



Undergraduate Student Debt Levels in Kentucky

Five-Year Trends for Undergraduate Degree and Credential Completers at Public Universities and KCTCS

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Balancing Student Debt: Accessibility vs. Management

Balancing Student Debt

- **Student loans provide:**
 - access to higher education
 - reasonable borrowing options
 - potential for increased economic mobility
- **However, student debt loads can swell, impacting enrollment and completion, if not well managed.**

Student Debt Initiatives

- CPE, campuses, and lawmakers collaborate to **increase financial literacy and access to financial aid, moderate college costs, and improve the efficiency and efficacy of the student experience.**
 - Students' Right to Know
 - Futuriti
 - FAFSA Days and financial literacy
 - Time to degree decreasing systemwide
 - Annual tuition increase limits

Contrary to public discourse, average debt loads and the proportion of graduates with debt are declining at Kentucky public institutions.

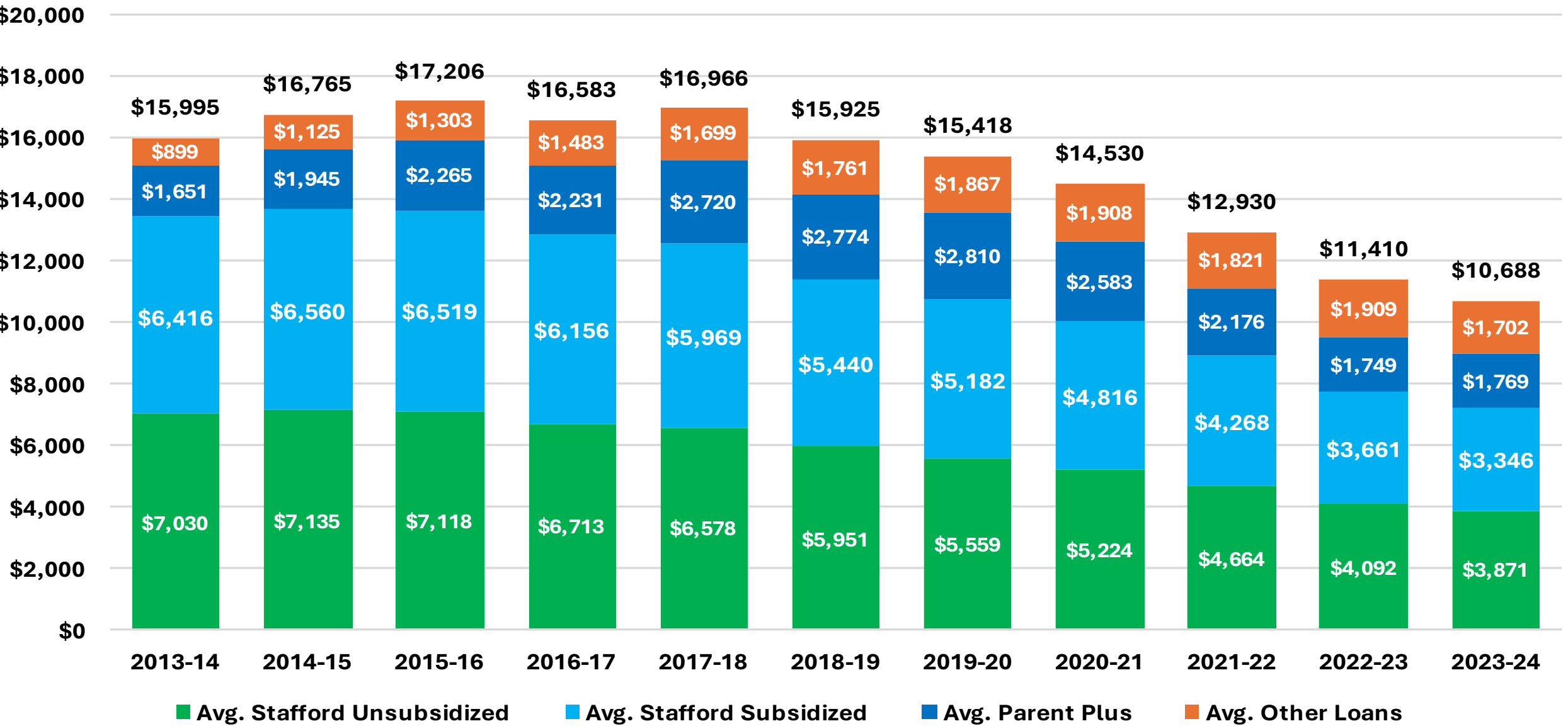
Methodology

Measuring Undergraduate Debt

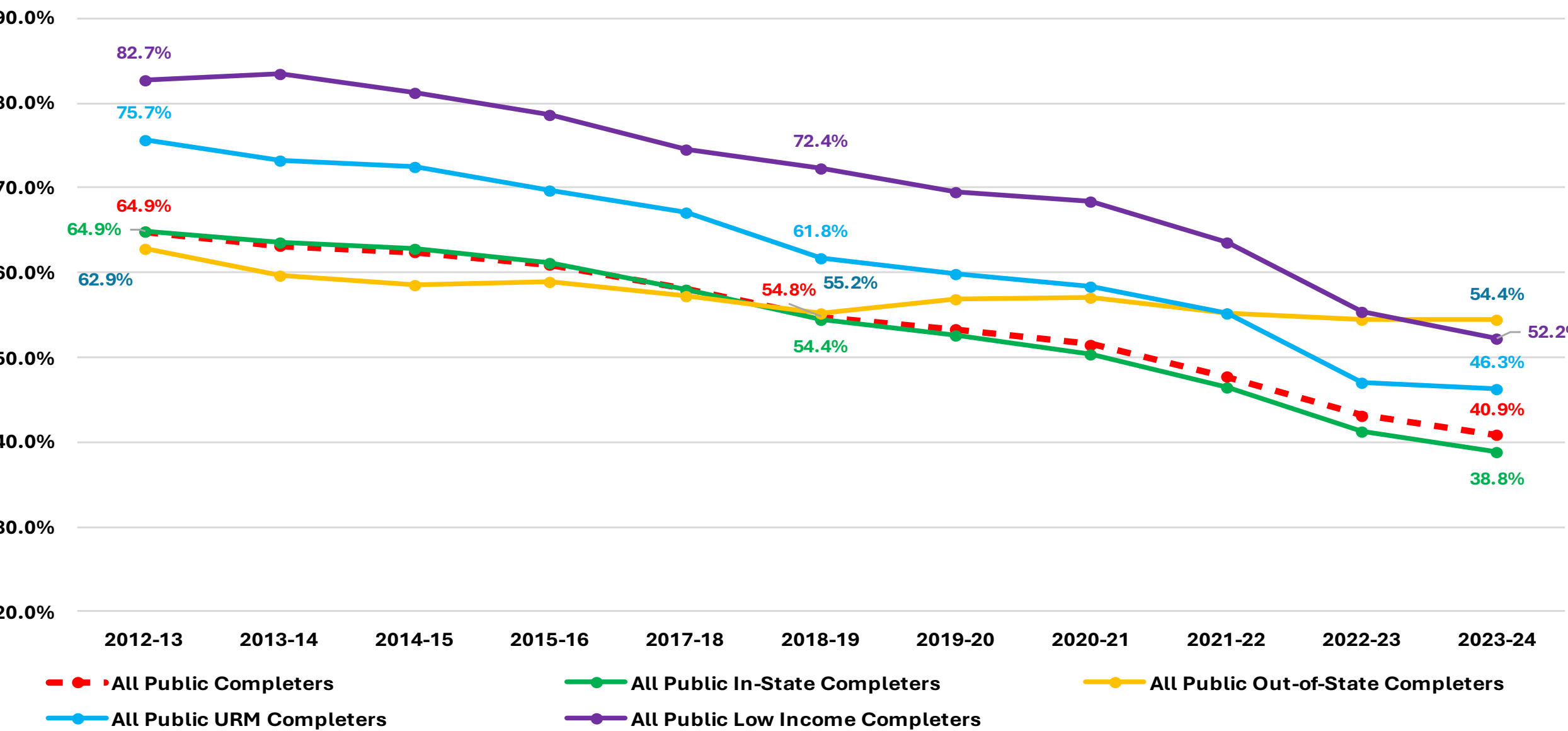
- We measure graduate debt over the last decade as the total debt accumulated by each graduate from first enrollment through the end of the academic year in which they earned their **highest credential on record**.
- Using this methodology, we find conclusive evidence that **average debt at graduation** and the **proportion of graduates with debt are declining across sector**.
- In our discussion, we will focus on **five-year change** for consistency across sector, highlighting other important changes as relevant.

All Public Sector Completers

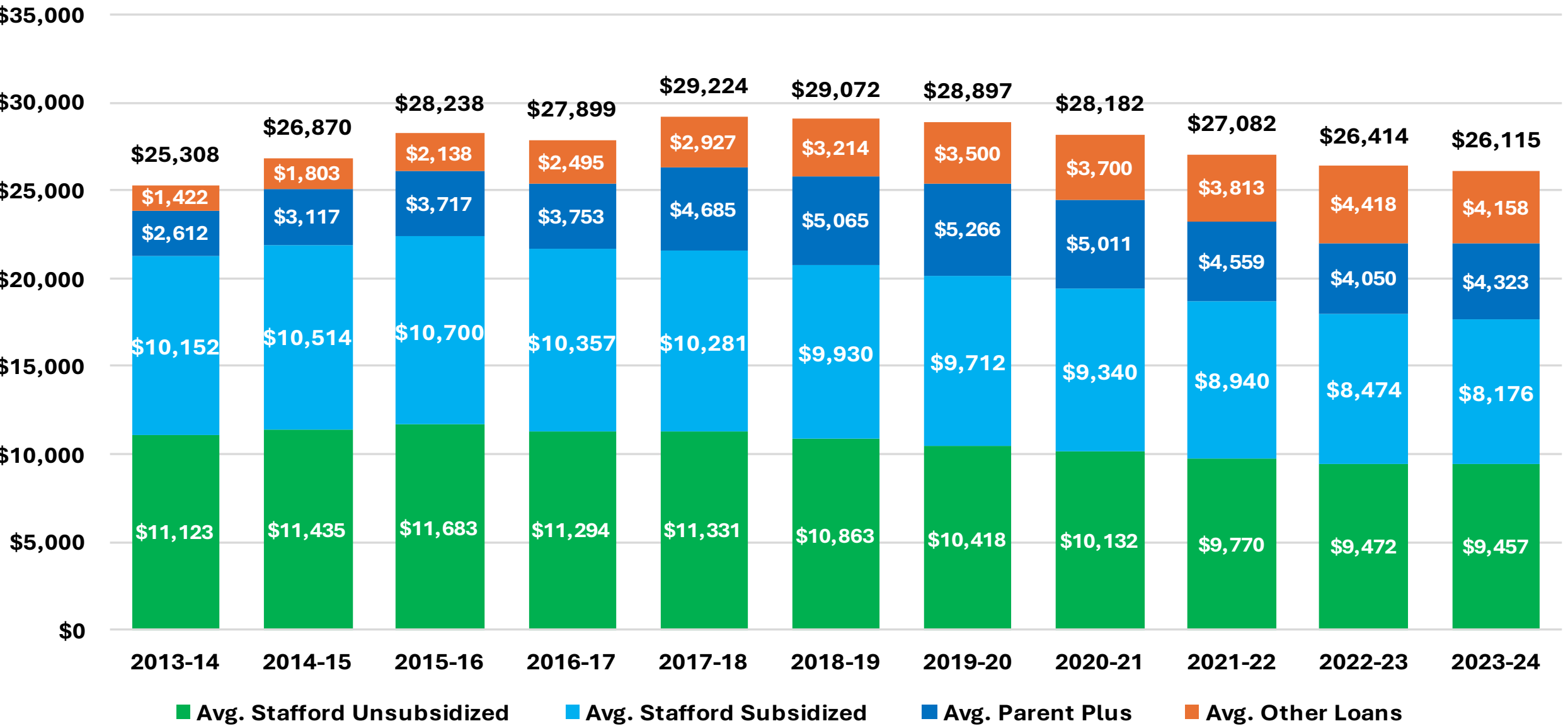
All Public Institutions – All Grads



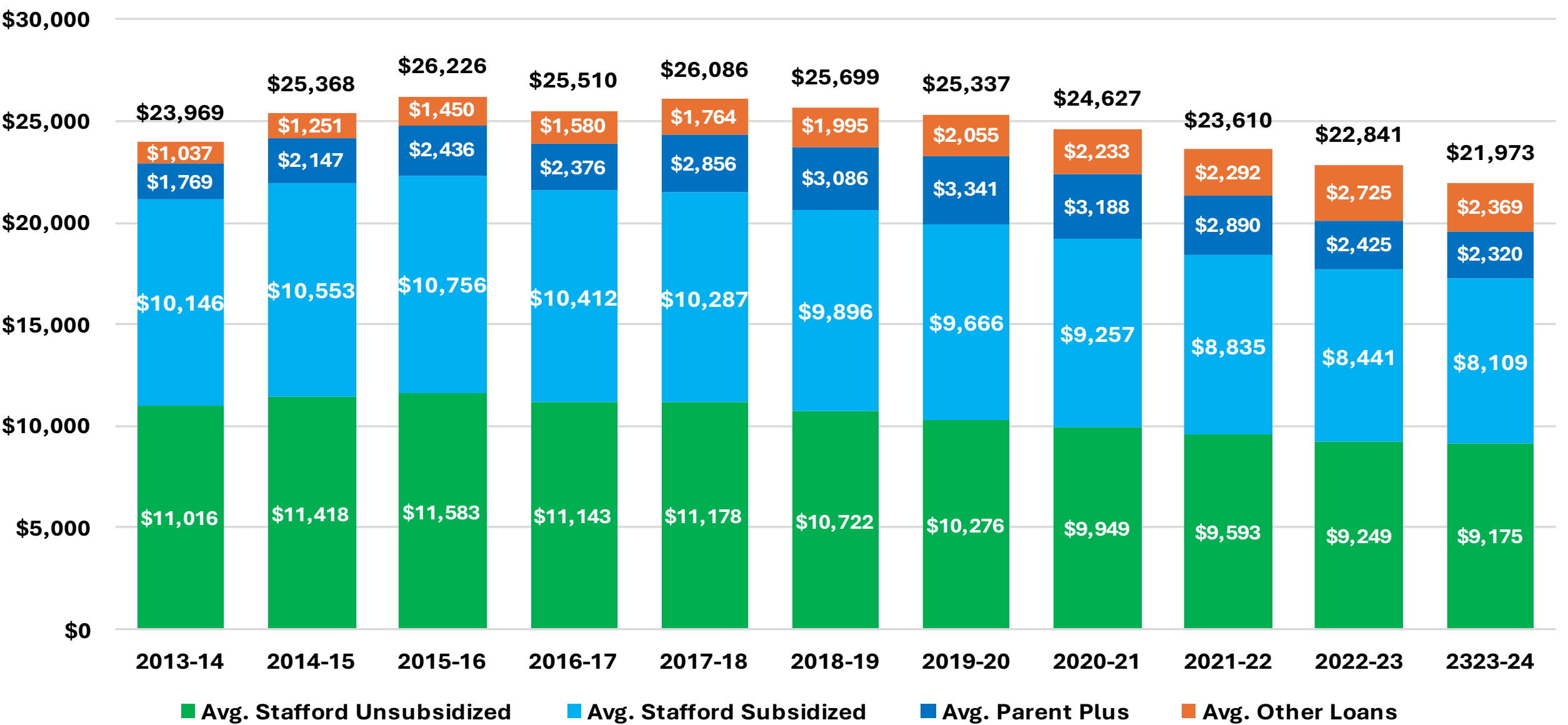
All Public Institutions – Proportions of Grads with Debt



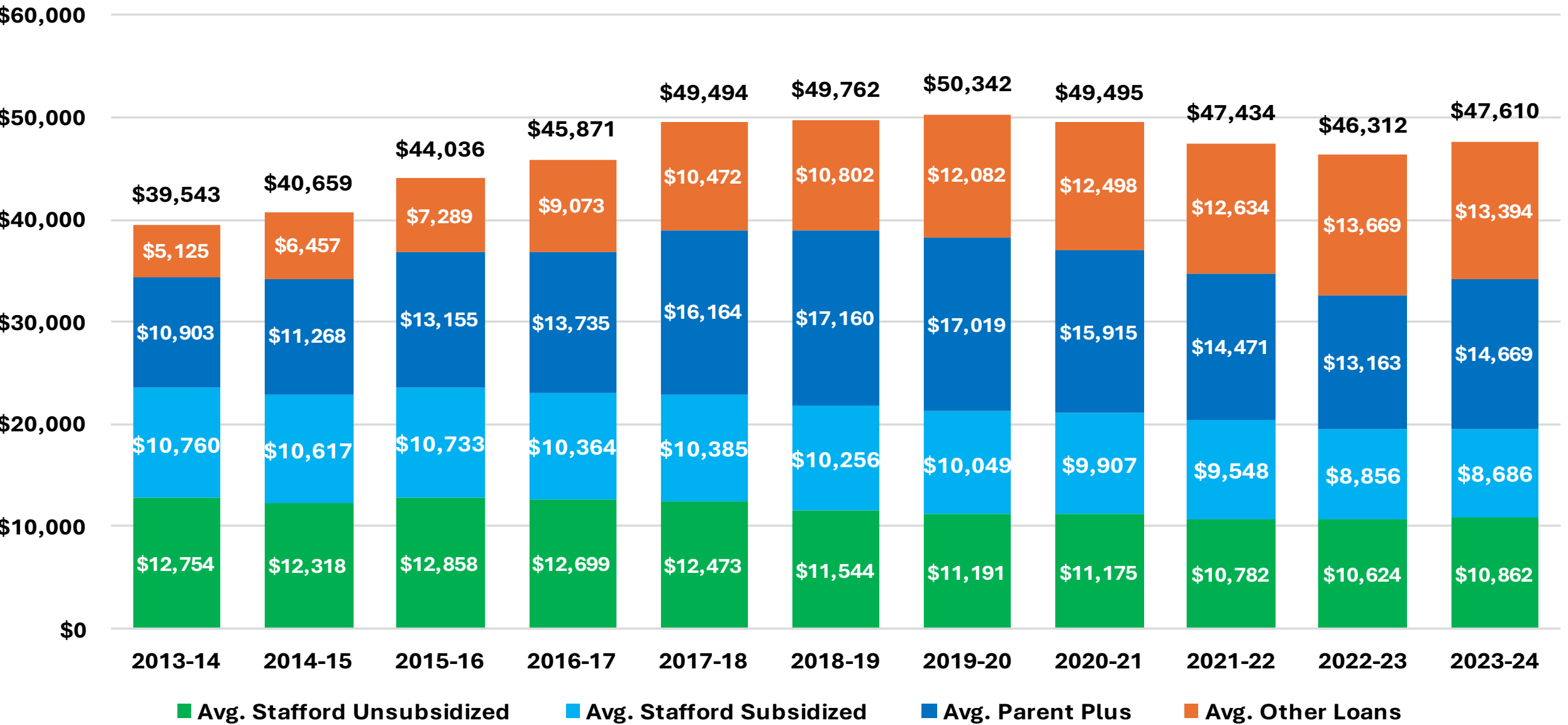
All Public Institutions – All Grads with Debt



