

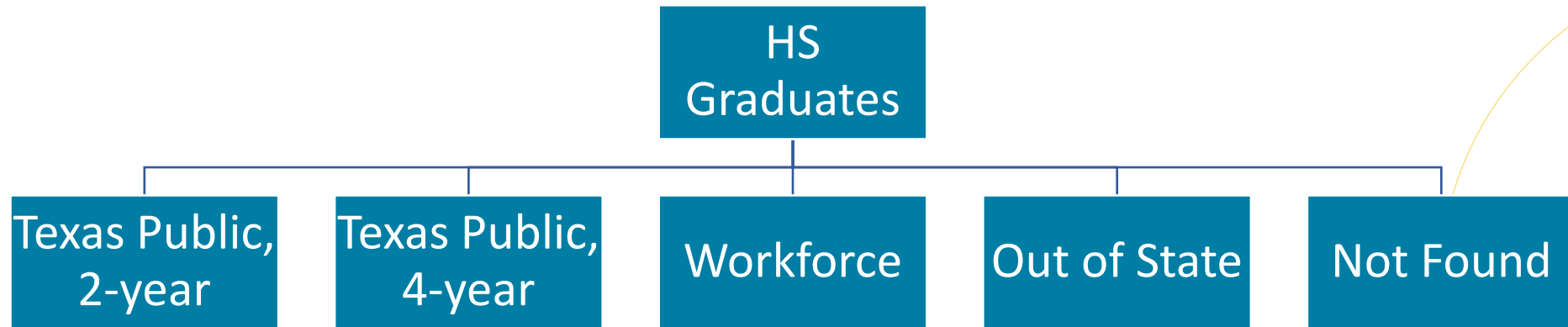
Pathways from High School into the Labor Market

2025 TAIR Presentation

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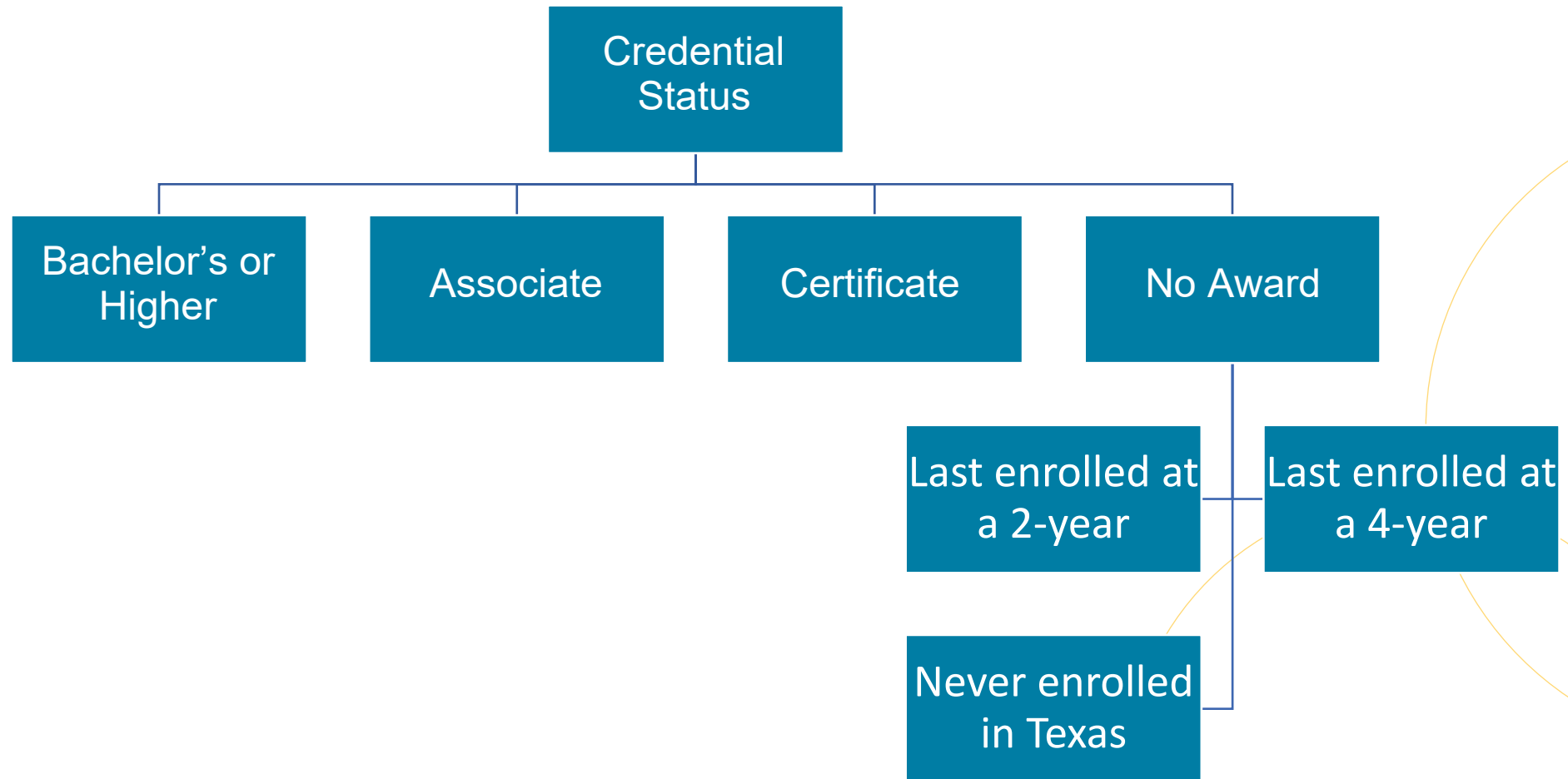
Post - high school gateways



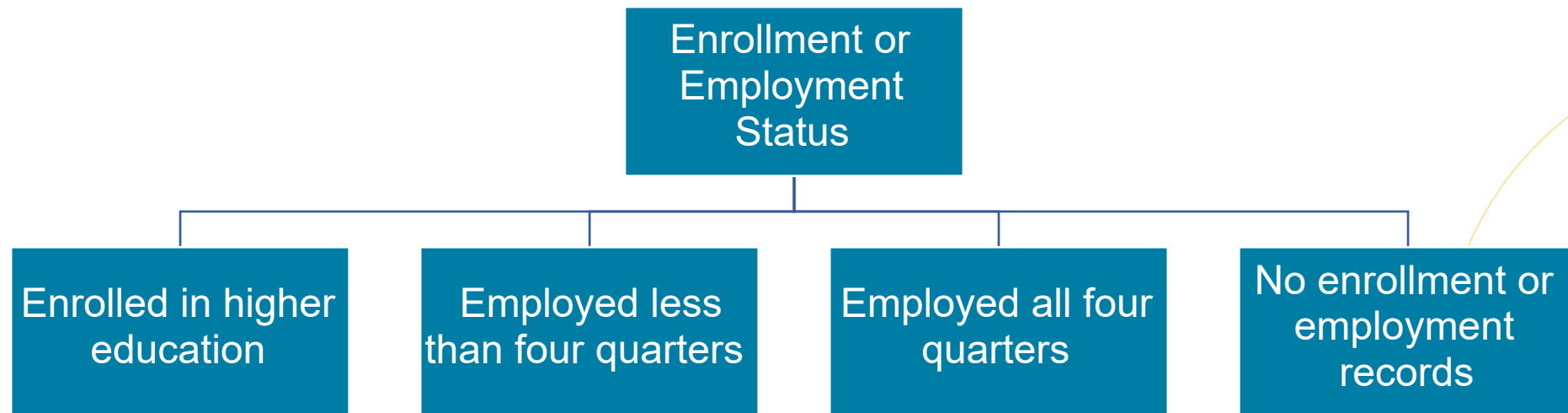
Research Questions

- What are the most common gateways students enter after graduating from high school?
- What percent of students across each gateway earn credentials within six years of their high school graduation?
- What percent of students across each gateway are found still enrolled or in the workforce in year 7?
- What percent of students across each gateway earn a benchmark wage in year 7?

