

Families who volunteer together: report on the state of family volunteering in the UK



Dr. Daiga Kamerāde

Reader in Work and Well-being

University of Salford

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Project Team: Angela Ellis Paine (University of Birmingham), Veronique Jochum (NCVO), Daiga Kamerāde (University of Salford)

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Contact details: d.kamerade-hanta@salford.ac.uk

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Introduction

This report uses nationally representative data from the United Kingdom Time Use Survey (UKTUS) 2014/2015 to examine –for the first time nationally and internationally - the extent and patterns of the household engagement in formal family volunteering. Family volunteering here is defined as two or more members of the same family and household volunteering together in a formal/organisational/group setting. It explores three critical aspects of family volunteering in the UK: the extent to which different family members volunteer together, separately or not at all, the relationships between family composition and volunteering, and the composition of family volunteering at the national level.

Policy and practice context

Family volunteering schemes and opportunities which specifically target families have been operating in the US and Canada for a while, but not so much in the UK. In a short online survey on family volunteering conducted by NCVO the majority of organisations that responded did not currently offer family volunteering opportunities, but many were interested in developing these in the future. Many non-volunteers also say they would get involved if family volunteering opportunities were available (McGarvey, Jochum, Davie, Dobbs, & Hornung, 2019). However, to our knowledge there is currently no nationally representative evidence on family volunteering rates, patterns or composition in the UK. This report aims to address this evidence gap that by exploring how families engage with volunteering so that volunteer-involving organisations can use this evidence to develop or enhance volunteering opportunities for family members.

Key findings

How common is family volunteering in the UK and what contribution does it make?

On an average day 3% (or about 810, 000) of the households in the UK participate in formal ‘family volunteering’ where two or more members of the same family and household volunteer together in a formal/organisational/group setting. They constitute one third of the UK formal volunteering households. An estimated 13% of the households had volunteered as a family at least once over the last four weeks. These figures are likely to under-estimate the extent of family volunteering. They do not cover the full diversity of family volunteering. They exclude family volunteering episodes that involve two or more family members living in different households, family members volunteering

for the same organisation but not necessarily at the same time and a family member volunteering for an organisation that provides a service to another family member (e.g. sports coaching, hospice).

There are no significant regional differences in engagement in family volunteering.

These families spend on average 27 minutes per person per day on family volunteering. That is the average total of one hour per household per day, resulting in 364 family volunteering hours per household in a calendar year. Vast majority of the households spend volunteering as a family up to 80 minutes per day. The entire population of the UK family volunteering households contributes the total of 92 years worth of family volunteering per day, in equates to the total of nearly 33,500 years of family volunteering in a calendar year.

The total minimum value of family volunteering in the UK, based on the National Hourly Minimum Wage, on an average day is around £5.4 million. That is approximately £1.97 billion worth of family volunteering per calendar year.

How do different members of the same family engage in volunteering activities together?

Out of all possible family volunteering combinations, the most frequently reported one is volunteering with a partner. The households where two partners volunteer together also spend the most time (27 minutes per person on an average day) on family volunteering. The second most common family volunteering type is a household member volunteering with another household member or members other than their mother/father or child under eight. For example, a parent or both parents volunteering with their child aged eight or older, two or more siblings volunteering together or a child volunteering with their grandparents. Family members spend as much total time on this type of volunteering as they do when volunteering with a partner. The least common family volunteering type and also the one on which the least time (9 minutes per person) is spent is when an adult or child over age of eight volunteers with a father.

Who volunteers as a family?

Participation in family volunteering is significantly related to the household composition. The family volunteering rates are the highest among households consisting of a couple with or without children and the lowest among single adult households with or without children. Single parent complex households (the households where apart from an adult and their child or children there are adult siblings, grandparents or other household members) spend most time on family volunteering.

Larger households, especially those with six or more individuals in them, are more likely to be involved in family volunteering than smaller households.

Families with children under age of 16 are more likely to get involved in family volunteering but spend less time on it than families without children in the same age range. This is true for all children's age groups. The highest rates of family volunteering are among the households including children aged 11 to 15. However, families with children aged 5-10 spend most time on family volunteering. Family volunteering opportunities seem to be crucial for families with children as they are significantly less likely to engage in other types formal volunteering than families with no children.

Once children have reached the age of 16, their presence or absence does not make a significant difference to their family's engagement in family volunteering.

The size of household income does not make a significant difference to involvement in family volunteering, but some income sources do. Having independent means (income from investments, savings and similar) facilitates family volunteering but unemployment benefits lower it. Other types of income (wages, self-employment, other income) do not make a significant difference.

What does family volunteering look like at the national level?

Because different types of households are not equally common in the UK, there are some differences in between who is most likely to get involved and the composition of family volunteering in the UK. This knowledge is important for volunteer management. For example, although couples with children have the highest family volunteering rate, they constitute only one third (32%) of all family volunteering households in the UK. Three quarters of all family volunteering households in the UK are couples without (44%) children aged under 16 and just over half (55%) of all family volunteering households have no children in them. 44% of all family volunteering households are two person households, and 25% - four person households. Around one third (34%) of family volunteer households has monthly income over £4,000 and around half (51%) – an income between £1,000 and £3,000. Two thirds of family volunteering households receive their income from wages, 40% - from pension or social benefits other than the unemployment benefits.

Most volunteering research to date has viewed volunteering from an individual perspective. It has focused on volunteers' motivations, attitudes, socio-demographic position and their engagement in volunteering activities. Although evidence suggests that household structure and parental volunteering histories can influence the likelihood of individuals volunteering, we know relatively little else about family volunteering – volunteering together with other members of the family (Stuart, 2019). We know even less about whether and how volunteers engage in volunteering activities individually or together with other household and family members, as large scale nationally representative surveys so far have explored the influence of family and family status on volunteering rather than family members volunteering together.

This report, based on the analyses of the UK Time Use Survey 2014/2015 data (Gershuny & Sullivan, 2017) collected from 4,216 households in the UK, provides –for the first time - a unique insight in the state and patterns of family volunteering in the UK. The UKTUS is a nationally representative large-scale household survey of how people aged 8 years and over spend their time. The UKTUS to our knowledge is the only nationally representative survey that measures co-presence in volunteering, that is *with whom* individuals are volunteering and therefore provides a unique opportunity to examine family volunteering. Moreover, the UKTUS data also permits a unique insight into how much time is spent volunteering and an opportunity to analyse involvement of volunteering at the household, not only individual, level. For more details about the UKTUS methodology see Appendix 1.

This report focuses on three key research questions:

- 1) How common is family volunteering in the UK? How do different members of the same family engage in volunteering activities together or separately?
- 2) Who volunteers as a family? What is the relationship between family composition and volunteering rates and time spent on volunteering activities?
- 3) What does family volunteering look like at the household level?

Content of this report

This report has four sections. Section 1 explains how family volunteering in the UK was defined and measured for this report. Sections 2, 3 and 4 set out the findings on family volunteering in three critical areas: prevalence and types of family volunteering in the UK, the relationships between

family compositions and volunteering, and the composition of family volunteering at the household level in the UK. This report is one of the series of report from a joint project ‘Volunteering: a family affair?’ between the National Council for Voluntary Sector Organisations (NCVO), Third Sector Research Centre (University of Birmingham) and University of Salford, funded by Sport England, Greater London Authority/Team London, , Pears #iwill Fund and the Scouts Association. This report complements previous and ongoing research by the project team which highlights the importance of family dynamics in shaping volunteering experiences (Ellis Paine, 2015; Stuart, 2019).

