

Household Income and ACT/SAT Test Scores

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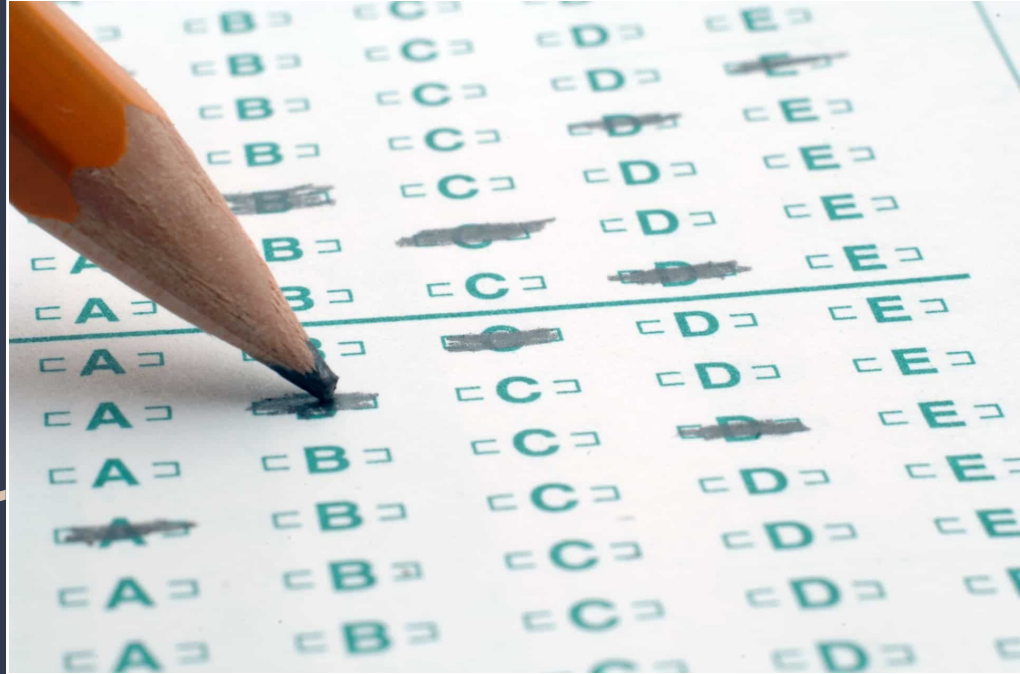
Outline

- Inequities in standardized testing
- State participation in SAT vs ACT
- Income v. test scores
- Recommendations for future testing

Inequities in Standardized Testing

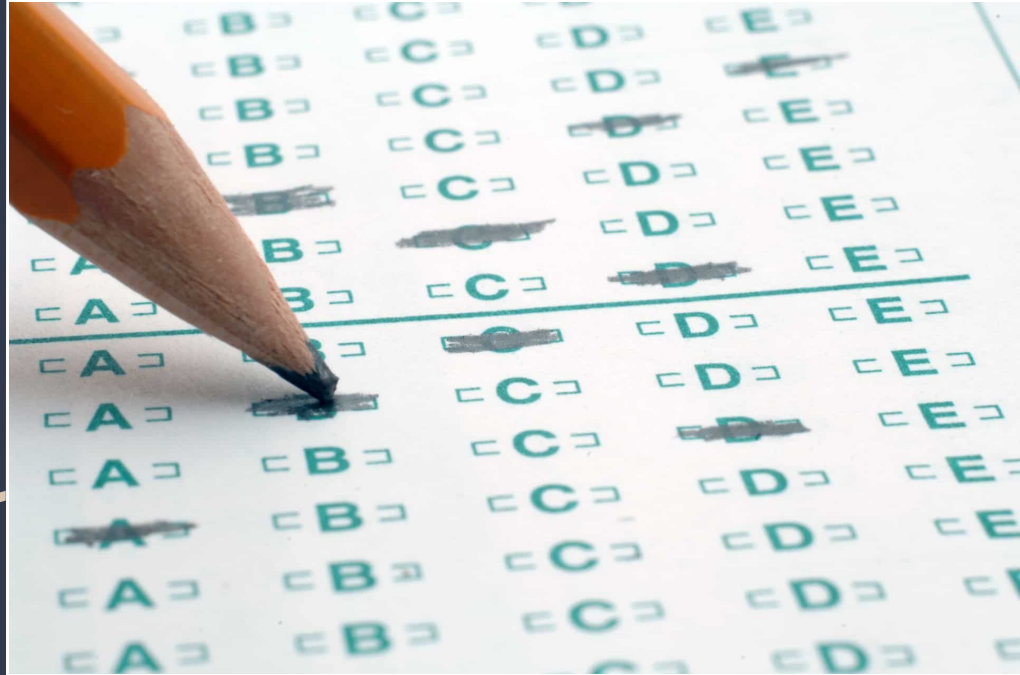
- Studies have shown that students with high GPAs don't necessarily have high standardized test scores ([source](#))
- Detailed studies have been done showing strong influence between income and race and test scores ([source](#))
- Some colleges dropped testing in 2021 to improve enrollment post-covid ([source](#))

