

The topic I would like to examine is understanding the level of care that hospital provide to individuals throughout the United States. This falls directly under health care policy, specially the way that it is handled from a marco-level. In addition to data on care within hospitals, it would be advantageous to focus on specify diseases that are considered chronic; Identifying states or counties with chronic issues, such as the Heroin epidemic currently affecting large parts of the United States. Alcohol-related illnesses and the possible effects it may have on public health care are potential avenues to explore.

The Majority of obtainable data can be found on data.gov. As of Saturday, I have identified four dataset from different US government agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services:

- U.S. Chronic Disease Indicators is a dataset from the CDC with approximately 240,000 rows and 34 fields. Each row is a specific Chronic illness (eg Alcohol use among Youth) by State.
- Medicare Hospital Spending by Claim is a dataset from CMS with 71,000 rows and 13 fields that detail's a Hospitals average spend by Medicare claim for the last month of 2014.
- Timely and Effective Care measures for CMS: details level of care by hospital and care type. The data set has 189,000 rows and 17 fields.
- Readmissions and Deaths is a dataset from CMS. The dataset measures readmission and death rates by Hospital by medical reason. It has 65,000 rows and 19 variables.
- NCHS - Age-adjusted death rates and life-expectancy at birth, (All Races, Both Sexes): United States, 1900-2013 is dataset from the CDC giving life expectancy rates with 2052 rows and 6 fields.

In addition to these datasets, I am actively hunting for a dataset on substance abuse rates at the state or county level over at least a five-year period of time.

The three main types of graphs that I'm thinking of using are a simple line charts to compare certain corrected health stats (eg. different levels of mortality rates by hospital by state). Possible times series charts (eg. mortality rates – split by gender and race). Finally, heat maps will definitely be used to illustrate differences in stats by region (eg. Heroin epidemic or level of care from aggregate state hospitals).