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## Religiosity, Parental Support, and Formal Volunteering Among Teenagers

Isaac Paintsil

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**Religiosity, Parental  
Support, and Formal  
Volunteering Among  
Teenagers**

Isaac Paintsil

Department of Sociology and  
Anthropology

Thesis Committee  
Dr. Joseph Baker (Chair),  
Dr. Leslie McCallister, and Dr.  
Paul Kamolnick

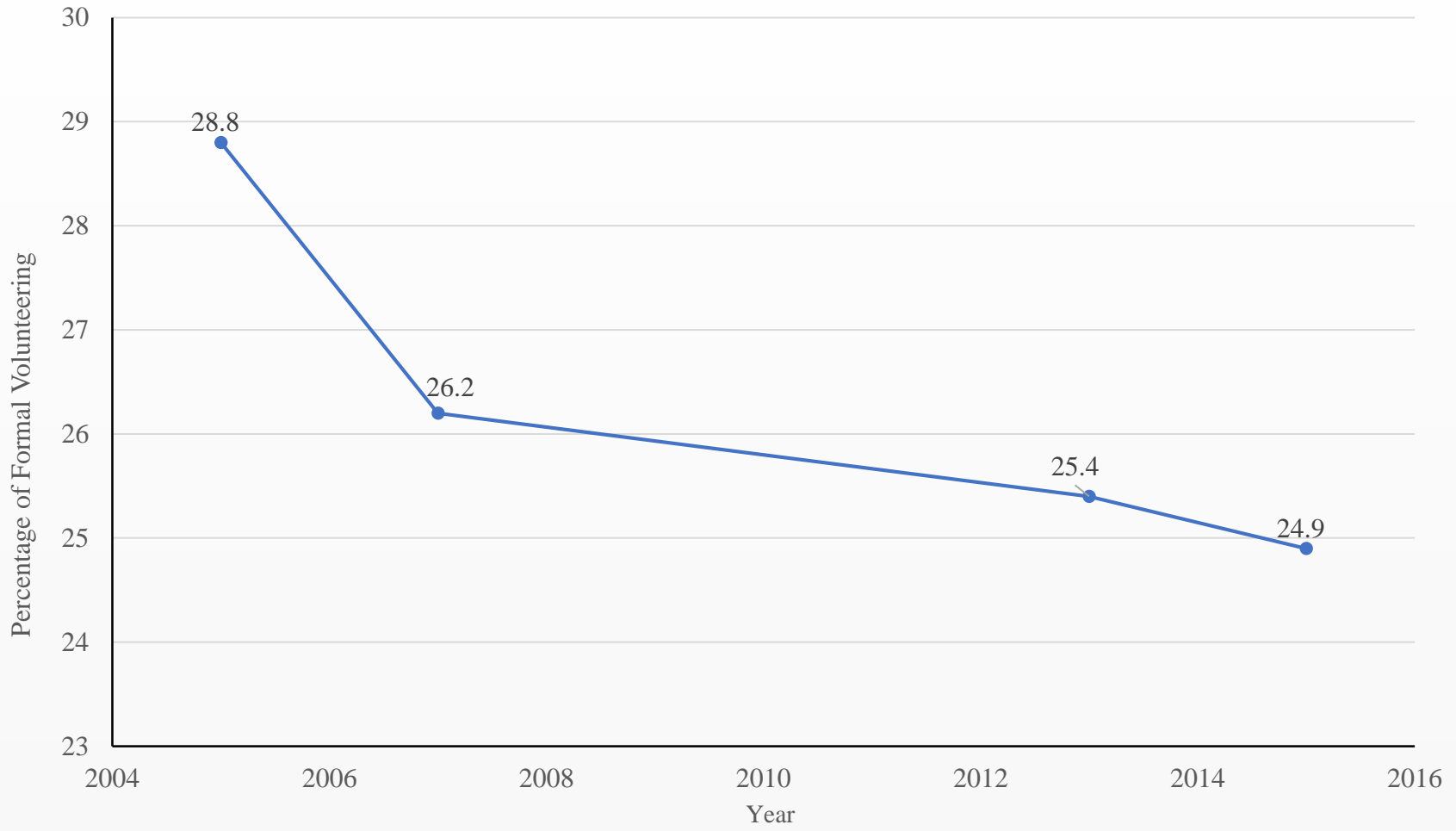
## Formal Volunteering in The United States

