bills, finding information, etc.