

Homeschooling: Does it Work?

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Free research news:

www/nheri.org/connect.html



**Are We Talking About
Just a Few
Underground, Fringe, Peculiar,
Families?**

Well, actually . . .



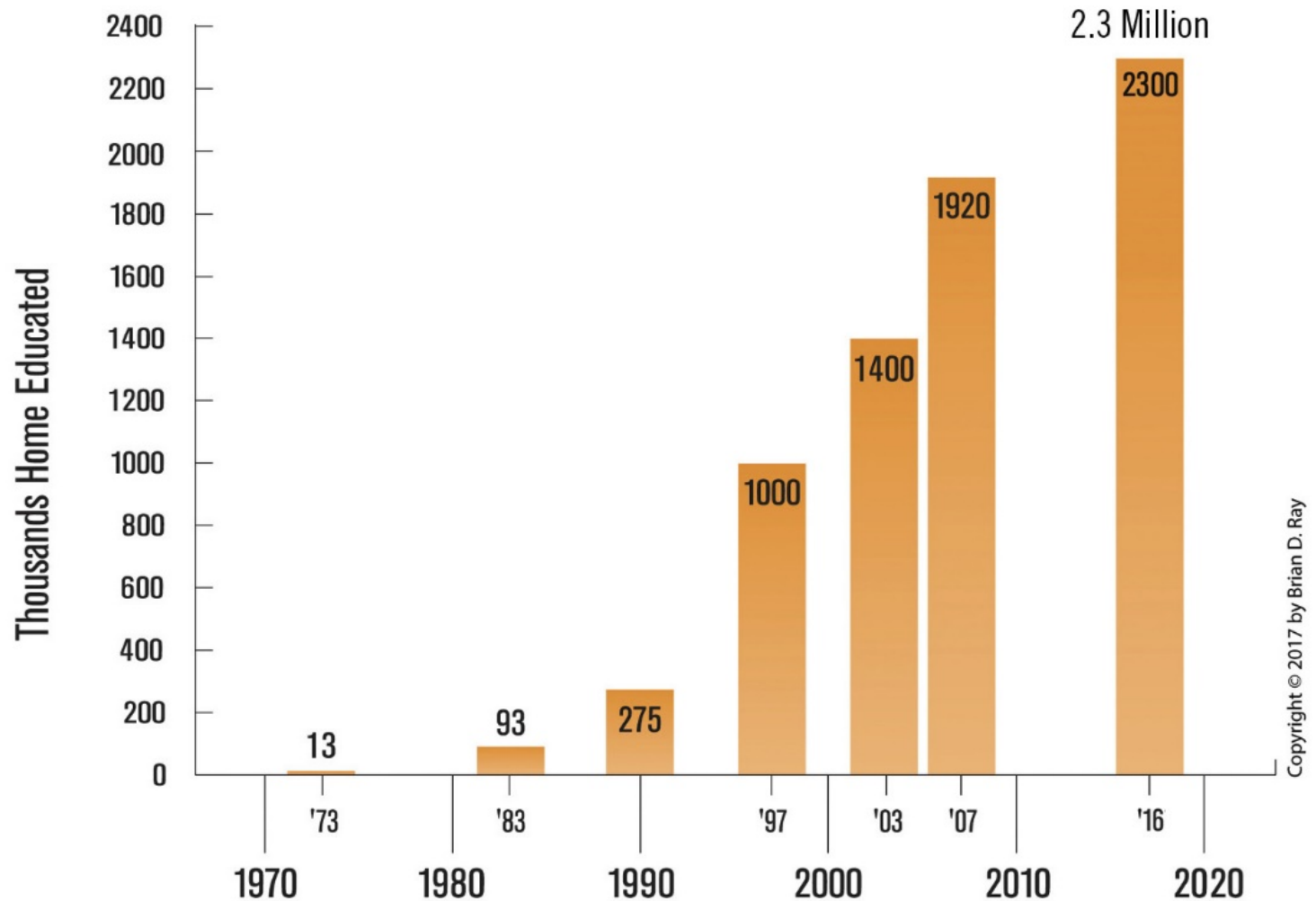
In Many Nations Around the World

- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Brazil – GHEX 2016
- Japan
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Poland
- Philippines – GHEX 2020
- Mexico
- Russia – GHEX 2018
- Germany – GHEX 2012
- United States
- Uganda
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Et cetera



Czech

GROWTH OF HOMESCHOOLING IN THE UNITED STATES



Growth . . .

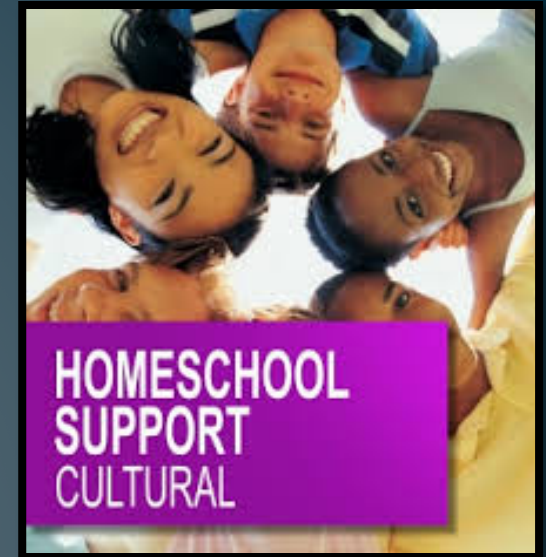
- In the U.S. – 2.4 million today
 - About 25% of all private (non-government) students
 - About 3% to 4% of all U.S. K-12 students
- Homeschool Enrollment Growing in Canada
 - About +4% per year 2007-08 to 2014-15, maybe more since then

Who Home Educates?

