



Santa Clara County Office of Education

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

March 2, 2023

TO: Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Deann Walsh, Manager, Assessment & Accountability
SUBJECT: 2021-22 Santa Clara County Chronic Absenteeism Results

The following information presents chronic absenteeism results from the 2021-22 school year. The results are presented for Santa Clara County and the State of California and disaggregated at times by student group and grade span.

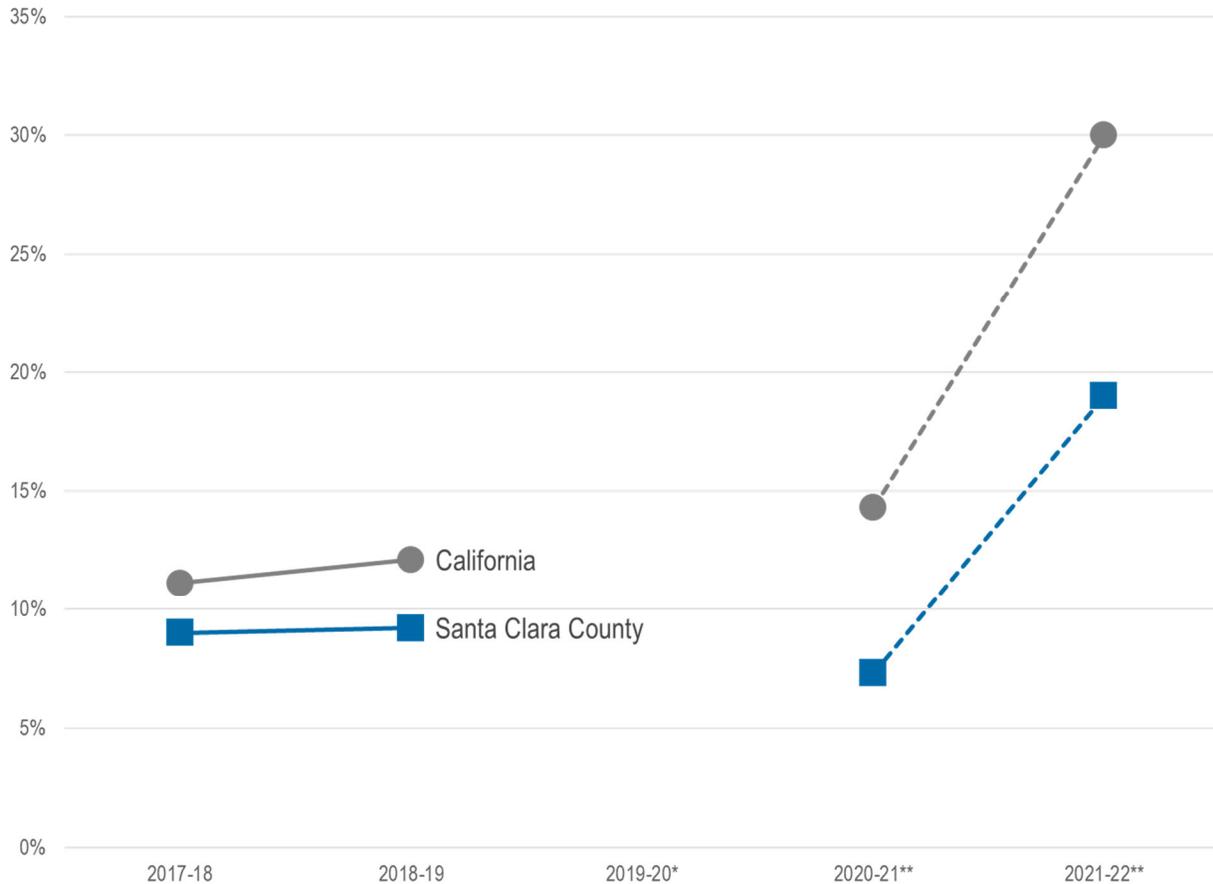
Chronic absenteeism rates represent the percent of students within a student group who did not attend 10% or more of the instructional days for which they were enrolled. Absence reasons (e.g. excused versus unexcused absences) are not a factor in determining chronic absenteeism as they are fundamentally a measure of the frequency of which a student is or is not present at school.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS OVERTIME

The following graph represents the rates of chronic absenteeism throughout California and Santa Clara County over the past five years. As a result of the pandemic, data was not uniformly collected throughout the state in 2019-20*. In addition, while attendance related measures were collected in 2020-21**, LEAs and schools were provided with unique parameters of what constituted as attendance during 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.

