



Women and Higher Education in Utah: A Glimpse at the Past and Present

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Historical Perspective

- Since 1940, Utah has consistently been above the national average in the percentage of adults holding bachelor's degrees or higher.
- In the last two decades Utah has lost its advantage, and this is particularly true for women in the state.



Current Status in Higher Education

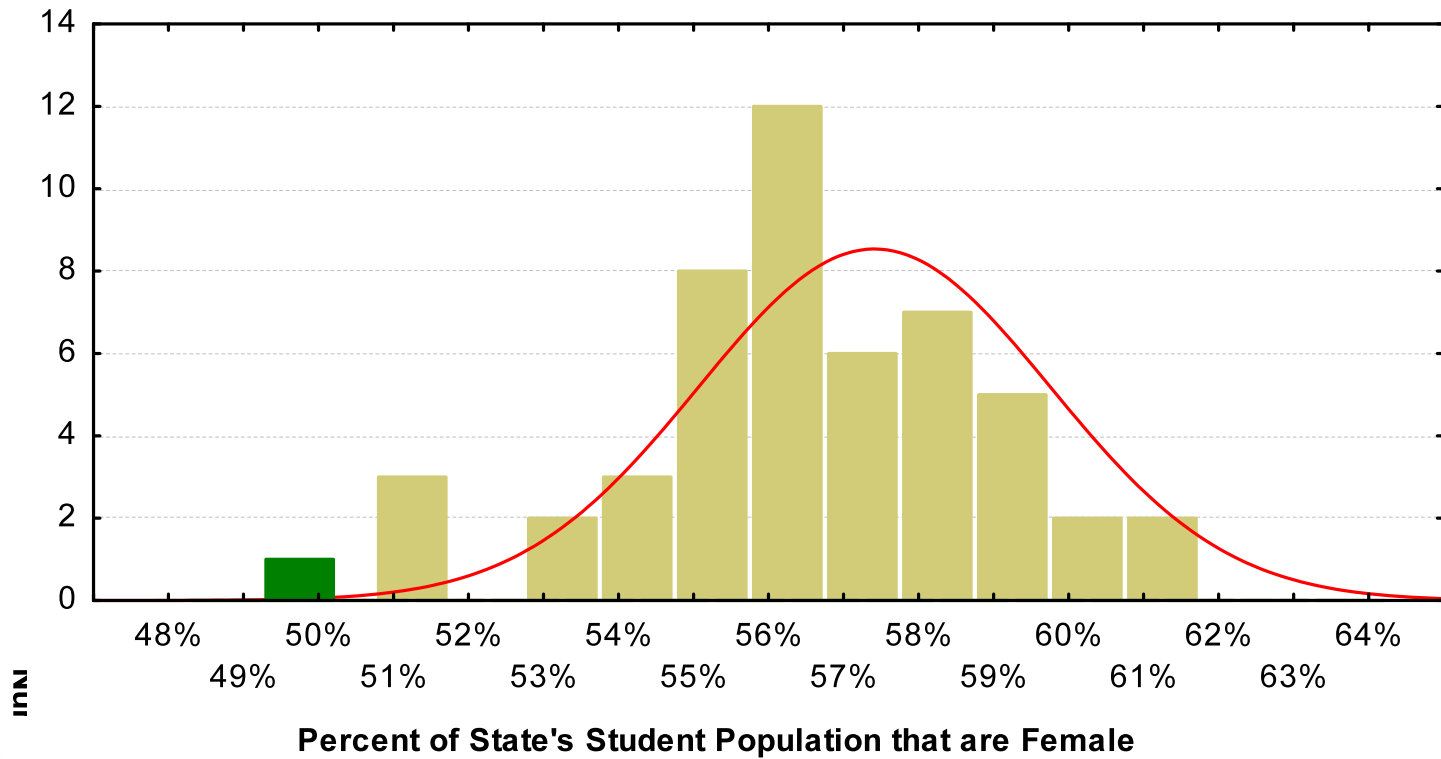
- In U.S. more women (57%) enroll than men (43%).
- In Utah, approximately 49% of students are women.
- The lowest percentages of women are enrolled at the University of Utah (44%) and Utah Valley University (43%).
- Compared to all other states, Utah is last in terms of the percentage of female students enrolled in postsecondary institutions.





