

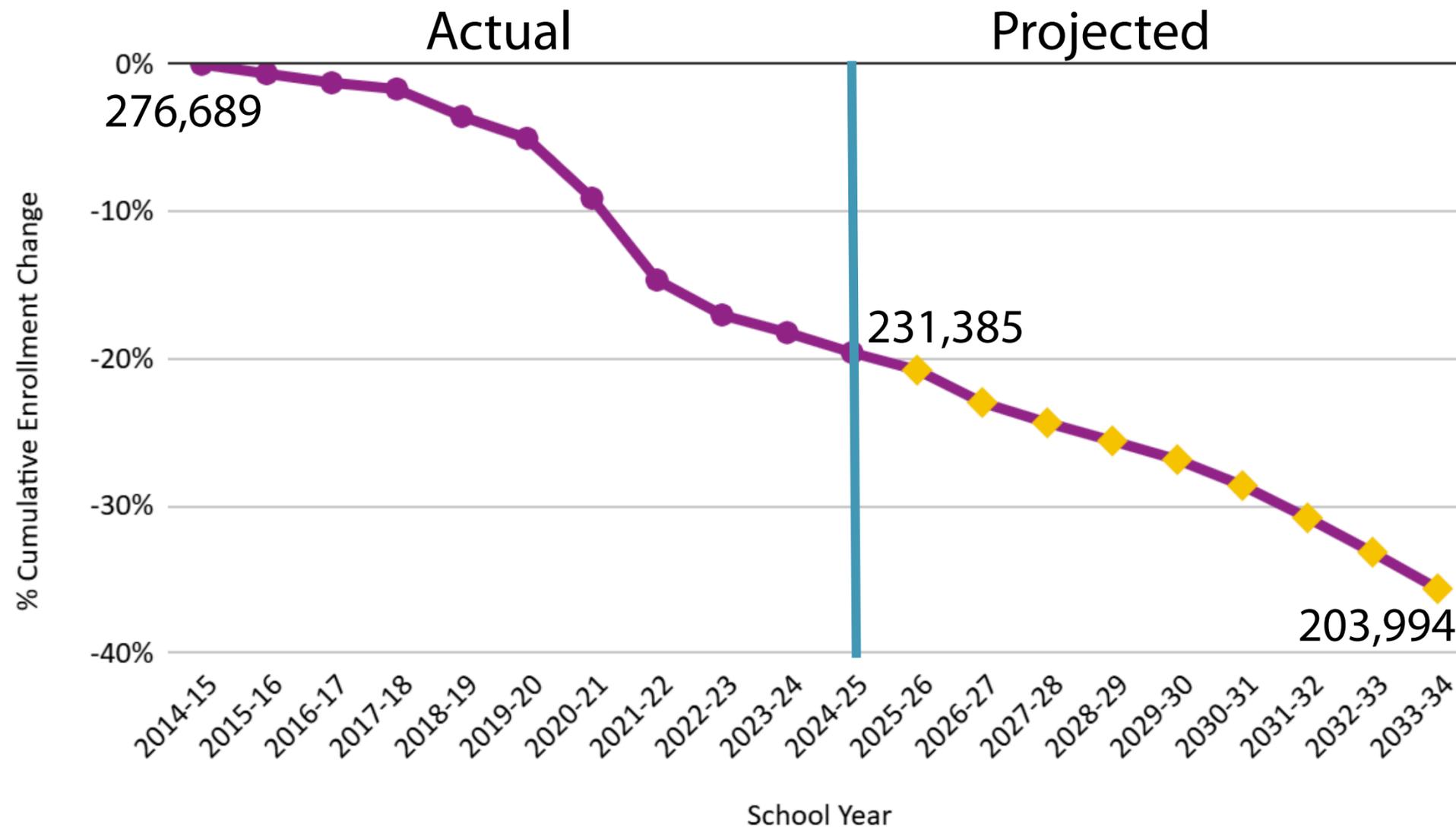


# Where Did the Students Go?

Housing & the School Enrollment Crisis

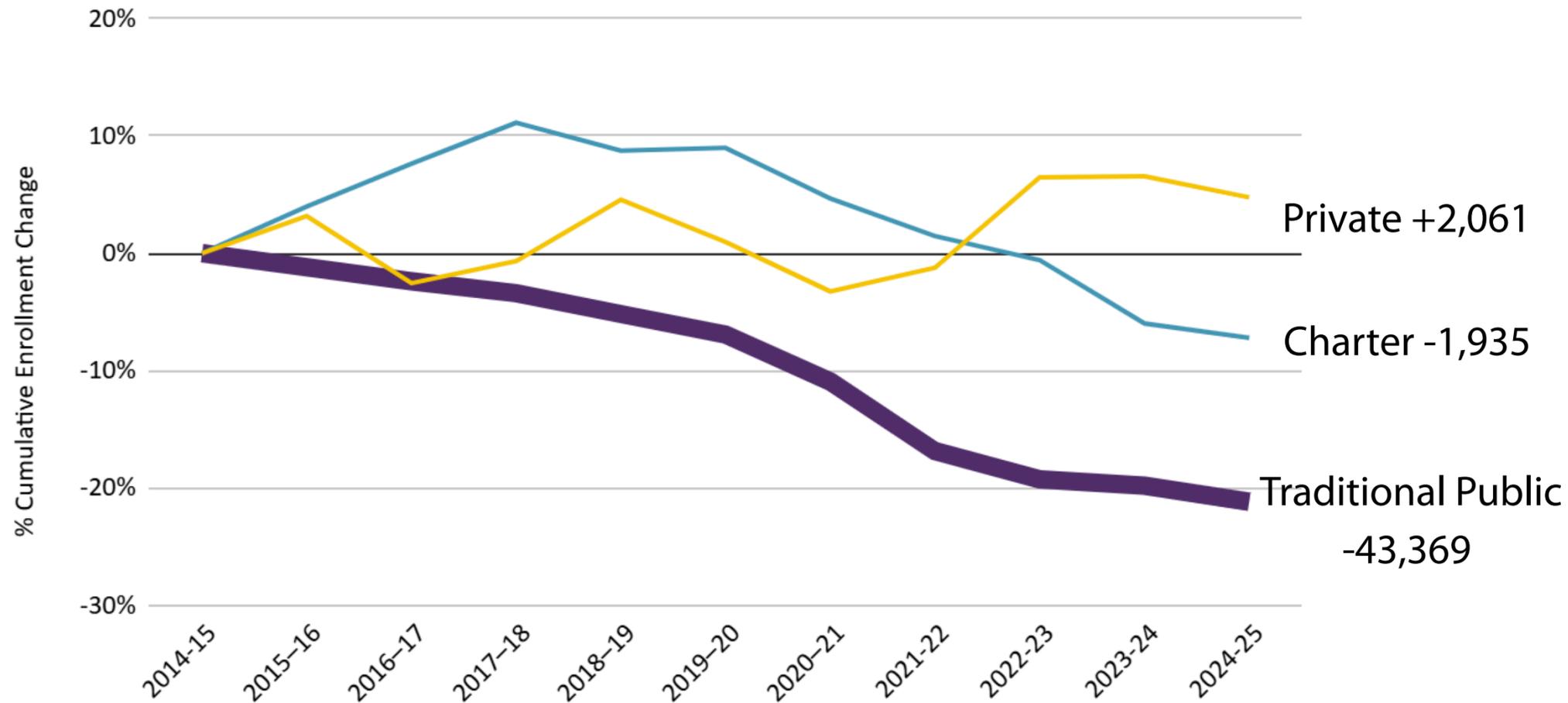
Countywide Enrollment Trends & Projections - p. 2  
Research Connecting Enrollment Change to Housing Cost - p. 5  
Impacts on Students, Schools, & Communities - p. 10  
Your Local School District - p. 12  
References - p. 14

