A New Approach:

Applying an Asset-Based Lens to Local, State, and National Data

A case study using the Annie E. Casey Foundation's *KIDS COUNT Data Book* comparing the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the United States

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Prepared by Data You Can Use

DATA YOU CAN USE

FROM PEOPLE YOU CAN TRUST

Purpose

The purpose of this data digest is to use an asset-based lens to describe trends in economic health as it relates to child well-being prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States. Highlighting pre-pandemic data illustrates the opportunities and challenges that were impacted by the pandemic. The strategy applied in this data digest was to use three indicators from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's _KIDS COUNT Data Book_ and provide an alternative, positive framing to that data. By flipping the indicators and using an asset-based lens, a different and infrequently told story can be shared about our communities.

Table 1. Description of indicators

Indicators in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's *KIDS COUNT Data Book*	Indicators in the Data You Can Use Data Digest
Children in poverty	Children in families with incomes above the poverty level
Children whose parents lack secure employment	Children living in families where at least one parent has secure employment
Children living in households with a high housing cost burden	Children living in households where less than 30 percent of monthly income is spent on housing expenses

About the Data

The data used in this report comes from the 31st edition of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which was released on June 22, 2020 using the latest available data from 2018. The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is an annual ranking of states on 16 key indicators of child well-being, and highlights important trends, such as the growing issue of income inequality or the improving health and educational achievement of U.S. students. The indicators fall into four categories and they are: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. For the purpose of this data digest, the decision to include three of the four indicators under economic well-being was made because of availability of census data to create the city of Milwaukee as a comparison group.

How to read the slides

Each of the subsequent slides contains some or all of the following:

- A title depicting the focus of the slide's content
- A line graph with data points from 2010 to 2018
- A clustered bar chart with data points disaggregated by race and ethnicity, when available, from 2010 to 2018
- A description of the data with key findings highlighted
- The source of the data
- Additional context about the selected indicator located in the speaker notes section

Family Income Level

From 2010 - 2018, the percent of children in families with incomes above the poverty level **increased** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States. Among the three geographies, **Milwaukee experienced the greatest, positive percentage change** from 54% in 2010 to 64% in 2018.

FAMILY INCOME
PERCENT OF CHILDREN LIVING ABOVE THE POVERTY LEVEL, TOTAL
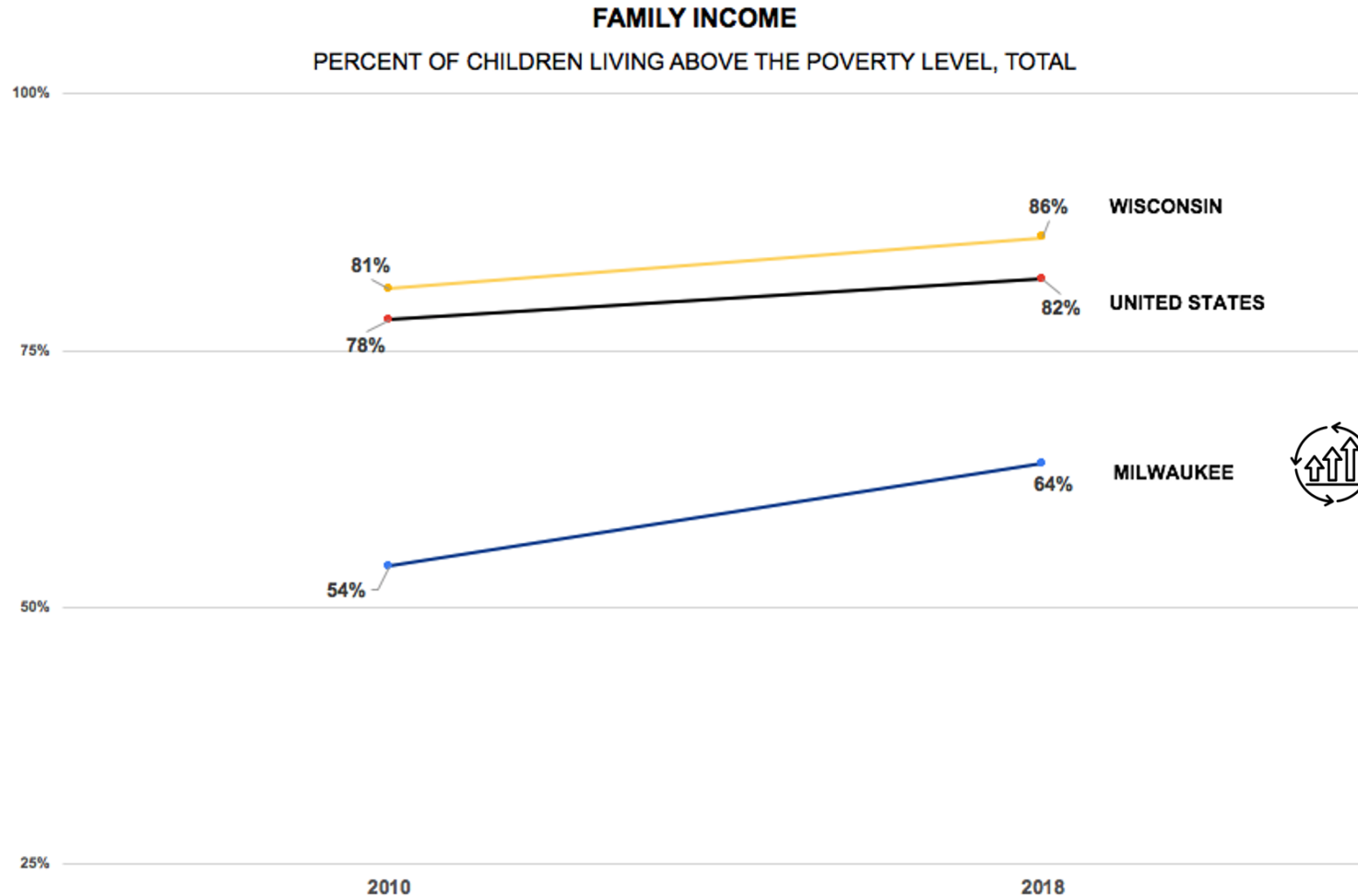
Family Income Level by Race and Ethnicity

