



Journey of Faith

**A pastoral planning process to
prepare us for the future**

Archdiocese of Omaha Pastoral Planning Office
April 2022



OUR CALL TO RADIATE THE GOSPEL

“I dream of a... missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

— Pope Francis (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 2013)



WHY WE'RE HERE TODAY

OUR GOAL--TO DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF:

- Where we are, where we're going, and why
- Long term trends impacting our parishes and schools
- How we're setting the stage now for listening sessions and decision making

WHY THIS, AND WHY NOW?

- Supports Christ's command for us to radiate the Gospel, and our "Big Goal" for all parishes to live as missional communities by 2026
- Responds to declining Church participation, local demographic shifts, and declining availability of priests
- Our priests and structures are becoming more stretched/stressed as our current pastoral plan ends in 2023

THREE OVERARCHING TRENDS

Declining church participation
Shifting regional demographics
Declining priest availability

TREND ONE: DECLINING CHURCH PARTICIPATION

DECLINING CHURCH PARTICIPATION

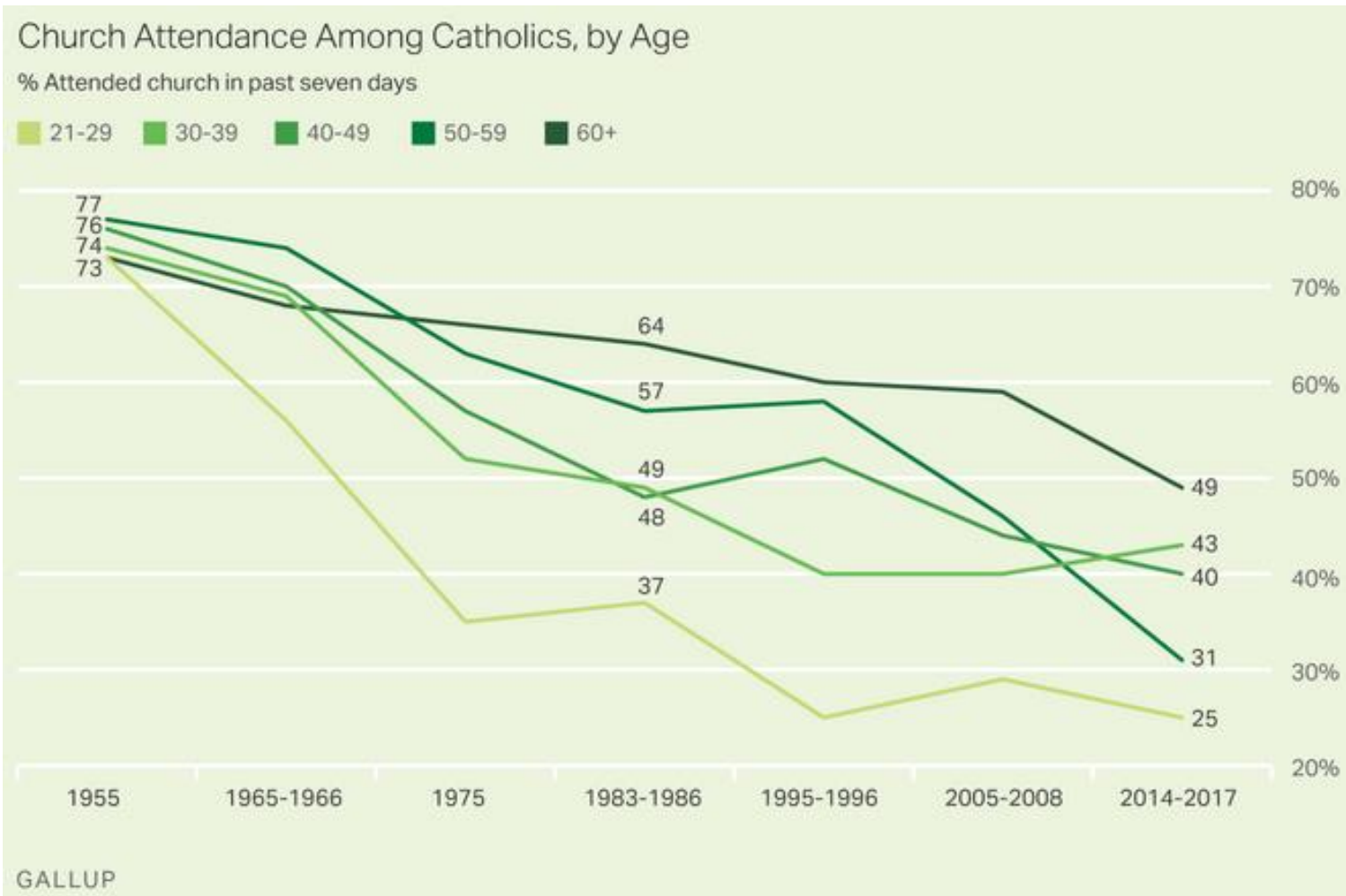
- For every new adult convert to Catholicism in the U.S., 6 adults leave our faith
- The number of Americans who self-identify as unaffiliated with any religion has been increasing
- The number of unaffiliateds affects multiple demographic groups but is **most pronounced among young adults**

Sources:

Pew Research Center, David Masci and Gregory A. Smith. 7 Facts about American Catholics. 10 October 2018.

Pew Research Center, Gregory A. Smith. About Three-in-Ten US Adults are Now Religiously Unaffiliated. 14 December 2021

DECLINING PARTICIPATION IN U.S. MASS ATTENDANCE

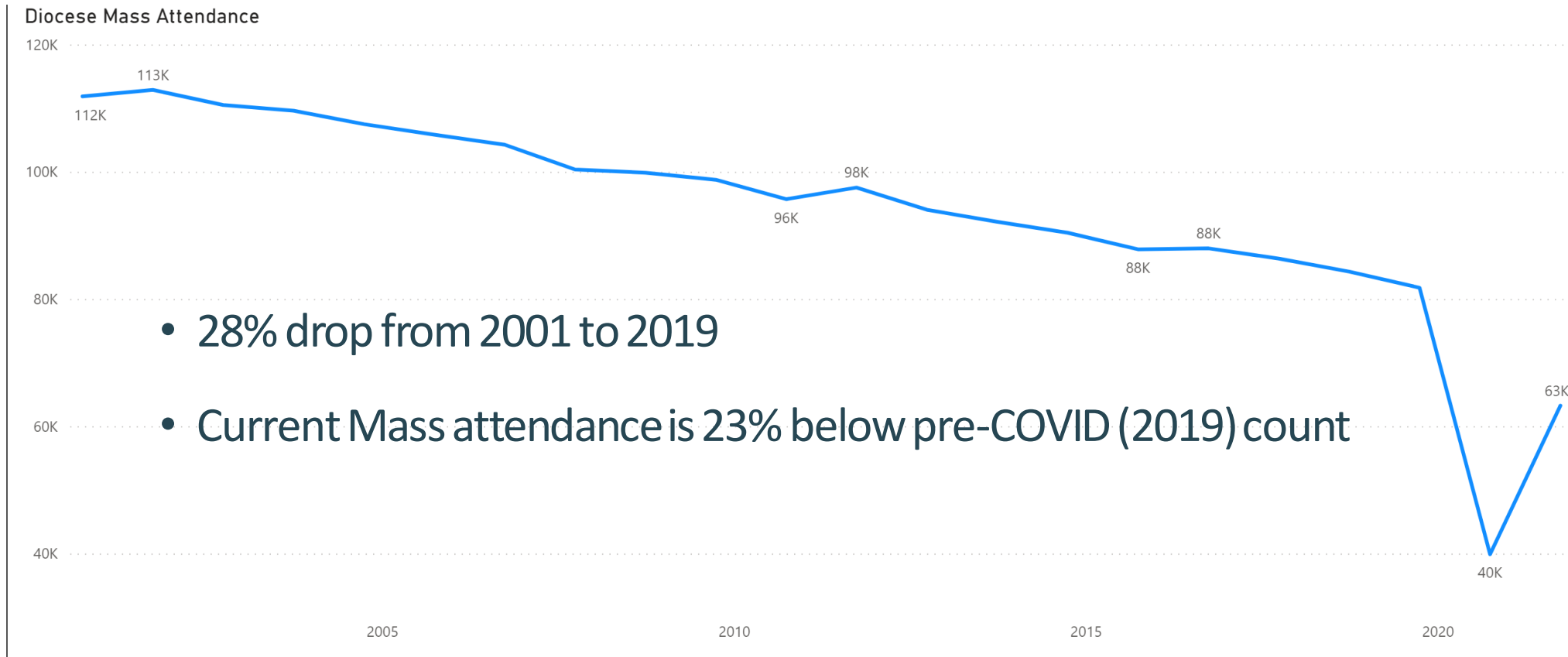


Politics April 9, 2018

Catholics' Church Attendance Resumes Downward Slide

Source: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/232226/church-attendance-among-catholics-resumes-downward-slide.aspx>

