



Meeting the Needs of a Homeless Student Population

Presentation to The Wisconsin Association of
Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

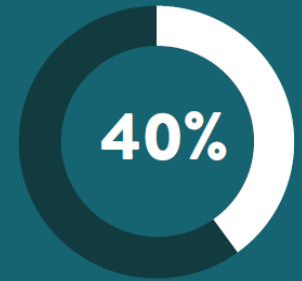
BALANCING MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES



**THREE-QUARTERS
OF COLLEGE STUDENTS**

COMMUTE TO CLASS WHILE JUGGLING PARENTING,
WORKING AND BOTH.

**40 PERCENT
ATTEND SCHOOL ONLY
PART-TIME.**



STUDENTS WORK ON AVERAGE

**19 HOURS
PER WEEK**



ABOUT

40 PERCENT
OF COMMUNITY-COLLEGE STUDENTS
WORK 20 OR MORE HOURS
PER WEEK.

OLDER AND MORE RACIALLY DIVERSE



38 PERCENT
OF ALL TODAY'S UNDERGRADUATES
ARE OLDER THAN 25.

THE VISION THAT MOST OF US HAVE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS – 18- TO 21-YEAR-OLDS WHO ATTEND SCHOOL FULL-TIME – ONLY MAKE UP ABOUT A THIRD OF THE COLLEGE POPULATION.



ENROLLMENT AMONG
HISPANIC STUDENTS
TRIPLED
SINCE THE MID-1990'S,



**AND BLACK STUDENT
ENROLLMENT GREW BY
72 PERCENT.**

AND THOSE TRENDS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2021, WITH BLACK ENROLLMENT PROJECTED TO GROW BY **25 PERCENT**, HISPANIC STUDENTS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY **42 PERCENT**, AND ONLY A **4 PERCENT** INCREASE IN WHITE STUDENTS FORECASTED.

FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THEMSELVES... AND OFTEN STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET

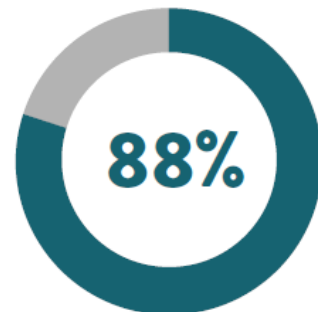


ALMOST HALF OF **TODAY'S STUDENTS**

ARE ON THEIR OWN FINANCIALLY. HALF OF THOSE STUDENTS (25%) HAVE FINANCIAL DEPENDENTS OF THEIR OWN.

