



The Economic & Fiscal Impact of Saint Joseph's College on the State of Maine

**For: Saint Joseph's College of Maine
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IV. The Added Benefits of Higher Education

All of the impacts noted above, impressive as they may be, are short term. They measure the sales, employment, income and tax revenues generated by the college's annual operations. But the most significant benefits of higher education occur over the long term—the higher earnings of college graduates and the increased wealth of the communities where these graduates live and work. The following tables outline several measures of quality of life related to level of educational attainment.

Figure 4 shows that the unemployment rate falls drastically as the level of educational attainment rises.

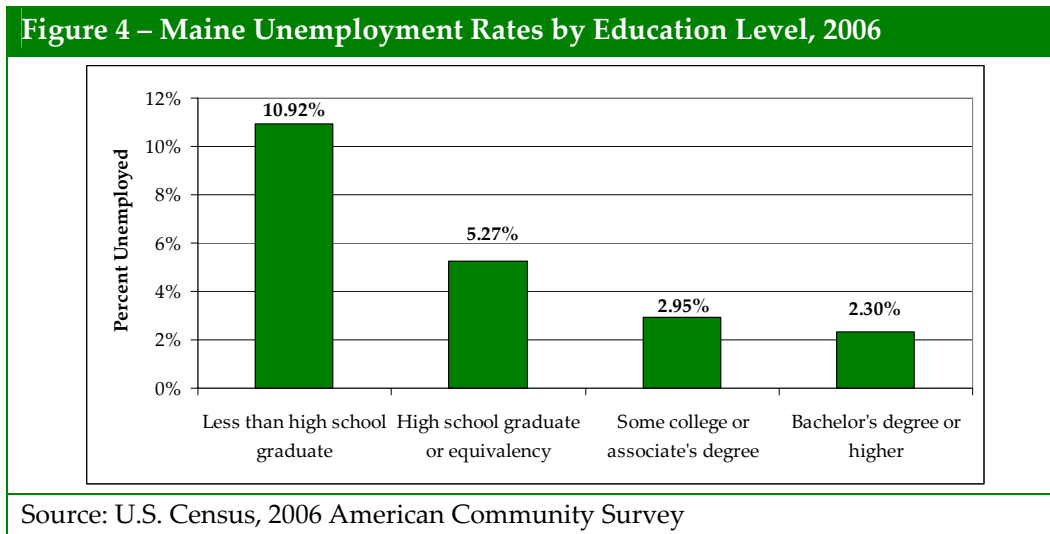


Figure 5 illustrates the fact that those with higher levels of educational attainment earn higher incomes.

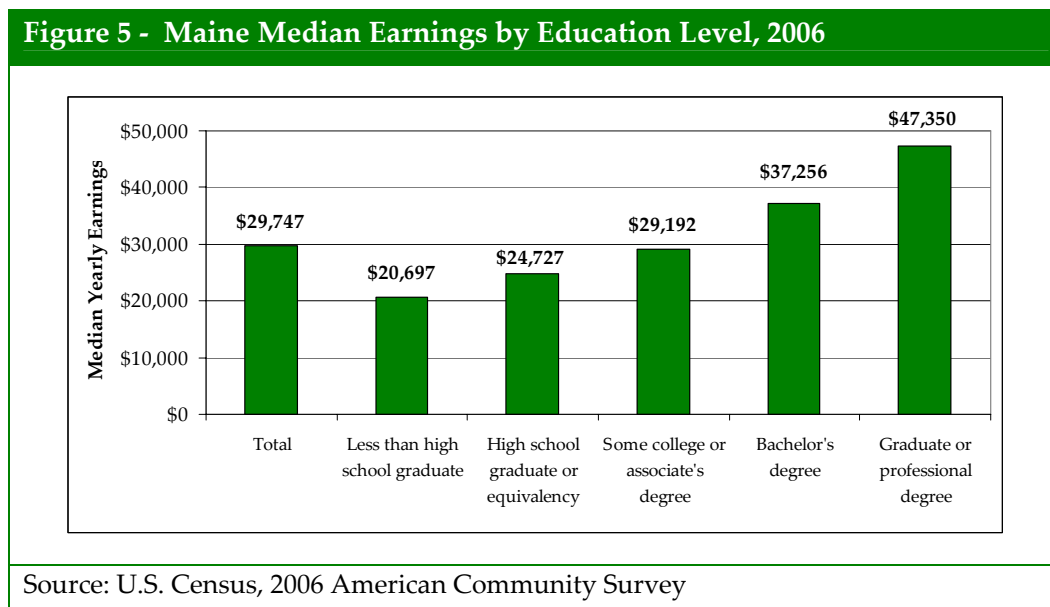


Figure 6 shows that the rate of poverty declines as the level of educational attainment rises.

