

# The Condition of Education 2009

## Indicator 6 *Homeschooled Students*

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2009*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2009*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009081>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Homeschooled Students

*In the spring of 2007, about 1.5 million, or 2.9 percent of all school-age children, were homeschooled in the United States, an increase from both 1999 and 2003.*

This indicator examines the number and characteristics of homeschooled students in the United States. Homeschooled students are school-age children (ages 5–17) in a grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and not higher than 12th grade who receive instruction at home instead of at a public or private school either all or most of the time.

In 2007, the number of homeschooled students was about 1.5 million, an increase from 850,000 in 1999 and 1.1 million in 2003 (see table A-6-1). The percentage of the school-age population that was homeschooled increased from 1.7 percent in 1999 to 2.9 percent in 2007. The increase in the percentage of homeschooled students from 1999 to 2007 represents a 74 percent relative increase over the 8-year period and a 36 percent relative increase since 2003. In 2007, the majority of homeschooled students received all of their education at home (84 percent), but some attended school up to 25 hours per week. Eleven percent of homeschooled students were enrolled in school less than 9 hours per week, and 5 percent were enrolled between 9 and 25 hours per week.

More White students were homeschooled than Black or Hispanic students or students from other racial/ethnic groups, and White students constituted the majority of homeschooled students (77 percent). White students (3.9 percent) had a higher homeschooling rate than Blacks (0.8 percent) and Hispanics (1.5 percent), but were not measurably different from students from other racial/

ethnic groups (3.4 percent). Students in two-parent households made up 89 percent of the homeschooled population, and those in two-parent households with one parent in the labor force made up 54 percent of the homeschooled population. The latter group of students had a higher homeschooling rate than their peers: 7 percent, compared with 1 to 2 percent of students in other family circumstances. In 2007, students in households earning between \$25,001 and \$75,000 per year had higher rates of homeschooling than their peers from families earning \$25,000 or less a year.

Parents give many different reasons for homeschooling their children. In 2007, the most common reason parents gave as the most important was a desire to provide religious or moral instruction (36 percent of students) (see table A-6-2). This reason was followed by a concern about the school environment (such as safety, drugs, or negative peer pressure) (21 percent), dissatisfaction with academic instruction (17 percent), and “other reasons” including family time, finances, travel, and distance (14 percent). Parents of about 7 percent of homeschooled students cited the desire to provide their child with a nontraditional approach to education as the most important reason for homeschooling, and the parents of another 6 percent of students cited a child’s health problems or special needs.



