

Abstract

Death is among one of the few certainties of life. However, there are ways to prevent (or at least suppress) certain ways of death. By looking into the mortality rates from the “NCHS Leading Causes of Death US” dataset in addition to cigarette smoking and obesity datasets for smoking/obesity rates in America, we were able to determine which deaths are preventable by improving health. We also examined data on two of the national health insurance programs: Medicare and Medicaid. We did this to examine spending to see if the money these organizations spent was effective at preventing deaths. Based on this information, cigarette smoking is strongly correlated with chronic lung respiratory disease (CLRD) and well correlated with cancer deaths. Obesity is strongly correlated with heart disease, diabetes, and stroke deaths. In addition, Medicaid spending is most effectively spent on the more treatable death cases. This same sentiment also applies to Medicare spending. So with this information, we believe that Medicare and Medicaid should put more money into preventing the more treatable death cases.