

There is a large and complex web of factors influencing the success and behavior of every student.

This includes a wide variety of factors outside of the jurisdiction of the education system, such as home life, cultural norms, and economic security.

As a result, only a limited number of factors resulting from a student's behavioral pattern, such as chronic absenteeism, can be quantified.

Unlike many other behavioral factors influencing student success, chronic absenteeism can be easily and accurately recorded by educational professionals without the use of any secondary data or reliance on assumptions of survey accuracy. A student simply is or is not present on a given day. There are a limited number of reliably quantifiable factors known to result from the behavior.


PRIMARY IMPACT AREAS


ECONOMIC
IMPACT
AREAS

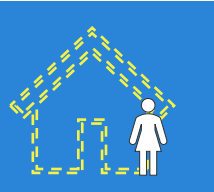
 High School-Level Degree and Productivity Differences


Postsecondary Educational Attainment and Productivity Differences 


FISCAL
IMPACT
AREAS

 Decreased Tax Revenue to State and Local Governments

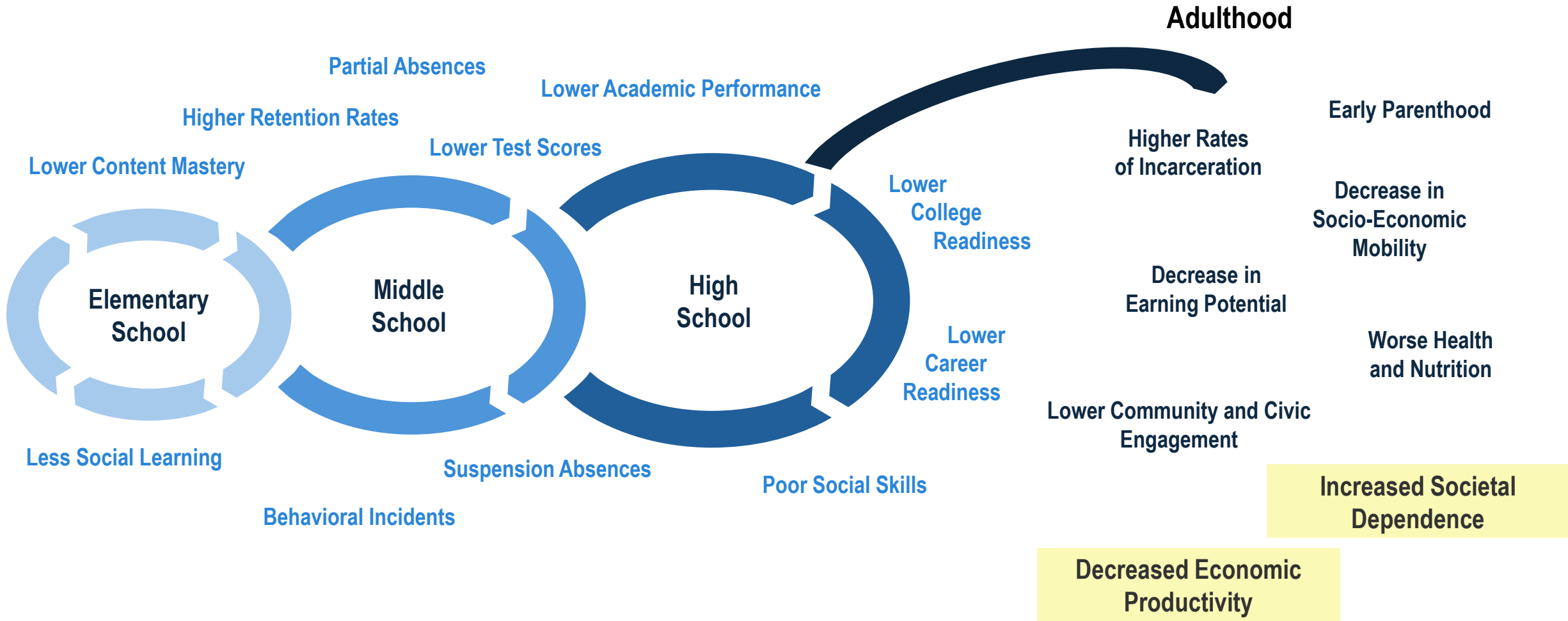
Increased Likelihood of Incarceration and Associated Costs 

