

The Impact of Demographics and the Pandemic on Wisconsin's School Enrollment



Sarah Kemp, Researcher

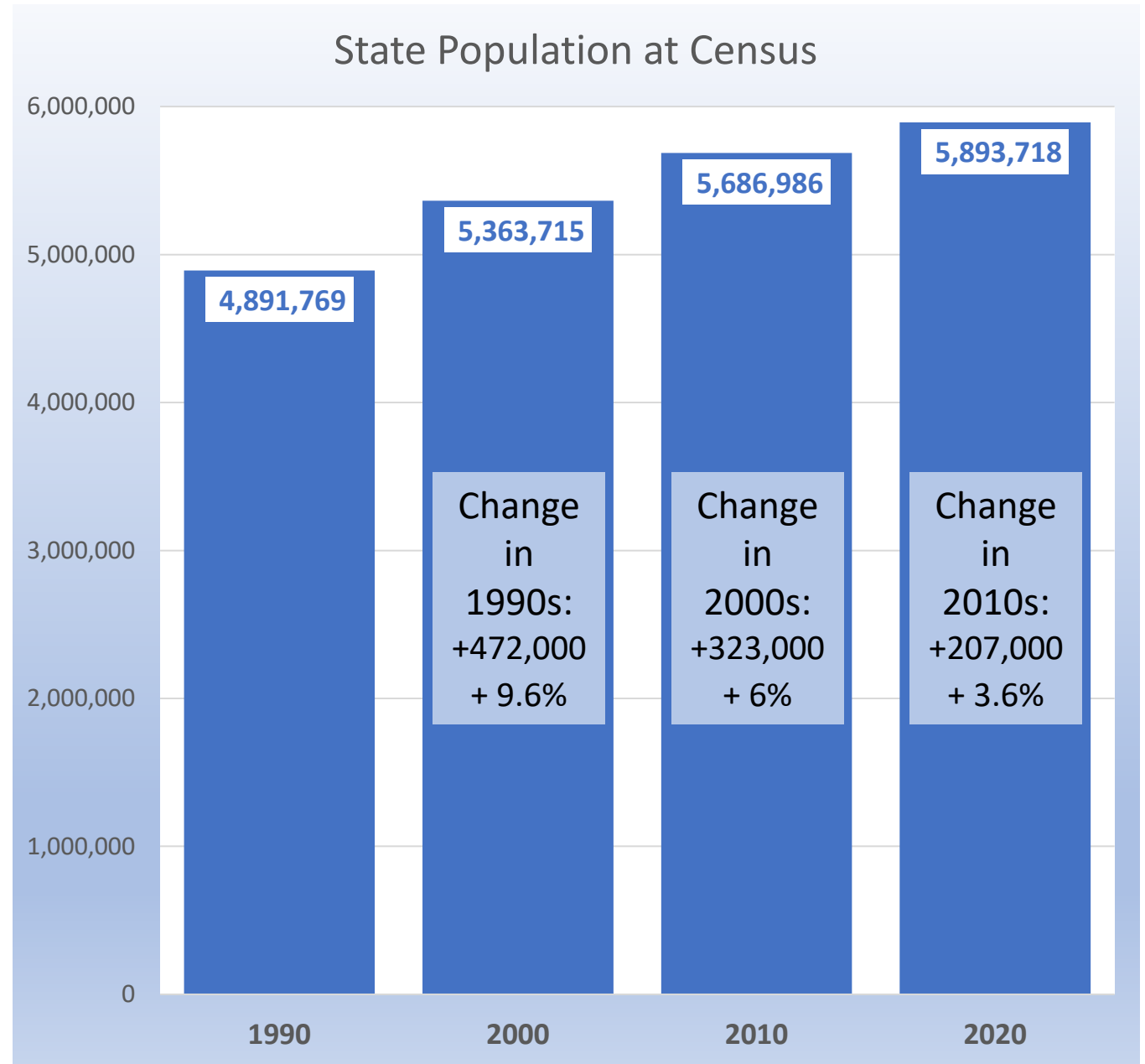
**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Applied Population Laboratory**