. . . And who does not?

Who Home Educates?

- Basic demographics
- Wide variety
- Variety rapidly increasing
 - A quick history
 - Special needs
 - TAG
 - Ethnic minorities



Why Do They Home Educate?

- Alternative pedagogies, customization
 - Close family ties
 - Academics
- Reasoned, guided social interaction
 - Safety
- To transmit a particular worldview . . .



And Reasons Often Change Over Time



Homeschooling Works?

Define your terms.

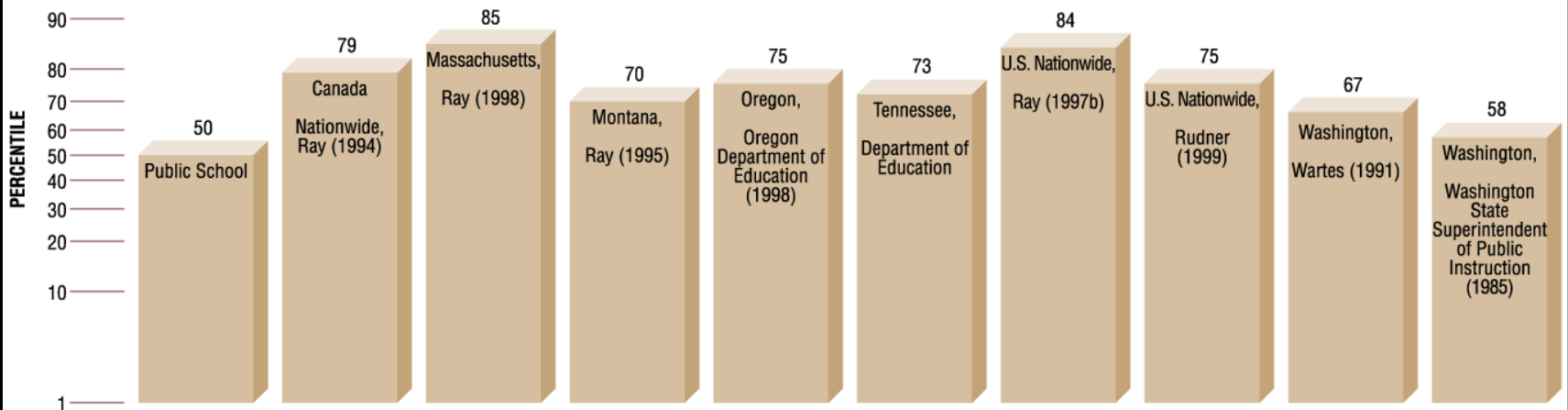
The “student” is or becomes . . .

- Literate, well-read, values and enjoys reading
- Uses math for basic commerce and economics
- Clearly expresses self via written word
- Thinks purposely and consistently according to chosen worldview (e.g., Islam, secular humanism, metaphysical naturalism, socialism, Marxism, biblical Christianity)
- Believes freedom in education/learning is good
- Engages as a civil citizen
- Is free

Can Untrained, Non-government-certificated Parents Successfully Teach Their Own Children?

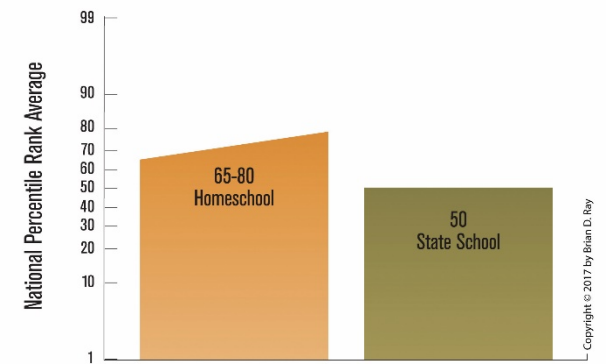
- Many dozens of studies on academic achievement (e.g., nationwide U.S. 1990, 1997, 1999, 2010 – www.academicleadership.org; 2015; nationwide Canada 1994, 2003; state-specific, Massachusetts; New Mexico; Ohio)
- Review of peer-reviewed research (Ray, 2017)
- Results are consistent

FIGURE 3
HOME SCHOOL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (GRADES K-12, AVERAGE SCORES)



- Public (state) school national average on achievement tests is the 50th percentile
- Home educated score, on average, at the 65th to 80th percentile

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF HOMESCHOOL AND STATE-SCHOOL STUDENTS, SUMMARY OF MANY STUDIES



Note: Summary of statistics from many studies, grades K to 12, all subject areas, average test scores.

