

# What I Learned about Homeschooling Over the Past 22 Years

Dr. Jay Wile

## Introduction

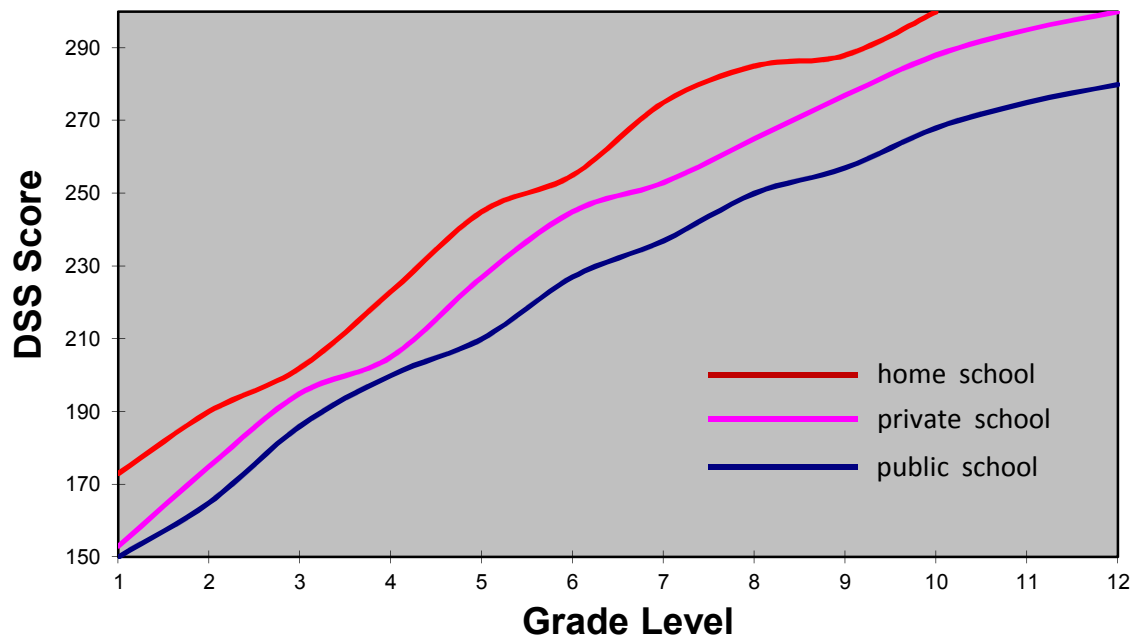
- In the mid 1990s, I became interested in homeschooling because my best university students were homeschooled.
- Started writing homeschooling curriculum BEFORE I had any children.
- Adopted our daughter (Dawn) when she was 15.
- Started homeschooling her

*Home Educating Family Magazine* published a story I wrote about the challenges and blessings related to adopting her.

<http://blog.drwile.com/?p=10663>

## Homeschooling Produces All Kinds of Benefits

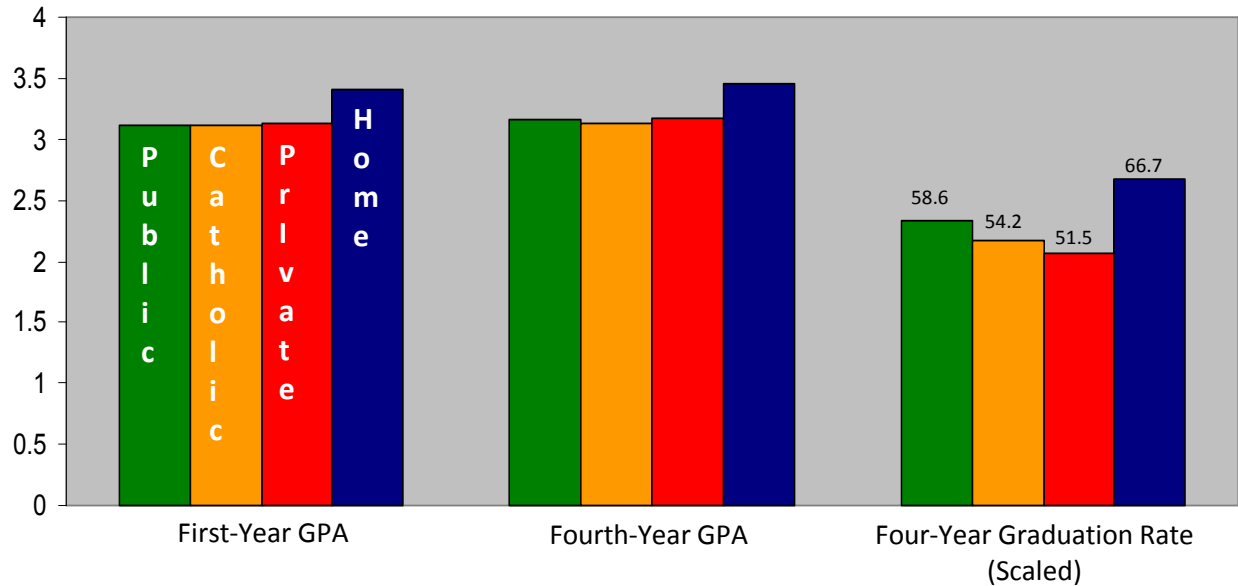
### Median Composite Scores



(“The Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998,” Lawrence M. Rudner, Ph.D., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, Vol 7, March 23, 1999, ISSN 1068-2341)

