

BENCHMARKS

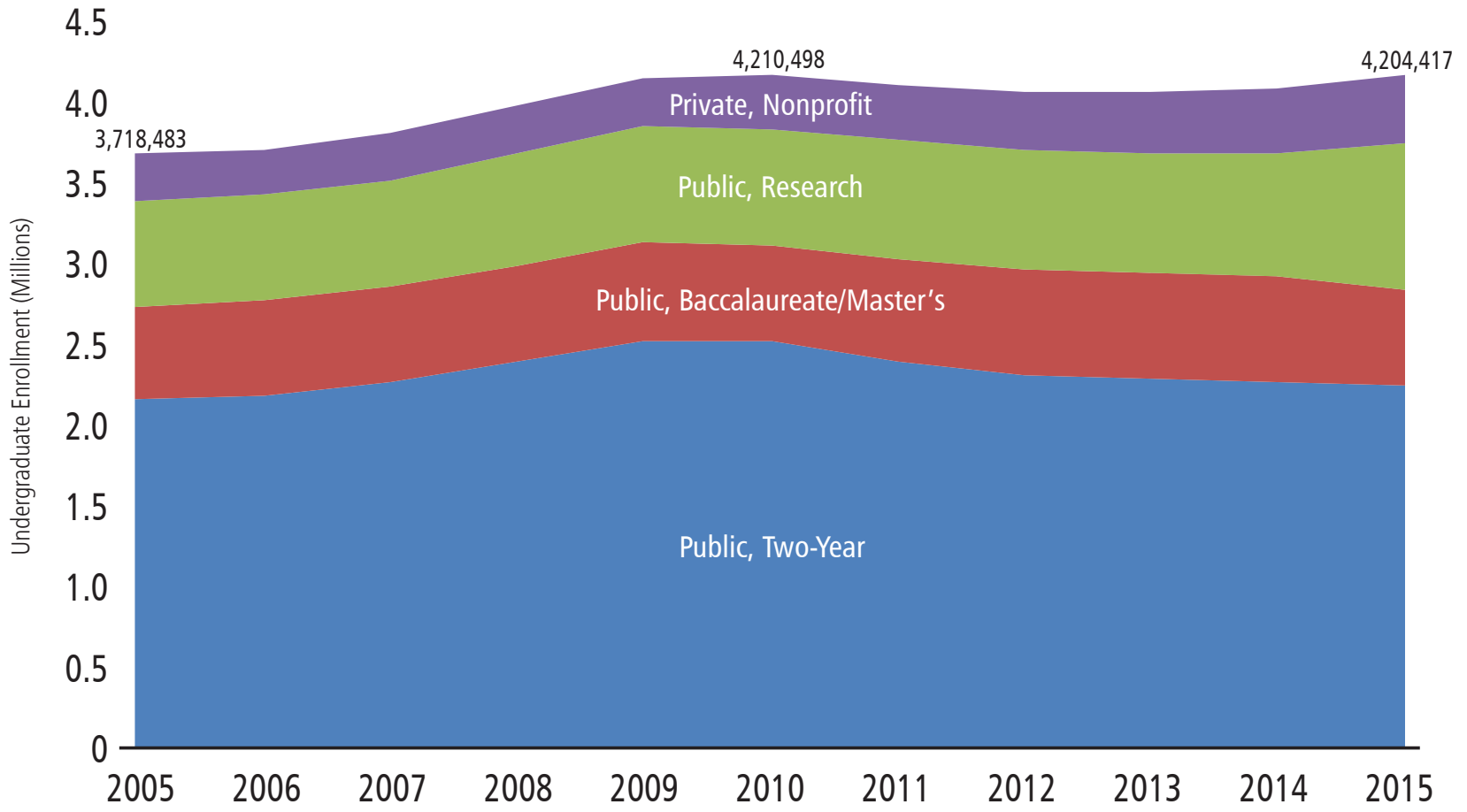
WICHE Region 2017

Benchmarks: WICHE Region 2017 presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education. The information is updated annually with the most recent data available, to monitor change over time and encourage its use as a tool for informed discussion in policy and education communities. Data included in these charts is for the WICHE region, unless otherwise stated. Visit wiche.edu/benchmarks to access these charts' data for all WICHE members.

Please use the following citation if you are reproducing these charts: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Benchmarks: WICHE Region 2017*.

Undergraduate Enrollment by Sector

Between Fall 2005 and Fall 2015, undergraduate enrollment at public and private, nonprofit institutions in the West increased 13 percent. Enrollment in the region has been relatively flat since the strong increases during the Great Recession, with public research and private, nonprofit enrollment increases offsetting strong declines at public two-years.

