

ARTISTS IN CANADA AND THEIR HEALTH DISPARITIES



Kelly Hill (BA, MA)
President
Hill Strategies Research Inc.
Hamilton, Ontario

Tuning the Athlete and
Performing Artist for
Optimal Health and
Performance
Toronto, March 7, 2015

Project funders (Statistical Insights on the Arts series and today's presentation)



Presentation outline

- Hill Strategies Research: background information
- Situation of artists in Canada
 - Methodology of the 2011 National Household Survey
 - Key aspects of situation of artists (with potential health implications)
 - Indicators of health and well-being from other data sources
 - Are artists happy?
- Implications regarding health disparities

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- Arts research using a social science perspective
- Free resources available via internet, email, social media



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STATISTICAL INSIGHTS ON THE ARTS

44 reports in the series (so far)

- [A Statistical Profile of Artists and Cultural Workers in Canada](#)
- [Artists and Cultural Workers in Canada's Provinces and Territories](#)
- [Artists and Cultural Workers in Canadian Municipalities](#)
- [Arts and Individual Well-Being in Canada](#) (attendance perspective)
- [Factors in Canadians' Arts Activities in 2010](#)

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ARTS RESEARCH MONITOR

- Summaries and links to research evidence
- Free report (10 times per year)
- Finishing its 13th year of publication
- 500+ articles so far
- All categorized and searchable at www.HillStrategies.com
- First stop for research information on the arts

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ARTS RESEARCH MONITOR

Evidence about arts disciplines

- Film, video and new media
- Museums, galleries, visual arts and heritage
- Performing arts
- Reading, writing, publishing and literacy

Benefits and impacts

- Economic impacts of the arts
- Health benefits of the arts
- Social benefits of the arts

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ARTS RESEARCH MONITOR

Evidence base for the arts ...

- Aboriginal arts and culturally diverse arts
- Artists' situations: earnings, growth, etc.
- Arts advocacy
- Arts attendance & participation
- Arts education
- Arts funding & finances
- Copyright and the arts
- Creative class, cities, people, neighbourhoods
- Digital technologies & the arts
- Facilities
- Human resources
- Miscellaneous resources
- Nonprofit sector information
- Organizational planning, management, governance & marketing
- Partnerships
- Provincial and local statistics
- Volunteers & donors
- Women in the arts

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COMMISSIONED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Making a Holistic Case for the Arts: Canadian Evidence regarding the Relationship between the Arts and the Quality of Life, Well-being, Health, Education, Society, and the Economy
- Ongoing research into the state of the arts and culture in British Columbia
- Ongoing research into music benchmarks in the City of Hamilton
- Senior Artists' Research Project
- Performing arts education overview (programs of 50 Toronto-area performing arts organizations)
- A Delicate Balance: Music Education in Canadian Schools
- Completed projects available at www.HillStrategies.com

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PRESENTATIONS

- Develop new insights out of existing information
 - Artists, arts participation and well-being (in French)
 - Understanding diversity in BC arts audiences
 - Artists and cultural workers in Canadian communities
and (online now) ...
 - **Artists in Canada and their Health Disparities**
- All available at www.HillStrategies.com

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“ARTISTS”: 9 OCCUPATION CODES

Performing artists and filmmakers

1. Actors and comedians
2. Conductors, composers, and arrangers
3. Dancers
4. Musicians and singers
5. Other performing artists (circus, puppeteers, etc.)
6. Producers, directors, choreographers, and related occupations

Visual artists and craftspeople

7. Painters, sculptors, and other visual artists
8. Artisans and craftspeople

Writers

9. Authors and writers

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METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

- Individuals are classified in the occupation in which they worked the most hours during a specific reference week
 - If unemployed: job at which they worked the longest since January 1, 2010
- Some arts instructors and teachers included
 - If they teach in certain settings (e.g., private arts schools, academies, and conservatories)
- Some arts teachers excluded
 - If they teach in post-secondary, secondary, or elementary schools

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METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

- 2006 and prior years: mandatory long-form census of 20% of households
- 2011: voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) of 30% of households
- Greater risk of non-response bias

