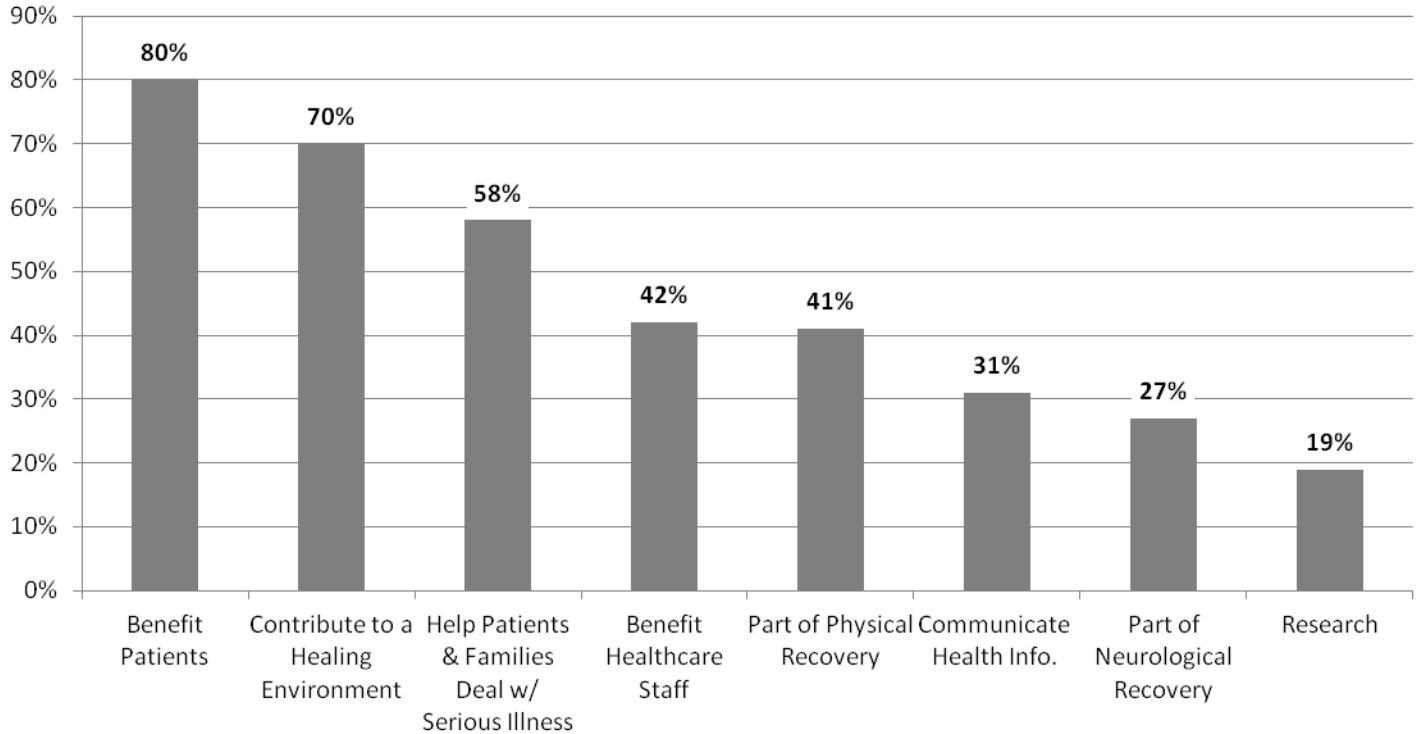


Arts Facts . . . Arts and Healthcare

Nearly half of the nation's healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and staff. 80 percent provide these programs because they benefit patients and create a healing environment.

Why Healthcare Institutions Invest in the Arts



- In a 2007 national survey about arts programs in healthcare institutions, 45 percent of the 1,807 responding organizations reported having arts programs. Healthcare institutions present arts programming for many reasons, but chief among them are that they aid in the mental and emotional recovery of patients (80 percent) as well as their physical recovery (41 percent).
- Arts programs in healthcare institutions serve multiple audiences: 80 percent are designed to serve patients directly, 58 percent include the patient's family, and 42 percent serve staff as a means to deal with the stress of working in the healthcare environment. The most prevalent type of arts programming was the permanent display of visual art, followed by performances in public spaces and bedside activities.
- Arts programs are largely funded by the hospital itself from its general operating fund. Programs engage many diverse art forms and are often conducted in partnership with local performing and visual arts organizations, or their local arts agency. These programs serve diverse populations—Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, and White populations were represented in nearly equal proportions, ranging from 18-19 percent.
- In addition to humanizing the hospital environment, there is a growing body of research that demonstrates the economic benefits of arts in healthcare programs, including shorter hospital stays, less depression, less medication, and fewer doctor visits.

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2008. Survey conducted by The Joint Commission, Americans for the Arts, and Society for the Arts in Healthcare.