4.8 MILLION

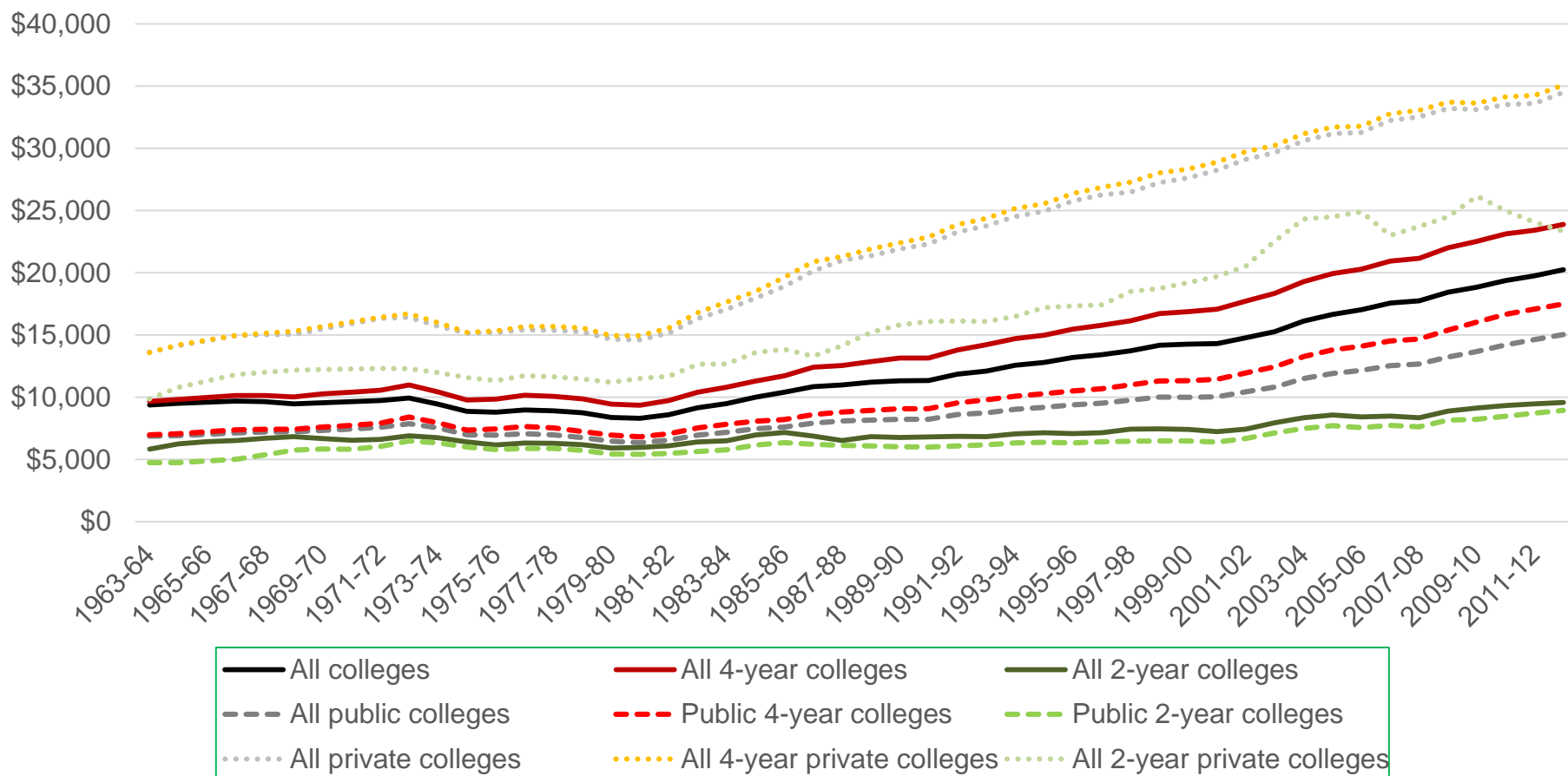
POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS ARE PARENTS, AND OF THOSE, **61 PERCENT** HAVE NO MONEY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF COLLEGE.



