



# Midwestern Higher Education Compact

## 2025 Wisconsin State Visit

**Susan Heegaard**, President  
[susanh@mhec.org](mailto:susanh@mhec.org)

**Jenny Parks**, Vice President, Research & Policy  
[jennyp@mhec.org](mailto:jennyp@mhec.org)

**Samra Asghedom**, Manager of External Relations  
& Strategic Initiatives  
[samraa@mhec.org](mailto:samraa@mhec.org)

# About MHEC

- **Our purpose:** To work in partnership with our 12 member states to strengthen postsecondary education through cost-savings initiatives and collaborative solutions that are informed by research and the expertise of regional leaders
- **Legislatively created** in 1991 through Council of State Governments, Midwestern Legislative Conference; Wisconsin authorized legislation in 1994 to join MHEC
- **Governed** by 60 commissioners and alternates
- **MHEC annual state commitment** of \$115,000 lowest of four compacts

# Wisconsin Commissioners



**Tammie DeVoight**  
*Higher Educational Aids Board, Executive Secretary*



**Sen. André Jacque**  
*Wisconsin State Legislature*



**Julie Underwood**  
*University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor Emeritus*



**Eric Fulcomer**  
*Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, President*



**Rep. David Murphy**  
*Committee on Colleges & Universities, Chair*

# Wisconsin Alternates



**Layla Merrifield**  
*Wisconsin  
Technical College  
System, President*



**Christopher Patton**  
*University of  
Wisconsin System,  
Interim Vice  
President for  
University Relations*

# MHEC's Value to Wisconsin

- **Cost & Time-Saving Contracts & Programs** – technology (hardware, software and services); student health solutions; insurance programs
- **Policy Initiatives**– state-specific support on dual enrollment; open educational resources; M-SARA; credentials and learner records; FAFSA summit
- **Research** – regular reporting on data trends and responses to specific requests to inform state decision making
- **Convenings** – opportunities for legislative, executive branch, and higher ed leaders to problem solve and share ideas

# FY24 Cost Savings for Wisconsin

- **\$6.12M in total annual savings** for Wisconsin colleges, universities, school districts, state and local governments, and students and their families through MHEC's contracts and programs
- **53-fold return** on annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000
- **\$1.52M in savings on technology** for Wisconsin entities through contracts with Dell, Oracle, Xerox, CampusGuard, and others
- **\$2.05M savings on distance education** through Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

