MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools

Date: February 28, 2023

Subject: Adjusted Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates

PURPOSE

To provide the State Board of Education with updates on data including four-year and five-year graduation rates, and four-year dropout rate.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data to be presented will include:

1. Adjusted cohort four-year graduation rate,
2. Adjusted cohort five-year graduation rate, and
3. Four- year dropout rate.

ACTION

No action is necessary, for discussion only.

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | February 28, 2023

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

Presented By | Chandra Haislet, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Assessment, Accountability and Performance Reporting

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- High School Completers
- Cohort Graduation Rates
- Cohort Dropout Rate

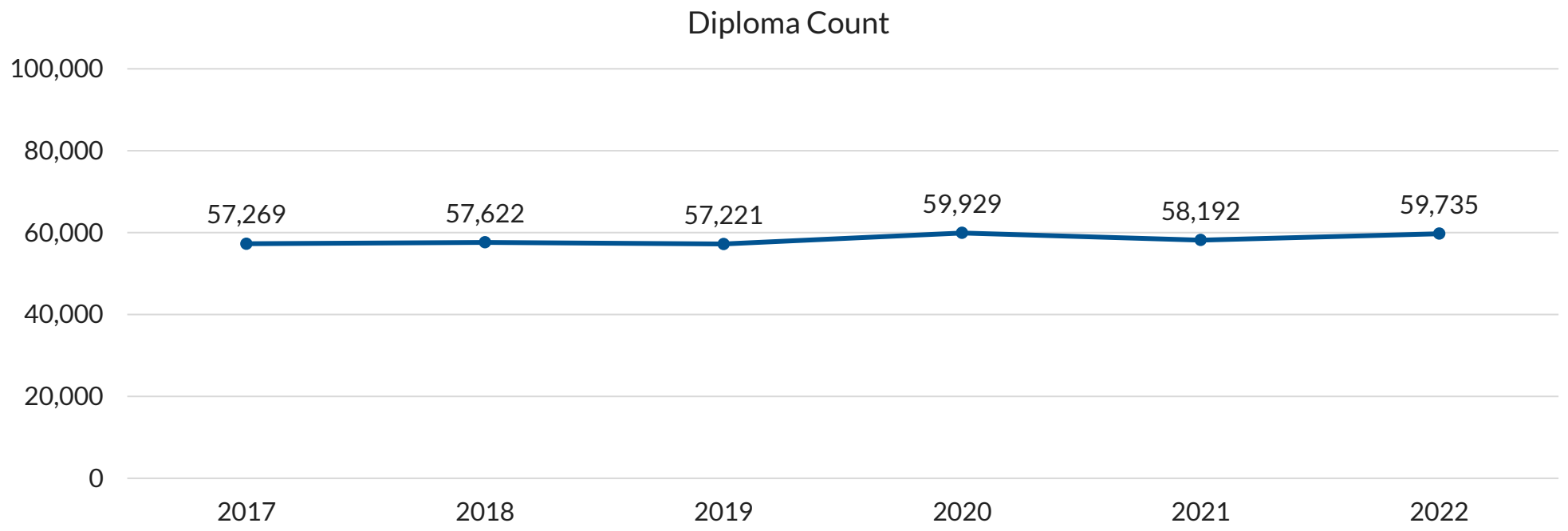
1. **High School Completers**
2. Cohort Graduation Rates
3. Cohort Dropout Rate

High School Completers

Overview of Maryland High School Diploma Numbers

Diplomas

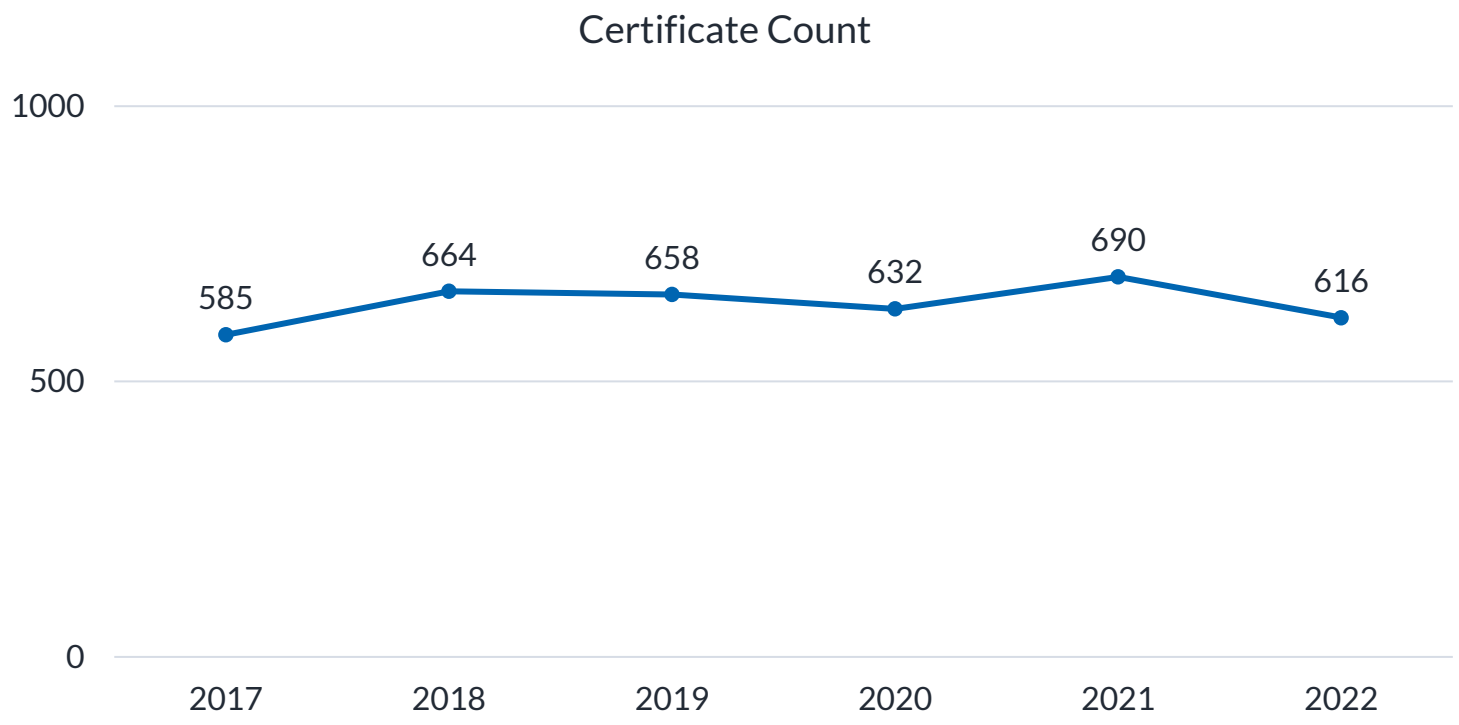
To be awarded a **Maryland High School Diploma**, a student must (1) complete the enrollment, credit, and service requirements, (2) complete local education agency requirements, and (3) meet the graduation assessment requirements.



