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# 2025 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report



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Presented at the March 14, 2025, Commission Meeting

# Background

- Coordinating Commission is required by statute to provide an annual report evaluating progress made toward achieving **three key priorities**:
  1. Increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska (Section 1)
  2. Increase the percentage of students who persist and successfully complete a degree (Section 2)
  3. Reduce, eliminate, and then reverse the net out-migration of Nebraskans with high levels of educational attainment (Section 3)
- *Progress Report* is provided to the Governor, Legislature, the state's higher education institutions, the media, and other interested parties

# Important Technical Notes

- Adjustments are occasionally made to improve data accuracy
  - e.g., Data sources may revise previous estimates
  - Therefore, it is generally advisable to reference the most current edition of this report
- Due to rounding...
  - Percentages may not sum to 100.0%
  - Totals may not equal the sum of their parts
- Throughout this presentation, you'll see a graphic like this in the lower left side of the screen. For more information about data presented on a particular slide, please refer to the corresponding page number in the *2025 Progress Report*.



# What's New for 2025

- The National Student Clearinghouse data in Section 2.3 on graduation and persistence is not comparable to prior years
  - NSC stopped producing their annual *Completing College* report and replaced it with a new report, *Yearly Progress and Completion*
  - Students are now classified FT/PT based on their starting enrollment intensity
  - Outcomes now analyzed by dual enrollment while in high school
  - See Section 2.3
- The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) was replaced by the Student Aid Index (SAI)
  - See Section 1.5
- Institution added
  - Ricketts Great Books opened Fall 2024 and is reporting data to IPEDS

## **PRIORITY 1**

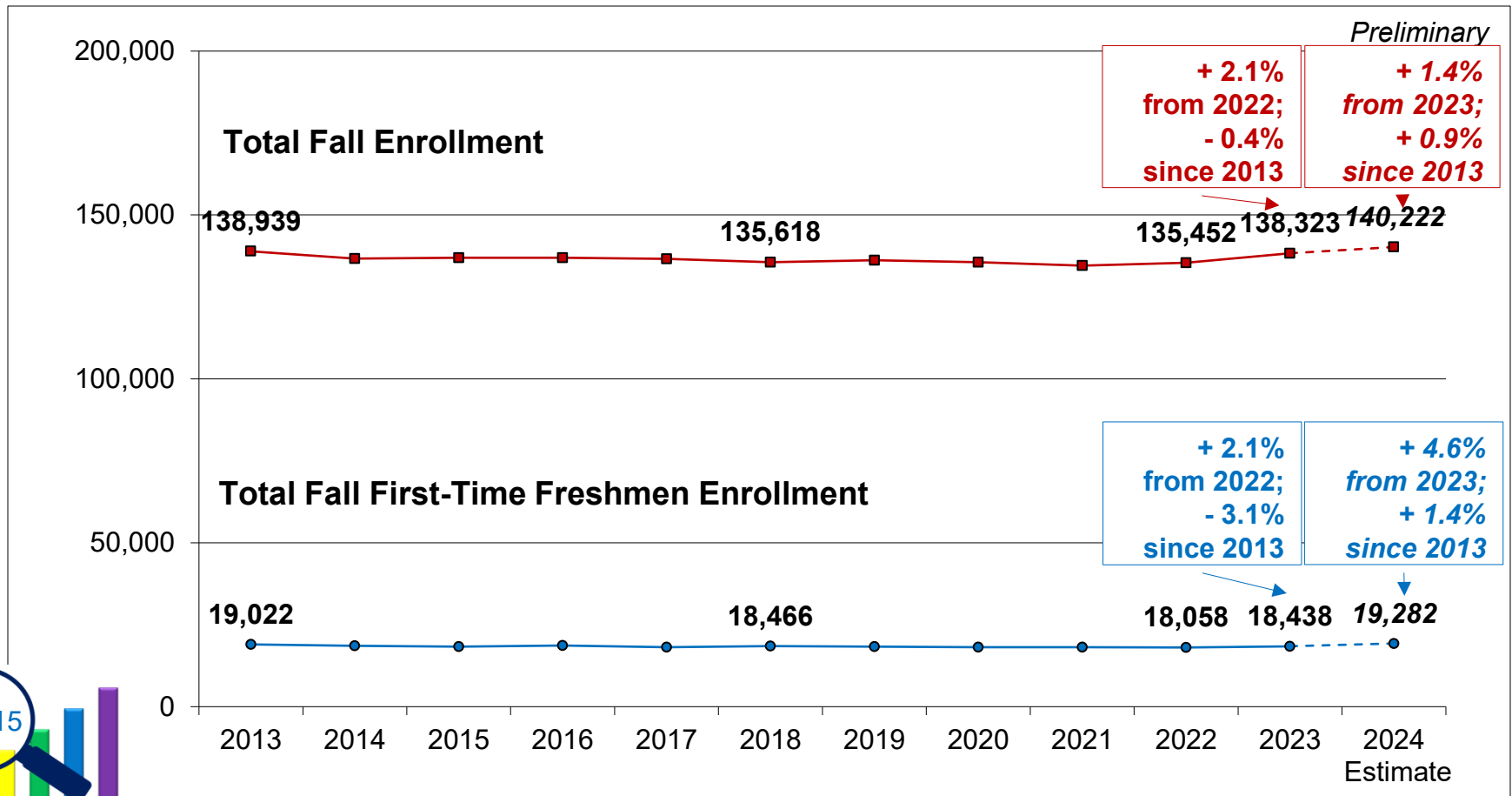
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# **INCREASE POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT**

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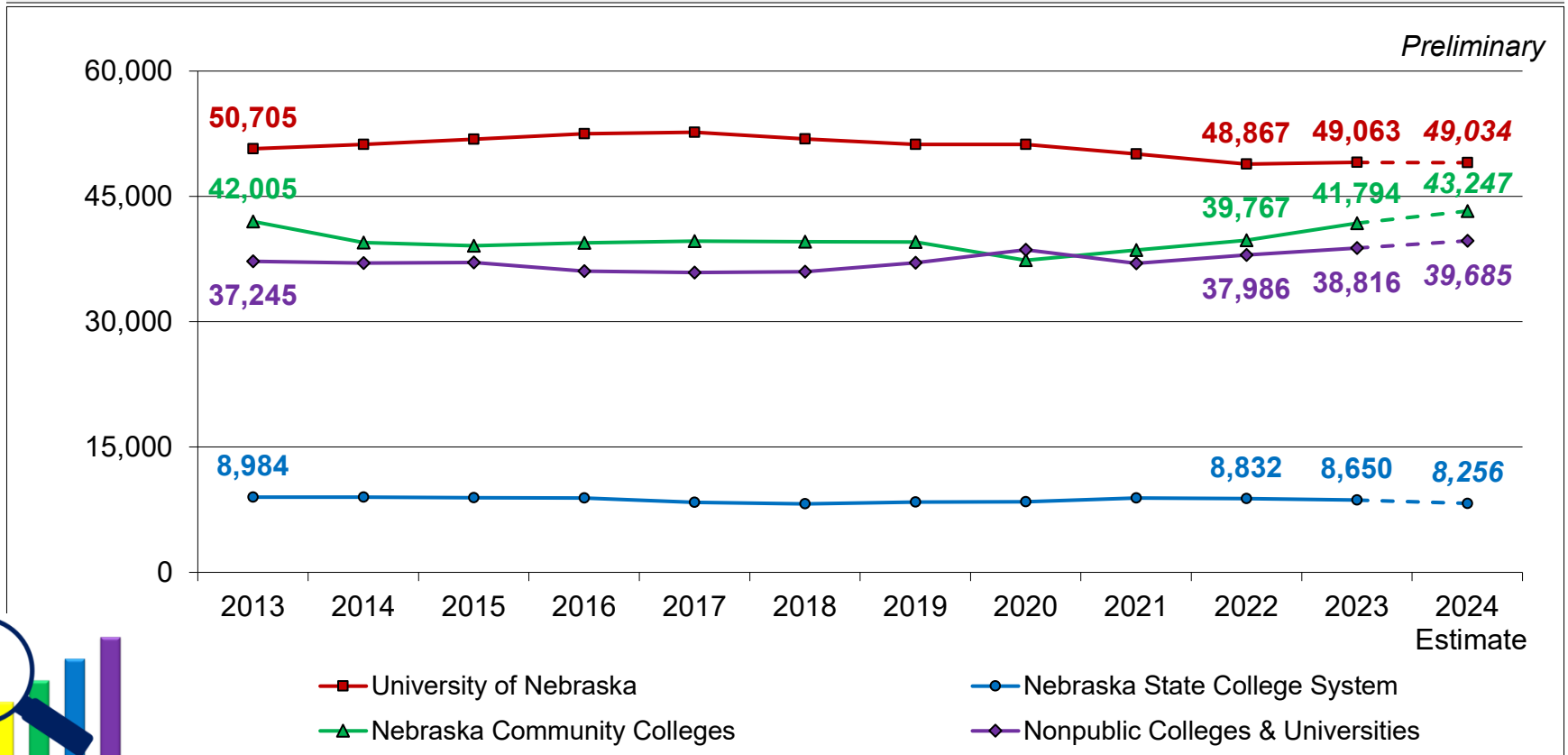
# Fall Enrollment at Nebraska's Postsecondary Institutions

- **Total fall enrollment** increased an estimated **1.4%** over the last year for a total 11-year increase of **0.9%**
- **Fall first-time freshmen enrollment** increased an estimated **4.6%** over the last year for a total 11-year increase of **1.4%**



# Total Fall Enrollment by Sector

SECTOR	1-Year Change 2022 to 2023	Est. 1-Year Change 2023 to 2024	10-Year Change 2013 to 2023	Est. 11-Year Change 2013 to 2024
■ University of Nebraska	0.4%	-0.1%	-3.2%	-3.3%
● Neb. State College System	-2.1%	-4.6%	-3.7%	-8.1%
▲ Neb. Community Colleges	5.1%	3.5%	-0.5%	3.0%
◆ Nonpublic Colleges & Univ.	2.2%	2.2%	4.2%	6.6%



# High School Graduation Rates

## Section 1.1.a

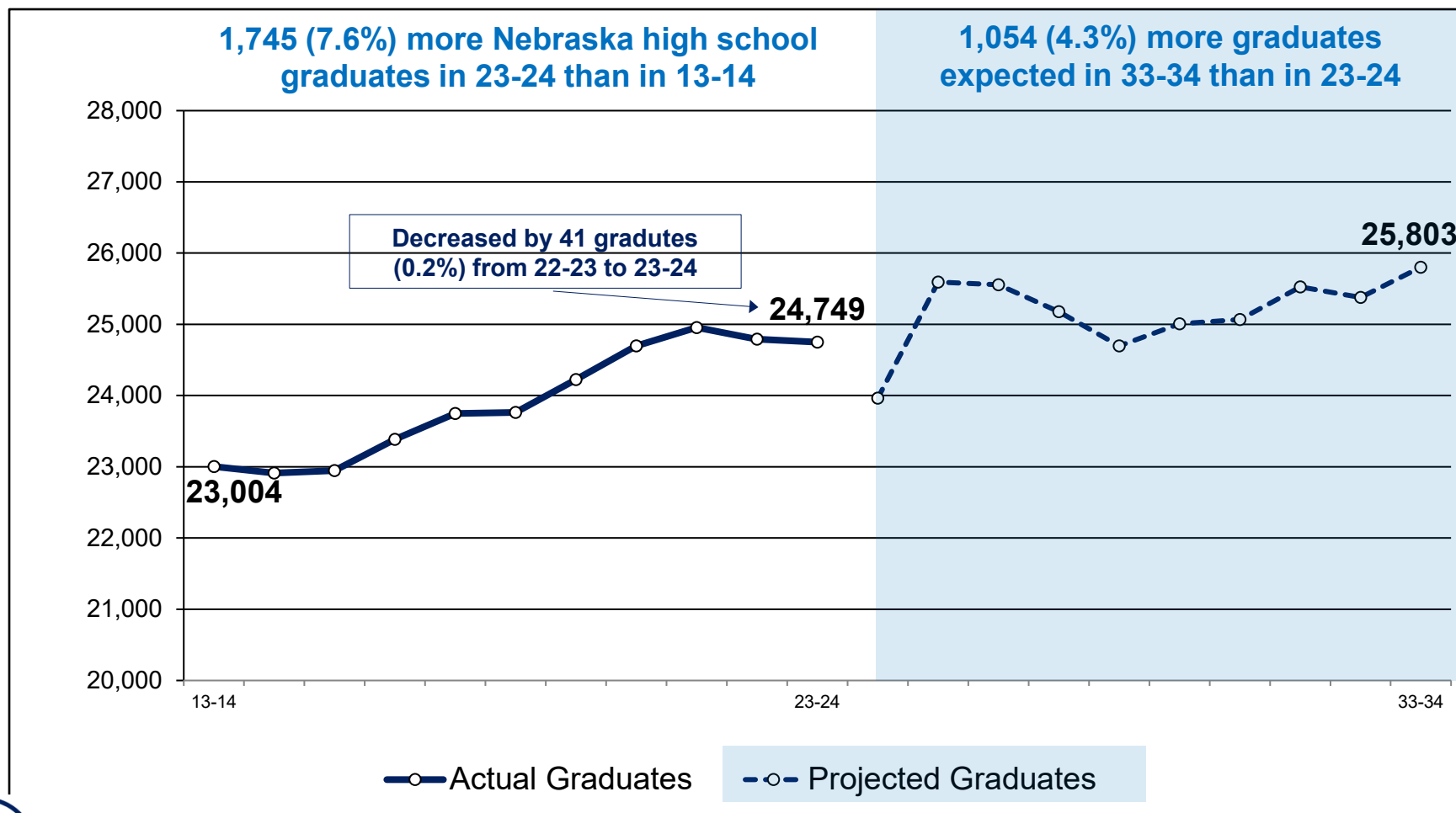
Increase high school graduation rates, and in the process, increase the pool of high school students who could potentially attend college.





# Total Number of Nebraska High School Graduates

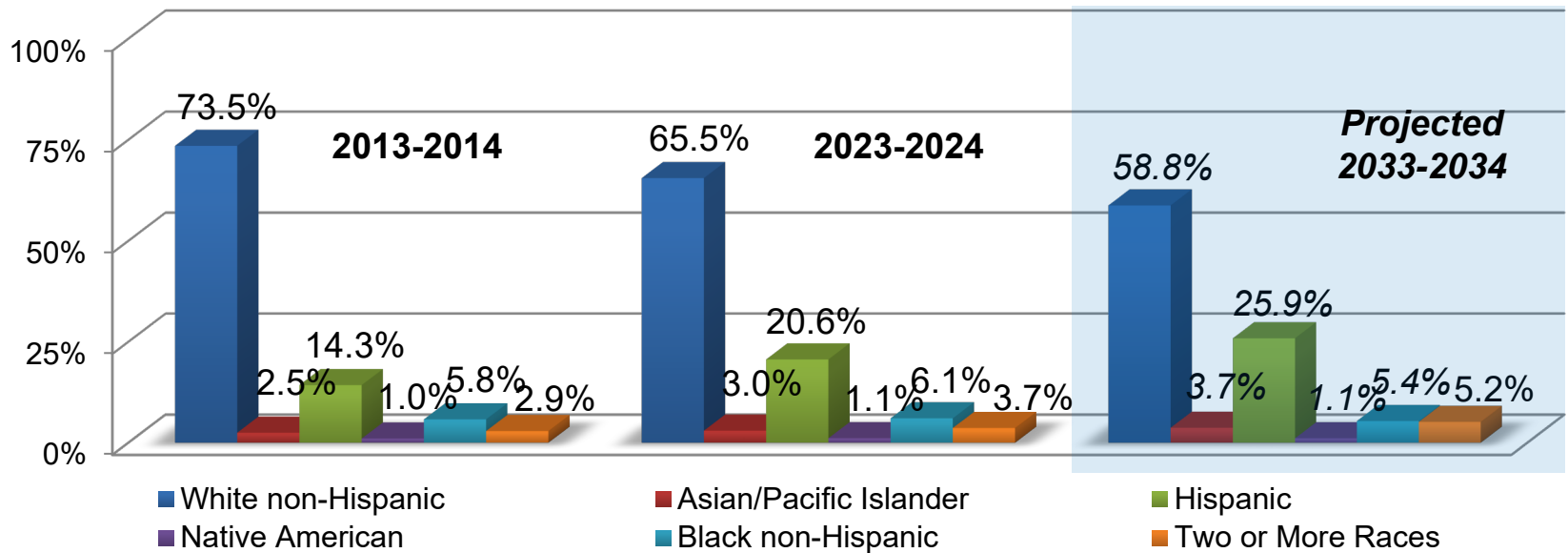
Actual (13-14 through 23-24) and Projected (24-25 through 33-34)



**19-21**

*Note.* Projections include students from educational service units and state-operated schools (estimated 100 per year). The latest projections released by WICHE are from 2024.