State Comparisons

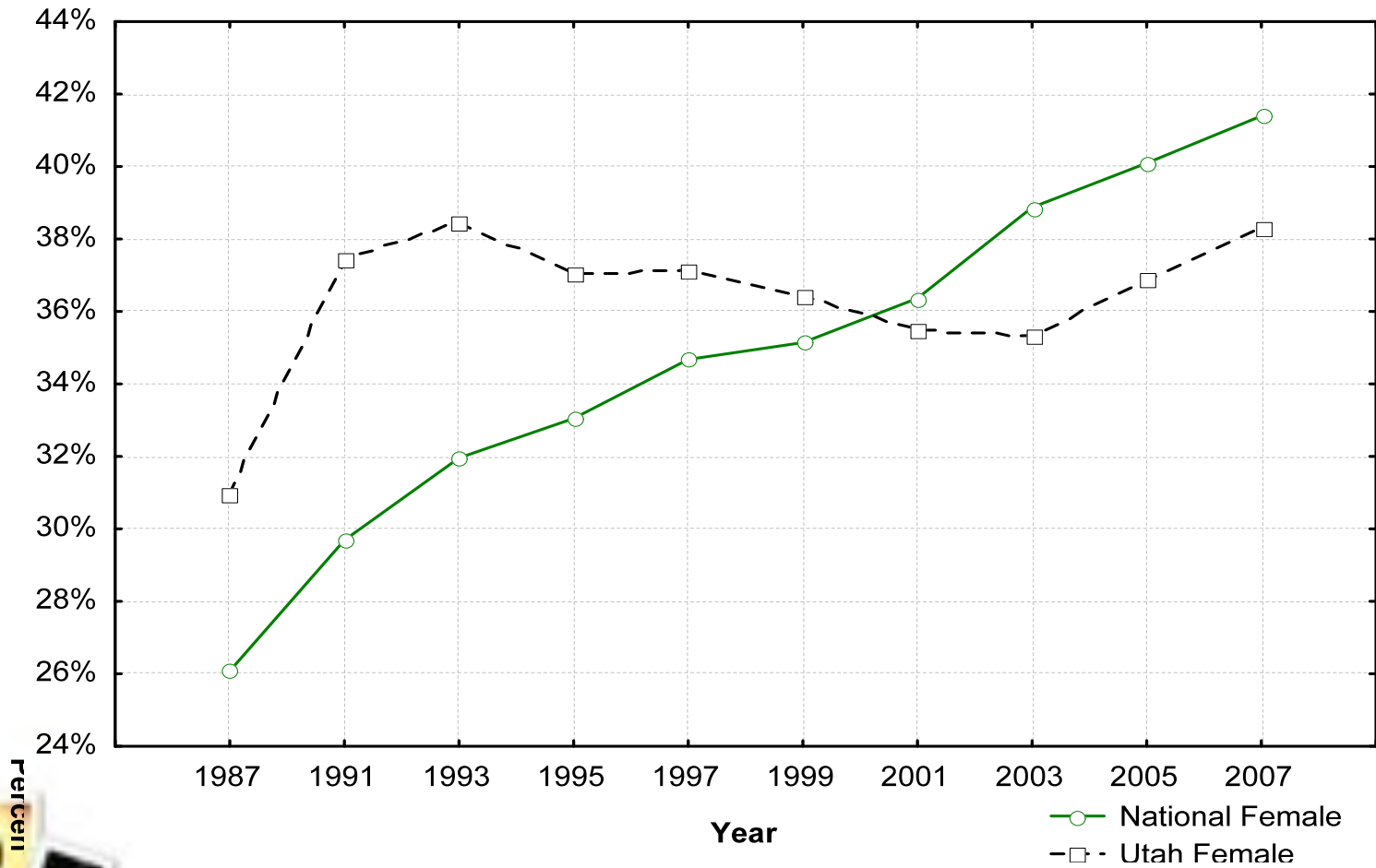
Figure 1.1: Female Enrollment by State
2008 Data, Public Institutions
Solid Green Bar Denotes Utah Average





Percent of Females Attending

Figure 6.1: Percentage of 18-24 Year Old Females Enrolled in Postsecondary Institutions by Year
18-24 Students (IPEDS) / 18-24 Residents (Census)





Why should we care?

