

MHEC Research Update

Aaron Horn, Associate Vice
President of Research, MHEC

Shaun Williams-Wyche, Associate Director
of Research and Data Analysis, MHEC

Presentation Outline

- I. Background
- II. Performance Update for the Midwest
- III. Identifying Future Research Priorities
- IV. Dashboard Update

Background

MHEC Research Mission and Function

To inform institutional and state efforts in improving postsecondary policies, practices, and outcomes.

1. Maintaining a **national repository of knowledge** for guiding policy and practice
2. Conducting **applied research and analysis** on critical topics in higher education
3. Developing **innovative solutions** to improve educational opportunity and effectiveness
4. Providing **public outreach and service** to institutions and governments

Issue Areas

- **Affordability and Finance:** policies and programs for reducing the financial burden of postsecondary enrollment and degree completion
- **College Readiness:** college readiness programs, dual enrollment, and various forms of teacher preparation
- **Student Success:** domains of institutional practice and policy associated with student persistence, degree completion, learning, employment, and civic outcomes
- **Performance, Value, and Accountability:** performance indicators for evaluating institutions and PK-16 systems; the ROI for postsecondary education; use of accountability systems; higher education governance

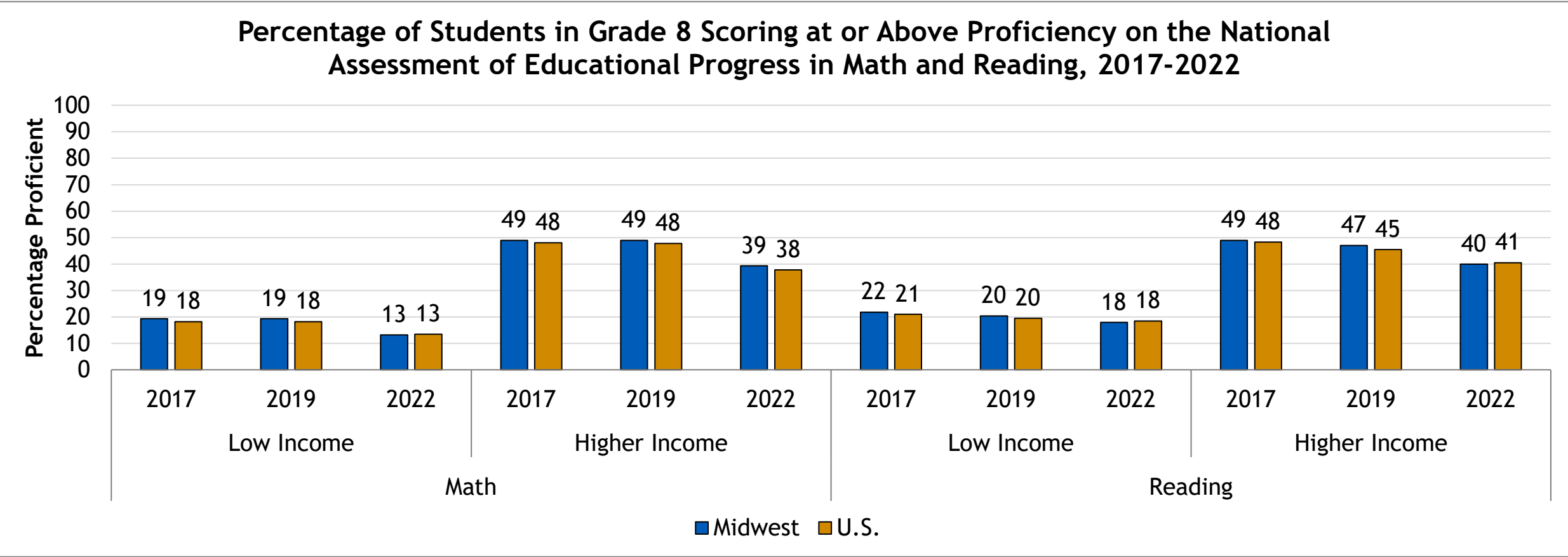
Performance Update for the Midwest

Annual State Performance Update

- Performance indicators are categorized within five areas: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, and Finance.
- Most indicators provide the national and Midwest regional values as well as the median of the top five states in the nation as possible benchmarks.
- Most performance indicators are disaggregated by family income and race/ethnicity to assess critical opportunity and achievement gaps.
- Next Performance Update will be available in Winter/Spring of 2023

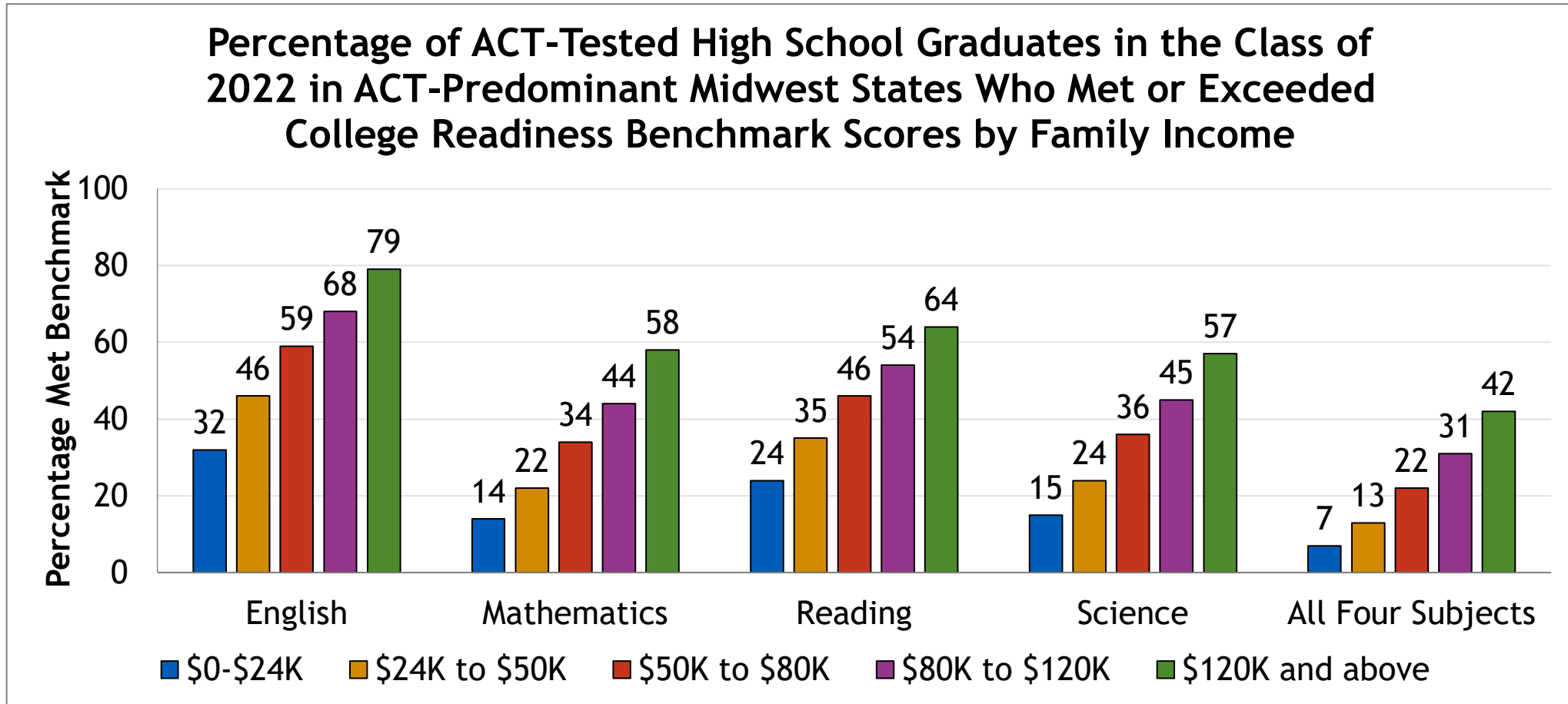
Student achievement during 8th grade decreased significantly in the wake of COVID

Percentage of Students in Grade 8 Scoring at or Above Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Math and Reading, 2017-2022



Source. National Center for Education Statistics. (2017, 2019, 2022). National assessment of educational progress.

Academic preparation is strongly correlated with family income



Source. ACT. (2022). U.S. high school graduating class trends.

