

# The Burden of Choice: Assessing the Impact of Charter School Options on Household Travel Behavior in Philadelphia

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Ariel H. Bierbaum, MCP, PhD\* | University of Maryland  
Jesus M. Barajas, PhD | University of California-Berkeley

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\*presenting author



# The next 12-15 minutes...

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- Nexus: Neighborhoods and household travel
- Gap: New conditions, new questions
- Evidence from Philadelphia
- Implications





Photo: Tieshka Smith, Philadelphia School Closing Photo Collective





Source: Media Trackers <http://mediatrackers.org/pennsylvania/2013/07/19/stanford-study-on-charter-schools-media-coverage-under-fire-in-pennsylvania>



Source: Citizen.Education: <http://citizen.education/index.php/2015/09/09/charter-school-teachers-see-what-unions-do/>





- ◆ How does choosing a charter school affect transportation choice, and the time, distance, and cost burdens associated with getting to school?
- ◆ How do these choices and their attendant burdens compare across students in neighborhood public schools and charter schools?
- ◆ For those choosing charter schools, what is the trade-off for their different travel burden vis-a-vis school and neighborhood characteristics?





Photo: Matt Stanley, The Philadelphia School Closing Photo Collective



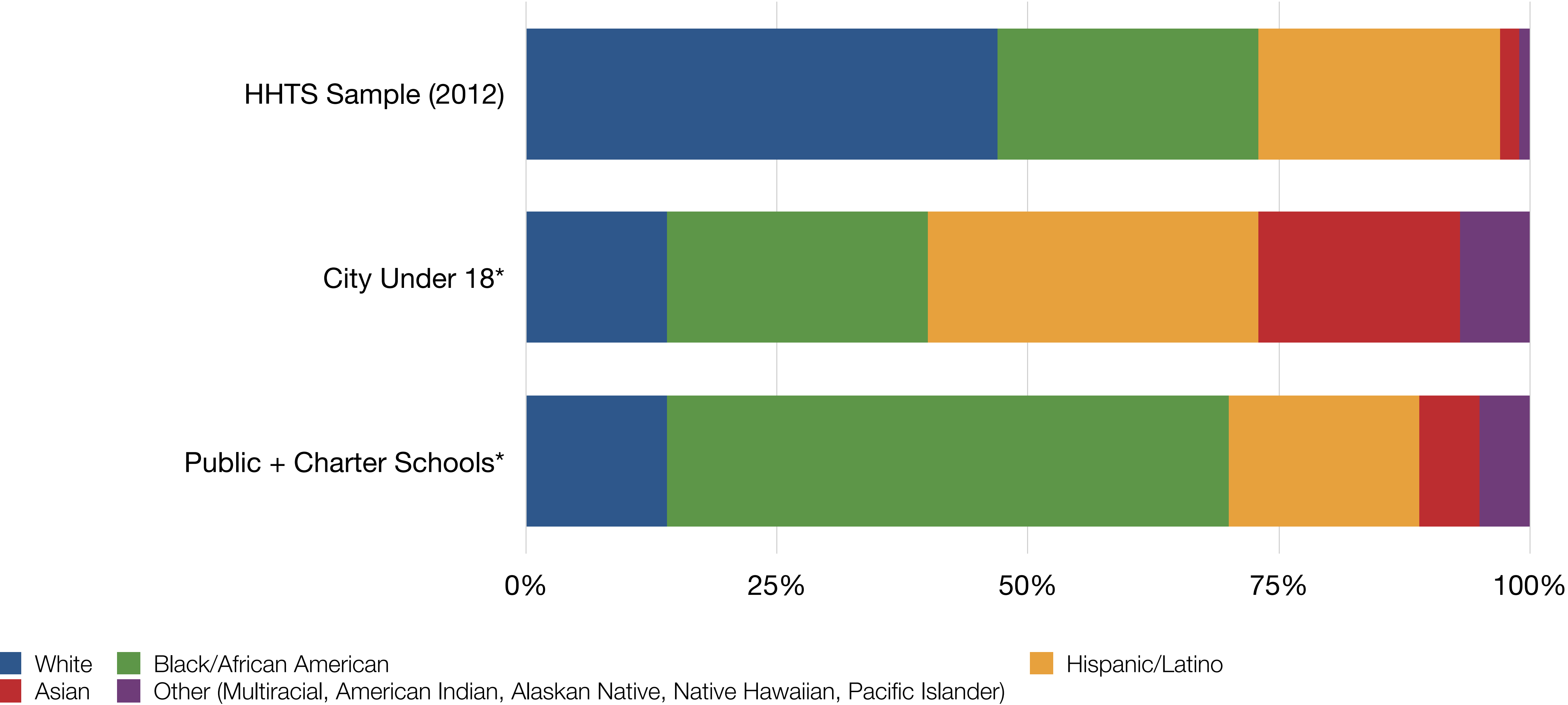
# Data and Methods

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# HHTS sample is not reflective of Philadelphia's school-aged or school district population.

