




St. Timothy's Lutheran Church



WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

A white ceramic mug is partially visible in the bottom right corner, sitting on a white windowsill. A single, bright yellow maple leaf lies on the windowsill behind the mug. The background is a soft-focus view of a window looking out onto a bright, overcast day. The overall scene is calm and serene.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

ISAIAH 43:19



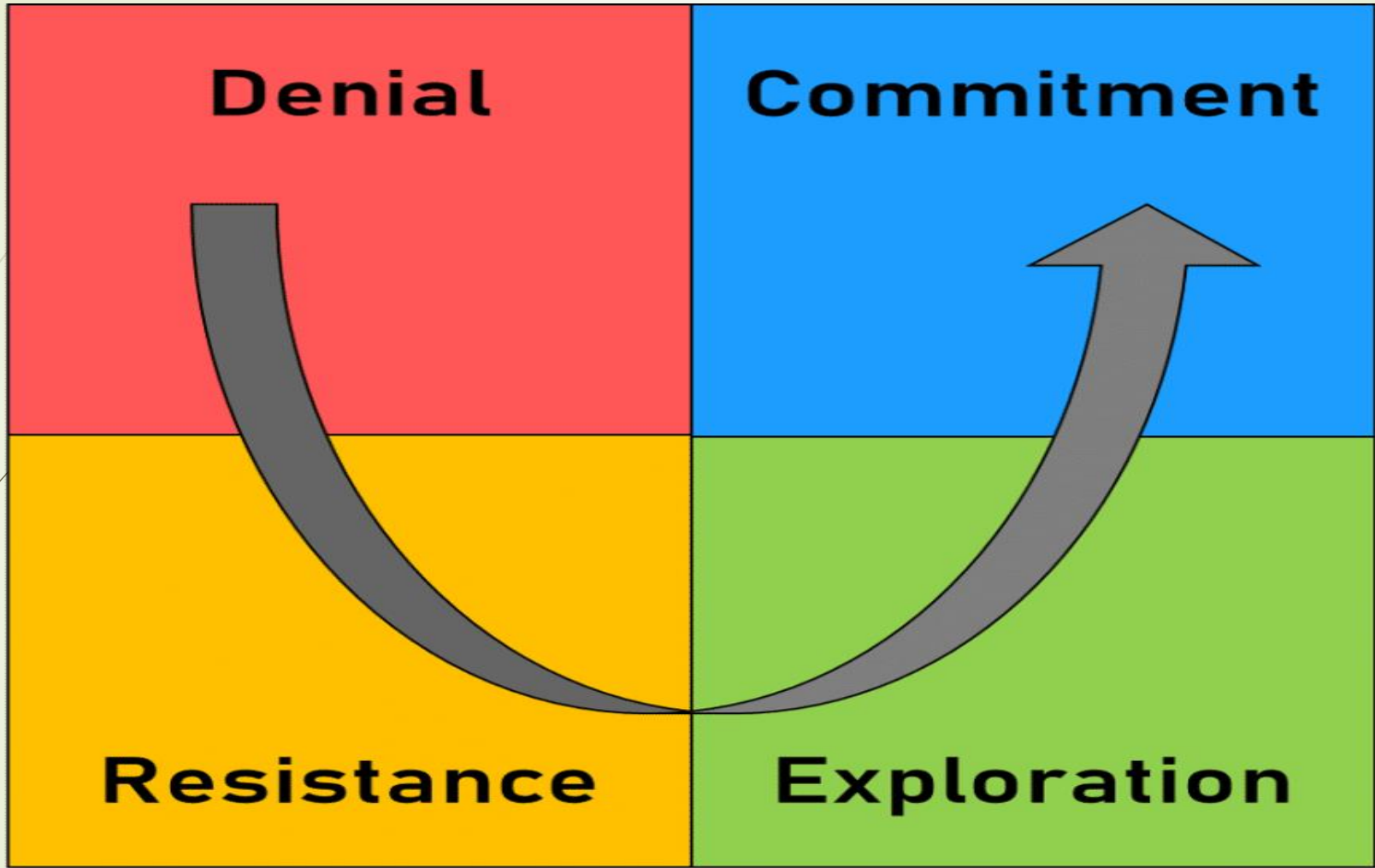
**"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he
is a new creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all things
are become new."**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)



