

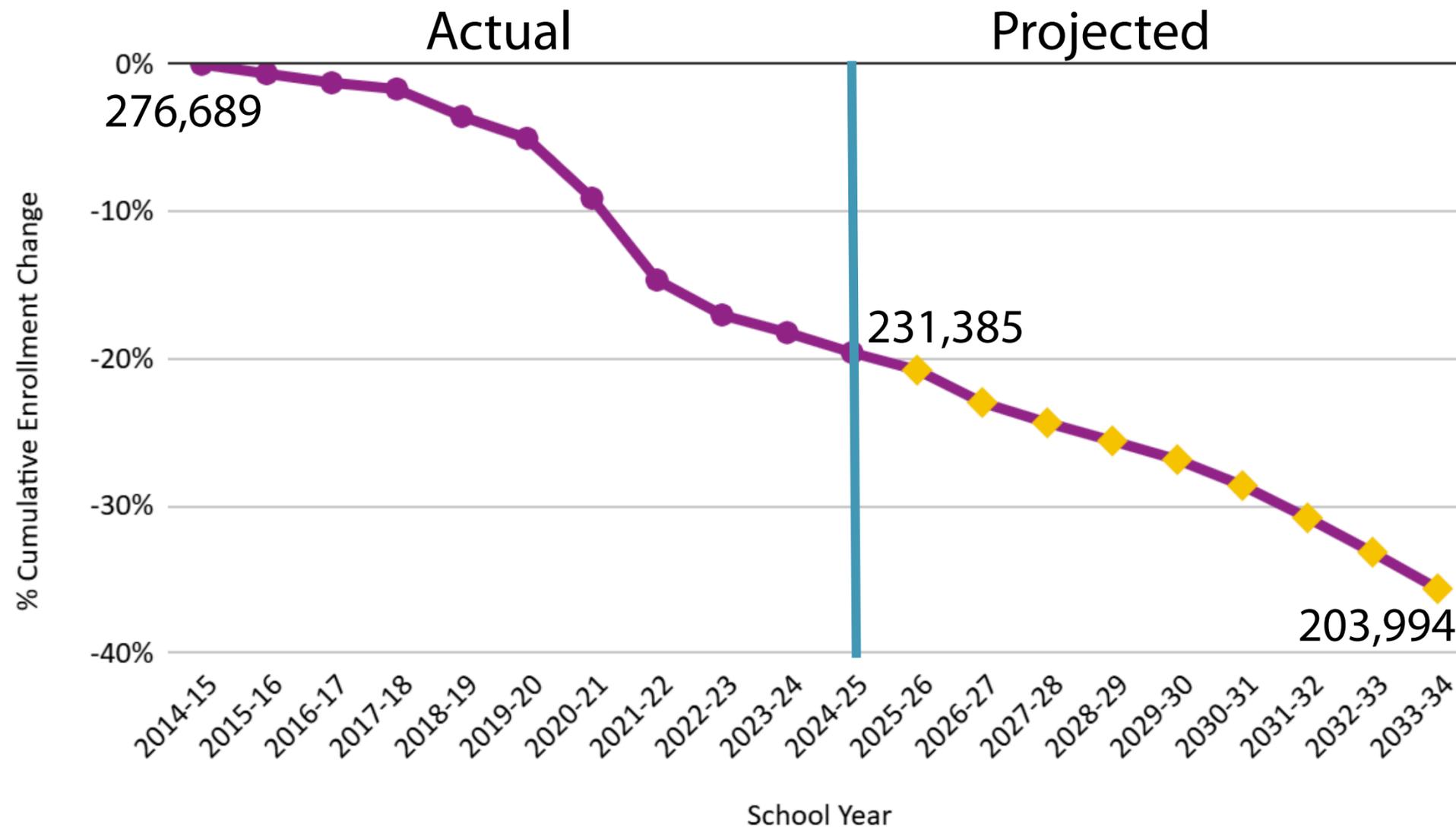


Where Did the Students Go?

