National Center for Education Statistics Homeschooling Estimates

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This presentation is intended to promote ideas. The views expressed are part of ongoing research and do not necessarily reflect the position of the U.S. Department of Education.



National Household Education Survey and NCES Homeschooling Estimates

- 1. Estimating the homeschool population
- 2. Who homeschools?
- 3. NHES:2019 preliminary estimates
- 4. Future NHES homeschooling estimates and the COVID-19 pandemic





How NCES estimates the U.S. homeschool population



First, a note about the Household Pulse Survey

- Interagency Federal Statistical Rapid Response Survey to Measure Effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the United States Household Population
- U.S. Census Bureau and 8 federal agencies, including the National Center for Education Statistics
- Provides data on the percentage of households with at least one child "educated in a homeschool setting," weekly, from April 23, 2020 to present
- Provides nationally-representative estimates, state-level estimates, and some MSA-level estimates



The Household Pulse survey homeschooling estimates

- https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/03/homeschooling-on-the-rise-during-covid-19-pandemic.html
- April 23 May 5, 2020: **5.4 percent** of U.S. households with school-aged children reported that at least one child was homeschooled
- Sept 30 October 12, **11.1** percent
- Among Black respondents, **3.3 percent** of households with school-aged children reported homeschooling April 23-May 5, 2020, which increased to **16.1 percent** by the fall.
- Alaska, Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Vermont, and West Virginia were among the states with the largest increases in homeschooling from spring to fall 2020.
- Detroit/Warren/Dearborn, MI and Phoenix/Mesa/Chandler, AZ were among the MSAs with the largest increases in homeschooling from spring to fall 2020



NHES K-12 survey topics, by year of administration

Topical surveys about K-12 students	1991	1993	1995	1996	1999 ¹	2001	2003	2005	2007	2012	2016	2019
School safety and discipline	X											
Parent and family involvement in education				X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Homeschooling ²					X		X		X	X	X	X
After-school programs and activities			X ³		X	X ⁴		X				

¹ The NHES:1999 was a special end-of-decade administration that measured key indicators from the surveys fielded during the 1990s.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 1991–2019.



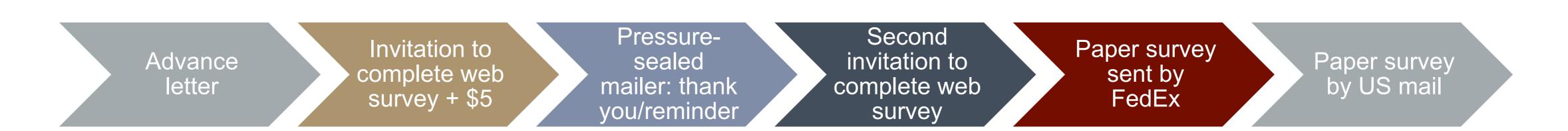
² In 2012 and 2016, homeschooling data were collected using a separate questionnaire. In other years, homeschooling data were collected using a questionnaire that was also used for parents of students enrolled in schools. Homeschooling data have consistently been released within the Parent and Family Involvement in Education survey files.

³ The After-School Programs and Activities Survey of the NHES:1995 only collected data about children in the first through third grades.

⁴ The After-School Programs and Activities Survey of the NHES:2001 also included items on before-school programs.

How is NHES conducted?

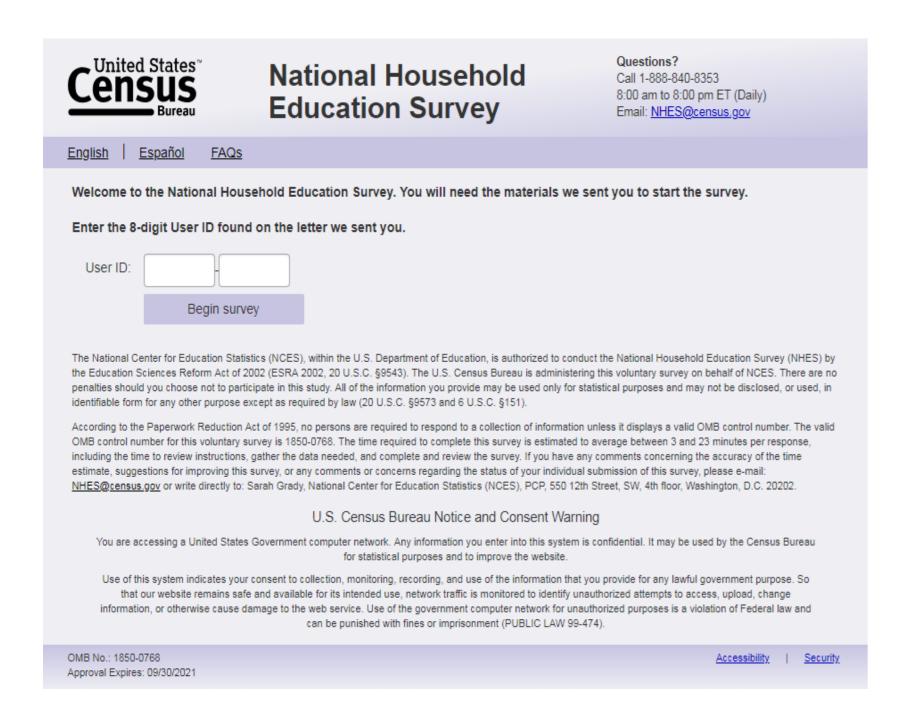
- From 1991 2007, NHES was conducted using random-digit-dial telephone
- From 2012 2019, NHES was conducted using address-based sampling
- Households contacted by mail.

