

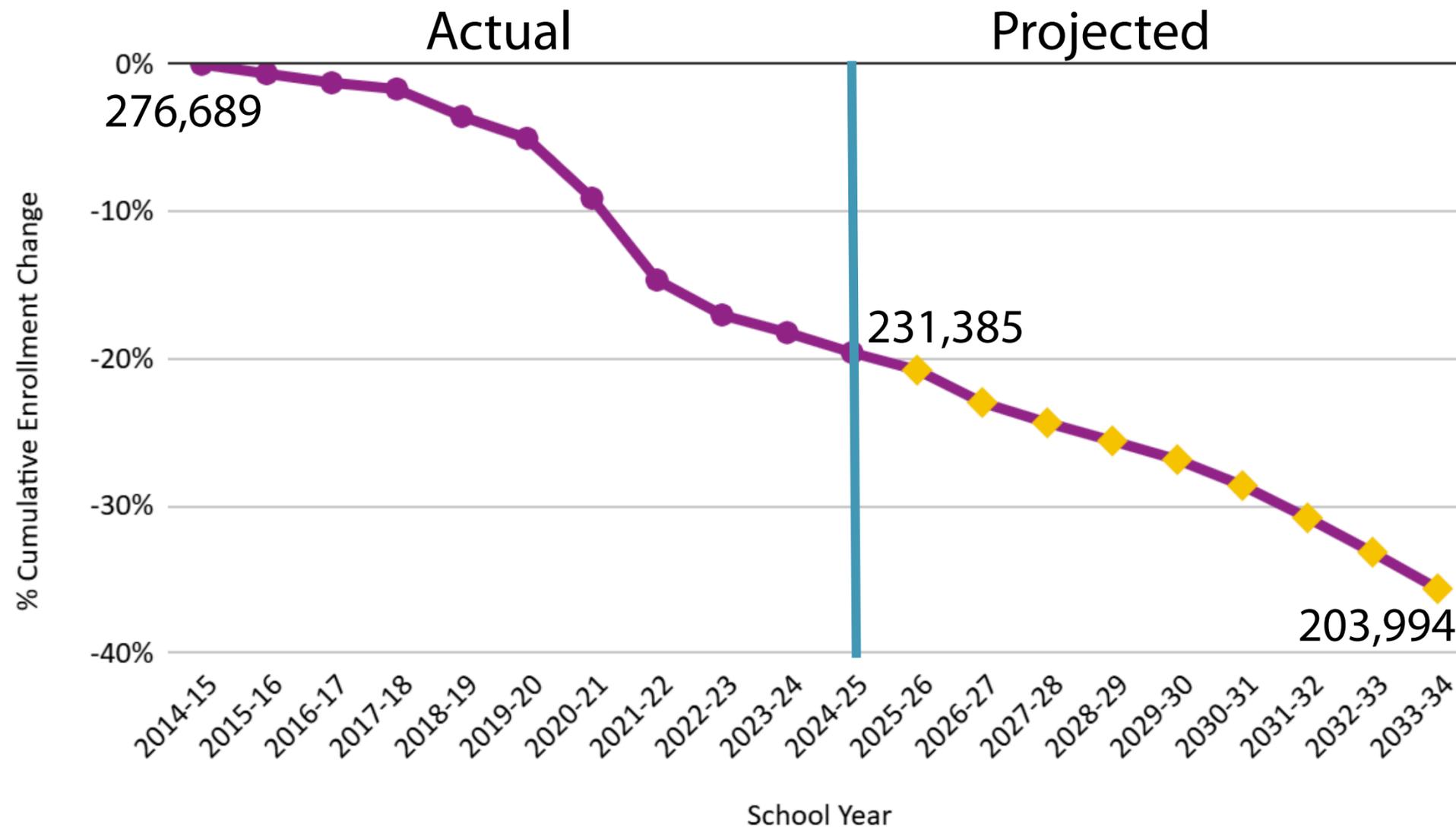


# Where Did the Students Go?

Housing & the School Enrollment Crisis

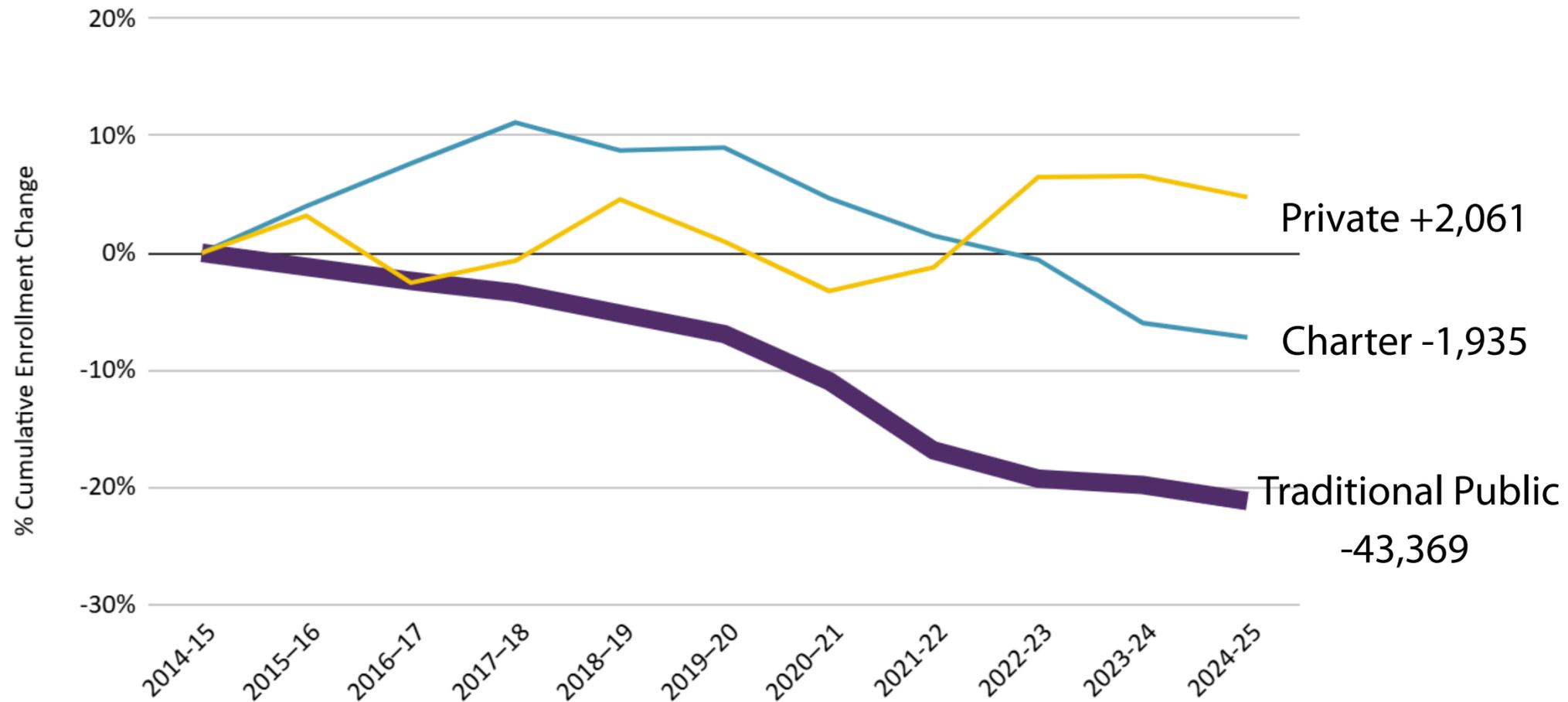
Countywide Enrollment Trends & Projections - p. 2  
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# Santa Clara County Actual & Projected Public School Enrollment



- We have over 45,000 students **fewer** countywide than we did in the 2014-2015 school year
- Enrollment projections from the California Department of Finance show the trend will continue, **if we're not able to make significant changes**, for a 20-year total enrollment decline of 36%, or nearly 73,000 fewer students.

