

Working Papers

International Volunteerism in the United States, 2005

Benjamin J. Lough

Working Paper No. 06-18

2006



Center for Social Development



George Warren Brown School of Social Work

International Volunteerism in the United States, 2005

Benjamin J. Lough
Research Associate
Washington University in St. Louis

Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges Amanda Moore McBride, Margaret Sherraden, Maricelly Daltro, and Kimberly Spring for their helpful conversations and editorial assistance, and the Ford Foundation for providing support for this research.

Working Paper No. 06-18

2006

Center for Social Development
George Warren Brown School of Social Work
Washington University
One Brookings Drive
Campus Box 1196
St. Louis, MO 63130
tel 314-935-7433
fax 314-935-8661
e-mail: csd@gwbmail.wustl.edu
<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd>

Abstract

International Volunteerism in the United States, 2005

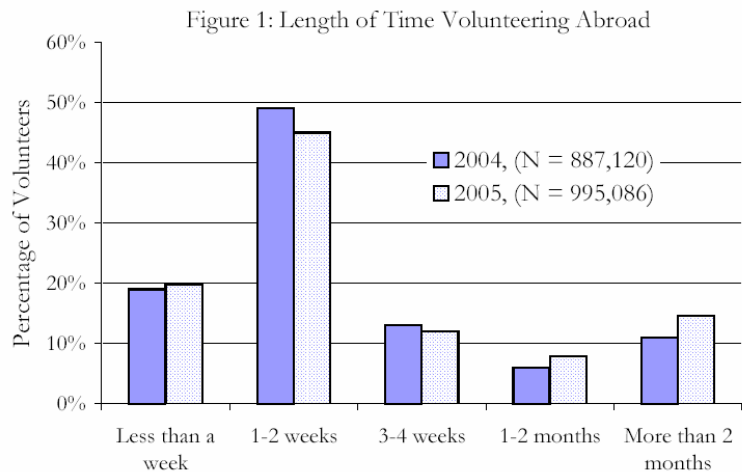
This working paper uses 2005 CPS data to describe the frequency of international volunteerism in the United States by select demographic characteristics and length of service abroad. Nearly one million individuals reported volunteering internationally at least once in 2005. Young or middle-aged college graduates with higher-incomes, employed full-time, and married without dependent children were the most frequent candidates for service abroad. The majority of volunteers spent two weeks or less overseas, and volunteered with a faith-based organization either domestically or internationally. Limitations in the data help identify areas needing further research.

International Volunteerism in the United States, 2005

Data for this report were gathered from the September 2004 and September 2005 volunteer supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS)—a monthly survey of approximately 60,000 households. The volunteer supplement includes questions about service performed domestically and abroad, including the duration and frequency of volunteer activities; two items specifically assessed international volunteerism. More detailed information about sampling, definitions, and analysis can be found under Methodological Notes at the end of this report.

Prevalence and Service Duration

Nearly one-million individuals (995,086) reported volunteering internationally at least once in 2005—an increase of over 100,000 volunteers from 2004. Those volunteering for more than one month showed the largest marginal increase, rising from 17% in 2004 to 23% in 2005. Despite this increase only 15% volunteered for more than two months, while 65% spent less than two weeks in service abroad.



Individuals volunteering for an organization for less than one month (short term) had some different demographic characteristics than those who volunteered for an organization long term (one month or more).¹

Although long term was specified as time spent abroad doing volunteer work, it is unknown whether this service consisted of a single trip or a combination of multiple, short visits.

Among long-term volunteers, 23% were living in low-income households making less than \$20,000 annually; among short-term volunteers, they comprised only 9%. Long-term volunteers were also more apt to be single and educated (40% and 57% respectively) compared to short-term volunteers (33% and 49%). 85% of those volunteering long term were without dependent children living at home, and one in four was between 15 and 24 years old.

¹ The categorical duration of international volunteer service as short or long-term remains to be defined by the field.

Length of service is also different by employment status; 76% of short-term volunteers were fully employed, compared to about 50% of long-term volunteers. Nearly one in four persons volunteering long-term were retirees not in the labor force (23%), compared to only 7% of retirees which volunteered for a short-term (see Table 2).

