

PROFILES OF INDIVIDUAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE, 2003

INTRODUCTION

Each summer, the Internal Revenue Service publishes selected data from individual tax returns filed during the previous calendar year that include ranges of adjusted gross income (AGI) and deductions for charitable donations. The National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute has summarized charitable giving by state and tracks changes in charitable giving across states and over time.

DATA LIMITATIONS

The source of the data on charitable giving is the *Statistics of Income Bulletin* published by the Internal Revenue Service. Since only returns with itemized contributions are included, IRS data do not account for all contributions. In 2003, only 34 percent of US taxpayers chose to itemize deductions on their returns. This means that 66 percent of US taxpayers take the standard deduction, and thus, no details on their charitable contributions are available. No one knows how much non-itemizers donate to charity, although some researchers have created estimates. For example, *Giving USA*, published by the AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy, estimates that total individual giving in the US was \$188 billion in 2003. Based on this estimate, the total of \$143.5 billion reported as itemized contributions on 2003 tax returns represents about 76 percent of all individual giving. The 2003 data on itemized deductions used in this analysis, therefore, cover about a third of US taxpayers and probably account for over a three quarters of the charitable contributions. Thus, in spite of the limitations, analyses of the data can provide information on giving patterns.

FINDINGS

Total reported charitable deductions were \$143.5 billion in 2003, compared with \$139.3 billion in 2002, an increase of approximately 3 percent.

The average charitable contribution per return filed in 2003 was about 2.3 percent of income. Contributions as a percentage of income varied from 5.2 percent in Utah to 1.4 percent in West Virginia. Though the average charitable deduction per return was \$1,106 in 2003, state averages ranged from \$2,204 in Utah to \$493 in West Virginia.

	Amount of itemized charitable contributions (in thousands)	Average charitable contribution per income tax return	Average charitable contribution per return as a percentage of adjusted gross income per return
1998	\$107,435,023	\$857	2.0%
1999	\$122,726,402	\$961	2.1%
2000	\$136,654,153	\$1,050	2.2%
2001	\$137,754,032	\$1,052	2.2%
2002	\$139,296,249	\$1,065	2.3%
2003	\$143,514,039	\$1,106	2.3%
Change over 5 years	33.6%	29.1%	15.0%
Change over 5 years in inflation adjusted dollars	18.3%	14.4%	15.0%

COMPARING THE STATES

One reason it is difficult to use tax return data to compare levels of charitable giving by individuals in different states is that there are wide disparities in the percentages of filers that itemize. For example, comparisons between states like Maryland, where 49 percent of all tax returns are itemized, and South Dakota, where 16 percent of all tax returns are itemized, would probably provide limited information.

Moreover, states vary widely in average income per resident. In 2003, Connecticut's adjusted gross income (AGI) per return filed of \$67,136 was the highest among the states, while Mississippi's AGI of \$34,720 was the lowest. The national average was \$47,425. Therefore, when giving is examined, giving as a percentage of income should be considered, in addition to the amount given.

WHAT DO THE RANKINGS MEAN?

As mentioned above, it is important to consider average income when examining rates of giving. The "average adjusted gross income per income tax return" rank shows the average income of tax return filers in each state. This rank provides a baseline against which level of giving can be compared.

The "average charitable contribution per income tax return" rank is based on the total amount of charitable deductions itemized in a state divided by the total number of filers. Because contributions of the itemizers (between 16 and 49 percent of the state's filers) are divided by the total number of returns in a state, this rank tends to be low if the percentage of returns with itemized charitable deductions is low. Average contribution per return is, at best, an approximation of giving in a state because it does not take into account whether or how much non-itemizers contribute.

The "average charitable contribution per return as a percentage of adjusted gross income per return" rank adjusts the "average charitable contribution per income tax return" rank by taking income levels into account. This rank shows the average amount given relative to the average income per filer in a state. Again, this ranking does not account for charitable donations made by non-itemizers.

OTHER SOURCES OF DATA ON GIVING

IRS Statistics of Income Bulletin, various editions. Published four times a year. Presents selected data compiled from individual tax returns and broken down by state. The primary source for this report was made available on September 2005, at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/03in54cm.xls>.

