

IV.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

This paper is based upon data from a survey by Independent Sector and Gallup ("IS/G") of 2671 individuals in 1992 on many topics related to charitable contributions and volunteering. This survey represent the third of a series of four biennial "Giving and Volunteering" surveys.

One improvement in the IS/G data is that the respondent's wage rate is reported, and for nonworking individuals, a self-estimated wage rate. While Menchik and Weisbrod restricted their analysis to single earner households in order to be able to calculate the individual's wage rate,³⁸ the IS/G data allows inclusion of all respondents who provided a wage or wage estimate.

The following variables were applied:

Dependent Variable

TVOL The dependent variable is the estimated total number of hours volunteered in a twelve-month period. This is estimated as the sum of all hours reported to be volunteered to all types of formal nonprofit organizations by survey respondents in the past month, multiplied by 12.³⁹ The surveying of volunteer activity taking place in the past month deals only with recent memory and is presumed to be more accurate than would be survey responses estimating volunteer activity going back up to twelve months time. The survey responses are assumed to be representative of a typical month in the respondents' yearly volunteering behavior.

³⁸ Menchik and Weisbrod, 168.

³⁹ As individuals reported their volunteer hours for each of 15 different categories of nonprofit organizations, some duplicate counting of hours may have occurred.