

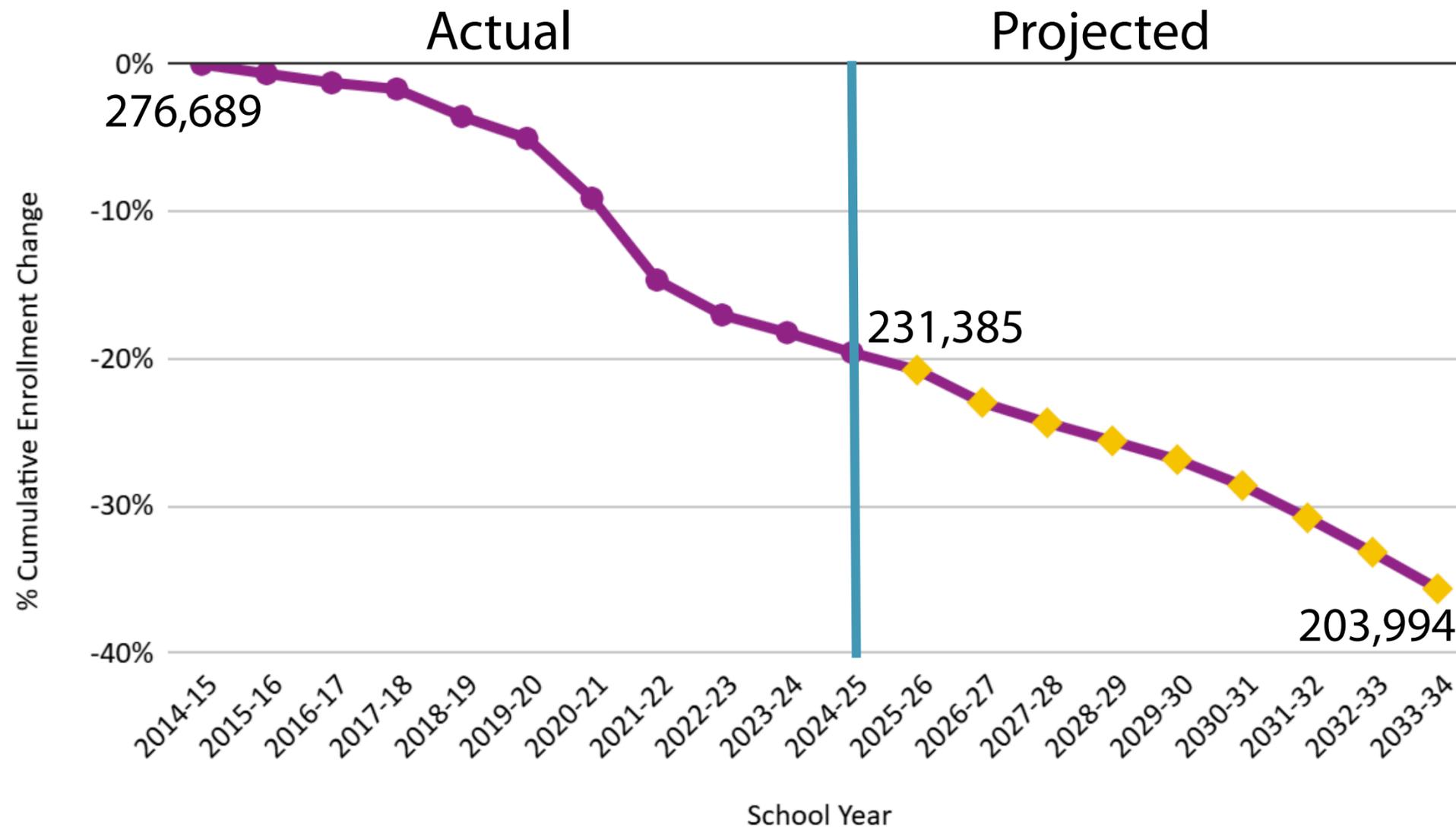


# Where Did the Students Go?

Housing & the School Enrollment Crisis

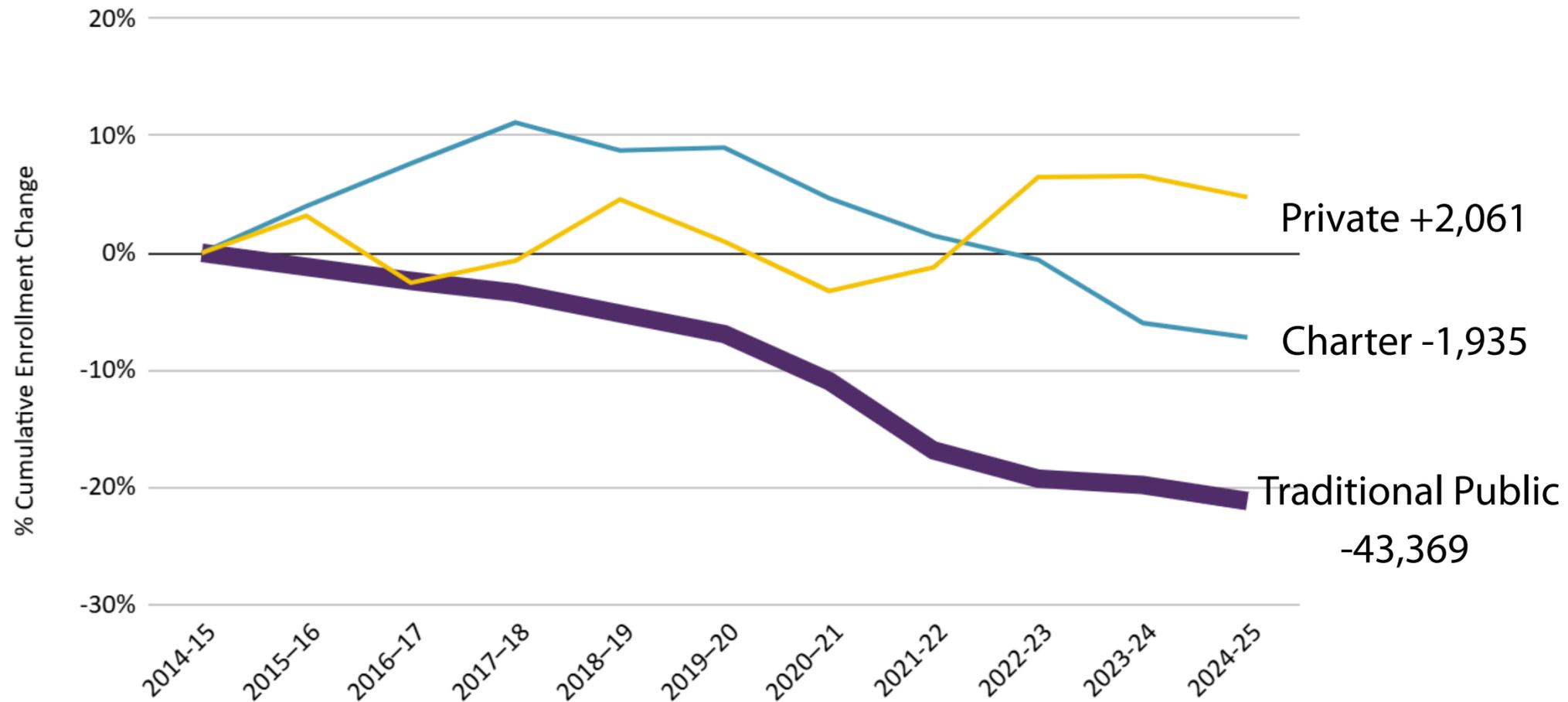
Countywide Enrollment Trends & Projections - p. 2  
Research Connecting Enrollment Change to Housing Cost - p. 5  
Impacts on Students, Schools, & Communities - p. 10  
Your Local School District - p. 12  
References - p. 14