# 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.

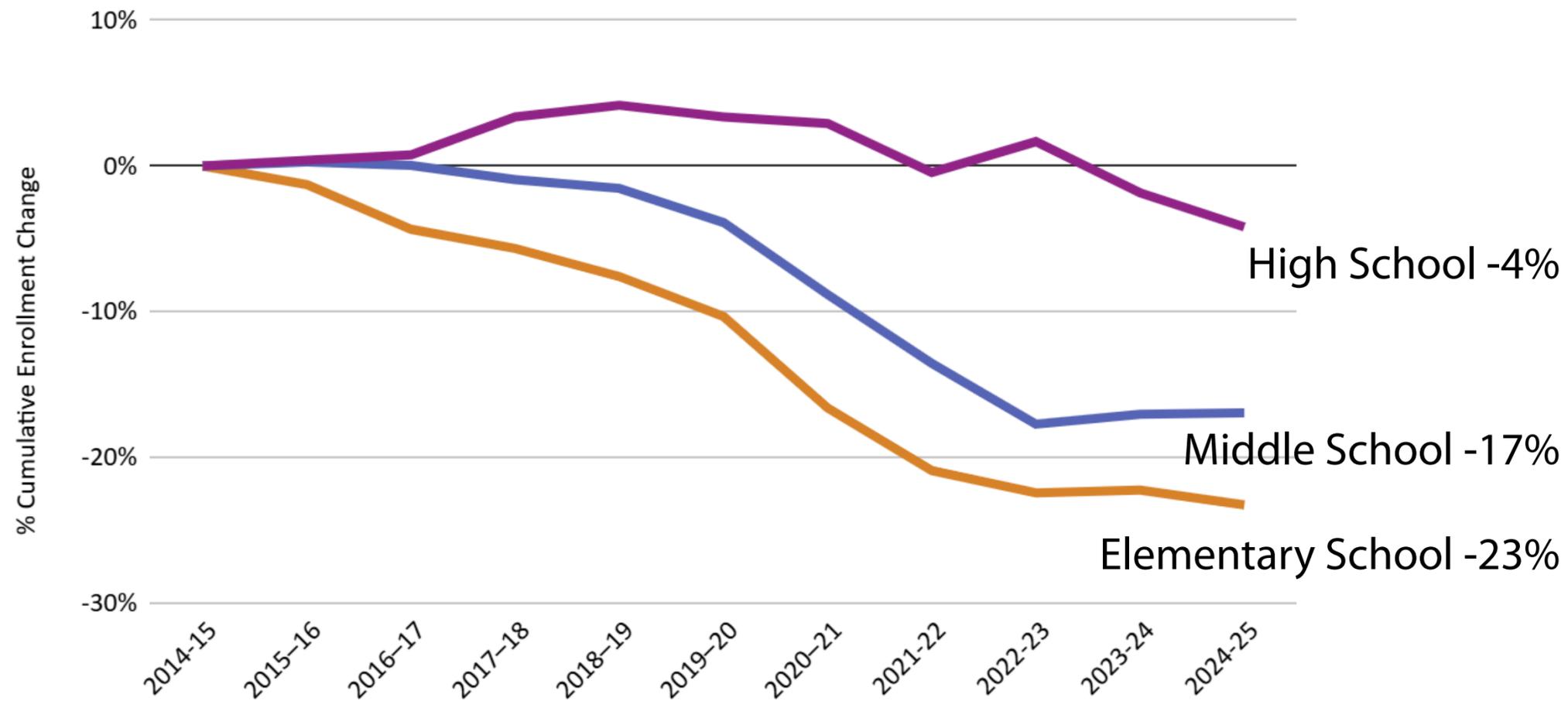
# Enrollment is Changing Across All School Types in Santa Clara County



