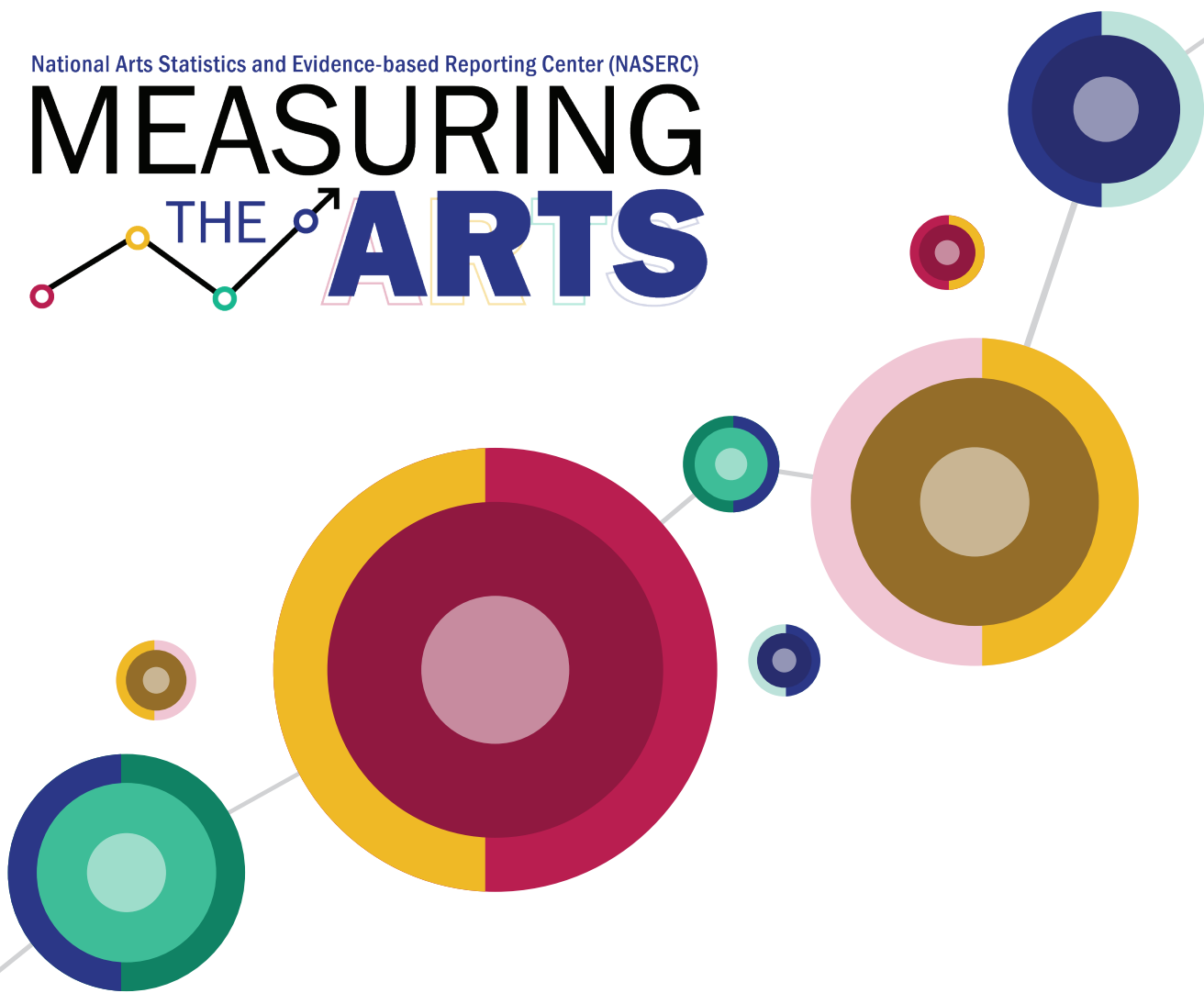



National Arts Statistics and Evidence-based Reporting Center (NASERC)