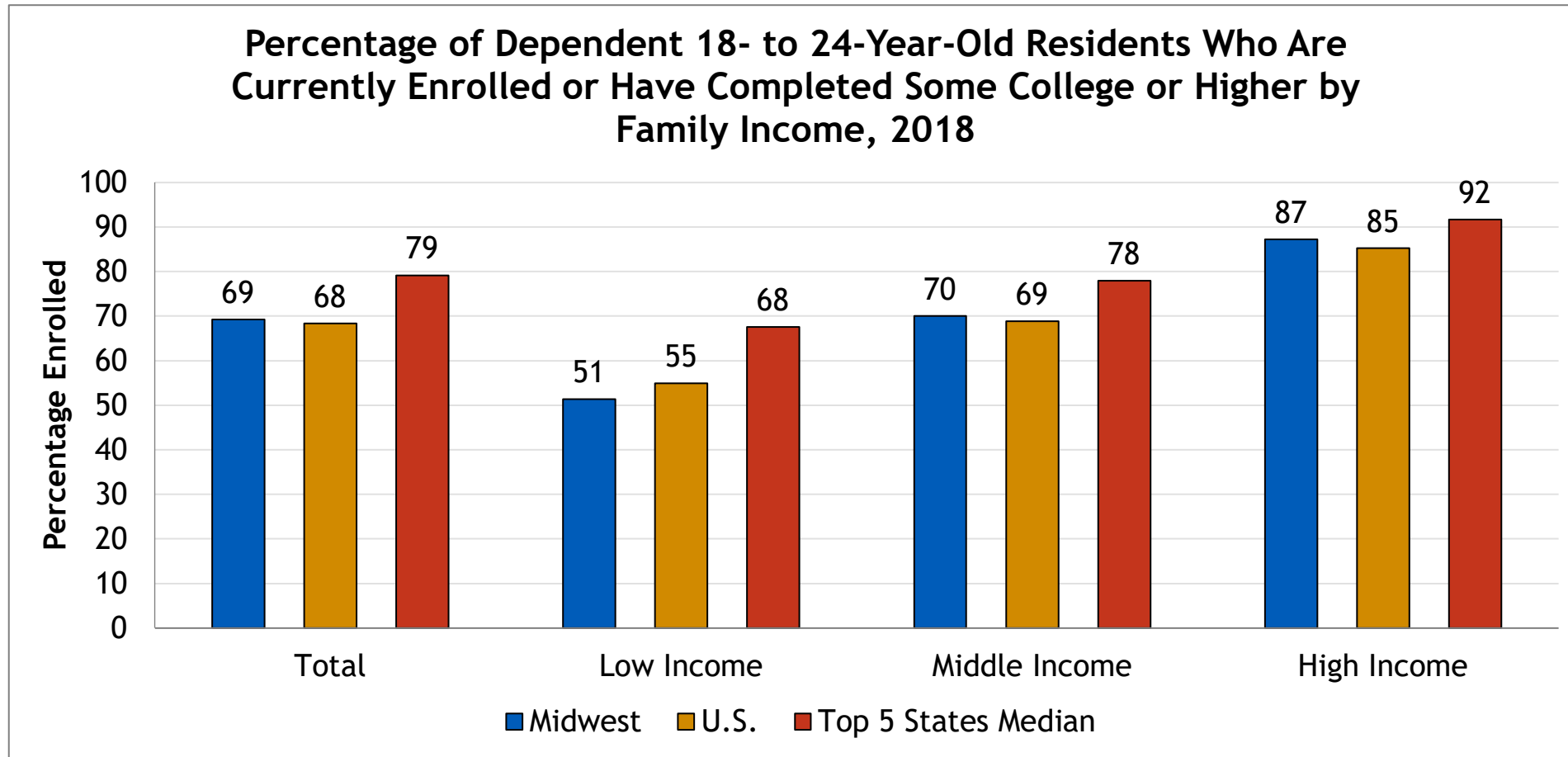
Public institutions in the Midwest experienced growth in total fall enrollment over some earlier recessionary periods. Enrollment declined at public two-year and four-year institutions during the COVID recession.

Fall Undergraduate Enrollment at Midwest Institutions

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2007	2008	2009	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public Two-Year Institutions	1,255,447	1,220,304	1,272,241	1,327,155	1,390,441	1,450,691	1,603,710	1,657,902	1,318,490	1,292,716	1,290,654	1,185,490
Public Four-Year Institutions	1,226,839	1,238,197	1,262,808	1,284,205	1,321,163	1,337,282	1,378,776	1,407,494	1,389,717	1,390,103	1,337,741	1,332,082

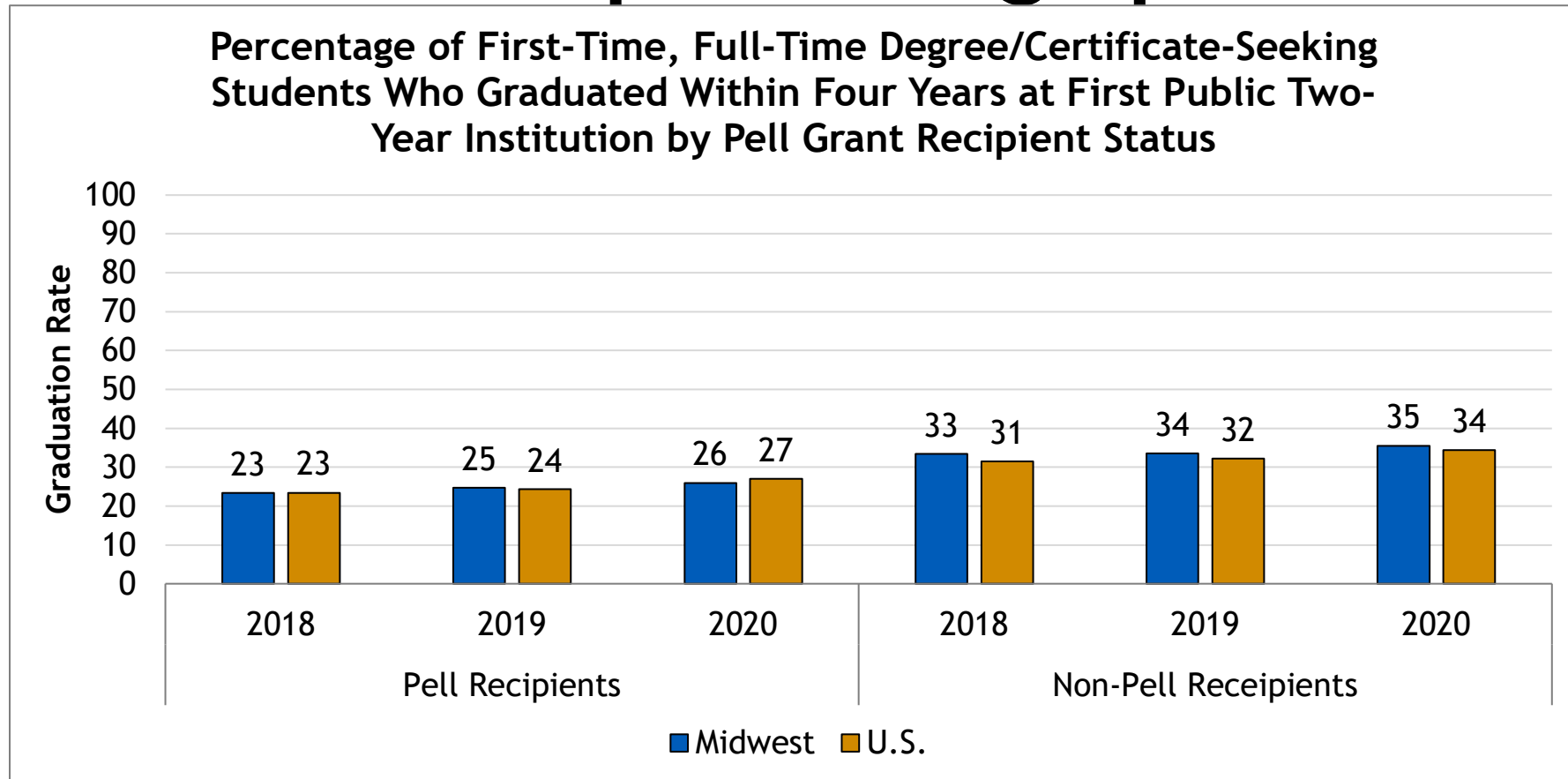
Source. NCES IPEDS. *Fall enrollment.*

College enrollment rates of some income groups in the Midwest are higher than the national level, but gaps remain among groups