As illustrated below, a slight uptick in chronic absenteeism rates was observed between 2017-18 and 2018-19, both throughout the State of California and in Santa Clara County. In 2021-22**, significant increases were observed from pre-pandemic results with California experiencing a chronic absenteeism rate of 30.0% and Santa Clara County experiencing a rate of 19.0%. This significant increase occurred as most students returned to in-person learning settings and schools were required to follow state and local quarantining guidelines.

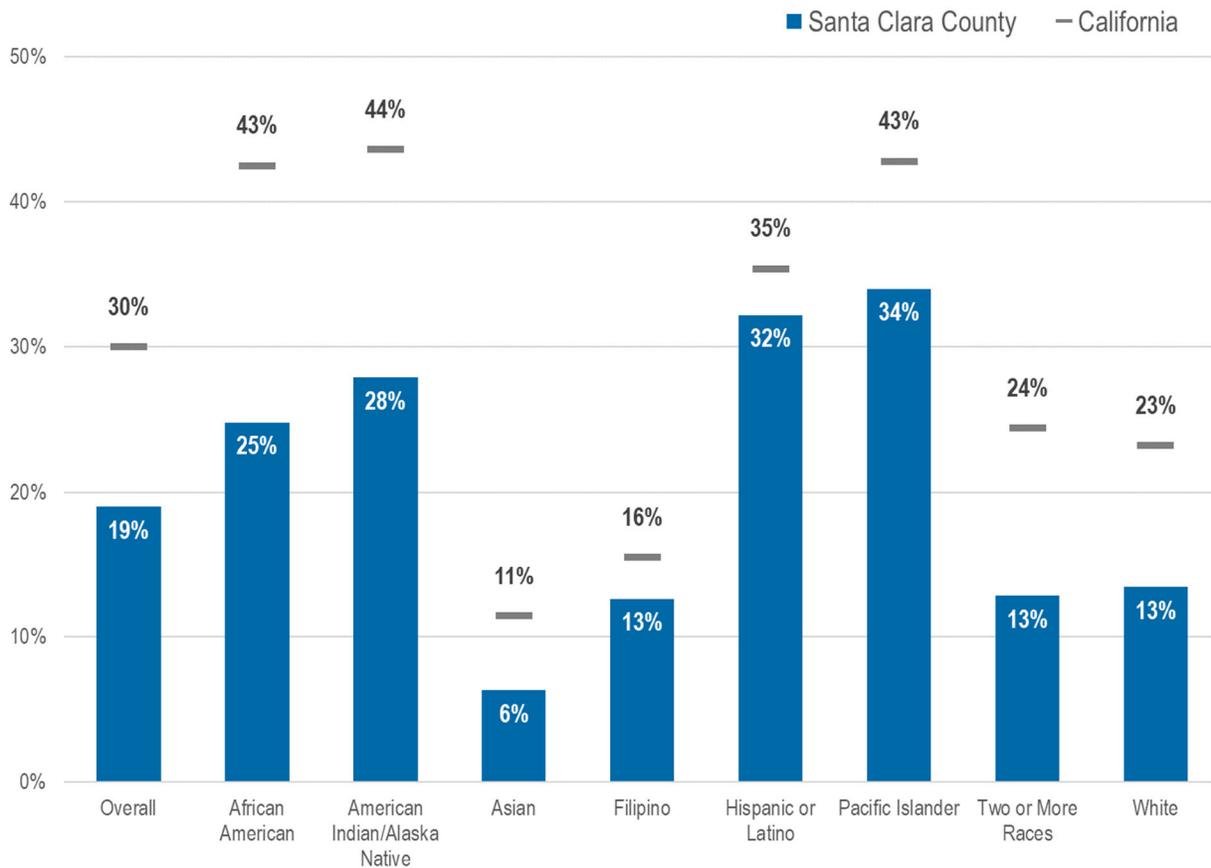
Figure 1: Chronic Absenteeism Results between 2017-18 and 2021-22, California and Santa Clara County



