



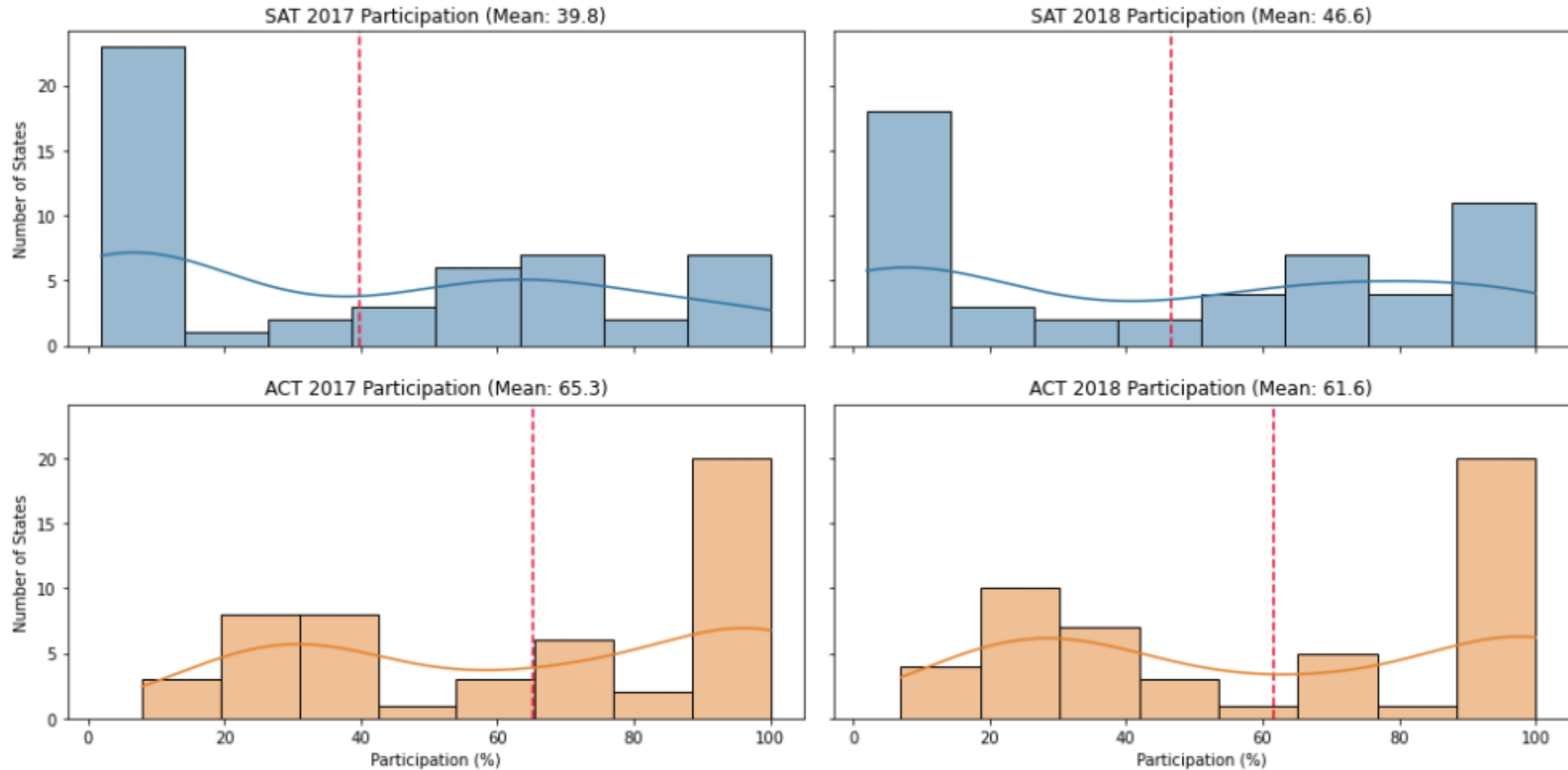
Analyzing SAT & ACT Test Results

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