State of the Workforce

OCTOBER 2025

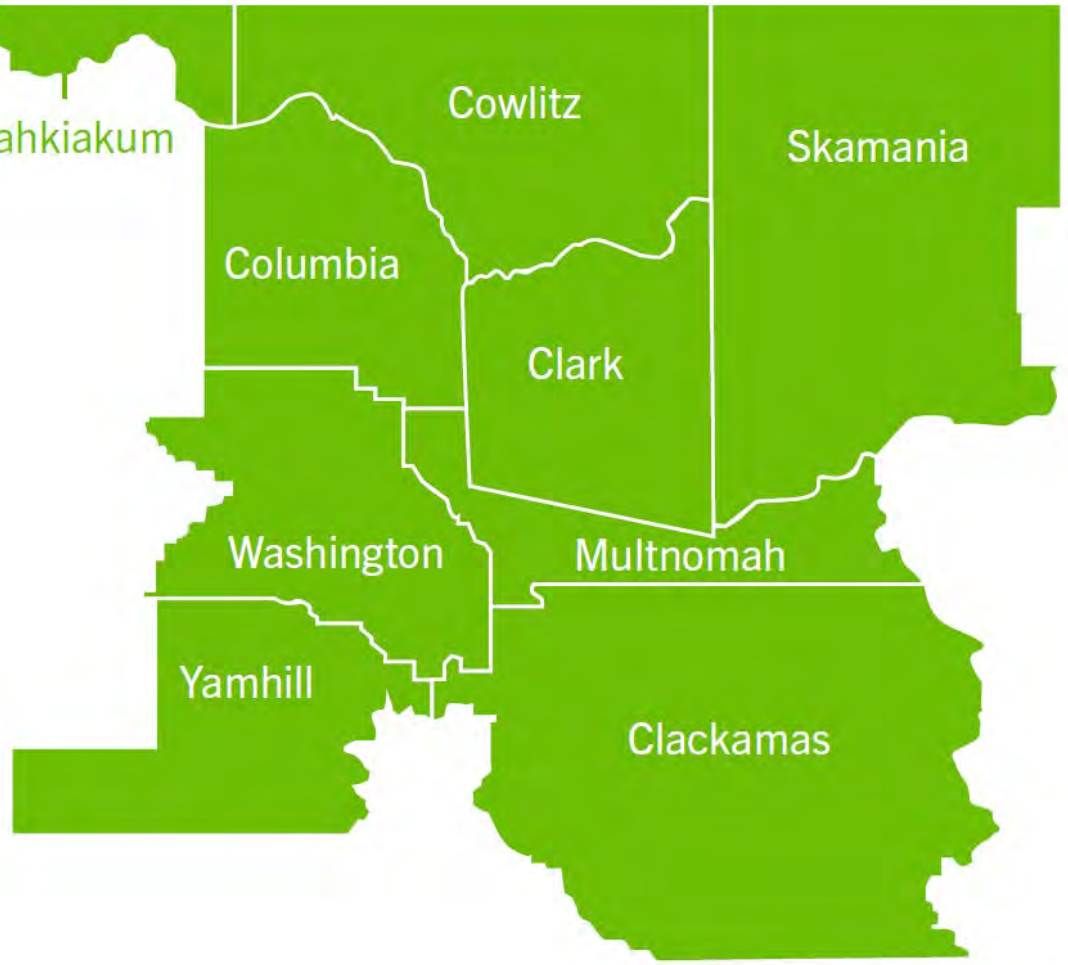
Clackamas Workforce Partnership
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

work systems

PORTLAND-VANCOUVER METROPOLITAN AREA (PVMA)

- 9 counties in two states
- 2.6M people
- 8,200 square miles
- 3 Workforce Boards

