



CENTER
FOR THE FUTURE OF
ARIZONA

Connected Communities Data Profile



Geography:
All Arizona Counties

Produced By
The Center for the Future of Arizona

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters

<https://www.arizonafuture.org/>

5/1/2020

Communities are home, how we connect to others, and are at the center of collective decision-making.

What success looks like: Communities are working together to solve problems and improve the lives of all Arizonans.



Connected Communities Progress Meter Partner:



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The Arizona We Want

The Arizona We Want is a shared vision of success around what matters most to Arizonans that expresses their highest aspirations and hopes for the future. It is derived from what the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) has learned through careful listening to what Arizonans say about what matters most to them and their highest priorities. CFA's findings and analyses can be found in the three The Arizona We Want reports which you can access here (<https://www.arizonafuture.org/reports/>).

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters are an evolving, dynamic set of tools to measure the priorities that Arizonans identified of critical importance to the future of the state. The metrics were carefully considered and included with the criteria of being: easily understood; supported by publicly available, trusted, and regularly updated data; and, useful as a guidepost for assessing policy and practice. The Progress Meters may evolve over time with the input from Arizona's leaders, communities and technical experts. Learn more on our website at: <https://www.arizonafuture.org/az-progress-meters/overview/>

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters are defined by categories but in the real world none of these areas exist in isolation. Explore our data and feel free to connect with us at any time if you would like CFA to support you in identifying the best measures for advancing the priorities of your community.

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How Progress Meters were selected

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters were developed through the following milestones:

- CFA partnered with leading education organizations, with Expect More Arizona as lead partner, to develop and launch the Education Progress Meter, which engaged over 40 partners in its launch and has now been formally adopted by 60 cities and towns.
- CFA partnered with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) to use the nationally developed and recognized Civic Health Index to provide an array of metrics and data to track progress on two additional Progress Meters: Connected Communities and Civic Participation.
- CFA led an extensive process for developing metrics for the following Progress Meters: Jobs, Health & Well-being, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure. It engaged a Task Force, involved content experts, and held focus groups in using consensus-building around which metrics are most critical to track for each of the four meters. It followed this process with what has become a consistent practice in using critical readers statewide to provide feedback. Over 100 of 300+ critical readers rated metrics and provided feedback that culminated in the chosen measurements of each category.
- The Young Talent Progress Meter is still under development as it is being defined by Arizona's Young People. Learn more here! (<https://www.arizonafuture.org/az-progress-meters/young-talent/overview/>)

Throughout this process, careful consideration was given to the following criteria which must be met for metrics to be included in the Arizona We Want Progress Meters:

- They must be supported by publicly available, trusted, and regularly updated data;
- They must be understandable by most Arizonans;
- And they must be useful as a guidepost for assessing policy initiatives.

Many of our data sources do not provide data disaggregated to cities and counties, though some do. Because of this, in the event that data is not available, it will be provided at the most local level possible. Please reference the notes on each metric for details on how often data is updated, and at what geographic level the data is available.

Using this Report

This local report is intended to provide timely and trusted data that can be used by communities to better inform them on how they are doing on what matters most to them. The Arizona We Want Local Progress Meter Profiles are intended to support the following objectives:

- Allow communities to compare themselves with their peers, and the state as a whole (where data is available)
- Track progress over time by reporting the value of indicators in previous years
- Support in the identification of priorities that can be the subject of targeted actions to improve conditions
- Explore the interconnections between the categories of The Arizona We Want priorities in pursuit of holistic and well-designed solutions

The Center for the Future of Arizona is engaging with a select group of communities in Community Conversations that are intended to support in advancing the objectives above. Please connect with us if you would like us to bring this process to you!

We appreciate hearing feedback and responding to inquiries about Progress Meters data, website and/or reports. Feel free to reach out to Ian Dowdy, Director of Progress Meters at ian.dowdy@arizonafuture.org.

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Volunteering

Volunteering is one important way for individuals to give back to their communities, meet critical needs, and improve their own health, well-being and access to opportunity.

Research has shown that individuals can develop important skills, networks, and opportunities through volunteerism. A few examples include:

- Studies have shown that volunteer work can lead to future earning power by providing work experience and strengthening social networks and ties that lead to jobs.¹
- Research from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), entitled “Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment,” established an association between volunteering and employment, finding that:
 - o Volunteers have 27% higher odds of finding employment than non-volunteers.
 - o The relationship between volunteering and employment was strongest for individuals without a high school diploma and those who live in rural areas.²

In Arizona, volunteers are helping meet the needs of our communities. In 2017, Arizonans reported that 1,648,684 volunteers contributed 160.9 million hours of service. This service is worth an estimated \$3.8 billion to our communities.³

Source: NCoC Analysis of US Census Current Population Survey Civic and Volunteering Supplement (2017)

