

# SAT vs ACT Analysis

Ling Chong Gold

# Agenda

- Background
- Problem Statement
- Obtaining Data
- Exploring Data
- SAT vs ACT Year On Year
- Colorado and Illinois
- Rhode Island
- Where Should We Focus On

# Background

- SAT was created to standardize college admissions procedures and increase access to higher education
- In 1959, ACT was introduced
- SAT went through a few major revisions
  - 1994 – antonyms was removed, reading passages were improved to more closely resemble materials taught in college courses and use of calculator was permissible
  - 2005 – Elimination of certain types of questions that featured analogies and introduction of the 2400 point scoring system with required essay section
  - 2016 – Some of the above changes were reversed in response to competition from ACT

# Problem Statement

How does SAT fare against ACT in participation and how can we increase the participation rate for SAT and which state should we focus on?

- An analysis was performed for data collected for year 2017 and 2018
- In depth look was performed on Colorado, Illinois, Ohio and Rhode Island which display the highest growth rate for either SAT or ACT

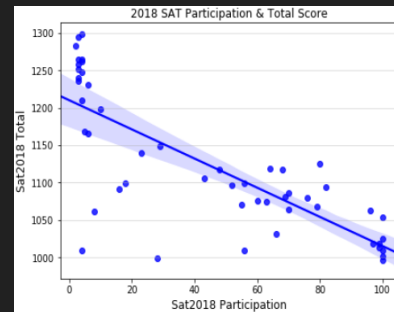
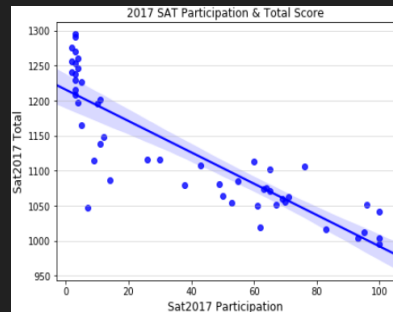
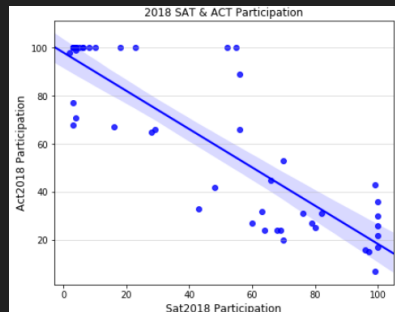
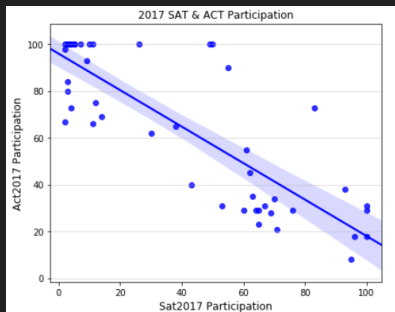
# Obtaining Data

- 2017 and 2018 Data for individual state's ACT and SAT scoring and participation was provided
- 2018's ACT 's data was incomplete
  - Additional data was obtained from publicly available open sources
- Check was performed on data's veracity through mathematical computation
- Cleansing was performed and data was merged for further analysis

