

## Inquiry Question

Do HBCUs and PWIs provide the same income earning power for black students? Considering factors like average income after graduation, average retention rates for schools, and ratings of socioeconomic mobility by school helped to answer this question.

## Introduction

During Reconstruction, when blacks were not able to join Predominantly White Institutions, (PWIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were created. Now, HBCUs continue to serve black students both academically and socially, but fail to receive the same recognition as their white counterparts. In order to prove how effective these schools are in producing successful adults, I decided to measure if one type of school contributed to more successful black students, specifically regarding finance. Other non-monetary measures of well-being needed also be taken into account before deciding which type of school better serves African American students. These include self esteem, black identity, job satisfaction, social connections and overall well-being.

## Methodology

I used data from Ohio State University's study on the impact of HBCUs, as well as surveys from Gallup-Purdue University to measure how well black students reported doing after graduation. The Ohio State University study did not account for employers' bias when measuring average income after graduation. That may have had an influence on income because employers may value an education from a PWI more and offer graduates from those institutions more money. I used data from the Equal Opportunity Project's study on education and upward mobility for the mobility scores by school. The mobility score was determined by measuring the schools' amount of low-income students that graduate and end up in the top fifth percentile in terms of wealth.

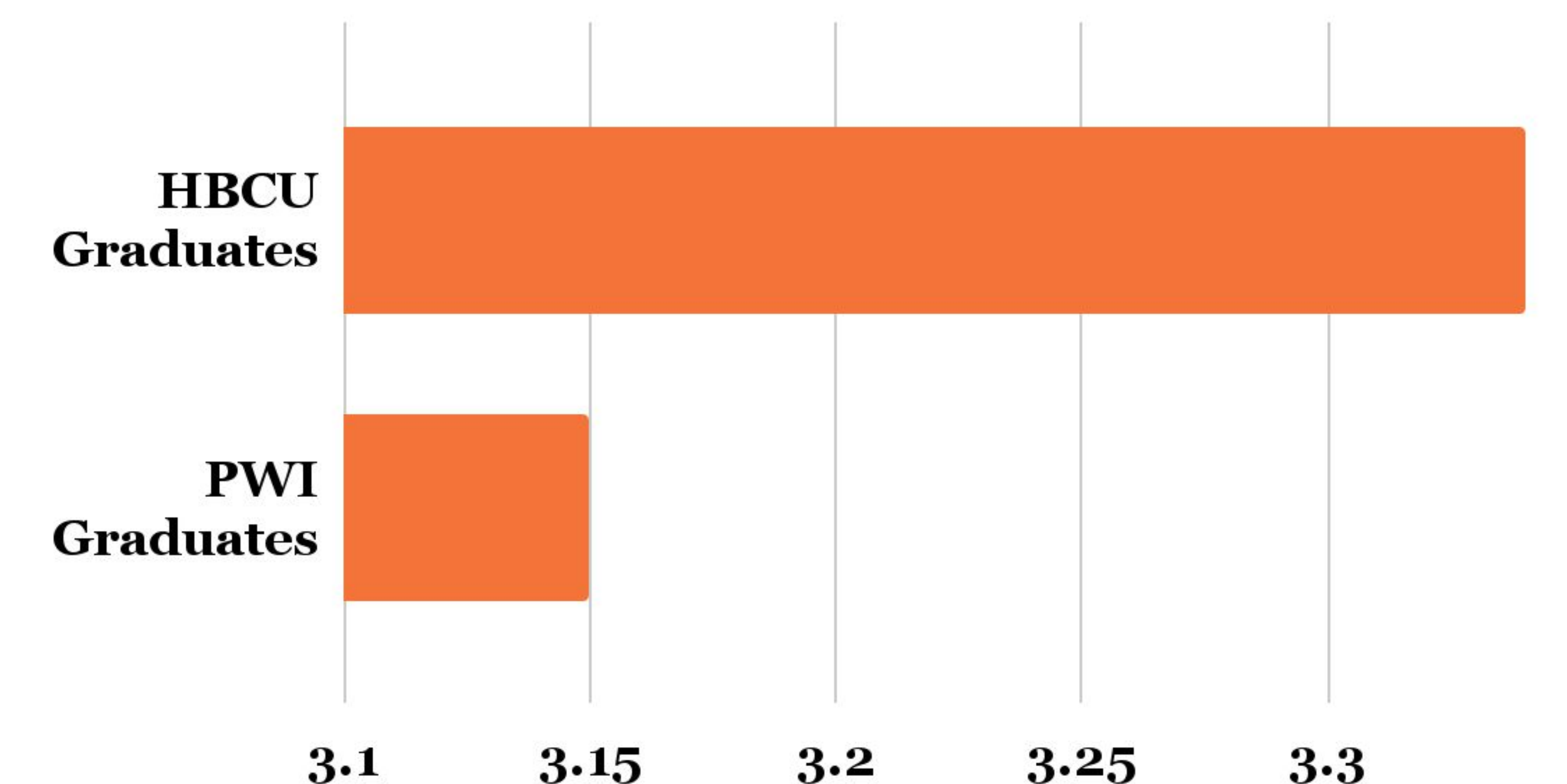
## Conclusion

After conducting and analyzing my research, I have concluded that although black graduates from HBCUs make less income than those who graduate at PWIs, the long-term benefits one can expect from attending an HBCU make those institutions matter. There is a lot of contradictory data and conflicting perspectives in the research community about which type of institution would be better for black students; however, in reality, the answer to the question depends on the student. I would argue that they matter because they produce more grounded and connected black students, and because they provide more educational opportunity to low-income black students than PWIs. In the future, I would like to further this research by considering the effects of the social differences in the community of HBCUs and PWIs.

# A Culture of Community: Why HBCUs Matter for Black Students

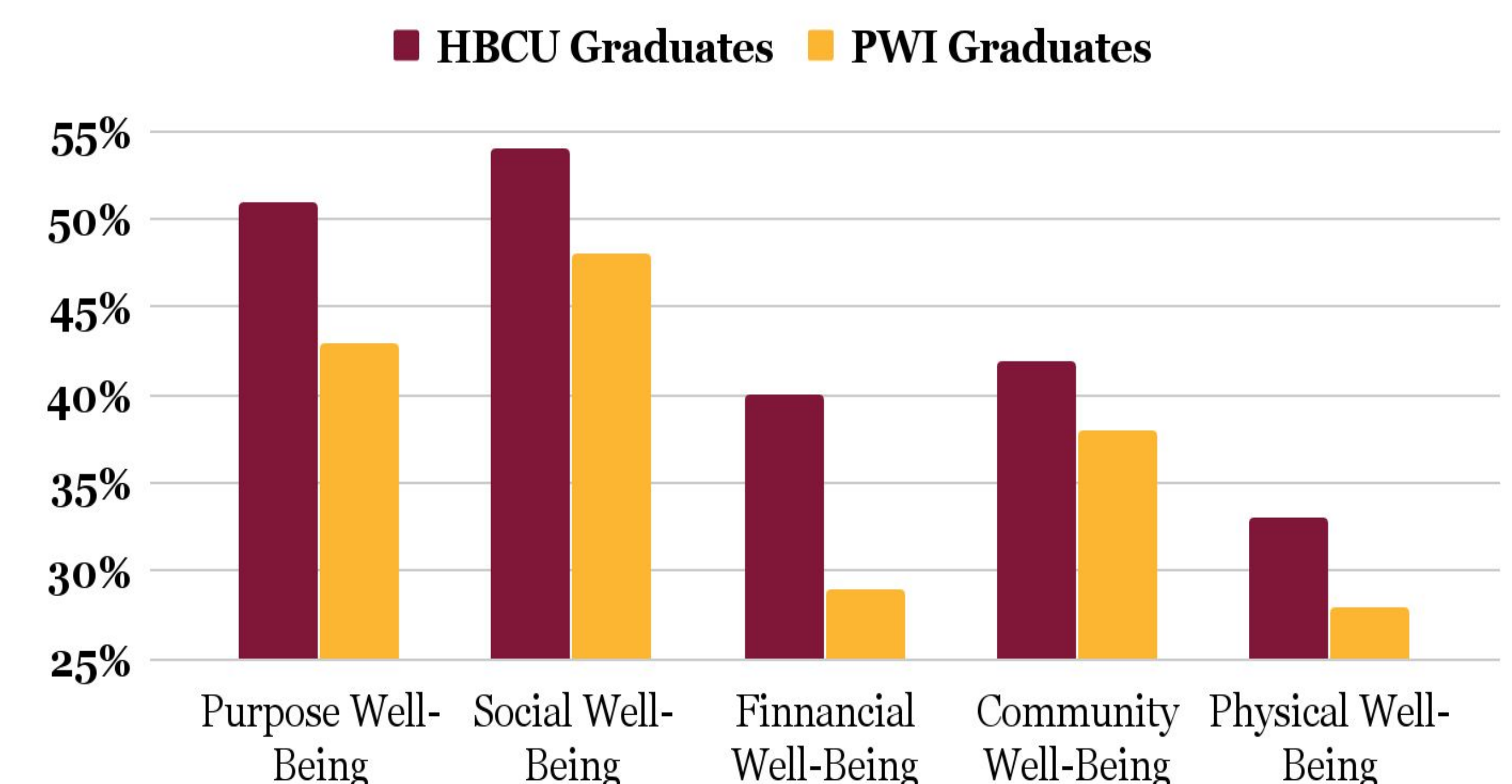
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**Black Graduates' Mean Scores on the Black Identity Index**



Black HBCU graduates consistently scored higher on the Black Identity Index than black PWI graduates did.

**Black Graduates' Reported Well-Being Two Years After Grauation**



Black HBCU graduates consistently reported better well-being in every category.