



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

November 8, 2023

TO: Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Dan Mason, Manager, Assessment & Accountability
Deann Walsh, Manager, Assessment & Accountability

SUBJECT: 2022-23 Santa Clara County Chronic Absenteeism Results

The following analysis details the 2022-23 chronic absenteeism and absence results for Santa Clara County. Santa Clara County’s results are compared to the results for California and disaggregated by student groups, grade spans, average days absent, and absence types.

Chronic absenteeism rates reflect the percentages of students who did not attend 10% or more of the instructional days for which they were enrolled. Absence types (e.g., excused versus unexcused absences) are not a factor in determining chronic absenteeism rates, as chronic absenteeism is fundamentally a measure based on the frequency with which a student is present or not present at school.

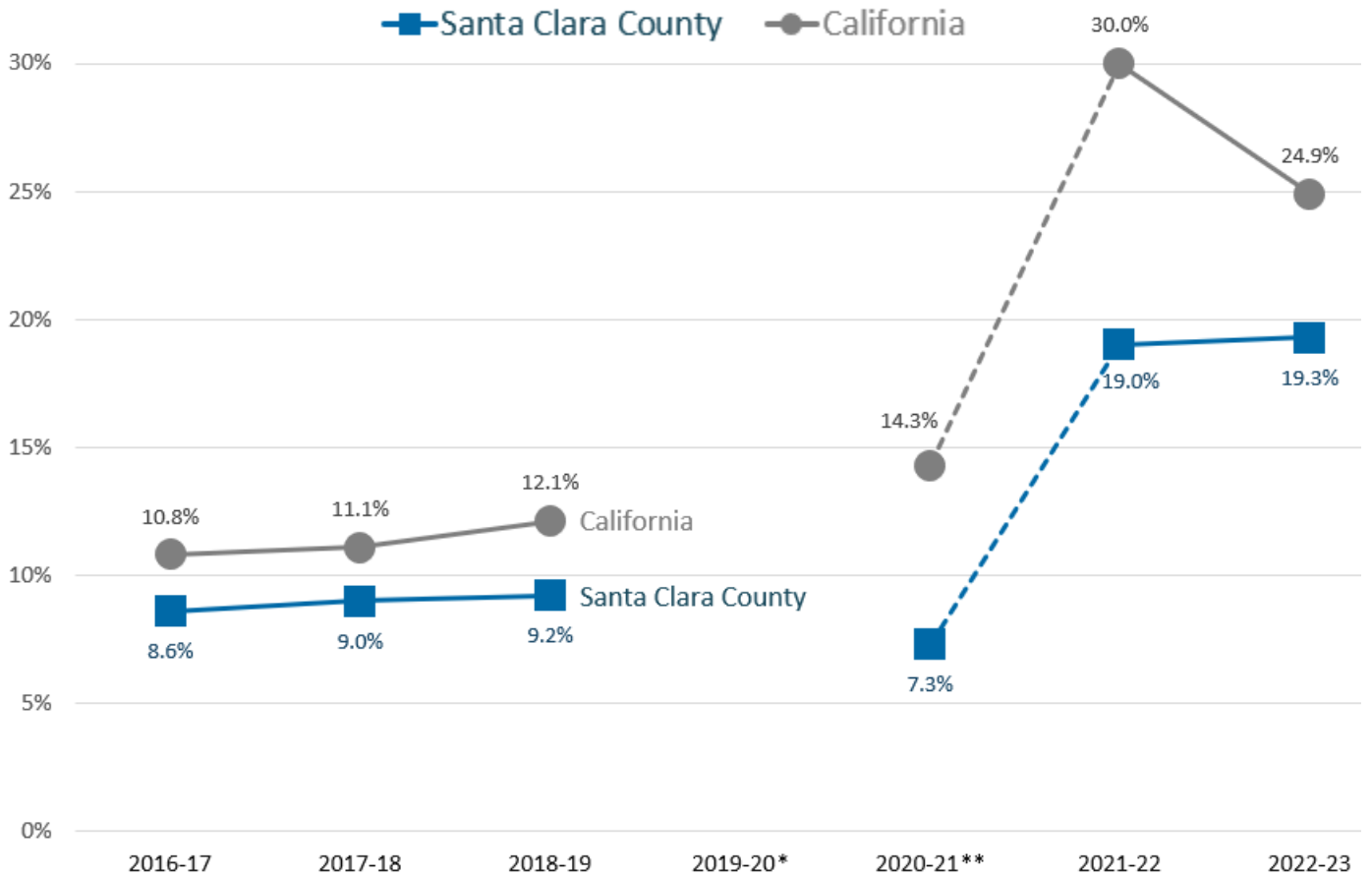
Table 1: Abbreviations Used in Data Visualizations

SCC	Santa Clara County
CA	California
All	All Students
Am. Ind.	American Indian or Alaska Native
Black	Black or African American
Latino	Hispanic or Latino
Pac. Is.	Pacific Islander
Two +	Two or More Races
EL	English Learner
Not EL	Not English Learner (Fluent English Proficient and English Only)
SED	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Not SED	Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
SWD	Students with Reported Disabilities
Not SWD	Students with No Reported Disabilities
Foster	Foster Youth
Homeless	Homeless Youth

