

# Datasheet for 2018 Canadian General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering & Participating

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Extract of the questions from Gebru et al. (2021)

## Motivation

1. *For what purpose was the dataset created? Was there a specific task in mind? Was there a specific gap that needed to be filled? Please provide a description.*
  - The dataset was created to enable analysis of social trends in order to monitor changes in the living conditions and well-being of Canadians and to provide information on specific social policy issues on the topic of Giving, Volunteering and Participating.
2. *Who created the dataset (for example, which team, research group) and on behalf of which entity (for example, company, institution, organization)?*
  - Statistics Canada
3. *Who funded the creation of the dataset? If there is an associated grant, please provide the name of the grantor and the grant name and number.*
  - Government of Canada
4. *Any other comments?*
  - No.

## Composition

1. *What do the instances that comprise the dataset represent (for example, documents, photos, people, countries)? Are there multiple types of instances (for example, movies, users, and ratings; people and interactions between them; nodes and edges)? Please provide a description.*
  - The instances represent the survey responses of persons 15 years and over in Canada, excluding institutionalized persons and residents of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.
2. *How many instances are there in total (of each type, if appropriate)?*
  - 16,149 survey responses
3. *Does the dataset contain all possible instances or is it a sample (not necessarily random) of instances from a larger set? If the dataset is a sample, then what is the larger set? Is the sample representative of the larger set (for example, geographic coverage)? If so, please describe how this representativeness was validated/verified. If it is not representative of the larger set, please describe why not (for example, to cover a more diverse range of instances, because instances were withheld or unavailable).*
  - The survey was completed by a sample of the Canadian population. The sample was obtained by rejective sampling to focus on the subgroup of the population that are volunteers, so it is not representative of the distribution of volunteers in the population.

4. *What data does each instance consist of? “Raw” data (for example, unprocessed text or images) or features? In either case, please provide a description.*
  - Each instance consists of the text answers to the questions in the survey on the topics of volunteering (such as quality of volunteer experience, reasons for volunteering, history of volunteering), giving (number of donations, amounts for each donation, reasons for giving), participating (youth experiences) and other socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, marital status, education, occupation, birthplace).
5. *Is there a label or target associated with each instance? If so, please provide a description.*
  - No.
6. *Is any information missing from individual instances? If so, please provide a description, explaining why this information is missing (for example, because it was unavailable). This does not include intentionally removed information, but might include, for example, redacted text.*
  - No.
7. *Are relationships between individual instances made explicit (for example, users’ movie ratings, social network links)? If so, please describe how these relationships are made explicit.*
  - N/A
8. *Are there recommended data splits (for example, training, development/validation, testing)? If so, please provide a description of these splits, explaining the rationale behind them.*
  - No.
9. *Are there any errors, sources of noise, or redundancies in the dataset? If so, please provide a description.*
  - No.
10. *Is the dataset self-contained, or does it link to or otherwise rely on external resources (for example, websites, tweets, other datasets)? If it links to or relies on external resources, a) are there guarantees that they will exist, and remain constant, over time; b) are there official archival versions of the complete dataset (that is, including the external resources as they existed at the time the dataset was created); c) are there any restrictions (for example, licenses, fees) associated with any of the external resources that might apply to a dataset consumer? Please provide descriptions of all external resources and any restrictions associated with them, as well as links or other access points, as appropriate.*
  - The dataset is self-contained.
11. *Does the dataset contain data that might be considered confidential (for example, data that is protected by legal privilege or by doctor-patient confidentiality, data that includes the content of individuals’ non-public communications)? If so, please provide a description.*
  - The data is a public use microdata file (PUMF) so it has been anonymized.
12. *Does the dataset contain data that, if viewed directly, might be offensive, insulting, threatening, or might otherwise cause anxiety? If so, please describe why.*
  - No.
13. *Does the dataset identify any sub-populations (for example, by age, gender)? If so, please describe how these subpopulations are identified and provide a description of their respective distributions within the dataset.*
  - Yes, there are flags for if the respondent is a formal volunteer, informal volunteer and giver.
14. *Is it possible to identify individuals (that is, one or more natural persons), either directly or indirectly (that is, in combination with other data) from the dataset? If so, please describe how.*
  - No, the data is a public use microdata file (PUMF) so it has been anonymized.

