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IS 445 - Data Visualization - Weekly Report 6

All Test Scores

test score

critical reading
math
writing
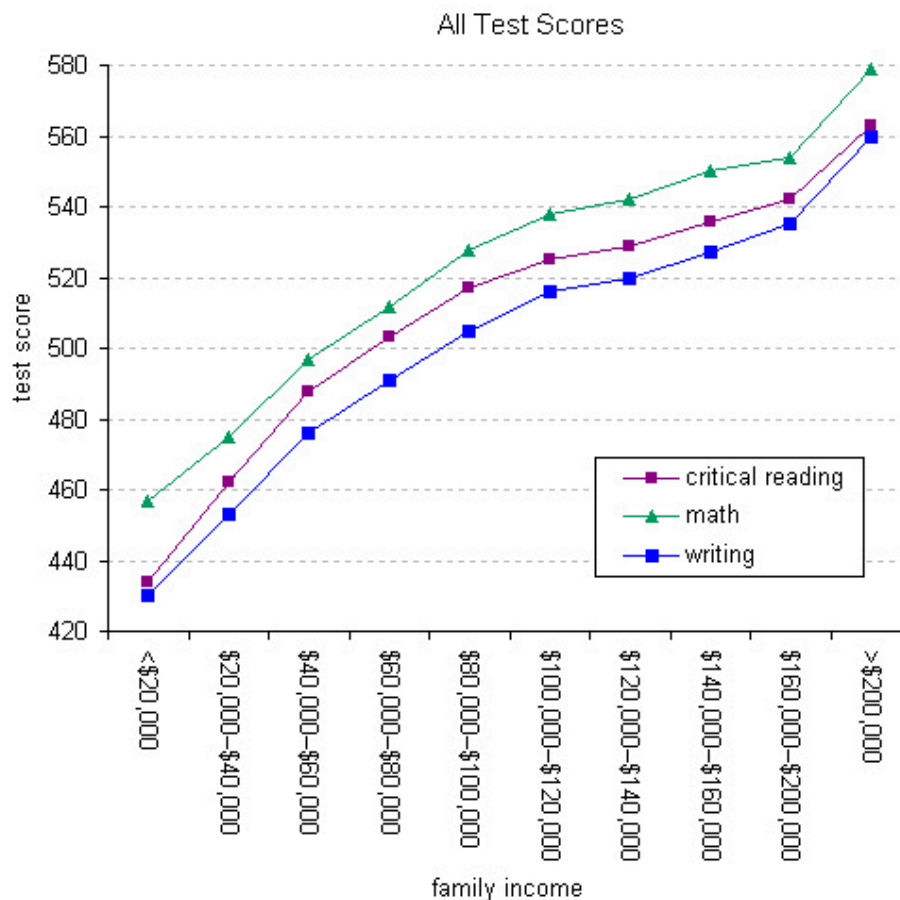
family income

The above visualization represents the relationship between SAT scores and test-takers' family income. As we can see, there is a positive trend when we compare the SAT scores in 3 different sections — math, verbal, and critical reading — with respect to the income range. Also, we observe that the math scores top the chart, followed by critical reading and writing.

A good thing about this graph is that it is simple to interpret and derive general conclusions about the relation between scores and income. The graph is labelled properly to indicate the axes. Generally, the wealthier the family, the higher the SAT scores.

But I find a few things misleading about the graph. Firstly, the SAT exams ask the students to willingly disclose their annual income, which not all students may do. Hence, we still cannot conclude on the positive trend because our sample is not representative of the population. Secondly, the last income band of '>$2000,000' does not have any upper limit and can include a large population, which can introduce bias and skew the results.

References:

Rampell, Catherine. "SAT Scores and Family Income." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 27 Aug. 2009, https://archive.nytimes.com/economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/27/sat-scores-and-family-income/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=1.