

The Youth Transitions Task Force (YTTF) has been working to lower the dropout rate since 2004

- Members include Boston Public Schools, Boston PIC – Boston's Workforce Development Board, city and state agencies, community-based organizations, youth-serving agencies

- Research: quantitative and qualitative data
- Public forums analyzing the data
- Policy and practice recommendations
- State legislation and advocacy
- Media projects

Mayor's Office of Jobs and
Community Services

Center for Labor Market
Studies, Northeastern
University

Commonwealth Corporation

Jobs for the Future

Youth Opportunity Boston

Black Ministerial Alliance

Boston After School
& Beyond

The Boston Foundation

Boston Higher Education
Partnership

Boston's One-Stop
Career Centers

Boston Plan for Excellence

Boston Police Department

Boston Student
Advisory Committee

Boston Urban Youth
Foundation

Boston WIA Youth Council

Bunker Hill Community
College

Center for
Collaborative Education



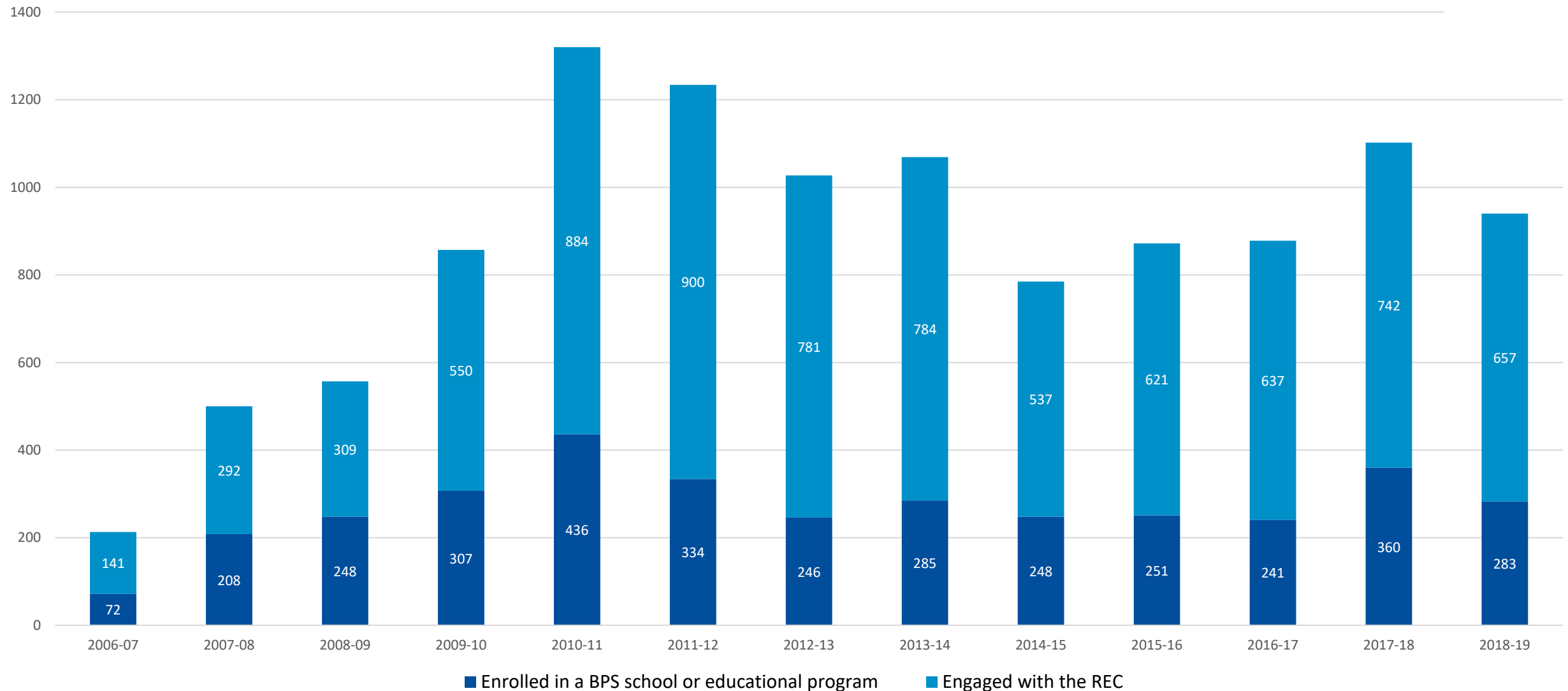
Too Big

To Be Seen:

The Invisible Dropout Crisis in Boston and America

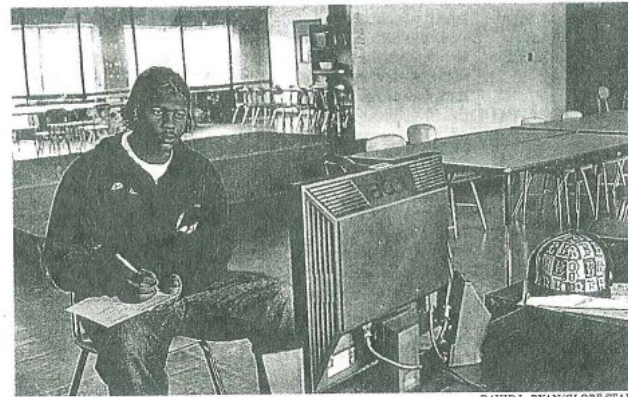
1. BPS Parthenon study – segments off track youth
2. PIC dropout outreach leads to BPS-PIC Re-Engagement Center (REC)
3. BPS starts credit recovery, implements tiered intervention system
4. Dropout rate decreases
5. Graduation rate increases

The Re-Engagement Center (REC) has reconnected thousands of students



Source: Re-Engagement Center, student engaged completed an intake between July 1 and June 30 of the following year

Media coverage chronicled both the dropout crisis and the response to it



Khalil Yusuf, 18, took notes as he watched a videotape about going back to school.

Coaxing dropouts back in New program brings hundreds into system

By David Abel
GLOBE STAFF

Some get pregnant, become homeless, or end up in prison. Others prefer to get a job or just despise homework.

Students give many reasons for dropping out of high school.

Then there are those like Anthony Haskins Jr., who fall behind in their classes, stop showing up, and then months or years later can't remember what it was exactly that made them quit.

"I didn't have any reasons for it; I just stopped," said Haskins, 17, who dropped

out during his freshman year at Madison Park High School in Roxbury.

Previously, students such as Haskins — there were 2,036 of them last year in Boston — might have never heard from the school system again, with many of their names logged among the lost causes.

