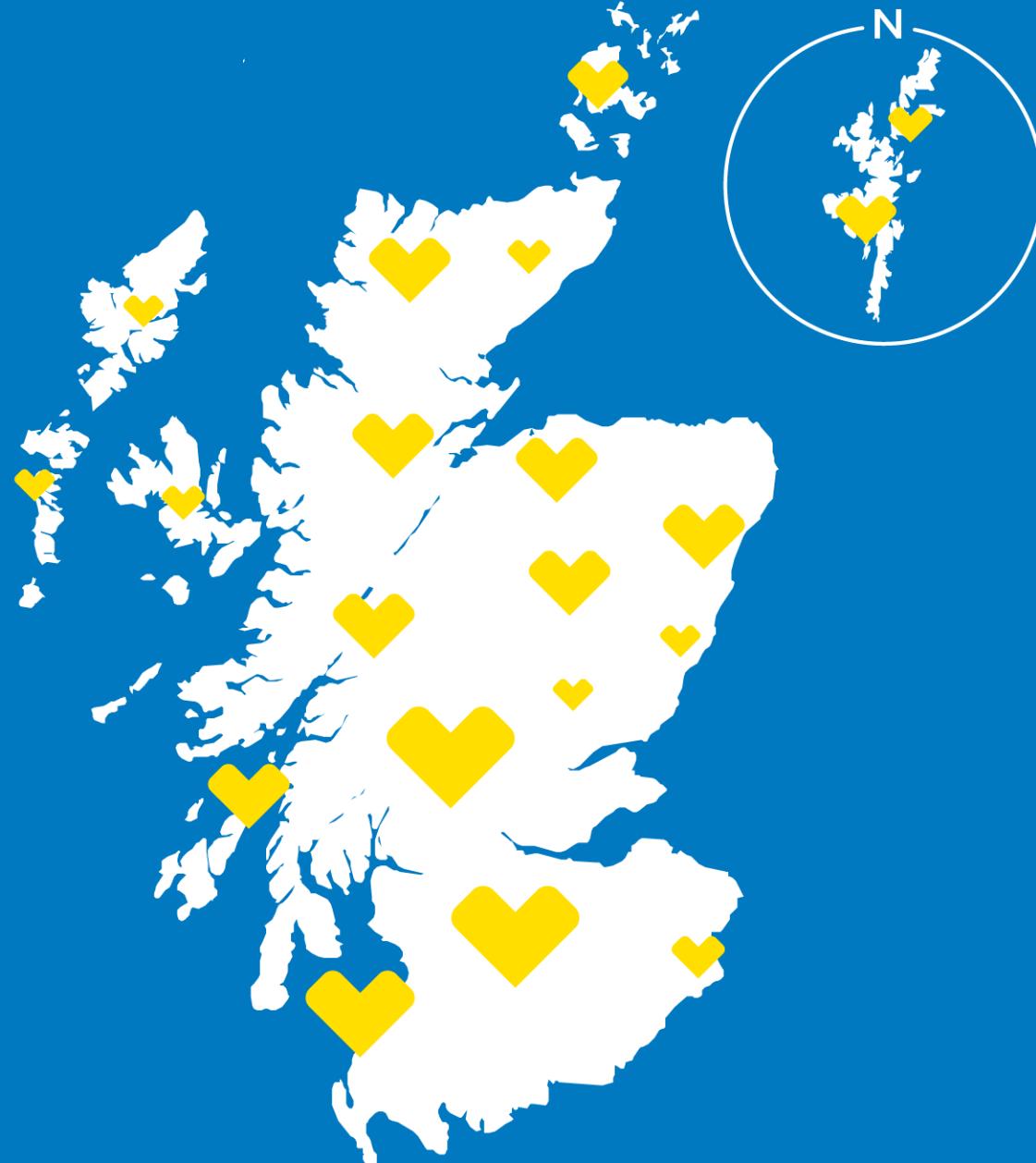




# Impact of COVID-19 on volunteer participation in Scotland

**Full presentation  
October 2020**

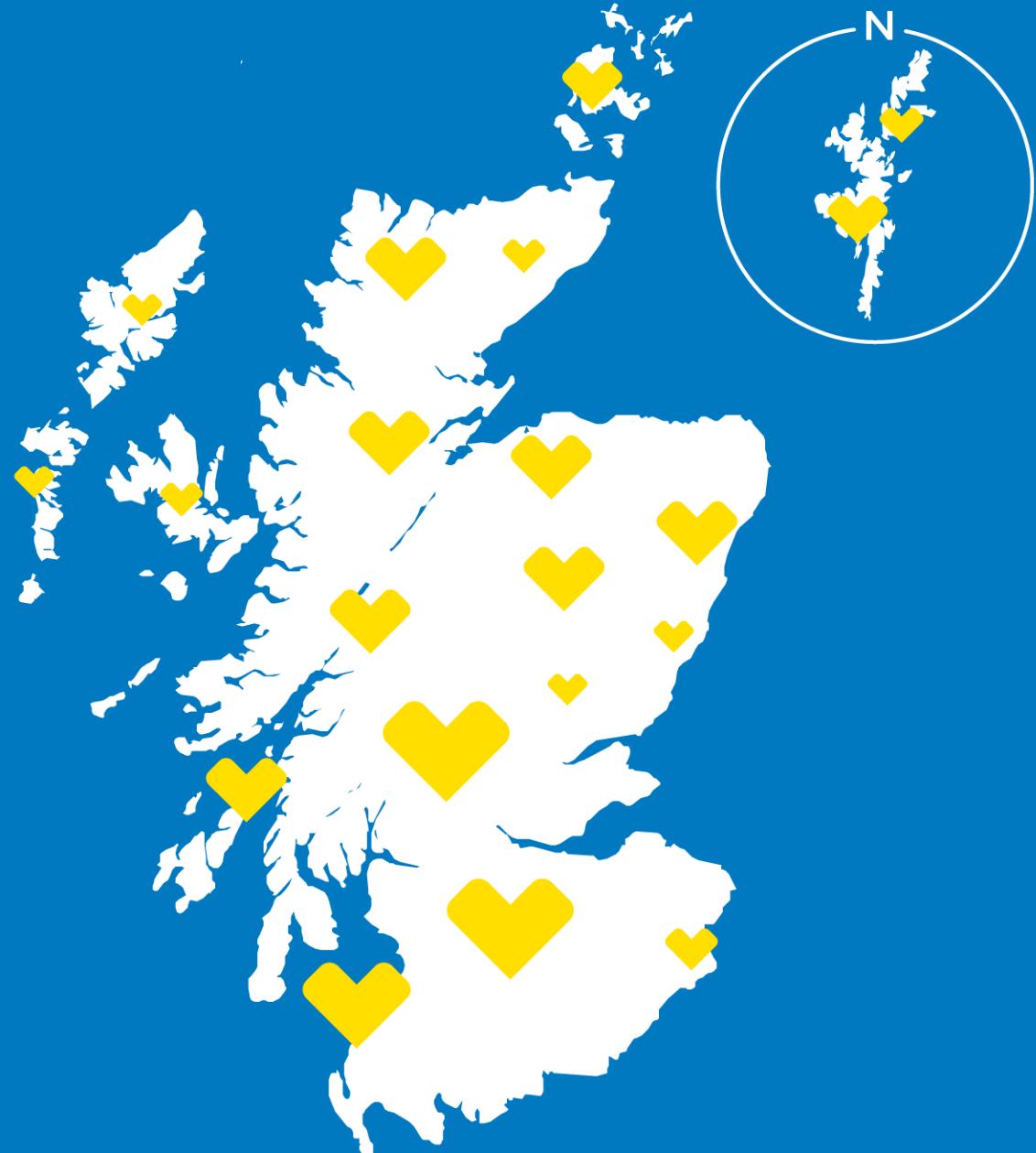
Debbie Maltman  
Matthew Linning  
Alan Stevenson



# Structure

- [Highlights](#)
- [Methodology](#)
- [Volunteering before COVID-19](#)
- [Volunteering during COVID-19](#)
- [Volunteering after COVID-19](#)

# Highlights

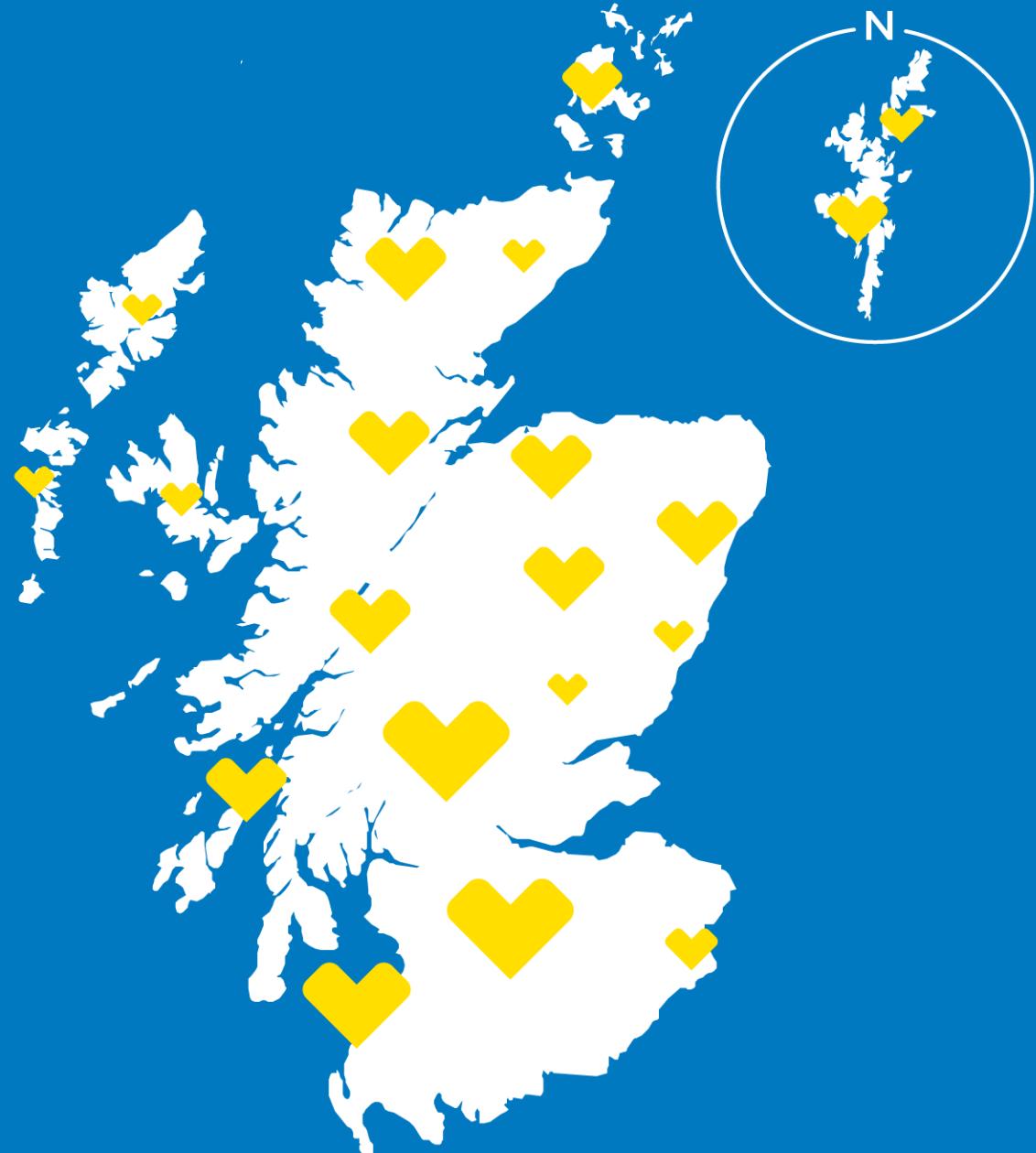


# Highlights

- Volunteering participation in Scotland during March to June 2020 has increased by 26% due to COVID-19 (from 48% to 74%)
- Informal volunteering has much higher participation (35%) \* compared to mutual aid (16%) \* and formal volunteering (13%)\*.
- Befriending (68%), food shopping (57%) and helping with household tasks (30%) have the highest volunteering participation
- Compared to the SHS 2018 data, all types of volunteering are expected to be higher after the COVID-19 crisis is over:
  - Formal volunteering – from 26% to 37%
  - Mutual aid – from 0% to 32% (not recorded in SHS)
  - Informal volunteering – from 35% to 47%
  - Total volunteering – from 48% to 59%
- The impact on volunteering participation is greater in encouraging more people to volunteer than increasing the amount of time they devote to volunteering.

Note: \*These percentages may be understated due to 'unassigned' responses - this issue is explained in the methodology section.

# Methodology



# Methodology – Survey Design

## Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey

- Survey of 1,014 adults aged 16+ in Scotland
- Telephone interviews
- Conducted 22 – 29 June 2020
- Weighting to ensure representative sample:  
(by age, gender, tenure and Scottish Parliament region)

## Volunteer Scotland design

- Questionnaire designed by Volunteer Scotland
- Focus on volunteering participation:
  - Before COVID-19 (March 2019 – Feb 2020)
  - During COVID-19 (March – June 2020)
  - Post COVID-19 (once the crisis is over and we are no longer in a pandemic)
- Modelled on SHS participation question
- But split across three categories:
  - Formal volunteering
  - Mutual aid
  - Informal volunteering

# Classification of volunteering

- **Formal volunteering** - *through a charity, formally organised group, club or an organisation* – the key distinguishing feature is that the volunteering is provided through formally constituted groups, including registered charities, employers, clubs and societies.
- **Mutual aid** - *through an informal group set up by people in your area to support and help others in your local community* – the key distinguishing feature is that the volunteering is provided through non-constituted groups without legal/charitable status. This category refers specifically to groups on Facebook, WhatsApp, etc. set up to support communities or issues in society.
- **Informal volunteering** - *as an individual to help other people outside your family, or to support your local community* – the key distinguishing feature is that the volunteering is provided directly by the individual to the beneficiary/local community/environment and not through any form of group.

# Questionnaire design to understand volunteering participation during COVID-19

In line with SHS survey methodology Volunteer Scotland added a two-step question to identify volunteering during Covid-19 to ensure that all volunteers were recorded. [Link to questionnaire](#)

Q.1 asked adults:

"Thinking now about the time since the COVID-19 crisis began in March of this year, have you given any voluntary unpaid help:

- Through a charity, formally organised group, club or an organisation like the NHS (formal volunteering)
- Through an informal group set up by people in your area to support and help others in your local community (mutual aid)
- As an individual to help other people outside your family, or to support your local community (informal volunteering)"

Where adults answered 'no' to these questions the second check question was asked:

Q.2B: "And can I just check, have you given up any of your time to help anyone outside of your family with any of the following since the COVID-19 crisis began in March of this year?" A full list of volunteer activity types was included.

Almost a third of adults (32%) answered that they had undertaken at least one of the volunteer activity types listed. Unfortunately, the questionnaire did not ask whether this volunteering engagement related to formal volunteering, mutual aid or informal volunteering. For the remainder of this presentation this group will be referred to as "unassigned volunteers".

Due to the unassigned volunteers the estimates for formal, mutual aid and informal volunteering may be understated, however due to the types of activities undertaken it would appear that the unassigned volunteer activities are more aligned to informal and mutual aid volunteering, leading the participation rates of these groups to be understated during COVID-19.

# Methodology – Statistical Methodology

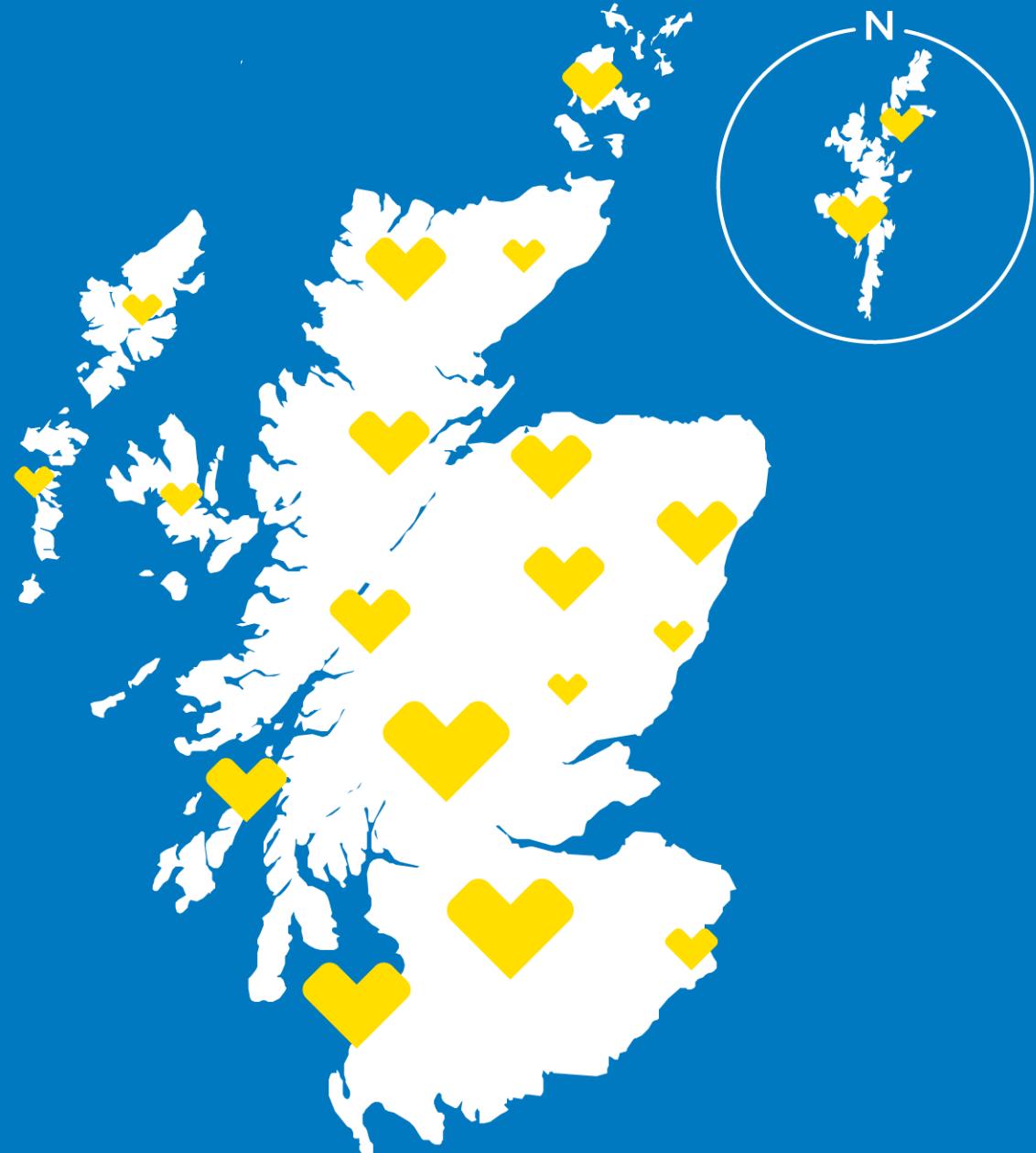
## Statistical Significance, Chi square and Z-tests

- For comparison of demographic groups Chi Square statistical tests have been used to test which attributes influence volunteering participation rates, which have a statistically significant relationship.
- Chi square tests a null hypothesis that the attribute (e.g. gender) has no influence on volunteering participation against the alternate hypothesis that the attribute influences participation rates.
- For example does gender influence volunteer participation rates or are differences between male and female participation rates purely due to chance?
- Chi square testing requires that no more than 20% of response categories have less than 5 observations. Response categories have been merged where appropriate.
- Z tests have been used to test for significance between samples; comparing participation rates between this survey and the SHS (2018) and within this survey (participation rates before, during and after COVID-19).
- **Only statistically significant results are discussed within this presentation.**

## Confidence Intervals and Confidence Levels

- A confidence interval (CI) is simple way to measure how well our survey represents the wider Scottish population. The CI is a range of values (upper and lower) that contain (with some level of certainty) the true mean of the Scottish population.
- The level of certainty that the confidence interval includes the true mean value is called the confidence level. In this case we have applied a 95% confidence level.
- Within this presentation we've presented the confidence intervals for select findings. Essentially, we've augmented the single point survey response with a response range that the Scottish population response would fall within, 95% of the time.
- 95% confidence intervals will be presented as:
  - Participation rate [95% CI (Lower limit, Upper limit)]  
e.g. 45% [95% CI (42%, 48%)]
  - And depicted on charts by a  $\pm$  symbol on the bars.