- 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

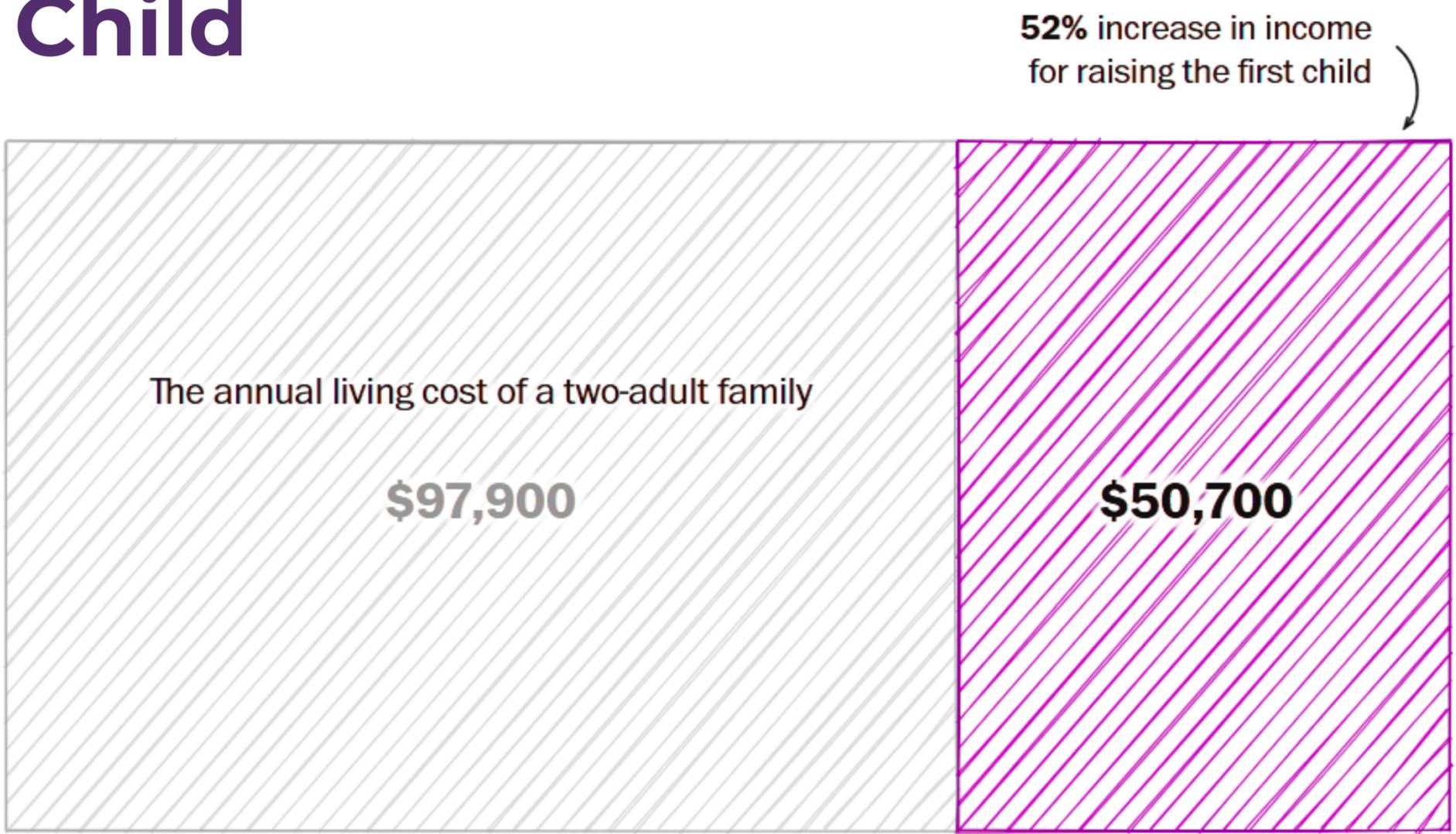
# Why Are People **Having Fewer Children?**

- 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.

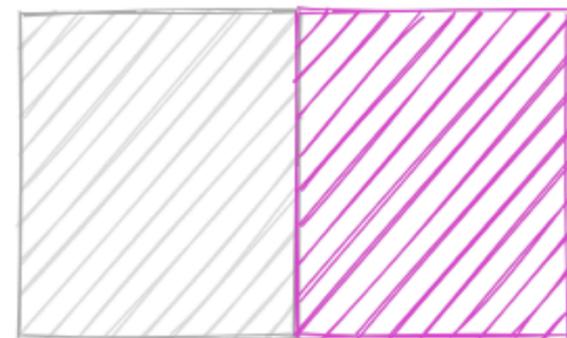


# The Cost of Raising a Child

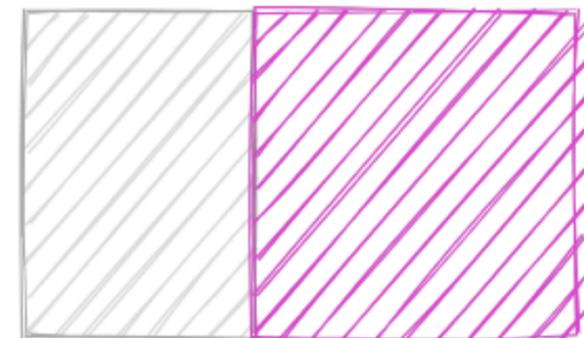
In Santa Clara County, a family of two would need to **increase their income by 52%**, for a total of \$148,600 per year, to maintain their standard of living **after having their first child.**