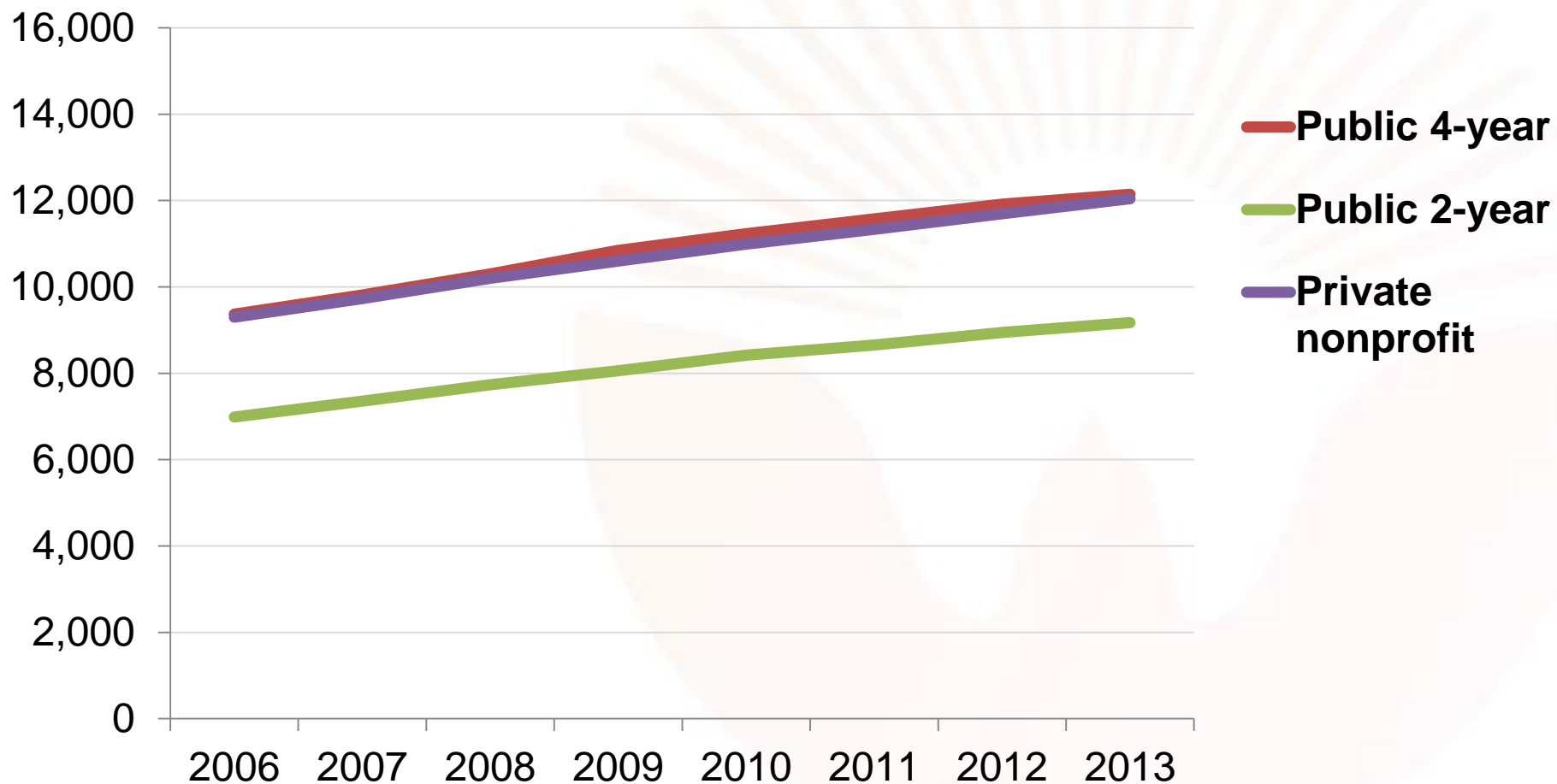
88 PERCENT

OF SINGLE STUDENT-PARENTS HAVE INCOMES **BELOW 200 PERCENT** OF