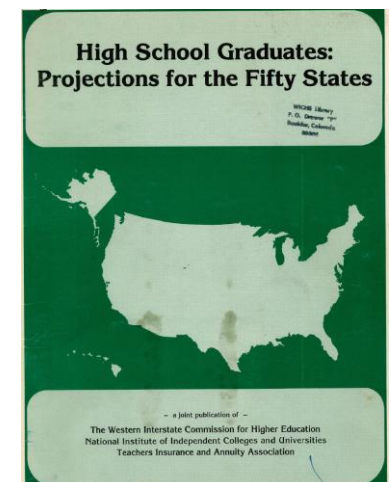
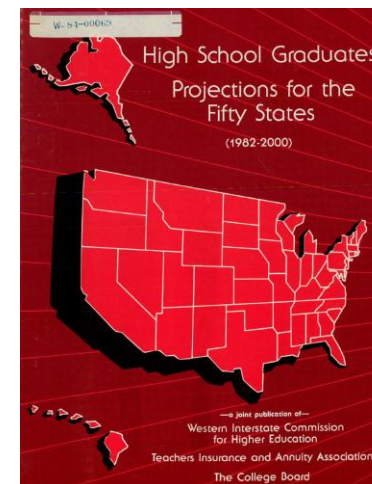
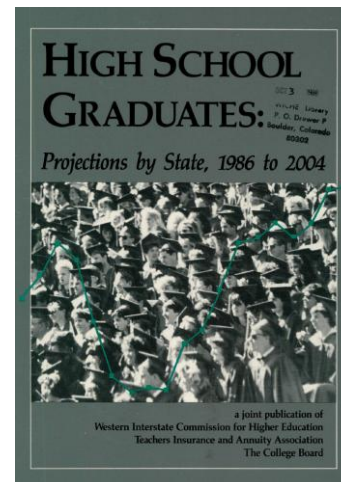
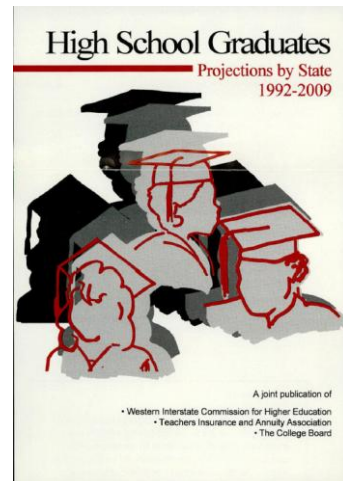
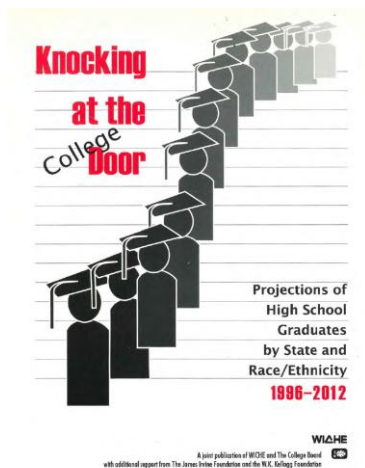
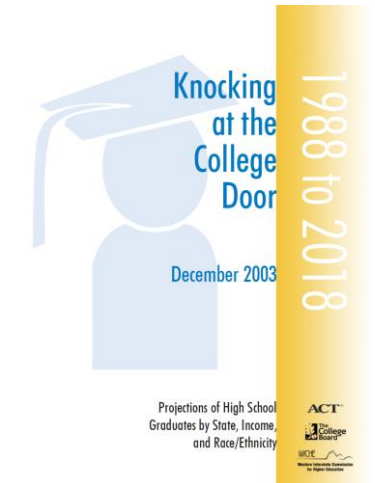
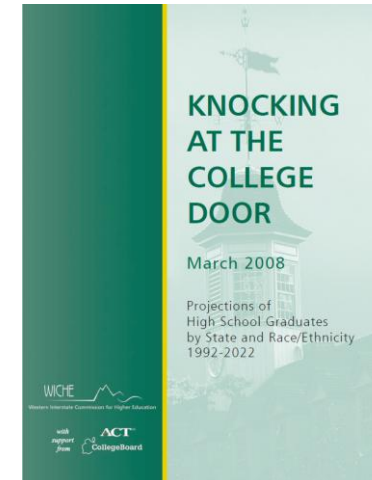
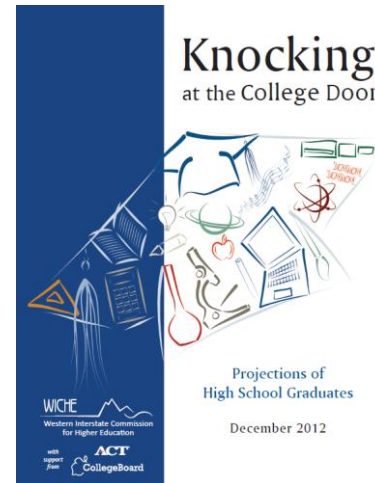
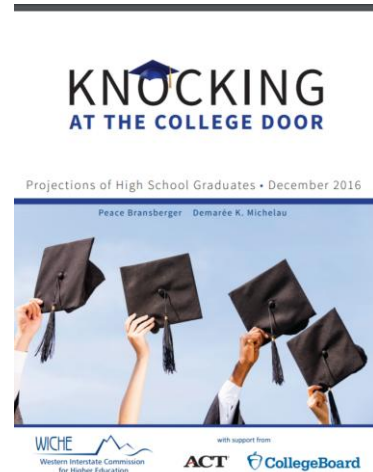
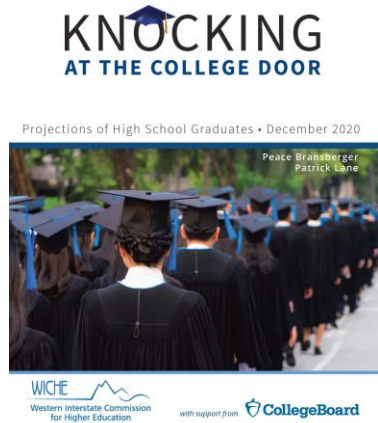


KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR

Academic Partnerships Annual Meeting
Reno, Nevada – April 24, 2025



History and background: What is *Knocking*?



KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR

11th Edition

Interactive Dashboards: www.wiche.edu/knocking



A true team effort



Peace Bransberger
Formerly
Director of Programs &
Evidence



Colleen Falkenstern
Director of Programs &
Evidence



Joseph Garcia
Senior Graphic Designer



Melanie Sidwell
VP, Communications



Special thanks

To the state agency staff who made this work possible by working with our team, providing data, and patiently explaining nuances of their state context...

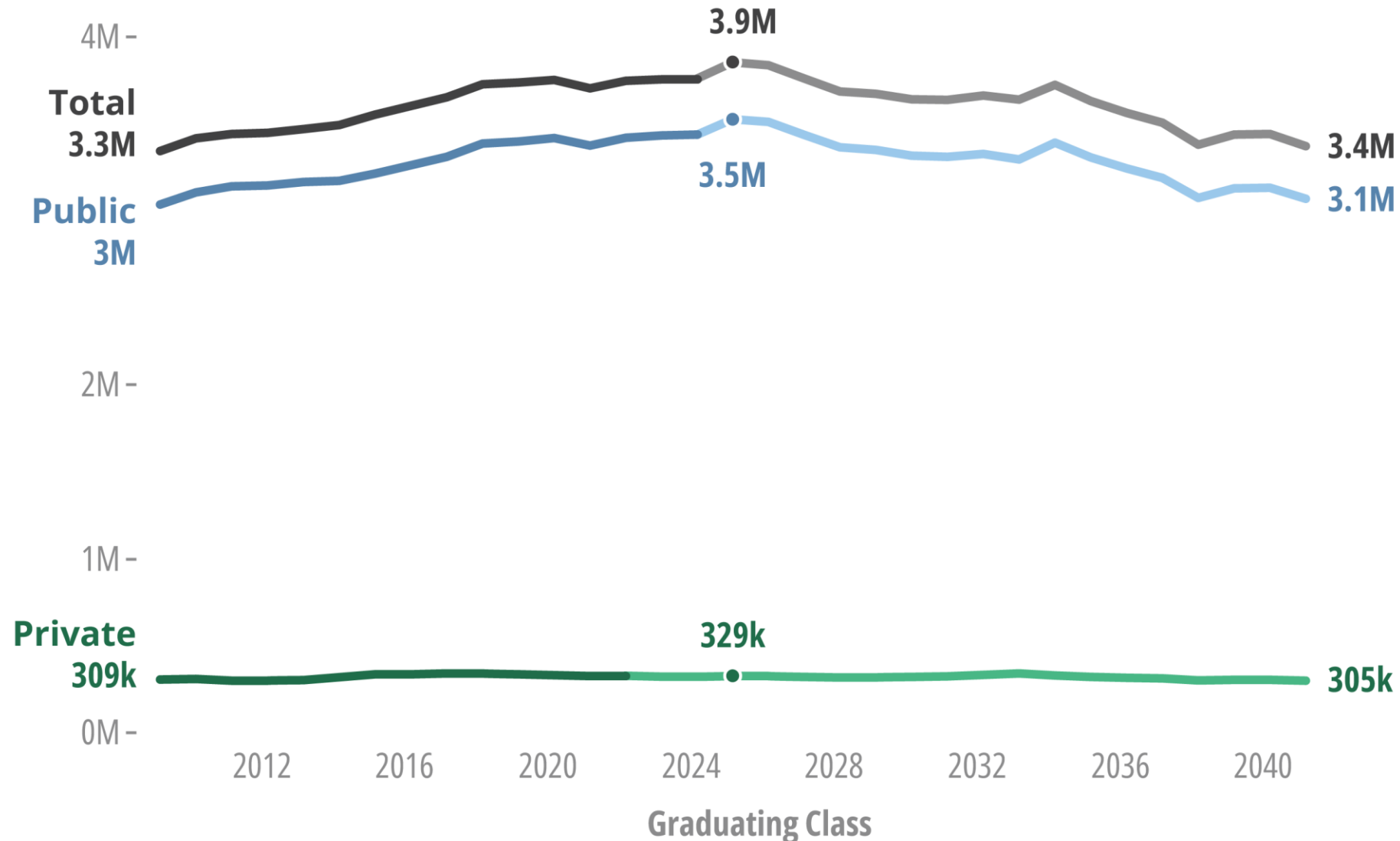
Thank you!



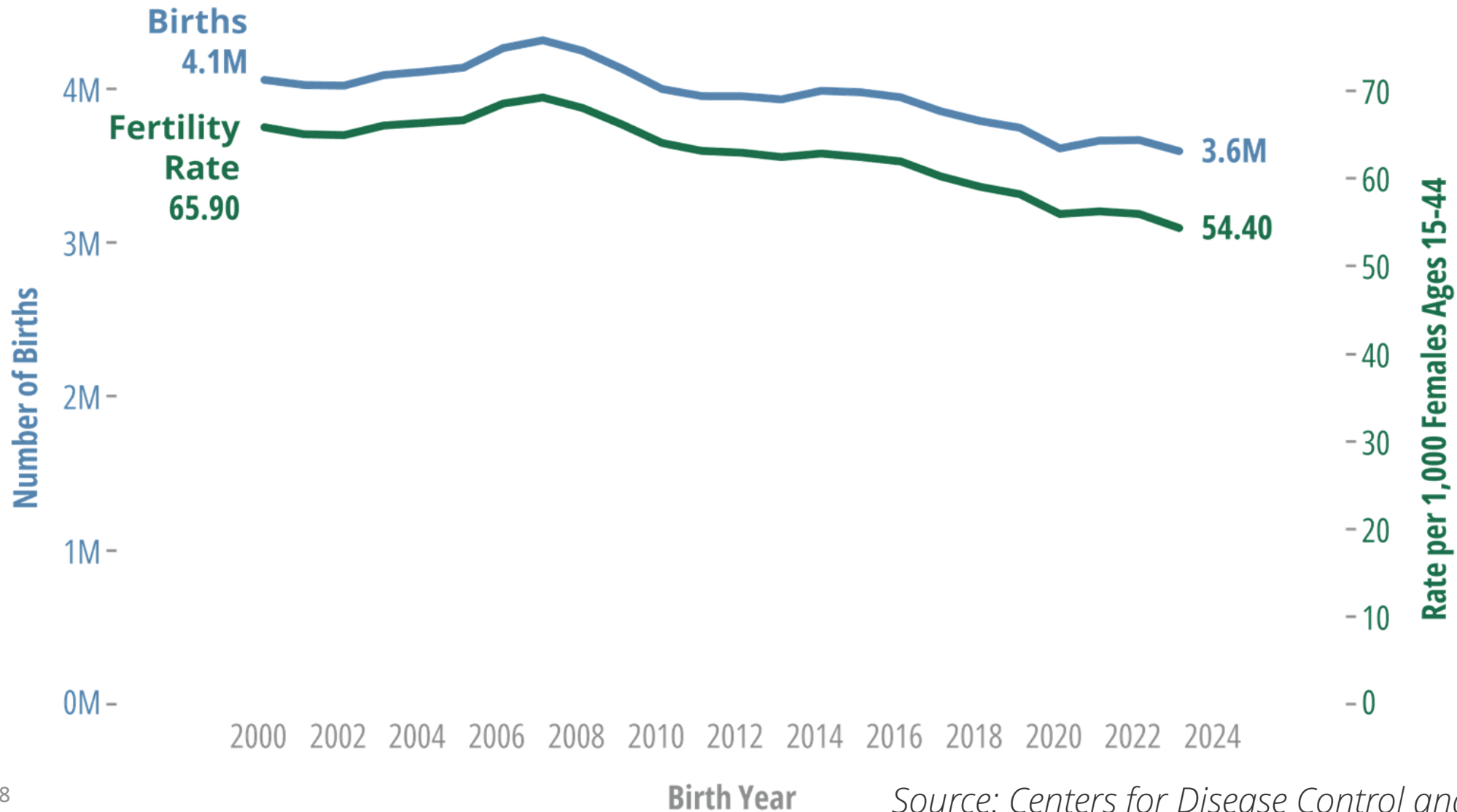
So what do the data say?

Key Finding #1: The total number of high school graduates is expected to peak in 2025, then decline through 2041.

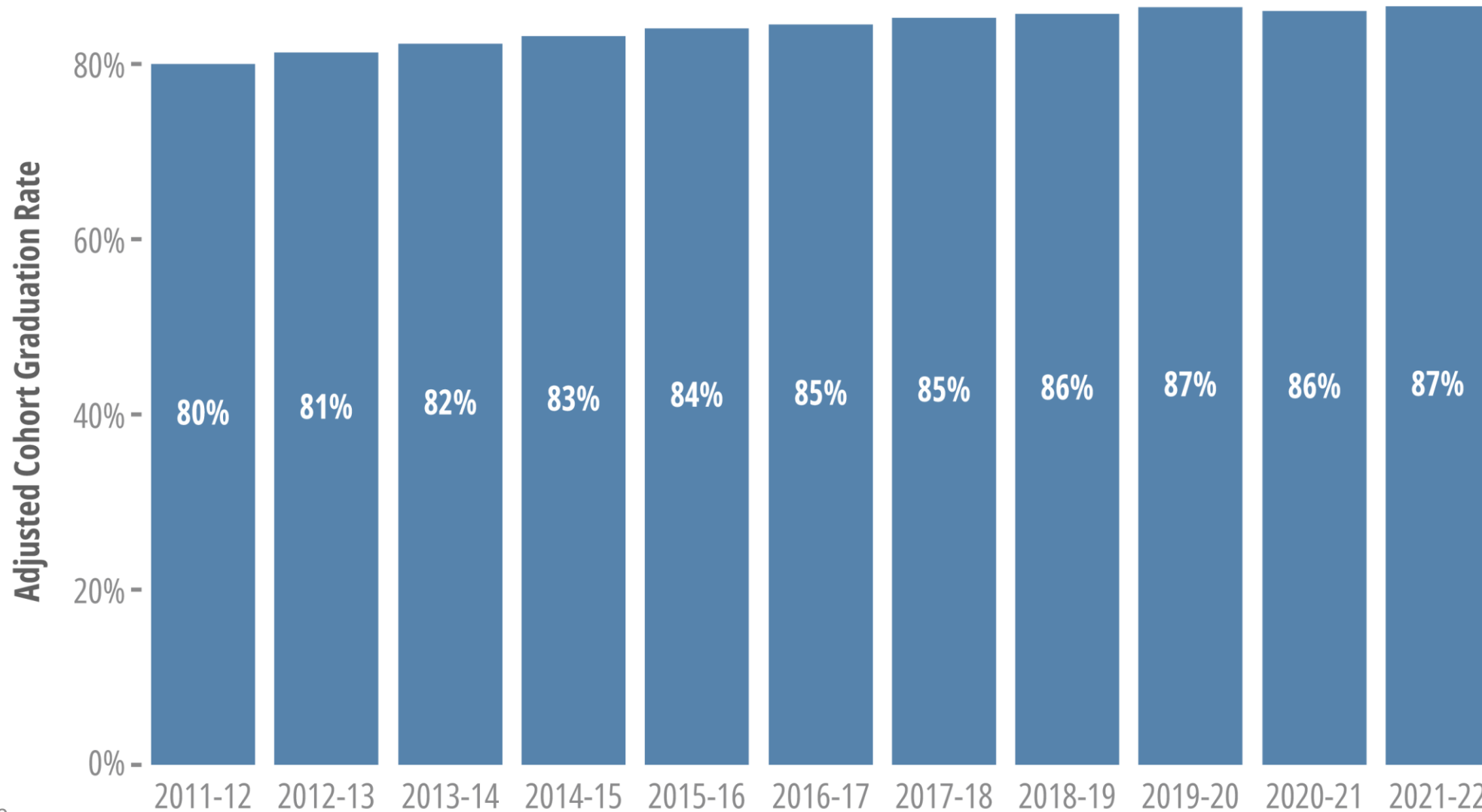
High school graduates, reported (2009 to 2023) and projected (2024 to 2041)



Primary factor: Births (actuals, 2000-2023)



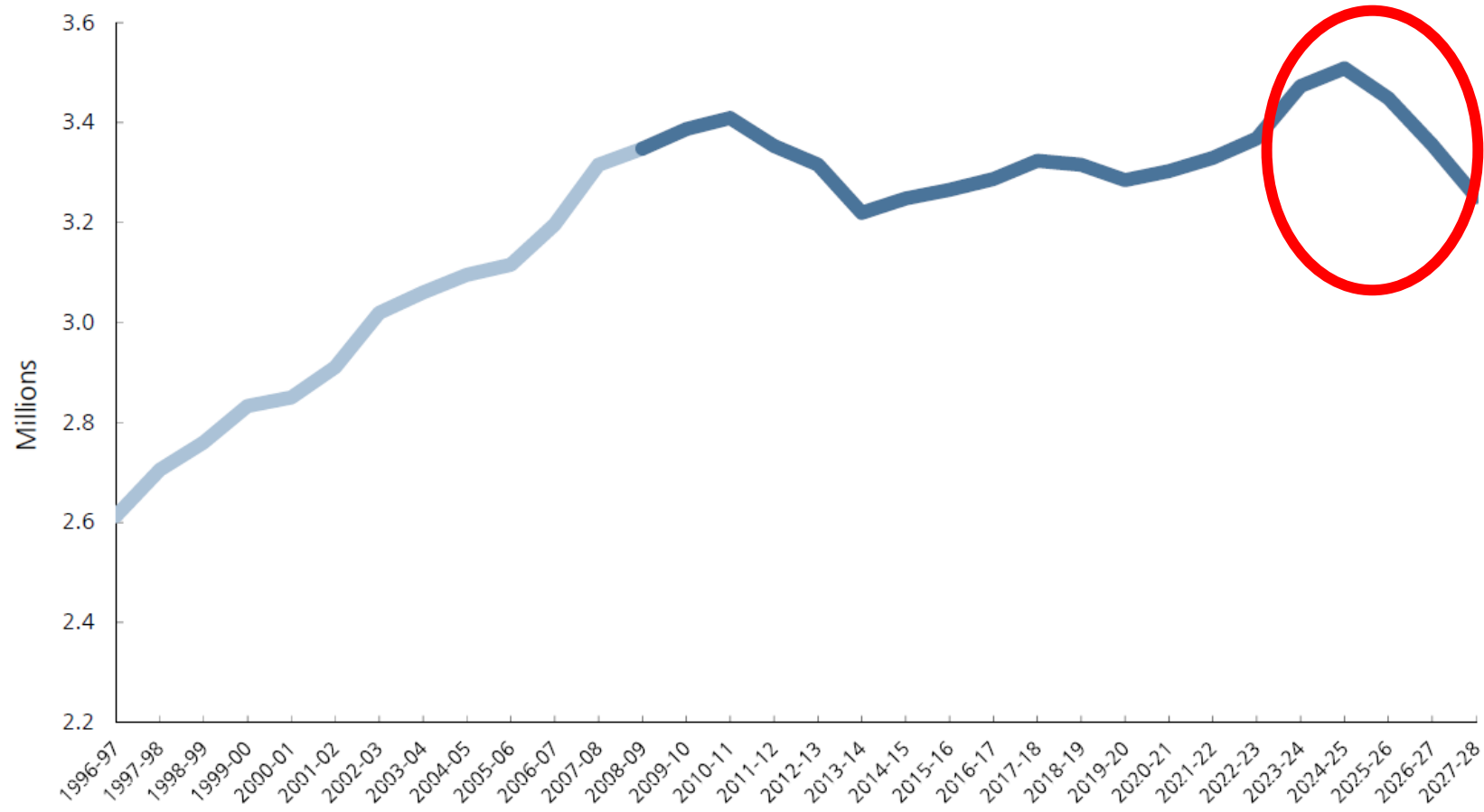
Secondary factor: K-12 retention and completion



*Source: National
Center for
Education
Statistics*

A tale as old as...2012

U.S. Public and Nonpublic High School Graduates, 1996-97 to 2027-28

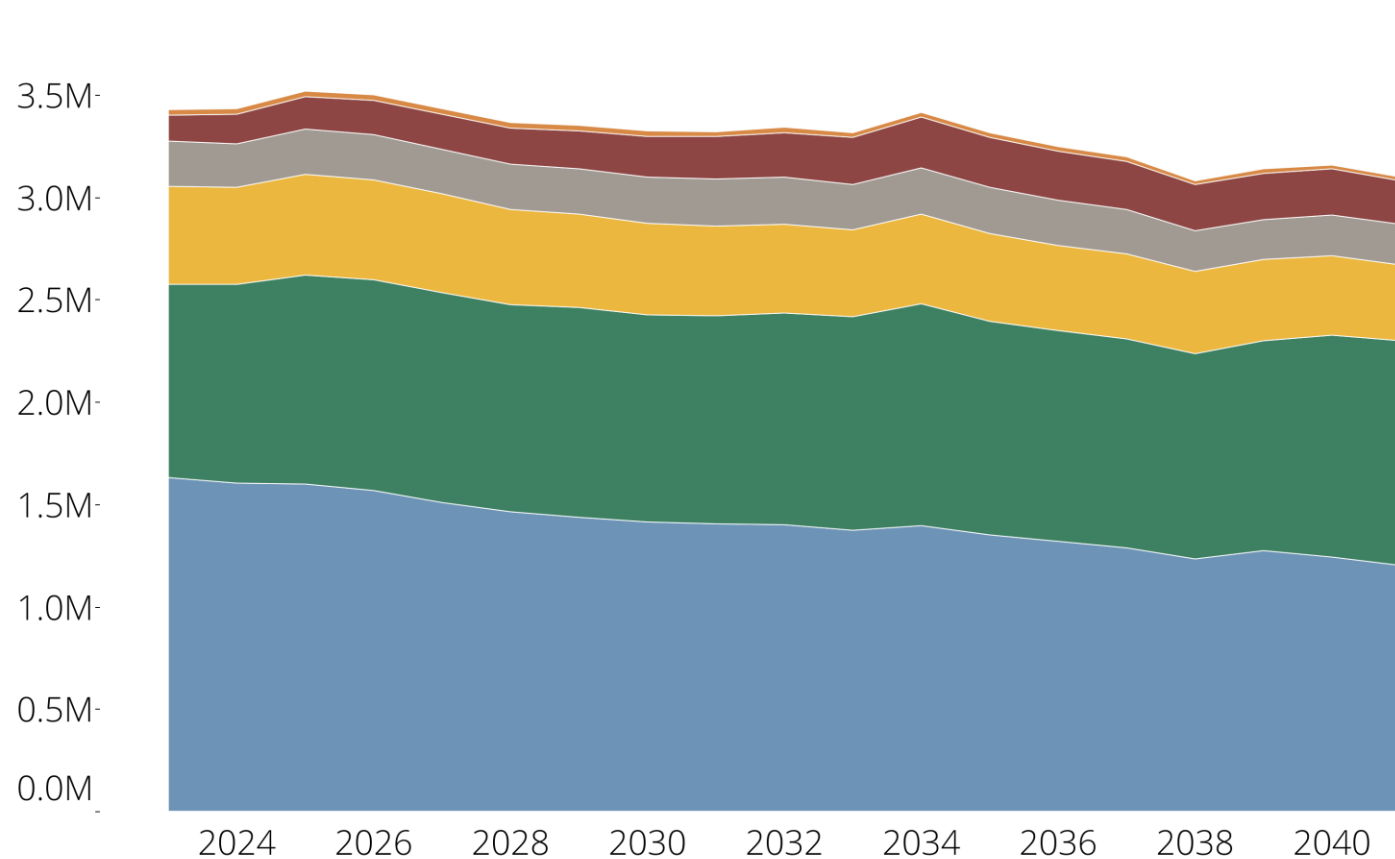




So what do the data say?

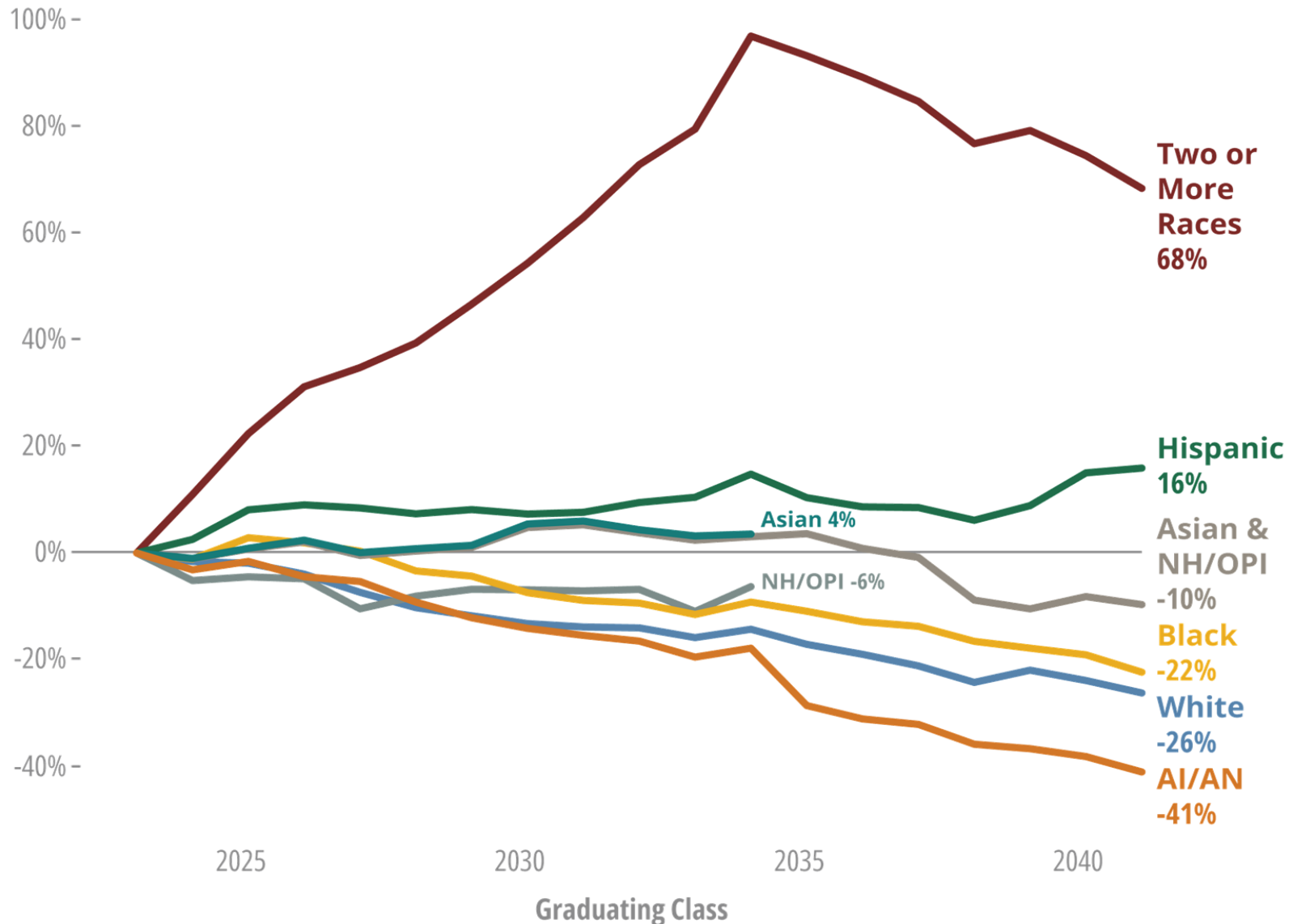
Key Finding #2: The number of graduates identifying as Hispanic or Multiracial is projected to grow. Other populations by race and ethnicity are projected to decline.

U.S. public high school graduates by race and ethnicity

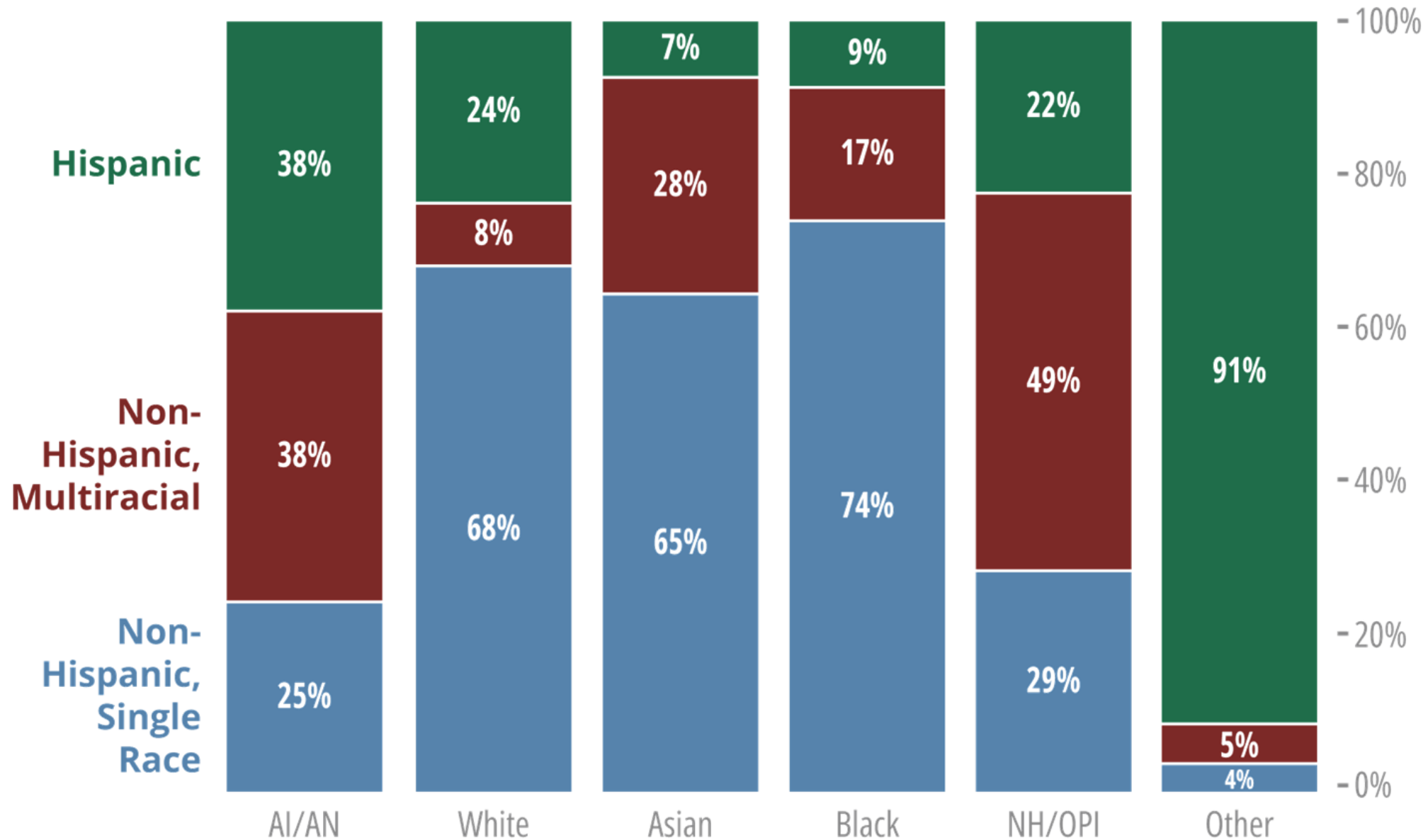


Race/Ethnicity	2023	2041
AI/AN	29,706	17,566
Multiracial	127,352	214,303
Asian & NHOPI	217,616	196,667
Black	480,224	372,960
Hispanic	944,299	1,094,165
White	1,629,974	1,202,287

Projected change in U.S. high school graduates, 2023 to 2041



A closer look at the Two or More Races population



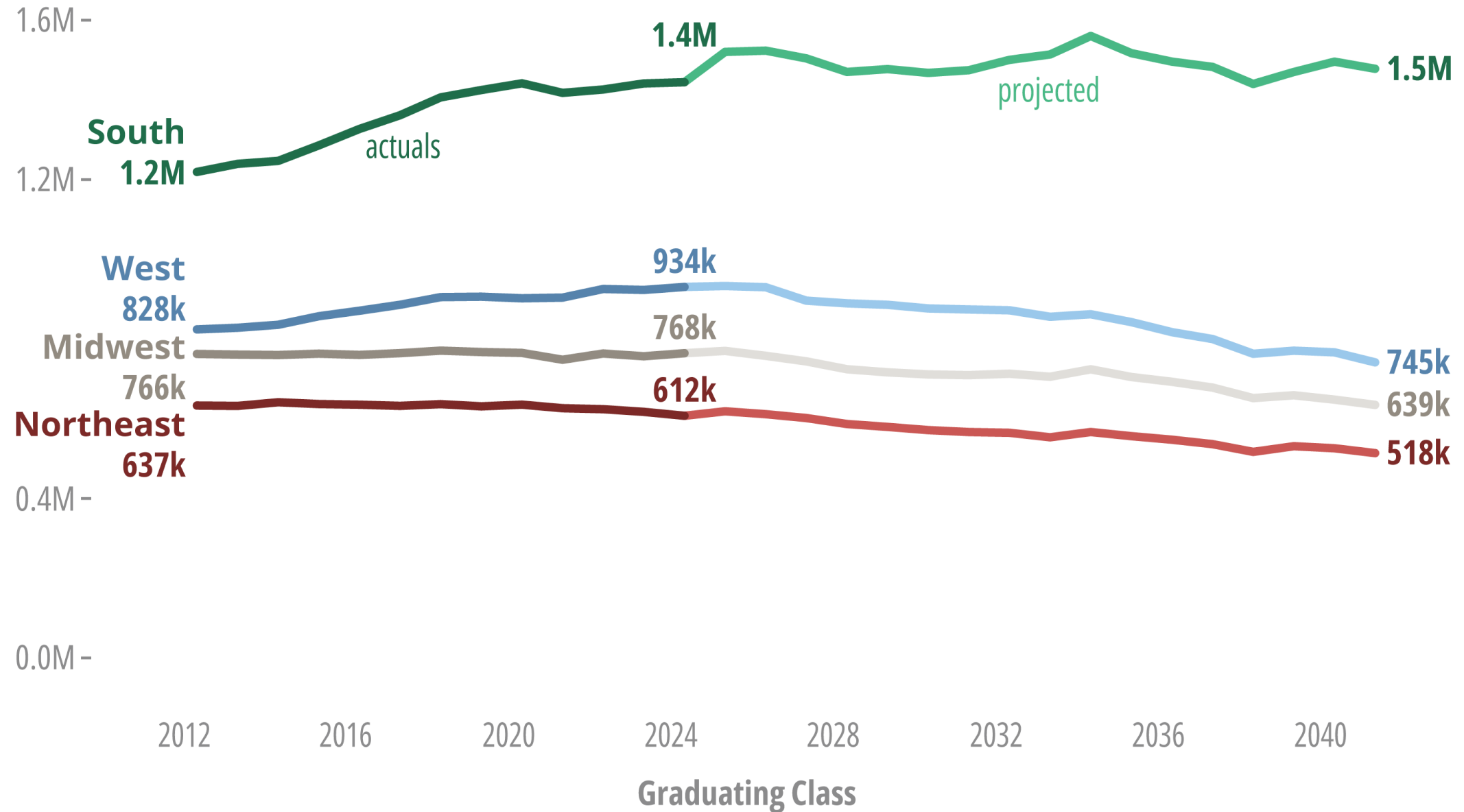
Source:
WICHE
analysis of
U.S. Census
ACS data



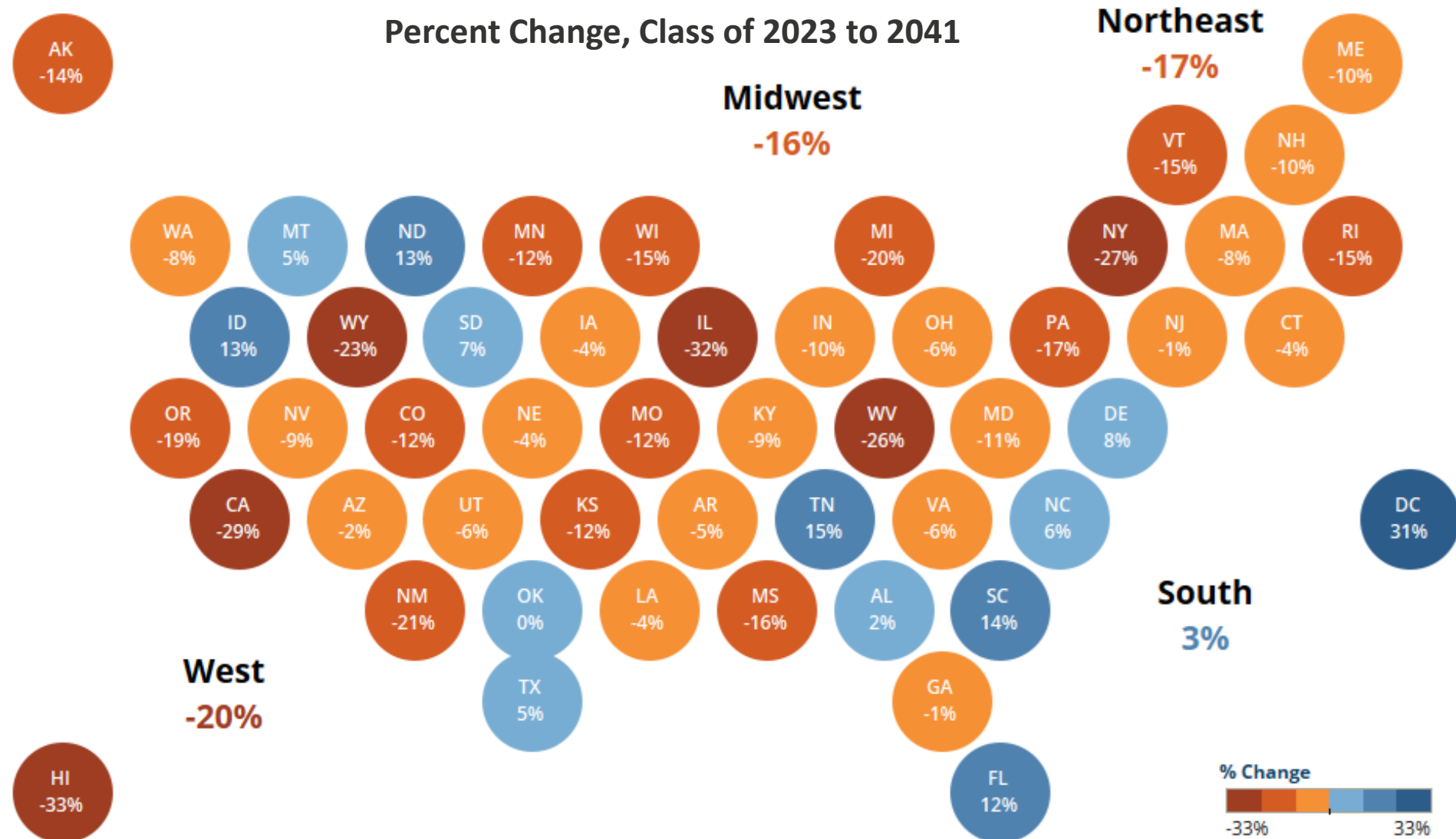
So what do the data say?

Key Finding #3: Declines in the West, Northeast, and Midwest will be steeper than previously projected; the number of graduates in the South is projected to increase.

Regional variation



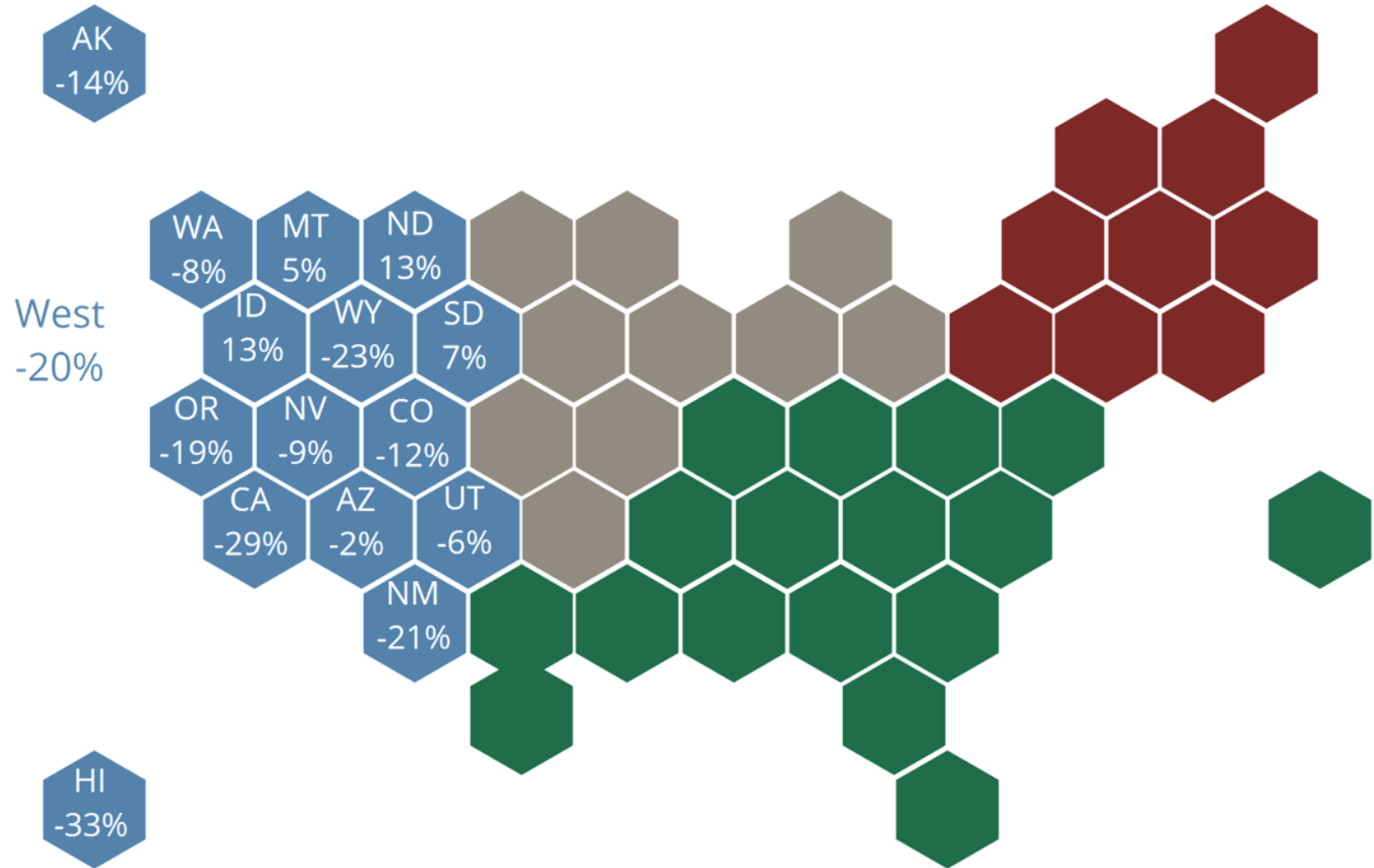
Regional and state variation



Projected change in high school graduates in the West, 2023 to 2041

► Trends in the West

- Increases among Multiracial and Private graduates and declines among all other racial and ethnic populations
- Projected increases in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota

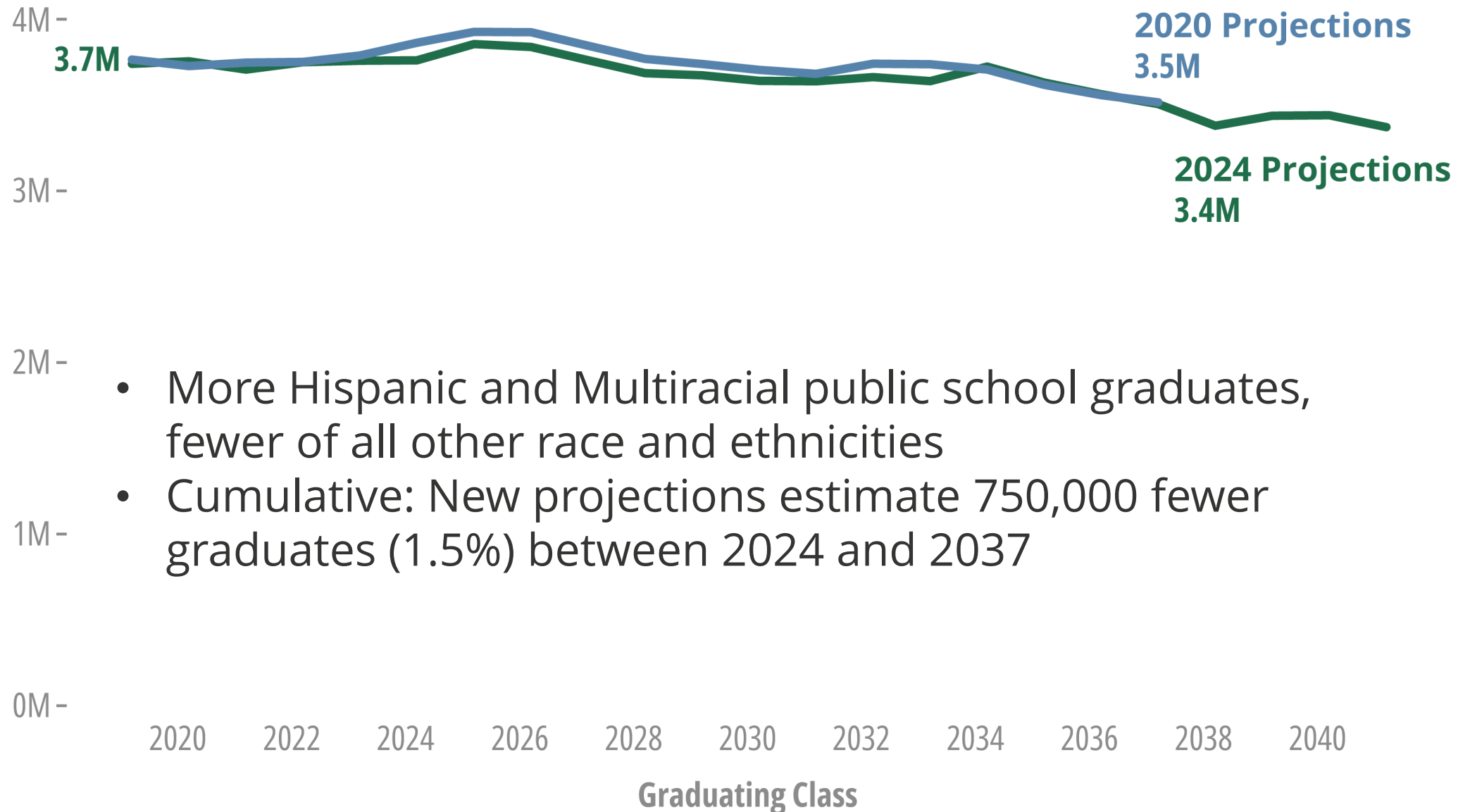




So what do the data say?

Key Finding #4: Enrollment data show a steeper drop in earlier grades of both K-12 public and private school systems than projected before the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 vs. 2024 editions





Should we care?

Implications and discussion

Workforce shortages

Governors Address Healthcare Labor Shortages

Addressing Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Workforce Shortages Through Non-financial Incentives

Topics / Workforce /

Data Deep Dive: A National Nursing Crisis

The United States is currently grappling with a nursing shortage that is causing a

Collaborating with schools key to solving diesel technician shortage

There are jobs in ag, but not enough grads to fill them

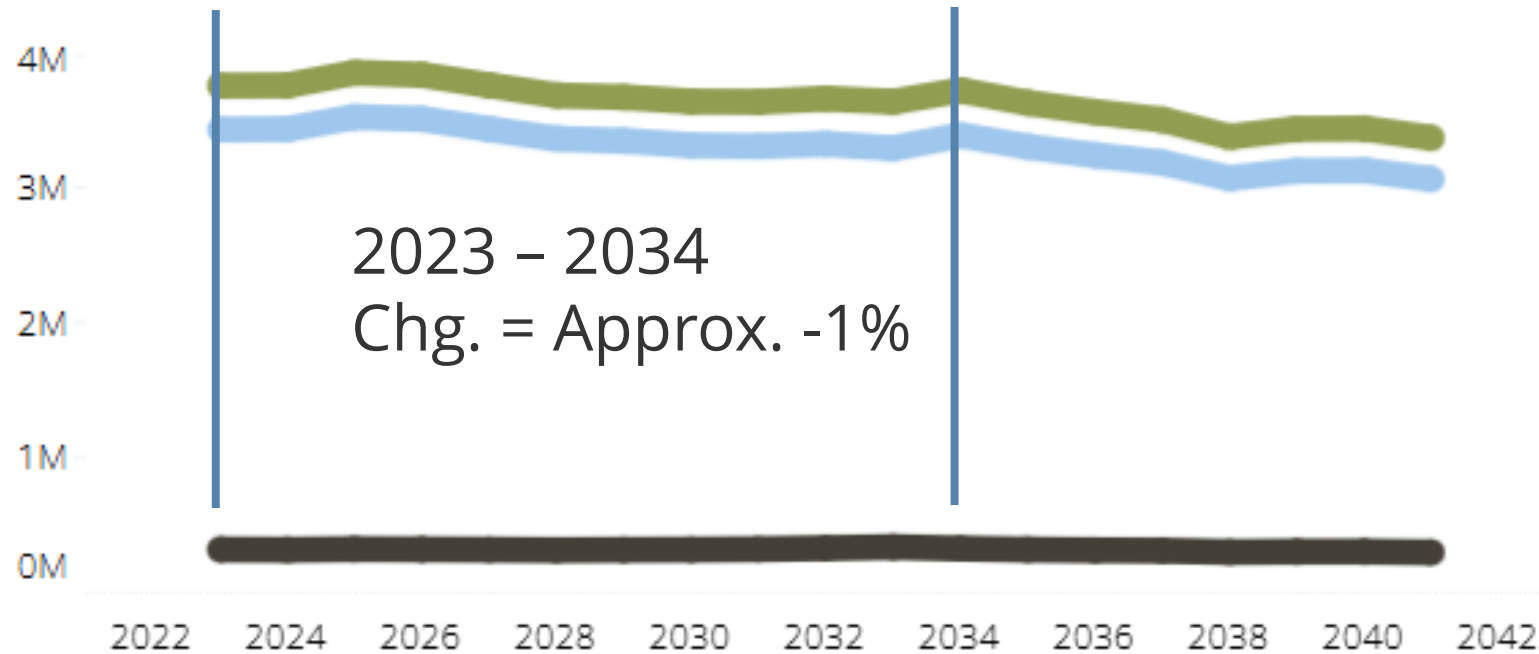
14 May 2024

IT Skills Shortage Expected to Impact Nine out of Ten Organizations by 2026 with a Cost of \$5.5 Trillion in Delays, Quality Issues and Revenue Loss, According to IDC

Transportation industry must step up to solve engineering talent shortage

On the one hand...

- Relax...a “cliff” is not always a cliff.



On the other hand...this



Source: NWS
via NOAA
Ocean
Prediction
Center

Leads to this...

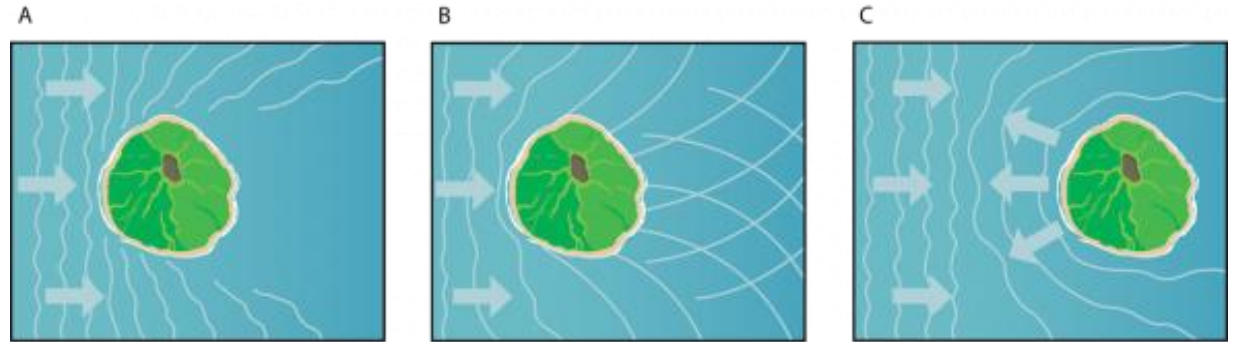
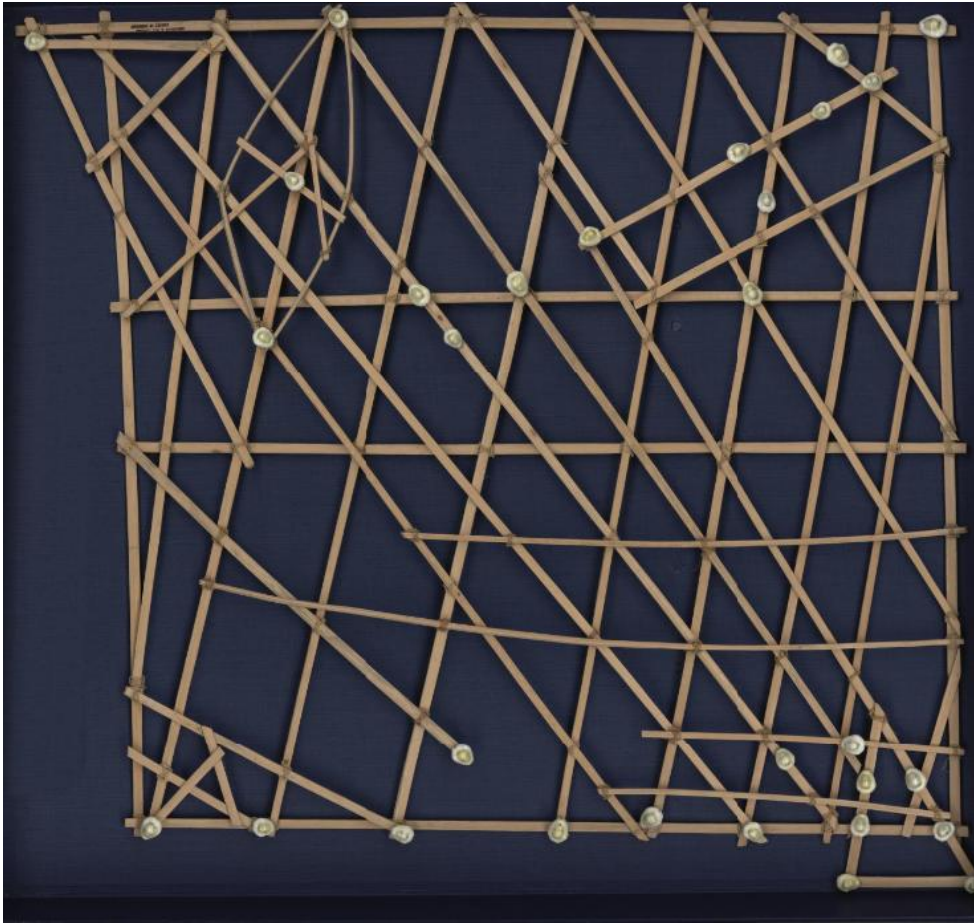


Source: *The Perfect Storm*

The current environment

- ▶ Fiscal uncertainty, including some state-level budget uncertainty
- ▶ Widespread questions about value (but widespread consensus about the importance of post-HS credentials)
- ▶ Federal changes
- ▶ Declining enrollments for some sectors
- ▶ Workforce shortages

So what now? Finding our way

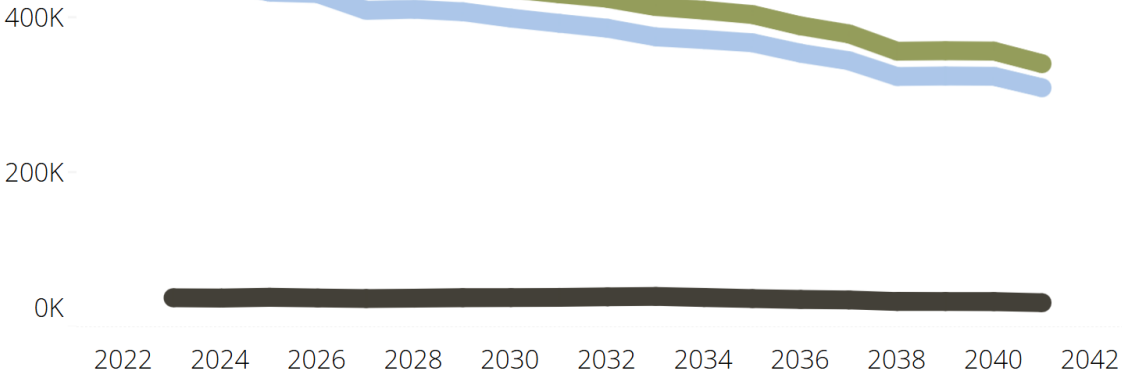




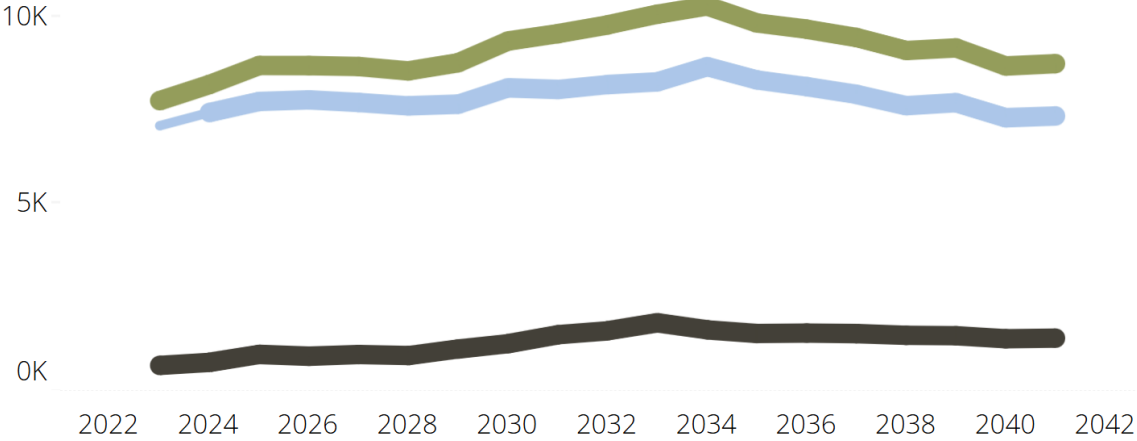
Step 1: Understand your context

A tale of two states

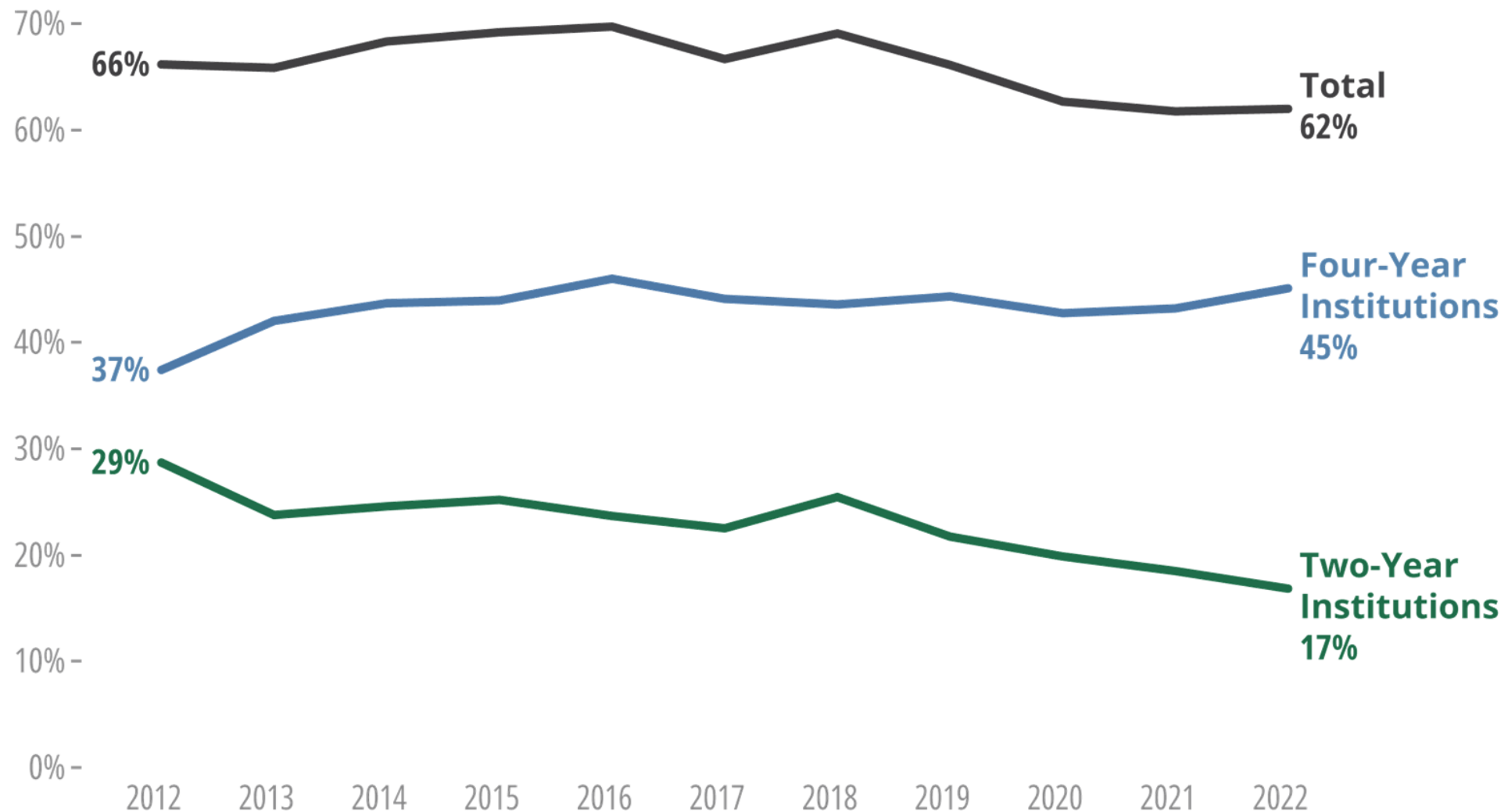
California



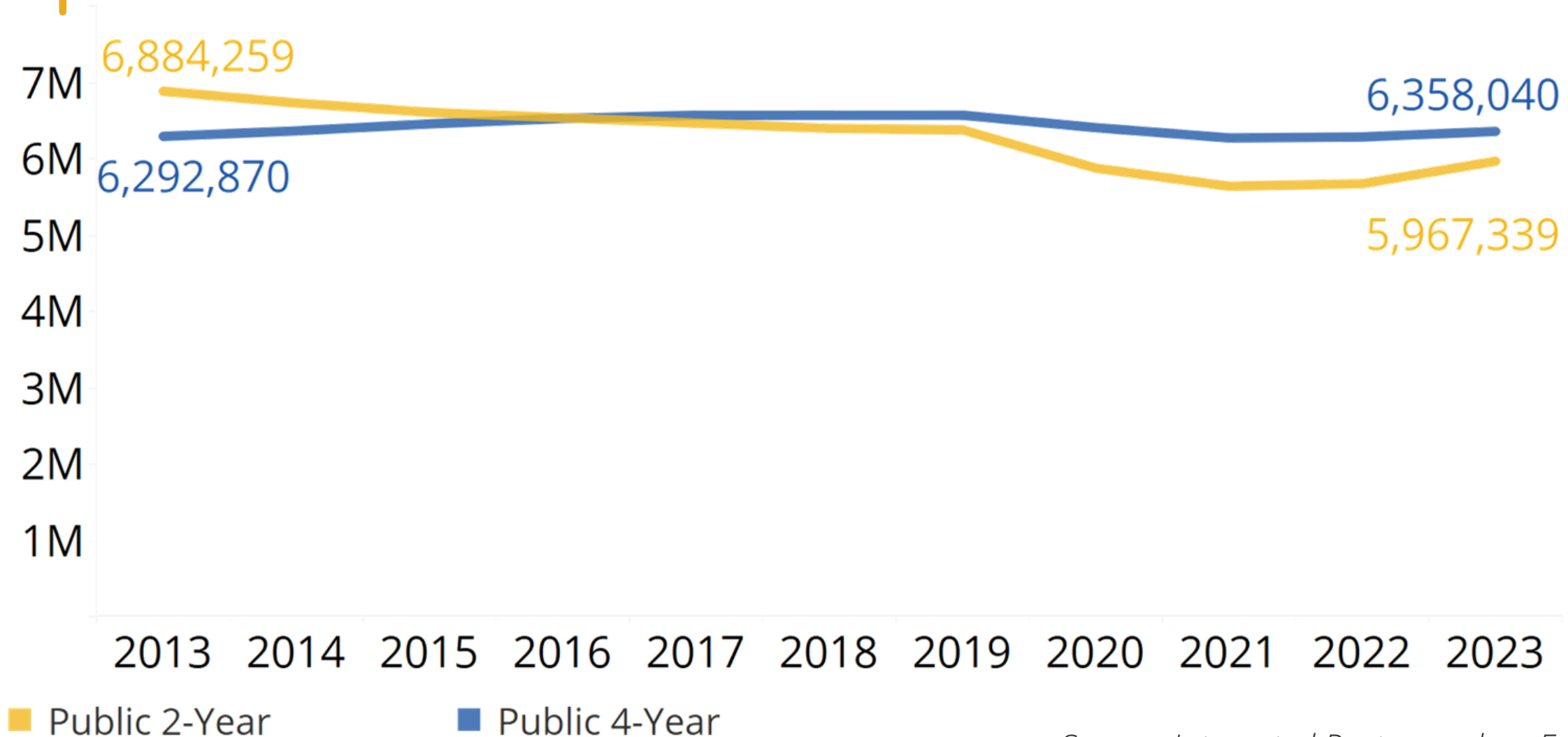
North Dakota



Immediate college-going, national

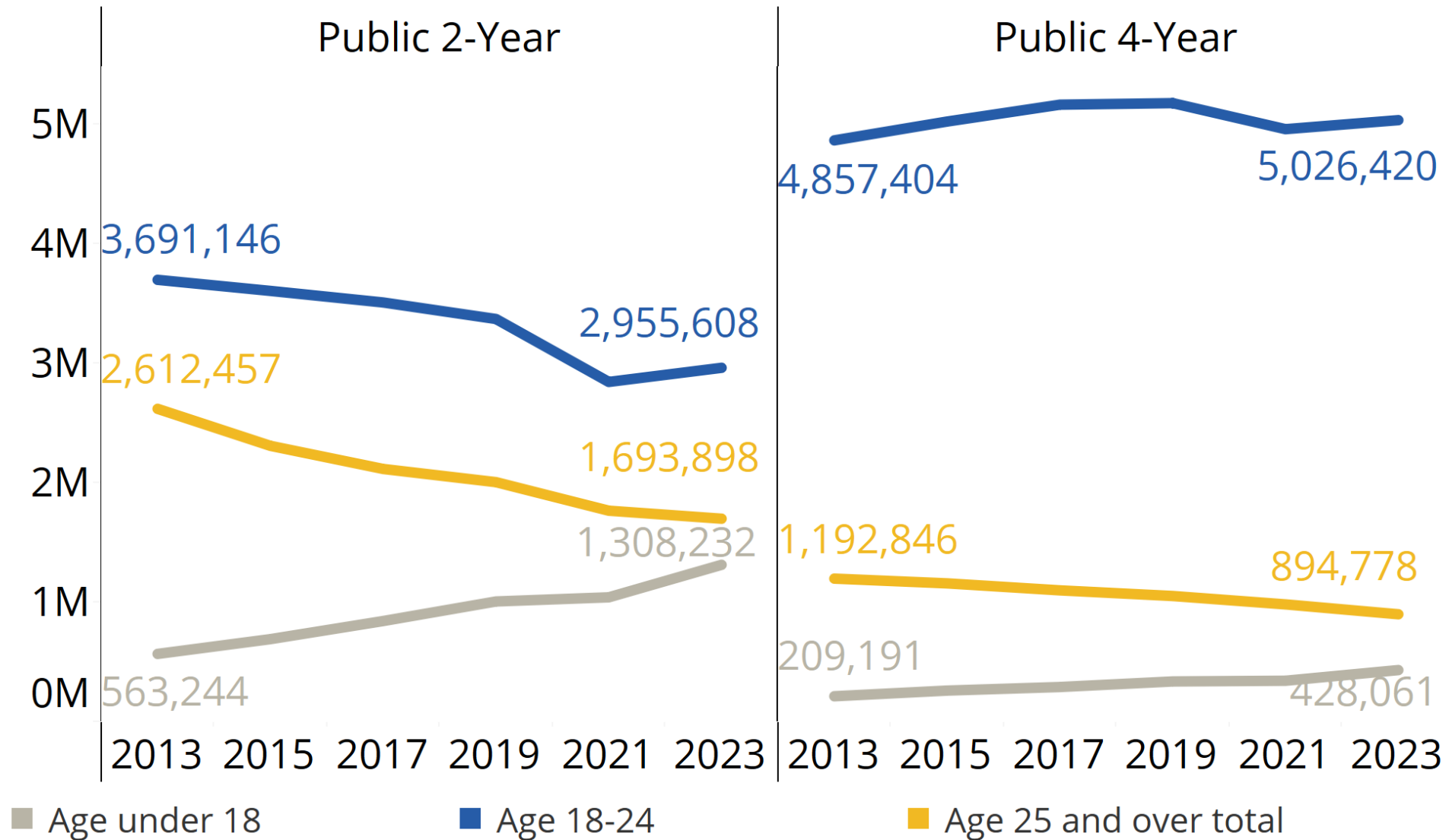


Public postsecondary enrollment: National



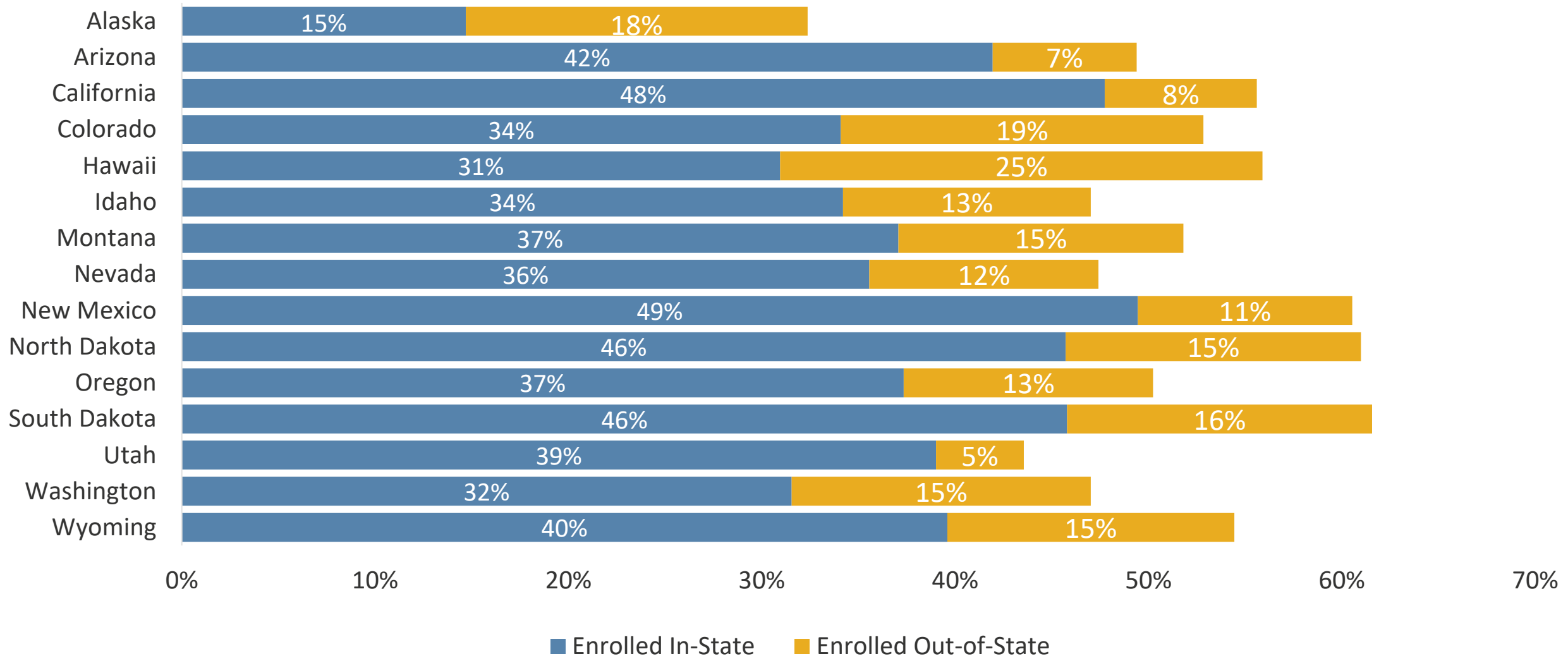
Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Fall 2023 enrollments

Public postsecondary enrollment: By age



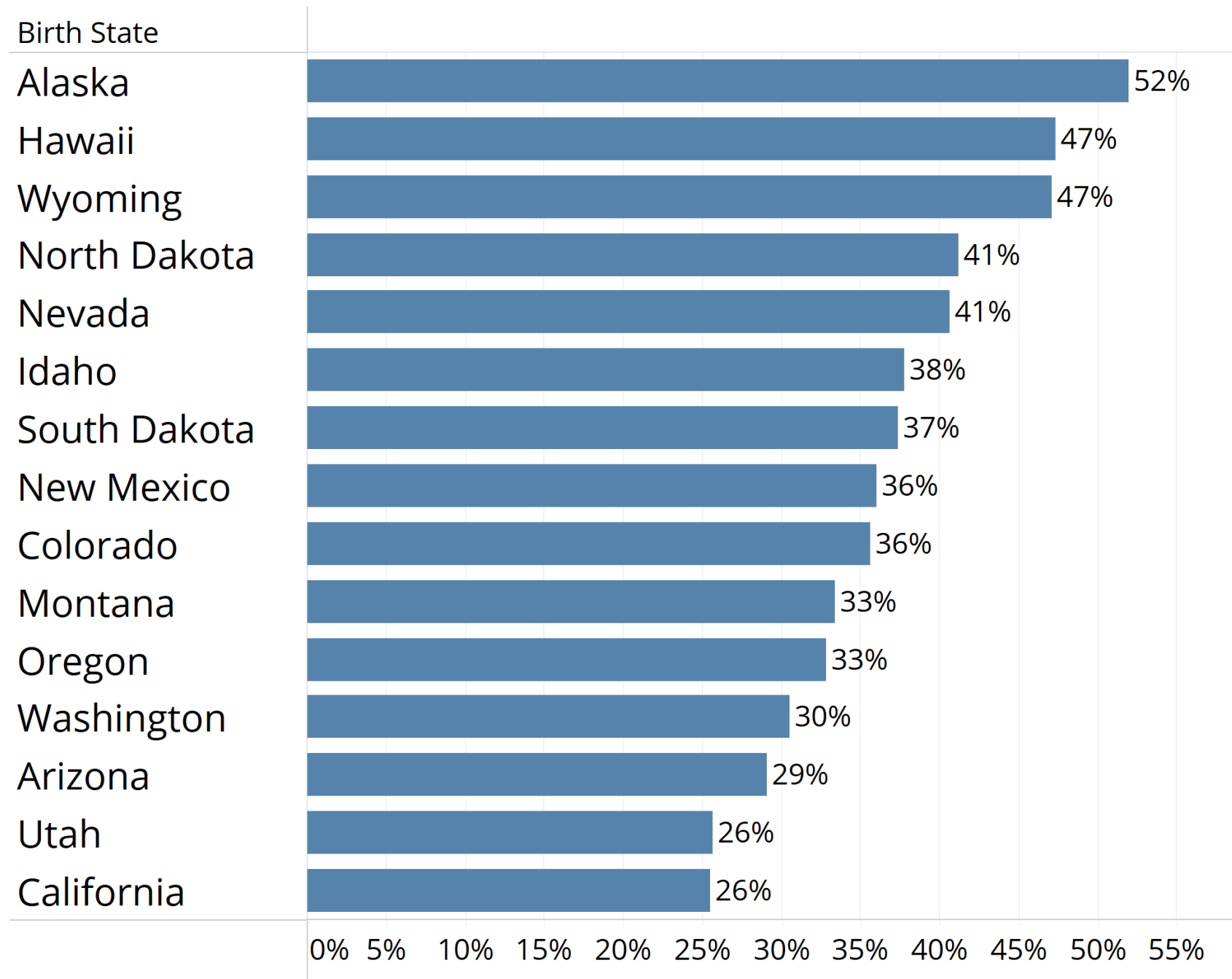
Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Fall 2023 enrollments

