

Mid-Single Adults & Single Adult Units

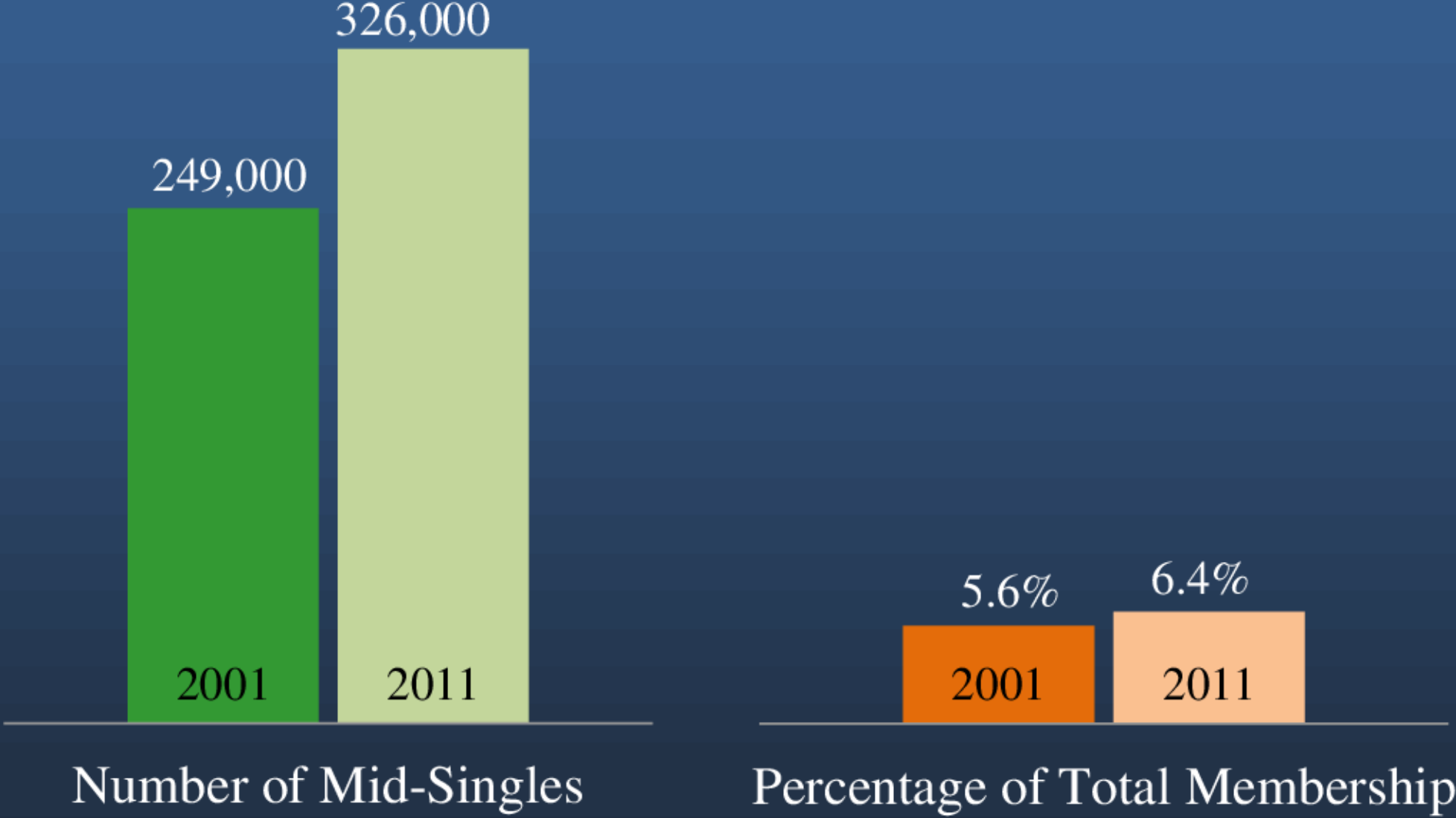
Domestic Areas

September 2012 (Updated March 2013)