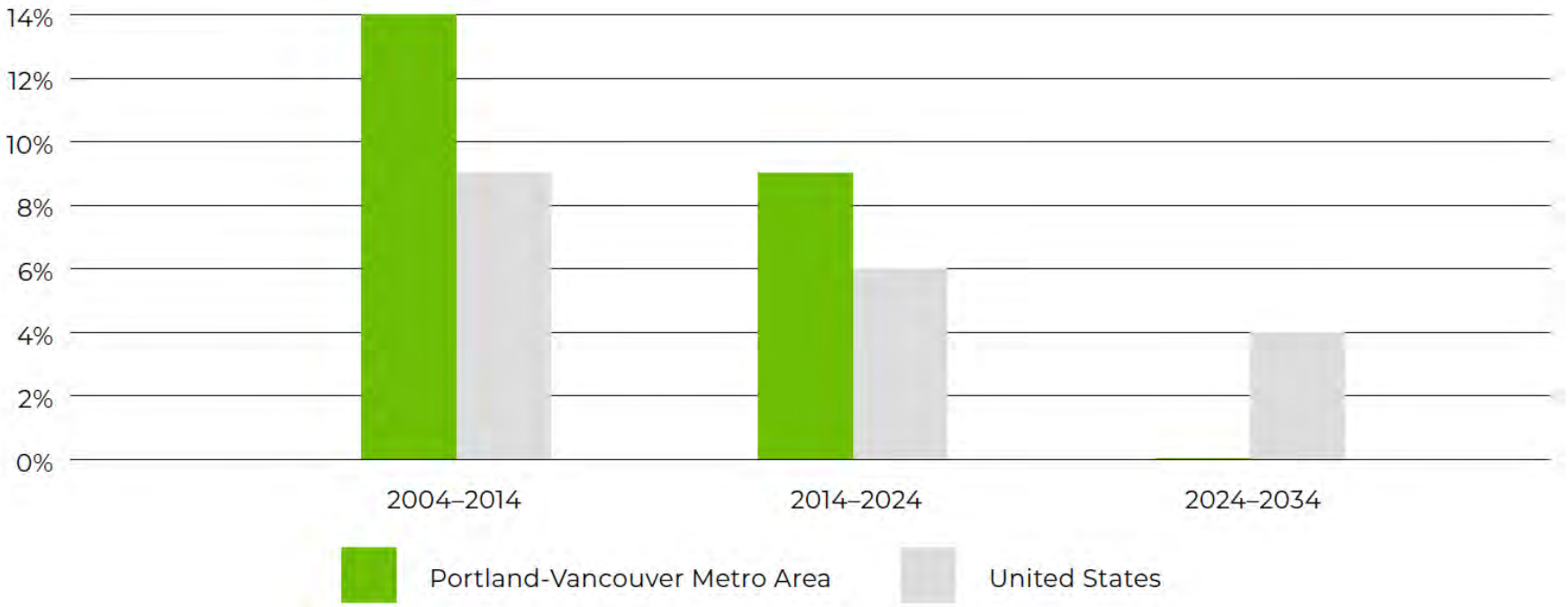


REGIONAL POPULATION

Slowing Growth

FIGURE 1.1: POPULATION GROWTH, 2004-2034

Source: Lightcast

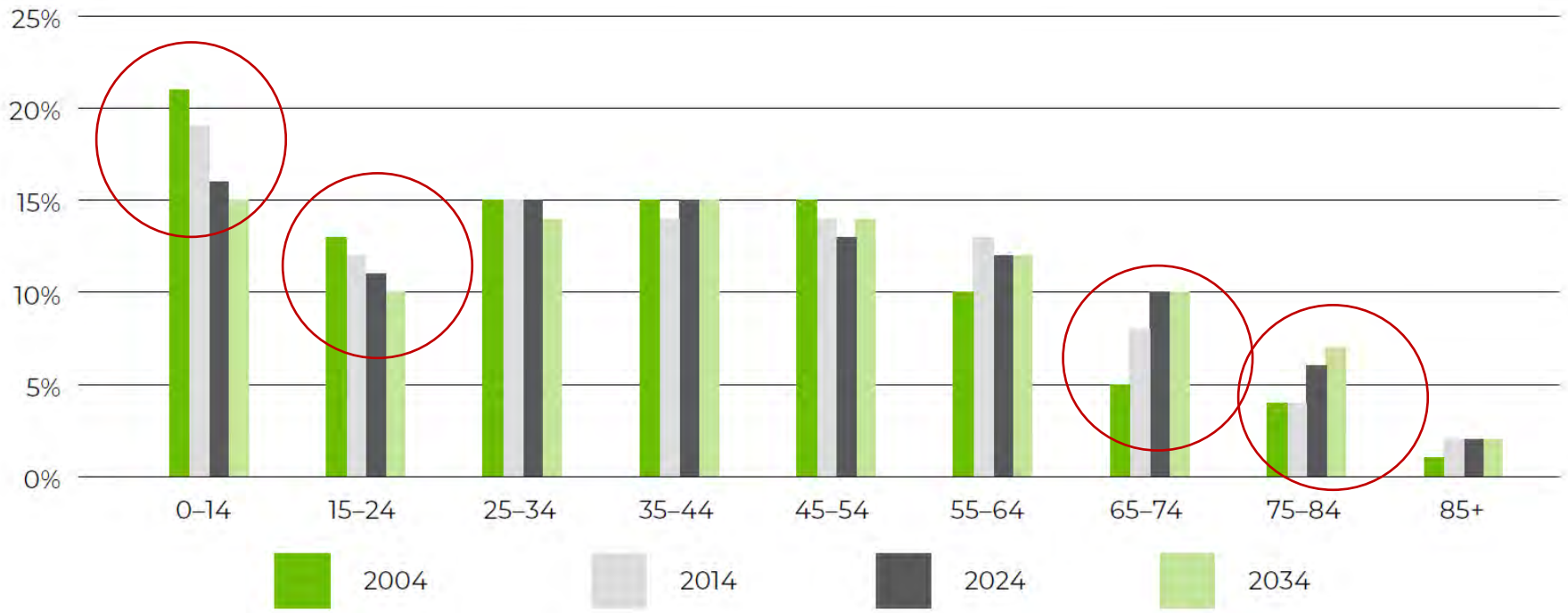


REGIONAL POPULATION

Aging Population

FIGURE 1.12: POPULATION BY AGE, PVMA, 2004-2034

Source: Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management, Lightcast

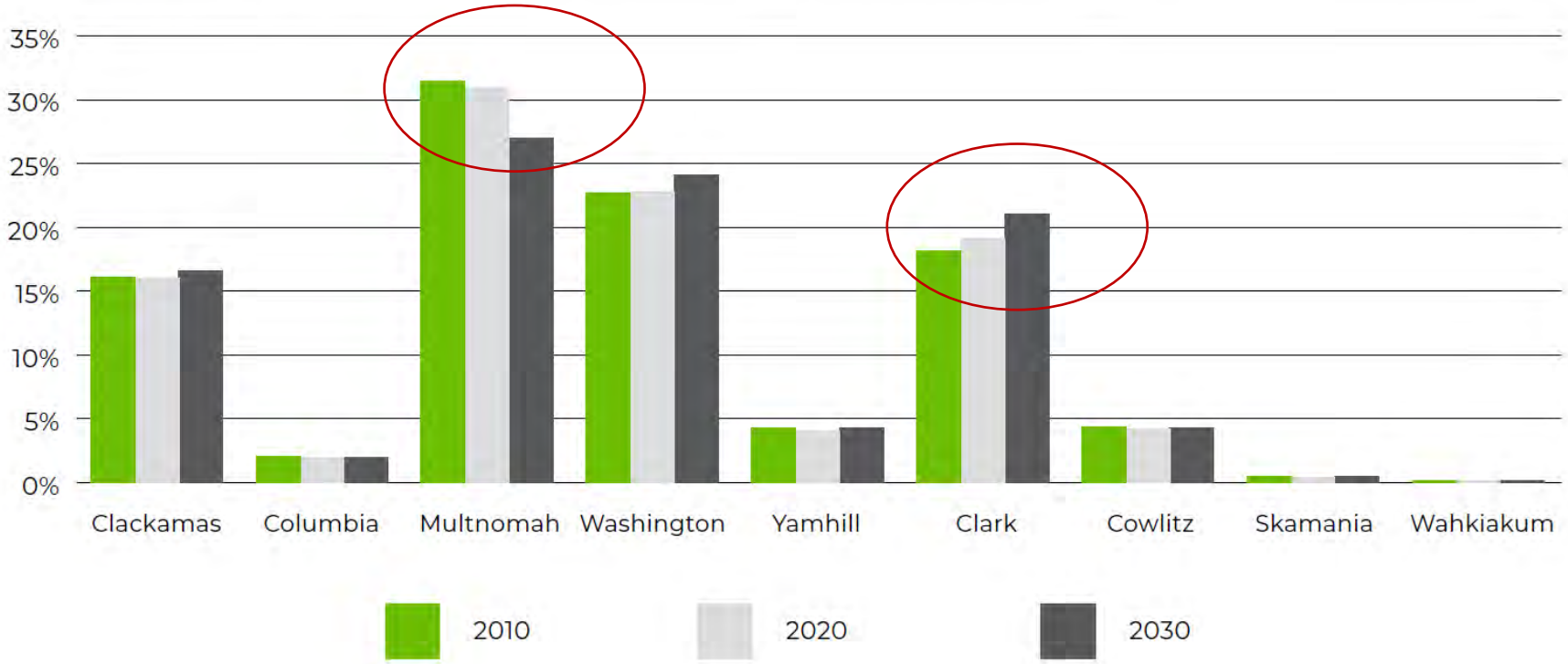


REGIONAL POPULATION

Growing Suburbs, Shrinking Core

FIGURE 1.2: SHARE OF THE REGIONAL POPULATION, BY COUNTY, 2010 TO 2030

Source: US Census, Oregon Population Research Center, Washington Office of Financial Management