MEASURING THE ARTS



Domain B

Arts Participation



Indicator B.3: **Who Is Personally Creating or Performing Art?**

Introduction

Indicator B.3 covers activities involved in the personal creation or performance of art, whether or not as part of a job. It can be seen to complement **Indicator A.1: Who Are the Artists?** and **Indicator A.2: Who Are the Other Cultural Workers?**, which looks at adults who are employed in artistic or other cultural occupations or seeking work in them. The present indicator also complements **Indicator B.1: Who Attends Arts Events in Person?**, which explores arts participation in terms of attending or visiting events or venues in person. Indicator B.3 focuses on adults participating in artistic activities such as working with pottery, ceramics, or jewelry; sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework; playing a musical instrument; performing or practicing any acting, singing, or dancing; taking photographs; and creative writing. It highlights relatively large differences related to levels of educational attainment and other characteristics among adults creating and performing many types of art activities. For more information on the data used in Indicator B.3, see the *Arts Participation in the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*. Similar relationships are observed in data from the American Time Use Survey (used in **Indicator B.4: How Much Time Do Americans Spend on Arts Activities?**).

Arts Participation in the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

Indicator B.3 draws on information from the 2022 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and conducted by the Census Bureau as a periodic supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The SPPA is the nation's largest and most representative survey of adult patterns of arts participation in the United States. It collects a wide range of data on how adults engage with arts activities and participate in learning activities about the arts.

See <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NADAC/studies/38936/summary> for more information on the data and <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/2022-SPPA-final.pdf> for the most recent report on the 2022 SPPA.

Further work is needed to understand how the different survey methodologies affect the relative levels of participation reported.

Demographic Characteristics of Adults Personally Creating or Performing Arts

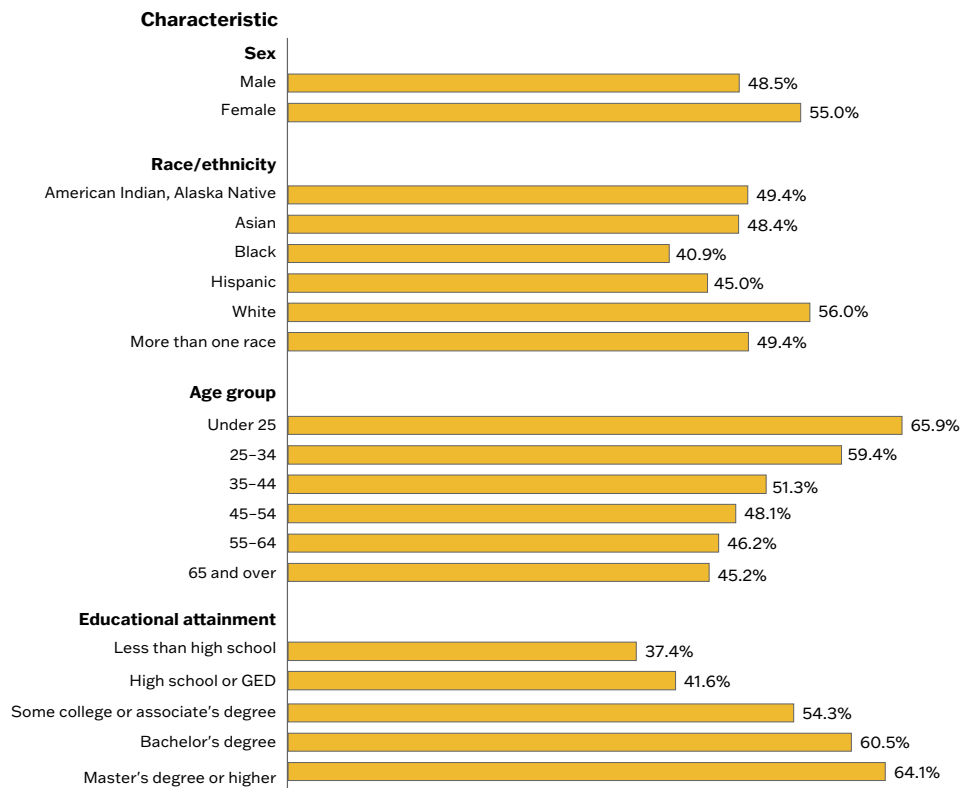
Overall, more than half (52 percent) of adults aged 18 and over reported personally creating or performing any type of art over a 12-month period ending in July 2022. Females were more likely to have personally created or performed art (55 percent) than males (48 percent; **Figure B3-1**).¹ There were also differences with respect to race/ethnicity, age group, and educational attainment. A lower percentage of Black and Hispanic adults reported personally creating or performing art (41 percent and 45 percent, respectively) than did White adults (56 percent). Younger adults were more likely than older adults to report personally creating or performing art over the past year. In 2022, 66 percent of adults aged 18–24 and 59 percent of adults aged 25–34 reported personally creating or performing art—compared to 51 percent of adults aged 35–44, 48 percent of adults aged 45–54, 46 percent of adults aged 55–64, and 45 percent of adults aged 65 and over. Personally creating or performing art was also associated with higher levels of educational attainment. Adults who had completed a bachelor's degree or a master's degree or higher were more likely to have personally created or performed art over the past year (60 percent and 64 percent, respectively) than were adults who had not completed high school (37 percent), had completed only high school (42 percent), or had completed some college (54 percent).² There was no measurable difference in the percentage of adults personally creating or performing art by disability status.³

