

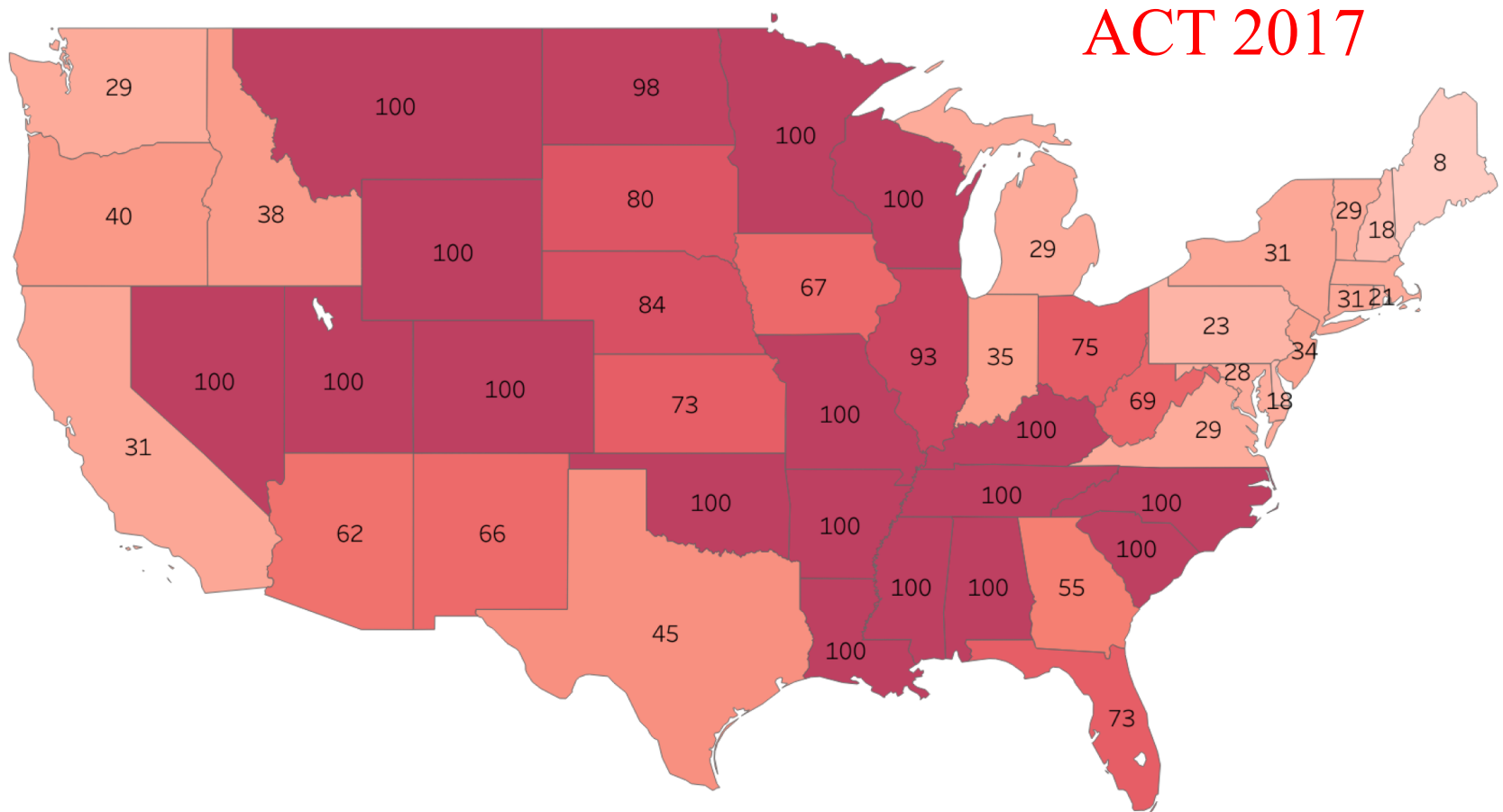
Analysis of SAT and ACT Exams

Alireza Karimi



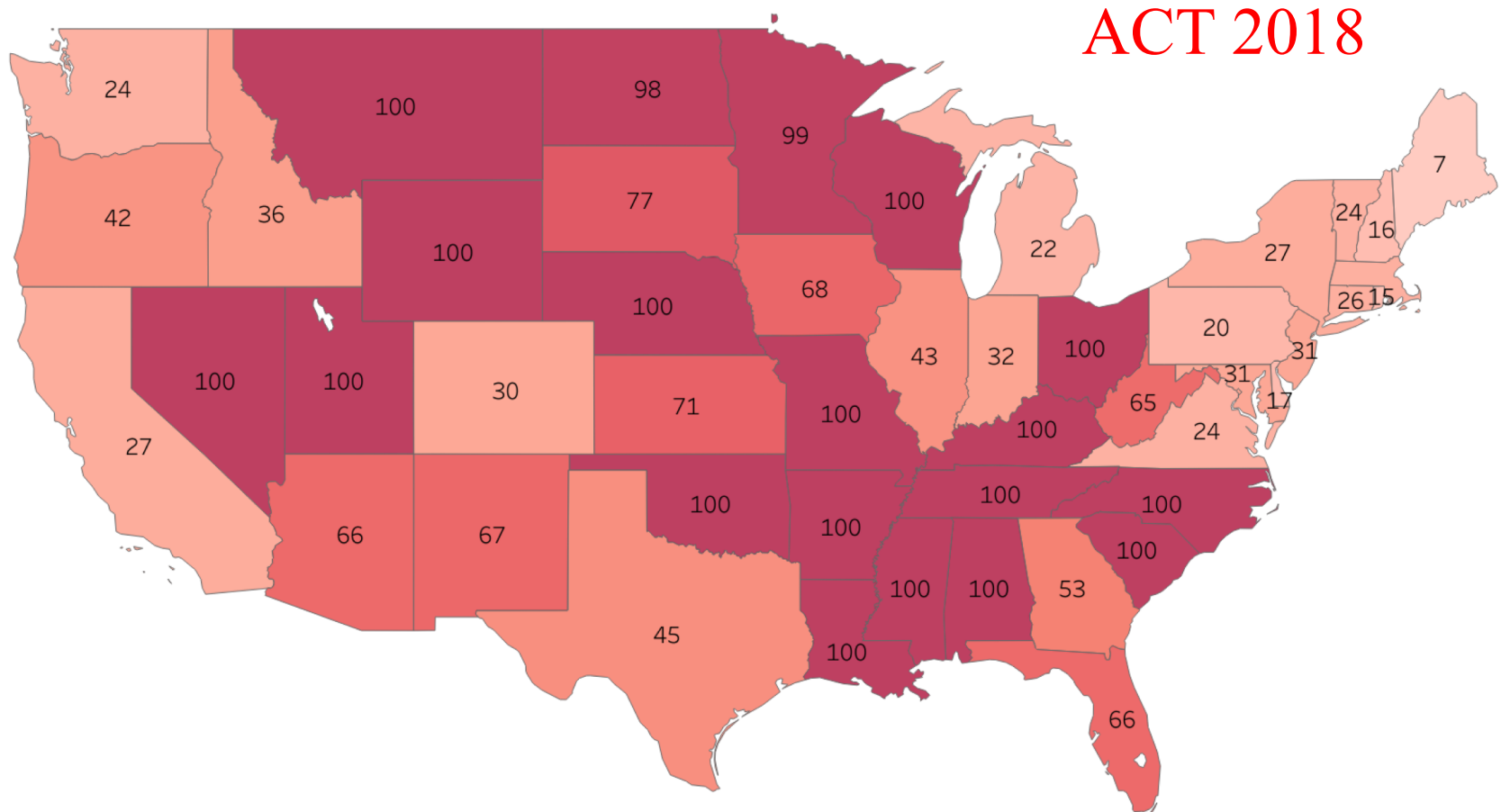
Participation Rate in ACT Exam

- The majority of states still prefer the ACT exam as the standardized test for college entrance.