Definitions

This report focuses only on ‘formal volunteering’, defined as voluntary activity in which people engaged for an organisation or through an organisation for free. The kind of activities included range from administrative work on behalf of clubs or teams to coaching or helping out at refuges. Because of data limitations, this report does not include informal family volunteering activities. For the purposes of this report ‘family volunteering’ is defined as formal volunteering activity where at least two members of the same family engage in formal volunteering together at the time and the same place.

Measuring family and other formal volunteering at the household level

The focus of this report is formal family volunteering at *the household level*¹, measured using the data that were amalgamated from individual household members’ time use diaries. Three types of household volunteering behaviours were the focus of the analyses: 1) family volunteering, 2) other formal volunteering (excluding family volunteering) and 3) non-volunteering.

The households where at least one family volunteering episode, that is, formal volunteering involving a co-presence of at least two household members, was reported were classified as ‘*Family volunteering households*’². The households where only episodes of formal volunteering that did not involve a co-presence of another household member were reported were classified as the households engaged in ‘*Other formal volunteering*’ activities. ‘*Non-volunteering households*’ were all households where none of the household’s members had reported any engagement in formal volunteering in their individual time diary.

The advantage of this classification approach is that it permits us to recognise, at least partially, potential diversity within family volunteering (Porritt, 1995), including any combinations of household members, such as parent-child or grandparent-parent-child, step- and other family

¹ Some of the findings published in a blog and in the the final project report have been obtained by doing the analysis at the individual level, the results of which are not included in this report.

² According to the population statistics (ONS, 2015), only 0.9% of the households in the UK were the households of unrelated adults. As can be seen later in the report, these household did not engage in family volunteering. Therefore, in this report for the sake of simplicity, we have used the terms ‘household’ and ‘family’ interchangeably.

members. At the same time, in the dataset the co-presence of a family member was specified only if the family members lived in the same household. For example, if a child aged over eight volunteered with his or her mother who lived in the same household, it would be recorded as family volunteering with mother. However, if the same child reported volunteering with his or her mother who lived in a different household, it would be recorded as volunteering with somebody known to him or her outside of the household, but without further specification (i.e. it is impossible to distinguish if the person was a family member or a friend, for example). Therefore this report can examine only family volunteering that involves at least two individuals from the same household. Consequently it does not cover the full diversity of family volunteering, potentially excluding family volunteering episodes that involved two or more family members living in different households. It also does not permit identify family volunteering where family members volunteering for the same organisation but not necessarily at the same time or the same activity or one family member volunteering for an organisation that provides a service to another family member (e.g. sports coaching, hospice)

Based on the co-presence categories available in the dataset, the following types of family volunteering were identified: 1) family volunteering with a spouse/partner (i.e. two partners volunteering together; 2) with a mother (e.g. a child in age over eight or an adult volunteering with his/her mother); 3) with a father (e.g. a child in age over eight or an adult volunteering with his/her father); 4) with child 0-7 years old (i.e. any adult in the household volunteering with a child under age of eight); 5) with other person from the same household (including a child aged 8 or over) (e.g. parents or grandparents volunteering with their child aged over eight, two or more siblings volunteering together).

Activities measured as formal volunteering

To identify formal volunteering for this report, activity codes designed by the NatCen Data Analysis unit were used. In general, all activities in respondents' diaries were coded using 276 different activity codes. These codes were then re-coded into three levels, where Level 1 is the broadest and Level 3 is the most specific category of activities.

Formal volunteering falls under *Level 1 activity 4 Voluntary Work and Meeting*.

The Level 2 activity 41 Organisational work, was defined as '*Working as a volunteer free of charge or for a minor fee*' (NatCen, 2016, p.128); and included five separate *Level 3 activities*:

1) unspecified organisational work and meeting;

- 2) unspecified organisational work ;
- 3) (voluntary) work for an organisation ;
- 4) volunteer work through an organisation;
- 5) other specified organisational work.

In addition, relevant to this project were Level 2 activities, classed as ‘Participatory activities’, and defined as: ‘Attending meetings free of charge or for a minor fee. (NatCen, 2016, p.132). These activities included two relevant Level 3 activities: 1) unspecified participatory activities and 2) attending meetings. Religious activities which also were part of Level 3 activities were not included in this analysis as it was impossible to establish whether they would be volunteering type activities or participation in religious rituals, such as attending a church service. For examples of specific activities included in each Level please see Appendix 2 or NatCen report (2016, p.128-133).

Measuring time spent on volunteering

Using information from the individual time use diaries in each household, two types of volunteering time indicators were created:

- The total time in minutes spent on volunteering within the household per day. This indicator was calculated by summing all time that all members of the household spent on volunteering during a day. Separate total time indicators were calculated for family volunteering and other formal volunteering activities.
- Average time in minutes spent on volunteering per person in the household per day. This indicator was derived from dividing the total time that the household spent on volunteering by the number of the household members and by two (days). Separate average time per person indicators were calculated for family volunteering and other formal volunteering activities.

As only household members aged over eight filled in the time diaries, the time that children under eight spent on volunteering was not measure and included in these calculations.

All volunteering time indicators were calculated only for the households who had engaged in the specific type of volunteering. So all the time-related results presented in this report apply only to the households who engaged in family volunteering or in other formal volunteering activities.

2.1. How common was family volunteering in the UK?

Family volunteering in the UK was fairly uncommon; it was rarer than volunteering with people outside the household, that is, other formal volunteering activities. According to UKTUS 2014/2015 data nearly one in ten (9%, n=387) of the UK households engaged in formal volunteering on a hypothetical average day. Around a third (34%, n=131) of these formal volunteering households were also households where at least one member of the household participated in family volunteering. This translated into 3% of all households in the UK being involved in family volunteering on an average day. This 3% estimate was likely to underestimate the proportion of the UK households that in general engage in family volunteering. The time use data insufficiently account for irregularities in volunteering, for example, the fact, that most households are not likely to be involved in it on a daily basis. If we assume that family volunteering at the household level follows the same pattern of irregularities as individual volunteering, then using the 40% formal volunteering rate calculated by ONS (2017) using the UKTUS 2015 data, an approximate estimate of the proportion of households that had engaged in family volunteering at least once over the last four weeks could be around 13%.

Using the population statistics for 2015, we can calculate that these 3% equalled to around 810,000 households in the UK taking part in family volunteering on an average day (ONS, 2015).

Family volunteering rates varied slightly by the UK region, however, the differences were not statistically significant³ (see Table 1). The rates of family volunteering in most regions were around the national average of 3%. The only exception was West Midlands where only 1% of all households engaged in family volunteering, despite having slightly above the national average rates of other formal volunteering. A similar pattern was observed in Wales. There the rate of other formal volunteering was well above, but family volunteering one percentage point below, the national average.

³ The accepted level of statistical significance for all tests used for this report was $p \leq 0.05$. Exact details of each test performed and statistics are available from the author of this report upon request.