Housing & the School Enrollment Crisis

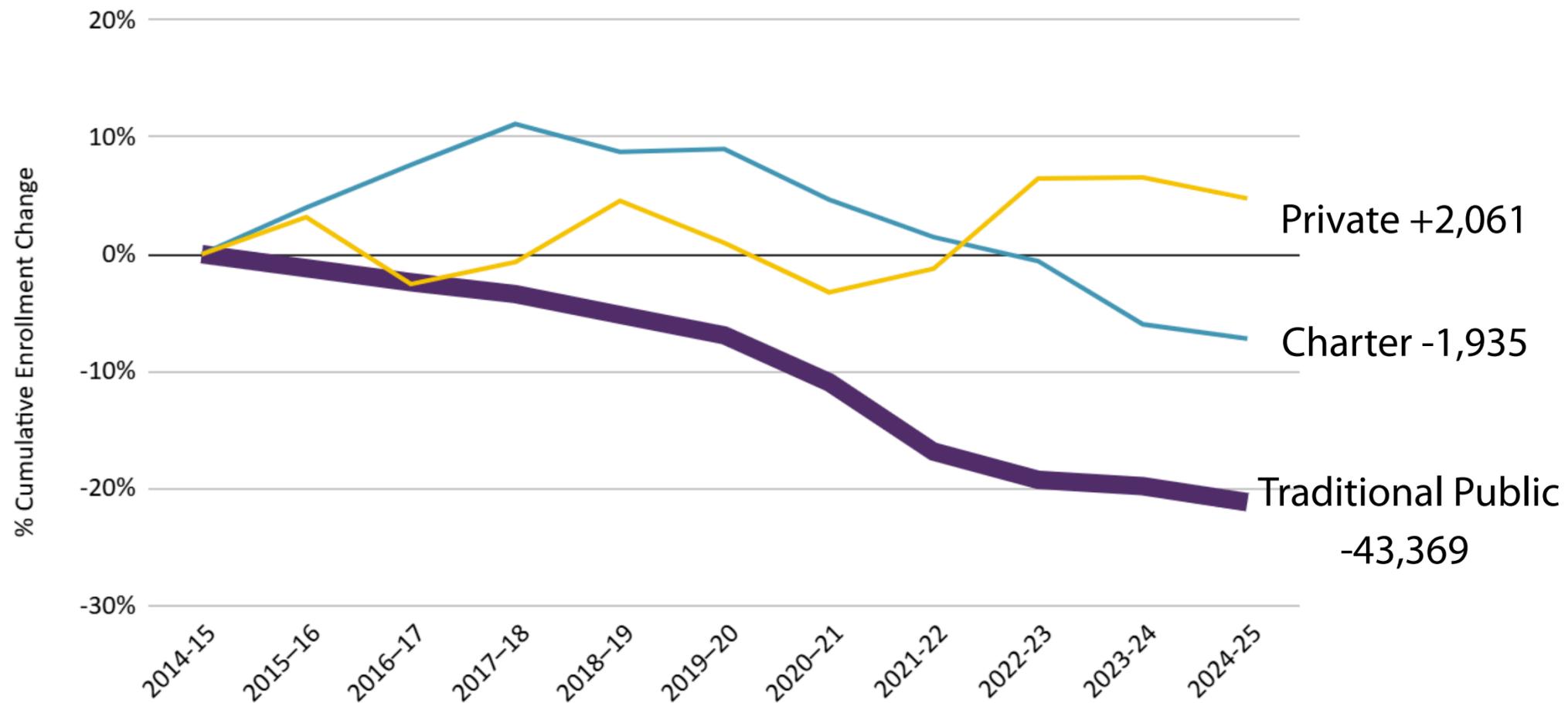
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Santa Clara County Actual & Projected Public School Enrollment



- 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.

