

# Social Services Organizations in Canada



According to the 2003 National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO), Canada has 19,000 Social Services organizations, which account for 12% of the nation's 161,000 nonprofit and voluntary organizations. Social Services organizations are the third most common type nonprofit and voluntary organization in the country. They report total annual revenues of \$11.1 billion — 10% of the \$112 billion in total annual revenues for all organizations.

## Legal Status

Social Services organizations are more likely than nonprofit and voluntary organizations in general to be registered charities. Just over half (56%) of all nonprofit and voluntary organizations in Canada are registered charities, but almost three-quarters (72%) of Social Services organizations have charitable status. Charitable

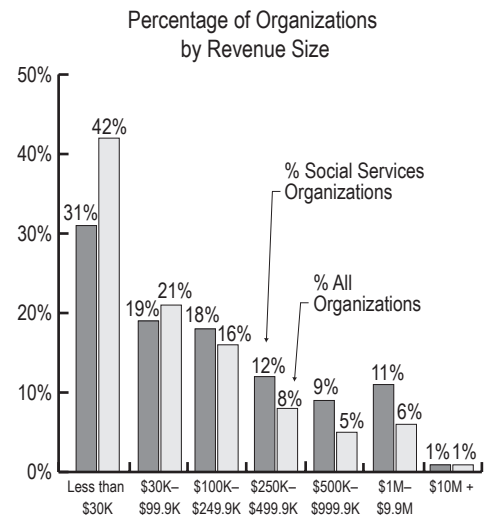
status allows organizations to issue tax receipts for donations and to access foundation funding, which by law is restricted to registered charities.

## Revenue Size

In terms of annual revenues, Social Services organizations tend to be larger than other types of nonprofit and voluntary organizations. One half (50%\*) report annual revenues of \$100,000 or more, compared to just over one-third (36%) of all organizations. Social Services organizations are almost twice as likely as all organizations to have annual revenues of \$1 million or more (12% vs. 7%).

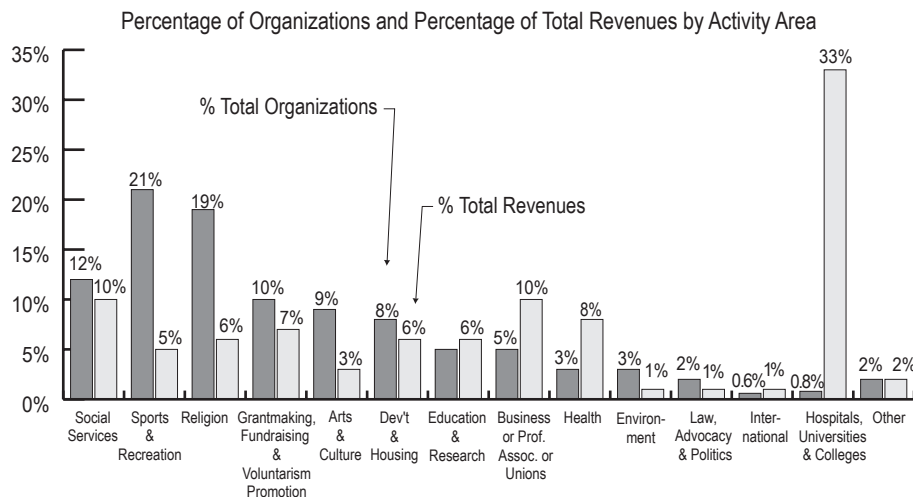
## Revenue Sources

Social Services organizations receive more of their revenues from government, and less from earned income



and gifts and donations, than is the case in the sector as a whole. In fact, two-thirds (66%) of all revenues reported by Social Services organizations come from government. Most of this money comes from provincial governments. The next most important source of revenue for Social Services organizations is earned income (20%), followed by gifts and donations (11%).<sup>1</sup>

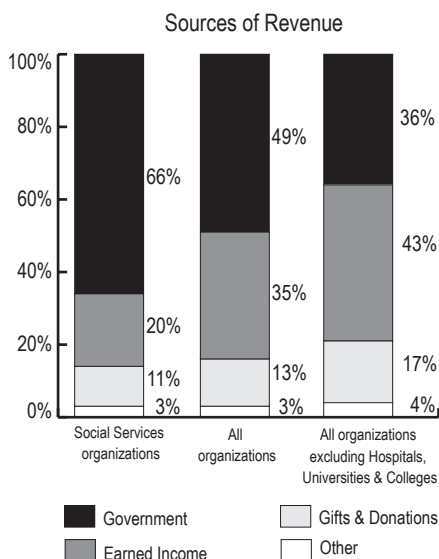
This revenue profile is distinct from all nonprofit and voluntary organizations, which receive 49% of their revenues from government, 35% from



\* Figure differs from sum derived from chart due to rounding of numbers for individual categories.

