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May 12, 2026

Spring Enrollment Report

Policy Committee

Open Enrollment 2026 Summary

- Monthly premium payments were higher:
 - Carrier increases were 26% on average
 - Subsidies were restricted
 - ePTC subsidies expired
 - <100% FPL subsidies disallowed
- Premium alignment protected some
 - APTC eligible in Gold Plans
- Cascade Care (state subsidy) helped enrollees cover costs
 - More subsidized than prior years (40% of enrollees)
- Enrollment decreased
 - Fewer new enrollees
 - Lower proportion of subsidized customers
- Coverage drop levels are unprecedented, drop analysis report due end of May
- Customers changed plans to avoid premium increases
 - Vital Gold
 - Public Option
 - Bronze Plans
- Continued price pressure on enrollment thru 2026
 - Silver plan enrollees may be paying more than is affordable
- Expect continued attrition through 2026
- Federal changes in 2027 will cause additional pressure

Presentation Overview

Federal Changes Harmed Customers

Customers Adjusted to Affordability Challenges

The New Enrollment Landscape

Harm Mitigation and Success Stories

Potential Support for 2027 and Beyond



Federal Changes Harmed Customers

Subsidies that previously supported customers up to 500% of FPL were restricted to lower brackets and non-immigrants; further restrictions coming for 2027.

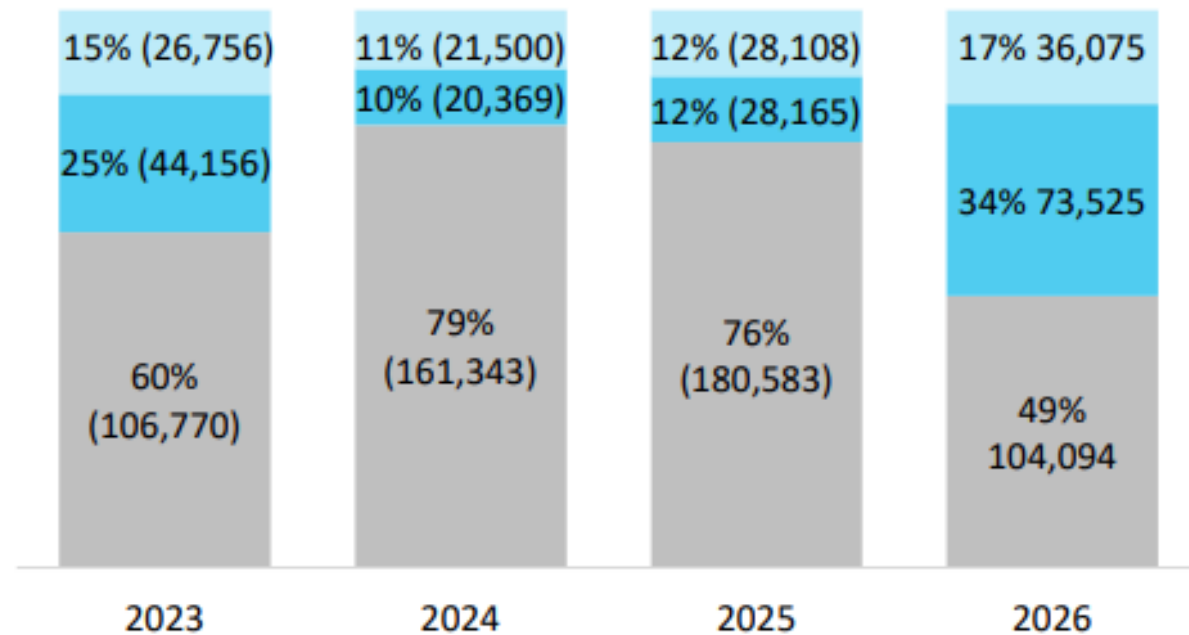


Enrollees shopped and changed plans to find an affordable plan

Many customers found affordable options in Public Option plans, Vital Gold plans, and Bronze plans.

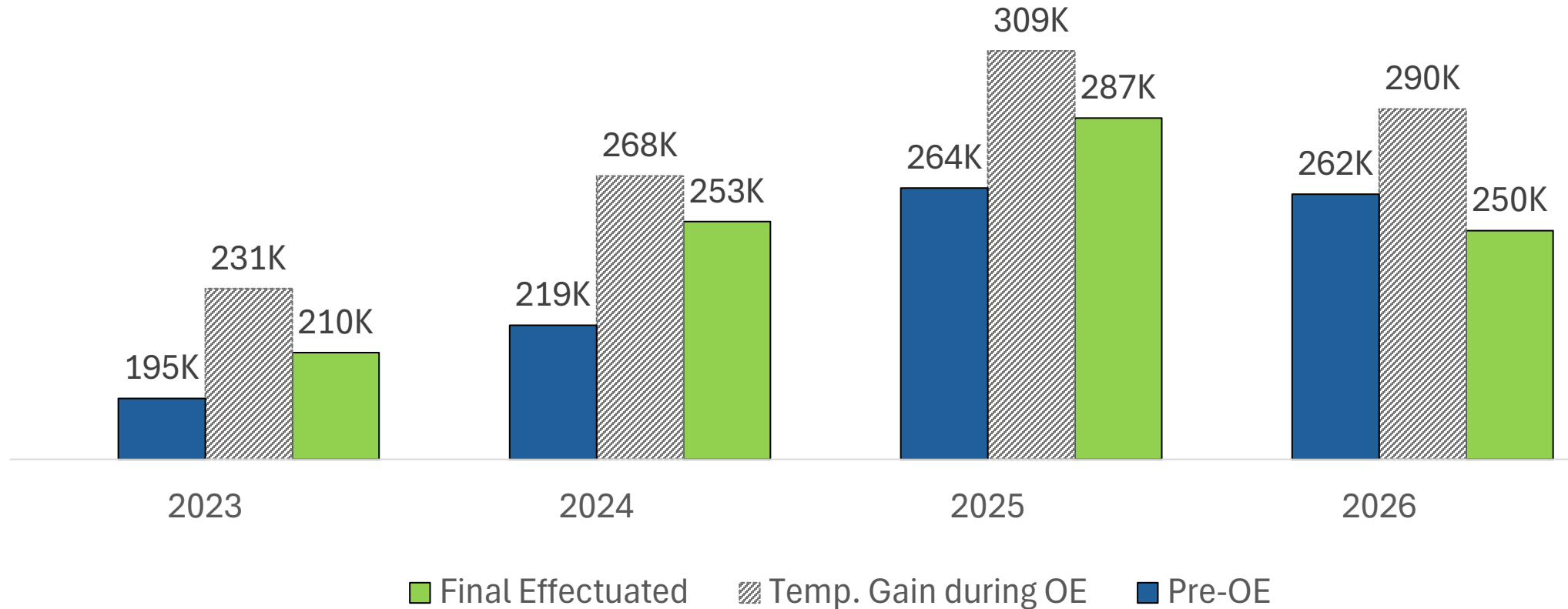
- Same plan
- Same carrier, new plan
- New carrier