# 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.

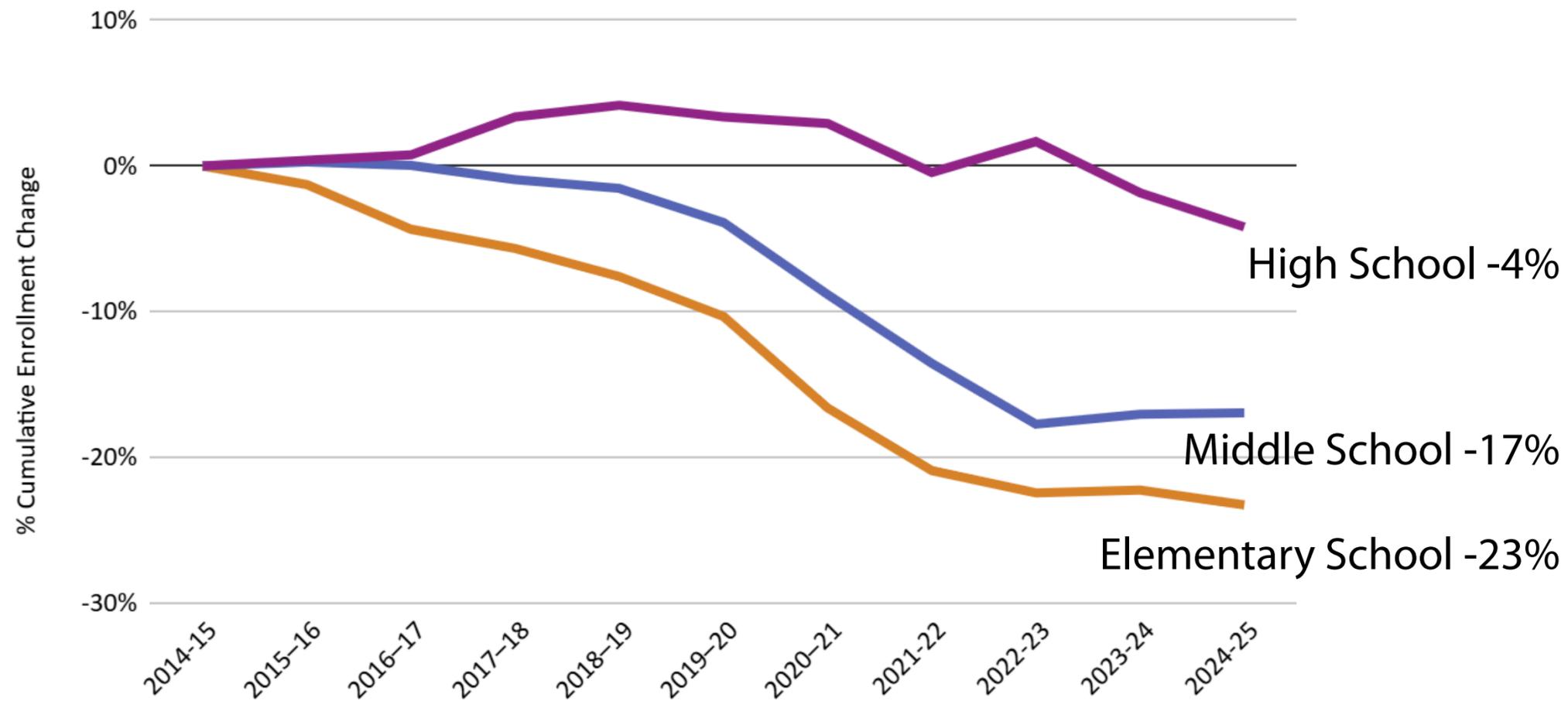
# Enrollment is Changing Across All School Types in Santa Clara County