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS OVERTIME

Figure 1 illustrates the historical chronic absenteeism rates for Santa Clara County and California. Initially, slight upticks occurred between 2016-17 and 2018-19. By 2021-22, rates were more than double the pre-pandemic levels as 19.0% of Santa Clara County and 30.0% of California students were chronically absent. This increase occurred as most students returned to in-person learning settings and schools were required to follow state and local quarantining guidelines. Despite California’s COVID-19 State of Emergency ending on February 28 of the 2022-23 school year, COVID-19 transmission continued to affect school absenteeism and 46,887 Santa Clara County students were chronically absent in 2022-23. Though Santa Clara County’s 2022-23 rate remained lower than California’s (19.3% vs. 24.9%), California’s 2022-23 rate was significantly lower than 2021-22 (30.0% to 24.9%) while Santa Clara County’s year to year rate increased slightly (19.0% to 19.3%).

Figure 1: Chronic Absenteeism Rates between 2016-17 and 2022-23, California and Santa Clara County



* As a result of the statewide physical school closures that occurred in February/March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDE determined that the 2019–20 absenteeism data were not valid and reliable; therefore, they were not released to the public.

** While attendance related measures were collected in 2020-21, LEAs and schools were provided with unique parameters of what was considered attendance within distance learning settings. As such, data from the 2020-21 school year should be interpreted with caution and should not be directly compared to figures prior to or following the 2020-21 school year.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS BY STUDENT GROUP

When the chronic absenteeism results are disaggregated by student groups, significant variation and gaps emerge. Figure 2 highlights the Santa Clara County and California chronic absenteeism rates by race/ethnicity. For six of the eight racial/ethnic student groups, the Santa Clara County rates were significantly below the statewide rates. The exceptions were that the Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino rate was higher than the statewide Hispanic/Latino rate (31% vs. 29%) and the county Filipino rate as equal to the statewide Filipino rate (13%).

Gaps persist within the county as African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander student groups had chronic absenteeism rates ranging from 23% to 33%. In contrast, students in the Asian, Filipino, White, and Two or More Races student groups had rates below the county average, ranging from 7% to 15%.

Figure 2: 2022-23 Chronic Absenteeism Rates by Race/Ethnicity, California and Santa Clara County

