

School Librarians: Status as of 2021-22

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SLIDE: The School Librarian Investigation—Decline or Evolution?

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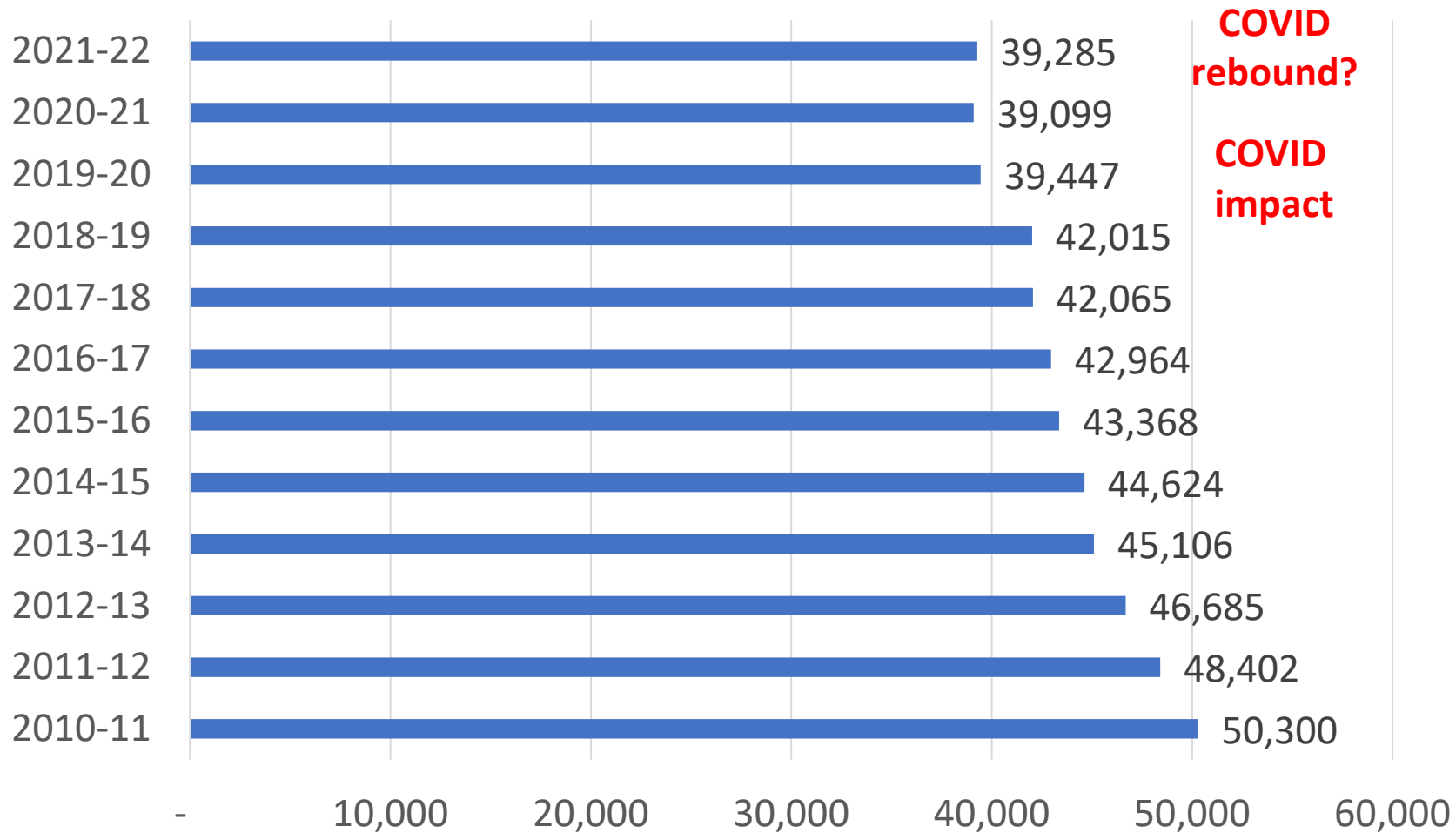
Our Brave Communities: Embracing School Librarians



A Quick Review of Recent Trends & Patterns

- Full-time equivalent trends nationwide
 - Inequities in FTE trends by state
 - Inequities in ratio of librarians to schools
 - By locale
 - By enrollment
 - By poverty level
 - By race/ethnicity
 - All data from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD) Project
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School Librarians in Full-Time Equivalents in the United States: 50 States & D.C., 2010-11 to 2021-22

