Where L is the value of any lost contributions of time; S(x1) is U.S. population residing in states with significant liability exposure for volunteers; A(x2) is the percentage of the population [S(x1)] aware of liability exposure, or a percentage of that population beyond a threshold of information acquisition sufficient not to misperceive any liability hazard; and F(x3,x4) is individual propensity to forego volunteering due to liability concerns (x3), and having assets to lose (x4). (It is possible that A(x2) may have structurally changed with the passage of the Volunteer Liability Protection Act in 1997.)

S(x1) might be determined based upon a ranking of states from data used to construct the TBYPOP variable. A percentage of individuals who are aware of liability issues, A(x2), might be developed from additional survey work. Concerning a propensity to forego volunteering due to liability concerns and assets to lose, F(x3,x4), survey research more closely tied to volunteer liability issues and fear of losing assets, including cross tab analysis should yield a useful equation.

It is instructive to note that the 1992 survey found 67 percent to be worried about having enough money in the future, and the 1994 survey significantly less volunteering among persons who worried a lot about money.[53] Money worries no doubt often relate to a lack of assets, but such anxiety likely also relates to risk aversion.

[53] Ibid., 4.