Table 1. Regions and volunteering rates

Regions	Family volunteering households (%)	Other formal volunteering households (%)	Non-volunteering households (%)
North East	4 ^a	2 ^a	95
North West	3	5	92
Yorkshire and Humbers	2	3	94
East Midlands	3	7	90
West Midlands	1 ^a	8	91
East of England	3	6	91
London	2	4	94
South East	4	6	90
South West	4	7	89
Wales	2 ^a	9	89
Scotland	3 ^a	7 ^a	91
Northern Ireland	4 ^a	5	92

Notes:

^a the number of households in the group was less than 10

2.2. How do different members of the same family engage in volunteering activities together or separately?

By definition, formal volunteering is done through or for a group or organisation. Therefore it was not surprising that seven out of every ten family volunteering reports included also volunteering with somebody outside of the household (Table 2). Volunteering with a partner was the most commonly reported family volunteering engagement type. The second most common way of volunteering was with other household members (other than mother/father or child under eight) - including children aged eight or older. The least common family volunteering type was volunteering with a father.

Table 2. Types of family volunteering

With:	Family volunteering households (%)
somebody outside of household (n=91)	70
a partner (n=77)	58
with other household member (incl. children aged 8+) (n=59)	41
a child under age of 8 (n=27)	20
mother (n=19)	15
father (n=11)	7

Note: each household could have engaged in more than one type of family volunteering. For example, if there was an episode of family volunteering involving both parents and a child aged over eight, four types of volunteering would be recorded for that household: with a partner, with a mother, with father and with other household member.

2.3. How much time do families spend on family volunteering?

According to Table 3, each household involved in family volunteering spent on average nearly half an hour per person per day on this type of activity. This was significantly less time than the average of 47 minutes spent on other formal volunteering activities.

Table 3. Time spent on volunteering by volunteering type

	Average time in minutes per person per day in the household		Total time in minutes per household spent on family volunteering per day	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Other formal volunteering	47	41	78	61
Family volunteering in general	27	31	58	57
Volunteering with:				
a partner	27	35	51	51
a child under age of 8 ⁴	23	29	43	49
alone	21	28	30	40
with other household member (incl children aged 8+)	18	17	51	56
mother	13	14	41	34
father	9	10	44	50
with people outside of household	43	44	78	74

⁴ As only household members aged over eight filled in the time diaries, the time that children under eight spent on volunteering was not measure and included in these calculations.

Note: SD - standard deviation

It can also be seen in Table 3 that average time spent on family volunteering varied by type of family volunteering: most time per person per day within the households was spent when volunteering with a partner but the least time was spent when volunteering with a father.

Table 3 suggests that on average the UK family volunteering households spent a **total** of nearly one hour per day per household on family volunteering. More time was spent on other formal volunteering as the total average time spent per household on other formal volunteering activities was 20 minutes higher. The highest total time spent on family volunteering was for volunteering with a partner and volunteering with another household member (including a child aged eight or over).

Relatively large standard deviations in Table 3 indicate that there was a large variation in the average and total time spent on different types of volunteering per two diary days. As can be seen in Figure 1, the total time that the households spent on family volunteering was indeed very varied. However, vast majority of the households spent volunteering as a family for up to 80 minutes per day.

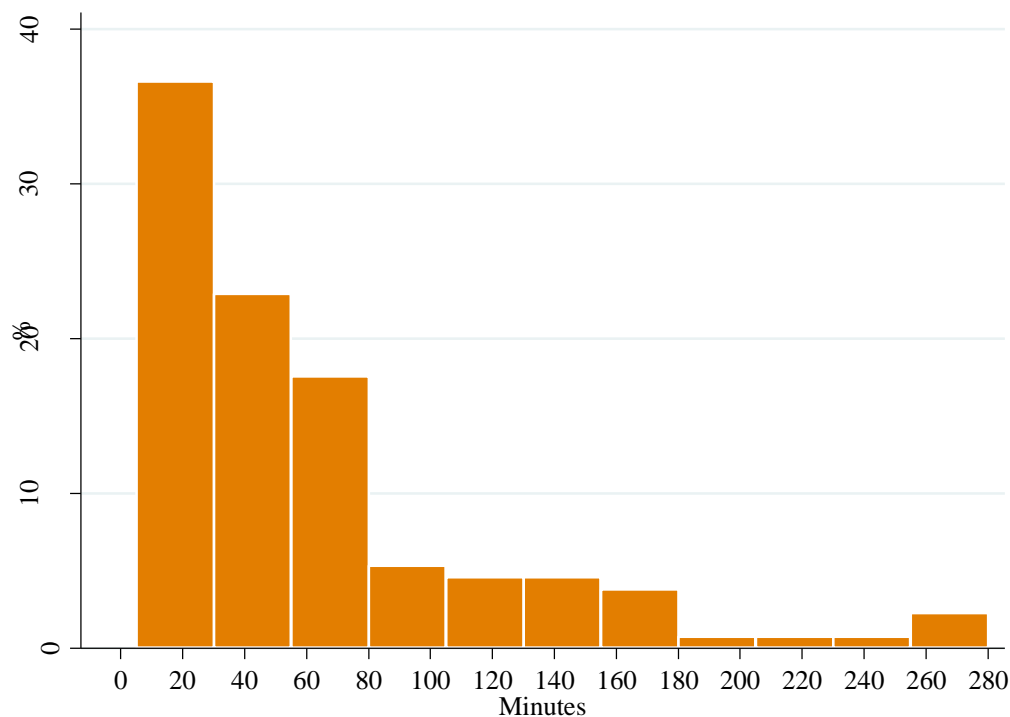


Figure 1. Distribution of total time spent on family volunteering per household per two diary days

The UKTUS sample of the households in this study spent the total of 7,565 minutes (or 126 hours) on family volunteering per day. This translated into the total of approximately 807,437 hours (or 92 calendar years) of family volunteering per day in the UK household population. In a calendar year that would be a minimum of 33,488 years of family volunteering.

Using the national hourly minimum wage of £6.70 (DBIS, 2015), the total minimum value of family volunteering in the UK in 2015 on an average hypothetical day was £ 5,409,828. In a calendar year that would be a minimum of approximately £1.97 billion worth of family volunteering.

3.1. What is the relationship between household composition and engagement in family volunteering?

3.1.2. Household composition and engagement in volunteering

Engagement in family volunteering and in other formal volunteering activities was statistically significantly related to the household composition (see Table 4). In general, family volunteering rates were the highest among households involving a couple with or without children aged 15 or under. In contrast, what mattered for engagement in other formal volunteering activities was the absence of children – households with no children had the highest rate of involvement in other formal volunteering activities.

Table 4. Household composition and volunteering

Household composition	Households (%)			All
	Family volunteering	Other formal volunteering	Non volunteering	
A couple with children <=15	6	4	91	16
A couple with no children <=15	4	7	89	29
A couple in complex HH	4	6	90	9
A single parent in complex HH	3	6	91	6
National average	3	6	91	
A single parent with children <=15	2 ^a	2 ^a	97	4
A single parent, no children <=15	1 ^a	8	91	2
Single person HH	0.3 ^{a5}	6	94	29
'Other' HHs (eg. siblings, unrelated etc)	0 ^a	5	95	4

^a The number of households in the group was smaller than 5

⁵ Four individuals in the dataset reported volunteering with a partner despite they had also reported that they lived on their own. A possible explanation for this might be that these individuals might not have closely followed the instructions for filling in the time diary or that they are in a relationship that involves a part-time co-habitation but they still consider themselves to be a single person household.