Email: kemp@wisc.edu

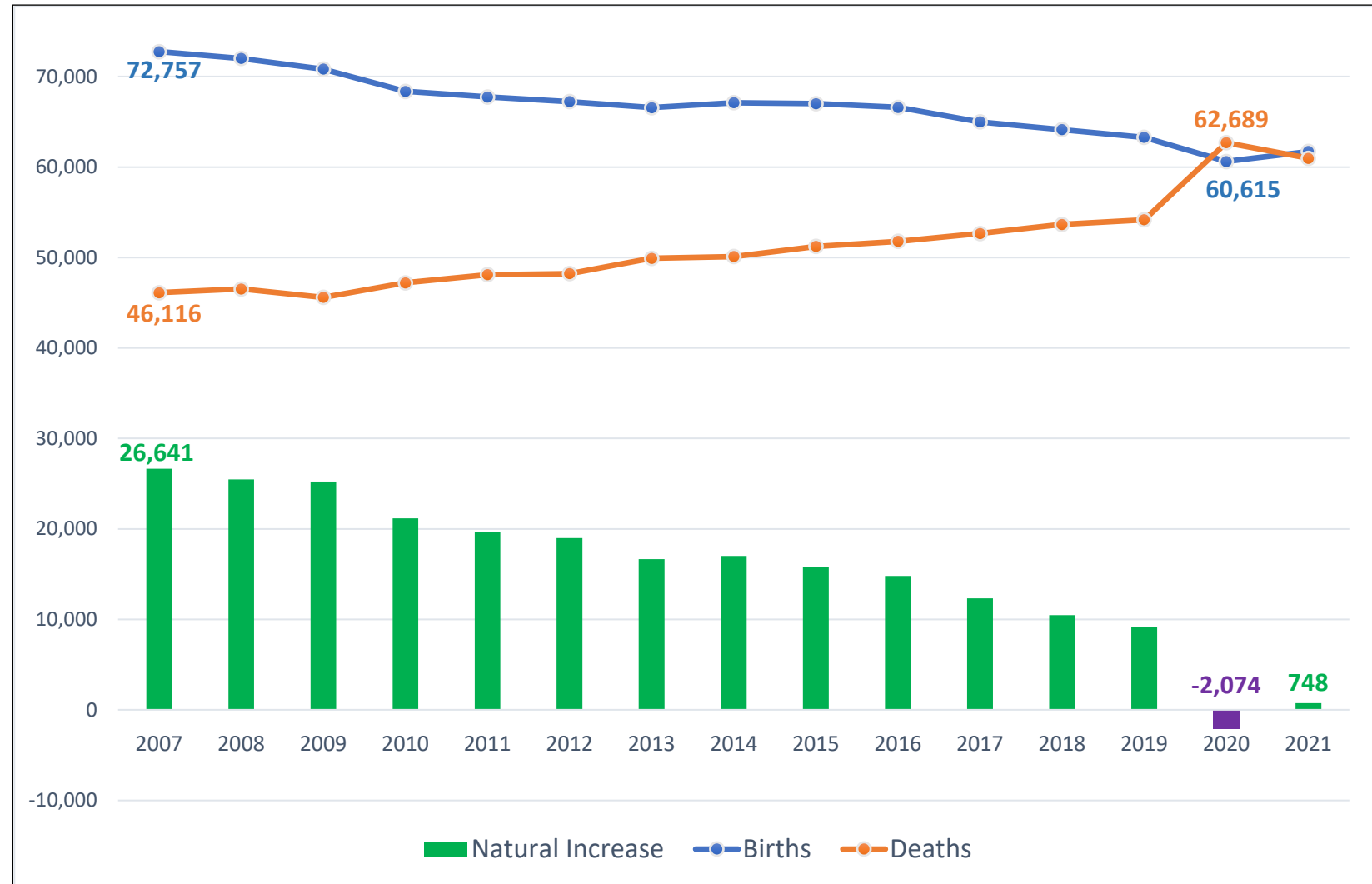
Phone: 608-265-6189



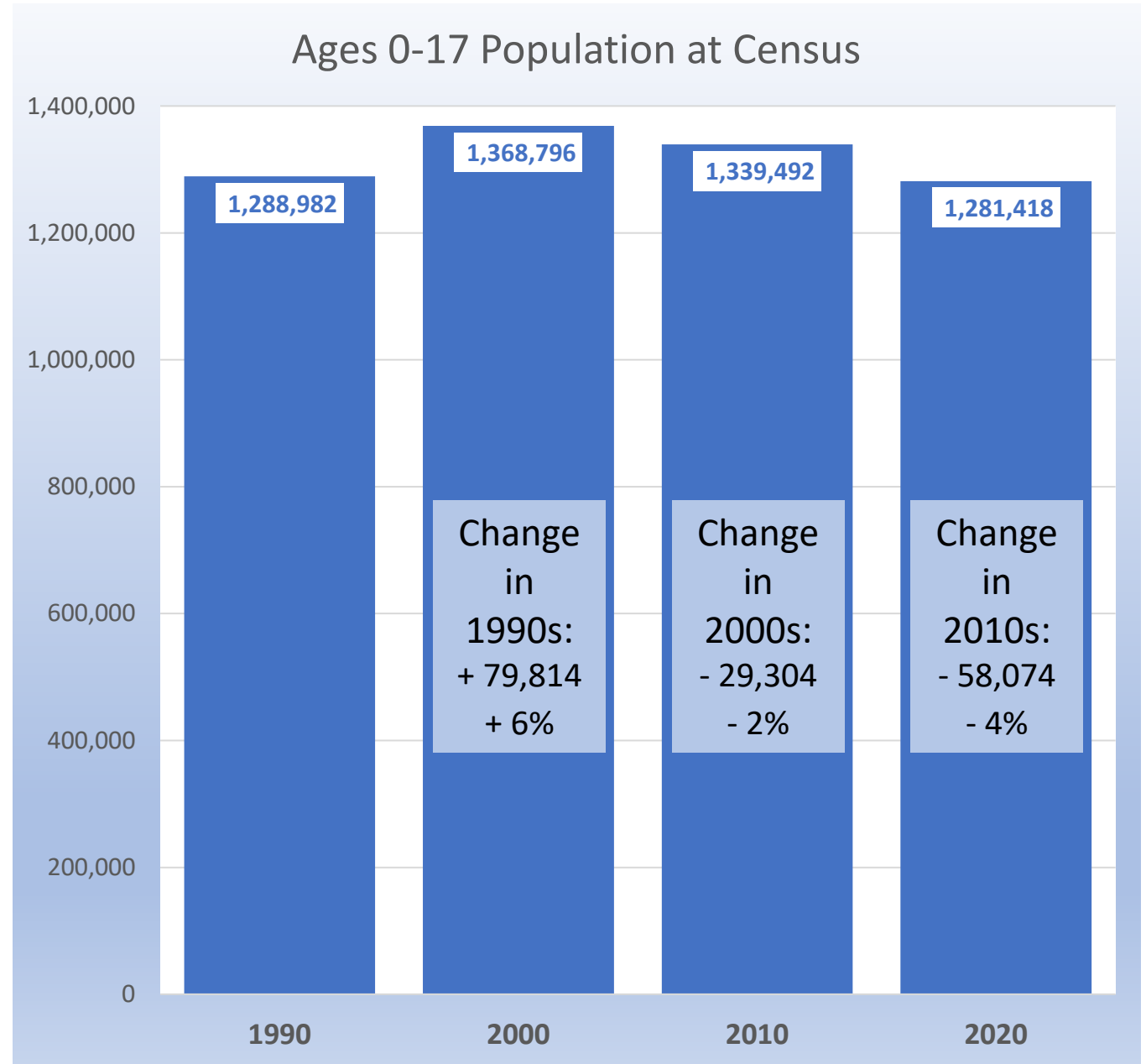
Total Population 1990-2020



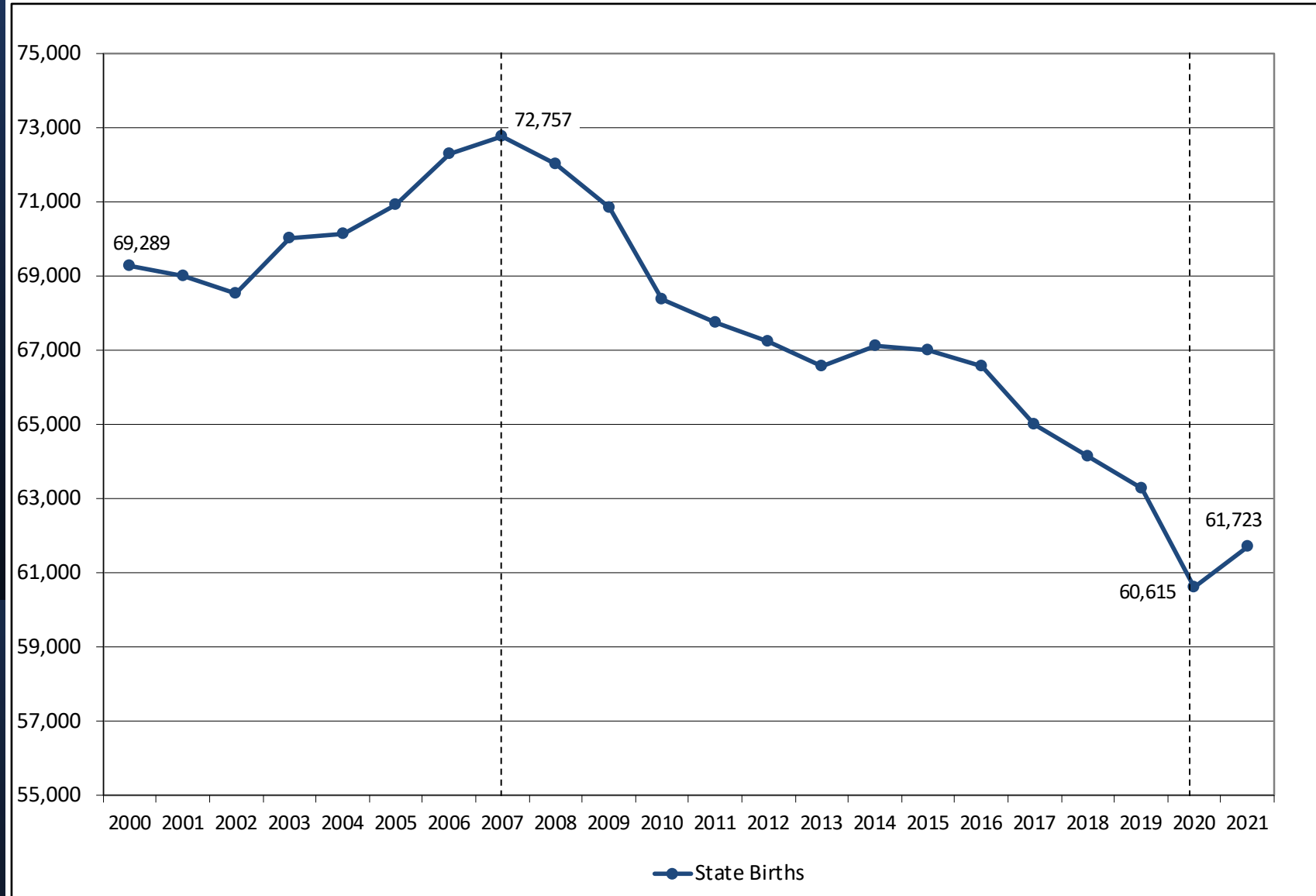
Natural Increase to Natural Decrease



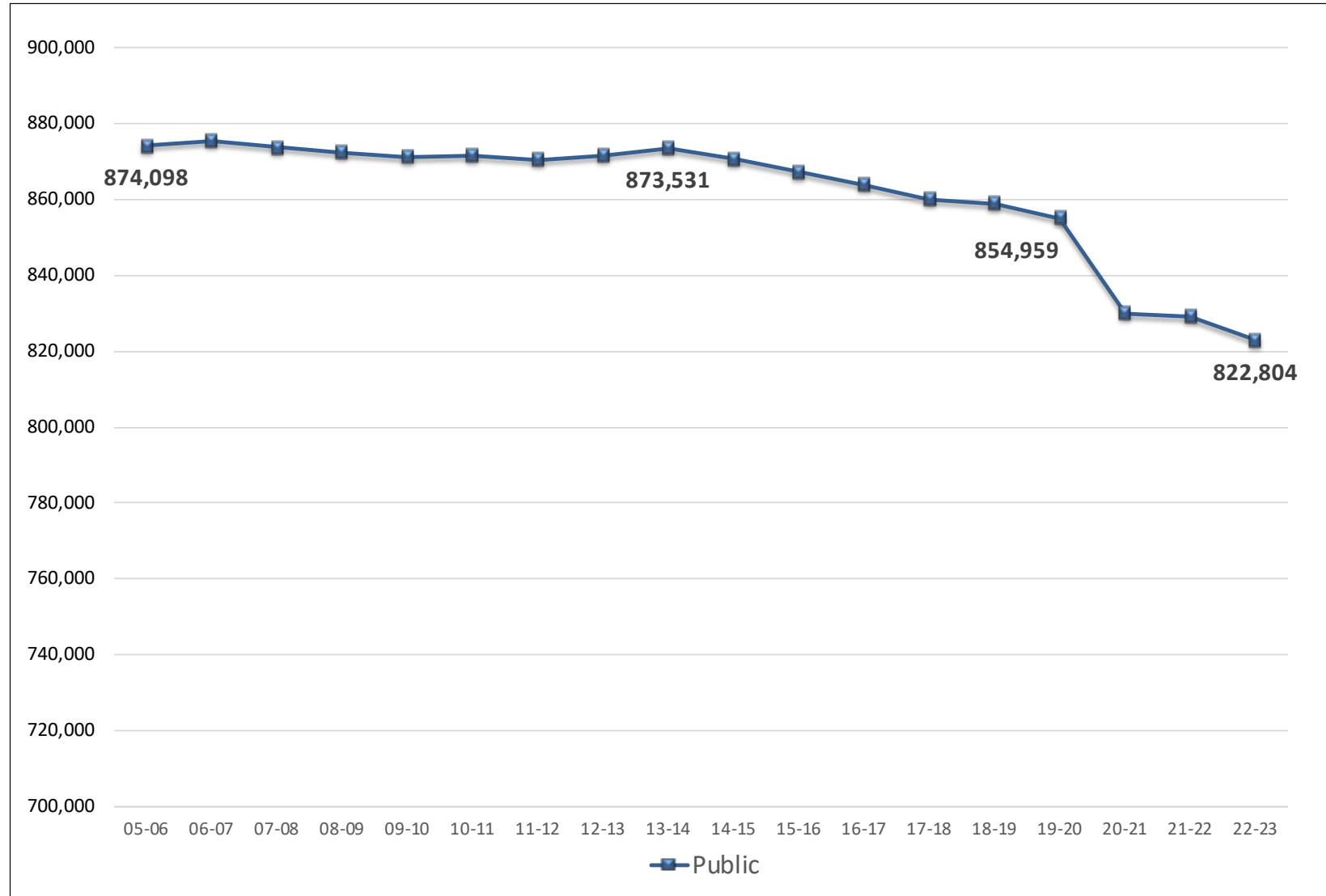
Youth Population 1990-2020



Births 2000-2021

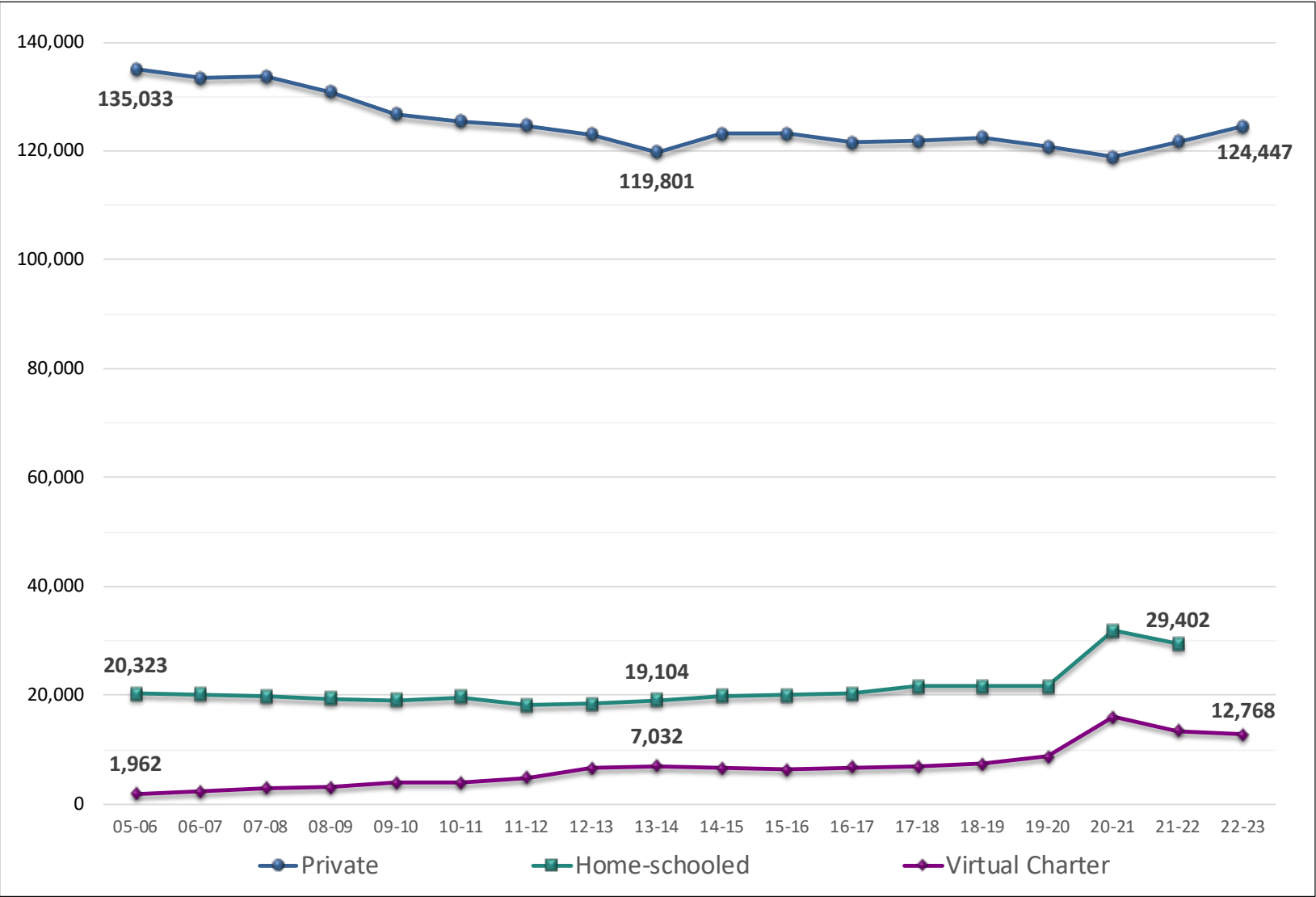


Public School Enrollment 2005-2022



Source: DPI, <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov>

Other School Enrollment 2005-2022



Source: DPI, <https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/download-files/>

Effects of the Pandemic

Student Enrollment Change from 2019/20 to 2021/22

School Type	School Yr 2019/20	School Yr 2020/21	School Yr 2021/22	Change 19/20-21/22
Public school*	854,959	829,935	829,143	-25,816
Private school	120,705	118,862	121,729	1,024
Virtual charter	8,696	16,020	13,395	4,699
Homeschooling	21,644	31,878	29,402	7,758
Total	1,006,004	996,695	993,669	-12,335