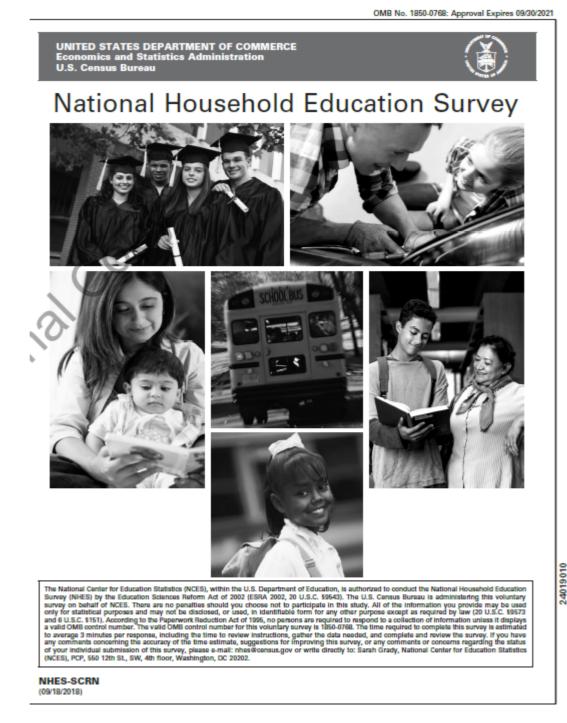


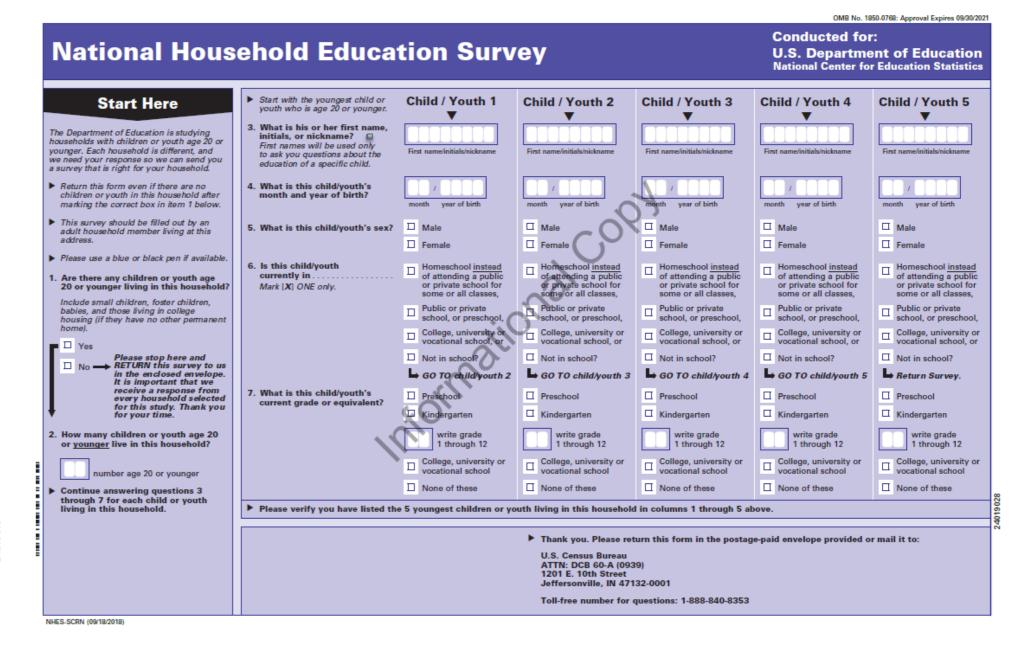
• If a household responds by paper and has children, we send a second survey, and repeat same process with the second survey