# Volunteering before COVID-19

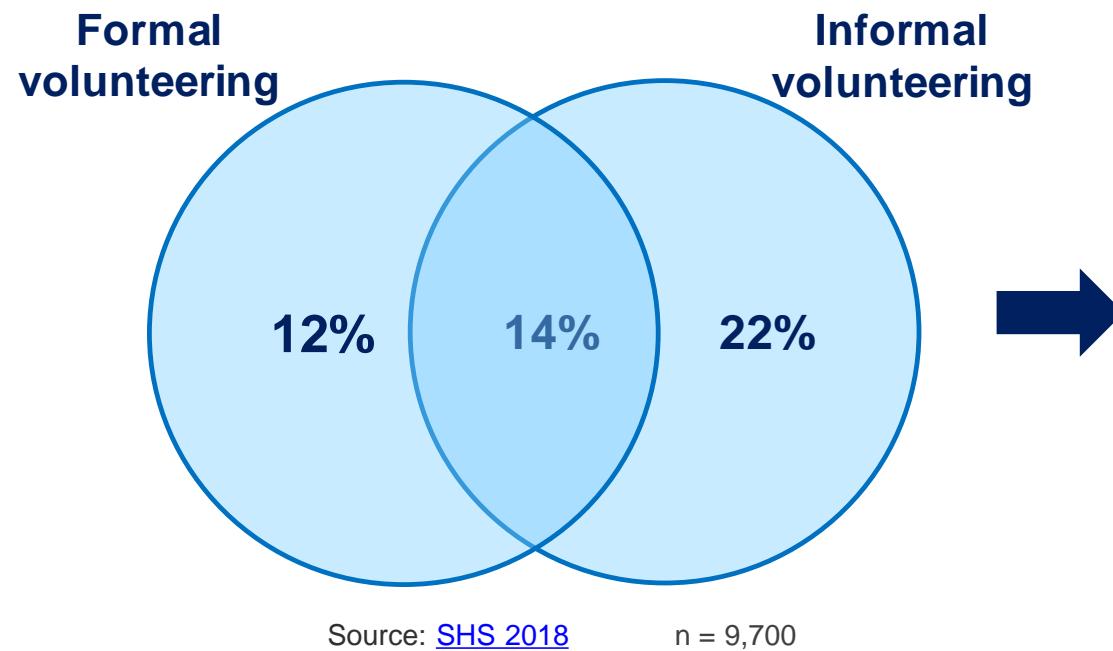


# Volunteer participation (before COVID-19)

- The overall volunteer participation rates from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2018 are used to provide a benchmark for volunteering in Scotland post COVID-19.
- The Ipsos-Mori survey is representative of the Scottish population due to the Data being weighted by: age, gender and tenure using SHS data; and Scottish Parliament region using National Records of Scotland mid-year population estimates. A discussion of the demographic groups volunteering pre COVID-19 from the Ipsos Mori omnibus survey is not undertaken in this presentation as Volunteer Scotland recently completed a time series analysis of volunteer demographics using the [Scottish Household Survey \(SHS\) from 2007 – 2018.](#)
- Focusing on the change in volunteering participation during COVID-19 and the predicted volunteering participation after COVID-19 provides a unique insight on society's response to the pandemic.

# Scottish Household Survey 2018 Baseline

## Adult volunteering participation rate (age 16+)

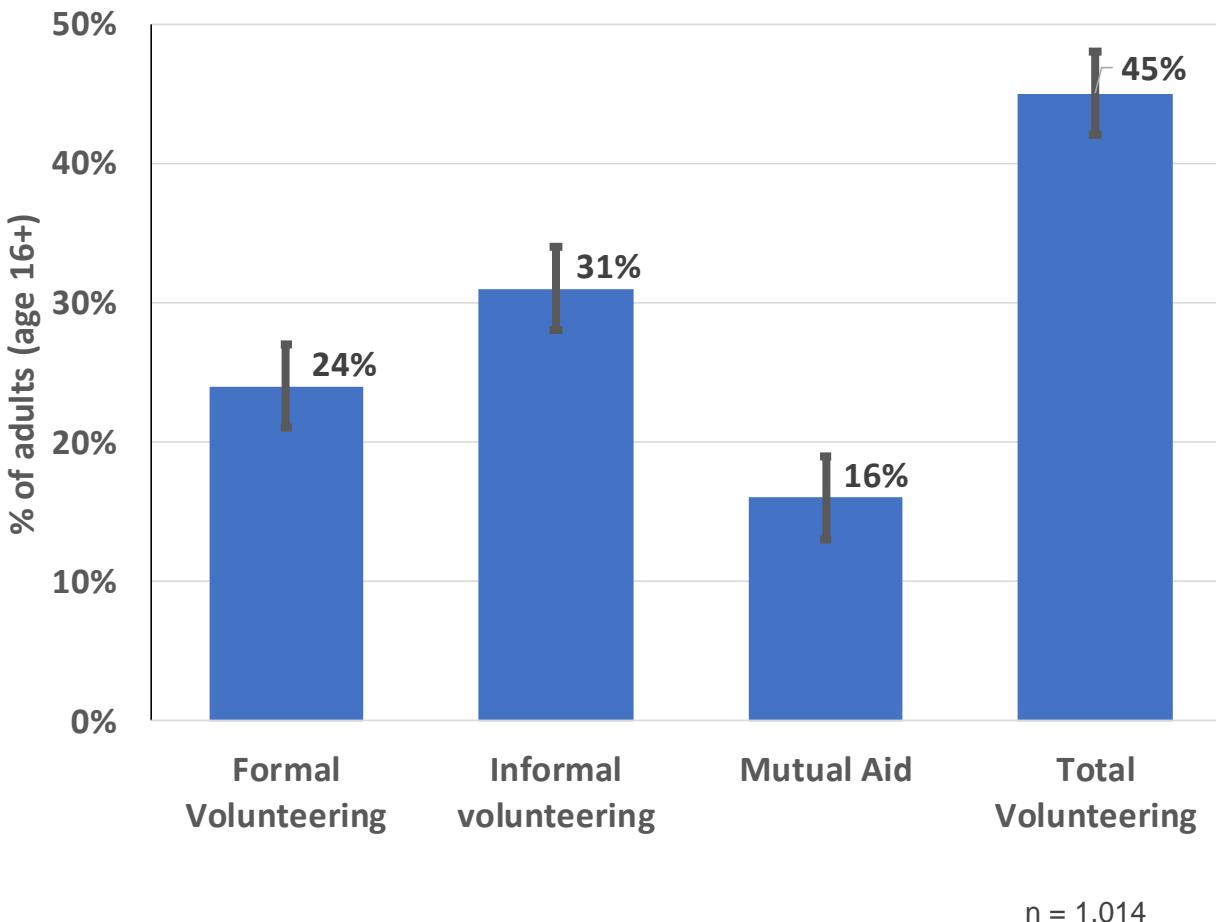


'Volunteering participation is defined as at least once in the last year

- Formal volunteering rate = 26%
- Informal volunteering rate = 36%
- Total volunteering rate = 48%

# Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey – Volunteering before COVID-19

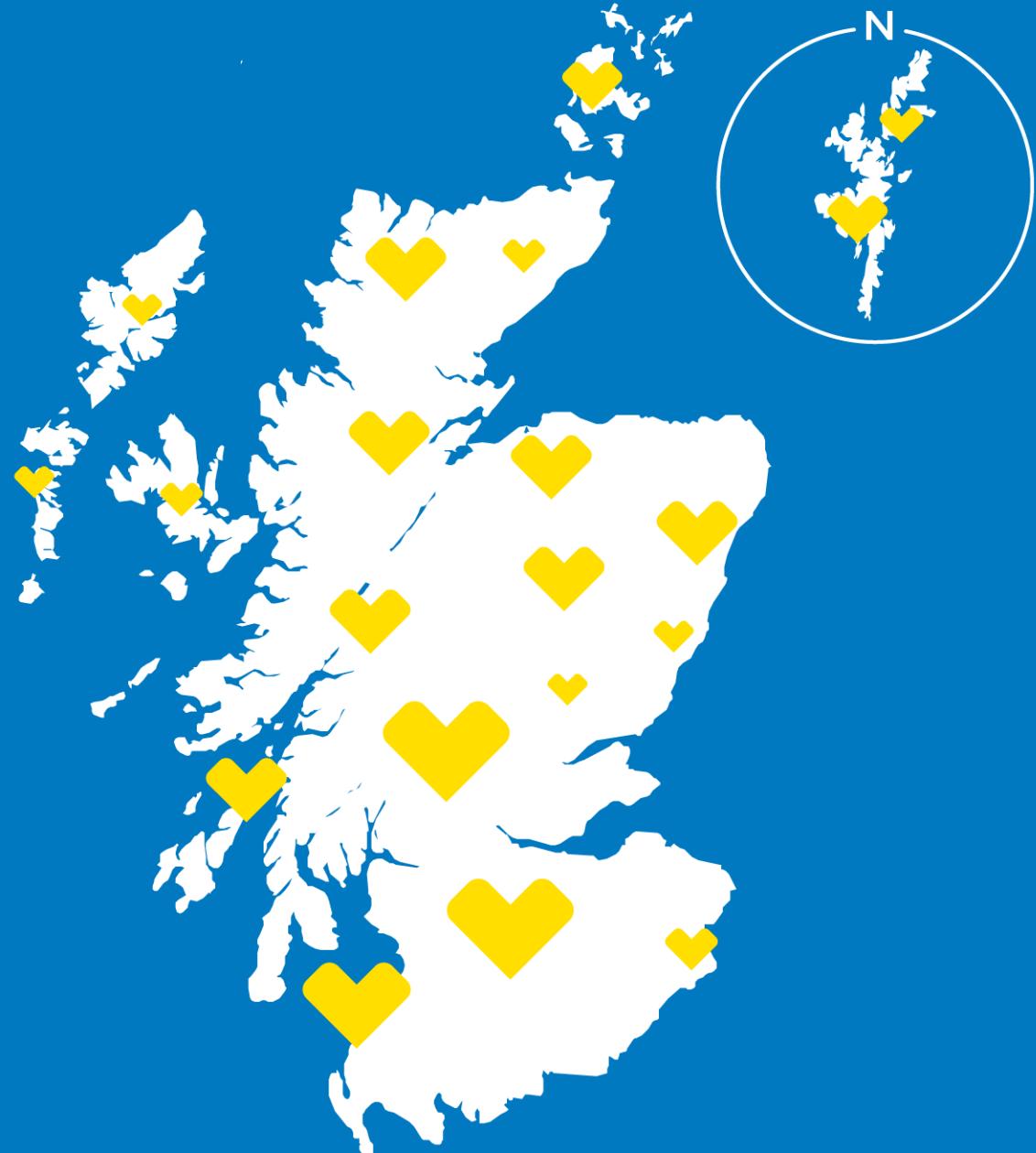
Volunteering participation: before COVID-19



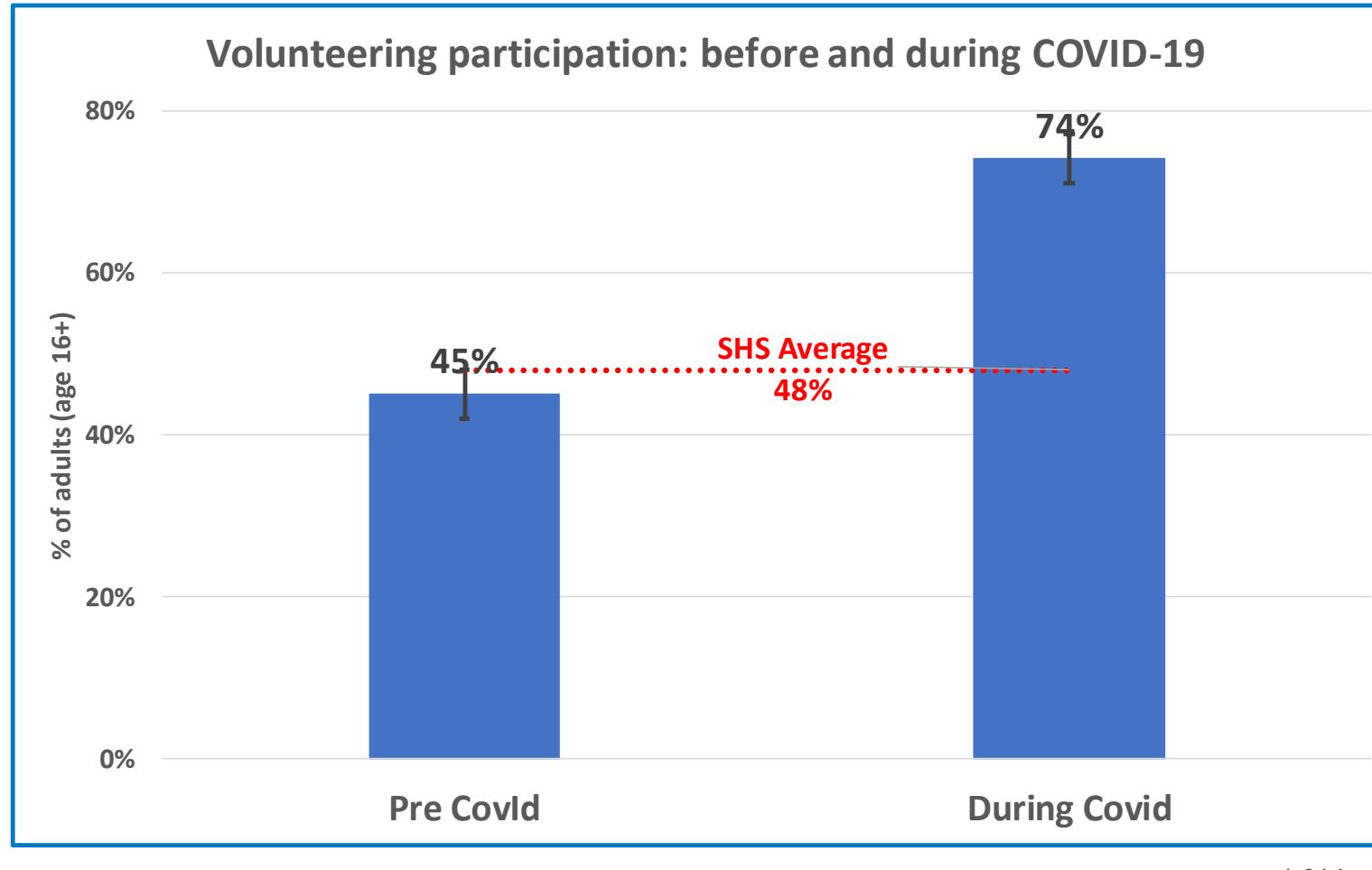
‘Volunteering participation is defined as at least once in the last year. For this survey the time period relates to the 12 months before the COVID-19 crisis began - from around March 2019 to February 2020.

- Formal volunteering rate = 24% [95% CI (21%, 27%)]
- Informal volunteering rate = 31% [95% CI (28%, 34%)]
- Mutual aid = 16% [95% CI (14%, 18%)]
- Total volunteering rate = 45% [95% CI (42%, 48%)]

# Volunteering during COVID-19

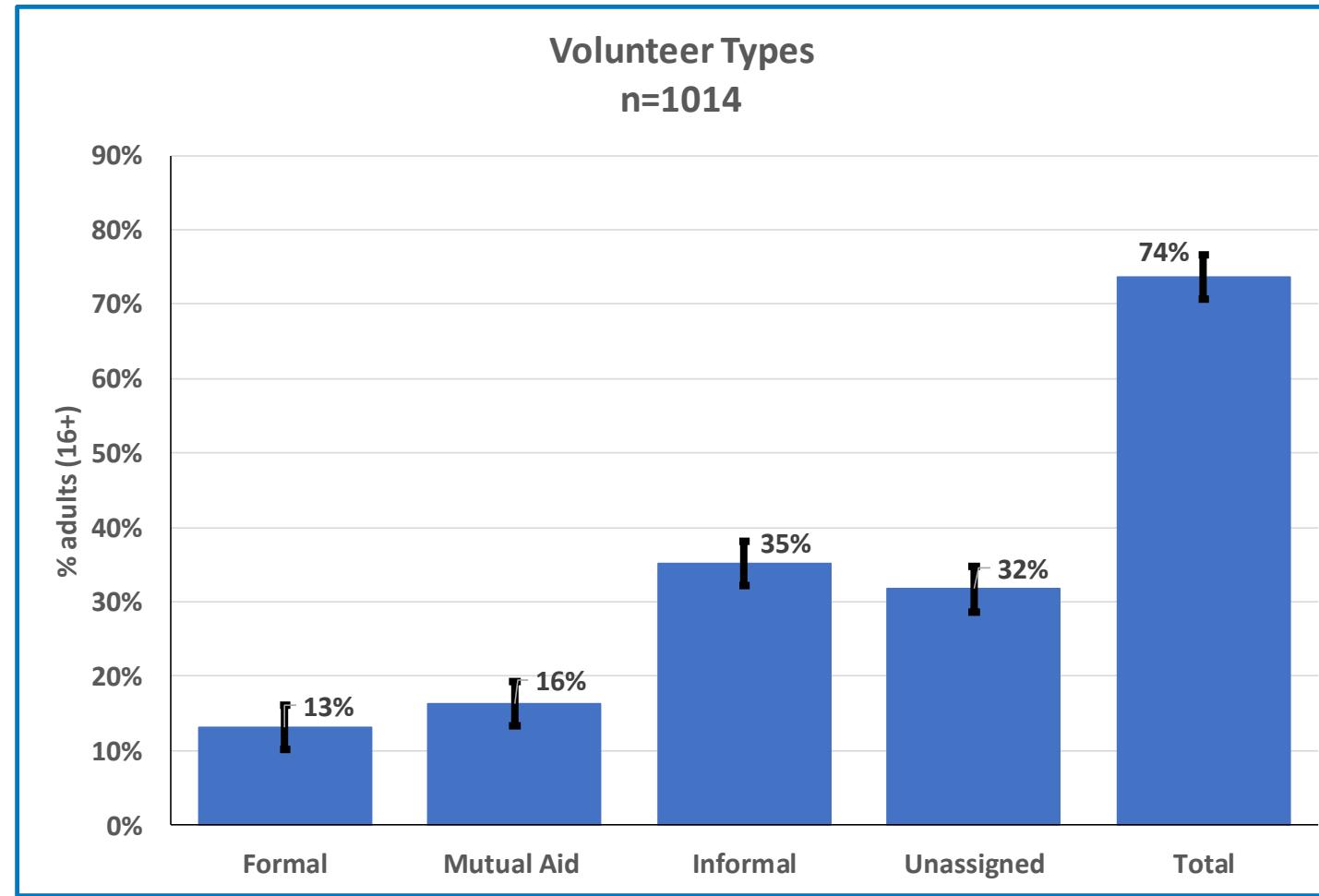


# Trend in total volunteering participation



- There's been a major increase in volunteering participation during COVID-19 to **74%** [95% CI (71%, 77%)]. Note, this rate is for 3 months compared to pre-COVID being 12 months.
- Volunteering participation before COVID-19 is at **45%** [95% CI (42%, 48%)]. This is similar to the **48%** [95% CI (47%, 49%)] participation rate indicated by the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2018.
- There's been a 26% increase in volunteering 'during COVID-19' compared to the SHS 2018 participation rate of 48%.