¹ Differences between estimates are stated only when they are statistically significant based on a 95 percent level of confidence. For more information see *The Arts in the United States: Developing Key National Indicators of Arts Activity* report.

² "Some college" includes individuals who attended college but did not receive a degree.

³ The CPS uses a set of six questions to identify persons with disabilities. A response of "yes" to any one of the questions indicates that the person in question has a disability. For more information see https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsdisability_faq.htm#Everyone.

Figure B3-1. Percentage of adults, aged 18 and over, who personally created or performed any art in the past 12 months, by sex, race/ethnicity, age group, and educational attainment: 2022



NOTE: "Personally created or performed any art" includes social or artistic dancing; singing; taking photographs; sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework; playing a musical instrument; doing woodwork, metalwork, or leatherwork; creative writing; creating art using a computer or mobile device; working with pottery, ceramics, or jewelry; creating films or videos; creating computer or mobile games; acting; or creating other visual art. Race groups are mutually exclusive; persons of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race. "Some college" includes individuals who attended college but did not receive a degree. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), July 2022.

Types of Art Creation and Performance

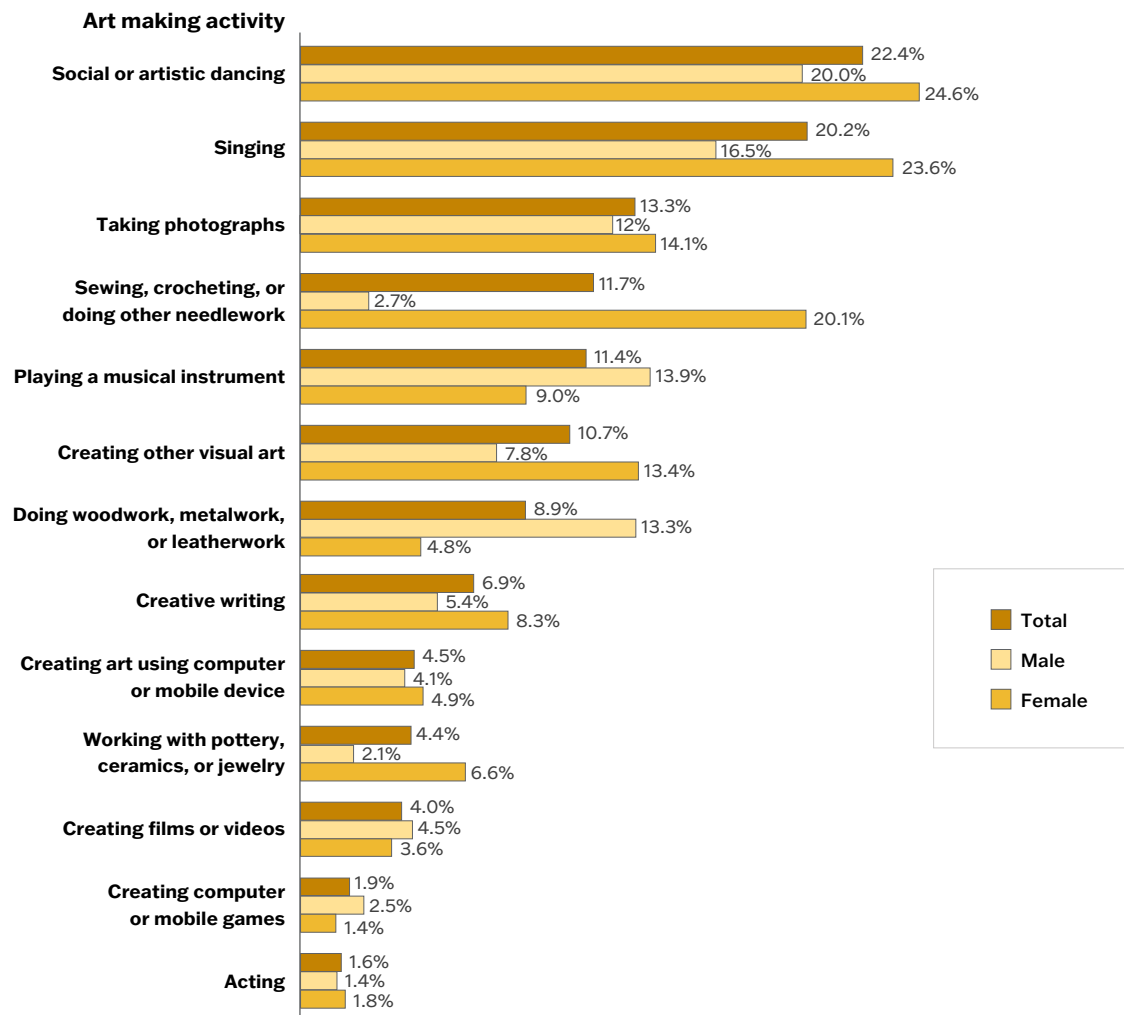