Note: Maryland Graduation Requirements COMAR 13A.03.02.09B

Certificates

A Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion is awarded to students with disabilities who cannot meet the requirements for a diploma but who meet alternative standards under COMAR 13A.03.02.09E.



Note: Maryland Graduation Requirements COMAR 13A.03.02.09B

High School Program Completion, SY 2021-2022

Maryland students may graduate having completed a Career and Technical Education program or the University System of Maryland course requirements. Some students successfully complete both programs.

56.1%

of 2022 High school completers met **course requirements for the University System of Maryland** (USM) as outlined in the USM Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

8.0%

of 2022 High school completers completed an approved **Career and Technical Education (CTE) program** of study

18.3%

of 2022 High school completers who met **course requirements for the University System of Maryland (USM)** as outlined in the USM Undergraduate Admissions Requirements **AND completed an approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program** of study

Program Completion	2022 Student Count
USM	33,878
CTE	4,807
USM + CTE	11,058
Total Completers	60,351

1. High School Completers
2. **Cohort Graduation Rates**
3. Cohort Dropout Rate

Cohort Graduation Rate

Four-Year and Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate results.

Maryland Cohort Rates Overview

A **graduation cohort** is a group of students who begin as first-time ninth graders in a particular school year.

Maryland measures a four-year and a five-year cohort graduation rate and a four-year dropout rate.

- Class of 2022 4-year cohort were first-time 9th graders in school year 2018–2019.
- Class of 2021 5-year cohort were first-time 9th graders in school year 2017-2018.

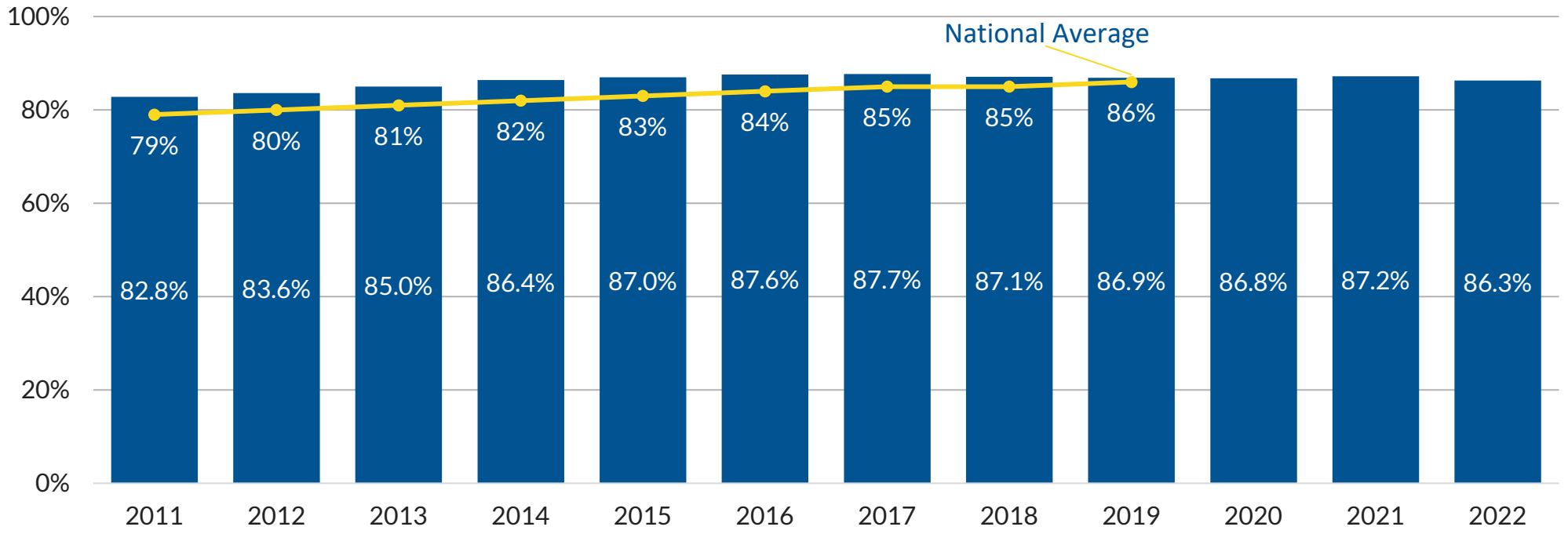
Graduates from SY 2021-2022

The class of 2022 entered high school as a 9th grader in school year 2018–2019. Students in this cohort were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for most of their high school experience.

- SY 2019-2020: **Schools closed in March 2020** with students receiving limited virtual instruction for remainder of school year (10th grade)
- SY 2020-2021: **Schools in Maryland were virtual** (11th grade)
- SY 2021-2022: **Schools impacted by quarantine and absenteeism** which is evident in the increase in chronic absenteeism across the state (12th grade)

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Trend

Maryland's four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate has decreased from 87.2% in school year 2020-2021 to 86.3% in school year 2021-2022.