Customer Plan Changes from Previous Year



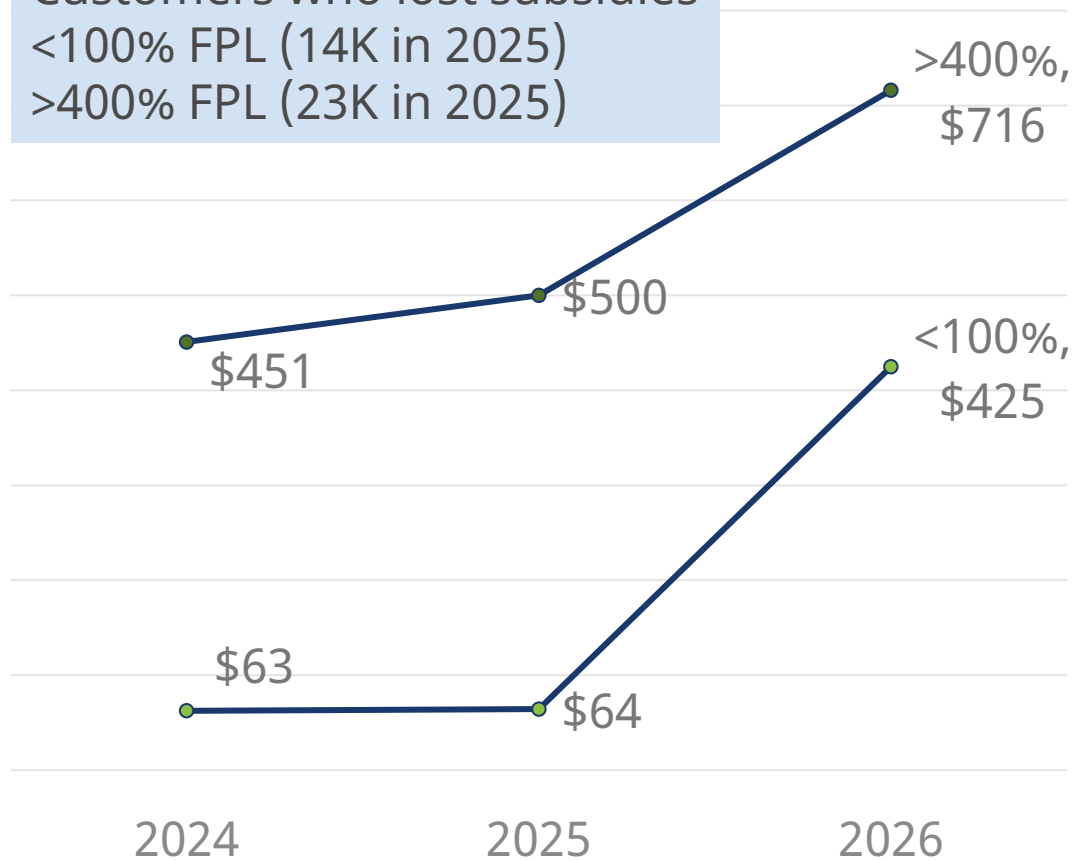
Cost pressure reduced net enrollment

Enrollment Counts, Pre-OE, OE, and Final
PY 2023-2026

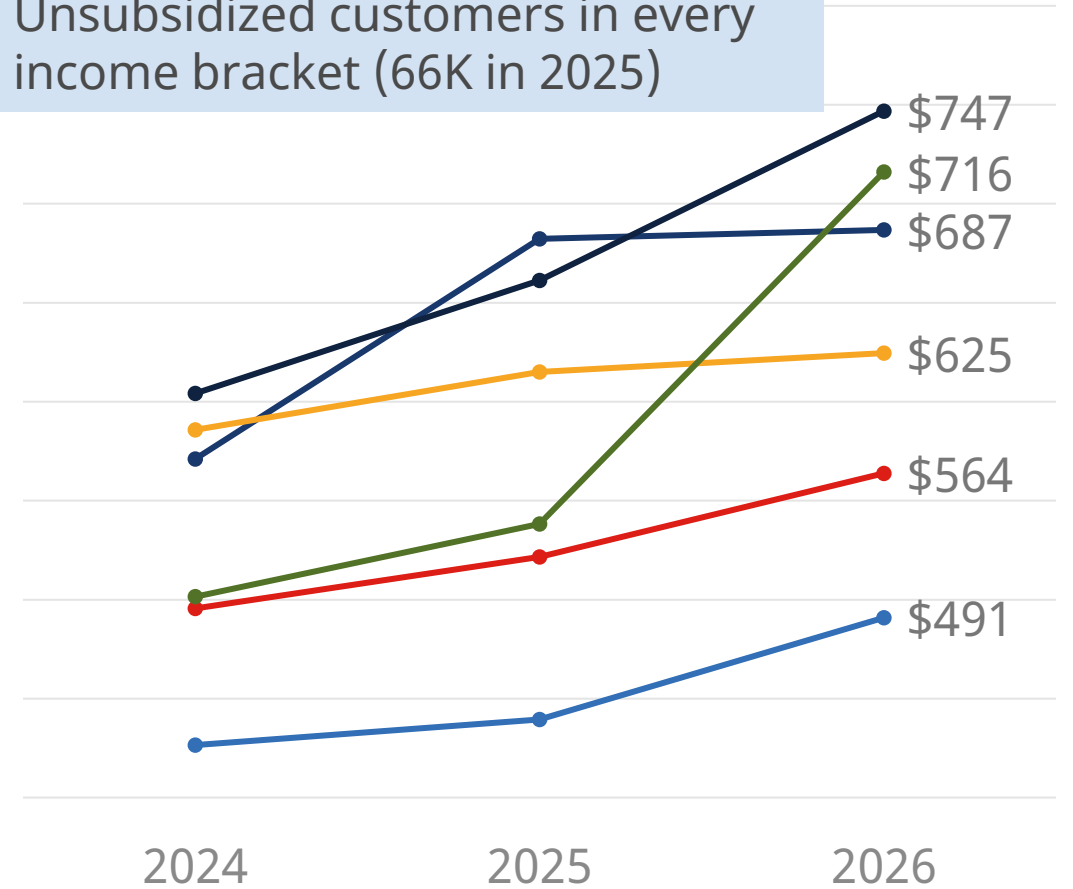


Many customers paid a higher price for coverage

Customers who lost subsidies
 <100% FPL (14K in 2025)
 >400% FPL (23K in 2025)



Unsubsidized customers in every
 income bracket (66K in 2025)



- 100-150%
- 151-200%
- 251-300%
- 301-400%
- >400%
- Did not report

Extent of coverage drops still under review

Our enrollment analysis showed areas for research on people who dropped coverage:

1. Drops were higher than any previous enrollment period – initial estimates are close to 66K -
2. Heaviest impacts were among lower FPL, more price-sensitive populations
3. The age bracket most affected was younger (18-34 years)
4. Equity effects: Hispanic and Black populations appear to be impacted, we will also check on older and rural customer effects

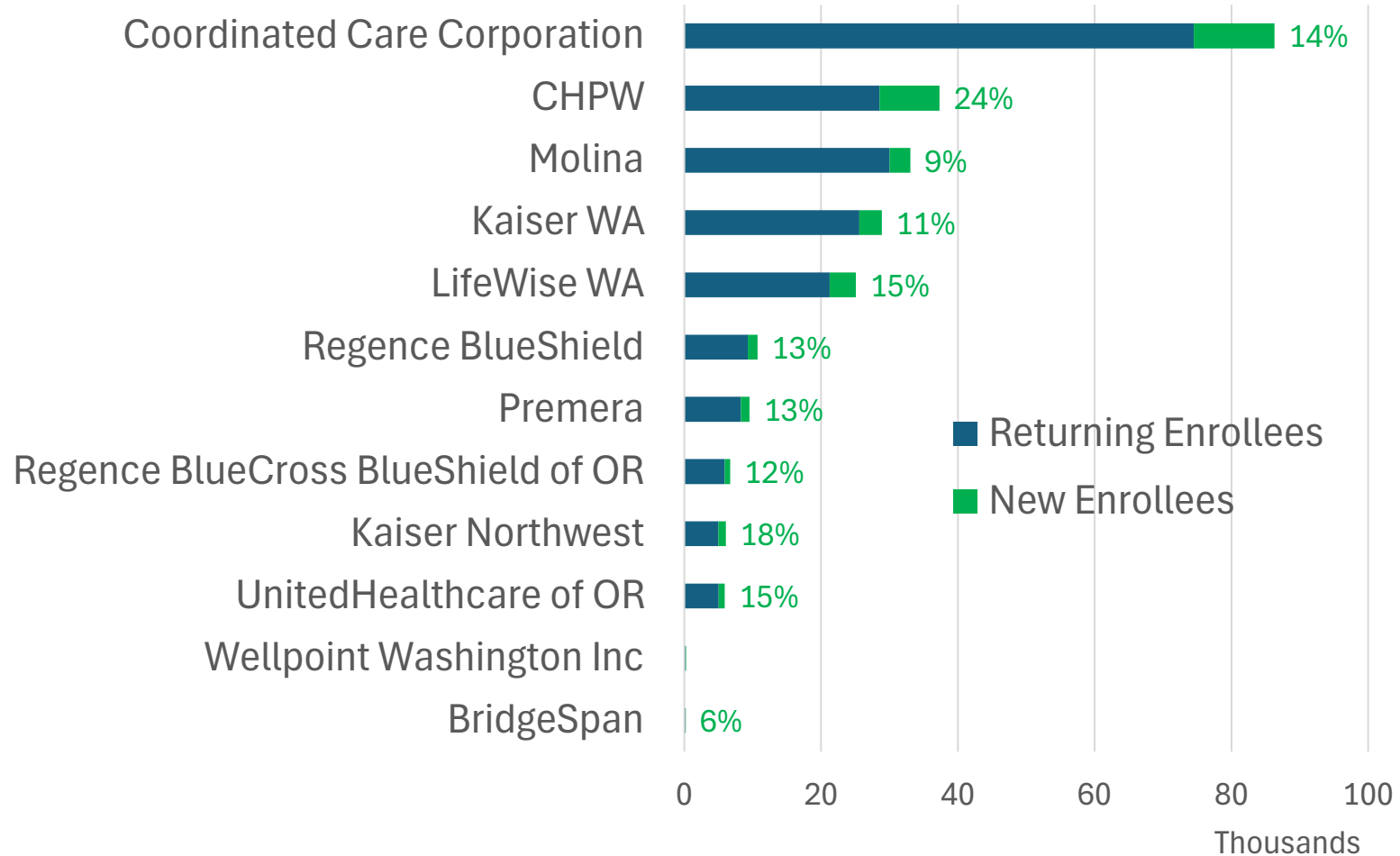
Analysis of coverage drops will require additional time, a supplemental report is planned for June 2026.

Customers Adjusted to Affordability Challenges

Customer activity reflected their concerns over higher prices, lost subsidies, general confusion, and eligibility changes.