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

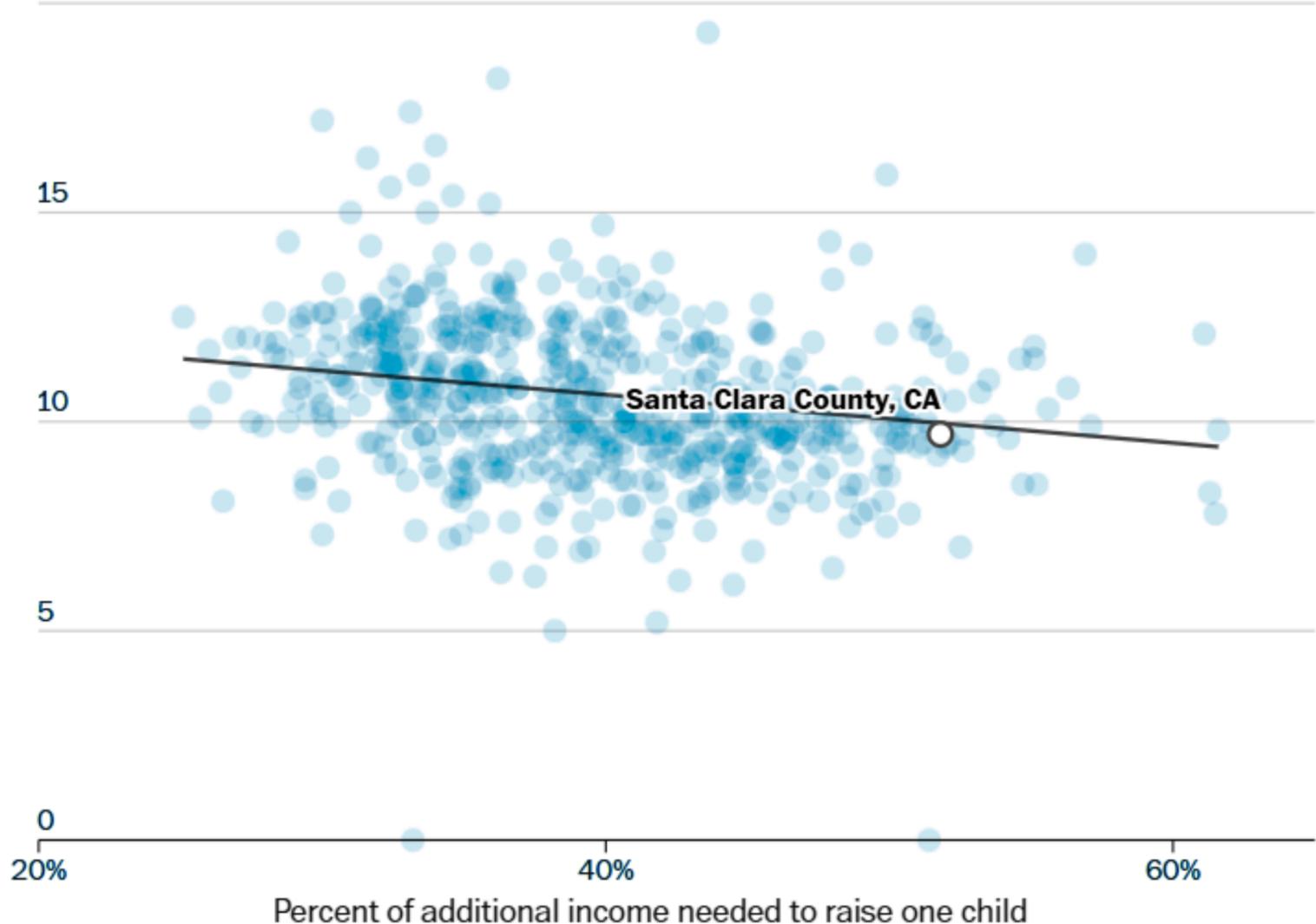


Source: Family Budget Calculator by the Economic Policy Institute

# Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born

Each dot represents one county

20 births per 1,000

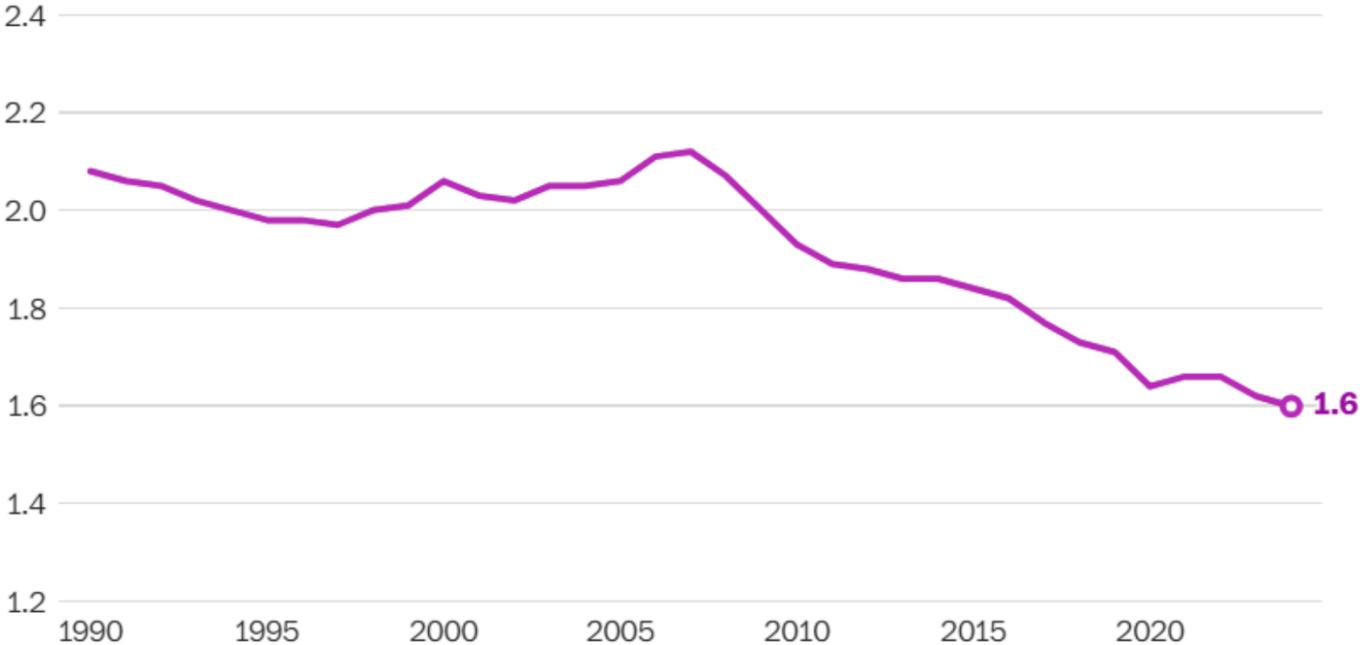