But this year the district is trying something different to cut its dropout rate, which last year was double the state average, as it has been for years, with 40 percent of students in the class of 2008 failing to graduate.

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

GRADU
CLASS
FOUR
100



School chief lays out ambitious plan Johnson seeks greater accountability

By Tracy Jan
GLOBE STAFF

More Boston high school students would be able to attend classes on college campuses. Parents would be able to send their young children to popular Montessori schools without paying private school tuition. And students of all ages would have more opportunities to

learn art and music.

Those are among the ambitious plans Superintendent Carol Johnson unveiled last night during her first major policy address before the School Committee. Hoping to entice parents to enroll their children in public schools, Johnson called simultaneously for increasing accountability to ensure

there are improvements among struggling students while expanding programs for the highest achievers.

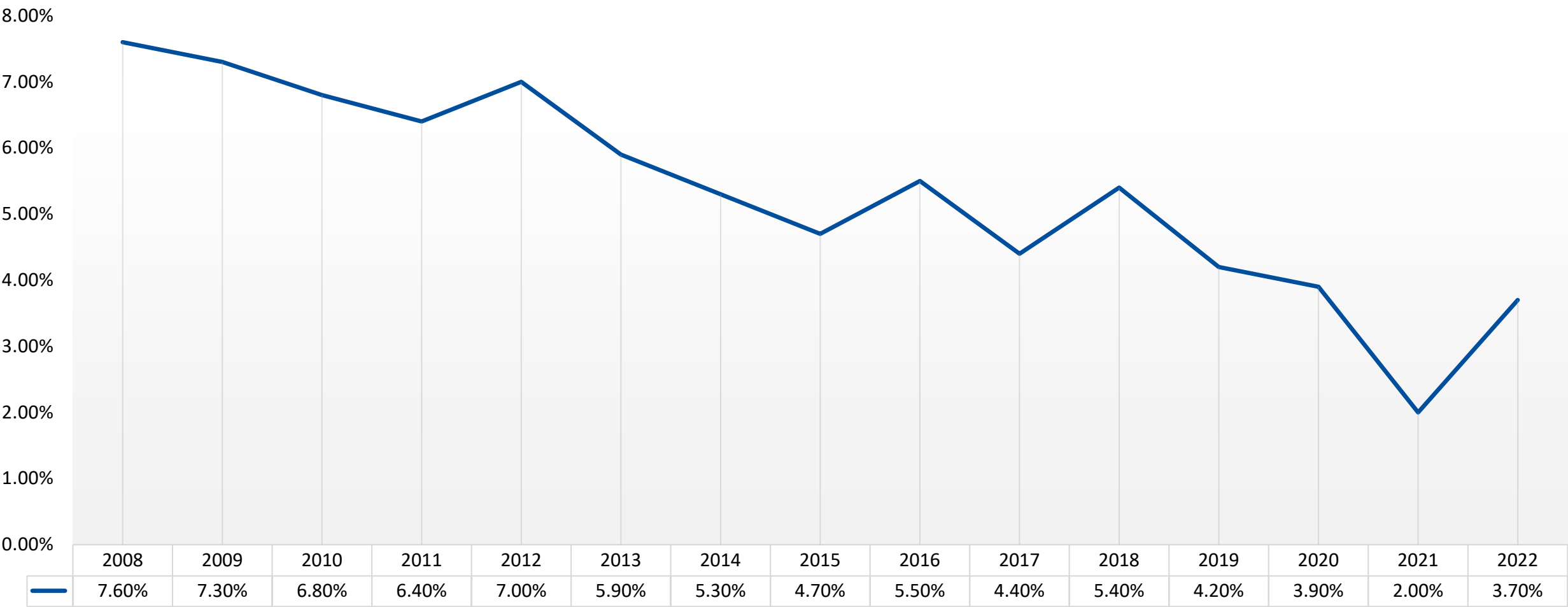
"Families of all incomes, races, languages, or backgrounds want the best for their children," Johnson said in front of a standing-room-only crowd. "Unless [the school system] is perceived as offering a broader array of exemplary schools and programs of choice, parents have and will make choices outside of Boston public schools."

It was unclear how much Johnson's initiatives will cost and how she will pay for them. Boston faces a projected \$12.8 million deficit in its more than \$818.5 million budget, which includes federal money. Johnson is expected to release budget recommendations next week.

"We must be mindful of our fiscal situation," she said, adding that she was working to incorporate her plan for the fiscal 2009 budget.

As the response to the crisis continued, dropout rates decreased

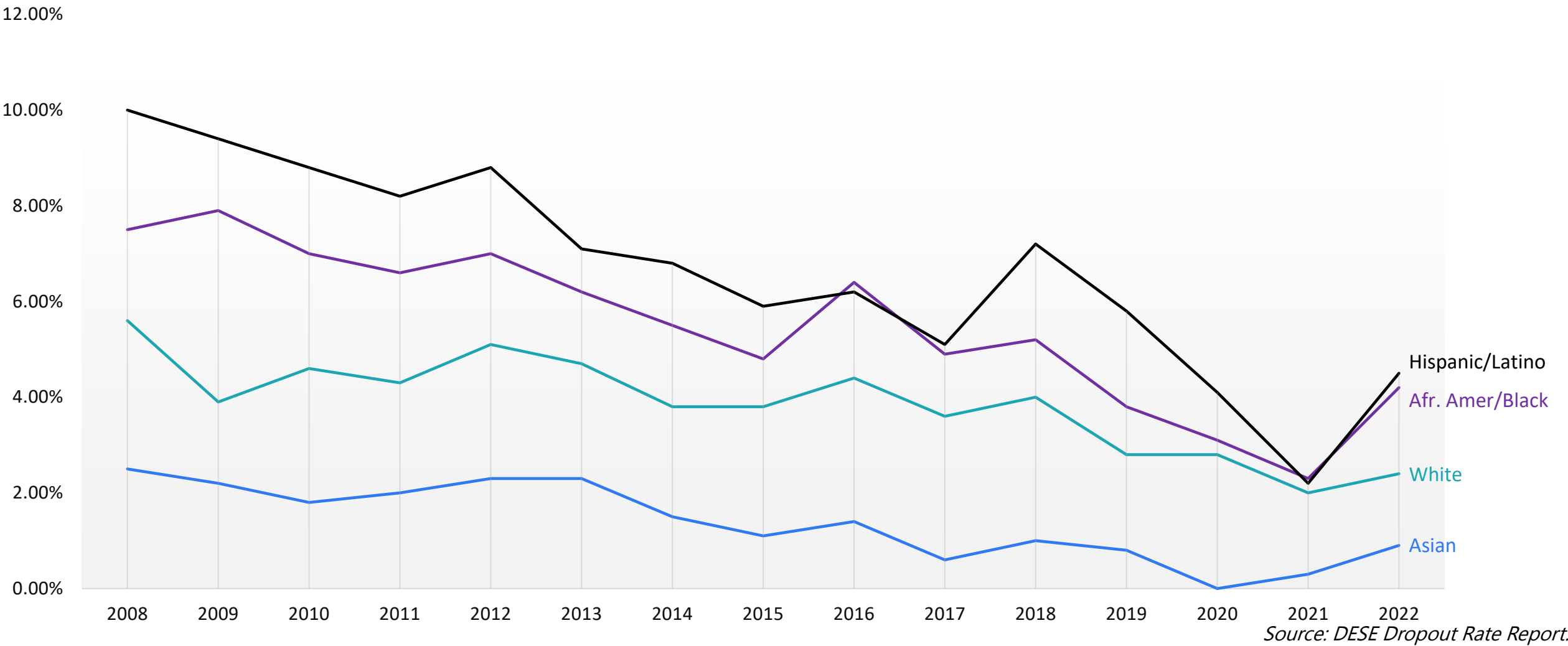
Boston Public Schools (BPS) dropout rates, 2008-2022



