

Surveying the Surveys: Review of quantitative research findings on volunteering in Northern Ireland



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BACKGROUND

This report is one of a suite of reports commissioned by Volunteer Now as part of a legacy project for Building Change Trust. The reports provide an overview of academic and statistical research about volunteering in Northern Ireland from 1995 to date. They provide an evidence base for organisations involving volunteers to plan their work and for government in supporting volunteers.

INTRODUCTION

This report reviews the information produced by quantitative surveys of volunteering in Northern Ireland with the aim of exploring trends and gaps – for volunteering generally, volunteering at local council level and volunteering by persons belonging to the section 75 groups, those to whom under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 public authorities have a duty to promote equality of opportunity:

- ‘(a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- (b) between men and women generally;
- (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- (d) between persons with dependents and persons without’.

Due to limitations in available information, it does not deal with volunteering at local council level and certain of the section 75 groups (persons with different political opinions and sexual orientations) in this review. We have, however, prepared a detailed report of findings from the Census 2011, which examines volunteering in greater detail, especially at local council level.

Set out below, mainly in schematic form, is an analysis of quantitative information on volunteering overall and by the section 75 groups for which information is available. The sources used are reports and data tables from the following sixteen surveys:

- National Surveys of Volunteering 1991 and 1997 (Volunteer Centre UK/Institute for Volunteering Research)
- Continuous Household Surveys 1991-92, 2008-09, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)
- Volunteering in Northern Ireland 1995, 2001, 2007 (Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now)
- Northern Ireland Sport and Physical Activity Survey 2009-10 (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Northern Ireland Census 2011 (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency)
- Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for clients in government departments).

The report also offers observations, based on this review of existing quantitative surveys, about the collective weaknesses of this research and possible ways in which future research might be carried out in order to achieve the best possible quality and usefulness. The report considers emerging requirements for monitoring progress in implementing major programmes

in community development and planning by local councils and of the desirability of including measures of volunteering in this monitoring.

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1. A critique of the quality and usefulness of existing quantitative research

Studies of volunteering may have two uses. The first is for the here and now, in order to address immediate concerns, such as providing inputs to policy formation (e.g. consultations, lobbying); monitoring performance against targets; and improving practical arrangements for recruiting, training, managing and retaining volunteers. The second is for the future, in order to gain and retain public recognition of the value of volunteering; to understand the processes of volunteering, such as people's propensity to volunteer in certain fields, activities and locations and at certain times of their lives; and to take appropriate steps to support volunteering in changing times.

Understanding of the shape and development of volunteering in the UK to a large extent has been based on what has happened in England and Scotland, where substantial political interest and consequential investment in research have delivered time series of high quality information. What has happened in Northern Ireland and, to a greater extent, Wales has been relatively poorly documented and therefore not taken into account. This means that what are generally accepted as 'norms' for volunteering may not be as normative as advertised and that they should be revised to reflect the experiences of all parts of the UK.

As can be seen from our analysis below, quantitative research on volunteering in Northern Ireland has been patchy. Different providers have operated in silos, with different reasons for carrying out this research, different expectations of how it is to be used, different methods of carrying it out and different resources dedicated to it. In aggregate the result is less than satisfactory. However, it should be noted that the jewel in the crown of Northern Ireland's research on volunteering is the Census 2011, which for the first time in the UK included a question on volunteering and provides very high quality information about the demographics of volunteering and, in particular, volunteering at local council level.

There are a number of reasons for problems with quantitative research on volunteering in Northern Ireland. These include differences in:

Relative importance given to volunteering as a subject: In surveys profile and placement matter for the quantity and quality of responses. A survey that is all about volunteering has an advantage over questions dropped in at the end of an omnibus (after, say, questions on recycling or pet ownership). The two National Surveys of Volunteering and the three surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now were specialist surveys of volunteering; while the other surveys contained modules of volunteering questions (and in the case of the Census 2011 one volunteering question) in the midst of a range of questions on other subjects.

Types of volunteering studied – whether all (generic) volunteering, formal volunteering (for organisations) or informal volunteering (for individuals): Each of these types has value as a subject. However, their greatest value lies in togetherness, the flexibility to explore both formal volunteering and informal volunteering, which have different activities, fields, demographics, geographical dimensions and social outputs, and the capacity to combine these by statistical means into all volunteering – that is, asking two questions to provide three answers. At headline level some surveys (Census 2011; NI Omnibus surveys; Continuous Household Surveys 2012-13 and 2013-14) focused on all volunteering and did not distinguish formal volunteering or informal volunteering, although the NI Omnibus surveys unfortunately

managed to ask questions specific to both formal and informal volunteering without stating that this was the case and without therefore enabling this information to be used with any precision. Sport Northern Ireland's survey captured all volunteering at headline level but also some detailed information on formal volunteering. The two National Surveys of Volunteering, the three surveys of Volunteer Development Agency/ Volunteer Now, Sport Northern Ireland's survey and the two early versions of the Continuous Household Survey (1991-92 and 2008-09) focused on formal volunteering and in all cases but one also collected information on informal volunteering.

Definition given to 'volunteering' as a subject: There is no agreement on what term should be used – 'helping', 'unpaid help', 'voluntary help', 'voluntary work', or just 'volunteering', but there is agreement that each of these terms is laden with assumptions and preconceptions which may impact on the way respondents reply.¹ There is also no industry-standard definition of the content of 'volunteering' within the UK or indeed elsewhere, but good practice suggests the inclusion of three elements – that is, that volunteering is unpaid (except for the reimbursement of expenses); freely undertaken and by choice; and for the benefit of others outside the immediate family – friends, neighbours, organisations, the community, animals and the environment. The definition used by surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now included all three elements. All the other surveys noted that volunteering is unpaid; but the two National Surveys of Volunteering, the Census 2011, the two later Continuous Household Surveys (2012-13 and 2013-14) and the Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys 2013-16 did not include an exception for the reimbursement of expenses. The two National Surveys of Volunteering, the Continuous Household Survey 1991-92, Sport Northern Ireland's survey and the Census 2011 did not note that volunteering is freely given. The Continuous Household Survey 1991-92, Sport Northern Ireland's survey and the Census 2011 did not mention that volunteering provides benefit to others; and the two National Surveys of Volunteering, the two later Continuous Household Surveys, the Census 2011 and the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys did not exclude providing benefit *inter alia* to immediate family members.

¹The report of the first VDA/VN survey (1995) acknowledged this baggage: 'Throughout the survey questionnaire, the terms volunteering and volunteer were avoided, being substituted by terms such as unpaid work or help. This was so as to avoid confusion with respondents' perceptions as to what constitutes volunteering.'

Table 1.1: Key elements of definition used in quantitative surveys of volunteering in Northern Ireland, 1991 to 2016

Survey	Term used for subject	Unpaid	Allowing for reimbursement of expenses	Freely given	Benefit to others	Excluding benefit to immediate family
NSV 1991 and 1997	Voluntary activity	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
CHS 1991-92	Voluntary work	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
CHS 2008-09	Volunteering or voluntary work	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
CHS 2012-13	Volunteering	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
CHS 2013-14	Volunteering	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
CHS 2017-18	Volunteering	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
VDA 1995, 2001, 2007	Unpaid work	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sports NI 2009-10	Sports volunteering	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Census 2011	Voluntary work without pay	Yes	No	No	No	No
Omnibus 2012	Volunteering	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Omnibus 2013-16	Volunteering	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Method used for asking the ‘V’ question: The impact of clarity in the definition of volunteering as a subject is amplified by how the ‘V’ question is asked, its descriptive quality and open-endedness. The National Surveys of Volunteering used the most elaborate method (adopted by the Citizenship/Community Life Surveys in England), which determined participation in two stages without asking the ‘V’ question directly. They asked respondents whether in the last year they had ‘done or taken part in,... been a member of or supported,... worked with or helped in any way, however small’ in different fields of activity (showcard with comprehensive list), and then, if respondents said yes, for each field asked them whether in the last year they had ‘done anything of this sort – unpaid - in connection with’ a list of activities (showcard with comprehensive list). If respondents answered yes to any of these activities, they were classed as formal volunteers. The surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now, the first two Continuous Household Surveys (1991-92 and 2008-09) and the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey 2012 provided examples of various types of activity (suggestive rather than comprehensive) before asking the ‘V’ question. Sport Northern Ireland’s survey set out a list of sports-based examples and then asked if respondents had done ‘any sports voluntary work’. The two later Continuous Household Surveys skipped the examples and just asked whether respondents had ‘actively volunteered in sports or exercise-based activities’/‘culture and arts-based activities’. The Census 2011 simply cut to the chase and asked: ‘In the past year, have you helped with or carried out any voluntary work without pay?’

Number and representativeness of respondents achieved: The robustness of quantitative information is directly related to respondents' representativeness of the population as a whole (as defined by various demographic and geographical factors) and the number of respondents relative to the depth and complexity of the questions asked. Issues of representativeness are managed by weighting (for unequal selection probabilities and differential non-response), and those of robustness by significance testing, usually at 95%² and designation of confidence intervals. Most surveys, sadly, are constructed not to provide statistical robustness but to fit a given budget (that is, the maximum number of respondents that are affordable), and there is often a mismatch between aspiration, questions asked, and achievement, usable answers. In the case of Northern Ireland the National Surveys of Volunteering had the smallest number of respondents, who were of nil representativeness. The Census 2011 had the largest number of respondents (the whole resident population aged 16 and over) who were of the greatest possible representativeness. The other surveys had between 1,000 and 4,700 respondents. These numbers are sufficiently robust for headline findings but for more complex analysis run into problems of statistical viability.

Comparability: Comparability means consistently comparing like with like, and, as can be seen from above and below, this is in short supply between surveys carried out by different providers and within the runs of those surveys.

If 'methodology is destiny', then the destiny of quantitative research on volunteering in Northern Ireland to date has been to engender a large degree of waste and confusion.

²This means that at 95% confidence level differences between, say, different age bands or different local councils are significant – that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not arisen by chance. The larger the confidence interval (+/-) around the 95% figure, the less precise the estimate is. In most studies only findings at 95% confidence level and with a minimum of 30 responses are presented in the text.

2. Some suggestions for carrying out future quantitative research

Despite the problems set out above, it may be possible, with the co-operation of stakeholders, including local councils, to achieve a method of collecting high-quality quantitative information on volunteering which will serve the purposes of those stakeholders and which can be done without radical change or undue expense.

The main barriers to success have been lack of interest, co-ordination and resources or, more particularly:

- Lack of agreement on the type(s) of volunteering studied – in particular, all volunteering vs formal volunteering/informal volunteering
- Lack of a standardised definition of the subject
- Lack of co-ordination on the content of surveys
- Lack of agreed methods for gathering and presenting information
- Samples too small and unrepresentative (with the exception of the Census 2011) to provide statistically significant information at local council level, for more complex analysis and for most section 75 groups
- Discontinuities in timing – either long gaps or every year, the one too long and the other probably too short to reflect any real change.

And therefore, in order to surmount these barriers and to be properly future-facing, quantitative studies of volunteering should aim for comprehensiveness, comparability, perspective and cost-effectiveness. They should:

- Have as their subjects both formal volunteering and informal volunteering and, by extrapolation, all volunteering.
- Use a definition of volunteering which contains the three key elements – unpaid (except for the reimbursement of expenses), freely undertaken and by choice; and for the benefit of others outside (or in addition to) the immediate family.
- Endeavour to agree on standard questions and standard responses to questions and avoid regularly changing the questions.
- Agree methods for gathering and presenting information – for example, using tables to record all responses and text for significant responses, putting values on bar charts, pie charts, etc. and always providing numbers of respondents.
- Use samples of a size and representativeness sufficient to produce robust results
- Carry out surveys at reasonable intervals to show development over time.

The greatest asset for in-depth understanding of volunteering is the Census 2011, and it is hoped that a question or questions on volunteering will be included in 2021 – that the question used in 2011, which is the acme of minimalism ('In the past year, have you helped with or carried out any voluntary work without pay?') might be subdivided into 'In the past year, have you helped with or carried out any voluntary work for a group, club or organisation without pay?' and 'In the past year, have you helped with or carried out any voluntary work for individuals (not members of your own family) without pay?' This would allow a distinction between formal and informal volunteering but enable analysis by all volunteers and hence ensure comparability with 2011.

Because 'doing' is better than 'feeling', local councils can use participation in volunteering as a 'hard' indicator of community engagement rather than the more fashionable wellbeing indicators³. It should be possible to concentrate resources on achieving the best and most detailed outputs possible by timing research to fit in with the monitoring requirements of programmes – e.g. before and after, in Years 1 and 3 of a three-year programme or in Years 1 and 5 of a five-year programme. A monitoring questionnaire should be developed nationally for application locally – so that all local councils will be monitoring the same elements at the same time. Sample sizes per local council for headline rates should not be less than 1,000; questions should concentrate on generic issues of volunteering and not be individualised to local councils (unless as extras); and ideally, questions (say, eight to ten in number) should be included, in the form of a module, in local council omnibus surveys conducted to a national standard.

It is recognised that from time to time volunteering specialists such as Volunteer Now may wish to gather more detailed information on a wider range of issues and that provision should be made to support periodic surveys which have sample sizes which are sufficiently large to deliver statistically significant outputs. This information will add detail and nuance to the more limited monitoring information and will enable a much fuller understanding of the fine texture of volunteering and ways of encouraging and supporting it.

In sum:

- Census of population every 10 years; one all-in question or two questions, one of formal volunteering and the other on informal volunteering
- Programme monitoring surveys in all local authority districts at, say three or five year intervals (beginning and end of community development and planning programmes); standardised questionnaire used locally with fit-for-purpose samples and standardised methodology and reporting
- Specialist in-depth national surveys of volunteering from time to time which deliver statistically significant outputs.

³There is strong evidence that volunteering powers wellbeing for individuals and communities. A volunteering indicator is therefore a relevant and appropriate way to measure and monitor wellbeing across Scotland. Volunteering participation is (explicitly or implicitly) a critical component of policy agendas focussing on public service delivery and communities now and for the foreseeable future.' Helen Harper, *Volunteering and Wellbeing: Scotland Performs: The case for a new volunteering indicator* (Stirling: Volunteer Scotland, 2015), 8.

3. Headline participation in volunteering in Northern Ireland

Figures 3.1 and 3.2 and Tables 3.1 and 3.2, set out the headline participation rates for each of the sixteen quantitative surveys of volunteering in Northern Ireland, and the Appendix sets out descriptions of the methodologies used in these surveys.

There is no discernable trend, and many ups and downs. This volatility is unlikely to be a reflection of any underlying reality but a reflection of inconsistencies in methodology.⁴

In the case of all volunteering and formal volunteering (expediently combined here for analysis) and allowing for changes in questionnaires including variations in inclusion/exclusion of certain activities in the first two surveys of the Voluntary Development Agency/Volunteer Now⁵, and the low participation rates of the Census 2011 and the three surveys of sports and arts and culture volunteering (Sport Northern Ireland's survey and Continuous Household Surveys 2012-13 and 2013-14⁶) – it would seem that the headline participation rates for all volunteering/formal volunteering in Northern Ireland have hovered – with a possible dip between 2001 and 2012 but without any obvious trend – at around a quarter to a third of the population.

In the case of informal volunteering, allowing for the scarcity of information, it would seem that the headline participation rate may have peaked in 2001 and fallen thereafter.

⁴See also: Peter Lynn, 'Measuring Voluntary Activity', *Non-Profit Studies* 1(2) (1997), 1-11; Roger Tarling, 'Editorial: Statistics on the voluntary sector in the UK', *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society A*, 163, Part 3 (2000), 255-61; Laura Staetsky and John Mohan, *Individual voluntary participation in the United Kingdom: an overview of survey information* (Third Sector Research Centre Working Paper No.6; Birmingham: Third Sector Research Centre, 2011); and John Mohan, *Developmental trends in the British third sector: evidence on voluntary action by individuals*; (TSI Working Paper Series No.14; Seventh Framework Programme; Brussels: Third Sector Impact, European Union, 2016).

⁵The 1995 report gave the headline rate for formal volunteering as 18% but noted 'that 11% of respondents who said that they had not undertaken voluntary work were members of trades unions, professional and technical associations or social/recreational clubs for which they had worked at some time (by holding office, helping run activities or by being involved in charitable activities). These respondents, while not recognising themselves as volunteers, nevertheless may be considered as formal volunteers, although it has not been possible for this survey to analyse their work. When members of this group are discussed in the report they will be referred to as "other volunteers".' The 2001 report stated 'that formal volunteering stood at 35% of the population. This figure was an aggregation of those individuals who stated they were formal volunteers and also those who were members of a committee, were involved in fundraising or running an activity for a trade union, club for social or recreation activities or a professional or technical association. When the responses to Question 1 on the 2001 survey are examined in isolation (formal volunteers), the number of formal volunteers is 29% of the population. For the sake of comparison, it is this figure which will be used throughout this report in order to analyse change over time.' The 2007 survey had the same option of trade union/professional organisation as a field but the report did not set out any percentage. These alternative figures 29% and 35% suggest greater consistency in participation rates but make greater the contrast with the participation rate for 2007.

⁶The participation rates for these surveys may be relatively low but they are consistent.

Figure 3.1: All volunteers and formal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents (headline rates) in Northern Ireland, 1991 to 2016 (%)

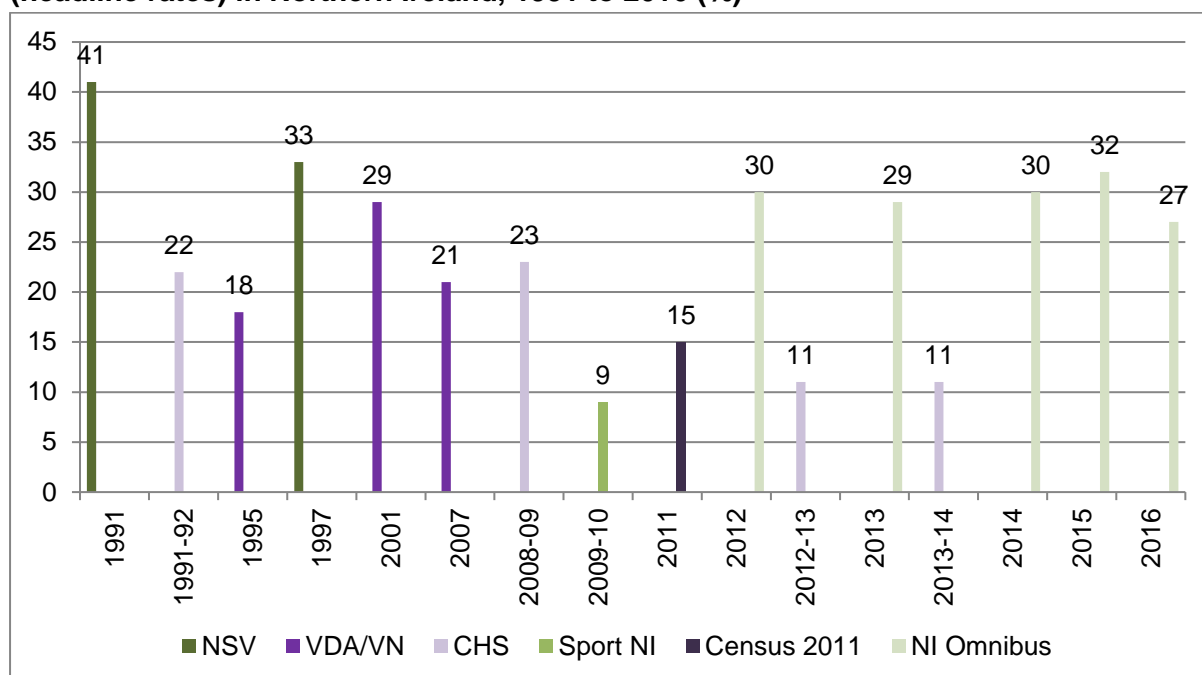


Table 3.1: All volunteers and formal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents (headline rates) in Northern Ireland, 1991 to 2016 (%)

Year	NSV	VDA/VN	CHS	Sport NI	Census 2011	NI Omnibus	Base	Category
1991	41						204	Formal
1991-92			22				5,801	Formal
1995		18(29)					1,063	Formal
1997	33						48	Formal
2001		29 (35)					1,312	Formal
2007		21					1,020	Formal
2008-09			23				No info	Formal
2009-10				9			4,653	All
2011					15		1,431,540	All
2012						30	1,131	All
2012-13			11				3,625	All
2013						29	1,170	All
2013-14			11				3,750	All
2014						30	1,081	All
2015						32	1,109	All
2016						27	946	All

Figure 3.2: Informal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents (headline rates) in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2008-09 (%)

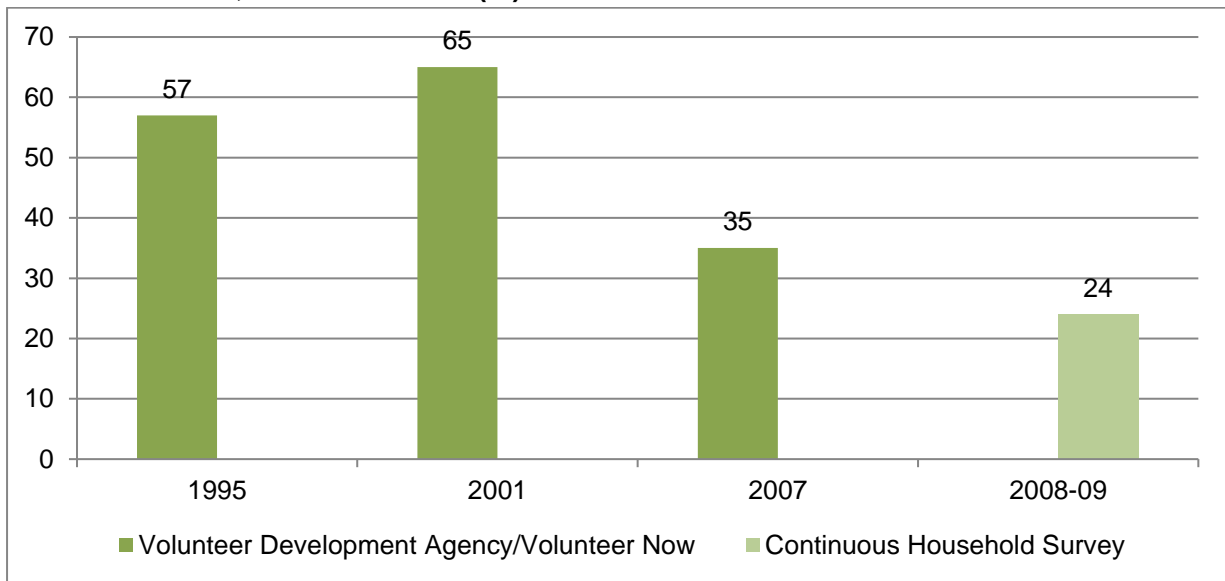


Table 3.2: Informal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents (headline rates) in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2008-09 (%)

Year	Volunteer Development Agency/ Volunteer Now	Continuous Household Survey	Base	Category
1995	57		1,063	Informal
2001	65		1,312	Informal
2007	35		1,020	Informal
2008-09		24	No info	Informal

4. Headline participation in volunteering in England, Scotland and Wales

Carrying out quantitative surveys of volunteering is, as has been indicated above, a difficult task, which is complicated by the aim of consistently documenting change over time. Volunteering research among the four nations of the UK has taken different paths and different forms, and it has produced different landscapes of volunteering.