Prevalence by Selected Demographics

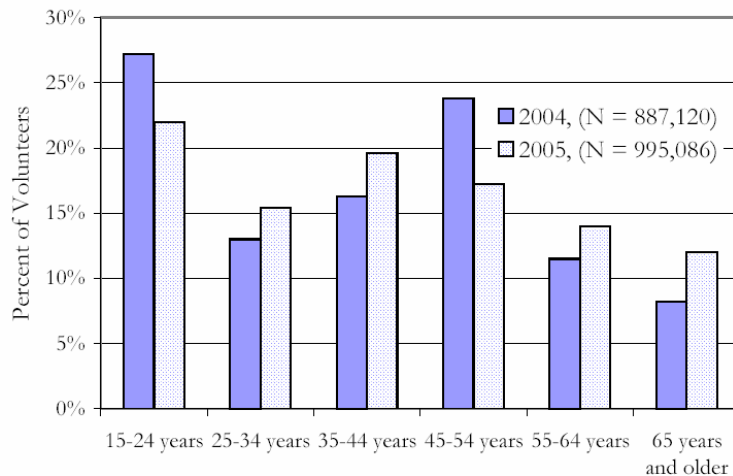
Gender

Although more women reported volunteering than men, both genders were equally likely to volunteer abroad.²

Age

Young people aged 15 to 24 years old were the group most frequently volunteering internationally (22%), followed by those aged 35 to 44 (20%). Less young people aged 15 to 24 volunteered in 2005 than in 2004, as did those aged 45 to 54 years. Adults aged 65 and older showed the greatest increase from 73,000 to 119,000; a growth of about 63% from 2004.

Figure 2: International Volunteers by Age Group



Race & Ethnicity

Considerably more White individuals reported volunteering abroad (92%), compared to those of other racial groups (8%).³ The majority of volunteers were of non-Hispanic ethnicity, with 12% identifying as ethnically Hispanic.⁴

Marital Status & Dependent Children

² After factoring in sampling bias, men were actually more likely to volunteer proportional to women, but not by a significant margin ($\chi^2_{MH} = 3.49, p = .062, df=1$).

³ Although Whites volunteered most frequently, as proportions of respondent volunteers within each racial group, non-White and non-Black racial groups were 1.5 times more likely than Whites ($\chi^2_{MH} = 5.37, p < .05, df=1$), and 2.63 times more likely than Blacks to volunteer internationally ($\chi^2_{MH} = 10.08, p < .01, df=1$). Whites respondents were 1.7 times more likely to volunteer than Black respondents ($\chi^2_{MH} = 4.18, p < .05, df=1$).

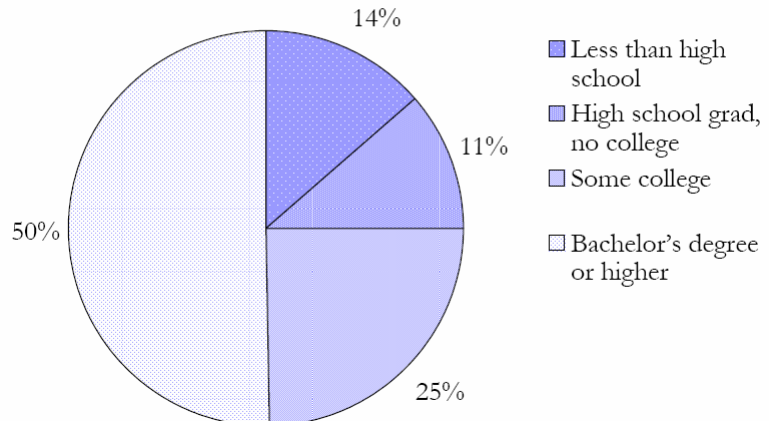
⁴ CPS data defined Hispanic/Non-Hispanic as an ethnicity—not a race. Therefore, all individuals with Hispanic background were included under the White, Black, or Other racial category. The odds of Hispanics volunteering were 2.0 times the odds of non-Hispanics volunteering internationally ($\chi^2_{MH} = 14.98, p < .001, df=1$).