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19



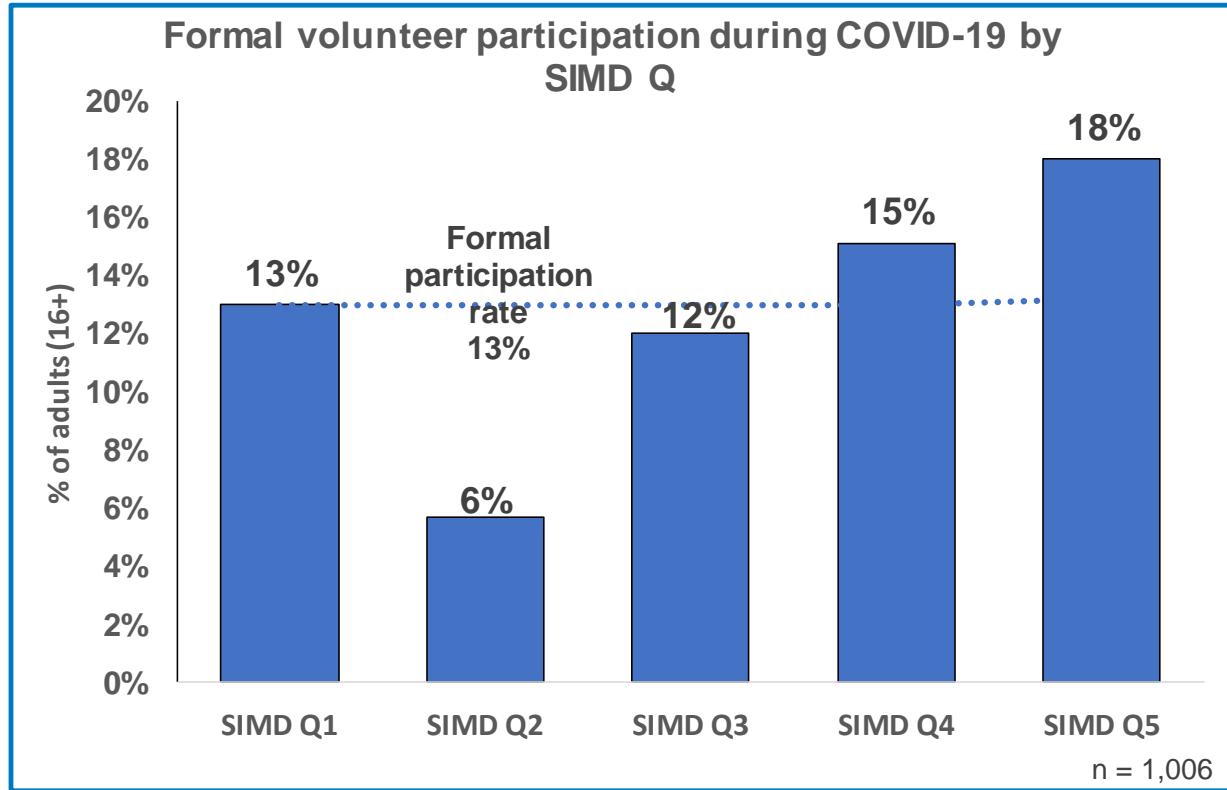
- Formal volunteering at **13%** [95% CI (11%, 15%)] reflects the impact of the lockdown on 'everyday volunteering'.
- Mutual aid at **16%** [95% CI (14%, 18%)] is a significant part of the volunteering response during COVID-19.
- Informal volunteering at **35%** [95% CI (32%, 38%)] is the most popular response.
- Other at **32%** [95% CI (29%, 35%)] captures those who undertook at least one volunteering activity but don't identify as a volunteer.

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19 – Summary of statistically significant demographic results

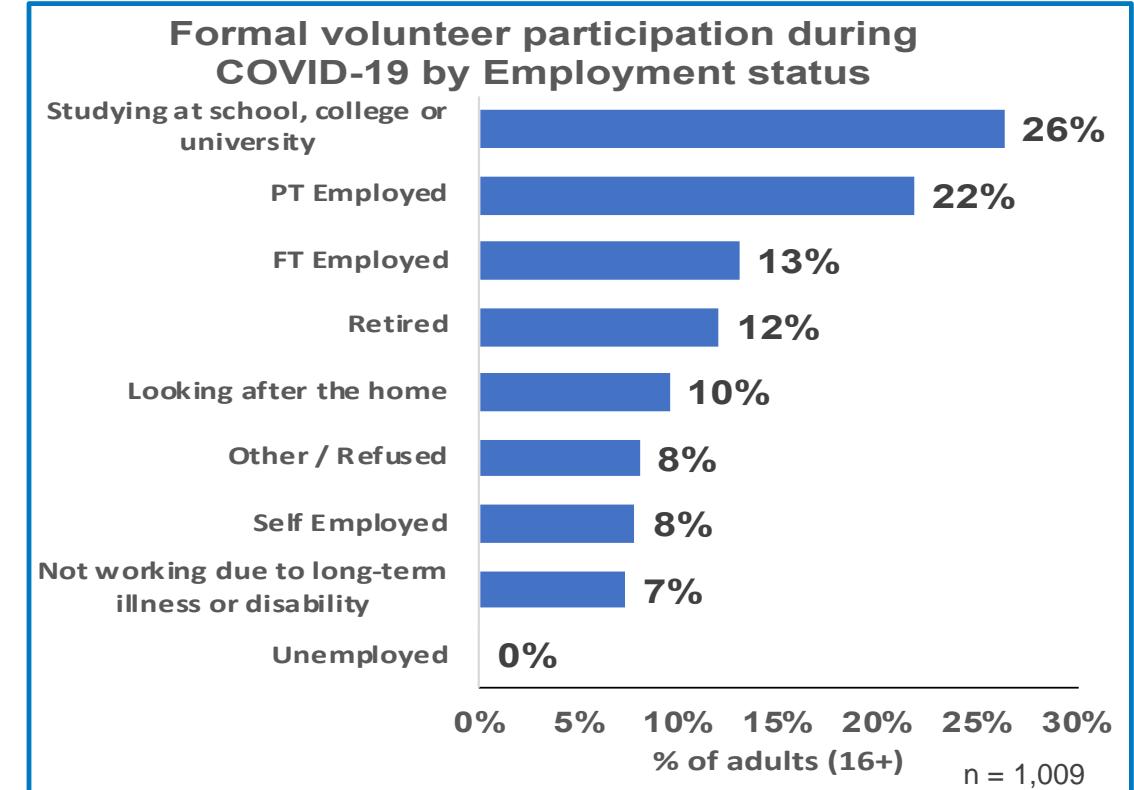
Sub demographic group with the highest volunteer participation rate during COVID-19 (March – June 2020 by Volunteer Type)	Formal	Mutual Aid	Informal	Unassigned
Age	No statistically significant relationship			
Gender	No statistically significant relationship			
Urban / Rural	No statistically significant relationship			
SIMD Q	<b>SIMD Q5</b>	No statistically significant relationship	<b>SIMD Q5</b>	No statistically significant relationship
Employment status	<b>In further / higher education</b>	<b>Employed part time</b>	<b>Employed part time</b>	<b>Looking after the home</b>
Highest level of qualification	<b>First degree or equivalent</b>	<b>First degree or equivalent</b>	<b>First degree or equivalent</b>	No statistically significant relationship
Tenure	<b>Live here rent free</b>	<b>Live here rent free</b>	<b>Live here rent free</b>	<b>Rent from a local authority / housing association</b>

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

## – Formal Volunteering



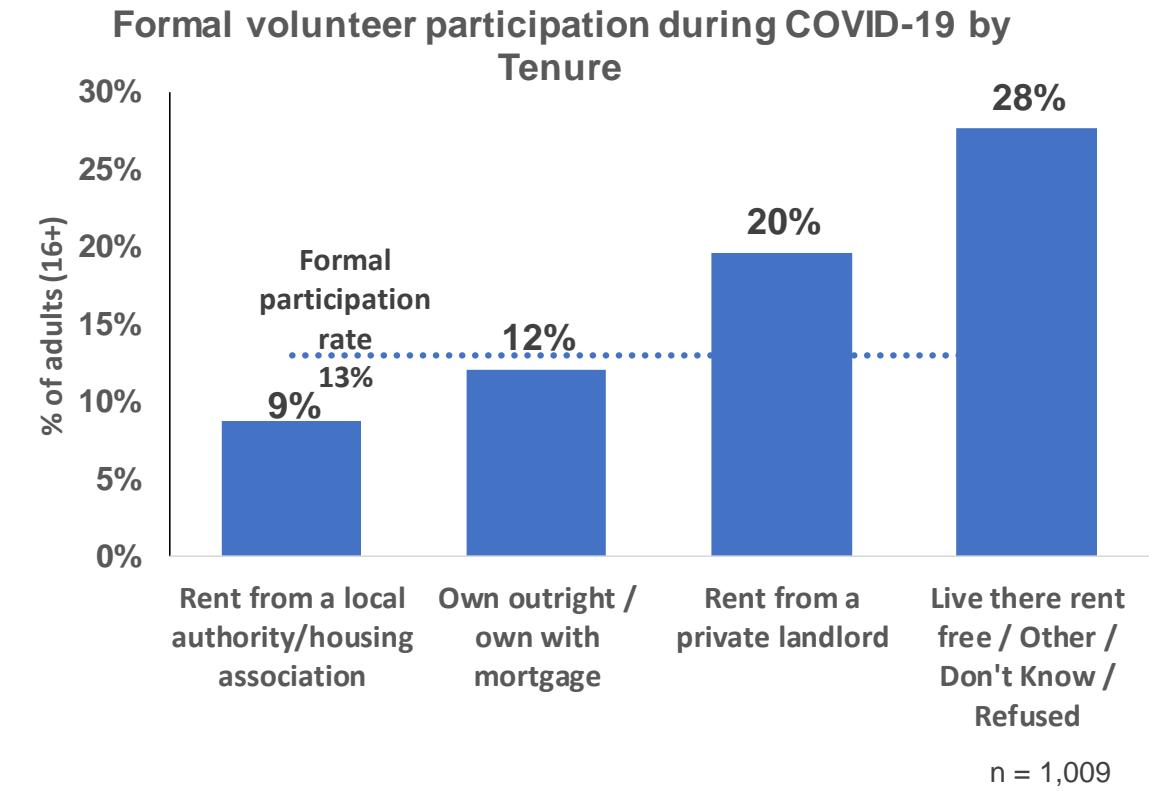
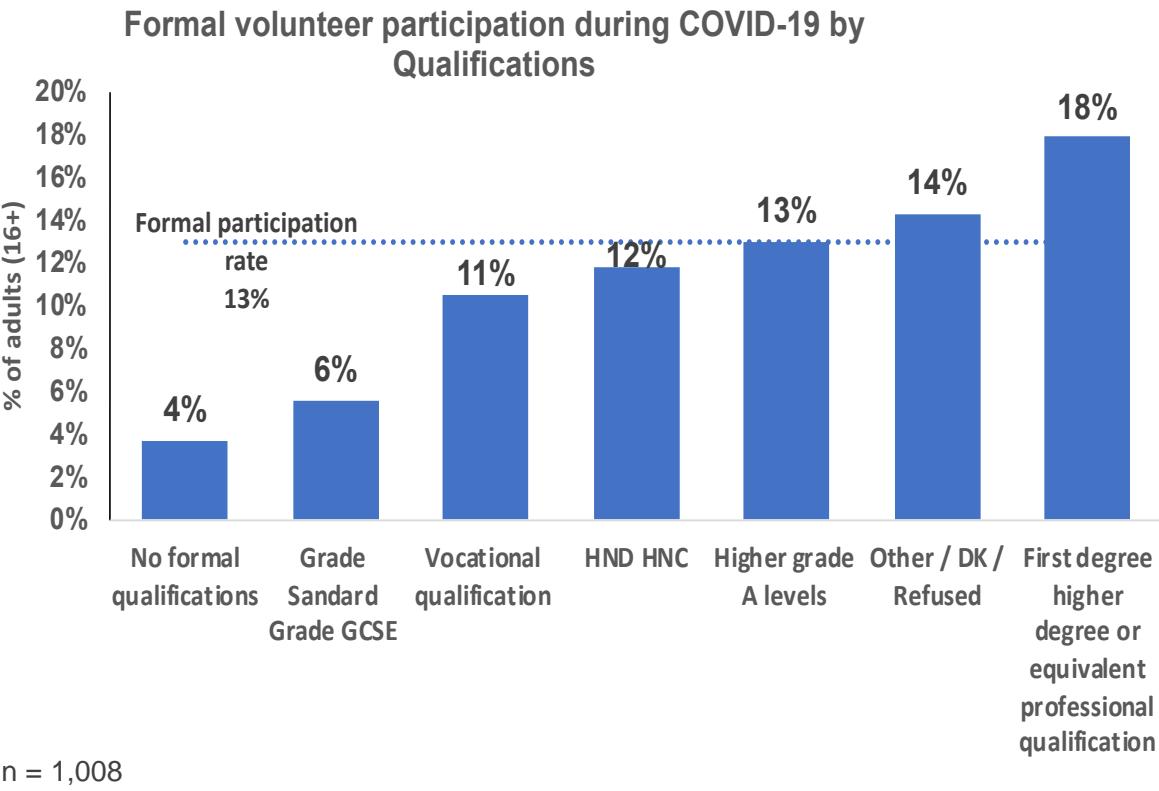
- The overall formal volunteer participation during COVID-19 is 13%.
- The participation rates in SIMD Q2 have participation rates less than half at 6%.
- This raises an interesting question as to why the participation rate for adults living in SIMD Q2 areas is so low?



- Participation rates for those in education and part-time employed have participation rates above the total formal participation rate of 13%, while those in full time employment have equal participation rates.
- Hypothesis – Those with more time due to being furloughed and students whose educational establishments have closed have formally volunteered more.

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

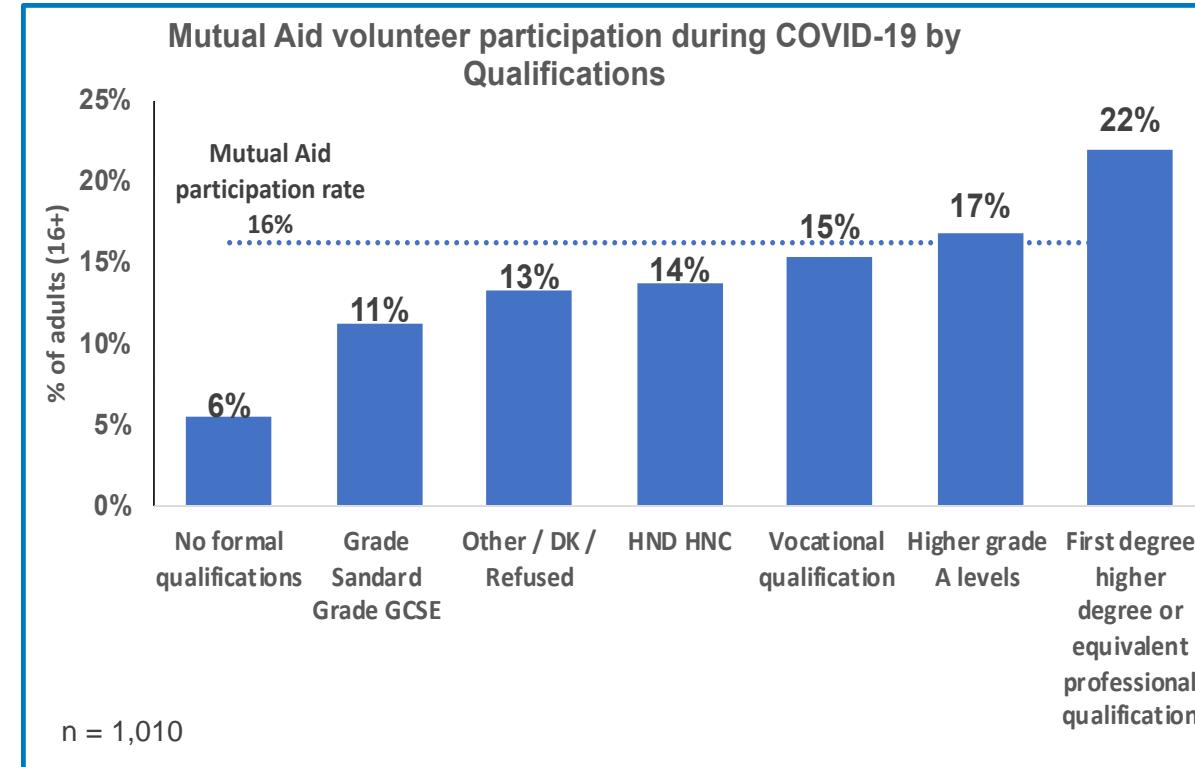
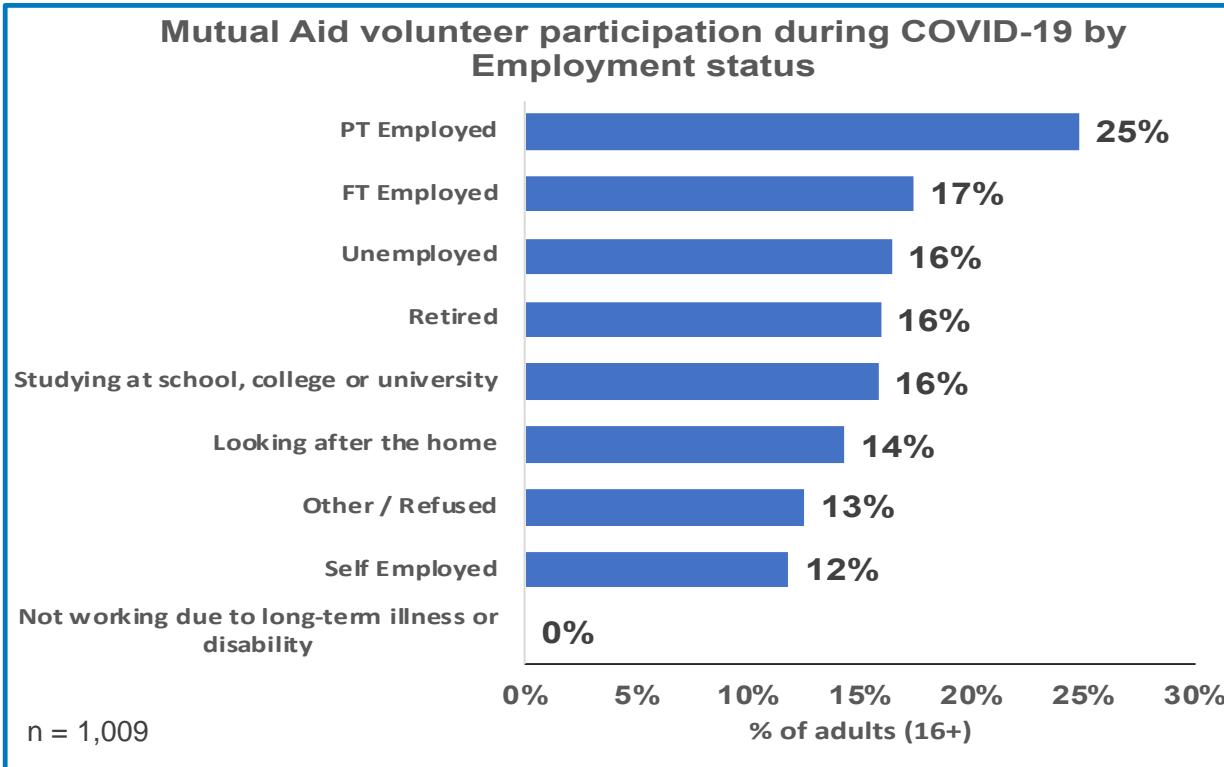
## – Formal Volunteering



- Participation rates for those with a first degree or higher have the highest formal participation rates during COVID-19.
- Hypothesis – From the SHS data there is a well-established trend that those with higher levels of educational qualifications have the highest volunteer participation rates, and this data trend has continued into formal volunteering during COVID-19.
- Participation rates for those who rent from a private landlord or live in their accommodation rent free / other / don't know have the highest formal participation rates during COVID-19.
- In contrast, those who are buying their home with a mortgage or loan have the highest formal participation rates in the SHS 2018. This raises an interesting question around why those that who are renting from a private landlord or living there rent free have high formal participation rates during COVID-19 but low participation rates in the SHS 2018?

