

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

YOUNGER STUDENT POPULATIONS

WICHE
Sept. 11, 2024

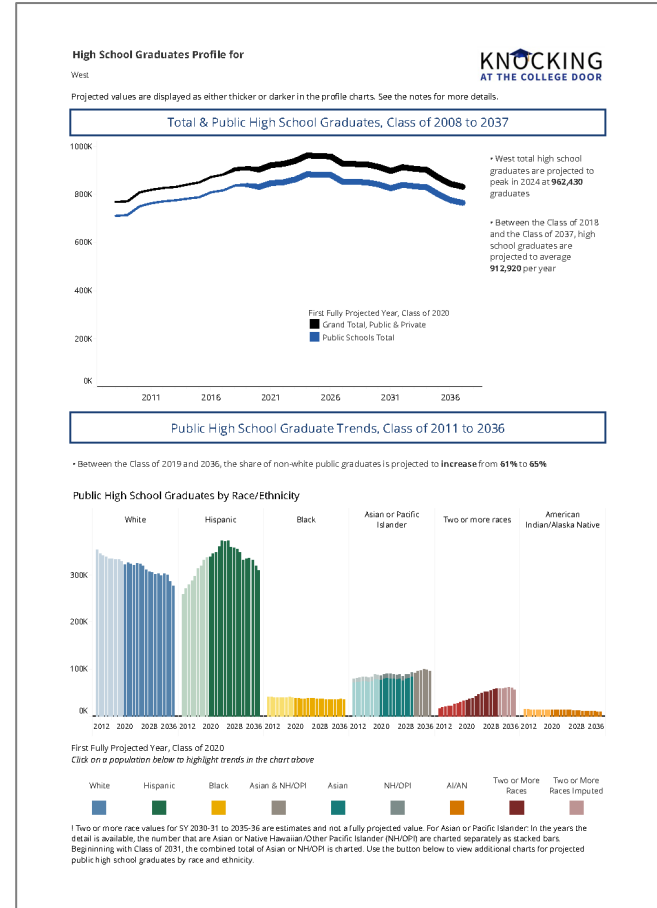


SEE YOUR STATE



www.knocking.wiche.edu

and [Northern Mariana Island](#) graduate
and [Guam](#) 12th grade trends

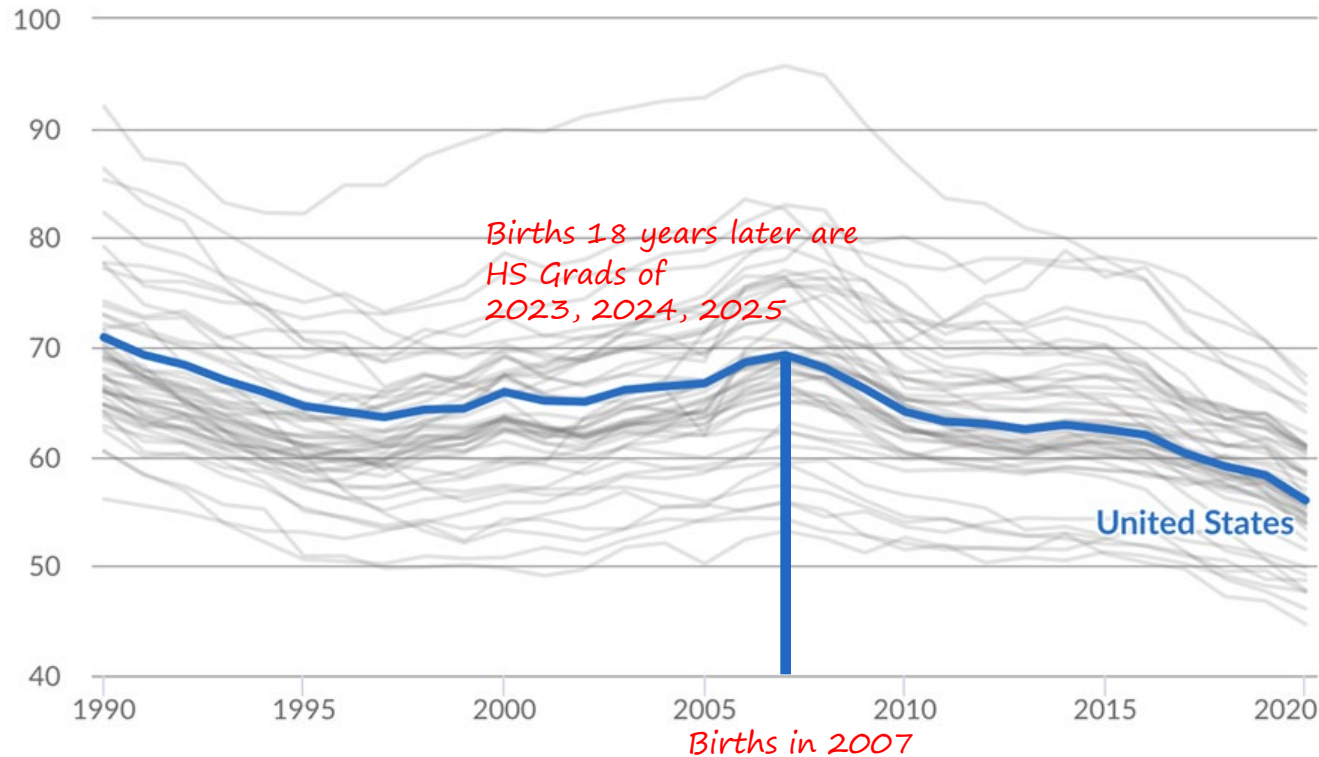




The demographic cliff

decline in youth

APPROACHING DECLINE IN YOUNGER STUDENTS DRIVEN BY U.S. FERTILITY DECREASE

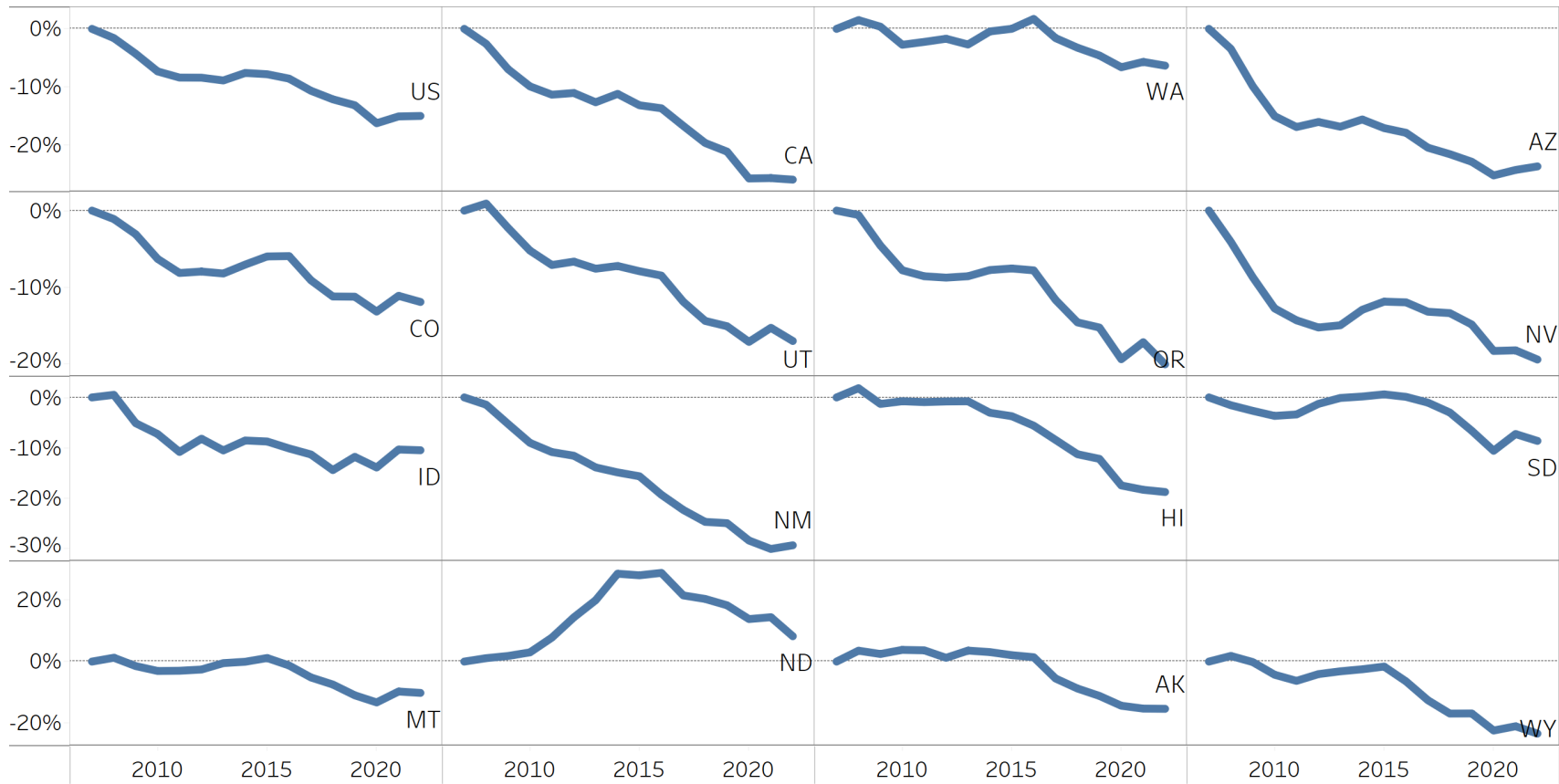


- Gradual decline from rates prior to 1990
- Some increase in the 2000s
- Recent peak in 2007
- Declines since 2007

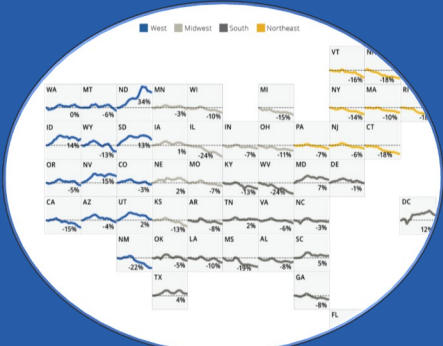