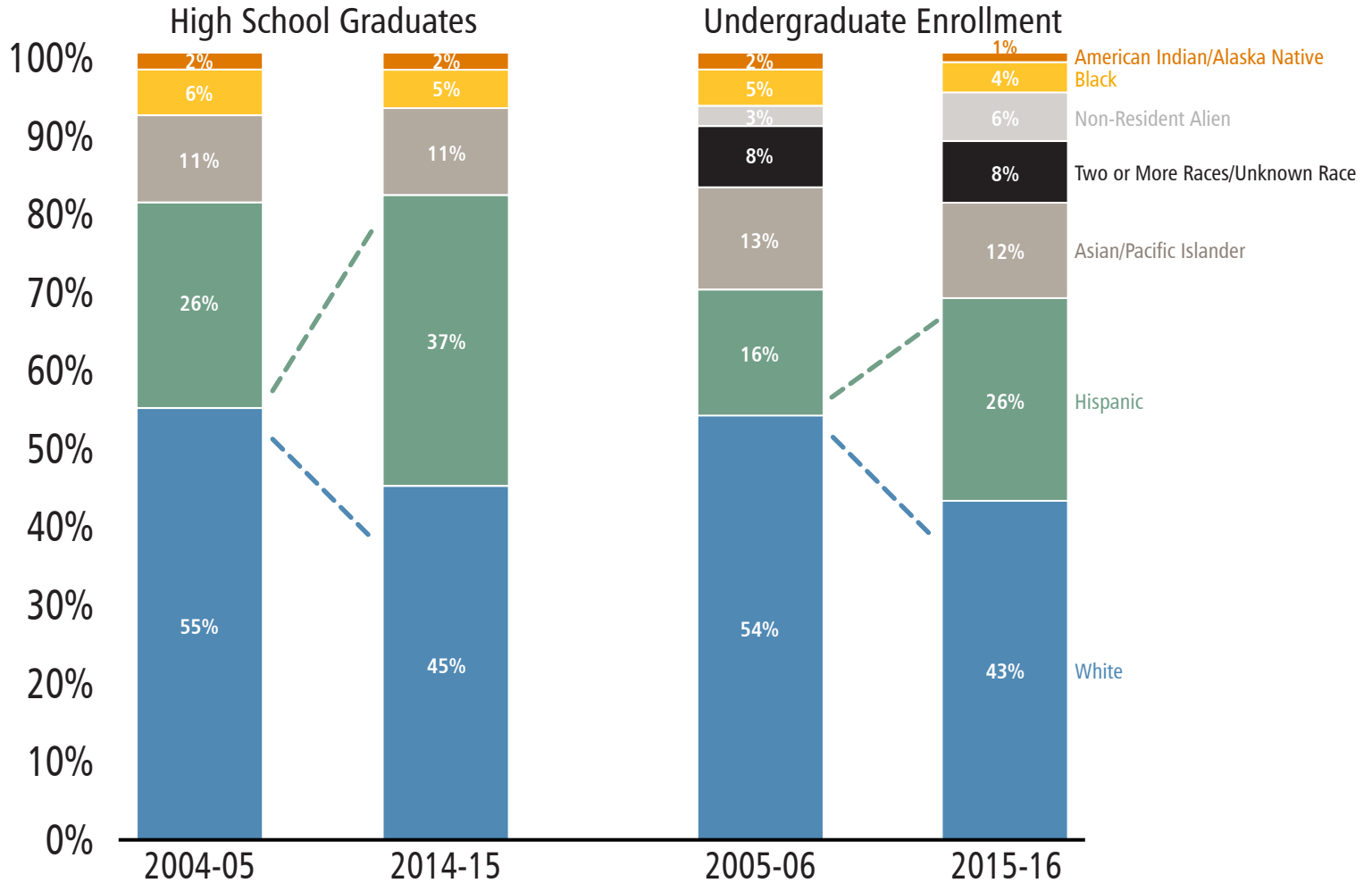


Note: Data are for two- and four-year degree-granting, Title IV-eligible, nonprofit institutions, excluding service academies. Sectors are classified according to the 2005, 2010, and 2015 Carnegie Classification of Higher Education Institutions. Private nonprofit includes two- and four-year institutions.

Source: [National Center for Education Statistics \(NCES\), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System \(IPEDS\). Fall Enrollment Survey, 2005-2015.](#)

Diversification of High School Graduates and College

The increase in student diversity among high school graduating classes in the West in the last decade (from 45 percent non-white in 2004-05 to 55 percent in 2014-15) is reflected to an extent in full-time undergraduate enrollments—although Hispanics remain the most under-represented among all full-time undergraduates.

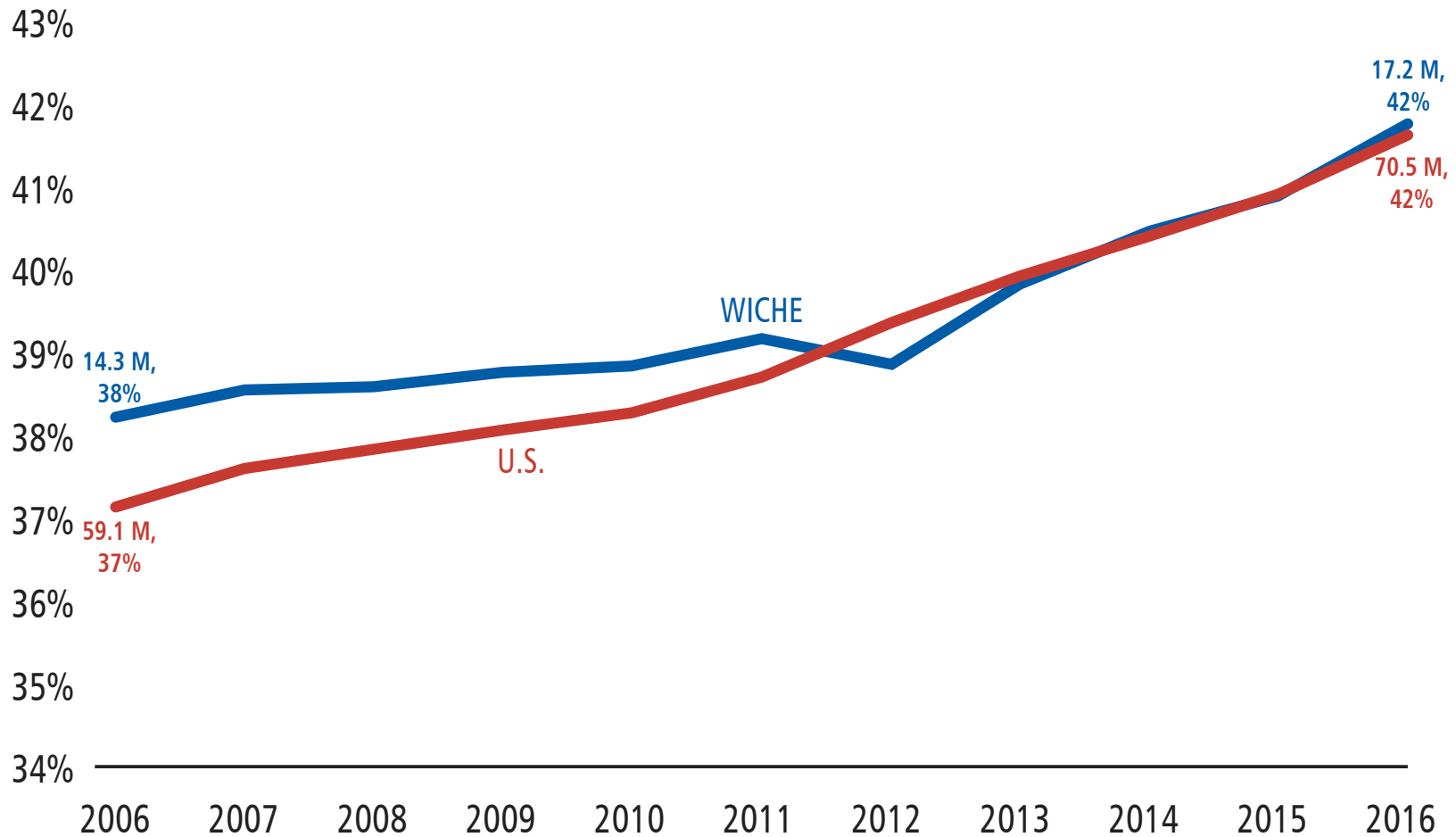


Note: 2014-15 high school graduates are projected. Undergraduate enrollment is any full-time undergraduates.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), *Fall Enrollment Survey, 2005 and 2015*, and WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, 2016*.

25- to 64-Year-Olds with an Associate's Degree or Above

Over the past decade, the percentage of adults in the WICHE region with an associate's degree or above increased from 38 to 42 percent, matching the national percentage, which increased from 37 to 42 percent over the last decade.