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METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

- NHS data not comparable to previous datasets
- Technical report ([Data sources on artists in Canada](#))
 - Large changes in many estimates between 2006 long-form census and 2011 NHS
 - specific arts occupations, most provinces, territories, and Census Metropolitan Areas
 - highly improbable that these are “real” differences
- Cannot make comparisons with previous presentations or reports
- LFS data provide basic trends over time

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METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

- 2006 long-form census
 - minimum estimate of 40 artists
- 2011 NHS
 - estimates of 500 artists or more
 - Below population levels of 1,000 people, and especially below 500, the NHS population estimate tends to diverge from the census population figure (which, by definition, is more accurate)
- Labour Force Survey
 - does not publish amounts below 1,500 in many jurisdictions
 - below 500 in smaller jurisdictions

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ARTISTS ARE PROBABLY UNDER-COUNTED

- NHS: Most hours worked between May 1 and 7, 2011
 - In-between season
 - Many artists work multiple jobs
- Waging Culture (2009 study of Canadian visual artists)
 - Estimate of visual artists that was 30% to 60% larger than 2006 census estimates
- Australian report: Don't Give Up Your Day Job
 - “almost two-thirds of Australian professional artists have more than one job.”

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ARTISTS IN CANADA

Source: 2011 National Household Survey

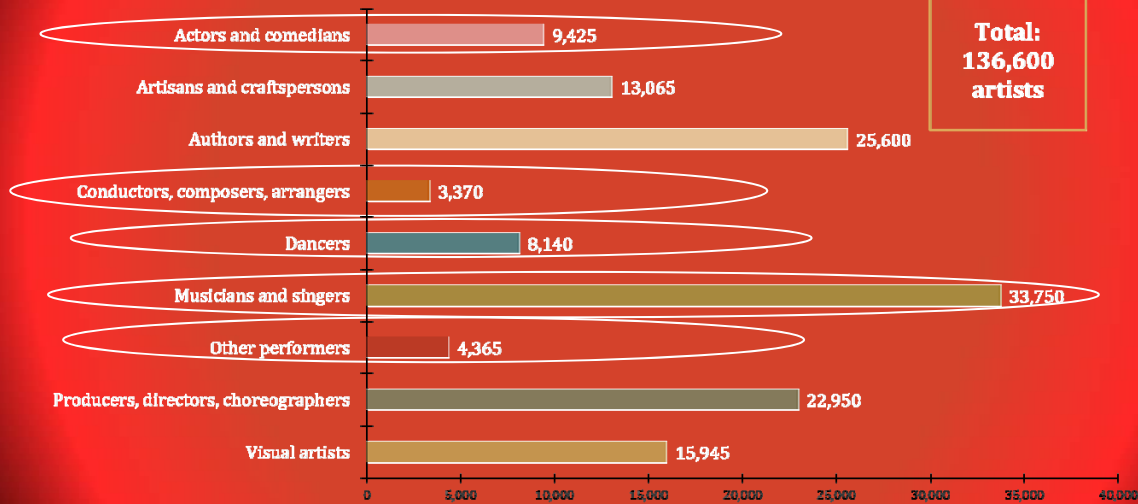
- 136,600 artists
 - spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2011
 - 0.78% of the overall labour force in Canada
 - 1 in every 129 workers

- Other similarly-sized labour forces
 - 132,900 in automotive manufacturing
 - 149,900 in utilities sector
 - 158,300 in telecommunications

PERFORMING ARTISTS: ABOUT 1/2 OF CANADIAN ARTISTS

Source: 2011 National Household Survey

Artists by occupation in Canada, 2011



HIGH EDUCATION LEVELS OF ARTISTS

- Artists: 44% have a bachelor's degree or higher
 - ❖ Overall labour force: 25%

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HIGH SELF-EMPLOYMENT RATES AMONG ARTISTS

- Artists: 51% are self-employed
 - ❖ Overall labour force: 11%
- Musicians and singers: 59% are self-employed
- Conductors and composers: 54%
- Actors and comedians: 42%
- Dancers: 33%