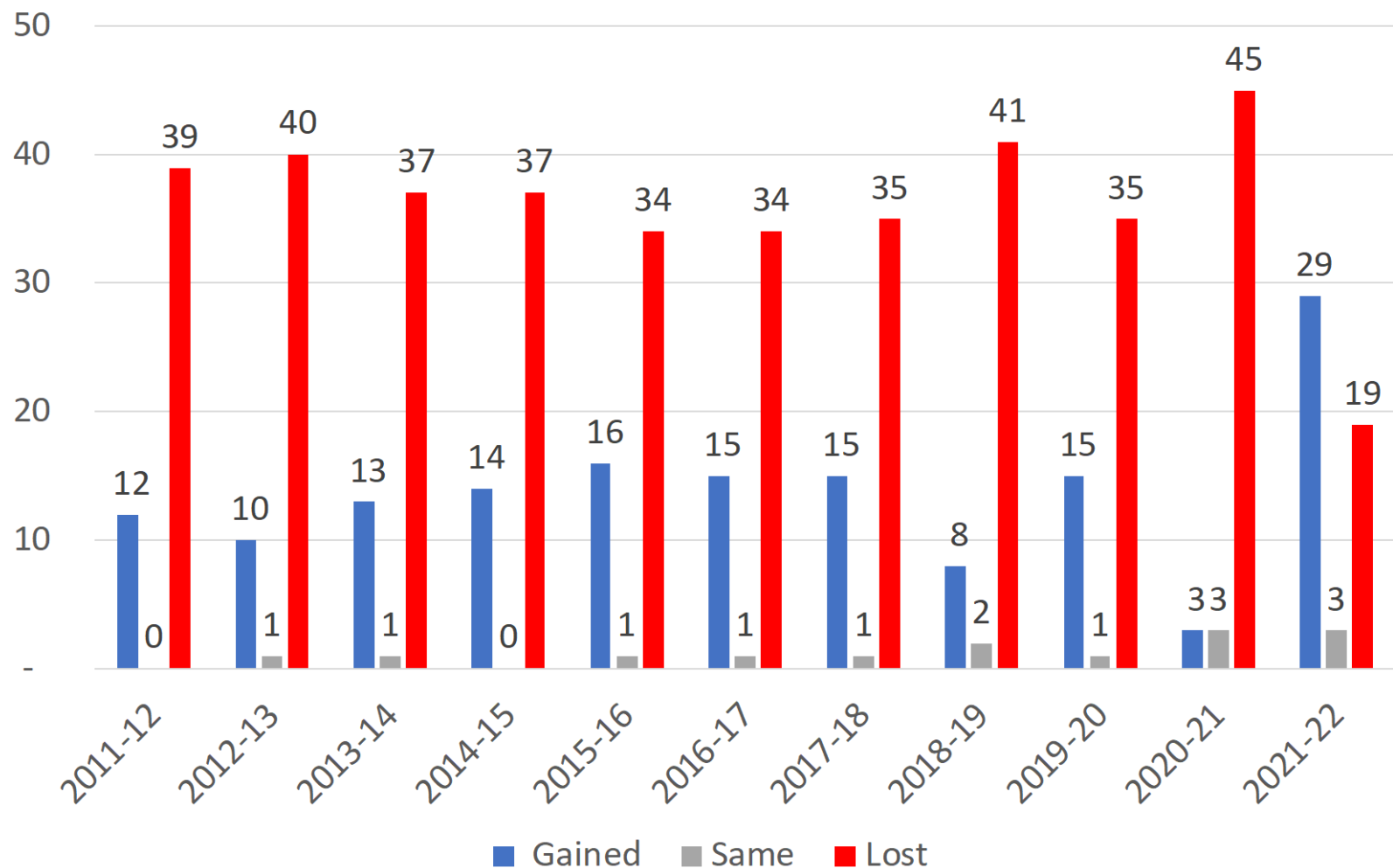


Nationwide, number of school librarians has been declining for more than a decade.

In 2019-20, COVID accelerated that trend ... but losses slowed in 2020-21, and 2021-22 was 1st year in more than decade that number of school librarians increased.

Were some librarians temporarily reassigned? Did some librarians prove their worth during pandemic?

