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# Choosing Education

— an analytical comparison of  
public and charter schools —

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DSI-R 1213

# parents of california

Parents are tasked with the important decisions of where to raise and how to educate their children.

This project will explore standardized test scores between public schools and charter schools. Parents can choose to use the information uncovered to aid in the decision of where to raise and how to educate their children.

# what is a “charter” school?

“

A publicly funded independent school established by teachers, parents, or community groups under the terms of a charter with a local or national authority.”

- Oxford Languages

# what is standardized testing?

## sat

- Scores range: 400 to 1600
- Average score ~ 1000

## act

- Scores range: 1 to 36
- Average score ~ 21

**Let the data talk..**

# test takers of california

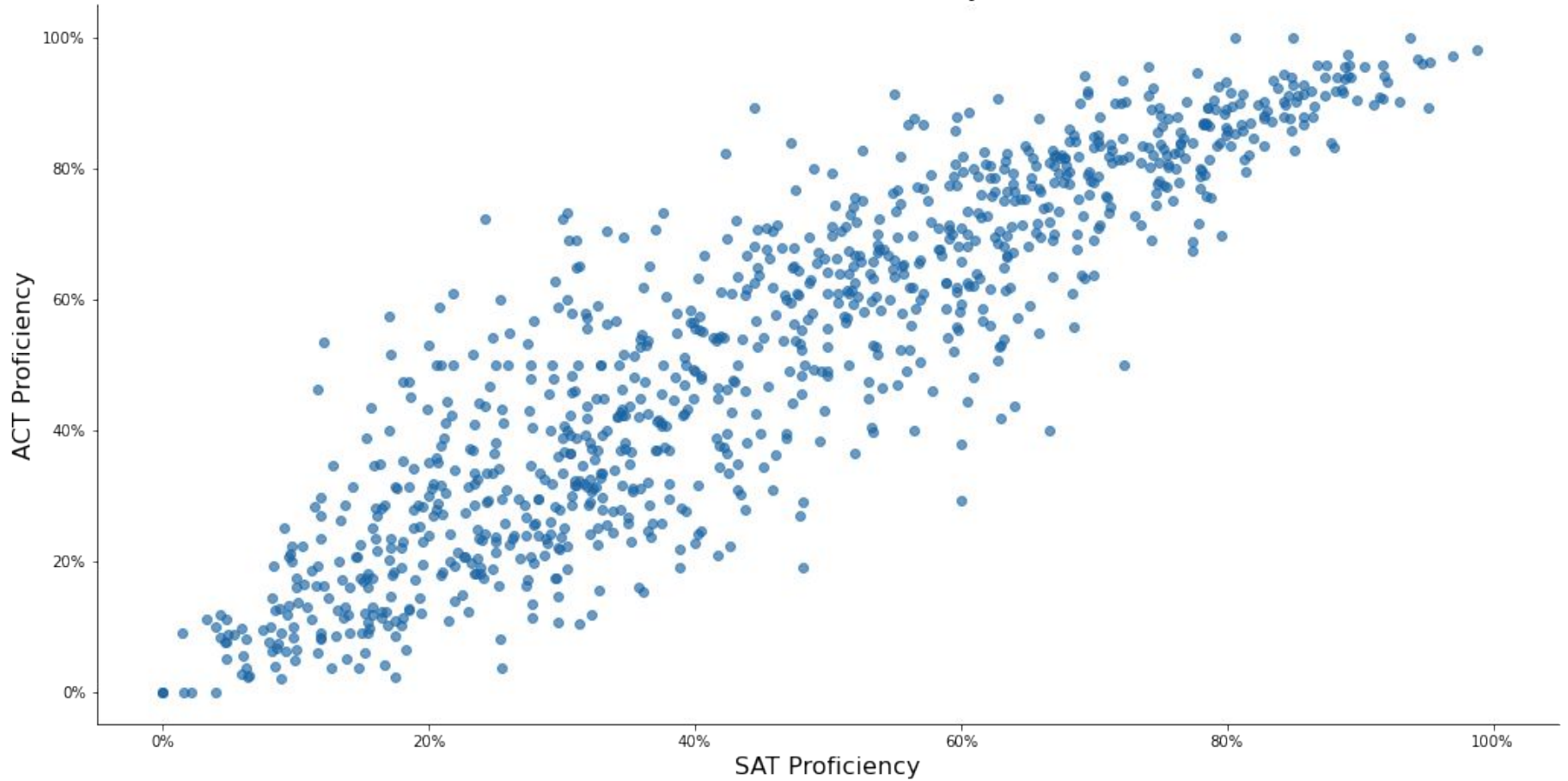
## Public Schools:

- 400,000 students
- 1033 schools
- ~ 40% take the SAT
- ~ 20% take the ACT

## Charter Schools:

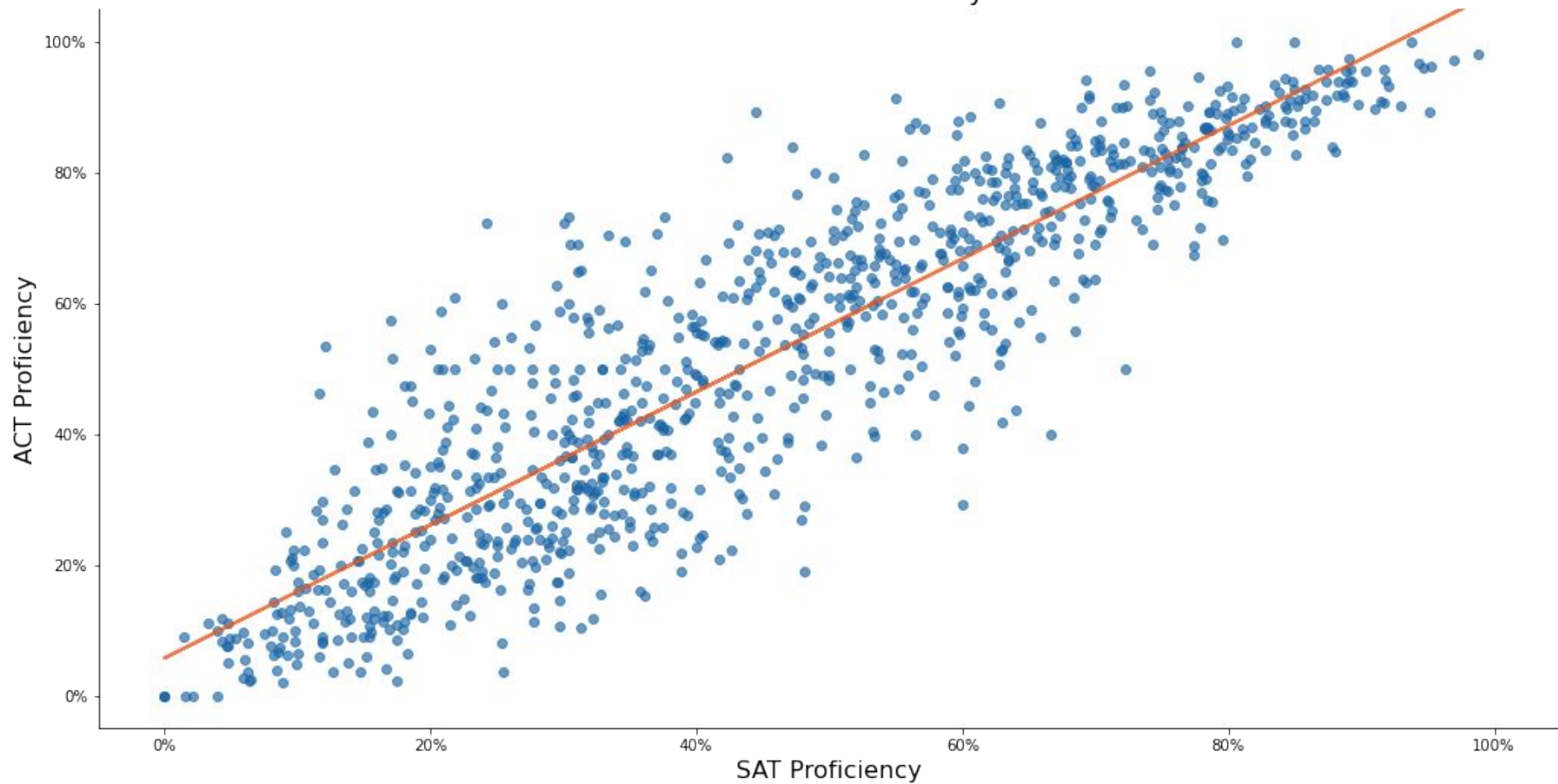
- 33,000 students
- 228 schools
- ~ 48% take the SAT
- ~ 43% take the ACT

## ACT vs SAT Proficiency



\*Proficiency is defined as roughly at or above 1000 scored on SAT & 21 scored on ACT

