



Connecting and Giving: A Report on How Mid-life and Older Americans Spend Their Time, Make Connections and Build Communities

Prepared by Alicia Williams, John Fries, Jean Koppen and Robert Prisuta

January 2010



Connecting and Giving: A Report on How Mid-life and Older Americans Spend Their Time, Make Connections and Build Communities

Prepared by Alicia Williams, John Fries, Jean Koppen and Robert Prisuta

Copyright 2010
AARP
Knowledge Management
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
<http://research.aarp.org>

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest circulation magazine with over 35.5 million readers; *AARP Bulletin*, the go-to news source for AARP's almost 40 million members and Americans 50+; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need of support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Table of Contents

What This Report is About	1
About the Findings	1
Background	1
Overview & Highlights	2
Implications	6
Detailed Findings	7
Part One: Social Activities, Interest, and Connections	7
Part Two: Community Engagement and Civic Participation	25
Part Three: Giving Time and Money: Volunteering and Contributing	38
Appendices	
I. Survey Methodology	52
II. Civic Engagement Questionnaire	54
III. Spanish Language Questionnaire	61

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Activity Involvement by Mid-Life and Older Persons	7
Figure 2: Activity Involvement Trends of Mid-Life and Older Persons	8
Figure 3: Activity Involvement by Generation	10
Figure 4: Social Involvement Scale Score by Generation	11
Figure 5: Type and Level of Involvement by Gender	11
Figure 6: Social Involvement Scale Score by Gender	12
Figure 7: Type and Level of Involvement by Race/Ethnicity	13
Figure 8: Social Involvement Scale Score by Race/Ethnicity	13
Figure 9: Type and Level of Involvement by AARP Membership Status	14
Figure 10: AARP Members vs. Non-Members: Social Involvement Score	15
Figure 11: Trends in Joining: Percent Reporting Membership in Each Group Type: 1997 vs. 2009	16
Figure 12: Trends in Joining: Average Number of Group Memberships: 1997 vs. 2009	17
Figure 13: Percent Reporting Group Memberships by Generation	18
Figure 14: Average Number of Group Memberships by Generation	19
Figure 15: Percent Reporting Group Memberships by Gender	20
Figure 16: Average Number of Group Memberships by Gender	21
Figure 17: Percent Reporting Group Memberships by Race/Ethnicity	22
Figure 18: Average Number of Group Memberships by Race/Ethnicity	23
Figure 19: Percent Reporting Group Memberships by AARP Memberships Status	24
Figure 20: Average Number of Group Memberships by AARP Membership Status	25
Figure 21: Percent of Mid-Life and Older Persons Participating in Civic Engagement Activities	26
Figure 22: Trends in Participation in Civic Engagement Activities: 2003 vs. 2009	27

Table of Figures (continued)

Figure 23: Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Race/Ethnicity	28
Figure 24: Average Participation in Civic Engagement Activities	28
Figure 25: Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Generation	29
Figure 26: Average Participation in Civic Engagement Activities by Generation	30
Figure 27: Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Gender	31
Figure 28: Average Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Gender	31
Figure 29: Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by AARP Membership Status	32
Figure 30: Average Participation in Civic Engagement Activities by AARP Membership Status	33
Figure 31: Voting Behavior of by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and AARP Membership Status	33
Figure 32: Voting Behavior by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and AARP Membership Status	34
Figure 33: Trends in Perceived Amount of Influence as an Individual Acting Alone	35
Figure 34: Trends in Perceived Amount of Influence When Joined with Others	36
Figure 35: Perceptions of Civic Influence by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and AARP Membership Status	37
Figure 36: Volunteering Trends: 2003 vs. 2009	38
Figure 37: Trends in Types of Volunteering: 2003 vs. 2009	39
Figure 38: Volunteering by Gender	40
Figure 39: Volunteering by Generation	41
Figure 40: Volunteering by AARP Membership Status	41
Figure 41: Volunteering by Race/Ethnicity	42
Figure 42: Hours Spend Volunteering per Month	44
Figure 43: Percent of Mid-Life/Older Volunteers Engaging in Particular Volunteer Activities	45
Figure 44: Percent of Volunteers Participating in Volunteer Activities by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity and AARP Membership Status	47
Figure 45: Importance of Motivations for Volunteering Among Mid-Life/Older Volunteers	49
Figure 46: Percentage of Respondents Who Donated	50
Figure 47: Reported Volunteering vs. Charitable Giving by Income	51

What This Report is About

This report presents the results of a telephone survey of several generations of Americans on their volunteering, giving, and civic engagement activities. The survey interviewed 1,475 Americans age 45 years and older (i.e., members of the Baby Boom, Silent, and Greatest generations) and, for comparative purposes, 500 members of Generation X (ages 29 to 44), 470 African Americans and 447 Hispanics. The survey was conducted in August of 2009 and examined several key areas of giving and connecting, including:

- How people spend their time when they are not at work;
- What organizations they belong to;
- What civic activities, beyond voting, they are involved in; and
- The ways they help others through giving and volunteering activities.

The report presents primarily descriptive findings. It does not extensively examine the barriers and incentives to these activities. Nor does it deal with the potentially interesting and complex subgroup dynamics related to these behaviors, although the potential for such an examination in further research is available given the sample sizes and the nature of the data.

About the Findings Presented in This Report

Please note that, this report includes findings from oversamples of 500 Generation X members, 470 African Americans and 447 Hispanics. However, the overall findings from this report (including findings by gender and AARP membership status) do not include these oversamples. The oversample data are included only in cases where these groups are explicitly segmented for focus.

Background

Since its beginning, AARP has placed a priority on community service and civic involvement. Its founder, Ethel Percy Andrus, urged members “to serve, not be served,” and she challenged members to “create the good” by helping others in their communities.

The personal needs for contributing and giving back to society and staying connected and being part of a community are important to individual well being, along with financial security, health, and enjoyment—underscoring the fact that benefits accrue to the giver as well as the receiver of community service.

Some social observers have expressed concerns about the decline of civic engagement in American life. In his book, “Bowling Alone,” Robert Putnam described a relationship between community service, group membership, and the overall civic health of the community. AARP and others have noted that the growth of a relatively healthy and

economically secure older population provides a new opportunity for community service and involvement. AARP has sought to implement this vision through its extensive volunteer opportunities, its recent initiative designed to harness the energy of retiring Baby Boomers by providing opportunities for volunteering and community service, and through its partnership with other organizations such as the Harvard School of Public Health.

AARP has tracked trends in volunteering periodically, measuring the extent and nature of volunteering among boomers, AARP members, and others in such efforts as the 2003 “Time and Money Study,” which tracked giving and volunteering from a multicultural perspective.

A more broad-based and comprehensive look at this phenomenon has not been conducted since 1997, when AARP published “America’s Social Fabric: A Status Report of Civic Involvement.” Much has changed since 1997—9/11, two recessions, the aging of the Baby Boom generation, and a workplace characterized by longer hours and telecommuting in an effort to generate greater employee productivity in the face of a globalized economy. How have these trends and others impacted the extent and nature of the community involvement and civic participation of mid-life and older Americans? This report provides some insight and information in response to that question.

Overview and Highlights

The Nature of Civic Engagement is Changing, Becoming More Personal and More Secular. Mid-life and older Americans are less likely to join organizations. Although membership in religious organizations remains a relatively popular activity, involvement in these organizations has declined. As was the case in 1997, most people are most involved with personal activities like socializing with friends (75%), hobbies (73%), religious activities (60%), or sports-related activities (56%). Fewer are similarly focused on community service activities such as volunteering (44%) or addressing neighborhood problems (36%).

While the rate of traditional volunteering (i.e., volunteering through or for an organization) has held steady, the amount of time volunteers spend in service has declined as volunteering becomes more episodic. In 2003 and 2009, 51 percent of survey respondents reported volunteering in the prior year. Volunteers in the 2003 study, however, reported spending an average of 15 hours a month in volunteer service. In this study, volunteers report spending an average of 6-10 hours per month in service—a decline of 5-9 hours per month over the 6-year time period.

Almost two out of three (64%) volunteers spent less than ten hours a month volunteering, while nine percent spent 40 hours a month or more. In 1997, 56 percent spent less than ten hours a month.

Volunteering is difficult to measure in survey research, given variations in responses that come from variations in question wording with regard to the definition of volunteering and the time period in question, as demonstrated in various literature reviews on the topic, including “Reinventing Aging: Baby Boomers and Civic Engagement,” Harvard School of Public Health-Met Life Foundation Initiative on Retirement and Civic Engagement, Center for Health Communication, Harvard School of Public Health, Met-Life Foundation, Cambridge, MA., 2004..Nonetheless, these findings are consistent with several recent external surveys which also show a steady volunteer *rate* with declines in overall *time spent* volunteering (i.e., the 2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics/Census Bureau Current Population Survey supplement on volunteering and the 2009 Civic Health Index).

Informal volunteering (that is, volunteering on one’s own) has significantly increased since 2003. In 2003, 34 percent of respondents reported volunteering on their own (compared with 57 percent of respondents in 2009). This increase is not just an increase among those who previously did not volunteer who are now doing so informally; rather, it is more often traditional volunteers broadening their reach to include service activities on their own. The majority of volunteers (56%) are serving both through an organization and on their own; while about a fourth (18%) are volunteering solely through an organization, and just over a quarter (26%) are volunteering solely on their own.

Volunteering is a way of life for many AARP members. Fifty-three percent of AARP members report volunteering through an organization in the past year and spent 6-10 hours per month, on average, in volunteer service. The Independent Sector estimates the dollar value of an hour of a volunteer’s time in 2008 at \$20.25. With an estimated AARP membership of 38.5 million, this translates to about 1.9 billion hours and about \$39.4 billion given in service to others through organizational volunteering.

Age continues to be highly correlated with volunteering. Generation X (currently between the ages of 29 and 44) has the highest rates of volunteering; while the Greatest Generation (age 81 and older) has the lowest rates. These findings are consistent with past studies, as reported in the “Reinventing Aging” synthesis and in analysis of BLS/Census Current Population Survey data by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which have shown volunteering peaks in mid-life (i.e., at age 35-44) and then declines with increasing age.

The mid-life peak in volunteering is largely related to parenting and school-related activities (i.e., volunteering with the PTA, participating in class trips, etc.) as well as participating in child-related non-school activities such as youth sports or scouting. While this status report was not designed to provide an extensive analysis on barriers and incentives to volunteering, previous research, such as that reported in the “Reinventing Aging” synthesis, has found that social connections are an important

precondition for volunteering, as “volunteering tends to be an extension of one’s family, work, and social life.” As older persons retire, become empty-nesters, and otherwise reduce their external social connections, they are less likely to be asked to volunteer by someone with whom they have an established relationship, which is the biggest single inducement to volunteering. Health issues of individuals and family members also increase with age, creating an additional barrier to service.

Volunteers most often participate in activities that help meet the basic needs of those served. The most frequently-cited activities among volunteers overall, and across the various subgroups, were helping persons with disabilities or activity limitations; collecting and distributing clothing and other goods; fundraising or selling items to raise money for an organization or cause; and collecting, distributing, or serving food.

Volunteers have many motivations for giving their time in service, but their chief motivation is feeling a personal responsibility to help others when they need it. This reason was reported by 68 percent of volunteers overall; and rated as very important by half of all volunteers. Other top motivations cited included giving back to others, making their own lives more satisfying, and helping their own neighborhood or community.

The frequency of charitable giving has increased over last year from 55 percent in 2008 to 72 percent in 2009. As might be expected, volunteers were more likely than non-volunteers to donate to charitable or religious organizations. As with volunteering, AARP members were more likely than nonmembers to donate to charitable or religious organizations. Donating was less likely among those with incomes under \$25,000 than among those with higher incomes. Among those with higher incomes, donating was a fairly common practice—reported by more than 8 in 10 survey respondents.

Community involvement among 45+ Americans is significant but limited. Two-fifths of respondents (41%) had attended community activities or meetings; and one-third of respondents had written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue or worked with neighbors to fix a problem or improve a condition in their community (35% for each). Three in ten respondents (30%) had attended a local neighborhood association meeting; and almost one-quarter (23%) had attended a local government or school board meeting. Only 16 percent had contacted a news media organization and only five percent had participated in a demonstration or protest.

Mid-life and older Americans understand the power of organizing, but are less confident in their ability to have an impact in their community, either as an individual or especially as part of a group. Three in five Americans age 45+ believe that people acting together as a group can have “a lot” or a “moderate” amount of influence in getting things done in their communities, approximately double the 29 percent who believe they can have a similar level of influence acting as an individual.

Despite the rise of the Internet and other changes that have been thought of as empowering individuals, 45+ Americans actually feel less sanguine about their potential ability to influence their community than they did a dozen years ago. In 1997, more than one in three (35%) felt they had a lot or a moderate amount of influence, compared to 28 percent now, a drop of eight percentage points.

The confidence in group efficacy has dropped even more. In 1997, three out of four (77%) felt that an individual acting as part of a group could have a lot or a moderate amount of influence; and most of these (46%) felt they could have a lot of influence. Today, only 60 percent feel they can be that effective as part of a group; and only 24 percent feel that individuals acting in groups can have a lot of influence. Whether this trend is an outcome of the economic situation today compared to the booming prosperity of the late 1990s, or whether this trend is part of a long term social change, remains to be seen. But mid life and older individuals feel less empowered now than they did twelve years ago, when considering either acting on their own or through a group.

Civic participation varies by age and ethnicity, but socioeconomic status is a determining factor. African Americans have the highest levels of organizational membership and volunteering, with Hispanics having lower levels of organizational membership, civic participation, charitable giving, and volunteering. This variation is consistent with other research findings, most notably the 2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics/Census Current Population Survey supplement on formal volunteering, the 2008 Peter Hart and Associates “More to Give” Study examining both formal and informal volunteering, and the 2003 AARP Time and Money Study of Multicultural Giving and Volunteering. With regard to voting, the Pew Hispanic Center finds that voter participation continues to increase within the Hispanic community, with the percentages of Hispanic voters in presidential elections rising from 3.6 percent in 1988 to 7.4 percent in 2008.

Research on the ethnic dimensions of volunteering is relatively limited; so these findings suggest the value of additional research that examines the barriers and incentives to service, and the cultural context of such engagement, in a more systematic manner. But further analysis of this survey data finds that when controlling for demographic factors such as education and income, volunteer incidence rates are relatively consistent across racial/ethnic groups, suggesting that it is disparate socioeconomic circumstances, rather than other factors, that drive this apparent variation in engagement.

The National Council on Citizenship cites additional research that identifies acculturation as a key driver of propensity to volunteer. While acculturation is related to income and education, it is also an additional unique driver of participation in service activities,

Whether self directed or through an organization, younger generations tend to have higher levels of volunteering and membership activity (also consistent with previous research findings); but these generational differences are less apparent with regard to civic participation, especially voting, where older generations tend to be more active, as they have been traditionally. Immigration status, which also has been identified in previous research as having an influence on civic participation, was not covered in this survey due to resource limitations and other factors.

Implications

Although mid-life and older Americans recognize the power of groups, they are less optimistic about this potential than they were in the 1990s, and their civic activities tend to be more individual than group-focused now compared to a few years ago. Their focus is also more likely to be secular than oriented to traditional religious groups. This shift towards the individual and away from a group focus, consistent with the increasing fragmentation of American life, is a challenge for membership organizations and for organizations that rely on formal volunteer support.

These individuals tend to join fewer groups, and spend more time on informal volunteering compared to formal volunteering through organizations. While this trend may be consistent with self-directed volunteer efforts such as AARP's "Create the Good" activities, it presents more challenges for the more formal and structured programs that rely on traditional volunteer cadres for their implementation.

These individuals are also less likely to be formally-affiliated with religious organizations. This has implications for general volunteering in the future; considering the key role volunteering through such organizations has traditionally played.

Volunteering is also becoming more episodic, with less time spent by a particular volunteer. This will create challenges in volunteer staffing, since more volunteers will be required to achieve a particular sustained level of effort.

While substantial numbers of individuals continue to engage in various civic activities, no one activity is engaged in by a majority. This means that the priorities and opinions of the activists may not be representative of the "silent majority."

While African Americans are extremely active and engaged, the relative lower levels of civic engagement among Hispanics is a challenge and an area that should be more fully considered in subsequent research, given that civic participation is an important component of community life. There is research evidence that civic participation is increasing as documented by Pew and others, so this is a dynamic area that should be followed with subsequent future research. The interaction of income, education,

acculturation, immigration status, and other cultural factors that are associated with these lower levels of engagement should be a focus of such subsequent research and analysis.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Part One: Social Activities, Interests and Connections

How Mid-life and Older Persons Spend Their Time: Personal Interests Come First

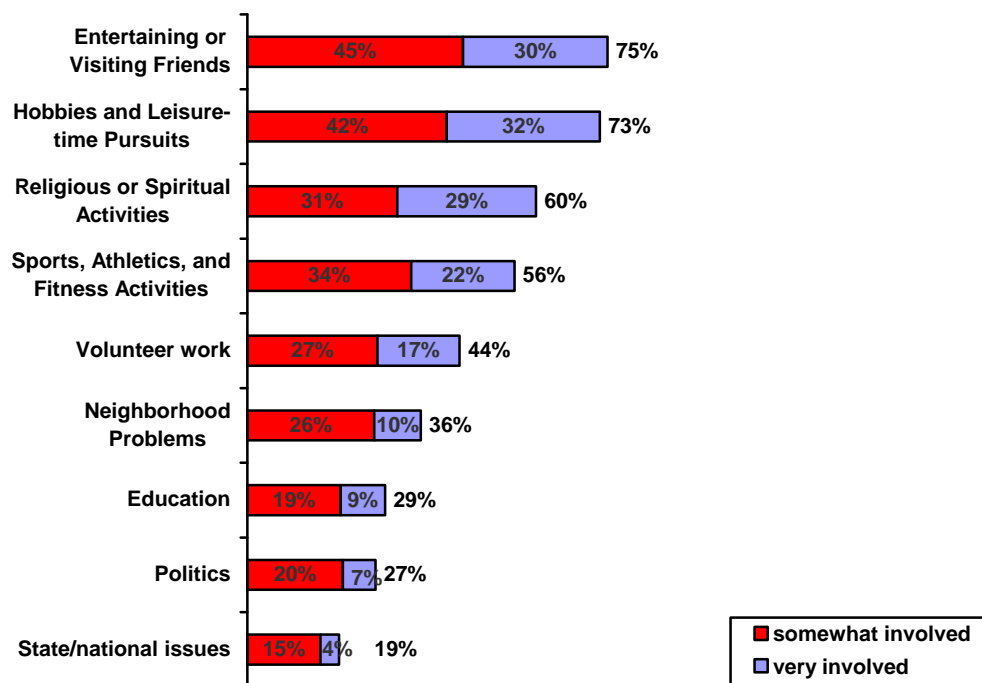
Social involvement and civic engagement require time. Consequently, we can begin to understand the connectedness and benevolence of middle-age and older Americans by first understanding how they spend their time.

We asked respondents to describe their level of involvement in nine activity areas that cover both social and civic engagement, and to indicate whether they were “very involved,” “somewhat involved,” or “not really involved” in each of these.

Hobbies, time with friends, and sports are favored activities. When not at work, the majority put most of their focus into personal activities—entertaining or visiting friends; hobbies and leisure time pursuits; religious or spiritual activities; or sports, athletics, and fitness. Overall, adults 45 and older appear less involved in more obviously philanthropic activities such as volunteering, working on neighborhood issues or problems, or participating in politics or state and national issues.

(Figure 1)

Activity Involvement by Midlife and Older Persons



Involvement with Religious Activities has Declined, but is still Substantial

Compared with 1997, the pattern of involvement has remained relatively stable among adults 45+, but a noteworthy change involves a sharp decline in the proportion of adults reporting to be “very involved” in religious or spiritual activities (from 43% to 29%). Nonetheless, whether looking at the proportion “very involved” or including those “somewhat” involved, religious and spiritual activities remain the third highest ranked activity area behind entertaining or visiting with friends, and hobbies and leisure-time pursuits. The decline in religious involvement could be generational, indicating less religiosity in the older population as more secular generations such as the baby boom age. It could also be an indication of the increasing secularization of contemporary society that affects all generations. More importantly, this decline has significant ramifications for volunteering and community service, since historically the primary vehicle for such activity has been through neighborhood religious organizations.