Note: The general fertility rate is the number of births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old.

Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, [The Long-Term Decline in Fertility—and What It Means for State Budgets](#), Dec. 5, 2022

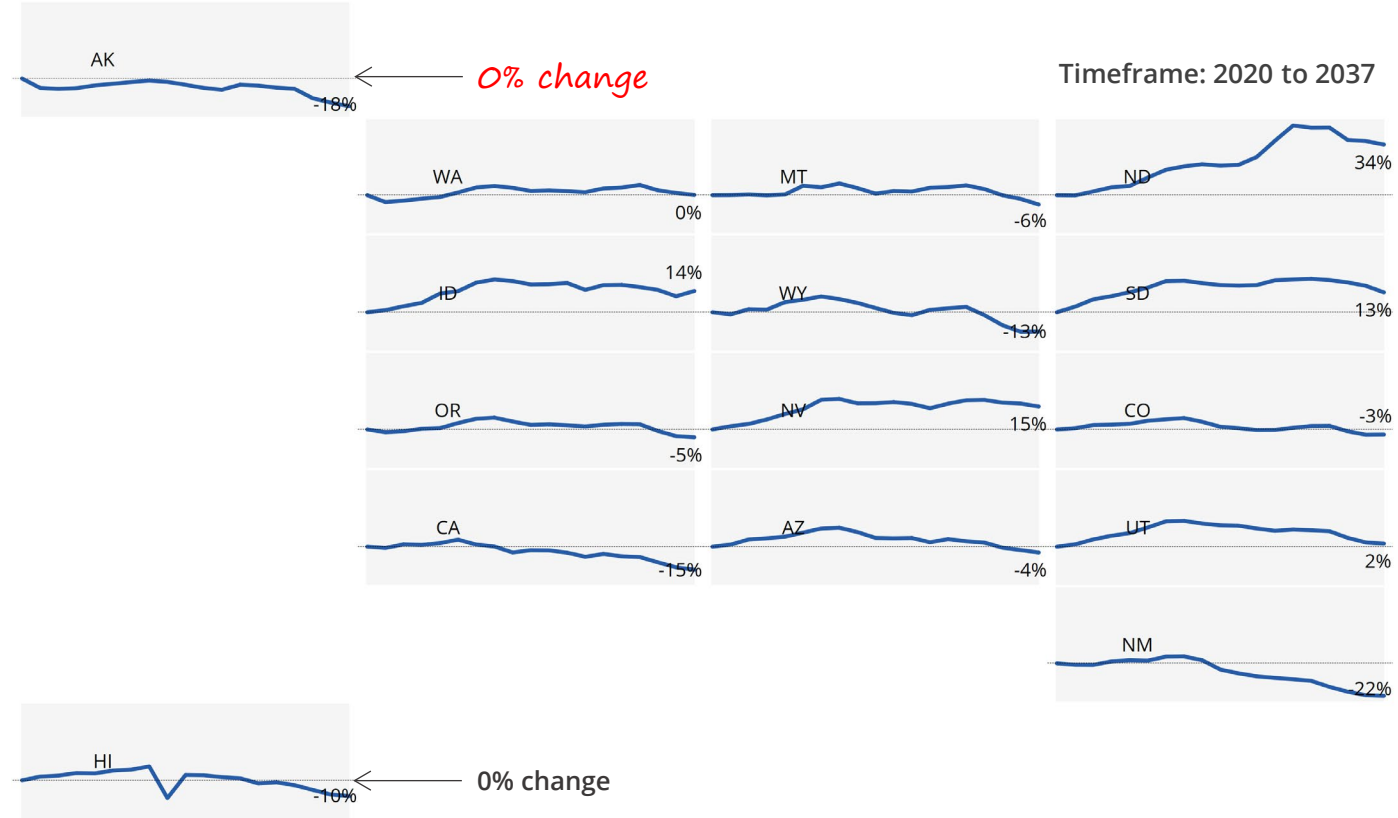
CHANGE IN NUMBER OF BIRTHS: 2007 TO 2022, U.S. AND WICHE STATES



VARIATION BY STATE, SIMILAR DIRECTION



LEADS TO FEWER FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL GRADS





LEARNING DISRUPTION SINCE THE PANDEMIC

may have affected enough children and teens that a quantitative impact on high school graduation is plausible on top of previously projected declines in the number of high school graduates.