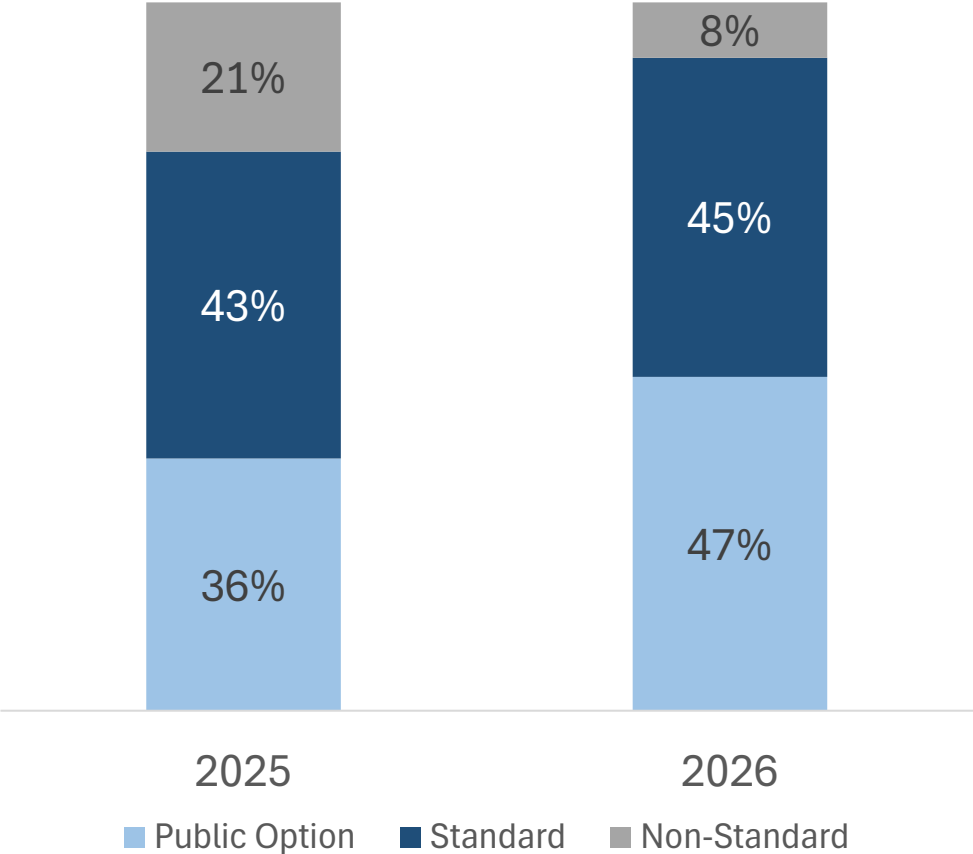


More customers chose plans from lower cost and Public Option plan carriers

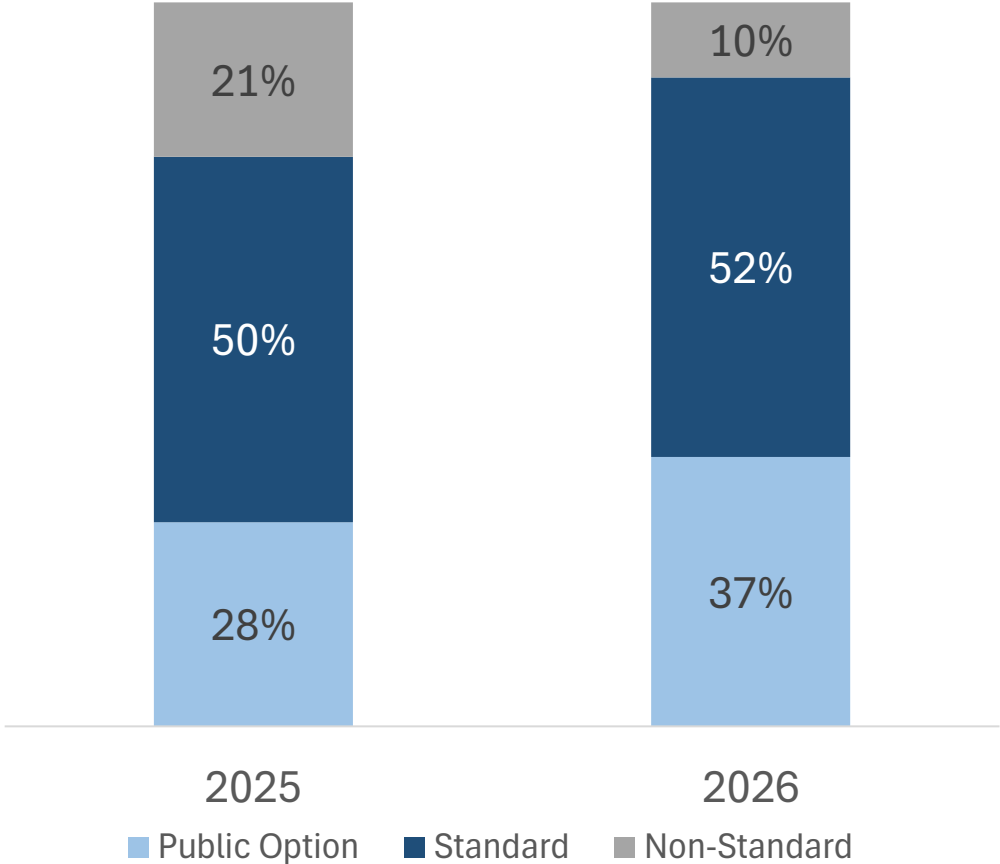


Customers moved strongly to Public Option and Standard plans

92% of 36K new customers in 2026 chose lower cost and more easily comparable Standard Plans

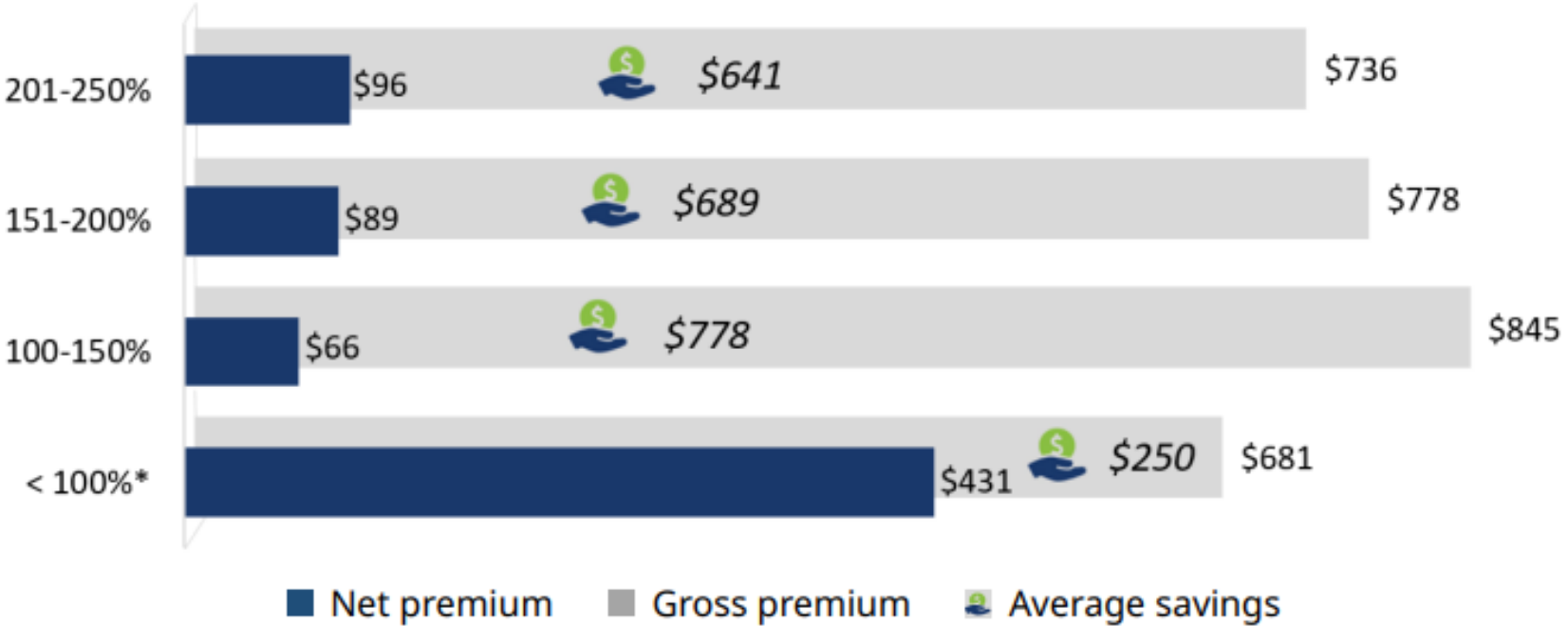


11% of 214K returning 2026 Customers moved into Public Option Plans



Eligible Customers used Cascade Care Savings to keep premiums lower

Net and gross premium for all Cascade Care Savings recipients by FPL**



Over 100K enrollees (40%) used Cascade Care Savings to assist with monthly premiums

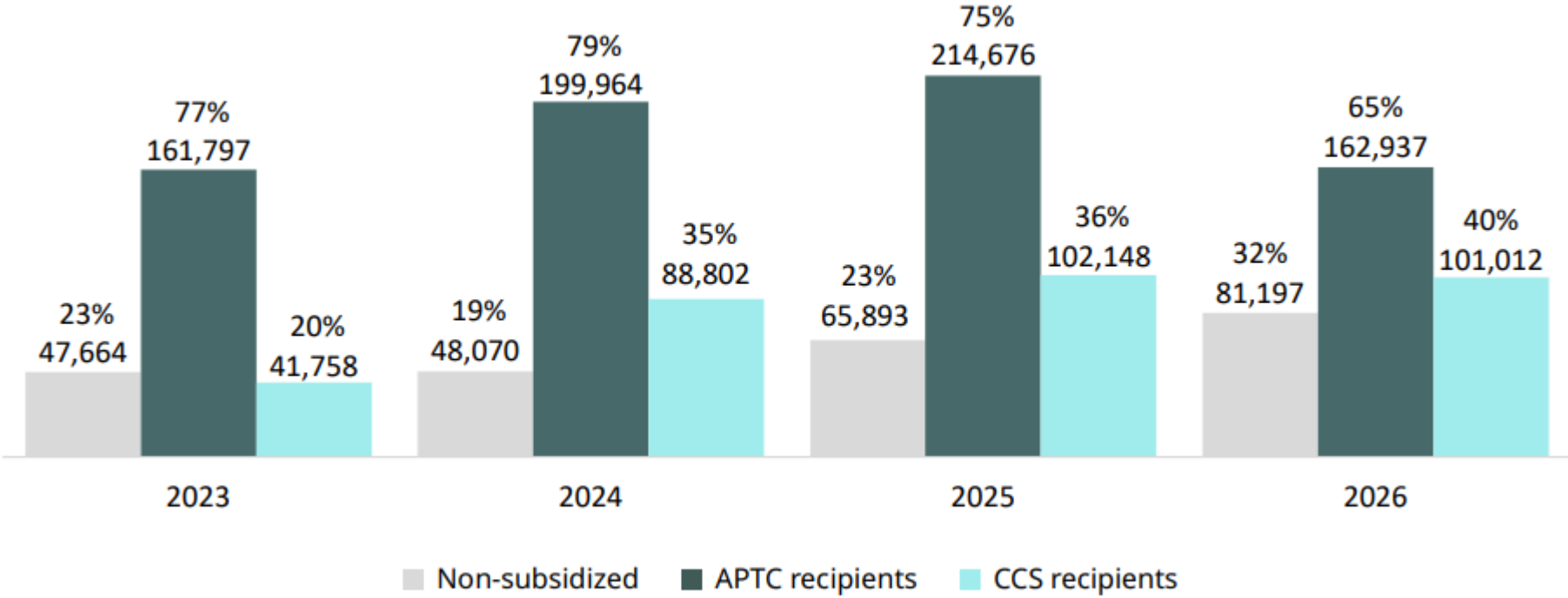
Changed Enrollment Landscape

Reduced and lost subsidies for our most vulnerable income groups have impacted the balance of customers.

