

SAT & ACT Analysis

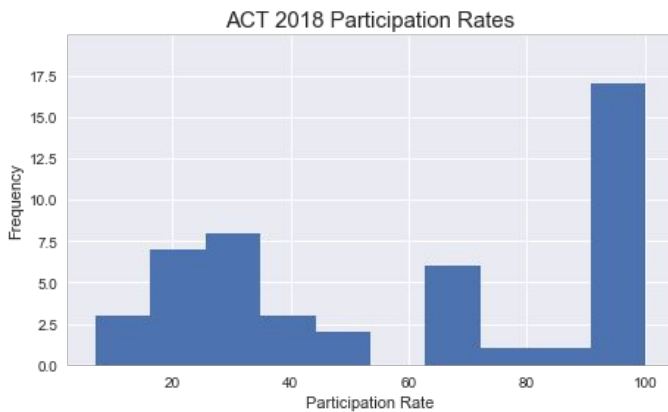
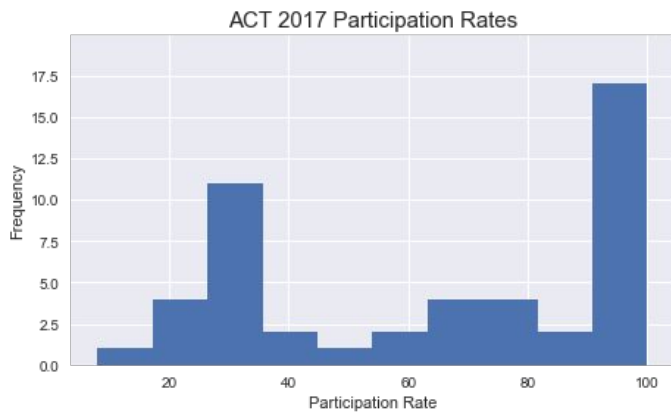
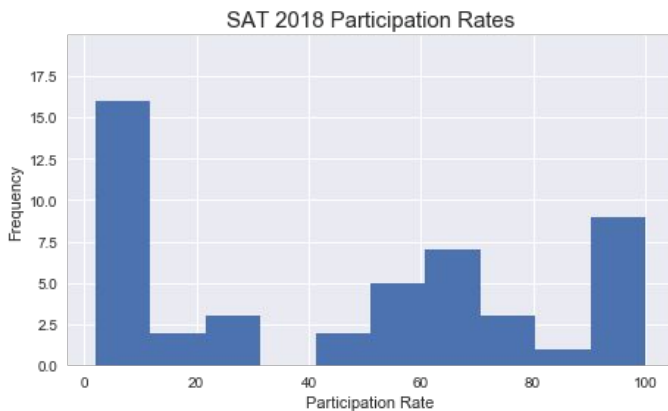
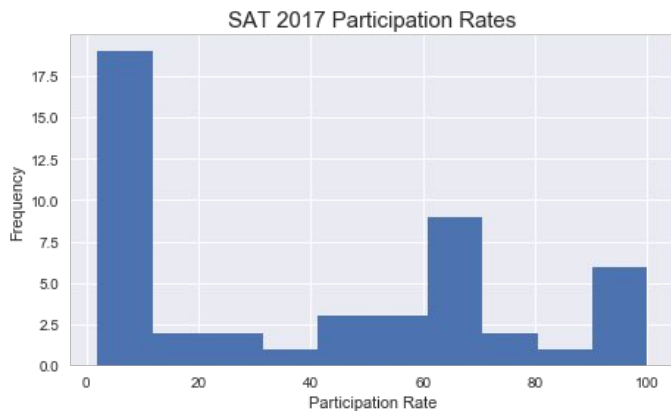
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Problem Statement

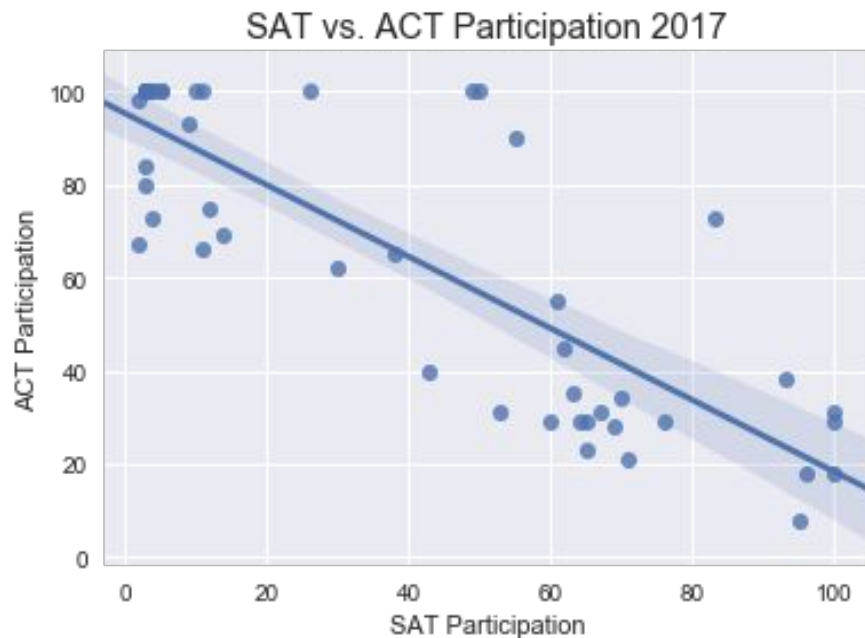
- The SAT and ACT are the two most widely-administered standardized tests in the United States used to help universities make admissions decisions about incoming students.
- Across the 50 states, there is a wide range of average participation rates for both tests.
- **Which states are lacking the most in test participation, and what actions can be taken to increase participation in these states?**

Test Participation



Test Participation

- In general, there is a negative relationship between SAT and ACT participation rate
- Most states who have high participation rates in one test have low participation rates in the other
- Only 3 states had over 50% participation in both tests in 2017:
 - Georgia
 - Florida
 - Hawaii



Test Participation

- I've chosen to focus on North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, 3 states which have high ACT participation rates but low SAT participation rates.
- **Why do these states have such a disparity in participation rates between tests?**

	Participation Rate			
	SAT		ACT	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
North Dakota	2%	2%	98%	98%
Wisconsin	3%	3%	100%	100%
Wyoming	3%	3%	100%	100%

Why such a big difference?

- North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming are 3 of a dozen states that **require** students to take the ACT before graduating
- If only one test is required, most students will only take the required test
 - It costs money, time, and effort to take the SAT or the ACT
 - Total time to take SAT or ACT: 3 hours, 50 minutes
 - SAT Cost: \$64.50
 - ACT Cost: \$62.50

Recommendations

- Make the SAT a requirement for graduation
 - Most comprehensive, but most difficult
- Make the SAT more accessible to students
 - Create testing days during the school year
 - Fee assistance to help students cover the cost
 - Offer SAT tutoring
- Encourage students to take both tests
 - Different test = chance to show off different strengths
 - May score comparatively higher on SAT than ACT

References

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