

ACT Analysis (2017-2019)





"What is the current state of the ACT test in the U.S.?"

First Question: How is the ACT test situation in the US? The likelihood of taking it, overall, reflects the quality of the score.

Problem Statement

ACT participation rates vary a lot across different U.S. states. Some states require the test, while others don't, and this affects both test scores and how students perform overall. Looking at these trends by year and region can help us understand the reasons for participation drops and how they might relate to college readiness. Comparing ACT participation with SAT rates could also give more insights and help improve participation in areas where it's decreasing.

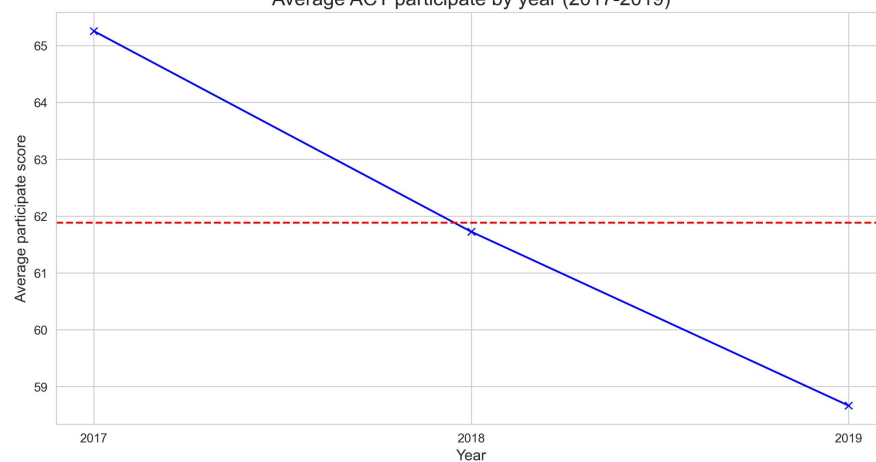


Average ACT composite/participation by year

Average ACT composite scores by year (2017-2019)

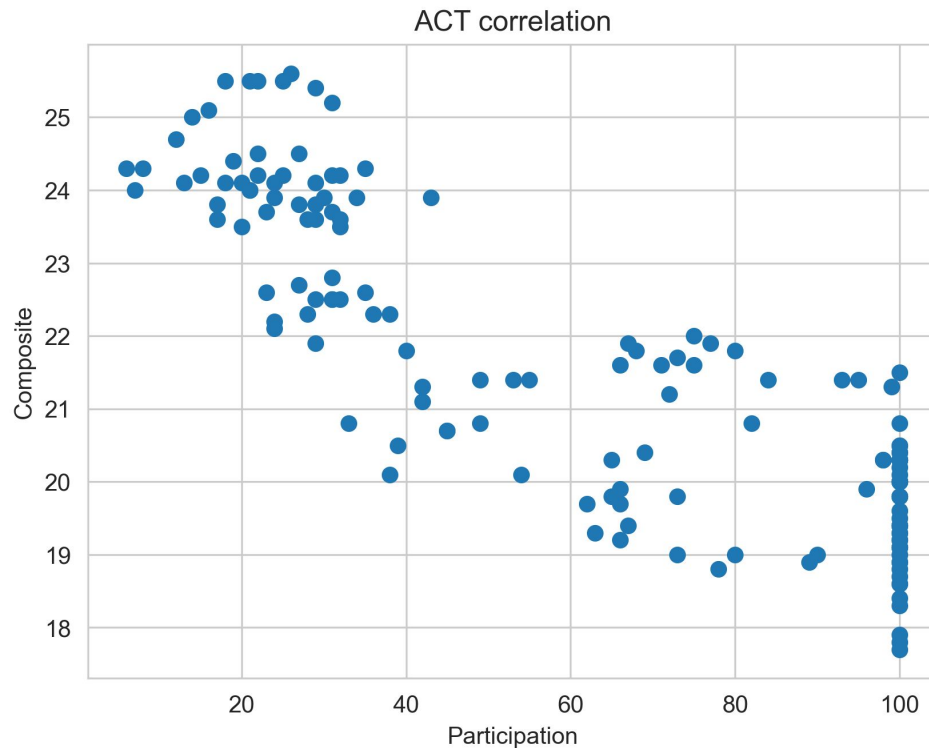


Average ACT participate by year (2017-2019)





