

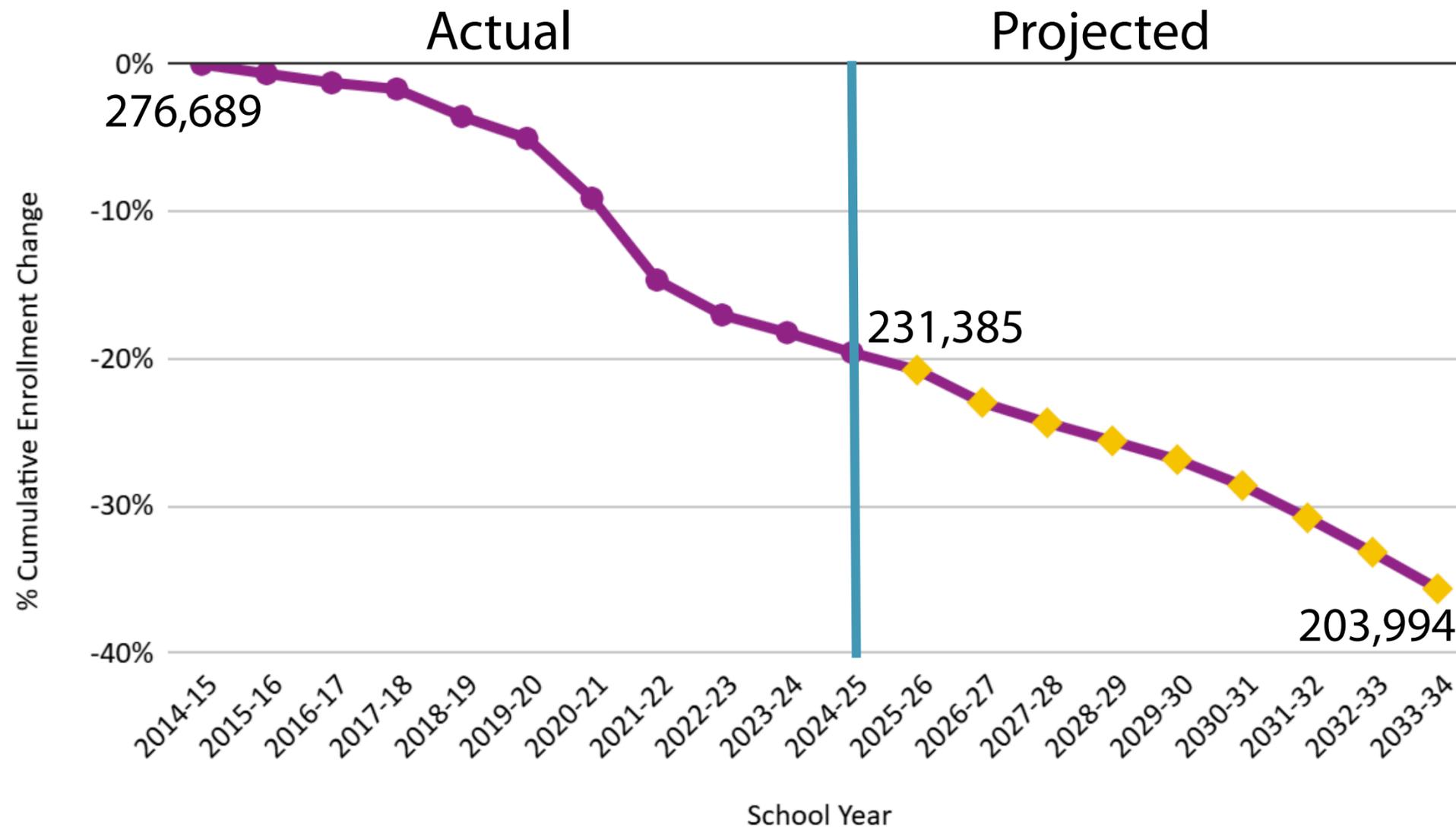


Where Did the Students Go?