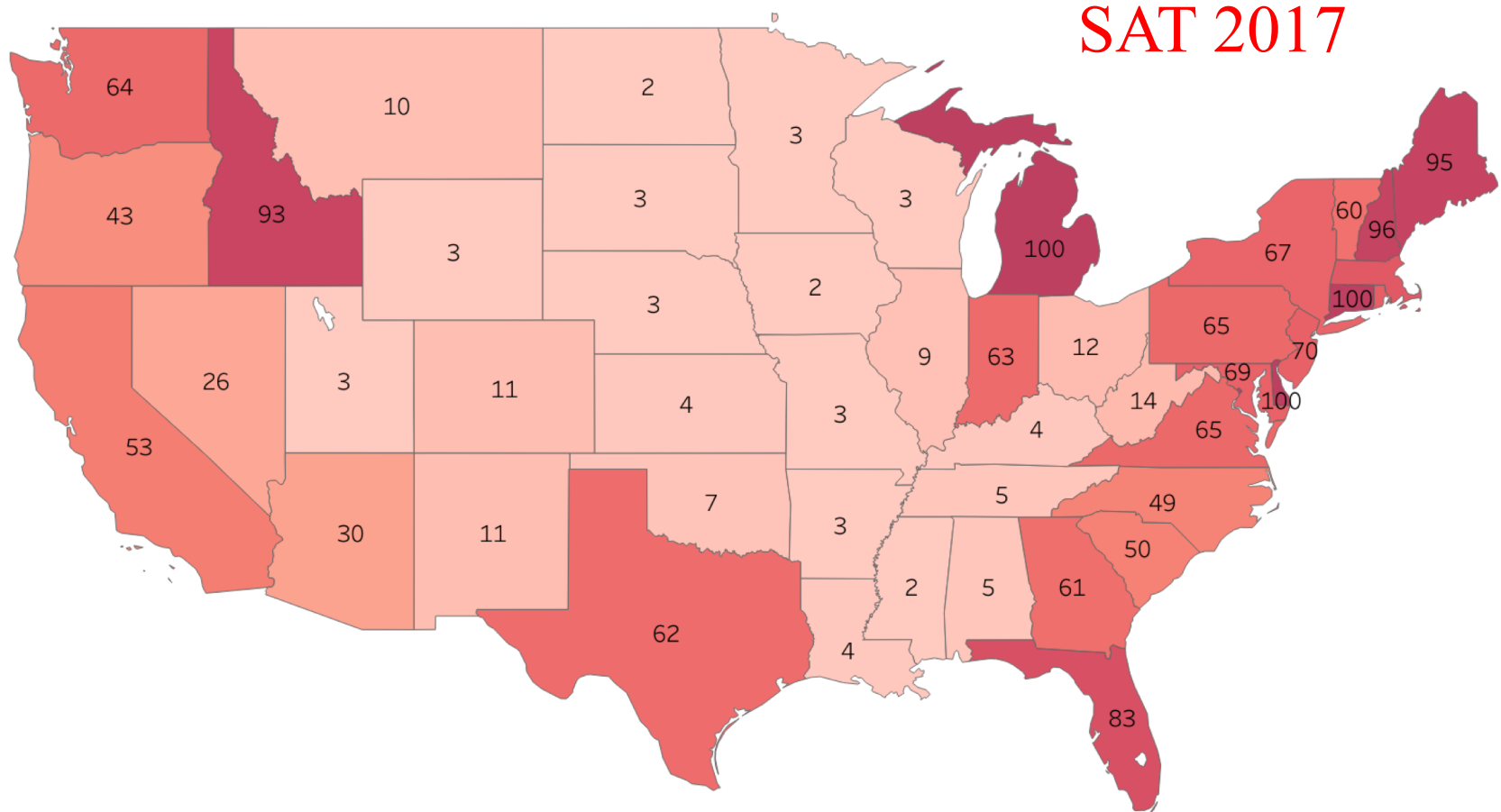
Participation Rate in ACT Exam

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