



# Higher Education in Boston

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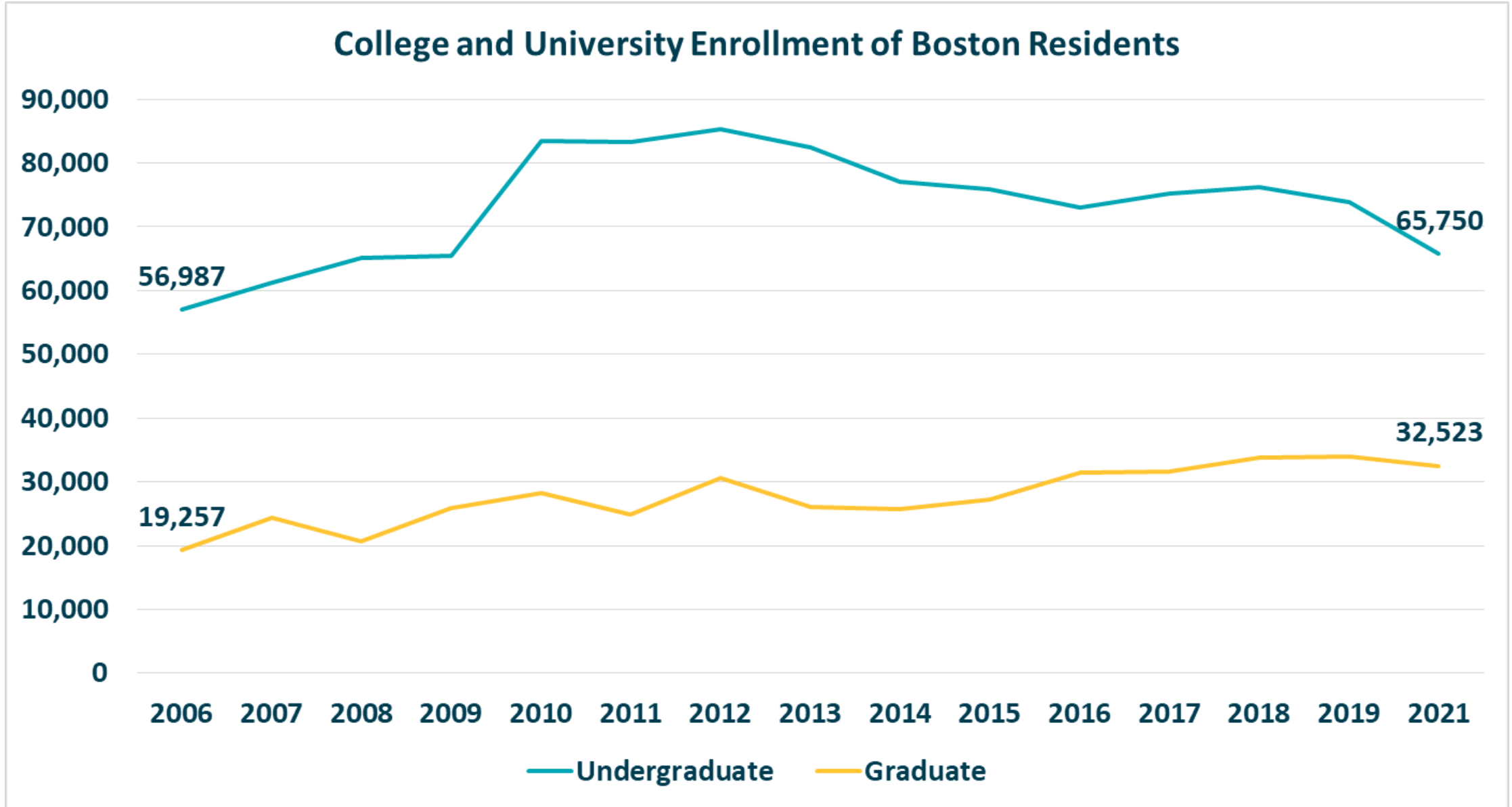
*BPDA Research Division September 8, 2023*

# Higher Education in Boston Outline

- Overview of Boston's Colleges and Universities
- Demographics of College Students
- Where do Boston's Students come from?
- Where do Boston's Students go?
- Student Housing and Households
- Economic Contribution of Higher Education
- Future Concerns for Higher Education

# Overview of Higher Education in Boston

# 15% of Boston residents are enrolled in college

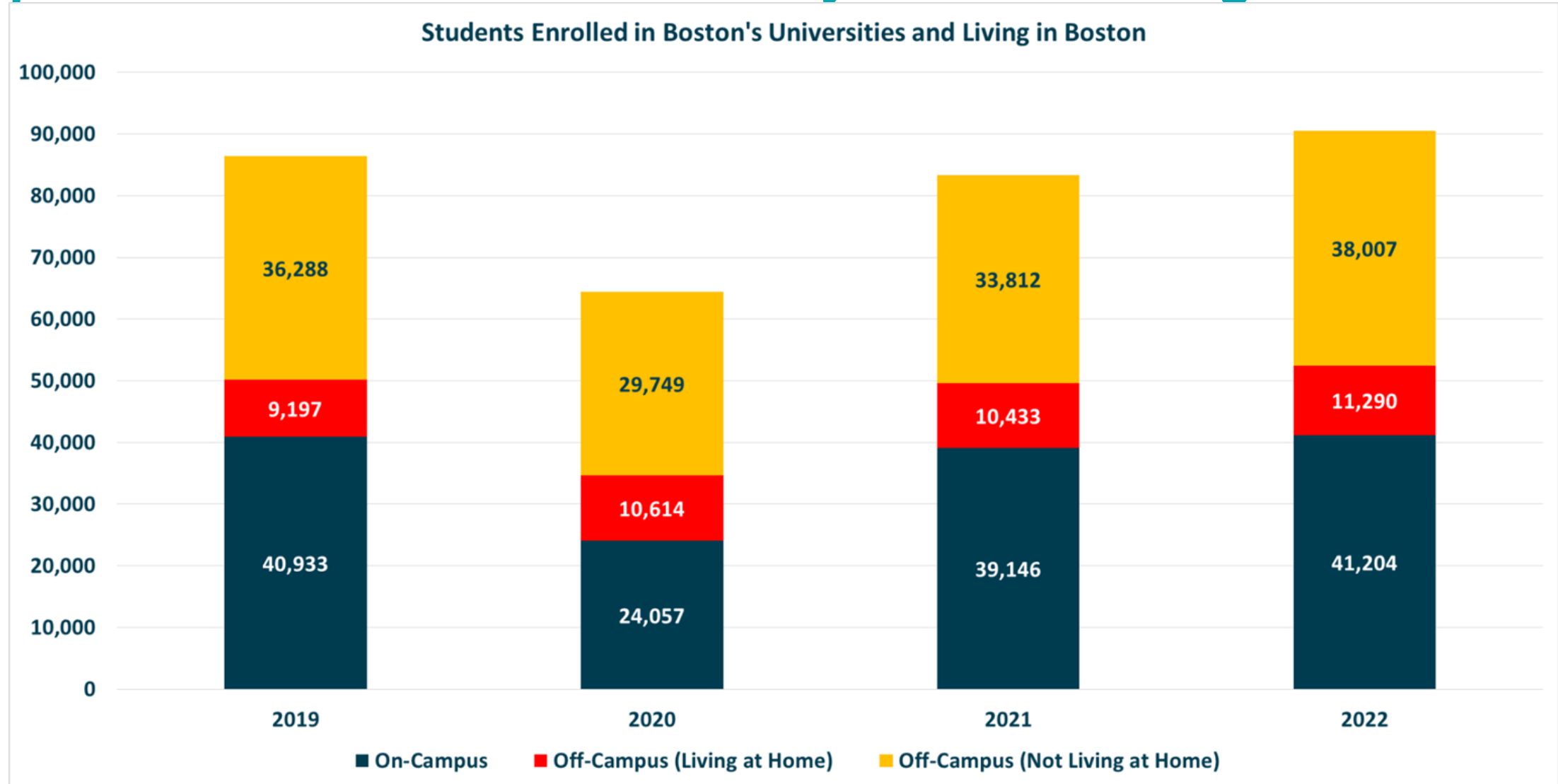


# Boston's colleges and universities enrolled 159,720 students in Fall 2022

<b>College or University</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Change since 2013</b>
<b>Northeastern University</b>	<b>40,572</b>	<b>53.5%</b>
<b>Boston University</b>	<b>32,148</b>	<b>11.5%</b>
<b>Boston College</b>	<b>14,734</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
<b>UMass Boston</b>	<b>13,969</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>
<b>Suffolk University</b>	<b>6,473</b>	<b>-23.3%</b>
<b>Berklee College of Music</b>	<b>6,094</b>	<b>15.1%</b>
<b>Harvard University (Boston Campuses)</b>	<b>5,067</b>	<b>32.3%</b>
<b>Emerson College</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences</b>	<b>3,935</b>	<b>-11.9%</b>
<b>Wentworth Institute of Technology</b>	<b>3,599</b>	<b>-8.9%</b>

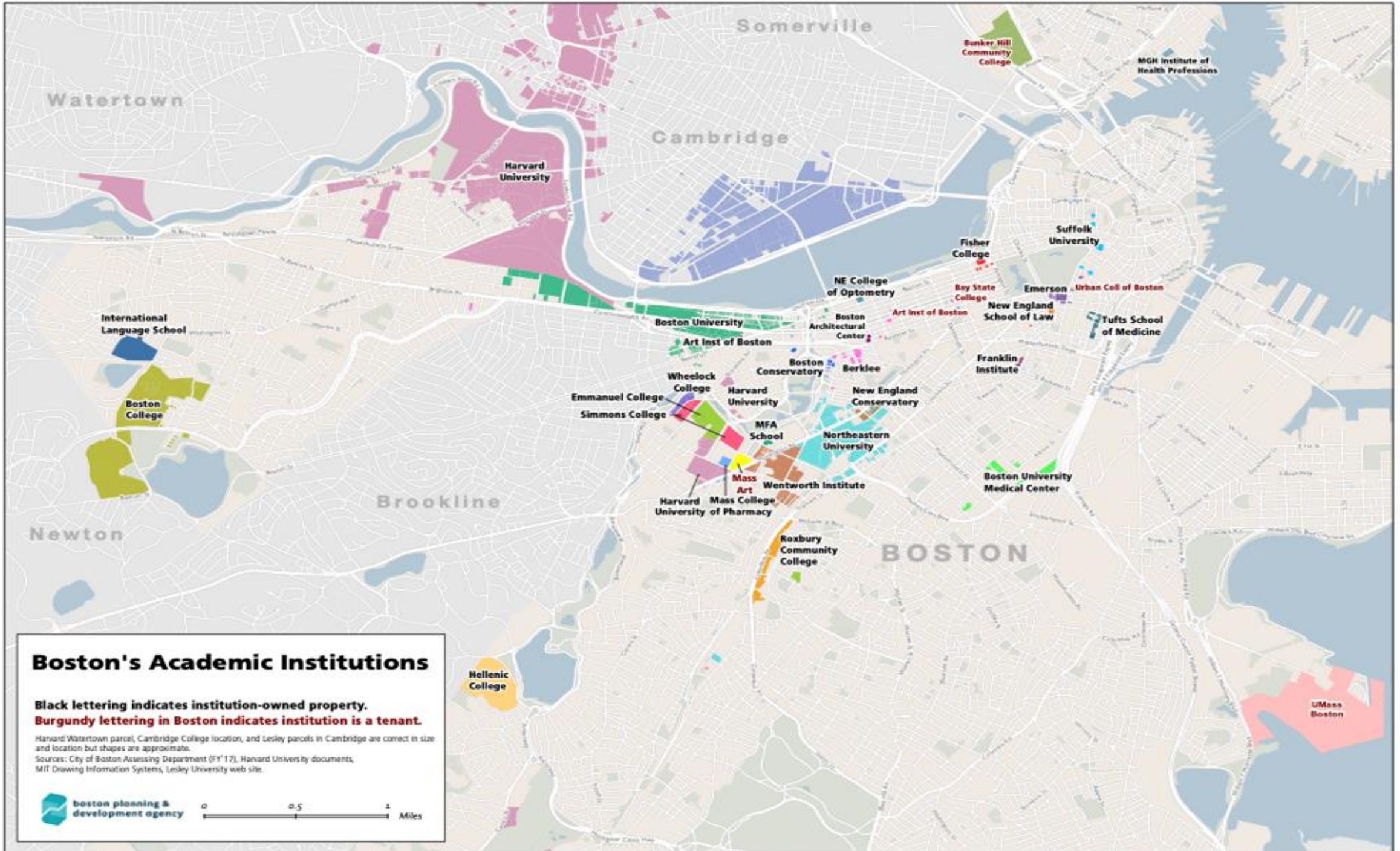
Source 2022 University Accountability Ordinance