Status after six years



Status in Year 7

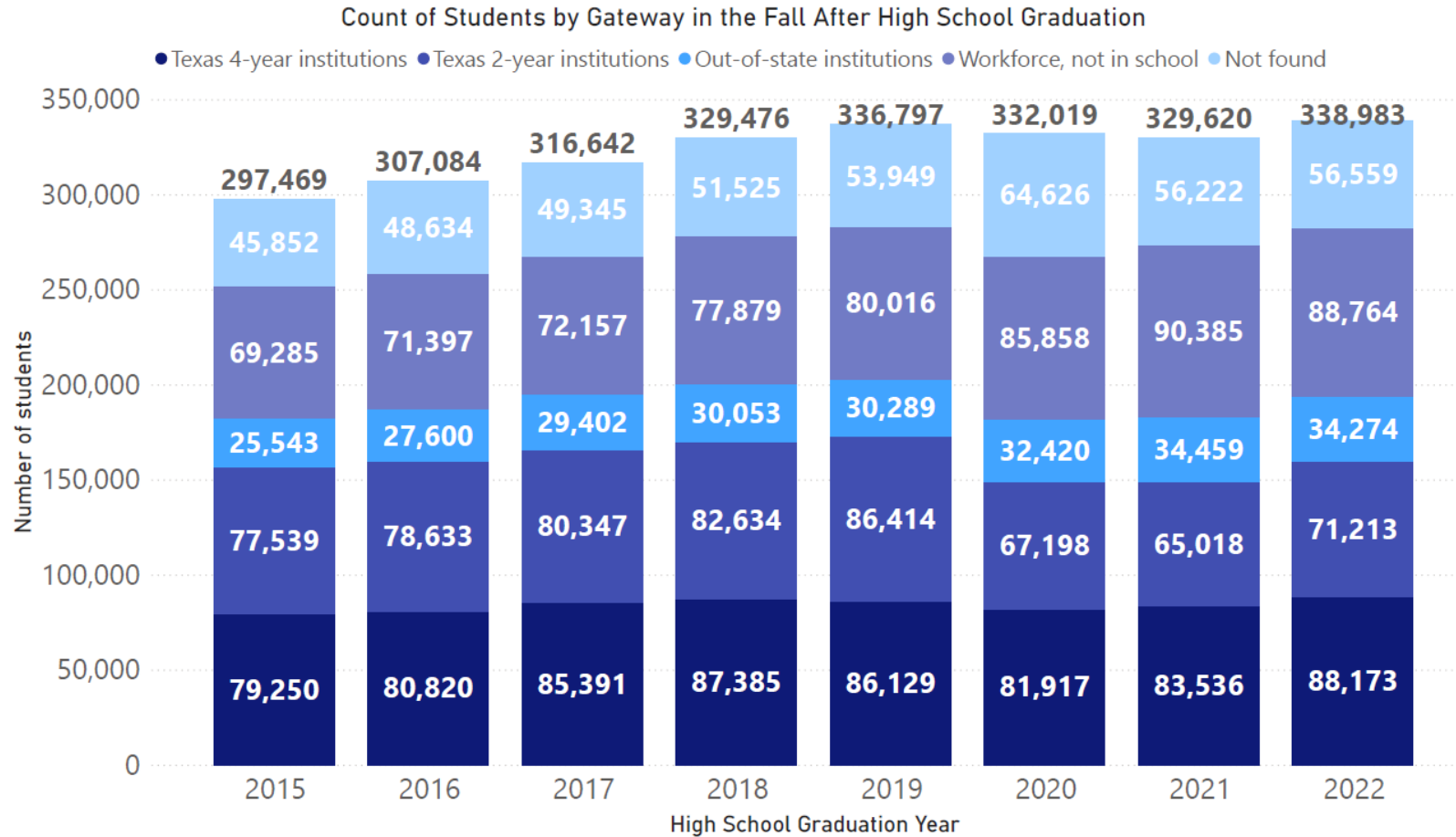


Identifying a benchmark annual wage

- Annual benchmark wage in 2023 for a single -person household, Texas statewide average: \$43,508
- Adjusted in other years using the Consumer Price Index
- Actual cost of living varies by county or metropolitan statistical area
- Source: MIT Living Wage calculator
<https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/48>

Gateways after High School

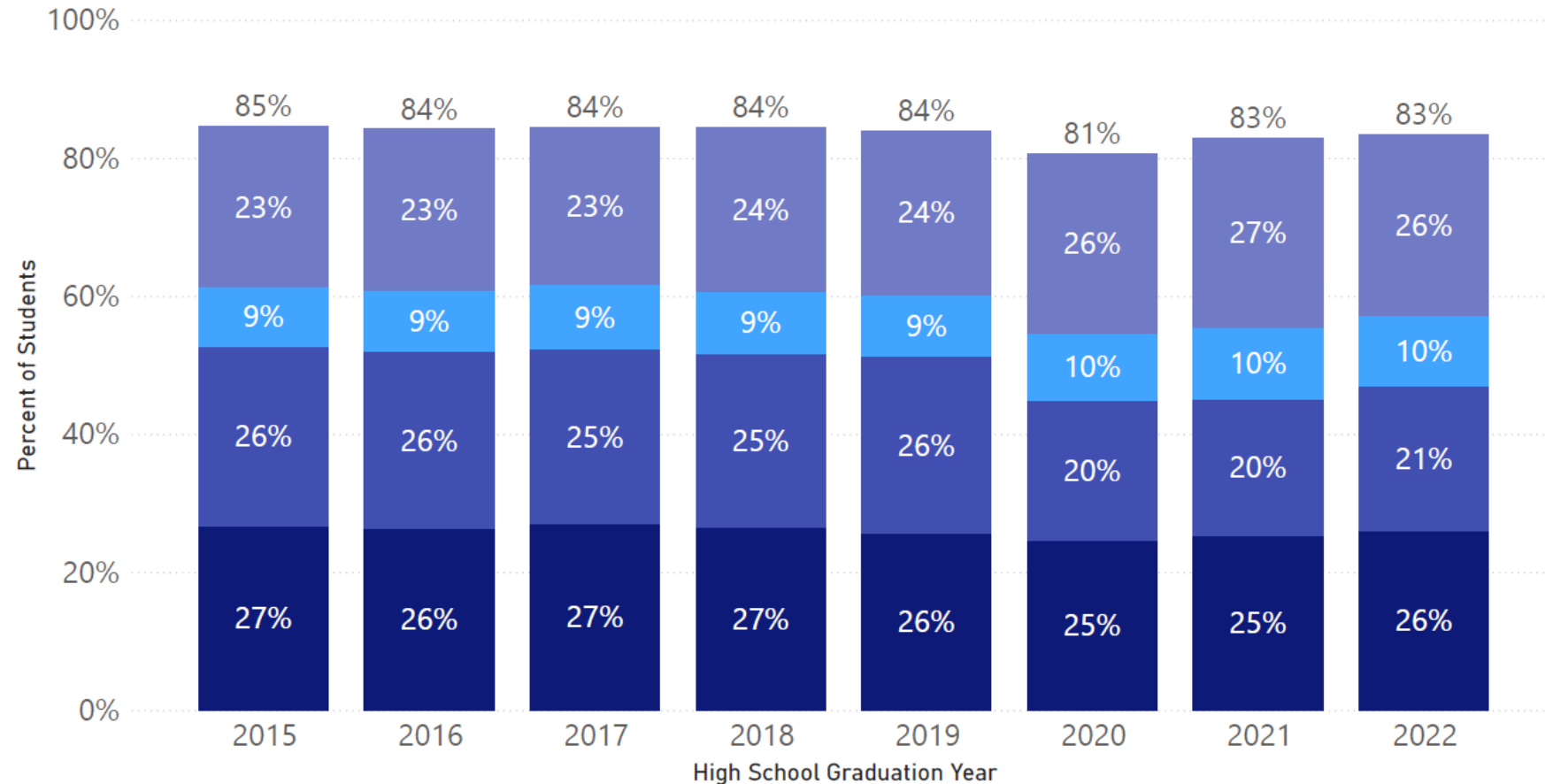
The number of high school graduates entering the workforce directly increased after the pandemic



