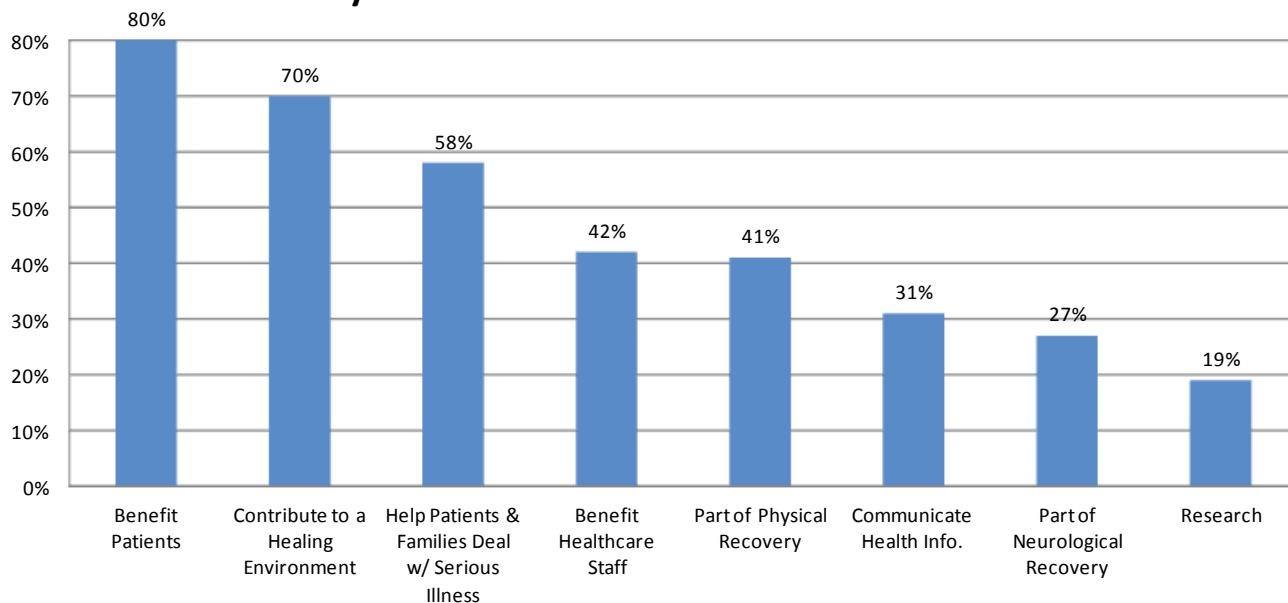




Arts Facts . . . Arts and Healthcare

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

Why Healthcare Institutions Invest in the Arts



- In a 2007 national survey about arts programs in healthcare institutions, 45 percent of the responding 1,807 healthcare institutions reported having arts programs for their patients and staff. The vast majority of these respondents included hospitals (61%), long-term care facilities (5%), and palliative care organizations (4%).
- Healthcare institutions invest in arts programming for many reasons—chief among them being the benefits that the arts bring to the mental and emotional recovery of patients, as well as creating a healing environment. The most prevalent types of art programming are permanent displays of art, and performances in public spaces, as well as in patient's rooms.
- Hospital arts programs are largely funded by the hospital itself—56 percent of arts programs were funded by the hospital's general operating fund, an increase from just 40 percent in 2004. This growth in internal funding marks a significant increase in the support of arts programs by healthcare organizations.
- Arts in healthcare programs engage many diverse art forms and serve extremely diverse populations—Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, and White populations were the largest groups served and were represented in nearly equal proportions ranging from 18-to-19 percent.
- In addition to the benefits in quality of care for patients, their families and even medical staff, there is a growing body of research that demonstrates the economic benefits of arts in healthcare programs. When patients require shorter hospital stays, less medication, and have fewer complications, it equates to more economic savings for patients, insurance providers, and the government.

Source: Americans for the Arts, 2008. Survey conducted by The Joint Commission, Americans for the Arts, and Global Alliance for Arts in Health.