

With the rise of healthcare costs and the aging US population, recruitment of healthcare volunteers is of vital importance to administrators. Using the linked lives dimension of life course theory, this study examines whether individuals' recent experiences with caregiving, informal helping, and family health problems predict who volunteers generally and, among volunteers, which people volunteer specifically in healthcare. Data come from 1,588 respondents from the 2005 National Survey of Midlife in the United States (MIDUS). We found positive associations between volunteering (both generally and in healthcare) between informal helping and family health problems. We also found that providing unpaid assistance increased the odds of both any kind of volunteering and healthcare volunteering. Furthermore, having a parent with health problems, and older age were positively associated with volunteering in healthcare among individuals who volunteer. Recent caregiving was not a predictor of either outcome. Overall, the results suggest that some life experiences and relationships may be elements of what inclines individuals to volunteer in healthcare.