- 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

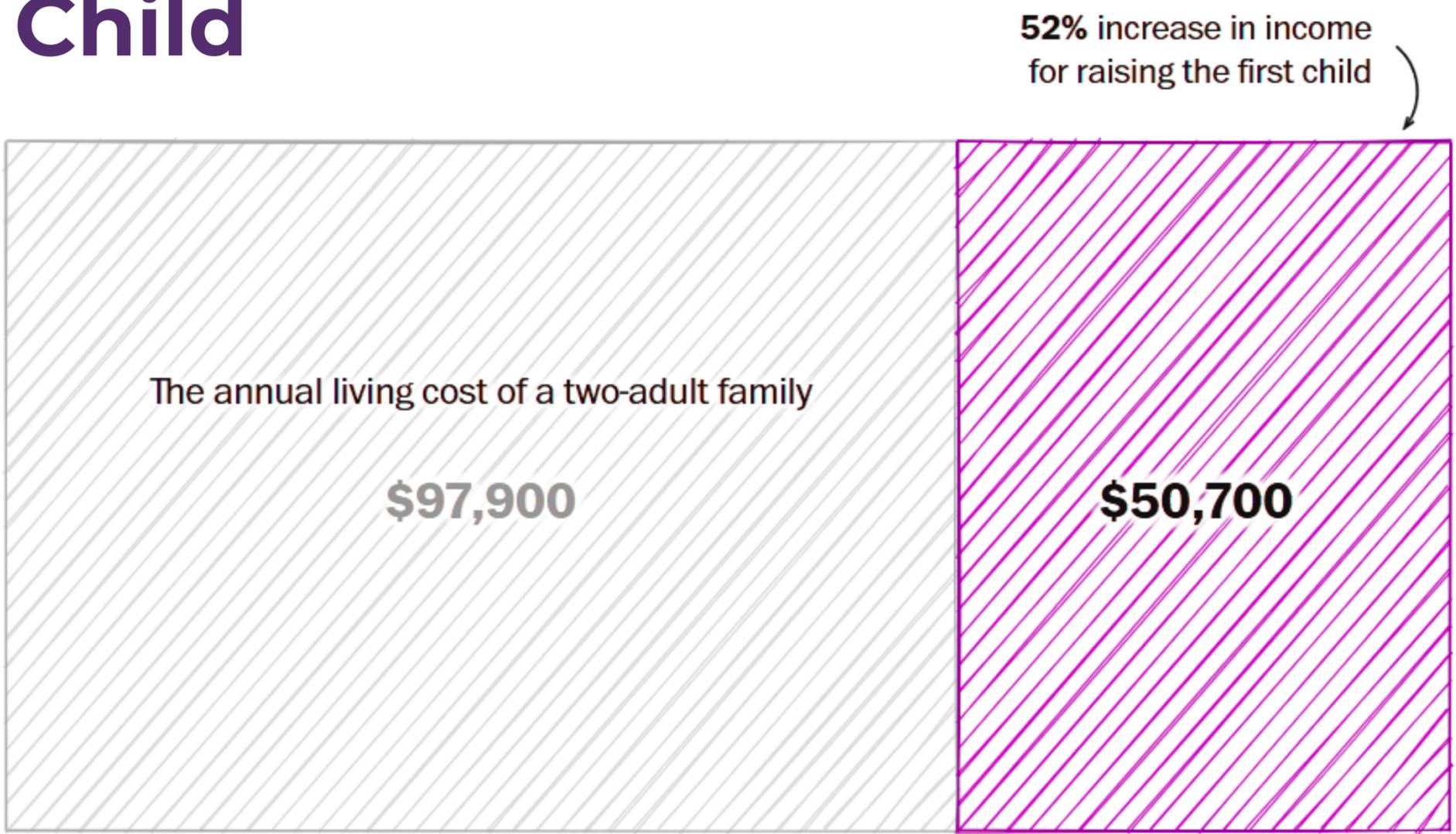
# Why Are People **Having Fewer Children?**

- 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.

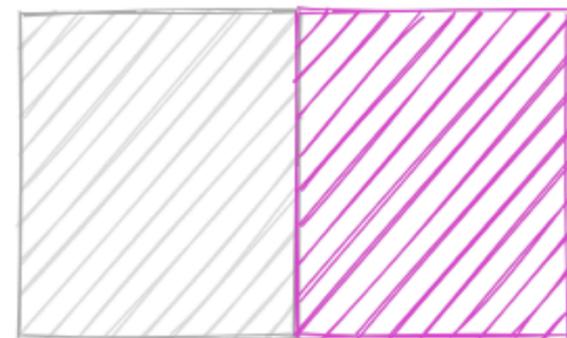


# The Cost of Raising a Child

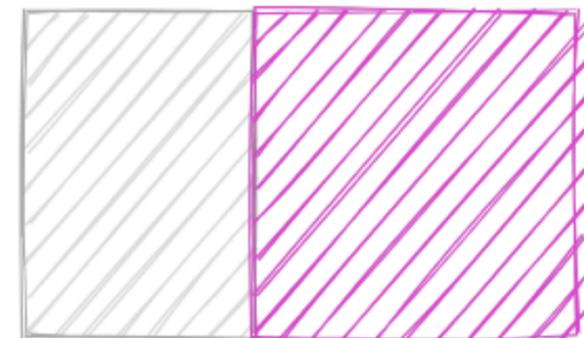
In Santa Clara County, a family of two would need to **increase their income by 52%**, for a total of \$148,600 per year, to maintain their standard of living **after having their first child.**



