

Case Study: Managing the State of Delaware Opioid Settlement Fund

Project Name: Delaware Opioid Settlement Fund Allocation Project

Project Manager: [Insert Student Name]

Sponsor: Delaware **Prescription** Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission (POSDC)

Case Overview

The State of Delaware has received significant financial resources from opioid settlement funds to address the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. Administered by the Delaware Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission (POSDC), these funds are earmarked to support evidence-based initiatives for prevention, treatment, recovery, and public health interventions.

Hypothesis:

Outcome-based funding provides the most effective and equitable approach to opioid settlement fund allocation compared to geographic or population-based funding models.

Objectives

1. **Project Management Deliverables:**
 - Develop foundational documents like the **Project Charter** and **Project Plan**.
2. **Data Analytics Deliverables:**
 - Analyze publicly available opioid-related datasets to evaluate geographic, population-based, and outcome-based funding models.
 - Develop visualizations and metrics that support decision-making.
3. **Argument Development:**
 - Support or challenge the argument that outcome-based funding maximizes public health benefits compared to other models.

Suggested Data Models for Analysis

1. **CDC Opioid Overdose Data:** Includes state and national opioid overdose trends.
2. **Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS):** Provides granular data on opioid misuse, treatment admissions, and overdose rates.
3. **SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration):** Offers treatment success and demographic data.
4. **American Community Survey (ACS):** Demographic data to support equity and population-based allocation.

Data Analysis Instructions

Step 1: Data Collection and Cleaning

- Identify relevant datasets (e.g., overdose rates, treatment admissions, demographics).
- Clean data by removing duplicates, addressing missing values, and standardizing formats.

Step 2: Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

- Analyze opioid-related deaths by county and demographic group.
- Explore correlations between funding levels and key metrics like treatment success rates.

Step 3: Model Comparison

1. **Geographic Model:**
 - Fund distribution based on regions with the highest overdose rates.
 - Visualize overdose hot spots using heat maps.
2. **Population-Based Model:**
 - Allocate funds proportional to population size and demographic disparities.
 - Analyze underfunded regions or underserved populations.
3. **Outcome-Based Model:**
 - Link funding to improvements in treatment success rates, reduced deaths, or recovery outcomes.
 - Compare pre- and post-allocation data for regions receiving outcome-based funding.

Step 4: Visualization

- Use Excel to create:
 - Heat maps of overdose rates.
 - Bar charts of funding versus outcome metrics.
 - Line graphs showing trends over time.

Step 5: Recommendation Development

- Assess trade-offs in equity, efficiency, and public health impact.
- Draft a final recommendation, supported by data, on the best allocation model.

Deliverable and Presentation Guidelines

Students will present their findings in a **15-minute presentation**, covering:

1. **Introduction:** Project goals and hypothesis.
2. **Methods:** Data sources, cleaning, and analysis process.
3. **Findings:** Visualizations and key insights from the data.
4. **Recommendation:** Final funding model and rationale.

5. **Q&A:** Address questions from stakeholders.

Foundational documents **Project Charter** and **Project Plan** must be submitted along with **Presentation**.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Project Management Documents:** Completeness and clarity.
- **Data Analysis:** Accuracy, insights, and effective visualizations.
- **Critical Thinking:** Logical argumentation supporting or challenging the hypothesis.
- **Presentation:** Clarity, engagement, and professionalism.