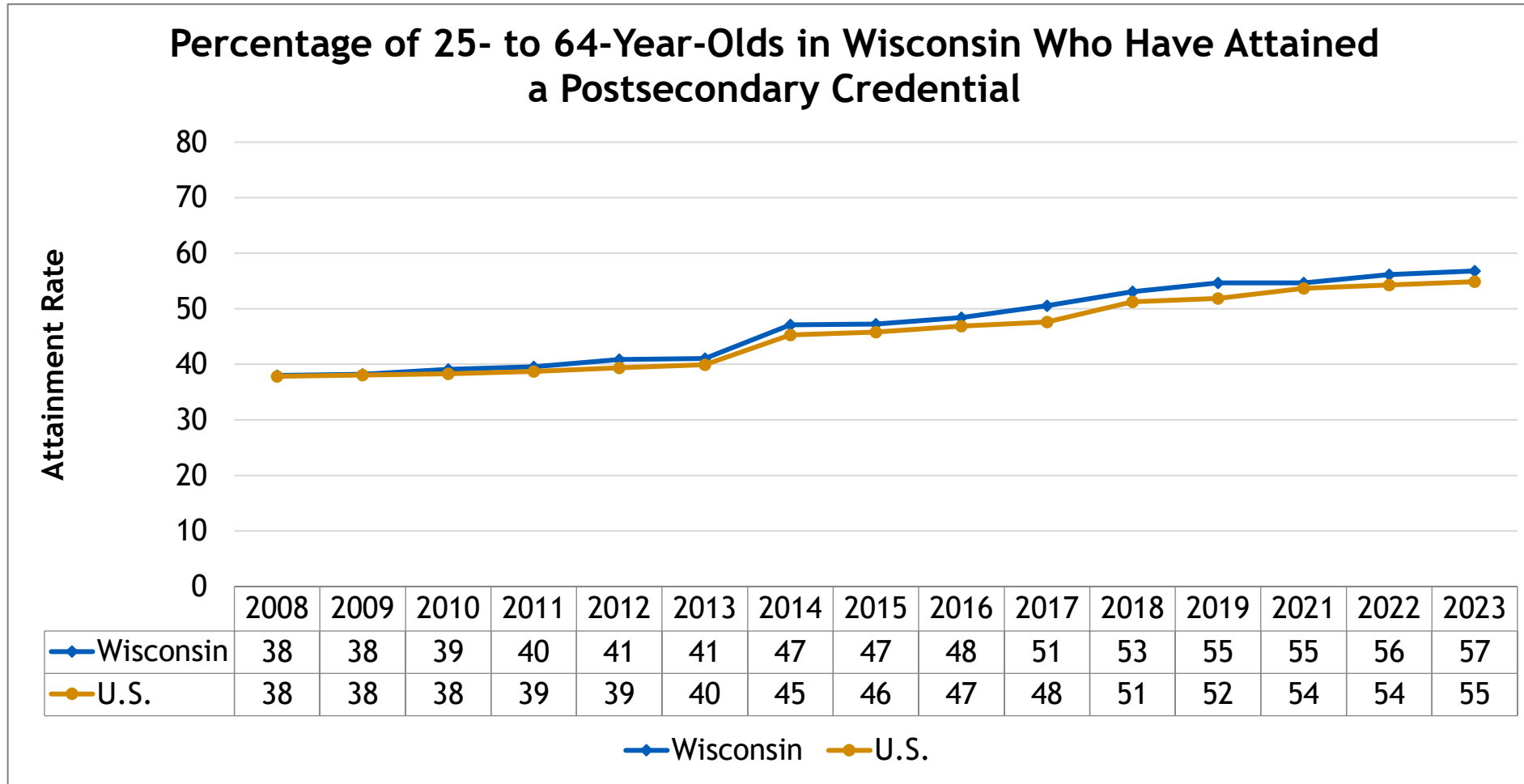
# Other MHEC Benefits for Wisconsin

- **Wisconsin students and their families** who participated in the Midwest Student Exchange Program saved \$2.55M
- **MHEC supported Wisconsin with grant funds** to organize a statewide convening to bring teams from public and independent institutions together to create strategic plans for open educational resources implementation
- **Eight Wisconsin leaders** attended MHEC's FAFSA Summit
- **Four technology leaders** engaged in MHEC's free professional development and networking