Review of peer-reviewed studies

“In 11 of the 14 [78%] peer-reviewed studies [on academic achievement], there was a definite [statistically significant] positive effect on achievement for the homeschooled students” (Ray, 2017, p. 8)

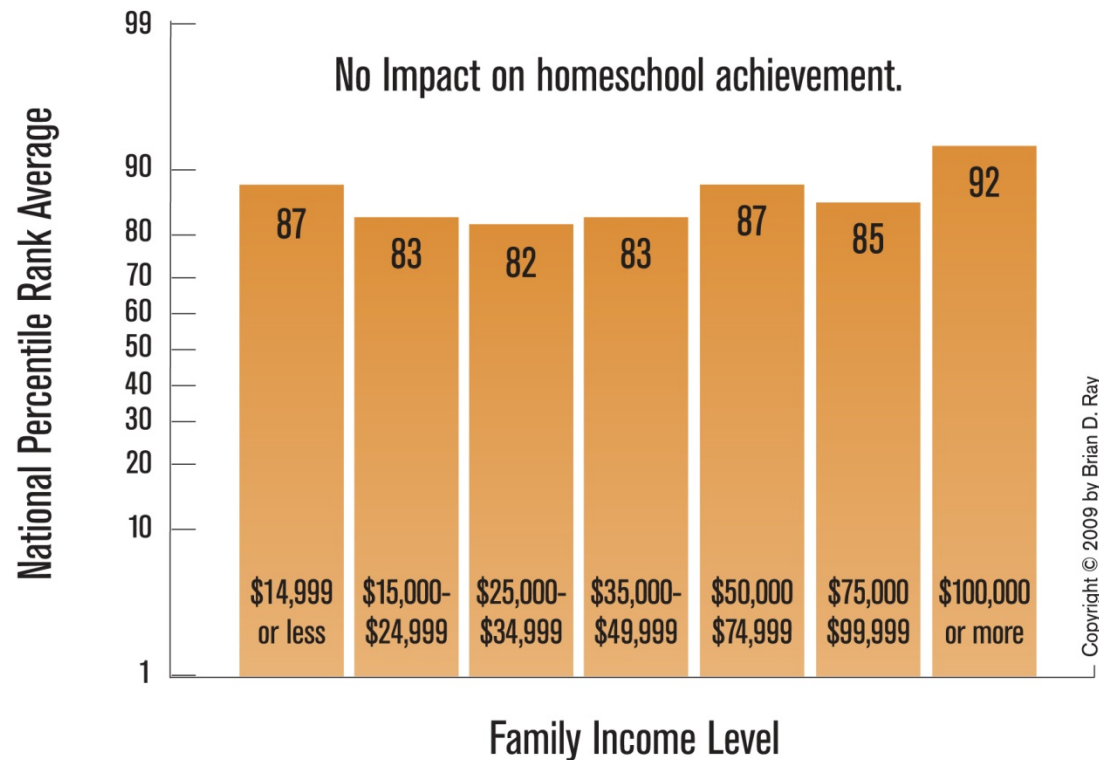
Ray, Brian D. (2017). A systematic review of the empirical research on selected aspects of homeschooling as a school choice. *Journal of School Choice: International Research and Reform*, 11(4), 604-621. November 27, 2017, doi: 10.1080/15582159.2017.1395638. Retrieved December 12, 2017 from <https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2017.1395638>

Yes, But What About Certain Important Factors?

- Family income
- Money spent on education
- Formal teacher training of parents
- State regulation
- Minority status — see later

FIGURE 10.