Growth of the Mid-Single Population

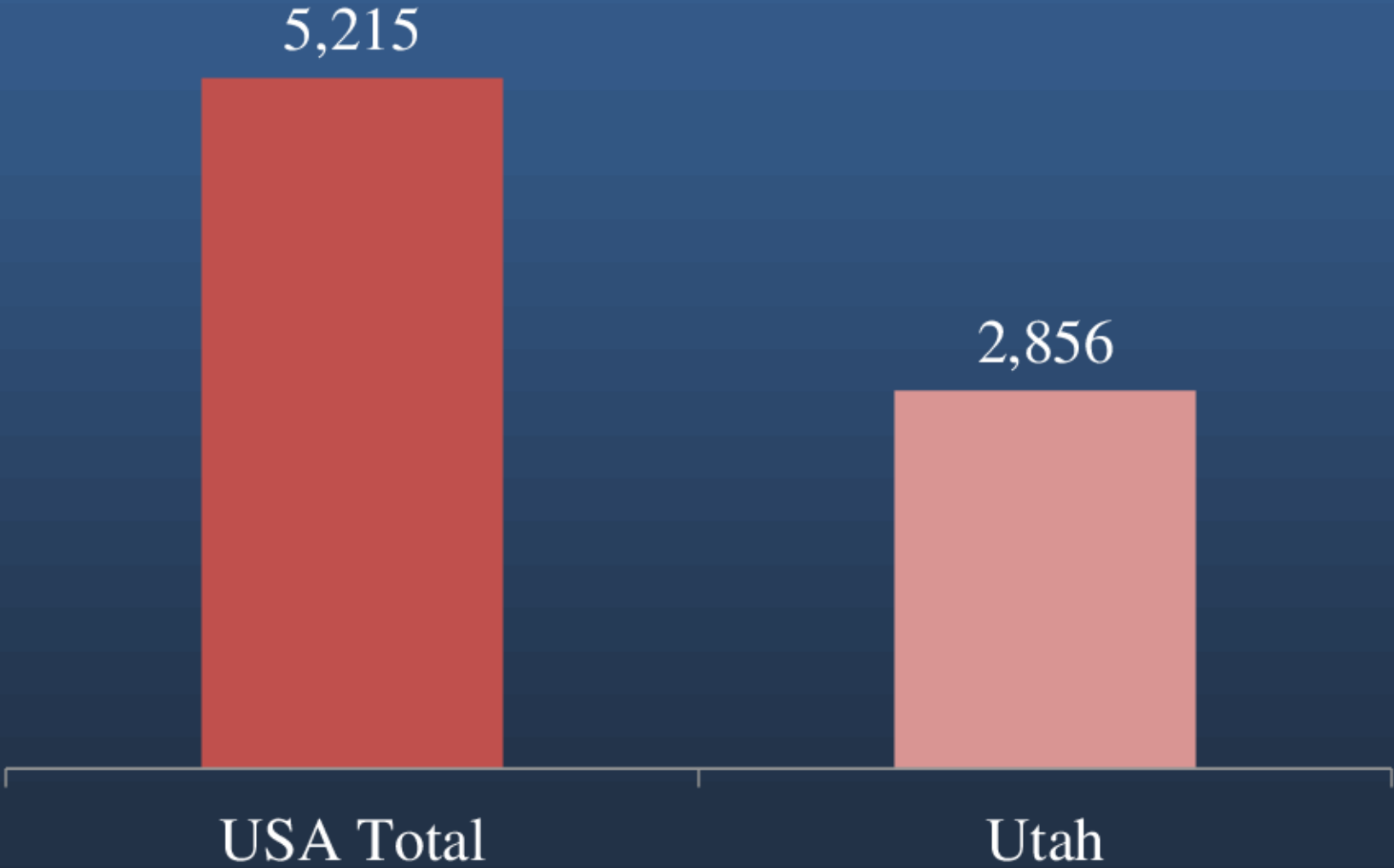
- In the past decade the mid-single population grew from about 249,000 to 326,000 (5.6% to 6.4% of total members).
- In 2012, over 5,000 mid-singles aged out of YSA units in 2012 (about 3,000 in Utah).