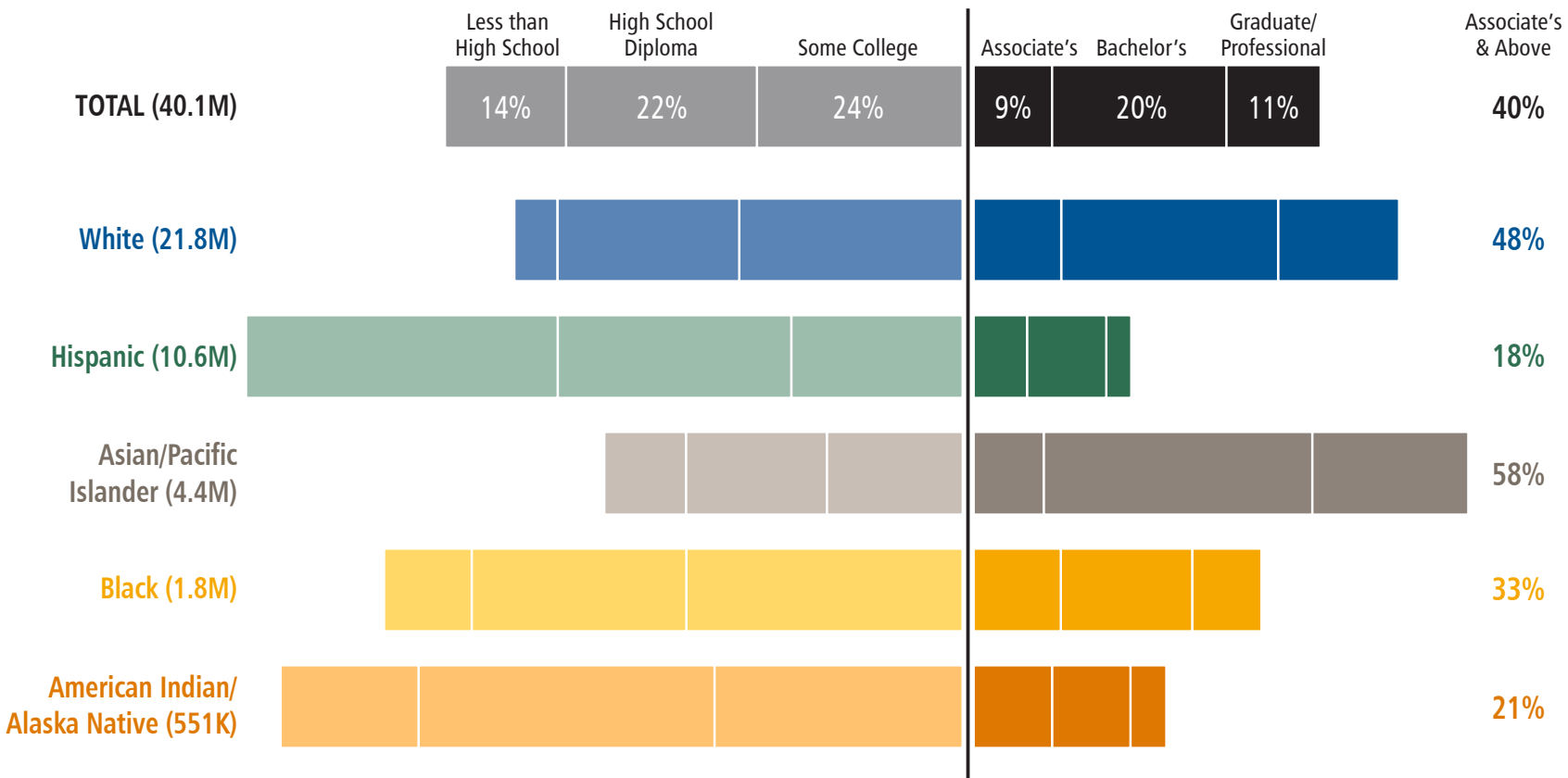


Note: Number of adults ages 25-64 who have obtained an associate's degree or higher credential, as a percentage of total adults ages 25-64. Data not available for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, so they are not included in these WICHE region measures.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder Table B15001, 2005-2016.](#)

Educational Attainment Levels of 25- to 64-Year-Olds

While 40 percent of 25- to 64-year-olds in the WICHE region had an associate's degree or above in 2015, there was disparity across populations. White adults are slightly above 50 percent of the adult population in the region and 48 percent have an associate's or above, compared to the second-largest population, Hispanic adults, only 18 percent of whom have an associate's degree or above.

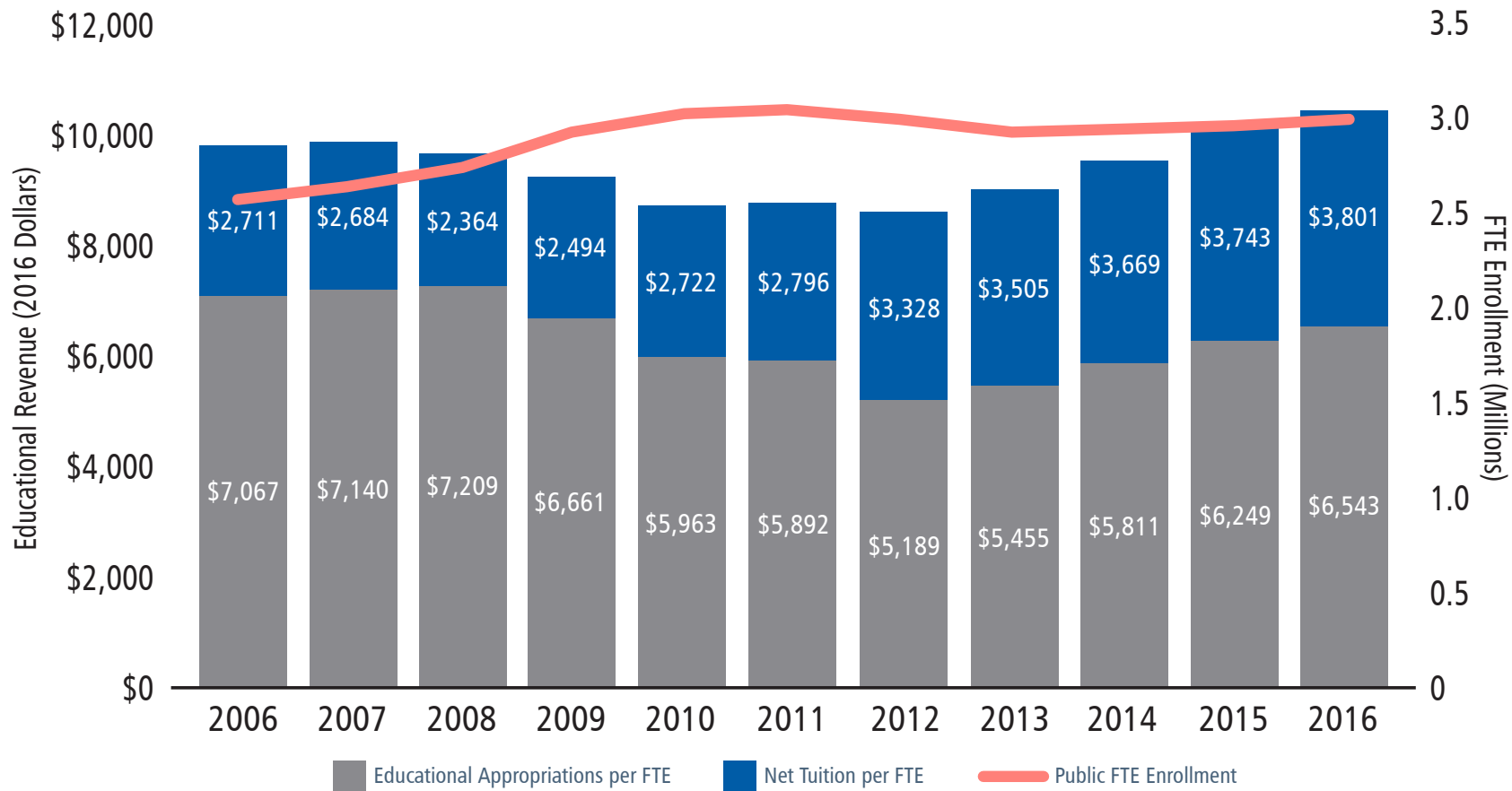


Note: Number of adults ages 25-64 with each level of education, as a percentage of total adults ages 25-64, by population. Data not available for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, so they are not included in these WICHE region measures.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey \(ACS\) Public Use Microdata \(PUMS\) Files.](#)

Postsecondary Educational Revenue and Enrollments

Educational revenue per full-time equivalent (FTE) student increased from \$9,778 to \$10,345, on average, for public institutions in the WICHE region during the past decade. However, the percent of total revenue from educational appropriations declined from 72 percent in FY 2006 to 63 percent in FY 2016.