Parents respond to surveys about sampled children

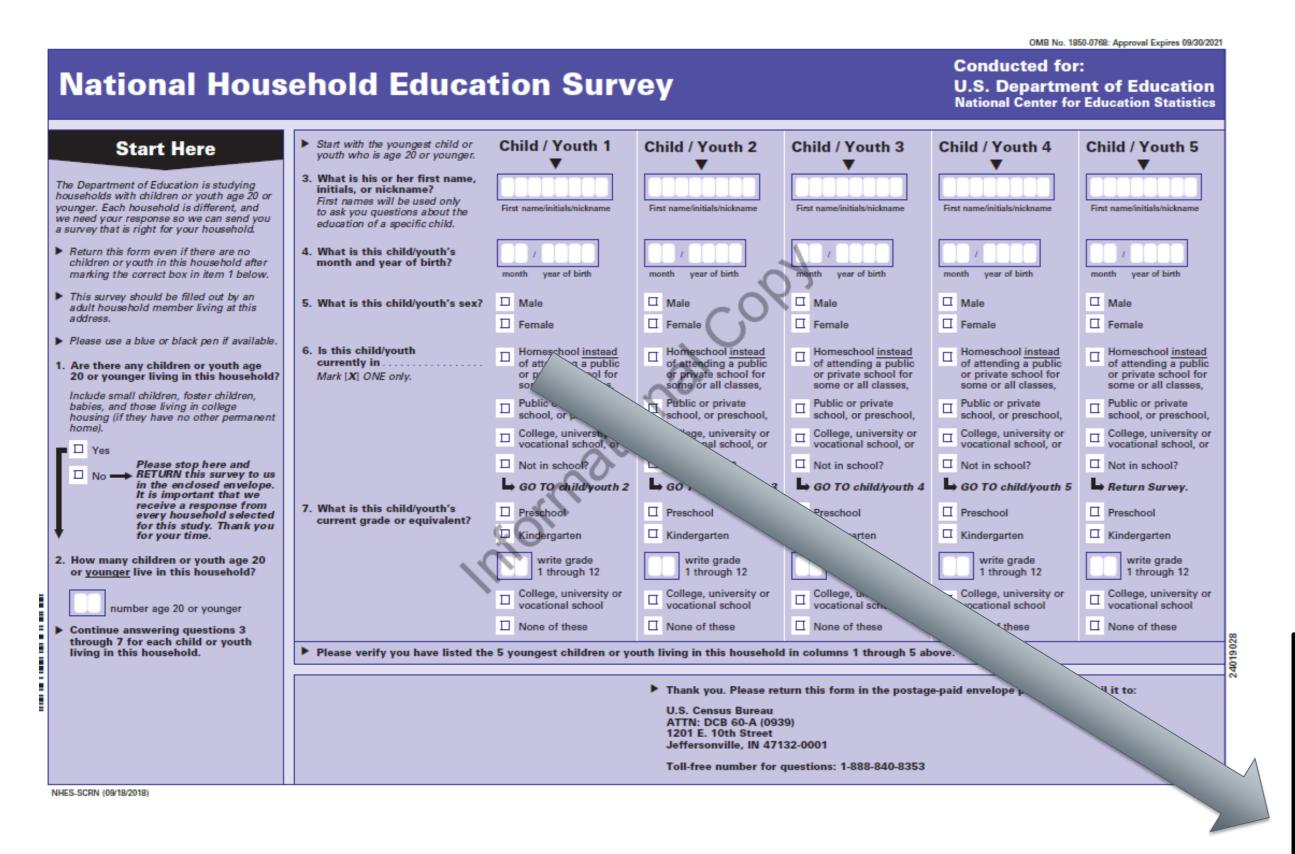








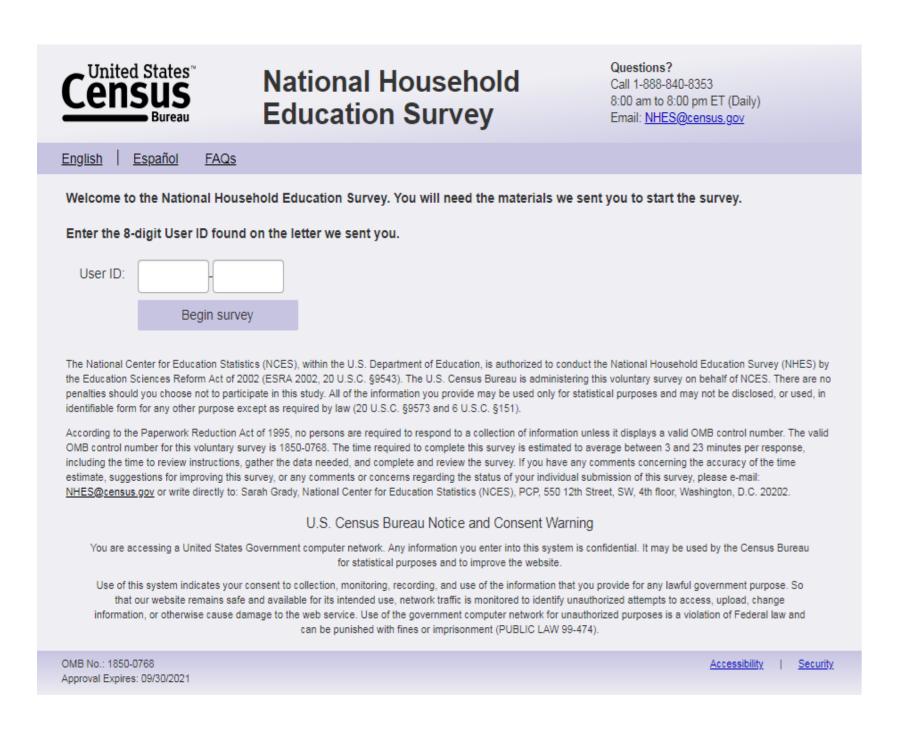
Screener enrollment item

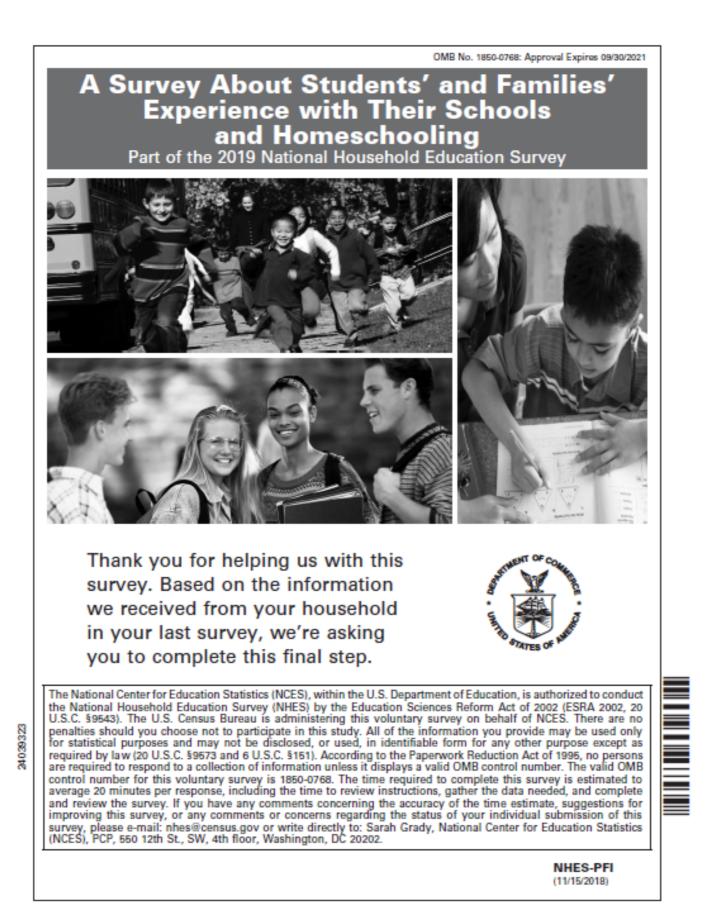


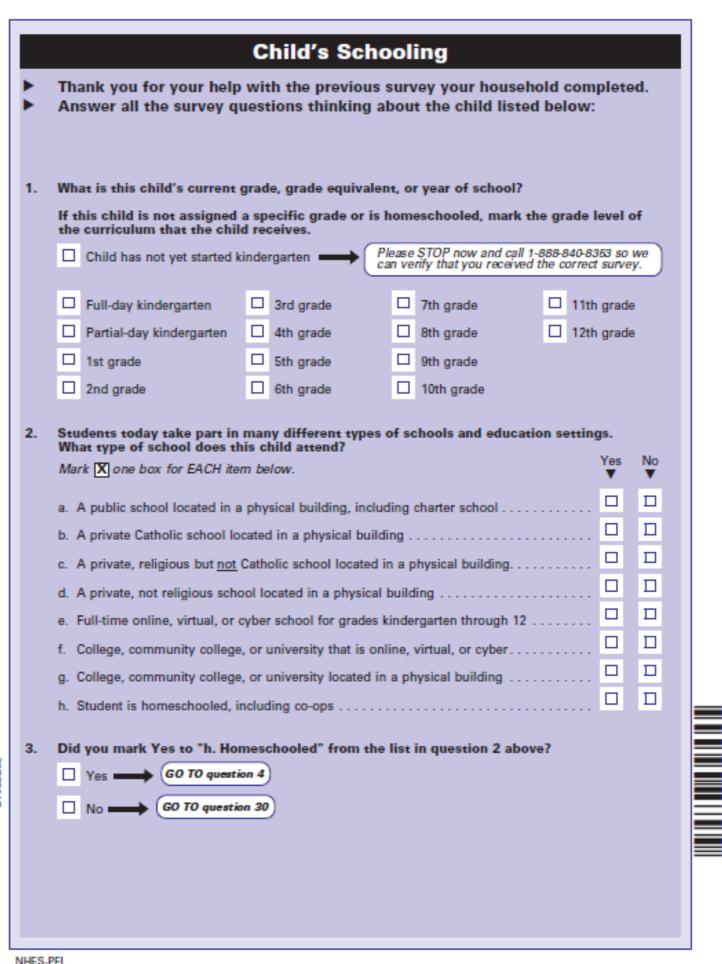
6. Is this child/youth currently in Mark [X] ONE only.	Homeschool instead of attending a public or private school for some or all classes,
	Public or private school, or preschool,
	College, university or vocational school, or
	Not in school?



Parents respond to second-stage survey about sampled students









Homeschooling content

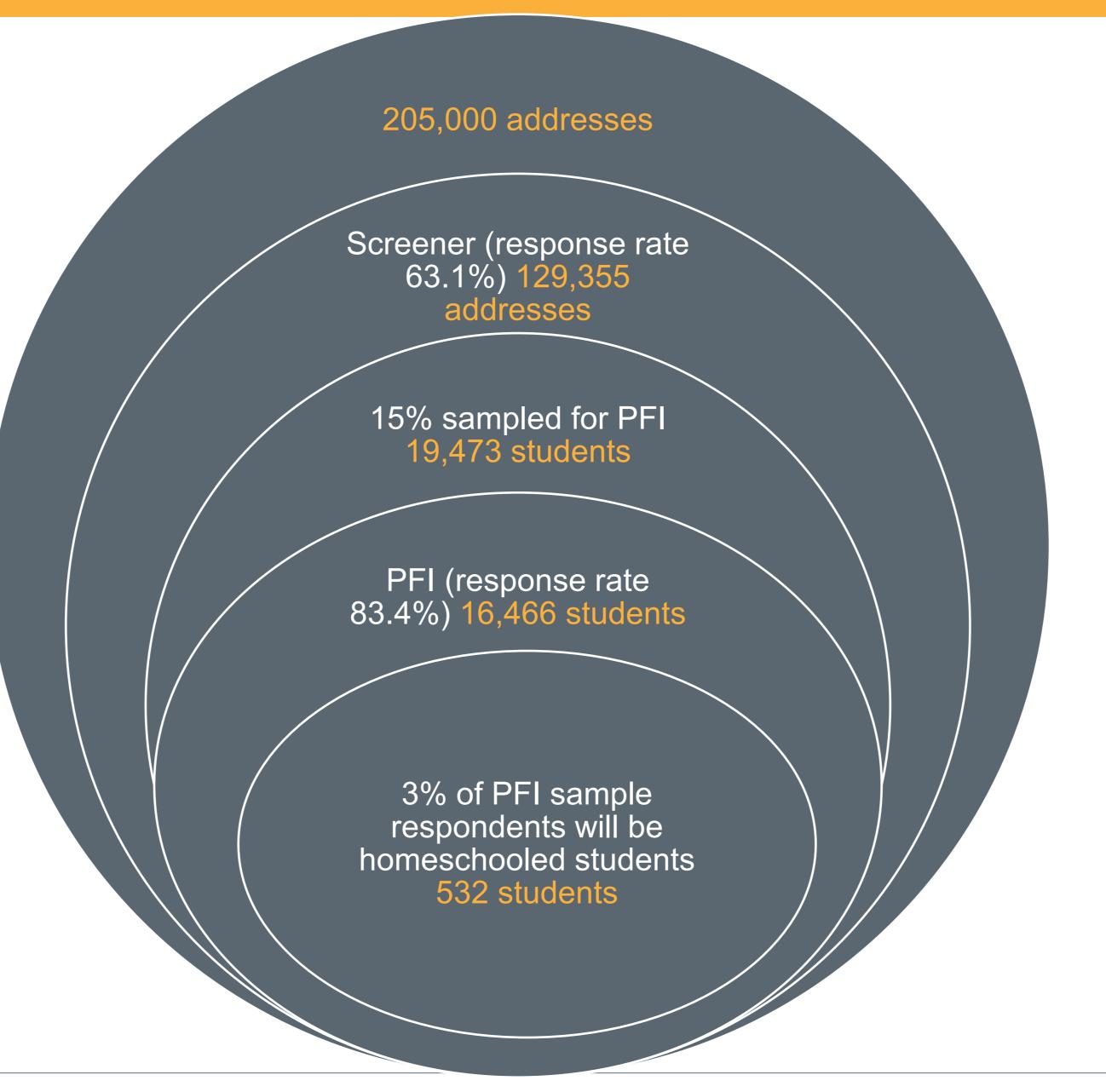
- Co-op participation
- Person that mainly provides instruction
- Private tutor or teacher
- Enrollment in online/virtual/cyber courses
- Reasons for enrollment in online courses
- Providers of online courses
- Number of online courses
- Tuition expense for online course
- Hours spent in online courses
- Formal/informal curriculum usage
- Participation in activities with other homeschooled children
- Online curriculum sources
- Physical curriculum sources

- Parent coursetaking to help prepare child for home instruction
- Grade levels that child was homeschooled
- Reasons parents chose to homeschool
- Up to 10 subject areas taught to homeschooler
- Local homeschooling association participation
- National homeschooling organization membership
- Frequently relocating military families
- Enrollment in a physical public or private school and physical school experiences



2019 Parent and Family
Involvement in Education
Survey (PFI) homeschool
sample

• It take a lot of sampled addresses to get homeschool data.





