

Standardized Test Analysis

How to increase the popularity of the SAT?



Introduction

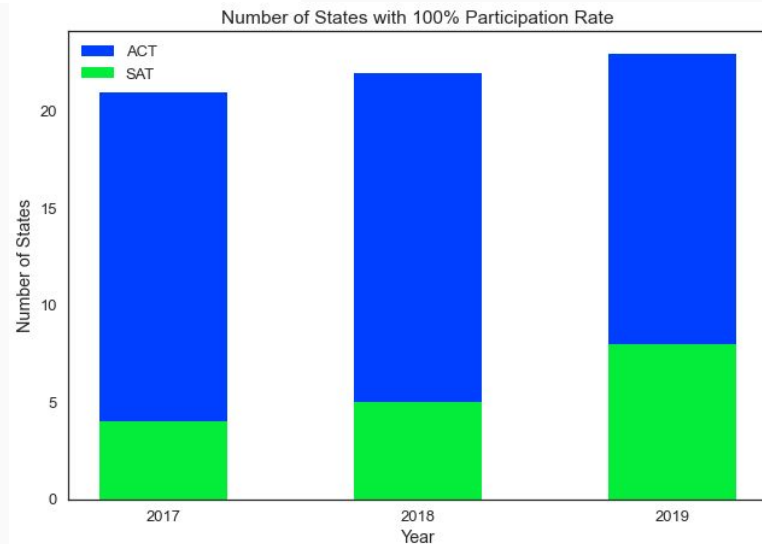
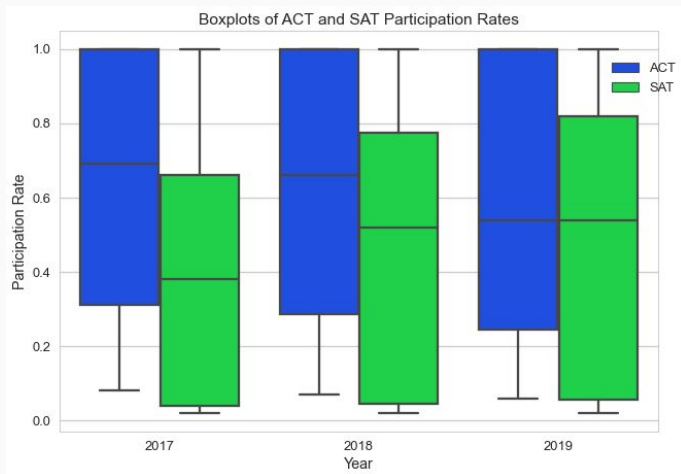
Two most popular standardized tests, ACT and SAT have seen changing participation rates, with ACT being the more popular one but SAT gaining popularity in recent years.

Using data on ACT and SAT from 2017 to 2019, we look for contributing factors to this trend and make recommendations to further boost the popularity of SAT.

Comparison of ACT and SAT Participation Rates

ACT has higher but decreasing participation rates, SAT has lower but increasing participation rates.

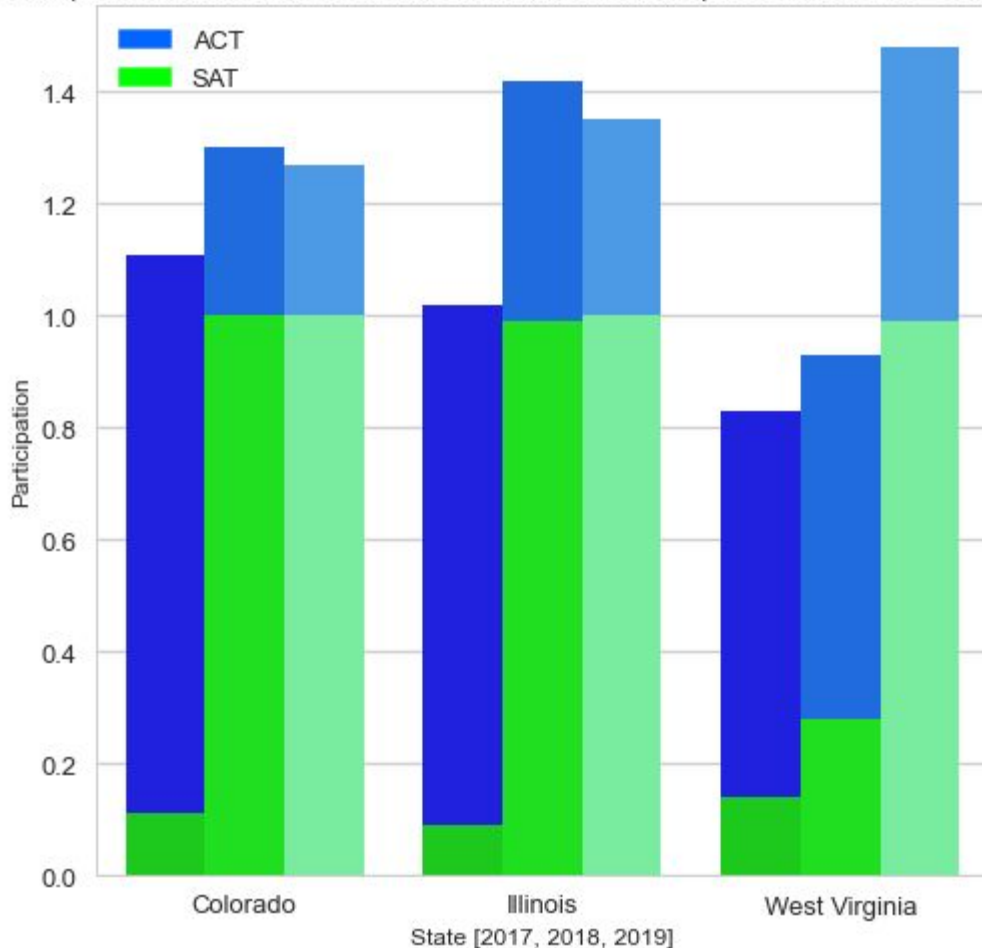
More states have 100% participation in one of the two standardized tests and SAT is getting a bigger share.



States of Interest

Three states had steep rise in SAT participation rates from 2017 to 2019.

Participation Rates in ACT and SAT for States with Steep Increase in SAT Participation



From Coloradokids.org

Why is the transition from ACT to SAT taking place?

- The SAT is aligned to the Common Core standards in English and math, which are a part of the Colorado Academic Standards. The redesigned SAT measures the skills and knowledge that evidence shows is critical for college and career readiness, including critical thinking and analytical reasoning. The alignment to Colorado's standards has also been validated by a third party.
- The selection committee found the College Board's reporting system to be more useful, as it connects students to resources and activities designed to help identify next steps for extra support or possible acceleration.
- In March 2015, College Board partnered with Khan Academy to provide *free*, personalized test prep for any student with computer access, saving students and families at least \$300 and leveling the playing field for families that might not be able to afford test prep or tutors for their children.

Recommendations

Convince more states to switch to SAT

- Continuously align to Common Core standards
- Actively engage Departments of Education in more states
- Continue partnership with Khan Academy and review test prep resources to ensure quality

Questions?