Table 4 also suggests that different types of households were not equally represented in the UK. For example, while couples with children had the highest rates of family volunteering, they were proportionately less common (16%) than couples with no children (29%) . Taking into account this unequal distribution, it was important to examine not only who was most likely to engage but also what was the composition of family volunteers. Because, for example, it might be that among the family volunteering households the largest proportion actually was couples without children. While the rates of involvement discussed in this section are important for recruitment of family volunteers, the composition of existing family volunteers is important for volunteer management (see Section 4 ‘Who are family volunteers?’).

3.1.2. Children in household and family volunteering

According to Table 5 in every age group, families with children of that age group were more likely to undertake family volunteering than families without children of the same age. The highest rates of family volunteering were for the households that had children aged 11 to 15 in them.

Table 5.Children of different age in household and volunteering

Presence/absence of children of certain age in household		Non-volunteering	Households (%)	
			Formal volunteering but not family volunteering	Family volunteering
under 4*	No	91	6	3
	Yes	93	2	5
5 to 10*	No	92	6	2
	Yes	90	5	5
11 to 15*	No	92	6	2
	Yes	89	4	7
16-19	No	92	6	3
	Yes	90	7	3
Average rate		91	6	3

Note: * the differences were statistically significant

However, once children have reached the age of 16, their presence or absence did not make a significant difference to their household’s engagement in family volunteering. It can also be seen that the opposite was true for other formal volunteering activities- families with young

children under age of 16 were less likely to get involved in such volunteering and were also more likely to be non-volunteers in general. This indicates that the provision of family volunteering opportunities for families with children might be crucial for involving them into volunteering.

3.2. What is the relationship between household composition and time spent on volunteering?

3.2.1 Household composition and time spent on volunteering

Figure 2 illustrates how many minutes per day, on average, different types of households spent on family volunteering and other formal volunteering activities. Two indicators are presented: the average time in minutes spent per person per day in that households and the total time that the household spent on an engagement per day. The pattern of the relationship between household composition and time spent on volunteering seems to be a complex one as there did not seem to be a clear pattern

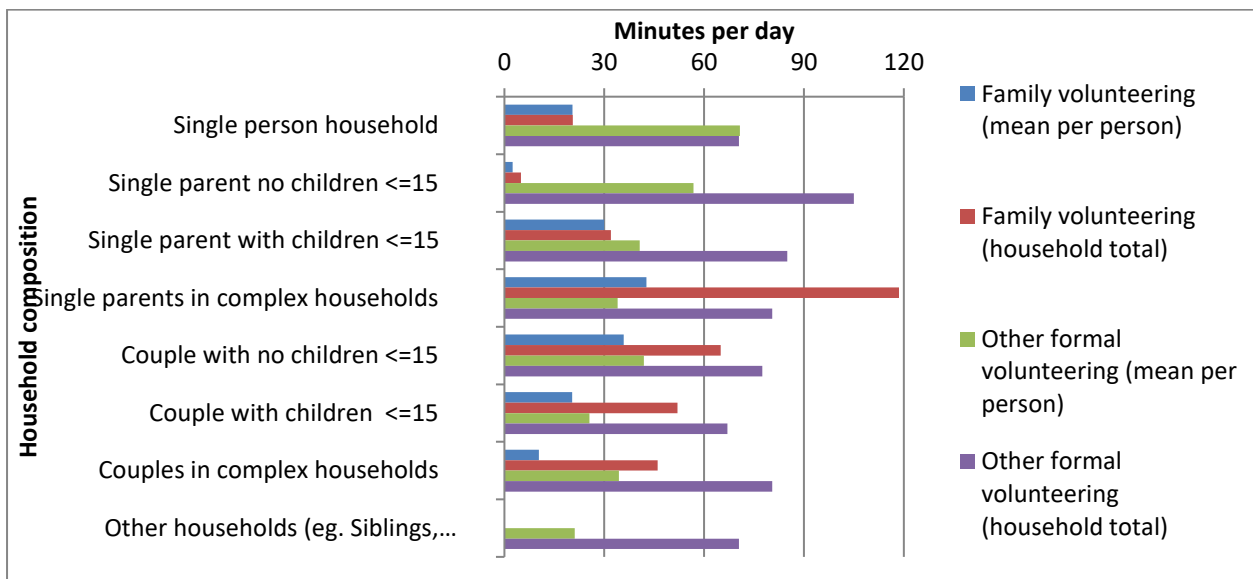


Figure 2 . Time spent on volunteering activities by household composition

As can be seen in Figure 2, single parents in complex households (that is households involving grandparents, siblings and other individuals apart from a parent/parents and children), couples with no young children and single parents with children spent more than the national average of 27 minutes per day per person on family volunteering (see Table 3). In contrast, single person

households⁶, couples with young children and couples in complex households spent well below the national average time on family volunteering. Compared to single households, single parent households with no children aged 15 or younger spent significantly less and single parents in complex households spent significantly more time on family volunteering. In comparison, all other households, except for single parents with/without children aged 15 or under, spent significantly less average time per person per day on other formal volunteering than single person households.

Figure 2 indicates that the total time spent per household was the highest among the single parent complex households who spent on family volunteering on average a total of nearly two hours per day. The second highest rate was among couples with no children. They spent a total of slightly above two hours per two diary days on family volunteering. The lowest total time spent on family volunteering – less than half an hour per day- was among single parent household without children aged 15 or under. The differences in the total time spent on family volunteering between single person household and other types of households were statistically significant, with the exception of no statistically significant difference for single parents with children aged 15 or under.

3.2.2. Presence of children in different ages and time spent on volunteering

Having children younger than 16 in household was related to less time being spent on family volunteering as can be seen in Figure 3.

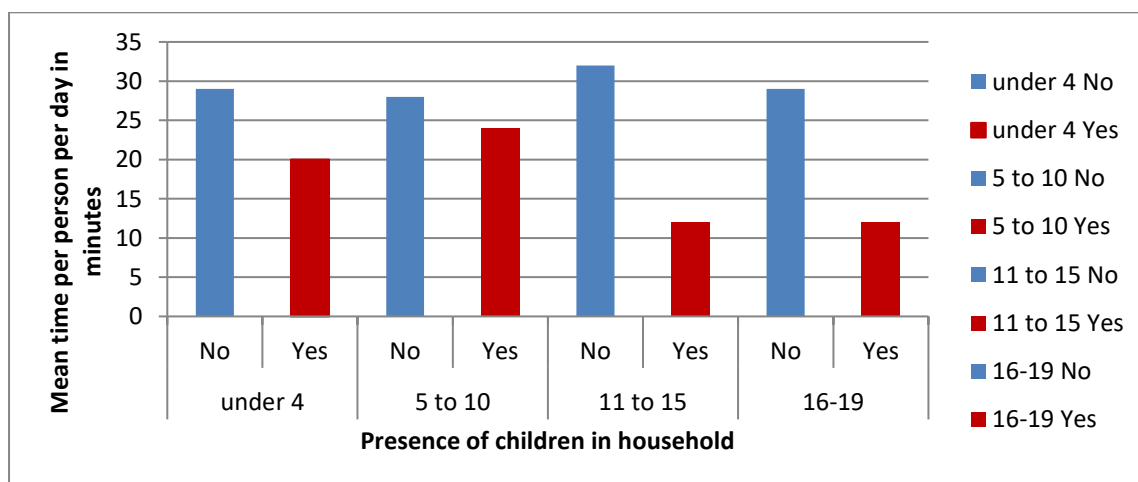


Figure 3. Average time spent on family volunteering by presence of children of different age in household⁷

⁶ See footnote 5

⁷ As only household members aged over eight filled in the time diaries, the time that children under eight spent on volunteering was not measure and included in these calculations.

