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Tis’ the season

In 2012, charitable contributions in the U.S. totaled $316 billion. Religious organizations were the largest recipient with $101 billion in contributions. Educational institutions and human service organizations each received about $41 billion in donations.

What percentage of the $316 billion in charitable contributions in 2012 did individuals give?

- a) 35 percent
- b) 49 percent
- c) 61 percent
- d) 72 percent

Answer: d) Giving USA 2013, a study conducted by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University reports that individuals accounted 72 percent of total charitable contributions or $228 billion in 2012. That equates to almost $2,000 for every household in the U.S.

Although total contributions have increased over the past three years, they have not recovered to the prerecession high of $344 billion in 2007. Individuals have been the primary driver in the steady recovery in charitable contributions. In 2012, individuals increased their annual giving by $8.7 billion. That equals to an $84 per household increase over 2011.

What is the source of the rest of the charitable contributions? Foundations provided 15 percent of all contributions, bequests accounted for 7 percent and corporations contributed 6 percent.

Source: http://www.givingusareports.org/

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