More than one half of volunteers were married and one-third were single and never married. The remaining 12% were divorced or widowed; an increase from only 7% in these categories in 2004. Three in four volunteers did not have children less than 18 years of age living in the household.

Education

Increased educational attainment was associated with volunteering abroad; more than half of all international volunteers had a bachelor's degree or higher, with three out of four volunteers having attended at least some college. Among the 25% that had not started college, 70% were under 24 years old.

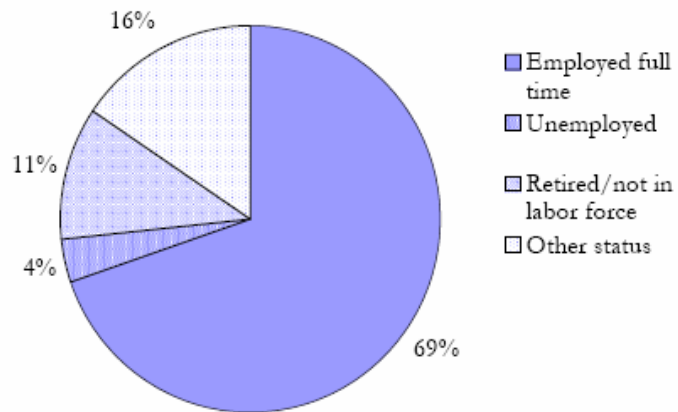
Figure 4: International Volunteers by Education in 2005, (N = 995,086)



Employment Status

Seven out of ten volunteers were employed full-time. A fairly small number of unemployed persons volunteered abroad (4%), with the remaining individuals either working part-time, retired, disabled, or otherwise not in the labor force. Of those unemployed or working part-time, the majority (70%) were less than 24 years old.

Figure 5: International Volunteers by Employment Status in 2005, (N = 995,086)



Income

Nearly one in four volunteers lived in households earning incomes of \$100,000 or more. Increasing income was a significant predictor of volunteer status.⁵ Six out of ten volunteers lived in households earning more than \$50,000 per year. However, a much smaller percentage (9%) from households in the \$75,000-\$99,999 volunteered abroad compared to other high-income

⁵ Although income was significantly associated with volunteering abroad ($\chi^2 = 4.24, p < .05, df = 1$), the effect size was very weak ($\lambda < 0.001$). This is likely due, in part, to the fact that a small percentage of households earning \$75,000-\$99,999 volunteered abroad (see Figure 5).

groups (see Figure 5). Although 11% of volunteers came from households earning less than \$20,000 per year, the majority of these low-income volunteers (52%) were under 24 years old. Likewise, older adults that volunteer abroad (41%) made between 30,000 and 50,000 dollars per year.

Volunteer Recruitment and Selection

About one half of the volunteers actively approached the main organization about volunteer opportunities domestically or abroad. Another one-third of volunteers were asked by someone in the organization to get involved. The remaining 20% became involved in some other way. Less than 1% joined a project in response to a public appeal such as a newspaper, radio, Internet, or television advertisement. Of those who were asked to get involved, most were approached by someone in the organization or school, followed by an appeal from a friend or relative.

Number and Types of Organizations Sponsoring the Volunteer

Individuals in this survey reported volunteering with an average of about two organizations at some point during the year—including their international and domestic volunteer activities. The respondents were asked what type of organization they volunteered with. Due to the nature of data collection, it was not possible to isolate the type of organization by the type of volunteer experience. Therefore, the type of organization sponsoring the international volunteer experience, explicitly, is not known. This section presents the available data and offers speculation as to the connections with international service: the data are analyzed by those who volunteered internationally compared to those who did not.

