

2.9 The Netherlands

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Data sources for household donations in the Netherlands

The main data source for household donations to charitable organizations in the Netherlands is the Giving in the Netherlands study, conducted by the VU University Amsterdam. In 1993, the Giving in the Netherlands study was initiated by Theo Schuyt, and since then a survey on giving and volunteering by households, companies, charitable organizations, foundations, and charitable lotteries has been conducted every two years.

In 2001, the Giving in the Netherlands study evolved into a bi-annual panel study on household donations, GINPS. GINPS consists of a longitudinal database with information on donations made by approximately 1,400 households. Four waves are currently available: 2001 (GINPS01), 2003 (GINPS03), and 2005 (GINPS05). The fourth wave, GINPS07, has become available in 2009. Another source of information on household donations that recently became available is the Dutch Belastingdienst (Revenue Service). The Dutch Revenue Service provides tax records with information on the charitable deductions used by households.

Table 2.9.1 Strengths and weaknesses of the Dutch data sources

Strengths	Weaknesses
<i>GINPS</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longitudinal study • Excellent questions on giving (adaptation of 'Method+Area' module) • Large range of background characteristics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to middle high income range • Prosocial sample bias (people who participate regularly in survey research)
<i>Tax records</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longitudinal data • Complete income range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes only itemizers • Small range of background characteristics

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Descriptive statistics

Table 2.9.2 shows total household donations (in millions of euros) to different charitable subsectors in the Netherlands, for the period 1995-2005. In 2005, the total amount donated to charitable causes was 1.9 billion euros. Religious organizations (including organizations supporting religious ideology and religious institutions such as churches, mosques, etc.) received the most money. These are followed by organizations active in the international aid sector, organizations active in the health sector, the environment, nature and animal protection sector, and the public and social benefits sector. Recipient organizations receiving the lowest total of donations from Dutch households are organizations active in the fields of education and research, culture, and sports and recreation.

Table 2.9.2 Charitable giving by households in the Netherlands, 1995-2005

Charitable subsector	Household donations (in millions of euros)					
	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Religion	574	482	429	694	864	704
International aid	290	229	328	367	304	439
Health	260	136	245	236	283	234
Environment/nature /animals	102	96	128	134	154	158
Public and social benefits	86	83	129	172	142	166
Other (not specified)	42	25	41	69	49	61
Education/research	21	26	21	31	44	33
Culture	13	22	23	33	22	31
Sports/recreation	30	22	70	52	37	29
Total	1,419	1,121	1,414	1,788	1,899	1,854

Source: GINPS05 (2005)

The numbers in table 2.9.2 show that the donations by Dutch households decreased slightly between 2003 and 2005 (though this decrease is not significant). However, overall there was a steady increase in total donations to charitable organizations in the Netherlands in the period between 1995 and 2005.

Table 2.9.3 shows the percentage of households that donate to recipient organizations in different charitable subsectors. It is apparent that most households donate to organizations active in the health sector. Seventy-six percent of the Dutch households donated to health in 2007. Almost half of the Dutch households donated to the environment, nature and animal protection sector. Thirty-eight percent of the Dutch households donated to public and social benefits, which is comparable to the percentage of households that donated to international aid. In the Netherlands, about 45% of the population considers themselves religiously affiliated. Taking this into account, the result that only 30% of the Dutch households donated to religion seems rather meagre. Recipient organizations active in the field of

sports and recreation, culture and arts, and education and research receive donations from the lowest percentage of Dutch households.

In addition to the percentage of donors, table 2.9.3 also shows the mean household donation to a particular charitable subsector, calculated using donating households only. On average, Dutch households donate the highest amounts to religious organizations. Recipient organizations in the 'other' category receive the second-highest average donations (in the Netherlands this category also includes service organizations such as the Rotary). Organizations active in the public and social benefits sector receive the lowest average donations.

Table 2.9.3 Percentage households and mean amount donated for donations to different charitable subsectors in the Netherlands in 2007 (n=1,777)

	% households that donated	Mean donation among donating households (in euros)
Health	75.8	42.74
Environment/nature/animals	48.2	49.13
Public and social benefits	38.2	23.47
International aid	36.6	68.22
Religion	29.8	351.90
Sports/recreation	14.3	38.09
Culture	9.9	30.81
Education/research	6.2	37.34
Other (not specified)	0.6	112.09
Total	86.1	239.11

Source: GINPS07 (2007)

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