Participation in Arts and Leisure Activities

Results from the 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

Office of Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts
# 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

- Administered in July 2017 as a supplement to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey
- Sample size of nearly 28,000, person response rate of 67%

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Office of Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts
Percent of U.S. adults who visit art museums or attend sporting or performing arts events: 2017

- Visit an art museum or gallery: 23.7% (57.5 million adults)
- Attend sporting events: 34.6% (81.7 million adults)
- Attend performing arts event: 37.0% (91.1 million adults)

Office of Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts
Percent who attend events: 2017
U.S. adults with bachelor's degrees or higher levels of education, aged 25 and older

- Art museum: 62.8%
- Performing arts: 52.3%
- Sporting events: 49.6%
Percent of adults who attended arts events by venue: 2017

- Theater/concert hall: 33.7%
- Park: 32.2%
- Restaurant/bar/coffee shop: 22.9%
- Museum: 19.7%
- Church or place of worship: 17.0%
- Elementary/middle/high School: 16.9%

Office of Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts
Percent of U.S. adults who personally perform or create selected artworks: 2017

- Photographs as an artistic activity: 32.8 million adults (13.8%)
- Paintings, drawings, sculpture: 31.8 million adults (13.4%)
- Play a musical instrument: 25.8 million adults (10.9%)
- Leatherwork/metalwork/woodwork: 15.6 million adults (6.6%)
- Creative writing: 15.5 million adults (6.5%)
- Pottery/ceramics: 9.8 million adults (4.1%)

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Percent of U.S. adults who participate in selected leisure activities: 2017

- Work with plants or do gardening for pleasure: 88.0 million adults (37.3%)
- Play video games: 82.6 million adults (35.1%)
- Outdoor activities, e.g., camping or hiking: 73.2 million adults (31.0%)
- Prepare or cook any food as an artistic activity: 33.7 million adults (14.3%)
- Purchased art, e.g., paintings or sculpture: 32.7 million adults (14.0%)
Just 12% of performing arts organizations are located in non-metro/rural areas.
Location of performing arts organizations: 2016

Data source: County Business Patterns, 2016, U.S. Census Bureau
Percentage of U.S. adults who attend performing arts events by metropolitan status: 2017

- Urban/metropolitan dwellers: 38.4%
- Rural/non-metropolitan dwellers: 28.3%
Percent of U.S. adults who take photographs or play a musical instrument by metropolitan status: 2017

Take photographs

- Urban/metropolitan dwellers: 14.0%
- Rural/metropolitan dwellers: 13.0%

Play a musical instrument

- Urban/metropolitan dwellers: 11.0%
- Rural/metropolitan dwellers: 10.4%

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Percent of adults who sing or create leatherwork/woodwork by metropolitan status: 2017

- Sing
  - Urban/metropolitan dwellers: 24.9%
  - Rural/non-metropolitan dwellers: 29.1%

- Create leatherwork/woodwork/metalwork
  - Urban/metropolitan dwellers: 6.3%
  - Rural/non-metropolitan dwellers: 8.7%

Office of Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts
Percent of U.S. adults who attend performing arts events, by state: 2017

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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Study Title/Investigator</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, 1982-2008 [United States]</strong> (ICPSR 35527)</td>
<td>2015-03-31</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, 1982-2012 Combined File [United States]</strong> (ICPSR 35596)</td>
<td>2014-12-22</td>
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<td><strong>Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), United States, 2017</strong> (ICPSR 37138)</td>
<td>2019-02-04</td>
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<td>National Endowment for the Arts, United States. Bureau of the Census</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), 2012 [United States]</strong> (ICPSR 35188)</td>
<td>2015-10-22</td>
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Introduction

Since 2010, the National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) research grants portfolio has focused on generating new knowledge about the value and impact of the arts. Now, through a series of cooperative agreements, the NEA is establishing a national program that permits transdisciplinary research teams, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to engage with the NEA’s five-year research agenda. The National Endowment for the Arts Research Labs (NEA Research Lab) program will yield empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike.

Each of the NEA Research Labs will design a research agenda, conduct a program to implement its own agenda, and prepare reports and other products that contribute substantively to a wider understanding of one of three areas of special interest to the NEA. Sustained methods of inquiry into these topic areas will have distinctive benefits for the arts community, but also for sectors such as healthcare, education, and business or management. The three topic areas that our Labs are covering are:

- The Arts, Health, and Social/Emotional Well-Being
- The Arts, Creativity, Cognition, and Learning
- The Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation