



CLIMB
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Colleges and Upward Mobility: Early Evidence from CLIMB

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*An Initiative of the Equality of Opportunity Project.
The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of
the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Treasury.*



Promoting Success


Many colleges offer special programs to help low-income students succeed

- Additional tutoring, summer prep, different admissions cutoffs
- **Are these programs effective?**

Today we ask:

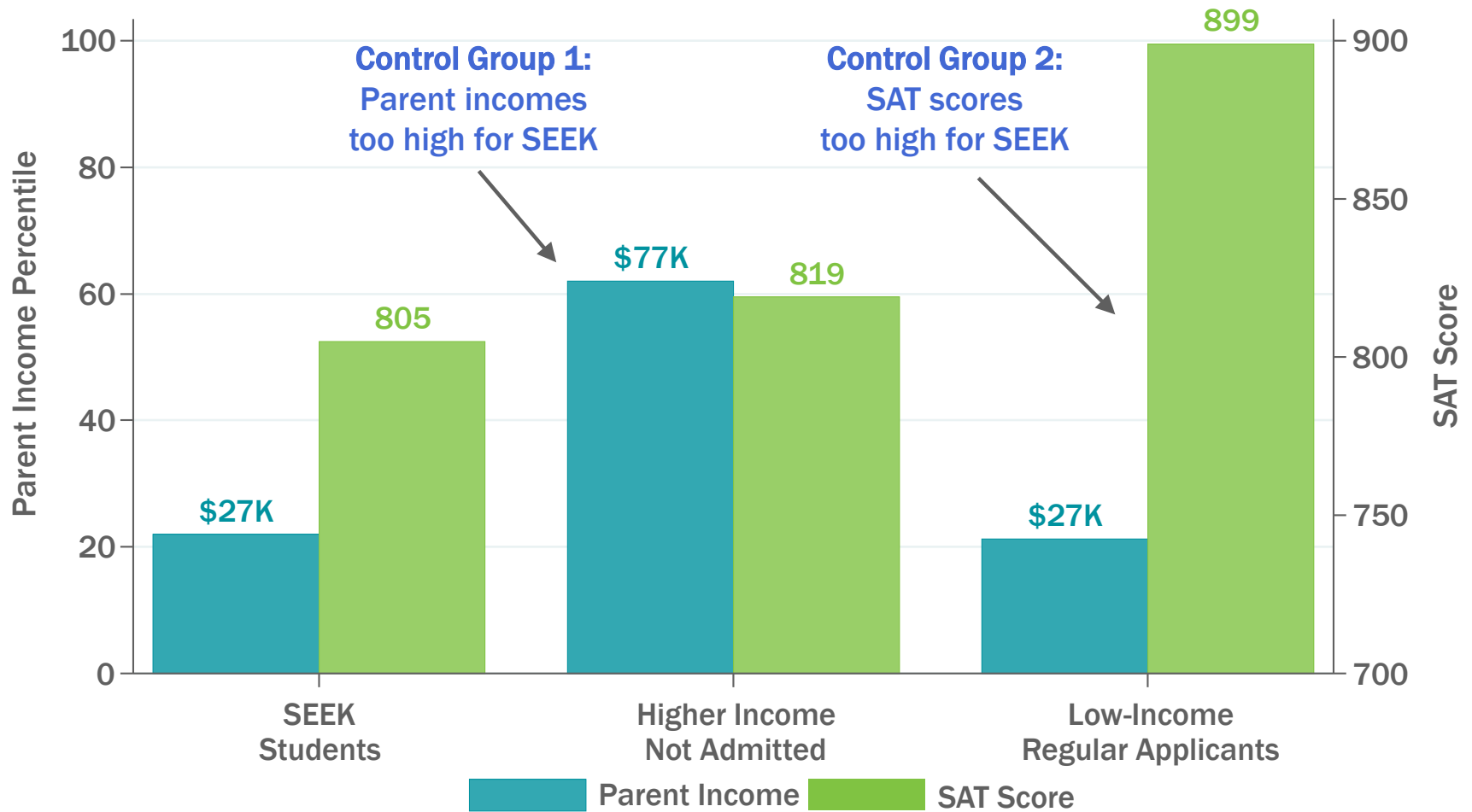
- What are the long-term outcomes of students in the SEEK program at CUNY?