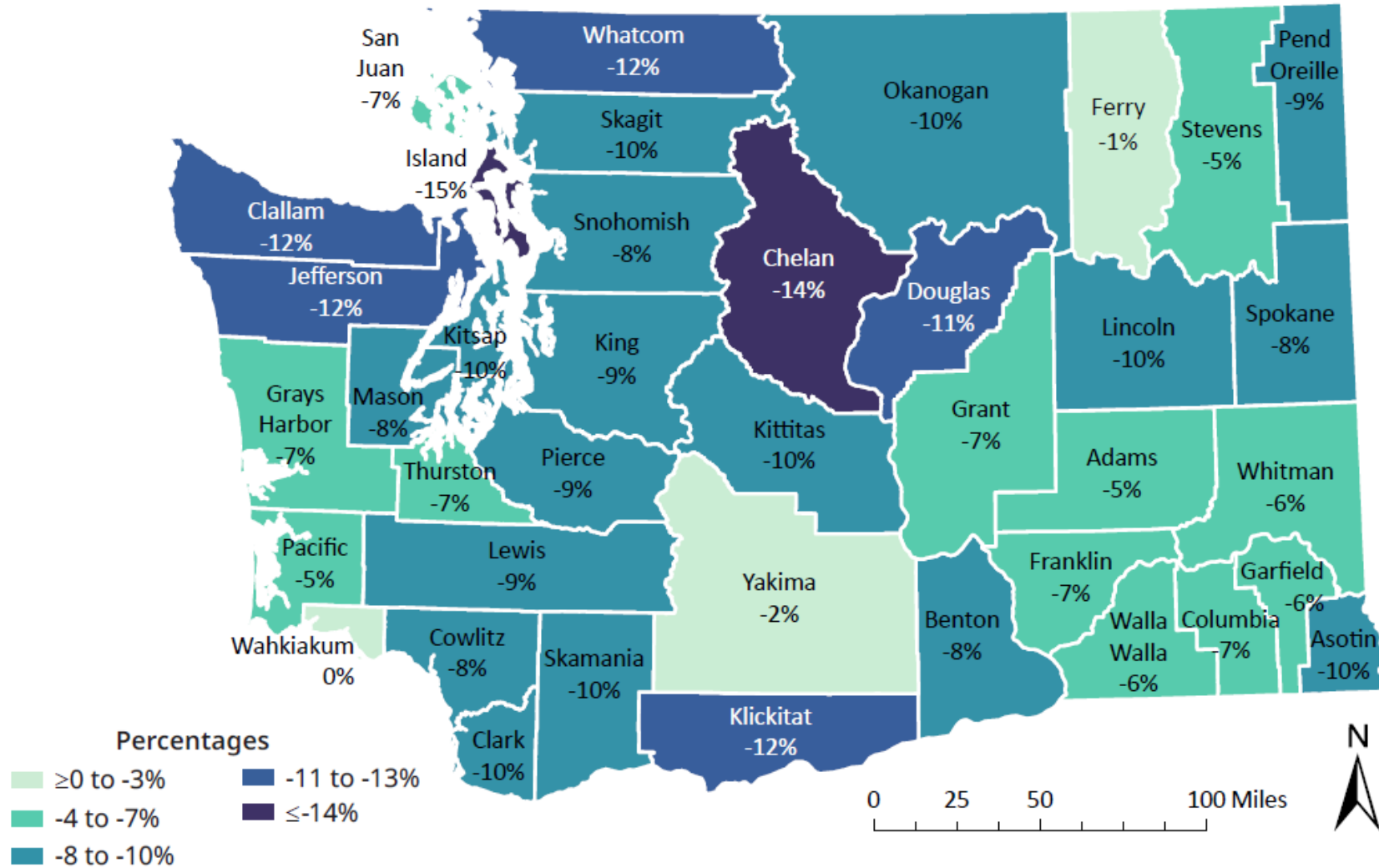


Reduced access to subsidies shifted enrollment toward unsubsidized customers

QHP enrollment by subsidy status



Impact on enrollee access to federal subsidies was variable across the state



39,000 fewer received APTC this year.

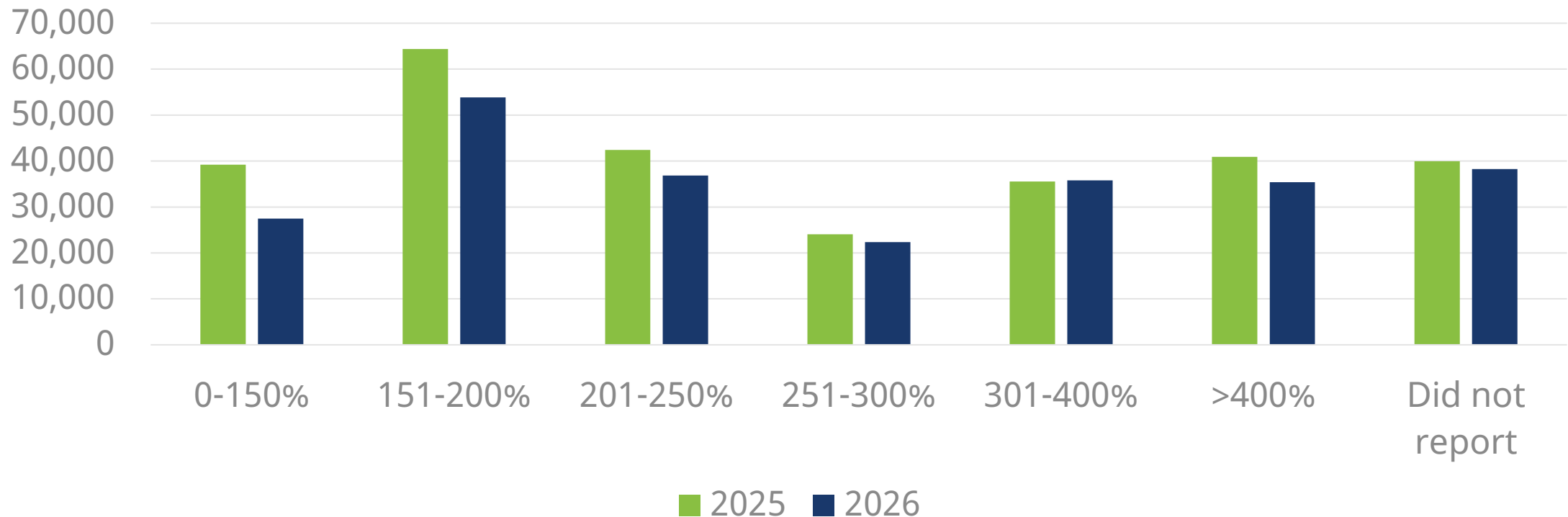
65% this year compared to 75% last year

Customers who receive APTC receive on average \$612/month in assistance

The lowest income households saw the greatest enrollment loss

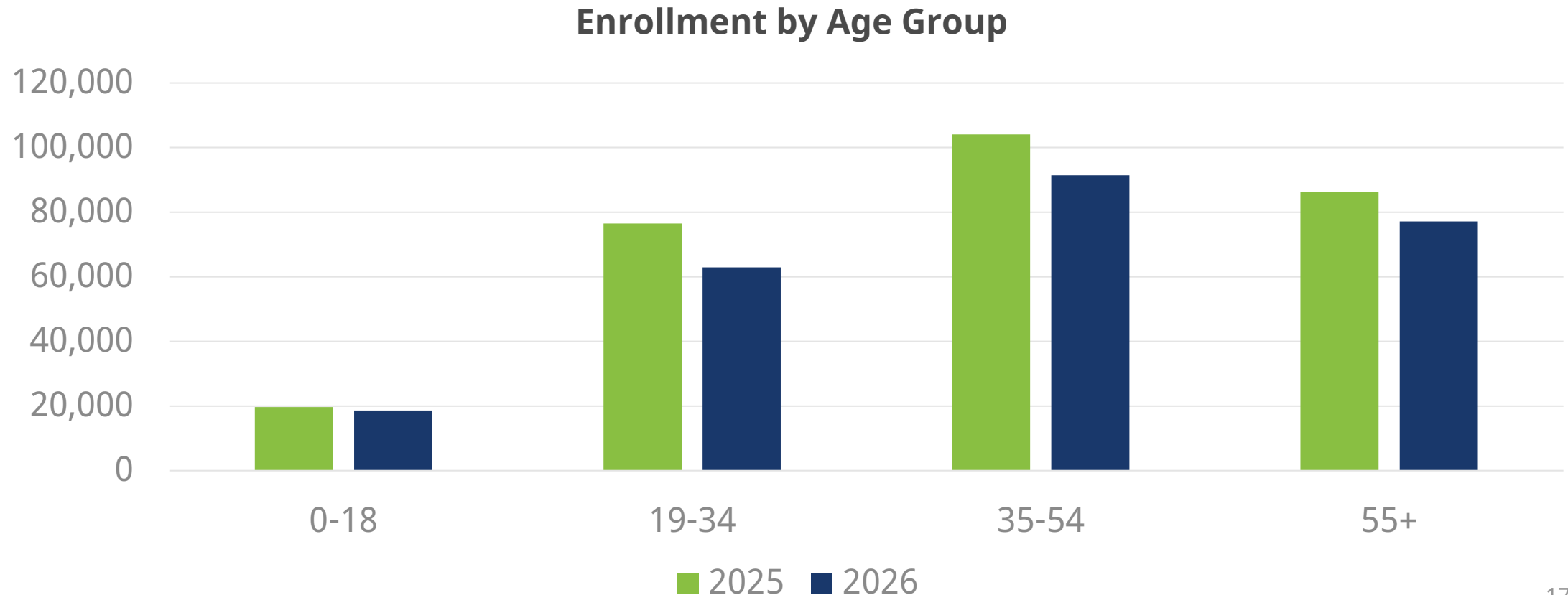
- ▶ Enrollment decreased by 30% for those <150% FPL and by 16% for those 151-200% FPL.