The most popular personal art creation or performance activities⁴ among adults in 2022 were social or artistic dancing (22 percent); singing (20 percent); taking photographs (13 percent); sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework (12 percent); and playing a musical instrument (11 percent; **Figure B3-2**). Females were more likely than males to report participating in activities such as sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework; singing;

creating other visual art such as paintings or sculpture; working with pottery, ceramics, or jewelry; social or artistic dancing; and creative writing. Males were more likely than females to report doing woodwork, metalwork, or leatherwork; playing musical instruments; and creating computer or mobile games. For other types of art-making activities, there were no measurable differences between females and males.

In 2022, White adults were more likely to have participated in personal art creation or performance activities than were Black or Hispanic adults. For instance, taking photographs was reported by

⁴ "Social or artistic dancing" includes dancing at weddings, clubs, or other social settings and performance or practice of any dance, such as for an audience or as a form of artistic expression. "Singing" includes singing, either by yourself, in a social gathering, or in a group or choir. "Sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework" includes weaving, crocheting, quilting, doing needlepoint, knitting, or sewing. "Creating other visual art" includes creating paintings, sculpture, graphic designs, digital or other visual art. "Creating art using a computer or mobile device" includes creating any performance or work of visual art using a computer or mobile device. "Creating computer or mobile games" includes designing or creating games, software, or tools for computers or mobile devices.