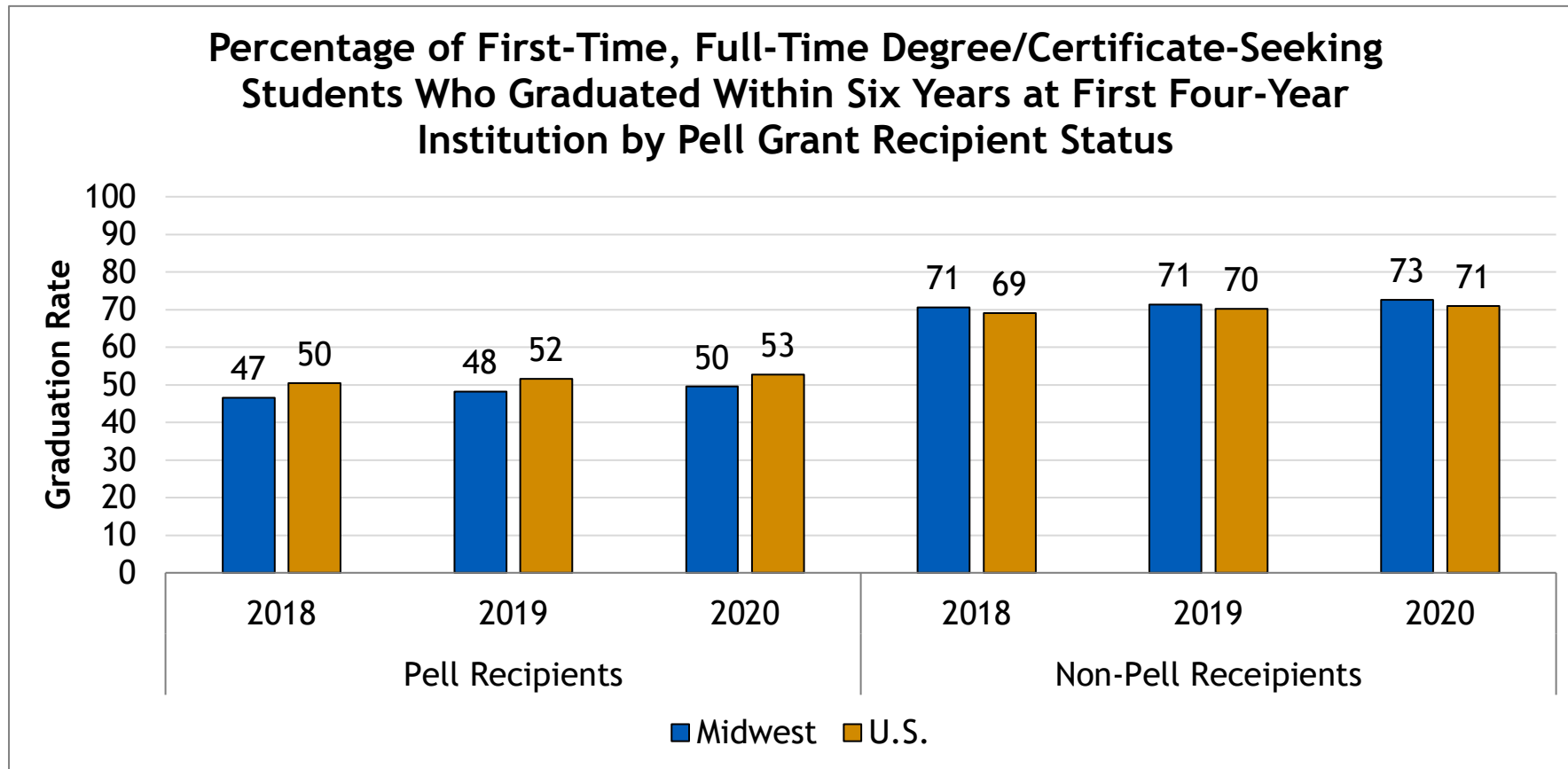
Source. U.S. Census Bureau. (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020). Current population survey. Five-year estimates. Top 5 States, 2016-2020: Total Population: NJ, IL, RI, NY, MD; Low Income: RI, NJ, NY, CA, IL; Middle Income: IL, NJ, NH, RI, MD; High Income: IL, KY, SD, MD, NJ.

