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INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH

Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America

The Critical Importance for Houston's Future of Making Major Improvements in Education for the New Economy.

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City Council Subcommittee on
Education, 11 September 2019.

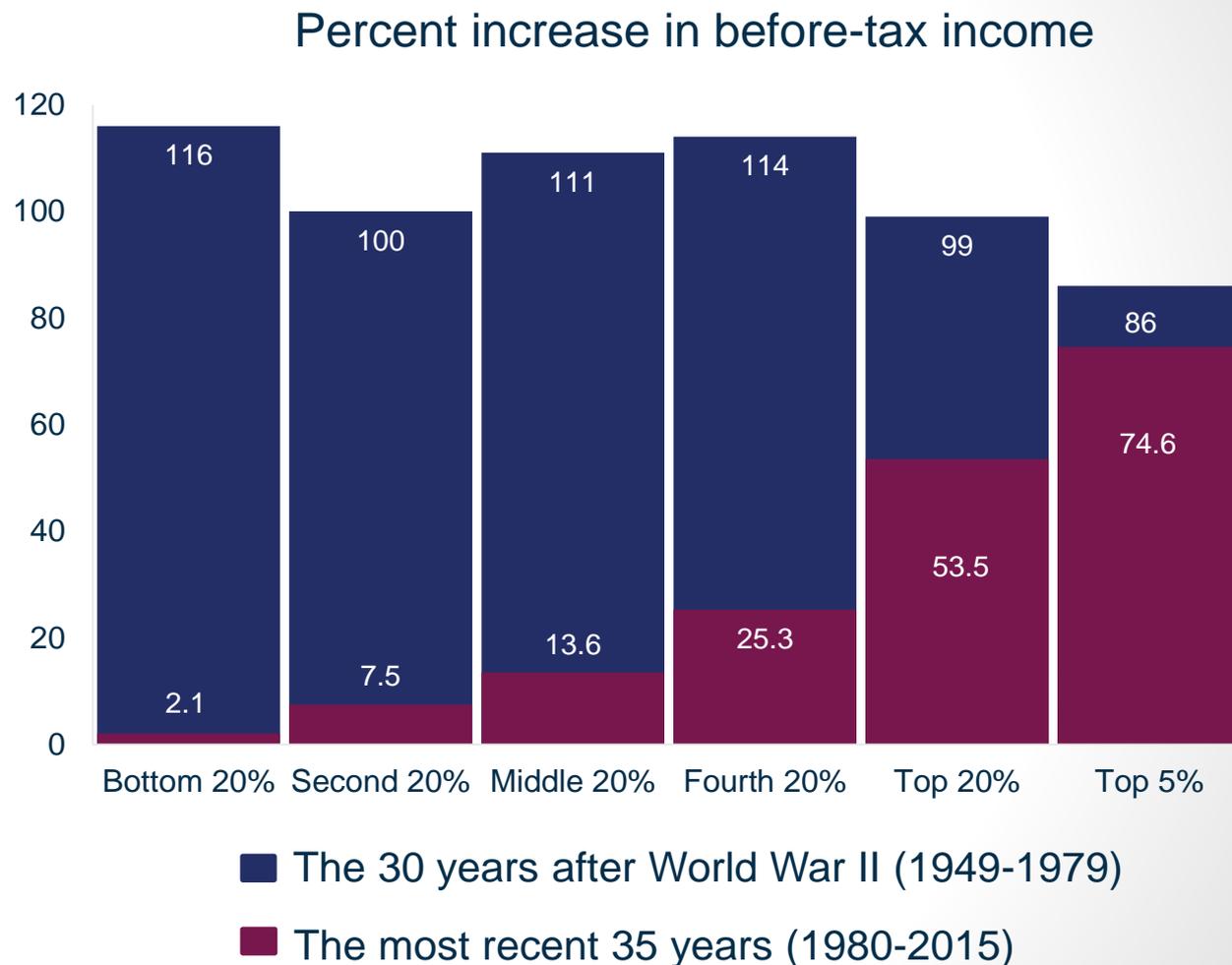
The Kinder Houston Area Survey (1982-Present)

Thirty-eight years of systematic interviews with successive representative samples of Harris County residents have explored the way the general public is responding to three fundamental new realities:

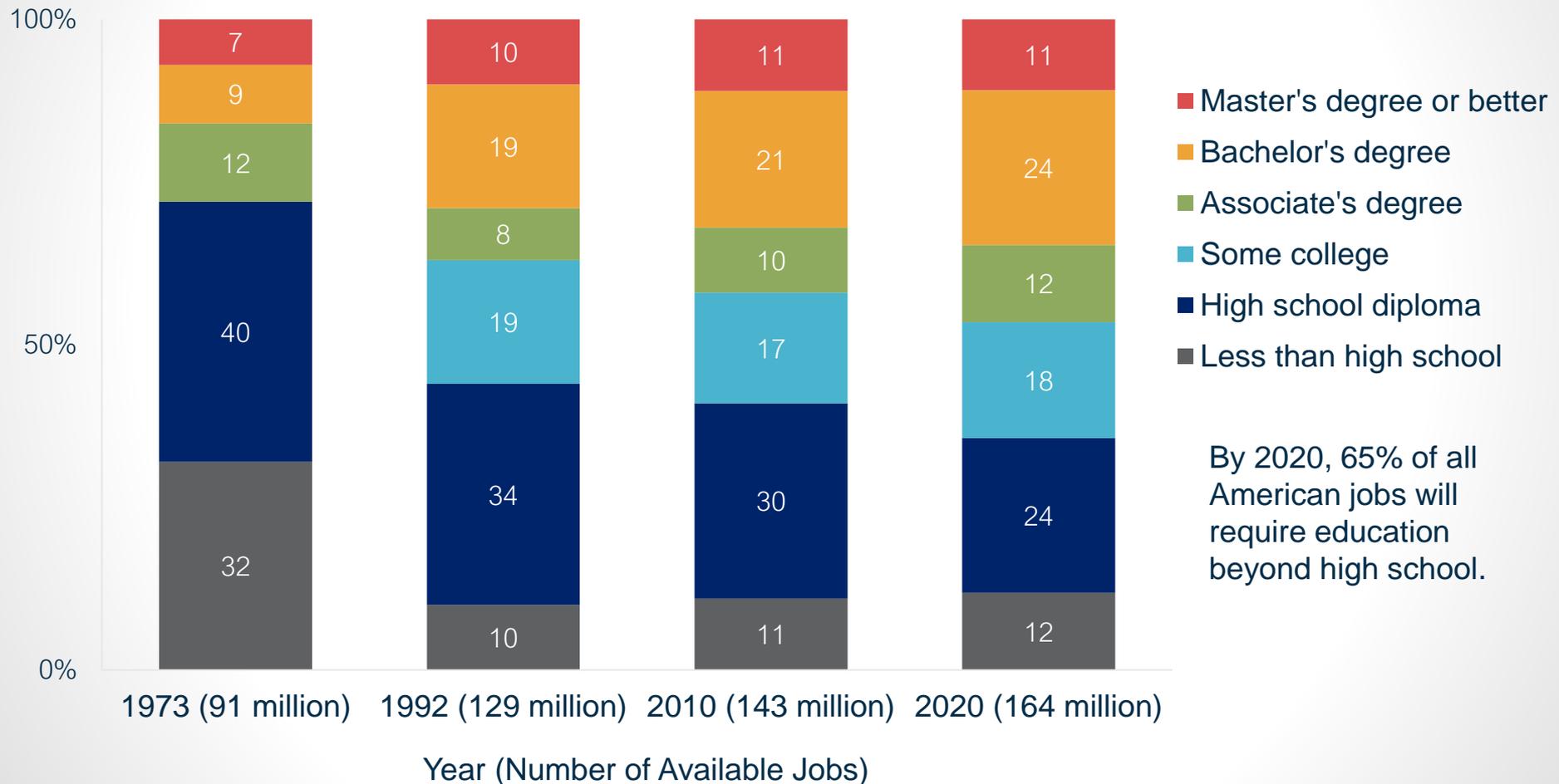
Two contrasting economic eras (1949 to 1979; and 1980 to the present)

The 30 years after World War II were a period of broad-based prosperity.

The past 35 years have seen increasing inequalities in income and wealth.

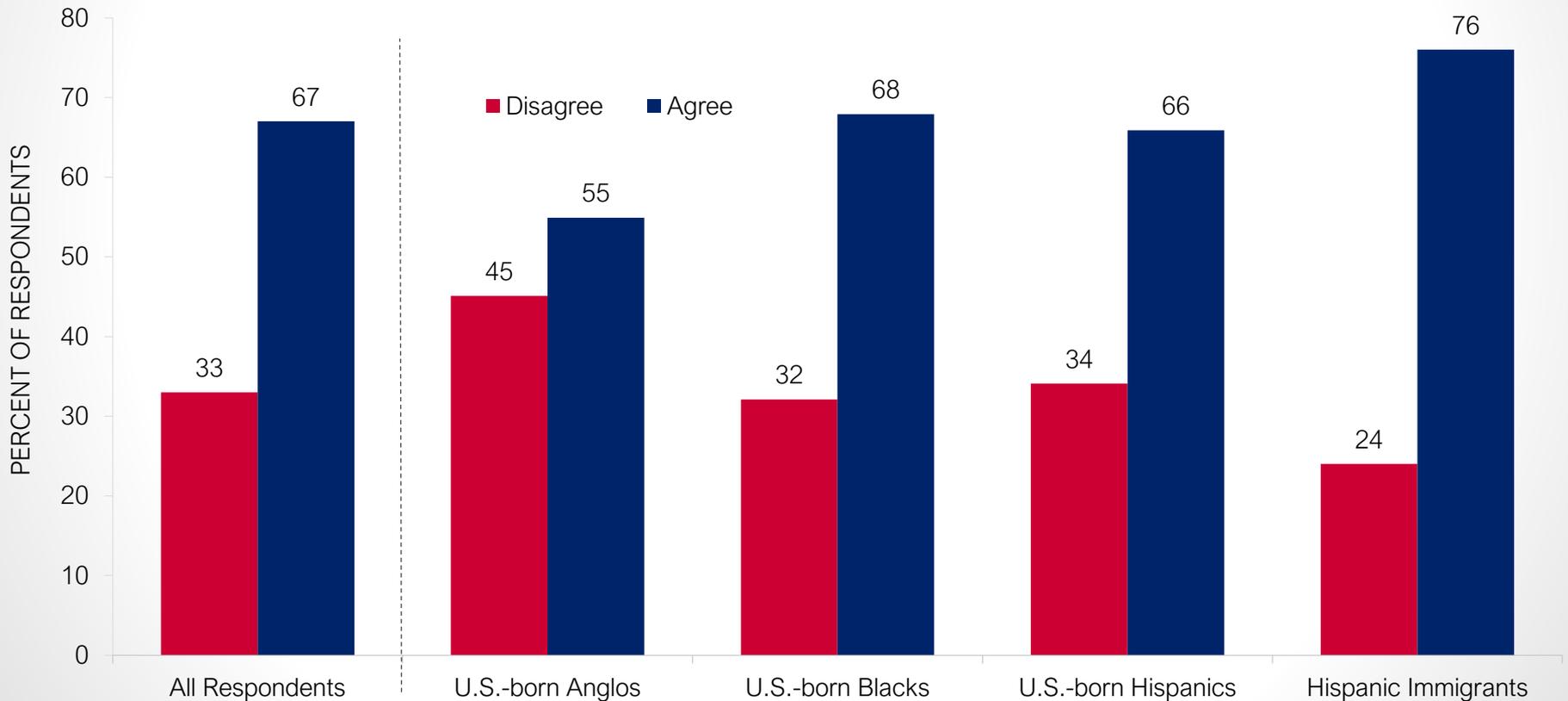


The educational requirements for jobs across America (1970-2020)