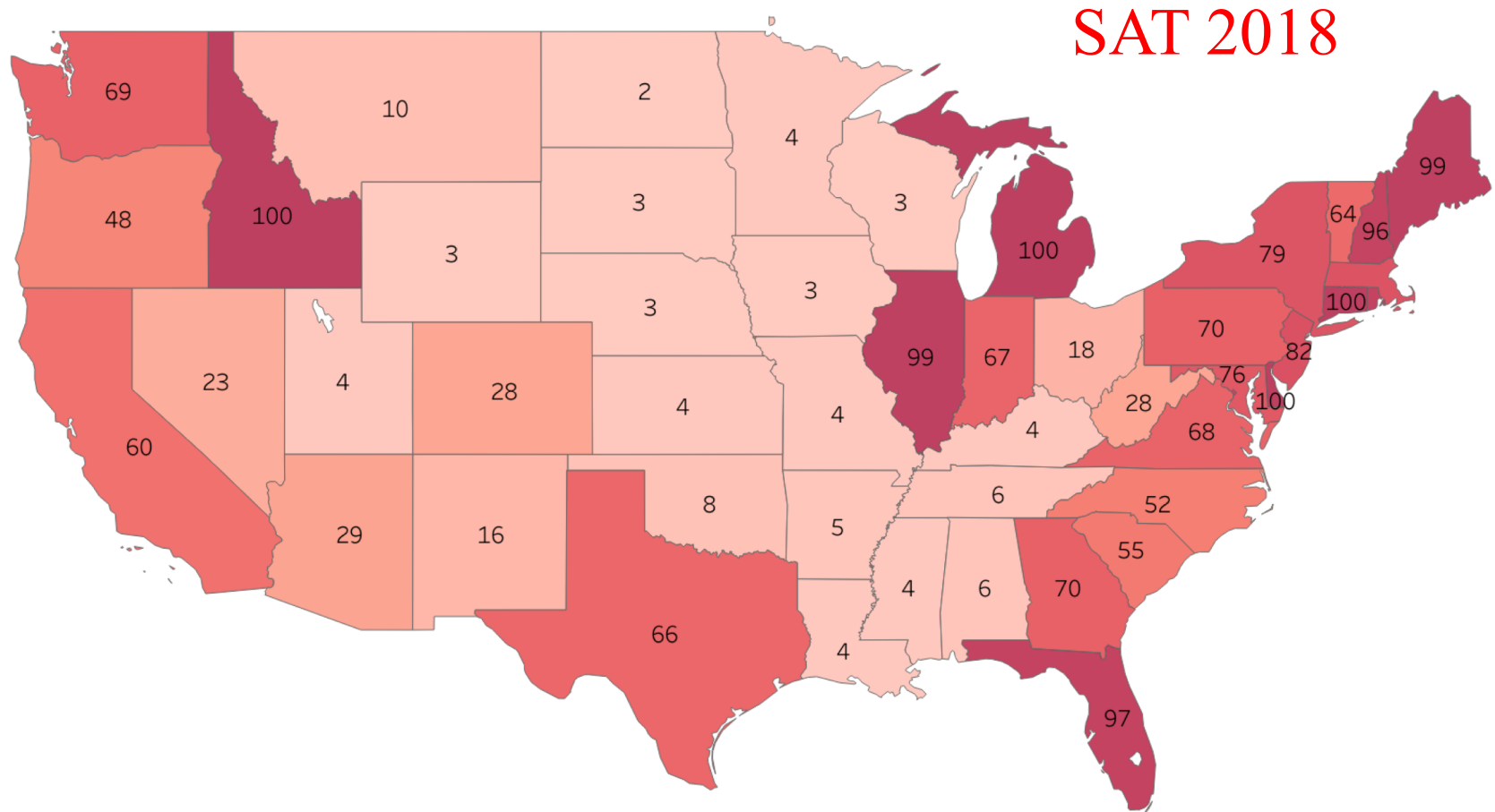
Participation Rate in SAT Exam

- However, adopting the SAT exam is on the rise.



