

Wisconsin Population Demographic Affect on Health Care Access

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Over the next 20 years changes in Wisconsin population demographics will significantly affect health care access. Wisconsin's population growth rate is below the national average. The percentage of Wisconsin's population over the age of 65 is higher than the national average. Over the 2010 – 2030 period U. S. Bureau of Census projects the U. S. population to grow at an annual rate of 0.932% as compared to Wisconsin's projected annual growth of 0.55%. By the year 2030, the U. S. Bureau of Census projects that 19.3 % of the U. S. population will be over the age of 65. The projection for Wisconsin is 20.8%. Table I shows Wisconsin's projection by age group. The fastest growing population segment of Wisconsin is the 65 and older group.

Available data indicates that the demand for health care services increases with age. Figure I shows the average number of visits per year to doctors offices by age group. The 15 – 24 age group have the lowest visits per year while the group over 75 have the highest.

Using data from Figure I, projections of the annual number of visits to offices of Wisconsin's doctors can be made. This is shown in Table II. The age group over 65 has the highest growth rate in visits to doctors.

Figure II shows that in the year 2010, the age group 65 and older accounted for 13.3% of Wisconsin's population and 27.4% of visits to offices of doctors. By the year 2030, this age group will account for 20.8% of the population and 39.5% of visits to doctors.

The high growth rate for health care services for the 65 and older age group raises the question are we training enough health care specialist to meet the future demand? Wisconsin has two medical schools, U. W. Madison and Medical College of Wisconsin. Since the 1993 – 94 academic year the fall enrollment of these two institutions has grown at an average annual rate of 1.1%. Enrollment of Medical College of Wisconsin has been flat, while enrollment at U. W. Madison has increased at an annual rate of 2.5%. The fall enrollment of these two schools is shown in Figure III.

Enrollment of nursing students at U. W. Milwaukee and U. W. Madison has grown at an average rate of 0.74% since the 1993 – 94 academic year. While Madison has a smaller enrollment than Milwaukee, it has grown at a faster rate. The fall enrollment of these two schools is shown in Figure IV.

Enrollment data for Wisconsin pharmacy students is only available for U. W. Madison. Since the 1993 – 94 academic year, enrollment has grown at an annual rate of 1.7%. Figure V shows the growth in pharmacy students.

It can be concluded that the increase in the number of health care specialists is not sufficient to meet the growing demand for health care by the 65 and older age group. To meet this demand Wisconsin must expand its health care teaching facilities.