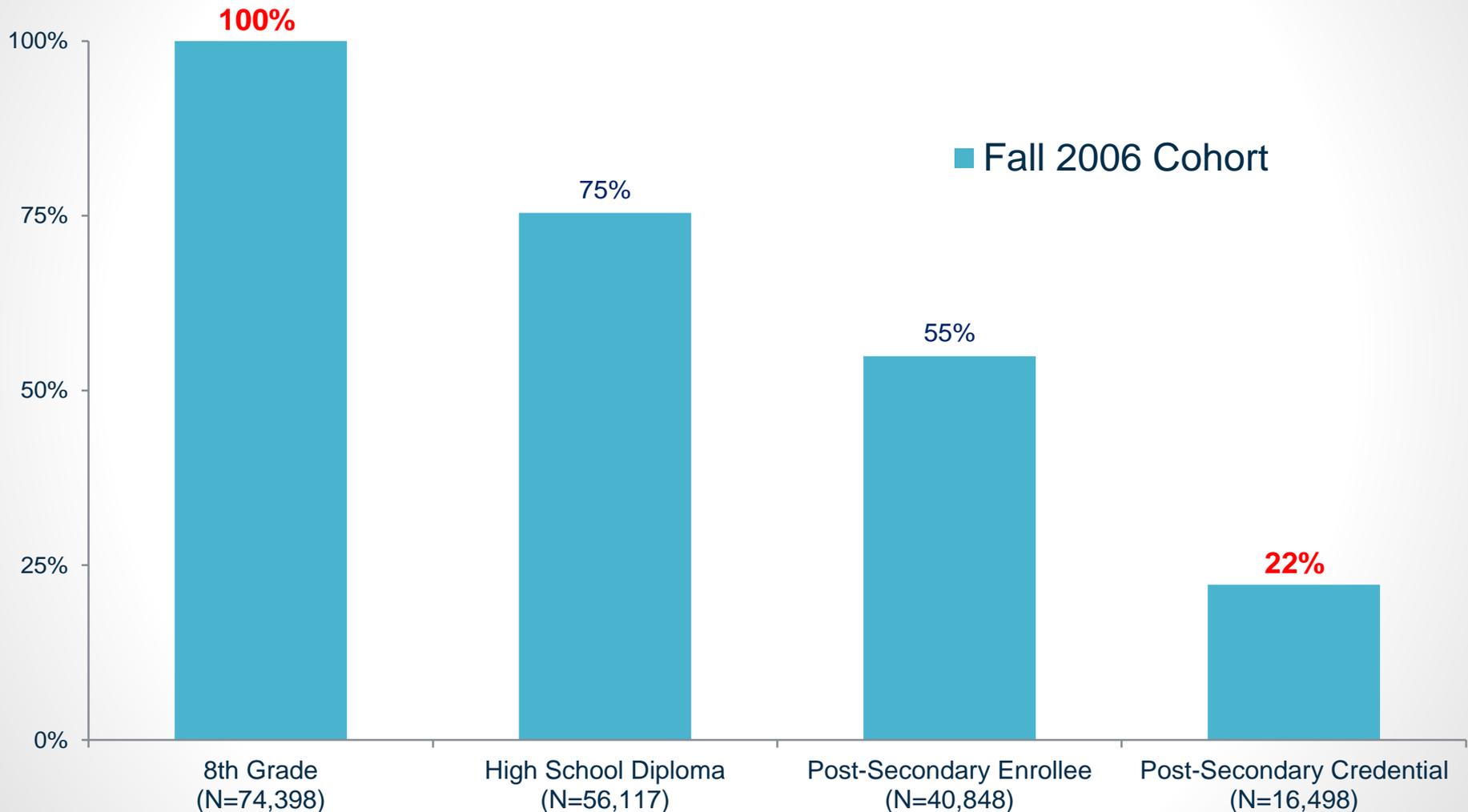


The need for education beyond high school to qualify for a well-paid job (2019)

“In order to get a job that pays more than \$35,000 a year, you need to have at least one or two years of education beyond high school.”



The fates of all eighth graders in the Houston region through their next 11 years (2006-2017)



The proportions of HISD seniors who are “college ready,” by ethnic background

SAT/ACT Results by Ethnicity (HISD Class of 2016)

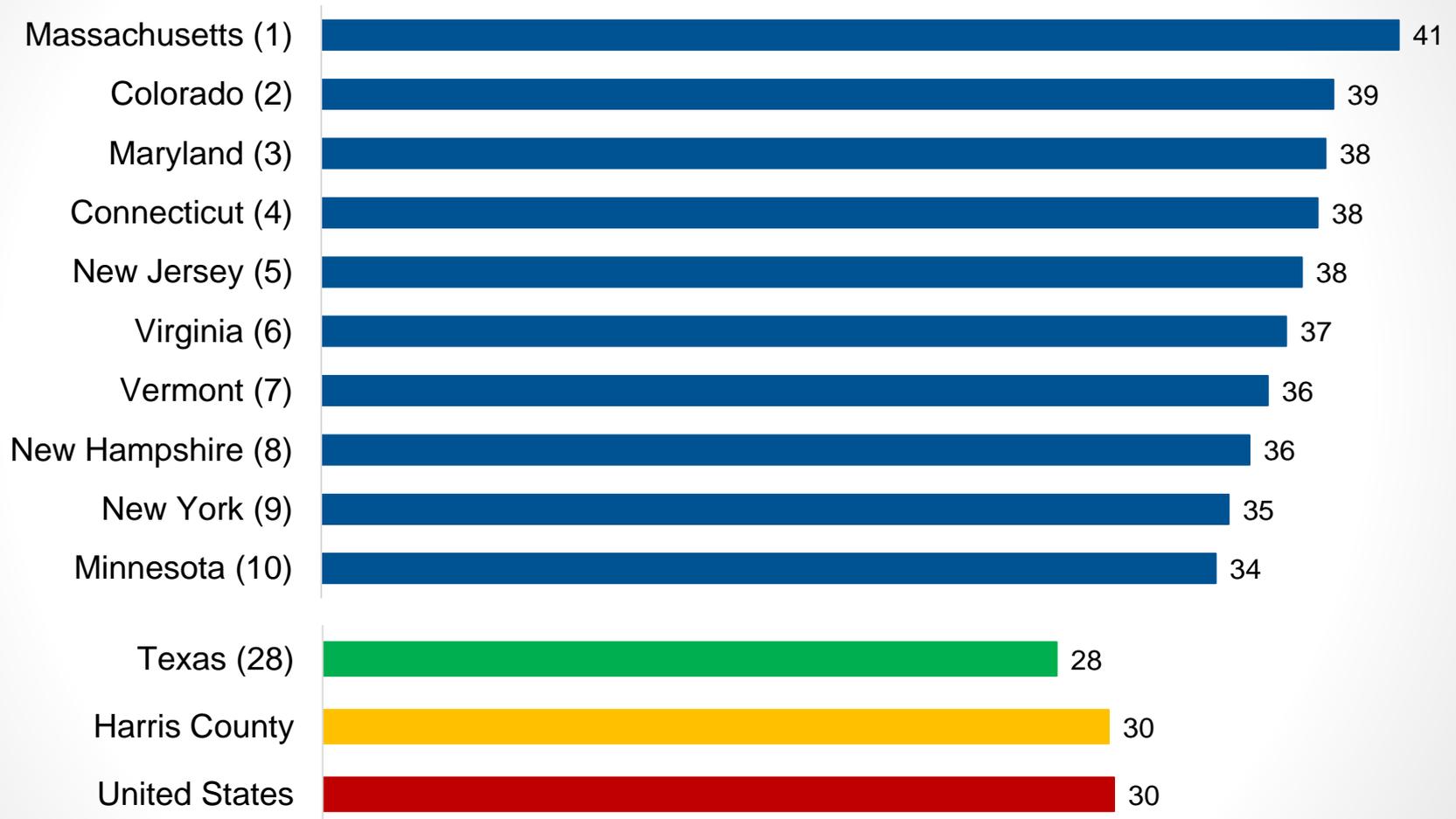
Ethnicity	% At or Above Criterion	% Tested
African American	6.5%	96.6%
Asian	58.1%	—
Hispanic	7.5%	94.8%
White	50.4%	90.1%

Note: The criterion is 1110 on the SAT critical reading and mathematics combined and 24 on the ACT composite. “—” indicates that the data for this item were statistically improbable, or were reported outside a reasonable range.

