

Evaluating the Impact of Optional ACT and SAT Tests on Student Participation and Performance



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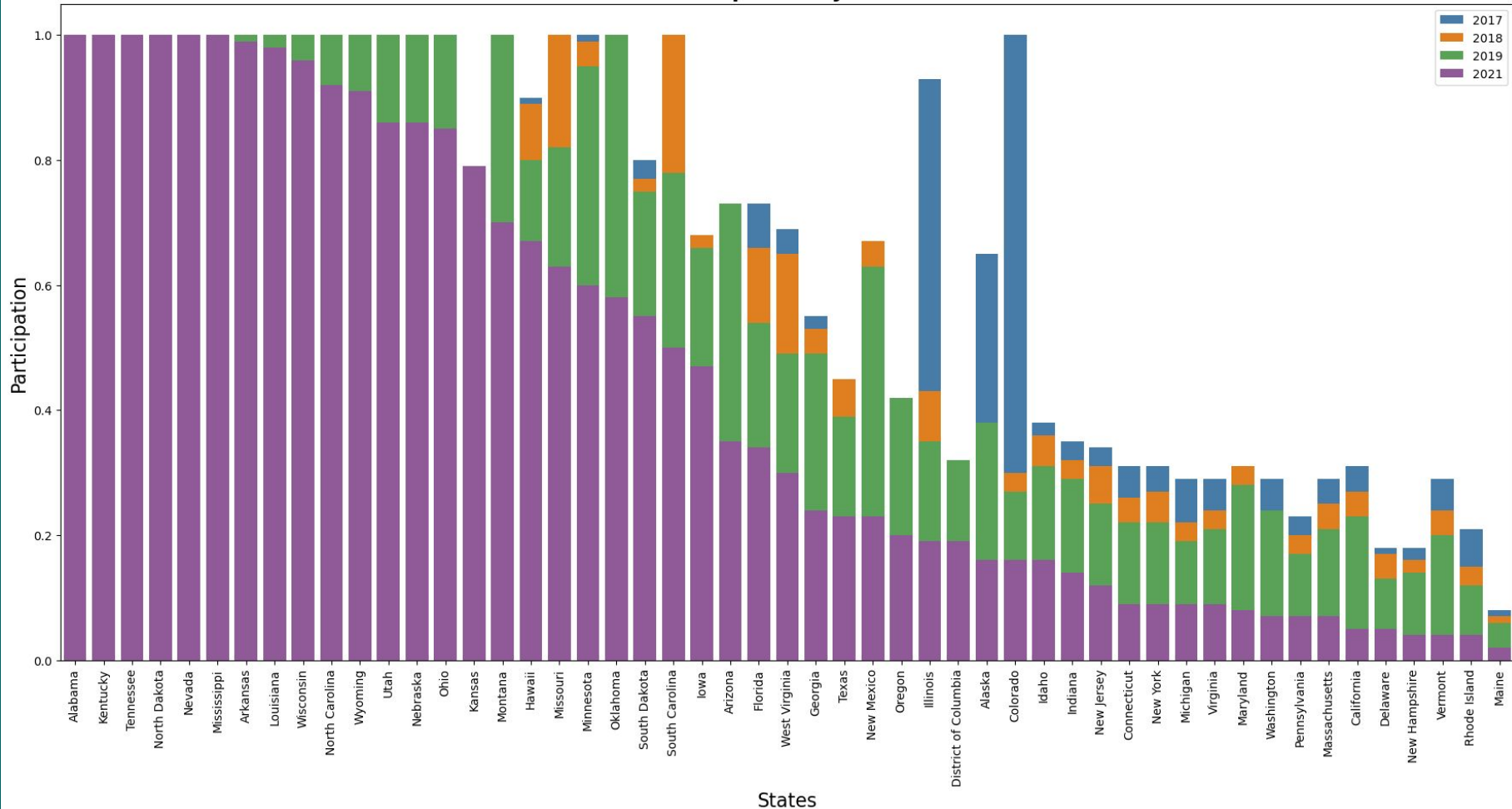
Problem Statement Outline:

- **Evaluate ACT and SAT participation rates and scores from 2017-2019 versus 2021**
- **Assess influence of test requirements on student participation**
- **Analyze the impact of voluntary test-taking on performance**
- **Determine the value of investing resources in these tests**
- **Explore potential alternative aspects of learning to prioritize**
- **Provide recommendations for future requirements beyond 2021**