TABLE I

WISCONSIN POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

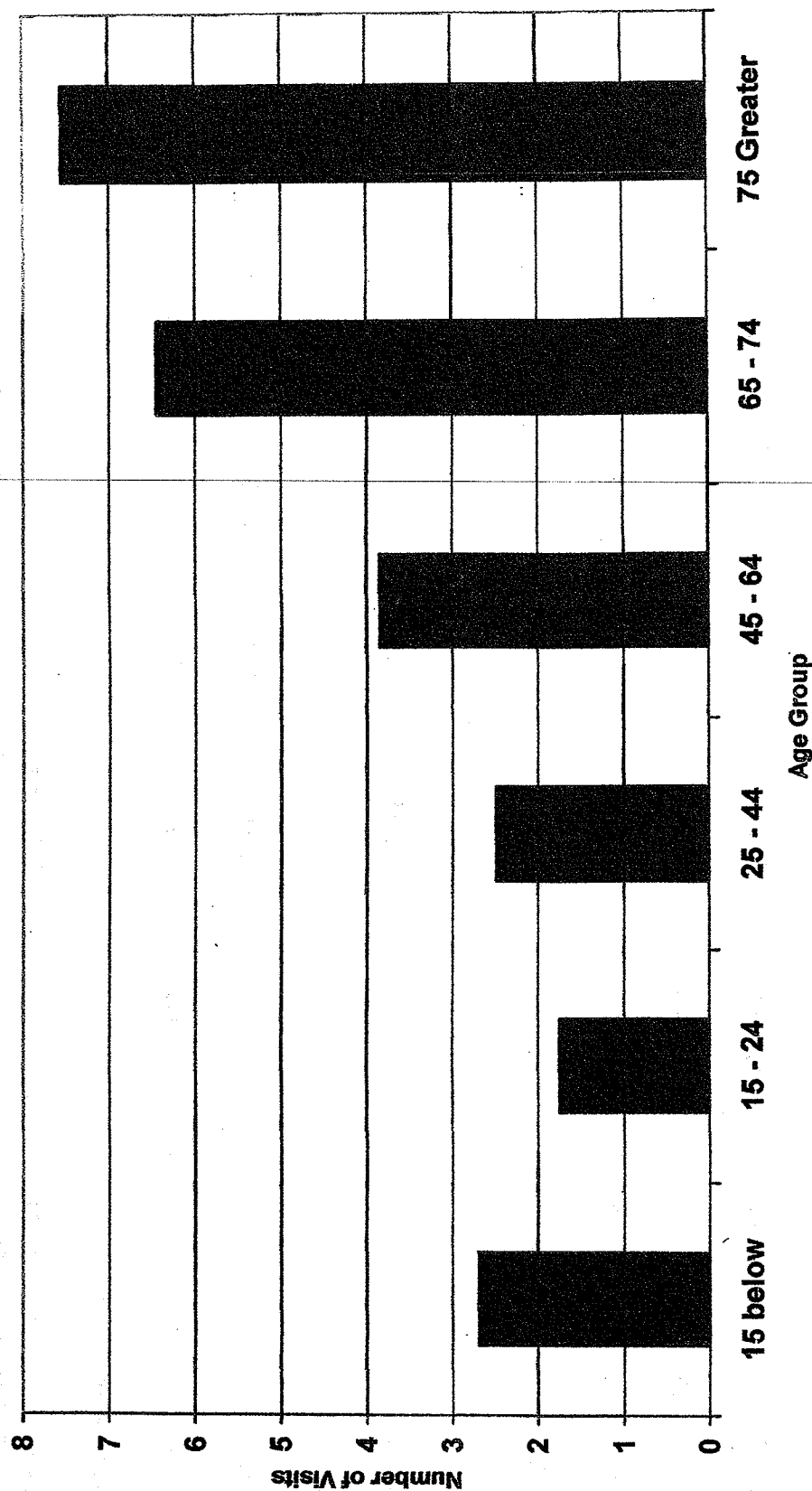
YEAR	←15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75→	TOTAL
2000	1,124,898	764,487	1,581,724	1,190,053	355,307	347,246	5,363,715
2005	1,105,086	819,107	1,517,367	1,403,074	353,062	366,200	5,563,896
2010	1,095,282	820,463	1,493,941	1,575,158	395,635	370,991	5,751,470
2015	1,127,613	781,983	1,531,843	1,616,385	493,304	380,258	5,931,386
2020	1,164,321	758,570	1,596,293	1,569,335	605,986	416,373	6,110,878
2025	1,191,138	776,959	1,611,633	1,503,711	692,368	499,058	6,274,867
2030	1,200,735	804,626	1,587,772	1,486,406	729,589	606,795	6,415,923
CAGR*							
2000/2030	0.22%	0.17%	0.01%	0.74%	2.43%	1.88%	0.60%
2010/2030	0.46%	-0.10%	0.31%	-0.35%	3.11%	2.49%	0.55%

* Compound annual growth rate

Source: Wisconsin Population 2030, Wisconsin Department of Administration

FIGURE 1

Average Number of Visits Per Year to Doctors Offices by Age Group



Source: Wisconsin Population 2030, Wisconsin Department of Administration
Who Will Care For Our Patients?, A report by the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce

TABLE II

YEAR	Average Number of Visits to Doctors Offices Per Year by Age Group						TOTAL
	←-15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75→	
2000	3,037,225	1,337,852	3,954,310	4,581,704	2,291,730	2,621,707	17,824,528
2005	2,983,732	1,433,437	3,793,418	5,401,835	2,277,250	2,764,810	17,654,472
2010	2,957,261	1,435,810	3,734,853	6,064,358	2,551,846	2,800,982	19,545,110
2015	3,044,555	1,368,470	3,829,608	6,223,082	3,181,811	2,870,948	20,568,474
2020	3,143,667	1,327,498	3,990,733	6,041,940	3,908,610	3,143,616	21,556,064
2025	3,216,073	1,359,678	4,029,083	5,789,287	4,465,774	3,767,888	22,627,783
2030	3,241,985	1,408,096	3,969,430	5,722,663	4,705,849	4,581,302	23,629,325