# Key Indicators for Higher Education in Wisconsin

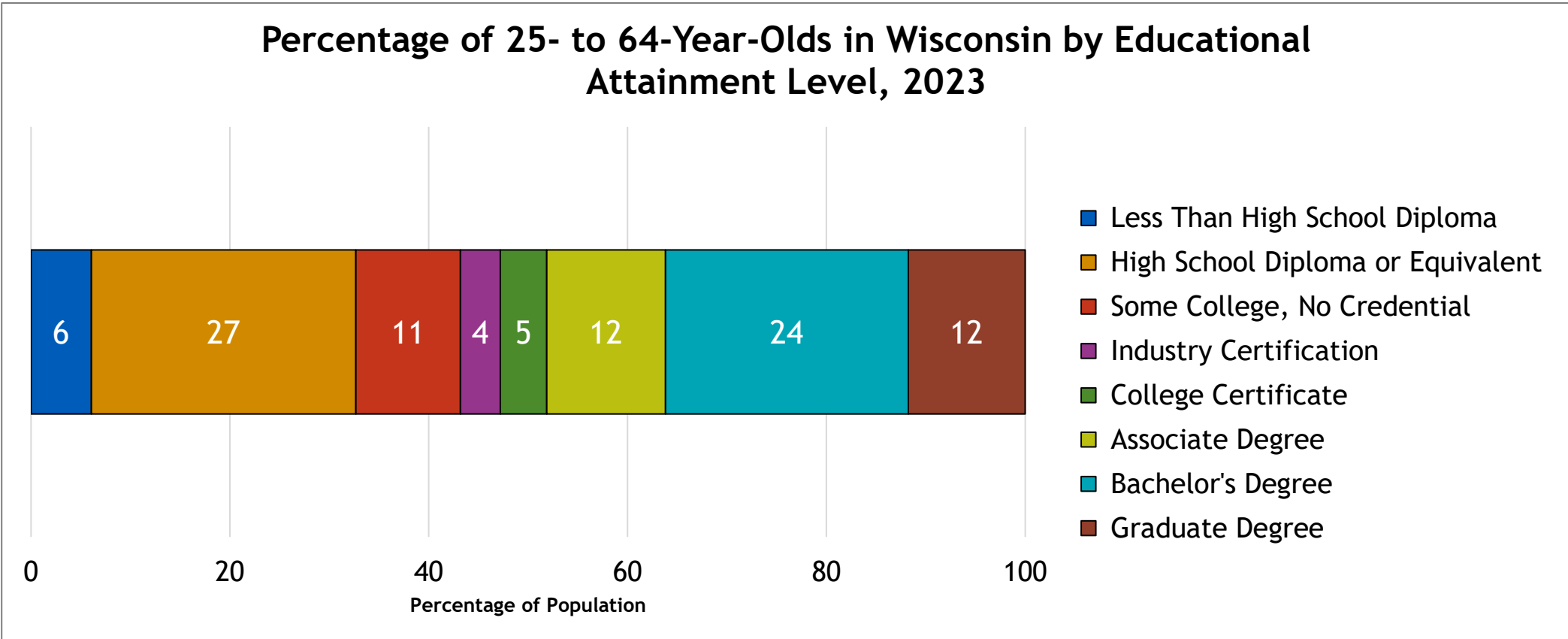


**ATTAINMENT: About 57% of Wisconsinites have a postsecondary certificate or higher, compared to 55% nationally.**



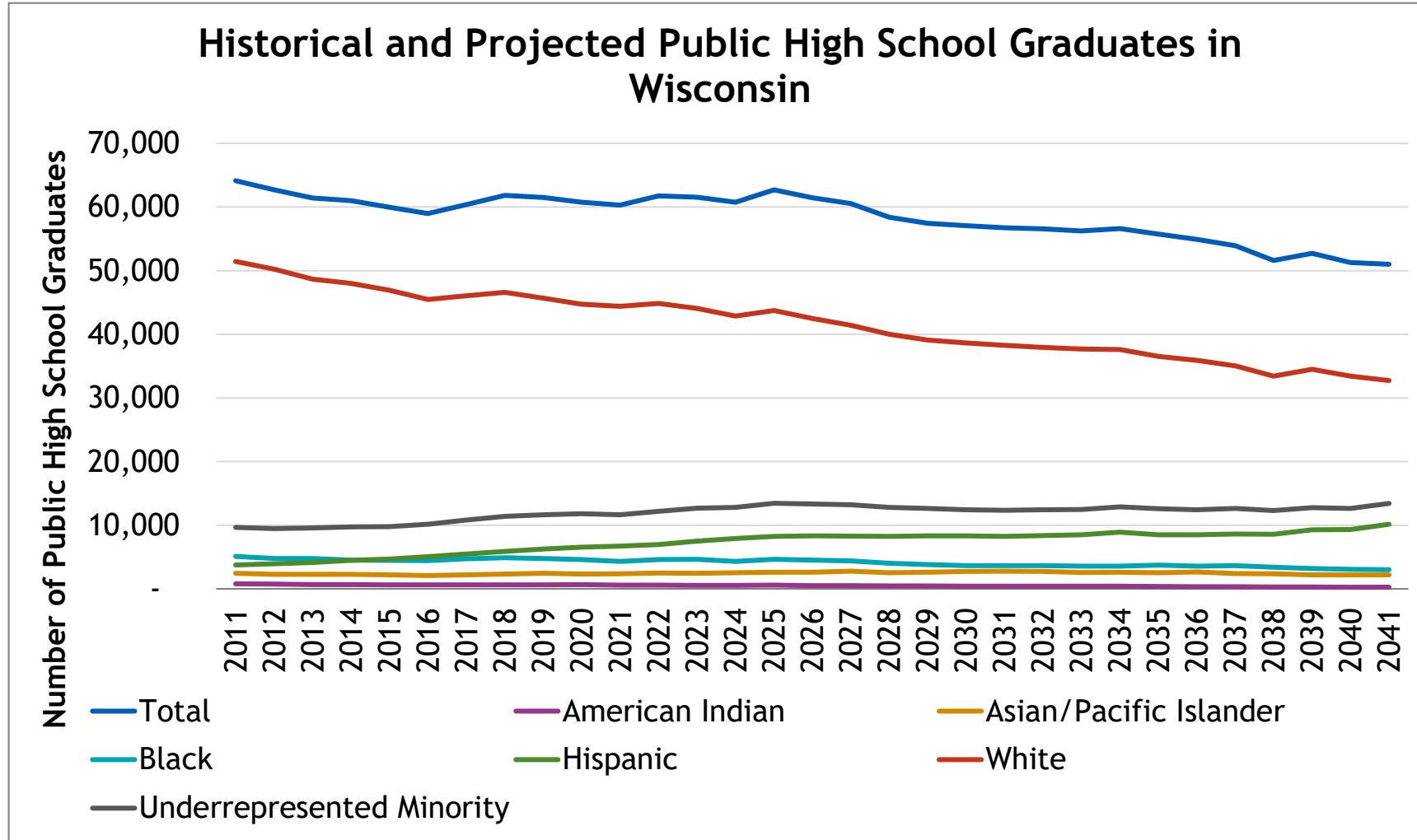
Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Note. Since 2014, the attainment estimate includes postsecondary certificates. Since 2018, the attainment estimate includes industry-recognized certifications. 2020 estimates are not available due to sampling problems that occurred during the 2020 administration of the American Community Survey.