Enrollment by FPL Group



Young adults saw the greatest enrollment loss

- ▶ Enrollment decreased by 18% for those ages 19-34 and by 12% for those ages 35-54.



Mitigation Strategies

Despite federal policy changes, Washington state's mitigations efforts have helped to reduce the impact of federal changes.



Mitigation strategies helped reduce federal policy impacts in 2026

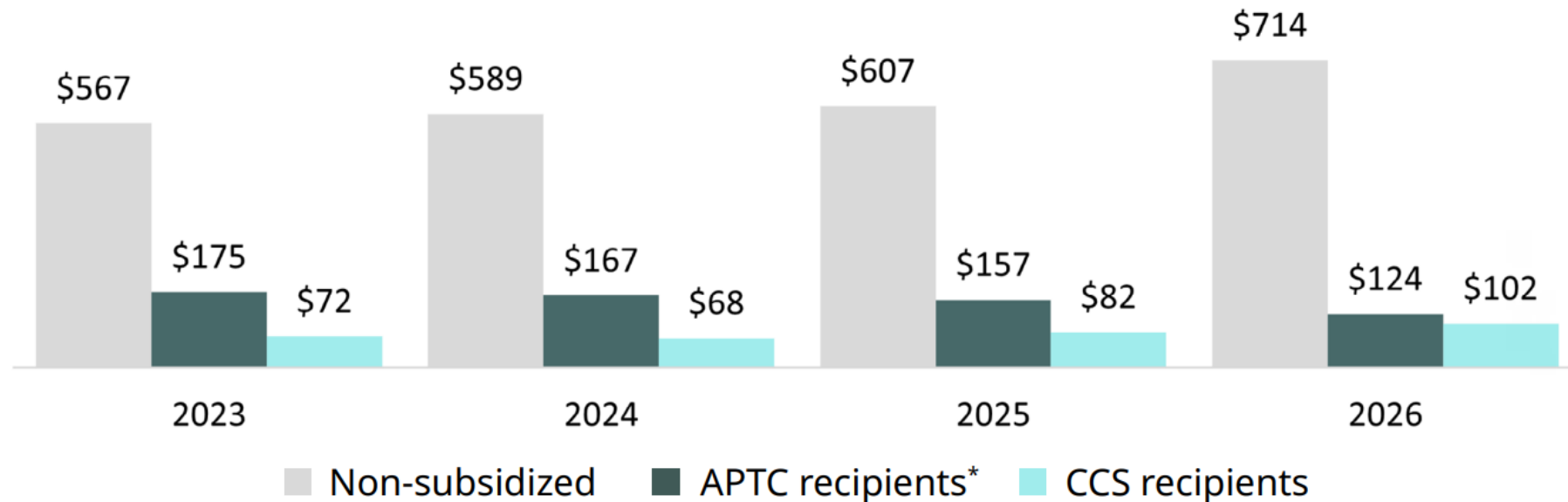
- ▶ **Premium alignment** offset the loss of ePTC for many enrollees.
- ▶ **Cascade Care Savings** and **Cascade Select** public option plans are serving more of our enrollment than ever.
- ▶ **Brokers, navigators, and Customer Support Center** representatives were instrumental in clarifying savings, tax credits and policy changes.



Premium alignment offset the loss of ePTC for many enrollees

- Premium alignment offset the loss of ePTC for many enrollees who remain eligible for federal subsidies. Net premium changes depend on many factors, including FPL and subsidy eligibility.

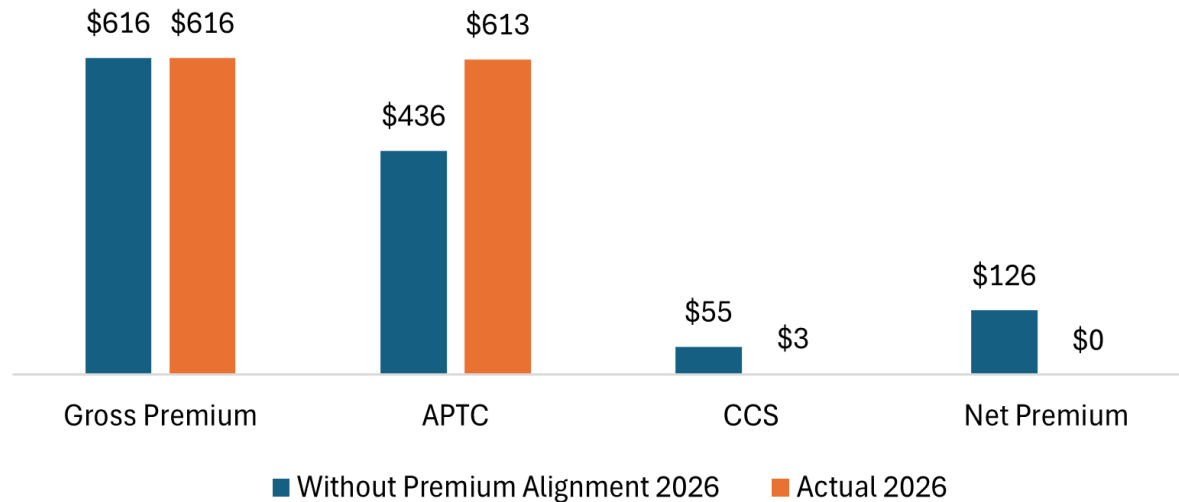
Average monthly net premium by subsidy status



Customers who are still APTC-eligible are helped by premium alignment

- ▶ While the expiration of ePTCs increased premiums, the effect was partially mitigated by premium alignment and Cascade Care Savings.

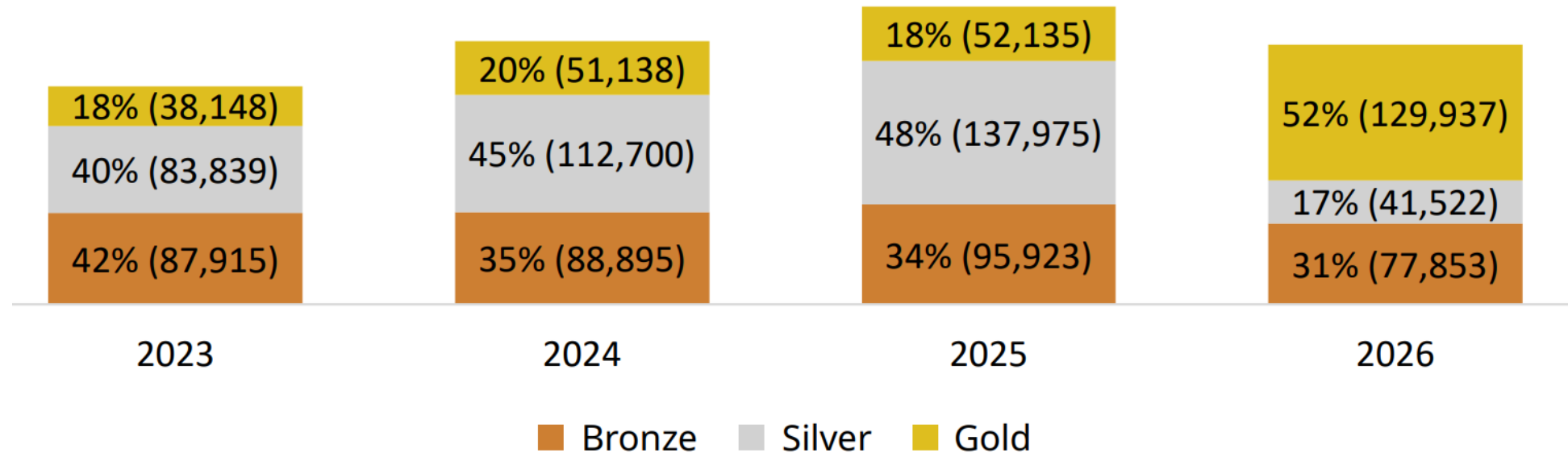
50-year-old Yakima county resident with an income at 201% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
APTC eligible



Highest ever enrollment in Gold plans

- ▶ Mitigation efforts increased Gold enrollment and prevented many customers from needing to buy down to Bronze, a trend seen in most other states.