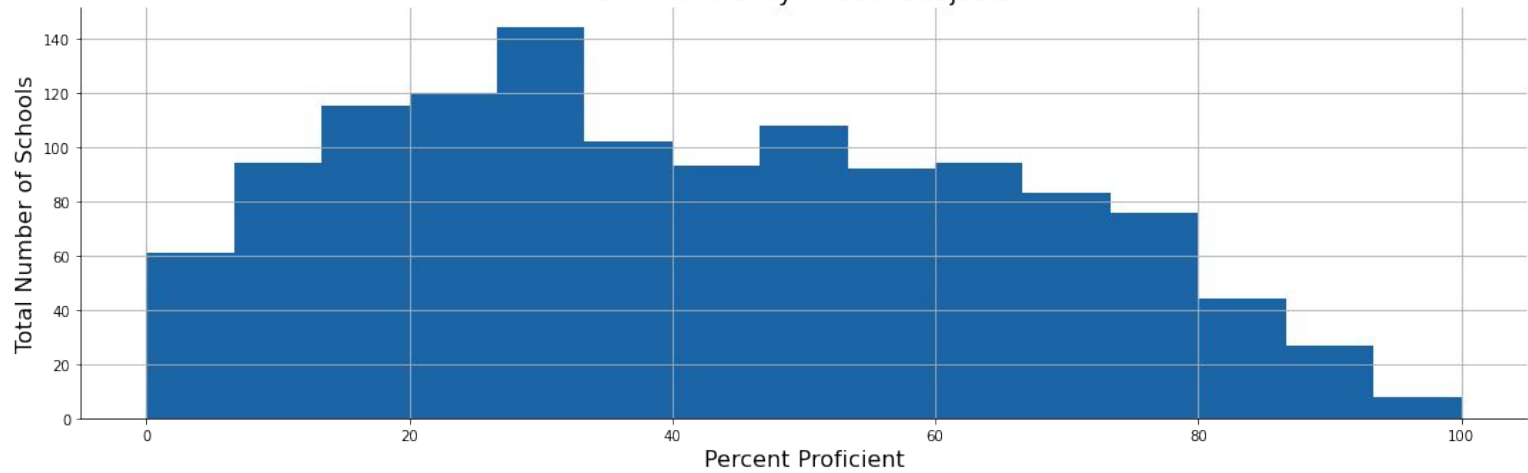
## ACT vs SAT Proficiency



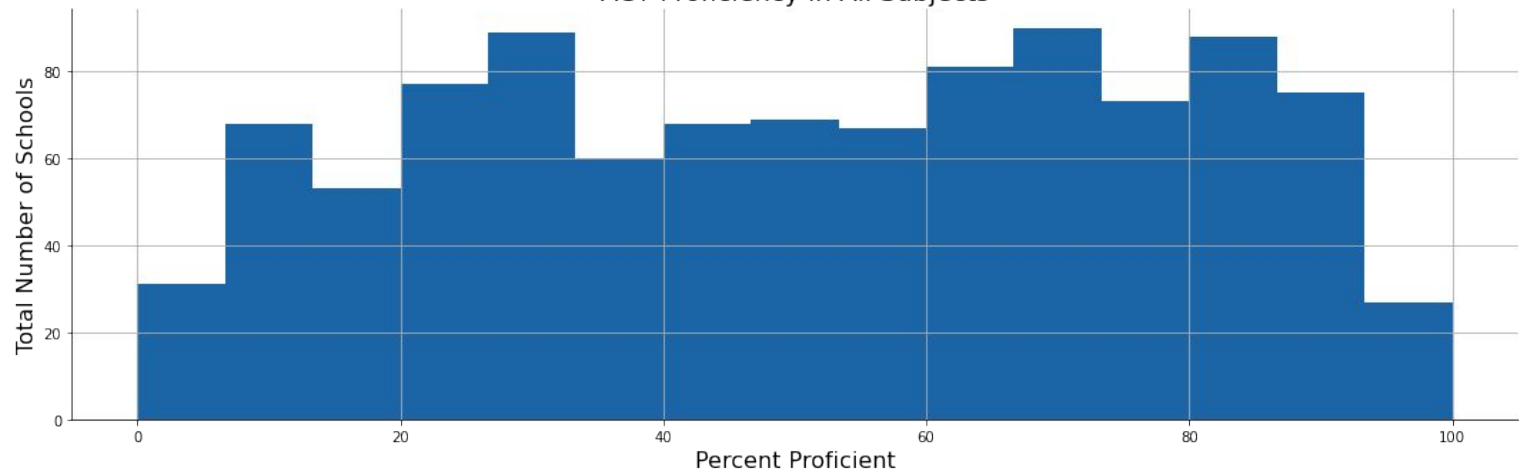
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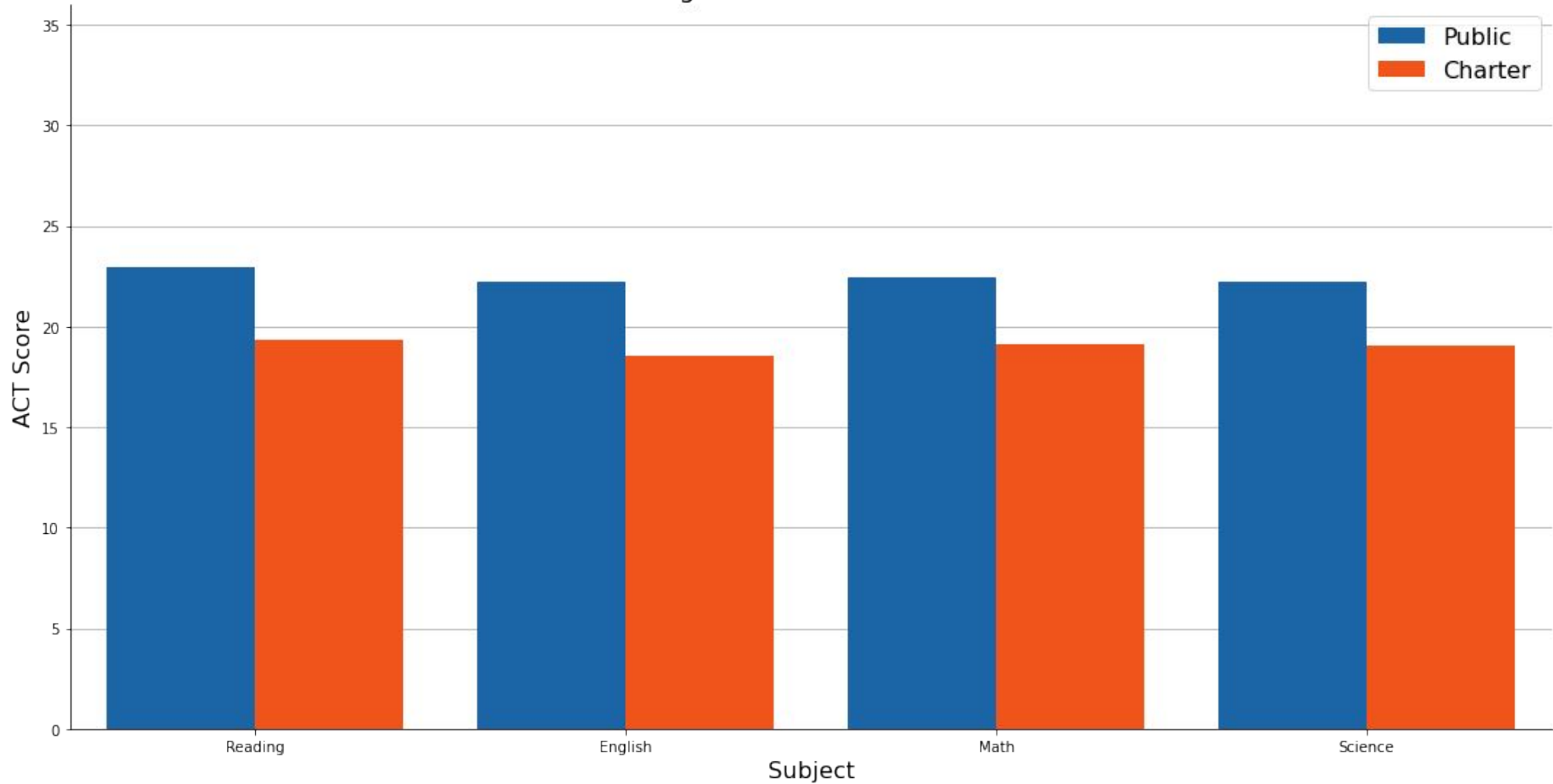
### SAT Proficiency in Both Subjects