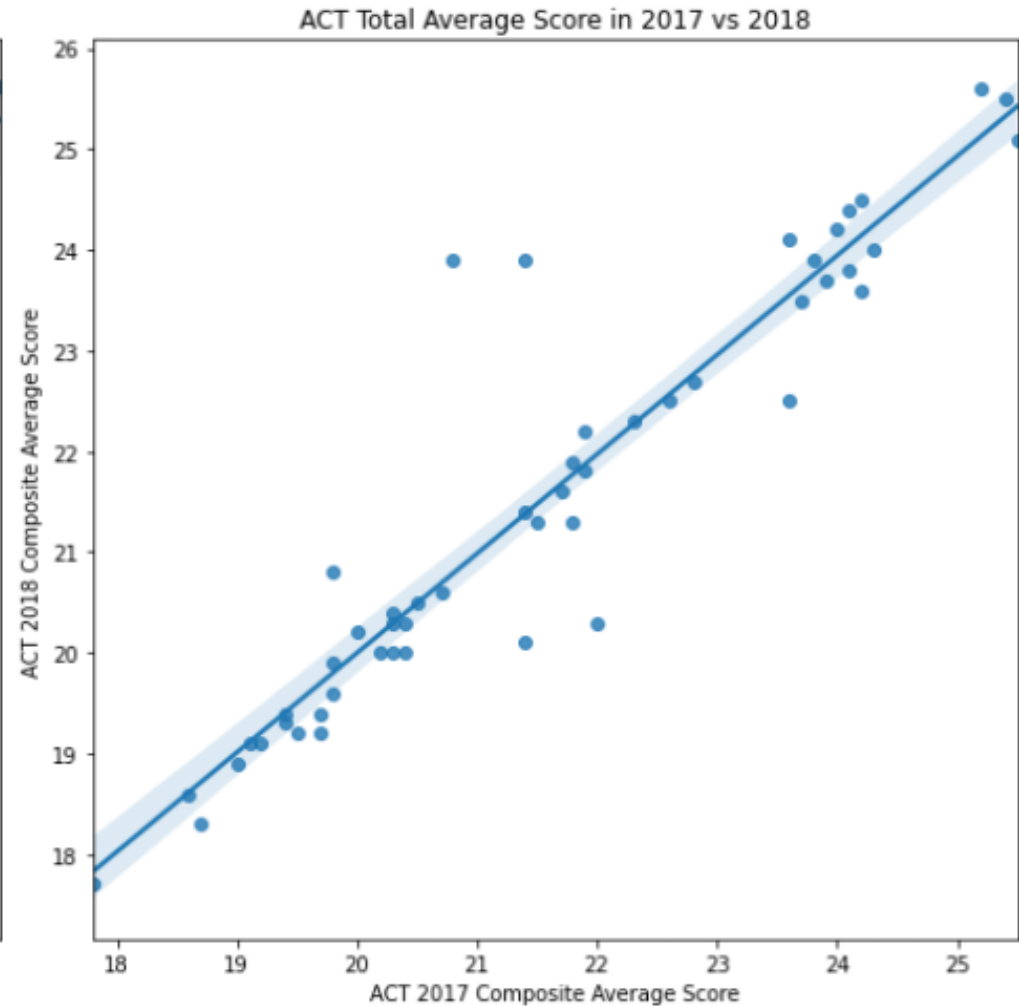
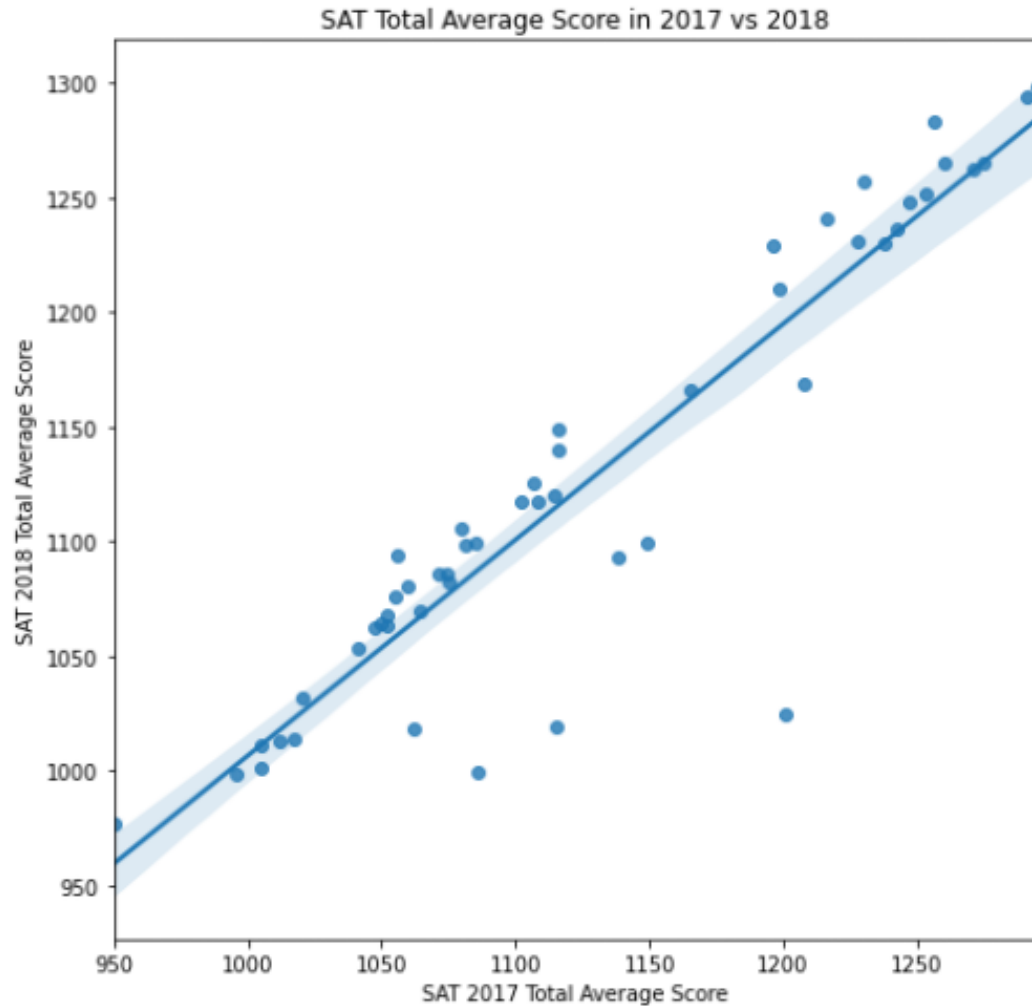