Pros and cons of design for homeschool estimates

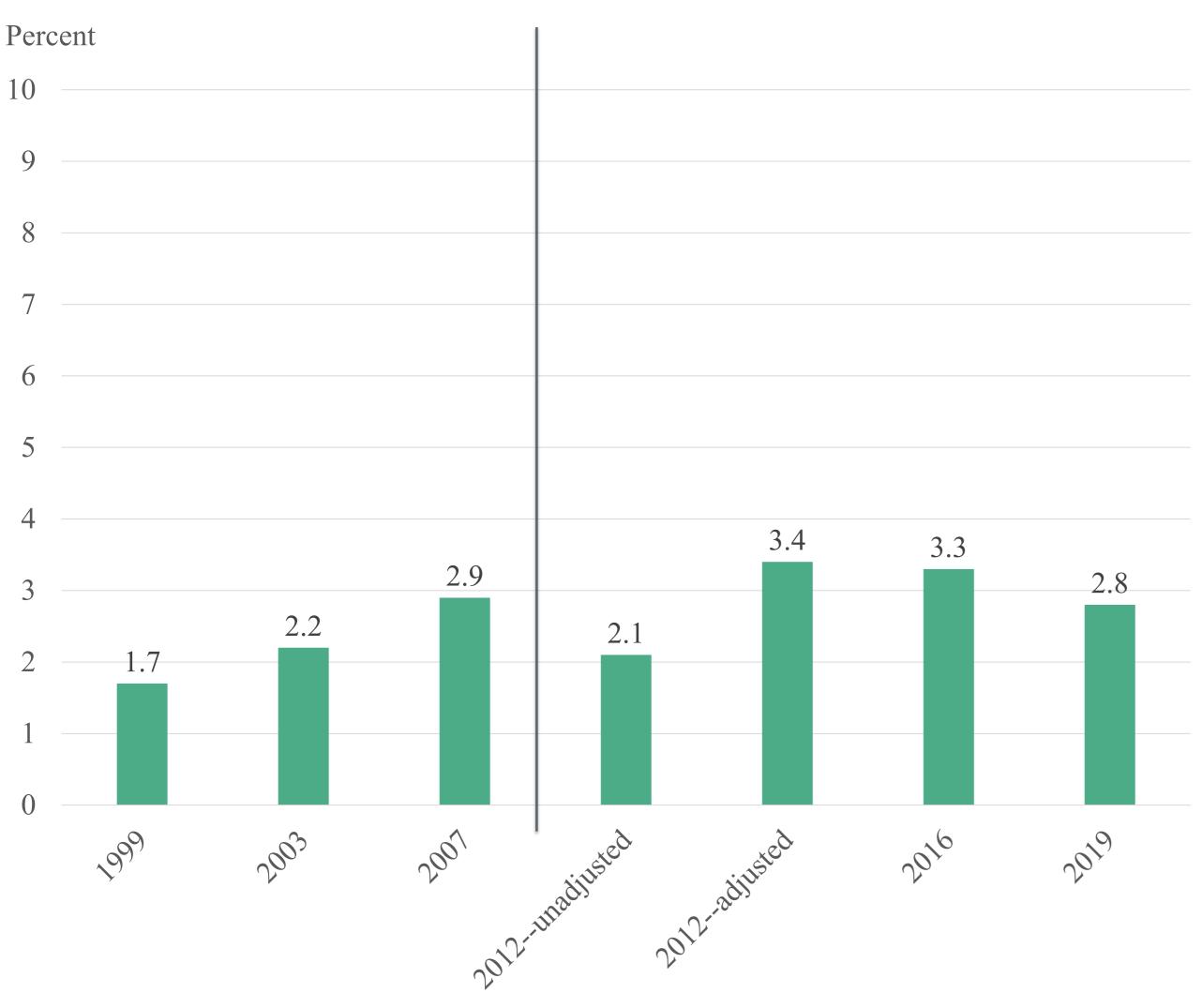
Pros	Cons
Nationally representative	Estimates less stable relative to estimates about enrolled students; sensitive to survey design changes
No state variation in who is or is not categorized as a homeschooler	Dependent on consistent parent interpretation of what "homeschooling" is
Allows for subgroup analyses (e.g., homeschooling rates by gender, race/ethnicity, income, urbanicity, region, etc.)	State- and local-level variation not measured



Who homeschools?