While research in England and Scotland has been dominated by large-scale and long-term projects, research in Northern Ireland and Wales has been patchy and discontinuous.

We have compared headline findings (excluding findings from surveys of sports and arts/culture volunteering) on all volunteering, formal volunteering and informal volunteering in the four nations from 1999 onwards. As can be seen from Figures 4.1 to 4.3, these comparisons are not entirely straightforward. The detailed information for England, Scotland and Wales on which this analysis is based are set out below and that for Northern Ireland above.

Figure 4.1: All volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

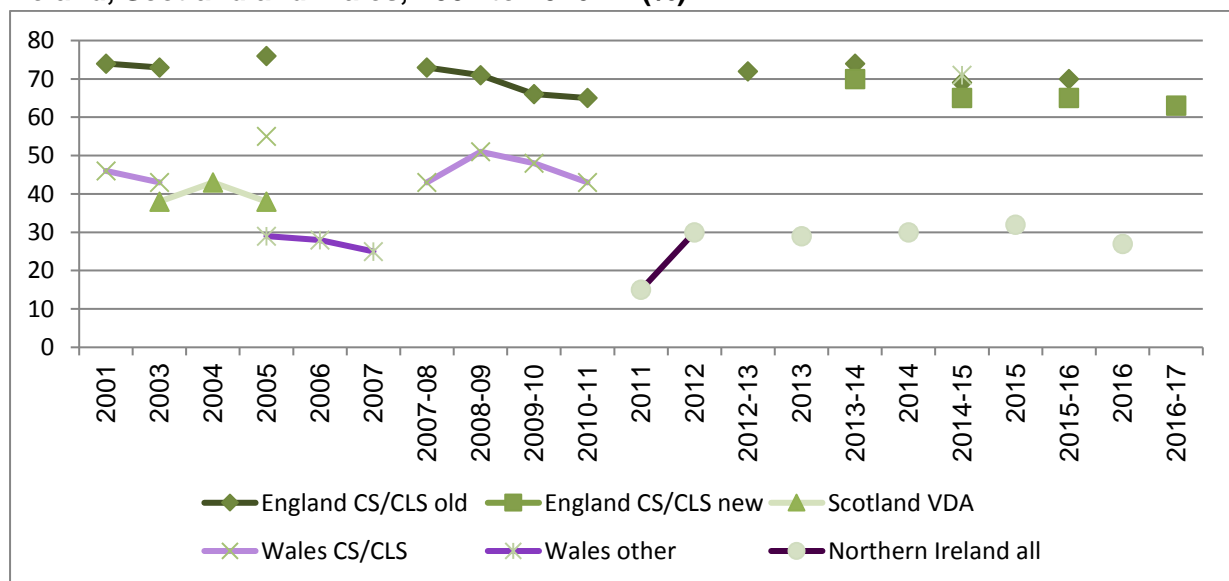


Figure 4.2: Formal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 1999 to 2016-17 (%)

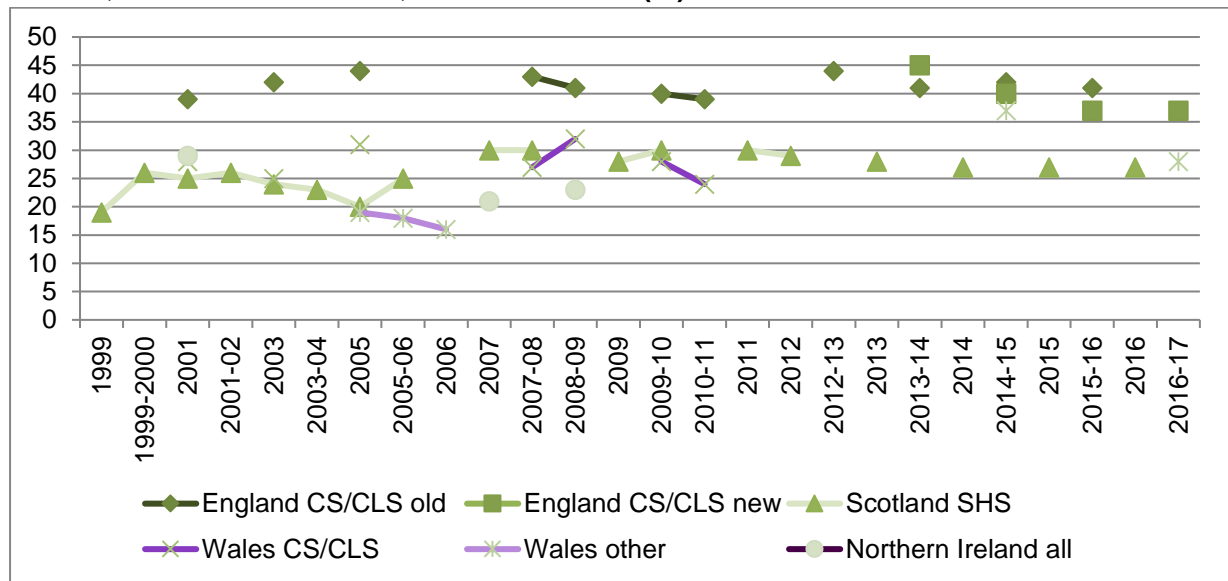
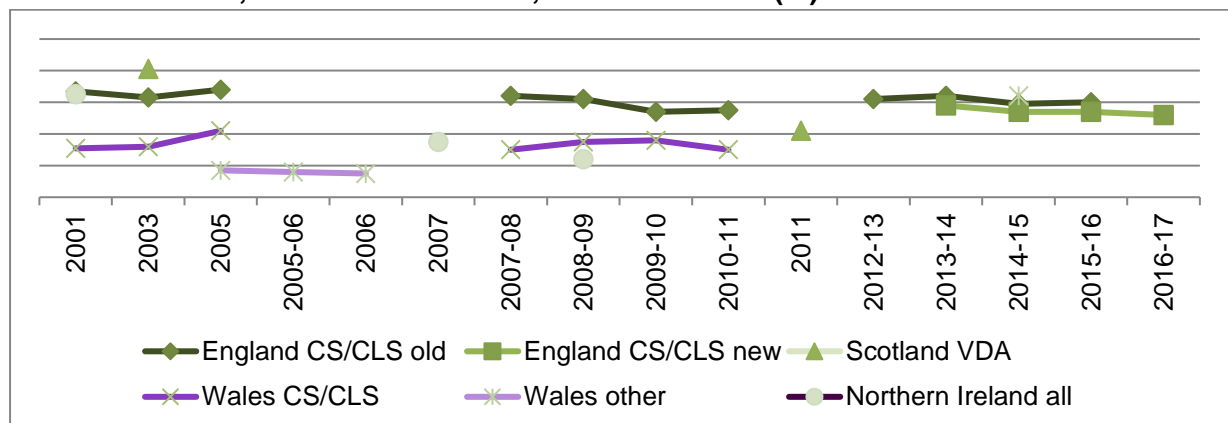


Figure 4.3: Informal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)



Some observations:

- There does not seem to be much, if any, synchronicity in the historical patterns of volunteering across the four nations.
- There is substantial variation in the rates of volunteering produced by different sets of surveys within each of the four nations.
- The highest rates of all volunteering, formal volunteering and informal volunteering were produced by the Citizenship/Community Life Survey, which was a survey dedicated to volunteering and associated social engagement topics and used a high-quality method of asking the 'V' question.
- There is substantial variation in the rates of volunteering produced by the Citizenship/Community Life Survey in England and Wales, with those for Wales being lower (between two-thirds to three-quarters for all volunteering and formal volunteering and between one-half to two-thirds for informal volunteering) than those for England. The

consistency of the gaps between these national rates suggests that these differences were real and not artifacts of research methodology.

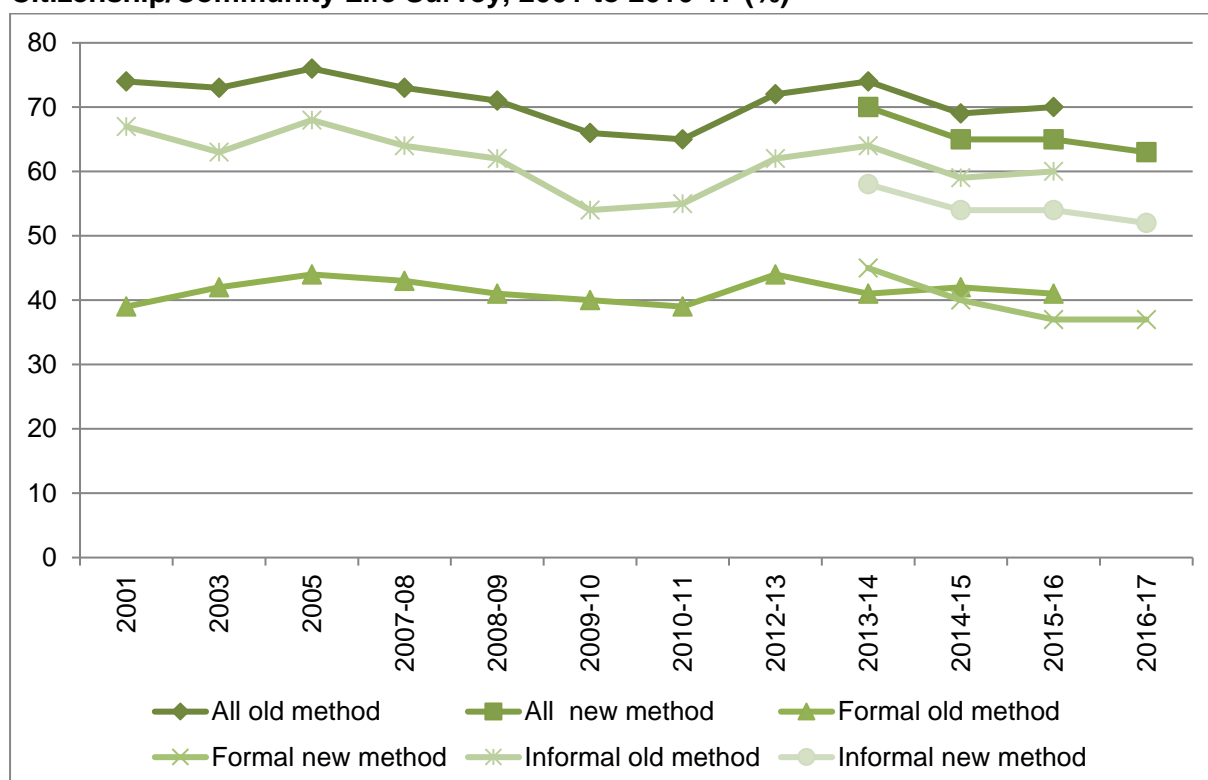
- Rates of volunteering in Northern Ireland are, on the whole, of a similar magnitude to those in Scotland.
- Rates of volunteering in sports and arts/cultural surveys are of a surprisingly similar magnitude across England, Northern Ireland and Wales and throughout the period under consideration.

Volunteering in England

In England there were four surveys that provided information on volunteering:

- **Citizenship/Community Life Survey.** This is, effect, the 'gold standard' of volunteering research. In succession the Home Office, Department for Communities and Local Government and now the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have carried this out since 2001, initially every two years and now on an annual basis. It builds on the methodology developed for the National Surveys of Volunteering, uses the most comprehensive (and labour-intensive) method of asking the 'V' question and has produced very high quality information on volunteering by people aged 16 and over at least once in the past year. It is not, however, perfect, as there was a gap in 2011-12, when government 'reconsidered' its commitment; sample size has fluctuated; and the survey methodology has changed from in-home in-person interviews (the 'old method') to a mixture of postal and internet responses (the 'new method'), which, strictly speaking, weakens its comparability. (Figure 4.4 and Table 4.1).

Figure 4.4: All volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in England, Citizenship/Community Life Survey, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)



Note: Both the 'old method' and the 'new method' were used in parallel in 2013-14 to 2015-16 and the 'new method' has been used on its own since then.

Table 4.1: All volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in England, Citizenship/Community Life Survey, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

Year	All old method	All new method	Formal old method	Formal new method	Informal old method	Informal new method	Base old method	Base new method
2001	74		39		67		9,430	
2003	73		42		63		8,920	
2005	76		44		68		9,195	
2007-08	73		43		64		8,804	
2008-09	71		41		62		8,768	
2009-10	66		40		54		8,712	
2010-11	65		39		55		9,664	
2012-13	72		44		62		6,915	
2013-14	74	70	41	45	64	58	5,105	10,215
2014-15	69	65	42	40	59	54	2,022	2,323
2015-16	70	65	41	37	60	54	3,027	3,256
2016-17		63		37		52		10,256

- **Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport.** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, in partnership with the Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England, has carried out the Taking Part Survey since 2005-06. This is a survey

which focuses on participation, including volunteering, in the areas for which DCMS has responsibility (arts, museums/galleries, heritage, libraries, archives and sport). It has collected information on all volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered at least once in the last 12 months not only in DCMS's specialist sectors but also in general. It asked volunteering questions of half the sample of respondents in 2010-11, the full sample in 2011-12 and a cross-sectional sample from 2012-13 onwards. It is worth noting that its headline figures for all volunteering, which should approximate those of the Citizenship/Community Life Surveys, are substantially lower – about a third to a half of those documented by the Citizenship/Community Life Surveys. This suggests that both context and methodology play a part in influencing headline rates of participation (Figure 4.5 and Table 4.2).

Figure 4.5: All volunteers and all volunteers in DCMS sectors aged 16 and over who volunteered in last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in England, Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport, 2005-06 to 2016-17 (%).

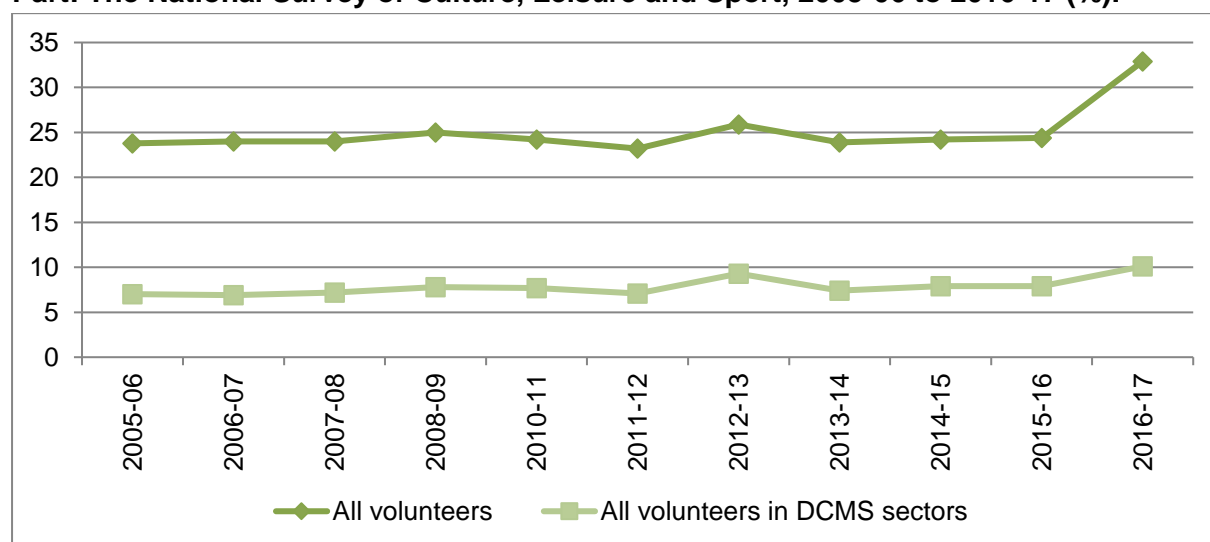


Table 4.2: All volunteers and all volunteers in DCMS sectors aged 16 and over who volunteered in last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in England, Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport, 2005-06 to 2016-17

Year	All volunteers	All volunteers in DCMS sectors	Base
2005-06	24	7	28,072
2006-07	24	7	24,174
2007-08	24	7	25,720
2008-09	25	8	14,452
2010-11	24	8	14,102
2011-12	23	7	9,188
2012-13	26	9	9,838
2013-14	24	7	10,355
2014-15	24	8	9,812
2015-16	24	8	10,171
2016-17	33	10	9,352

- **Active People Survey.** Sport England described this survey as the ‘most comprehensive and authoritative picture of sports participation in England’ and carried it out from 2006-07 to 2015-16. It only included questions on all volunteering from 2010-11 onwards and after the first of these surveys only asked the questions of half of the sample. Its time period for volunteering (4 weeks) is not comparable with other volunteering research (Figure 4.6 and Table 4.3).

Figure 4.6: All volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last four weeks as a proportion of all respondents in England, Active People Survey, 2010-11 to 2015-16

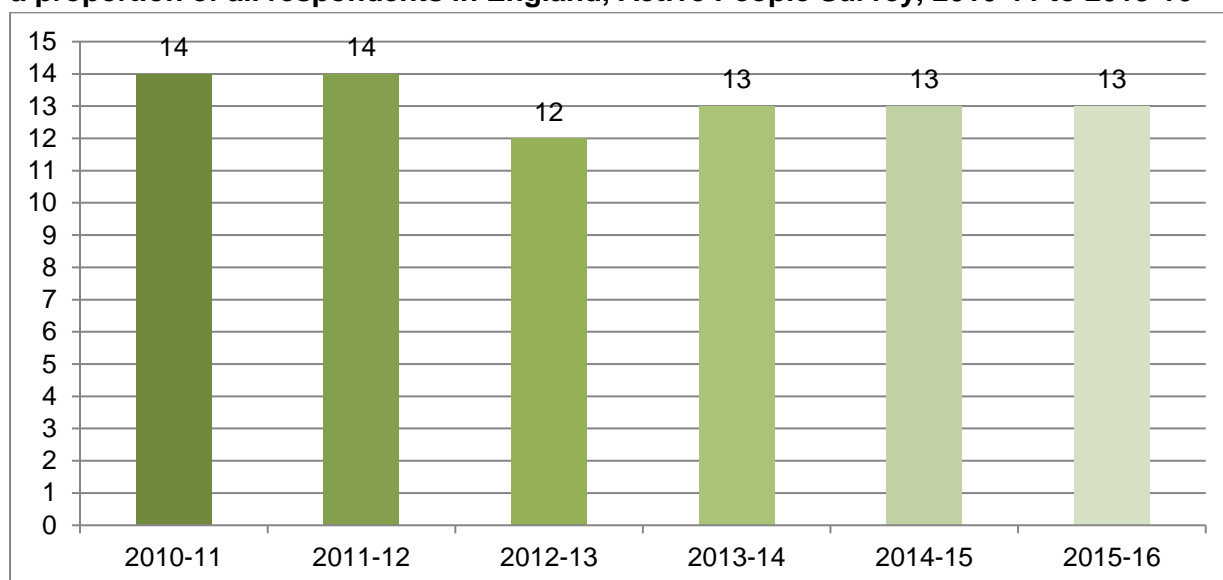


Table 4.3: All volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last four weeks as a proportion of all respondents in England, Active People Survey, 2010-11 to 2015-16

Year	All volunteers	Base
2010-11	14	162,146
2011-12	14	82,034
2012-13	12	78,471
2013-14	13	59,512
2014-15	13	40,504
2015-16	13	39,240

- **Active Lives Survey.** Sport England replaced the Active People Survey with this survey from 2016-17 with the intention of monitoring progress under government’s Sporting Future Strategy and Sport England’s own Towards an Active Nation Strategy. Like the Citizenship Survey/Community Life Survey it uses a new methodology, ‘postal-pushed’ collection of information by a web-based survey. It provides information on people aged 16 and over who volunteered formally at least twice in the past year (not comparable with other volunteering research) in support of sport/physical activity. It found that 15% of respondents did so (sample N = 142,087).