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

## – Mutual Aid



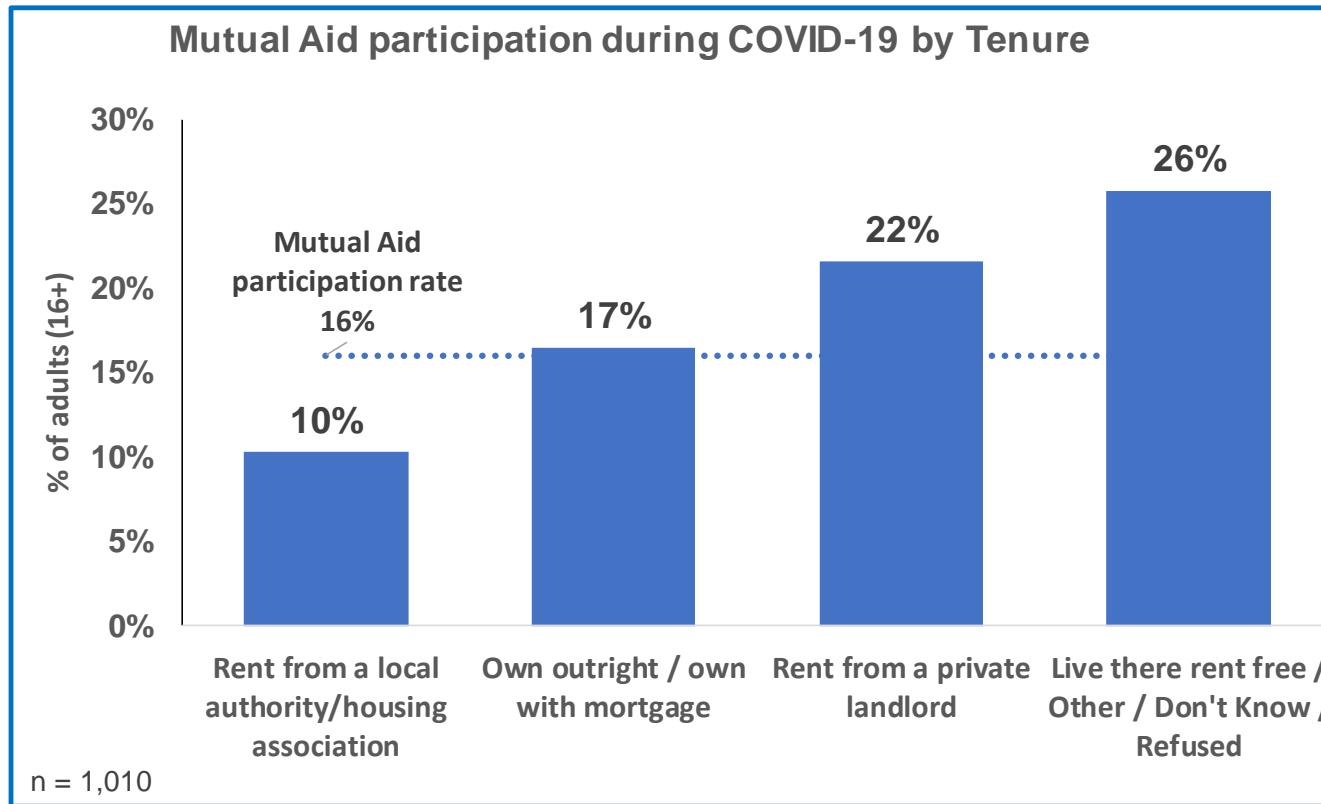
- Data on mutual aid is not available from the SHS, and this is the first time that mutual aid volunteering has been analysed.
- As with other types of volunteering part-time employed and full-time employed adults have the highest participation rates.
- Unemployed adults have rates equal to the mutual aid volunteering average of 16%. This raises an interesting question as to why mutual aid volunteering is engaging with unemployed adults: could this be due to the informality of entry or the types of activities undertaken?

Source: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020

- Those with a first degree or higher have the highest mutual aid participation rates.
- Interestingly, those with higher grade or A levels have the second highest mutual aid participation rate which differs from both formal and informal volunteering. While there is no data available to confirm if this trend was present before COVID-19 it could again be reflective of the informality of entry to mutual aid groups and the types of activities undertaken.

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

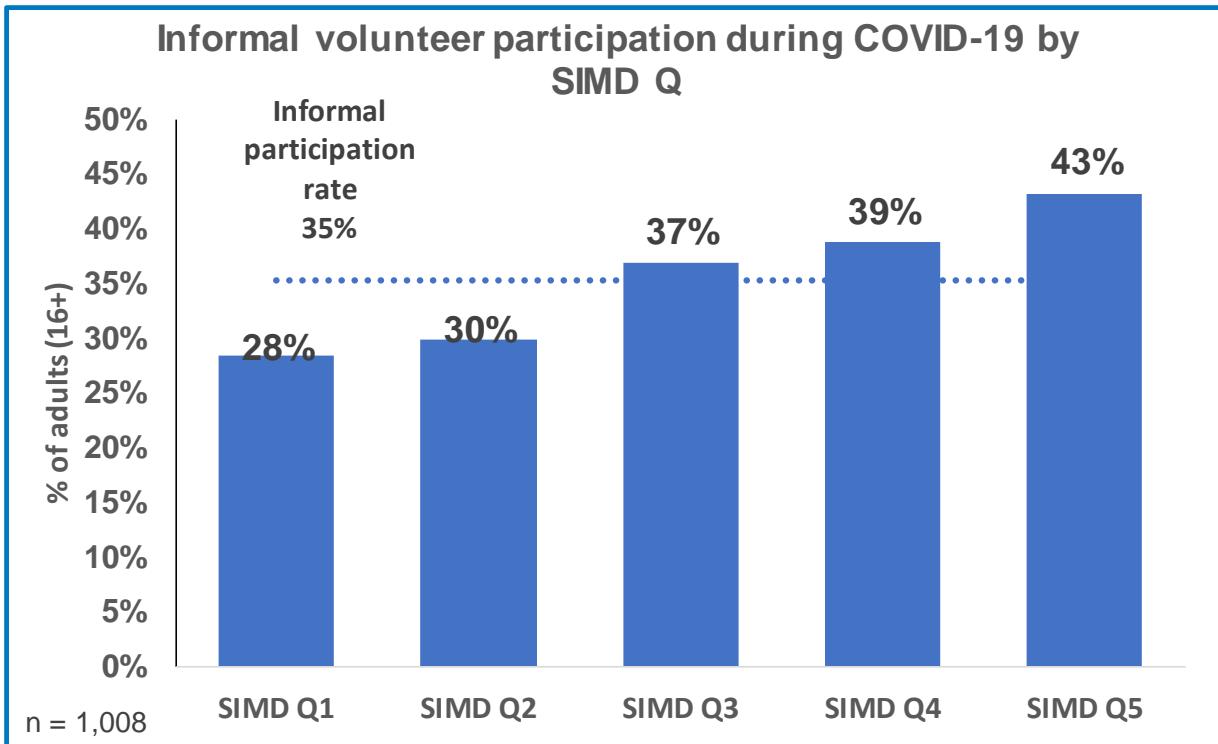
## – Mutual Aid



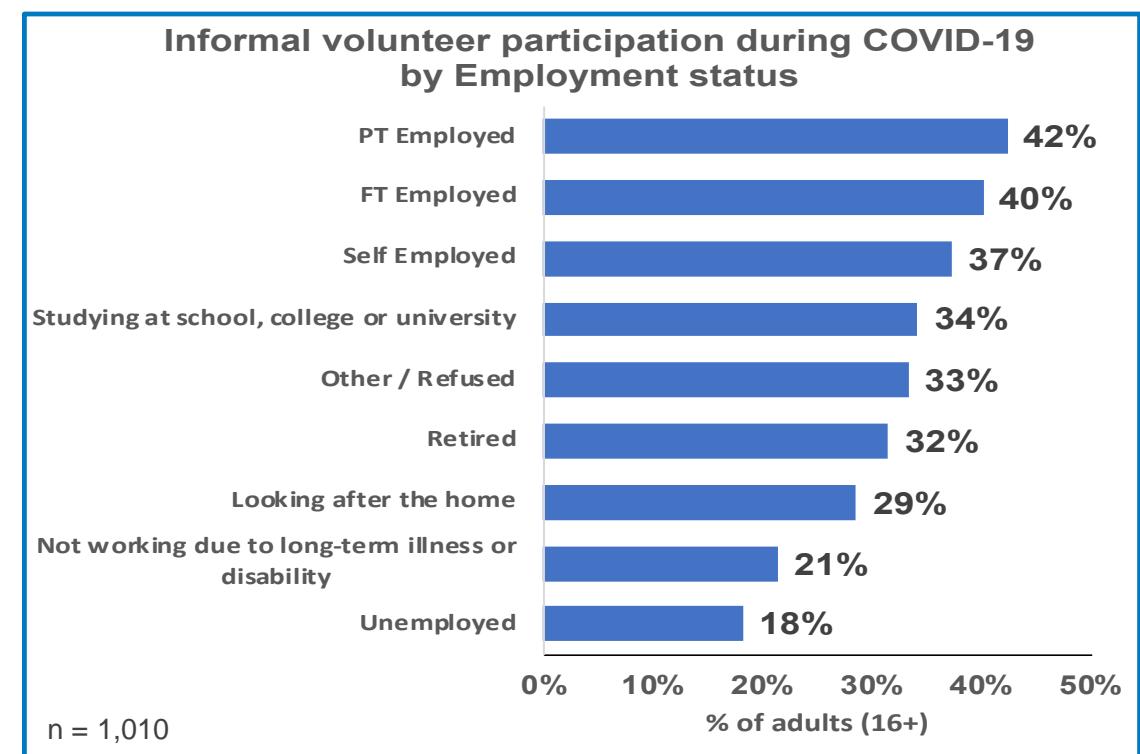
- Similarly to informal volunteering those renting from a local authority / housing association are the only group to have mutual aid participation rate rates below the overall rate (16%).
- This could be reflective of the needs for volunteer assistance in more deprived areas and the challenges deprived areas have faced during COVID-19.

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

## – Informal Volunteering



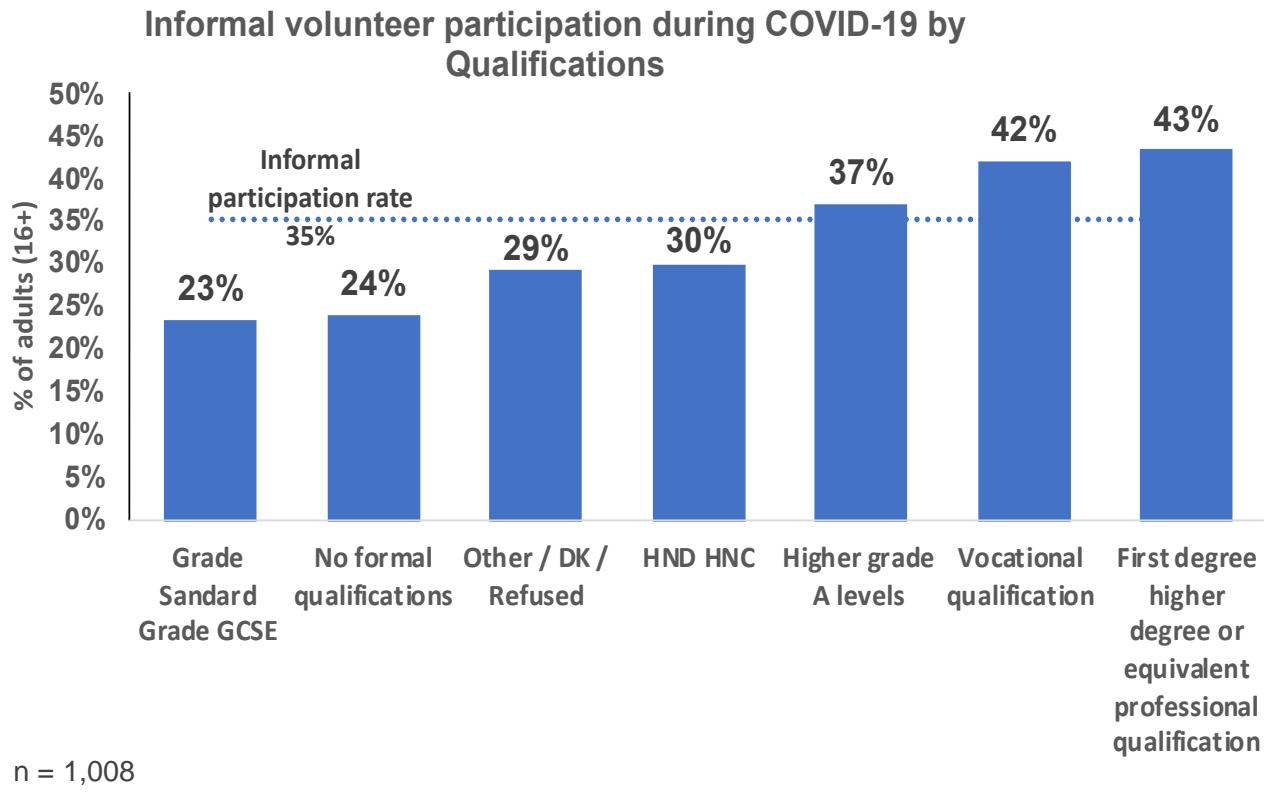
- SIMD Q1 and Q2 have informal participation rates below the overall rate of 35%, while Q3-Q5 have participation rates above the overall rate.
- This follows the overall trend in the SHS 2018 and it shows that pre-existing relationships between deprivation and informal volunteering have continued during COVID-19.



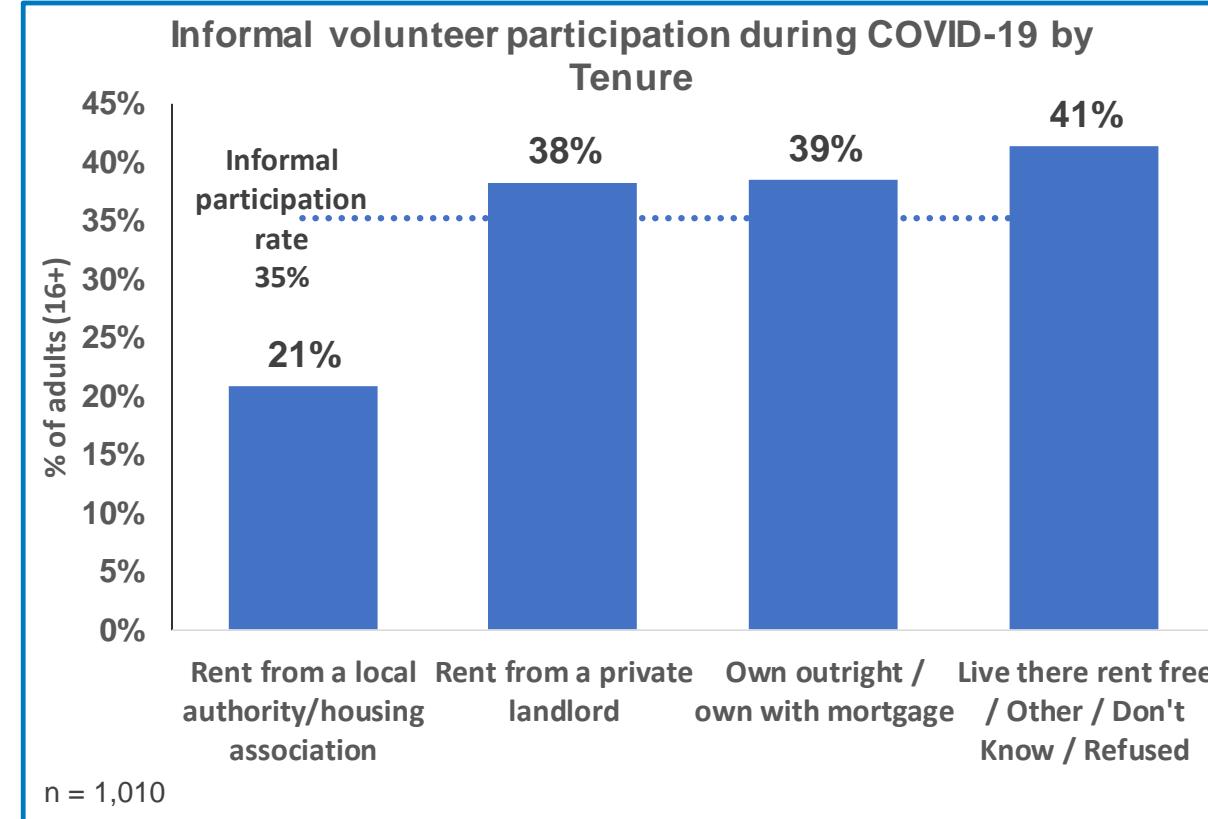
- Part-time employed, full-time employed and self-employed adults have informal participation rates above the overall rate of 35%.
- From SHS data pre-COVID-19 we know that part-time and self-employed have higher participation rates, which may be due to having more time available and more flexibility in when they volunteer.
- During COVID-19 there are higher rates for adults employed full-time which may be due to furloughing and this group having additional time to volunteer.

# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

## – Informal Volunteering



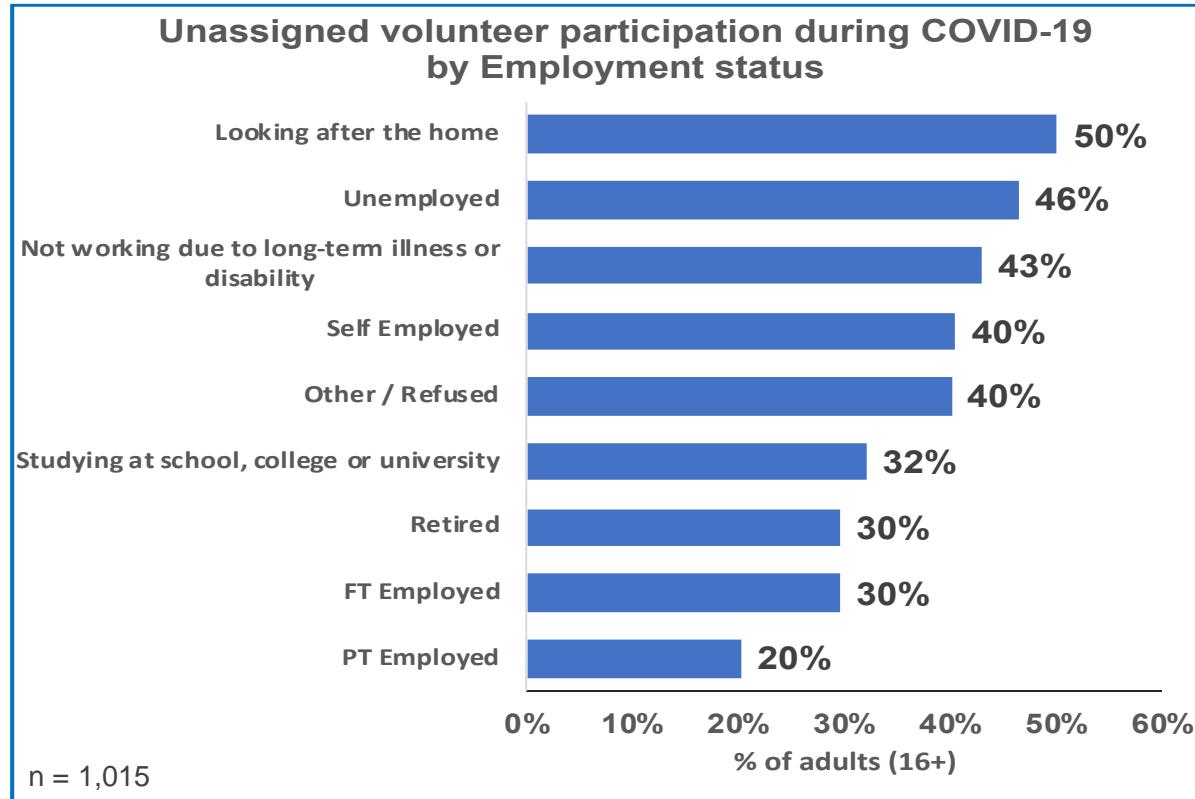
- As educational qualifications increase the level of informal volunteering participation increases, which is a similar trend to the data from the SHS 2018.
- This could show that those previously volunteering with higher qualifications levels have continued to volunteer informally during COVID-19.



- Those renting from a local authority or housing association are the only group to have an informal participation rates below the overall informal participation rate of 35% - a rate of 21% which is 14% lower. This may reflect the lower rates of participation rates for adults living in SIMD Q1 and Q2 areas who have required more support during COVID-19 rather than being able to provide time to volunteering.

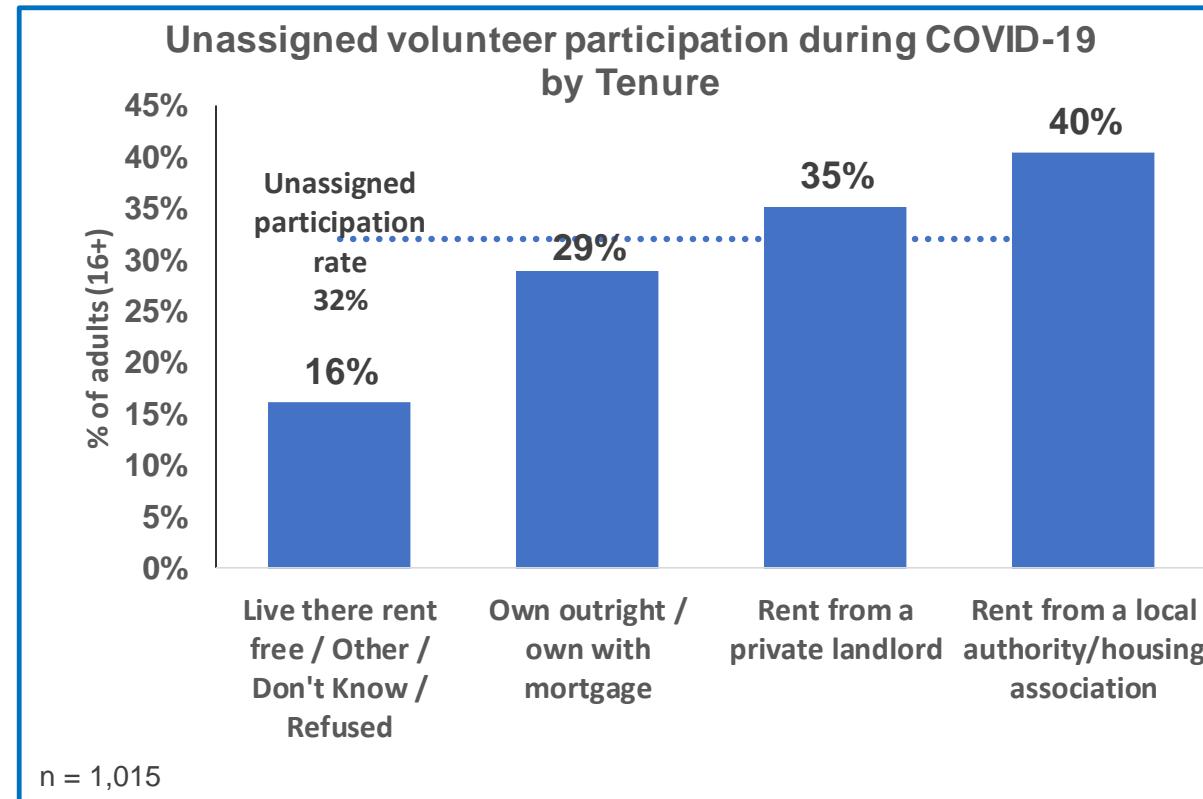
# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

## – Unassigned volunteers



- For unassigned volunteers, those looking after the home, the unemployed and those unable to work due to long term illness or disability have the highest percentage of adults undertaking at least one volunteer activity type. This raises an interesting question as to whether these groups don't identify the roles they are undertaking as volunteering and see their activities as doing whatever is required to help.

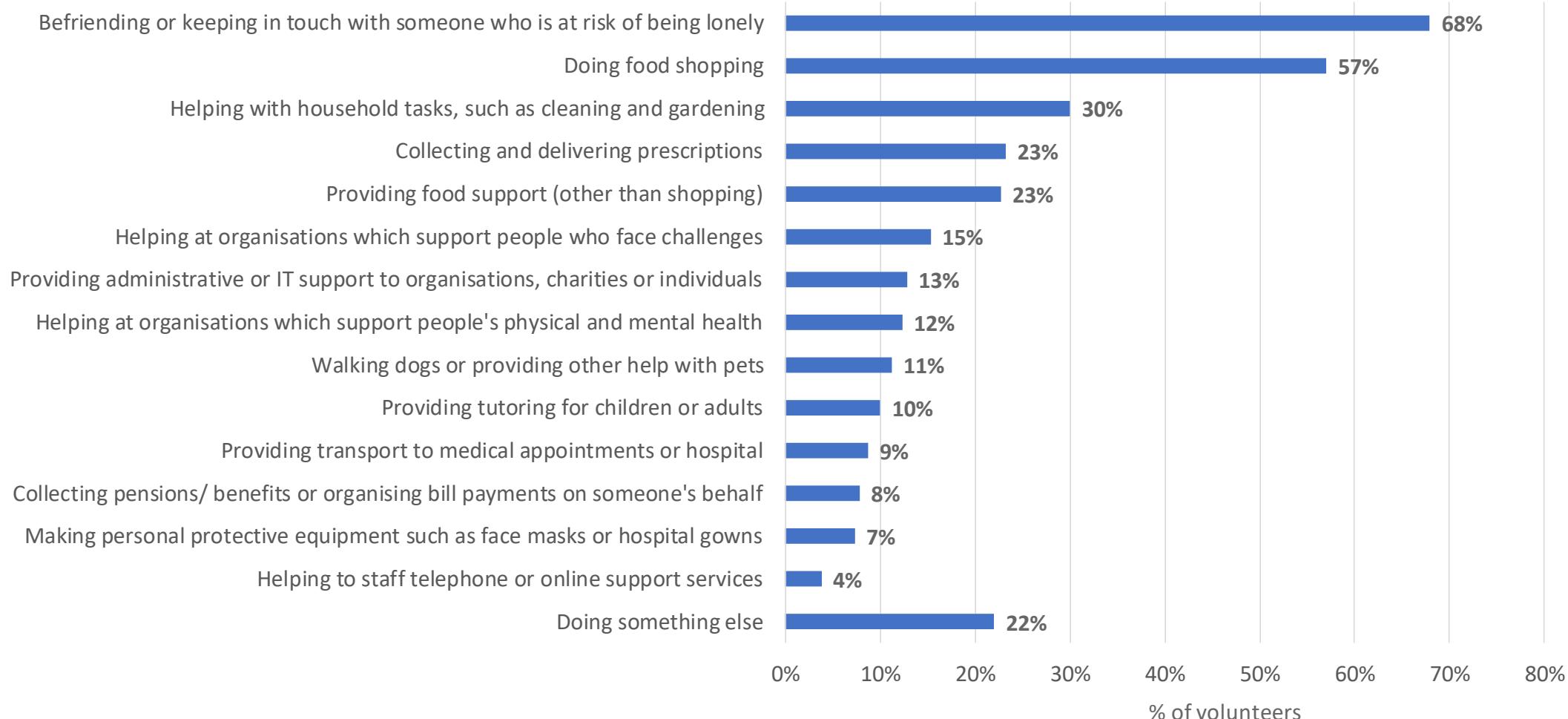
Source: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020



- Unlike all other types of volunteering during COVID-19 those renting from a local authority / housing association have the highest percentage of adults undertaking at least one volunteer activity type. This again raises the question as to whether adults in this group don't associate the help they have given during COVID-19 with volunteering and just see it as helping out and doing whatever is required in their local community?

# Volunteering activities during COVID-19 (All volunteers)

Proportion of total volunteers undertaking the following activities (March – June 2020)



Source: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020

n = 742

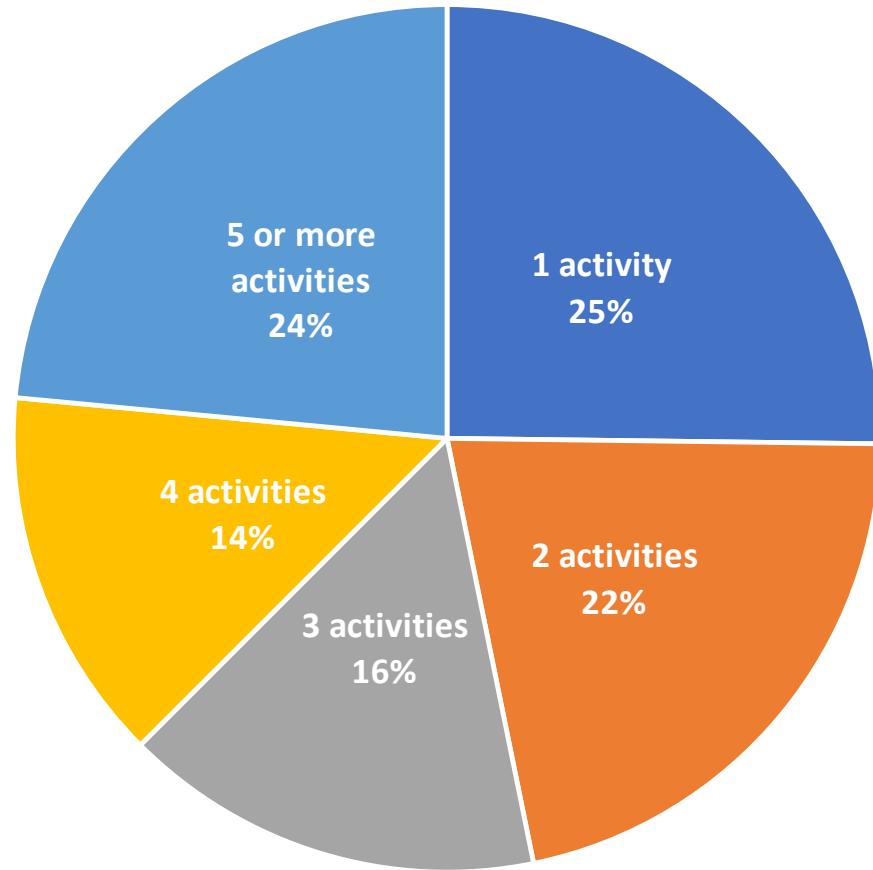
# Volunteering activities during COVID-19

## (All volunteers)

- The top five volunteering activities are:
  - Befriending – 68%
  - Doing food shopping – 57%
  - Helping with household tasks – 30%
  - Collecting prescriptions – 23%
  - Providing food support – 23%
- As expected, these activities are strongly focused on providing immediate crisis support during lockdown. They are also the type of activities which informal volunteers and mutual aid groups have been delivering in addition to that provided through formal volunteering.
- Interestingly, the proportion of volunteers engaged in activities which are defined more closely with formal volunteering are much lower, which reflects the significant contraction in formal volunteering during lockdown:
  - Helping at organisations which help people who face challenges – 15%
  - Helping at organisations which support people's mental and physical health – 12%

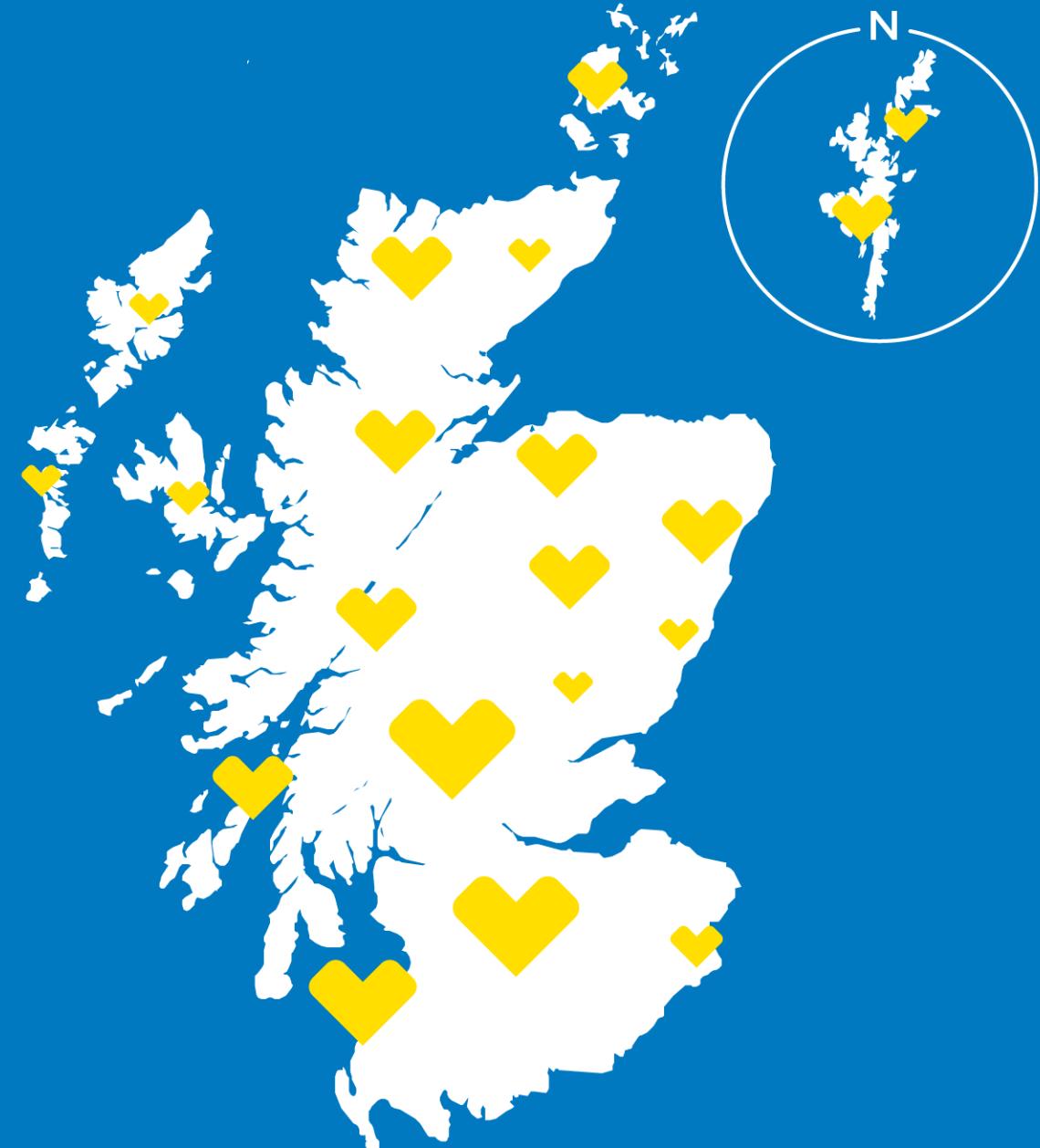
# Volunteering participation during COVID-19