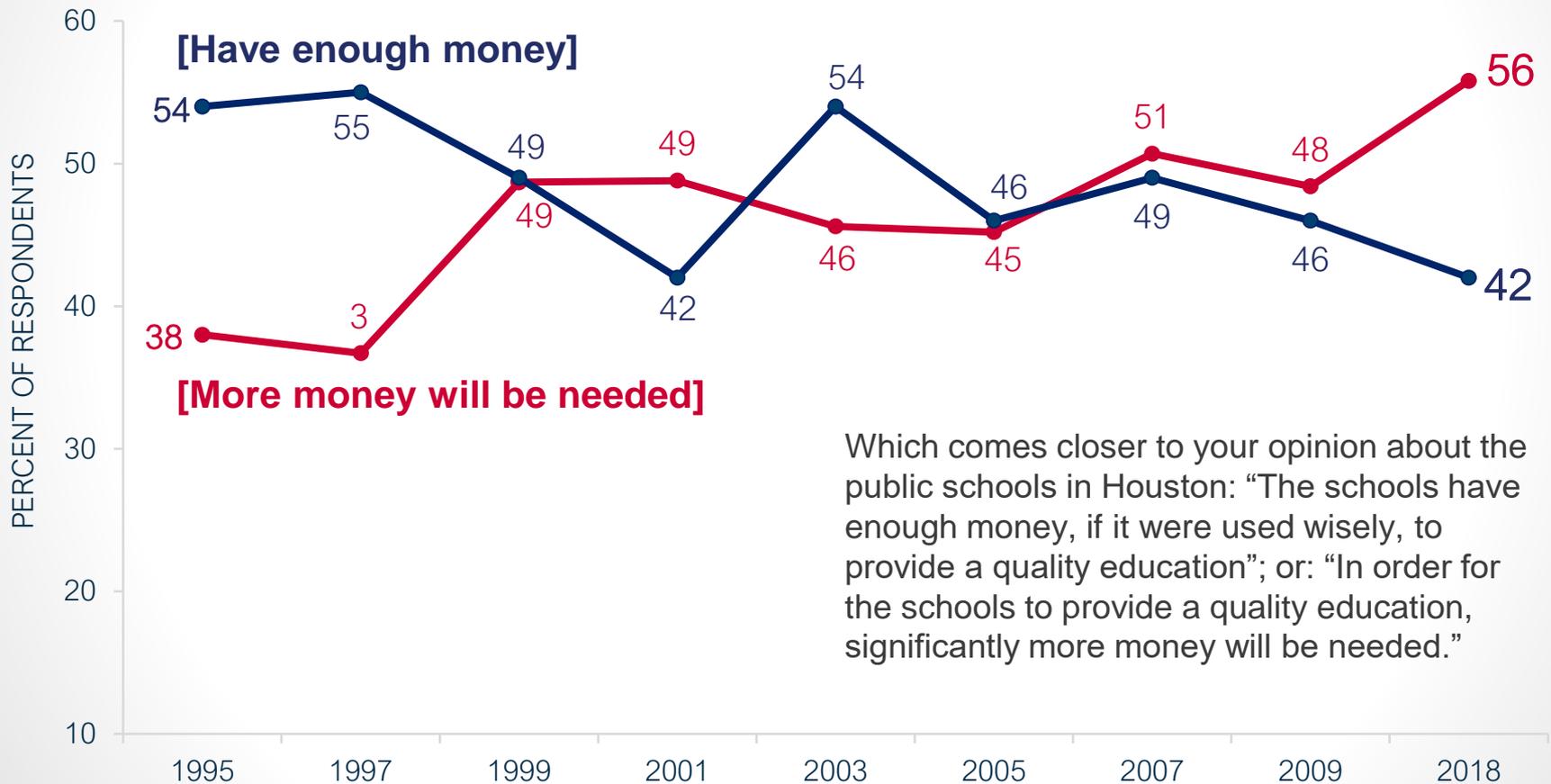
U.S. states ranked by percent adults aged 25+ with high school diplomas (ACS, 2012-16)



U.S. states ranked by percent adults aged 25+ with college degree or more (ACS, 2012-2016)

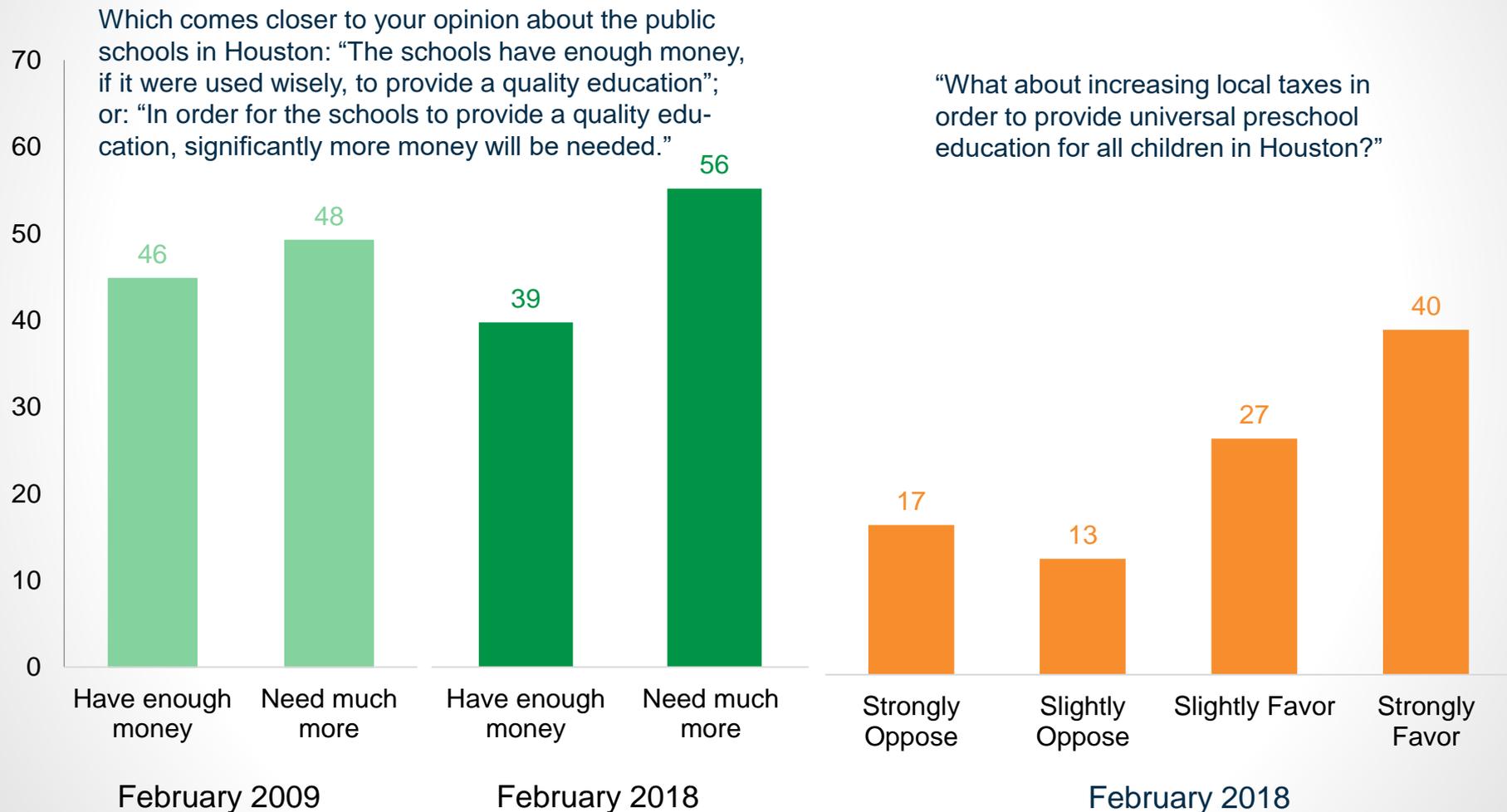


The adequacy of funding for the public schools in Houston (1995-2018)

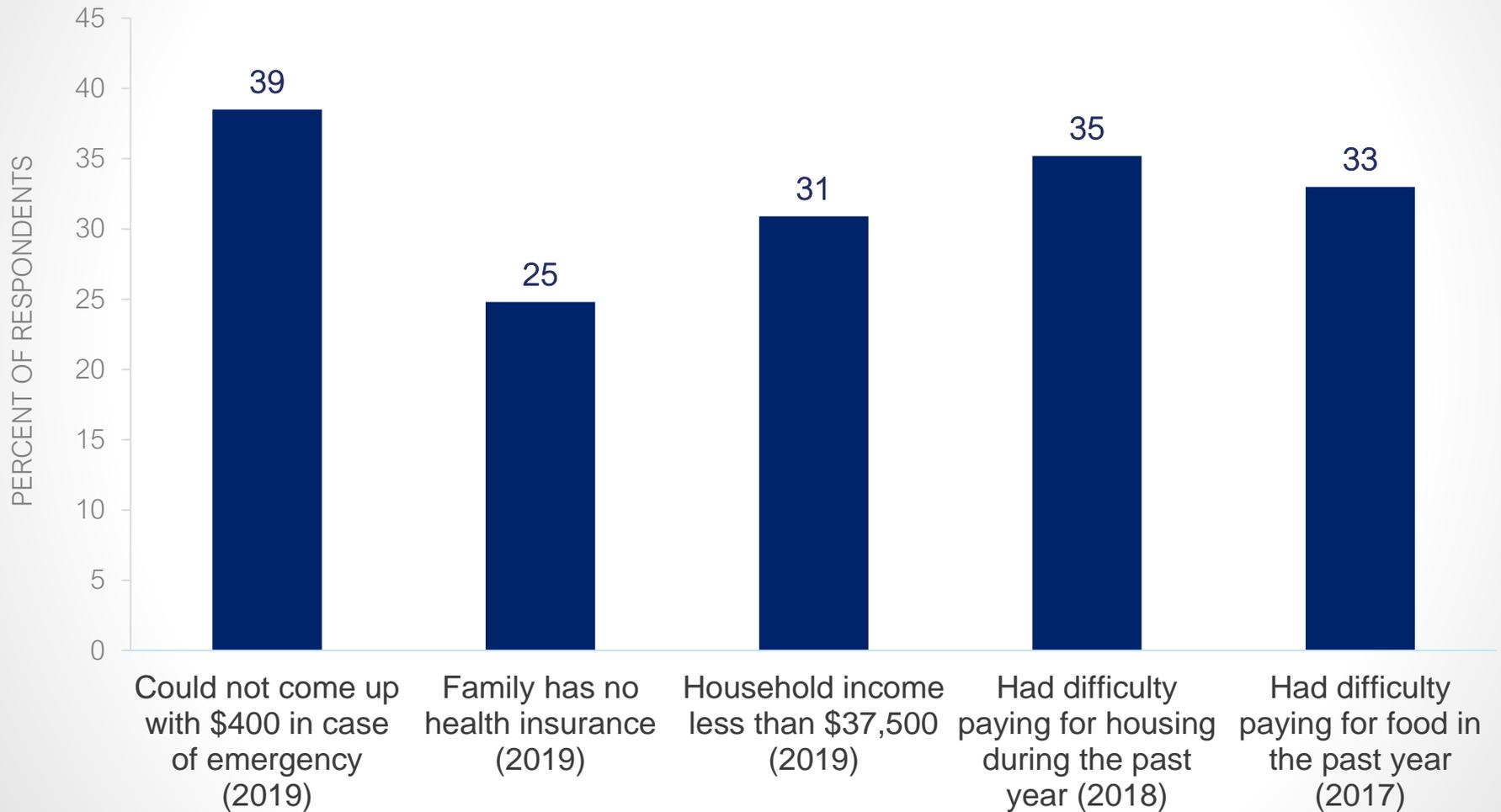


Which comes closer to your opinion about the public schools in Houston: “The schools have enough money, if it were used wisely, to provide a quality education”; or: “In order for the schools to provide a quality education, significantly more money will be needed.”