Figure 6: International Volunteers by Income Group

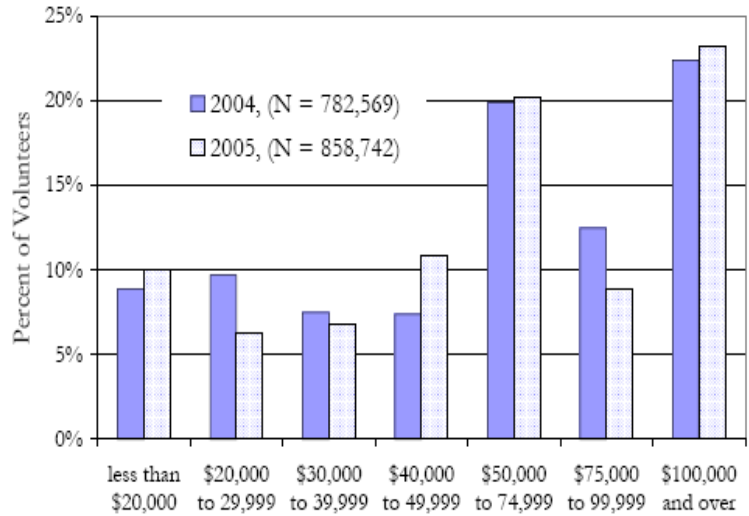


Figure 7: Who Asked you to Volunteer for the Main Organization in 2005? (N = 995,086)

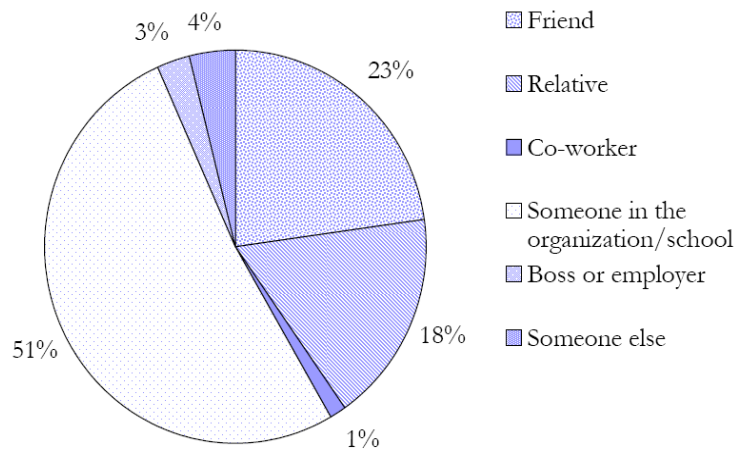


Table 1: For those who volunteered internationally, type of main organization (N = 995,086)

Type of Organization ¹	Frequency	Percent ²
Religious org.	514,117	51.67%
Social and community service group	99,035	9.95%
Children's educational, sports, or recreational group	94,420	9.49%
Other educational group	46,823	4.71%
Cultural or arts org.	46,194	4.64%
International org.	33,471	3.36%
Hospital, clinic, or healthcare org.	26,149	2.63%
missing	25,520	2.56%
Environmental or animal care org.	24,877	2.50%
Youth services group	18,966	1.91%
Some other type of org.	17,288	1.74%
Sports or hobby group	12,352	1.24%
Health research or education org.	10,129	1.02%
Civic org.	9512	0.96%
Labor union, business, or professional org.	8556	0.86%
Political party or advocacy group	4861	0.49%
Public safety org.	1572	0.16%
Immigrant/refugee assistance*	1244	0.12%
¹ Not necessarily referring exclusively to an international volunteer organization		
² Numbers may not equal total due to rounding		

For those who volunteered internationally, 50% were associated with a religious organization. This was significantly higher than those who only volunteered domestically; with 33% of domestic volunteers affiliated with a religious organization. Social or community service related organizations accounted for the next most frequent type at 10%, followed closely by children's education or recreational groups at 9%.

Types of activities performed in the international volunteer's main organization varied widely and are listed in Table 9 in the appendix. The most common activities these volunteers performed included tutoring or teaching; mentoring youth; collecting and distributing food; clothing and other goods; fundraising; providing professional assistance; and engaging in general labor. However, it is unknown whether the main organization refers to their domestic or international volunteer experience.