Fall 2022 enrollment as a share of recent high school graduates by state

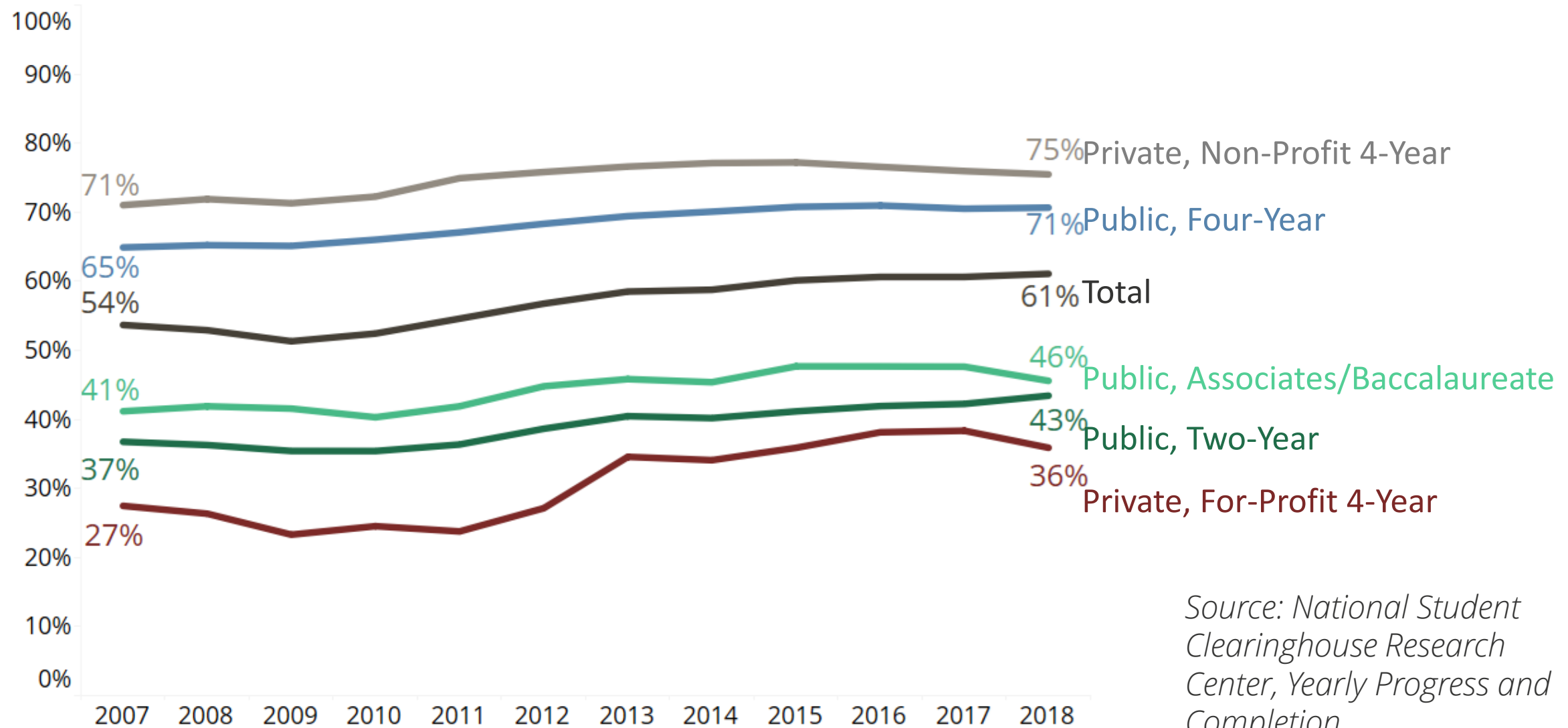


Share of 18 to 30 year olds living outside of their birth state

Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
American Community Survey,
Public Use Microdata, 2022



Six-year completion rates by starting institution type, cohorts 2007 to 2018



Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, Yearly Progress and Completion



So what? What can be done?

Evidence-backed approaches



Pushing College Advising Forward:
Experimental Evidence on Intensive Advising
and College Success



ASAP College Completion Coalition Learning
Community

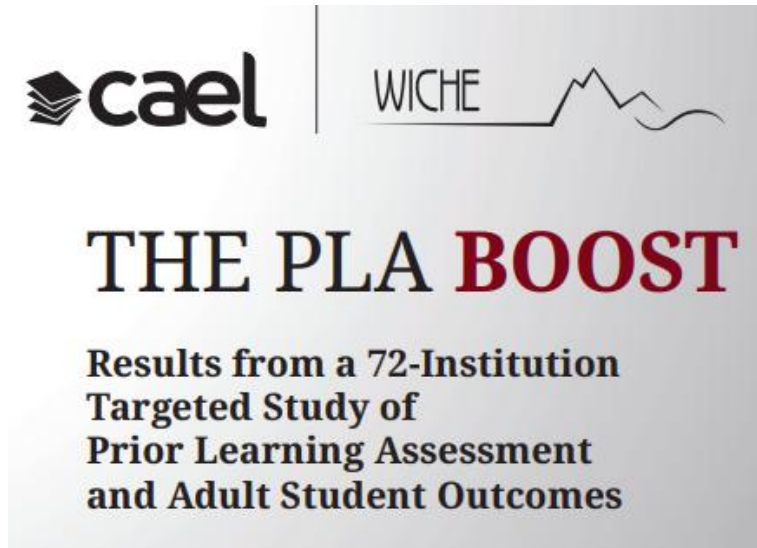
Evidence-backed approaches



***FASTTRACK* Admission**

CLOSING THE GAP:
THE EFFECT OF REDUCING COMPLEXITY AND
UNCERTAINTY IN COLLEGE PRICING ON THE CHOICES OF
LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Evidence-backed approaches



Z Degrees



Connecting College
Students with Public
Benefits Programs

Areas for growth

- ▶ Affordability
- ▶ Student, faculty, and staff behavioral health and wellness
- ▶ Articulating and delivering on the value of higher ed
- ▶ Adult learners (or maybe we're doing great...no one knows)
- ▶ Short-term credentials

Coming soon...

► More *Knocking* data

- U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States
- Gender analyses
- Sub-state information (in partnership with College Board)

► Next steps: What is useful to you?



Thank you!

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<https://www.wiche.edu/knocking>

Sign up for more information at <https://www.wiche.edu/about/news/alerts/>

Table 4. High school graduates by state in the West

State Name	2023	2025	2030	2035	2041	2023 to 2041 % Difference
Alaska	8,328	8,722 ▲	8,878 ▲	8,334 ▲	7,170 ▼	-14%
Arizona	82,942	85,639 ▲	84,186 ▲	85,262 ▲	81,428 ▼	-2%
California	477,531	469,214 ▼	435,481 ▼	402,356 ▼	339,022 ▼	-29%
Colorado	64,096	65,716 ▲	60,300 ▼	59,557 ▼	56,457 ▼	-12%
Hawai'i	14,290	14,276 ▼	12,650 ▼	11,450 ▼	9,582 ▼	-33%
Idaho	22,827	23,623 ▲	24,257 ▲	25,509 ▲	25,907 ▲	13%
Montana	9,980	10,374 ▲	10,692 ▲	11,218 ▲	10,520 ▲	5%
Nevada	33,256	35,304 ▲	33,321 ▲	34,299 ▲	30,156 ▼	-9%
New Mexico	21,539	22,472 ▲	20,634 ▼	19,426 ▼	17,104 ▼	-21%
North Dakota	7,706	8,642 ▲	9,291 ▲	9,771 ▲	8,690 ▲	13%
Oregon	41,203	42,752 ▲	39,182 ▼	38,349 ▼	33,272 ▼	-19%
South Dakota	9,705	10,344 ▲	10,677 ▲	11,196 ▲	10,357 ▲	7%
Utah	47,592	50,172 ▲	48,443 ▲	48,337 ▲	44,908 ▼	-6%
Washington	80,405	83,021 ▲	79,259 ▼	80,777 ▲	73,935 ▼	-8%
Wyoming	6,137	6,385 ▲	5,873 ▼	5,466 ▼	4,709 ▼	-23%
West	927,072	936,104 ▲	880,140 ▼	845,999 ▼	745,295 ▼	-20%

Note: Green indicates growth relative to 2023; red indicates declines.

Table 5. High school graduates by state in the South

State Name	2023	2025	2030	2035	2041	2023 to 2041 % Difference
Alabama	52,954	55,021 ▲	52,926 ▼	55,235 ▲	54,262 ▲	2%
Arkansas	33,861	36,169 ▲	34,255 ▲	34,497 ▲	32,330 ▼	-5%
Delaware	11,178	11,939 ▲	12,106 ▲	12,597 ▲	12,087 ▲	8%
District of Columbia	5,747	6,652 ▲	8,699 ▲	9,072 ▲	7,529 ▲	31%
Florida	221,601	234,996 ▲	234,121 ▲	251,771 ▲	247,409 ▲	12%
Georgia	128,074	134,031 ▲	127,882 ▼	131,414 ▲	126,851 ▼	-1%
Kentucky	50,350	51,027 ▲	44,440 ▼	48,080 ▼	45,762 ▼	-9%
Louisiana	49,128	53,263 ▲	50,745 ▲	52,289 ▲	47,061 ▼	-4%
Maryland	70,362	74,018 ▲	68,766 ▼	68,981 ▼	62,752 ▼	-11%
Mississippi	32,152	33,606 ▲	29,644 ▼	29,445 ▼	27,003 ▼	-16%
North Carolina	115,527	121,741 ▲	118,193 ▲	123,253 ▲	122,719 ▲	6%
Oklahoma	46,211	50,332 ▲	49,595 ▲	48,457 ▲	46,250 ▲	0%
South Carolina	53,941	57,865 ▲	57,870 ▲	60,992 ▲	61,735 ▲	14%
Tennessee	70,783	75,761 ▲	74,906 ▲	79,662 ▲	81,459 ▲	15%
Texas	393,596	408,251 ▲	399,411 ▲	410,286 ▲	414,861 ▲	5%
Virginia	100,051	104,008 ▲	100,188 ▲	102,267 ▲	93,984 ▼	-6%
West Virginia	18,003	18,113 ▲	16,084 ▼	15,092 ▼	13,388 ▼	-26%
South	1,443,229	1,522,182 ▲	1,469,633 ▲	1,519,031 ▲	1,479,933 ▲	3%

Note: Green indicates growth relative to 2023; red indicates declines.

Table 6. High school graduates by state in the Midwest

State Name	2023	2025	2030	2035	2041	2023 to 2041 % Difference
Illinois	145,564	144,561 ▼	124,210 ▼	119,005 ▼	99,067 ▼	-32%
Indiana	76,805	78,138 ▲	72,817 ▼	72,575 ▼	69,494 ▼	-10%
Iowa	37,780	39,747 ▲	38,192 ▲	38,769 ▲	36,299 ▼	-4%
Kansas	36,985	38,361 ▲	36,660 ▼	34,967 ▼	32,554 ▼	-12%
Michigan	106,883	104,326 ▼	95,746 ▼	96,183 ▼	85,131 ▼	-20%
Minnesota	65,884	67,216 ▲	64,403 ▼	65,154 ▼	58,295 ▼	-12%
Missouri	67,229	68,656 ▲	64,138 ▼	64,283 ▼	58,880 ▼	-12%
Nebraska	24,324	23,862 ▼	24,909 ▲	25,009 ▲	23,263 ▼	-4%
Ohio	132,363	143,303 ▲	134,175 ▲	134,895 ▲	124,461 ▼	-6%
Wisconsin	67,132	68,507 ▲	63,368 ▼	62,090 ▼	56,910 ▼	-15%
Midwest	760,548	773,993 ▲	715,120 ▼	708,667 ▼	638,923 ▼	-16%

Note: Green indicates growth relative to 2023; red indicates declines.

Table 7. High school graduates by state in the Northeast

State Name	2023	2025	2030	2035	2041	2023 to 2041 % Difference
Connecticut	44,185	45,634 ▲	42,528 ▼	43,091 ▼	42,405 ▼	-4%
Maine	14,198	14,056 ▼	12,938 ▼	13,446 ▼	12,718 ▼	-10%
Massachusetts	75,494	76,935 ▲	72,708 ▼	73,434 ▼	69,464 ▼	-8%
New Hampshire	15,492	16,484 ▲	14,146 ▼	14,242 ▼	13,964 ▼	-10%
New Jersey	109,314	111,084 ▲	108,465 ▼	108,372 ▼	107,973 ▼	-1%
New York	205,042	206,184 ▲	183,242 ▼	171,389 ▼	150,533 ▼	-27%
Pennsylvania	141,089	137,304 ▼	129,575 ▼	127,318 ▼	116,928 ▼	-17%
Rhode Island	11,213	11,551 ▲	10,366 ▼	10,341 ▼	9,492 ▼	-15%
Vermont	5,765	5,807 ▲	5,518 ▼	5,504 ▼	4,921 ▼	-15%
Northeast	621,474	622,857 ▲	575,812 ▼	560,662 ▼	518,267 ▼	-17%

Note: Green indicates growth relative to 2023; red indicates declines.