

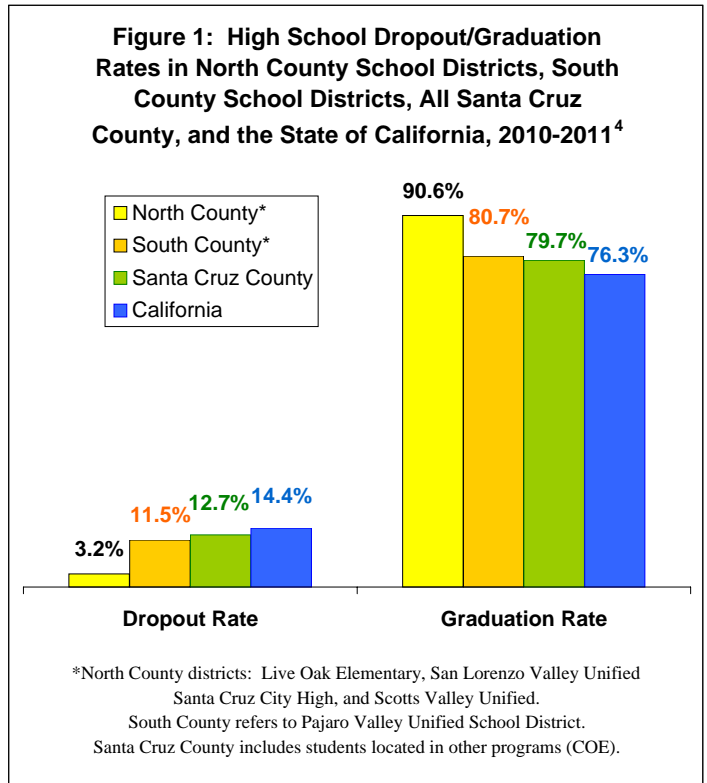
EDUCATION

Importance	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 between increasing level of education and an increase in health-protective factors such as income level, economic security, and the accumulation of wealth. Educational attainment is a fundamental determinant of health. ^{1,2} Additionally, educational success has been correlated with supportive and enriched childhood development. Therefore, resources and policies that support programs such as Head Start and universal pre-school are a good investment for society. ²
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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

There are 11 public school districts in Santa Cruz County, plus programs offered through the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE). The North County school districts with high school students are Live Oak Elementary, San Lorenzo Valley Unified, Santa Cruz City High, and Scotts Valley Unified. Pajaro Valley Unified, the only school district in South County, is the largest district, serving 50% (19,545) of the 38,974 public school students during the 2010-2011 school year.⁴ The remaining public school students (1,389) are served through programs overseen by the County of Santa Cruz Office of Education and located throughout the county.

In the 2010-2011 school year, both North County and South County school districts had higher rates of graduation than California as a whole, 90.6% and 80.7% vs. 76.3% respectively (Figure 1).⁴ The graduation and dropout rates for the County as a whole were not as good as either the North County or South County rate because of inclusion of other programs overseen by the COE. Notably, the dropout rate in South County was more than three times that of North County, 11.5% vs. 3.2% (Figure 1).⁴ Santa Cruz County's total dropout rate for the 2010-2011 school year was 12.7%, which was better than California's at 14.4%.⁴ (The graduation and dropout rates add up to less than 100% because students who "pass the General Education Development test, complete requirements necessary to obtain a special education certificate of completion, or remain enrolled in the 9-12 instructional system without a high school diploma" are not included in either the graduation rate or the dropout rate.)⁴



In 2010-2011, 39.9% of the 3,113 Santa Cruz County high school graduates had achieved the prerequisites for entrance into the University of California and California State University education systems.⁴ The percentages for South County and North County graduates were 43.3% and 42.3%, respectively.⁴

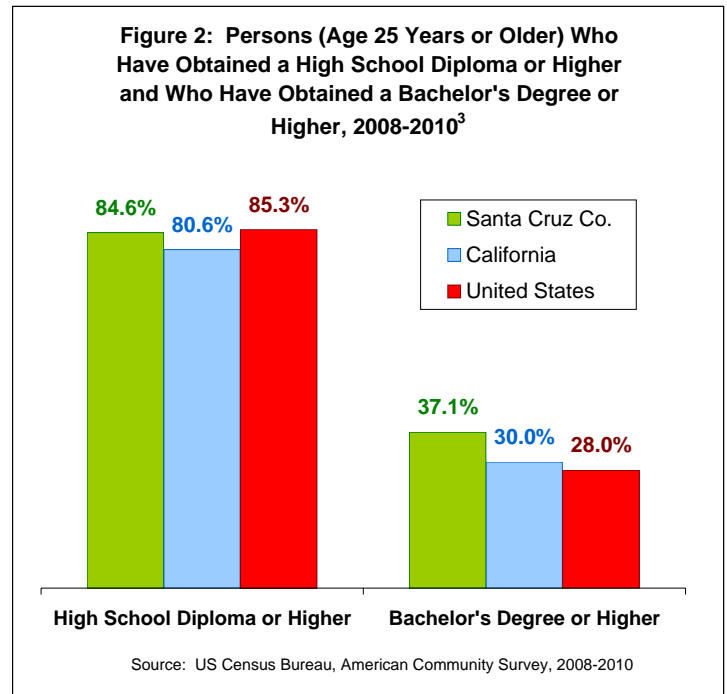
EDUCATION

According to the U.S. Census American Community Survey (2008-2010), 84.6% of Santa Cruz County residents (25 years and over) have obtained a high school degree or equivalent.³ By comparison, 80.6% of Californians and 85.3% of United States residents age 25 or older have obtained a high school diploma (Figure 2).³

COLLEGE DEGREES

The County of Santa Cruz is home to two major, mainstream higher education institutions: Cabrillo College and the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Cabrillo College is a community college that offers to most residents a cheaper and more accessible way to attain higher education or participate in vocational programs. UCSC is a local campus of the larger University of California that offers 4-year undergraduate degrees and Master's and Doctorates of Philosophy to most California residents.

According to the American Community Survey, 37.1% of county residents have earned a bachelor's degree or higher.³ By comparison, 30.0% of Californians and 28.0% of all Americans have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher (Figure 2).³



<p>Primary Prevention Activities</p>	<p>Pre-kindergarten Programs: Programs such as First 5 Santa Cruz County work to ensure all children have access to high-quality preschool that will prepare them for success in school.</p> <p>Career Academies: Vocational programs located within high schools that gear the students' education and offer applicable skills particular to the field of interest.</p>	
<p>Helpful Websites</p>	<p>Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council</p>	<p>www.childcareplanning.org</p>
<p>Sources</p>	<p>(1) University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. <i>County Health Rankings 2012</i>. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-factors/education. Accessed 14 May 2012.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(3) U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 2008-2010. http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html. Accessed 14 May 2012.</p> <p>(4) California State Department of Education. May 2012. www.ed-data.k12.ca.us. Accessed 4 December 2012.</p>	