Summary and Conclusion

While nearly one million individuals reported volunteering abroad, it is difficult to determine the type of organization that sponsored their experience, the activities they performed, and even if they can truly be considered *international volunteers* by conventional standards. Therefore, this report primarily provides a tentative picture of the prevalence of international volunteer service among the US population, duration of service, and characteristics of those who engage in international volunteerism.

Although young people under age 24 were the age group most likely to volunteer internationally in 2005, their numbers have fallen since 2004. On the other hand, older adults over age 65 have shown a substantial increase over the two years. Opportunities to engage or incentives to volunteer may have changed over this time period, or relative fluctuations could be attributable to chance. The lower participation rates in the 25 to 34 year age group may be partially explained by their stage in the life course, as individuals of these ages are likely to have dependent children in the home—which is associated with lower volunteer rates abroad among this sample. Ongoing data collection will provide a clearer perspective of these patterns.

Interesting relationships emerged from volunteer status by income. It is unknown why individuals from households earning over \$75,000 but less than \$100,000 had lower volunteer rates than other high income groups. Individuals with the highest volunteer rates were under 24 years old, had no dependent children at home, and made less than \$20,000, suggesting that perhaps these individuals were students. Income does not appear to be a limitation for longer lengths of service abroad, at least for the young. The relationship between volunteerism and income could change if age is controlled for in a multivariate analysis.

Higher education was strongly associated with service abroad. Those in college may have had greater exposure to international volunteer opportunities. Most of those who served abroad but did not have college experience were in the youngest age category, thus, one could deduce they were still in high school or had not yet entered college.

Employment status may be associated with service duration, as those who were fully employed tended to volunteer for shorter terms. Nevertheless, one half of the individuals volunteering for more than two months were fully employed. This may reflect the nuance that the length of volunteer service did not necessarily indicate a singular trip abroad, but could have been a set of multiple, shorter visits.

Although demographic data present a good description of the volunteers, data regarding types of organizational sponsors and the activities the volunteers performed are not sufficient to draw firm conclusions. The ability to associate these variables with the type of volunteer experience would improve our knowledge of international volunteerism among the US population and establish a benchmark from which to study service status, form, and function over time. Overall, these data are essential for understanding the field, identifying dimensions for further study, and generating implications for program and policy development.

Appendix

Table 2: 2005 selected demographic characteristics for short-term vs. long term volunteers (weighted data, numbers in thousands)¹				
Demographic Characteristic	Less than one month		One month or more	
	Number (N=763)	Percent	Number (N= 223)	Percent
Age by decade				
15-24 years	164	21.53%	55	24.48%
25-34 years	112	14.68%	37	16.77%
35-44 years	162	21.22%	31	14.02%
45-54 years	133	17.45%	36	16.30%
55-64 years	106	13.90%	33	14.80%
65 years and older	85	11.21%	30	13.63%
Income level²				
less than \$20,000	58	7.60%	41	18.39%
20,000 to \$29,999	46	6.03%	13	5.83%
30,000 to \$39,999	49	6.42%	17	7.62%
40,000 to \$49,999	90	11.80%	15	6.73%
50,000 to \$74,999	171	22.41%	29	13.00%
75,000 to \$99,999	73	9.57%	16	7.17%
100,000 and Over	183	23.98%	48	21.53%
missing	94	12.32%	44	19.73%
Marital status				
Married	428	56.16%	106	47.31%
Widowed	26	3.42%	9	3.91%
Divorced or separated	58	7.57%	21	9.26%
Single, never married	251	32.86%	88	39.52%
Educational attainment				
Less than high school	118	15.51%	15	6.70%
High school grad, no college ²	75	9.76%	34	15.31%
Some college ³	197	25.87%	48	21.31%
Bachelor's degree or higher	373	48.86%	126	56.68%
Employment status				
Employed full time	578	75.75%	112	50.17%
Unemployed	17	2.25%	20	8.97%
Retired/not in labor force	57	7.46%	51	22.82%
Other status ⁴	111	14.55%	40	18.04%
Dependent child status				
With children under 18 yrs.	77	24.92%	13	14.94%
Without children under 18 yrs.	232	75.08%	74	85.06%
¹ Nine cases missing , numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding				
² Ninety-four missing cases on the income variable				
² Includes high school diploma or equivalent GED				
³ Includes associates degree or no degree				
⁴ Includes part-time—working less than 35 hours a week at all jobs, and disabled/not in labor force				