 Increased Likelihood of Housing Insecurity and Associated Costs

Increased Likelihood of Medicaid Use and Associated Costs 

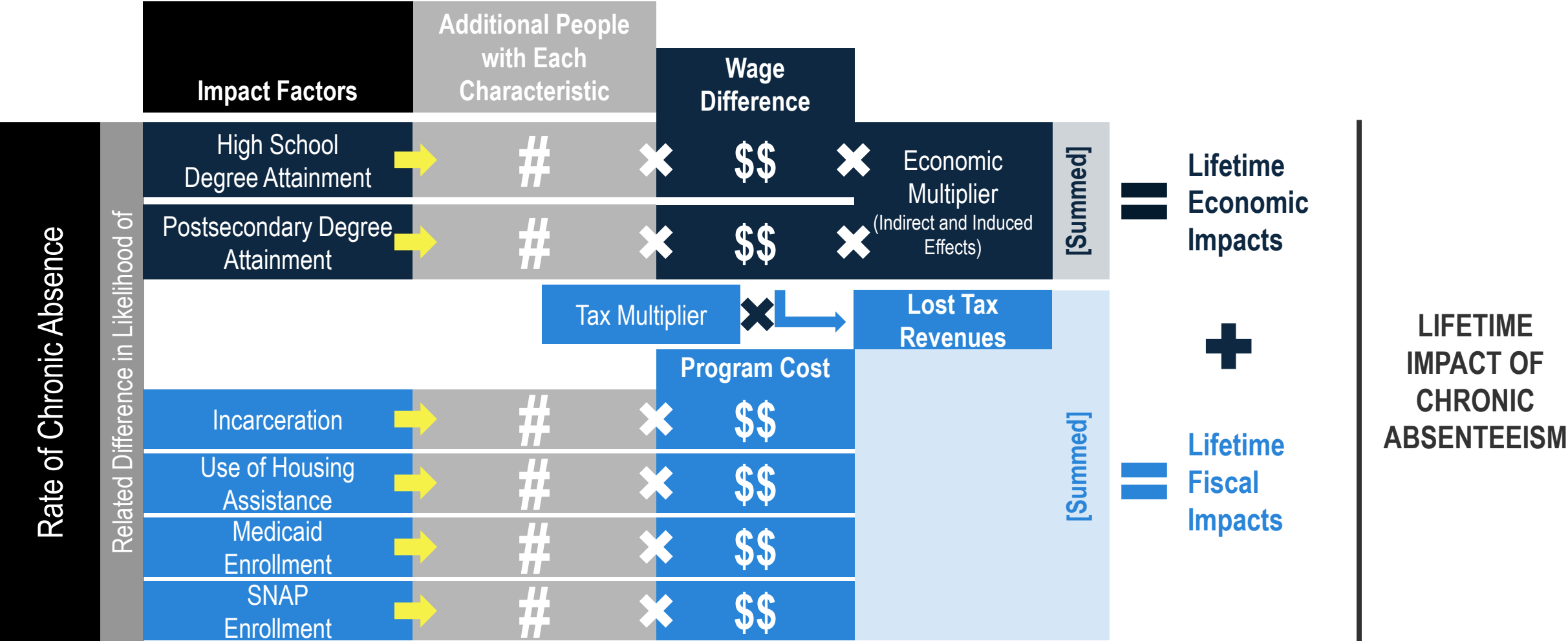
 Increased Likelihood of Reliance on Social Support and Associated Costs

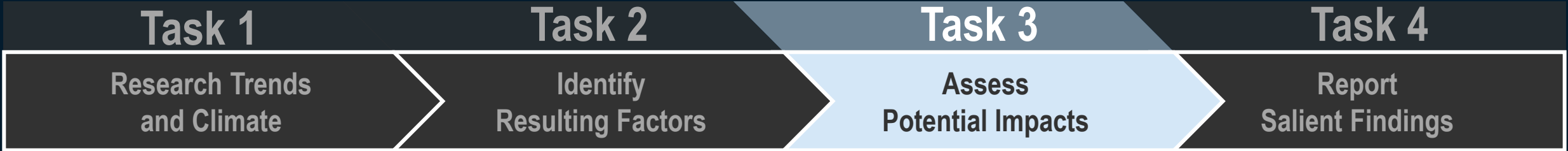
THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC ABSENCE BY AGE



Source: Referenced Research Studies and Reports

MODEL STRUCTURE





Assess Local Trends and Changes in Key Education Metrics

Perform Subject Research

Find Reputable, Significant, and Quantifiable Links Among Subjects of Interest

Assess Strength of Studied Relationships

Compare Viability of Causal Mechanisms and Applicability to Current-Day Southern Nevada

Integrate Findings Across Varied Geography, Methodology, and Timing

Calculate Current and Expected Future Impacts of Chronic Absenteeism in Clark County

Consider and Calculate Alternate Trends

Account for Unquantifiable Impacts on Overall Direction and Magnitude of Results

Synthesize Results of Impact Calculations

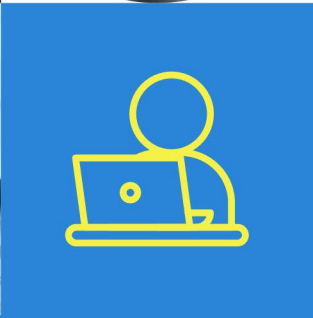
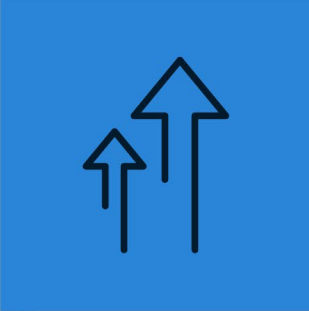
Present Range of Possible Near-Future Scenarios