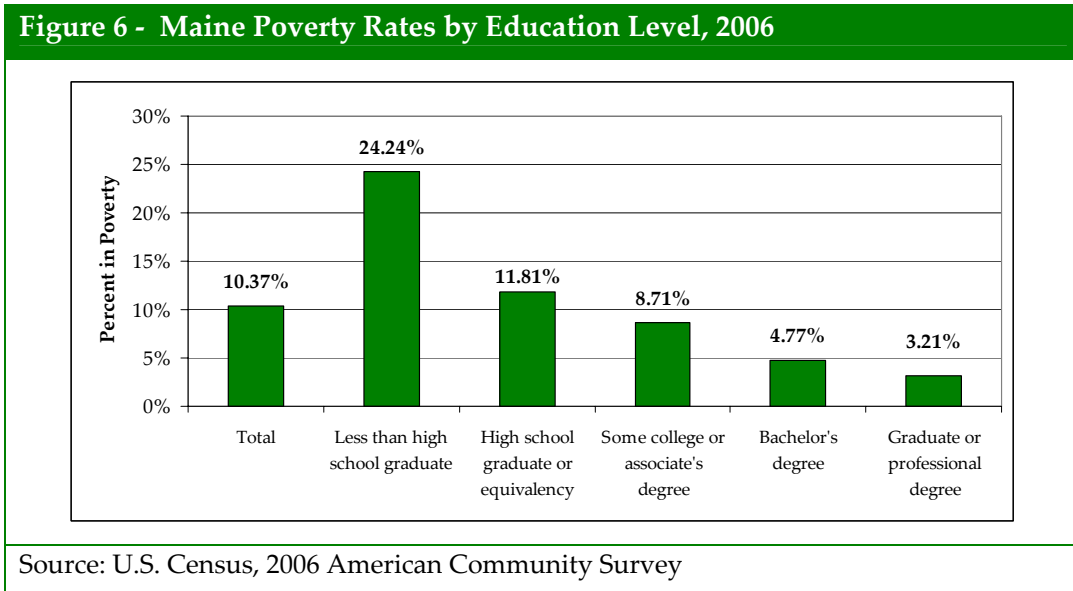


Figure 7 demonstrates that the level of home ownership rises as the level of educational attainment rises.