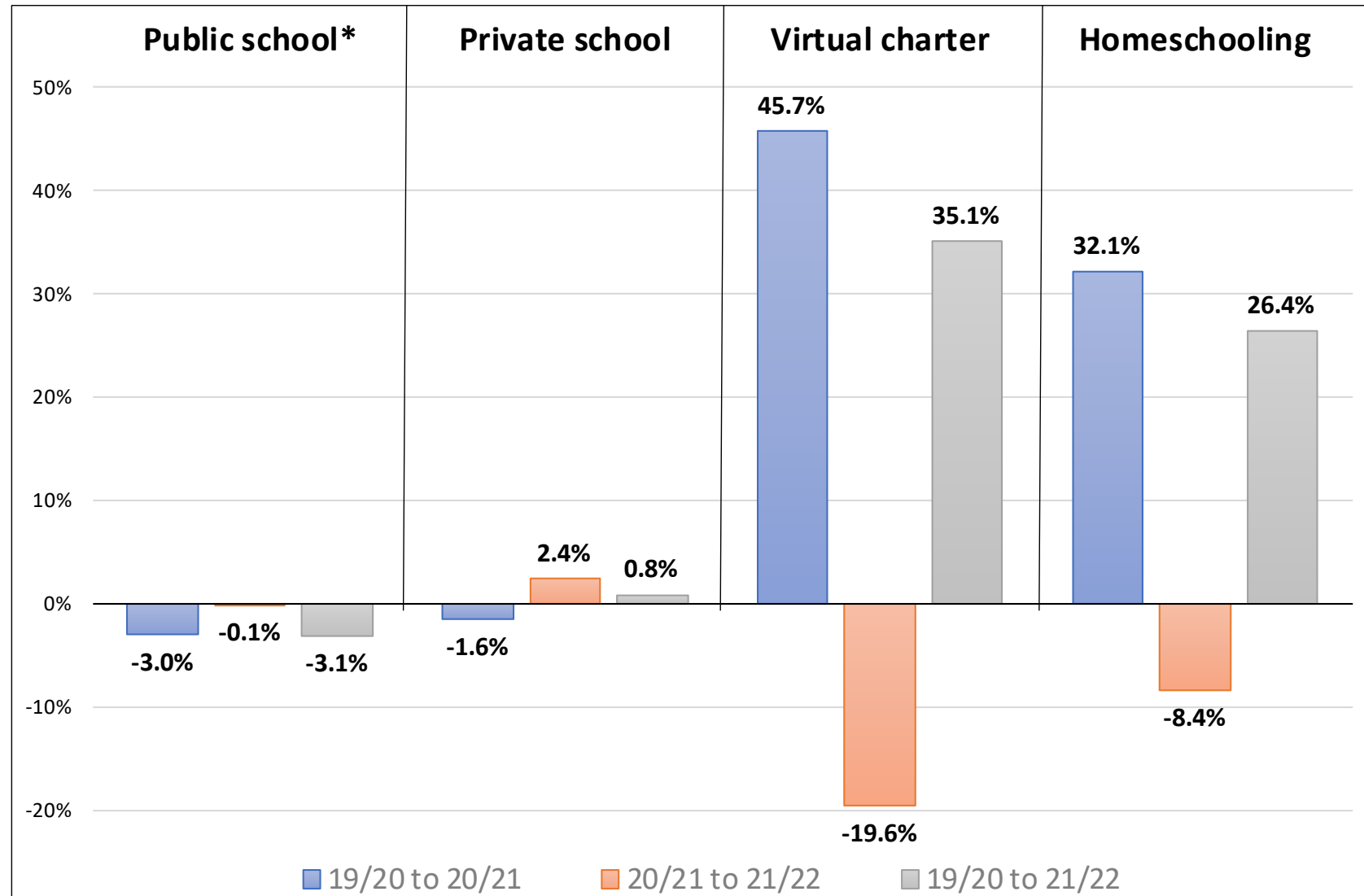
*3rd Friday of September Count

Another 6,000 fewer public-school students from 2021/22 to 2022/23.



Effects of the Pandemic

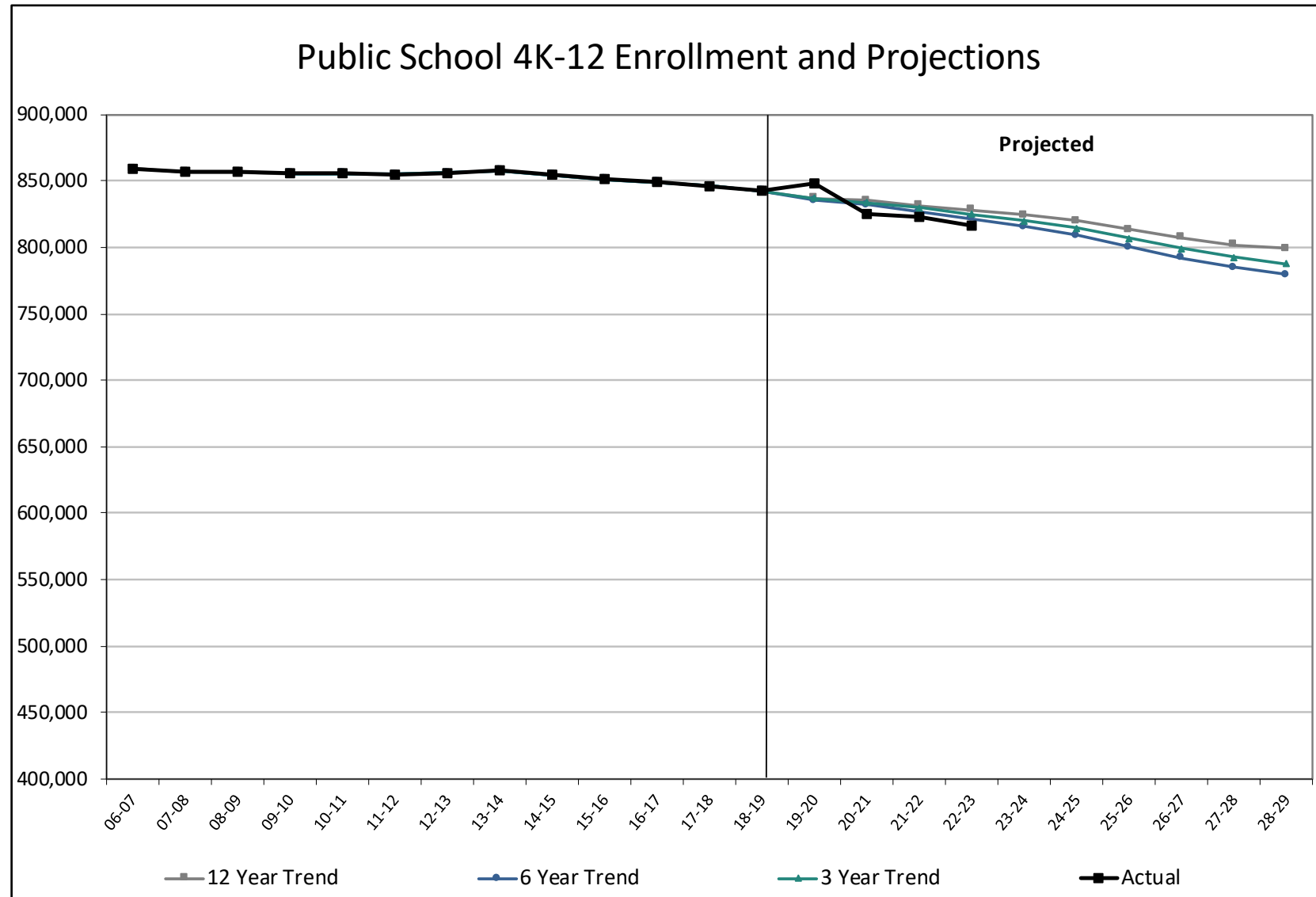
Percent Change by School Type from 2019/20 to 2021/22



*3rd Friday of September Count from Department of Public Instruction

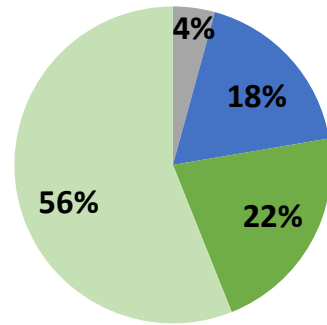
Public School Enrollment Projections 2019-2028

Because the projections incorporate the consequences of migration, any significant or sustained interruption of recent patterns will erode these models' accuracy from that point forward.