## University of St. Thomas Study:

### GPA's and Graduation Rates



(Michael F. Cogan, "Exploring Academic Outcomes of Homeschooled Students," *Journal of College Admission*, Summer 2010)

**Thomas C. Smedley used The Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale to assess the "mental age" of a subject. It measures:**

#### **Community Interactions, Daily Living, Socialization, Overall Maturity**

The mean Adaptive Behavior Composite score of 115.55 for the home schooled children is in the 84th percentile! In terms of the socialization subcategory score, the home school students rank in the 73<sup>rd</sup> percentile!

(Thomas C. Smedley, M.S., "Socialization of Home Schooled Children: A Communication Approach," thesis submitted and approved for Master of Science, Radford University, Radford, Virginia, May 1992)

#### **A study published in the journal *Obesity* reports:**

"Home-schooled children are thinner, leaner, and report better diets relative to traditionally-schooled children."

The main reason was because they were eating healthier **lunches**. Interestingly enough, their activity levels were essentially the same as that of their traditionally-schooled peers.

(Michelle Cardel *et al.*, "Home-schooled children are thinner, leaner, and report better diets relative to traditionally schooled children," *Obesity*, 2013)

### Researchers at National Jewish Health found:

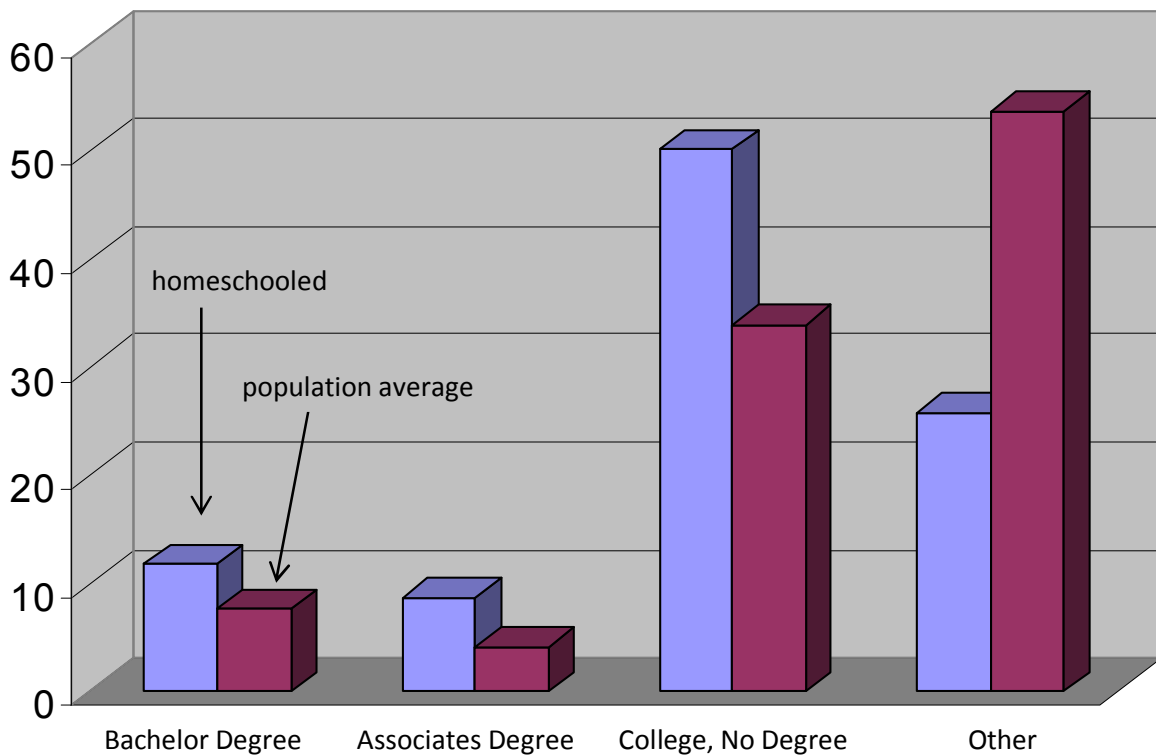
55% of teens who were homeschooled got the optimal amount of sleep per week, while only 24.5% of publicly- and privately-schooled teens did.