As the federal government looks into factors contributing to student success on standardized college admission testing, this study looks into the broader correlation between state income and average state test scores.



Source: <https://www.scantron.com/scanners-forms/>

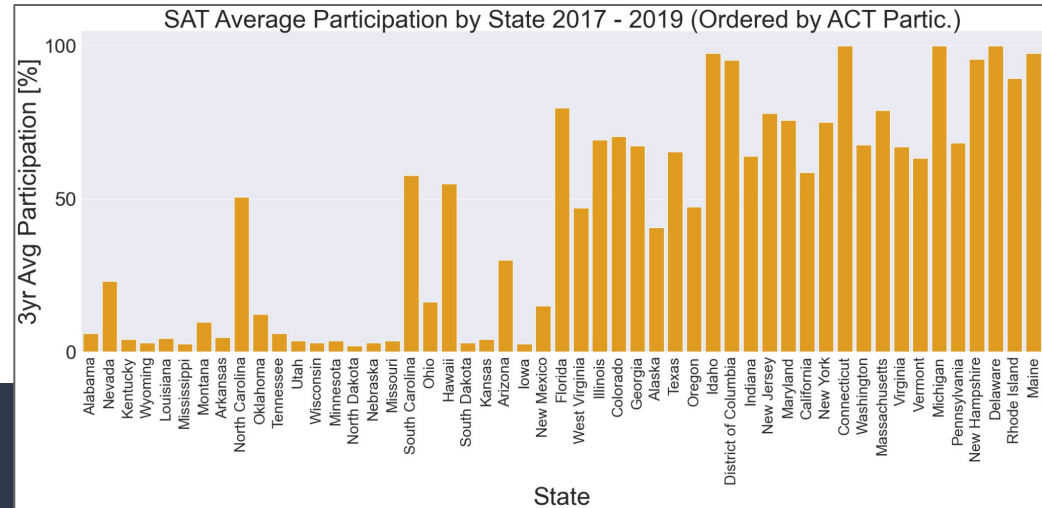
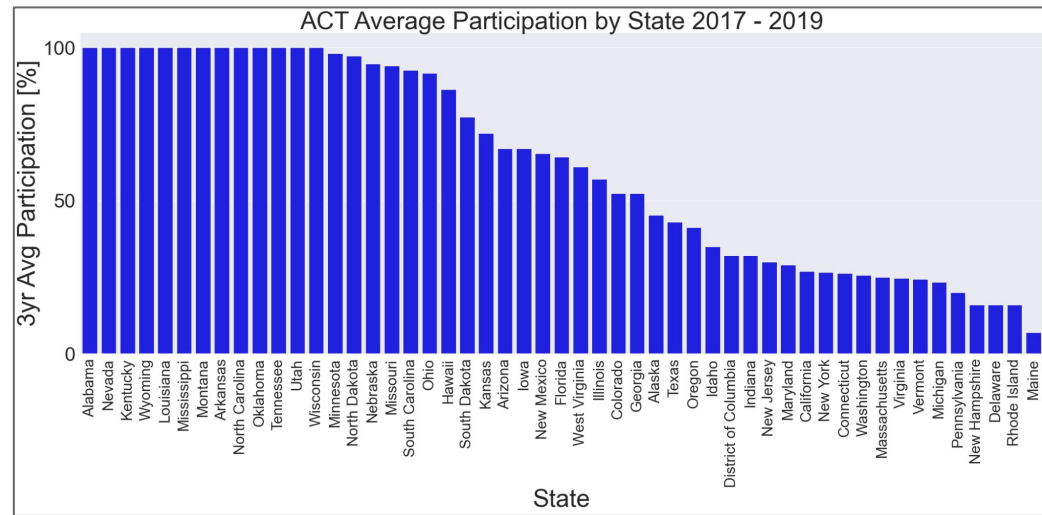
*Does a state's median income
correlate with the state's
average test score?*