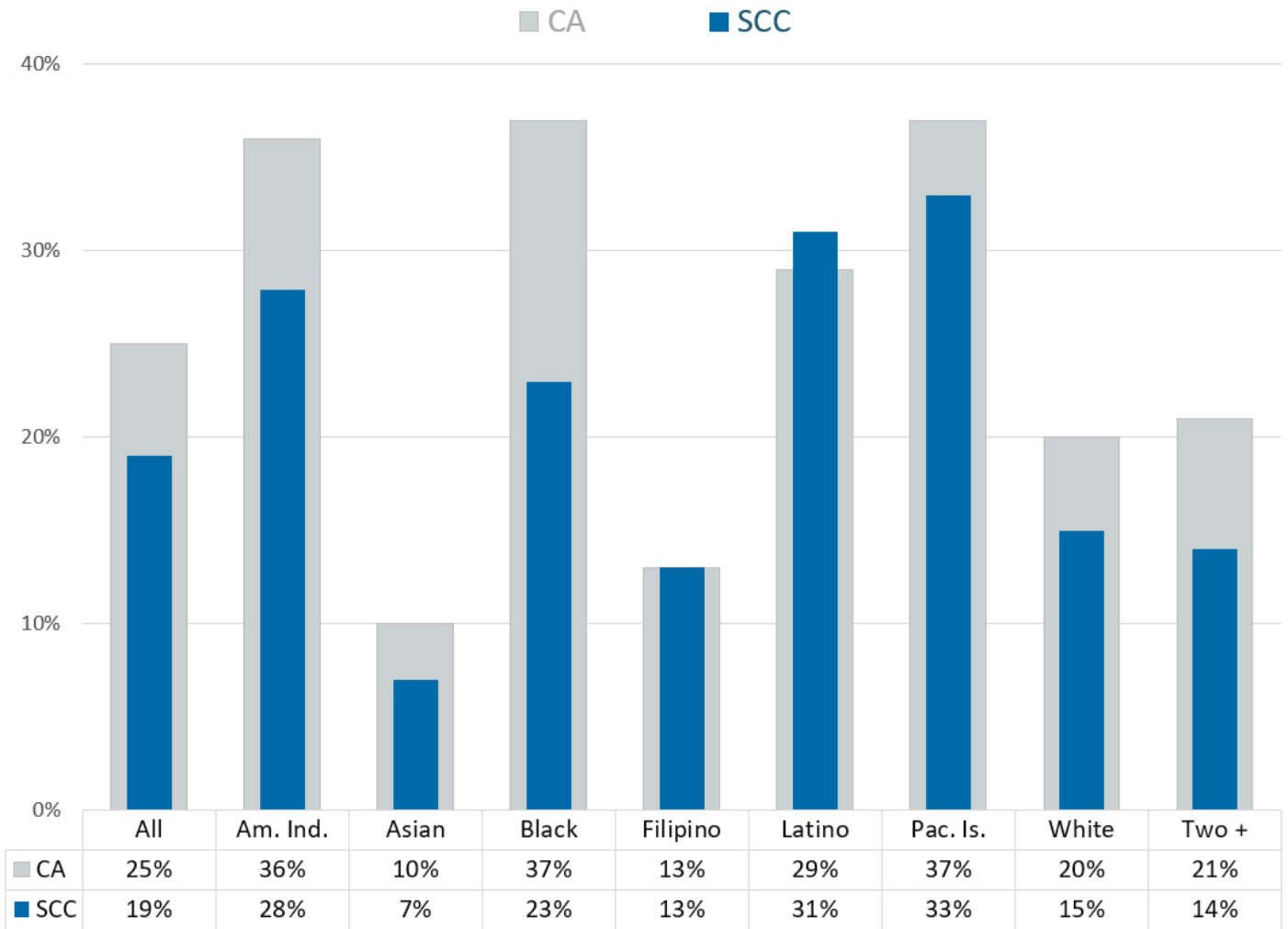
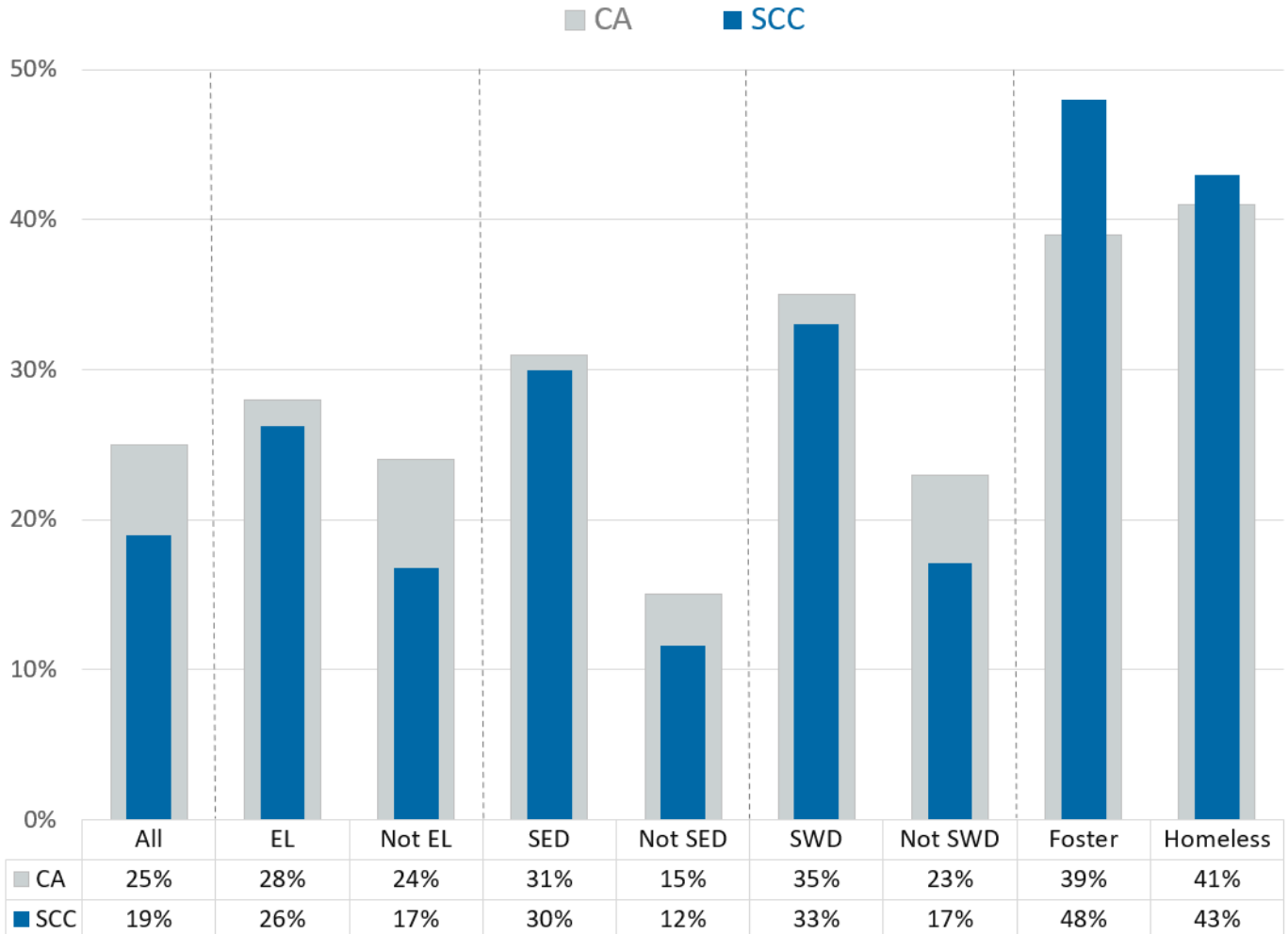


Figure 3 demonstrates that significant gaps are also evident when the chronic absenteeism rates are disaggregated by student programs. For example, the chronic absenteeism rate of Santa Clara County socio-economically disadvantaged students (30%) was two and a half times higher than the rate of Santa Clara County not socio-economically disadvantaged students (12%). Santa Clara County students with reported disabilities were almost twice as likely to be chronically absent than Santa Clara County students with no reported disabilities (33% vs. 17%).