# Actual and Projected Percentages of Nebraska Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

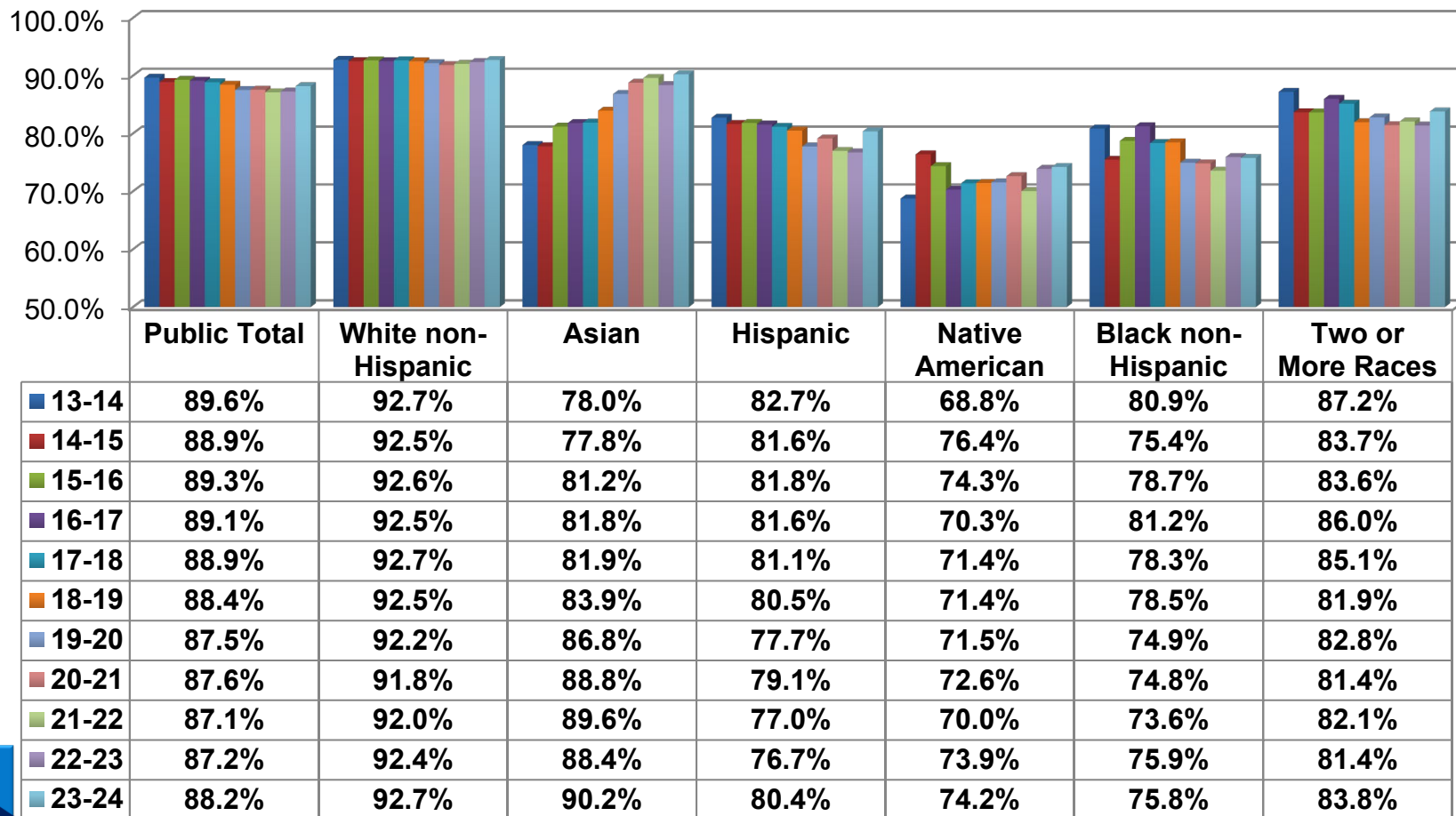


	2013-2014	2023-2024	Projected 2033-2034	10-Year Change 13-14 to 23-24	Projected 10-Year Change 23-24 to 33-34
White (non-Hispanic)	14,964	14,617	13,710	-2.3%	-6.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	507	669	868	32.0%	29.7%
Hispanic	2,907	4,603	6,037	58.3%	31.2%
Native American	211	249	255	18.0%	2.4%
Black (non-Hispanic)	1,179	1,352	1,254	14.7%	-7.2%
Two or More Races	591	816	1,206	38.1%	47.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,359</b>	<b>22,306</b>	<b>23,176</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>



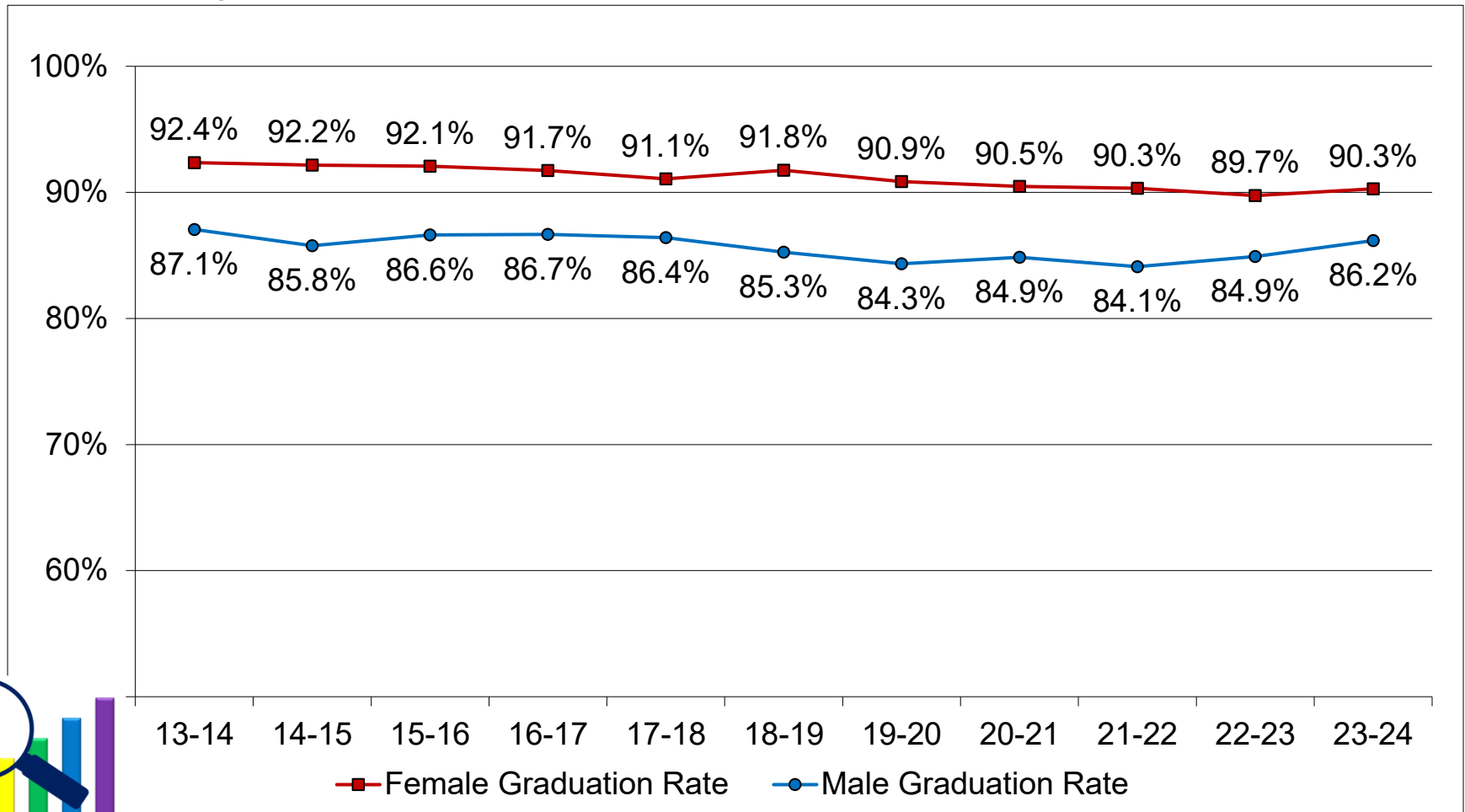
# Nebraska Public High School Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2022, Nebraska was ranked **21st highest** in the nation
- *(National data has not been released for state-to-state comparisons for 2023 or 2024)*



# Nebraska Public High School Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rates by Sex

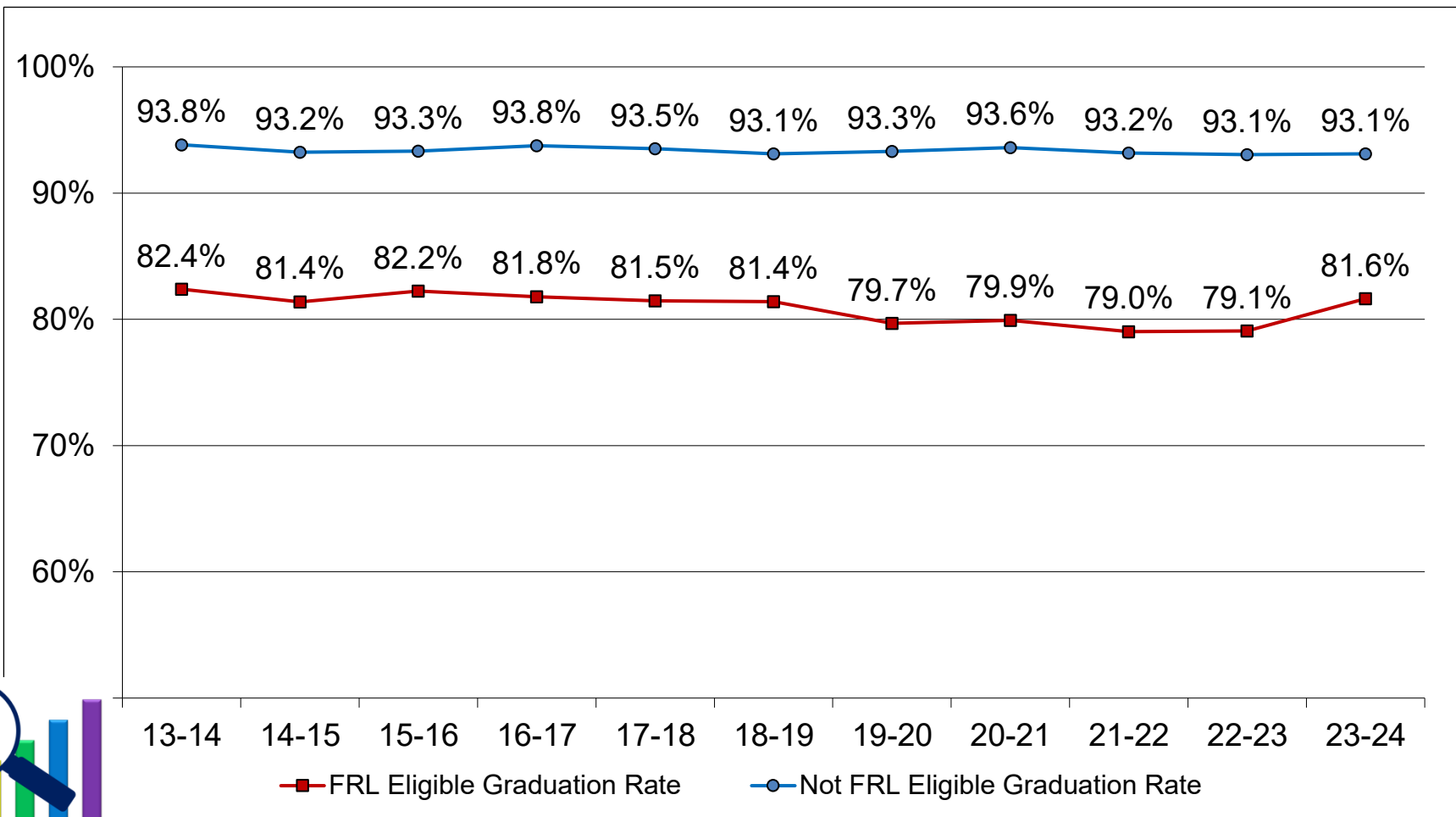
- Graduation rates for females have consistently been higher than for males
- Since 2014, graduation rates declined 2.1 percentage points for females and 0.9 percentage points for males



# Nebraska Public High School

## Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rates by FRL Eligibility

- Graduation rates for non-FRL have consistently been higher than for FRL
- Since 2014, graduation rates decreased 0.7 percentage points for students not eligible for FRL and 0.8 percentage points for students eligible for FRL



# Preparation for College

## Section 1.1.b

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who are adequately prepared to enroll in postsecondary education and proceed through degree completion.



# The ACT Assessment

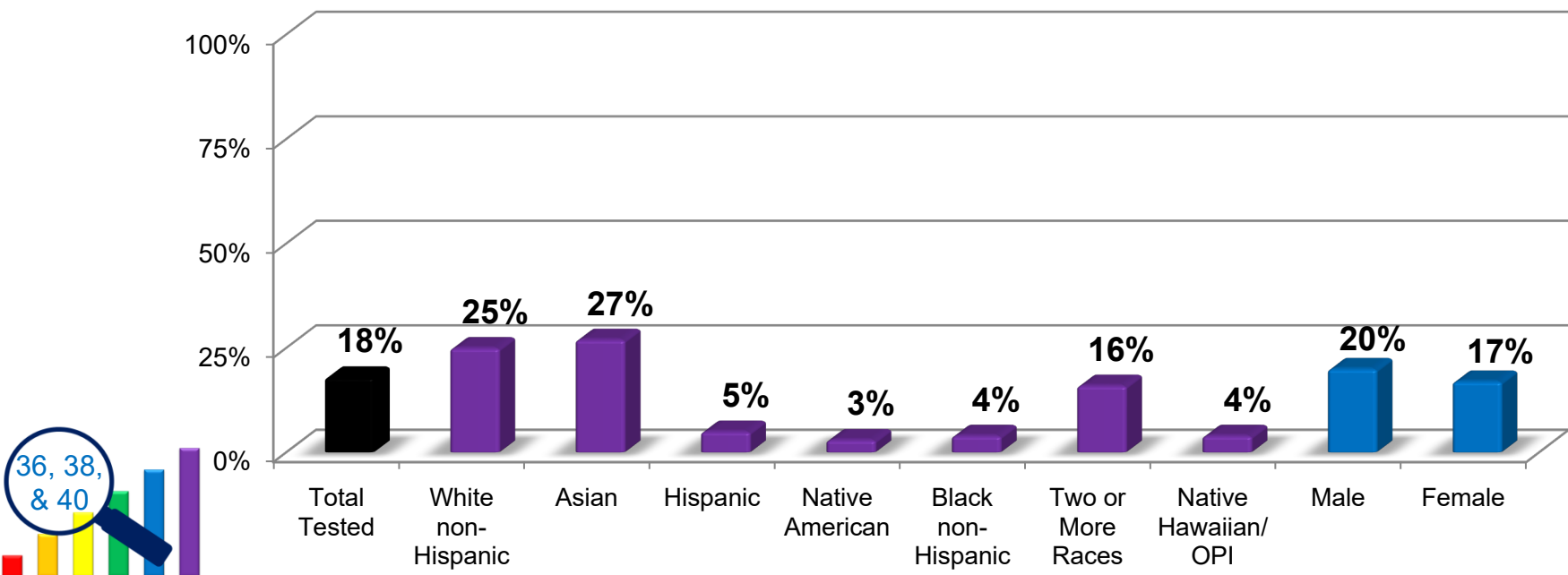
- In Nebraska, ACT is the predominant college entrance exam used to measure the extent to which Nebraska students are prepared for college
- Beginning with the class of 2018, all students take the ACT test in the cohort minus one year (typically, the student's junior year)
  - However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and extensive school closures, this requirement was waived for the graduating class of 2021 and not all 2022 graduates took the exam
    - ACT estimates that 86% of the 2021 graduating class, 94% of the 2022 graduating class, 96% of the 2023 graduating class, and 95% of the 2024 graduating class took the ACT test
  - In comparison, only 1.3% of high school graduates took the SAT Reasoning Test in 2024
- Therefore, this section focuses on the ACT Assessment
  - ACT Composite Scores:
    - 2014: Nebraska = 21.7                      National = 21.0
    - 2024: Nebraska = 19.1                      National = 19.4



# Percent of ACT-Tested Students Who Meet or Exceed ACT Benchmark Scores in All Four Areas

Nebraska High School Graduating Class of 2024

- **Only 18% are sufficiently prepared** to earn B's or C's in entry-level college courses in English, algebra, biology, and social science
  - In comparison, 29% were sufficiently prepared in 2014 and 19% were sufficiently prepared in 2023
- Hispanics, Native Americans, Black non-Hispanics, multiracial, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders are less prepared for these courses than their White non-Hispanic or Asian classmates
- Females are less prepared than their male classmates





# College Continuation Rates

## Section 1.1.c

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education.



# Two Measures of Nebraska's College Continuation Rates

## 1. IPEDS

- Collected every two years
- Public and non-public high school graduates
- First-time freshmen (FTF) who go to college in the fall following graduation from high school
  - FTF enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term are also included
- Cannot be calculated for any subgroups (sex, race, etc.)
- Can be used for state-to-state comparisons

## 2. National Student Clearinghouse

- Calculated every year
- Nebraska's public high school graduates
- FTF who continue on to college in the summer, fall, winter, or spring term
- Comparisons by race/ethnicity, sex, and student income status can be calculated



# College Continuation Rates

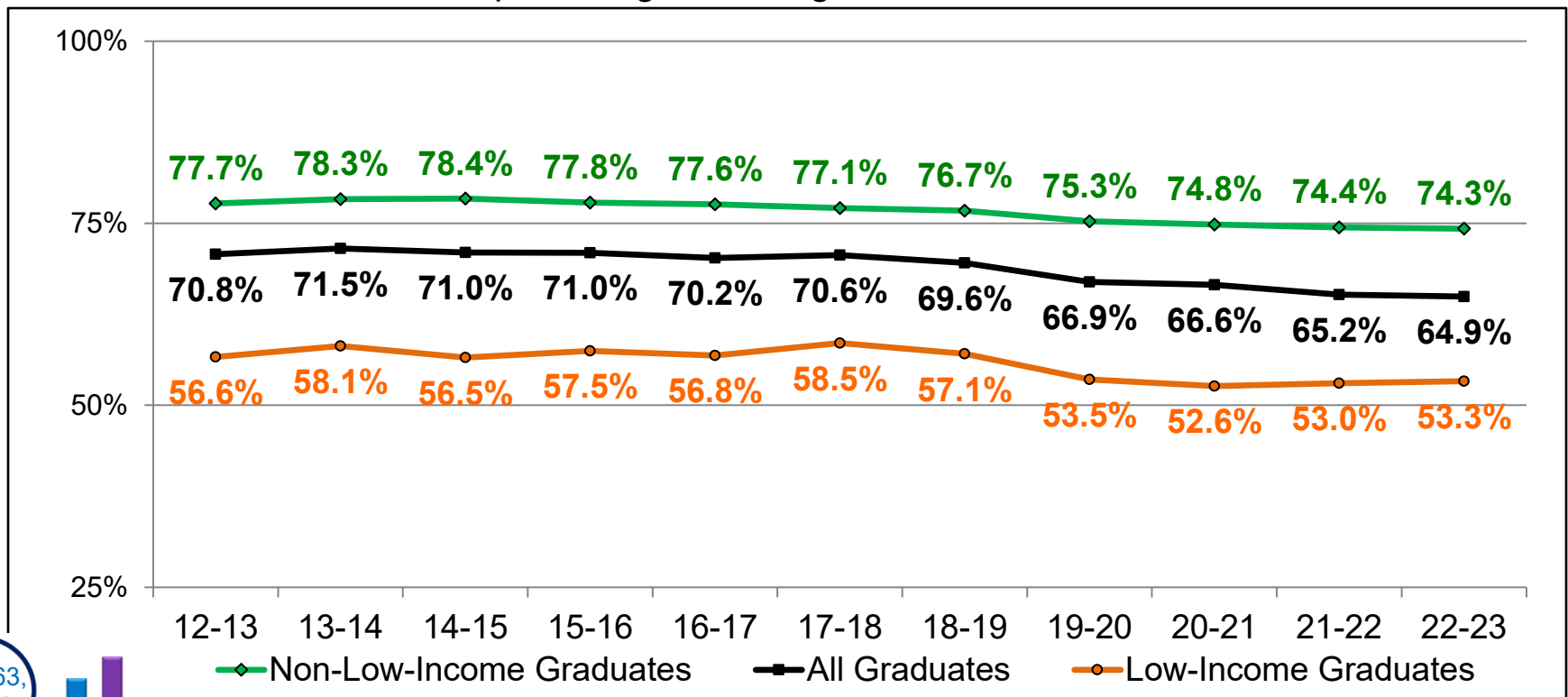
- IPEDS
  - Fall 2012 = 65.8%
  - Fall 2022 = 61.6%\*
    - Up from 60.4% in fall 2020
    - Second lowest rate in the reporting period
  - Ranked 10th highest nationally in fall 2022
- National Student Clearinghouse
  - Graduating class of 2012-2013 = 70.8%
  - Graduating class of 2022-2023 = 64.9%
    - Down from 69.6% four years ago (2018-2019)
    - Lowest rate in the reporting period



*Note.* Does not include reported enrollments of Nebraska first-time freshmen (FTF) at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) for fall 2022. TSTC reported 403 NE FTF attended TSTC in fall 2022 within 12 months of high school graduation. Internal analysis of Clearinghouse data reveals that no on-time NE public high school graduates attended TSTC between June 2022 - May 2023. Furthermore, in the 10 years prior to 2022, TSTC did not report any Nebraska students attending within 12 months of high school graduation.

