

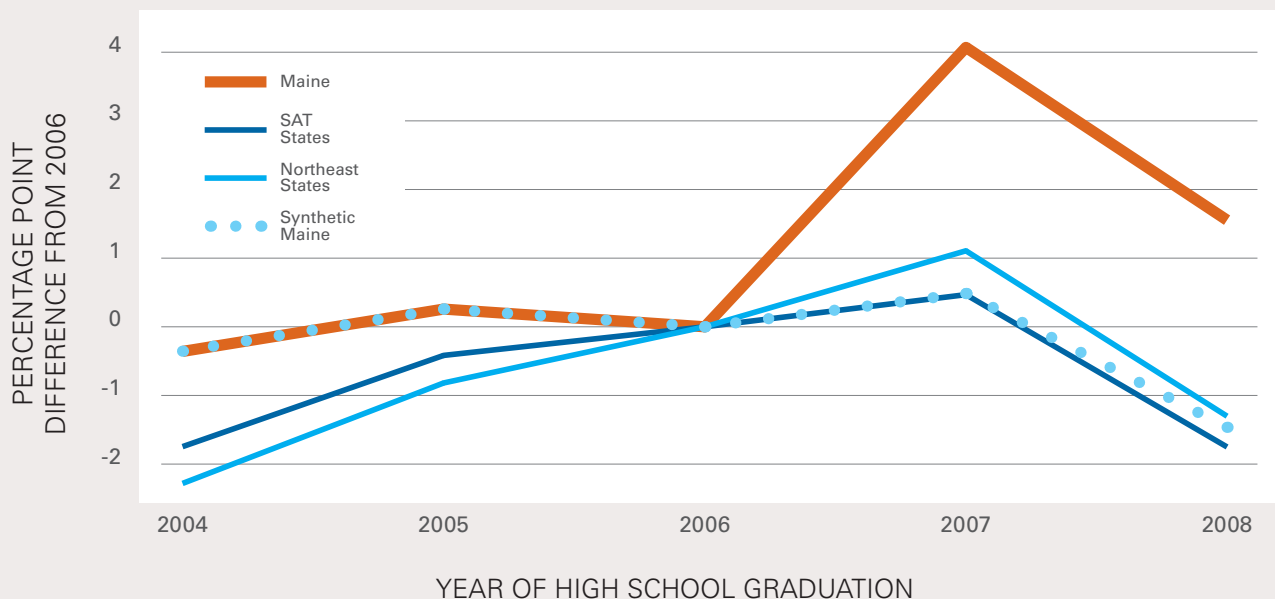
Universal SAT® Policy Boosts 4-Year College Enrollment

By Michael Hurwitz, Jonathan Smith, Sunny Niu, and Jessica Howell

Maine replaced its existing high school statewide assessment with the SAT® and administered the exam to almost all public high school juniors. A primary goal of this policy change was to increase 4-year college enrollment by public school students in Maine.

OVERVIEW

4-YEAR COLLEGE-GOING RATES (SAT STATES)



THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

ENABLES CAUSAL STATEMENTS

Changes in 4-year college-going rates in Maine were compared to changes in three control groups: (1) all SAT-dominant states, (2) New England states, and (3) a synthetically-constructed Maine. Maine's actual change in 4-year college-going after the policy change is statistically larger than all three control groups.



SELECT SAT STATES



NEW ENGLAND STATES



SYNTHETIC MAINE CONTROL

RESULTS

The mandatory SAT policy in Maine increased 4-year college-going rates among Maine public high school graduates by at least 2-3 percentage points overall, and by 10 percentage points among those students who took the SAT only because it was made universal.



MAINE'S POLICY CHANGE CAUSES 4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT TO INCREASE



1 IN 10 OF THE INDUCED STUDENTS ENTERED THE 4-YEAR COLLEGE PIPELINE

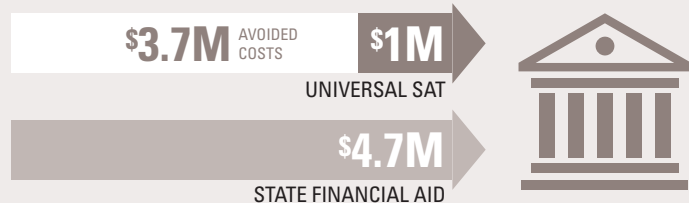


GROWTH IN 4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DRIVEN BY STUDENTS IN MAINE'S RURAL AND SMALL-TOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BENEFITS

Maine's SAT policy is a relatively cost effective state strategy for increasing 4-year college enrollment. To achieve a similar increase in enrollment, Maine would have needed to spend more than four times as much on increased financial aid.

UNIVERSAL SAT IS A LESS COSTLY OPTION THAN OTHER MEANS OF BOOSTING 4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT.



STUDENTS WHO ATTEND COLLEGE EXPERIENCE HIGHER EARNINGS

THAN THOSE WHO ONLY GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.



POSITIVE SPILLOVERS

FROM ADDITIONAL YEARS OF EDUCATION INCLUDE:



GREATER JOB SATISFACTION



BETTER HEALTH AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE



IMPROVED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

SOURCE

Adapted from: Michael Hurwitz, Jonathan Smith, Sunny Nin, and Jessica Howell, "The Maine Question: How Is 4-Year College Enrollment Affected by Mandatory College Entrance Exams?" *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, March 37 (2015): 138-159. <http://epa.sagepub.com/content/37/1/138>