



Standardized Testing and Income

The Problem Statement

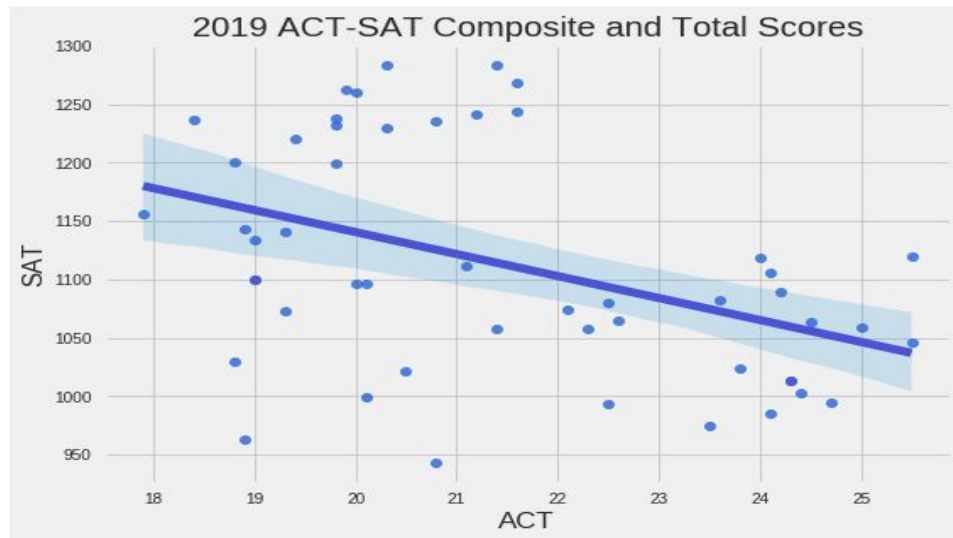
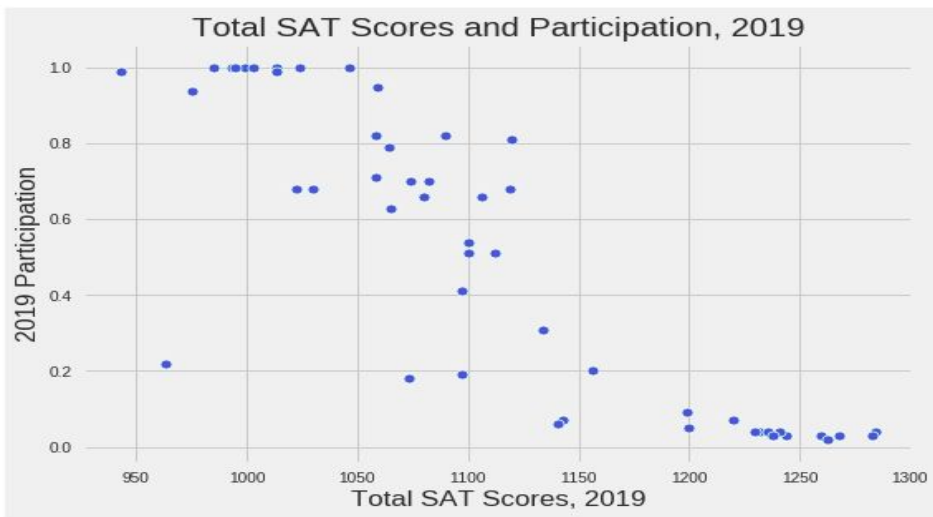
- Standardized testing in the US college admissions process has been widely criticized for underlying bias associated with the SAT & ACT. (Operation Varsity Blues-2019)
- While many socio-economic factors have been directly linked to student outcome, we hypothesize family social and economic backgrounds have the biggest influence on a student's life.
- Today we seek to identify these lesser affluent families along side with the states with the least participation rate and student performance so that we may better allocate resources.

