Chronic Absenteeism

TRENDS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTHY SCHOOLS

TO COMBAT CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM…
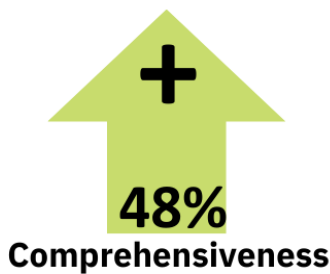
MORE THAN

114,000

SAN DIEGO COUNTY STUDENTS MISSED 10% OR MORE OF SCHOOL DAYS IN SY 2022-2023

Since School Year (SY) 2022-2023, the number of chronically absent students in San Diego County has decreased from **28.3%** to **23.3%**, a difference of **over 26,000 students.**
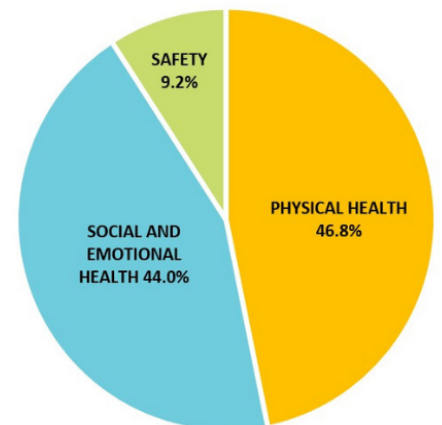
…DISTRICTS NEED STRONG WELLNESS POLICIES…

Wellness policies with unique goals and robust actions showed improvements in WellSAT* scores since 2015 by:

+

48%
Comprehensiveness

+

83%
Language Strength

27

DISTRICTS HAVE UPDATED THEIR WELLNESS POLICIES AFTER 2017

*The WellSAT 3.0 is a national quantitative assessment tool developed by the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy & Health to reflect best practices and identify where local school wellness policies are strong and where they could be improved.

…SUPPORTED BY FUNDING.

• In 2022-2023, San Diego County school districts collectively spent $**765 million** on Health and Wellness actions.

• This number represents **34%** of all the resources provided to San Diego County districts from the State of California.

• Itemization of funding increased from **45%** to **52%** between School Years 2021-2022 and 2022-23 which establishes clarity and transparency of district spending.

SAFETY
9.2%

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH 44.0%

PHYSICAL HEALTH 46.8%

To learn more about your district's trends in these key areas, contact Pam Smith of Live Well Schools.

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

Revised May 2024

Chronic Absenteeism

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

1 **What is chronic absenteeism?**

Defined as a student missing 10% or more of enrolled school days, whether excused or not (typically, ~18 days) in California

2 **Why is this a problem?**

When schools have a lot of absent students, a breakdown of positive learning conditions occurs

3 **What is the Wellness Connection?**

Research tells us that "place" has a significant impact on well-being. Adults need to create healthy schools where children feel they belong and can thrive.

THE IMPACT...

Missing too many days of preschool, kindergarten, and first grade can set students back in their reading abilities. Students who drop out of high school are at a higher risk of having health and social problems, negatively impacting a student's life-long success.

RESOURCES

Visit the Live Well Schools website:

Chronic Absenteeism

Tools For Schools

Live Well Schools Program Map

Brief Background:

Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing 10% or more of enrolled school days, whether excused or not (typically, ~18 days) in California. Chronic absenteeism should not be confused with truancy (unexcused absences) or average daily attendance (ADA) rates which are applied to state report cards and used for federal accountability.

There are many individual and external factors that contribute to chronic absenteeism but in general, certain student subgroups, such as youth in foster care, youth experiencing homelessness, students with disabilities, and English learners have higher rates of chronic absenteeism.