Completion rates at public two-year colleges have improved for lower- and higher-income students; and gap improved from 10 to 9 percentage points



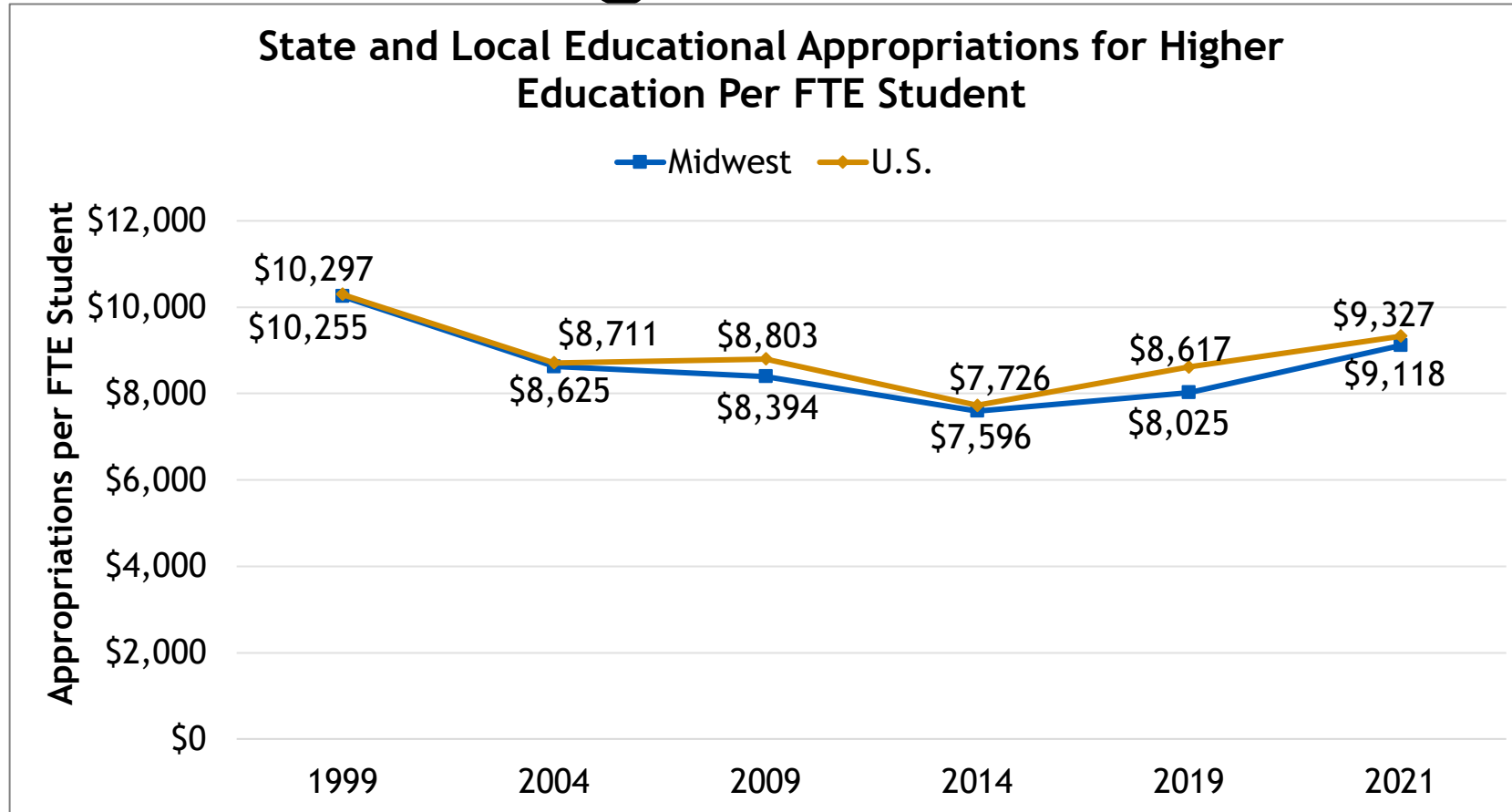
Source. NCES IPEDS. (2020). Graduation rate.

Completion rates at public four-year colleges have also improved but income gaps are significant