Growth of the Mid-Single Population



Members of YSA Units Aging Out in 2012

Age 30 in 2011, Age 31 in 2012

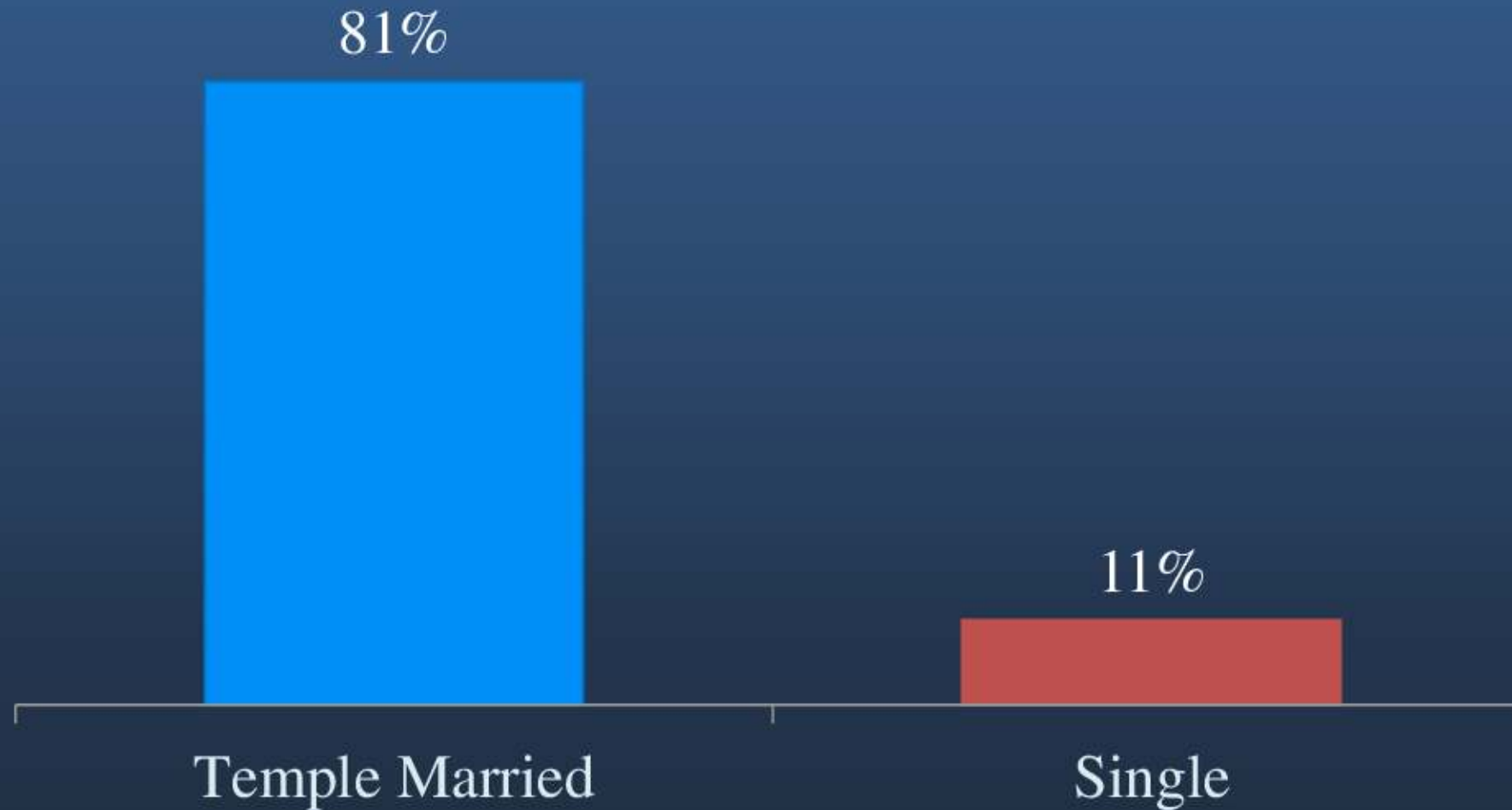


Attendance of Temple Married and Mid-Single Adults (Members in Units Age 31-45)

	<u>Attend Weekly</u>
Temple Married	81%
Single	11%

Percentage of Adults Attending Weekly

Members in Units Age 31-45, USA/Canada



Problem:

Many mid-single adults aren't progressing in the gospel.

Solution:

Continue current rescue efforts and activities, and *create single adult wards where the need is great.*

Handbook Policies: Single Adult Units

- 150+ single adults whose needs are not adequately met by conventional units.
- Live in the participating stake(s).
- Do not have dependent children at home.

Current Single Adults Units (De Facto)

Type	Number	Locations	In Policy
Single Adult	5	CA; MA; MD/VA; UT	YES
Mid-single	10	CA; UT	NO
Assigned	20+	AZ; CA; MD/VA; NV; WA	NO

Current Single Adults Units (De Facto)

- 5 single adult units (in policy)
- 10 single adults units for mid-singles (out of policy)
- 20+ assigned single adult units (out of policy)

Overview: Impact of De Facto Single Adult Units

- Higher activity
- Greater likelihood of marriage
- Better quality of experience

Impact of Single Adult Units on Activity