5 Significant Life Changes in your Lifetime!





Denial

Commitment

Resistance

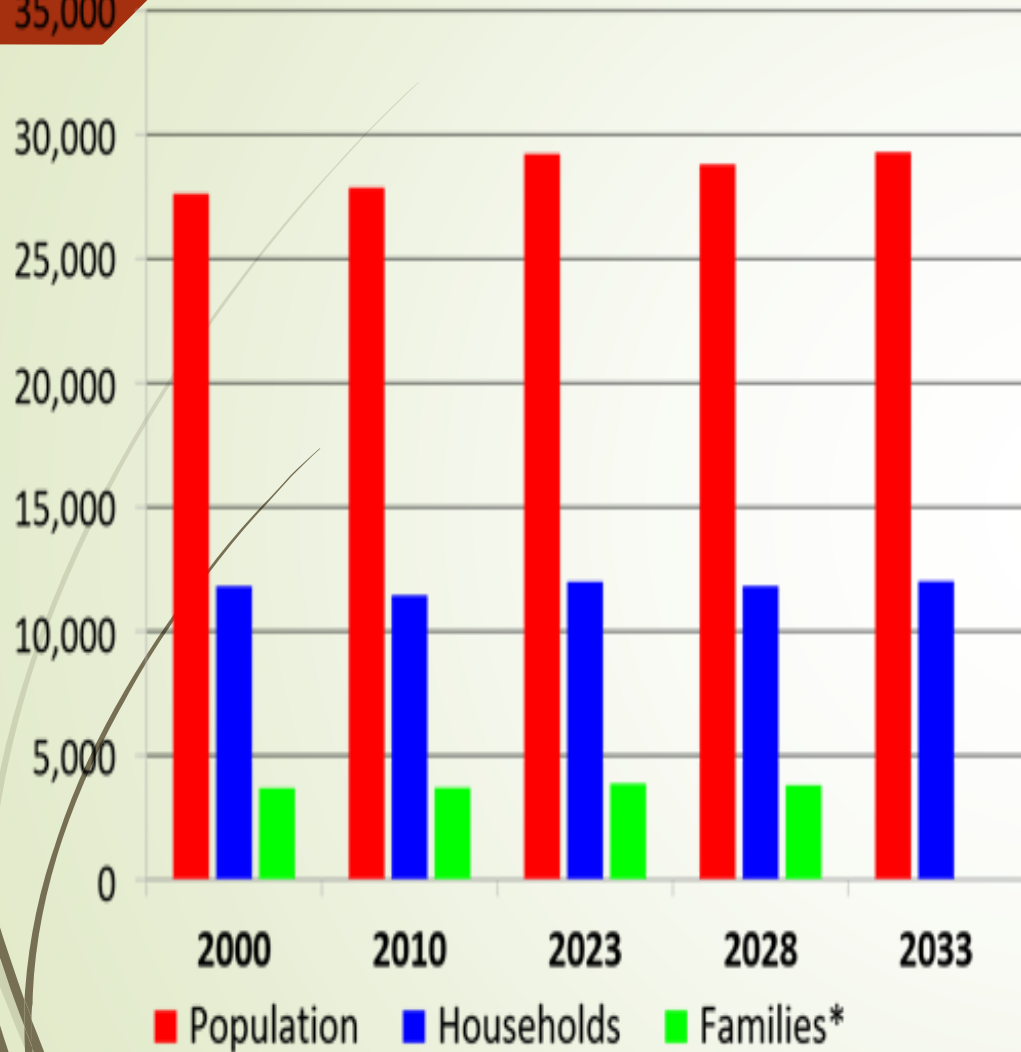
Exploration

PAST FOCUSED

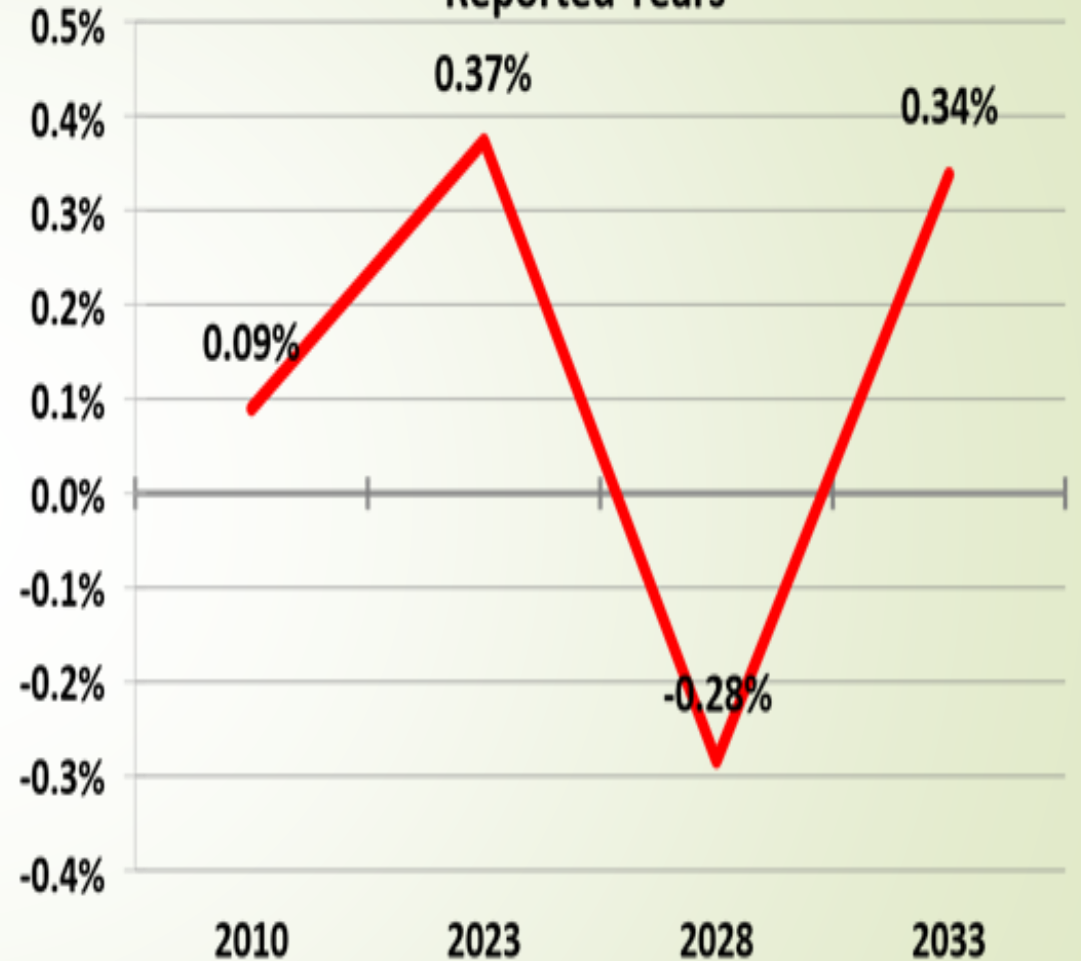
FUTURE FOCUSED

Population, Household & Family Trends

35,000

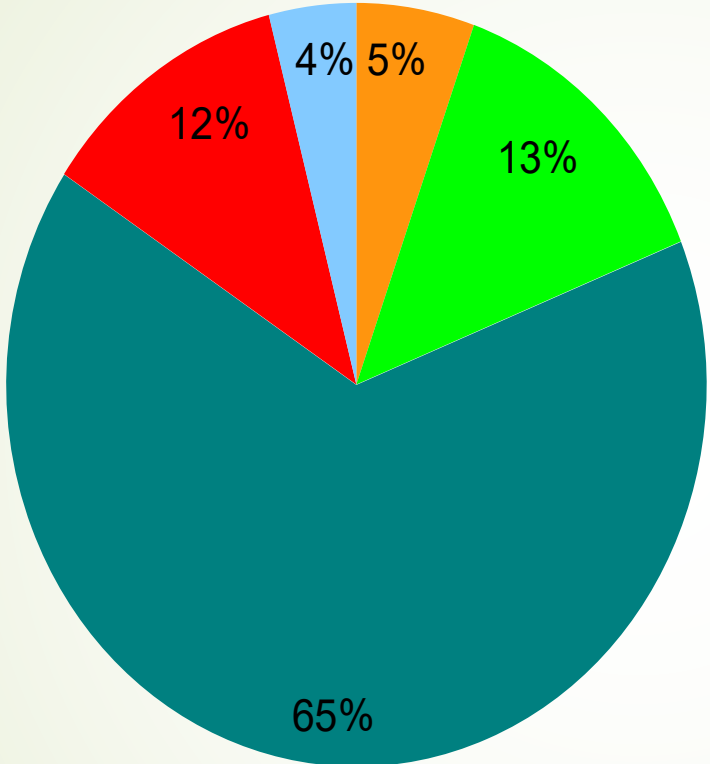


Average Annual Percentage Change Between Reported Years



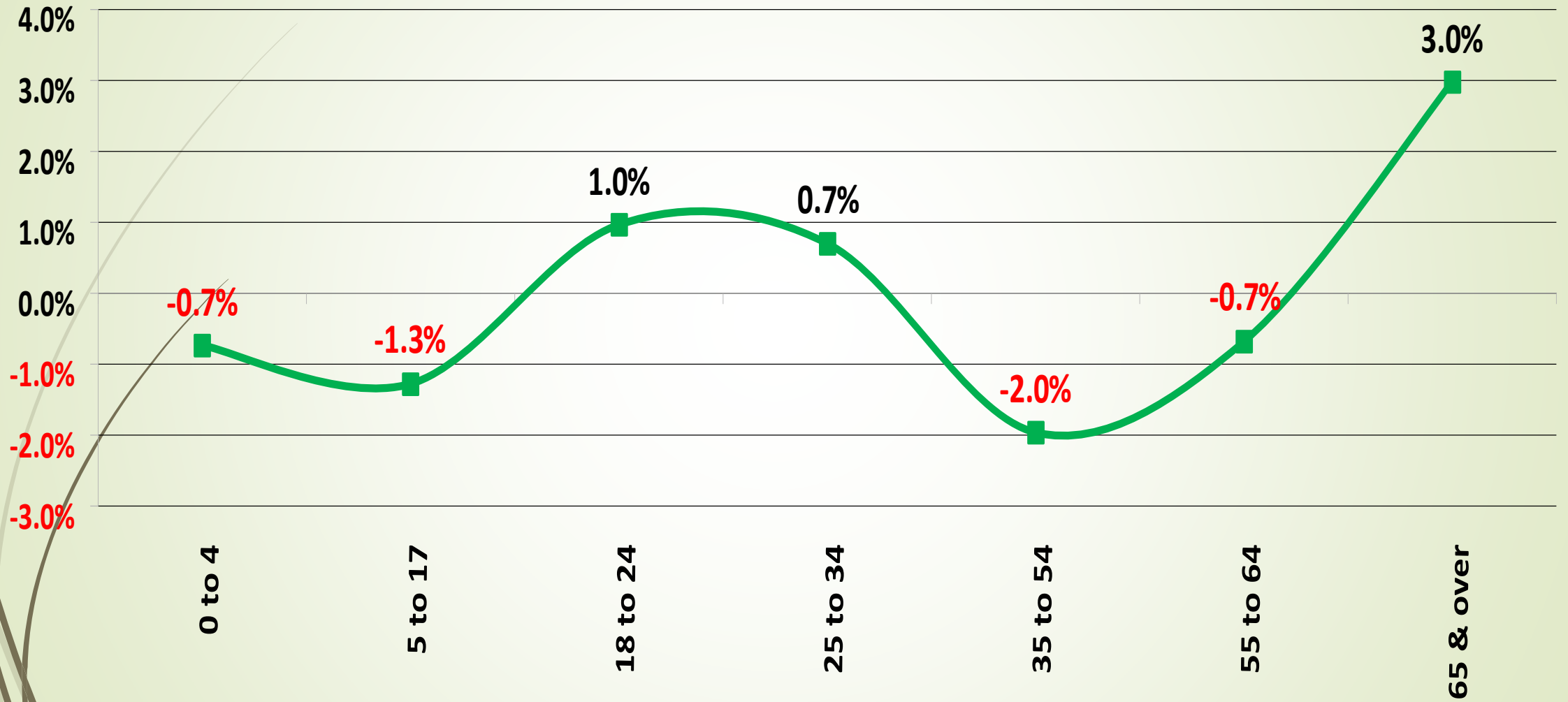
NOTE: Family Household data is not projected out 10 years.