And youth who do persist and enter college may need academic accommodations for pandemic learning impacts.

WICHE, *Navigating Learning Loss and Changing Demographics in Education*, 2024

OVERALL, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PROCEEDED TO GRADUATE

Public High School Graduates, Class of 2023

State	Projected	Reported	Difference
Alaska	8,111	8,077	0%
Arizona	76,372	78,043	2%
California	444,008	440,117	-1%
Colorado	60,517	60,237	0%
Hawaii	11,452	11,538	1%
Idaho	21,703	21,549	-1%
Montana	9,409	9,563	2%
North Dakota	7,302	7,039	-4%
New Mexico	20,252	19,869	-2%
Nevada	30,813		
Oregon	39,169		
South Dakota	9,193	8,984	-2%
Utah	46,307	46,560	1%
Washington	72,133	75,788	5%
Wyoming	6,054	6,085	1%

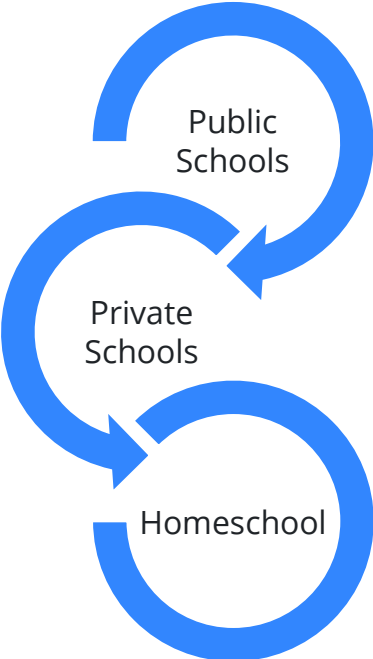
In total, Class of 2020 to 2023, virtually the same number of reported public high school graduates from the WICHE region as had been projected

- **4** states reported **slightly fewer** (AZ, ND, NM, SD)
- **4** states reported virtually **no difference** (AK, CA, CO, ID)
- **5** states reported **1%-5% more** (HI, MT, UT, WA, WY)
- **2** states unknown (NV, OR)

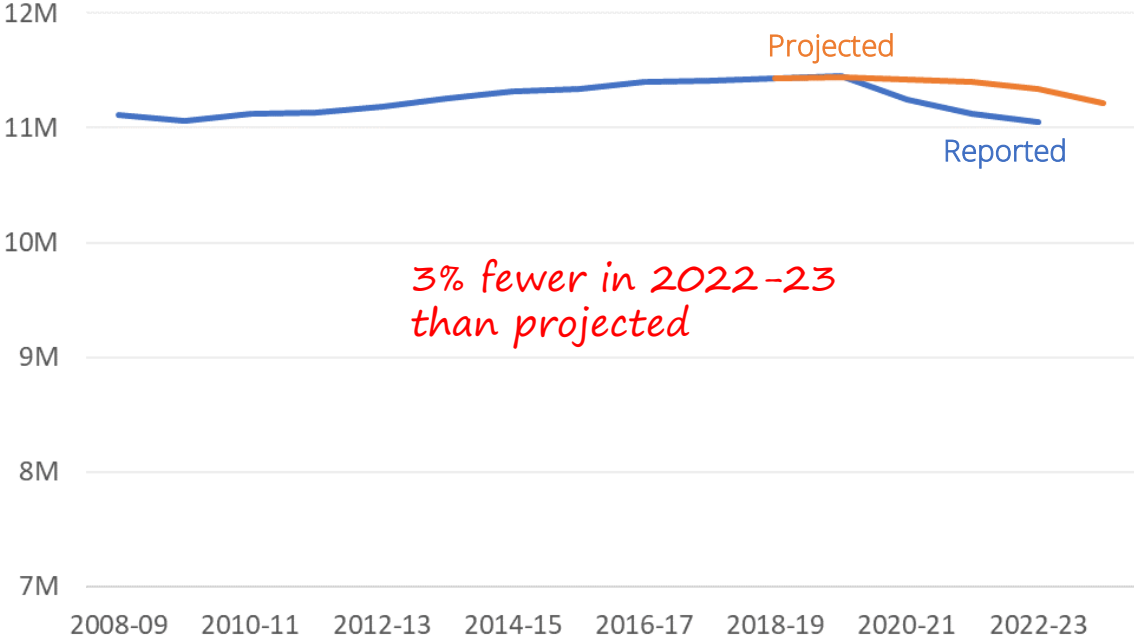
BUT LEARNING WAS HAMPERED

- ▶ As of [spring 2024](#), a third of students remain behind grade level
- ▶ Students going into [high school](#) (fall 2024) up to a full year behind academically
- ▶ SAT and ACT scores decline
- ▶ In the spring of 2024, [chronic absenteeism](#) came down from pandemic-era highs, but still higher than prior to the pandemic
- ▶ Increased assessment score disparities

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DECREASES, POST-PANDEMIC



Total of WICHE States' Public School Grade 1-12 Enrollments, by SY



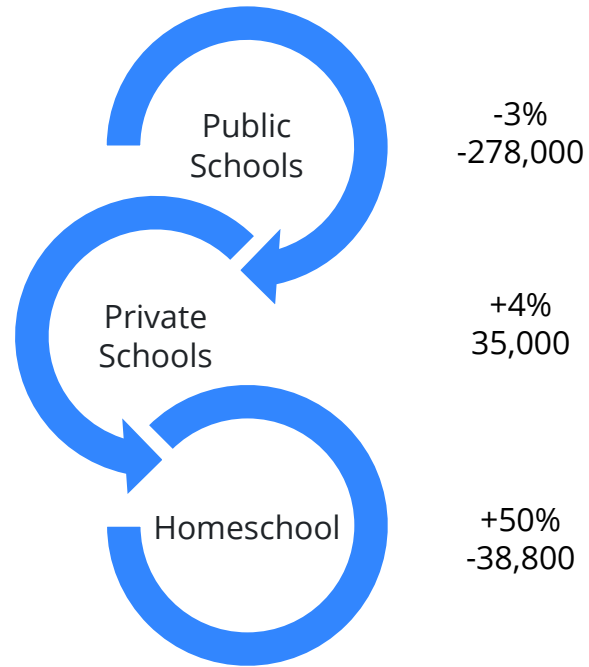
PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS POST-PANDEMIC

(Reported SY 2022-23 Fall Headcounts Compared to Projections)

State	Grades 1 to 5	Grades 6 to 8	Grades 9 to 12	Total Difference Grades 1 to 12
Alaska	-2%	2%	1%	270
Arizona	1%	-2%	0%	-3,990
California	-4%	-4%	-2%	-185,390
Colorado	-6%	-5%	-2%	-36,850
Hawaii	-5%	-3%	-2%	-5,860
Idaho	3%	-2%	-5%	-2,750
Montana	-1%	-1%	0%	-1,140
North Dakota	-10%	-4%	-2%	-7,050
New Mexico	-2%	-1%	-1%	-3,160
Nevada	-5%	-6%	-4%	-22,240
Oregon	-7%	-6%	-5%	-33,350
South Dakota	-4%	-1%	-2%	-3,020
Utah	3%	0%	-1%	3,890
Washington	-6%	-5%	-3%	-49,110
Wyoming	-3%	1%	-1%	-1,390

Source: WICHE analysis of federal public school enrollment data, NCES *Common Core of Data*.