Table 3: Number and percentage of those over age 15 volunteering abroad 2005 (weighted CPS volunteer supplement data, numbers in thousands)

Categorical variable	Volunteered internationally in 2005 (N=995)	Did not volunteer internationally in 2005 (N=65,211)	Total weighted sample (N=66,206) ¹
Gender			
Men	462 (0.70%)	27,312 (41.25%)	27,774 (41.95%)
Women	533 (0.81%)	37,899 (57.24%)	38,432 (58.05%)
Age group by decade			
15-24	219 (0.33%)	9928 (15.00%)	10,147 (15.33%)
25-34	153 (0.23%)	9671 (14.61%)	9825 (14.84%)
35-44	195 (0.29%)	14,521 (21.93%)	14,716 (22.23%)
45-54	171 (0.26%)	13,567 (20.49%)	13,737 (20.75%)
55-64	139 (0.21%)	8988 (13.58%)	9127 (13.79%)
65 and older	118 (0.18%)	8535 (12.89%)	8654 (13.07%)
Race			
White only	837 (1.26%)	56,121 (84.77%)	56,958 (86.03%)
Black only	65 (0.10%)	5843 (8.83%)	5908 (8.92%)
Other	93 (0.14%)	3247 (4.90%)	3340 (5.04%)
Hispanic ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	116 (0.17%)	4516 (6.82%)	4632 (7.00%)
Non-Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	879 (1.33%)	60,695 (91.69%)	61,574 (93.00%)
Educational attainment			
Less than high school	136 (0.21%)	7417 (11.20%)	7554 (11.41%)
High school graduate, no college ²	113 (0.17%)	14,134 (21.35%)	14,248 (21.52%)
Some college ³	245 (0.37%)	18,990 (28.68%)	19,235 (29.05%)
Bachelor's degree or higher	501 (0.76%)	24,669 (37.26%)	25,170 (38.02%)
Marital status			
Single, never married	339 (0.51%)	15,198 (22.96%)	15,537 (23.47%)
Married	543 (0.82%)	40,502 (61.18%)	41,046 (62.00%)
Divorced or separated	78 (0.12%)	6560 (9.91%)	6639 (10.03%)
Widowed	35 (0.05%)	2950 (4.46%)	2985 (4.51%)
Employment status			
Employed full time	692 (1.05%)	44,043 (66.52%)	44,735 (67.57%)
Unemployed	37 (0.06%)	1957 (2.96%)	1994 (3.01%)
Retired-not in labor force	111 (0.17%)	8600 (12.99%)	8710 (13.16%)
Other status ⁴	155 (0.23%)	10,612 (16.03%)	10,766 (16.26%)
Income level			
less than \$20,000	99 (0.15%)	6047 (9.13%)	6147 (9.28%)
20,000 to \$29,999	63 (0.09%)	4855 (7.33%)	4917 (7.42%)
30,000 to \$39,999	68 (0.10%)	6143 (9.28%)	6211 (9.38%)
40,000 to \$49,999	109 (0.16%)	5056 (7.64%)	5165 (7.80%)
50,000 to \$74,999	201 (0.30%)	13,133 (19.84%)	13,334 (20.14%)
75,000 to \$99,999	89 (0.13%)	8858 (13.38%)	8947 (13.51%)
100,000 and Over	231 (0.35%)	13,682 (20.67%)	13,913 (21.02%)
missing	136 (0.21%)	7435 (11.23%)	7572 (11.44%)

¹ Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. 387 missing cases

² Includes high school diploma or equivalent GED

³ Includes associates degree or no degree

⁴ Includes part-time—working less than 35 hours a week at all jobs, and disabled/not in labor force