The chronic absenteeism rates for Santa Clara County foster youth and homeless students were higher than the statewide rates for these two groups: 48% vs. 39% for foster youth; 43% vs. 41% for homeless students. The gaps between the mutually exclusive student program groups (e.g., English learner vs. not English learner) were larger within Santa Clara County than the comparable statewide gaps. For example, the gap between English learner and not English learner in California was four percentage points, whereas for Santa Clara County the same comparison reveals a nine-percentage point gap. In summary, though the chronic absenteeism rates for Santa Clara County student groups were most often lower than the comparable statewide rates, greater gaps exist within the county than statewide.

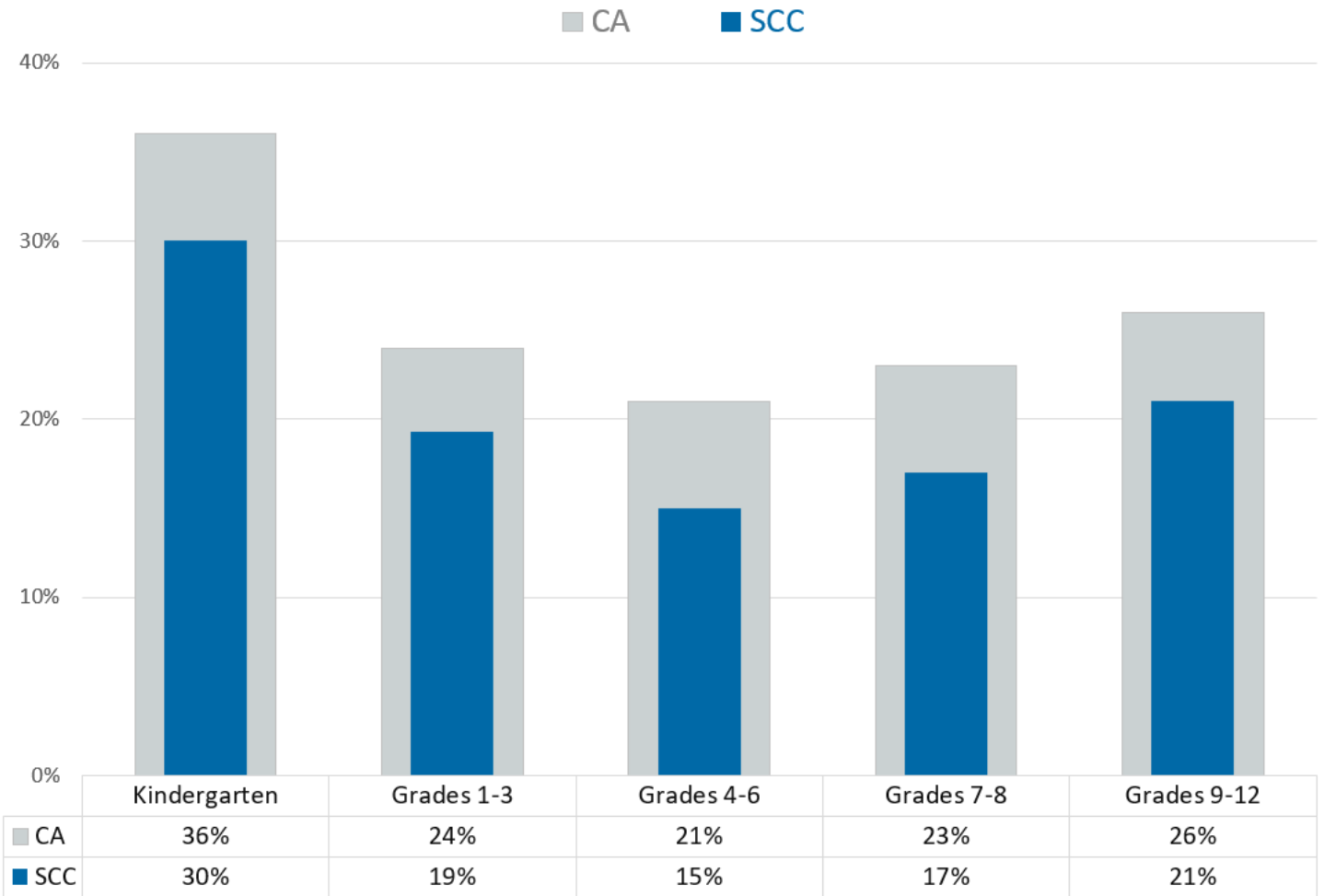
Figure 3: 2022-23 Chronic Absenteeism Results by Student Program, California and Santa Clara County



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS BY GRADE SPAN

Figure 4 displays chronic absenteeism rates by grade spans. Santa Clara County chronic absenteeism rates are lower than statewide rates across all grade spans. When grade spans are compared to one another, countywide and statewide, students in the outer ends of the grade span spectrum have higher chronic absenteeism rates than those in the middle grade spans. For example, within Santa Clara County, Kindergarten students had the highest rates of chronic absenteeism (30%). Rates noticeably decreased across the next two grade spans (19% in grades 1-3 and 15% in grades 4-6) but increased for grades 7-8 (17%) and increased higher for grades 9-12 (21%).