Housing & the School Enrollment Crisis

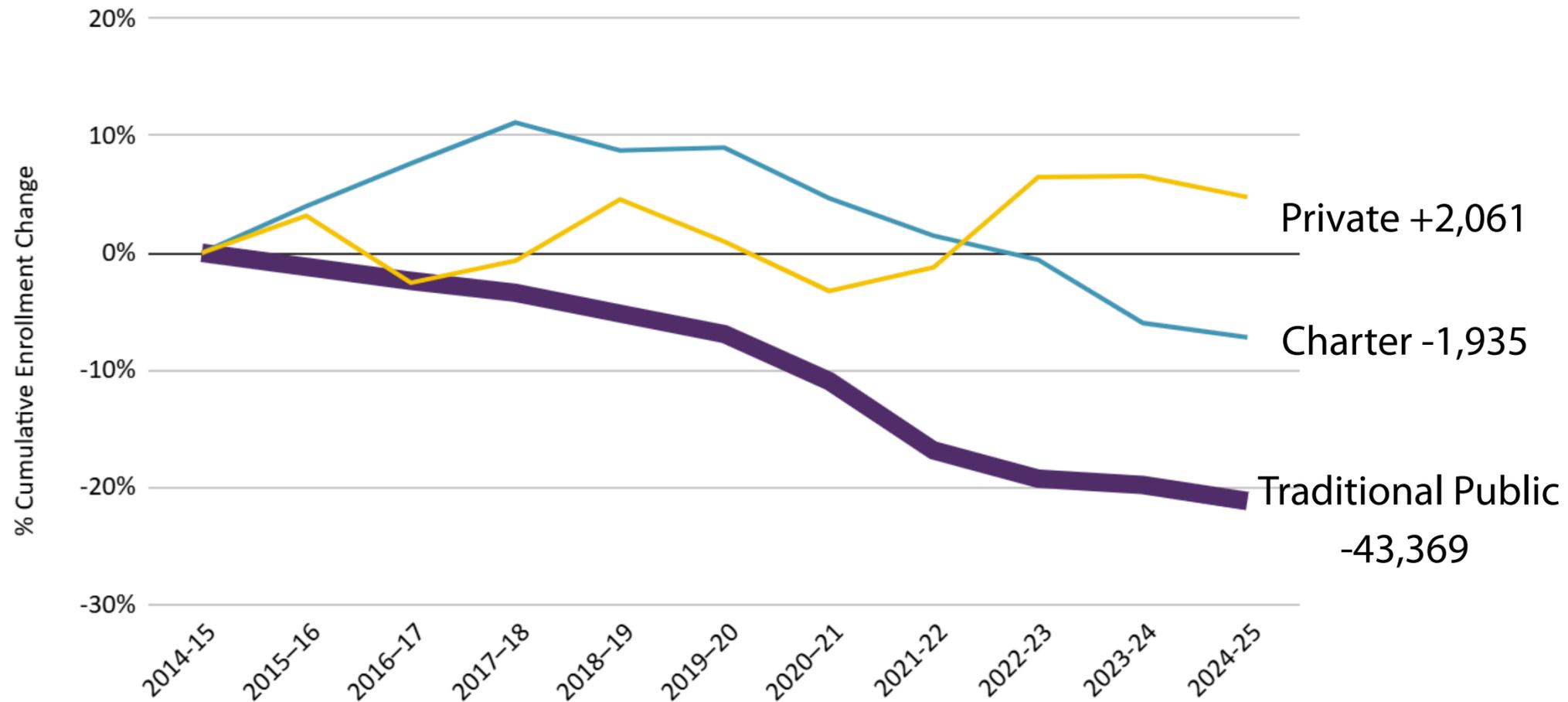
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Santa Clara County Actual & Projected Public School Enrollment



- 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.