Table 4: Number and percentage of those volunteering abroad from September 1, 2003 to September 24, 2005 (weighted CPS volunteer supplement data, numbers in thousands)¹				
Characteristic	2004 CPS data		2005 CPS data	
	Number of volunteers (N= 887)	Percent of variable	Number of volunteers (N= 995)	Percent of variable
Gender				
Men	441	49.70%	462	46.40%
Women	447	50.30%	533	53.60%
Age by decade				
15-24 years	241	27.20%	219	22.00%
25-34 years	116	13.00%	153	15.40%
35-44 years	145	16.30%	195	19.60%
45-54 years	212	23.80%	171	17.20%
55-64 years	102	11.50%	139	14.00%
65 years and older	73	8.20%	119	12.00%
Income level				
less than \$20,000	79	8.90%	99	10.00%
20,000 to \$29,999	86	9.70%	63	6.30%
30,000 to \$39,999	66	7.50%	68	6.80%
40,000 to \$49,999	65	7.40%	109	10.90%
50,000 to \$74,999	177	19.90%	201	20.20%
75,000 to \$99,999	111	12.50%	89	8.90%
100,000 and Over	198	22.40%	231	23.20%
missing	105	11.80%	136	13.70%
Marital status				
Single, never married	305	34.30%	339	34.10%
Married	521	58.70%	543	54.60%
Divorced	43	4.80%	78	7.90%
Widowed	19	2.10%	35	3.50%
Race				
White only	812	91.50%	837	84.10%
Black only	31	3.50%	65	6.50%
Other	44	5.00%	93	9.30%
Hispanic ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	124	14.00%	116	11.70%
Non-Hispanic/Latino ethnicity	763	86.00%	879	88.30%
Educational attainment				
Less than high school	110	12.40%	136	13.70%
High school grad, no college ²	126	14.20%	113	11.40%
Some college ³	240	27.10%	245	24.60%
Bachelor's degree or higher	411	46.40%	501	50.30%
Employment status				
Employed full time	638	71.90%	692	69.60%
Unemployed	33	3.70%	37	3.70%
Retired/not in labor force	76	8.60%	111	11.10%
Other status ⁴	140	15.80%	155	15.60%
Dependent child status				
With children under 18 yrs.	235	26.60%	240	24.10%
Without children under 18 yrs.	652	73.40%	755	75.90%

¹Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding

²Includes high school diploma or equivalent GED

³Includes associates degree or no degree

⁴Includes part-time—working less than 35 hours a week at all jobs, and disabled/not in labor force

Variable	mean		median		sd		N	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Annual weeks volunteered for the main organization ¹	24.2	24.0	18.0	20.0	21.1	20.6	334	366
Annual hours volunteered for the main organization	231.7	253.2	108.0	104.0	576.9	491.9	352	379
Annual hours volunteered for all organizations ²	272.0	290.9	130.0	132.0	626	512.3	352	379
Number of organizations	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.24	373	401

¹The main organization may not necessarily be an *international* volunteer organization.
²All organization includes at least one international volunteer organization.

Length of service abroad	2004 CPS data		2005 CPS data	
	Frequency (N = 887)	Percent	Frequency (N = 995)	Percent ¹
Less than a week	166	18.74%	196	19.70%
1-2 weeks	438	49.42%	448	45.02%
3-4 weeks	117	13.14%	119	11.95%
1-2 months	51	5.70%	78	7.83%
More than 2 months ²	94	10.63%	145	14.60%
Don't know	21	2.38%	9	0.90%

¹Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding
²It is unknown whether length of service includes a single stint abroad or many shorter trips

Table 7: Frequency of how international volunteers became involved with the organization 2004-2005 (weighted data, numbers in thousands)				
How did you first become a volunteer? ¹	2004 CPS data		2005 CPS data	
	Frequency (N = 887)²	Percent	Frequency (N = 995)	Percent
Approached the organization	414	46.70%	450	45.29%
Was asked by...	323	36.37%	356	35.77%
Friend*	39	4.45%	81	8.12%
Relative*	48	5.44%	63	6.32%
Co-worker*	14	1.63%	5	0.46%
Someone in the organization/school*	203	22.88%	184	18.49%
Boss or employer*	6	0.70%	10	1.02%
Someone else*	11	1.27%	14	1.36%
Family member's involvement	29	3.28%	38	3.79%
Friend's, co-worker's, or roommate's involvement	8	0.85%	4	0.40%
Own involvement	48	5.45%	59	5.90%
Referred by volunteer organization	NA	NA	16	1.62%
Responded to public appeal in newspaper/radio/TV/flyer/Internet	9	0.97%	9	0.92%
Other	43	4.98%	37	3.73%
Missing	13	1.43%	25	2.57%