Source: DESE Dropout Rate Report.

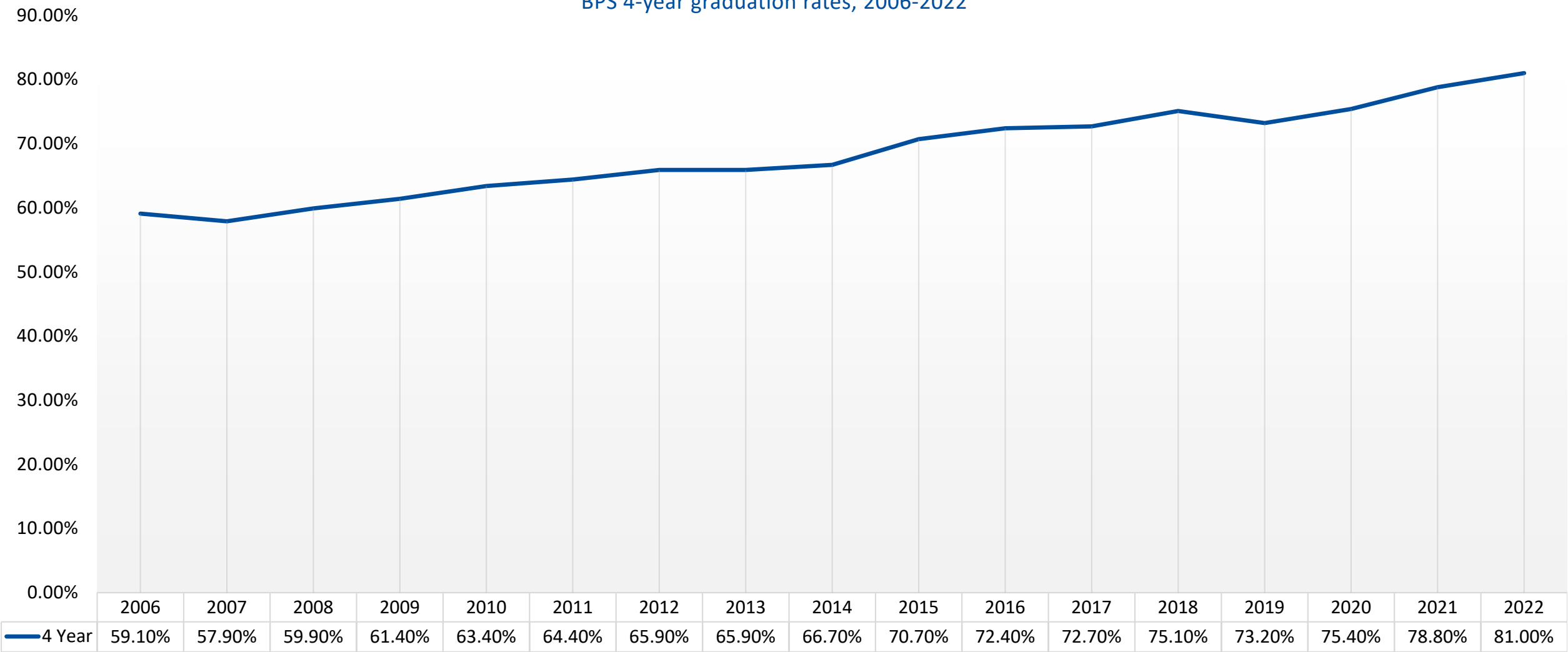
Despite overall rates decreasing, disparities remain

