

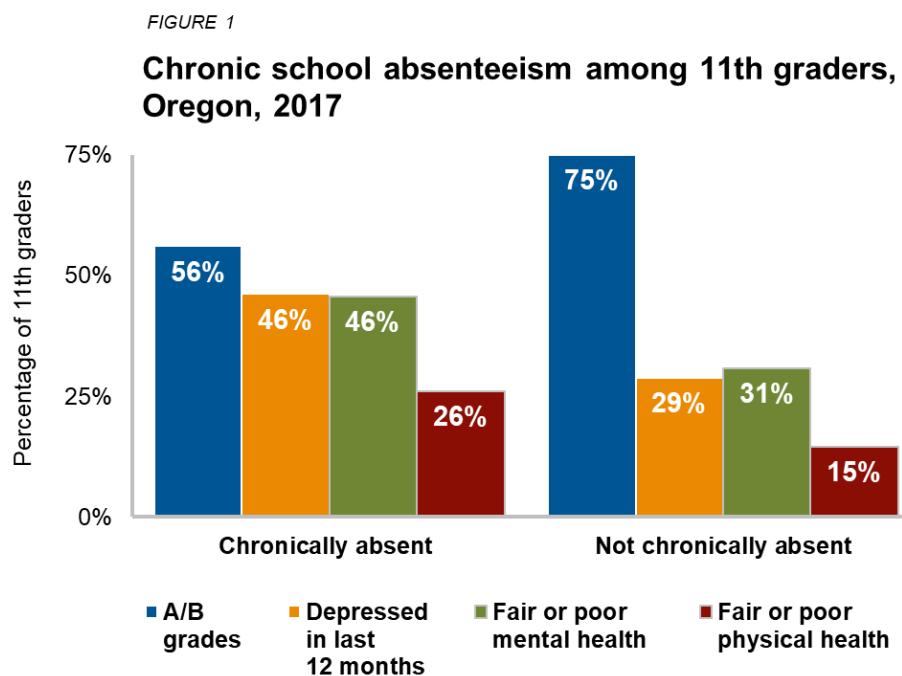
## Social Determinants of Health

# Chronic school absenteeism

Chronically absent students have higher suspension and dropout rates, and decreased high school graduation, college enrollment and college persistence. An array of social determinants can be barriers to students being in school, including poor health, poverty, transportation, and other familial and community factors.<sup>i</sup>

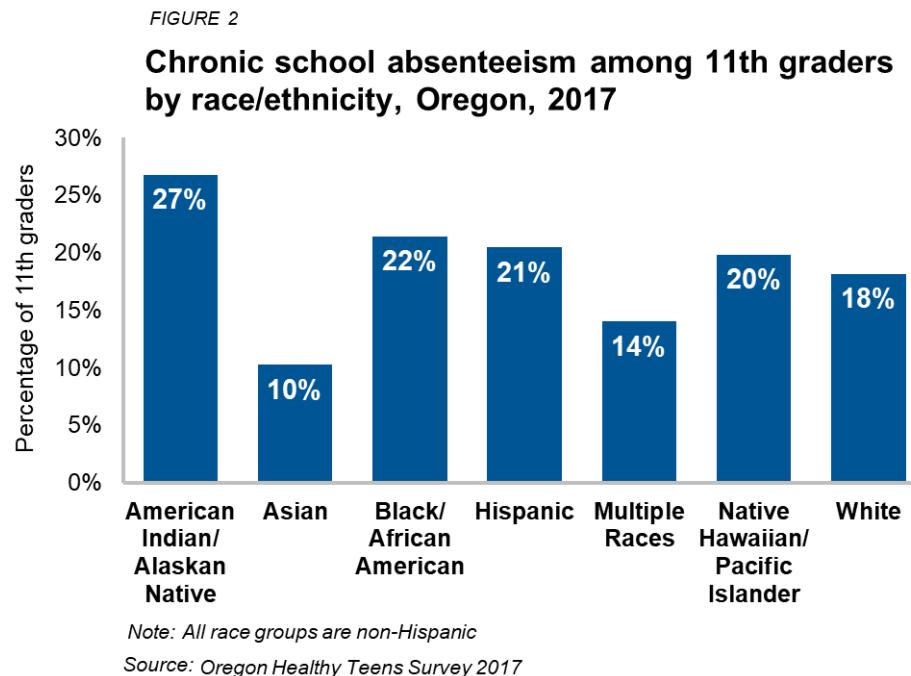
Oregon has one of the highest levels of chronic school absenteeism in the nation.<sup>ii</sup> In the 2017–2018 school year, approximately 21 percent (113,000) of Oregon students in all grades were chronically absent from school (defined as missing 10% or more of the school year, approximately 16 days).<sup>iii</sup> According to 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) Survey data, approximately 19 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> graders reported missing 16 or more days of school for any reason.

The 2017 OHT data echoes findings in national literature. Students who are chronically absent report fewer A and B grades, higher rates of depression and worse mental and physical health than students who are not chronically absent (Figure 1).



Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey 2017

In 2017, Asian students report being chronically absent at a lower rate (10%), and American Indian/Alaska Natives at a higher rate (27%) than their peers of other races and ethnicities (Figure 2).



**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Chief Education Office, 2016 Chronic Absenteeism Report](#); [Chronic Absenteeism Statewide Plan, 2016](#)

**About the Data:** Data source is the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey (OHT). OHT is a pencil and paper or online survey conducted every two years among Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders within schools. Chronic absenteeism is defined as being absent 10% or more of the school year, approximately 16 days. Data includes responses that indicate students missed “16 or more” days in the last 12 months for any reason.

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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<sup>i</sup> Curry Stevens, A & Kim-Gervey C. Chronic Absenteeism Report. May 2016. <http://education.oregon.gov/portfolio/2016-chronic-absenteeism-report-2/>

<sup>ii</sup> Chronic Absenteeism across the United States, 2015-16 School Year, The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institute, [https://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic\\_absence\\_across\\_the\\_united\\_states](https://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic_absence_across_the_united_states)

<sup>iii</sup> Oregon Department of Education: Regular Attenders Report. <http://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Pages/Attendance-and-Absenteeism.aspx>