Number of activities per volunteer

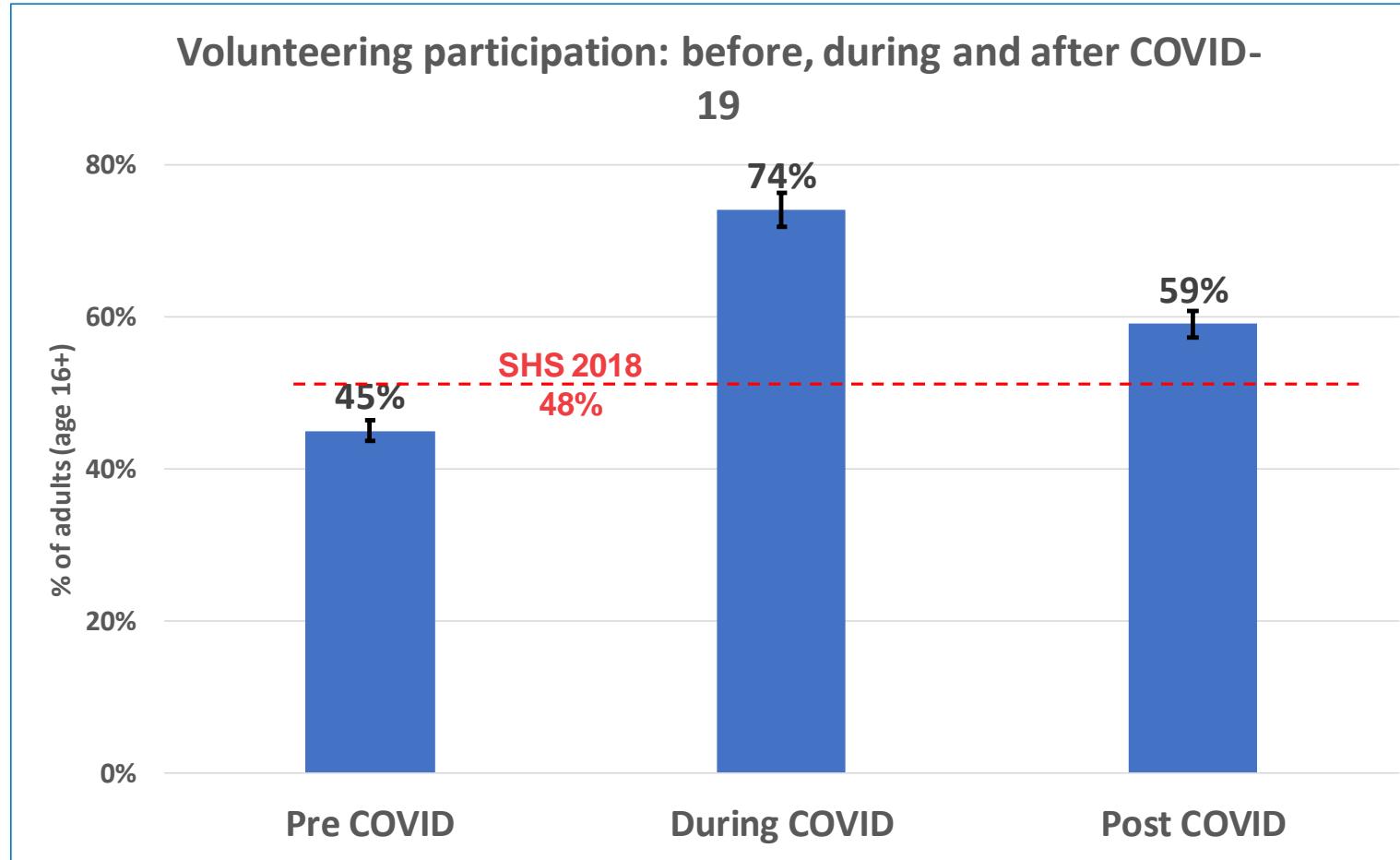


- The majority of volunteers (53%) are undertaking 3 or more volunteering activities e.g. doing food shopping and picking up prescriptions and helping with household tasks.
- For many volunteers this is likely to reflect a combination of informal volunteering, mutual aid and possibly formal volunteering

# Volunteering After COVID-19

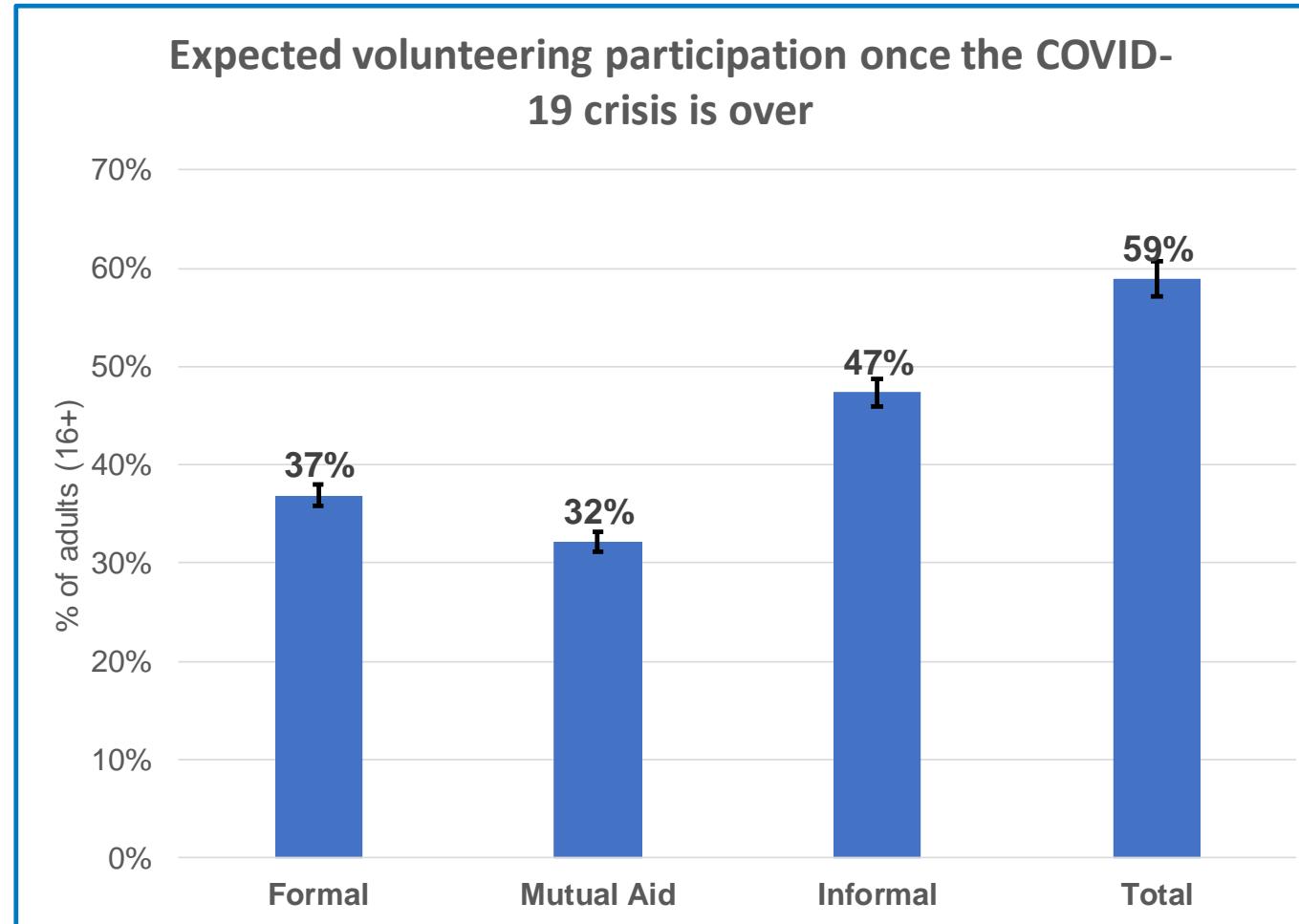


# Trend in total volunteering participation



- Expected volunteering participation post-COVID is 11% higher than pre-COVID (59% [95% CI (56%, 62%)] vs SHS 48% [95% CI (47%, 49%)])

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19



Source: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020

n = 1,014

- 11% more people expect to be volunteering after COVID-19 than before (59% vs. 48%)
- Compared to SHS 2018 data, all types of volunteering are projected to increase:
  - Formal volunteering – from 26% to 37%
  - Informal volunteering – from 36% to 47%
  - Total volunteering – from 48% to 59%
- Compared to Ipsos-Mori data mutual aid volunteering has also increased from during COVID-19 to post COVID-19:
  - From 16% - 32% (not recorded in SHS).

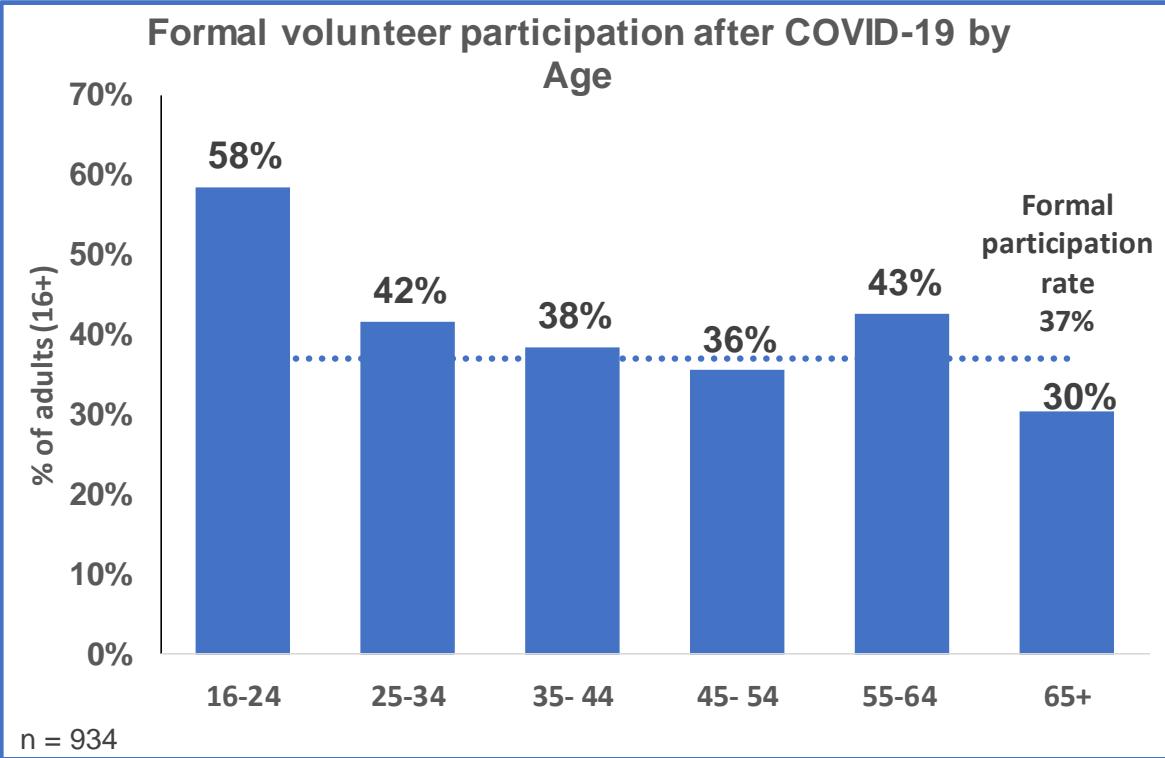
# Volunteering participation after COVID-19

- The previous slide gives a single point estimate for post COVID-19 participation rates. To strengthen the analysis a 95% confidence interval is calculated for each volunteer type.
- This analysis shows that post COVID-19 the participation rates for each of the volunteering categories would fall into the following ranges 95% of the time:

Volunteering Category	Lower bound	Participation rate (Predicted)	Upper bound
Formal	34%	37%	40%
Mutual aid	29%	32%	35%
Informal	44%	47%	50%
Total	56%	59%	62%

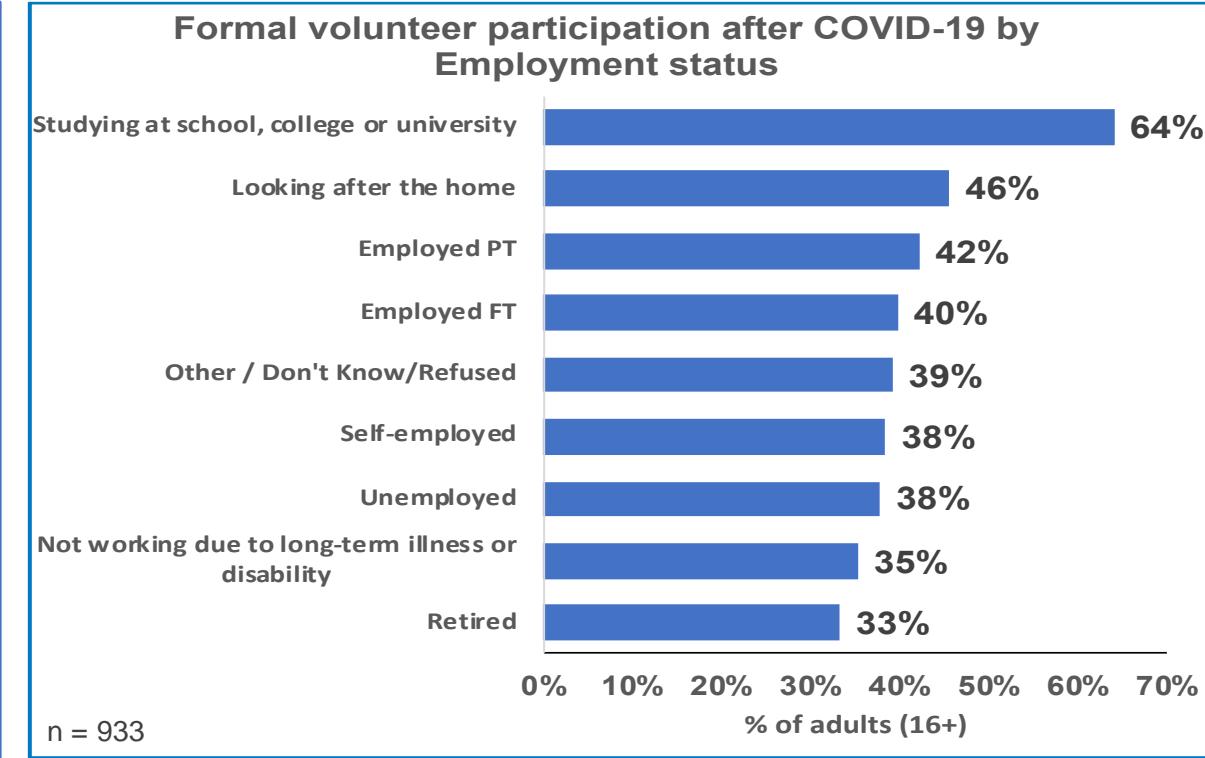
- This equates to potential increases in all types of volunteering:
  - Formal volunteering – 8% to 14% increase from the 2018 formal participation rates of 26%.
  - Mutual aid – from 0% to 29% - 35% (not recorded in SHS)
  - Informal volunteering – 8% to 14% increase from the 2018 informal participation rates of 36%.
  - Total volunteering – 8% to 14% increase from the 2018 informal participation rates of 48%.
- If participation rates increased to the lower level of the confidence interval, all forms of volunteering would have a statistically significant increase from the 2018 SHS participation rates.

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Formal volunteers



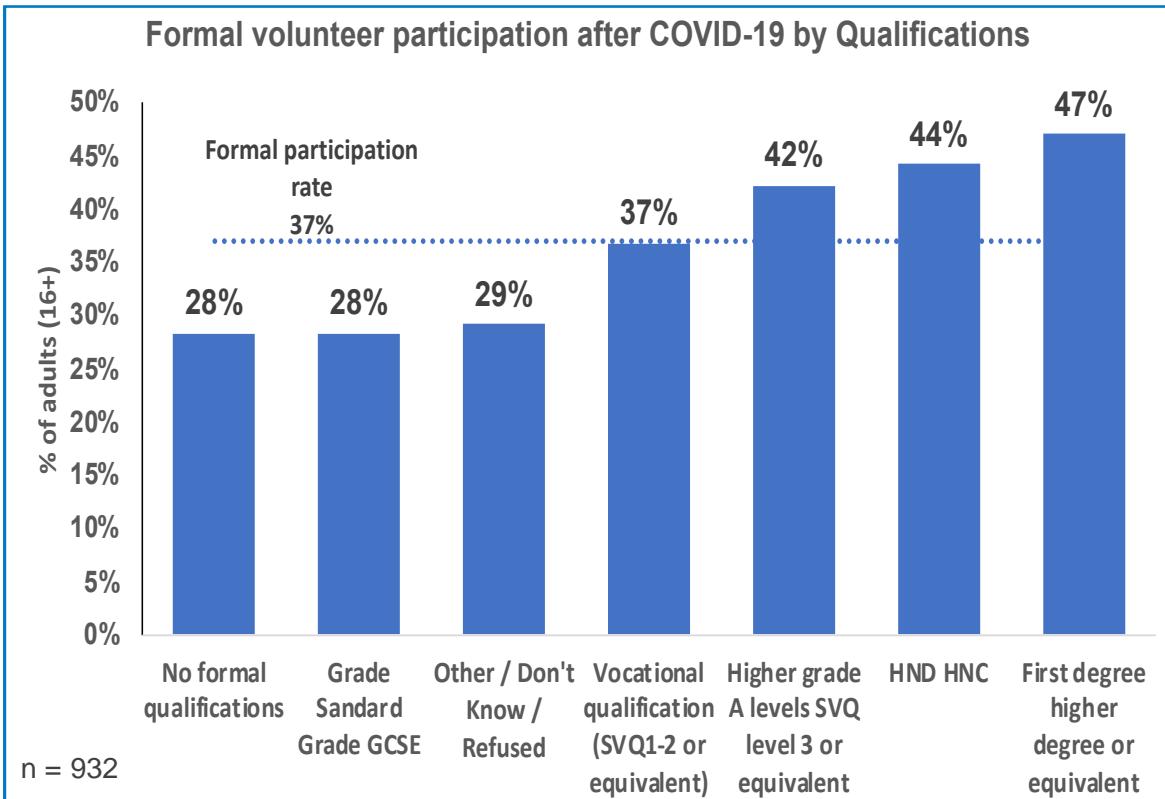
- After COVID-19 younger volunteers have stated more of an intention to continue to volunteer than any other age group, while older age groups (65+) are least likely to state an intention to continue volunteering.
- An increase in younger volunteer participation would be a good news story particularly if this continues during their lifetime.
- A lower intention to volunteer in the future from the older age groups needs further analysis to understand if there is a short-term influence from the mental and physical health impacts of COVID-19.

