

volunteering decision may be absent in one quarter to one third of volunteers.⁵⁷

Further research concerning volunteering and liability risks could be conducted, particularly with emphasis on information possessed by the "consumer of volunteering utility." Individuals might be surveyed concerning their awareness of state liability laws affecting volunteering, and respondents levels of awareness could be compared to state-by-state liability factors. Consumer information acquisition could be further analyzed by studying volunteer liability information disseminated by the media. A refinement of my regression approach would be to use the number of instances of volunteers being sued as a per capita rate rather than all tort filings per capita.

Also, as noted above, the finding that potential volunteers may look to overall liability risk rather than volunteering-specific risk suggests that further assessment of the impact of the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 on volunteering should be studied.

Given the sizeable estimated contribution of volunteering to the U.S. economy, the significant regression result on volunteer liability, and the recent passage of federal legislation, the topic of volunteer liability affecting volunteer labor supply has currency in public policy debates and merits further economic analysis.

⁵⁷ The minority group of individuals reporting not to be concerned about their financial future may include individuals who feel they have sufficient assets not to be concerned about their future. These individuals could be very concerned about risking their assets, however. If so, a statement of concern about one's financial future may not exactly correlate with concern about financial risk.

