

"THE DECLINE IN U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY IS UNLIKE ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN IN A CENTURY"

- SARA CHODOSH

Access to healthcare has come under fire in the past decade as people are becoming more vocal in their demands for healthcare to be considered a right, not a privilege. But what good is increased health coverage without increased physical access to these services? Many

While chain pharmacies have seemingly proliferated urban and suburban cities, the truth is that for large regions in the country a trip to the pharmacy is a day trip rather than a quick errand. For individuals who are older or chronically ill and need constant refills of medications, this can be a substantial burden. Attention has been given to the small number of hospitals in rural America leaving these citizens underserved. This phenomenon has been identified as a medical desert.

The rise of the idea of medical deserts within the US caused us to pose the question: Does a reduction in the number of pharmacies available have a measurable impact on life expectancy?

Using a dataset from the Texas Pharmacy Association, the Google Places API, and information from the US census, we analyzed this question further. We pulled on the county level, collecting the number of pharmacies, the population count, and the geographical area. We are also analyzing median income for each county, considering how this quality factors into the assessment.

Our hypothesis: A higher concentration of pharmacies will correlate with a higher life expectancy.