



# Young Adults in Boston Compared the Nation

*BPDA Research Division*

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*October 28, 2022*



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Boston Planning and Development Agency Research Division, December, 2017

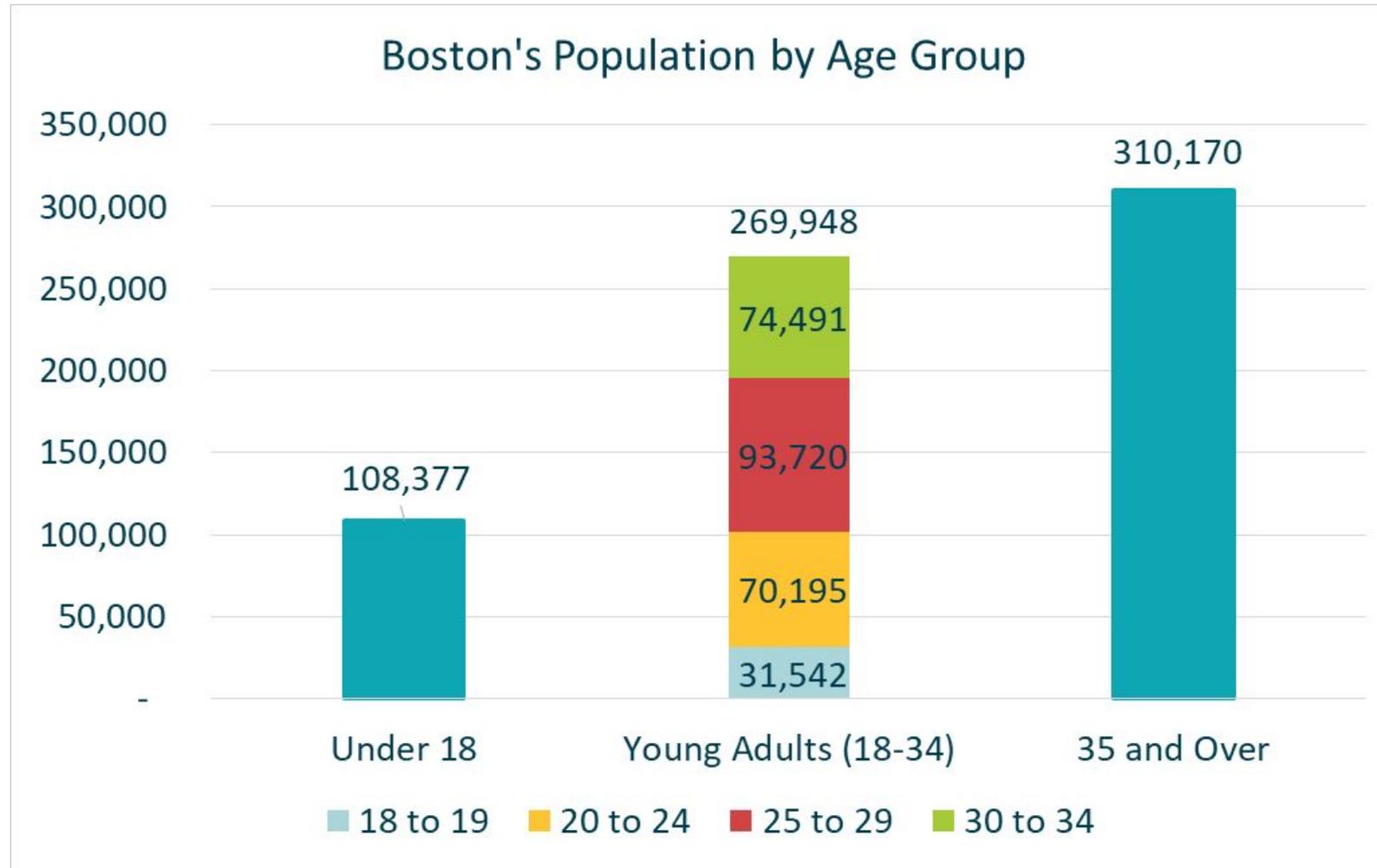
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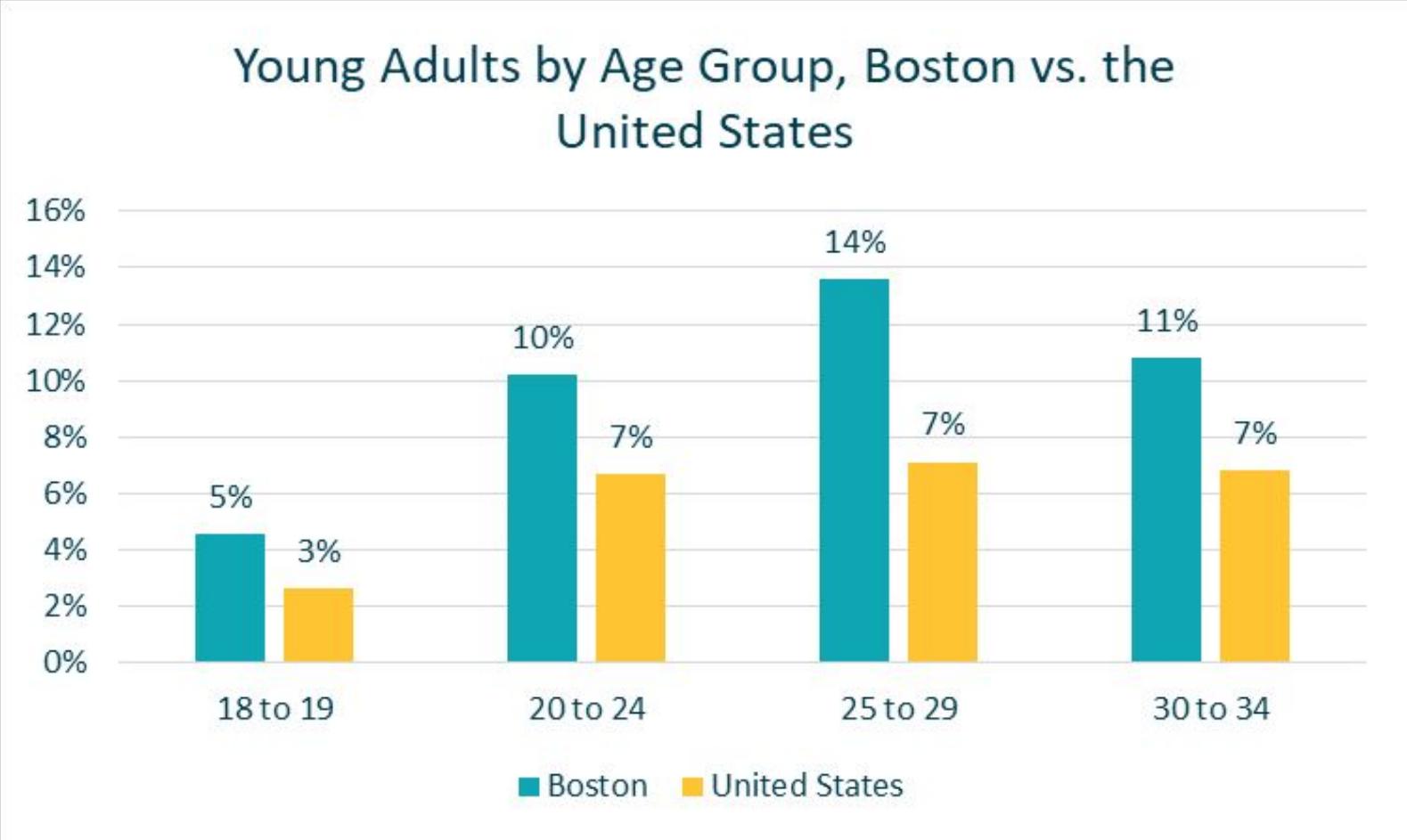
# 01. Demographics