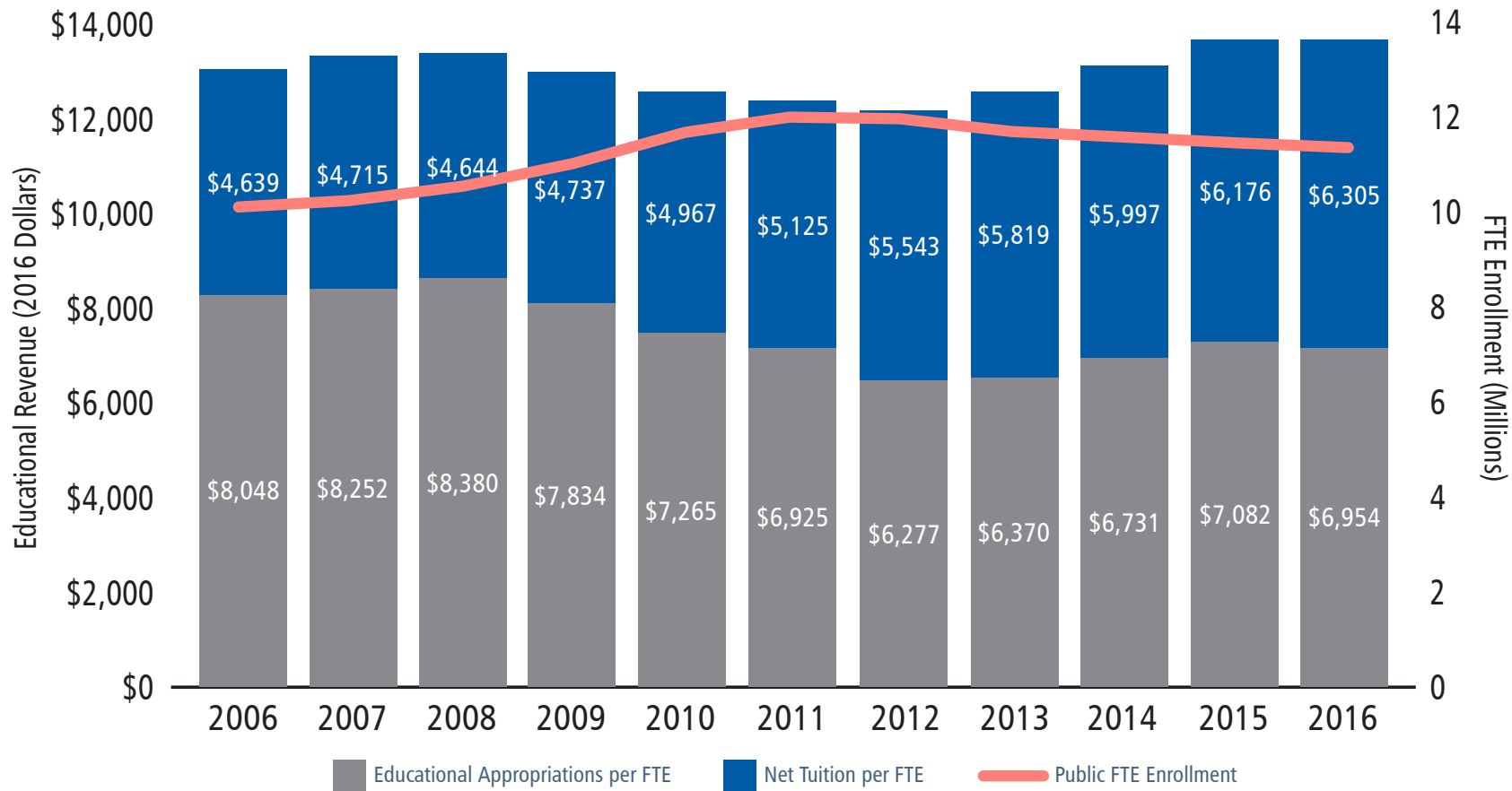


Note: Unweighted average of WICHE states, not including Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam (data not available). Figures are adjusted for inflation using the Higher Education Cost Adjustment, enrollment mix, and cost-of-living differences among states. Net tuition revenue is the gross amount of tuition and fees, less state and institutional aid, waivers and discounts, and medical student tuition and fees. Educational appropriations are state and local support available for public higher education operating expenses. Full-time equivalent enrollment is equal to one student enrolled full time for one academic year, excluding most non-credit/non-degree programs and medical students.

Source: [State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Higher Education Finance FY16.](#)

Postsecondary Educational Revenue and Enrollments in the U.S.

Per-FTE educational revenue was higher in dollar terms across the nation, on average, than in the WICHE region, while they have followed the same overall trend over the last decade. A greater portion of per-FTE educational revenue has come from tuition revenue, on average across the nation, than in the WICHE region (48 percent and 37 percent, respectively, in FY 2016).