The households that had children of any age in them, spent on average less time per person on family volunteering than the households that did not have children of the same age in them. These differences were especially pronounced and statistically significant for the households with and without children aged between 11 and 19⁸.

As can be seen in Table 6, there were also some variations in the total time spent on family and other formal volunteering by the presence of children of a certain age in the household. However, the only differences that were statistically significant were for the households with/out children aged under 4. The households with very young children spent in total significantly less time on family volunteering than households without children aged four or younger.

Table 6. Presence of children of different ages in household and total household time spent volunteering

Age of children	Present in the household	Average of the total minutes per household per day	
		Family volunteering	Other formal volunteering
under 4	No	63*	79
	Yes	39*	73
5 to 10	No	57	79
	Yes	63	70
11 to 15	No	61	78
	Yes	51	77
16-19	No	59	76
	Yes	49	95

Note: *p<0.05

As can be seen in Table 7 as the number of children increased, so did the family volunteering rate, and this relationship was statistically significant. Engagement in family volunteering was particularly high for households with three or more children. The opposite pattern was observed for other formal volunteering rates: families with three or more children in household were less likely families involved in formal volunteering activities other than family volunteering than families with fewer children.

⁸ A similar pattern was observed for engagement in other formal volunteering activities

Table 7. Number of children under 19 in household and volunteering

Nr of children in household	Households (%)		
	Family volunteering	Other formal volunteering	Non-volunteering
0	2	6	92
1	3	4	93
2	5	5	90
3+	9	3 ^a	88

Notes:

a- there were only 7 households in this group.

While the number of children in the household increased the likelihood of family volunteering, the relationship between the number of children and the time spent on family volunteering was not as straightforward (see Table 8). The highest averages of the time spent on family and formal volunteering was observed in the households with no children but the lowest in the households with two children. The households with no children in them spent on average significantly more time per person on family volunteering and also other formal volunteering activities than the households two children in them. However, the differences in average time per person spent on family volunteering between households with no children and households with either one or 3 or more children were not statistically significant. Households with three or more children spent significantly less time on formal volunteering that households with no children did.

Table 8. Average time spent on family volunteering per person per day by the number of children aged under 19 household

Nr of children in household	Family volunteering		Other formal volunteering	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
0	34	36	51	42
1	20	26	35	32
2	13	9	23	20
3+	26	31	24	37

3.3. What is the relationship between household size and family volunteering?

There was a significant relationship between the size of a household and its engagement in volunteering (see Table 9). Larger households, especially those with six or more individuals in them, had higher family volunteering rates than smaller households. Among the households with six or more individuals, 57% were couples in complex households, 35% were couples with children and 7% -other households (e.g. adult siblings, unrelated adults etc).

Table 9. Household size and volunteering

Number of people in household	Households (%)		
	Family volunteering	Other formal volunteering	Non-volunteering
1	0 ^a	6	94
2	3	6	90
3	3	4	93
4	5	5	90
5	4 ^a	7	90
6+	9	10	81

Notes:

^athe number of households in the group was smaller than 10

There also were some variations in the time spent per person per day on family volunteering by the household size (see Table 10), however, these differences were not statistically significant. Two person and three person households were the households that spent the longest time per person per day on family volunteering. Although very large households (6+ individuals) had the highest family volunteering rates (as can be seen in Table 9), they spent the lowest amount of time per person on family volunteering. In comparison, the households with just one person in them spent significantly more time on formal volunteering than all other household categories.

Table 10. Average time spent per person per day on family volunteering by the size of household

Number of people in household	Family volunteering		Other formal volunteering	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1	20	11	71	50
2	35	39	43	35
3	32	27	37	27
4	15	14	32	25
5	27	33	24	30
6+	14	17	16	22

3.4. Does household income matter for family volunteering?

The UKTUS data suggest that the size of household income did not make a significant difference to engagement in family volunteering, but some sources of the household income did.

Family volunteering households had on average a slightly but not significantly higher net (before tax) monthly income than just formal volunteering households but lower income than the non-volunteering households. The mean monthly net income for a family volunteering household was £3,266 (median £2,200, SD=5,076), for households engaged in other formal volunteering activities it was £3,098 (median £2,000, SD=4,981) and for a non-volunteering household it was £3,893 (median £2,000, SD=£34,693). The large standard deviations indicated that there was a very large variation in the household income among the households with the same categories of volunteering behaviour. This is illustrated by Figure 4 – it can be seen that while the vast majority of family volunteering households had a household income under £5,000 a month, there were a few household with an income much larger than that.

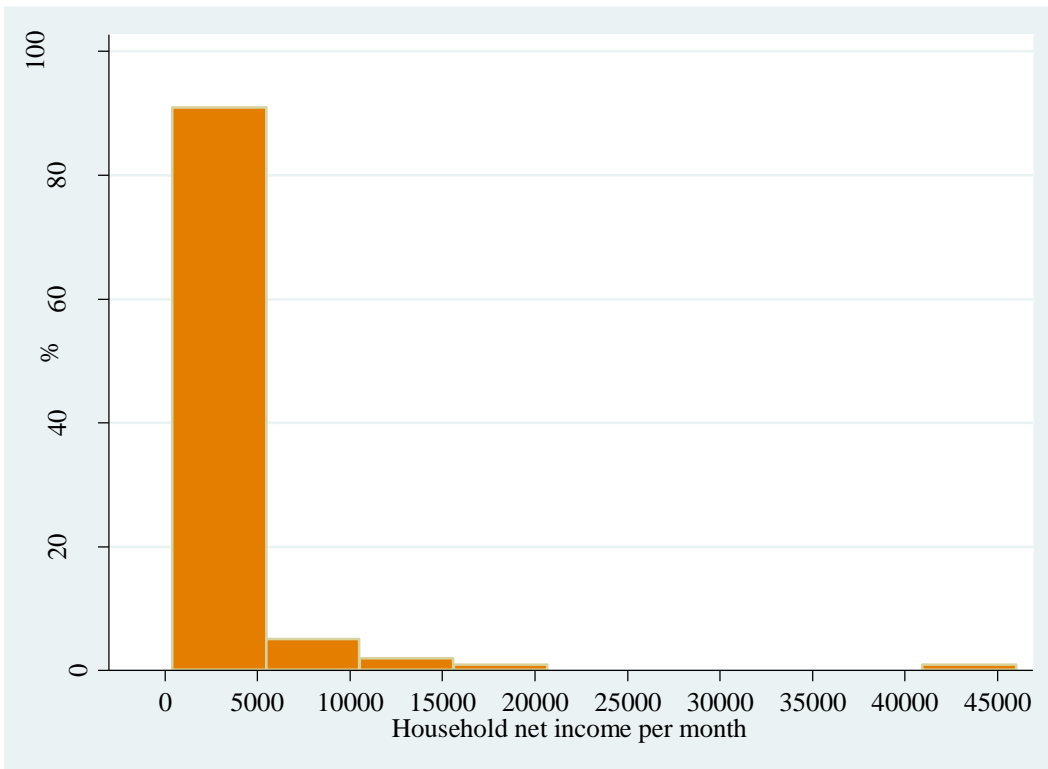


Figure 4. Distribution of monthly net income among family volunteering households (in £s)

Two sources of income made a difference to the rates of family volunteering: income from investments and income from unemployment benefits. Having independent means (income from investments, savings etc) facilitated family volunteering but unemployment benefits lowered it. Other types of income (wages, self-employment, other income) did not make a significant or substantive difference.