Summarize Overall Findings

Address Likely Additional and Related Concerns

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Lost Productivity Resulting from Behaviors Impacted by Chronic Absence



HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION | DIRECT LOSS

2024

Among the high school seniors in the spring of 2024, 42.4 percent (an estimated 11,305 students) were chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism and related behaviors are expected to result in lower graduation rates for these students compared to their peers.

As a direct result, an estimated 783 students did not graduate in 2024 who otherwise might have, if not for the effects of chronic absenteeism. Taking into account the difference in the average number of working years and the average annual wage associated with obtaining a high school diploma, the lifetime loss in wages for each chronically absent senior is estimated at \$359,346.

When applied to the total number of lost graduates, this equates to a cumulative lifetime wage loss of \$281.3 million for the entire graduating class of 2024. This figure specifically captures the economic impact of high school dropouts and failure to graduate due to chronic absenteeism. However, additional economic losses are likely to arise from behavioral differences and other long-term outcomes associated with chronic absenteeism later in life.

Number of Students in Graduating Class	26,668
x Rate of Chronic Absenteeism – High School	42.4%
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Number of Chronically Absent Students in Graduating Class	11,305
x Decrease in Graduation Rate for Chronically Absent Students	6.9%
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High School Graduates Lost to Chronic Absenteeism	783
x Difference in Lifetime Earnings – High School Graduates vs Non-Graduates	-\$359.3 K
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Total Wages Lost to Chronic Absenteeism	-\$281.3 M

Source: Nevada Department of Education, US Census Bureau, US Social Security Administration, Referenced Studies

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION | DIRECT LOSS

2024

Among the chronically absent students in the Class of 2024 who graduated despite this behavioral pattern, only half are expected to pursue college education. While the overall immediate college attendance rate for CCSD graduates in 2024 was 50.5 percent, the rate for chronically absent graduates is even lower, estimated at 49.3 percent. Furthermore, for those who do attend, the likelihood of college persistence and eventual graduation with a four-year degree is significantly reduced compared to their non-absent peers.

When accounting for these differences and local retention rates, the Class of 2024 is projected to have 71 fewer college attendees and 158 fewer college graduates in Clark County as a result of chronic absenteeism in high school. While there is a minor gain in productivity from the local retention of individuals who might have otherwise left the area after attending or graduating college, this is outweighed by the broader economic impact. The loss of education at the postsecondary level is expected to result in a net lifetime wage loss of \$168.8 million for the Class of 2024.

	Number of Chronically Absent High School Graduates	8,763
f(x)	Difference in College Attendance Rate – Chronically Absent vs Normal ¹	.96
	Difference in College Persistence Rate – Chronically Absent vs Normal ¹	.91
	Portion of Clark County High School Graduates Attending College Locally	39.0%
	Retention Rate of Local College Graduates	73.5%