¹Not necessarily referring exclusively to activities for an international volunteer organization
²Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding
*Numbers included as a subset, (N = 323)

Table 8: For those who volunteered internationally, type of activities completed in the main organization in 2005, (N = 995, numbers in thousands)¹		
	Yes²	No
Tutor or teach	326 (33%)	664 (67%)
Coach or referee	87 (9%)	902 (91%)
Mentor youth	363 (36%)	628 (63%)
Provide information, be an usher greeter or minister	214 (22%)	776 (78%)
Collect, prepare, distribute, or sale food	333 (33%)	658 (66%)
Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods, other than food	286 (29%)	705 (71%)
Fundraise or sell items to raise money	313 (31%)	677 (68%)
Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	198 (20%)	792 (80%)
Provide general office services	151 (15%)	839 (84%)
Provide professional or management assistance including serving on a board or committee	297 (30%)	693 (70%)
Engage in music, performance, or other artistic activities	263 (26%)	727 (73%)
Engage in general labor	358 (36%)	631 (64%)
Supply transportation for people		
Any other type of activity	142 (14%)	848 (85%)
Missing	5 (0.5%)	

Methodological Notes

Sampling

Data from the volunteer supplement were collected during one week in the month of September each year. All members of surveyed households were asked about their volunteer activities for the previous year. Those who answered “yes” were further asked whether “any of the volunteer work you've done since September 1st of last year [took] place in a foreign country, that is, outside the United States or any of its territories?” Nearly 30,000 individuals in the sampled households were asked about their international volunteer activities. Because the CPS survey is designed to provide information for all members in a household, about 70% of responses were self-reports; the remaining 30% of responses were answered by another member of the household in proxy for inaccessible respondents. Approximately 150 individuals did not respond and were counted as missing.

Statistics obtained from the CPS contain both sampling and non-sampling error due to methods of data collection. A more detailed analysis of sampling error, including specific parameters for computing the standard error of various demographic characteristics can be found under attachment 16 of the CPS supplement file for each year.

Definitions

Volunteers in this report include civilian non-institutional individuals over 15 years of age who performed unpaid activities in an organization outside of the US and its territories at any point from September 1, 2003/2004 until the survey week in September 2004/2005. Long-term volunteers are individuals serving for one month or more, while short-term volunteers are those serving for less than one month. Length of service does not indicate whether time spent abroad was a singular visit or a set of multiple short visits.

Voluntary activities include unpaid labor (excluding expenses) specific to a formal organization; specific examples of volunteer activities are listed in Table 8. These activities have slight differences in wording from the 2004 to 2005 surveys and are therefore not directly comparable. An organization includes one of eight categories of structured groups that share a common goal. The organization under which the volunteers spent the majority of their voluntary activities during the year is classified as the main organization. If the individual volunteered for more than one organization, activities performed for the main organization may not necessarily refer to volunteer activities outside of the US.

Analysis

Tables were constructed by crossing the international volunteerism variable with sample demographic variables and volunteer variables. Frequency, type, and length of volunteer activities include only those respondents answering affirmatively to volunteering internationally (N = 375 in 2005, unweighted). Tables crossing specific demographic characteristics include both positive and negative responses to international volunteerism (N = 28,531 in 2005, unweighted).

Raw data were cleaned and recoded as categorized in the tables, then weighted with the CPS volunteer supplement non-response weight, based on the standard CPS weighting program, to account for non-interviewed households and population distribution ratios. Final values as reported in the tables are weighted to approximate 2004/2005 US population parameters for individuals volunteering for an organization in a foreign country. A more detailed description of weighting issues can be found under attachment two of the CPS supplement file for each year.