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

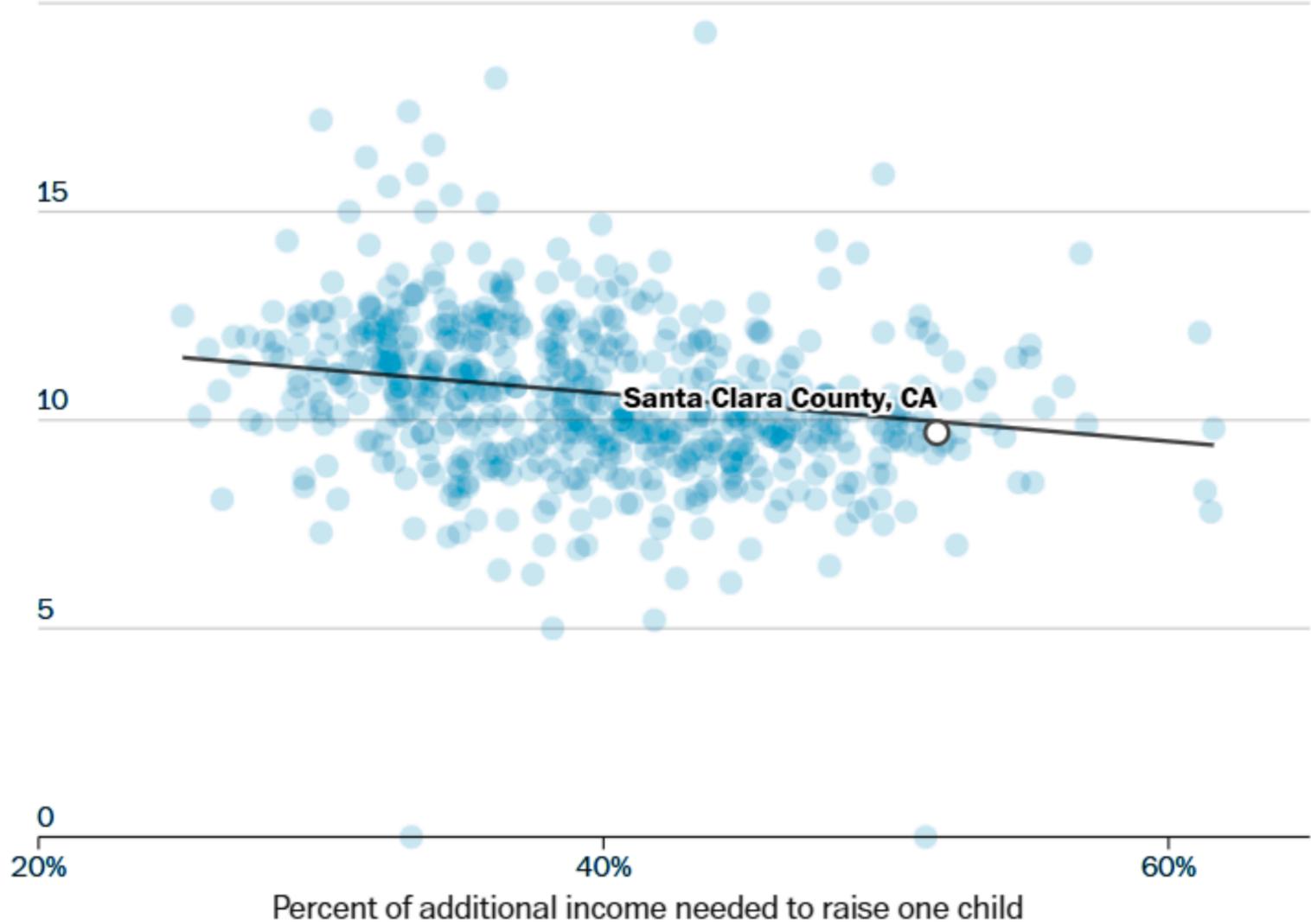


Source: Family Budget Calculator by the Economic Policy Institute

# Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born

Each dot represents one county