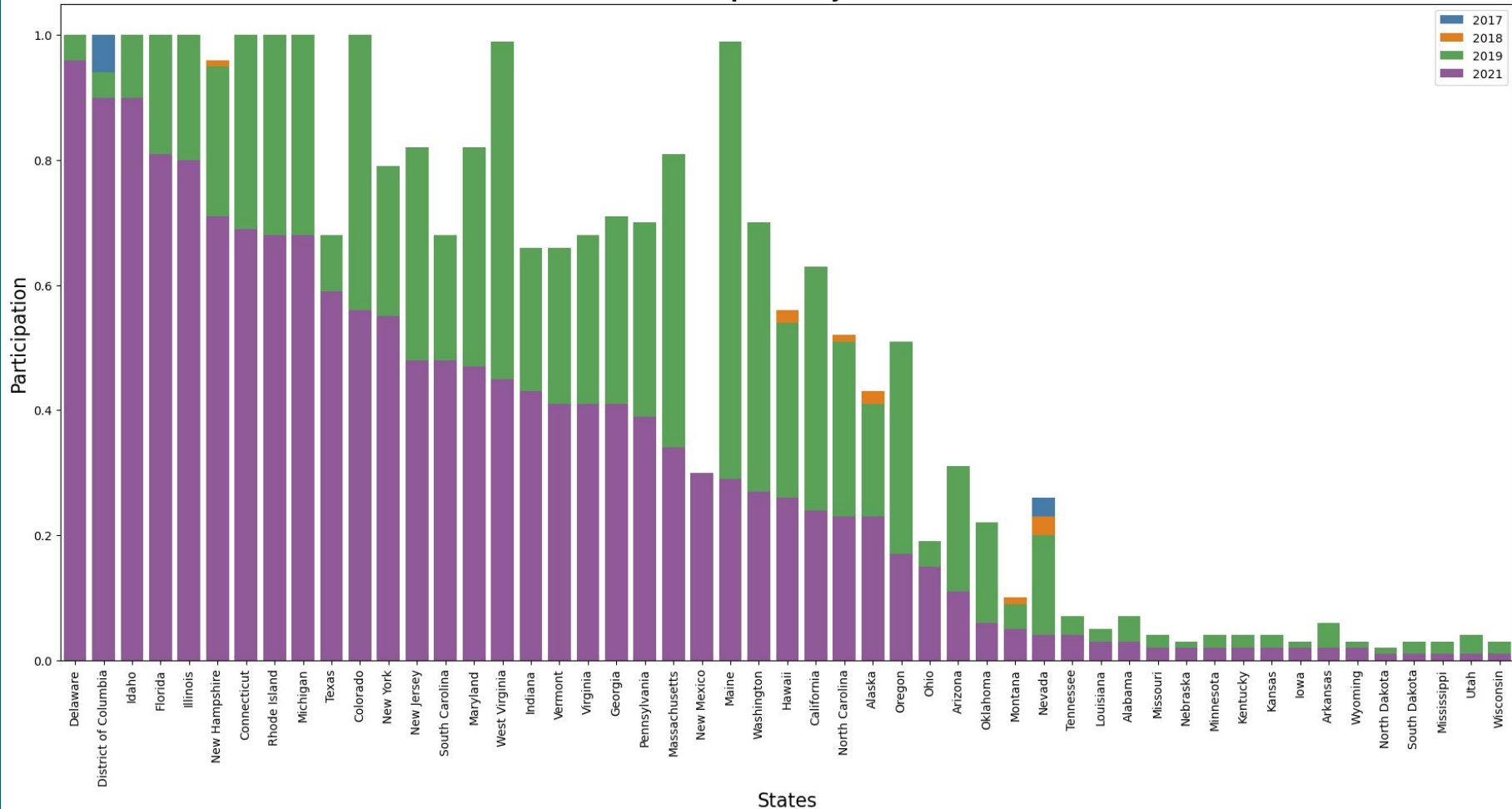
In 2021, 93.75% of US colleges made these tests optional.