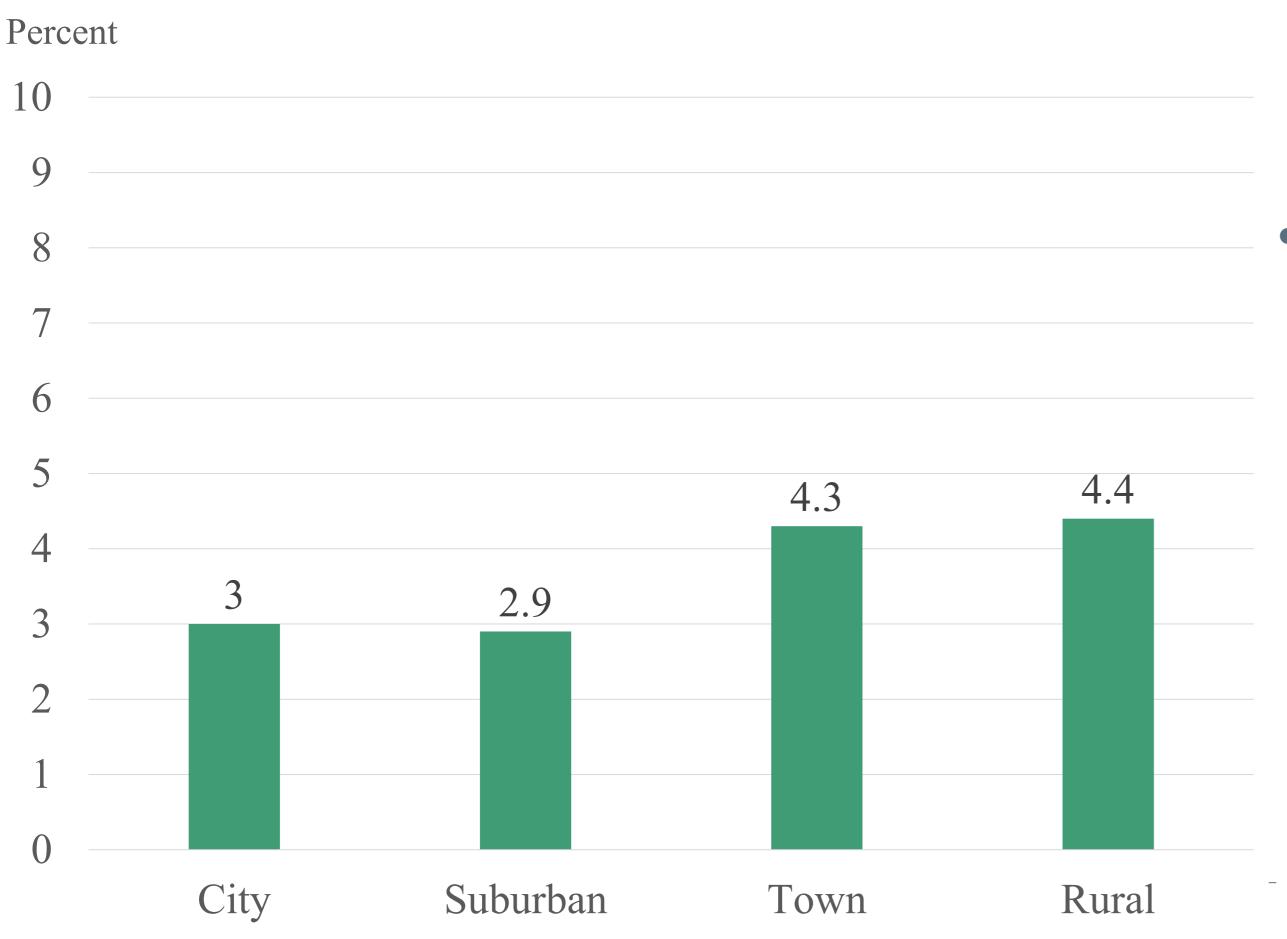


NHES homeschooling rates: 1999-2019



- NCES excludes students enrolled in public or private school more than 25 hours per week and students homeschooled only because of temporary illness from homeschooling estimates.
- Notice there is an ascending rate from 1999 to 2007 when the survey was conducted by phone. No evidence of increase thereafter.
- The mail-based administrations used the screener enrollment item to send PFI sample members either a survey about experiences in school or a survey about being homeschooled.
 - What about part-time homeschoolers?

Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by locale of student's household: 2015–16



• A higher percentage of students who lived in rural areas (4.4 percent) than of those who lived in cities (3.0 percent) and suburban areas (2.9 percent) were homeschooled.

SOURCE: Wang, K., Rathbun, A., and Musu, L. (2019). School Choice in the United States: 2019 (NCES 2019-106). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved March 24, 2021 from https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch.

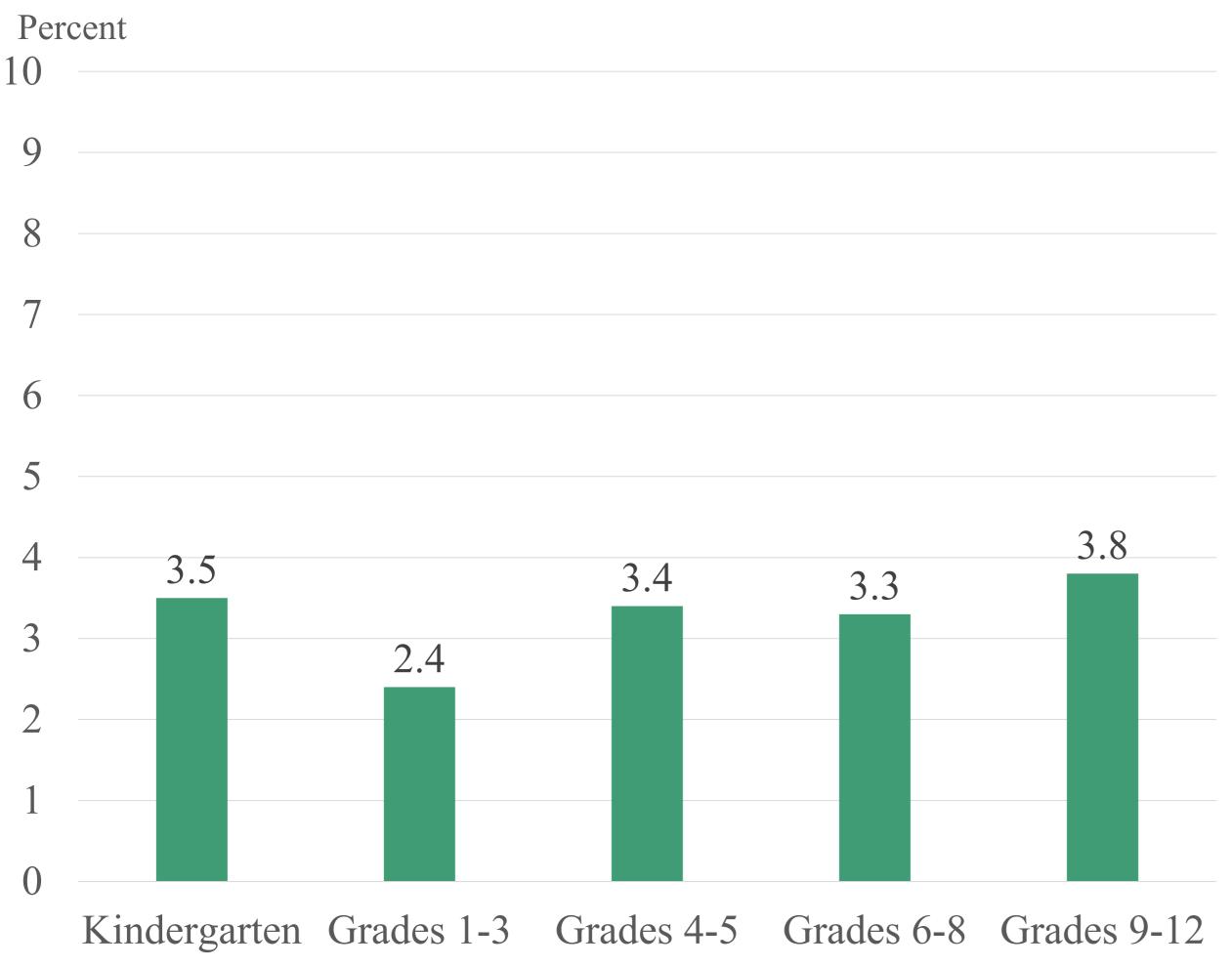
Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by race/ethnicity: 2015–16

Percent White, non-Black, non-Hispanic Asian, non-Other, non-Hispanic Hispanic Hispanic Hispanic

• The percentage of students who were homeschooled was higher for White (3.8 percent) and Hispanic (3.5 percent) students than for Black (1.9 percent) and Asian (1.4 percent) students.

SOURCE: Wang, K., Rathbun, A., and Musu, L. (2019). School Choice in the United States: 2019 (NCES 2019-106). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved March 24, 2021 from https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch.

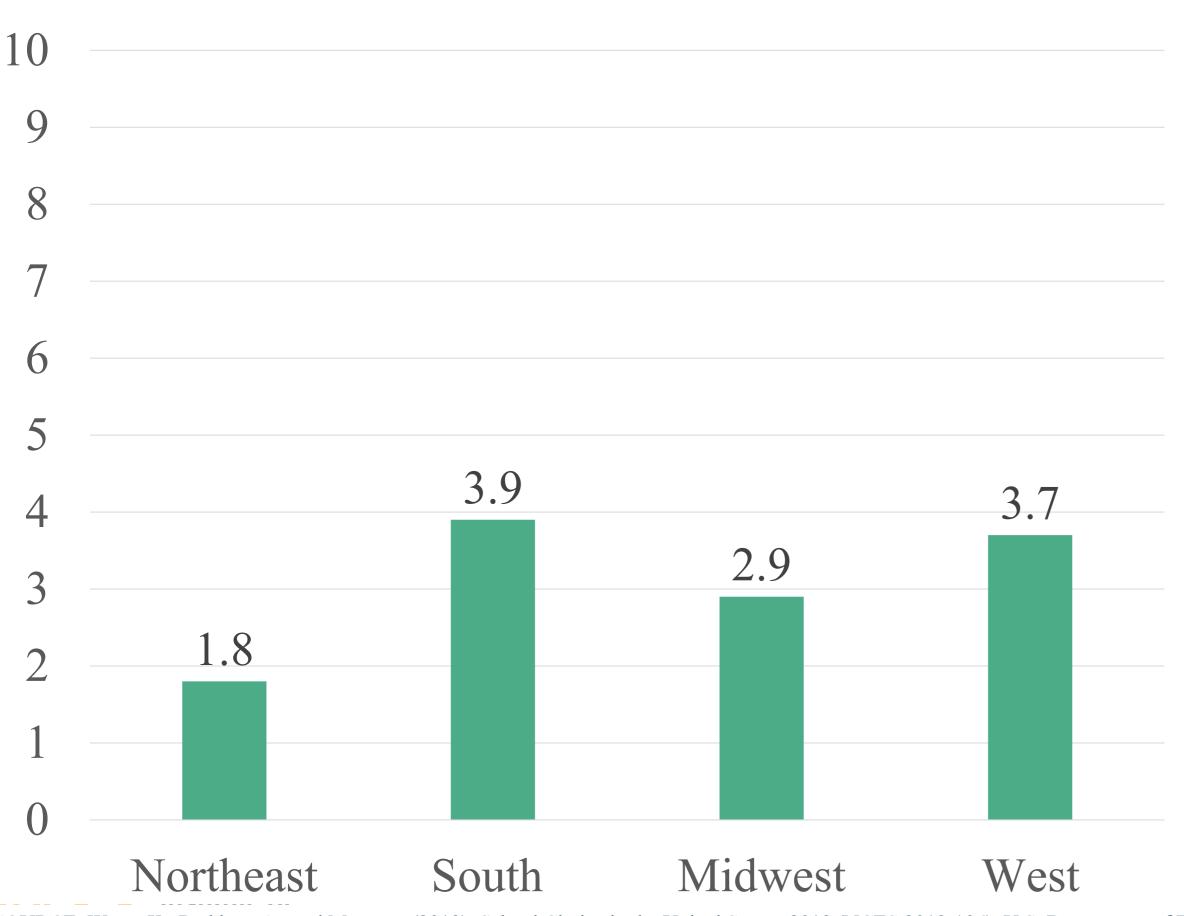
Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by grade: 2015–16