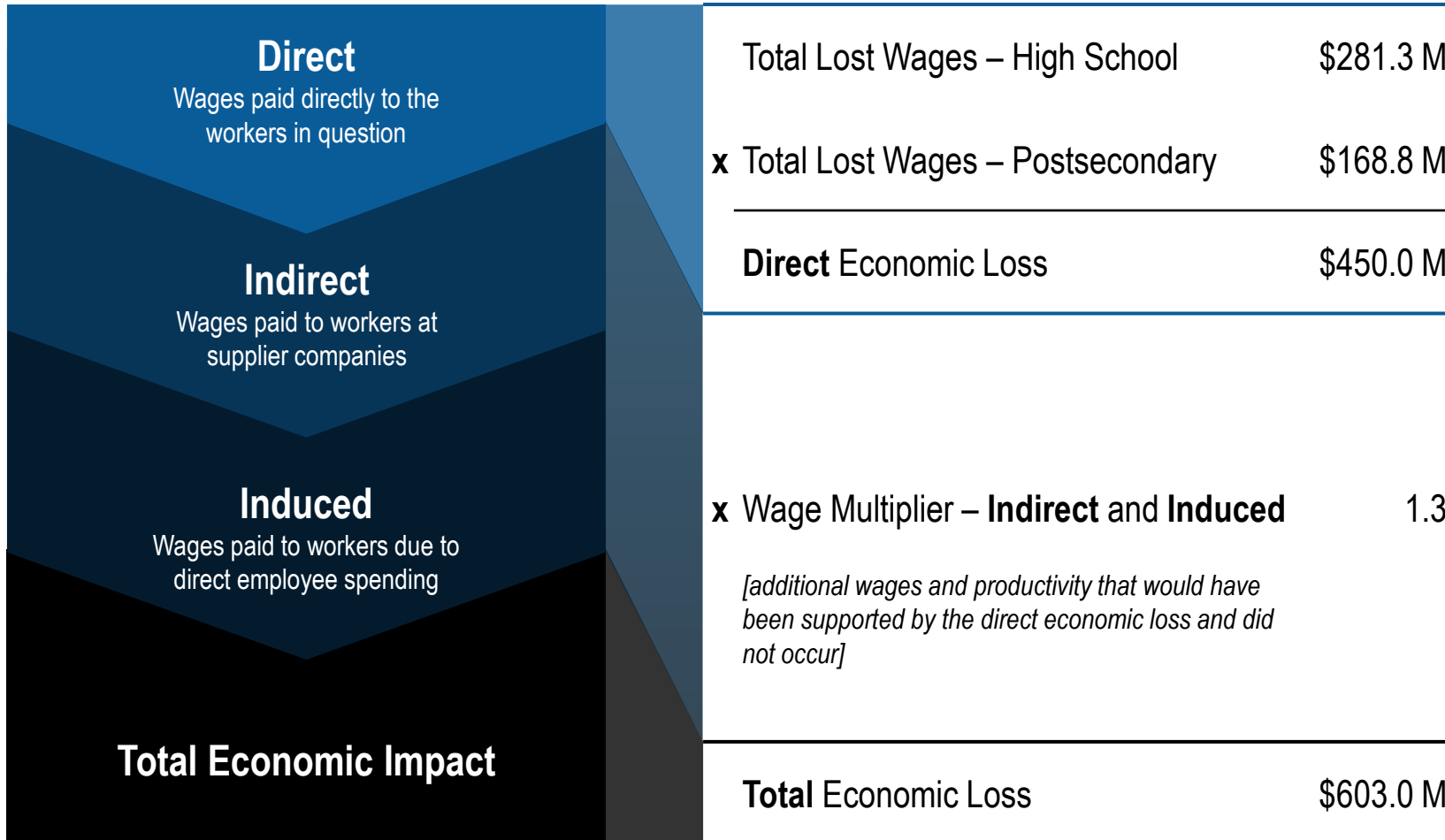
	No College - Loss	Some College	No College - Gain
	Number of Additional Residents	71	158
x	Difference in Lifetime Earnings	-\$475,797	-\$1.5 M
	Wages Lost (-) or Gained (+)	-\$33.6 M	-\$234.1 M
		[sum]	

Total Wages Lost to Chronic Absenteeism **-\$168.8 M**

Source: Nevada Department of Education, US Census Bureau, National Student Clearinghouse, Nevada System of Higher Education, US Social Security Administration, Referenced Studies.
 Note: At the postsecondary level, there is a unique “gain” as the result of some individuals who, had they graduated college, would have moved away, but instead remain in the area.

INDIRECT AND INDUCED PRODUCTIVITY LOSS

2024



The combined loss in direct wages attributable to lower levels of education among chronically absent students from the Class of 2024 in Southern Nevada is estimated at \$450.0 million. This represents the direct economic loss associated with chronic absenteeism.

If these wages had been earned, they would have generated additional economic activity in Southern Nevada through two key processes. The first is the indirect impact, which includes wages paid to workers at companies that supply goods and services for the direct workers, such as lumber suppliers for construction companies. The second is the induced impact, which consists of wages paid to workers at businesses where direct workers spend their earnings, such as property managers at apartment complexes.

Assuming the mix of industries tied to these lost wages aligns with the general industry composition in Southern Nevada, the indirect and induced impacts are expected to account for approximately 34 percent of the direct wages. When these secondary impacts are included, the total estimated economic loss to Southern Nevada due to chronic absenteeism among the Class of 2024 rises to \$603.0 million.

Source: IMPLAN

FISCAL IMPACTS

Lost Revenues and Direct Costs
Resulting from Behavioral
Differences and Greater Support
Needs of Chronic Absentees



TAX REVENUE LOSSES

2024

In addition to the decrease in economic productivity resulting from reduced wages in Southern Nevada, there is a corresponding loss in tax revenue across all jurisdictions associated with lower earnings. Although Nevada does not impose a direct personal income tax, individuals with higher incomes typically contribute more through property taxes, retail sales and use taxes, and other taxes tied to their spending. These tax revenues, especially those collected in Clark County, are critical for funding essential services and programs in the same area, such as public education. Both state and local tax revenues are impacted by this wage gap. The total loss in tax revenue at the state, county, and sub-county levels for 2024 is estimated at \$23.7 million. This loss is further broken down by differences in education levels and wage gap categories, as detailed in the analysis below.