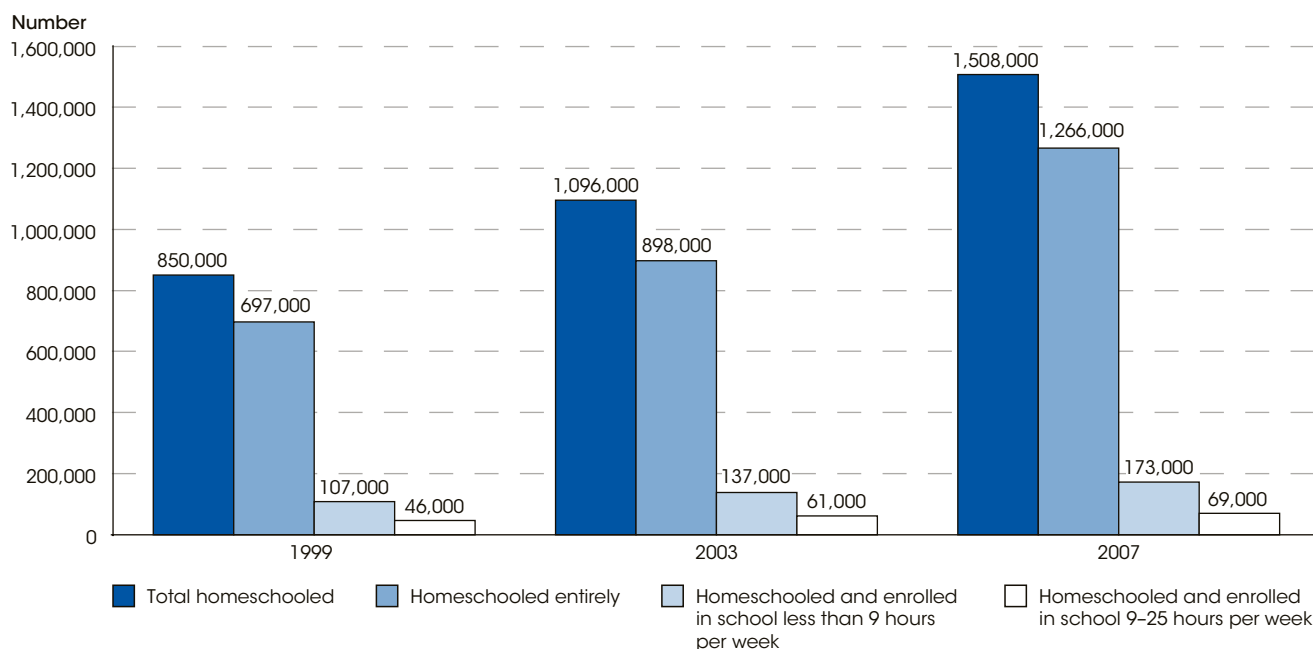
For more information: *Table A-6-1 and A-6-2; Indicator 32*

## Technical Notes

Students are considered to be homeschooled if (1) they are ages 5–17 in a grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and no higher than 12th grade; (2) their parents report them as being schooled at home instead of at a public or private school for at least part of their education; and (3) their part-time enrollment in public or private schools

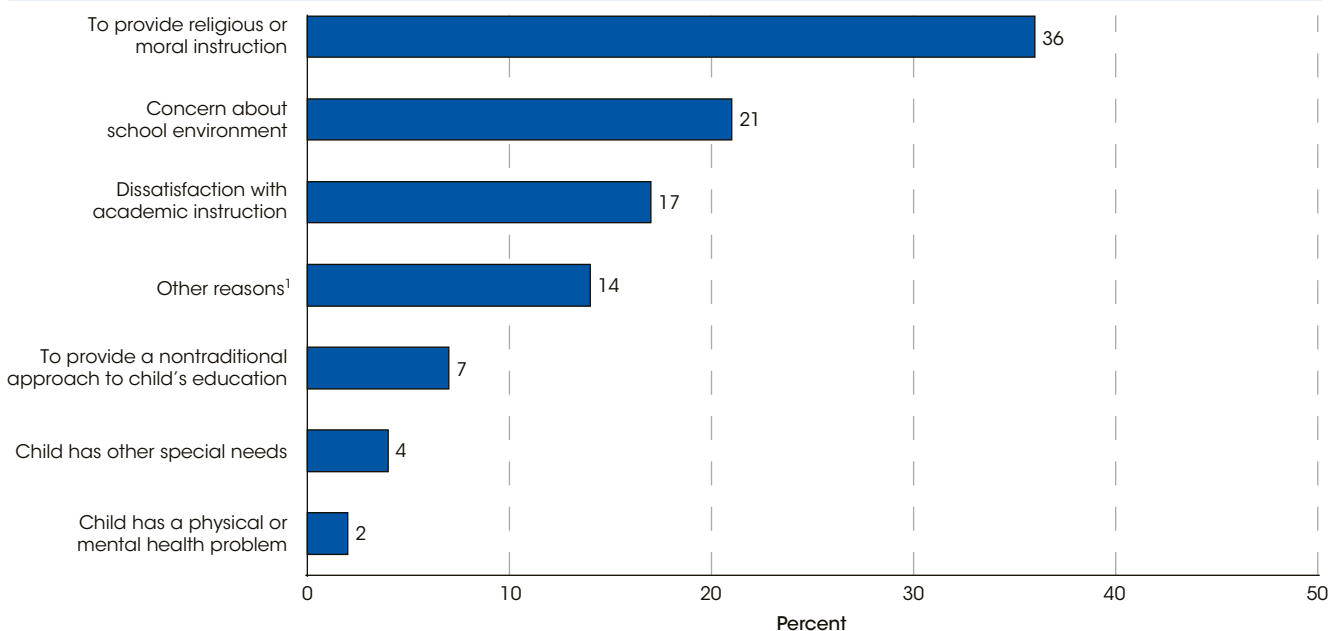
does not exceed 25 hours per week. Students who are schooled at home primarily because of a temporary illness are not considered to be homeschooled students. For more information on the National Household Education Program (NHES), see *supplemental note 3*. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*.