Enrollment by metal level, all QHP enrollees

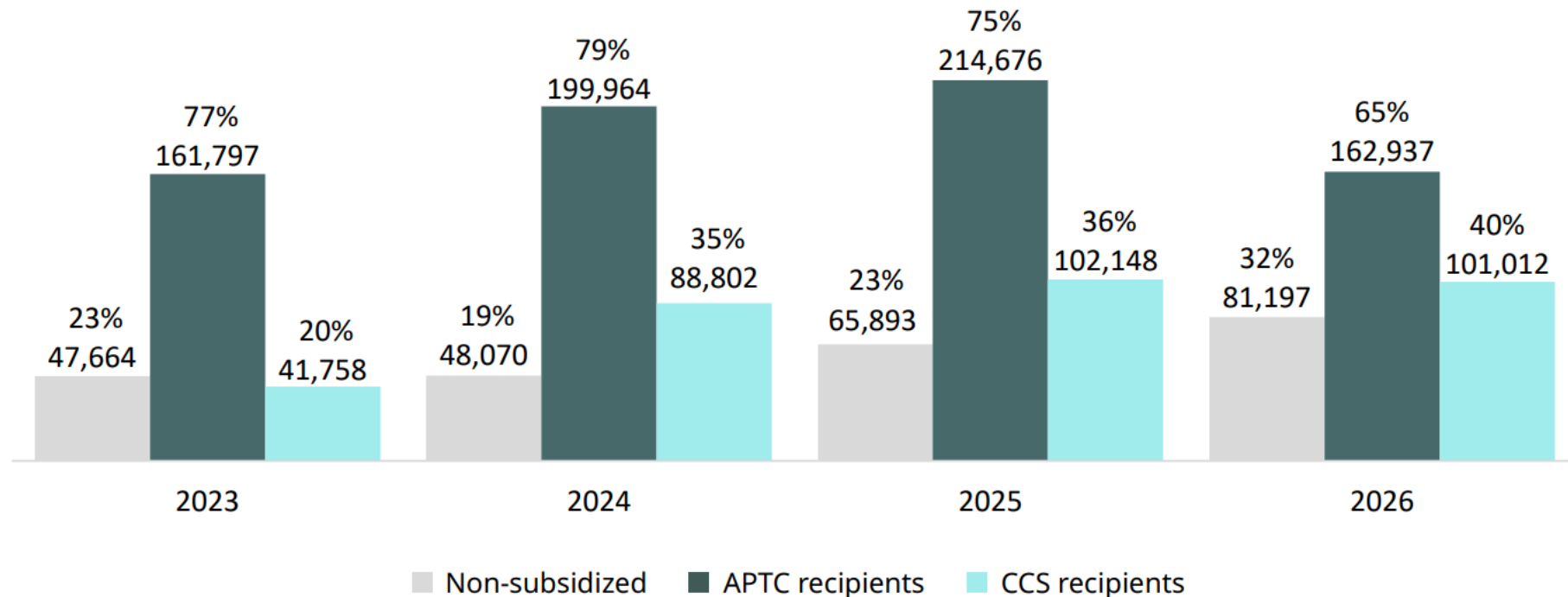


*Catastrophic plans (<1% of QHP customers) are not included in the graphic.

Highest ever percentage of enrollees receiving Cascade Care Savings

- ▶ These enrollees are also receiving a greater monthly subsidy amount on average.

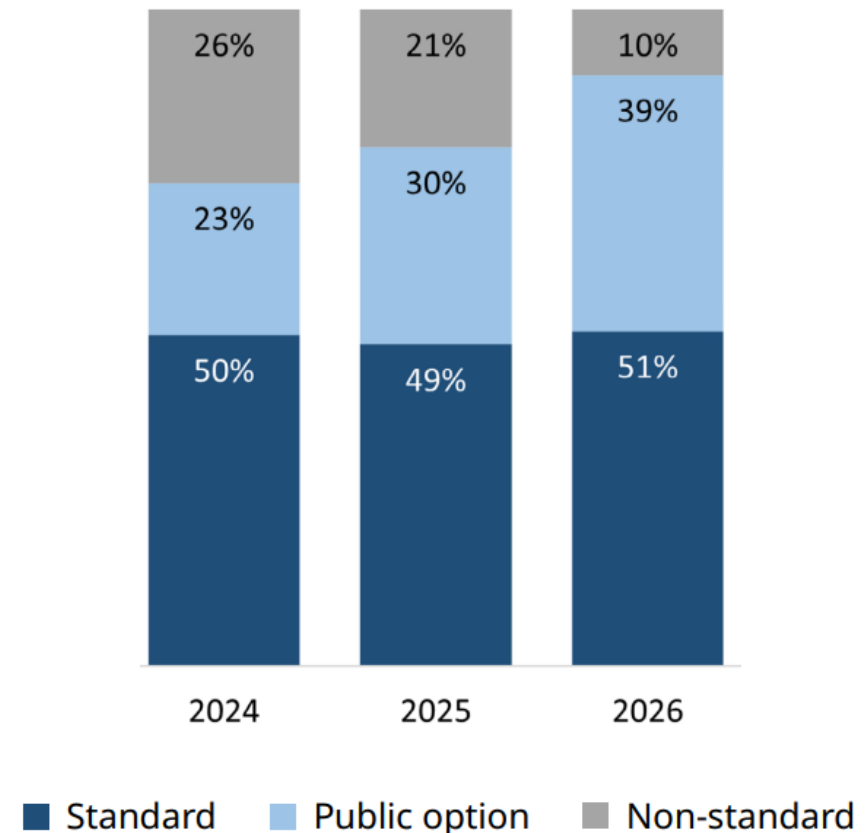
QHP enrollment by subsidy status



Highest ever enrollment in public option plans

- ▶ Almost 97,000 customers enrolled in a Cascade Select public option plan.
- ▶ Nearly half (47%) of new enrollees selected a public option plan.
- ▶ Only 10% of enrollees selected a non-standard plan.

Cascade Care plan enrollment
2024-2026



Brokers, navigators and Customer Support Center representatives were instrumental

- ▶ “I spoke to Jasmine on January 15; she was patient, empathetic, and walked me through every step of the application process. Her skill and kindness was a huge relief!” – **QHP enrollee, Walla Walla County**
- ▶ *Regarding their navigator:* “Muy agradecida, en el momento fueron especial conmigo, me escucharon y pudieron ayudarme, gracias. (I’m very grateful. At the time, they were wonderful to me – they listened and were able to help me.)” – **QHP enrollee, Snohomish County**
- ▶ “The broker I worked with was so helpful, kind, and patient! She made something I was dreading into a lovely interaction. She took her time explaining things, which makes all the difference!” – **QHP enrollee, Cowlitz County**



The Exchange’s extensive network of statewide assisters helped approximately **49% of QHP enrollees** find and select their 2026 health insurance.

More Federal Changes Coming

Some of the most restrictive federal policies affecting access and affordability begin next year.



Without intervention enrollment will continue to decline

Washington state leveraged all available tools to potentially cut estimated 2026 Exchange enrollment losses in half.

State premium assistance program Cascade Care Savings helps **100,000 lower income Washingtonians** save up to



Some of the most restrictive federal policies affecting access and affordability begin next year

2027	2028
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Most lawfully present non-citizens will no longer be eligible for federal premium tax credits.▶ People denied Medicaid due to work requirements will not be eligible for federal premium tax credits.▶ Open enrollment reduced to nine weeks.▶ Changes will increase out-of-pocket costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ People lose federal tax credits if they fail to file a federal income tax return and reconcile income every year.▶ Newly enrolling customers can no longer be conditionally enrolled.▶ Returning customers can no longer be automatically enrolled in the same or similar plan.