# The 2022-2023 school year saw an increase over pre-pandemic numbers of university students living in Boston



Source: University Accountability Ordinance, BPDA Research Division Analysis

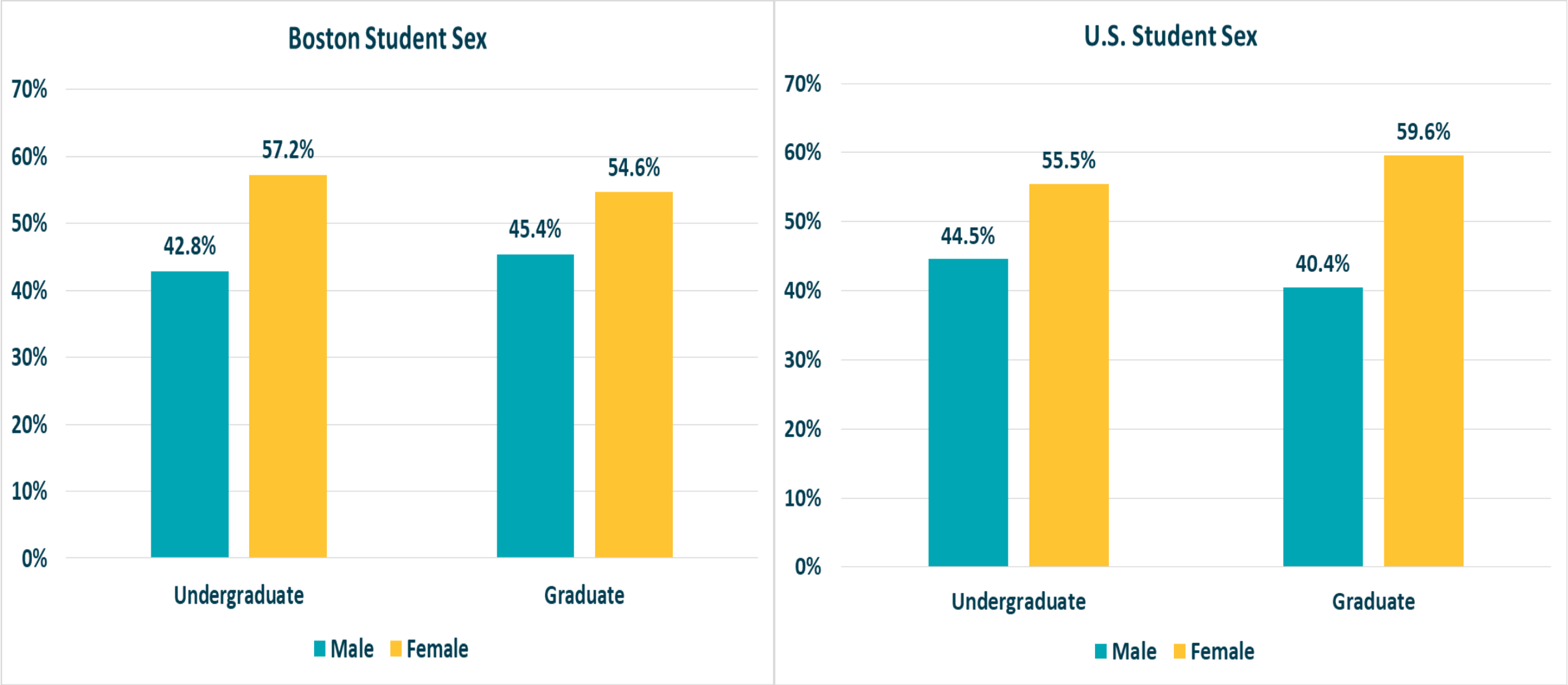




# Demographics of Boston's College Students

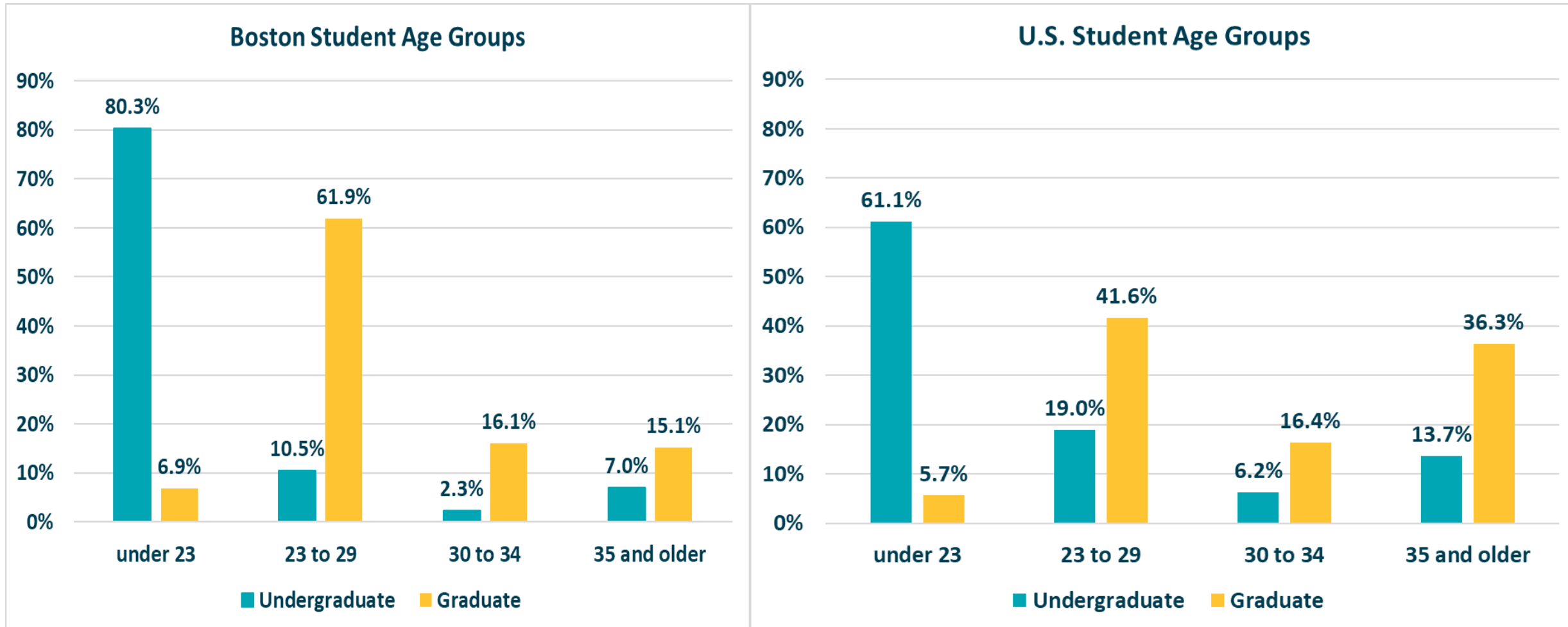


# 57% of undergraduate students in Boston are female

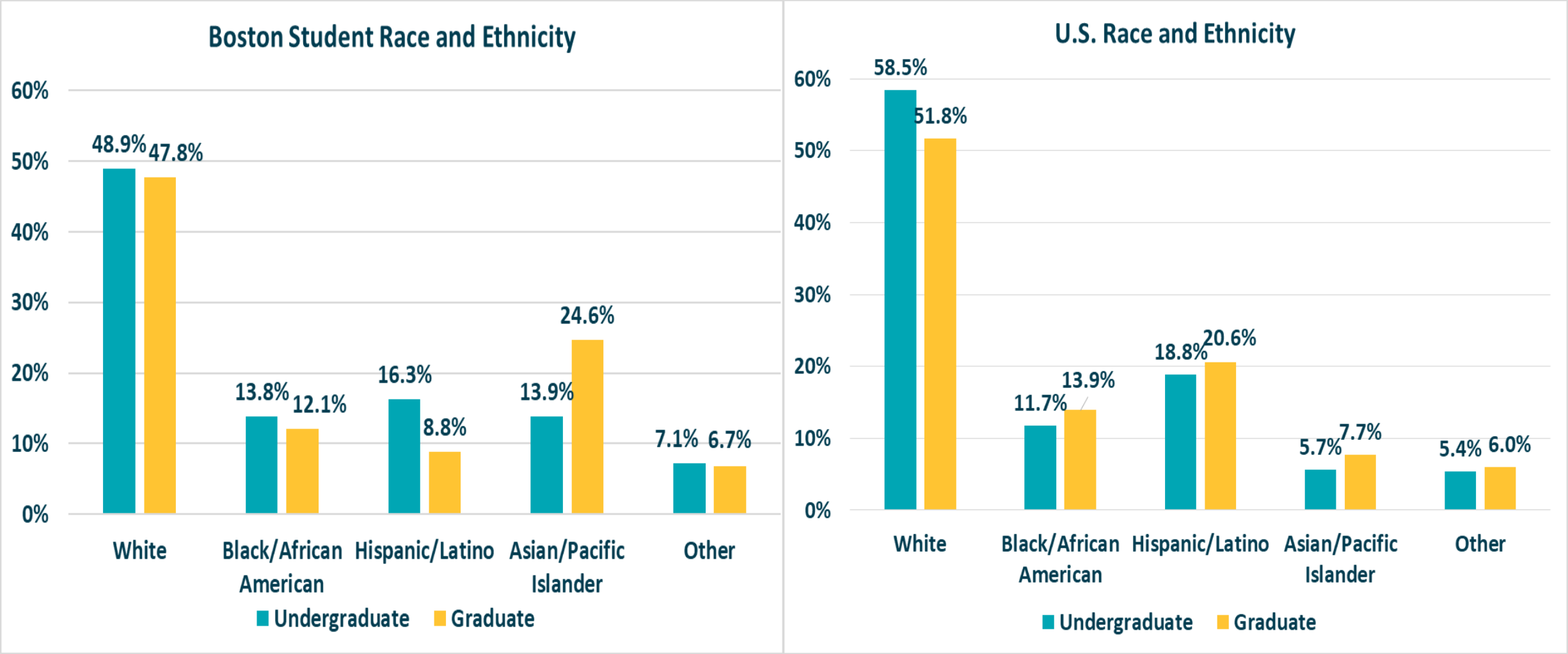


Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Boston has a younger age structure of its college students - 80% of undergraduates are under 23



# Boston attracts more Asian students - almost 25% of graduate students living in Boston are Asian

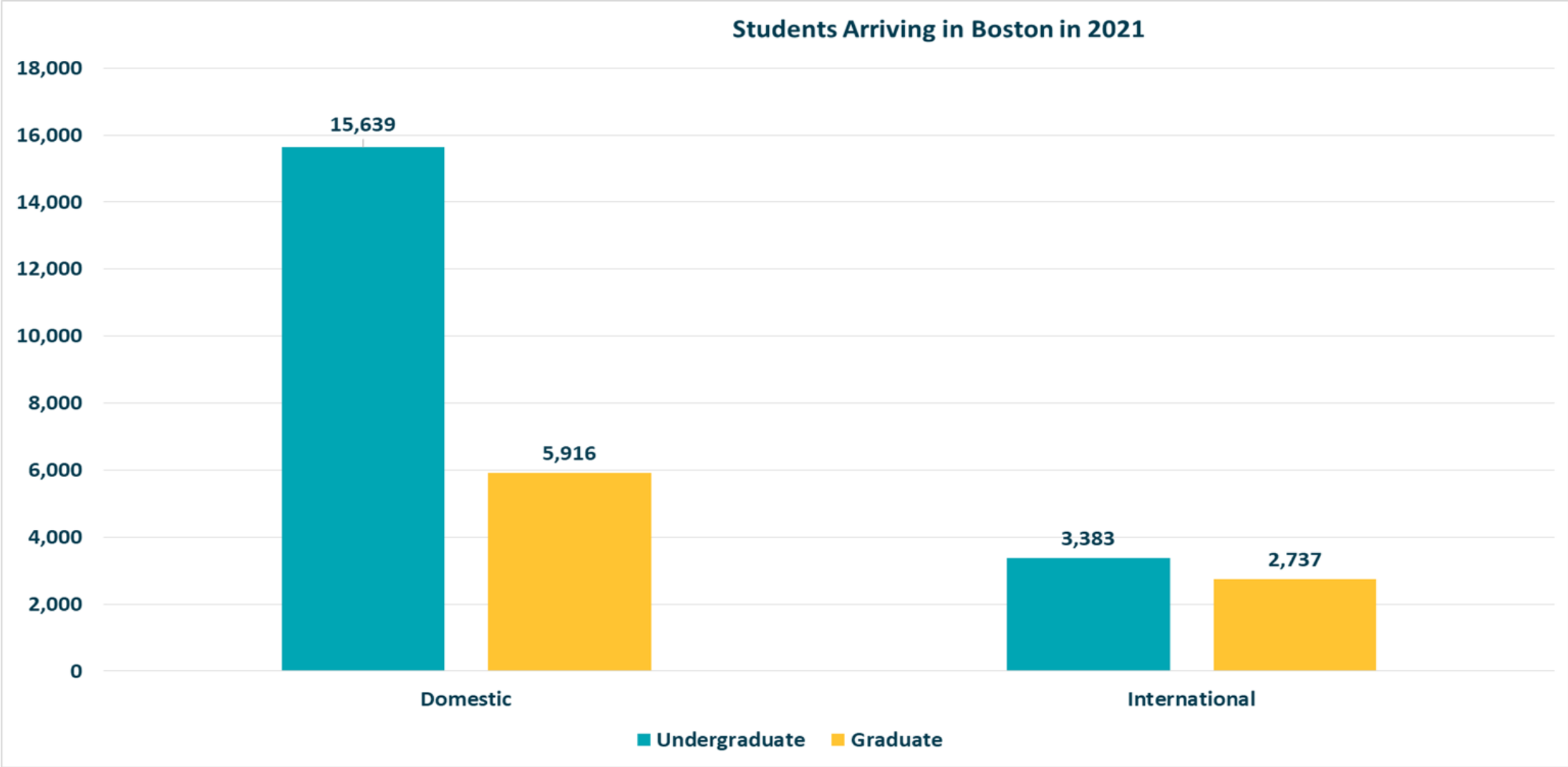


Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Where do Boston's Students Come From?

