



LSAC's Knowledge Report: The Composition of the First-Year Law School Class and Enrollment Trends



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Introduction	4
The First-Year Class: 2021 to 2024 Trends	5
Racial and Ethnic Diversity	6
Gender and LGBTQ+ Diversity	11
Socioeconomic Diversity	12
Age.....	15
Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Law School Enrollment: 2021 to 2024 Trends	16
Enrollment by Law School Selectivity.....	17
Law School Level Enrollment of Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Students	29
Conclusion: The 1L Profile and the Future of the Profession	35

Executive Summary

LSAC's mission is to advance law and justice by promoting access, equity, and fairness in law school admission and supporting the learning journey from prelaw through practice. To achieve this mission, it is vital to have consistent, reliable data to help advance our collective understanding of who is on the prelaw through practice journey.

In the first LSAC report examining the 2024 1L class¹ — the first full 1L class cycle to be admitted after the June 2023 United States Supreme Court's *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard* decision — this report focuses on first-year law school enrollment from 2021 through 2024,² highlighting:

1. Who is enrolling in law school
2. Where they enrolled
3. How rates of enrollment of racially and ethnically minoritized³ students varied across law schools

Providing more details on the composition of the classes entering law school, this report's key insights include:

- **Gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic, and age composition have generally remained unchanged over the years, but some groups have steadily been increasing.**
 - Since 2015, the majority of the first-year class have been women, but there is a notable steady increase in the representation of gender diverse students,⁴ doubling between 2021 and 2024 from 1% to 2%.
 - 15.7% of the 2024 1L class identify as LGBTQ+,⁵ up from 12% in 2021.

¹ An in-depth 2024 1L profile report is forthcoming during the time of this report's publication.

² The year refers to the year the academic calendar starts. For example, 2021 refers to the 2021-2022 academic year.

³ The term "minoritized" refers to populations that have been treated as less important than the dominant population in terms of access, power, and other aspects of social processes. Minoritized incorporates an understanding of social structures rather than being numerically/statistically smaller/fewer. Minoritized can be used to describe various populations and is not synonymous with or limited to racially/ethnically underrepresented populations. This term is used interchangeably with "marginalized" in this report. For the purpose of this report, racially and ethnically minoritized students include anyone who identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x, Indigenous Person of Canada, Middle Eastern or North African/Arab, multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more), or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

⁴ Gender diverse students include anyone who identifies as nonbinary, transgender, and/or another gender identity other than cisgender man or woman.

⁵ LGBTQ+ refers to people who identify with any sexual orientation other than heterosexual and/or people with any gender identity other than cisgender man or woman.

- Consistently, less than a quarter of the 1L class each year are first-generation college graduates⁶, and a little more than a quarter are Pell Grant recipients. The representation of LSAC fee waiver recipients in the first-year class has doubled between 2021 and 2024 from 5% to 10%.⁷
- The median age of 1Ls at enrollment has remained consistent across the years with the majority starting the academic year somewhere between 23 and 26 years old. About 1 in 5 1Ls are 27 years old or older.
- **The level of racial and ethnic diversity increased between 2021 and 2023 and leveled off in 2024.**
 - From 2019 to 2023, racial and ethnic diversity steadily increased, growing by 2 percentage points between 2021 and 2022, and by 1.2 percentage points between 2022 and 2023, before leveling off between 2023 and 2024, remaining at 41.8% this year.⁸
 - The steady increase in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students from 2021 to 2023 had been largely driven by Asian, multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more races) students, and to a lesser extent, Middle Eastern or North African/Arab and Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x students. Black/African American law student representation slightly declined each year by a tenth of a percentage point.
 - The representation of white-identifying students decreased from 55.6% in 2021 to 50.8% in 2024.
 - Meanwhile, the percentage of students not reporting their race or ethnicity increased from 5.8% in 2021 to 7.4% in 2024.
- **Not all law schools and law school programs experienced the same racial and ethnic representation in their classrooms despite 41.8% of all 1Ls today being from racially and ethnically minoritized groups.**
 - The top 25% highly selective law schools are less racially and ethnically diverse than other law schools.⁹
 - Enrollment rates of Asian and white 1Ls at the top 25% highly selective law schools are higher than any other groups.

⁶ First-generation college graduates include students who reported that their parents or guardians' highest educational attainment was an associate's degree, some college, high school completion/equivalent, or less than high school completion. In other words, first-generation college status is defined as no parent or guardian having earned a bachelor's degree.

⁷ The growth in representation of LSAC fee waiver recipients between 2021 and 2024 should be considered in the context of the significant [changes to the program LSAC made in 2021](#), which expanded income eligibility.

⁸ Percentage point change measures the absolute difference between two percentages. To learn more, please refer to footnote 22.

⁹ Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% of highly selective law schools are in quartile1 (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

- American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, and Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls experienced enrollment changes across law school selectivity quartiles in recent years, often starting before 2024.
- **More law schools experienced a decrease in the enrollment of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their 1L class in 2024 than in previous years.**
 - In 2024, 95 law schools experienced a decrease in enrollment of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their 1L class, up from 74 law schools in 2023 and 72 law schools in 2022.
 - Of the 95 law schools that experienced a decrease in 2024, 72 experienced a decrease of less than 5 percentage points. On average, a decrease of 5 percentage points or less translates into 2-3 fewer students than the year before, depending on school and class size.
 - Sixteen law schools experienced a decrease between 5 and 10 percentage points; seven law schools experienced a decrease of 10 percentage points or higher.
 - Proportionally, in 2024, more top 25% highly selective law schools and private law schools experienced a larger decrease in racial and ethnic representation in their first-year classes compared to other law schools.

The legitimacy of the profession and public trust in the judicial system are in part dependent on who enrolls in law school and their development throughout law school. LSAC will continue to monitor how existing demographic trends unfolded before and after the United States Supreme Court's *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard* decision. We also will continue to monitor what trends develop in the coming years. LSAC will continue to collaborate with law schools and other stakeholders to support all aspiring lawyers as they navigate their individual journeys to and through law school.

Introduction

In the first year following the Supreme Court's *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard* decision, some undergraduate institutions reported significantly lower numbers of incoming students from racially and ethnically minoritized groups.¹⁰ This raised the question among the legal community of whether the overall composition of the first-year (1L) class in legal education experienced a similar decline. In the first comprehensive overview of its kind, this report examines four-year trends of:

1. Who is enrolling in law school
2. Where they enrolled
3. How rates of enrollment of racially and ethnically minoritized students varied across law schools

¹⁰ The most recent report before the publication of this report was the New York Times article about racial and ethnic diversity at elite colleges. [What Happened to Enrollment at Top Colleges After Affirmative Action Ended - The New York Times](#).

Who is enrolling in law school is a culmination of matriculants’ experiences within environments with or without access to the resources and opportunities to learn and develop critical skills needed for law school. The first-year class composition diversified in the last few years. Racial and ethnic diversity increased from 36.7% in 2019 to 41.8% in 2023, then leveled off in 2024. Women have made up most of the incoming classes. In addition, students who identify as gender diverse doubled, and the LGBTQ+ student population increased by more than 3 percentage points in the last four years. First-generation college graduates remained stable, making up just below a quarter of the class. About three-quarters of the class each year have been the first in their families to go to law school. Consistently over the last four years, more than 1 in 3 1Ls have been 22 years old or younger at the start of their legal education. These trends and breakdown of the class composition by race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and age reveal the array of experiences entering the law school classroom in recent years.

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard* decision, much has been speculated about its impact on the racial and ethnic composition of the entering class. Legal education’s steady diversification of the incoming class between 2021 and 2023 experienced a disruption in 2024. Compared to prior years, in 2024, more law schools experienced a decrease in the proportional representation of students from racially and ethnically minoritized backgrounds. A large decrease of 10 percentage points or more of racially and ethnically minoritized groups in the first-year class was not common in legal education, with only seven law schools experiencing this type of decrease. It is pivotal that as a community of stakeholders, we continue our efforts along the legal education pathway to support and provide resources and opportunities to usher in the next generation of legal leaders. It is critical that schools continue to evaluate their holistic admission review process in compliance with the law to ensure access, equity, and fairness along the journey.

The First-Year Class: 2021 to 2024 Trends

Tens of thousands of individuals started law school in each of the past four years (Table 1). The incoming 2021 class was unusually large by current standards, with 41,820 first-year law students. The 2022 and 2023 entering classes represented a return to the recent class-size norm, before increasing back up 5% to 39,558 in 2024.

Table 1: The 1L Class Size, 2021 to 2024

Class Size	2021	2022	2023	2024
Including Deferrals	41,820	38,013	37,750	39,558
Excluding Deferrals	40,889	37,274	37,298	39,243

Source: LSAC

This report dives into a deeper understanding of who enrolls in law school by examining race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and age.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Racial and ethnic diversity among the first-year class steadily increased between 2019 and 2023, then leveled off in 2024 (Figure 1) at 41.8%. The steady increase in the enrollment of students from racially and ethnically minoritized groups between 2021 and 2023 was largely driven by Asian, multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more), and to a lesser extent, Middle Eastern North African/Arab and Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls (Table 2). On the other hand, Black/African American law student representation slightly declined each year by a tenth of a percentage point. White enrollment consistently decreased each year, while 1Ls who did not indicate their race and/or ethnicity consistently increased between 2021 and 2024 (Table 2). Specifically:

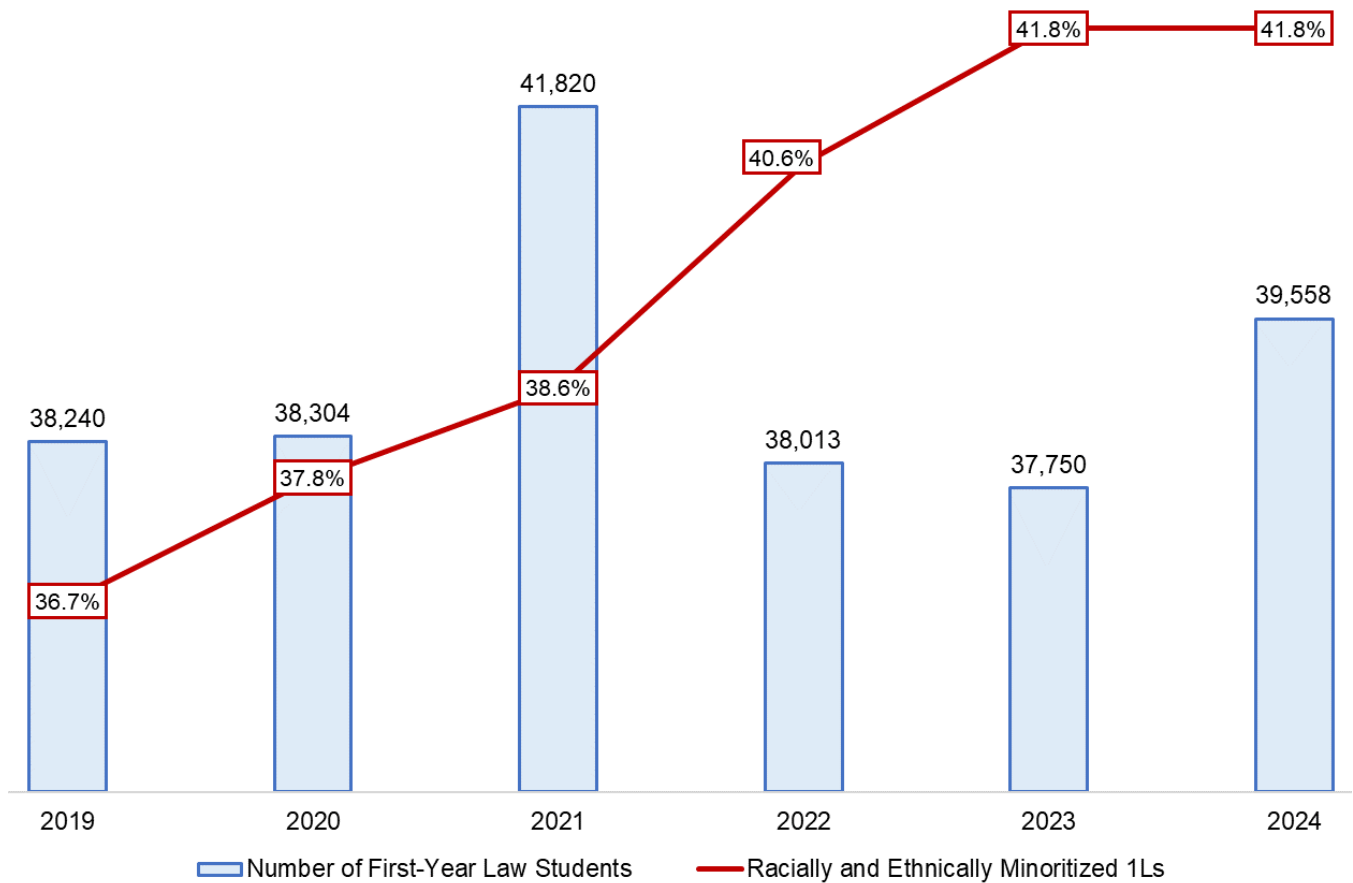
- Of the groups seeing increases:
 - Between 2021 and 2024, Asian 1L representation increased by 1.4 percentage points (or by 17%). From 2021 to 2022, enrollments increased by a percentage point. In 2023, enrollments increased by 0.8 of a percentage point. And in 2024, enrollments leveled to represent 9.5% of the incoming class.
 - Between 2021 and 2024, multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1L representation increased by 1 percentage point (or by 10%). Multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1L representation increased by 0.7 of a percentage point between 2021 and 2022 and increased by 0.3 of a percentage point between 2022 and 2024 before stabilizing at 10.1% in 2024.
 - Between 2021 and 2024, Middle Eastern or North African/Arab 1L representation increased by 0.6 of a percentage point (or by 26%). Middle Eastern or North African/Arab 1L representation consistently increased by 0.3 of a percentage point from 2021 to 2022 and from 2022 to 2023 and remained at 2.9% of the 1L class in 2023 and 2024.
 - Between 2021 and 2024, Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1L representation increased by 0.8 of a percentage point (or by less than 10%). Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls saw an increase in enrollment from 2021 to 2022 of half of a percentage point, no change in enrollment from 2022 to 2023, and an increase of half of a percentage point from 2023 to 2024, currently representing 9.7% of the 2024 1L class.
- Of the groups experiencing slight decreases:
 - Between 2021 and 2024, Black/African American 1L representation decreased by 0.4 of a percentage point (or by 5%). In fact, Black/African American 1Ls have consistently decreased in enrollment by a tenth of a percentage point every year from 2021 to 2024, going from representing 7.9% of the 1L class in 2021 to 7.5% in 2024.

- Between 2021 and 2024, white 1L representation decreased by 4.8 percentage points (or by less than 9%). White 1Ls decreased by 2 percentage points from 2021 to 2022 and from 2022 to 2023 and decreased by 0.9 of a percentage point from 2023 to 2024.
- Of the groups remaining relatively stable:
 - American Indian or Alaska Native, Indigenous Persons of Canada, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1L representation combined has consistently comprised less than 3% of the first-year class.
- Of students not reporting their race and/or ethnicity:
 - Between 2021 and 2024, 1Ls who did not indicate their race and/or ethnicity increased by 1.6 percentage points (or by 28 %).

Multiracial or ethnoracial¹¹ (two or more) identifying 1Ls are from multiple different backgrounds, and it is important to examine who they are within this large umbrella group (Table 3). Of the 10% of 1Ls who identify as multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more), about a third are white Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x students. For the last three cycles, the five largest multiracial or ethnoracial groups have remained stable, with one exception. 1Ls who identify as Middle Eastern or North African and white have increased by roughly 2 percentage points from 2023 to 2024 (Table 3).

¹¹ The term “ethnoracial” refers to a combination of racial and ethnic identities and thereby offers a more accurate representation of the lived experiences of individuals with those combined identities (Goldberg, 1993). For example, Black/African American people are not a monolithic group, and describing someone who is Afro-Latina/é/o/x or Afro-Caribbean only as “African American” obscures key ethnic aspects of their identities. Different ethnic identities often imply distinctly different experiences due, in part, to different immigration histories and the political-economic circumstances of each group. Goldberg, D. T. (1993). *Racist culture: Philosophy and the politics of meaning*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Figure 1: Representation of Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Groups in the 1L Class, 2019 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

Table 2: Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024

Race and Ethnicity	2021		2022		2023		2024		Change 2022 v. 2021		Change 2023 v. 2022		Change 2024 v. 2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
American Indian or Alaska Native ¹²	698	1.70%	666	1.80%	649	1.70%	648	1.60%	-32	0.10%	-17	0.00%	-1	-0.10%
Asian	3,392	8.10%	3,375	8.90%	3,639	9.60%	3,762	9.50%	-17	0.80%	264	0.80%	123	-0.10%
Black/African American	3,317	7.90%	2,965	7.80%	2,907	7.70%	2,989	7.60%	-352	-0.10%	-58	-0.10%	82	-0.10%
Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x ¹³	3,724	8.90%	3,561	9.40%	3,551	9.40%	3,828	9.70%	-163	0.50%	-10	0.00%	277	0.30%
Indigenous Person of Canada	5	0.00%	3	0.00%	7	0.00%	5	0.00%	-2	0.00%	4	0.00%	-2	0.00%
Middle Eastern or North African/Arab	960	2.30%	978	2.60%	1,092	2.90%	1,138	2.90%	18	0.30%	114	0.30%	46	0.00%
Multiracial or Ethnoracial (2 or more)	3,817	9.10%	3,695	9.70%	3,763	10.00%	3,994	10.10%	-122	0.60%	68	0.30%	231	0.10%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ¹⁴	209	0.50%	179	0.50%	181	0.50%	183	0.50%	-30	0.00%	2	0.00%	2	0.00%
White	23,263	55.60%	20,407	53.70%	19,492	51.60%	20,083	50.80%	-2,856	-2.00%	-915	-2.10%	591	-0.90%
Did not indicate	2,435	5.80%	2,184	5.80%	2,469	6.50%	2,928	7.40%	-251	-0.10%	285	0.80%	459	0.90%

Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

¹² LSAC is committed to improving how data is collected and reported. Given conversations with community leaders and advocates, American Indian and Alaska Native students include those who identify exclusively or in part (multiracial or ethnoracial by selecting American Indian and Alaska Native and one other racial or ethnic category) as American Indian or Alaska Native. [Layers of Identity: Rethinking American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection in Higher Education](#)

¹³ Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x students counted here are those who identify as only Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x and/or Puerto Rican. This category is not Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x of any race. Ethnoracial Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x students are counted under multiracial or ethnoracial (2 or more). Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x of any race enrollment trends are: in 2021, 5,883 (14.1%); in 2022, 5,699 (15.0%); in 2023, 5,745 (15.2%); and in 2024, 6,129 (15.5%).

¹⁴ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander includes anyone who identifies exclusively or in part (multiracial or ethnoracial by selecting Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and one other racial or ethnic category) as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Table 3: Five Largest Multiracial or Ethnoracial (2 or more) Identities in the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024

Race and Ethnicity	2021		2022		2023		2024		Change 2022 v. 2021		Change 2023 v. 2022		Change 2024 v. 2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
White and Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x	1,386	31.5%	1,307	30.9%	1,358	31.2%	1,428	31.2%	-79	-0.7%	51	0.4%	70	0.0%
Asian and white	697	15.9%	658	15.5%	649	14.9%	693	15.2%	-39	-0.3%	-9	-0.6%	44	0.2%
Middle Eastern or North African/Arab and white	577	15.9%	539	12.7%	547	12.6%	669	14.6%	-38	-3.1%	8	-0.1%	122	2.1%
Black/African American and white	331	7.5%	281	6.6%	315	7.2%	312	6.8%	-50	-0.9%	34	0.6%	-3	-0.4%
Black/African American and Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x	258	5.9%	271	6.4%	269	6.2%	260	5.7%	13	0.5%	-2	-0.2%	-9	-0.5%

Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

Gender and LGBTQ+ Diversity

Overall, the majority of 1Ls consistently identify as cisgender (Table 4) and straight/heterosexual (Table 5). Representation of different gender identities and sexual orientations has steadily changed over the years.

Women consistently make up over half (56%) of the 1L class each year from 2021 to 2024 (Table 4). The representation of men has slowly decreased, down 1.6 percentage points between 2021 and 2024 (or by 4%). There is a notably steady increase in the representation of gender diverse students, doubling between 2021 and 2024 from 1% to 2%. 1Ls who choose not to disclose their gender identities has also increased over time, up from 1.2% in 2021 to 1.8% in 2024 (an increase of 0.6 of a percentage point or 50%).

Table 4: Gender Diversity in the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024

Gender Identity	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change 2022 v. 2021	Change 2023 v. 2022	Change 2024 v. 2023
Woman	55.6%	55.1%	55.7%	55.5%	-0.5%	0.5%	-0.2%
Man	42.2%	42.1%	41.2%	40.6%	-0.1%	-0.9%	-0.5%
Gender Diverse	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	2.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.7%
Did not disclose	1.2%	1.5%	1.7%	1.8%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%

Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Gender diverse students includes anyone who identifies as nonbinary, transgender, and/or another gender identity. Men and women are self-reported cisgender men and women. More details about gender diverse students are found in the 1L profile reports and LGBTQ+ Law School Survey reports.

Sexual orientation diversity increased between 2021 and 2024 (Table 5). Akin to 2023, 14.7% of 1Ls in the 2024 class identify as bisexual, gay or lesbian, questioning, or identifying with another sexual orientation, with the largest proportion identifying as bisexual, followed by many reporting that their sexual orientation is not listed. Between 2021 and 2024, the representation of heterosexual/straight 1Ls decreased by 4.6 percentage points (or 6%) from 76.5% in 2021 to 71.9% in 2024.