Ellis L. Phillips Foundation. "Generosity Index." <http://www.ellisphillipsfndn.org/> or 617-424-7607

The New Nonprofit Almanac & Desk Reference. 2002. The essential facts and figures for managers, researchers, and volunteers. Includes section on trends in private giving. Available from the Urban Institute. <http://www.urban.org/> or 877-847-7377

Foundation Giving. Published annually. Presents financial data on types of foundations (individual, corporate, community, and operating) and their areas of giving (arts, education, health, etc.). Includes some data on specific foundations. Available from the Foundation Center. <http://www.fdncenter.org/>

Giving USA, a publication of AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy, researched and written by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Updated annually. Provides national data on sources of giving (individuals, foundations, corporations, bequests) and on categories of recipients. Available from AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy. <http://www.aafrc.org/> or 800-462-2372

1997 IRS Itemized Giving Zip Code Data. Available from the National Center for Charitable Statistics at The Urban Institute. <http://www.nccs.urban.org/> or 202-261-5397.

National Center for Charitable Statistics. "Profiles of Charitable Giving by State," 1998 through 2003. <http://nccsdataweb.urban.org> or 202-261-5397.

Data on Individual Giving by State, 2003

	Number of Returns	Adjusted Gross Income	Number of Itemized Returns	Percentage of Itemized Returns	Number of Returns with Itemized Charitable Deductions	Amount of Itemized Charitable Deductions	Average AGI for All Returns	Average Contribution of Itemizers
United States	129,810,122	\$6,156,196,517	43,708,103	34%	38,486,613	\$143,514,039	\$47,425	\$3,283
Alabama	1,883,765	\$74,842,665	541,303	29%	490,806	\$2,235,834	\$39,730	\$4,130
Alaska	343,032	\$14,832,589	81,258	24%	67,080	\$238,125	\$43,240	\$2,930
Arizona	2,285,323	\$102,846,339	842,121	37%	742,735	\$2,349,710	\$45,003	\$2,790
Arkansas	1,121,518	\$41,364,084	256,371	23%	219,854	\$1,075,184	\$36,882	\$4,194
California	15,171,832	\$803,511,651	5,834,726	38%	5,131,448	\$19,313,259	\$52,961	\$3,310
Colorado	2,079,044	\$105,024,784	859,345	41%	733,468	\$2,552,665	\$50,516	\$2,970
Connecticut	1,653,789	\$111,028,777	711,328	43%	648,900	\$2,313,564	\$67,136	\$3,252
Delaware	388,288	\$19,284,435	139,446	36%	125,505	\$441,825	\$49,665	\$3,168
District of Columbia	275,645	\$16,145,339	113,587	41%	101,317	\$569,216	\$58,573	\$5,011
Florida	7,849,542	\$350,664,124	2,178,038	28%	1,864,461	\$7,672,334	\$44,673	\$3,523
Georgia	3,709,312	\$168,864,213	1,411,367	38%	1,263,928	\$5,301,225	\$45,524	\$3,756
Hawaii	591,084	\$25,718,250	193,283	33%	172,385	\$514,316	\$43,510	\$2,661
Idaho	577,926	\$22,254,112	196,254	34%	166,308	\$616,817	\$38,507	\$3,143
Illinois	5,722,755	\$290,425,049	1,995,224	35%	1,770,272	\$6,344,115	\$50,749	\$3,180
Indiana	2,816,535	\$119,764,629	830,693	29%	699,551	\$2,448,613	\$42,522	\$2,948
Iowa	1,324,876	\$54,107,442	401,484	30%	348,094	\$1,041,979	\$40,840	\$2,595