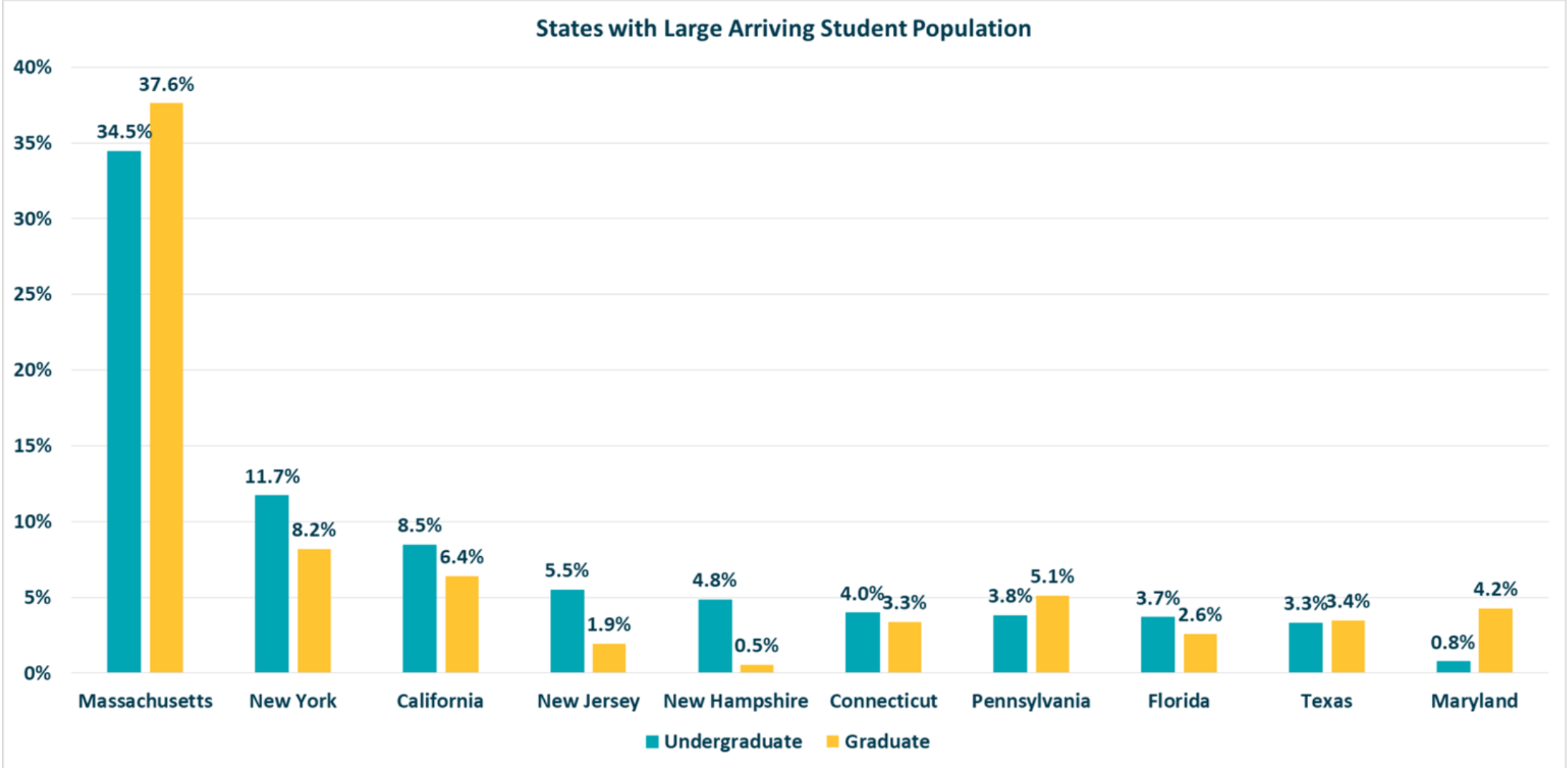


# 73% of arriving undergraduate students come from the United States, but 45% of graduate students come internationally



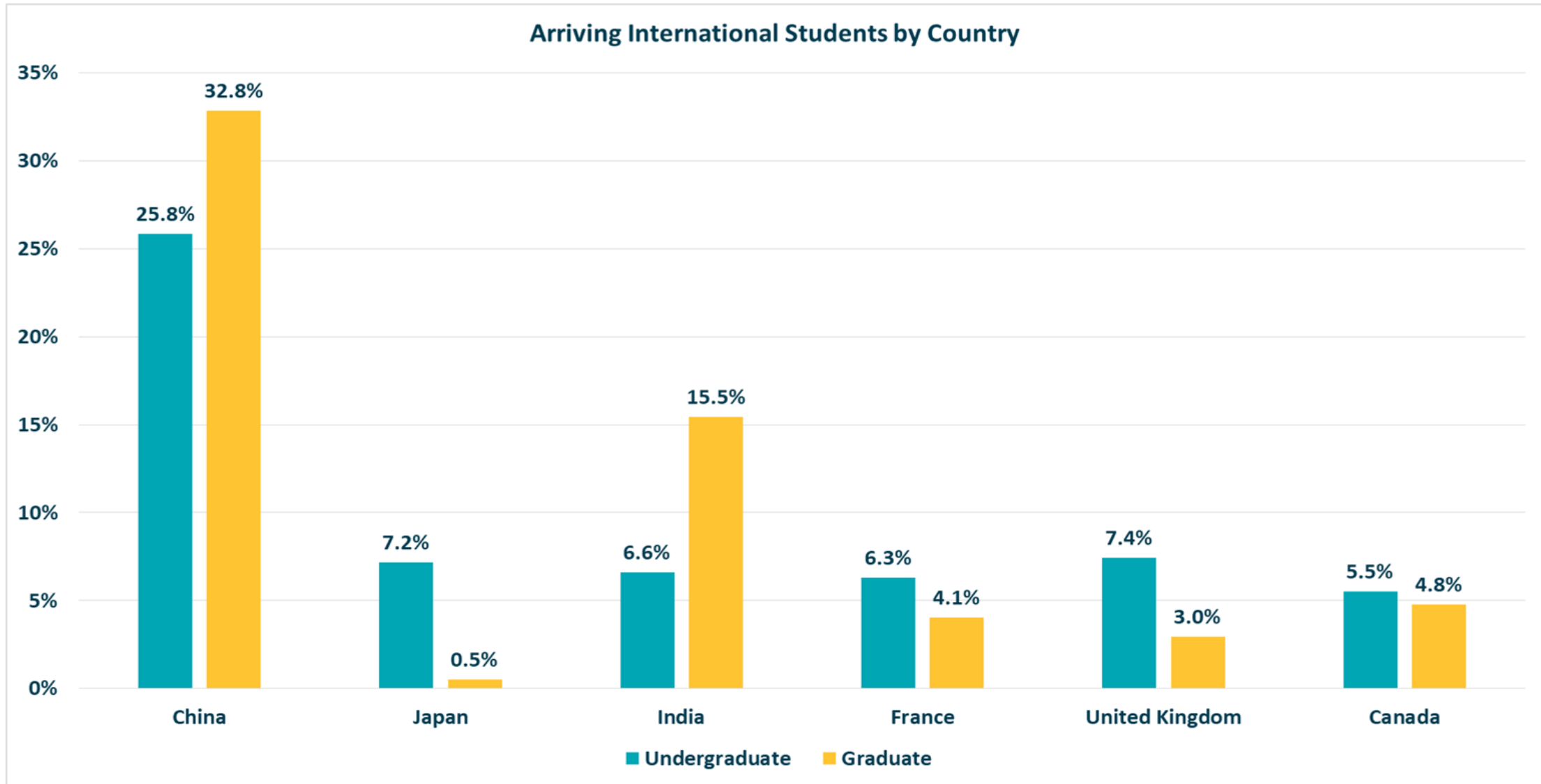
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# The rest of Massachusetts, New York, and California send large shares of our domestic students



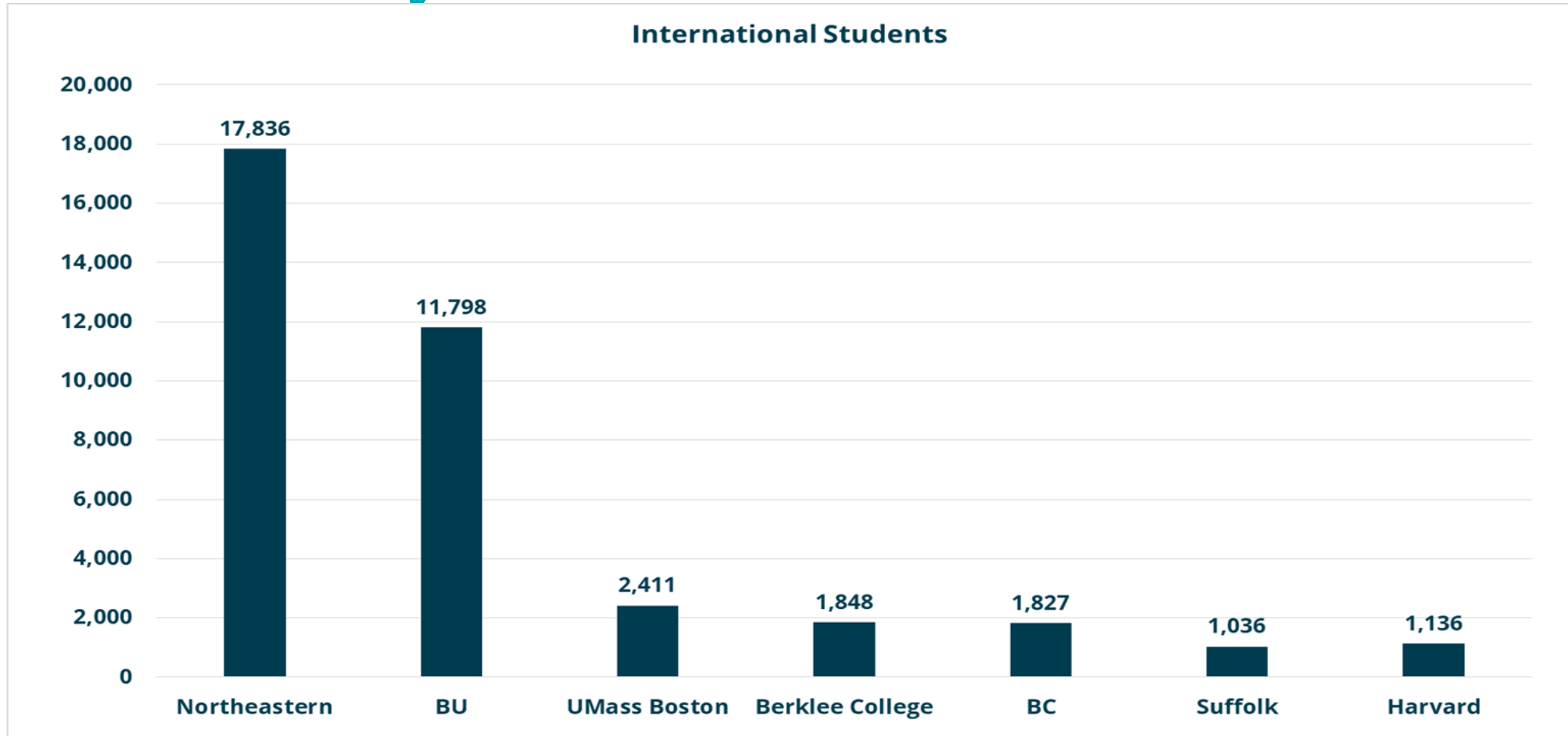
Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Among Boston's arriving international students, over 30% of graduate students and 25% of undergraduates come from China