Table 5: Sexual Orientation Diversity in the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024

Sexual Orientation	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change 2022 v. 2021	Change 2023 v. 2022	Change 2024 v. 2023
Bisexual	4.4%	5.5%	6.0%	7.1%	1.06%	0.48%	1.15%
Gay or Lesbian	3.1%	3.2%	3.2%	3.7%	0.08%	0.03%	0.52%
Questioning or Unsure	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.15%	0.04%	0.17%
Sexual orientation not listed	3.9%	4.6%	5.0%	3.1%	0.74%	0.36%	-1.85%
Heterosexual/Straight	76.5%	74.7%	72.8%	71.9%	-1.83%	-1.88%	-0.91%
Did not disclose	11.7%	11.5%	12.5%	13.4%	-0.19%	0.96%	0.92%

Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

Bringing together gender diversity and sexual orientation diversity, a total of 15.7% of the 1L class identified as LGBTQ+,¹⁵ up from 12% in the 2021 1L class. It is likely that this number will continue to grow, according to the [2022 Gallup report](#) that found about 1 in 5 Gen Z adults identify as LGBTQ+. Like race and ethnicity, there is a growing population that is not disclosing their sexual orientation, which increased almost a percentage point between 2023 and 2024 and a total of 1.7 percentage points (or 15%) between 2021 and 2024.

Socioeconomic Diversity

Researchers across various disciplines measure socioeconomic status (SES) by considering several factors. In addition to income and assets, researchers consider factors like where individuals grew up, citizenship status, whether someone went to private or public schools, cultural background, occupation, geographic location, education attainment, and financial assets of parents or guardians. These factors have the potential to influence quality of life and the ability to access opportunities in life. Because opportunity is unevenly distributed in the United States, SES is important to understanding how and why people from different backgrounds vary in their access to opportunities. In LSAC's work, first-generation college graduate status, first-generation law student status, Pell grant recipient status, and LSAC fee waiver recipient status are important examples of SES factors.

¹⁵ LGBTQ+ refers to people who identify with any sexual orientation other than heterosexual and/or people with any gender identity other than cisgender man or woman.

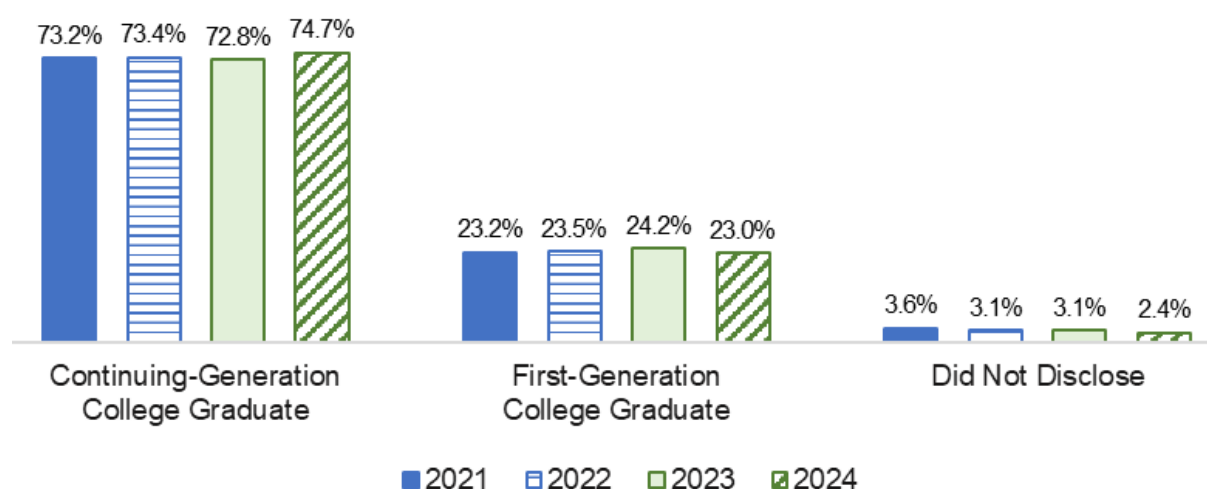
First-generation college graduates, Pell Grant recipients, and LSAC fee waiver recipients represent a small proportion of the 1L class (Table 6, Figure 2, Figure 4, and Figure 5). Consistently less than 1 in 4 (23%) of 1Ls each year are first-generation college graduates (Table 6 and Figure 2). Almost half (46%) of the 1Ls each year reported that at least one parent or guardian had a post-graduate degree (Table 6). And the majority of the class each year reported being the first in their families to go to law school (Figure 3).

Table 6: Highest Level of Education Attainment of Any Parent or Guardian in the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024

Education Level	2021	2022	2023	2024
Less than high school completion	2.7%	2.9%	3.2%	3.0%
High school completion/equivalent	9.2%	9.6%	9.9%	9.4%
Some college	7.7%	7.5%	7.4%	6.9%
Associate's Degree	3.9%	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree	28.5%	29.3%	28.8%	28.5%
Master's Degree	21.7%	22.0%	21.9%	22.6%
Juris Doctor (JD) or equivalent	11.2%	10.6%	10.8%	11.5%
Doctoral Degree	6.3%	6.1%	6.0%	6.5%
Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), or equivalent professional-level physician's degree	5.6%	5.4%	5.4%	5.6%
Prefer not to answer or do not know	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.4%

Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

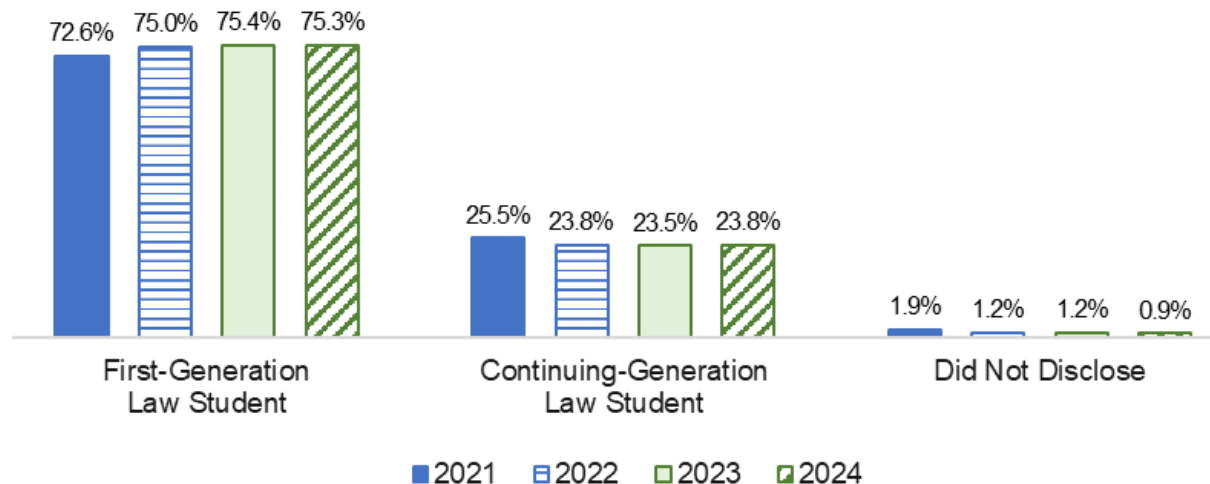
Figure 2: First-Generation College Status of the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

While 12% of 1Ls reported at least one of their parents or guardians hold a JD as their highest education level of attainment (Table 6), 24% reported they have a close family member who holds a JD. The majority of 1Ls between 2021 and 2024 have consistently been first-generation law students, making up 75% of each 1L class (Figure 3).

Figure 3: First-Generation Law Student Status of the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024

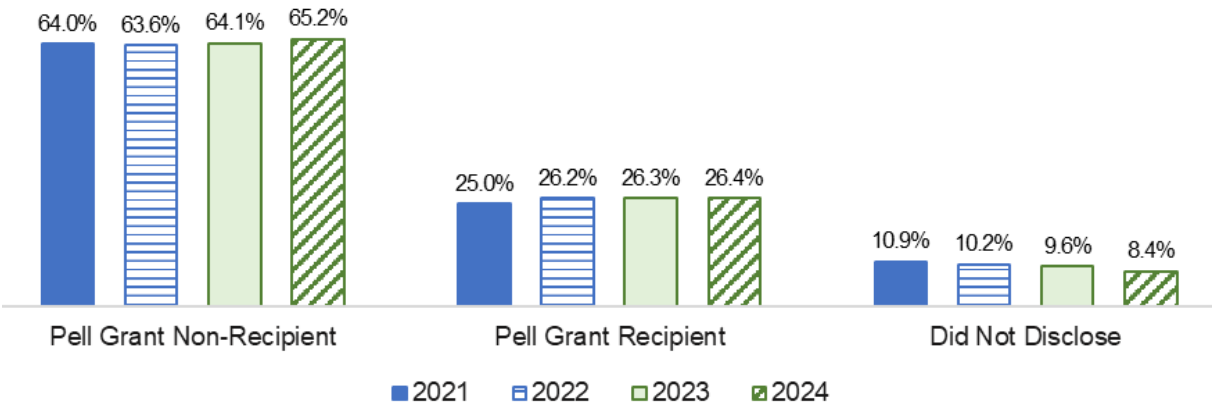


Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

Pell Grants and LSAC fee waivers¹⁶ are provided to students with demonstrated financial need (Figure 4 and 5). Consistently between 2021 and 2024, a little more than 1 in 4 1Ls reported they were Pell Grant recipients (Figure 4). While Pell Grant status has remained consistent from 2021 to 2024, LSAC fee waiver recipient representation doubled, increasing from 5.3% in 2021 to 10.9% in 2024 (Figure 5). The difference in the representation of Pell Grant recipients and LSAC fee waiver recipients over the years can be due to a number of factors, including how financial eligibility is defined for Pell Grants and LSAC fee waivers. For example, the growth in representation of LSAC fee waiver recipients between 2021 and 2024 should be considered in the context of the significant changes to the program LSAC made in 2021, which expanded income eligibility.

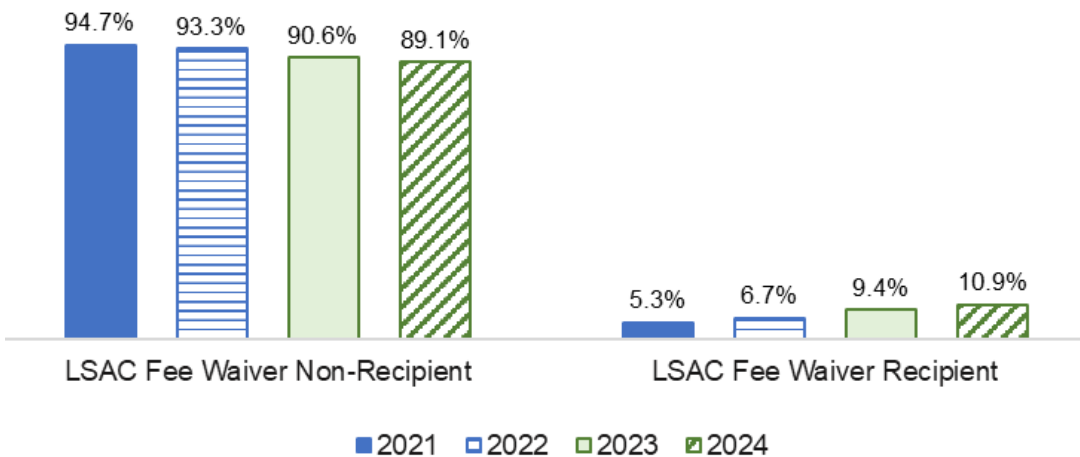
¹⁶ To be eligible for an LSAC fee waiver, applicants must demonstrate financial need supported by tax forms and other documentation.