Volunteering in Scotland

In Scotland two surveys provided information on volunteering:

- **Scottish Household Survey - Scotland's People: People, Communities and Places.**
The Scottish Government has collected information on formal volunteering in Scotland since 1999. This survey uses a definition which 'broadly encompasses' formal volunteering by people aged 16 and over in the last 12 months. Like the other surveys discussed above, it has undergone changes in sample size and, more importantly, in the 'V' question. From 1999 to 2005-06 respondents were asked whether in the last 12 months they 'gave up time to help as an organiser/volunteer'; and from 2007 onwards they were asked whether in the last 12 months they 'provided unpaid help to organisations or individuals' (an inclusion which slightly muddies the definitional waters). It is again worth noting the impact of context (location in an omnibus) and methodology, as the headline rate for formal volunteering is substantially lower than that documented by the Citizenship/Community Life Surveys (Figure 4.7 and Table 4.4).

Figure 4.7: Formal volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in Scotland, Scottish Household Survey, 1999 to 2016 (%)

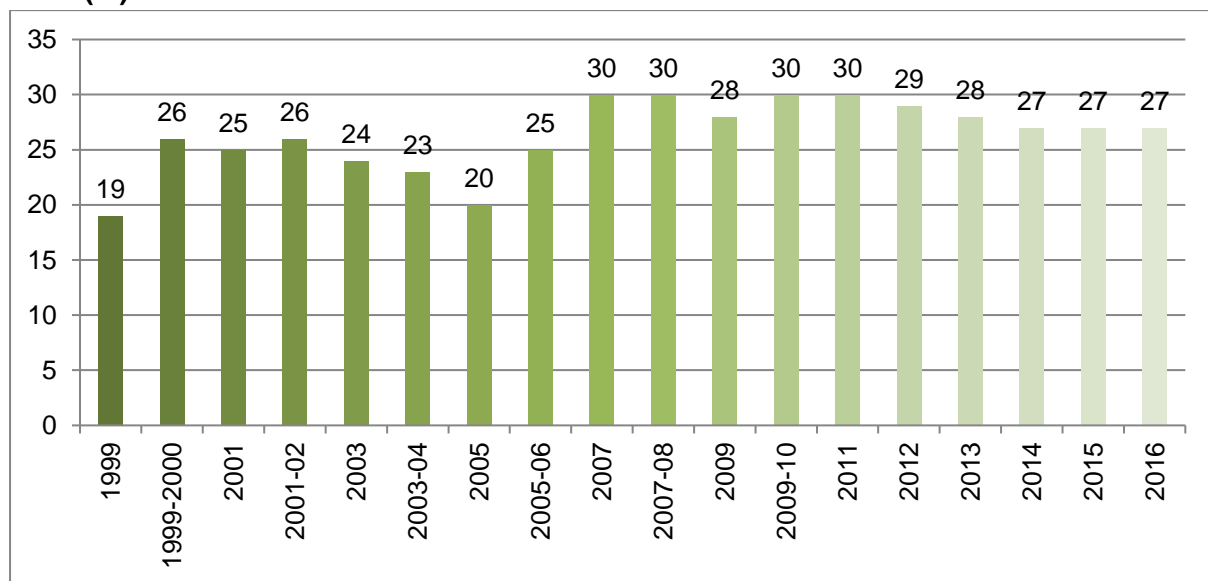


Table 4.4: Formal volunteers in the last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in Scotland, Scottish Household Survey, 1999 to 2016 (%).

Year	Formal volunteers	Base
1999	19	13,788
1999-2000	26	14,554
2001	25	14,635
2001-02	26	28,667
2003	24	13,925
2003-04	23	28,671
2005	20	10,157
2005-06	25	7,079
2007	30	6,333
2007-08	30	12,533
2009	28	6,784
2009-10	30	12,420
2011	30	6,428
2012	29	9,890
2013	28	9,920
2014	27	9,800
2015	27	9,410
2016	27	9,640

- Volunteer Development Scotland Surveys.** The national development agency for volunteering in Scotland carried out a number of surveys of volunteering by people aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last 12 months. Its findings on all volunteering, formal volunteering and informal volunteering have been difficult to access and information on methodology is sketchy.

Figure 4.8: All volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in Scotland, Volunteer Development Scotland surveys, 2003-05 and 2011

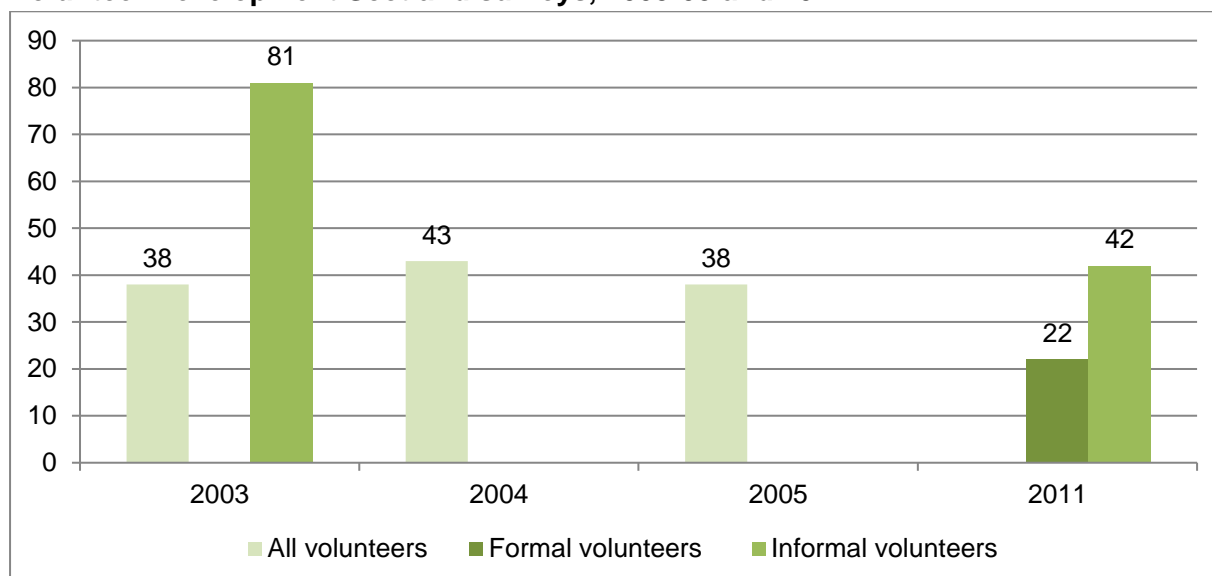


Table 4.5: All volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers aged 16 and over in the last 12 months as a proportion of all respondents in Scotland, Volunteer Development Scotland surveys, 2003-05 and 2011

Year	All volunteers	Formal volunteers	Informal volunteers	Base
2003	38		81	No information
2004	43			No information
2005	38			No information
2011		22	42	1,033

Volunteering in Wales

In Wales there were five surveys that provided information on volunteering (Figures 4.9-4.11 and Tables 4.6-4.8):

- **Welsh leg of the Citizenship/Community Life Survey.** This research was initially undertaken by the Home Office as part of its remit for prisons/criminal justice in Wales, and it provided information on all volunteering, formal volunteering and informal volunteering by people aged 16 and over who volunteered in the last 12 months for the years 2001 to 2010-11. The sample size was about 500, too small to provide robust findings. Moreover, the full findings for all, formal and informal volunteering were never disaggregated from the English findings, and there are only a few tables on Stats Wales' website, the source of which is not stated.
- **Living in Wales.** This research, which was an omnibus survey covering 'policy-relevant information in the areas where there was no other source of survey information', was carried out by the Welsh Assembly Government. It ran from 2004 to 2008, but in 2005-07 it included modules on volunteering which covered all volunteering, formal volunteering and informal volunteering by people aged 16 and over who volunteered in last 3 years (a time period not comparable with other volunteering research).
- **Active Adults Sports Survey.** This survey, carried out by Sport Wales, is similar to Sport England's Active People/Active Lives Surveys. In 2012 and 2014 it provided information on 'any' (all) volunteering in the previous 12 months by those aged 15 and over (age not comparable with other volunteering research).
- **Wales Council for Voluntary Action.** In recognition of the dearth of usable information on volunteering WCVA commissioned modules on volunteering (formal and informal) by people aged 16 and over in the last 12 months in two successive omnibus surveys in 2014 and 2015, the findings of which were combined in its report.
- **Survey for Wales:** This omnibus survey has been carried out by the Welsh Government since 2012. In 2016-17 it included questions on formal volunteering by people aged 16 and over in the last 12 months, which will be used as a performance indicator FG28 (Well-being of Future Generations).

Figure 4.9: All volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

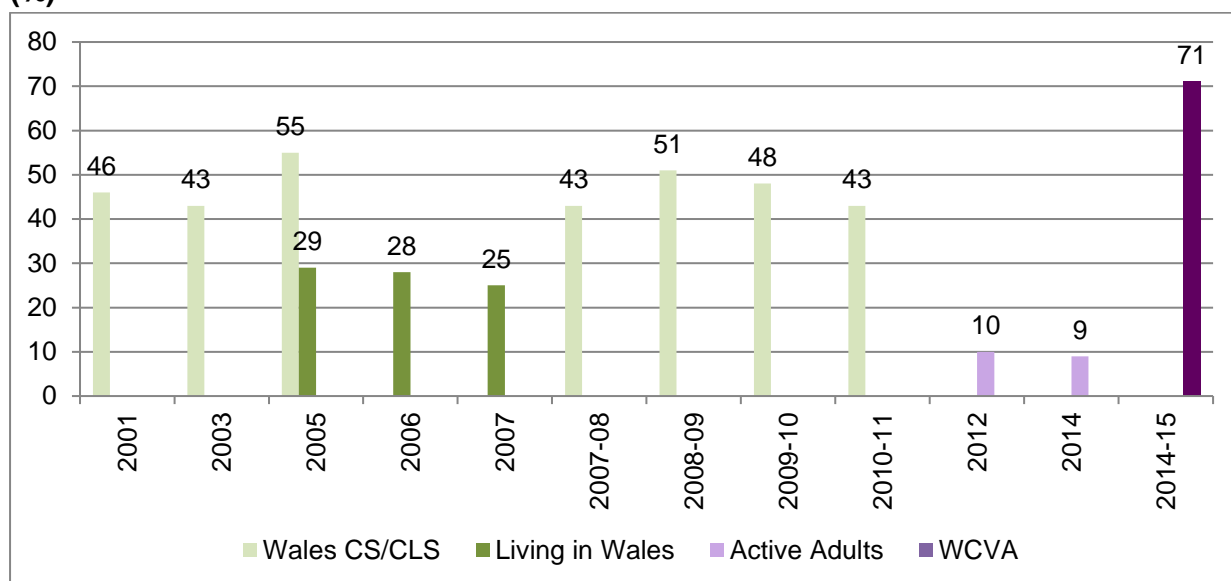


Table 4.6: All volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

Year	Wales CS/CLS	Living in Wales	Active Adults (Sports)	WCVA	Base
2001	46				DK
2003	43				DK
2005	55	29			7,786
2006		28			7,443
2007		25			ca.7,500
2007-08	43				DK
2008-09	51				DK
2009-10	48				513
2010-11	43				566
2012			10		13,143
2014			9		8,156
2014-15				71	2,034
2016-17					10,499

Figure 4.10: All formal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

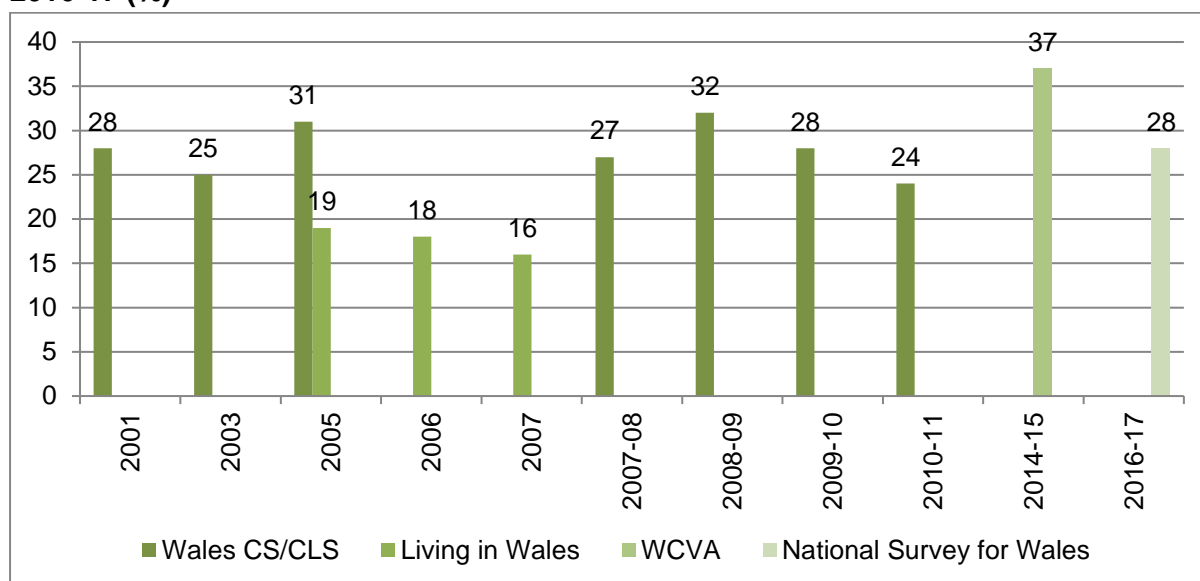


Table 4.7: All formal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

Year	Wales CS/CLS	Living in Wales	WCVA	National Survey for Wales	Base
2001	28				DK
2003	25				DK
2005	31	19			7,786
2006		18			7,443
2007		16			ca.7,500
2007-08	27				DK
2008-09	32				DK
2009-10	28				513
2010-11	24				566
2014-15			37		2,034
2016-17				28	10,499

Figure 4.11 All informal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

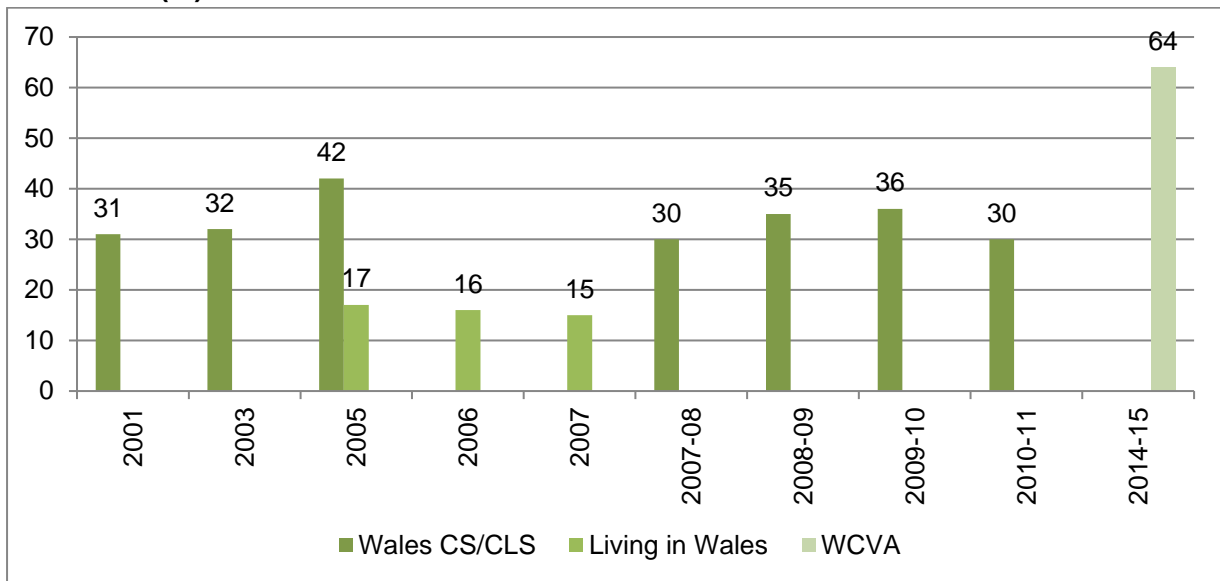


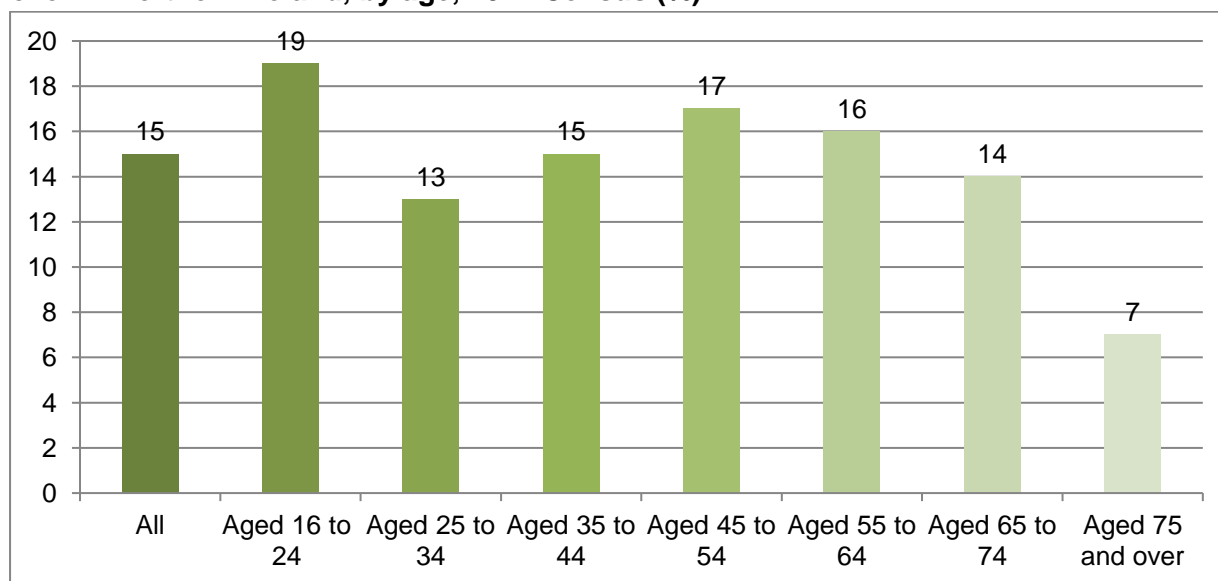
Figure 4.8: All informal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Wales, 2001 to 2016-17 (%)

Year	Wales CS/CLS	Living in Wales	WCVA	Base
2001	31			DK
2003	32			DK
2005	42	17		7,786
2006		16		7,443
2007		15		ca.7,500
2007-08	30			DK
2008-09	35			DK
2009-10	36			513
2010-11	30			566
2014-15			64	2,034

5. Volunteering by age

The Census 2011 offers robust evidence on the participation rates in voluntary work in Northern Ireland of all volunteers by age. The figures show that people aged 16 to 24 volunteered at the highest rate; and those aged 75 and over, at the lowest. People aged 25 to 34 volunteered at a much lower rate than those aged 16 to 24. The rates for those aged 25 to 34 and over curved up and then down, with a mini-peak for those aged 45 to 54 (Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by age, 2011 Census (%)