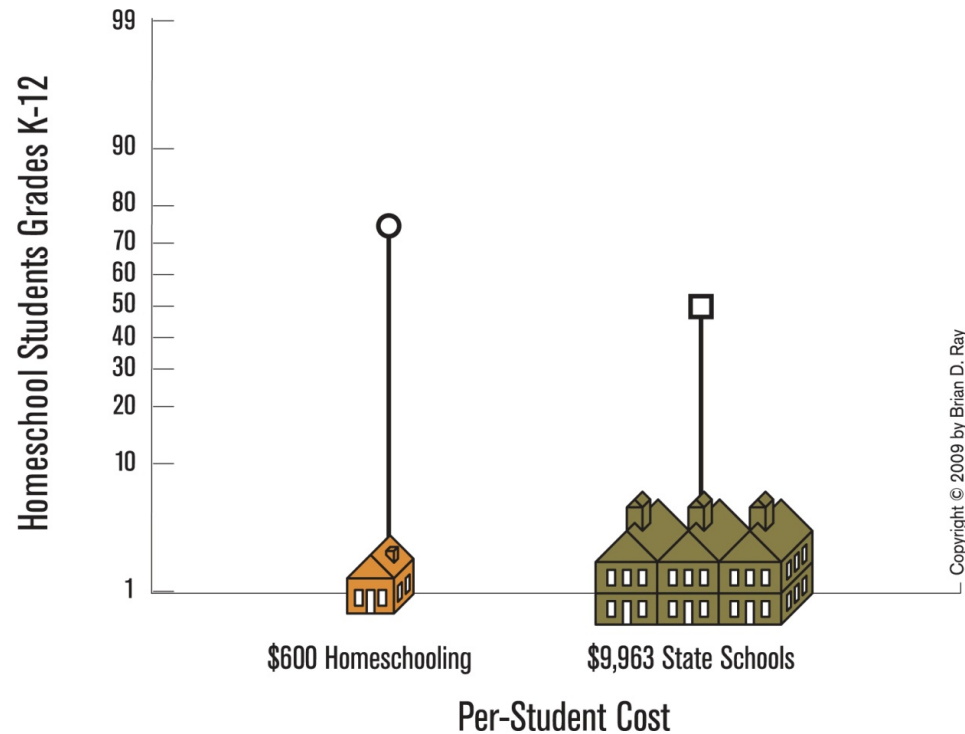
FAMILY INCOME AND ACHIEVEMENT BASIC BATTERY TEST SCORE, GRADES K-12



Note: Dollars not adjusted for inflation for 2009. Source of statistics is one research project published in two places, (a) Ray, Brian D. (2000). Home schooling: The ameliorator of negative influences on learning? *Peabody Journal of Education*, 75(1 & 2), 71-106; and (b) Ray, Brian D. (1997). *Strengths of their own—Home schoolers across America: Academic achievement, family characteristics, and longitudinal traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org.

FIGURE 12.

COST OF HOMESCHOOL VERSUS PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ACHIEVEMENT

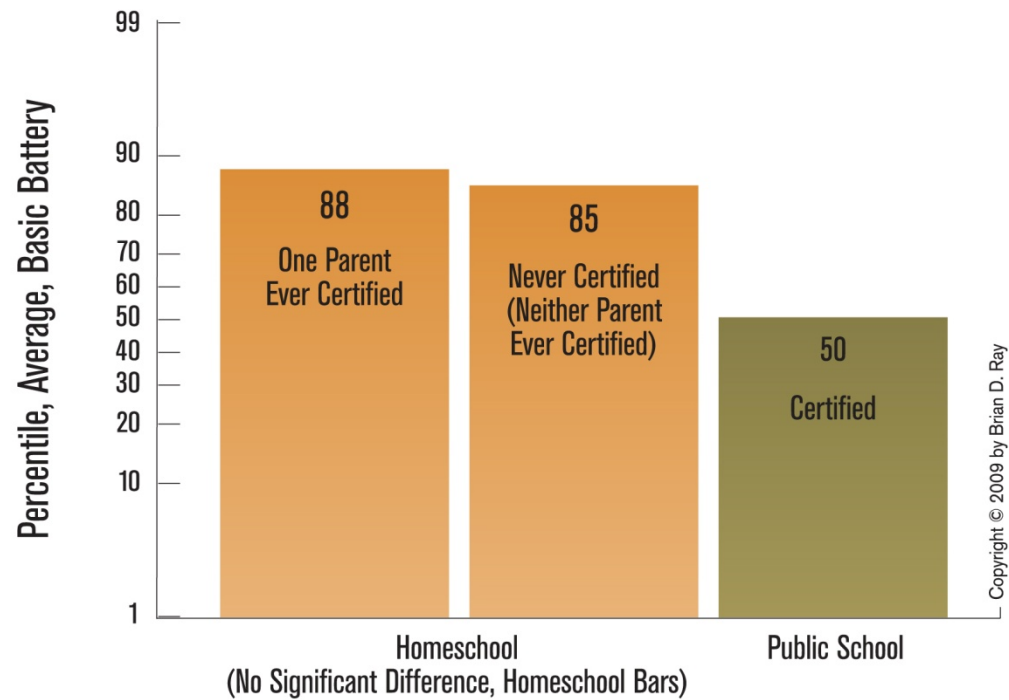


Note: Per-pupil costs do not include all costs of education; for example, it does not include capital expenditures in public/state schools. Sources of statistics are (a) National Education Association. (2008). *Rankings and estimates 2008*. Retrieved from <http://www.nea.org/home/29402.htm>, and (b) Ray, Brian D. (2005). *Worldwide guide to homeschooling*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, Publ.

Current statistics: U.S. public schools 2018-19: \$13,658 tax dollars (201,678 rand ZA) per student per year plus capital expenditures plus research and development

FIGURE 7.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION NEEDED?



Note: Source of statistics is one research project published in two places, (a) Ray, Brian D. (2000). Home schooling: The ameliorator of negative influences on learning? *Peabody Journal of Education*, 75(1 & 2), 71-106; and (b) Ray, Brian D. (1997). *Strengths of their own—Home schoolers across America: Academic achievement, family characteristics, and longitudinal traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org. Nearly 100% of public-school teachers are state-certified.

FIGURE 8a.

GOVERNMENT (STATE) REGULATION AND HOMESCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

LOW REGULATION:

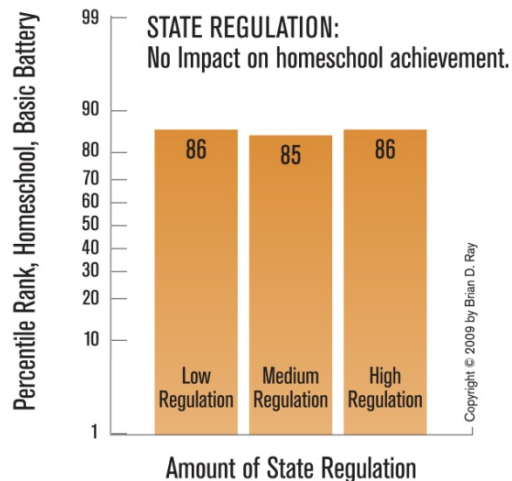
No state requirement for parents to initiate any contact with the state.