Figure 4: Pell Grant Recipient Status in the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

Figure 5: LSAC Fee Waiver Recipient Status in the 1L Class, 2021 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals.

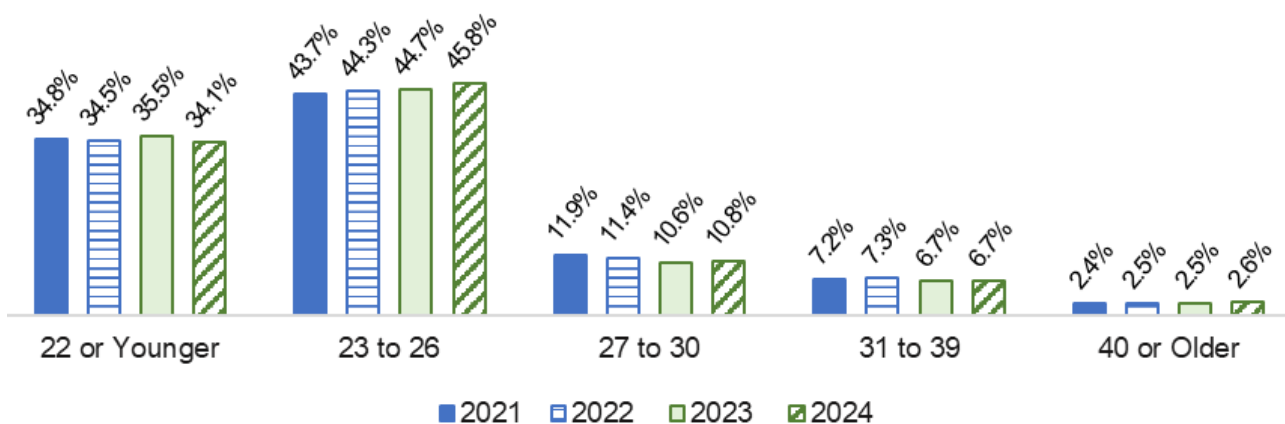
Overall, the first-year class remains predominantly continuing-generation college graduates with access to financial support. These trends illustrate the importance of outreach to open access to resources for the sizeable number of students who are first-generation college students or who lack financial support.

Age

While many may assume that a “traditional” law student is someone straight out of college, most students are older. Over the last four years, the median age of all first-year law students is 23 for full-time programs and 28 for part-time programs. Between 2021 and 2024, less than 46% of 1Ls were between 23 and 26 years old, and less than 35% of all 1Ls were 22 years old or younger. About 10% were between 27 and 30 years old, and about 7% were in their 30s. Less than 3% were 40 years or older.

In other words, over the years, more than a third of 1Ls students have consistently been 22 years old or younger, about 2 in 5 have been between 23 and 26 years old, and about 1 in 5 have been 27 years or older. This trend begs the question, “What is a traditional law student?” LSAC will continue to monitor who is entering law school, as age may impact how prospective students decide and plan for law school. Examining how age and time off before law school impact who applies and enters law school will be informative for all law stakeholders on the journey to and through law school.

Figure 6: 1L Class Age Distribution, 2021 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Age is as of August 1 of the enrollment academic year.

These trends and the breakdown of diversity by race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and age in this section reveal the array of experiences entering the law school classroom in recent years. While legal education experienced a reported increase in racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual orientation diversity in recent years, the first-year class remains predominantly continuing-generation college graduates, and the majority of students were not Pell Grant or LSAC fee waiver recipients. These trends are critical to monitor as stakeholders continue efforts to intervene and open access to resources and opportunities to help prospective law students develop the skills and strategies needed to succeed to and through law school.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Law School Enrollment: 2021 to 2024 Trends

While the first-year curriculum at law schools is similar, each law school offers a unique experience that speaks differently to applicants depending on their personal, professional, and academic needs. Each law school is different, from their admission offices, to the composition of their admission committees, to the larger institutional structures that govern how they execute holistic admission review. Therefore, racial and ethnic diversity in the first-year class is not represented in the same way across all law

schools, both at the individual level or when aggregated into law school selectivity quartiles.¹⁷

In this section, analyses examine: (1) the overall racial and ethnic diversity within each law school selectivity quartile and the enrollment rates of various racial and ethnic groups in each quartile, and (2) the number of law schools that experienced enrollment changes in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in the first-year class between 2021 and 2024.

Racial and ethnic diversity, both in enrollment and changes in enrollment, varied across law schools and selectivity quartiles. While more top 25% highly selective law schools and more private law schools experienced larger decreases in the enrollment of racially and ethnically minoritized students in 2024 compared to 2023, these larger decreases were not common across most law schools. The results highlight the nuance of law school admission both in the aggregate and at the individual law school levels.

Nonetheless, enrollment rates at various schools have implications for the future of the profession, reflected in access to more prestigious opportunities, including large law firm employment and clerkships.

Enrollment by Law School Selectivity

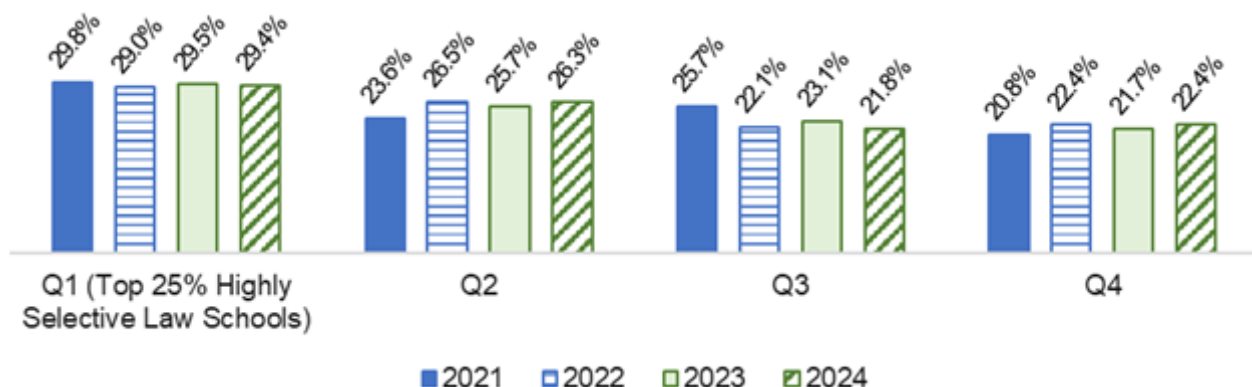
Overall Enrollment

Deciding where to go to law school is one of the biggest decisions candidates make each year. Where students enroll in law school not only impacts the candidates, it also carries implications for whether the legal profession reflects the society it represents, especially as it relates to employment recruitment. In this section, LSAC data reveal where the 1L classes of 2021 to 2024 enrolled based on law school selectivity.

For the purposes of this research, we have used each law school's annual admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students to create a selectivity index score. The top 25% highly selective law schools in a given year are in quartile 1 (Q1), the next 25% of selective schools are in quartile 2 (Q2), and so on. Given the variation in class sizes among the schools that make up each quartile, 29-30% of 1Ls annually enroll in Q1 (top 25% highly selective) law schools, 24-26% enroll in Q2 schools, 22-26% enroll in Q3 schools, and 21-22% enroll in Q4 schools (Figure 7). This quartile analysis provides a baseline to understand enrollment trends for racial and ethnic representation at the law school level.

¹⁷ Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in quartile1 (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools. 196 law schools are represented.

Figure 7: Percentage of 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools. 196 law schools are represented.

Racial and ethnic diversity has consistently remained unequally distributed across law school selectivity quartiles from 2021 to 2024 (Table 7). Law schools in the fourth quartile (Q4) have remained more racially and ethnically diverse than the top 25% highly selective law schools in the first quartile (Q1) in the last four years. For example, each year, 51-56% of 1Ls at the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) are white, compared to 43-45% at law schools in the fourth quartile (Q4). Alternatively, racially and ethnically minoritized groups have consistently made up 38-43% of 1Ls enrolled in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) and about 51% of 1Ls enrolled at law schools in the fourth quartile (Q4). And across the board, from 2021 to 2024, 1Ls who chose not to indicate their race and/or ethnicity consistently made up 5-8% of a given law school quartile.

In the last four years, there has been movement in racial and ethnic composition of the first-year class across law school selectivity quartiles (Table 7). For example, while the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) are less racially and ethnically diverse than other law schools, racial and ethnic diversity increased from 38% in 2021 to 42.8% in 2023 and then declined to 41.6% in 2024. This is a 9% increase between 2021 and 2024 and a 2.8% decrease between 2023 and 2024. And among law schools in the second and third quartiles, there has been a 9-15% increase (or 3-5 percentage-point increase) in racial and ethnic diversity, increasing from about 33% in 2021 to 36%-38% in 2024.

Table 7: Racial and Ethnic Diversity by Law School Selectivity, 2021 to 2024

Race/Ethnicity	2021	2022	2023	2024
Q1 (Top 25% Highly Selective Schools)				
Racially and Ethnically Minoritized 1Ls	38.1%	40.6%	42.8%	41.6%
White 1Ls	56.0%	53.8%	50.7%	50.9%
Did not indicate	5.9%	5.6%	6.5%	7.5%
Q2				
Racially and Ethnically Minoritized 1Ls	33.5%	36.5%	37.4%	38.7%
White 1Ls	60.4%	57.3%	56.0%	53.6%
Did not indicate	6.1%	6.2%	6.6%	7.7%
Q3				
Racially and Ethnically Minoritized 1Ls	33.4%	35.4%	37.1%	36.5%
White 1Ls	60.4%	58.3%	55.8%	55.2%
Did not indicate	6.2%	6.3%	7.1%	8.3%
Q4				
Racially and Ethnically Minoritized 1Ls	51.3%	50.6%	50.8%	50.9%
White 1Ls	43.7%	44.7%	43.3%	42.9%
Did not indicate	5.00%	4.75%	5.91%	6.16%

Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

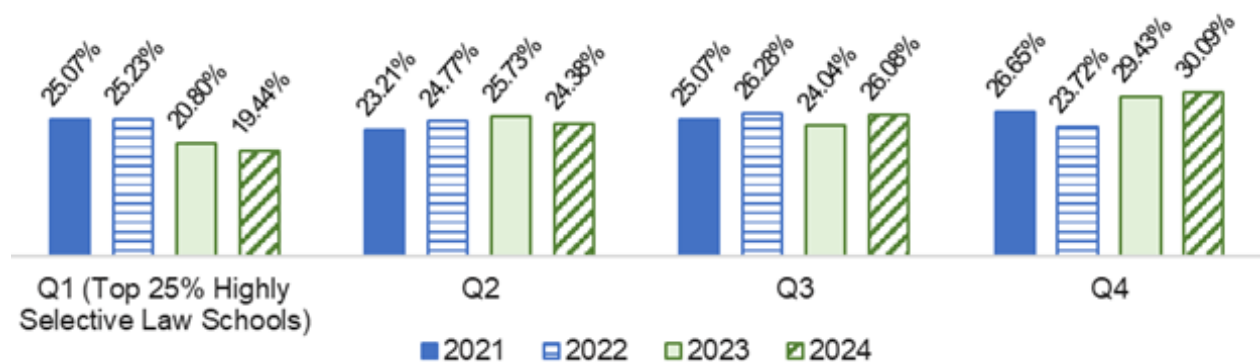
These trends are nuanced, and the increase and decrease in racial and ethnic diversity varied, with a disruption to the diversification of the first-year class experienced by some law schools in the first selectivity quartile (Q1) in 2024.