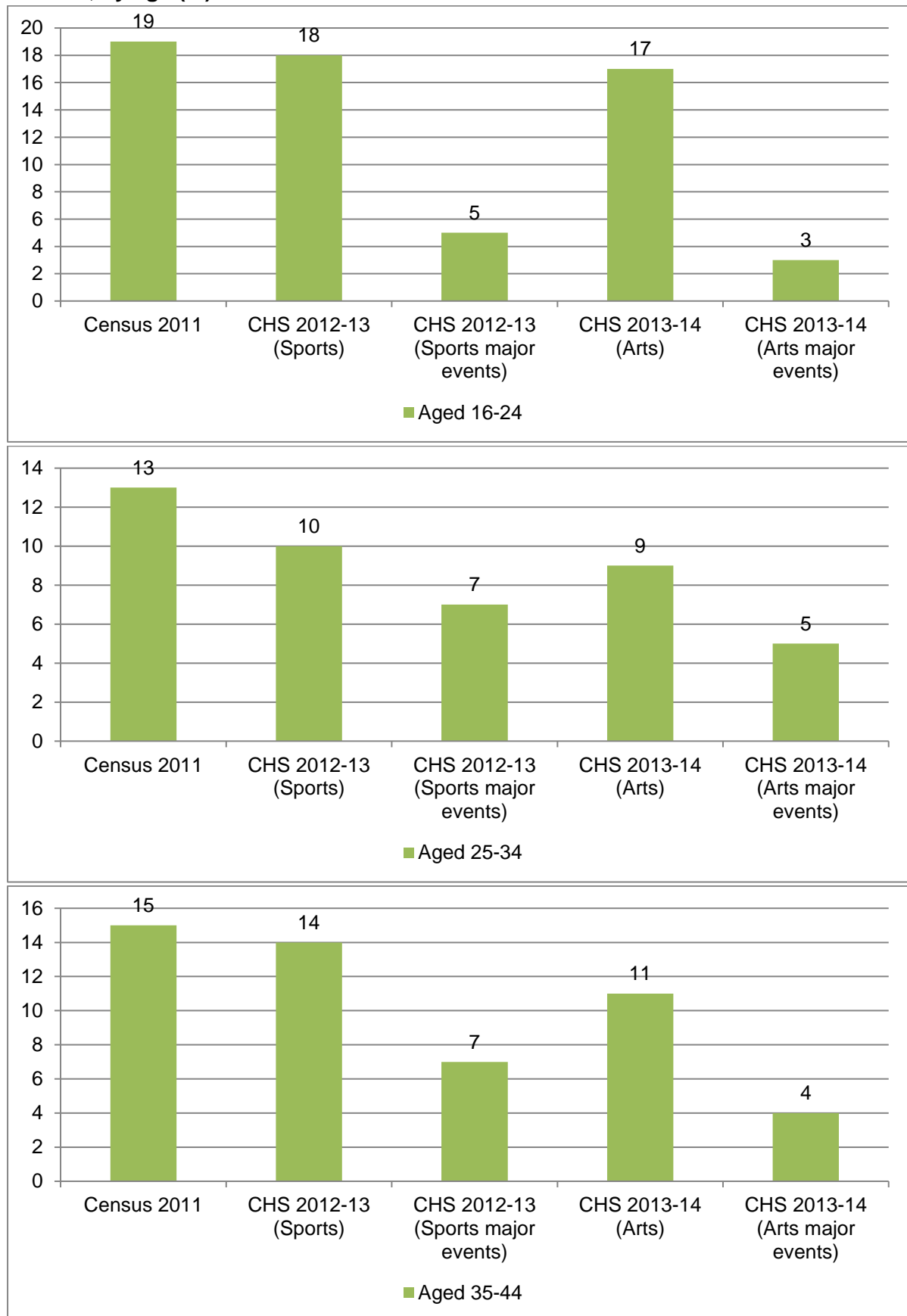
It is, however, not easy to compare these figures with those supplied by the other surveys – on the one hand because some had a narrower focus (Sport Northern Ireland’s survey and Continuous Household Surveys 2012-13 and 2013-14 on sports and arts and culture) and on the other hand because they did not always use the same age bands or provide information for all age bands.

The report has plotted the figures for all volunteering as a proportion of all respondents by age, and these tend to show at least that the people who participated at the highest rate in both the Census 2011 and the Continuous Household Surveys were those aged 16 to 24; and at the lowest rate, those aged 65 and over (Figure 5.2 and Table 5.1).

Figures from the surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now for formal volunteering as a proportion of all formal volunteers, which were the unfortunate product of two different sets of age bands, neither in harmony with those used by other surveys, suggest that the age groups which participated at the highest rate were those in the prime of life (aged 36 to 45 and 46 to 55 in 1995 and 35 to 49 and 50 to 64 in 2001 and 2007) (Table 5.2).

Figures for informal volunteering have a similar profile (Table 5.3).

Figure 5.2: All volunteers as proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2011 to 2013-14, by age (%)



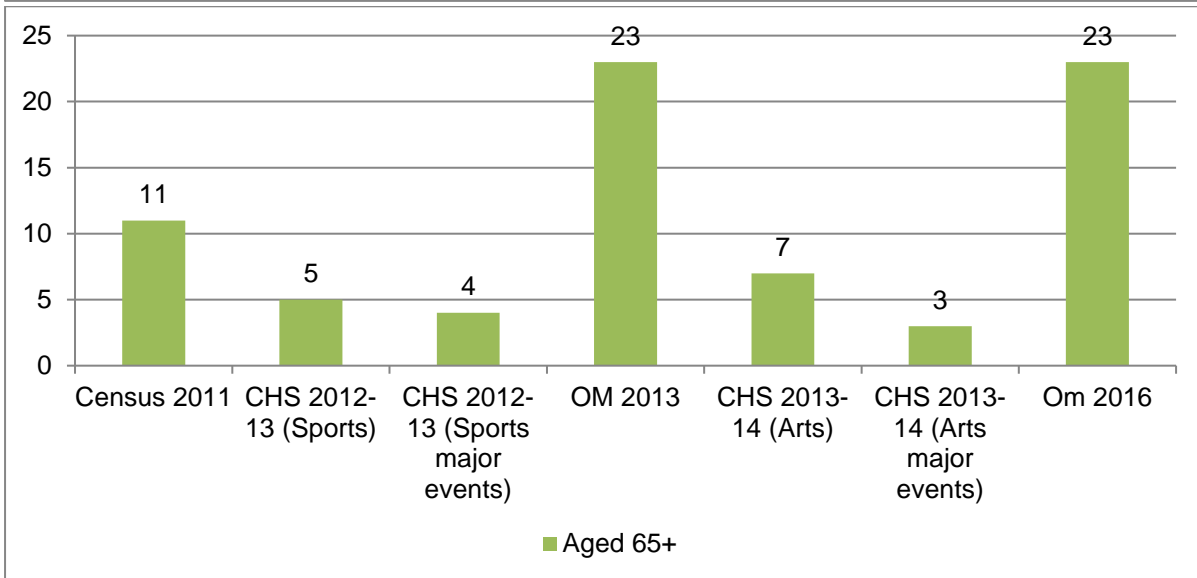
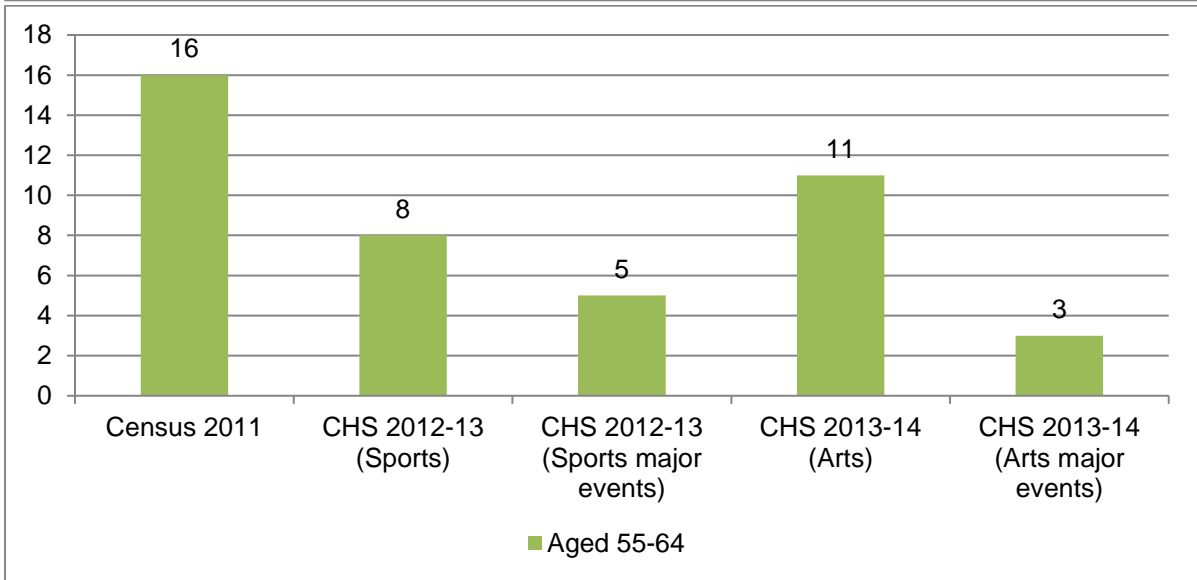
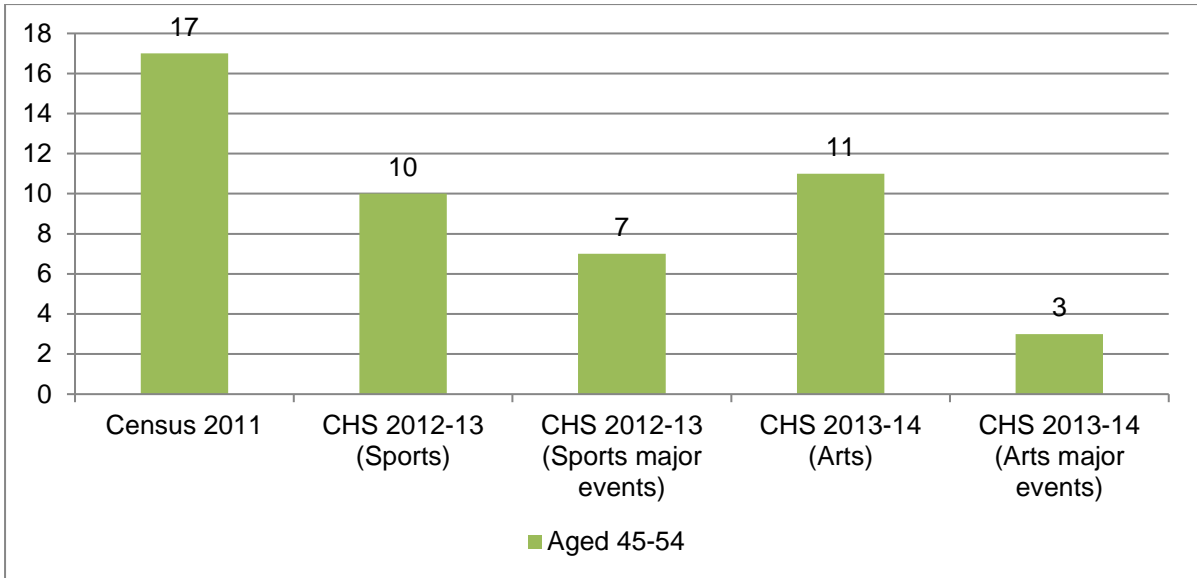


Table 5.1: All volunteers as proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016, by age (%)

Age	Sport NI 2009-10	Census 2011	CHS 2012-13 (Sports)	CHS 2012-13 (Sports major events)	CHS 2013-14 (Arts)	CHS 2013-14 (Arts major events)	Om 2013	Om 2016
16-29	9							
30-49	12							
50+	5							
16-24		19	18	5	17	3		
25-34		13	10	7	9	5		
35-44		15	14	7	11	4		
45-54		17	10	7	11	3		
55-65		16	8	5	11	3		
65+		11	5	4	7	3		
16-24							35	29
65 +							23	23
Base	4,653	1,431,540	3,625	3,625	3,750	3,750	1,170	945

Table 5.2: Formal volunteers as a proportion of all formal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007, by age (%)

Age	VDA 1995	VDA 2001	VDA 2007
18-25	15		
26-35	14		
36-45	27		
46-55	18		
56-65	13		
65+	13		
16-24			15
25-34			16
35-44			
35-49			34
45-54			
50-64			18
55-65			
65+			17
Base	1,063/194	1,312/456	1,020/212

Table 5.3: Informal volunteers as a proportion of all informal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007, by age (%)

Age	VDA 1995	VDA 2001	VDA 2007
18-25	15		
26-35	14		
36-45	27		
46-55	18		
56-65	13		
65+	13		
16-24		18	12
25-34		16	23
35-44			
35-49		28	31
45-54			
50-64		23	18
55-65			
65+		14	16
Base	1,063/600	1,312/456	1,020/212

6. Volunteering by age and sex

These figures also show that there were differences in women's and men's participation rates by age, (Figures 6.1 and 6.2).

There have been some difficulties in comparing women's and men's rates of participation in volunteering due to the different ways the information was presented (women and men as a proportion of all respondents or as a proportion of all volunteers/formal volunteers/informal volunteers). For the sake of comparability we have shown women's and men's participation as a proportion of all respondents, which has involved some recalculations of figures set out in the first two reports of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now.

For all volunteers the most reliable figures are those from the Census 2011, which show that 16% of women and 14% of men volunteered, just about equal. There were, however, differences in the rates of participation by age and sex which were slight, except, perhaps, for those aged 16-24 (Figure 6.1). Figures from the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys show that women's and men's rates of participation were just about equal (except perhaps for 2012) and stable. Figures from Sport Northern Ireland's survey and the Continuous Household Surveys 2012-13 and 2013-14 show that men volunteered at a higher rate than women in the field of sports but at an equal rate in the field of arts and culture (Figures 6.1 and 6.2 and Table 6.1)

For formal volunteers figures from the surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now show that women participated at a higher rate than men and that this was increasing (women accounted for 61% of formal volunteers in 2007). The figures from the Continuous Household Survey 2008-09 (about which we have only limited information) suggest otherwise (Figure 6.3 and Table 6.1).

For informal volunteers figures from the surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now show an even greater – and increasing – rate of participation by women (who accounted for 65% of informal volunteers in 2007) (Figure 6.4 and Table 6.1).

Figure 6.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by age and sex, 2011 Census (%)

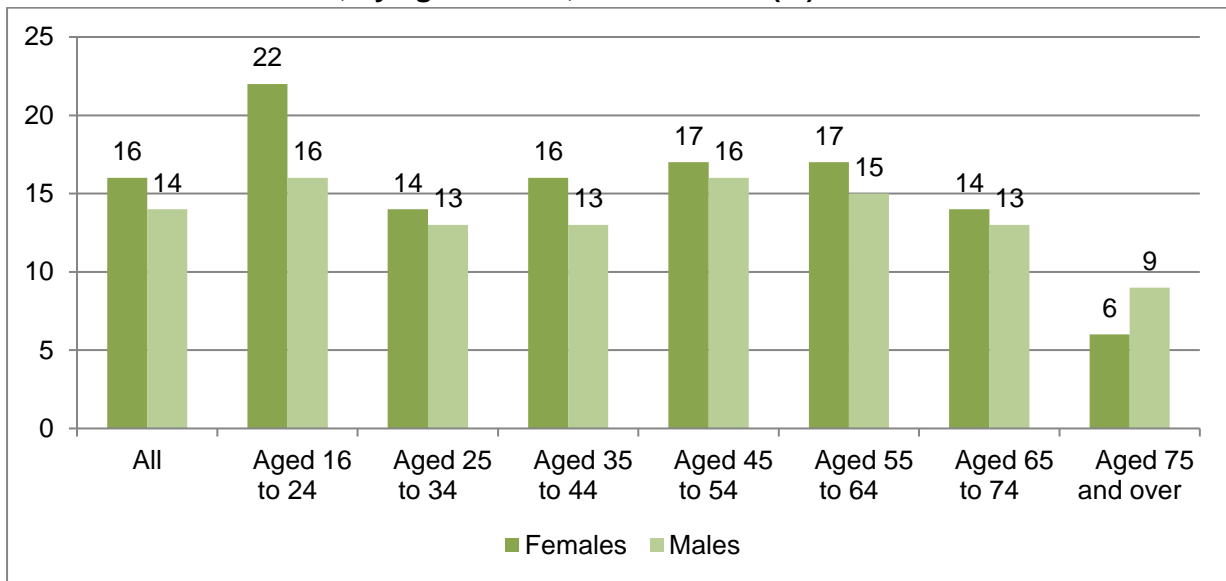


Figure 6.2: All volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016, by sex (%)

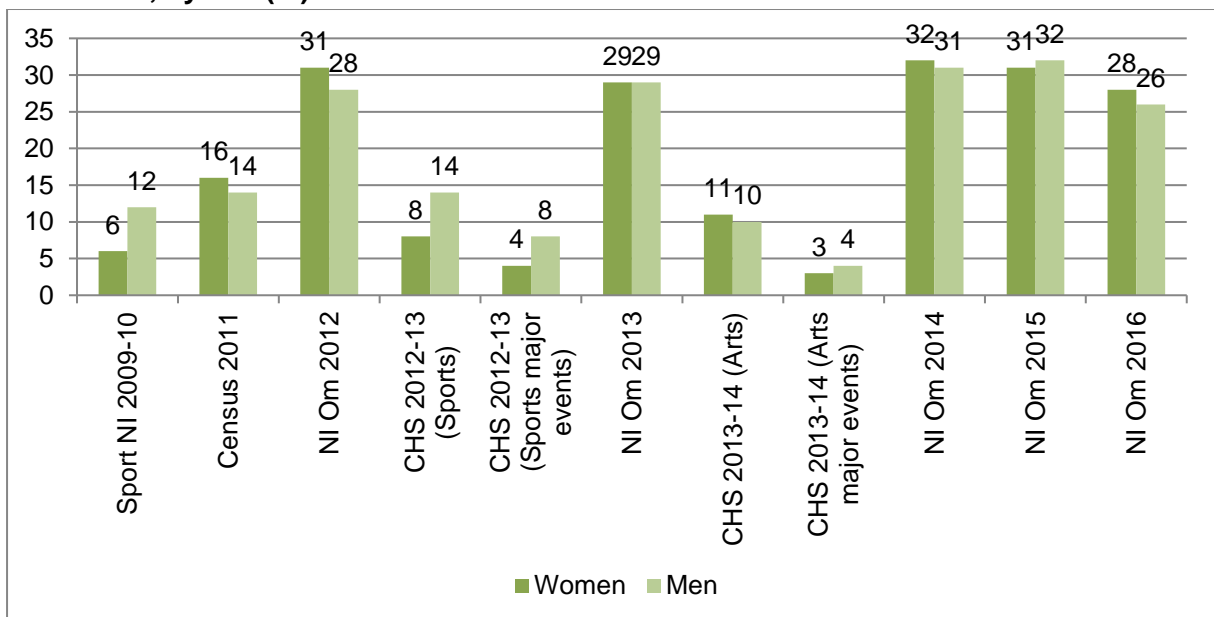


Figure 6.3: Formal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland 1995 to 2008-09, by sex (%)

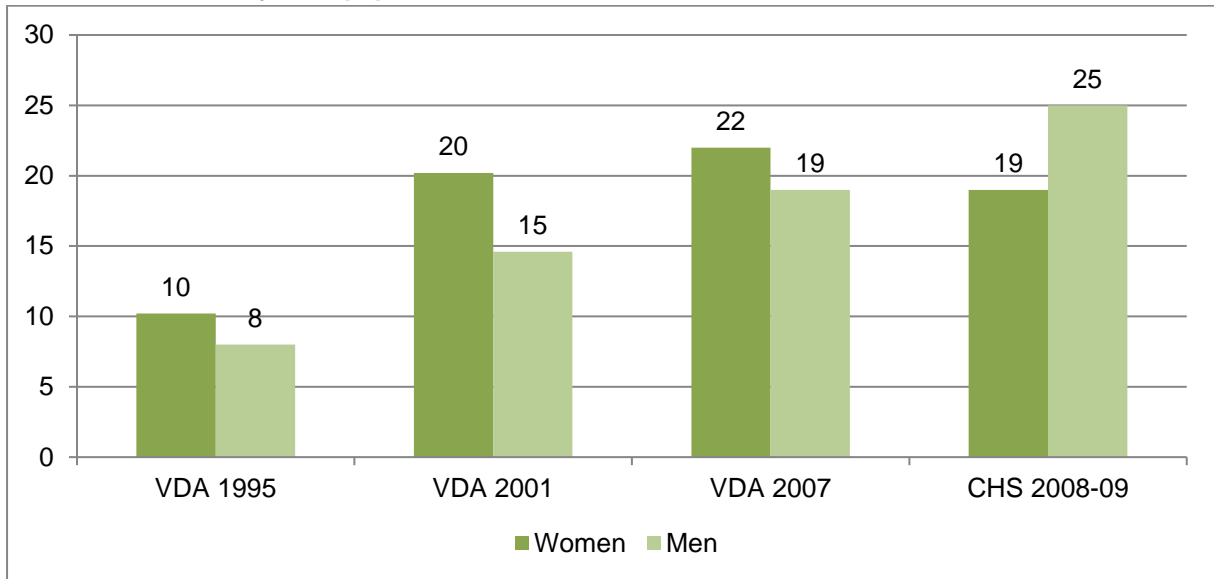


Figure 6.4: Informal volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007, by sex (%)



Table 6.1: All volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers as proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2016, by sex (%)

Survey	Women	Men	Base
All volunteers			
Sport NI 2008-09	6	12	4,653
Census 2011	16	14	1,431,540
NI Om 2012	31	28	1,131
CHS 2012-13 (Sports)	8	14	3,625
CHS 2012-13 (Sports major events)	4	8	3,625
NI Om 2013	29	29	1,170
CHS 2013-14 (Arts)	11	10	3,750
CHS 2013-14 (Arts major events)	3	4	3,750
NI Om 2014	32	31	1,081
NI Om 2015	31	32	1,109
NI Om 2016	28	26	946
Formal volunteers			
VDA 1995	10	8	1,063
VDA 2001	20	15	1,312
VDA 2007	22	19	1,020
CHS 2008-09	19	25	5,801
Informal volunteers			
VDA 1995	31	25	1,063
VDA 2001	36	29	1,312
VDA 2007	40	29	1,020

7. Volunteering by disability status

Figures from the Census 2011 show that people in very good health had the highest rate of volunteering; those in very bad health, the lowest rate; and there was a clear downward trend between these end points on the scale (Figure 7.1). They also show that, as with general health, there was a clear correlation between the limitation (or not) of day-to-day activities and rates of volunteering. People who had no limitations had the highest rate, followed by those who were limited 'a little' and then, with the lowest rate, those who were limited 'a lot' (Figure 7.2).