BPS dropout rates by race-ethnic group, 2008-2022



At the same time, high school graduation rates increased

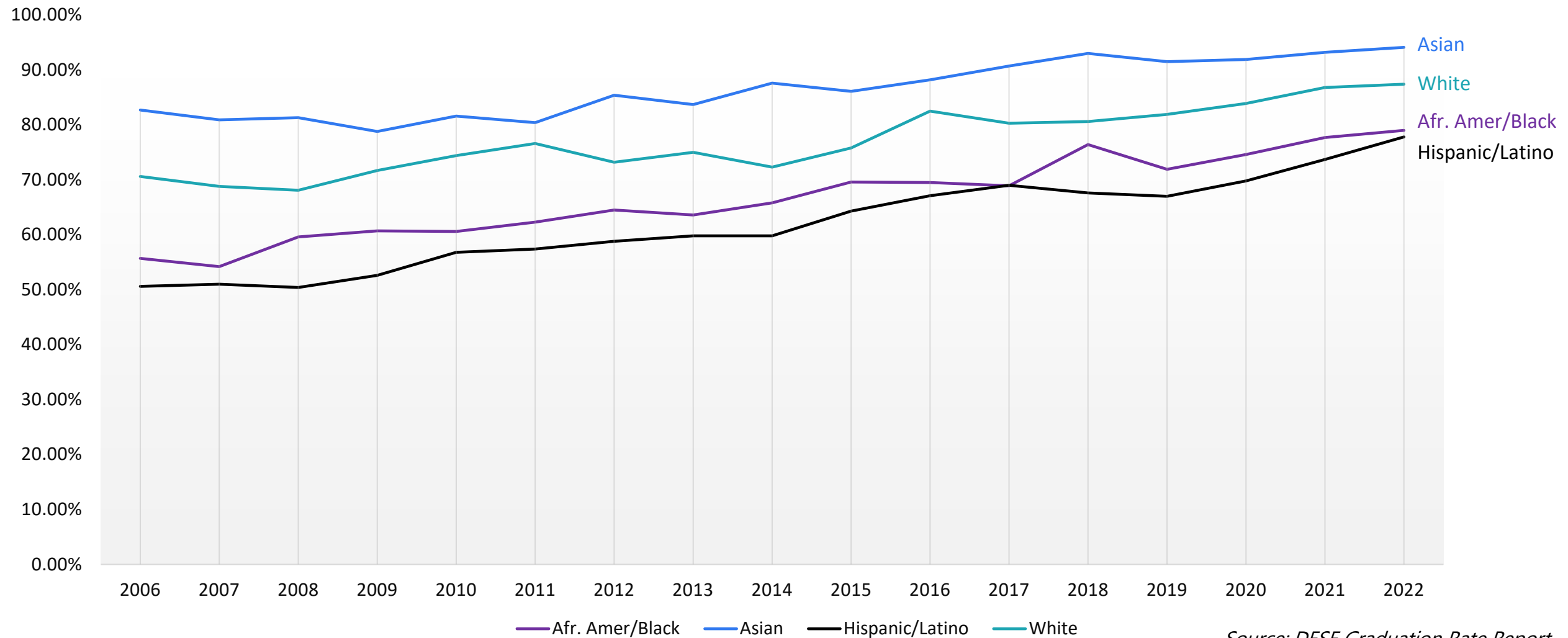
BPS 4-year graduation rates, 2006-2022



Source: DESE Graduation Rate Report.

As overall high school graduation rates increased, disparities narrowed

BPS 4-year graduation rates by race-ethnic group, 2006-2022



Source: DESE Graduation Rate Report.

The Boston Globe

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Hub grads come up short in college

Most from class of 2000
have failed to earn degrees

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

About two-thirds of the city's high school graduates in 2000 who enrolled in college have failed to earn degrees, according to a first-of-its-kind study being released today.

The findings represent a major setback for a city school system that made significant strides in recent years with percentages of graduates enrolling in college consistently

higher than national averages, according to the report by the Boston Private Industry Council and the School Department.

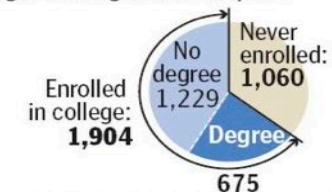
However, the study shows that the number who went on to graduate is lower than the national average.

The low number of students who were able to earn college degrees or post-secondary certificates in a city known as a center of American higher education points to the enormous barriers facing urban high school graduates — many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. While the study did not ad-

COLLEGE GRADUATION, Page A6

Boston public high school
class of 2000

High school graduates: **2,964**



SOURCE: Boston Private Industry Council
and BPS report

DAVID BUTLER/GLOBE STAFF

“About two-thirds of the city’s high school graduates... have failed to earn degrees...”

Strategies:

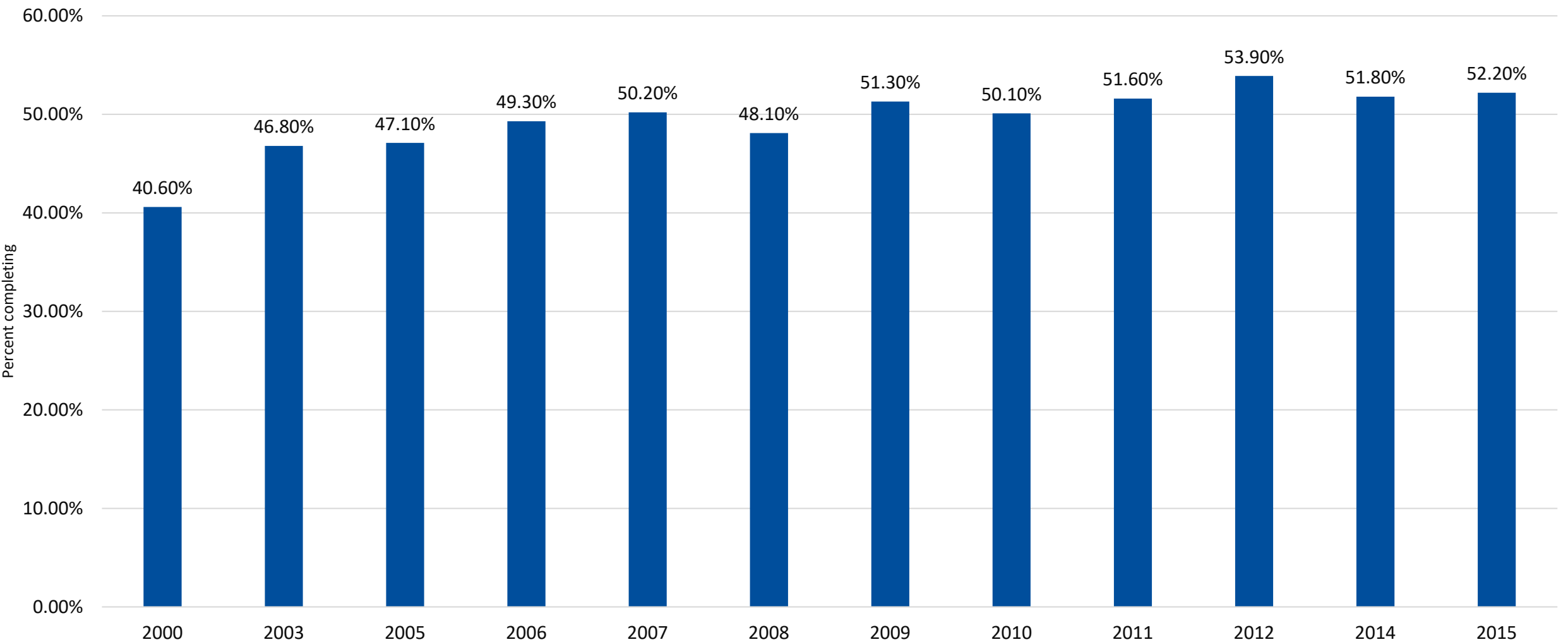
- **Getting Ready:** Remove academic barriers by increasing the rigor of high school and improving Boston Public Schools students' college and career readiness.
- **Getting In:** Provide coaching for students as they move from high school and for the next two years; expand effective programs that help students apply to and navigate higher education.
- **Getting Through:** Track student persistence, progress, and performance; college partners lead campus-based efforts to ensure students earn a credential in a timely way.
- **Getting Connected:** Increase connections to the workforce in high school, college & after graduation through internships, summer jobs, career exploration.