- An educated citizenry is necessary to remain competitive in today's state, national, and global economies
- By 2018, 66% of all jobs in Utah will require postsecondary education
 - Currently, 39% hold an associate's degree or higher
- There are benefits of being educated beyond economic ones
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Parenting
 - Civic & community engagement
 - Intellectual & cognitive development



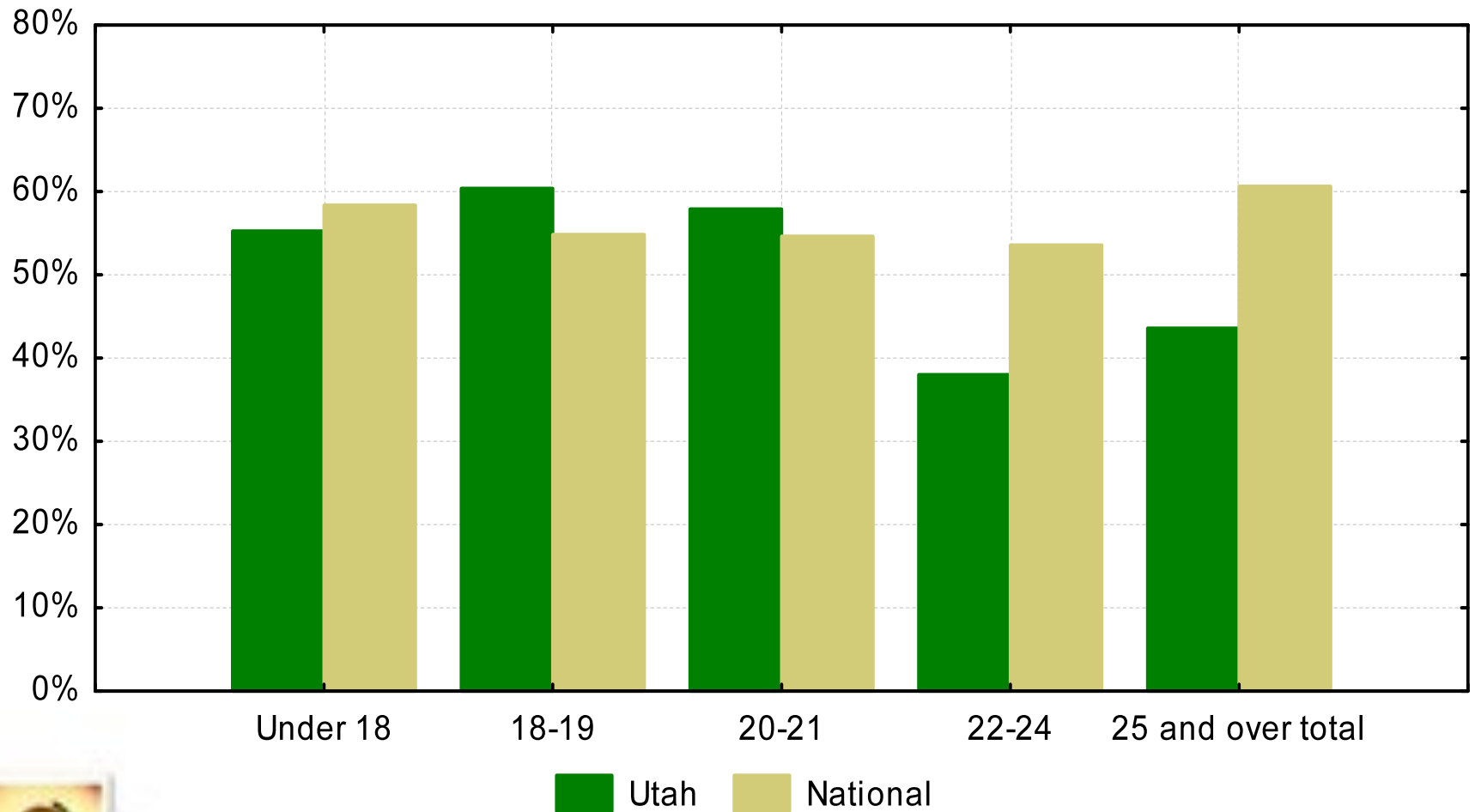
Female Enrollment by Racial Category

Race	Public	National Public	Difference
American Indian or Native	57.8%	60.2%	-2.4%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	50.8%	53.9%	-3.1%
Black or African American	42.0%	64.9%	-22.9%
Hispanic	52.6%	58.8%	-6.2%
White	48.7%	56.3%	-7.6%
Nonresident Alien	50.1%	46.6%	3.5%