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SHORT-TERM, CONTRACT WORK + MULTIPLE JOBS

- Artists: 50% worked full-time for at least 40 weeks in 2010
 - ❖ Overall labour force: 69%
- Artists: 11% reported having multiple jobs
 - ❖ Overall labour force: 5%

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ABOVE-AVERAGE PROPORTION OF WOMEN

- Artists: 51% are female
 - ❖ Overall labour force: 48%
- Dancers: 86% are female
- Musicians and singers: 50%
- Actors and comedians: 46%
- Conductors and composers: 35% female

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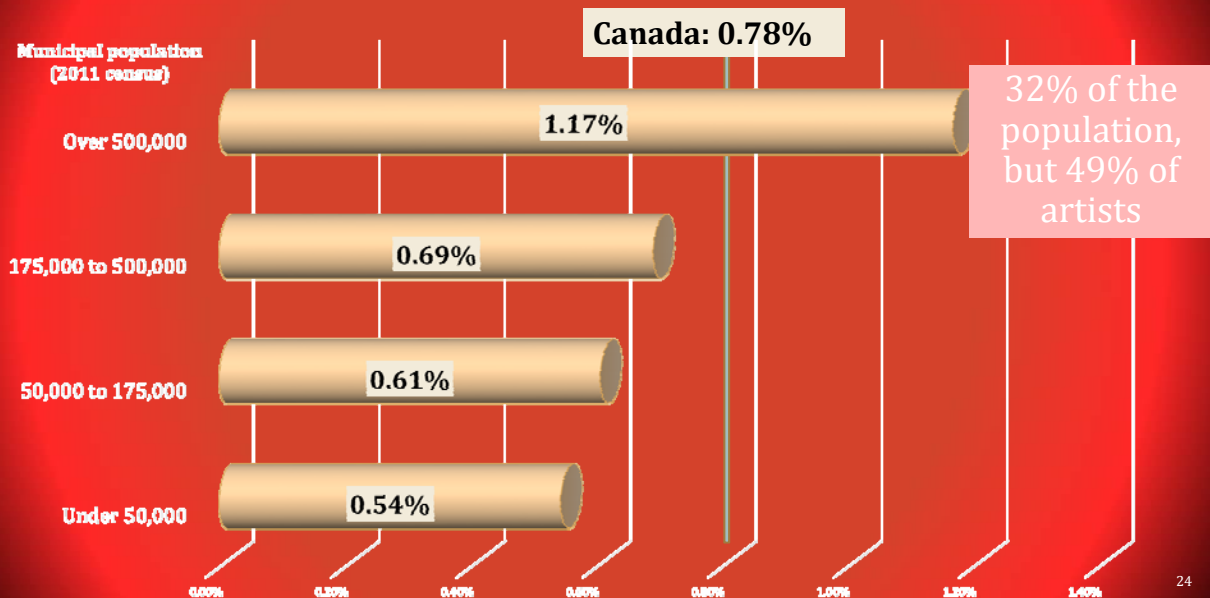
MANY OLDER ARTISTS REMAIN IN THE LABOUR FORCE

- Artists: 25% are 55 or older
 - ❖ Overall labour force: 19%
- Conductors and composers: approx. 28% are 55 or older
- Musicians and singers: 25%
- Actors and comedians: 19%
- Dancers: 9%
- (Visual artists: >40%!)