**Figure 6-1. Number and distribution of school-age children who were homeschooled, by amount of time spent in schools: 1999, 2003, and 2007**



NOTE: Homeschooled students are school-age children (ages 5–17) in a grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and not higher than 12th grade. Excludes students who were enrolled in public or private school more than 25 hours per week and students who were homeschooled only because of temporary illness. For more information on the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), see *supplemental note 3*. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Parent Survey of the 1999 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the 2003 and 2007 NHES.

**Figure 6-2. Percentage of school-age children who were homeschooled, by reasons parents gave as the most important reason for homeschooling: 2007**



<sup>1</sup> "Other reasons" parents gave for homeschooling include family time, finances, travel, and distance. NOTE: Homeschooled students are school-age children (ages 5–17) in a grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and not higher than 12th grade. Excludes students who were enrolled in public or private school more than 25 hours per week and students who were homeschooled only because of temporary illness. For more information on the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), see *supplemental note 3*. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the 2007 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES).

# Supplemental Tables to Indicator 6

## Homeschooled Students

**Table A-6-1. Number and percentage distribution of all school-age children who were homeschooled and homeschooling rate, by selected characteristics: 1999, 2003, and 2007**

Characteristic	1999			2003			2007		
	Number	Percentage distribution	Home-schooling rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage distribution	Home-schooling rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage distribution	Home-schooling rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1,096,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1,508,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Homeschooled entirely	697,000	82.0	100.0	898,000	82.0	100.0	1,266,000	84.0	100.0
Homeschooled and enrolled in school part time	153,000	18.0	100.0	198,000	18.0	100.0	242,000	16.0	100.0
Enrolled in school less than 9 hours per week	107,000	12.6	100.0	137,000	12.5	100.0	173,000	11.5	100.0
Enrolled in school 9–25 hours per week	46,000	5.4	100.0	61,000	5.6	100.0	69,000	4.6	100.0
Race/ethnicity <sup>2</sup>									
White	640,000	75.3	2.0	843,000	77.0	2.7	1,159,000	76.8	3.9
Black	84,000	9.9	1.0	103,000	9.4	1.3	61,000	4.0	0.8
Hispanic	77,000	9.1	1.1	59,000	5.3	0.7	147,000	9.8	1.5
Other	49,000	5.8	1.9	91,000	8.3	3.0	141,000	9.3	3.4
Sex									
Male	417,000	49.0	1.6	569,000	51.9	2.2	633,000	41.9	2.4
Female	434,000	51.0	1.8	527,000	48.1	2.1	875,000	58.1	3.5
Number of children in the household									
One child	120,000	14.1	1.5	110,000	10.1	1.4	187,000	12.4	2.2
Two children	207,000	24.4	1.0	306,000	28.0	1.5	412,000	27.3	2.0
Three or more children	523,000	61.6	2.4	679,000	62.0	3.1	909,000	60.3	4.1
Number of parents in the household									
Two parents	683,000	80.4	2.1	886,000	80.8	2.5	1,348,000	89.4	3.6
One parent	142,000	16.7	0.9	196,000	17.9	1.5	115,000	7.6	1.0
Nonparental guardians	25,000	2.9	1.4	14,000	1.3	0.9	45,000	3.0	2.1
Parents' participation in the labor force									
Two parents, one in labor force	444,000	52.2	4.6	594,000	54.2	5.6	808,000	53.6	7.5
Two parents, both in labor force	237,000	27.9	1.0	274,000	25.0	1.1	509,000	33.8	2.0
One parent, in labor force	98,000	11.6	0.7	174,000	15.9	1.4	127,000	8.4	1.3
No parent in labor force	71,000	8.3	1.9	54,000	4.9	1.8	64,000	4.3	1.5
Household income									
\$25,000 or less	262,000	30.9	1.6	283,000	25.8	2.3	239,000	15.9	2.1
\$25,001–50,000	278,000	32.7	1.8	311,000	28.4	2.4	364,000	24.1	3.4
\$50,001–75,000	162,000	19.1	1.9	264,000	24.1	2.4	405,000	26.8	3.9
\$75,001 or more	148,000	17.4	1.5	238,000	21.7	1.7	501,000	33.2	2.7
Parents' education									
High school diploma or less	160,000	18.9	0.9	269,000	24.5	1.7	206,000	13.7	1.4
Some college or vocational/technical	287,000	33.7	1.9	338,000	30.8	2.1	549,000	36.4	3.8
Bachelor's degree	213,000	25.1	2.6	274,000	25.0	2.8	444,000	29.4	3.9
Graduate/professional degree	190,000	22.3	2.3	215,000	19.6	2.5	309,000	20.5	2.9