Current Year Racial/Ethnicity as Percentage of Pop

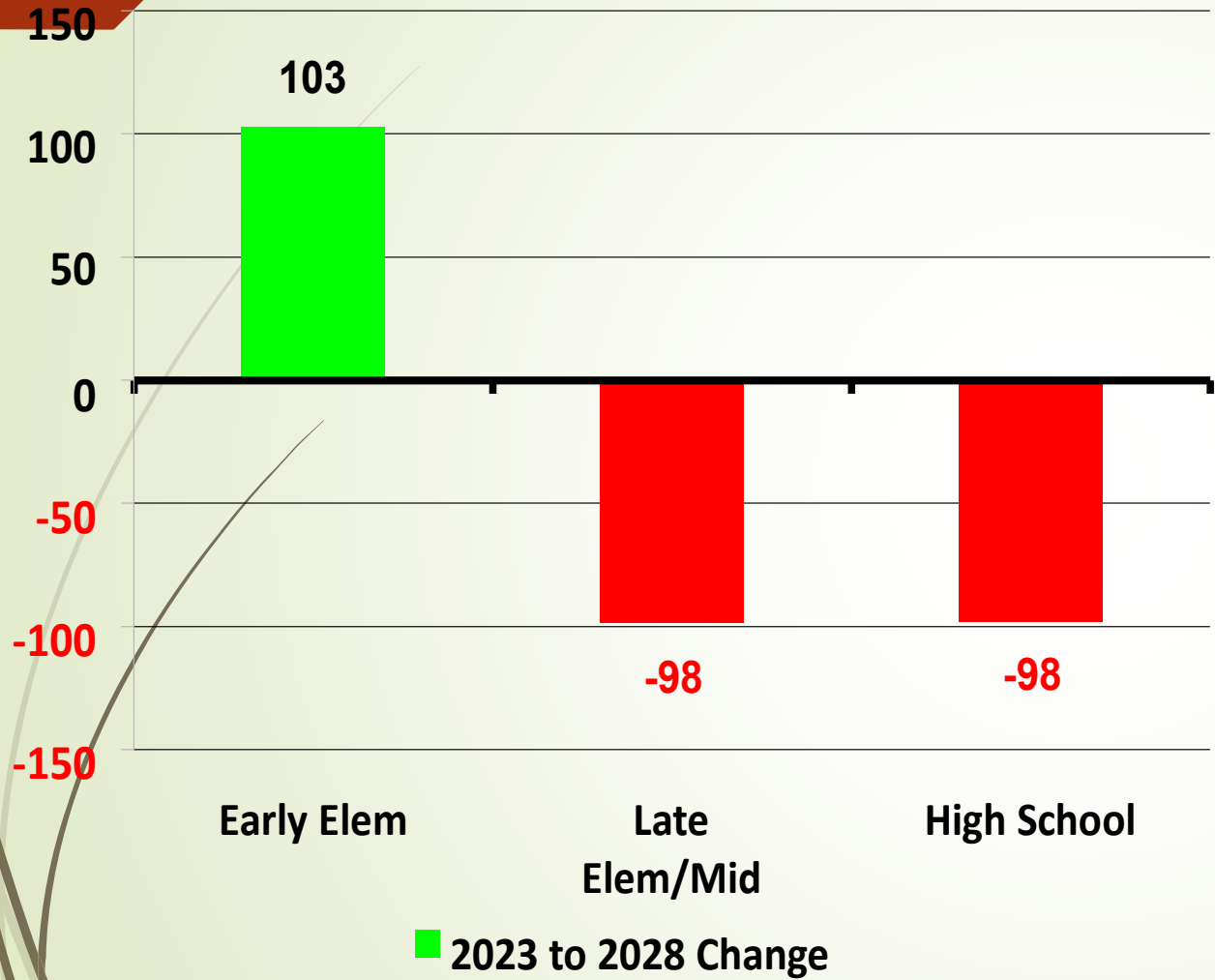


- Asian (NH)
- Black/Af Am (NH)
- White (NH)
- Hisp/Latino
- P Is/Am In/Oth (NH)