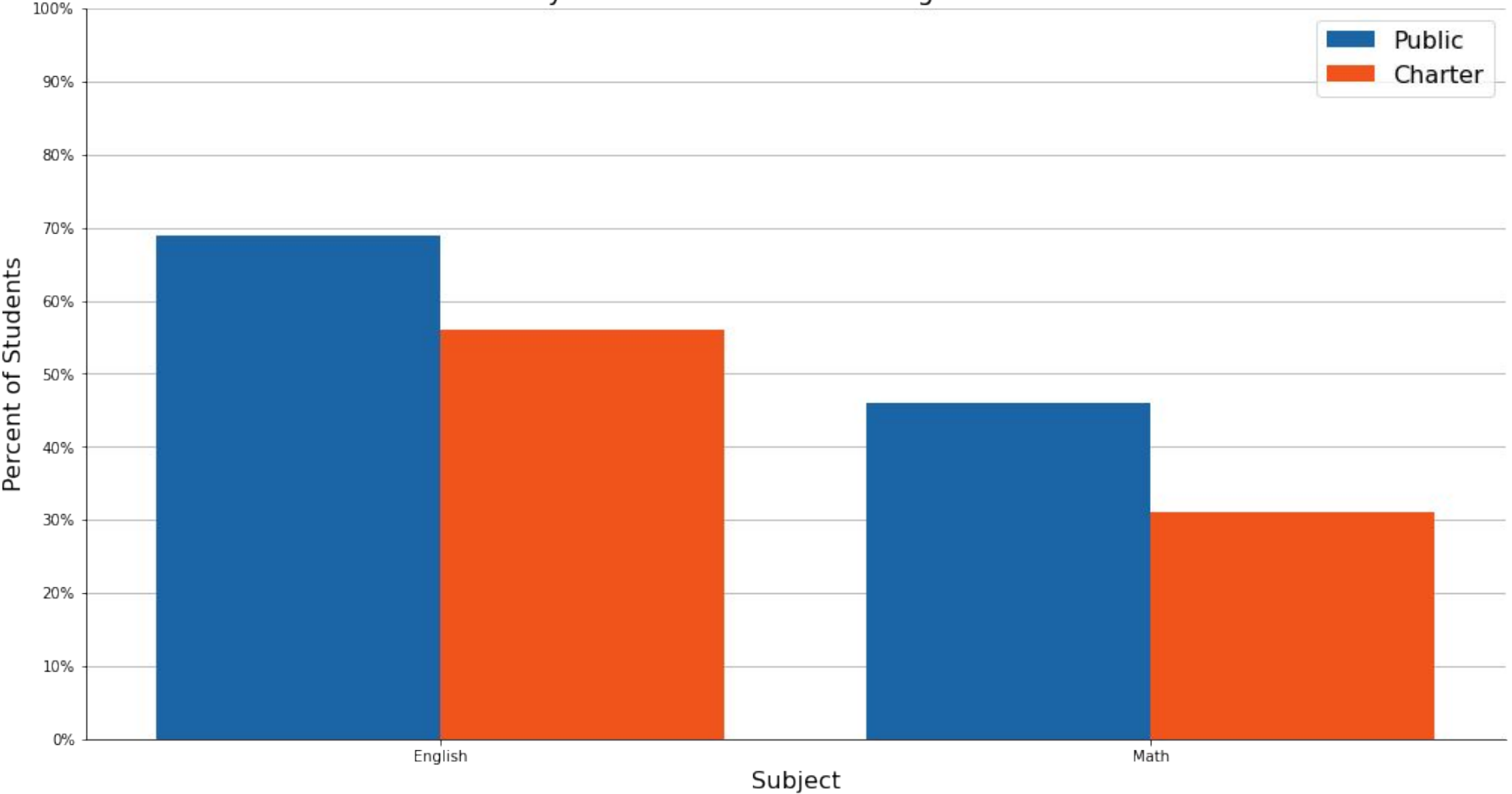
### ACT Proficiency in All Subjects



Average ACT Score in California

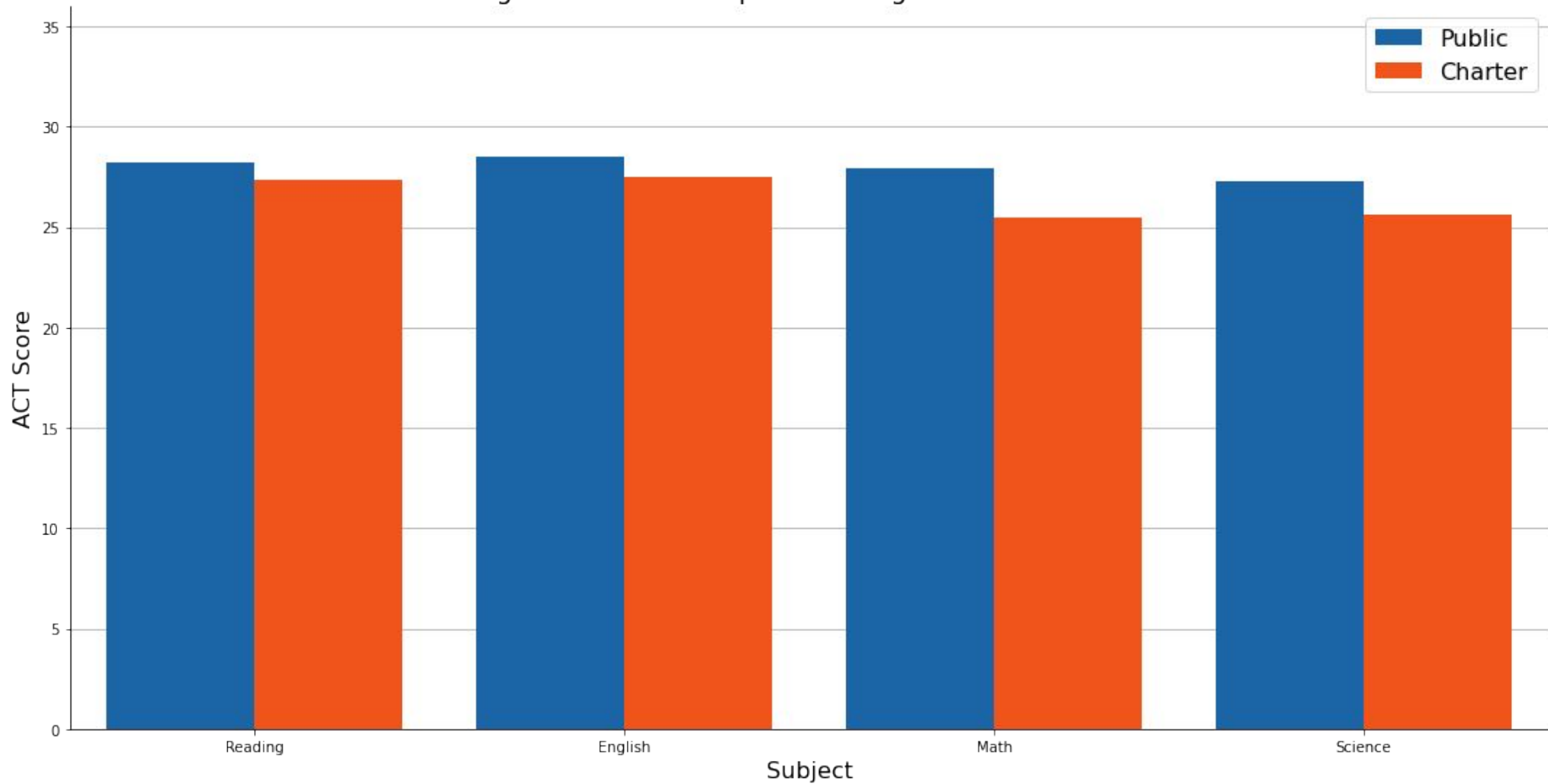


SAT Proficiency Rate for Middle 50% of High Schools in California

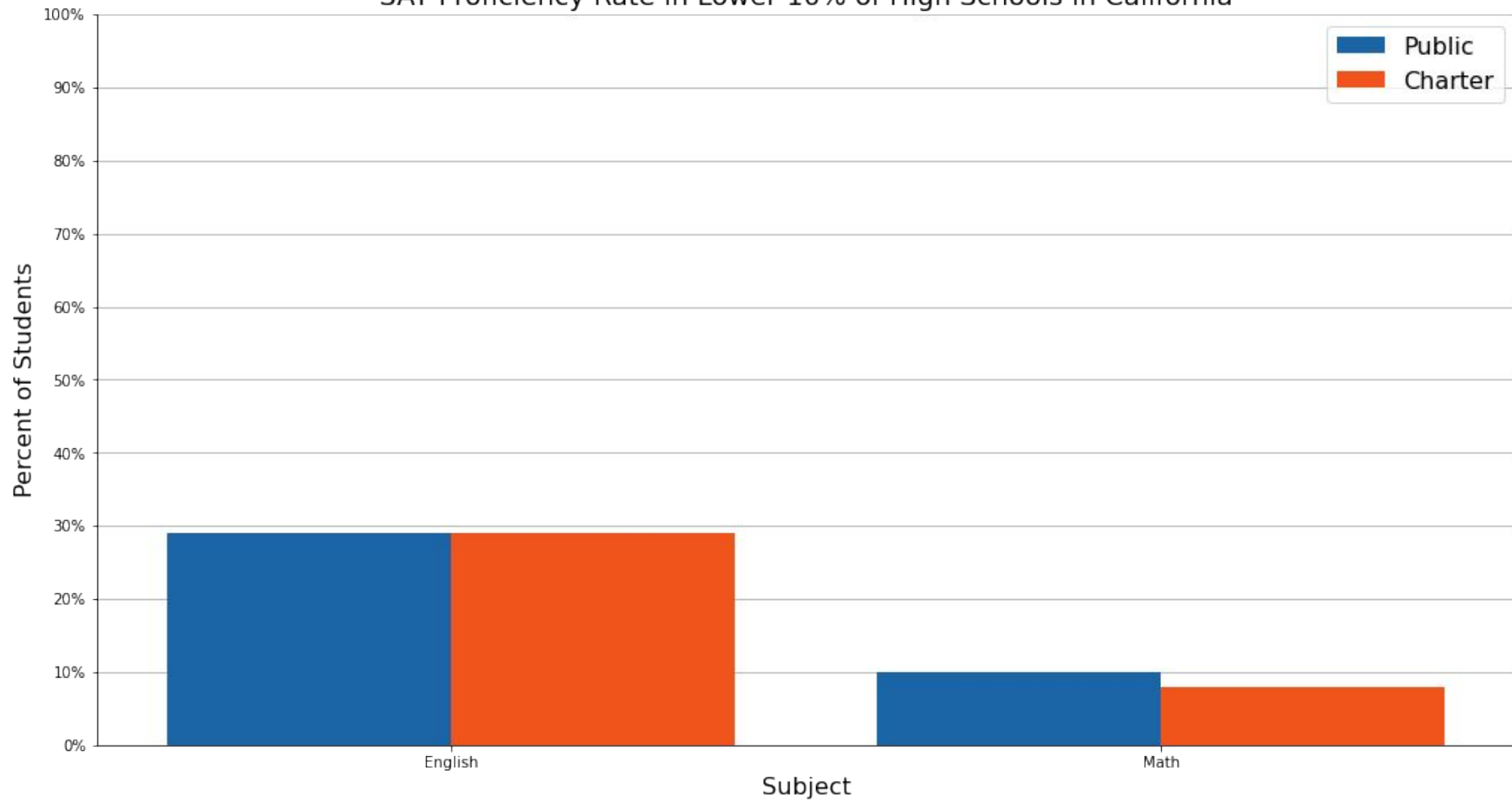


\*Proficiency is defined as roughly at or above 1000 scored on SAT & 21 scored on ACT

Average ACT Score in Top 10% of High Schools in California

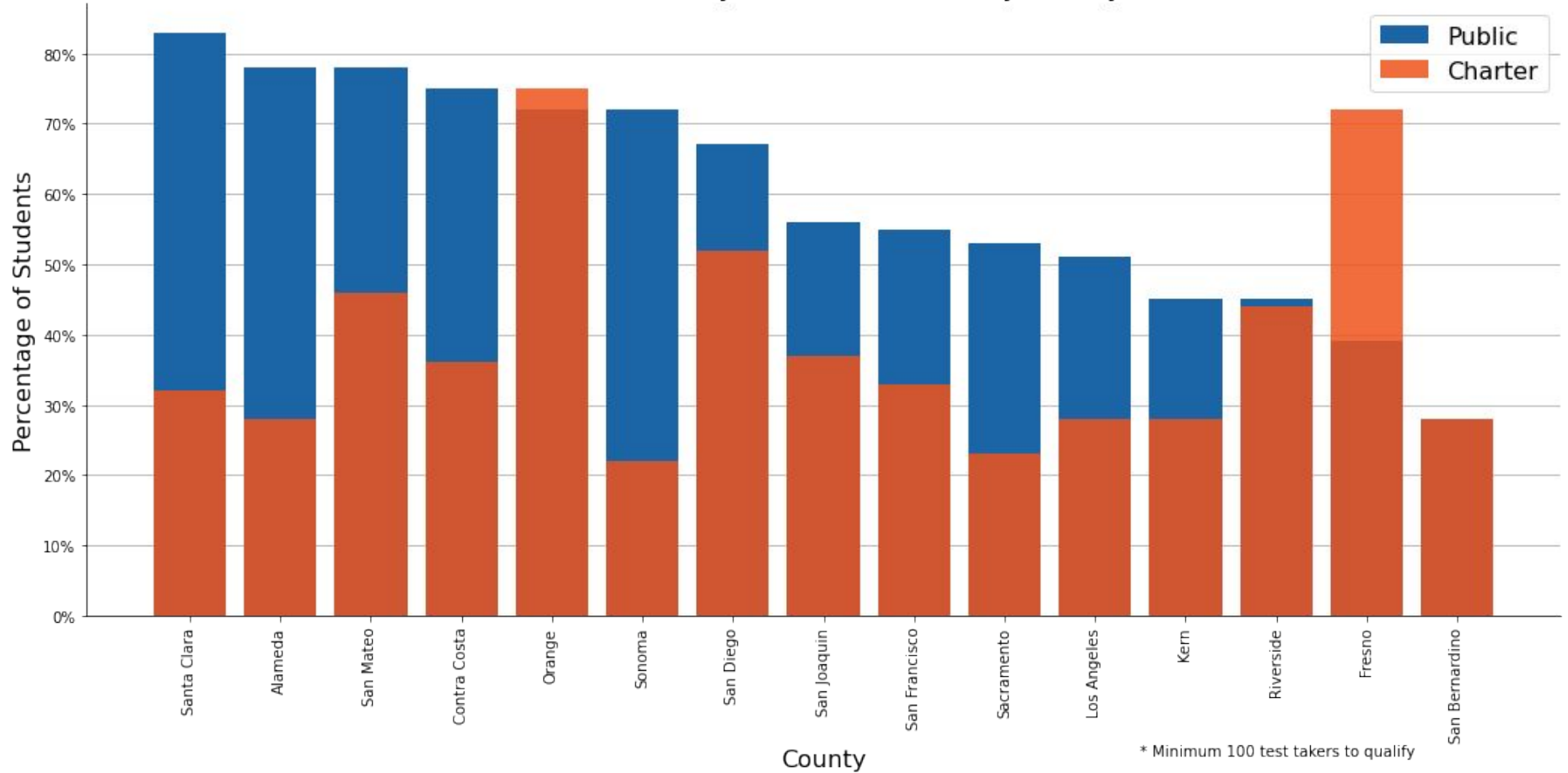


# SAT Proficiency Rate in Lower 10% of High Schools in California



\*Proficiency is defined as roughly at or above 1000 scored on SAT & 21 scored on ACT

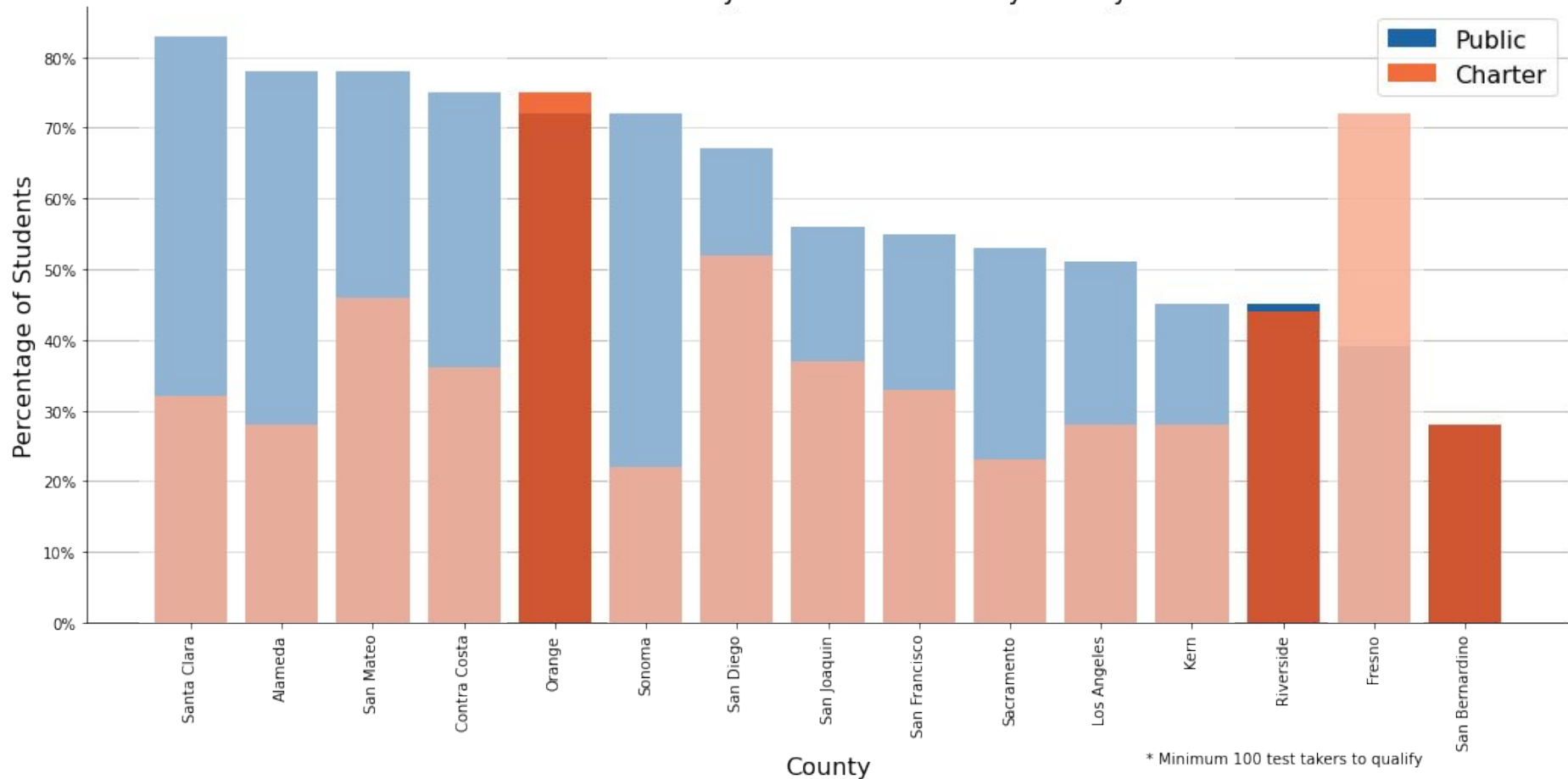
# ACT Proficiency Rate in California by County