Figure 7.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by general health, 2011 Census (%)

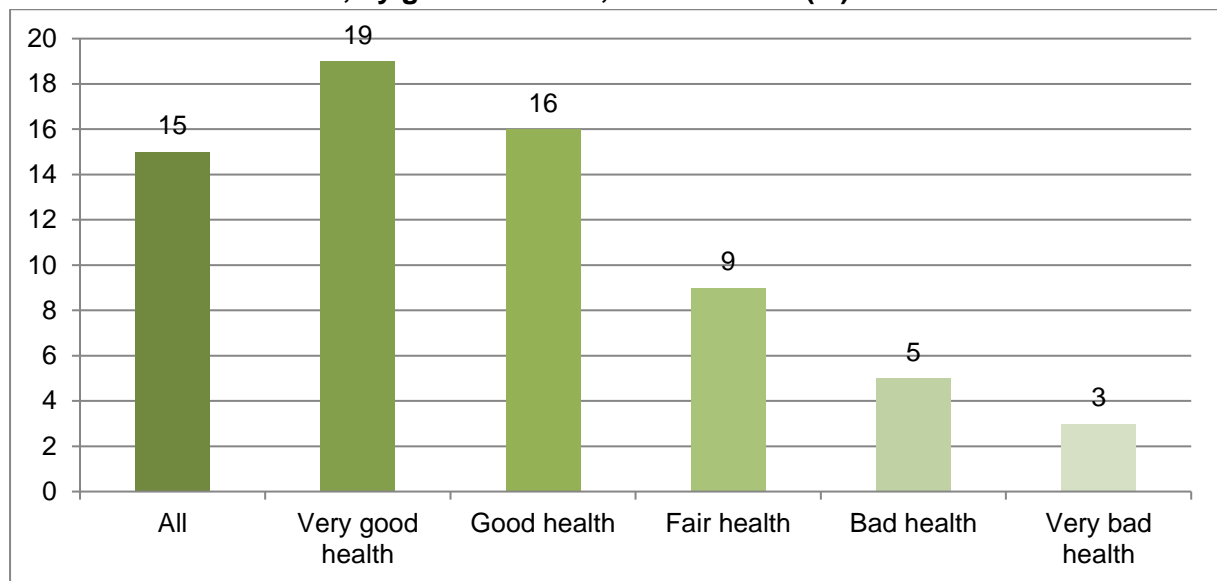
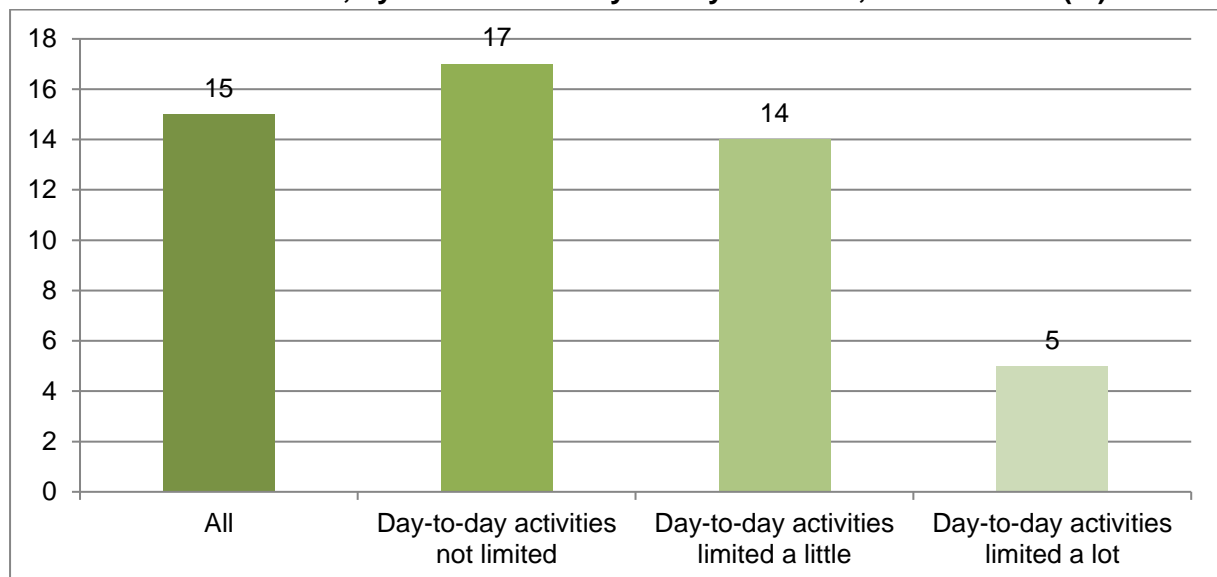


Figure 7.2: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by limitation of day-to-day activities, 2011 Census (%)



Sport Northern Ireland’s survey, the two later Continuous Household surveys and the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys provided figures for all volunteering by disability status (without disability/with disability), and these show that people with disabilities consistently participated in volunteering at a lower rate than people without disabilities. The gap was smallest for volunteering in the field of arts and culture and at major arts and culture events (Figure 7.3 and Table 7.1).

Figure 7.3: All volunteers as proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016, by disability status (%)

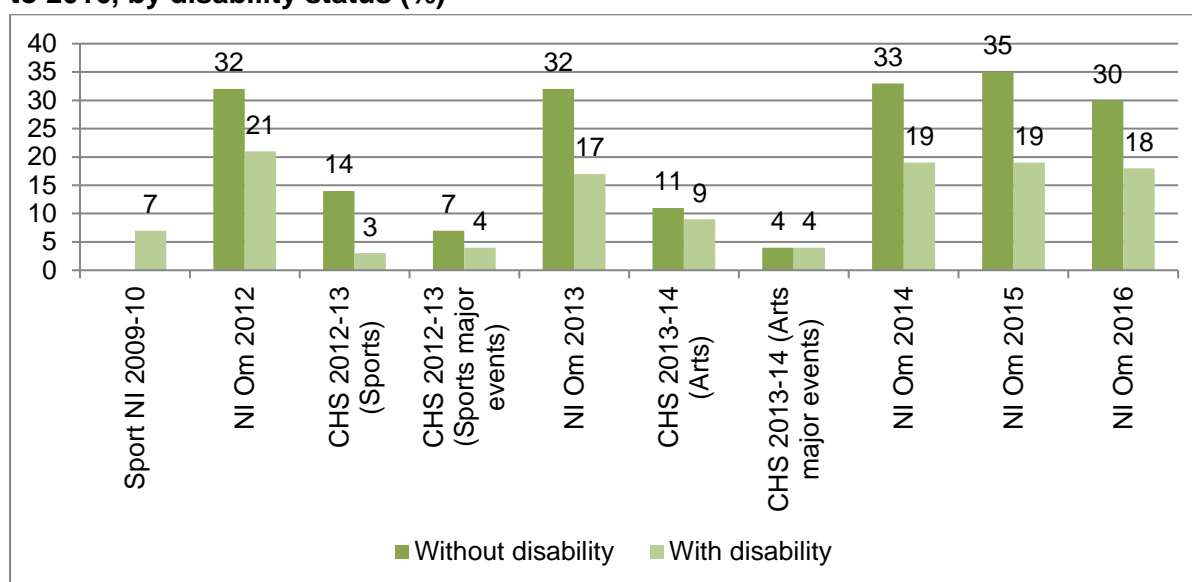


Table 7.1: All volunteers as proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016, by disability status (%)

Survey	Without disability	With disability	N respondents
Sport NI 2009-10		7	4,653
NI Om 2012	32	21	1,131
CHS 2012-13 (Sports)	14	3	3,625
CHS 2012-13 (Sports major events)	7	4	3,625
NI Om 2013	32	17	1,170
CHS 2013-14 (Arts)	11	9	3,750
CHS 2013-14 (Arts major events)	4	4	3,750
NI Om 2014	33	19	1,081
NI Om 2015	35	19	1,109
NI Om 2016	30	18	946

The surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now and the two later Continuous Household surveys give an indication of the type and magnitude of activities undertaken by volunteers on behalf of people with disabilities of various kinds and their participation in the field of disability. Given that the questions asked allowed for multiple responses and that later questions conflated the various types of disabilities set out initially, it is difficult to say with assurance that there was an upward trend in this sort of volunteering, although later rates of participation appear to be at least as high, if not higher, than earlier rates (categories added together) (Tables 7.2 and 7.3).

Table 7.2: Proportion of formal volunteers who helped and supported people with disabilities in the last year in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2013-14 (%)

Survey	Comparison	N all/N vols
VDA 1995	Services for the mentally ill: 5 or less	1,063/194
VDA 1995	Services for the physically disabled: X	1,063/194
VDA 1995	Services for those with a learning disability: 5 or less	1,063/194
VDA 2001	Services for the mentally ill: 5	1,312/456
VDA 2001	Services for the physically disabled: 9	1,312/456
VDA 2001	Services for those with a learning disability: 6	1,312/456
CHS 2012-13 (Sports)	Supporting individuals with disabilities: 13	3,625/356
CHS 2013-14 (Arts)	Supporting individuals with disabilities: 18	3,750/384

X means that the question was asked but responses were not recorded in the report

Table 7.3: Proportion of formal volunteers who participated in the field of disability last year in Northern Ireland, 2007 (%)

Survey	Comparison	N all/N vols
VDA 2007	Disability (e.g. learning, physical, mental): 3	1,020/212

8. Volunteering by ethnic group

The Census 2011 is the sole source of information about volunteering by ethnic group. The population of Northern Ireland is ethnically homogeneous. Only 1.5% of the population is non-White, a total of only 21,583 people aged 16 and over. People from the Other, Black and Mixed groups had much higher rates of volunteering than those from the White and Asian groups. Within groups there were some large variations – between White people and Irish Travellers and between African/Caribbean people and Other Black people (Figures 8.1 and 8.2). Given the small number of respondents, the figures for non-White groups should be viewed with a degree of caution.

Figure 8.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by main ethnic group, 2011 Census (%)

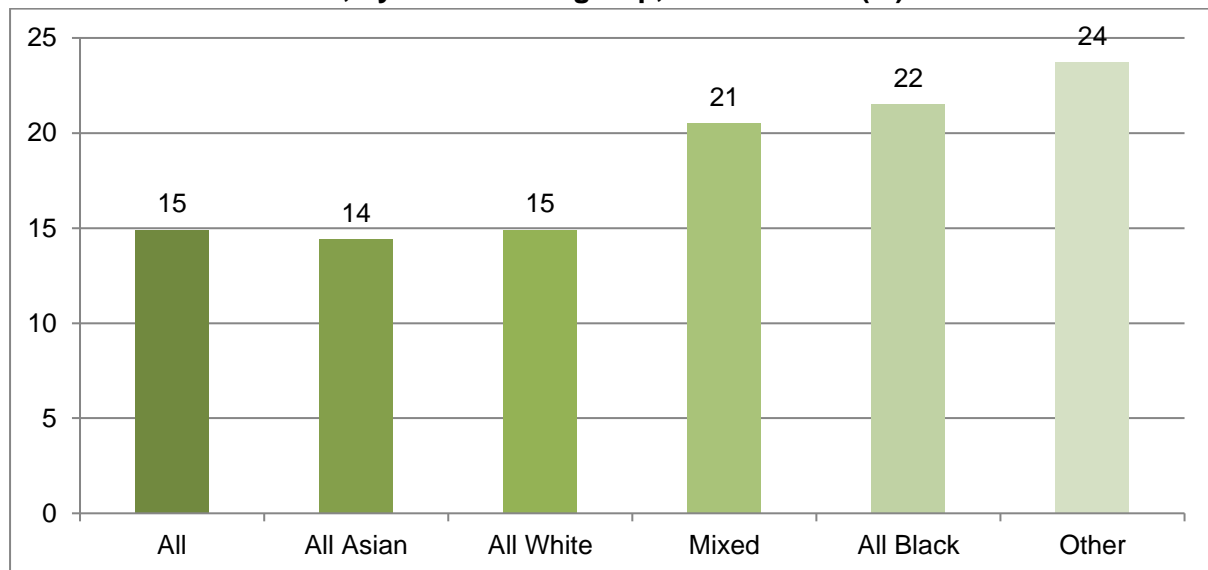
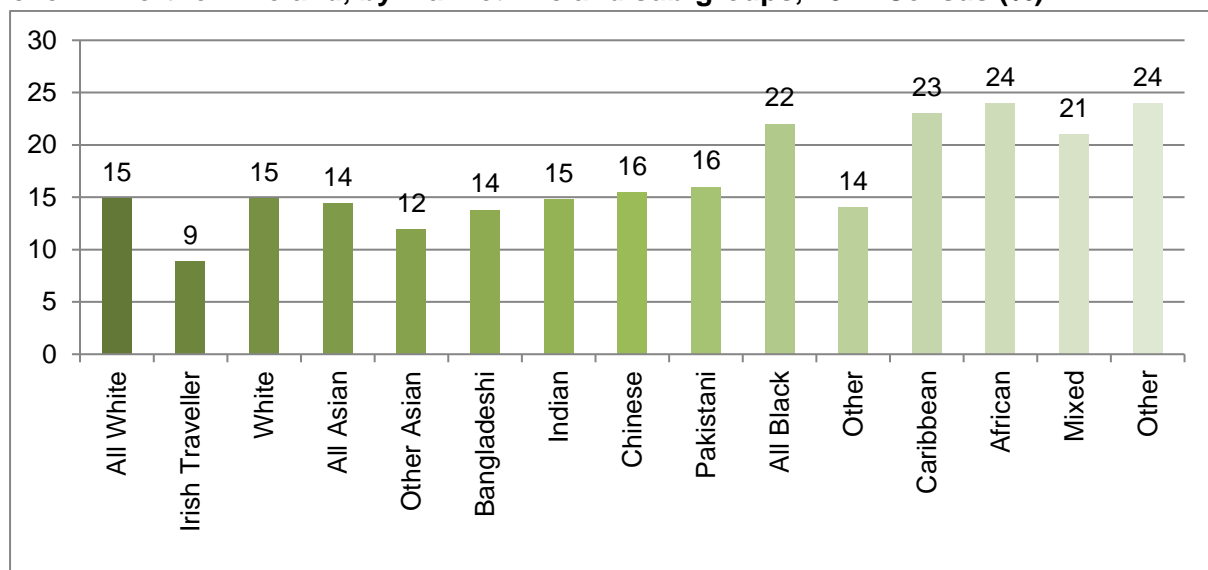


Figure 8.2: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by main ethnic and sub-groups, 2011 Census (%)



None of the other surveys captured the ethnic dimension of volunteering. The surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now asked about the type of activities undertaken by volunteers on behalf of people/organisations serving a mix of ethnic groups, asylum seekers/refugees and new immigrants, but this proved fruitless, as the numbers were too small to record (Table 11).

Table 8.1: Proportion of formal volunteers who participated in the field of ethnic and refugee associations, groups/organisations in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007 (%)

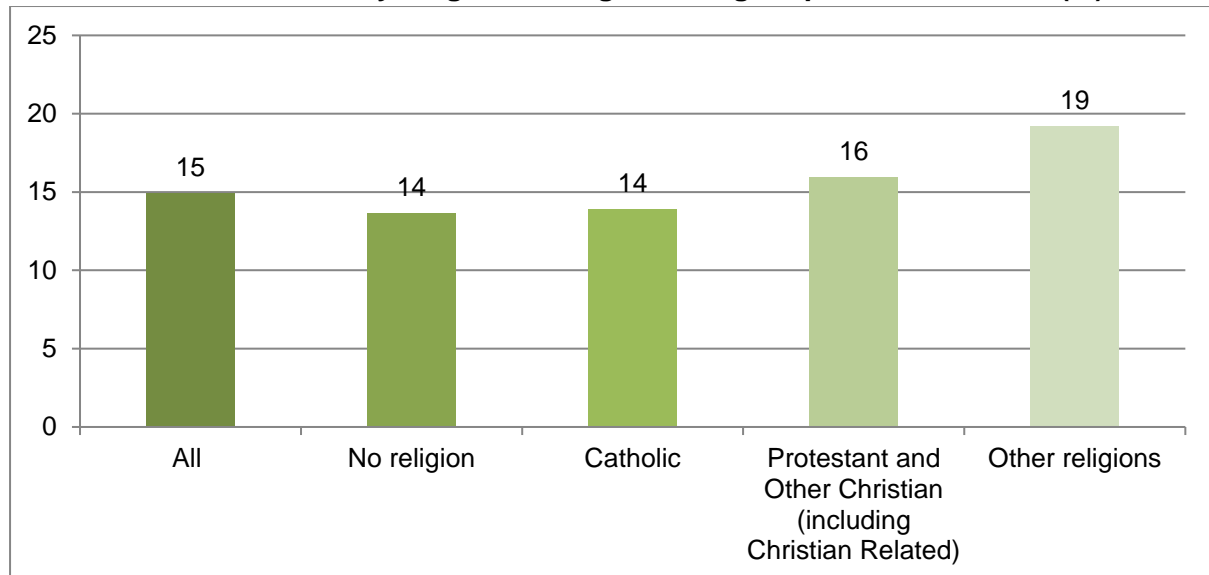
Survey	Comparison	N all/N vols
VDA 1995	Refugee/ethnic associations: X	1,063/194
VDA 1995	Travelling people: X	1,063/194
VDA 2001	Refugee/black and minority ethnic support groups/organisations: X	1,312/456
VDA 2001	Travelling people: X	1,312/456
VDA 2007	Black and minority ethnic support groups/associations: X	1,020/212
VDA 2007	Asylum/refugee/new immigrant groups/associations: X	1,020/212

X means that the question was asked but responses were not recorded in the report

9. Volunteering by religion or religion brought up in

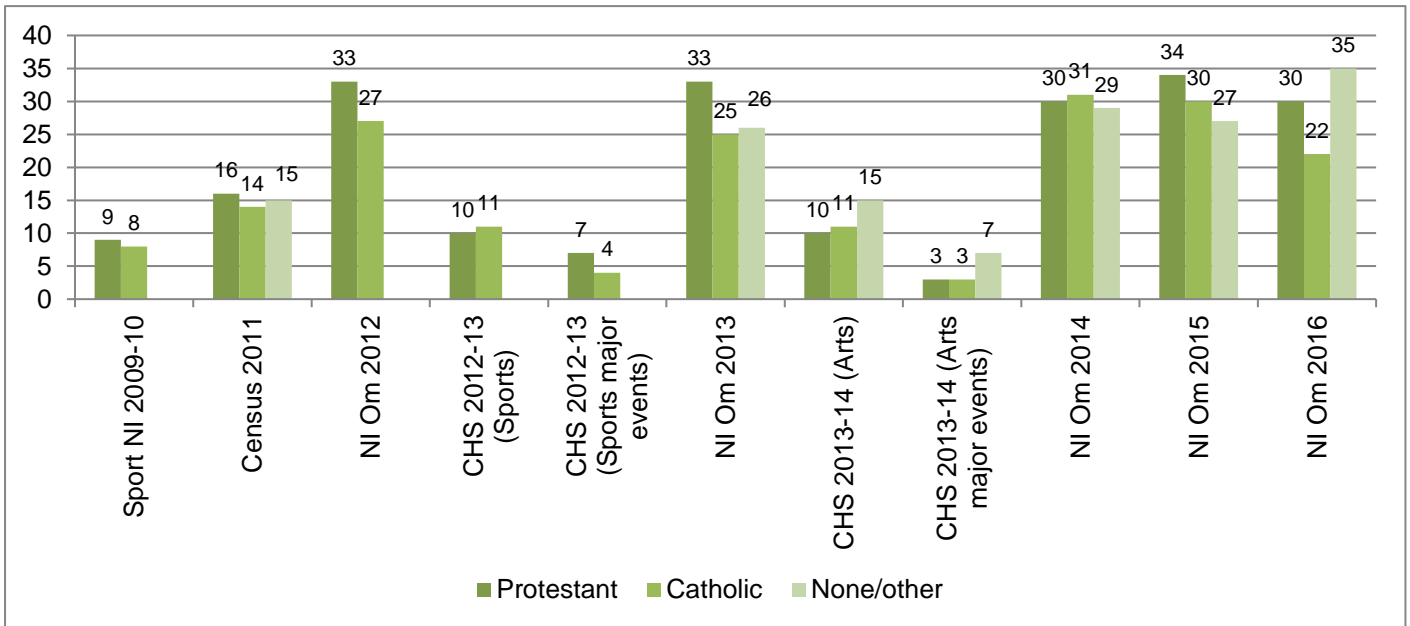
The Census 2011 shows that people from other religions had the highest rate of volunteering, followed by Protestants and then, with the lowest rate, by Catholics and people with no religion (Figure 9.1).