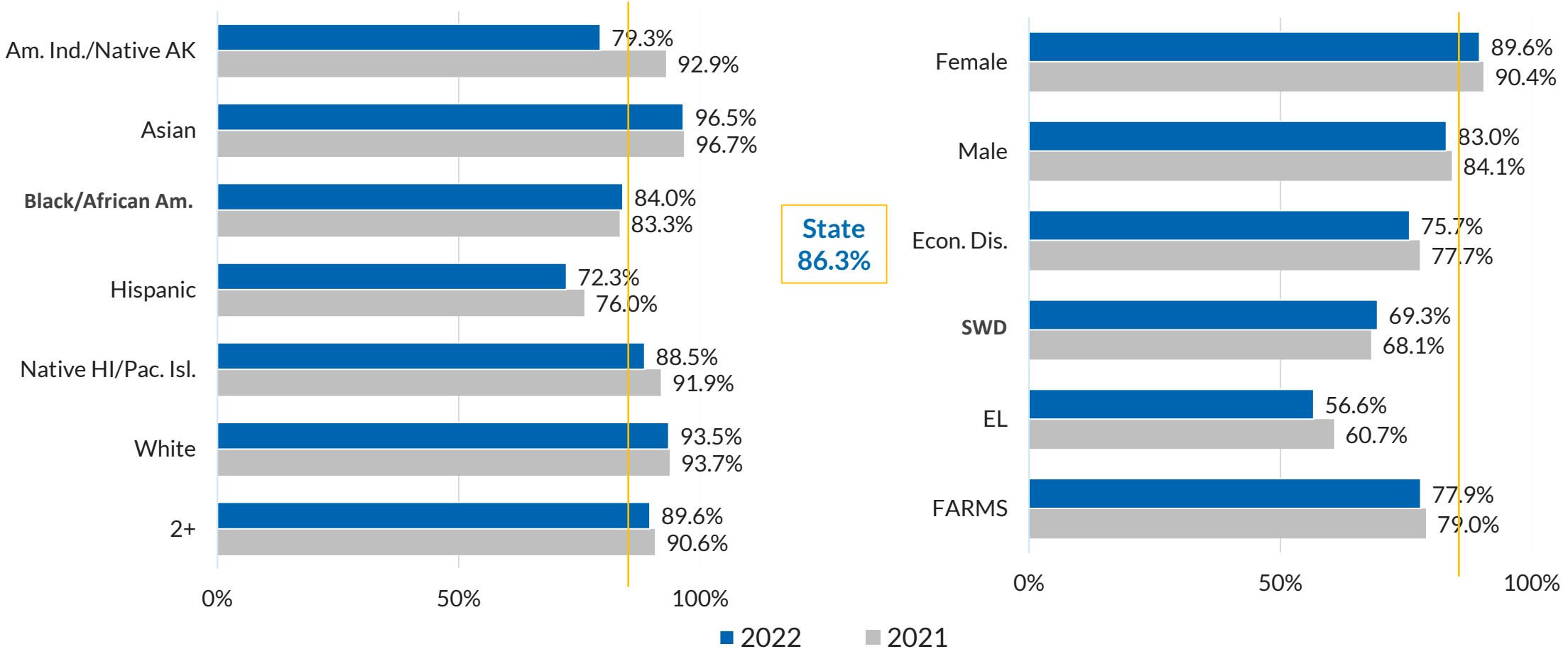


Year	Diploma Count	4-Year Cohort Count
2011	55,947	67,552
2012	56,260	67,318
2013	56,152	66,087
2014	56,062	64,897
2015	55,473	63,775
2016	55,586	63,446
2017	55,438	63,238
2018	56,704	65,089
2019	55,734	64,164
2020	58,275	67,178
2021	57,423	65,850
2022	57,860	67,056

Source of national four-year ACGR: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=805

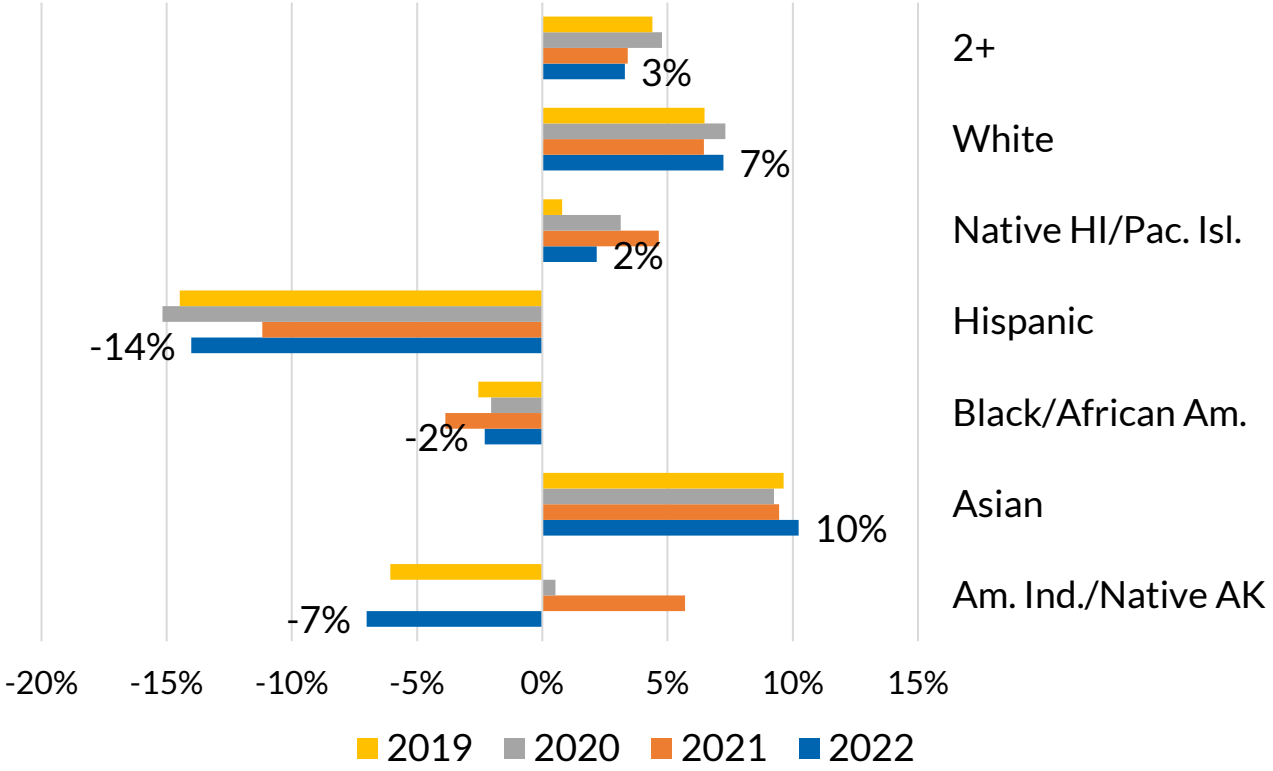
Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate by Student Groups

Statewide the four-year graduation rate SY 2021-2022 was 86.3%. The rates have decreased for nearly all race/ ethnicities and student groups except for Black/African American students and students with disabilities which increased.