- Bishops and stake presidents report that single adult units improve activity by providing more opportunities for single adults to serve, find social support, receive targeted help, and rescue those who need it.
- Among active YSAs in Utah who aged out of YSA wards from 2008-2010 and didn't marry, more who went into single adult units remained active (95%) than those who went into conventional units (78%).

Impact of Single Adult Units on Marriage

- Records analyses revealed that members of singles units were more than twice as likely to marry in the temple than members with similar characteristics in conventional units.
- A recent survey found that 32% of mid-singles who married in the temple met their spouse through a single adult unit (single adult, YSA, or assigned) compared to 6% through a conventional unit.

Experience in Two Types of Units

(Percentage Agreeing among Mid-Singles who Recently Wed)

	Conventional <u>Unit</u>	Single Adult <u>Unit</u>
Talks/lessons were suited to my needs.	48%	90%
I was given good opportunities to serve.	71%	85%

Other Impacts of Assigned Units for Single Adults

Positive

- They help anchor single adult activities.
- They strengthen small (shrinking) wards.

Negative

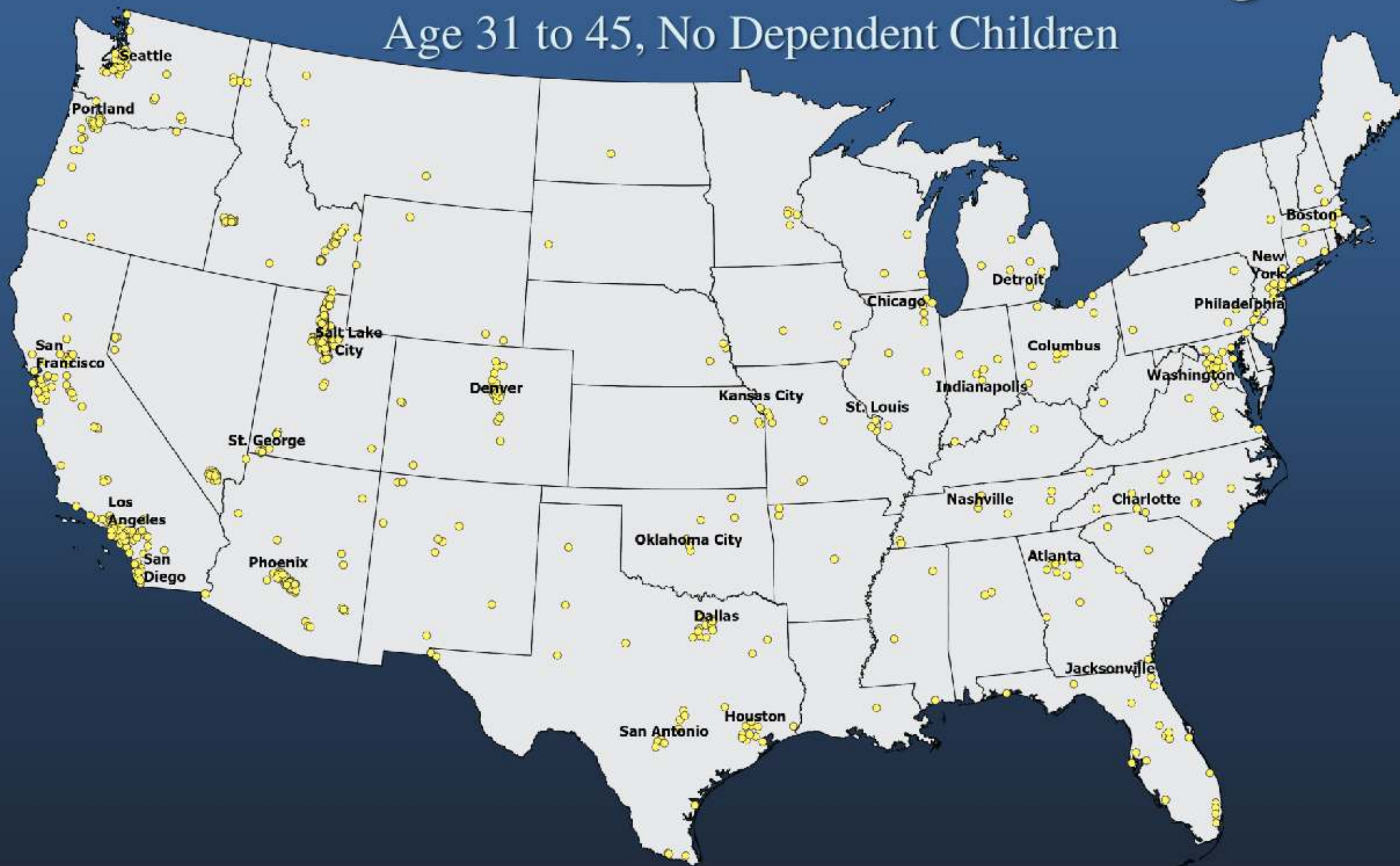
- The differing needs of families and singles can create some challenges in the ward.
- Some leaders are concerned because these units are not sanctioned by the Handbook.