Figure 9.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by religion or religion brought up in, Census 2011 (%)



In addition to the Census 2011, Sport Northern Ireland's survey, the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys and the Continuous Household Surveys provided figures for all volunteers as a proportion of all respondents by religion. There are differences in scale in the rates of participation set out in these surveys, but they show relative stability over time, with the rate for Protestants greater than that for Catholics, except in the field of sports. Of interest also is the rate of participation by those professing no religion or other religion, which increased to the point that in 2016 it was higher than those of Protestants and Catholics (Figure 9.2).

Figure 9.2: All volunteers as proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016, by religion (%)



The surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now show changes in the rates at which Protestants and Catholics volunteered both formally and informally. The figures suggest that, while Protestants volunteered at a rate substantially higher than Catholics, this rate was declining, while that of Catholics was increasing (Figures 9.3 and 9.4).

Figure 9.3: Protestants, Catholics and those with no religion/other religion as a proportion of formal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007 (%)

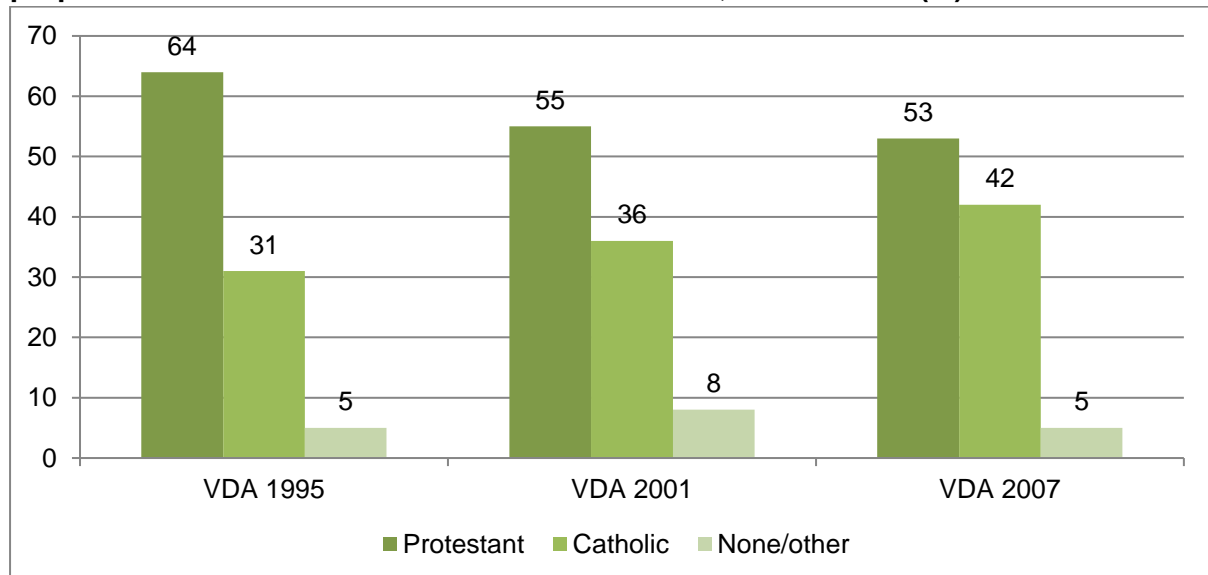


Figure 9.4: Protestants, Catholics and those with no religion/other religion as a proportion of informal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995-2007 (%)

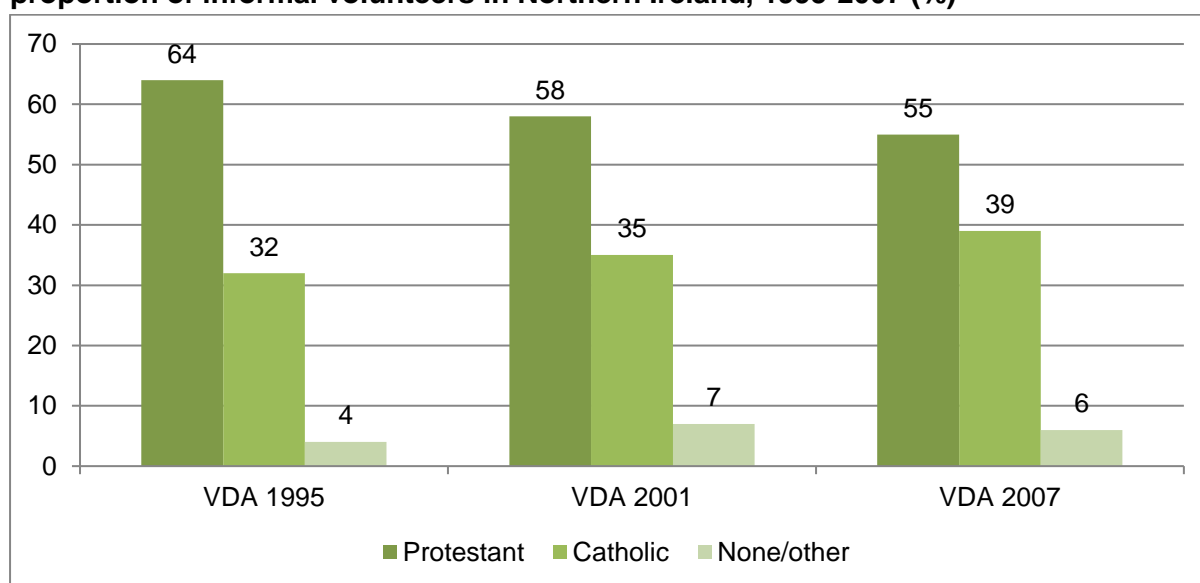


Table 9.1: Proportions of volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016, by religion (%)

Survey	Protestant	Catholic	None/other	N respondents
All volunteers (% all respondents)				
Sport NI 2009-10	9	8		4,653
Census 2011	16	14	15	1,431,540
NI Om 2012	33	27	30	1,131
CHS 2012-13 (Sports)	10	11		3,625
CHS 2012-13 (Sports major events)	7	4		3,625
NI Om 2013	33	25	26	1,170
CHS 2013-14 (Arts)	10	11	15	3,750
CHS 2013-14 (Arts major events)	3	3	7	3,750
NI Om 2014	30	31	29	1,081
NI Om 2015	34	30	27	1,109
NI Om 2016	30	22	35	946
Formal volunteers (% formal volunteers)				
VDA 1995	64	31	5	1,063/194
VDA 2001	55	36	8	1,312/456
VDA 2007	53	42	5	1,020/212
Informal volunteers (% informal volunteers)				
VDA 1995	64	32	4	1,063/600
VDA 2001	58	35	7	1,312/859
VDA 2007	55	39	6	1,020/359

The surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now, Sport Northern Ireland's survey, the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys and the Continuous Household Survey 2008-09 give an indication of the importance of the activity of helping in a church/religious organisation, participating in the field of religion, volunteering for a church/religious body and finding out about opportunities to volunteer through a church/religious organisation.⁷ The

⁷Due to the ways different surveys structured questions, there is some overlap among these categories.

figures from the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys for all volunteers show that there was an increase in this activity of helping in a church/religious organisation from 31% in 2012 to 37% in 2016, although the figures from the surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now and the Continuous Household Survey 2008-09, which cover a longer period, show a decline (Tables 9.2-9.5).

It is interesting to note that the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys show that in the case of helping in a church/religious organisation Protestants volunteered consistently at around twice the rate as Catholics (46% vs. 30% in 2012 and 56% vs 19% in 2016). They also volunteered at a greater rate than Catholics for church or faith-based organisations (63% vs. 32% in 2016); and found out about their current volunteering roles through a church or religious organisation to a greater extent than Catholics (39% vs. 18% in 2012 and 49% vs. 23% in 2016).

Table 9.2: Proportion of all volunteers and formal volunteers who helped in a church or other religious organisation in the last year in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2016 (%)

Survey	Comparison	N all/N vols
	All volunteers (% volunteers)	
NI Om 2012	Helping in church or religious organisation: 31	1,131/318
NI Om 2013	Helping in church or religious organisation: 34	1,170/320
NI Om 2014	Helping in church or religious organisation: 31	1,081/303
NI Om 2015	Helping in church or religious organisation: 33	1,109/329
NI OM 2016	Helping in church or religious organisation: 37	946/245
	Formal volunteers (% formal volunteers)	
VDA 1995	Helping in church or other religious organisation: 39	1,063/194
VDA 2001	Helping in church or other religious organisation: 33	1,312/456
VDA 2007	Helping in church or other religious organisation: 13	1,020/212
CHS 2008-09	Helping in church or religious organisation: 31	??/?
Sport NI 2009-10	Member of church/church-based group: 11	4,653/302

Table 9.3: Proportion of formal volunteers who participated in the fields of religion and cross-community engagement in the last year in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007 (%)

VDA 1995	Religion: 37	1,063/194
VDA 1995	Cross-community: 7	1,063/194
VDA 2001	Religion: 27	1,312/456
VDA 2001	Cross-community: 13	1,312/456
VDA 2007	Religion: 10	1,020/212
VDA 2007	Cross-community: 1	1,020/212

Table 9.4: Proportion of formal volunteers who volunteered for a church or religious body or group in the last year in Northern Ireland, 1991-92 to 2016 (%)

Survey	Comparison	N all/N vols
CHS 1991-92	Group or organisation linked to a church or any other religious organisation: 44	5,801/1,298
VDA 2007	Church/religious body: 25	1,020/212
CHS 2013-14	Church/faith-based group: 25	3,750/383
Om 2016	Church/faith-based: 46	946/245

Table 9.5: Proportion of all volunteers and formal volunteers who found out about their present volunteering roles through a church or religious organisation in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2016 (%)

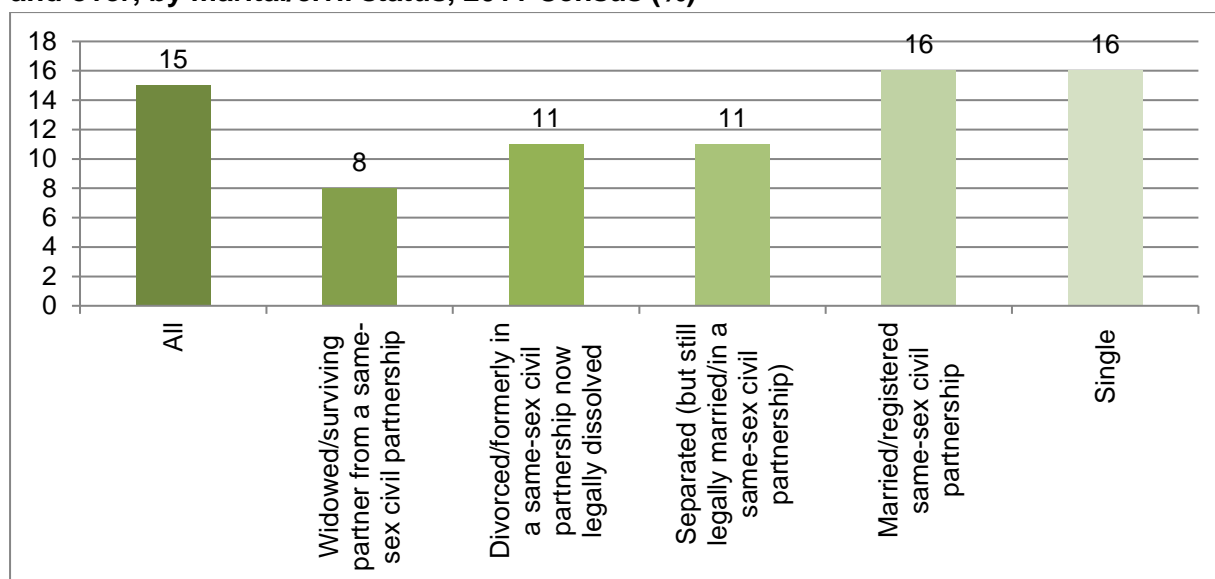
Survey	Comparison	N all/N vols
	All volunteers (% volunteers)	
Om 2012	Through a church or religious organisation: 27	1,131/318
Om 2013	Through a church or religious organisation: 37	1,170/320
Om 2014	Through a church or religious organisation: 27	
Om 2015	Through a church or religious organisation: 32	1,081/303
Om 2016	Through a church or religious organisation: 35	1,109/329
	Formal volunteers (% formal volunteers)	946/245
VDA 1995	Through a church or religious organisation: 28	1,063/194
VDA 2001	Through a church or religious organisation: 22	1,312/456
VDA 2007	Through a church or religious organisation: 15	1,020/212
CHS 2013-14 (Sports)	Church/faith-based group: 22	3,750/384

10. Volunteering by marital/civil status⁸

People's living arrangements undoubtedly have an impact on their participation in volunteering, but the surveys do not make it easy to work out what this impact is and whether there have been changes over time – due to lack of information and information presented in incompatible categories.

The Census 2011 shows that people who were single and married/living in a same-sex civil partnership volunteered at double the rate of those who were widows/surviving partners in a same-sex civil partnership (Figure 10.1).

Figure 10.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over, by marital/civil status, 2011 Census (%)



The figures produced by the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now show that married/cohabiting people had higher rates of both formal and informal volunteering than single/separated/widowed/divorced people and that these rates remained relatively stable over time (Figures 10.3 and 10.4). The Continuous Household Surveys, however, show that widowed people volunteered at substantially lower rates, although this seems not to have been the case for volunteering in major arts and cultural events (Figure 10.2).

⁸The Census 2011 for the first time collected information about civil status in parallel to that of marital status.

Figure 10.2: Married/cohabiting, single, divorced/separated and widowed volunteers as a proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2011 to 2013-14 (%)

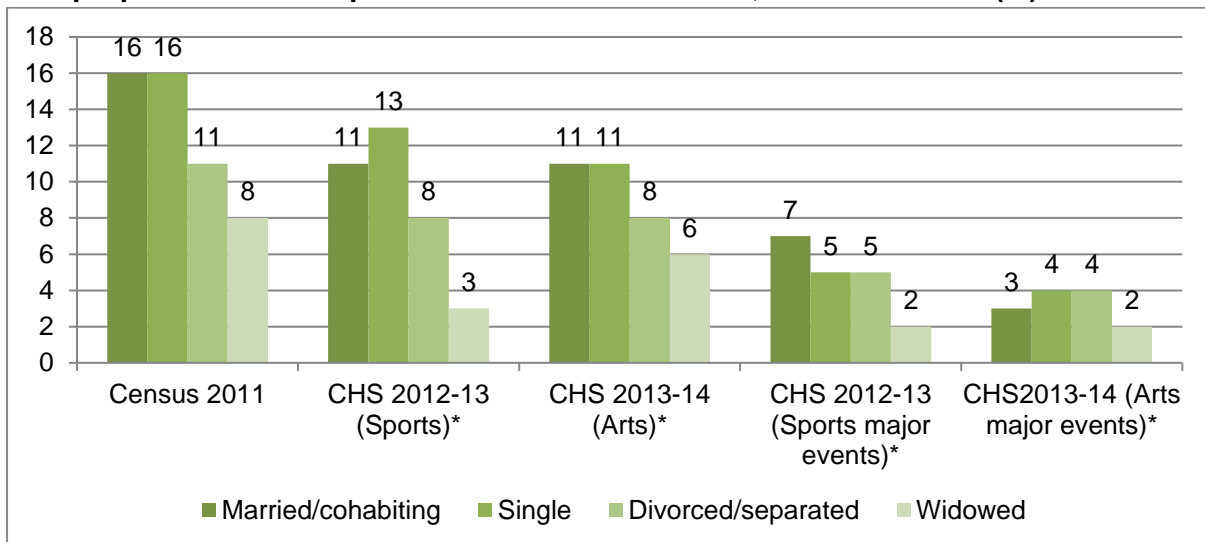


Figure 10.3: Married/cohabiting and single/separated/widowed/divorced volunteers as a proportion of formal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007 (%)

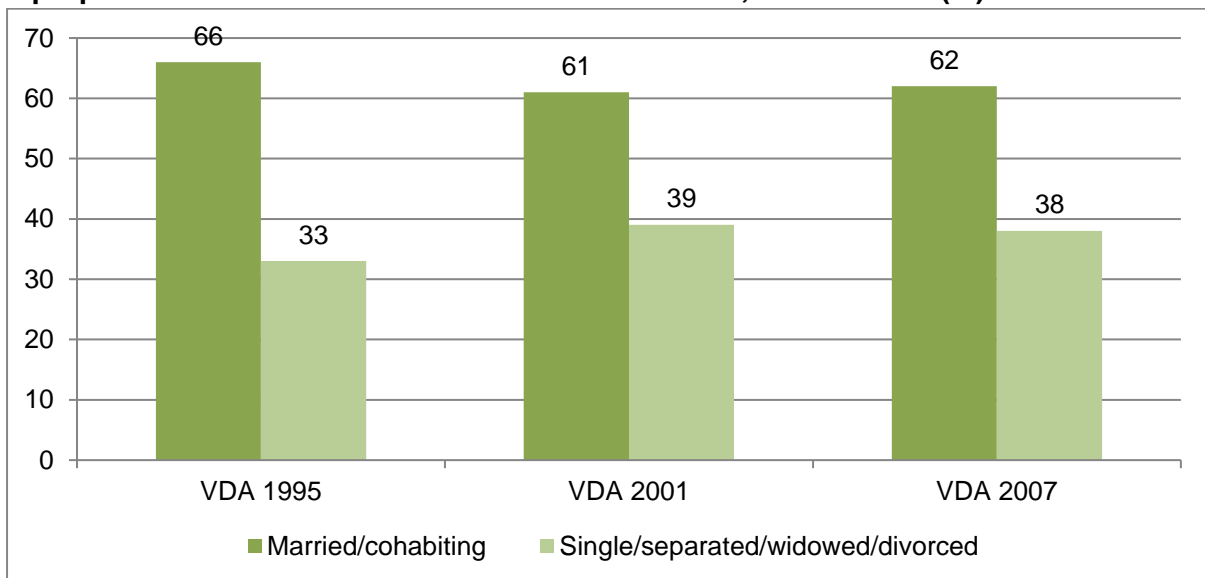


Figure 10.4: Married/cohabiting and single/separated/widowed/divorced volunteers as a proportion of informal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2007 (%)

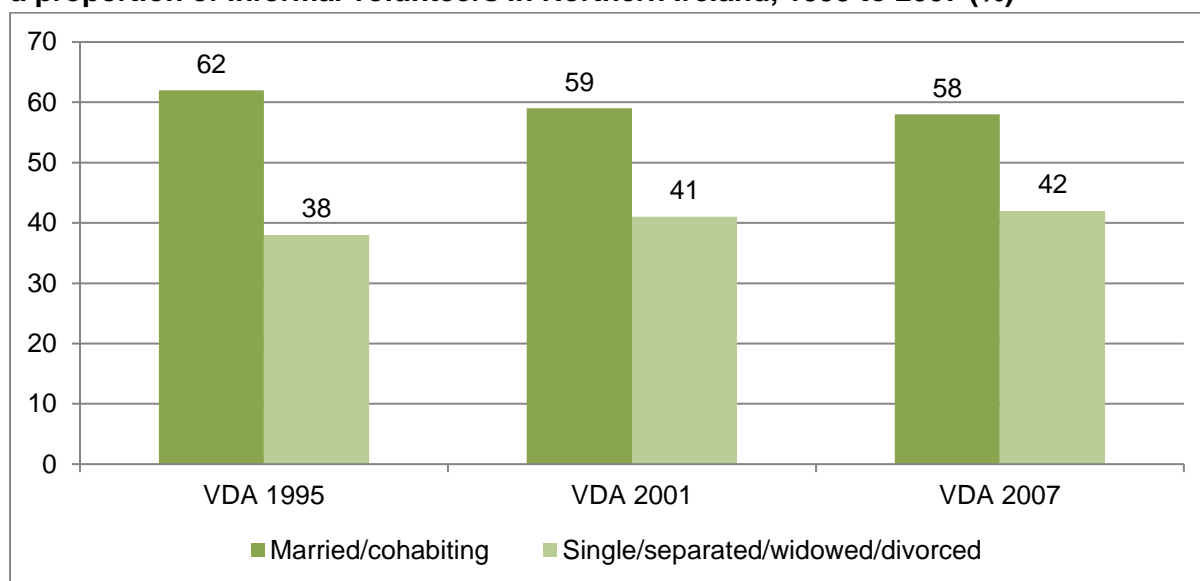


Table 10.1: Proportion of all volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2013-14, by marital status (%)