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### Previous Literature

- Religious people more likely to volunteer
- People more likely to volunteer through religious organizations
- Church attendance key determinant of volunteering
- Religious affiliation determines levels of volunteering
- Education and Income has a positive effect on formal volunteering
- Positive correlation with individual and societal health
- Value of formal volunteering service is \$193 billion

# Formal Volunteering In The United States



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, volunteering in the United States news release 2005-2016

## Purpose

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### Additions to Literature

- Ascertain if previous findings on religion and volunteering relates to teens (13 – 17 years)
- Influence of individual religiosity on formal volunteering
- Youth group participation as a measure of collective religiosity
- Parental encouragement

## Methodology: Data

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### National Study on Youth and Religion (NSYR Wave 1)

- Nationally representative survey of English and Spanish-speaking teenagers (13 – 17 years) – 3370 respondents
- Used a random-digit-dial (RDD) method

## Methodology: Variables

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### Dependent Variable

- Teen Volunteering - Never, A few times, Occasionally, Regularly

### Predictors

#### ❖ Demographics

- Age – 13 -17
- Sex – Male, Female
- Race – White, Black, Hispanics, Others
- Fathers' Education
- Mothers' Education

## Methodology: Variables

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### ❖ Parental Variables

- Parents' Volunteering – yes/no
- Parents' Encouragement – yes/no
- Parents' financial situation - Indebted, Breaking Even, Some Savings, and Lots of Savings

### ❖ Religious Variables

- Youth group participation – yes/no



## Methodology: Variables

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- Church Attendance - Never, Once a Month, A few times a year, Almost every week, Once a week, More than once a week
- Religious Salience - Not important at all, Not very important, Somewhat important, Very important, and extremely important
- Religious Experiences – yes/no
- Religious Tradition - Evangelical Protestant. Mainline Protestant, African-American Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, Other religions, and no religion

## Methodology – Preliminary Analyses

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### ❖ Bivariate

One Way ANOVA Tables with Turkey Post-hoc tests and effect size

- Religious salience
- Church attendance
- Religious traditions

Contingency Tables with Phi effect size

- Youth group participation, religious experience, parents' financial situation, and parents' volunteering

## Methodology – Primary Analyses

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### ❖ Multivariate

#### Three-stage Ordinal Logistic Regression

- Model 1- Demographics
- Model 2 - Demographics and Parental Variables
- Model 3 - Demographics, Parental Variables and Religious Variables

## Findings - Bivariate

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### ❖ ANOVA Table 1

Church Attendance – ( $F = 9.932$ ,  $df = 6$ ,  $p = .000$ ) with a small effect size ( $\eta^2 = 0.02$ ).

- Bimodal relationship between church attendance and volunteering with high or rarely attending teens most likely to volunteer.

### ❖ ANOVA Table 2

Religious Salience - ( $F = 7.787$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = .000$ ) with a small effect size ( $\eta^2 = 0.01$ ).

- Religious salience influences teens' volunteering, but faith must be extremely important in order to see an effect.

