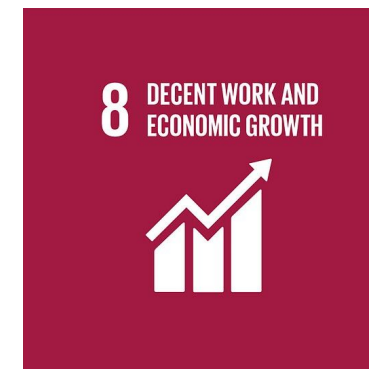


Mental Health of Youth in American Samoa: A Data-Informed Exploration



through Education and Census Indicators

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Introduction

Mental health is an important issue for youth, but in places like American Samoa, we don't have enough data to understand their needs. This project looks at school data and census data to see how things like school attendance, dropouts, and family situations may show signs of mental health struggles. While this isn't clinical data, it helps us understand what might be affecting youth well-being.

Research Question

How do factors like family income, school attendance, and grades affect the mental health of youth in American Samoa?

Methods

- R Studio
- Census Data
 - Demo 162 rows x 3 columns
 - Eco 170 rows x 3 columns
- American Samoa Department of Education (DOE) Data
 - Attendance by Gender 10 rows x 3 col
 - Enrollment 8 rows x 3 col
 - Graduation 50 rows x 3 col

Reference

U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). American Samoa: 2020 census demographic profile. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from <https://data.census.gov/tables/DECENNIALDPAS2020/DPI?g=040XX00US60&d=DECIA+American+Samoa+Demographic+Profile>

American Samoa Department of Education. (n.d.). Home. Retrieved April 15, 2025, from <https://www.amsamoaedoe.edu/>



