

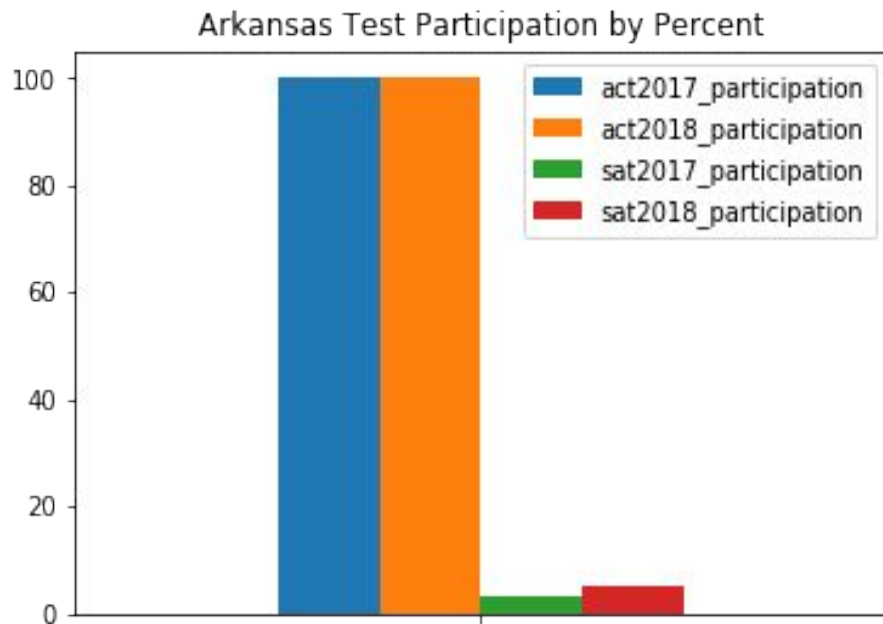
# Arkansas

A Push in National Testing

A dark blue diagonal gradient bar that starts from the bottom left and extends towards the top right, covering the lower half of the slide.

# Test Participation in Arkansas

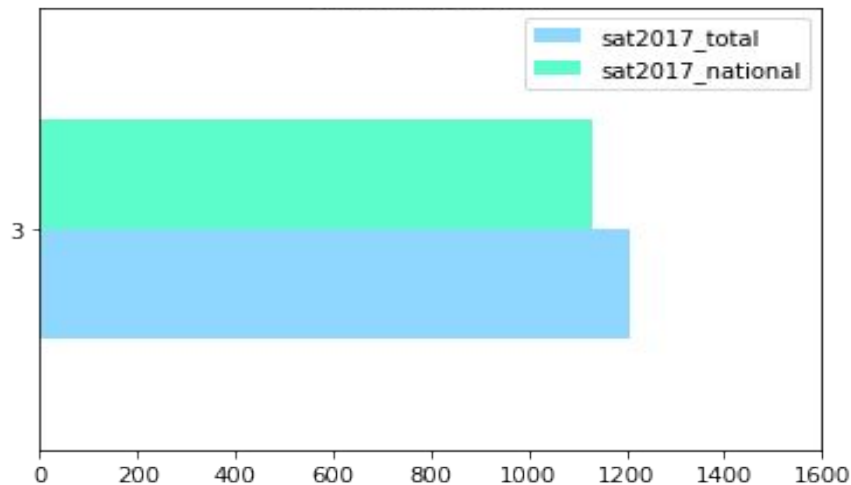
- ❖ Participation rates in Arkansas vary greatly between the ACT and SAT
- ❖ Far more students opt to take the ACT than the SAT, with 100% participation in the ACT for 2017-2018, and only 3% in the 2017 SAT



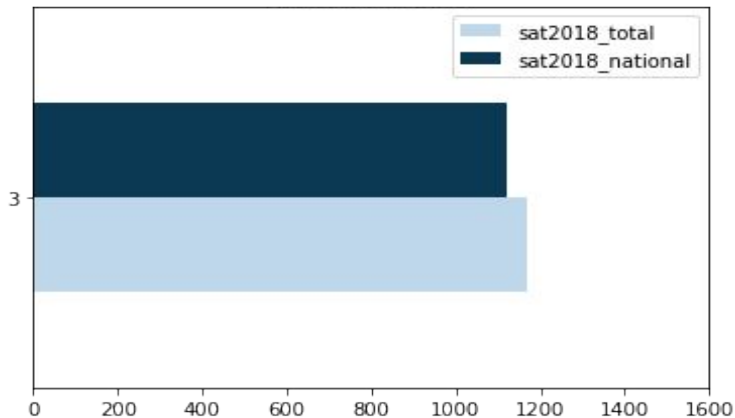
# Test Performance in Arkansas v National, SAT

- ❖ According to the data, the average 2017 SAT total in Arkansas was 1208, 79 points higher than the national average of 1196
- ❖ Arkansas' average 2018 SAT total was 1169, compared with a national average of 1122

