

A. EDUCATION

<p>Importance</p>	<p>Educational level is strongly correlated with health. There is an inverse relationship between level of education and many risk behaviors. Similarly, there is a positive association with increasing level of education and an increase in protective health factors such as income level, economic security, and the accumulation of wealth. Educational attainment is a fundamental determinant of health.^{1,4}</p>
<p>Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More Santa Cruz County residents than California residents (age 25 and over) have obtained a high school diploma or higher (85.0% compared to 80.3%).³ ▪ More Santa Cruz County residents than California residents (age 25 and over) have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher (38.9% compared to 29.4%).³

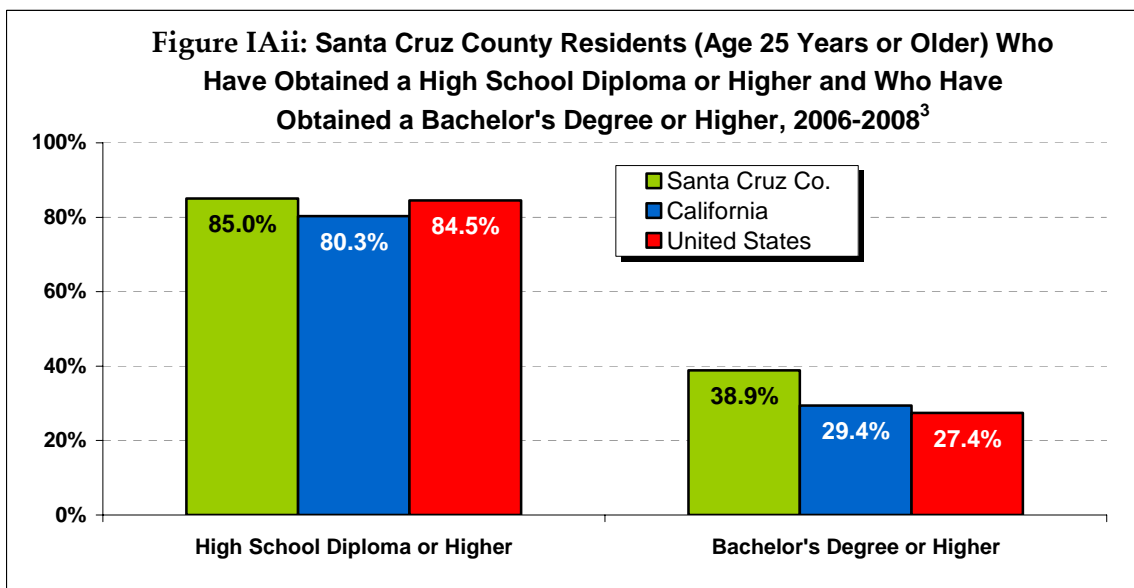
i. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

There are 11 public school districts in Santa Cruz County. Pajaro Valley Unified, the only school district in South County, is the largest district, serving 51% (19,477) of the 38,279 public school students during the 2008-2009 school year.⁴

According to the American Community Survey (2006-2008), 85% of Santa Cruz County residents (25 years and over) have obtained a high school degree or equivalent.² By comparison, 80.8% of all Californians and 84.5% of residents of the United States have obtained a high school diploma by the age of 25.³

ii. COLLEGE DEGREES

According to the American Community Survey, 38.9% of county residents have earned a bachelor's degree or higher.³ By comparison, 29.4% of Californians and 27.4% of Americans have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.³



Primary Prevention Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Educational success has been correlated with supportive and enriched childhood development. Therefore, resources and policy that support programs such as Head Start and universal pre-school are a good investment for society.²
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Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2010. Accessed 2 Sep 2010. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-factors/education.2. Kawachi, I. et al. "Money, schooling, and health: Mechanisms and causal evidence." <i>Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences</i> 1186 (<i>The Biology of Disadvantage: Socioeconomic Status and Health</i>):56-58, 16 Feb 2010. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05340.x/full.3. U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 2006-2008. http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html.4. California State Department of Education. Accessed May 2010. www.ed-data.k12.ca.us.
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