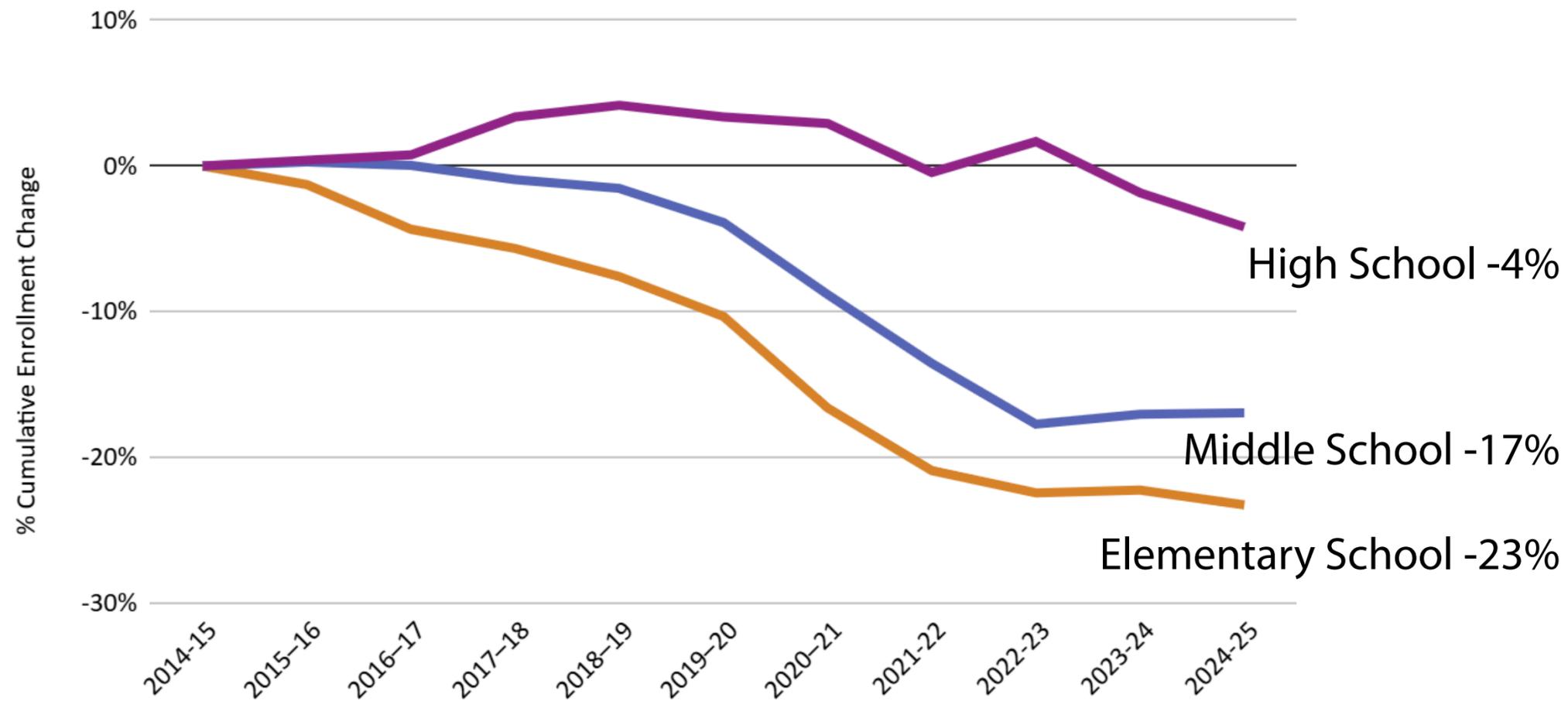
Enrollment is Changing Across All School Types in Santa Clara County