THE POVERTY LINE.

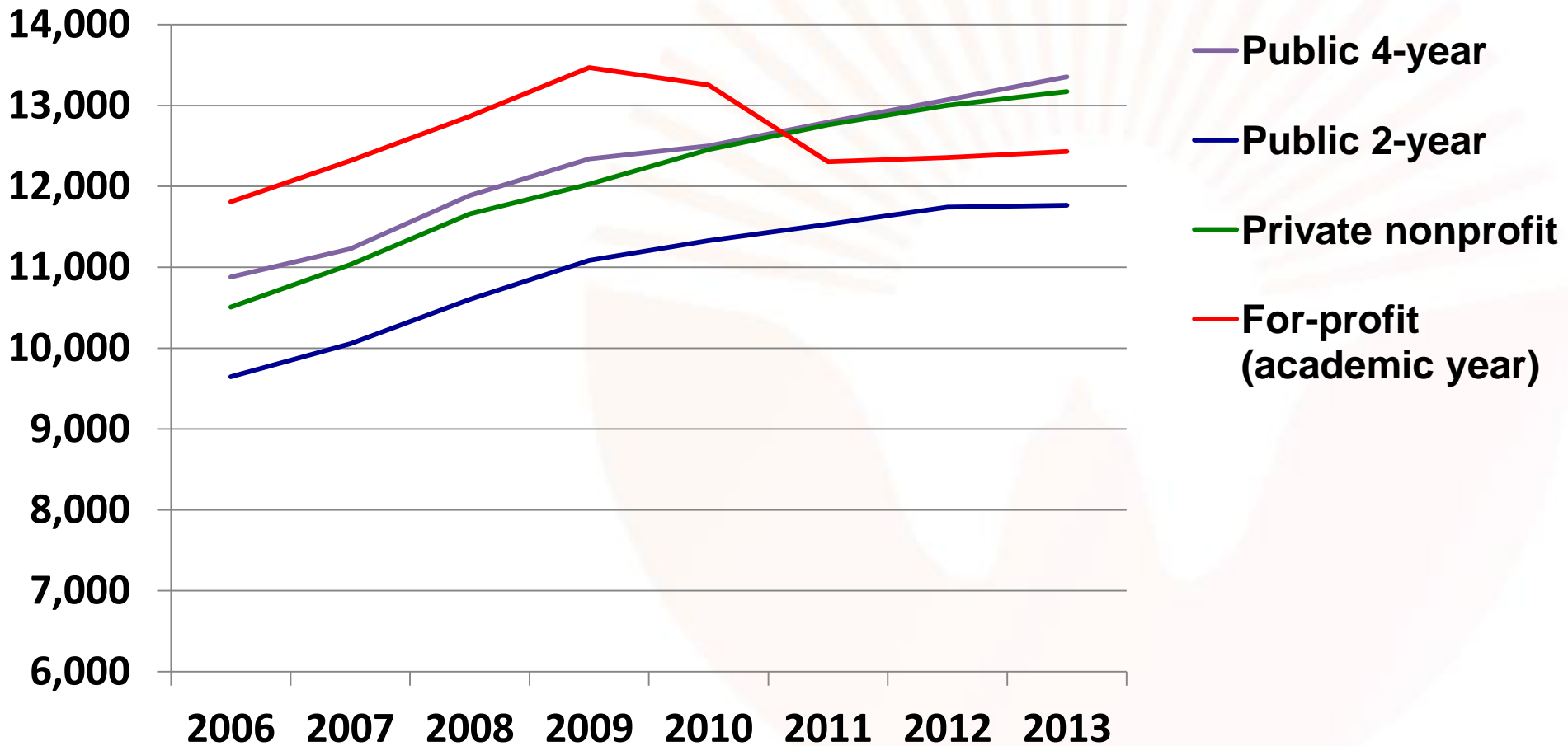
Total Cost of Attendance: Tuition, Fees, Room & Board