ARE THESE STUDENTS LEARNING IN PRIVATE OR HOME SCHOOLS?



35,000 more private school enrollments (4%) were reported in SY 2021-22 across the WICHE region than had been projected

Six WICHE states reported **38,800** more homeschooled students in SY 2021-22 than in SY 2019-20 (50% increase)

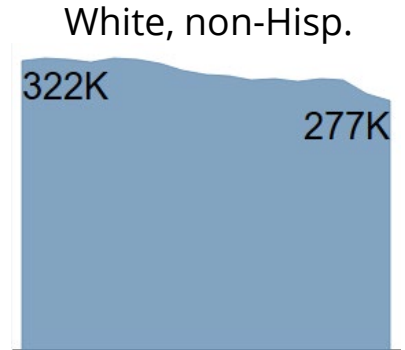
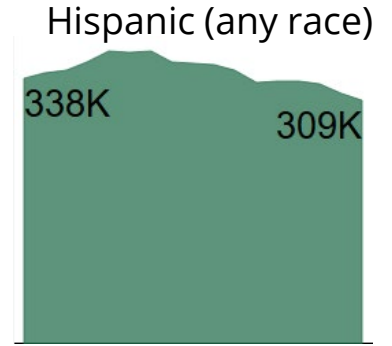
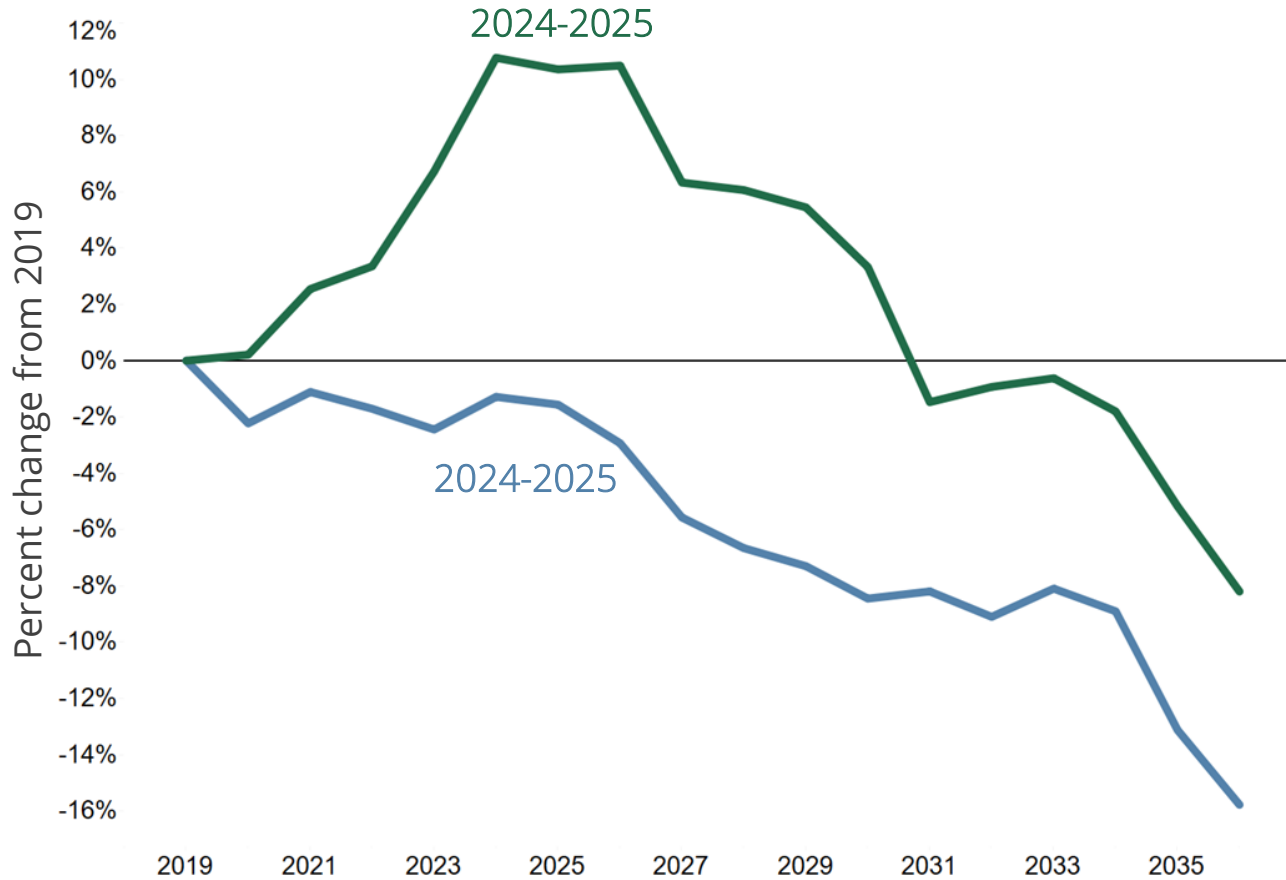
(Some lesser enrollments may reflect students moved out of the region)

Source: WICHE analysis of federal private school enrollment data, NCES *Private School Survey* (SY 2021-22 are the latest available headcount estimates) and homeschool data provided by six WICHE states.

New Levels of Student Diversity

- Are colleges sufficiently adjusted to serve new student populations?
- Will pandemic learning impacts stifle enrollment opportunity with new student populations?

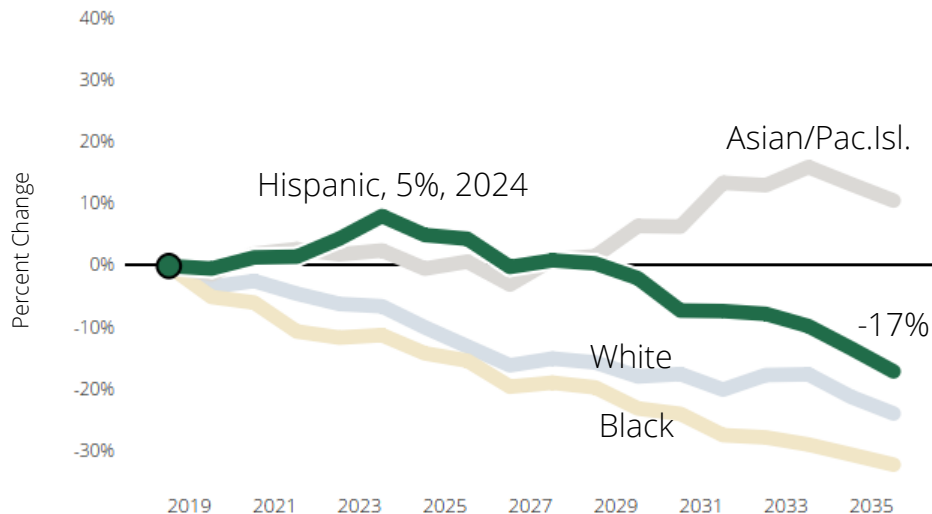
LARGEST STUDENT POPULATIONS, BY RACE & ETHNICITY



Source: WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door*, 2020.