**ATTAINMENT: Wisconsin residents have attained various types of postsecondary credentials, ranging from industry certifications and college certificates to bachelor's and graduate degrees; 43% of residents do not have a postsecondary credential**



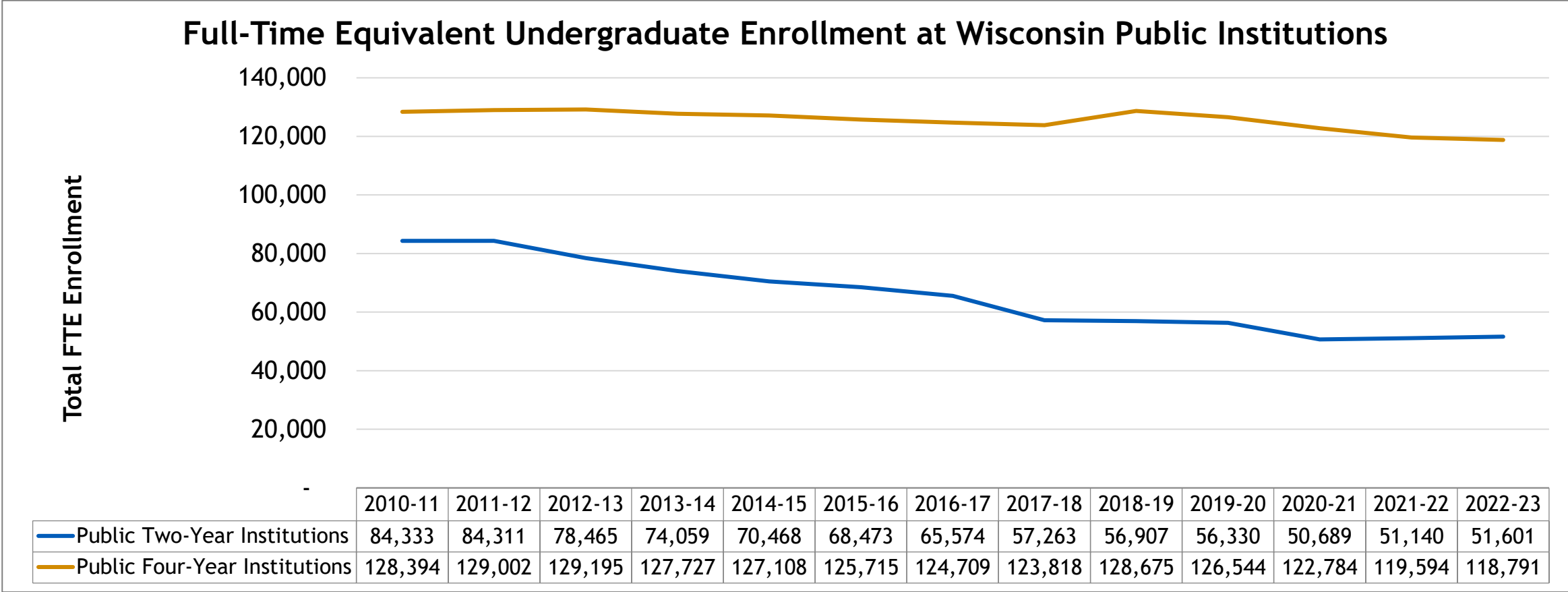
Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*.

