

Motivations for Volunteering in Health Care, Specifically at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU)

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Introduction

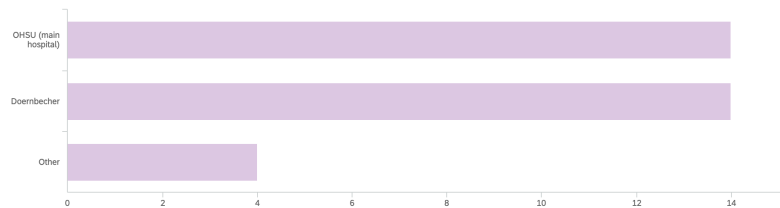
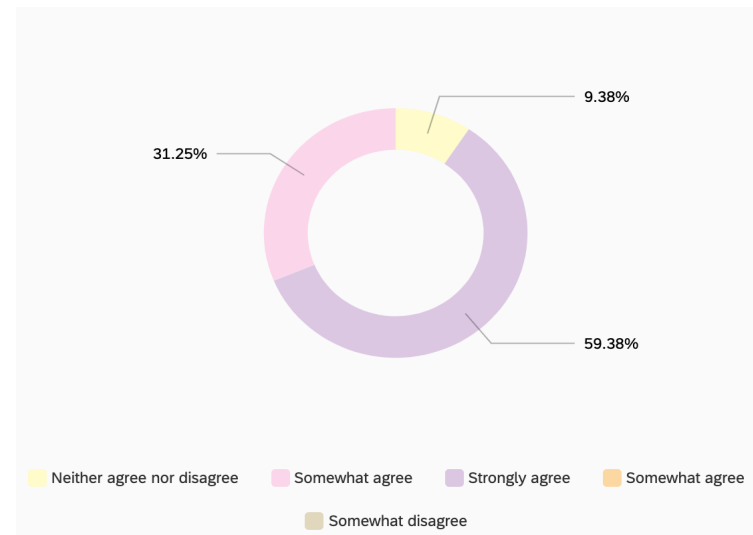
OHSU has over 17,000 employees and has 576 licensed beds between OHSU and Doernbecher of which 151 of them are for pediatric patients. It was ranked the best hospital in Oregon from 2019 to 2020. They have approximately 300,000 patients they take care of (72,000 children and 240,000 adults). Today they have over 4,000 volunteers annually. After evaluating how others have researched this topic, I began to form my survey questions and general topic question. I wanted to know why people chose to volunteer at Oregon Health and Sciences University. Since there are various parts of the hospital someone can choose to volunteer at, I wanted to know which part of the hospital they were stationed to volunteer because I thought if someone was able to choose where they got to volunteer, they would be more inclined to returning to volunteer. I think it would have made a difference had the volunteer services just randomly assigned someone without asking their general preferences on what unit they wanted to work with. With this in mind I also wanted to ask participants if they have ever switched units for any reason because some units may have given people more satisfaction than others. Based off the research I found I decided to also ask if being a volunteer made people feel more connected to their community. From what I found in other studies this was the case, I hypothesized that OHSU volunteers would feel more connected to their community due to their volunteer service.

Method

For my project I conducted a survey with a total of six questions. I used the online survey generator, Qualtrics. Participants were volunteers at Oregon Health and Sciences University either at the main hospital or the children's hospital. Their ages range from 18-65. I recruited participants through the OHSU volunteer Facebook group via the Qualtrics survey link. My sample was a total of 32 participants and were collected via convenience sampling. All participants responded to the same six questions. My survey asked questions about which part of OHSU are they a volunteer at, how long they have been a volunteer, why did they choose to volunteer, etc. (see guiding questions section). Each question required an answer from participants. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight into people's motivations for volunteering specifically at OHSU. My only hypothesis I had was for the question of if volunteers felt more connected to their community. Based on the research and other studies I read, I hypothesized that most volunteers would feel more connected to their community due to their volunteer service.

Project Question

Why do people choose to volunteer at Oregon Health and Sciences University?



The pie chart is showing participants responses to “do you feel more connected to your community from volunteering” on a 5-point Likert scale. See discussion/conclusion for percentage breakdown. The bar graph shows where participants have volunteered at. The X axis represents the number of people who responded (32 total participants) and the Y axis shows the different parts of OHSU volunteers can work at.

Additional Information



This is the OHSU logo with the responses I received from my participants stating why they chose to volunteer at OHSU specifically.

Discussion/Conclusion

I collected a total of 32 responses. Beginning with my first question, 14 participants said they volunteered at the main hospital and 14 said they volunteered at Doernbecher. Question number eight said do you feel more connected to your community since you began volunteering. Of the 32 participants 19 answered strongly agree (59.38%), 10 answered somewhat agree (31.25%) and 3 answered neither agree nor disagree (9.38%).

This project was unexpectedly interrupted by the COVID-19 virus. Due to the rapid spread of the virus, I encountered some complications during my research. One of my methods of distributing my survey for more responses was to ask volunteers in person to take it on a mobile device. I was able to find a Facebook group specifically for OHSU volunteers with a total of 274 members. The group is private, which means one must request to be a member of the group. Once I was approved, I created my posting asking for volunteers to take a short amount of time out of their day to take my questionnaire for research purposes.