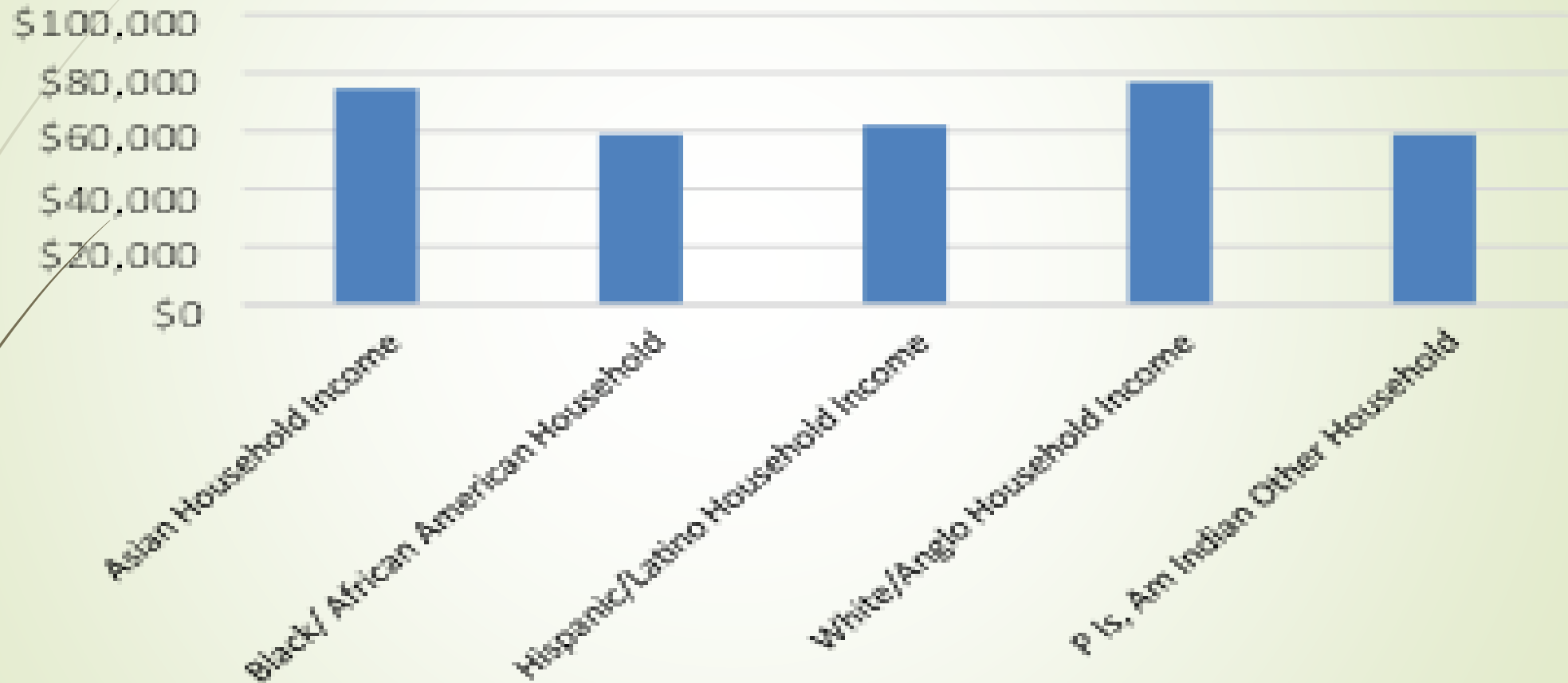
Phase of Life Changes



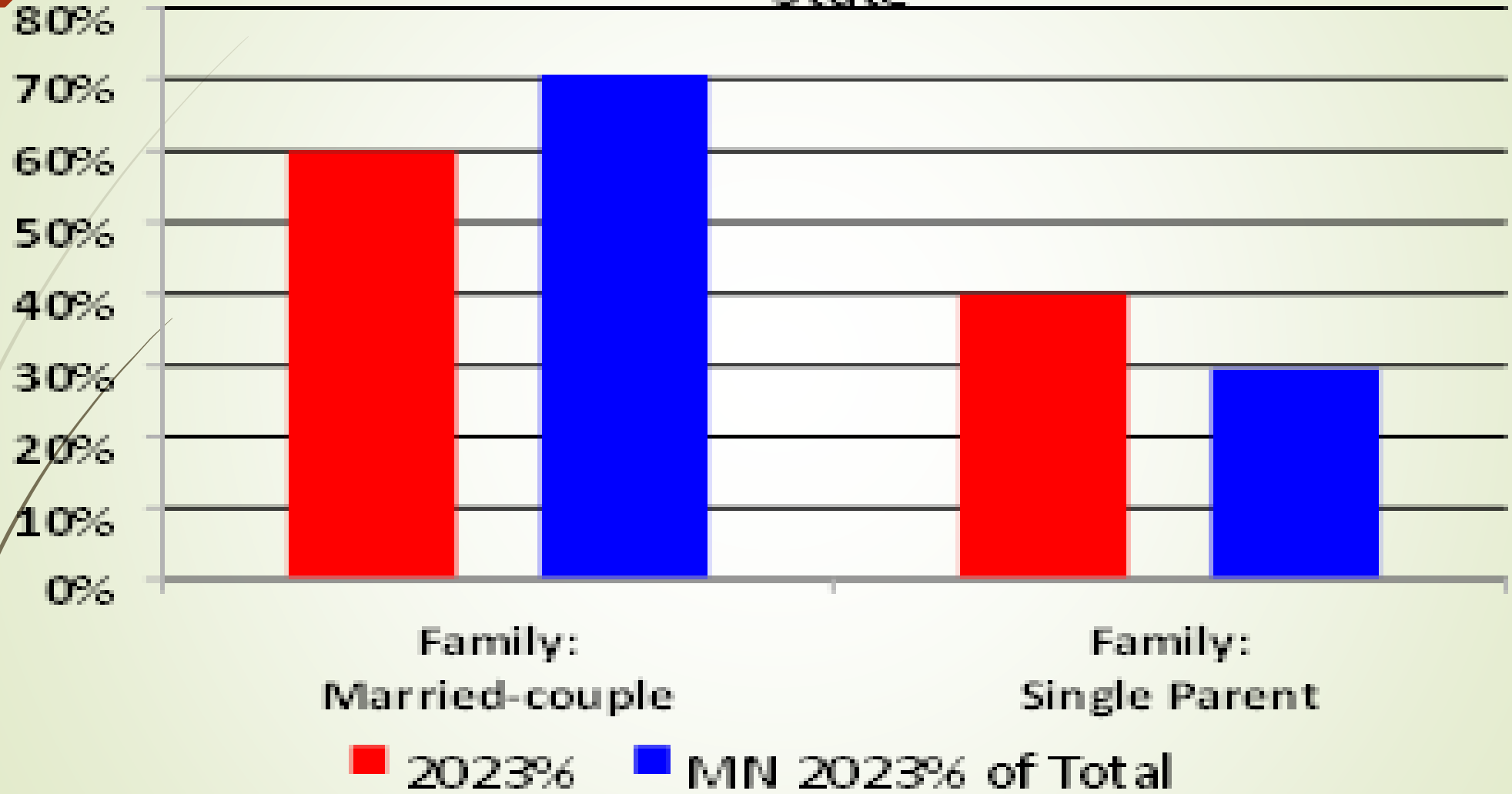
Comparative Index: Study Area to State by Level



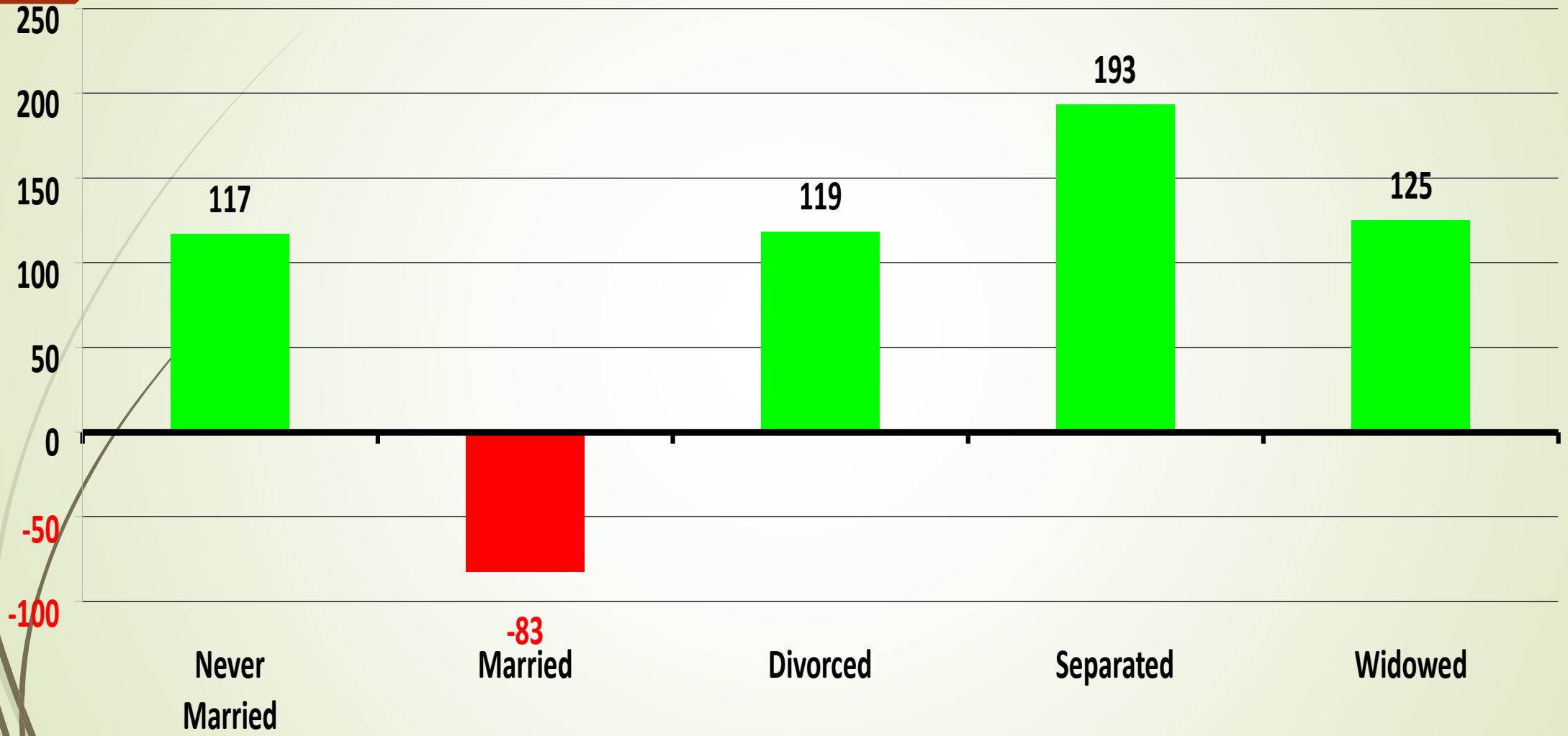
Median Household Income by Race and Ethnicity