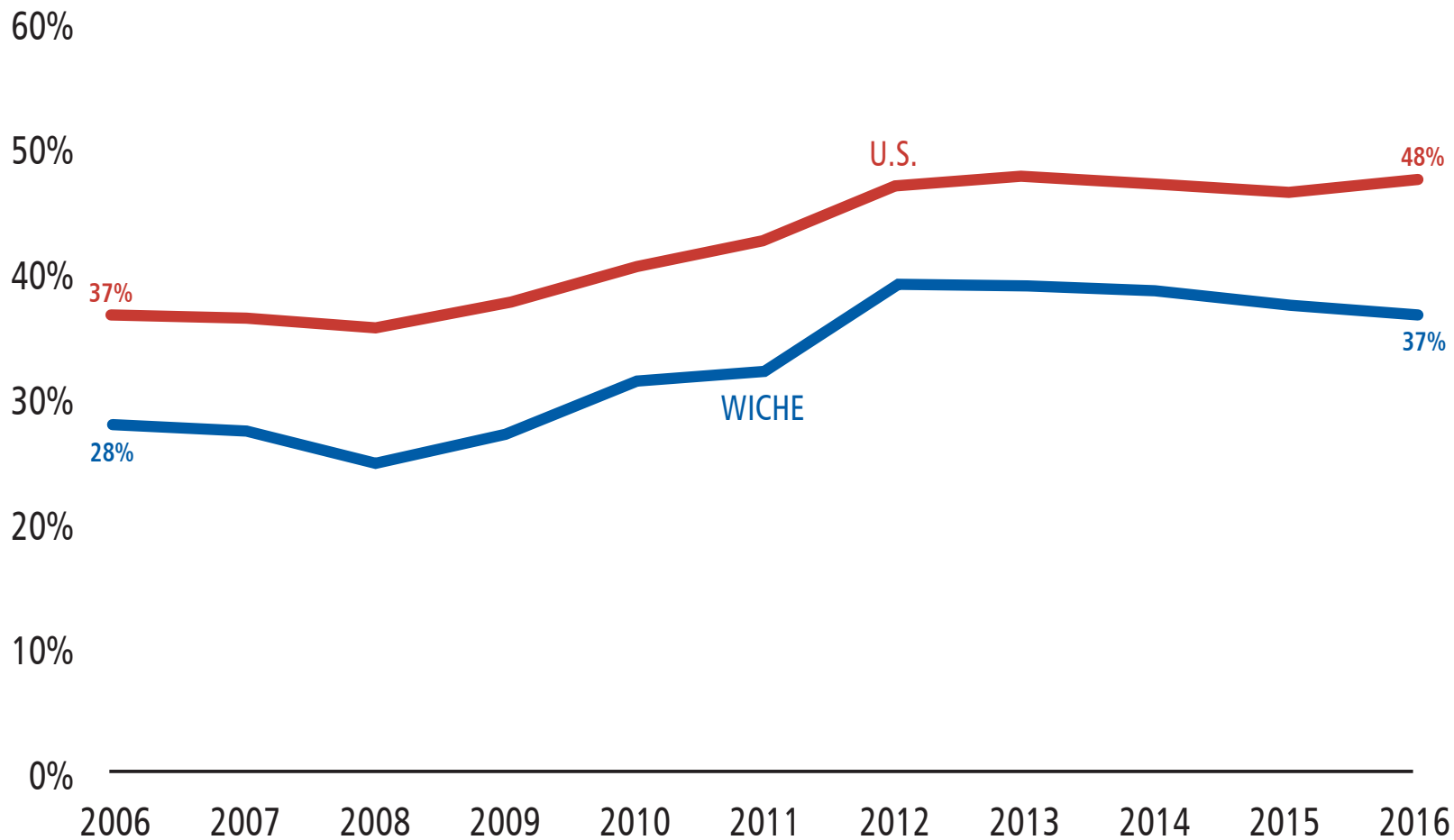


Note: Unweighted average of all U.S. states (not including Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or Guam). Figures are adjusted for inflation using the Higher Education Cost Adjustment, enrollment mix, and cost-of-living differences among states. Net tuition revenue is the gross amount of tuition and fees, less state and institutional aid, waivers and discounts, and medical student tuition and fees. Educational appropriations are state and local support available for public higher education operating expenses. Full-time equivalent enrollment is equal to one student enrolled full time for one academic year, excluding most non-credit/non-degree programs and medical students.

Source: [State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Higher Education Finance FY16.](#)

Tuition as a Percentage of Educational Revenue

On average, the “student share” of total educational revenue for the Western region increased over the last decade by almost 10 percentage points. The increases slowed in recent years, and in FY 2016 tuition revenue accounted for about 37 percent of total educational revenue in the WICHE region, and 48 percent on average, nationally.

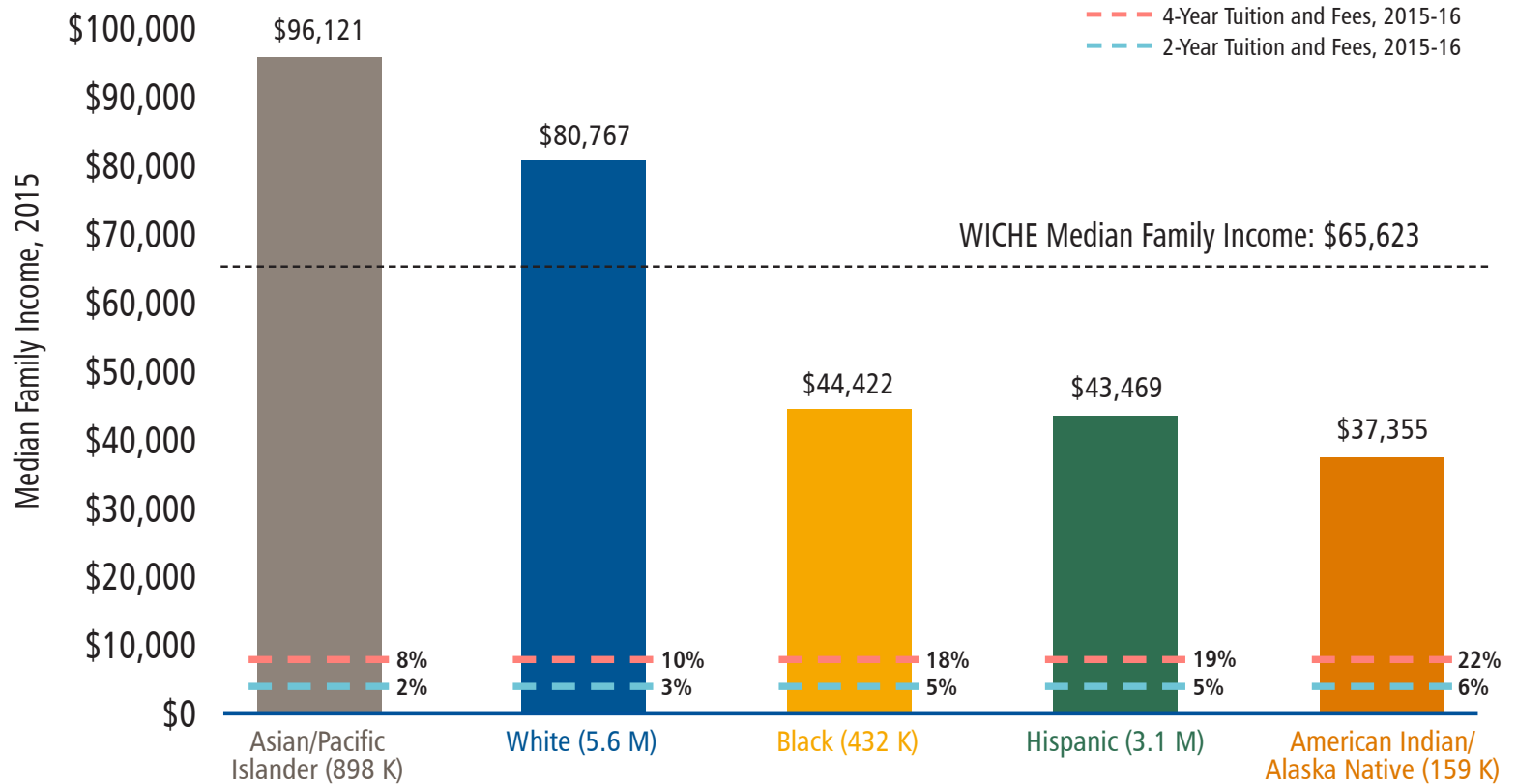


Note: Unweighted averages. Net tuition revenue is the gross amount of tuition and fees, less state and institutional aid, waivers and discounts, and medical student tuition and fees.

Source: [State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Higher Education Finance FY16.](#)

Tuition and Fees as a Percentage of Family Income

The average tuition and fees for resident undergraduates in the WICHE region was \$8,081 at four-year institutions and \$2,126 at two-year institutions in 2015-16. Tuition and fees represented very different shares of median family income in 2015, by race/ethnicity (not factoring in total or net cost of attendance). This has apparent implications for financial need and perceived “sticker shock” for certain families in particular.