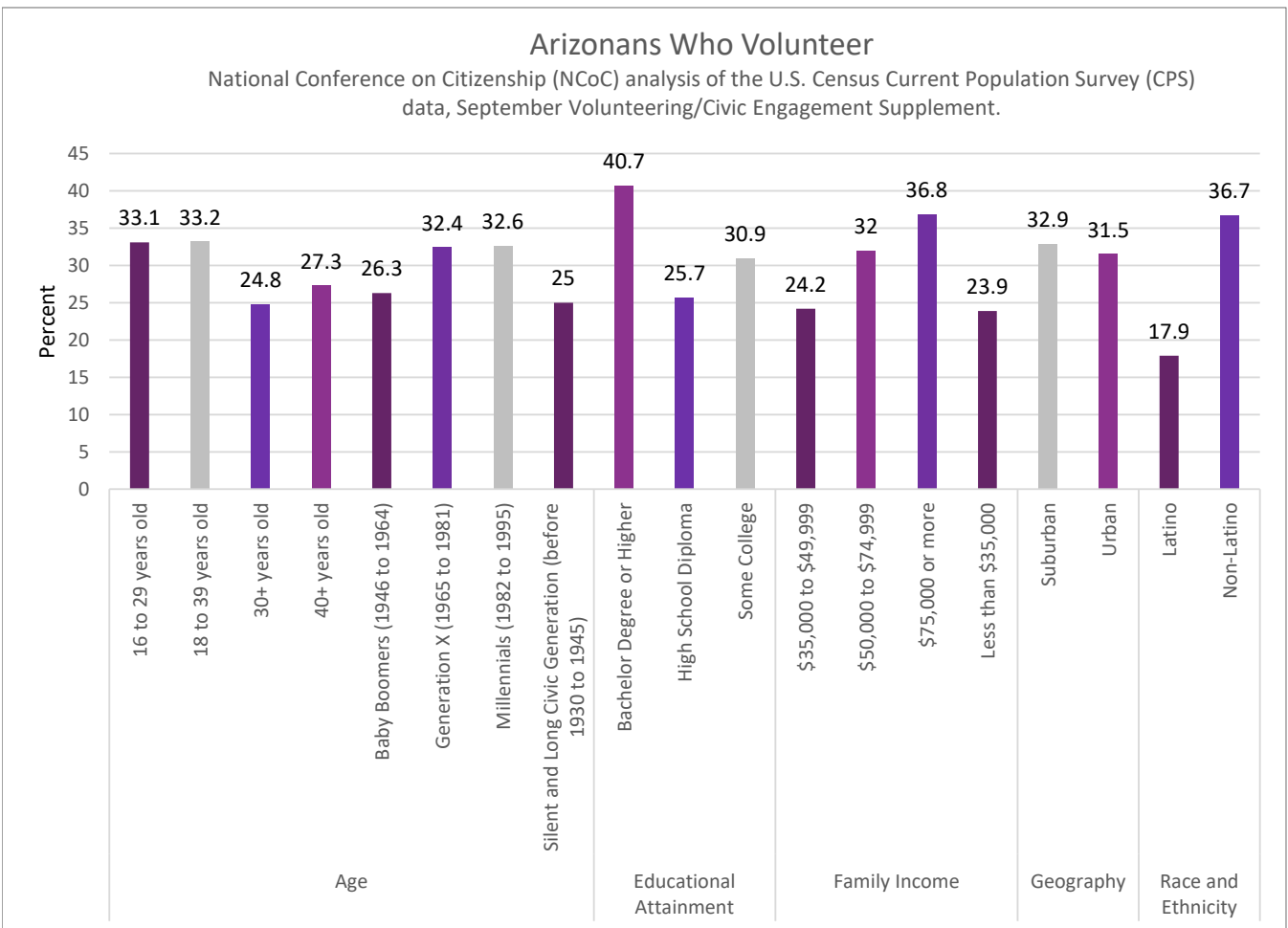
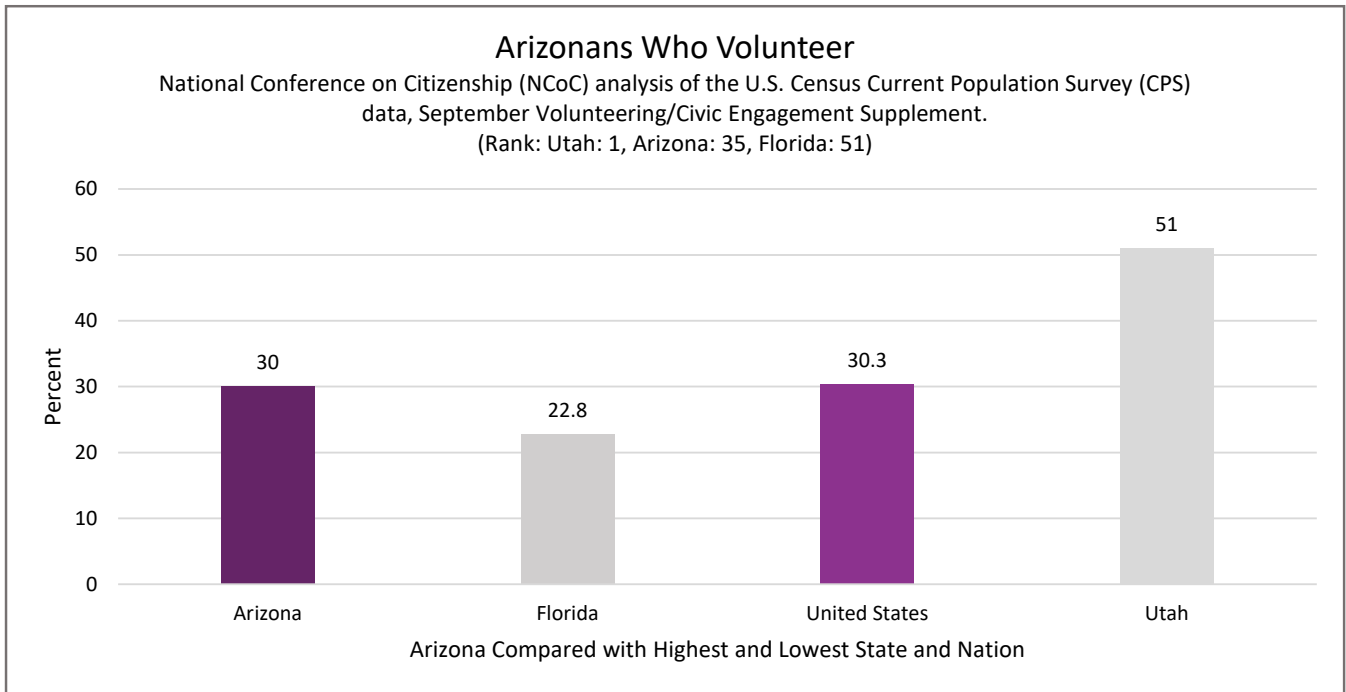
¹<https://ncoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2013EconomyCHI.pdf>