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Northeastern and BU are two of the top three schools in the country for international students in 2022

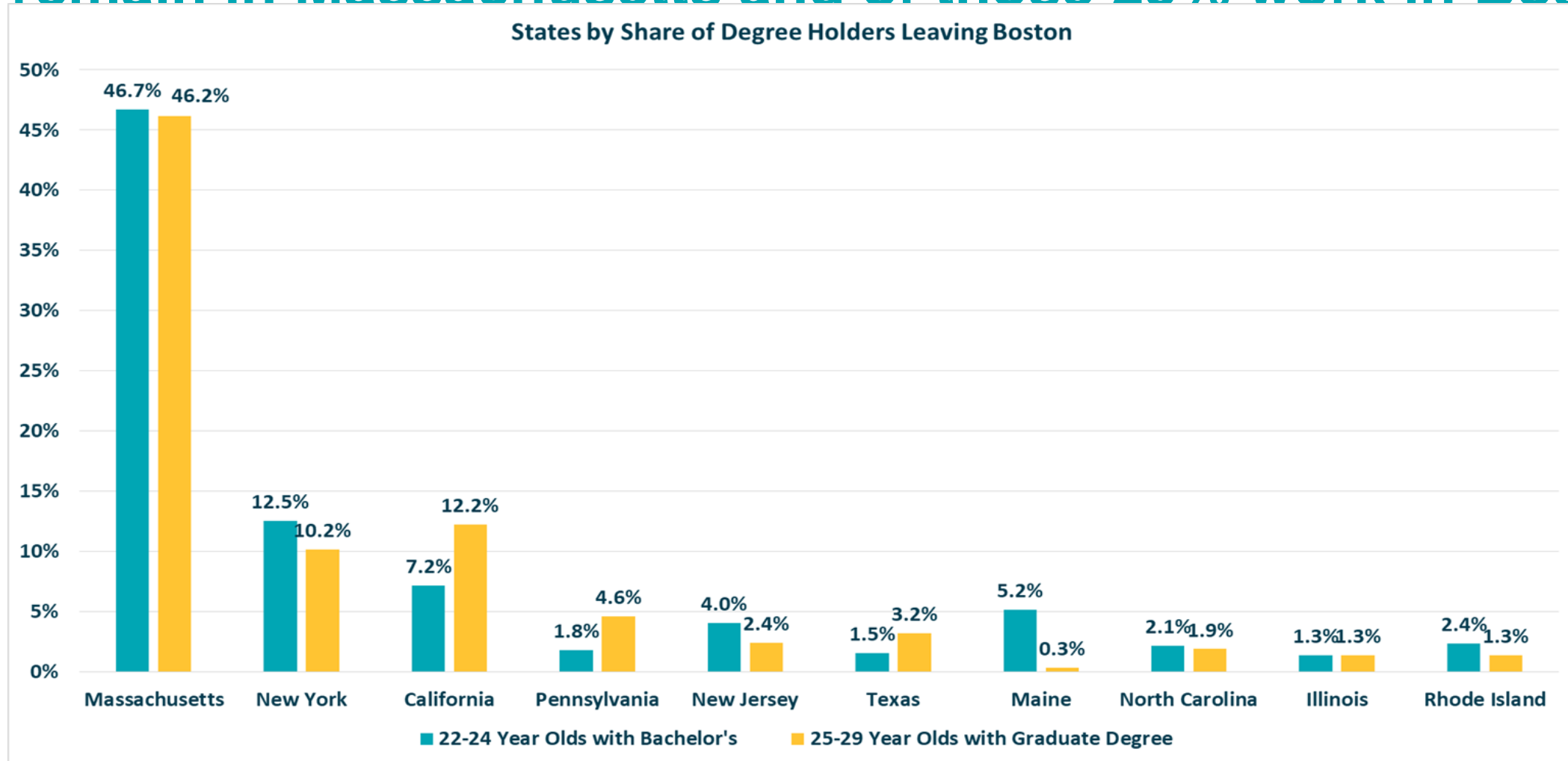


Source: 2022 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) & college administrative data, BPDA Research Division Analysis;



# Where do Boston's Students Go?

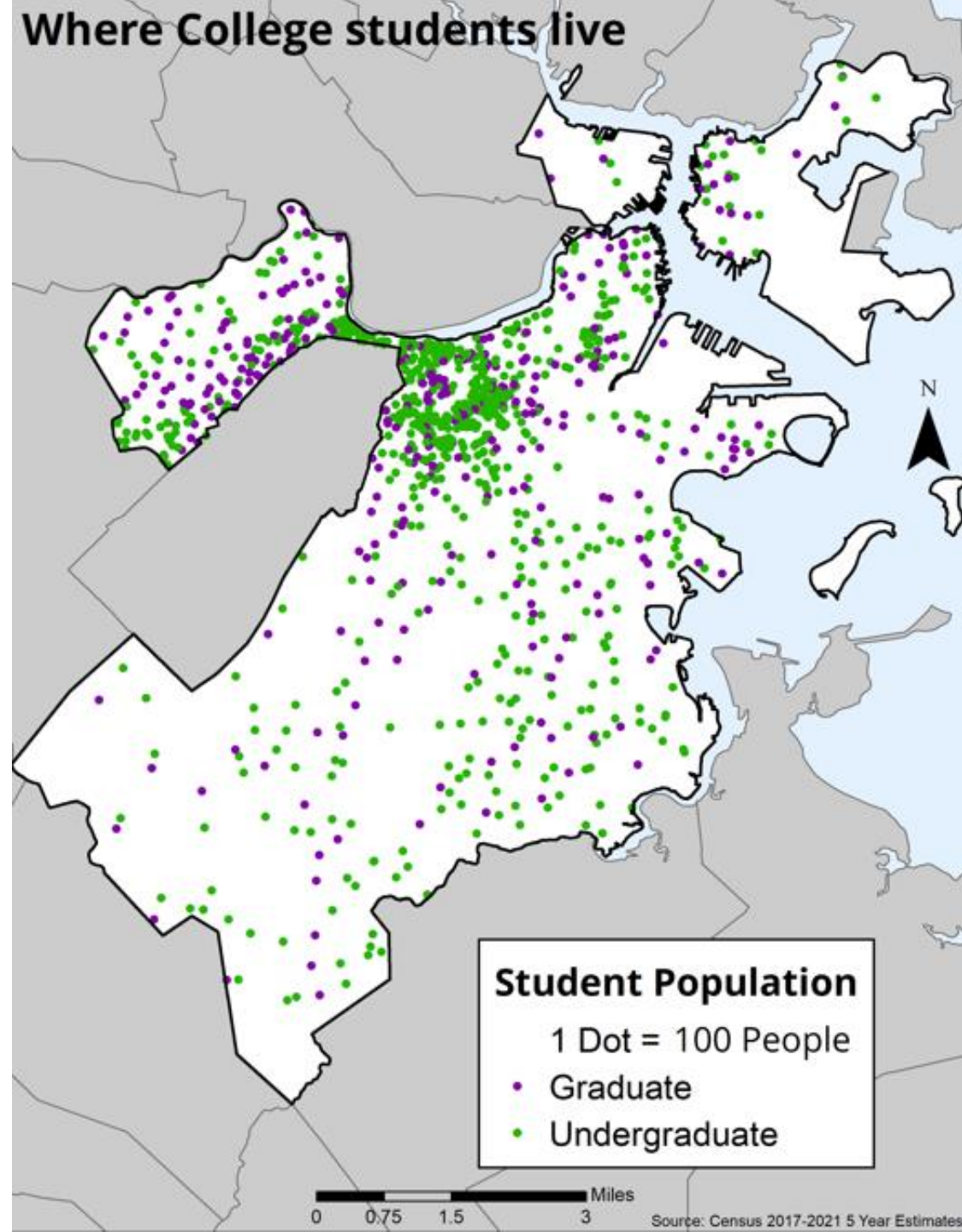
# Almost half of out-migrating 22-24 year olds with a Bachelor's and 25-29 year olds with a graduate degree remain in Massachusetts and of those 25% work in Boston



Source: 2017-2021 American Community Survey (IPUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

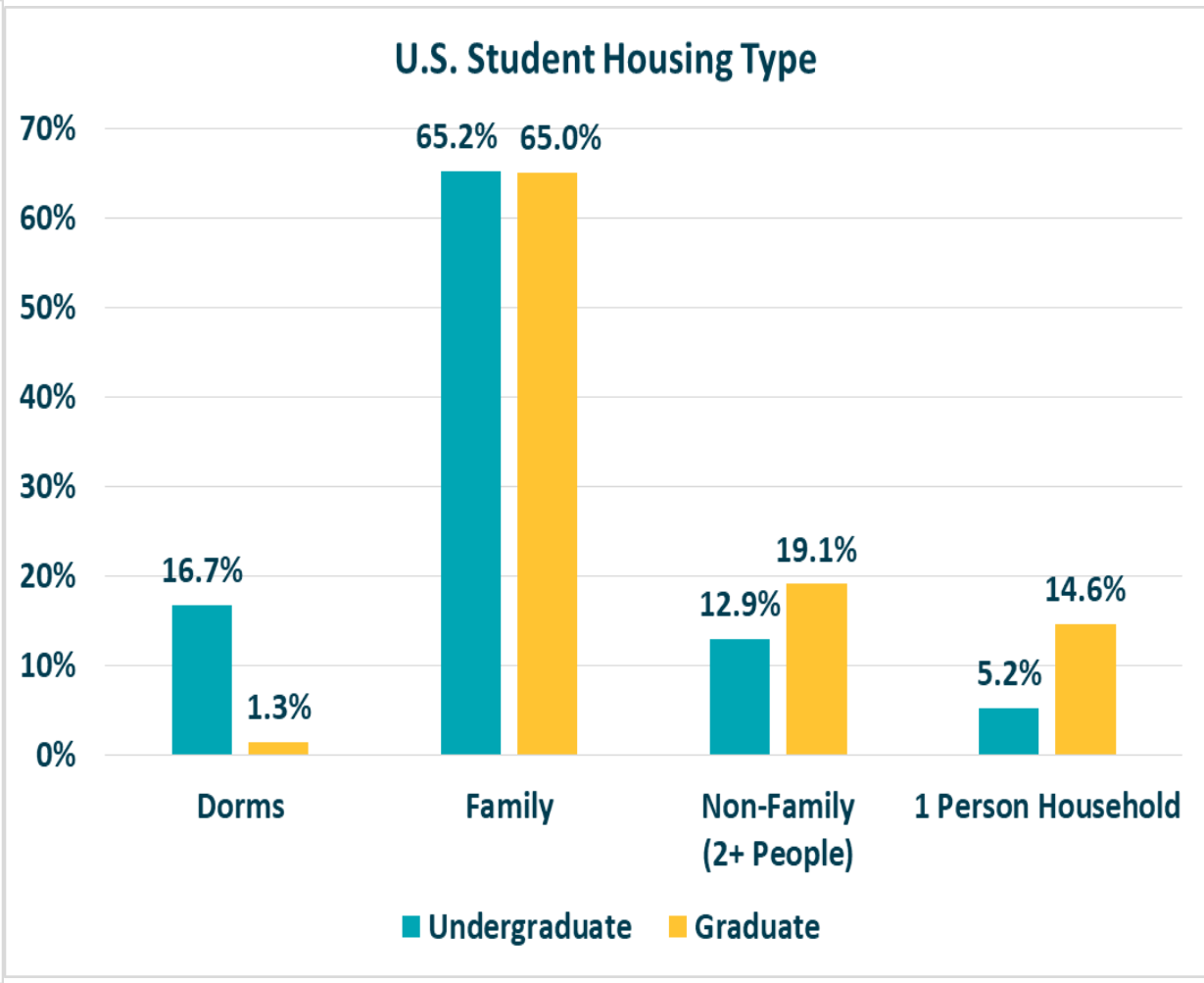
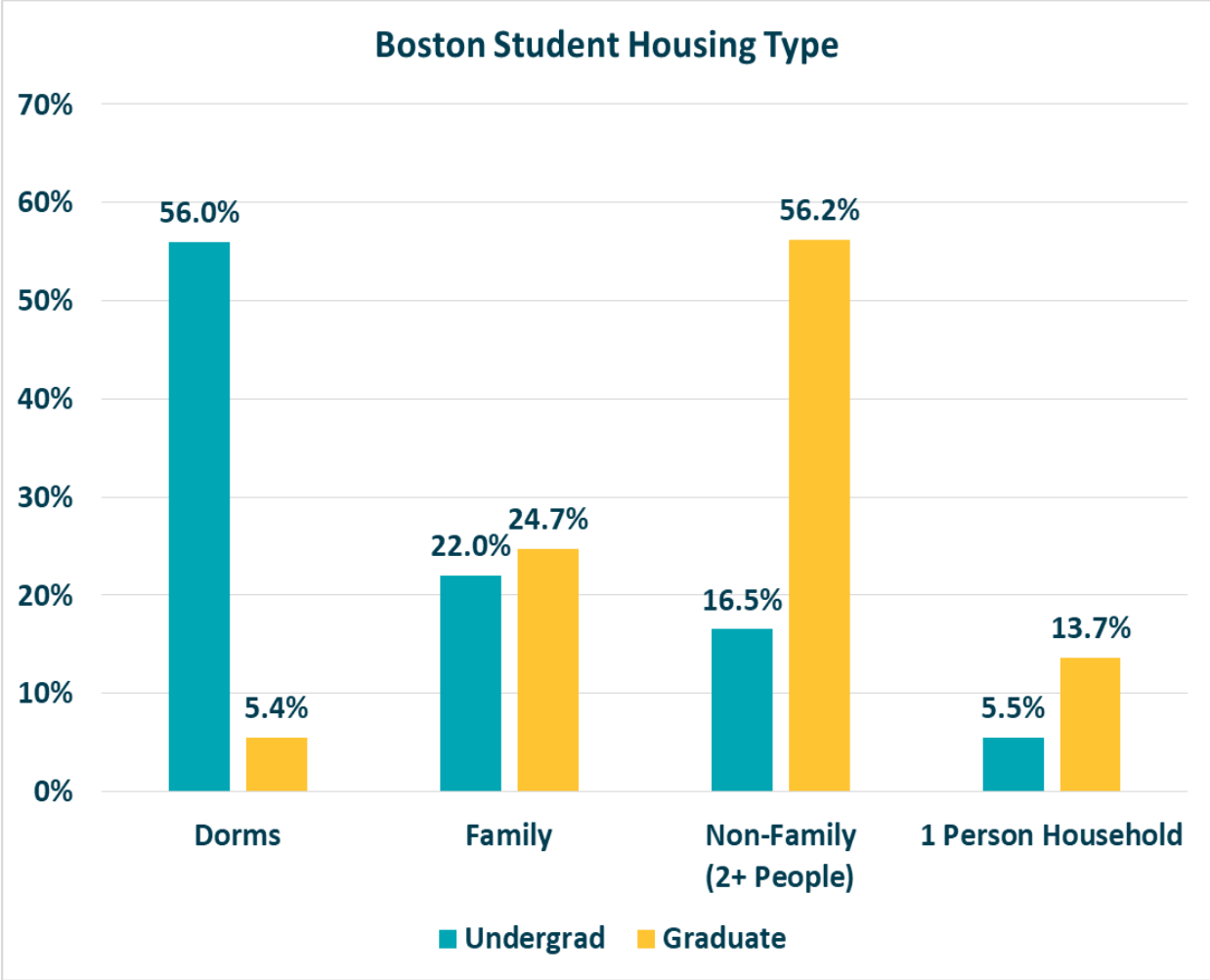
# Student Housing and Households