Figure B3-2. Percentage of adults, aged 18 and over, who personally created or performed art in the past 12 months, by activity type and sex: 2022

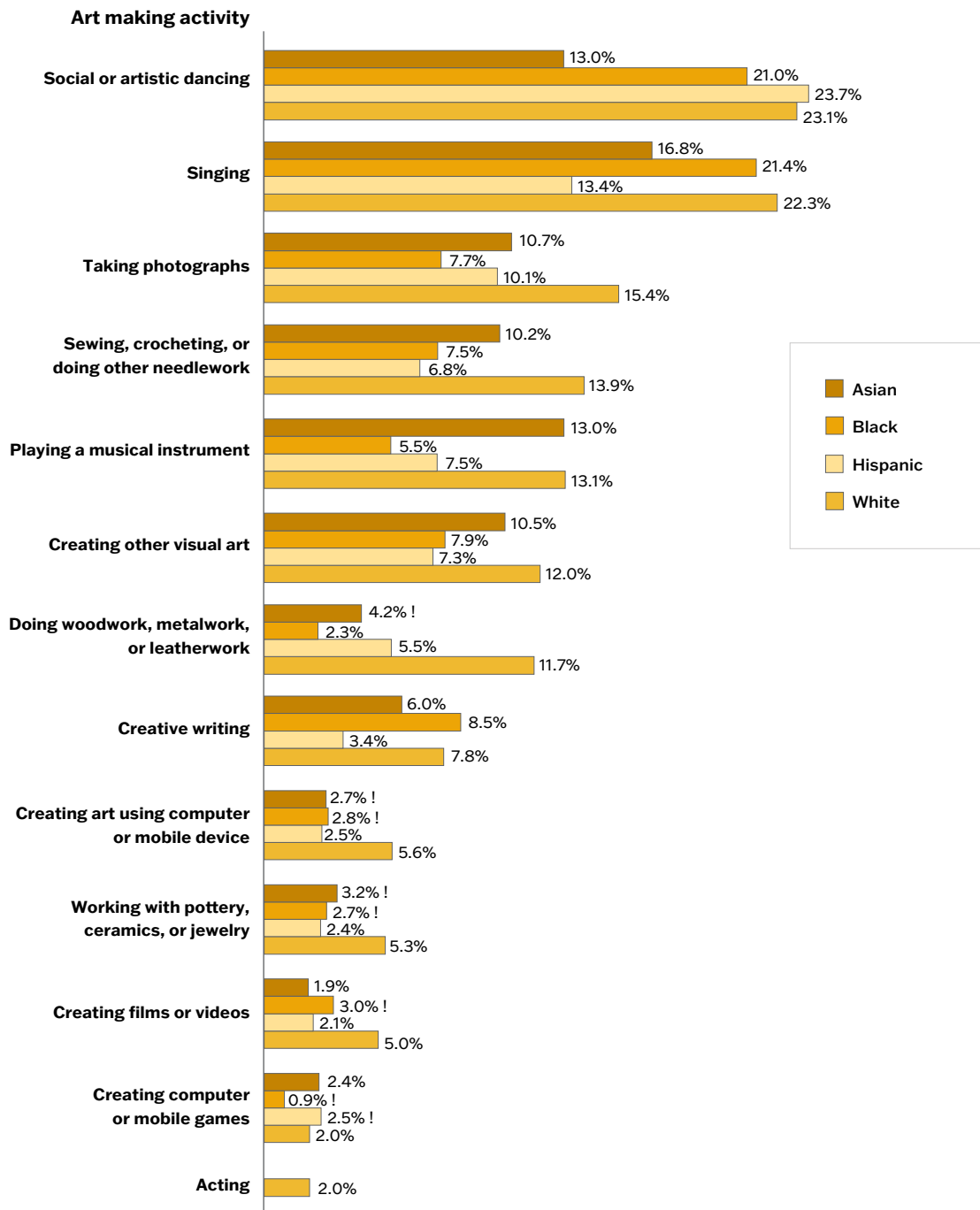


NOTE: “Creating art using computer or mobile device” includes creating any performance or work of visual art using a computer or mobile device. “Creating computer or mobile games” includes designing or creating games, software, or tools for computers or mobile devices. “Creating other visual art” includes creating paintings, sculpture, graphic designs, digital or other visual art. “Sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework” includes weaving, crocheting, quilting, doing needlepoint, knitting, or sewing. “Singing” includes singing, either by yourself, in a social gathering, or in a group or choir. “Social or artistic dancing” includes dancing at weddings, clubs, or other social settings and performance or practice of any dance, such as for an audience or as a form of artistic expression. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), July 2022.