\* Minimum 100 test takers to qualify

\* Proficiency defined as at or above 21 scored on ACT

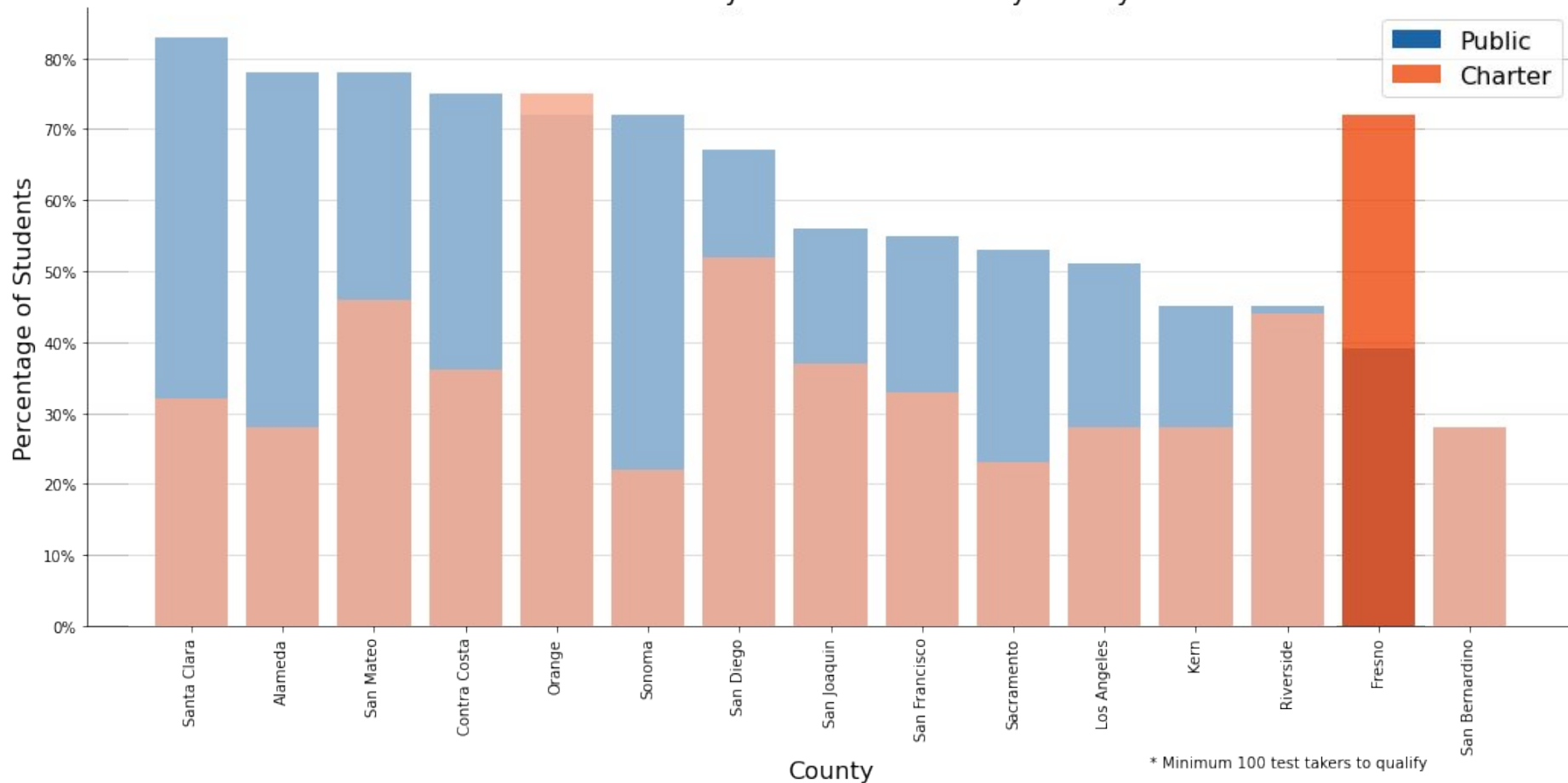
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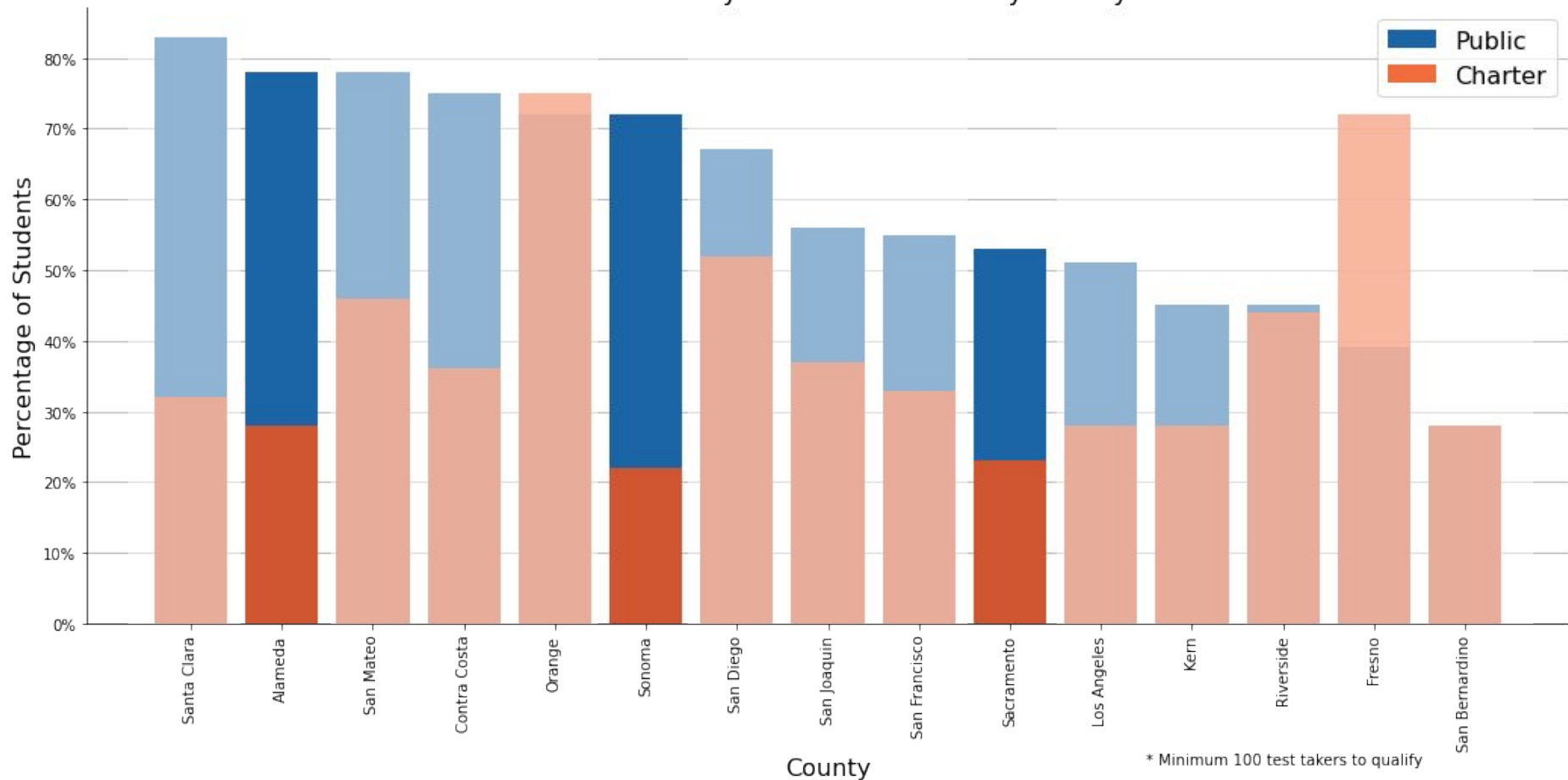


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# ACT Proficiency Rate in California by County