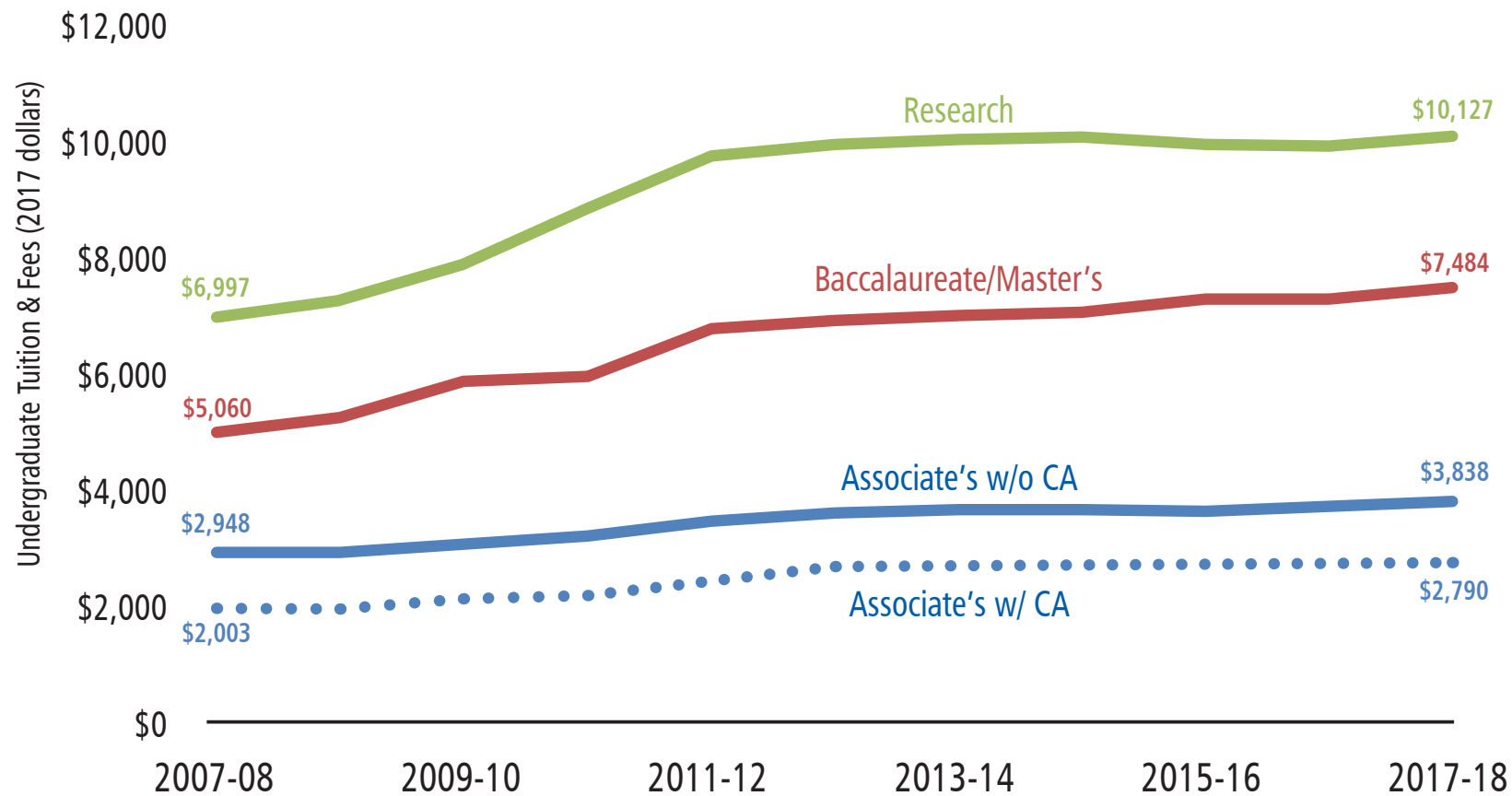


Note: WICHE region median family income, overall and by population, includes all sources of income for households with children aged 0-17. Tuition and fees is an unweighted average of resident/in-district tuition and fees at two- and four-year institutions in the WICHE region.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey \(ACS\) Public Use Microdata \(PUMS\)](#) and [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Tuition and Fees in the West*](#).

Tuition and Fees at Public Two- and Four-Year Institutions

Tuition and fees for resident undergraduates at public two- and four-year institutions increased across all sectors between 2007-08 and 2017-18. The largest increases were at baccalaureate and master's institutions (48 percent) and research institutions (45 percent). Tuition and fees for resident undergraduates at two-year institutions increased more than 30 percent, both with and without California, since 2007-08.

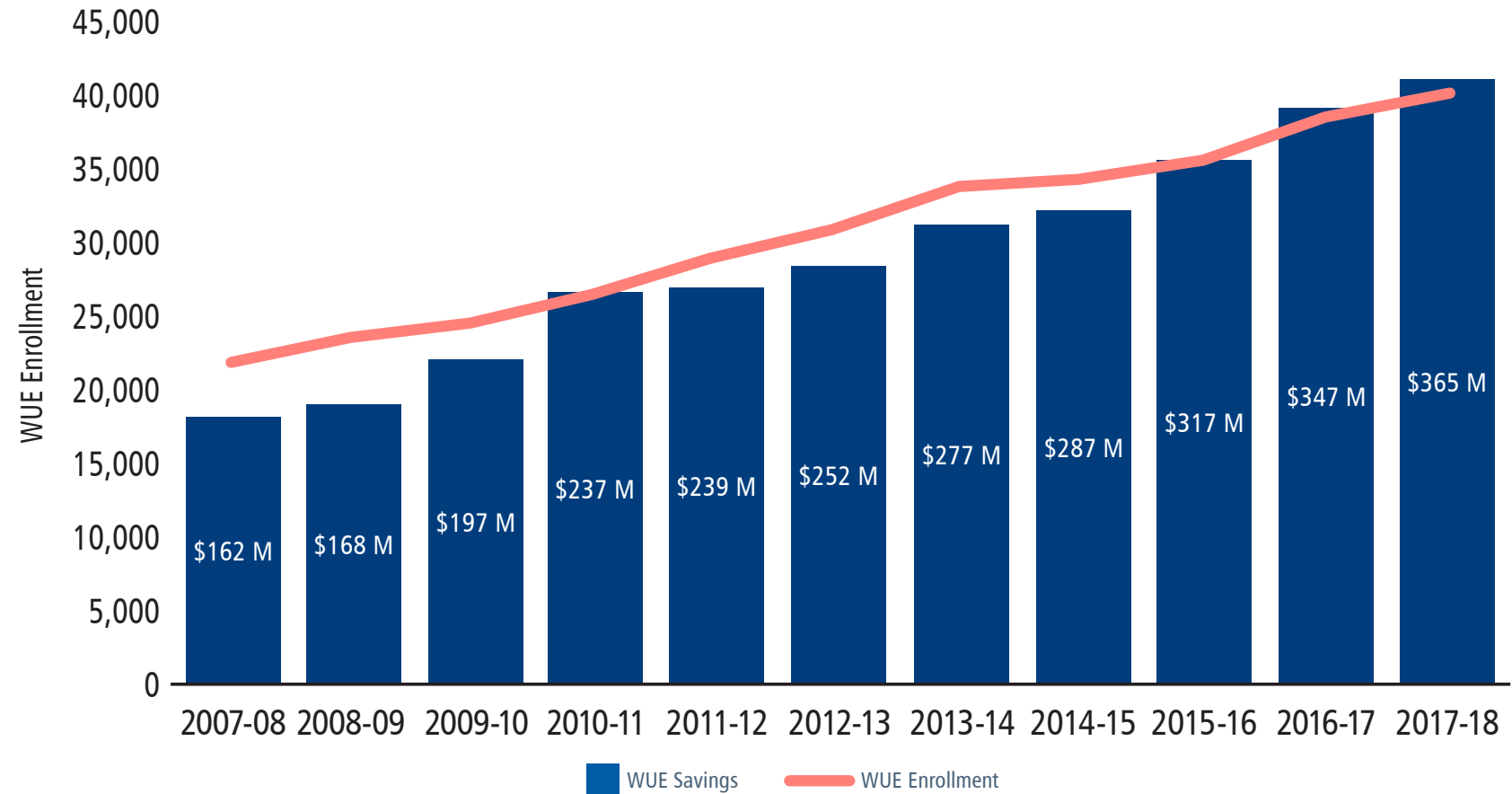


Note: Tuition and Fees charges are for resident undergraduates. Sectors are classified according to the 2005, 2010, and 2015 Carnegie Classification of Higher Education Institutions. Dollars adjusted to 2017 dollars using the Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA).