Four-Year Graduation Rate
Race/Ethnicity Compared to All Students

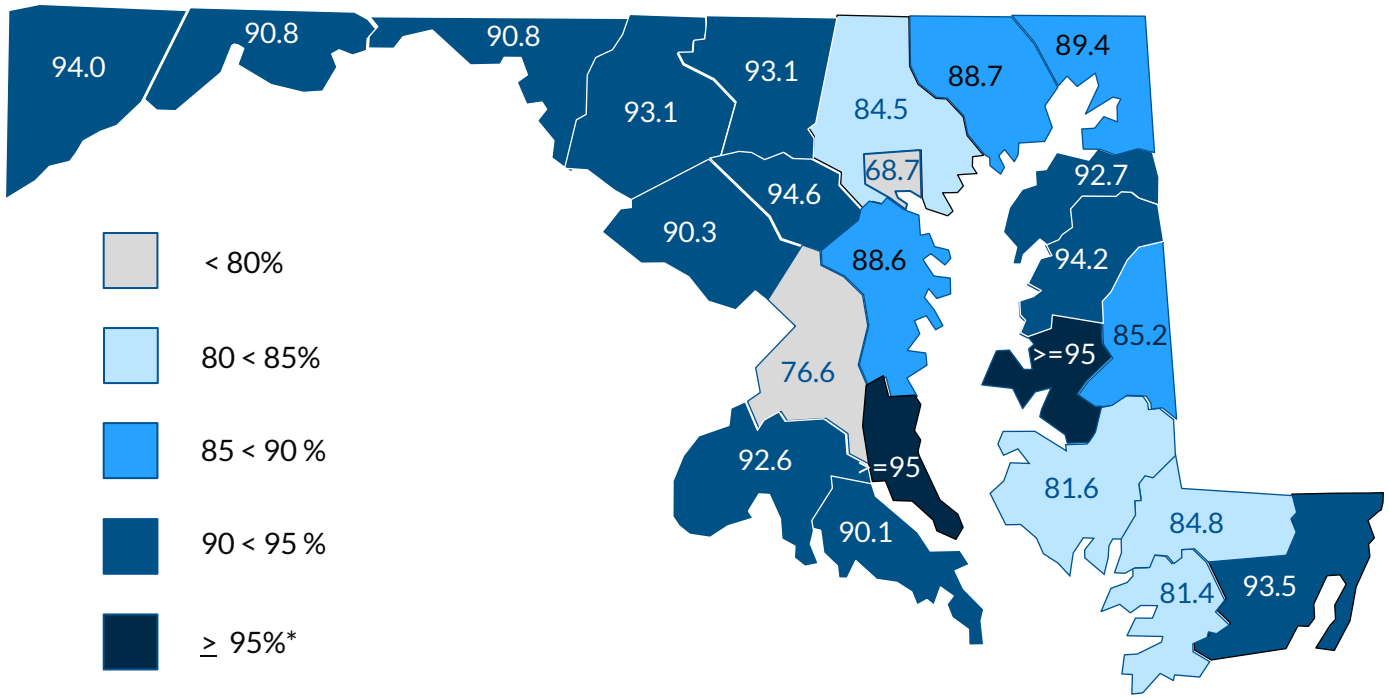
Statewide the four-year graduation rate SY 2021-2022 was 86.3%. This chart shows the percentage point difference of a student group as compared to statewide. The cohort graduation rate for Hispanic and Black/African American has been persistently below statewide.

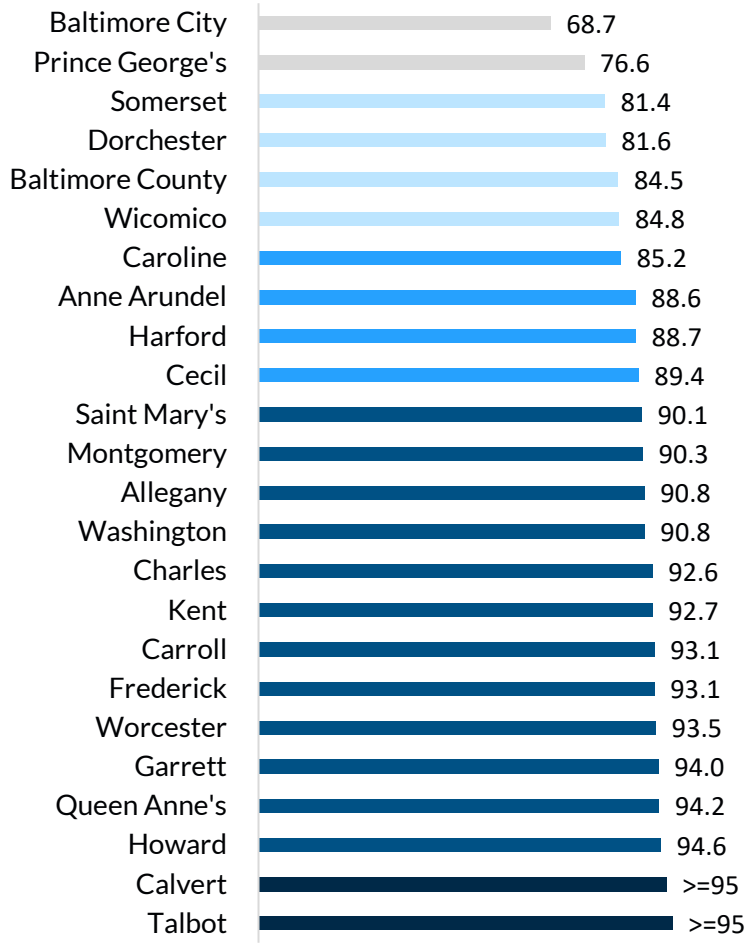


Race/Ethnicity	2022 Graduates (n)
Am. Ind./AK	111
Asian	4,455
Black/African Am.	18,783
Hispanic	9,270
HI/Pac. Isl.	69
2+	2,487
White	22,685

