

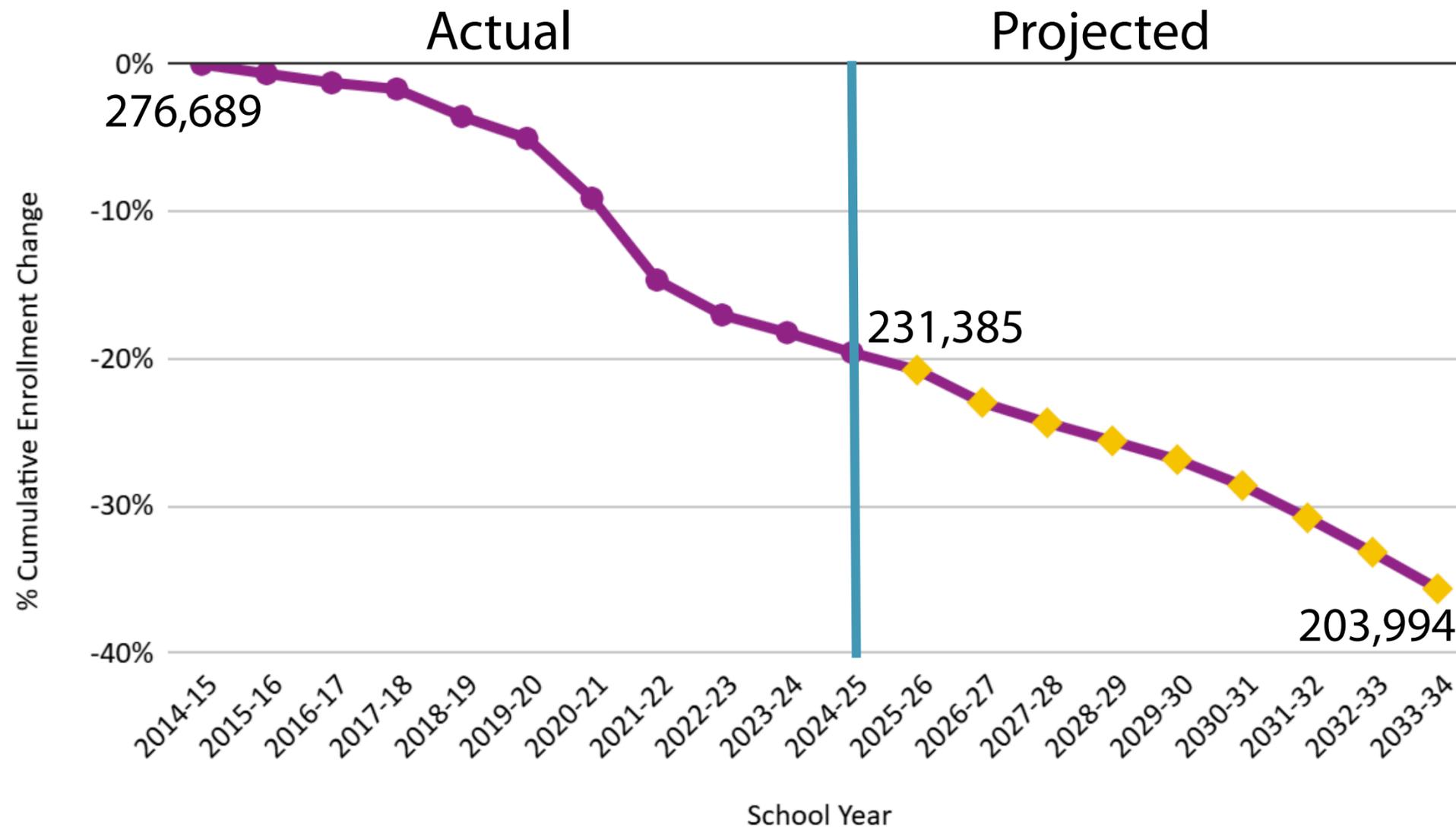


Where Did the Students Go?