ACT vs SAT:
Which test is more popular?

Clearly, the ACT is more popular than the SAT

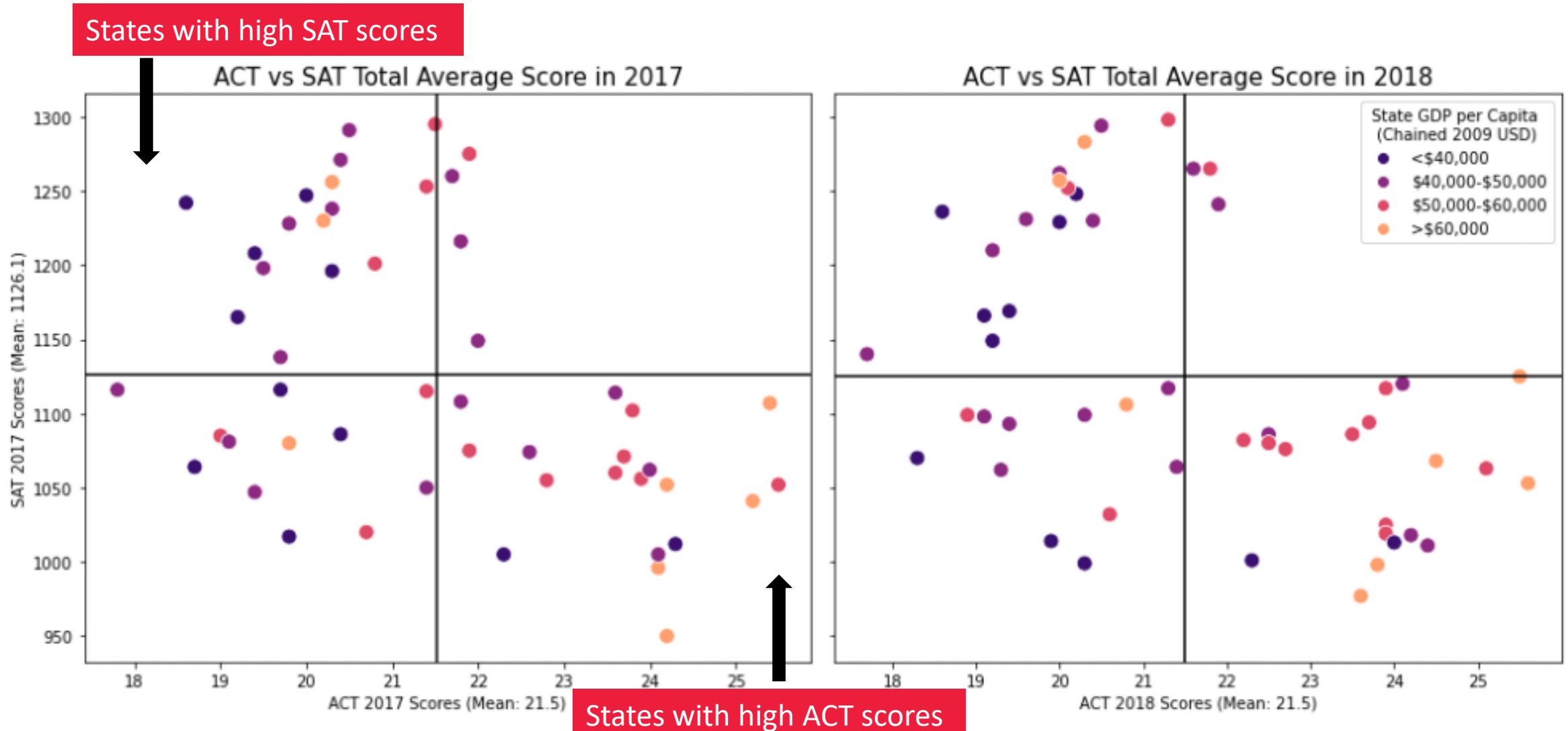


