



Communities at the Center ADDPC Council Meeting

Evelyn Casuga & Ian Dowdy
January 19, 2024



Mission

The Center for the Future of Arizona
brings Arizonans together to build a
stronger and brighter future for our state.

We **listen** to Arizonans to learn what matters most to them, **share** trusted data about how Arizona is doing in those priority areas, **bring critical issues to public attention**, and **work with communities and leaders** to solve public problems.



Connected
Communities



Civic
Participation

**Civic Health: the way
communities are organized to
define and address public
problems.**

**Building stronger, more vibrant
civic health across Arizona is
central to our work.**



The Arizona Progress Meters

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The Arizona Progress Meters



Jobs



Education



Young Talent



Health and Well-Being



Natural Resources



Infrastructure



Civic Participation



Connected Communities



Communities at the Center

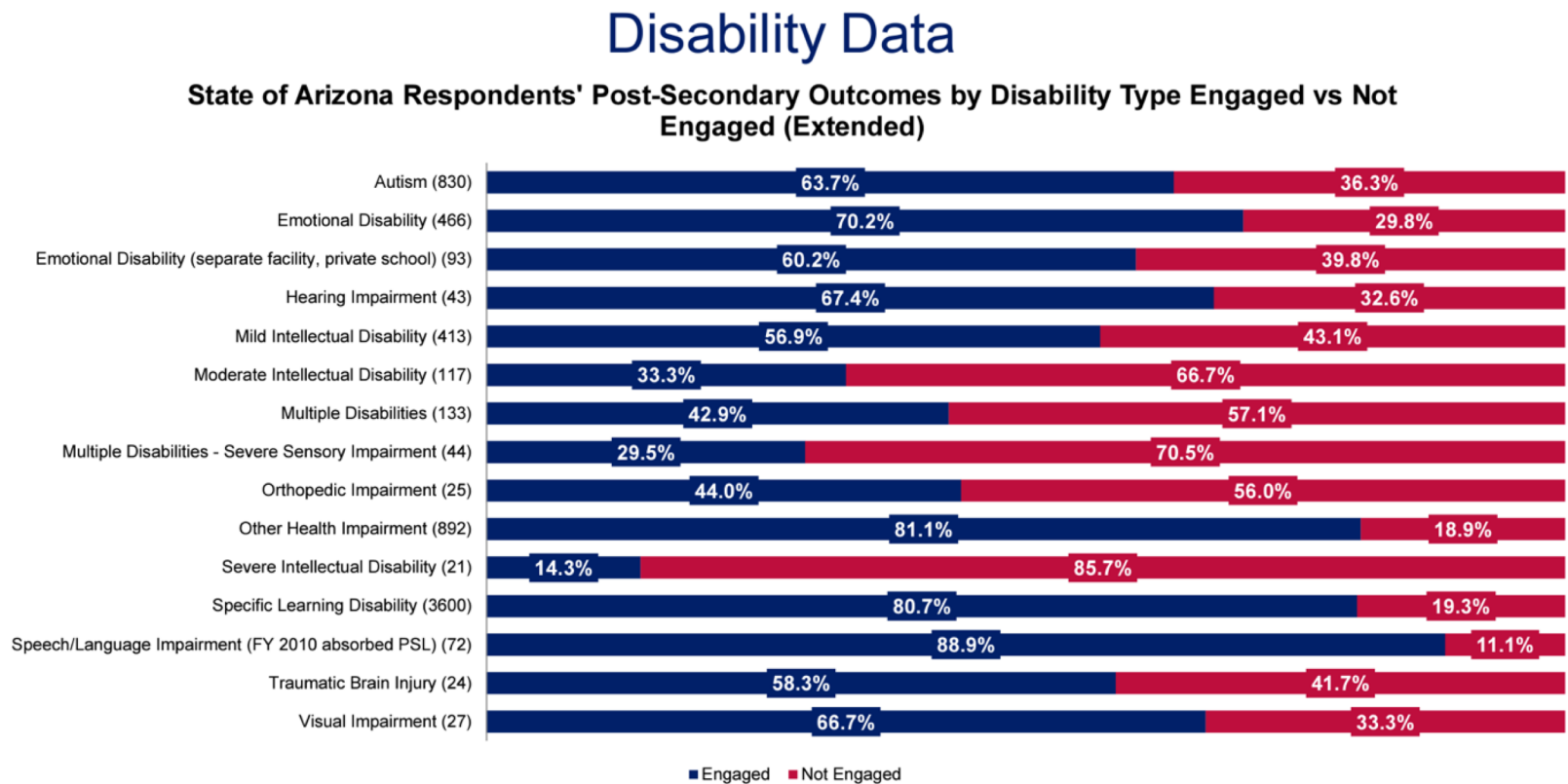
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Data-Driven Dialogue