Housing & the School Enrollment Crisis

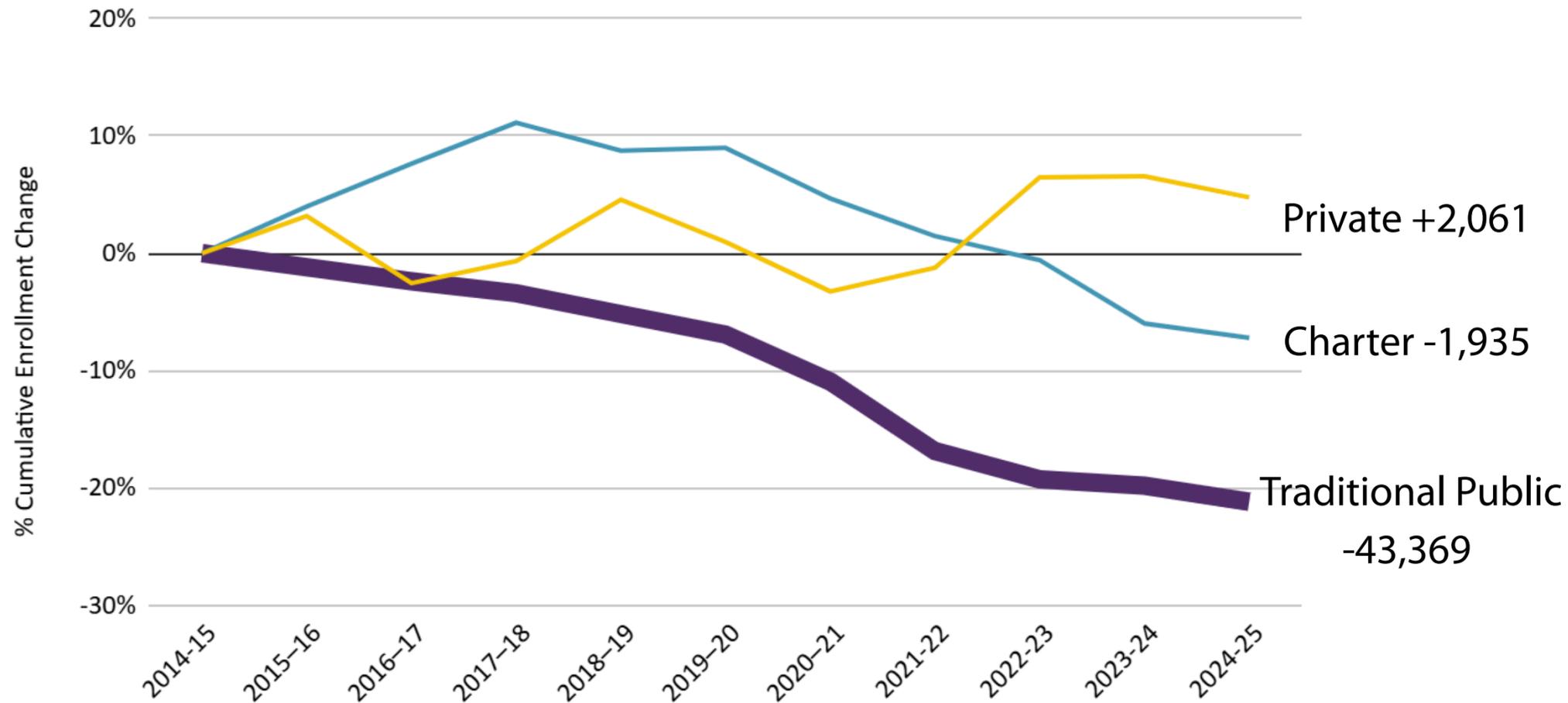
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Santa Clara County Actual & Projected Public School Enrollment



- 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.