Source: [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education](#).

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Enrollment & Savings

Annual enrollment in WICHE's Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) has increased over 80 percent between 2007-08 and 2017-18. Correspondingly, annual savings to students and/or families more than doubled over the same time period.

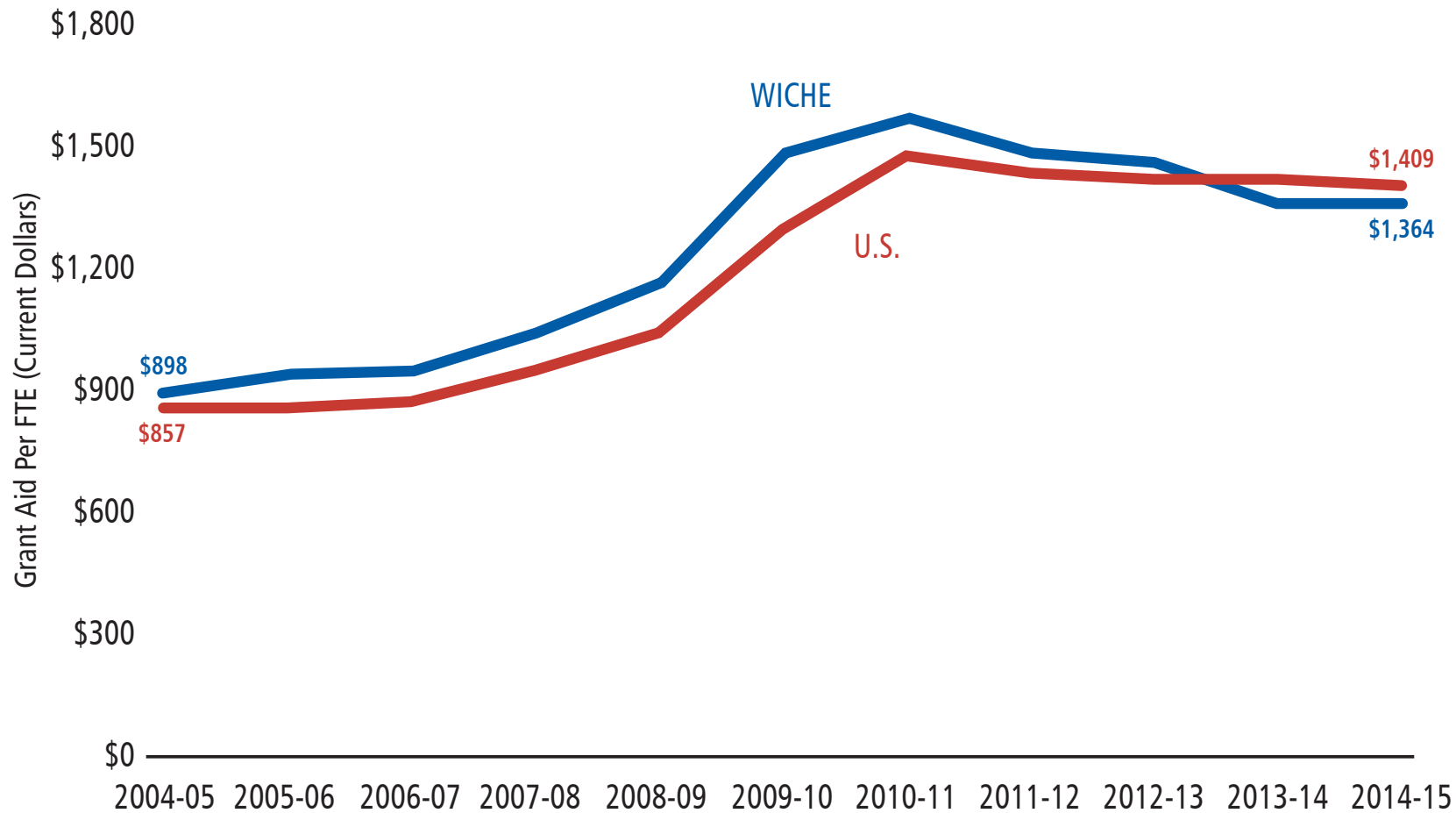


Note: Total WUE savings included the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands starting in 2013-14 and included Guam starting in 2016-17. Dollars adjusted to 2017 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.

Source: [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education](#).

Institutional Grant Aid Per FTE

Average total grant aid per full-time equivalent student (FTE) at public institutions increased more than 70 percent between 2004-05 and 2010-11 in the WICHE region, but it declined about 10 percent by 2014-15 from the high, reversing the trend so that the average WICHE grant aid per student went below the national average.