Birth rates are available for counties with populations of more than 100,000. Only 580 counties are shown.  
Source: Author's analysis of data from CDC and Economic Policy Institute

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

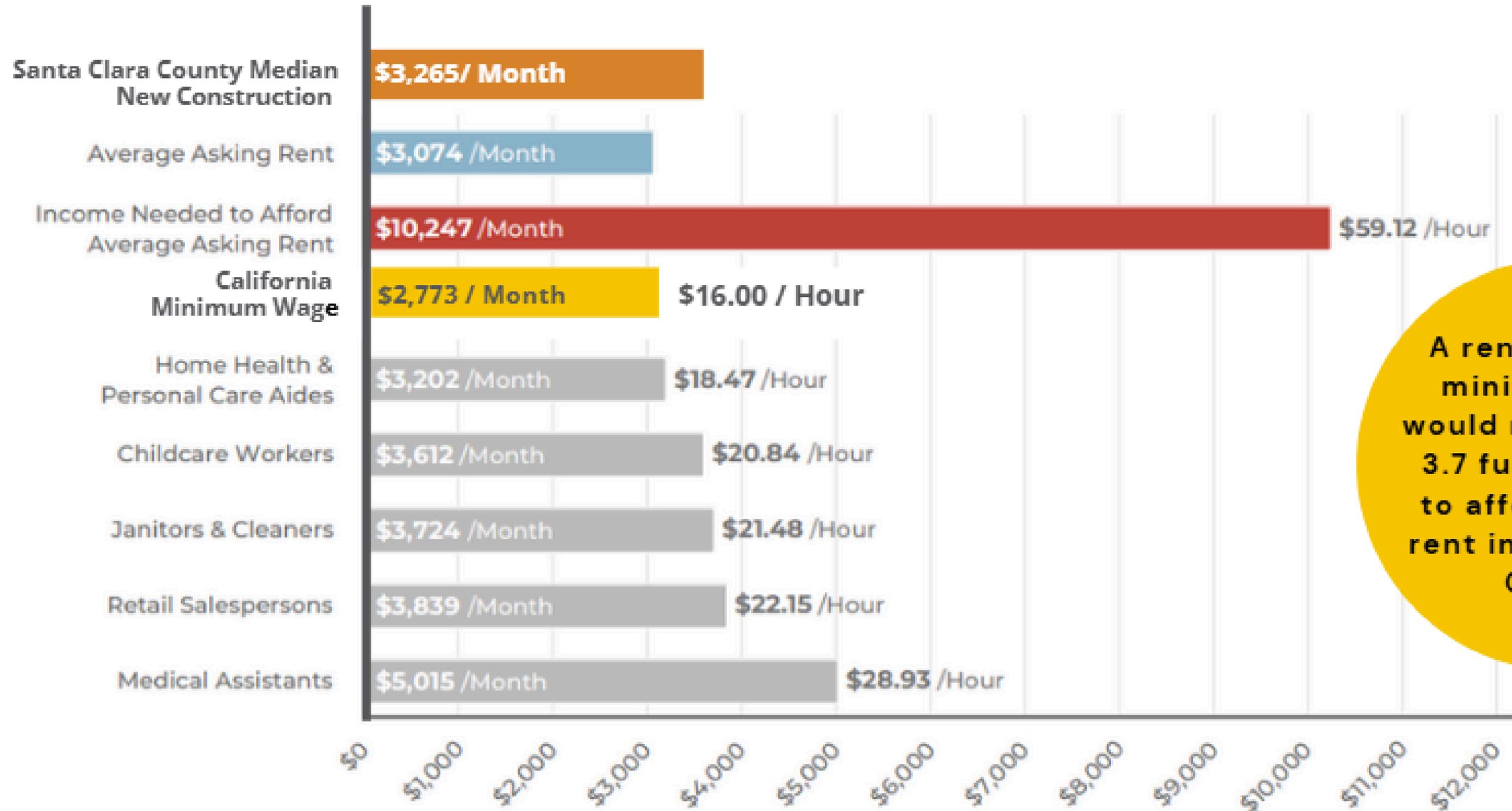
The fertility rate measures the number of children women are expected to have during their lifetime.



