

Effects of Opioid Crisis Policy in the United States

Backwards Design Concept

Problem Statement

This project is an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of policy on the opioid crisis in America. Over the past two decades, America has seen a sharp increase in opioid use, addiction, and related deaths. It is important to evaluate the impact of policy implementation to ensure that we are iteratively approaching positive change in our society. Without reflective evaluation, policies have a subjective impact, are susceptible to politicization, and may not be effective in addressing the problem at hand. In this evaluation, we will seek both to understand the effectiveness of policy implementation and to establish a framework for future policy evaluation.

Project Question

The analysis of policies aimed at the opioid crisis aims to answer two key questions:

1. What effect does opioid drug regulation have on the volume of opioid prescriptions?
2. What effect does opioid drug regulation have on the number of opioid-related deaths?

The two output variables examined are the volume of opioid prescriptions (dispensed) and opioid-related deaths. The analysis will focus on whether the impact of the regulation varies across different demographic groups or regions. This could indicate differential effectiveness.

Project Hypothesis

For the first project question, our expected response is:

The enforcement of more stringent regulations on opioid drugs leads to a significant reduction in the number of opioid prescriptions.

Our second question's preferred answer is:

Opioid drug regulation implementation is linked to a decrease in deaths related to opioids. However, there is a time-lapse before a noticeable effect is observed.

Model Results

Final Variables Required

Data Sources

Division of Labor