²https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/employment_research_report.pdf

³<https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/via/states/arizona>

Connected Communities

Volunteering



Belonging to Groups

Belonging to community organizations and associations are essential components of civic and democratic life in America. They provide opportunities to build relationships, increase trust, access information and strengthen sense of community. Research has shown that social capital is associated with a range of outcomes including health & well-being, strong governance, and safer and more resilient communities.¹

With this measure in Arizona, the 2017 data shows significant gaps in participation exist along lines of age and education.

Source: NCoC Analysis of US Census Current Population Survey Civic and Volunteering Supplement (2017)

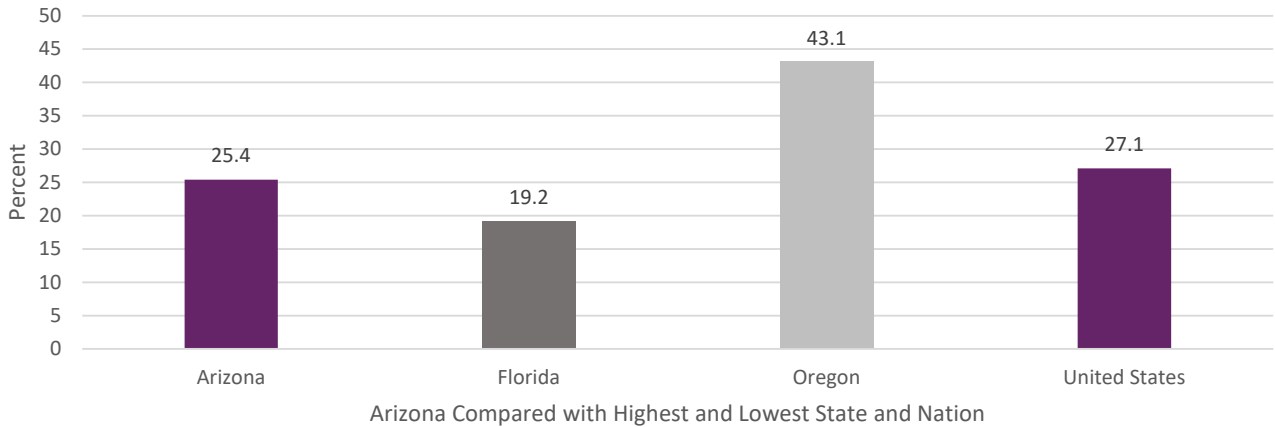
¹<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18831/civic-engagement-and-social-cohesion-measuring-dimensions-of-social-capital>

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Belonging to Groups

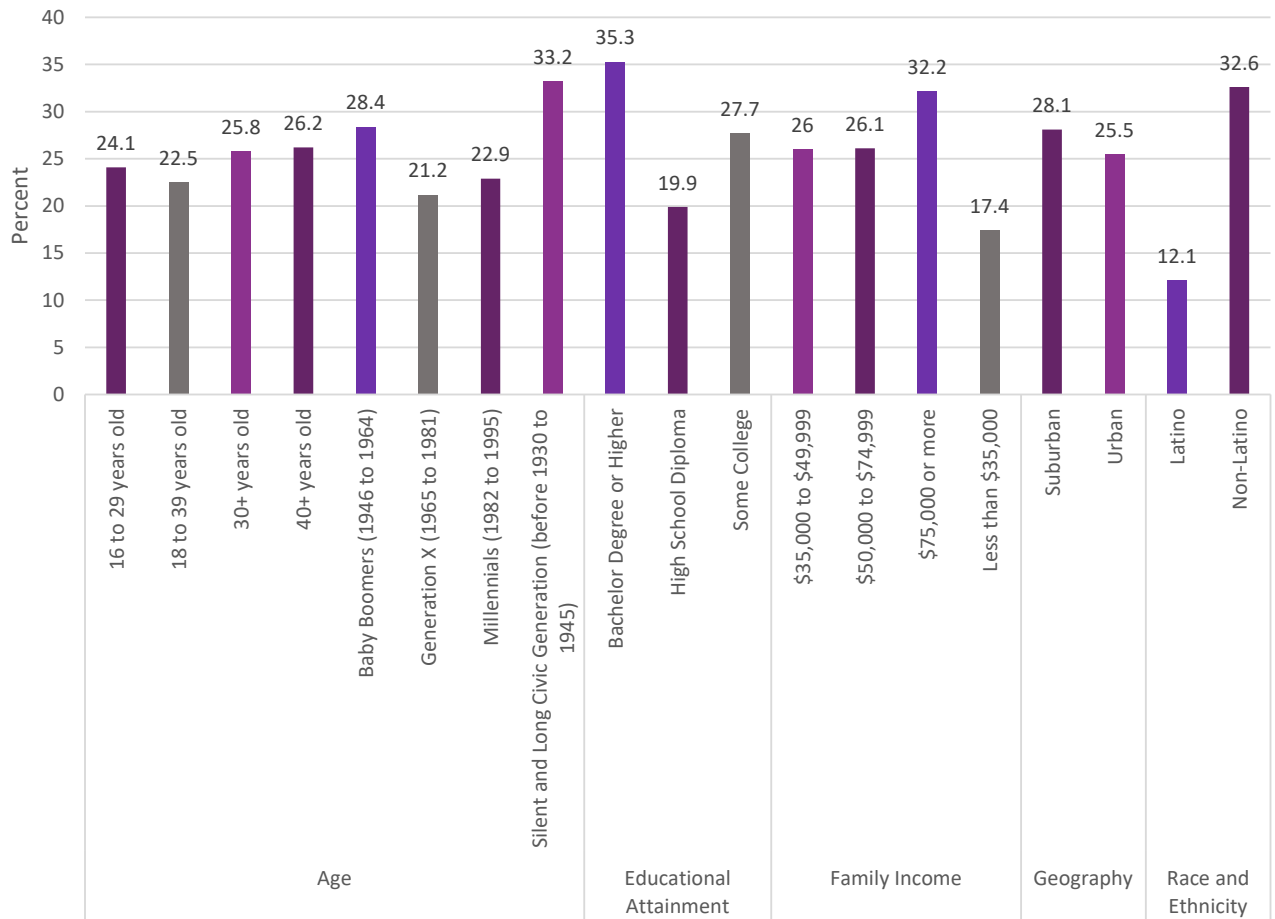
Arizonans Who Belong to Groups, Organizations, or Associations