# 269,948 Boston residents are aged 18 to 34

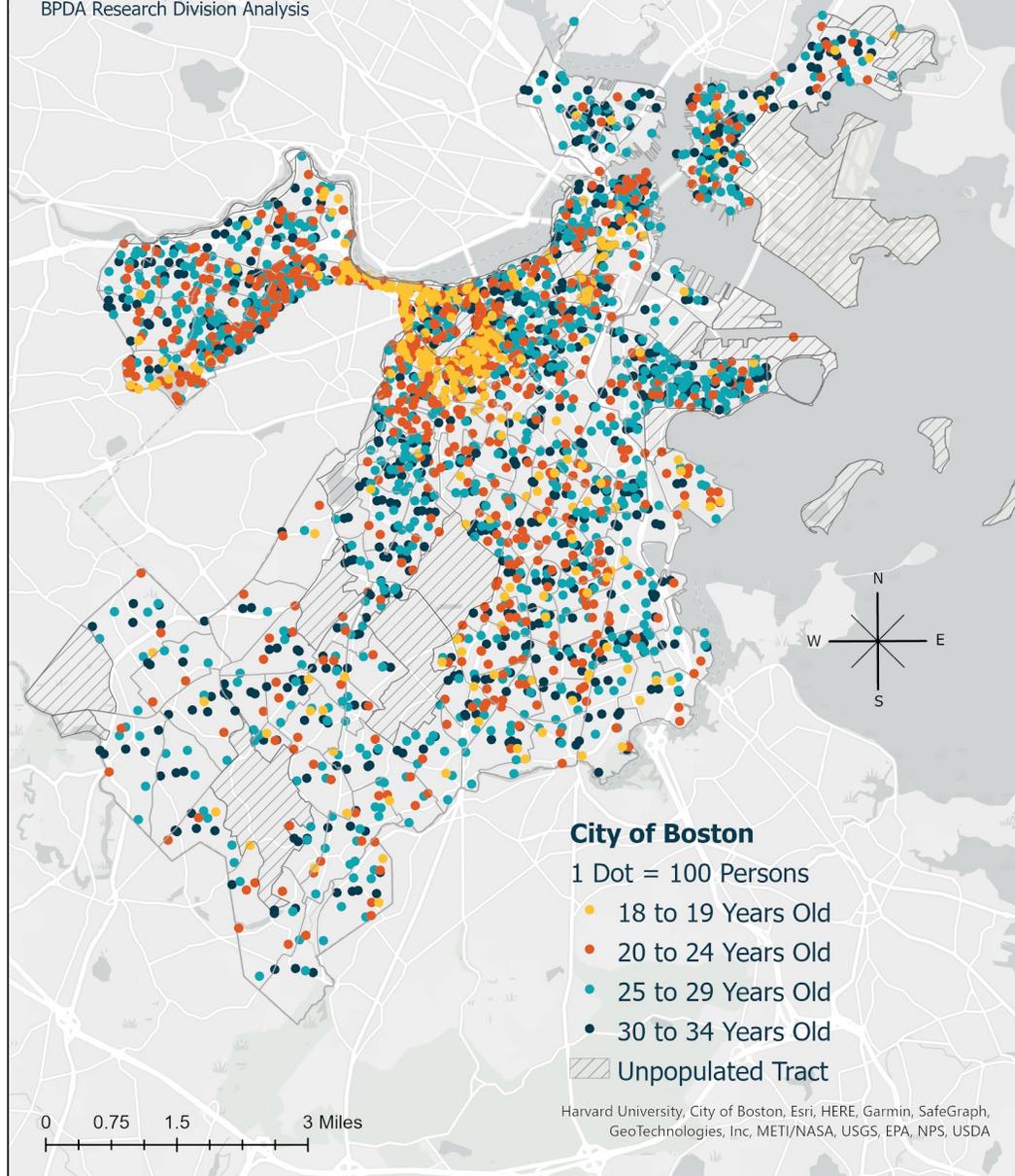


# Young Adults 18-34 make up 39% of Boston's population, but only 23% of the U.S. Population

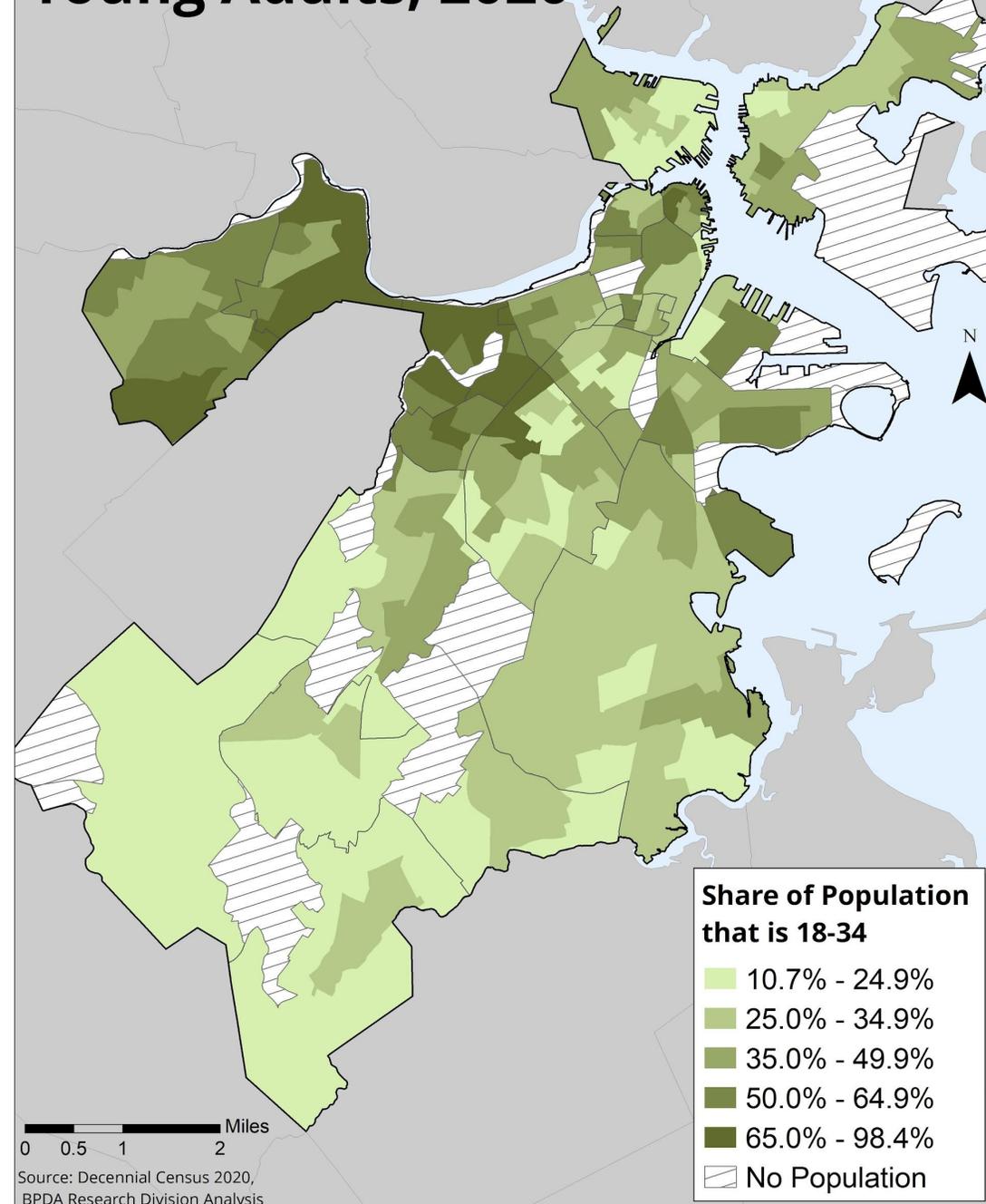


# Young Adults in Boston, 2020

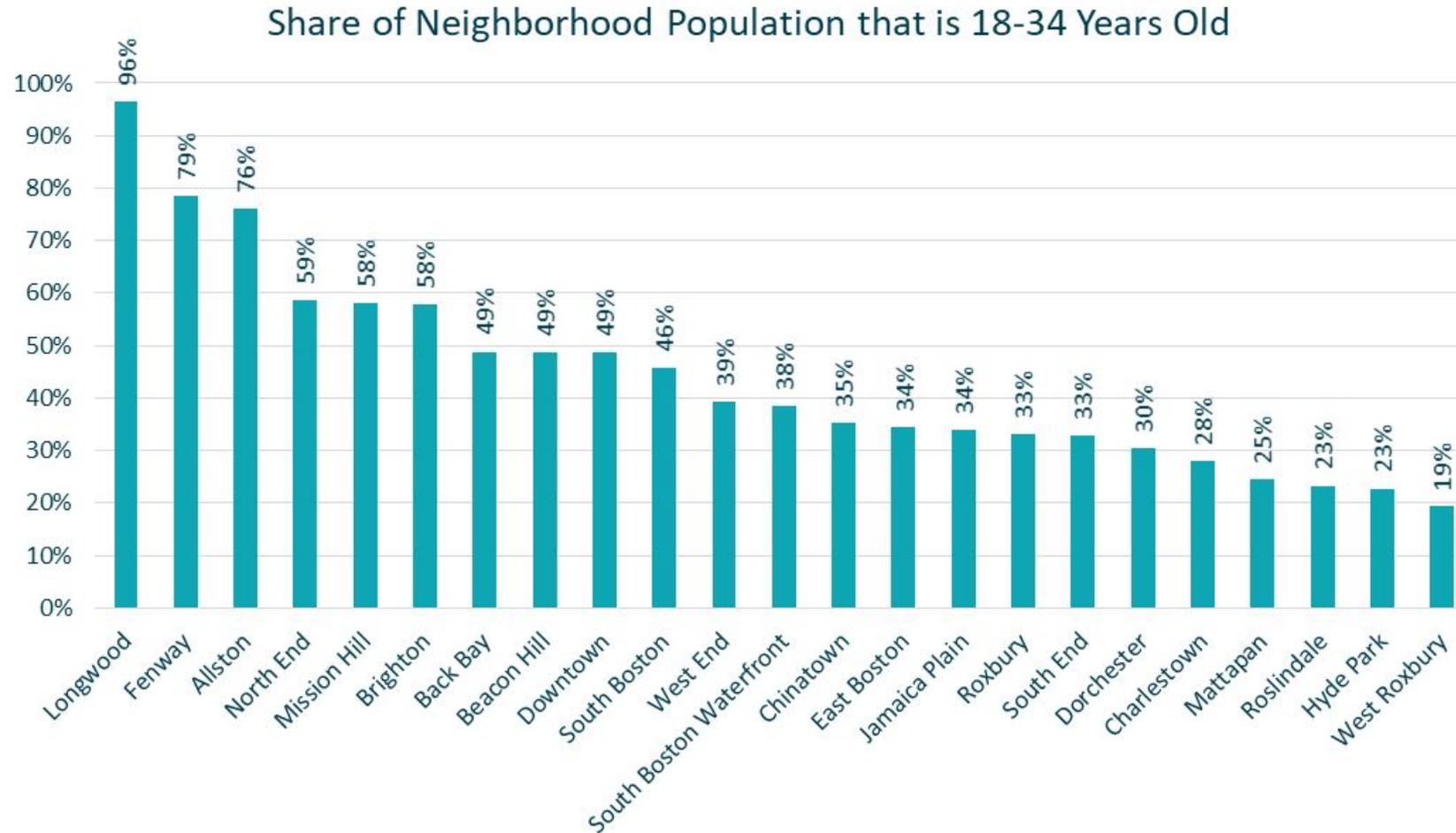
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis



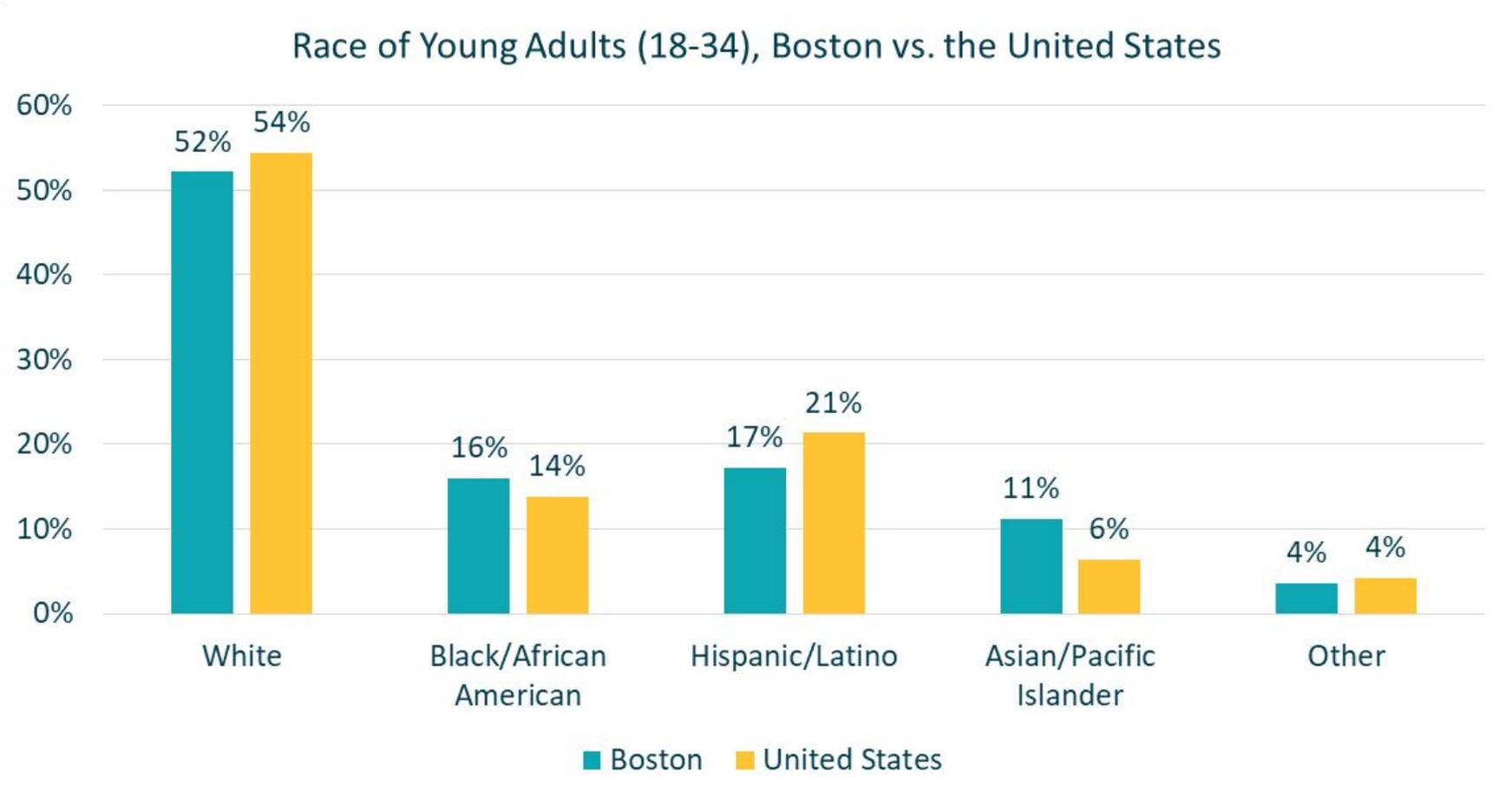
# Young Adults, 2020



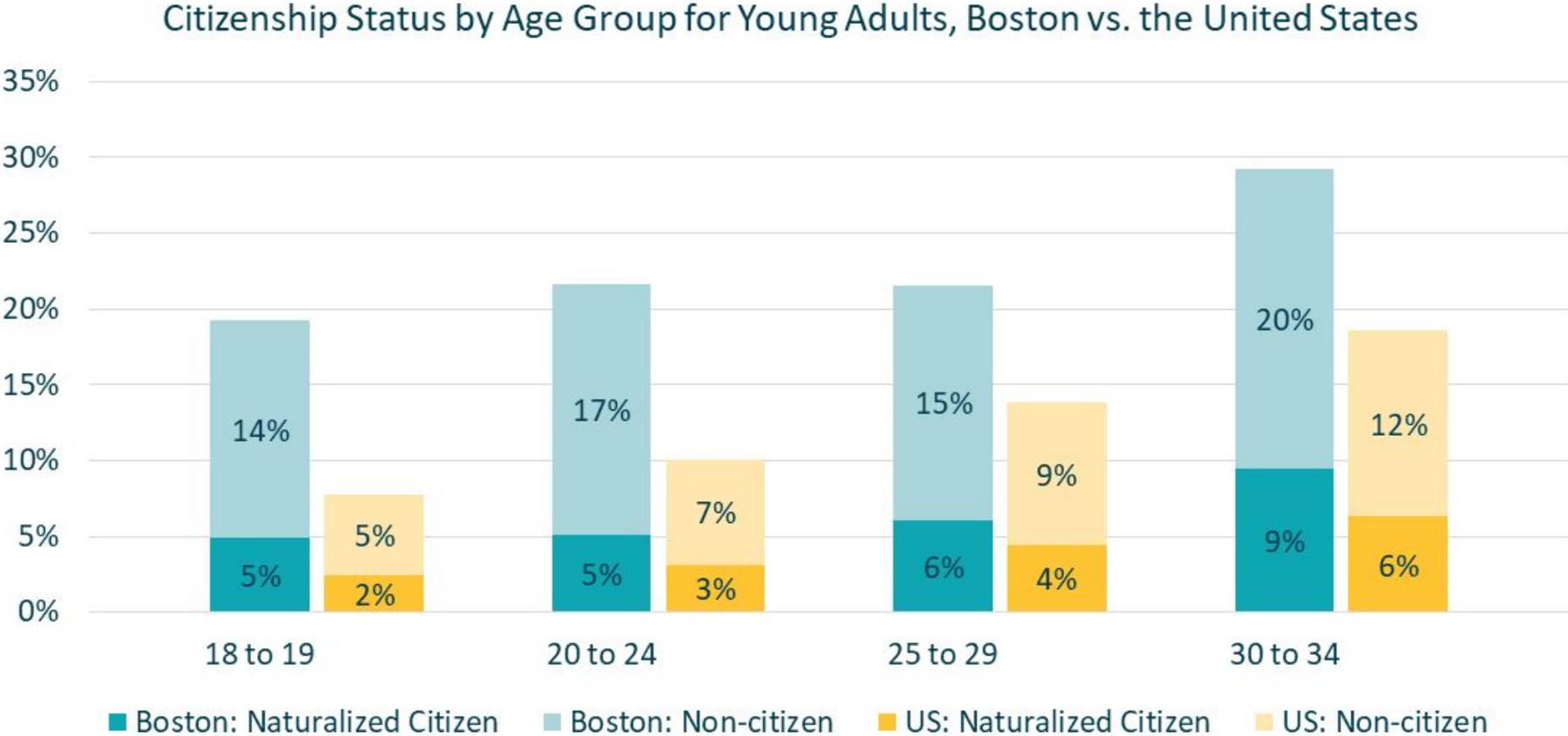
# Neighborhood young adult population shares range from 96% in Longwood to 19% in West Roxbury



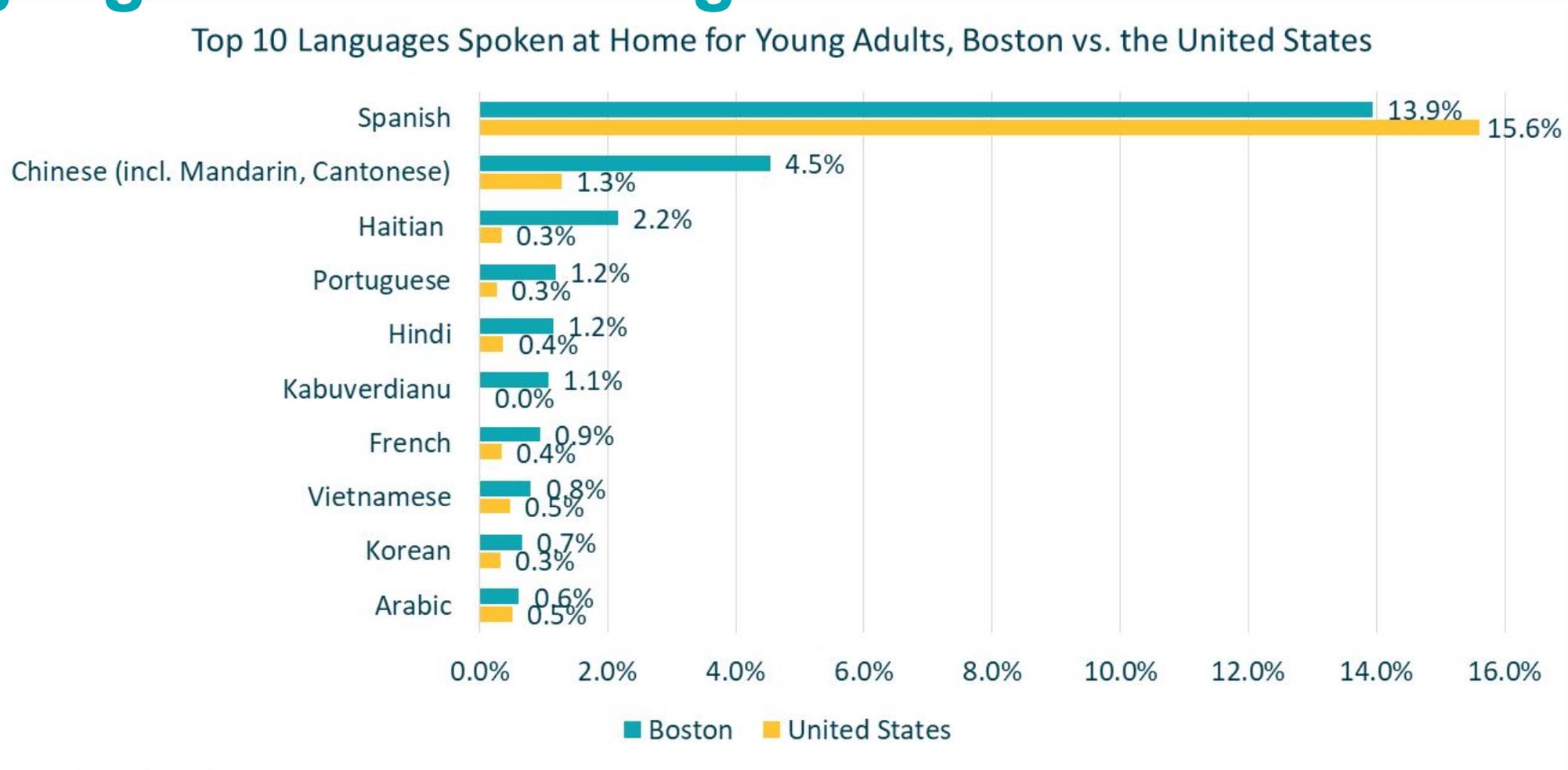
# The race/ethnicity of young adults in Boston is similar to the nation, but somewhat more likely to be Asian and less likely to be Hispanic