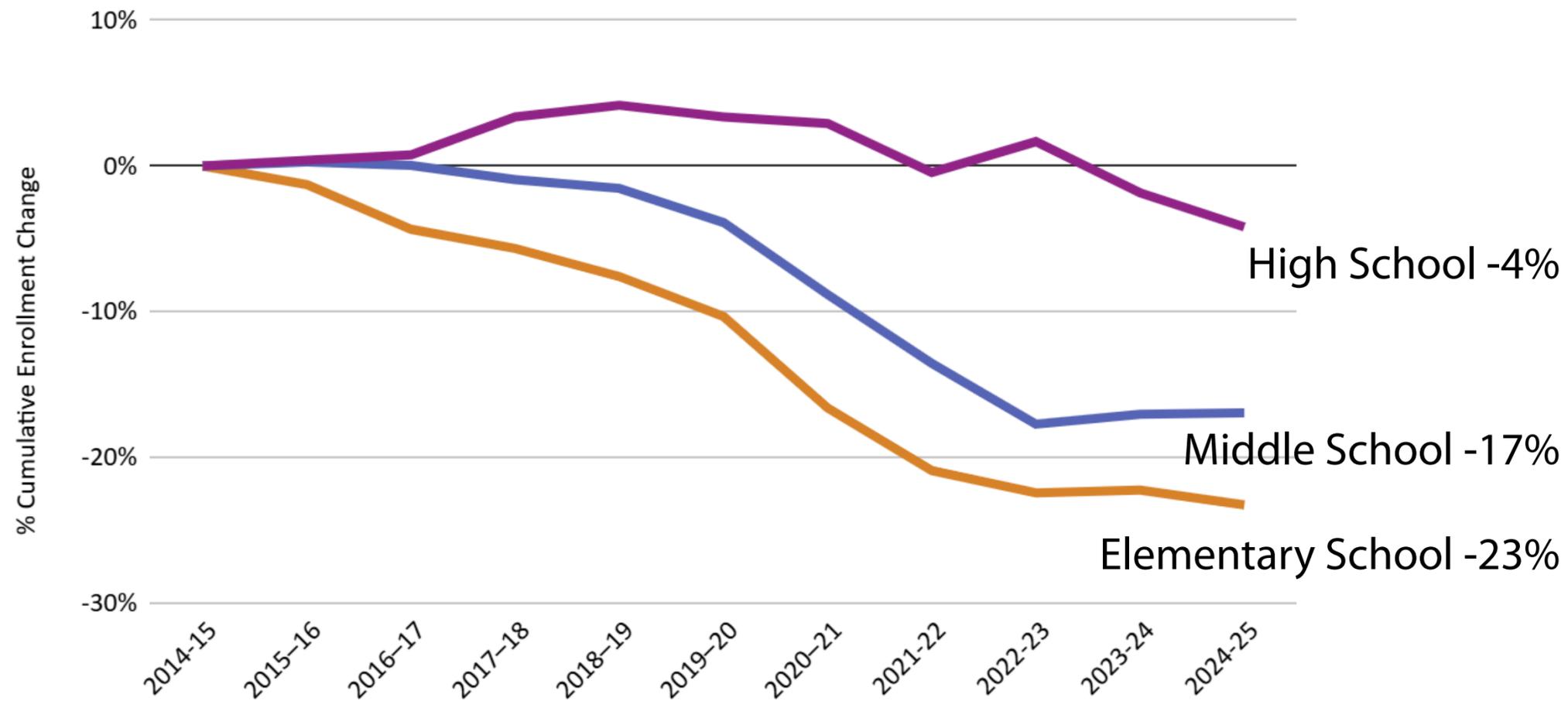
Enrollment is Changing Across All School Types in Santa Clara County