Kansas	1,218,580	\$52,503,139	364,329	30%	318,238	\$1,259,861	\$43,086	\$3,458
Kentucky	1,740,856	\$68,275,688	516,361	30%	443,694	\$1,486,387	\$39,220	\$2,879
Louisiana	1,879,651	\$70,865,204	387,201	21%	337,320	\$1,409,978	\$37,701	\$3,641
Maine	615,092	\$24,727,190	184,702	30%	159,200	\$402,106	\$40,201	\$2,177
Maryland	2,601,859	\$145,388,987	1,262,444	49%	1,147,171	\$4,339,598	\$55,879	\$3,437
Massachusetts	3,051,697	\$178,243,921	1,216,875	40%	1,107,346	\$3,457,455	\$58,408	\$2,841
Michigan	4,546,347	\$209,645,953	1,627,556	36%	1,447,672	\$4,696,496	\$46,113	\$2,886
Minnesota	2,383,813	\$119,929,752	973,796	41%	875,793	\$2,814,694	\$50,310	\$2,890
Mississippi	1,169,646	\$40,609,782	256,519	22%	225,736	\$1,076,844	\$34,720	\$4,198
Missouri	2,563,895	\$107,992,455	774,470	30%	666,905	\$2,394,201	\$42,120	\$3,091
Montana	433,522	\$15,198,027	128,321	30%	107,274	\$309,938	\$35,057	\$2,415
Nebraska	802,709	\$33,043,454	233,878	29%	208,623	\$793,863	\$41,165	\$3,394
Nevada	1,044,025	\$52,306,616	363,462	35%	314,472	\$1,153,638	\$50,101	\$3,174
New Hampshire	634,654	\$32,337,174	219,762	35%	189,930	\$495,225	\$50,952	\$2,253
New Jersey	4,082,108	\$247,077,300	1,791,366	44%	1,645,355	\$5,171,249	\$60,527	\$2,887
New Mexico	813,731	\$29,959,183	210,613	26%	175,175	\$542,116	\$36,817	\$2,574
New York	8,589,932	\$465,511,760	3,245,400	38%	2,999,165	\$12,609,480	\$54,193	\$3,885
North Carolina	3,680,813	\$157,402,225	1,308,630	36%	1,157,460	\$4,484,361	\$42,763	\$3,427
North Dakota	302,426	\$11,284,748	52,671	17%	44,953	\$159,394	\$37,314	\$3,026
Ohio	5,444,137	\$227,753,519	1,815,343	33%	1,518,571	\$4,502,307	\$41,835	\$2,480
Oklahoma	1,460,943	\$56,019,101	418,374	29%	373,829	\$1,626,340	\$38,344	\$3,887
Oregon	1,571,871	\$67,955,934	644,010	41%	540,121	\$1,665,069	\$43,233	\$2,585
Pennsylvania	5,771,764	\$261,845,583	1,765,862	31%	1,579,676	\$5,165,998	\$45,367	\$2,925
Rhode Island	498,063	\$23,700,505	182,024	37%	166,401	\$399,216	\$47,585	\$2,193
South Carolina	1,804,803	\$70,930,507	576,435	32%	514,854	\$2,121,768	\$39,301	\$3,681
South Dakota	357,449	\$13,475,212	56,731	16%	47,672	\$205,843	\$37,698	\$3,628
Tennessee	2,565,045	\$105,526,051	555,983	22%	483,454	\$2,689,713	\$41,140	\$4,838
Texas	9,298,799	\$415,647,089	2,085,696	22%	1,754,281	\$8,689,534	\$44,699	\$4,166
Utah	969,812	\$41,014,757	383,073	39%	349,107	\$2,137,874	\$42,291	\$5,581
Vermont	302,209	\$12,524,941	89,939	30%	73,395	\$193,308	\$41,445	\$2,149
Virginia	3,431,766	\$180,639,507	1,358,285	40%	1,200,481	\$4,313,392	\$52,637	\$3,176
Washington	2,808,556	\$141,431,438	937,114	33%	794,115	\$2,848,040	\$50,357	\$3,039
West Virginia	744,440	\$26,629,491	125,795	17%	101,588	\$367,161	\$35,771	\$2,919
Wisconsin	2,589,845	\$117,029,363	964,596	37%	835,956	\$2,222,657	\$45,188	\$2,304
Wyoming	240,998	\$11,092,479	44,659	19%	35,518	\$280,154	\$46,027	\$6,273

Source: IRS Statistics of Income, September 2005: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/03in54cm.xls>
 Prepared by the National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute

Appendix A: Data on 2003 Itemized Charitable Contributions from the IRS Statistics of Income