Four- Year Cohort Graduation Rate by Local Education Agency

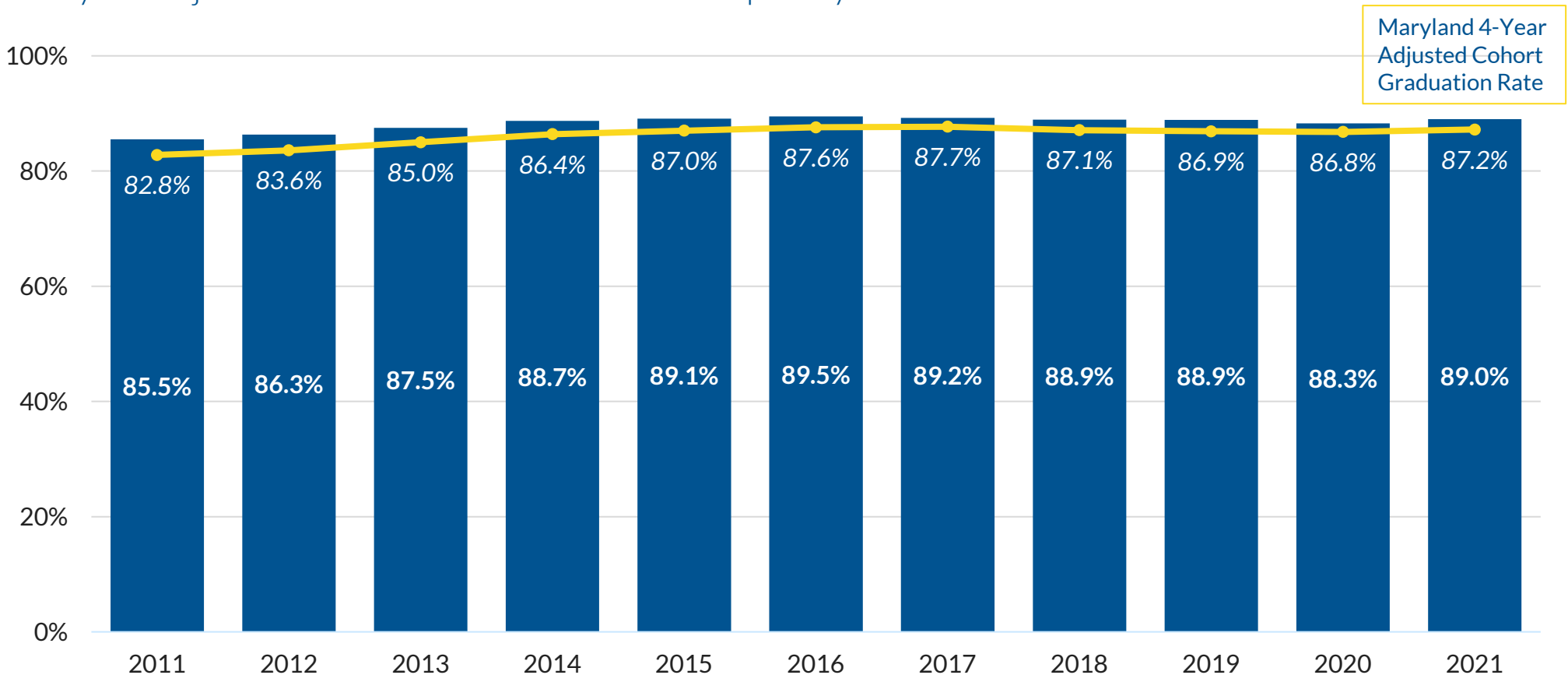
Statewide the four-year graduation rate SY 2021-2022 was 86.3%. The graduation rate varies across LEAs with 7 LEAs below the statewide rate.





Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Trend

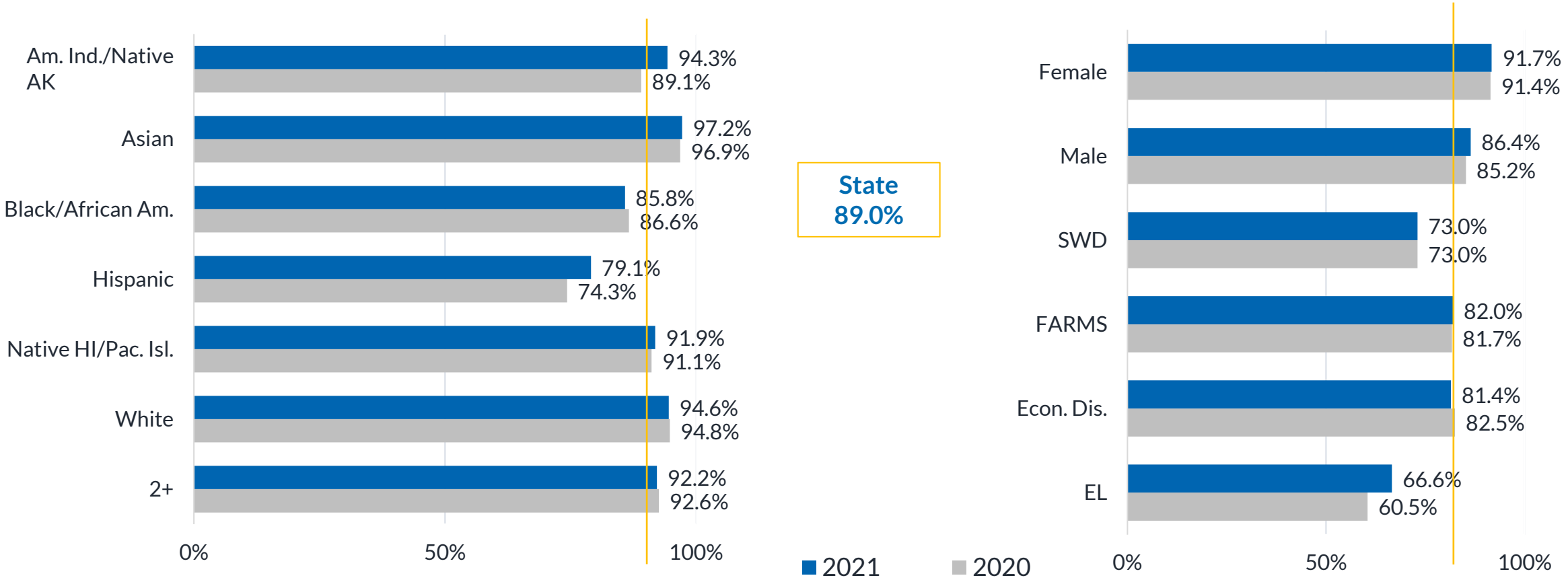
Maryland's SY 2020-2021 five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate has increased to 89.0% in comparison to a five-year adjusted cohort rate of 88.3% for the prior year's cohort.



