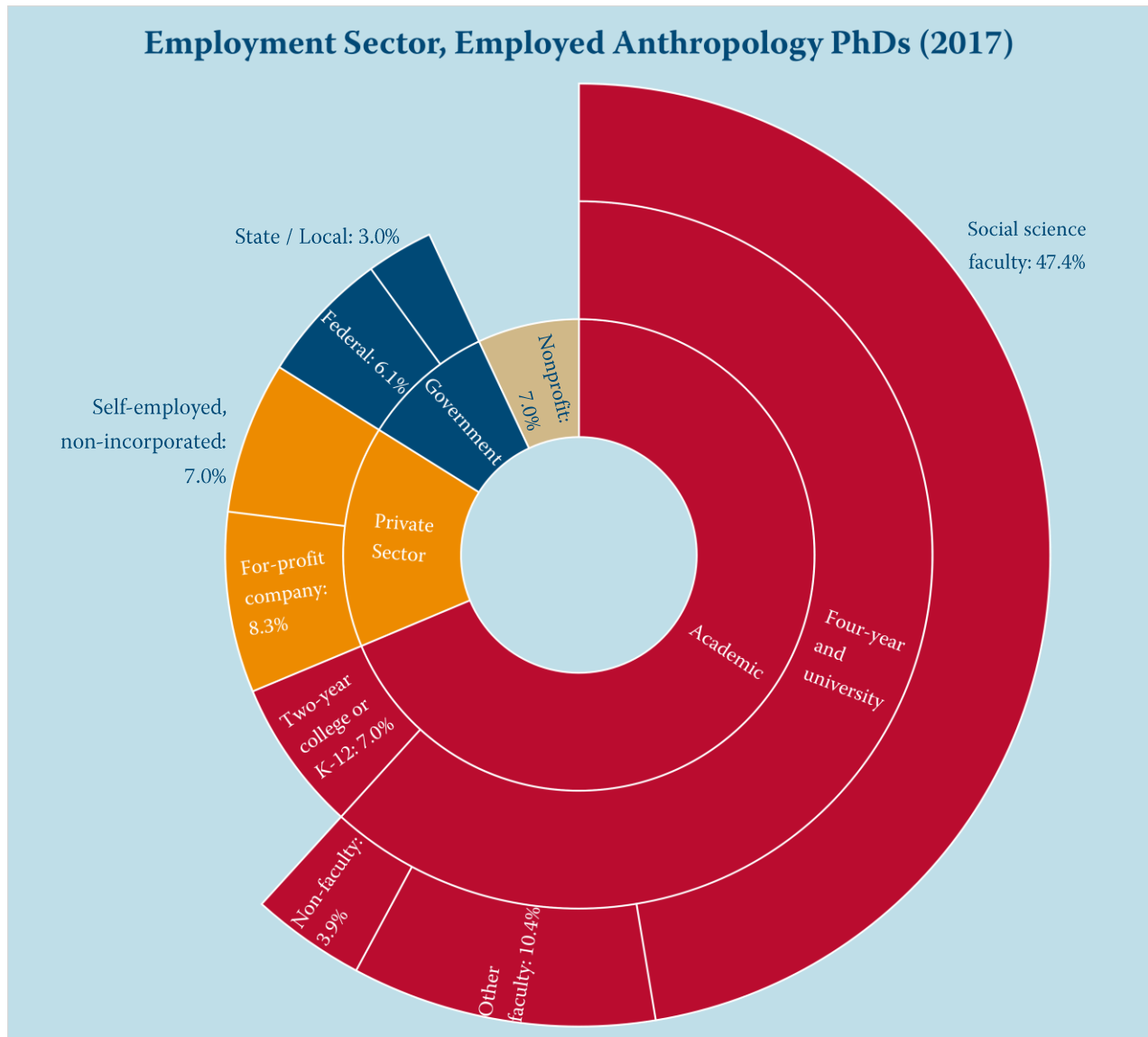




Employment Opportunities for Anthropology Doctorate Holders

In 2017, the unemployment rate of anthropology PhD graduates was only 2.5%. Although doctoral education is often understood as training for an academic career, only 58% of employed anthropology PhDs were teaching in four-year colleges and universities, in a mix of social science, life science, and humanities fields. The remainder were divided among non-faculty academic employment, private industry, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.



Among AAA members with anthropology PhDs who are primarily employed as faculty in higher education, only 68% have a primary appointment in anthropology. The rest represent a mixture of area studies, humanities, medicine, public health, education, and other fields.

Sources: National Science Foundation, 2017 Survey of Doctorate Recipients; AAA 2018 member survey. Analysis by AAA. Thanks to Dan Foley at NSF for his assistance, and to the Wenner-Gren Foundation for their support.