CAGR*

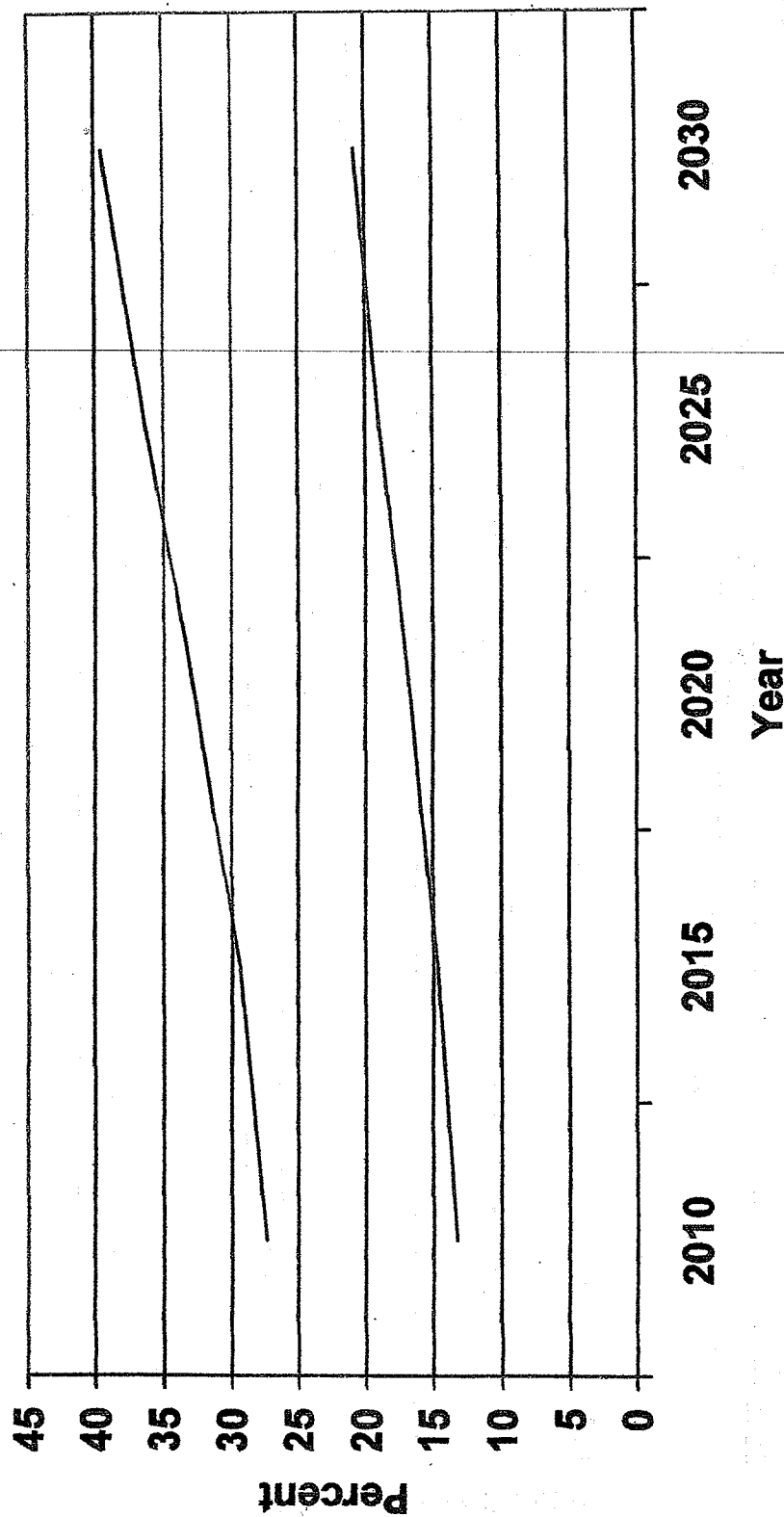
2000/2030	0.22%	0.17%	0.01%	0.74%	2.43%	1.88%	0.94%
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* Compound annual growth rate

