Thank you Keturah.

We pulled those 820 thousand providers and looked into their prescribing records.

The distribution of opioid prescription is very much right skewed and we are interested in that right tail, all the way to the right. So we identified what we called top prescribers by using both the number of opioid prescription, and the rate of Opioid prescription.

We ended up with 7,909, 1% of the total providers. They were responsible for 20% of the Opioid prescriptions for the Part D population in 2017. The US (coropleth) map shows us where those providers are more likely to be located. Remember, this is Part D, FL shouldn’t come as surpize.

We also wanted to have a deeper look at the specialties which were heavily related to precribing opioids and we identified 13 as top specialty. The green bars demonstrate Pctn opioid prescription for each specialty. If we go through the list, these are the usual suspects related mostly to pain management and surgeries.

Why do we care?

As we get older, we have more health problems, and we visit these specialties more frequently. And especially for seniors, opioid use has other health risk factors such as serious respiratory problems, falls, and confusion. And overdose is not the only concern.

provider\_data['Opioid Prescribing Rate'].describe()

Out[17]:

count 826438.000000

mean 10.137180

std 16.841643

min 0.000000

25% 0.000000

50% 2.330000

75% 12.230000

max 100.000000

Name: Opioid Prescribing Rate, dtype: float64

top\_providers['Opioid Prescribing Rate'].describe()

count 7909.000000

mean 63.391218

std 8.794656

min 50.030000

25% 56.510000

50% 62.260000

75% 68.790000

max 100.000000

Name: Opioid Prescribing Rate, dtype: float64