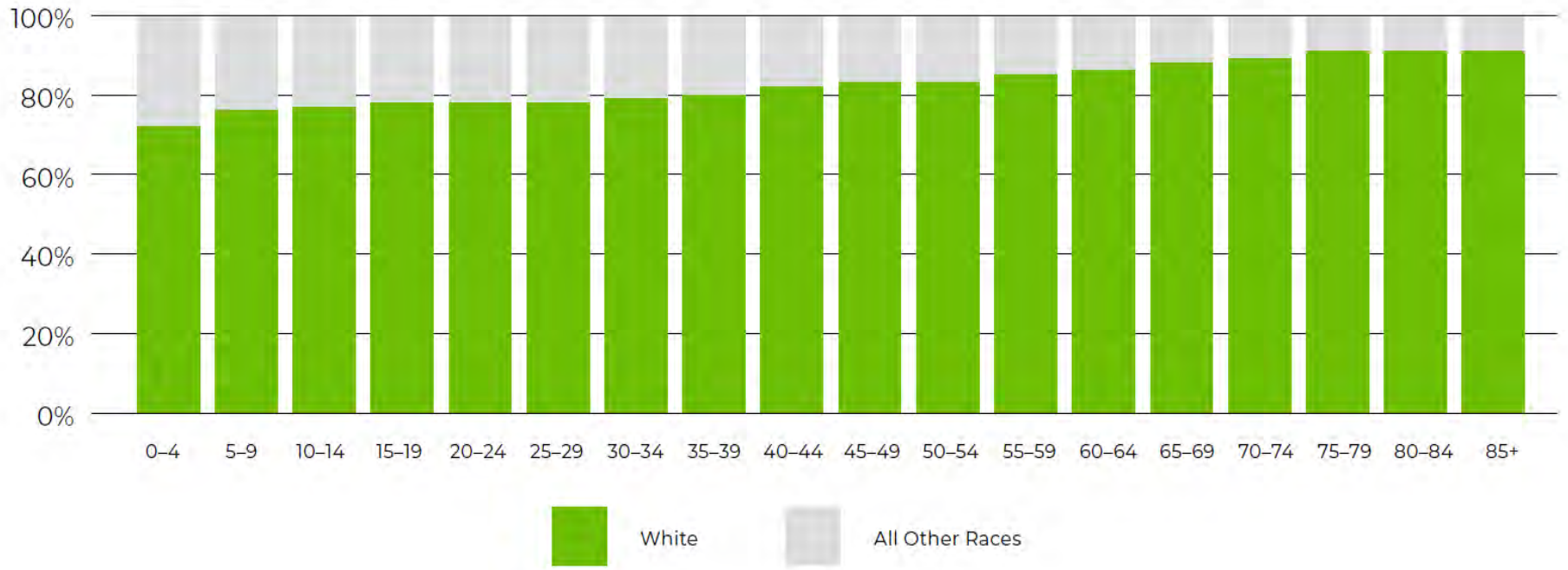


REGIONAL POPULATION

Increasing Racial Diversity

FIGURE 1.10: SHARE OF POPULATION BY AGE AND RACE, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2024

Source: Lightcast



Strategic Goals

Goal 1

Building a Better System

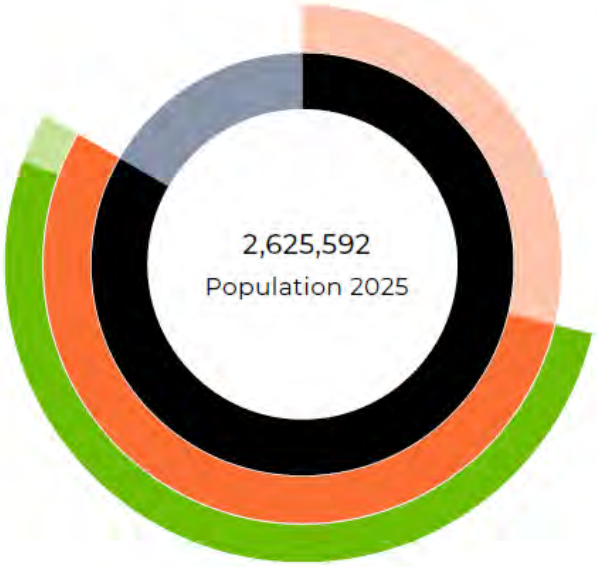
To develop and maintain a comprehensive regional public workforce system. Its mission encompasses designing, organizing, coordinating, and supporting integrated services and accessible training programs that effectively prepare and connect job seekers with high-quality employment opportunities across the region. Our goal is to ensure the system provides value to ALL jobs seekers, workers, and employers.

Building a Better System

Labor Force

FIGURE 2.1: POPULATION BY LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, PVMA, 2024

Source: Lightcast

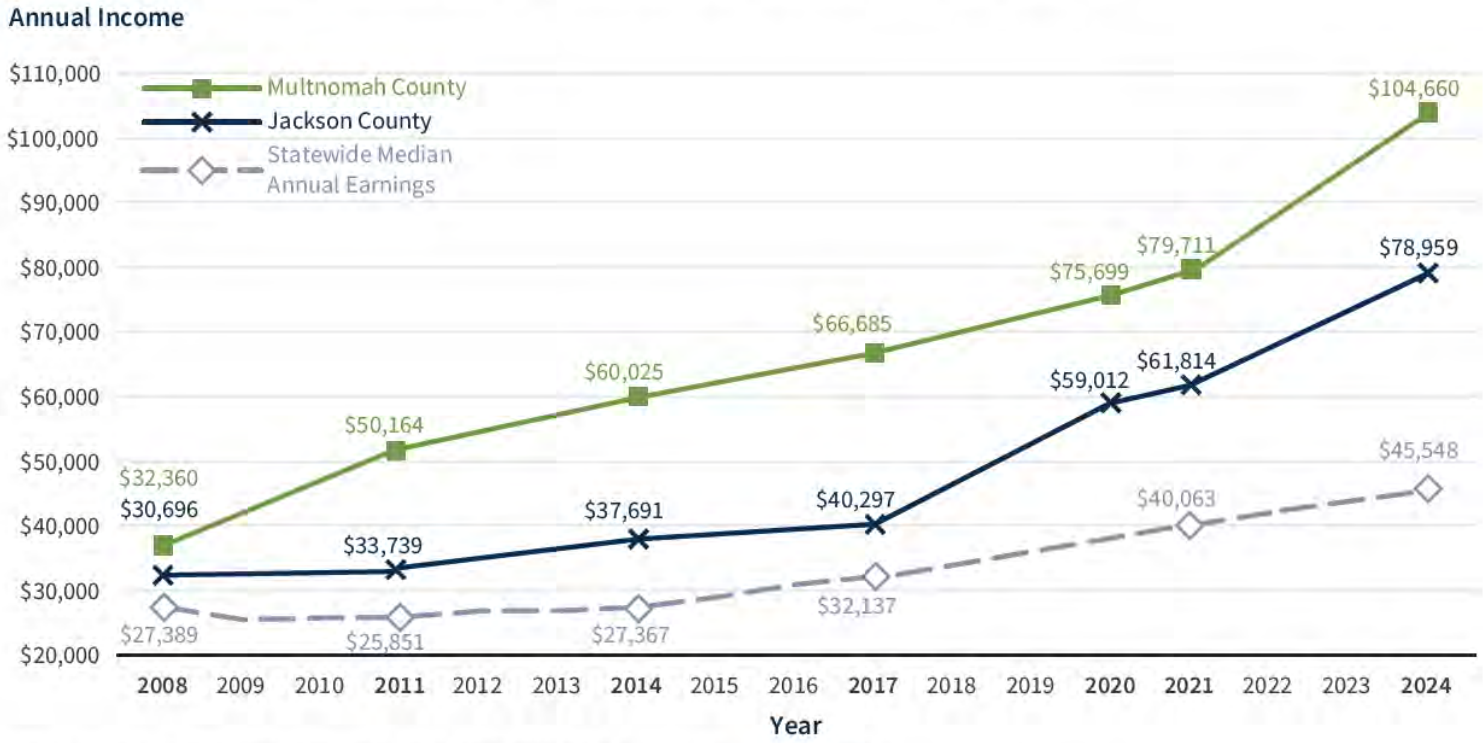


	Population
16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	2,190,006
Not in Labor Force (16+)	752,293
Labor Force	1,437,713
Employed	1,364,140
Unemployed	73,573
Under 16, Military, and Institutionalized Population	435,586