# Boston's young adult population is more likely to be foreign born than that of the nation



# Young adults in Boston are more likely to speak a language other than English



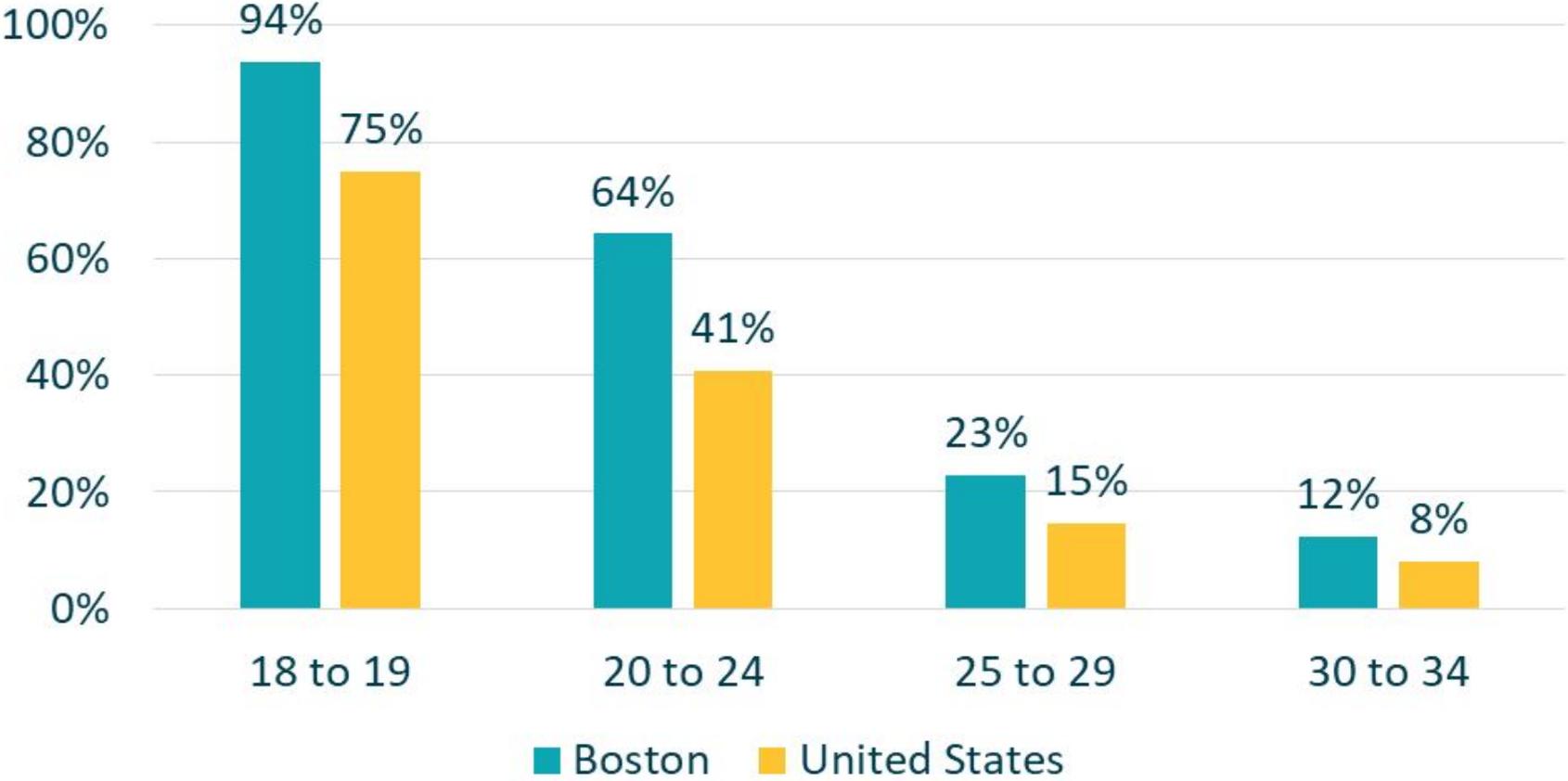
# 02. Education



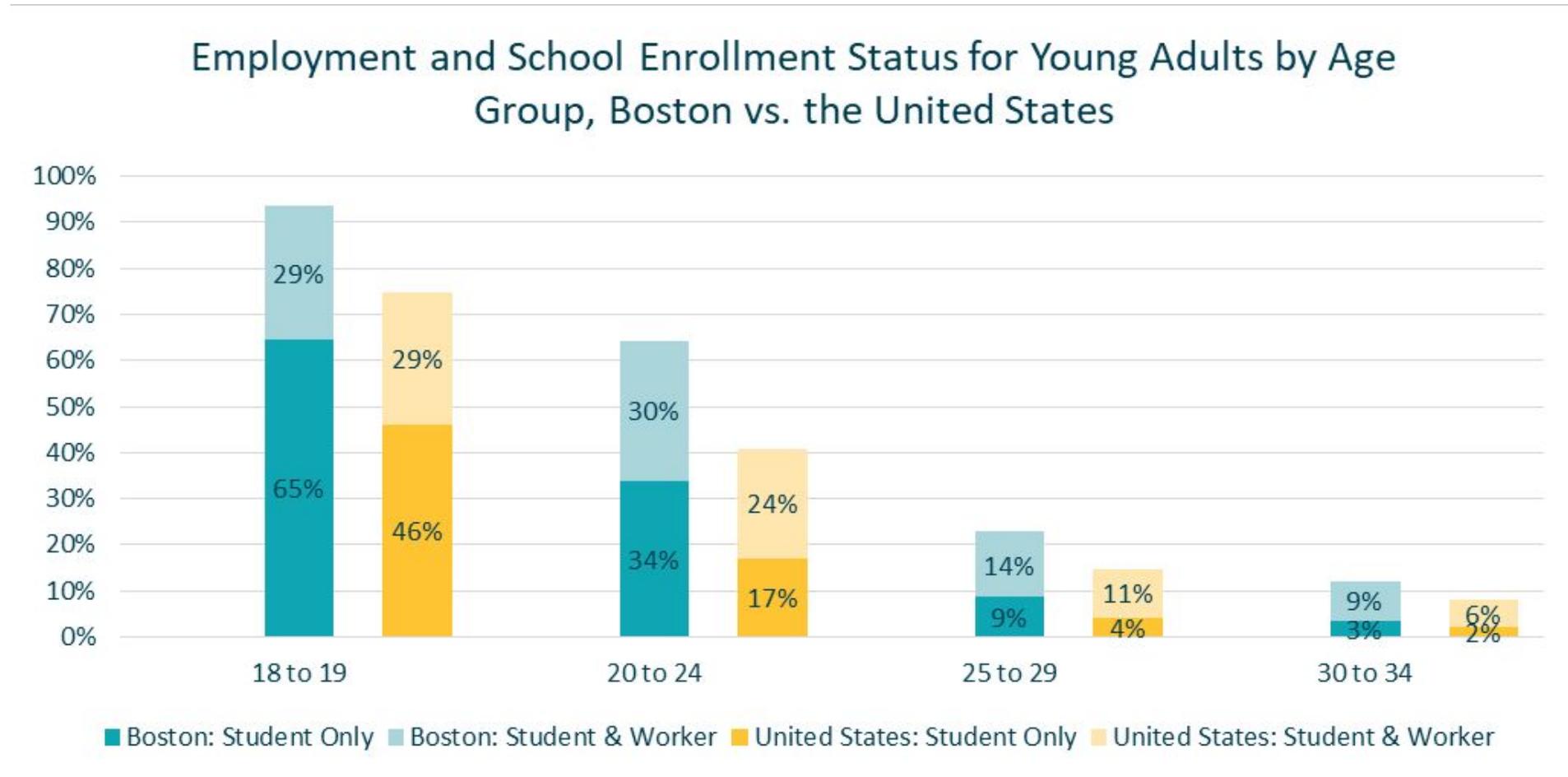
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# Most of the young adults aged 18-24 in Boston are students

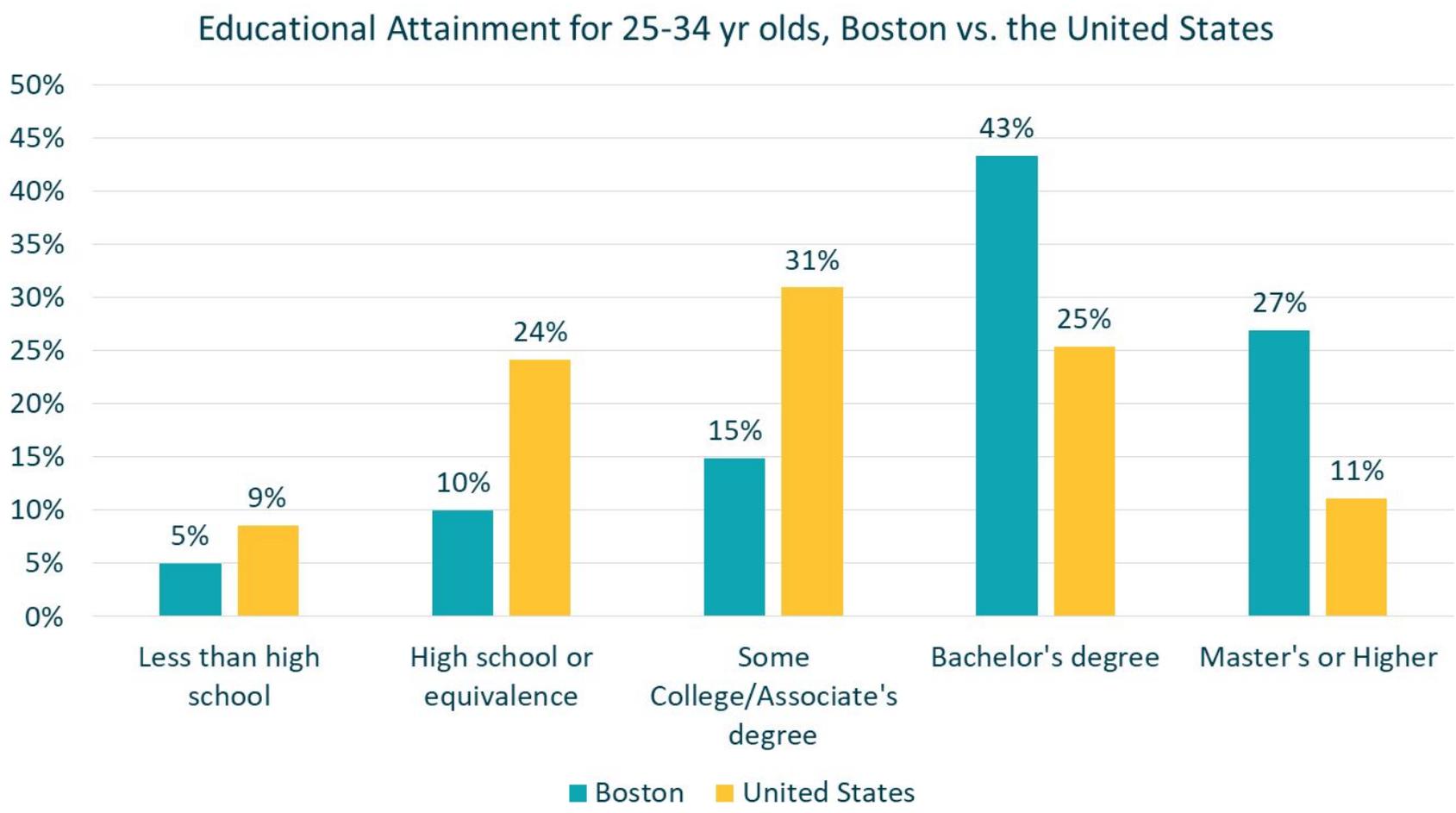
Share of Young Adults Enrolled in School by Age Group, Boston vs. the United States