Figure 4: 2021-22 Chronic Absenteeism Results by Grade Span, California and Santa Clara County



AVERAGE DAYS ABSENT

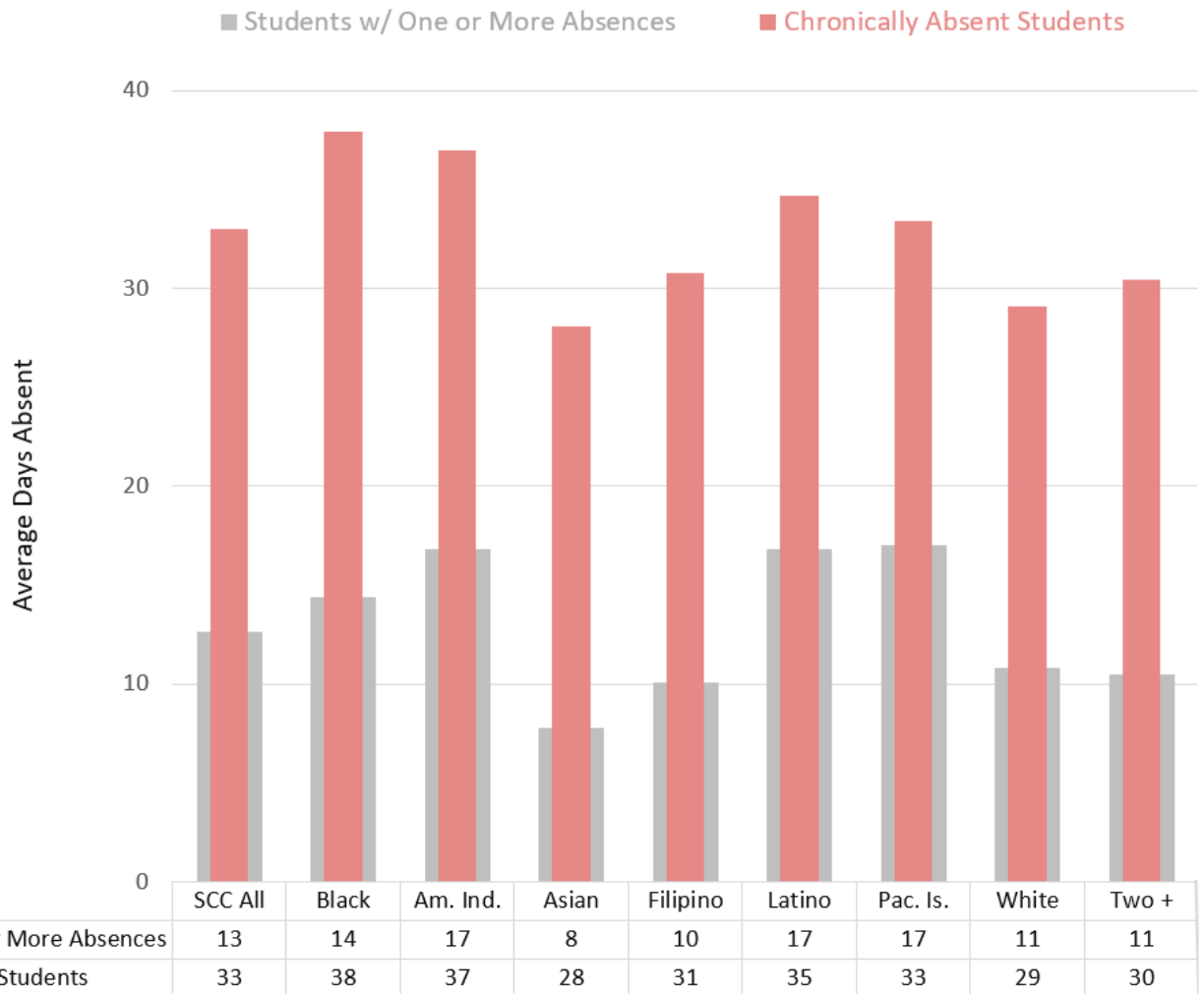
Ninety two percent of Santa Clara County students (223,792/242,990) were absent one or more times in 2022-23. Aggregated by racial/ethnic groups, Figure 5 depicts the average days absent of:

- Students with one or more absences; and
- Students who were chronically absent (students who were not in attendance for 10% or more of the instructional days for which they were enrolled)

Santa Clara County students with one or more absences were absent an average of 13 days. Of these students, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native students were absent on average for more than twice as many days as Asian students (17 days vs. 8 days).