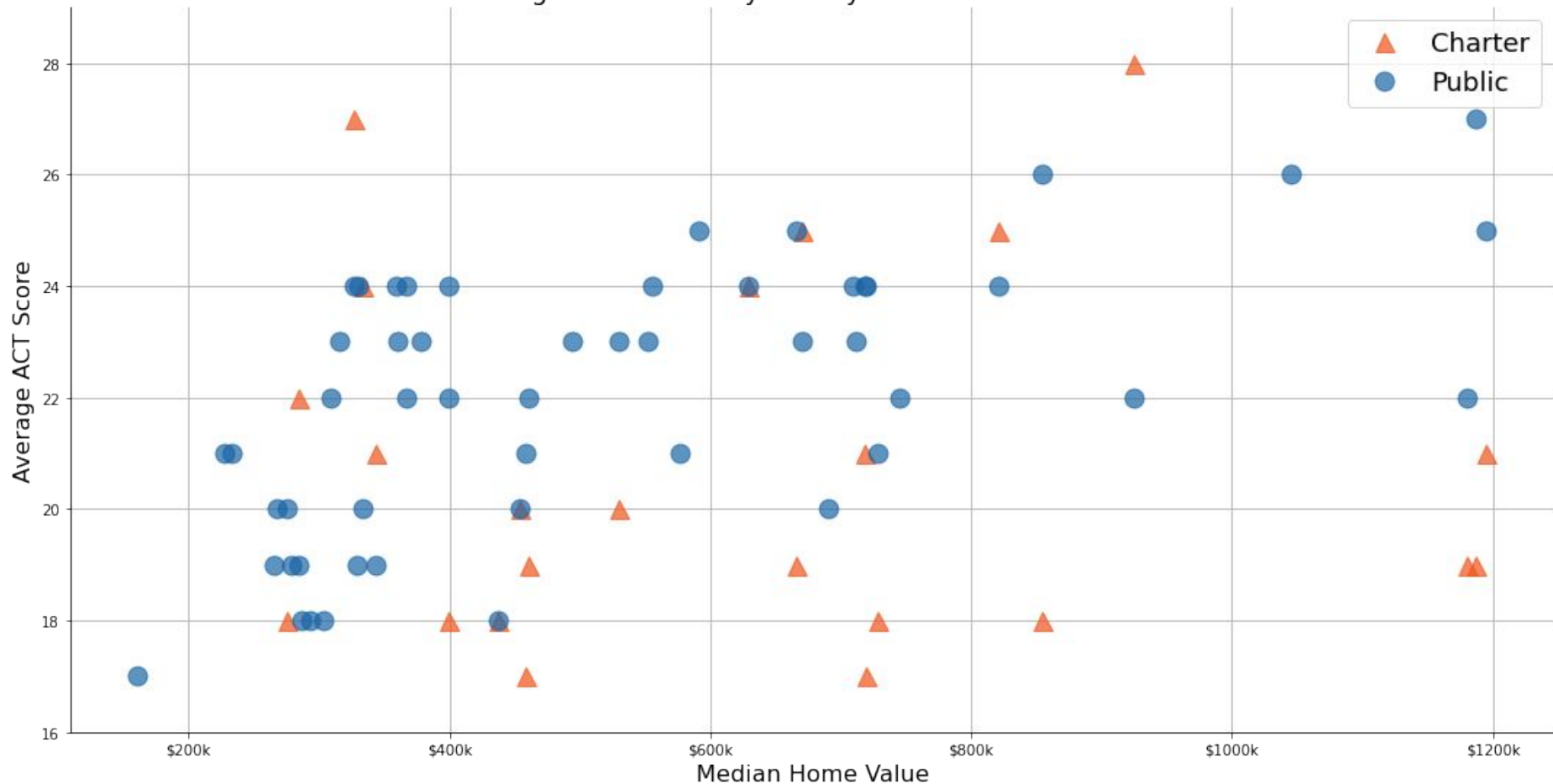


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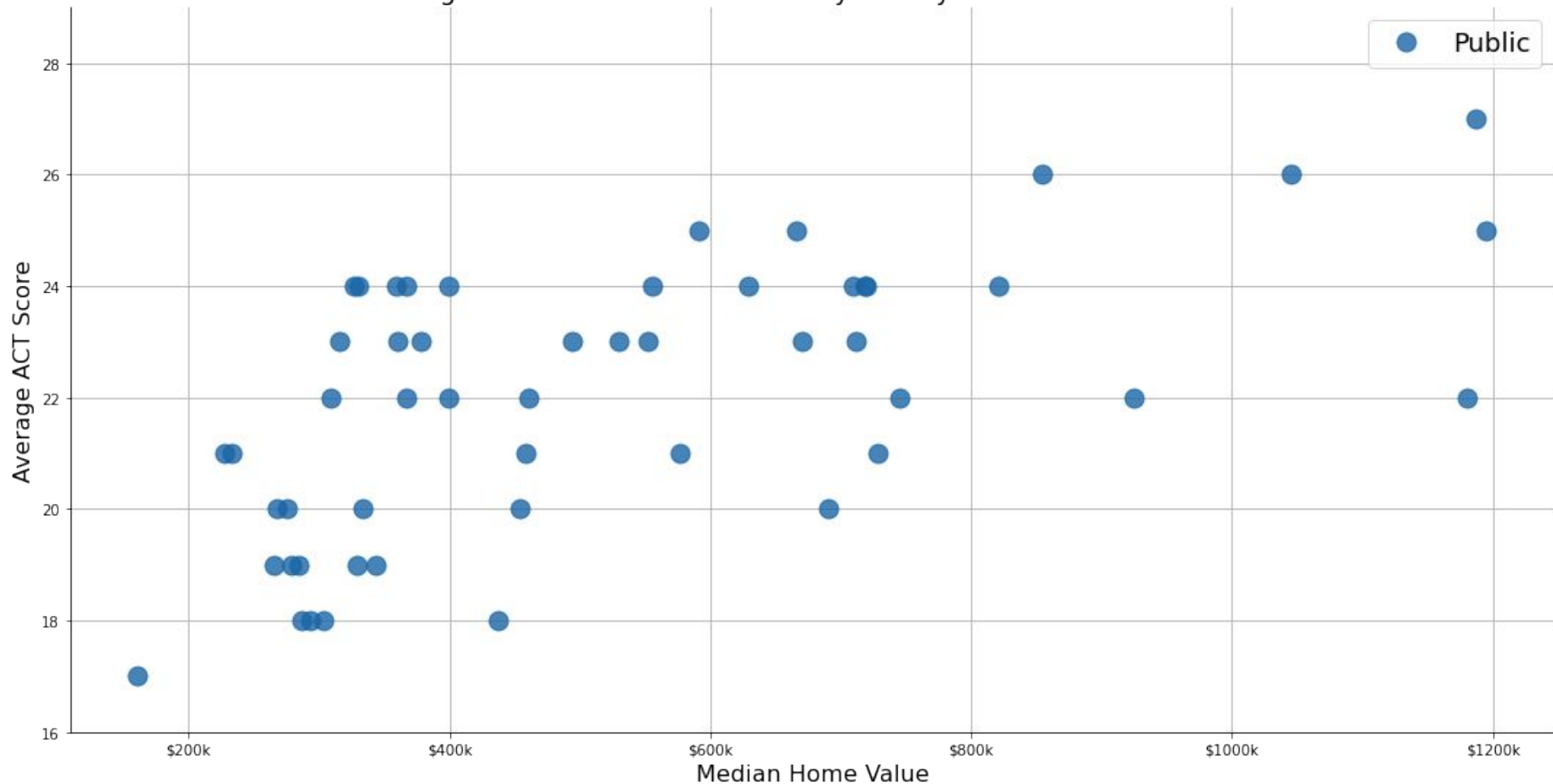
\* Proficiency defined as at or above 21 scored on ACT

**how can parents use this information?**

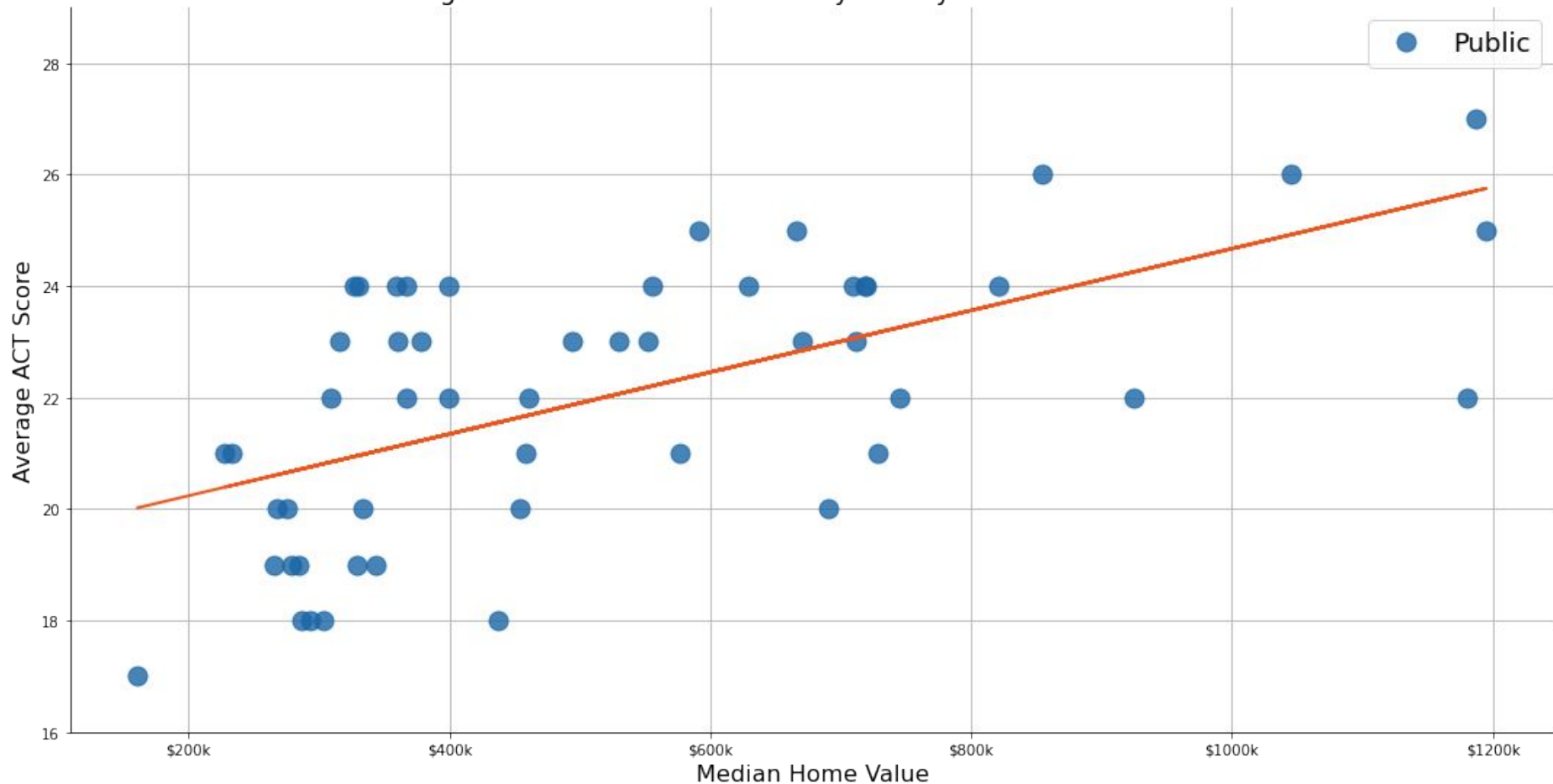
Average ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value



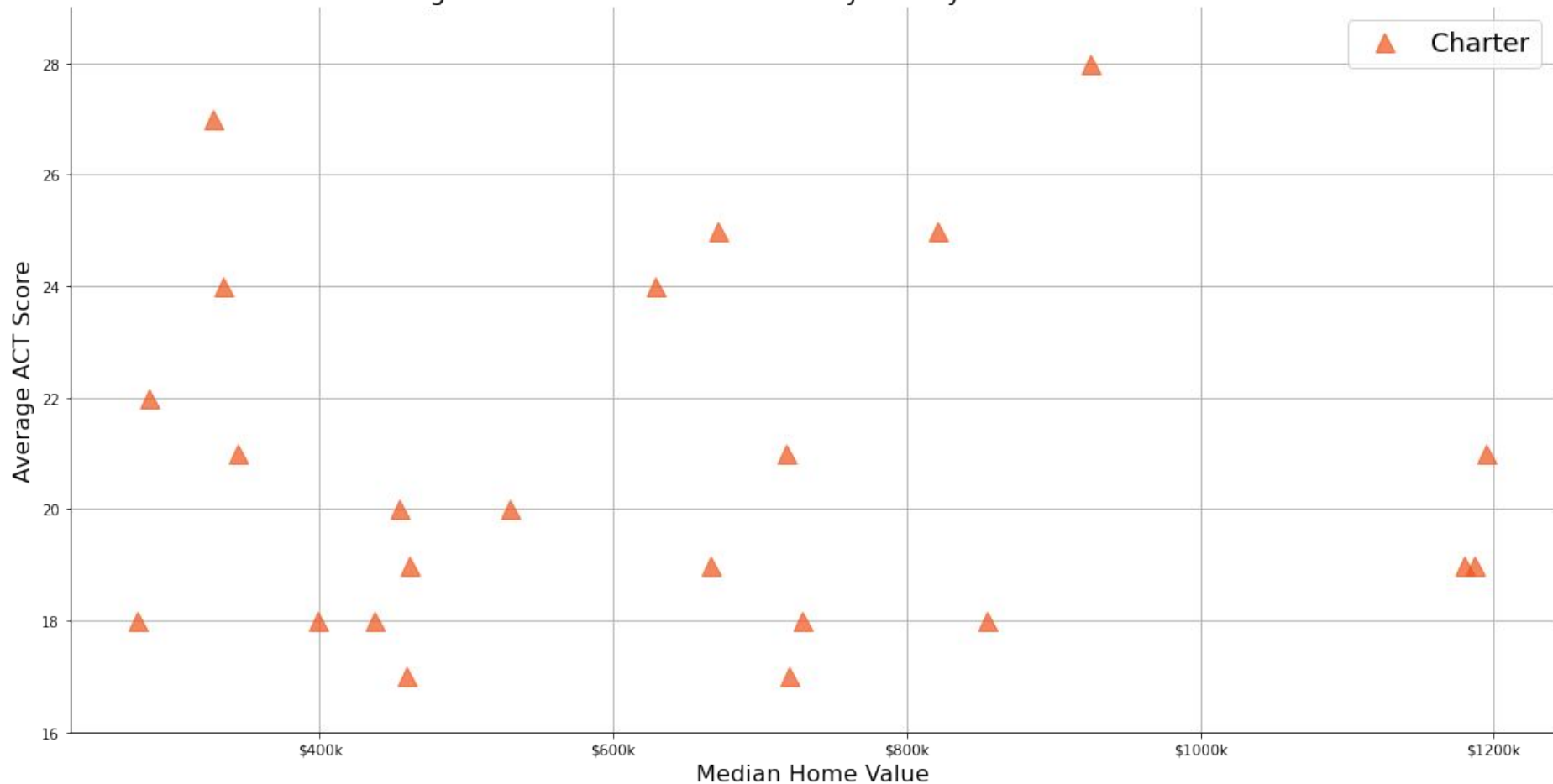
Average Public School ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value