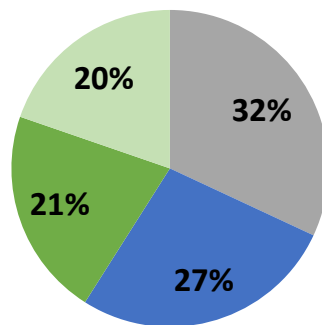


Wisconsin School Districts

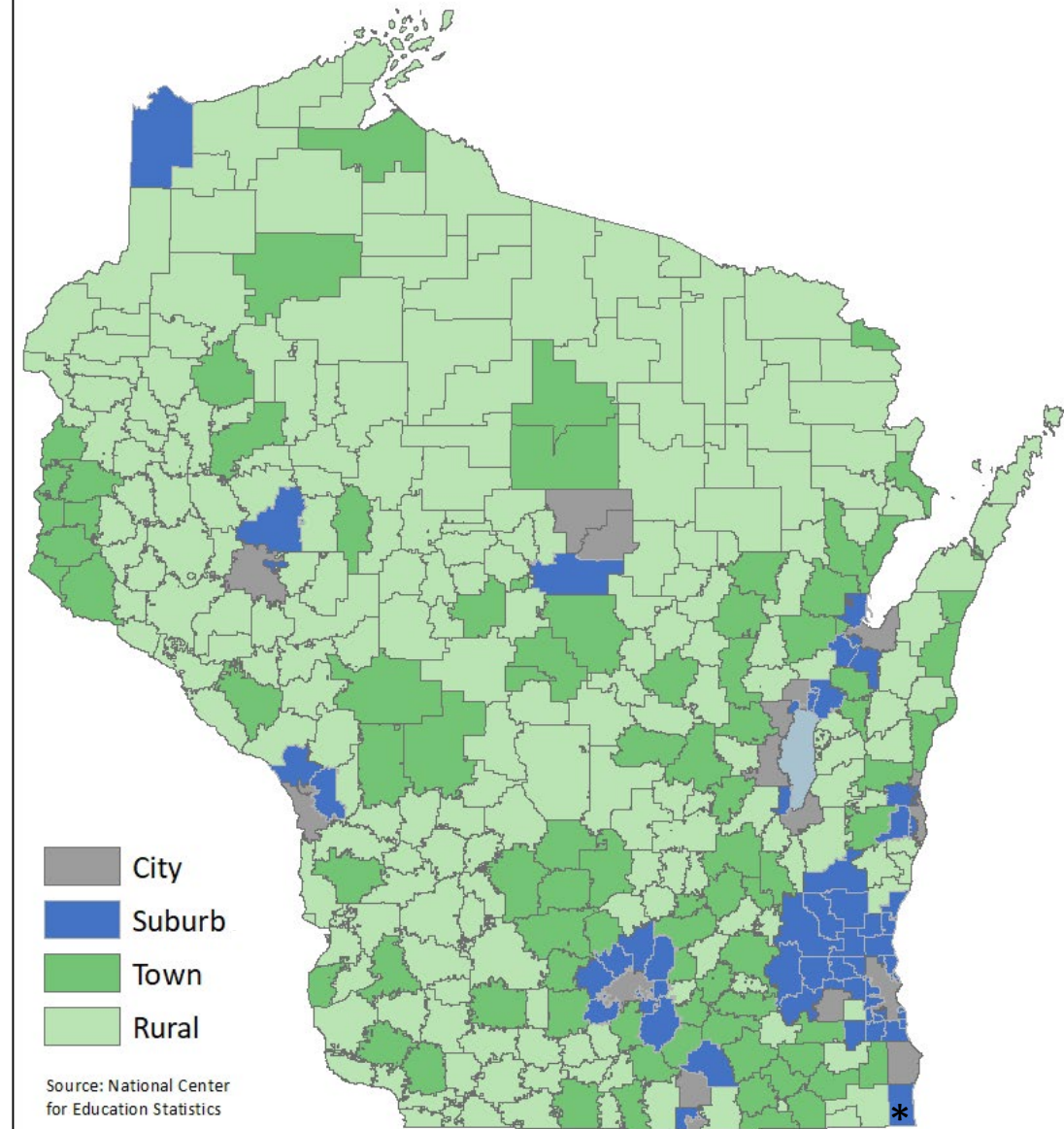
Percentage of Districts



Percentage of Students