	No HS Degree	HS Degree	Some College	Bachelor's Degree +
Annual Income	\$26,969	\$35,403	\$47,033	\$81,995
x Local Tax Multiplier	.057	.058	.056	.052
x Average Working Years	51	49	47	45
Lifetime Tax Revenues	\$78,197	\$100,036	\$124,114	\$191,135
Difference in Revenues	\$21,839	\$24,079	\$67,021	
x Count of Lost Graduates/Students	783	71	158	
sum Lost Tax Revenue	\$17.1 M	\$1.7 M	\$10.6 M	
Total Lost Tax Revenue	\$29.4 M			
- Tax Revenue Retained due to Local Resident Retention	\$5.7 M			
Net Tax Revenue Loss	\$23.7 M			

Source: US Census Bureau, US Social Security Administration, IMPLAN

INCARCERATION COSTS

2024

	No HS Degree	No College	No College Degree
Number of Additional Residents	783	88	198
x Difference in Incarceration Rate	0.8%	0.7%	0.1%
Additional Incarcerated Individuals	6.0	0.6	0.1
	[sum]		
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Total Additional Incarcerated Individuals due to Chronic Absenteeism			6.7
Average Length of Incarceration (years)			12.8
x Average Annual Cost of Incarceration per Person			\$33,350
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Total Lifetime Incarceration Costs due to Chronic Absenteeism			-\$2.9 M

There is a statistically significant and well-documented correlation between educational attainment and incarceration rates. In the Nevada prison system, the majority of incarcerated individuals have an education level at or below high school. While many factors contribute to this trend, they are often interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

Given the lower average educational attainment among chronically absent students compared to their peers, these students are more likely to face incarceration over the course of their lifetime. In 2024, the average annual cost of incarcerating an individual in Nevada was \$33,350. Based on typical behavioral patterns regarding incarceration rates and lengths of incarceration by educational attainment, chronic absenteeism among the Class of 2024 is projected to result in an additional \$2.9 million in incarceration costs.

Source: US Census Bureau, Nevada Department of Corrections, Referenced Studies

HOUSING ASSISTANCE COSTS

2024

	No HS Degree	No College	No College Degree
Number of Additional Residents	783	88	198
x Difference in Program Use Rate	5.2%	0.8%	2.5%
Additional Residents Participating	41.0	0.7	5.0
	[sum]		
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Total Additional People Using Housing Assistance due to Chronic Absenteeism			46.6
Average Length of Housing Assistance Use (Years)			6.0
x Average Annual Cost of Housing Assistance per Person			\$400
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Total Lifetime Housing Assistance Costs due to Chronic Absenteeism			-\$111,943

Among individuals with lower levels of educational attainment, there is a higher likelihood of relying on housing assistance. While several factors contribute to this trend, the most prominent is that lower income levels typically lead to reduced housing stability. Since chronic absenteeism directly contributes to lower educational attainment and, consequently, lower average annual wages, it also plays a role in driving housing instability and reliance on housing assistance programs.

For the Class of 2024, based on absenteeism rates and total class size, it is estimated that 1,069 local individuals will attain lower levels of education. Using the relative rate of housing assistance utilization among individuals with similar educational levels, approximately 46.6 individuals from this group are expected to rely on housing assistance at some point in their lifetime. Assuming the average duration of use and the current cost of housing assistance, the total projected cost for the Class of 2024 over their lifetimes is \$111,943.

Source: US Census Bureau, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Clark County Social Services, Referenced Studies

MEDICAID COSTS

2024

	No HS Degree	No College	No College Degree
Number of Additional Residents	783	88	198
x Difference in Enrollment Rate	18.3%	6.4%	12.4%
Additional Enrolled Individuals	143.2	5.6	24.5
	[sum]		
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Total Additional Medicaid Enrollees due to Chronic Absenteeism			173.3
Average Length of Medicaid Use (years) – Full-Time Equivalent			1.6
x Average Annual Cost of Medicaid per Full-Time Enrollee			\$5,737
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Total Lifetime Medicaid Costs due to Chronic Absenteeism			-\$1.6 M

In addition to higher rates of incarceration and reliance on social services such as housing assistance, lower levels of educational attainment are also strongly associated with increased Medicaid enrollment rates. Several factors, including health-related predispositions and limited access to proper nutrition, contribute to a cyclic relationship with Medicaid use among Southern Nevada residents. Lower educational attainment often exacerbates these factors.

For example, individuals without a college degree are less likely to secure jobs offering comprehensive private health coverage or may earn wages too low to afford copays and deductibles for necessary healthcare. As a result, they are more likely to rely on Medicaid at some point in their lifetime. Among the 11,305 chronic absentees in the Class of 2024, it is estimated that 173 additional individuals will enroll in Medicaid over their lifetimes due to the effects of chronic absenteeism. This is projected to result in a total additional Medicaid cost of \$1.6 million.

