Standardized Test Scores and Poverty in the United States

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DSI-12-The Matt

Problem Statement

SAT and ACT scores are seen as an objective metric for student aptitude

These scores directly influence college admissions decisions

However, family wealth is known to affect test scores.

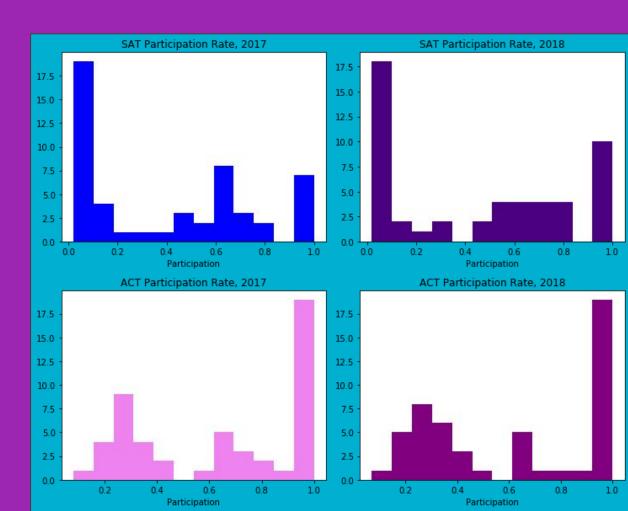
Can we see this pattern in state-level data?

Methodology

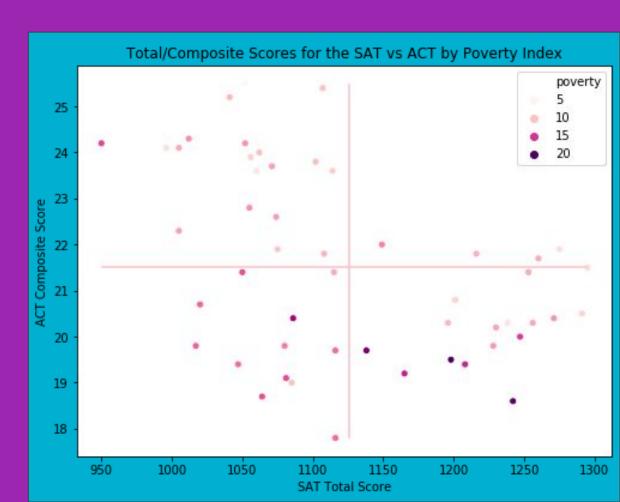
- 1. Source data 🚃
- Clean and prepare data
- Examine trends
- 4. Create visualizations

- 1. SAT/ACT
- Census Poverty

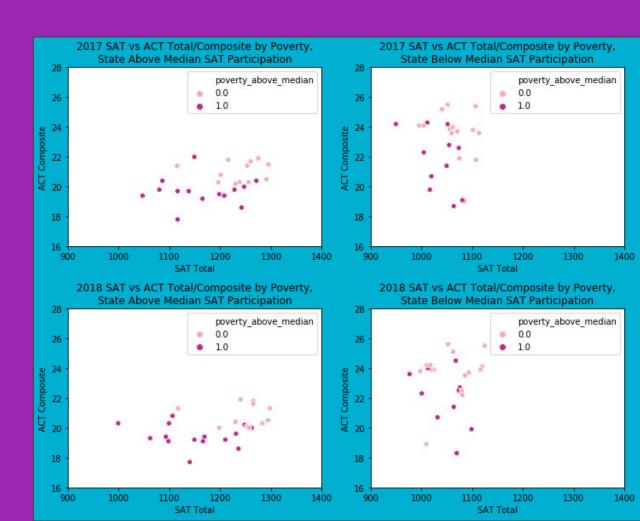
There are two main groups of states



The Missing Fourth Quarter



The Two Stories



Conclusions and Recommendations

SAT and ACT scores shouldn't be considered objective without factoring in wealth

Cheaper access to test prep and equitable school funding could help equalize the US college admissions process

Room for modeling to put a number to these effects!