Building a Better System

Makings Ends Meet

Figure H. The Self-Sufficiency Standard increase over time varies by county; growth remains significantly higher than the state median earnings* in Oregon
The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Oregon by year for select counties and statewide median wages
One adult, one preschooler, and one school-age child: 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2024



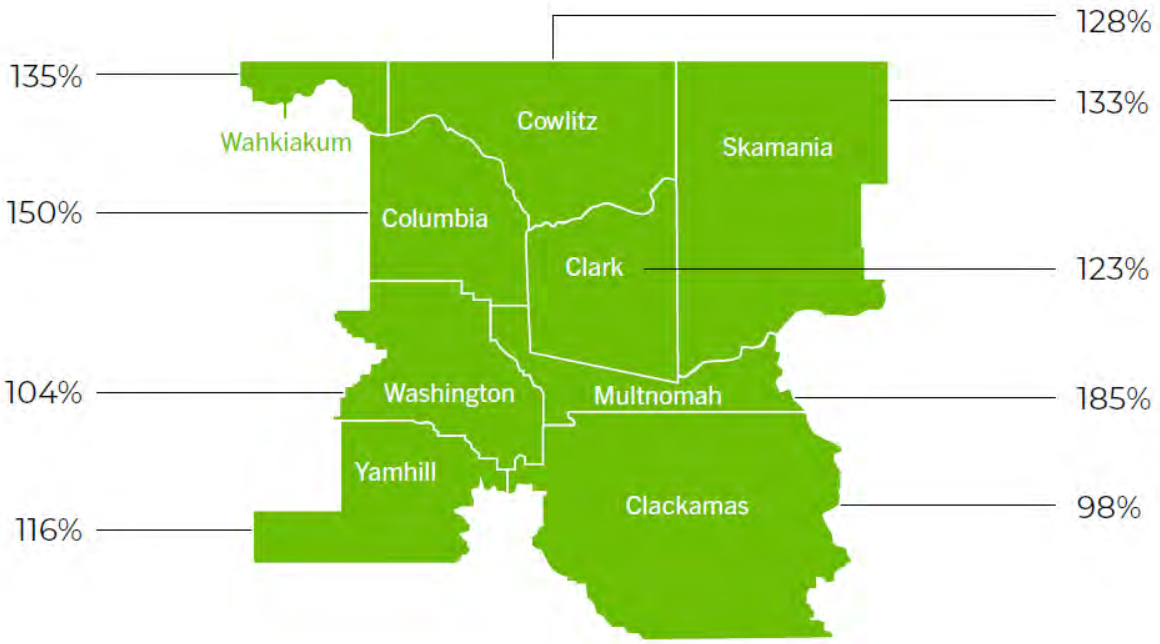
ACS 1-year data (B20002_001) 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2021, 2023. (accessed August 20, 2024).
*Median earnings from 2023, the most recent year available, were updated using the Employment Cost Index (ECI). U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Cost Index, Wages and Salaries for All Civilian Workers in All Industries and Occupations, http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/srgate, Series CIS10200000000001 (accessed August 20, 2024).
ACS data was not produced in 2020, creating a gap in median earnings for this year.

Building a Better System

Makings Ends Meet

FIGURE 2.5: PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD, BY COUNTY, PVMA

Source: Oregon 2024 Self-Sufficiency Standard



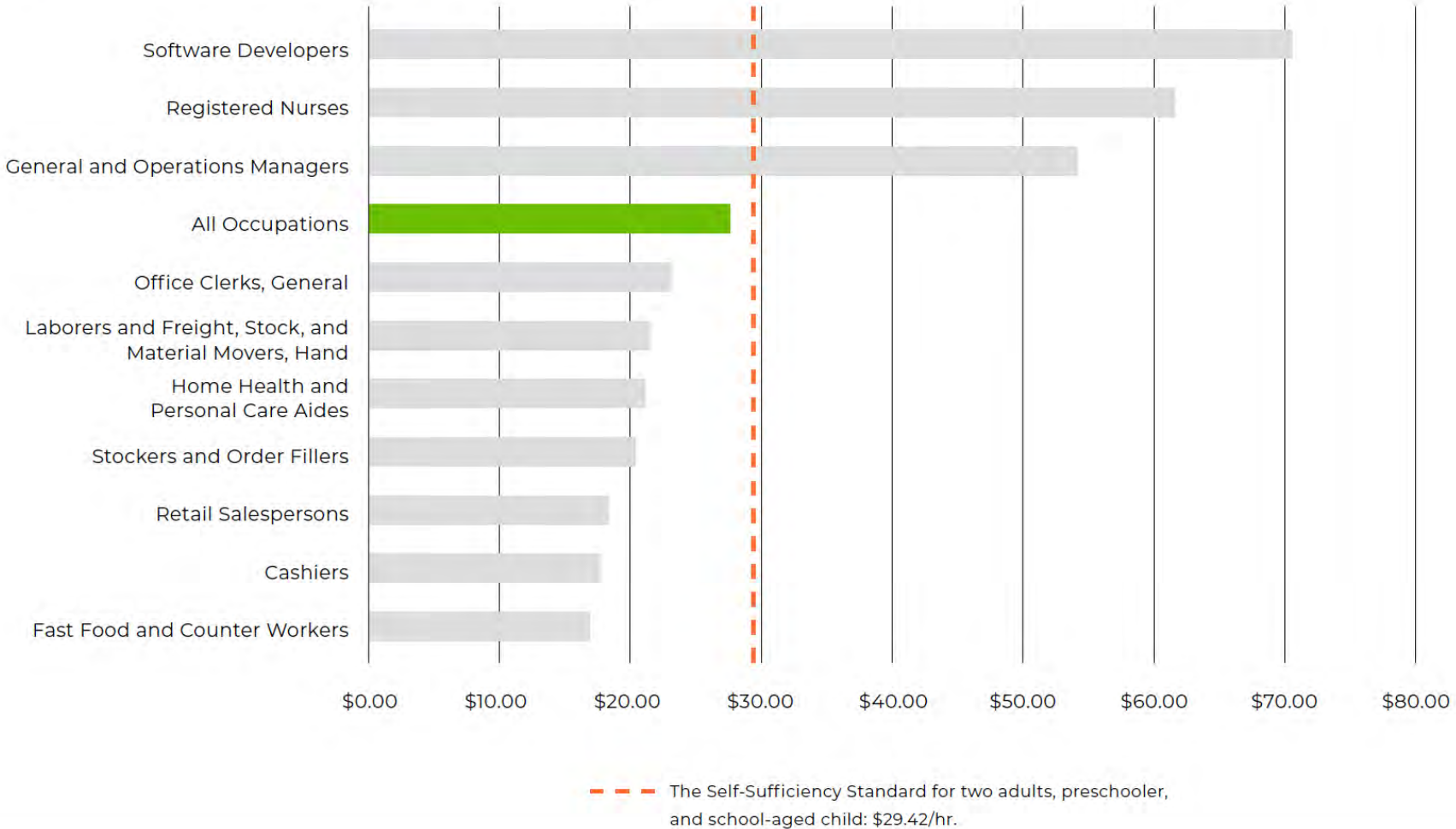
Note: The Standard used in this map is for a family of two adults with one preschooler and one school aged child.
Note: The data for Oregon Counties is from 2008-2024. The data for Washington Counties is from 2007-2023.