• There was a statistically higher homeschooling rate among students with a grade equivalent of 9-12 (3.8 percent) compared to the percentage of students whose grade equivalent was 1st through 3rd grade (2.4 percent).

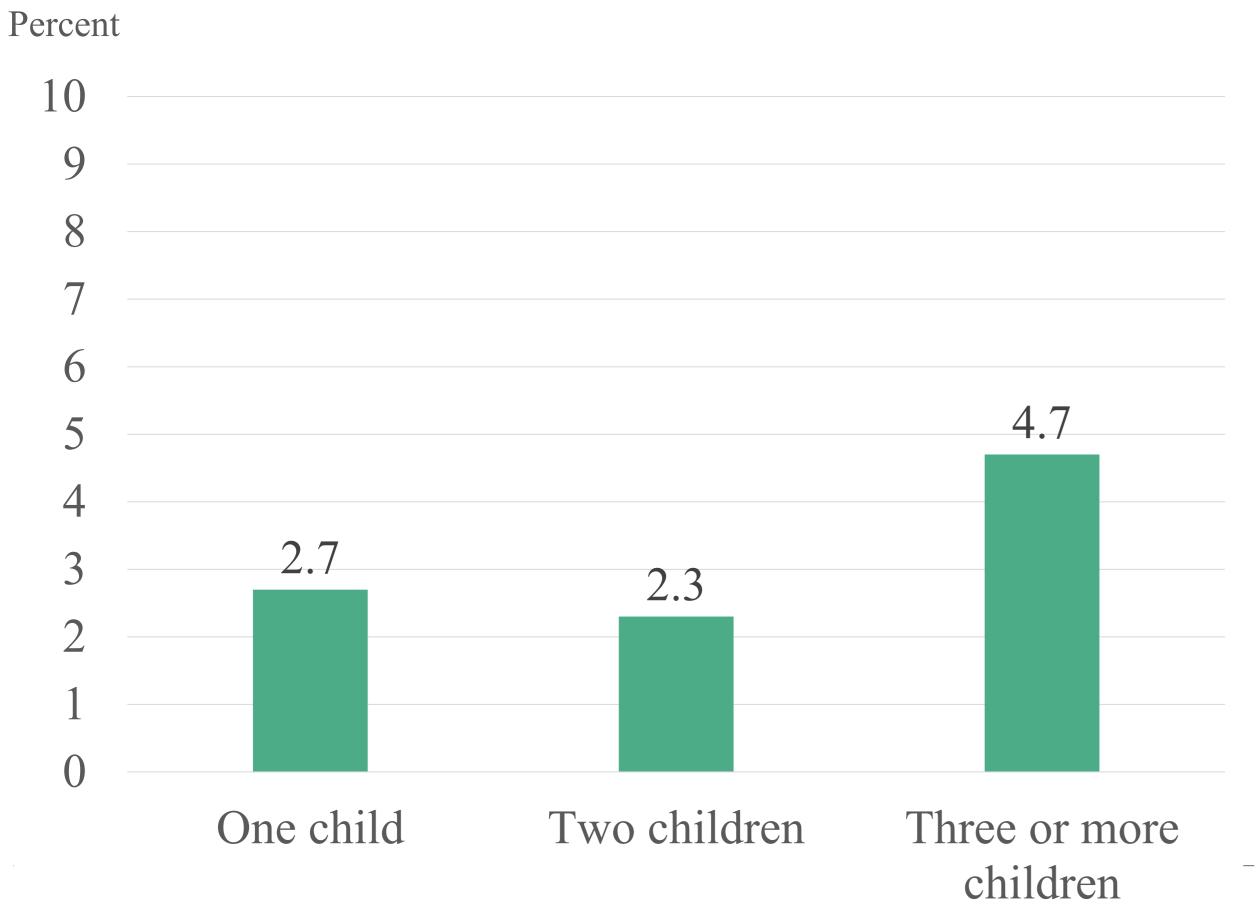
Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by U.S. region: 2015-16

Percent



- Higher percentages of students in the South and in the West than in the Northeast were homeschooled (3.9 percent in the South, 3.7 percent in the West vs. 1.8 percent in the Northeast).
- The percentage of students in the Midwest who were homeschooled (2.9 percent) was not measurably different from the percentages of students in other regions who were homeschooled.

Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by number of children in household: 2015-16



• In 2016, the percentage of students who were homeschooled was higher for those living in households with three or more children (4.7 percent) than for those who were the only child in the household (2.7 percent) and for those living in households with two children (2.3 percent).

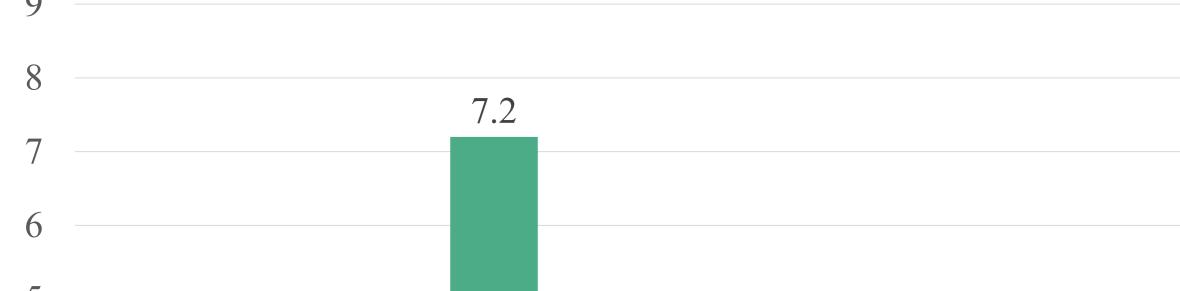
Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by parent labor force status: 2015-16