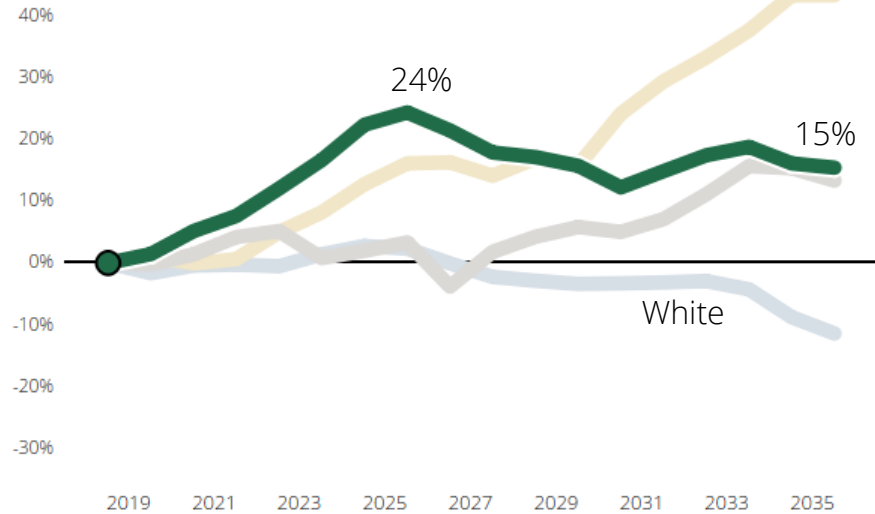
VARIATION WITHIN THE REGION

California & New Mexico



Drives strong downturn in regional view of Hispanic, White and Black public high school graduates

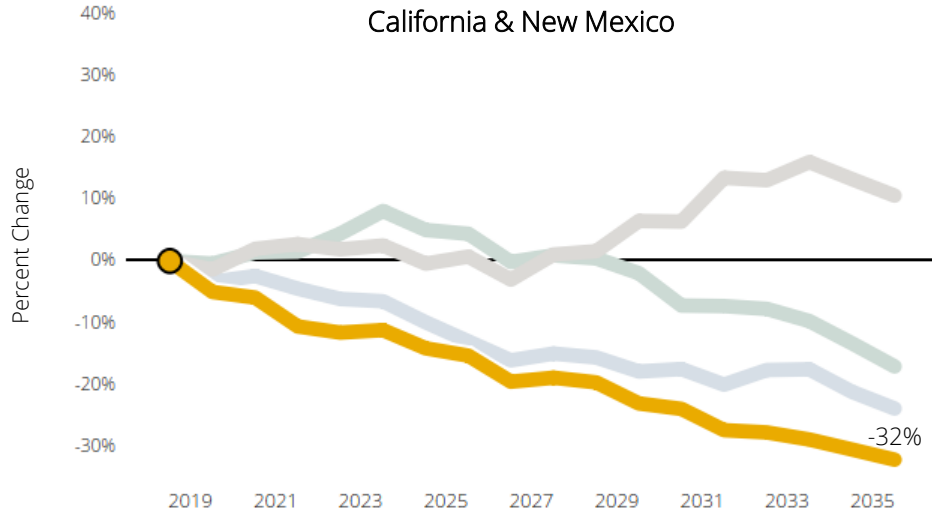
All Other WICHE States



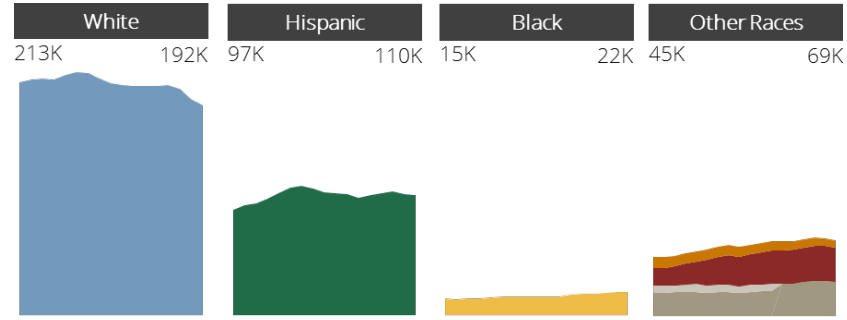
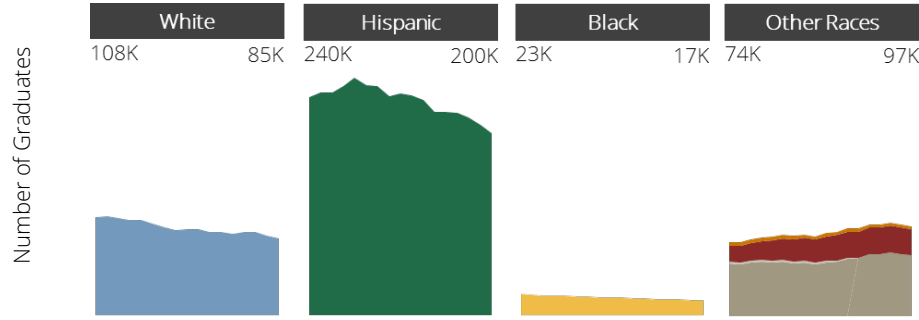
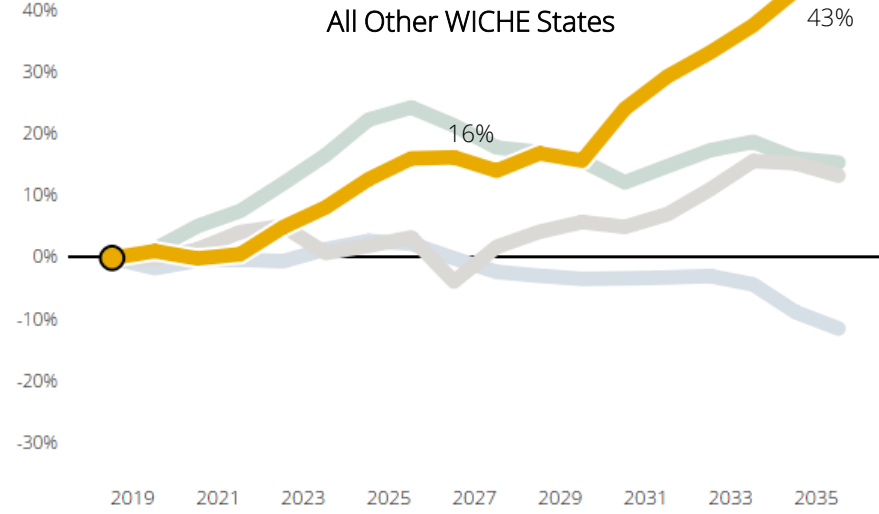
Drives strong downturn in regional view of Hispanic, White and Black public high school graduates