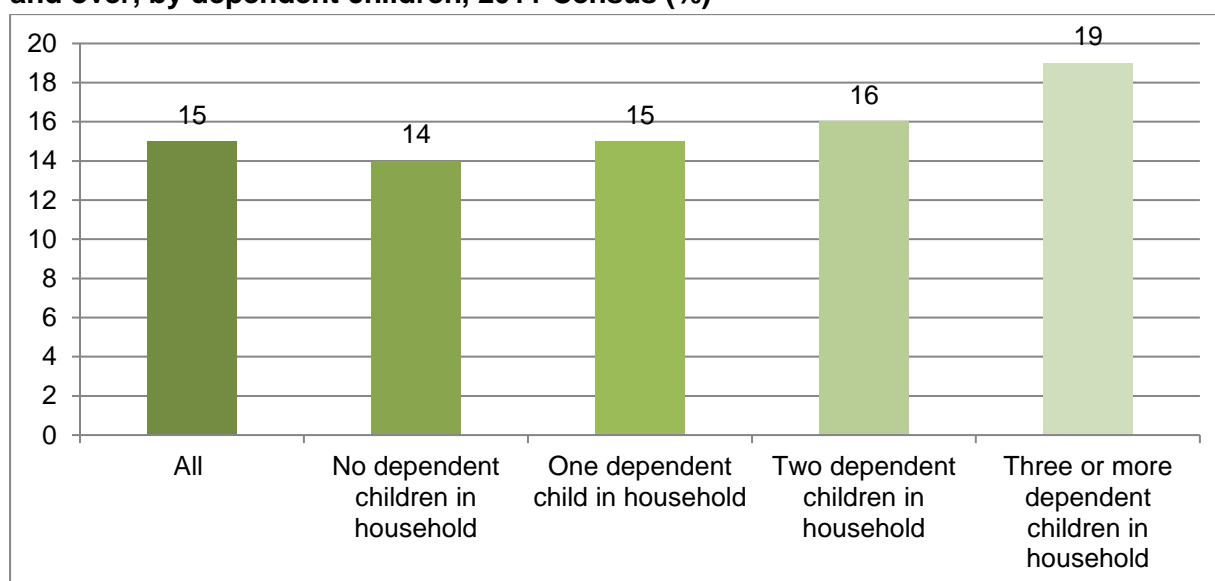
All volunteers (% all respondents)					
Survey	Married/ cohabiting	Single	Divorced/ separated	Widowed	N all/N vols
Census 2011	16	16	11	8	1,431,540
CHS 2012-13 (Sports)*	11	13	8	3	3,625
CHS 2012-13 (Sports major events)*	7	5	5	2	3,625
CHS 2013-14 (Arts)*	11	11	8	6	3,750
CHS 2013-14 (Arts major events)*	3	4	4	2	3,750
Formal volunteers (% formal volunteers)					
	Married/cohabiting	Single/separated/ widowed/divorced			
VDA 1995		66		33	1,063/194
VDA 2001		61		39	1,312/456
VDA 2007		62		38	1,020/212
Informal volunteers (% informal volunteers)					
	Married/cohabiting	Single/separated/ widowed/divorced			
VDA 1995		62		38	1,063/600
VDA 2001		59		41	1,312/859
VDA 2007		58		42	1,020/359

11. Volunteering by dependents

As with marital/civil status, household composition has an impact on volunteering, but the surveys are so diverse in their approaches that it is difficult to work out what this is. This is mainly due to differences in the definition of 'dependent', whether this term applies only to children in the household and if so, of what age, or to others such as people with disabilities and differences in the categories used. The Census 2011 gives figures for no dependent children, one dependent child, two dependent children and three or more dependent children as proportions of all respondents. The surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now give figures for with/without dependents in 1995 and no children under 15 at home, 1-2 children and 3 or more children in 2001 and 2007 as proportions of both formal and informal volunteers; Sport Northern Ireland's survey gives figures for with/without children as a proportion of all respondents; while the Continuous Household Surveys and the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys give figures for with/without dependents as a proportion of all respondents.

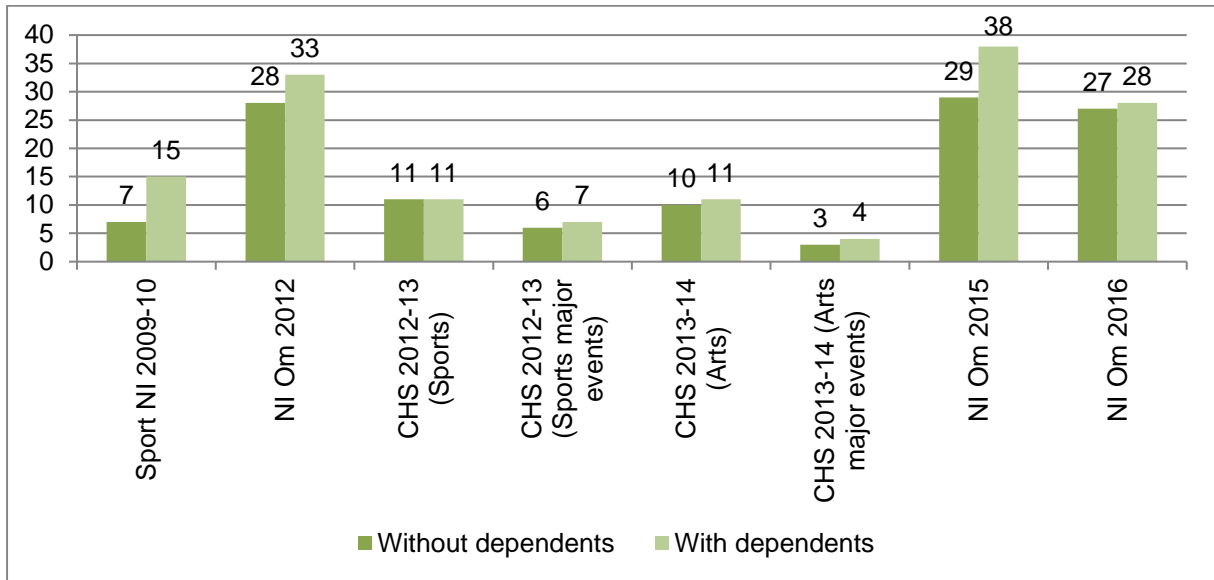
The Census 2011 shows that people with any dependent children volunteered at a higher rate than those who had no dependent children, although the difference in rates between those with no dependent children and those with one dependent child was small); and the greater the number of children, the greater the rate of volunteering (Figure 1.1).

Figure 11.1: People who volunteered as a proportion of all usual residents aged 16 and over, by dependent children, 2011 Census (%)



According to both the Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys and the Continuous Household Surveys, people with dependents (however defined) had slightly higher rates of participation in volunteering than those who did not have dependents, and according to Sport Northern Ireland's survey this was equally the case for those with/without children. But, according to the surveys of the Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now people without dependents volunteered both formally and informally at a higher rate than those with dependents (Figure 11.2. and Table 11.1).

Figure 11.2: Volunteers with and without dependents as a proportion of all respondents in Northern Ireland, 2009-10 to 2016



Sport NI provides figures for without/with children

Table 11.1: Proportions of all volunteers, formal volunteers and informal volunteers, in Northern Ireland, 1995 to 2011, by dependents (%)

Survey	All volunteers (% all respondents)				N all/N vols
	Without children		With children		
Sport NI 2009-10	7		15		4,653
	Without dependents		With dependents		
NI Om 2012	28		33		1,131
CHS 2012-13 (Sports)	11		11		3,619
CHS 2012-13 (Sports major events)	6		7		3,619
CHS 2013-14 (Arts)	10		11		3,747
CHS 2013-14 (Arts major events)	3		4		3,747
NI Om 2015	29		38		1,109
NI Om 2016	27		28		946
	No dependent children	One dependent child	2 dependent children	3 or more dependent children	
Census 2011	14	15	16	19	1,431,540
Formal volunteers (% formal volunteers)					
	Without dependent children		With dependent children		
VDA 1995	62		38		1,312/194
	No children under 15 at home	1-2 children	3 or more children		
VDA 2001	63	29	18		1,312/456
VDA 2007	61	32	8		1,020/212
Informal volunteers (% informal volunteers)					
	Without dependent children		With dependent children		
VDA 1995	62		38		1,312/456
	No children under 15 at home	1-2 children	3 or more children		
VDA 2001	63	28	9		1,312/859
VDA 2007	58	35	7		1,020/359

Appendix: Summary of methodology used in surveys of volunteering in Northern Ireland

1. National Survey of Voluntary Activity/National Survey of Volunteering

Year	Title	Fieldwork date	Calculation of response rate	Number of respondents and response rate
1991	Lynn, Peter and Davis Smith, Justin. <i>The 1991 National Survey of Voluntary Activity in the UK</i> . Voluntary Action Research, Second Series, Paper 1. Berkhamsted: Volunteer Centre UK, n.d. [1991].	March-June 1991	Figures given	1,692 of 2,940 (63% from report but 58% MZ calc)
2001	Davis Smith, Justin. <i>The 1997 National Survey of Volunteering</i> . London: National Centre for Volunteering, 1998. <i>1997 National Survey of Voluntary Activity: Technical Report</i> . London: Survey Research Unit, BMRB International, January 1998.	2 June-27 July and 31 July-17 August 1997	Table showing steps	1,534 of 3,276 (51%)

Definition of volunteering

1991 and 1997	<p>INTRODUCTION ‘Voluntary activity is any activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which aims to benefit someone (individuals or groups), other than or in addition to close relatives, or to benefit the environment.’</p> <p>FORMAL ‘There are many things that people spend time on, apart from their paid job, their household responsibilities and things connected with them. On these cards are various kinds of interests and activities that different <u>organisations</u> and <u>groups</u> of people are concerned with. Would you sort the cards into three piles: those that you have had something to do with in the past year, those that you have had something to do with longer than a year ago, and those you’ve never been involved with’ [showcards of fields]. Include anything you’ve done or taken part in, ... been a member of or supported, ... worked with or helped in any way, however small’. If yes for first category, for each field selected ask whether in the last year they had ‘done anything of this sort – <u>unpaid</u> - in connection with’ [showcards of activities]. If they answered yes to any of these activities, then they were classed as formal volunteers.</p> <p>INFORMAL ‘We have talked so far about doing unpaid work or giving help through organisations or groups, but sometimes people help or do unpaid work just as an individual. Have you, in the <u>past year</u>, done any of these things unpaid in your neighbourhood? Don’t include things that you have done for close relatives [showcard of activities].’ If they answered yes to any of these activities, then they were classed as informal volunteers.</p>
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Data collection

Source of population	Population	Sample	Representativeness of sample	Method	Fieldwork by	Q design by
1991 Postcode Address File	Adults aged 18+ in the UK	Simple random sample designed to produce representative sample of adult in GB and NI; 2,640 addresses selected, 30 each in 88 electoral wards in England, Scotland and Wales. 'In Northern Ireland 300 addresses were selected from the electoral registers – 10 in each of 30 wards (this was a greater number than would have resulted from a proportionate distribution of the sample, but Northern Ireland was over-sampled in order to allow separate analysis, which will appear in a later report).' At each address one person aged 18+ randomly selected	No information	Face to face	Social and Community Planning Research	Volunteer Centre UK and Social and Community Planning Research (funded by Nuffield Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Foundation)
1997 Postcode Address File 'generally considered a better sampling frame than Electoral Registers due to superior and apparently unbiased coverage of residential addresses.'	Adults aged 18+ in the UK	Multi-stage stratified random sample; sample stratified by % of AB ACORN categories within standard region; 117 selected proportional to population aged 18+ (minimum of 560 addresses each); 28 addresses systematically selected at fixed interval of 20 addresses after generation of random start point; at each address household selected randomly; then within each household respondent selected from all aged 18+ by most recent birthday; 'in such cases, the exact selection probability of the individual is unknown, but can be estimated as being inversely proportional to the product of the number of adults in the dwelling, and the number of dwellings at the address. This assumes that the <i>average number</i> of adults at a dwelling at the address equals the number of adults at the <i>selected</i> dwelling.	No information	Face to face (CAPI)	BMRB International	Institute for Volunteering Research (funded by Voluntary and Community Division, Department of National Heritage and Charities Aid Foundation)

Year	Number of questions	Technical Note	Questionnaire	Weights	Significance	Additional
1991	Design based on 1981 survey	Yes	Yes	Two stages: weighting to correct for differential selection probabilities; weighting by sex and age to correct for differential response rates	No information	Most analysis based on GB sample (only headline formal volunteering figure used for Northern Ireland); Northern Ireland report not located
1997	Design based on 1991 survey (plus new questions)	Yes	Yes	Two-stages; weighting to correct for the fact that respondents did not have equal selection probabilities (equation); weighted for non-response bias by sex and age to 1981 sample (GB only): 'The Northern Ireland weights were scaled so that the weighted number of NI interviews was 48 – again equal to the number achieved. The UK sample was simply the GB and NI figures added together, this was achieved in this simplistic way because the number of NI interviews achieved as a proportion of the UK sample is about 3%, the same as the NI proportion of the UK adult population.' Effective sample size then calculated by estimating design effect on three main questions	No information	Most analysis based on GB sample (only headline formal volunteering figure used for Northern Ireland)

2. Continuous Household Surveys 1991-92, 2008-09, 2012-13 and 2013-14

The Continuous Household Surveys are repeated cross-sectional studies. They have been carried out in Northern Ireland since 1983. They are designed to provide regular information on a wide variety of topics needed to support the work of various government departments in Northern Ireland. They explore both core topics, which are examined annually, and special topics, which are examined from time to time. Volunteering is a special topic and has been explored five times (the fifth, the 2017-18 survey, is currently in the field). From 2017-18 onwards they will incorporate the volunteering module, which was previously included in the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey. The surveys for 1991-92, 2008-09 and 2017-18 cover volunteering generally; and those for 2012-13 and 2013-14, volunteering in sports and arts and culture, respectively.

Year	Title	Fieldwork date	Calculation of response rate	Number of respondents and response rate
1991-92	<i>Continuous Household Survey 1991-92 User Guide Vol.1</i> (downloaded from UK Data Archive).	April 1991-March 1992	Calculated by MZ from UK Data Service information sheet	3,107 of 4,500 households (69% of target) with 5,801 respondents
2008-09	<i>Continuous Household Survey 2008/09 Bulletin</i> . Bulletin No.8. Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, July 2009.	April 2008-March 2009	No information	No information
2012-13	Mallon, Sean. <i>Sports volunteering by adults in Northern Ireland: Findings from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS) 2012/13</i> . DCAL Findings 13/2013-14. Belfast: Research and Statistics Branch, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, n.d.	April 2012-March 2013	Calculated by MZ from report	2,712 of 4,500 households (60% of target) with 3,625 respondents
2013-14	Mallon, Sean. <i>Volunteering in culture and arts by adults in Northern Ireland: Findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2013/14</i> . DCAL Findings 1/2015-16. Belfast: Research and Statistics Branch, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, May 2015.	April 2013-March 2014	Calculated by MZ from report	2,684 of 4,500 households (60% of target) with 3,753 respondents
2017-18	Currently in progress	April 2017-March 2018	No information	Target households = 9,000 (double previous surveys cited above)

Definition of volunteering

1991-92	<p>FORMAL</p> <p>'We are interested in any voluntary work that people do, that is work for which they are not paid, except for expenses. We want you to include any unpaid work you may do through a group or on behalf of an organisation of some kind. Here are some examples of the kinds of activity we mean. [Showcard with various activities] Have you done any voluntary work in the last 12 months?'</p>
2008-09	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>'Volunteering or voluntary work. The next couple of questions are about time given freely and without pay to any activity which has the aim of benefiting people outside your immediate family, benefiting the community or benefiting a particular cause. It is important that your replies refer only to <u>unpaid</u> work or activities. INTERVIEWER NOTE: Unpaid work or activities done for the benefit of a cause or with a local community group; sports organisations, arts and cultural groups or religious groups; activities associated with the environment or animals are to be included. If the respondent carries out such activities and receives no salary or wages, but does receive out-of-pocket expenses (for example, travel expenses or honorarium), please INCLUDE these activities in their answers. Some people call this type of work volunteering or voluntary work.'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>'In the last 12 months, have you carried out any unpaid work or activity for or with an organisation that was not solely for your own benefit or the benefit of your family?'</p> <p>INFORMAL</p> <p>'As well as doing, or instead of doing voluntary work or giving help through an organisation or group, people sometimes help or do voluntary work just as an individual. Have you, in the last year, done any of the following things on this showcard voluntarily in your own neighbourhood, not including your own family? INTERVIEWER NOTE: Do not include things they may have done for close relatives (i.e., spouse/partner; parent including in-laws; grandparents including in-laws; or children including in-laws).'</p>
2012-13	<p>VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED EXCEPT in Qs2-4)</p> <p>'Volunteering is the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice. Have you actively volunteered in sports or exercise-based activities, in an unpaid capacity, in the last 12 months? Please include any one-off events that you may have volunteered with.'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>Q2 'What roles have you carried out?' Several options refer to or imply an organisation, especially 'governance (board/executive committee)'</p> <p>Q3 'In the last 12 months, who have you volunteered with?' All options are clubs or organisations except 'an individual/number of individuals' (see INFORMAL)</p> <p>Q4 'How did you find out about the sports organisation(s) you volunteer with?' Options include 'family/friends that were already involved in the group'</p>

	<p>INFORMAL</p> <p>Q3 'In the last 12 months, who have you volunteered with?' Those answering 'an individual/number of individuals'</p>
2013-14	<p>VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED EXCEPT in Qs2-4)</p> <p>'Volunteering is the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice. In the next few questions we are interested in finding out about volunteering in culture and the arts, including museums or libraries. Have you actively volunteered in culture and arts based activities, in an unpaid capacity, in the last 12 months? Please include any one-off events that you may have volunteered with.'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>Q2 'What volunteering roles have you carried out?' Several options refer to or imply an organisation, especially 'governance (board/executive committee)'</p> <p>Q3 'In the last 12 months, who have you volunteered with?' All options are clubs or organisations except 'an individual/number of individuals' (see INFORMAL)</p> <p>Q4 'How did you find out about the cultural or arts based group(s) you volunteer with?' Options include 'family/friends that were already involved in the group'</p> <p>INFORMAL</p> <p>Q3 'In the last 12 months, who have you volunteered with?' Those answering 'an individual/number of individuals'</p>
2017-18	<p>VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED EXCEPT in Qs 4, 5, 7-9)</p> <p>'The following questions are about volunteering. Volunteering is defined as "the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice." It is important that your replies refer only to unpaid work or activities. Thinking about the definition just given, in the past year, have you carried out any voluntary work or activity. This may include unpaid work in, for example, community development, arts, culture, sport, faith-based, education, neighbourliness, youth, environmental, health, direct care and animal welfare? INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF ASKED "DIRECT CARE" REFERS TO PERSONAL CARE SUCH AS WASHING DRESSING FOR SOMEONE, EITHER OUTSIDE OR IN ADDITION TO ONE'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY WHO MAY BE FRAIL OR SICK]'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>Q4 'In the last 12 months, which types of voluntary work have you carried out? Please exclude anything that was carried out as part of a paid job.' Several options refer to or imply an organisation: 'being a group leader, member of a committee or a trustee'; and 'working in a charity shop'</p> <p>Q5 'In the last 12 months, which types of organisation have you volunteered with?' All options are groups or organisations except 'I volunteer but not with an organisation' (see INFORMAL)</p> <p>Q7 'Thinking about the MAIN organisation you volunteer with, which of the statements on the showcard apply?'</p>

<p>Q8 'How did you find out about your present volunteering role/roles?' Options include 'from someone already involved in the organisation'; 'from previous use of the services the organisation provides'; 'I contacted the organisation directly'; 'I set up the group with like-minded people'</p> <p>Q9 'Thinking about your volunteering role and the main organisation you volunteer with, which of the following statements apply?'</p> <p>INFORMAL</p> <p>Q5 'In the last 12 months, which types of organisation have you volunteered with?' Those answering 'I volunteer, but not with an organisation.'</p>
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Data collection