...while still over half of students entered higher education in recent years

Percent of Students by Gateway in the Fall After High School Graduation

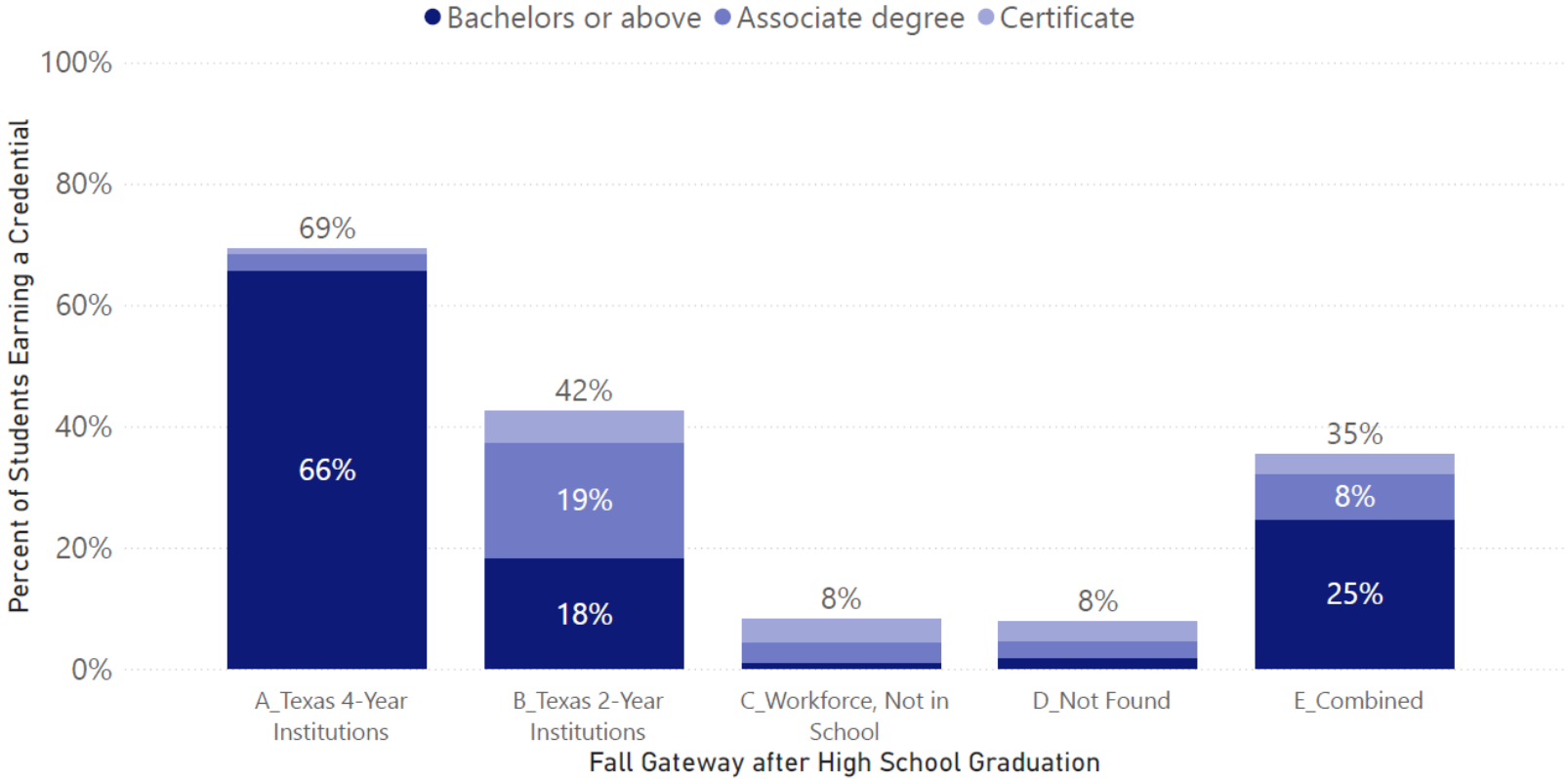
● Texas 4-year institutions ● Texas 2-year institutions ● Out-of-state institutions ● Workforce, not in school