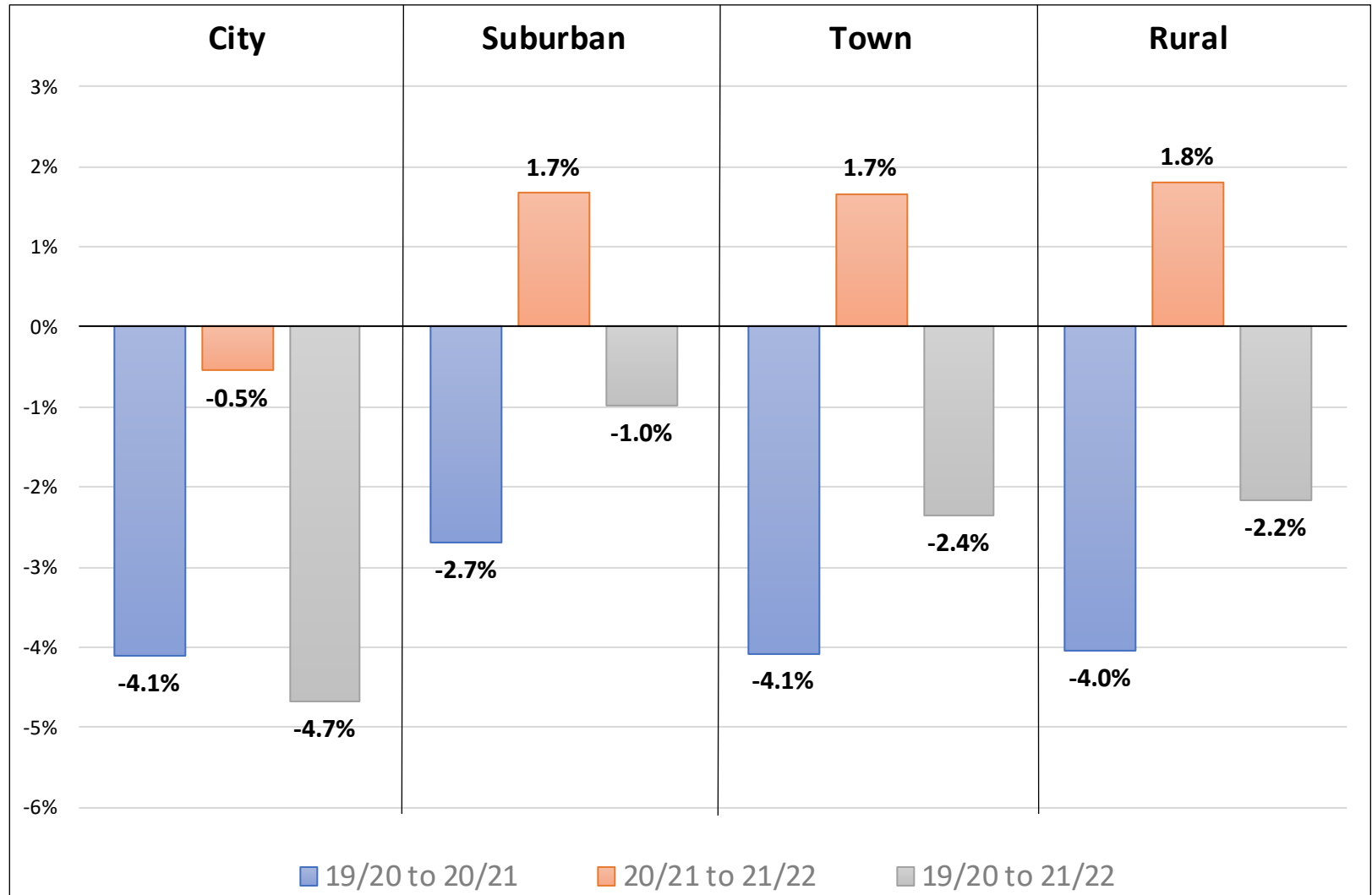


School Districts by Locale



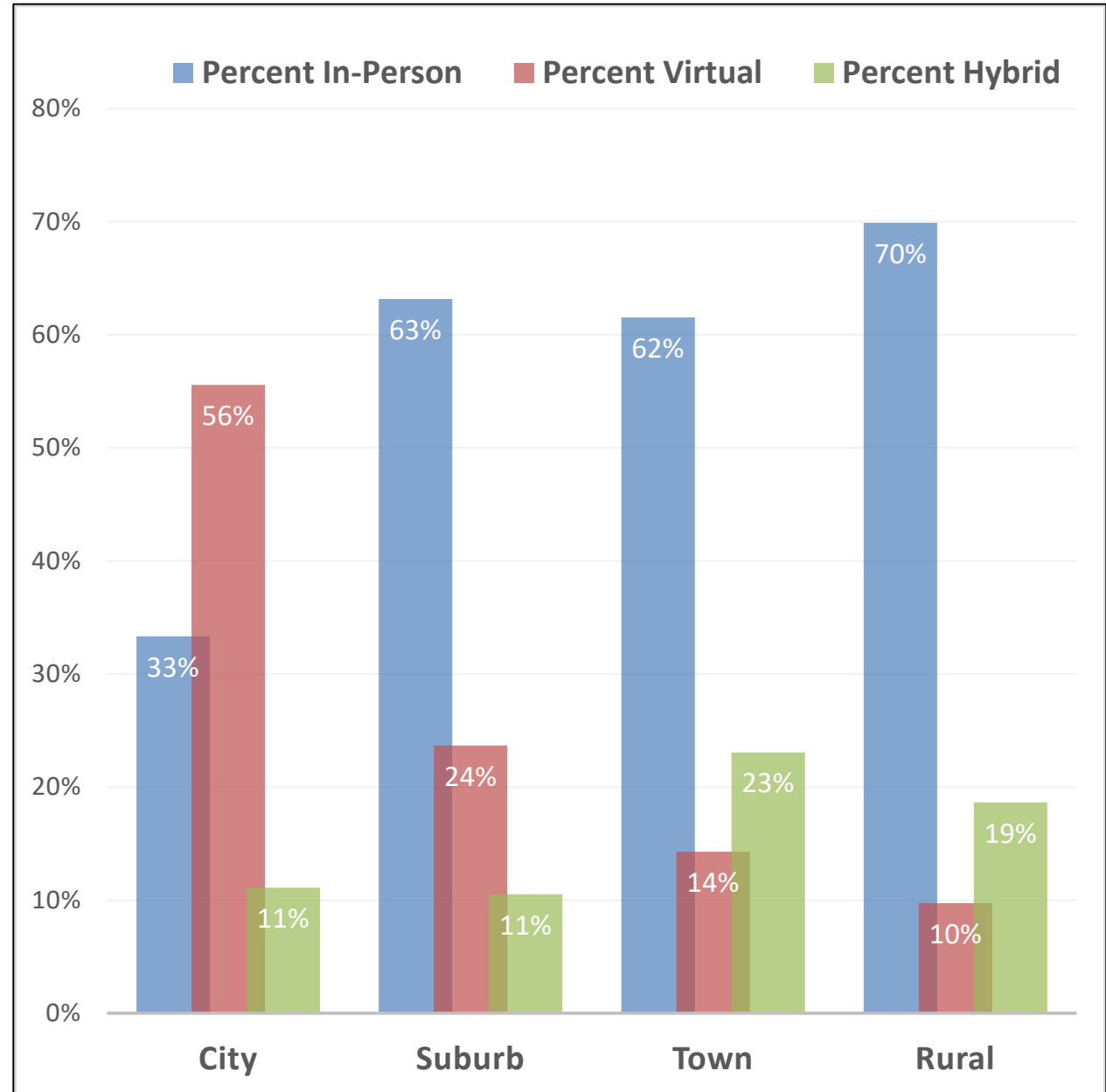
Change in Membership During the Pandemic