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data, September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement.
(Rank: Oregon: 1, Arizona: 39, Florida: 51)



Arizonans Who Belong to Groups, Organizations, or Associations

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Spending Time with Neighbors

Spending time with neighbors is a critical measure of social cohesion, which leads to stronger civic health and better outcomes for individuals and communities. Research has shown a strong link between these types of connections and broader community and economic resilience.

- The National Conference on Citizenship produced research showing that a community's social cohesion is an important predictor of its ability to withstand unemployment in a recession. For example, after the Recession, states with high social cohesion (defined by trusting, helping, & spending time with neighbors) had unemployment rates 2% lower than their less connected and trusting counterparts, even when controlling for demographics and other economic factors.¹
- These neighborly connections can also lead to feeling connected to our communities, which can in turn predict economic growth. Liking and caring about where one lives increases the odds that one will invest, spend, and hire there.²

Arizona ranked last nationally in 2017 for the amount of Arizonans who spend time with their neighbors, trailing the national average by a margin of 11 percentage points.

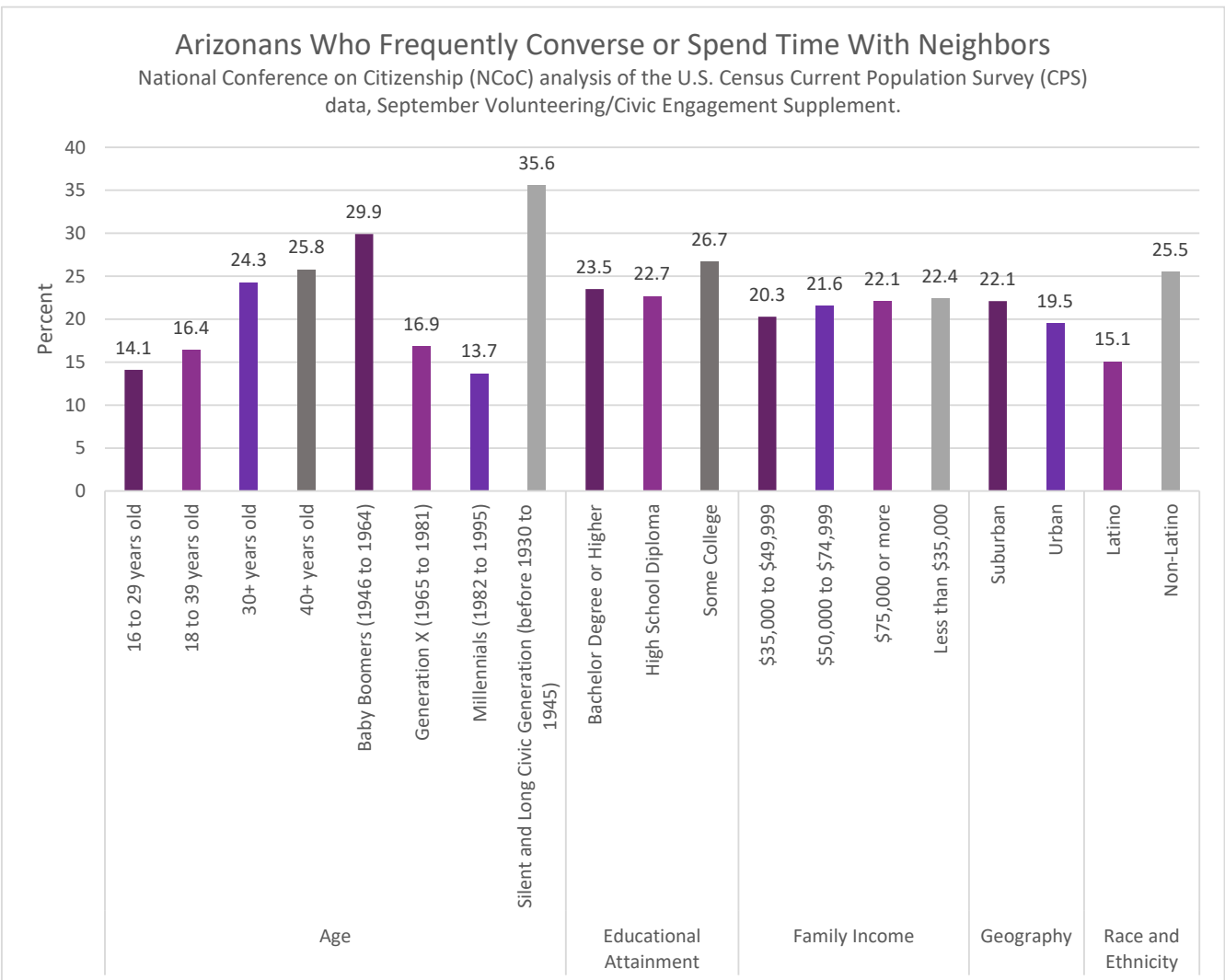
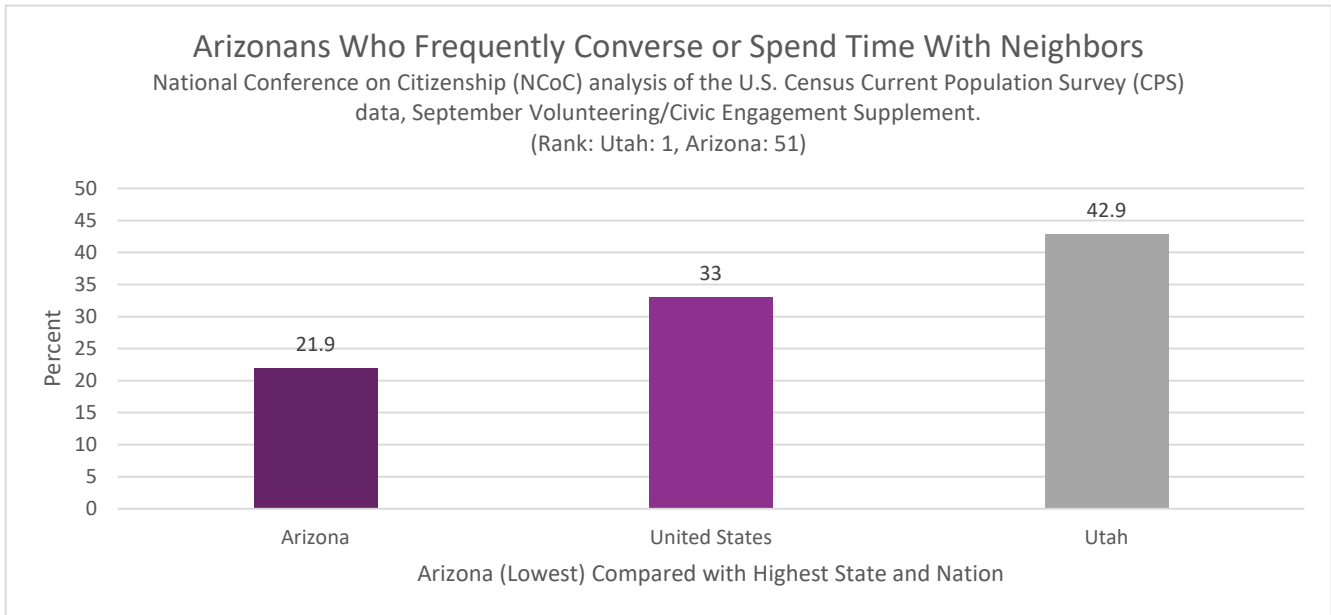
Source: NCoC Analysis of US Census Current Population Survey Civic and Volunteering Supplement (2017)

¹<https://ncoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2013EconomyCHI.pdf>

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Connected Communities

Spending Time with Neighbors



Working with Neighbors to Create Positive Change

Civic health can be understood as our communities' ability to define and address public problems. Working with our neighbors to address local issues provides a critical indicator of our overall civic health and capacity to generate solutions. It is also a reflection of strong social capital, which leads to better outcomes for individuals and communities.

Arizona trails the nation significantly in this measure with 15.6% of Arizonans in 2017 reporting they had engaged with neighbors to do something positive for their community, relative to 20.9% as the national average. As with other measures of civic health, factors like income and educational attainment are strong predictors of whether or not individuals are engaged in this way.

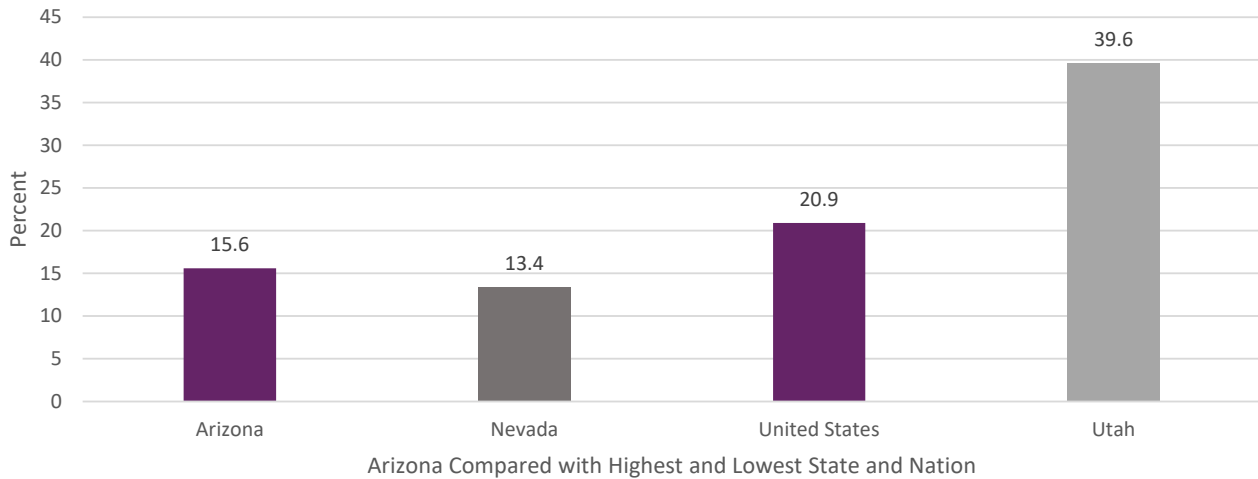
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Connected Communities

