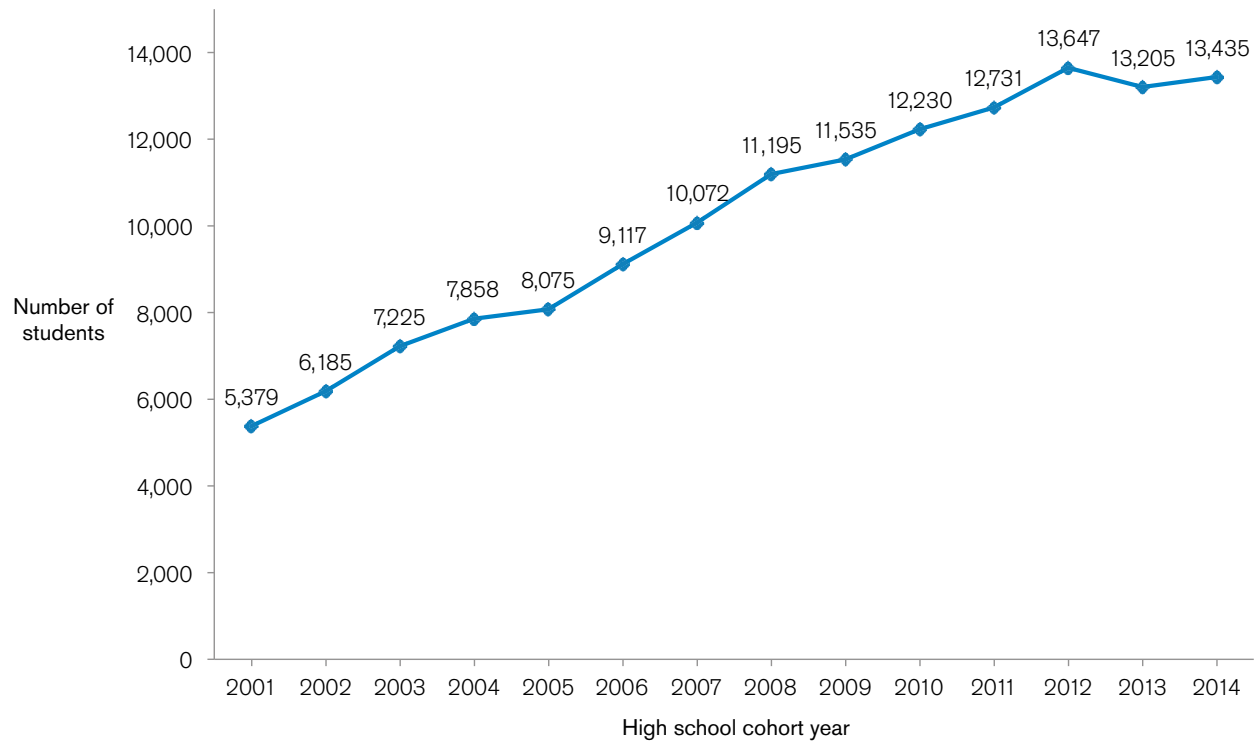


Trends in Participation on the ACT® Test among Homeschooled Students

JEFF ALLEN, PHD

Number of ACT-tested Students in Homeschool by High School Cohort



More Homeschooled Students Are Taking the ACT

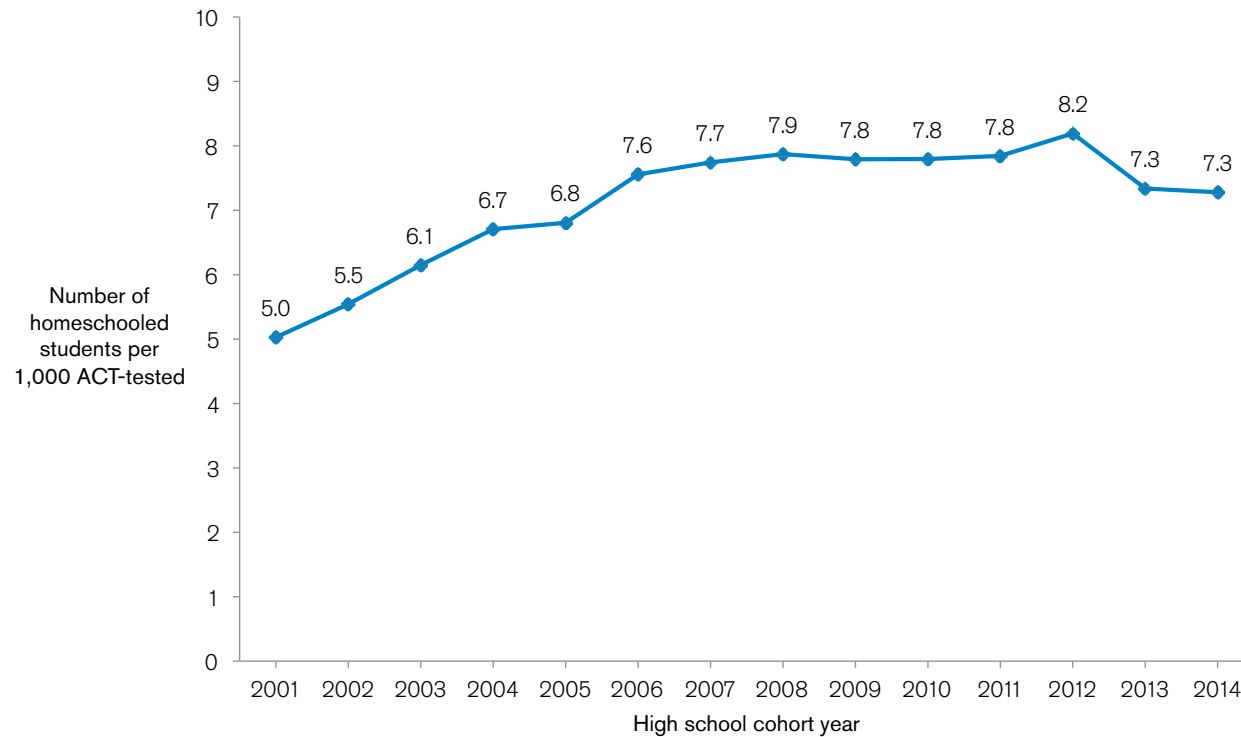
Among the high school students who took the ACT test in 2014, about 7 of every 1,000 students were classified as homeschooled.¹ While this is a relatively small group, the number of homeschooled students who took the ACT increased sharply between 2001

($n = 5,379$) and 2012 ($n = 13,647$). The number then declined slightly in 2013. Between 2001 and 2014, the number of homeschooled students who took the ACT increased 150%.

¹ A student was classified as homeschooled according to his or her high school code from their last ACT test. Because some students are only homeschooled for a portion of their K–12 education, the statistics presented here mostly reflect students who were homeschooled during grade 11 or 12.

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Number of Homeschooled Students per 1,000 ACT-Tested by High School Cohort



Part of the increase in ACT-tested homeschooled students is likely due to nationwide increases in the number of students taking the ACT. Between 2001 and 2014, the total number of students taking the ACT increased 73%.² Still, among all students taking the ACT, the share of homeschooled students increased steadily between 2001 (5.0 per 1,000 ACT-tested) and 2012 (8.2 per 1,000 ACT-tested).

The increase in ACT-tested homeschooled students is consistent with national trends: In 1999, 1.7% of all students in grades 9–12 were

homeschooled. This percentage increased to 2.3% in 2003 and 2.8% in 2007.³ ■

² One reason for the increase in students taking the ACT is State and District testing, which began in 2001 and has increased since.

³ National data on the percentage of students homeschooled was obtained from Table 40 of the *Digest of Education Statistics: 2012* from the National Center for Education Statistics (Washington, DC: US Department of Education, 2013), <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d12>.