- Double the college graduation rate for college enrollees from BPS Class of 2011 & beyond
- 70% of those who enroll will complete within 6 years of high school graduation



College enrollment rates started to increase

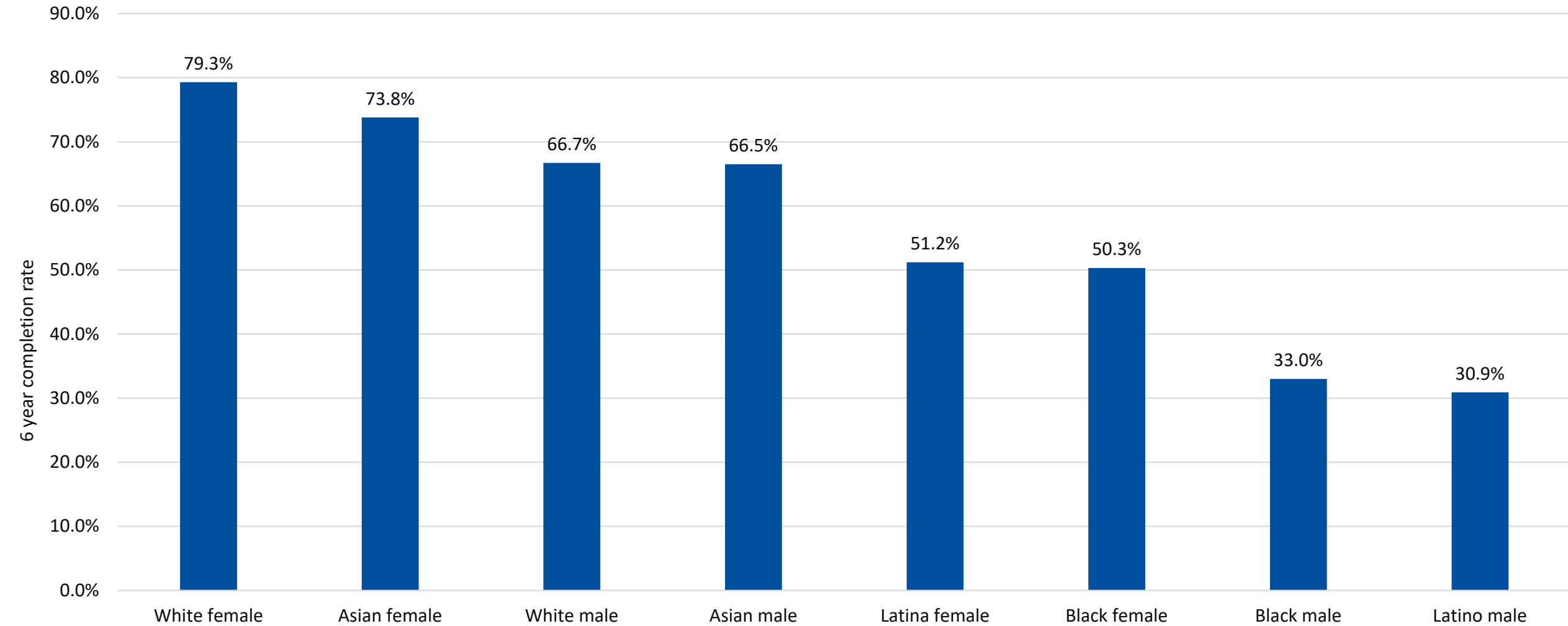
Trends in the 6-year college completion rate of first-year enrollees, selected BPS classes, 2000-2015



Source: The Boston Foundation

Despite improvements in postsecondary completion, race-ethnic gaps persisted

6-year college completion rates by gender and race-ethnic groups, BPS class of 2015



Source: The Boston Foundation

After much progress, college enrollment drops starting in 2018

The Boston Globe

OPINION

Investing in higher education is good for students — and the state

Collective action sends a powerful signal that postsecondary education is a viable path to social and economic mobility for everyone.

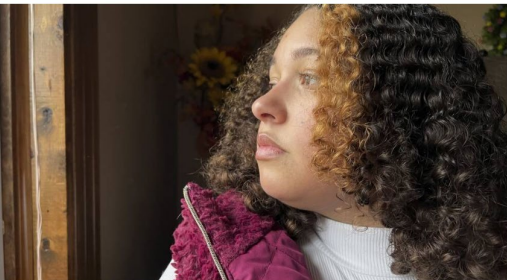
By M. Lee Pelton and Pam Eddinger Updated March 23, 2023, 10:32 a.m.



GBH NEWS

LOCAL

Lee Pelton on Success Boston and the importance of higher education



Mia Woodard looks out of a window at her grandmother's home on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 in Jackson, Tenn. Woodard is among hundreds of thousands of Americans who came of age during the pandemic but didn't go to college. She hoped to be the first in her family to get a college degree, but in her senior year, she lost access to counselors and teachers who usually help students navigate college applications.

By Nicole Garcia
April 5, 2023

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Listen to Lee Pelton on NPR | April 4, 2023

In early March, Gov. Maura Healey announced a \$20 million budget proposal that would make community college free for Massachusetts residents 25 and older to assist in building a skilled workforce. The funding is being allocated toward MassReconnect, a program that aims to make higher education more affordable and accessible for adults.

And that's not the only effort to support higher education in the state.

For more than a decade now, Success Boston has used coaching to help students stay in college and earn degrees. Boston Public Schools, the Boston Foundation and local nonprofits worked together to form the program in 2008



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TRANSPORTATION

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DEATHS

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Fewer Boston high school graduates are enrolling in college, while completion rates stagnate

By James Vaznis Globe Staff, Updated March 23, 2023, 12:01 a.m.



