



Increasing SAT Participation



By: Priya Kakkar



Executive Summary

In order to further one's education, i.e. by enrolling in college, students have to satisfy the prerequisites of College Entrance Exams (SAT and ACT). Based on my research, over the years the rate of students taking the ACT has been higher than those taking the SAT.

SAT participation rates were specially low in rural or impoverished areas. We can increase participation by:

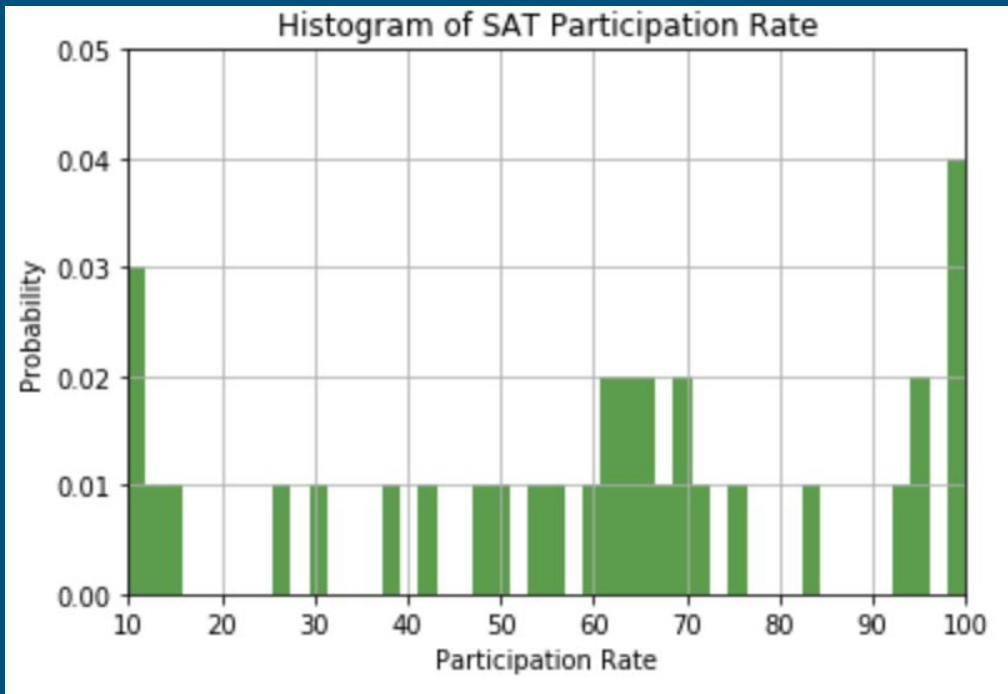
- Assisting underserved and underprivileged areas
- Increasing participation regardless of performance goals
- Focusing on improving education in math

Assisting Underprivileged and Rural Areas

28	Nevada	26
48	West Virginia	14
35	Ohio	12
5	Colorado	11
31	New Mexico	11
26	Montana	10
13	Illinois	9
36	Oklahoma	7
0	Alabama	5
42	Tennessee	5
17	Kentucky	4
16	Kansas	4
18	Louisiana	4
44	Utah	3
49	Wisconsin	3
25	Missouri	3
41	South Dakota	3
27	Nebraska	3
23	Minnesota	3
3	Arkansas	3
50	Wyoming	3
34	North Dakota	2
24	Mississippi	2
15	Iowa	2

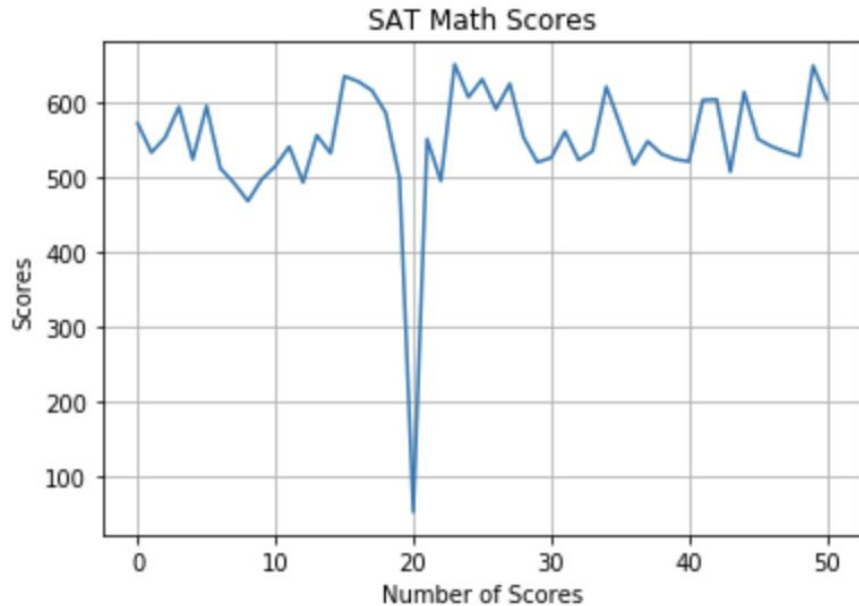
- Sorting the SAT dataset by scores in a descending fashion shows us that the lowest scores are in rural and underserved areas. Focusing on these areas will increase participation.
- Better access to study groups and materials in rural and impoverished areas can help with participation.

Encourage participation, not perfection



Most students are either high achievers or are average performers on the exam. Therefore, encouraging average performers to participate can increase participation numbers

Focus on math



Average math scores trend in the lower direction. This could indicate that students are intimidated to participate due to performance on the math section of the exam.

Improving math education will raise scores and help student confidence, thereby increasing participation.