Source: Wisconsin Population 2030, Wisconsin Department of Administration
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FIGURE II

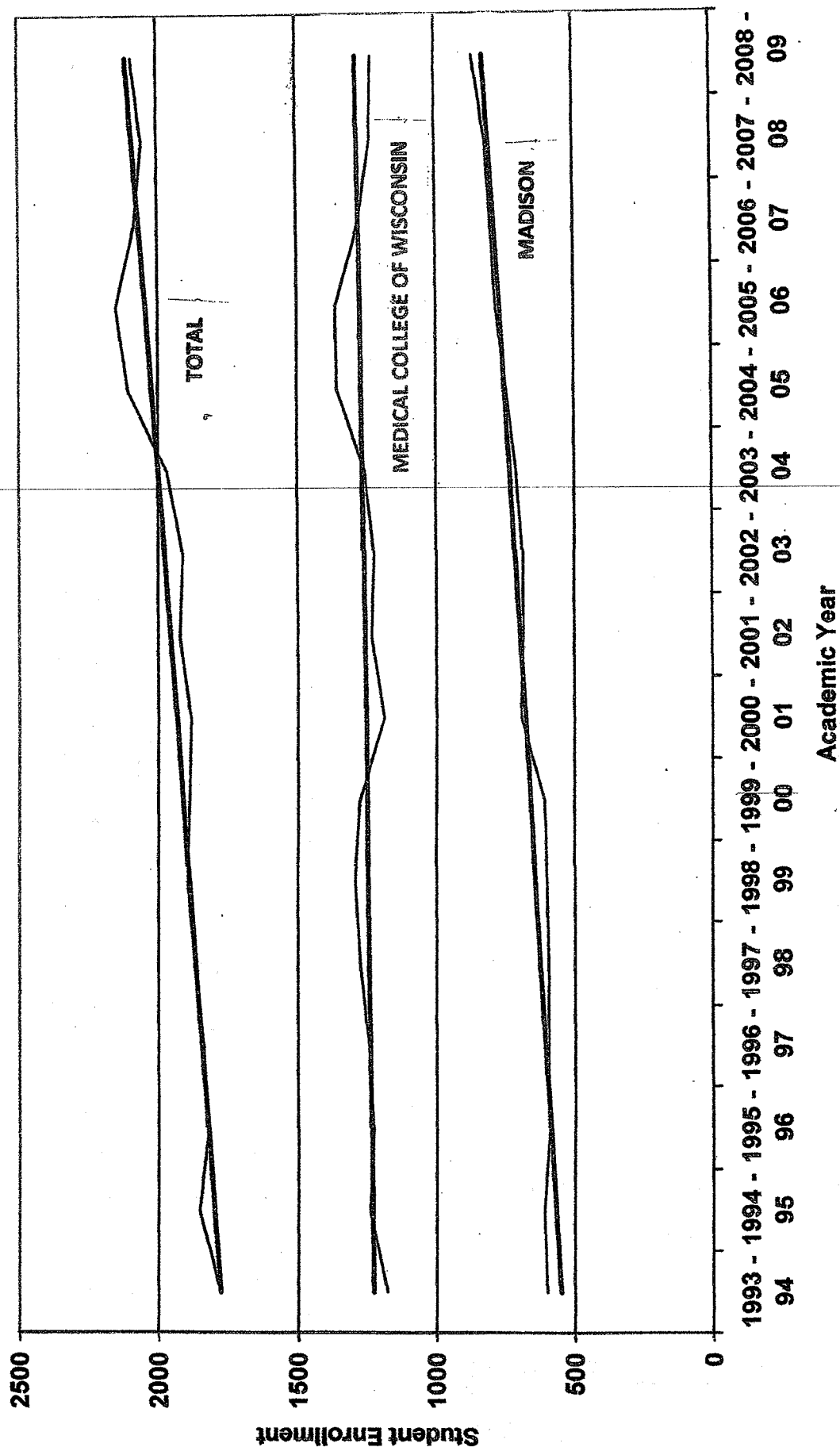
Wisconsin Population Over Age 65, % of Total Population and Total Visits to Doctors Offices