College enrollment has been declining nationwide. JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Boston's 15-year effort to get more of its high school graduates to attend and complete college is veering off course as the number of those pursuing higher education has declined sharply, according to a report being

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New report finds setbacks in college enrollment and completion rates for Boston Public Schools graduates

March 23, 2023 By Max Larkin

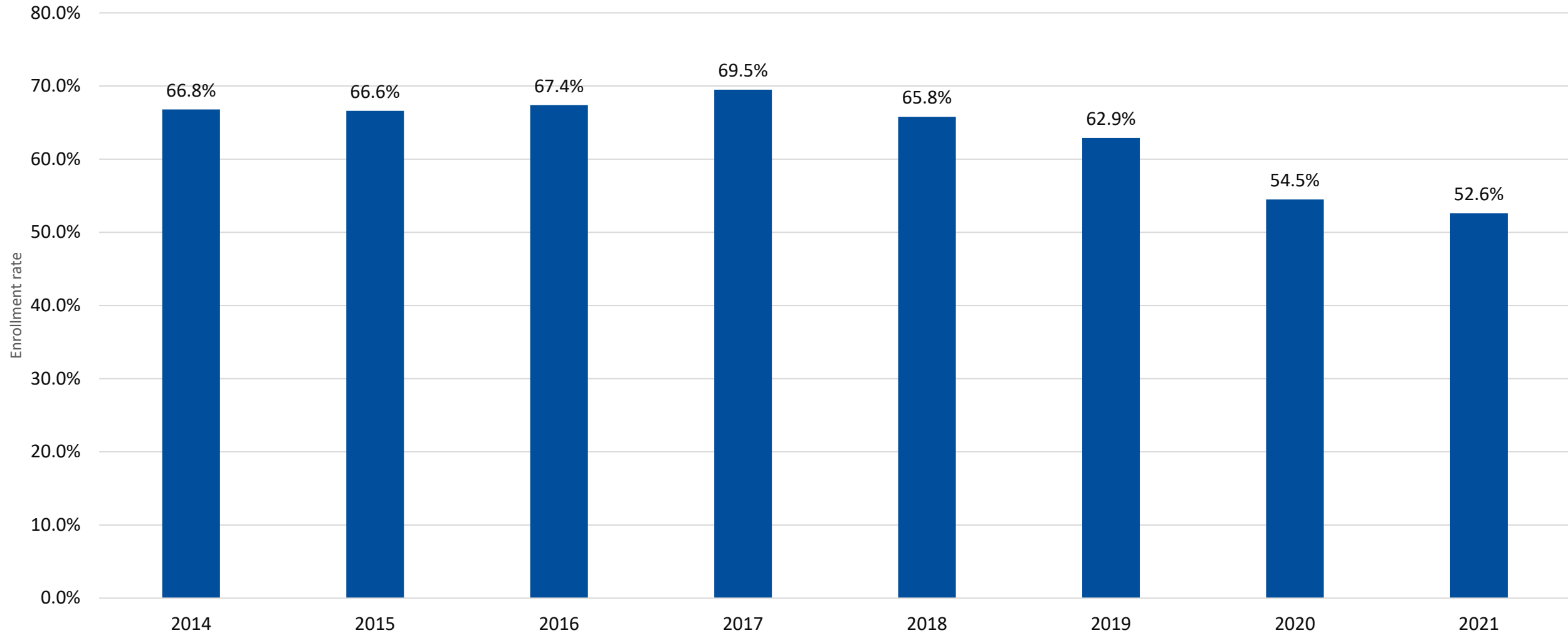


A student celebrates at the UMass Boston commencement ceremony at TD Garden in Boston in 2021. (Craig F. Walker/The Boston Globe via Getty Images)

The rate of Boston Public Schools graduates who enrolled in college fell sharply during the pandemic, from 63% for the class of 2019 to around 52% for the class of 2021. And the rate of college completion for city students has stalled in recent years, with just over half of enrollees finishing a degree within six years.

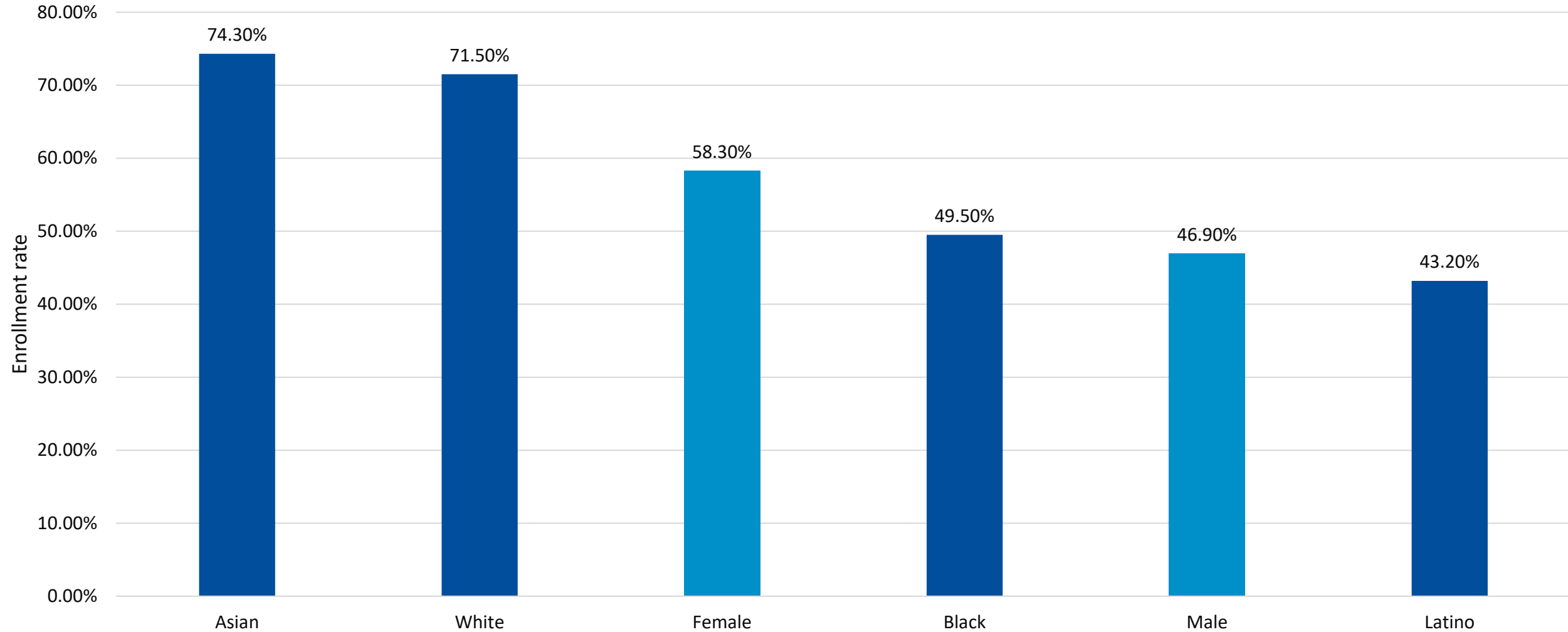
In 2018, college enrollment begins to decrease

First-year college enrollment rate of BPS classes 2014-2021



There are pronounced race-ethnic gaps in college enrollment rates

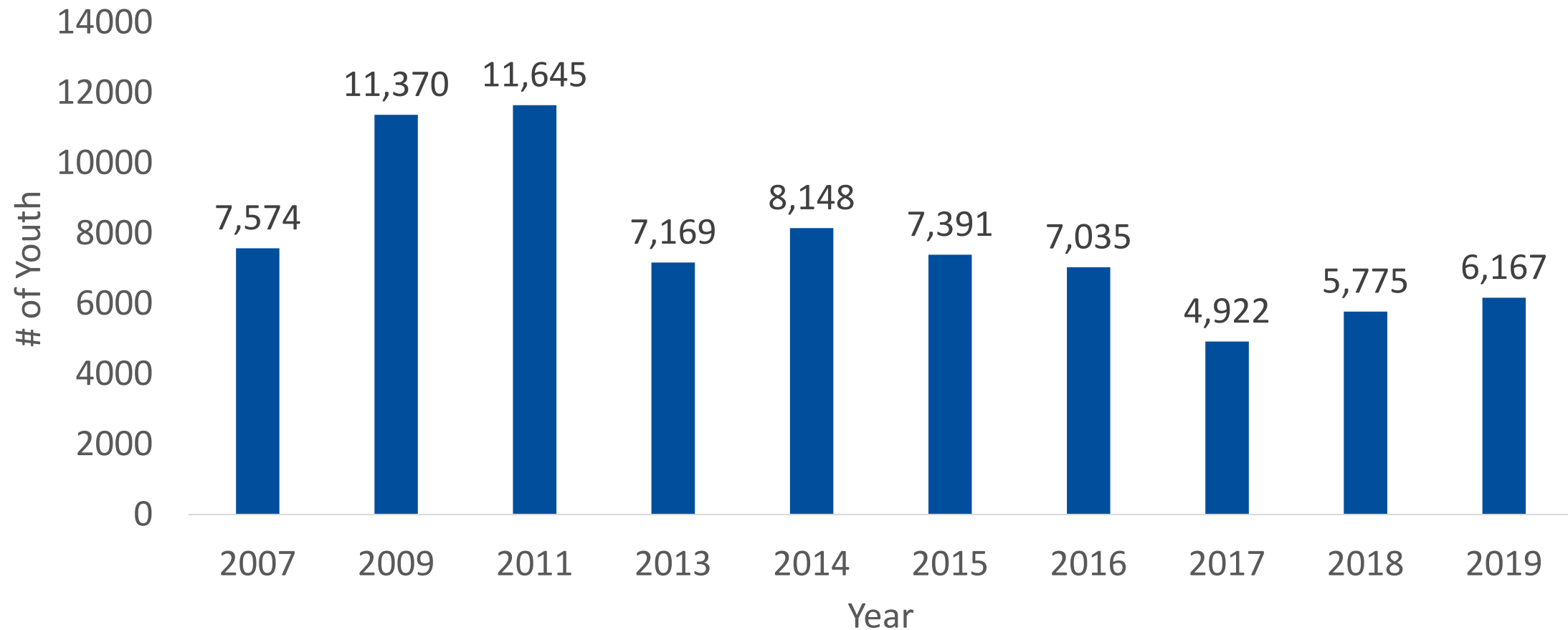
First-year college enrollment rate of BPS class of 2021 by gender and race-ethnic group



Recent Success Boston research reports frame Boston's next steps

- Boston Private Industry Council, [*College Enrollment and Completion: Trends for Boston Graduates*](#)
 - BPS postsecondary enrollment rate: 53% for Class of 2021, down from 70% for Class of 2017
 - Postsecondary completion recently stalled in low-50%: just over 52% of BPS Class of 2015 graduates who enrolled in college graduated in six years
 - The pandemic exacerbated racial and ethnic disparities in enrollment and completion
- Abt Associates, [*Coaching for Completion: Final Report for Success Boston Coaching*](#)
 - 21% increase in completion rates for coached students from BPS Classes of 2015-2017
 - Impacts particularly pronounced for associate degrees
 - Positive impact on completion across gender and across racial/ethnic groups

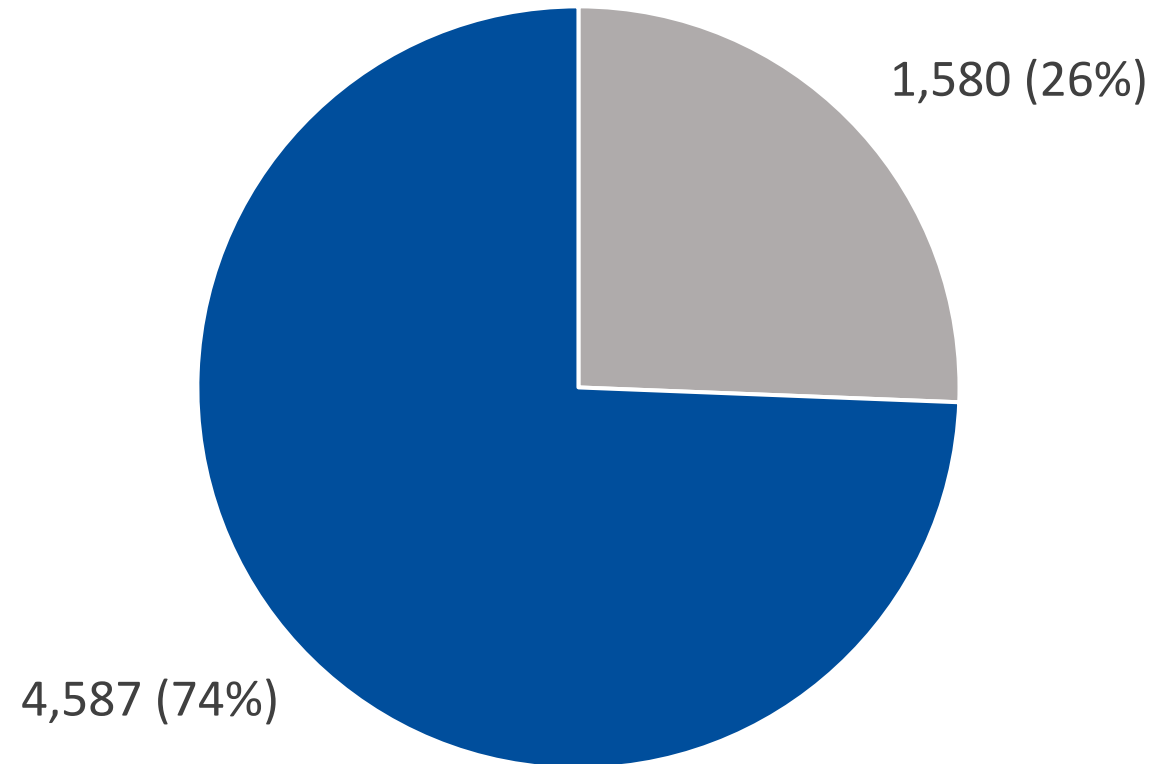
Boston starts to focus on Opportunity Youth (OY) in 2013, tracking historical disconnection rates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS (selected years), 2007-2019.

