



**AVERAGE AND MEDIAN AMOUNTS
OF HOUSEHOLD
GIVING & VOLUNTEERING
IN 2002**

FROM THE

**CENTER ON PHILANTHROPY PANEL
STUDY (COPPS)
2003 WAVE**

**DATA COLLECTION FUNDED BY:
ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES INC.**
as part of the
University of Michigan's
Panel Study of Income Dynamics

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March 2006

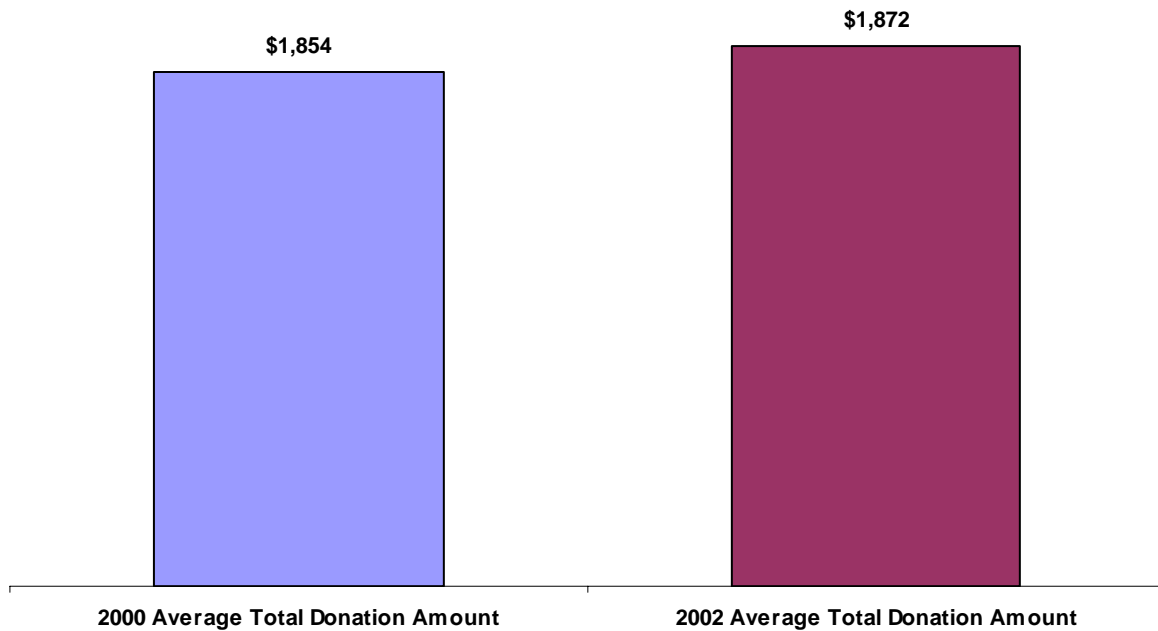
Every culture depends on philanthropy and nonprofit organizations to provide essential elements of a civil society. Effective philanthropy and nonprofit management are instrumental in creating and maintaining public confidence in the philanthropic traditions--voluntary association, voluntary giving, and voluntary action. The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University increases the understanding of philanthropy and improves its practice through programs in research, teaching, public service, and public affairs.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University is a part of the IU School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The Center has academic and research programs on the IUPUI and the IU-Bloomington campuses.

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2000-2002 Comparison of Average Total Donation Amounts from Households that Donated