Source: <https://magoosh.com/hs/act/2016/average-act-score-by-state/>

# Exploring Data

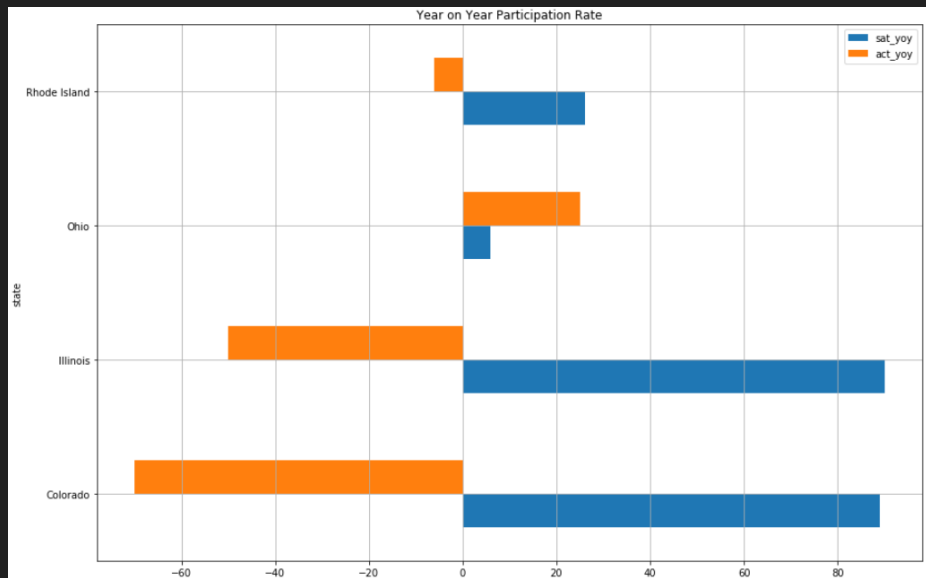
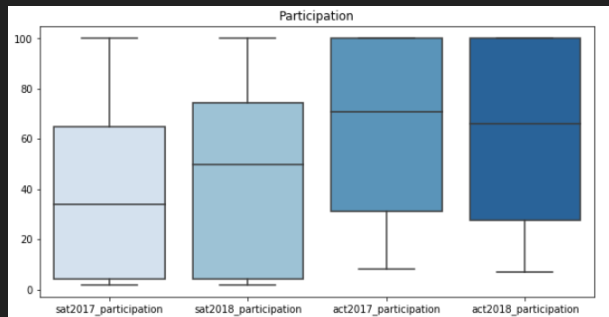
- Check was performed on data's veracity through mathematical computation
- Cleansing was performed and data was merged for further analysis
- During the exploratory phase, some useful trends were observed



2018 ACT Data Source: <https://magoosh.com/hs/act/2016/average-act-score-by-state/>

# SAT vs ACT Year on Year

- ACT has a higher participation rate compared to SAT
- States displaying growth rate of more than 20% for each test is displayed



# Colorado and Illinois

- Since 2001, Colorado juniors has been required to take the ACT
- In 2015, the state Department of Education chose The College Board
  - SAT has a reputation of being more reason-based and focused on critical thinking compared to ACT being more fact-recall test

Source: <https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/co/2015/12/23/goodbye-act-hello-sat-a-significant-change-for-colorado-high-schoolers/>

- For the past 15 years, Illinois has been giving students the ACT
- The College Board won a bid with the State
- High school juniors will not be charged for taking the SAT
- Free college entrance exam has been popular

Source: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-illinois-chooses-sat-met-20160211-story.html#targetText=Illinois%20moves%20ahead%20with%20new%20testing%20plan%2C%20replacing%20ACT%20with%20SAT&targetText=It's%20official%2C%20according%20to%20the,into%20Illinois%20public%20high%20schools.>



# Rhode Island

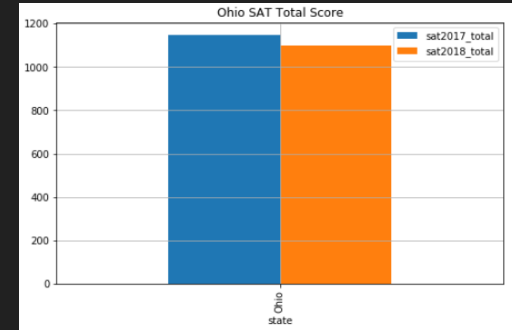
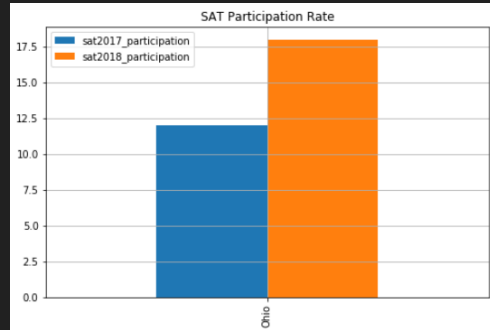
- All the flagship universities in the state have held on to the SAT as a prerequisite for admission
- Rhode Island is also one of the 10 states that give the SAT to students for free
- 6 Schools in the Rhode Island have made submitting ACT or SAT scores optional for college admission

Source: <https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20181025/with-sat-required-ri-sees-jump-in-participation-decline-in-scores>

Source: <https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20180625/sat-requirement-waning-in-ri-and-nationally--poll>

# Recommendations - Ohio

- The increase of participation rates should be gradual
- Work with the state Department of Education to make SAT mandatory
- Free tests are popular amongst parents and students
- Ohio pays for the students to take either the ACT or SAT
- Work with Ohio's Department of Education to make SAT mandatory
- Ohio's participation rate in 2018 is healthy, increasing participation will not drastically decrease total score



Source: <https://www.dispatch.com/news/20170228/ohio-schools-must-now-give-act-or-sat-to-all-juniors>