Our initial research showed that a majority of OY had a HS diploma, and this is still the case

- Less than a High School Diploma or Equivalency
- High School Diploma/ Equivalency or Higher (including postsecondary)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2019.

We worked with the Aspen Institute on nationally defined Common Measures of disconnection



Community Disconnection Rate: The rate of young people disconnected from work and school (i.e., opportunity youth).



High School Disconnection Rate: The rate of young people without a high school diploma/GED and not working who are disconnected from high school.

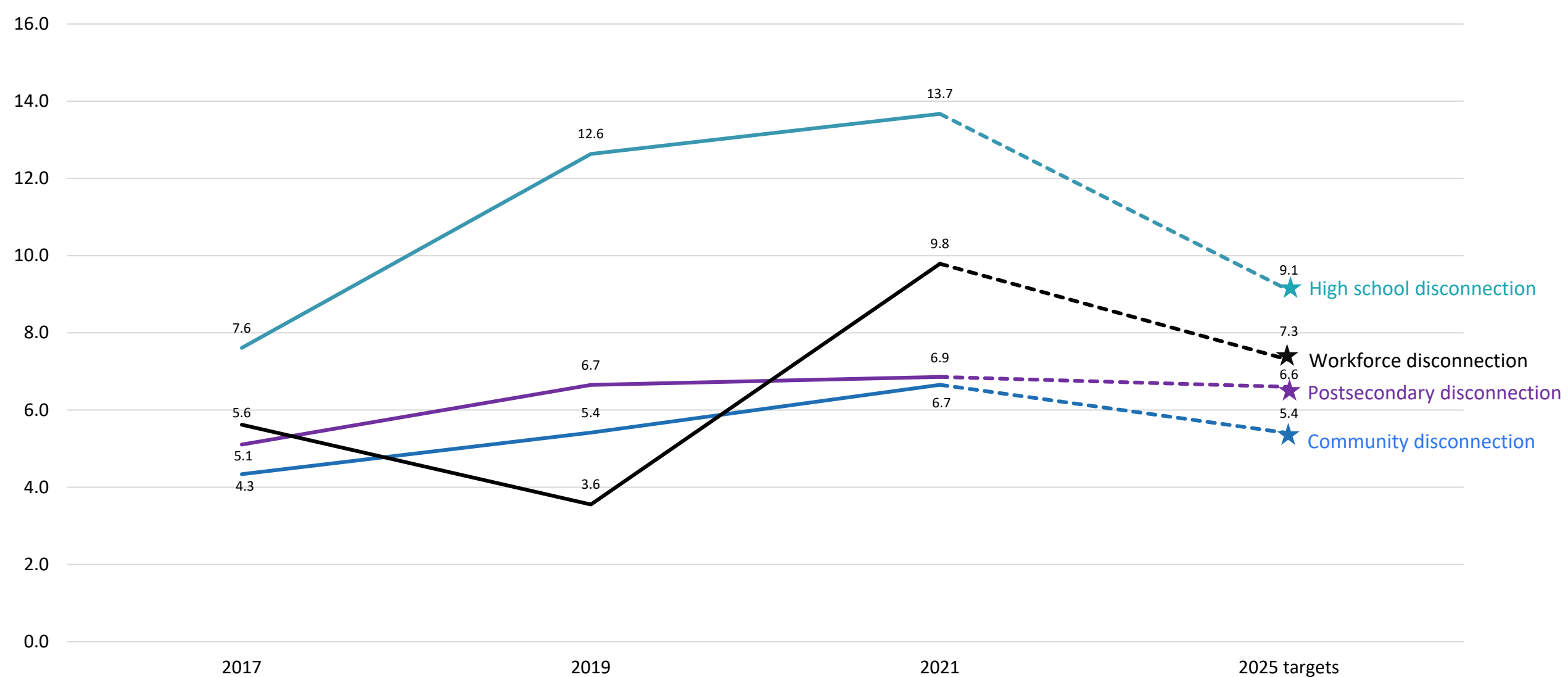


Postsecondary Disconnection Rate: The rate of young people with a high school diploma/GED, without a postsecondary credential who are disconnected from postsecondary education and not working.







Workforce Disconnection Rate: The rate of young people with a postsecondary credential, but not enrolled in postsecondary, who are disconnected from the workforce.

We set targets for reducing the disconnection rates down closer to pre-pandemic levels



Source: Measure of America and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Goals for reducing disconnection rates by 2025

-  Reduce the community disconnection rate by 19% to 5.4%
-  Reduce the high school disconnection rate by 34% to 9.1%
-  Reduce the postsecondary disconnection rate by 9% to 6.6%
-  Reduce the workforce disconnection rate by 26% to 7.3%

Lower HS dropout rate and increase the 5-year graduation rate year over year.

- Decrease chronic absenteeism year over year.
- Implement the Panorama database to better track chronic absenteeism and interventions
- Provide consultative support to individual schools with high chronic absenteeism
- Public-facing *I'm In Attendance* Campaign

How we are trying to reduce disconnection rates by decreasing leading indicators of disconnection: postsecondary level (BHCC)

- Improve retention rate for young men of color (African-American and Latinx BPS Students)
- Improve completion rate for young men of color (African-American and Latinx BPS Students)
- Track persistence, retention and graduation rates and disaggregate by race and gender
- Track men of colors participation in high impact interventions
- Track how participation and success compare to other race/ethnic groups and genders
- Survey men of color about their student experience
 - Share this information with the administration
 - Develop new interventions in response to student input

HOPE Forward: This postsecondary coaching initiative builds on BHCC's Halting Oppressive Pathways (HOPE) initiative, which brings together male faculty and students of color to build a community centered on anti-racism, belonging, meaning-making, and purpose, and to pilot empowerment interventions.

Young Adult Career Center Services: This program will bring young adults not enrolled in postsecondary education or training into the MassHire Downtown Career Center to access career coaching, employment connections, and job training referrals.

Healing Centered Organizing (Youth Voice): Led by the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, the OYC's youth leaders organized mental health peer leadership training and engaged with the community and political leaders to advocate for mental health services for young people.