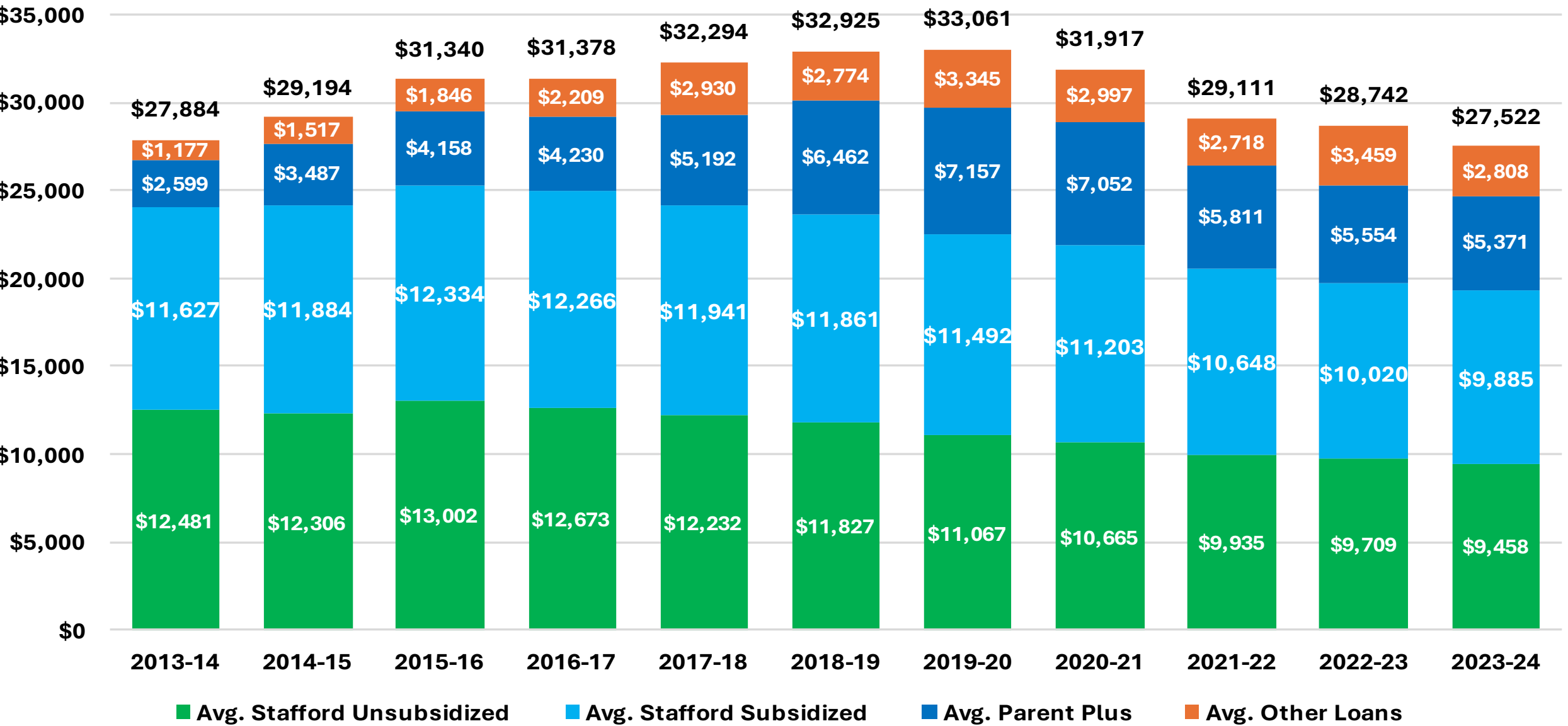
All Public Institutions – In-State Grads with Debt



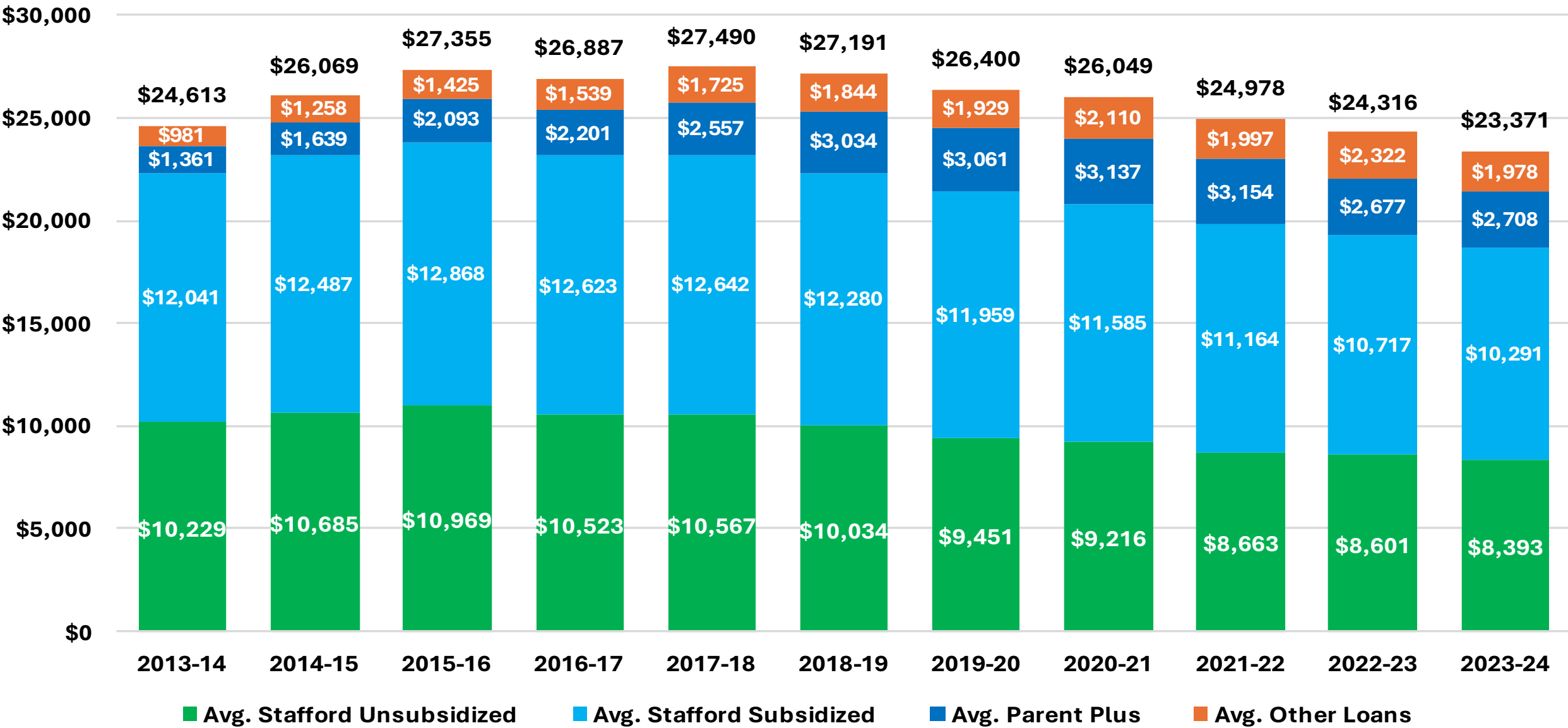
All Public Institutions – Out-of-State Grads with Debt



All Public Institutions – URM Grads with Debt

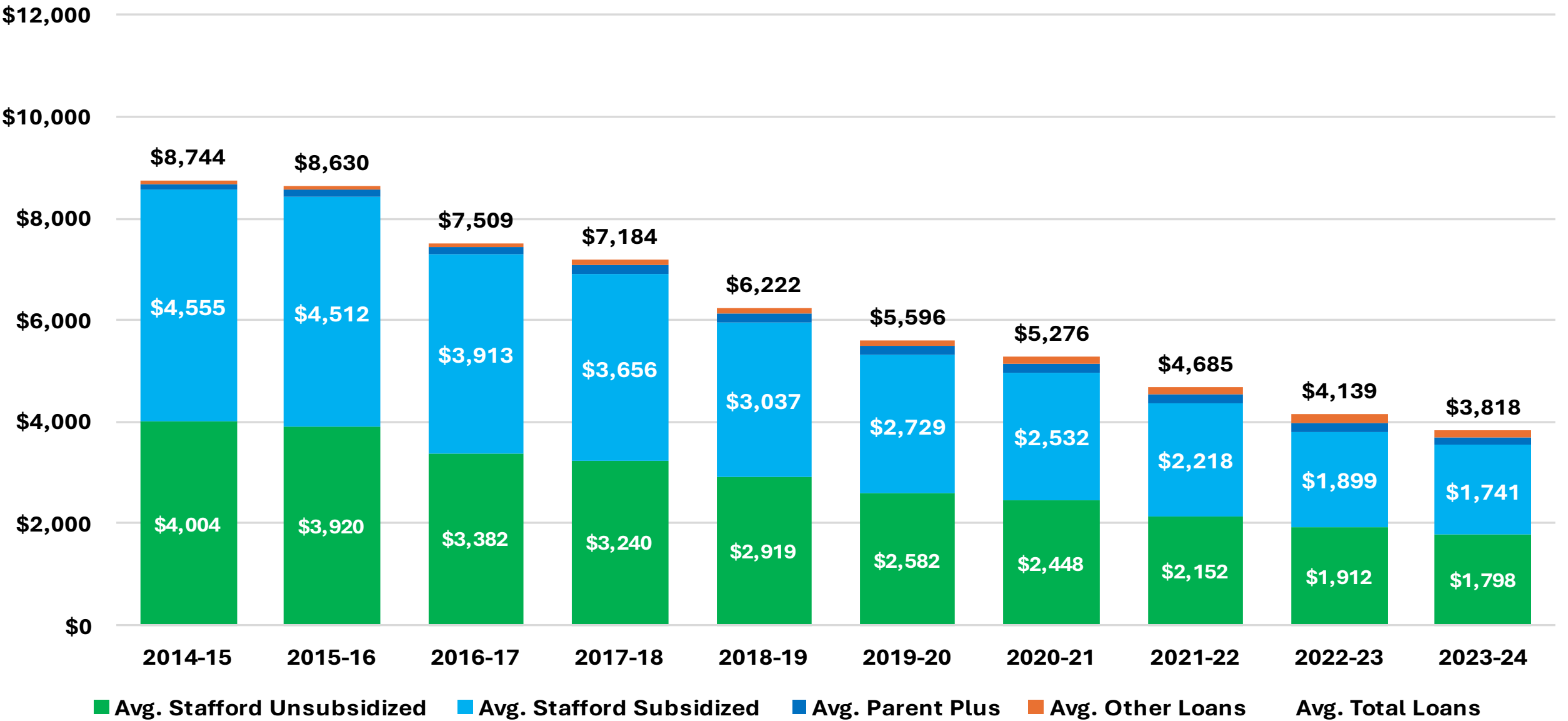


All Public Institutions – Low Income Grads with Debt

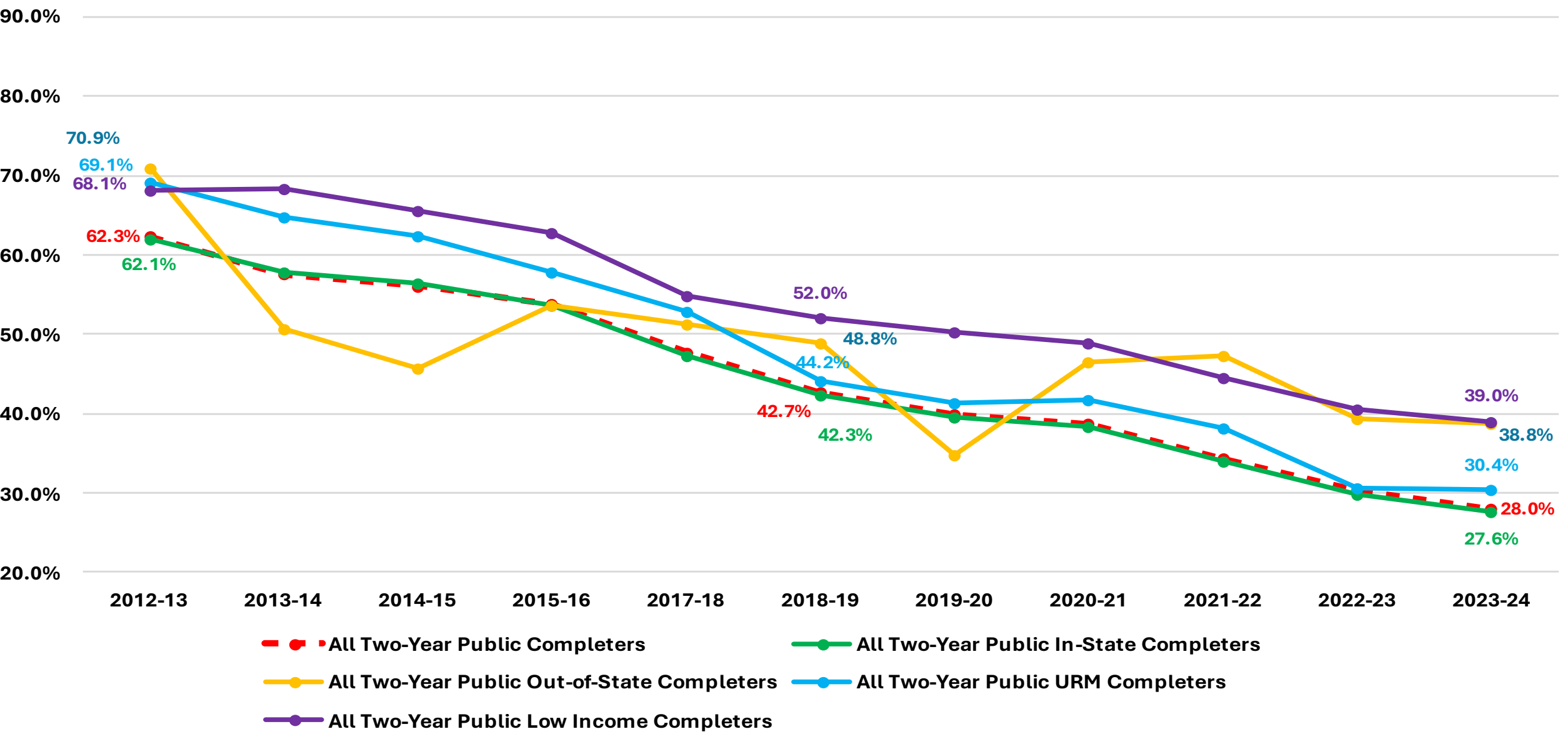


KCTCS Completers