Source: US Census Bureau, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, Referenced Studies

SNAP COSTS

2024

	No HS Degree	No College	No College Degree
Number of Additional Residents	783	88	198
x Difference in Program Use Rate	13.0%	3.2%	7.5%
Additional Residents Participating	101.5	2.8	14.8
	[sum]		
Total Additional People Using SNAP due to Chronic Absenteeism			119.1
Average Length of SNAP Use (years)			2.0
x Average Annual Cost of SNAP per Person			\$166
Total Lifetime SNAP Costs due to Chronic Absenteeism			-\$40,320

Similar to housing assistance and Medicaid, individuals with lower levels of educational attainment have higher rates of participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”). As a result, chronic absentees from the Class of 2024 who attain lower levels of education due to their absenteeism are expected to rely on SNAP at increased rates.

Although SNAP participation rates for individuals with less than a high school degree are not as high as Medicaid rates, they remain significant at 27.1 percent. This is nearly double the 14.2 percent participation rate for individuals with a high school diploma. Considering the 13.0 percent difference between these groups, along with similar patterns for those with postsecondary education, it is estimated that an additional 119 individuals from the Class of 2024 will rely on SNAP assistance during their lifetime due to chronic absenteeism. Based on typical duration and cost of use, this reliance is projected to result in a \$40,320 lifetime cost to Southern Nevada.

Source: US Census Bureau, US Department of Agriculture, HuffPost, Referenced Studies

TOTAL QUANTIFIED FISCAL COSTS

2024

The fiscal impact of chronic absenteeism among the Class of 2024 in Southern Nevada includes two primary categories: (1) lost tax revenue resulting from reduced wages due to lower levels of educational attainment among chronic absentees, and (2) increased costs for incarceration and social services due to higher usage rates among this population.

In addition to the lost economic productivity previously discussed, reduced wages associated with chronic absenteeism are projected to result in a loss of \$23.7 million in tax revenue at the state, county, and sub-county levels over the lifetime of the Class of 2024. Furthermore, the increased likelihood of incarceration and reliance on social assistance programs, including housing assistance, Medicaid, and SNAP, is estimated to contribute an additional \$4.6 million in direct costs.

Combined, these fiscal impacts account for a total estimated lifetime fiscal loss of \$28.3 million for the Class of 2024, expressed in current dollars. When factoring in expected wage inflation and rising program costs over time, the total fiscal impact on state, county, and sub-county budgets is anticipated to exceed the current-dollar estimate.

\$28.3 M

Total Costs

\$23.7 M

Lost Tax Revenue



\$2.9 M

Additional Incarceration Costs



\$111.9 K

Additional Housing Assistance Costs



\$1.6 M

Additional Medicaid Costs



\$40.3 K

Additional SNAP Costs



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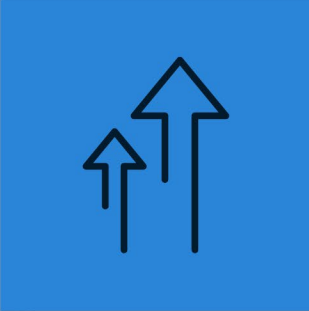
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OVERALL QUANTIFIED IMPACTS

The Total Combined Impact of Lost Economic Productivity and Direct Fiscal Costs Over Time



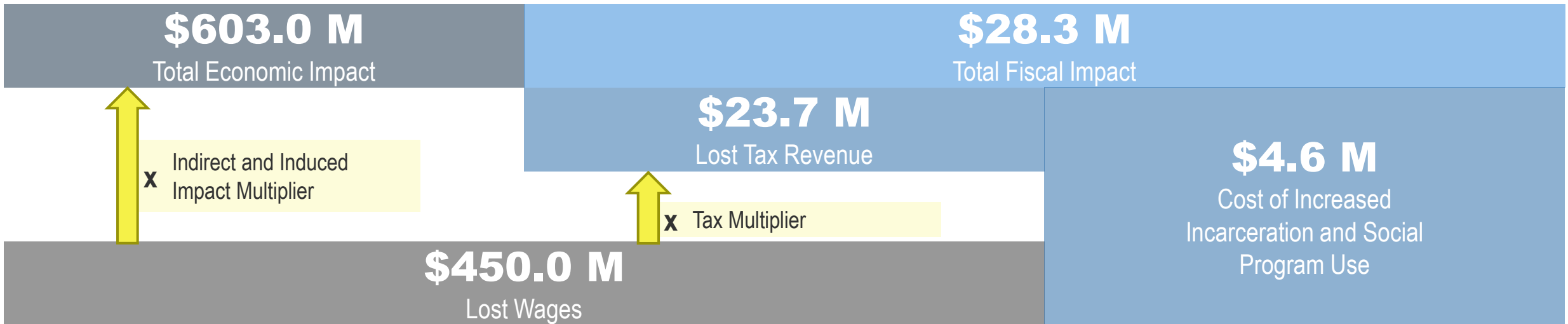
TOTAL IMPACT OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