Community and Civic Involvement is Stable but Limited

In a half empty/half full outcome, involvement in community outreach activities such as volunteering, working on neighborhood problems, education, and politics, has remained stable, although only a minority of individuals continue to be involved in these activities.

Figure (2)
Activity Involvement Trends of Mid-Life and Older Persons

Level of Involvement in . . .	1997		2009		Change	
	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved
Religious or Spiritual Activities	28.0%	42.6%	31.2%	28.9%	+3.2	-13.7
Entertaining/Visiting Friends	43.0	31.7	44.9	30.1	+1.9	-1.6
State/National Issues	12.6	4.2	15.2	3.9	+2.6	-0.3
Neighborhood Problems	29.7	9.9	26.4	9.7	-3.3	-0.2
Volunteer Work	31.6	17.2	27.1	17.1	-4.5	-0.1
Education	17.8	9.0	19.4	9.3	+1.6	+0.3
Politics	20.8	5.8	19.9	6.8	-0.9	+1.0
Hobbies and Leisure-time Pursuits (Household / Non-Household)*	44.3 / 41.9	39.8 / 19.5	41.5	31.9	--	--
Sports, Athletics, and Fitness Activities (Household / Non-Household)*	40.5 / 28.3	27.7 / 20.4	34.1	21.5	--	--

*Household and non-household activities were combined in the 2009 measure.

Generation X: the Most Active

Looking at involvement by generation reveals a bit more. Based on the proportion saying they are “very involved,” Boomers appear to spend more of their time than older generations in civic-related activities such as working on neighborhood problems, politics, and state or national issues. They also appear more likely to be involved in educational activities such as taking classes or furthering their education. However,

members of the Silent Generation indicate more involvement than Boomers in both religious activities and spending time with friends. The Greatest Generation appears less involved than all other generations in nearly all of the activity areas presented, except for religious and spiritual activities. They are particularly less involved in sport or fitness activities, working on neighborhood problems, political activities, and furthering their education.

These results are consistent with historical trends that indicate declines in civic activities with age, primarily as a result of health issues and the diminished social connections that occur as a result of life stage changes like retirement, maturation of children, etc.

Further light is shed on the generational pattern when we compare those 45 and older with the generation immediately following them: Generation X. Overall, the top 4 activities based on the proportion “very involved” are the same for all generations; however, the order varies by generation. For both the Silent and Greatest Generations, religious or spiritual activities rank highest; whereas for Boomers and Generation X, it is hobbies and leisure activities. Yet when involvement is defined more broadly to include activities in which people are either “very involved” or “somewhat involved,” nearly seven in ten Generation X members (67%) indicate they are very or somewhat involved in religious or spiritual activities compared with six in 10 Boomers (60%) and members of the Silent Generation (61%), and just over half of the members of the Greatest Generation (54%). And, with this broader definition, hobbies and leisure-time activities drops to second among members of Generation X.

Figure (3)
Activity Involvement by Generation

Level of Involvement in . . .	Generation X (age 29-44)		Baby Boomers (age 45-63)		Silent Generation (age 64-80)		Greatest Generation (age 81+)	
	Some- what Involved	Very Involved	Some- what Involved	Very Involved	Some- what Involved	Very Involved	Some- what Involved	Very Involved
Hobbies and Leisure-time Pursuits	39.9%	34.8%	44.6%	32.0%	37.9%	34.3%	27.8%	22.2%
Entertaining or Visiting Friends	27.8	30.7	47.5	28.7	40.8	34.1	38.0	26.9
Religious or Spiritual Activities	40.4	26.9	34.8	25.6	26.4	34.8	18.5	35.2
Sports, Athletics, and Fitness Activities	46.2	31.1	36.4	23.8	32.5	20.2	20.6	6.5
Volunteer Work	39.0	16.8	28.3	17.4	26.1	17.3	19.6	15.0
Neighborhood Problems	21.6	11.7	27.5	11.4	25.7	7.7	19.4	3.7
Education	36.2	20.4	22.7	12.4	14.1	4.3	10.3	1.9
Politics	16.9	6.5	20.5	7.1	20.7	6.5	11.1	6.5
State/National Issues	24.0	7.0	17.6	4.9	11.5	2.4	9.3	0.9

Note: Percentages based on the following samples sizes: Boomers (n=951), Silent Generation (n=417), and Greatest Generation (n=109)

Putting it All Together: The Social Involvement Scale

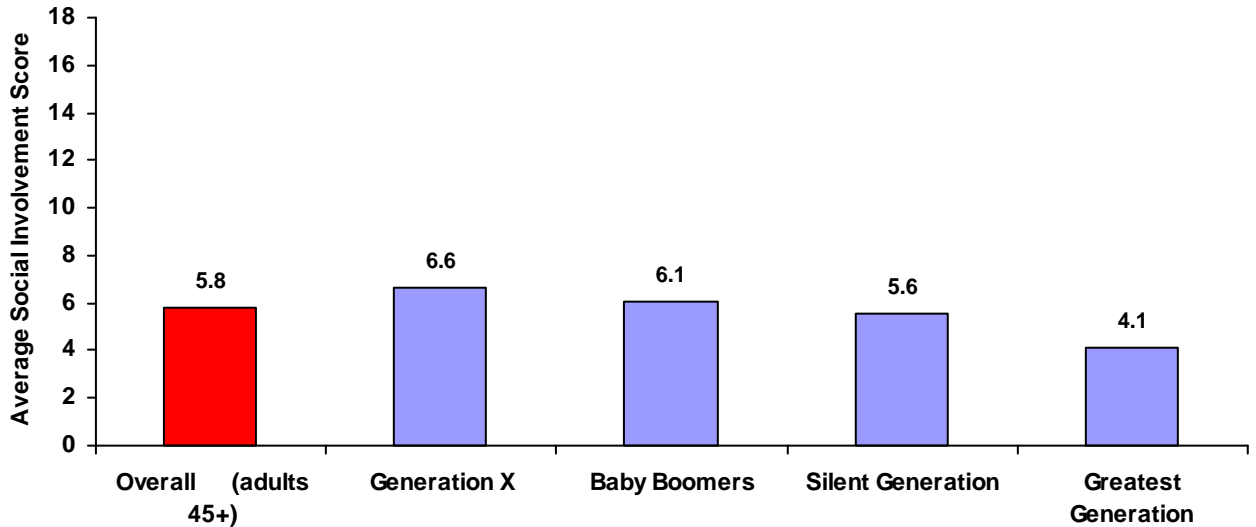
Another way to assess the level of involvement across generations is to construct a social involvement score based on the nine activity areas. By assigning one point for each activity in which a respondent reports “some” involvement and two points for each activity in which the respondent is “very involved”, one obtains an index with a theoretical range from zero (“not really involved” in any of the nine activities) to 18 (“very involved” in all nine activities). The average score on this Social Involvement Index for adults 45+ is 5.8, on the low side of this potential range of 0 to 18.

Using this index we see more clearly the declining level of involvement in each proceeding generation. Generation X has an overall Social Involvement Score that is a full 2.5 points higher than that of the Greatest Generation.

Overall, Generation X appears to devote more time than even Baby Boomers (who themselves devoted more time than their parents) to social and civic engagement activities such as working on neighborhood problems, politics, and volunteer work.

Figure (4)

Social Involvement Scale Score by Generation



Gender: Differences in Type of Involvement (Not Level)

As one might expect, there were gender differences in involvement with social and civic activities. Men were much more likely to be involved in sports, leisure activities, politics, and local and national issues; while women were more likely to be involved in religious activities and volunteer work.

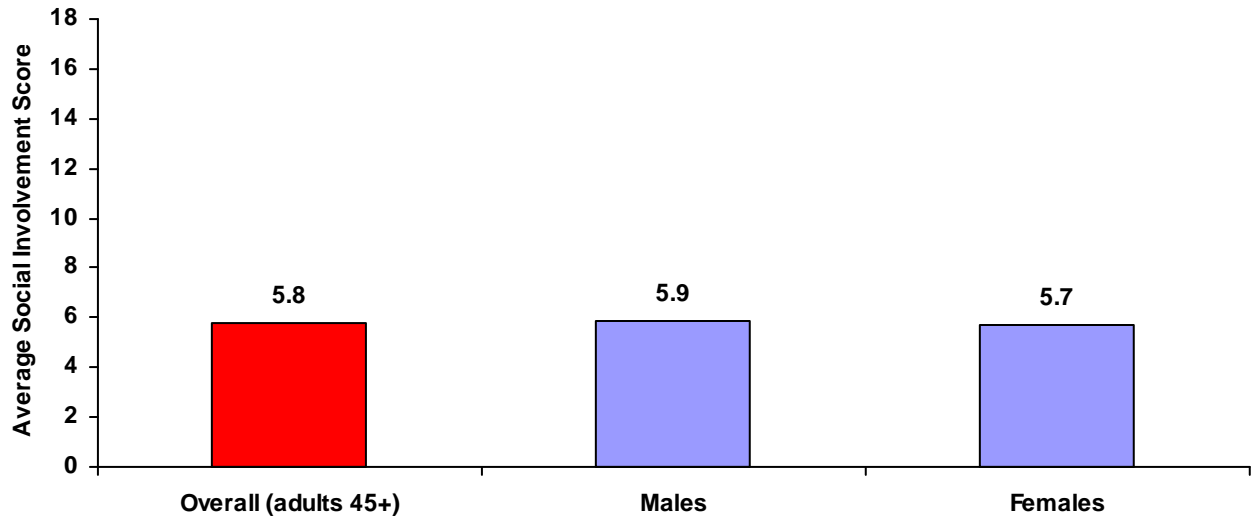
Figure (5)

Type and Level of Involvement by Gender

Level of Involvement in . . .	Male		Female	
	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved
Religious or Spiritual Activities	32.9%	22.5%	29.8%	34.5%
Entertaining/Visiting Friends	47.8	29.3	42.4	30.7
State/National Issues	15.8	5.4	14.7	2.6
Neighborhood Problems	28.3	12.2	24.7	7.5
Volunteer Work	28.0	14.2	26.3	19.7
Education	17.8	9.1	20.8	9.5
Politics	22.0	9.1	18.1	4.9
Hobbies and Leisure-time Pursuits	36.3	35.5	46.1	28.8
Sports, Athletics, and Fitness Activities	37.4	24.2	31.3	19.1

Although there were gender differences in the kinds of activities in which people were involved, there were no significant differences with regard to the amount of involvement in these activities. The average Social Involvement Score for men was 5.9 compared with 5.7 for women.

Figure (6)
Social Involvement Scale by Gender



Diversity and Involvement: African Americans More Involved, Hispanics Less Involved, than Non-Hispanic Whites

African Americans spend more time engaged in social and civic activities than do Non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics. In particular, more than one-half of African Americans (53%) report being very involved in religious or spiritual activities compared to less than one-third of either non-Hispanic Whites or Hispanics. They are also more likely than either Non-Hispanic Whites or Hispanics to be very involved in volunteer work, helping to solve neighborhood problems, political activities, and working on state or national issues. In addition, nearly twice as many African Americans report being very involved in educational activities compared to Non-Hispanic Whites.

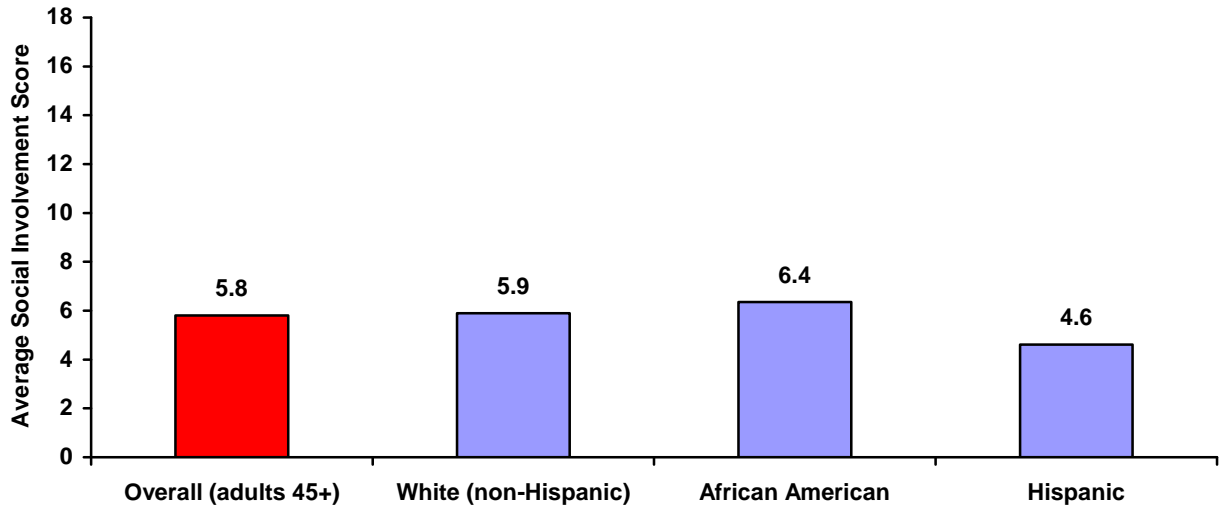
In contrast, Hispanics are noticeably less likely than African Americans or Non-Hispanic Whites to be “very involved” in visiting with friends, pursuing hobbies or leisure activities, or engaging in volunteer work. Nonetheless Hispanics maintain similar levels of involvement as Non-Hispanic Whites in activity areas such as religious and spiritual activities, sports and fitness activities, and political activities.

Figure (7)
Type and Level of Involvement by Race/Ethnicity

Level of Involvement in . . .	White (non-Hispanic)		African American		Hispanic	
	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved
Religious or Spiritual Activities	29.7%	31.0%	23.0%	53.0%	26.9%	29.7%
Entertaining or Visiting with Friends	45.6	31.7	39.7	30.0	32.6	19.2
Hobbies and Leisure-time Pursuits	42.5	35.0	33.8	26.2	29.2	21.0
Volunteer work	32.0	18.7	23.8	23.3	19.8	15.4
Sports, Athletics, and Fitness Activities	33.2	21.2	35.2	18.1	32.2	22.6
Neighborhood Problems	28.6	9.3	33.8	14.5	20.2	7.0
Education	19.5	7.1	17.8	14.1	13.2	8.7
Politics	20.5	4.7	21.1	9.5	10.8	4.8
State/National Issues	15.2	2.7	16.3	6.5	10.9	4.0

The social involvement scores confirm the significant gap between Hispanics and other groups, particularly African Americans.

Figure (8)
Social Involvement Scale Score by Race/Ethnicity



An examination of the barriers and incentives to social involvement, especially from an ethnic perspective, is beyond the scope of this report, but suggests areas where further research could create greater insight in this regard.

AARP Members: More Active and More Involved Than Others

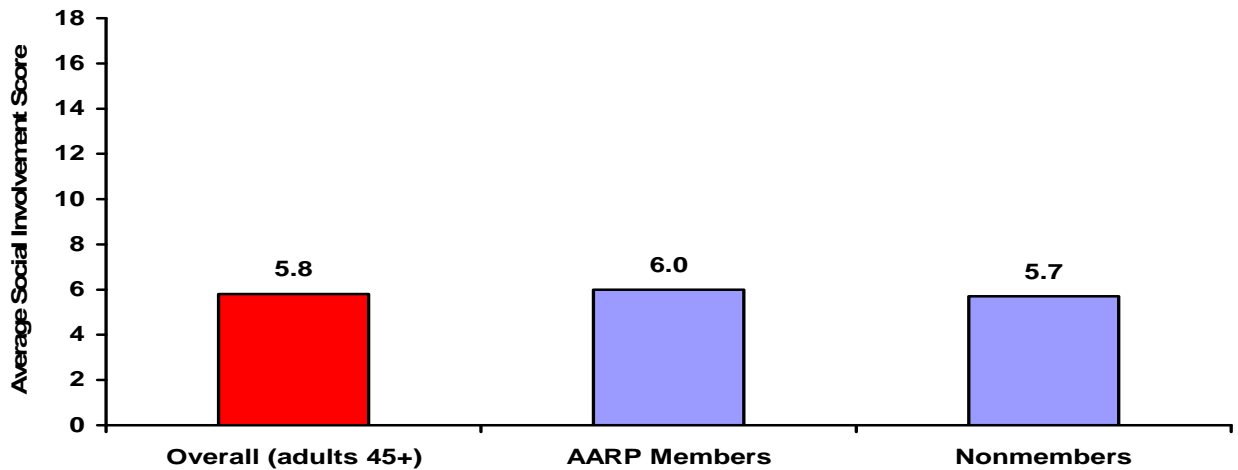
AARP Members are more involved than nonmembers in hobbies, visiting with friends, and religious or spiritual activities. Once more, while nonmembers appear to spend slightly more time furthering their education or working on state and national issues, they nonetheless appear less socially and civically engaged than AARP Members.

Figure (9)
Type and Level of Involvement by AARP Membership Status

Level of Involvement in . . .	AARP Members		Nonmembers	
	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved	Somewhat Involved	Very Involved
Hobbies And Leisure-time Pursuits	39.9%	37.5%	42.3%	29.0%
Entertaining or Visiting Friends	42.9	35.3	46.0	27.2
Religious or Spiritual Activities	27.6	32.9	33.2	26.7
Sports, Athletics, and Fitness Activities	34.2	21.4	34.1	21.7
Volunteer Work	30.9	18.5	25.0	16.5
Neighborhood Problems	27.2	9.5	25.9	9.8
Education	16.7	7.6	20.8	10.3
Politics	21.0	7.2	19.4	6.6
State/National Issues	12.8	3.3	16.4	4.3

We see further support for this in a comparison of their Social Involvement Score. AARP members have an average score of 6.0 compared to 5.7 for nonmembers. This difference at the aggregate level exists even though members tend to be older than nonmembers, and involvement overall tends to decline with age.

Figure (10)
AARP Members vs. Non-Members: Social Involvement Score



Joining Organizations: Fewer Memberships in Formal Organizations

Organizational membership has been found to be a strong predictor of civic involvement. But compared with 1997, there are fewer Americans choosing to join organizations. More than three out of four adults 45 years of age or older belong to at least one organization. However, of the 22 organization types assessed, all but two show a decline in the proportion saying they belong to at least one group or organization of that type. Eight of these reveal a decline of 5 percentage points or more.

Religious organizations, organizations for older adults, and social clubs demonstrate the largest declines (10% or more). Interestingly, political clubs and scouting or youth organizations are the only types to show an increase, though it is a very modest increase.