MEDIUM REGULATION:

State requires parents to send notification, test scores, and/or professional evaluation of student progress.

HIGH REGULATION:

State requires parents to send notification or achievement test scores and/or professional evaluation, plus other requirements (e.g., curriculum approval by state, teacher qualifications of parents, or home).



Note: Basic battery scores, grades K-12. Source of statistics is one research project published in two places, (a) Ray, Brian D. (2000). Home schooling: The ameliorator of negative influences on learning? *Peabody Journal of Education*, 75(1 & 2), 71-106; and (b) Ray, Brian D. (1997). *Strengths of their own—Home schoolers across America: Academic achievement, family characteristics, and longitudinal traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org.

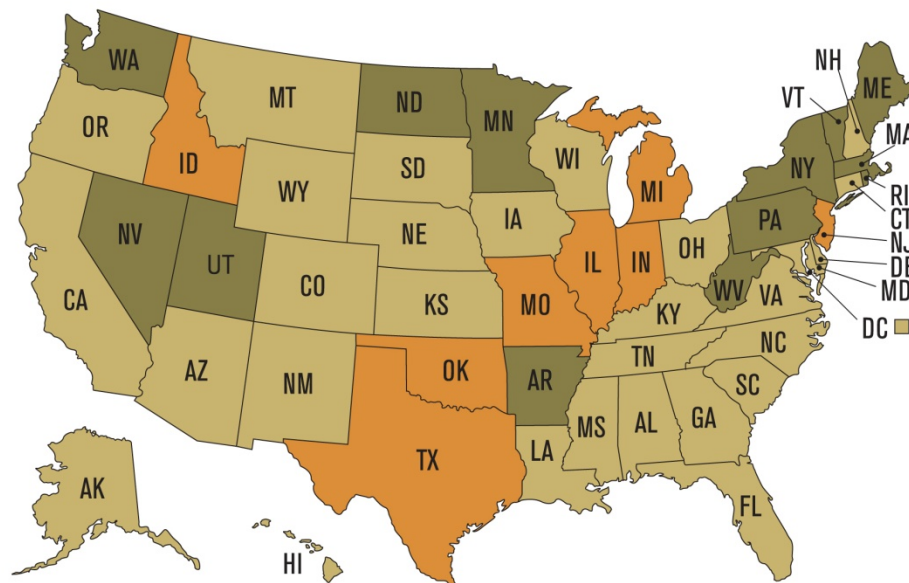
These findings were published in both of the following peer-reviewed journals:

1. Ray, Brian D. (2010, February 3). Academic achievement and demographic traits of homeschool students: A nationwide study. *Academic Leadership Journal*, 8(1). Retrieved May 24, 2019 and June 15, 2018 from <https://scholars.fhsu.edu/alj/vol8/iss1/7/>
2. Ray, Brian D. (2013). Homeschooling associated with beneficial learner and societal outcomes but educators do not promote it. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 88(3), 324-341.

FIGURE 8b.

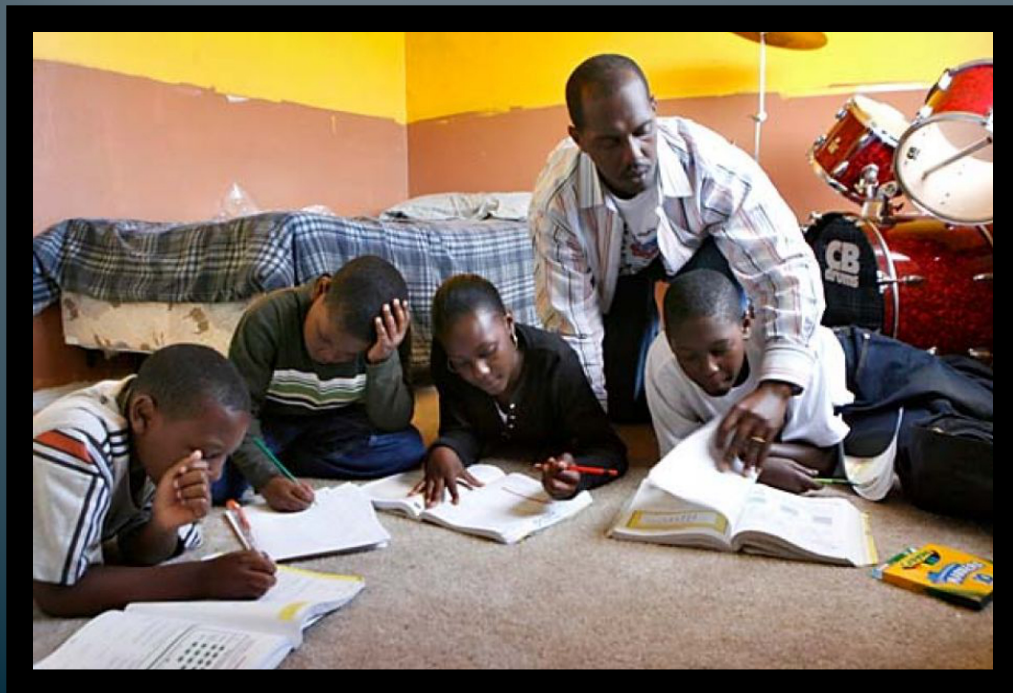
BREAKDOWN OF STATES BY REGULATORY POLICY