Enrollment by Racial and Ethnic Group

Overall, for many groups, enrollment across law school selectivity quartiles remained relatively consistent over the last four years, except for American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, and Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls, which experienced enrollment changes across quartiles in recent years, often starting before 2024.

American Indian or Alaska Native 1L representation was relatively evenly distributed across the four selectivity quartiles in 2021 and 2022 (Figure 8). However, enrollment in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) decreased in 2023 by 5 percentage points, going from 25.2% to 20.8%. This change represents a 20% decrease in enrollment of American Indian or Alaska Native 1Ls from 2021 to 2022. Enrollment in law schools in the fourth quartile (Q4) increased since 2022 by about 6 percentage points, from 23.7% to 30.1% in 2024, which amounts to a 30% increase in enrollment between 2022 and 2024.

Figure 8: Percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile

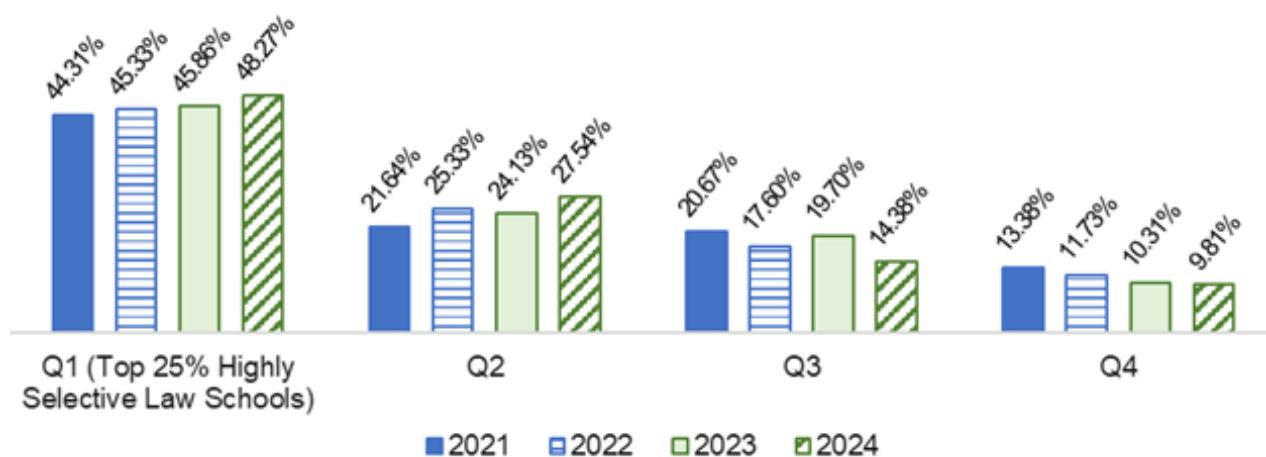


Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Asian 1Ls are consistently overrepresented in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) year over year, with the largest increase occurring in 2024 (Figure 9). Each year, over 40% of all Asian 1Ls enrolled in a Q1 (top 25% highly selective) school. From 2021 to 2022, Asian enrollment in law schools in the top selectivity quartile (Q1) increased steadily, with the largest increase in 2024 when enrollment went from 45.9% in 2023 to 48.3% in 2024 — a 2.4 percentage-point increase. In other words, Asian 1L enrollment in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) increased by 5% from 2023 to 2024.

Even with the overrepresentation of Asian 1Ls in the top selectivity quartile (Q1), enrollment change was largest in law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2). In 2024, 27.5% of all Asian 1Ls enrolled in a law school in the second selectivity quartile (Q2), which is a 3.4 percentage-point increase from 2023. In other words, Asian 1L enrollment in law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2) increased by 14% between 2023 and 2024. The total increase from 2021 to 2024 of Asian 1L enrollment in law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2) was 9% (or 4 percentage points). Overall, the enrollment rates of Asian 1Ls in the top 50% of selective law schools (Q1 and Q2) was already increasing before 2024, but the single largest increase occurred with the 2024 1L class.

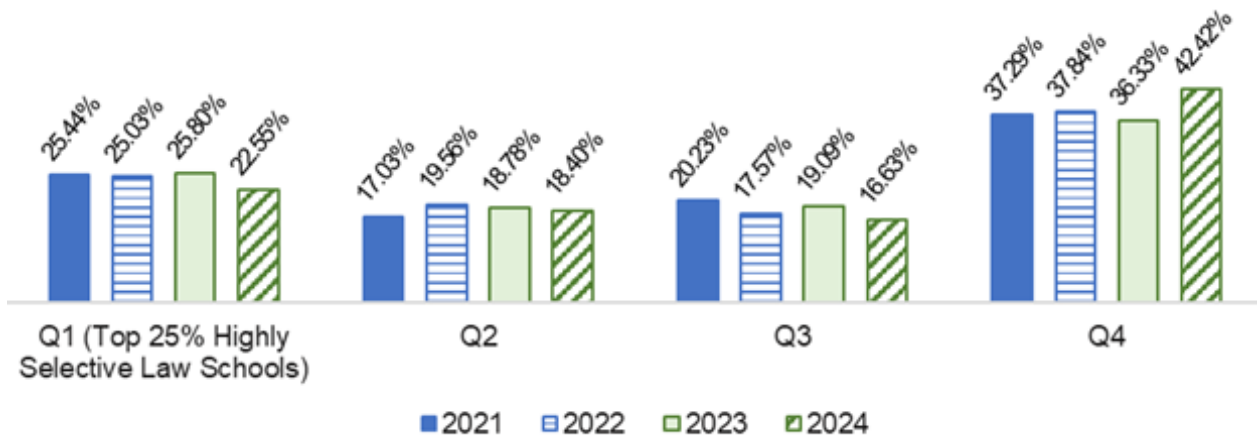
Figure 9: Percentage of Asian 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

While **Black/African American 1L** enrollment was stable between 2021 and 2023 across selectivity quartiles, 2024 brought the largest change at law schools in the first and fourth quartiles (Q1 and Q4; Figure 10). Between 2021 and 2023, about a quarter of all Black/African American 1Ls were enrolled in a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1). However, enrollment in a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1) decreased by 3.2 percentage points to 22.6% in 2024. In other words, Black/African American 1L enrollment in the first selectivity quartile (Q1) decreased by 14% from 2023 to 2024. On the other hand, Black/African American 1Ls are consistently overrepresented in law schools in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4) year over year. The largest increase occurred in 2024 where 42% of all Black/African American 1Ls enrolled in a law school in the fourth quartile (Q4), up from 36% in 2022, which is a 6 percentage-point increase. In other words, Black/African American 1L enrollment in law schools in the fourth quartile (Q4) increased by 17% between 2023 and 2024. Unlike most other groups with consistent enrollment trends, Black/African American 1L enrollment change was the starkest in 2024.

Figure 10: Percentage of Black/African American 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile

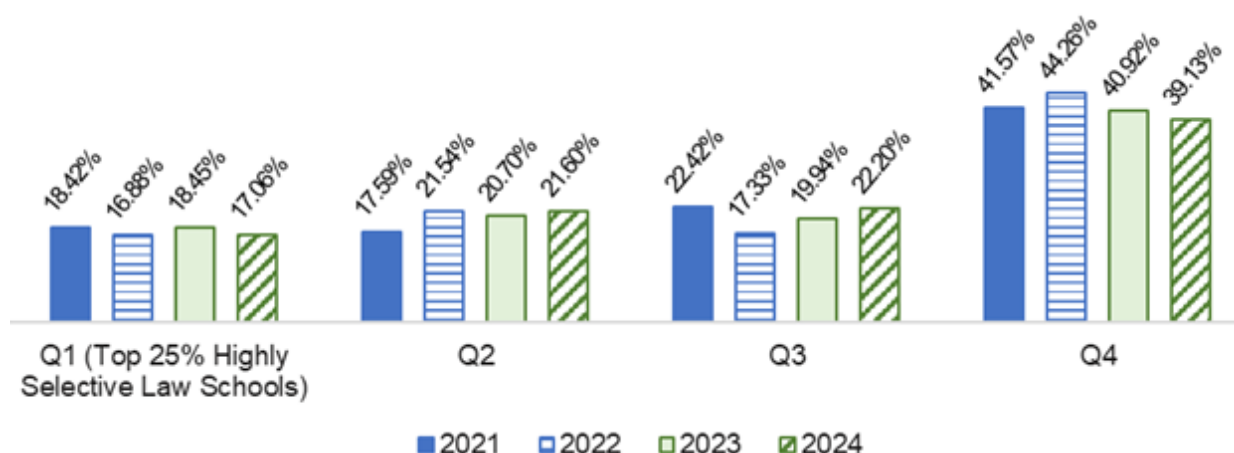


Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls¹⁸ were also consistently overrepresented in law schools in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4) between 2021 and 2024 (Figure 11). About 40% of all Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls enrolled in a law school in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4). On the other hand, only between 17%-18% of all Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls enrolled in a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1) between 2021 and 2024. Compared to the larger racial and ethnic groups, Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls are the least represented in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1). However, over the years, Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1L enrollment in law schools in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4) slowly decreased as their enrollment at law schools in the second and third selectivity quartiles (Q2 and Q3) slowly increased. For example, in 2021, 17.6% of all Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1Ls enrolled in a law school in the second selectivity quartile (Q2) which increased by 4.6 percentage points in 2024 to 21.6%. In other words, Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x 1L enrollment in law schools in the second quartile (Q2) increased by 26% between 2021 and 2024.