Figure (11)
Trends in Joining: Percent Reporting Membership in Each Group Type: 1997 vs. 2009

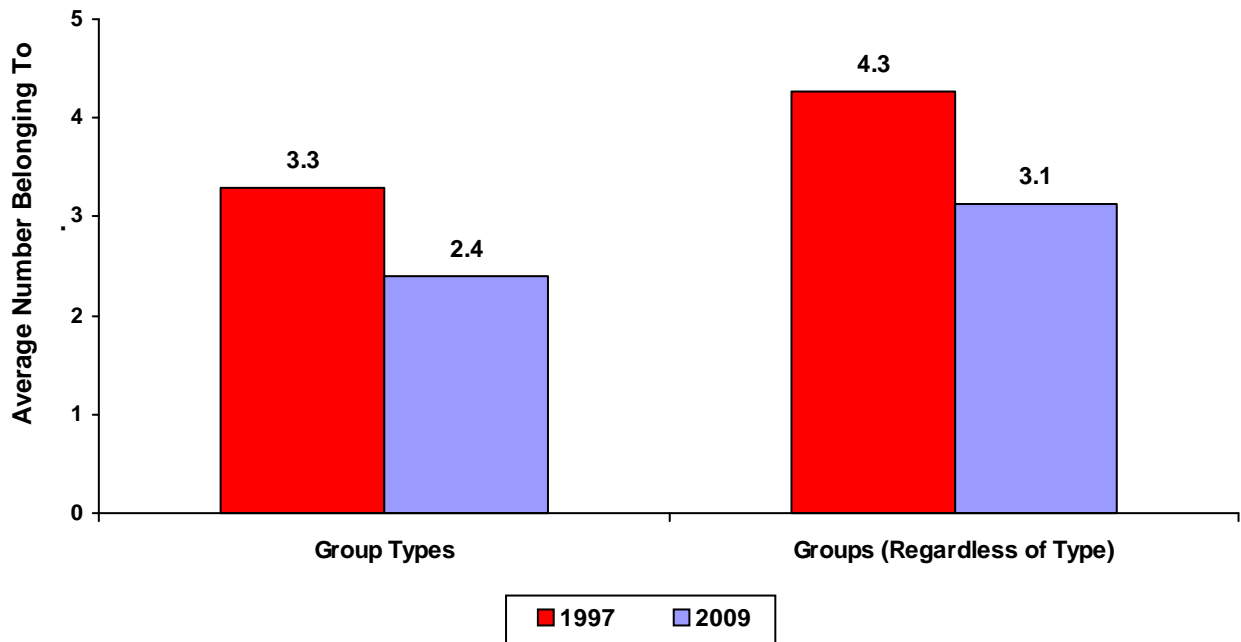
Group Types...	1997	2009	Change
Religious	69.8%	56.4%	-13.4
Organizations for Older People	18.6	8.2	-10.4
Social Clubs	17.6	7.6	-10.0
Fraternal Groups (e.g. Elks)	13.4	4.3	-9.1
Neighborhood Groups	21.7	14.4	-7.3
Professional or Trade	23.7	17.1	-6.6
Hobby/Garden/Computer	17.2	11.6	-5.6
Health/Sport/Country Clubs	21.5	16.2	-5.3
Social Service	9.2	4.6	-4.6
Health Issue or Disease	15.7	11.2	-4.5
PTA, PTO, School Groups	12.4	9.0	-3.4
Literary/Art/Study	11.8	8.4	-3.4
Veterans' Groups	11.5	8.6	-2.9
Environmental / Animal	12.7	10.0	-2.7
Farm	6.7	5.0	-1.7
Other Public Interest	7.7	6.6	-1.1
Labor Unions	10.2	9.2	-1.0
Other Civic, Community	5.1	4.5	-0.6
Ethnic/Cultural/Civil Rights	4.3	3.7	-0.6
Support, 12-Step Groups	6.2	5.8	-0.4
Scouts/Youth	6.3	6.9	+0.6
Political Clubs	8.1	9.3	+1.2

Only religious organizations attract membership of more than half the population. Other groups attracting at least modest support (more than 10%) include professional/trade groups, health/sports/country clubs, neighborhood groups, hobby groups, groups focusing on health or disease, and environmental/animal rights groups.

Within each of the group types, respondents were asked to report the number of groups to which they belong. On average, adults age 45 or older report nearly one full group type less in 2009 than in 1997. Correspondingly, adults report nearly one less membership on average compared to 1997.

Figure (12)

Trends in Joining: Average Number of Group Memberships: 1997 vs. 2009



Generational Trends: Younger Generations More Likely to Belong

As hinted in the analysis of the time spent engaged in social and civic activities, we find significant differences in belonging across generations. On 11 of the 22 group types presented, there is a noticeable and linear decline in the proportion reporting at least one membership within a group type as one progresses toward the older generations. Some of these declines are likely explained by life stage. For example, nearly one-third (31%) of Generation X members report being a member of at least one professional or trade organization compared to one out of five Baby Boomers (21%), one out of nine members of the Silent Generation (12%), and only 7 percent of those in the Greatest Generation. We see a similar pattern among PTA, PTO, or other school-related groups.

Nonetheless some of the decline likely moves beyond life stage, such as the stark contrast in those reporting memberships in neighborhood groups. One out of five members of Generation X (19%) report being involved in one or more of these groups compared to only about one out of nine members of the Greatest Generation (12%). However, the older generations are not without these formal connections. The Greatest Generation is just as likely as either Baby Boomers or members of Generation X to report belonging to one or more religious organizations. They also report comparable membership levels in hobby, garden, or computer clubs. And still in a few situations, they are more likely than other generations to belong to certain types of organizations such as veterans' groups and organizations for older people.

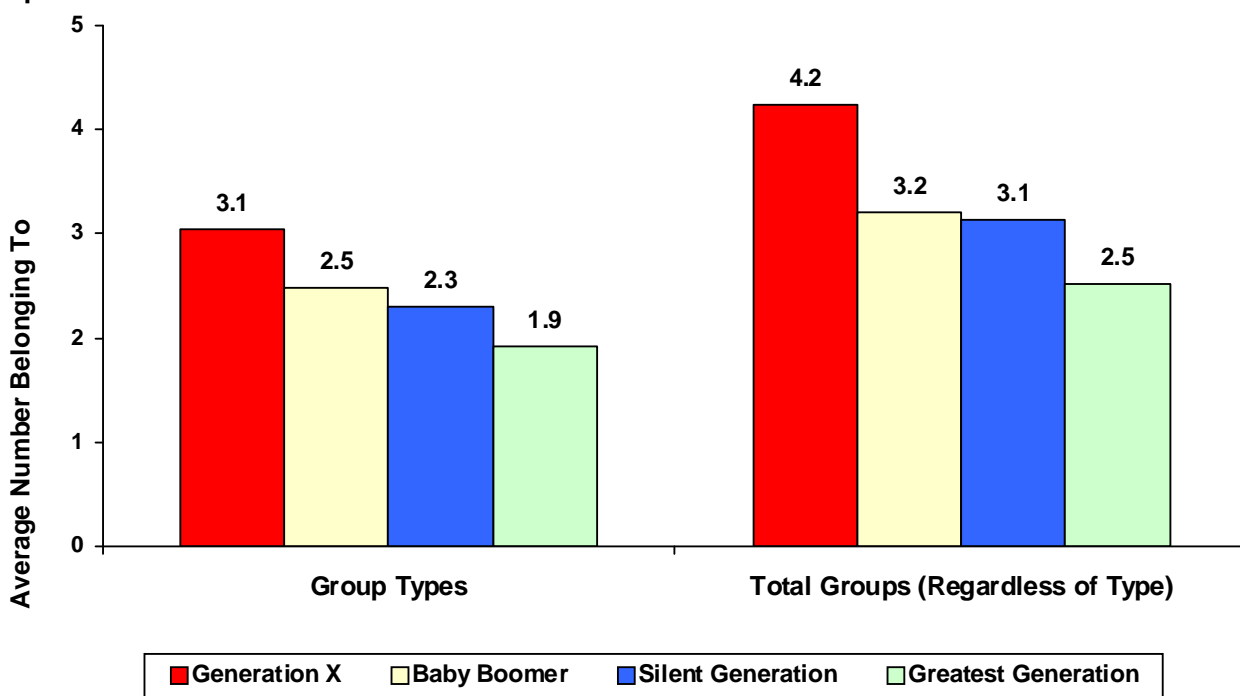
Figure (13)
Percent Reporting Group Memberships by Generation

Group Types...	Generation X (age 29-44)	Baby Boomers (age 45-63)	Silent Generation (age 64-80)	Greatest Generation (age 81+)
Religious	53.2%	54.7%	60.8%	54.4%
Professional or Trade	31.0	20.7	11.6	6.7
Health/Sport/Country Clubs	27.4	17.2	15.4	10.0
PTA, PTO, School Groups	23.9	12.2	3.7	1.6
Neighborhood Groups	19.4	15.2	13.3	11.6
Health Issue or Disease	16.1	12.0	10.7	6.0
Hobby/Garden/Computer	14.6	10.9	13.3	11.7
Scouts/Youth	12.7	9.8	1.8	1.2
Political Clubs	11.5	9.8	9.6	4.4
Environmental / Animal	10.5	11.0	9.5	4.2
Literary/Art/Study	10.5	8.7	8.3	5.7
Labor Unions	10.1	12.0	4.3	3.6
Social Clubs	8.9	6.0	11.0	8.6
Other Public Interest	8.8	7.6	5.1	4.1
Support, 12-Step Groups	8.0	7.8	2.7	1.2
Social Service	7.7	4.1	6.0	3.8
Ethnic/Cultural/Civil Rights	7.7	4.5	2.7	1.0
Fraternal Groups (e.g., Elks)	5.9	3.0	6.7	7.2
Veterans' Groups	5.5	5.8	11.9	21.1
Other Civic, Community	5.2	4.9	3.8	3.3
Farm	3.9	5.0	5.4	4.4
Organizations for Older People	3.1	5.7	11.7	16.3

Nonetheless, when you look at the average number of group types to which each generation belongs, it becomes clear that not only has joining declined over the past ten years; it appears that the oldest among us are the least connected.

Generation X members report membership in an average of 3.1 types of organizations compared to 2.5 types reported by Baby Boomers, 2.3 types reported by the Silent Generation, and less than 2 types (1.9) reported by the Greatest Generation. Not surprisingly, we see this same pattern in the average number of actual memberships each generation reportedly maintains. Members of Generation X belong to an average of more than 4 different organizations, while Baby Boomers and the Silent generation belong to about 3 different organizations. The Greatest Generation boasts an average of only about 2.5 memberships.

Figure (14)
Average Number of Group Memberships by Generation



Group Memberships: Men and Women have Similar Rates of Belonging

Consistent with findings on time spent engaged in social and civic activities, there were gender differences with regard to the types of memberships held. Although a majority of both men and women reported being a member of a religious organization, women were more likely to report this. Women were also more likely to hold memberships in hobby, garden, or computer groups; PTA, PTO, or other school groups; and scouts/youth organizations. In contrast, men were more likely to hold memberships in professional or trade groups; health, sport, or country clubs; labor unions; veterans’ groups; public interest organizations; and ethnic, cultural, or civil rights groups.

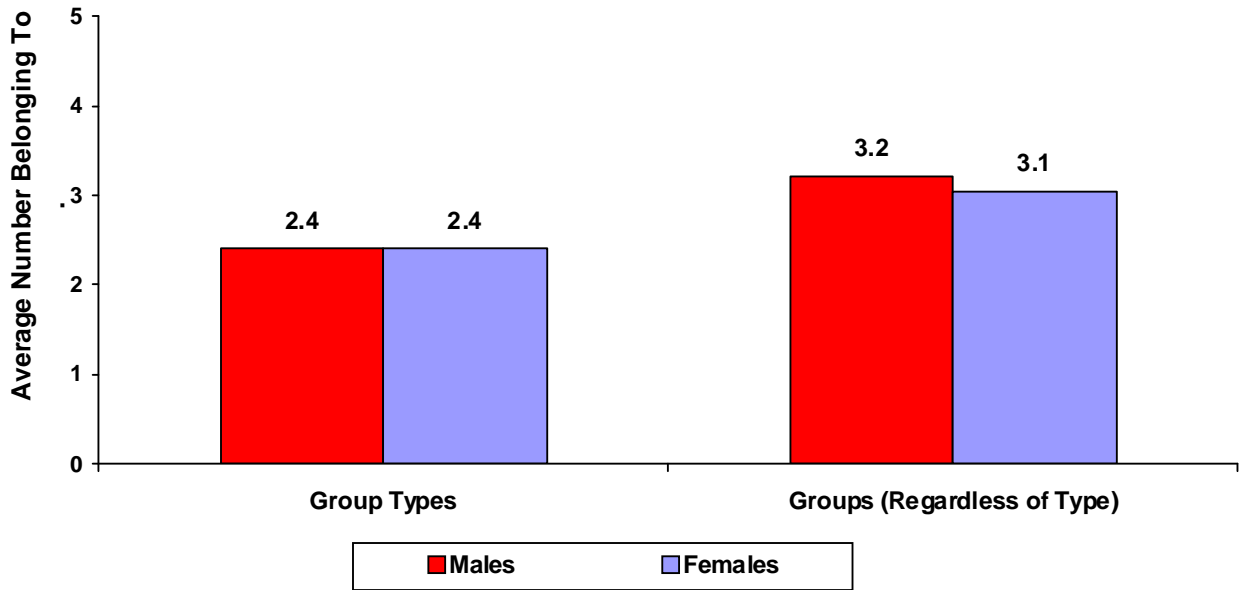
Figure (15)

Percent Reporting Group Memberships by Gender

Group Types...	Males	Females
Religious	50.9%	61.2%
Professional or Trade	21.7	13.1
Health/Sport/Country Clubs	20.9	12.1
Neighborhood Groups	13.0	15.7
Labor Unions	12.8	6.0
Veterans' Groups	11.8	5.9
Health Issue or Disease	11.2	11.2
Environmental / Animal	10.7	9.5
Political Clubs	10.3	8.4
Hobby/Garden/Computer	9.7	13.4
Other Public Interest	9.0	4.6
Social Clubs	8.7	6.7
Organizations for Older People	8.2	8.1
Literary/Art/Study	6.7	9.8
Fraternal Groups (e.g., Elks)	5.6	3.2
Support, 12-Step Groups	5.5	6.1
PTA, PTO, School Groups	5.3	12.3
Ethnic/Cultural/Civil Rights	4.7	2.9
Farm	4.6	5.4
Social Service	4.6	4.6
Other Civic, Community	4.2	4.7
Scouts/Youth	2.7	10.6

No gender differences were found, however, in terms of the number of group memberships held. Whether we view the average number of group types or the average number of groups held overall (regardless of type), the findings show there are no gender differences in the number of group memberships maintained by men and women. On average, men report holding memberships in 2.4 types of organizations and about 3.2 memberships overall, compared with 2.4 types of organizations and about 3.1 memberships held overall by women.

Figure (16)
Average Number of Group Memberships by Gender



Diversity and Organizational Memberships: African Americans the Most Connected

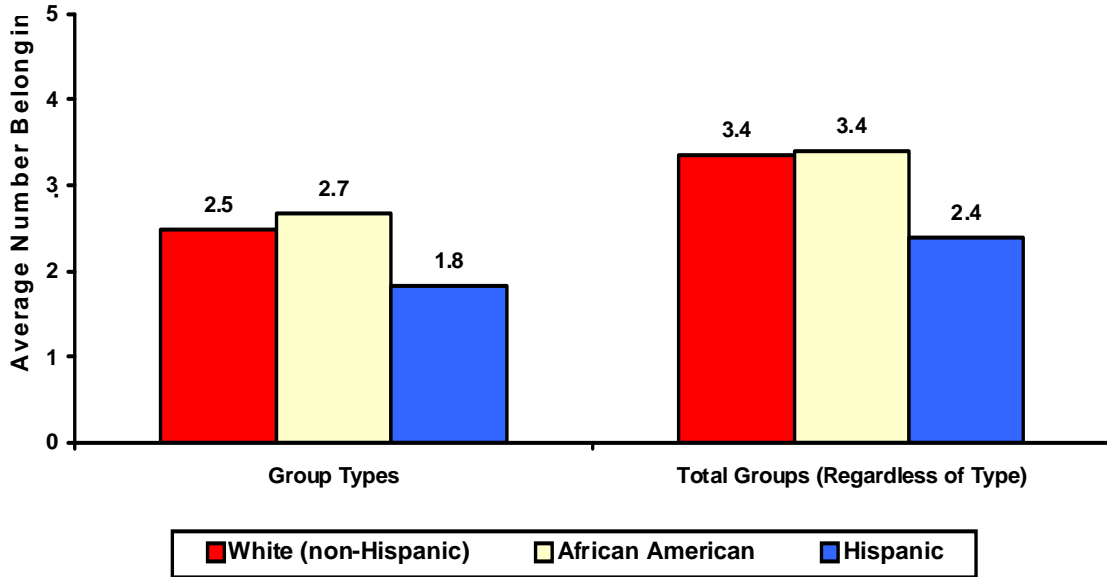
As suggested by the amount of time spent on social and civic activities, African Americans demonstrate a clear propensity for joining. For nine separate group types, more than one out of ten African Americans report having at least one membership in that type. This is noticeably more than either Non-Hispanic Whites (only seven types have at least 10% indicating they are a member of at least one organization of that type) or Hispanics (only two types have more than 10% reporting at least one membership). Even among religious organizations where at least one-half of all three ethnic groups report belonging to at least one group of that type, African Americans boast seven out of ten with at least one membership in that type.

(Figure 17)
Percent Reporting Group Memberships by Race/Ethnicity

Group Types...	White (Non-Hispanic)	African American	Hispanic
Religious	58.1%	69.1%	53.7%
Neighborhood Groups	14.2	19.7	9.1
Professional or Trade	18.0	15.9	7.2
PTA, PTO, School Groups	8.4	15.9	7.3
Ethnic/Cultural/Civil Rights	2.5	14.3	3.8
Health Issue or Disease	12.8	14.1	9.7
Labor Unions	7.6	13.3	8.7
Hobby/Garden/Computer	13.2	12.0	8.2
Health/Sport/Country Clubs	17.9	11.7	11.8
Political Clubs	8.4	9.4	5.9
Support, 12-Step Groups	4.6	9.0	5.5
Organizations for Older People	8.9	8.6	6.2
Social Clubs	9.9	7.9	6.4
Other Public Interest	6.6	7.7	6.0
Scouts/Youth	4.8	7.4	1.4
Literary/Art/Study	9.0	7.4	6.3
Veterans' Groups	9.9	5.8	5.3
Social Service	5.2	5.3	5.7
Fraternal Groups(e.g., Elks)	5.0	4.9	2.0
Other Civic, Community	5.8	3.9	5.7
Environmental / Animal	11.9	2.5	6.8
Farm	6.7	2.5	1.2

However, despite this advantage, in the end, African Americans reveal only slightly higher levels of joining than Whites. African Americans report having memberships in an average of 2.7 group types compared to 2.5 group types for Whites. The difference is further erased when we look at actual number of memberships. Here, both African Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites report an average of 3.4 memberships.

(Figure 18)
Average Number of Group Memberships by Race/Ethnicity



AARP Members are More Connected than Others

As might be expected by the fact they are by definition a member of at least one organization, AARP members are significantly more likely to join organizations. On five separate group types, at least one out of five AARP members report having at least one membership in an organization of that type. Nonmembers only have one type (Religious) where more than one out of five indicate they belong to a group in that type. In fact, on 11 out of the 22 group types, at least one out of ten AARP members report having a membership, compared to only 5 group types among nonmembers.

While in almost every instance, AARP members have a higher proportion indicating they are a member of a particular group type, nonmembers do report a higher proportion with at least one membership in PTA, PTO, or other school-related groups.

One interesting finding to note is that only 17 percent of AARP members indicate they have a membership in “organizations for older people.”