But why? Correlation of scores year-over-year is better for the ACT.



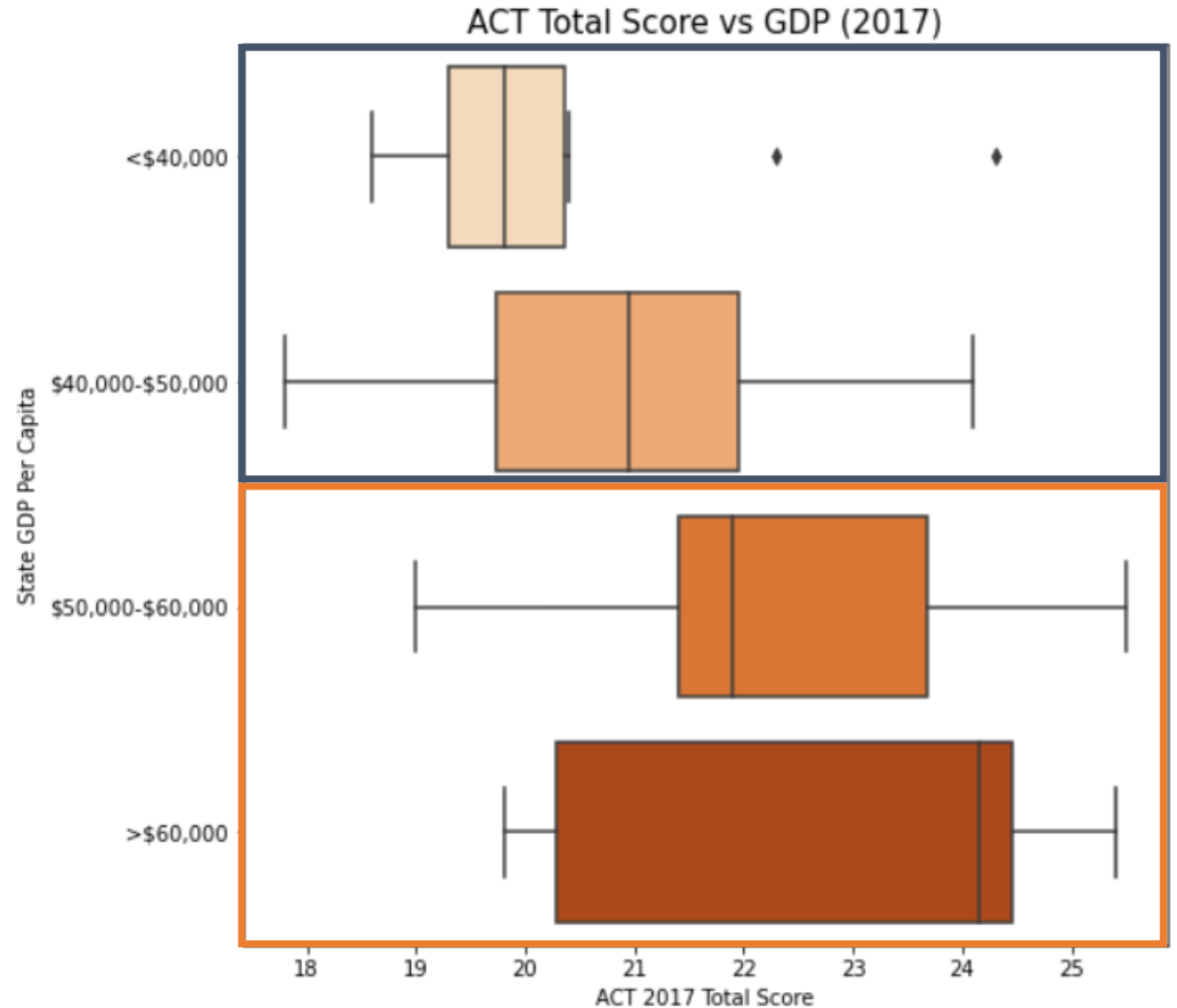
So how can we boost
SAT participation rates?