Percent Change by Location from 2019/20 to 2021/22



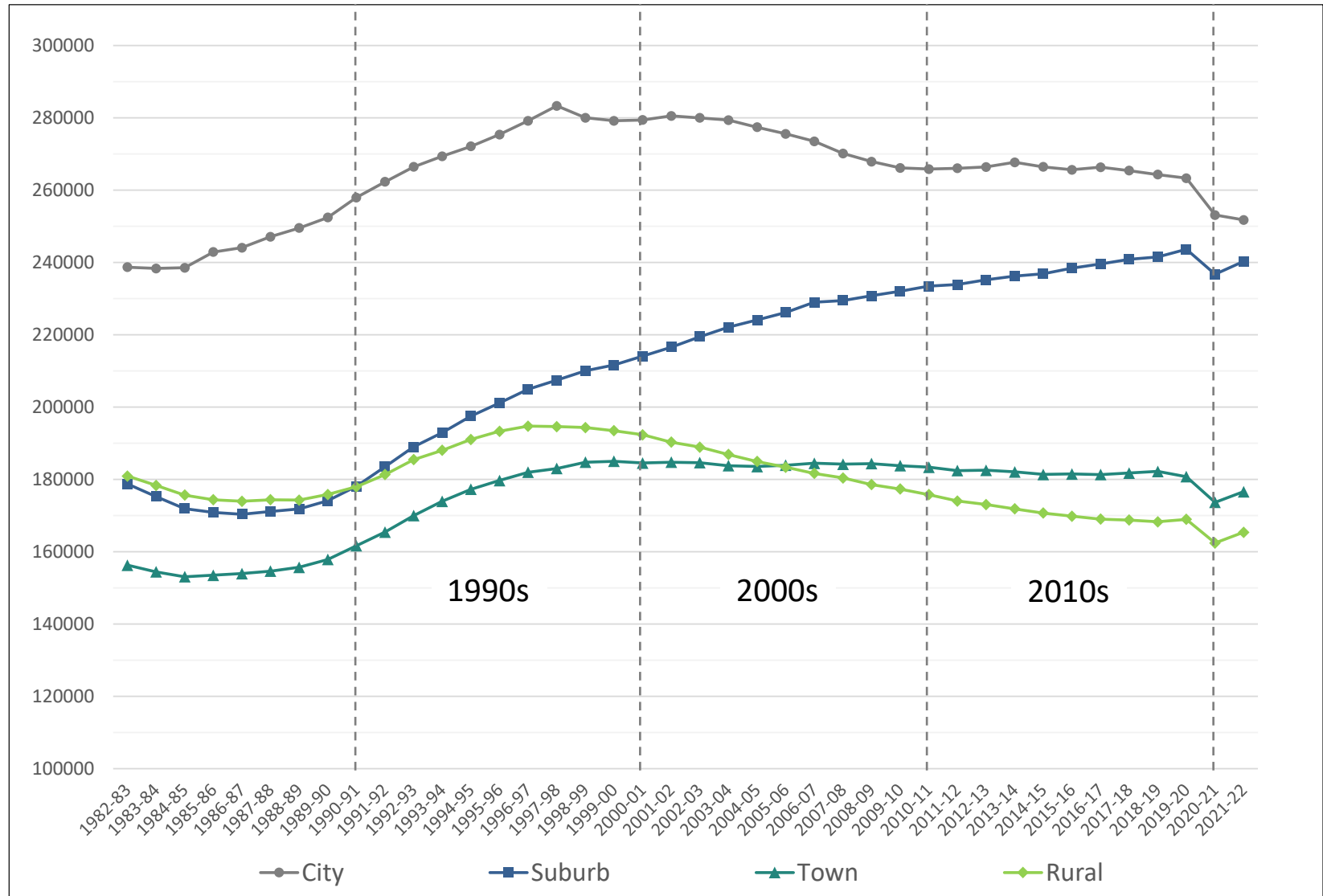
Learning Model During the Pandemic

Public School Learning Model, November 2020



Source: www.covidschooldatahub.com

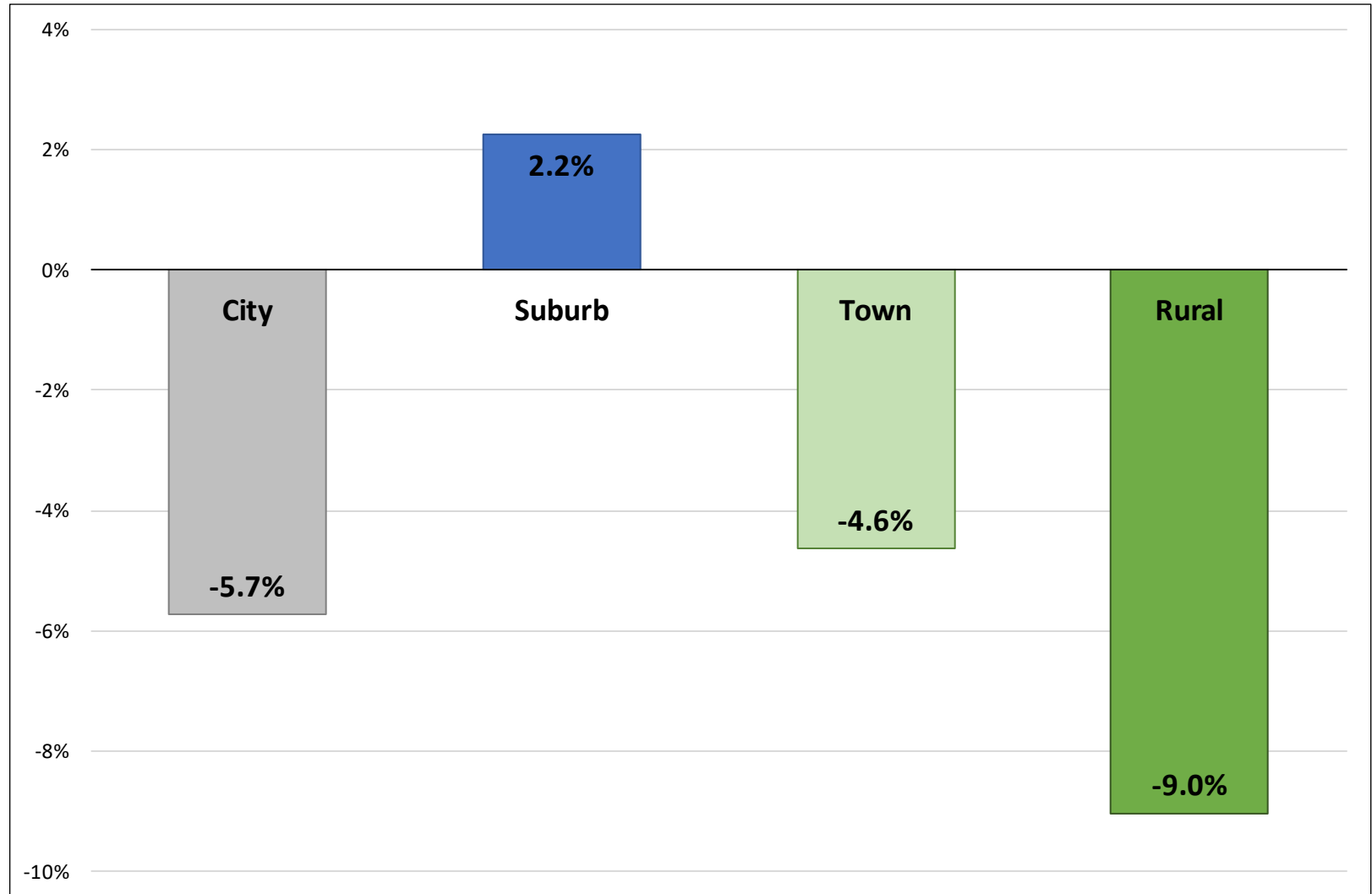
District Membership 1982-2021



Source: DPI, School Financial Services Data Warehouse

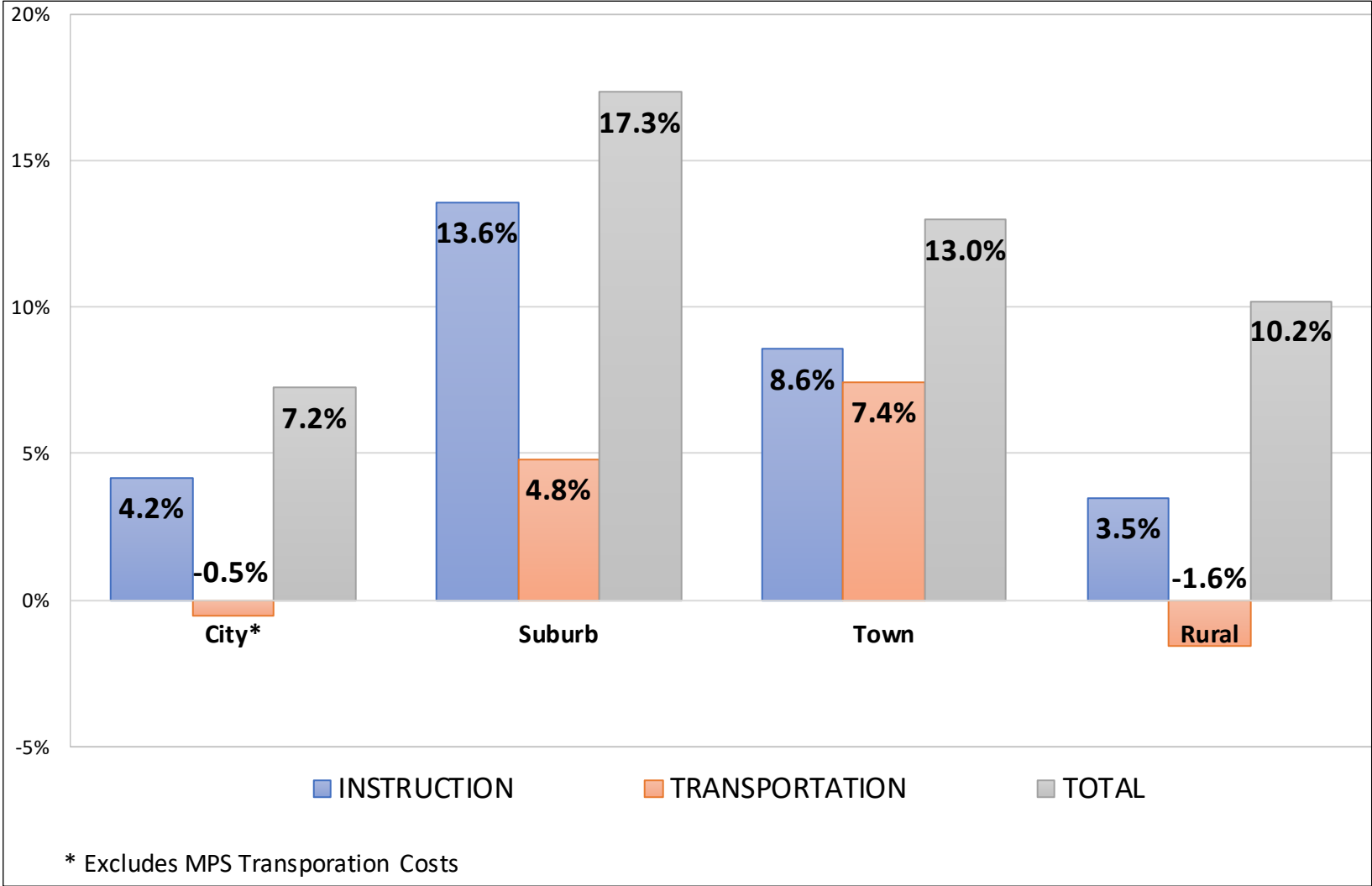
Change in District Membership 2010-2020

Percent Change from 2010/11 to 2020/21



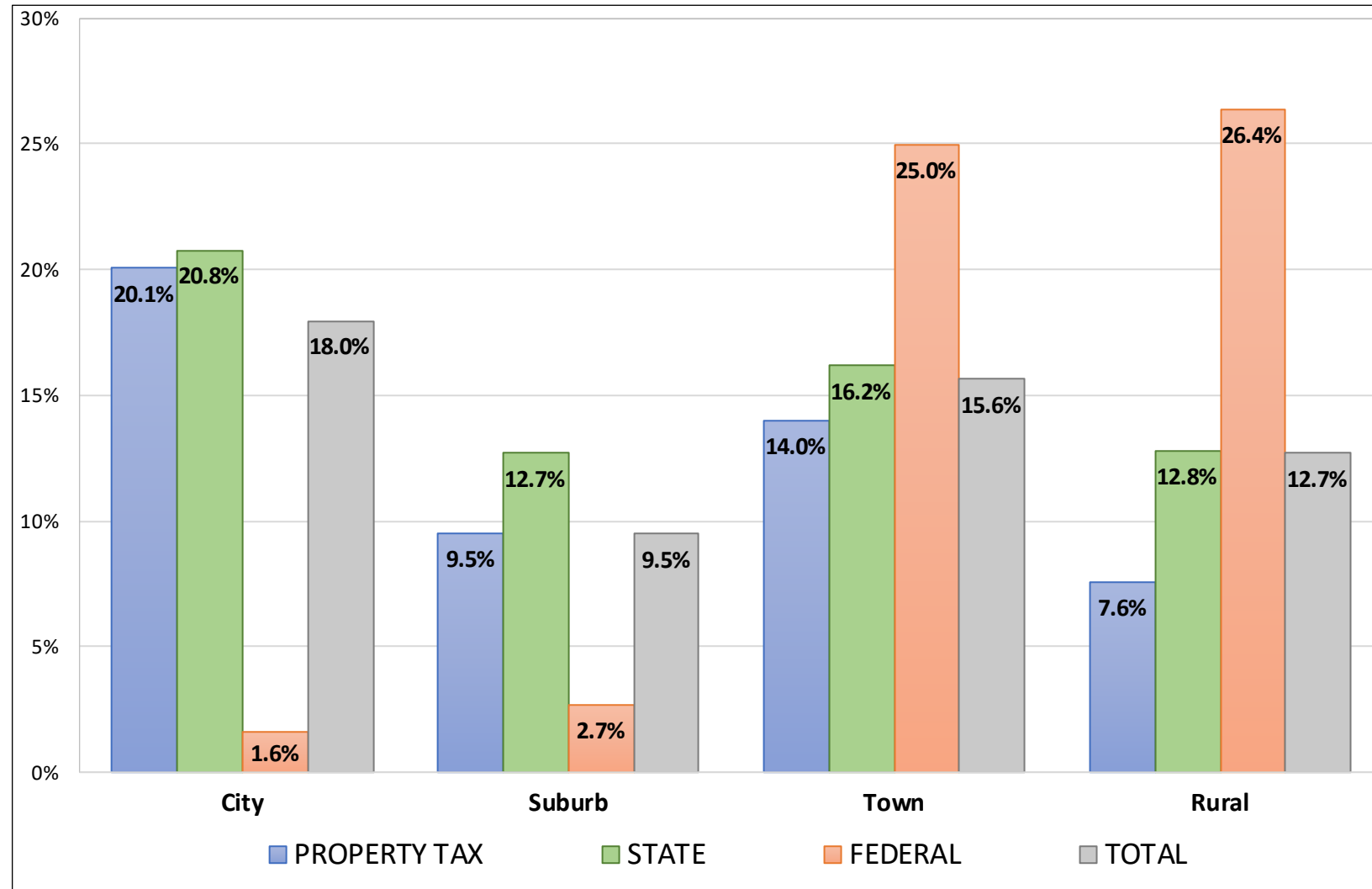
Change in District Expenses 2010-2020

Percent Change from 2010/11 to 2020/21



Change in District Revenues 2010-2020

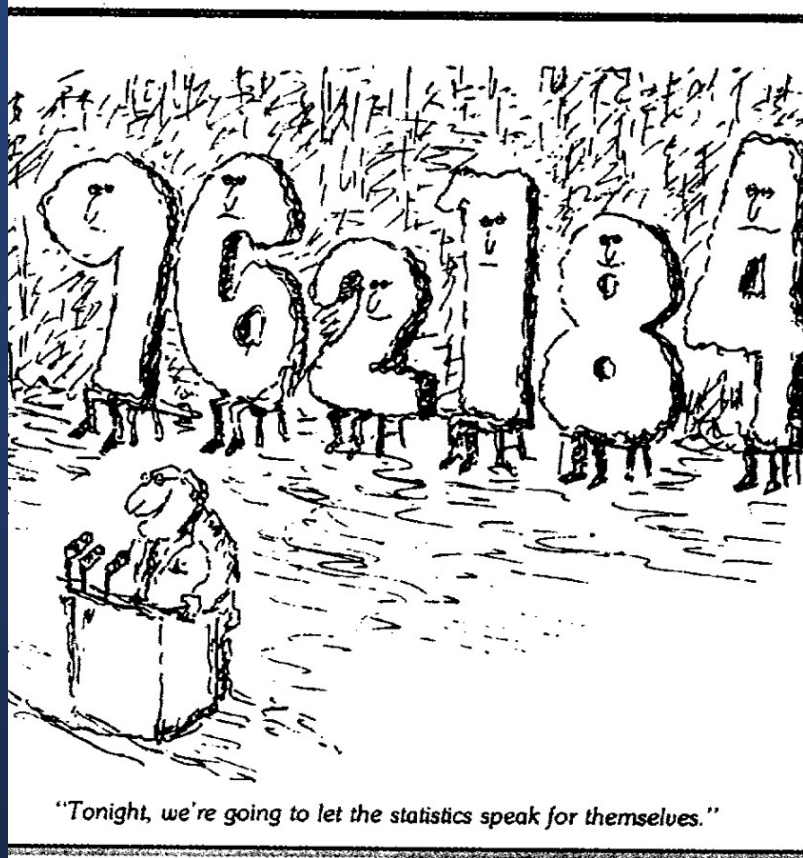
Percent Change from 2010/11 to 2020/21



Wisconsin Public Schools Concluding Comments

- Fewer births and K-12 alternatives means fewer public-school students which translates into smaller budgets.
- Regardless of the number of students, fixed (inflated) costs remain and greater student needs (pandemic learning loss, school safety, mental health, & poverty) have increased.
- In the short term, hope that a meaningful portion of the state surplus will support Wisconsin's school districts.
- In the long term, some difficult decisions will be made, and we will be challenged to find innovative solutions.





Sarah Kemp, Researcher
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Applied Population Laboratory
Email: kemp@wisc.edu
Phone: 608-265-6189