Additional Data

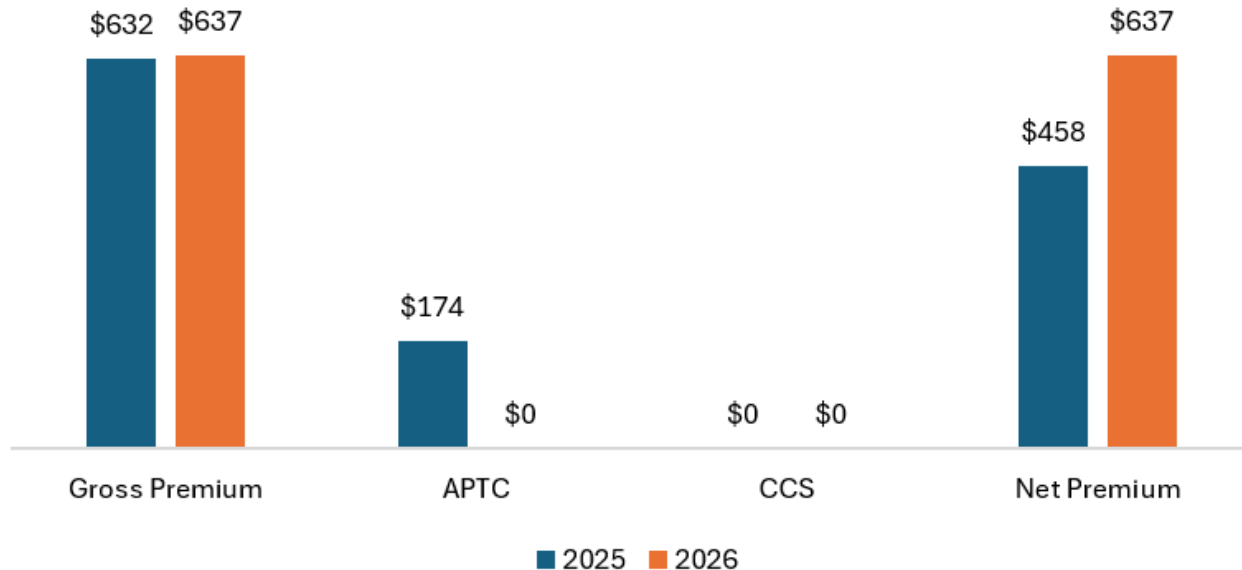
Appendix



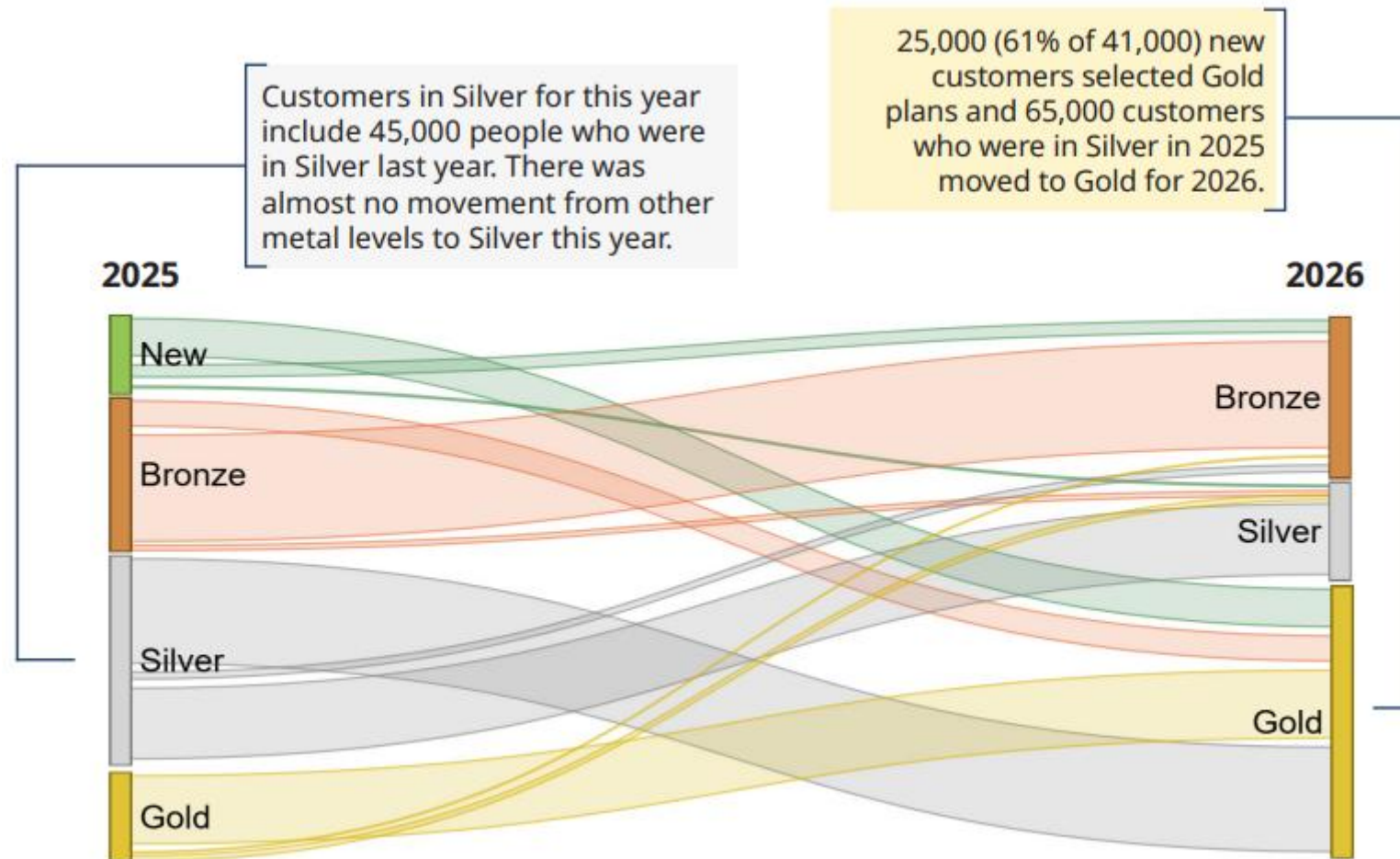
Losing APTC increased premiums for some Washingtonians

- ▶ Ending enhanced premium tax credits (ePTCs) has significantly increased premiums and reduced affordability for some Washingtonians.

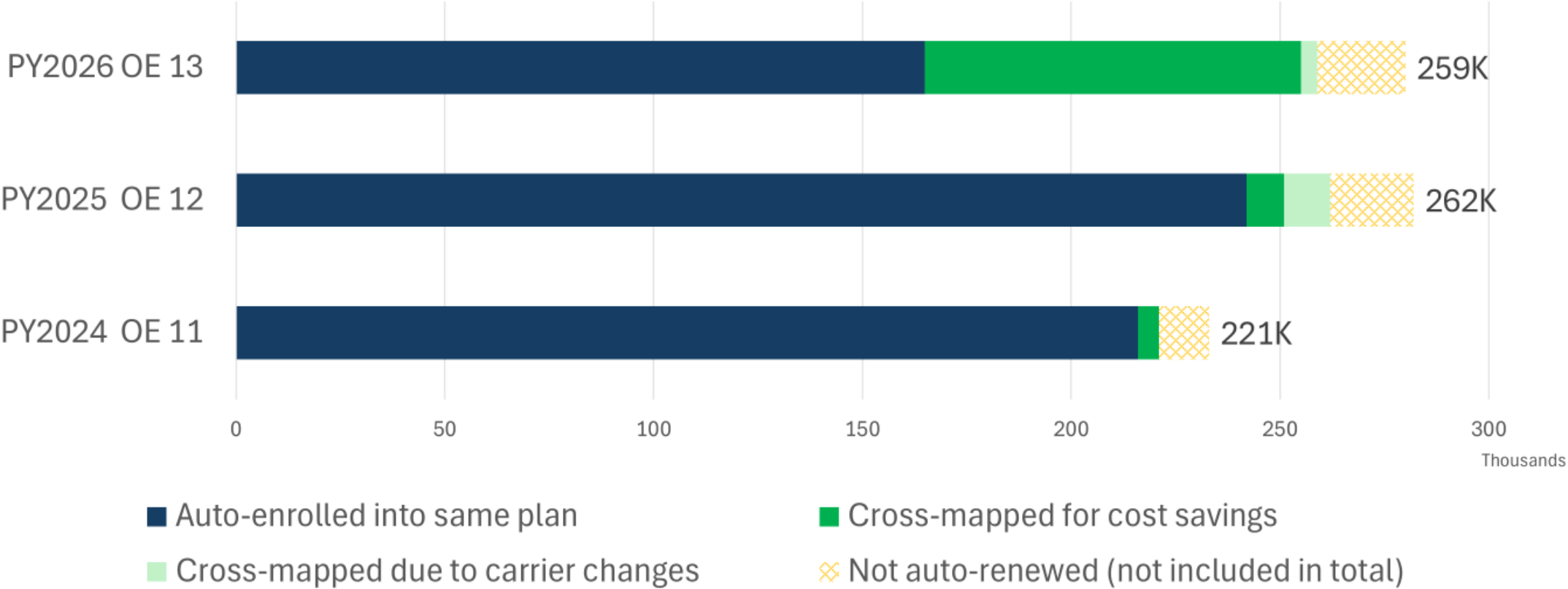
50-year-old King county resident with an income at 401% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
APTC eligible



Crossmapping efforts supported premium alignment by moving customers to the right plan



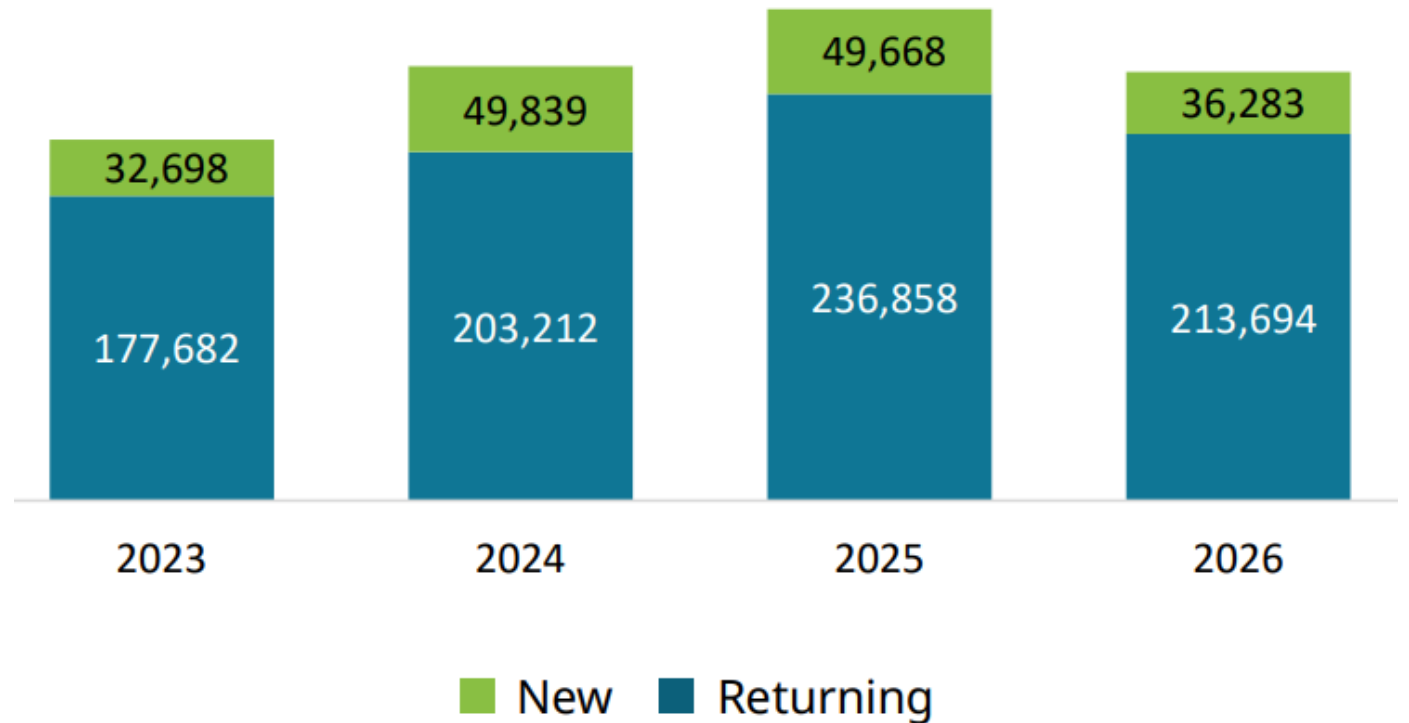
Plan Year 2026 Starting Population Compared