2024

Across both quantifiable impact categories, the total losses and costs associated with chronic absenteeism over the lifetime of the Class of 2024 are projected to reach \$631.3 million. While other COVID-related factors, such as rising costs of providing social programs and an increasing wage gap between individuals with varying educational attainment, have contributed to this total, the sharp increase in chronic absenteeism is a key driver. Even if costs per service and wage disparities by education level had remained constant, the 12.7 percent increase in the chronic absenteeism rate among high school students would still have significantly raised the lifetime costs for this group in Southern Nevada. Although the rate of absenteeism has gradually declined from its post-COVID peak in 2022, the pandemic-era surge has already led to a substantial accumulation of these costs in recent years, further amplifying the long-term fiscal and economic burden on the region.

\$631.3 M

Total Quantifiable Impact of Chronic Absenteeism in 2024



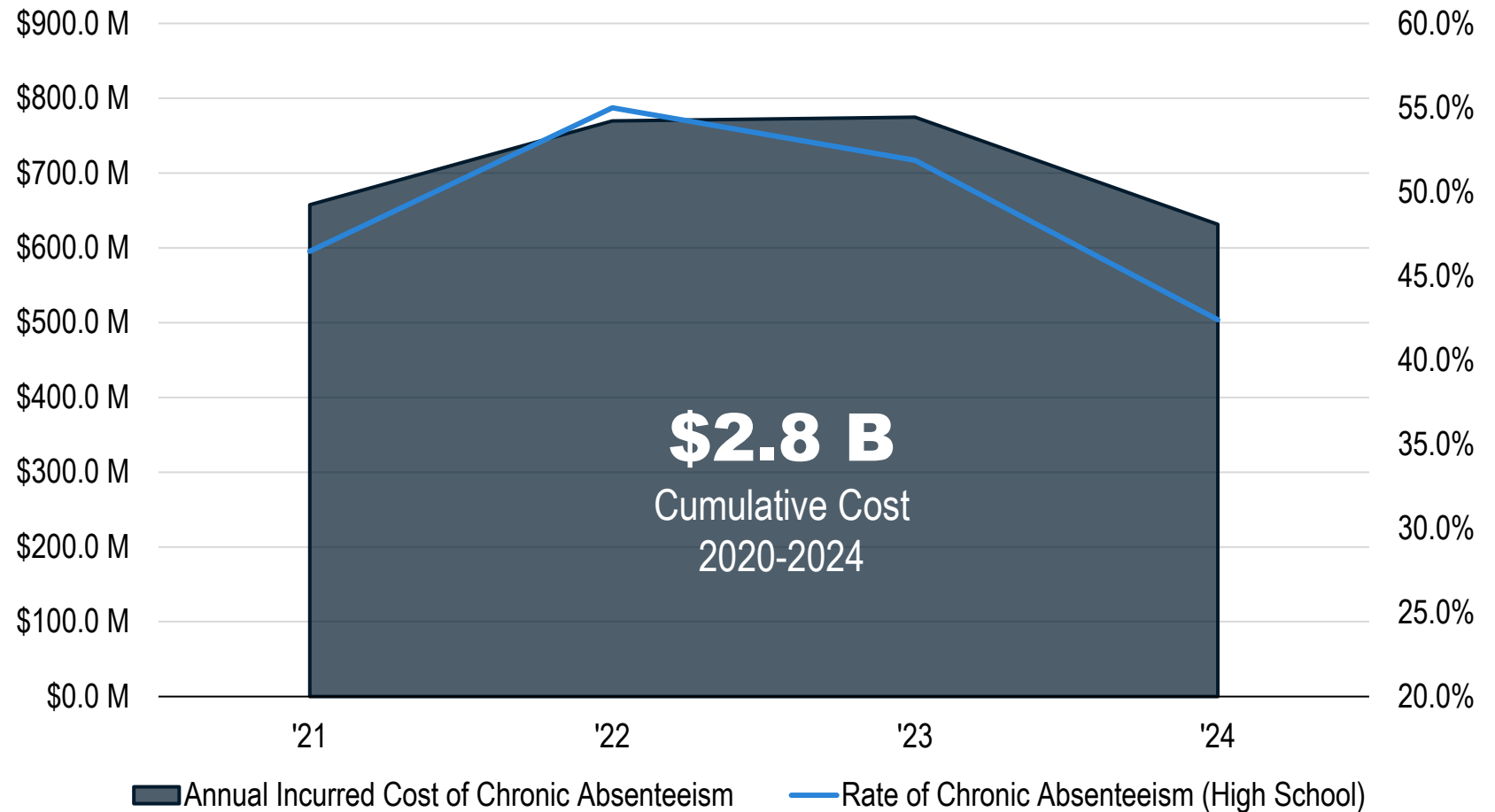
THE COST OF COVID-19

2020 - 2024

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to remote instruction, chronic absenteeism rates at all school levels in CCSD surged. In 2022, the first full year of in-person instruction post-pandemic, 40.6 percent of CCSD students were chronically absent. Among high school students in Southern Nevada, the rate was even higher, with 55.0 percent classified as chronically absent that year.