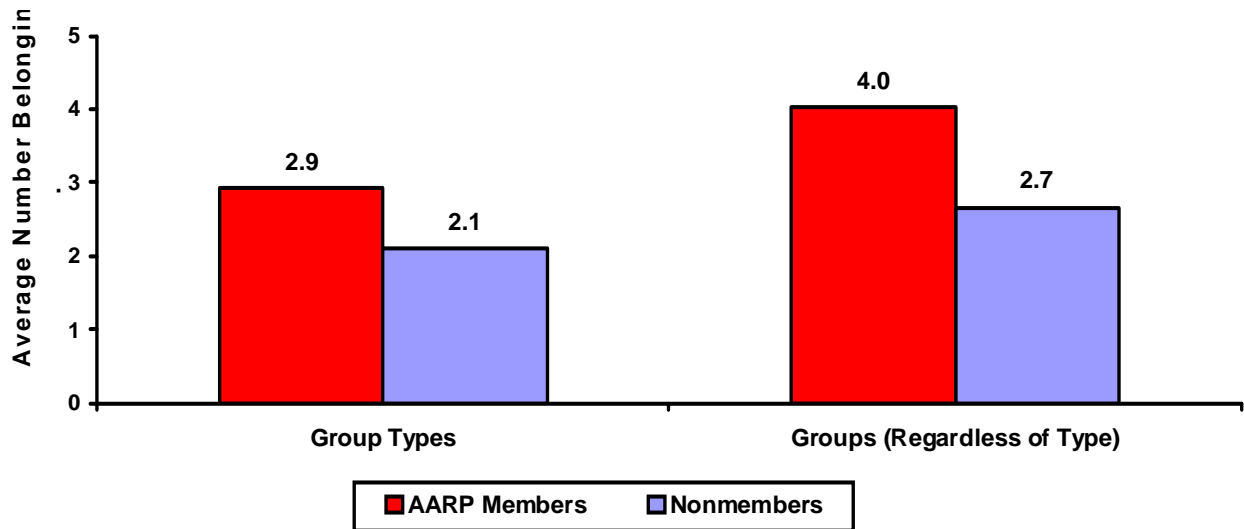
(Figure 19)

Percent Reporting Group Memberships by AARP Membership Status

Group Types...	AARP Members	Nonmembers
Religious	58.7%	55.1%
Professional or Trade	21.8	14.6
Health/Sport/Country Clubs	21.1	13.6
Neighborhood Groups	20.0	11.5
Organizations for Older People	16.7	3.6
Hobby/Garden/Computer	14.9	9.9
Health Issue or Disease	14.6	9.4
Environmental / Animal	14.3	7.8
Social Clubs	13.9	4.2
Veterans' Groups	12.5	6.6
Political Clubs	10.1	8.9
Literary/Art/Study	9.5	7.7
Labor Unions	8.5	9.6
Other Public Interest	8.3	5.7
Fraternal Groups (e.g., Elks)	8.1	2.3
Social Service	8.0	2.8
Other Civic, Community	7.1	3.1
PTA, PTO, School Groups	6.2	10.5
Ethnic/Cultural/Civil Rights	5.8	2.6
Farm	5.4	4.9
Support, 12-Step Groups	4.3	6.7
Scouts/Youth	2.3	9.4

As the previous analysis would indicate, AARP members report belonging to an average of nearly 3.0 group types compared to an average of only 2.1 group types for nonmembers. The discrepancy becomes more pronounced, however, when we look at actual memberships. AARP members hold an average of four distinct memberships in organizations compared to an average of only 2.6 memberships among nonmembers.

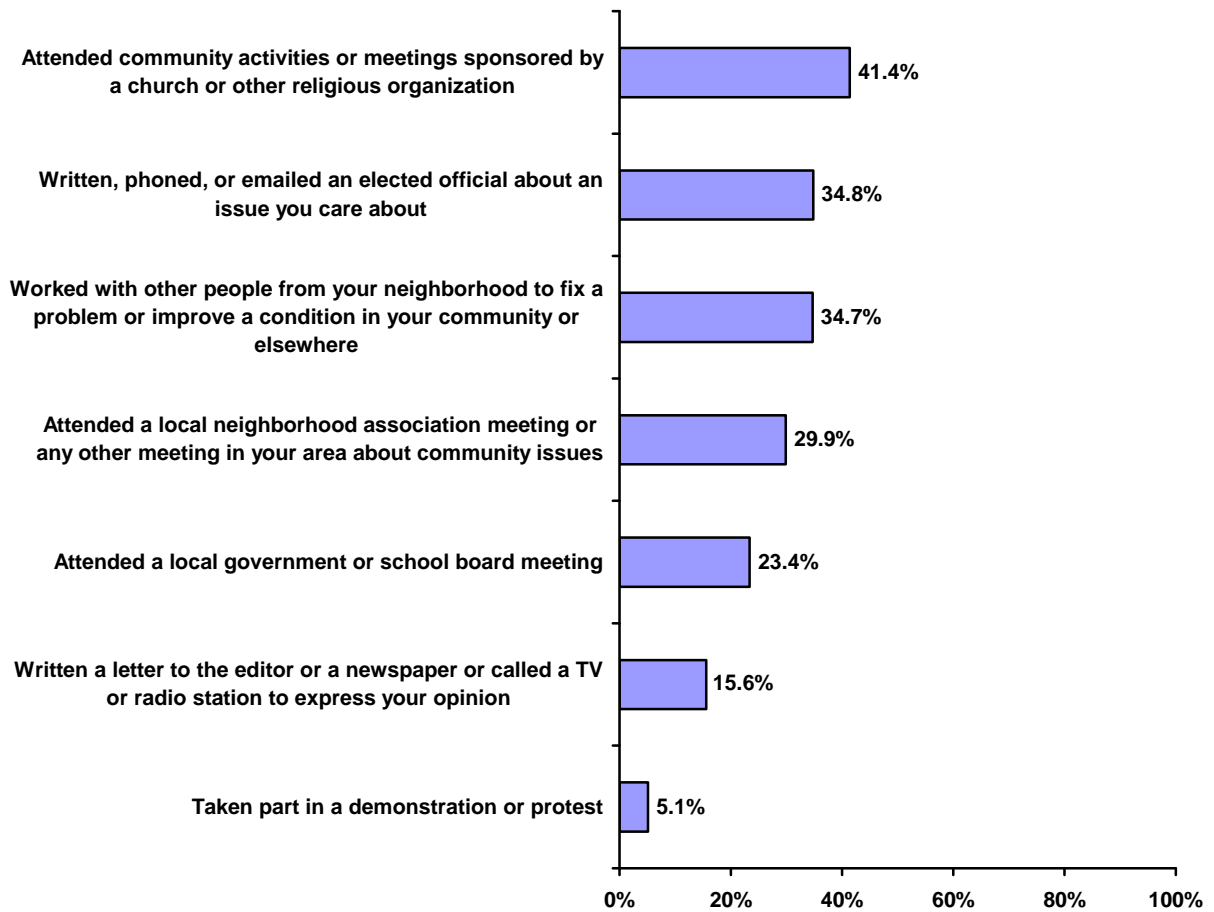
(Figure 20)
Average Number of Group Memberships by AARP Membership Status



Part Two: Community Engagement and Civic Participation Civic Involvement and Mid-Life and Older Americans

Another major dimension of involvement concerns the extent to which individuals are involved with their local governments or are committed to working on local community issues. Community involvement among 45+ Americans is significant but limited. Two-fifths of respondents (41%) had attended community activities or meetings, and one-third of respondents had written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue and worked with neighbors to fix a problem or improve a condition in their community (35% for each). Three in ten respondents (30%) had attended a local neighborhood association meeting and almost one-quarter (23%) had attended a local government or school board meeting. Only 16 percent had contacted a news media organization, and only 5 percent had participated in a demonstration or protest.

(Figure 21)
Percent of Mid-Life and Older Persons Participating in Civic Engagement Activities



Civic Engagement Remains Fairly Stable

Civic engagement among older Americans has remained fairly stable over the years. Writing letters to an editor or calling a TV or radio station to express an opinion, and attending community activities sponsored by a church or religious organization showed the biggest increase—rising just four points from 2003. There were no significant declines seen, however.

If anything it is surprising the percentage of those contacting media is not higher and has not increased more given the rise of talk radio and other interactive forms of mass media that have developed in recent years.

(Figure 22)
Trends in Participation in Civic Engagement Activities: 2003 vs. 2009

	2003	2009	Change
Written a letter to the editor or a newspaper or called a TV or radio station to express your opinion	12%	16%	+4
Attended community activities or meetings sponsored by a church or other religious organization	37	41	+4
Written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue you care about	32	35	+3
Attended a local government or school board meeting	22	23	+1
Taken part in a demonstration or protest	5	5	0
Attended a local neighborhood association meeting or any other meeting in your area about community issues	31	30	-1
Worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere	--	35	--

Diversity and Civic Engagement: African Americans the Most Connected

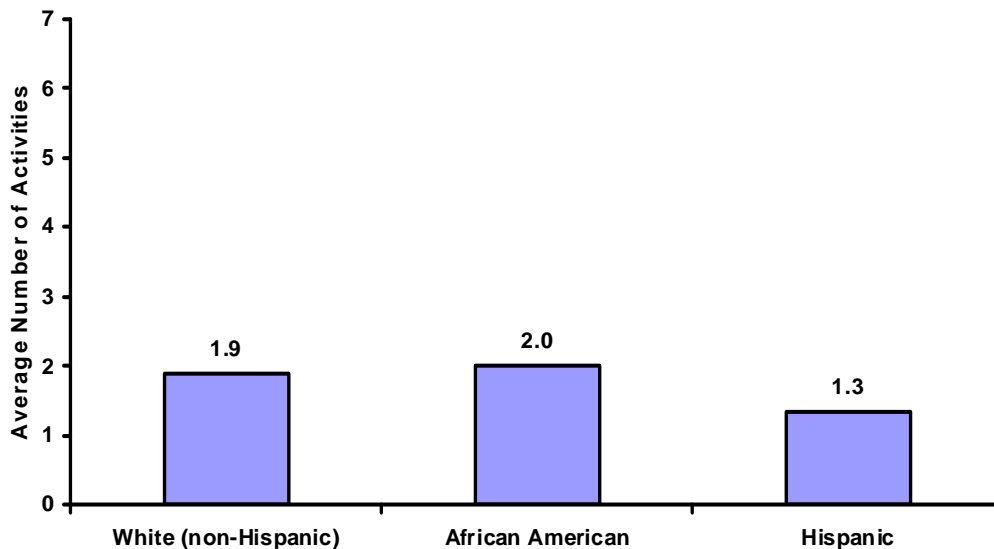
Small but consistent and significant differences by race and ethnicity are apparent with regard to community activity; with African American respondents reporting higher civic involvement in some activities compared to respondents overall, including attending community activities or meetings (52%), working with other people to fix a community problem or condition (48%), attending a local neighborhood association meeting (36%) and attending a local government or school board meeting (27%). Overall, Hispanic respondents reported lower incidences of involvement in specific civic engagement compared to the general population and African Americans. Previous research has noted that cultural and acculturation factors, immigration status, and socioeconomic status all may be factors of influence in this regard. The situation is also dynamic; the Pew Hispanic Center notes that Hispanic voter participation in presidential elections has been increasing—going from 3.6 percent in 1988 to 7.4 percent in 2008. Non-Hispanic Whites were more likely to participate in activities such as contacting a news organization or communicating with a public official.

(Figure 23)
Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Race/Ethnicity

Civic Involvement Activities	White (Non-Hispanic)	African American	Hispanic
Attended community activities or meetings sponsored by a church or other religious organization	44.5%	51.8%	38.6%
Written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue you care about	38.4	21.6	17.7
Worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere	35.5	47.6	27.8
Attended a local neighborhood association meeting or any other meeting in your area about community issues	31.7	35.9	20.7
Attended a local government or school board meeting	19.5	27.2	15.2
Written a letter to the editor or a newspaper or called a TV or radio station to express your opinion	17.5	11.6	9.4
Taken part in a demonstration or protest	5.1	5.1	4.9

All in all, when we compare the average number of community activities these groups are involved in, African Americans have a slight edge over non-Hispanic Whites. Hispanics trail both groups.

(Figure 24)
Average Participation in Civic Engagement Activities



Civic Engagement: Generational Differences by Type and Level of Activity

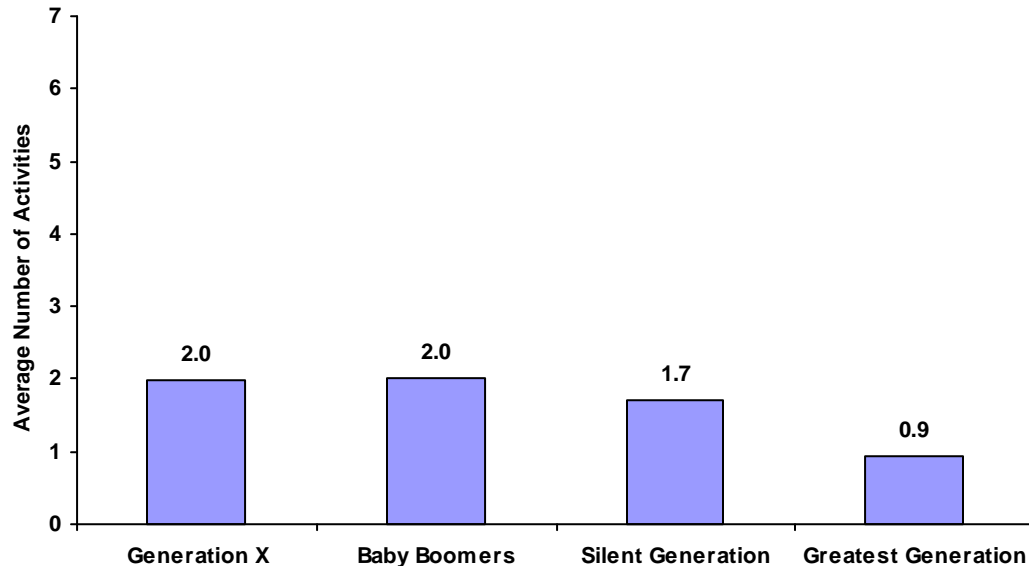
There are some interesting differences in civic involvement among generational groups. Three out of five (59%) of the oldest respondents (ages 81+) cite attending community activities or meetings, compared to two out of five (40%) members of the Silent Generation and one-half (55%) of Baby Boomers. The youngest respondents (Generation X) were most likely to have written, phoned or emailed an elected official (33%).

(Figure 25)
Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Generation

Civic Involvement Activities	Generation X (age 29-44)	Baby Boomers (age 45-63)	Silent Generation (age 64-80)	Greatest Generation (age 81+)
Attended community activities or meetings sponsored by a church or other religious organization	43.1%	55.2%	39.6%	59.3%
Written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue you care about	32.5	23.2	17.8	18.5
Worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere	42.2	50.0	41.1	44.4
Attended a local neighborhood association meeting or any other meeting in your area about community issues	29.0	36.8	34.0	33.3
Attended a local government or school board meeting	26.6	31.5	16.0	18.5
Written a letter to the editor or a newspaper or called a TV or radio station to express your opinion	17.2	13.1	6.6	14.3
Taken part in a demonstration or protest	8.7	6.3	1.9	3.7

As one might expect, and certainly consistent with their level of social involvement, Generation X members and Baby Boomers, on average, report more civic engagement activities than older Americans—particularly Greatest Generation members.

(Figure 26)
Average Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Generation



Civic Engagement: Gender Differences by Type, but No Differences in Level of Activity

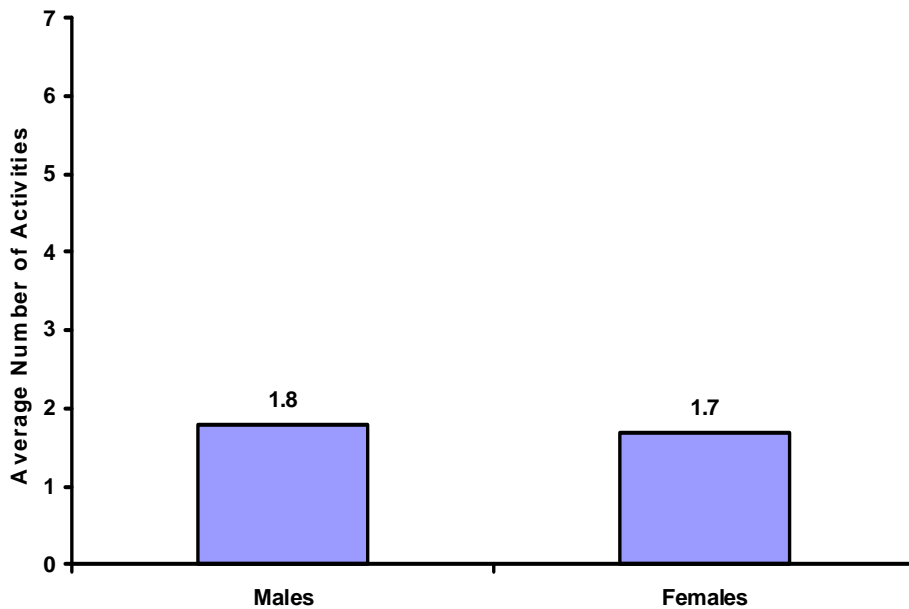
Consistent with what we've seen in other realms, gender differences can be seen in the type of civic engagement activities performed. Men, for example, were more likely to report contacting an elected official about an issue they care about, working with others in their neighborhood to fix a community problem, and writing a letter or calling a TV or radio station to express their opinions. Women, on the other hand, were more likely to attend community activities sponsored by a religious organization and attend local neighborhood association meetings.

(Figure 27)
Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Gender

Civic Involvement Activities	Males	Females
Attended community activities or meetings sponsored by a church or other religious organization	35.1	46.9
Written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue you care about	37.2	32.7
Worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere	37.3	32.3
Attended a local neighborhood association meeting or any other meeting in your area about community issues	28.2	31.4
Attended a local government or school board meeting	24.1	22.7
Written a letter to the editor or a newspaper or called a TV or radio station to express your opinion	18.0	13.5
Taken part in a demonstration or protest	4.1	6.0

There were no gender differences seen, however, with regard to the number of civic engagement activities performed.

(Figure 28)
Average Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by Gender



Civic Engagement: AARP Members Have Broader Arsenal of Activities

Some differences were found in AARP membership status and engagement in certain civic activities. Specifically, AARP members were more likely than nonmembers to attend community meetings sponsored by religious organizations, contact an elected official about an issue they care about, and attend local neighborhood association meetings on community issues. Nonmembers, in contrast, were more likely than AARP members to attend local government or school board meetings.

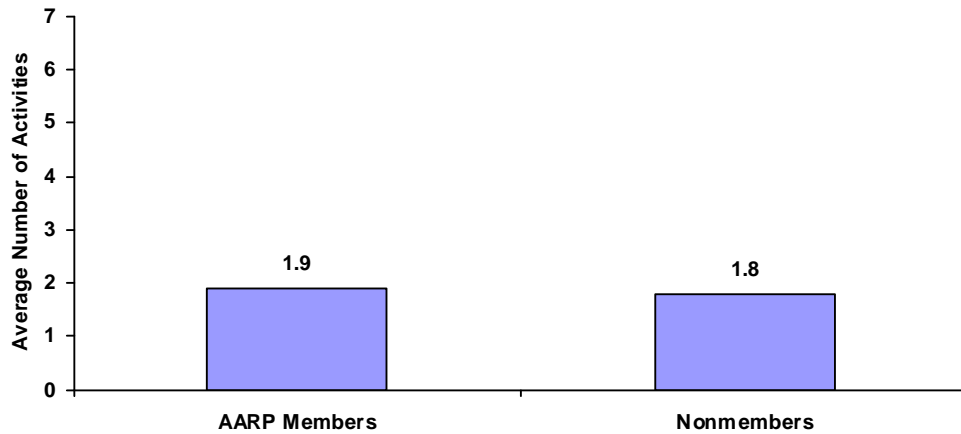
(Figure 29)

Percent Participating in Civic Engagement Activities by AARP Membership Status

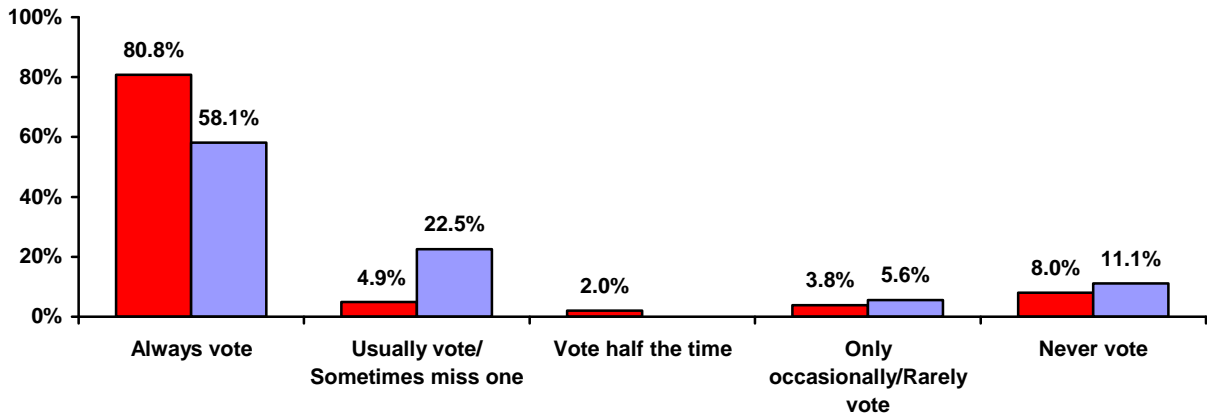
Civic Involvement Activities	AARP Member	Nonmember
Attended community activities or meetings sponsored by a church or other religious organization	44.0	40.4
Written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue you care about	36.5	33.5
Worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere	35.3	34.2
Attended a local neighborhood association meeting or any other meeting in your area about community issues	33.3	28.2
Attended a local government or school board meeting	18.7	26.3
Written a letter to the editor or a newspaper or called a TV or radio station to express your opinion	16.7	15.1
Taken part in a demonstration or protest	4.1	5.5

There were no differences in the average number of activities engaged in by AARP members and nonmembers, however.

