

Section 5. Research Findings

8. Life Skills/Life-Long Learning

The **Nantucket Community Survey – 2006** responses provide insight into a number of life skills- and education-related topics, including:

- Number of adults in the household having attained various educational levels;
 - High school diploma
 - GED certificate
 - Having “some” college
 - 2-Year college degree
 - 4-Year college degree
 - Graduate college degree
- Aspirations to upgrade employment skills or to change careers

Household Issues:

Nantucket Community Survey - 2006 respondents were asked to identify major life skills-and education-related issues and problems that came up in their household during the previous year. The following life skills-related issue was highlighted:

- Inadequate opportunities to learn new skills or for advancement at work

Highlights from Life Skills-Related Research Findings

Overall, Nantucket residents are very highly educated. Nearly one-third of Nantucket households report at least one graduate college degree. Nearly two-thirds of Island households have one or more person holding a 4-year college degree. More than nine of every ten Nantucket households (93%) have someone holding a high school diploma or someone who has earned a high school equivalency GED certificate. A few households (4%) report that someone living there had left high school without earning a diploma. See Table 5.8.1. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

Table 5.8.1a: Educational Attainment By Members of Nantucket Households:

Educational Attainment of Household Member(s)	Percent of Nantucket Households
Left High School Without Diploma	4%
High School Diploma or GED*	93% (adj.)*
Any College-level study** (with or without degree)	80%**
2-Year College Degree	13%
4-Year College Degree	61%
Graduate Degree	30%

* “High School Diploma or GED” data adjusted based upon college level education responses.

** “Any College-level study” means one or more household member has studied at the college level.

Table 5.8.1b shows key education–related issues encountered in Nantucket households. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

Table 5.8.1b: Education-Related Issues in Nantucket Households
[a minor-to-major problem]

Education-Related Household Issue	Percent of Nantucket Households
Issue: Inadequate opportunities to learn new skills or for advancement at work	11%

Difficulty Reading/Understanding/Speaking in English

In eleven percent of sampled households, English is not the primary language spoken. Table 5.8.2 shows findings related to English language reading, understanding, and speaking abilities of adults living in Nantucket households where English is not the primary language spoken. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

Table 5.8.2: Reading/Understanding/Speaking English Abilities of Adults in Primarily Non-English-Speaking Nantucket Households

Nantucket Households Where PRIMARY Language Spoken is <u>Not</u> English	Percent of Primarily Non-English-Speaking Nantucket Households
Does any adult (age 18+) there read, understand, and speak English?	(Total N = 59)*
Yes	56%**
No	44%**

* CAUTION: Sample size is very small. See also, Appendix 1.C, Limitations of These Survey Data

** Percent of only those fifty-nine (59) sampled households where the primary language spoken is not English.

Most Needy Households (see definition of “Most Needy” households in Section 5.4)

The most needy of Nantucket households are also highly educated. Four-in-ten of most needy households have at least one person holding a 4-year college degree, and one-quarter report at least one graduate college degree. Educational attainment within these groups approaches levels in the overall population in the attainment of a high school diploma or GED (combined), with eighty-five percent of these households having someone holding a high school diploma or someone who has earned a high school equivalency GED certificate, and exceeds them in 2-year college degrees earned. However, about one-in-ten households report that someone living there had left high school without earning a diploma. See Table 5.8.3. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

Table 5.8.3a: Educational Attainment By Members of Most Needy Households:

Educational Attainment of Household Member(s)	Percent of Most Needy Nantucket Households
Left High School Without Diploma	10%
High School Diploma or GED*	85% (adj.)*
Any College-level study** (with or without degree)	67%**
2-Year College Degree	19%
4-Year College Degree	39%
Graduate Degree	24%

* “High School Diploma or GED” data adjusted based upon college level education responses.

** “Any College-level study” means one or more household member has studied at the college level.

Table 5.8.3b shows key education–related issues encountered in most needy households. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

Table 5.8.3b: Education-Related Issues in Most Needy Households
[a minor-to-major problem]

Education-Related Household Issue	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Households
Issue: Inadequate opportunities to learn new skills or for advancement at work	52%

Difficulty Reading/Understanding/Speaking in English

In approximately one-third (32%) of the Island’s most needy households, English is not the primary language spoken. Table 5.8.4 shows findings related to English language reading, understanding, and speaking abilities of adults living in our most needy Island households where English is not the primary language spoken. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

Table 5.8.4: Reading/Understanding/Speaking English Abilities of Adults in Primarily Non-English-Speaking Most Needy Nantucket Households [% of most needy households where no adult reads, understands, or speaks English]

Most Needy Nantucket Households Where PRIMARY Language Spoken is <u>Not</u> English	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Primarily <u>Non-English-Speaking</u> Households
Does any adult (age 18+) there read, understand, and speak English?	(Total N = 28)*
Yes	50%**
No	50%**

* CAUTION: Sample size is extremely small. See also, Appendix 1.C, Limitations of These Survey Data

** Percent of only those twenty-eight (28) sampled most needy households where the primary language spoken is not English.

Career Development and Upgrading Job Skills

Nantucket Community Survey - 2006 respondents were asked to answer a series of questions concerning aspirations of their household members for upgrading their employment skills and/or changing careers. A discussion of responses to these questions is contained in Section 5.5.1 (Basic Needs: Employment) of this Report. (See also, Appendix 2.F)