This represents a significant increase from 2019, when the district-wide chronic absenteeism rate was 21.9 percent, and the high school rate was 29.7 percent. While these rates have since declined slightly—falling to 31.3 percent district-wide in 2024—the lifetime costs associated with chronic absenteeism from the past four years have already been incurred for each graduating class, totaling just over \$2.8 billion.

It is estimated that pandemic-related factors, including the sharp rise in chronic absenteeism, account for more than a third of this total cost (43.0 percent or \$1.2 billion).

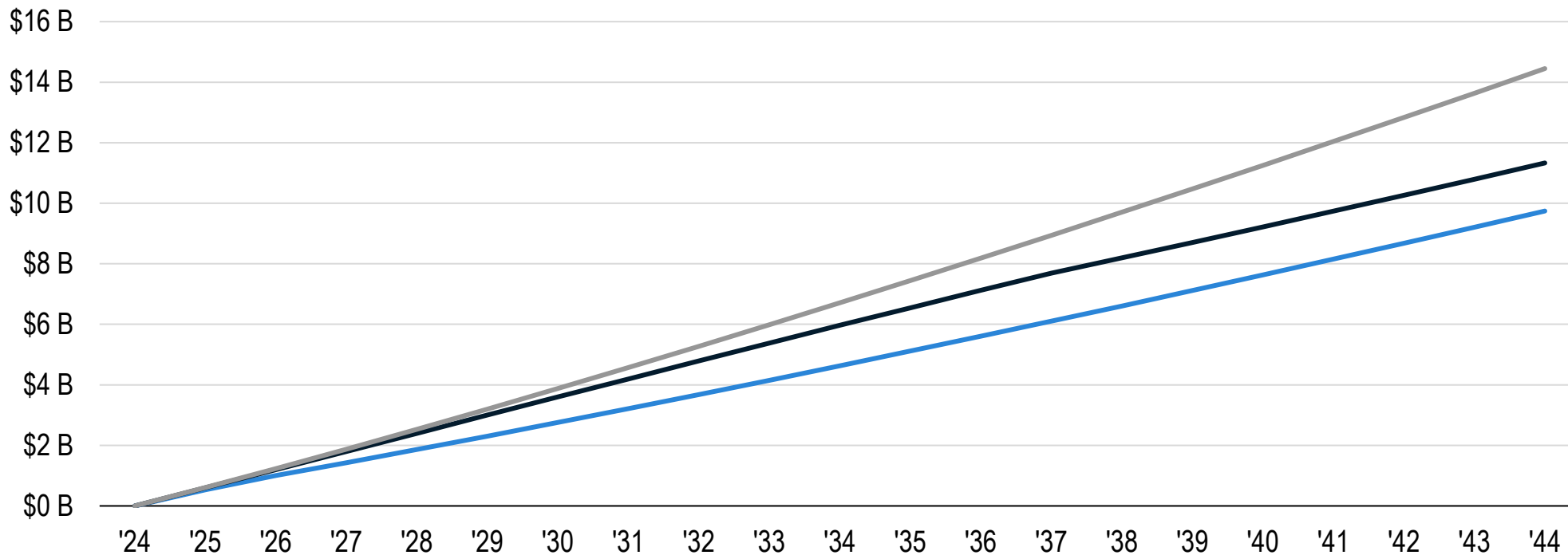


Note: All estimates of historic impacts are shown in 2024 dollars.

20-YEAR IMPACT BY RATE OF CHRONIC ABSENCE

2024 - 2044

Although the lifetime cost of increased chronic absenteeism resulting from behavioral changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic in past graduating classes is relatively fixed, the potential for annual increases and the accumulation of these costs in future graduating classes presents significant economic challenges. For the current 2025 school year alone, if the chronic absenteeism rate from 2024 persists, Southern Nevada is projected to face a lifetime cost of \$610.0 million attributed to the class of 2025. By 2044, the accumulated costs of chronic absenteeism are estimated to reach \$14.4 billion. However, targeted and intentional intervention to reduce the chronic absenteeism rate to pre-COVID levels by 2027 could significantly mitigate these costs. Such efforts are projected to reduce lifetime costs by \$4.7 billion, yielding a tax revenue and cost savings of \$179.6 million and an economic benefit of \$4.5 billion to Southern Nevada.



Cumulative 20-Year Loss by Scenario:

-\$14.4 B
Current Rate

-\$11.3 B
Slow Decline

-\$9.7 B
2027 Intervention

Note: All estimated future impacts are shown in 2024 dollars.