15 percent of White adults compared to 8 percent of Black adults and 10 percent of Hispanic adults (Figure B3-3). Roughly 12 percent of White adults reported doing woodwork, metalwork, or leatherwork compared to 2 percent of Black adults, 4 percent of Asian, and 6 percent of Hispanic adults. There were similar demographic differences among Black, Hispanic, and White adults for other art forms, such as sewing, crocheting, and doing other needlework; playing a musical instrument; creating other visual art such as paintings or sculpture; creating films or videos, creating art using a computer or mobile device; and working with pottery, ceramics, and jewelry.

However, there were some exceptions to this pattern. There were no measurable differences between Black and White adults for activities such as social or artistic dancing, singing, and creative writing, and no measurable difference between White and Hispanic adults for social or artistic dancing and creating computer or mobile games. Additionally, a lower percentage of Asian adults reported participating in social or artistic dancing (13 percent) than did Black (21 percent), White (23 percent), or Hispanic (24 percent) adults.

Figure B3-3. Percentage of adults, aged 18 and over, who personally created or performed art in the past 12 months, by activity type and selected race/ethnicity group: 2022



! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

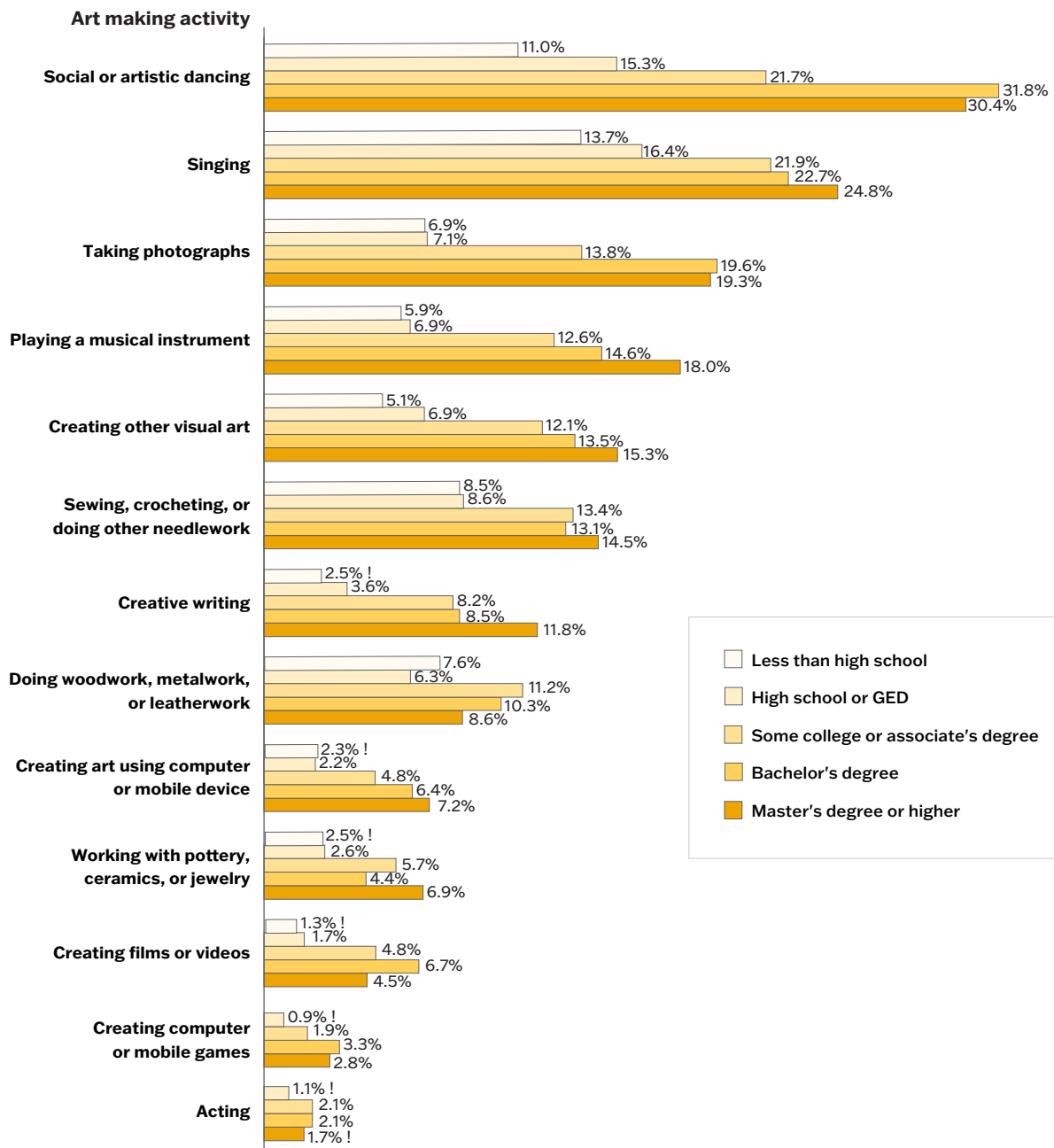
NOTE: "Creating art using computer or mobile device" includes creating any performance or work of visual art using a computer or mobile device. "Creating computer or mobile games" includes designing or creating games, software, or tools for computers or mobile devices. "Creating other visual art" includes creating paintings, sculpture, graphic designs, digital or other visual art. "Sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework" includes weaving, crocheting, quilting, doing needlepoint, knitting, or sewing. "Singing" includes singing, either by yourself, in a social gathering, or in a group or choir. "Social or artistic dancing" includes dancing at weddings, clubs, or other social settings and performance or practice of any dance, such as for an audience or as a form of artistic expression. Race groups are mutually exclusive; persons of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race. Data for some categories not available due to small sample size.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), July 2022.