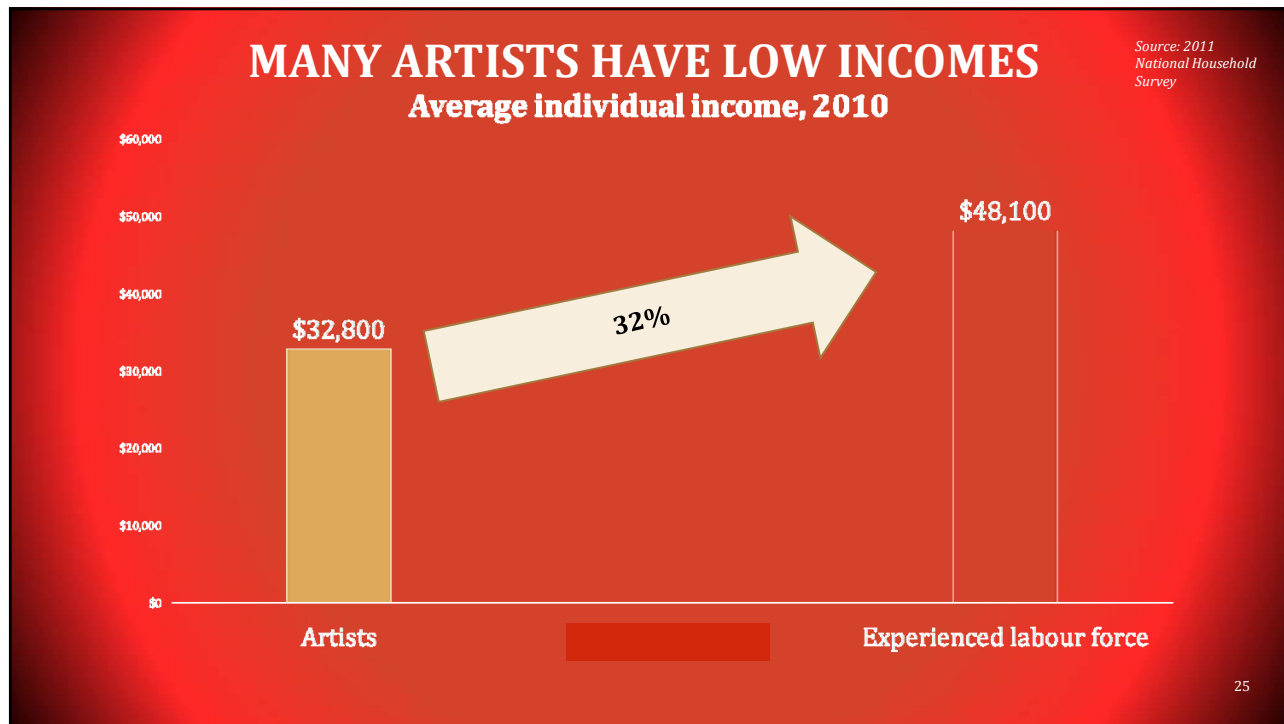
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ARTISTS TEND TO RESIDE IN LARGER CITIES

Source: 2011
National Household
Survey



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MANY ARTISTS HAVE LOW INCOMES

- Median incomes particularly low
 - Artists: \$21,600
 - ❖ Overall labour force: \$37,900
 - ❖ Difference of 43%
- Particularly low earnings for some performing artists:
 - actors, dancers, musicians

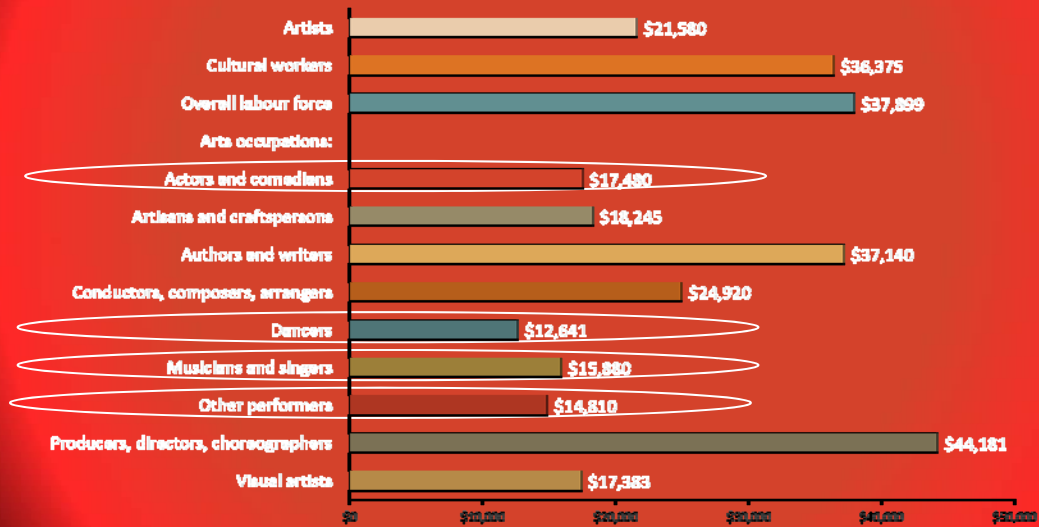
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MANY ARTISTS HAVE LOW INCOMES