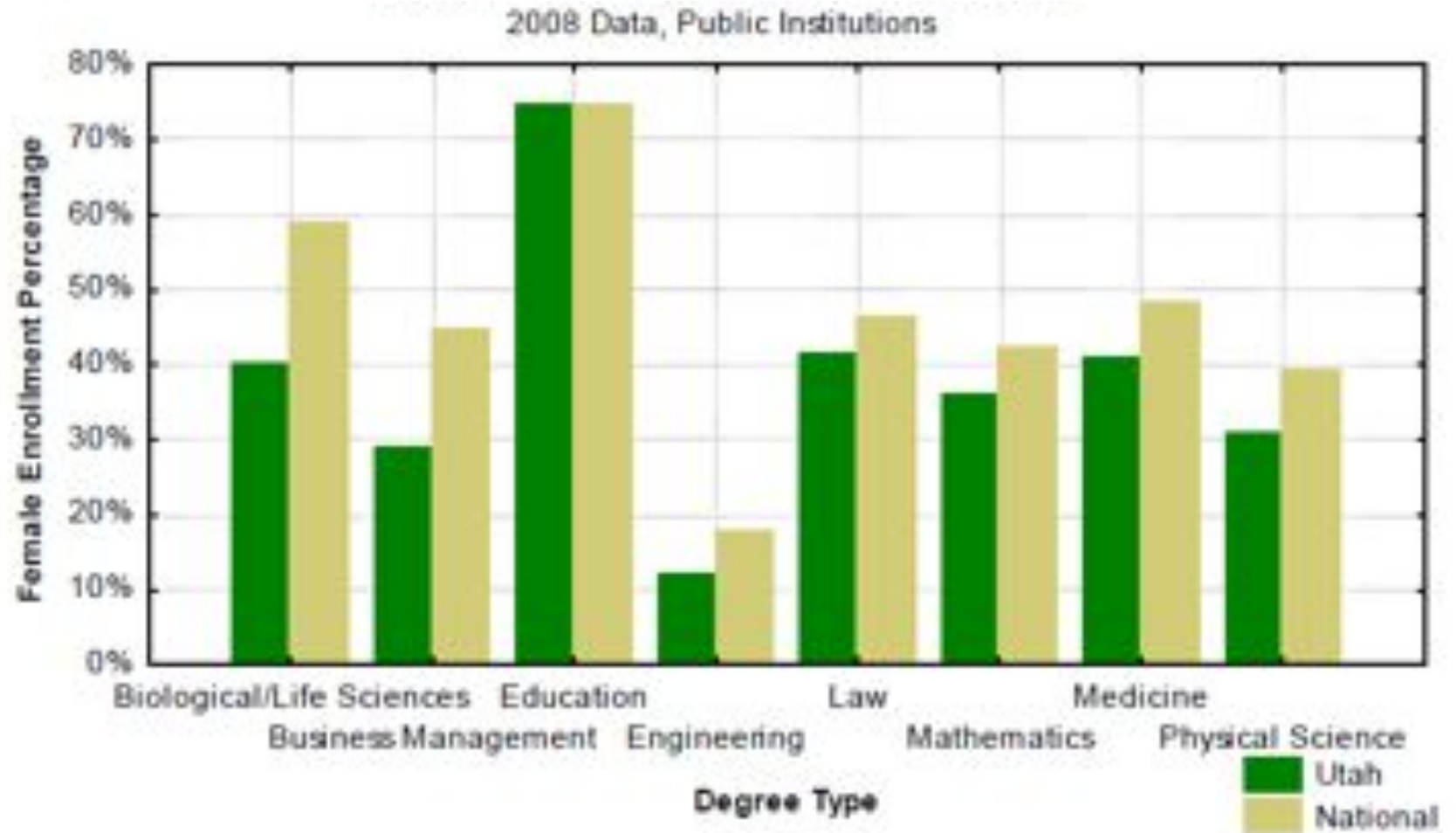


Enrollment by Age

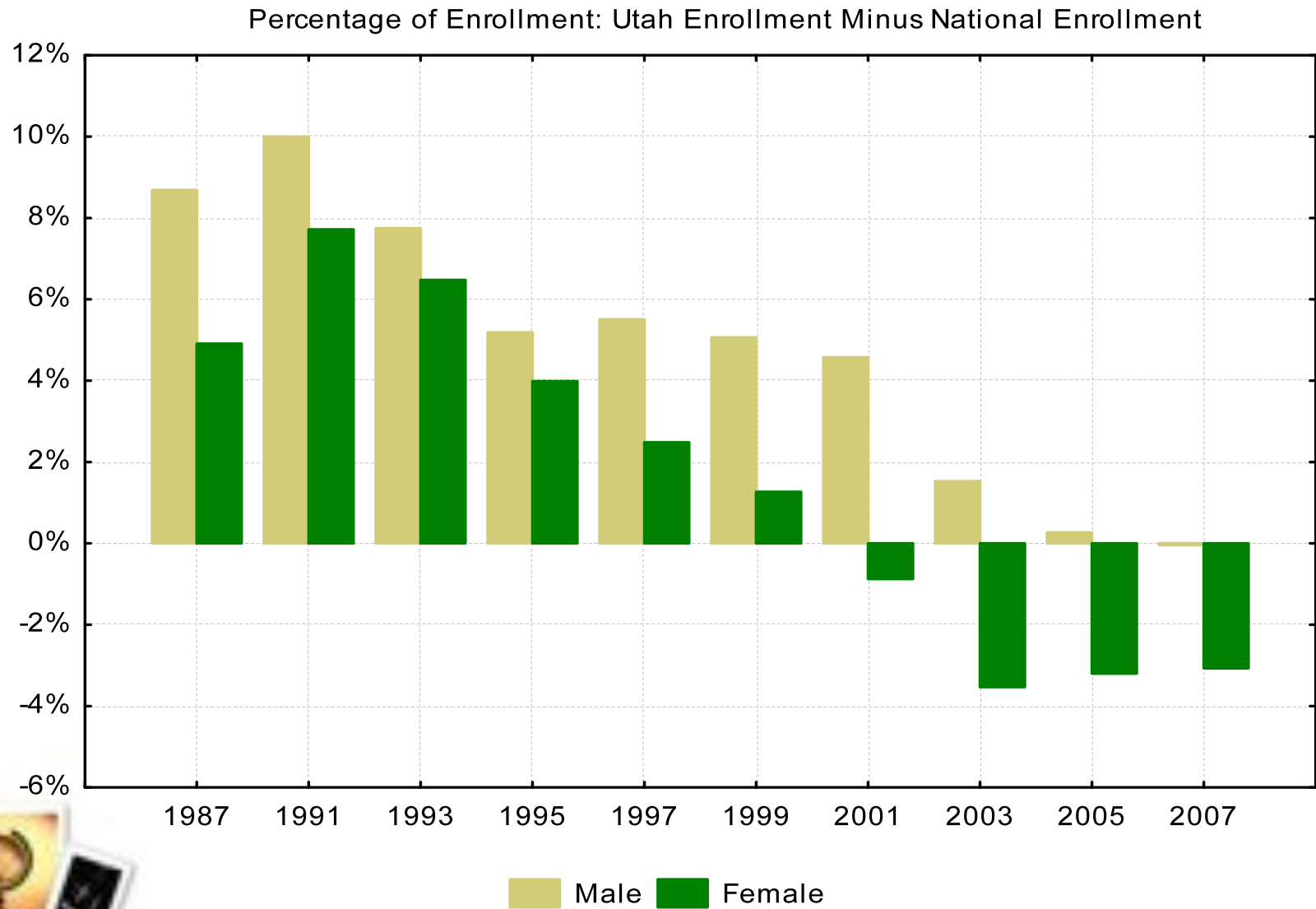
Female Enrollment by Age



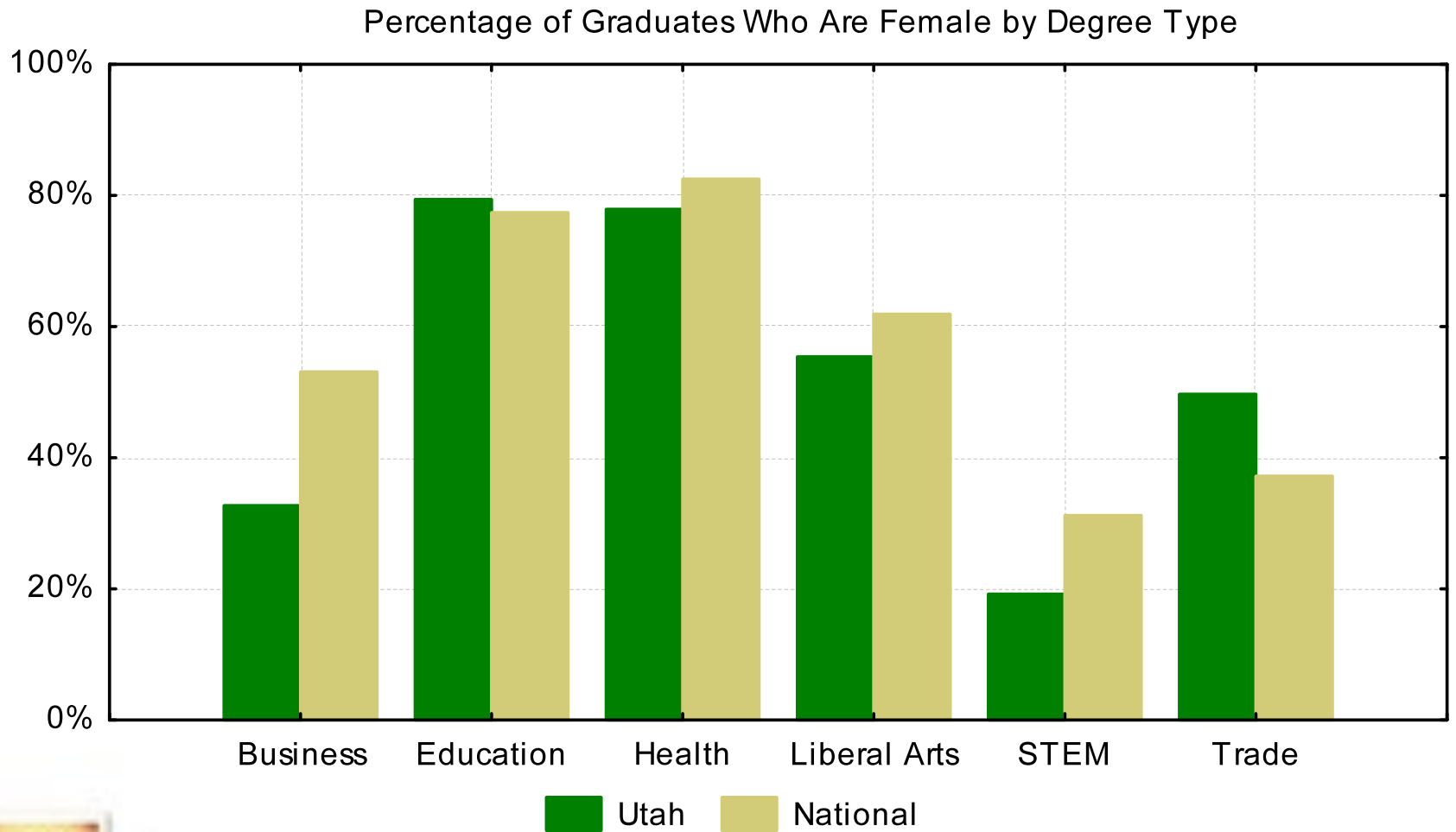