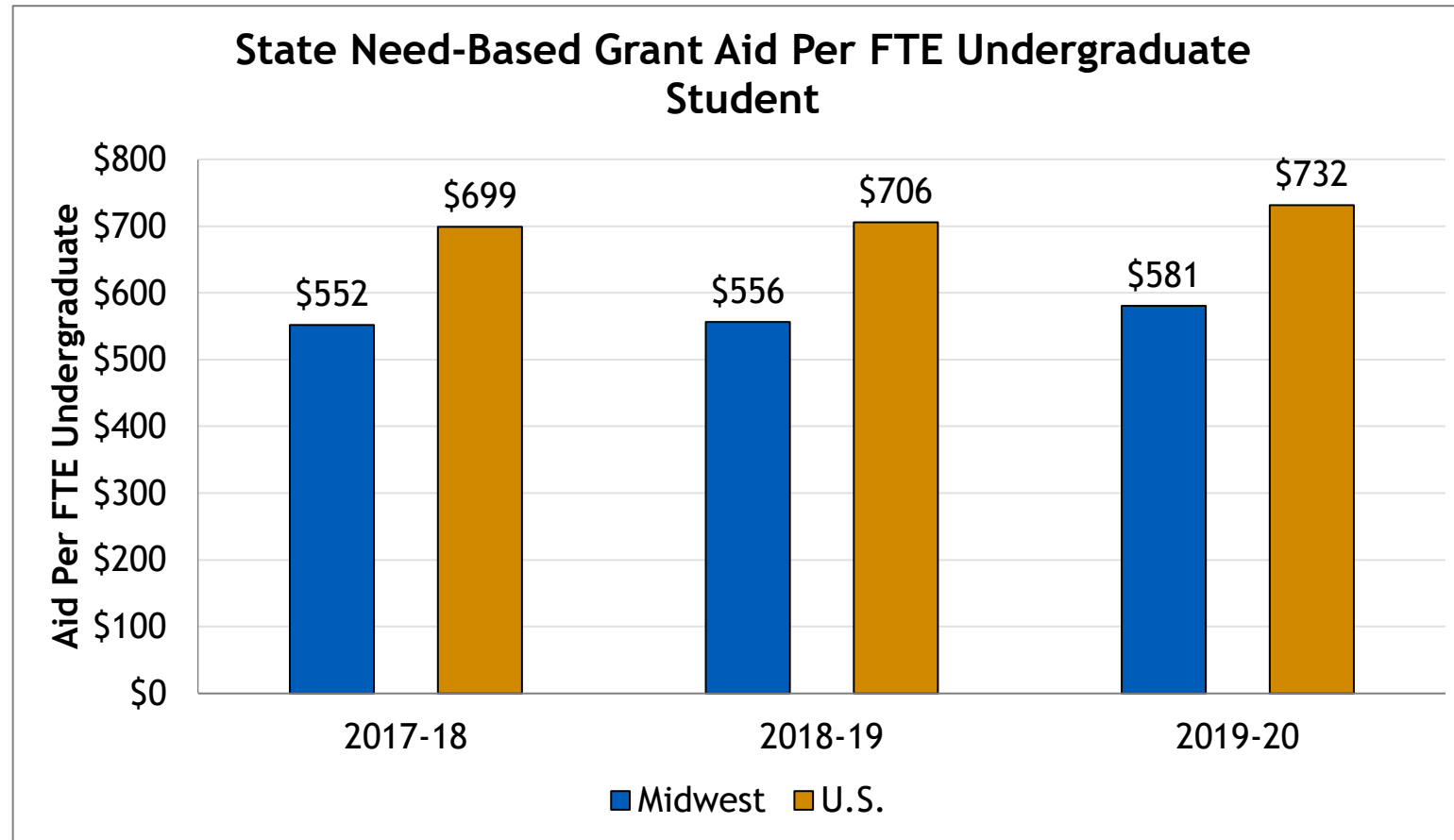
Source. NCES IPEDS. (2020). Graduation rate.

State and local funding per FTE for public higher education in the Midwest has been stable or increasing since 2012



Source. SHEEO. (2022). State higher education finance: FY 21. Estimates have been adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars using the Higher Education Cost Adjustment.

State need-based grant aid increased slightly



Source. National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. (2018, 2019, 2020). Annual survey report on state-sponsored student financial aid. Estimates have been adjusted for inflation to 2019 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.