- 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

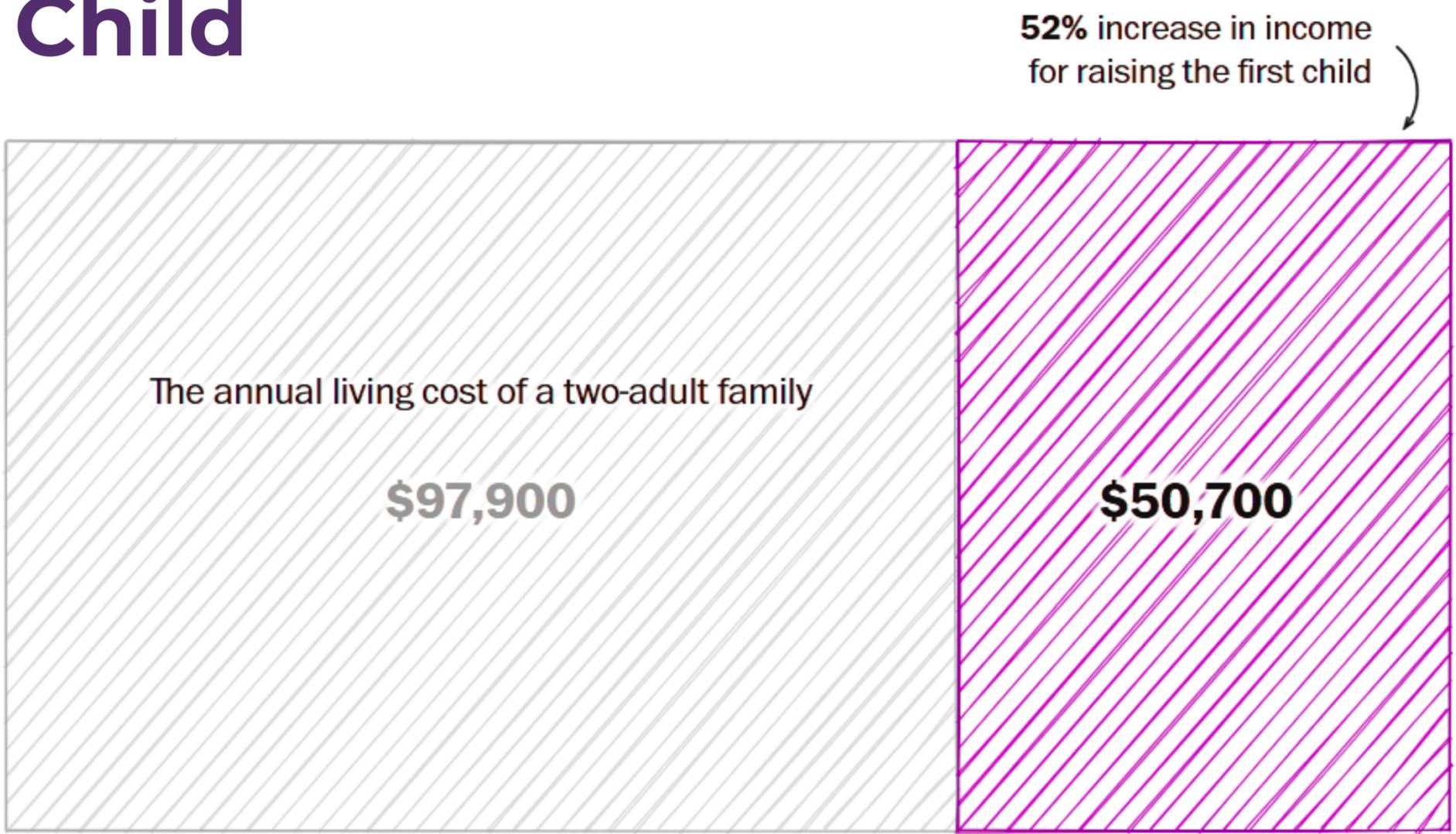
Why Are People **Having Fewer Children?**

- 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.

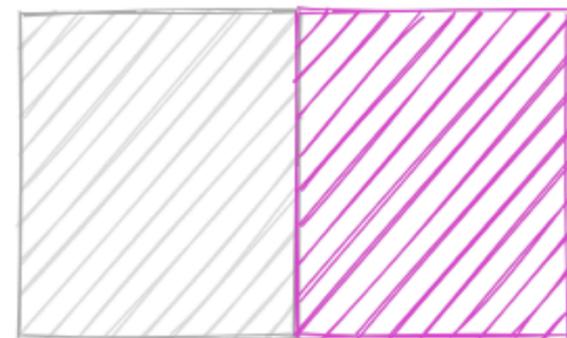


The Cost of Raising a Child

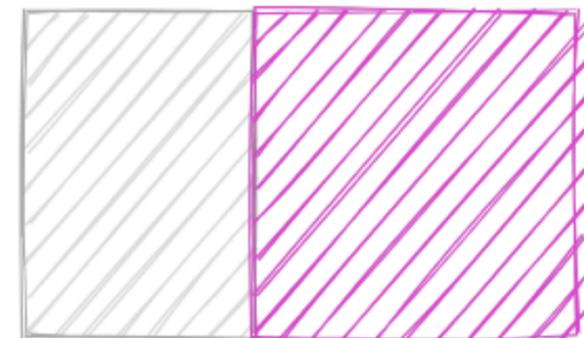
In Santa Clara County, a family of two would need to **increase their income by 52%**, for a total of \$148,600 per year, to maintain their standard of living **after having their first child.**