Some Leaders Restrict Membership In Single Adult Units

- Restrictions are often based on age, activity, self-reliance, or the size of the unit.
- Leaders say such restrictions . . .
 - Help more individuals progress.
 - Best serve overall needs (e.g., ensure the purpose and vitality of the unit without overburdening leaders).

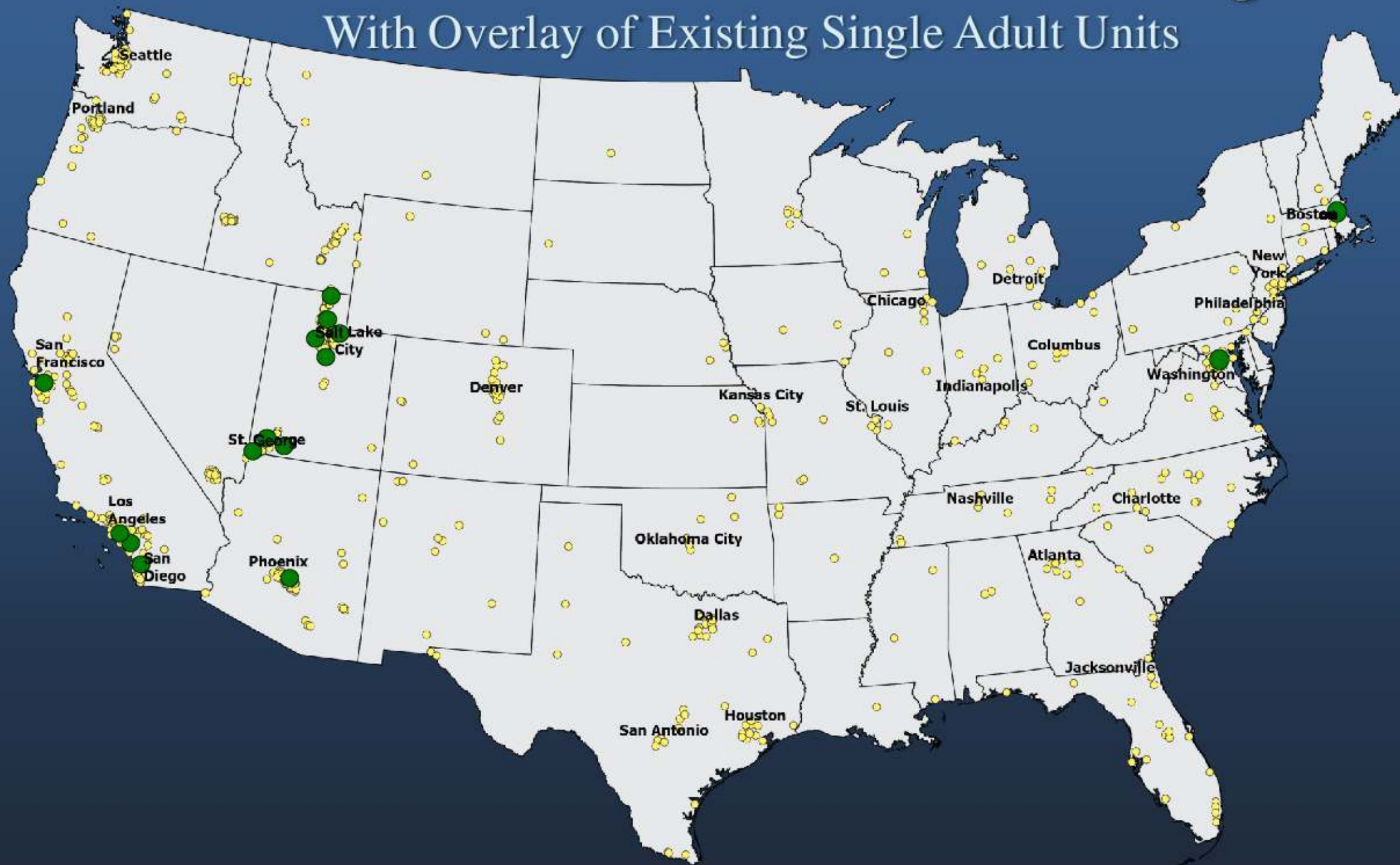
Stakes with More than 25 Mid-Singles

Age 31 to 45, No Dependent Children



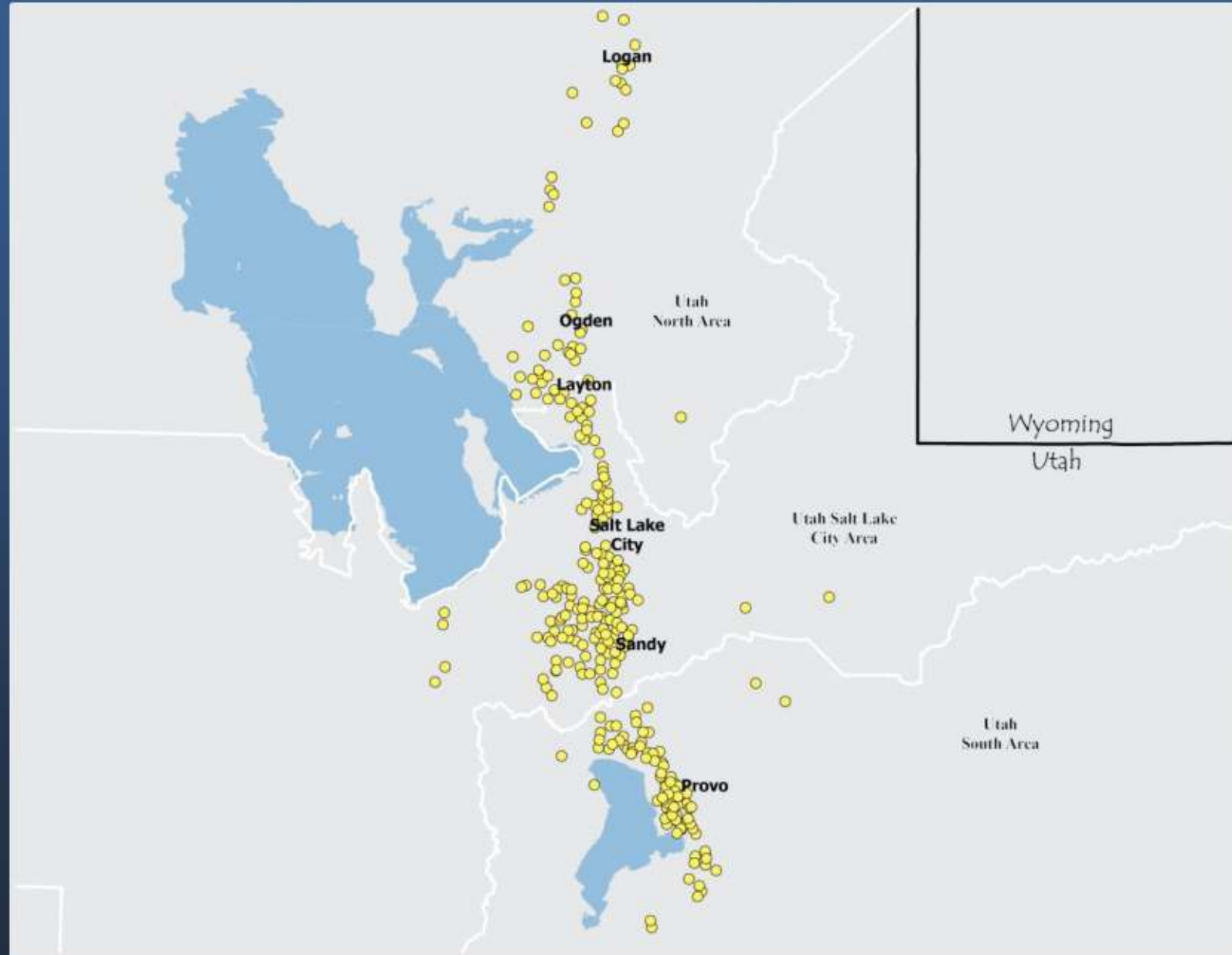
Stakes with More than 25 Mid-Singles