15. *Does the dataset contain data that might be considered sensitive in any way (for example, data that reveals race or ethnic origins, sexual orientations, religious beliefs, political opinions or union memberships, or locations; financial or health data; biometric or genetic data; forms of government identification, such as social security numbers; criminal history)? If so, please provide a description.*
  - No. Although religious affiliation is a flag (has a religious affiliation or not), the specific denomination is not included.
16. *Any other comments?*
  - No.

## Collection process

1. *How was the data associated with each instance acquired? Was the data directly observable (for example, raw text, movie ratings), reported by subjects (for example, survey responses), or indirectly inferred/derived from other data (for example, part-of-speech tags, model-based guesses for age or language)? If the data was reported by subjects or indirectly inferred/derived from other data, was the data validated/verified? If so, please describe how.*
  - The data was reported by subjects. At every stage of processing of the data, Statistics Canada made efforts to verify the data such as by identifying and eliminating potential duplicate records and dropping non-response and out-of-scope records.
2. *What mechanisms or procedures were used to collect the data (for example, hardware apparatuses or sensors, manual human curation, software programs, software APIs)? How were these mechanisms or procedures validated?*
  - Data were collected electronically as a self-completed questionnaire (rEQ) and via computer assisted telephone interviews (iEQ).
3. *If the dataset is a sample from a larger set, what was the sampling strategy (for example, deterministic, probabilistic with specific sampling probabilities)?*
  - Participants were first chosen using simple random sampling within geographical strata, and then rejective sampling was used on these samples to obtain more candidates within the population of interest, which is volunteers.
4. *Who was involved in the data collection process (for example, students, crowdworkers, contractors) and how were they compensated (for example, how much were crowdworkers paid)?*
  - There were interviewers in the data collection process, but their compensation was not specified.
5. *Over what timeframe was the data collected? Does this timeframe match the creation timeframe of the data associated with the instances (for example, recent crawl of old news articles)? If not, please describe the timeframe in which the data associated with the instances was created.*
  - September 4th to December 28th, 2018
6. *Were any ethical review processes conducted (for example, by an institutional review board)? If so, please provide a description of these review processes, including the outcomes, as well as a link or other access point to any supporting documentation.*
  - No.
7. *Did you collect the data from the individuals in question directly, or obtain it via third parties or other sources (for example, websites)?*
  - The data was obtained using SDA @ CHASS at the University of Toronto.
8. *Were the individuals in question notified about the data collection? If so, please describe (or show with screenshots or other information) how notice was provided, and provide a link or other access point to, or otherwise reproduce, the exact language of the notification itself.*

- N/A
9. *Did the individuals in question consent to the collection and use of their data? If so, please describe (or show with screenshots or other information) how consent was requested and provided, and provide a link or other access point to, or otherwise reproduce, the exact language to which the individuals consented.*
- N/A
10. *If consent was obtained, were the consenting individuals provided with a mechanism to revoke their consent in the future or for certain uses? If so, please provide a description, as well as a link or other access point to the mechanism (if appropriate).*
- N/A
11. *Has an analysis of the potential impact of the dataset and its use on data subjects (for example, a data protection impact analysis) been conducted? If so, please provide a description of this analysis, including the outcomes, as well as a link or other access point to any supporting documentation.*
- N/A
12. *Any other comments?*
- No.

## Preprocessing/cleaning/labeling

1. *Was any preprocessing/cleaning/labeling of the data done (for example, discretization or bucketing, tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, SIFT feature extraction, removal of instances, processing of missing values)? If so, please provide a description. If not, you may skip the remaining questions in this section.*
- Statistics Canada: Verification was performed to identify and eliminate potential duplicate records and to drop non-response and out-of-scope records. Records with missing or incorrect information were, in a small number of cases, corrected deterministically or imputed from other information on the questionnaire.
  - Using the provided data, I transformed some variables into binary responses, for example the ‘Quality of Volunteer Experience’ variables which were originally rated on a 5-degree scale from Strongly disagree to Strongly Agree.
2. *Was the “raw” data saved in addition to the preprocessed/cleaned/labeled data (for example, to support unanticipated future uses)? If so, please provide a link or other access point to the “raw” data.*
- The raw data has not been made available.
3. *Is the software that was used to preprocess/clean/label the data available? If so, please provide a link or other access point.*
- I used R (R Core Team 2020) for all data processing.
4. *Any other comments?*
- No.

## Uses

1. *Has the dataset been used for any tasks already? If so, please provide a description.*
- In this paper, the dataset is used to build multiple linear regression models to investigate the relationship between volunteering and life satisfaction.