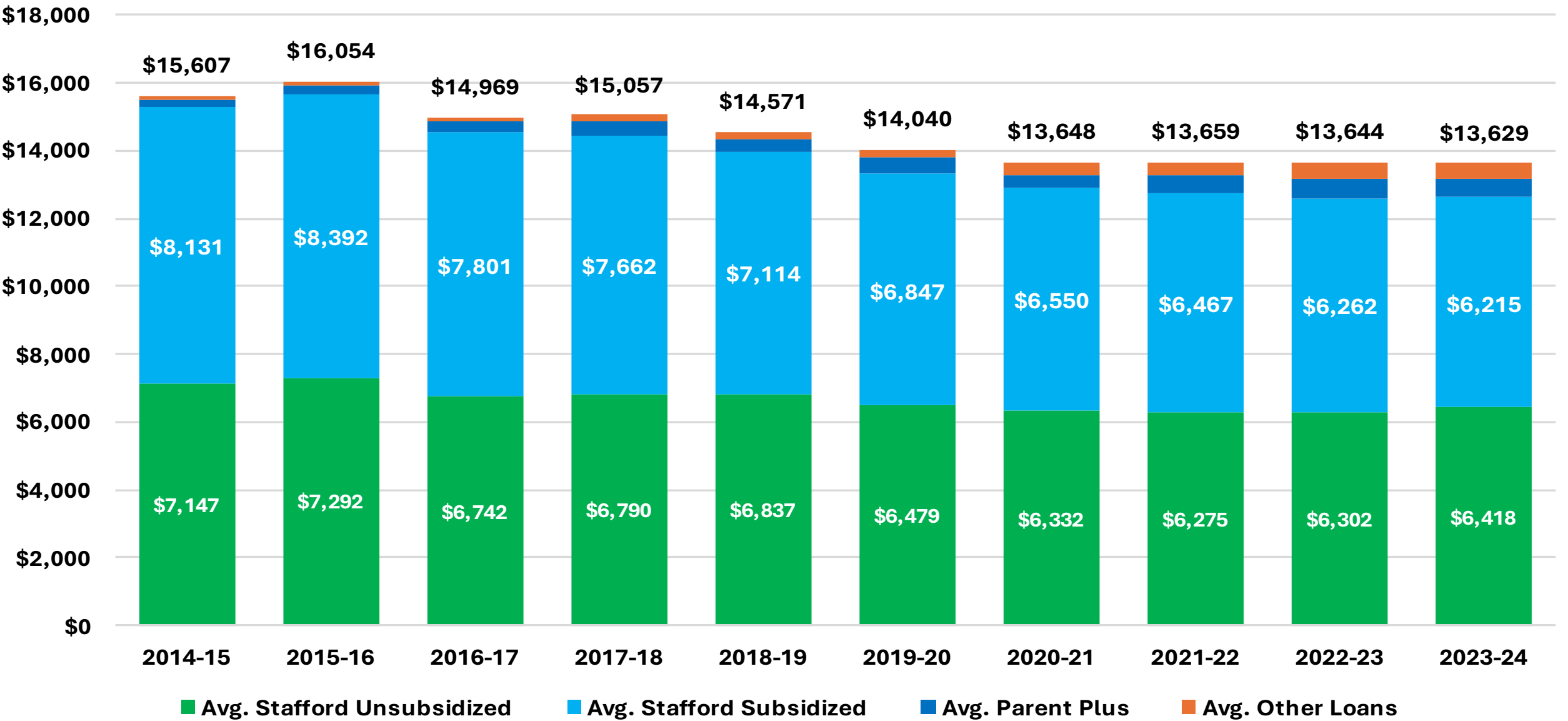
KCTCS – All Grads



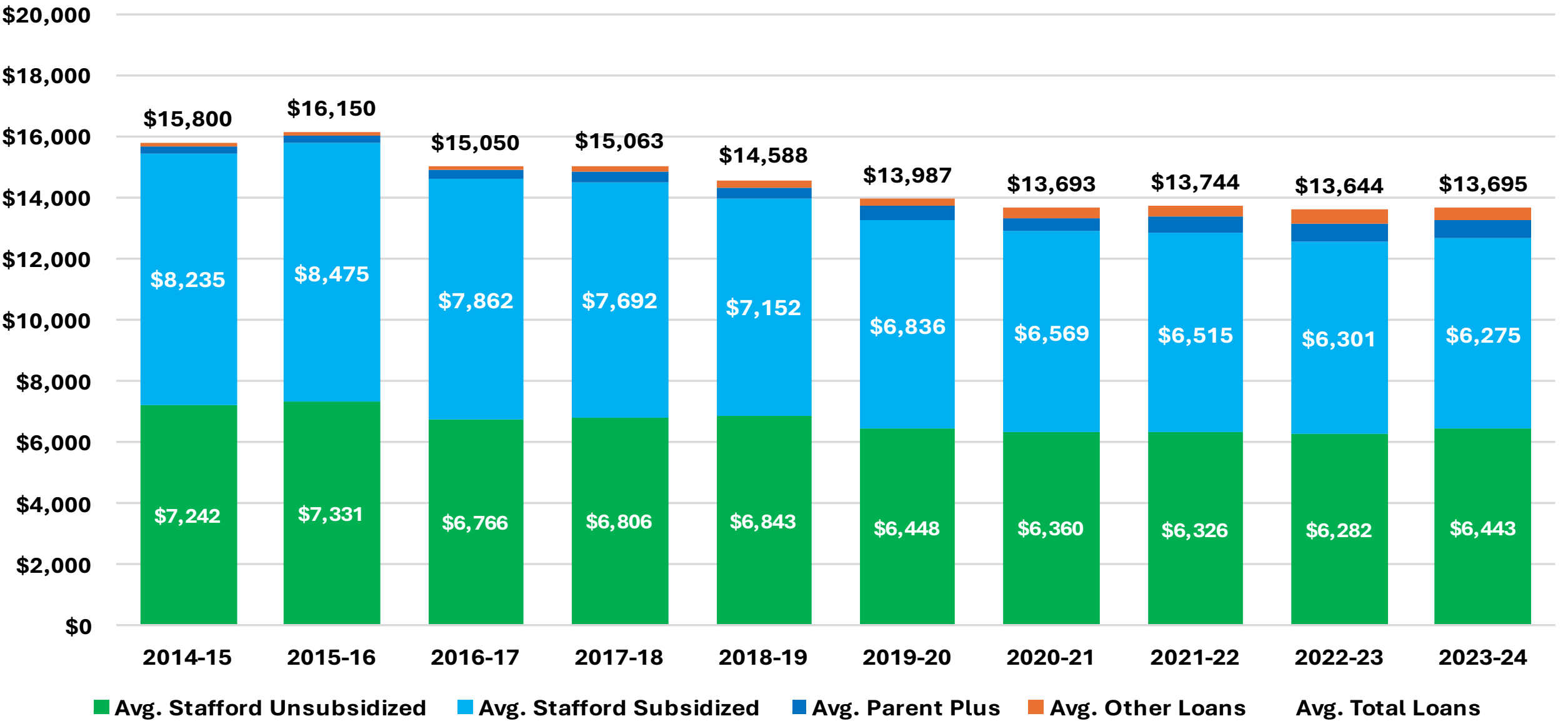
KCTCS – Proportions of Grads with Debt



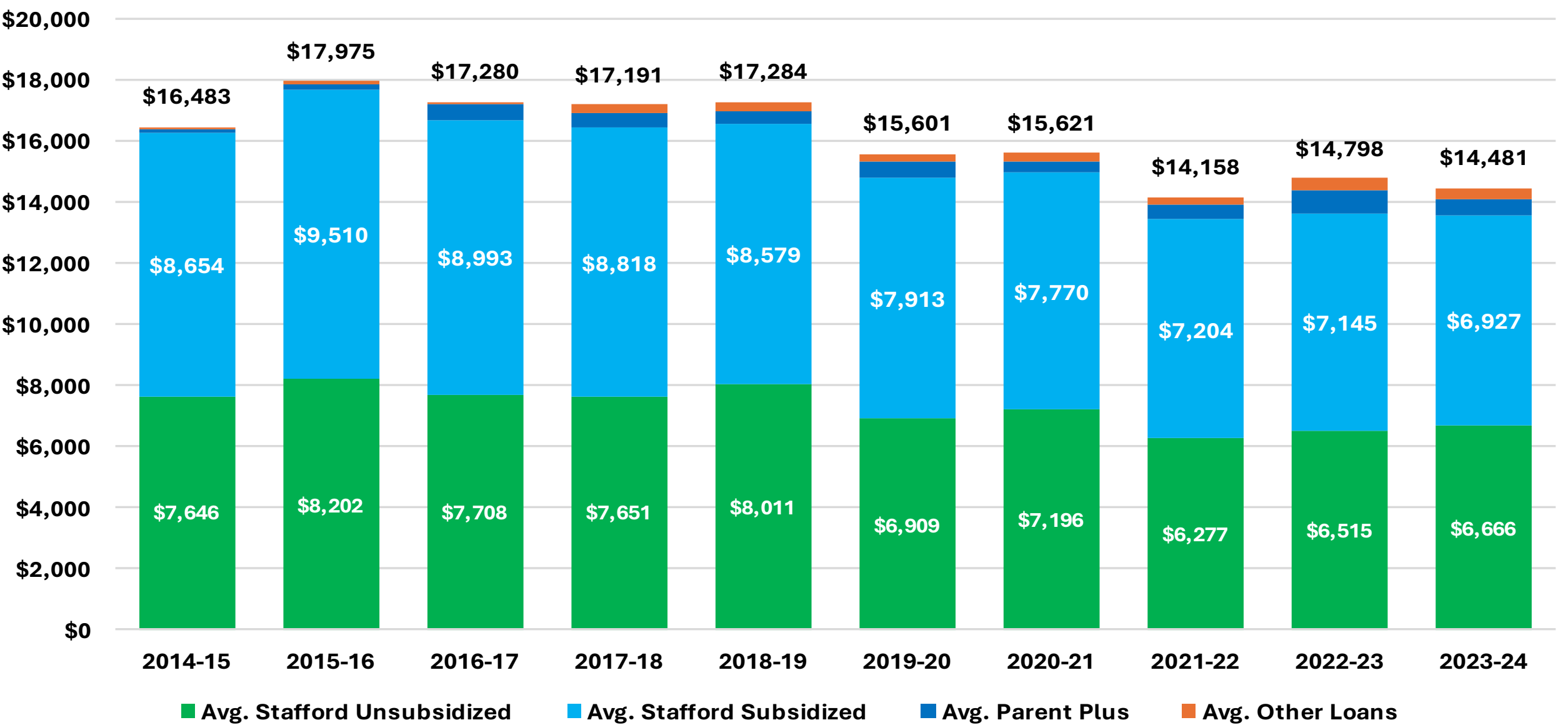
KCTCS – All Grads with Debt