Building a Better System

Wage Growth Not Keeping Pace

FIGURE 2.6: WAGES V. SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD, 2023

Source: Oregon 2024 Self-Sufficiency Standard



Goal 2

Creating Opportunity

To ensure all job seekers are connected to the training and support necessary to enter quality jobs.

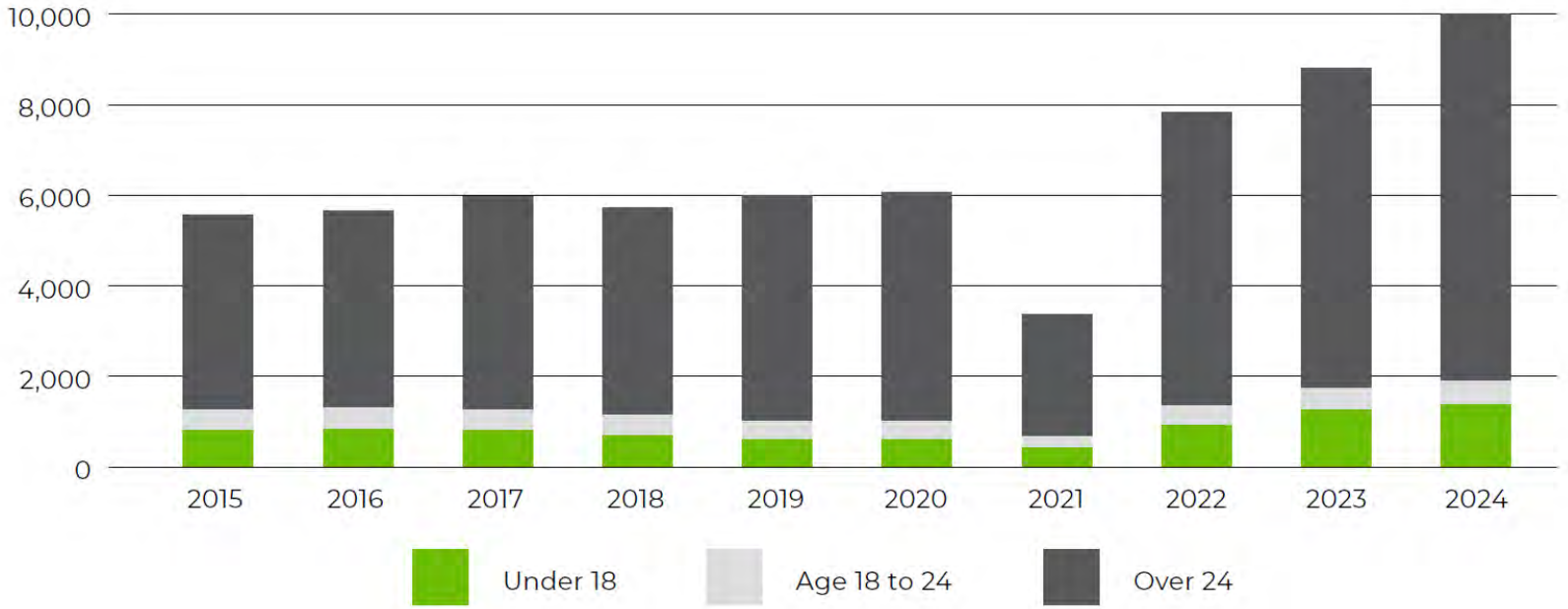
Increasing resources for people who have struggled to engage in the workforce system – including people who are low income, in the housing and homeless continuum of care, disconnected youth, and those with prior justice involvement – is a focus for our organization and community. These populations were hit hardest by the pandemic's economic downturn and risk falling further behind in the post-pandemic economy.

Creating Opportunity

Increasingly Homelessness

FIGURE 3.1: PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY AGE, 2015-2024

Source: HUD Point in Time Homeless Counts



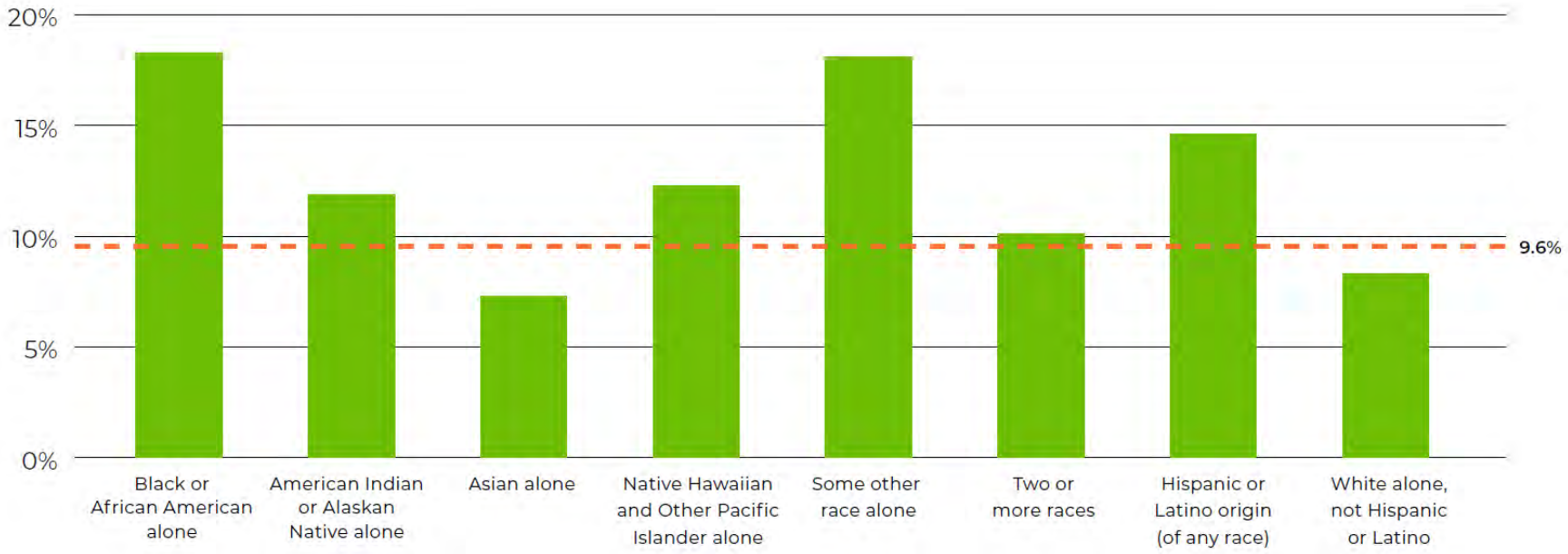
Note: The geography for this data is Clark County, WA, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties in OR. Complete data for the region is not available.