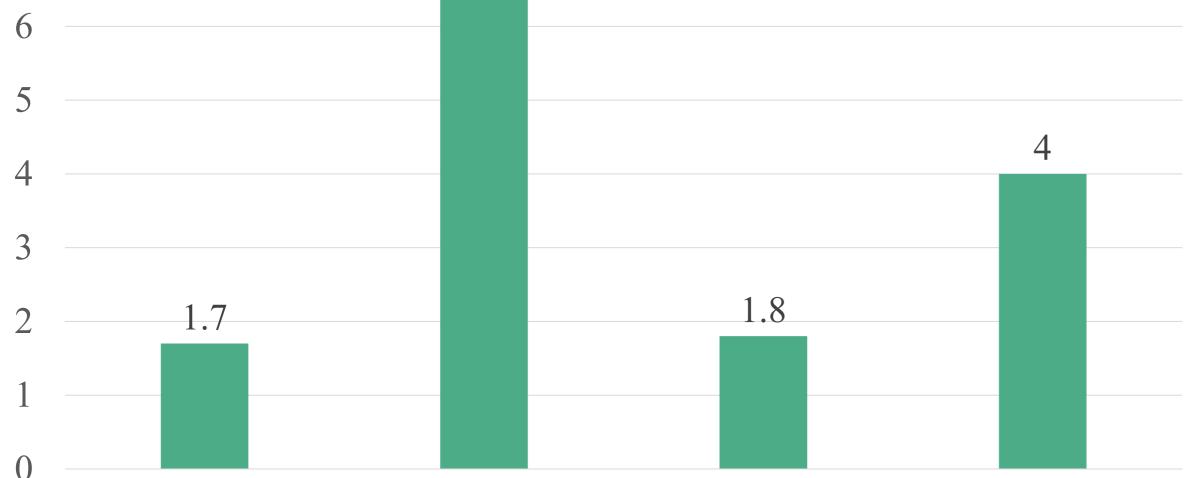
Percent 10 9

Two parents-both Two parents-one

in labor force

in labor force





One parent-in

labor force

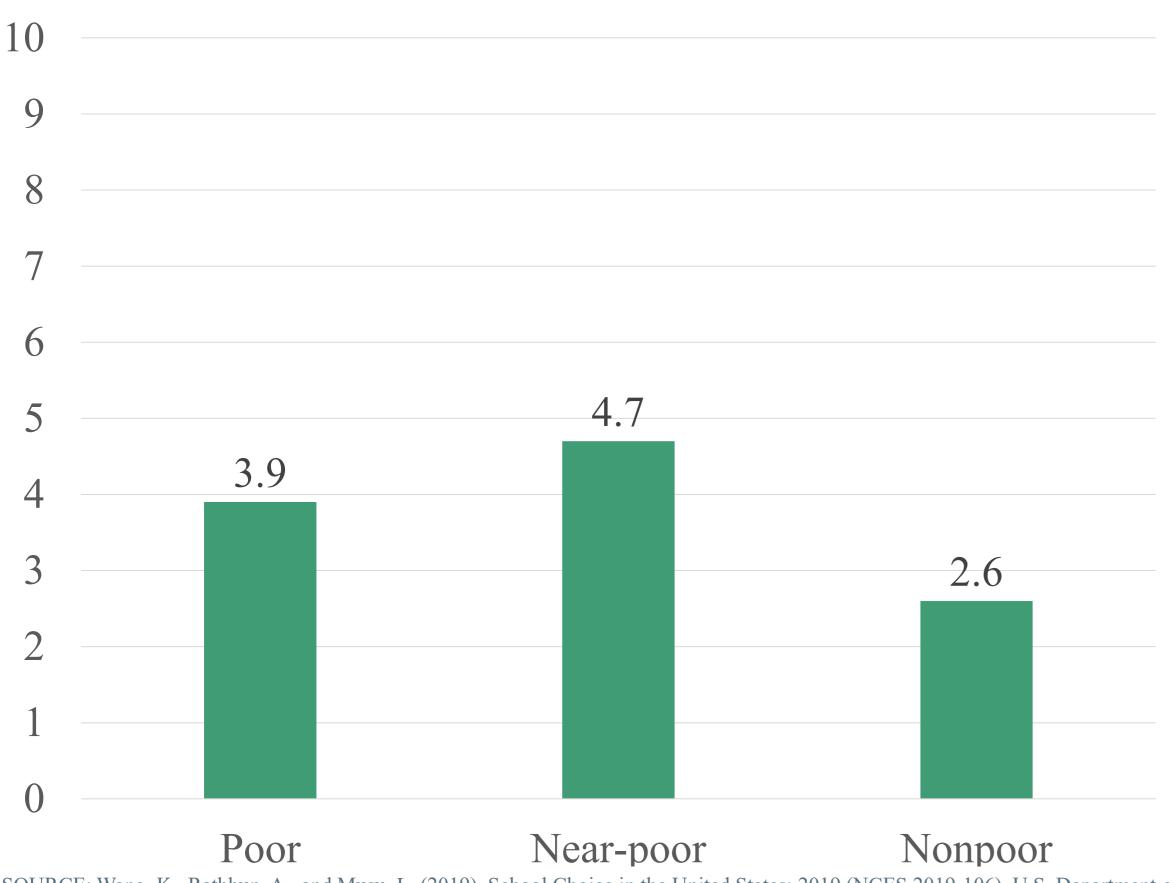
- The percentage of students who were homeschooled in 2016 was highest for those who had two parents, one of whom was in the labor force (7.2 percent), and next highest for students who had no parent in the labor force (4.0 percent).
- Lower percentages of students who were homeschooled were from two-parent households with both parents in the labor force (1.7 percent) and from one-parent households with the parent in the labor force (1.8 percent).

No parent in the

labor force

Percentage of homeschooled students ages 5 through 17 with a grade equivalent of kindergarten through grade 12, by household poverty status: 2015-16

Percent



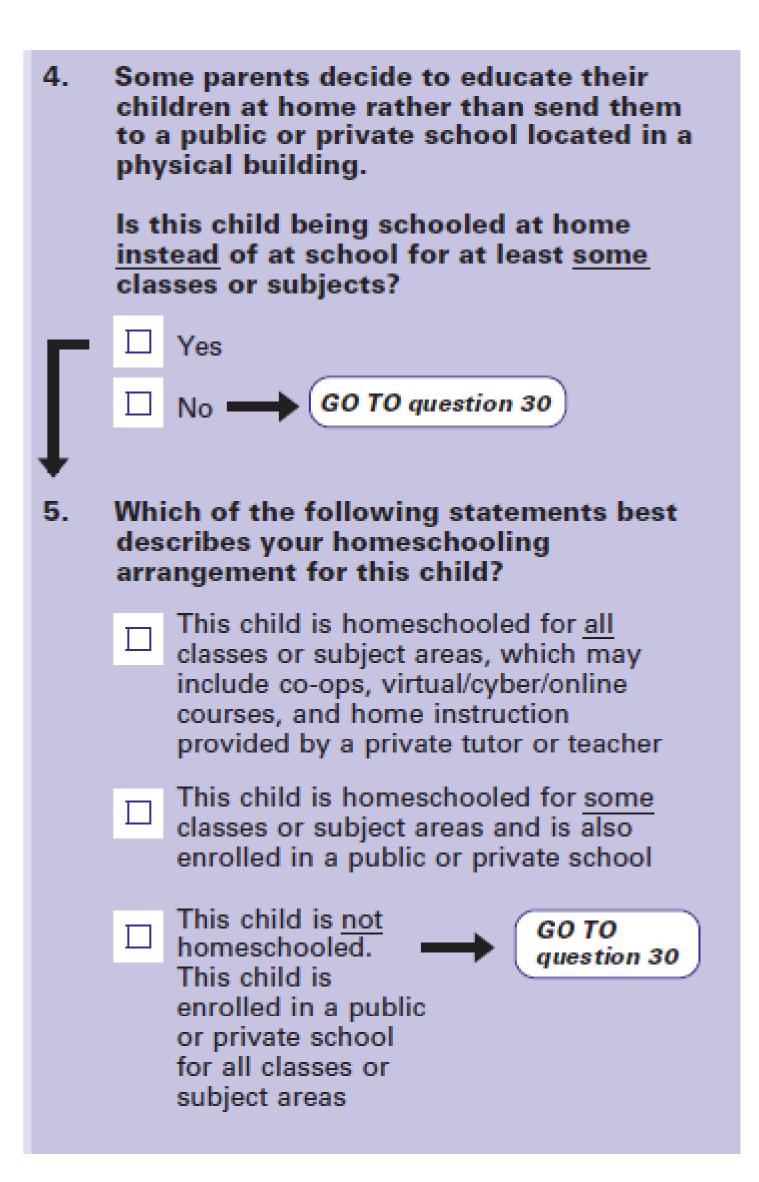
- The percentages of students who were homeschooled were also higher for those who were poor (3.9 percent) and near poor (4.7 percent) than for those who were nonpoor (2.6 percent).
- No measurable differences were observed for the percentage of students who were homeschooled in relation to their parents' educational attainment.