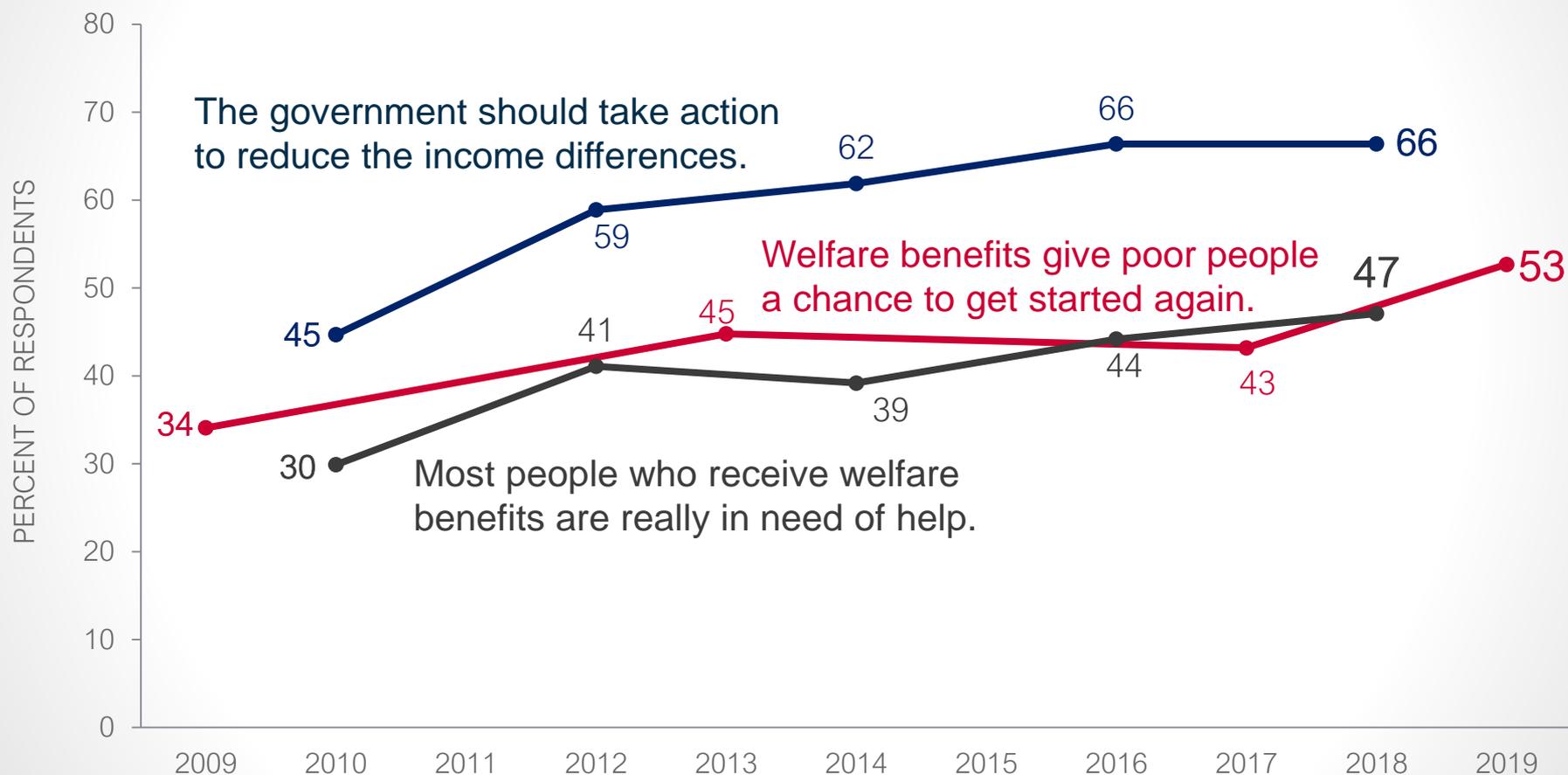
The support for more public school funding and for universal preschool education (2018)



The prevalence of economic hardship in Harris County today (2017-2019)

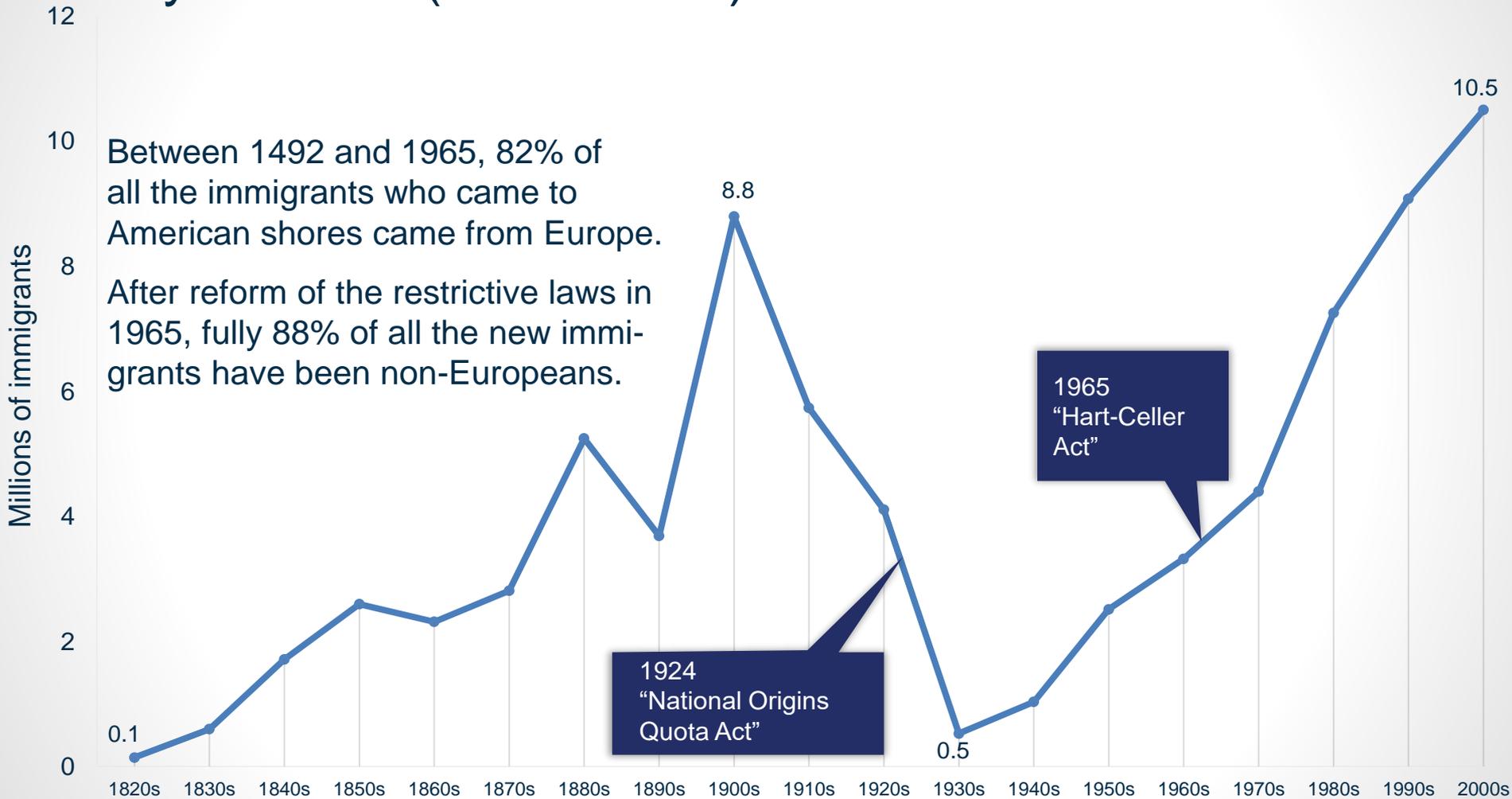


Support for government programs to reduce the inequalities in American society (2009-2019)