SEEK Program Structure

1	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 250k students▪ 11 CUNY campuses	
2	Program Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Admission to 4 year CUNY based on Academic Index (AI) – GPA, SAT, coursework▪ Eligible only if below AI <u>and</u> income cutoffs (~\$45k for a family of 4)	
3	Academic Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 6 week summer program prior to entry▪ Individual/small group tutoring▪ Access to “opportunity counselors”	

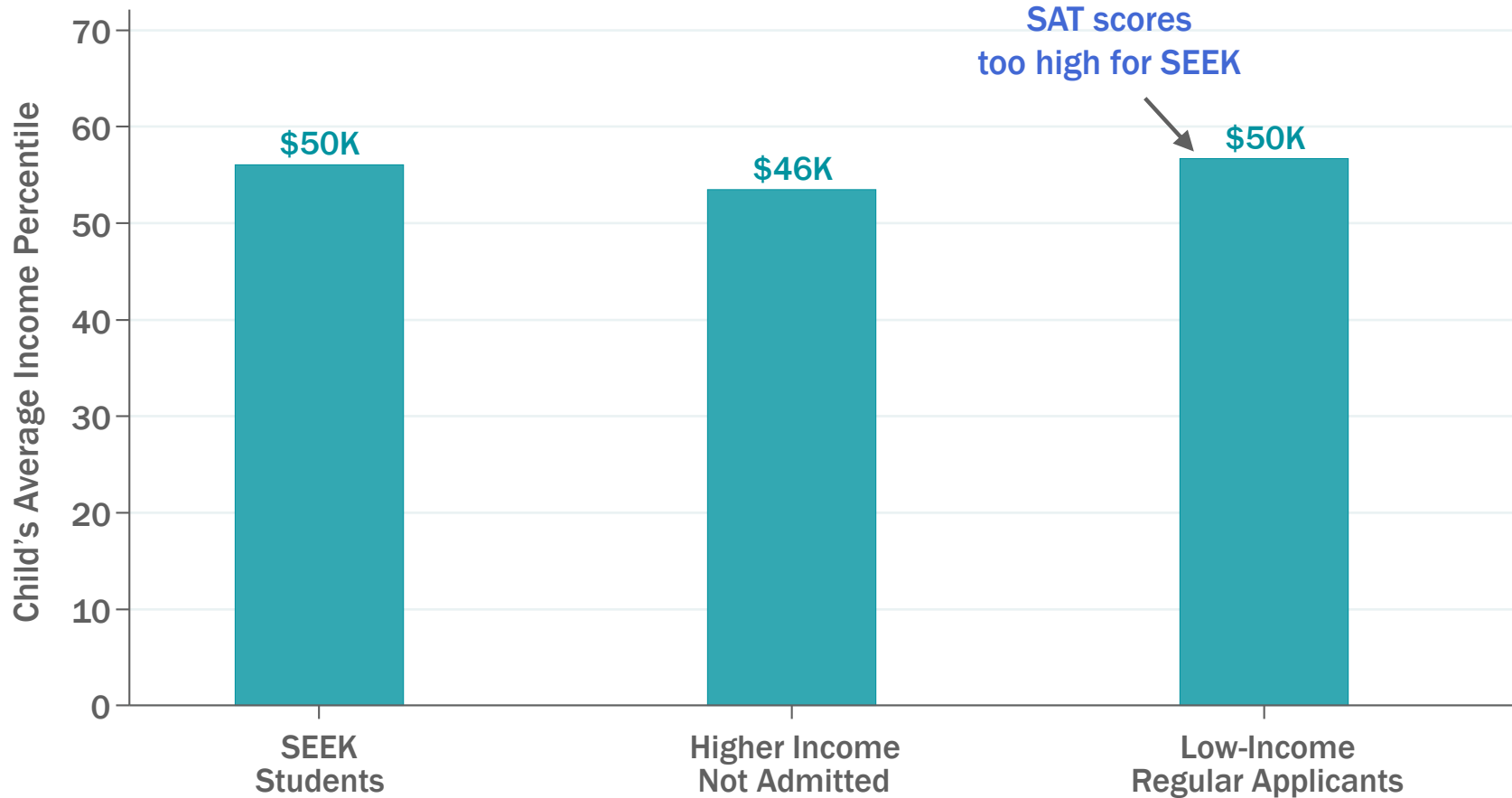
Parent Incomes and Children's SAT Scores

SEEK vs. Other CUNY Students



Children's Earnings Outcomes

SEEK vs. Other CUNY Students



Promoting Success at CUNY: Next Steps

What We've Learned So Far

- **Students in the SEEK program do very well** compared to peers with higher incomes and SAT scores

Key Questions Going Forward

- What **aspects of SEEK** (admissions process, academic support, summer programs) are **responsible for its success**?
- Which **types of students** benefit most from SEEK and whom should the **program be targeted** to in order to maximize returns?