<sup>1</sup> The homeschooling rate is the percentage of the total subgroup that is homeschooled. For example, in 2007, some 2.4 percent of all school-age males were homeschooled.

<sup>2</sup> Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Homeschooled students are school-age children (ages 5–17) in a grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and not higher than 12th grade. Excludes students who were enrolled in public or private school more than 25 hours per week and students who were homeschooled only because of temporary illness. For more information on the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), see *supplemental note 3*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Parent Survey of the 1999 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the 2003 and 2007 NHES.

**Table A-6-2. Number and percentage of school-age children who were homeschooled, by reasons parents gave as important and most important for homeschooling: 2007**

Reason	Important <sup>1</sup>		Most important	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A desire to provide religious or moral instruction	1,257,000	83.3	540,000	35.8
A concern about environment of other schools <sup>2</sup>	1,321,000	87.6	309,000	20.5
A dissatisfaction with academic instruction at other schools	1,096,000	72.7	258,000	17.1
Other reasons <sup>3</sup>	485,000	32.2	216,000	14.3
A desire to provide a nontraditional approach to child's education	984,000	65.2	99,000	6.5
Child has other special needs	315,000	20.9	55,000	3.6
Child has a physical or mental health problem	169,000	11.2	31,000	2.1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could choose more than one reason. Percentages are based on a population of 1,508,000 homeschoolers.

<sup>2</sup> Such as safety, drugs, or negative peer pressure.

<sup>3</sup> Parents homeschool their children for many reasons that are often unique to their family situation. "Other reasons" parents gave for homeschooling include family time, finances, travel, and distance.

NOTE: Homeschooled students are school-age children (ages 5-17) in a grade equivalent to at least kindergarten and not higher than 12th grade. Excludes students who were enrolled in public or private school more than 25 hours per week and students who were homeschooled only because of temporary illness. For more information on the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), see *supplemental note 3*.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the 2007 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES).