Female Enrollment by Degree Type



Utah Minus National Enrollment

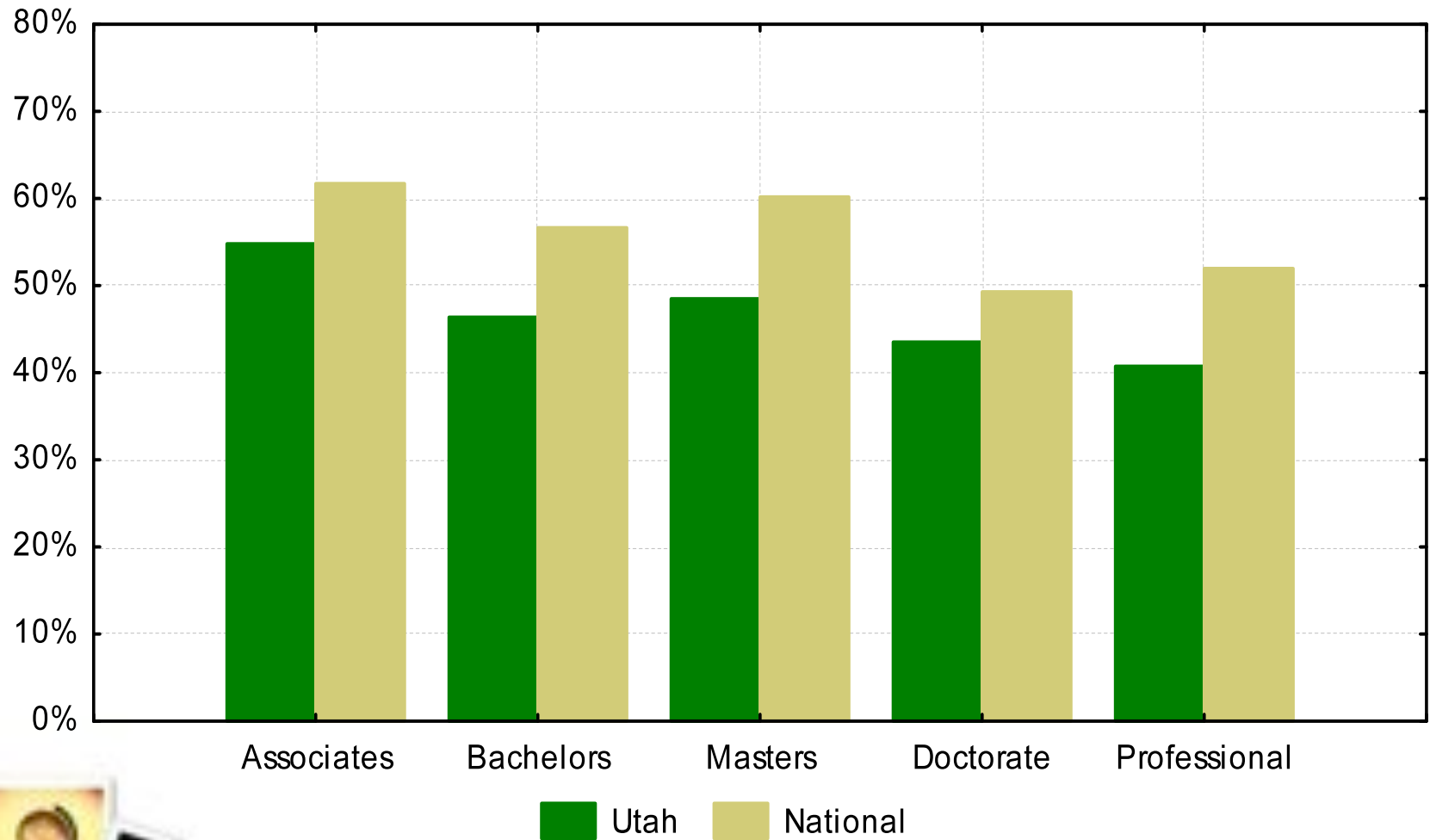


Female Graduates by Degree Type



Female Graduates by Award Level

Female Graduation Percentage by Award Level (Public Institutions)





Conclusion

Clearly, women are doing well in many aspects of the postsecondary experience. However, to achieve the vision of Utah leaders as well as to meet the needs of Utah employers and families, more women in Utah need to make better educational choices and obtain college degrees.