# College Continuation Rates for Nebraska Public High School Graduates by Student Income Status

- Non-low-income graduates have consistently continued on to college at higher rates than low-income graduates
- The proportion of students classified as low income has increased over the last decade
  - In 2013, **33.0%** of public high school graduates were low income
  - In 2023, **44.5%** of public high school graduates were low income



Note. Effective with the 2021-2022 cohort, students are classified as low income if they are eligible for FRL or if they graduate from a school that participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).



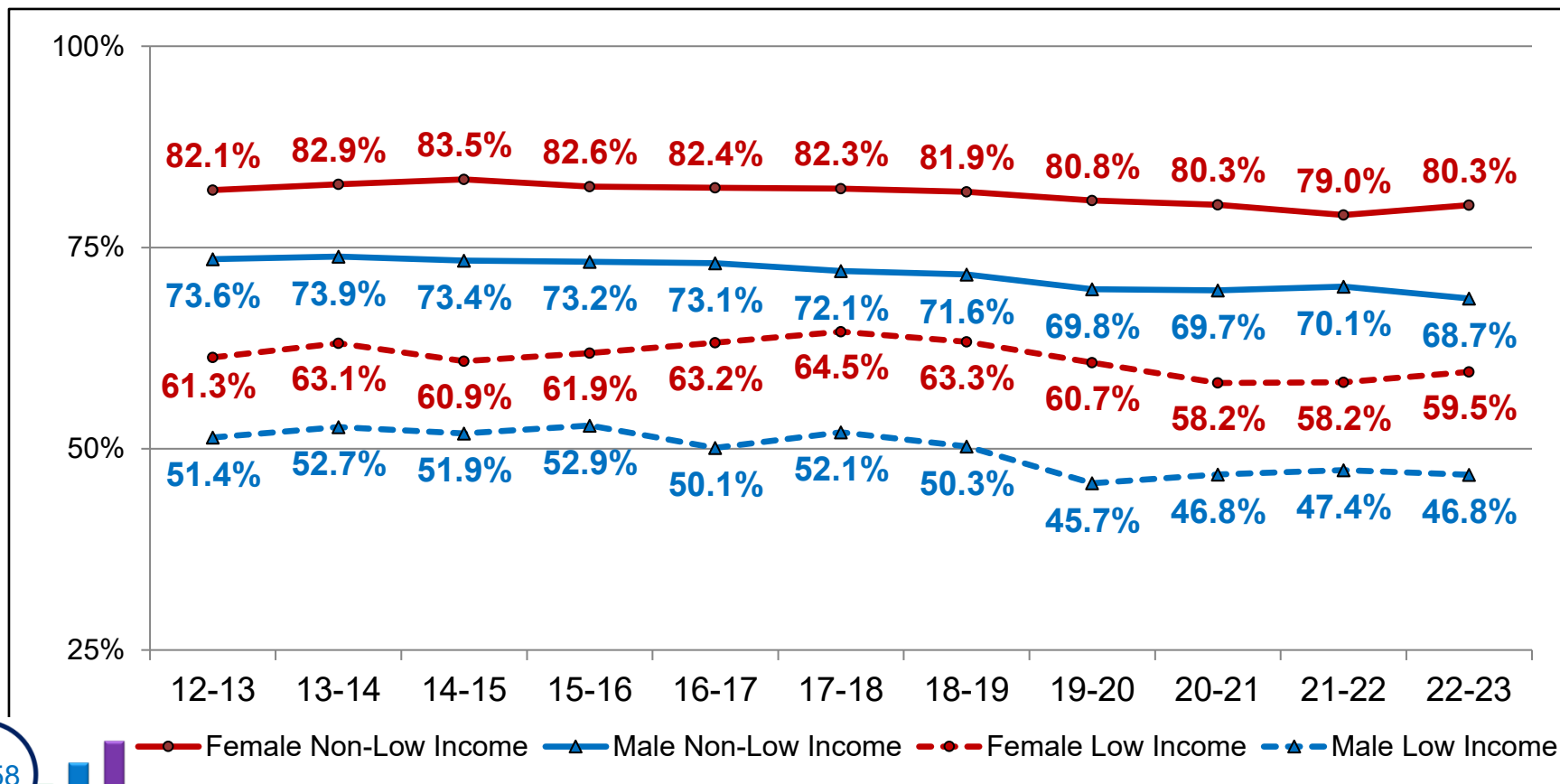
# College Continuation Rates for Nebraska Public High School Graduates by Student Income Status and Sex

- Female** college continuation rate:

- 12-13 = **74.9%**
- 22-23 = **70.7%**

- Male** college continuation rate:

- 12-13 = **66.6%**
- 22-23 = **59.2%**

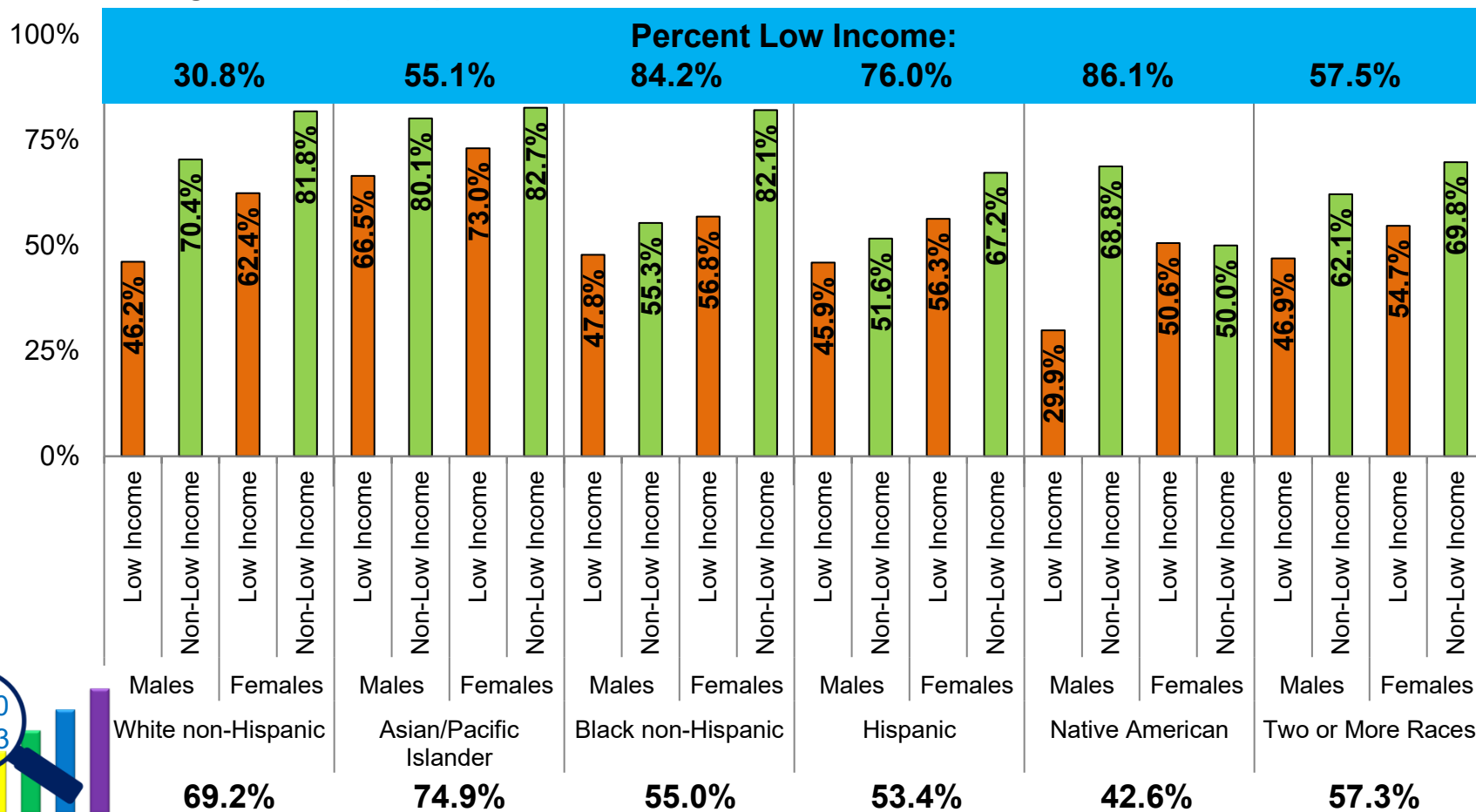


Note. Effective with the 2021-2022 cohort, students are classified as low income if they are eligible for FRL or if they graduate from a school that participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).



# College Continuation Rates for Nebraska Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity, Sex, and Student Income Status 2022-23

- By race/ethnicity, college continuation rates ranged from 42.6% for Native Americans to 74.9% for Asian/Pacific Islanders
- The lowest college continuation rate among the 24 subgroups was for low-income, Native American, male graduates (29.9%); the highest was for non-low-income, Asian/Pacific Islander, female graduates (82.7%)



# Nebraska High School Graduates Who Go to School in Nebraska

## Section 1.2

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who pursue their postsecondary education in Nebraska.



- Of Nebraska's high school graduates who go on to college, about 8 out of 10 go to college in Nebraska
  - Fall 2012 = 81.2%
  - Fall 2022 = 77.8%\*
    - Dropped from 81.9% two years prior
- The recent decline is concerning and needs to be examined in greater detail and addressed
- However, it is difficult to increase Nebraska college enrollments only by increasing the percentage of Nebraska high school graduates who go to college in the state



*Note.* Does not include reported enrollments of Nebraska first-time freshmen (FTF) at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) for fall 2022. TSTC reported 403 NE FTF attended TSTC in fall 2022 within 12 months of high school graduation. Internal analysis of Clearinghouse data reveals that no on-time NE public high school graduates attended TSTC between June 2022 - May 2023. Furthermore, in the 10 years prior to 2022, TSTC did not report any Nebraska students attending within 12 months of high school graduation.



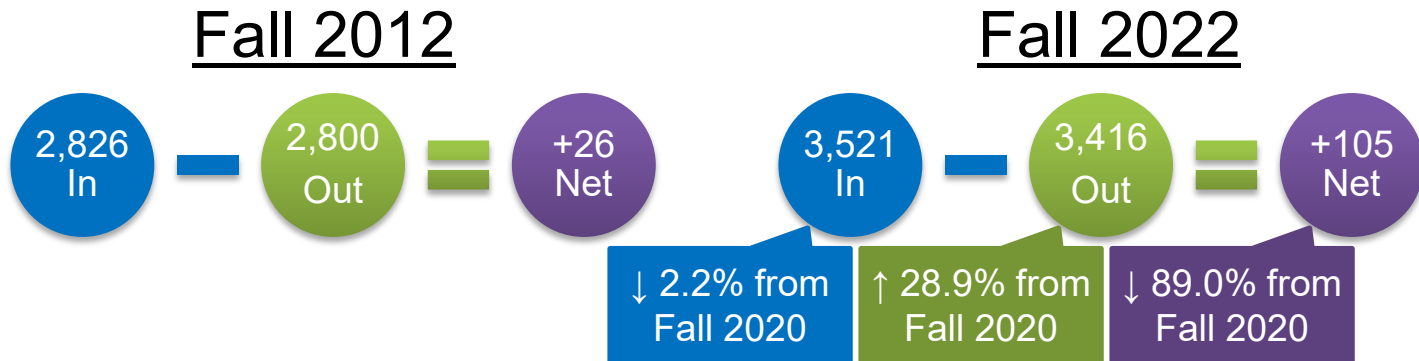
# Non-Nebraska FTF Who Enroll at Nebraska Colleges and Net Migration

## Section 1.3

Increase the number of non-Nebraska high school graduates who pursue postsecondary education in Nebraska.



- Out-of-state and foreign first-time freshmen enrolled at Nebraska's colleges increased by 25.2% between fall 2012 and fall 2022:
  - Fall 2012 = 3,609
  - Fall 2022 = 4,518
  - Out-of-state FTF increased 27.7% while foreign FTF increased 3.0%
- Looking at non-foreign FTF who attended postsecondary institutions *within 12 months of high school graduation*\*:



*Note.* Does not include reported enrollments of Nebraska first-time freshmen (FTF) at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) for fall 2022.



# Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Sex and by Race/Ethnicity

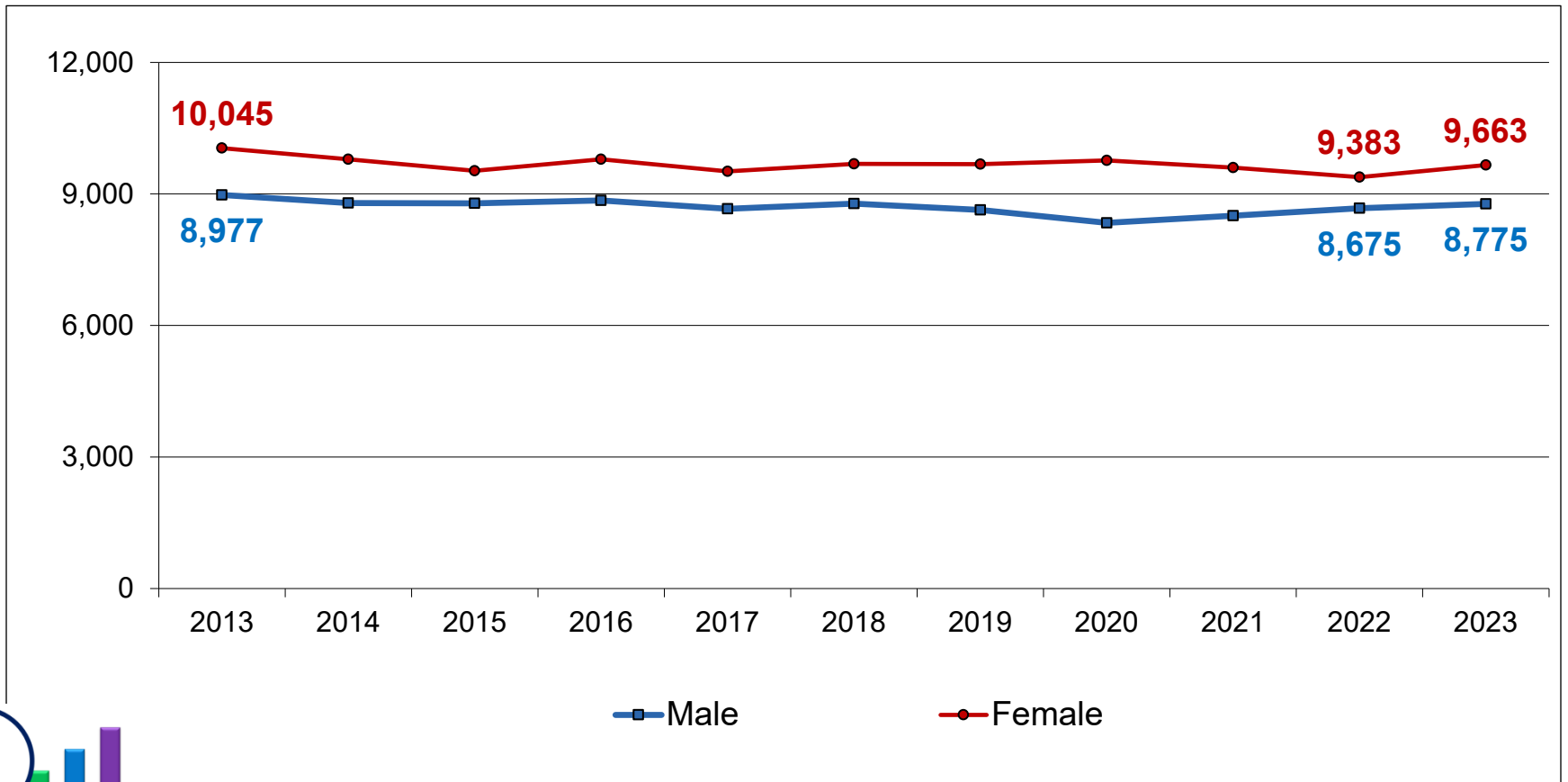
## Section 1.4

Increase the number and proportion of Nebraska postsecondary students who have been underrepresented in the state's higher education system.



