
Geography and Generosity: Boston and Beyond

John J. Havens

Paul G. Schervish, Ph.D.

Center on Wealth and Philanthropy
Boston College

Project Coordination:

Mary Jo Meisner, Vice President for Communications,
Community Relations and Public Affairs, The Boston Foundation
Ann McQueen, Senior Program Officer, The Boston Foundation

Editor: Ann K. Crane

Designer: Kate Canfield, Canfield Design

Cover photographer: Richard Howard

TABLE 18

Cash Contributions to Religious and Secular Causes

Census Region	State	Number of Consumer Units (Thousands)	Average Total Cash Contributions	Average Contributions to Religion	Average Contributions to Secular Causes
Northeast	Connecticut	1,351	\$557	\$333	\$224
	Massachusetts	2,915	\$445	\$173	\$272
	New Hampshire	400	\$246	\$155	\$90
	New Jersey	3,013	\$798	\$533	\$265
	New York	6,867	\$530	\$358	\$171
	Pennsylvania	4,516	\$561	\$443	\$117
	Vermont	618	\$538	\$332	\$207
	Other States	1,088	\$436	\$206	\$230
	Northeast Total	20,767	\$555	\$362	\$193
Midwest	Illinois	4,103	\$781	\$546	\$235
	Indiana	1,539	\$728	\$582	\$146
	Kansas	270	\$939	\$701	\$238
	Michigan	2,858	\$883	\$694	\$189
	Minnesota	1,241	\$797	\$502	\$294
	Missouri	1,285	\$1,206	\$738	\$468
	Nebraska	948	\$827	\$652	\$174
	Ohio	4,040	\$763	\$563	\$200
	Wisconsin	2,415	\$602	\$446	\$156
	Other States	6,914	\$596	\$493	\$103
	Midwest Total	25,613	\$745	\$557	\$188
South	Alabama	1,899	\$1,842	\$1,729	\$113
	Delaware	141	\$474	\$340	\$134
	District of Columbia	277	\$273	\$164	\$109
	Florida	6,158	\$483	\$367	\$117
	Georgia	2,637	\$570	\$499	\$71
	Kentucky	999	\$218	\$177	\$42
	Louisiana	1,790	\$563	\$389	\$174
	Maryland	1,717	\$552	\$381	\$171
	North Carolina	1,052	\$556	\$394	\$162
	Oklahoma	740	\$925	\$734	\$191
	South Carolina	1,457	\$1,243	\$1,036	\$207
	Tennessee	528	\$672	\$542	\$130
	Texas	7,709	\$874	\$726	\$148
	Virginia	2,501	\$749	\$511	\$238
	Other States	9,973	\$627	\$546	\$81
	South Total	39,579	\$723	\$595	\$127
West	Alaska	108	\$1,074	\$681	\$393
	Arizona	1,955	\$477	\$359	\$118
	California	10,354	\$658	\$375	\$283
	Colorado	1,274	\$687	\$512	\$175
	Hawaii	278	\$528	\$266	\$262
	Idaho	1,257	\$732	\$636	\$95
	Nevada	1,332	\$303	\$195	\$108
	Oregon	907	\$778	\$576	\$202
	Utah	1,176	\$2,632	\$2,545	\$88
	Washington	1,694	\$553	\$369	\$184
	Other States	4,045	\$477	\$349	\$127
	West Total	24,380	\$692	\$492	\$200
Grand Total	110,339	\$689	\$519	\$170	

Source: Calculated at the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy based on the 2001 Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Center on Wealth and Philanthropy

Founded in 1970, the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy (CWP) at Boston College is a multidisciplinary research center specializing in the study of the spiritual and religious meaning of wealth, philanthropy, and other aspects of cultural life in this age of affluence. CWP is the nation's leading authority on topics such as the patterns, meanings, and motives of charitable giving; the forthcoming \$41 trillion wealth transfer; and the study of the donor or personal side of the economic and social-psychological forces that incline wealth holders toward philanthropy. CWP research seeks to advance understanding of philanthropy and increase both the quality and quantity of individual charitable giving.

The Boston Foundation

The Boston Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations, has an endowment of almost \$686 million. In 2004, the Foundation made \$63 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, and received gifts of \$53.4 million. The Boston Foundation is made up of 850 separate charitable funds, which have been established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The Boston Foundation also serves as a civic leader, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives designed to build community. For more information about the Boston Foundation and its grantmaking, visit www.tbf.org, or call 617-338-1700.

About the Philanthropy Forums and Reports

Philanthropy is playing an increasingly critical role in the life of our community, our country and the world. As one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the country, the Boston Foundation has a deep stake in examining the impact of philanthropy—and the challenges faced by foundations and charitable individuals in the 21st century. The Boston Foundation invites you to enter into a dialogue about the state of philanthropy through this series of forums and reports designed to explore some of the most pressing issues confronting the sector—from strategic foundation grantmaking to charitable giving by individuals—with a special emphasis on Greater Boston and the region.

The Authors of the Report

John J. Havens is Senior Research Associate and Associate Director of the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College. He received his training in mathematics, economics, and physics at Yale University, and his graduate training in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Recognized for three years by the *Nonprofit Times* as a member of the "Power and Influence Top 50," Havens has directed and published research exploring the associations among philanthropy, income and wealth and its implications for fundraising and philanthropy.

Paul G. Schervish is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College. He is National Research Scholar at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy and Senior Advisor to the John Templeton Foundation. Schervish was appointed a Fulbright Scholar for the 2000-2001 academic year at University College Cork in the area of research on philanthropy. For the 1999-2000 academic year, he was appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, where he now serves as National Research Fellow. He has been named five times to the *Nonprofit Times'* annual "Power and Influence Top 50," a list which acknowledges movers and shakers in the nonprofit world. Schervish has published extensively in the areas of philanthropy and wealth, and is a consultant to fundraisers, financial advisors, and families on issues of wealth and philanthropy.

UNDERSTANDING BOSTON is a series of forums, educational events and research sponsored by the Boston Foundation to provide information and insight into issues affecting Boston, its neighborhoods, and the region. By working in collaboration with a wide variety of partners, the Boston Foundation provides opportunities for people to come together to explore challenges facing our constantly changing community and to develop an informed civic agenda.