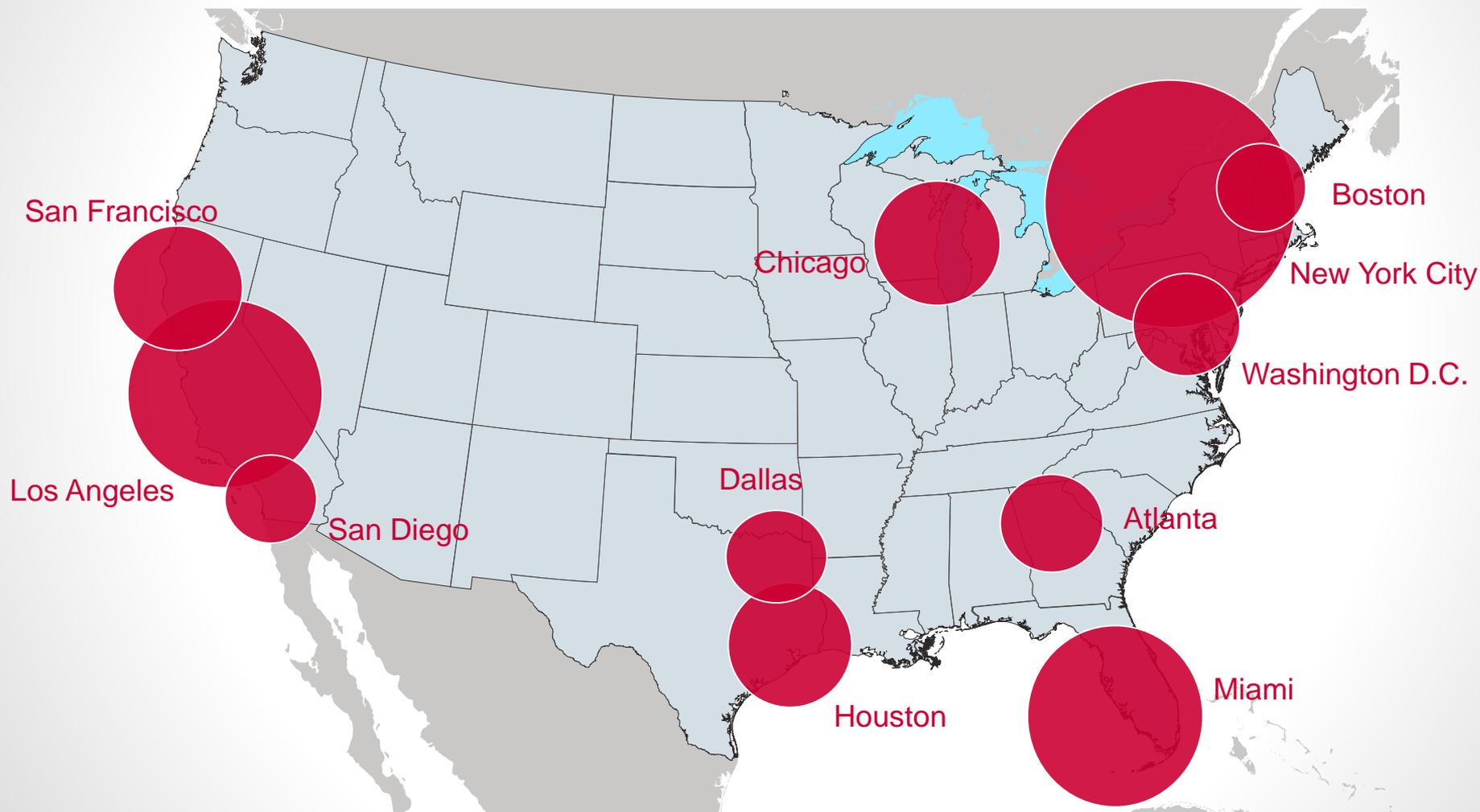




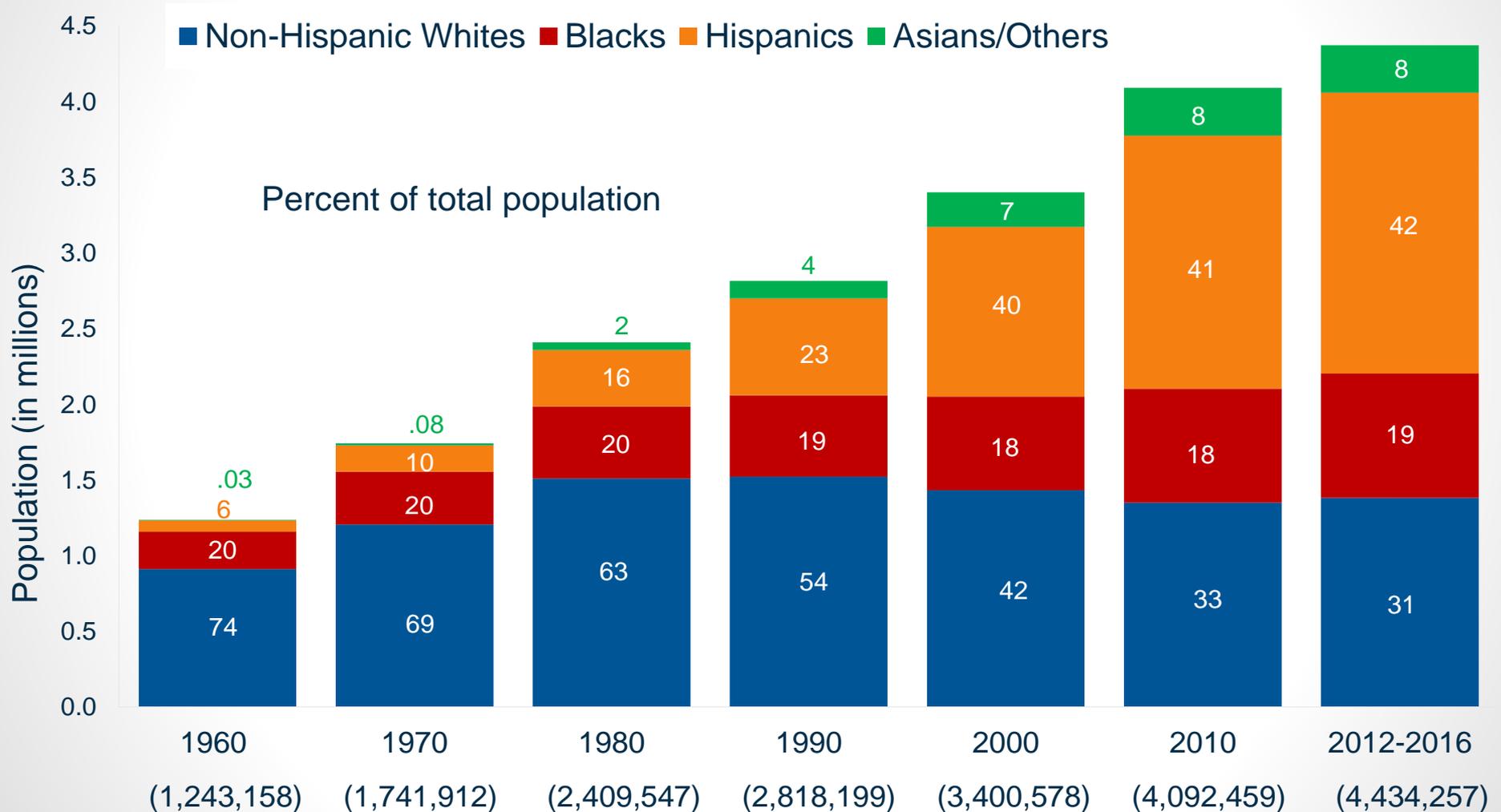
The number of documented U.S. immigrants, by decade (1820-2010)



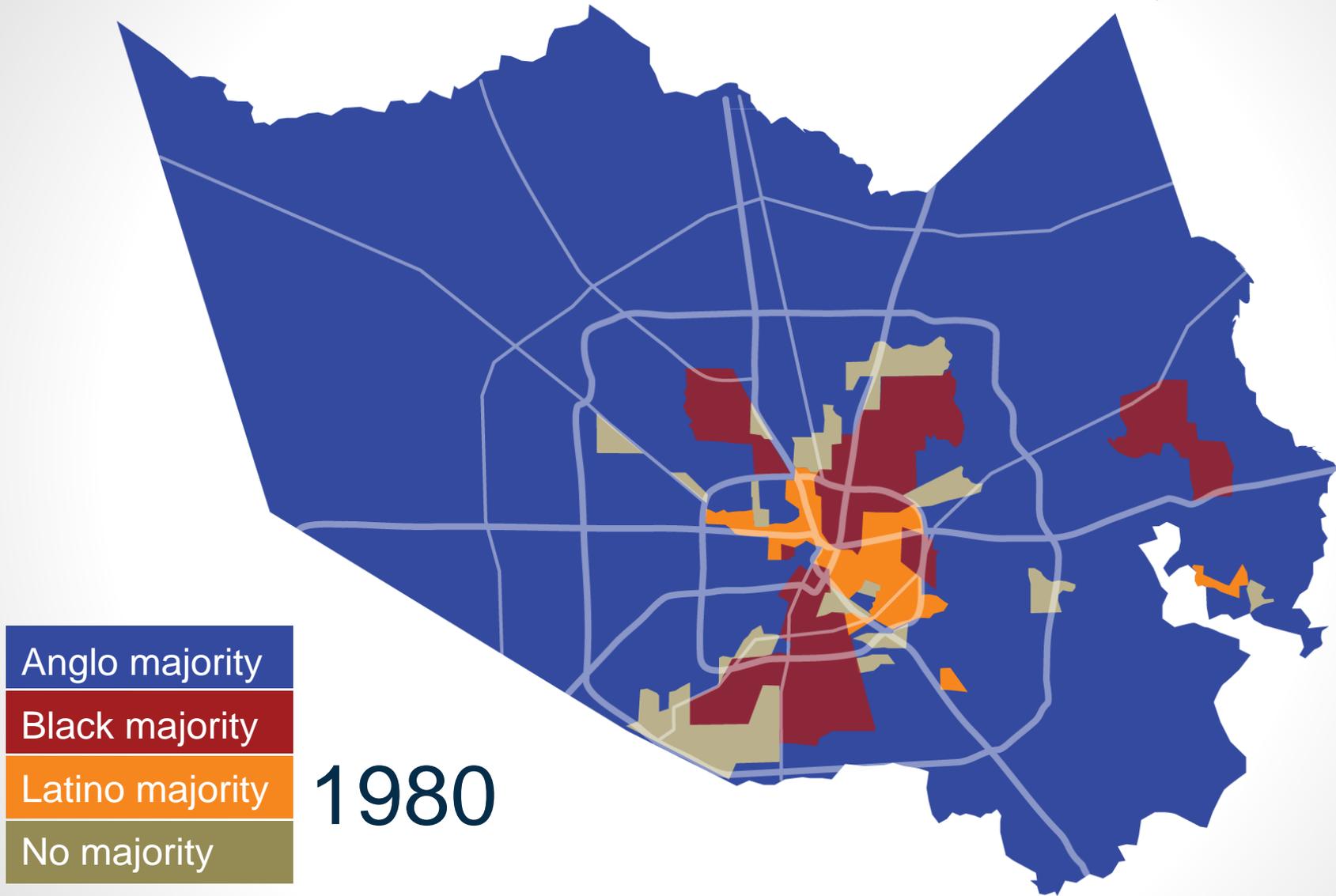
Cities with the largest numbers of foreign-born residents (2010-2014)