With Overlay of Existing Single Adult Units



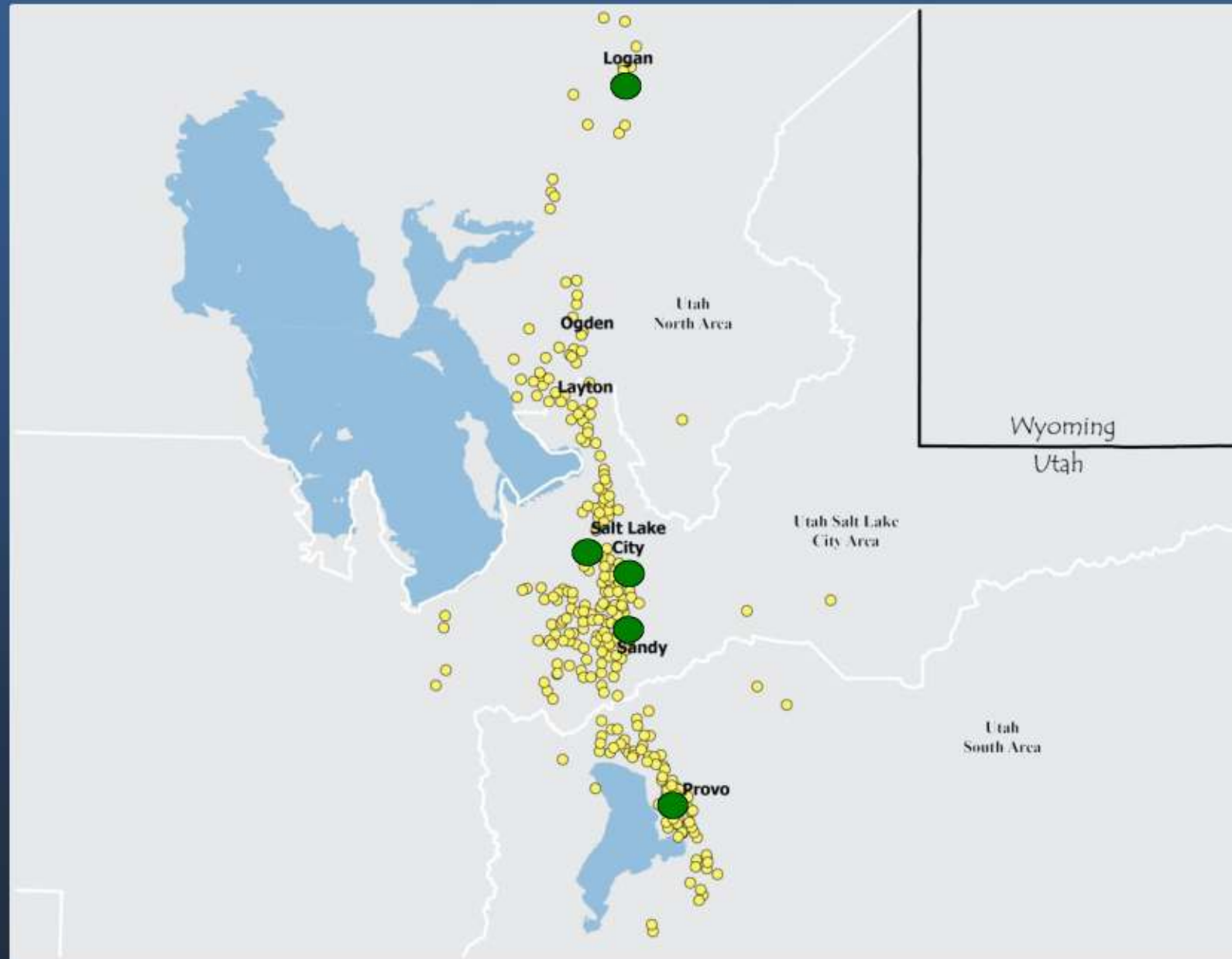
Stakes with More Than 25 Mid-Singles

Age 31 to 45, No Dependent Children



Stakes with More Than 25 Mid-Singles

With Overlay of Existing Single Adult Units



Recommendations

1. Change the Handbook of Instructions to allow the creation of single adult and assigned single adult wards as locally determined to best serve single adults, other members, and leaders.
2. Proceed cautiously because of possible unanticipated consequences.

Recommendations, Cont.