20 births per 1,000

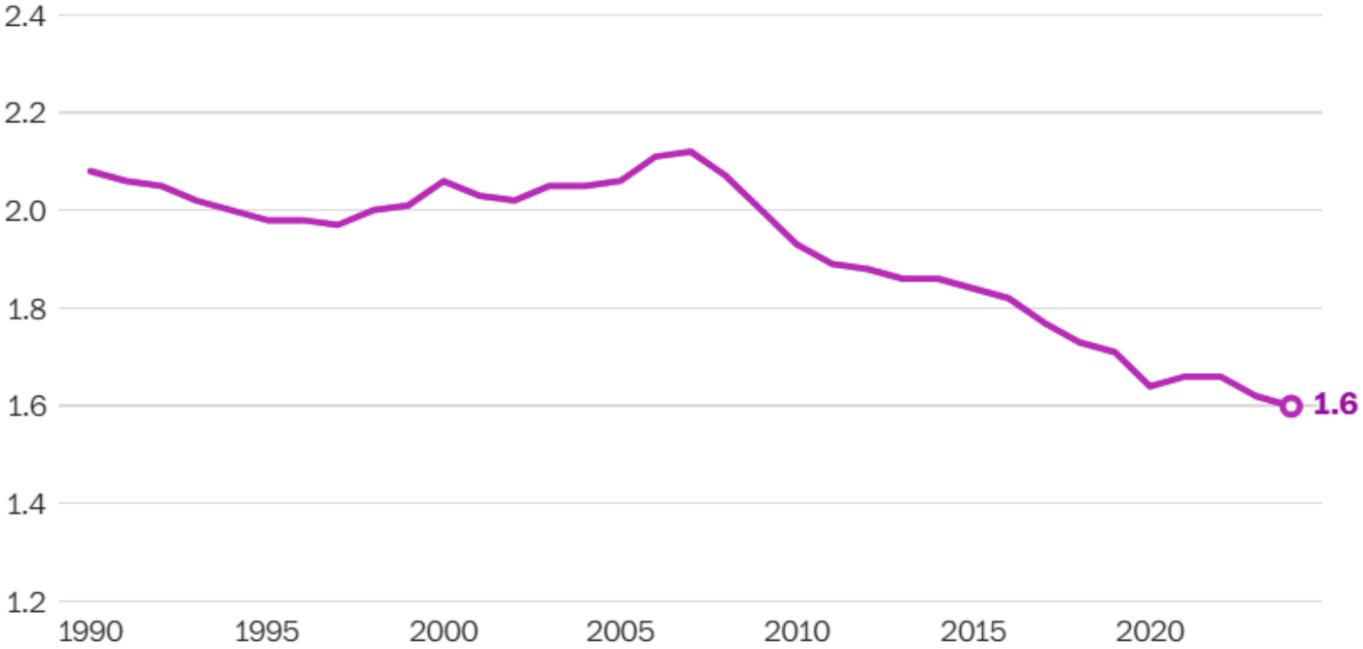


Birth rates are available for counties with populations of more than 100,000. Only 580 counties are shown.  
Source: Author's analysis of data from CDC and Economic Policy Institute