Households with Children Under 18 Compared to State



Marital Status: Comparison to the State



Comparison of Study Area to State

30.00%

25.00%

20.00%

15.00%

10.00%

5.00%

0.00%

Less than
9th Grade

Some HS

HS Dipl
or GED

Some
College

Associate
Degree

Bachelor's
Degree

Grad/Profess
Deg

4.0%

2.7%

5.0%

3.7%

27.8%

24.0%

20.2%

20.6%

9.1%

11.7%

23.9%

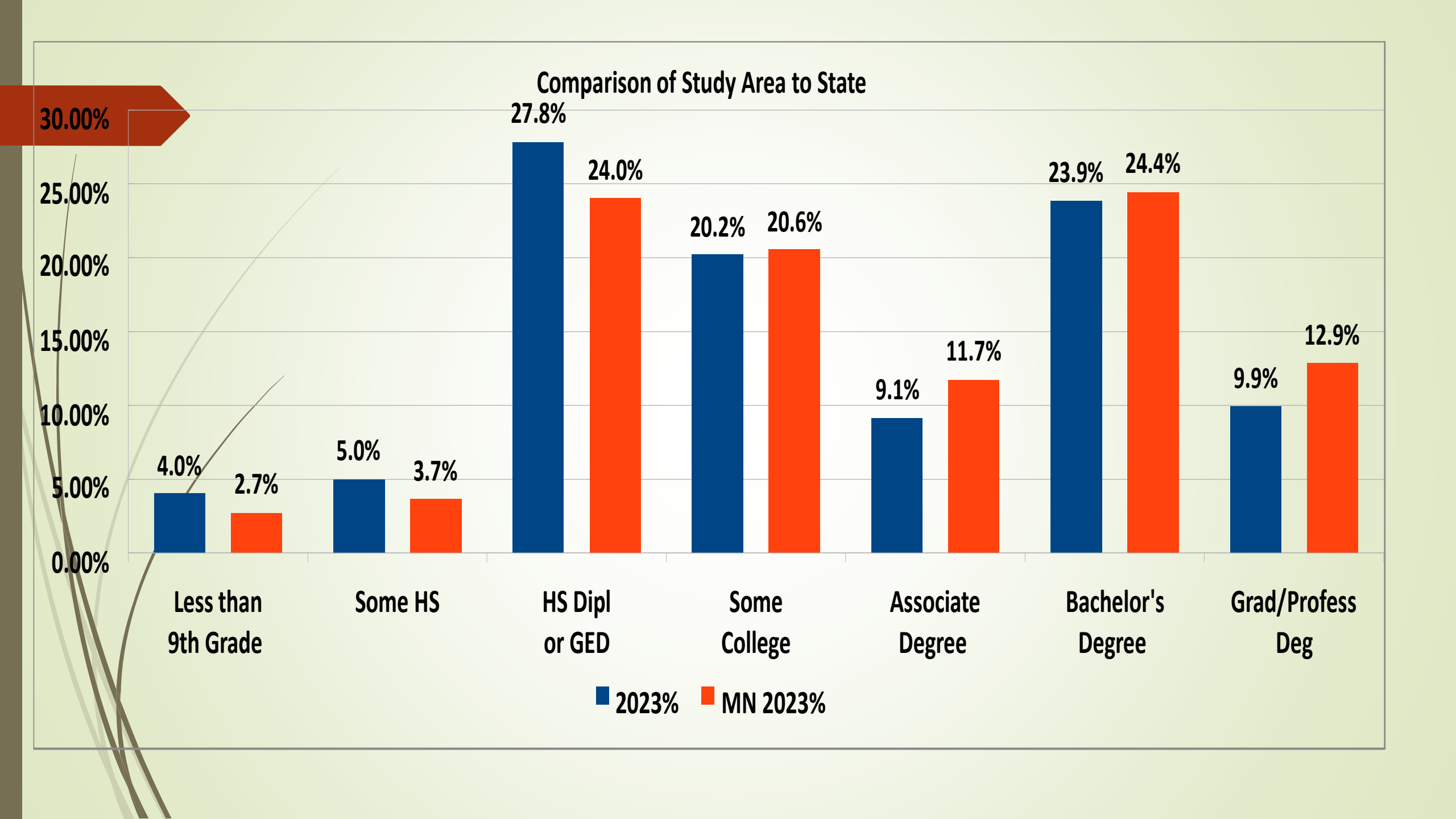
24.4%

9.9%

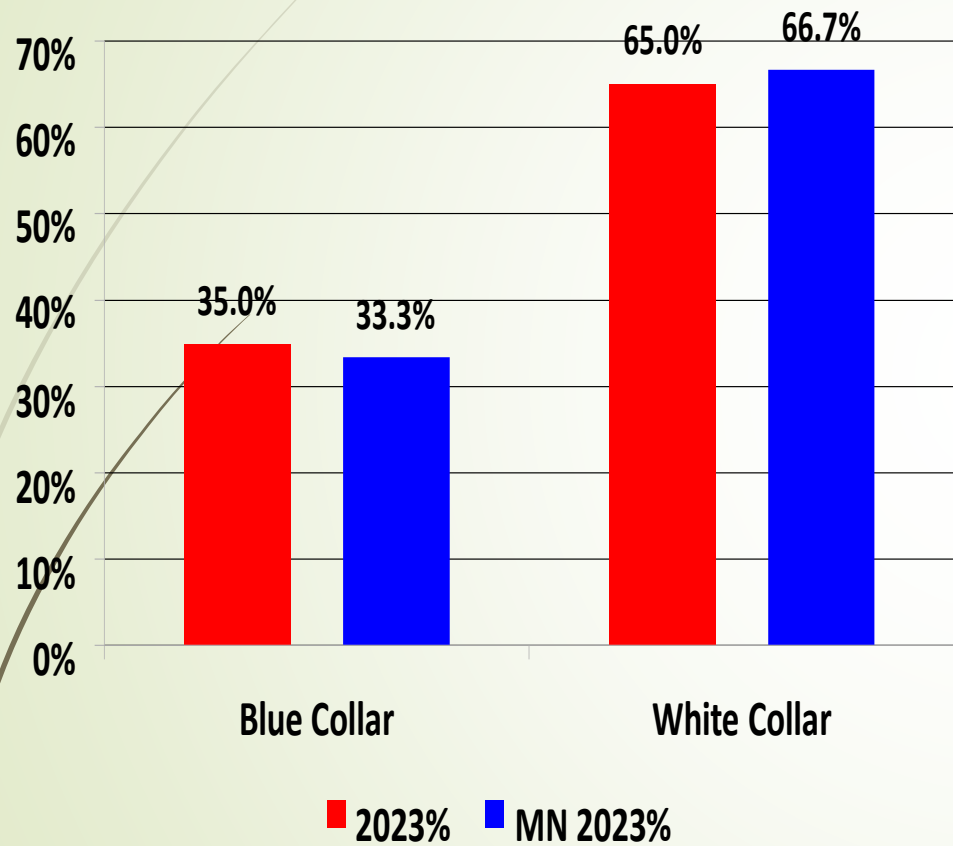
12.9%

■ 2023%

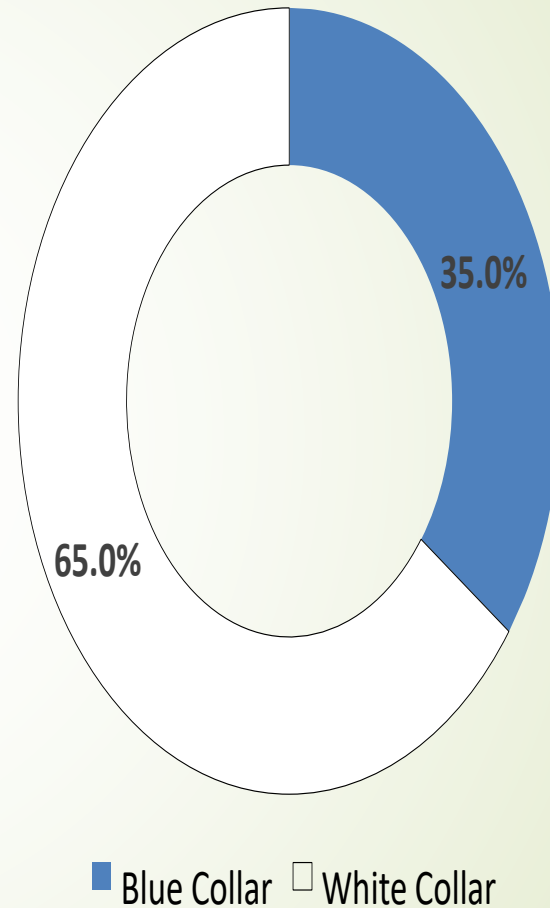
■ MN 2023%



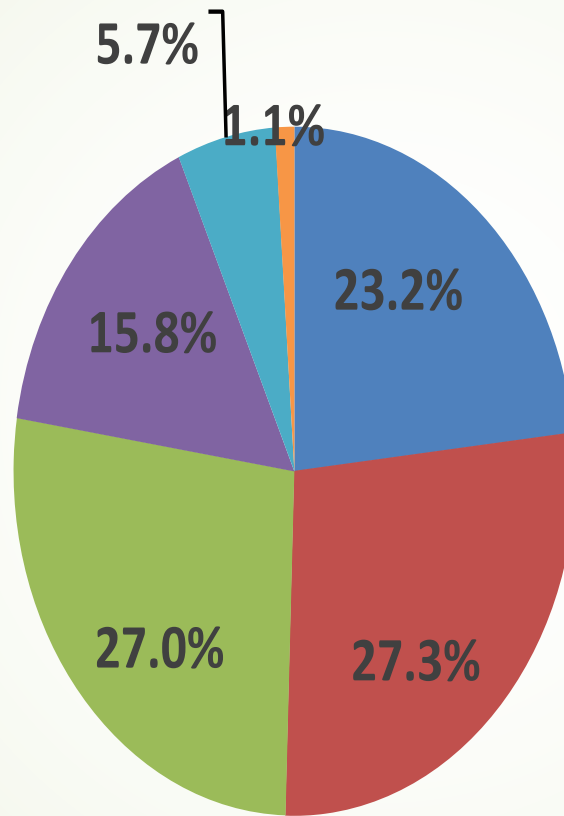
Comparison of Blue and White Collar Employment