**Undergraduates tend to live near their schools, but graduate students are more dispersed throughout the city.**





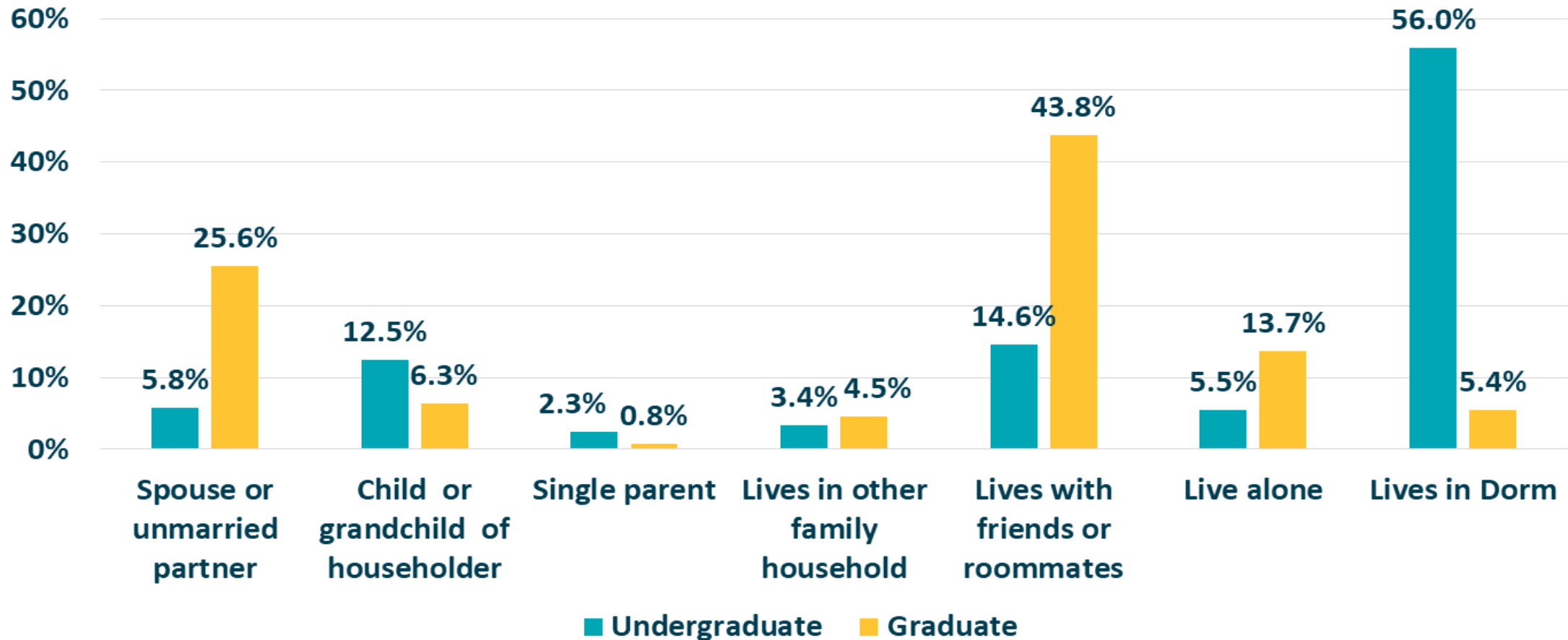
# Boston students are more likely to live in dorms - 56% of Boston resident undergrads live in dorms



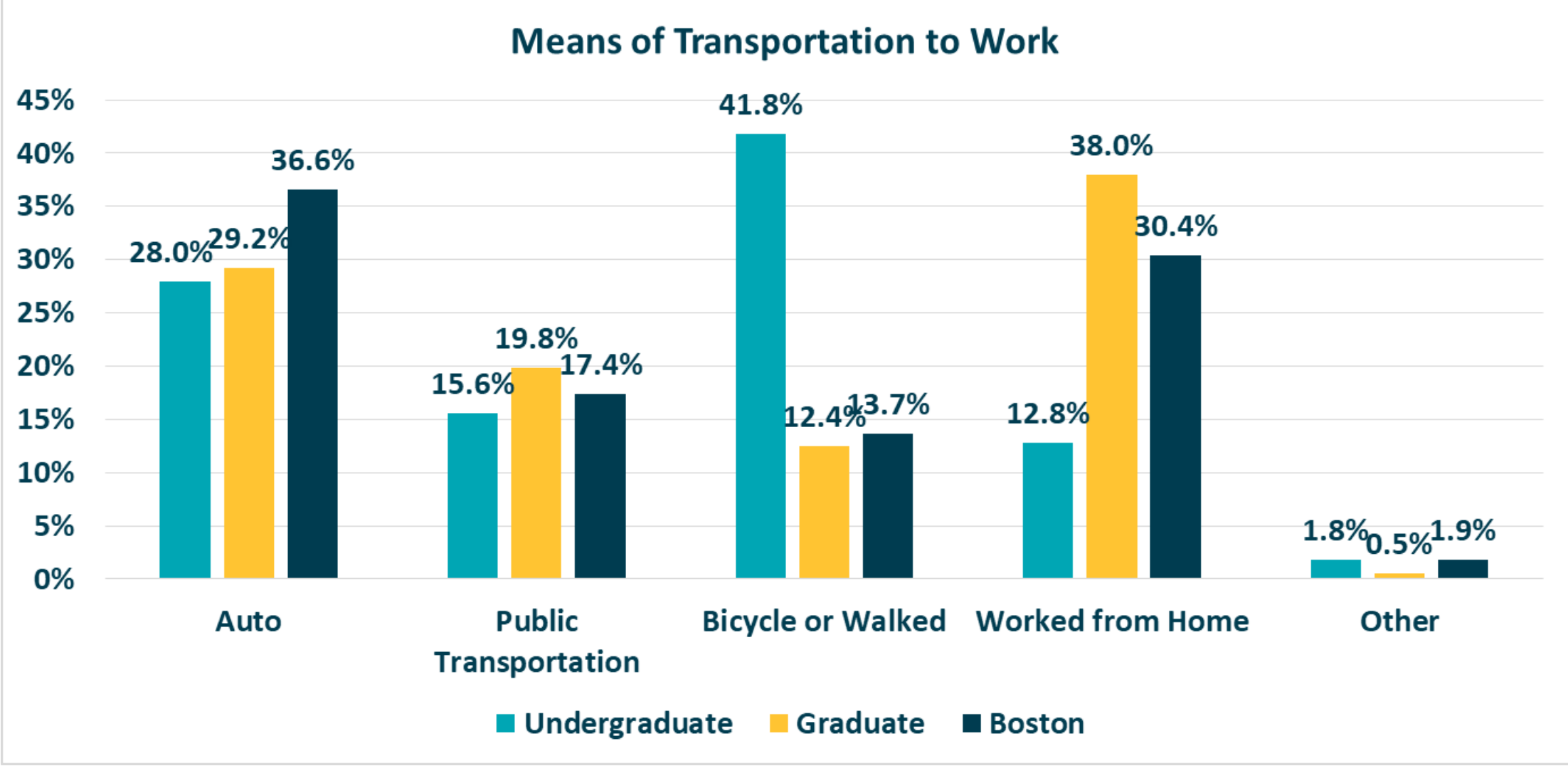
Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Graduate students are more likely to live with friends or roommates than undergraduates

Boston Student Households



# Undergraduates were more likely to walk or bicycle to work, while graduate students worked from home in 2021



Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Economic Contribution of Higher Education