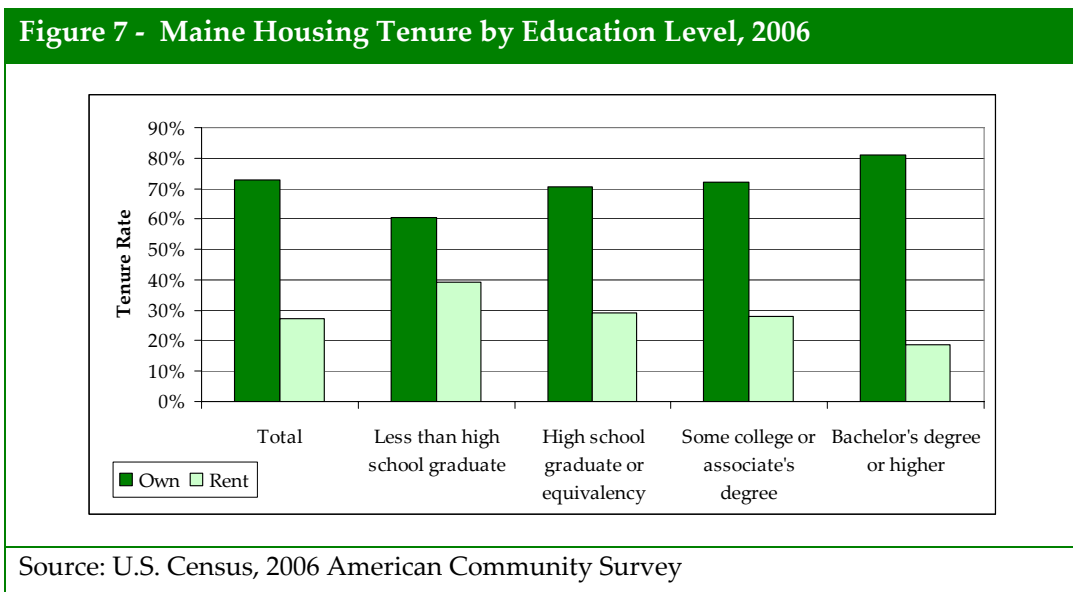


Figure 8 shows that the level of volunteerism rises with the level of educational attainment.

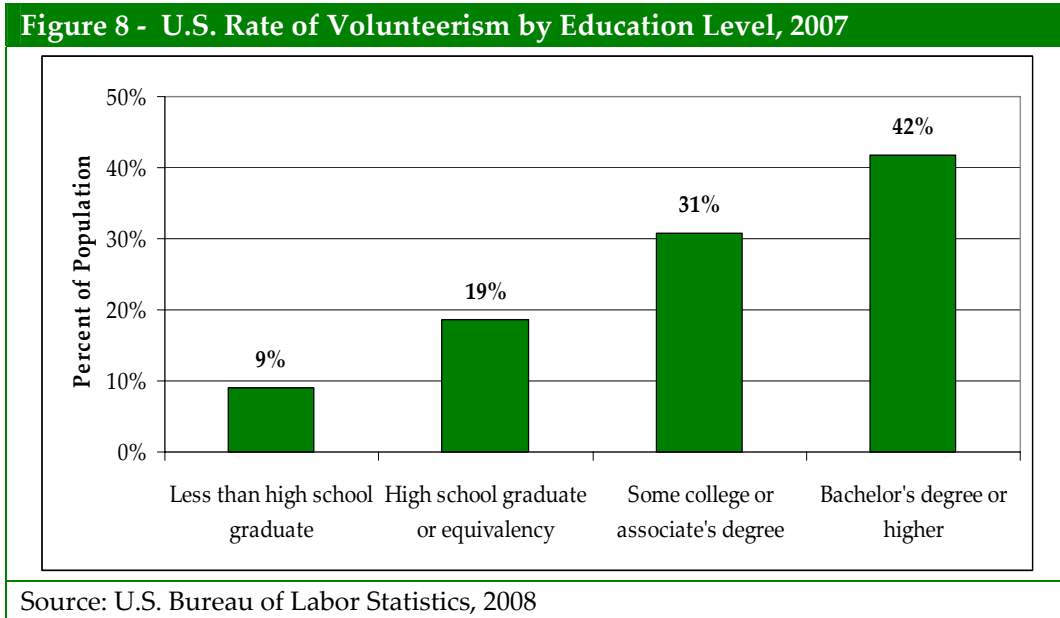


Figure 9 shows that the voting rate increases among more highly educated voters.

