

# Machine Learning Regression Model

Mental Illness in Communities Estimator

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# Project Objective

Estimate the percentage of population with mental illnesses in communities to help local governments and health organizations raise awareness and allocate resources in mental care to build better lives for those affected.



# Mental Illness in the U.S.

## What is a mental illness?

Mental illness is defined as having a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder, other than a developmental or substance use disorder



**1 in 5** U.S. adults  
experience mental  
illness (19%)



**1 in 6** U.S. youth  
experience mental  
illness (6-17 years)

**90%** of people who  
die by suicide have  
experienced symptoms  
of a mental health  
condition

**11 Years**

The average delay  
between symptom  
onset and treatment

Sources:

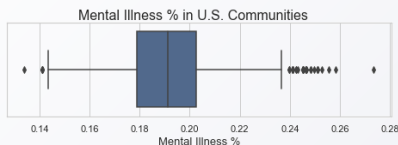
<https://nami.org/About-Mental-Illness>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

<https://www.psychiatry.org/>

## DATASET

- ▶ **820** counties from 48 states (26% counties) – excluding Hawaii and Alaska
- ▶ **30** different features: economic, demographics, family structure, education and weather
- ▶ **3** data sources: API & Data Download



## METHODOLOGY & MODEL OVERVIEW

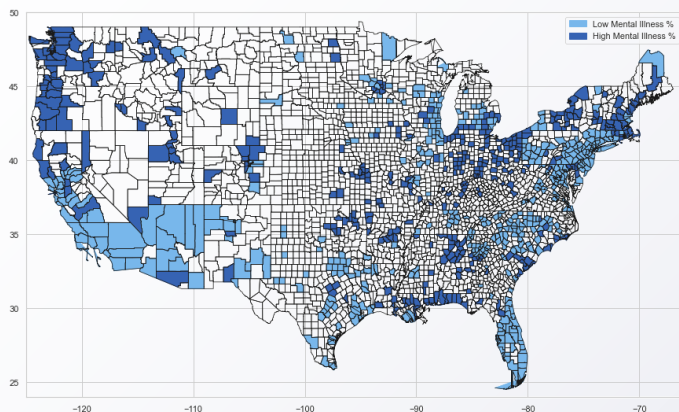
Data Sourcing & Scrubbing >>> Exploratory Data Analysis >>> Model Training & Evaluation >>> Delivery of Results

**Model Selection:** Support Vector Regressor  
Model with a RMSE of 1.54% and R2 of 0.445

Regression Model	RMSE	R2
Baseline	0.021	-0.001
SVR	0.0154	0.445
Random Forest Regr.	0.0167	0.348
XGBRegressor	0.0156	0.432
Deep Neural Network	0.017	0.27

# DATA INSIGHTS

## MENTAL ILLNESS IN COUNTIES



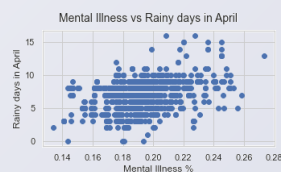
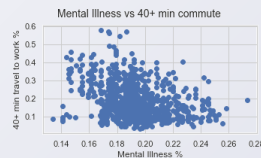
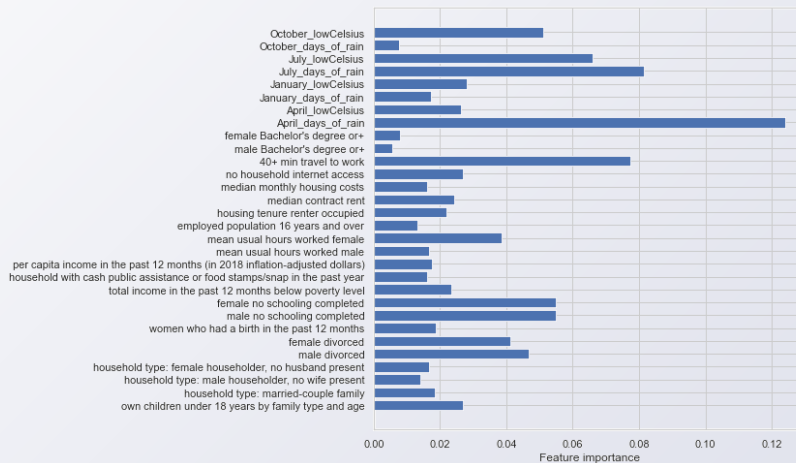
Counties with **higher** rates of long **commutes** show **less** % of mental illness



Counties with **higher** number of **rainy days** in January, April and October show **higher** % of mental illness



Counties where women work **less** hours show **higher** % of mental illness



## RECOMMENDATIONS / NEXT STEPS

- Tune model parameters to improve RMSE and  $R^2$  before moving model to production
- Review dataset to eliminate noise from unnecessary variables
- Explore further insights from independent variables

# Thanks!

**Any questions?**

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