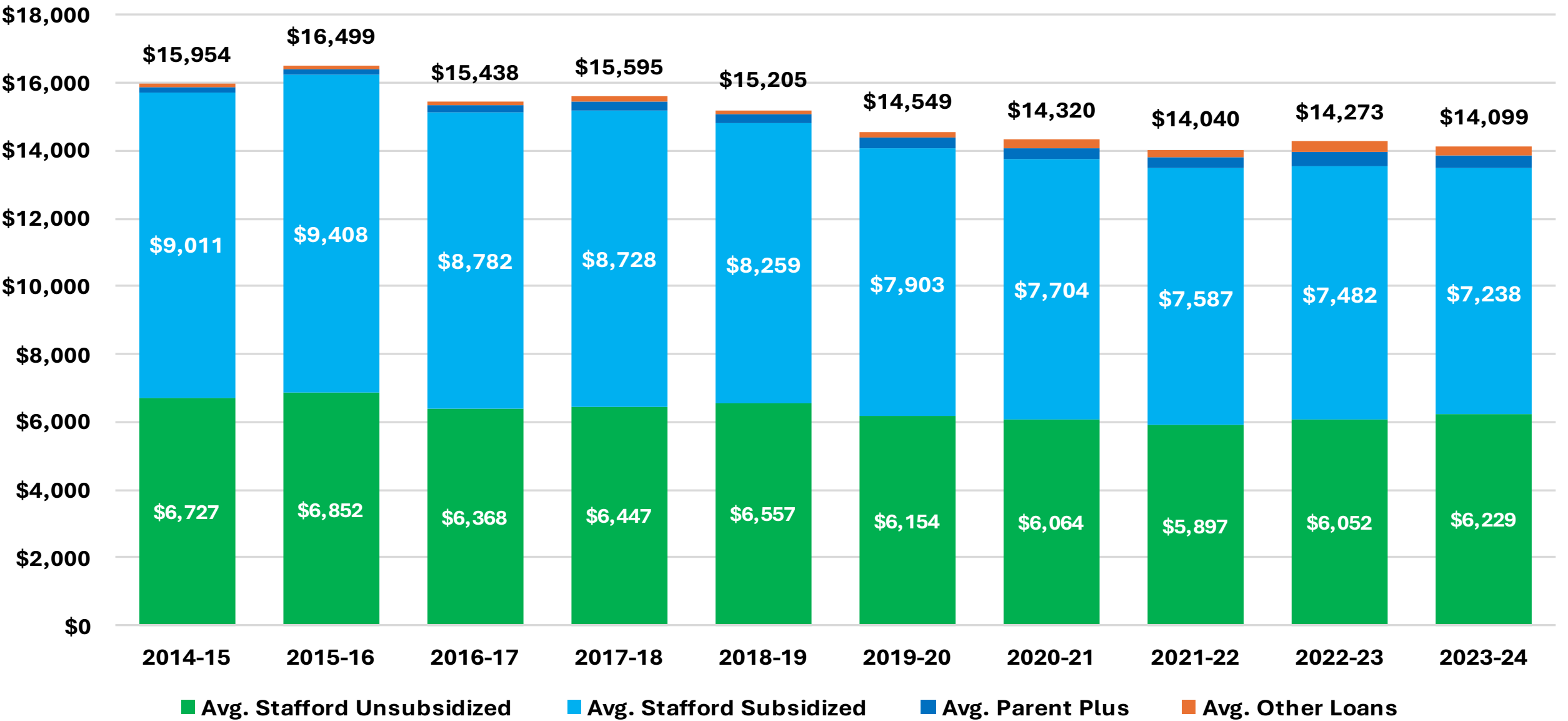
KCTCS – In-State Grads with Debt



KCTCS – URM Grads with Debt

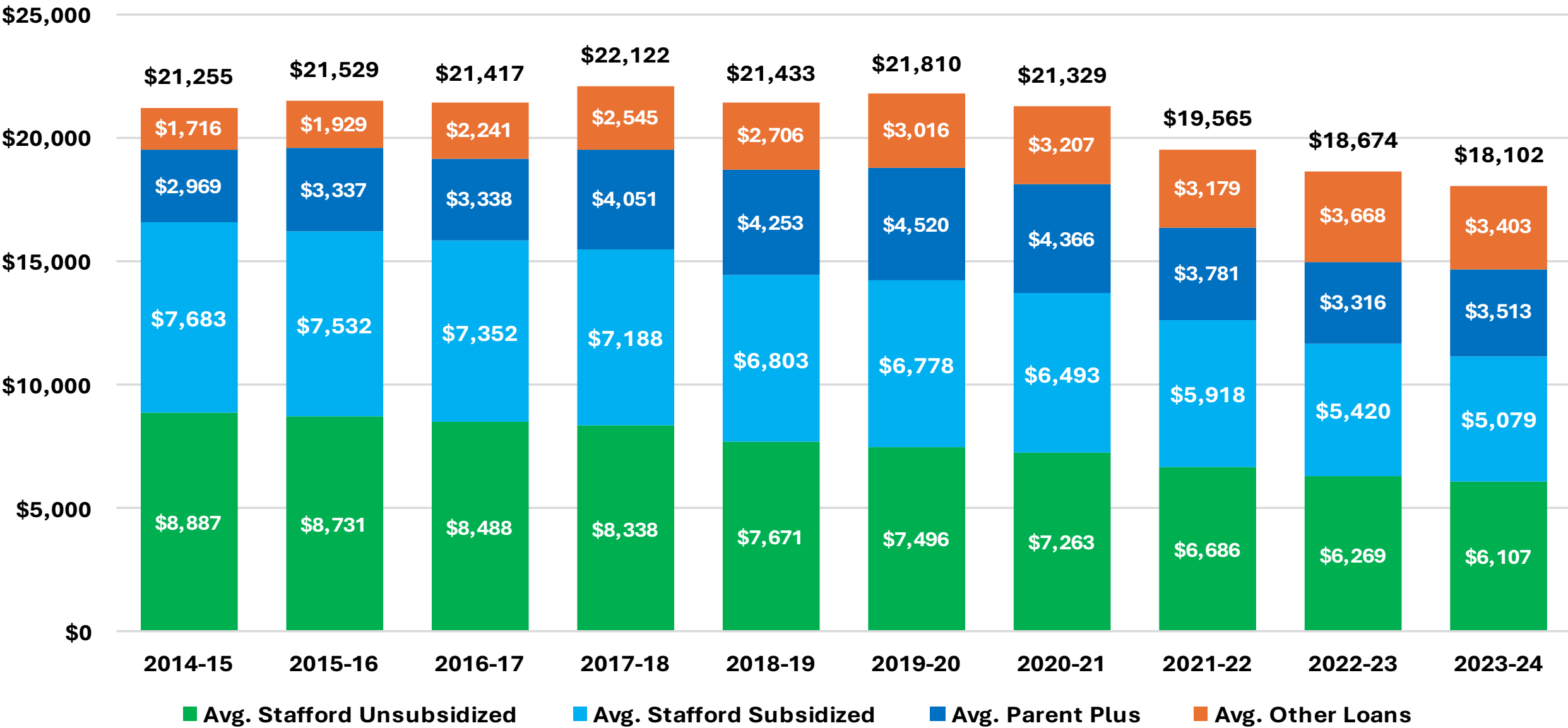


KCTCS – Low Income Grads with Debt

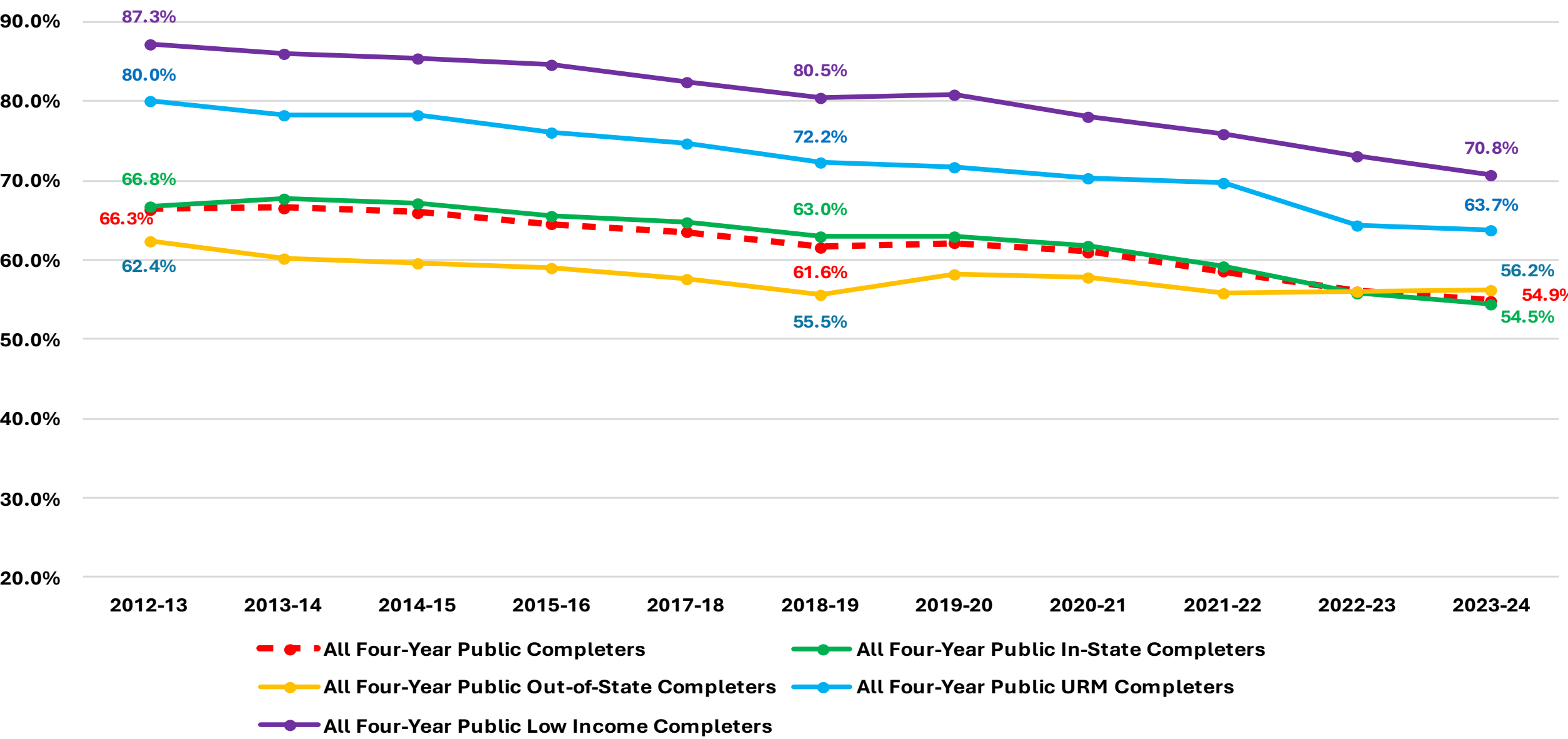