CENSUS

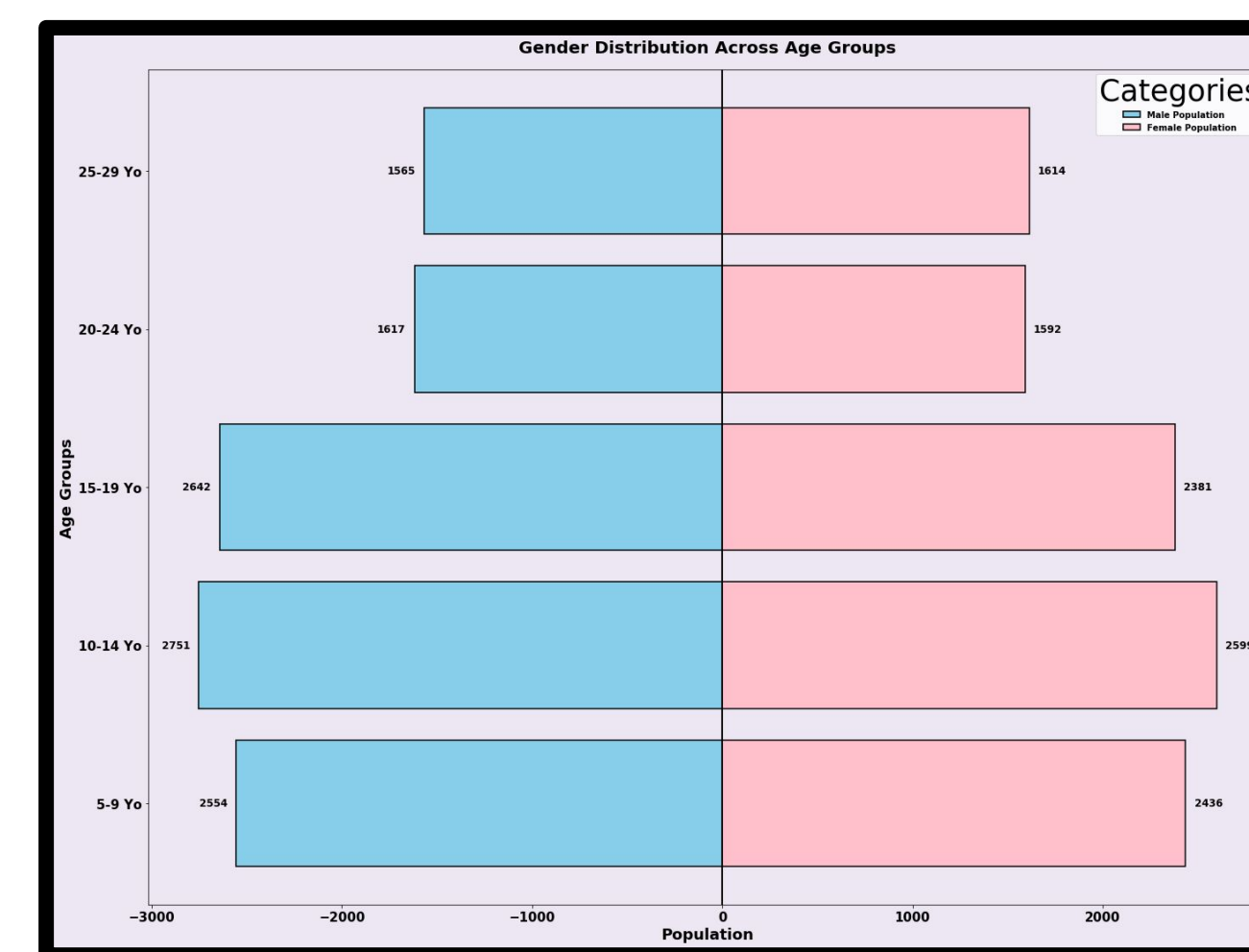


Figure 1. Population breakdown of males and females aged 5 to 29, offering a demographic snapshot of youth in American Samoa. Understanding gender balance helps inform targeted support in education, health, and employment.