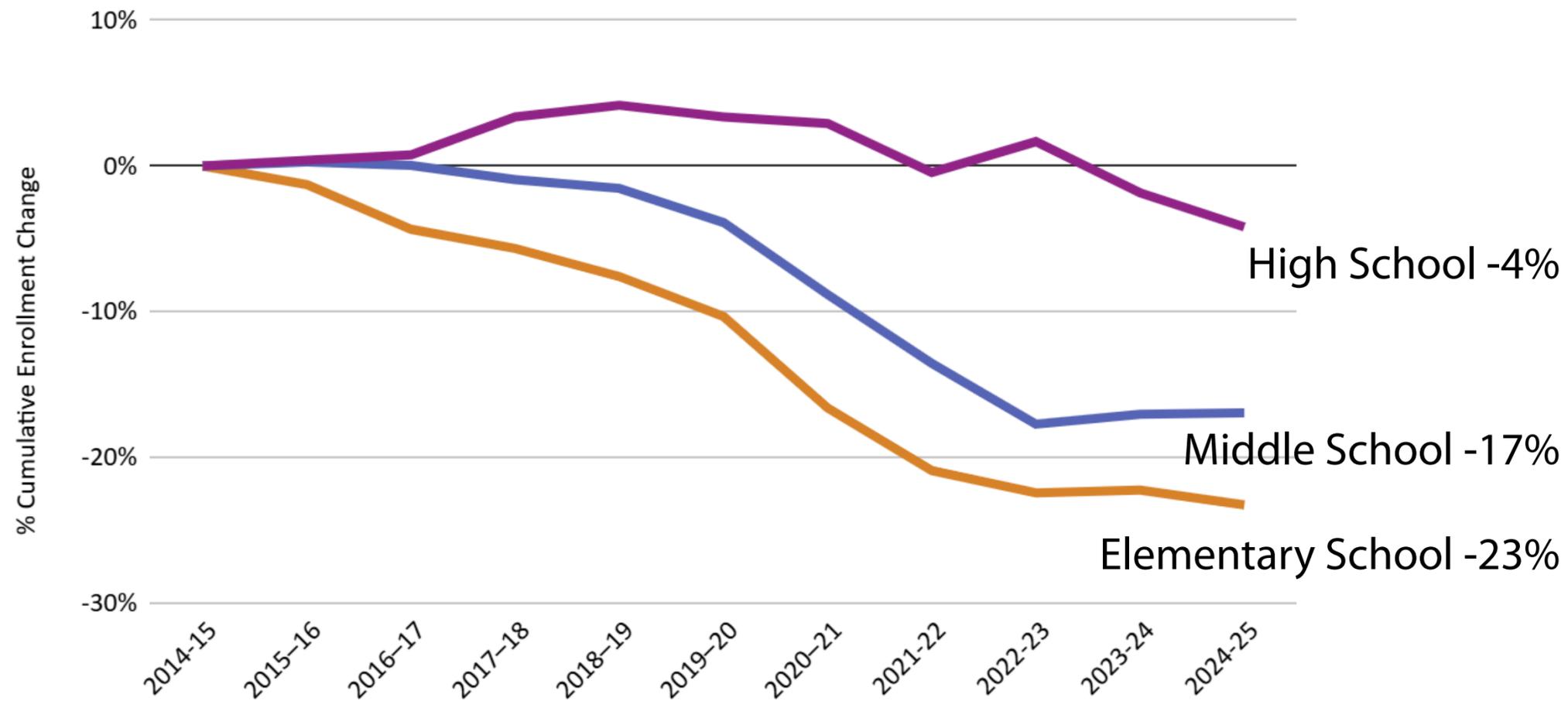
# Enrollment is Changing Across All School Types in Santa Clara County



- Students are not moving from traditional public to charter & private schools in significant numbers
- Modest 5% gain in private schools from 2014 to 2025- but only about 2,000 students.
- 2,000 students gone from charter schools, more than 43,000 students from traditional public schools, where most students are enrolled.

Source: California Department of Education Enrollment Multi-Year Summary by Grade & Private School Enrollment by Grade