From 2010 - 2018, the percent of children in families with incomes above the poverty level **by race increased in all racial and ethnic groups except Non-Hispanic Whites in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States.**
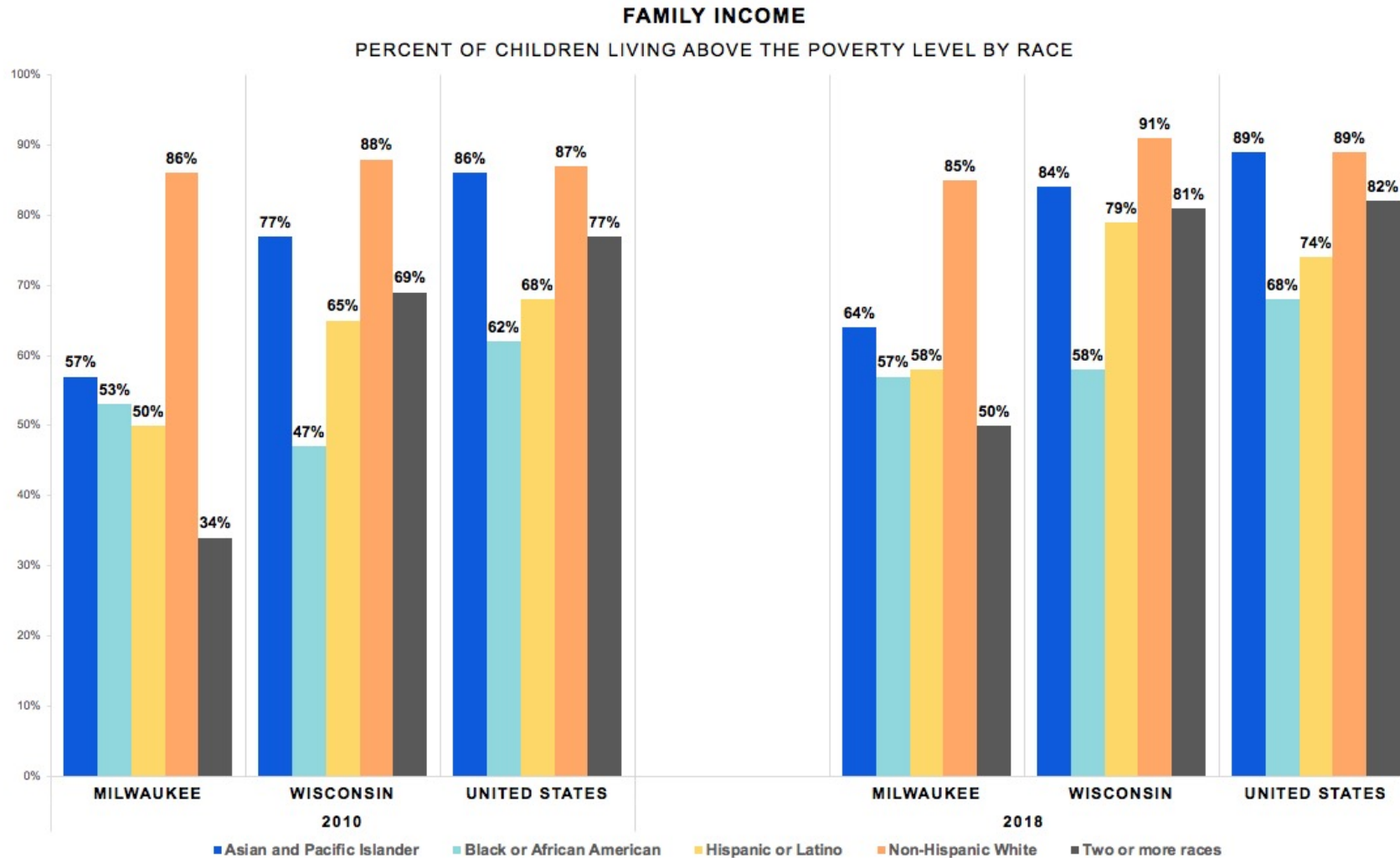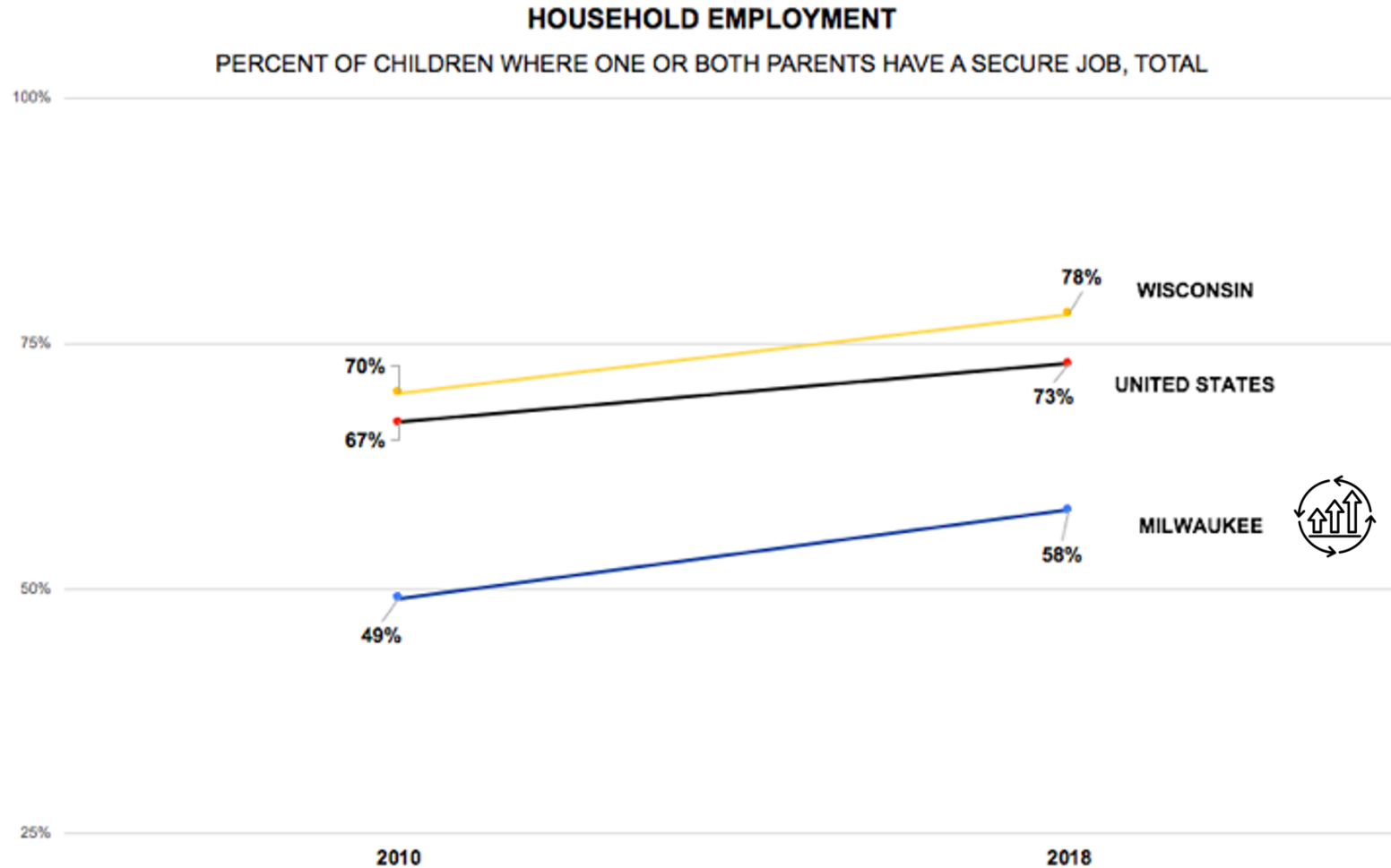
Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2018 American Community Survey.

FAMILY INCOME
PERCENT OF CHILDREN LIVING ABOVE THE POVERTY LEVEL BY RACE

2010
- MILWAUKEE: 57%, 53%, 50%, 86%, 34%
- WISCONSIN: 77%, 47%, 65%, 88%, 69%
- UNITED STATES: 86%, 62%, 68%, 87%, 77%

2018
- MILWAUKEE: 64%, 57%, 58%, 85%, 50%
- WISCONSIN: 84%, 58%, 79%, 91%, 81%
- UNITED STATES: 89%, 68%, 74%, 89%, 82%

Legend: Asian and Pacific Islander, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Non-Hispanic White, Two or more races

Household Employment

From 2010 - 2018, the percent of children living in families where at least one parent has secure employment **increased** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States. Among the three geographies, **Milwaukee experienced the greatest, positive percentage change** from 49% in 2010 to 58% in 2018.
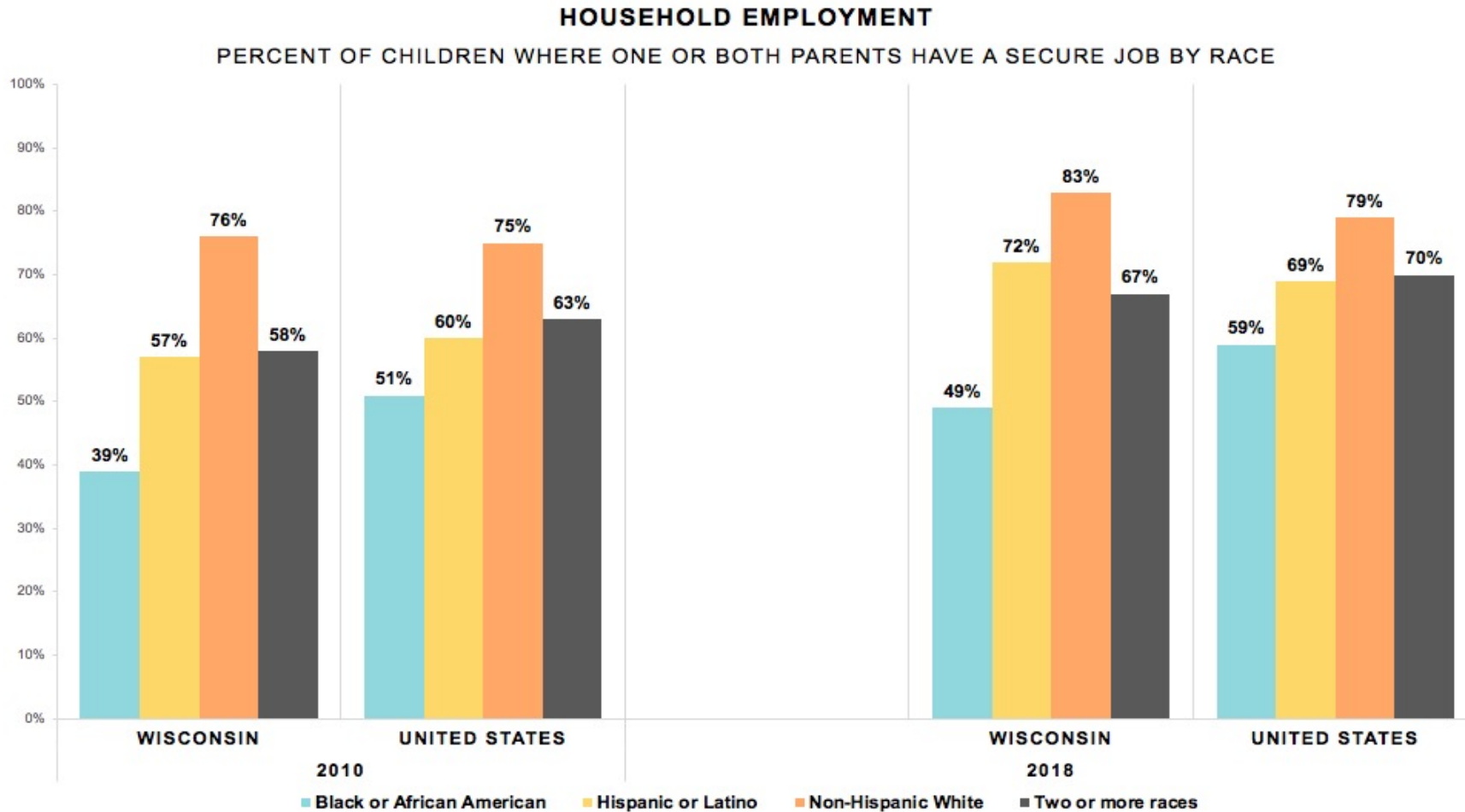
HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYMENT

PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHERE ONE OR BOTH PARENTS HAVE A SECURE JOB, TOTAL

Housing Cost

From 2010 - 2018, the percent of children in households where less than 30 percent of monthly income is spent on housing expenses **increased** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States. Among the three geographies, **Milwaukee experienced the greatest, positive percentage change** from 44% in 2010 to 57% in 2018.

HOUSING COST

PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WHO PAY LESS THAN 30% OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING, TOTAL