DOE SCHOOL

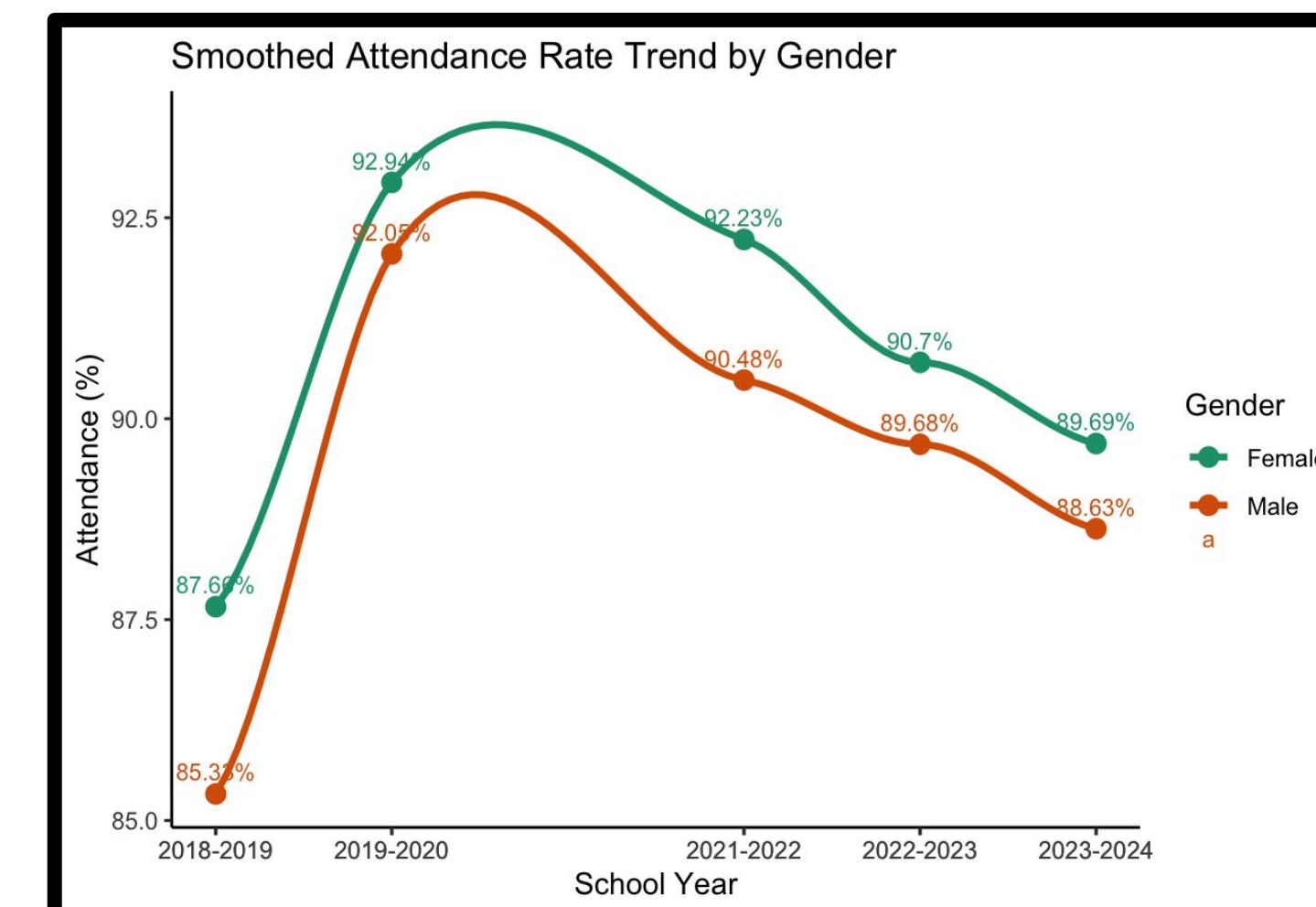


Figure 4. This line chart tracks attendance over time by gender, revealing subtle trends in school engagement. Higher attendance often reflects better student support and well-being, while drops may signal underlying issues.

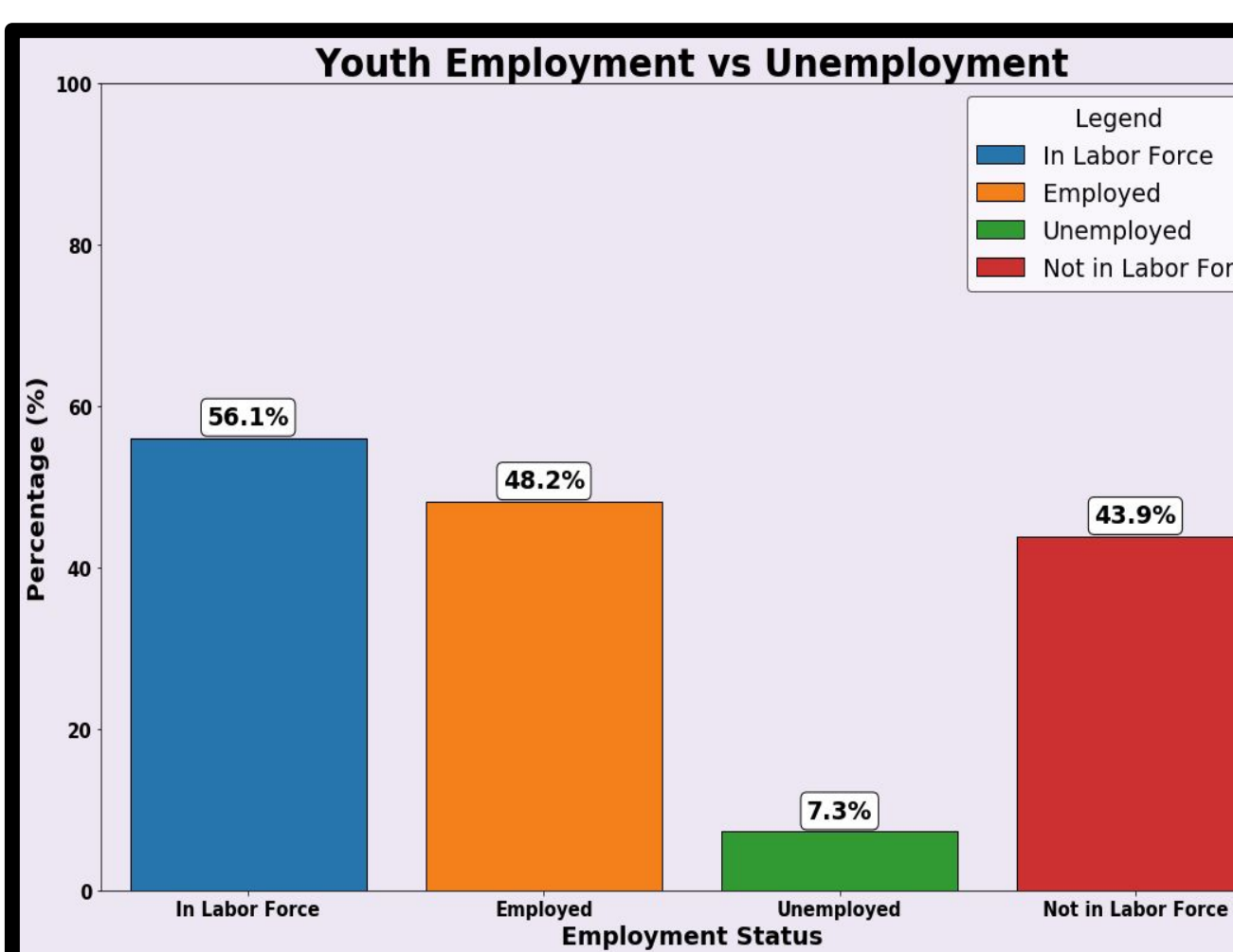


Figure 2. Compares the employment status of youth, highlighting the proportion of those working versus those unemployed or out of the labor force. It's a key indicator of economic opportunity and potential stressors affecting youth well-being.