Year	Diploma Count	5-Year Cohort Count
2011	57,843	67,642
2012	58,157	67,372
2013	57,824	66,099
2014	57,614	64,956
2015	56860	63,809
2016	56,804	63,491
2017	56,442	63,267
2018	57,929	65,157
2019	57,064	64,201
2020	59,323	67,213
2021	58,636	65,868

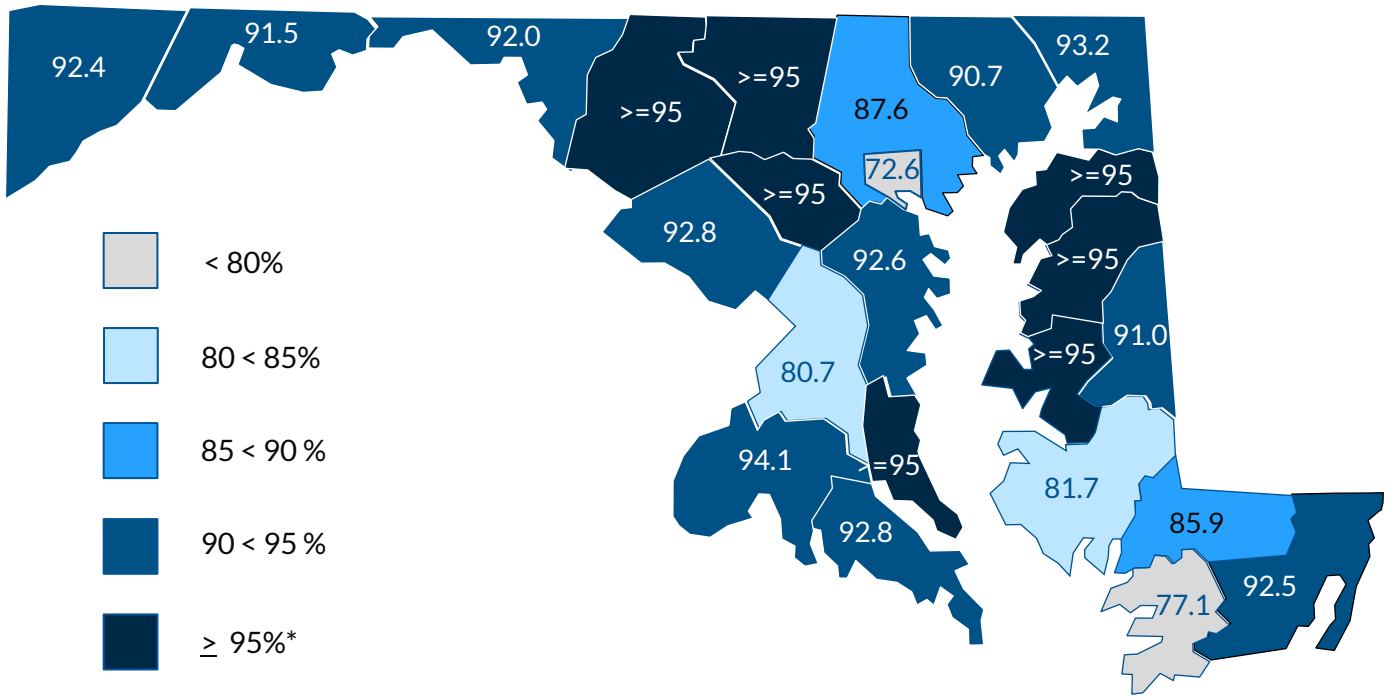
Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate by Student Groups

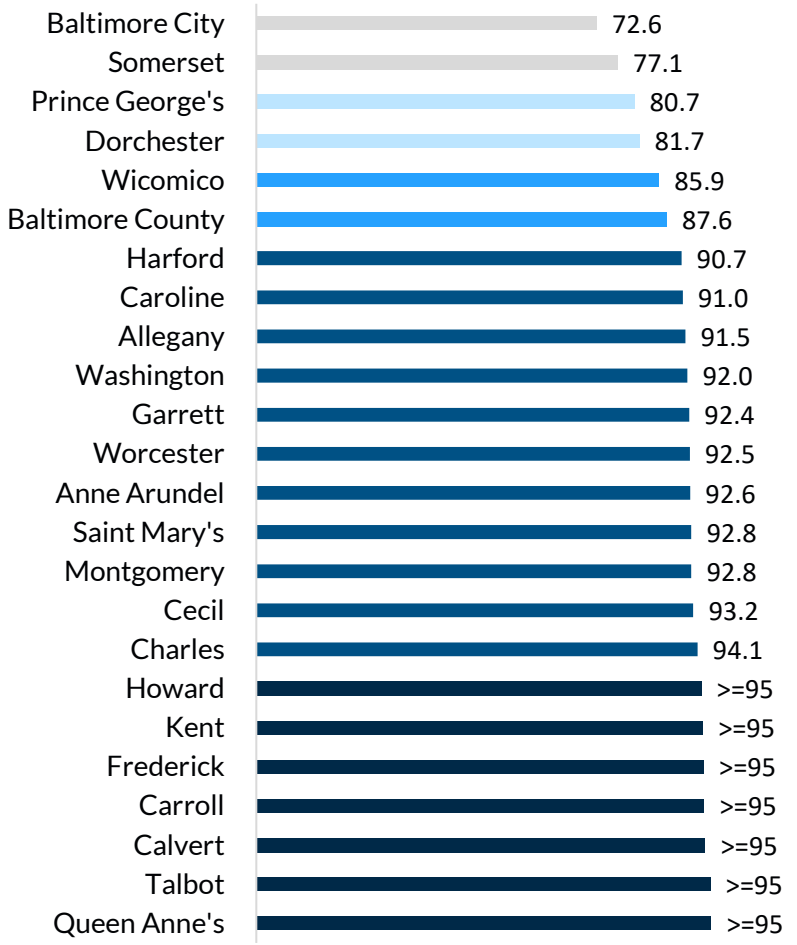
Five-year cohort graduation rates have either increased or remained constant for nearly all race/ethnicities and student groups. The five-year cohort graduation rate decreased for Black/African American, white, multiracial and economically disadvantaged students.



Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate by Local Education Agency

Statewide the five-year graduation rate SY 2020-2021 was 89.0%. The graduation rate varies across LEAs with 18 LEAs above the statewide rate.





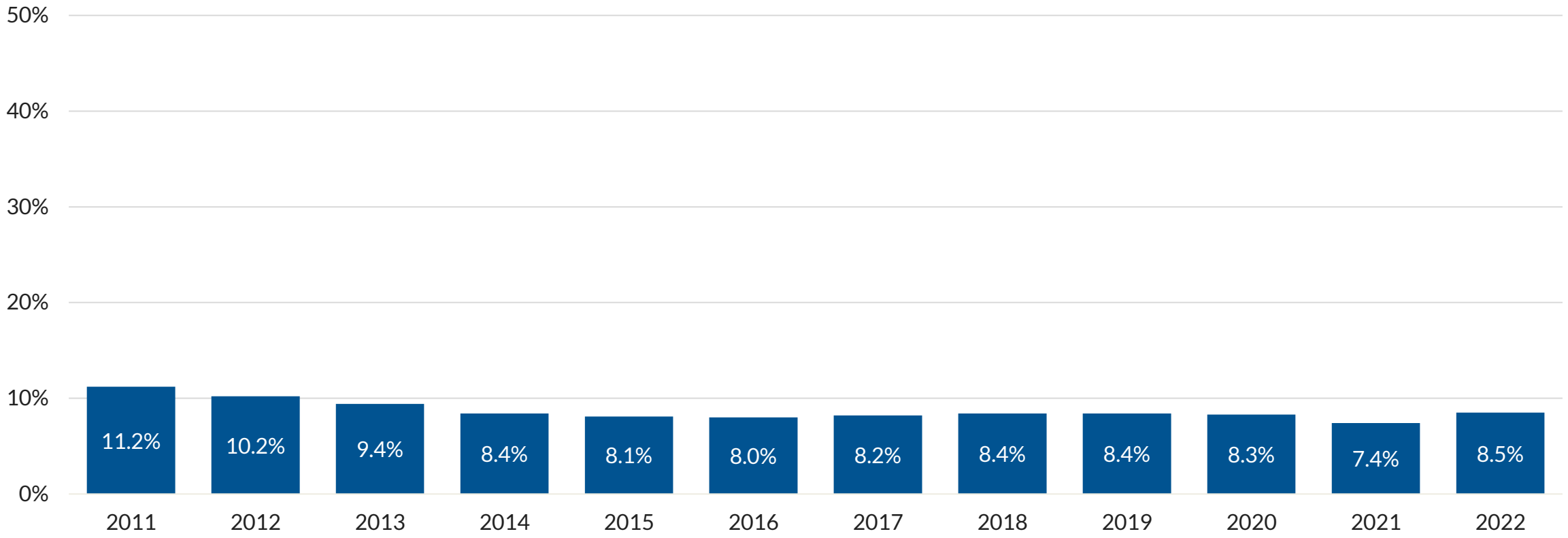
1. High School Completers
2. Cohort Graduation Rate
3. **Cohort Dropout Rate**