Source: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020

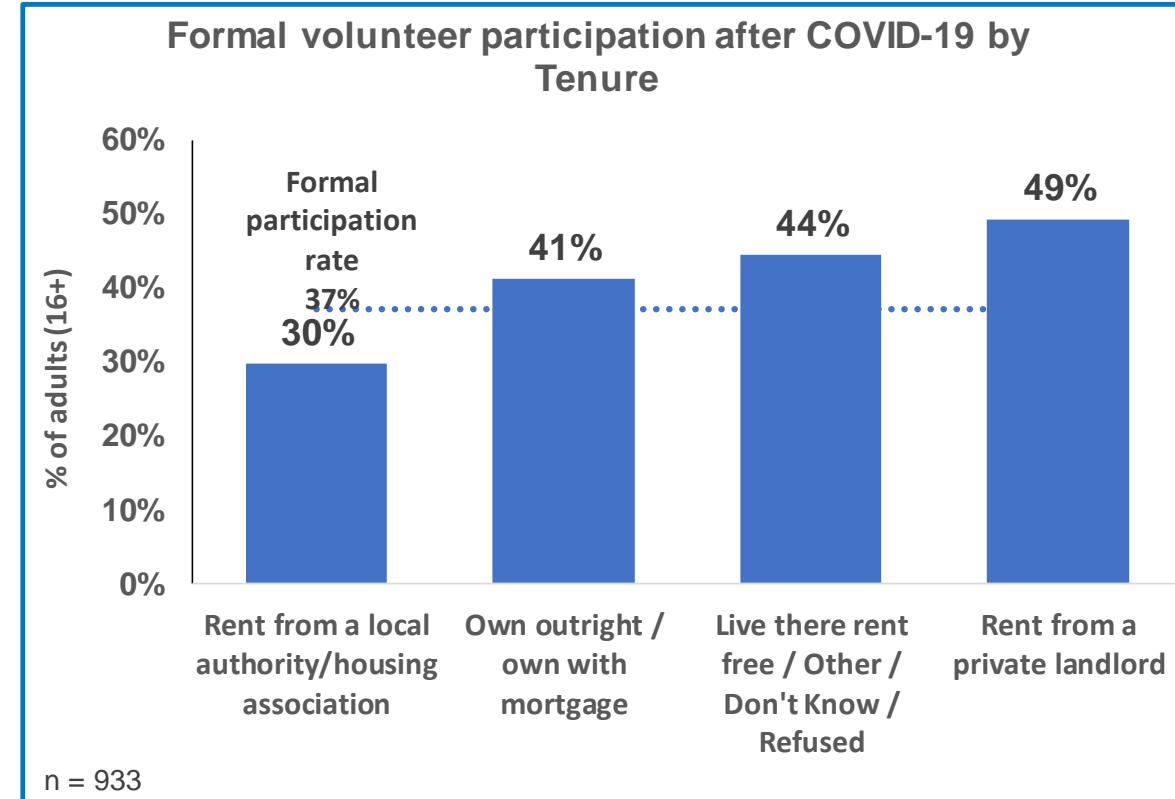


- After COVID-19 those in education have stated the highest intention to continue to volunteer, which may be correlated to the intentions of younger adults to volunteer, shown on the previous chart.
- Those that are looking after the home also have a high percentage of adults with an intention to continue formally volunteering after COVID-19. While this group did not have the highest participation rates this may be reflective of the restrictions on their time from looking after dependants during lockdown and shielding.

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Formal volunteers

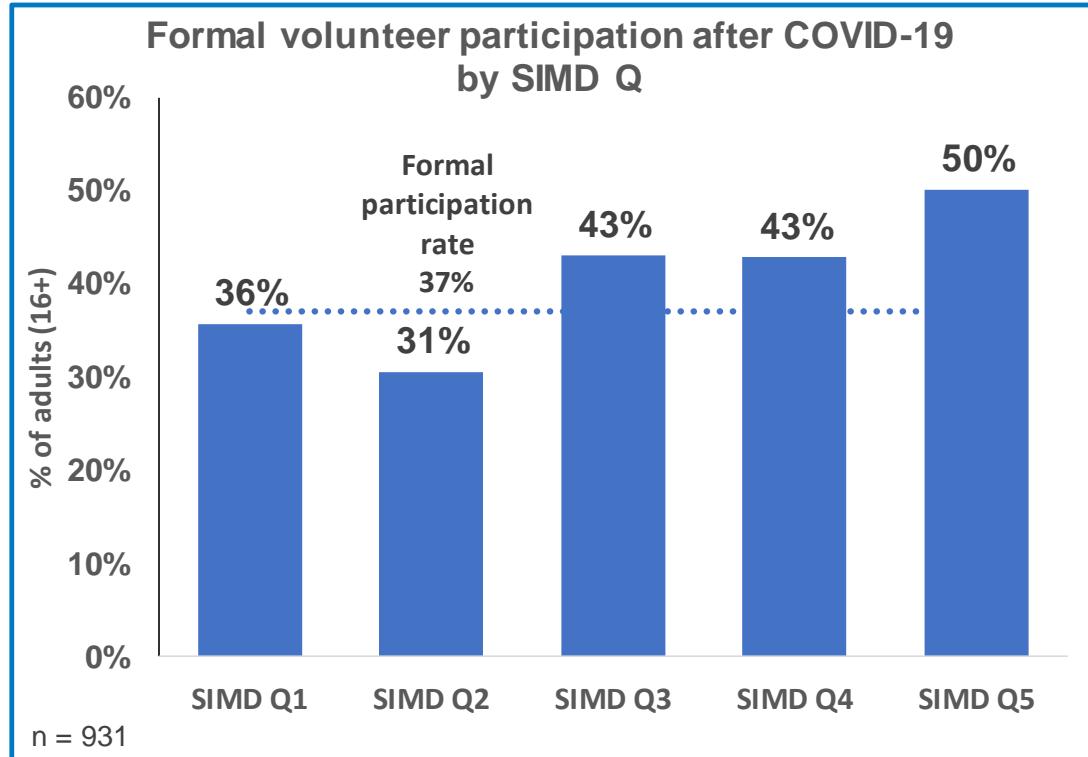


- Post COVID-19 those with a first degree or higher qualification have the highest percentage of adults with an intention to continue to formally volunteer.
- The overall trend in future intentions to formally volunteer is reflective of the pre COVID-19 trend of increasing volunteering participation rates linked to increasing qualifications.



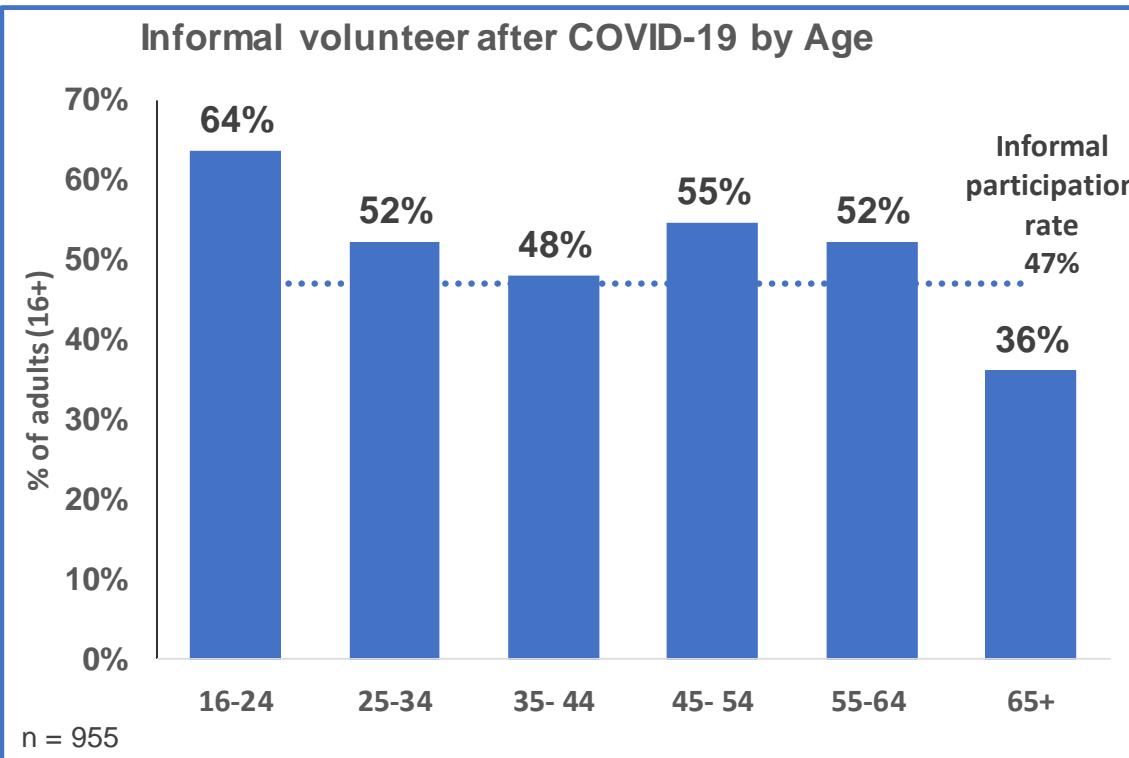
- Post COVID-19 those renting from a private landlord have the highest percentage of adults with an intention to continue to formally volunteer, followed by those that 'live there rent free'. This may again be reflective of the intention of the younger age group to continue to volunteer, where most of this group may live at home or are renting from a private landlord.

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Formal volunteers

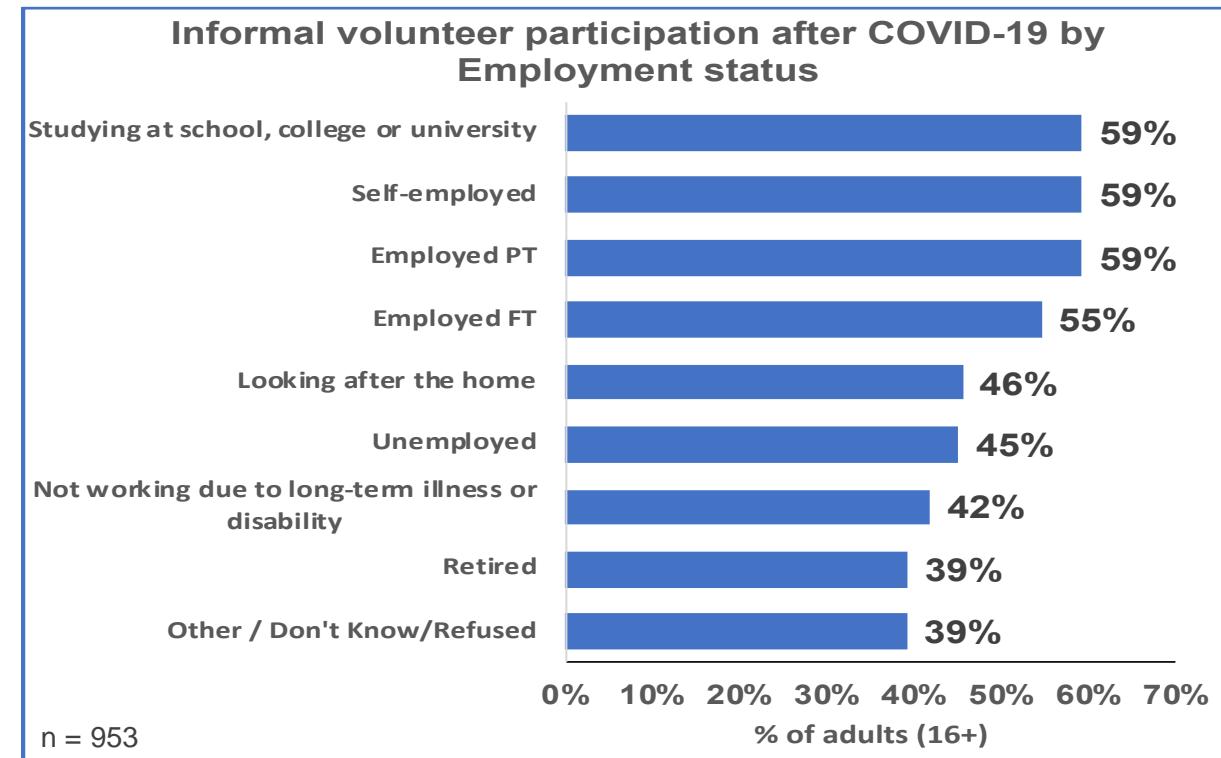


- As before and during COVID-19, adults living in SIMD Q5 areas have the highest potential future formal volunteer participation rates.
- The lower potential formal participation rates in Q2 breaks the previous long-established trend of increasing participation rates as deprivation decreases and requires further analysis to understand the lower formal participation in Q2 and the impacts of COVID-19 that may explain this.

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Informal volunteers

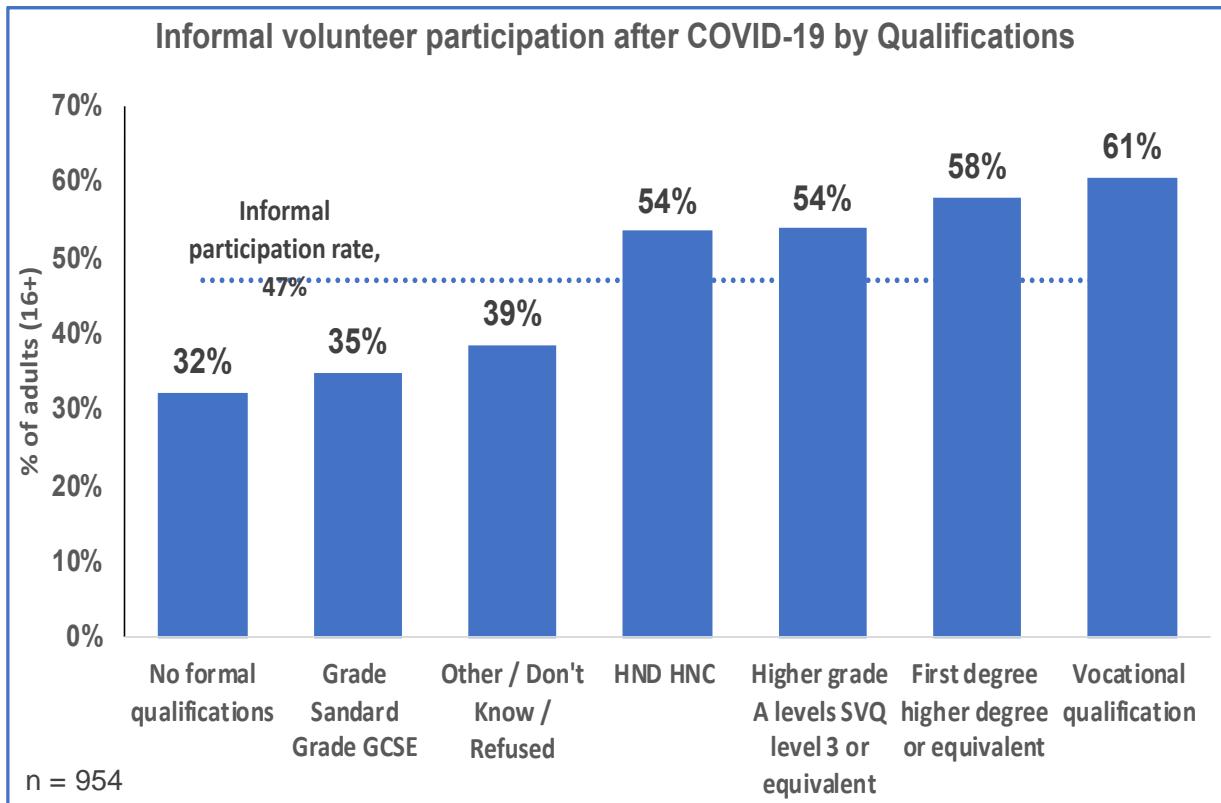


- As with formal volunteering younger volunteers have stated more of an intention to continue to informally volunteer than any other age group, whilst those aged 65+ are least likely to state an intention to continue volunteering.

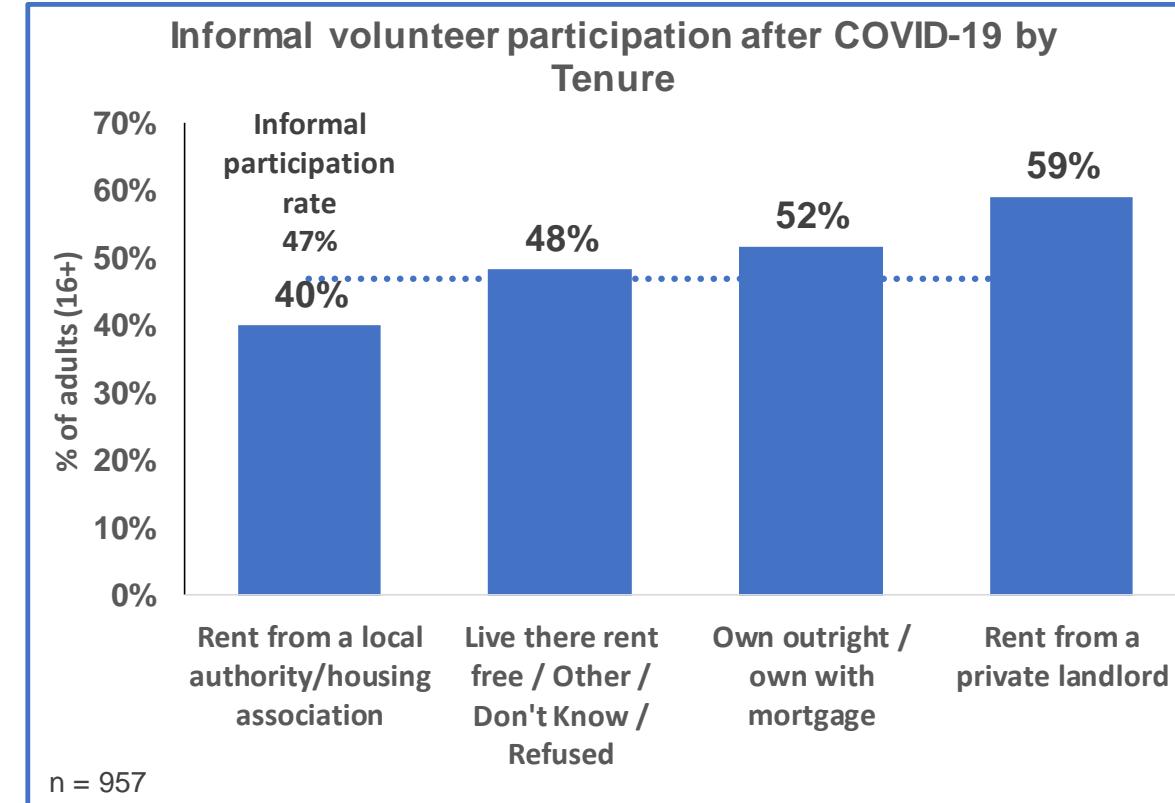


- As with formal volunteering those in education have stated a high intention to continue to informally volunteer, which may be reflective of the intentions of younger adults to volunteer, shown on the previous chart.
- Those that are self-employed and employed part-time also have a high percentage of adults intending to continue to informally volunteer. This is similar to the pre COVID-19 position and may be reflective of the additional and flexible time these groups have to give to volunteering.