Percentage White to Blue Collar

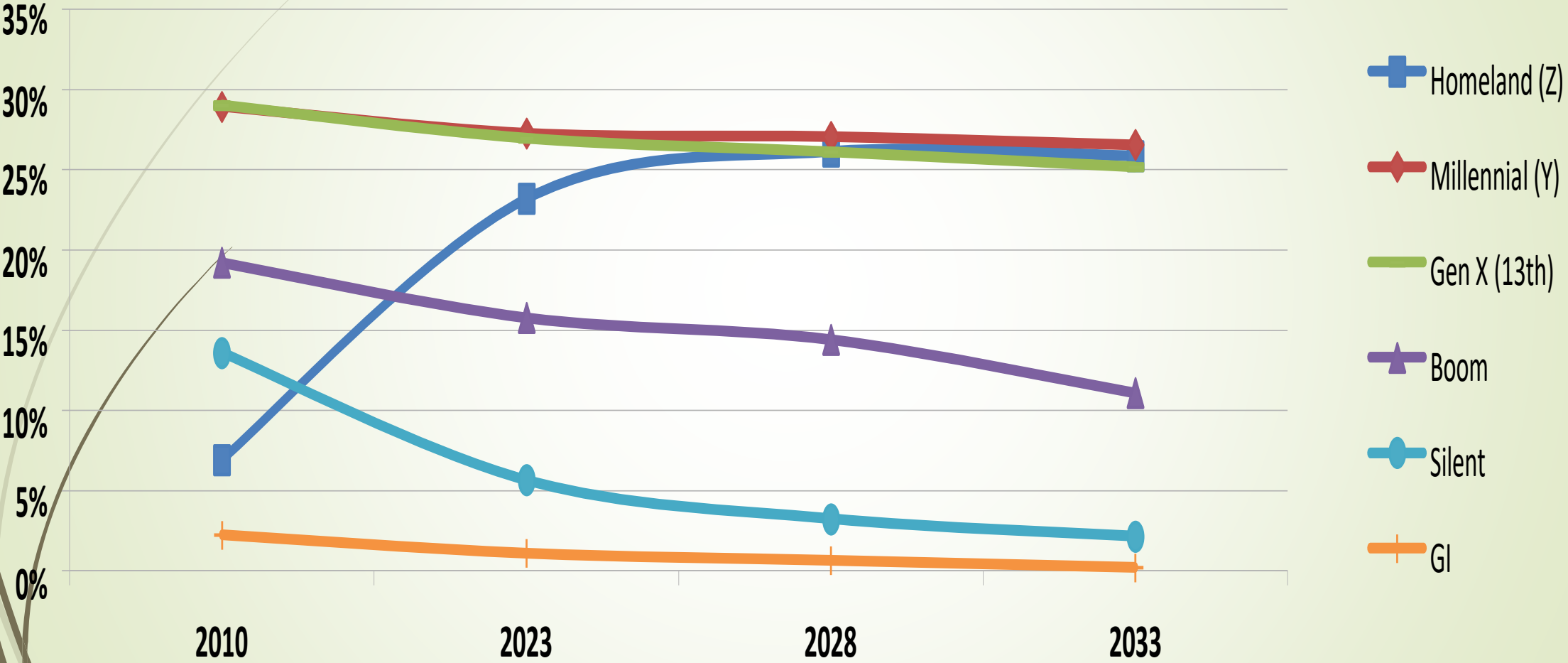


Generations Current Year Percentage



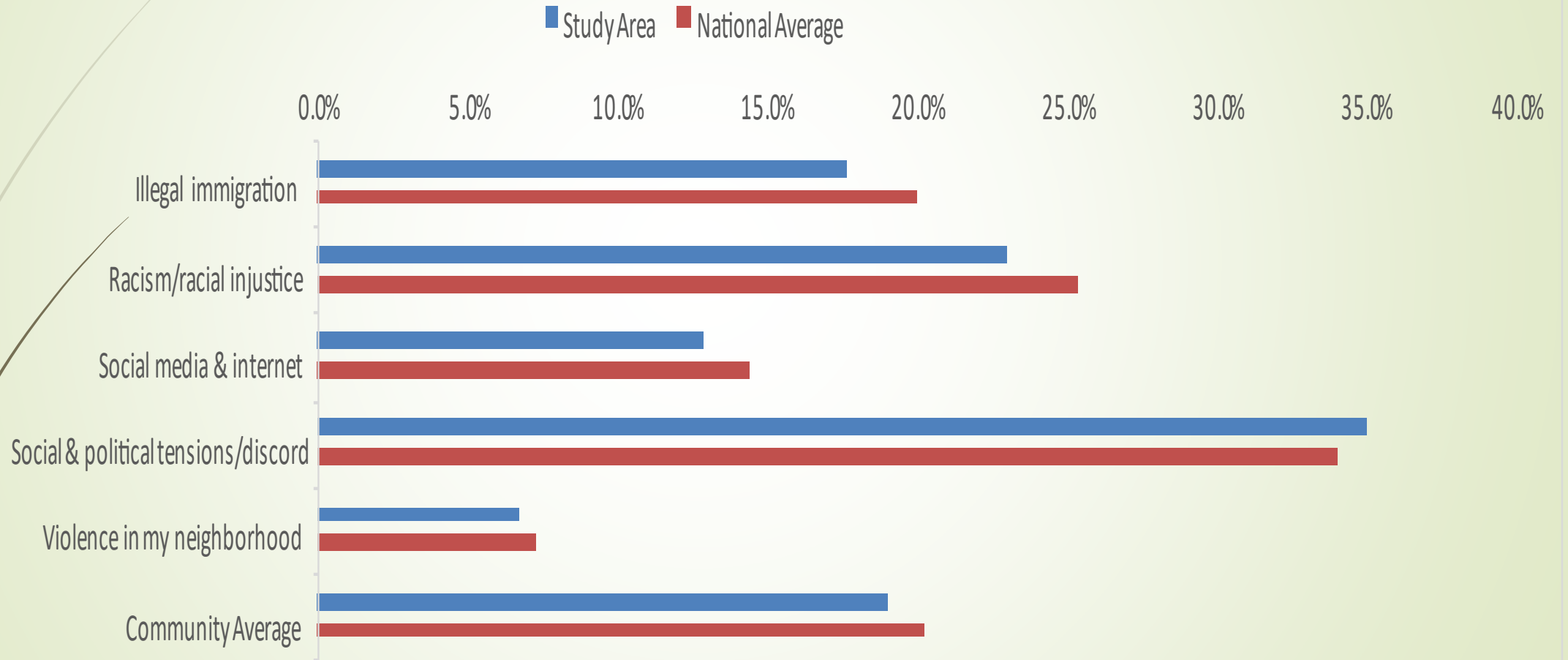
- Homeland (Z)
- Millennial (Y)
- Gen X (13th)
- Boom
- Silent
- GI