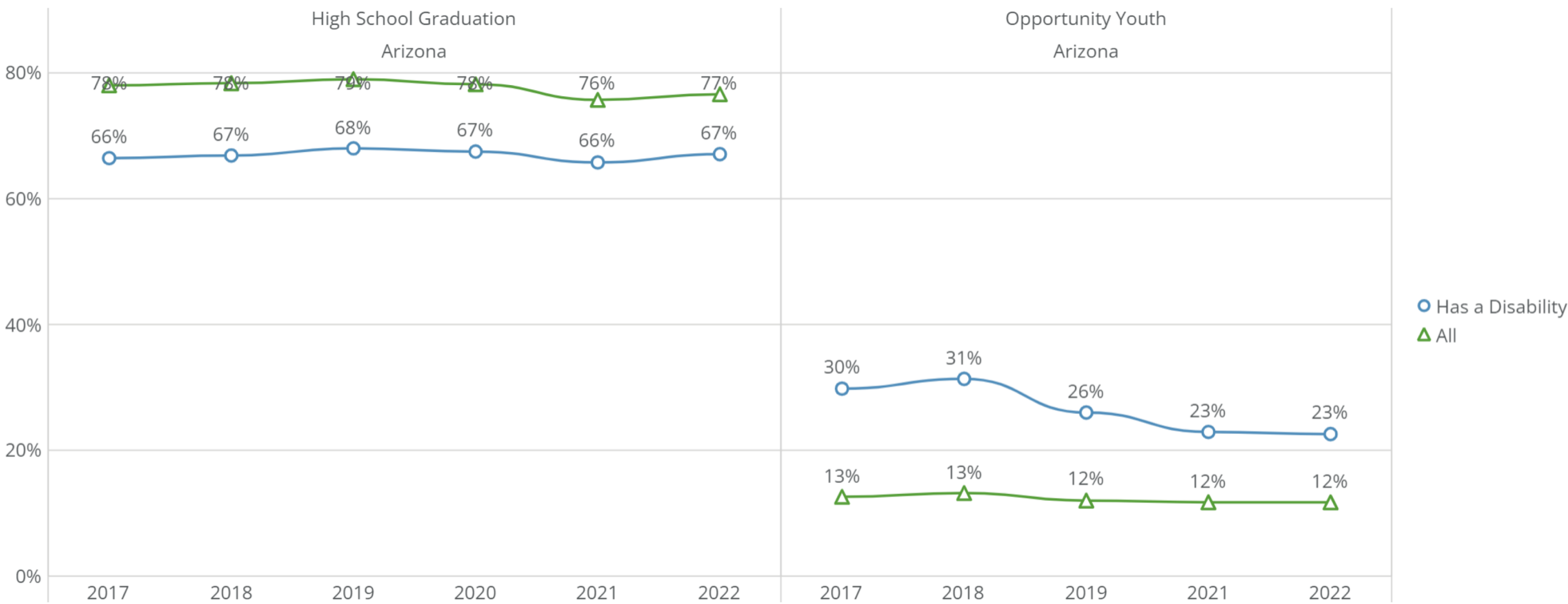
According to the Arizona Department of Education’s Exceptional Students Services 2022 data (Figure 1), a number of students with a disability graduate high school “not engaged.” Engagement is defined as being enrolled in a higher education institution or post-secondary training, being competitively employed (paid at or above minimum wage and working with others without a disability), or working some other type of employment (i.e., family business).

Figure 1



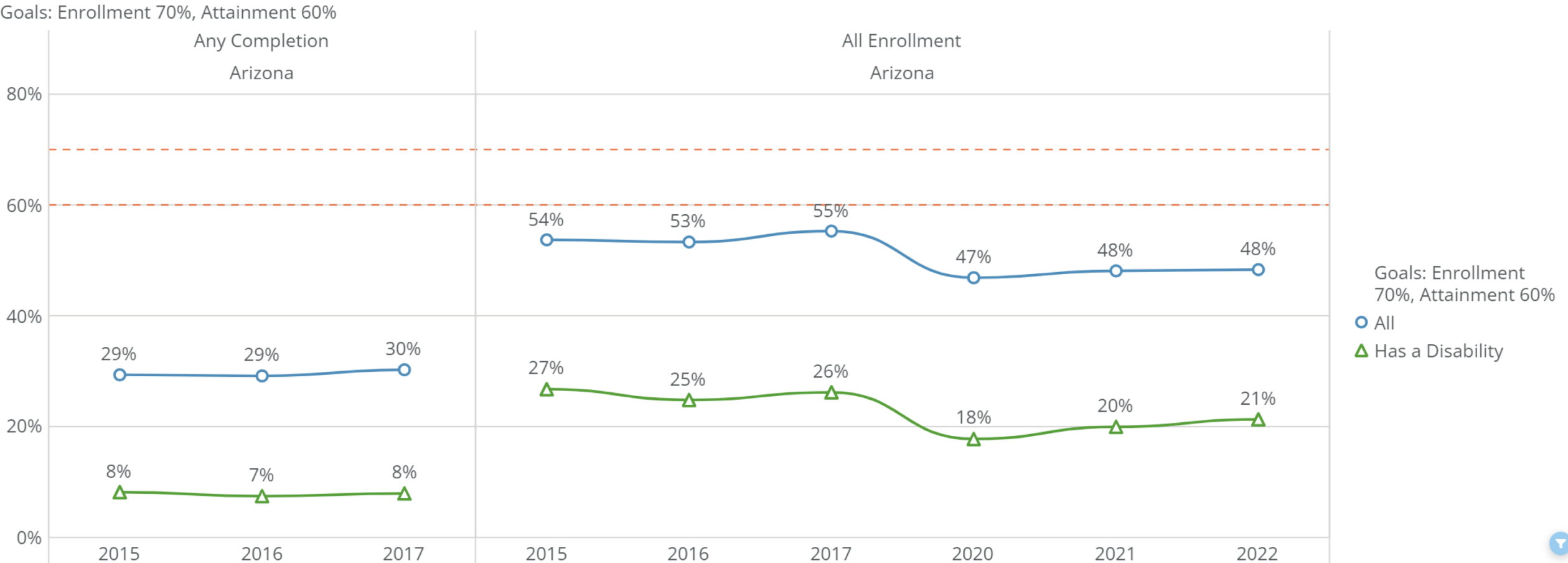
Data-Driven Dialogue: Education Progress Meters