# Older young adult students are likely to also be working



# Boston's Young Adults tend to be highly educated: 70% of those aged 25-34 have a Bachelor's degree or higher

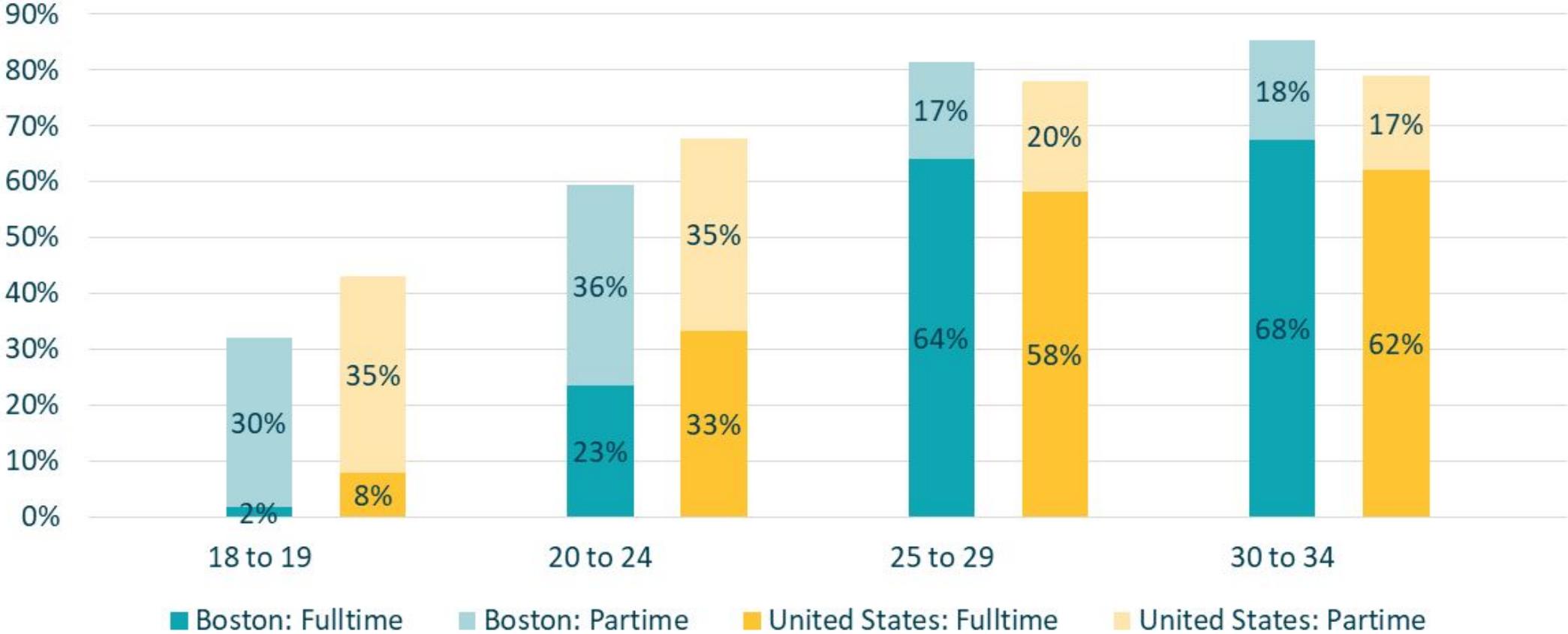


# 03. Employment & Earnings

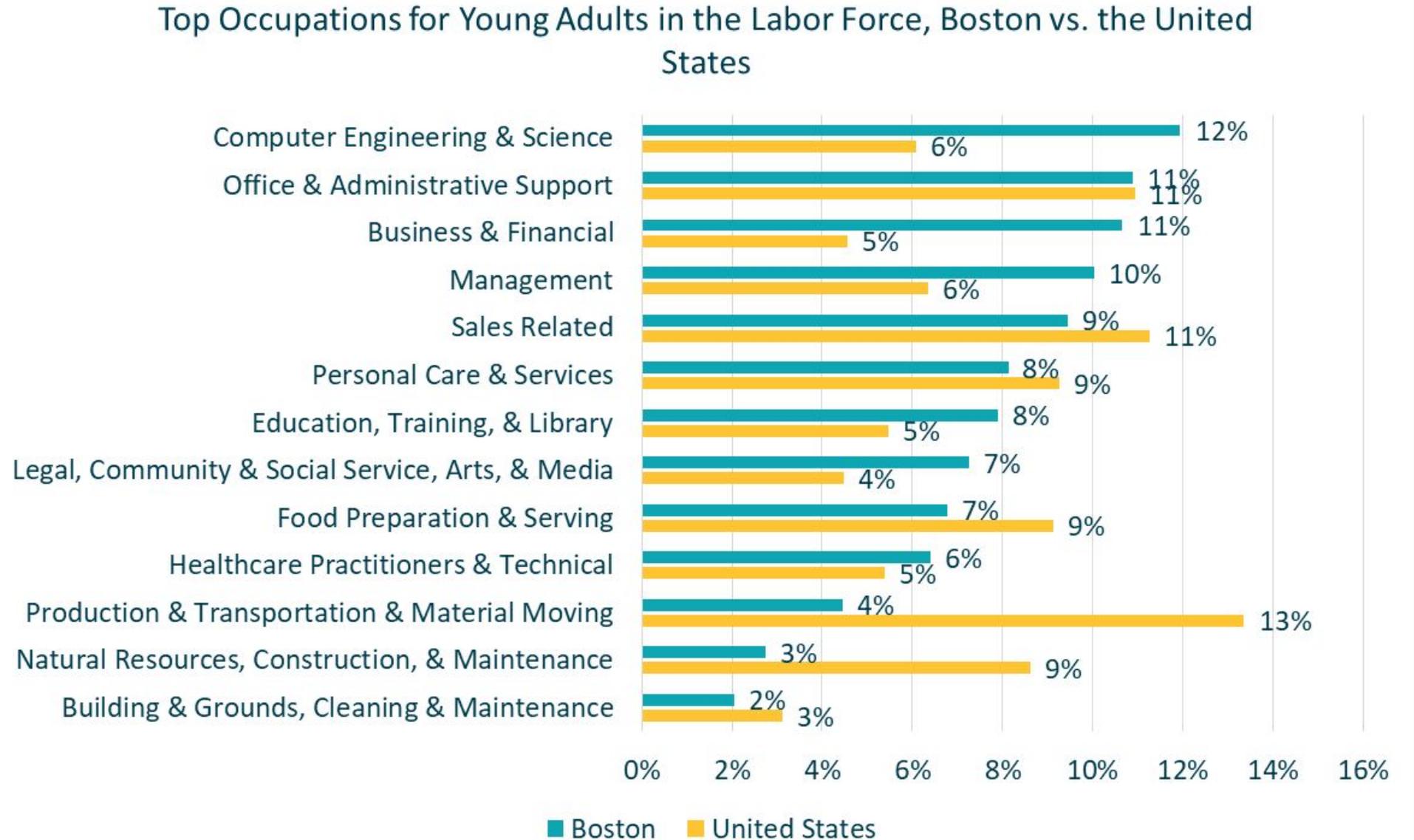


# Compared to the nation, 18-24 year olds in Boston are less likely, but 25-34 year olds are more likely to be working

Employment Status of Young Adults by Age Group, Boston vs. the United States

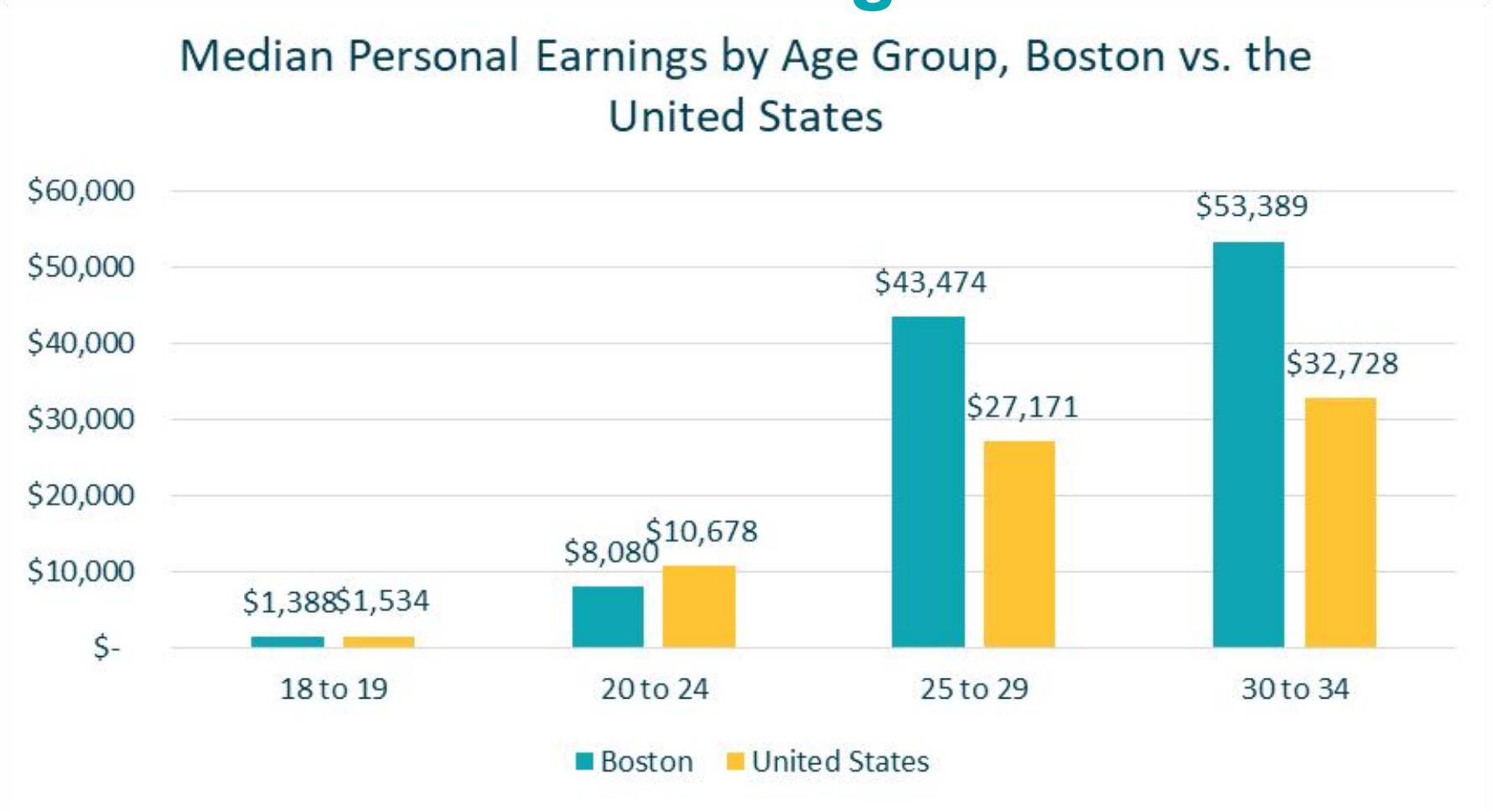


# Boston young adults are more likely to work in computer, engineering, & science, business & financial, or management occupations



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

# Boston young adults aged 25-34 earn significantly more than the national average

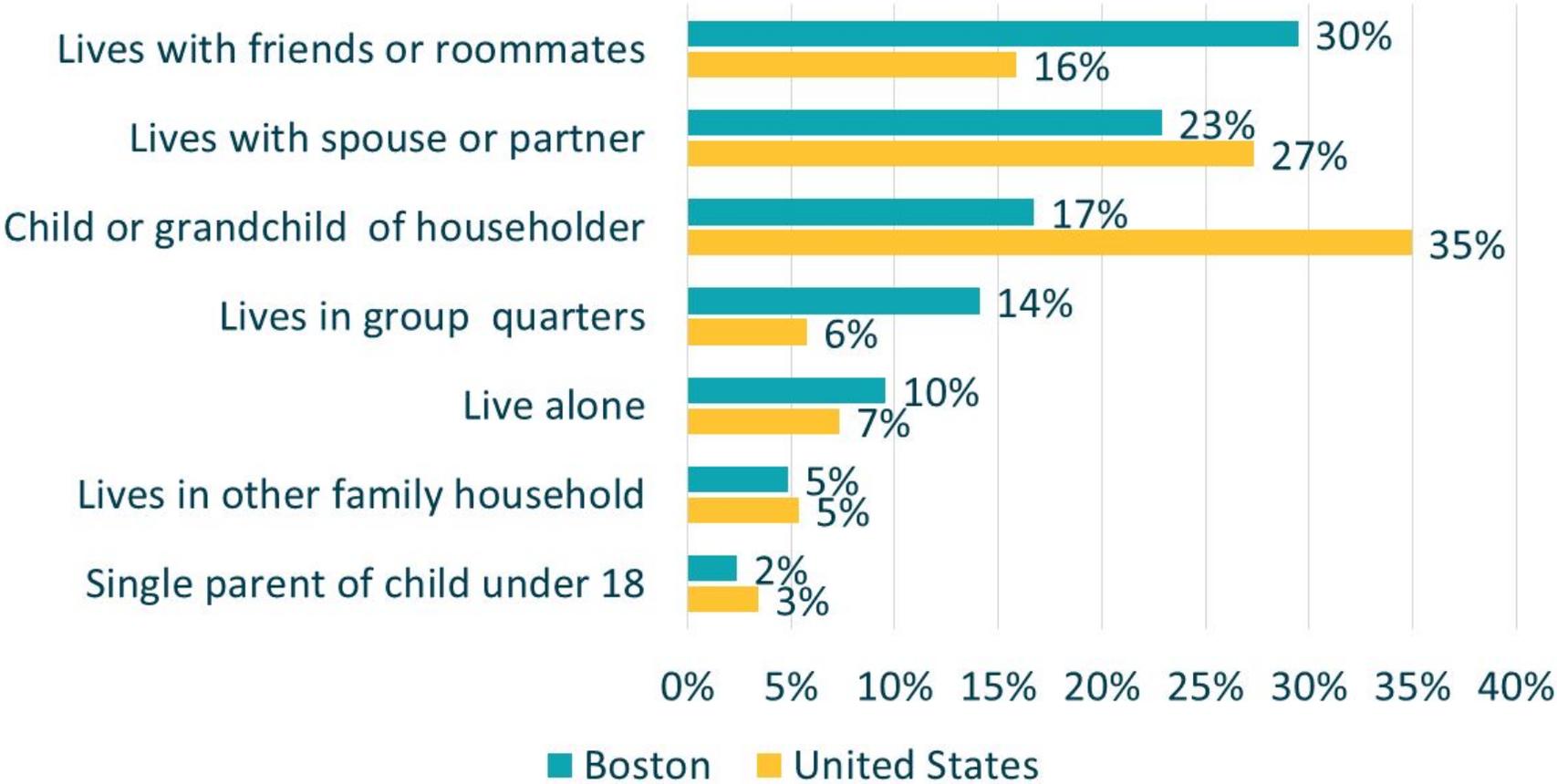


# 04. Family/Household Structure



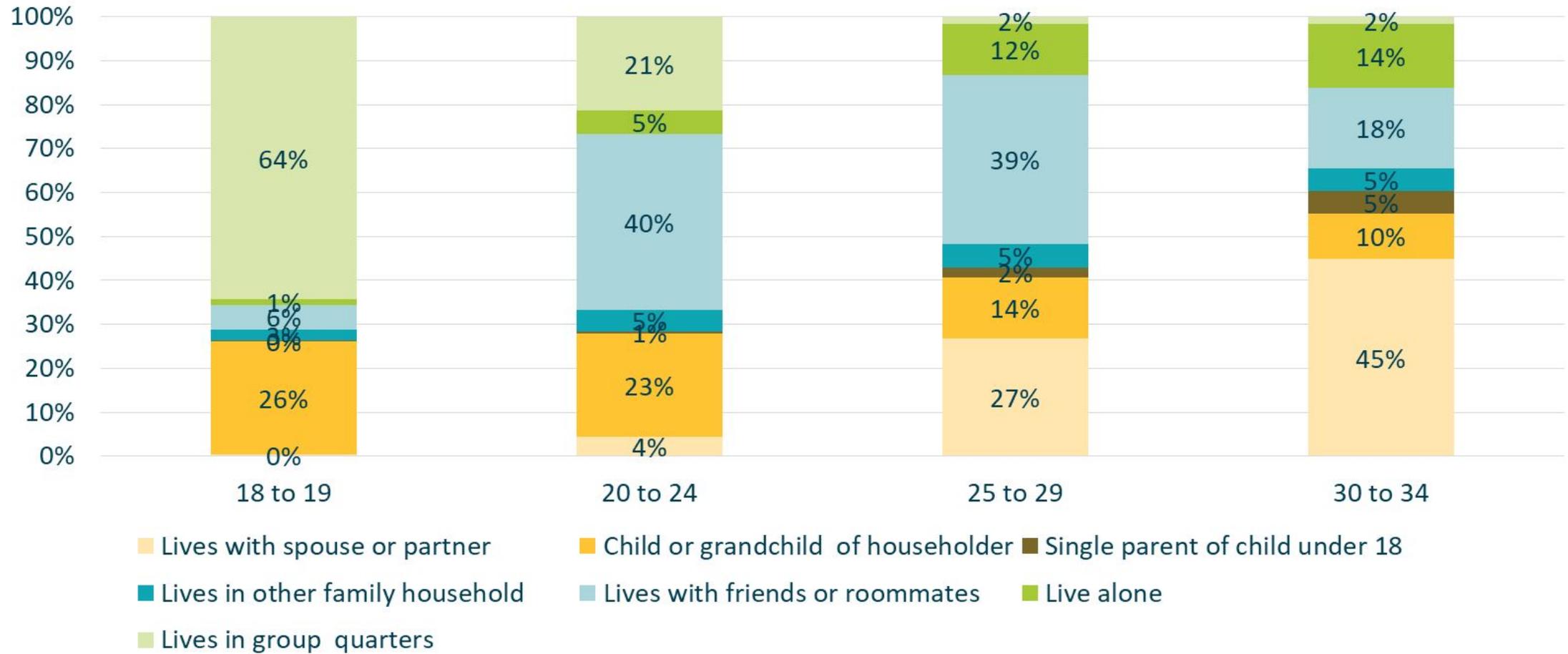
# Boston young adults are more likely to live with roommates while across the US young adults are more likely to live with a parent