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

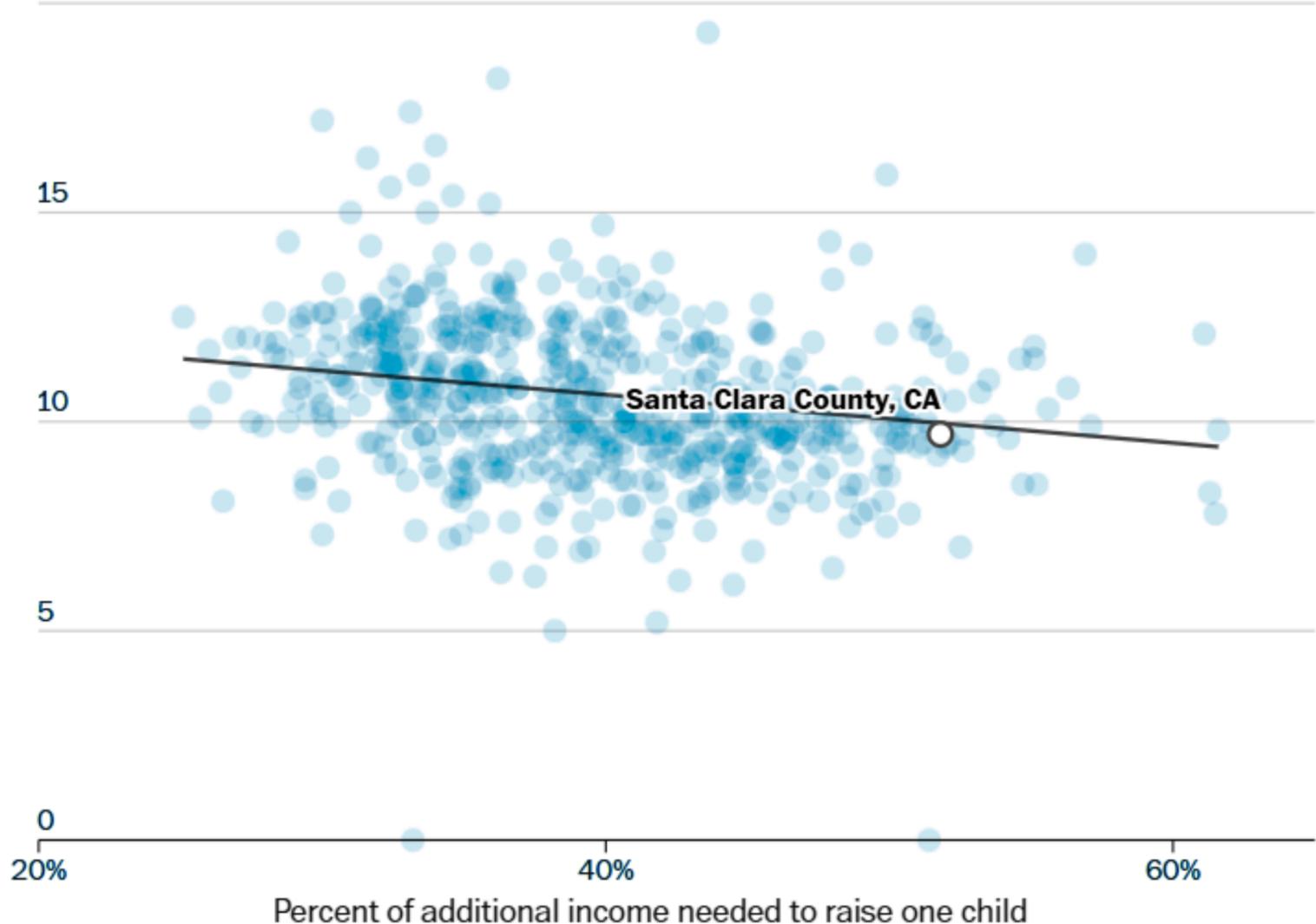


Source: Family Budget Calculator by the Economic Policy Institute

Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born

Each dot represents one county