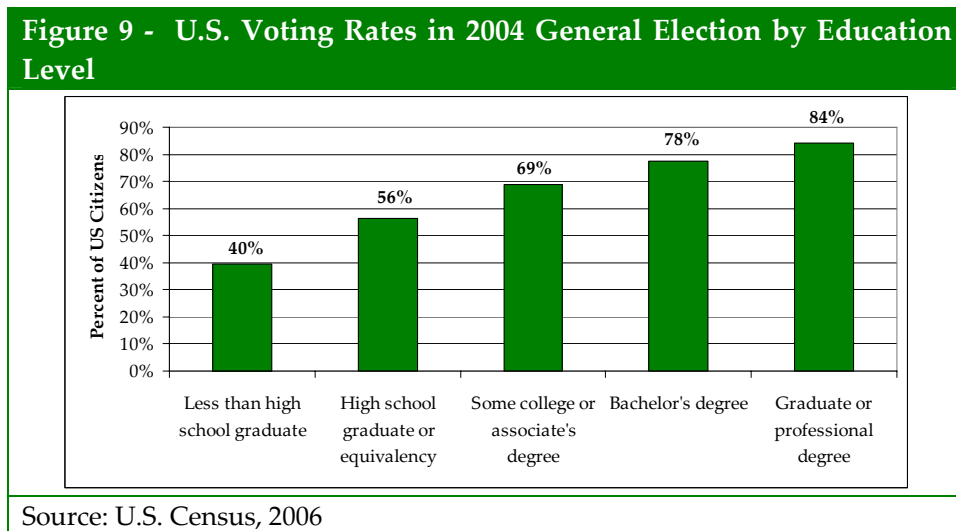
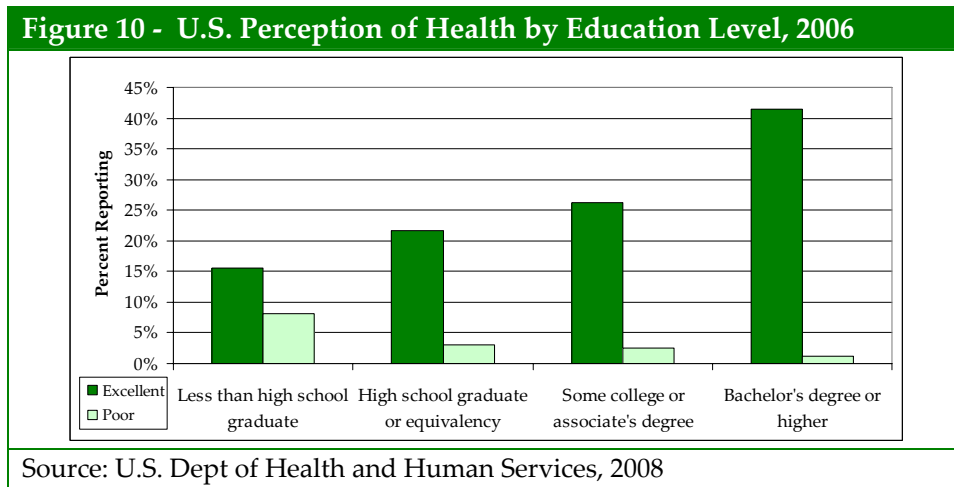


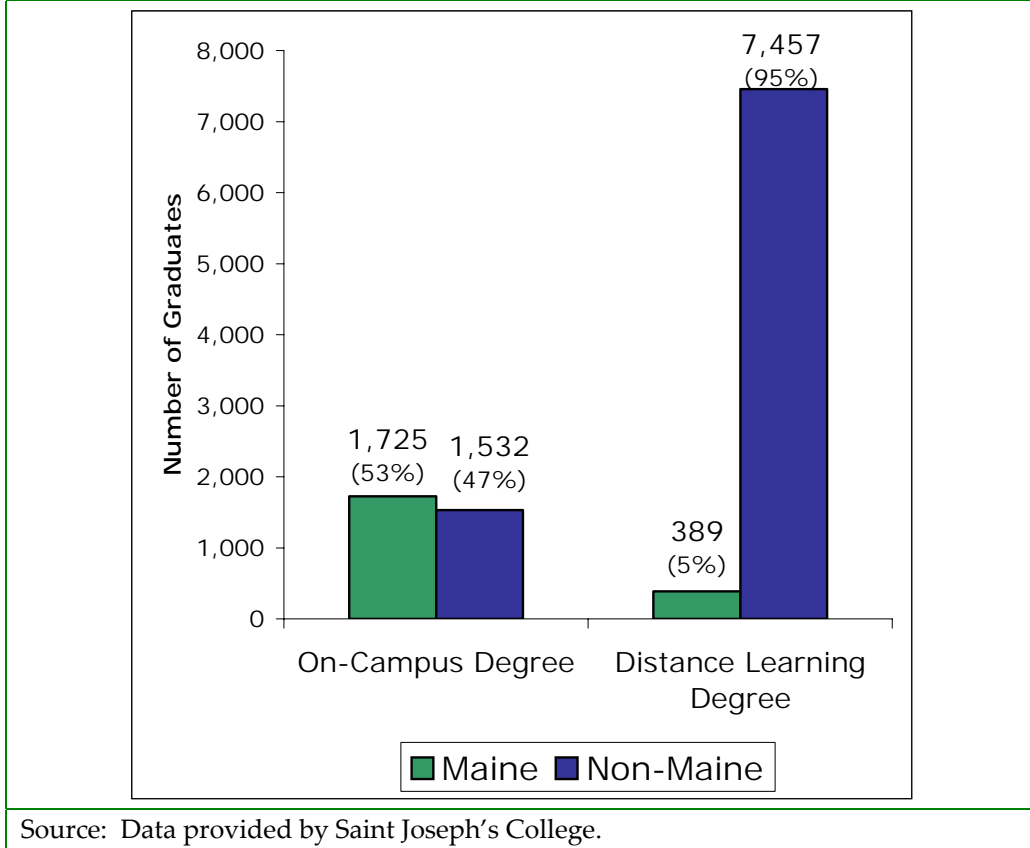
Figure 10 shows that people with more education feel healthier.