LOW REGULATION MEDIUM REGULATION HIGH REGULATION



Note: See one research project published in two places, (a) Ray, Brian D. (2000). Home schooling: The ameliorator of negative influences on learning? *Peabody Journal of Education*, 75(1 & 2), 71-106; and (b) Ray, Brian D. (1997). *Strengths of their own—Home schoolers across America: Academic achievement, family characteristics, and longitudinal traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org.

- But, what about *minority* families?!



Black Families Homeschooling

Controlling for gender and socioeconomic status:

- Reading: black homeschool students **42 percentile points higher** than black public school students
- Language: African American homeschool students **26 percentile points higher** than black African American students
- Math: black homeschool students **23 percentile points higher** than black public school students
- Black homeschool students scoring the same or better than white public school students

-- Ray, Brian D. (2015). African American homeschool parents' motivations for homeschooling and their Black children's academic achievement. *Journal of School Choice*, 9:71–96.

Why Do They Do So Well?

Ask a Classroom Teacher . . .



- Tutoring (one-to-one)
 - Class size
- Individualization, customization
 - Flexibility
- Teachable moment
 - Safe, confident, comfortable
- Authentic care, love, relationship (social capital)

Okay, But What About “Socialization”?

Christianity Today had the answer 30 years ago . . .

Please Define “Socialization”

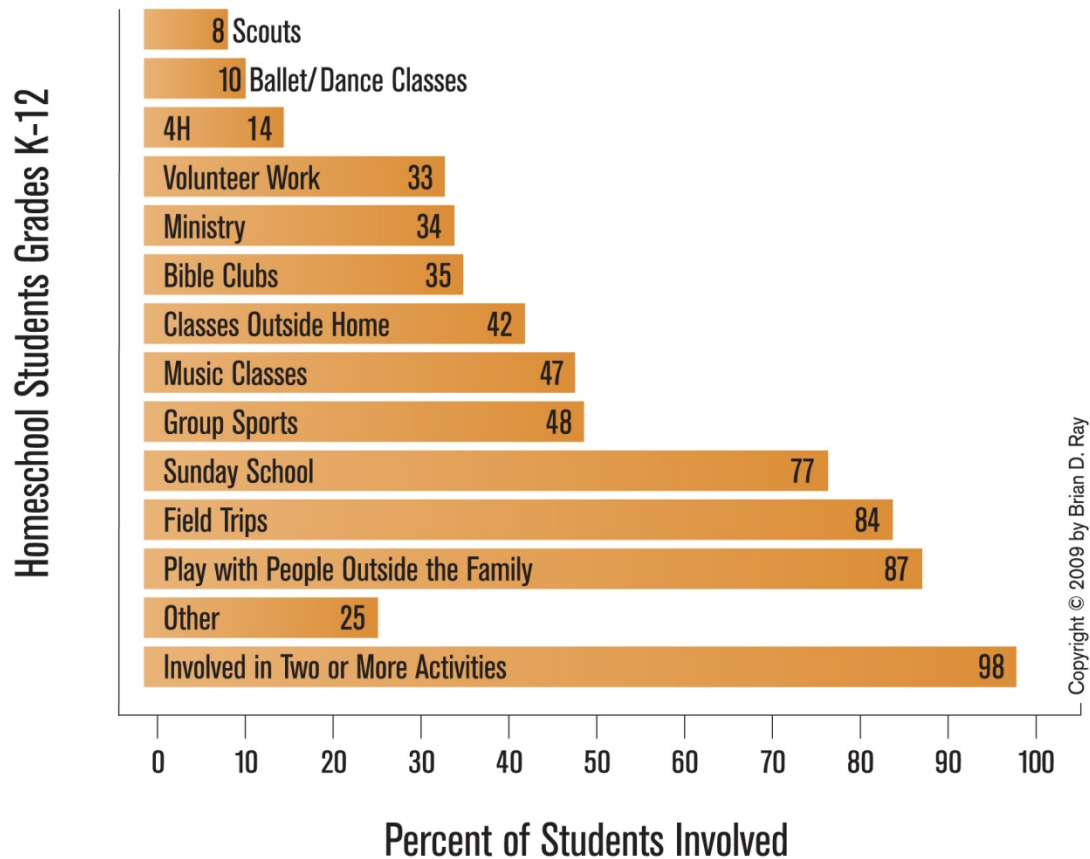
Research, Several Studies

- Self-concept, self-esteem
- Family cohesion
- Actual observed behaviors with other children
- Activities with others and outside the home
- In activities that predict leadership in adulthood

Review of peer-reviewed research

“Thirteen of the 15 [87%, studies on social development] showed clearly positive outcomes for the homeschooled compared to those in conventional schools. Two of those studies reported that some of the findings were more positive for homeschool students but some were more positive for institutional school students” (Ray, 2017, p. 9).