(Figure 30)
Average Participation in Civic Engagement Activities by AARP Membership Status



(Figure 31)
Voting Behavior of Mid-Life/Older Persons in Presidential/Local Elections



¹ Voter turnout for 45+ population in recent elections: 2000: 48%; 2002: 50%; 2004: 52%; 2006: 52%.

In contrast to other forms of civic engagement, voting behavior tended to peak in older ages. Slightly more than two-thirds of members of Generation X said they always vote in presidential elections; compared with 79 percent of Baby Boomers, and eight in ten members of the Silent and Greatest Generations. A similar pattern was also seen in voting for local elections.

Consistent with other aspects of civic engagement, Hispanics were much less likely than others to vote in presidential or local elections. AARP members, on the other hand, were more likely than nonmembers to vote in presidential and local elections.

(Figure 32)
**Voting Behavior by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity,
 and AARP Membership Status**

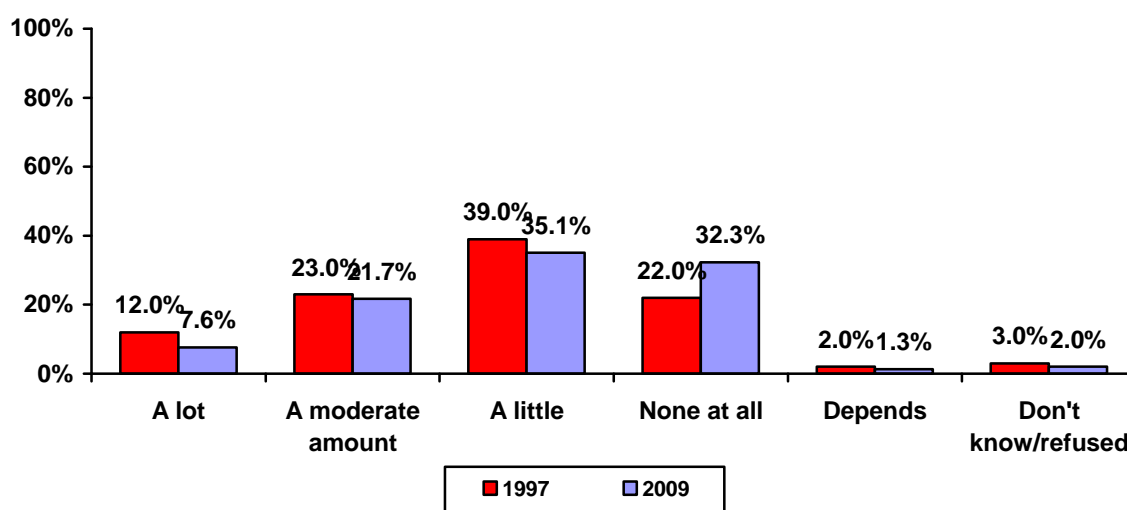
Voting Behavior	Presidential Elections				Local Elections			
	Always	Usually	About Half the Time/ Occasionally	Never	Always	Sometimes Miss One	Rarely	Never
Age Group								
Generation X	67.8%	11.3%	2.6%	12.0%	39.7%	32.4%	8.1%	18.9%
Baby Boomers	78.9	4.2	6.0	10.7	53.7	24.5	6.1	12.8
Silent Generation	84.8	5.0	6.2	3.0	67.0	17.4	5.4	8.1
Greatest Generation	83.1	10.9	2.2	3.3	62.5	24.9	2.7	7.4
Gender								
Male	77.7	6.1	6.4	9.1	62.3	15.9	6.5	14.4
Female	83.6	3.9	5.2	7.0	54.4	28.3	4.9	8.2
Race/Ethnicity								
White (non-Hispanic)	82.5	5.1	5.3	6.6	59.1	23.5	5.1	10.7
African American	78.3	6.6	10.1	5.0	59.5	21.3	8.5	10.5
Hispanic	58.1	12.3	6.8	22.2	42.5	18.9	5.9	30.9
Membership Status								
AARP Member	87.2	5.7	4.5	1.9	65.1	22.5	5.8	5.9
Nonmember	77.1	4.6	6.6	11.4	54.1	22.5	5.7	13.9

A Declining Sense of Civic Influence, Especially for the Role of Groups

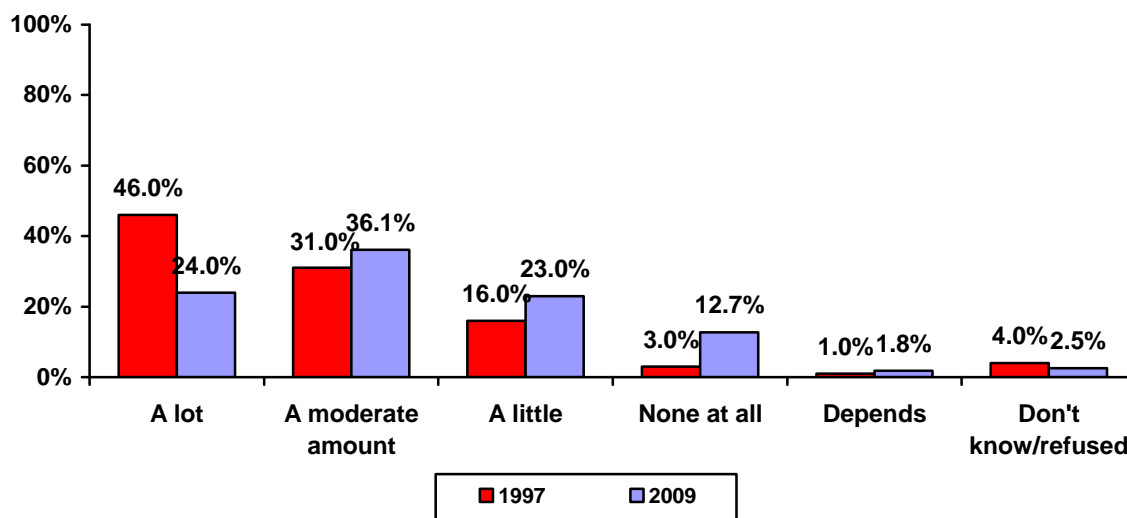
In concert with their general levels of civic involvement, respondents overall appreciate that individuals acting in concert with one another can exert more power and influence than those acting alone. When asked how much influence they as individuals can have on problems that exist in their community, approximately two-thirds of respondents said they could have either a lot (8%), a moderate amount (22%), or at least a little (35%) influence acting alone; while a third of respondents said they could not have any influence (32%). But, when asked how much influence one can have *when joined with others*, the responses predictably increased. Over eight in ten felt that they could have either a lot (24%), a moderate amount (36%), or at least a little (23%) influence. Only one-tenth of respondents (13%) felt they could not have any influence.

When we compare responses with those reported in 1997, however, we see that the perceived power of the individual has declined over the years—by about 6 percentage points. Specifically, in 1997 a little more than a third of respondents said they could have either a lot (12%) or a moderate amount (23%) of influence in solving problems that exist in their community (compared with 29% who said this in 2009). Yet, even more striking than the decline in perceived individual power, is the sharp decline in the perceived power of the group. In 1997, nearly half (46%) of respondents said one can have a lot of influence when joined with others. Nearly half of that percentage (24%) said this in 2009.

(Figure 33)
Trends in Perceived Amount of Influence as an Individual Acting Alone



(Figure 34)
Trends in Perceived Amount of Influence When Joined with Others



Civic Influence: Notable Differences by Generation and Race

Interestingly, perceptions about one’s own power in addressing community problems—either while acting alone or when joined with others—appear to decline as one gets older. Four in ten (41%) of the members of Generation X said they feel they have a lot or moderate amount of influence when acting on their own to solve problems in their community. This compares with less than a third of Baby Boomers and members of the Silent Generation; and just 18 percent of Greatest Generation members who feel this way. And, although joining with others, generally, increases one’s level of optimism that they can solve a community problem, this optimism does appear to decline as well with age. This optimism is less pronounced at an older age. Nearly three-quarters (71%) of Generation X members said they feel they have a lot or moderate level of influence when they are joined with others, compared with less than a third (29%) of Greatest Generation members who feel this way. The relatively low sense of efficacy on the part of Boomers and the Greatest Generation is also noteworthy given their legacy of activism.

African Americans have a particularly high level of optimism and self-efficacy in this regard. They were significantly more likely than other respondents to assert the power that one individual can have. Nearly one-fifth of African Americans said individuals

acting alone can have a lot of influence in solving community problems (compared with just 8% of respondents overall). African Americans also were more likely than other respondents to feel a greater influence as a member of a group. Four in ten African Americans said individuals can have a lot of influence when joined with others. This was 17 points higher than the percentage among respondents overall.

(Figure 35)
**Perceptions of Civic Influence by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity,
 & AARP Membership Status**

Perceived Amount of Influence	As an Individual				When Joined with Others			
	A lot	A Moderate Amount	A Little	None at All	A lot	A Moderate Amount	A Little	None at All
Age Group								
Generation X	13.8	27.1	33.3	23.3	37.5	33.9	20.1	8.2
Baby Boomers	7.8	21.8	35.1	33.0	27.1	35.9	23.8	10.5
Silent Generation	7.9	23.6	36.4	27.9	21.1	38.7	20.4	13.8
Greatest Generation	5.1	12.4	30.9	43.6	7.7	28.4	25.6	27.3
Gender								
Male	7.3	19.4	37.4	32.8	26.3	39.1	18.1	11.3
Female	7.9	23.6	33.1	31.9	21.9	33.4	27.3	13.8
Race/Ethnicity								
White (non-Hispanic)	6.0	22.2	39.3	28.8	23.8	36.9	23.5	11.5
African American	17.7	26.0	32.5	21.3	41.2	30.6	18.3	6.3
Hispanic	11.8	19.0	26.2	38.1	30.7	27.6	21.1	17.2
Membership Status								
AARP Member	6.5	25.9	37.0	28.1	25.5	37.9	21.5	10.9
Nonmember	8.4	19.3	34.6	34.1	23.5	35.3	23.8	13.4

Part Three: Giving Time and Money: Volunteering and Contributing

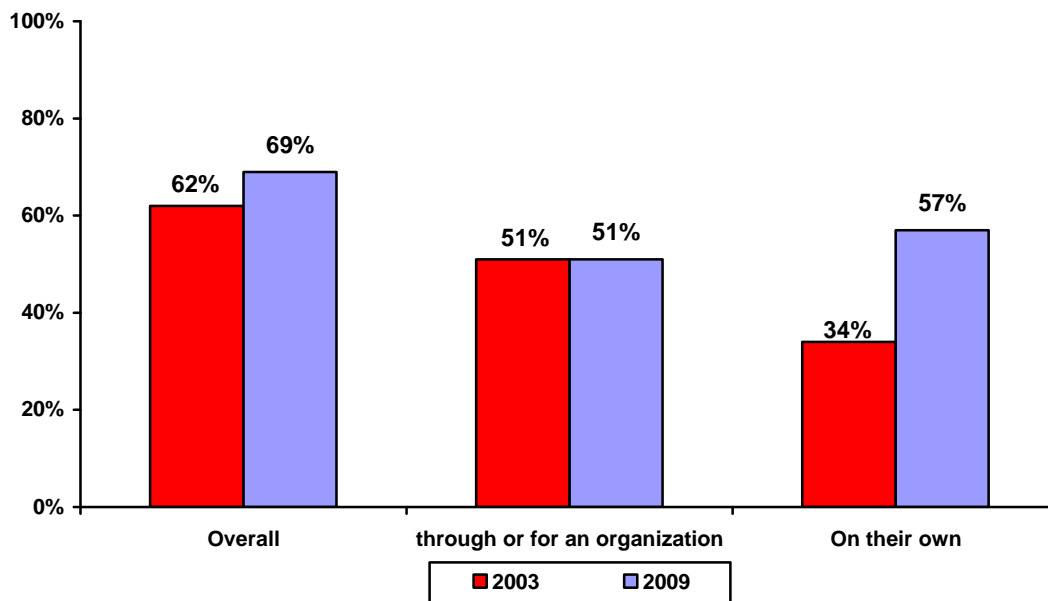
Volunteering and Contributing: 45+ Americans Continue to Give Time and Money to their Neighbors and Communities, but More Often on Their Own

Measuring the extent of volunteering through survey research is challenging, since responses tend to vary based on the scope of the definition of volunteering and the time frame under consideration in any particular survey question (1).

In this particular survey, nearly seven in ten (69%) survey respondents reported volunteering in the last 12 months—either through an organization or on their own. Respondents were more likely, however, to report volunteering on their own than through an organization (57% compared with 51%, respectively). This balance was found consistently among nearly all of the various subgroups examined as well (with the exception of nonmembers of AARP).

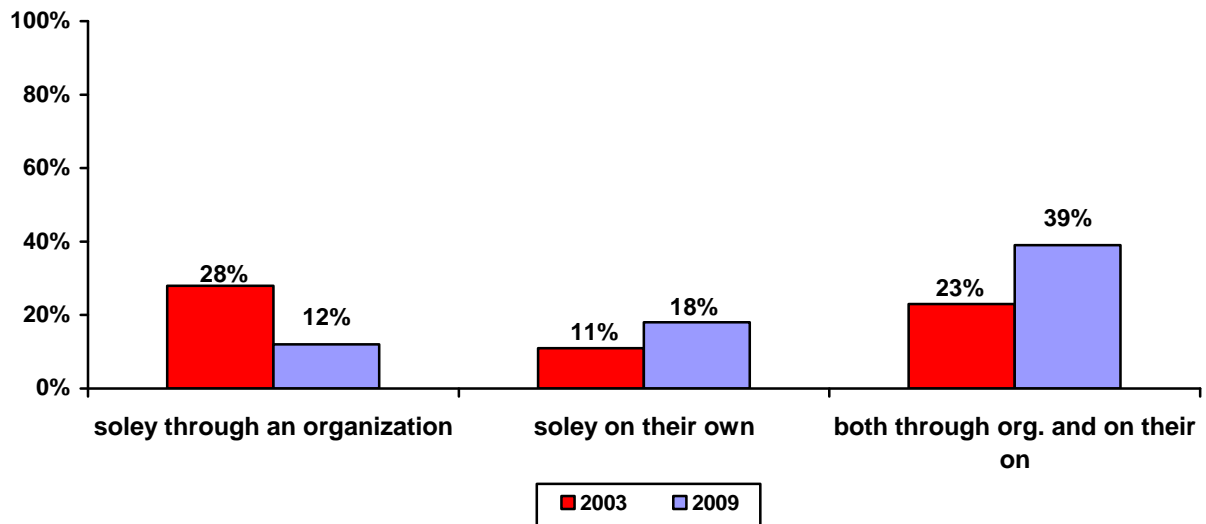
The percentage of respondents who volunteer through an organization has held steady since 2003. As in the current year, 51 percent of respondents in 2003 reported volunteering through an organization. Volunteering on one's own, however, has greatly increased over this time period (from 34% in 2003 to 57% in 2009—an increase of 23 percentage points).

(Figure 36)
Volunteering Trends: 2009 Compared to 2003



Deeper analysis of the data shows the increase in volunteering on one’s own is not just the result of non-volunteers informally taking on service to others, but also to volunteers who, in addition to their traditional volunteer activities, began including informal volunteering activities as well. The percentage of 2009 respondents who reported volunteering *solely* through an organization decreased by 16 percentage points from 2003, while the percentage stating they volunteered *solely* on their own increased by 7 percentage points; and the percentage stating they volunteered both through an organization *and* on their own increased by 16 percentage points from 2003.

(Figure 37)
Trends in Types of Volunteering: 2009 Compared to 2003



Among volunteers, the majority (56%) volunteered both through an organization and on their own. Nearly a fourth (18%) volunteered solely through an organization; and over a quarter (26%) volunteered solely on their own. Other recent surveys (e.g., National Conference on Citizenship, *America’s Civic Health Index: 2009: Civic Health in Hard Times*; and Corporation for National and Community Service, *Volunteering in America*, 2009) have documented a significant increases in informal volunteering as well.

It is unlikely that declines in time spent volunteering or the lack of growth in formal volunteering are a result of lack of volunteer opportunities, as previous research has demonstrated a relative equilibrium between potential opportunities for service and actual participation (1). Most recent AARP research has found that while 55 percent of people 45+ think that “contributing and giving back to society” is “very important,” four out of five of these (81%) are “very satisfied” with their current level of activity in this regard. These percentages closely match those reporting current active formal volunteering, suggesting an equilibrium between supply and demand in this regard.

(Figure 38)
Volunteering by Gender

	Male	Female
Percentage of <u>All Respondents</u> Who Serve:		
Through or for an Organization	46.9%	54.0%
On Their Own	54.7	58.0
Overall	65.4	71.6
Percentage of <u>Volunteers</u> Who Serve:		
Through or for an Organization	71.6	75.5
On Their Own	83.6	81.1

Volunteering Continues to Decrease with Age

There were generational differences in volunteering rates. Volunteering rates decreased with increasing age. Generation X reported the highest rates of volunteering over the last 12 months (78%); compared with 71 percent of Baby Boomers, 69 percent of those of the Silent Generation, and just under a third of those in the Greatest Generation. These findings are consistent with past studies, which have shown volunteering tends to peak in mid-life (around age 35-44) and then declines further with increasing age. The mid-life peak in volunteering is largely a function of parent participation in school-related activities (i.e., volunteering with the PTA, participating in class trips, etc.) and other child-related non-school activities (such as youth sports or scouting).

While this status report was not designed to provide an extensive analysis on barriers and incentives to volunteering, previous research has found that social connections are an important precondition for volunteering, as “volunteering tends to be an extension of one’s family, work, and social life,” so as older persons retire and become empty-nesters, they are less likely to be asked to volunteer by someone with whom they have an established relationship, which is the biggest single inducement to volunteer. Health issues of individuals and family members also increase with age, creating an additional barrier to service. (1)

Generational differences were also found in the method of volunteering. The Greatest Generation volunteers were less likely than their counterparts to serve through an organization or on their own. Generation X volunteers, in contrast, were more likely than others to serve on their own.

(Figure 39)
Volunteering by Generation

	Generation X (age 29-44)	Baby Boomers (age 45-63)	Silent Generation (age 64-80)	Greatest Generation (age 81+)
Percentage of <u>All Respondents</u> Who Serve:				
Through or for an Organization	59.9%	53.4%	49.5%	31.5%
On Their Own	70.3	57.9	58.0	38.3
Overall	77.5	71.1	68.5	48.4
Percentage of <u>Volunteers</u> Who Serve:				
Through or for an Organization	77.2	75.1	72.3	65.1
On Their Own	90.7	81.5	84.6	79.1

AARP Members Volunteer More

AARP members were more likely than nonmembers to report volunteering in the last 12 months, with three out of four volunteering in that time, compared to two out of three nonmembers. This relationship is apparent despite the fact that volunteering tends to decline with age, and AARP members tend to be older than the 50+ population as a whole.

Among those who volunteered, however, nonmembers were more likely than members to report volunteering through an organization. No differences were found, however, with regard to informal volunteering.