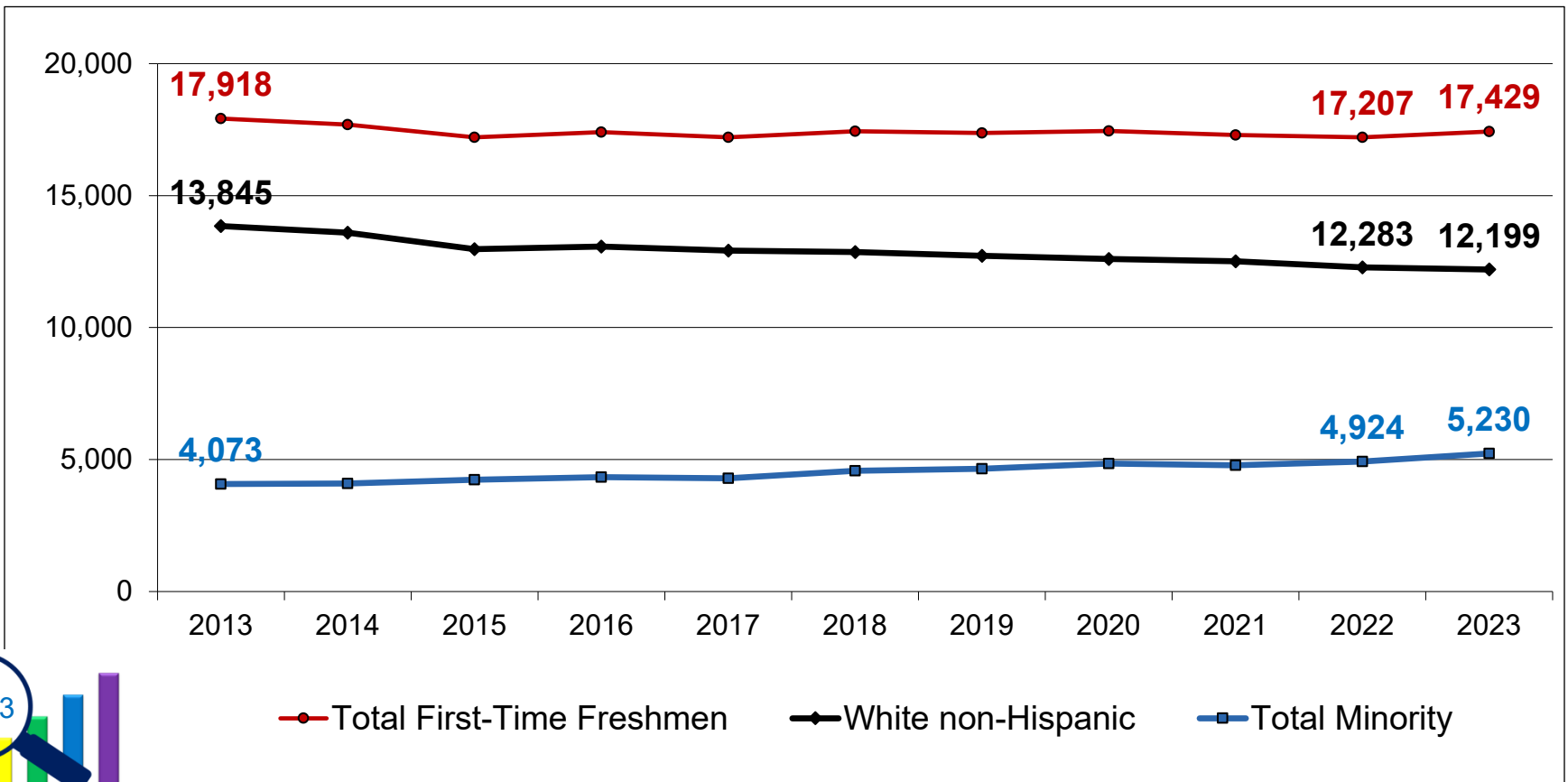
# First-Time Freshmen by Sex

	1-YEAR CHANGE	10-YEAR CHANGE
■ Male	1.2%	-2.3%
● Female	3.0%	-3.8%



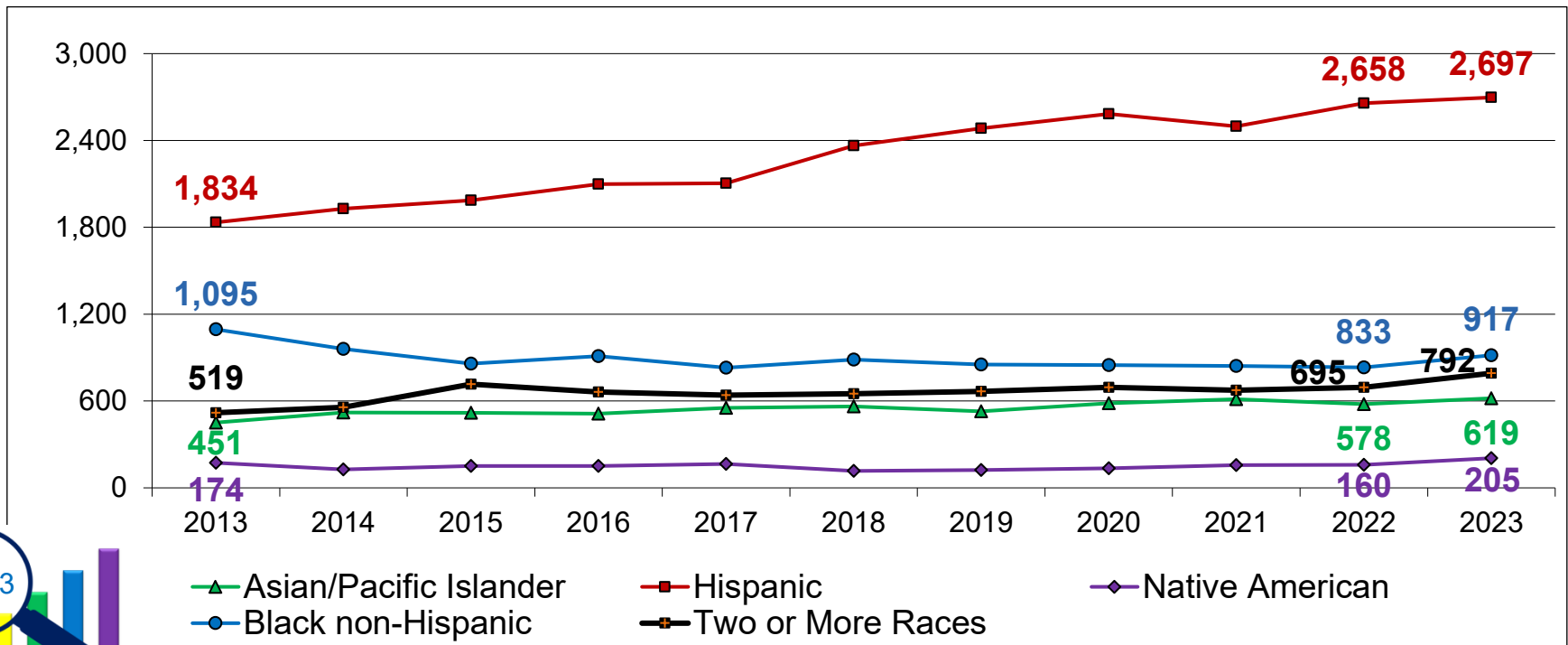
# White Non-Hispanic and Minority First-Time Freshmen

	1-YEAR CHANGE	10-YEAR CHANGE
● Nebraska State Total (Known Race)	1.3%	-2.7%
◆ White (non-Hispanic)	-0.7%	-11.9%
■ Total Minority	6.2%	28.4%



# Minority First-Time Freshmen

	1-YEAR CHANGE	10-YEAR CHANGE
▲ Asian/Pacific Islander	7.1%	37.3%
● Black (non-Hispanic)	10.1%	-16.3%
■ Hispanic	1.5%	47.1%
◆ Native American	28.1%	17.8%
⊞ Two or More Races	14.0%	52.6%



# Financial Aid

## Section 1.5

Increase need-based financial aid in order to improve access to higher education for Nebraskans with limited financial means.

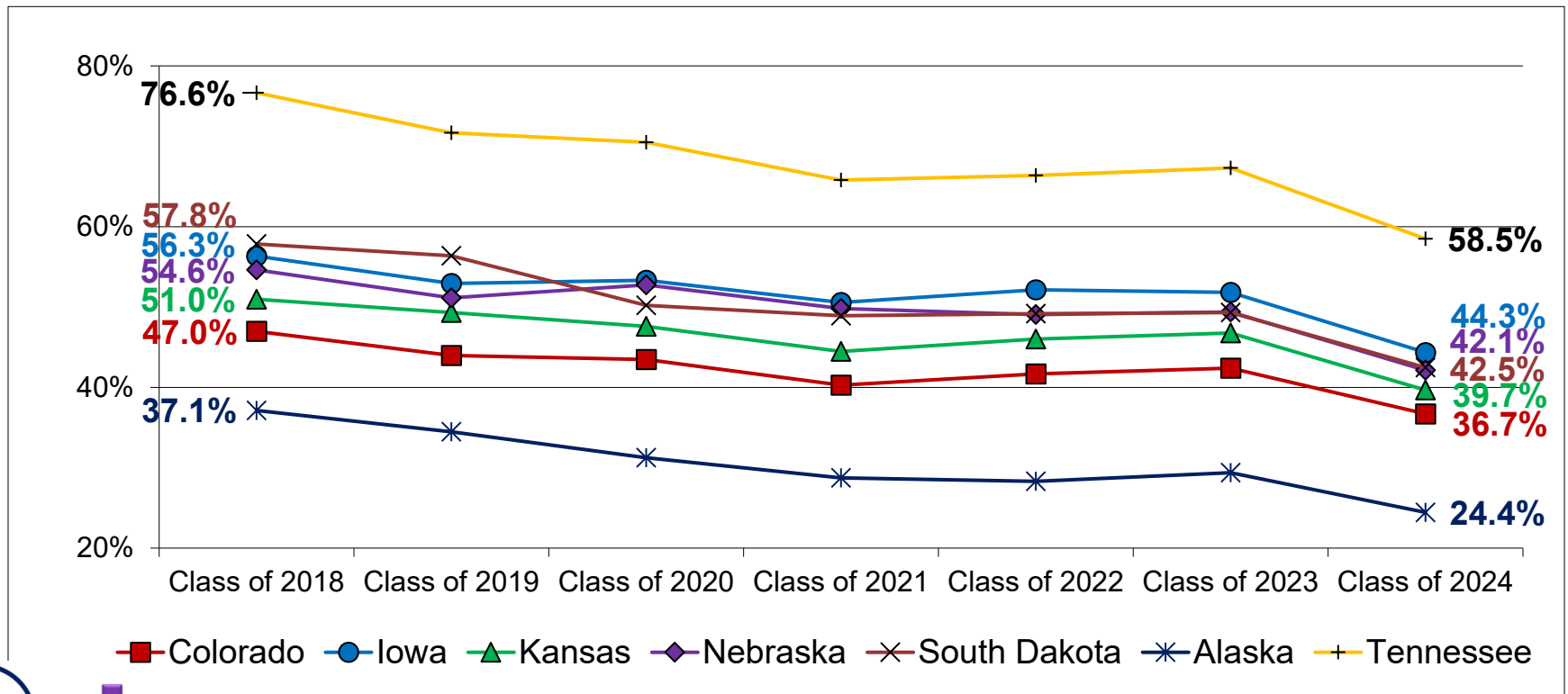


- To improve access to higher education, Nebraska has:
  - Implemented CCPE's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Project
  - Made FAFSA completion or affirmatively opting-out a graduation requirement beginning with the high school graduating class of 2025
  - Increased the amount of state funding for:
    - The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)
    - Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship



# FAFSA Completion Rates

- FAFSA is the first step to gaining access to federal and state student financial aid
- Nebraska ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in FAFSA completions for 2024
- 2023 Nebraska high school graduates missed out on over an estimated \$23.0 million in federal Pell grants by not completing the FAFSA (2024 data has not been released)
- Nationally, 46.0% of 2024 high school seniors completed the FAFSA



*Note.* Graph includes trend data for Nebraska, surrounding states, and the lowest (Alaska) and highest (Tennessee) performing states for the most recent year. Includes students who completed the FAFSA between October 1 and June 30 for each high school class. Includes students from public and private high schools.



# NOG Funding

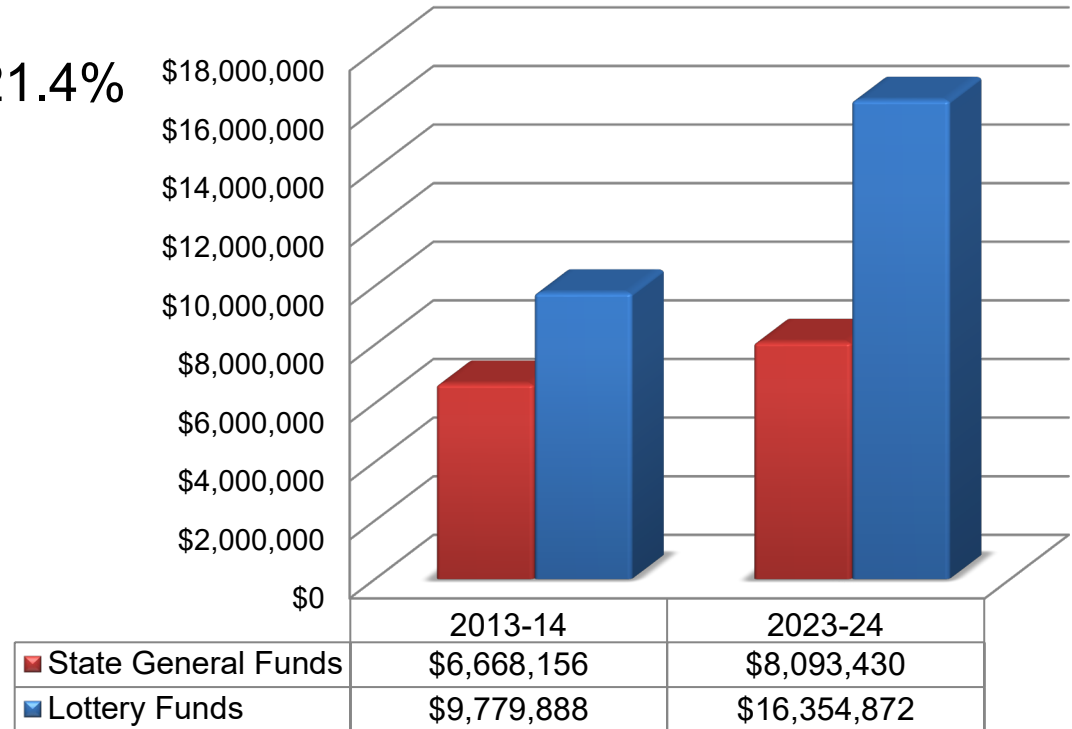
## Change in Funding:

■ State General Funds: + 21.4%

■ Lottery Funds: + 67.2%

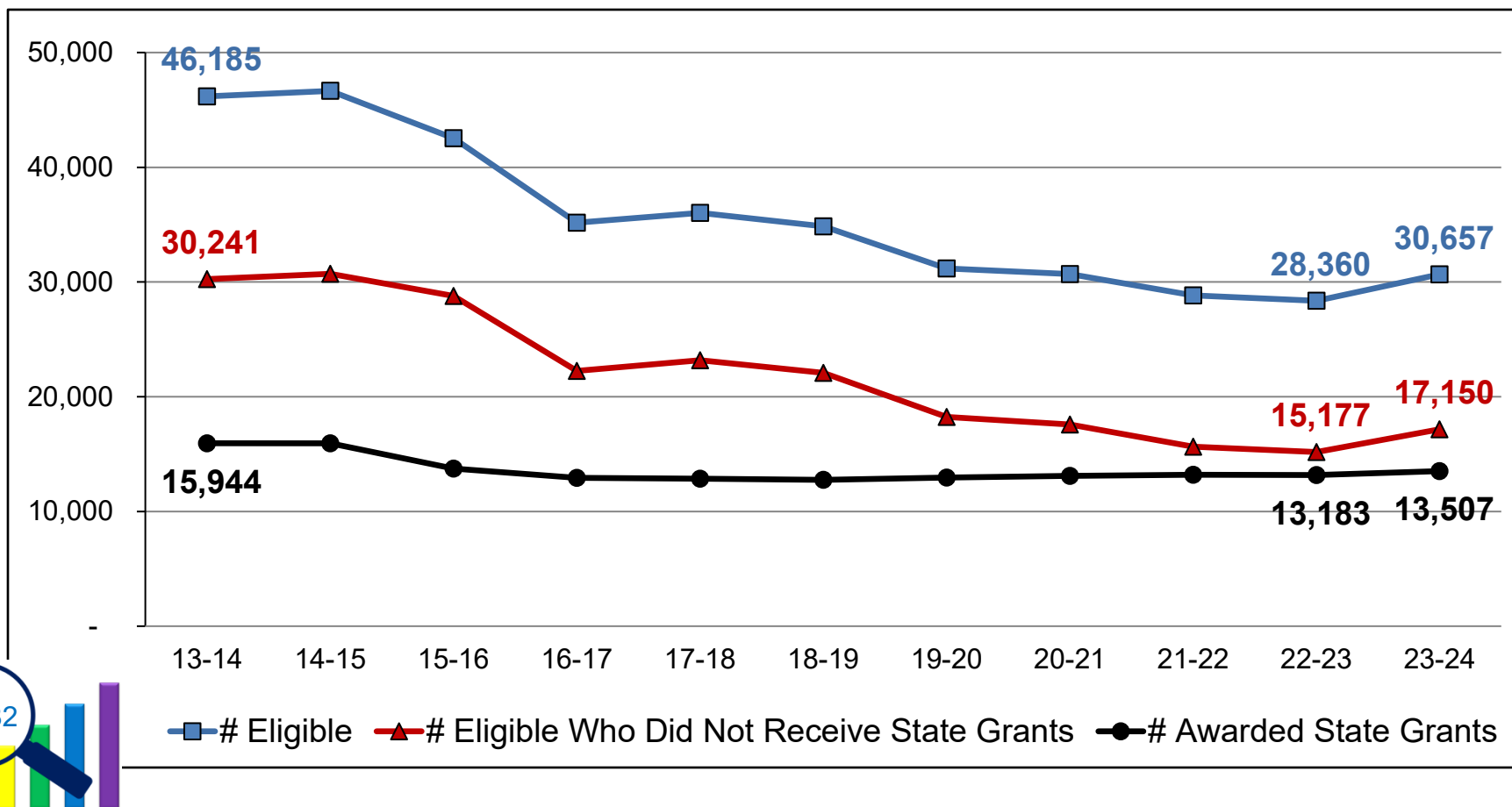
➤ **Total Funds: + 48.6%**

**Total Funds: \$16.4M Increased to \$24.4M**



# Number of Students Eligible to Receive NOGs Compared to the Number of Students Awarded NOGs

- In 2013-14, **34.5%** of eligible students received a state grant
- In 2023-24, **44.1%** of eligible students received a state grant