Looking at the data shows that poor states have relatively higher SAT scores and lower ACT scores.



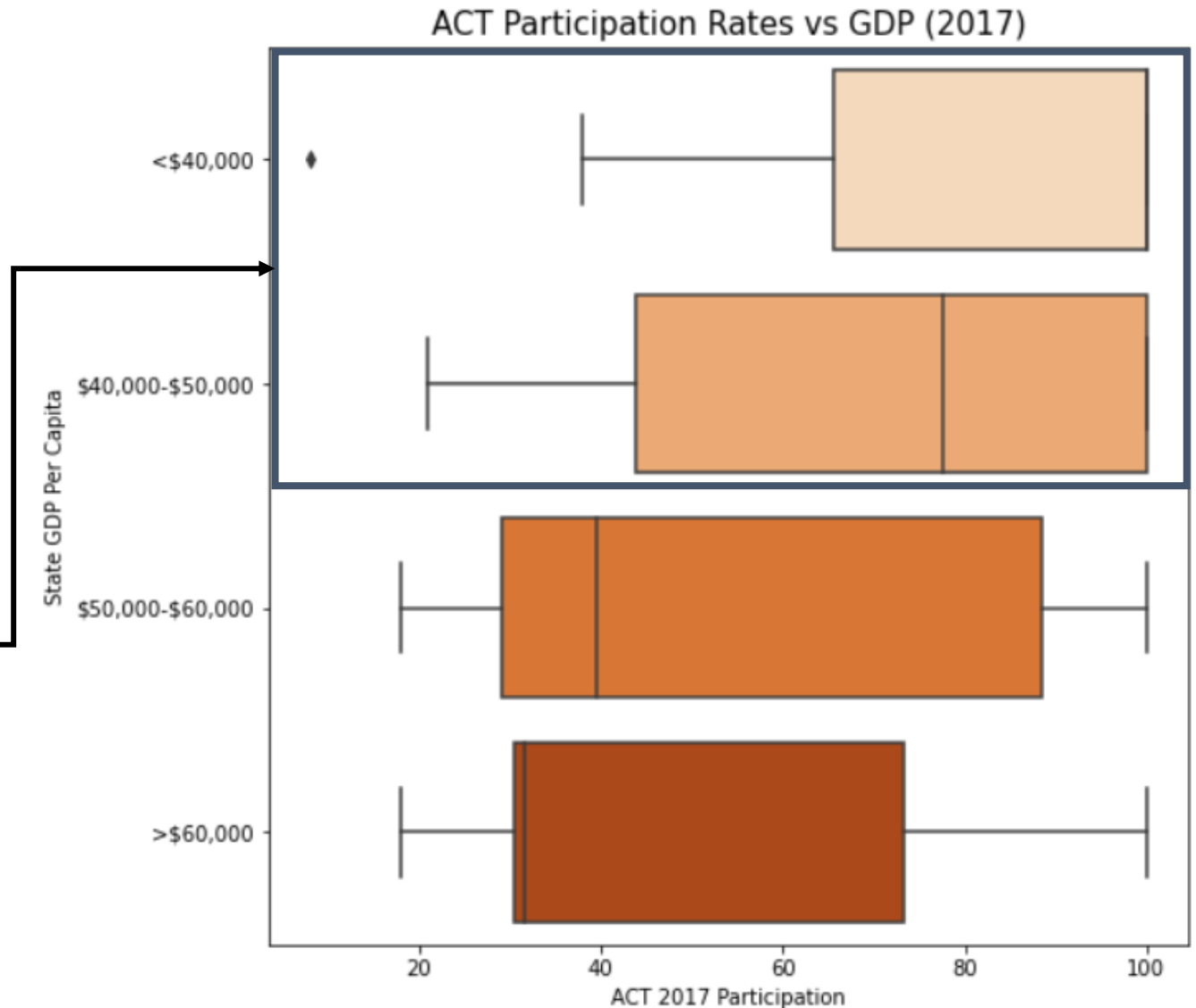
ACT Total Score vs GDP

- States with a low GDP per Capita tend to have relatively poor ACT scores.
- In comparison, states with a GDP per Capita of above \$50,000 have higher ACT scores.