DECLINING MASS ATTENDANCE IN OMAHA ARCHDIOCESE

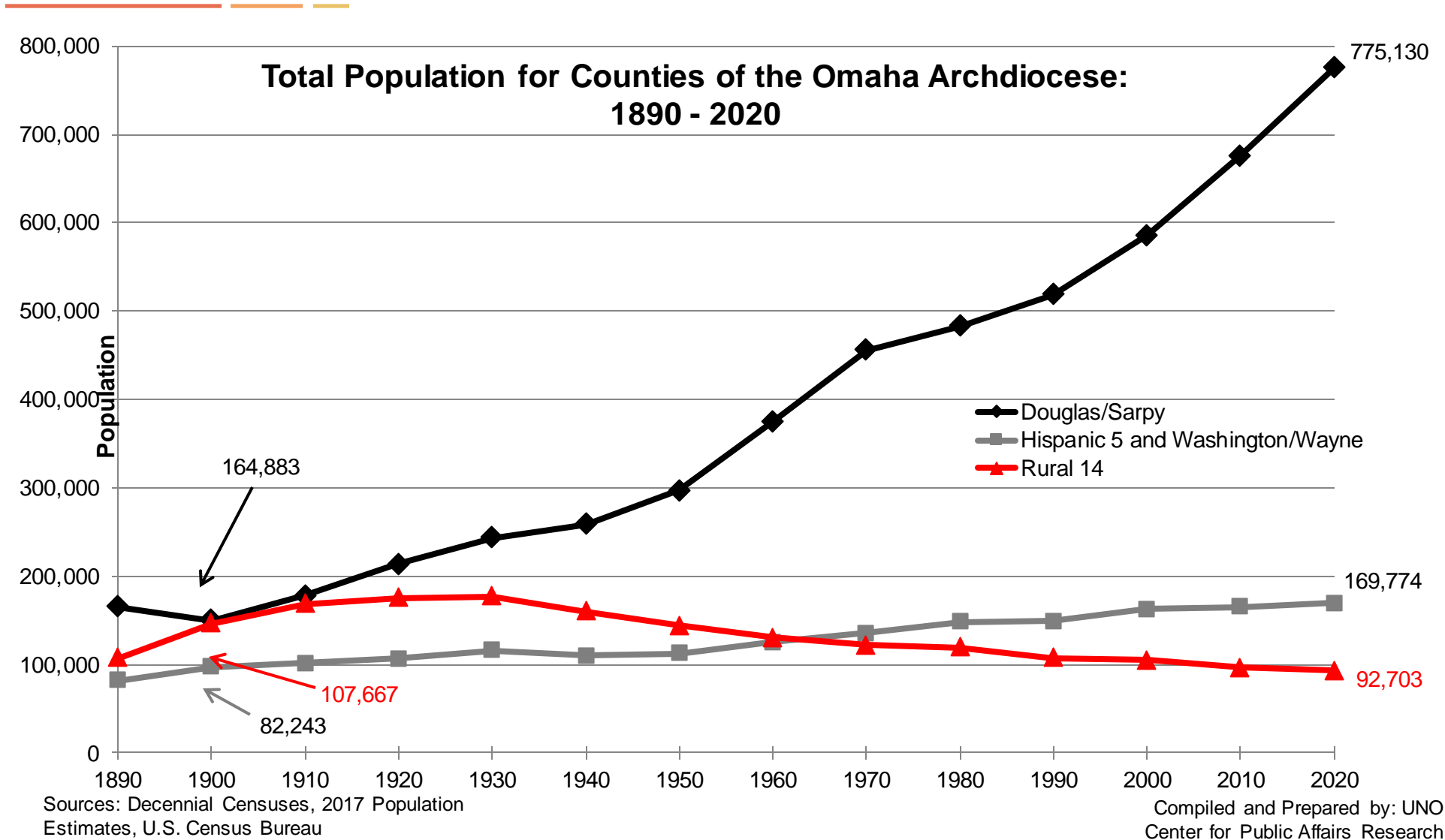


TREND TWO: SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS

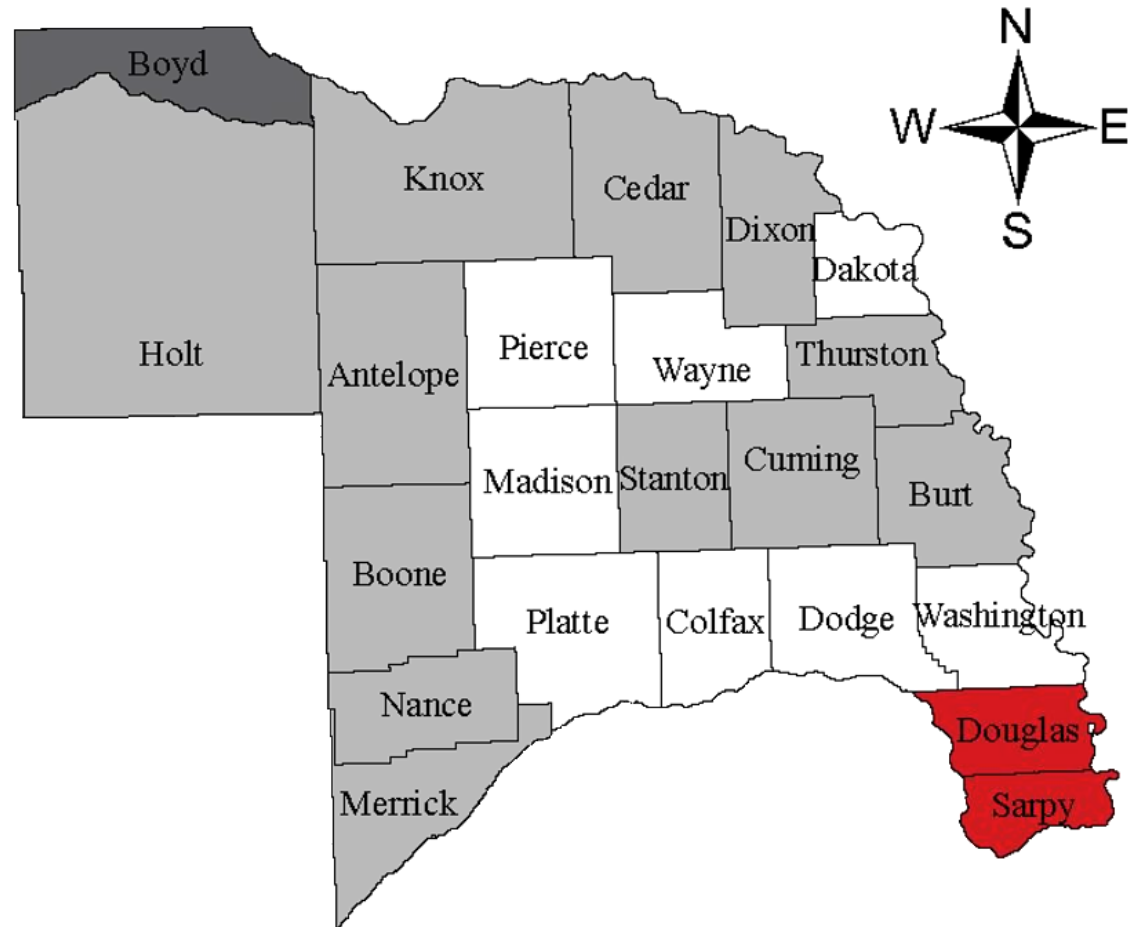
SOME DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN NEBRASKA

- Nebraska's population is becoming more and more concentrated in its most populous counties
- The state's population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse

MORE DENSELY POPULATED AREAS HAVE SEEN POPULATION GROWTH, BUT RURAL POPULATIONS PEAKED IN 1930 AND NOW HAVE FEWER RESIDENTS THAN THEY DID IN 1890!