Creating Opportunity

Poverty

FIGURE 3.2: POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO MSA, 2024

Source: HUD Point in Time Homeless Counts



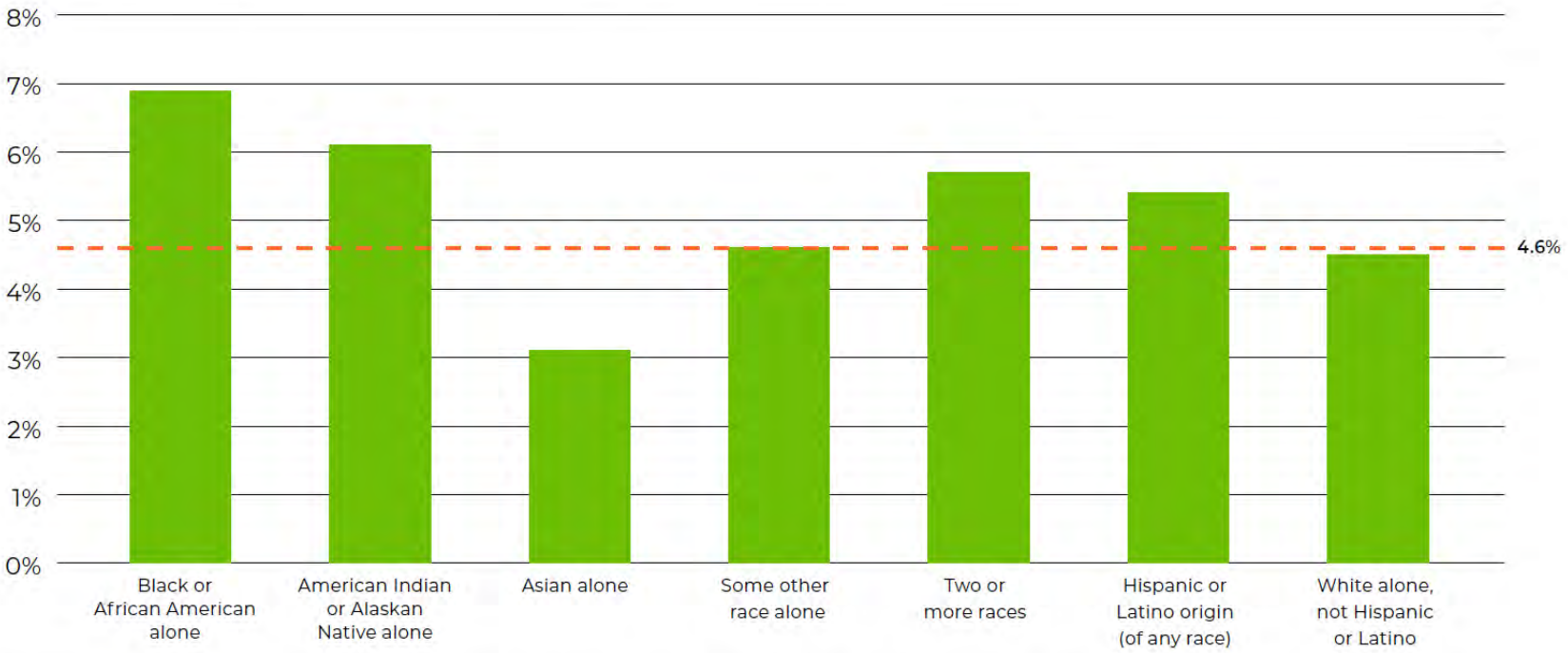
Note: Data is not available for Cowlitz or Wahkiakum County

Creating Opportunity

Unemployment Rate

FIGURE 3.4: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY RACE, PORTLAND MSA, 2024

Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S2301



Note: Due to a small sample size, data is not available for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders
Note: Data is not available for Cowlitz or Wahkiakum County

Goal 3

Supporting Youth

To ensure all youth gain the skills and experience to succeed in the workforce.

Youth living in poverty or experiencing housing instability or homelessness, and those involved in the juvenile justice system have significant potential for growth by exploring independence and life opportunities, which can lay the foundation for their future career paths.

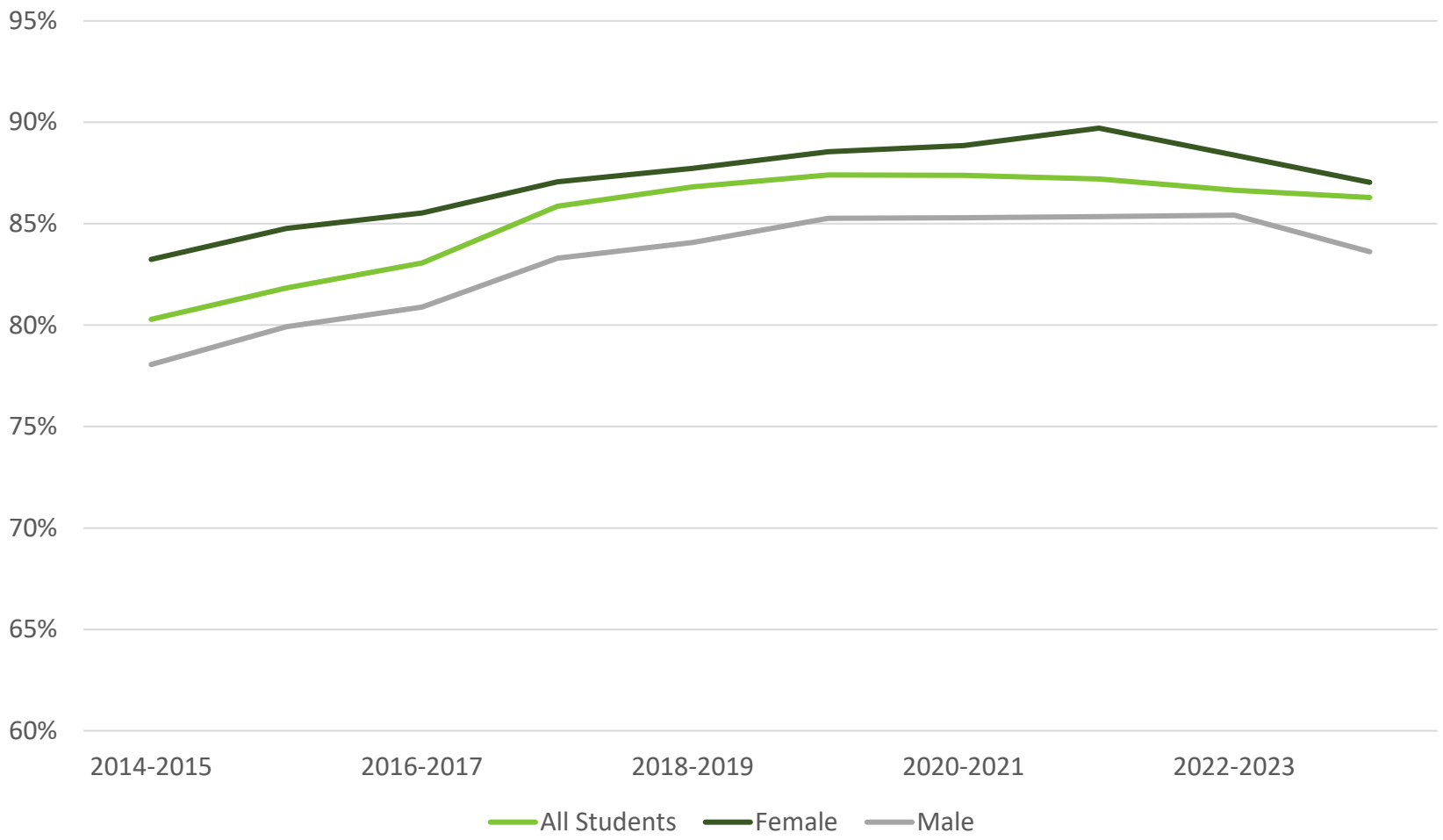
Increasing pathways/connections/visibility to workforce opportunities for young people is imperative to supporting those in our community who are disconnected or struggling with work or school.