100%	
75%	77% WISCONSIN
	69% UNITED STATES
	64%
	59%
	57% MILWAUKEE
50%	
	44%
25%	
	2010
	2018
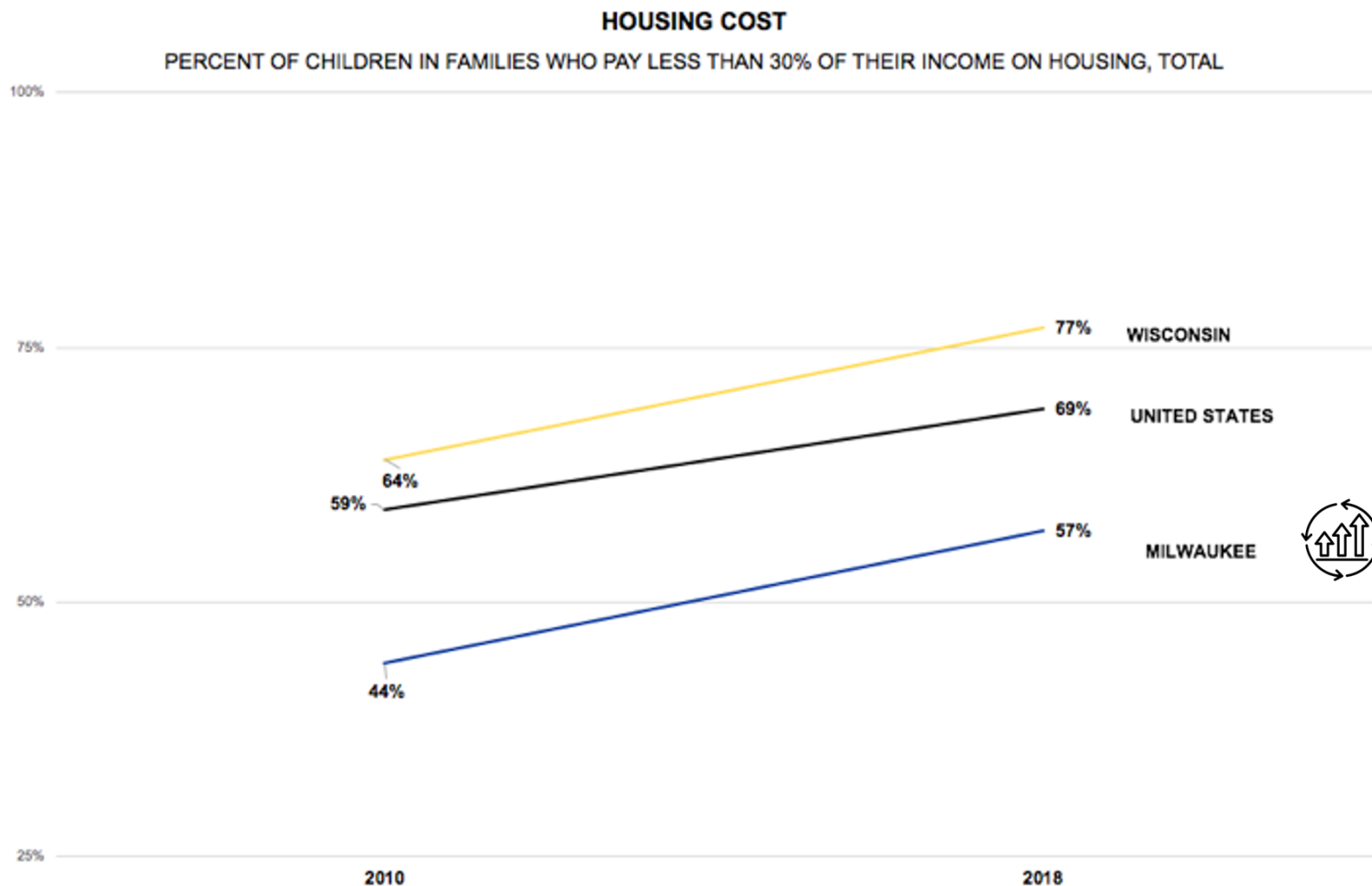
Housing Cost by Race and Ethnicity

