

Problem: Which factors are contributing to the difference in number of opioid related health visits between different counties? Are there any factors that can be implemented to reduce the number of opioid related visits?

Client: New York State

Progress Report: The dataset on the number of health visits related to opioids per county was already clean when I downloaded it. While doing an exploratory data analysis and running inferential statistics I found two outliers where the number of visits per a thousand was significantly higher than the other counties. The number of visits per thousand was not significantly different for rural and urban counties. Most counties had an average of one or less for every thousandth person. Only one county had a significantly larger number per thousand, Greene county, with over 4 visits per thousand. To see if differences in the number of visits was due to a lack of resources in communities I used another dataset with information on health facilities in New York State. I thought the number of health facilities would be negatively correlated with the number of visits because a lower number of health facilities would mean less access to substance abuse resources. There was no statistical significance in the relationship between the number of health facilities and the number of opioid visits however. The dataset used for the number of health facilities did not provide enough information to determine if they are equipped to provide outpatient treatment however. Going to look through the open data site once more to see if there are better datasets for measuring the amount of resources available in communities for substance abuse.