Source of population	Population	Sample*	Representativeness of sample	Method	Fieldwork by	Q design by
1991-92	Residents aged 16+	Random sample of addresses from 3 areas - Belfast District Council, eastern NI and western NI (allocated along district council lines); proportionate to distribution of domestic addresses on rating list	No information	Face to face	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded by Department of Finance and Personnel)	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded by Department of Finance and Personnel)
2008-09	Residents aged 16+	Random sample of addresses from 3 areas - Belfast District Council, eastern NI and western NI (allocated along district council lines); proportionate to distribution of domestic addresses on rating list	No information	Face-to-face	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded by Department of Finance and Personnel)	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded by Department of Finance and Personnel)
2012-13 Land and Property Agency's list	Residents aged 16+	Systematic random sample of addresses which were sorted by district council and ward, 'so the sample is	Chi-square goodness of fit test showed sample not representative of	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded	Research and Statistics Branch, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

of domestic addresses (Pointer database)		effectively stratified geographically'	the population by age and sex		by Department of Finance and Personnel)	
2013-14 Land and Property Agency's list of domestic addresses (Pointer database)	Residents aged 16+	Systematic random sample of addresses which were sorted by district council and ward, 'so the sample is effectively stratified geographically'	Chi-square goodness of fit test showed sample not representative of the population by age and sex	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded by Department of Finance and Personnel)	Research and Statistics Branch, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
2017-18 No information	Residents aged 16+	No information	No information	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (funded by Department of Finance and Personnel)	No information

Year	Number of questions	Technical Note	Questionnaire	Weights	Significance	Additional
1991-92	5	No	Yes	No weighting	No testing; raw counts	No report; no tables; results in back section of questionnaire in User Guide (!)
2008-09	No information	No	Yes	No weighting	No information	Sketchy report in bulletin; no tables
2012-13	10	Yes	Yes	Weighted for non-response and by age, sex and sex/age; weightings as above applied to data from previous years from 2007-08	95% for comparisons set out in text	Uses updated definition of disability as per Equality Act 2010: 'Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more? Does your condition or illness/do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-today activities?'
2013-14	10	Yes	Yes	Weighted for non-response and by age, sex and sex/age	95% for comparisons set out in text	
2017-18	9	No	Yes	No information	No information	

3. Volunteer Development Agency/Volunteer Now surveys 1995, 2001 and 2007

Year	Title	Fieldwork date	Calculation of response rate	Number of respondents and response rate
1995	Williamson & Associates. <i>Volunteering in Northern Ireland: Who volunteers, How many are there, What do they do, Why do they do it.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Volunteer Development Agency, n.d. [1995].	9 January-9 March 1995	Table showing steps	1,063 (68%)
2001	<i>Volunteering in Northern Ireland.</i> Belfast: Volunteer Development Agency, n.d. [2001]	20-27 January 2001	No information	1,312
2007A	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA). <i>It's all about time: Volunteering in Northern Ireland 2007: Full Report.</i> Belfast: Volunteer Development Agency, 2007.	January 2007	Table showing steps	1,020
2007B	Ditto	December 2006; repeated February 2007; plus online responses N = 105 (14.1% of all)	Table showing steps	745 (24.4%)

Definition of volunteering

1995	INTRODUCTION
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	<p>The following questions are about time given freely and without pay to any activity which has the aim of benefiting people (outside your immediate family), the community or a particular cause. <u>Unpaid work or activities done for the benefit of a cause or with a local community group; sports organisations or religious groups; activities associated with the environment or animals are included.</u> It is important that your replies refer only to unpaid work or activities. If you carry out such activities and receive no salary or wages, but DO receive a small symbolic payment or honorarium (for example, travel expenses), please INCLUDE these activities in your answers. Some people call this type of work volunteering or voluntary work.'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>'So firstly in the past year, have you carried out ANY unpaid work or activity for or with <u>an organisation</u> which is not to do with your work and is not solely for your own benefit or the benefit of your family?'</p> <p>INFORMAL</p> <p>'As well as doing, or instead of doing, unpaid work or giving help through an organisation or group, sometimes people help or do unpaid work just as an individual. Have you, in the last year, done any of these things unpaid, in your neighbourhood? [Showcard] Do not include things you have done for close relatives (i.e., spouse/partner; parents including in-laws; grandparents including in-laws; or children including in-laws.'</p> <p>NOTE IN TEXT: 'Throughout the survey questionnaire, the terms volunteering and volunteer were avoided, being substituted by terms such as unpaid work or help. This was so as to avoid confusion with respondents' perceptions as to what constitutes volunteering.'</p>
2001	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>'The following questions are about time given freely and without pay to any activity which has the aim of benefiting people (outside your immediate family), the community or a particular cause. Unpaid work or activities done for the benefit of a cause or with a local community group; sports organisations or religious groups; activities associated with the environment or animals are included. It is important that your replies refer only to <u>unpaid</u> work or activities. If you carry out such activities and receive no salary or wages, but DO receive out-of-pocket expenses (for example travel expenses or honorarium) please INCLUDE these activities in your answers. Some people call this type of work volunteering or voluntary work.'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>'So firstly in the past year, have you carried out ANY unpaid work or activity for or with an organisation which is not to do with your work and is not solely for your own benefit or the benefit of your family?'</p> <p>INFORMAL</p> <p>'As well as doing, or instead of doing, unpaid work or giving help through an organisation or group, sometimes people help or do unpaid work just as an individual. Have you, in the last year, done any of these things unpaid, in your neighbourhood? [Showcard] Do not include things you have done for close relatives (i.e., spouse/partner; parents including in-laws; grandparents including in-laws; or children including in-laws.'</p> <p>NOTE IN TEXT: 'The survey questionnaire used terms such as unpaid work or help rather than volunteer and volunteering in order to avoid any confusion among respondents about what constitutes volunteering.'</p>

2007	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>'The following questions are about time given freely and without pay to any activity which has the aim of benefiting people (outside your immediate family), the community or a particular cause. Unpaid work or activities done for the benefit of a cause or with a local community group; sports organisations, arts and cultural groups or religious groups; activities associated with the environment or animals are included. It is important that your replies refer only to unpaid work or activities. If you carry out such activities and receive no salary or wages, but DO receive out-of-pocket expenses (for example, travel expenses or honorarium), please INCLUDE these activities in your answers. Some people call this type of work volunteering or voluntary work. Throughout the survey we will use the terms volunteering or voluntary work.'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>'So firstly in the past year, have you carried out voluntary work or activity for or with an organisation which is not to do with your work and is not solely for your own benefit or the benefit of your family?'</p> <p>INFORMAL</p> <p>'As well as doing, or instead of doing, voluntary work or giving help through an organisation or group, sometimes people help or do voluntary work just as an individual. Have you, in the last year, done any of these things voluntarily, in your neighbourhood? [Showcard] Do not include things you have done for close relatives (i.e. spouse/partner; parents including in-laws; grandparents including in-laws; or children including in-laws.'</p>
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Data collection

Source of population	Population	Sample*	Representativeness of sample	Method	Fieldwork by	Q design by
1995 1994 Electoral Register (returns September 1993)	Residents aged 18+	2-stage probability-based sample (Electoral Register not computerised); probability proportionate to size of population across 26 LGDs and wards; Belfast v large so 15 wards for Belfast and 4 for each of other LGDs; wards selected on random numbers basis; for 115 selected wards electors drawn by random numbers and N determined by population of ward/number of electors in NI; wastage rate estimated at 35% so 50% more names selected than required for IV; N issued = 1,563; estimated N or respondents = 1,042 but N achieved = 1,063; N per LGD achieved ranged from 16 (Ballymoney) to 185 (Belfast)	Comparisons with 1991 NI Census (differences on age, sex, marital status, religion) range from 0% to 12% (Protestant under-represented)	Face to face; 60 minutes	Research and Evaluation Services as part of Northern Ireland Social Omnibus	Northern Ireland Volunteer Development Agency (funded by Government)

2001 No information	Residents aged 16+	2-stage stratification – regional segmentation into 13 areas (grouping of LGDs); and urban/rural classification based on electoral density; wards then clustered into points of equal electoral density (wards contiguous, exclusively urban/rural, broadly homogeneous in population structure); points randomly selected with probability proportional to population within each of 13 areas; then quota sample for sex, age and socio-economic class; 4 basic regions: Belfast City, North (mainly Antrim and northern part of Greater Belfast), South (mainly Down, Armagh and southern part of Greater Belfast) and West (mainly Londonderry, Tyrone and Fermanagh)	Comparisons with 1991 NI Census (differences on age, sex, marital status and religion range from 0% to 5%)	Face-to-face	Social Research Division, Ulster Marketing Services as part of Northern Ireland Omnibus	Volunteer Development Agency (funded by Voluntary Activity Unit, Department for Social Development)
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2007A	Residents aged 16+	Quota based on gender, age, socio-economic group and working status (religion monitored)	Comparisons with 2001 NI Census (differences on age, sex, marital status, religion) range +/- 6%)	Face-to-face (CAPI)	Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) and Millward Brown Ulster (fieldwork) as part of Millward Brown Ulster Omnibus	Volunteer Development Agency (funded by Voluntary and Community Unit, Department for Social Development)
2007B	Organisations likely to involve volunteers	Sample compiled from databases of VDA, NICVA, Northern Ireland Sports Forum and governing bodies of major denominations; N issued = 3,045, included 2,553 voluntary and community organisations, 24 statutory organisations, 376	No information	Postal survey	NICVA	Based on <i>Volunteering in Organisations</i> report 2001

		churches, and 92 sports governing bodies; N returned = 745				
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Year	Number of questions	Technical Note	Questionnaire	Weights	Significance	Additional
1995	39	Yes	Yes	Confidence intervals set out for key variables; all sample estimates = within parameters of +/- 3%	95%; sample errors assume simple random sample design; stratified sample has produced design effect (DEFT) but = negligible	Sketchy reporting; few Ns in text and no Ns on all figures and no data on bar charts
2001	52	Yes	Yes	No information	No information	Boilerplate on interviewer management but otherwise sketchy
2007A	49	Yes	Yes	No information	No information	
2007B	51	Yes	Yes	No information	No information	

4. Northern Ireland Sports and Physical Activity Survey 2010

This survey is 'the largest and most comprehensive piece of research on sport and physical activity undertaken in Northern Ireland since 1994'. It provides a detailed picture of eight subjects, each of which has a key performance indicator: adults' levels of physical activity (home, work, getting about and sport or recreation), participation in sport, membership of clubs, participation in sports competitions, receipt of coaching, attendance at live sporting events, satisfaction with the provision of sports, and volunteering. KPI6 measures 'sports voluntary work' carried out without payment except for expenses in the last 12 months.

Year	Title	Fieldwork date	Calculation of response rate	Number of respondents and response rate
2009-10	Donnelly, Paul. <i>The Northern Ireland Sport & Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS): Baseline Report (2009-10)</i> . Belfast: Sport Northern Ireland, October 2011.	23 July 2009-10 August 2010		4,653 (55%)

Definition of volunteering

2009-10	<p>VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED EXCEPT IN Q2)</p> <p>'I would now like to ask you a couple of questions about any sports volunteering that you may have done without receiving any payment (other than to cover expenses). This could be, for example, helping to run an event, raising money, providing transport or coaching and mentoring but do not include time spent solely supporting your own family members. So, during the last 12 months... have you done any sports voluntary work?'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>Q2 If yes to above: 'For which of the following types of organisations do you normally undertake sports volunteering?'</p>
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Data collection

Source of population	Population	Sample	Representativeness of sample	Method	Fieldwork by	Q design by
Within randomly selected electoral wards and output areas addresses	Residents aged 16+	3-stage random probability sample; random selection of electoral wards within each local government district (primary sampling districts); random selection of output areas for each primary sampling unit; random selection of addresses from each selected output	No information	Face-to-face (CAPI); 28 minutes	Ipsos MORI	Sport Northern Ireland in consultation with stakeholders; refined through 30 cognitive testing interviews

from Royal Mail's Postal Address File		area using Royal Mail's Postal Address File; then selection of individuals aged 16+ within each selected household by 'last birthday rule'; booster sample for Belfast and Derry local government district				and 50 pilot interviews
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Year	Number of questions	Technical Note	Questionnaire	Weights	Significance	Additional
2009-10	4	Yes	Yes	Weighted by seasonality and key demographics (age and sex) using 2009 mid-year population estimates in 2 stages: design weights to account for random selection of households and individuals; non-response weights for each season using rim weighting	Not tested in tables	

5. Northern Ireland Census 2011

'The Census of Population is the largest single statistical exercise undertaken by government and remains the most important source of information on the size and nature of the population. Every effort is made to include everyone, and that is why the Census is so important. It is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the entire population, and is unique because it covers everyone at the same time and asks the same questions of everyone. Subsequently, the information from the Census is used widely and underpins national and local policy-making. The 2011 Census included for the first time a question on 'voluntary work'.

Year	Title	Fieldwork date	Calculation of response rate	Number of respondents and response rate
2011	<i>Population and Household Estimates for Northern Ireland: Methodology Overview.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, May 2015.	Census Day 27 March 2011 but returns accepted 2 weeks before and 6 weeks plus after		All people resident in Northern Ireland on Census Day

Definition of volunteering

2011	VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED) 'In the past year, have you helped with or carried out any voluntary work without pay?'
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Data collection

Source of population	Population	Sample	Representativeness of sample	Method	Fieldwork by	Q design by
Construction of address register of domestic properties based on Land & Property Services Agency (Pointer database)	All people resident in Northern Ireland on Census Day	All people resident in Northern Ireland on Census Day	'The statistical adjustments for incomplete Census returns and Census under-enumeration were designed to ensure that the Census represented the characteristics of	Paper questionnaire delivered by post with option of return by post or online (15% of total); imputation of illegible or missing responses (except for Q17 religion) by arrangements; post-Census	'Lead provider'	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in extensive consultation with stakeholders and members of the public and quantitative and qualitative testing (from 2004 onwards)

with validation/up dating of addresses by temporary field force two weeks before Census Day			the full population of Northern Ireland.'	survey (Census Coverage Survey) and cross-checking with Medical Card System in order to estimate under-enumeration; full statistical quality assurance (UK wide systems)		
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Year	Number of questions	Technical Note	Questionnaire	Weights	Significance	Additional
2012	1	Yes	Yes	No information	Not tested in tables	Excel tables available

6. Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys, 2012-16

The Northern Ireland Omnibus surveys are carried out between four and six times per year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics Agency on behalf of various clients, including government departments. Their aim is 'to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland'. Each survey has between four and ten clients, and each client commissions between three and thirty questions. They include both core topics, which are examined on a regular basis, and bespoke topics, which are examined from time to time. Volunteering is a bespoke topic and has been explored five times between 2012 and 2016. Responsibility for the volunteering module has now been transferred to the Continuous Household Survey, which has a larger number of respondents.

Year	Title	Fieldwork date	Calculation of response rate	Number of respondents and response rate
2012	<i>September 2012 Omnibus Executive Summary – DSD Module: Voluntary and Community Unit (VCU) Module Report.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Analytical Services Unit, Department for Social Development, January 2013.	Sept 2012	No information	2,200 addresses (target) and 1,131 respondents (59%)
2013	<i>Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey: DSD Volunteering Module.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Analytical Services Unit, Department for Social Development, January 2014.	2 Sept-5 Oct 2013	Table showing steps	2,200 addresses (target) and 1,170 respondents (61%)
2014	<i>Volunteering in Northern Ireland: A Research Report.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Department for Social Development, 29 January 2015.	1 Sept-4 Oct 2014	Table showing steps	2,200 addresses (target) and 1,081 respondents (58%)
2015	Reid, Rhona and Dunne, Stephen. <i>Volunteering in Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey September/October 2015.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Analytical Services Unit, Department for Social Development, 25 February 2016.	1 Sept-3 Oct and 5 Oct-7 Nov 2015	Table showing steps	2,200 addresses (target) and 1,109 (57%)
2016	Bradley, Jennifer. <i>Volunteering in Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey October-November 2016.</i> Belfast: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Analytical Services Unit, Department for Communities, June 2017.	Oct-Nov 2016	No information	2,200 addresses (target) and 946 respondents (49%)

Definition of volunteering

2012	<p>VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED EXCEPT in Qs 4, 6-8)</p> <p>'Volunteering is defined as "time freely given and without pay to any activity which has the aim of benefiting people (including your immediate family), the community or a particular cause". It includes unpaid work in, for example, community development, arts, culture, sport, faith-based, education, neighbourliness, youth, environmental, health, direct care and animal welfare. If you carry out unpaid work but do receive out of pocket expenses (e.g. travel expenses), please include this in your response. It is important that your replies refer only to <u>unpaid</u> work or activities. In the past year, have you carried out any voluntary work or activity?'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>Q4 'In the last 12 months, what types of voluntary work have you carried out?' Several options refer to or imply an organisation: 'church/religious organisation'; 'group leader/committee member/trustee'; 'working in a charity shop'</p> <p>Q6 'Thinking about the MAIN organisation you volunteer with, which of the statements on the showcard apply?'</p> <p>Q7 'How did you find out about your present volunteering roles?' Several options refer to 'the organisation': 'from someone involved in the organisation'; from previous use of the services the organisation provides'; 'I set up the group with like-minded people'</p> <p>Q8 'Thinking about your volunteering role and the main organisation you volunteer with, which of the following statements apply?'</p>
2013-2016	<p>VOLUNTEERING GENERALLY (FORMAL/INFORMAL NOT SPECIFIED EXCEPT in Qs 4, 6-8)</p> <p>'Volunteering is defined as "the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice." It is important that your replies refer only to <u>unpaid</u> work or activities. Thinking about the definition just given, in the past year, have you carried out any voluntary work or activity?'</p> <p>FORMAL</p> <p>Q4 'In the last 12 months, what types of voluntary work have you carried out?' Several options refer to or imply an organisation: 'church/religious organisation'; 'group leader/committee member/trustee'; 'working in a charity shop'</p> <p>Q6 'Thinking about the MAIN organisation you volunteer with, which of the statements on the showcard apply?'</p> <p>Q7 'How did you find out about your present volunteering roles?' Several options refer to or imply an organisation: 'from someone already involved in the organisation'; from previous use of the services the organisation provides'; 'I contacted the organisation directly'; 'I set up the group with like-minded people'</p> <p>Q8 'Thinking about your volunteering role and the main organisation you volunteer with, which of the following statements apply?'</p>

Data collection (exceptions noted)

Source of population	Population	Sample	Representativeness of sample	Method	Fieldwork by	Q design by
Land & Property Services Agency (Pointer database)	Residents aged 16+ of 2,200 households (excluding institutions)	Systematic random sample of addresses; 1 household per address chosen by selection table; 1 individual per household chosen randomly (2+) by computer; conversion of list of addresses into a list of individuals from which one person is chosen: 'In this way the survey becomes a population survey rather than a household survey as each individual in the population has an equal chance of being selected.'	Comparisons of age and sex with Census/mid-year population estimates, CHS and Omnibus all household members 2013, 2014, 2015	Face to face	Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	Voluntary and Community Unit/Analytical Services Unit, Department for Social Development / Department for Communities

Year	Number of questions	Technical Note	Questionnaire	Weights	Significance	Additional
2012	8	No	No but questions included in report	Weighted to household size; tables weighted; totals unweighted	95% for comparisons set out in text	Only summary report available
2013	8	Yes (Annex A Technical Notes)	No but questions included in report	Weighted to household size; tables weighted; totals unweighted; calcs shown; 'The weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as random sample of adults rather than of addresses.'	95% for comparisons set out in text	Notes new definition and proviso: 'Users should note that while these questions were also asked in the 2012 volunteering survey, the definition of what constitutes "volunteering" has been revised, meaning that results between 2012 and 2013 surveys are not directly comparable. The results presented in this report (2013) will form the new baseline position.'

2014	8	Yes (Annex A Technical Notes)	No but questions included in report	Weighted to household size; tables weighted; totals unweighted; calcs shown	95% for comparisons set out in text	
2015	8	Yes (Annex A Technical Notes)	No but questions included in report	Weighted to household size; tables weighted; totals unweighted; calcs shown	95% for comparisons set out in text	
2016	9	Yes (App 1 Technical Notes)	Yes (App 2) but Q9 not included	Weighted to household size; tables weighted; totals unweighted; calcs not shown ‘Survey weighting tends to increase the standard errors of survey estimates and therefore reduces precision. The effect of the weighting was measured using the Design Factor (DEFT). The standard errors were then multiplied by the Design Factor to ensure that the estimates were precise enough to be used for significance testing between different proportions.’	95% for comparisons set out in text	Definition of analytical categories – marital status (which now includes corresponding civil partnership group), disability, dependents, multiple deprivation measure, urban/rural; includes comparisons with results from previous years

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For more information on any of the contents please contact info@volunteernow.co.uk

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