

# Public Health Disparities Between Washington and Texas

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## Introduction

The United States is among the richest countries in the world but falls behind other wealthy nations regarding access to health care for its citizens. Health care access is defined by the degree in which individuals and groups are able to obtain needed services from the medical care system (Millman, 1993). Although there have been initiatives within the U.S. to lessen public health disparities there is still a great number of people who struggle to access quality health care. There are numerous social, economic, political and physical environmental factors that play a part in these disparities. Access to health care is critical for people to stay healthy and ultimately prevent premature death (Rockville, 2021).

This project's objective is to shed light on the disparities in healthcare between the states of Washington and Texas. According to the Commonwealth fund website the northern states in the United States have better access to healthcare than the southern states. By comparing two states from each respective area this project will help illustrate the disparities. Additionally the project will take into account a variety of factors to further explain the differences of access to health care between Washington and Texas. The optimal goal of this project is to raise awareness of the lack of healthcare accessibility and aid in bringing change to help eliminate these

inequalities. Decreasing gaps in access to healthcare would not only benefit those being affected but also improve the overall quality of healthcare and life for those living in the United States.

## Project Design

This project aims to compare healthcare disparities between Washington and Texas as a whole. For this project's methodology, we will collect health data from reliable sources and compare key metrics between Washington and Texas. In the data analysis phase, bar graphs, line plots, histograms, and box plots will be used to visually compare disparities between Texas and Washington, highlighting differences in healthcare access, such as insurance coverage disparities and Medicare enrollees who have access to flu vaccinations. We will also compare child poverty rates and income inequality between the two states to explore how economic disparities relate to healthcare access and outcomes, providing a clearer understanding of public health disparities. To ensure a comprehensive comparison of the data, we have also gathered information from multiple reliable sources. This approach allows us to capture a wide range of health metrics and demographic factors, enhancing the depth and accuracy of our analysis. By integrating diverse datasets, we aim to provide a more comprehensive understanding of public health disparities across different populations.

## Project Timeline

The project will be split up into six weeks. The first week will be focused on looking at the project requirements/grading rubric, finalizing the research question, and narrowing down the factors to focus on. The second week will be aimed towards doing the majority of the research and selecting which types of graphs to use. The third week will consist of continuing to research

and start to code in Jupyter notebook. The fourth week will center around coding some more and prioritizing the visual aspect of the graphs. The fifth week's focal point will be coming up with conclusions and outcomes that were generated from the research. Lastly, week six will focus on finalizing small details and turning in the project.

## References

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