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS BY STUDENT GROUP

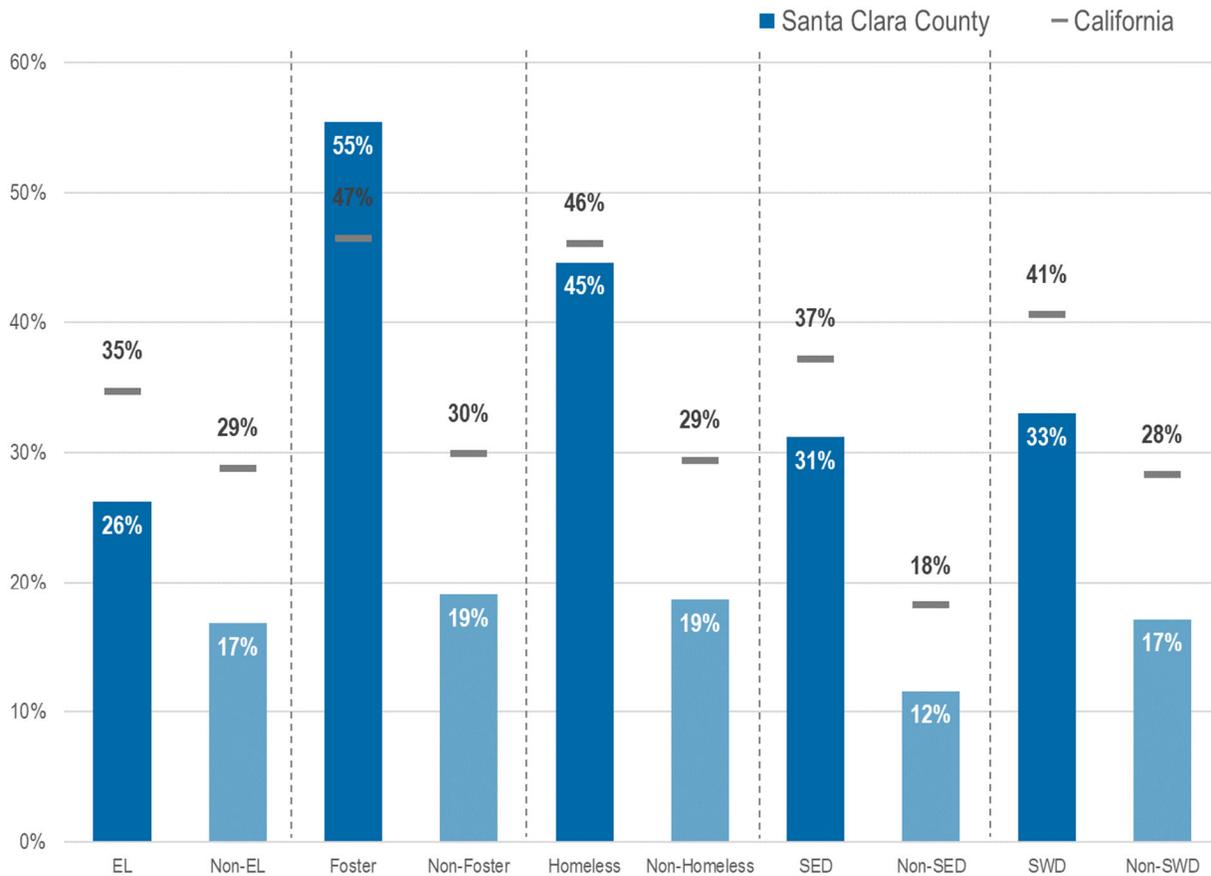
When overall results are disaggregated by student group, significant variation and gaps emerge. Illustrated below are the student group results by race and ethnicity for both California and Santa Clara County. In all cases, Santa Clara County’s rates of chronic absenteeism were significantly below the rates that were experienced statewide. However, within the county significant variation existed with African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino and Pacific Islander student groups experiencing chronic absenteeism rates above 25%. In contrast, countywide students in the Asian, Filipino, Two or More Races and White student groups experienced rates below the county average, with the Asian student group receiving the lowest rate at 6%, which is five times smaller than the county’s Hispanic or Latino student group.