¹⁸ Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x students counted here are those who identify as only Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x and/or Puerto Rican. This category is not Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x of any race. Ethnoracial Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x students are counted under Multiracial or Ethnoracial (two or more). To learn more about the diversity of Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x community and education outcomes, check out research such as Golash-Boza, T., & Darity, W. (2008). Latino racial choices: The effects of skin colour and discrimination on Latinos' and Latinas' racial self-identifications. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 31(5), 899–934. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01419870701568858>

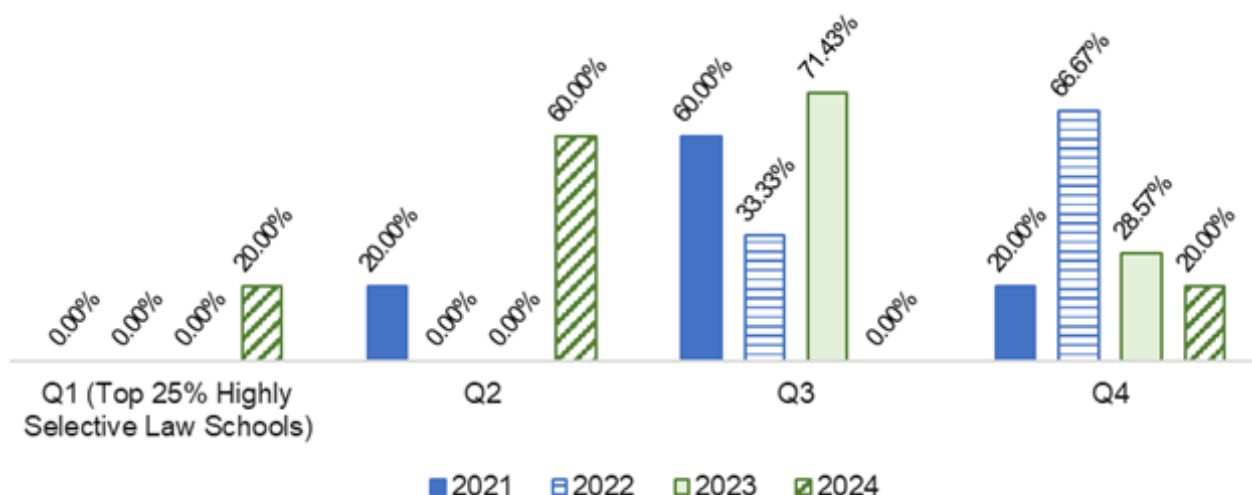
Figure 11: Percentage of Hispanic or Latina/é/o/x Matriculants Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Indigenous Persons of Canada 1Ls are the smallest racial and ethnic group enrolling in law school. Less than 10 1Ls each year identify as an Indigenous Person of Canada. Nonetheless, visibility is important, and most students are spread across law schools, with most enrolling in law schools in the second to fourth selectivity quartiles (Figure 12). The ebb and flow experienced from year to year is more pronounced with this group because with such a small population, smaller changes have larger effects.

Figure 12: Percentage of Indigenous Persons of Canada 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile

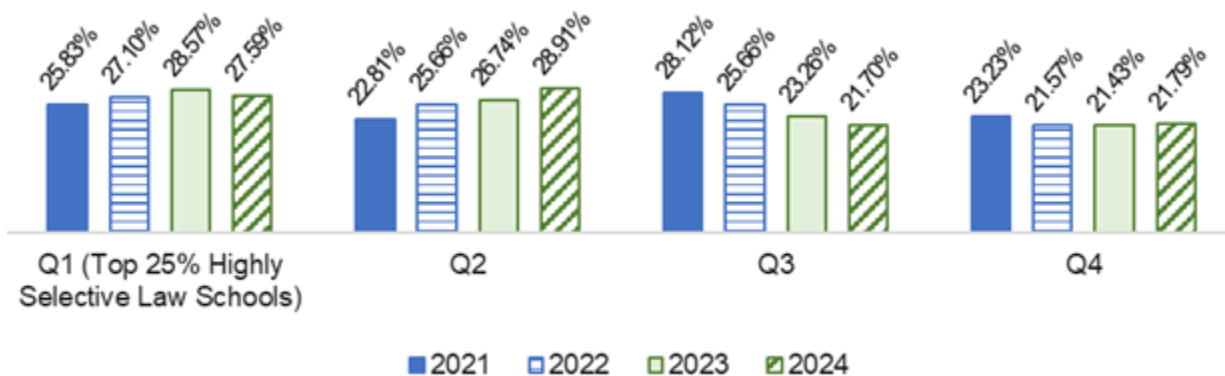


Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Interpret these trends with caution, as the number of Indigenous Persons of Canada 1Ls is very small, as Table 2 indicates. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Middle Eastern or North African/Arab¹⁹ 1Ls have consistently increased enrollment at the top 25% of highly selective law schools (Q1) and have been steadily increasing enrollment at law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2) while enrolling less in the third quartile (Figure 13). About 28% of all Middle Eastern or North African/Arab 1Ls enrolled at a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1), and their enrollment rates at law schools in the second selectivity quartile increased by 6 percentage points between 2021 and 2024, which is a 21% increase. The inverse trend occurred for enrollment at law schools in the third selectivity quartile (Q3). Enrollment at law schools in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4) stabilized at 21% after decreasing by 2 percentage points (9%) from 2021 to 2022.

¹⁹ Middle Eastern or North African/Arab represents just under 3% of a given 1L class. Given the relatively small size of this group, changes to a law schools' selectivity quartile categorization can have a larger proportional impact on Middle Eastern or North African/Arab representation than on larger racial and ethnic groups. For example, one of the top five law schools Middle Eastern or North African/Arab students matriculate to changed from a Q2 law school in 2021 to a Q1 law school in 2022, stayed Q1 in 2023, and moved back to Q2 in 2024.

Figure 13: Percentage of Middle Eastern or North African/Arab 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile

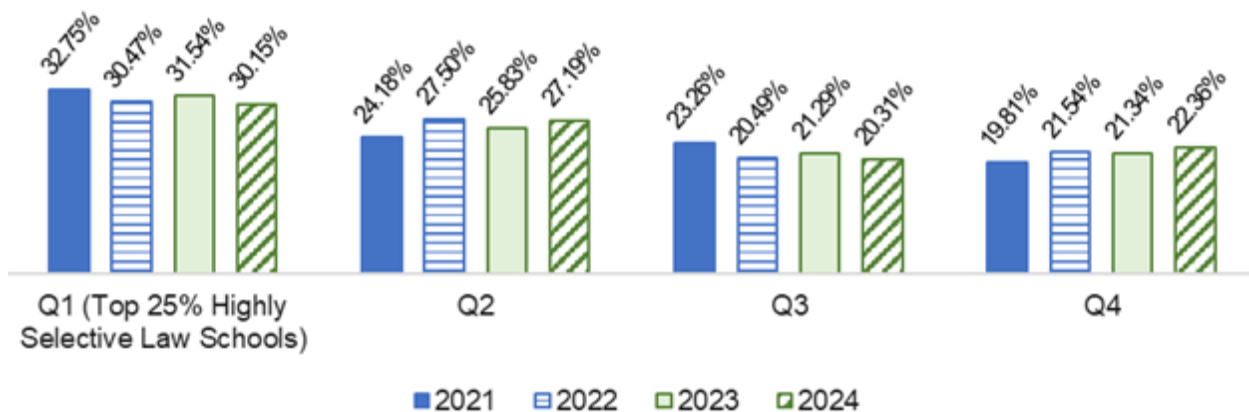


Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1Ls enrolled consistently at higher rates in law schools in the first and second quartiles (Q1 and Q2; Figure 14). Between 30% and 32% of all multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1Ls enrolled at a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1) between 2021 and 2024. Also, 24%-27% of multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1Ls enrolled at a law school in the second selectivity quartile (Q2). This means that about half of all multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1Ls consistently enroll in a top 50% selective law school (Q1 and Q2) every year. However, it is crucial to note that multiracial or ethnoracial (two or more) 1Ls are a racially and ethnically diverse group that require closer examination to understand the trends and experiences that impact their journey to and through law school.²⁰

²⁰ The term “ethnoracial” refers to a combination of racial and ethnic identities and thereby offers a more accurate representation of the lived experiences of individuals with those combined identities (Goldberg, 1993). For example, Black people are not a monolithic group, and describing someone who is Afro-Latina/é/o/x or Afro-Caribbean only as “African American” obscures key ethnic aspects of their identities. Different ethnic identities often imply distinctly different experiences due, in part, to different immigration histories and the political-economic circumstances of each group. Goldberg, D. T. (1993). *Racist culture: Philosophy and the politics of meaning*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Figure 14: Percentage of Multiracial or Ethnoracial (two or more) 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile

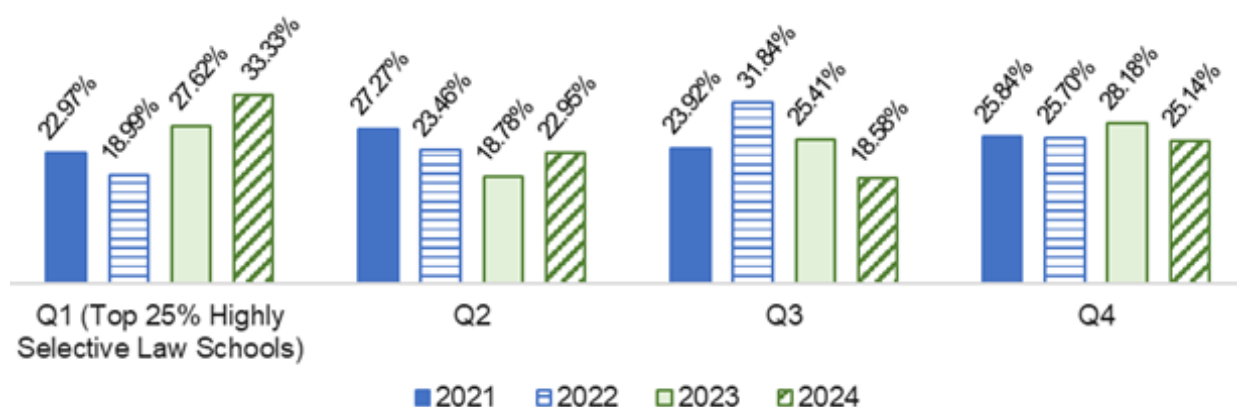


Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Akin to Indigenous Persons of Canada, **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** 1Ls are one of the smallest racial and ethnic groups represented in any given 1L class. Therefore, movement from year to year is more pronounced with so small a population.²¹ Overall, in 2024, about 1 in 3 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1Ls enrolled at a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1), and a quarter enrolled at a law school in the fourth quartile (Q4; Figure 15). It is important to ensure the visibility of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1Ls while carefully using these trends.

²¹ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander matriculants represent 0.5% of a given 1L class. Given the relatively small size of this group, changes to a law schools' selectivity quartile categorization can have a larger proportional impact on Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander representation than on larger racial and ethnic groups. For example, one of the top five law schools Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders matriculate to changed from a Q3 law school in 2023 to a Q2 law school in 2024.

