



Looking at the 2019 SAT Scores in California by School District

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The question at the heart of the testing debate :

- SAT and ACT scores are good measures of college readiness or
- Structural barriers disadvantaging students of color

"If you want to know where people's zip codes are, use the SAT"

Data

2019 SAT Scores in California by School

Aggregated to Unified School District

Outcomes:

Test taker rate (what % take test)

Percent of students who pass benchmark for:

- 1) Math
- 2) English Reading and Writing
- 3) Both Sections



2019 American Community Survey

Accessed by Unified School District for California

Diversity Measure (Predictor):

Percent hispanic or non-white

$$\frac{[\text{Total population}] - [\text{Population white and non-Hispanic}]}{[\text{Total population}]}$$

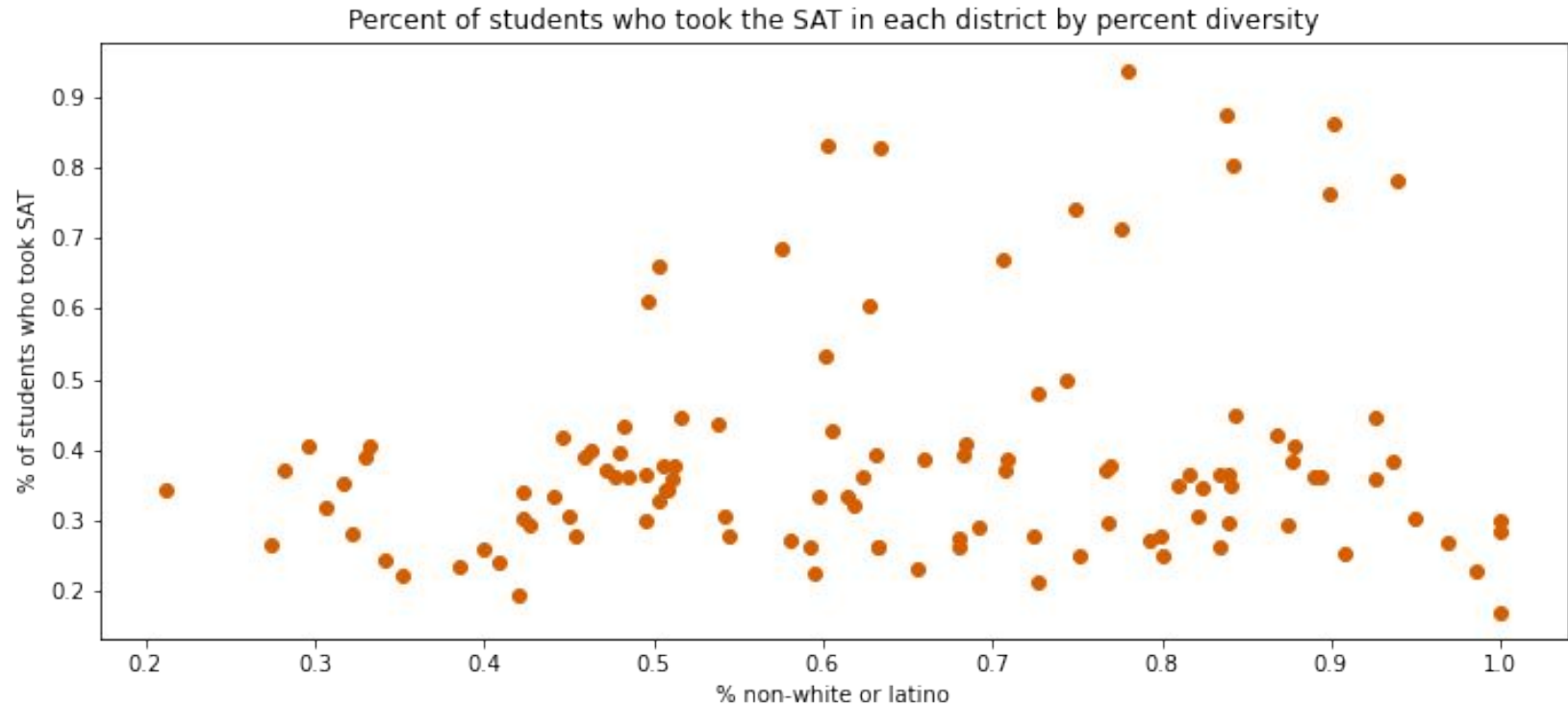


Problem Statement

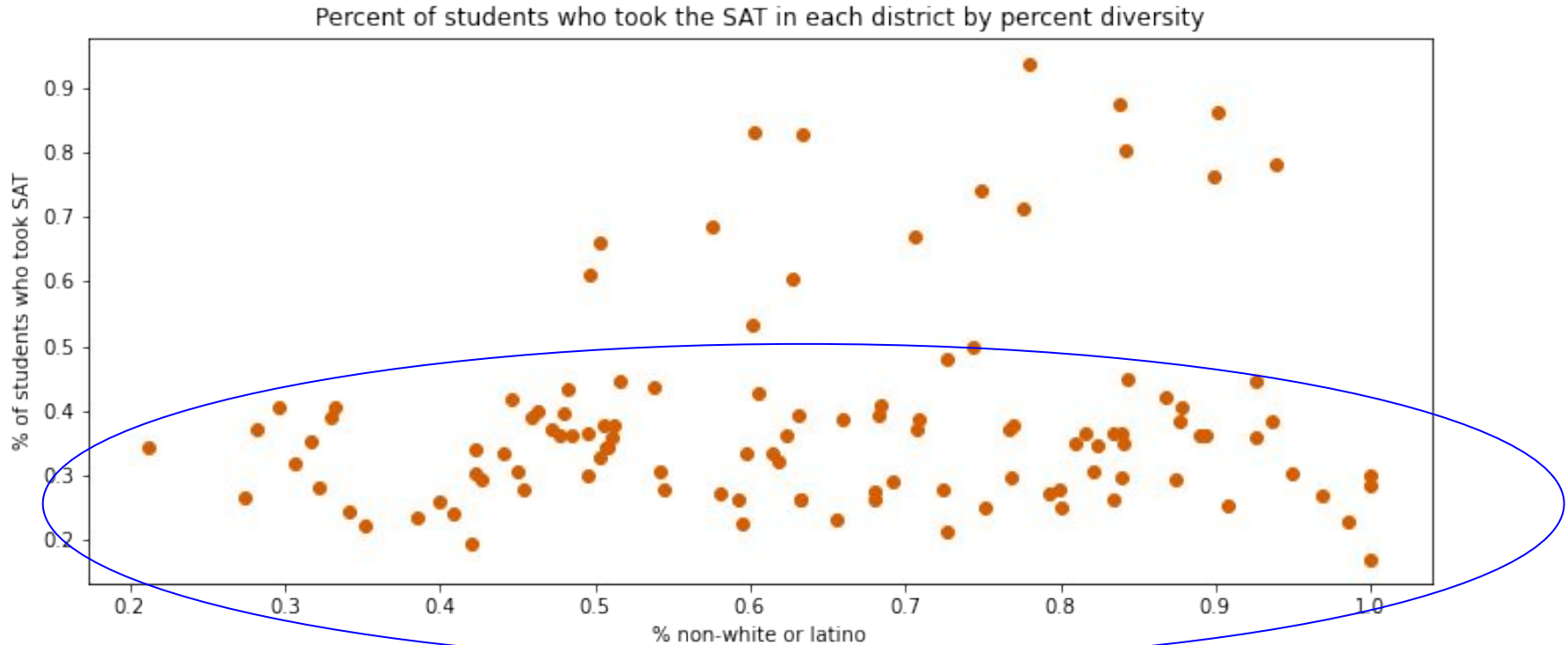
While some critics argue that the test is not discriminatory, differences in test scores underline inequality in education.

This analysis seeks to investigate the association between diversity, participation, and test scores among California students.

