

SAT Participation Rates

How can the College Board Improve Them?

- **Why should you care?**
- Exploring our data
- Recommendations

Who are we?

- Dennis and Nemo
- We work for the College Board
- Goal: **Find ways to improve SAT Participation Rates**

What's the SAT and ACT?

- Competitive **College Entrance Exams** in the USA
- Major changes to SAT in 2016

Who cares about Participation Rates?

- Low Participation Rates -> Artificially High Average Scores
- Artificially High Average Scores -> Harder for Students to get into College

I.e. Well-off students have a **disproportionately higher chance** of entering college.

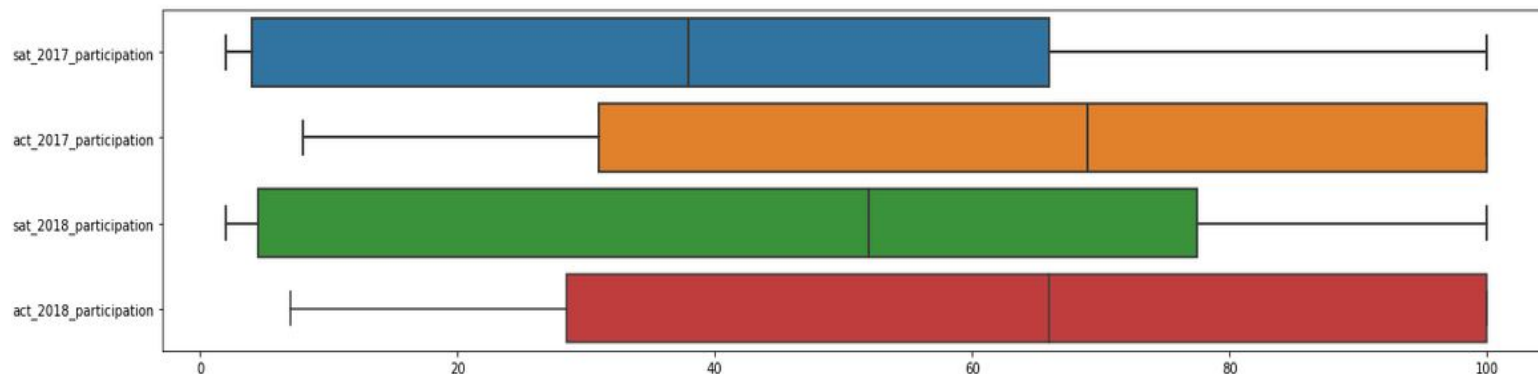
Conclusion: **Class Inequality!**

- Why should you care?
- **Exploring our data**
- Recommendations

Datasets used

- SAT and ACT 2017/2018 datasets
 - Has all 50 States
 - Includes Participation Rates
 - Includes Average (Mean) Scores for each tested component