- 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

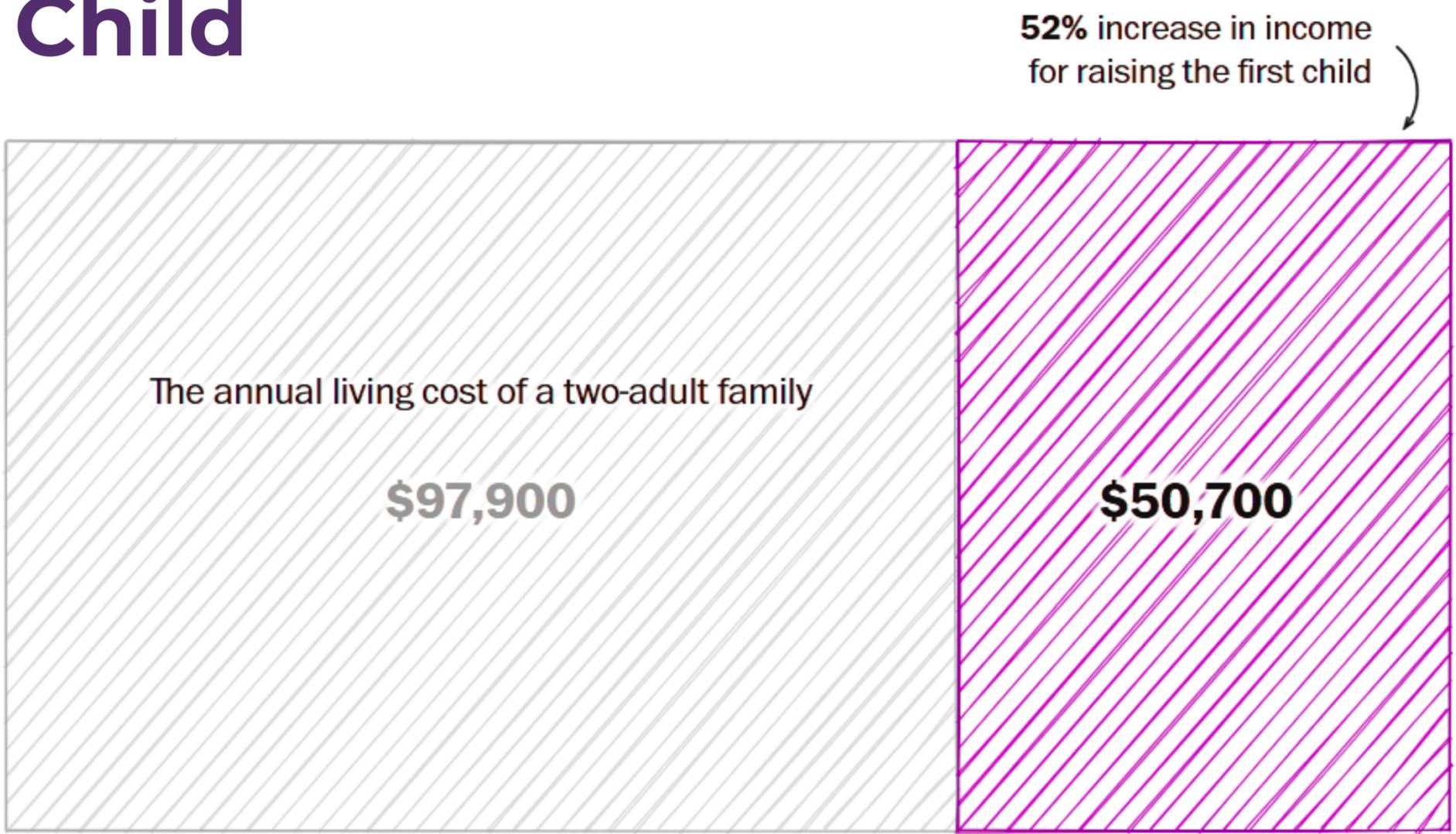
Why Are People **Having Fewer Children?**

- 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.

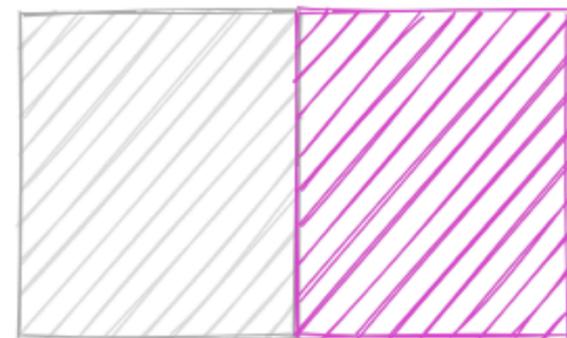


The Cost of Raising a Child

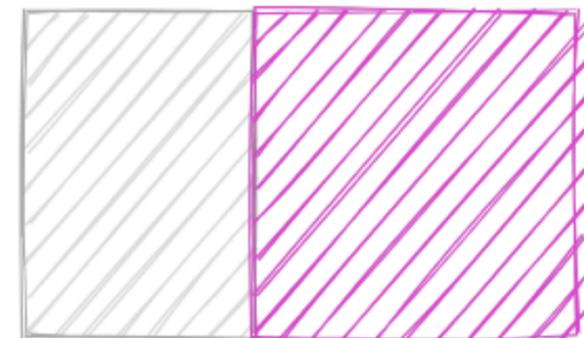
In Santa Clara County, a family of two would need to **increase their income by 52%**, for a total of \$148,600 per year, to maintain their standard of living **after having their first child.**