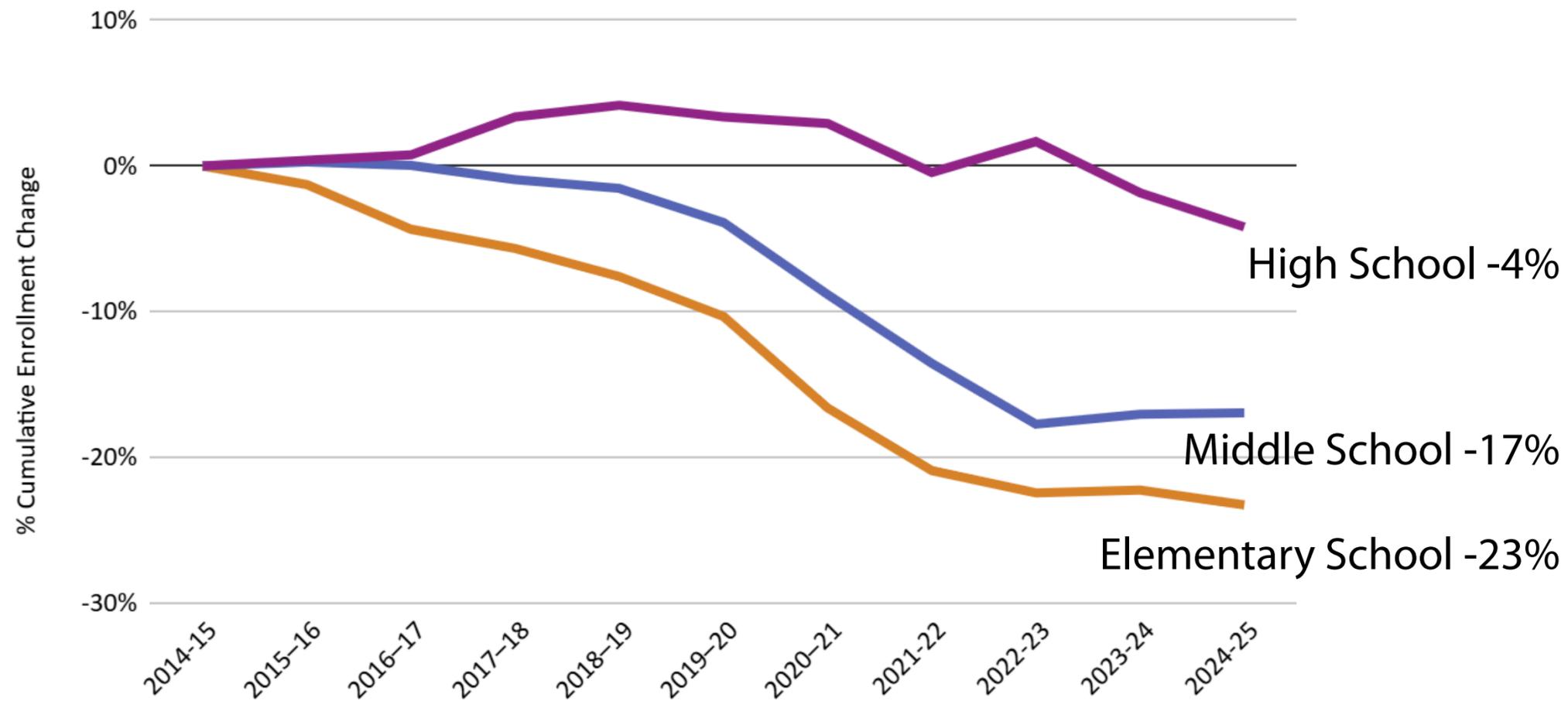
Enrollment is Changing Across All School Types in Santa Clara County



