

Maine-Focused Standardized Testing Guidance

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Data Used

- 2019-2020 SAT and ACT test scores and participation rates by state
- 2019-2020 college admissions information including SAT and ACT scores
- Additional location information for colleges to determine in-state and out-of-state schools

Problem Statement

- As a high school guidance counselor in the state of Maine, I have observed trends in SAT and ACT score requirements by various colleges--in state and out of state--that my students have expressed interest in. I need to use this information to help guide them toward achievable institutions that are the best fit for them, both academically and personally.

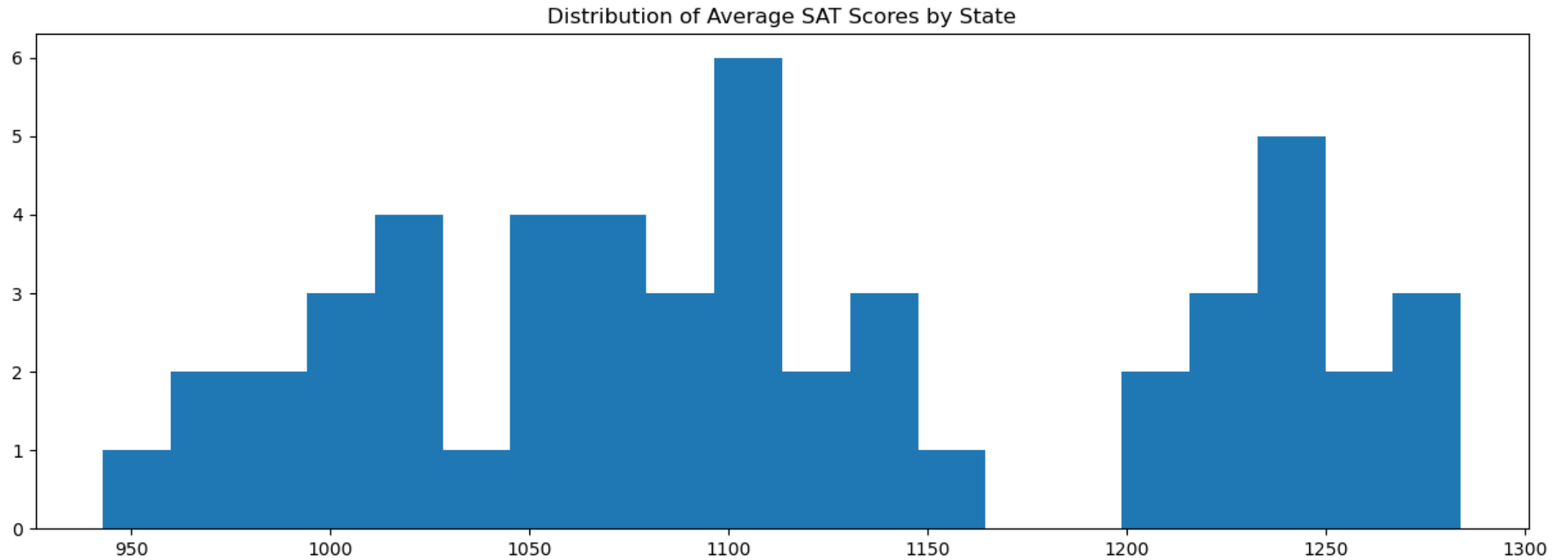
Background Information

- While an increasing number of U.S. colleges and universities are leaning toward test-optional admissions, the majority of universities (at the time of data collection) still required a standardized test for admission.
- All Maine high schools are required to administer the SAT in a student's third year of attendance.