FIGURE 13.
HOMESCHOOLERS' ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT



Note: Source of statistics – Ray, Brian D. (1997). *Strengths of their own—Home schoolers across America: Academic achievement, family characteristics, and longitudinal traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org.

**But How Will They Do in the
“Real World”?**

Review of peer-reviewed research

“Eleven of the 16 [69%; studies on success into adulthood and college] showed positive outcomes for the homeschooled compared to those in conventional schools. One study found positive outcomes for conventional school students compared to homeschool students. Finally, four of the studies found no significant difference between those from homeschool backgrounds and the others from institutional school backgrounds” (Ray, 2017, p. 11).

University courses

- Galloway – English courses, as well or better
- Oliveira – critical thinking skills, as well as others
- Montgomery – predictors of leadership
- Galloway and Sutton – leadership in college, doing better
- Smith and Sikkink – civic involvement of families, more than other families
- Knowles and Muchmore – doing well, not on welfare

“Real World” . . .

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) 2000 results

		Verbal	Math	Total
Non-religious independent	547	566	1114	
Home educated		568	532	1100
Religious independent	539	532	1071	
Catholic independent	525	519	1044	
Public school	501	510	1011	

Home Educated and Now Adults

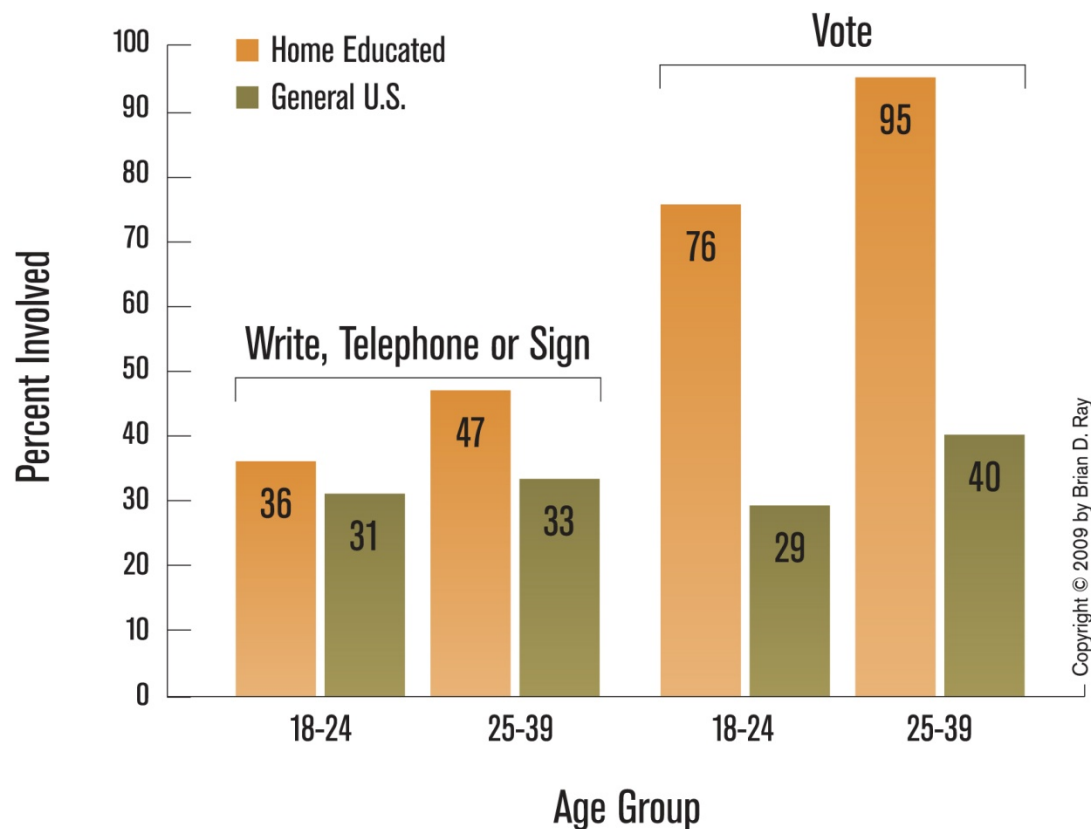
by Brian Ray (2004)

- Nationwide study of adults who were home educated
- Over 7,000 studied; about 5,300 homeschooled 7 or more years during K-12
- Very positive toward having been home educated

continued . . .

FIGURE 14.