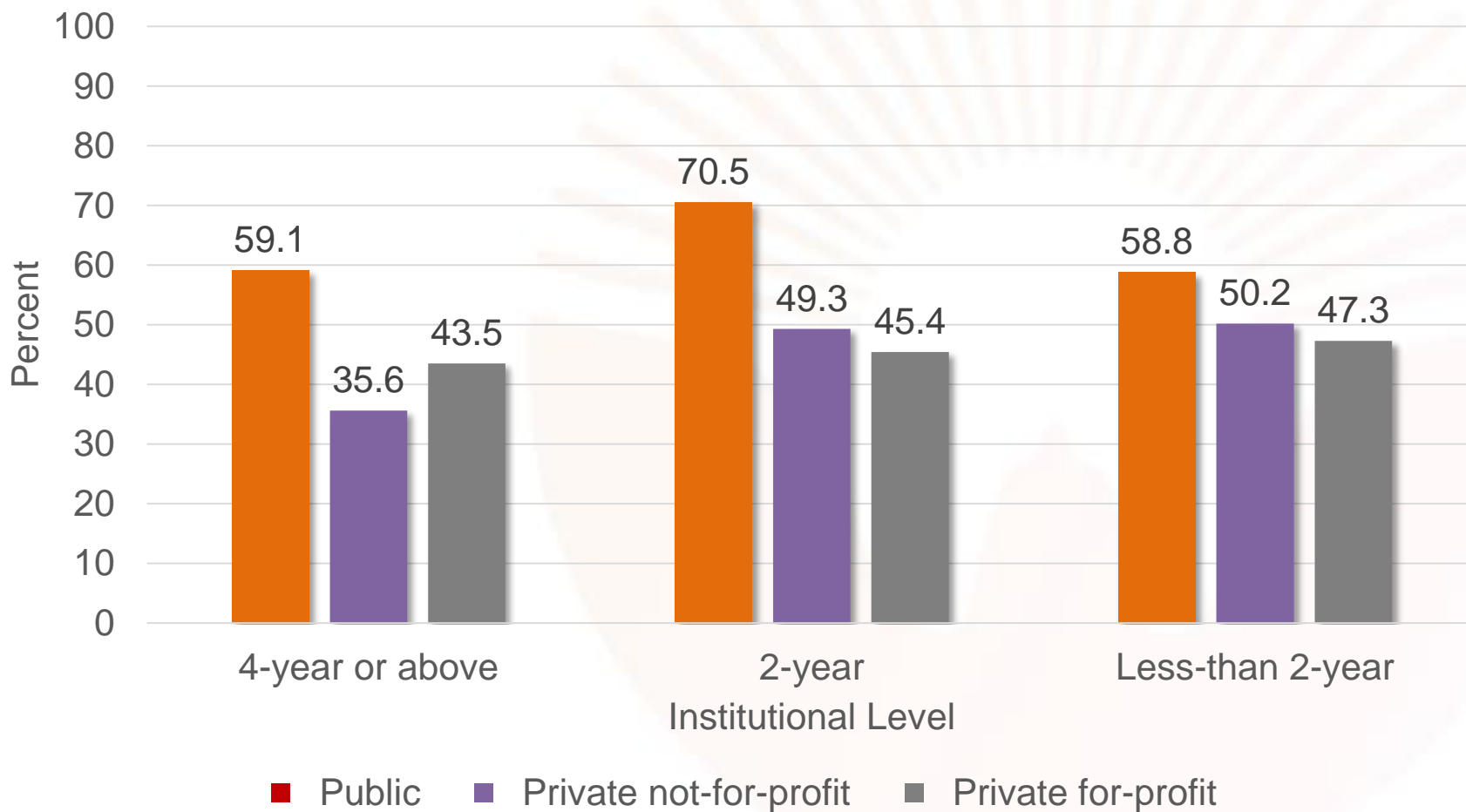
On Campus



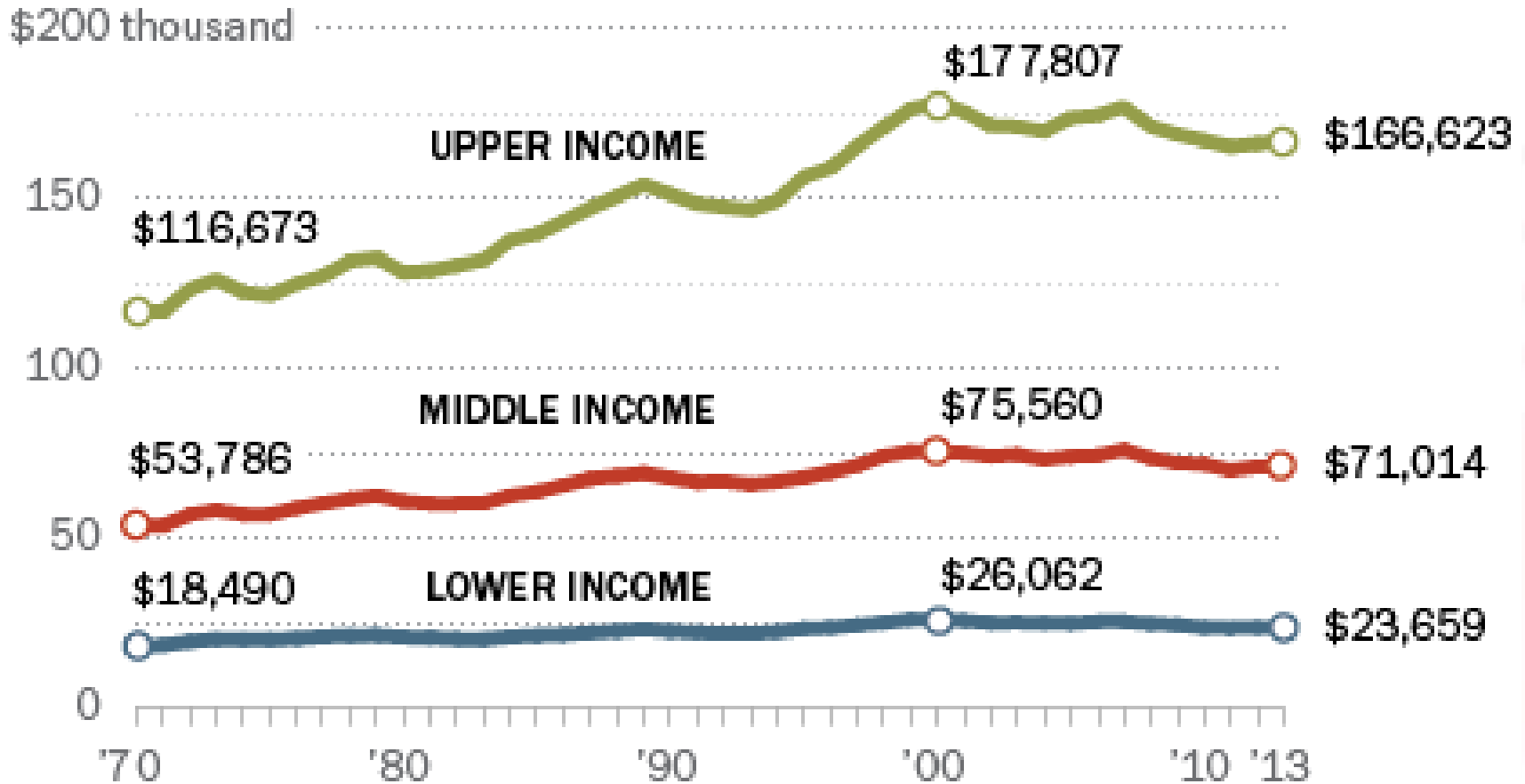
Off-Campus Living Costs (w/o family)