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**

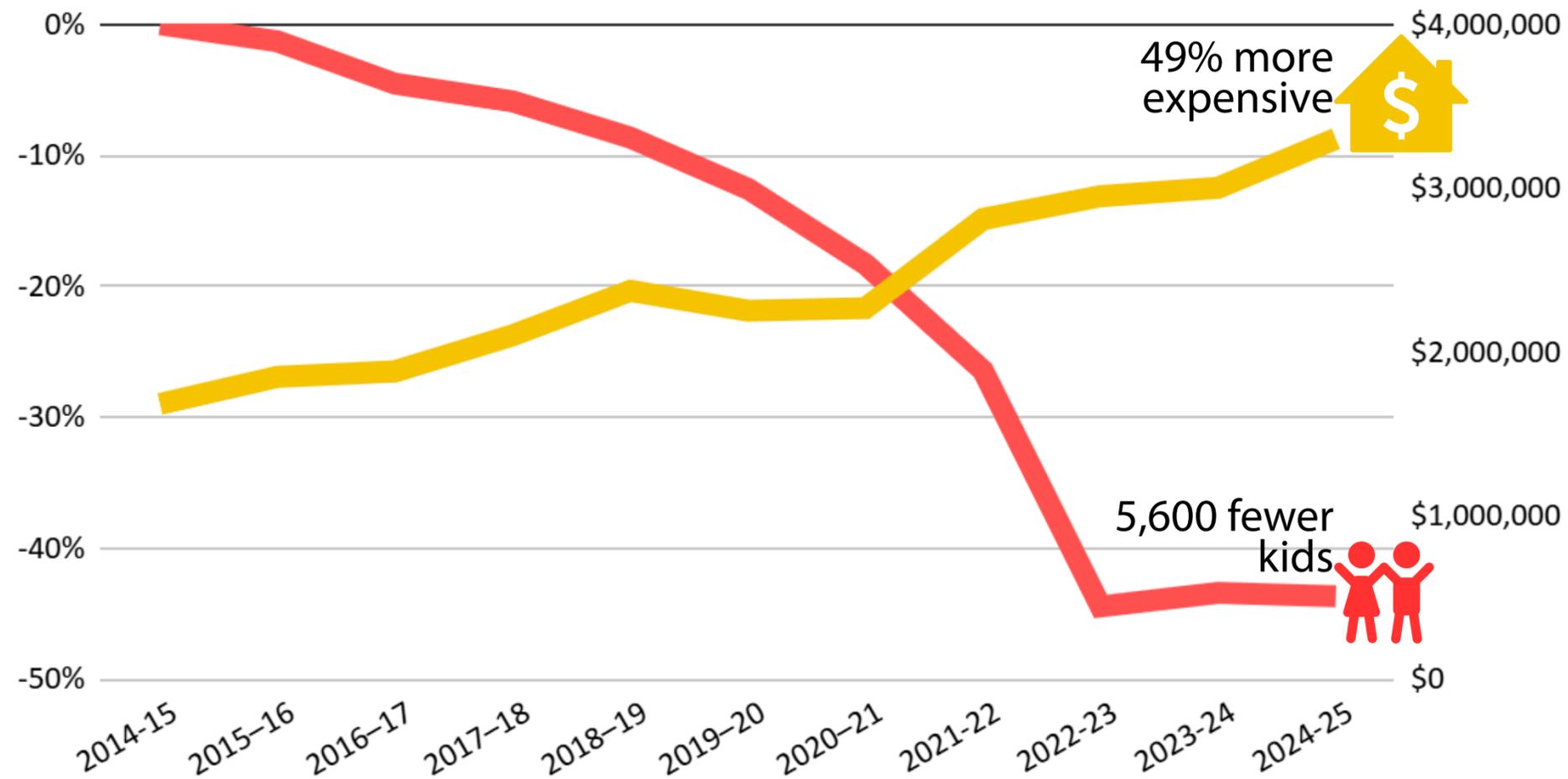
Safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing **sets kids up for learning**, and allows schools to **focus on what they do best.**