Figure 2: 2021-22 Chronic Absenteeism Results by Race/Ethnicity, California and Santa Clara County



Similarly, significant gaps are also observed when overall results are disaggregated by student program. For example, English Learners were chronically absent at a rate of 26% while non-English Learners (i.e. English only, RFEP and IFEP) were chronically absent at a rate of 17%. While in most cases, Santa Clara County experienced rates lower than the state, it is also true that the gaps between the two student program groups (e.g. Foster versus non-Foster) were larger within Santa Clara County than throughout the State of California. For example, the gap between Foster and non-Foster youth in California was 17%, while the same gap in Santa Clara County was 36%. Thus, while students throughout Santa Clara County are on average experiencing chronic absenteeism at rates lower than the state overall, greater gaps exist between student program participants within the county.

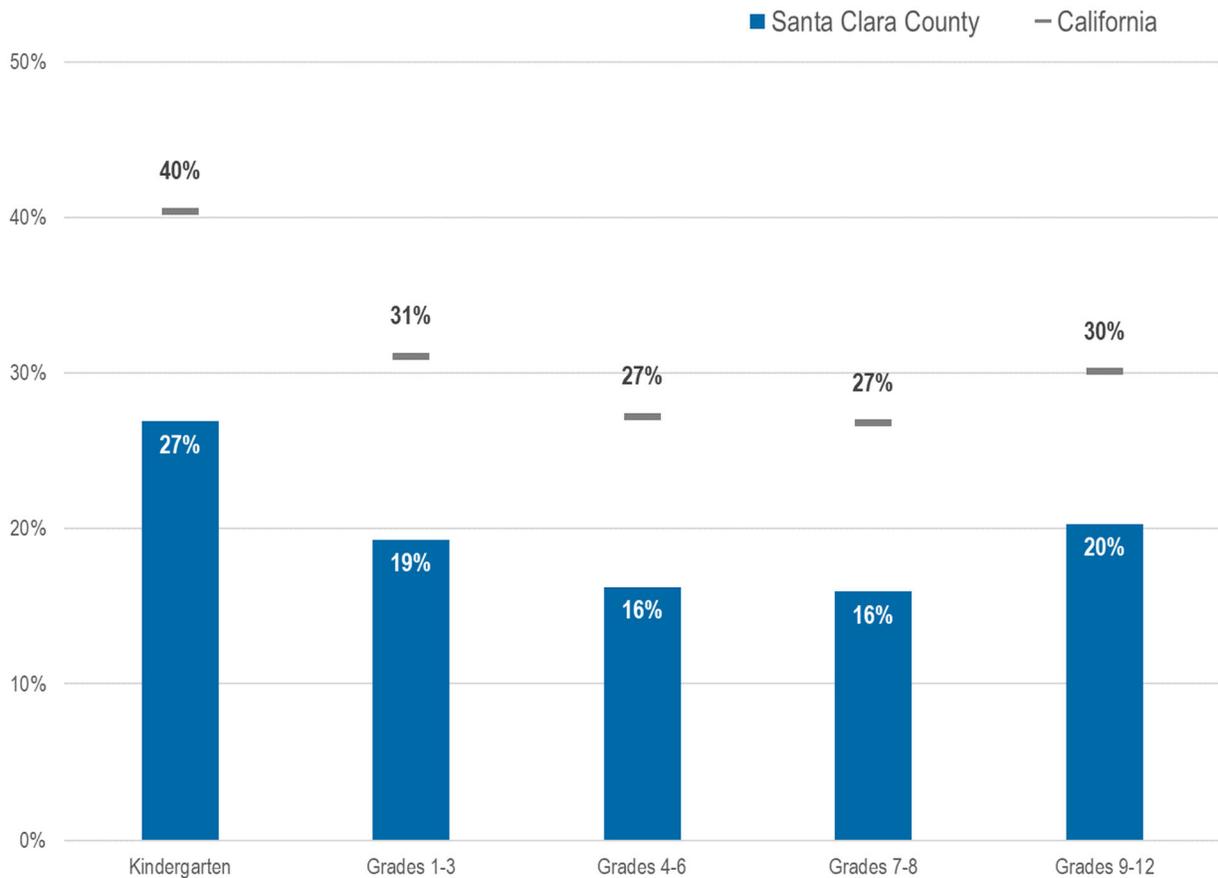
Figure 3: 2021-22 Chronic Absenteeism Results by Student Program, California and Santa Clara County