- 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

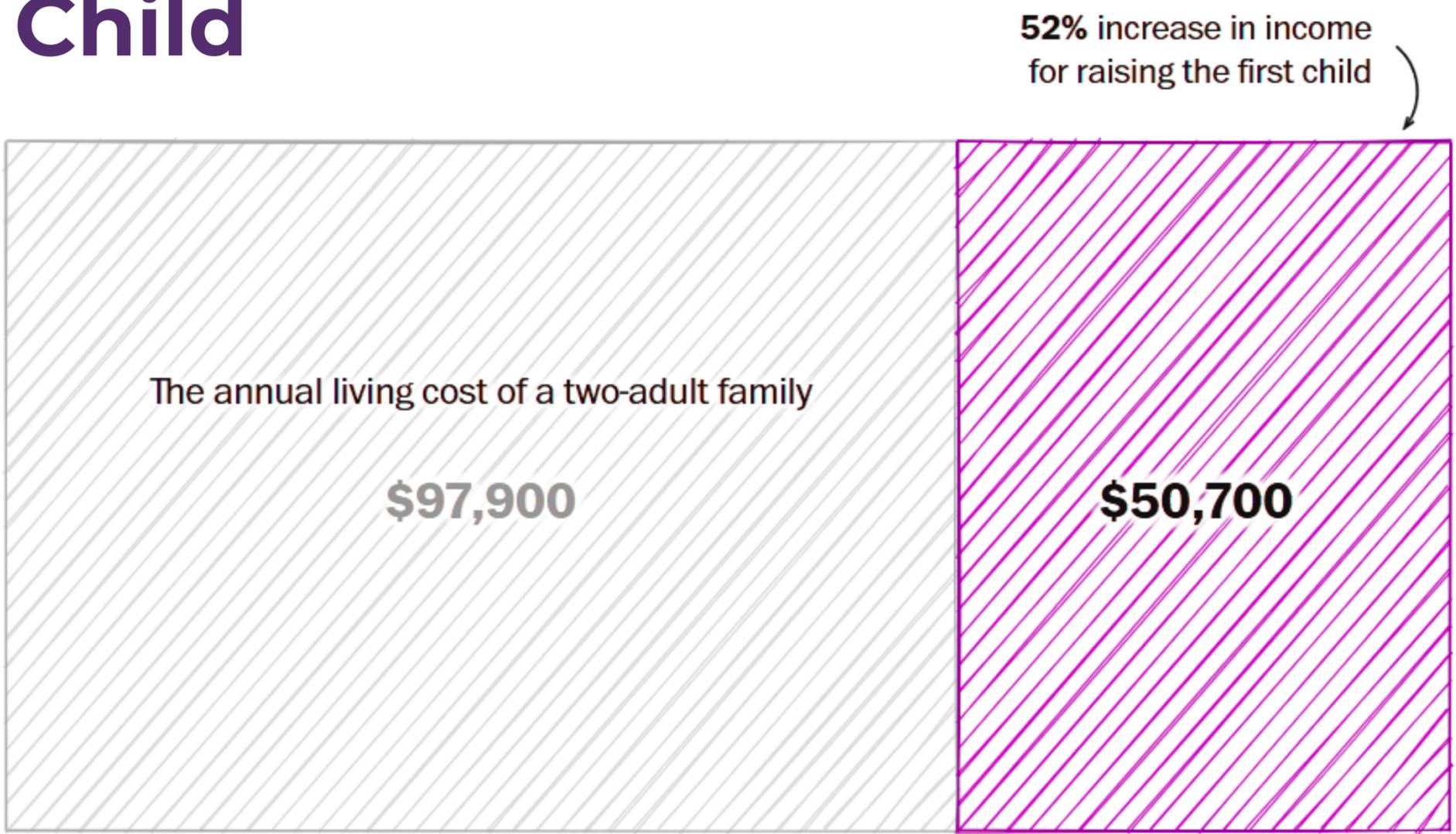
Why Are People **Having Fewer Children?**

- 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.

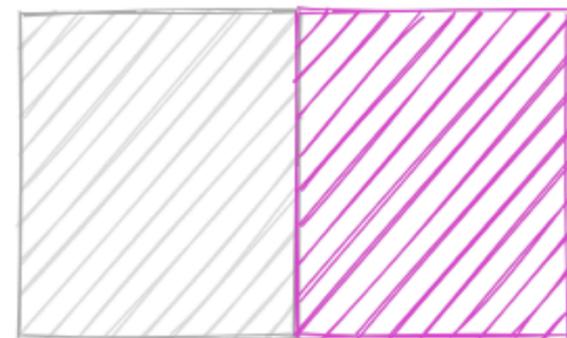


The Cost of Raising a Child

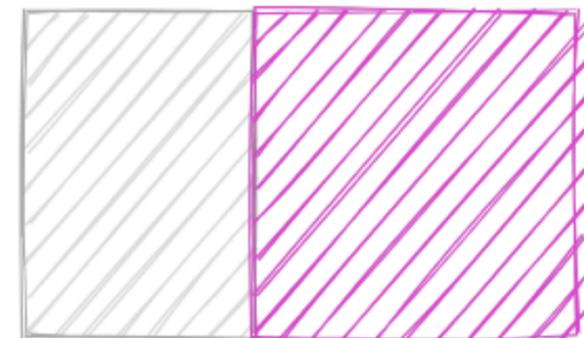
In Santa Clara County, a family of two would need to **increase their income by 52%**, for a total of \$148,600 per year, to maintain their standard of living **after having their first child.**