Identifying Future Research Priorities

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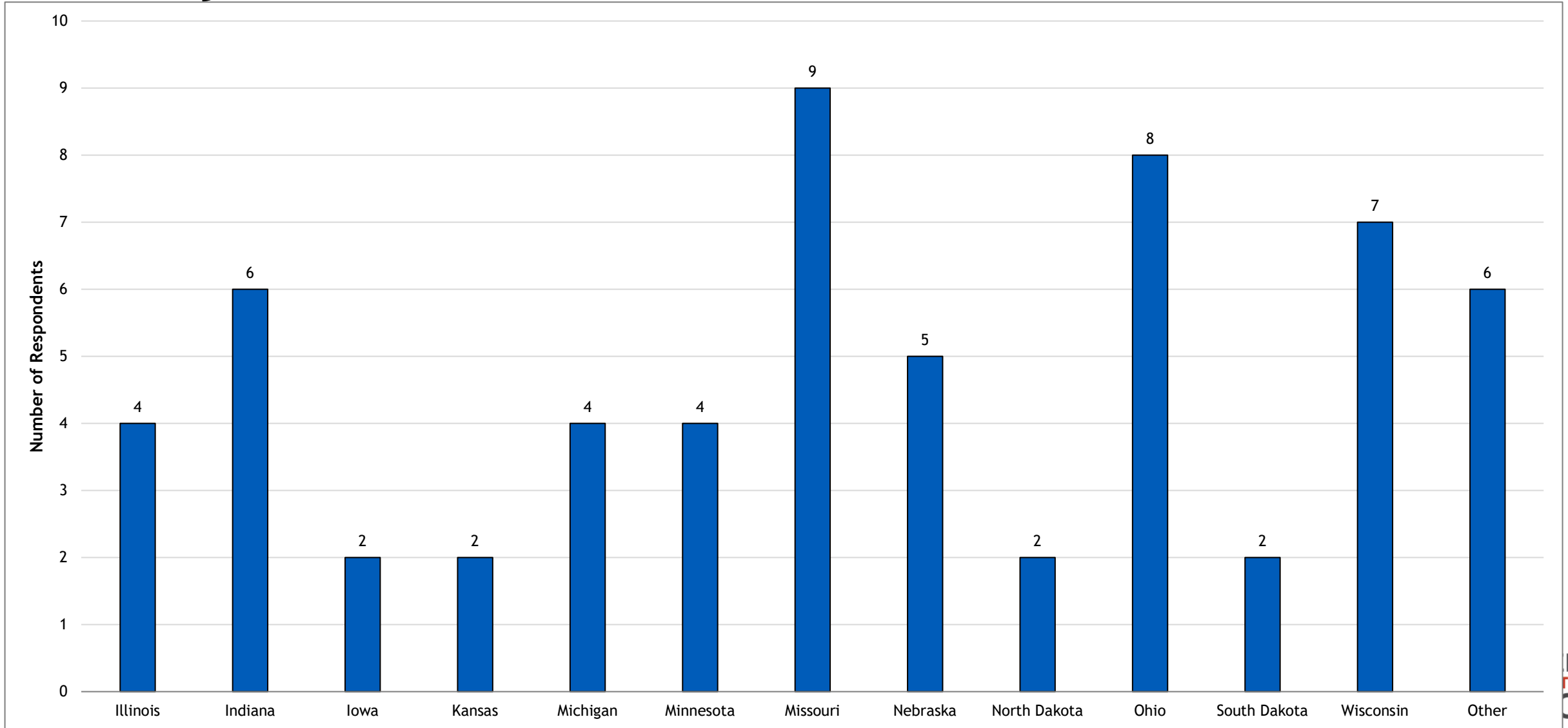


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Dashboard Survey Results

Respondents Represented Midwest and Beyond



Key Takeaways

- About 91% of respondents say the dashboard is at least moderately relevant to their work.
- Respondents use the dashboard for various reasons. Most often, this is to compare their state's performance with benchmarks, informing their perspective on educational issues, and comparing indicator performance across institutional sectors.
- The overwhelming majority (87%) of respondents believe the dashboard should be maintained and improved.

Potential New Indicators

- Context: migration of non-first-year undergraduate students
- Preparation: FAFSA completion rate, rate of institutions with ACT/SAT admissions requirements
- Participation: 12-month enrollment, distance enrollment, retired persons returning to school, career changers

Potential New Indicators

- Affordability: cost of attendance, average grant aid, and fall undergraduate enrollment
- Completion: total number of completions
- Benefits: wage differential for associate degree holders

Potential Next Steps

- Promotion. Continue raising stakeholder awareness of the dashboard, such the indicator spotlight in the MHEC newsletter and mentioning the dashboard at MHEC events.
- Providing additional years of data.
- Showing more equity gaps, including urban/rural gaps.
- Showing percent changes over 5- to 10-year periods.

Potential Next Steps

- Providing instructions for accessing each indicator on the Tableau Public website to make it easier to zoom in or out.
- Address issue with labels being partially obstructed, such as providing instructions on how to open a tooltip that fully displays a label or abbreviating labels.
- Moving the legend to the bottom of the dashboard to allow for a larger chart/graph/map/table viewing area.
- Ensuring the side menu does not obstruct any part of the dashboard area.

Thank you!