Santa Clara County students who were chronically absent missed an average of 33 days of instruction. Chronically absent Latino students missed an average of 35 instructional days, which is 7 more missed days than the average for chronically absent Asian students (28 days).

Figure 5: 2022-23 Average Days Absent, Chronically Absent Status, by Race/Ethnicity, Santa Clara County

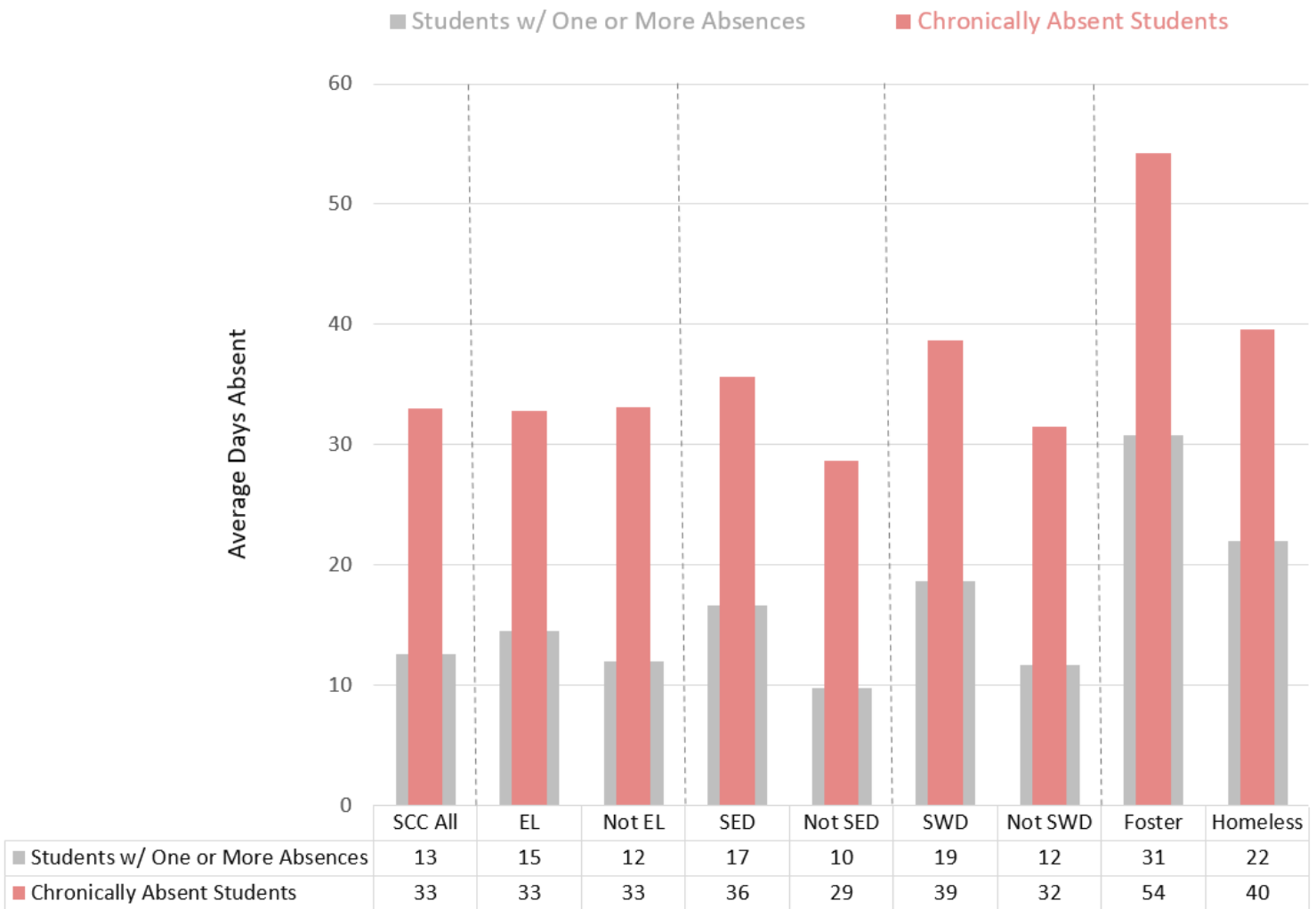


2023 Santa Clara County Chronic Absenteeism Results

Figure 6 shows that gaps are also revealed when average days absent are disaggregated by student programs. Of Santa Clara County students with one or more absences, students with reported disabilities were absent from instruction an average of 7 more days a year than students with no reported disabilities (19 days vs. 12 days, respectively). Likewise, socioeconomically disadvantaged students were absent on average 7 more days per year than not socioeconomically disadvantaged students (17 days vs. 10 days, respectively).

The average days of instruction that homeless and foster youth students missed is alarming and was underscored by chronically absent foster youth students having missed an average of 54 days.