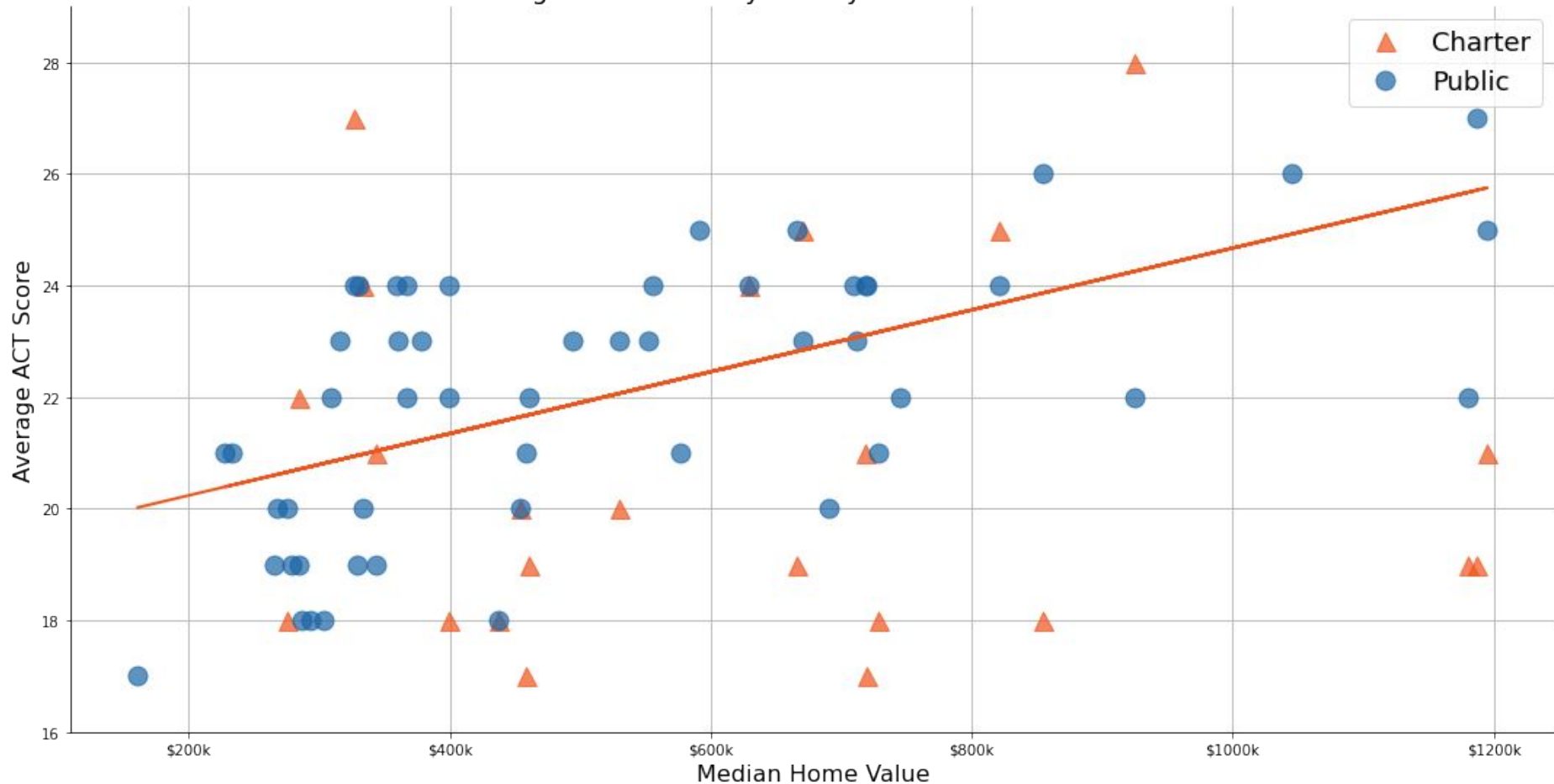
Average Public School ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value



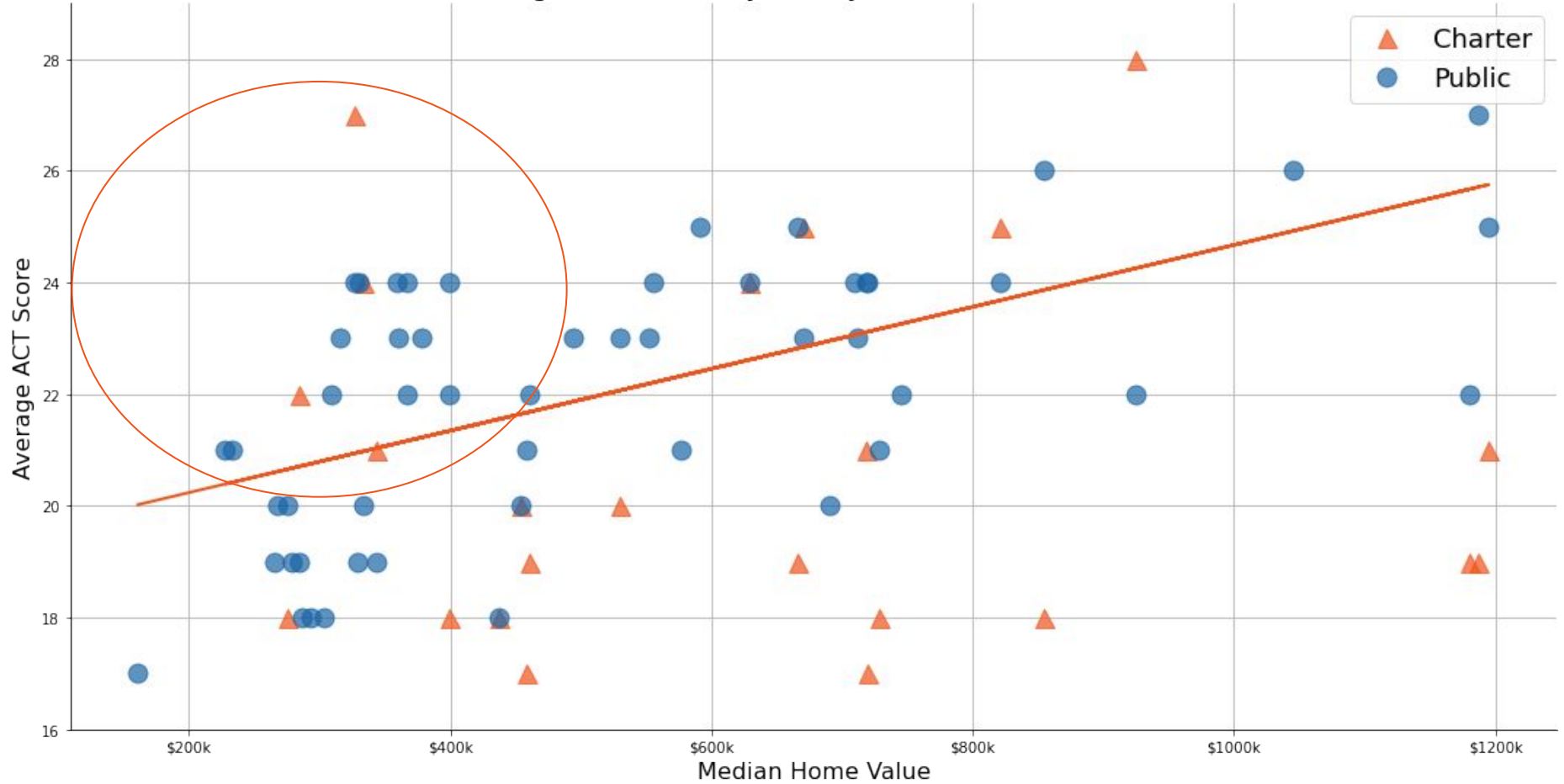
Average Charter School ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value