Household Type, Boston vs. the United States

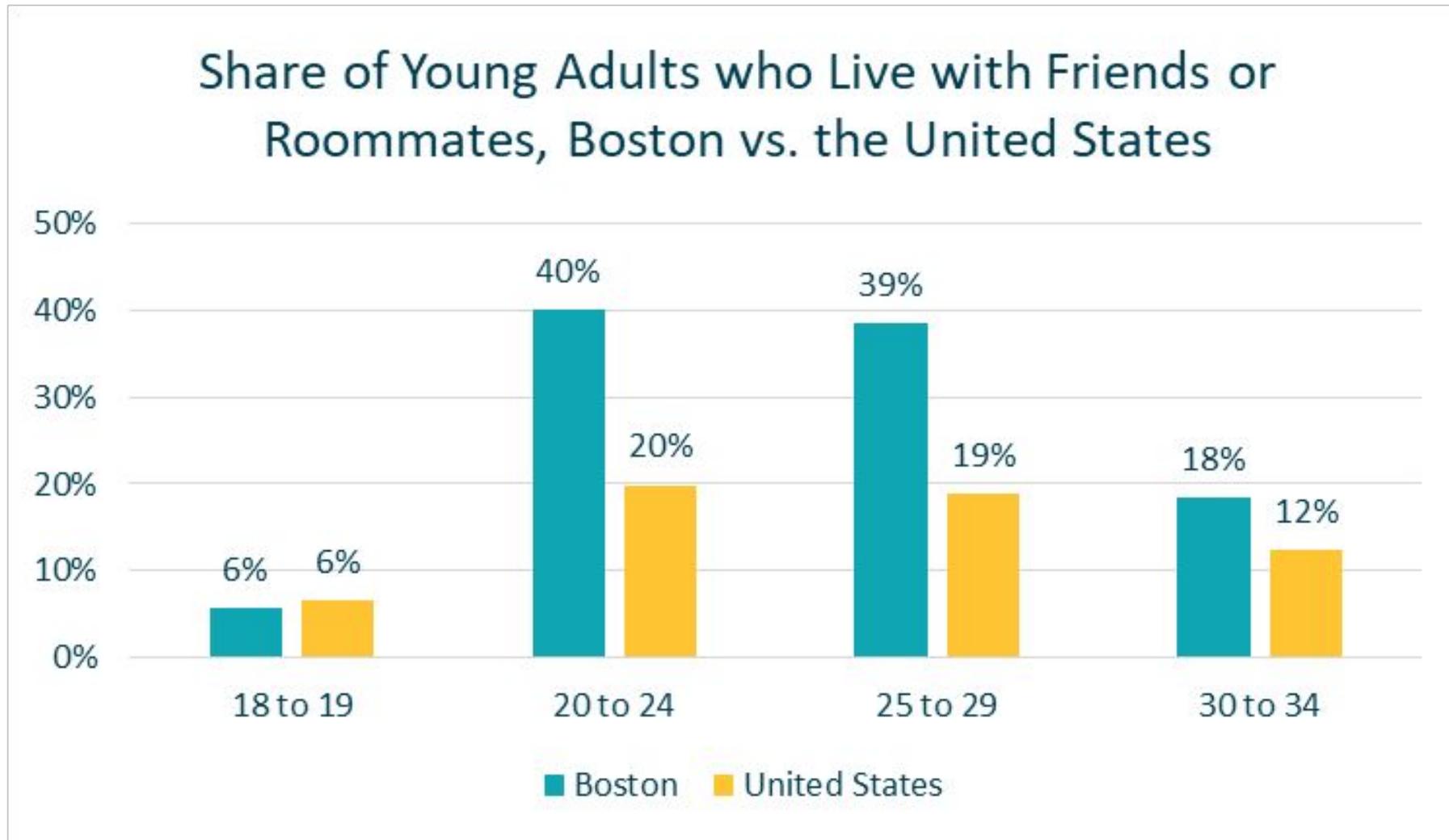


# 18-19 year olds commonly live in dorms, while 20-29 year olds live with roommates and 30-34 year olds live with a romantic partner

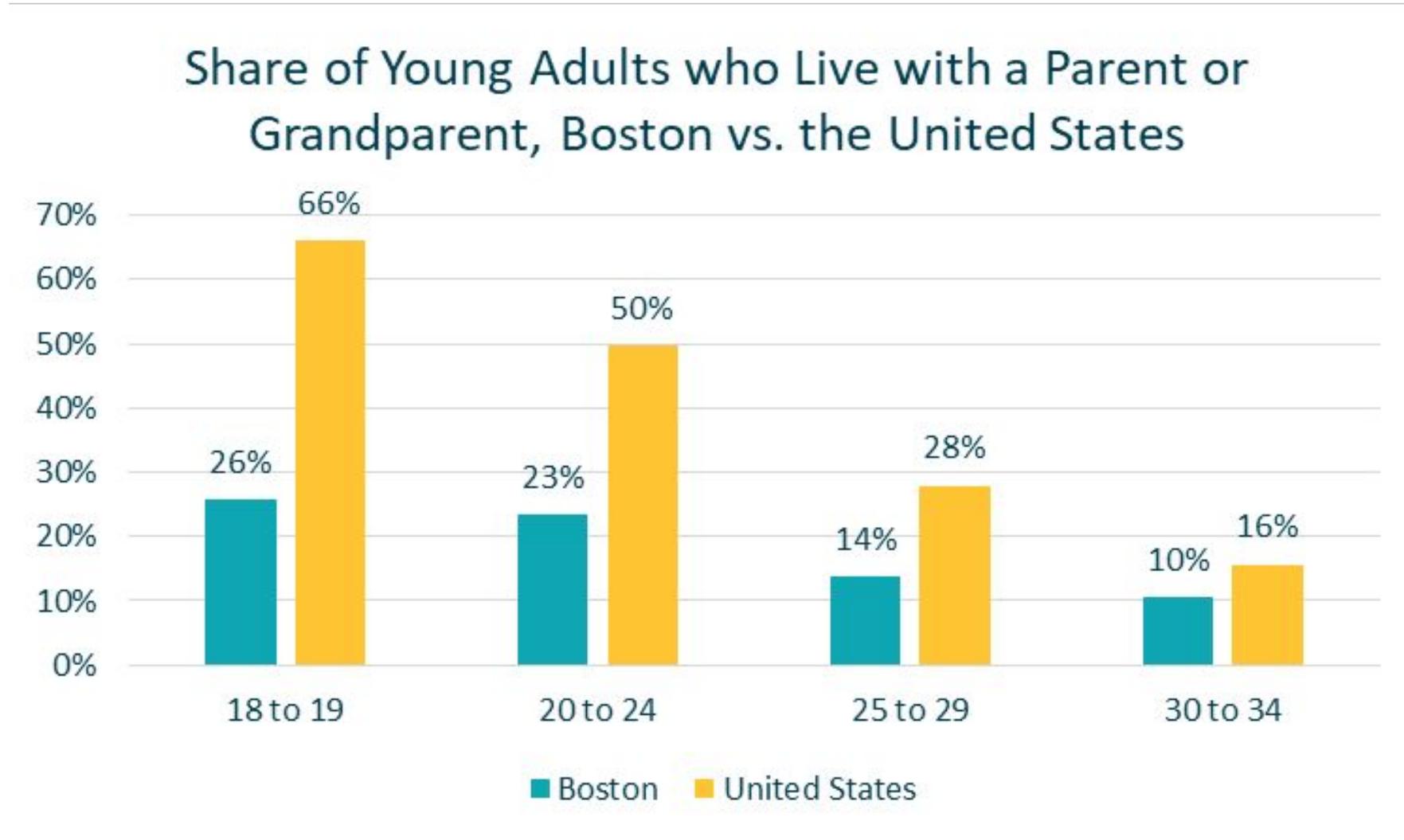
Household Type by Age Group in Boston



# About 40% of 20-29 year olds in Boston live with friends or roommates



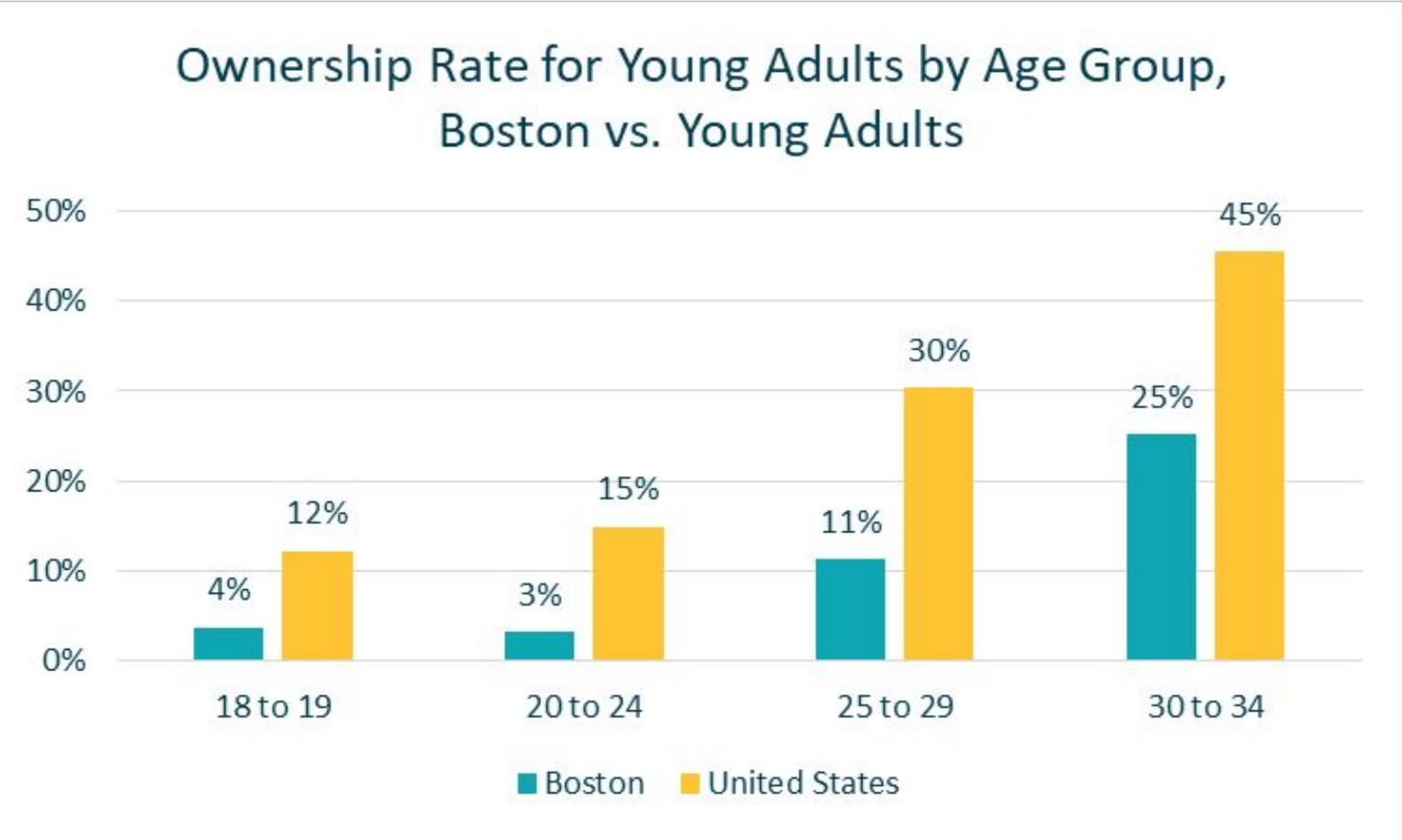
## Across the US, more than half of 18-24 year olds live with a parent or grandparent