Adults with higher levels of education were more likely to have participated in most types of personal art creation or performance activities compared to those with lower levels of education in 2022. For example, just 7 percent of adults who had not completed high school and 7 percent of adults who had completed only high school reported taking photographs, compared to 20 percent of adults who had completed a bachelor's degree and 19 percent of adults who had completed a master's degree or higher (**Figure B3-4**). Similarly, 6 percent of adults who had not completed high school and 6 percent of adults who had completed only high school reported playing a music instrument— compared to 15 percent of adults who had completed

a bachelor's degree and 18 percent of adults who had completed a master's degree or higher. Even within the popular activity of social or artistic dancing, the participation rate among adults who had not completed high school (11 percent) or completed only high school (15 percent) was lower than the rate among those who had completed a bachelor's degree (32 percent) or a master's degree or higher (30 percent). The main exception to these patterns was doing woodworking, metalwork, or leatherwork, of which there were no systematic differences between adults who had not completed high school and those with a bachelor's degree or master's degree or higher.

Figure B3-4. Percentage of adults, aged 18 and over, who personally created or performed art in the past 12 months, by activity type and educational attainment: 2022



! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

NOTE: "Creating art using computer or mobile device" includes creating any performance or work of visual art using a computer or mobile device. "Creating computer or mobile games" includes designing or creating games, software, or tools for computers or mobile devices. "Creating other visual art" includes creating paintings, sculpture, graphic designs, digital or other visual art. "Sewing, crocheting, or doing other needlework" includes weaving, crocheting, quilting, doing needlepoint, knitting, or sewing. "Singing" includes singing, either by yourself, in a social gathering, or in a group or choir. "Social or artistic dancing" includes dancing at weddings, clubs, or other social settings and performance or practice of any dance, such as for an audience or as a form of artistic expression. "Some college" includes individuals who attended college but did not receive a degree. Data for some categories not available due to small sample size.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), July 2022.

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