	Total number of income tax returns	Average adjusted gross income per income tax return		Number of returns with itemized charitable contributions		Total charitable contributions itemized on income tax return	Average charitable contributions per income tax return with itemized charitable contributions		Average charitable contributions per income tax return		Average charitable contributions per return as a percentage of adjusted gross income per return	
	Number	Dollars (actual)	State rank*	Number	% of return	Dollars (in thousands)	Dollars (actual)	State rank*	Dollars (actual)	State rank*	%	State quartile**
United States	129,810,122	\$47,425		38,486,613	29.6	\$143,514,039	\$3,729		\$1,106		2.3	
New England	6,755,504	\$56,630		2,345,172	34.7	\$7,260,874	\$3,096		\$1,075		1.9	
Connecticut	1,653,789	\$67,136	1	648,900	39.2	\$2,313,564	\$3,565	28	\$1,399	6	2.1	3
Maine	615,092	\$40,201	38	159,200	25.9	\$402,106	\$2,526	50	\$654	47	1.6	4
Massachusetts	3,051,697	\$58,408	4	1,107,346	36.3	\$3,457,455	\$3,122	40	\$1,133	17	1.9	4
New Hampshire	634,654	\$50,952	9	189,930	29.9	\$495,225	\$2,607	49	\$780	42	1.5	4
Rhode Island	498,063	\$47,585	16	166,401	33.4	\$399,216	\$2,399	51	\$802	40	1.7	4
Vermont	302,209	\$41,445	34	73,395	24.3	\$193,308	\$2,634	48	\$640	48	1.5	4
Middle Atlantic	18,443,804	\$52,833		6,224,196	33.7	\$22,946,727	\$3,687		\$1,244		2.4	
New Jersey	4,082,108	\$60,527	2	1,645,355	40.3	\$5,171,249	\$3,143	39	\$1,267	8	2.1	3
New York	8,589,932	\$54,193	6	2,999,165	34.9	\$12,609,480	\$4,204	11	\$1,468	4	2.7	1
Pennsylvania	5,771,764	\$45,367	20	1,579,676	27.4	\$5,165,998	\$3,270	35	\$895	34	2.0	3
East North Central	21,119,619	\$45,674		6,272,022	29.7	\$20,214,188	\$3,223		\$957		2.1	
Illinois	5,722,755	\$50,749	10	1,770,272	30.9	\$6,344,115	\$3,584	27	\$1,109	19	2.2	3
Indiana	2,816,535	\$42,522	30	699,551	24.8	\$2,448,613	\$3,500	32	\$869	36	2.0	3
Michigan	4,546,347	\$46,113	17	1,447,672	31.8	\$4,696,496	\$3,244	36	\$1,033	25	2.2	2
Ohio	5,444,137	\$41,835	33	1,518,571	27.9	\$4,502,307	\$2,965	45	\$827	39	2.0	3
Wisconsin	2,589,845	\$45,188	21	835,956	32.3	\$2,222,657	\$2,659	47	\$858	37	1.9	4
West North Central	8,953,748	\$43,818		2,510,278	28.0	\$8,669,835	\$3,454		\$968		2.2	
Iowa	1,324,876	\$40,840	37	348,094	26.3	\$1,041,979	\$2,993	43	\$786	41	1.9	4
Kansas	1,218,580	\$43,086	28	318,238	26.1	\$1,259,861	\$3,959	16	\$1,034	24	2.4	2
Minnesota	2,383,813	\$50,310	13	875,793	36.7	\$2,814,694	\$3,214	37	\$1,181	13	2.3	2
Missouri	2,563,895	\$42,120	32	666,905	26.0	\$2,394,201	\$3,590	25	\$934	32	2.2	2
Nebraska	802,709	\$41,165	35	208,623	26.0	\$793,863	\$3,805	18	\$989	28	2.4	2
North Dakota	302,426	\$37,314	46	44,953	14.9	\$159,394	\$3,546	30	\$527	50	1.4	4
South Dakota	357,449	\$37,698	45	47,672	13.3	\$205,843	\$4,318	10	\$576	49	1.5	4
South Atlantic	24,486,468	\$46,391		7,476,765	30.5	\$29,610,880	\$3,960		\$1,209		2.6	
Delaware	388,288	\$49,665	15	125,505	32.3	\$441,825	\$3,520	31	\$1,138	16	2.3	2