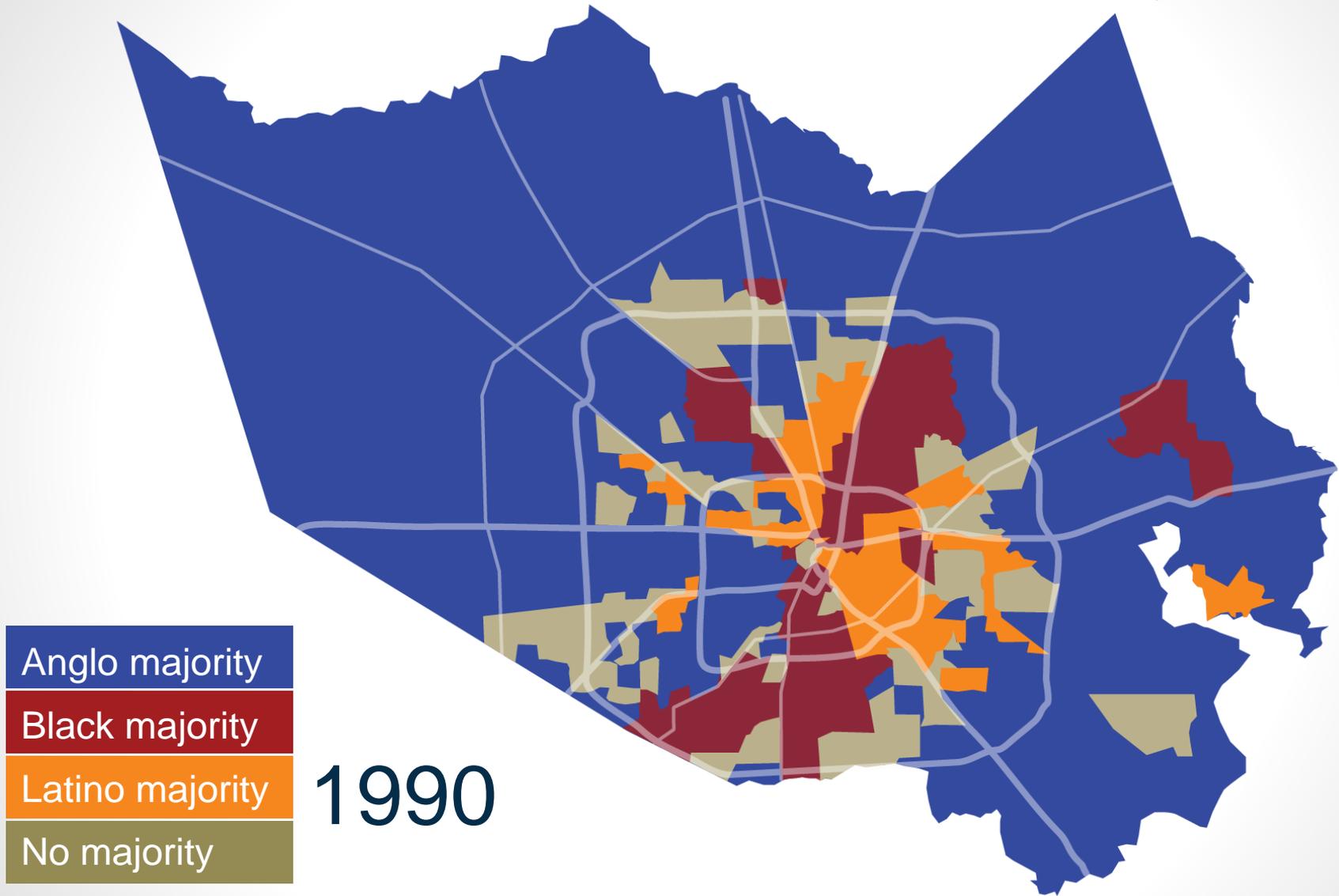
Demographic changes in Harris County by decade (1960-2010) and the ACS estimates for 2012-2016



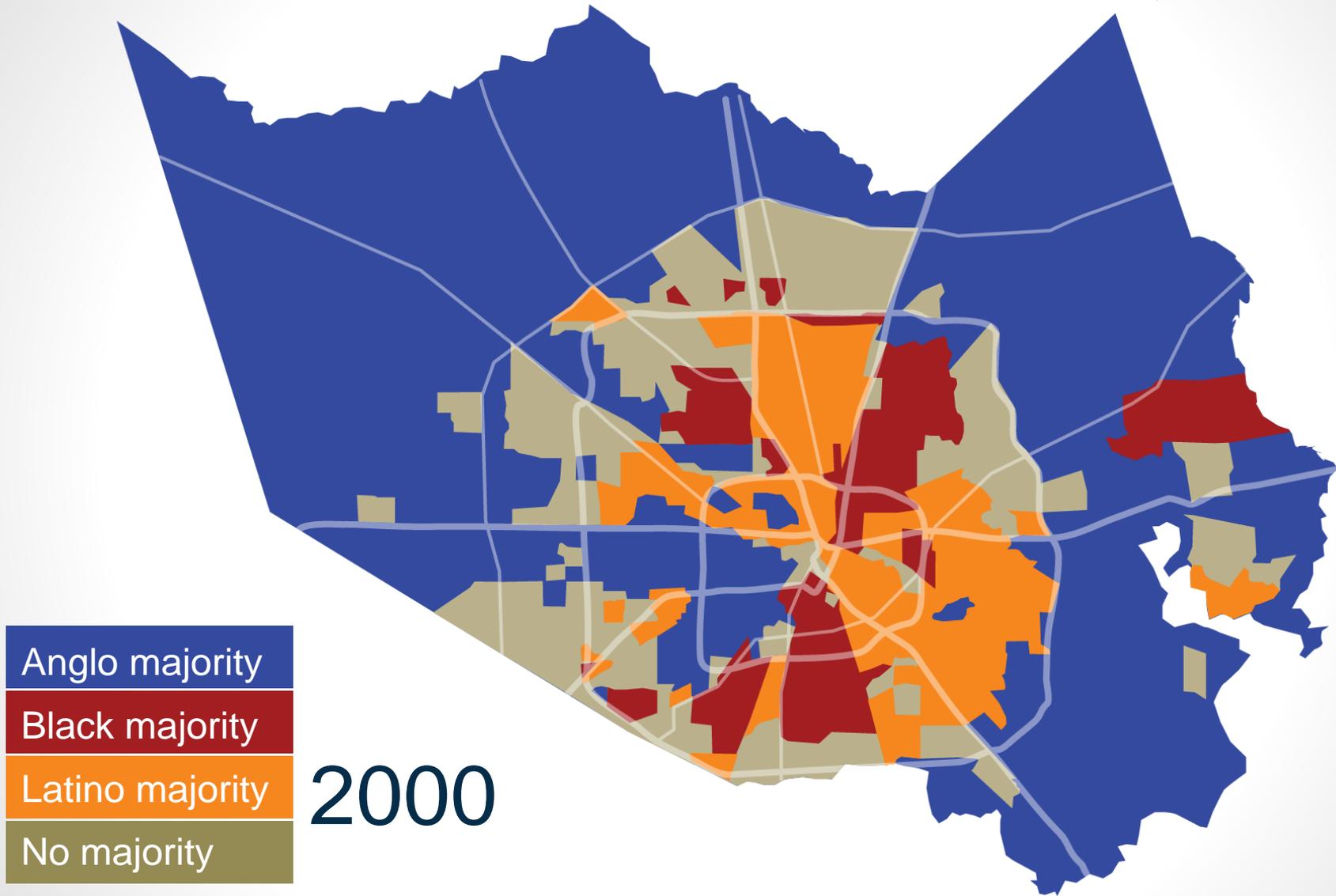
The ethnic distribution across Harris County



