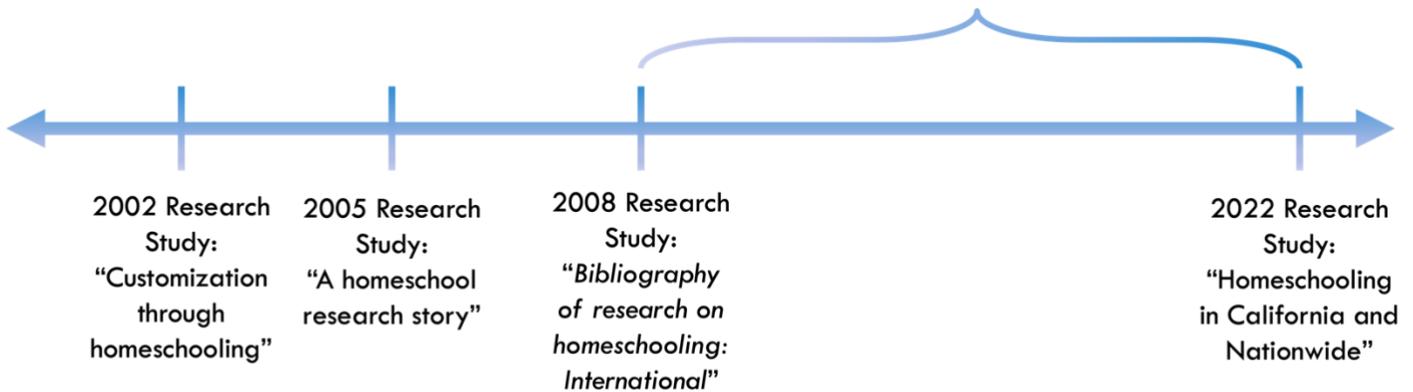


Homeschooling in California and Nationwide: Research Facts and Other Important Concepts

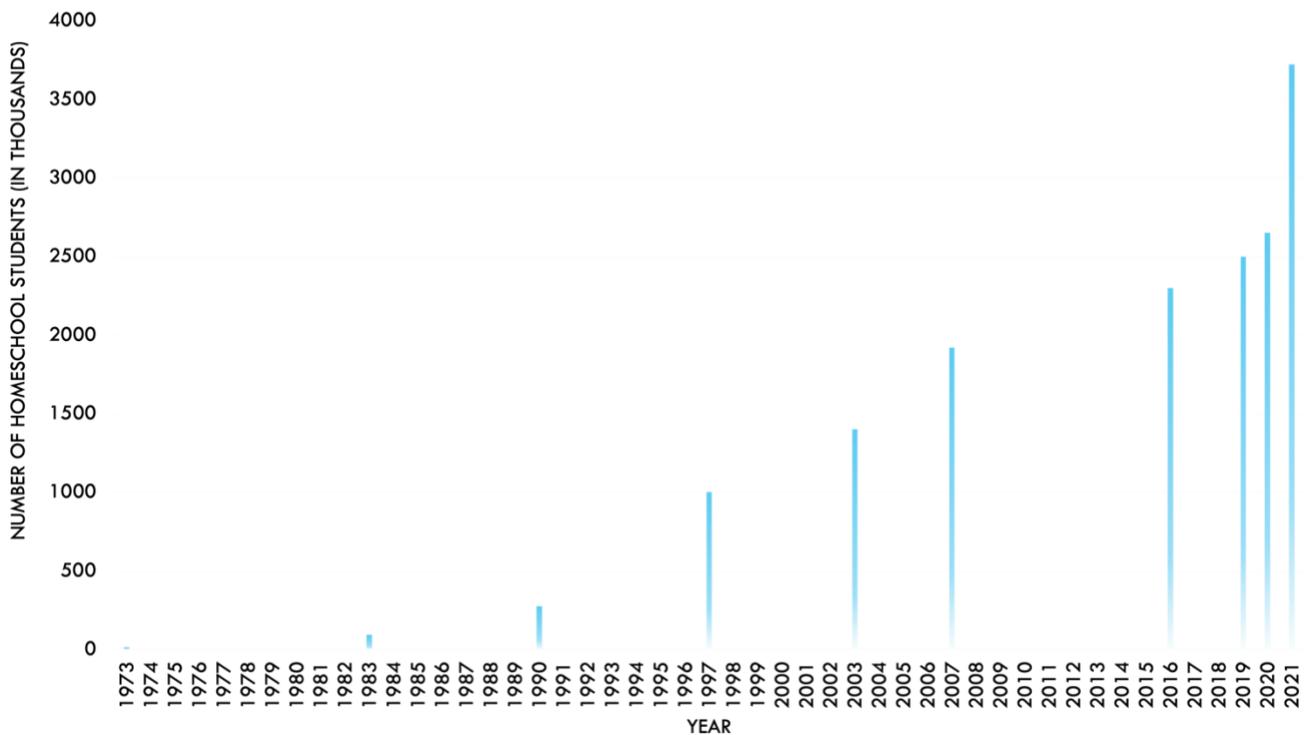
Copyright © 2022 by Brian D. Ray

The need for current research:



Homeschool Growth Statistics

NUMBER OF HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS NATIONWIDE

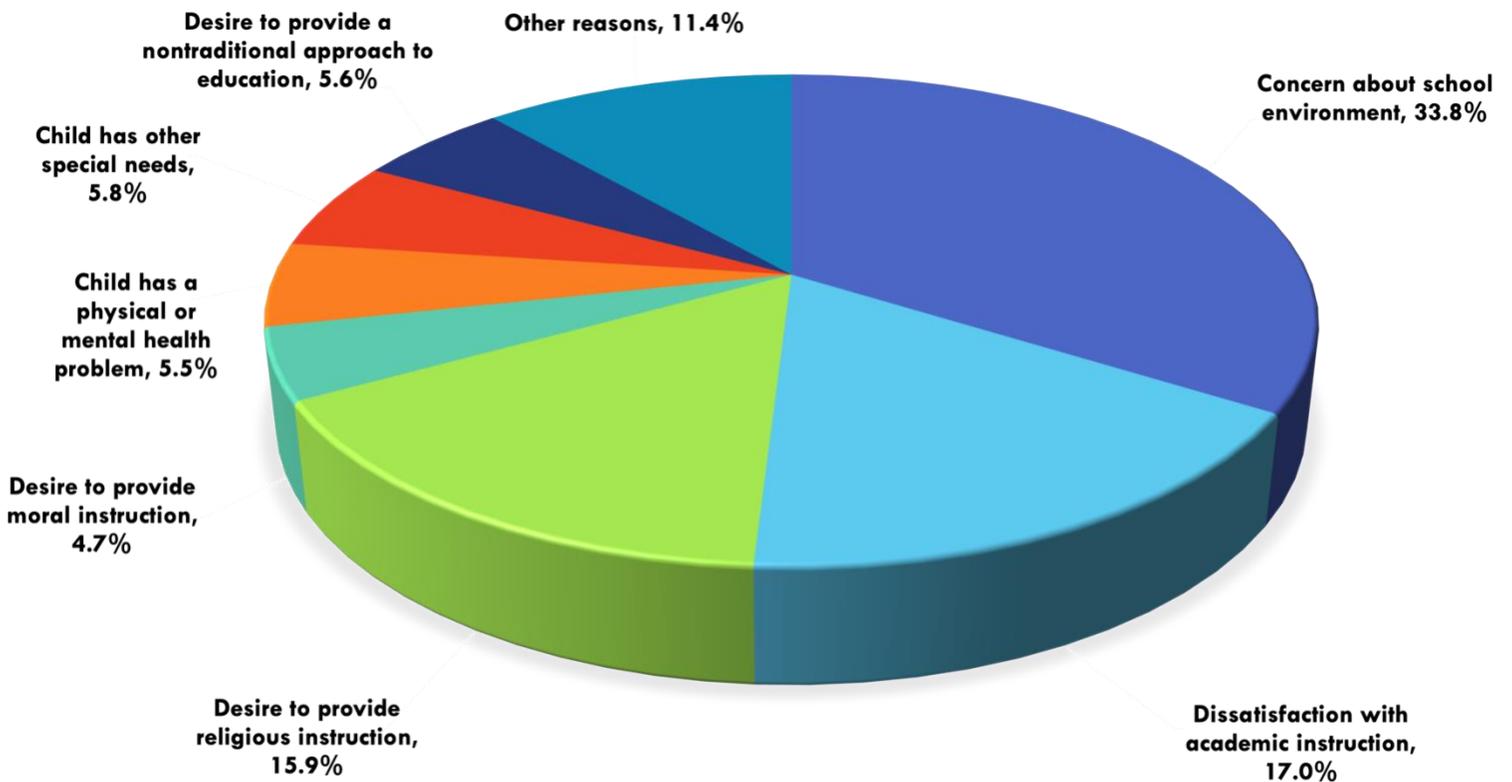


Homeschooling today

Today, home education is the fastest-growing form of education in the United States, with approximately 3.7 million homeschool educated students across the country in the fall of 2020 (Ray, 2021b).

In California and across the nation, homeschooling has increased roughly 90% over the last ten years (Ray, 2022; United States Department of Education (USDE), 2021).

Reasons for Home Educating



California and Nationwide Homeschool Academic Achievement

Nationwide:

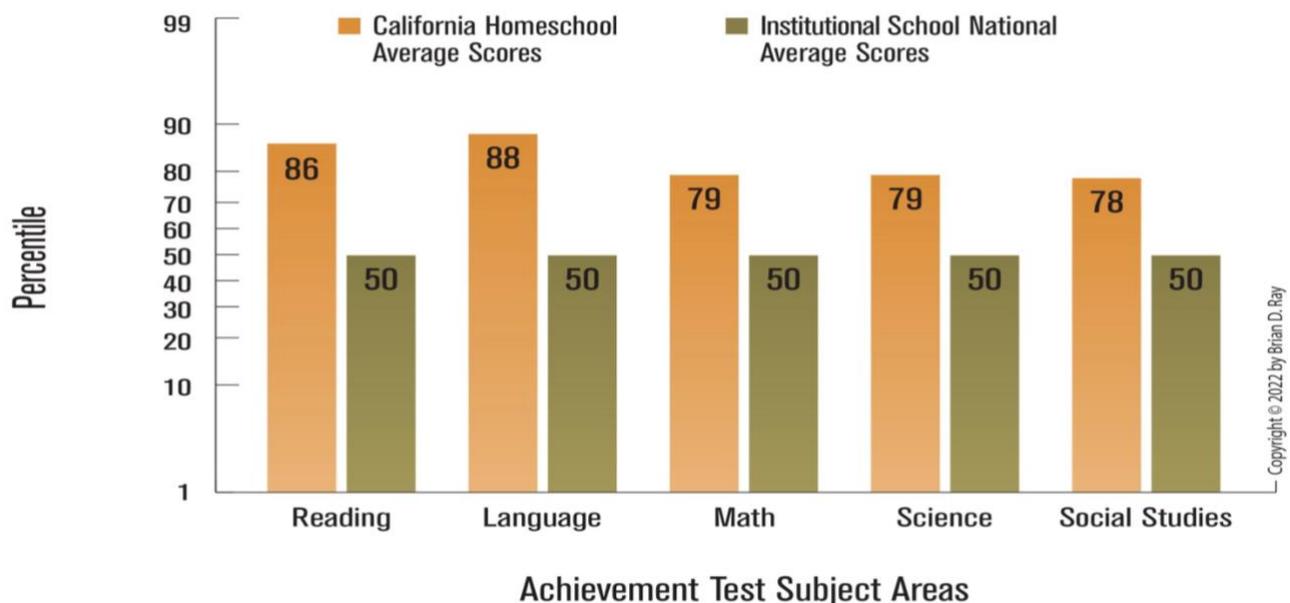
- Studies show that home-educated students average 15 to 30 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2013, 2017a, 2017b).
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the college-admission SAT and ACTs (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2017a, 2017b).

California:

Data from a 2022 standardized achievement test data analysis reveal that California homeschool students scored at the 78th percentile to 88th percentile in reading, language, math, science, and social studies.

This is 28 to 38 percentile points above the national average (See Figure).

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF CALIFORNIA HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS AND U.S. INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS



Here are some other key findings from these California data that are generally consistent with the past 30 years of research on homeschooling:

- The mother's education level is not **statistically** correlated with any subject-area scores. This is significant since in homeschooling the mother is usually the main academic instructor and in public schools there is a notable correlation between parent education level and child's achievement. **That is, children perform better in public schools when their parents have higher education levels (Egalite, 2016) but homeschool children of all levels of mother's education are doing equally well.**
- In public schools, there is a distinct positive correlation between family income and students' test scores (Egalite, 2016). However, these homeschool students' scores were essentially the same whether their family's income was high or low.
- The degree of structure in the homeschooling not correlated with reading, math, and social science scores, and only weakly correlated with language and science scores. That is, a variety of homeschool pedagogical approaches are all associated with strong academic achievement.

Social, Emotional, and Psychological Development

What the Research Shows:

- Research measuring peer interaction, self-concept, leadership skills, family cohesion, participation in community service, and self-esteem shows homeschoolers are doing very well. They are typically above average in social, emotional and psychological development (Medlin, 2013; Ray, 2017a, 2017b).
- Homeschool students are regularly engaged in common social and educational activities including field trips, scouting, 4-H, political drives, church ministry, sports teams, debate teams, drama, music classes, art classes, apprenticeships, and community volunteer work (Hamlin, 2019).

Success in Adulthood

Homeschooling Outcomes:

The research base of adults who were home educated is growing; thus far, studies indicate that they (see references section, e.g., Ray, 2107a, 2017b; Seiver & Pope, 2022):

- participate in local community service more frequently than the general population;
- vote and attend public meetings more frequently than the general population;
- go to and succeed in college at an equal or higher rate than the general population;
- by adulthood, internalize the values and beliefs of their parents at a high rate; and
- are more politically tolerant than other adults (Cheng, 2014).

Numbers of California Homeschoolers and Tax Savings

Tax Effects:

There were an estimated 616,000 to 753,000 grades K-12 homeschool students in California during the spring of 2021 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022; Ray, 2021b). The average public school per-pupil expenditure in California that same year, 2020-2021, was \$15,019 (National Education Association, 2021).

Therefore, it is estimated that homeschool families saved California taxpayers approximately \$10.3 billion that year. In addition, taxpayers do not have to pay for capital expenditures on home-educated students.

Rights of Homeschooling

Parental Rights:

It is the fundamental unalienable right of parents to direct the upbringing, care, and education of their children.

Conscience Rights:

Every individual and each family have the unalienable right to act and order their life according to their conscience.

It is a Constitutionally guaranteed and God-given right of parents to practice freedom of religion and to direct the upbringing, care, and education of their children.

The cooperative effort among many homeschooling advocacy organizations has made this study possible