20 births per 1,000

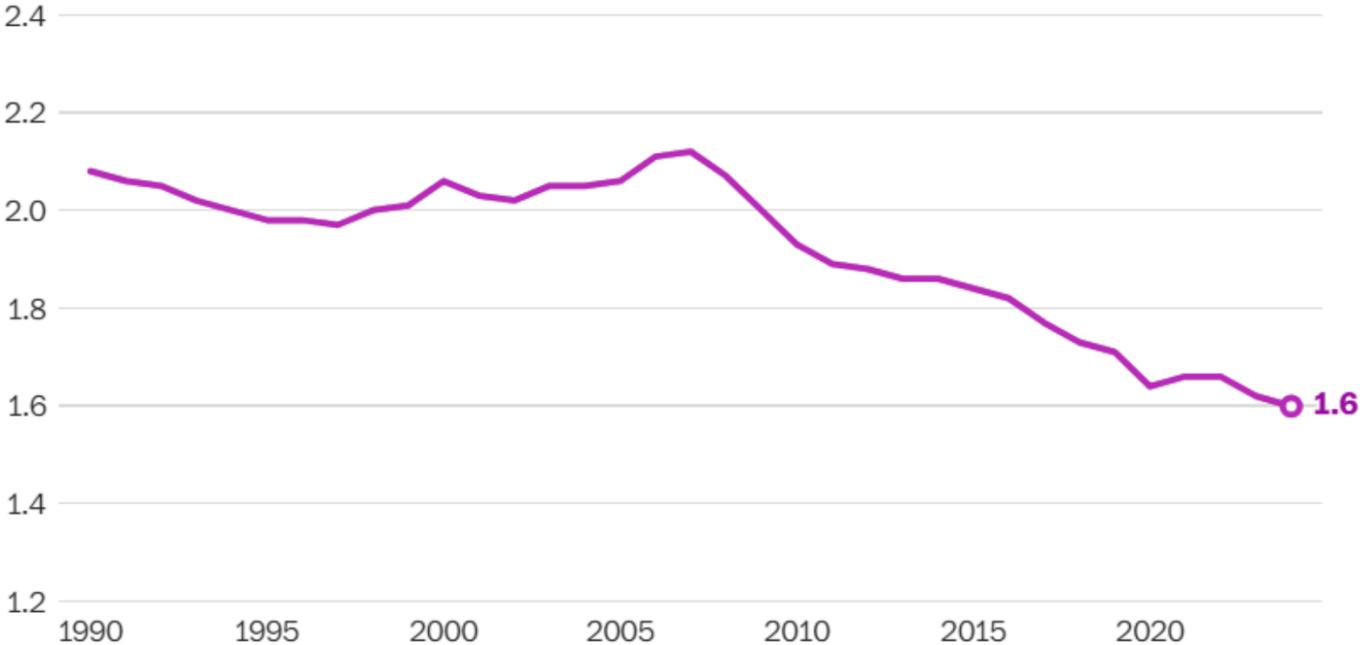


Birth rates are available for counties with populations of more than 100,000. Only 580 counties are shown.
Source: Author's analysis of data from CDC and Economic Policy Institute