Four-Year Undergraduate Completers

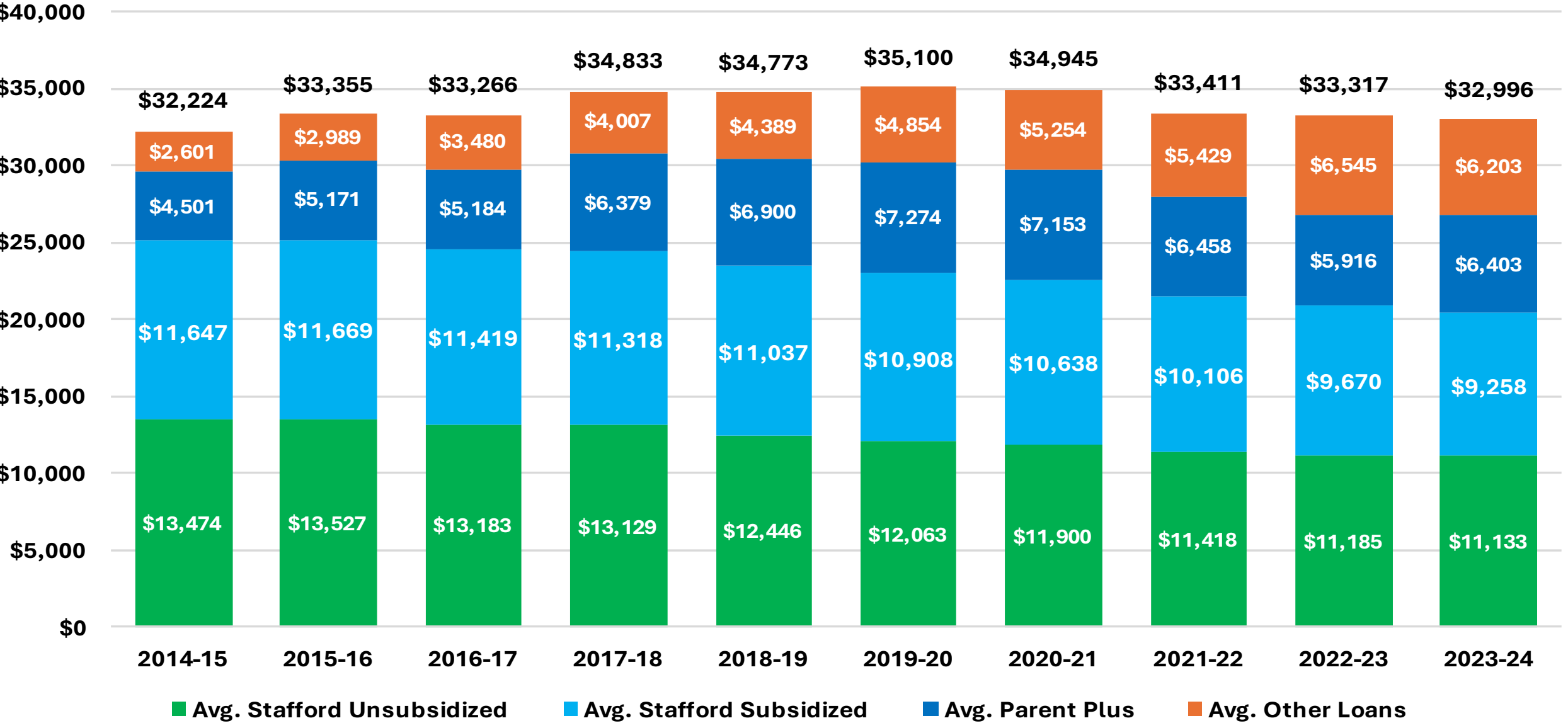
Four-Year Publics - All Grads



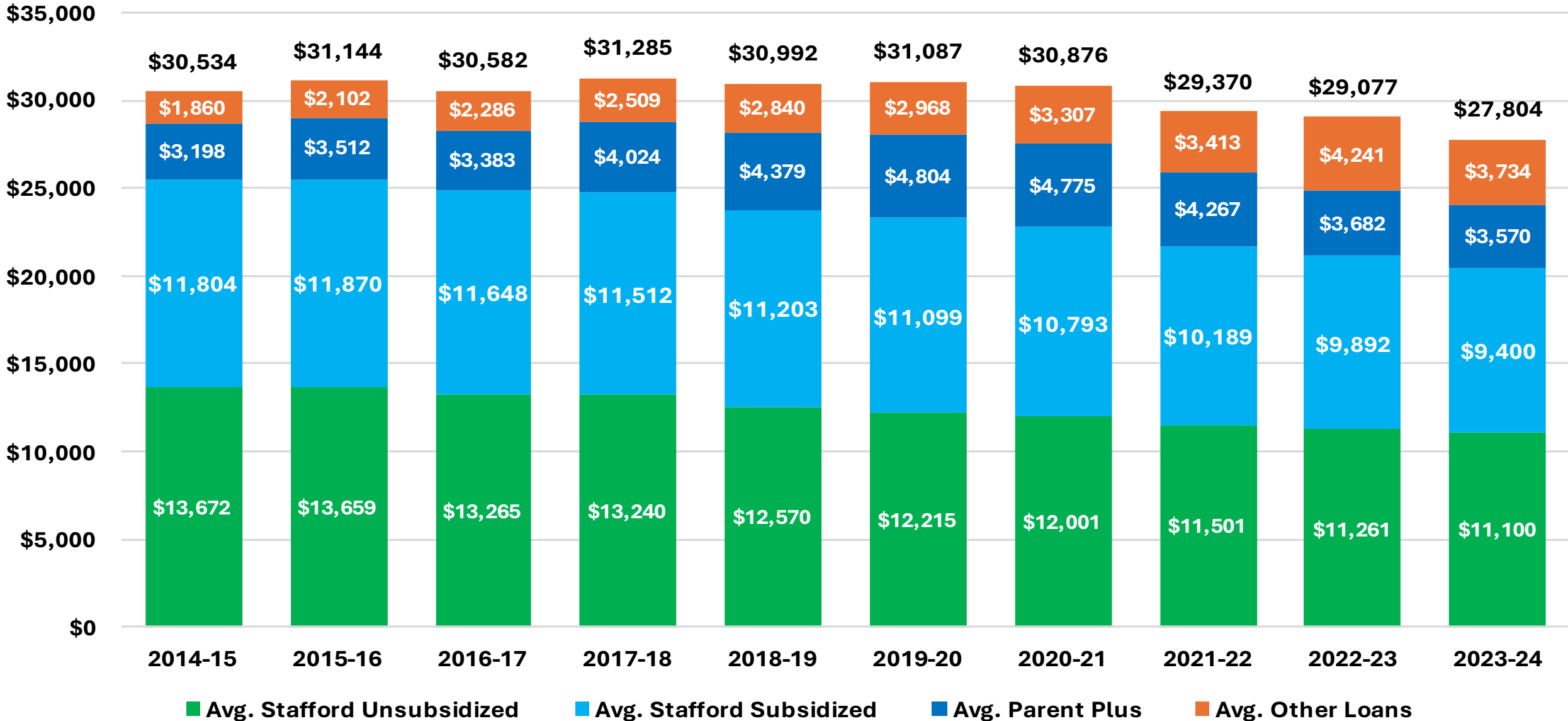
Four-Year Publics – Proportions of Grads with Debt



