

Research on Youth Volunteerism in the United States – Two Reports

From "Volunteering Among Young People" (Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 2004)

Which organizations do youth volunteer with?

67% Youth Organizations

52.2% Health or Social Services

20.1% Environmental Organizations

6.1% Political Organizations

46.1% Religious Groups

Volunteer Rates by Grade Level

76% 12th graders

72% 10th graders

66% 8th graders

Frequency of Volunteering (within the past 12 months)

40.2% of 15-25 year olds regularly volunteer

31% of 26-56 year olds regularly volunteer



*From "Volunteering and Giving among Teenagers 12 to 17 Years of Age"
(Washington D.C.: Independent Sector 1996)

•**59% of teenagers volunteer**

•**The average youth volunteer gives 3.5 hours per week.**

•**Most youth volunteer hours are given to these kinds of activities:**

Religious 16%

Youth Development 13%

Education 13%

Informal Volunteering 13%

Environment 8%

Human Services 7%

Health Services 6%

Arts, culture, and humanities 6%

•**Reasons youth give most frequently for volunteering:**

Feeling compassion toward people

Doing something to help a cause that is important to them

Believing that if they help others, others will help them

•**Benefits of volunteering that youth name:**

Do better in school

Learn about career options

Learn to respect others

Learn to be helpful and kind

Understand people who are different

Develop leadership skills

Be a better citizen