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

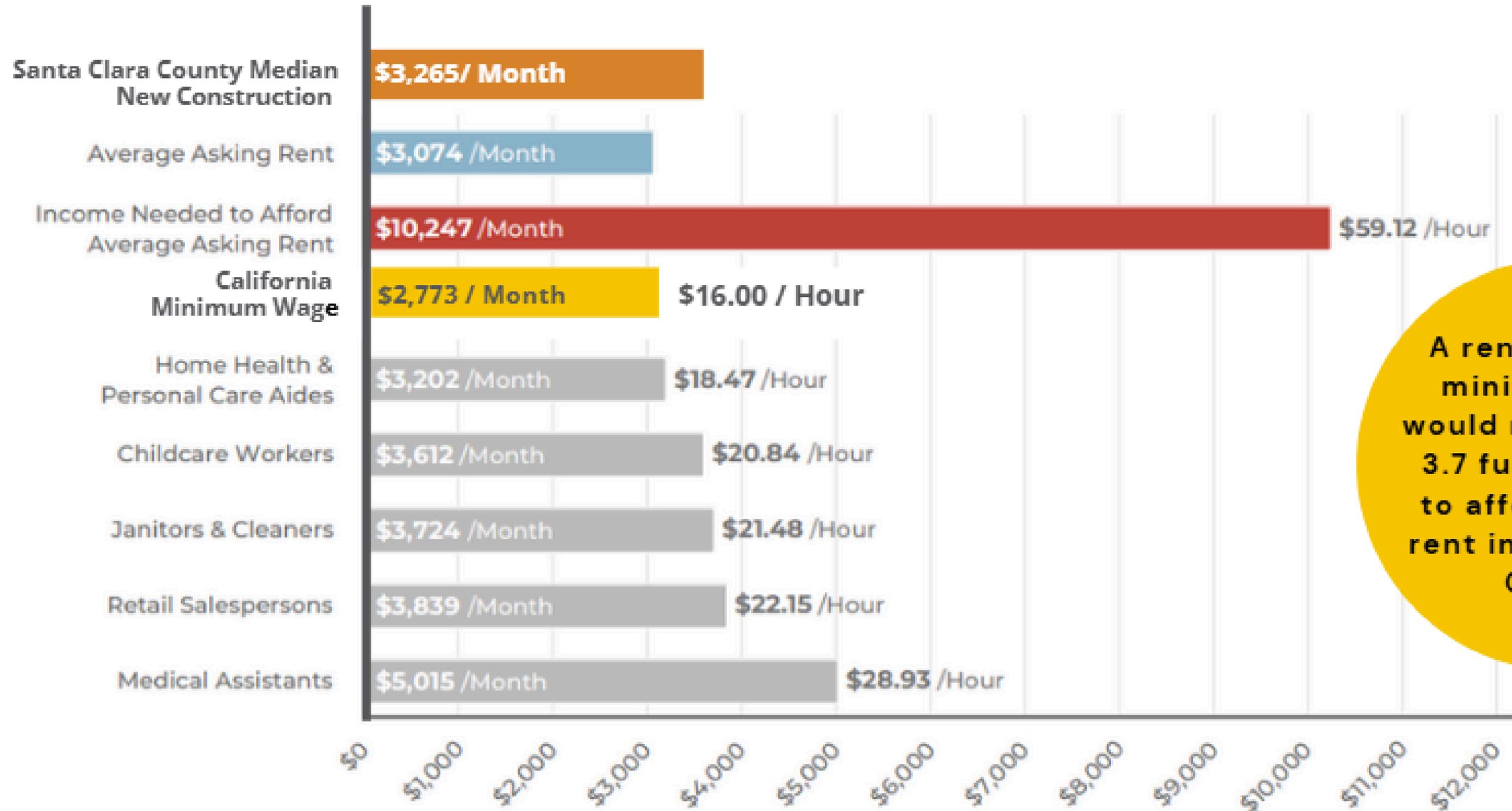
The fertility rate measures the number of children women are expected to have during their lifetime.