POPULATION CHANGE IN COUNTIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE: 2010-2020

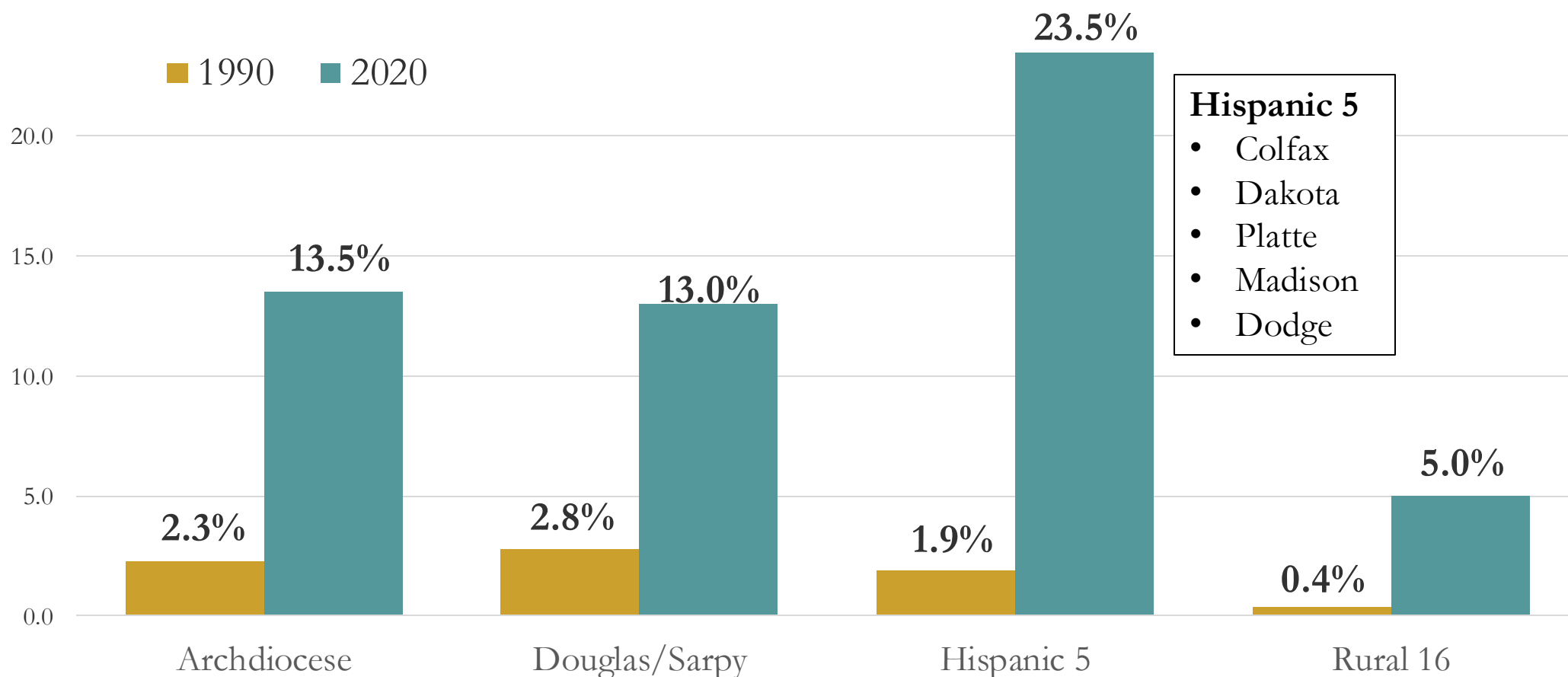


Sources:
2010 and 2020 Censuses,
U.S. Census Bureau

ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA HISPANIC POPULATION GAINS

As a percentage of total population

Sources: 1990 US Census data compiled and prepared by David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on October 5, 2018. 2020 data is available at <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/nebraska-population-change-between-census-decade.html>



DEMOGRAPHICS & MASS ATTENDANCE

SOME MASS ATTENDANCE DATA

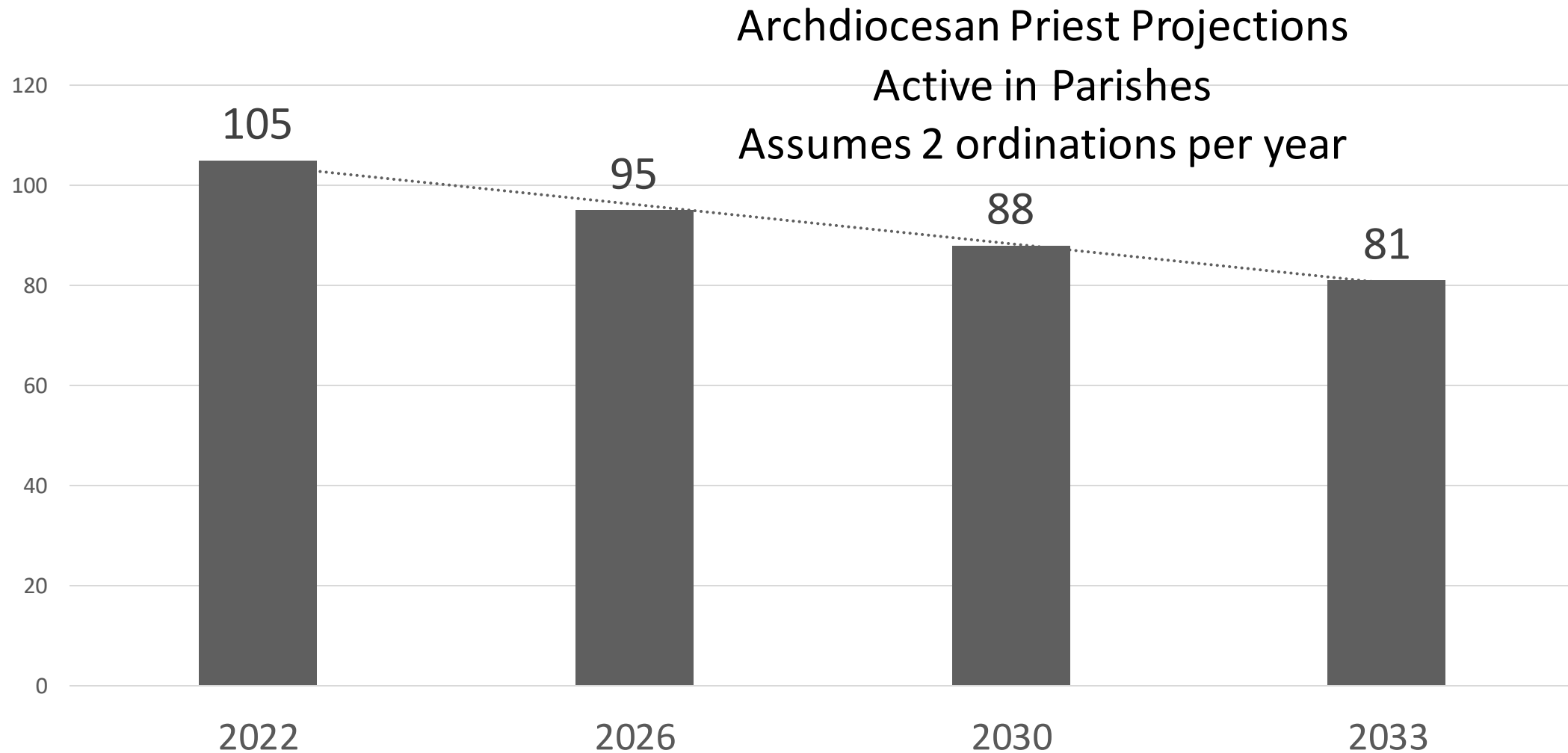
- Total Number of Sunday Mass Locations: 132
- Total Attendance: 63,189
 - 43,758 Omaha Metro (69%)
 - 19,431 Rural (30.8%)
 - 7,550 (39%) of these attend Norfolk, Columbus, Schuyler, and South Sioux City
- The greatest concentration of Mass attendance in archdiocese is in West Omaha