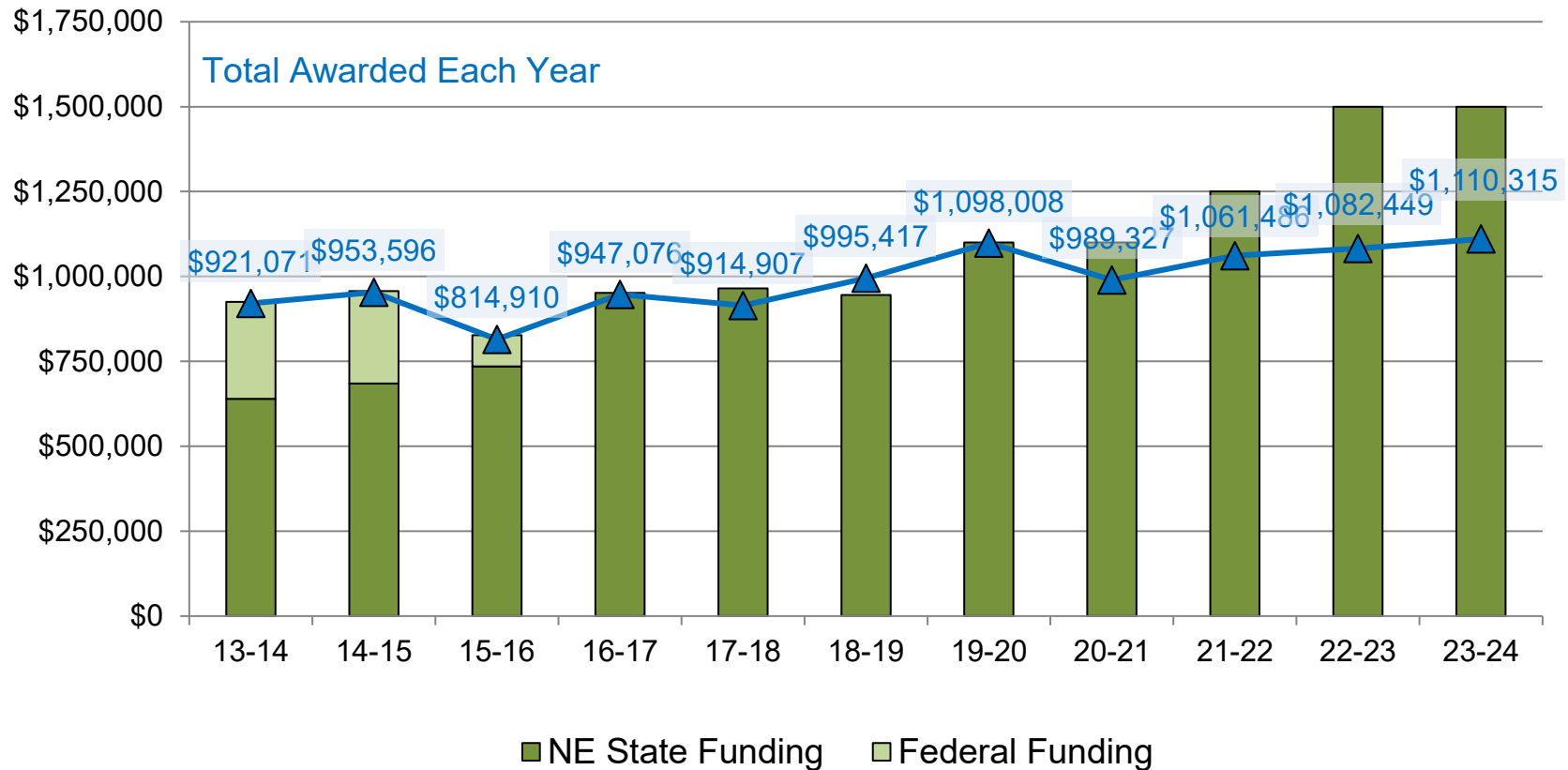
# ACE Scholarships

- Another approach to expanding access to higher education is through the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program, initiated in 2007-2008
  - ACE Scholarships are awarded to eligible low-income Nebraska high school students who take college courses for credit while the students are in high school



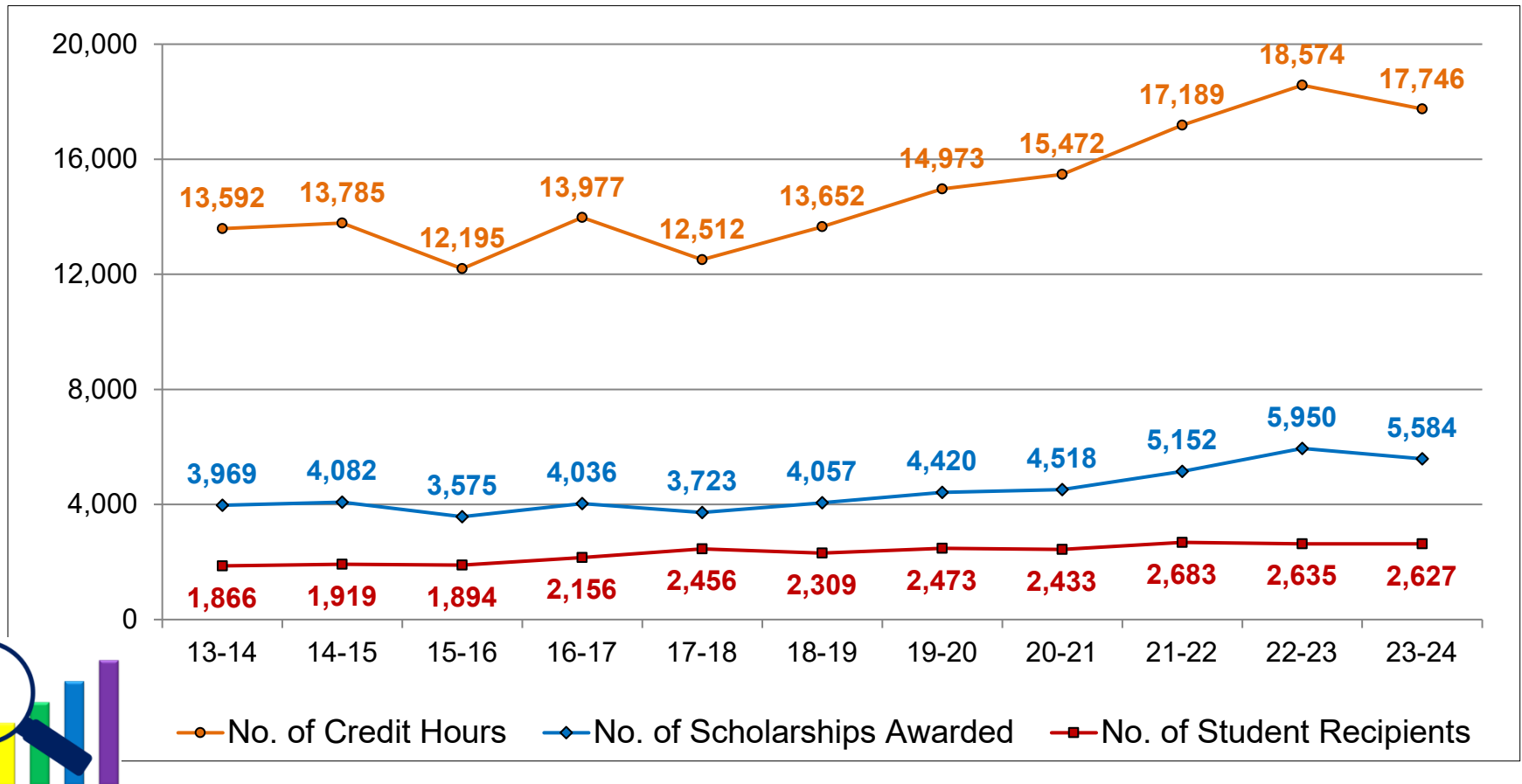
# Growth of ACE Scholarship Program in Dollars Awarded

- Dollars awarded increased **20.5%** between 2013-14 and 2023-24



# Growth of ACE Scholarship Program in Student Recipients, ACE Scholarships, and Credit Hours

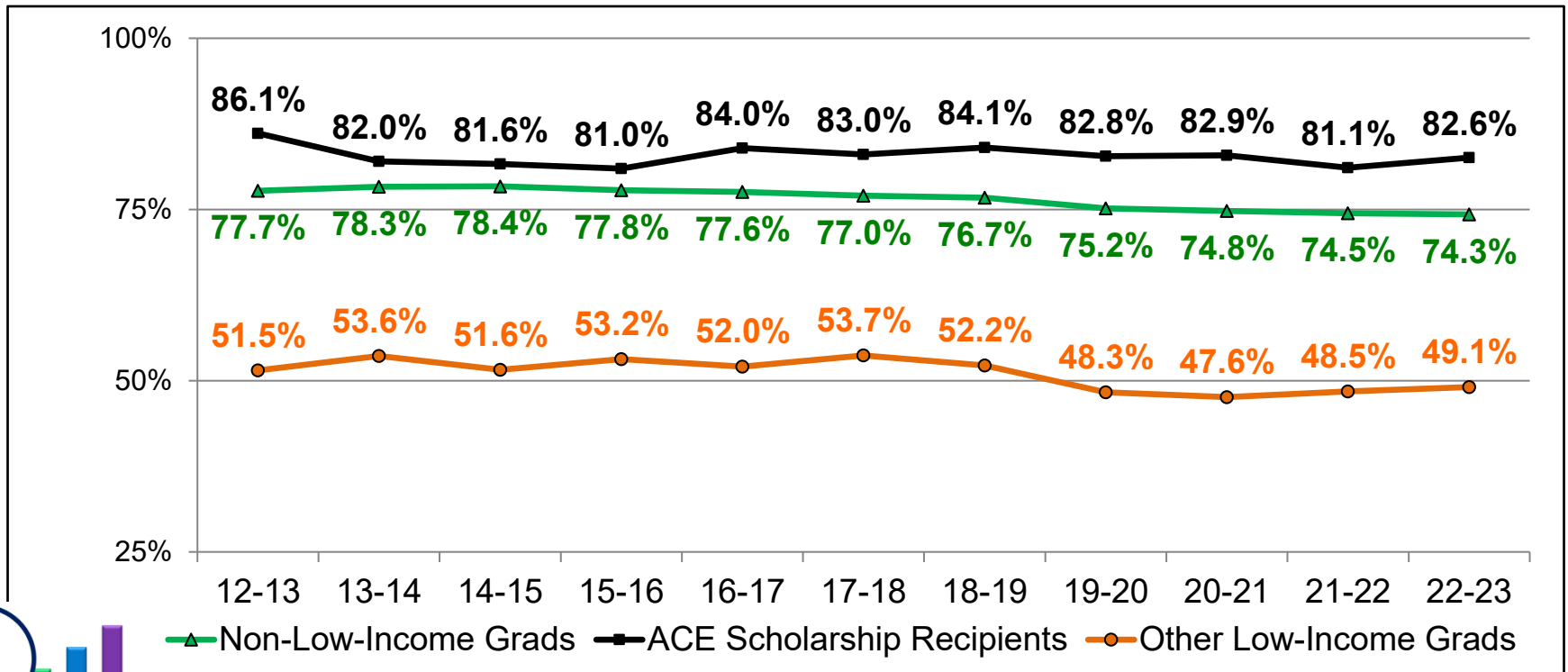
- Number of students has increased **40.8%**
- Number of scholarships has increased **40.7%**
- Number of credit hours has increased **30.6%**



84

# College Continuation Rates for Public High School Seniors Who Received ACE Scholarships and Other Graduates of Nebraska Public High Schools by Income Status

- College continuation rates of ACE scholarship recipients have been:
  - Higher than the rates for non-low-income graduates of the state's public high schools; and
  - Significantly higher than the college-going rates for other low-income students who graduated from Nebraska's public high schools



Note. Effective with the 2021-2022 cohort, students are classified as low income if they are eligible for FRL or if they graduate from a school that participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).



## **PRIORITY 2**

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**INCREASE THE PERCENT OF STUDENTS  
WHO ENROLL AND SUCCESSFULLY  
COMPLETE A DEGREE**

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# Freshmen Retention Rates

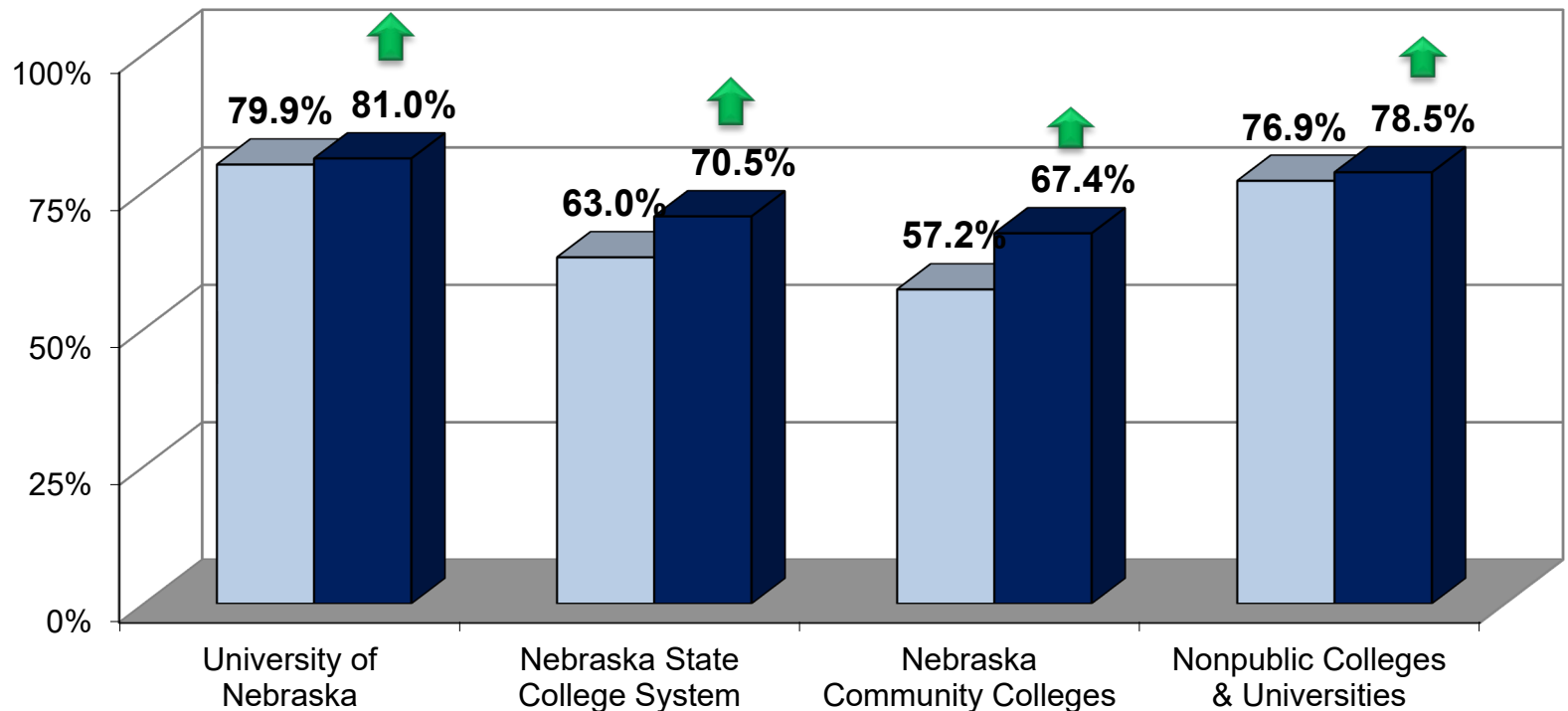
## Section 2.1

Increase the percentage of students who persist beyond their first year(s) of enrollment.



# IPEDS Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Retention Rates

- Overall retention rate in fall 2013 = **71.3%**
- Overall retention rate in fall 2023 = **76.4%**
- As shown below, retention rates have increased within all four sectors of higher education in the state

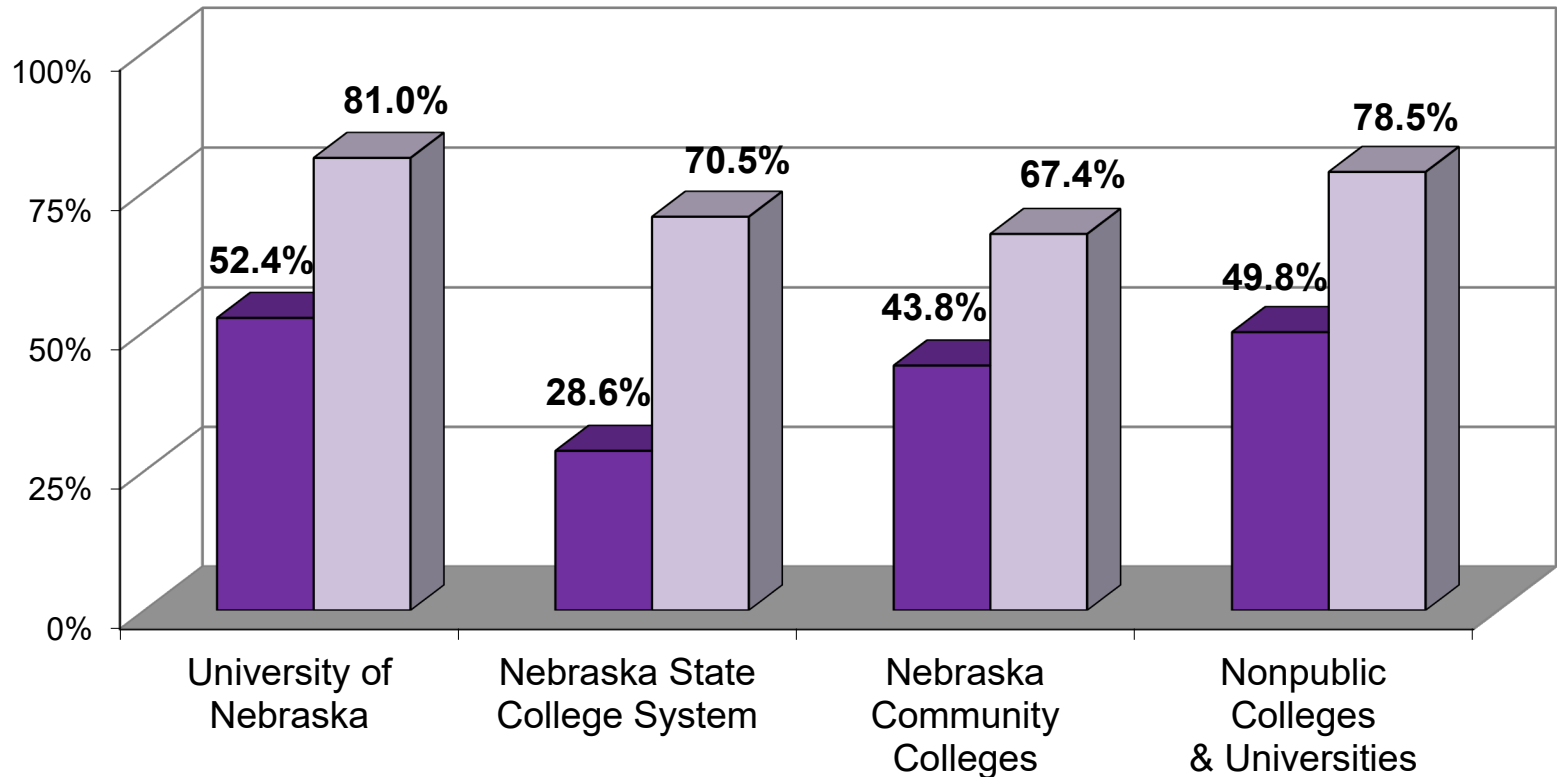


□ 2013 Full-Time Freshmen Retention Rate    ■ 2023 Full-Time Freshmen Retention Rate



# IPEDS Full-Time and Part-Time First-Time Freshmen Retention Rates

- Students who start college full time are much more likely than part-time students to continue going to college beyond their freshmen year:



■ 2023 Part-Time Freshmen Retention Rate

■ 2023 Full-Time Freshmen Retention Rate

# College Graduation and Transfer Rates

## Section 2.2

Increase the percentage of students who complete associate degrees within three years and baccalaureate degrees within six years.