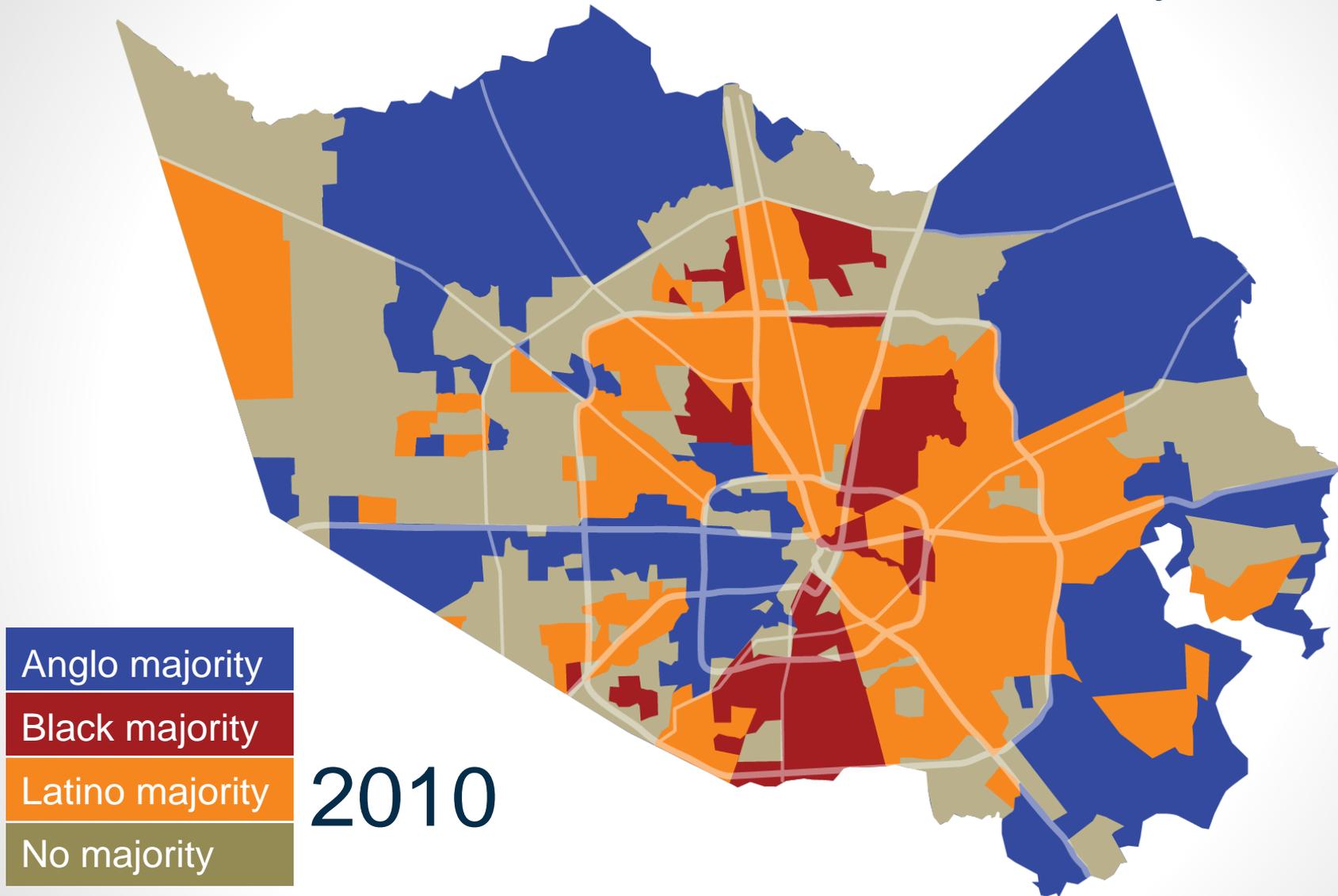
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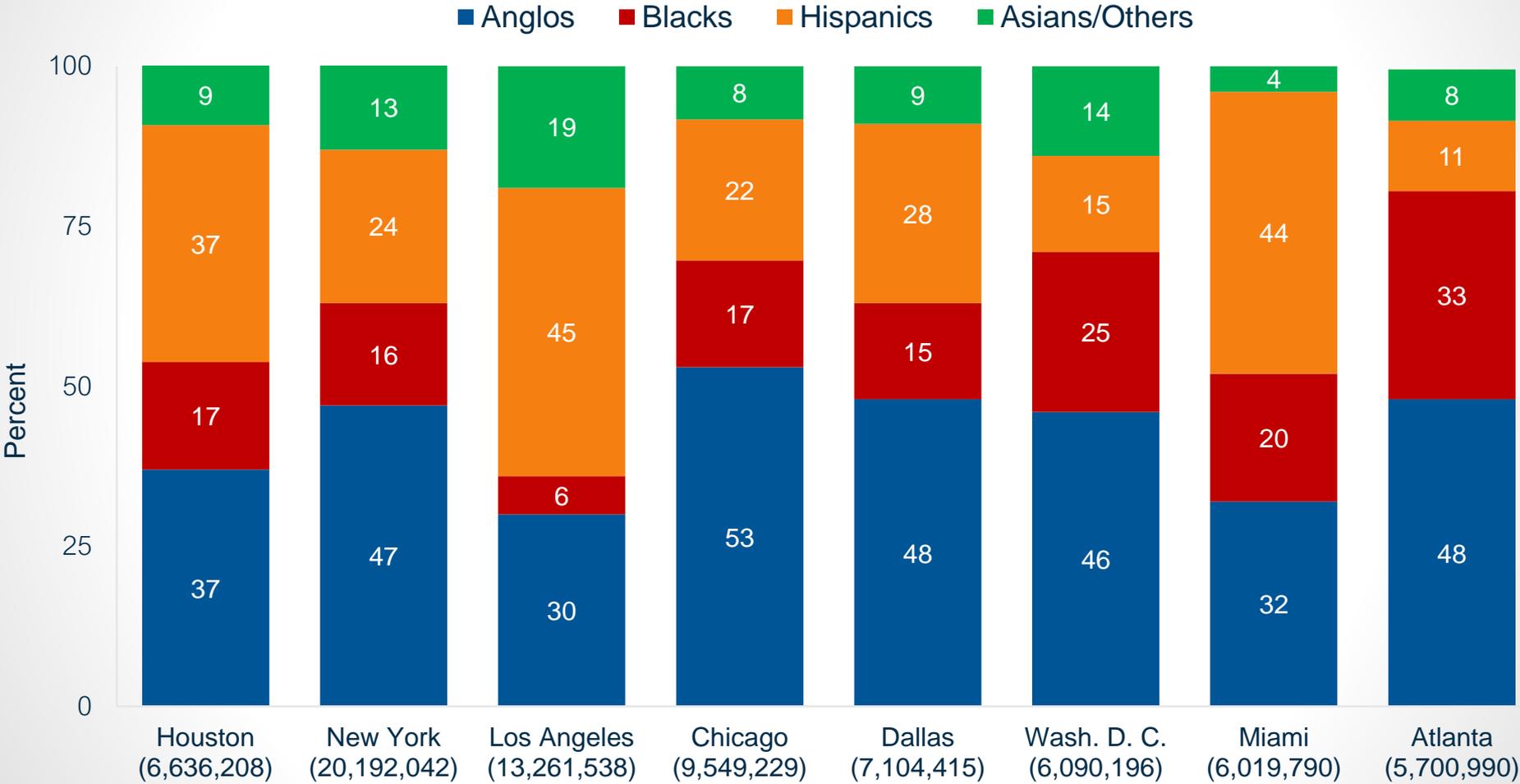
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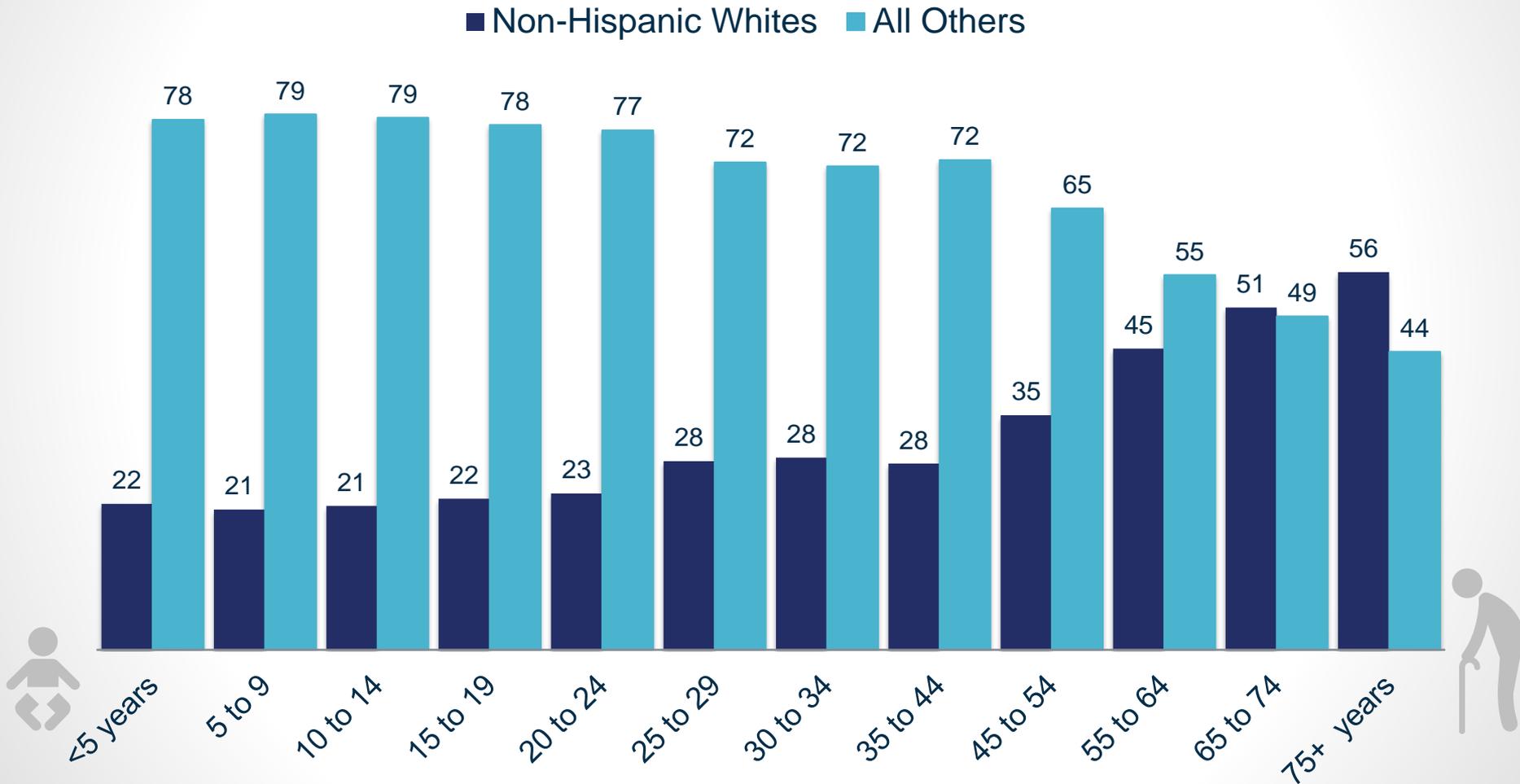
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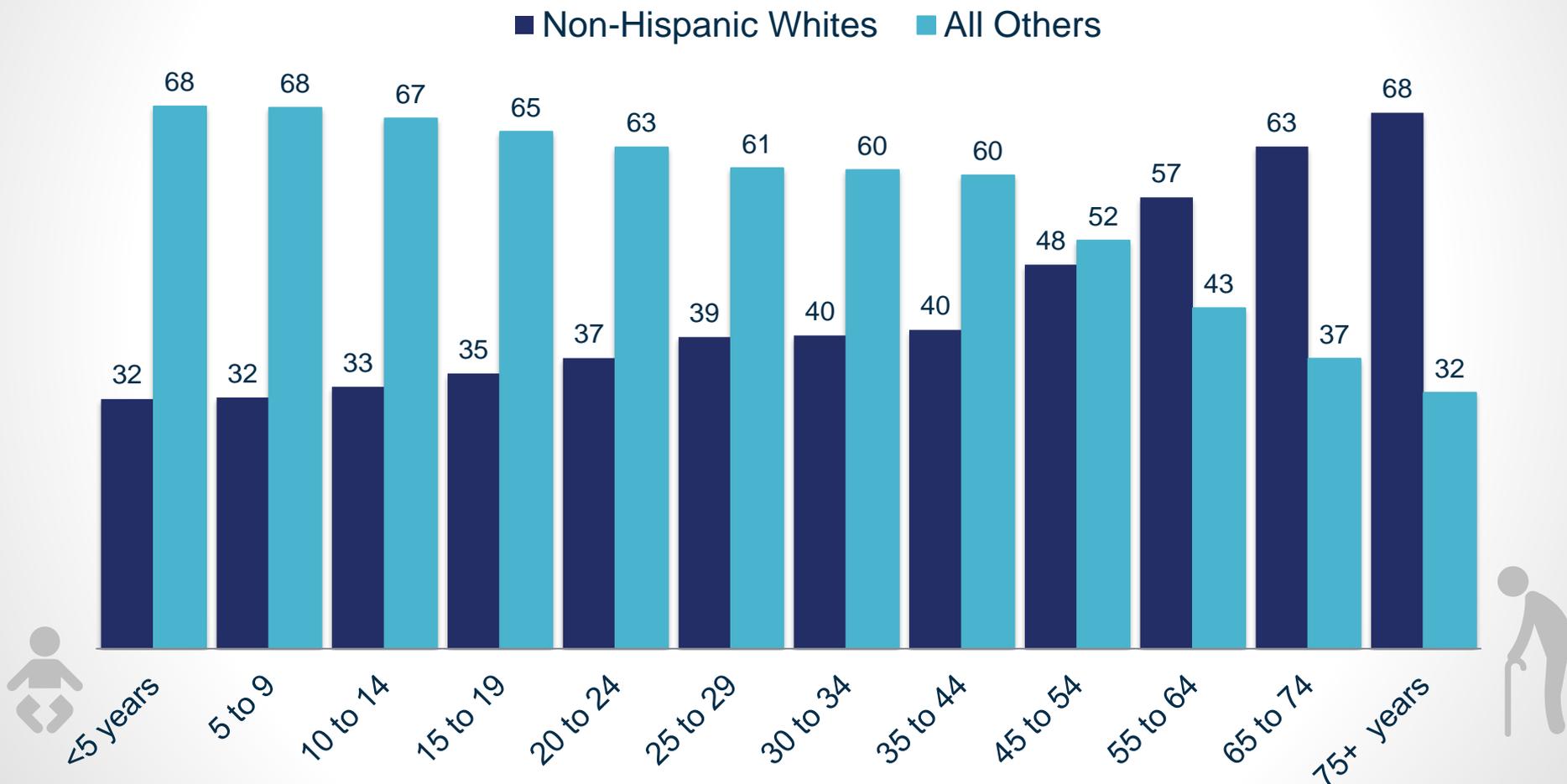
The demographics of the eight most diverse large metro areas in America (ACS, 2013-2017)