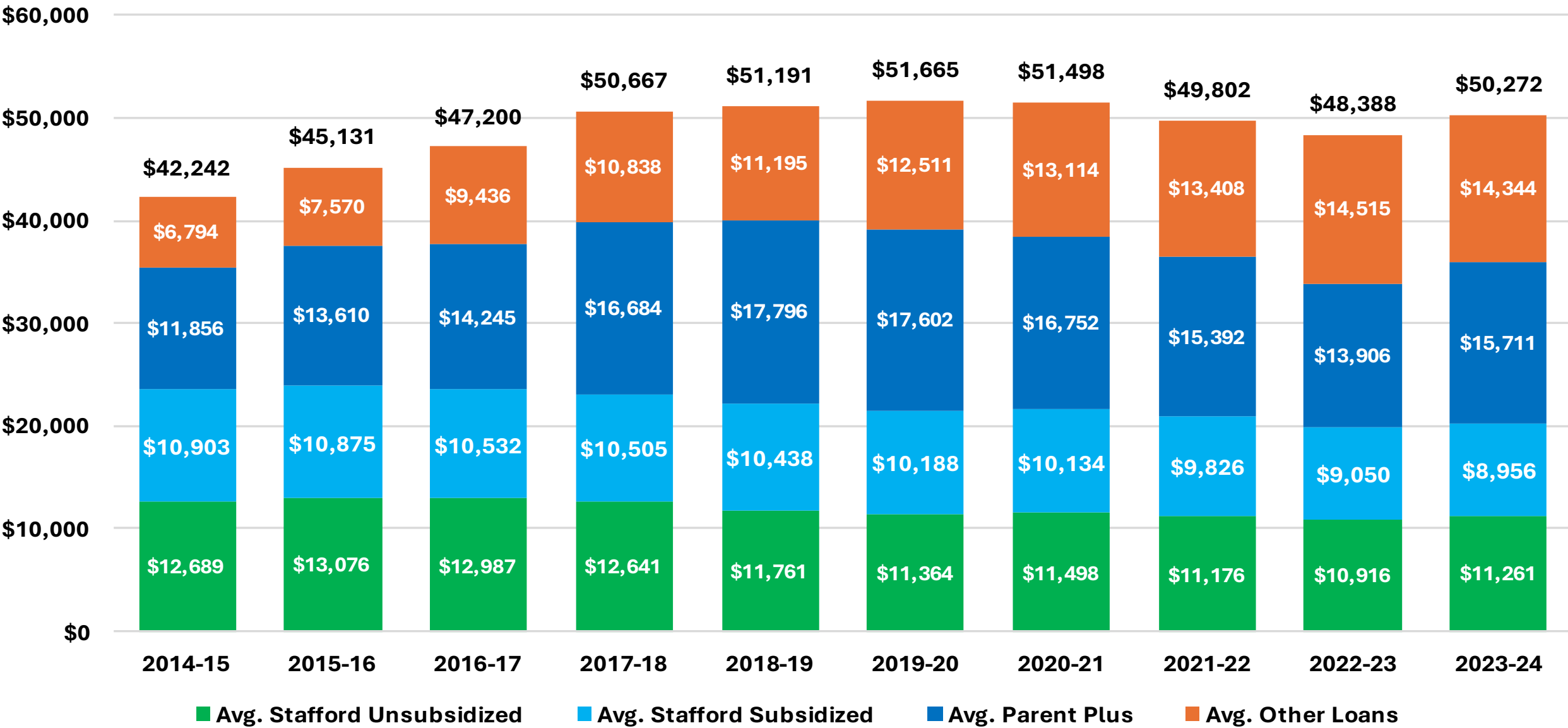
Four-Year Publics – All Grads with Debt



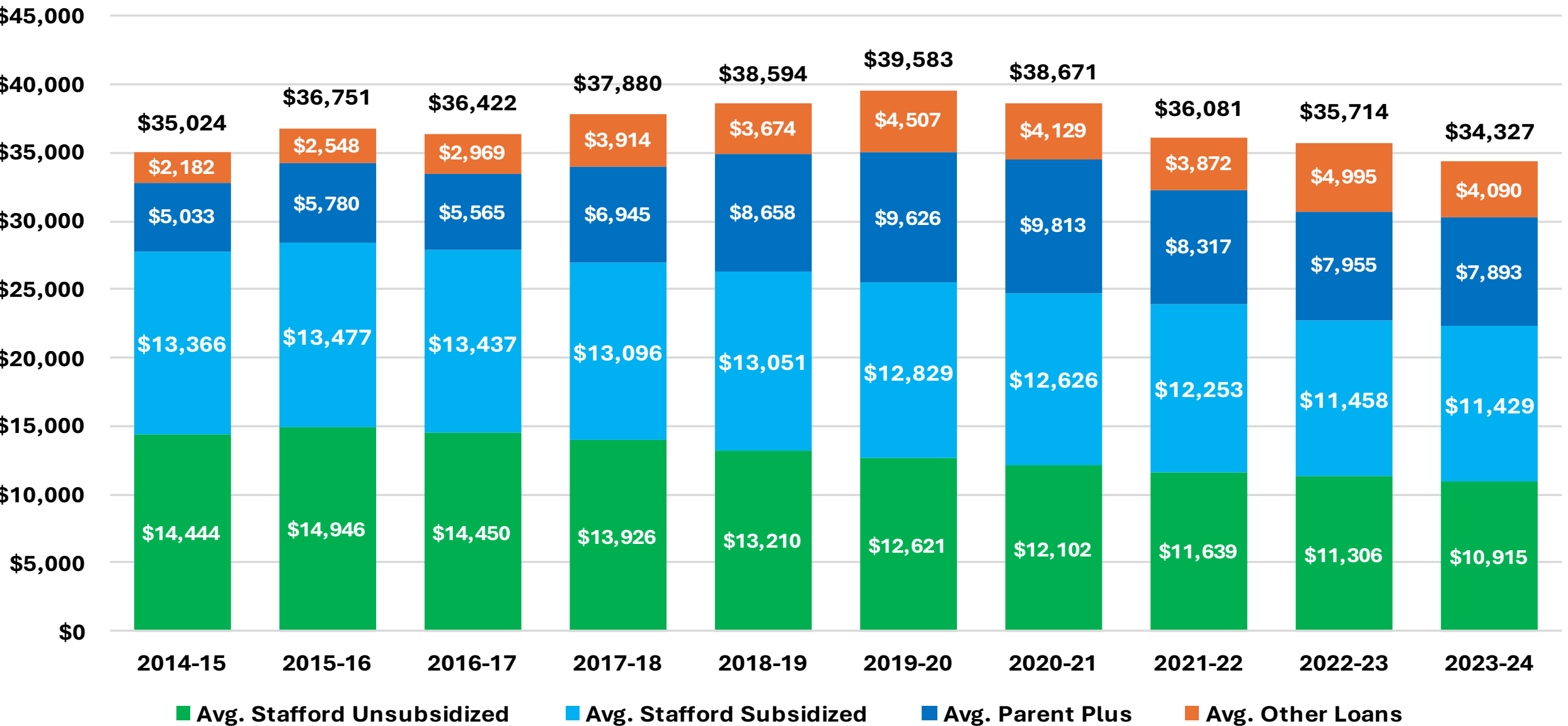
Four-Year Publics – In-State Grads with Debt



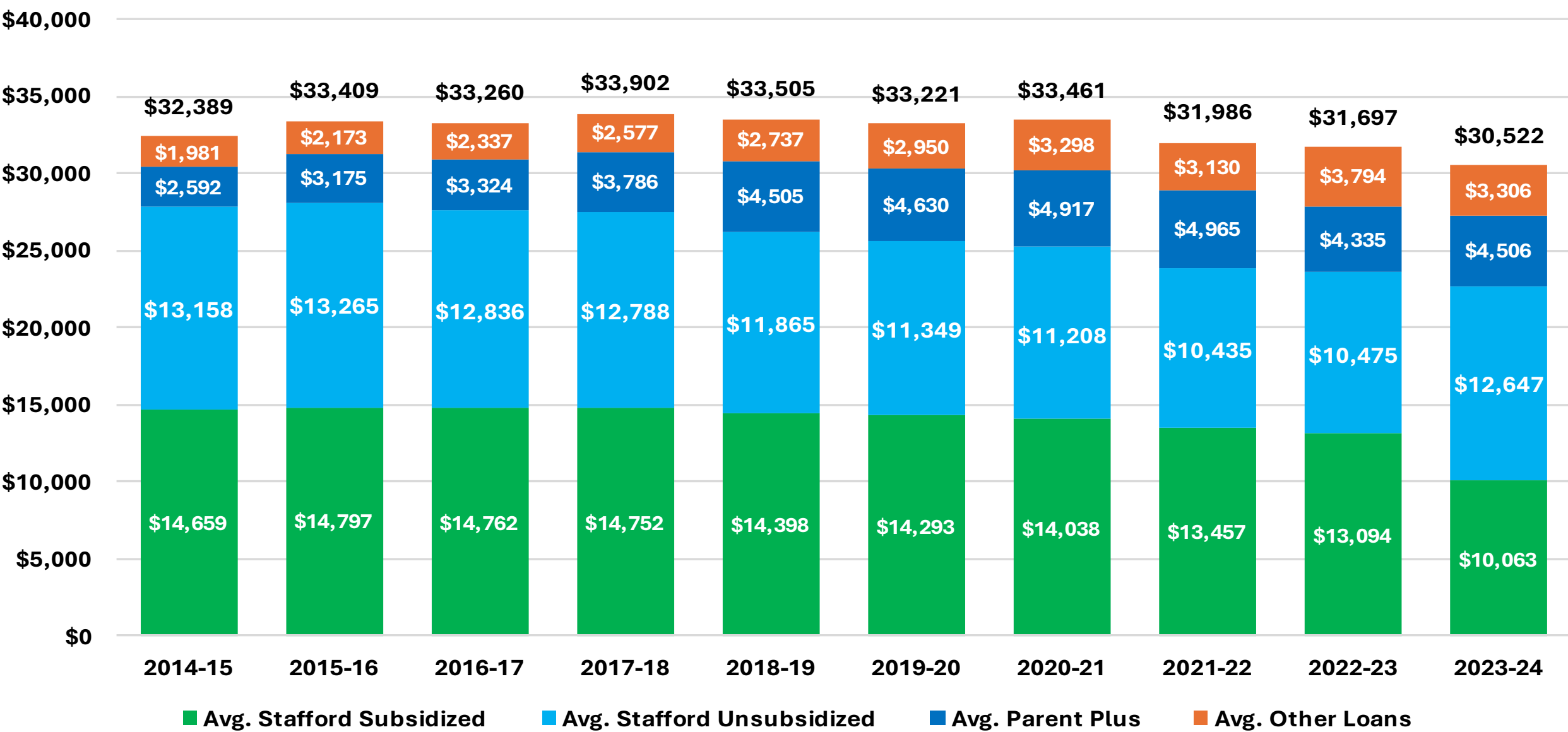
Four-Year Publics – Out-of-State Grads with Debt



Four-Year Publics – URM Grads with Debt



Four-Year Public – Low Income Grads with Debt



Opportunity and Future Research

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- Low-income enrollment is on the rise in Kentucky. It will be important to monitor debt levels among this vulnerable student subgroup.
- We're excited about the explosive growth in interactions with the new Futuriti site since its launch. This site should be a game-changer in helping students select academic programs that fit their needs with transparent financial and post-graduate information.
- We have established FAFSA completion rates and unmet need among first-time college students as statewide key performance indicators. These are top research priorities for CPE as we want to ensure that students are getting as much aid as possible and keeping out-of-pocket costs (or the need to rely on loans) low.

Thank You



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