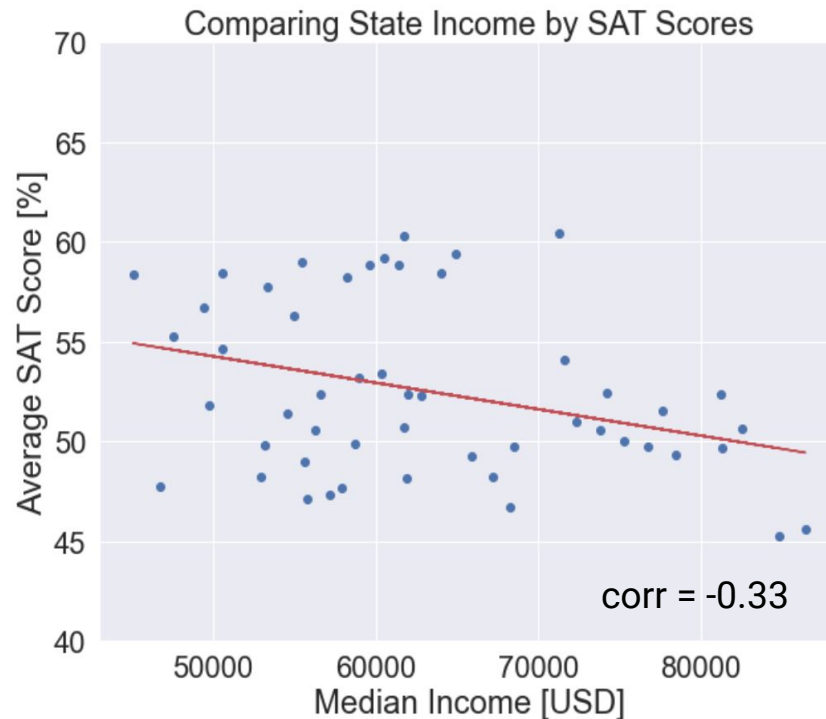
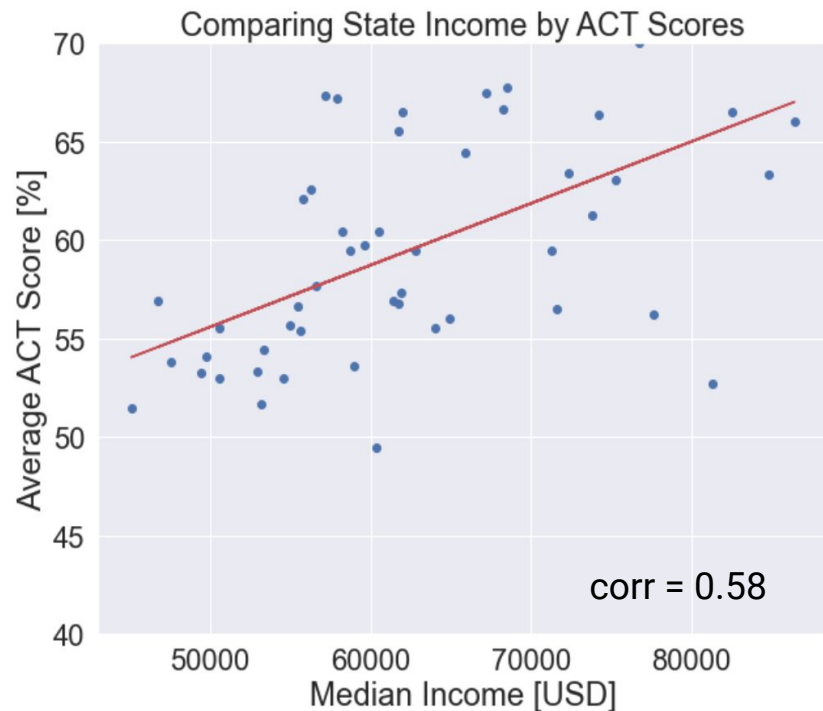
Source: <https://www.scantron.com/scanners-forms/>

State Participation

- States ordered by ACT participation
- States typically prefer to take one test over another
- ACT has higher participation rates than SAT



State Income and Scores



State Income and Scores

- Higher ACT scores overall versus SAT scores
- More students participate in ACT than SAT
- Higher correlation between income and ACT scores
- Inverse correlation between income and SAT scores, but not as strong as ACT correlation

Recommendations for future testing

- Colleges can put greater admissions weight towards a student's GPA over test scores.
- Offer subsidized tutoring for lower income families.
- Study why SAT scores are generally lower than ACT scores.
- Study college success of students enrolled 2021 - 2023 between groups of students who did and did not take the ACT or SAT.