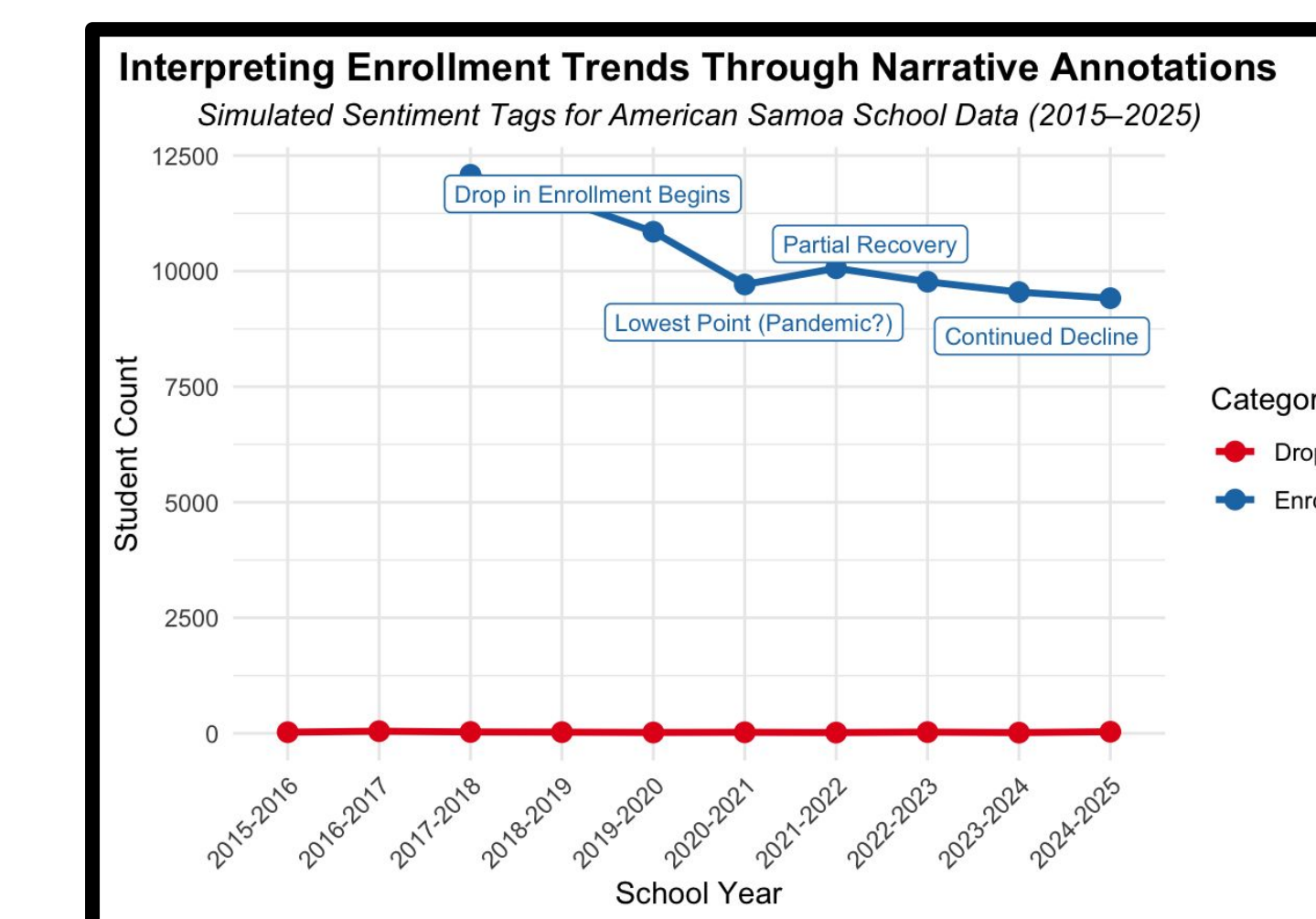


Figure 5. This visual uses annotations to tell the story behind enrollment patterns over time. Understanding when and why shifts happen such as after policy changes or major events adds depth to the overall picture of youth engagement in education.