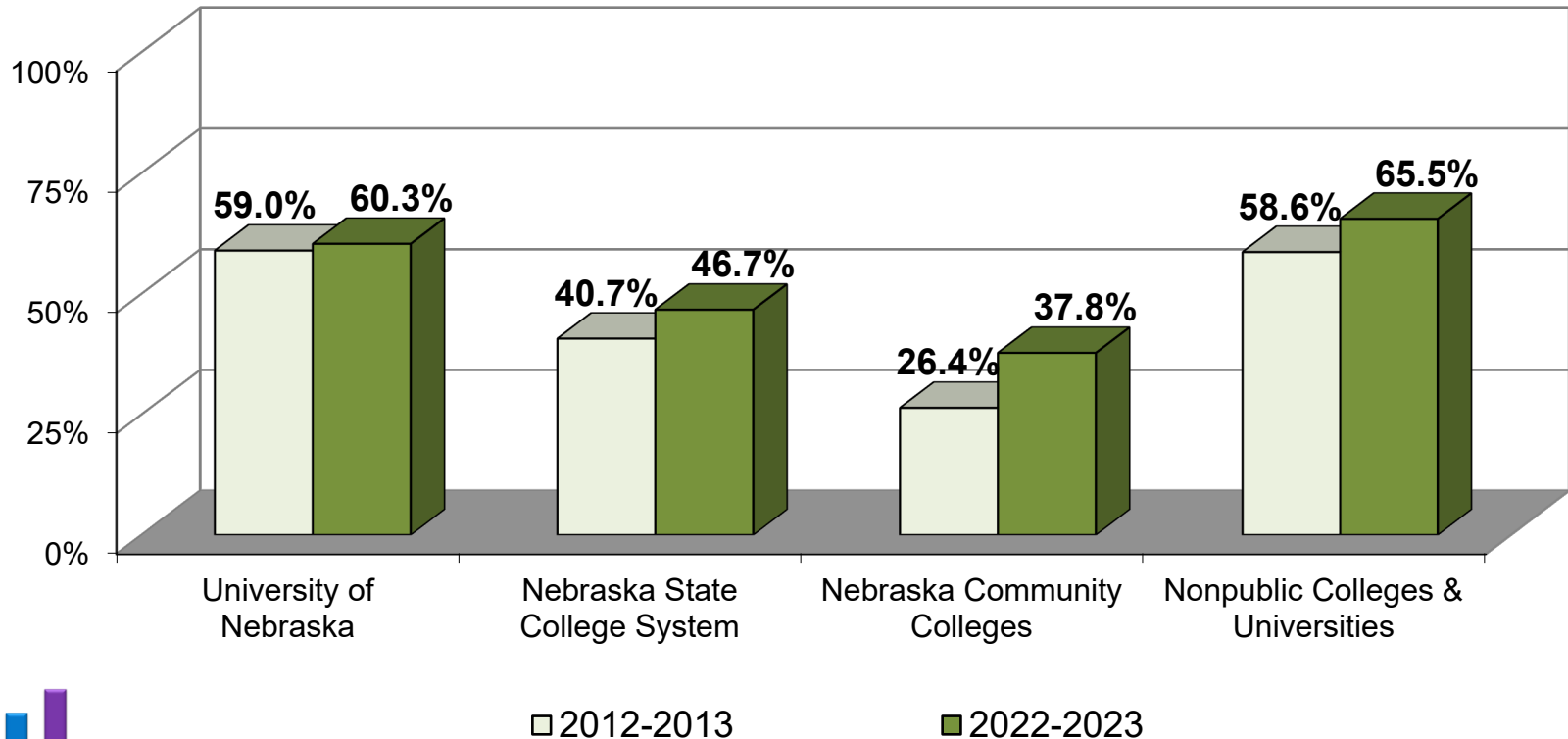
# IPEDS Graduation Rates

## Public 2-Year Graduation Rates:

- 2012-13 = **27.0%**
- 2022-23 = **38.3%**
  - Highest rate during reporting period

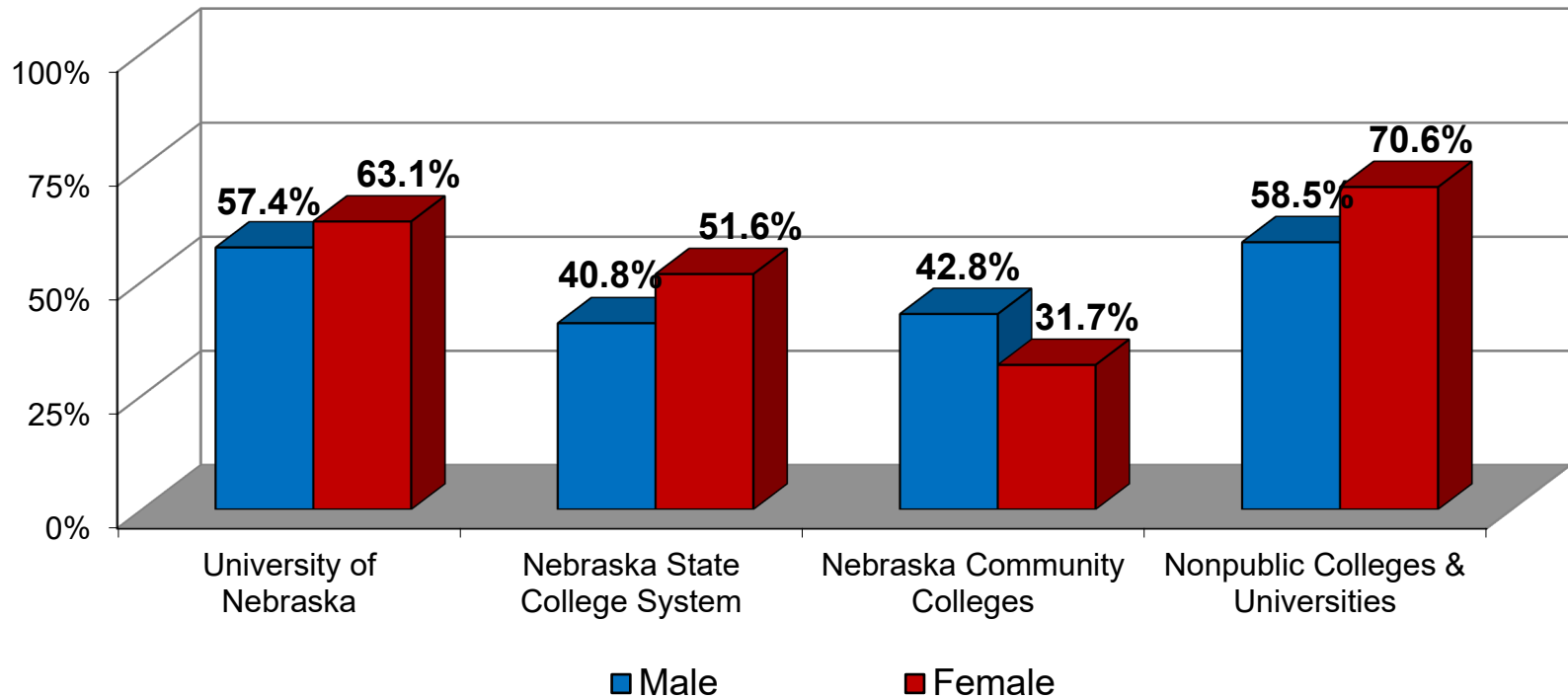
## Public 4-Year Graduation Rates:

- 2012-13 = **56.2%**
- 2022-23 = **58.5%**



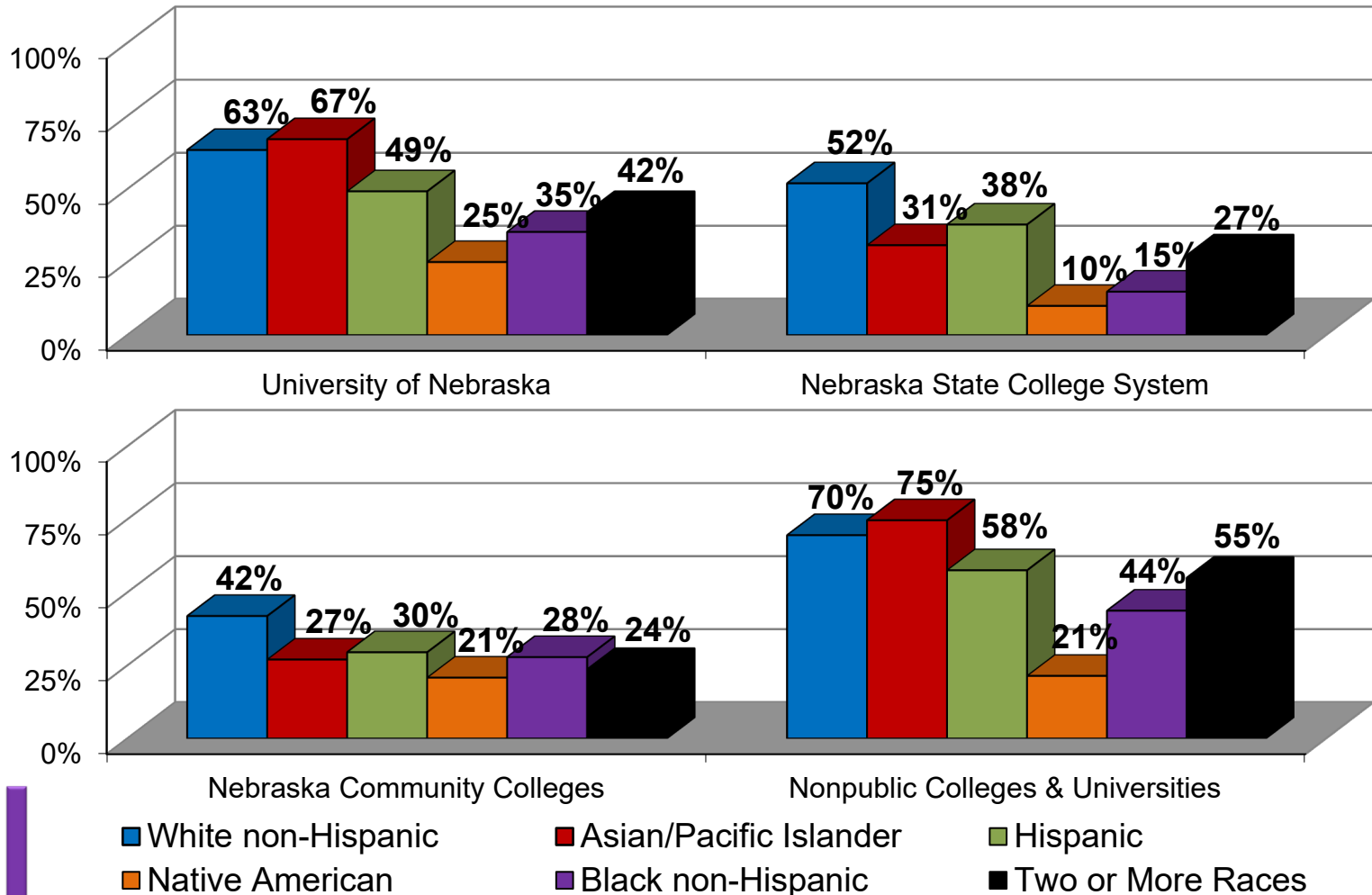
# 2022-2023 IPEDS Graduation Rates by Sector and by Sex

- Segmenting graduation rates by sector and by race/ethnicity results in graduation rates for 8 subgroups



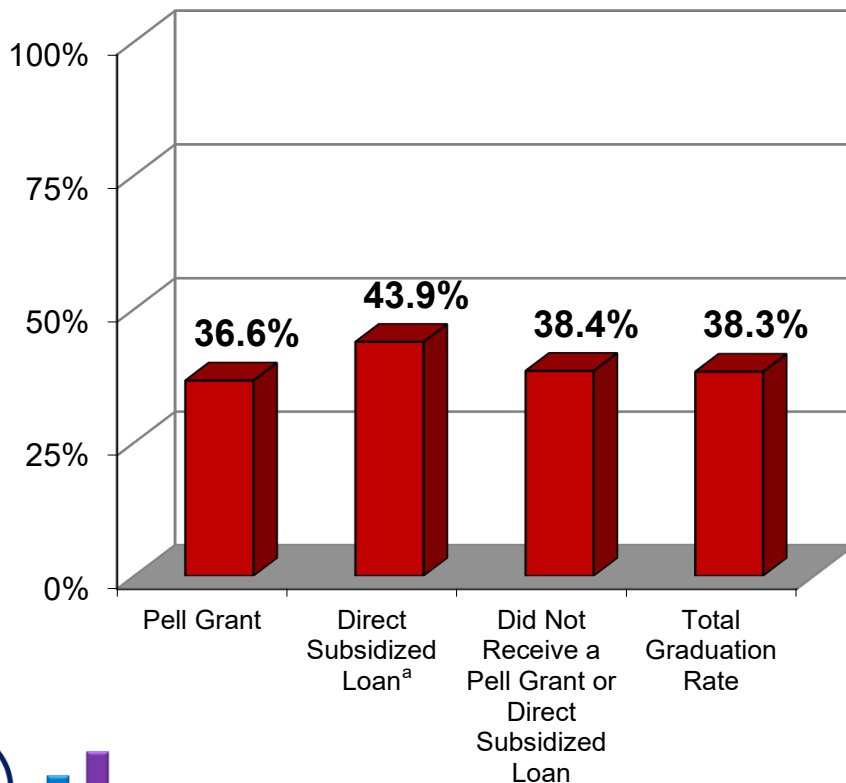
# 2022-2023 IPEDS Graduation Rates by Sector and by Race/Ethnicity

- Segmenting graduation rates by sector and by race/ethnicity results in graduation rates for 24 subgroups

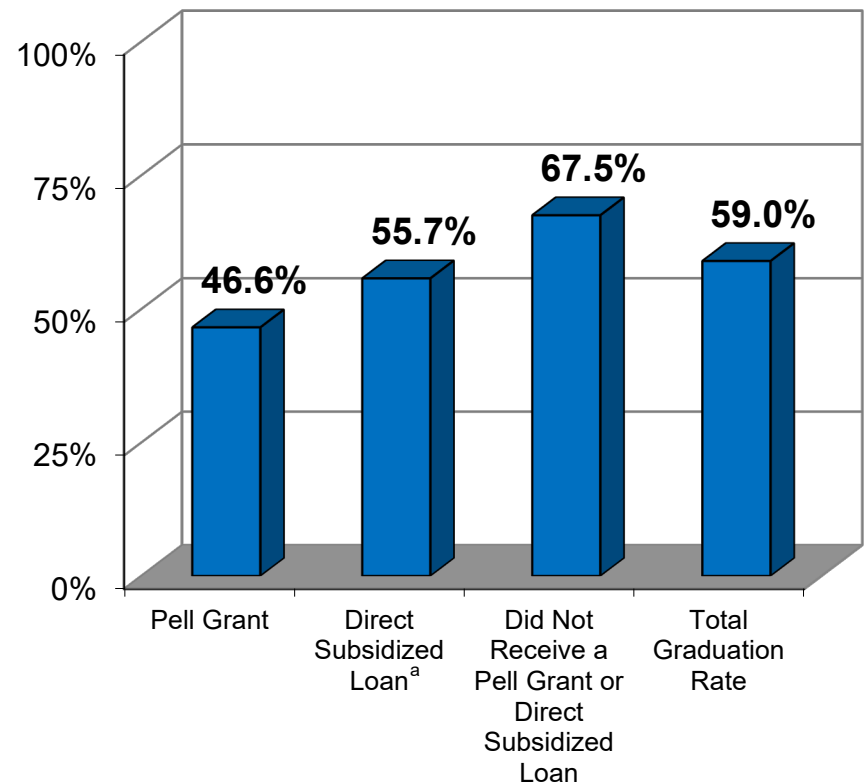


# 2022-2023 IPEDS Graduation Rates by Financial Aid Received

- Federal Pell Grant recipients and Direct Subsidized Loan recipients have demonstrated financial need and serve as a proxy for low-income students