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

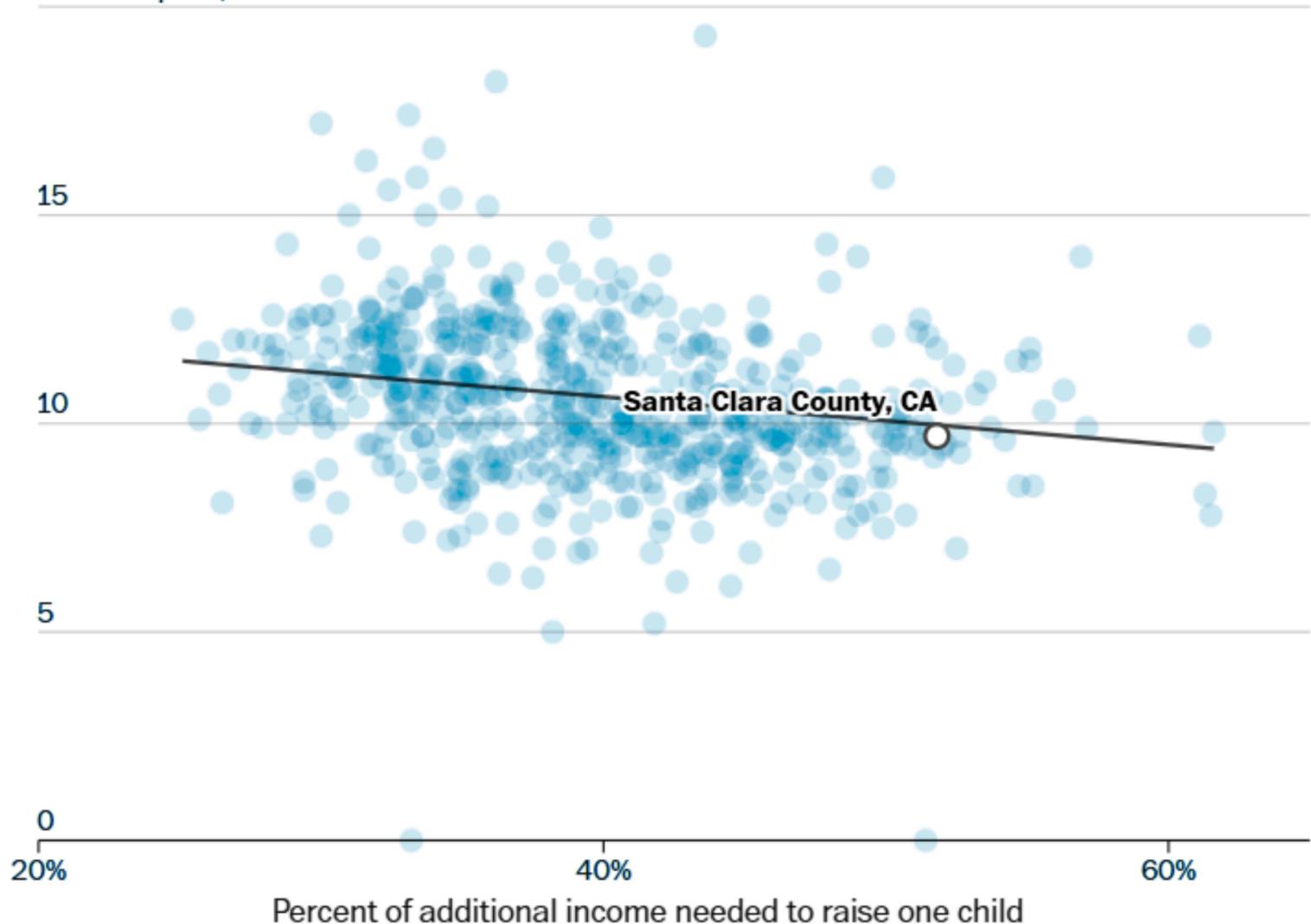


Source: Family Budget Calculator by the Economic Policy Institute

Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born

Each dot represents one county