2. *Is there a repository that links to any or all papers or systems that use the dataset? If so, please provide a link or other access point.*
  - The repository to reproduce this paper can be found at <https://github.com/KCtt457/gssvolunteering2018>.
3. *What (other) tasks could the dataset be used for?*
  - Analysis of trends in the patterns of Giving, Volunteering and Participating in Canada.
4. *Is there anything about the composition of the dataset or the way it was collected and preprocessed/cleaned/labeled that might impact future uses? For example, is there anything that a dataset consumer might need to know to avoid uses that could result in unfair treatment of individuals or groups (for example, stereotyping, quality of service issues) or other risks or harms (for example, legal risks, financial harms)? If so, please provide a description. Is there anything a dataset consumer could do to mitigate these risks or harms?*
  - Since the data was collected by rejective sampling, one cannot use it to make claims about the distribution of proportion of volunteers in the wider population of Canada. Otherwise, I did not identify any risks or harms of the dataset.
5. *Are there tasks for which the dataset should not be used? If so, please provide a description.*
  - No.
6. *Any other comments?*
  - No.

## Distribution

1. *Will the dataset be distributed to third parties outside of the entity (for example, company, institution, organization) on behalf of which the dataset was created? If so, please provide a description.*
  - The dataset is available to subscribing institutions as listed on the Statistics Canada website, Canadian Universities and Colleges participating in the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) and is also available for order on the Statistics Canada website.
2. *How will the dataset be distributed (for example, tarball on website, API, GitHub)? Does the dataset have a digital object identifier (DOI)?*
  - The dataset is available for download through the SDA @ CHASS website at the University of Toronto to members of the University of Toronto community and is also available in EFT format when ordered from Statistics Canada.
3. *When will the dataset be distributed?*
  - It is already available.
4. *Will the dataset be distributed under a copyright or other intellectual property (IP) license, and/or under applicable terms of use (ToU)? If so, please describe this license and/ or ToU, and provide a link or other access point to, or otherwise reproduce, any relevant licensing terms or ToU, as well as any fees associated with these restrictions.*
  - It is distributed to Canadian Universities and Colleges participating in the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) under the Data Liberation Initiative - Licence Agreement.
5. *Have any third parties imposed IP-based or other restrictions on the data associated with the instances? If so, please describe these restrictions, and provide a link or other access point to, or otherwise reproduce, any relevant licensing terms, as well as any fees associated with these restrictions.*
  - When accessing data through SDA @ CHASS, links to data are IP-address restricted. Off campus University of Toronto users must first log in to myaccess.

6. *Do any export controls or other regulatory restrictions apply to the dataset or to individual instances? If so, please describe these restrictions, and provide a link or other access point to, or otherwise reproduce, any supporting documentation.*

- No.

7. *Any other comments?*

- No.

## Maintenance

1. *Who will be supporting/hosting/maintaining the dataset?*

- Statistics Canada hosts the dataset in their Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) Collection.

2. *How can the owner/curator/manager of the dataset be contacted (for example, email address)?*

- Contact PUMF at Statistics Canada at [statcan.fmgd-pumf.statcan@canada.ca](mailto:statcan.fmgd-pumf.statcan@canada.ca).

3. *Is there an erratum? If so, please provide a link or other access point.*

- No.

4. *Will the dataset be updated (for example, to correct labeling errors, add new instances, delete instances)? If so, please describe how often, by whom, and how updates will be communicated to dataset consumers (for example, mailing list, GitHub)?*

- No.

5. *If the dataset relates to people, are there applicable limits on the retention of the data associated with the instances (for example, were the individuals in question told that their data would be retained for a fixed period of time and then deleted)? If so, please describe these limits and explain how they will be enforced.*

- No.

6. *Will older versions of the dataset continue to be supported/hosted/maintained? If so, please describe how. If not, please describe how its obsolescence will be communicated to dataset consumers.*

- N/A.

7. *If others want to extend/augment/build on/contribute to the dataset, is there a mechanism for them to do so? If so, please provide a description. Will these contributions be validated/verified? If so, please describe how. If not, why not? Is there a process for communicating/distributing these contributions to dataset consumers? If so, please provide a description.*

- No.

8. *Any other comments?*

- No.

## References

- Gebru, Timnit, Jamie Morgenstern, Briana Vecchione, Jennifer Wortman Vaughan, Hanna Wallach, Hal Daumé Iii, and Kate Crawford. 2021. “Datasheets for Datasets.” *Communications of the ACM* 64 (12): 86–92.
- R Core Team. 2020. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. <https://www.R-project.org/>.