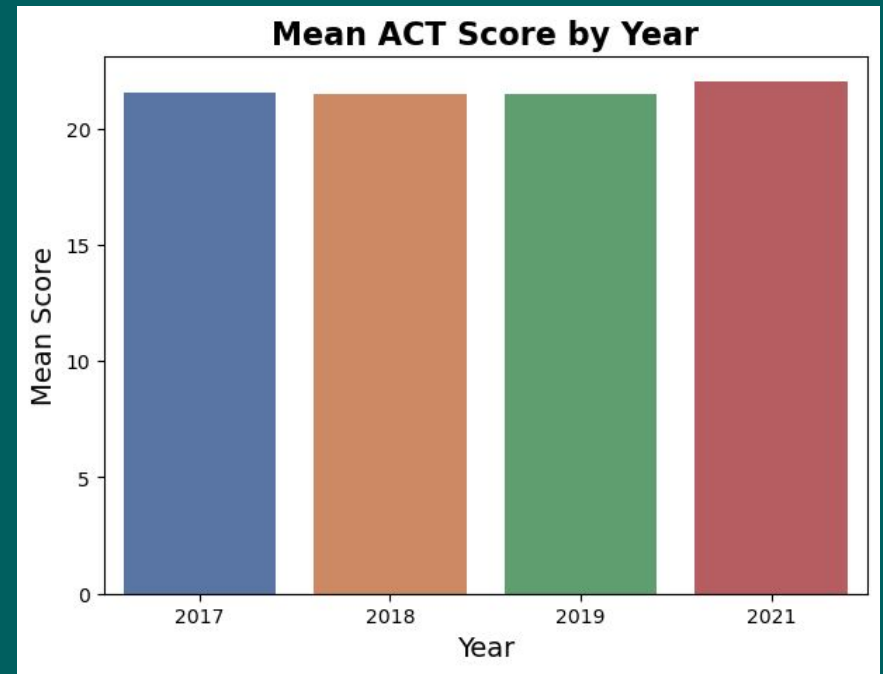
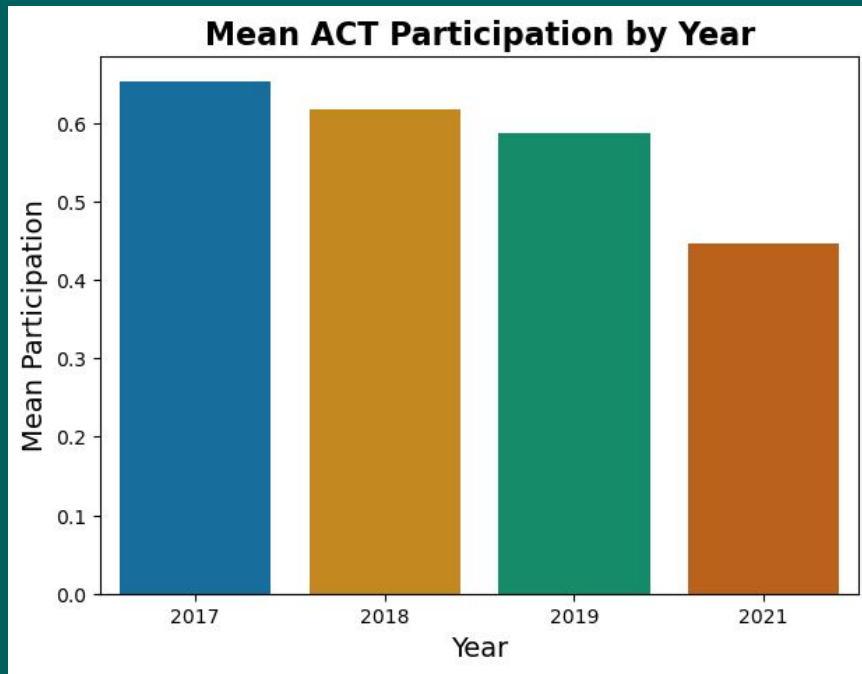
(sample size 10.58%)