# Universities have major real estate holdings in Boston and make payments in lieu of property taxes

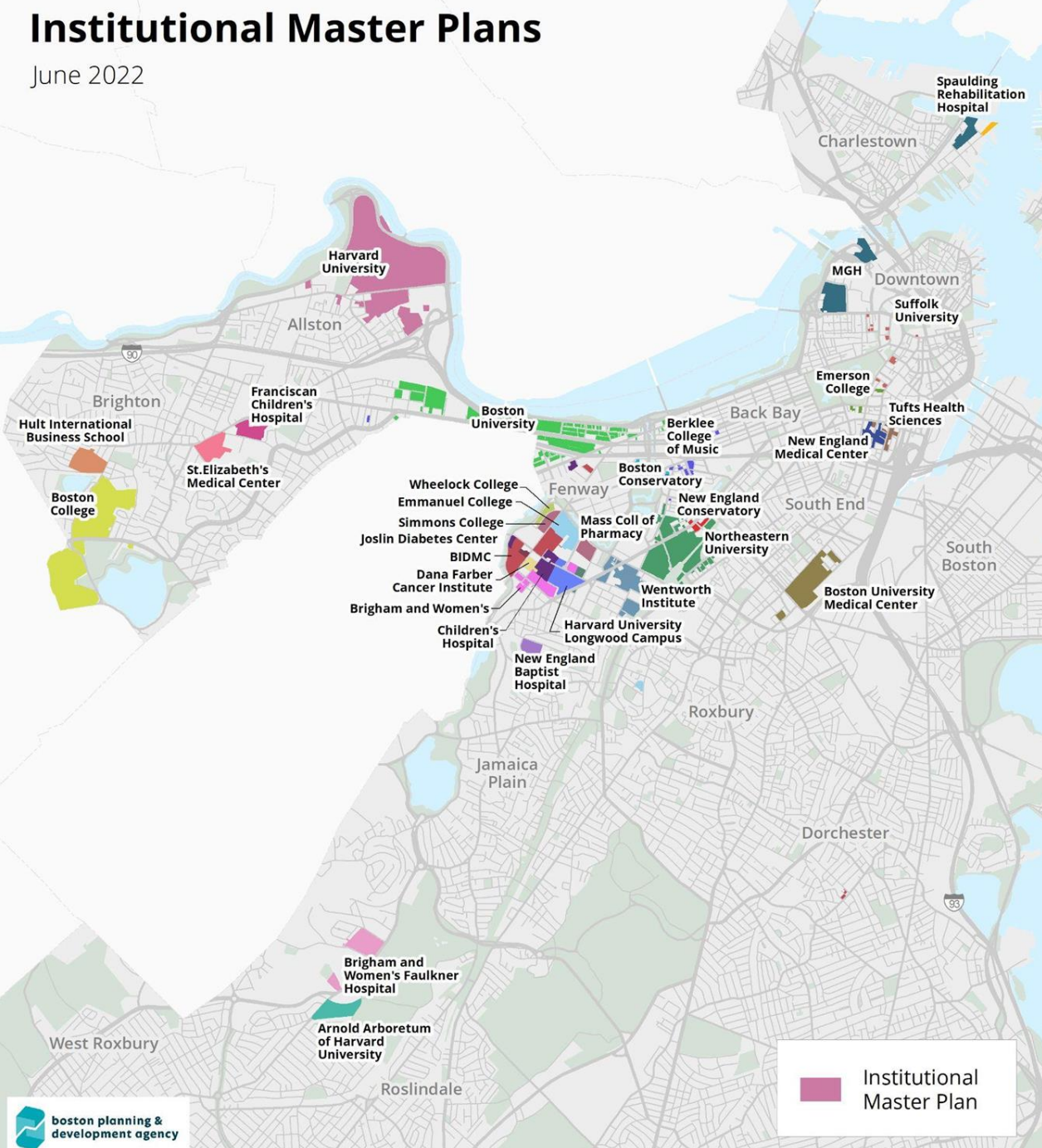
## Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

In FY 2022, tax-exempt educational institutions paid the City of Boston ~\$15 million in cash contributions and ~\$31 million in community benefit credits.

This was *68% of the City's request* that PILOT contributions should be 25% of what the institution might expect to pay in real estate taxes if the exempt property were taxable

## Development at Educational Institutions

- governed by Institutional Master Plans (IMP) - a subset of Article 80 Development Review by the BPDA
- 16 educational institutions have 19 IMPs







SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE RENOVATION



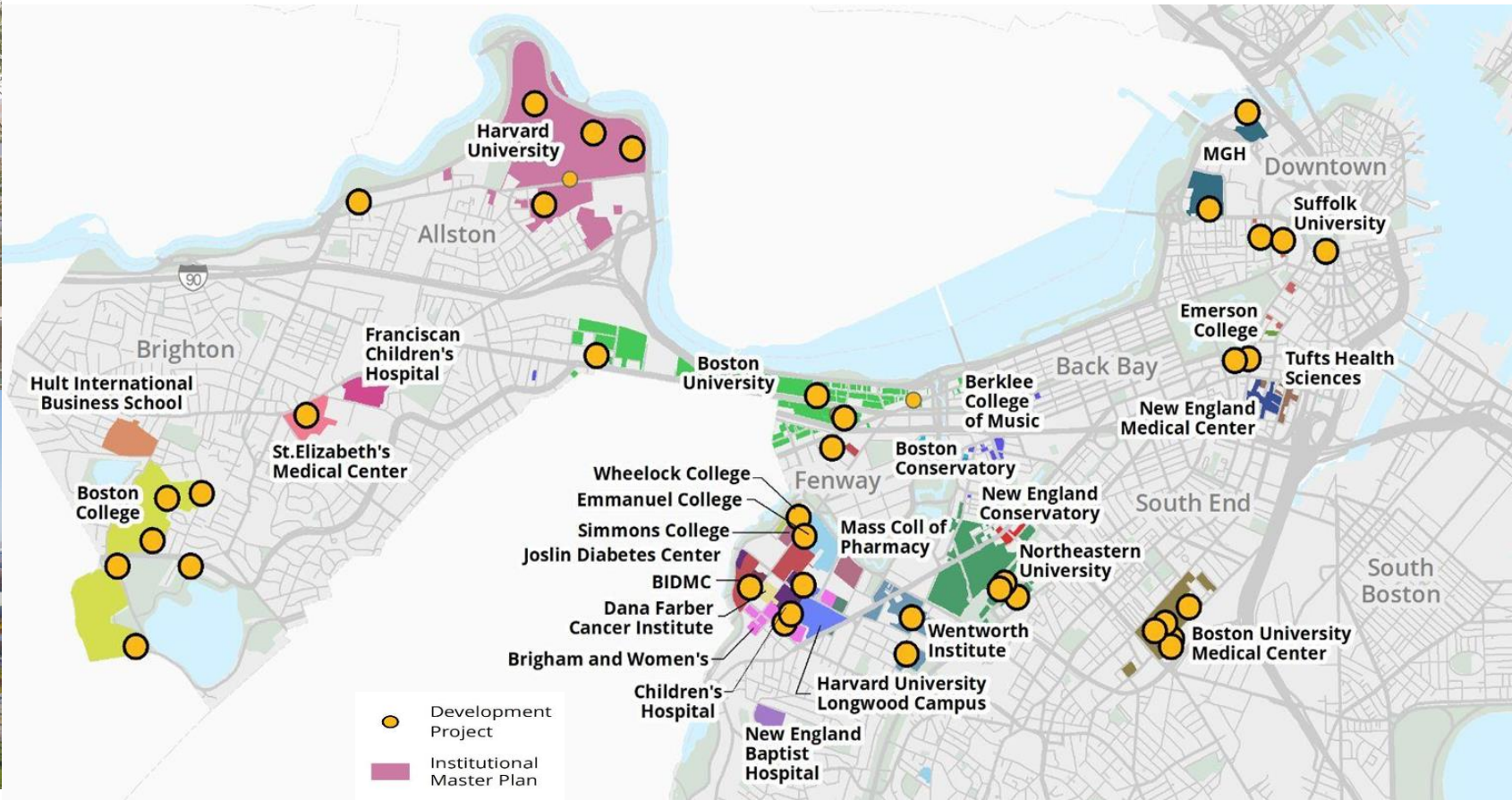
BU DATA SCIENCES



HARVARD SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COMPLEX

# Recent Institutional Development

**10.7m SF of development has been approved since 2013**  
*(renovations and new construction by educational and medical institutions)*



**Boston's universities bring in research funding - some of which leads to medical breakthroughs**

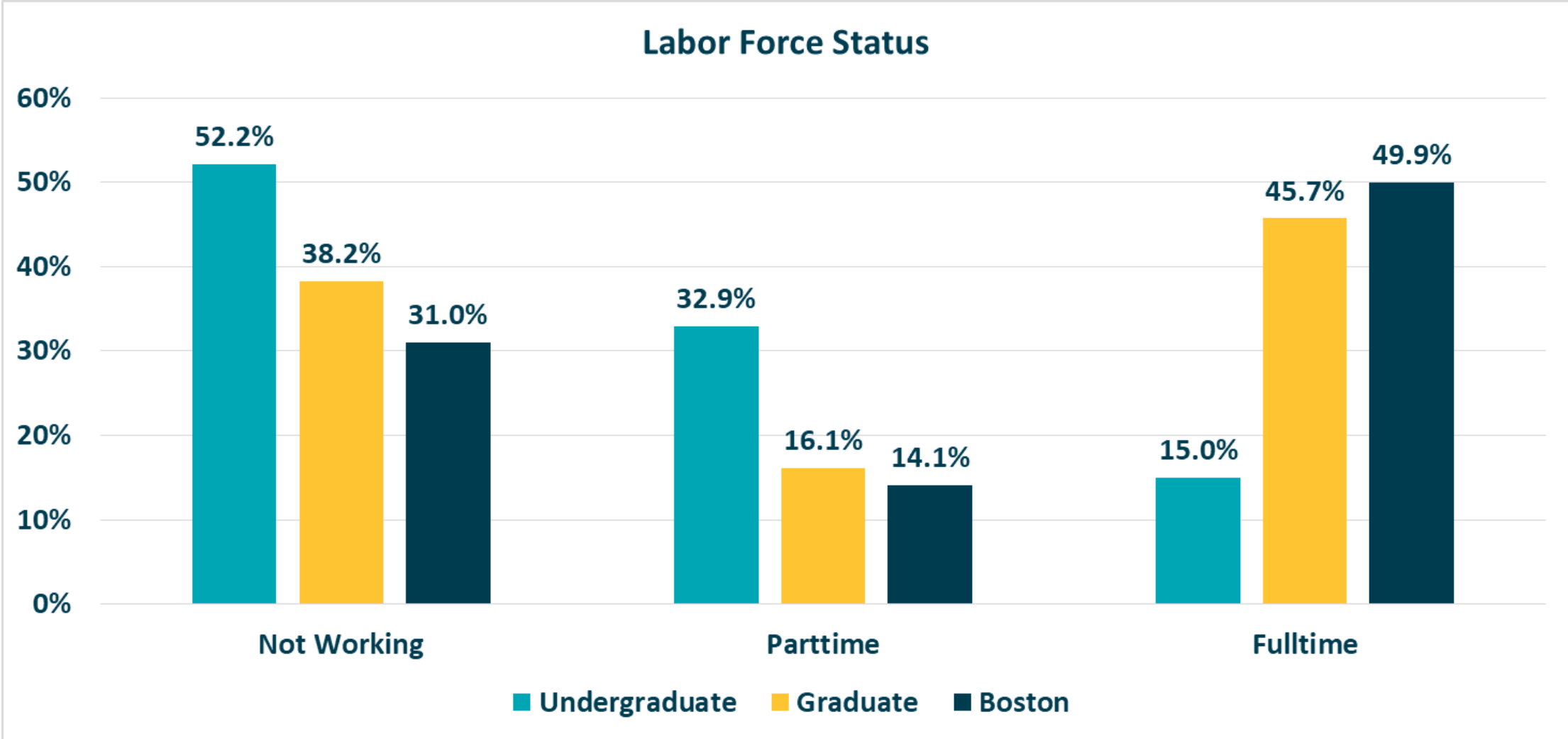
### Boston's Top Recipients of NIH Funding in FY2023

Organization Name	Awards	Funding in Millions
Massachusetts General Hospital	843	\$ 479
Brigham And Women's Hospital	543	\$ 322
Boston Children's Hospital	371	\$ 205
Harvard Medical School	265	\$ 135
Boston University Medical Campus	221	\$ 147
Dana-Farber Cancer Inst	177	\$ 118
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	176	\$ 98
Boston University (Charles River Campus)	134	\$ 53
Harvard School Of Public Health	128	\$ 118
Tufts University Boston	113	\$ 59
<b>Total of Top Boston Recipients</b>	<b>2,971</b>	<b>\$ 1,735</b>

Source: National Institutes of Health, "NIH Awards by Location and Organization," BPDA Research Division Analysis. The data is as of 2023/08/14 while the fiscal year ends at 2023/09/30

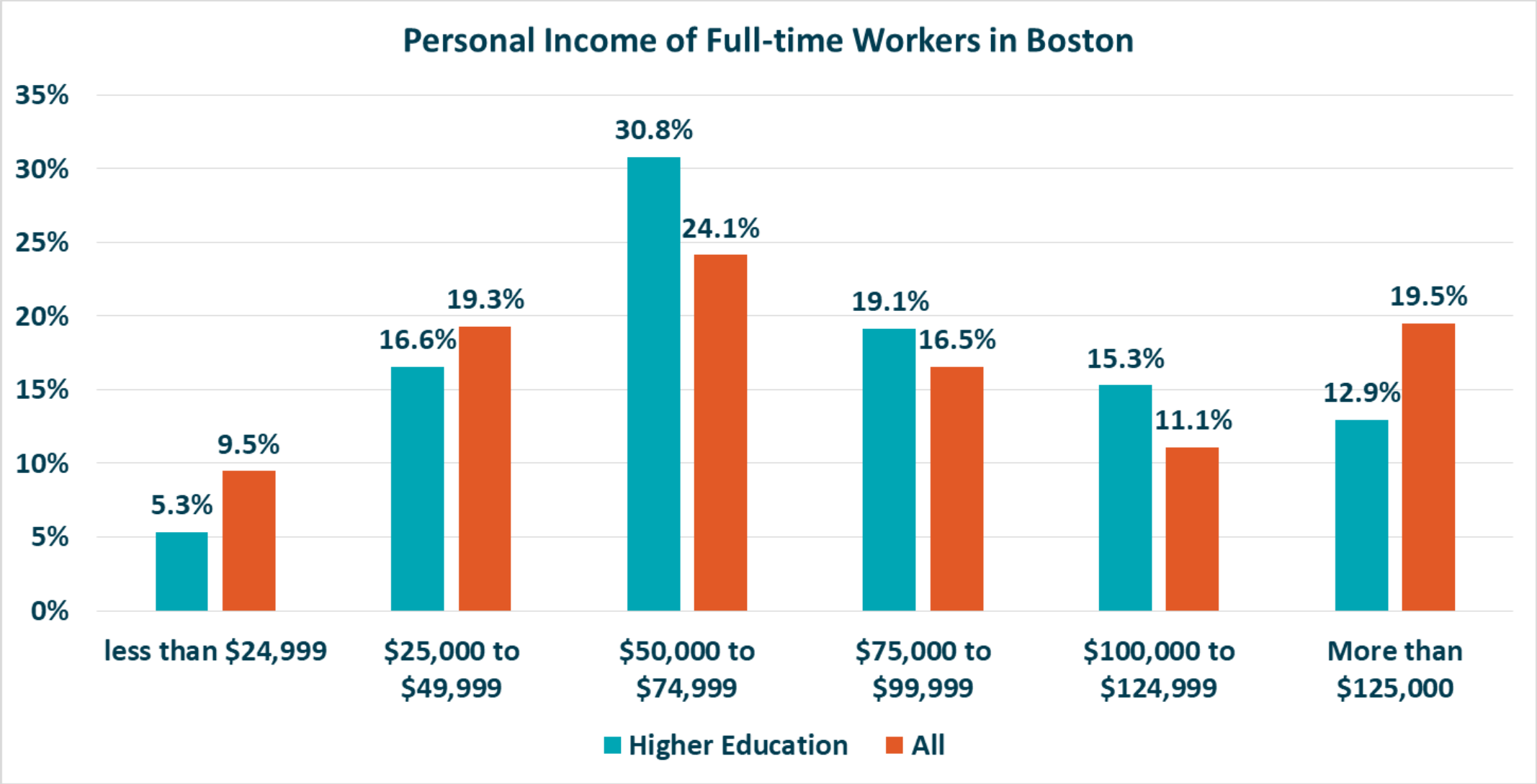


# College students participate in Boston's workforce. Almost half of graduate students are working fulltime.



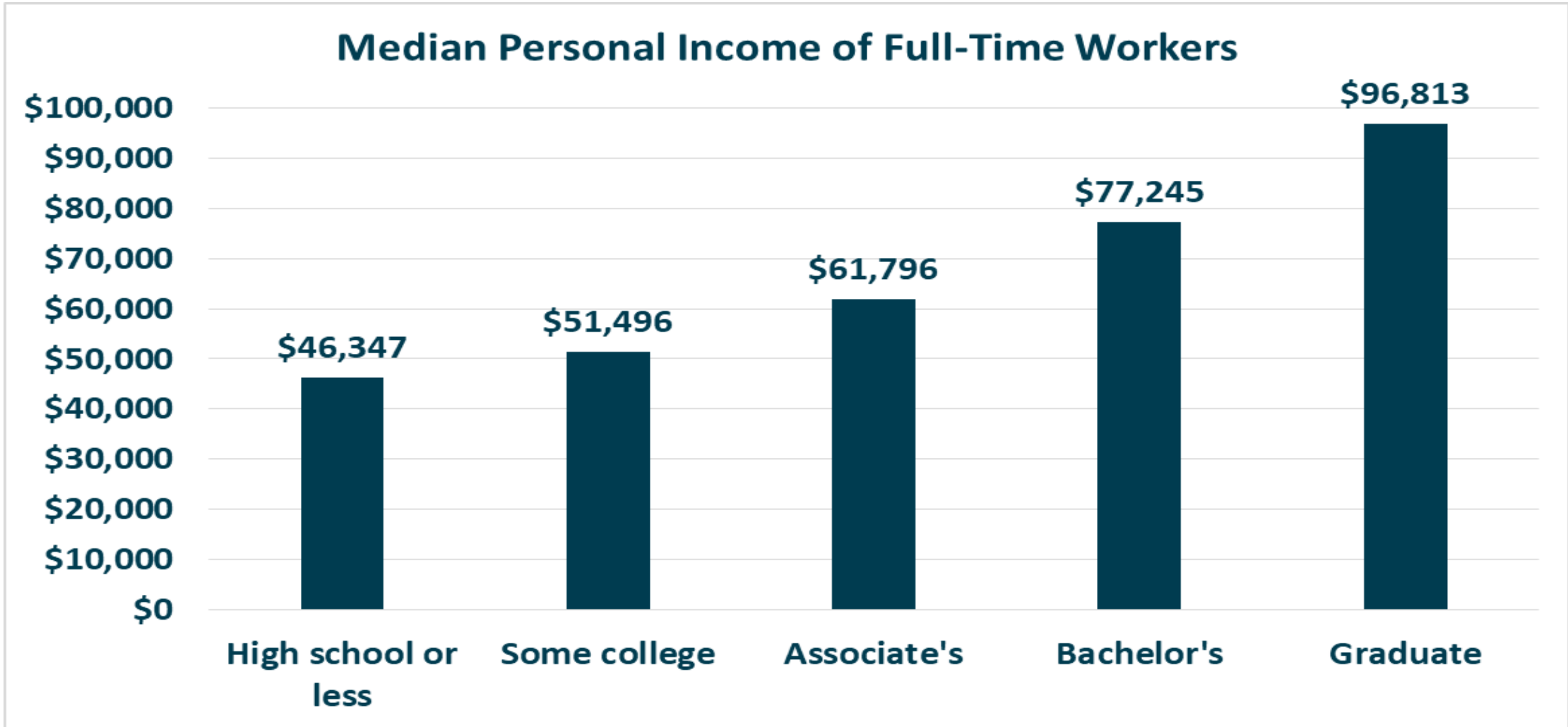
Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division  
Analysis

# Colleges and universities in Boston employ 42,000 full- and part-time workers with full-time workers earning median personal income of \$74,155



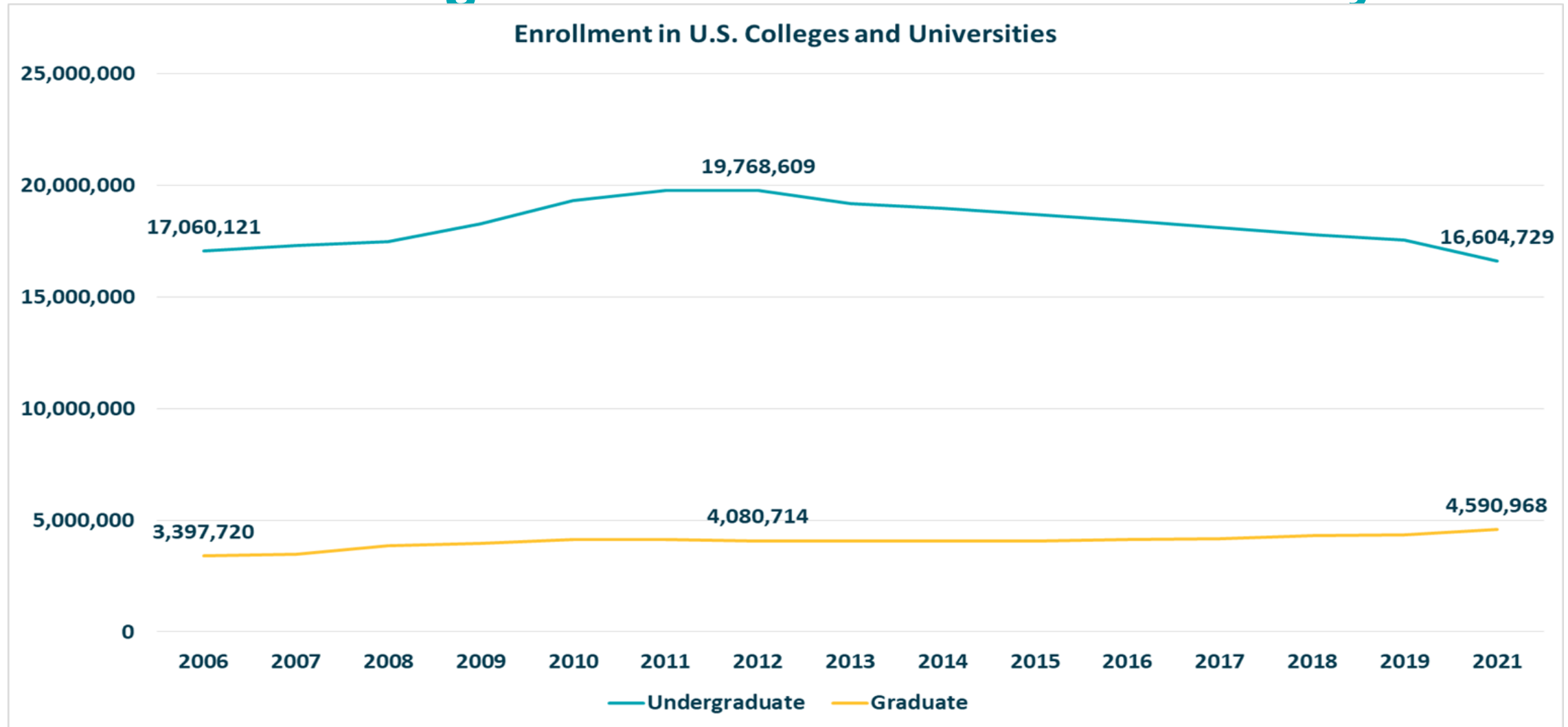
Source: 2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division

# Higher education improves the earning potential of full-time workers in Boston



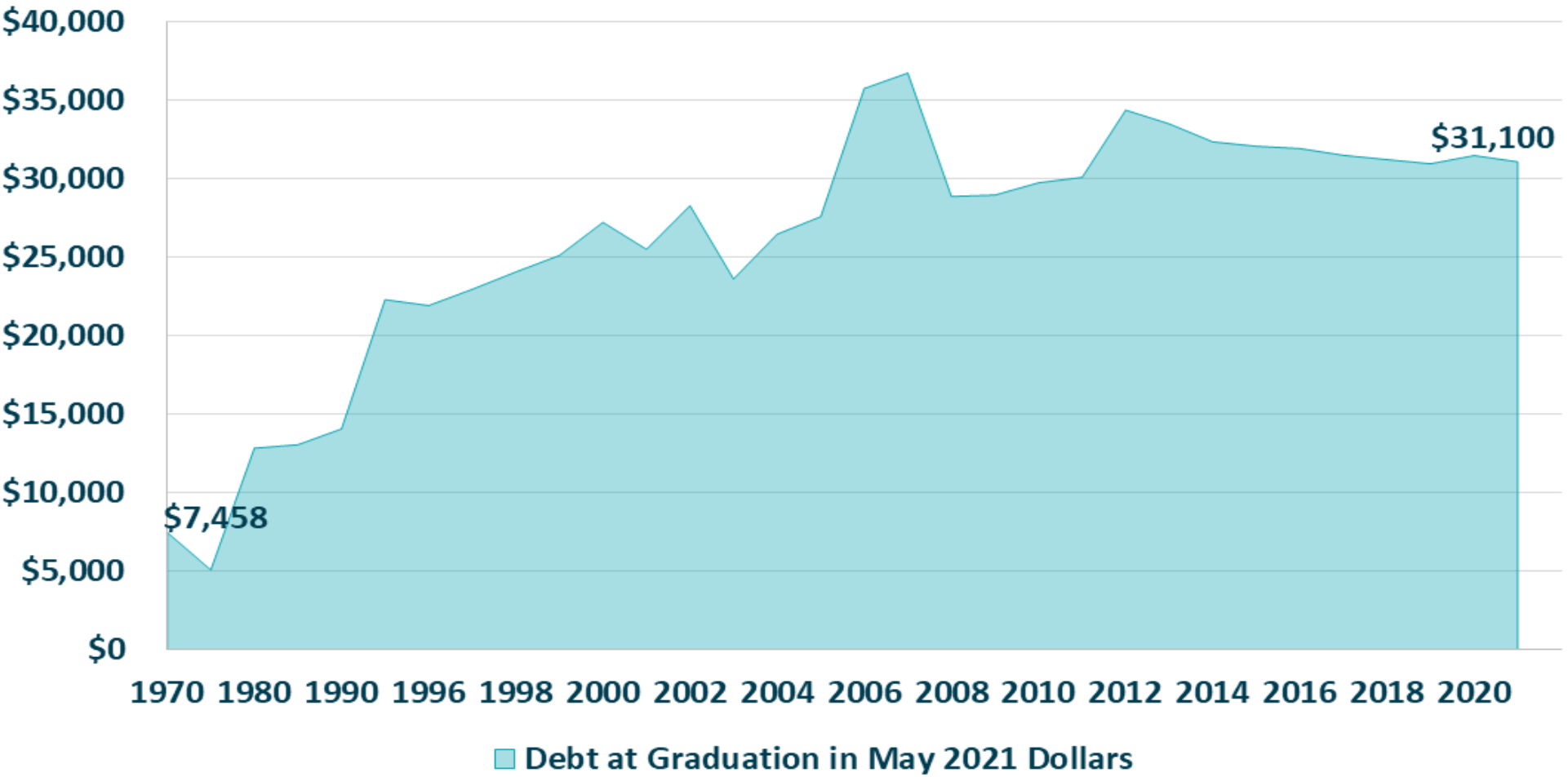
# Future Concerns for Higher Education

# Since 2006, undergraduate enrollment declined by 2.7% in the US while graduate enrollment increased by 35%



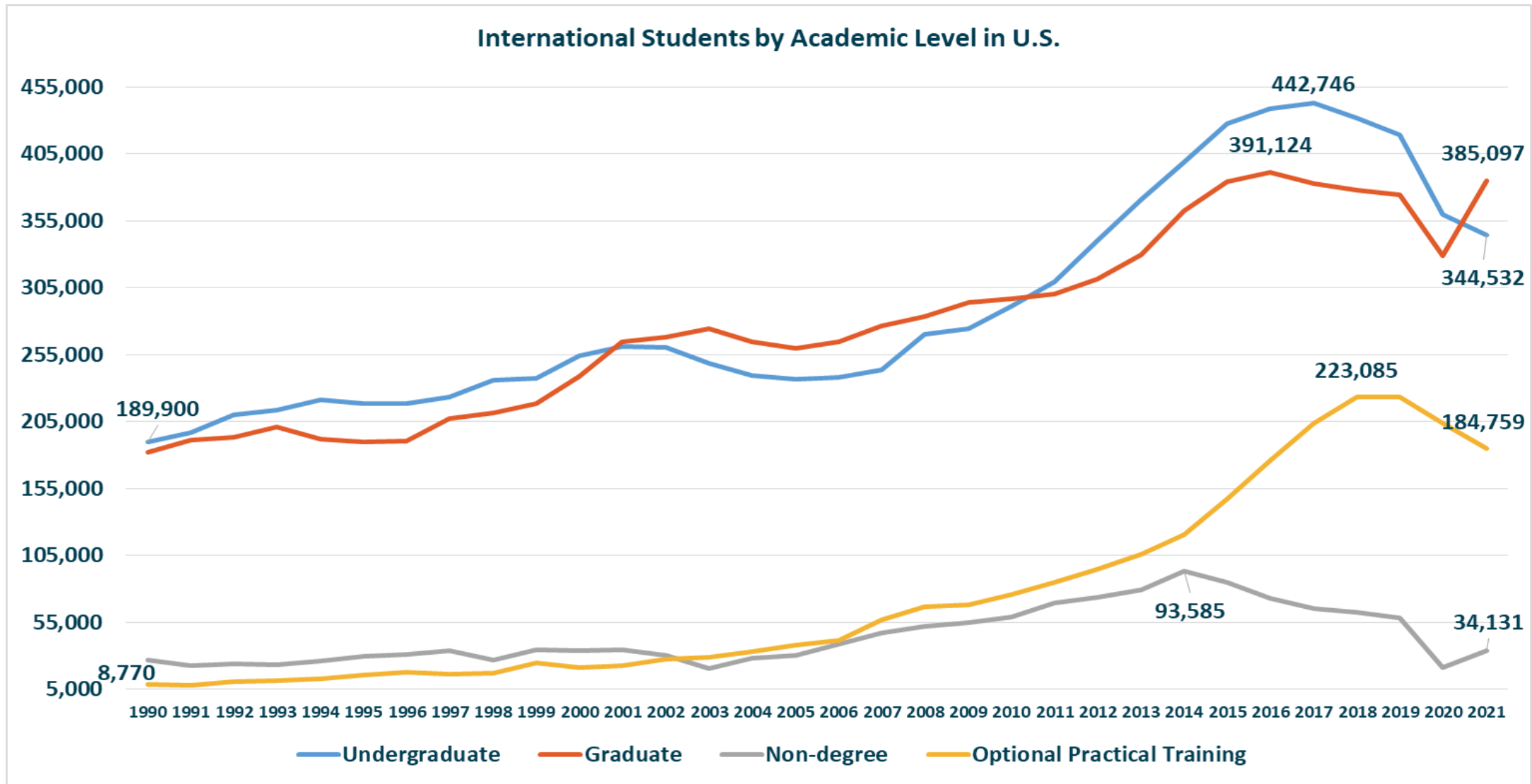
# Average student loan debt at graduation increased dramatically over the past decades. even adjusting for inflation

Debt at Graduation, 1970-2021



Source: Hanson, Melanie. "Average Student Loan Debt by Year" EducationData.org, January 19, 2022, <https://educationdata.org/average-student-loan-debt-by-year>

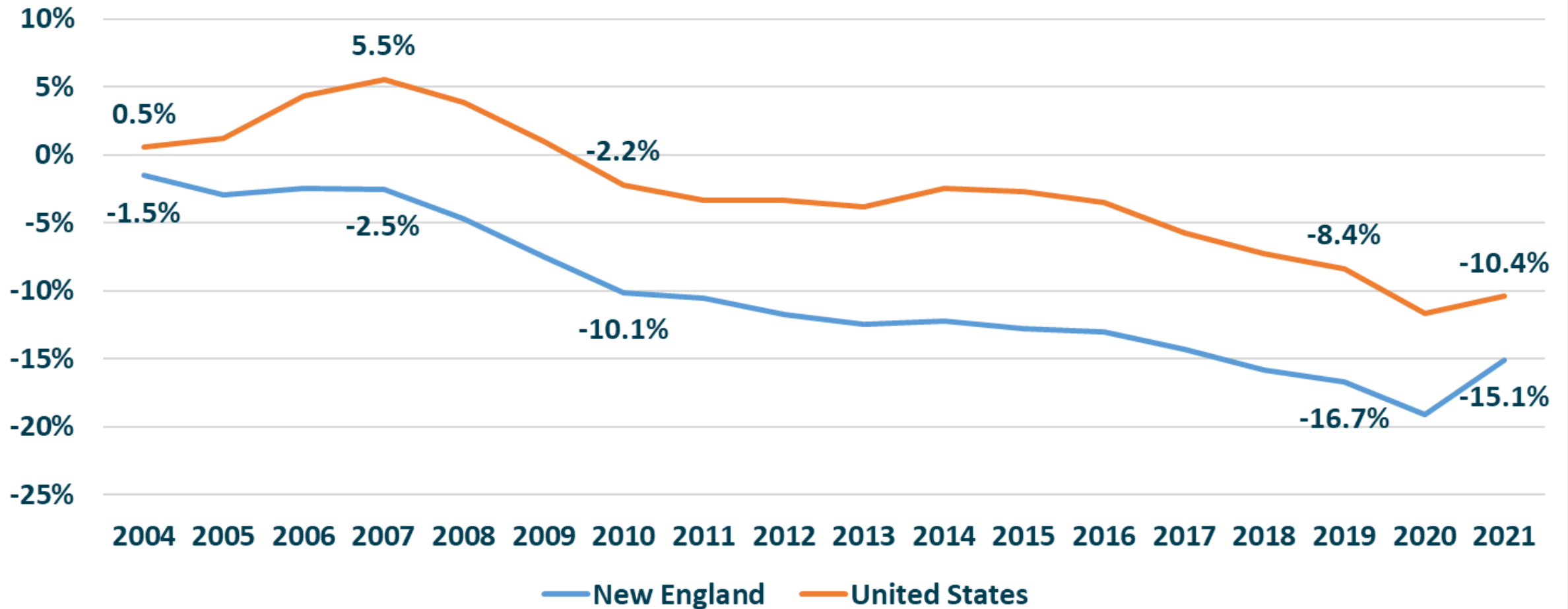
# Undergraduate international student enrollment in U.S. universities has declined since 2018





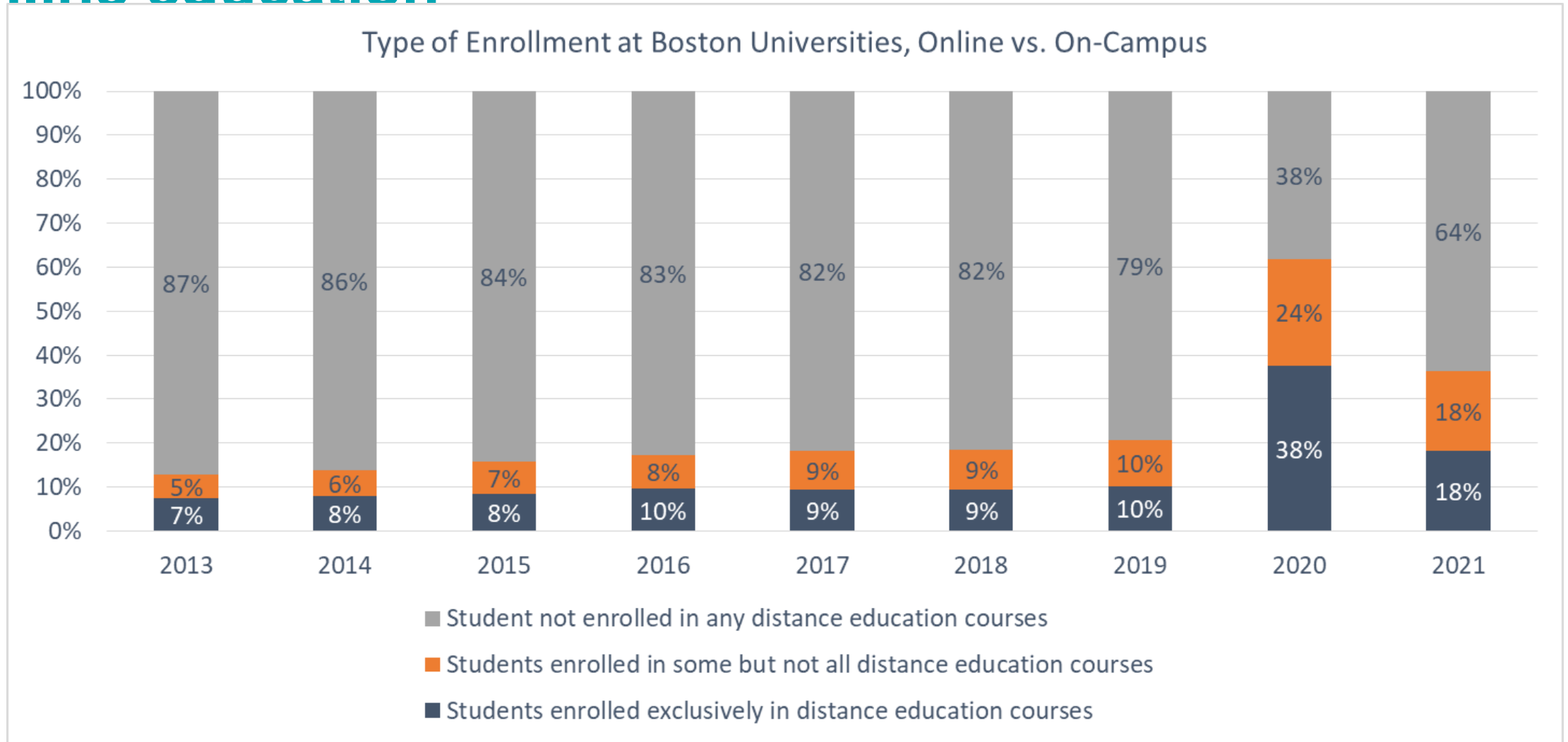
# Declining births may impact future college enrollment

## Yearly Change in Births Since 2003



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Natality on CDC WONDER Online Database.

# The pandemic accelerated a gradual trend towards online education



# Summing up

- Boston has more of a traditional student population than students across the country.
- After pandemic disruptions, Boston's student population has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Boston's colleges and universities have a national reputation but play an important role for the region.
- Increasing student loan debt and population decline are associated with the decline in undergraduate enrollment.
- International students may be more difficult to recruit in the future.