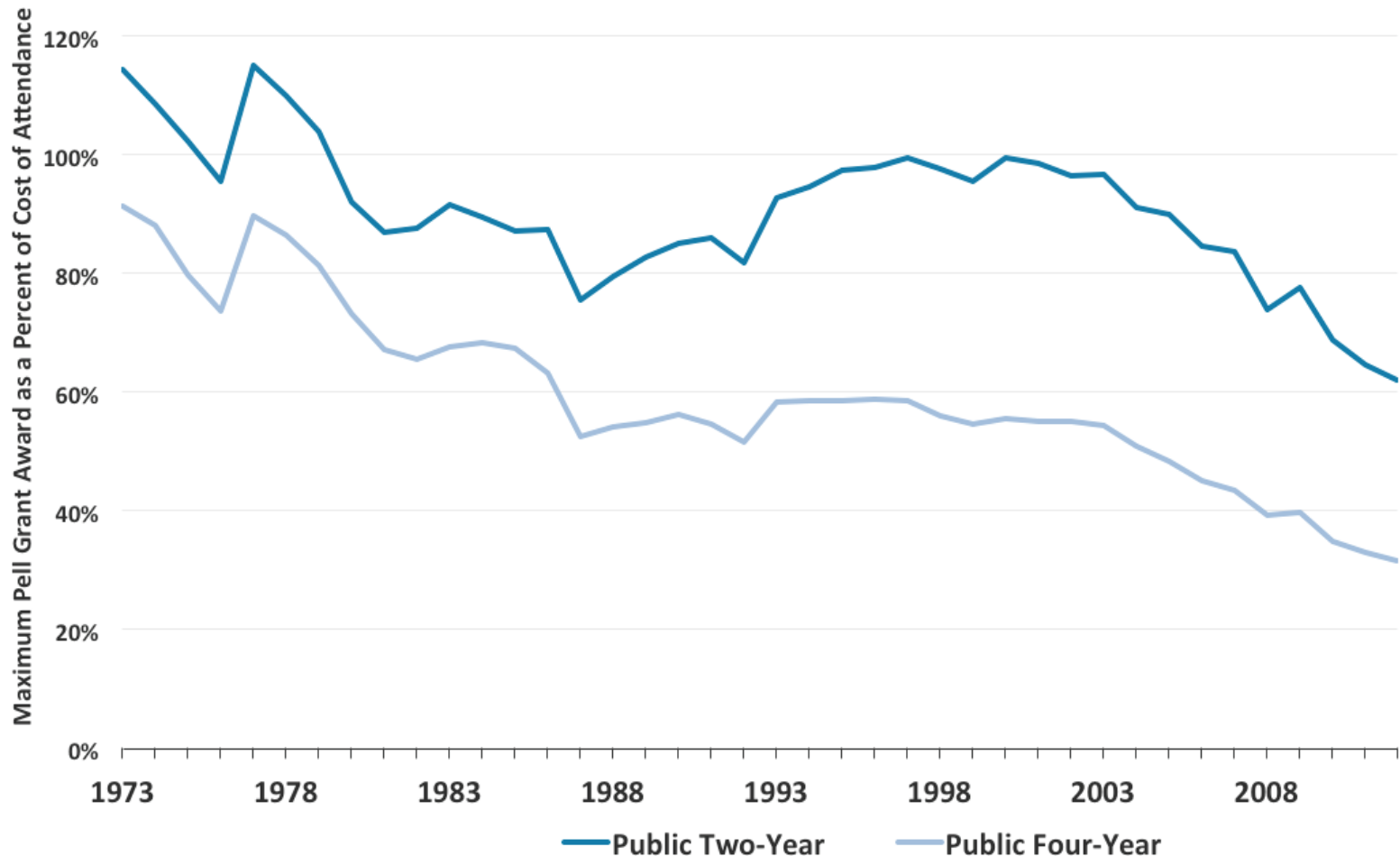
Reported Living Costs as Share of Cost of Attendance