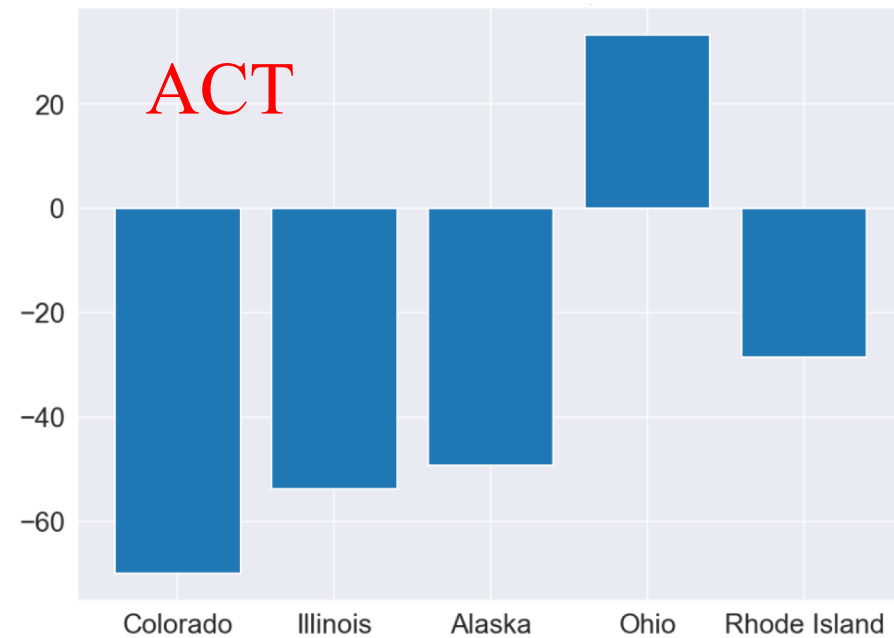
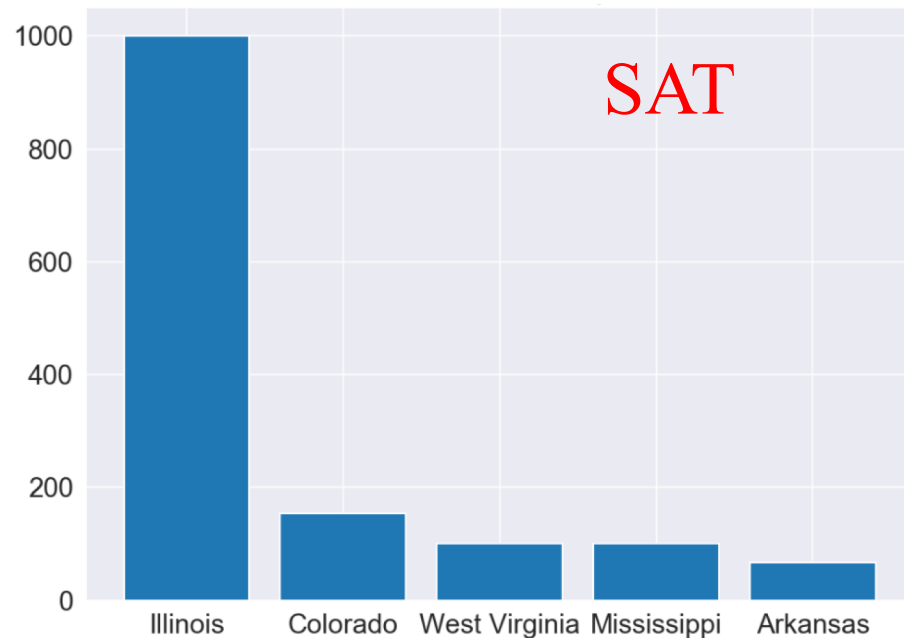
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