(Figure 40)
Volunteering by AARP Membership Status

	AARP Members	Nonmembers
Percentage of <u>All Respondents</u> Who Serve:		
Through or for an Organization	52.7%	61.3%
On Their Own	49.4	53.8
Overall	73.1	66.1
Percentage of <u>Volunteers</u> Who Serve:		
Through or for an Organization	72.1	74.8
On Their Own	83.9	81.4

Diversity and Volunteering: Ethnic Differences Are Driven by Relative Education and Income Differences

Nearly three out of four African Americans and non-Hispanic Whites volunteered in the last year, but only a little over half of Hispanics did so. African Americans and Hispanics were also less likely than non-Hispanic Whites to volunteer through an organization. This is not surprising given that almost half of African Americans feel they can have at least a moderate amount of influence in solving community problems even when acting alone. The findings are also consistent with other dimensions of community engagement, which have shown relatively less engagement among Hispanics than among African Americans or non-Hispanic Whites.

Although research probing the ethnic dimensions of volunteering is limited, these data are consistent with other research on this issue, such as the 2008 Bureau of Labor Statistics/ Census Bureau Current Population Survey examination of formal volunteering, the Peter Hart & Associates 2008 “More to Give” study of both formal and self-directed volunteering, and AARP’s 2003 “Time and Money Study” of formal and informal volunteering.

(Figure 41)
Volunteering by Race/Ethnicity

	White (non- Hispanic)	African American	Hispanic
Percentage of <u>All Respondents</u> Who Serve:			
Through or for an Organization	55.3%	51.6%	38.8%
On Their Own	63.7	65.6	44.7
Overall	74.0	73.5	53.7
Percentage of <u>Volunteers</u> Who Serve:			
Through or for an Organization	74.7	70.3	72.3
On Their Own	86.0	89.3	83.2

Further examination of this data finds that when controlling for situational factors such as education and income, the apparent racial/ethnic differences in volunteer incidence are substantially reduced.

Among all groups, the propensity to volunteer, either on a self-directed or organizational basis, increases as education level and income increase. Among those with higher income and education levels, volunteer incidence is similar across all groups. The lower income and education levels of Hispanics, coupled with a lower volunteer incidence among Hispanics with lower education and income levels compared to other groups, explains much of the variation in overall incidence of volunteering.

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, of the National Conference on Citizenship, cites research from Tufts University which finds that acculturation, often related to education and income but somewhat unique to these other factors as well, is also a key explanatory factor in explaining propensity to volunteer among Hispanics, in this case among Hispanic youth.

Ethnicity, Education, and Volunteering. Among those with college educations, 90 percent of Hispanics and African Americans volunteer, compared to 81 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Similarly, among those with a post-high school education, for instance technical school or some college, 74 percent of Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites and 80 percent of African Americans volunteer. Differences in overall levels of volunteering come from the fact that those with these levels of education comprise 27 percent of the Hispanic 45+ population, compared to 41 percent of African Americans 45+ and 54 percent of non-Hispanic Whites 45+.

Ethnicity, Income, and Volunteering. Similarly with education, among those earning more than \$25,000 a year, volunteering rates are very similar:

Percent Volunteering by Income/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Income			
	Less than \$25K	\$25K/\$50K	\$50K/\$75K	> \$75K
Hispanic	38%	68%	70%	83%
African American	71%	82%	68%	76%
White non-Hispanic	63%	75%	82%	77%

These income differences are exacerbated by the fact that, among those reporting household income, those with incomes of less than \$25,000 a year comprise 40 percent of the Hispanic 45+ population, compared to 41 percent of African Americans 45+ and 20 percent of Non-Hispanic Whites 45+. At the other end of the scale, those with incomes of more than \$75,000 a year comprise 16 percent of the Hispanic 45+ population, 20 percent of African Americans 45+, and 30 percent of non-Hispanic Whites 45+.

Formal and Informal Volunteer Hours Spent Volunteering: A Lot Doing a Little; a Few Doing More, but With an Overall Downward Trend

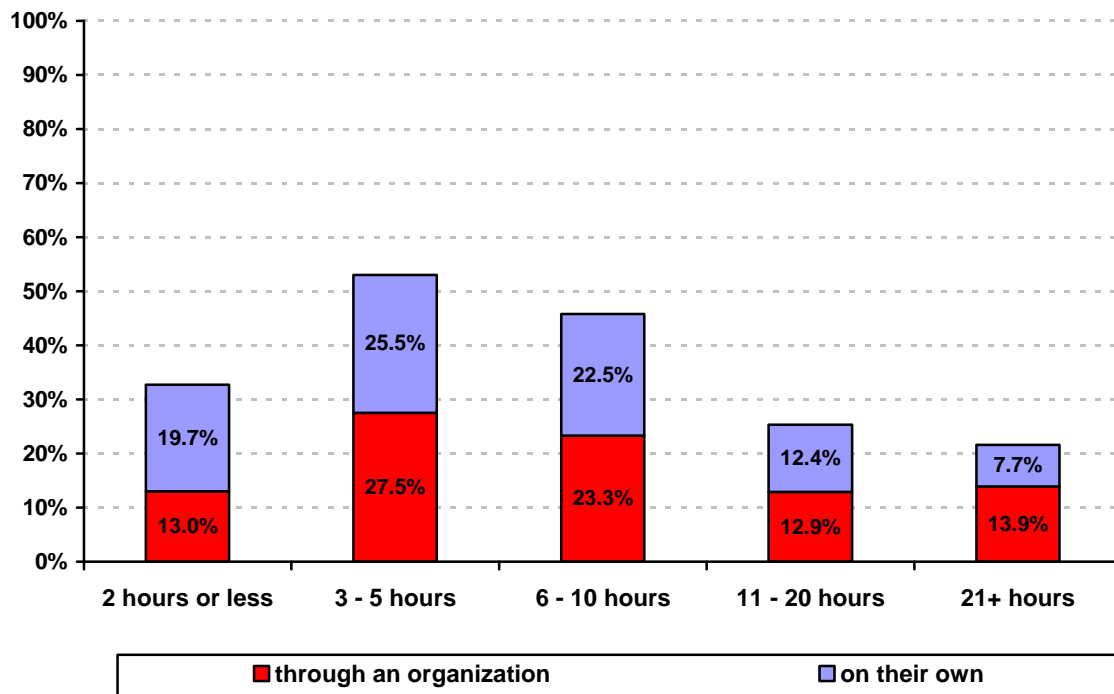
On average a volunteer spent about 6-10 hours per month were spent on volunteer activities, whether formal or informal. Almost two out of three (64%) volunteers spent less than ten hours a month volunteering, while nine percent spent 40 hours a month or more. In 1997, 56 percent spent less than ten hours a month. This trend is consistent with that predicted earlier, which suggested that as individuals worked more hours and

spent more time in various other activities, this time pressure would result in more episodic volunteering.

Although respondents committing two hours or less per month in volunteer service were more likely to do so on their own, and those committing 11 or more hours per month were more likely to do so through an organization; overall, there was no significant difference in the average amount of time spent in formal and informal volunteer activities.

In a 2003 multicultural study of 45+ adults, respondents spent an average of 15 hours a month—indicating that the amount of time volunteers are giving in service has slightly declined since that time. In comparison with a 1997 study of civic engagement, the biggest decline seen in monthly hours spent was among those who reported spending 11-20 hours (which declined 9 percentage points—from 22% in 1997 to 13% in 2009). The 2009 Civic Health Index also found significant declines in time spent volunteering. In that study, a reported 72 percent of Americans said they cut back on time spent volunteering in the past year; although, as in the current study, the rate of volunteering held steady.

(Figure 42)
Hours Spent Volunteering Per Month



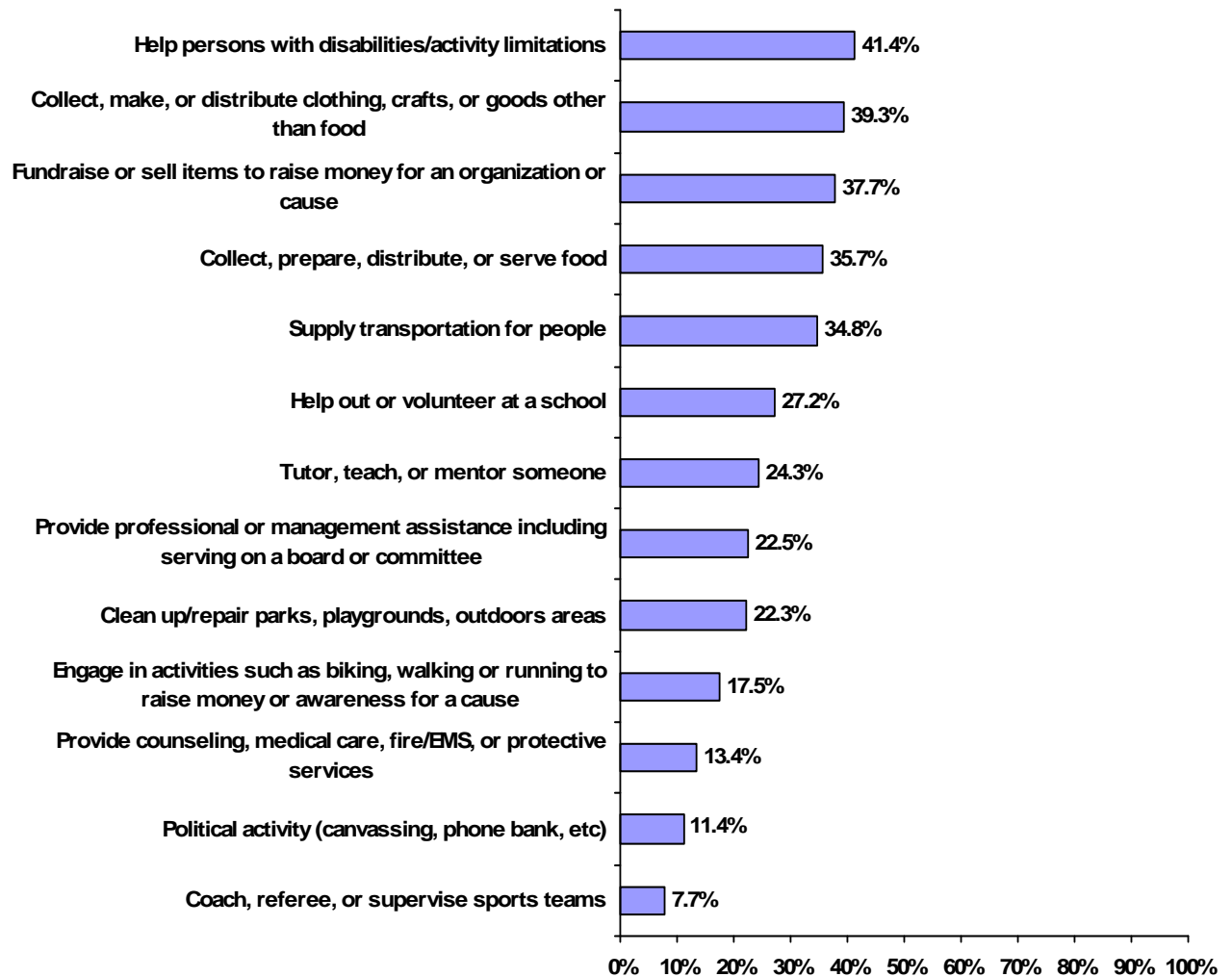
What do Volunteers Do?

The most frequently-cited activities among the volunteers were activities directed toward meeting the basic needs of the people served. For example, the highest-rated volunteer activity reported was helping persons with disabilities or activity limitations; this was reported by four in ten volunteers overall. It was also a top-rated activity for most of the volunteer subgroups examined with the exception of Generation X and nonmembers of AARP.

Other top-rated volunteer activities performed by a third or more volunteers include collecting and distributing clothing and other goods (39%); fundraising or selling items to raise money for an organization or cause (38%); collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food (36%); and supplying transportation for people (36%). Coaching, refereeing, or supervising a sports team was the least-cited activity among the volunteers (8%).

(Figure 43)

Percent of Mid-Life/Older Volunteer Engaging in Particular Volunteer Activities



Volunteer Activities Vary by Age/Generation

Members of Generation X are more likely than other subgroups of volunteers to give their time in service with schools, an activity related to the fact they are the generation most likely to have school age children at home. Boomer volunteering reflected this life stage in the 1997 study, but now Baby Boomers are more likely to volunteer to help persons with disabilities or activity limitations. This makes the aging Baby Boomers more similar to the Silent and Greatest generations and AARP members in their volunteer focus.

On the other hand, Generation X members and Baby Boomers are more likely than other subgroups of volunteers to serve as coaches, referees, or engage in other sports-related supervisory activities—consistent with having children in the home as a focus for volunteer efforts.

(Figure 44)
Percent of Volunteers Participating in Volunteer Activities by Generation, Gender, Race/Ethnicity

	Age Group				Gender		Race/Ethnicity			Membership Status	
	Gen X	Boom	Silent	Greatest	M	F	W N. Hisp	AA	H/L	Y	Z
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Help persons with disabilities/activity limitations	35.2	41.6	41.7	36.4	38.5	43.7	44.1	42.4	20.9	40.3	42.1
Collect, make, or distribute goods other than food	43.2	37.6	44.4	33.7	31.5	45.7	41.3	43.8	24.0	38.7	40.4
Fundraising activities for an organization or cause	43.6	38.9	37.2	24.9	33.1	41.5	37.0	34.0	18.7	36.3	39.1
Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	30.2	36.8	33.8	32.1	24.0	45.1	35.4	37.2	16.6	31.6	38.1
Supply transportation for people	39.9	31.9	41.9	35.0	32.2	36.9	35.8	41.1	21.3	36.3	33.6
Help out or volunteer at a school	43.8	32.9	17.4	6.1	20.3	32.7	25.8	22.3	11.8	18.5	32.8
Tutor, teach, or mentor someone	41.4	26.4	20.7	17.8	21.9	26.3	26.4	39.5	12.3	25.9	23.0
Provide professional or management assistance/serve on a board/committee	22.3	22.9	22.4	17.8	23.9	21.3	24.9	27.0	7.5	27.0	19.7
Clean up/repair parks, playgrounds/outdoors areas	28.2	25.9	17.6	1.7	27.1	18.5	22.8	18.8	11.0	17.0	25.9
Engage in activities (e.g., biking, running) to raise money/awareness for a cause	27.0	18.7	16.3	8.3	14.0	20.3	17.9	18.4	11.3	17.7	17.8
Provide counseling/medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services	18.3	14.9	10.3	11.8	11.4	15.0	15.2	19.8	5.3	13.4	13.8
Political activity	12.1	11.5	12.8	3.1	13.1	10.1	10.7	13.9	4.4	12.0	11.0
Coach, referee, or supervise a team	17.7	10.1	3.1	2.4	9.5	6.3	6.3	7.9	3.4	5.9	9.1

Why do People Volunteer? Making a Difference and Personal Satisfaction

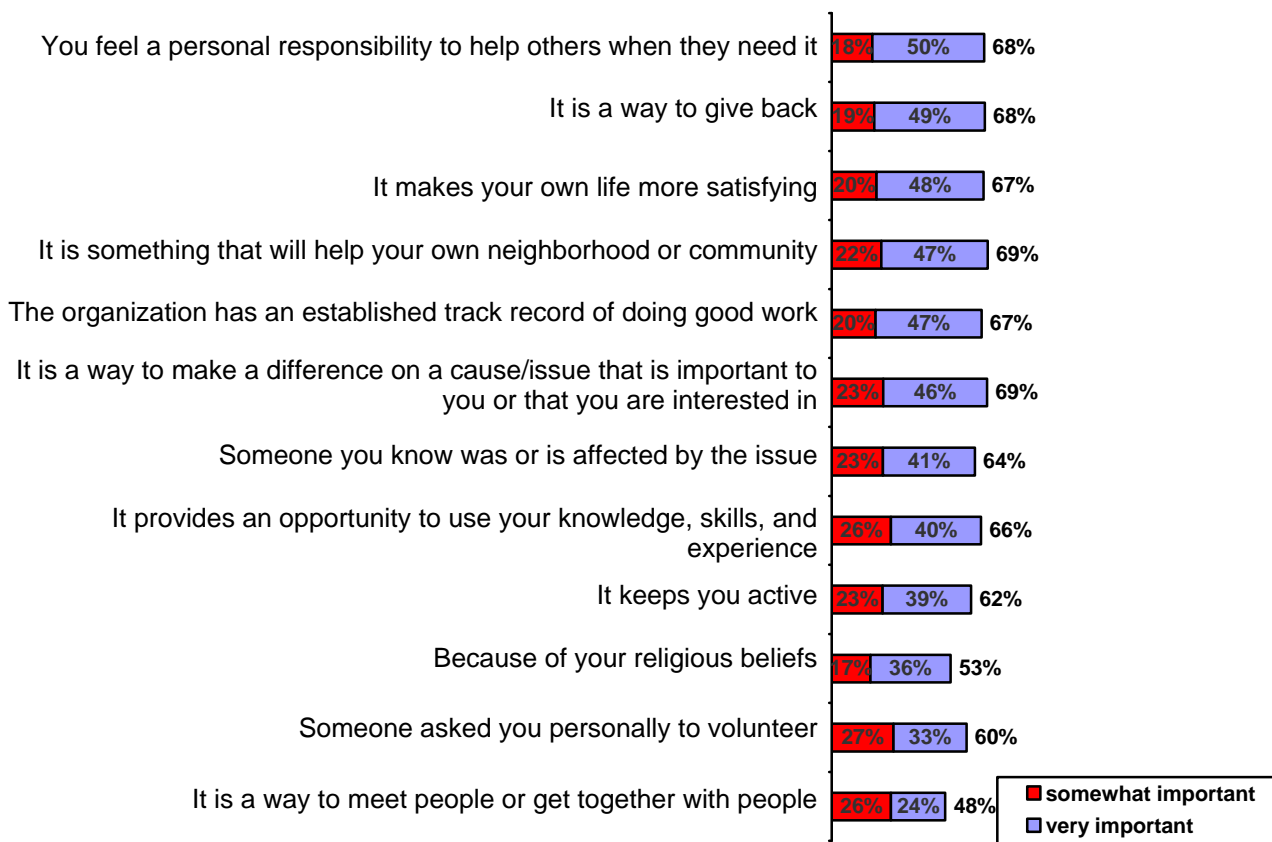
The volunteers reported numerous reasons for giving their time in service. Chief among them is feeling a personal responsibility to help others when they need it (reported by 68% of volunteers overall; and rated by half of volunteers as very important). In addition, this was also a top motivation noted among nearly all of the subgroups studied. At least 6 in 10 volunteers across the various subgroups (with the exception of Generation X) indicated this as a top motivation for giving their time.

Two-thirds or more volunteers also reported the following as important reasons why they give their time in service to others:

- ❖ It is a way to give back
- ❖ It makes their own life more satisfying
- ❖ It is something that will help their neighborhood or community
- ❖ The organization has an established track record of doing good work
- ❖ It is a way to make a difference on a cause they care about or that they are interested in
- ❖ It provides an opportunity to use their knowledge, skills, and experience
- ❖ A feeling of personal responsibility to help others

Some generational differences exist. For Generation X members, the opportunity to use their knowledge, skills, and experience is important, a feeling similar to that expressed by Baby Boomers in 1997. They are also more likely to cite being asked personally to volunteer, which is consistent with volunteering through the schools as part of their children's educational experience. The Greatest Generation, on the other hand, is more likely to cite the fact that volunteering helps keep them active as a motivator.

(Figure 45)
Importance of Motivations for Volunteering Among Mid-Life/Older Volunteers



Giving Time as Well as Money: The Rate of Giving Continues Despite a Challenging Economy, Although Amounts Donated May Have Declined

Giving money was slightly more prevalent than giving time, as almost three out of four Americans age 45+ reported giving at least \$25 to a charitable cause in the last twelve months. When these findings are compared with 2008 findings from the Current Population Survey, however, it suggests charitable giving has increased since last year among 45+ adults (from 55% to 72%). At first glance this seems somewhat inconsistent with previous research showing a relationship between economic decline and decreases in charitable giving. However, although the past research has shown declines in charitable giving over the past year, these declines were in the amounts donated, few studies have examined trends in the rates of donating, and none have focused specifically on rates among older adults. So, although it is likely that respondents in this study are decreasing the amounts they are donating to charitable and religious organizations given current economic conditions, they are, nonetheless, donating at high rates.