Status after six years

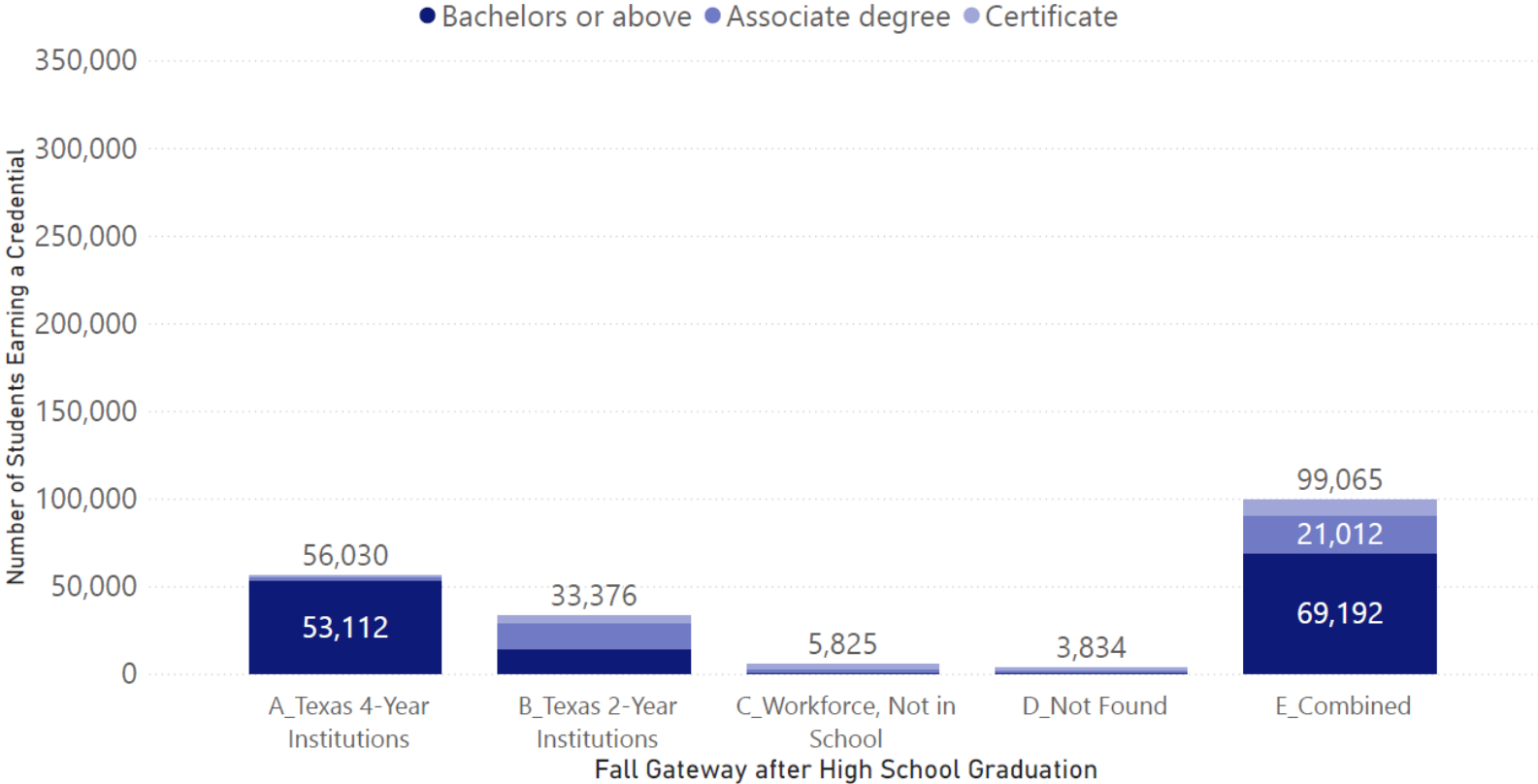
High school graduates who enrolled directly in higher education were more likely to earn a credential

Degrees and Certificates Earned in Six Years by 2016 High School Graduates
Percent of Students by Gateway



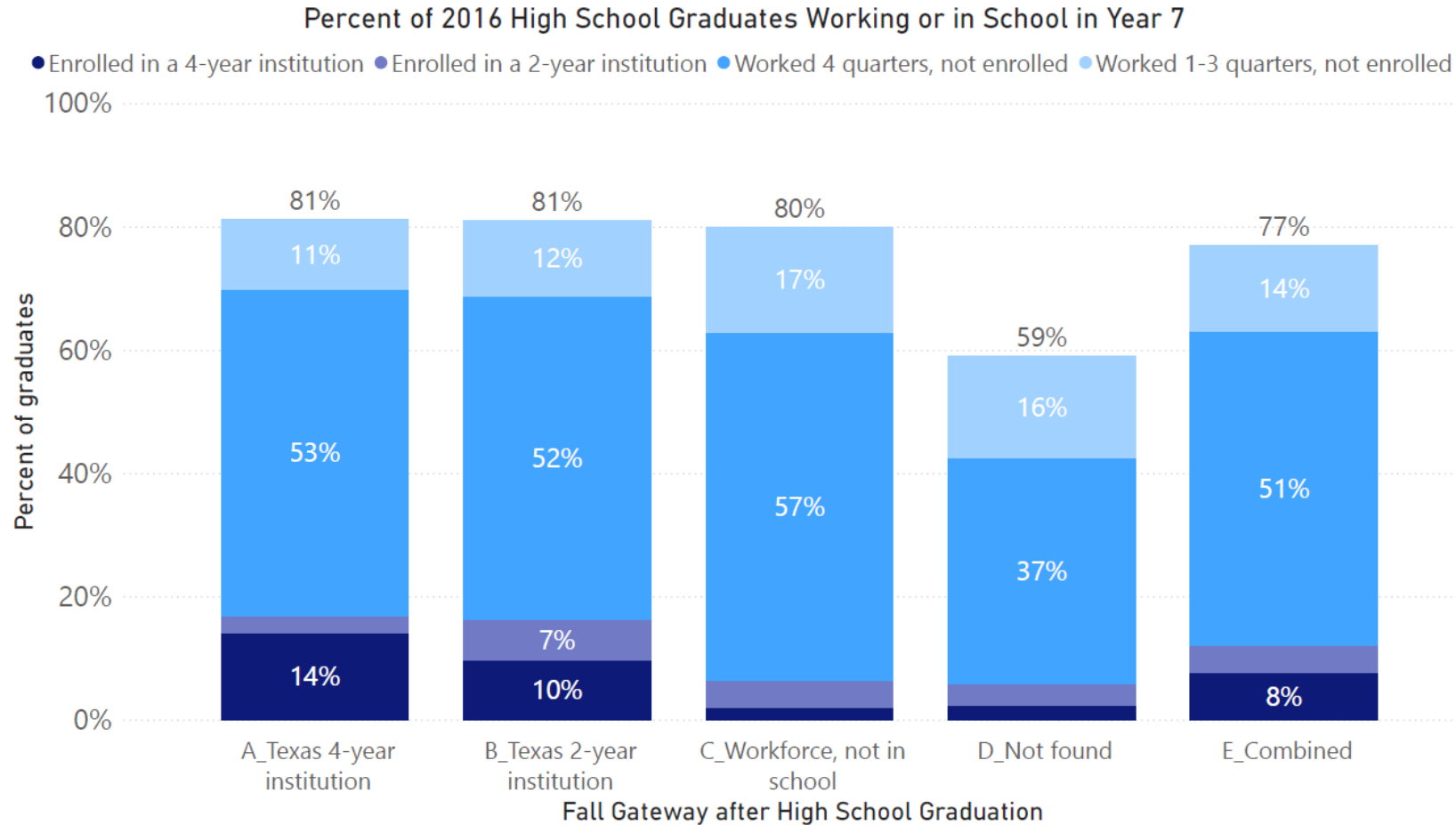
Enrollees in four-year institutions accounted for most of the credentials earned

Degrees and Certificates Earned in Six Years by 2016 High School Graduates
Count of Students by Gateway