Average ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value

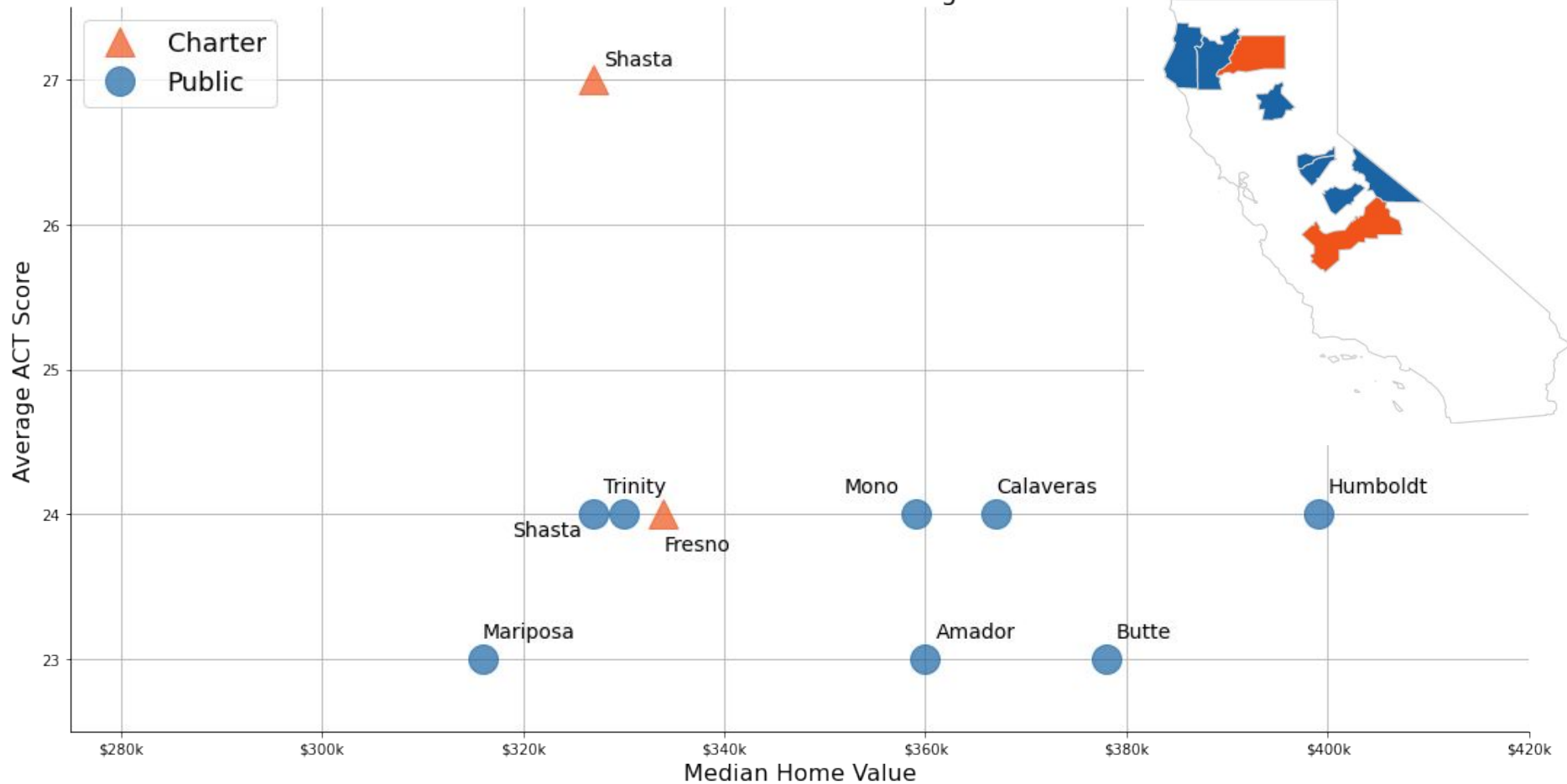


Average ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value

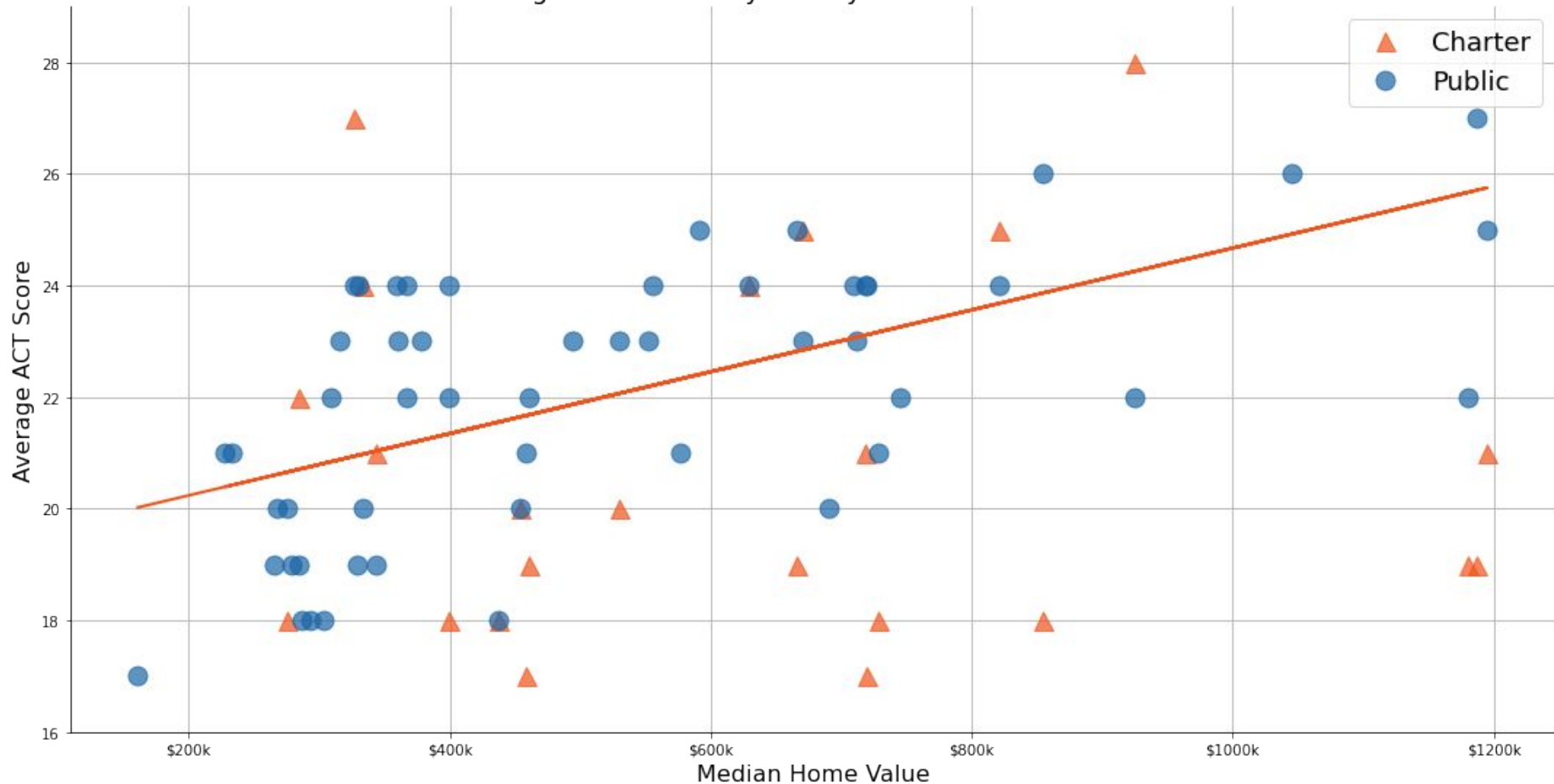


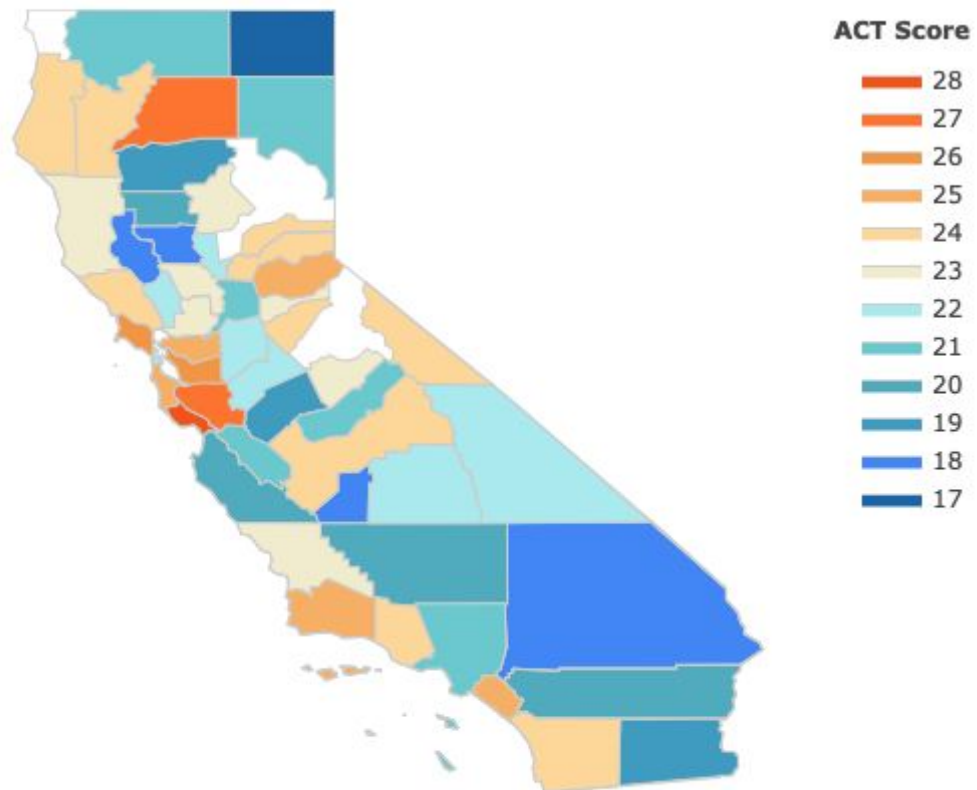


10 Most Affordable Counties with High ACT Scores

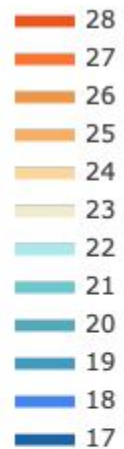


Average ACT Scores by County vs Median Home Value



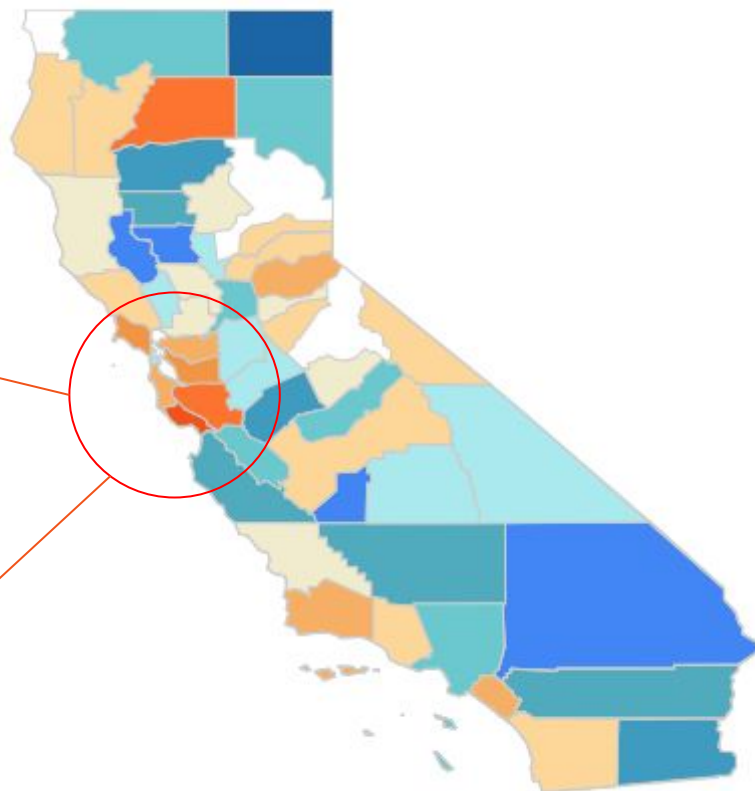


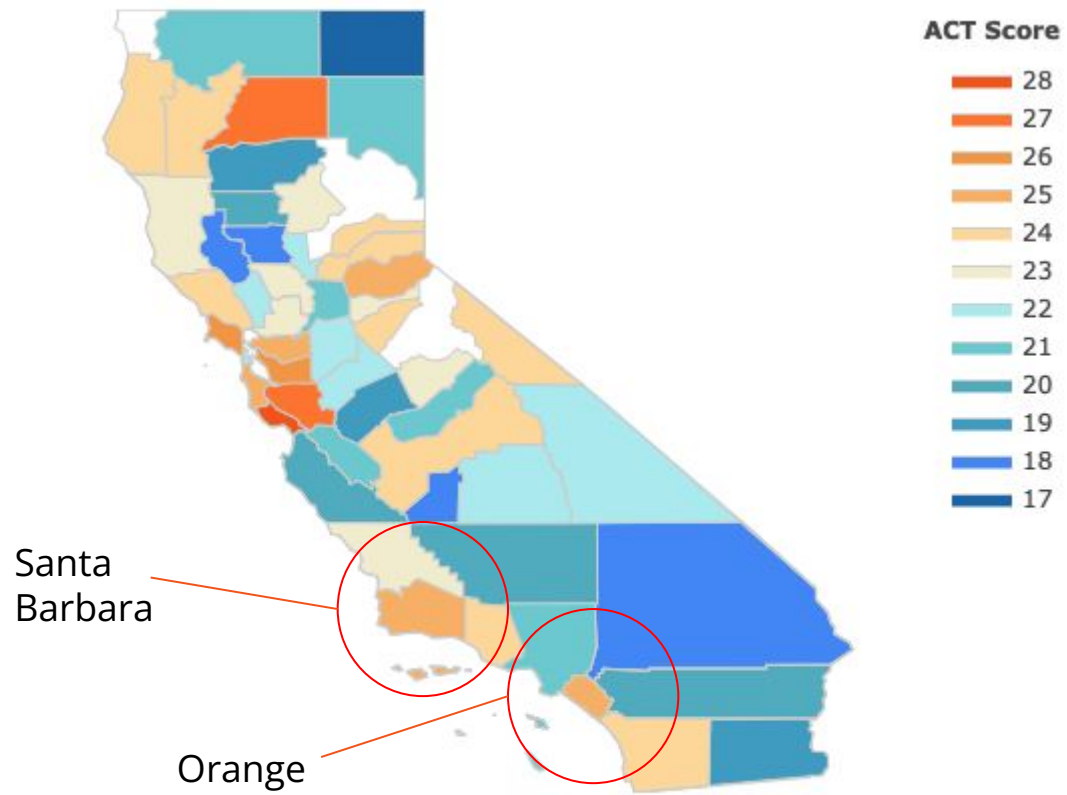
**ACT Score**

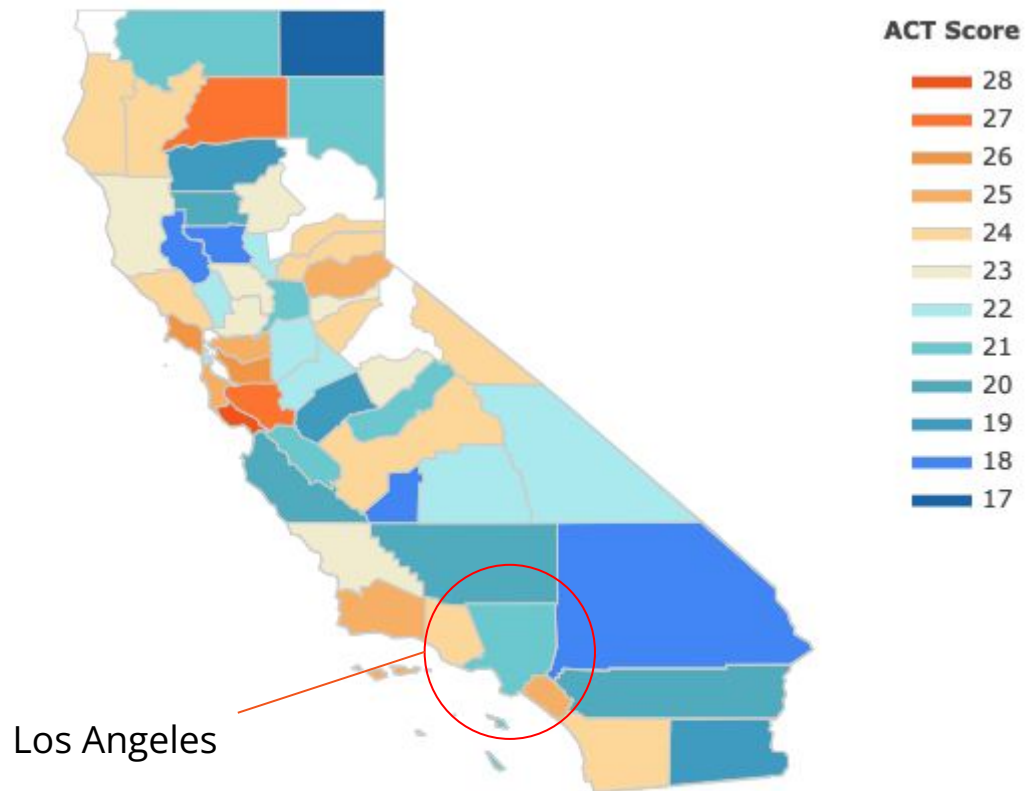


San Francisco  
Bay Area

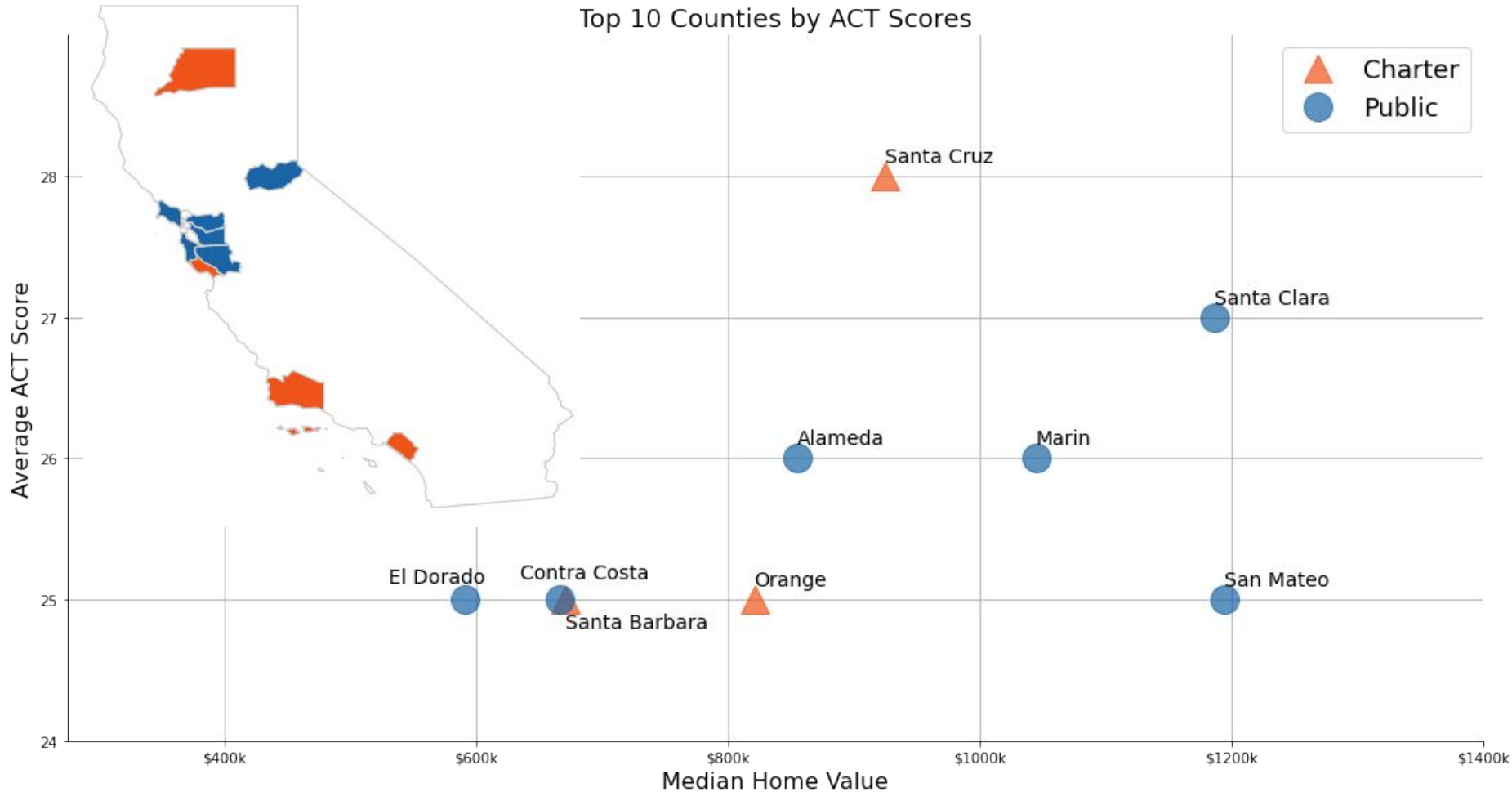
Santa Cruz







Top 10 Counties by ACT Scores



## takeaways

1. Public school SAT proficiency outperforms charter schools by 10%.
2. With an average ACT score over 27, Santa Cruz, Shasta, and Santa Clara are the highest scoring Counties in the State.
3. Nine (9) California Counties have an average ACT score over 23 with a median home value below \$400,000.



**what is most important to you?**

**is living in an affordable neighborhood of value?**

**do high test scores outweigh high cost of living?**

**can students learn more effectively from beach towns?**

**what is the balance?**

**the choice is yours**

**red pill or blue pill**

**charters or public?**



**thank you!**

# act data by county

	County	Charter	Numb Schools	Test Takers	ACT Score	% Abv Avg
3	Alameda	0	30.0	2865.0	25.86	0.78
65	Alameda	1	9.0	664.0	18.22	0.28
27	Amador	0	2.0	37.0	23.00	0.78
26	Butte	0	5.0	186.0	23.01	0.67
21	Calaveras	0	1.0	19.0	23.50	0.84
64	Colusa	0	1.0	16.0	18.50	0.31
56	Contra Costa	1	4.0	357.0	19.30	0.36
7	Contra Costa	0	28.0	2787.0	25.20	0.75
9	El Dorado	0	5.0	456.0	24.56	0.78
51	Fresno	0	25.0	1606.0	19.89	0.39
15	Fresno	1	2.0	117.0	24.17	0.72
52	Glenn	0	2.0	67.0	19.77	0.36
14	Humboldt	0	3.0	81.0	24.19	0.75
55	Imperial	0	7.0	490.0	19.48	0.37
32	Inyo	0	1.0	27.0	22.25	0.70
67	Kern	1	1.0	126.0	18.00	0.28
48	Kern	0	25.0	1086.0	20.26	0.45
72	Kings	0	5.0	268.0	17.54	0.22
71	Lake	0	2.0	36.0	17.88	0.31
41	Lassen	0	1.0	27.0	21.25	0.56
66	Los Angeles	1	72.0	5690.0	18.16	0.28
