Spending Smarter – Data Plan & Outline

1. **Understand the data**
   - Understand the structure of the dataset
   - What are the key metrics?
   - What are the core clinical variables?
   - What are the non-clinical variables?

2. **Cleaning the data**
   - Handle missing values
   - Add metrics I'm interested in (and need to calculate)

3. **Explore the data**
   - What are national trends?
     - Total hospital spending over time
     - Growth by service area (are there any standouts?)
     - Are admin and support growing faster than clinical services?
   - What are provincial trends within Ontario?

4. **Test hypotheses**
   - **H:** admin is outpacing clinical care
   - **H:** diagnostics are underfunded despite rising health needs
   - **H:** some provinces underinvest in critical services

5. **Visualization ideas**
   - Clustering provinces based on spending patterns
   - Spending efficiency
     - Admin vs clinical
     - Rank provinces based on spending?

6. **Deliverable Ideas**
   - Trends over time
   - Comparison across provinces
   - Service share across geography

7. **Key recommendations**
   - What are the 3-5 key findings?
   - What are the policy implications?
   - What are the target recommendations for Ontario specifically?