MASS ATTENDANCE AT OUR SMALLER PARISHES

- 30 Rural Parishes & 1 Omaha Parish < 100 weekend attendance
- 31 Rural Parishes & 2 Omaha Parishes 100-200 weekend attendance
- St. Wenceslaus in Omaha has the same Mass attendance as our smallest 51 parishes combined

TREND THREE: DECLINING PRIEST AVAILABILITY

ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA PRIEST PROJECTIONS



WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Our priests and structures are becoming more stretched & stressed as our current pastoral plan ends in 2023

- We have no “bench”: 2 parish priest positions are unfilled now
- Priests have been coming out of retirement to cover for sick priests
- Burnout is a problem: 6 priests have at least temporarily stepped away from ministry for medical or personal reasons in the last 6 months

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

1. Across the entire archdiocese, Mass attendance has decreased by about a third in the last twenty years.
2. Across the entire archdiocese, population is shifting towards more populous areas. Smaller places are getting smaller and bigger places are getting bigger.
3. Our priests are becoming more stressed and stretched, and by 2033 the number of priests available is projected to drop by about a quarter.

A CALL TO ACTION

Archbishop Lucas recognizes this pivotal moment in our history and has directed:

- a comprehensive, mission-oriented plan that
- promotes a flourishing Church and
- includes broad lay and clergy consultation

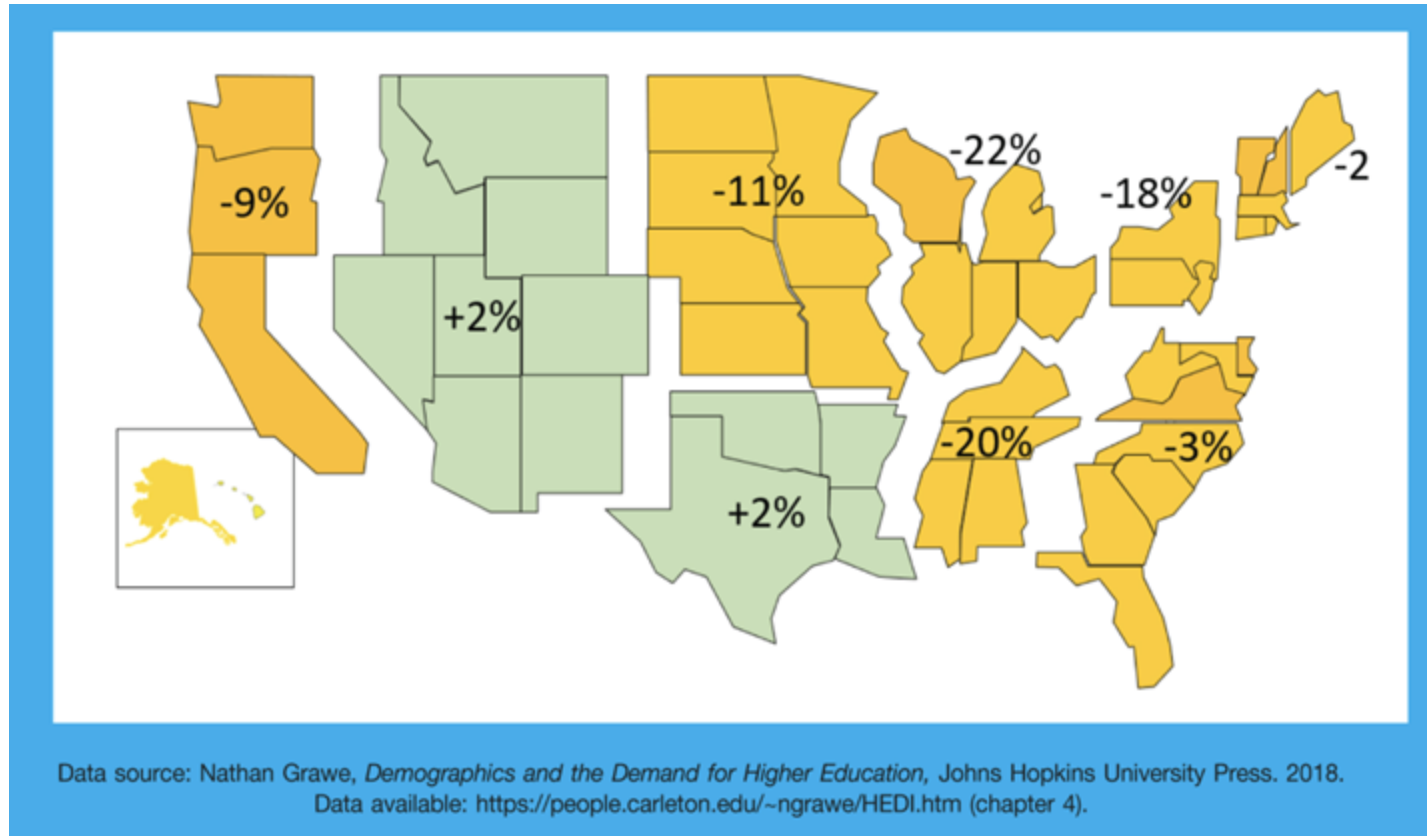
THE STATE OF EDUCATION

Nebraska Data
Local School Data

TEACHER SHORTAGE DATA

Data Gathered from Nebraska Teacher
Shortage and Vacancy Reports

The Great Enrollment Cliff



Forecasted Changes in College-Age Population, by Census Division

National Trends

- Fewer high school graduates each year from 2014 to 2023
- Between 2027 and 2032, the average size of graduating high school classes is expected to decline
- Private high schools will decline even more sharply—by 26 percent, or 80,000 fewer graduates

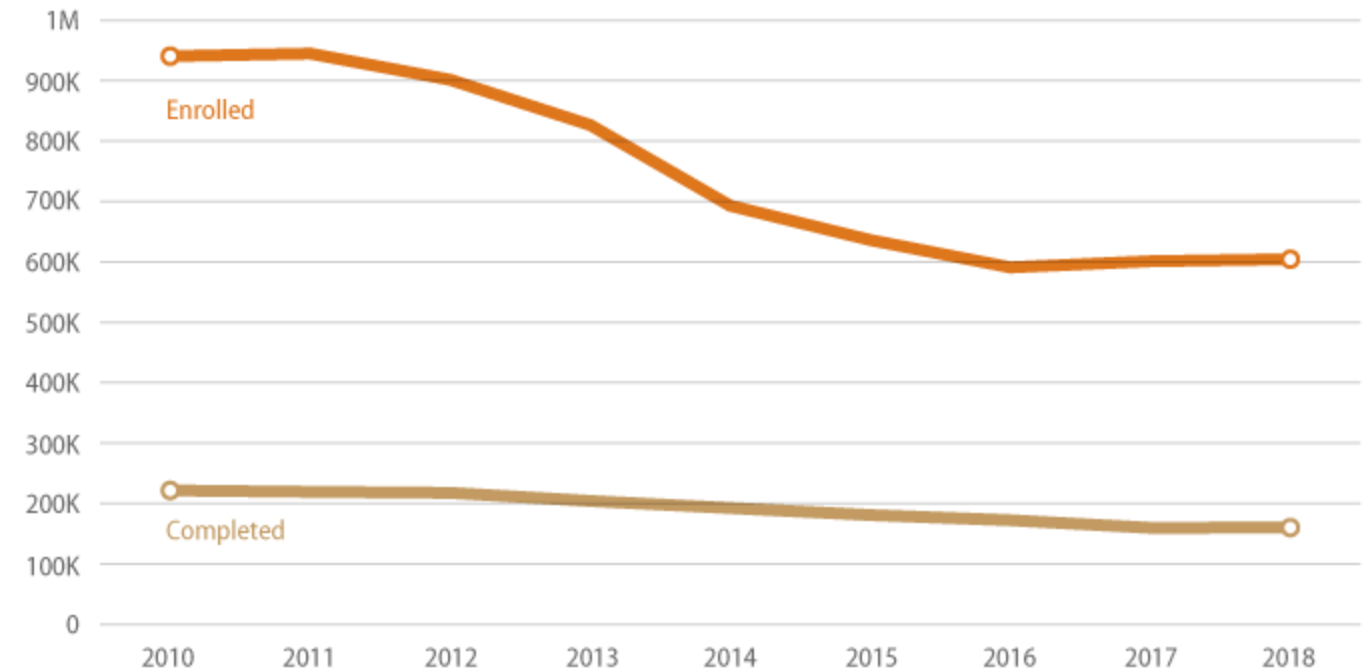
Current Teacher Preparation Program Enrollment Trends