20 births per 1,000

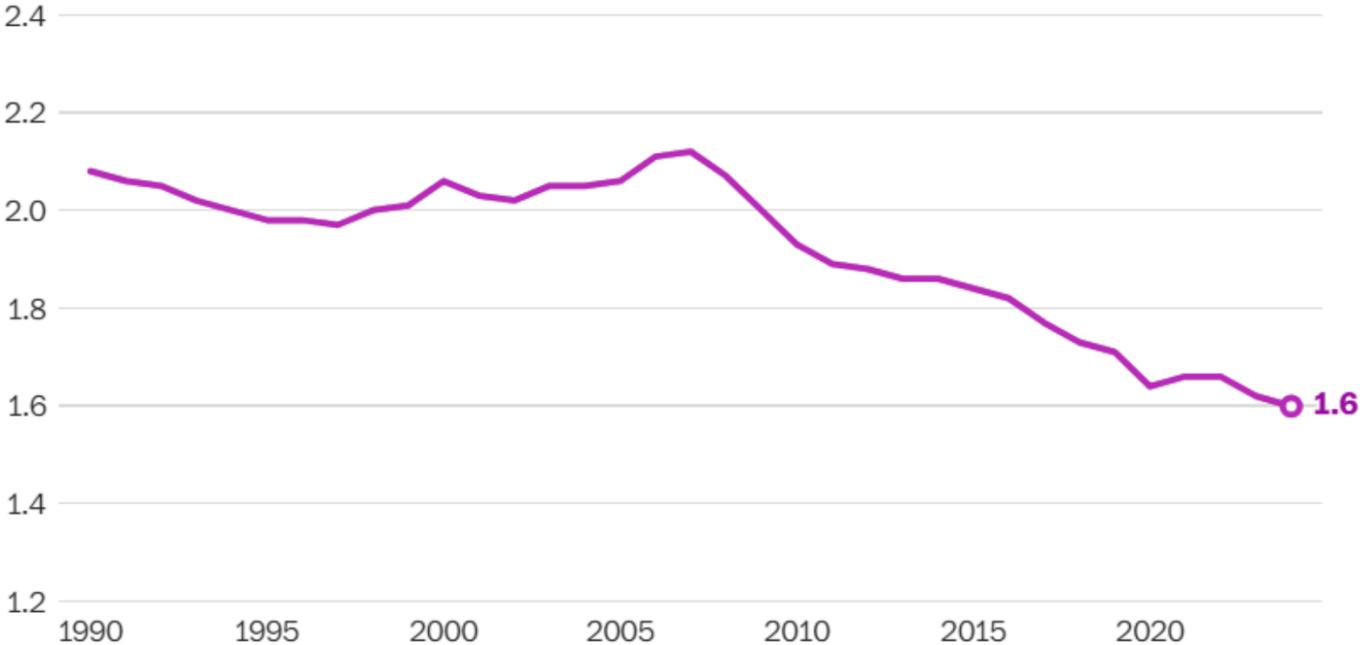


Birth rates are available for counties with populations of more than 100,000. Only 580 counties are shown.
Source: Author's analysis of data from CDC and Economic Policy Institute

