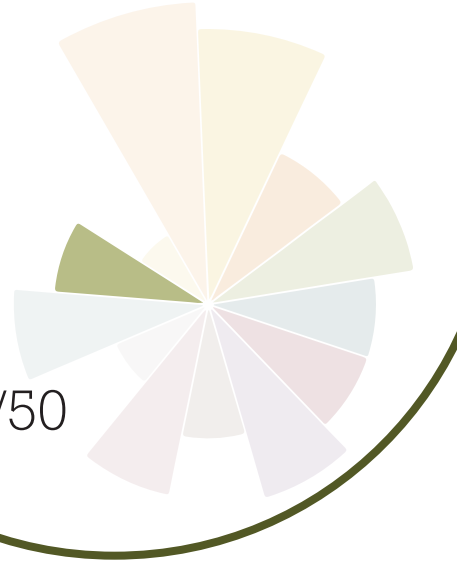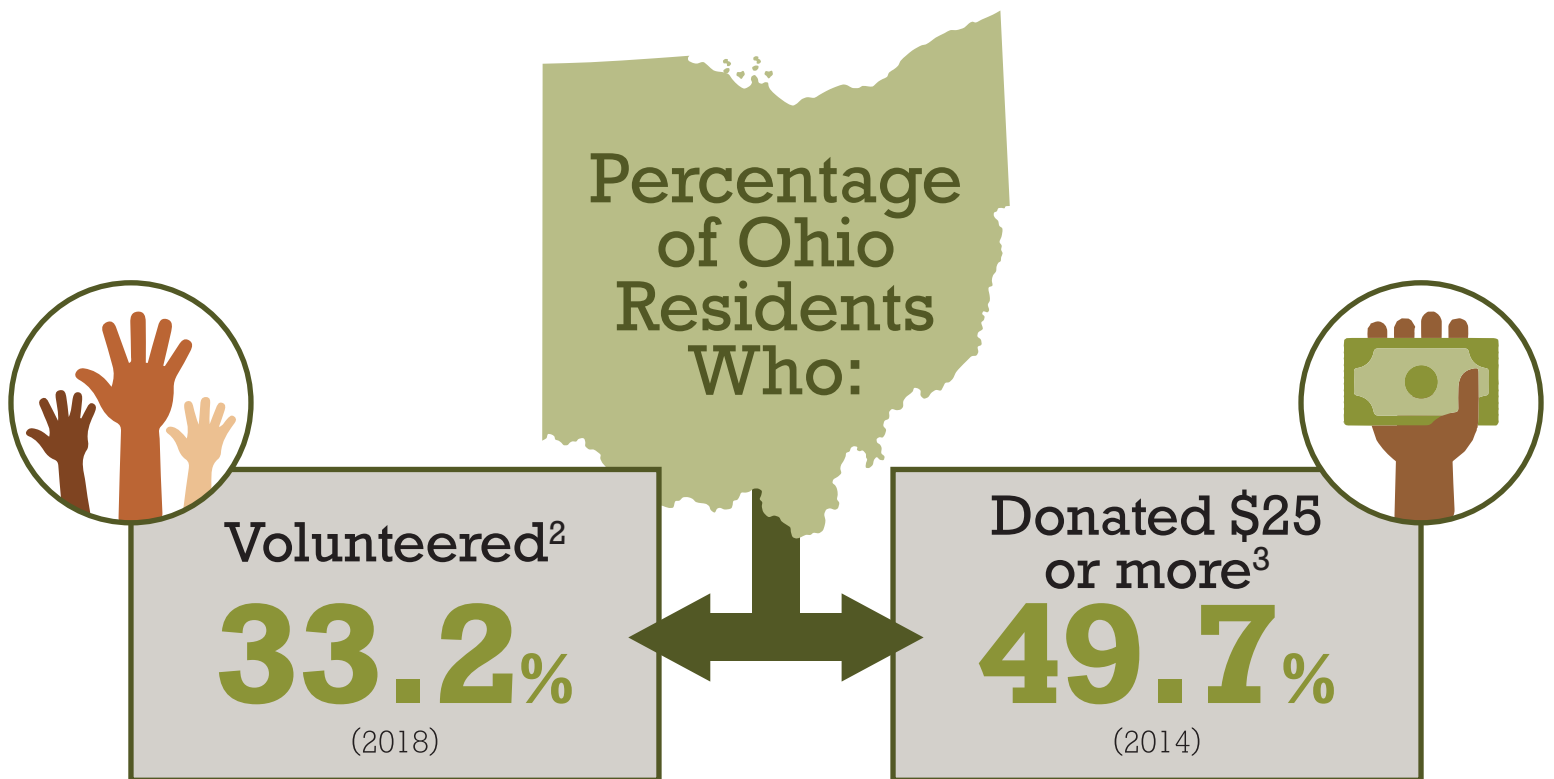# Volunteerism

