

Homework 1

Research Methods, Spring 2025

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Building the Data

1. Provide a table of the count of plans under each plan type in each year.

See @plans_per_type.

Table 1: All plan types in 2015

Plan Type	2015
Medicare Prescription Drug Plan	991457
Local PPO	704993
HMO/HMOPOS	479275
Employer/Union Only Direct Contract PDP	25630
Regional PPO	17578
PFFS	13658
1876 Cost	7157
MSA	6518
Medicare-Medicaid Plan HMO/HMOPOS	4130
National PACE	1216

2. Remove all special needs plans (SNP), employer group plans (eghp), and all “800-series” plans. Provide an updated table after making these exclusions.

I remove the relevant plans just by applying the relevant filter to the full MA data and then creating the table of plan types. Counts of different plan types with these exclusions are presented in @plans_per_type_updated.

Table 2: Revised plan types in 2015

Plan Type	2015
Medicare Prescription Drug Plan	991457
Local PPO	704993
HMO/HMOPOS	479275
Employer/Union Only Direct Contract PDP	25630
Regional PPO	17578
PFFS	13658
1876 Cost	7157
MSA	6518
Medicare-Medicaid Plan HMO/HMOPOS	4130
National PACE	1216

3. Provide a table of the average enrollments for each plan type in 2015. To do this, I need to collapse the data to the plan-type level and form the average enrollments across all counties in which that plan type operates. The resulting table is presented in @enrollment_per_type.

Table 3: Enrollments by plan type in 2015

Plan Type	Count	Avg Enrollment
Medicare Prescription Drug Plan	60236	312
HMO/HMOPOS	9115	849
Local PPO	6126	311
Regional PPO	4853	202
PFFS	2052	125
1876 Cost	2019	228
Medicare-Medicaid Plan HMO/HMOPOS	522	624
National PACE	213	140
MSA	111	108