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

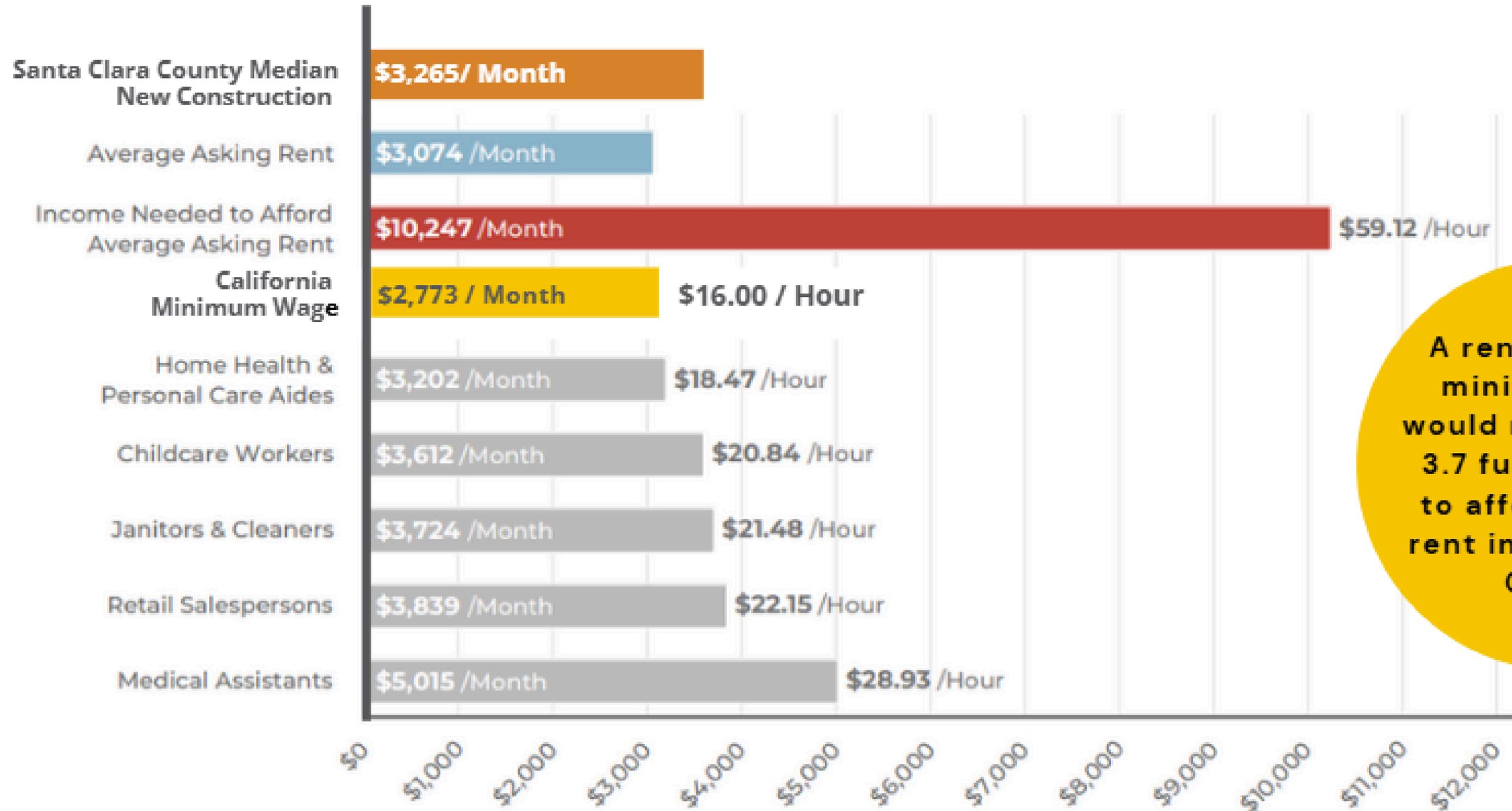
The fertility rate measures the number of children women are expected to have during their lifetime.



