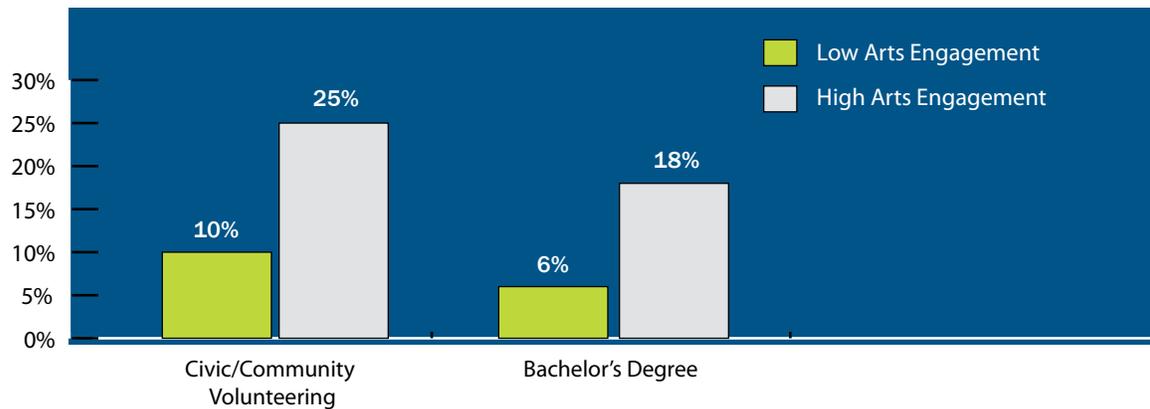




## At-Risk Youth Participation in Arts Associated with Higher Rates of Volunteerism and College Completion

In a recent study of national data,<sup>1</sup> the National Endowment for the Arts found an association between youth arts engagement<sup>2</sup> and likelihood for at-risk youth to engage in civic or community volunteering and go on to complete college. At-risk youth<sup>3</sup> with high arts engagement<sup>4</sup> were 3 times more likely than their at-risk peers with limited arts experience to complete a bachelor’s degree and 2.5 times more likely to have participated in civic or community volunteering. Higher arts engagement was also associated with higher grades, increased participation in extracurricular activities, participation in political campaigns, and ambitions to attend college. The authors note that these findings reinforce existing evidence that the arts are an integral part of youth education and recommend funding to support such activities.

**Volunteerism and College Completion Among At-Risk Youth, by Arts Engagement**



**Source:**

Catterall, J. S., Dumais, S. A., and Hampden-Thompson, G. (2012). *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies*, Research Report No. 55. Washington, DC: National Endowment for the Arts.

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> The study utilized three national longitudinal databases sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and one by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- <sup>2</sup> *Arts engagement* was measured by scoring the degree of involvement in arts-related activities according to number of occurrences, repeated exposure to specific arts activities, service in arts leadership positions, and advanced placement coursework in the arts.
- <sup>3</sup> *At-risk youth*, as defined in this report, were those with low socioeconomic status (SES) scores. SES was measured by family income, parental education level, and parental job status.
- <sup>4</sup> Students with *high arts engagement* were identified as those with the greatest scores on the scale (the top 12.5%), along with those having arts-rich backgrounds and those receiving intensive arts involvement as elementary, middle, and/or high school students.

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