...AS WELL, **BLACK** PUBLIC H.S. GRADUATES

California & New Mexico

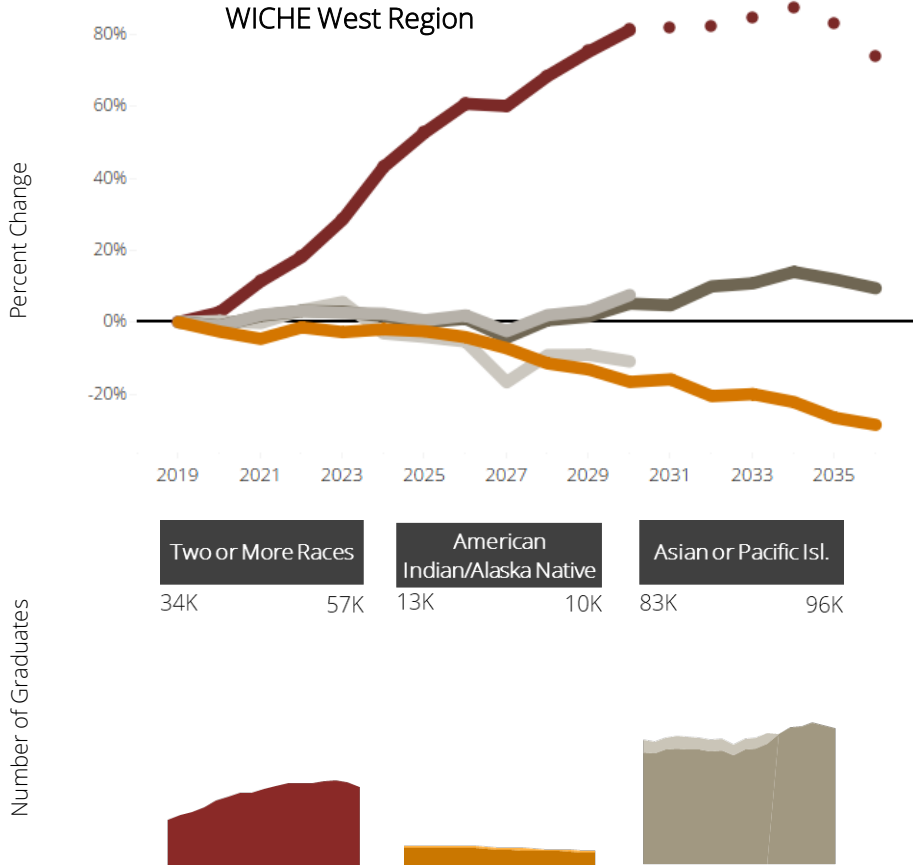


All Other WICHE States



Source: WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door*, 2020.

...AND OTHER PUBLIC H.S. GRADUATES OF COLOR



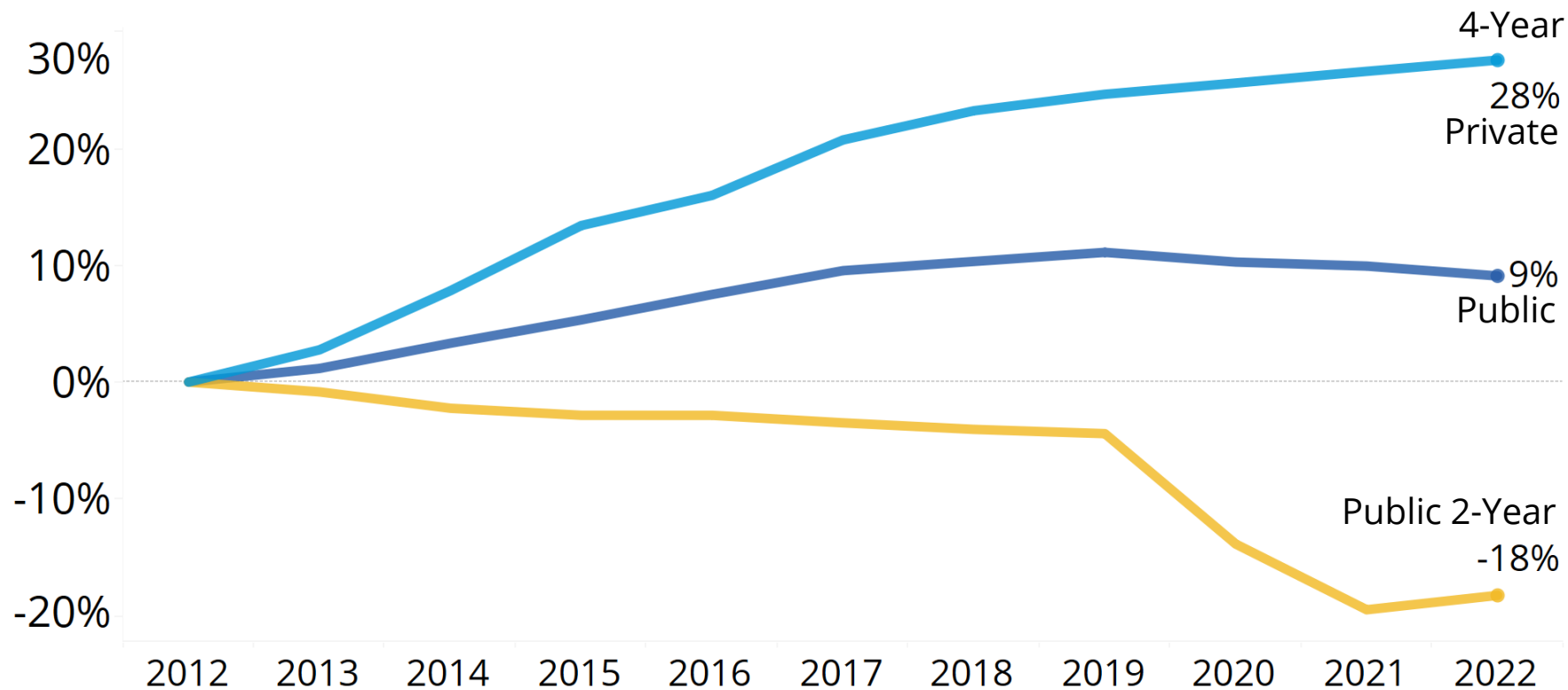
- ▲ 80% more multi-racial graduates
 - Incl. some American Indian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, who are frequently multiracial
- ▲ 9% more Asian or Pacific Islander graduates
 - Driven by Asian graduates; ▼ -11% NH/OPI graduates projected (not incl. those of multiple race); differs for California
- ▼ -14% to -29% American Indian/Alaska Native graduates
 - May be ~10% more American Indian graduates from Bureau of Indian Education Schools
 - Other data would predict increases of graduates (or lesser decline), if multiple race American Indians were included

Source: WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door*, 2020.