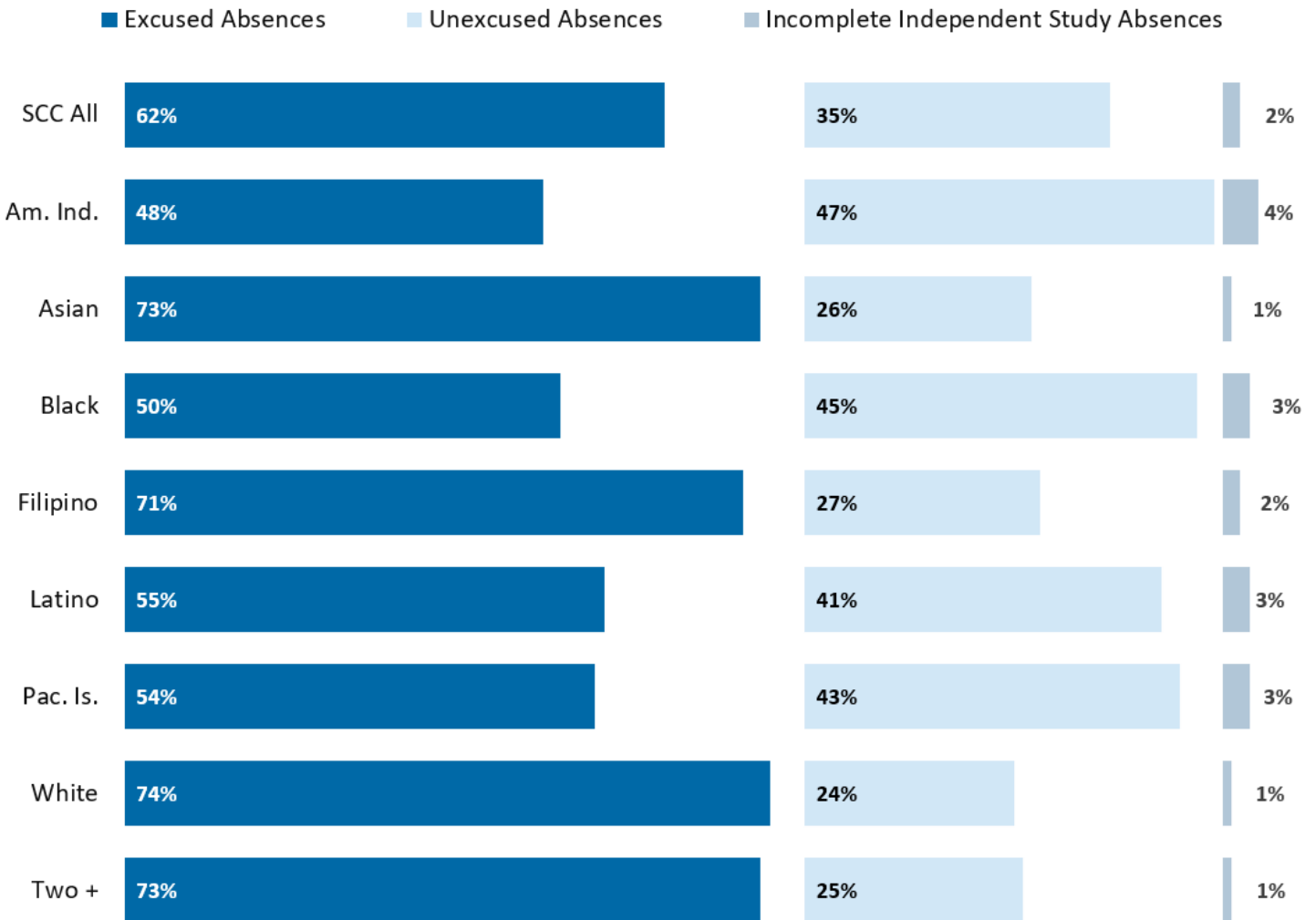
Figure 6: 2022-23 Average Days Absent, Chronically Absent Status, by Student Program, Santa Clara County



ABSENCE TYPES

Figure 7 represents absence types disaggregated by race/ethnicity. For all Santa Clara County students, 62% of absences were categorized as “Excused Absences” (e.g., illness, quarantine, medical) while 35% were “Unexcused Absences” (e.g., no reason provided, personal vacation). Across all racial/ethnic groups, excused absences attributed to more absences than unexcused absences. However, the Asian, Filipino, White, and Two or More Races student groups had higher proportions of Excused Absences compared to the African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander student groups (e.g., 71-74% versus 48-55%, respectively).