OHIO'S
U.S. RANKING[1]
23/50

Volunteerism is a proxy measure for community support and cohesion. The theory is that in communities where volunteerism is high, community members are taking care of one another in a meaningful way. This care could be demonstrated through volunteering time to non-profit charitable organizations such as homeless shelters (including domestic violence shelters), foodbanks, mentoring organizations, or other charities or by donating money. Volunteerism also takes place in schools, hospitals, health care organizations and places of worship. Community support and cohesion are protective factors for intimate partner violence (domestic violence).

Percentage of Ohio Residents Who:

Volunteered[2]
33.2%
(2018)

### Donated $25 or more[3]
49.7%
(2014)

National Volunteerism Statistics

Nationally, women (27.8%) volunteer at a higher rate than men (21.8%) and this gender difference carries through across age, race, and other demographics.[4] White women volunteer at a higher rate than any other group and married persons volunteer at a higher percentage than those who have never been married.[5]

Information on this fact sheet derived from 2018 data.

Barriers to Volunteerism

- The three most common barriers to volunteering are: 1) not enough time and inflexible schedules; 2) uninteresting volunteer roles; 3) no one asked.[6]
- White women are asked more than any demographic group to volunteer their time.[7] Thus, other population demographics are underrepresented in volunteer work.
- When families are struggling to put food on the table they are less likely to volunteer their time to support non-profit organizations. They are more likely to need services from those organizations.

Ohio's Ranking of Volunteerism

Ohio Rank (lower is better)
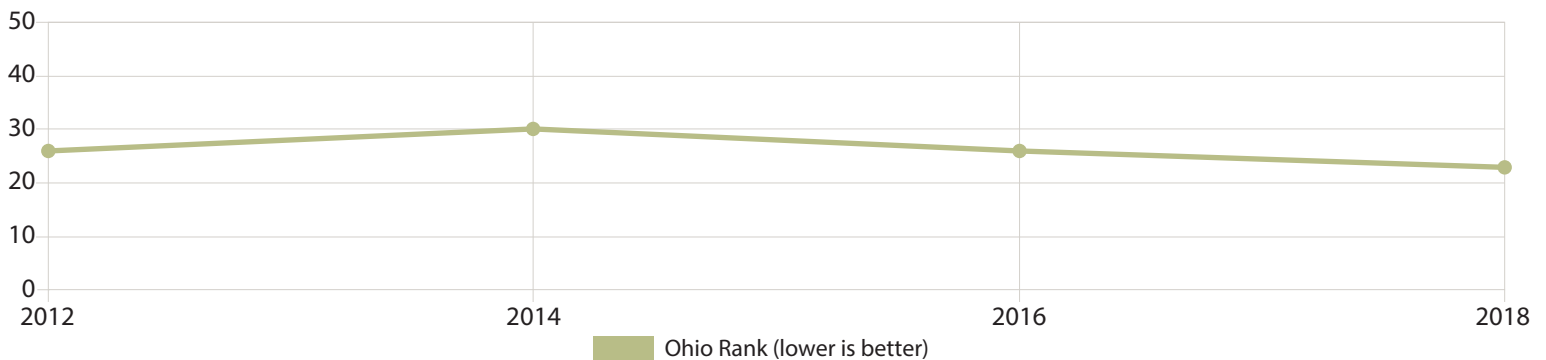
As the chart indicates Ohio has fallen in volunteerism ranking between 2012 and 2018. State volunteerism was highest in 2014 and then started to decrease the next four (4) years or two reporting periods.

Remedies to Volunteerism

- Employers including state agencies could make volunteer work more easily accessible by supporting on-site or community opportunities and offering a paid time off benefit for volunteer service.
- Organizations seeking volunteers need to match the knowledge and skills of potential volunteers with job opportunities.
- In some cities, there are organizations that match the skills of business leaders with non-profit boards. This service could be expanded to include opportunities for all community members.
- Organizations seeking volunteers could do a better job of asking those who represent all members of Ohio's communities to become volunteers.
- Policies that strengthen economic supports for families may facilitate greater participation in volunteer work.
- Volunteer work within the context of religious affiliation accounts for a significant proportion of volunteer service for the Black community.[8]
- Some volunteer contributions may not be captured in the current data collection tools. These tools could expand their response options of volunteerism to depict a clearer picture of Ohio's volunteer landscape.