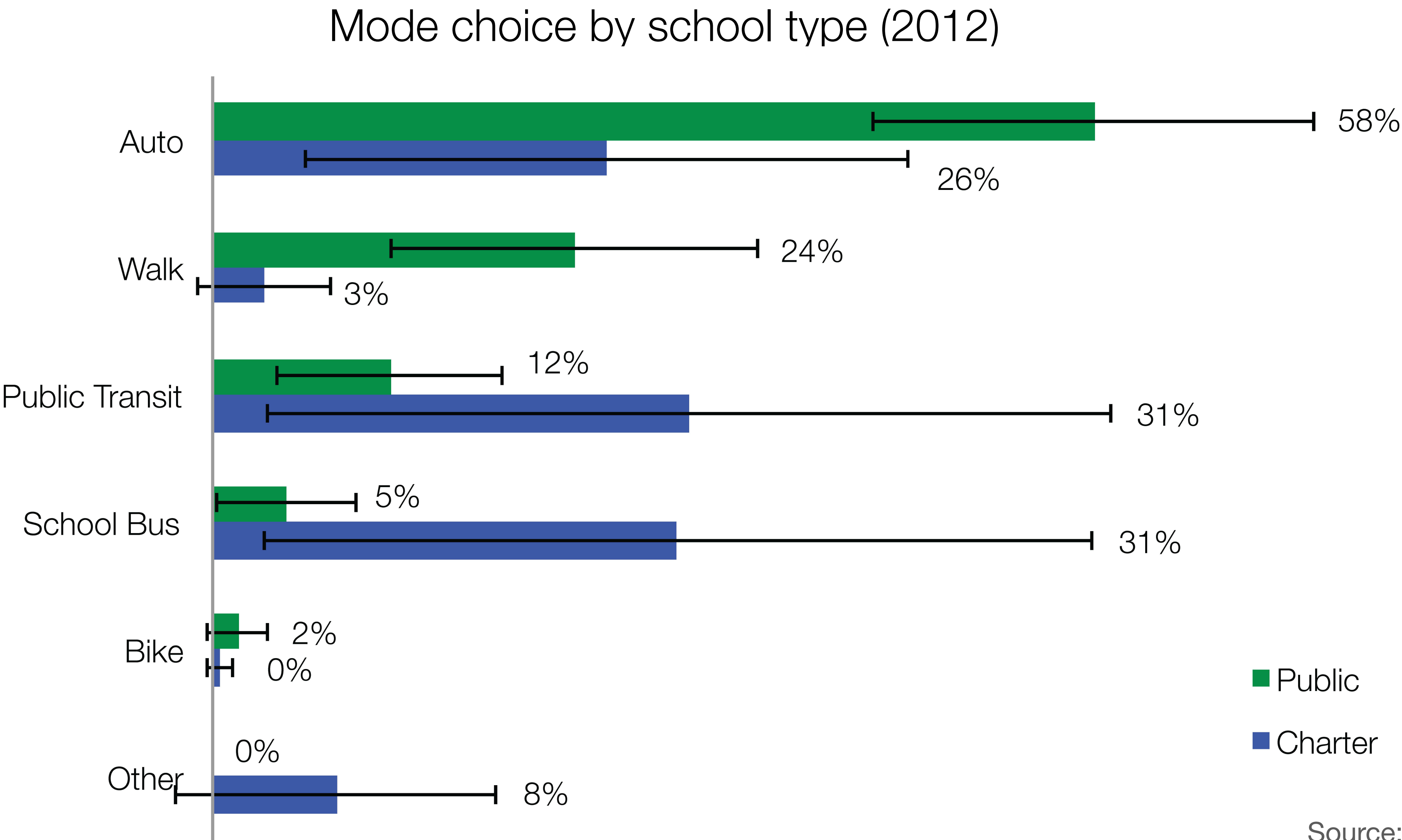


Sources: DVRPC, U.S. Census, School District of Philadelphia

\*City Under 18 and School data from 2014-2015

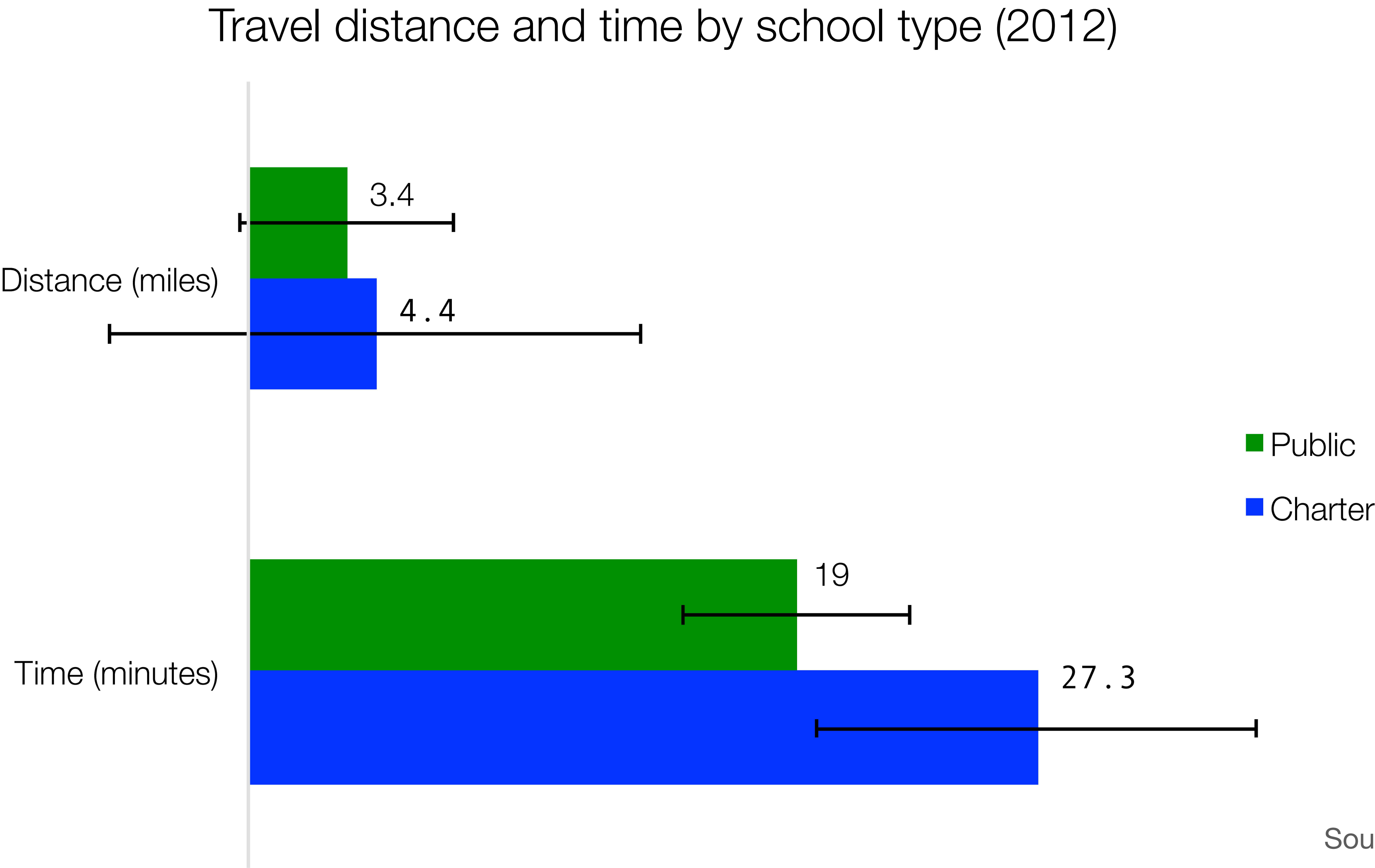


# Charter school students drive less, use public and district transportation more than public school students.





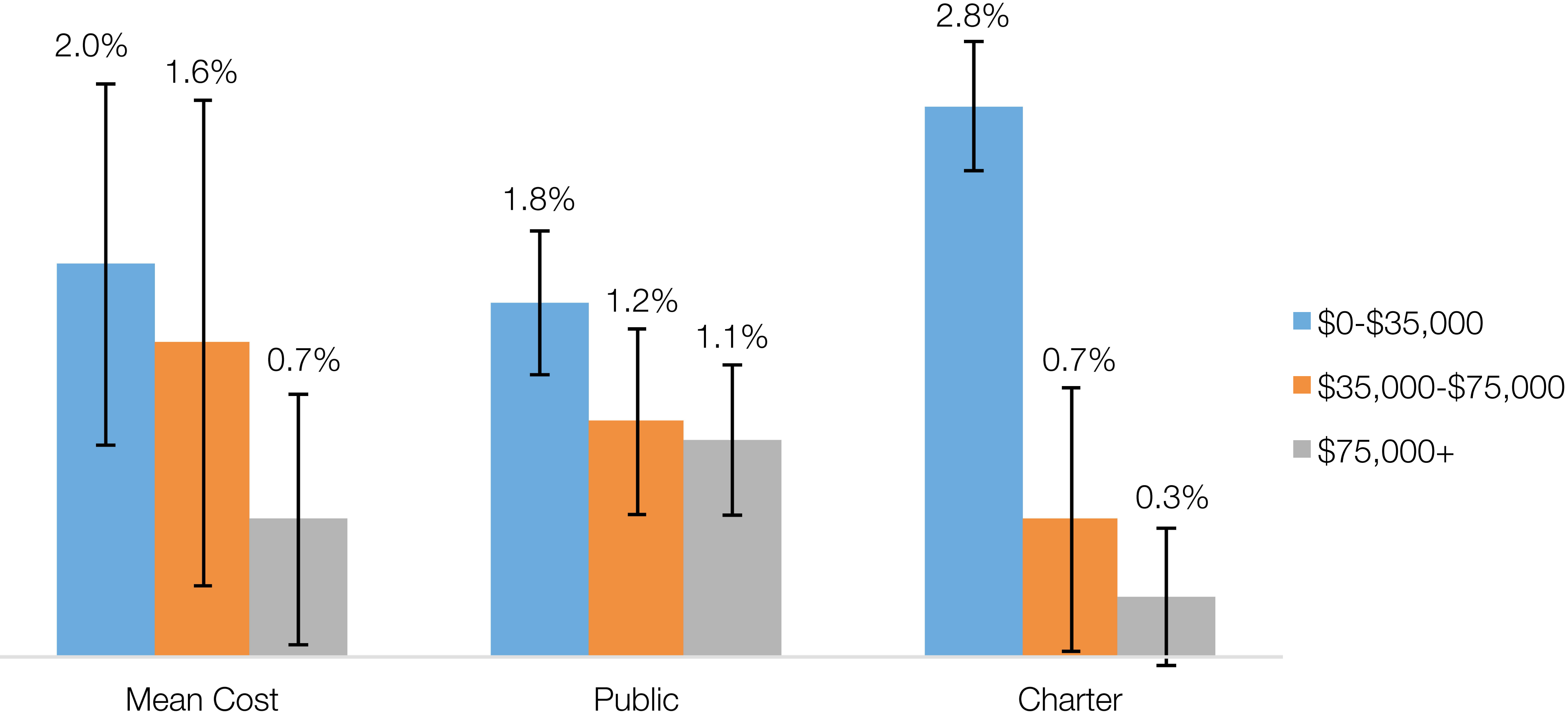
# Charter school students travel for longer time and further distance than public school students.





# Low-income families sending children to charter or public schools face the highest cost burden of any income group.

School travel cost burden by school type (2012)





# Fewer charter school students live in and attend schools in low crime neighborhoods.

Proportion of census tracts in each tercile of crime

	Home tract		School tract	