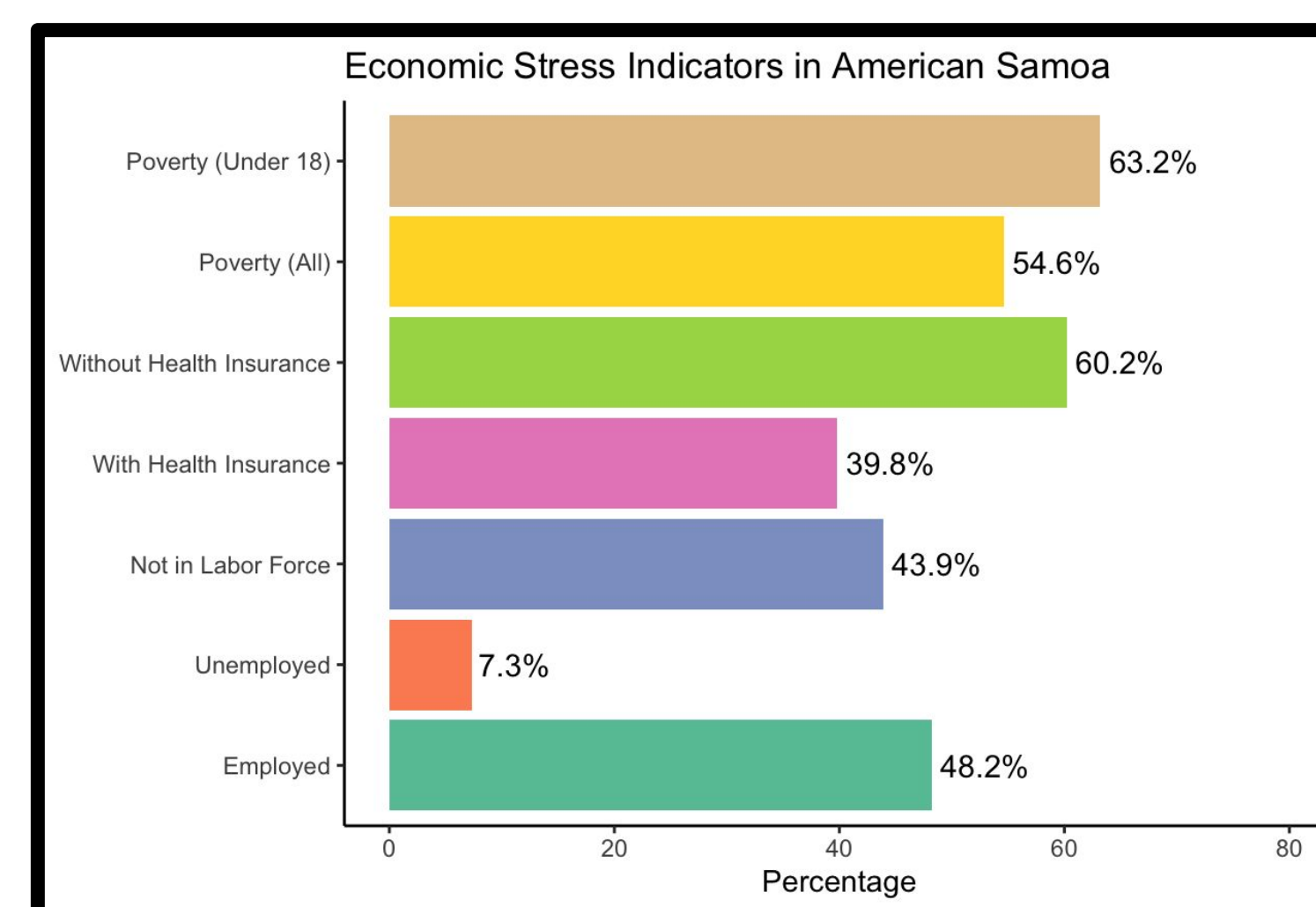


Figure 3. Combines several metrics poverty rates, health insurance coverage, and employment status to reflect the broader economic pressures that can impact youth development, access to healthcare, and long-term stability.