Working with Neighbors to Create Positive Change

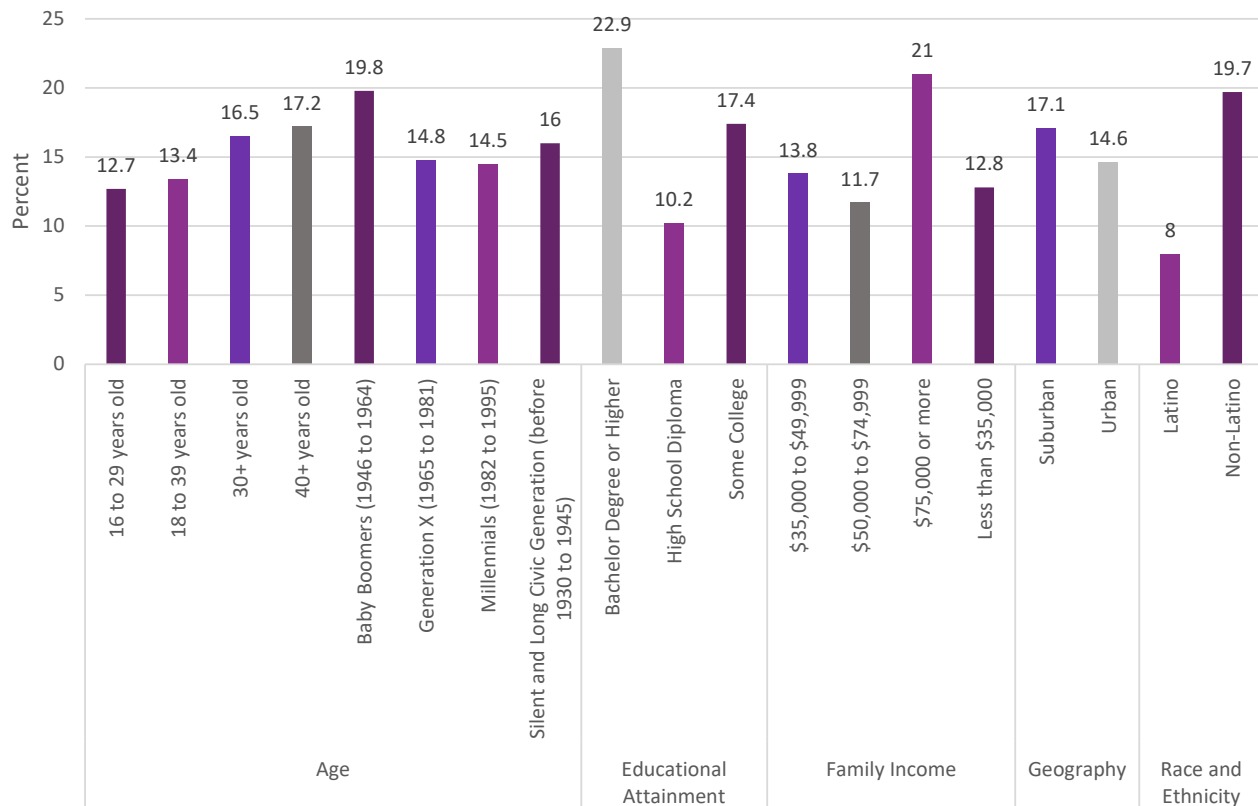
Arizonans Who Work With Neighbors to Do Something Positive for Their Community

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data, September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement.
(Rank: Utah: 1, Arizona: 51)



Arizonans Who Work With Neighbors to Do Something Positive for Their Community

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Providing Help to Family and Friends

Oftentimes individuals help their communities in a range of daily, informal ways that can go unseen. It's important to capture and understand these informal ways that Arizonans are giving back, helping each other, and moving our communities forward. One such measure is the extent to which Arizonans help our family and friends.

Arizonans provide help to each other frequently at higher rates than the national average. Furthermore, in 2017, Arizonans earning less than \$35,000 exceed the state average and lead other income brackets for giving in this way. Those with a high school diploma provide support to family and friends in this way at higher rates than those with a college degree or higher.

