Final Project Proposal

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Research Question:

They say walking is good for you, but does walking more make you healthier? Does the walkability of a geographical area influence the amount of money spent on healthcare?

Description of Analysis Plan:

My plan of attack for this project is to combine the "Hospital Service Area" database with a "Walkability Index" database (https://data.cms.gov/provider-summary-by-type-of-service/medicare-inpatient-hospitals/hospital-service-area and https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/walkability-index7 respectively). The Hospital service area database provides information aggregated by the zip code of the Medicare beneficiary, tallying up total charges, total days of care, and total cases. I will aggregate data by zip code to see if being in a more "walkable" areas correlates with any of these values. The difficulty in this project will be in taking the walkability index (which is divided in census blocks or counties, not zip codes) and making the two databases mesh. Once I make the data compatible, I will essentially have a walkability score per zip code, which I can use to see if there is a relation between that and cost/amount of healthcare.