The most pronounced difference was for having an income from investments, saving and similar sources. The households where one of the income sources was an income from investments, savings and similar sources were significantly more likely to engage in family volunteering (4%) than the households without such source of income (2%). Having an investment income made even a bigger difference for formal volunteering: 10% of the households with investment income volunteered, compared to only 4% of the households without investment income.

The households where one of the sources of income was unemployment benefits had a much lower (1%) family volunteering rate than the households that did not receive any unemployment benefits (3%). This was in contrast to engagement in other formal volunteering

activities: 8% of the households with unemployment benefits engaged in this type of volunteering, compared to only 6% of the households without such benefits. However, this difference was not statistically significant, most likely because there were only 3 family volunteering households with unemployment benefits

Although pension did not make a difference to household family volunteering rates, households where one of the income sources was a pension were significantly more likely to engage in formal volunteering (8%) than the households without a pension income (5%).

4.1. Who are the family volunteers in the UK?

Knowledge of the composition of family volunteering is important for volunteer management. Different types of families/households are not equally represented in the UK. For example, as it was seen in Table 4 only 16% of the households in the sample were couples with children, compared to 29% of couples without children. Therefore, although couples with children had the highest family volunteering rate, they were not the largest family volunteer group, as can be seen in Figure 5. Figure 5 suggest that the largest proportion of family volunteering households in the UK was couples with no children, followed by couples with children aged 15 or under. Together they constitute three quarters of all households engaged in family volunteering.

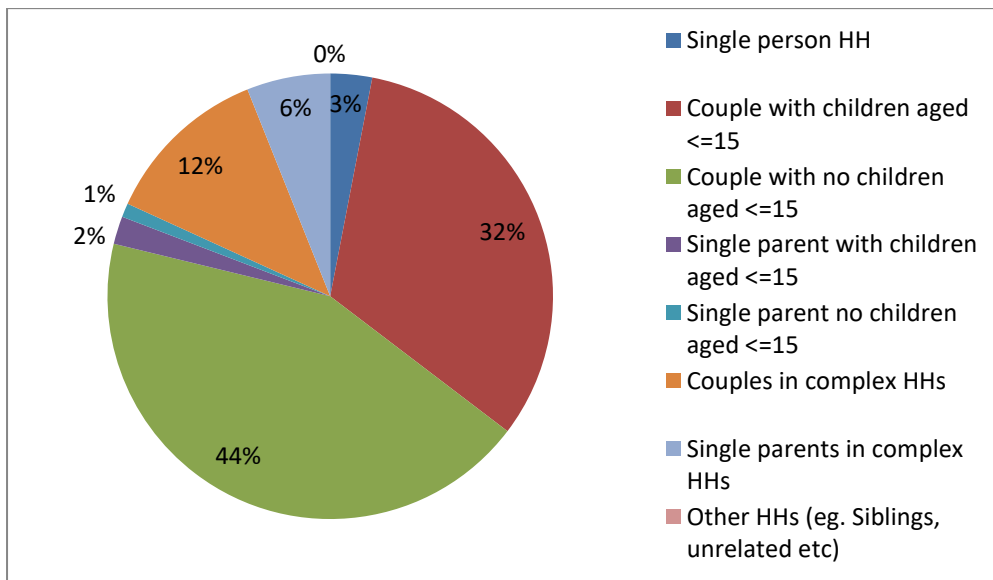


Figure 5. Composition of family volunteering in the UK by household type.

As can be seen in Figure 6, the largest proportion of family volunteering households (around every four in ten) was two-person households, followed by four-person households. Although 6+ person households were considerably more likely to get involved in family volunteering than other households (see Table 9), as their share in the whole household population was very low (only 2%), they share of family volunteering was relatively low too (Figure 6).

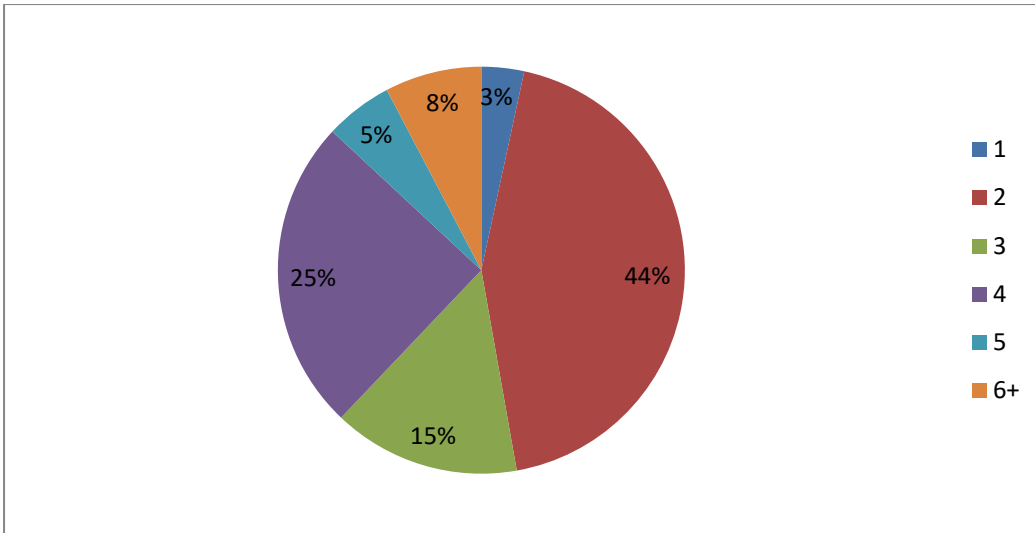


Figure 6. Composition of family volunteering by the number of people in the household

Figure 7 indicates that just over half of all family volunteering households in the UK were the households that did not have any children under aged 19 or under in them.