	Public	Charter	Public	Charter
Low Crime	33%	10%	29%	6%
Medium Crime	49%	45%	38%	58%
High Crime	18%	45%	32%	35%

Significant differences between public and charter schools in both home tracts ( $p = 0.004$ ) and school tracts ( $p = 0.02$ ), Fisher's exact test.

Includes Part I crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and property crimes of burglary, theft and vehicle theft.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department vis Open Data Philly



What do charter school students gain or lose by choosing to leave their neighborhood?



More charter school students attend schools in safer neighborhoods than their assigned public schools.

	Charter tract	Assigned public school tract
Low Crime	21%	5%
Medium Crime	33%	60%
High Crime	47%	35%

Fisher’s exact test of proportions (p = 0.015)  
Includes Part I crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and property crimes of burglary, theft and vehicle theft.

Source: Philadelphia Police Department vis Open Data Philly



On average, charter school students attend schools that are higher performing than their assigned public school.

**Math**  
**(proficient or higher)**

+ 17 percentage points

**Reading**  
**(proficient or higher)**

+ 19 percentage points





Photo: Catharine Brinkley, Philadelphia School Closing Photo Collective



Photo: Jill Saul, Philadelphia School Closing Photo Collective



Photo: Matt Stanley, Philadelphia School Closing Photo Collective

# Implications





Photo: Matt Stanley, The Philadelphia School Closing Photo Collective

THANK YOU!

Ariel Bierbaum | [bierbaum@umd.edu](mailto:bierbaum@umd.edu)