- As of 2017, over the past eight years, enrollment in Teacher Prep Programs has decreased
 - 38% Nationally (NCES)
 - 48% in Nebraska (NDE)
- Program completion has also been declining steadily since 2012

FIGURE 2

Both enrollment in and completion of teacher preparation programs have fallen

Teacher preparation program enrollment and completion by year, 2010–2018

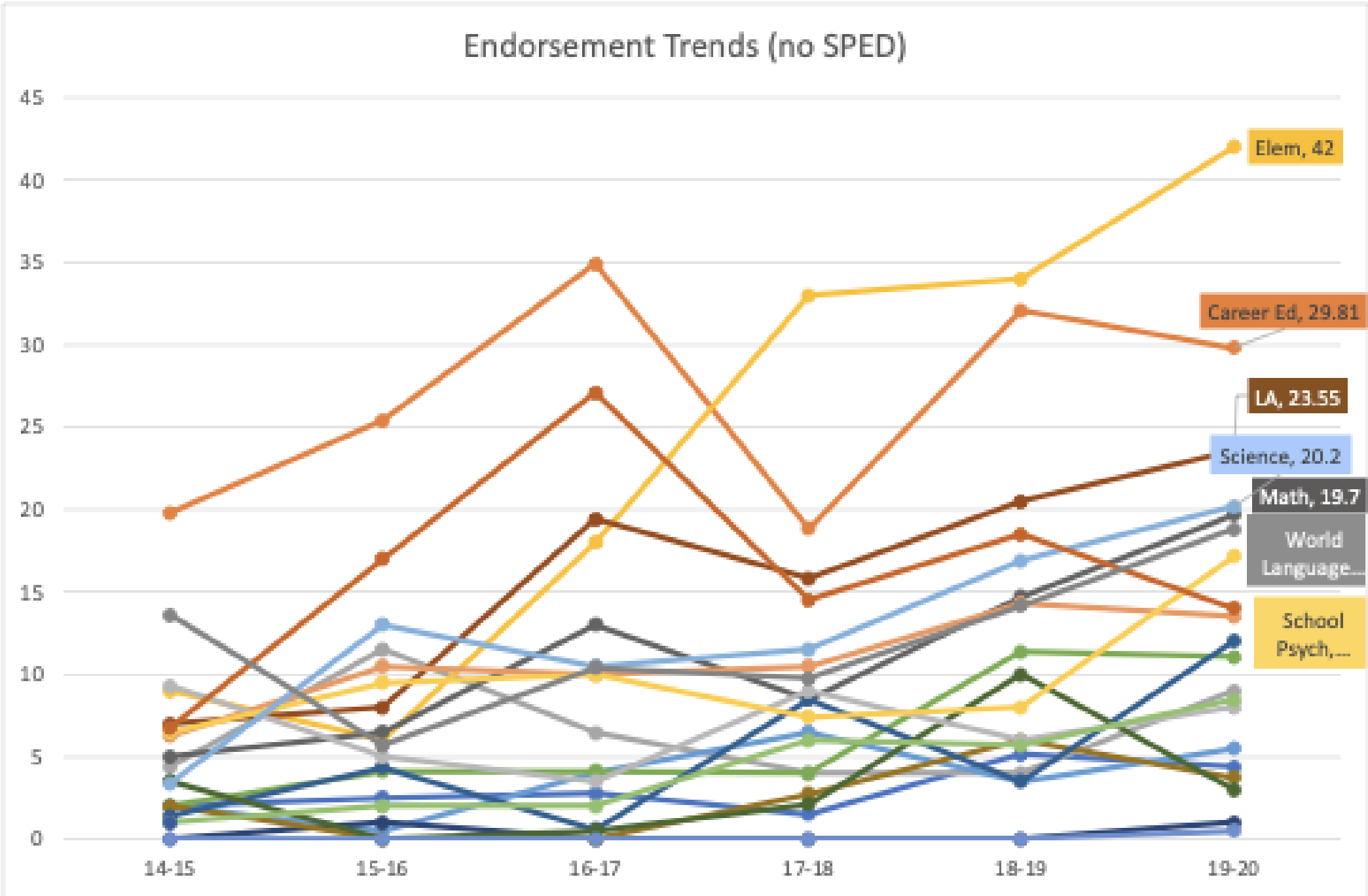


Source: Author's calculations based on U.S. Department of Education, "Title II Reports," available at <https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Home.aspx> (last accessed October 2019).

Vacancy Rates by Subject Area

Endorsement Trends (no SPED)

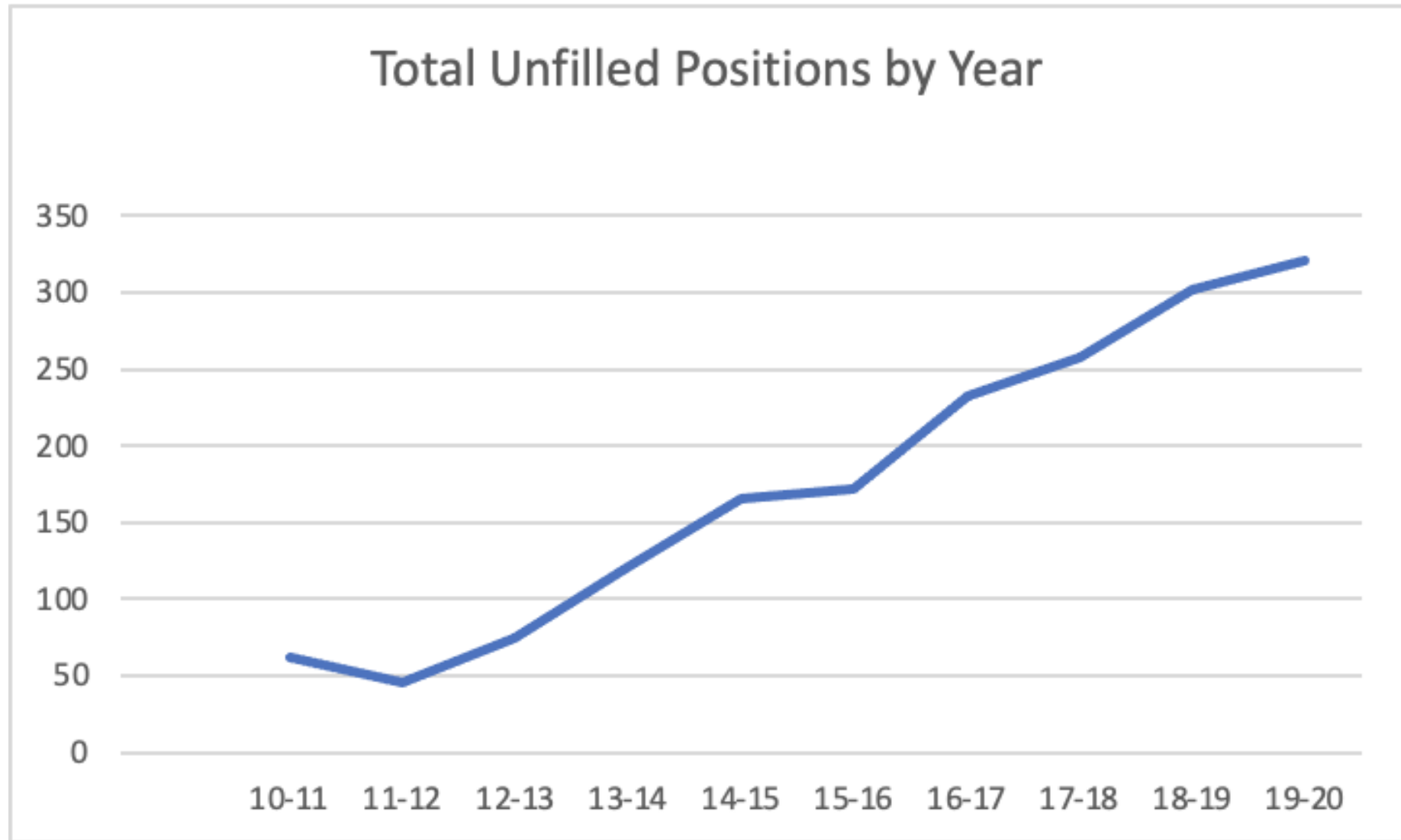
Number of unfilled positions



Top 5 trending shortage areas:

- Special Education
- Elementary
- Career Education
(Ag Ed., BMIT, FCS,
Skilled/Technical Sciences)
- Language Arts
- Science

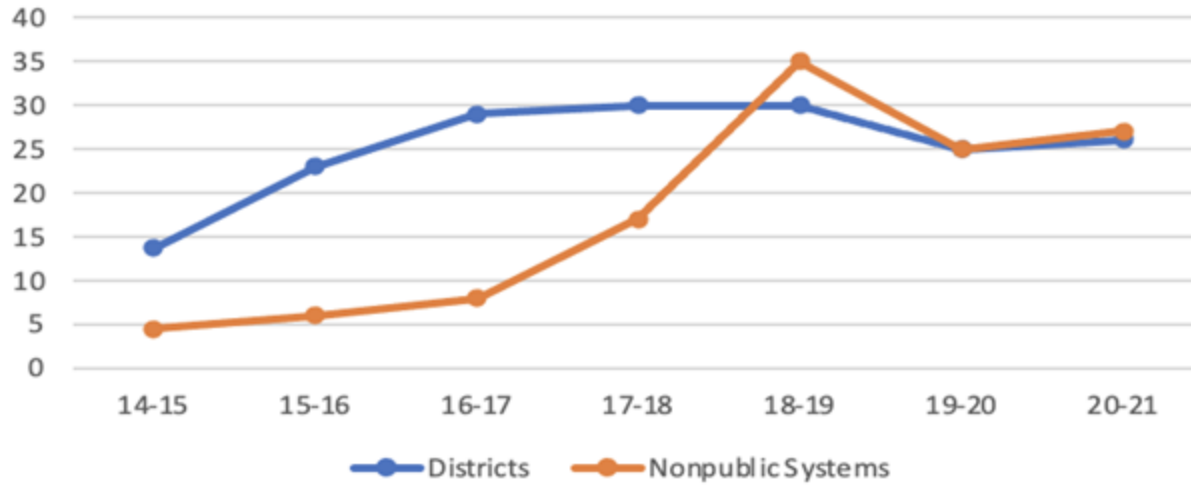
Unfilled refers to a position that was filled by someone other than a fully qualified teacher or a position that was left vacant.



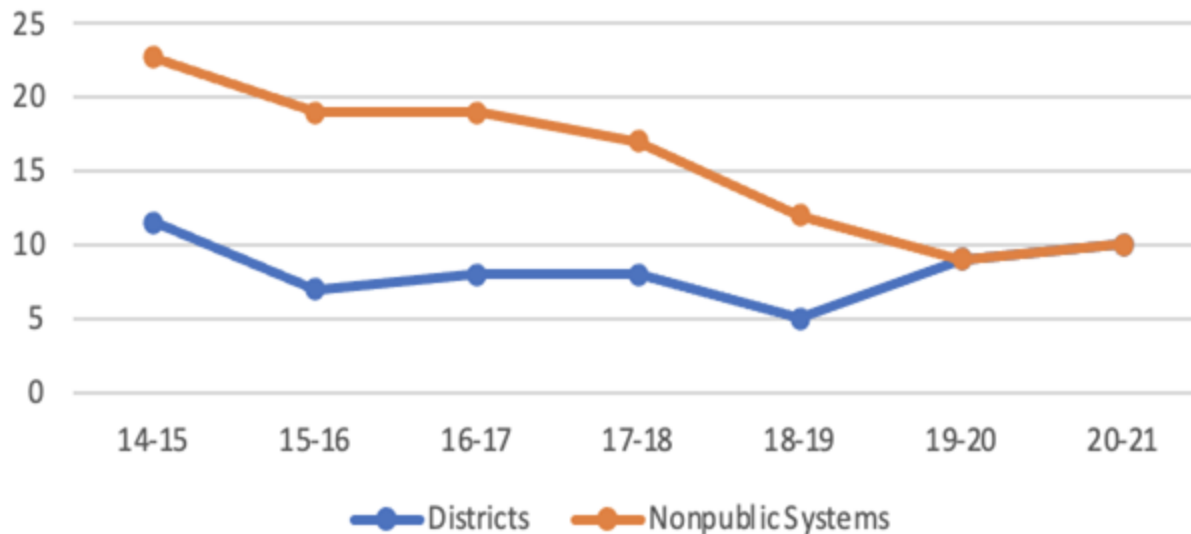
Reasons for Unfilled and Vacant Positions