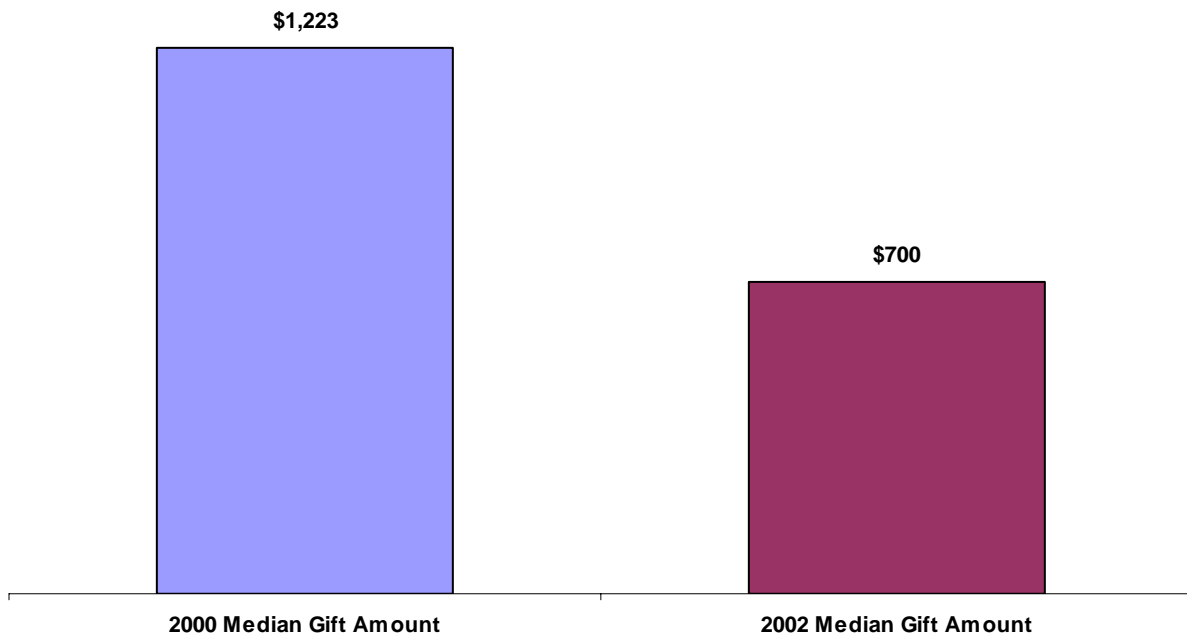
Data Source: Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) 2001 and 2003 Waves

- The average amount that donor households gave changed from \$1,854 in 2000 to \$1,872 in 2002, an increase of 1 percent (a decrease of 3.3 percent when adjusted for inflation).
- The inflation-adjusted decline may be associated with the recession of 2001 and the stock market decline that persisted through 2002. Other research has found that households are more likely to give and give more when they feel financially secure. With retirement accounts and other investments losing ground in 2002, at least some households may have cut back on their charitable giving.



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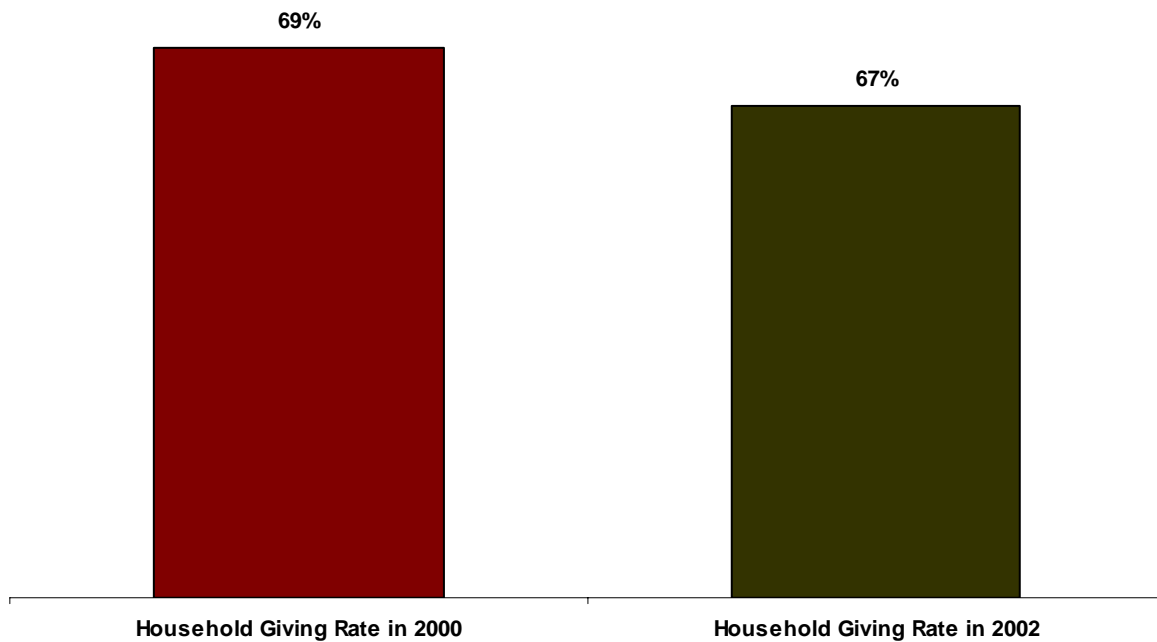
2000-2002 Comparison of Median Gift Amounts from Households that Gave