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS BY GRADE SPAN

The following visualization illustrates the chronic absenteeism data as disaggregated by grade span. Similar to the previous data sets, students in Santa Clara County experienced chronic absenteeism at rates lower than the state across all grade spans. When grade spans are compared to one another, students at the outer ends of the grade span spectrum experienced absences at greater rates than those within the middle grade spans. Specifically, in Santa Clara County, Kindergarten students experienced the highest rates of chronic absenteeism at 27%. Rates then decreased across the following grade spans (i.e. 19% in grades 1-3, 16% in grades 4-6 and 16% in grades 7-8) before spiking in high school back to 20%.

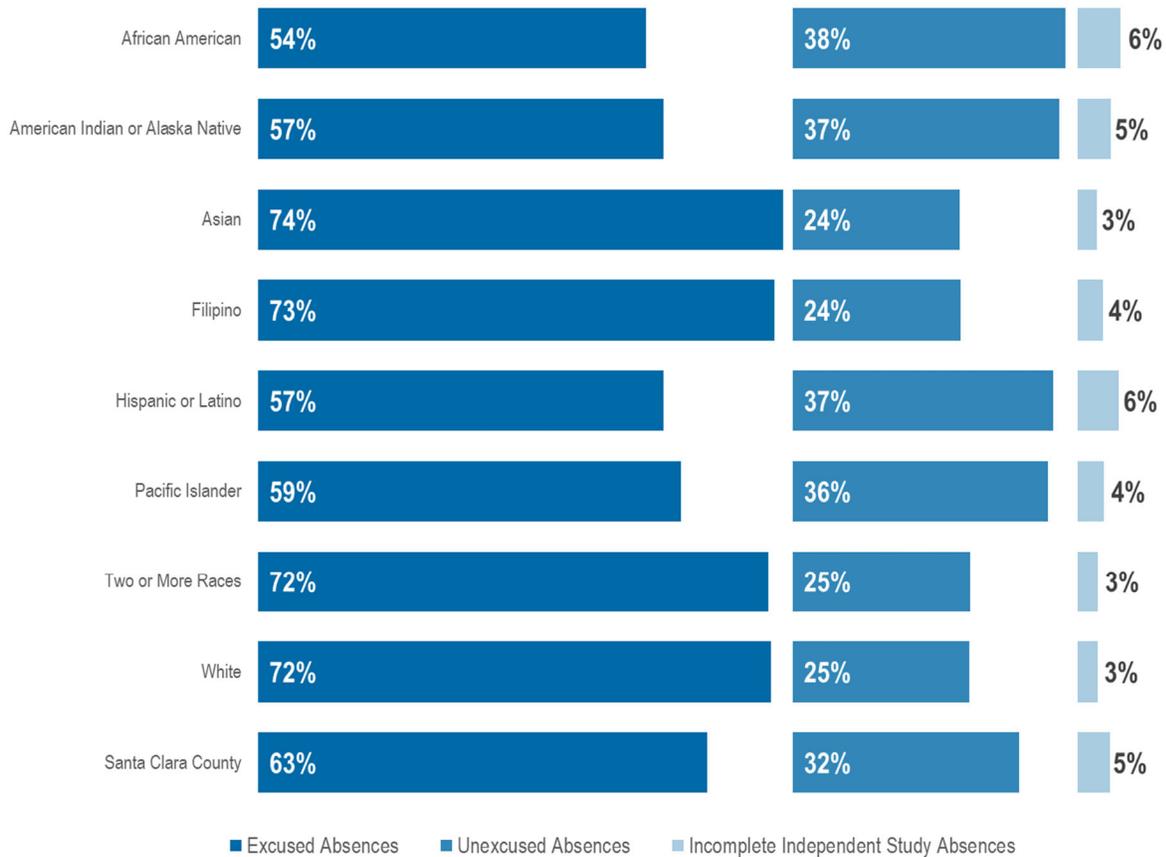
Figure 4: 2021-22 Chronic Absenteeism Results by Grade Span, California and Santa Clara County



CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM RESULTS BY ABSENCE REASON

The final illustration represents chronic absenteeism rates broken down by absence reason and disaggregated by race and ethnicity. Overall, in Santa Clara County 63% of absences were categorized as “Excused Absences” (e.g. illness, quarantine, medical) while 32% were “Unexcused Absences” (e.g. no reason provided, personal vacation). Across all student groups, excused absences attributed to more absences than unexcused absences. However, there were slight variations with students who were part of the Asian, Filipino, Two or More Races and White student groups having relatively higher proportionality of Excused Absences than their African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino and Pacific Islander counterparts (e.g. approximately 72-74% versus 54-59%, respectively). The reverse of this trend was also true with students who were part of the Asian, Filipino, Two or More Races and White student groups having relatively lower proportionality of Unexcused Absences than their African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino and Pacific Islander counterparts (e.g. approximately 24-25% versus 36-38%, respectively).

Figure 5: 2021-22 Chronic Absenteeism Results by Absence Reason, Santa Clara County



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

2022 Santa Clara County Chronic Absenteeism Results

Table 1: 2021-22 Chronic Absenteeism Results

Reporting Category	Santa Clara County			California		
	Cumulative Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate	Cumulative Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
Overall	247,247	47,077	19.0	5,995,399	1,799,734	30.0
African American	4,522	1,121	24.8	308,567	131,285	42.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	713	199	27.9	27,485	11,975	43.6
Asian	75,600	4,767	6.3	572,401	65,450	11.4
Filipino	9,256	1,165	12.6	138,028	21,416	15.5
Hispanic or Latino	98,333	31,710	32.2	3,347,968	1,185,092	35.4
Pacific Islander	1,018	346	34.0	25,495	10,915	42.8
Two or More Races	13,873	1,777	12.8	255,333	62,404	24.4
White	41,391	5,553	13.4	1,256,635	291,879	23.2
English Learners	58,329	15,257	26.2	1,202,442	417,150	34.7
Foster Youth	572	317	55.4	41,956	19,514	46.5
Homeless Youth	4,301	1,920	44.6	220,162	101,601	46.1
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	93,786	29,260	31.2	3,723,989	1,385,713	37.2
Students with Disabilities	30,797	10,155	33.0	828,692	336,068	40.6
Grade Kindergarten	19,394	5,225	26.9	491,961	198,866	40.4
Grades 1-3	52,433	10,103	19.3	1,280,630	397,646	31.1
Grades 4-6	54,478	8,804	16.2	1,333,547	363,188	27.2
Grades 7-8	37,234	5,922	15.9	903,122	241,996	26.8
Grades 9-12	83,708	17,023	20.3	1,986,139	598,038	30.1