Median income down since 2000

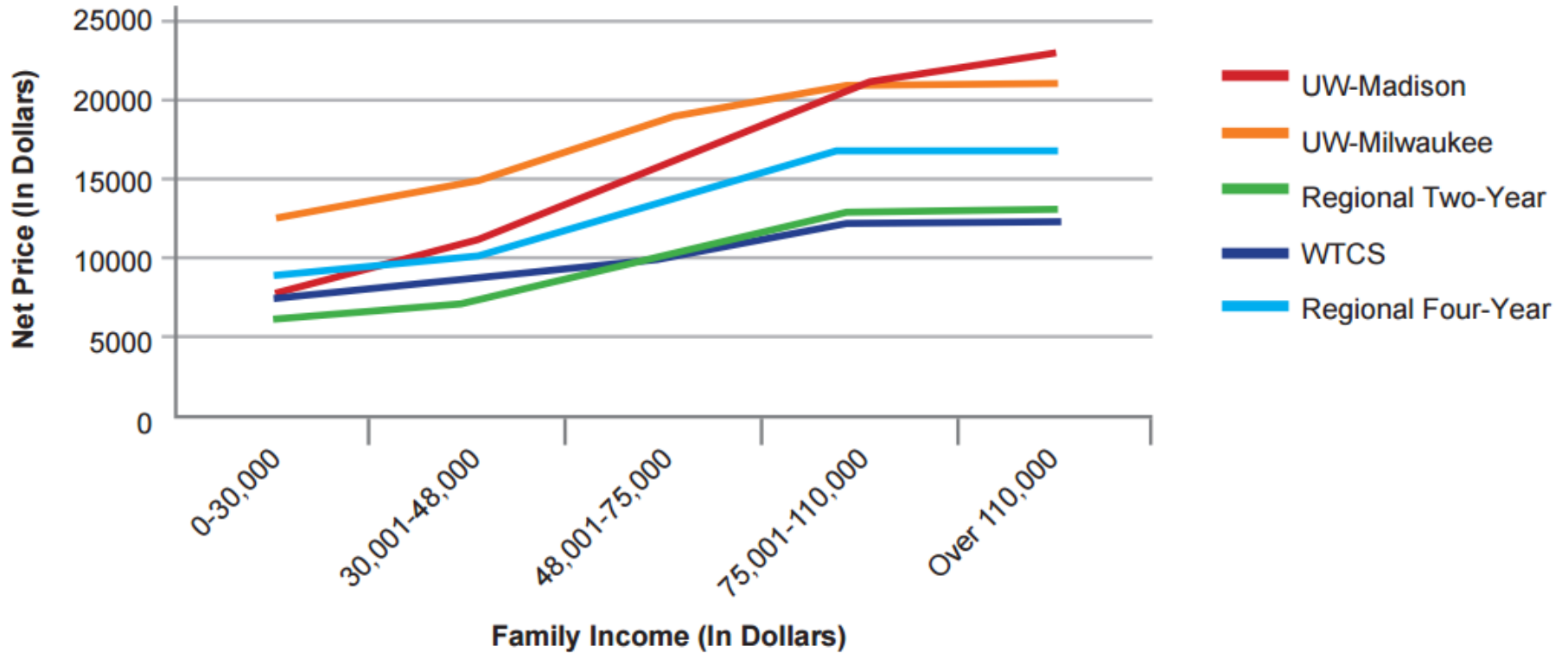


Pell Grant Purchasing Power



Source: Costs: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS). 2013. "Institutional Characteristics of Colleges and Universities," Table 330.10. Average undergraduate tuition and fees and room and board rates charged for full-time students in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by level and control of institution: 1969-70 through 2012-13. Pell Grant Info: "Trends in Student Aid 2013," Table 8: Federal Pell Grant Awards in Current and 2012 Dollars, 1973-74 to 2012-13.