In short, higher levels of education are associated with a wide variety of measures of individual and social well-being. To the extent, therefore, that graduates of Saint Joseph’s College remain in Maine to pursue their careers and live their lives, they contribute to this raising of the quality of life in Maine. They increase both the quality of human capital in Maine and the quality of community well being. How to articulate this contribution in dollars and cents goes well beyond the scope of this report. It is important, nonetheless, to recognize this contribution.

One way of estimating this contribution is to examine the geographical distribution of Saint Joseph’s graduates. The college has current addresses for 11,103 graduates, dating back to as early as the class of 1940. Of these 3,257 graduated from the traditional “resident” college in Standish and 7,846 graduated from the college’s non-traditional distance learning program. Since the distance education program by definition draws students from all over the world, the vast majority (95%) of its graduates do not now live in Maine. This fact reflects the college’s function as an “export” industry—drawing revenue from outside of Maine and sending its educational services out into the world. In contrast, those students who received their degrees “on-campus” have a much greater tendency (53%) to stay in Maine. Figure 11 illustrates this difference.

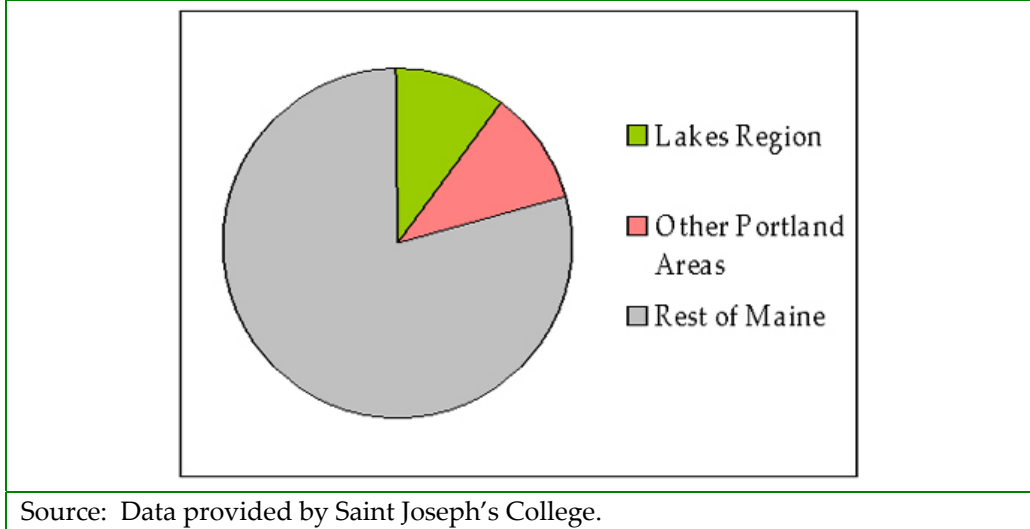
Figure 11: Current Address of Saint Joseph College Graduates by Program



In total, 2,114 of Saint Joseph's 11,103 graduates currently reside in Maine providing the state with the employment, income, home ownership and civic engagement qualities associated with college graduates.

In addition, a large number of these graduates remain in the Greater Portland region, thus contributing to the quality of the local labor force and adding their energy and talents to the local economy. Figure 12 presents the geographical distribution of the 2,114 Saint Joseph's College graduates living in Maine.

Figure 12: Current Address of Saint Joseph College Graduates in Maine



Of the graduates living in Maine, 443, approximately 20%, currently reside in the Greater Portland area—219 in the Lakes Region and 224 in other areas of York and Cumberland counties. The remaining 1,671 graduates live throughout the state pursuing their careers, building their families and contributing to their communities. These contributions while virtually impossible to measure and add to an impact statement, nevertheless represent the fundamental benefit deriving from a Saint Joseph's College degree.