**ENROLLMENT POOL: High school graduates are projected to decrease in Wisconsin over the coming decade, with the sharpest decline in the number of White high school graduates.**



Source. WICHE. (2024). *Knocking at the College Door*. Note. The *Underrepresented Minority* category comprises American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics.

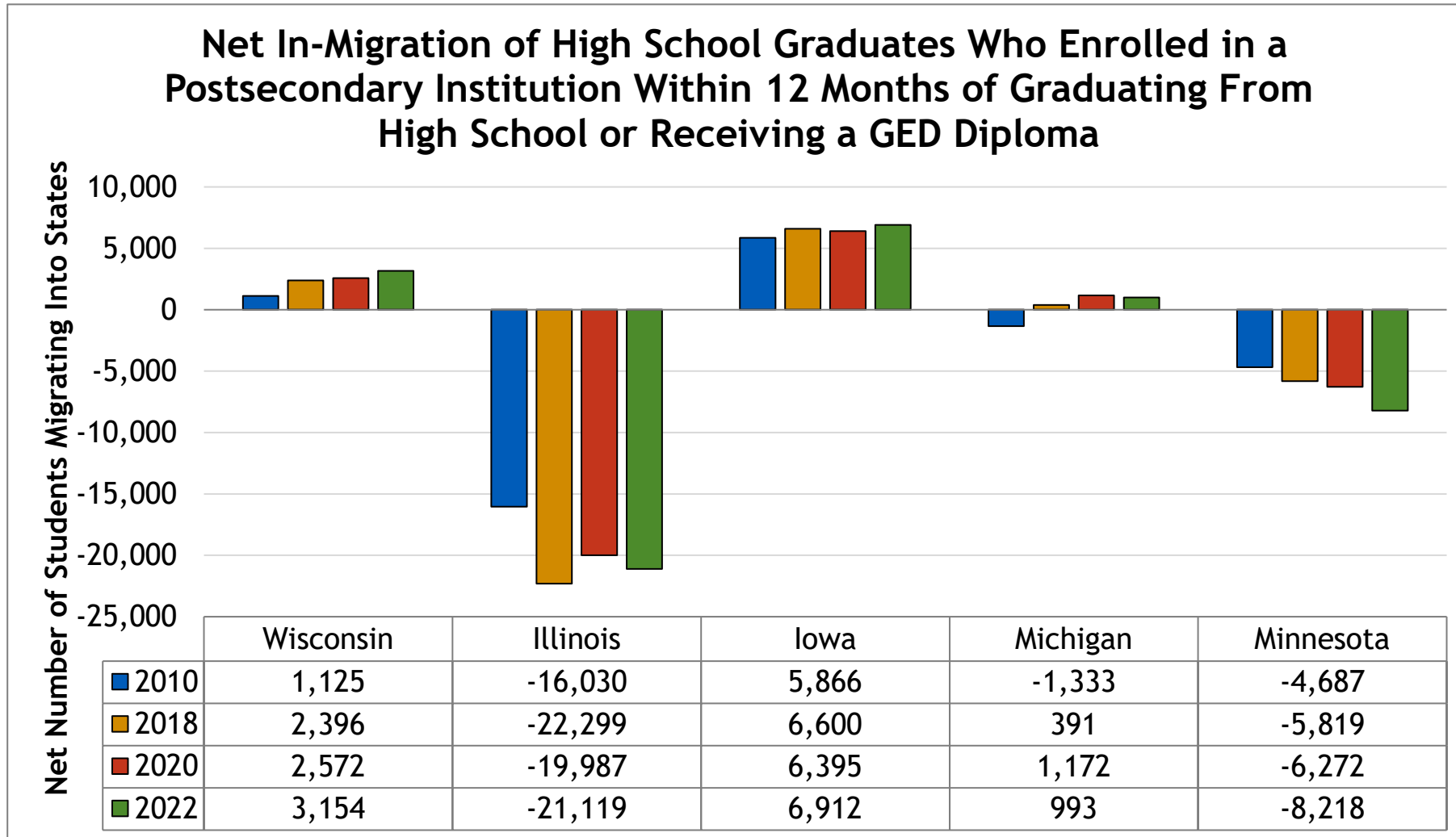
**ENROLLMENT: Undergraduate enrollment has declined at public two-year institutions in Wisconsin since 2010-11, compared to a more recent decline at public four-year institutions.**