# Enrollment Changes Are Worst for Younger Students



- TK-5th grade has the largest drop in enrollment
- Income pressures are often higher for families with younger children/ earlier careers, leading to more displacement
- A sign of what's to come: as smaller groups of elementary and middle-school aged children move into high school, larger enrollment drops will moving up with them

Source: California Department of Education Enrollment Multi-Year Summary by Grade

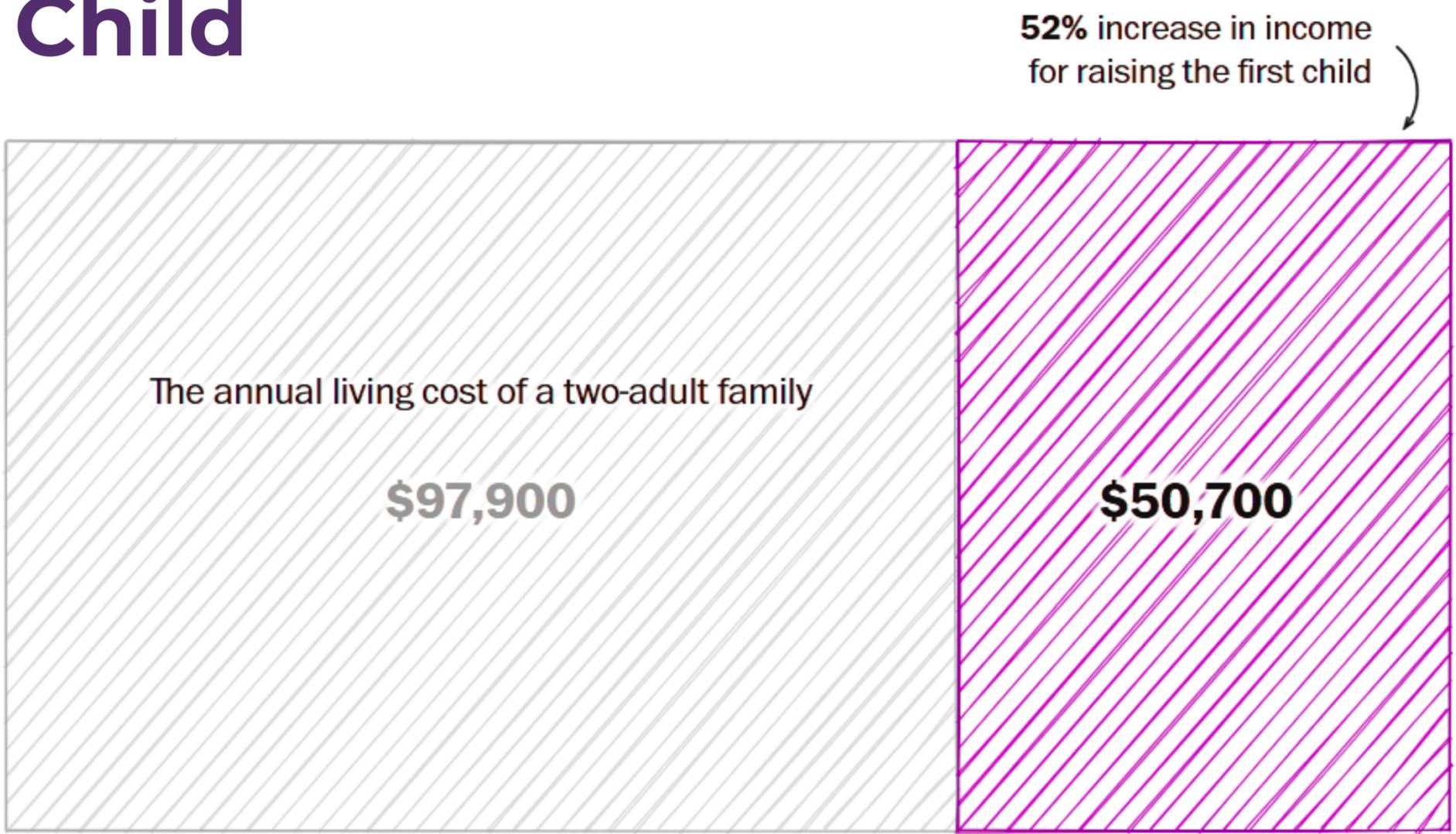
# Why Are People **Having Fewer Children?**