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**

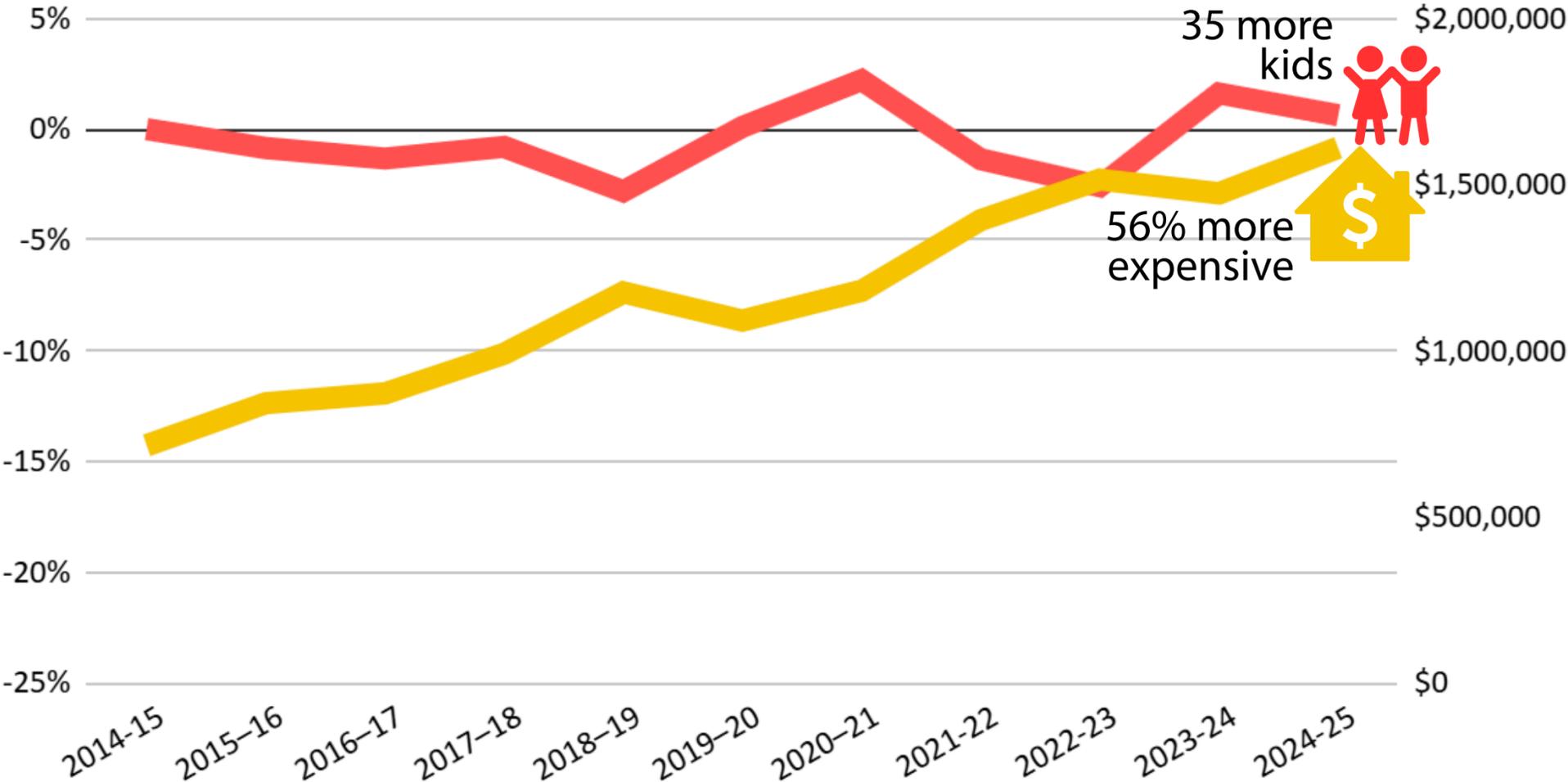
Safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing **sets kids up for learning**, and allows schools to **focus on what they do best.**

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



Milpitas Unified School District's **Elementary Enrollment is Holding Steady** as Home Prices Rise

Milpitas Unified TK-5th Grade Cumulative Enrollment Change



Enrollment has fallen in five of the last 11 years, arriving at a cumulative 1% growth.

Median home prices in Milpitas have soared by 56% over that same time to \$1,611,000.

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



Milpitas Unified School District's **Elementary School Enrollment is Holding Steady**

Changes in Elementary School Enrollment in Milpitas Unified 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
Alexander Rose Elementary	464	451	484	487	479	534	546	531	512	516	518	12%
Anthony Spangler Elementary	579	575	587	616	589	634	680	646	596	623	610	5%
Curtner Elementary	735	730	739	747	730	712	719	697	669	660	663	-10%
John Sinnott Elementary	780	775	774	765	738	744	769	738	714	724	686	-12%
Joseph Weller Elementary	438	455	477	476	454	474	444	426	393	440	412	-6%
Mabel Mattos Elementary	0	0	0	0	113	170	268	428	534	666	746	NEW
Marshall Pomeroy Elementary	749	756	719	719	722	711	674	631	608	614	597	-20%
Pearl Zanker Elementary	663	675	680	686	635	637	672	576	574	578	563	-15%
Robert Randall Elementary	434	431	394	374	348	335	313	264	284	297	285	-34%
William Burnett Elementary	659	606	574	587	539	556	538	489	475	472	456	-31%
Total Enrollment	5501	5454	5428	5457	5347	5507	5623	5426	5359	5590	5536	
Annual Change		-1%	0%	1%	-2%	3%	2%	-4%	-1%	4%	-1%	
Districtwide Cumulative 10-Year Change		-1%	-1%	-1%	-3%	0%	2%	-1%	-3%	2%	1%	1%

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

While most of Milpitas Unified's elementary schools have **suffered enrollment declines** over the last 11 years, two existing schools and one new school have grown, with **no net district-wide loss of elementary students** 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?

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