**Executive Summary: Health Status Predictors of Cost and Death**

**Project Overview**

U.S. healthcare is rapidly shifting due to the advancements in pharmaceuticals, technology, and AI. Despite this advancement, many states still face high death rates and rising healthcare expenses. As healthcare continues to account for the nation’s largest areas of spending, understanding what is driving these costs and how they can be allocated more efficiently is most important. By identifying the relationship between health indicators, healthcare spending, and mortality rates at the state level, we aim to provide insights and recommendations into allocating healthcare resources and action plans to improve health within the US.

**Objective**

* Determine if specific health conditions or behaviors correlate with higher or lower healthcare spending per state.
* Identify which health indicators are the strongest predictors of mortality rates per.

**Data and Methodology**

* Collected publicly available data from credible sources, including the Kaiser Family Fund, CDC, County Health Rankings, and Health Data.
* Built a master dataset with 40 columns covering data from 2014-2022.
* Used statistical models and visualizations to analyze correlations between indicators.

**Key Findings**

We found no clear relationship between healthcare spending and better health outcomes. Some states with high spending still experience poor health, while others with lower spending perform better.

* Healthcare spending outgrew inflation from 2014-2022 due to AI, telehealth, and remote monitoring transforming the healthcare industry.
* Southeastern states consistently ranked worst across nearly all the health indicators.
* Southeastern states also showed the highest mortality rates, with the lowest rankings in key indicators compared to other regions/states.
* Poverty, obesity, and smoking were the strongest predictors of poor health.

**Recommendations**

* Healthy lifestyle initiatives in the Southeast like the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.
* Implement similar programs such as Minnesota’s Freedom to Breath Act everywhere.
* Offer free diabetes screenings and EKG testing.

**Next Steps**

Collecting more recent and comprehensive data, particularly from private and institutional sources, to improve the reliability and scalability of future insights.