- While there are many reasons people might choose not to have kids, 41% of adults ages 18-39 who don't have children say **they can't afford to have a child.**
- **Rising home values are linked to lower birth rates;** they represent the largest component of the cost of raising a child. This leads couples to delay childbearing or have fewer children.
- **Changes in house prices have a larger effect on current period birth rates** than changes in unemployment rates.

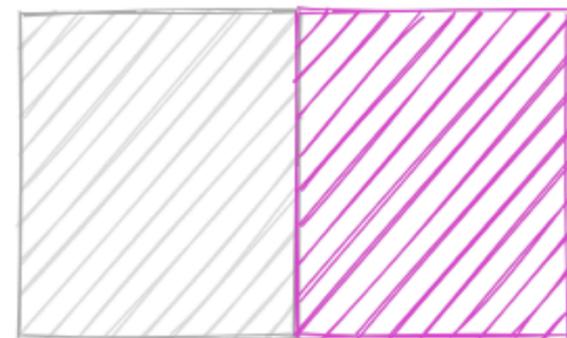


# The Cost of Raising a Child

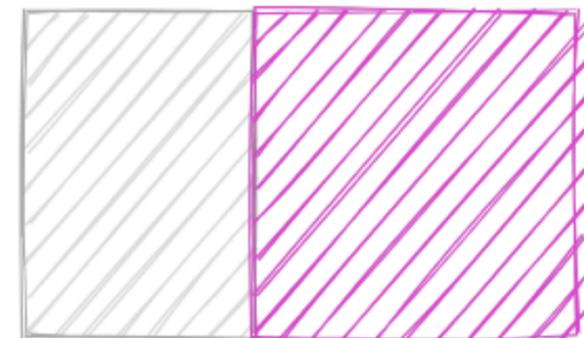
In Santa Clara County, a family of two would need to **increase their income by 52%**, for a total of \$148,600 per year, to maintain their standard of living **after having their first child.**