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

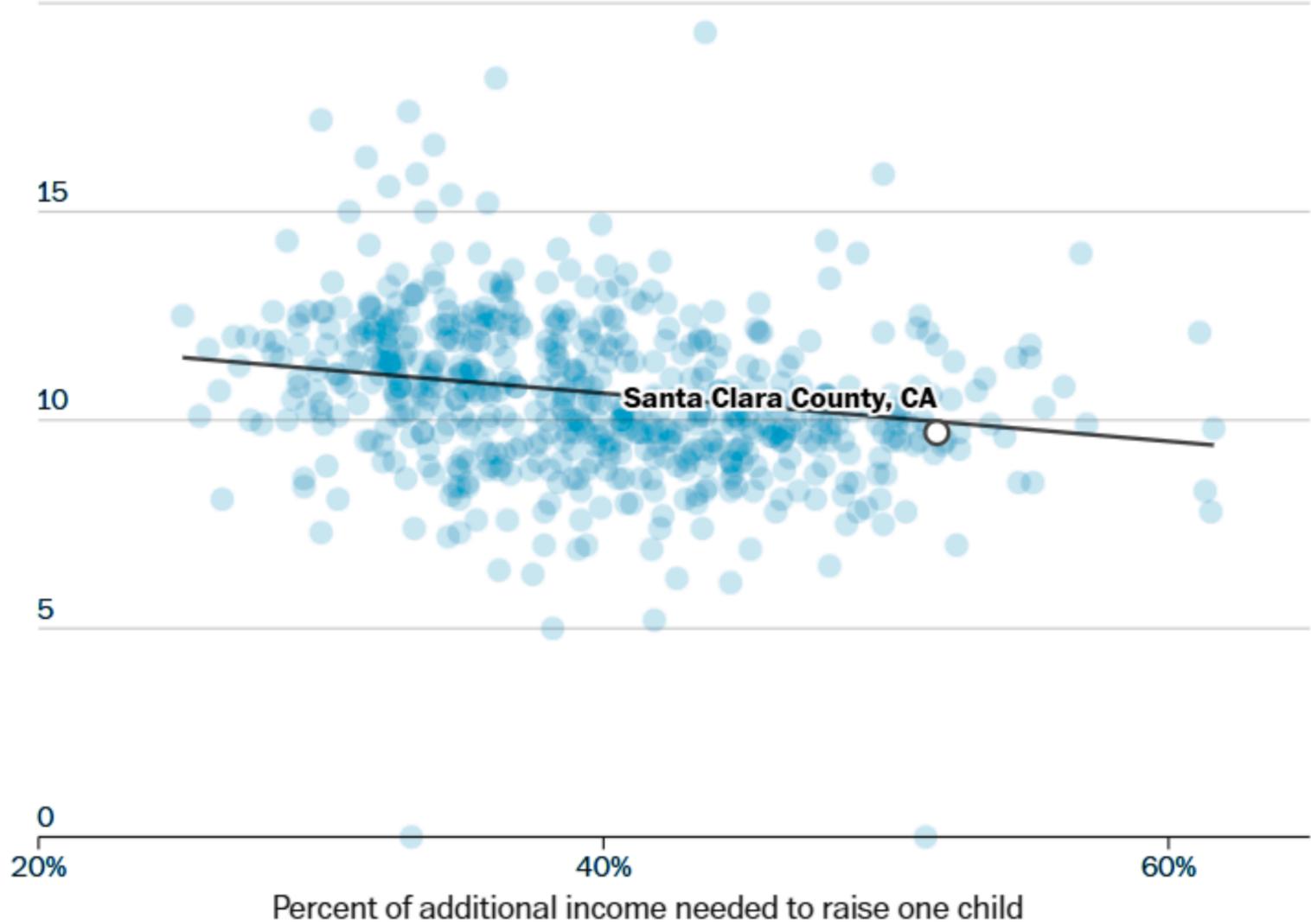


Source: Family Budget Calculator by the Economic Policy Institute

Higher Housing Cost Means Fewer Children Born

Each dot represents one county

20 births per 1,000

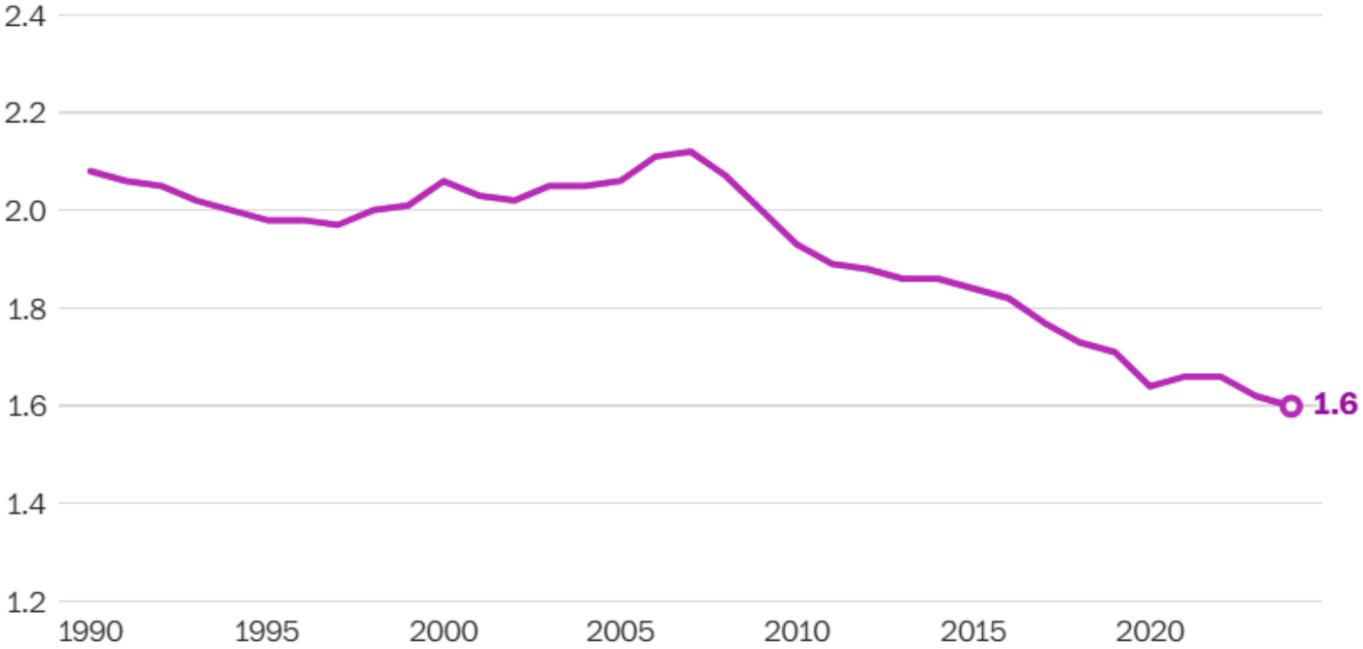