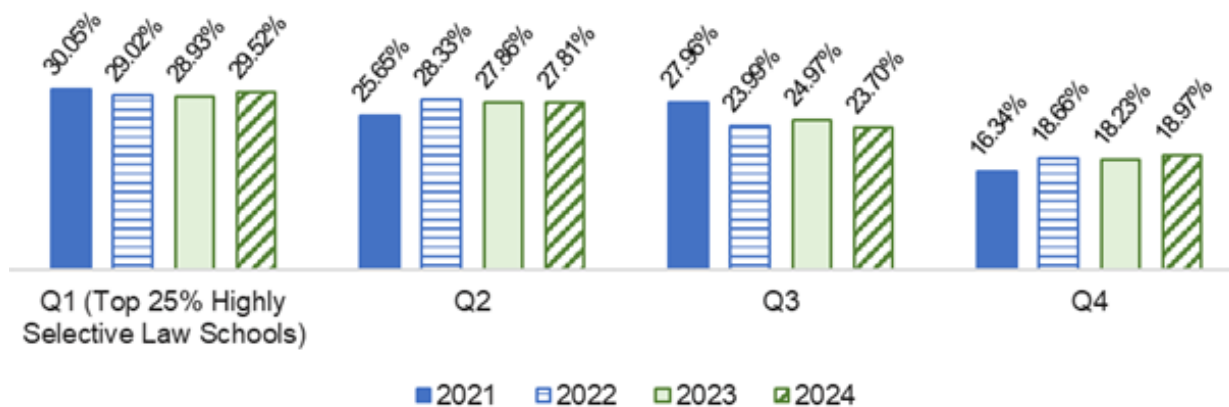
Figure 15: Percentage of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

White 1Ls are consistently overrepresented in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) and law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2). From 2021 to 2024, roughly 1 in 3 white 1Ls enrolled at a top 25% highly selective law school (Q1). Between 26% and 28% enrolled at a law school in the second selectivity quartile (Q2). Overall, 3 out of 5 white 1Ls consistently enrolled in a top 50% selective law school (Q1 and Q2) every year. Unlike other groups, white 1L enrollment was relatively stable between 2021 and 2024.

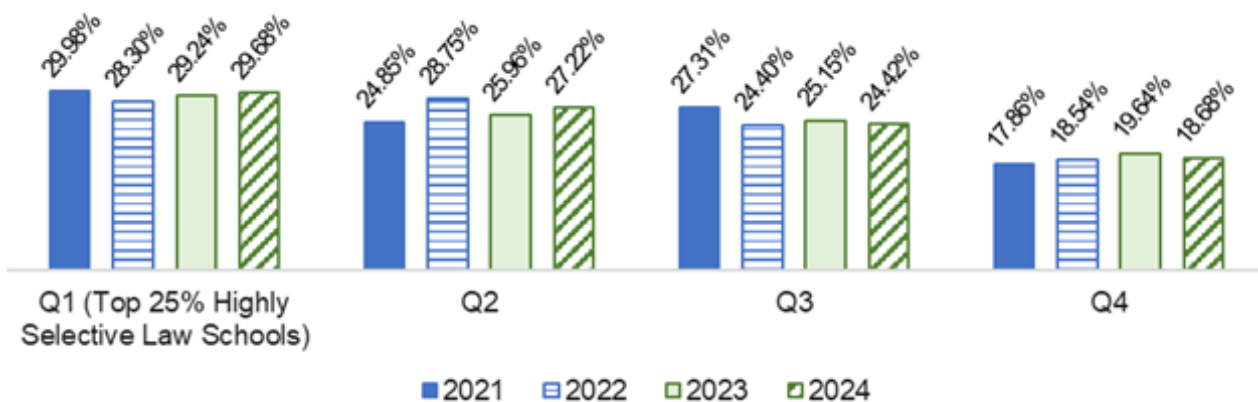
Figure 16: Percentage of White 1Ls Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

Lastly, 1Ls who **did not indicate their race and/or ethnicity** are also consistently overrepresented in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) and law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2), with trends coming close to mirroring white 1L enrollment trends between 2021 and 2024. Roughly 1 in 3 1Ls who did not indicate their race and/or ethnicity enrolled at a school in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1) from 2021 to 2024. Between 25% and 29% enrolled at a law school in the second selectivity quartile (Q2). While 24%-27% enrolled at a law school in the third selectivity quartile (Q3), less than 20% enrolled at a law school in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4) every year. Consistently, 3 out of 5 1Ls who did not indicate their race and/or ethnicity enrolled in a top 50% selective law school (Q1 and Q2) every year.

Figure 17: Percentage of 1Ls Who Did Not Indicate Race or Ethnicity Enrolled in a Given Law School Selectivity Quartile



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools.

While at the surface, 1L distribution across the four law school selectivity quartiles remained consistent from 2021 to 2024, the racial and ethnic composition in the first-year class is not represented in the same way across law schools in different selectivity quartiles. The overrepresentation of some and the underrepresentation of others in different law school selectivity quartiles have implications on how LSAC can innovate and support those on the prelaw through practice journey. Who enrolls in law school and where they enroll directly impacts the support and opportunities students experience in their legal education journeys with long-term implications for their professional careers. Understanding who attends law school and where they enroll provides a high-level overview of the legal education landscape that can be used by potential employers and stakeholders in recruiting and supporting law students to increase access in the prelaw through practice journey.

Law School Level Enrollment of Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Students

The diversification of the first-year class was disrupted in 2024, but while many feared that the racial and ethnic diversity of the first-year law school class would experience a significant decline, it did not happen in the aggregate. That said, the racial and ethnic composition of the first-year class, both in enrollment and changes in enrollment, varied across individual law schools and selectivity quartiles.

At the law school level, more law schools experienced a decrease in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their first-year class than in previous years (Figure 18)²², but a large decrease in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students was not common across all law schools in 2024 (Figure 18). Enrollment percentage point change (PP) of the representation of racially or ethnically minoritized students varies by law school based on the class size of any given year and the proportion of the class that is from racially and ethnically minoritized groups.

Overall, 95 law schools in 2024 experienced a decrease between 0.1 percentage points and 22 percentage points, which is up from 74 law schools in 2023 and 72 law schools in 2022. Of these 95 law schools in 2024, 72 schools experienced a decrease of less than 5 percentage points. On average, a decrease of 5 percentage points translates into 2-3 fewer students than the year before but can range from 2 to 27 fewer students depending on the class size. A large decrease in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students was not common across all law schools in 2024 (Figure 18). Of the 196 law schools examined, only 23 law schools experienced a decrease of 5 PP or more in 2024. The largest decrease of 10 PP or higher was only experienced by 7 law schools.

However, more schools in the top 50% selectivity quartiles (Q1 and Q2) and more private law schools experienced a larger decrease in the racial and ethnic representation in their 1L classes than other schools (Figure 19 and Figure 20). In 2022, 28.6% of law schools in the first quartile (Q1) and 38.8% of law schools in the second quartile (Q2) experienced a decrease in the enrollment of racially or ethnically minoritized students compared to their 2021 class (Figure 19). This went up in 2024 when 53.1% of law schools in the first quartile (Q1) and 51% of law schools in the second quartile (Q2) experienced a decrease in the enrollment of racially or ethnically minoritized groups.

²² Percentage point change measures the absolute difference between two percentages. It directly compares two percentage values as numbers on a scale, without considering the proportion of change relative to the initial value. For example, 40% of Law School ABC's 2023 1L class were students from racially and ethnically minoritized groups. In 2024, 38% of the 1L class were students from racially and ethnically minoritized groups. Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 2-percentage point (PP) decrease in the racial and ethnic representation of minoritized groups in the 1L class at Law School ABC. To calculate percent change, take 2 (the percentage point change between 2023 and 2024) and divide it by 38 (the percentage in 2023). Therefore, between 2023 and 2024, Law School ABC experienced a 5% change in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their 1L class.

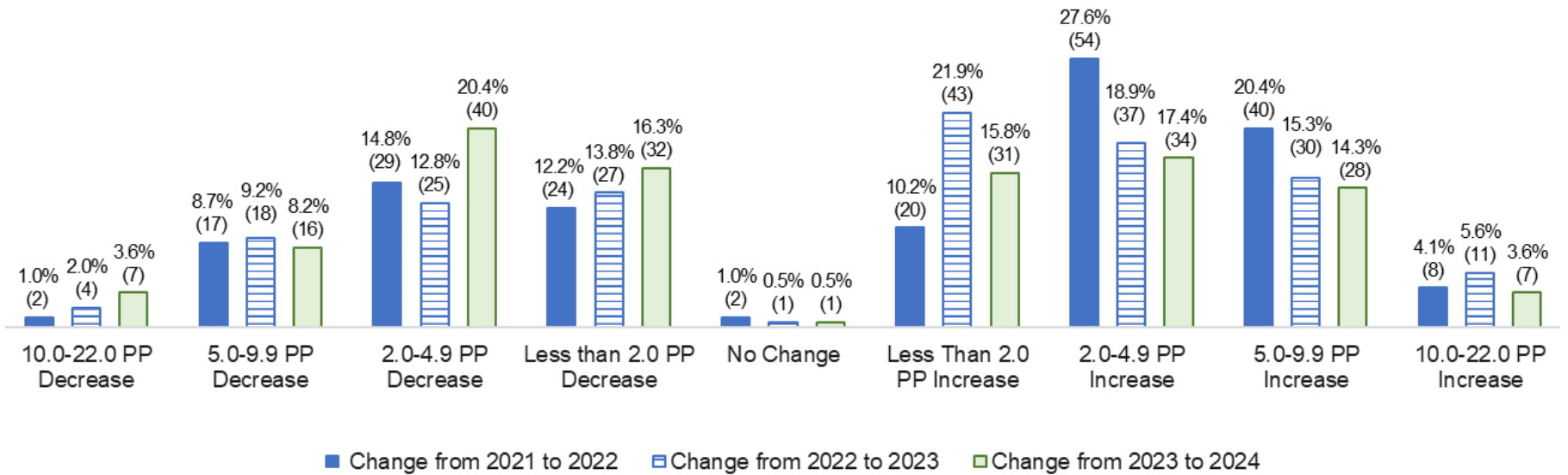
For the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1), 10 schools experienced a decrease of 5 percentage points or more in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their class in 2024. Of these 10 schools, 4 experienced a large decrease of 10 percentage points or higher. While not as high, 5 law schools in the second selectivity quartile (Q2) experienced a decrease of 5 percentage points or higher in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their class in 2024, and of these 5 schools, only 1 law school experienced a large decrease of 10 percentage points or higher.

Comparatively, law schools in the third and fourth quartiles (Q3 and Q4) experienced more fluctuation in their enrollment of racially or ethnically minoritized students year over year (Figure 20). In 2022, 34.7% of law schools in the third quartile (Q3) experienced a decrease in the enrollment of racially or ethnically minoritized students, followed by 32.7% in 2023 and 38.8% in 2024. In 2022, 44.9% of law schools in the fourth quartile (Q4) experienced a decrease in the enrollment of racially or ethnically minoritized students, followed by 30.6% in 2023 and back up to 44.9% in 2024. And overall, in both quartiles, only 2 law schools experienced a large decrease of 10 percentage points or higher, and both were in the third selectivity quartile.

Lastly, private law schools have consistently experienced decreases in the enrollments of racially or ethnically minoritized students year over year from 2021 to 2024 (Figure 21). In 2022, 32.1% of private law schools experienced a decrease in the enrollments of racially or ethnically minoritized groups, followed by 41.7% in 2023 and 45.2% in 2024. In other words, in 2024, 57 private law schools experienced a decrease in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their first-year class. In contrast, 40.2% of public schools in 2022 experienced a decrease in the enrollments of racially or ethnically minoritized students, followed by only 34.8% in 2023 and then 50.9% in 2024. In other words, only 34 public law schools experienced a decrease in the representation of racially and ethnically minoritized students in their first-year class. And while 2 public law schools experienced a large decrease of 10 percentage points or higher, 5 private law schools experienced a large decrease of 10 percentage points or higher in the representation of racially or ethnically minoritized students in their first-year class.