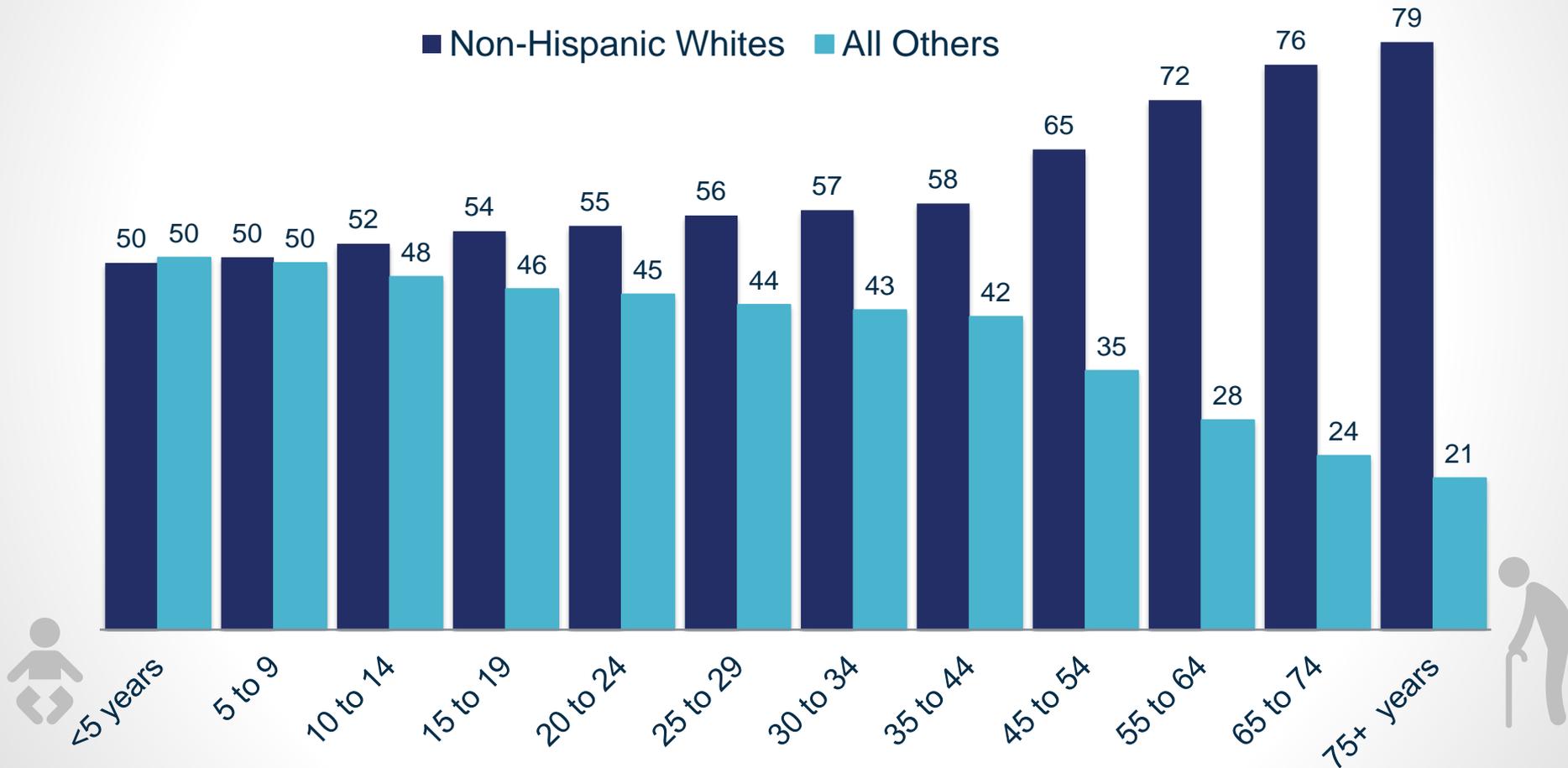
The current population of Harris County by age group and ethnicity (ACS, 2013-2017)



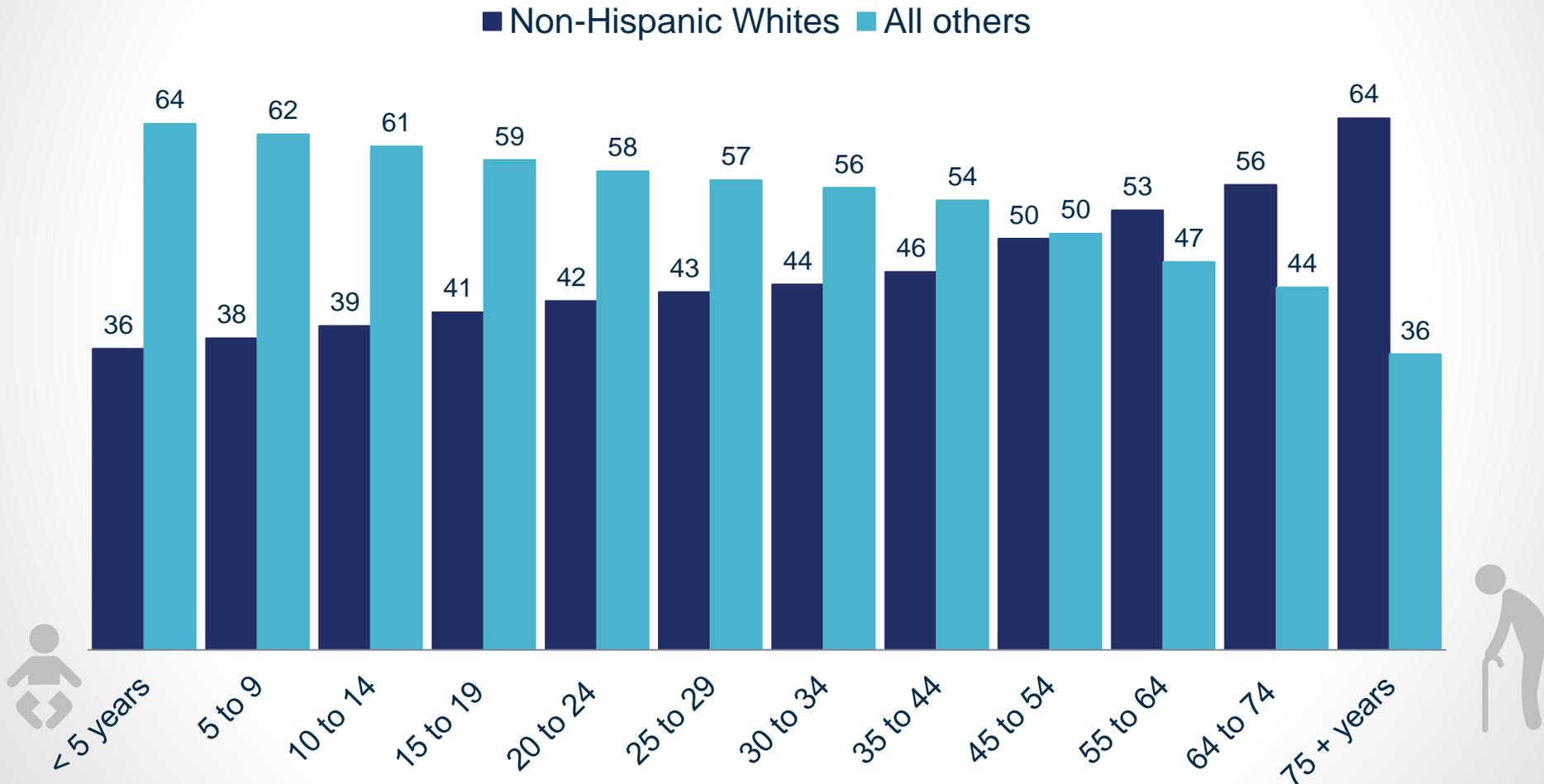
The current population of Texas by age group and ethnicity (ACS, 2012-2017)



The current population of the United States by age group and ethnicity (ACS, 2013-2017)



The projected population of U.S. by age group and ethnicity in 2050, assuming no change in immigration



Tentative conclusions

The surveys show clearly that Houston area residents are embracing the region's burgeoning diversity and they are more prepared than in past years to support the many ongoing efforts to address today's educational deficits, persistent inequalities, and quality-of-life issues.

It remains to be seen whether the Houston community as a whole can summon the political will to make the critical investments that will be needed to position the region for sustained prosperity in this new era of economic, demographic, and technological transformation.

Stay tuned. Thank you very much!



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