Birth rates are available for counties with populations of more than 100,000. Only 580 counties are shown.
Source: Author's analysis of data from CDC and Economic Policy Institute

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

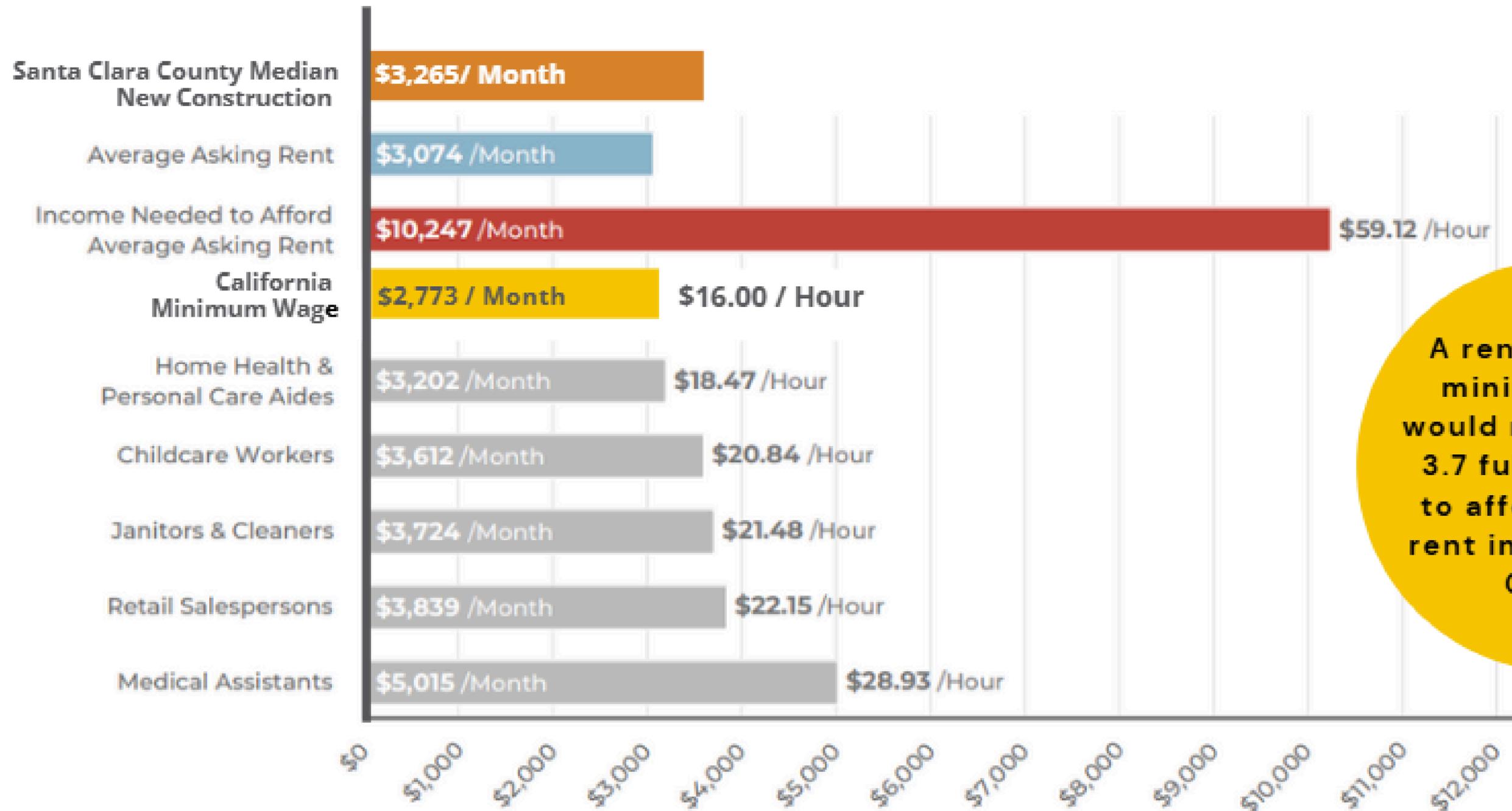
The fertility rate measures the number of children women are expected to have during their lifetime.