44.5% of publicly- and privately-schooled teens got insufficient sleep, compared to only 16.3% of homeschooled teens

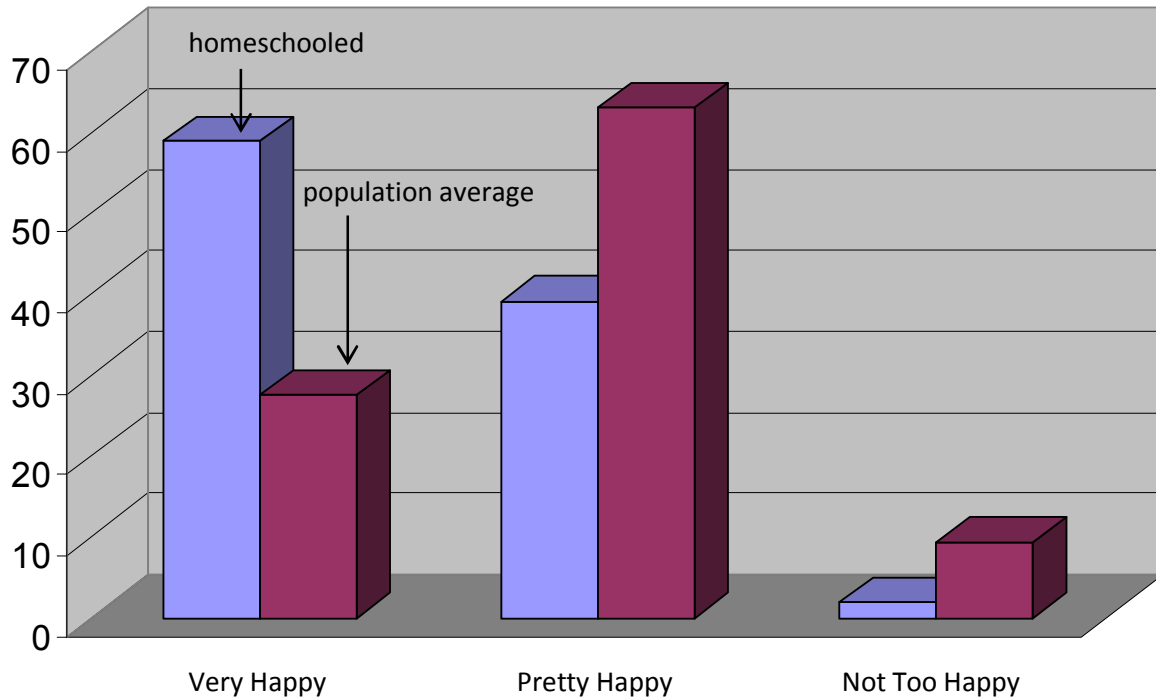
<http://njhealth.multimedianewsroom.tv/story.php?id=549&enter=2#downloadsarea>.

### Homeschooling Produces Happier, More Successful Adults

A study of high school graduates, age 18-24:



Taken all together, how would you say things are these days —would you say that you are:



### Overall, Homeschool Graduates Are Glad They Were Homeschooled

I am glad that I was homeschooled:

St. Ag. 75.8%    Ag. 19.4%    Nther. 2.8%    Disag. 1.4%    St. Disag. 0.6%

Having been homeschooled was an advantage:

St. Ag. 66%    Ag. 26.4%    Nther. 5.7%    Disag. 1.5%    St. Disag. 0.4%

I would homeschool my own children:

St. Ag. 54.8%    Ag. 27.3%    Nther. 13.5%    Disag. 2.8%    St. Disag. 1.6%

(Dr. Brian Ray, *Home Educated and Now Adults: Their Community and Civic Involvement, Views About Homeschooling, and Other Traits*, 2003)

### Many Homeschool Graduates Are Wise

Christopher Stout, a homeschool graduate who is now writing scripts for films, computer games, and other forms of entertainment at The Story Locker states:

“...my experiences have encouraged me to confidently assert one thing – trust your kids. If my generation is called to make disciples of the nations, we’re going to have to get our hands dirty. We might have to go to college with tax collectors and sinners...I’m confident that there was no better place to learn how to do that than at the front line of the battle between light and darkness.”

When Nathan Hay, a homeschool graduate who is now an electrical engineer got to Cedarville University, he found out that he was behind in math. This was a surprise to him. When asked what happened, he simply said this:

“Because homeschooling taught me how to learn independently, I quickly caught up.”

### **Many Homeschool Graduates Are Grateful**

Naomi Thompson, a homeschool graduate who now owns a catering business says:

“Thinking back, I love that every childhood memory I have is at home with my family...I have lived a homeschooled life; and what a joy it has been! I consider myself very blessed.”

A homeschool graduate who is now a covert operative in international intelligence says:

“I remember times when we were doing math, and I was in tears; my mom was in tears. But it was so worth it. I have been given such an amazing gift.”

My daughter, Dawn, who didn't want to be homeschooled and disliked it all the way through high school graduation, called my wife and I several weeks after going to Butler University and thanked us for homeschooling her. She now says:

“I got so many valuable tools from being homeschooled. I learned how to think critically and how to think outside of the box. My parents showed me that just because it's not traditional, doesn't mean it's wrong. I learned how to learn, and the nerdiest thing I'll ever say: I learned to love learning.

### **The Most Important Thing I Learned:**

#### **Homeschooling is NOT primarily about academics.**

1. It's about your child's spiritual development.
2. It's about strengthening your relationship with your child.
3. It's about helping your child learn God's plan for her, which might not be your plan for her!
4. It's a lifestyle.