New and returning enrollees both decreased

- ▶ New customers down 27%
- ▶ Returning customers down 10%

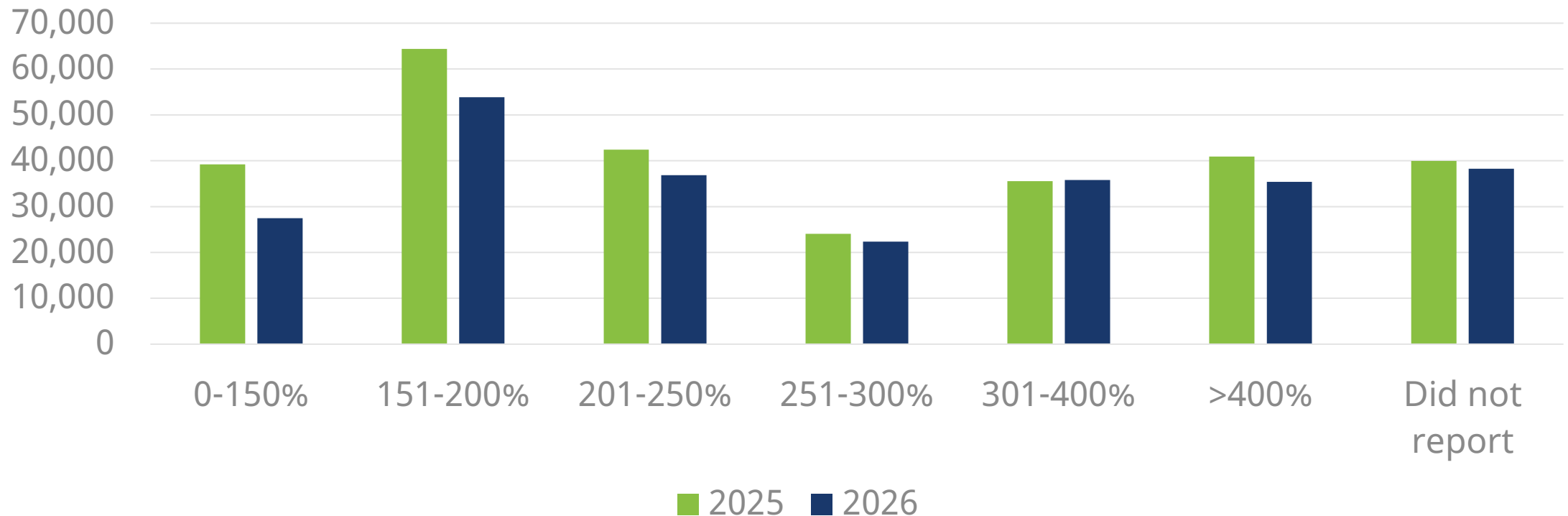
Enrollment by new and returning status



The lowest income households saw the greatest enrollment loss

- ▶ Enrollment decreased by 30% for those <150% FPL and by 16% for those 151-200% FPL.

Enrollment by FPL Group

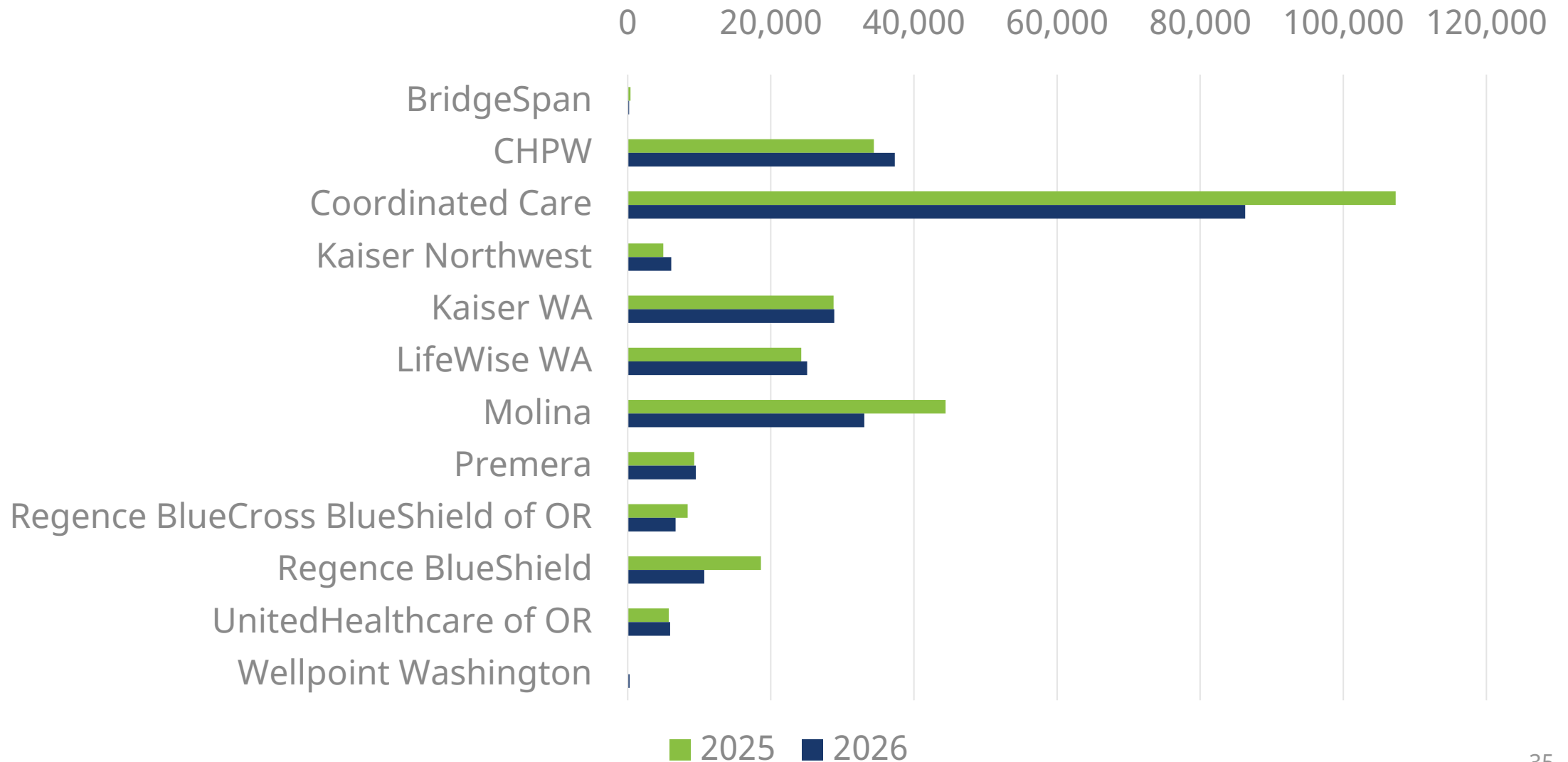


Younger, lower-income enrollees were most likely to drop coverage

Change in Enrollment, '25-'26				
FPL	0-34	35-54	55+	Total
0-150%	-3,679	-4,309	-3,720	-11,708
151-200%	-4,507	-4,105	-1,919	-10,531
201-250%	-3,008	-1,688	-913	-5,609
251-300%	-730	-555	-458	-1,743
301-400%	-354	-189	815	272
>400%	-1,274	-1,176	-3,082	-5,532
Did not report	-1,154	-633	89	-1,698
Total	-14,706	-12,655	-9,188	-36,549

Percent Change in Enrollment, '25-'26				
FPL	0-34	35-54	55+	Total
0-150%	-30%	-30%	-29%	-30%
151-200%	-19%	-17%	-12%	-16%
201-250%	-21%	-10%	-8%	-13%
251-300%	-11%	-6%	-5%	-7%
301-400%	-3%	-2%	7%	1%
>400%	-10%	-9%	-20%	-14%
Did not report	-8%	-5%	1%	-4%
Total	-15%	-12%	-11%	-13%

Enrollment loss varied by carrier



Qualified Health Plan Average Monthly Net Premium per Person by FPL & Subsidy Status (2024-2026)

	Any Subsidy			Non-subsidized		
FPL	2026	2025	2024	2026	2025	2024
<100%	\$ 425	\$ 64	\$ 63	\$ 615	\$ 545	\$ 516
100-150%	\$ 66	\$ 58	\$ 51	\$ 687	\$ 682	\$ 571
151-200%	\$ 87	\$ 70	\$ 62	\$ 625	\$ 615	\$ 586
201-250%	\$ 93	\$ 105	\$ 91	\$ 604	\$ 629	\$ 550
251-300%	\$ 175	\$ 199	\$ 177	\$ 564	\$ 522	\$ 496
301-400%	\$ 240	\$ 283	\$ 254	\$ 491	\$ 439	\$ 427
>400%	NA	NA	NA	\$ 716	\$ 538	\$ 501
Did not report	NA	NA	NA	\$ 747	\$ 661	\$ 604
Overall Average	\$ 181	\$ 130	\$ 116	\$ 631	\$ 579	\$ 531



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