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

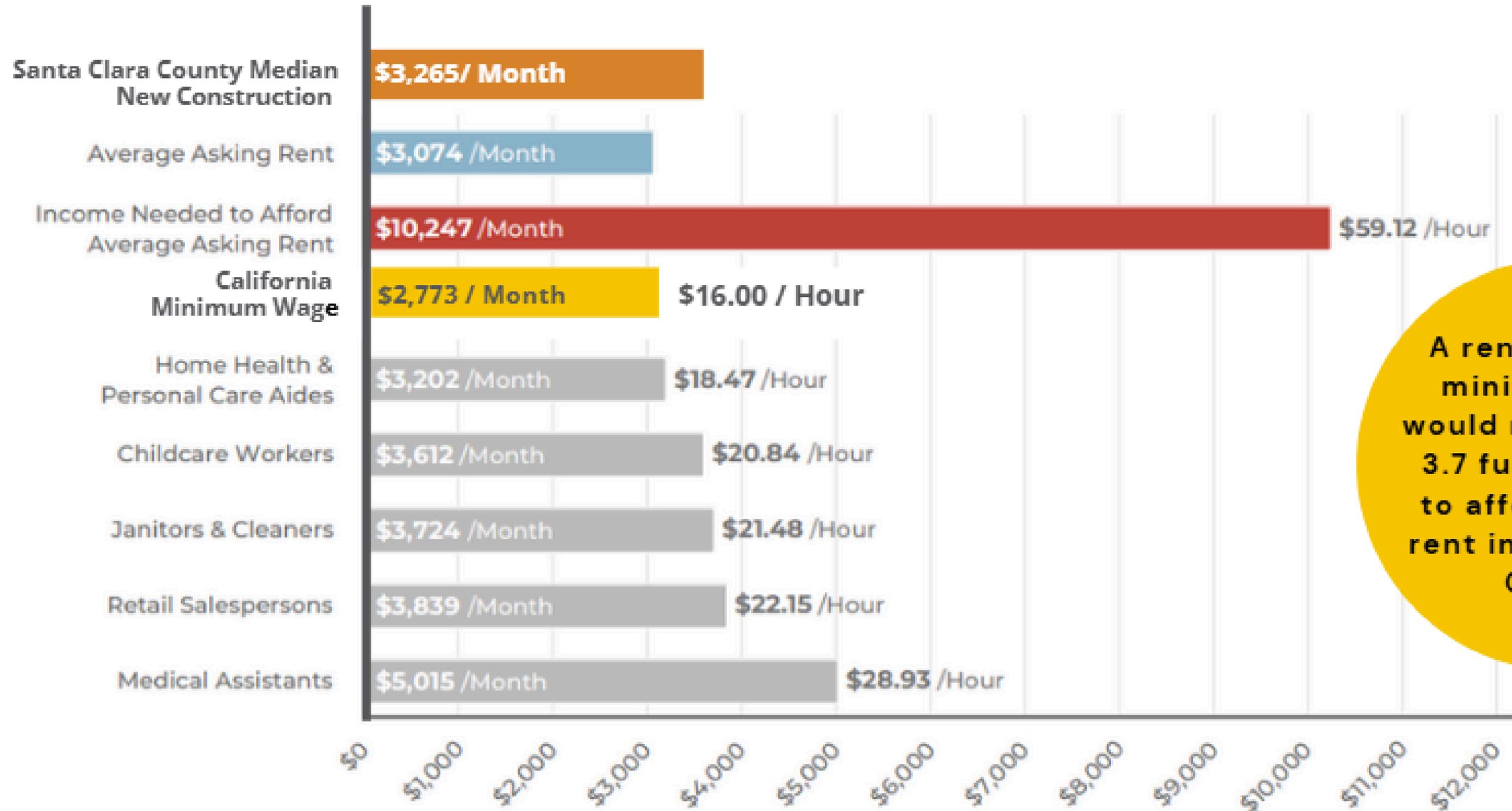
The fertility rate measures the number of children women are expected to have during their lifetime.



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%
Countywide Cumulative 10-Year Change	-21%