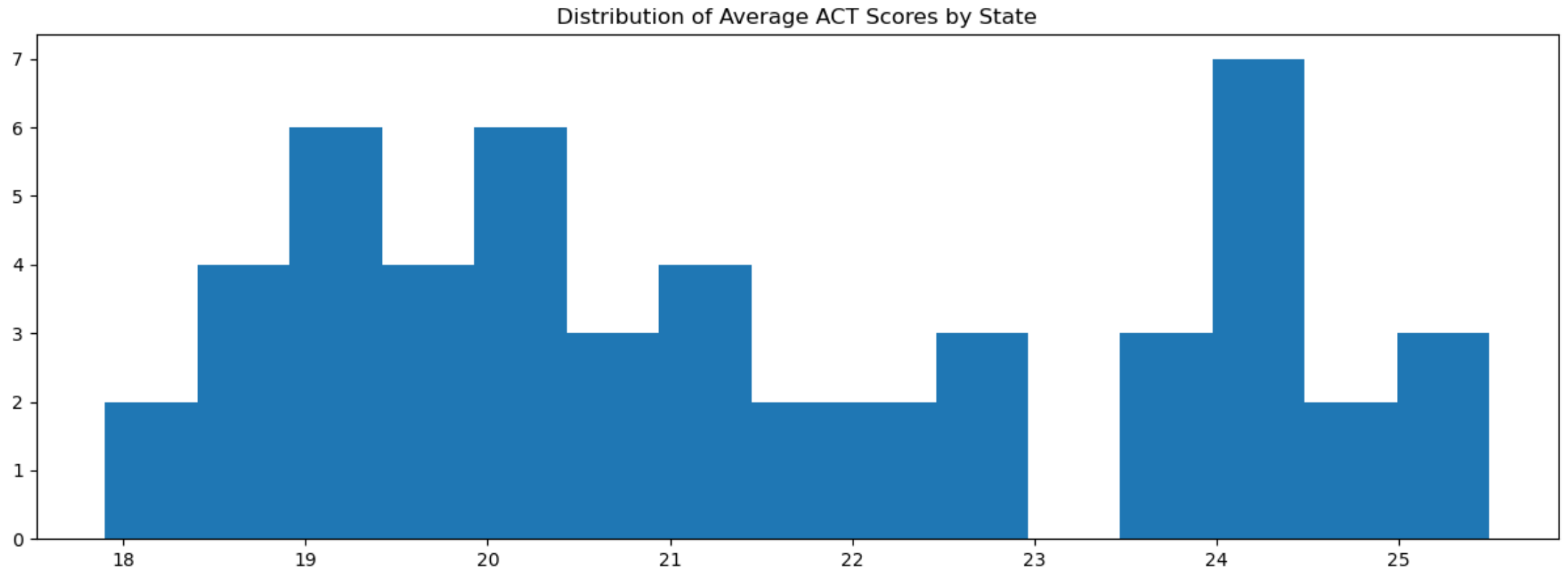
Observations from Statistical Analysis

- Maine has one of the lowest average SAT scores in the country.
- Conversely, Maine has one of the highest average ACT scores in the country.
- Specifically, Maine is in the bottom 5 states for SAT scores and the top 5 state for ACT scores.
- Maine's most selective colleges have adopted permanent test-optional admission policies.

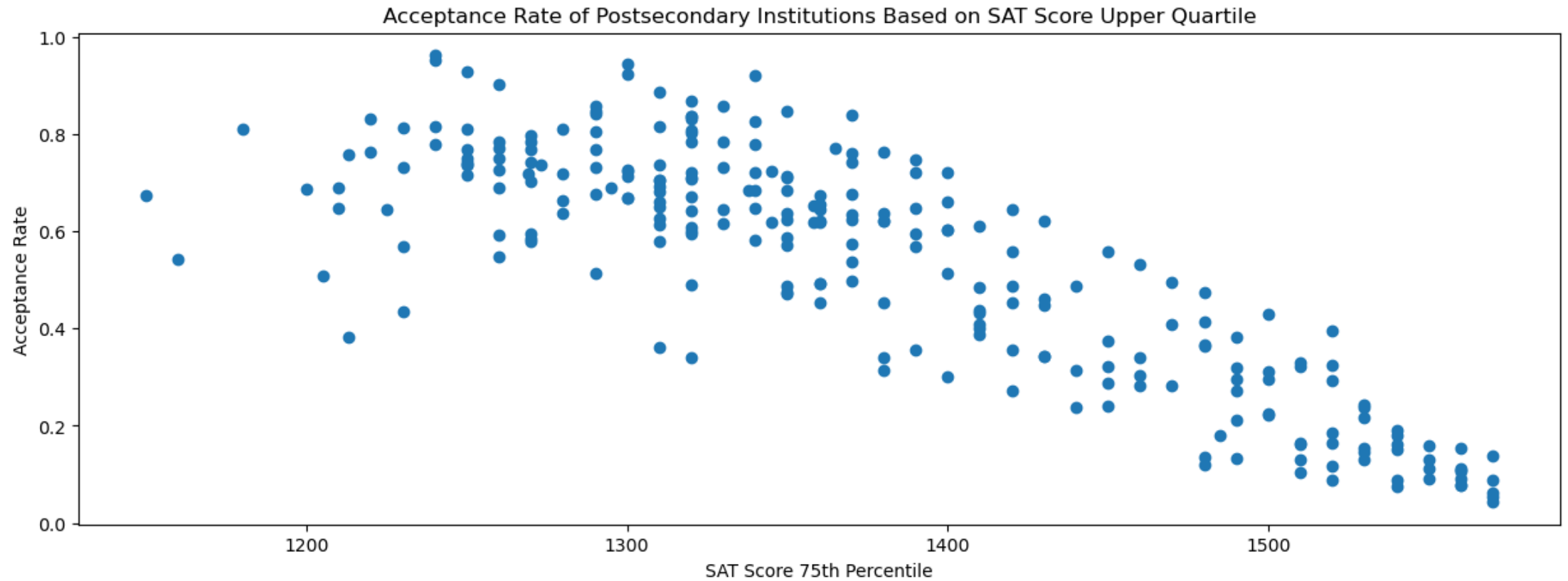
SAT Distribution by State



ACT Distribution by State



Postsecondary Acceptance and SAT Scores



Conclusions

- This information can be helpful in guiding students towards attainable educational goals.
- Many universities are leaning toward test-optional policies.
- Test scores can still be a good indicator of likelihood of college admission.