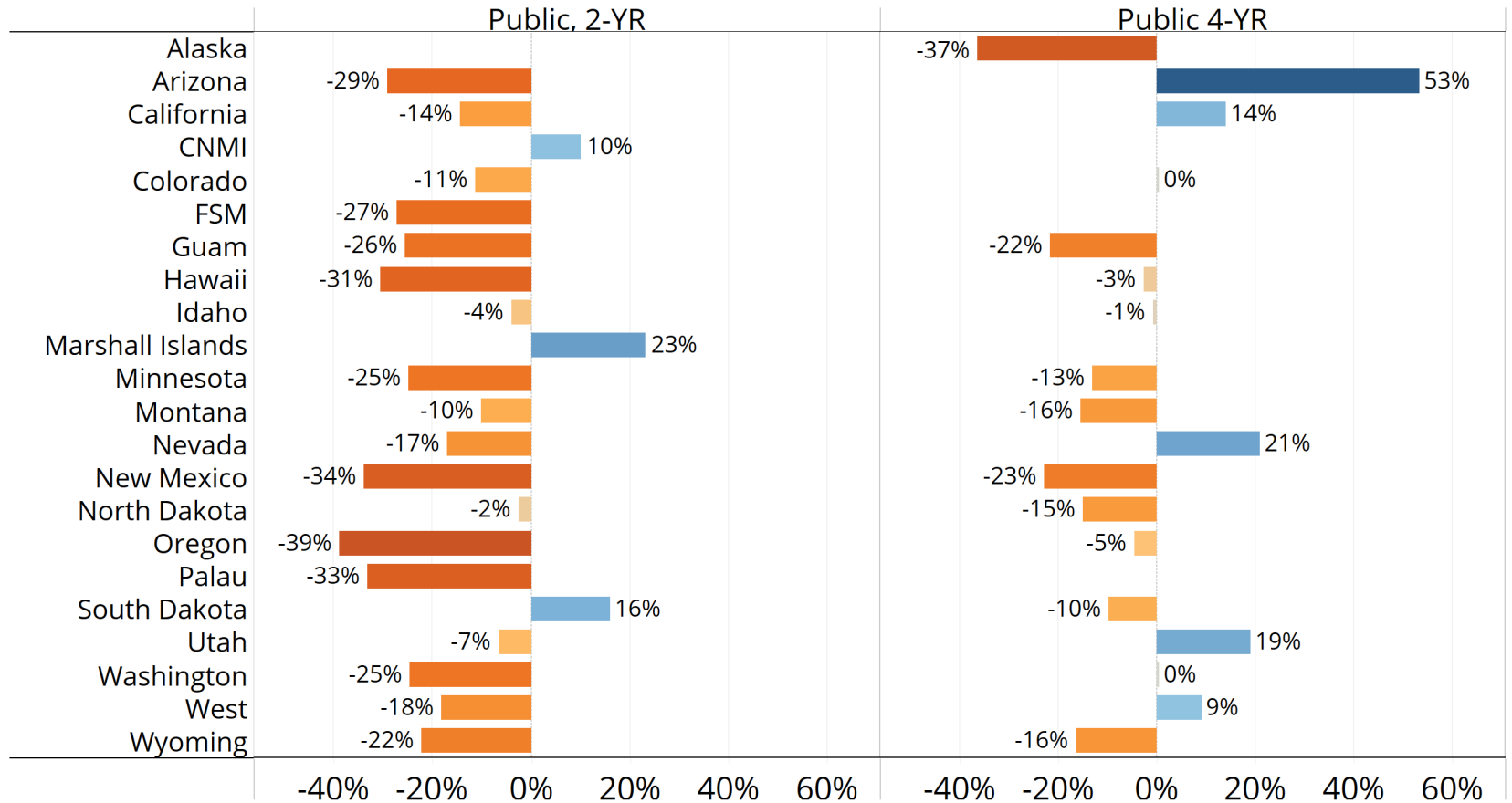
DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS

Undergraduate Enrollment in the WICHE Region, Percent Change Fall 2012 to Fall 2022



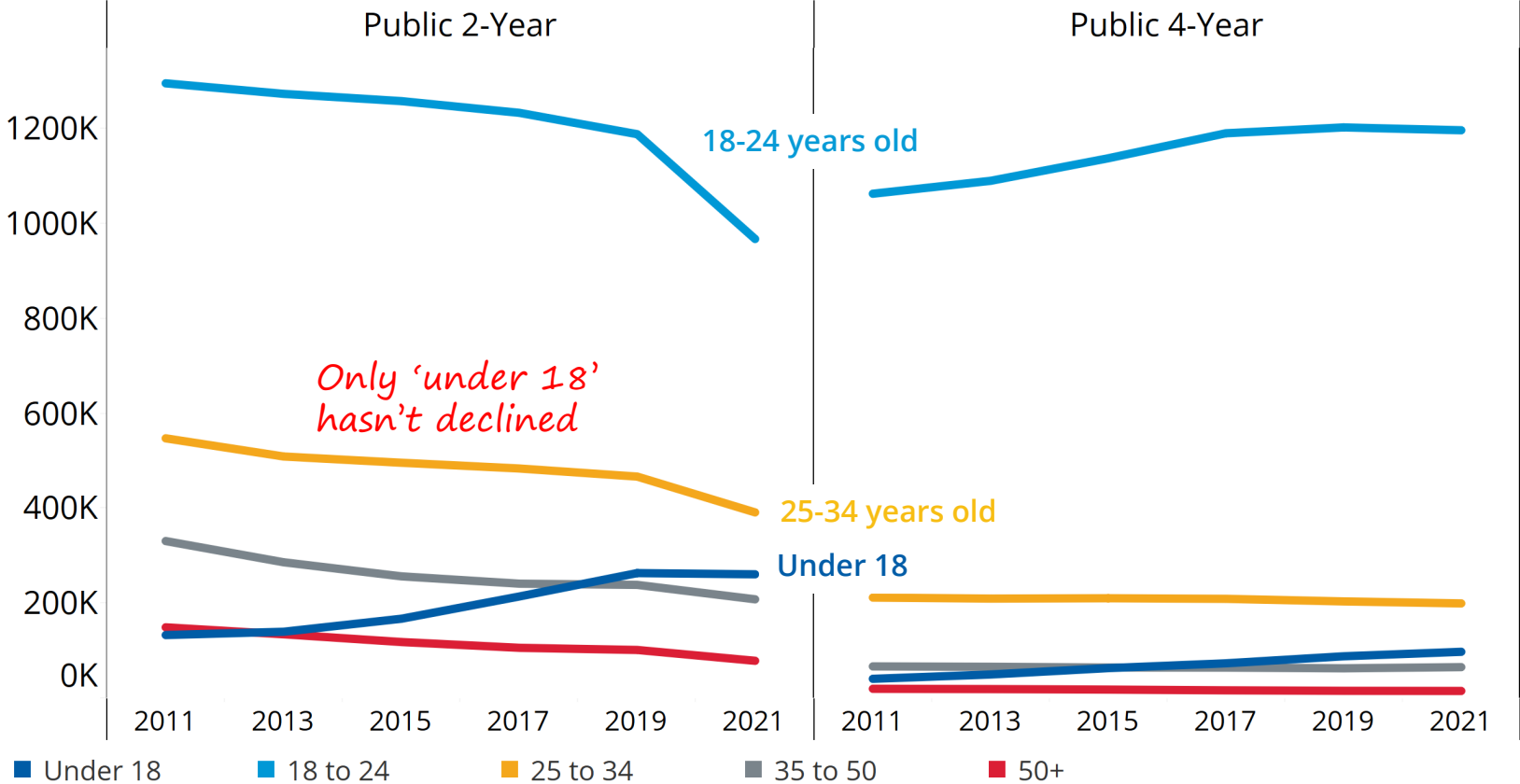
Source: WICHE analysis of 2012 and 2022 Fall Enrollments, IPEDS.

