Andrew Choens, MSW - Resume

andy.choens@gmail.com
(518) 275-5984

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Adjunct Instructor **Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences**

Albany, NY   Spring 2018 - Present

I teach two undergraduate data classes. Both classes teach practical analytical skills, data management, and R programming.

1. "Intro To Data" introduces students to the R programming language. The class builds on the knowledge gained in the required statistics course and introduces fundamental R programming skills such as data import, visualization, and single table data transformations (filter, group by). Students also learn how to build and interpret linear and logistic regression models.

2. "Applied Data Science" builds on Intro to Data. This project-based course introduces students to a synthetic EHR data set which is used to demonstrate how EHR data can be used to build an actionable analysis. Applied Data Science introduces more advanced R programming and project management skills. Students are introduced to relational data using dplyr functions. Students learn how to build a classifier model using decision trees and random forests.

Both classes include readings and discussions which are "Beyond the Numbers". These discussions cover topics intended to broaden students understanding of the opportunities and risks of data in our society. Topics include HIPAA, privacy laws beyond HIPAA, sources of bias in data, ethics in analytics, etc.

Both classes give students the opportunity to use data and statistics to understand the world. Intro to Data applies this broadly and uses data to discuss current issues such as police shootings. Applied Data Science takes a more business-centric approach and teaches students how to use data to drive administrative/business decisions with data.

Consultant/Analyst **New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation (NYSTEC)**

Albany, NY   January 2023 - Present

The New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation is a technology consulting firm which provides services and guidance for the Federal and state governments, as well as local government agencies in New England. Since joining NYSTEC in 2023 I have worked with New York State agencies including:

- **Department of Health (DOH):** I work with with various DOH units within the Division of Health Plan Contracting and Oversight (DHPCO). I am responsible for a growing number of State and Federal reporting products including the annual Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment Report for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Analyses are based on Medicaid claims data, custom eMedNY integrations, and data provided by other State agencies. In my time with Mainstream Managed Care Systems Unit, I have dramatically improved the processing efficiency of case transfers from NySOH, improved the team's handling of Third Party Liability data, and improved the team's insight into the impact their work has on the overall Medicaid system.

- **Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES):** I am responsible for developing a ICS/OT threat intelligence framework able to rapidly drive understanding and inferences of threats in New York State using a combination of public and secure data sources.

- **Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS):** Developed a new case management tool and operational dashboard for the OCFS Interagency Resolution Unit. This improved insight into how the unit was operating and allowed the unit to better communicate with its stakeholders and improve operational efficiency. Improved the team's ability to track and demonstrate its impact within OCFS.

I work in NYSTEC's Data Services and Management (DSM) team which provides analytical and consultative services. Within this team I work on improving the team's operational efficiency through mentoring, providing ongoing education regarding programming and statistics, and provide ad hoc support to other parts of the company. For example, we recently developed a new protocol for state agencies looking for guidance de-identifying and releasing publicly useful data in a way that can be shown to protect individual privacy.

Data Science and Engineering Leader   **Acuitas Health**

Troy, NY   September 2017 - June 2022

Acuitas was a population health services organization which helped primary care providers succeed in value based contracts with health insurance companies. As the leader of the Department of Data Science and Engineering I led the implementation of data-driven services and products. The team I led:

- developed a set of process and procedures for the development of high quality, validated, data deliverables including reports and statistical models

- hired a diverse team of analysts and data scientists

- trained the team in our process and procedures

- integrated our workflows with our Health Catalyst partners

- implemented technologies such as Posit Connect on top of the Health Catalyst ecosystem to provide consistent, reproduce results across a diverse range of data products

- built a Master Data Management (MDM) system able to accurately track patient interactions across payers and providers to improve analytics and patient outcomes

During my time with Acuitas, we integrated dozens of EHR, billing, and claims systems into a vendor neutral framework which enabled us to provide data products to clients regardless of their internal tech stack. Notable data products provided include:

- Federal HEDIS reports and tooling to identify opportunities to improve HEDIS scores

- Models and reports to assess the accuracy of patient HCC scores

- Dashboard to enable leadership to monitor provider efficiency

- Models to identify high-risk patients such as patients at risk of falling

Although I am proud of the accomplishments listed above, the team culture we created is the part I will always remember first. The time/cost pressures placed on the Acuitas team were immense. In spite of that reality, we developed a culture of teamwork and trust which helped us support each other through a pandemic and consistently deliver complex data products on aggressive timelines inside a broader business culture which was neither open nor supportive.

Healthcare Program Advisor   **PCG Staffing Solutions Organization - New York State Department of Health**

Albany, NY   July 2017 - August 2017

PCG won the contract renewal from IPRO. In July all IPRO staff on the contract were moved to PCG to maintain continuity. I continued to report to the same DOH staff person and had the same responsibilities until I left in August.

Healthcare Program Research Manager   **IPRO (Island Peer Review Organization) - New York State Department of Health**

Albany, NY   March 2014 - June 2017

Embedded consultant with the New York State Department of Health. Worked in the Office of Quality and Patient Safety (OCFS). My primary responsibility was for the internal evaluation and management of reporting in support of the New York State Health Homes initiative. I worked closely with both the external program evaluators and internal DOH stakeholders to understand the impact and effectiveness of

Health Home care management programs and how to improve them. For example, developed a model which identified risk factors for Health Homes not enrolling members after a lengthy (and costly) outreach effort.

Policy Analyst   **Hornby Zeller Associates**
Troy, NY   September 2007 - March 2014
Hornby Zeller Associates (HZA) was a consulting firm specializing in child welfare, elder care, juvenile justice, and mental health.

I was responsible for developing research hypotheses and methodologies and providing support and mentoring to junior staff. Other responsibilities include data collection, management and analysis of research data and dissemination of results.

I also initiated a transition from a workflow based on Access and SPSS to one based on Microsoft SQL Server and R which began the company's transition to reproducible reporting. The end result of this transition was improved accuracy and reduced timelines to report completion.

Principal Investigator   **Coalition for the Homeless**
Albany, NY   September 2006 - June 2007
Principal Investigator for an exploratory research project which established the existence of homeless men and women with borderline intellectual functioning in New York State homeless shelters.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Health Analytics Summit (HAS):** Advanced Analytics for Medical Practices: Value-Based Care in the New Normal
- **R In Epidemiology:** Connecting Primary Care Providers to their own data

The above presentations are both available on Youtube and the links work in a digital version of this PDF.

EDUCATION:

Master of Social Welfare	The State University of New York at Albany	Albany, NY 2007
Bachelor of International Affairs	Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA 2002

DOMAIN-SPECIFIC WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Analysis of cyber threat intelligence data (STIX, TAXII).
- Analysis of medical claims and electronic health records.
- Business support of Primary Care such as HEDIS reporting and Value Based Care
- Analysis & evaluation of New York State Health Homes
- Analysis & evaluation of state Child Welfare and Elder Care services
- Program implementation and improvement
- Improving business workflows

TECHNICAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

- **Data Analysis:** Excel, Python, R, SAS, SPSS
- **Database:** MySQL, PostgreSQL, Snowflake, SQL Server, Vertica
- **BI:** Metabase, Posit Connect, Superset, Tableau, Voila, Qlik
- **Reproducible Research/Reporting:** LaTeX, Pandoc, Quarto
- **IT:** Linux server/workstation administration, Master Data Management, OCI container management

Updated: November 11, 2024

LaTeXcode for this document available at: https://github.com/Choens/Resume/