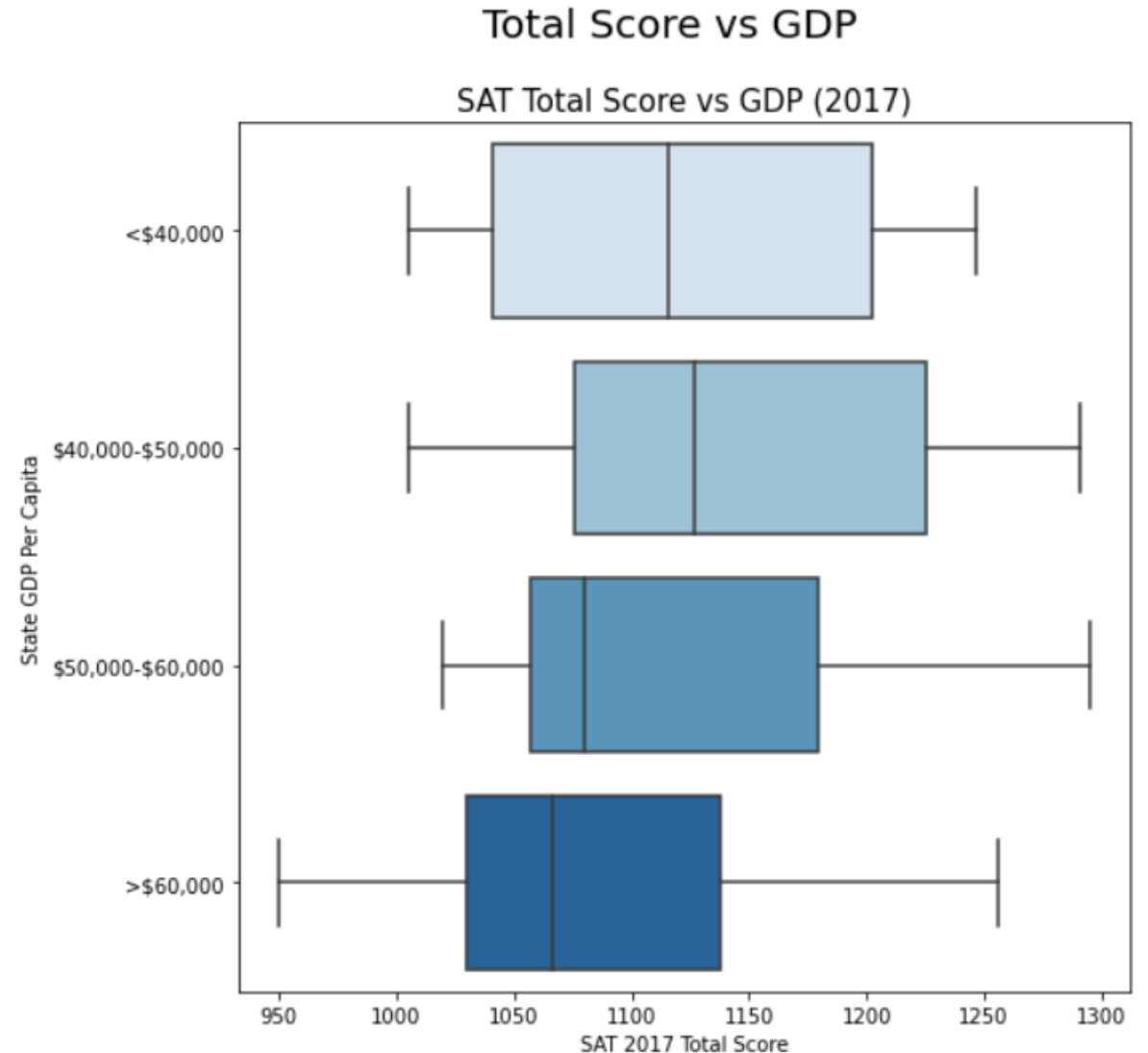
ACT Participation Rates vs GDP

- Despite this, states with a low GDP per Capita have high ACT participation rates.
- There are **19 states with:**
 - 1. Relatively low GDP per capita (>\$50,000)**
 - 2. High ACT participation rates (>50%)**
 - 3. Below average ACT scores (>21.5)**