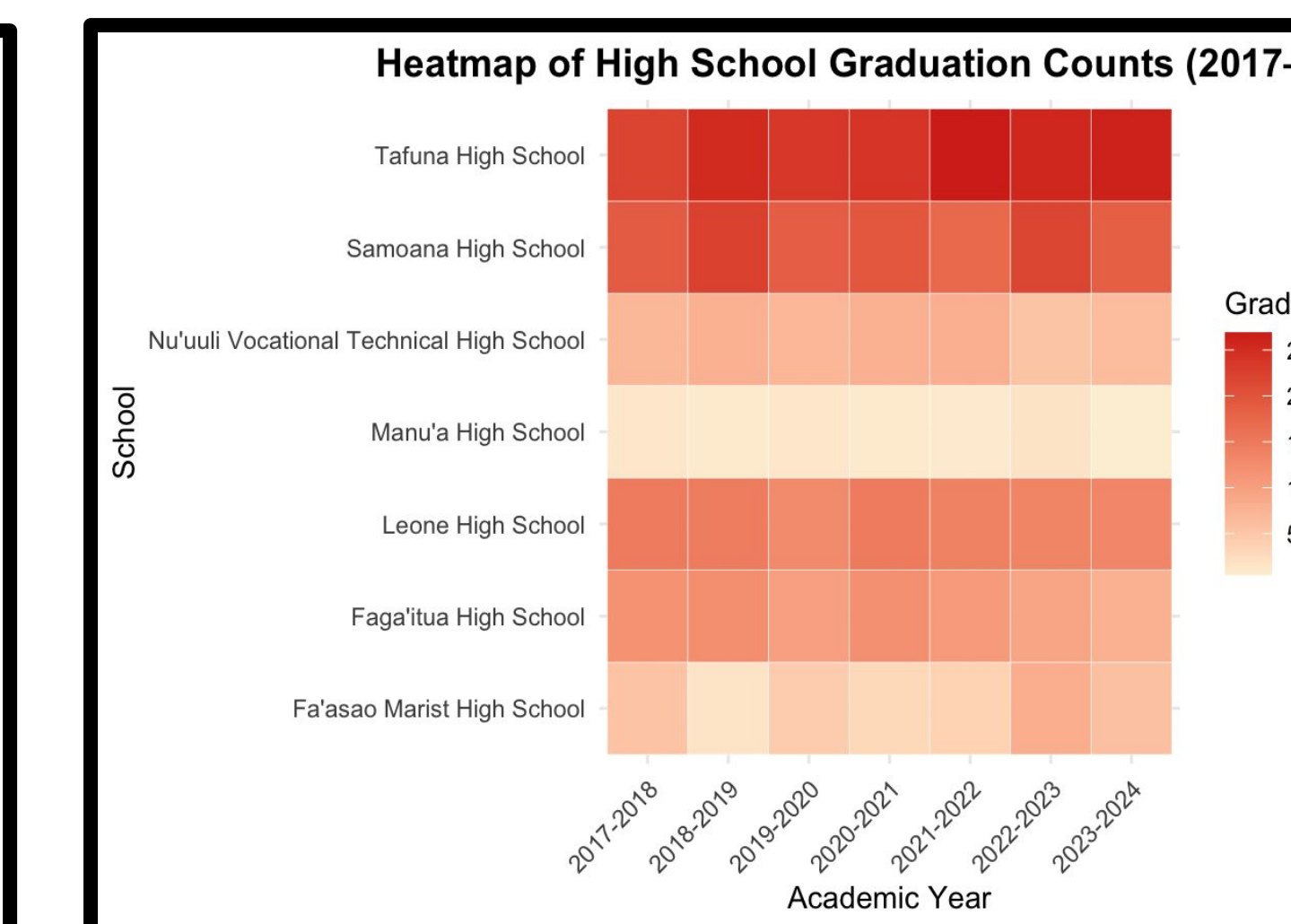


Figure 6. This visualization highlights variations in graduation counts by school and year. Graduation is a critical milestone for youth well-being, opening pathways to higher education and employment.

Discussion

The data suggests that poverty, unstable housing, and high dropout rates may be linked to mental health needs that have not been properly identified or treated. Without enough mental health support in schools, it's difficult to provide help when students first begin to show signs of stress, anxiety, or other challenges. These findings highlight a potential gap in support systems that could impact the well-being and development of youth.

Limitations

The main limitation is the lack of direct mental health data for youth in American Samoa. Additionally, the available data only includes indirect indicators like school attendance and academic performance.

Future Work

- Collect direct mental health data for youth in American Samoa
- Explore public data sources beyond Census and DOE datasets, such as information from the Department of Health, local hospitals, or online articles that could be used for sentiment analysis.

Acknowledgement

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