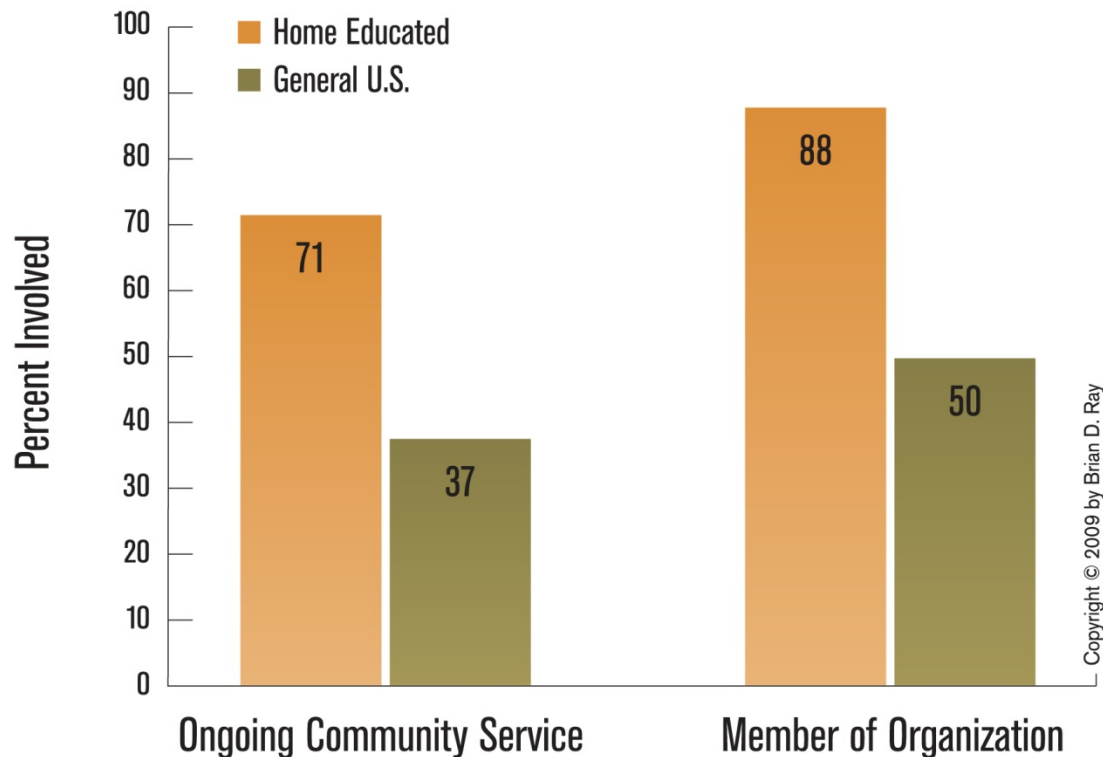
CIVIC INVOLVEMENT OF ADULTS WHO WERE HOME EDUCATED



Note: The two items represented in the figure are (a) Wrote/telephoned editor/public official or signed a petition, and (b) Voted in national/state election in the U.S. in past 5 years. For more detail, see the source of the statistics – Ray, Brian D. (2004). *Home educated and now adults: Their community and civic involvement, views about homeschooling, and other traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org.

FIGURE 15.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITY OF ADULTS WHO WERE HOME EDUCATED



Note: The two items represented in the figure are (a) Do you participate in any ongoing community service activity, for example, coaching a sports team, volunteering at school, or working with a church or neighborhood association?, and (b) Are you a member of any organization, like a community group, church or synagogue, union, homeschool group, or professional organization? For more detail, see the source of the statistics – Ray, Brian D. (2004). *Home educated and now adults: Their community and civic involvement, views about homeschooling, and other traits*. Salem, OR: National Home Education Research Institute, www.nheri.org.

Gen2 Survey 2015


by Ray

- Adults, ages 18 to 38, churched while growing up
- From various educational/schooling backgrounds
- Just over 9,000 participants

Gen2, by B. Ray (2015)

The following chart shows the relationship between various inputs into a child's life and the corresponding influence on their belief and behavior as adults. (Example: How does a strong relationship with a father affect Christian Orthodoxy as an adult?)

Degree of Influence:	Positive		Negative	
	Trivial	+	-	
	Small	++	--	
	Moderate	+++	---	
	Large	++++	----	
	None			●

 Outputs in Adult Life	Orthodoxy	Christian Behavior as Adults	Christian Beliefs as Adults	Satisfaction in Life as Adult	Civic/Community Involvement	My Beliefs Similar to Father's	My Beliefs Similar to Mother's
Strong Relationship with Father	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++++	++++
Strong Relationship with Mother	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++++	++++
Attend Church at Early Age	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+++	+++
Attend Church at Older Age	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++
Homeschool*	+++	+++	+++	++	●	+++	+++
Christian School*	--	--	--	●	++	--	--
Private School*	--	--	--	--	●	--	--
Public School*	----	----	----	--	--	----	----


Inputs
into Child

*Compares those educated at least 7 years in their respective educational method

Political Tolerance – Cheng, 2014

Two key findings:

- “First, the finding that increased exposure to private schooling does not decrease political tolerance comports with and adds to the empirical evidence that students who attend private schools are at least as tolerant as students who attend public schools ...” (p. 63)
- “Second, this study adds new insight into the political tolerance outcomes of homeschooled children—a topic that, to the best of my knowledge, has not been empirically investigated until now. Specifically, ... those [college students] with more exposure to homeschooling relative to public schooling tend to be more politically tolerant.” (p. 63-64) [emphasis added]

Summary of Research

- Learning, academic achievement
- Social, emotional, and psychological development
- Into adulthood

. . . something must be missing . . . right?

However, a review of peer-reviewed research in a peer-reviewed journal contradicts the claim that “little is known”

- Ray, Brian D. (2017). A systematic review of the empirical research on selected aspects of homeschooling as a school choice. *Journal of School Choice*, 11(4), 604-621.

Open access online

www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15582159.2017.1395638

End