Data Source: Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) 2001 and 2003 Waves

- The median gift in 2002 decreased from \$1,223 to \$700, a decrease of almost 43 percent. This is not adjusted for inflation.
- The median gift is where 50 percent of the gifts were greater than this amount and 50 percent of the gifts were below this amount.
- The median gift amount is not greatly affected by the fact that few wealth households were included in the study compared to their share of giving.

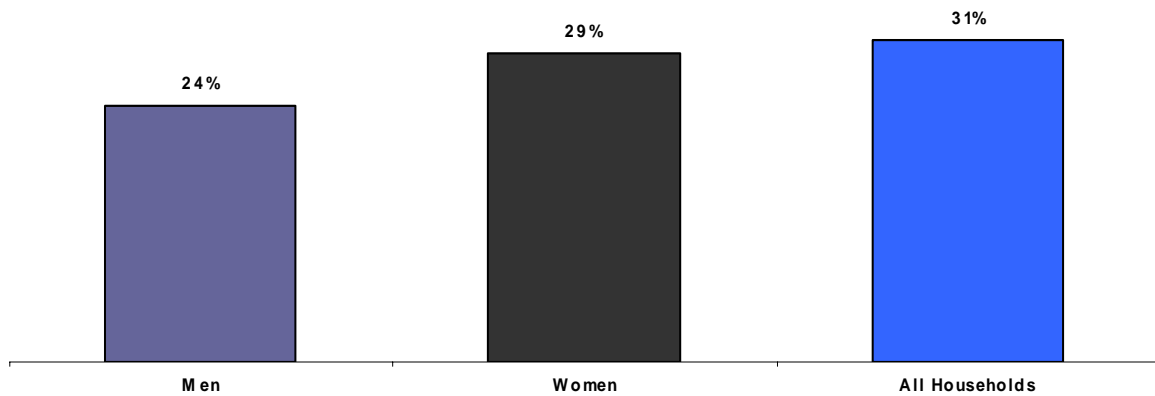
2000-2002 Comparison of Household Participation Rates in Giving



Data Source: Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) 2001 and 2003

- The percentage of households that donated at least \$25 in 2002 was 67%.
- The percent of households that donated decreased from 69 percent in 2000 to 67 percent in 2002, a decrease of 2.8 percent.