■ Total Two-Year Public Institutions



■ Total Four-Year Public Institutions

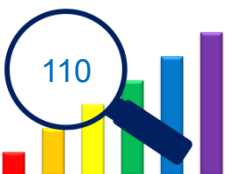
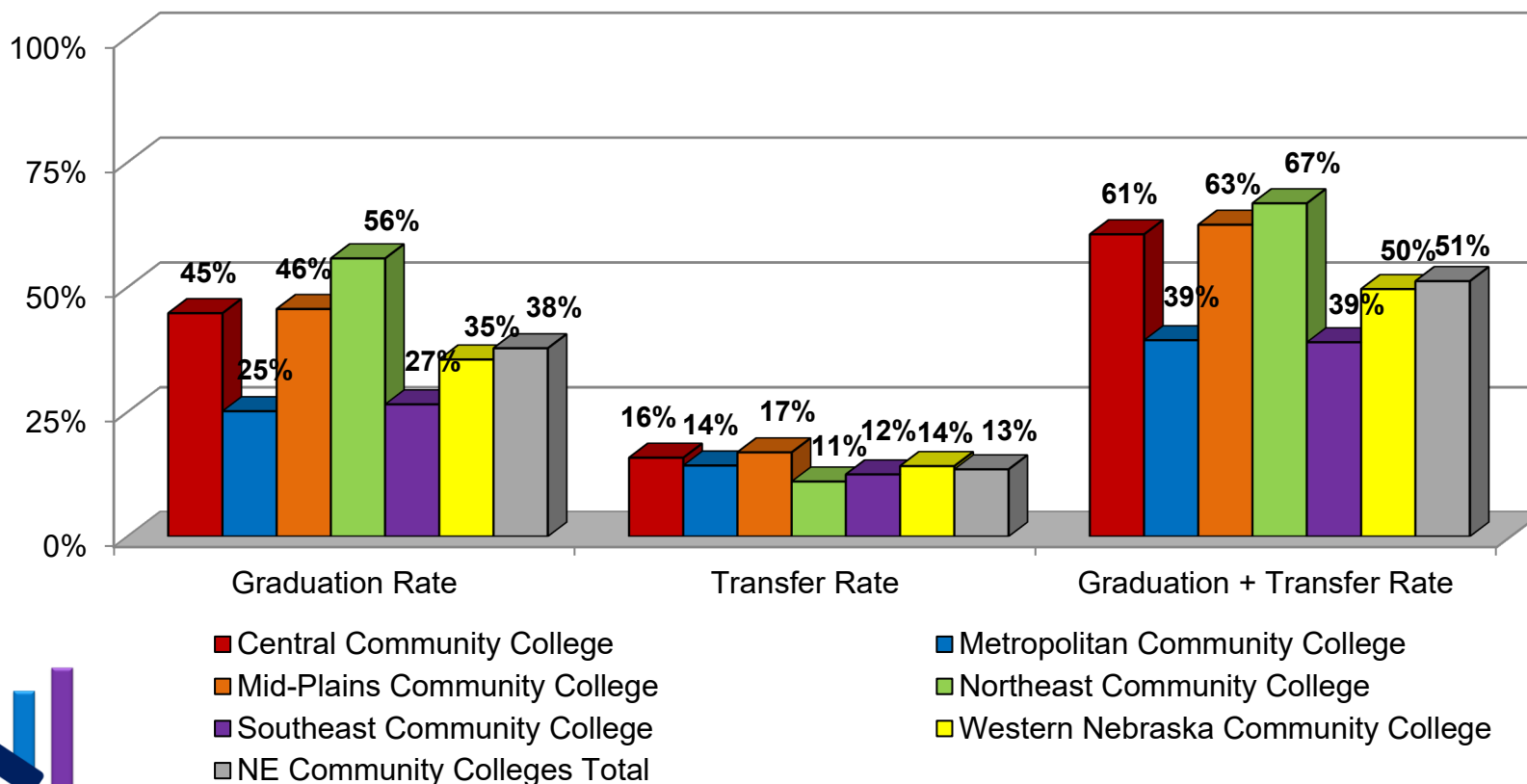
<sup>a</sup> Only includes recipients that did not receive a Pell Grant.





# 2022-2023 Transfer Rates for Nebraska Community Colleges

- The overall transfer rate for the community colleges was **13%**
- Transfer rates ranged from **11% at Northeast** to **17% at Mid-Plains**
- The rates produced by combining each institution's graduation rates and transfer rates ranged from **39% at Metro** and **Southeast** to **67% at Northeast**



# Graduation and Persistence Rates

## Section 2.3

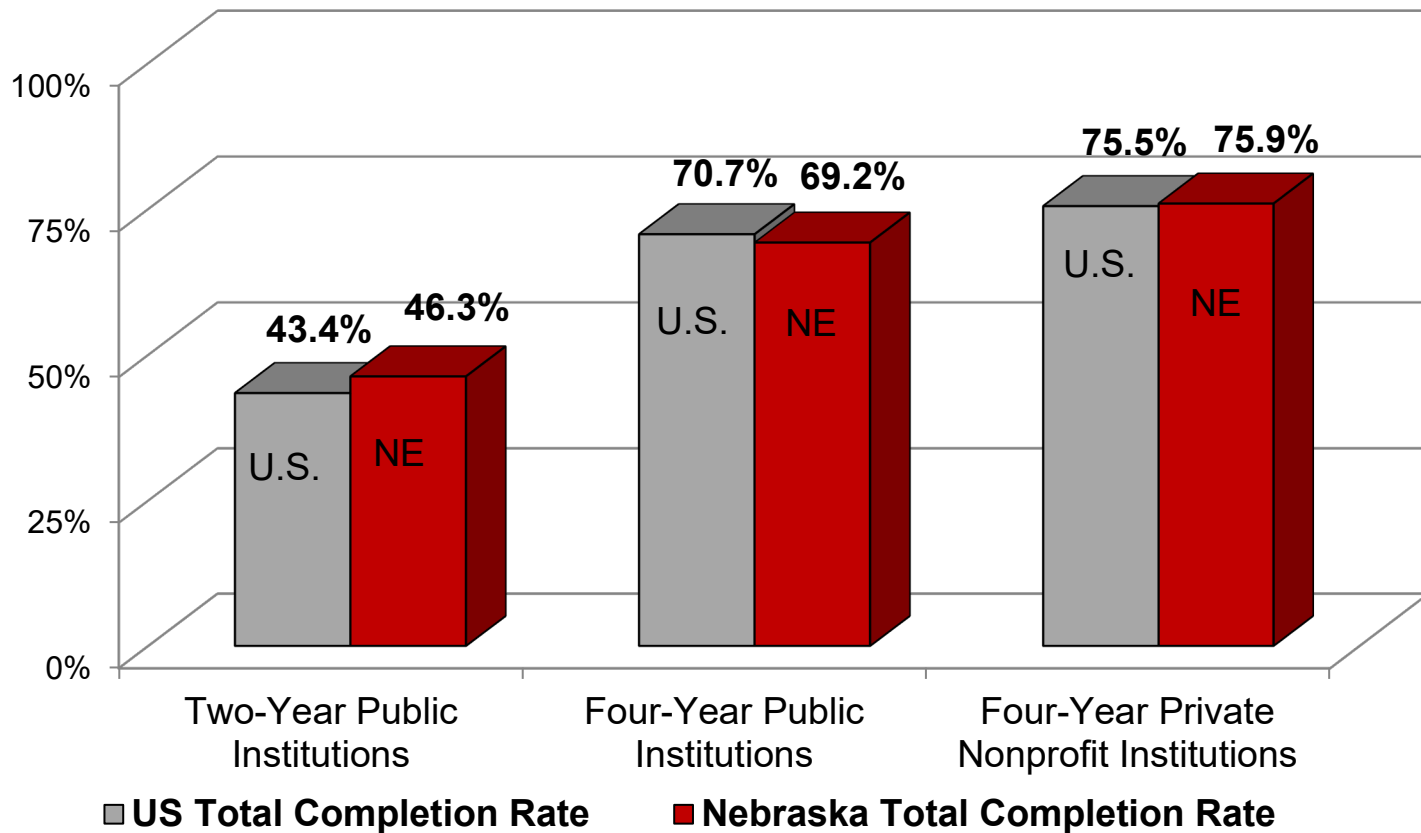
Research by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (*Yearly Progress and Completion*) provides important information about the completion and persistence rates of students who start college at Nebraska's public and private institutions.



- Historically, IPEDS graduation rates are only for **first-time, full-time** students who graduate from the **same campus** where they began as first-time, full-time students
- In comparison, the NSC graduation rates are for **all first-time students**, regardless of full-time status, and they **include students who graduate from campuses other than the campus of initial enrollment**



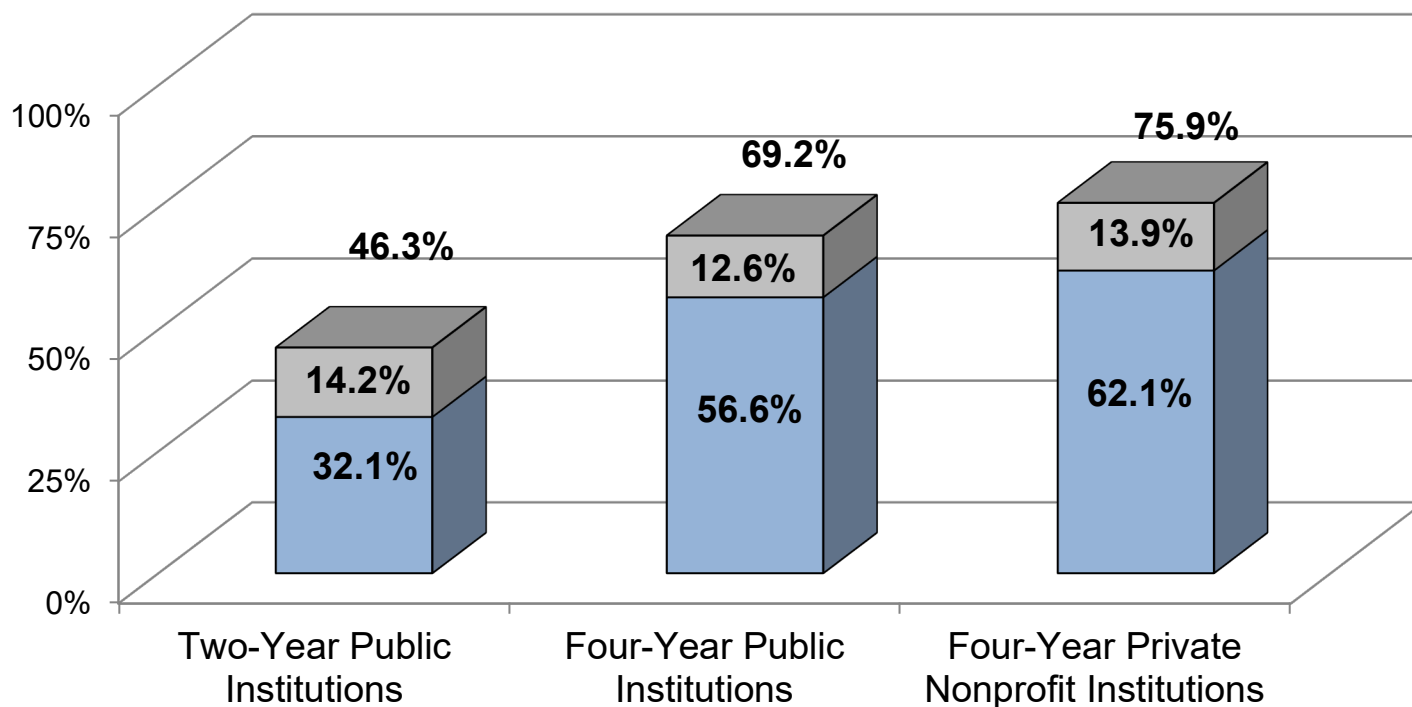
# Six-Year Total Completion Rates for Nebraska and the United States for First-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen Fall 2018 Cohort



# Six-Year Completion Rates for Nebraska for First-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen

## Fall 2018 Cohort

- Completion rates for starting institutions range from 32.1% - 62.1%
- Roughly 13% to 14% of students received their first completion at an institution in the U.S. other than their starting institution, no matter the sector of first enrollment



■ Graduated from Starting Institution ■ Transferred & Graduated from Other Institution

# *Yearly Progress and Completion*

## Fall 2018 Summary

- Students are most likely to earn degrees or certificates if they:
  - Start college full time
    - 26.9 to 34.3 percentage point increase (Figure 2.3.5)
  - Start college at a four-year institution
    - 24.5 to 30.0 percentage point increase (Figure 2.3.2)
  - Enter college with prior dual enrollment experience
    - 13.2 to 14.4 percentage point increase (Figure 2.3.6)
  - Start college before they are 20 years old
    - 7.2 to 35.6 percentage point increase compared to age 21-24
    - 4.5 to 36.8 percentage point increase compared to age 25+ (Figure 2.3.8)



## **PRIORITY 3**

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**REDUCE, ELIMINATE, AND THEN REVERSE THE  
NET OUT-MIGRATION OF NEBRASKANS WITH  
HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

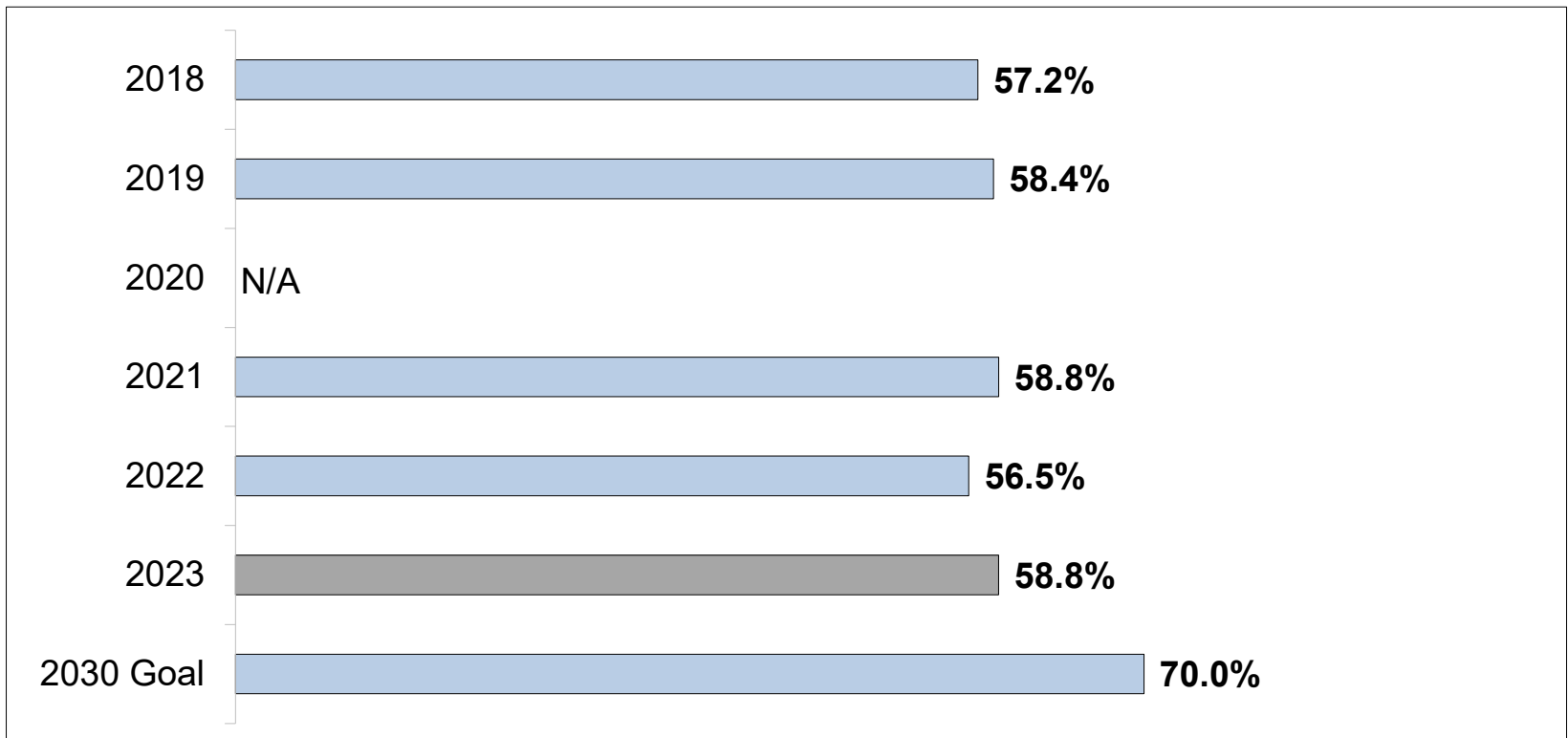
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- Data for this section comes from
  - The Lumina Foundation
  - The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey's (ACS) 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files



# Credential Attainment for 25- to 34-Year-Olds

- It is the goal of the State of Nebraska that at least 70% of 25- to 34-year-old Nebraskans will have a degree, certificate, diploma, or other postsecondary or industry-recognized credential with economic value by 2030
- Lumina estimates that 58.8% of Nebraskans aged 25 to 34 have obtained a credential or higher as of 2023, up from 56.5% in 2022
  - Certificate = 6.5%, Associate's = 12.3%, Bachelor's+ = 40.0%

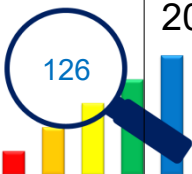
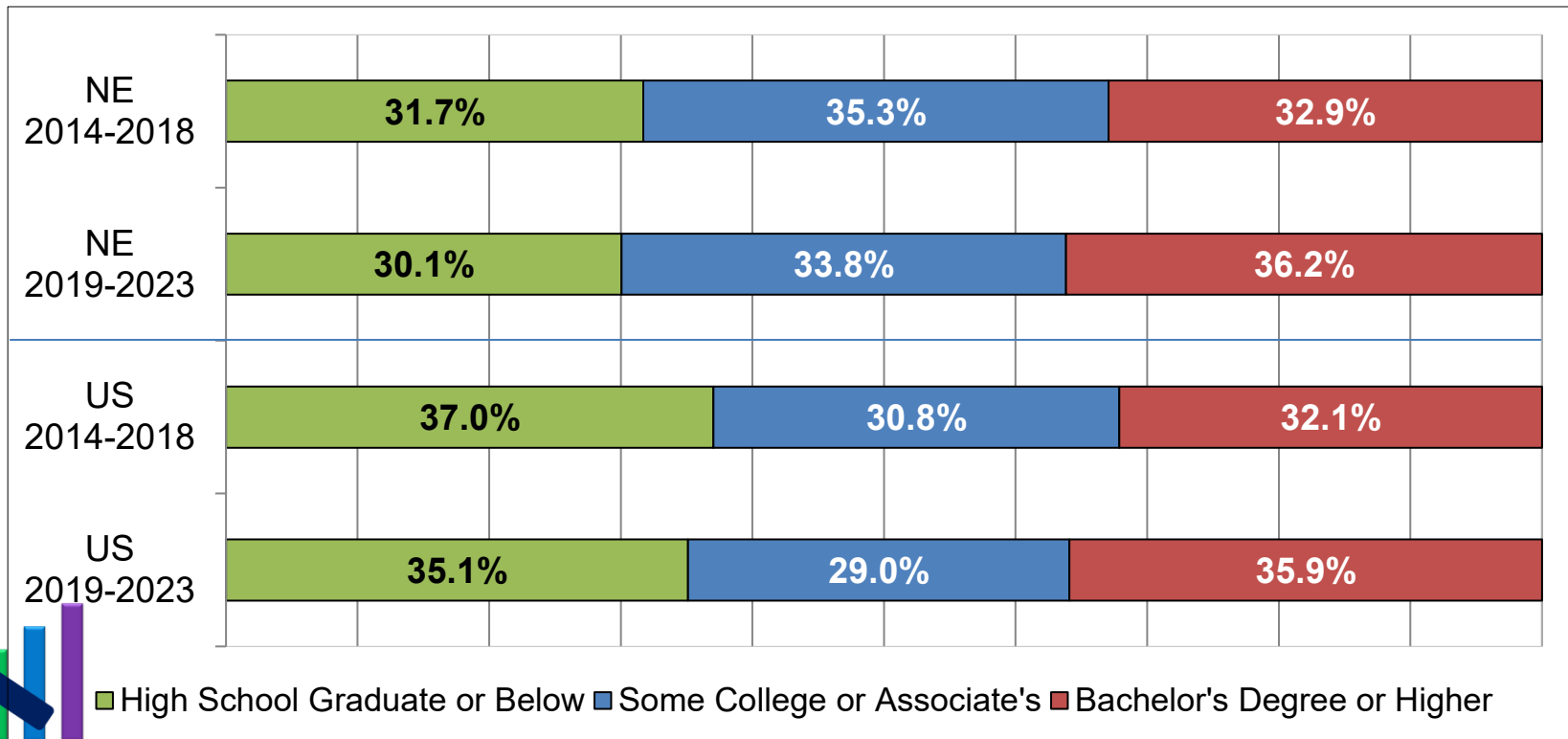


Note. Data for 2020 is excluded due to quality concerns.



