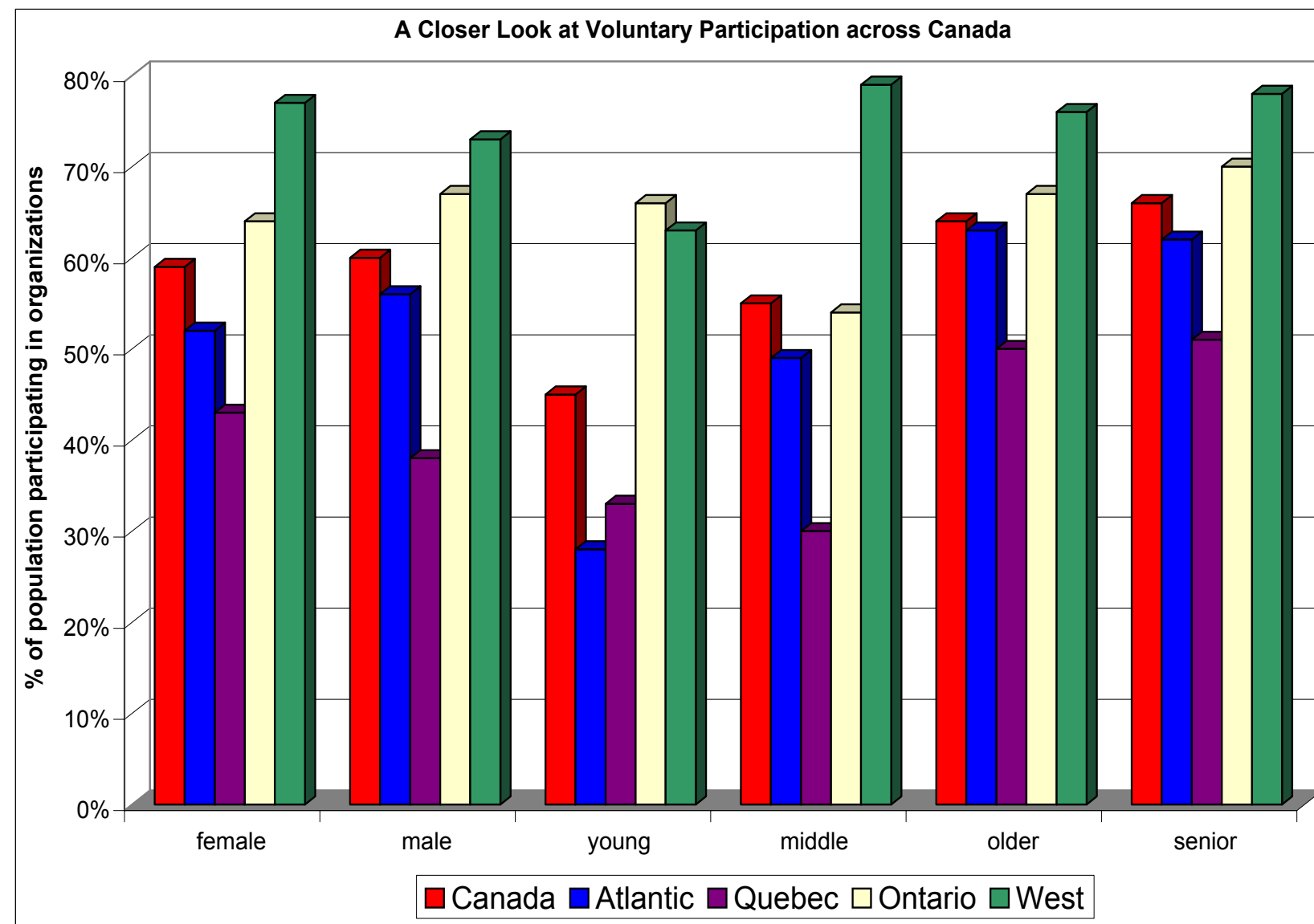


RURAL MATTERS

Voluntary Organizations Matter



NRE survey data shows that 59% of rural residents volunteer in at least one group or organisation.

Most participation is in public benefit groups and religious groups and the highest participation rates are among individuals aged 65+.

Membership is difficult to maintain.

Many groups suffer loss from people moving away, or experiencing health problems. In addition, burnout has become a chronic problem where the number of volunteers is limited yet there is much work to do.

Monetary support is hard to maintain.

Many groups find it difficult to access funding information especially those in smaller, remote communities. Funding criteria may be unclear, the project time frame unreasonable, and the funding agent may require too much additional work. All these divert voluntary organizations from their group goals.

RURAL MATTERS