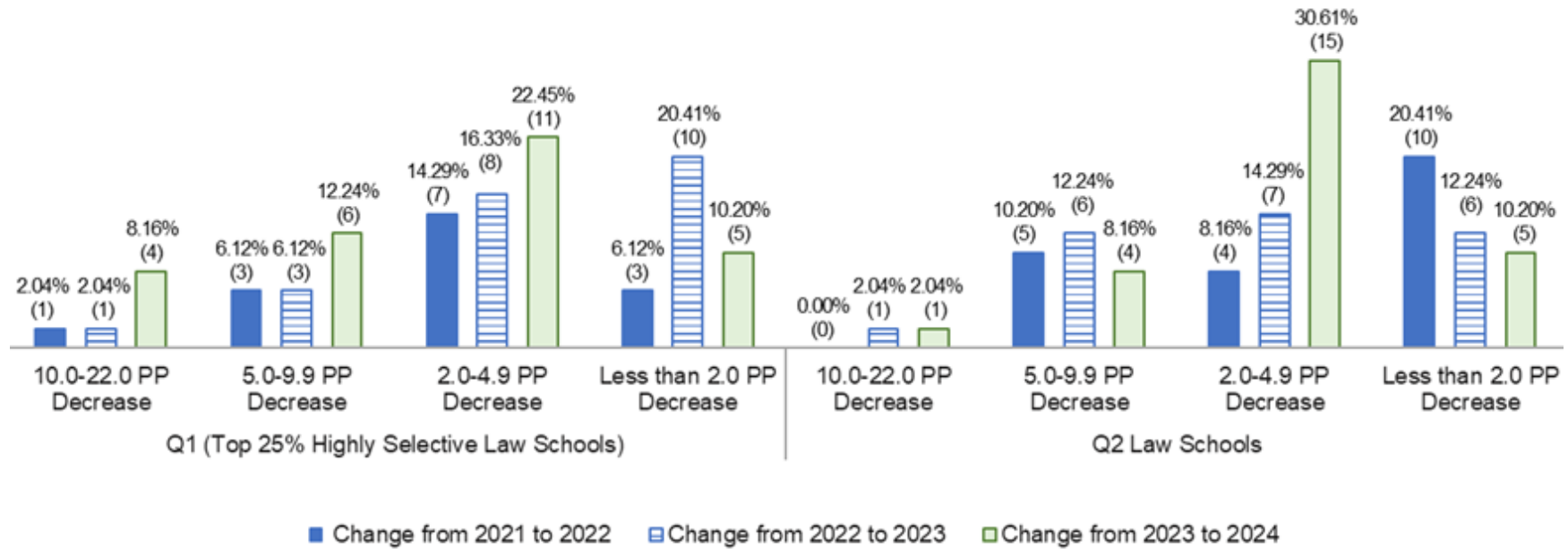
Overall, as many suspected, more highly selective law schools experienced large decreases in the representation of racially or ethnically minoritized students in their first-year class in 2024 compared to other law schools. A similar trend exists for private law schools compared to public law schools. However, as mentioned above, a significant decrease was not common among all law schools across the four quartiles. A number of factors influence the composition of the first-year class, including changes to law school size, admission review committees, policies, and applicant pool recruitment strategies. While 2024 disrupted the racial and ethnic diversification of the first-year class that legal education had experienced in recent years, with most schools experiencing a decrease in racial and ethnic diversity, the magnitude of the decrease in the racial and ethnic representation in an individual law school 1L class was not the same, nor were large decreases commonly experienced. However, the work continues as we all learn from 2024 to build upon holistic admission review processes.

Figure 18: Percentage Point Change in Enrollment of Students from Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Groups, 2021 to 2024



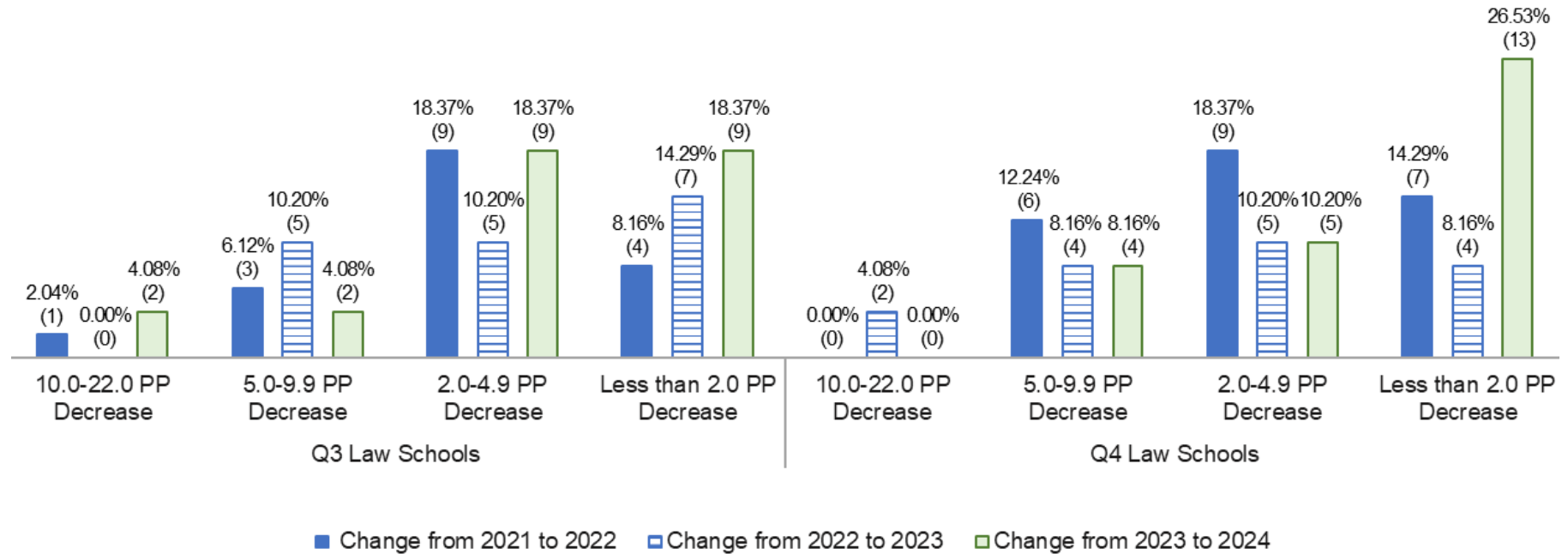
Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. 196 law schools are represented.

Figure 19: Percentage Point Change in Enrollment of Students from Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Groups by Law School Selectivity (Quartiles 1 and 2), 2021 to 2024



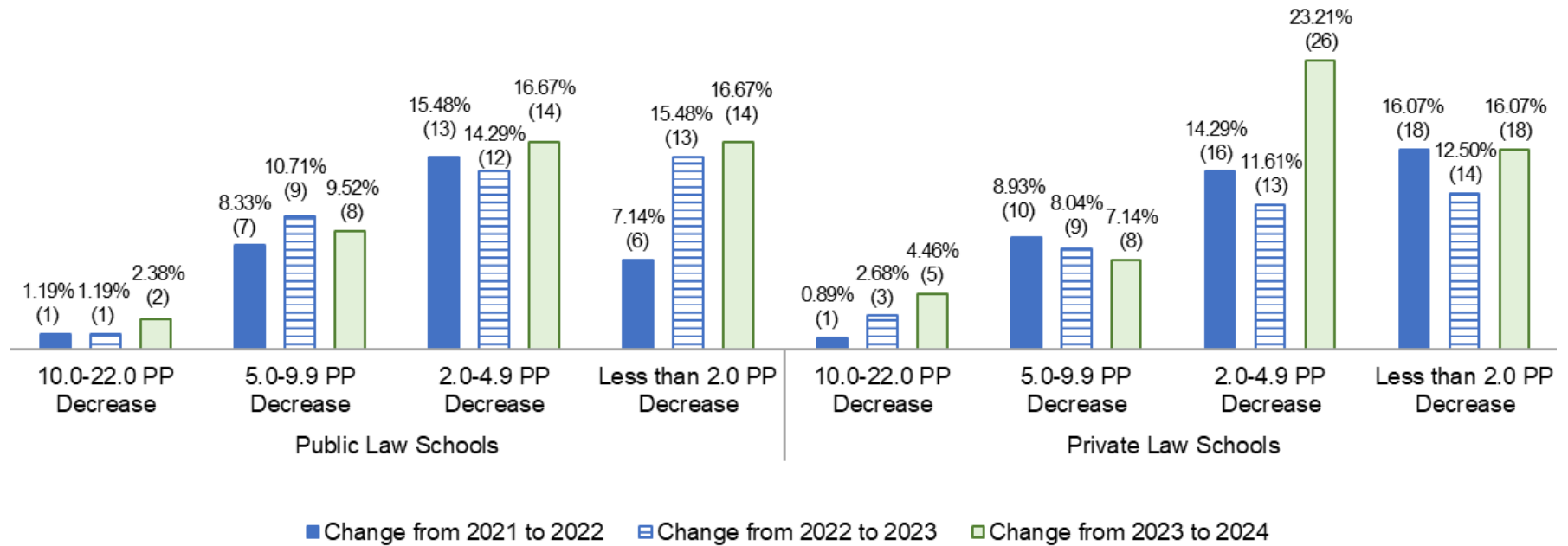
Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools. 196 law schools are represented.

Figure 20: Percentage Point Change in Enrollment of Students from Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Groups by Law School Selectivity (Quartiles 3 and 4), 2021 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. Each school is assigned a selectivity index score used to create quartiles of law school selectivity. Selectivity is based on the admission rate, median LSAT score of admitted students, and median UGPA of admitted students of a given year. The top 25% highly selective law schools are in the first quartile (Q1). Each quartile holds about 49-50 law schools. 196 law schools are represented.

Figure 21: Percentage Point Change in Enrollment of Students from Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Groups by Public or Private Law Schools, 2021 to 2024



Source: LSAC. Includes everyone, non-deferrals and deferrals. In 2024, there were 112 private and 84 public law schools.

Conclusion: The 1L Profile and the Future of the Profession

The 2024 1L class is the first law school class to be admitted after the Supreme Court's *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard* decision. Contrary to what some anticipated, the 2024 1L class is as racially and ethnically diverse as the 2023 1L class. However, the racial and ethnic composition of the first-year class was not the same at the individual law school level and in the classroom. Law schools in the fourth selectivity quartile (Q4) continue to be more racially and ethnically diverse than those in the top 25% highly selective law schools (Q1). As stakeholders and law schools continue to invest time and energy in supporting and recruiting future law school classes, it is important to understand trends and the outcomes of these efforts.

Enrollment trends are important for a systematic understanding of how to ensure access to the profession. However, the prelaw through practice journey does not end at enrollment. Who enrolls in law school today directly impacts who is represented in law tomorrow. Where students go to law school, the type of support they receive, and their access to resources in their first year and beyond impact how they advance and enter the legal profession. This is particularly true for job placement outcomes, especially for larger law firms, clerkships, and other pathways to leadership in the legal profession. Representation in law school translates to representation in the profession and is foundational to access to justice. LSAC will continue to monitor these trends over time to support the legal community along the prelaw through practice journey.