Data Summary:

Below are compiled chronic absenteeism rates for all 42 school districts in San Diego County. The percent of chronically absent students was calculated by utilizing the publicly available data from the California Department of Education. Percentages were calculated by dividing the number of chronically absent students for a specific subgroup by the total number of the subgroup students in the school.
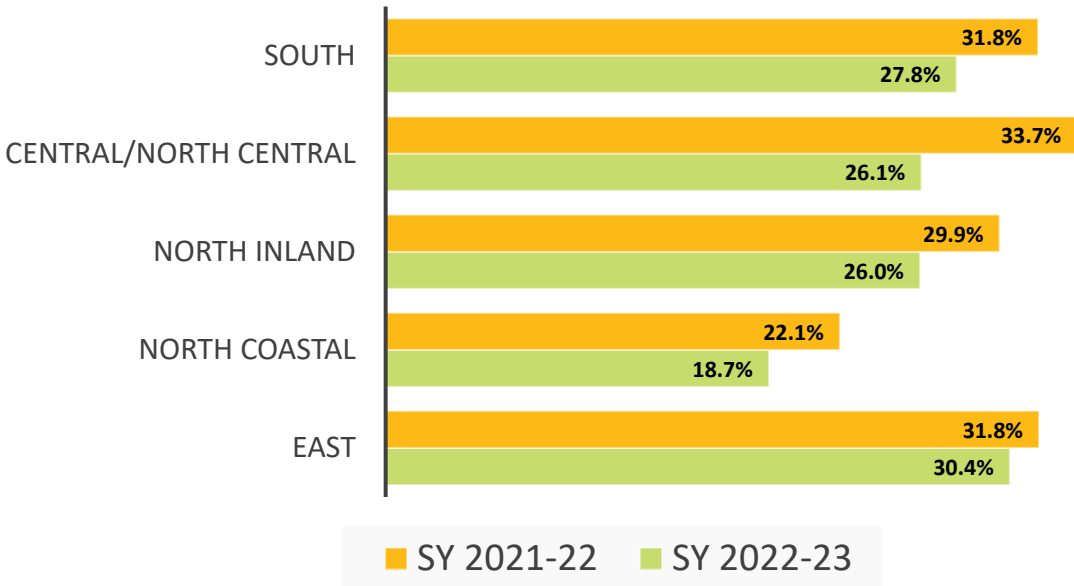
The data below is for non-charter schools only and "#" refers to the number of students who are chronically absent. Highlighted information indicates an overall San Diego County average chronic absenteeism rate that exceeds the state of California average.

Absenteeism Rates for ALL Students in School Year	San Diego County			California Average
	# Enrolled Students	# Chronically Absent Students	% Chronically Absent	
2021-22	495, 084	124,756	**30.4%**	30.8%
2022-23	491,351	114,366	**23.3%**	24.9%

Absenteeism Rates by Student Subgroup	% Chronically Absent in SY 2022-23		
	% Difference from Previous Year	San Diego County Average	California Average
Male	-5.90%	24.7%	25.5%
Female	-6.40%	24.7%	25.4%
Foster Youth	-8.90%	39.5%	39.0%
English Learners	-7.70%	33.0%	28.2%
Students with Disabilities	-7.10%	34.4%	35.7%
Homeless	-8.30%	44.6%	40.9%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	-7.90%	32.5%	31.1%
Migrant	-10.80%	29.7%	22.6%

Sections highlighted yellow indicates a chronically absent % that is higher than the state %

Regional Averages for Total Chronic Absenteeism Rates

SOUTH
- SY 2021-22: 31.8%
- SY 2022-23: 27.8%

CENTRAL/NORTH CENTRAL
- SY 2021-22: 33.7%
- SY 2022-23: 26.1%

NORTH INLAND
- SY 2021-22: 29.9%
- SY 2022-23: 26.0%

NORTH COASTAL
- SY 2021-22: 22.1%
- SY 2022-23: 18.7%

EAST
- SY 2021-22: 31.8%
- SY 2022-23: 30.4%

■ SY 2021-22   ■ SY 2022-23

Above is a graphical comparison of regional averages for total chronic absenteeism rates by school year. Chronic absenteeism rates decreased across all regions in San Diego County from School Year 2021-22 to School Year 2022-23.

- **Find** resources to support better attendance on the Tools for Schools searchable database from Live Well Schools.
- **Learn** what County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency programs are in, or could be in, your schools by using the Live Well Schools Map.
- **Contact** Live Well Schools for additional information and support.