High School Graduation and Opportunity Youth: Percentage of students who graduate from High School in 4 years, and the percentage of people 16-24-years of age who are not going to school or working.



Data-Driven Dialogue: Education Progress Meters

College-going and Post-secondary Completion: Percentage of Arizonans enrolling in a post-secondary institution within one year of graduation from High School and the percentage completing a post-secondary degree or certificate within six years.



Project Overview

Over the last year, CFA and Arizona Town Hall have worked together to host a series of Community Conversations designed to:

- **bring trusted data** to inform and prompt dialogue around these issues;
- **engage cross-sector leaders** to understand the challenges and opportunities for action;
- **amplify the voices of young people with disabilities and their families** in generating solutions with a focus on starting the conversation at earlier ages; and,
- **identify where action can be taken** through additional data, engagement, or resources.



Who We Heard From

Over the course of the grant period, CFA and Arizona Town Hall exceeded our initial goals and hosted 8 meetings and convenings with key stakeholder audiences including:

- **ADDPC Advisory Group Meetings:** Through collaboration with ADDPC, the advisors have helped offer critical input on the research, issues for further exploration, and key stakeholders to engage throughout the process.
- **Grupo de Apoyo Para Ninos (GANE) Parent Support Group:** This session engaged 30 parents and young people with disabilities in rich discussion about the challenges and opportunities to better support transitions for young people with disabilities into college and career success.
- **Equity Consortium:** This session engaged 20 educators and nonprofit leaders in discussion around issues of equity for young people with disabilities and wider opportunities for action and communication.

Who We Heard From

- **Institute for Human Development Evidence for Success Conference:** This session engaged educators and nonprofits leaders in data-driven discussion and reached representatives from communities across the state.
- **Pinal and Pima Counties Community of Practice:** These sessions engaged cross-sector leaders from education, nonprofits, and government agencies all with a focus on holistic supports for young people with disabilities. This allowed greater reach into central and southern Arizona communities.
- **Community Conversation at the Flinn Foundation:** This culminating session allowed leaders from across sectors and issues to join together for a deep dive facilitated discussion on the data, challenges, and recommended actions.

Community Conversation Questions

Parents and Families:

- What are your expectations for your child?
- What are messages you've been given and how have they impacted your perceptions and expectations of and for your child?

Broadly:

- What are the greatest challenges impacting young people with disabilities?
- What are the exciting success stories?
- What are the greatest opportunities to raise expectations for families, educators, employers, and policymakers around what's possible for young people with disabilities?
- Where is action most needed?
- What's missing in the data shared today? What's resonant? What's surprising?

Key Conclusions and Opportunities for Action

- **Investment and supports in K-12 Education:** Structural education opportunity gaps disproportionately affect youth with disabilities. More investment and support in special education with a focus on early career exploration and transition planning is needed.
- **Early childhood and family supports:** Families report challenges in navigating complex systems and messages about their child's health and educational journey and future pathways and need to be connected early with critical resources and a sense of possibility for the future.
- **Career & Technical Education and Counseling:** More communication and access to apprenticeship and CTE programs are needed for students with disabilities, families, and educators with support from in-school counselors.

Key Conclusions and Opportunities for Action

- **Evidence-driven and collaborative strategies:** More data is needed on programs that serve students with disabilities, as well as greater coordination, accountability, and communication across sectors (education, nonprofit, employers, government agencies, and service providers).
- **Career recruitment and workplace:** Youth with disabilities experience greater challenges during the career recruitment process, discriminatory hiring practices, and barriers to the workplace. Employers need to be reached with key information about the untapped potential that young people with disabilities bring to the workforce.



Thank You

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