ACT correlation composite and participation

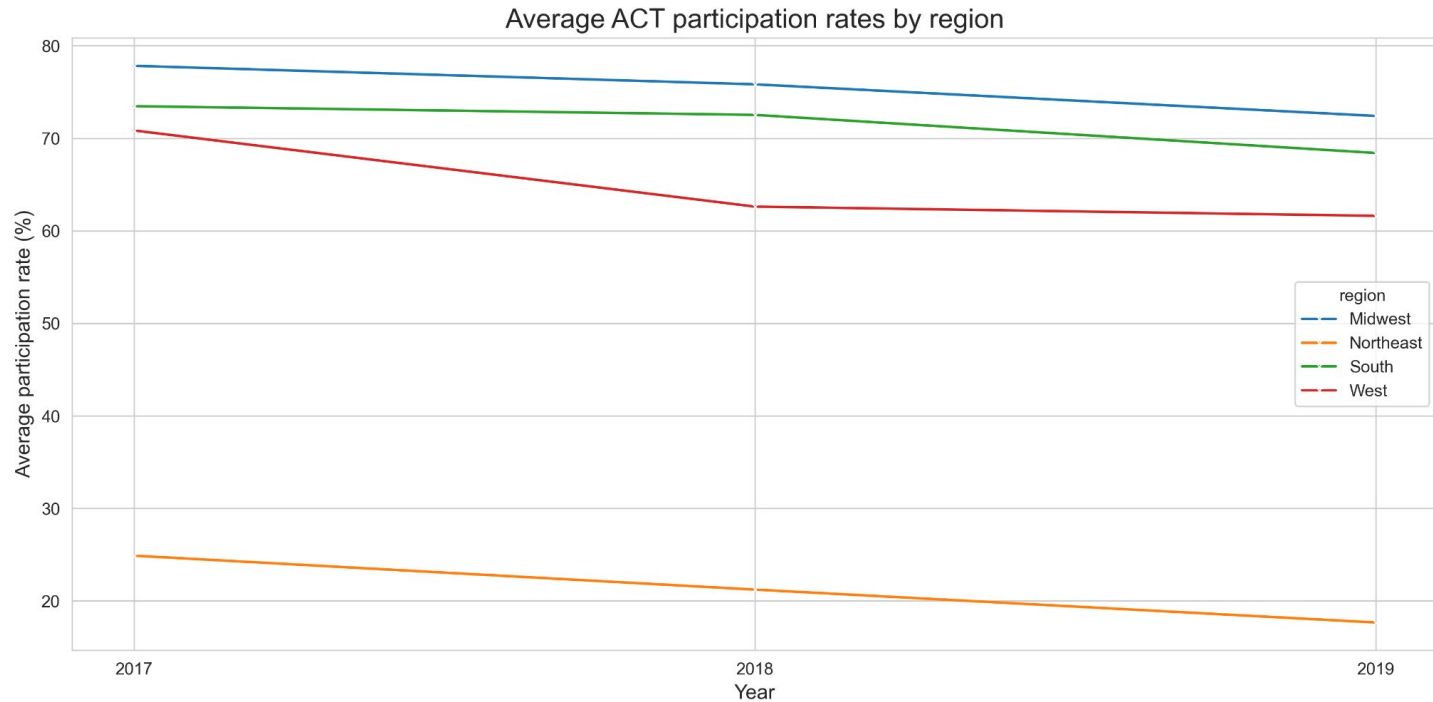




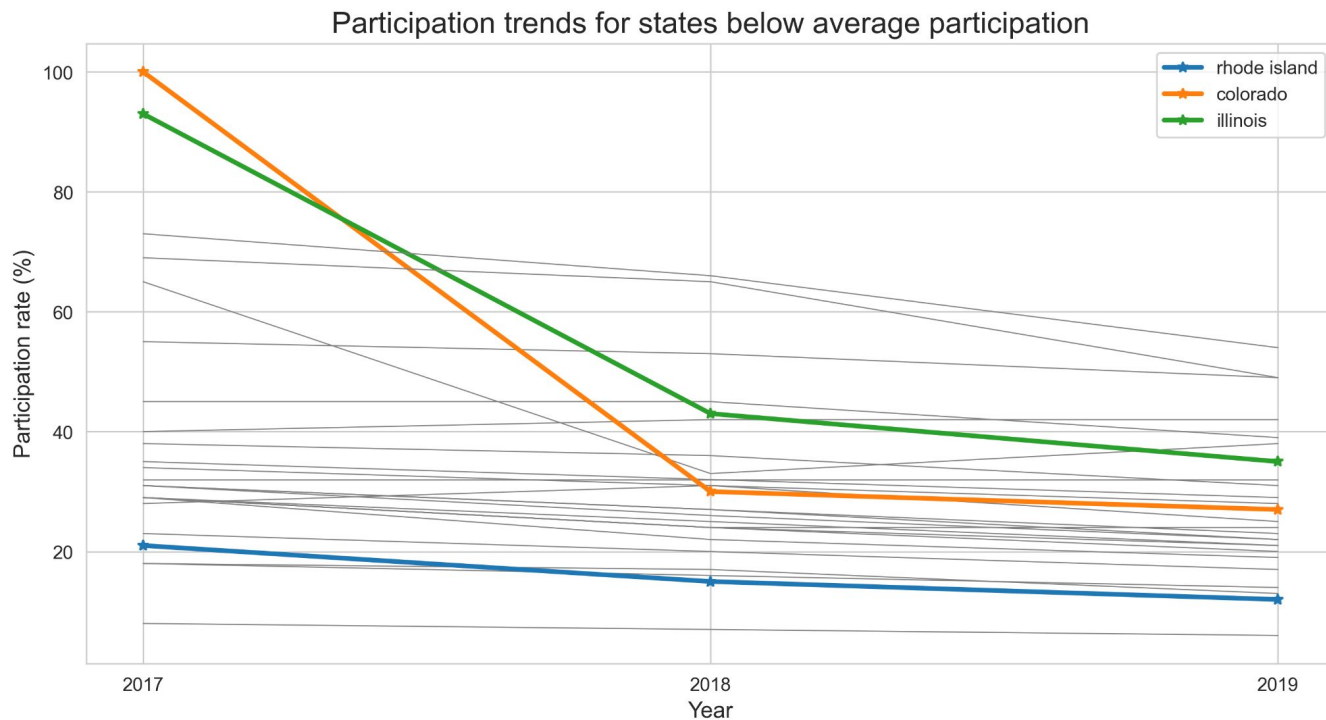
ACT participation and composite scores

- **High Participation, Lower Scores:** The average composite score can be lower in states or years with higher rates of participation.
- **Low Participation, Higher Scores:** On the other hand, states or years with lower rates of participation may have average composite scores that are higher.

Average ACT participation rates by region



Significant decrease in participation rate



- Colorado
- Illinois
- Rhode Island

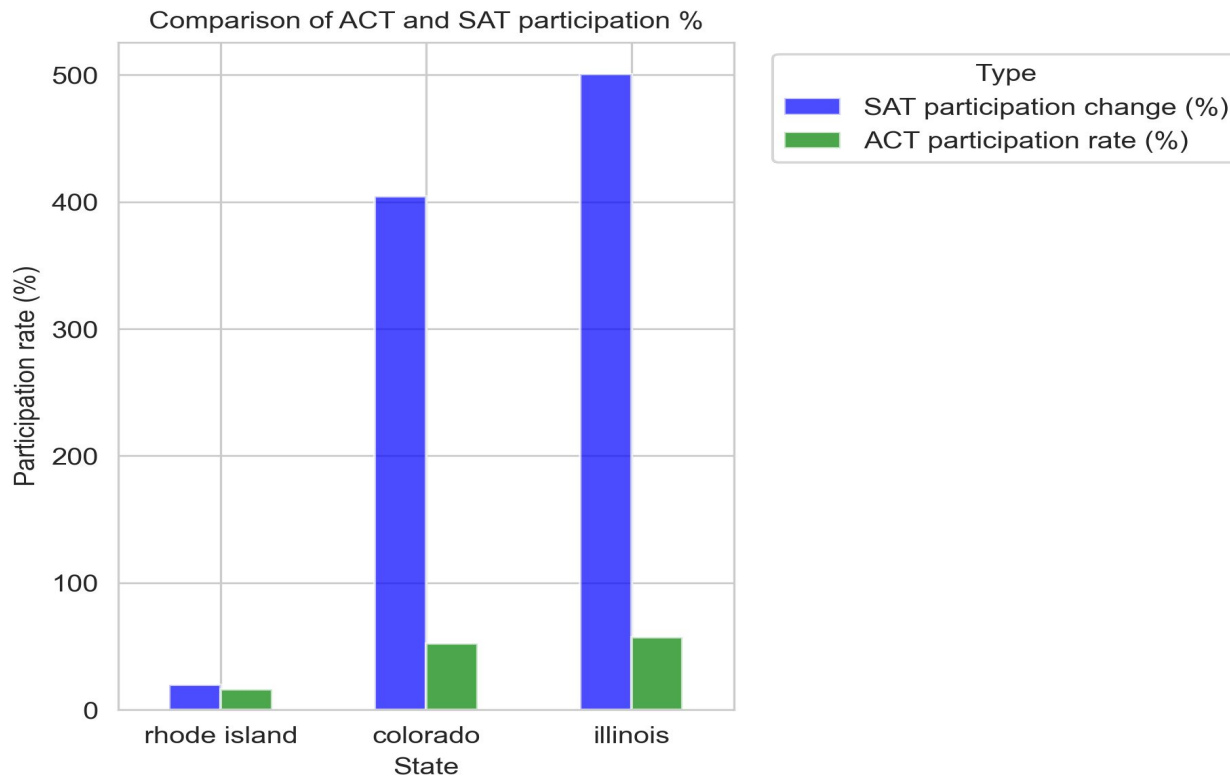


Is it the same region?

- State : Colorado
 - Region : West
- State : Illinois
 - Region : Midwest
- State : Rhode Island
 - Region : Northeast



Comparison of ACT and SAT participation





Next steps to gain further insight

- Collect more information.
 - Colorado made the ACT mandatory for high school students starting in 2001. However, this changed in 2017 when Colorado switched to requiring the SAT, though the ACT remained available as an option.
 - [Colorado's Switch from ACT to SAT](#)
 - Illinois finalizes decision to switch from ACT to SAT
 - [Illinois Finalizes Decision to Switch From ACT to SAT](#)
- A deeper analysis is recommended to investigate the specific reasons behind declining participation rates in regions with historically high participation. This analysis should focus on how changes in educational policy, economic conditions, and test perceptions are shaping these trends. For example, one question to consider is: Why does accounting, a major that typically doesn't require advanced science knowledge, require a science score from the ACT?



Rhode Island