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**

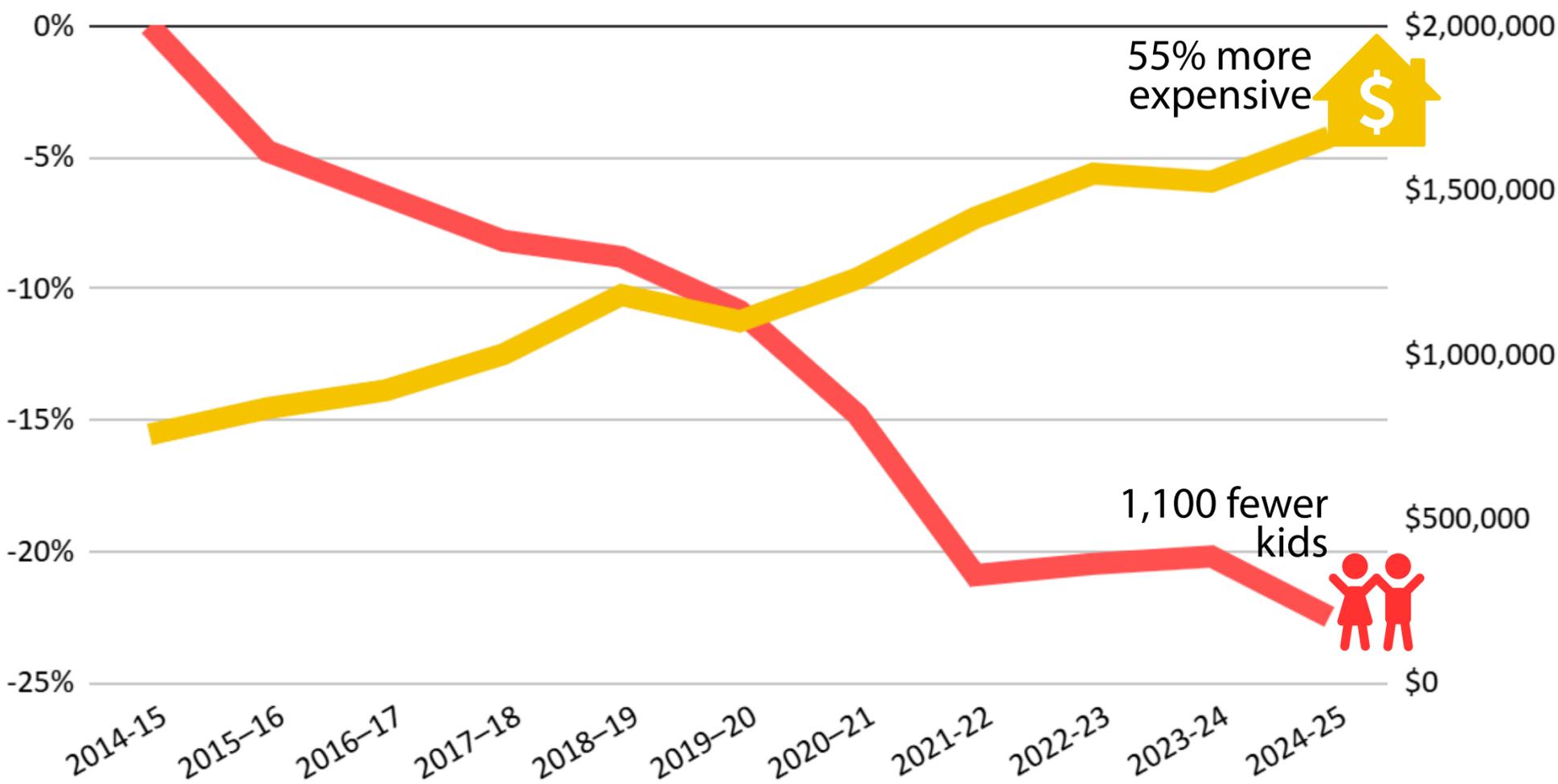
Safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing **sets kids up for learning**, and allows schools to **focus on what they do best.**

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



Berryessa Union School District's Elementary Enrollment Falls as Home Prices Rise

Berryessa Union TK-5th Grade Enrollment Change



Enrollment has fallen by 23% 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

Berryessa Union School District's **Elementary School Enrollment is Falling**

Changes in Elementary School Enrollment in Berryessa Union 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
Brooktree Elementary	515	475	471	446	461	450	426	382	397	379	387	-25%
Cherrywood Elementary	423	375	348	314	391	434	448	445	497	524	529	CLOSED
Laneview Elementary	435	385	393	381	373	349	334	320	343	369	349	CLOSED
Majestic Way Elementary	553	525	532	516	518	486	473	465	445	442	421	-24%
Noble Elementary	561	545	512	488	456	421	423	374	381	365	370	-34%
Northwood Elementary	450	462	484	567	574	584	542	488	432	454	452	4%
Ruskin Elementary	661	632	628	602	568	537	491	434	419	399	367	-44%
Summerdale Elementary	498	462	433	410	403	369	358	308	301	274	274	-45%
Toyon Elementary	321	326	311	320	292	299	268	241	240	258	231	CLOSED
Vinci Park Elementary	627	616	605	587	564	568	534	532	556	561	529	-16%
Total	5044	4803	4717	4631	4600	4497	4297	3989	4011	4025	3909	
Annual change		-5%	-2%	-2%	-1%	-2%	-4%	-7%	1%	0%	-3%	
Districtwide Cumulative 10-Year Change		-5%	-6%	-8%	-9%	-11%	-15%	-21%	-20%	-20%	-23%	-23%

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

All but one of Berryessa Union's elementary schools has suffered enrollment declines over the last 11 years, with a district-wide loss of more than 1,100 elementary students and 3 painful school closures 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?

Contact Alison Cingolani
Director of Policy
alison@siliconvalleyathome.org