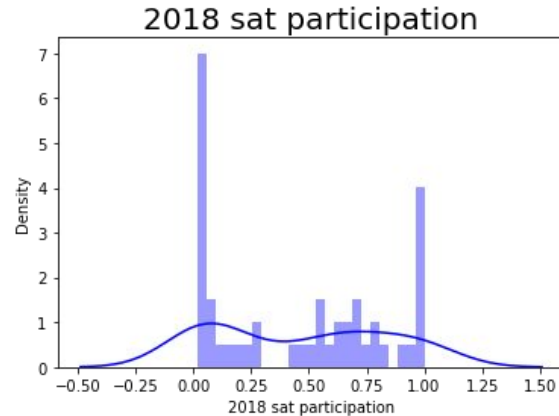
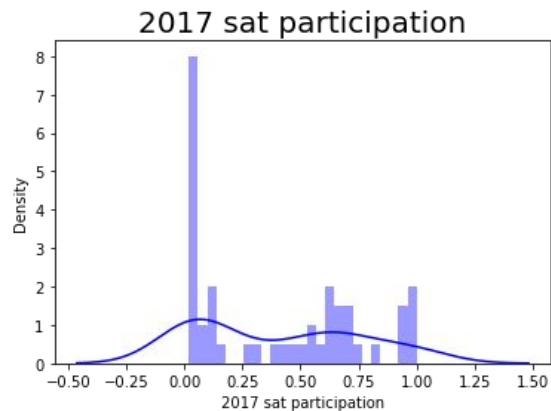
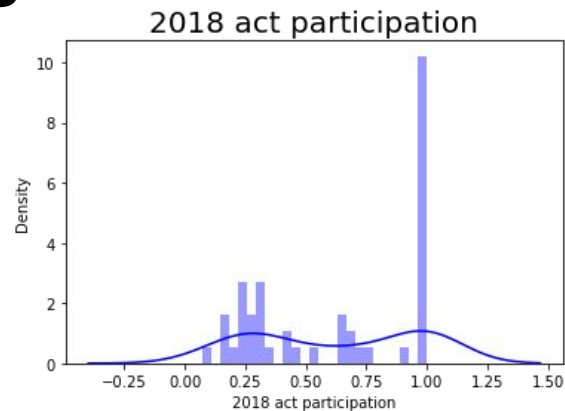
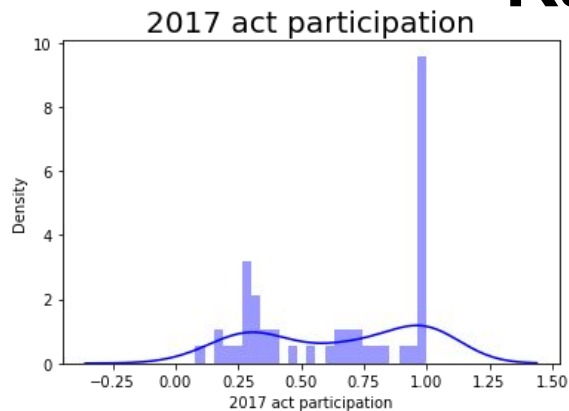
Visualising the Data: Participation Rates



- Lower SAT participation (Green/Blue) than ACT participation (Orange/Red) overall
- Higher SAT participation in 2018 than 2017

Visualising the Data: Distribution of Participation Rates

Bimodal
Distributions



Interesting States

State	SAT 2017 Participation Rate	ACT 2017 Participation Rate	SAT 2018 Participation Rate	ACT 2018 Participation Rate
California	53%	31%	-	-
Hawaii	-	-	56%	89%
Iowa	2%	67%	3%	68%

California has **middling SAT** and **ACT** participation rates

Hawaii has **good SAT** and **very good ACT** participation rates

Iowa has **very low SAT** and **lower than expected ACT** participation rates

- Why should you care?
- Exploring our data
- **Recommendations**

Recommendation: Application to Florida

Why Florida?

Drastic Fall

In Participation Rates

For both SAT and ACT, 2017 and 2018

SAT fell by 27%

ACT fell by 7%

What plagues Florida?

Decline in Funding Levels Per
Student, and Fund Levels
below National Levels

Both SAT/ACT not compulsory

Recommendations

For Florida

Recommendation 1

Increase Funding per Student

- Lobby Congress/ State Legislator
- Vermont's Equal Educational Opportunity Act: allows for equal distribution of state funding instead of tax revenues staying in rich towns

>400%

Increase in Funding Levels per
Student in Vermont

Between 1995 and 2005

Recommendation 2

Making Either Test Compulsory

- More effective measure
- Lobbying might still be required

Recommendation 3

Programs to Encourage Tertiary Education

E.g. Hawaii's 'Personal/Transition Plan' Program
Individualised career counseling

Conclusion

Most Effective

Making the Tests Compulsory:

Pros: Fast and Effective

Cons: Not Equitable for Lower Income Students

Most Sustainable & Equitable

Combined Approach

- Increase Funding Levels per Student
- Programs to Encourage Tertiary Education

THE END