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



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

Cupertino Union TK-5th Grade Enrollment Change



Enrollment has fallen 44% over the last 11 years.

Median home prices in Cupertino have soared by 49% over that same time to \$3,300,000.

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

# Cupertino Union School District's **Elementary School Enrollment is Falling**

Changes in Elementary School Enrollment in Cupertino 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
Abraham Lincoln Elementary	720	697	616	595	576	556	548	484	665	663	662	-8%
Blue Hills Elementary	438	383	346	319	339	361	318	280	406	399	424	-3%
C. B. Eaton Elementary	635	555	540	508	497	471	451	398	470	478	489	-23%
Chester W. Nimitz Elementary	733	721	673	668	628	604	517	417	419	399	350	-52%
Christa McAuliffe Elementary	468	486	506	500	493	490	505	607	402	376	358	-24%
D. J. Sedgwick Elementary	631	644	686	676	617	554	519	439	367	392	407	-35%
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary	920	886	862	906	866	821	802	705	757	772	757	-18%
Garden Gate Elementary	709	680	636	609	576	588	538	503	517	512	471	-34%
John Muir Elementary	443	400	390	358	354	307	248	237	483	542	557	26%
L. P. Collins Elementary	710	719	698	717	702	636	593	502	473	491	498	-30%
Louis E. Stocklmeir Elementary	1211	1192	1174	1191	1106	1055	1028	886	822	826	840	-31%
Manuel De Vargas Elementary	514	591	551	569	519	478	414	366	380	398	379	-26%
Montclair Elementary	507	480	458	429	428	445	410	388	382	406	442	-13%
Murdock-Portal Elementary	575	573	571	576	570	575	573	551	559	562	551	-4%
Nelson S. Dilworth Elementary	467	460	446	414	435	437	372	297	616	602	547	17%
<b>R. I. Meyerholz Elementary</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Stevens Creek Elementary	581	606	603	584	582	499	443	387	389	398	407	-30%
West Valley Elementary	628	633	591	560	554	514	444	364	371	404	422	-33%
William Faria Elementary	675	693	694	691	695	691	692	651	632	604	614	-9%
<b>William Regnart Elementary</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Total Enrollment	12875	12706	12289	12115	11760	11257	10516	9470	7150	7285	7250	
Annual Change		-1%	-3%	-1%	-3%	-4%	-7%	-10%	-24%	2%	0%	
<b>Districtwide Cumulative 10-Year Change</b>		<b>-1%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>-44%</b>

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

All but one of Cupertino Union's elementary schools has suffered enrollment declines over the last 11 years, with a district-wide loss of more than 5,600 elementary students & 2 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 woman with dark curly hair and glasses is smiling and hugging a young girl with long dark hair. They are outdoors in a grassy area with a building and trees in the background. The woman is wearing a colorful patterned sleeveless top, and the girl is wearing a red top.

# QUESTIONS?

Contact Alison Cingolani  
Director of Policy  
[alison@siliconvalleyathome.org](mailto:alison@siliconvalleyathome.org)