Strauss and Howe Generations: Projected Percentages



Significant Community Concerns

Study Area Compared to National Average



15 Life Concerns

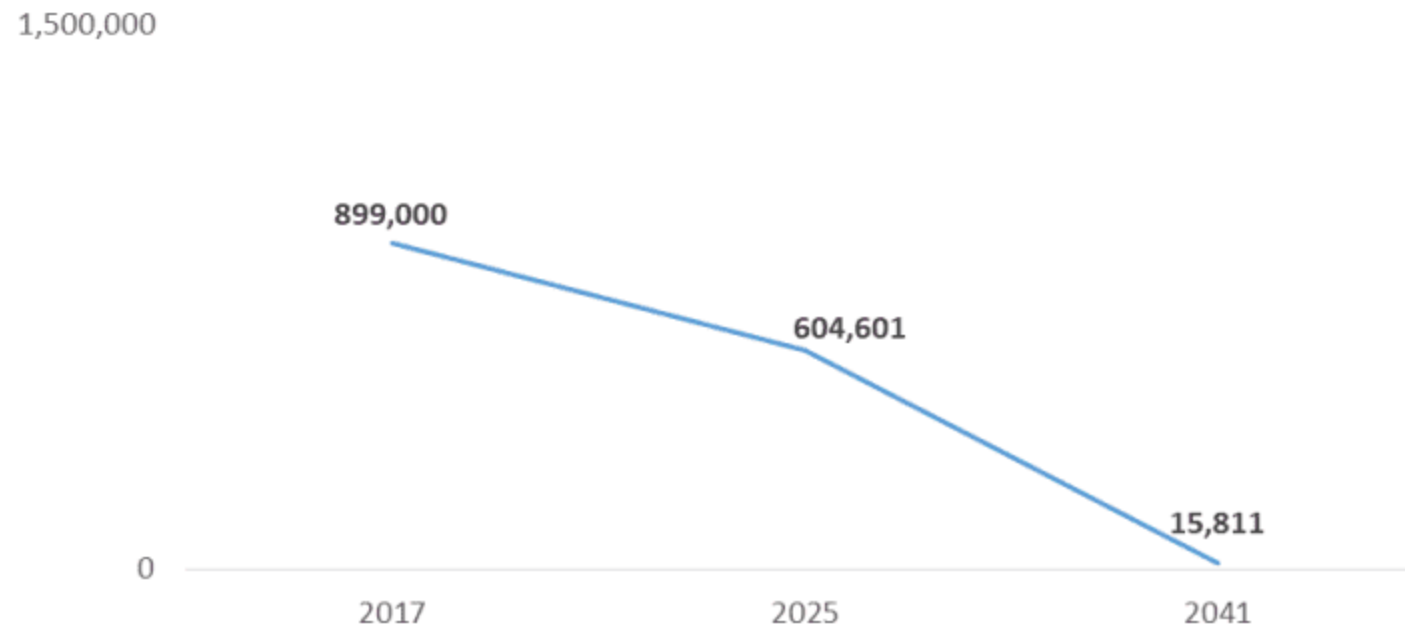
- 1 Ongoing impact of COVID-19 20.3 Extremely Strong Concern**
- 2 Social & political tensions/discord 8.0 Extremely Strong Concern**
- 3 Health crisis/illness 4.1 Very Strong Concern**
- 4 Racism/racial injustice 3.9 Strong Concern**
- 5 Financing the future/savings/retirement 3.8 Strong Concern**
- 6 Fear of the future or the unknown 3.7 Strong Concern**
- 7 Losing weight/diet issues 2.8 Strong Concern**
- 8 Personal health problems 2.6 Strong Concern**
- 9 Illegal immigration 2.5 Strong Concern**
- 10 Stress/time to relax 2.4 Strong Concern**
- 11 Quality of children's education 2.4 Strong Concern**
- 12 Making the right choices/finding direction 2.2 Strong Concern**
- 13 Day-to-day financial matters 2.1 Strong Concern**
- 14 Time for friends/family 2.1 Strong Concern**
- 15 Mental health issues 2.0 Strong Concern**



ELCA Church Study

- **According to projections from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Office of Research and Evaluation, the whole denomination will have fewer than 67,000 members in 2050, with fewer than 16,000 in worship on an average Sunday by 2041.**

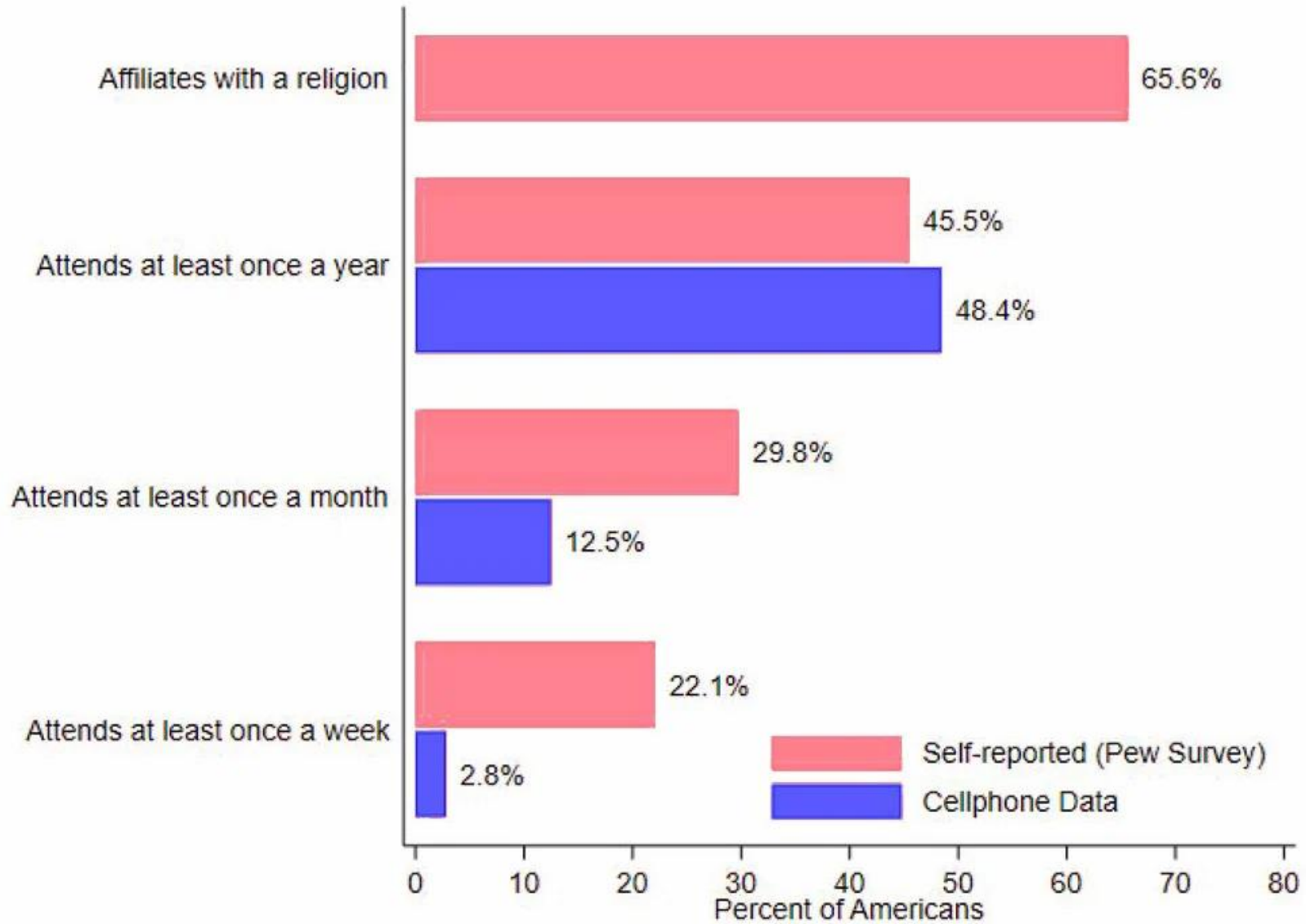
Average Weekly Worship Attendance 2017-2041 Projections