y-axis shows percent of unfilled positions

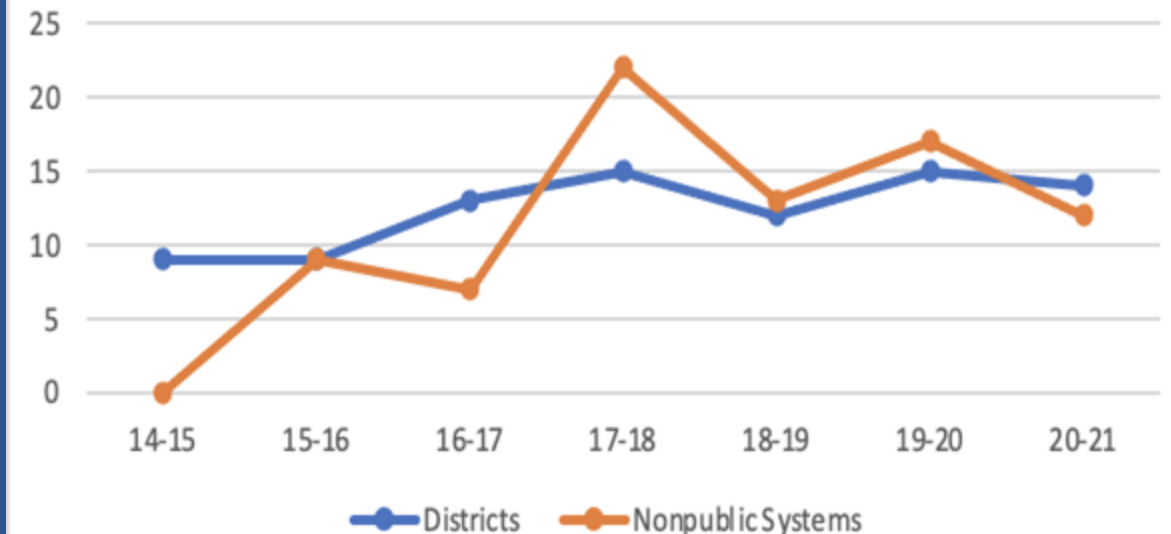
No Applicants



Qualified applicant refused offer for position



Position was not filled

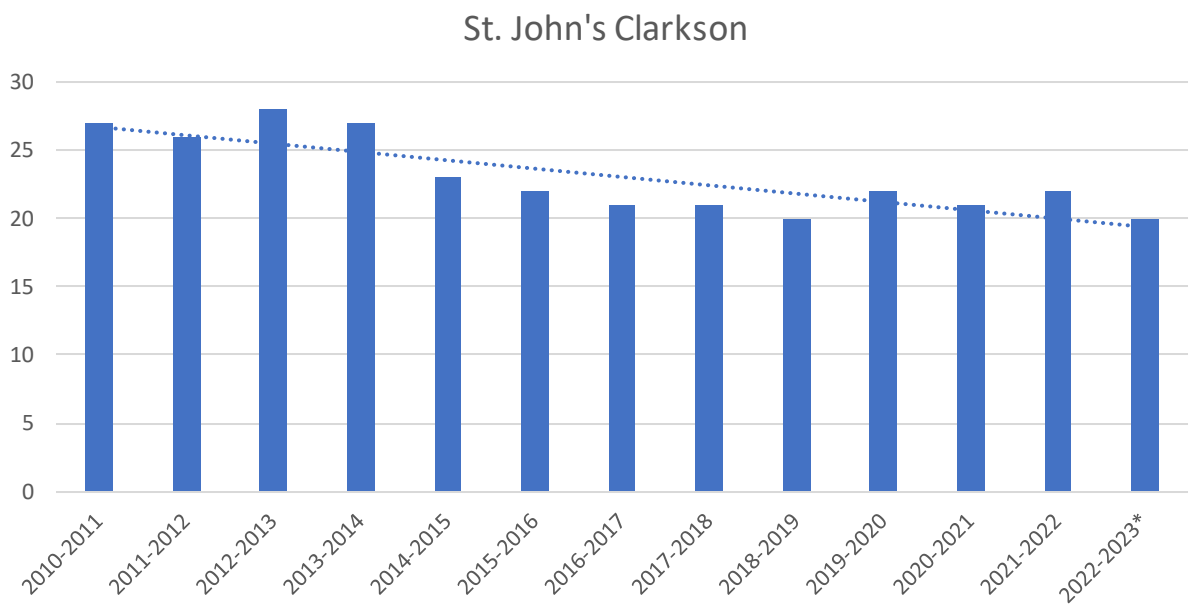


LOCAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Clarkson St. John

13 yr Enrollment Trend

Year	Enrollment
2010-2011	27
2011-2012	26
2012-2013	28
2013-2014	27
2014-2015	23
2015-2016	22
2016-2017	21
2017-2018	21
2018-2019	20
2019-2020	22
2020-2021	21
2021-2022	22
2022-2023*	20



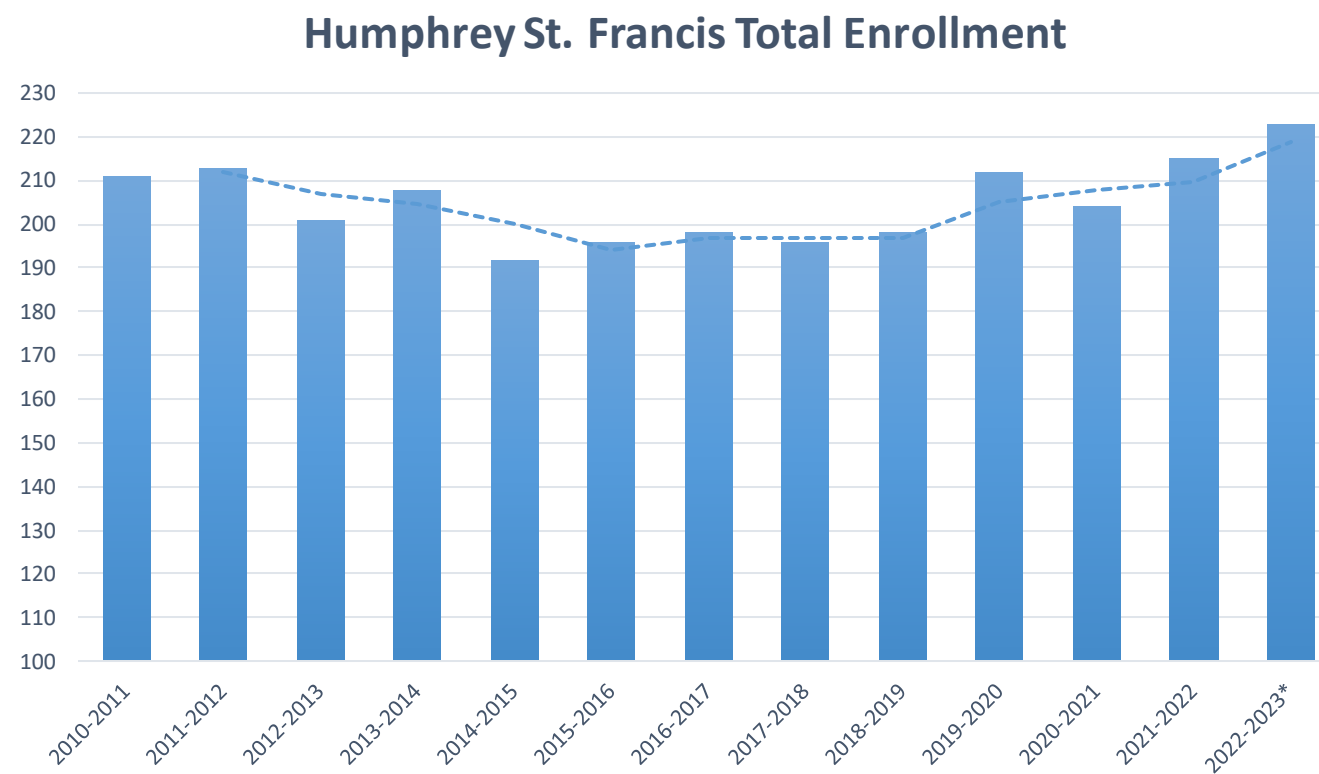
St. John – Clarkson 10 Year Enrollment by Grade

St. John Nepomucene - Clarkson										
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Kindergarten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1st Grade	5	3	4	5	3	3	5	3	4	3
2nd Grade	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	4
3rd Grade	3	4	3	3	3	5	3	3	5	3
4th Grade	6	3	4	3	3	3	5	2	3	5
5th Grade	5	5	3	4	3	3	3	5	2	3
6th Grade	3	5	5	3	5	3	3	3	5	2
Total	27	23	22	21	21	20	22	21	22	20

Humphrey St. Francis

13 yr Enrollment Trend

Year	Enrollment
2010-2011	211
2011-2012	213
2012-2013	201
2013-2014	208
2014-2015	192
2015-2016	196
2016-2017	198
2017-2018	196
2018-2019	198
2019-2020	212
2020-2021	204
2021-2022	215
2022-2023*	223



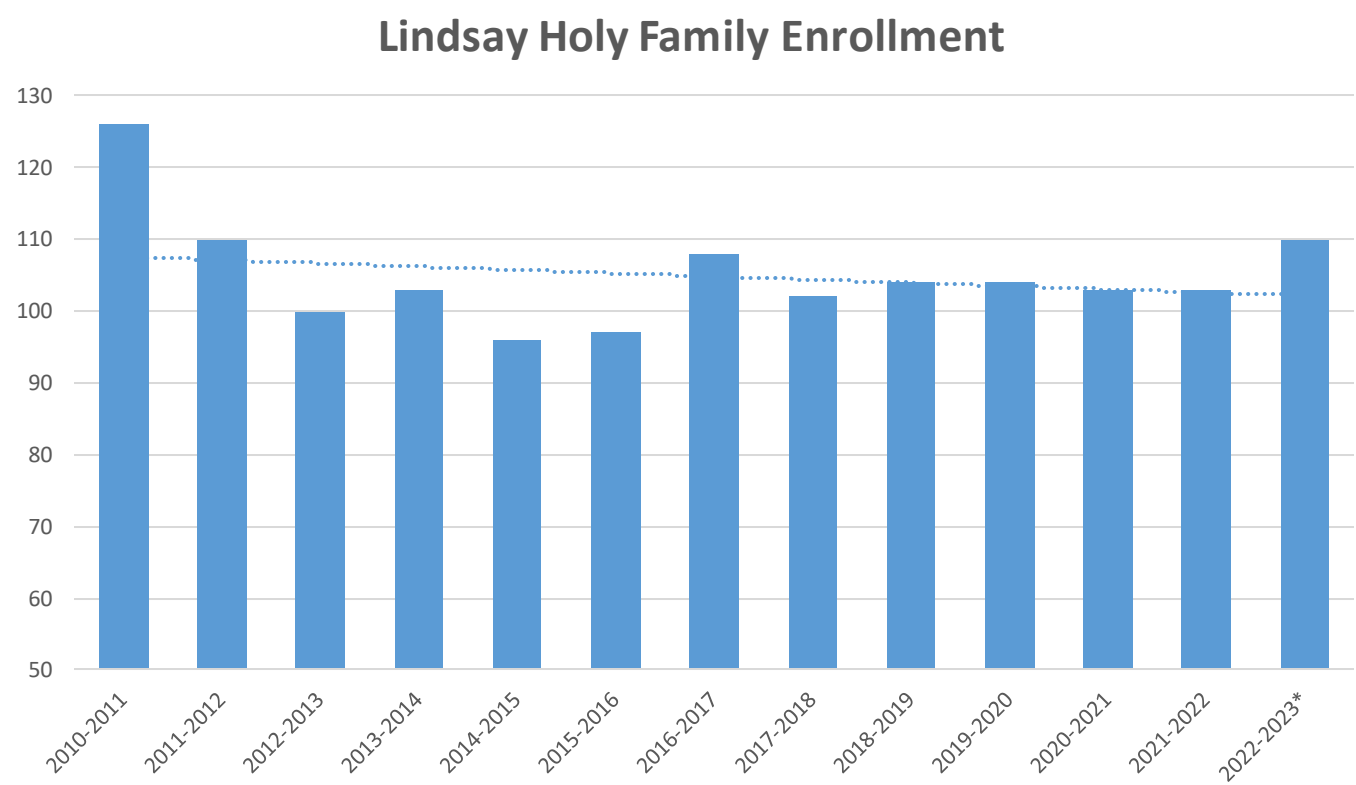
Humphrey St. Francis 10 Year Enrollment by Grade