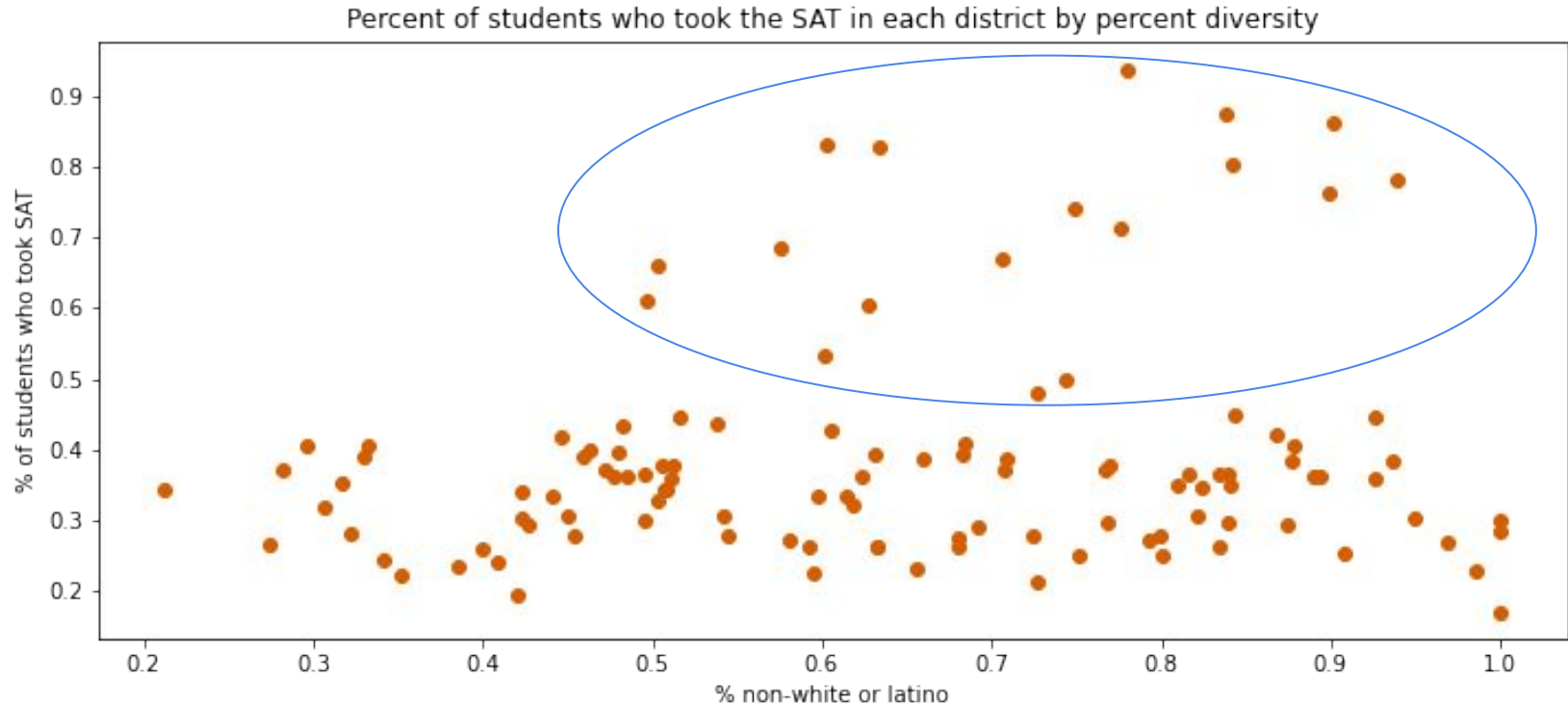
SAT participation is similar for majority white and majority non-white districts