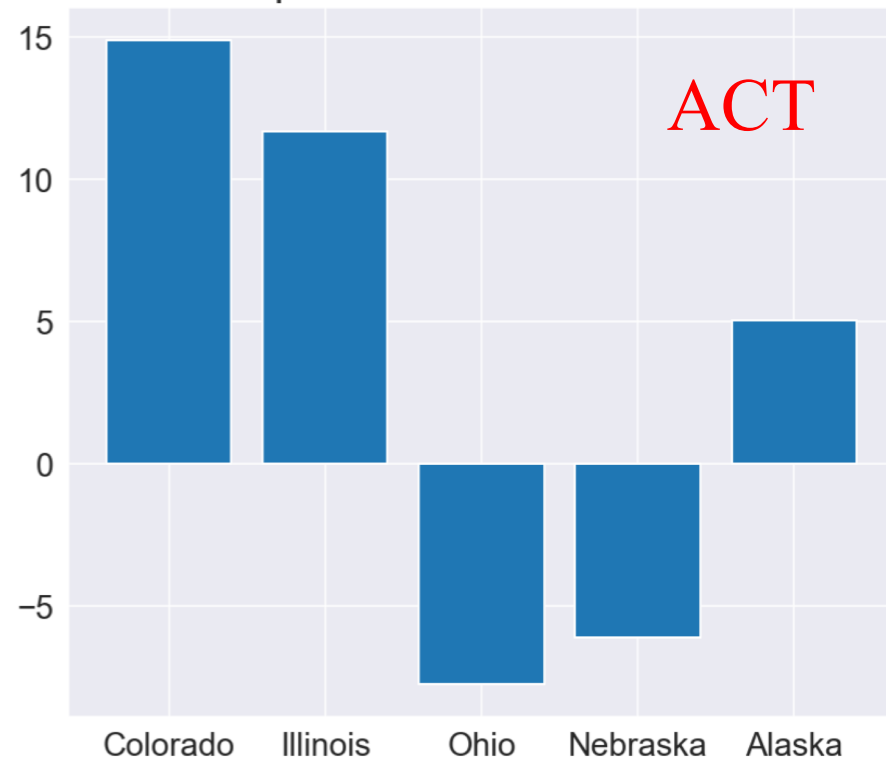
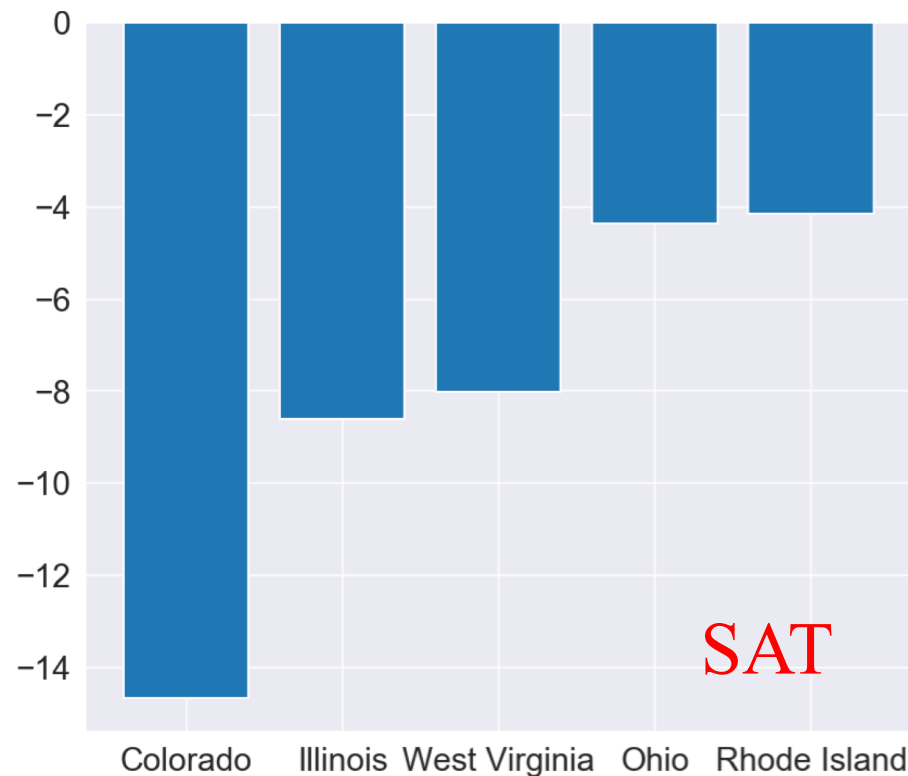
Change in Participation Rate