District of Columbia	275,645	\$58,573	3	101,317	36.8	\$569,216	\$5,618	3	\$2,065	2	3.5	1
Florida	7,849,542	\$44,673	24	1,864,461	23.8	\$7,672,334	\$4,115	15	\$977	29	2.2	3
Georgia	3,709,312	\$45,524	19	1,263,928	34.1	\$5,301,225	\$4,194	12	\$1,429	5	3.1	1
Maryland	2,601,859	\$55,879	5	1,147,171	44.1	\$4,339,598	\$3,783	19	\$1,668	3	3.0	1
North Carolina	3,680,813	\$42,763	29	1,157,460	31.4	\$4,484,361	\$3,874	17	\$1,218	11	2.8	1
South Carolina	1,804,803	\$39,301	40	514,854	28.5	\$2,121,768	\$4,121	14	\$1,176	14	3.0	1
Virginia	3,431,766	\$52,637	8	1,200,481	35.0	\$4,313,392	\$3,593	24	\$1,257	9	2.4	2
West Virginia	744,440	\$35,771	49	101,588	13.6	\$367,161	\$3,614	23	\$493	51	1.4	4
East South Central	7,359,312	\$39,305		1,643,690	22.3	\$7,488,778	\$4,556		\$1,018		2.6	
Alabama	1,883,765	\$39,730	39	490,806	26.1	\$2,235,834	\$4,555	8	\$1,187	12	3.0	1
Kentucky	1,740,856	\$39,220	41	443,694	25.5	\$1,486,387	\$3,350	34	\$854	38	2.2	3
Mississippi	1,169,646	\$34,720	51	225,736	19.3	\$1,076,844	\$4,770	7	\$921	33	2.7	1
Tennessee	2,565,045	\$41,140	36	483,454	18.8	\$2,689,713	\$5,564	4	\$1,049	23	2.5	1
West South Central	13,760,911	\$42,431		2,685,284	19.5	\$12,801,036	\$4,767		\$930		2.2	
Arkansas	1,121,518	\$36,882	47	219,854	19.6	\$1,075,184	\$4,890	6	\$959	30	2.6	1
Louisiana	1,879,651	\$37,701	44	337,320	17.9	\$1,409,978	\$4,180	13	\$750	43	2.0	3
Oklahoma	1,460,943	\$38,344	43	373,829	25.6	\$1,626,340	\$4,350	9	\$1,113	18	2.9	1
Texas	9,298,799	\$44,699	23	1,754,281	18.9	\$8,689,534	\$4,953	5	\$934	31	2.1	3
Mountain	8,444,381	\$44,964		2,624,057	31.1	\$9,942,912	\$3,789		\$1,177		2.6	
Arizona	2,285,323	\$45,003	22	742,735	32.5	\$2,349,710	\$3,164	38	\$1,028	26	2.3	2
Colorado	2,079,044	\$50,516	11	733,468	35.3	\$2,552,665	\$3,480	33	\$1,228	10	2.4	2
Idaho	577,926	\$38,507	42	166,308	28.8	\$616,817	\$3,709	21	\$1,067	21	2.8	1
Montana	433,522	\$35,057	50	107,274	24.7	\$309,938	\$2,889	46	\$715	44	2.0	3
Nevada	1,044,025	\$50,101	14	314,472	30.1	\$1,153,638	\$3,668	22	\$1,105	20	2.2	2
New Mexico	813,731	\$36,817	48	175,175	21.5	\$542,116	\$3,095	41	\$666	46	1.8	4
Utah	969,812	\$42,291	31	349,107	36.0	\$2,137,874	\$6,124	2	\$2,204	1	5.2	1
Wyoming	240,998	\$46,027	18	35,518	14.7	\$280,154	\$7,888	1	\$1,162	15	2.5	2
Pacific	20,486,375	\$51,422		6,705,149	32.7	\$24,578,809	\$3,666		\$1,200		2.3	
Alaska	343,032	\$43,240	26	67,080	19.6	\$238,125	\$3,550	29	\$694	45	1.6	4
California	15,171,832	\$52,961	7	5,131,448	33.8	\$19,313,259	\$3,764	20	\$1,273	7	2.4	2
Hawaii	591,084	\$43,510	25	172,385	29.2	\$514,316	\$2,984	44	\$870	35	2.0	3
Oregon	1,571,871	\$43,233	27	540,121	34.4	\$1,665,069	\$3,083	42	\$1,059	22	2.5	2
Washington	2,808,556	\$50,357	12	794,115	28.3	\$2,848,040	\$3,586	26	\$1,014	27	2.0	3

*Ranked 1 - 51: 1 = Highest, 51 = Lowest

**Ranked 1 - 4: Quartile 1 is approximately the Highest 25%, Quartile 4 the Lowest 25%

Source: IRS Statistics of Income, October 2004; <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/02in54cm.xls>

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