Source: 2011
National Household
Survey

Median individual incomes in 2010

Artists, cultural workers, non-cultural workers, and artists by occupation



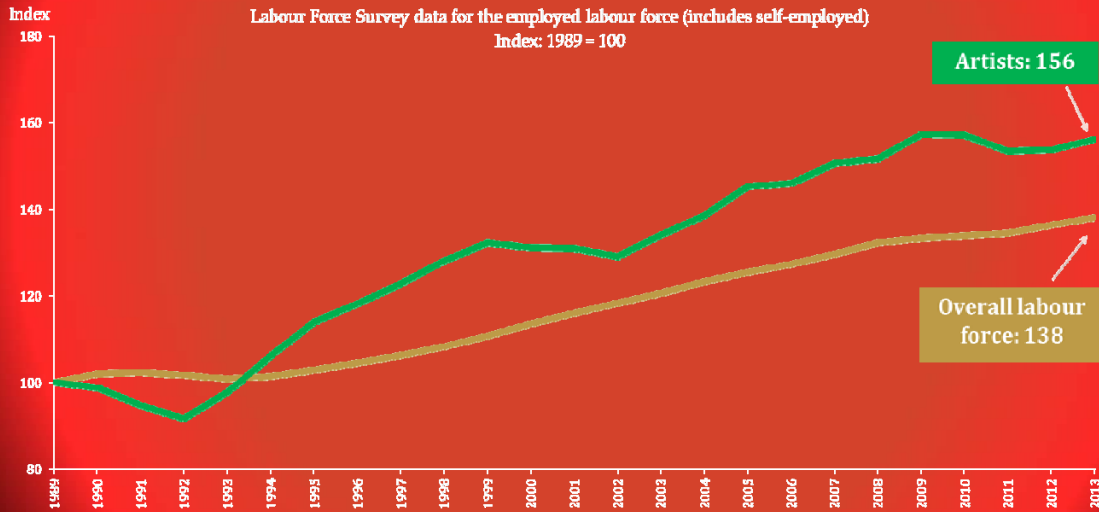
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CONTRARIAN INDICATOR

- Despite the above risk factors
- Strong growth in # of artists

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STRONG GROWTH IN NUMBER OF ARTISTS IN CANADA, 1989 TO 2013 (3-YEAR MOVING AVERAGE)



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INDICATORS OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FROM OTHER DATA SOURCES

- Situation of elder artists
- Extended health coverage of artists
- Do artists tend to be happier than other workers?

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SENIOR ARTISTS RESEARCH PROJECT (2010)

- Major Canadian survey of 1,512 professional artists 55 and older
Conducted by Hill Strategies Research (available at www.hillstrategies.com)
- 46% of artists 55 or over (estimated 18,000 people) are at high risk in at least one of five key areas: health, finances, artistic career or legacy, isolation, and/or housing.
- Many more at moderate or high risk
 - 73% at moderate or high health risk.
 - 61% at either a moderate or a high financial risk.
 - 42% at moderate or high risk with regards to their artistic career or legacy.
 - 28% at moderate or high risk of isolation.
 - 19% at moderate or high housing risk.

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73% OF ELDER ARTISTS ARE AT MODERATE OR HIGH HEALTH RISK

- Why?
 - High health risk (9%) if:
 - A physical or mental condition or another health problem **often** reduces the amount or the kind of arts activities that they can do (8%).
 - They are “very dissatisfied” with their health (3%).
 - Moderate health risk (65%) if:
 - They have a health problem (41%).
 - A physical or mental condition or another health problem **sometimes** reduces the amount or the kind of arts activities that they can do (31%).
 - They do not have extended health care coverage (38%).
 - They indicated that their potential needs from the Senior Artists’ Research Project are highest in the area of health (12%).
 - They are quite dissatisfied with their health, i.e., ranked their situation as a “2” or a “3” on a scale of 1 to 10 (6%).