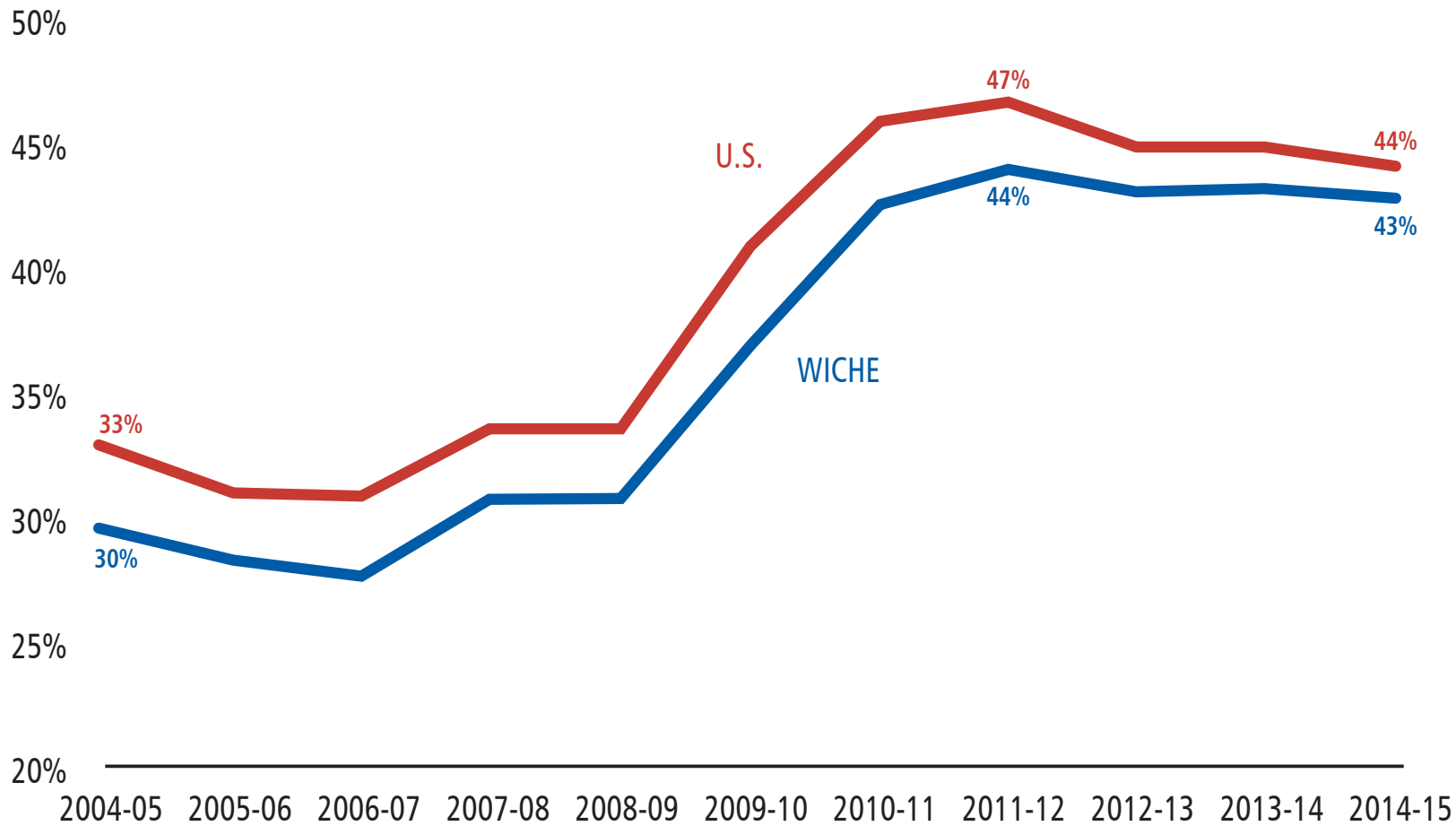


Note: Data are for grant aid expenditures, not including discounts and allowances, from all sources at public institutions.

Source: [National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System IPEDS, Finance and Enrollment Surveys, 2005-2015.](#)

Students Receiving Federal Grant Aid

The share of full-time, first-time students in the West receiving federal grant aid climbed dramatically during the recession years and stabilized after 2011-12. The WICHE rate has typically been lower than the national average, but the difference narrowed in the last five years.

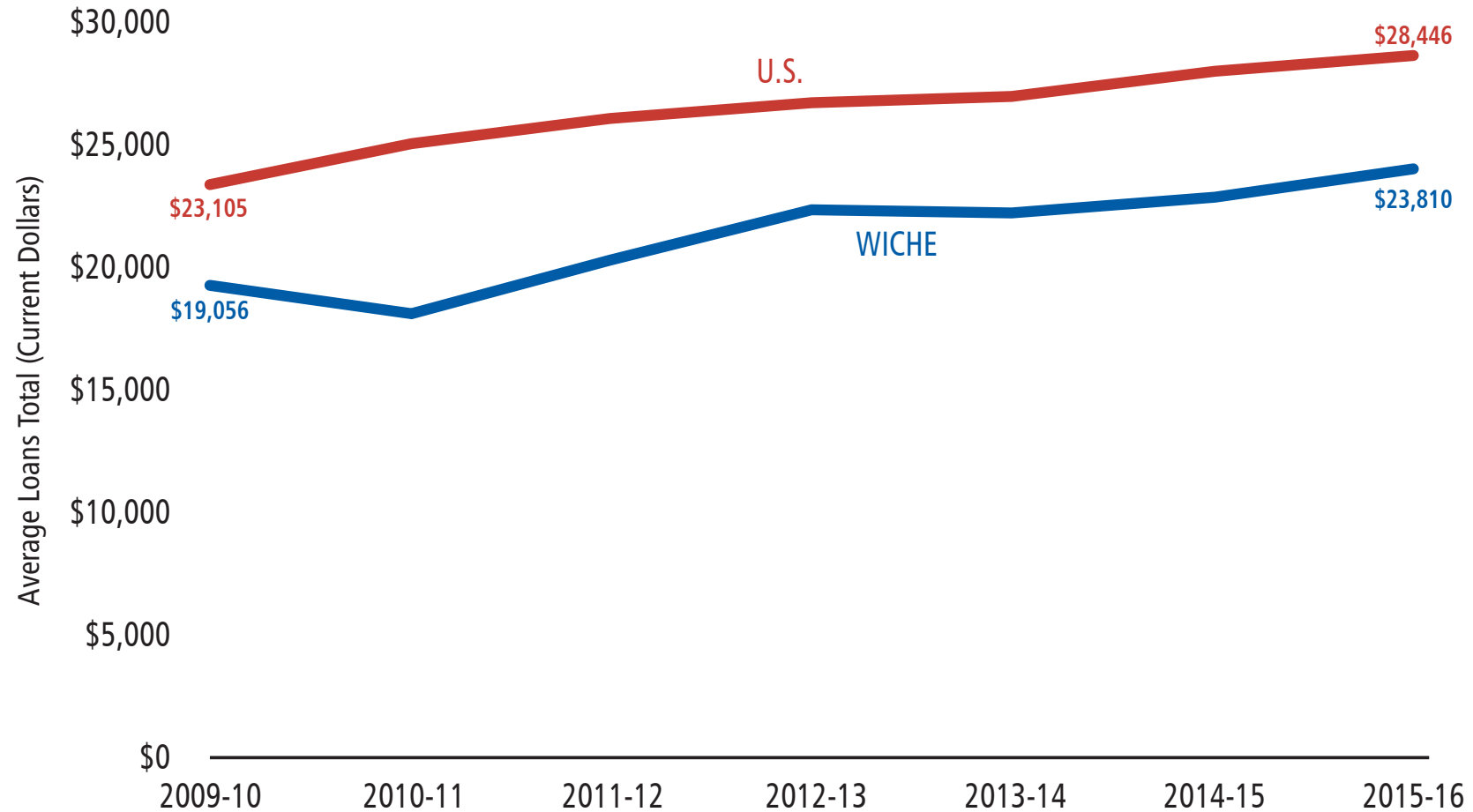


Note: Data are for public institutions, excluding U.S. service academies. Federal grant aid includes grants awarded principally through the Pell Grant and SEOG programs, but also includes educational assistance grants awarded through the Veteran's Administration, Department of Labor, and other federal agencies.

Source: [National Center for Education Statistics \(NCES\), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System \(IPEDS\), Student Financial Aid Survey, 2005-2015.](#)

Average Loan Amount of Bachelor's Degree Recipients

The average loan amount for bachelor recipients from public and private nonprofit institutions with loans in the WICHE region increased 25 percent between 2009-10 and 2015-16, about the same rate as the nation over these six years.



Note: Simple unweighted average loan amount of those bachelor recipients from WICHE public and private nonprofit institutions who borrowed and graduated with loans between academic years 2009-10 and 2015-16. These data are not available for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Average debt is in current dollars.

Source: [The Institute for College Access and Success](#), [The Project on Student Debt](#).