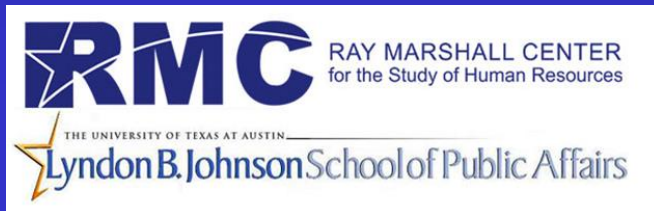


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# Postsecondary Employment Outcomes for 2008 & 2009 High School Graduates

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Tara Smith

Presentation to APPAM  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014



# Outline

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- **Background**
- **High School to Employment**
- **Policy Environment in Texas**
- **Regional Variations in High School Graduates**
  - **Characteristics and Academic Preparation**
- **Great Recession and High School Students**
- **Employment Outcomes**
- **Workforce Services Utilization**
- **Findings**

# Background

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- **Workforce Data Quality Initiative in Texas**
  - **Links data across Texas state agencies**
    - **Texas Education Agency (TEA)**
    - **Texas Higher Education Coordination Board (THECB)**
    - **Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**
  - **Uses linked data to examine the transition of students from high school to life after high school, including college and the workforce.**

**Note: All data presented here comes from the ERC Jail PC at the THECB.**

# Available Data

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- Secondary school records, including courses taken, demographic information, and high school graduation records,
- National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) records through Spring 2010,
- THECB college enrollment records through December 2012,
- Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records from TWC,
- The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST) workforce program participation records through December 2012, including:
  - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
  - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Employment and Training (Choices)
  - Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T)

# High School to Employment

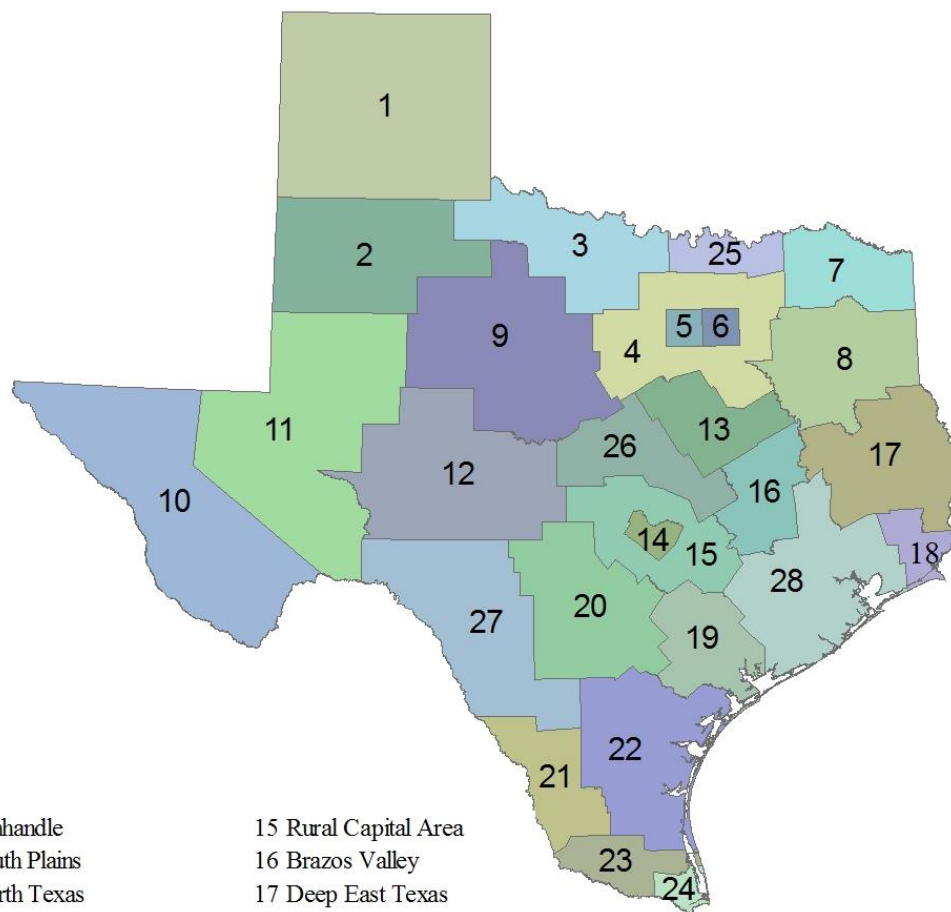
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- In the last twenty years many efforts focus on high school to college transitions (college access), but less so high school directly to employment (employment access).
- While in many high schools college access is emphasized for all students, only a limited subset of students are provided career information outside of the context of completing a college degree or certificate.
- In Texas during the time period examines, students who reached a specific threshold on their mandated math and reading exit exams were simply classified as “college and career ready.”

# Policy Environment in Texas

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- 28 Local Workforce Development Areas
- Recent passage of House Bill 5
  - Brief explanation of House Bill 5
  - District reactions
    - Utilizing local WIBs to help increase awareness of job availability and prevailing wages for counselors and students
    - Creating new facilities to train students in careers
  - Goal: all students leave school with employment skills and academic training

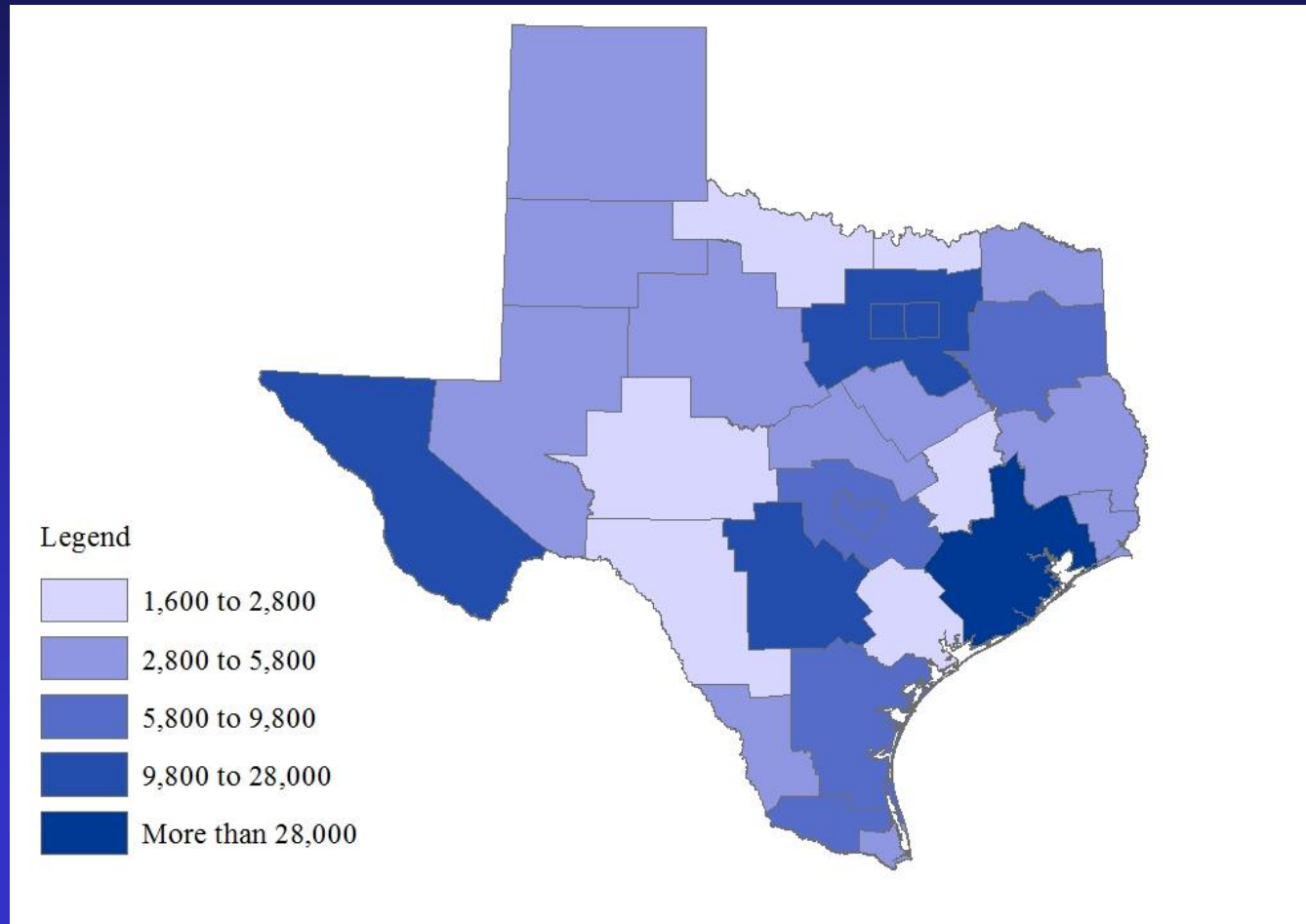


- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Panhandle           | 15 Rural Capital Area      |
| 2 South Plains        | 16 Brazos Valley           |
| 3 North Texas         | 17 Deep East Texas         |
| 4 North Central Texas | 18 Southeast Texas         |
| 5 Tarrant County      | 19 Golden Crescent         |
| 6 Greater Dallas      | 20 Alamo                   |
| 7 Northeast Texas     | 21 South Texas             |
| 8 East Texas          | 22 Coastal Bend            |
| 9 West Central Texas  | 23 Lower Rio Grande Valley |
| 10 Upper Rio Grande   | 24 Cameron                 |
| 11 Permian Basin      | 25 Texoma                  |
| 12 Concho Valley      | 26 Central Texas           |
| 13 Heart of Texas     | 27 Middle Rio Grande       |
| 14 Capital Area       | 28 Gulf Coast              |