<sup>1</sup> The gifts and donations category includes 4% from individual donations; 3% from fundraising organizations and family community foundations; 1% from disbursements from other nonprofit organizations; and 2% from corporate sponsorships, donations, or grants (does not add to 11% due to rounding).

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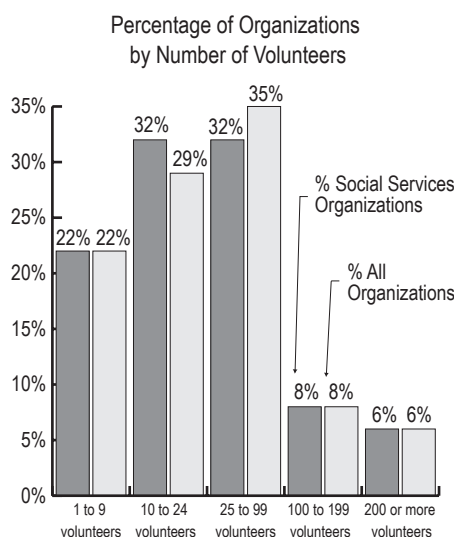


earned income, and 13% from gifts and donations. It is even more distinct from the sector excluding Hospitals, Universities and Colleges, which receives 36% of its revenues from government, 43% from earned income, and 17% from gifts and donations.

## Volunteers

Collectively, Social Services organizations report engaging 3.6 million volunteers. This amounts to almost 19%<sup>E</sup> of all volunteers in the nonprofit and voluntary sector — more than one would expect given that Social Services organizations account for only 12% of all organizations.

For the most part, the distribution of volunteers among Social Services organizations mirrors their distribution in the nonprofit and voluntary sector as a whole. Social Services organizations are, however, slightly more likely to have 10 to 24 volunteers (32%, compared to 29% of all organizations) and slightly less likely to have 25 to 99 volunteers (32%, compared to 35%).

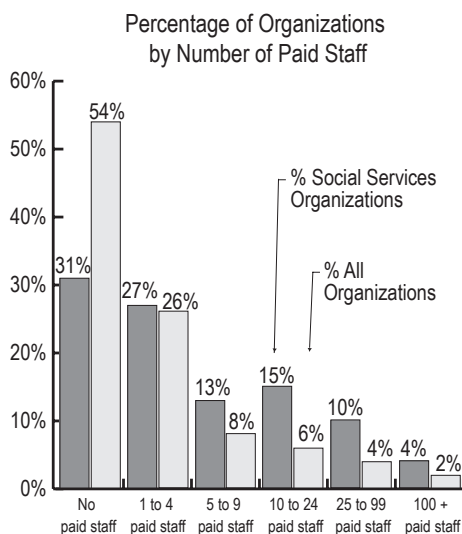


## Employees

Approximately 297,000 people are employed by Canadian Social Services organizations. This accounts for almost 15% of all paid staff in the nonprofit and voluntary sector. Sixty-five percent of Social Services

employees hold permanent positions and 57% work full-time.

Social Services organizations are more likely than other types of organizations to have paid staff. More than two-thirds (69%) of Social Services organizations have paid staff, compared to fewer than half (46%) of all organizations. Compared to the sector as a whole, Social Services organizations are also more likely to have large staff complements. For example, 14% of Social Services organizations have 25 or more staff members, compared to just 6% of all organizations. <sup>E</sup>



<sup>E</sup> = Sample size limitations affect the reliability of this estimate.

The National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO) was conducted by a consortium of organizations consisting of Imagine Canada (formerly the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy), l'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale à l'Université du Québec à Montréal, the Canada West Foundation, the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Capacity Development Network at the University of Victoria, the Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector Organization of Manitoba, Queen's University School of Policy Studies, and Statistics Canada.

A summary of the survey findings may be found in *Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations*, available at [www.nonprofitscan.ca](http://www.nonprofitscan.ca).



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