Figure 7: 2022-23 Absence Types by Race/Ethnicity, Santa Clara County

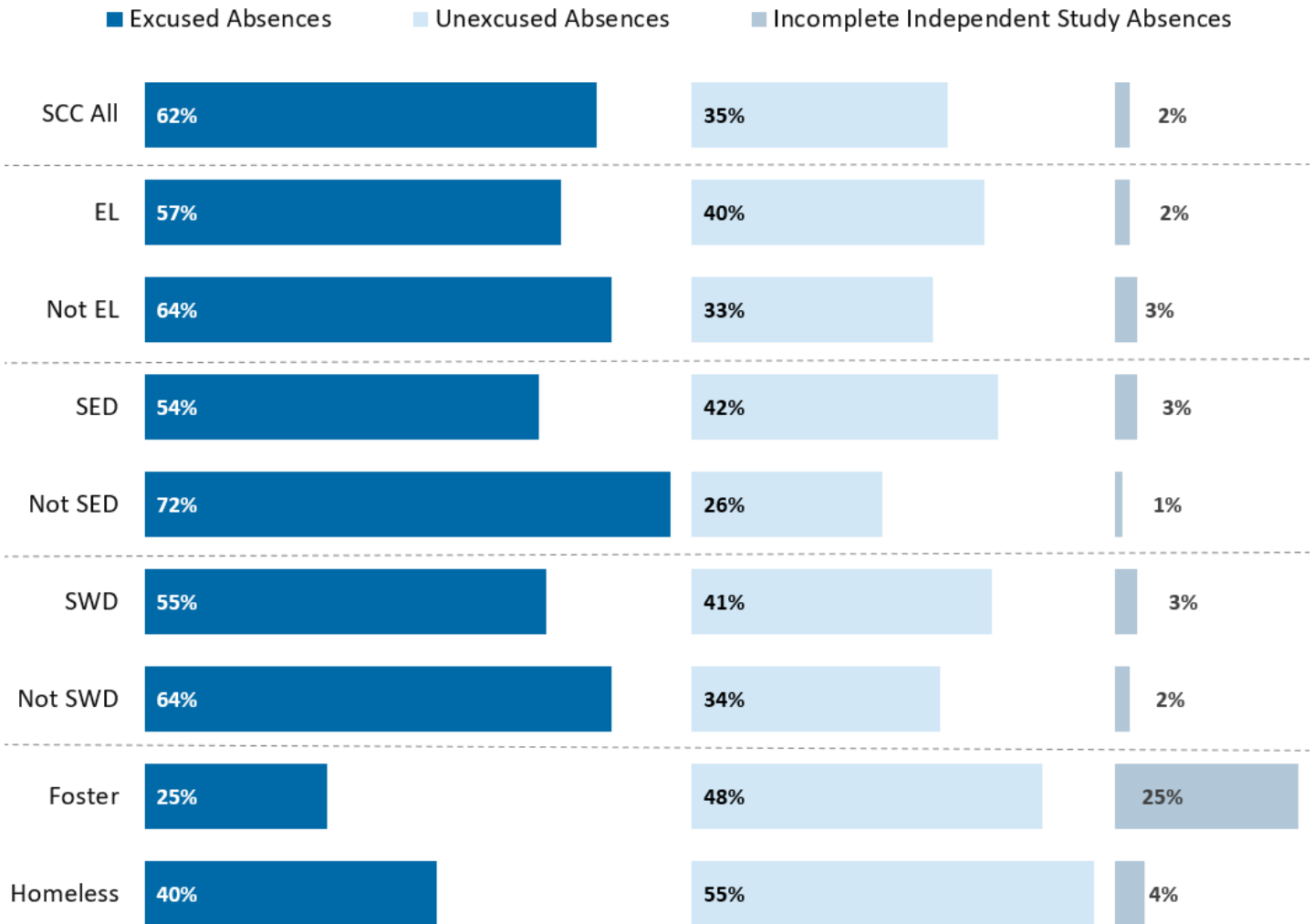


Figures may not add to 100% due to removal of suspension related absences within this analysis.

Figure 8 portrays absence types disaggregated by student programs. Santa Clara County students that are excluded from the student groups (e.g., not socioeconomically disadvantaged, not English learners) have higher rates of excused absences than their counterparts who are included in the groups. For example, 72% of the absences of not socioeconomically disadvantaged students were excused compared to the 54% of absences of socioeconomically disadvantaged students that were excused.

Only 40% of the absences of homeless and 25% of the absences of foster youth students were excused. Compared to the other student and ethnic/racial groups, a disproportionate amount of foster youth students' absences (25%) were incomplete independent study absences.

Figure 8: 2022-23 Absence Types by Student Program, Santa Clara County



Figures may not add to 100% due to removal of suspension related absences within this analysis.

2023 Santa Clara County Chronic Absenteeism Results

Table 2: 2022-23 Santa Clara County Demographics, Chronic Absenteeism Counts and Rates

	Eligible Enrollment*	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
All	242,990	46,887	19.3%
Am. Ind.	654	184	28.1%
Black	4,295	968	22.5%
Filipino	8,798	1,109	12.6%
Latino	98,858	30,969	31.3%
Pac. Is.	973	317	32.6%
Two +	14,021	1,913	13.6%
White	38,870	5,646	14.5%
EL	58,371	14,986	25.7%
Not EL	184,619	31,901	17.3%
SED	98,816	29,632	30.0%
Not SED	144,174	17,255	12.0%
SWD	30,846	10,093	32.7%
Not SWD	212,144	36,794	17.3%
Foster	425	204	48.0%
Homeless	6,517	2,816	43.2%

* This count uses the total Cumulative Enrollment as the baseline and removes students that were **not** eligible to be considered chronically absent. Students who attend less than 31 instructional days at a selected entity or who were enrolled but did not attend the selected entity are not eligible to be considered chronically absent at that entity.