Supporting Youth

High School Graduation Rate

FIGURE 4.9A: FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, PVMA, 2014-2024

Source: Oregon Department of Education, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Education

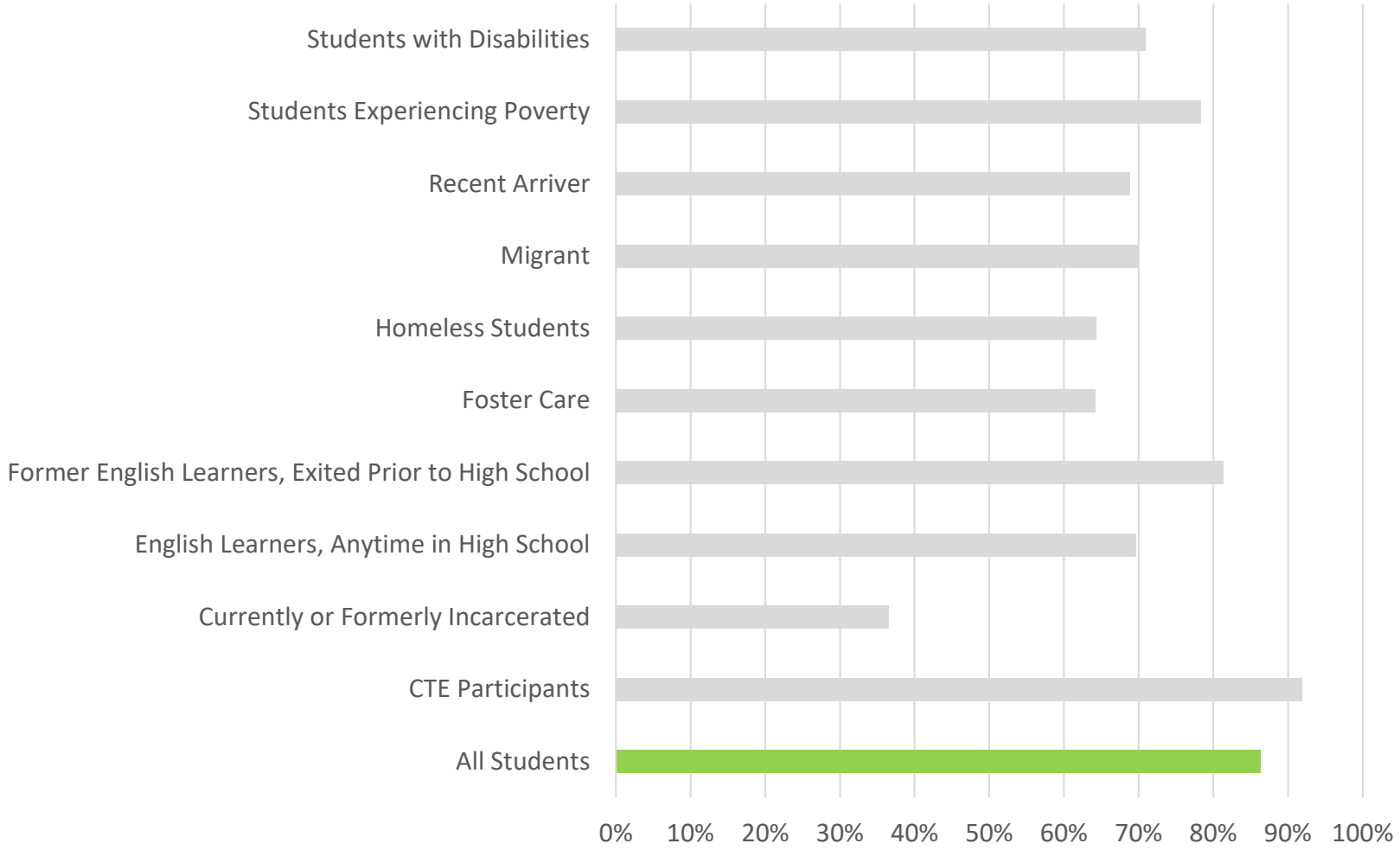


Supporting Youth

CTE

FIGURE 4.9B: FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, BY SUBGROUP, PVMA, 2023-2024

Source: Oregon Department of Education, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Education