3. Review existing single adult and assigned single adult units to ensure that they are serving single adult and general needs well.
4. Eliminate or restructure any existing single adult or assigned single adult units that are not vital in encouraging activity, individual progression, and temple marriage.

Memorandum

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

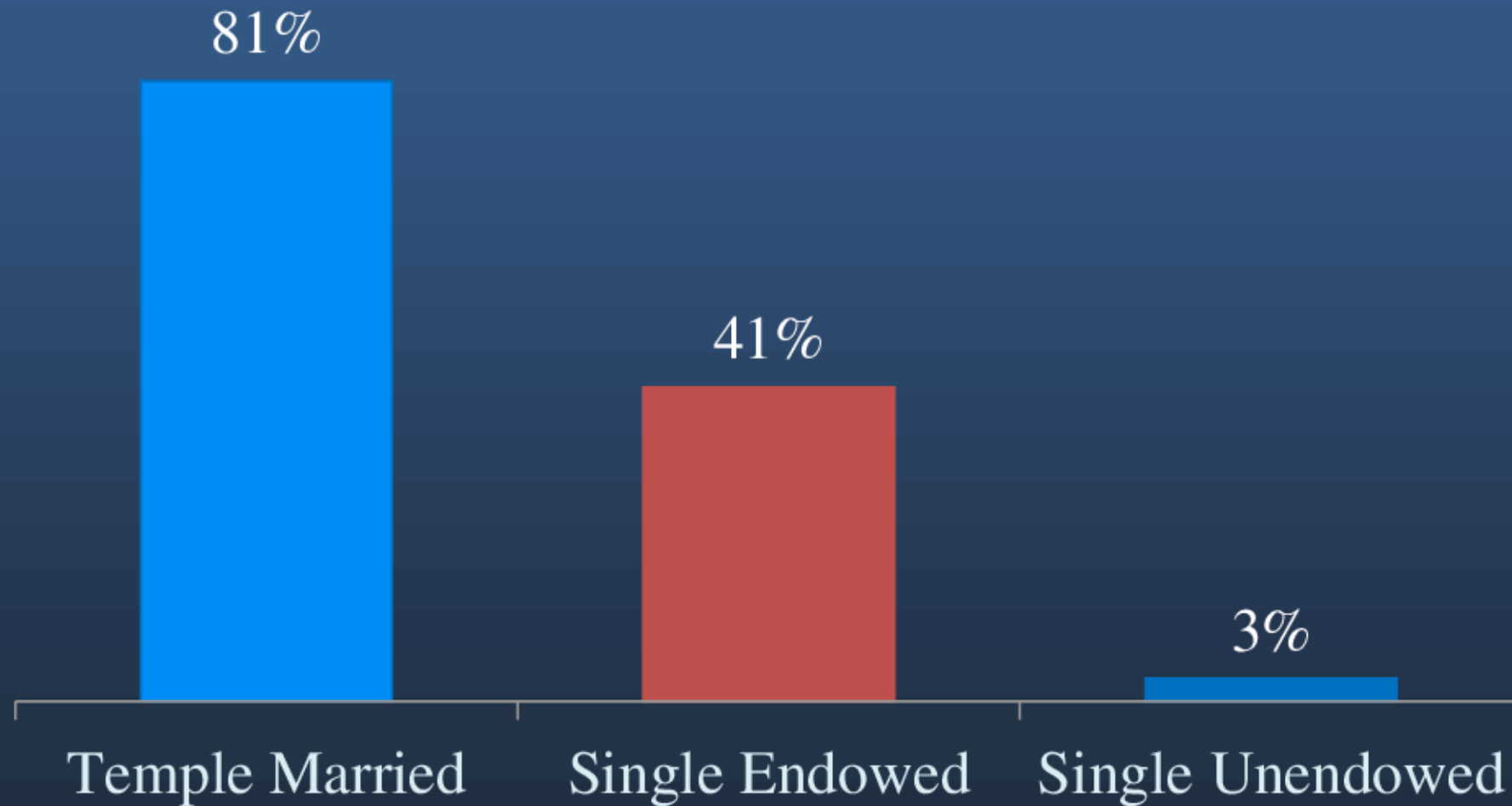
Date October 20, 2009
To Elder Russell M. Nelson, Priesthood Executive Council
From Brook P. Hales
Subject Mid-Single Adult Units

