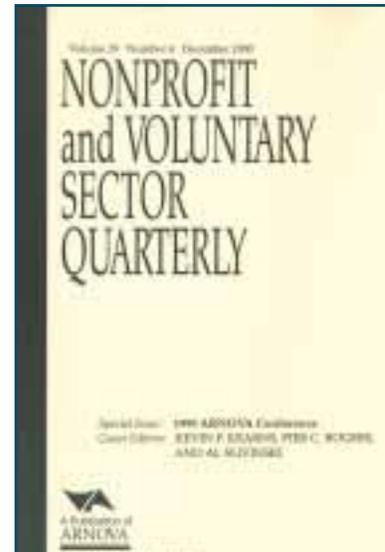


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Has Working More Caused Married Women to Volunteer Less? Evidence from Time Diary Data, 1965 to 1993



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Now that married women are working more for pay than they were three decades ago, are they less likely to volunteer for charitable organizations?

While anecdotal and organizational evidence can provide valuable detail about certain groups of volunteers, it cannot give an accurate view of overall trends in volunteer participation. The author used national time diary surveys conducted in 1965, 1975, 1985, and 1993 to document a 7.1-percentage-point decrease in the weekly volunteer participation rate of working-age married women, from 16.4 percent in 1965 to 9.3 percent in 1993. Changes in observable characteristics, such as employment rates and parental status, explain about 65 percent of the decrease in married women's volunteer participation from 1965 to 1985. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to volunteer than those with less education, and married women's gains in educational attainment are the most important factor to offset the net decline in their volunteer participation from 1965 to 1993. Married women's volunteer participation continued to decline from 1985 to 1993, but their changing employment rates and parental status do not explain the more recent decline.