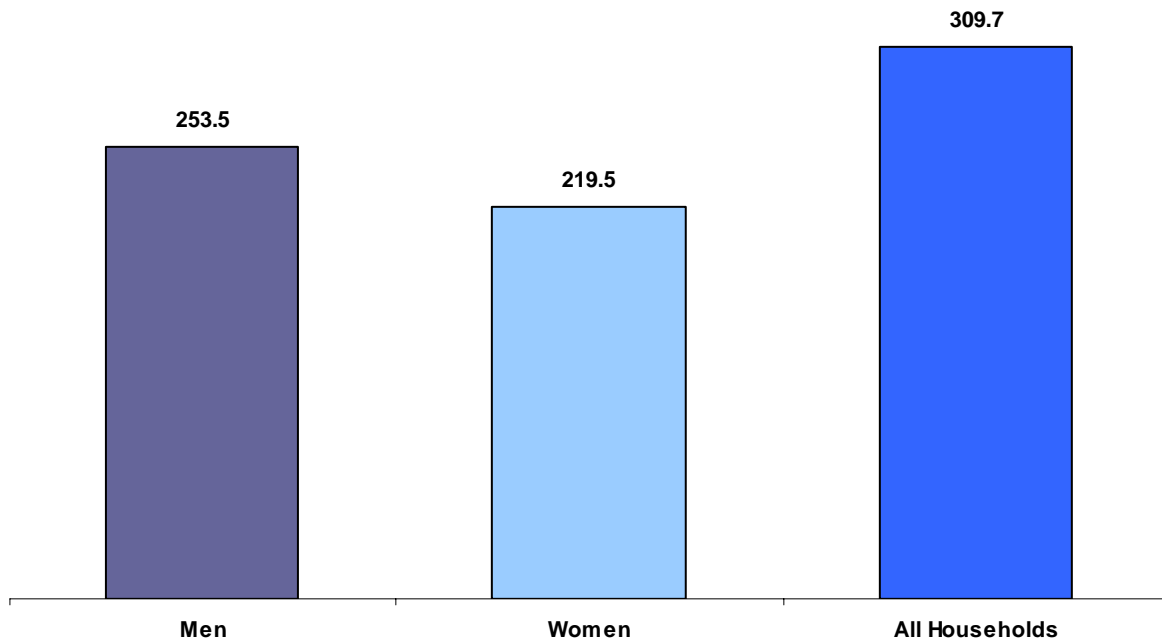
2002 Volunteering Rates



Data Source: Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) 2003 Wave

- In 2002, 31 percent of households reported at least one adult who participated in formal volunteering.
- Among all households, 24 percent of men volunteered and 29 percent of women.

**2002 Average Hours Volunteered Among Those Reporting
Volunteering in a Formal Capacity**



Data Source: Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) 2003 Wave

- Women who volunteered averaged 219.5 volunteer hours (4.2 hours per week) and men who volunteered averaged 253.5 volunteer hours (4.9 hours per week) in the year.
- In 2002, among the households that volunteered (including households where both men and women reported volunteering), adults in the household reported volunteering an average of 309.7 hours over the year (6 hours per week). This includes households where both adults may have volunteered.
- Because a higher percentage of women volunteer, even with a lower reported average number of volunteer hours per volunteer woman, women account for more than half of the total reported volunteer time (51 percent compared with 49 percent for men).

Center on Philanthropy Panel Study Background

The Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) is part of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), an extensive survey conducted every year or every other year since 1968 by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. The PSID now tracks nearly 8,000 U.S. single and family households, surveying up to three generations in some families. Partially supported by the National Science Foundation, PSID is the only social science project on the agency's list of 50 NSF-funded projects that have transformed the way Americans live, think and work.

The COPPS giving and volunteering questions were added to the PSID in 2001 by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. COPPS was established with the encouragement and financial support from the Atlantic Philanthropies. In addition to being the nation's first and only long-term study of philanthropy over time, each COPPS survey also provides the nation's largest snapshot study of U.S. philanthropy in a given year. It tracks giving and volunteering and the factors that influence those practices throughout lifetimes and across generations as personal, social, and economic circumstances change.

The analyses in this pamphlet are based on 6,378 respondents. These respondents consist of the PSID households for which population weights are available. Weighted survey responses are thus representative of the national population. However, total donations to each type of charity are strongly affected by the gifts of a few super-wealthy, none of which are queried by the PSID. Thus figures reported here are best interpreted as excluding those donors.

The PSID's very large sample size and the household and individual characteristics about which it asks give COPPS distinct advantages over other cross-sectional studies of giving or volunteering conducted by other researchers. COPPS is more accurate than most other philanthropy studies. COPPS permits analysis to examine how differences in race, gender, religious affiliation, age, education, health, parenting styles, values, marital status, and many other factors influence or are influenced by giving and volunteering. COPPS also can examine differences in giving based on different sources of both income and wealth (most studies focus on giving from income; few look at giving from wealth.) For instance, COPPS can examine differences in giving between those who give from inherited wealth and those who give from earned wealth, or differences in giving between those who give from entrepreneurial income and those who give from wages or salaries. Other than COPPS, no other study combines quality data on all three variables: giving, income, and wealth.

Wilhelm (2006) found that the COPPS data "offers a useful tool for empirical research in the economics of giving," given its scarcity of missing data and its ability to produce "a giving distribution similar to tax data" (p. 6). This speaks to the quality of data collected in this study and its ability to effectively demonstrate giving characteristics in a representative manner.

Scholars interested in the COPPS data set should contact Patrick M. Rooney, director of research at the Center on Philanthropy (rooney@iupui.edu). The data are available through the PSID website (psidonline.isr.umich.edu). The Center has prepared datasets that have been cleaned and recoded. These data can be made available as well.