Dear Elder Nelson:

At the October 20, 2009, meeting of the First Presidency the Brethren approved the attached recommendation from Elder D. Todd Christofferson that the Priesthood Executive Council study the matter of the growing population of mid-singles (ages 31-45) and the formation of so-called “mid-singles units” and “magnet wards” (where the membership records of all single adults in a stake are transferred to a conventional ward). The Research Information Division should be asked to assist the Priesthood Executive Council with this matter to determine if, as reported, these units are benefitting those in this age group.

Mid-Age Adults Attending Weekly

Members in Units Age 31-45



Subsequent Activity of Active YSAs

1-3 Years After “Aging Out” of Utah YSA Units in 2009-2011

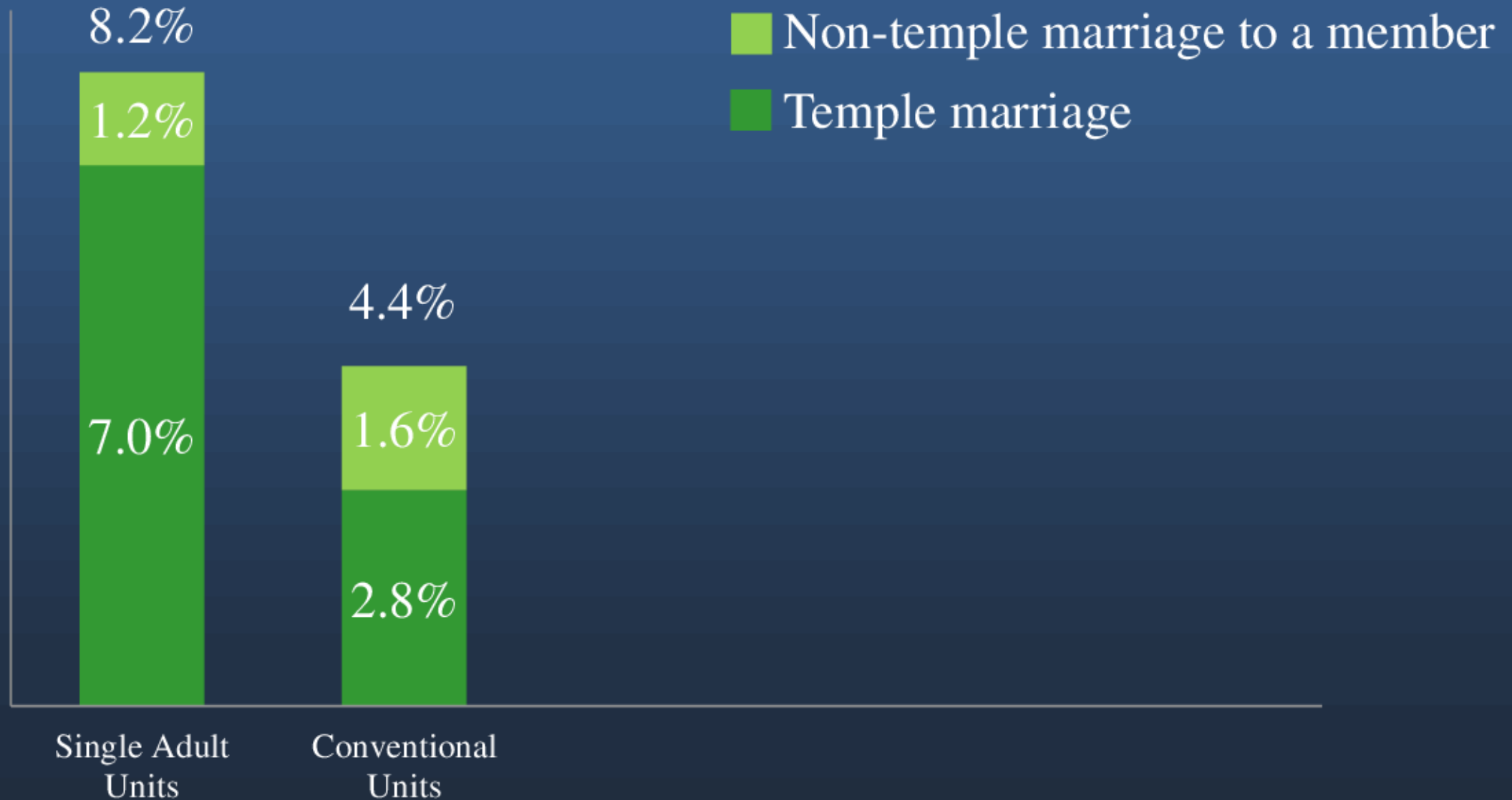
Now in a conventional unit

Down 21-23%

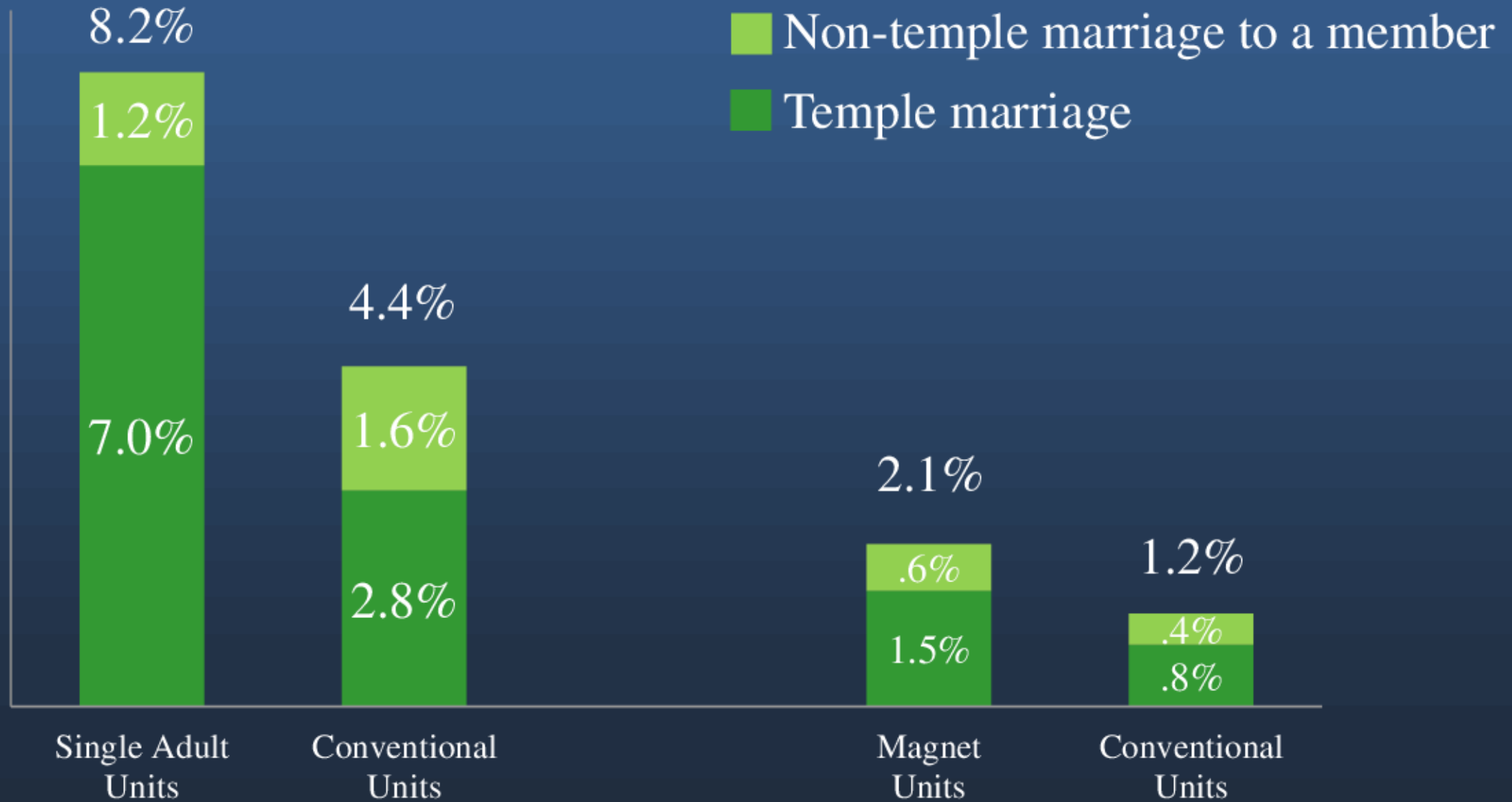
Now in a single adult unit

Down 0-8%

LDS Marriage Rates for Matched Samples of Mid Singles 2010-2011



LDS Marriage Rates for Matched Samples of Mid Singles 2010-2011



How Newlywed Members Met Their Spouse*

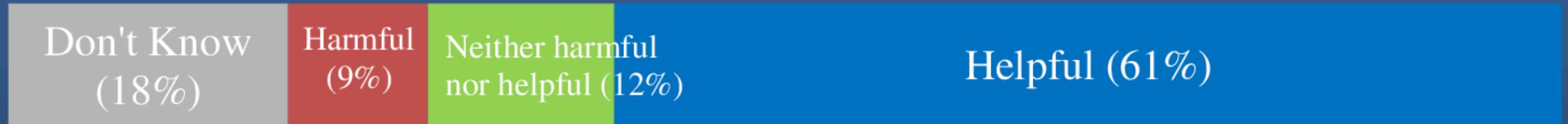
Age 31-45

LDS acquaintances, relatives	42%
Singles ward	32%
Internet	29%
Employment /School	19%
LDS institute	6%
Conventional ward	6%

*Could include more than one way

Attitudes of Utah Stake Presidents

In your opinion, how helpful or harmful are mid-single units to *mid singles*?



In your opinion, how helpful or harmful are mid-single units to *the Church*?