Data

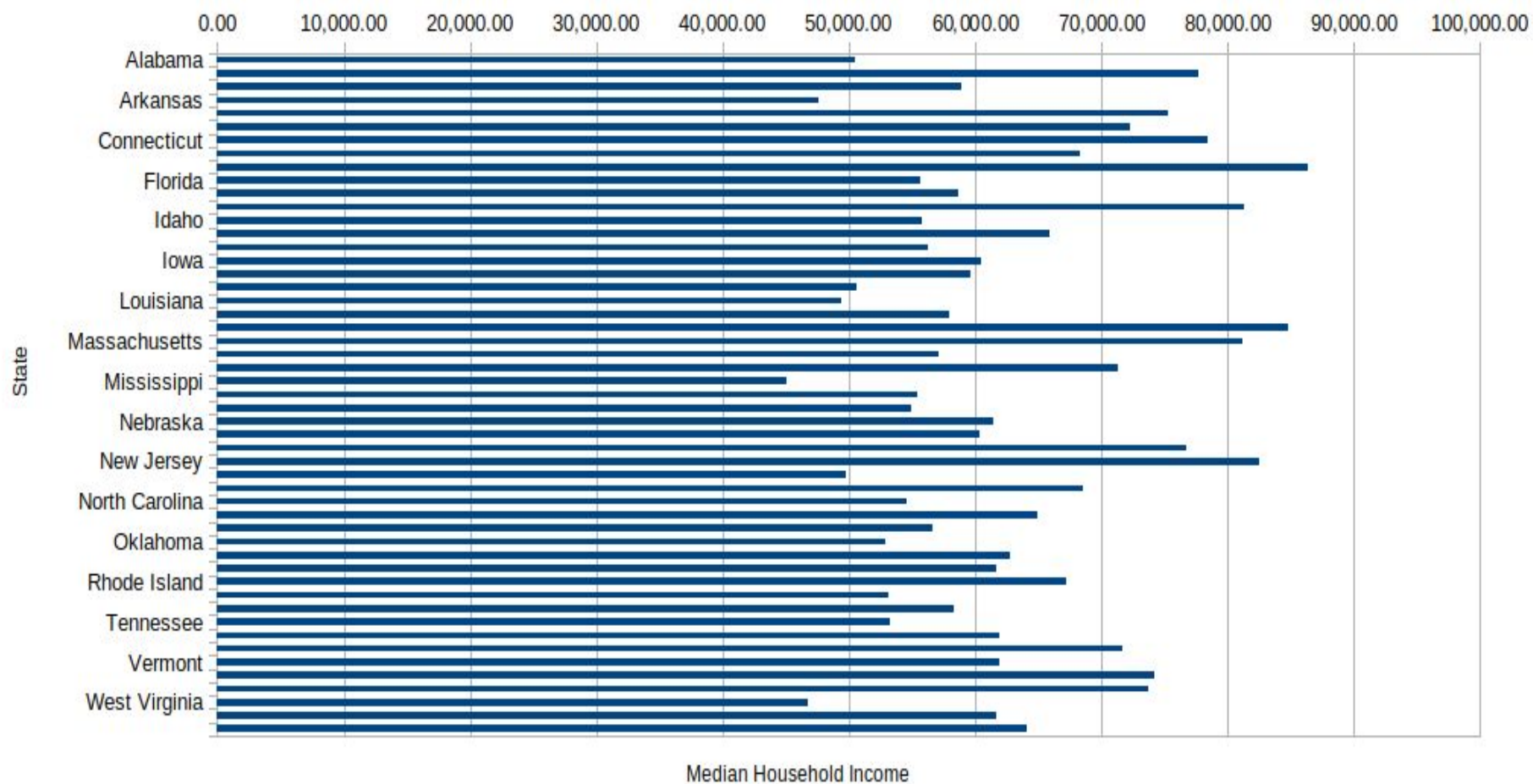
SAT participation
rate & scores 2019

ACT participation
rate & scores 2019

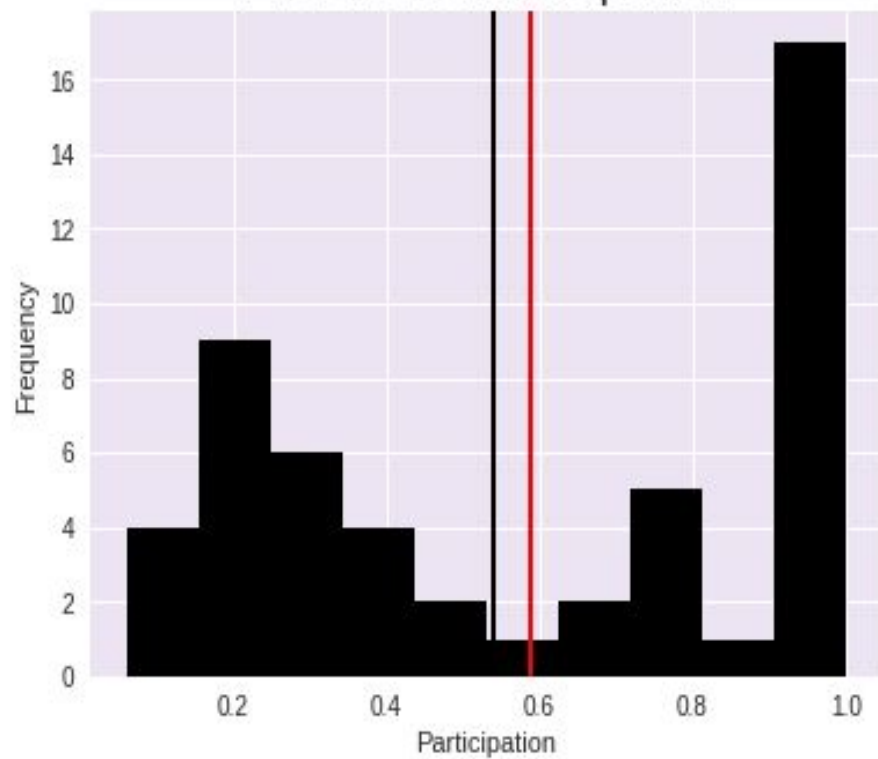
Median Household
Income 2019



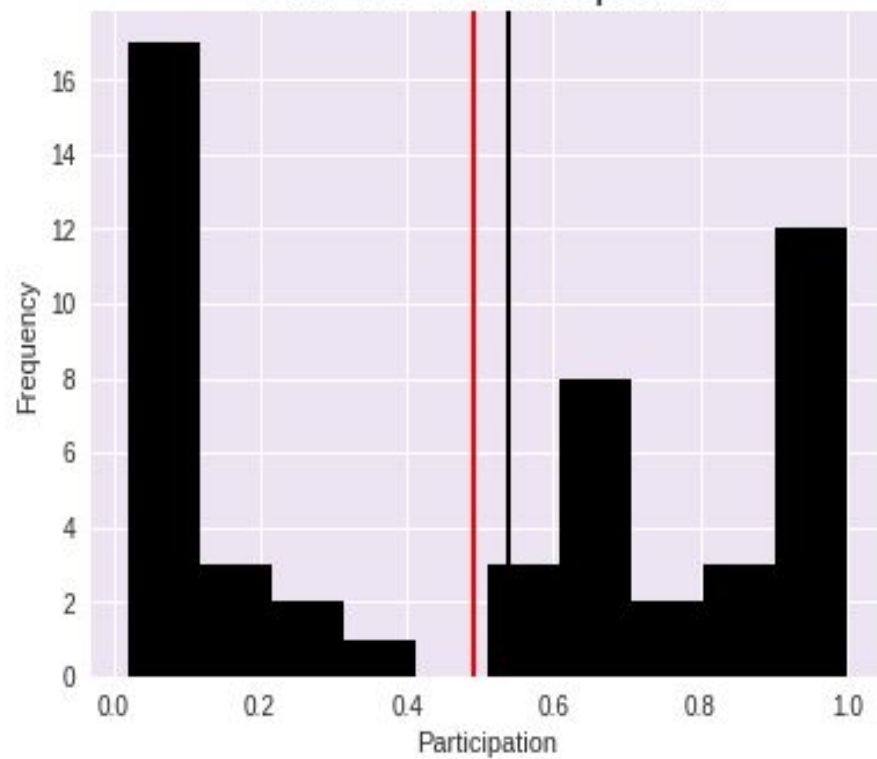
Median Household Income by State



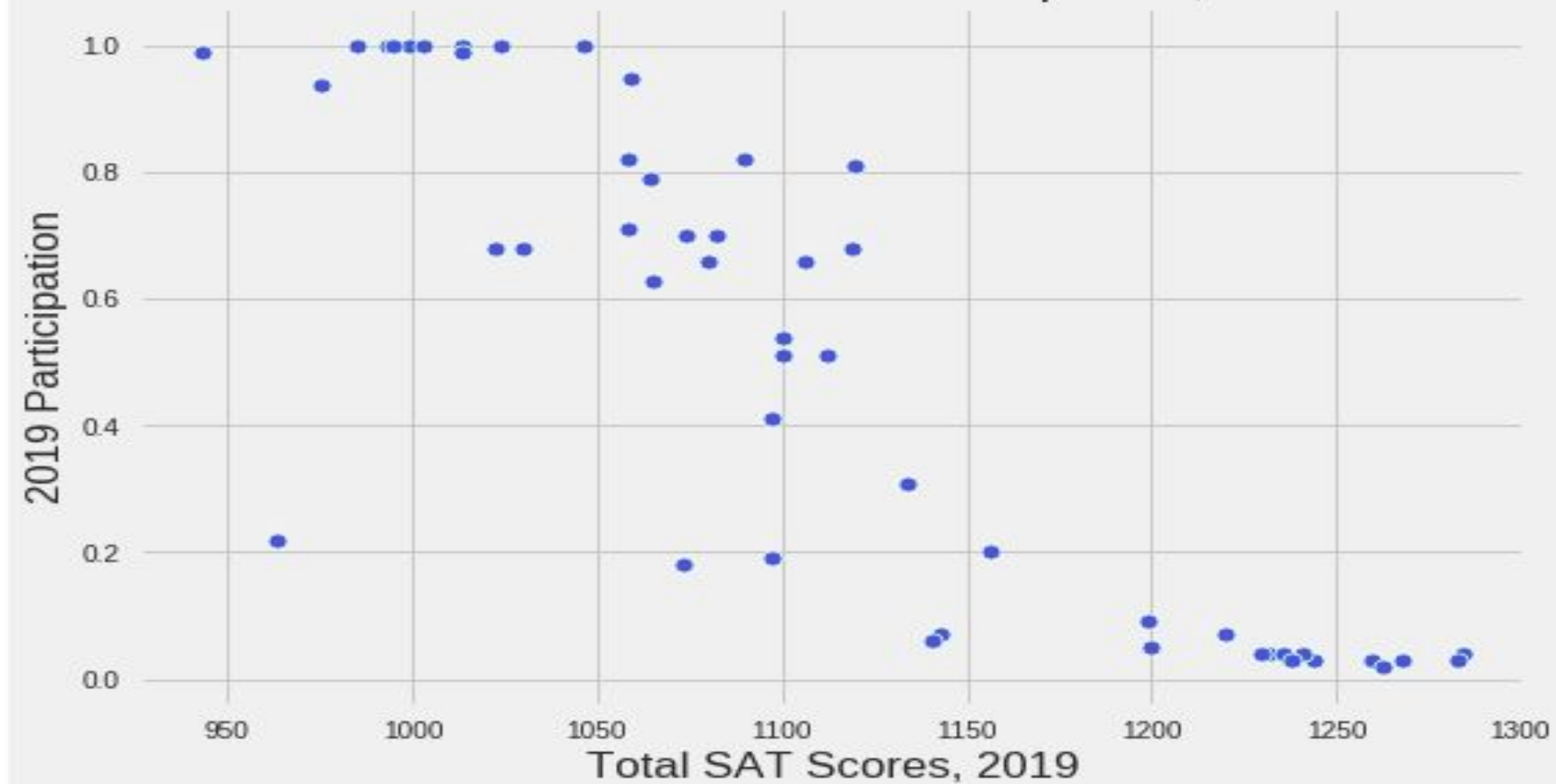
ACT 2019 Participation



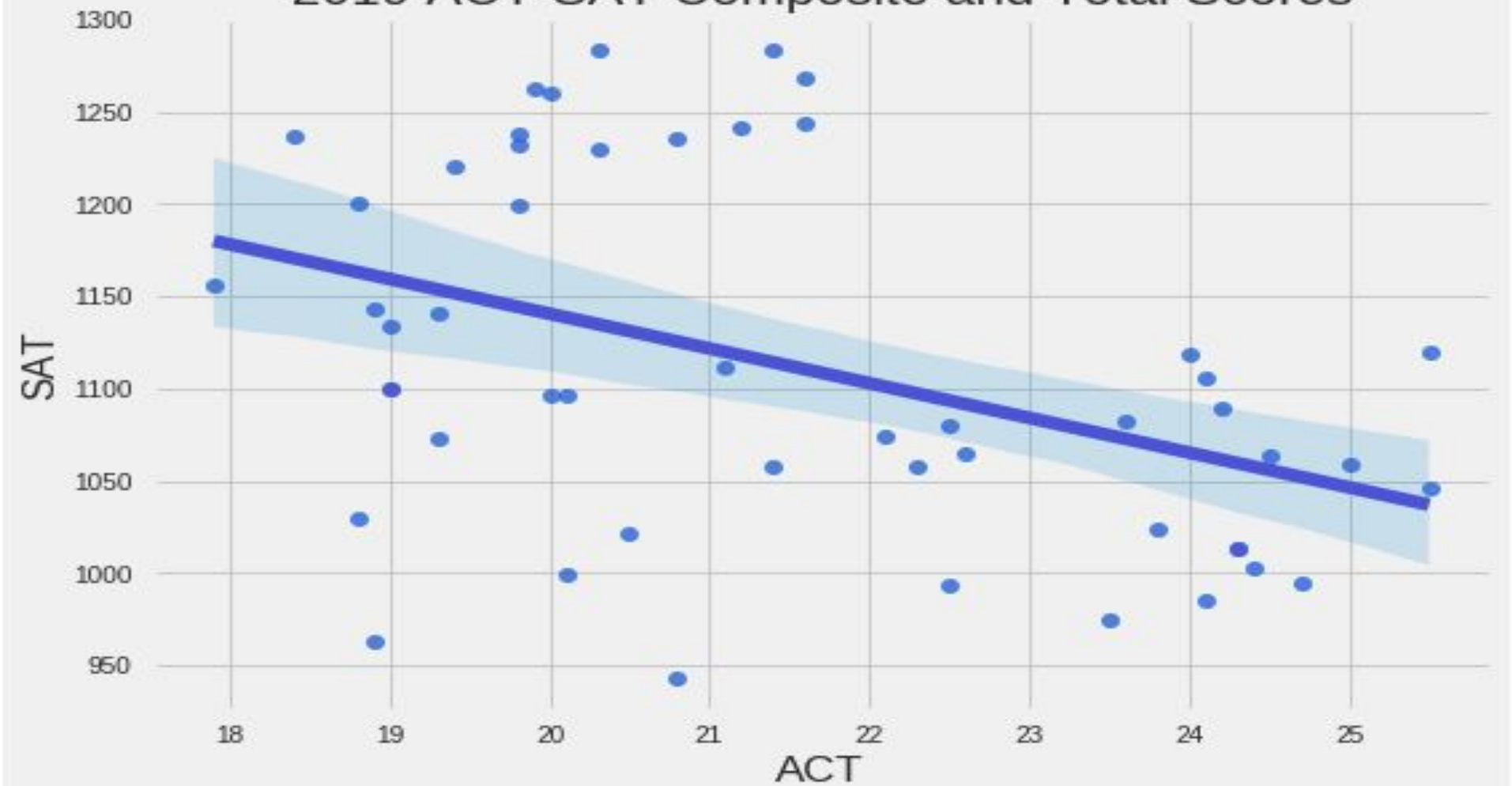
SAT 2019 Participation



Total SAT Scores and Participation, 2019



2019 ACT-SAT Composite and Total Scores



Conclusion

- Where we see some states like North Dakota, having the lowest percentile SAT participation rates, we can see an indirect correlation here as the same state also ranks the highest in ACT participation. Opposite on the East coast.
- As in this example, states such as West Virginia, Arkansas, and Louisiana fall into the lower family income bracket and as such, testing performance has shown to be affected.

Recommendations

- Mississippi, West Virginia, Arkansas
- Programs such as funding for meals, educational resources, testing prep, tutoring, and after school programs are the basic needs these students deserve.
- Spend more money on east coast SAT and midwest ACT.

More Research

While we gained some valuable information, there is still a lot deeper we can dive into regarding family income and how they allocate their own personal resources for their children.

What are some of the other ways schools can use funds to improve student performance?