Raising **two children** requires a **98%** increase in income



Raising **three children** requires a **140%** increase in income



Raising **four children** requires a **157%** increase in income

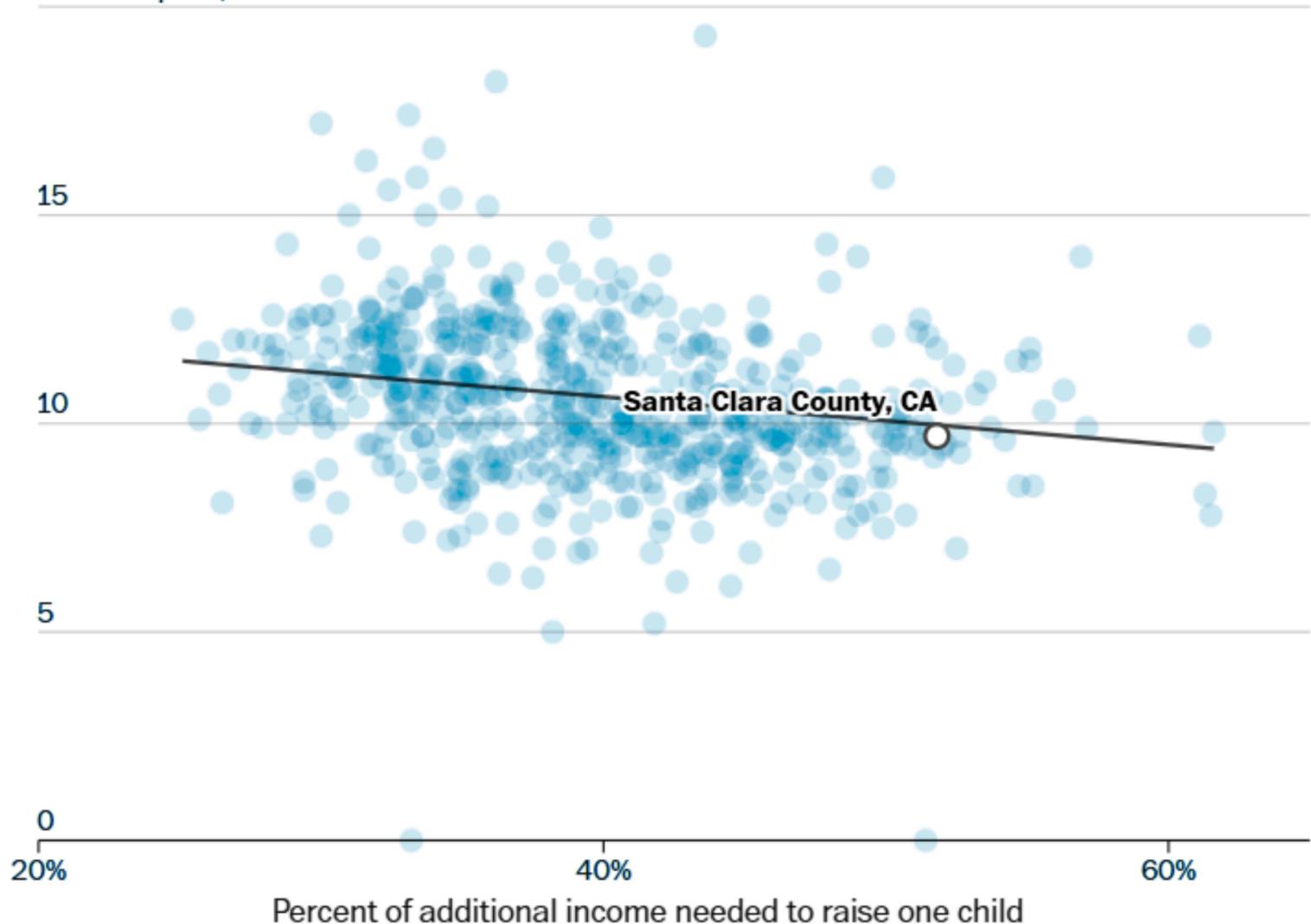


Source: Family Budget Calculator by the Economic Policy Institute

# Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born

Each dot represents one county

20 births per 1,000

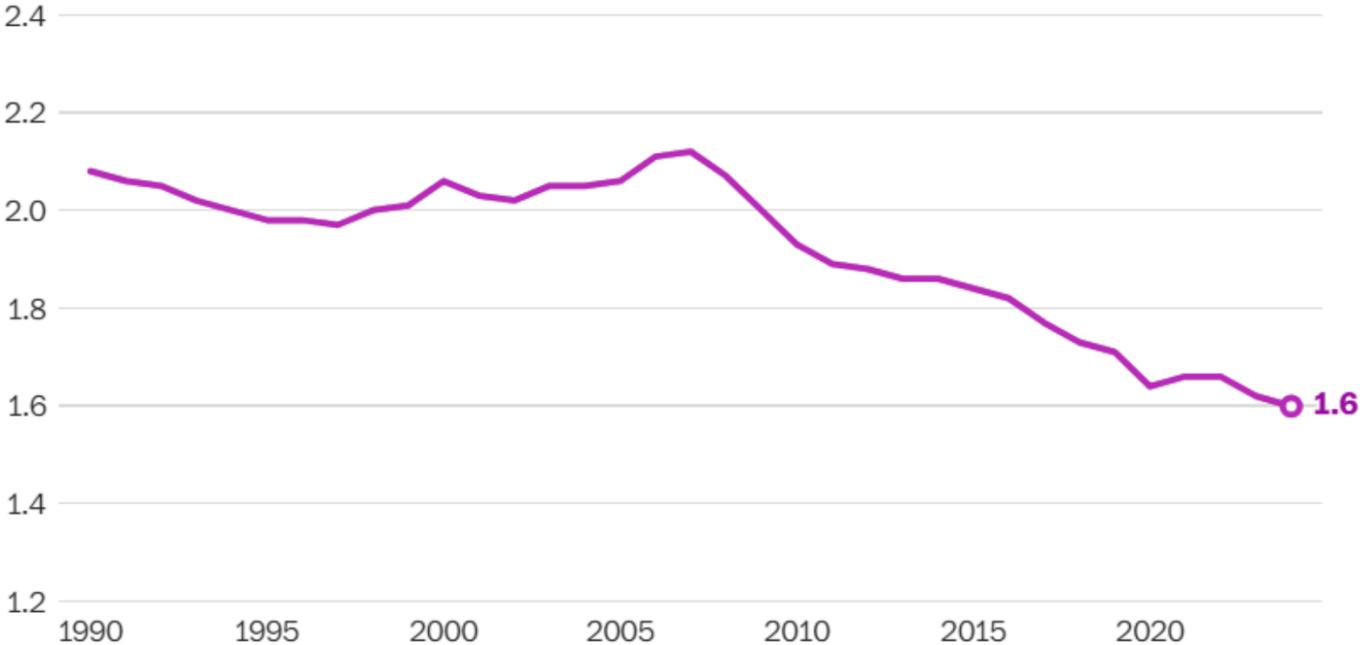