ACT Test Participation by State and Year

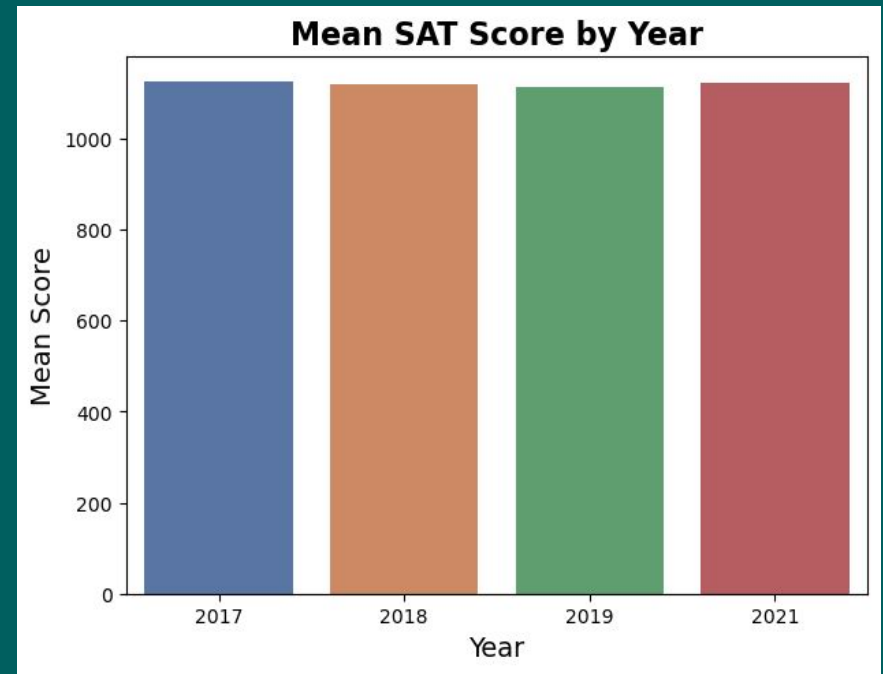
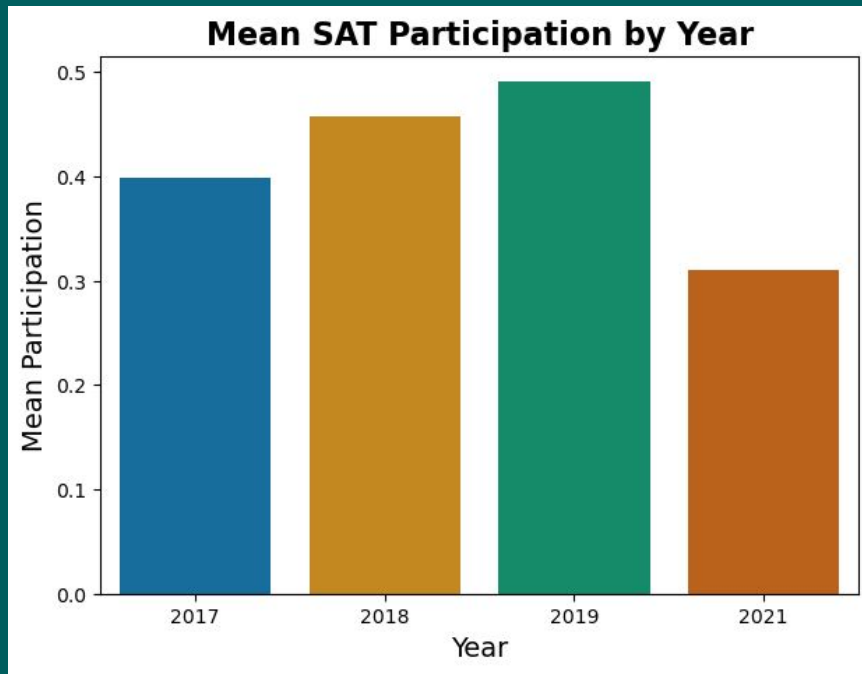


SAT Test Participation by State and Year





- We exist to fight for fairness in education and create a world where everyone can discover and fulfill their potential. (act.org)
- \$300 million in annual revenue. (propublica.org)
- \$260 million in net assets as of 2020. (propublica.org)



- Founded in 1900, College Board was created to expand access to higher education. (collegeboard.org)
- \$1 billion in annual revenue and \$100 million in untaxed surplus. (forbes.com)
- \$1.5 billion in net assets as of 2020. (propublica.org)



Key takeaways:

- **SAT and ACT should be made optional nationwide.**
- **Participation dropped on average 20% by state.**
- **Optional test-taking had little to no impact on performance.**
- **College Board and ACT should be treated as corporations and denied federal grants.**
- **Resources should be invested on student mental health and financial literacy.**