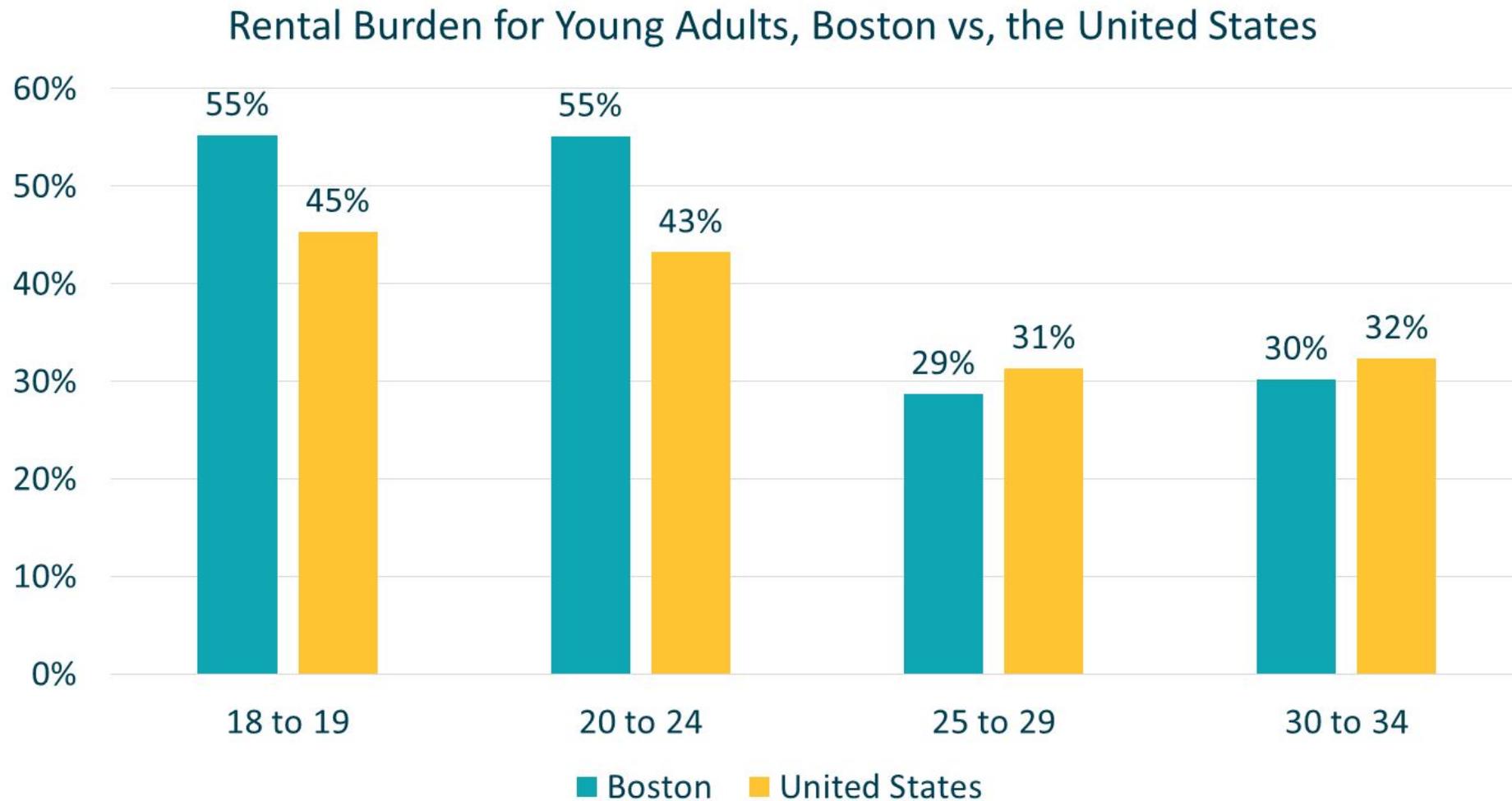
# 05. Housing



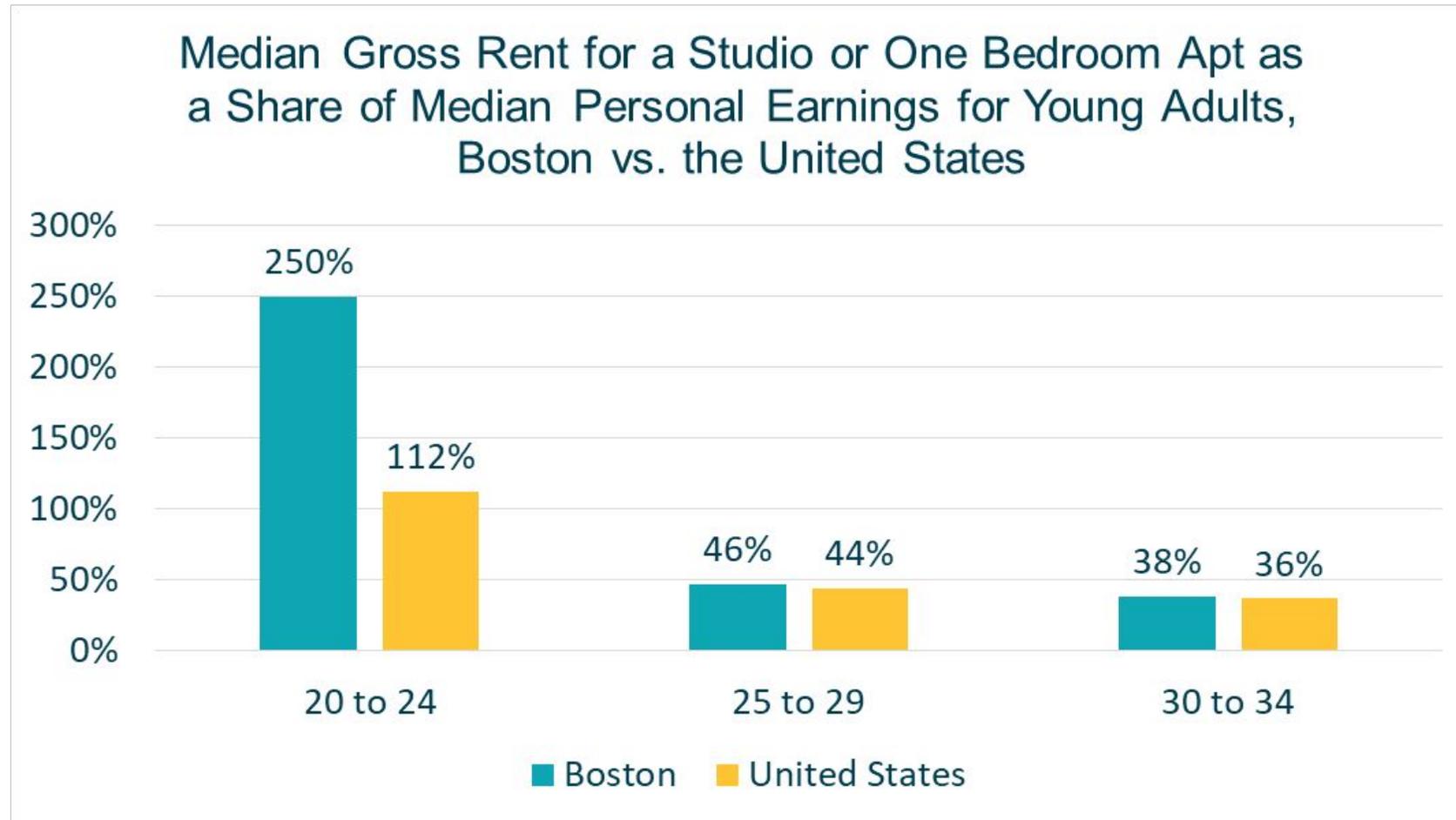
# Homeownership is lower in Boston, and just 25% of 30-34 year olds own their home



# Rental Cost Burden decreases for older Young Adult



# Both in Boston and across the country, young adults would struggle to rent an apartment on their own: the median rent for a 1-bedroom is 46% of the median monthly earnings for 25-29 y.o.



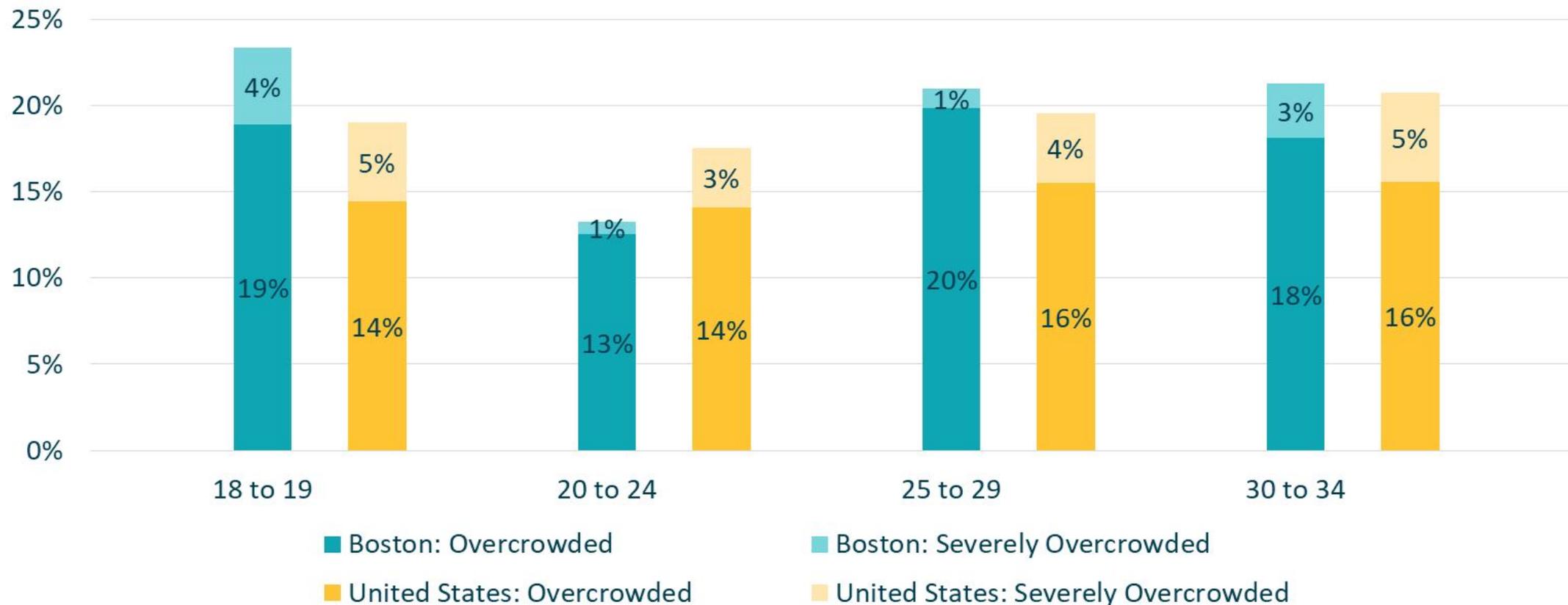
# Boston on average has a smaller household size