Birth rates are available for counties with populations of more than 100,000. Only 580 counties are shown.  
Source: Author's analysis of data from CDC and Economic Policy Institute

Birth rates are lower in areas where raising children takes a bigger share of a family's income.

## The U.S. fertility rate reached a record low in 2024

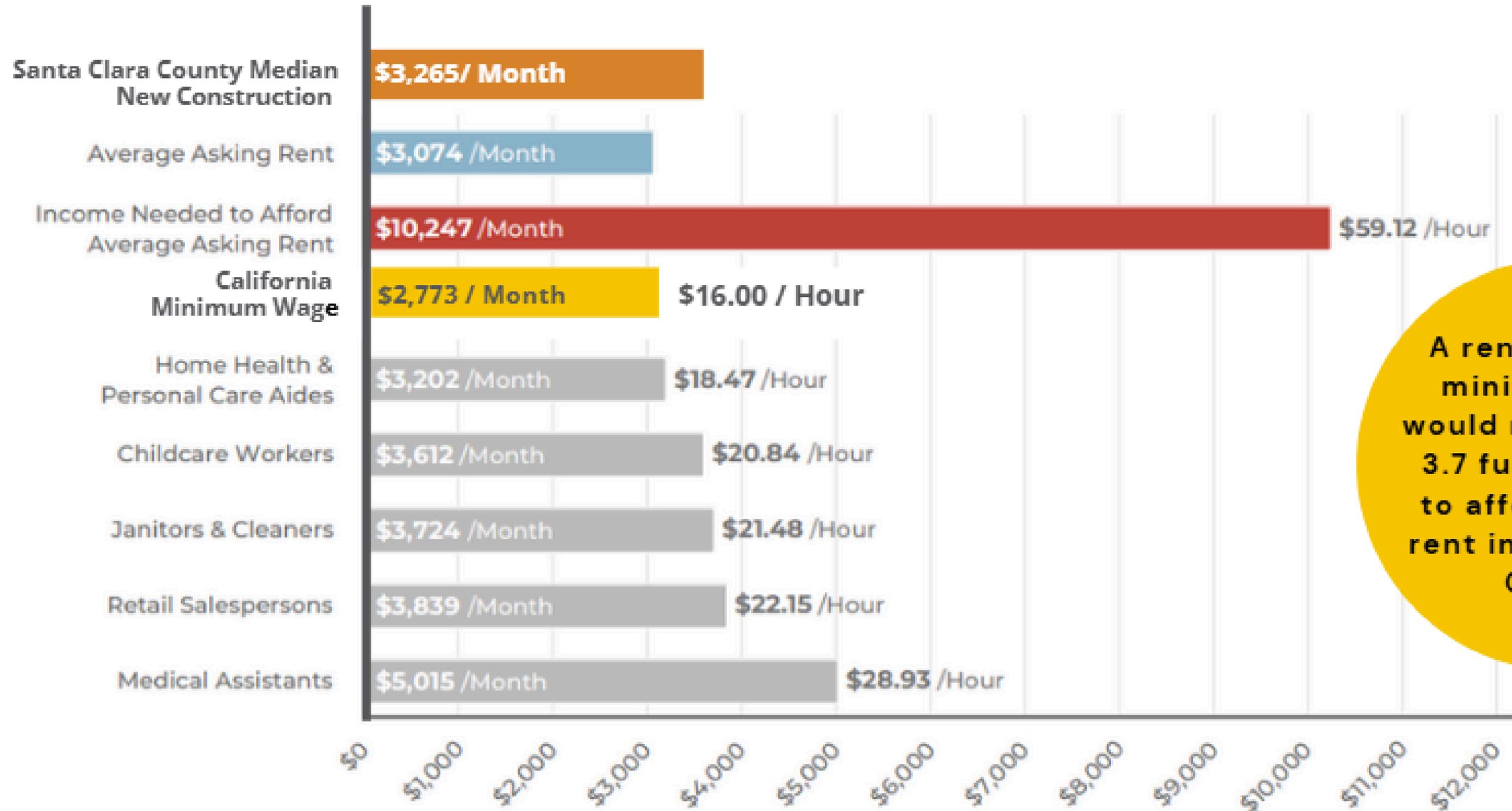
The fertility rate measures the number of children women are expected to have during their lifetime.