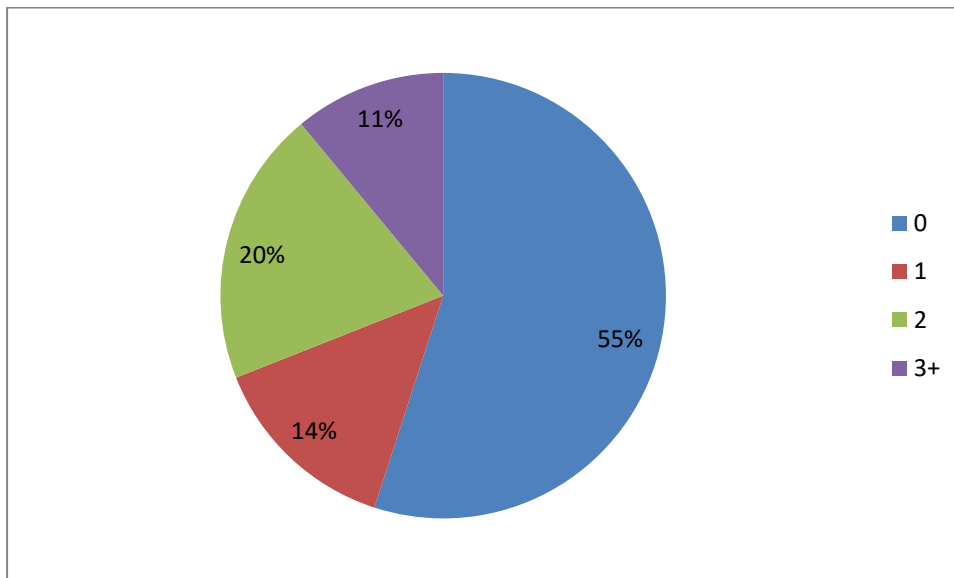


Figure 7. Composition of family volunteering households by the number of children in household

Figure 8 shows that the largest groups of households involved in family volunteering in the UK were those with the net monthly income between £1,001 and £4,000 per month. The smallest proportions were the households with very low income (under £1,001) and households with the income between £3,000 and £4,000.

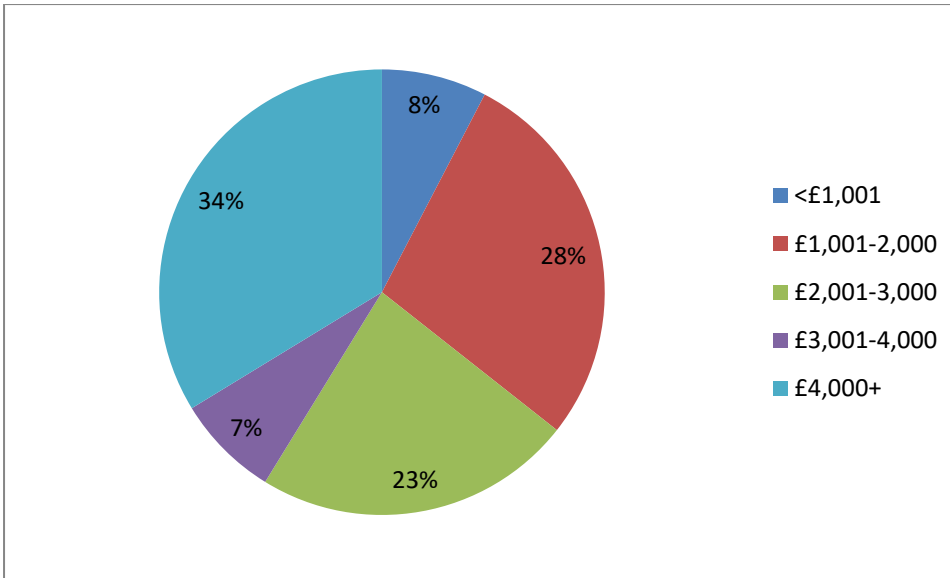


Figure 8. Composition of family volunteering households by the monthly household net income

Among the households that engaged in family volunteering, nearly two thirds were households where at least one of the members of the family was employed (see Figure 9). Compared to the whole population of the UK households, family volunteering involved a considerably lower proportion of households that received their income from self-employment. There were also a smaller proportion of the households with unemployment benefits among family volunteers than in the population. In contrast, there were more households with investment and benefits other than the unemployment benefits among family volunteers than there were in the whole household population.

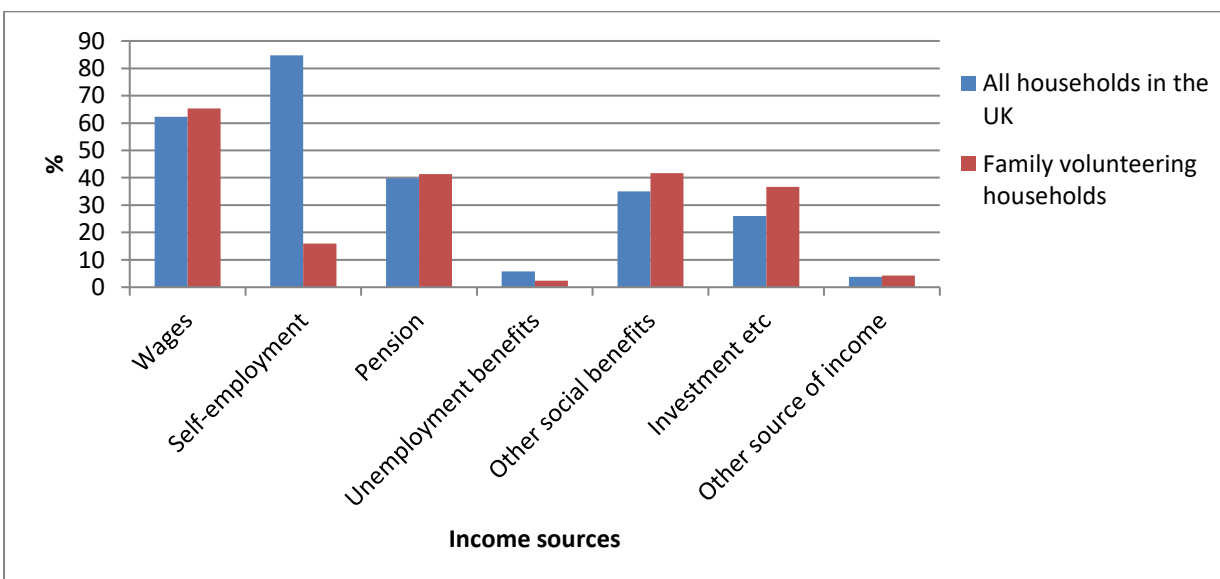


Figure 9. Composition of family volunteering by the sources of household income.

According to Table 11, the largest proportion of family volunteering households in the UK was from South East England. In three regions: South East, South West, East of England, North East, and Northern Ireland the share of the households in these regions was higher than their share in the population. This was because in these regions families were more likely to get engaged in family volunteering than in other regions (see Table 1). In contrast, in London, Scotland, Yorkshire and Humbers and Wales, the proportion of family volunteering households was lower than their proportion in the population.

Table 11. Regional distribution of family volunteering households

Regions	Family volunteering households (%)	All households (%)
South East	17	14
South West	12	9
East of England	11	10
North West	11	11
London	9	12
Scotland	8	9
Yorkshire and Humbers	8	9
East Midlands	7	7
North East	5	3
Wales	4	5
Northern Ireland	4	3
West Midlands	3	8
Total	100	100

How common is family volunteering in the UK and what contribution does it make?

On an average day three out of every 100 (or about 810, 000) households in the UK participate in family volunteering: that is two or more family members from the same household volunteering together. They constitute one third of the UK formal volunteering households. Regional differences in family volunteering rates were not significant.

Families spend on average 27 minutes per person per day on family volunteering, resulting in the total of one hour on average per household per day. This translates into 92 years worth of time spent on family volunteering per day in the total UK household population.