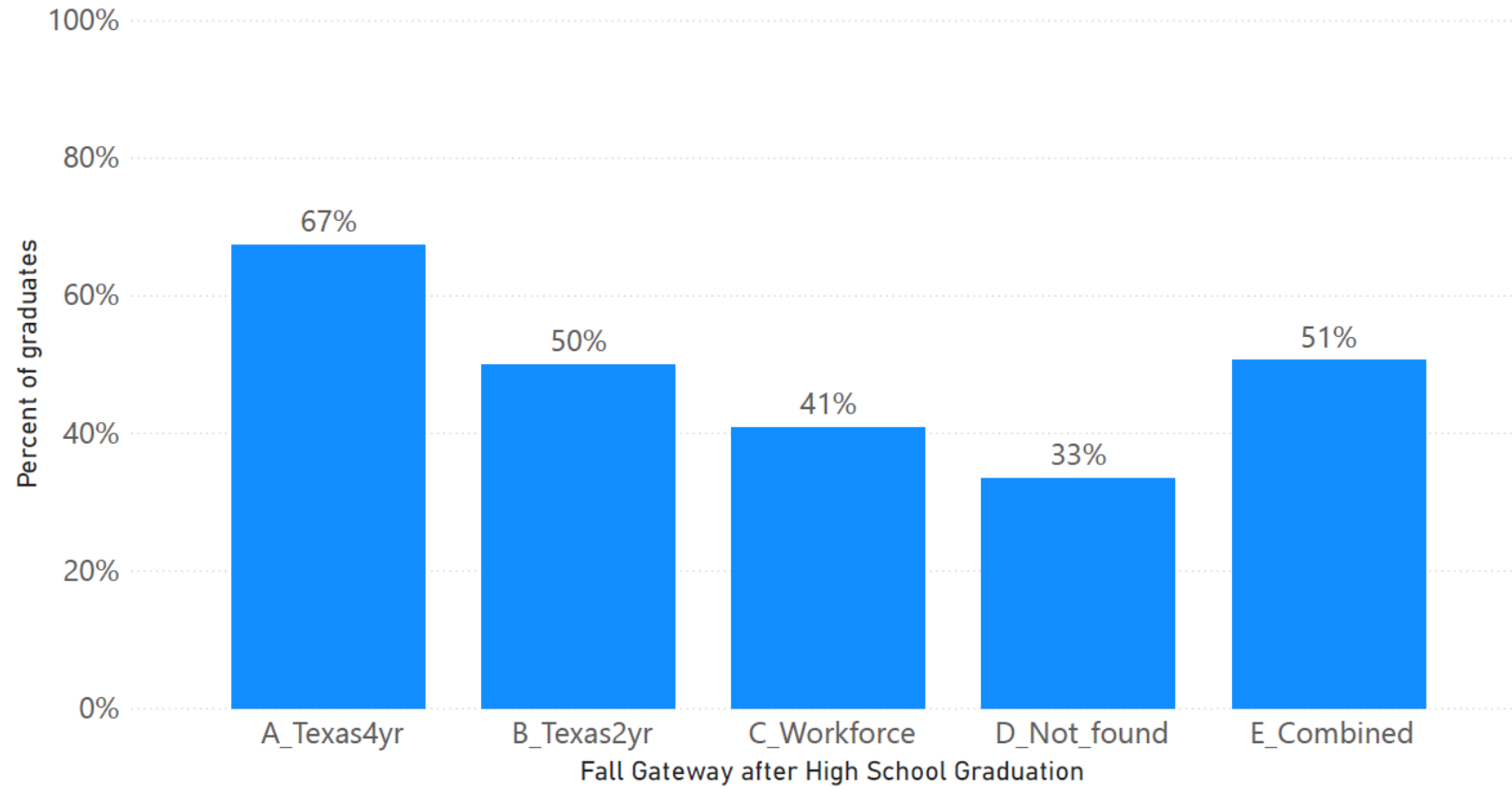
Employment and wages in Year 7

Just over half of students in the first three gateways worked all 4 quarters in Year 7



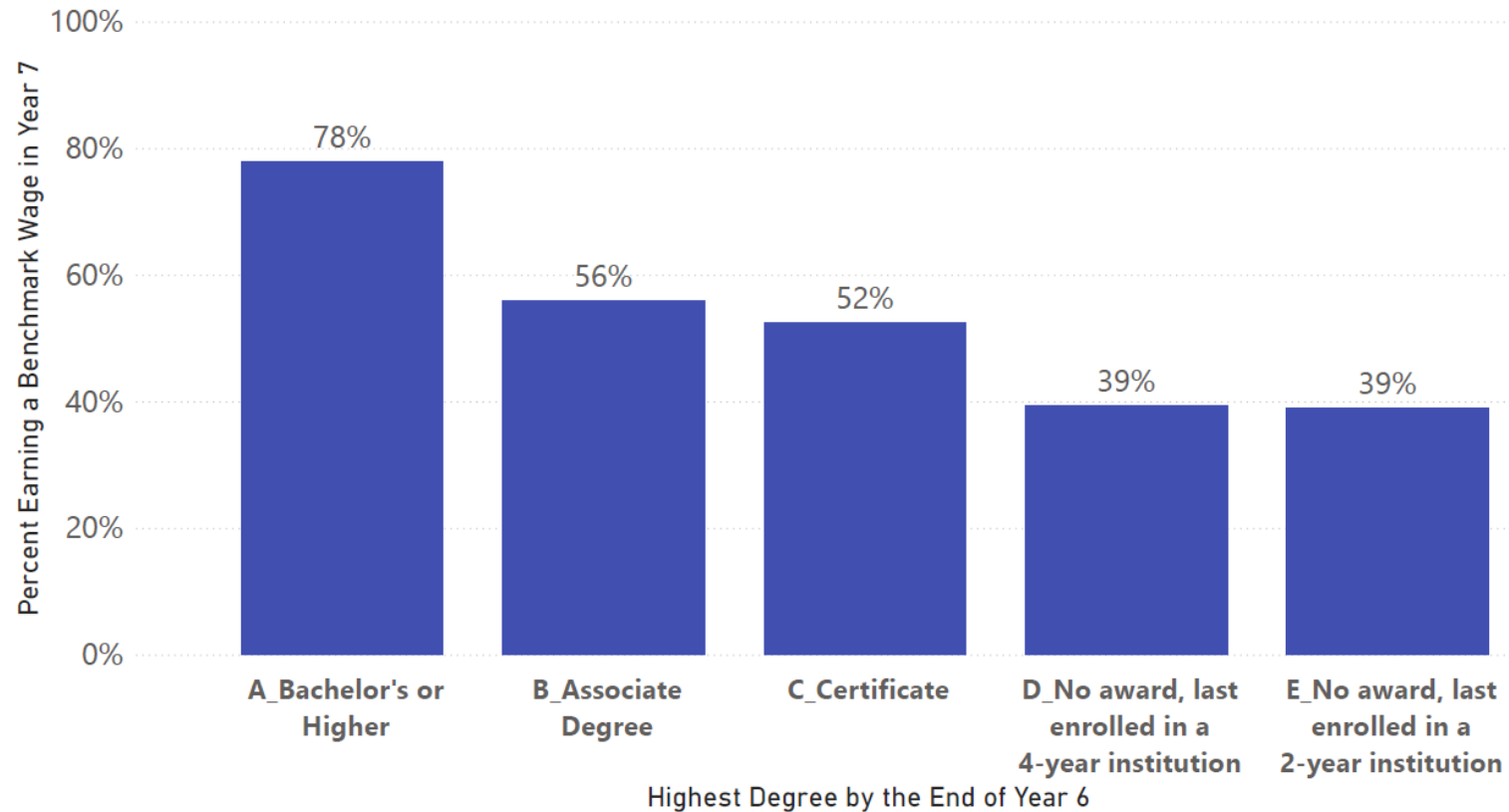
Direct -to -higher education gateways gave HS graduates the best chance of earning a benchmark wage

Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning the Benchmark Wage or Higher
Graduates Who Were Employed All Four Quarters in Year 7



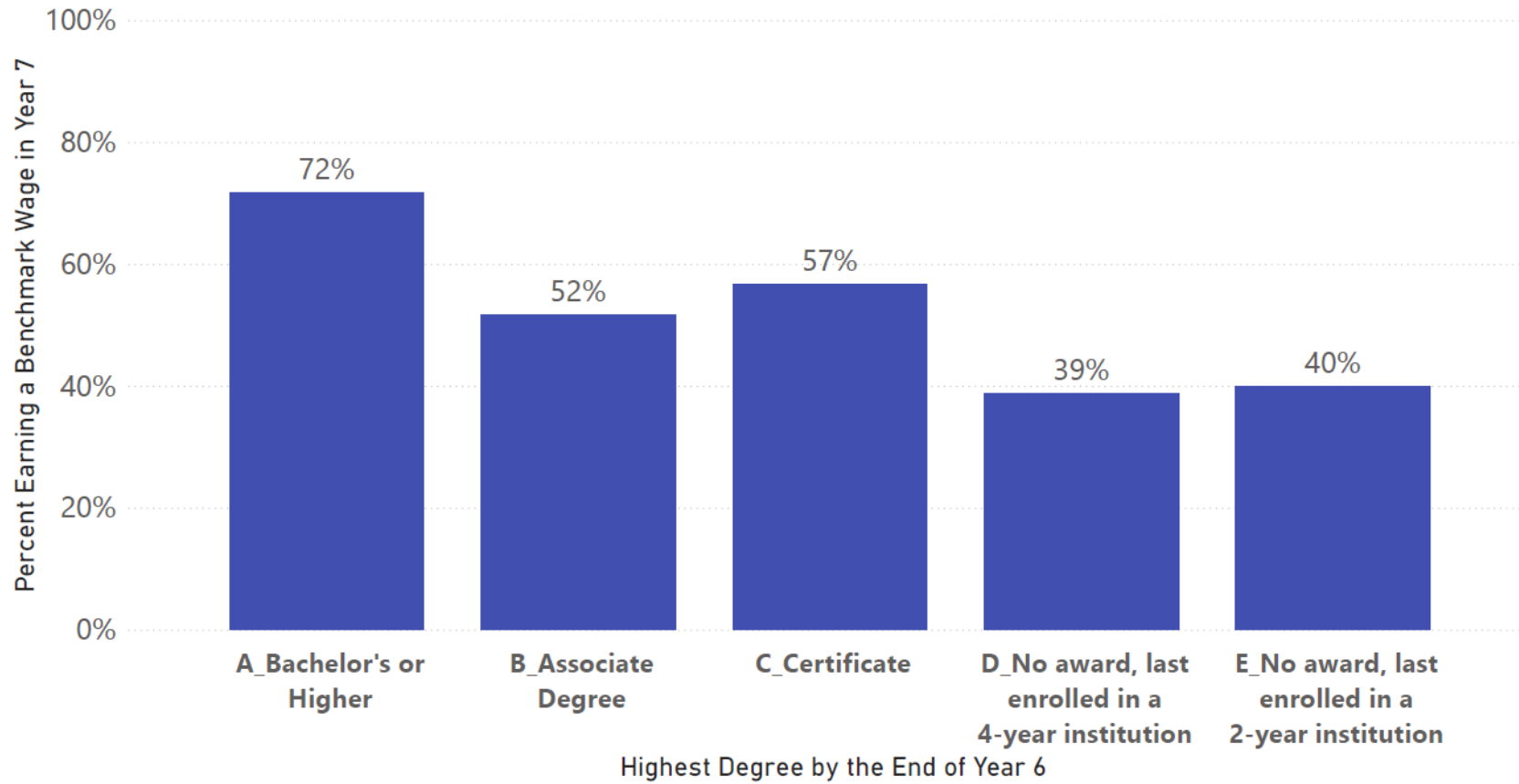
The 4 -Year Institution Bachelor's Degree Path Offered a Good Chance of a Benchmark Wage

Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning a Benchmark Wage in Year 7
Texas 4-Year Gateway Students by Year 6 Degree Status



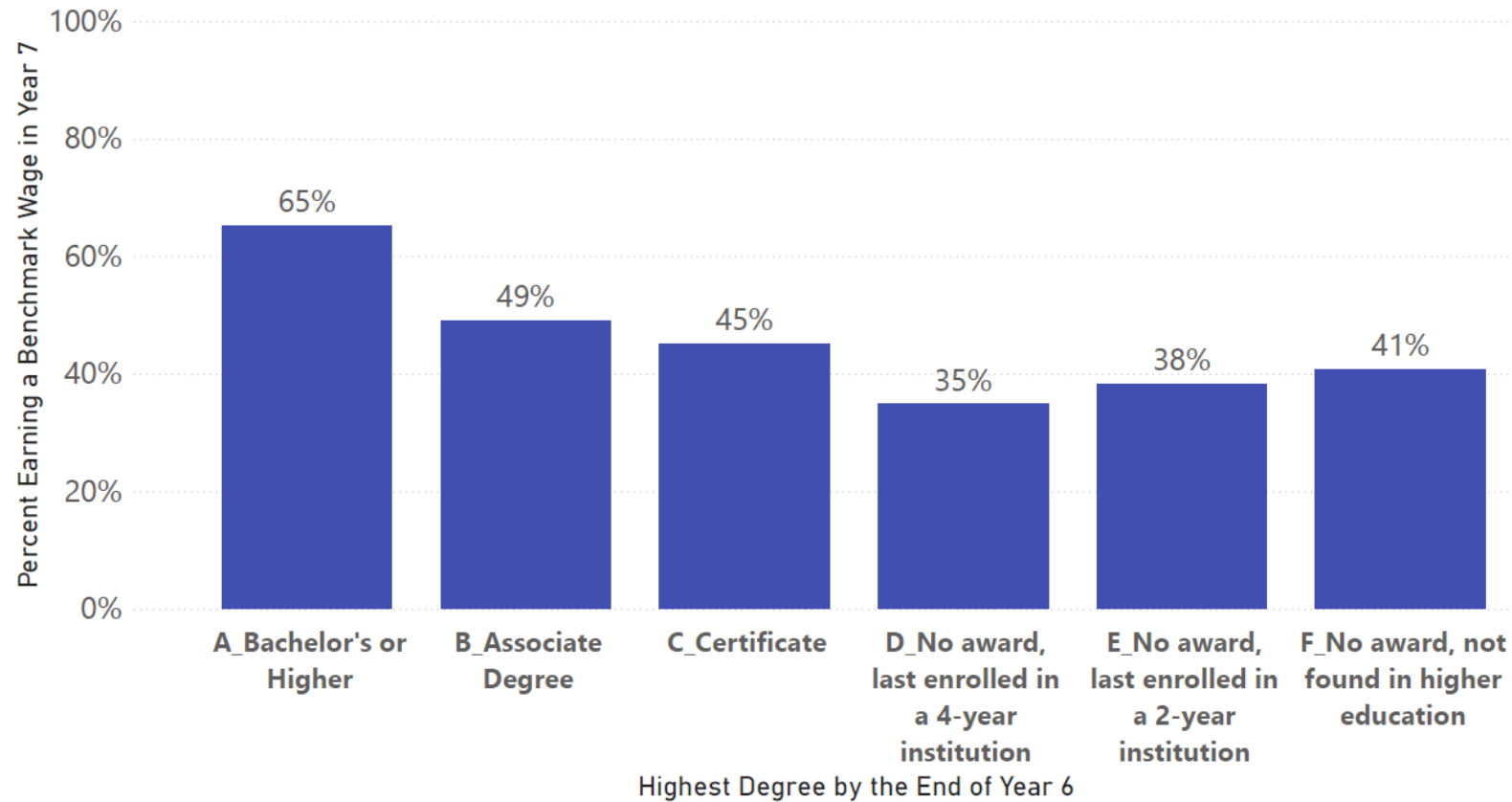
Transferring or Earning a Certificate Were Good Options for 2-Year Institution Entrants

Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning a Benchmark Wage in Year 7
Texas 2-Year Gateway Students by Year 6 Degree Status



Direct -to -Workforce Students Did Better if They Went Back for a Degree or Certificate

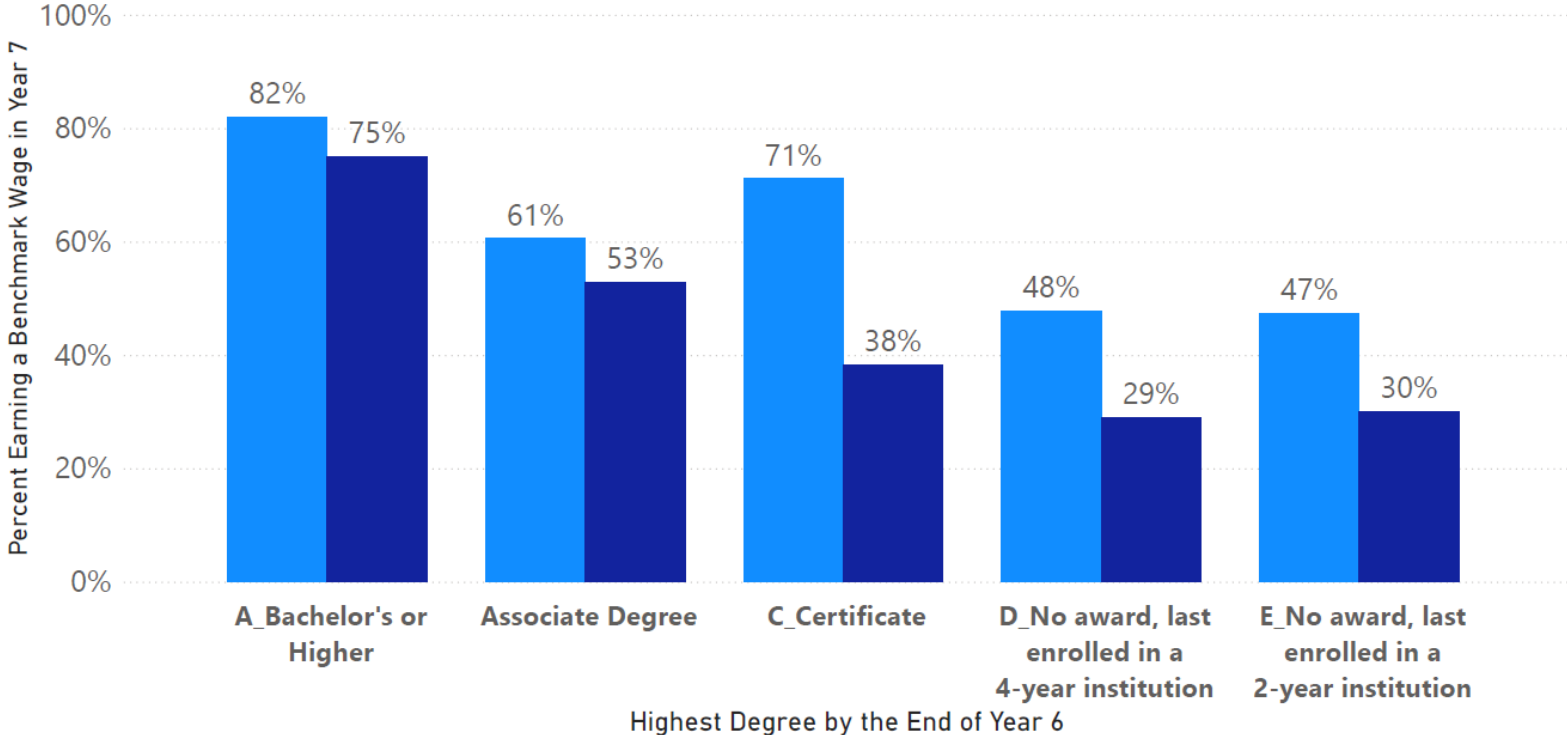
Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning a Benchmark Wage in Year 7
Workforce Gateway Students by Year 6 Degree Status



For HS graduates passing through the 4-year gateway, bachelor's and associate recipients had lower gender gaps

