Dataset Nutrition Label
Medicaid Prescription Rates and Overdose Deaths
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The dataset contains overdose and Medicare prescription rates in every state in the United States over a four-year period. This is meant to explore the correlation between prescription rates and opioid deaths, especially among those who qualify for Medicaid. The full dataset has 204 rows and 14 columns.

Our dataset encompasses all 50 states of the US, from the years 2018-2021.

2 Sources

This dataset is a merge of two others. The first source is from the NIH giving overdose numbers per state and year. The second source is data.gov which gives Medicaid opioid prescription rates.

Medicaid is specifically designed to cover those with low income, with certain disabilities, or who are over 65. These high-risk groups are innately represented by Medicaid prescription rates.

INSURANCE POLICY

By comparing overdose rates across states as well as compared to the national average, we can identify high-risk states that may benefit from more targeted policy and programs.
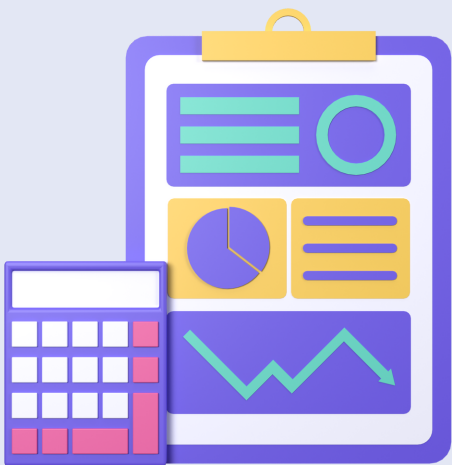
The NIH source derives data from the National Center for Health Statistics who gets mortality information from death certificates. Our data.gov source derived data from states Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Privacy is maintained for the individuals represented and numbers are represented as aggregated mortalities per state.

DATA PRIVACY

When the dataset was merged variables kept were year, state, mean overdose rate, total population of prescribed patients, average prescription rates as well as one and 5 year change. One boolean column was added to represent high overdose death states, and a numeric value was added to give percent of Opioid prescriptions claimed.

This dataset can be used to look at trends drug overdose rates nationwide over the past four years. It can also be used to look at trends in specific states. It can look at prescription rates as well as opioid specific prescription rates for Medicaid participants. Finally, it can look at the intersection of any or all of these categories.

Dataset fails to contain data specific to other groups that are often marginalized and may be considered high-risk for drug dependency. These other demographics include gender, sexual orientation, and race.

Potential Questions to Answer With the Dataset:
1. Are Medicaid recipients disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic?
2. Where are the highest Medicaid Opioid Claims
3. Is there a correlation between high opioid prescription rate covered by Medicaid and high rates of drug overdose?