Number of U.S. States (& D.C.) Gaining & Losing School Librarians Annually, 2011-12 to 2021-22

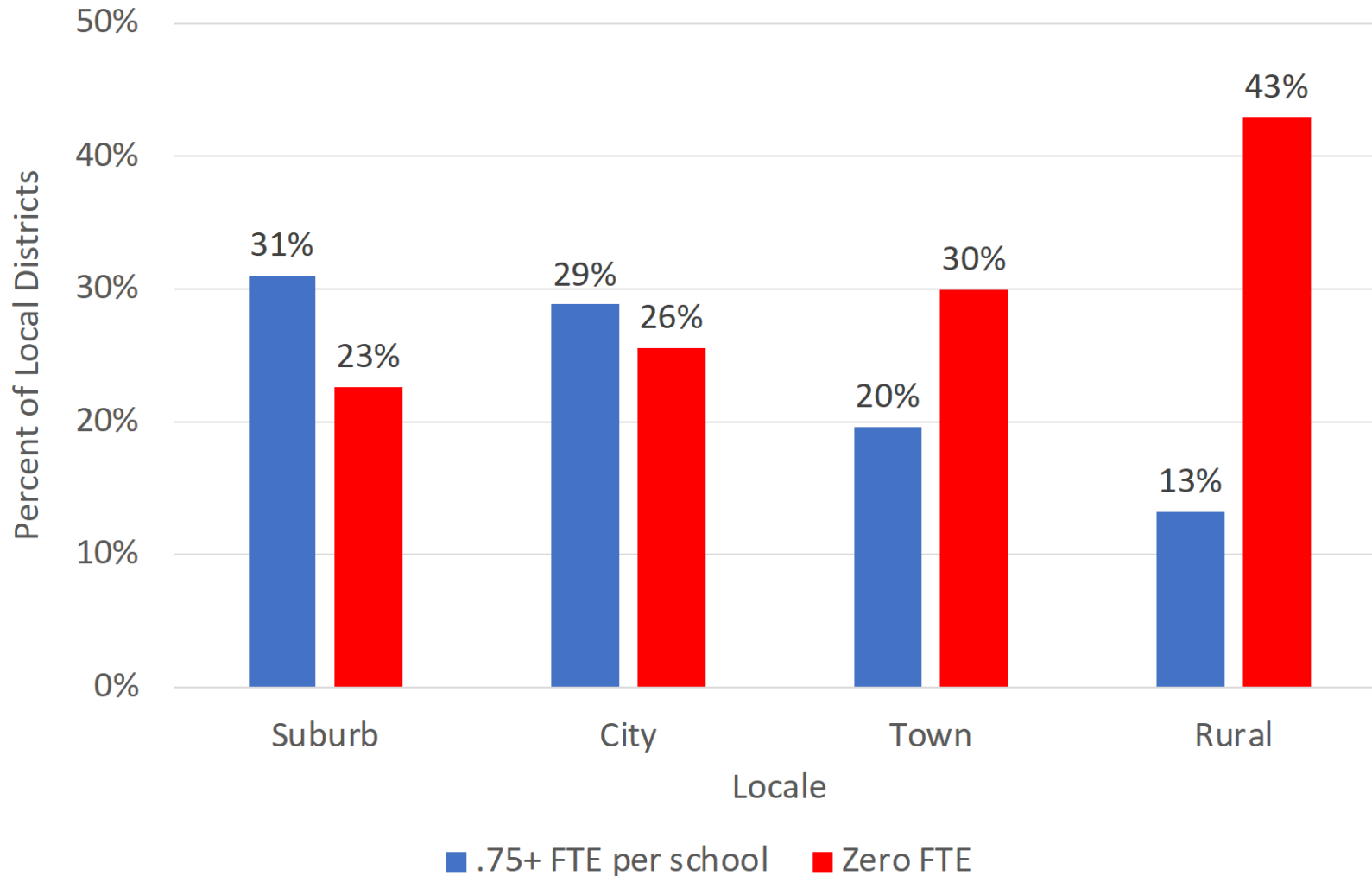


School librarian losses not universal.

Most years for more than a decade, 10-15 states gained librarians. Unfortunately, 3-4 times that many states lost librarians.

COVID impact: 2020-21 saw record low number of states gaining and record high number of states losing. But, in 2021-22, there was record number of gaining states and record low number of losing states.

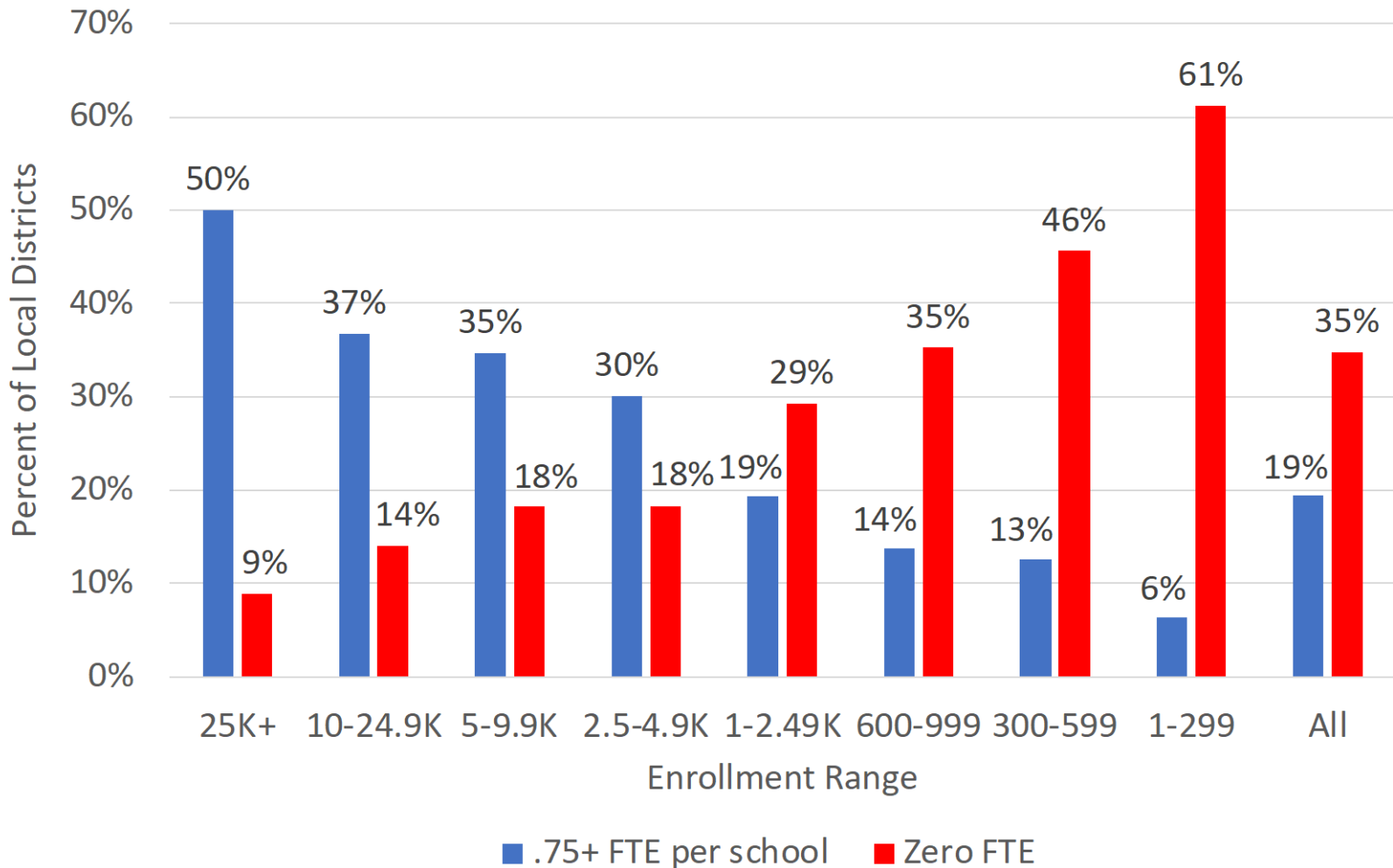
Ratio of Librarians to Schools by Locale,
United States: 50 States & D.C., 2021-22



Access to school librarians varies by locale.

Districts in suburbs & cities more likely to have librarians in most schools, while districts in towns and rural areas more likely to have no librarians in any schools.

Ratio of Librarians to Schools by Enrollment, United States: 50 States & D.C., 2021-22

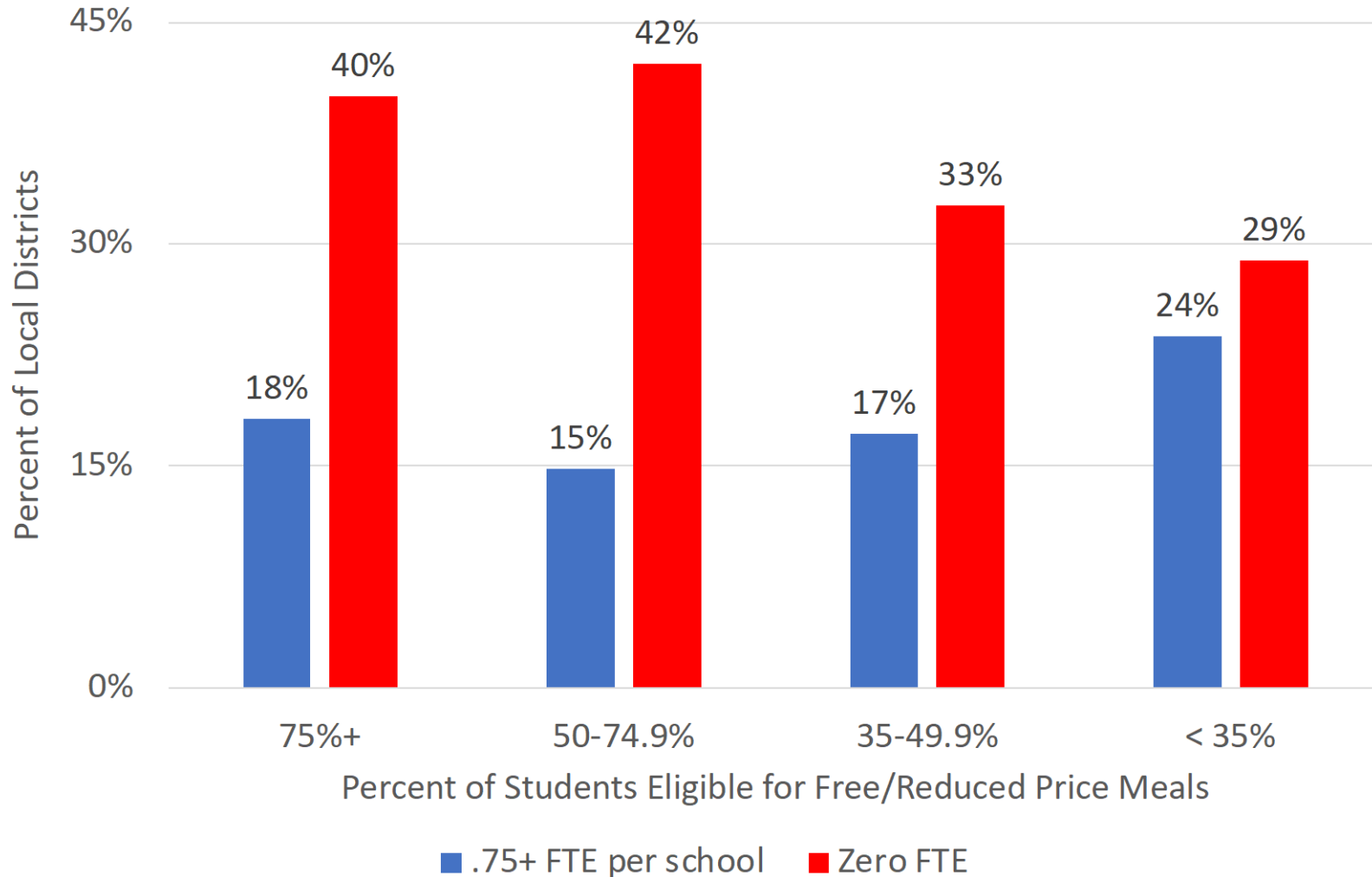


Access to school librarians varies by enrollment.

The larger a district's enrollment the more likely it has librarians in most schools.

The smaller a district's enrollment the more likely it has no librarians in any schools.

**Ratio of Librarians to Schools by Poverty Status,
United States: 50 States & D.C., 2021-22**

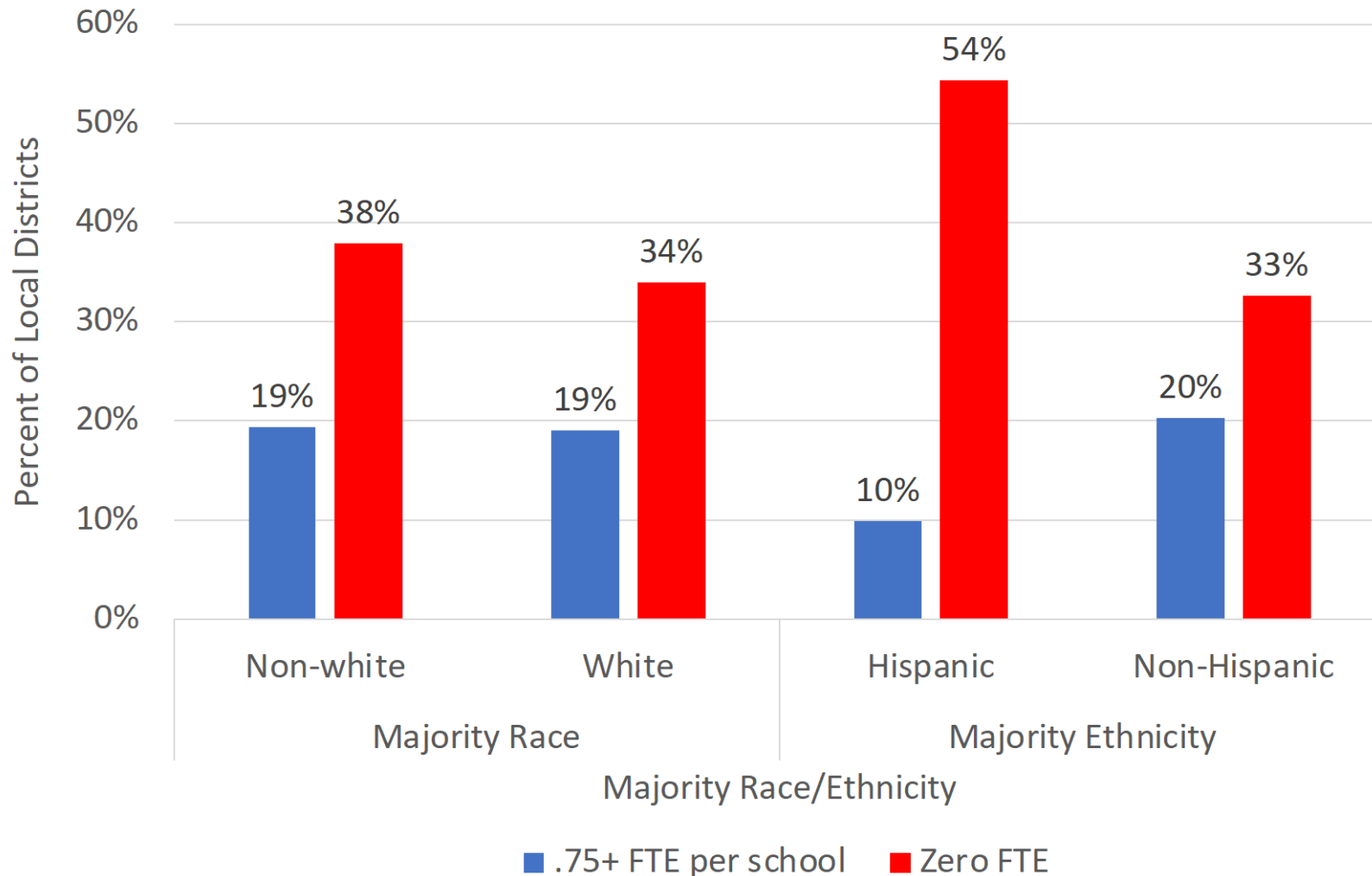


Access to school librarians varies by poverty status.

Districts in wealthiest communities most likely to have librarians in most schools.

Districts in poorer communities more likely not to have librarians in any schools.

**Ratio of Librarians to Schools by Majority Race/Ethnicity,
United States: 50 States & D.C., 2021-22**



While majority non-white districts equally unlikely to have librarians in most schools, they are slightly more likely not to have librarians in any schools.

Impact of majority race often ameliorated by locale (city) and enrollment (higher)

Majority Hispanic districts, however, are often smaller and rural ones, so fare dramatically worse than majority non-Hispanic ones. Half as likely to have librarians in most schools, and far more likely not to have librarians in any schools.

Keep in Touch

- Website for the School Librarian Investigation—
Decline or Evolution?
 - libSLIDE.org
 - Don't miss the many interactive data tools here as well as the project's many publications and presentations
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