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

# 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**

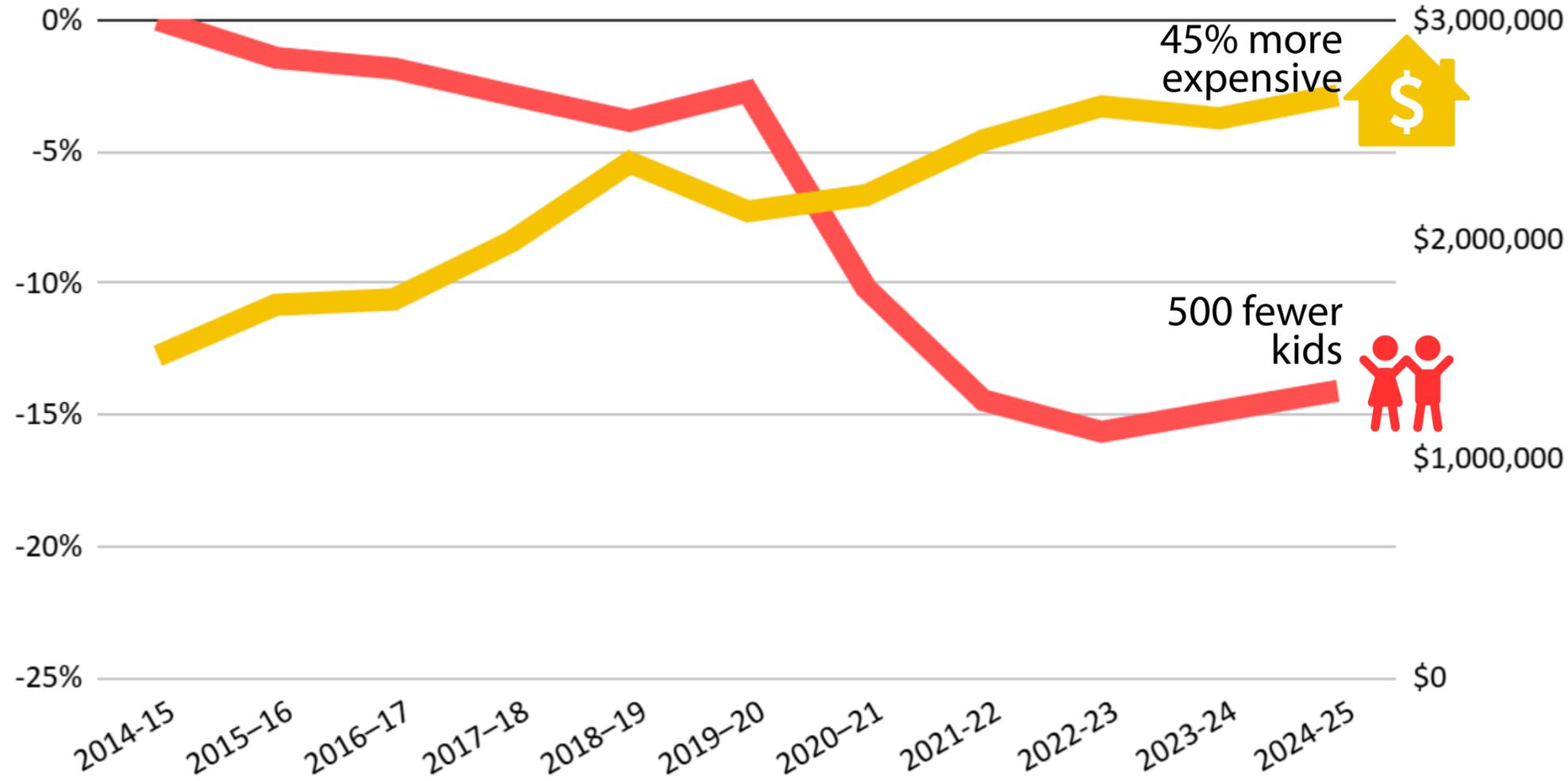
Safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing **sets kids up for learning**, and allows schools to **focus on what they do best.**

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



# Mountain View-Whisman School District's Elementary Enrollment Falls as Home Prices Rise

Mountain View-Whisman TK-5th Grade Enrollment Change



**Enrollment has fallen 14% over the last 11 years.**

**Median home prices in Mountain View have soared by 45% over that same time to \$2,655,000.**

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

# Mountain View-Whisman School District's Elementary School Enrollment is Falling

Changes in Elementary School Enrollment in Mountain View Whisman 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
Amy Imai Elementary	583	572	572	605	610	545	480	412	380	398	388	-33%
Benjamin Bubb Elementary	562	556	565	571	575	472	385	357	339	335	312	-44%
Edith Landels Elementary	538	541	567	534	491	443	425	404	374	363	399	-26%
Gabriela Mistral Elementary	0	389	394	389	373	378	358	348	347	380	366	*-6%
Jose Antonio Vargas Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	293	321	309	339	348	368	NEW
Mariano Castro Elementary	726	305	274	253	268	327	306	266	248	257	248	-66%
Monta Loma Elementary	472	482	463	448	425	344	283	271	245	274	298	-37%
Stevenson Elementary	368	388	394	391	427	430	433	437	456	450	461	25%
Theuerkauf Elementary	416	379	368	369	355	333	301	331	363	315	308	-26%
Total Enrollment	3665	3612	3597	3560	3524	3565	3292	3135	3091	3120	3148	
Annual Change		-1%	0%	-1%	-1%	1%	-8%	-5%	-1%	1%	1%	
<b>Districtwide Cumulative 10-Year Change</b>		<b>-1%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-14%</b>

\*Gabriela Mistral Elementary opened in 2015-16 school year

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

All but one of Mountain View Whisman's elementary schools has suffered enrollment declines over the last 11 years, with a district-wide loss of more than 500 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?

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