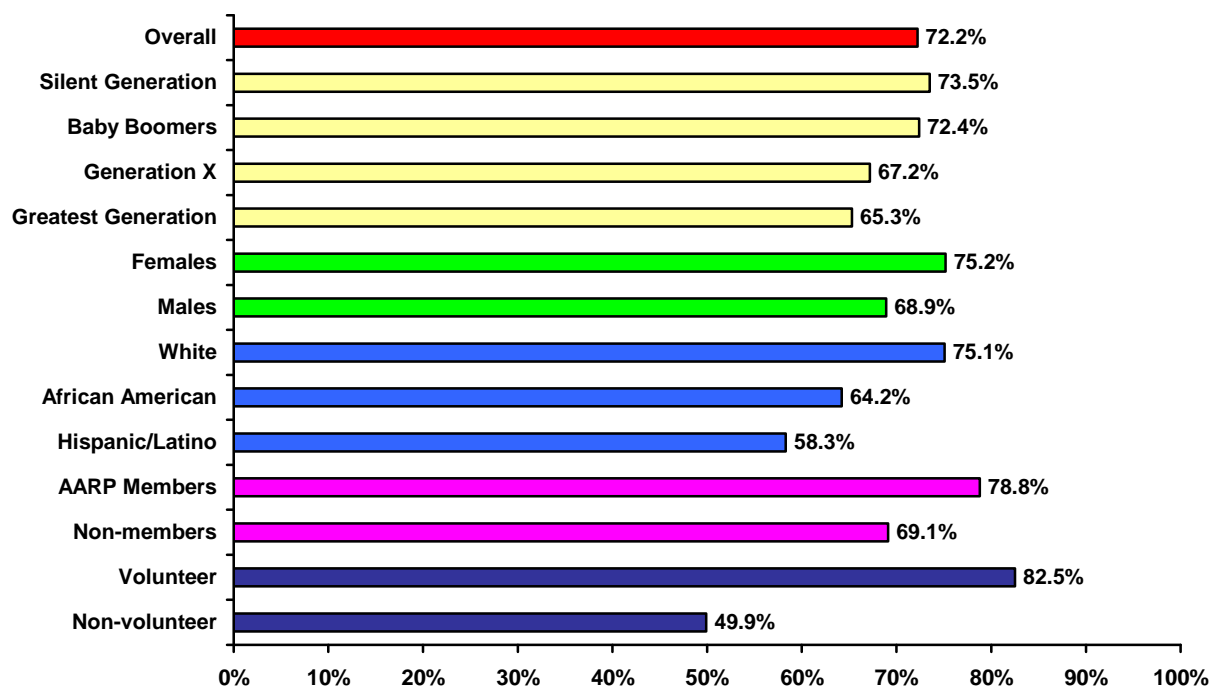
As might be expected, those volunteering their time in service (83%) were much more likely than non-volunteers (50%) to donate to charitable or religious organizations.

Among the age groups, the Silent Generation (74%) and Baby Boomers (72%) were more likely than their counterparts (Generation X, 67% and the Greatest Generation, 65%) to donate to charitable or religious organizations.

Among racial/ethnic groups, non-Hispanic Whites (75%) were more likely than African Americans (64%) and Hispanics/Latinos (58%) to donate. This may be a function, in some part, however, to household income levels. Although the average household income levels for all three groups ranged between \$25,000 and \$49,999, White respondents had significantly higher income levels, on average than African Americans and Hispanics. The average income levels of African American and Hispanic respondents, on the other hand, did not vary significantly.

There were no differences by gender with regard to donating to charitable or religious organizations; however, there were differences by AARP membership status. AARP members were significantly more likely than nonmembers to say they donated to a charitable or religious organization. Almost four out of five AARP members made such a contribution, compared to a little more than two-thirds of nonmembers.

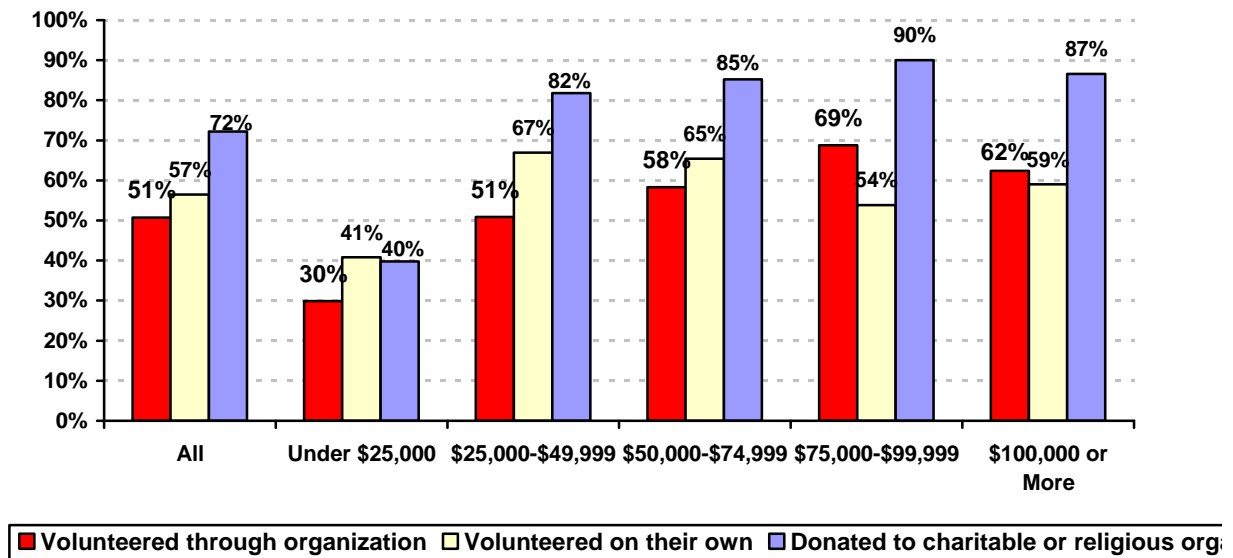
(Figure 46)
Percentage of Respondents Who Donated



Income, Volunteering, and Giving:

Overall, and across household income levels of \$25,000 or more, respondents were more likely to say they gave to a charitable or religious organization than volunteered. Respondents with income levels of under \$25,000 were much less likely than those with higher incomes to donate or to volunteer. Additionally, although respondents with incomes of under \$25,000 were less likely to volunteer through an organization than to donate; they were as likely to volunteer on their own as they were to donate. Respondents with household incomes of between \$25,000 and \$74,999 were more likely to volunteer on their own than to do so through an organization. In contrast, those with incomes of \$75,000 or more were as likely—or more likely—to volunteer through an organization as they were to volunteer on their own. In all, donating was fairly high among those with incomes of \$25,000 or more—8 in 10 or more reported donating to a charitable or religious organization.

(Figure 47)
Reported Volunteering vs. Charitable Giving by Income



Appendix I Survey Methodology

The results in this report are based on nearly 2,900 telephone interviews conducted as part of the August 2009 wave of AARP's Integrated Tracking Survey (ITS). All interviews were conducted with Americans age 45 and older by Opinion Access Corporation of New York, NY between August 1, 2009 and August 31, 2009.. The overall response rate for the August ITS Core survey was 28 percent based on AAPOR RR3. The final disposition report is available upon request.

As part of its ongoing tracking research program, AARP commissions interviews with 1,000 AARP members and 500 non-members age 45 and older each month. In addition, AARP frequently supplements this research with oversamples of African Americans and Hispanics.

Specifically in August, AARP completed interviews with 994 AARP members and 481 non-members age 45+ as well as additional interviews with 470 African Americans, 447 Hispanic/Latino Americans 45+, and 500 Americans of any race/ethnicity age 29 to 44, who are part of Generation X.

In general, the monthly ITS Core data has a maximum confidence interval/margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$ at the 95% confidence level. However, for a variety of reasons, the final sample size for the ITS Core can occasionally vary from the typical total of 1,500 interviews.

In August, the actual margin of error for the ITS Core data is $\pm 2.6\%$ at the 95% confidence level (based on 1,475 interviews), while the margin of error for each oversample is as follows: $\pm 4.5\%$ for African Americans, $\pm 4.6\%$ for Hispanic/Latino Americans, and $\pm 4.4\%$ for Generation X.

AARP Members are initially identified based on a random probability sample from AARP's membership data base. However, membership status is confirmed by respondent self-report. Similarly, nonmembers are initially identified based on a random probability sample from AARP's prospective member data base with confirmation again coming only by respondent self-reported membership status. Together, these two sampling frames (data bases) comprise approximately almost all of American households containing an individual age 45 and over.

African American and Hispanic oversamples also rely on random probability samples from AARP's member and prospective member data bases. Both data bases include a flag synthesizing a variety of potential indicators to identify likely African American and likely Hispanic households. The samples of African Americans and Hispanics are then drawn from among those identified as likely households of each subgroup. However as with AARP membership status, race and ethnicity are ultimately determined by respondent's self-reported identification with each group.

All data base selected samples have telephone numbers appended to them by Telematch, an organization that matches telephone numbers to existing names and addresses.

Other over samples, such as the Generation X sample, are derived via a combination of random-digit dialing (RDD) and then screening for qualified households (such as adults age 29-44). This sampling method ensures that all telephone households in the geographic area have an equal chance of being interviewed since RDD samples include all households, regardless of whether they are listed in a telephone directory or not.

In order to adjust for non-response and other biases, the monthly ITS Core data, which consists of members and nonmembers, is weighted to more accurately reflect the American 45+ population. Any oversamples, such as African Americans 45+, Hispanic/Latino Americans 45+, and Generation X are also weighted to represent the national distribution of those subgroups.

Weighting of the ITS Core data involves a multistage process whereby members and nonmembers are initially weighted separately and then combined into a single population. AARP members are initially adjusted to reflect the known distribution in the member database of age, census region, and the number of times the member has renewed their membership. Nonmembers are initially adjusted based on age and census region. The second stage of weighting combines these two subgroups and weights the total on the distribution of age, gender, education, and race/ethnicity for the adult 45+ population in the U.S. as estimated by the Current Population Survey. An adjustment is also made for the probability of selecting a respondent within each household. Oversamples are weighted similarly to the ITS Core data, with the final weight adjusting each subgroup to its respective population according to the Current Population Survey. A more detailed description of the ITS weighting process is available upon request.

A copy of the volunteering and civic engagement survey is also included in this report in a separate appendix. All respondents, regardless of sampling frame, were given the option of completing the questionnaire in English or Spanish. Among those respondents self-identifying as Hispanic/Latino, 60% completed the questionnaire in English and 40% completed the questionnaire in Spanish. Translation services were provided by a firm contracted to AARP for this purpose. For comparison, a copy of the Spanish-language version of the questionnaire is provided as well.

Appendix II Civic Engagement Questionnaire

CIVIC1. **[FROM 1997 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY]** We are interested in learning how Americans are spending their time these days. I am going to read a list of types of activities that people get involved in, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you feel that you are very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that activity these days. (First / Next,) how about [INSERT ITEM FROM LIST BELOW]? These days, are you very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that? [IF NECESSARY: "By involvement we mean how much time you spend on something, compared to other people"]

Rating: *Very Involved, Somewhat Involved, or Not Really Involved, [VOL: Don't Know/Not Sure]*

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- a. Taking classes or furthering your education?
- b. Entertaining and visiting friends, or going out with friends just for fun?
- c. Religious or spiritual activities, including time spent with religious organizations?
- d. Political activities related to the political parties, candidates, or election campaigns?
- e. Working on local issues and neighborhood problems?
- f. Working on public issues or problems at the state or national level?
- g. Volunteer work and charity work for which you are not paid?
- h. Sports, athletics, and fitness activities?
- i. Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits?

CIVIC2. **[FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY]** Next I have some questions about volunteering. What we mean by volunteer is giving time or skills without pay to help a person, friend, family or an organization. It may be something you do on a regular basis or just now and then..

In the past 12 months, have you volunteered, that is given your time or skills, for a nonprofit organization, a charity, school, hospital, religious organization, neighborhood association, civic or any other group?

1. YES
2. NO → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
3. DON'T KNOW → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
4. REFUSED → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]

CIVIC3. **[FROM 1997 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY]** About how many hours **PER MONTH, on the average, do you spend volunteering for organizations?** [INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT CAN'T GIVE AVERAGE, ASK: "Please describe the amount of time you spent volunteering in the last 12 months"]

[READ LIST ONLY AS NECESSARY]

1. 2 HOURS OR LESS
2. 3 - 5 HOURS

3. 6 - 10 HOURS
4. 11 - 20 HOURS
5. 21 - 40 HOURS
6. 41 - 80 HOURS
7. 81 HOURS OR MORE
8. OTHER/DON'T KNOW AVERAGE [PROBE FOR AND RECORD DESCRIPTION OF TIME SPENT VOLUNTEERING IN LAST 12 MONTHS:]
9. DON'T KNOW
10. REFUSED

CIVIC 4. [ASK ONLY IF Q8 < 4, OTHERWISE SKIP TO CIVIC5] In the past 12 months, have you volunteered any of your time to help a program or service associated with AARP?

1. YES
2. NO → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
3. DON'T KNOW → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
4. REFUSED → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]

CIVIC4a. Please describe the most recent activity you volunteered for with AARP.

CIVIC5. [FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY WITH ADDED DESCRIPTION FROM 1997 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY] Now, aside from an organized group, in the last 12 months have you volunteered your time on your own to help your community or someone who was in need? That is, given your time without pay to help your community or to help someone who is not a member of your family? This might include things like running errands for a friend, or helping a neighbor with repairs, or taking care of someone who is chronically ill or disabled, or helping others who are poor, or ill, or elderly.

1. YES
2. NO → [SKIP TO CIVIC7]
3. DON'T KNOW → [SKIP TO CIVIC7]
4. REFUSED → [SKIP TO CIVIC7]

CIVIC6. About how many hours PER MONTH, on the average, do you spend providing one on one help to friends, neighbors, or others who are NOT members of your family? [INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT CAN'T GIVE AVERAGE, ASK: "Please describe the amount of time you spent providing one on one help to friends, neighbors, or others who are NOT members of your family?]

[READ LIST ONLY AS NECESSARY]

1. 2 HOURS OR LESS
2. 3 - 5 HOURS
3. 6 - 10 HOURS
4. 11 - 20 HOURS
5. 21 - 40 HOURS
6. 41 - 80 HOURS

7. 81 HOURS OR MORE
8. OTHER/DON'T KNOW AVERAGE [PROBE FOR AND RECORD DESCRIPTION OF TIME SPENT VOLUNTEERING IN LAST 12 MONTHS:]
9. DON'T KNOW
10. REFUSED

CIVIC7[FROM BLS AMERICAN TIME USE SURVEY (ATUS)] [ASK ONLY IF CIVIC2=1, OTHERWISE SKIP TO CIVIC8] Now I'm going to ask you about activities you might have done in the past year without pay, either for organizations or for people who were not family members. For each activity that I mention, please tell me whether yes you did engage in that activity or no you did not engage in that activity in the last year.

Since August 1st, 2008, did you...[INSERT ITEM FROM LIST BELOW]:

1. YES
2. NO
3. DON'T KNOW
4. REFUSED

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- a. Coach, referee, or supervise sports teams
- b. Tutor, teach, or mentor someone
- c. Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food
- d. Collect, make, or distribute clothing, crafts, or goods other than food
- e. Fundraise or sell items to raise money for an organization or cause
- f. Provide counseling, medical care, fire/EMS, or protective services
- g. Provide professional or management assistance including serving on a board or committee
- h. Supply transportation for people
- i. Engage in activities such as biking, walking or running to raise money or awareness for a cause.
- j. Help persons with disabilities/activity limitations
- k. Clean up/repair parks, playgrounds, outdoors areas
- l. Political activity (canvassing, phone bank, etc)

Help out or volunteer at a School

CIVIC8. [FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY] [ASK ONLY IF CIVIC2=1, OTHERWISE SKIP TO CIVIC9] I'm going to read you a list of reasons some people have for giving their time and efforts to others. Please tell me how important each of the following reasons are for you personally to volunteer. The (first / next) reason is...[INSERT ITEM FROM LIST]

IF NECESSARY: "Would you say this is a VERY important, SOMEWHAT important, NOT VERY important, or NOT AT ALL important reason for you personally to volunteer.

1. Very Important
2. Somewhat Important
3. Not Very Important
4. Not At All Important
5. DON'T KNOW
6. REFUSED

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- a. It provides an opportunity to use your knowledge, skills, and experience.
- b. It is something that will help your own neighborhood or community
- c. It is a way to make a difference on a cause or an issue that is important to you
OR that you are interested in.
- d. It is a way to meet people or get together with people.
- e. It keeps you active.
- f. Because you feel a personal responsibility to help others when they need it.
- g. It makes your own life more satisfying.
- h. Because of your religious beliefs.
- i. Someone asked you personally to volunteer.
- j. The organization has an established track record of doing good work.
- k. Someone you know was or is affected by the issue.
- l. It is a way to “give back”.

CIVIC9. **[FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY]** Now, I’d like to ask you about other activities you may have been involved in.

Have you done any of the following in the last 12 months; that is since last August?

- a. Attended a local government or school board meeting
- b. Attended a local neighborhood association meeting or any other meeting in your area about community issues.
- c. Written, phoned, or emailed an elected official about an issue you care about.
- d. Taken part in a demonstration or protest.
- e. Written a letter to the editor or a newspaper or called a TV or radio station to express your opinion.
- f. Attended community activities or meetings sponsored by a church or other religious organization.
- g. Worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere?
 1. YES
 2. NO
 3. DON'T KNOW
 4. REFUSED

CIVIC10. **[FROM TIME/CNN/YANKELOVICH PARTNERS POLL JAN, 2000]** How often would you say you vote in elections for the President? Do you always vote in elections for the President, usually vote in them, vote about half the time, only occasionally vote, or never vote in them?

1. Always Vote
2. Usually Vote in them
3. Vote About Half the Time
4. Only Occasionally Vote
5. Never Vote in Them
6. DON'T KNOW
7. REFUSED

CIVIC11. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY & 2004 AARP BEYOND 50 SURVEY] Think about the local elections that have been held over the past ten years, that is, elections for local office like mayor or town council. We find that people are sometimes not able to vote because they're not registered, they don't have time, or they have trouble getting to the polls. Do you always vote in local elections, do you sometimes miss one, do you rarely vote, or do you never vote in local elections?

1. Always Vote
2. Sometimes miss one
3. Rarely Vote
4. Never Vote
5. DON'T KNOW
6. REFUSED

CIVIC12. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT] Thinking now about what people can do—apart from government—how much influence do you think someone like you, acting alone, can have on problems that exist in your community? Would you say you have a lot, a moderate amount, a little, or no influence at all?

1. A LOT
2. A MODERATE AMOUNT
3. A LITTLE
4. NONE AT ALL
5. DEPENDS [VOLUNTEERED]
6. DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
7. REFUSED

CIVIC13. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT] How much influence do you think someone like you can have if you join with others in working on problems that exist in your community? Would you say you have a lot, a moderate amount, a little, or no influence at all?

1. A LOT
2. A MODERATE AMOUNT
3. A LITTLE
4. NONE AT ALL
5. DEPENDS [VOLUNTEERED]
6. DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
7. REFUSED

CIVIC14. Now I'd like to ask just one question about donations to charitable and religious organizations. Charitable organizations focus on areas such as poverty and disaster relief, health care and medical research, education, arts, and the environment. **During the past 12 months, did you donate money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations?**

1. YES
2. NO
3. DON'T KNOW
4. REFUSED

CIVIC15. **[FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]** Now I would like to get an accurate count of all the groups or organizations to which you belong, including social clubs, religious organizations, or any kind of organized group at all. I'm going to read a list of types of organizations and for each one I'd like to know if you have been a member of any such group during the past twelve months (since August 2008). If you belong to more than one group of a certain type, please tell me how many you've belonged to during the past twelve months. I want you to count each of your memberships only once as we go through the list.