From 2010 - 2018, the percent of children in households where less than 30 percent of monthly income is spent on housing expenses **increased among all racial and ethnic groups in Wisconsin and the United States.**
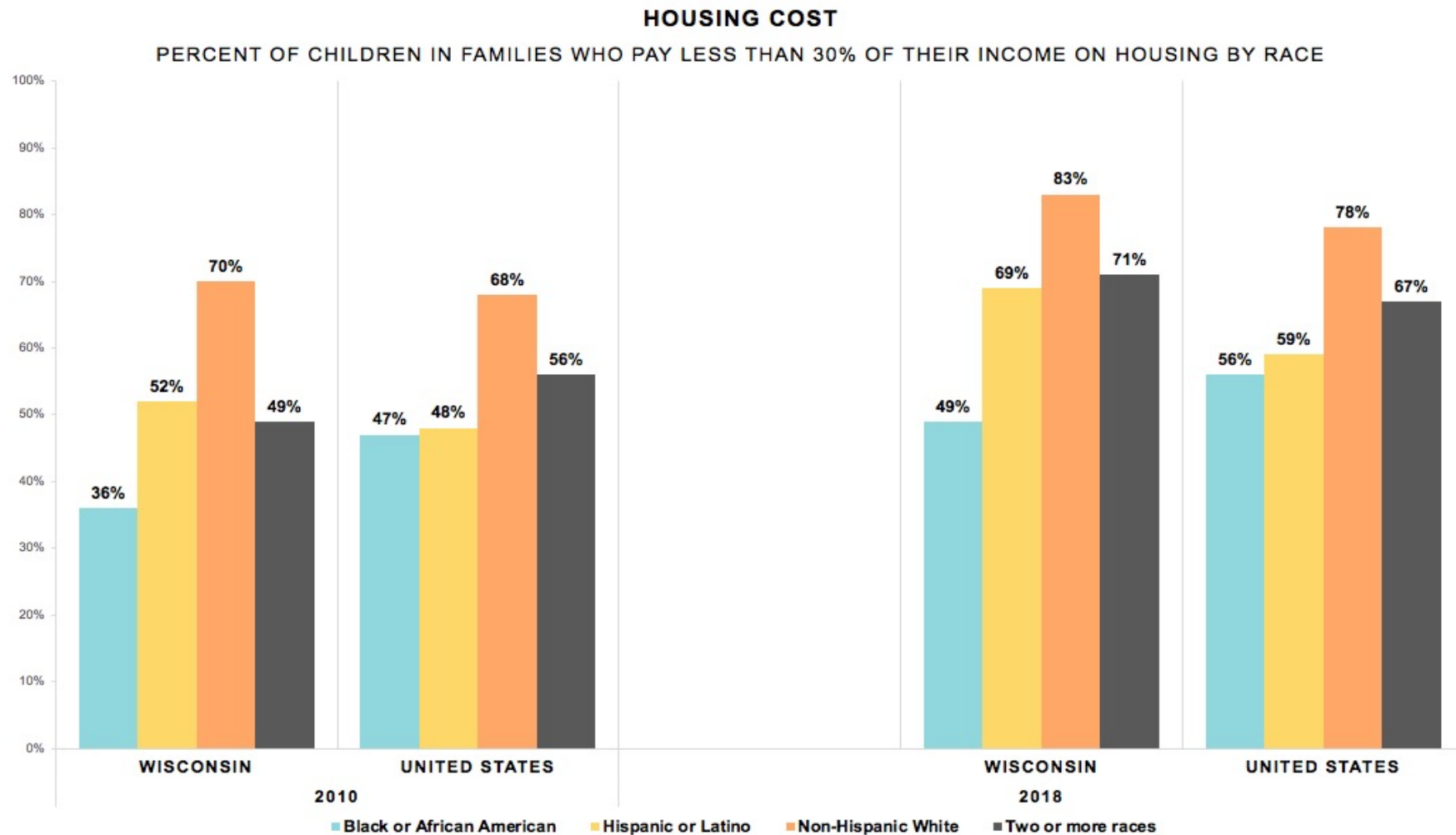
Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2018 American Community Survey.

HOUSING COST

PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WHO PAY LESS THAN 30% OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING BY RACE

2010
- WISCONSIN: Black or African American 36%, Hispanic or Latino 52%, Non-Hispanic White 70%, Two or more races 49%
- UNITED STATES: Black or African American 47%, Hispanic or Latino 48%, Non-Hispanic White 68%, Two or more races 56%

2018
- WISCONSIN: Black or African American 49%, Hispanic or Latino 69%, Non-Hispanic White 83%, Two or more races 71%
- UNITED STATES: Black or African American 56%, Hispanic or Latino 59%, Non-Hispanic White 78%, Two or more races 67%

Legend: Black or African American | Hispanic or Latino | Non-Hispanic White | Two or more races

How to Use this Data Digest

- Provide partners in neighborhoods, particularly those rich in young people, with local, pre-COVID-19 data to describe trends from 2010 to 2018 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States
- Encourage partners to consider context as they continue their work and respond to and recover from the pandemic
- Support data-driven decision-making in priority setting and resource allocation among partners
- Consider using an asset-based lens in framing the narrative of an issue area

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