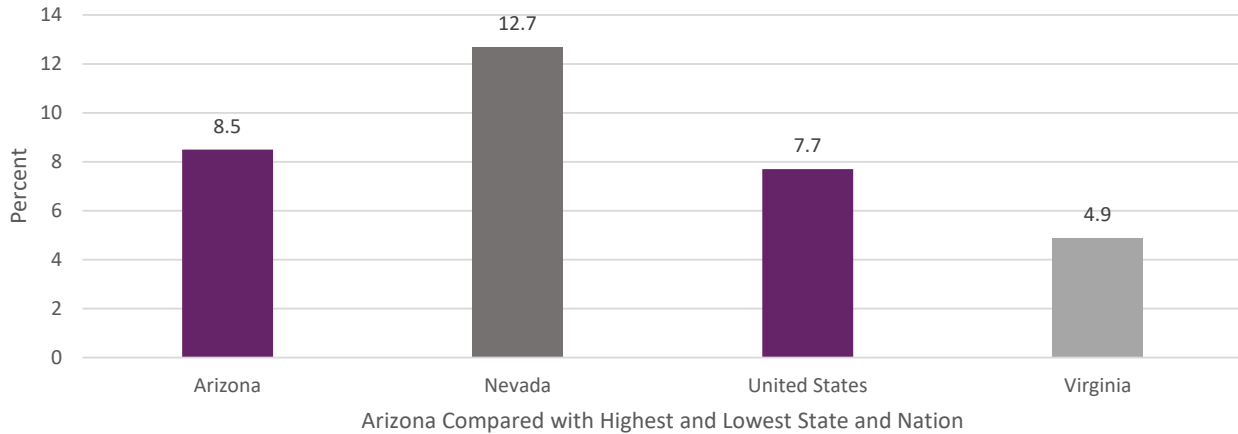
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Connected Communities

Providing Help to Family and Friends

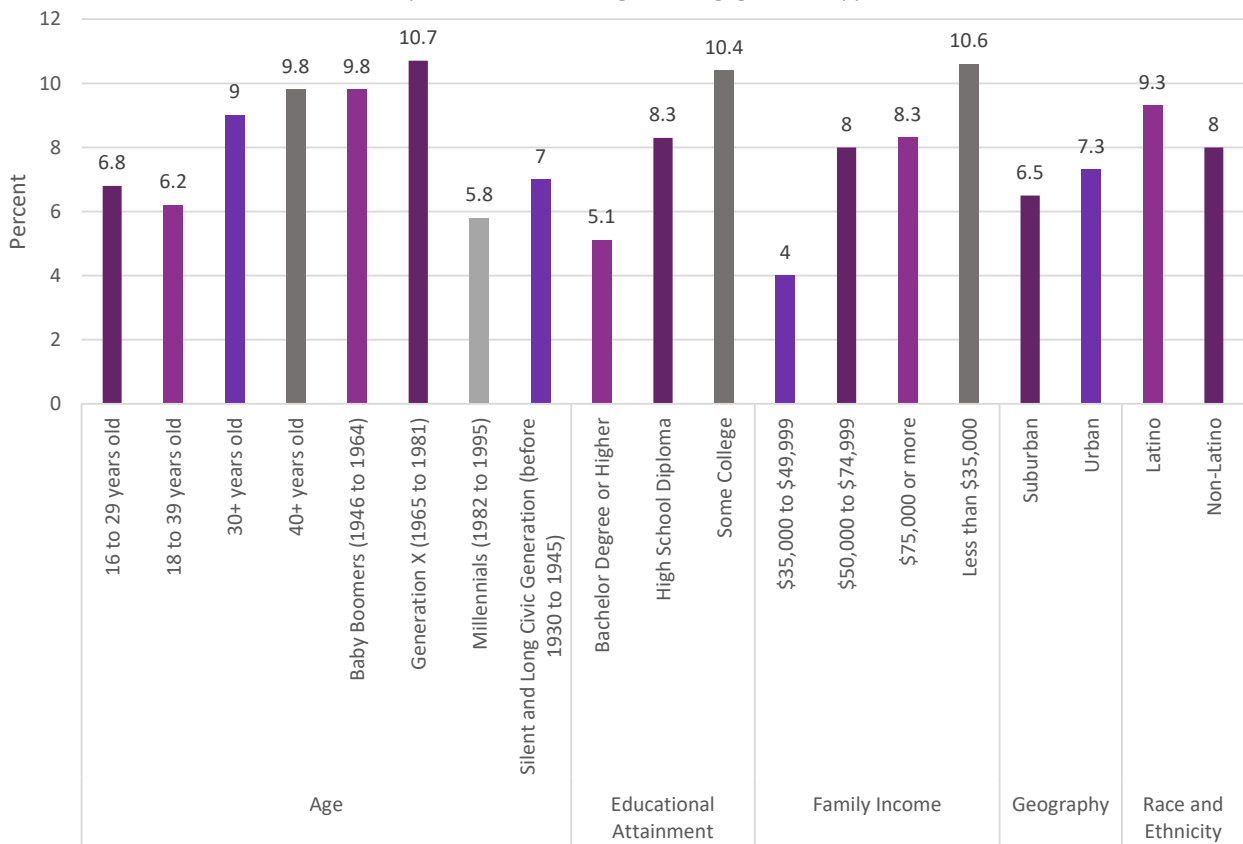
Arizonans Who Frequently Provide Food, Money, or Other Help to Family or Friends

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(Rank: Nevada: 1, Arizona: 18, Virginia:51)



Arizonans Who Frequently Provide Food, Money, or Other Help to Family or Friends

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Charitable Giving

Charitable giving helps meet vital needs statewide and contributes to a strong and thriving social sector. These donations can help transform lives and build stronger communities.

About half of Arizonans in 2017 gave at least \$25 or more to charitable or religious organizations, tracking the national average. Charitable giving tends to increase with age, income, and educational attainment.