Source: National Vital Statistics System, CDC



# Who Can Afford to Rent?



A renter earning minimum wage would need to work 3.7 full-time jobs to afford average rent in Santa Clara County

Source: California Housing Partnership's Santa Clara County 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report



# In Almost Every School District Enrollment is Falling

SCC Districts Ranked by Elementary School Enrollment Decline	
	Cumulative 10-Year Change by District
Mount Pleasant Elementary	-47%
Cupertino Union	-44%
Evergreen Elementary	-36%
Franklin-McKinley Elementary	-33%
Alum Rock Union Elementary	-31%
Lakeside Joint	-31%
Los Altos Elementary	-30%
San Jose Unified	-28%
Oak Grove Elementary	-27%
Palo Alto Unified School District	-24%
Luther Burbank	-23%
Berryessa Union Elementary	-23%
Sunnyvale	-21%
Saratoga Union Elementary	-20%
Campbell Union	-19%
Moreland	-19%
Orchard Elementary	-17%
Los Gatos Union Elementary	-15%
Mountain View Whisman	-14%
Santa Clara Unified School District	-14%
Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary	-14%
Morgan Hill Unified	-10%
Union Elementary	-6%
Gilroy Unified School District	-5%
Milpitas Unified	1%
Cambrian	53%
<b>Countywide Cumulative 10-Year Change</b>	<b>-21%</b>



Source: California Department of Education Enrollment Multi-Year Summary by Grade



# Impacts on Students of School Closures

- Lower test scores
- Worse attendance
- Behavioral problems
- Less likely to graduate from college
- Lower earnings as a young adult
- Disruption of support processes

# Housing is Critical for the **Wellbeing of Children & Schools**

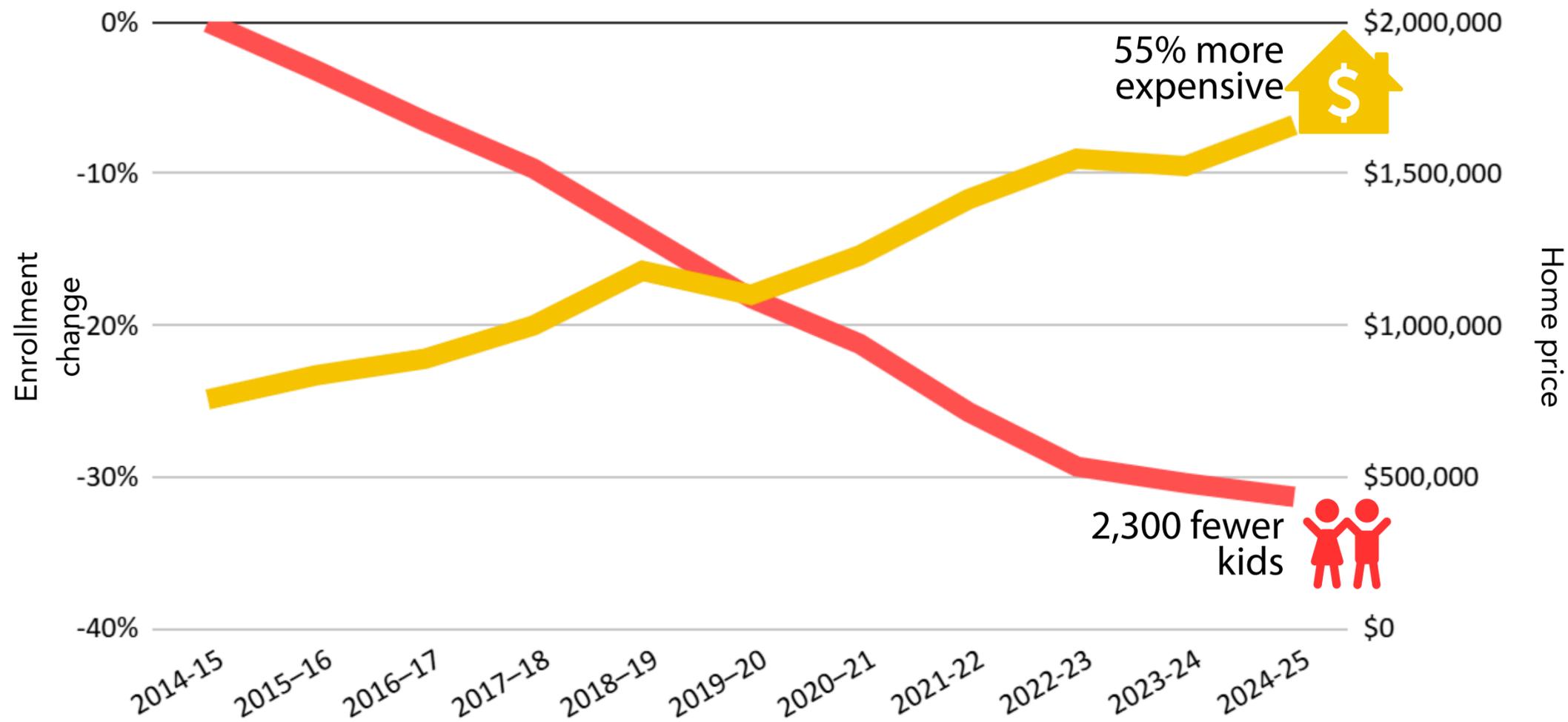
Safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing **sets kids up for learning**, and allows schools to **focus on what they do best.**

Strong, supported schools with the resources they need can be **anchors for communities** during the school day and outside of it.