Net Price by Family Income



- Federal loan limits= \$5,500+
- When net price exceeds loan limits, what do students do?
 - Work, but you can't work your way through college the same way prior generations may have
 - Take fewer classes
 - Go without basic needs— including food and housing

- Housing insecurity has rarely been studied among undergraduates
- National education datasets do not ask
- Housing & food insecurity (and mental health, sleep, etc.) intersect
- This is not limited to community colleges or older students or any other subgroup

- **WSLS:** 3000 traditional-age students from low-income families at public 4-year and 2-year colleges in Wisconsin who started college in fall 2008
- **STEM:** 1500 traditional-age students from low- and moderate-income families who attend 4-year and 2-year colleges in Wisconsin and started college in fall 2014

- Nearly 90 percent indicated that they were upset or worried about not having enough money to pay for the things they needed in order to attend college
- 78 percent stated that they were having difficulty paying their bills

To make ends meet, students:

- cut back on social activities (80%)
- changed their food shopping or eating habits (71%)
- cut back or stopped driving (48%)
- borrowed money or used credit cards more (39%)
- increased the amount of time spent working (38%)
- postponed medical or dental care (24%)
- put off paying bills (24%)
- reduced utility usage (23%)
- went without a computer (19%)
- did not buy all required books or supplies (15%)

When we followed up with these same students a year later,

- 27% reported that in the past month, they did not have enough money to buy food, ate less than they felt they should, or cut the size of their meals
- 8% of two-year students and 5% of four-year students had recently gone without eating for an entire day

In the past 12 months did you do any of the following because there wasn't enough money?

- 25% (13%) didn't pay full amount of utility bills
- 24% (12%) didn't pay full amount of rent or mortgage

in parentheses = 4-year students

- FAFSA indicates 58,000 undergraduates are homeless, but this is likely an underestimate since proof is required
- CUNY survey --rates of housing insecurity 3-5 times higher than general NY population, 42% indicating housing insecurity
- Visit www.wihopelab.com for more information

Conducted ~60 interviews in 5 states to find out what colleges are doing to respond to these material hardship challenges

- Extreme goodwill and willingness to help
- Few resources require strategic thinking
- Limited expertise encouraged partnerships
- Local approach is often best

Ask students and staff if housing and food insecurity is a problem on your campus

Ask about college policies or procedures that create bottlenecks and break points for students who lack basic needs

Review those policies and procedures to determine if reasonable changes can be made

Over 200 colleges have food banks on campus
(CUFBA – College & University Food Bank Alliance)

Can Legal Aid or a local pro bono law office come to campus to meet with students once a month?

- Housing challenges, evictions, and difficulty with landlords can cause housing insecurity

Tenant Resource Centers and real estate agents can be useful partners to advise students on local housing and provide one-on-one support

Food and housing over winter & spring break

Emergency housing for students in crises

Emergency Loan Program

Case management services

Connection to public benefits

In partnership with the local housing authority, the community college provides Housing Choice Vouchers to full-time students who maintain a 2.0 GPA and are homeless or at serious risk of homelessness. Many of the students are part of a workforce-development program and must participate in support services.

Results after one year are preliminary, but promising.

- Of the 22 students to receive a housing voucher, 21 (95%) remain enrolled in college.
- In comparison, 24% (35 out of 146) of eligible participants who were on the waiting list persisted in college.

“This project is an effort to spend a housing dollar not just to house someone and their family but to get two other things done: help them succeed in school and promote the success of schools that serve low-income students.”

- Michael Mirra
Executive Director
Tacoma Public Housing Authority

“If students do not have a safe place to live, food to eat, or a way to get to school, they cannot do their best in the classroom.” – College President

Material hardship is a college completion issue.

Helping students meet their basic needs helps them reach their educational goals and colleges meet their retention and graduation goals.

- Great Lakes
- National Science Foundation
- Institute of Education Sciences
- Association of Community College Trustees
- William T. Grant Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Lumina Foundation
- Spencer Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Institute for College Access & Success
- The Department of the Treasury
- The University of Wisconsin



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