Preliminary NHES:2019 homeschooling estimates



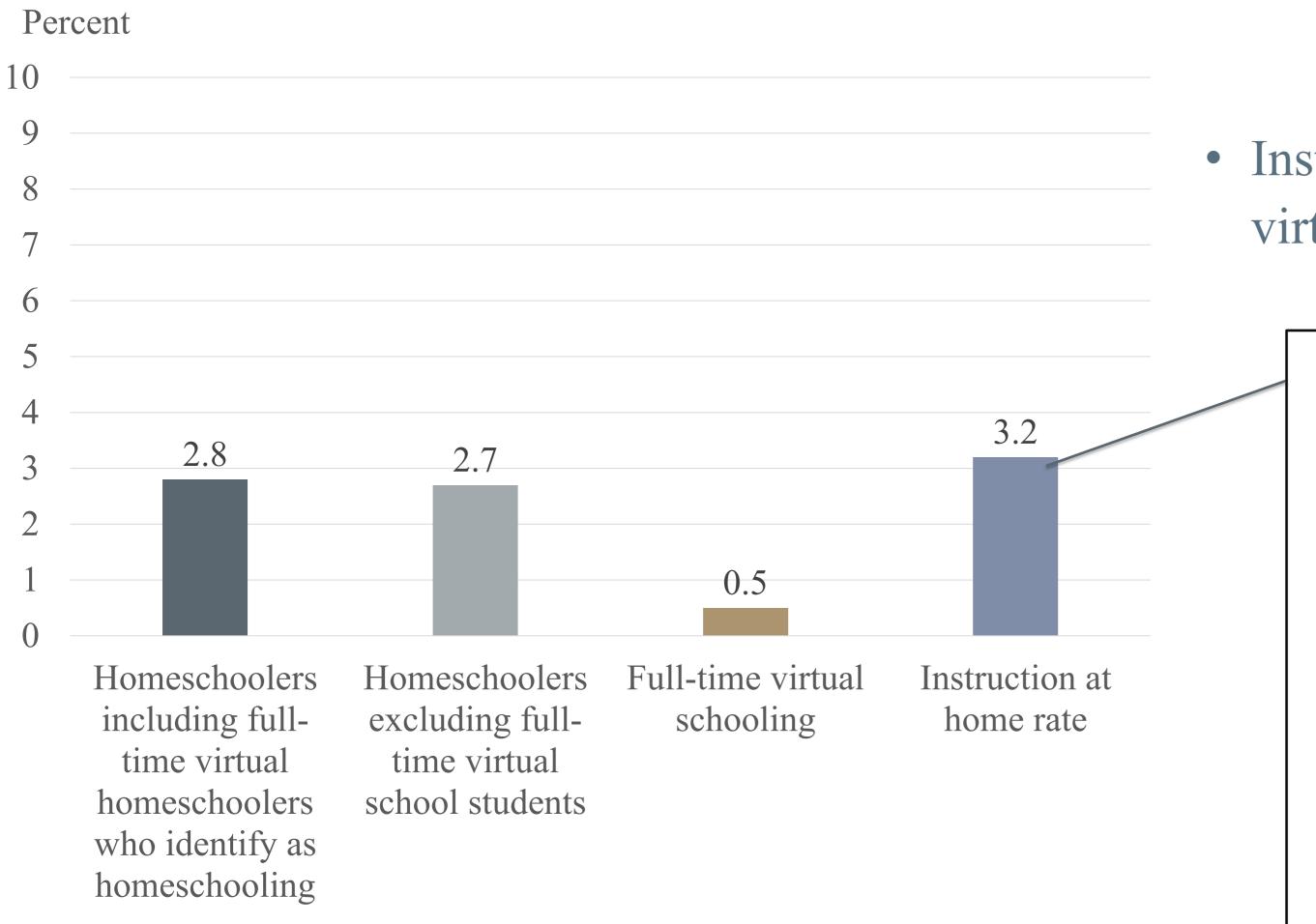
2019 PFI homeschool items

2.	Students today take part in many different types of schools and education settings. What type of school does this child attend?						
	Mark X one box for EACH item below.	Yes	No ▼				
	a. A public school located in a physical building, including charter school						
	b. A private Catholic school located in a physical building						
	c. A private, religious but <u>not</u> Catholic school located in a physical building						
	d. A private, not religious school located in a physical building						
	e. Full-time online, virtual, or cyber school for grades kindergarten through 12						
	f. College, community college, or university that is online, virtual, or cyber						
	g. College, community college, or university located in a physical building						
	h. Student is homeschooled, including co-ops						
3.	Did you mark Yes to "h. Homeschooled" from the list in question 2 above?						
	Yes GO TO question 4						
	□ No GO TO question 30						

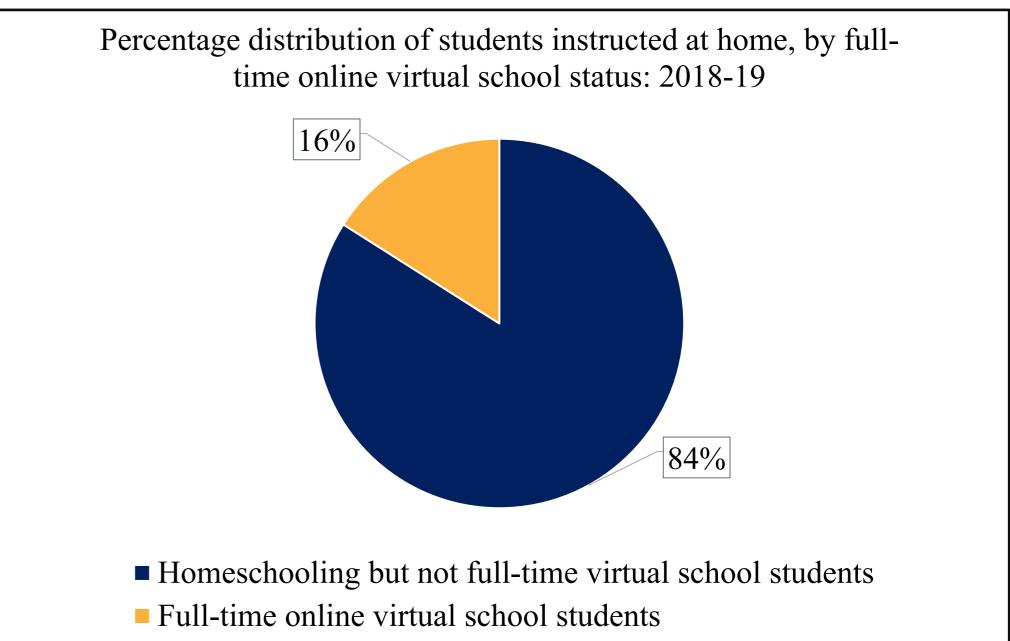




Estimates related to homeschooling from the 2019 Parent and Family Involvement in Education Survey



• Instruction at home rate is all full-time online virtual school students and all homeschoolers.



Future NHES homeschooling estimates



NHES:2023



- Will provide post-pandemic estimates using the same methodology as 2019.
- How will parents' interpretations of "virtual school" and "homeschooling" have changed because of remote education during the pandemic?
- Qualitative debriefing interviews with some NHES:2023 PFI respondents are planned.



Thank you!

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