# Alum Rock Union School District's Elementary Enrollment Falls as Home Prices Rise

Alum Rock Union TK-5th Grade Cumulative Enrollment Change



Enrollment has fallen by 31% over the last 11 years.

Median home prices in San Jose have soared by 55% over the same time period to \$1,660,888.

Source: California Department of Education Enrollment Multi-Year Summary by Grade, Santa Clara County Association of Realtors Year-End Data

# Alum Rock Union Elementary School District's Elementary School Enrollment is Falling

Changes in Elementary School Enrollment in Alum Rock Elementary School District												
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Cumulative 10-Year Change by School
<b>A. J. Dorsa Elementary</b>	500	489	418	371	371	351	365	313	304	286	284	<b>CLOSED</b>
Adelante Dual Language Academy	562	586	603	513	528	522	522	489	491	498	505	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Adelante Dual Language Academy II</b>	0	0	0	118	172	225	263	292	319	350	368	<b>MERGED</b>
<b>Ben Painter Elementary</b>	420	401	379	374	334	299	296	311	307	324	362	<b>MERGED</b>
Cesar Chavez Elementary	462	456	397	373	344	305	262	446	27	50	56	<b>-88%</b>
<b>Donald J. Meyer Elementary</b>	548	522	436	379	369	356	320	269	275	259	246	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Horace Cureton Elementary</b>	527	506	500	425	385	376	329	276	267	266	254	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Learning in an Urban Community with High Achievement (L.U.C.H.A.)</b>	243	249	289	305	283	269	275	248	261	232	218	<b>MERGED</b>
Linda Vista Elementary	594	569	546	527	512	419	471	433	450	456	437	<b>-26%</b>
Lyndale Elementary	477	427	411	395	334	297	283	289	301	284	275	<b>-42%</b>
Millard McCollam Elementary	438	423	434	493	502	525	481	424	411	394	370	<b>-16%</b>
O. S. Hubbard Elementary	506	525	588	594	622	592	523	467	449	453	427	<b>-16%</b>
Russo/McEntee Academy	628	589	558	523	446	409	391	339	365	313	322	<b>-49%</b>
San Antonio Elementary	461	441	404	390	344	323	294	253	355	351	326	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Sylvia Cassell Elementary</b>	452	418	427	406	389	362	336	292	267	253	282	<b>CLOSED</b>
Thomas P. Ryan Elementary	432	418	385	364	305	300	301	244	275	276	247	<b>-43%</b>
Total Enrollment	7250	7019	6775	6550	6240	5930	5712	5385	5124	5045	4979	
Annual Change		-3%	-3%	-3%	-5%	-5%	-4%	-6%	-5%	-2%	-1%	
<b>Districtwide Cumulative 10-Year Change</b>		<b>-3%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>-31%</b>

Source: California Department of Education Enrollment Multi-Year Summary by Grade

Every one of Alum Rock Union's elementary schools has suffered enrollment declines over the last 11 years, with a district-wide loss of almost 2,300 elementary students & 7 elementary schools closed or merged over that period.



# References

## Why Are People Having Fewer Children? (p. 5)

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047272713001904#:~:text=Recognizing%20that%20housing%20is%20a,do%20changes%20in%20unemployment%20rates.>
- <https://www.nber.org/digest/feb12/impact-real-estate-market-fertility?page=1&perPage=50>
- <https://ifstudies.org/report-brief/homes-for-young-families-a-pro-family-housing-agenda>
- <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2024/07/25/reasons-adults-give-for-not-having-children/>

## The Cost of Raising a Child (p. 6)

- <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

## Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born (p. 7)

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/interactive/2025/trump-baby-boom-birth-rate-declining/>

## Impacts on Students of School Closures (p. 10)

- <https://edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai24-963.pdf>
- <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/resources/newsletters/childrens-rights/school-closings-challenges-students-communities-litigators/>

## Housing is Critical for the Wellbeing of Children & Schools (p. 11)

- <https://shelterforce.org/2024/11/11/the-housing-education-intersection/>

A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair and glasses, wearing a colorful patterned sleeveless top, hugging a young girl with long dark hair wearing a red top. They are outdoors in a grassy area with a blurred background of trees and a building.

# QUESTIONS?

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