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Informal volunteers



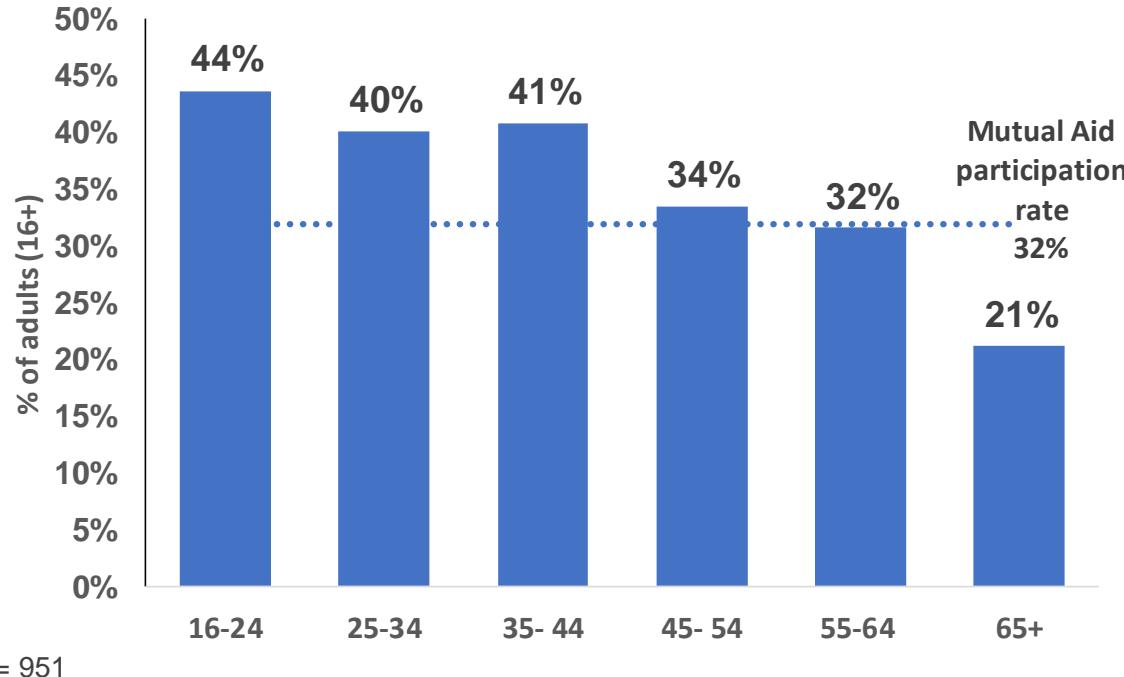
- Those with vocational qualifications have the highest percentage of adults have stated an intention to continue to informally volunteer, this is a change to pre and during COVID-19 informal volunteering.
- This may be reflective of the type of roles that informal volunteers have been supporting during COVID-19 and wish to continue being involved in the future, for example the provision of hot meals to those in need that requires vocational qualifications.



- Post COVID-19 those renting from a private landlord have the highest percentage of adults with an intention to continue to informally volunteer, the same as for formal volunteering.

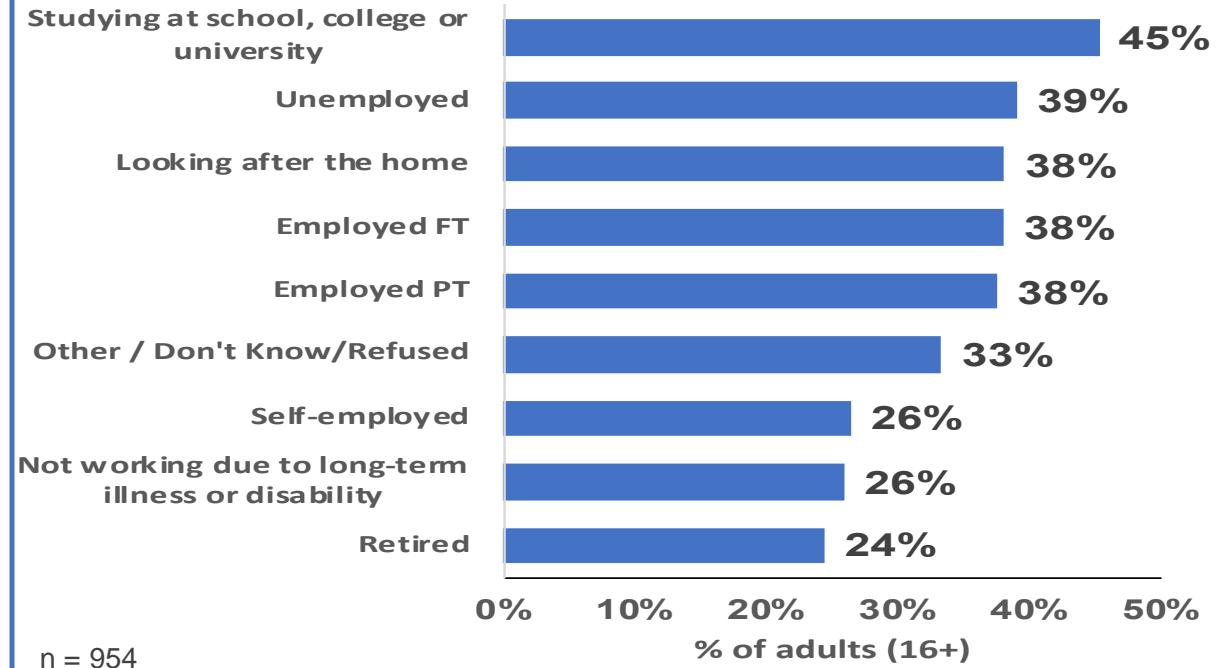
# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid participation during COVID-19 by Age



- Similarly to formal and informal volunteering, a higher percentage of 16-24 year olds intend to continue mutual aid volunteering post COVID and those 65+ have the lowest percentage of adults with an intention to continue volunteering post COVID-19.

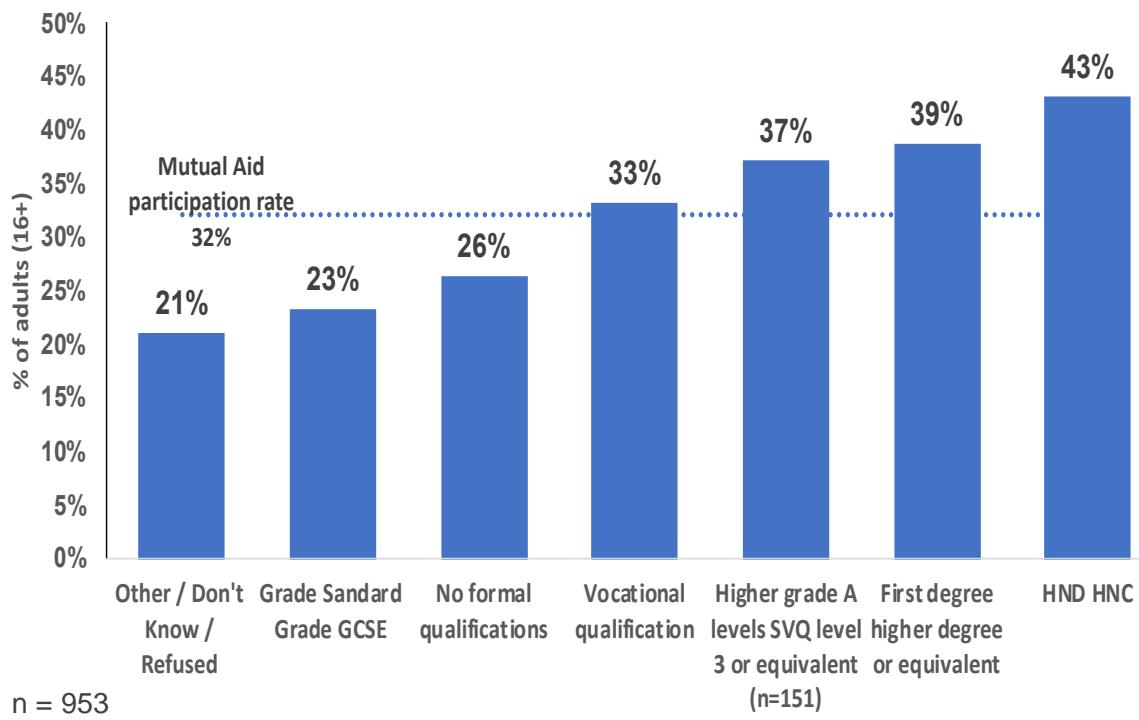
Mutual Aid participation after COVID-19 by Employment status



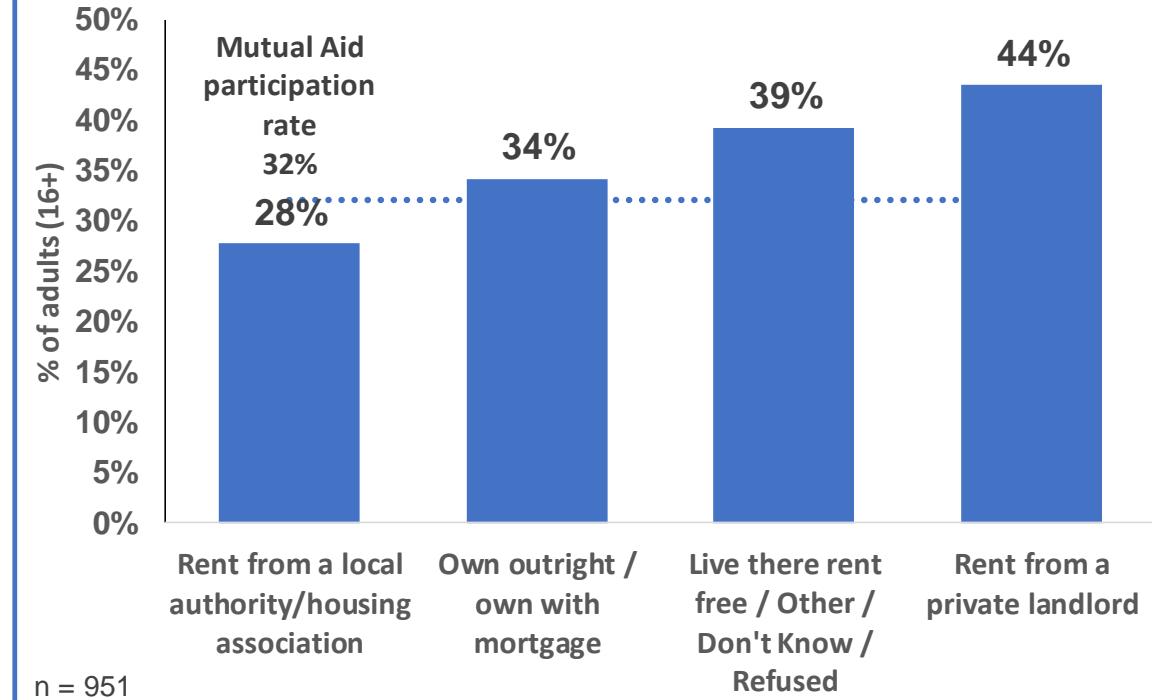
- Similarly to formal and informal volunteering a higher percentage of those in education intend to continue mutual aid volunteering post COVID-19.
- Adults that are unemployed have the second highest percentage who intend to continue mutual aid volunteering post COVID-19, this is a positive finding as unemployed adults have in the past have had lower levels of formal and informal volunteer participation.

# Volunteering participation after COVID-19 – Mutual Aid

Mutual aid participation after COVID-19 by Qualifications



Mutual Aid participation after COVID-19 by Tenure



- Those with and HNC / HND level education have the highest percentage of adults who intend to continue to volunteer through mutual aid groups post COVID-19.
- The overall trend of increasing volunteer participation as qualifications increase that exist for formal volunteering doesn't hold in the same way for mutual aid volunteering. This raises an interesting question as whether this is due to the types of activities undertaken by mutual aid groups or is reflective of the less formal entry process.
- As with formal and informal volunteering, post COVID-19 those renting from a private landlord have the highest percentage of adults with an intention to continue volunteering with mutual aid groups.

# Comparison of the demographic groups most likely to volunteer formally before and after Covid-19

Demographic Category	Before COVID-19 SHS (2018)	After Covid-19 Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey
Age	35-44	16-24
Employment status	Employed part-time	In higher or further education
Highest educational qualification	Degree, Professional qualification or equivalent	Degree, Professional qualification or equivalent
Tenure	Bought with loan or mortgage	Rent from private landlord
SIMD Q	Q5	Q5

- Post COVID-19 the Ipsos-Mori omnibus survey shows that younger adults (16-24) intend to continue formally volunteering.
- The change in the employment status from employed part-time to those in further/higher education may be correlated to the predicted increase in volunteering by those aged 16-24 as well as the change in tenure from buying with a mortgage or loan to renting from a private landlord.
- There is no change in the highest educational qualification or SIMD Q5 of formal volunteers.
- While younger adults volunteering is positive, there are still questions to be asked around the higher participation rates for those living in the least deprived areas and those with higher levels of education. How can more adults from more deprived areas and with less formal qualifications be encouraged to formally volunteer?

# Comparison of the demographic groups most likely to volunteer informally before and after Covid-19

Demographic Category	Before COVID-19 SHS (2018)	After Covid-19 Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey
Age	35-44	16-24
Employment status	Employed part-time	In higher or further education
Highest educational qualification	Degree, Professional qualification or equivalent	Vocational qualifications
Tenure	Living here rent free	Rent from private landlord
SIMD Q	Q5	Not statistically significant

- Post COVID-19 the Ipsos-Mori omnibus survey shows that younger adults (16-24) intend to continue informally volunteering.
- The change in the employment status of employed part-time to those in higher/further education may be correlated to the predicted increase in volunteering by those aged 16-24.
- The change in tenure from 'living there rent free' to renting from a private landlord may be indicative of more younger adults in college or university having an intention to informally volunteer in the future.
- The change in qualifications with the highest informal participation rate from those with a degree level or equivalent qualification to vocational qualifications may be reflective of the younger age group or the types of volunteer activities undertaken by informal volunteers.
- The fact that SIMD Q does not have a statistically significant relationship with informal volunteering points to informal volunteering being more inclusive and encouraging people from more deprived backgrounds to participate.

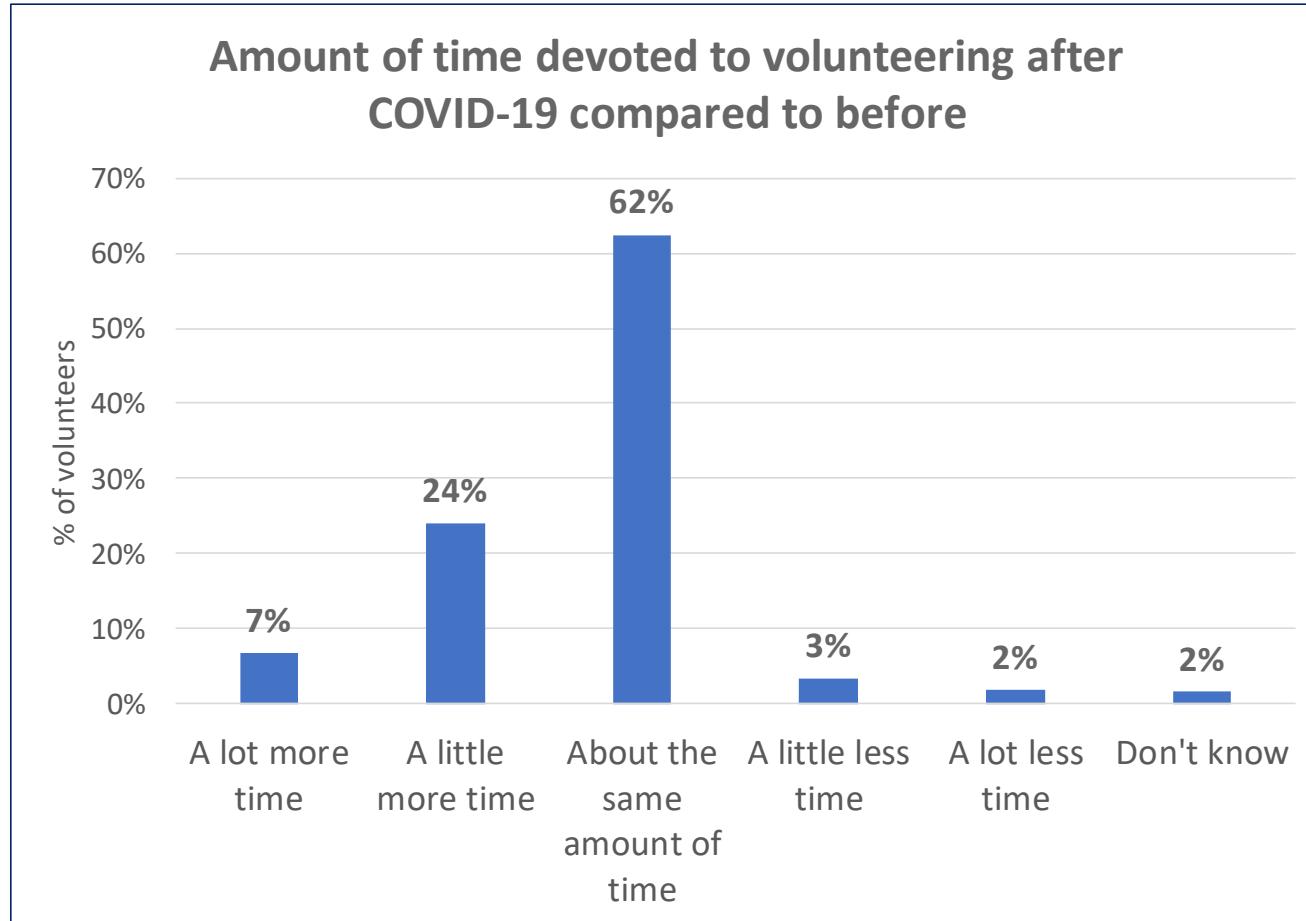
# Demographic groups most likely to volunteer through mutual aid groups after Covid-19

Demographic Category	After Covid-19 Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey
Age	16-24
Employment status	In higher or further education
Highest educational qualification	HNC/HND or equivalent
Tenure	Rent from private landlord
SIMD Q	Not statistically significant

- Post COVID-19 the Ipsos-Mori omnibus survey shows that younger adults (16-24) intend to continue mutual aid volunteering.
- More adults:
  - In further or higher education intend to continue mutual aid volunteering
  - More adults with an HNC /HND or equivalent intend to continue mutual aid volunteering
  - More adults that rent from a private landlord intend to continue mutual aid volunteering
- All of which may be reflective of the younger age demographics.
- The relationship with SIMD Q does not have a statistically significant relationship with mutual aid volunteering which points to mutual aid volunteering being more inclusive and encouraging more people from deprived backgrounds to participate.

# Volunteering time after COVID-19

## (Total Volunteering)



Source: Ipsos-MORI omnibus survey - June 2020

n = 599

- The majority of volunteers (62%) expect to be volunteering for about the same amount of time.
- 31% are expecting to devote more time, but for 24% this is only 'a little more time'.
- Only 5% are expecting to devote less time
- The implications are that the impact of COVID-19 on volunteering is greater in encouraging more people to volunteer than increasing the amount of time they devote to volunteering.
- There are no significant differences between volunteer types and the amount of time volunteers will devote to volunteering post Covid-19.

# Volunteering time after COVID-19

(Total volunteering by age)

Amount of time devoted to volunteering after COVID-19 compared to before by age	16-24	25-34	35- 44	45- 54	55-64	65+
A little / lot more	49%	44%	24%	33%	23%	10%
About the same	47%	52%	72%	63%	73%	79%
A little /a lot less	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	11%

- Age is the only demographic group with statistically significant differences in the amount of future time devoted to volunteering.
- Younger volunteers (16-24) are more likely to give more time (49%) than older volunteers (65+) (10%).
- 11% of adults aged 65+ intend to devote less time to volunteering compared to only 4% of 16-24 year old's. This is concerning as previous research has shown that there are important health and wellbeing benefits from volunteering for older volunteers. However, this may be reflective of older adults' reluctance to re-engage with activities immediately following Covid-19 and a number were still shielding at the time of survey.

## Sources

**Volunteer Scotland & Ipsos-Mori** - Impact of COVID-19 on volunteering participation in Scotland - July 2020

**Scottish Government** - Scottish Household Survey 2018 - Sept 2019

**Volunteer Scotland** - Volunteering Trends in Scotland – A Changing Landscape? (2007 - 2018) - Jan 2019

**Volunteer Scotland** - The Contribution of Volunteering to Scotland's Health & Wellbeing - Oct 2019