Source: NCES IPEDS. (2023). *12-month enrollment*. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor’s degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. Categorizations may change over time. Enrollment at public four-year institutions since 2018-19 includes the University of Wisconsin Colleges.

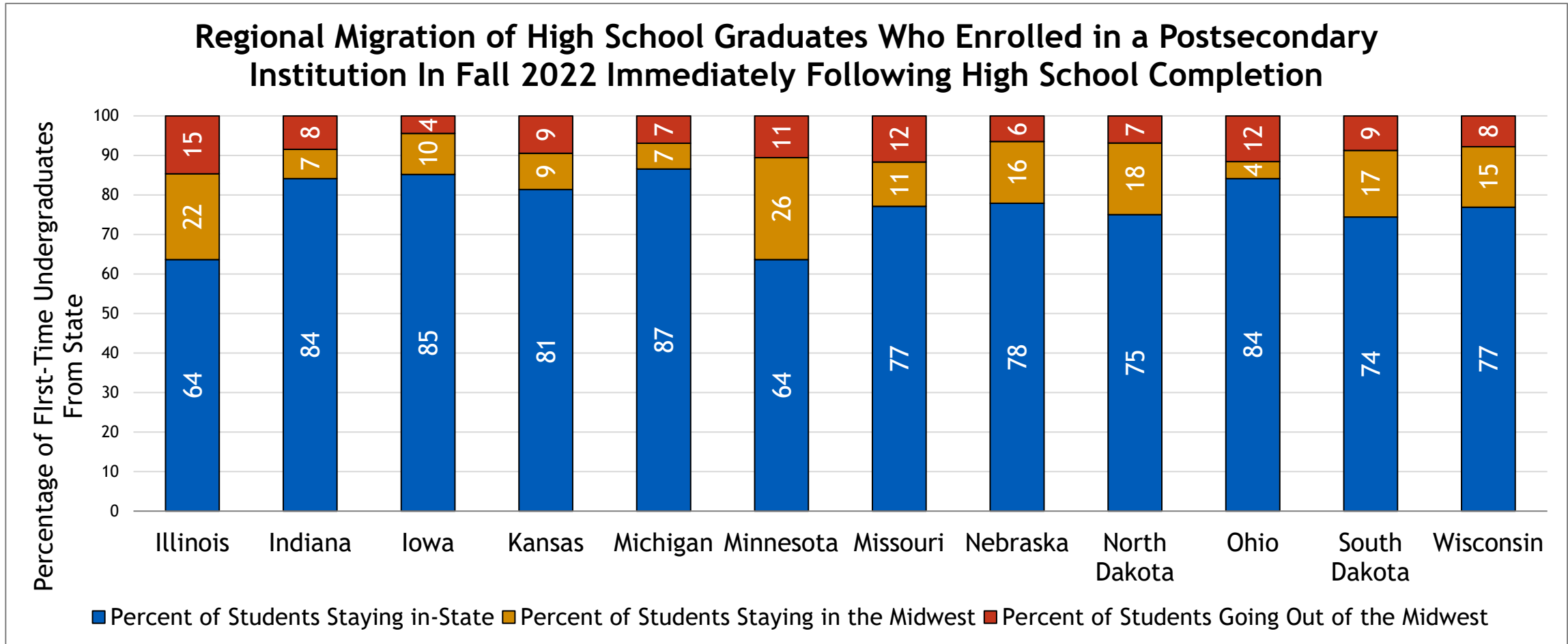


## MIGRATION: More students migrate into Wisconsin than migrate out.



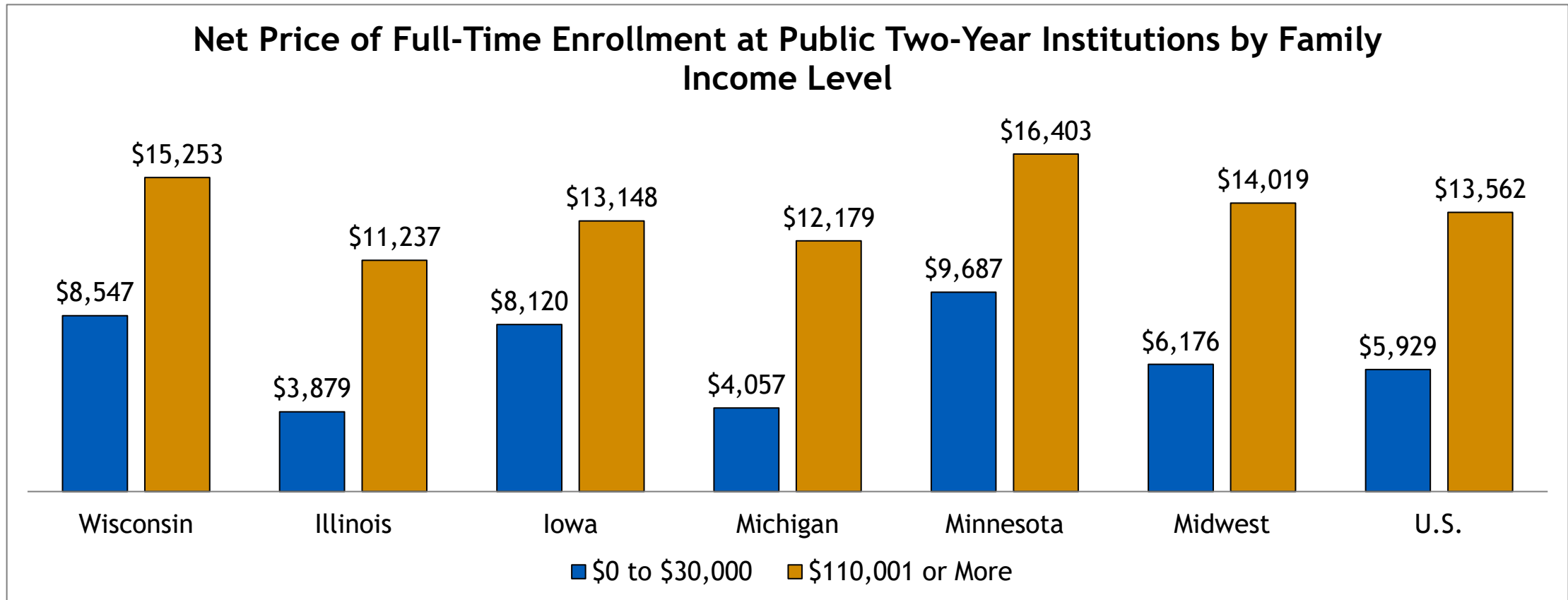
Source. NCES IPEDS. (2022). *Fall enrollment*.