Cohort Dropout Rate

Cohort Dropout Rates and The Numbers

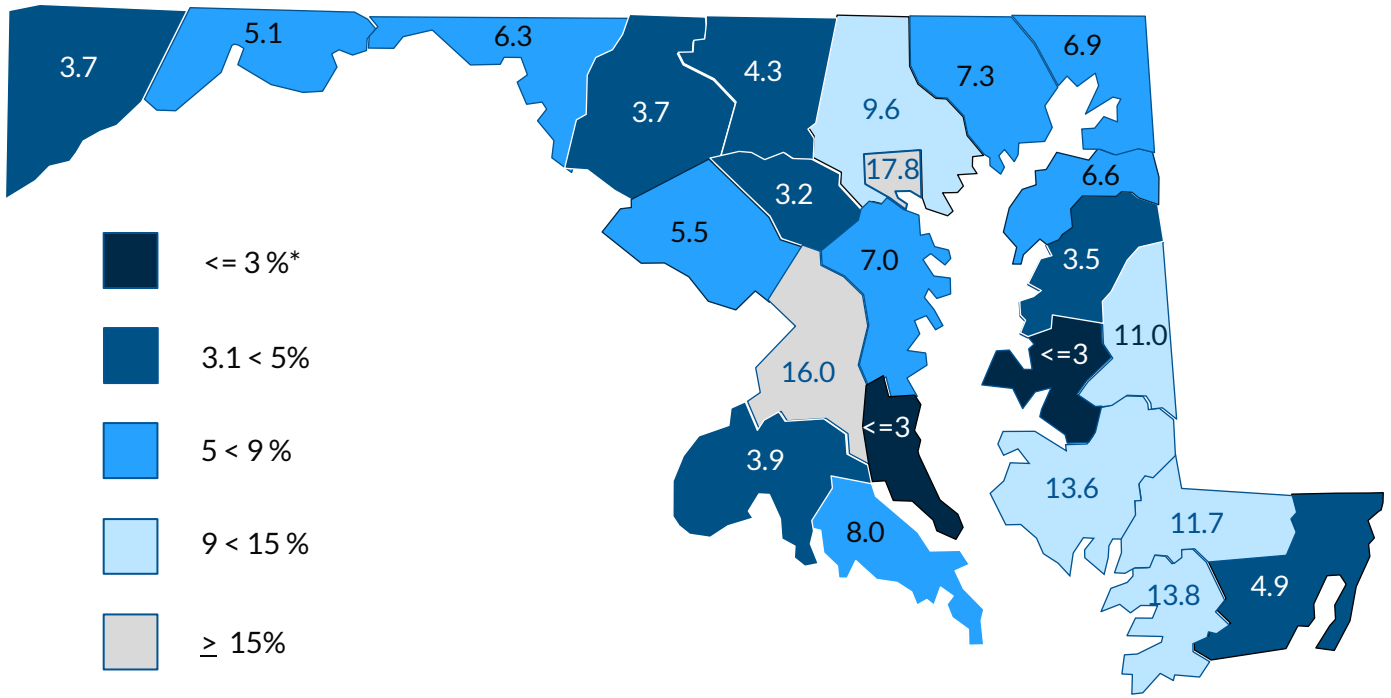
Four-Year Cohort Dropout Rate Trend

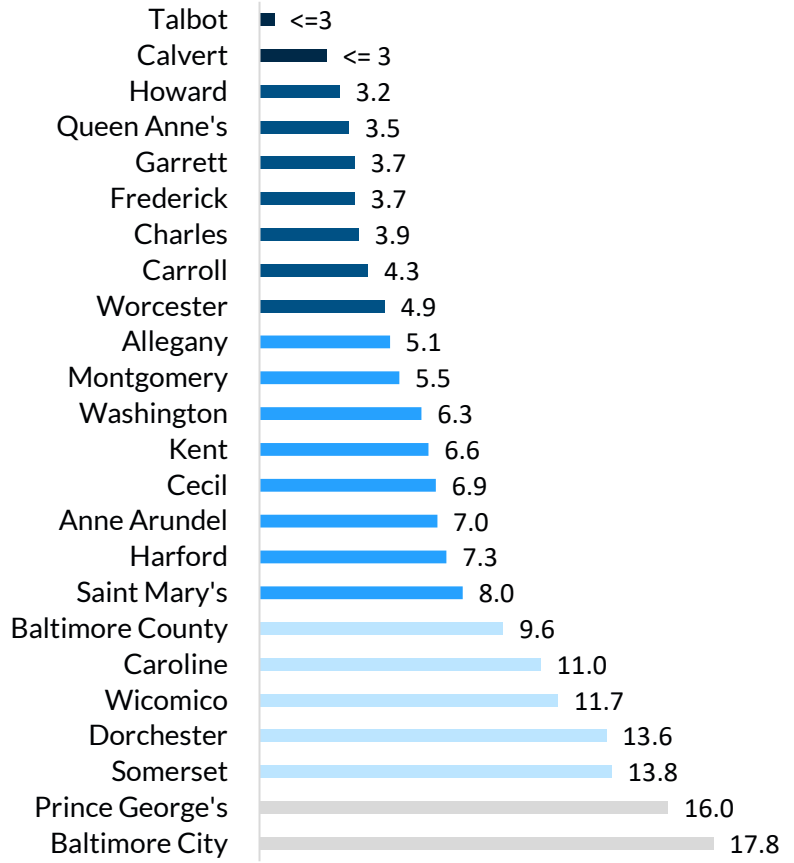
Maryland's four-year adjusted cohort dropout rate SY 2021-2022 has increased to 8.5% as compared to 7.4% in SY 2020-2021 which is similar to the rates pre-pandemic.



Four-Year Cohort Dropout Rate by Local Education Agency

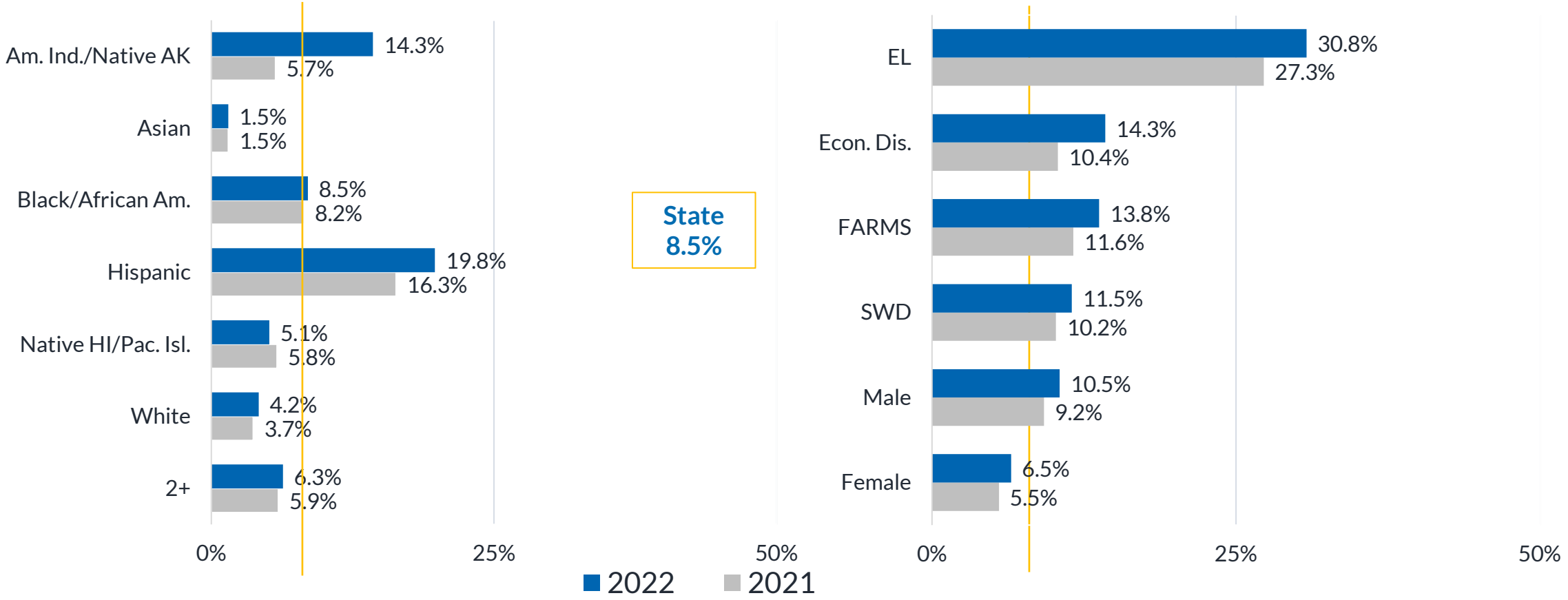
Statewide the four-year dropout rate SY 2020-2021 was 8.5%. The dropout rate varies across LEAs with 7 LEAs higher than the statewide rate.





Four-Year Cohort Dropout Rate by Student Groups

Four-year cohort dropout rates have increased for nearly all races/ethnicities and student groups. The four-year cohort dropout rate decreased for the Black/African American student group.



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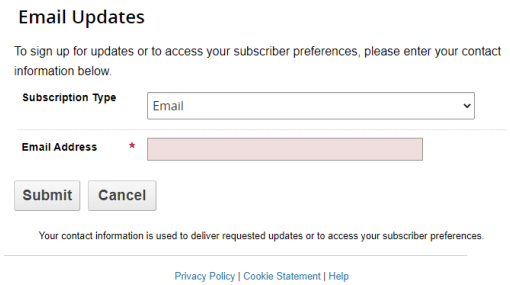
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