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**

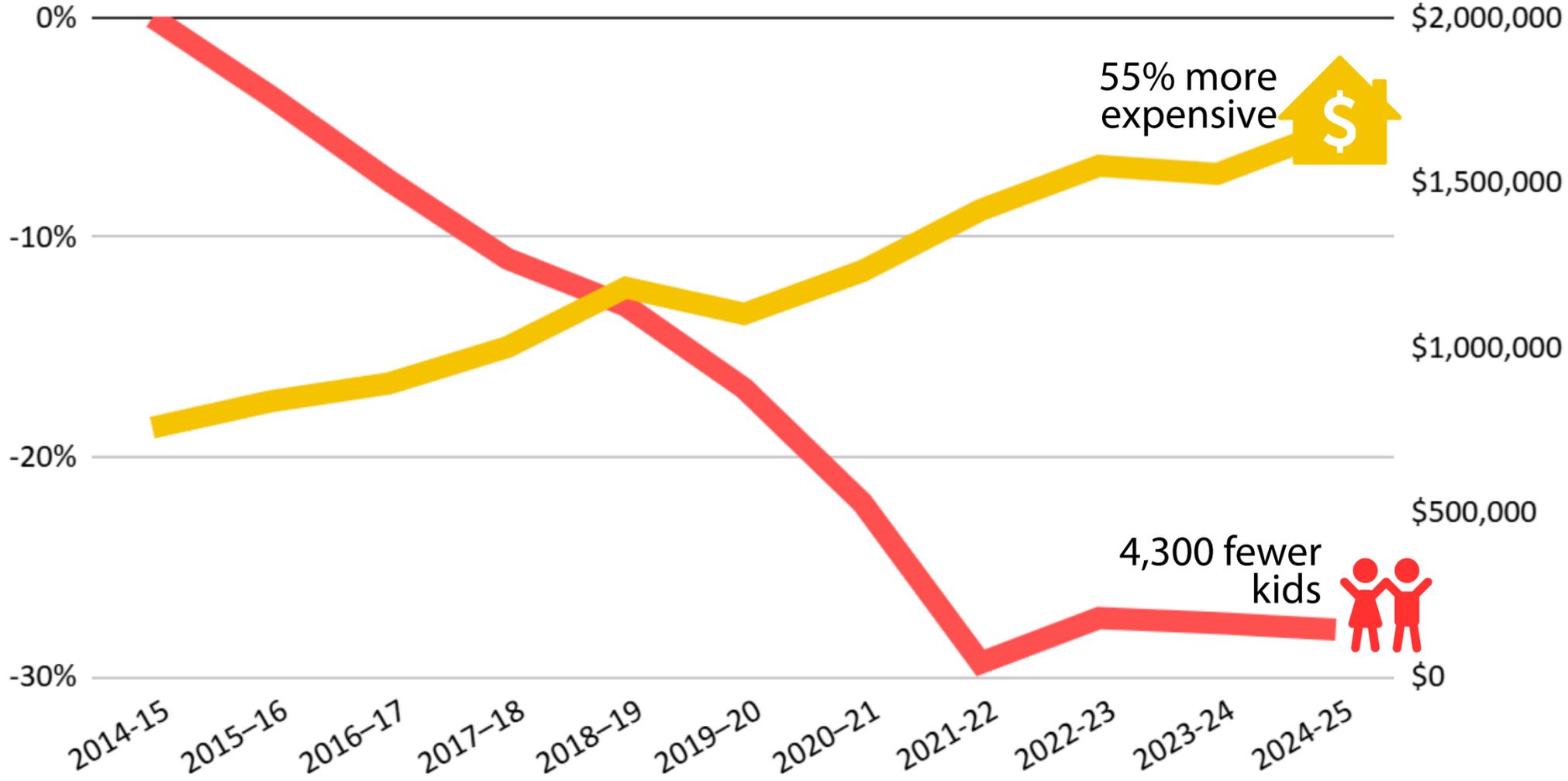
Safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing **sets kids up for learning**, and allows schools to **focus on what they do best.**