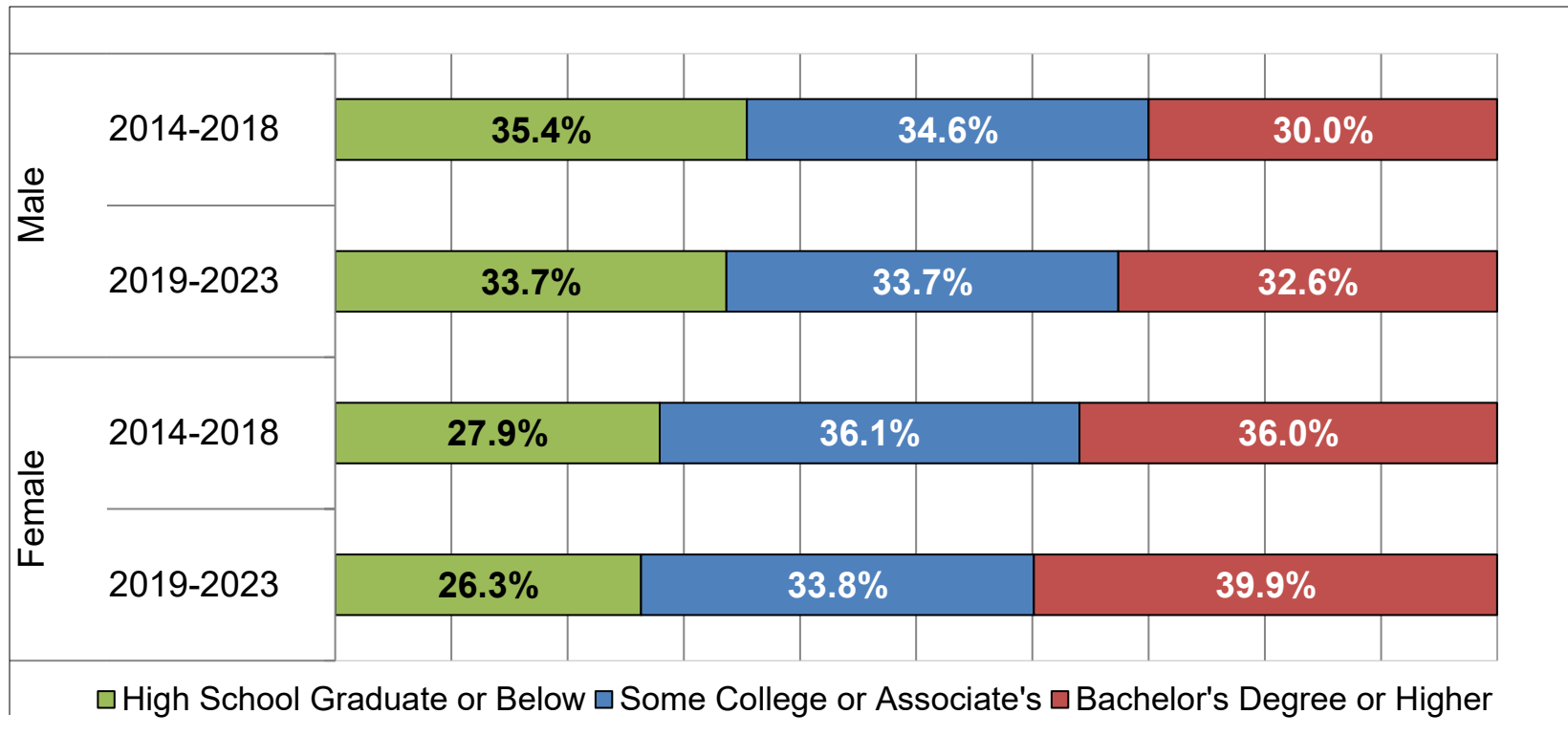
# Educational Attainment for 22- to 64-Year-Olds

- Nebraska's estimated population of 22- to 64-year olds increased 1.4% between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023
- **By education level, Nebraska's estimated percent of the population:**
  - **High school graduates or below: Decreased 1.6 percentage points**
  - **Some college or associate's: Decreased 1.5 percentage points**
  - **Bachelor's degree or higher: Increased 3.3 percentage points**
- Compared to the US, Nebraska has higher percentages of some college/associate's and bachelor's or higher; however, bachelor's+ is increasing at a higher rate nationally.



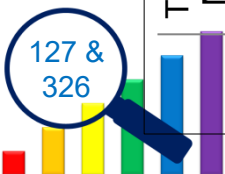
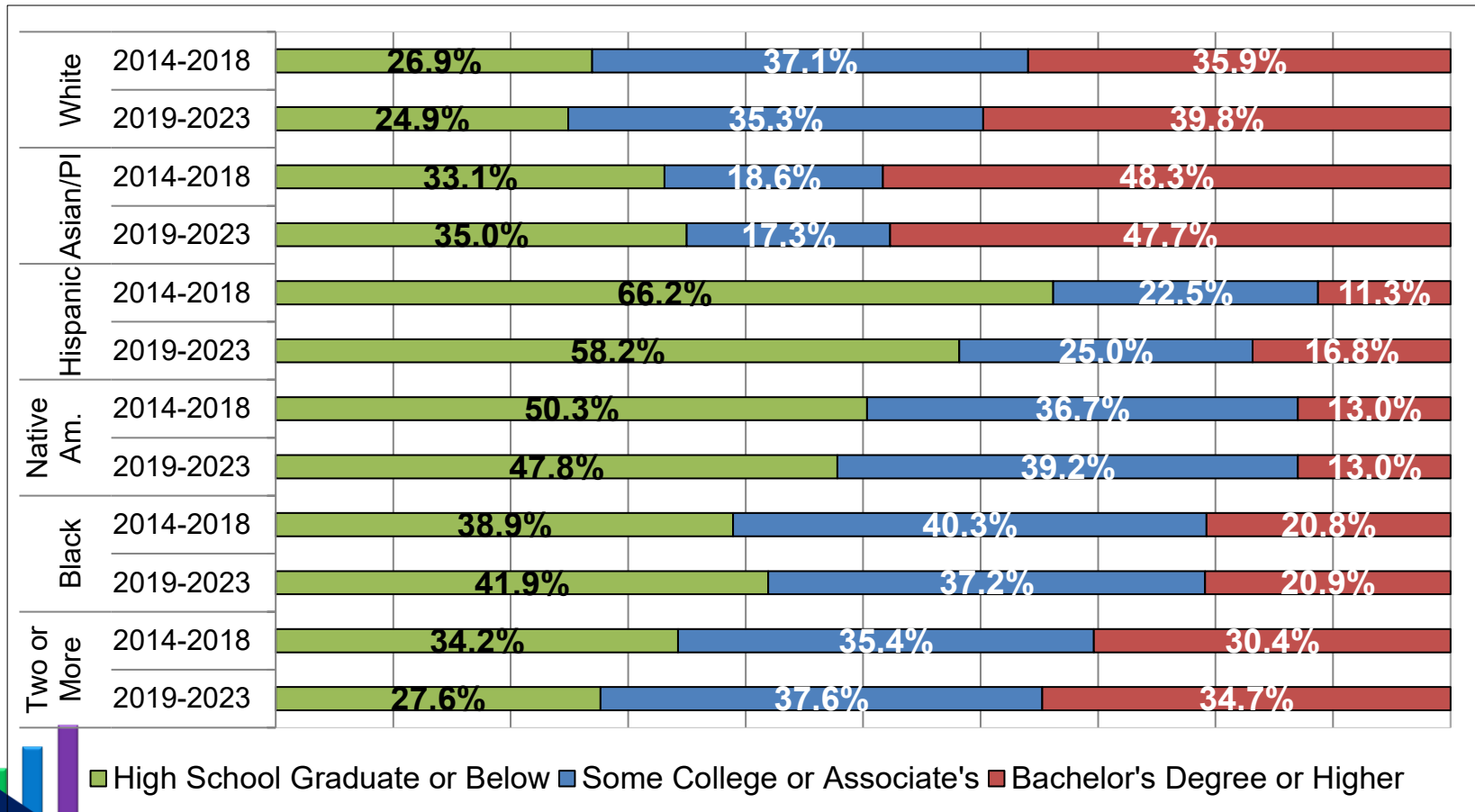
# Educational Attainment for 22- to 64-Year-Olds by Sex

- The percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 2.6 percentage points for males and 3.9 percentage points for females
- For both five-year periods, females had higher attainment rates than males



# Educational Attainment for 22- to 64-Year-Olds by Race/Ethnicity

- While educational attainment is increasing for most racial/ethnic groups, large attainment gaps remain
- Furthermore, while overall educational attainment is higher in Nebraska than nationally, Nebraska has lower attainment levels when analyzed by race/ethnicity for all groups below



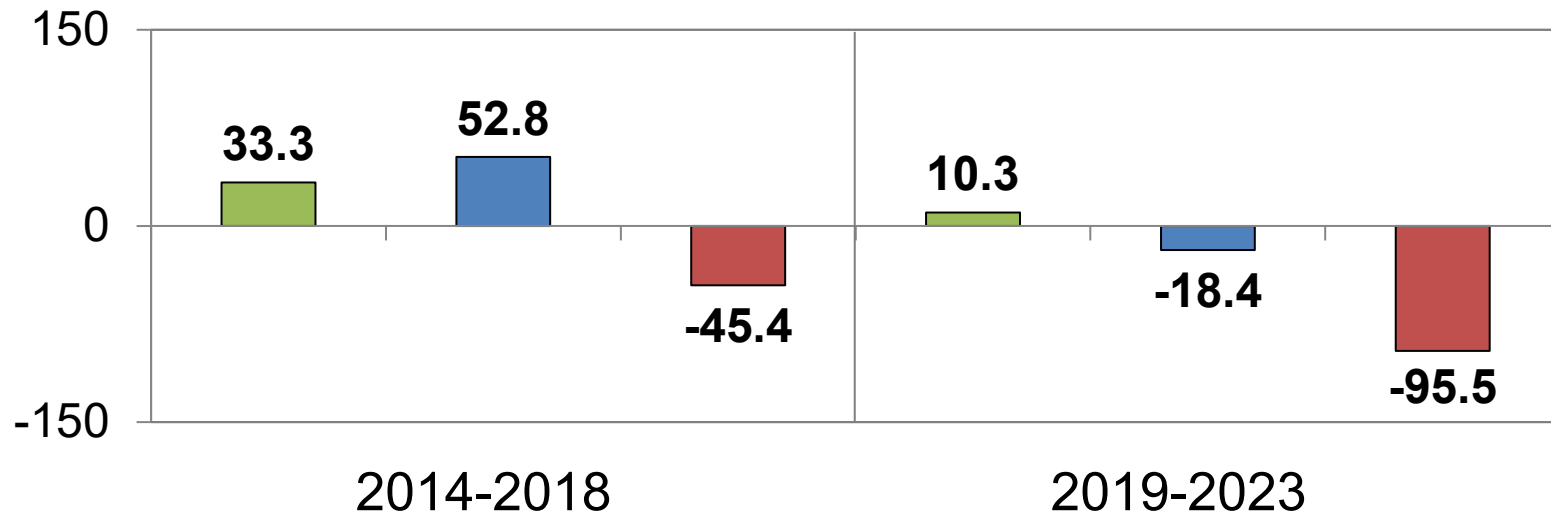
# Migration Estimates Compared to Educational Attainment for 22- to 64-Year-Olds

## 2014-2018

- For every 10,000 people in Nebraska age 22 to 64, with a bachelor's degree or higher, there was an average annual net out-migration of 45.4 people with a bachelor's or higher
  - Estimated annual net out-migration of 1,548 people, or 7,740 over the five-year period, with a bachelor's or higher**

## 2019-2023

- For every 10,000 people in Nebraska age 22 to 64, with a bachelor's degree or higher, there was an average annual net out-migration of 95.5 people with a bachelor's or higher
  - Estimated annual net out-migration of 3,629 people, or 18,145 over the five-year period, with a bachelor's or higher**



■ HS Grad or Below ■ Some College/Associate's ■ Bachelor's +

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# CONCLUSION

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# Nebraska Key Takeaways

- **2023-2024 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE:** **88.2%**
- **2022-2023 COLLEGE CONTINUATION RATES**  
**PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS:** **64.9%**  
**ACE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:** **82.6%**
- **6-YEAR COMPLETION RATE, FALL 2018 COHORT:** **46.3% (PUBLIC 2-YR)**  
**69.2% (PUBLIC 4-YR)**
- **AVERAGE ANNUAL NET MIGRATION FOR EVERY 10,000 WORKING-AGE NEBRASKA'S WITH A BACHELOR'S +:** **-95.5**
- **BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER 22 TO 64 YEARS:** **36.2%**
- **CREDENTIAL WITH VALUE IN THE WORKPLACE+ 25 TO 34 YEARS:** **58.8%**



- Given the findings of the *2025 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*, more work needs to be done in order for Nebraskans to enroll in college and complete degrees.
- So, what do we need to do?



- At the high school level:
  - **Increase high school graduation rates and close attainment gaps**
  - Increase the percentage of students who are prepared academically for college
  - **Increase the number of students who take dual and concurrent enrollment courses**
  - **Increase opportunities for students to connect to career pathways of interest to them that lead to employment and additional education**
  - **Increase high school counseling/advising resources to:**
    - Address mental health issues that may slow or prevent high school completion
    - Improve students' awareness of careers and the range of higher ed opportunities and their associated career pathways, and
    - Implement new universal FAFSA completion and help students understand financial aid opportunities and plan the most direct pathway to their educational goals



- At the postsecondary level:
  - **Increase the percentage of high school graduates who go on to college**
  - Encourage students to enroll full time and not delay enrollment
  - Increase efforts to improve retention and persistence rates
  - **Support and expand efforts, such as Transfer Nebraska and 2+2 (A to B) agreements, to improve students' knowledge of how credits will transfer**
  - Make formal connections to communities outside of/in addition to Omaha and Lincoln for mentorships and internships
  - **Identify and reach out to adults with college credit but no earned credential with completion initiatives, including stackable microcredentials and badges that are recognized by employers**
  - Reach out to adults who have basic education needs and enroll them in adult basic education and workforce preparation, such as the Integrated Education and Training Program at Metro CC
  - Continue to build out and publicize the capabilities of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Educational Reporting System (NSWERS) to study the P-16 employment pipeline, including employment trajectories of recent graduates, to develop strategies to reduce brain-drain



- At the state government level:
  - Monitor and work toward the statewide attainment goal that 70% of 25–34-year-old Nebraskans will have a degree or short-term credential with value in the workforce by 2030
  - **Adequately fund public colleges and universities to maintain affordable tuition and fees, provide adequate student support services and timely course offerings, and ensure that a full range of high quality programs connected to Nebraska’s statewide and regional economic needs is available**
  - **Continue to support and increase funding for the Nebraska Opportunity Grant program**
  - Set a statewide goal for dual credit participation and ensure that funding is available to institutions and students to make it achievable
  - Provide resources to ensure the new FAFSA completion high school graduation requirement can be implemented successfully
  - Consider implementing a direct admissions program with Nebraska postsecondary institutions, whereby high school students are notified by institutions that they meet admission requirements before they apply
  - Consider new programs that are aimed at adults without degrees or credentials (ex., Tennessee Reconnect and Missouri’s Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant)
  - Ensure that high-speed broadband is available to all Nebraska families at an affordable cost
  - **Continue funding the Nebraska Career Scholarship Program to attract students to programs leading to occupations identified as high wage, high demand, and high skill in Nebraska and to connect students to Nebraska employers through internship opportunities**
  - Consider tax incentives for graduates with student loan debt who remain in or come to Nebraska to work and/or employers who assist employees with student loan payments
    - Alternatively, create or expand loan forgiveness programs for targeted high-need occupations



# Questions?

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The full report is available online at [ccpe.nebraska.gov](http://ccpe.nebraska.gov)