	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Kindergarten	20	13	18	12	20	19	24	14	24	26
1st Grade	11	18	12	17	12	18	19	22	14	23
2nd Grade	16	10	19	12	17	13	19	19	23	14
3rd Grade	14	15	10	19	12	16	13	19	19	22
4th Grade	13	14	15	10	19	12	16	13	19	20
5th Grade	8	15	14	16	10	19	13	16	15	16
6th Grade	17	8	14	15	16	10	19	13	16	14
7th Grade	13	19	11	13	15	18	11	20	13	16
8th Grade	16	13	19	13	12	15	16	11	19	13
9th Grade	21	16	13	20	14	12	15	16	12	16
10th Grade	15	20	16	14	20	15	12	14	15	11
11th Grade	20	14	21	17	12	20	15	12	13	15
12th Grade	24	17	14	20	17	11	20	15	13	13
TOTAL	208	192	196	198	196	198	212	204	215	219

Lindsay Holy Family

13 yr Enrollment Trend

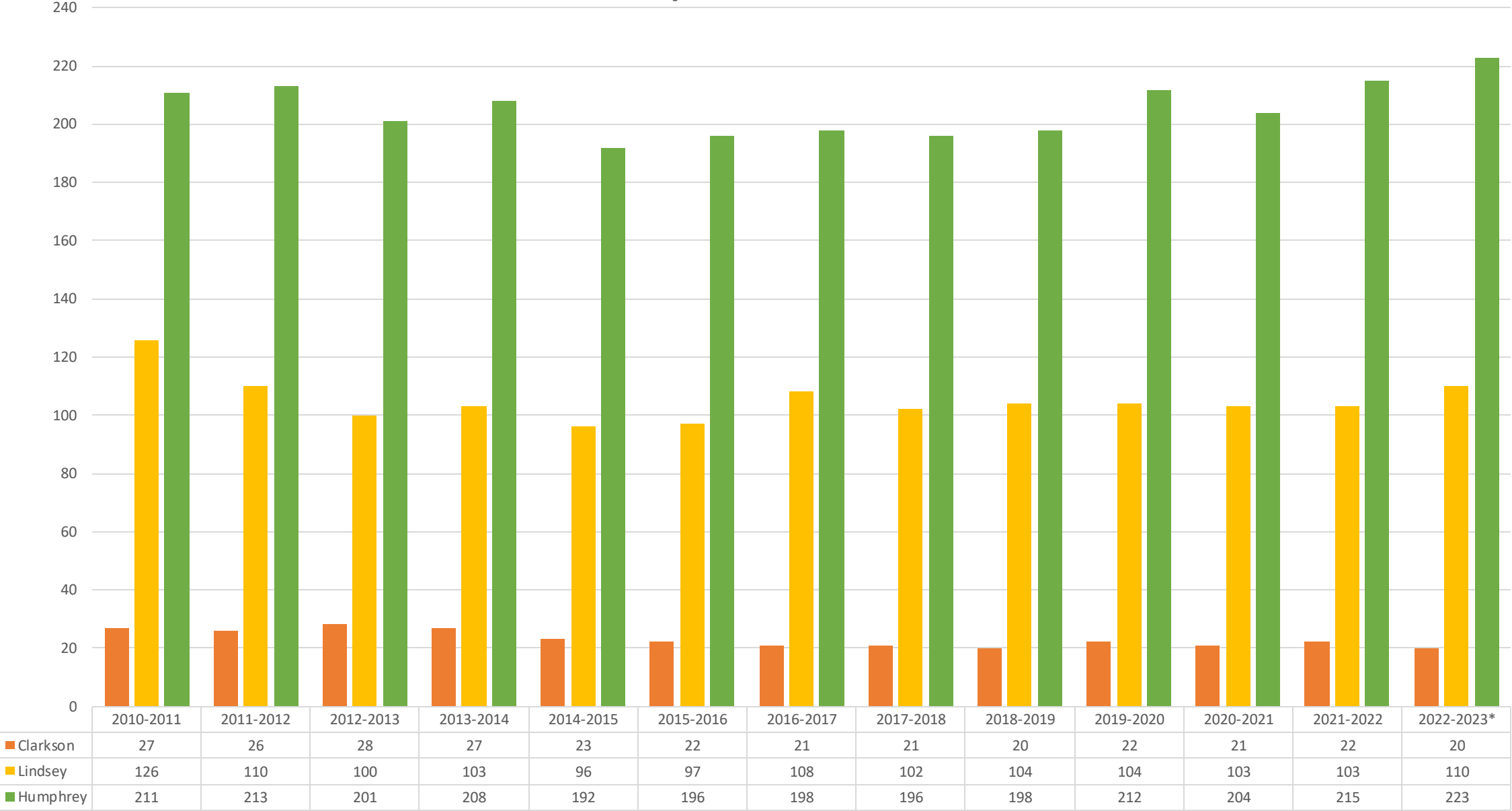
Year	Enrollment
2010-2011	126
2011-2012	110
2012-2013	100
2013-2014	103
2014-2015	96
2015-2016	97
2016-2017	108
2017-2018	102
2018-2019	104
2019-2020	104
2020-2021	103
2021-2022	103
2022-2023*	110



Lindsay Holy Family 10 Year Enrollment by Grade

	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Kindergarten	5	10	10	9	10	9	10	13	9	12
1st Grade	10	6	11	14	8	10	9	10	13	9
2nd Grade	3	10	6	11	14	8	9	7	10	13
3rd Grade	7	2	10	7	11	14	8	9	7	10
4th Grade	9	6	2	11	7	11	14	8	9	7
5th Grade	8	9	6	2	11	8	11	13	8	9
6th Grade	7	8	9	6	1	10	6	11	13	8
7th Grade	6	6	8	9	7	1	10	5	11	13
8th Grade	6	6	6	8	9	7	0	10	5	11
9th Grade	14	6	6	5	7	8	7	0	8	5
10th Grade	3	13	6	6	5	7	8	5	0	8
11th Grade	11	3	14	6	6	5	7	5	5	0
12th Grade	14	11	3	14	6	6	5	7	5	5
TOTAL	103	96	97	108	102	104	104	103	103	110

Enrollment Comparison of All Three Schools



Next steps

2 Listening sessions, both 7:00 – 8:30 pm

- August 17th at Lindsay Holy Family
- August 24th at Humphrey St. Francis

We'll provide a summary report of what we hear to your
Family Pastoral Planning Team



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