Undergraduate Enrollment, Change Fall 2012-2022



Source: WICHE analysis of 2012 and 2022 Fall Enrollments, IPEDS.

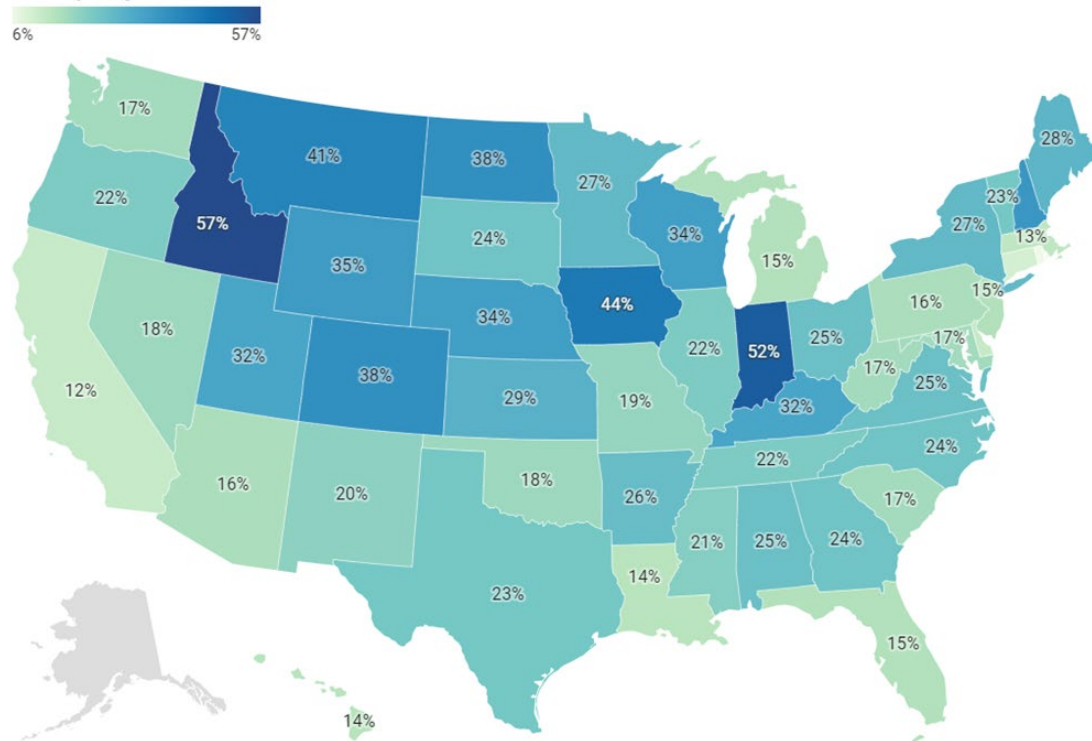
Undergraduates, WICHE Region, Fall 2011 to Fall 2021



Source: WICHE analysis of Fall Enrollments, IPEDS.

OPPORTUNITY? RISK? DUAL ENROLLED H.S. STUDENTS

Percent of community college headcount who were dual enrolled H.S. students, 2022-23

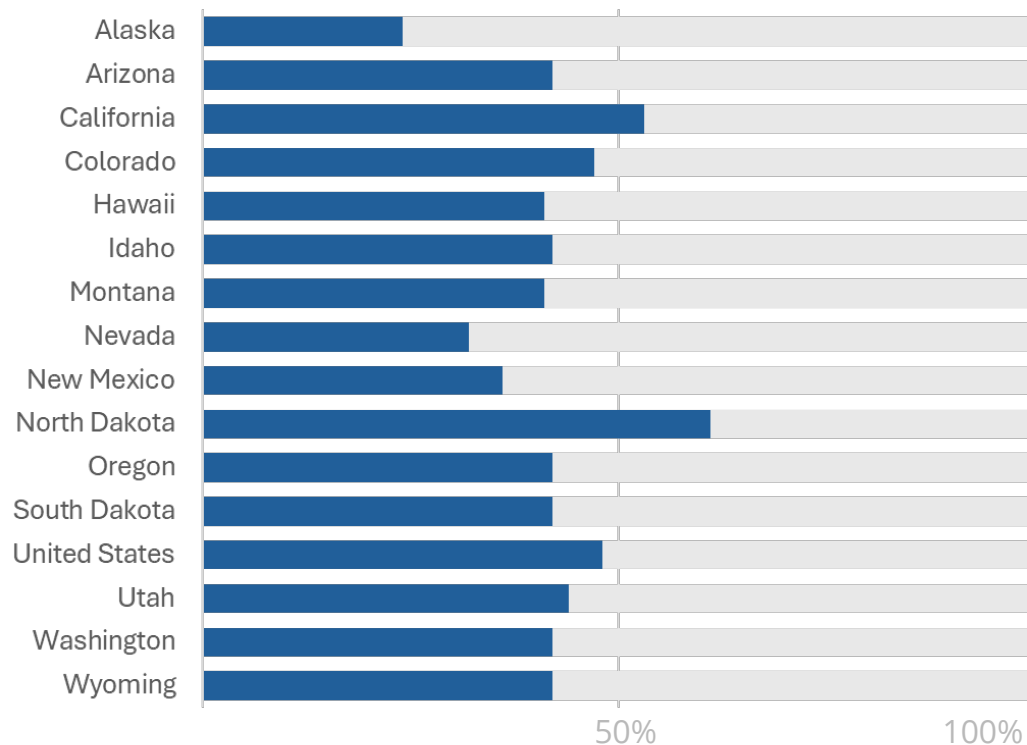


► How will decreasing number of youth impact dual enrollment (and community colleges)?

► Hispanic and Black students are on the increase but are underrepresented in dual enrollment

OPPORTUNITY: IMPROVED ENROLLMENT RATES

Share of 18-24 year olds enrolled in or have completed college, 2022



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Downloaded from KidsCount.org data center.