Mean Household Size for Young Adults by Age Group, Boston vs. the United States



# Boston's Young Adults households are greatly influenced by higher education

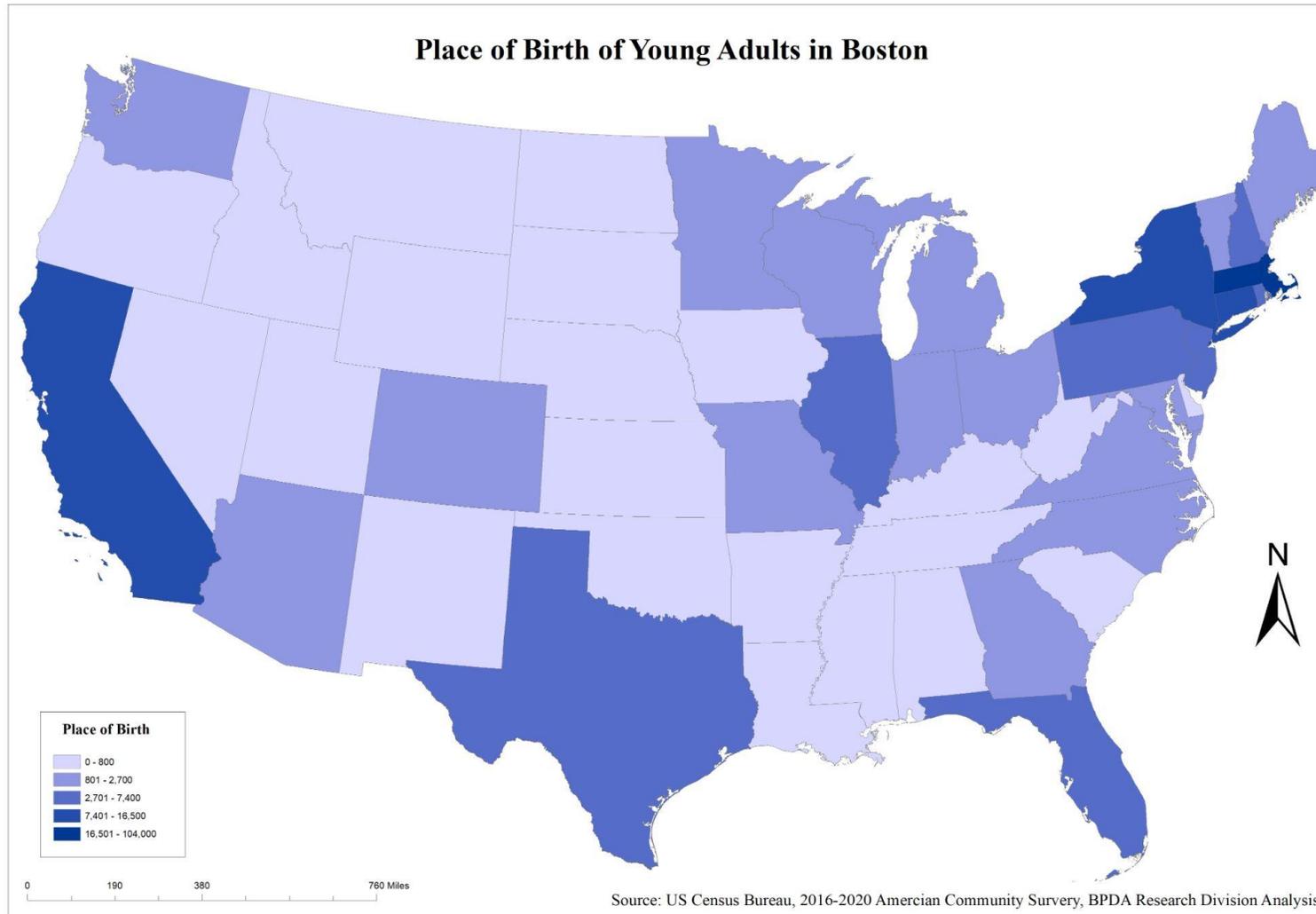
Share of Young Adults in Overcrowded Living Quarters by Age Group, Boston vs. the United States



# 06. Migration



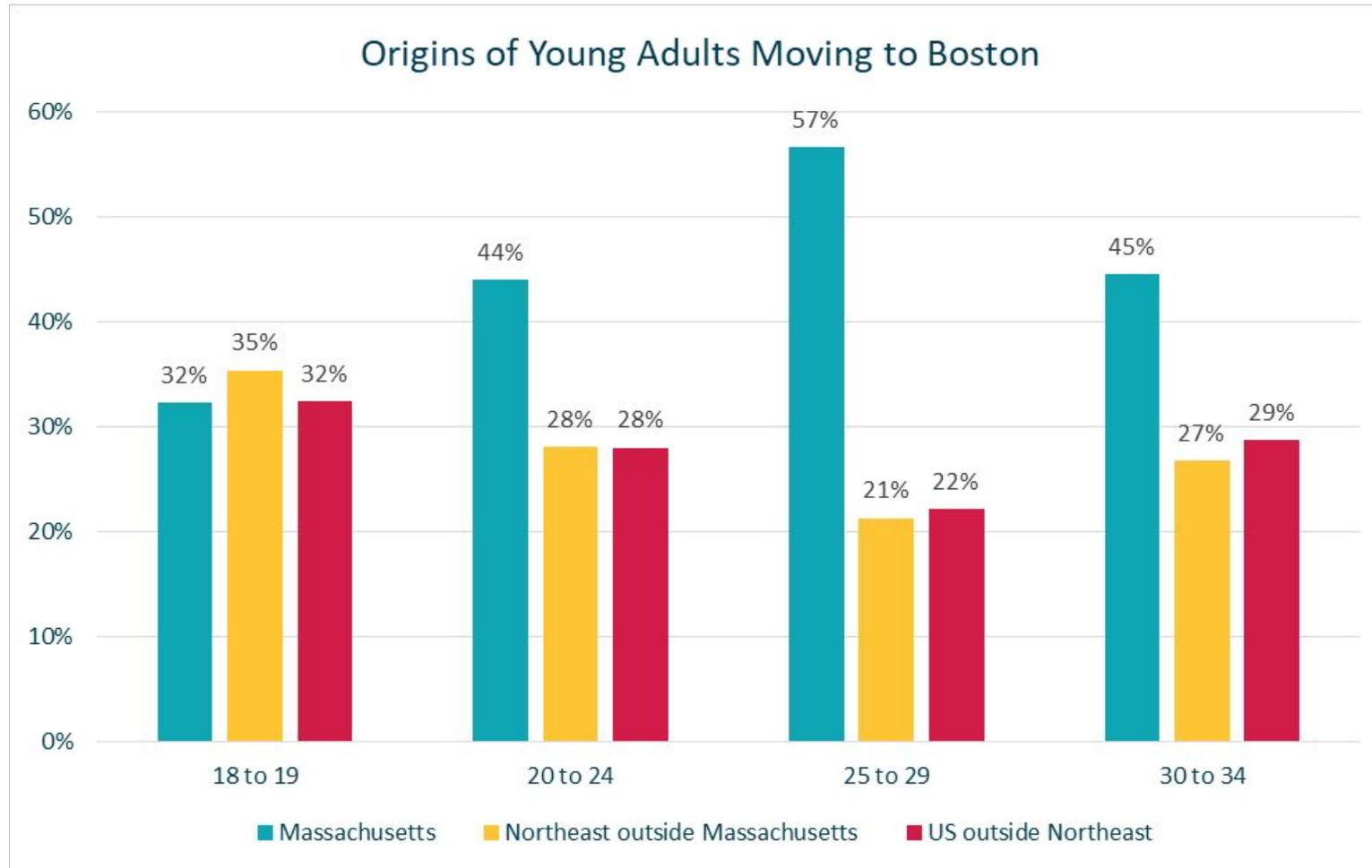
# 39% of young adults in Boston were born in Massachusetts



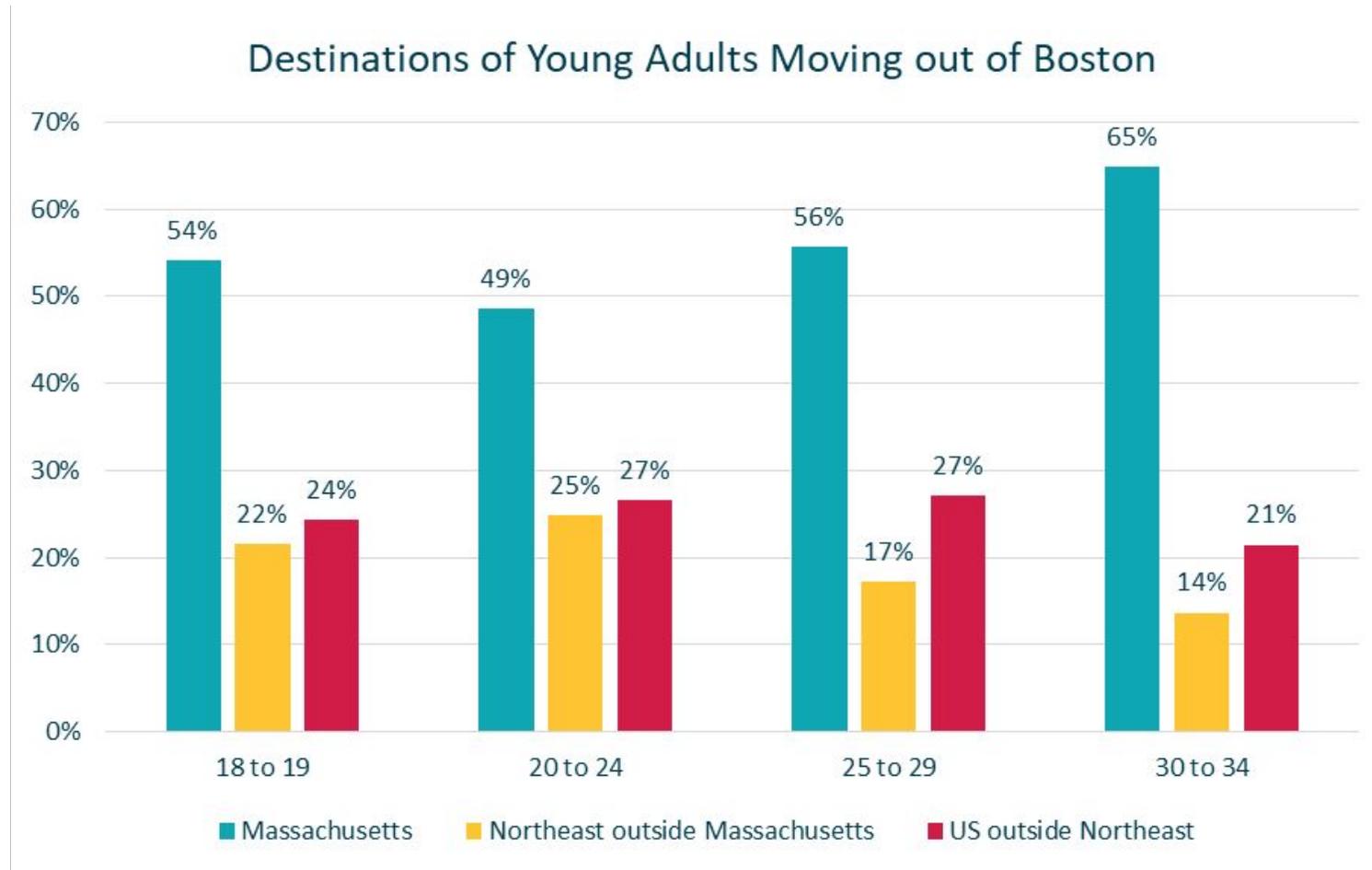
**25% of young adults in Boston were born outside the US. Top 10 countries:**

1. China
2. Dominican Republic
3. India
4. El Salvador
5. Haiti
6. Cabo Verde
7. Colombia
8. Mexico
9. Brazil
10. Jamaica

# Among young adults moving to Boston, 18-19 year olds are more likely to come from outside Massachusetts



# Many young adults leaving Boston remain in Massachusetts and may remain in Boston's labor market.



# Implications & Questions for Policy and Planning



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# Conclusion

- Boston's 18-34 yr old population is highly mobile
- 18-34 yr olds are 39% of the city's population and 25-29 yr olds are the largest 5 yr age cohort
- Boston not only educates the population, but our labour market attracts individuals nationally and internationally
- Even with higher housing costs, Boston's rent cost burden among those 25+ is similar to that of the United States' because of our productive labour market