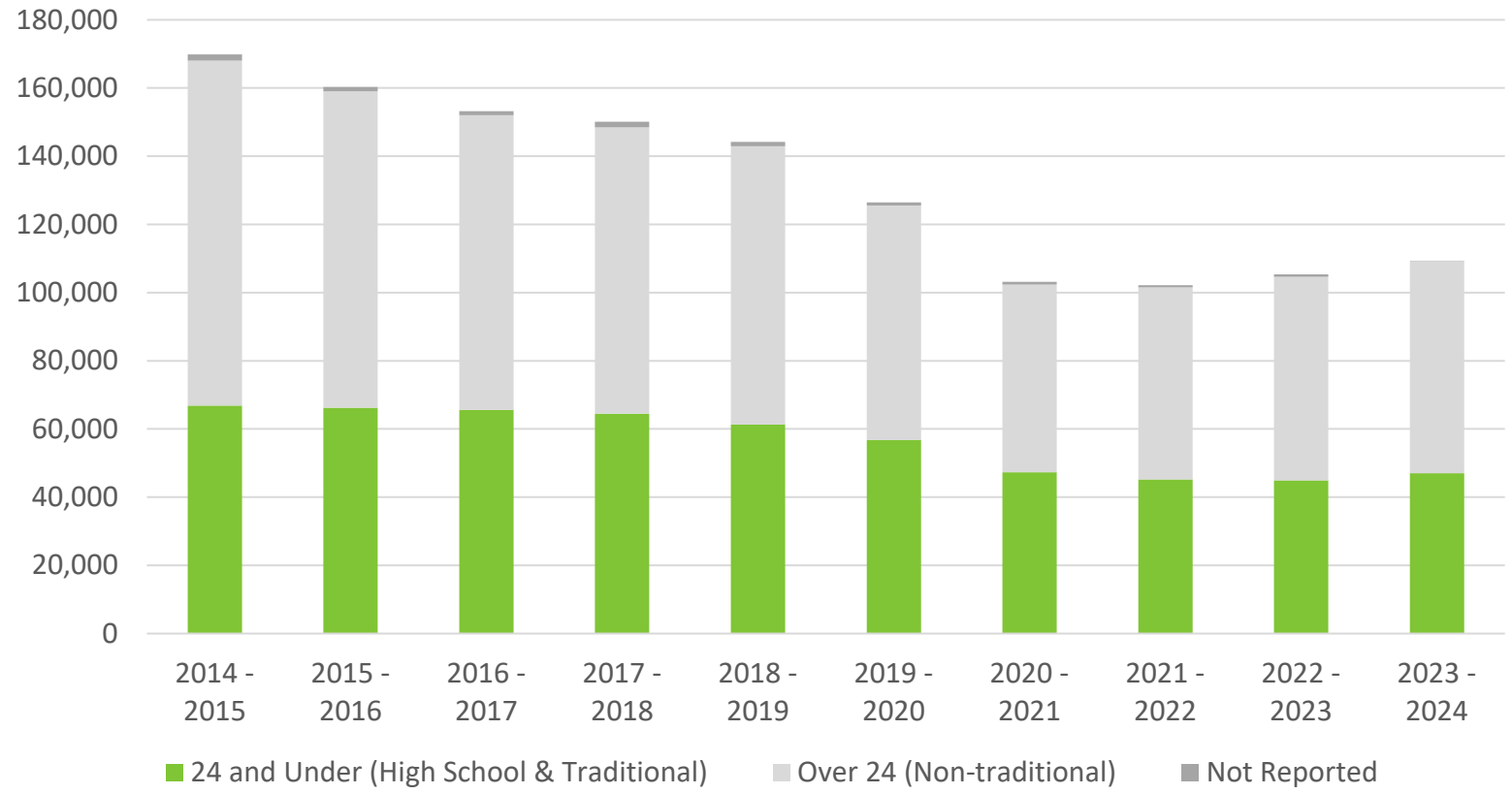


Supporting Youth

Community College Enrollment

FIGURE 4.10C: COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT BY AGE, PVMA, 2015-2023

Source: Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Council, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges



Supporting Youth

Labor Force Participation Rate

FIGURE 4.11: LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, BY AGE, PORTLAND MSA, 2014-2024

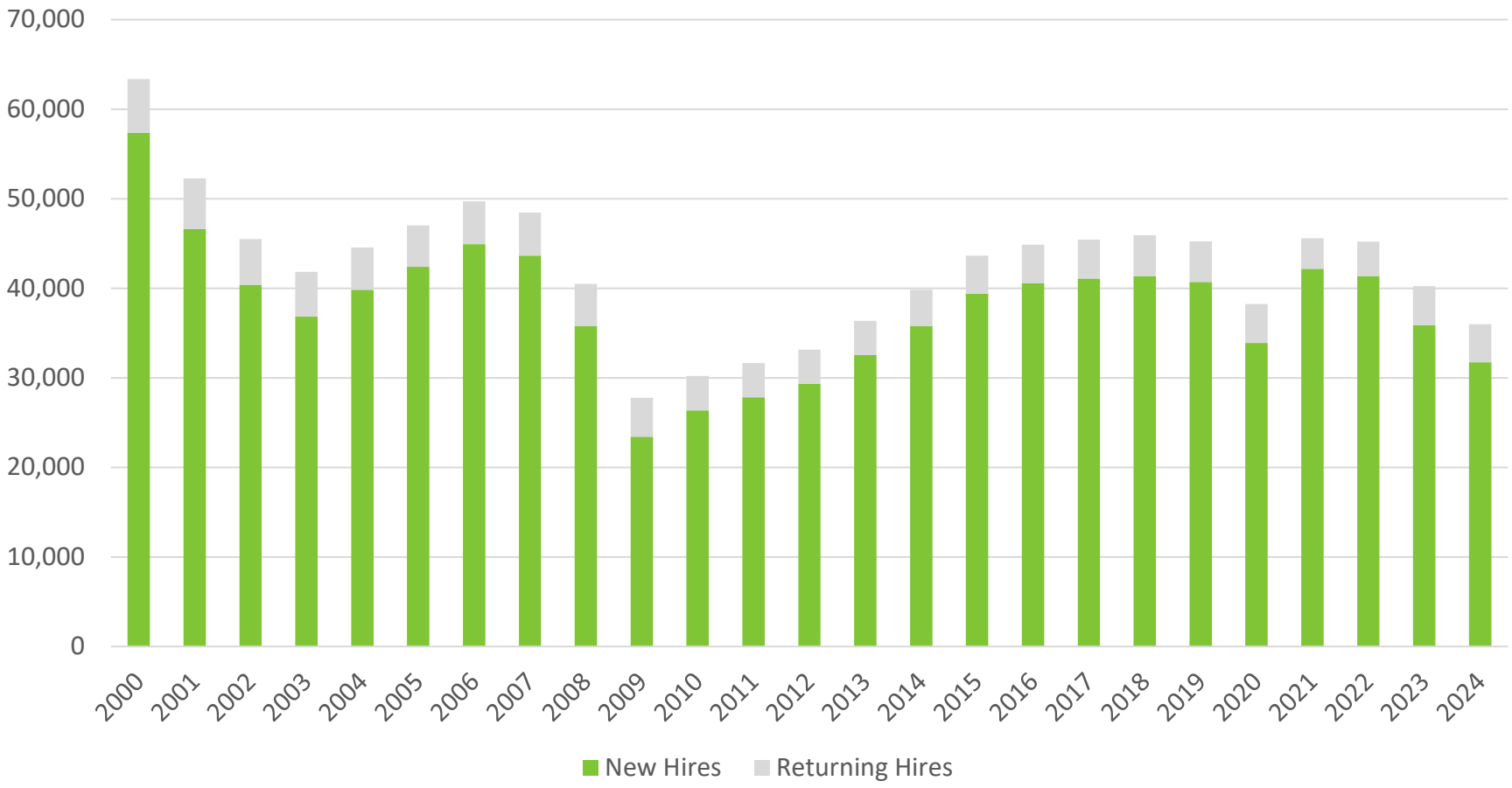
Source: US Census, American Community Survey, Table S2301

Supporting Youth

Youth Hires

FIGURE 4.12: YOUTH HIRING: 14-24, PORTLAND MSA, 2000-2024

Source: US Census Bureau Local Employment Household Dynamics



Goal 4

Strengthening Regional Industry

To ensure employers can recruit and retain the talent they need to fill quality jobs through the public workforce system.

The CWWC delivers customized/innovative/optimal solutions to complex workforce challenges.

To address employers' hiring, training, and retention needs, we deploy various strategies, including outreach and skill development through regional WorkSource centers, community-based career coaching, custom training cohorts, and on-the-job training programs.

Strengthening Regional Industry

Target Sectors

- Two or Fewer Years of Post-Secondary Education
- Anticipated Growth During Next Ten Years
- 200+ Jobs in the Region
- Self-Sufficiency Wage

Strengthening Regional Industry

Target Sectors

Advanced Manufacturing

Clean Energy

Healthcare & Social Assistance

Construction

Strengthening Regional Industry

Target Occupations

79 Occupations

128,000+ Currently Employed

Do you have questions about the State of the Workforce?

Want to learn more about what happening in your sector or community?

Get in touch!
lmorehead@worksystems.org

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