Source: ELCA Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

Church Attendance

Reported vs. actual

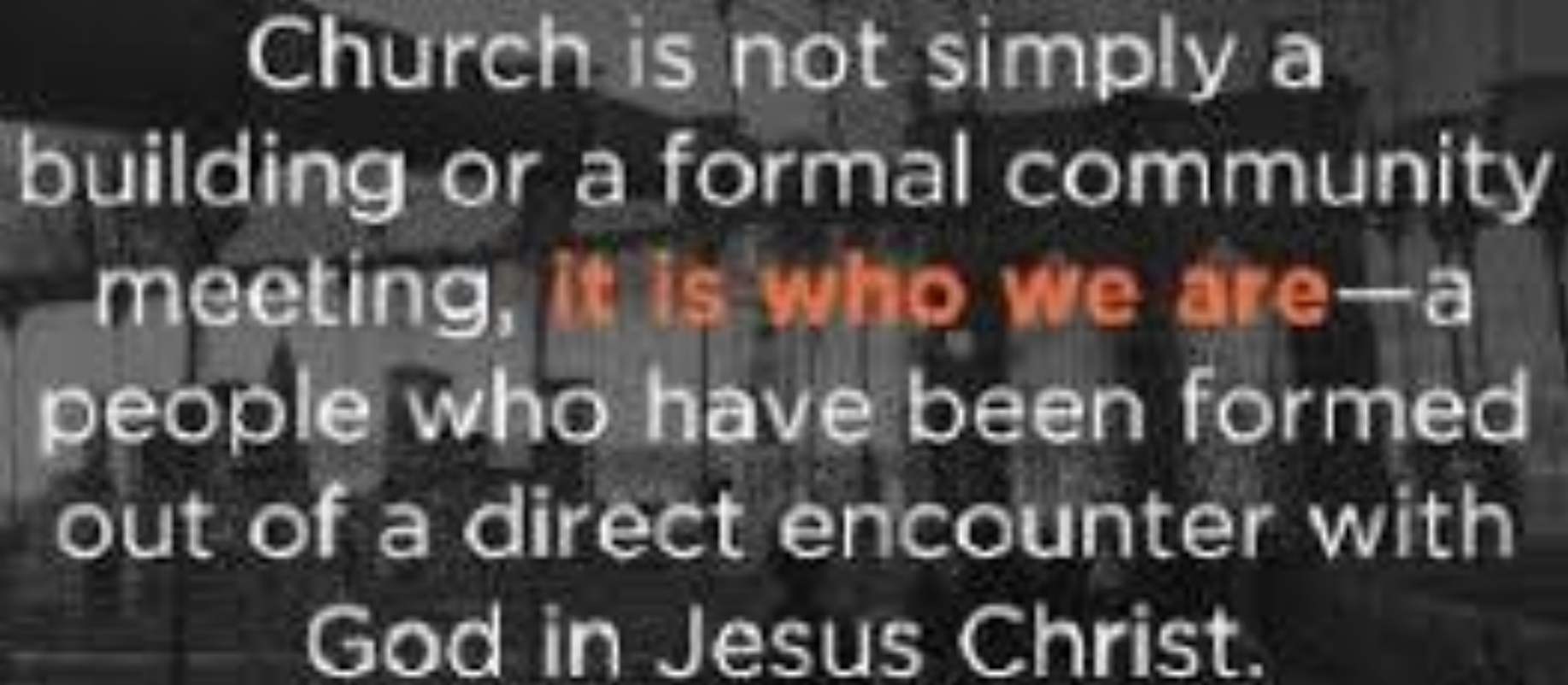


Priority List ***Ministry or Program***

- 1 Warm and friendly encounters
- 2 Quality sermons
- 3 Traditional worship experiences
- 4 Opportunities to develop personal relationships
- 5 Opportunities for volunteering in the community
- 6 Holiday programs/activities
- 7 Adult social activities
- 8 Celebration of sacraments

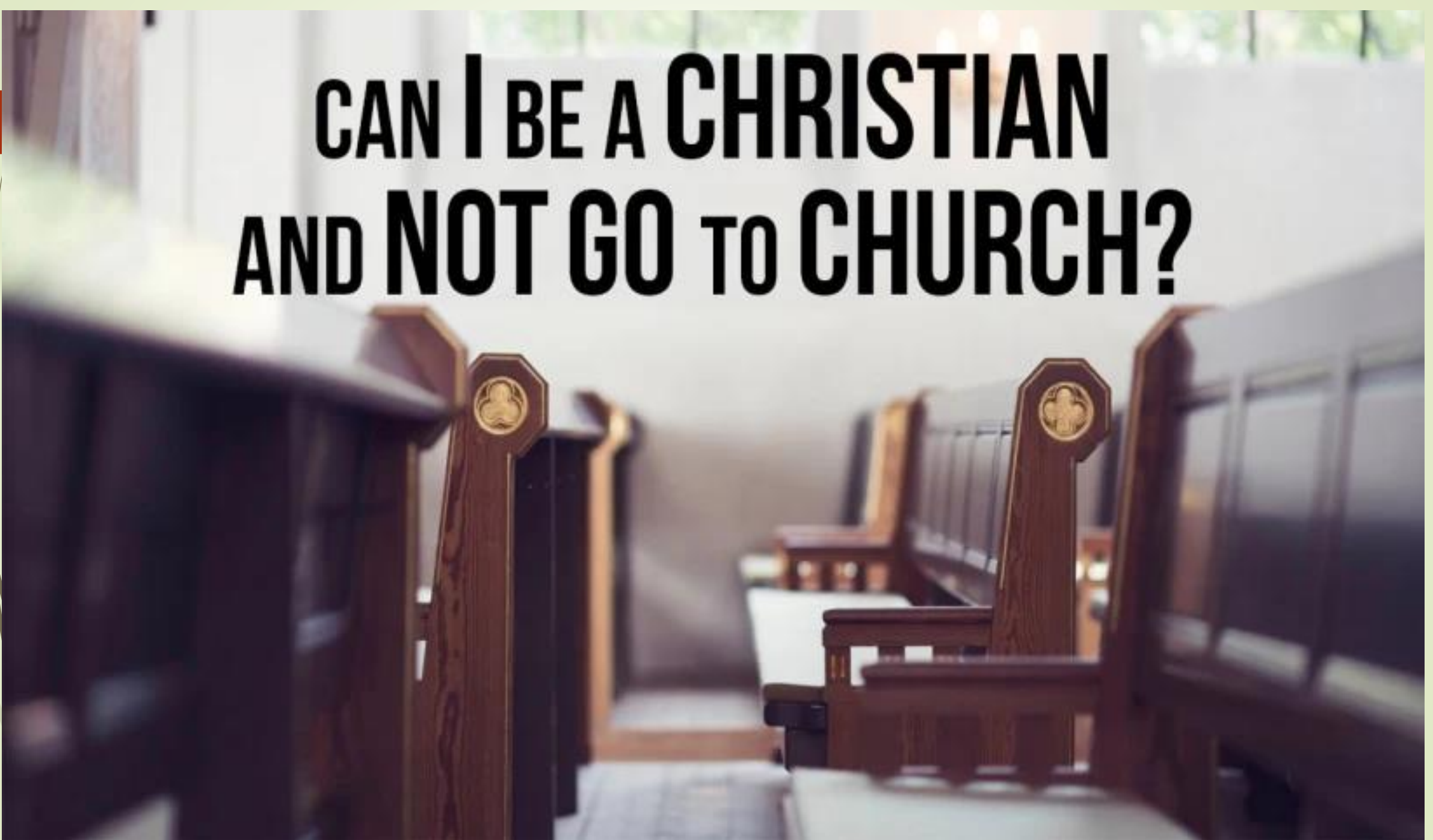
Top 10 of 25 reasons for considering NOT participating in a Church

- 1 *Didn't feel welcome***
- 2 *Religion too focused on money***
- 3 *Wasn't supportive during crisis/time of need***
- 4 *Don't believe in God***
- 5 *Moved from community***
- 6 *Religious People too Judgmental***
- 7 *Don't trust religious leaders***
- 8 *Conflicts in religious community***
- 9 *Wasn't relevant to my life***
- 10 *Not Invited***



Church is not simply a building or a formal community meeting, **it is who we are**—a people who have been formed out of a direct encounter with God in Jesus Christ.

CAN I BE A CHRISTIAN AND NOT GO TO CHURCH?



7 Genuine Advantages of Small Churches (and 2 Sizable Problems)

- 1. Family Feel**
- 2. Quick Integration of New People**
- 3. Simpler Systems**
- 4. Earthed Preaching**
- 5. Shepherding Suits More Pastors**
- 6. Less staff**
- 7. Pastoral Lifestyle**

Two Sizable Problems of Smaller Churches

- 1. The Church Bully**
- 2. Pastoral Feelings of Inferiority**



A glimpse into the future Church

- *1. Less ingathering and more going out*
- *2. Small groups meeting in homes*
- *3. Sunday-Monday faith connection- Doing the faith together*
- *4. More emphasis on spirituality*
- *5. Faith is both head and Heart*
- *6. Faith life experience is priceless*
- *7. Move from Building to street*
- *8. Where everybody knows your name and cares*



- **Questions**

- **Comments**

- **Suggestions**



➤ Go in Peace

➤ Serve the Lord

➤ Thank you!