

## Question 4... How big is a typical voluntary organisation?



The majority of the UK's voluntary organisations are very small: 91,000 (53% of the 'population') have an annual income of less than £10,000, and we have categorised these as micro. Many are small: a further 54,000 (32%) have an income of less than £100,000. However, these small and micro organisations account for 6% of the sector's total income, are unlikely to employ paid staff, and rely more on donations from individuals than larger organisations.

In contrast, the 438 'major' voluntary organisations with incomes above £10 million account for 44% of all charitable income. These organisations are more likely to operate

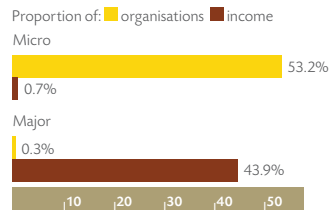
nationally or internationally and have paid employees, whilst some have branch structures that enable them to operate at a local level. Due to the threshold for registering with the Charity Commission, there are many more organisations operating "below-the-radar". Estimates of these organisations vary, with some estimates proposing as many as 600,000.

### Find out more

The Small Charities Coalition:  
[www.smallcharities.org.uk/home](http://www.smallcharities.org.uk/home)

Source: NCVO, GuideStar Data Services ▲

### Micro and major organisations' share of total income, 2007/08 (%)



### Voluntary sector organisations: income indicators, 2007/08

	Micro	Small	Medium	Large	Major	Total
Number of organisations	91,067	53,971	21,470	4,128	438	171,074
Proportion of organisations (%)	53.2	31.5	12.6	2.4	0.3	100.0
Total income (£ millions)	264.1	1,856.1	6,502.5	11,277.1	15,598.1	35,498.0
Proportion of income (%)	0.7	5.2	18.3	31.8	43.9	100.0
Mean income (£)	2,900	34,400	303,000	2,732,000	35,612,000	207,500
Median income (£)	2,800	26,700	230,000	1,951,000	19,126,000	8,700

## Question 5... What major voluntary organisations have we excluded from our analysis?



Registered charity name	Reason for exclusion	Income (£ millions)
Nuffield Health	Independent hospital	593
The Arts Council of England	Government body	589
The British Council	Government body	570
CITB - Construction Skills	Government body	300
Anchor Trust	Housing association	274
United Church Schools Foundation	Independent school	191
The Girls' Day School Trust	Independent school	177
Dominion Housing Group	Housing association	169
Peabody Trust	Housing association	160
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	Government body	150

### Excluded: the 10 largest registered charities excluded from our definition of the voluntary sector, 2007/08

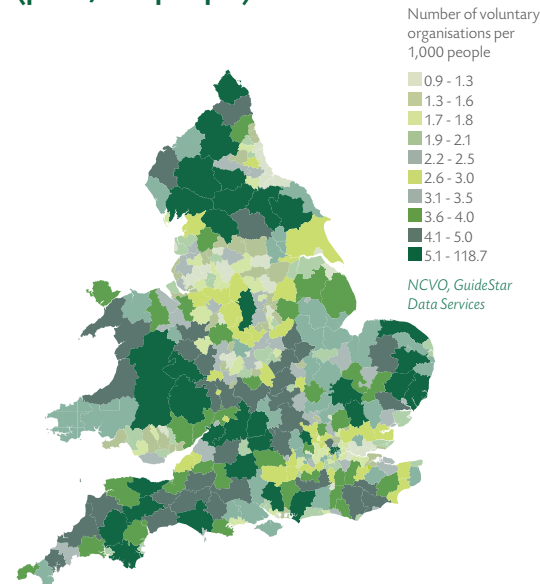
The Charity Commission's register of charities contains 16,583 entities with a combined income of £21.6 billion that do not fall into our general charities definition (see question 2). The majority are excluded because they are independent schools or universities, or because they are evangelical faith-based organisations. They include many organisations that the public may not realise are registered charities, such as exam boards.

Source: NCVO, GuideStar Data Services ▲

## Question 6... Are there more voluntary organisations in some parts of the UK than in others?



### Voluntary organisations in England and Wales by local authority, 2007/08 (per 1,000 people)



The map highlights the number of voluntary organisations per thousand people for local authorities in England and Wales. The geographies demonstrated here are complex and uneven, and voluntary organisations form only part of the civil society picture; other types of civil society organisation may have a different distribution.

On average in England and Wales there are 2.7 voluntary organisations per thousand people. Excluding central London boroughs, local authorities range from 7.7 voluntary organisations per thousand people to just 0.9. There is a clear urban/rural split to the distribution: rural areas are home to an average of 3.6 voluntary organisations per thousand people, compared to 2.1 for urban areas. However, organisations in urban areas are on average three times larger.

# 0.9

Voluntary organisations per 1,000 people in Blackpool – the lowest in England and Wales.

### John Mohan, Deputy Director, Third Sector Research Centre Does this variation matter?

The basic map of registered charities highlights clear north-south and urban-rural splits and some evidence of a negative relationship with deprivation. But what do these variations actually mean? They reflect previous rounds of investment by donors and benefactors. Charity foundation dates may go back hundreds of years. Hence the pattern will reflect this historic legacy and past conditions, rather than present-day circumstances. This could mean that it is very hard to irrigate a so-called "charity desert"!

Then there is a difference between the distribution of organisations and the distribution of their activities. Many large organisations have a presence across the country, running many local projects and contracts, which isn't captured by mapping the distribution of organisational head offices. Arriving at local estimates of third sector activity needs to take this into account.

# 31%

Proportion of UK voluntary organisations' income accounted for by organisations based in seven central London boroughs.

### Headquarters skew the distribution

The map is based on organisations' registered address with the Charity Commission. This means the activities of national and international organisations are mapped in the local authority which hosts their headquarters. One consequence is that the low population and prevalence of office space and legal facilities in the City of London means it has over one charity for every ten people, over ten times the ratio for any other local authority.

If income values are assigned to these organisations the picture becomes even more skewed. Almost one third of voluntary sector income in the UK can be assigned to organisations based in seven central London boroughs: Islington, Camden, Westminster, Lambeth, Southwark, the City of London and Hackney. Voluntary organisations choose to locate in these areas to be close to the professional, legal and political services nearby, although their activities may take place throughout the UK and across the world.