- States with most drastic change in participation rate in SAT/ACT exams in 2018 compared to 2017
- In both exams, Illinois and Colorado stand out.



Change in Total/Composite Scores

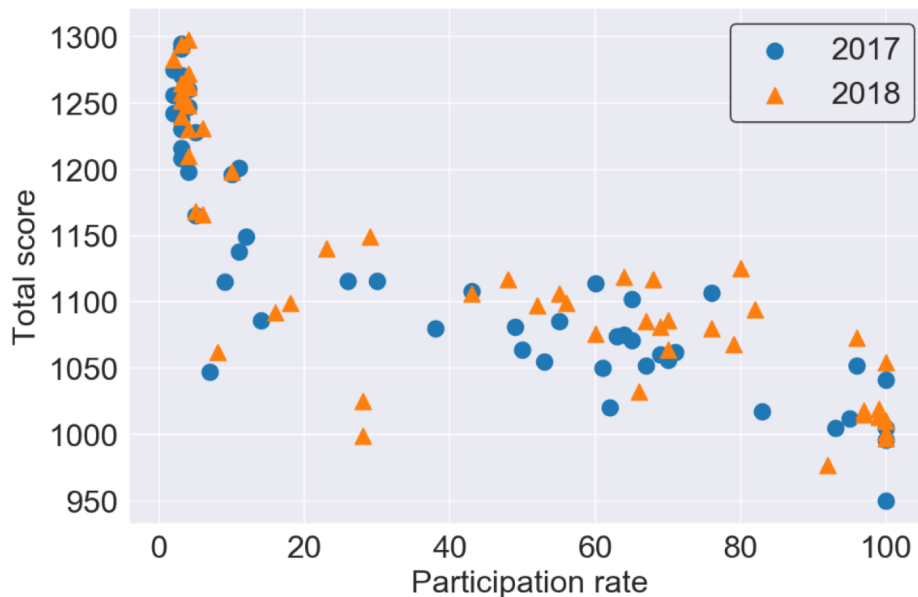
- States with most drastic change in participation rate in SAT/ACT total/composite scores in 2018 compared to 2017
- Again, Colorado and Illinois are highlighted.



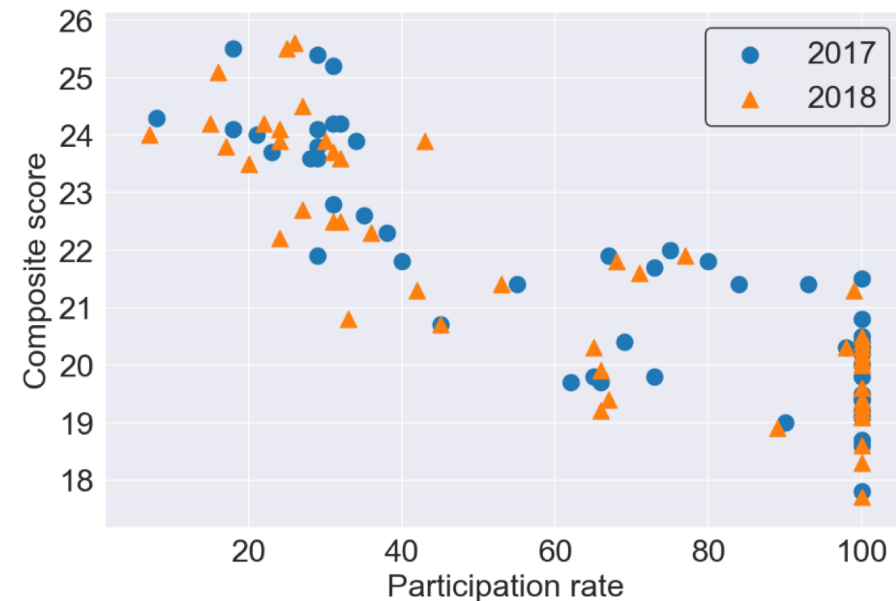
Negative Correlation

- In both exams, the average total/composite score is negatively correlated to the participation rate.
- States undergoing a rapid growth in participation experience a drop in their average total score.

SAT



ACT



Case Study: Illinois

- In June 2018, the Illinois High School Accountability Assessments made a contract with College Board, which administers the SAT, to expand their duties as the state's official tester over ACT.
- Fairness of this contract has been questioned.

College exam company raises questions about with Illinois ACT/SAT switch

[Link](#)

- The rapid transition to this new system of standardized tests as well as the teacher shortage are to be blamed for the 8% drop in the average score of the SAT exam.

Teacher shortage blamed as Illinois SAT scores fall, PARCC test scores flatten

[Link](#)

Case Study: Colorado

- in 2016, the state Department of Education chose the College Board, makers of the SAT, over the ACT testing company to conduct the standardized test.
- Juniors took the SAT for the first time in 2017 as a mandatory state test.

Goodbye ACT, hello SAT: a significant change for Colorado high schoolers

[Link](#)

- The 15% drop in the average score of the SAT exam is probably due to the fact that this year the number of participants is more than doubled and these new students have a more diverse background.