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38% OF ELDER CANADIAN ARTISTS DO NOT HAVE EXTENDED HEALTH COVERAGE

- What about younger artists?
 - Very few direct measurements
 - Lacking custom surveys of artists in Canada
- Largest Canadian artist benefit plan has about 17,000 members (ACTRA Fraternal Benefit Society Arts & Entertainment Plan)
 - 136,600 artists in Canada
 - Just over 10% covered by this plan
 - Other artists may be covered by other plans or via spouse

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EXTENDED HEALTH COVERAGE OF YOUNGER CANADIAN VISUAL ARTISTS

- 2007 survey of visual artists
 - (“Waging Culture”, Art Gallery of York University)
 - 31% of visual artists do not have supplementary health benefits
 - Sources of coverage for the 69% with health benefits
 - 22% self-financed
 - 22% via spouse
 - 21% via art-related work
 - 10% via non-art-related work
 - (Respondents could choose more than one source.)

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ARE ARTISTS HAPPY?

- Europeans studies of job satisfaction

- German survey

- Artists are considerably more satisfied with their work than non-artists
 - Possibly due to greater autonomy of working conditions (high self-employment)

- Pan-European summary

- Artists tend to experience high unemployment, low incomes, and mental disorders
 - Artists: Significantly higher job satisfaction than other workers
 - Self-employment
 - Make own decisions; interesting job; use initiative; learn new skills; job tasks well suited to abilities

Lasse Steiner and Lucian Schneider, "The happy artist: an empirical application of the work-preference model", *Journal of Cultural Economics* (2013) 37: 225-246.

Trine Bille, Cecilie Bryld Fjællegaard, Bruno S. Frey, Lasse Steiner, "Happiness in the arts—International evidence on artists' job satisfaction", *Economics Letters*, (October 2013), 121:1, 15–18.

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ARE ARTISTS HAPPY?

- Canada: Satisfaction with life for 10 broad occupation groups

- 2010 General Social Survey
 - Analyzed for today's presentation

- "Occupations in arts, culture, recreation, and sport" (ACRS)

- Artists represent about 25% to 30% of this group
 - Cultural workers (including artists) represent about 80% of this group

- ACRS group

- 3rd lowest mean score of the 10 groups (7.46 vs. average of 7.54)
 - Lowest percentage of respondents indicating very strong satisfaction with life (i.e., ranking of 8-10 on a scale of 1-10): 53% vs. average of 58%

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS IN ARTISTS' HEALTH

- High education levels
- Tend to reside in larger cities
- Above-average proportion of women
- Prevalence of short-term, contract work, often multiple jobs
- High self-employment rates
- Many artists do not have extended health benefits (approx. 30%-40%)
- Many older artists remain in the labour force
 - Many older artists have substantial health risks
- Low incomes

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS IN ARTISTS' HEALTH

- Strong self-identification / identity as artists
- Irregular work patterns
 - High and low periods
 - Some artists have seasonal flows
- Atypical work days
- Multiple roles of artists, even within their arts occupation
 - E.g., performer, teacher, composer, etc.

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OTHER INDICATORS AND FACTORS IN ARTISTS' HEALTH

- Despite tough conditions: relatively strong growth in number of artists in Canada
- European artists have significantly higher job satisfaction than other European workers
 - Socio-economic condition of artists is quite different in Europe
- Autonomy may be a key factor in job satisfaction
 - “Creative” artists: more autonomy than “interpretive” artists
 - May also affect artists’ health situations
- Health situations: vary by arts occupation and between artists

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Questions?

Comments?

Kelly Hill
Hill Strategies Research
Facts ~ Stats ~ Insights
Hamilton, Ontario
kelly@hillstrategies.com
1-877-445-5494
www.twitter.com/hillstrategies
www.facebook.com/hillstrategies

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