## Findings - Bivariate

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### ❖ ANOVA Table 3

Religious Traditions - ( $F = 14.351$ ,  $df = 7$ ,  $p = .000$ ), with a small effect size ( $\eta^2 = 0.03$ )

- Mainline Protestants volunteered more than Black Protestants
- Volunteering lower among teens of “other religion” compared to all other religious traditions except Black Protestants and Non-religious teens.
- Jewish and Mormon teens volunteered more than Evangelical protestants, Mainline Protestants, Black Protestants, Catholics, and Non-religious teens

## Findings - Bivariate

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### ❖ Contingency Table 2

- Teens' who participated in a religious youth group, and had a religious experience, and less likely to have never volunteered and more likely to volunteer regularly.
- Teens whose parents volunteered less likely to have never volunteered and more likely to volunteer regularly
- Teens' whose parents are indebted least likely to volunteer and those who parents had a lot of savings most likely to volunteer regularly.

## Findings - Multivariate

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### Demographics

- Whites and Females are more likely to volunteer
- Mothers' and Fathers' education has a positive effect on teen volunteering

### Parental variables

- Parental Encouragement key to teen volunteering

### Religiosity

- Religious experience positively related to teen volunteering
- Youth group participation positively associated with teen volunteering
- Non- religious teens more likely to volunteer than Catholics and Jews

**Multiple Stage Ordinal Logistic Regression Models predicting Teens' Formal Volunteering**

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3		
Predictors	b	$\beta$	Exp B	b	$\beta$	Exp B	b	$\beta$	Exp B
Age	.144**	.113	1.155	.133**	.104	1.142	.144**	.113	1.155
Female	.280**	.077	1.323	.240*	.066	1.272	.177*	.049	1.194
Race <sup>a</sup>									
Black	-.479**	-.100	.620	-.525**	-.050	.591	-.622*	-.130	.537
Hispanics	-.092	-.016	.913	-.066	-.012	.936	-.143	-.025	.866
Other	-.119	-.014	.888	-.170	-.021	.843	-.142	-.017	.867
Fathers' Education	.076**	.113	1.079	.062*	.092	1.064	.049*	.073	1.051
Mothers' Education	.073**	.102	1.075	.051*	.071	1.052	.047*	.066	1.048
Parents volunteering				.132	.036	1.141	.020	.005	1.020
Parents' encouragement				.369**	.238	1.446	.335**	.216	1.398
Parents' financial situation <sup>b</sup>									
Breaking Even				-.011	-.002	.989	.000	0	1.000
Some Savings				-.137	-.036	.872	-.135	-.035	.874
Lots of Savings				-.006	-.001	.994	-.040	-.006	.961



	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3		
Predictors	b	$\beta$	Exp B	b	$\beta$	Exp B	b	$\beta$	Exp B
Church Attendance							.016	.0184	1.017
Religious Salience							-.004	-.003	.996
Religious Experience							.413**	.114	1.512
Religious youth Group Participation							.506**	.134	1.658
Religious Traditions <sup>c</sup>									
Evangelical Protestant							.188	.048	1.207
Mainline Protestant							-.074	-.012	.928
Black Protestant							-.280	-.049	.756
Catholic							-.377*	-.090	.686
Jewish							-.839*	-.083	.432
Mormon							-.337	-.026	.714
Other religion							-.007	-.001	.993
Nagelkerke R2	.025			.114			.157		
-2 log Likelihood	575.840			5310.785			5407.045		
$\chi^2$	13.171			29.220			46.169		

Source: "National Study on Youth and Religion Wave 1. Notes: \*\*p < .01; \*p < .05; (two-tailed tests);

<sup>a</sup>: White is reference category. <sup>b</sup>: Indebted is reference category. <sup>c</sup>: Non-religious is reference category.

## Contributions

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- Importance of youth group participation as a pathway to volunteering
- Importance of personal religious experiences
- Importance of parents' encouraging teens to volunteer
- Extending literature on volunteering patterns among teens (13 – 17 years)

## Recommendations

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- Testing variables found to be associated with volunteering among young adults on teen samples
- More focus on influence of private/individual religiosity on volunteering
- Further research on what forms of encouragement influence teen volunteering
- Parents' Income level as a predictor of teen volunteering

QUESTIONS