# Regional Variations

## Student Characteristics

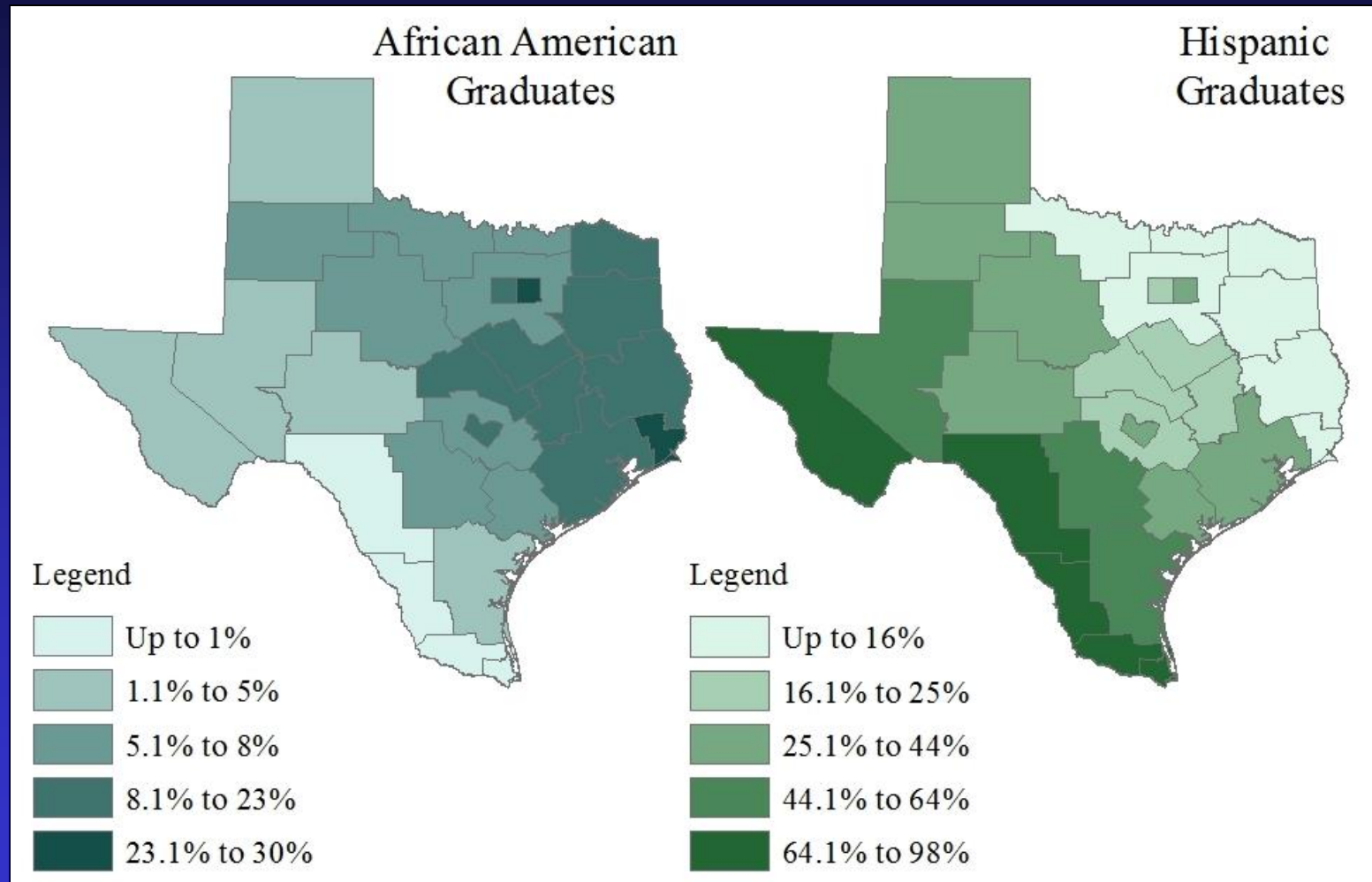
### Number of High School Graduates, Class of 2008





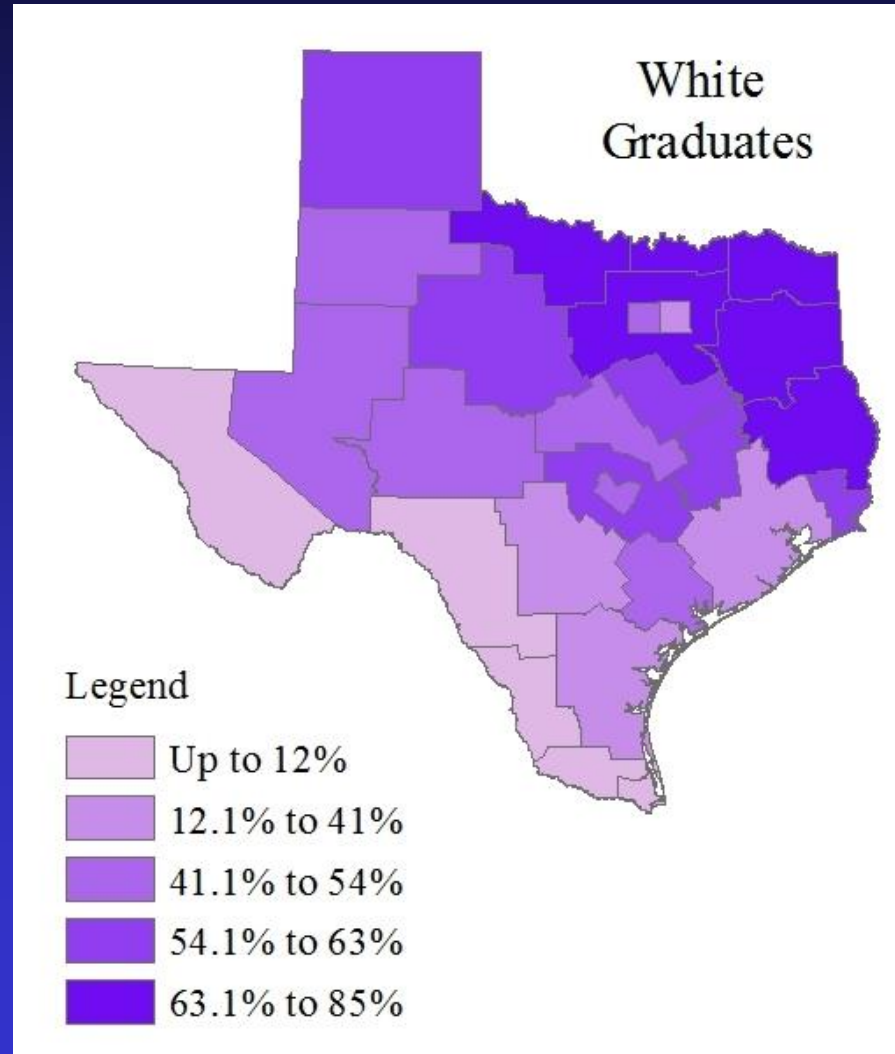
# Regional Variations

## Student Characteristics



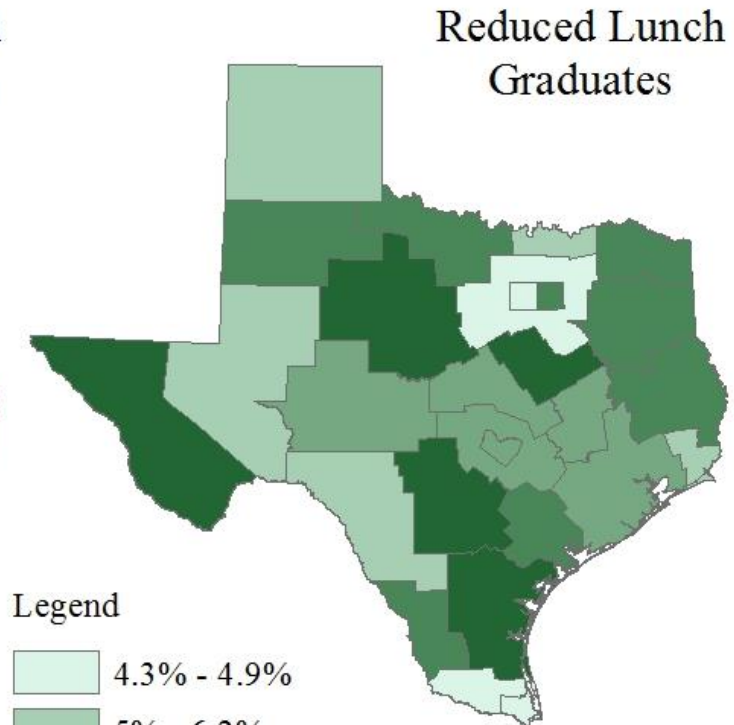
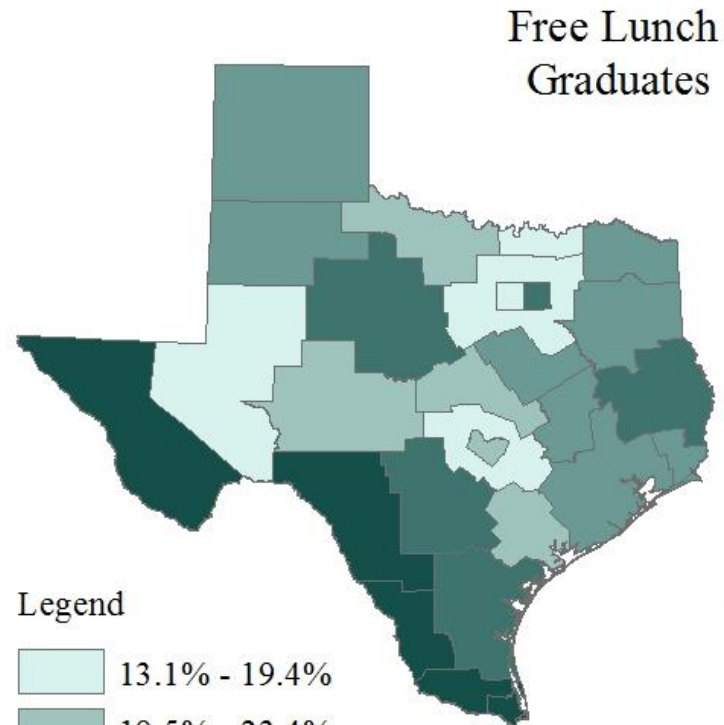
# Regional Variations

## Student Characteristics



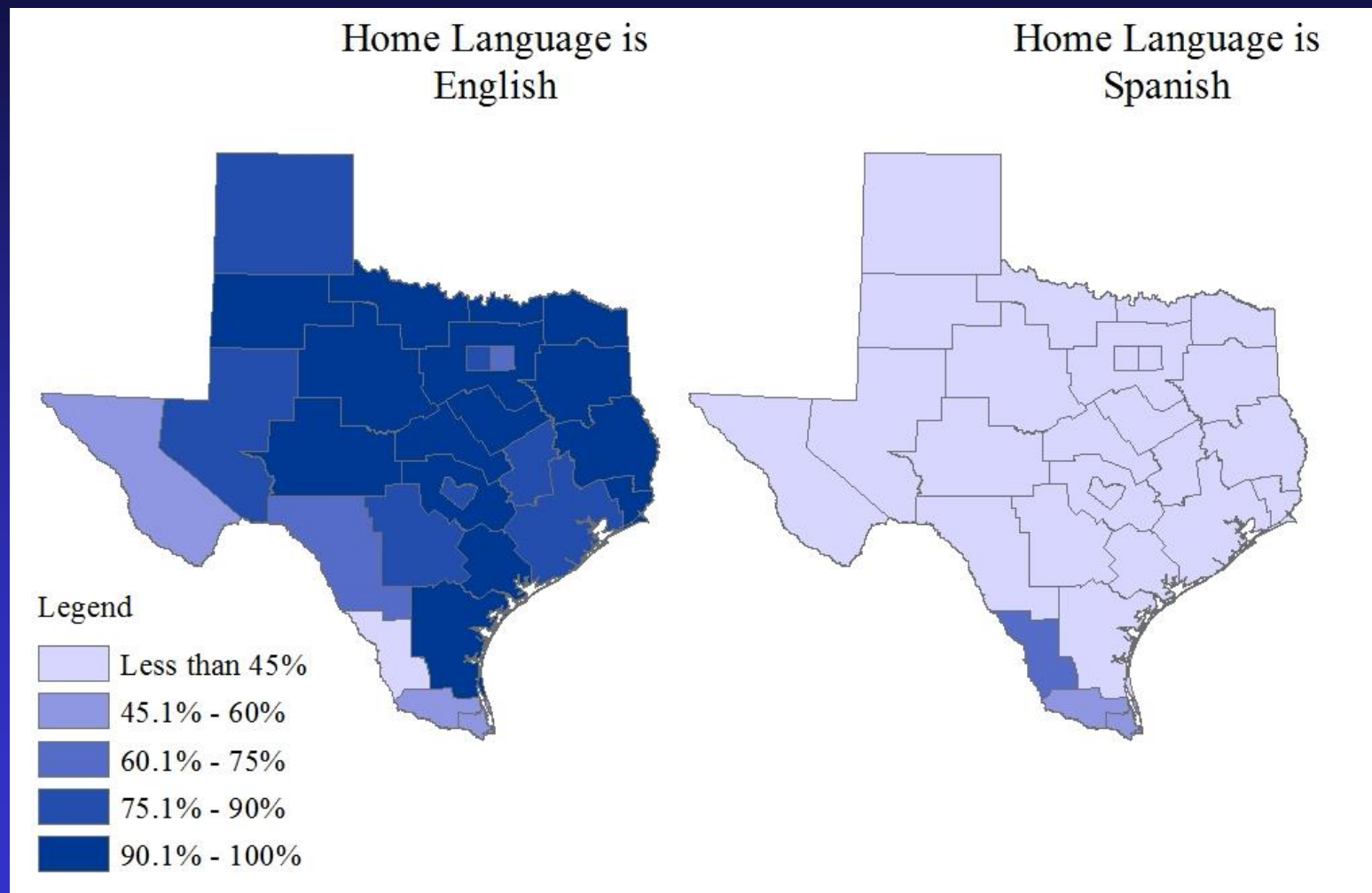
# Regional Variations

## Student Characteristics



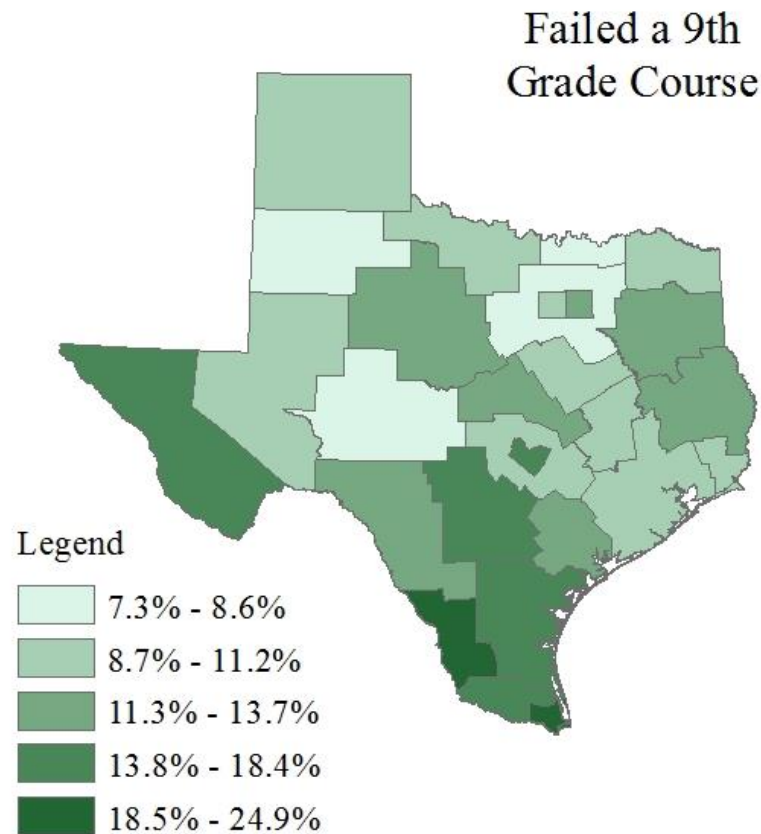
# Regional Variations

## Student Characteristics



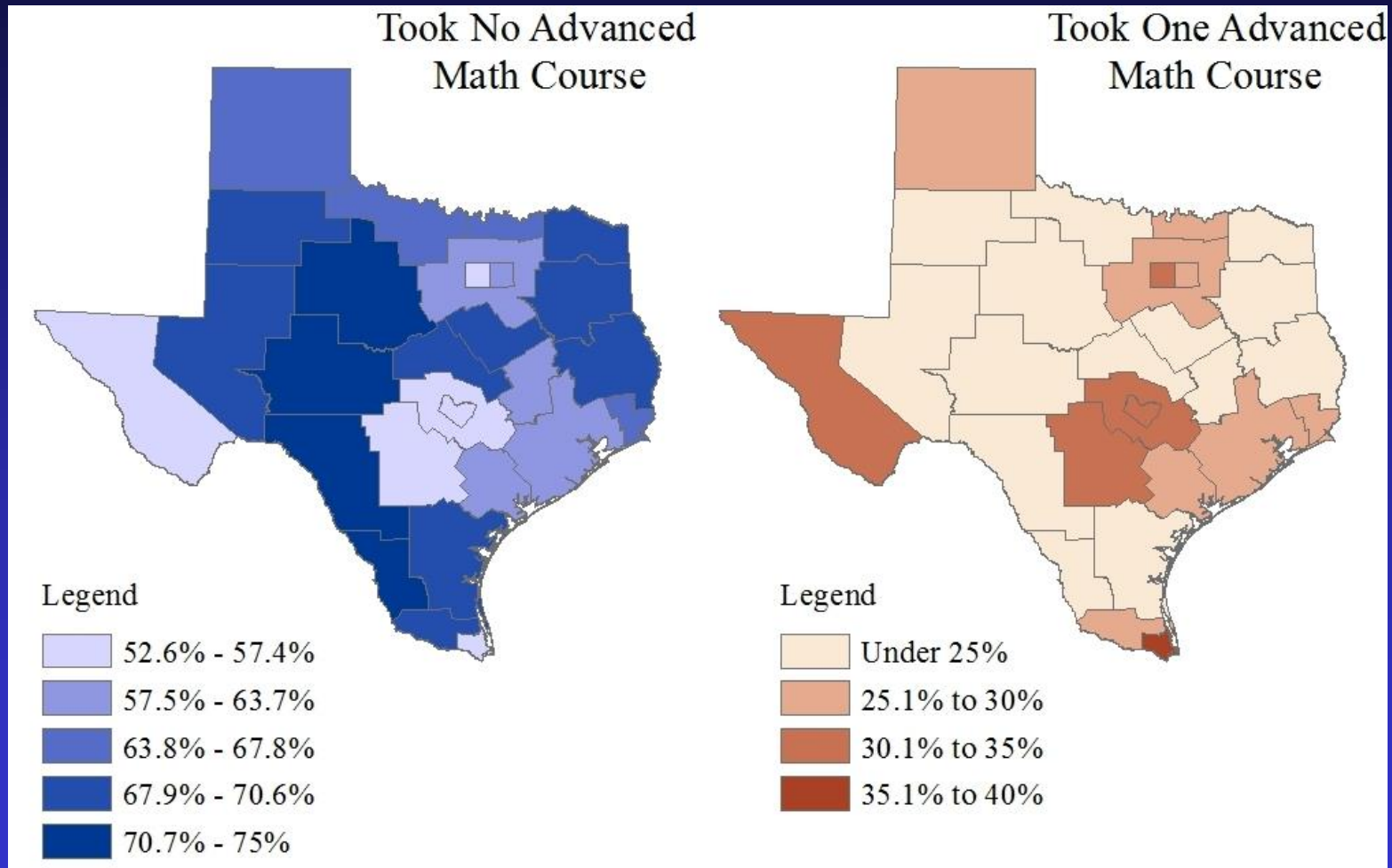
# Regional Variations

## Academic Preparation



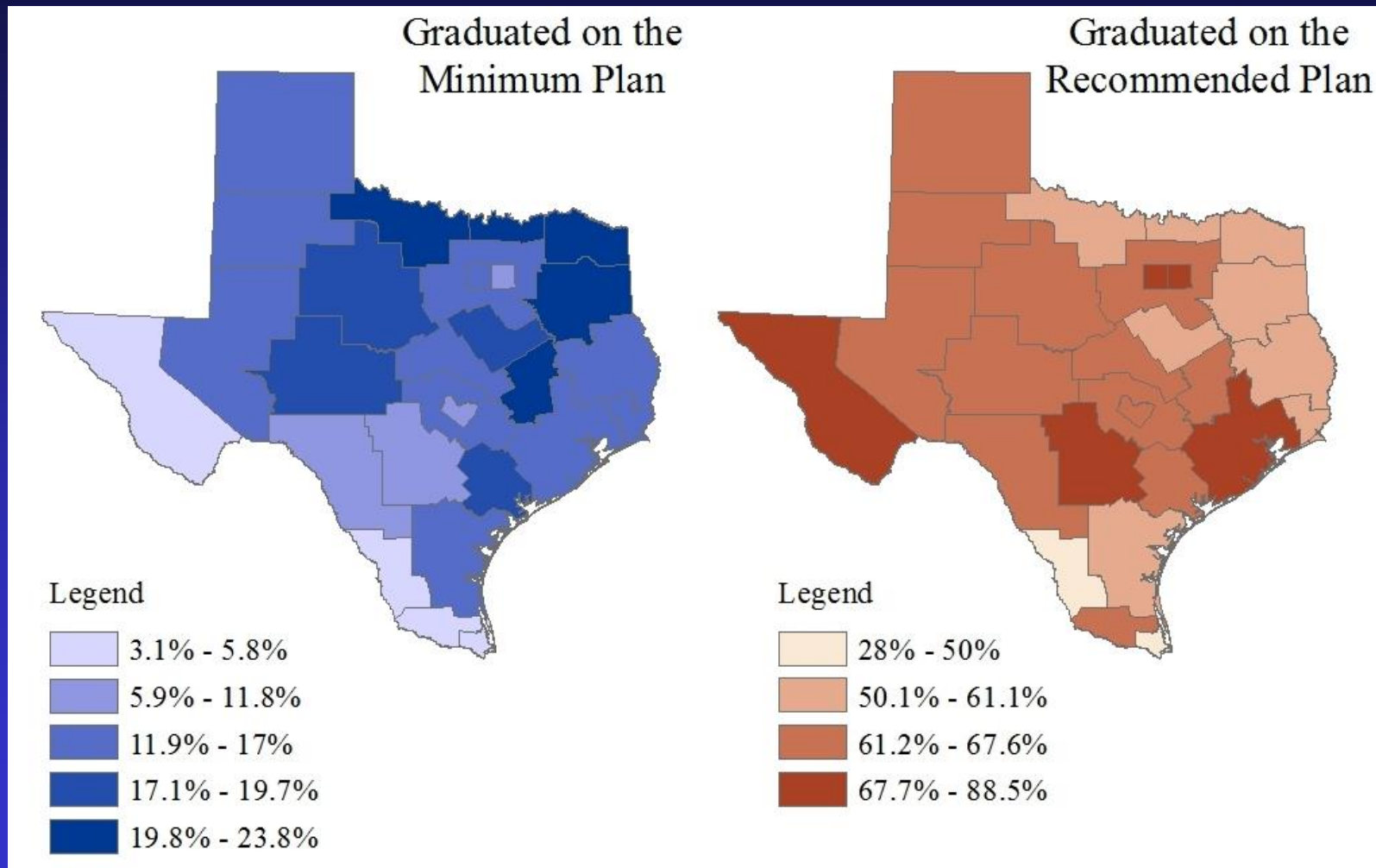
# Regional Variations

## Academic Preparation



# Regional Variations

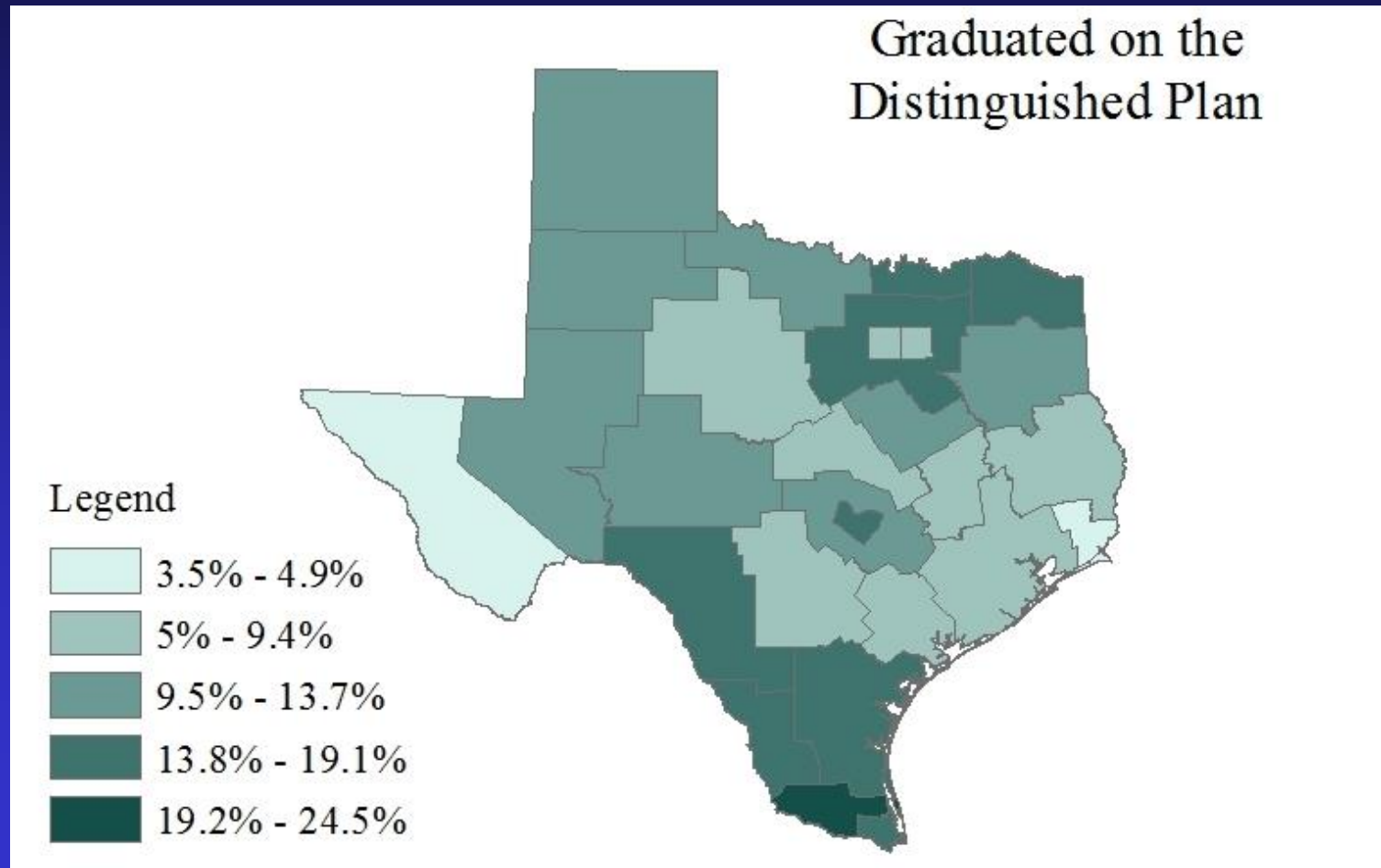
## Academic Preparation





# Regional Variations

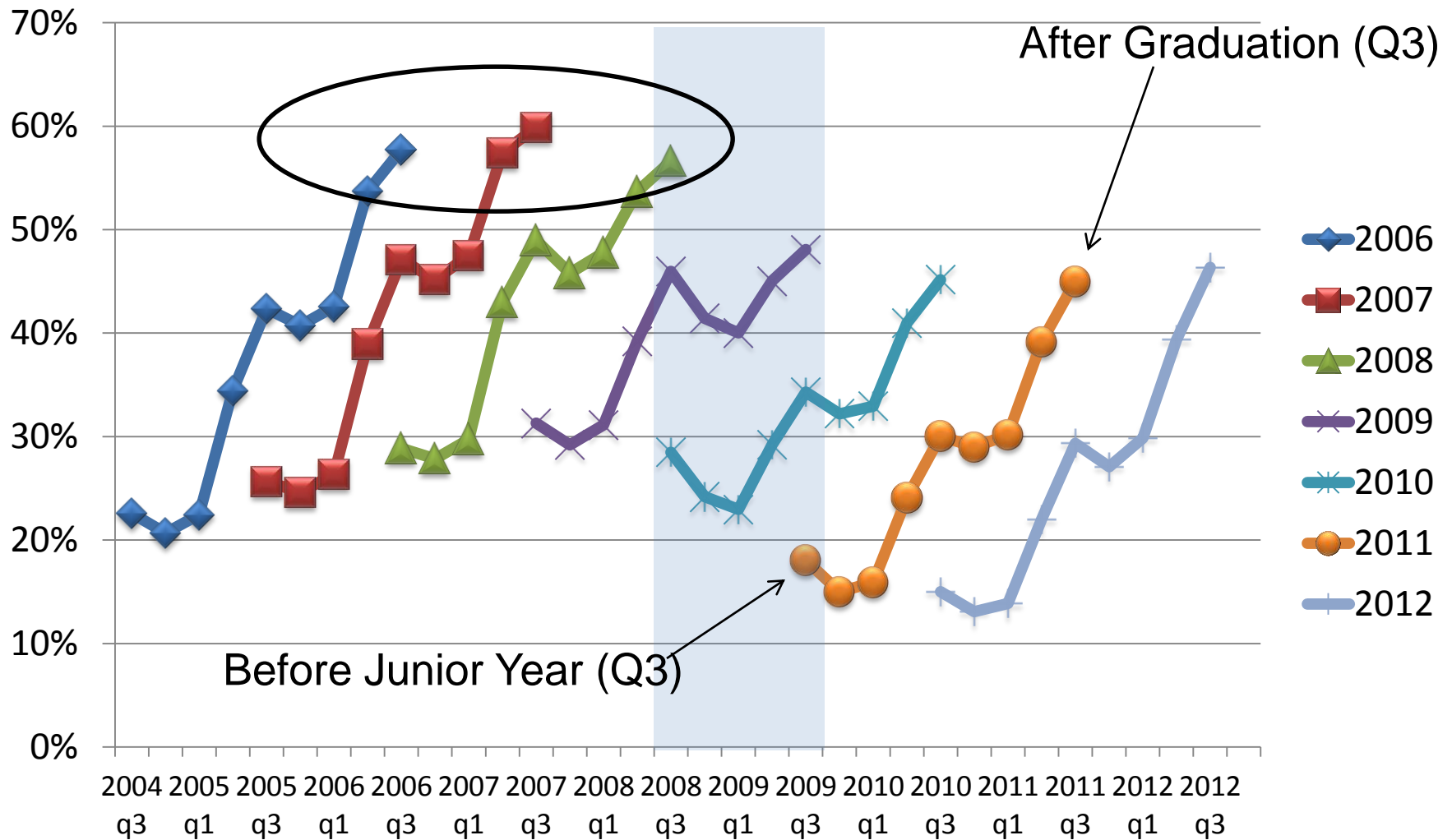
## Academic Preparation





# Employment in High School

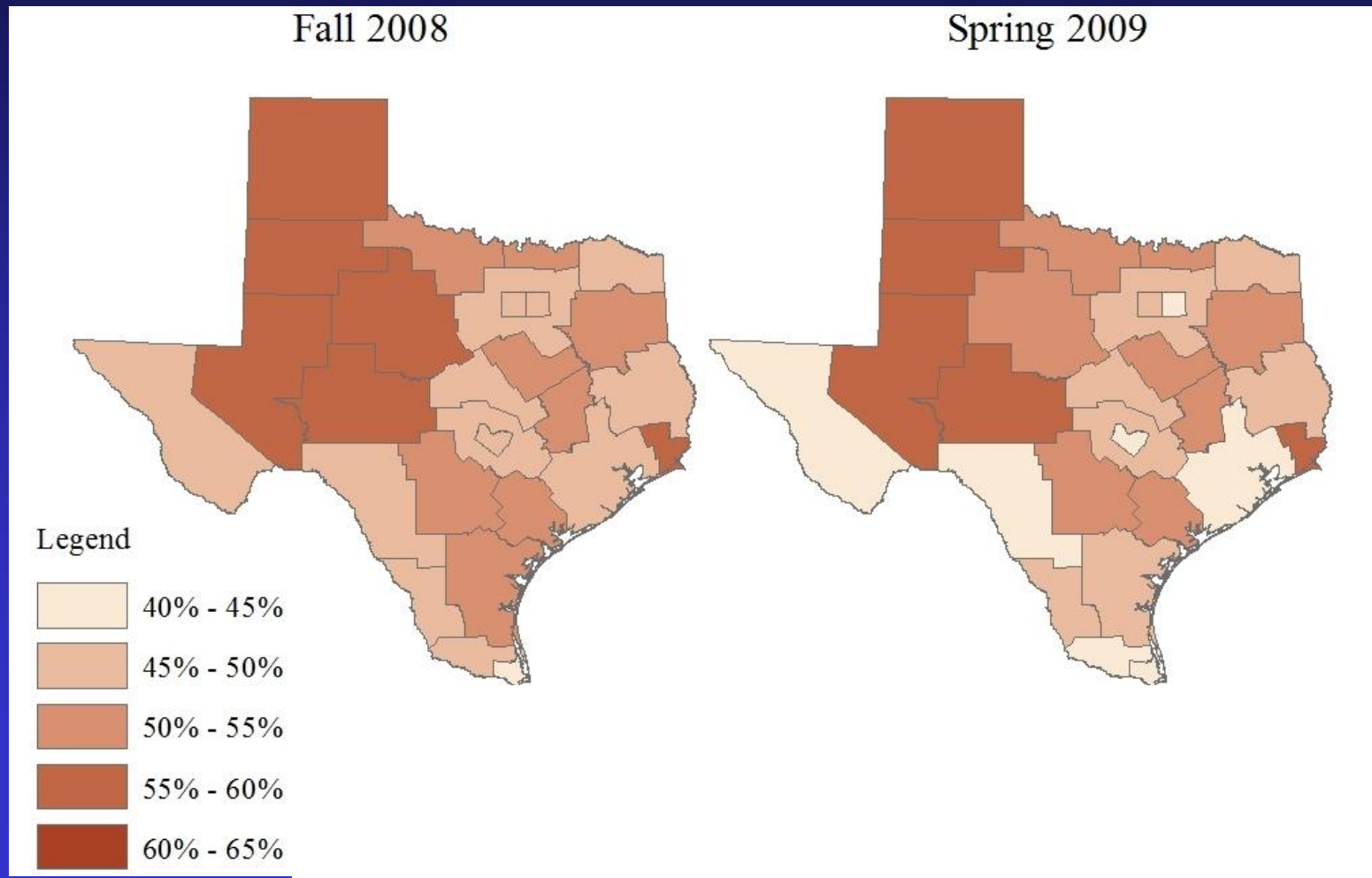
## Central Texas Region



Note: Data for this figure comes from the Student Futures Project.

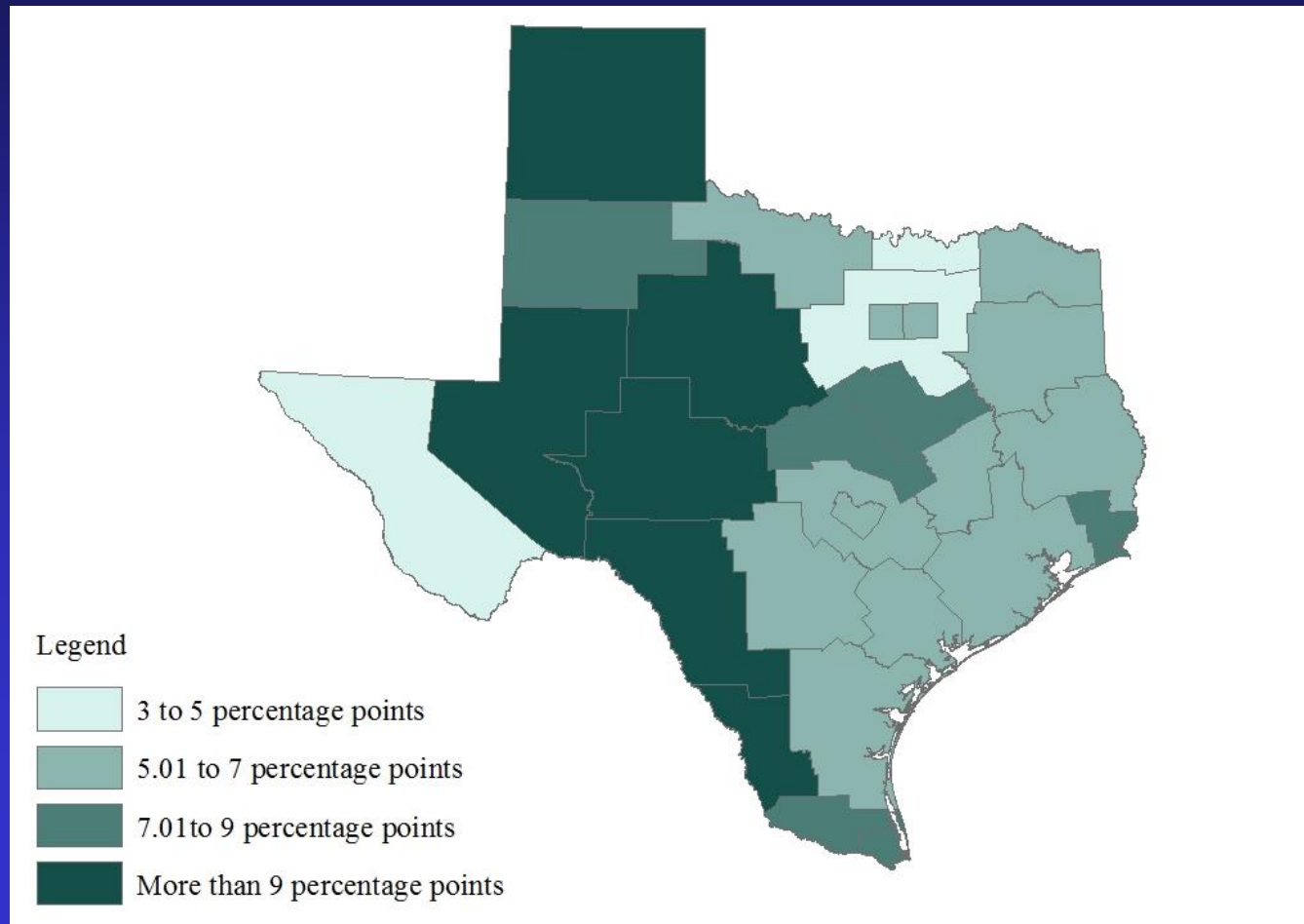
# Employment Outcomes

## Share of Employed Class of 2008 Graduates



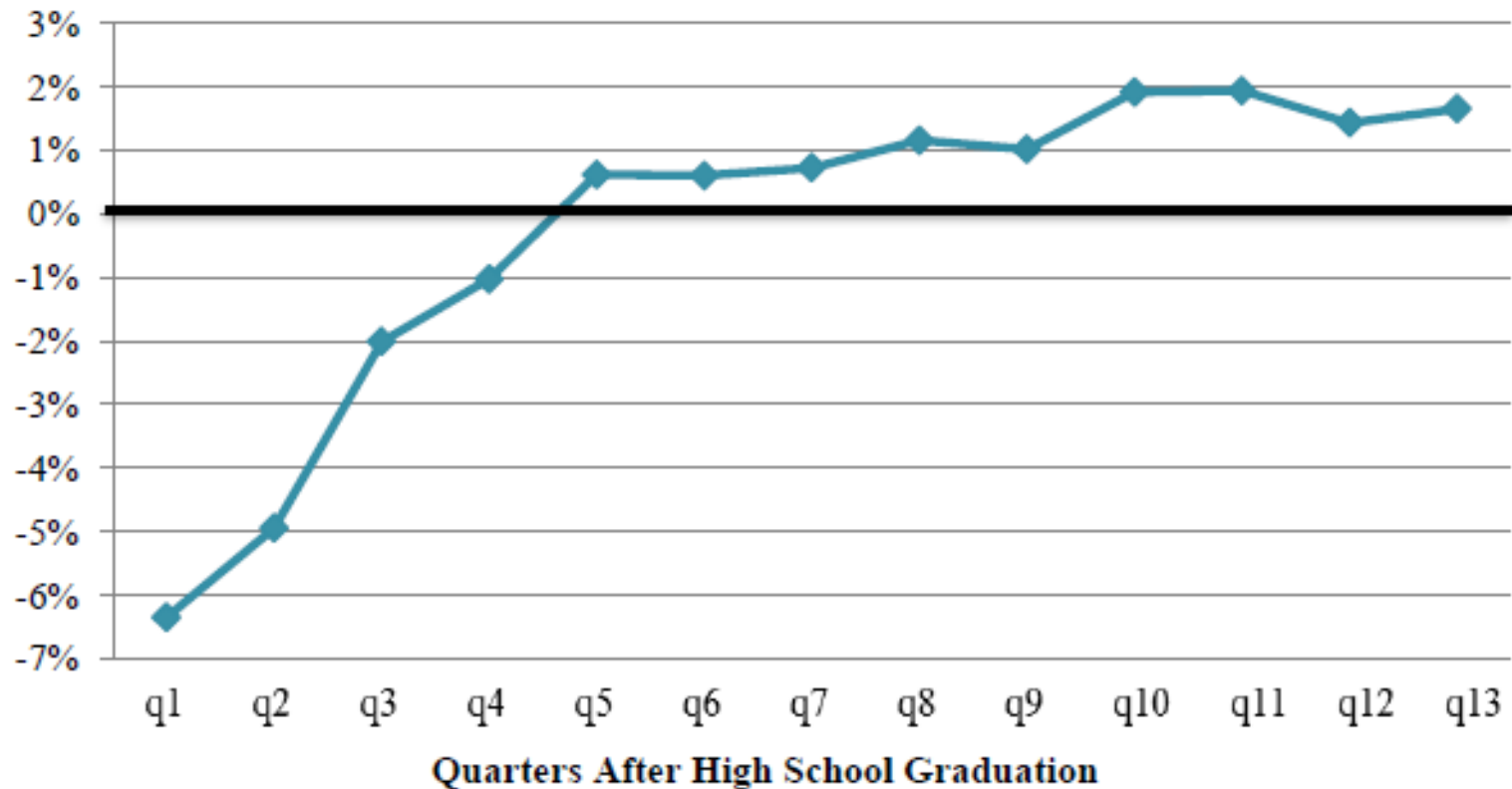
# Employment Outcomes

**Decline in Fall Employment (4th Quarter) Immediately Following High School Graduation (2008 to 2009)**



# Employment Outcomes

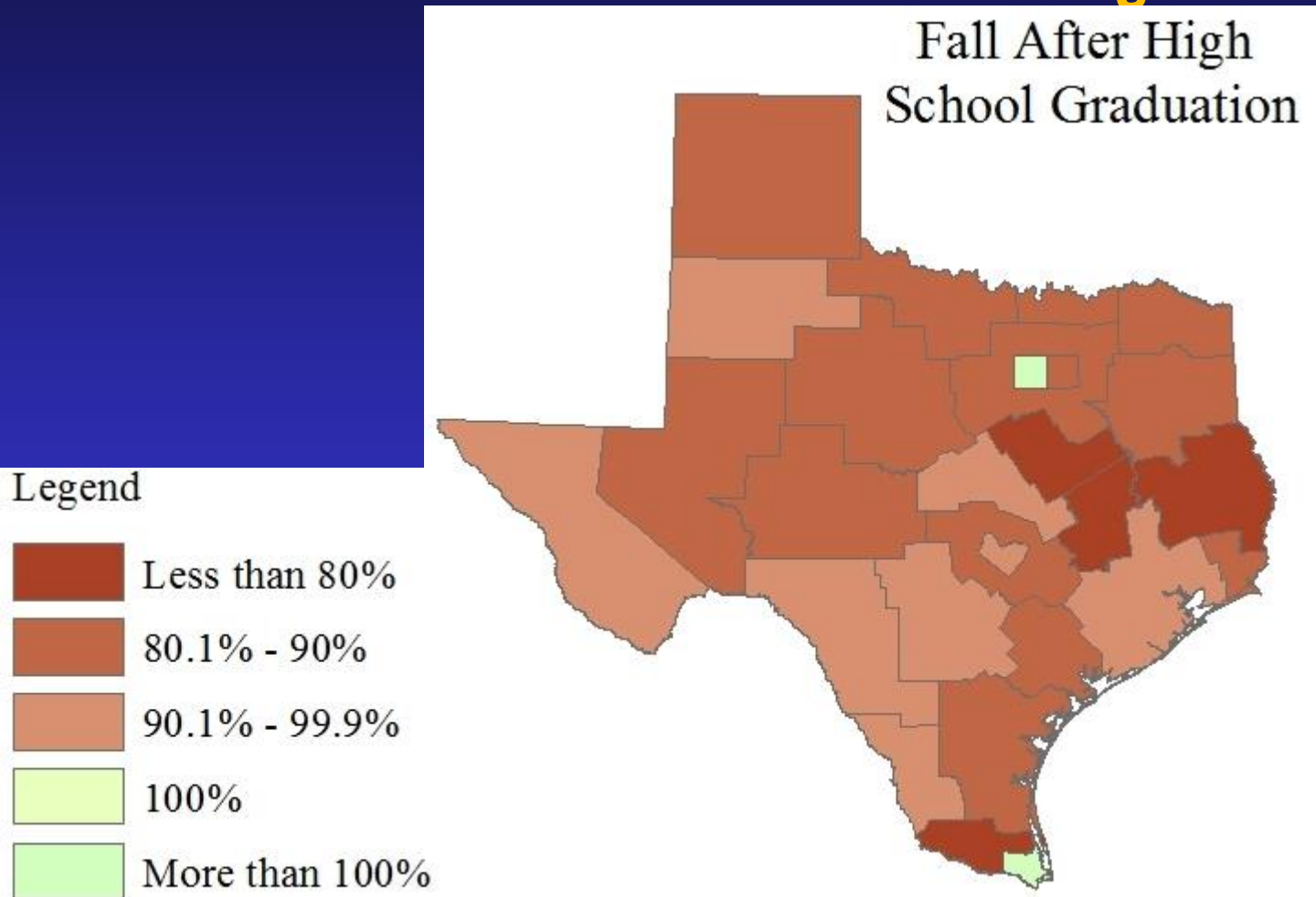
**Difference in Post-High School Employment Rates for the Class of 2009 Compared to the Class of 2008 Over Time**



# Employment Outcomes

## Quarterly Earnings

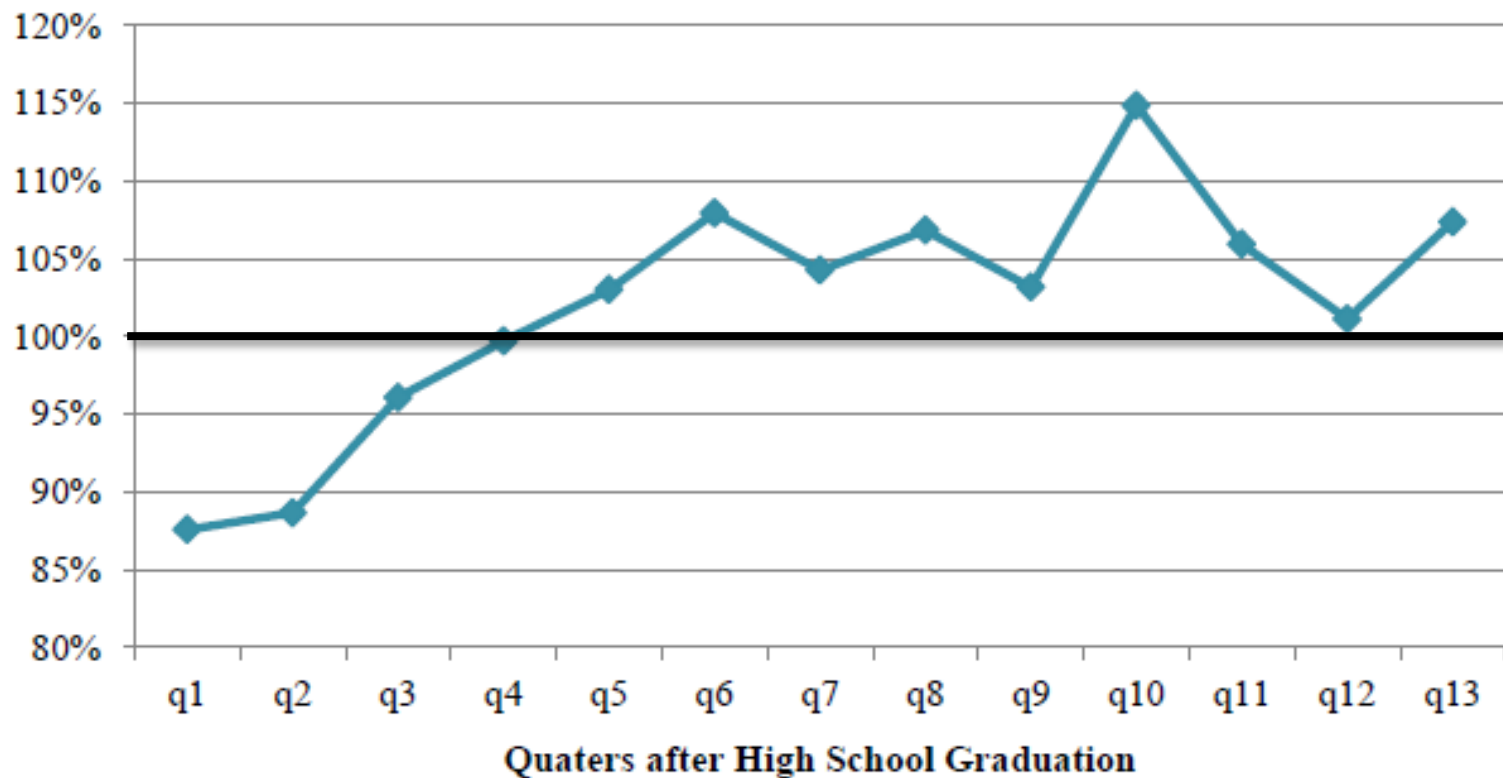
Percentage of Mean Wages between 2008 and 2009  
Graduates Not Enrolled in College and Working



# Employment Outcomes

## Quarterly Earnings

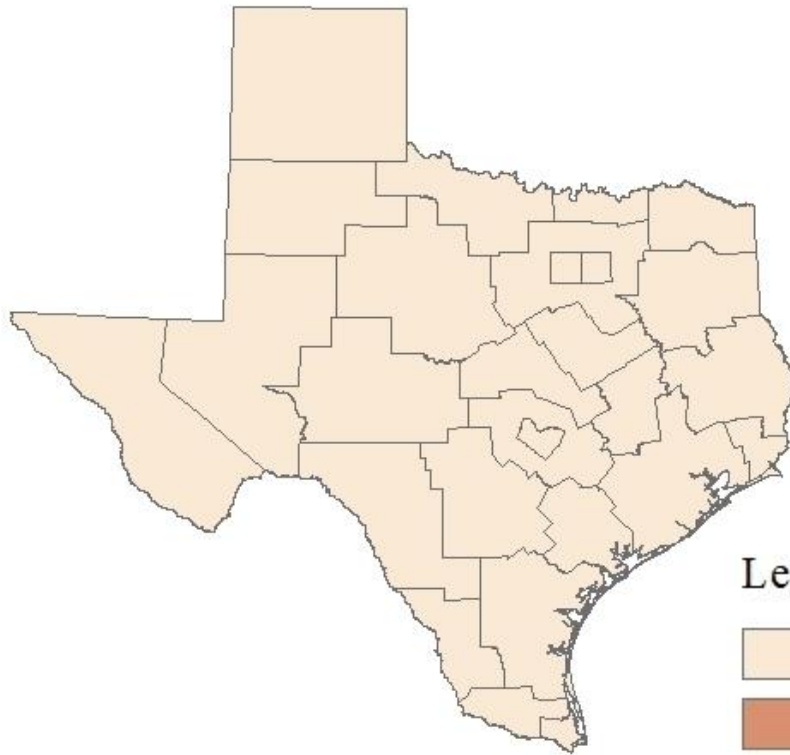
Percentage of Mean Wages between 2008 and 2009  
Graduates Not Enrolled in College and Working



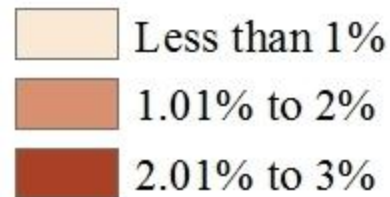
# Workforce Services Utilization

Class of 2008

Fall 2008



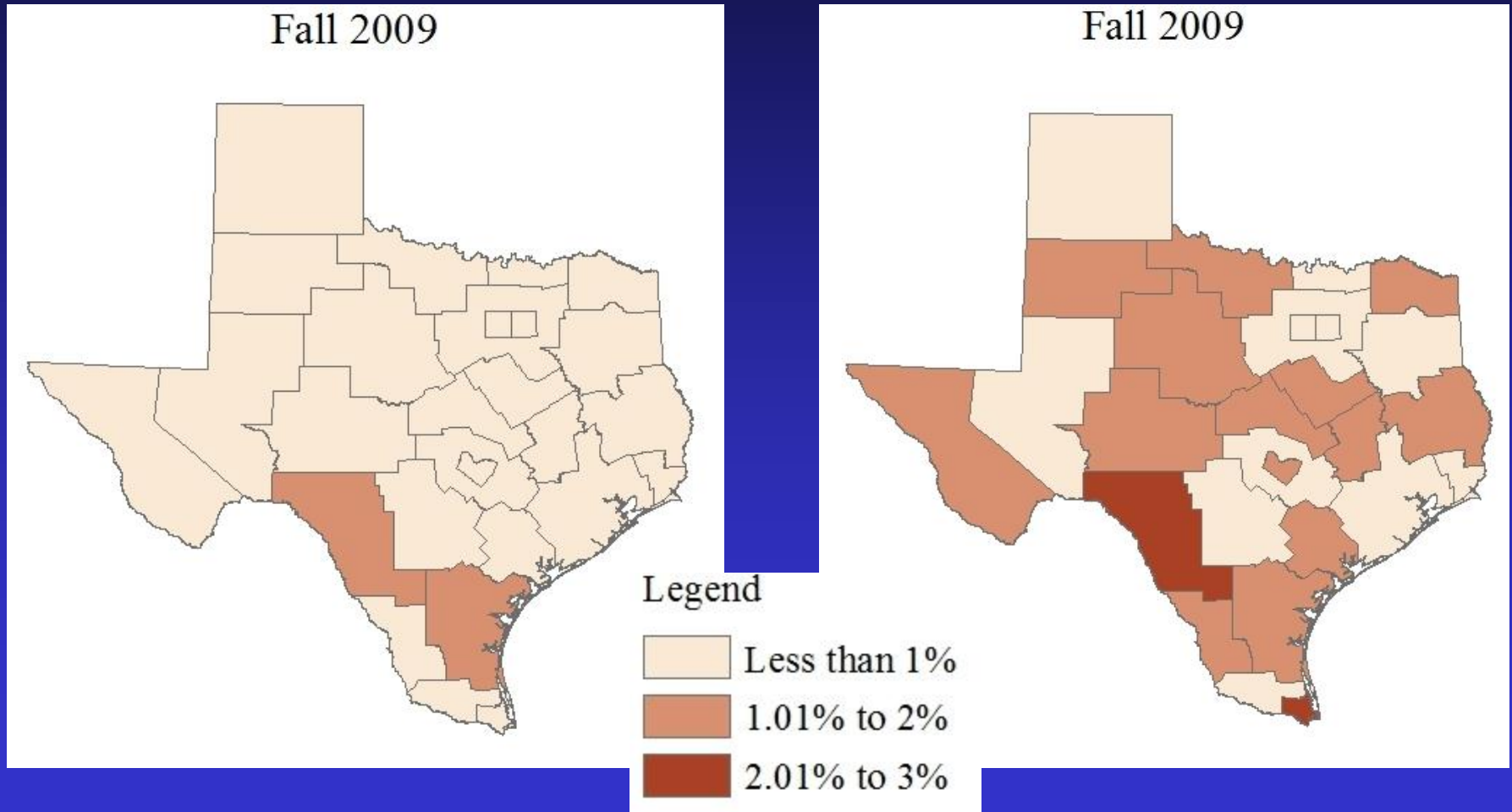
Legend



# Workforce Services Utilization

**Class of 2008**

**Class of 2009**





# Findings

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- Class of 2009 graduates experienced a very different labor market immediately upon graduation, than their peers 1 year earlier.
  - Reduced employment opportunities, and
  - Reduced earnings for those who did find work.
  - These differences varied greatly by LWDAs.
- Consequently, class of 2009 graduates were more likely to utilize TWC workforce services than class of 2008 graduates.
- Differences in employment outcomes between cohorts gradually subsided over the next year and half.

# Thank You

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For further feedback or for a request of the report :

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