39	Los Angeles	0	200.0	14414.0	21.47	0.51
45	Madera	1	1.0	17.0	20.75	0.53
61	Madera	0	5.0	337.0	18.68	0.31
4	Marin	0	7.0	740.0	25.72	0.80
28	Mariposa	0	1.0	16.0	22.75	0.50

	County	Charter	Numb Schools	Test Takers	ACT Score	% Abv Avg
23	Mendocino	0	2.0	46.0	23.38	0.70
60	Merced	0	12.0	592.0	18.75	0.30
75	Modoc	0	2.0	55.0	16.82	0.20
10	Mono	0	1.0	19.0	24.50	0.79
53	Monterey	0	13.0	1008.0	19.71	0.37
31	Napa	0	4.0	187.0	22.31	0.66
16	Nevada	0	2.0	56.0	24.17	0.75
13	Orange	0	65.0	8156.0	24.26	0.72
8	Orange	1	4.0	288.0	25.02	0.75
12	Placer	0	13.0	1224.0	24.31	0.77
19	Placer	1	1.0	32.0	23.75	0.72
47	Riverside	0	51.0	4461.0	20.34	0.45
49	Riverside	1	5.0	243.0	20.04	0.44
40	Sacramento	0	33.0	2696.0	21.36	0.53
73	Sacramento	1	5.0	292.0	17.35	0.23
46	San Benito	0	1.0	118.0	20.75	0.44
69	San Bernardino	1	2.0	54.0	18.00	0.28
70	San Bernardino	0	49.0	5270.0	17.96	0.28
20	San Diego	0	64.0	6934.0	23.71	0.67
42	San Diego	1	16.0	962.0	21.21	0.52
35	San Francisco	0	13.0	944.0	21.73	0.55
62	San Francisco	1	3.0	115.0	18.68	0.33
58	San Joaquin	1	5.0	327.0	18.96	0.37
37	San Joaquin	0	21.0	950.0	21.72	0.56
24	San Luis Obispo	0	7.0	547.0	23.38	0.69
5	San Mateo	0	16.0	1206.0	25.49	0.78

	County	Charter	Numb Schools	Test Takers	ACT Score	% Abv Avg
44	San Mateo	1	5.0	207.0	20.89	0.46
6	Santa Barbara	1	1.0	49.0	25.25	0.82
30	Santa Barbara	0	9.0	746.0	22.60	0.60
57	Santa Clara	1	8.0	353.0	19.04	0.32
2	Santa Clara	0	36.0	3816.0	27.14	0.83
0	Santa Cruz	1	1.0	48.0	28.00	0.96
38	Santa Cruz	0	8.0	502.0	21.54	0.52
11	Shasta	0	3.0	98.0	24.34	0.82
1	Shasta	1	1.0	24.0	27.25	0.88
43	Siskiyou	0	2.0	65.0	20.94	0.48
54	Solano	1	1.0	15.0	19.50	0.33
29	Solano	0	8.0	384.0	22.68	0.63
18	Sonoma	0	13.0	711.0	23.84	0.72
74	Sonoma	1	1.0	89.0	17.25	0.22
36	Stanislaus	0	11.0	661.0	21.73	0.55
68	Stanislaus	1	1.0	23.0	18.00	0.35
33	Sutter	0	4.0	170.0	21.93	0.58
63	Tehama	0	3.0	302.0	18.59	0.35
22	Trinity	0	1.0	15.0	23.50	0.73
34	Tulare	1	1.0	38.0	21.75	0.55
59	Tulare	0	15.0	867.0	18.94	0.33
17	Ventura	0	21.0	1518.0	23.96	0.70
25	Yolo	0	4.0	337.0	23.05	0.63
50	Yuba	0	3.0	59.0	19.98	0.44