Final Project Proposal 11/07/24

Daniel Rubio-Ejchel

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.

Legend (OA/WalkabilityIndex) NationalWalkabilityIndex (0) 5.76 - 10.50 (Below Average Walkable) 10.51 - 15.25 (Above Average Walkable) 15.26 - 20 (Most Walkable) Intersection Density (Street Intersections Per Acre) (1) Less than 30 30 - 60 60.01 - 120 120.01 or greate Proximity to Transit Stops (Meters) (2) No Data Less than 400 (within 1/4 mile from transit) 400 - 800 (within 1/2 mile from transit) Greater than 800 (further than 1/2 mile from transit) Employment Mix (entropy score) (3) Less than 0.4 0.4 - 0.59 0.6 - 0.79 0.80 or greate Employment & Housing Mix (entropy score) (4) Less than 0.25 0.25 - 0.49 0.5 - .74 0.75 or greater Block Groups Ranked by D3b (5) 6 - 10 Block Groups Ranked by D4a (6) 15 - 16 17 - 18 19 - 20 Block Groups Ranked by D2B_E8MIXA (7) 6 - 10 11 - 15 16 - 20 Block Groups Ranked by D2A_EPHHM (8) 6 - 10 11 - 15 16 - 20