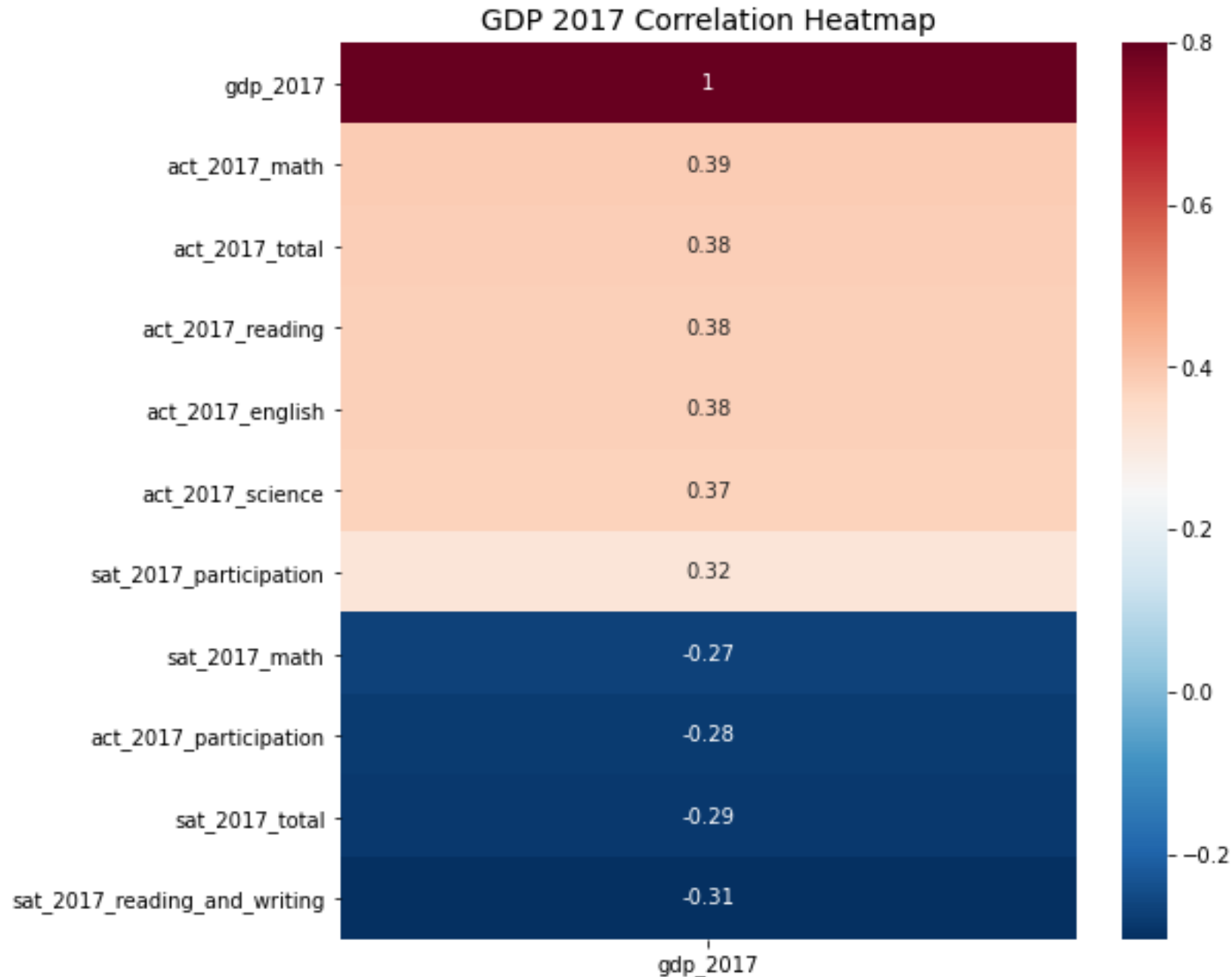


The SAT seems to be more equitable in comparison

- This could be due to policies that support low-income students, such as the [SAT Fee Waiver](#).
- The SAT also assigns low-income students with [Landscape](#), an adversity score system.
- This suggests that **lower income states can perform well on the SAT despite [lower levels of educational funding](#)**.



- GDP is negatively correlated with SAT scores and participation.
- GDP is positively correlated with ACT scores and participation.
- Hence, the higher a state's GDP, the higher their ACT test scores.
- The opposite is true for SAT test scores.



So, which state should
the College Board target?

A map of the United States with state boundaries outlined. South Carolina is highlighted in a solid red color, while the rest of the country is in a muted tan color. The Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean are shown in a dark blue color.

