

Standardized Testing Skewed by State Level Aggregations

Katy Chow - DSI 6 - ATL

Why is participation negatively correlated with scores?

- Since 2010 there have been major initiatives to drive SAT participation up
 - SAT DAY
 - State sponsored exams
 - Within the last 2 years 20 states are required to offer a free exam to their students (some states allow county or districts to decide to offer free exams)
- States with 100% participation will inevitably have lower SAT scores due to averaging over the whole population
- States with lower participation rates for both SAT and ACT will have higher scores due to a self selection bias

100% vs 31%



Let's look at an example of Connecticut:

	SAT Total Score	ACT Composite Score
Connecticut	1041	25.2
National Average	1083	21

Let's look at 2 more examples

Participation in the SAT in North Dakota is 2% while ACT is 98%

Participation in the SAT for Florida is 83% and ACT is 73%

	SAT Total Score	ACT Composite Score
North Dakota	1256	20.3
National Average	1083	21

	SAT Total Score	ACT Composite Score
Florida	1017	19.8
National Average	1083	21

Don't be fooled by numbers!