

**JIGS: Seattle Comprehensive Non-profit Survey
Preliminary Findings – August 2009**

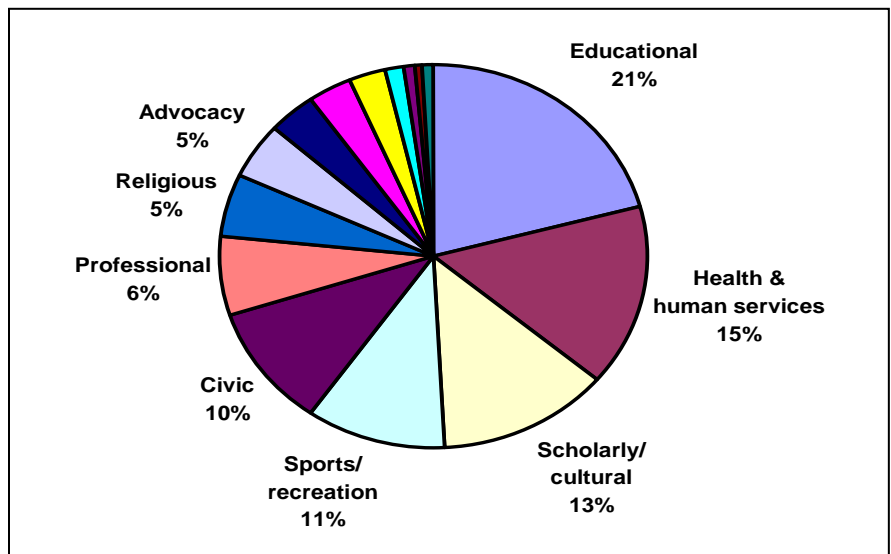
Methods: From February – May 2009 the University of Washington Social Development Research Group conducted a 36-item survey of 4,297 non-profit organizations in Seattle. Among this group, approximately one third (31%) completed the entire survey and 7% completed at least part, with web-based responses representing the most frequent modality (75%), followed by paper (22%) and phone (3%). Sixty percent of the organizations identified did not respond, eight percent were ineligible and three percent refused.

Characteristics of participating organizations

	Mean	Median	Range
Number of full time staff (56% had zero)	13	0	0 – 900
Number of regular members (34% had zero)	1,289	21	0 – 650,000
2008 budget	\$3,074,896	\$50,000	\$0 - \$1.5 billion
Year established	1983	1990	1850 – 2008

Organizational field (right)

- Economic/business, agricultural/environmental & philanthropic (3%)
- Administrative (2%)
- Labor & political (1%)

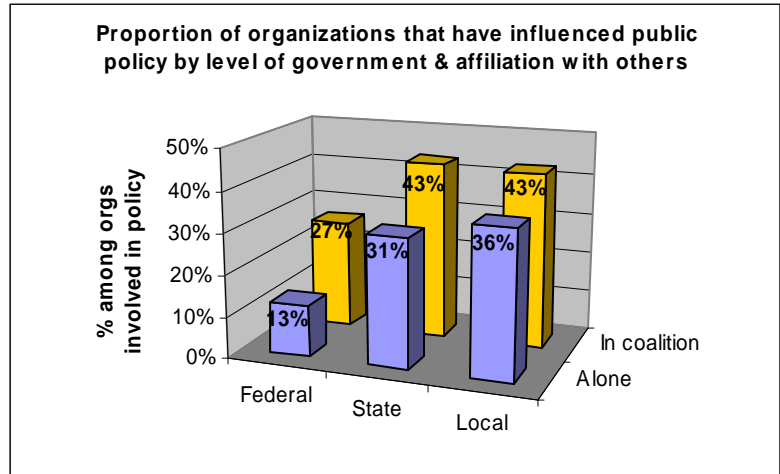


Funding source	Received	Primary source
Donations/gifts	80%	31%
Earned income from organization's activities	62%	26%
Membership fees	52%	25%
Government funding	31%	11%
Other	30%	10%

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Involvement in Public Policy & Advocacy

- 34% of all organizations reported being involved in public policy and advocacy; among this subset:
 - 16% employ a lobbyist
 - 17% are affiliated with a political committee
- 41% said their organization has limited their involvement in advocacy due to resource constraints (18%), concerns about tax exempt status (8%) or both (15%)



Involvement in public policy and advocacy was significantly associated with *organizational resources* (greater number of full-time staff members, larger budget, greater number of members) and *organizational field*, with business, advocacy, professional and political organizations more likely and scholarly/cultural organizations less likely to be engaged.

Frequency of types of advocacy activities among organizations that make requests or appeals to the government					
	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Ask members to call or send letters/emails	23%	10%	29%	18%	19%
Contribute public comment	18%	12%	32%	22%	17%
Attend meetings	16%	11%	35%	23%	16%
Form an alliance with other groups	24%	14%	27%	19%	15%
Seek the involvement of influential local figures	26%	14%	33%	15%	12%
Provide expertise	27%	16%	29%	18%	10%
Provide media with information	27%	22%	29%	16%	6%
Assist in drafting bills	59%	18%	15%	5%	3%
Solicit signatures	56%	20%	14%	7%	3%
Make statements at press conference	49%	23%	20%	6%	2%
Place opinion ads	67%	17%	11%	4%	1%
Direct actions (demonstration, strike, etc.)	72%	15%	10%	2%	1%

Next steps: Presentation of more detailed findings at the Association for Research on Non-profit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Conference in November 2009