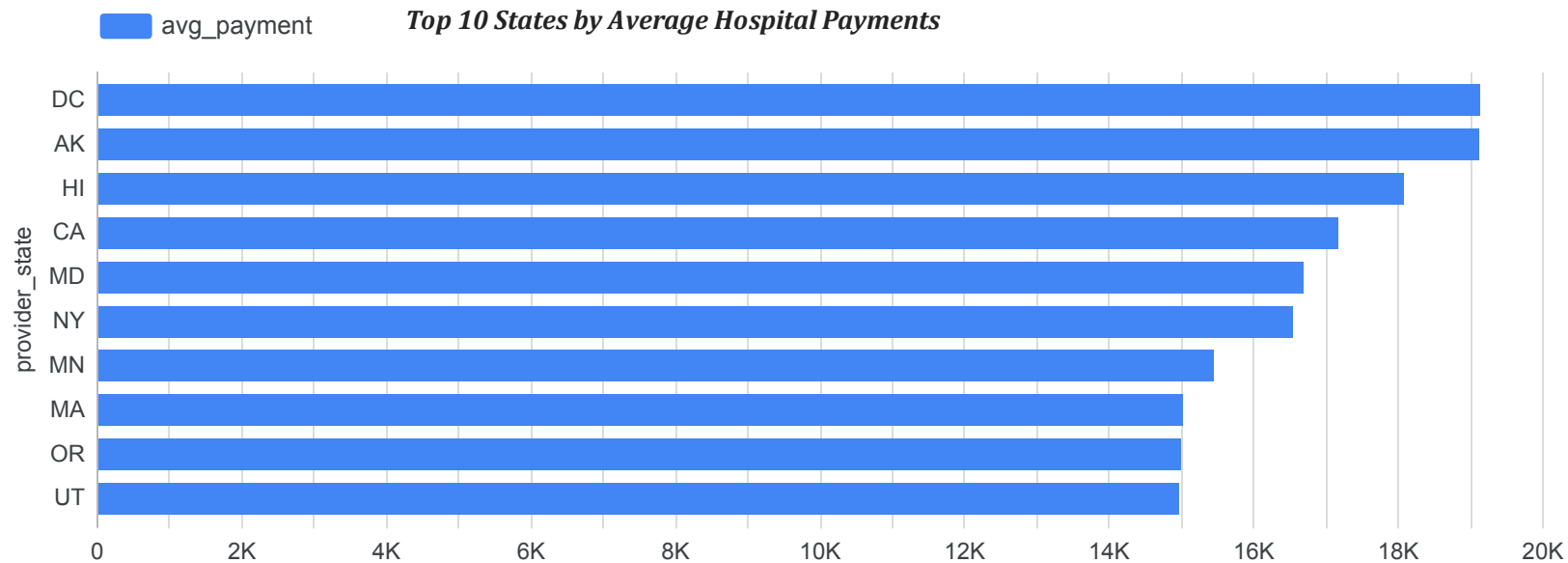


Analysis of Medicare Hospital Payments Across U.S. States



1. Which states have the highest average Medicare hospital payments?

Washington D.C. ranks highest, followed by states like California and Hawaii. These regions tend to have higher costs due to specialized hospitals and regional pricing differences.

2. Is there a pattern between location and payment amount?

In general, states in the Northeast and major urban areas tend to have higher average payments, while many rural states have lower payments. This pattern likely reflects regional cost differences, the concentration of specialized hospitals, and the complexity of cases treated in urban centers like D.C.