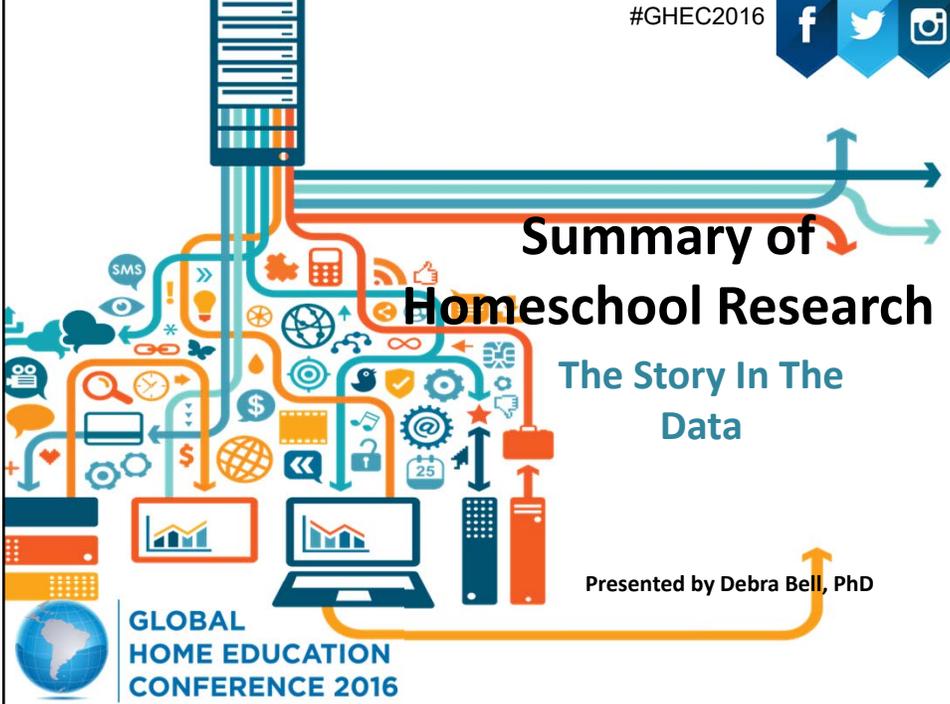


#GHEC2016   

# Summary of Homeschool Research

## The Story In The Data

Presented by Debra Bell, PhD



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## Who Homeschools? 1980s – U.S.

- Conservative evangelicals & cultural progressives
- 100,000 – 120,000 students
- “The only unifying force homeschoolers share in common is the idea that parents should and can be deeply involved in the education and development of their children.”
- “Tiny, countervailing trend” had likely peaked.

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Lines 1987

## Who Homeschools? U.S. Today

- U.S. – 3.4% of school age population, >pop. Of Los Angeles and Chicago combined.
- “One of the most significant social trends in last 50 years.” Patricia Lines
- Concurrently public approval & cultural normalization.
- As many as 30% may be minorities.
- As many as 20% are economically disadvantaged.



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Lines, 2001; Rose & Gallup, 2001;  
Stevens, 2003; NCES 2013



## Who Homeschools? Globally

- 60 countries with homeschool organizations or identified leaders.
- Est. > 300,000 families



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HSLDA 2016

## Why Do Families Choose to Homeschool?



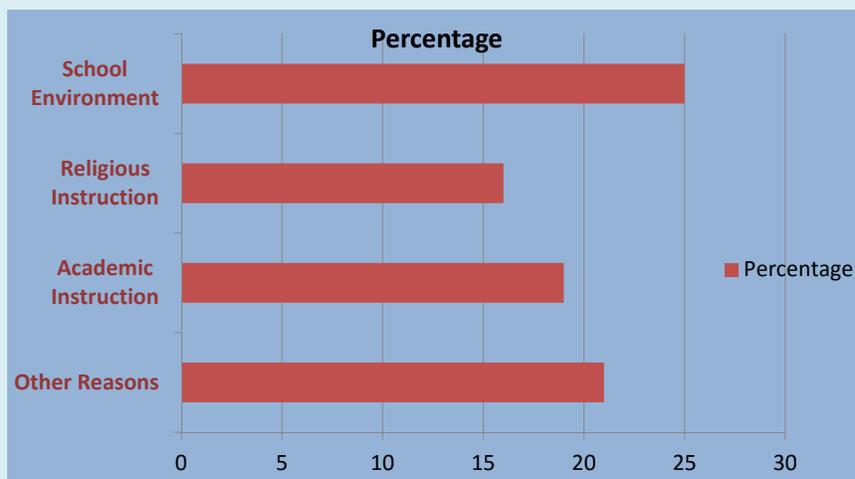
- In U.S. motivation has shifted from religious motivations to diverse reasons.
- Concern about the school environment (91%).
- Dissatisfaction with academic instruction (74%)
- Special needs of the child ( 32%)
- Religious instruction (64%)
- Other reasons (37%)



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NCES 2013

## Most Important Reason



(NCES 2013)

## State of the Research

- Scientifically rigorous empirical research into the effects of homeschooling is growing.
- Dr. Brian Ray's significant contribution
- Scholarly interest is rising. Rigor of research markedly improving.
- Research track at GHEC2016 has 16 scholars presenting papers.



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## Academic Outcomes

- Homeschool students score significantly higher on standardized tests than national norms.
- Minority homeschool students outscore their public-educated counterparts.
- Low SES homeschool students outscore their public-educated counterparts.
- Less parental education is *not* a disadvantage to homeschool students.



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(Murphy 2014)

## Academic Outcomes

- Homeschool students enroll in post-high school degree-bearing program at greater rates than their peers.
- Homeschool students score slightly higher on college entrance exams than their peers, even when controlling for other factors.
- Homeschool students scores improve the longer they are homeschooled.



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Cogan 2010; Ray and Weller 2003

## Academic Outcomes

- Achievement motivation in older homeschooled students is higher than in younger homeschooled students.
- Achievement motivation increases the longer a student is homeschooled.



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Bell, 2013

## Socialization

- Homeschool families are at least as civically involved—if not more involved—than the general public. (Isenberg 2002; Ray 2004; Smith and Sikkink 1999).
- Homeschooled students are as likely to have social interactions or social networks as their public-educated peers. More likely to have greater age diversity in groups. (Chatham-Carpenter 1994; Ensign 1997; Ray 2009)



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## Socialization

- College admissions officers view homeschool graduates to be as prepared if not more so than conventionally-educated peers. (Prue 1997; Sorey & Duggan 2008; Sutton & Galloway 2000)
- Homeschool graduates are just as likely—if not more so than—to be actively engaged in all levels of society. (Ray 2005; Ray 2004)