# Standard Error Tables to Indicator 6

## Homeschooled Students

**Table S-6-1. Standard errors for the number and percentage distribution of all school-age children who were homeschooled and homeschooling rate, by selected characteristics: 1999, 2003, and 2007**

Characteristic	1999			2003			2007		
	Number	Percentage distribution	Home-schooling rate	Number	Percentage distribution	Home-schooling rate	Number	Percentage distribution	Home-schooling rate
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,100</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>92,300</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>117,900</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>0.23</b>
Homeschooled entirely	64,100	2.94	†	87,200	3.56	†	103,300	2.47	†
Homeschooled and enrolled in school part time	27,400	2.94	†	41,100	3.56	†	42,600	2.47	†
Enrolled in school less than 9 hours per week	25,300	2.81	†	36,800	3.25	†	38,500	2.36	†
Enrolled in school 9–25 hours per week	12,900	1.50	†	20,400	1.85	†	22,300	1.44	†
Race/ethnicity									
White	62,300	3.36	0.19	77,500	3.88	0.25	101,600	3.03	0.34
Black	24,800	2.80	0.31	33,900	2.87	0.42	21,200	1.39	0.28
Hispanic	17,700	2.06	0.25	21,100	1.92	0.26	27,500	1.68	0.29
Other	17,200	2.01	0.65	31,500	2.80	1.02	36,100	2.29	0.86
Sex									
Male	43,900	3.27	0.17	61,900	3.52	0.24	75,200	4.19	0.28
Female	46,100	3.27	0.19	58,200	3.52	0.23	97,700	4.19	0.39
Number of children in the household									
One child	20,300	2.53	0.24	22,300	1.97	0.28	31,400	2.06	0.37
Two children	27,100	3.06	0.14	45,100	3.74	0.22	67,300	4.08	0.33
Three or more children	65,200	3.97	0.30	80,200	4.35	0.36	102,400	4.30	0.46
Number of parents in the household									
Two parents	68,300	3.26	0.21	82,700	3.55	0.23	111,500	1.99	0.30
One parent	25,000	2.91	0.16	42,600	3.61	0.32	28,400	1.84	0.24
Nonparental guardians	14,400	1.70	0.82	11,100	1.01	0.74	17,300	1.14	0.81
Parents' participation in the labor force									
Two parents, one in labor force	53,800	4.27	0.55	73,700	4.73	0.67	94,300	4.58	0.82
Two parents, both in labor force	39,800	3.92	0.17	44,100	3.72	0.18	76,800	4.47	0.30
One parent, in labor force	21,800	2.53	0.16	39,800	3.30	0.33	29,500	1.88	0.30
No parent in labor force	18,800	2.21	0.48	23,700	2.16	0.78	20,600	1.33	0.48
Household income									
\$25,000 or less	45,000	4.31	0.27	56,000	4.32	0.45	49,900	3.11	0.43
\$25,001–50,000	36,700	4.00	0.24	49,900	4.06	0.37	56,900	3.50	0.52
\$50,001–75,000	25,500	2.62	0.30	51,100	4.46	0.46	57,900	3.38	0.56
\$75,001 or more	26,500	2.65	0.28	45,800	3.79	0.33	74,900	3.89	0.40
Parents' education									
High school diploma or less	26,500	2.88	0.15	51,600	4.24	0.32	35,600	2.26	0.24
Some college or vocational/technical	37,300	3.85	0.25	57,700	4.60	0.36	77,300	4.01	0.52
Bachelor's degree	36,200	3.49	0.42	47,200	3.92	0.48	64,700	3.86	0.57
Graduate/professional degree	39,800	4.17	0.46	44,200	3.67	0.51	50,000	2.83	0.46

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Parent Survey of the 1999 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the 2003 and 2007 NHES.

**Table S-6-2. Standard errors for the number and percentage of school-age children who were homeschooled, by reasons parents gave as important and most important for homeschooling: 2007**

Reason	Important		Most important	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
A desire to provide religious or moral instruction	113,300	2.29	77,900	3.83
A concern about environment of other schools	111,300	2.48	60,400	3.44
A dissatisfaction with academic instruction at other schools	103,600	3.27	49,000	3.20
Other reasons	71,600	3.86	36,300	2.23
A desire to provide a nontraditional approach to child's education	102,700	4.55	26,900	1.86
Child has other special needs	55,400	3.31	15,100	1.02
Child has a physical or mental health problem	31,500	1.94	11,300	0.75

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey of the 2007 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES).