

Minnesota State Demographic Center

# Income and poverty trends among Black Minnesotans

PRESENTATION AT THE MINNEAPOLIS URBAN LEAGUE  
BY SUSAN BROWER, MINNESOTA STATE DEMOGRAPHER  
October 2, 2015



**3** What is Person 1's sex? Mark (X) ONE box.

Male       Female

**4** What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth?  
Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.

Age (in years)      *Print numbers in boxes.*  
Month      Day      Year of birth

→ **NOTE:** Please answer BOTH Question 5 about Hispanic origin and Question 6 about race. For this survey, Hispanic origins are not races.

**5** Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin  
 Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano  
 Yes, Puerto Rican  
 Yes, Cuban  
 Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↘

**6** What is Person 1's race? Mark (X) one or more boxes.

White  
 Black or African Am.  
 American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↘

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – <i>Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.</i> ↘		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – <i>Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.</i> ↘

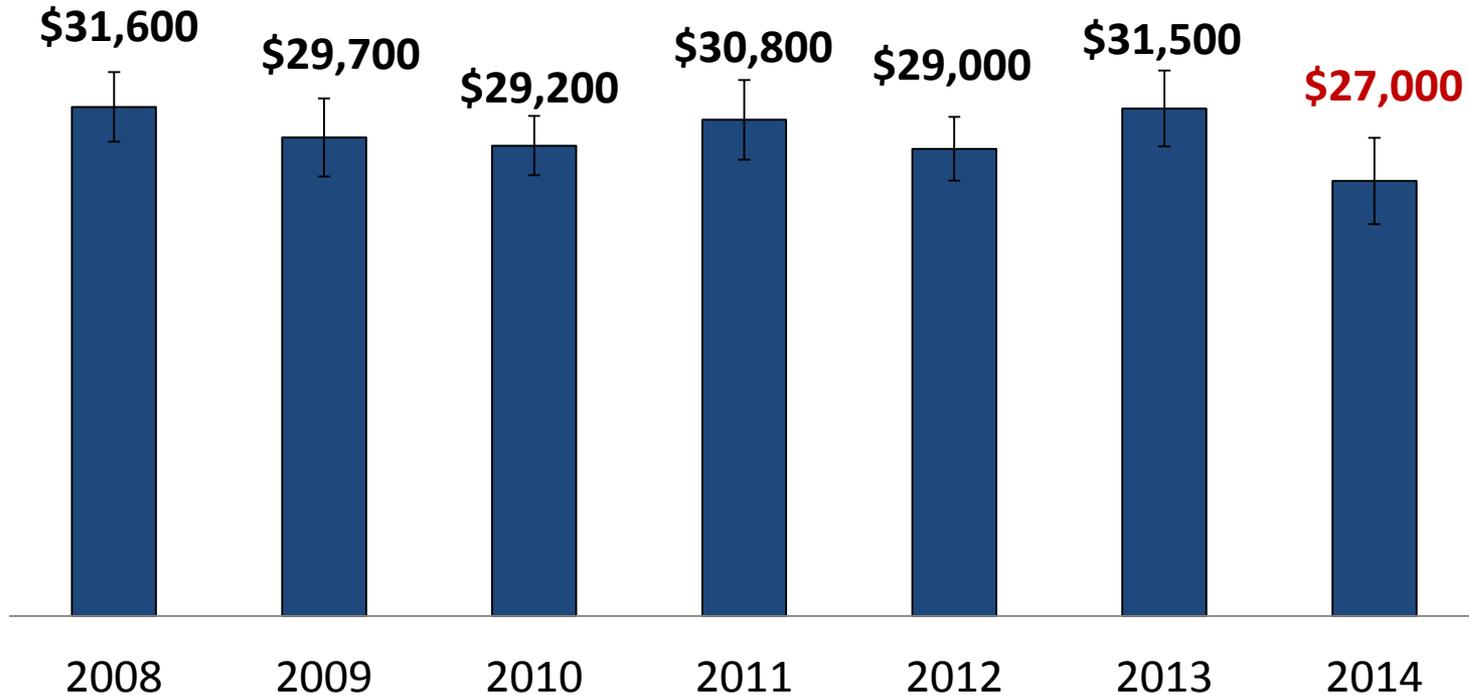
# Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey

**72,000** MNs surveyed  
each year-who reply  
for their household

**~1,500** Black MNs  
& **1,000** Black MNs of  
"working-age" (16-64)  
in survey each year

# Recent media focus has been on household income decline between 2013 and 2014

**Black Median Household Income  
Minnesota, 2014 dollars**



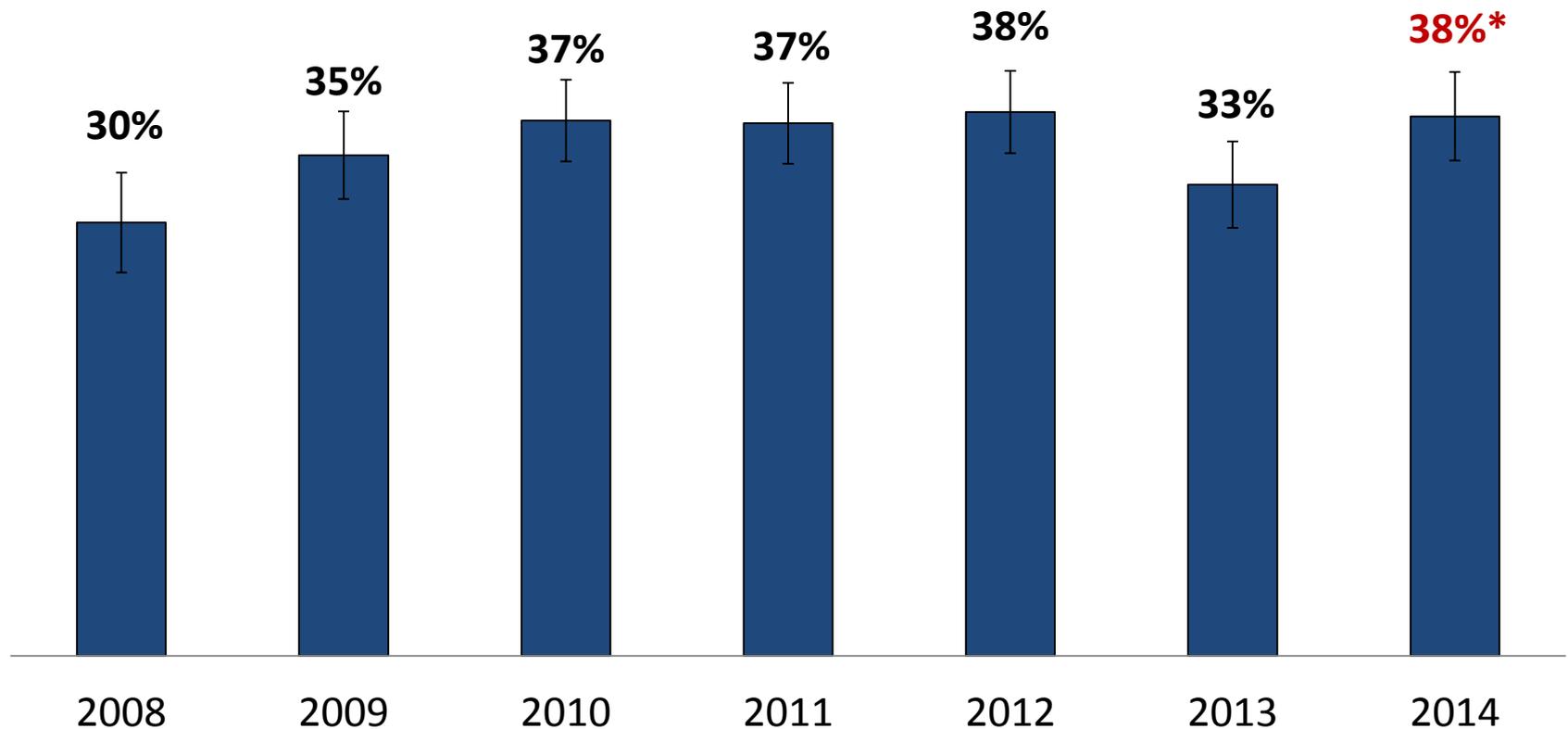
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Why did Black income change?

- Composition of the Black population changes each year (because of migration, aging, number and structure of households)
- Economic changes – type of employment held, wages earned, etc.
- Estimates can “bounce around” because they come from a survey

# 2014 Census data also showed an increase in poverty among Black Minnesotans

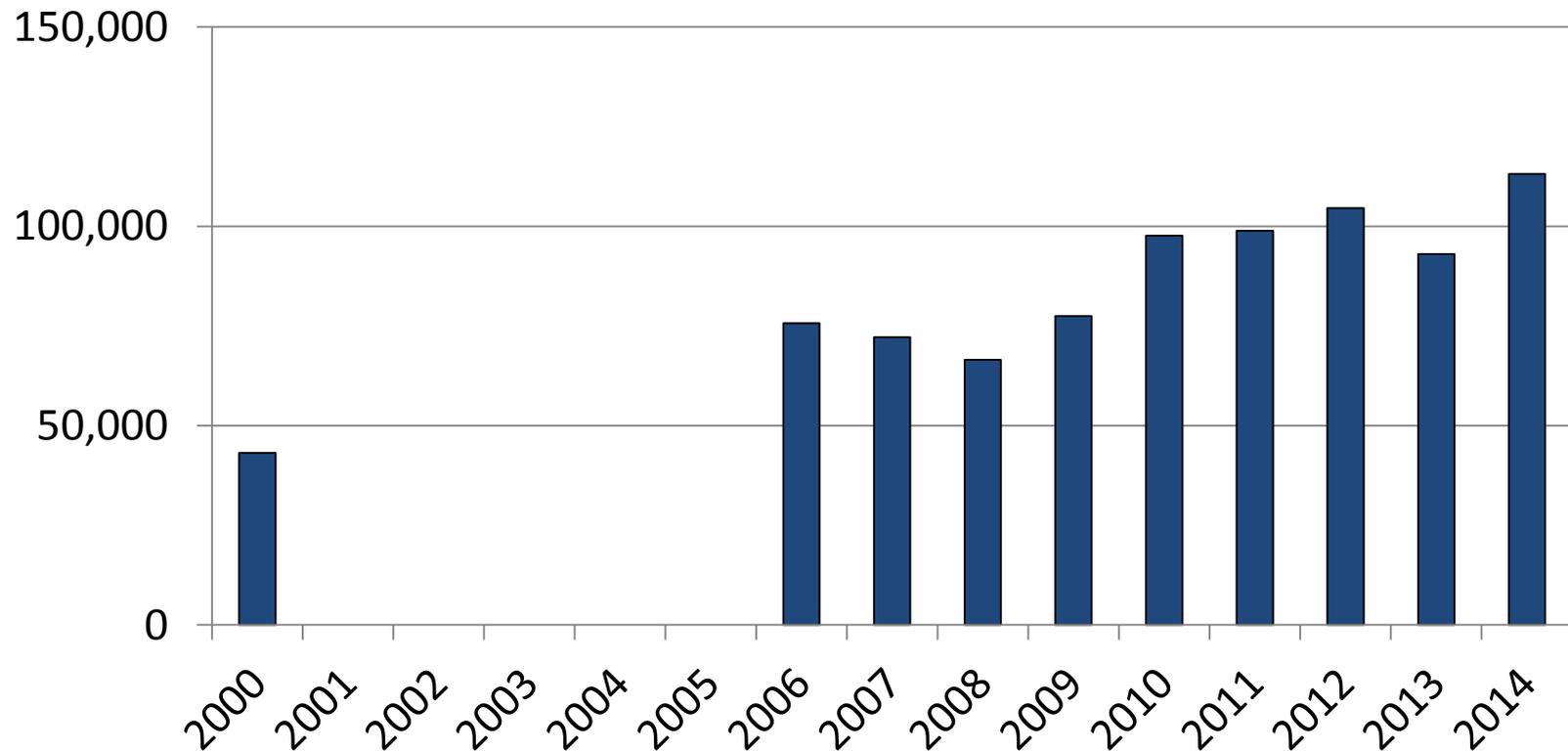
Percent of Black Minnesotans in Poverty



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Number of Black Minnesotans in poverty continues to grow

Black Minnesotans in poverty  
2000-2014

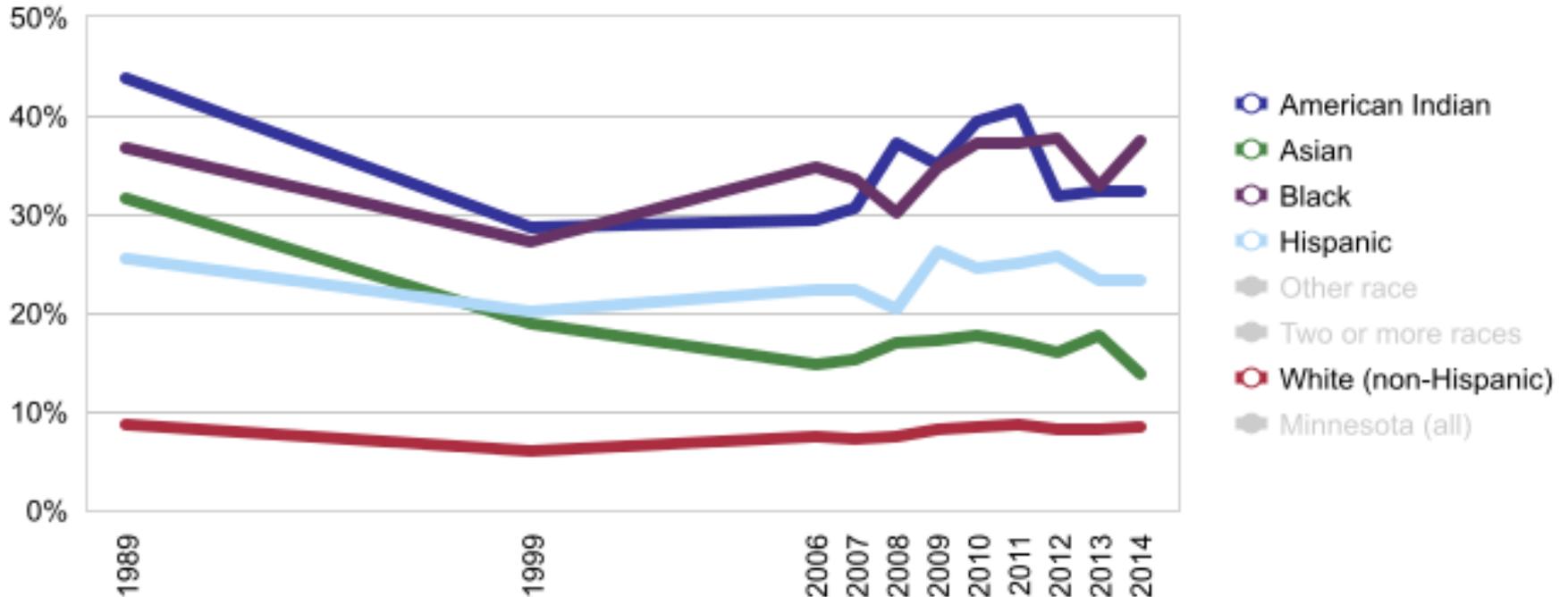


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census and American Community Survey.

Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

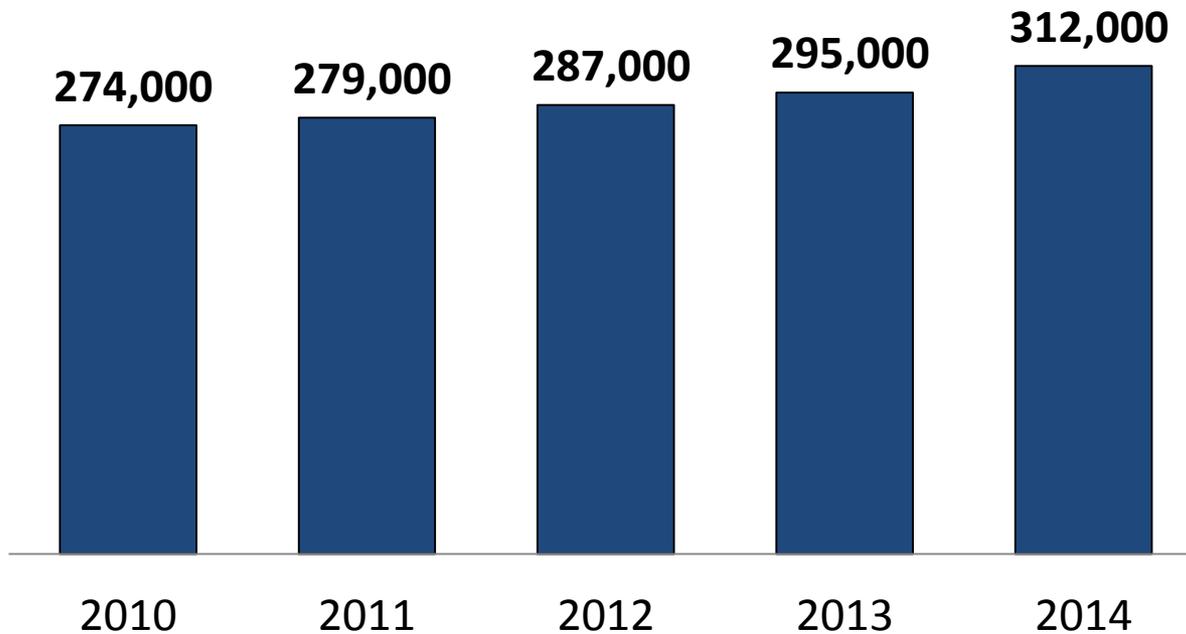
# Poverty on the rise for Black Minnesotans since the Great Recession

Individuals below the poverty level  
by racial and ethnic group  
Minnesota, 1989-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census and American Community Survey. Graphic via MNCompass:  
<http://www.mncompass.org/economy/poverty#1-6768-g> Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Black population in Minnesota is growing rapidly; adding ~38,000 people in just 4 years



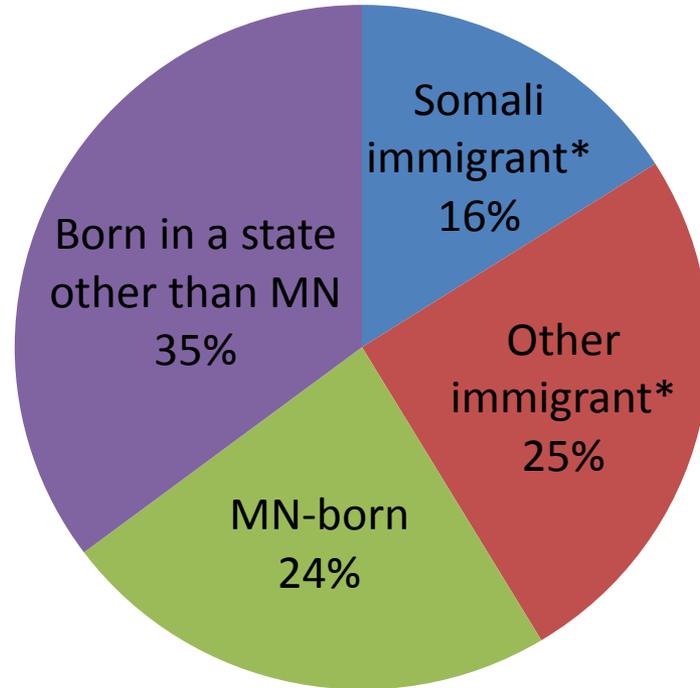
**...the White population grew by about 26,000**

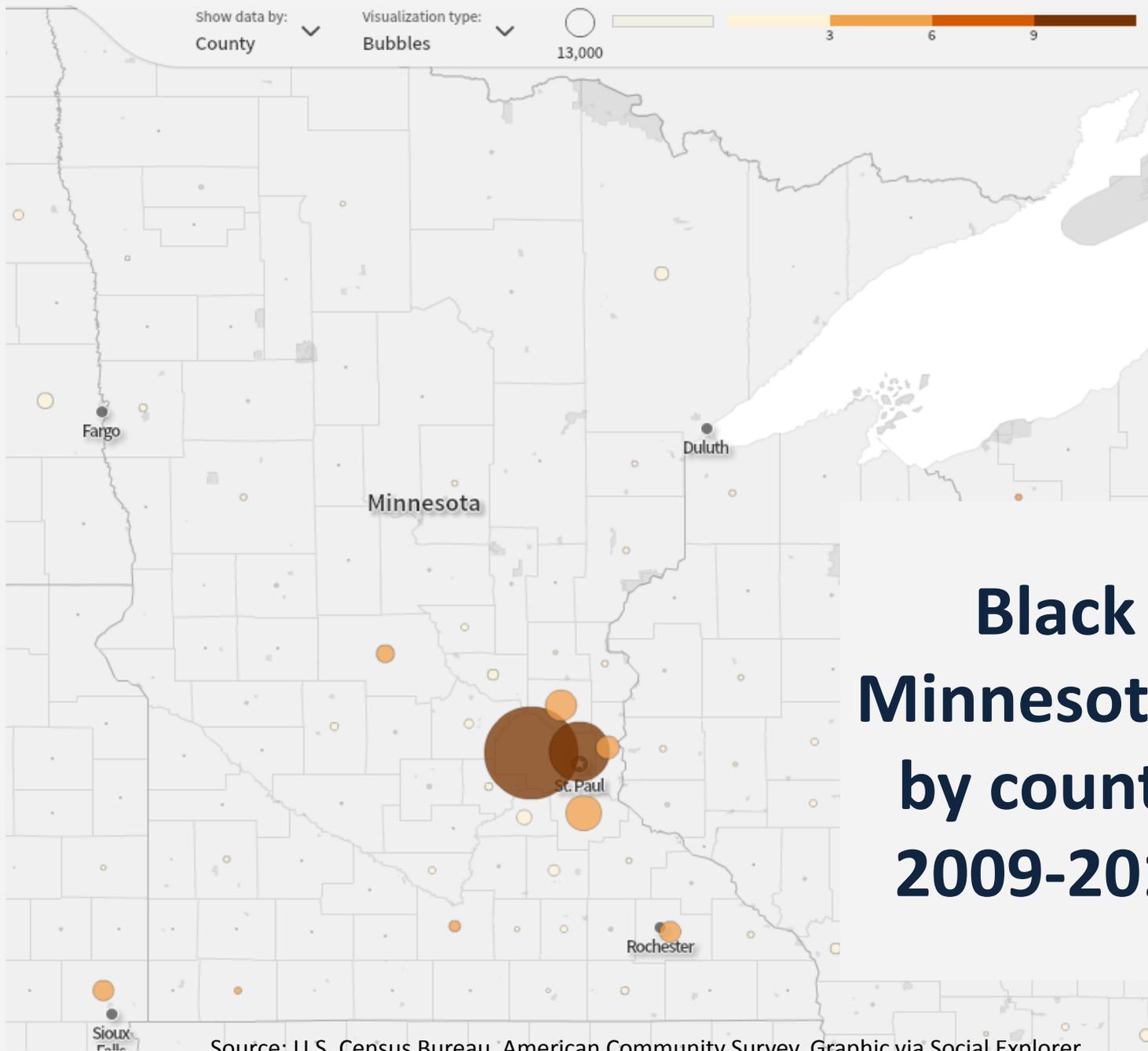
# Black Minnesotans come from all over the U.S., globe

## Black Minnesotans 2011-2013

\* In this graph, “immigrants” are people who are either:

- 1) born outside the U.S., or
- 2) born in the U.S. and live with at least one parent who is foreign-born.

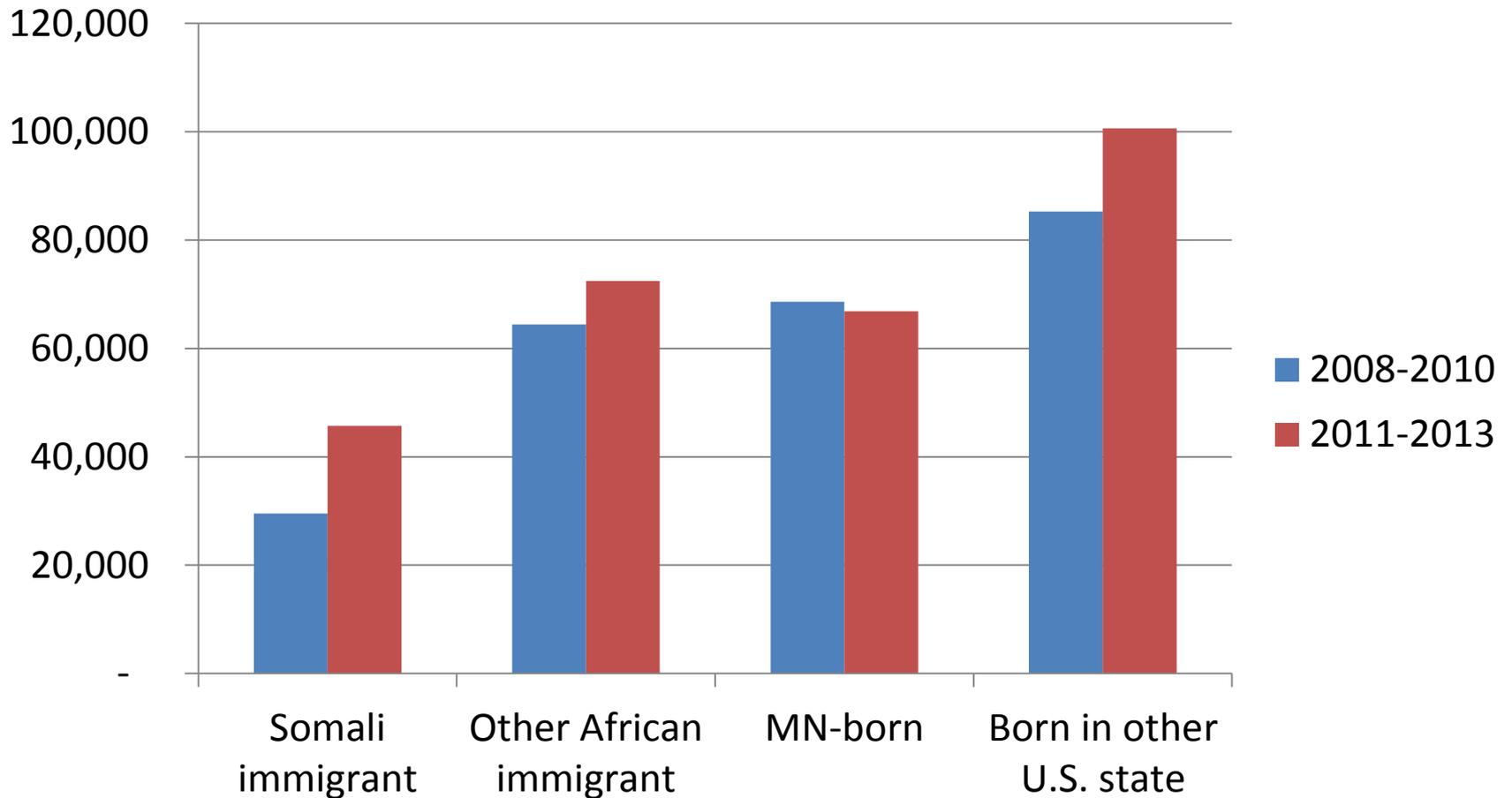




# Black Minnesotans by county, 2009-2013

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Graphic via Social Explorer.

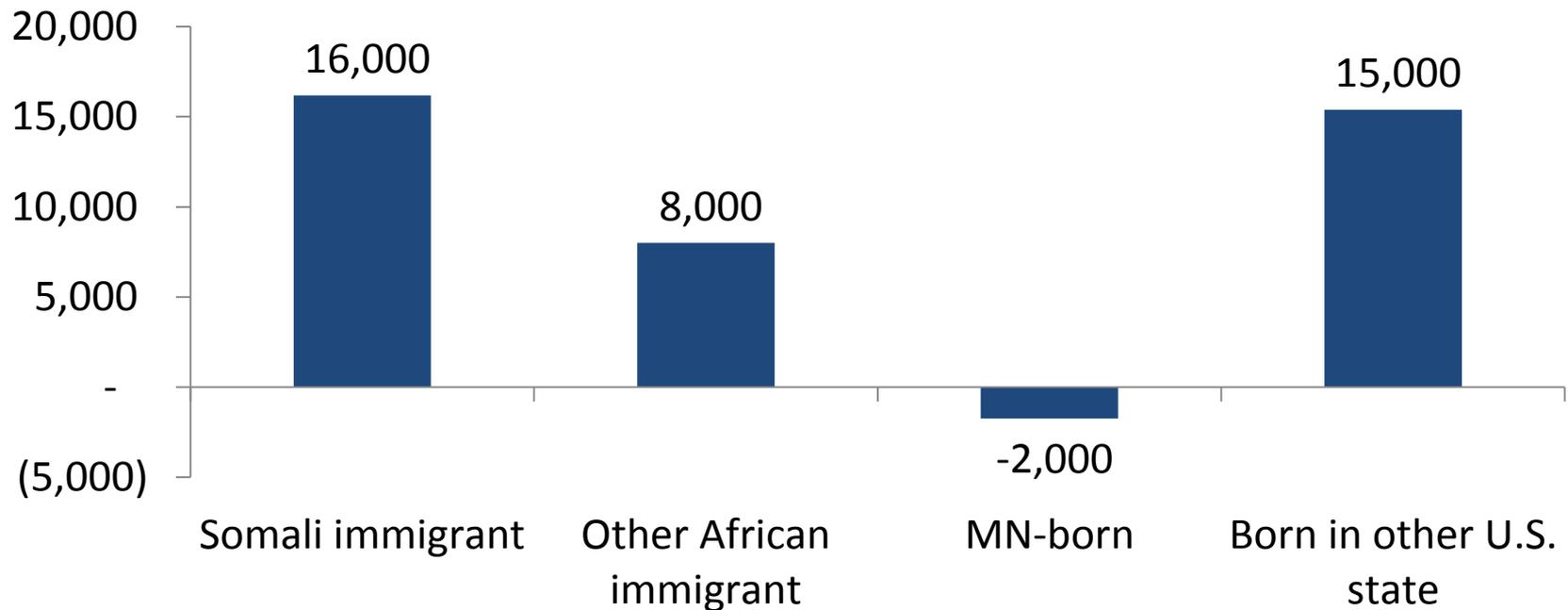
# Growth has been bolstered by migration of African-Americans/Africans to MN



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Growth especially strong among Somali immigrants and people born outside of Minnesota

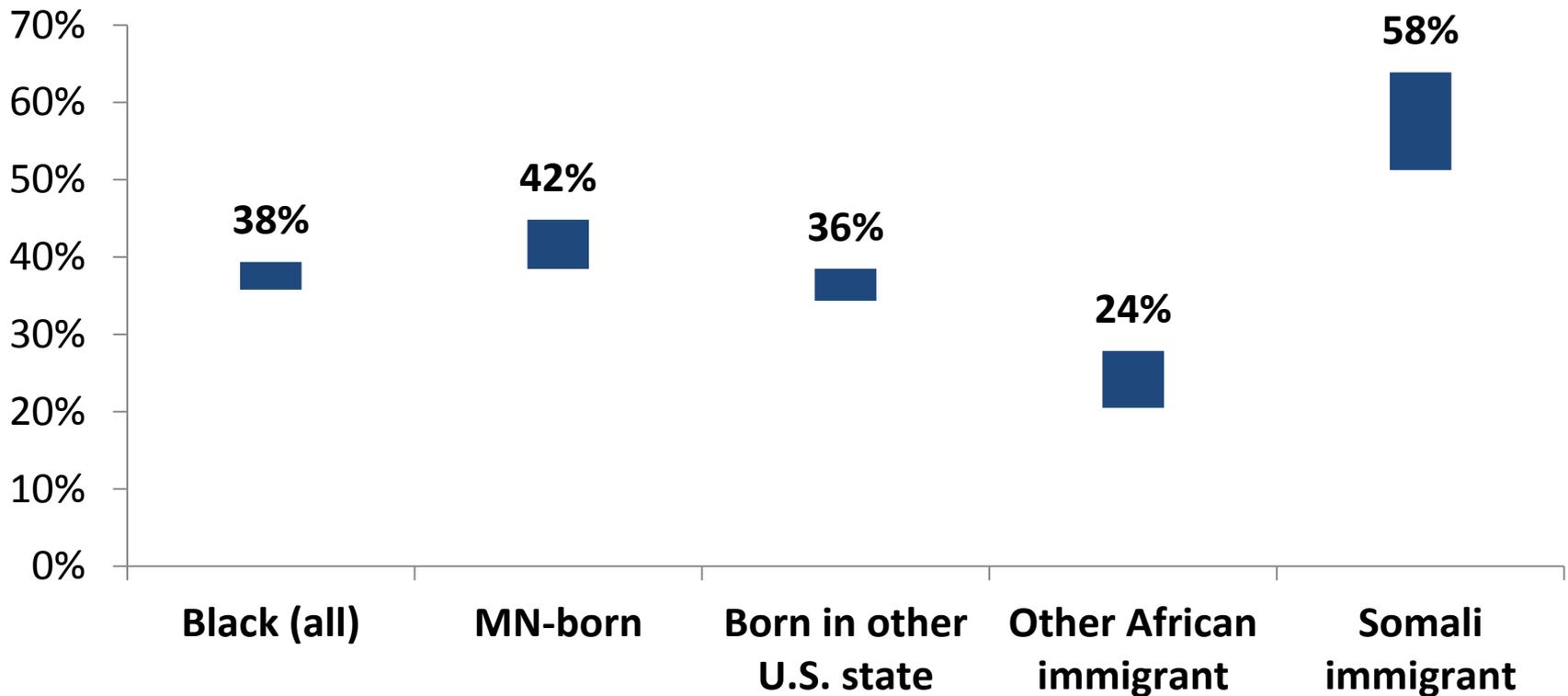
Change between 2008-2010 and 2011-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Poverty highest among Somalis; lowest among other Black immigrants

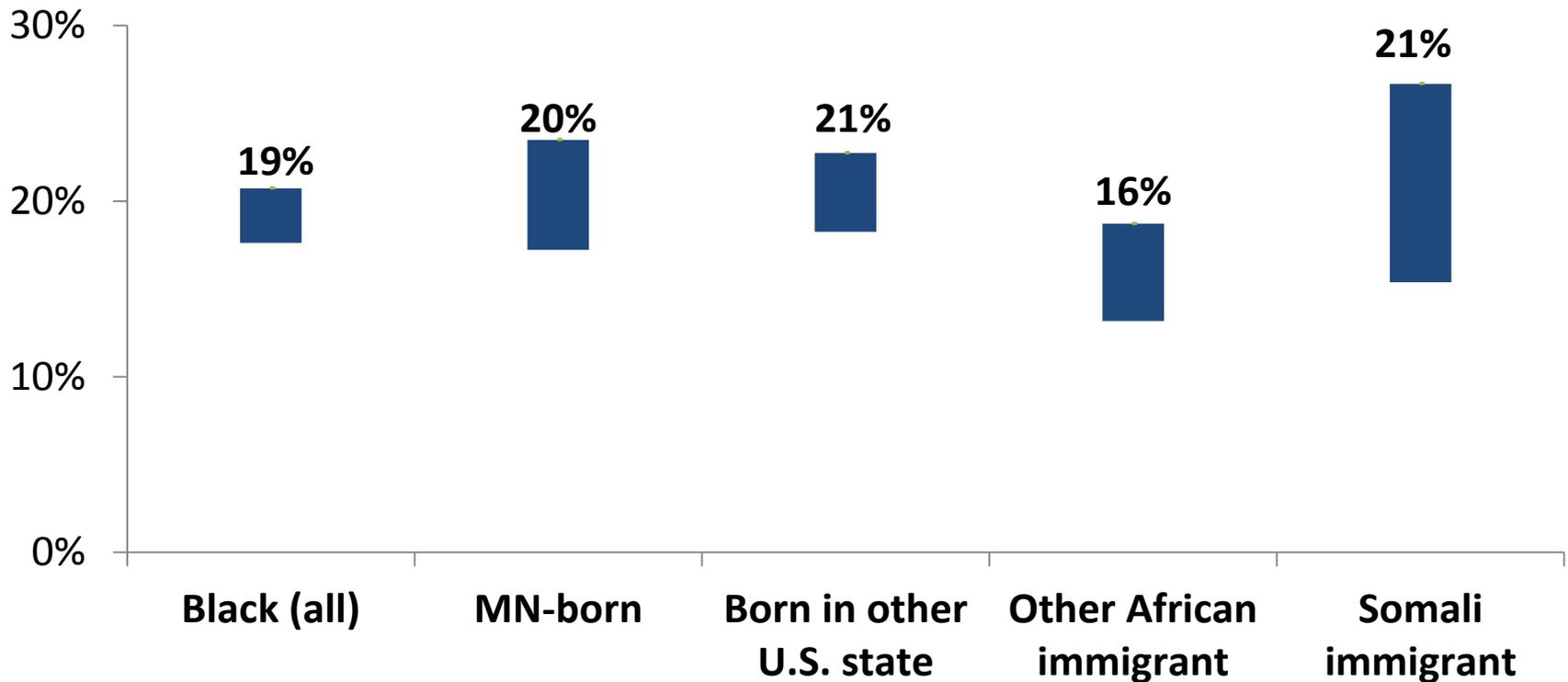
Percent in poverty by sub-group  
Black Minnesotans, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range.

# Unemployment rate similar across sub-groups

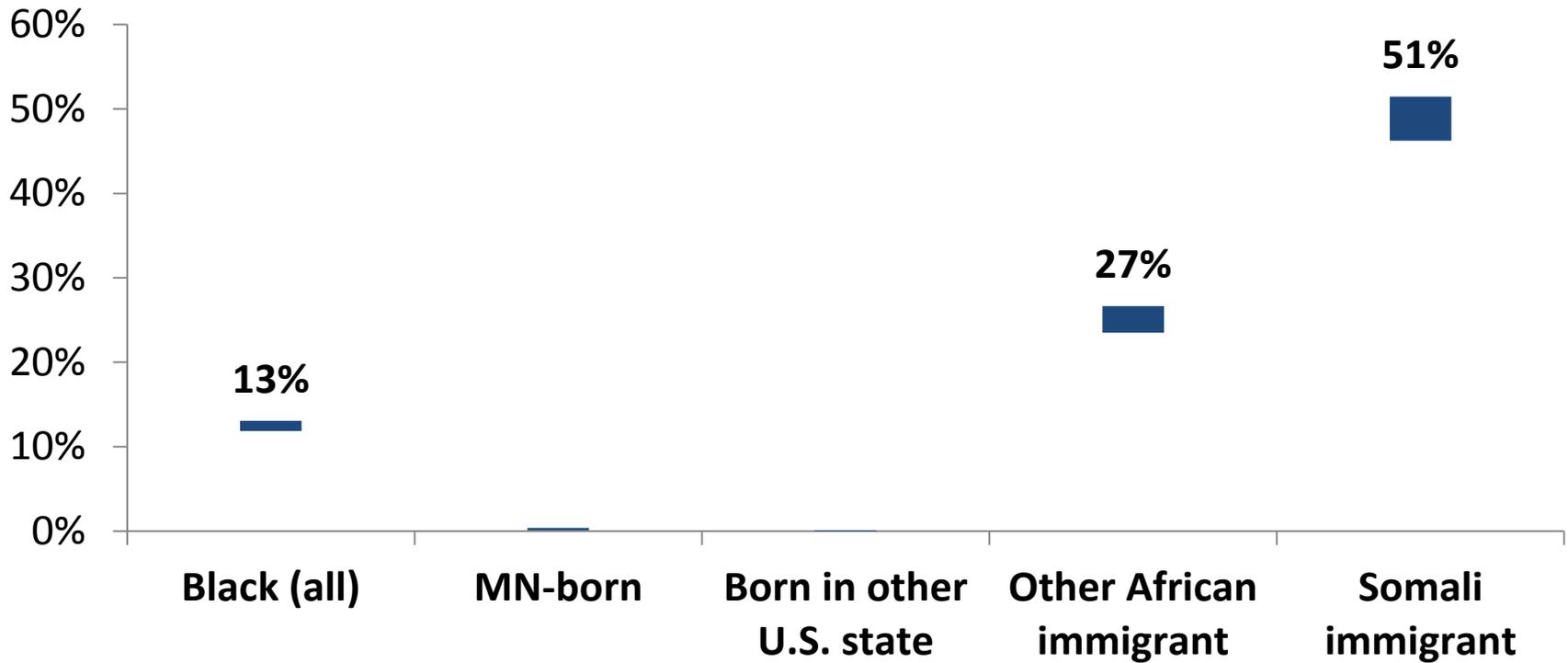
Average unemployment rate  
Black Minnesotans, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown. Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range.

# More than 1 in 10 Black Minnesotans (age 16-64) report language limitations

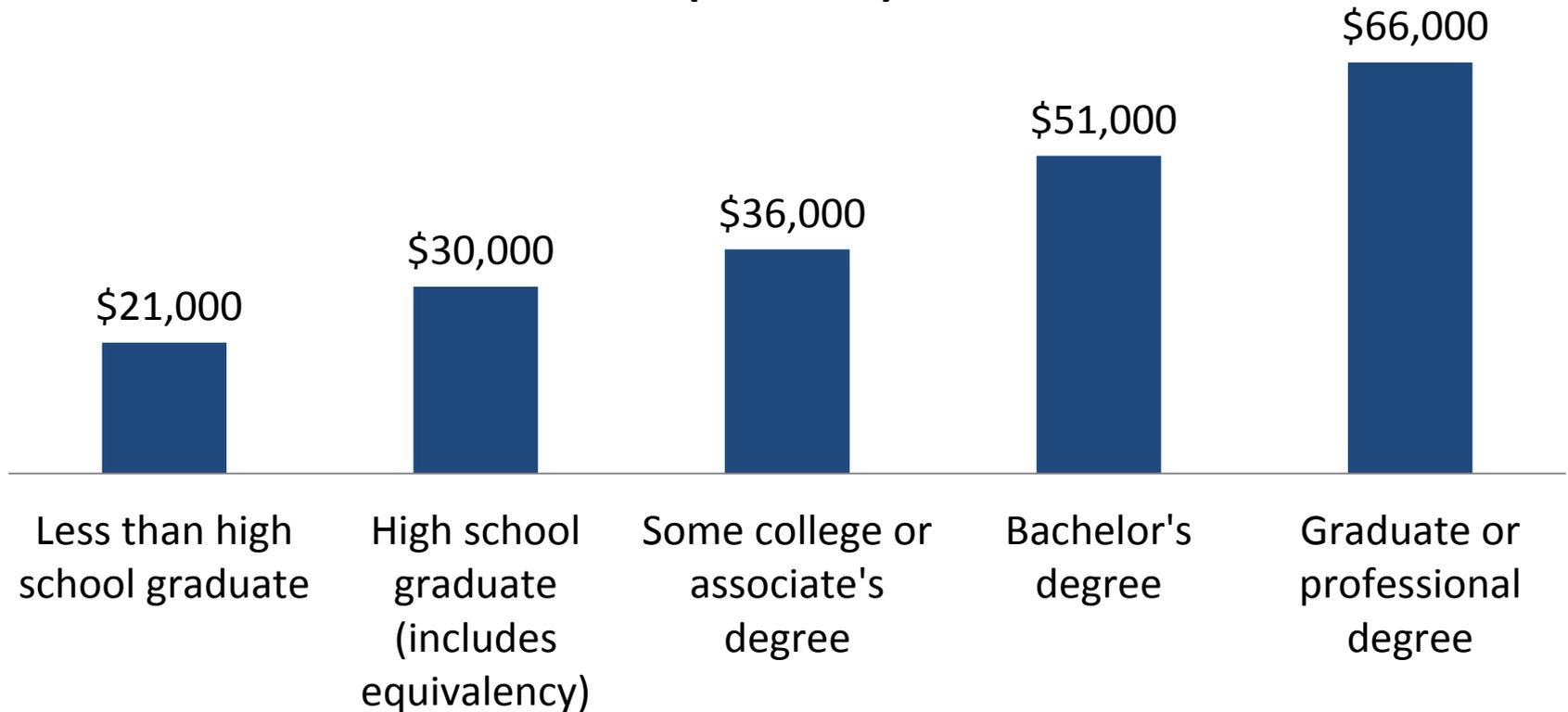
Percent with language limitations  
Black Minnesotans (age 16-64), 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown. Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range.

# Earnings rise with educational attainment

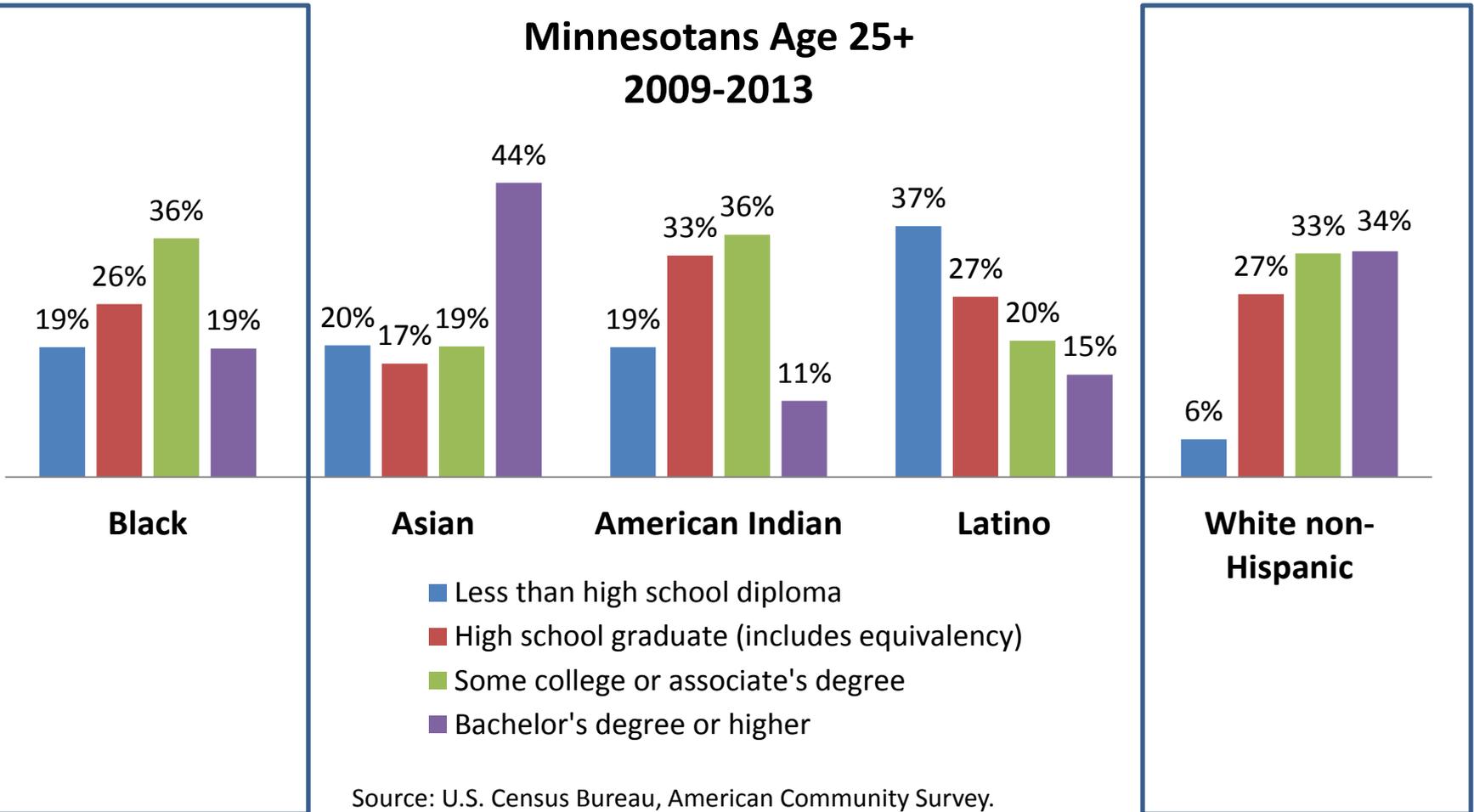
**Median earnings  
Minnesota (all races) 2009-2013**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown. Figures are rounded.

# Educational attainment patterns vary widely across race groups in MN

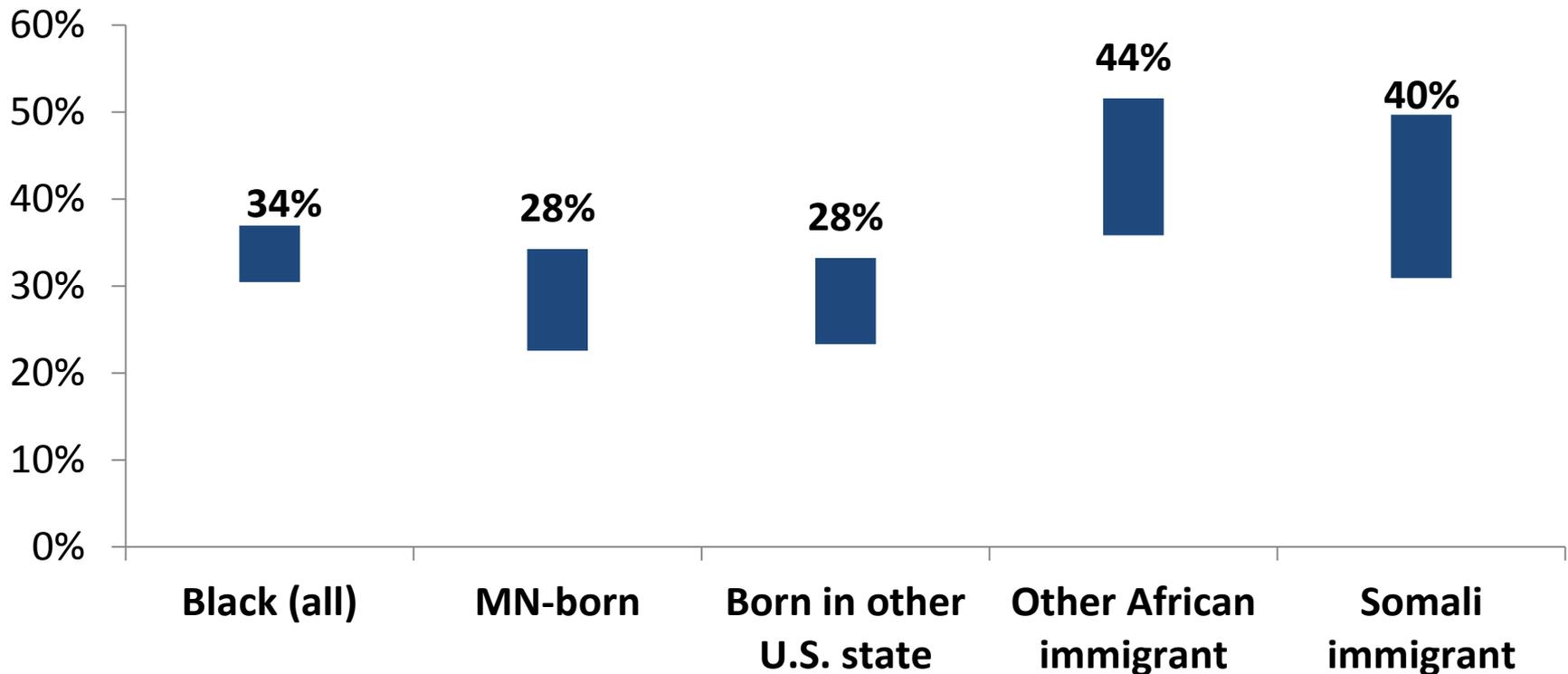
Minnesotans Age 25+  
2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.  
Note: Error margins exist around estimates but are not shown.

# Post-secondary enrollment lower among U.S.-born Black Minnesotans

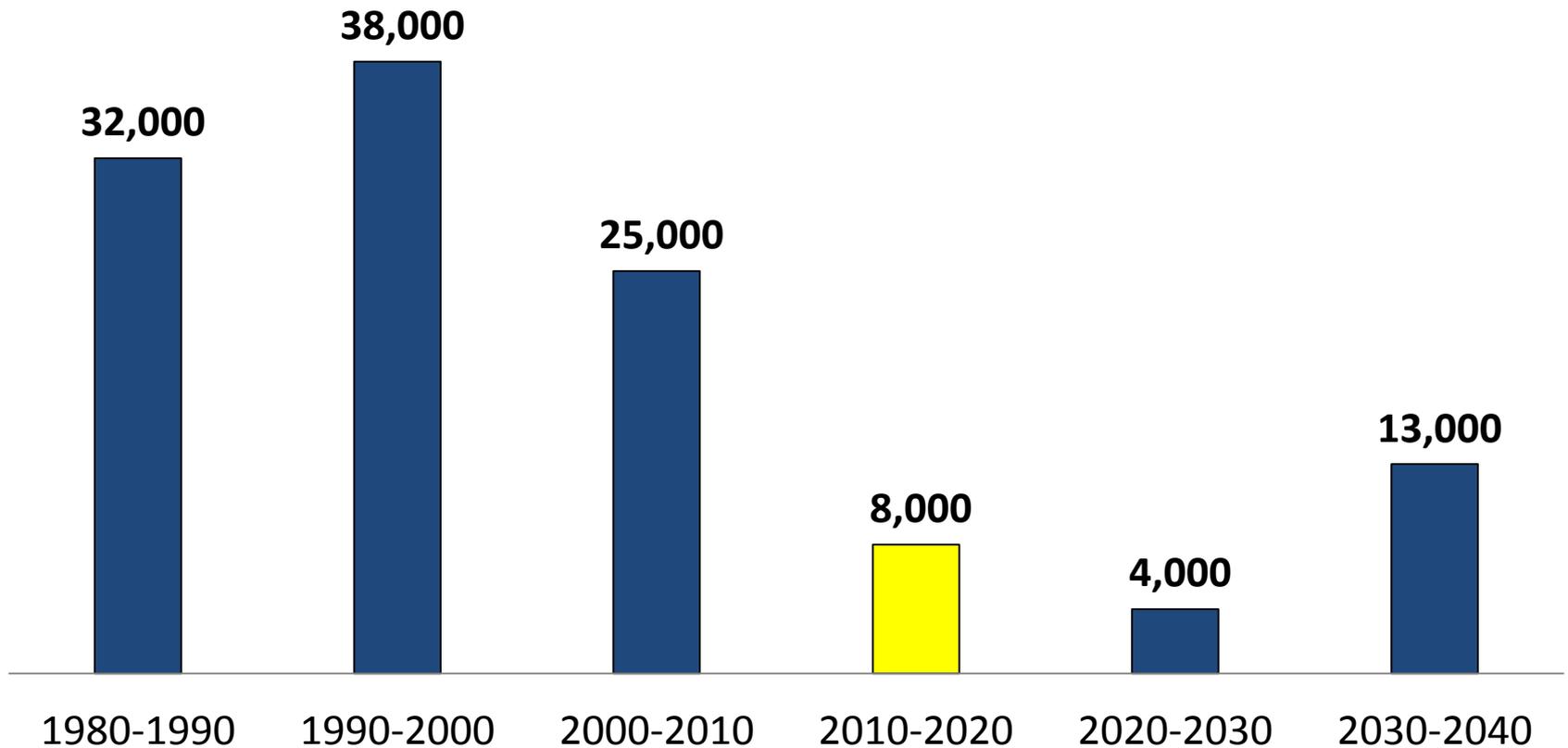
Percent enrolled in post-secondary school  
Age 18-24, Black Minnesotans, 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note: Range shows the 90% confidence interval. Percentage given is the midpoint of the range. Figures are rounded.

# Projected Growth in Labor Force

Minnesota, Annual Average, Ages 16+



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, MN State Demographic Center projections.

# Take aways

- Recent drop in median household income for MN Blacks is not *the* central issue. Census numbers point to: **Persistently high-poverty and low-earnings during a time of economic growth.**
- Black Minnesotans are not all alike – different histories and barriers to economic security
- New era for employers: Where will they find the workers they need?



# Minnesota State Demographic Center

Questions?

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