SAT 2017 Scores

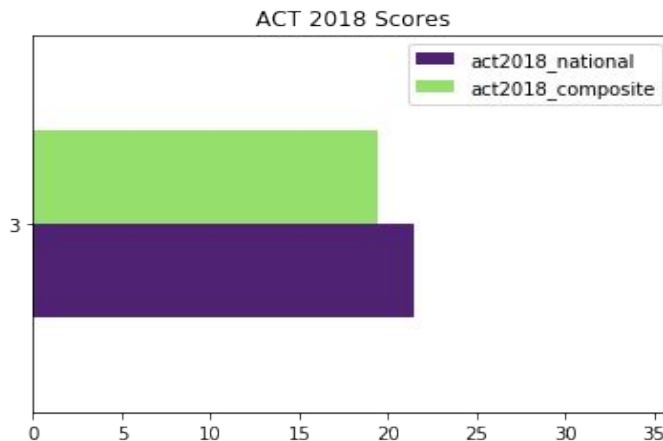
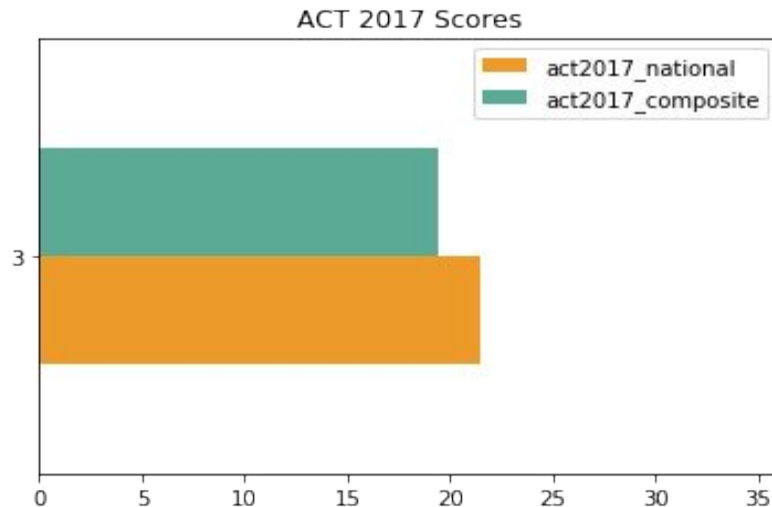


SAT 2018 Scores



# Test Performance in Arkansas v National, ACT

- ❖ On the 2017 ACT, students in Arkansas received an average composite score of 19.4. The national average was 21.46
- ❖ On the 2018 ACT, the average composite score in Arkansas was 19.4, still lower than the national average of 21.45 that year.



# To Consider

According to the Princeton Review website, Arkansas does not require students to take SAT or ACT, but does fund the cost of the ACT for students who opt to take it

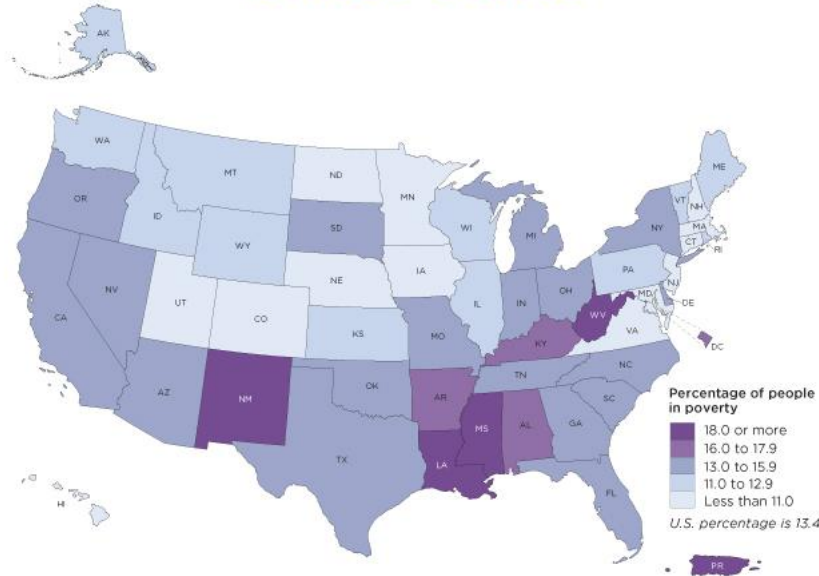
While neither average scores are impressive, the data shows the miniscule percentage of Arkansas students who opted to take the SAT *outperformed* the average U.S student

However, those same students scored below the national average on the ACT, though 100% are reported to have taken it

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/act-sat-state-requirements>

# To Consider

## 2017 Poverty Rate in the United States



Clearly, students in Arkansas are motivated as they chose to take a test without requirement

It is well known that there is a direct correlation between wealth and performance on the these tests , and 2017 data shows Arkansas' poverty rate well above the national average

Without more detailed data, we can only make a light inference based on this information: namely that price may likely be a factor

1. ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/03/05/these-four-charts-show-how-the-sat-favors-the-rich-educated-families/?utm\\_term=.410d9395c78d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/03/05/these-four-charts-show-how-the-sat-favors-the-rich-educated-families/?utm_term=.410d9395c78d))
2. (<https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/arkansas-2017-report/>)

# Recommendations

A good first step would be implementing SAT and ACT prep courses throughout different counties in Arkansas, funded in part by The College Board

This would give a wider community access to generally expensive preparation, boosting scores

Another step is to more closely analyze the link between socioeconomic status and these standardized tests

In the long term, perhaps those at the Board may reevaluate the necessity of SAT and ACT testing in college admissions

Redefining the rubric of what a 'good candidate' looks like could give back opportunity to students, a suggestion once echoed by the VP of UArkansas for Medical Studies

<https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/letters/standardized-tests-favor-students-from-high-income-families/>