**ENROLLMENT LOCATION: Of first-time college students from Wisconsin in 2022, 77 percent enrolled in state, 15 percent enrolled elsewhere in Midwest, and 8 percent enrolled outside the Midwest.**



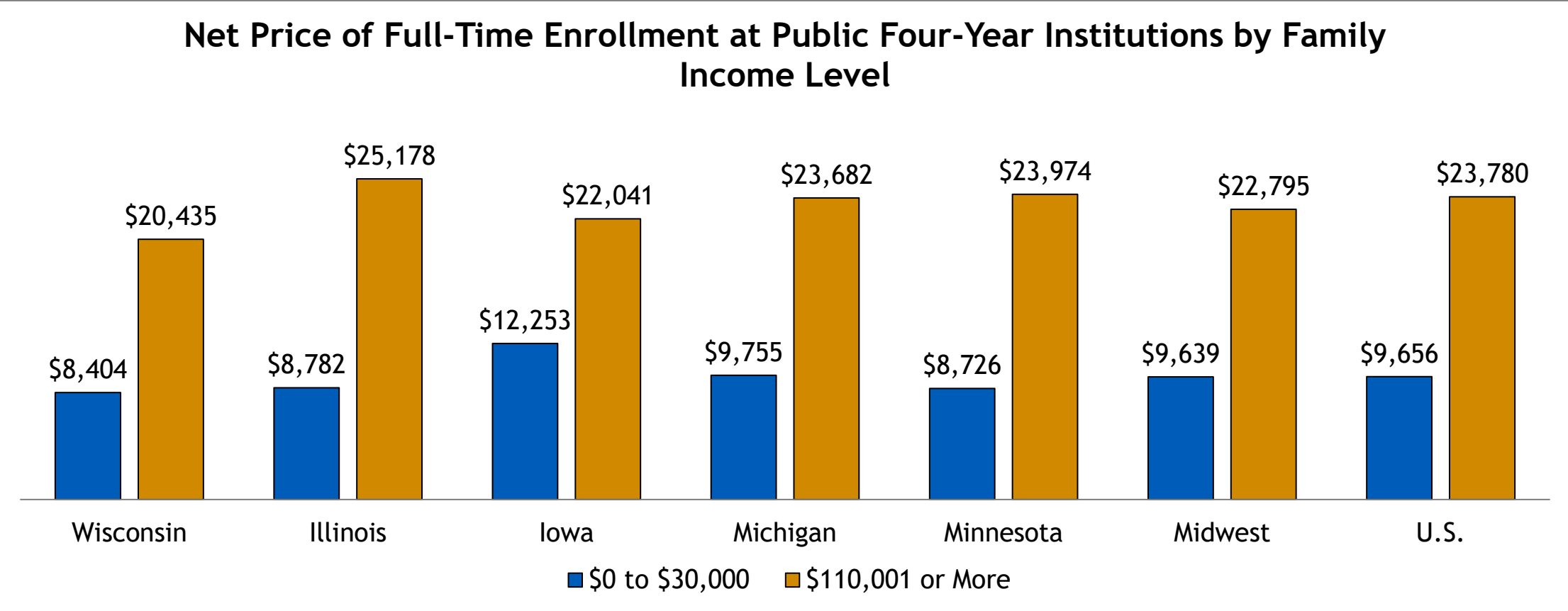
Source. NCES IPEDS. (2022). *Fall enrollment*.

## TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PRICE: Average net price for low-income students at Wisconsin public two-year institutions is higher than the Midwest and national averages but lower than Minnesota.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2023). *Net price*. Estimates are weighted by income group of first-time/full-time students. Total price of attendance includes in-district tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and other designated costs. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges are excluded.

**FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PRICE: Average net price for low-income students at Wisconsin public four-year institutions is lower than the Midwest and national averages and lower than border states.**



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2023). *Net price*. Estimates are weighted by income group of first-time/full-time students. Total price of attendance includes in-state tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and other designated costs. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor’s degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded.





# Policy & Research and Resources

- [MHEC Strategic Plan 2022-2025](https://www.mhec.org/resources/strategic-plan-2022-2025)  
<https://www.mhec.org/resources/strategic-plan-2022-2025>
- [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](http://mhec.org/dashboard)  
<http://mhec.org/dashboard>
- [2023-24 MHEC Cost Savings](https://www.mhec.org/resources/2023-24-mhec-cost-savings)  
<https://www.mhec.org/resources/2023-24-mhec-cost-savings>
- [Wisconsin-specific Information](http://mhec.org/states/Wisconsin)  
State Highlights, State Performance Update, Higher Education in Focus Report  
<http://mhec.org/states/Wisconsin>