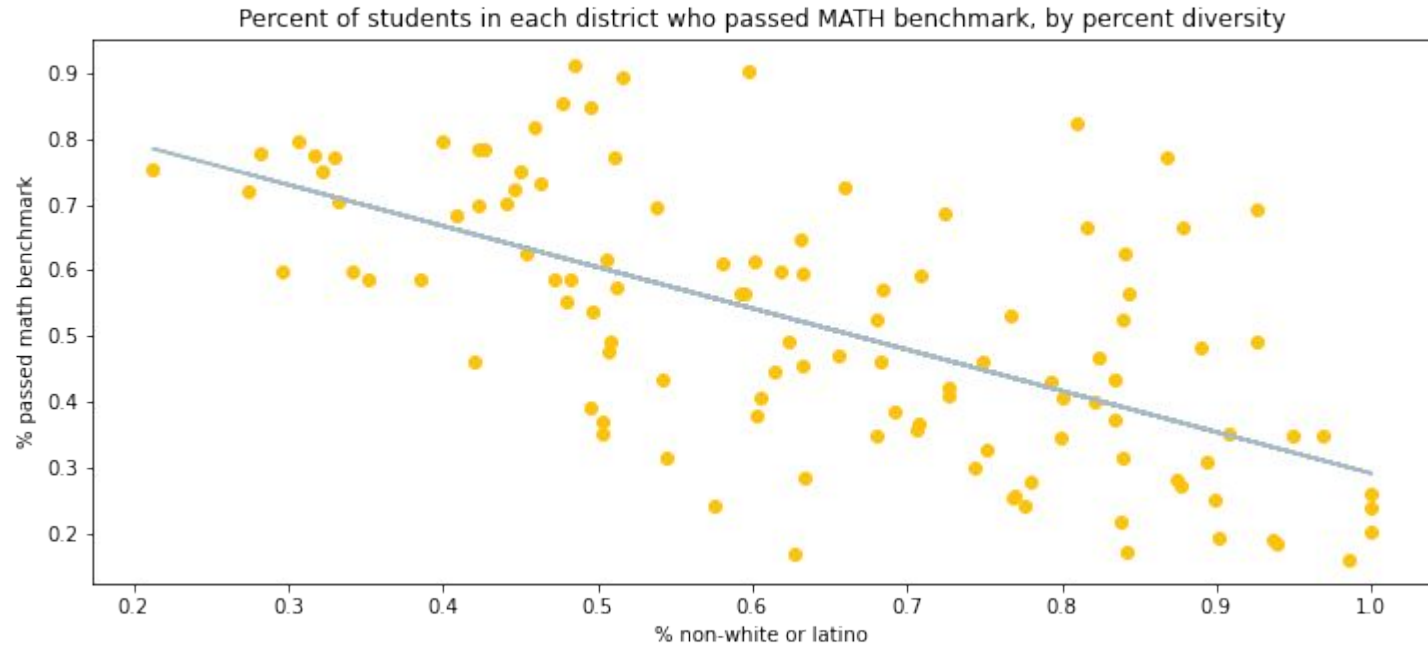
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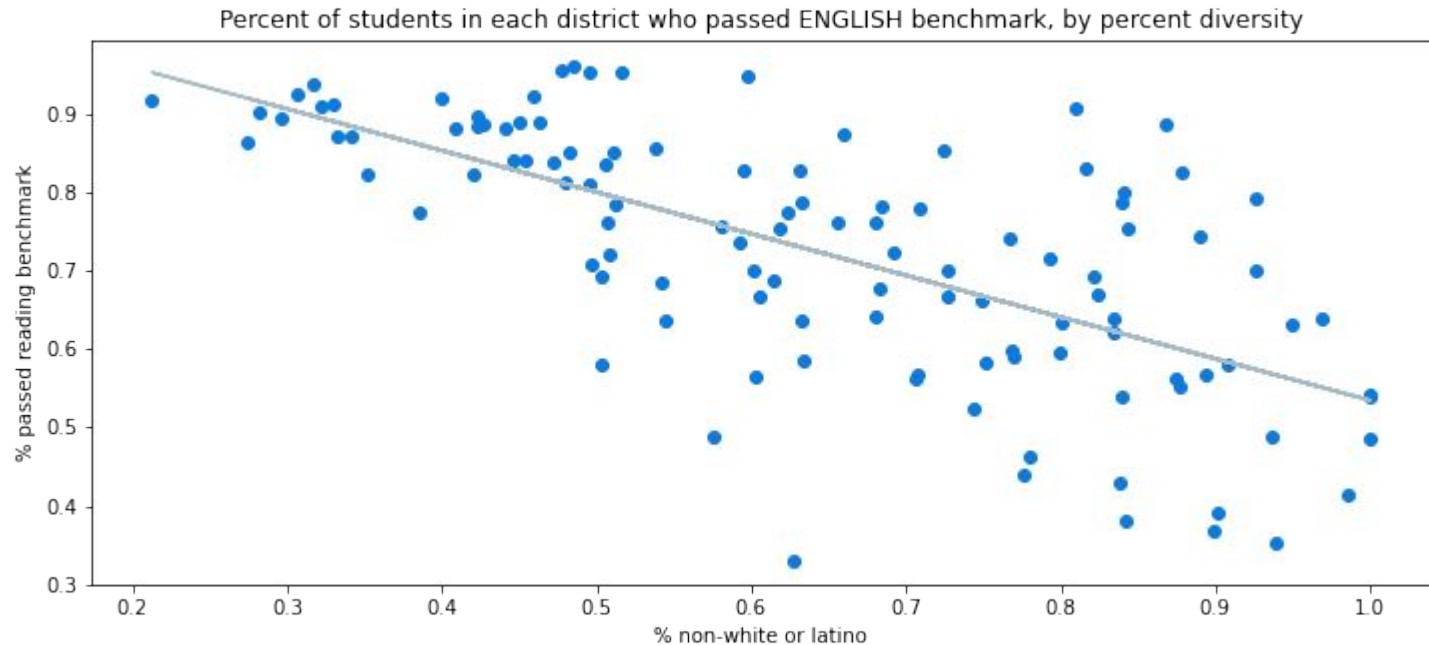
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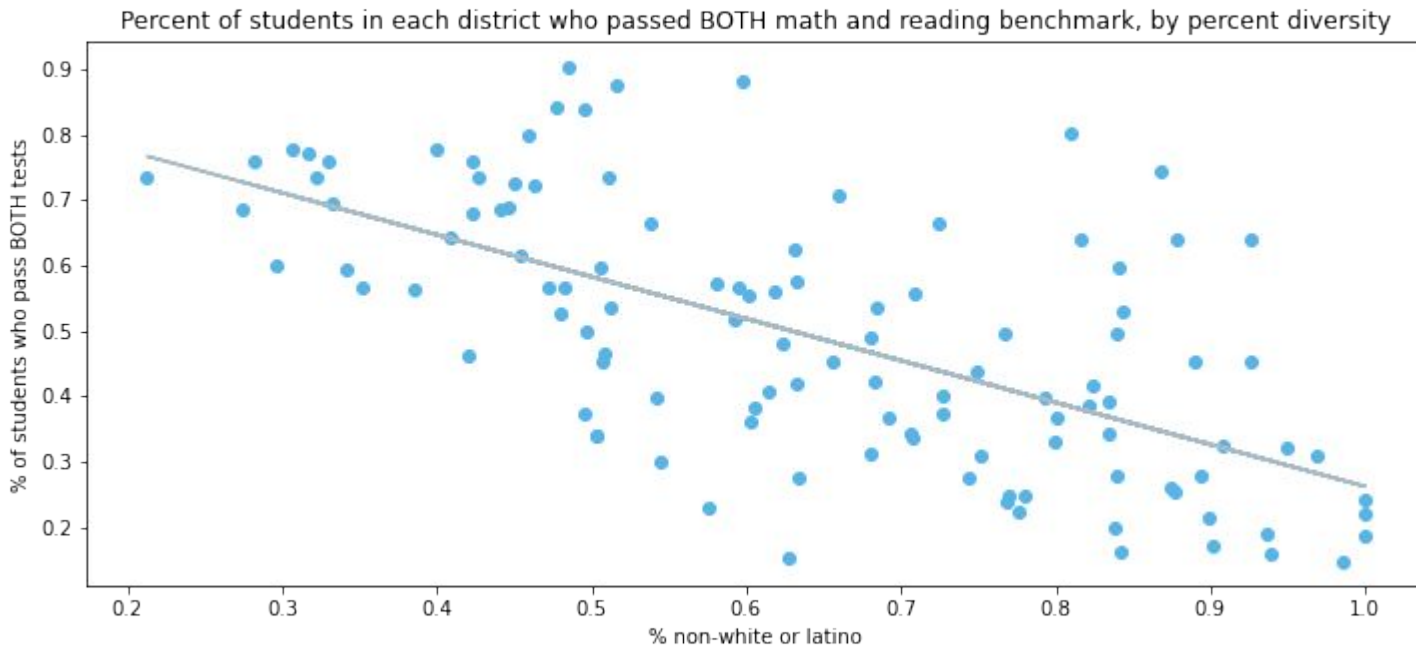
More diverse districts have Lower Math Scores, more variance



English scores are higher but still associated with diversity



Percentage of passing both tests declines the more diverse a school district is



Summary

- Students from more diverse school districts performed worse
- Not just on Math but also on English reading and writing
- New measures of student success are desperately needed to address increasing inequalities in our education system and society

Thank You