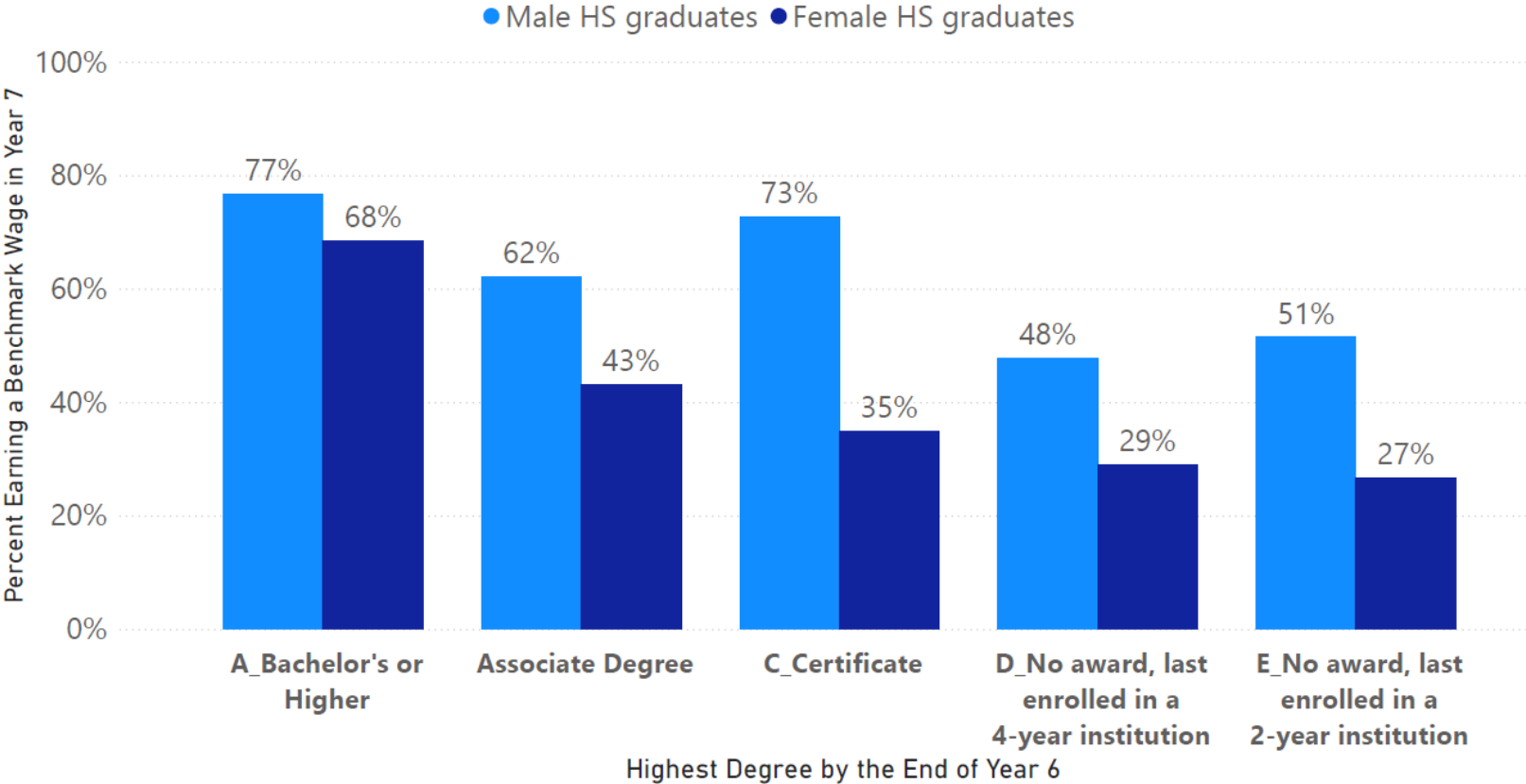
Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning a Benchmark Wage in Year 7
Texas 4-Year Gateway Students by Year 6 Degree Status

● Male HS graduates ● Female HS graduates



For HS graduates passing through the 2-year gateway, bachelor's recipients had the lowest gender gap

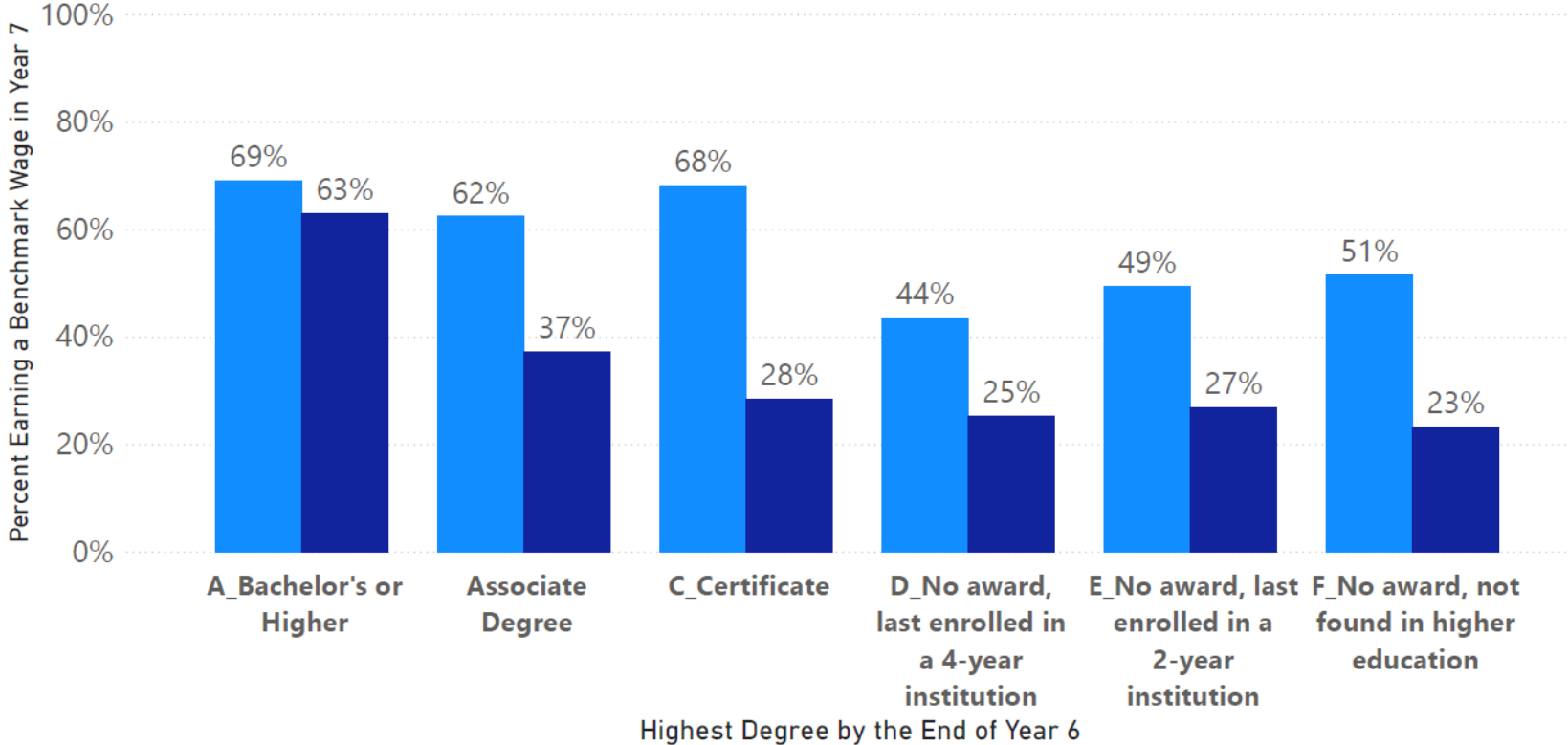
Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning a Benchmark Wage in Year 7
Texas 2-Year Gateway Students by Year 6 Degree Status



For direct workforce entrants as for the other gateways, certificate earners had high gender gaps

Percent of 2016 High School Graduates Earning a Benchmark Wage in Year 7
Workforce Gateway Students by Year 6 Degree Status

● Male HS graduates ● Female HS graduates



Key Takeaways

- Few direct-to-workforce students returned for a degree in six years.
- The 4-year pathway still produces more credentials than the 2-to-4-year pathway.
- The 4-year pathway still provides more opportunities to earn a benchmark wage. (There are other good pathways, but fewer students use them).

Key Takeaways (cont.)

- Certificate holders often do better than associate degree holders, likely because their credentials are more likely to be occupation-specific.
- Gender gaps are largest for certificate earners and smallest for bachelor's degree earners.
- The likely cause of gender gaps for certificate earners is the greater concentration of male earners in the trades, and of females in health care/caregiver occupations.

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