

Between 2007 and 2009, Tampa had 596,800 volunteers with 15 percent volunteering in tutoring and teaching. Orlando had 357,600 volunteers with 19 percent volunteering in tutoring and teaching. Miami, had 671,000 volunteers with 11 percent volunteering in tutoring and teaching.

The study identified several factors that influence volunteer rates:

- ***Greater Attachment to the Community Encourages Volunteering.*** Indicators such as homeownership and the number of multi-unit dwellings, help determine whether residents have a long-term commitment and attachment to their communities. Data show that as the rate of homeownership increases, the volunteer rate also tends to increase. In Florida, 69 percent of residents own their home, higher than the national average. Conversely, communities with a large percentage of renters have lower volunteer rates. Nationally, 32 percent of individuals live in multi-unit housing, while Florida has a rate of 39.7%.
- ***Long Commutes can Curtail Opportunities to Volunteer.*** Nationally, commuters travel on average just over 25 minutes to work. In Florida, commuters travel on average 26 minutes to work.
- ***Volunteering Increases with Education Levels.*** For states and large metropolitan areas, as the education level increases, the likelihood of volunteering also rises. Eighty-five percent of Americans have a high school diploma or GED equivalent and 27 percent have a college degree. Florida ranks close to the national average in this regard.
- ***Volunteering is Less Common in High Poverty Areas.*** Poverty is another socioeconomic characteristic that tends to be strongly associated with lower volunteer rates. However, it is difficult to determine whether high poverty rates reduce the overall propensity to volunteer, whether high volunteering in a community leads to a reduction in poverty, or if both effects occur. At a National level, the poverty rate is 13 percent which is the same for Florida.
- ***Higher State Unemployment is Related to Lower Volunteering.*** As shown in the *Volunteering in America 2010*, states with high rates of unemployment usually have low volunteer rates. While theorists have ideas as to the basis of this relationship,

more research is needed to determine a cause. In 2009, the national unemployment rate was 8.5 percent, while Florida was at 9.5 percent.

- ***Volunteer Rates Lower in Cities with High Foreclosures.*** Cities with high foreclosure rates tend to have a corresponding lower volunteering rate. For more information, see the Volunteering in America 2010 Issue Brief. In Florida, the foreclosure rate changed by 0.7 percentage points between 2008 and 2009 and over the least year Florida has emerged as one of the highest foreclosure states in the country.

The Capacity of a Community's Associations Impacts Volunteer Rates. Communities with higher nonprofits per capita are likely to have higher volunteer rates. As the number of nonprofits per 1,000 city residents increases, the volunteering rate also increases. At a national level, there is an average of 4.45 nonprofit organizations per 1,000 residents. Florida has, on average, 3.23 nonprofits per 1,000 city residents.

This year, the CNCS will be committing more than \$28 million to support national services initiatives (Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps* VISTA, Learn and Serve America and other programs) in the state of Florida.

Visit [Volunteering in America](#) for detailed regional, state and (large) city data. This section provides information on areas such as volunteer rates, activities, and volunteer retention. Be sure to check out the Study's [Volunteering in Florida](#) page and see how your city ranked.