Source: Wisconsin Population 2030, Wisconsin Department of Administration
Who Will Care For Our Patients?, A report by the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce

FIGURE III

Fall Enrollment of Wisconsin Medical Students



Source : Wisconsin Blue Book

FIGURE IV

U. W. Undergraduate Fall Enrollment of Nursing Students

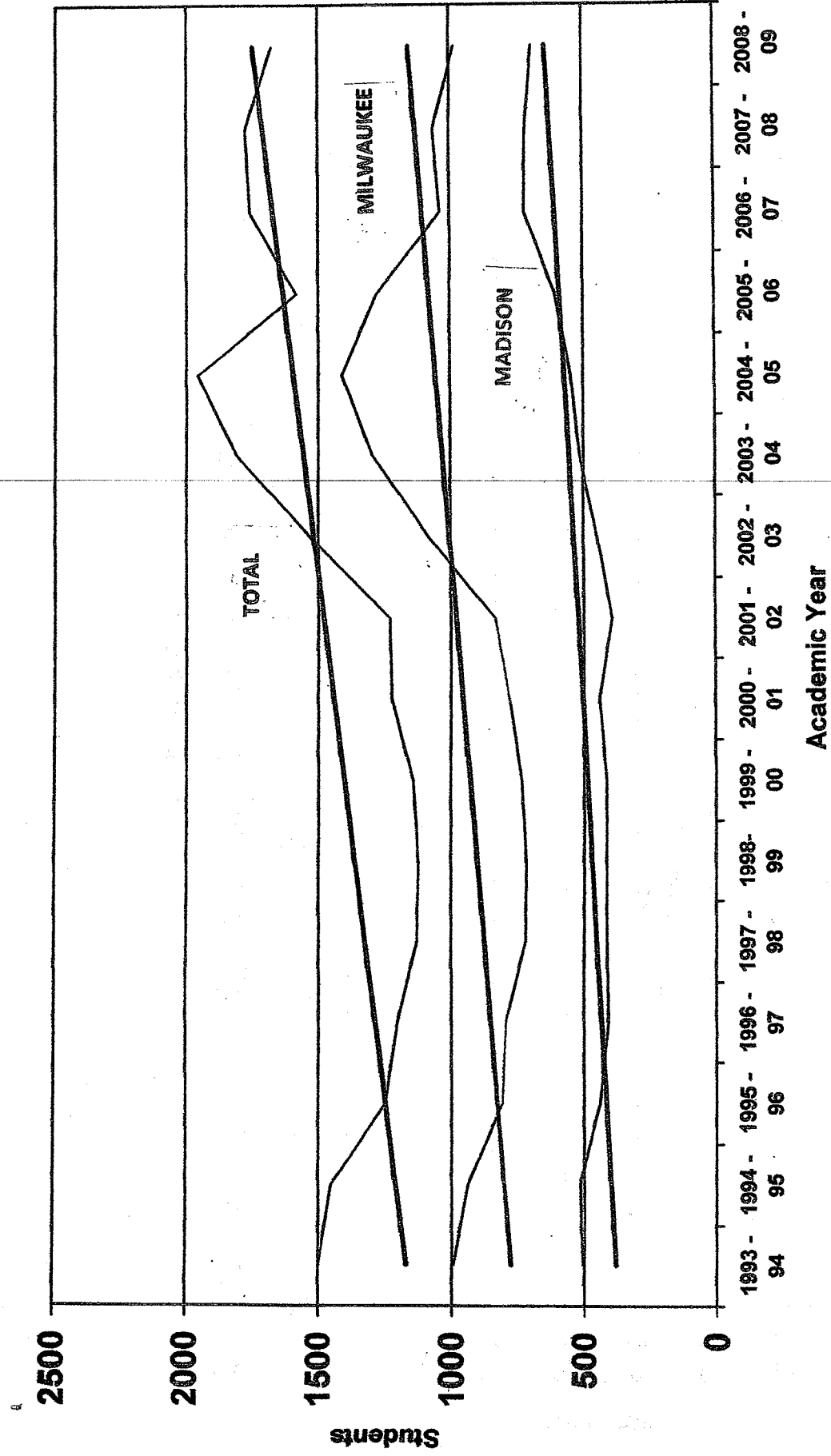
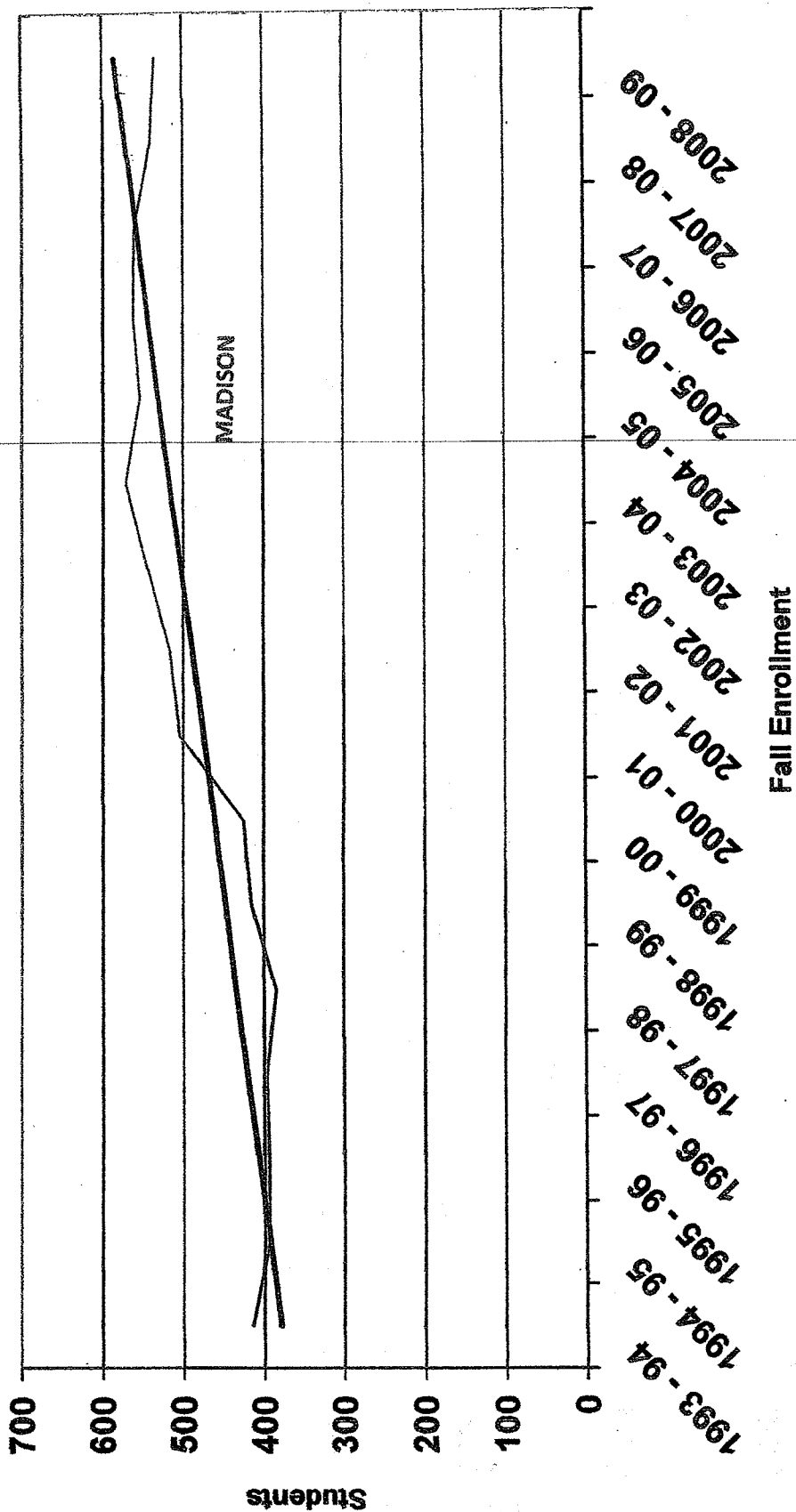


FIGURE V

U W Fall Enrollment of Pharmacy Students



Source: Wisconsin Blue Book