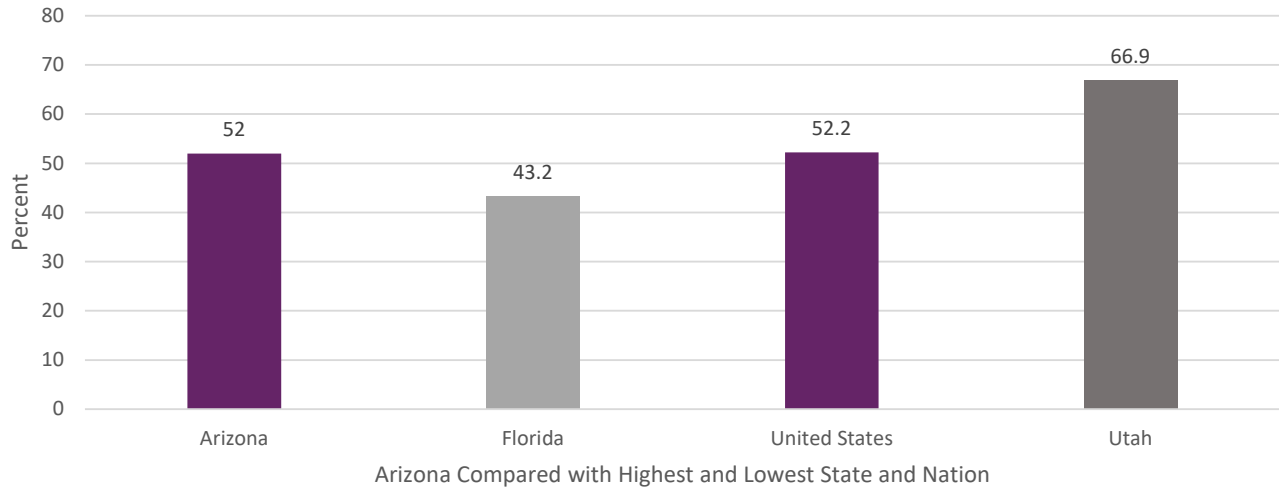
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Connected Communities

Charitable Giving

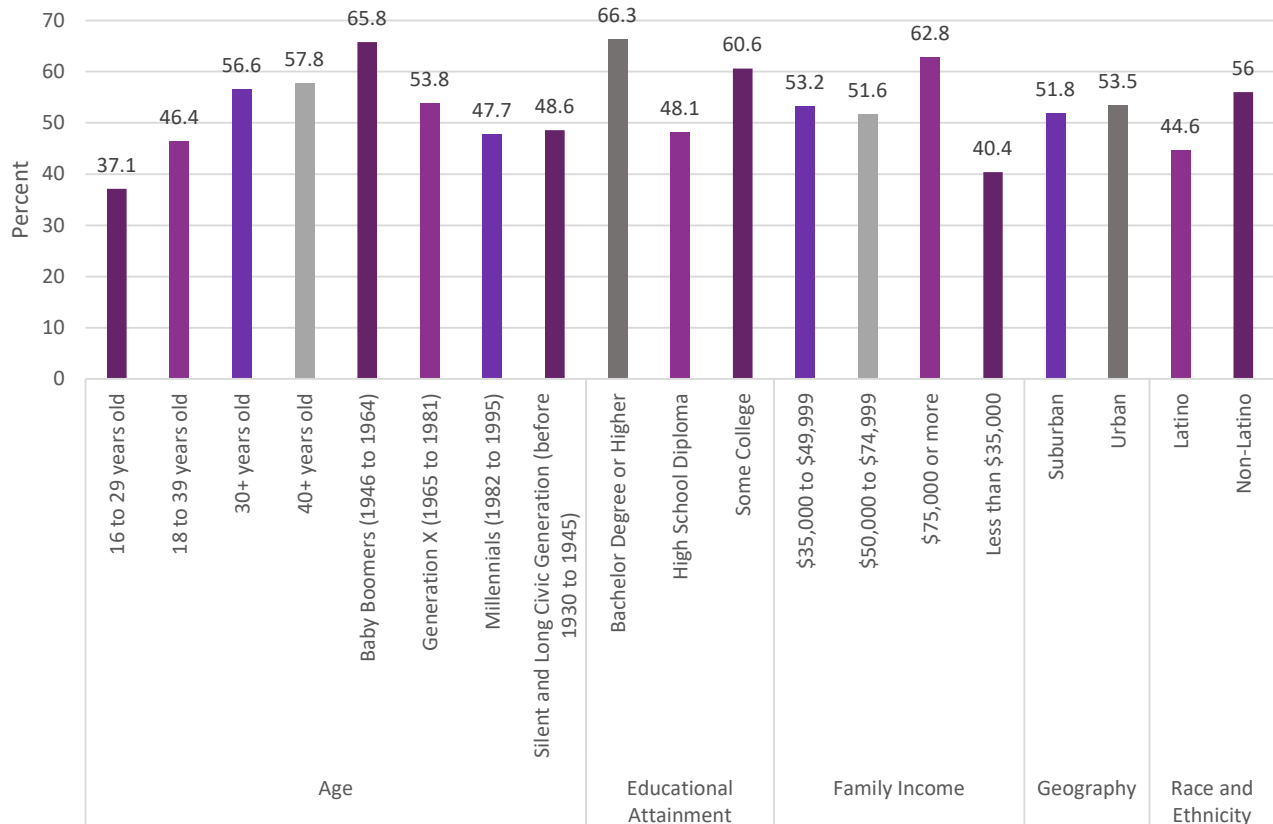
Arizonans Who Contribute to Charitable Organizations

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