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



San Jose Unified School District's Elementary Enrollment Falls as Home Prices Rise

San Jose Unified TK-5th Grade Cumulative Enrollment Change



Enrollment has fallen 28% over the last 11 years.

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

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

San Jose Unified School District's **Elementary School Enrollment is Falling**

Every one of San Jose Unified's elementary schools have **suffered enrollment declines** over the last 11 years, with a district-wide **loss of more than 4,300 elementary students** over that period.

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



Changes in Elementary School Enrollment in San Jose 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
Allen at Steinbeck	763	724	653	528	520	466	438	365	394	407	406	-47%
Almaden Elementary	389	368	343	314	303	300	288	266	295	312	305	-22%
Anne Darling Elementary	462	441	415	404	376	341	293	268	295	273	260	-44%
Booksin Elementary	851	848	823	869	839	849	769	710	699	696	715	-16%
Canoas Elementary	373	321	338	277	261	244	244	217	274	281	282	-24%
Empire Gardens Elementary	438	394	340	309	291	285	263	223	232	226	214	-51%
Ernesto Galarza Elementary	505	480	450	426	397	354	322	316	338	323	322	-36%
Gardner Elementary	477	426	390	360	387	376	344	324	389	397	385	-19%
Grant Elementary	587	565	542	508	473	453	425	359	375	376	383	-35%
Graystone Elementary	687	651	605	582	571	539	523	493	505	481	466	-32%
Hacienda Science/Environmental Magnet	729	731	745	729	706	713	699	625	632	624	622	-15%
Hammer Montessori at Galarza Elementary	326	325	325	313	326	327	333	299	300	308	309	-5%
Horace Mann Elementary	516	468	443	424	402	378	347	308	300	295	293	-43%
Los Alamitos Elementary	722	749	736	737	731	675	653	611	602	596	602	-17%
Lowell Elementary	409	368	320	302	286	286	257	228	285	267	261	-36%
Merritt Trace Elementary	979	966	941	913	926	873	847	808	831	836	829	-15%
Rachel Carson Elementary	396	354	315	307	291	265	238	201	180	196	199	-50%
Reed Elementary	513	459	448	457	445	435	391	362	348	366	356	-31%
River Glen	526	526	518	515	520	493	473	439	439	451	463	-12%
Schallenberger Elementary	531	522	552	544	570	570	537	484	477	500	509	-4%
Selma Olinder Elementary	469	441	395	398	353	325	291	272	305	278	369	-21%
Simonds Elementary	745	737	716	673	651	615	573	515	488	494	480	-36%
Terrell Elementary	501	452	422	391	399	377	321	277	282	285	255	-49%
Walter L. Bachrodt Elementary	700	739	703	655	618	542	509	416	451	424	398	-43%
Washington Elementary	483	479	467	463	446	439	393	358	347	344	329	-32%
Williams Elementary	688	693	675	679	682	656	630	564	550	539	559	-18%
Willow Glen Elementary	803	782	791	780	756	765	730	687	699	702	660	-18%
Total Enrollment	15,568	15,009	14,411	13,857	13,526	12,941	12,131	10,995	11,312	11,277	11,231	
Annual Change		-4%	-4%	-4%	-2%	-4%	-6%	-9%	3%	0%	0%	
Districtwide Cumulative 10-Year Change		-4%	-7%	-11%	-13%	-17%	-22%	-29%	-27%	-28%	-28%	-28%

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. The woman is wearing a colorful patterned sleeveless top, and the girl is wearing a red dress. They are outdoors in a grassy area with a blurred background of trees and a building.

QUESTIONS?

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