First, are you a member of any [INSERT GROUP TYPE]?

[DEFINITION IF NECESSARY: "Membership" usually means that your name is on a list of members, that you have certain privileges like voting or getting a newsletter, and often that you have a membership card. Just making a contribution or supporting the organization does not always make you a member.] (BELONG)

[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY ARE NOT A MEMBER OF ANY MORE GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS, SAY: "We have found that sometimes people don't realize that certain types of memberships are included in our list and so in order to get an accurate count of groups they belong to, it helps to hear all the categories.]

[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT **INSISTS** THAT HE/SHE IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY OTHER TYPES OF GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS, USE RESPONSE OPTION #3 BELOW.]

1. YES
2. NO
3. NO MORE ORGANIZATION / NOT A MEMBER OF ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS [VOLUNTEERED] → [SKIP OUT OF SERIES AND MOVE TO NEXT QUESTION]
4. QUESTION NOT ASKED [AUTOPUNCH BY CATI ONLY]
5. DON'T KNOW
6. REFUSED

[FOR EACH "YES" SKIP IMMEDIATELY TO CIVIC16; ONCE NUMBER OF THESE TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONS IS CAPTURED IN CIVIC16, RETURN TO CIVIC15 AND ASK "ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ANY (INSERT NEXT GROUP TYPE)?"]

GROUP TYPE

- a. Religious organizations, including a church or temple?
- b. Political clubs or political party committees?
- c. Professional societies, trade or business associations w/ individual memberships?
- d. Labor unions?
- e. Farm organizations?
- f. Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease?
- g. Environmental or Animal Protection groups?
- h. Other public interest or political action groups?
- i. Social clubs or Greek letter fraternities or sororities?
- j. Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs?

- k. Ethnic, nationality, or civil rights organizations?
- l. Hobby, Garden, Recreation, or Computer groups?
- m. Literary, Art, or cultural organizations or discussion groups?
- n. Veterans' groups?
- o. Social Service organizations?
- p. Neighborhood or homeowners associations?
- q. Fraternal groups like Rotary, Elks, or Eastern Star?
- r. PTA, PTO, or school support groups?
- s. Scouts or other youth organizations?
- t. Clubs or organizations for older people?
- u. Any other civic or community organizations?
- v. Support groups, self help Groups or 12 Step Programs?

CIVIC16. **[FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]** How many of these types of groups or organizations do you belong to? (NUMBER)
 ____ RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER
 98 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
 99 REFUSED

CIVIC17. Are any of the groups or organizations you belong to online communities or organizations, that is, are any of them groups or organizations where the majority of communication and interaction between members takes place online?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO
- 3. DON'T KNOW
- 4. REFUSED

CIVIC18. **[ASK ONLY IF CIVIC17 = 1]** How many of the groups you belong to are online communities or organizations?
 ____ RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER
 98 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
 99 REFUSED

Appendix III Spanish Language Questionnaire

Módulo ITS de agosto sobre Compromiso cívico
BORRADOR FINAL (Last Modified (Última modificación): 7/24/2009 (24/7/2009)
12:59 p. m.)

INSERT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q47 AND BEFORE Q48.

CIVIC1. [FROM 1997 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY] Estamos interesados en conocer qué hacen con su tiempo, por estos días, los estadounidenses. A continuación, leeré una lista de los distintos tipos de actividades en que las personas suelen comprometerse y, para cada caso, me gustaría que me dijera si por estos días siente que está muy comprometido, algo comprometido o no muy comprometido con las actividades que iré mencionando. (Primera / Siguiente),... [INSERT ITEM FROM LIST BELOW] Por estos días, ¿está muy comprometido, algo comprometido o no muy comprometido con eso? [IF NECESSARY: “Por estar comprometido queremos decir cuánto tiempo le dedica a esa actividad, en comparación con otras personas”]

Calificación: *Muy comprometido, Algo comprometido o No muy comprometido*
[VOL: No sabe / No está seguro]

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- j. ¿Asiste a clases o se está educando más?
- k. ¿Recibe o visita amigos, o sale con amigos sólo para divertirse?
- l. ¿Participa en actividades religiosas o espirituales, lo que incluye el tiempo que pasa con organizaciones religiosas?
- m. ¿Participa en actividades políticas relacionadas con partidos, candidatos o campañas electorales?
- n. ¿Trabaja en cuestiones locales o problemas vecinales?
- o. ¿Trabaja en cuestiones o problemas públicos estatales o nacionales?
- p. ¿Realiza trabajo voluntario o de beneficencia por los que no recibe paga alguna?
- q. ¿Practica deportes, actividades para mantenerse en forma o para el acondicionamiento físico?
- r. ¿Tiene algún pasatiempo o actividad de recreación?

CIVIC2. [FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY] A continuación, tengo algunas preguntas referidas al trabajo voluntario. Cuando hablamos de trabajo voluntario, nos referimos al hecho de brindar su tiempo o habilidades para ayudar a una persona, amigo, pariente u organización sin recibir nada a cambio. Puede ser algo que haga habitualmente o cada tanto.

En los últimos 12 meses, ¿ha realizado trabajo voluntario, es decir, ha brindado su tiempo o habilidades a una organización sin fines de lucro; entidad de beneficio público; escuela; hospital; organización religiosa; asociación vecinal, cívica o a cualquier otra agrupación?

- 5. Sí
- 6. NO → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
- 7. NO SABE → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
- 8. NO CONTESTA → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]

CIVIC3. **[FROM 1997 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY] En promedio, ¿cuántas horas AL MES le dedica al trabajo voluntario para distintas organizaciones?**
[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT CAN'T GIVE AVERAGE, ASK: "Describa la cantidad de tiempo que le dedicó al trabajo voluntario en los últimos 12 meses".]

[READ LIST ONLY AS NECESSARY]

11. 2 HORAS O MENOS
12. 3 A 5 HORAS
13. 6 A 10 HORAS
14. 11 A 20 HORAS
15. 21 A 40 HORAS
16. 41 A 80 HORAS
17. 81 HORAS O MÁS
18. OTRA / NO SABE EL PROMEDIO [PROBE FOR AND RECORD DESCRIPTION OF TIME SPENT VOLUNTEERING IN LAST 12 MONTHS:]
19. NO SABE
20. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC4. **[ASK ONLY IF Q8 < 4, OTHERWISE SKIP TO CIVIC5] En los últimos 12 meses, ¿ha realizado trabajo voluntario para ayudar a algún programa o servicio asociado con AARP?**

5. SÍ
6. NO → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
7. NO SABE → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]
8. NO CONTESTA → [SKIP TO CIVIC5]

CIVIC4a. Describa la actividad más reciente en la que haya trabajado como voluntario junto con AARP.

CIVIC5. **[FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY WITH ADDED DESCRIPTION FROM 1997 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY] Ahora, sin considerar los grupos organizados, ¿ha dedicado su tiempo a trabajar en forma voluntaria y por su propia cuenta para ayudar a la comunidad o a alguna persona necesitada en los últimos 12 meses? Es decir, ¿ha brindado su tiempo gratuitamente para ayudar a la comunidad o a alguien que no fuera pariente suyo?** Esto puede incluir actividades como realizar mandados para un amigo, ayudar a un vecino en la reparación de su casa, cuidar de alguien que sufre una enfermedad crónica o discapacidad, o ayudar a alguien en situación de pobreza, enfermedad o a una persona mayor.

5. SÍ
6. NO → [SKIP TO CIVIC7]
7. NO SABE → [SKIP TO CIVIC7]
8. NO CONTESTA → [SKIP TO CIVIC7]

CIVIC6. **¿Alrededor de cuántas horas AL MES, en promedio, dedica a ayudar a amigos, vecinos u otras personas que NO sean parientes?** [INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT CAN'T GIVE AVERAGE, ASK: "Indique cuánto tiempo dedica a ayudar a amigos, vecinos u otras personas que NO sean parientes".]

[READ LIST ONLY AS NECESSARY]

11. 2 HORAS O MENOS
12. 3 A 5 HORAS
13. 6 A 10 HORAS
14. 11 A 20 HORAS
15. 21 A 40 HORAS
16. 41 A 80 HORAS
17. 81 HORAS O MÁS
18. OTRA / NO SABE EL PROMEDIO [PROBE FOR AND RECORD DESCRIPTION OF TIME SPENT VOLUNTEERING IN LAST 12 MONTHS:]
19. NO SABE
20. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC7. **[FROM BLS AMERICAN TIME USE SURVEY (ATUS)] [ASK ONLY IF CIVIC2=1, OTHERWISE SKIP TO CIVIC8] Ahora le voy a preguntar acerca de las actividades no pagas que usted pudiera haber realizado en el último año, ya sea para organizaciones o para personas que no sean parientes. Para cada caso, dígame si en el último año se ha comprometido o no con la actividad mencionada.**

Desde el 1° de agosto del 2008, usted... [INSERT ITEM FROM LIST BELOW]:

5. SÍ
6. NO
7. NO SABE
8. NO CONTESTA

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- a. Entrenó, arbitró o supervisó equipos deportivos.
- b. Actuó como tutor, maestro o mentor de alguna persona.
- c. Recolectó, preparó, distribuyó o sirvió comida.
- d. Recolectó, confeccionó o distribuyó ropa, artesanías o elementos aparte de comida.
- e. Juntó fondos o vendió artículos para reunir dinero a beneficio de una organización o una causa.
- f. Brindó servicios de consultoría; atención médica; servicios médicos de emergencia, de lucha contra incendios o de protección.
- g. Brindó asistencia profesional o de dirección, incluyendo servicios prestados a una junta o un comité.
- h. Proporcionó transporte.
- i. Se comprometió en actividades como andar en bicicleta, caminar o correr para reunir dinero, o crear conciencia para alguna causa.

- j. Ayudó a personas con discapacidades o limitaciones para realizar ciertas actividades.
- k. Limpió o reparó parques, patios de juegos, áreas al aire libre.
- l. Actividad política (sondeos, cadenas telefónicas, etc.).
- m. Prestó ayuda o realizó trabajo voluntario en alguna escuela.

CIVIC8. [FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY] [ASK ONLY IF CIVIC2=1, OTHERWISE SKIP TO CIVIC9] Voy a leerle una lista de razones por las que algunas personas brindan su tiempo y esfuerzo a los demás. Indique el grado de importancia que, personalmente, le asigna a cada una de las siguientes razones para realizar trabajo voluntario. La (primera / siguiente) razón es... [INSERT ITEM FROM LIST]

IF NECESSARY: “Diría usted que esta es una razón MUY importante, ALGO importante, NO MUY importante o PARA NADA importante para realizar trabajo voluntario”.

- 7. Muy importante
- 8. Algo importante
- 9. No muy importante
- 10. Para nada importante
- 11. NO SABE
- 12. NO CONTESTA

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- a. Le brinda una oportunidad para utilizar sus conocimientos, habilidades y experiencia.
- b. Es algo que puede ayudar a su propio vecindario o comunidad.
- c. Es un modo de hacer una diferencia en una causa o asunto importante para usted o en el cual está interesado.
- d. Es una manera de conocer o de reunirse con gente.
- e. Lo mantiene activo.
- f. Siente la responsabilidad personal de ayudar a los demás cuando lo necesitan.
- g. Hace que su vida le resulte más satisfactoria.
- h. Debido a sus creencias religiosas.
- i. Alguien le pidió personalmente que se ofreciera como voluntario.
- j. La organización lleva un registro de antecedentes de las buenas obras realizadas.
- k. Alguien que usted conoce estuvo o está afectado por ese problema.
- l. Es un modo de “retribuir”.

CIVIC9. [FROM 2003 AARP MULTICULTURAL SURVEY] Ahora, me gustaría preguntarle acerca de otras actividades en las cuales podría estar involucrado.

En los últimos 12 meses, es decir, desde agosto, ¿ha realizado alguna de estas actividades?

- h. Asistir a un encuentro del gobierno local o de la junta educativa.
- i. Asistir a un encuentro de una asociación vecinal local o a cualquier otra reunión relativa a cuestiones comunitarias en su localidad.

- j. Escribir, comunicarse por teléfono o por correo electrónico con un funcionario electo acerca de un asunto que le preocupa.
 - k. Tomar parte de una manifestación o protesta.
 - l. Escribir una carta a una editorial o a un periódico, o llamar a un canal de televisión o estación de radio para expresar su opinión.
 - m. Asistir a actividades comunitarias o a encuentros auspiciados por una iglesia u otra organización religiosa.
 - n. ¿Trabajó junto con otras personas de su vecindario para arreglar un problema o mejorar una situación existente en su comunidad, o en otra parte?
- 5. SÍ
 - 6. NO
 - 7. NO SABE
 - 8. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC10. [FROM TIME/CNN/YANKELOVICH PARTNERS POLL JAN, 2000] ¿Con qué frecuencia diría usted que votó en elecciones presidenciales? En las elecciones presidenciales, ¿vota usted siempre, casi siempre, la mitad de las veces, ocasionalmente o nunca?

- 8. Vota siempre
- 9. Vota casi siempre
- 10. Vota la mitad de las veces
- 11. Vota ocasionalmente
- 12. Nunca vota
- 13. NO SABE
- 14. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC11. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY & 2004 AARP BEYOND 50 SURVEY] Piense en las elecciones locales que se han llevado a cabo en los últimos diez años, es decir, elecciones para cargos locales, como alcaldes o concejales. Hallamos que, algunas veces, la gente no puede votar porque no está registrada, no tiene tiempo o tiene problemas para llegar al lugar de la votación. En las elecciones locales, usted ¿vota siempre, a veces no vota, rara vez vota o nunca vota?

- 7. Vota siempre
- 8. A veces no vota
- 9. Rara vez vota
- 10. Nunca vota
- 11. NO SABE
- 12. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC12. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT] Ahora, pensando en lo que la gente puede hacer —independientemente del gobierno—, ¿cuánta influencia cree que alguien como usted, *actuando solo*, puede tener en los problemas que existen en su comunidad? ¿Diría usted que tiene mucha influencia, una influencia moderada, poca o ninguna influencia?

- 8. MUCHA
- 9. UNA INFLUENCIA MODERADA

- 10. POCA
- 11. NINGUNA
- 12. DEPENDE [VOLUNTEERED]
- 13. NO SABE / NO ESTÁ SEGURO
- 14. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC13. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT] ¿Cuánta influencia cree que alguien como usted puede tener si se une a otros para resolver los problemas que existen en su comunidad? ¿Diría usted que tiene mucha influencia, una influencia moderada, poca o ninguna influencia?

- 8. MUCHA
- 9. UNA INFLUENCIA MODERADA
- 10. POCA
- 11. NINGUNA
- 12. DEPENDE [VOLUNTEERED]
- 13. NO SABE / NO ESTÁ SEGURO
- 14. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC14. Ahora, me gustaría formularle una sola pregunta acerca de las donaciones a organizaciones de beneficencia o religiosas. Las organizaciones de beneficencia se concentran en aspectos como aliviar la pobreza y las consecuencias de los desastres naturales, el cuidado de la salud y las investigaciones médicas, la educación, las artes y el medio ambiente. **En los últimos 12 meses, ¿ha donado dinero, bienes o propiedades por un total —combinado— de más de \$25 a organizaciones de beneficencia o religiosas?**

- 5. SÍ
- 6. NO
- 7. NO SABE
- 8. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC15. [FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT] Ahora, me gustaría que confeccionáramos una lista precisa de todos los grupos a los que pertenece, incluyendo clubes sociales, organizaciones religiosas o cualquier otro grupo organizado. Le leeré una lista de tipos de organizaciones y, para cada caso, quisiera saber si, en los últimos 12 meses (desde agosto del 2008), usted ha sido socio o miembro de cualquier grupo similar. Si usted pertenece a más de un grupo de un determinado tipo, dígame a cuántos ha pertenecido en estos últimos doce meses. A medida que avancemos en la lista, cuente cada una de sus membresías sólo una vez.

Primero, ¿es usted socio o miembro de [INSERT GROUP TYPE]?

[DEFINITION IF NECESSARY: Por lo general, “membresía” significa que su nombre está en una lista de socios o miembros; que usted tiene ciertos privilegios, como derecho a votar o a recibir una publicación; y, a menudo, que se tiene una tarjeta o credencial de membresía. El hecho de hacer un aporte o apoyar una organización no siempre lo convierte en socio o miembro.] (BELONG (PERTENECER))

[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY ARE NOT A MEMBER OF ANY MORE GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS, SAY: “Hemos descubierto que, algunas veces, la gente no se da cuenta de que ciertos tipos de membresías están incluidos en

nuestras listas, de modo que, para lograr un recuento preciso de los grupos a los que pertenece, resulta útil escuchar todas las categorías.]

[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT **INSISTS** THAT HE/SHE IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY OTHER TYPES OF GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS, USE RESPONSE OPTION #3 BELOW.]

7. SÍ
8. NO
9. NINGUNA OTRA ORGANIZACIÓN / NO ES SOCIO NI MIEMBRO DE NINGUNA OTRA ORGANIZACIÓN [VOLUNTEERED] → [SKIP OUT OF SERIES AND MOVE TO NEXT QUESTION]
10. QUESTION NOT ASKED (PREGUNTA NO FORMULADA) [AUTOPUNCH BY CATI ONLY]
11. NO SABE
12. NO CONTESTA

[FOR EACH “YES” SKIP IMMEDIATELY TO CIVIC16; ONCE NUMBER OF THESE TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONS IS CAPTURED IN CIVIC16, RETURN TO CIVIC15 AND ASK: “ES USTED SOCIO O MIEMBRO DE (INSERT NEXT GROUP TYPE)?”]

GROUP TYPE (TIPO DE GRUPO)

- a. Organizaciones religiosas, incluyendo una iglesia o templo.
- b. Asociaciones políticas o comités de partidos políticos.
- c. Sociedades profesionales, comerciales o asociaciones de negocios con membresías individuales.
- d. Gremios.
- e. Organizaciones agrícolas.
- f. Organizaciones que trabajen en cuestiones de salud o que luchen contra enfermedades.
- g. Agrupaciones protectoras del medio ambiente o de los animales.
- h. Otras agrupaciones de interés público o de acción política.
- i. Clubes sociales; hermandades estudiantiles.
- j. Gimnasios, clubes deportivos, ligas deportivas, clubes de campo.
- k. Organizaciones étnicas, de nacionalidades o de derechos civiles.
- l. Agrupaciones de pasatiempos, jardinería, recreación o computación.
- m. Agrupaciones literarias, de arte, organizaciones culturales o grupos de debate.
- n. Grupos de veteranos.
- o. Organizaciones de servicio social.
- p. Asociaciones de vecinos o de propietarios de viviendas.
- q. Grupos fraternales como el Rotary, Elks o Eastern Star.
- r. Asociaciones de padres y maestros, o grupos de apoyo escolares.
- s. Niños exploradores u otras organizaciones juveniles.
- t. Clubes u organizaciones para personas mayores.
- u. Cualquier otra organización civil o comunitaria.
- v. Grupos de apoyo, grupos de autoayuda o programas de 12 pasos.

CIVIC16. **[FROM 1997 AARP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]** ¿A cuántas organizaciones de estos tipos pertenece? (NUMBER (CANTIDAD))

____ RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER (REGISTRAR EL NÚMERO REAL)

98 NO SABE / NO ESTÁ SEGURO

99 NO CONTESTA

CIVIC17. ¿Es alguno de los grupos u organizaciones a los que pertenece una comunidad u organización en línea; es decir, un grupo u organización en el que la mayor parte de la comunicación e interacción entre los socios o miembros tiene lugar por internet?

5. SÍ

6. NO

7. NO SABE

8. NO CONTESTA

CIVIC18. **[ASK ONLY IF CIVIC17 = 1]** ¿Cuántos de los grupos a los que pertenece son comunidades u organizaciones en línea?

____ RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER (REGISTRAR EL NÚMERO REAL)

98 NO SABE / NO ESTÁ SEGURO

99 NO CONTESTA