The total minimum value of time spent family volunteering in the UK on an average day is around £5.4 million. That is approximately £1.97 billion worth of family volunteering per calendar year.

How do different members of the same family engage in volunteering activities together or separately?

Family members are most likely to volunteer and also to spend most of family volunteering time with a partner. The least common family volunteering type and also the one on which the least time is spent is volunteering with father.

Volunteering with other household members (other than mother/father or child under eight) - including children aged eight or older is the second most common family volunteering type on which the families spend as much total time as on volunteering with a partner.

Who volunteers as a family?

Participation in family volunteering is significantly related to the household composition. The family volunteering rates are the highest among households consisting of a couple with or without children and the lowest among single adult households with or without children. This echoes the findings from previous studies that have found that married people are more likely to volunteer compared to single people, particularly if their spouse volunteers (Nesbit, 2012;

Taniguchi, 2006). However, single parent complex households spend most time on family volunteering.

Larger households, especially those with six or more individuals in them, are more likely to be involved in family volunteering than smaller households.

Families with children under age of 16 are more likely to get involved in family volunteering but spend less time on it than families without children in the same age. This is true for all children's' age groups. The reason for higher rates of family volunteering among households with children might be because having children opens up opportunities for family volunteering through schools and clubs that are already orientated towards family-friendly activities. The highest rates of family volunteering are among the households including children aged 11 to 15. Families with children aged 5-10 spend most time on family volunteering. The opposite pattern was present for other formal volunteering activities: households with children of any age were less likely to engage in these activities than the household without children. Participation in family volunteering is significantly related to the household composition. The family volunteering rates are the highest among households consisting of a couple with or without children and the lowest among single adult households with or without children. This echoes the findings from previous studies that have found that married people are more likely to volunteer compared to single people, particularly if their spouse volunteers (Nesbit, 2012; Taniguchi, 2006). However, single parent complex households spend most time on family volunteering.

Once children have reached the age of 16, their presence or absence in a household does not make a significant difference to engagement in family volunteering.

The size of household income does not make a significant difference to involvement in family volunteering, but some income sources do. Having independent means (income from investments, savings and similar) facilitates family volunteering but unemployment benefits lower it. Other types of income (wages, self-employment, other income) do not make a significant difference.

What is the composition of family volunteering?

Because different types of households are not equally common in the UK, there are some differences in between who is most likely to get involved and the composition of family volunteering in the UK. This knowledge is important for volunteer management.

Three quarters of all family volunteering households are couples without (44%) or with (32%) children. 55% of all family volunteering households have no children in them. 44% of all family volunteering households are two person households, and 25% are four person households. Around one third (34%) of family volunteer households have monthly income over £4,000 and around half (51%) – an income between £1,000 and £3,000. Two thirds of family volunteering households receive their income from wages, 40% from pension or social benefits other than the unemployment benefits.

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Appendix 1

Data source

This report used United Kingdom Time Use Survey (UKTUS) 2014-2015 data (Gershuny & Sullivan, 2017). UKTUS is a nationally representative large-scale household survey of how people aged 8 years and over spend their time. The UKTUS to our knowledge is the only nationally representative dataset that measures with whom individuals are volunteering in the UK. The household weights provided within the UKTUS dataset were used in all analyses presented in this report to ensure that the findings could be generalised to the UK population of households.

Sample and sampling methods

The UKTUS sample was a multi-stage stratified probability sample. The respondents were selected following a 3-stage design: firstly, a set of postcode sectors in Great Britain and wards in Northern Ireland were selected randomly; then a fixed number of addresses were chosen for each postcode sector or ward; finally all household members in the address aged 8 or over were included to take the individual interview and the time diary. To reduce impact of seasonal variation in time use, dates of the allocated days were randomly selected for each postal sector. A total of 11,860 sampled households resulted in 4,238 household interviews with 10,208 eligible respondents of whom 9,388 answered the individual interview and/or completed 16,550 diary days. The achieved household response rate was 40.4% and the net diary response rate 32.8% (NatCen, 2016). All analyses reported in this report have used the household weights to ensure that the sample of responding households is representative of the population of households in the UK (Centre for Time Use Research, 2016).

The analytical sample used in this report was 4,216 household in the UK that met the following criteria – a completed household interview and at least one completed diary day per household.

Appendix 2

UKTUS Activity codes related to formal volunteering

(Source: NatCen, 2016, p. 128-133)

Activity	Definition	Examples
VOLUNTARY WORK AND MEETINGS (Level 1)		
4000 Unspecified volunteer work and meetings		
Organisational work (Level 2)	Working as a volunteer free of charge or for a minor fee	
4100 Unspecified organisational work		
4110 Work for an organisation	<p>Work done for an organisation, not directly for an individual.</p> <p>Work for groups and associations, as well as work for school and kindergarten, and neighbourhood groups etc.</p> <p>Work as a committee member.</p> <p>Administrative work.</p> <p>Preparing activities, work for events.</p> <p>Baking etc. for the organisation, working in the canteen.</p> <p>Repairs and other odd jobs for the organisation.</p> <p>Voluntary fire brigade.</p> <p>Bookkeeping for clubs.</p> <p>Giving information, distributing leaflets.</p> <p>Activities connected with collecting money for the organisation.</p> <p>Note: If volunteer work is done directly for the individual (e.g. delivering meals etc.) then it is included in 4120 Volunteer work through an organisation.</p>	<p>Board meeting</p> <p>Checked an order list for the bandy team</p> <p>Collected material for a board meeting</p> <p>Computer work for the hockey club</p> <p>Counted and delivered ordered clothes (for the riding club)</p> <p>Distribution of meeting notices</p> <p>Election night activities</p> <p>Environmental care and animal protection</p> <p>Fetches/sold Bingo lottery tickets</p> <p>Preparing for the council meeting</p> <p>Recruitment of sponsors</p> <p>Sorted clothes (sale for the riding club)</p> <p>Sorted correspondence of the club</p> <p>Working with the organisation's newsletter</p>
4120 Volunteer work through an organisation	<p>Work is directed to people via an organisation, volunteer work. Care of elderly and disabled via an organisation.</p> <p>Delivering meals. Teacher or course instructor.</p> <p>Coach, referee etc. in sports and gymnastics.</p> <p>Leader of a youth group, e.g. scout leader.</p> <p>Work in a childcare group.</p> <p>Leading or organising self-help group.</p> <p>Note: Informal help to private households is included in 4289 Informal help to other households and is coded according to the actual activity</p>	<p>Activities as member of religious helping groups: hospital visitation, feeding the poor, support groups, etc.</p> <p>Coached handball team</p> <p>Coaching sports</p> <p>Donating of blood</p> <p>Helped at the refugee centre</p> <p>Helping with organised activities in the baths and clearing up the bathing-place</p> <p>Leading religious youth group</p> <p>Meeting with the youth section</p>

		Road maintenance in a voluntary group
4190 Other specified organisational work		
Participatory activities (Level 2)	Attending meetings free of charge or for a minor fee	
4300 Unspecified participatory activities		
4310 Meetings	Attending meetings and other organisational activities when not in a position of trust. Concerns all kind of meetings etc. arranged by social, political, scout and other organisations, informal clubs and groups. Note: Parent's meeting is included in 3840 Accompanying child.	Helped organise program in a Scout camp Parent-teacher meetings (without the child) Political party meeting