South Carolina

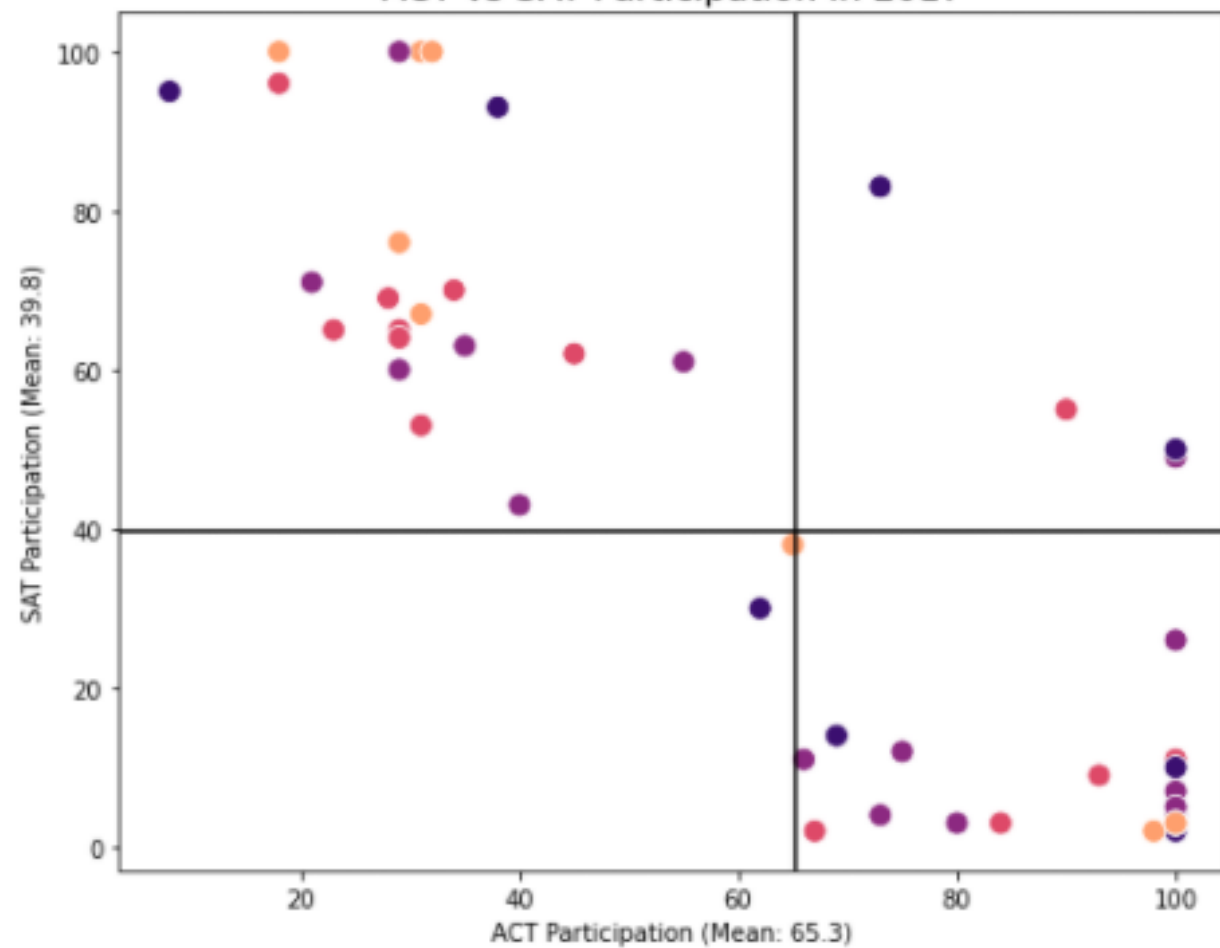
1. High ACT Participation Rate: 100%
2. Low GDP: <\$40,000
3. Below Average ACT scores: 18.30

However, we need to keep in mind that correlation \neq causation.

- While the SAT may be more socially equitable than the ACT due to the policies like the fee waivers for low-income students, research shows that standardized test measures generally show **a negative correlation between socioeconomic status and test results** ([NC Gov 2017](#)).
- The College Board must continue to work with states to address this issue. This could mean incorporating other forms of testing such as **portfolio-based assessment** or **adaptive testing**.
- With COVID-19 changing the landscape of standardized testing, the College Board must continue to adapt the SAT to the times we are now in.

Appendix

ACT vs SAT Participation in 2017



ACT vs SAT Participation in 2018

