Create a data dictionary for your dataset. Make sure to include descriptions of how any new variables were created. Length will depend on data source, but will probably be 1-3 pages.

MEPS HC-178A: 2015 Prescribed Medicines

Variable: DUPERSID

Dataset: MEPS HC-178A: 2015 Prescribed Medicines

Description: unique identifier for individual; the first 5 digits are a randomly generated number assigned to each household (dwelling unit, or DU), while the last 3 digits is a unique ID assigned to each person in each household (PERS).

Data type & Format: numerical, length 8

Variable: RXRECIDX

Dataset: MEPS HC-178A: 2015 Prescribed Medicines

Description: unique identifier for each record in the database

Data type & Format: numerical, length 15

Variable: PHARTP1: preferred pharmacy 1

Dataset: MEPS HC-178A: 2015 Prescribed Medicines

Description: First entry for preferred pharmacy type associated with a household as listed by the household respondent. Is not linked with where the drug was actually purchased and is not listed in order of preference.

Data type & Format: numerical, length 2

Values and Frequencies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Description | Unweighted Frequency |
| NA | Not answered | 1518 |
| 1 | Mail Order | 26,156 |
| 2 | In Another Store | 82,175 |
| 3 | In HMO/Clinic/Hospital | 31,750 |
| 4 | Drugstore | 187,388 |
| 5 | Online | 330,453 |

Variable: PHARTP2

Dataset: MEPS HC-178A: 2015 Prescribed Medicines

Description: Second entry for referred pharmacy type associated with a household as listed by the household respondent. Is not linked with where the drug was actually purchased and is not listed in order of preference.

Data type & Format: numerical, length 2

Values and Frequencies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Description | Unweighted Frequency |
| NA | Not answered | 205,544 |
| 1 | Mail Order | 15,561 |
| 2 | In Another Store | 31,957 |
| 3 | In HMO/Clinic/Hospital | 12,374 |
| 4 | Drugstore | 64,111 |
| 5 | Online | 906 |

Variable: TC1

Dataset: MEPS HC-178A: 2015 Prescribed Medicines (Cerner Multum, Inc.)

Description: First therapeutic class assigned to a drug, classification is based on the Multum Lexicon’s classifications.

Data type & Format: numerical, length 2

Values and frequencies: please see <https://meps.ahrq.gov/data_stats/download_data_files_codebook.jsp?PUFId=H178A> for the full list, for the intents and purposes of this research I will only be focusing on the following values (the top 3 therapeutic classes purchased of the year):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Description | Unweighted Frequency |
| NA | Not ascertained | 8,307 |
| 40 | Cardiovascular Agents | 71,248 |
| 57 | Central Nervous System Agents | 64,523 |
| 358 | Metabolic Agents | 51,333 |

Variable:PHARTC

Dataset: Imputed

Description: Consolidated pharmacy preference variable based on if the answers in PHART1 and PHART2 contained either indirect methods of purchase (1 or 5) or brick-and-mortar stores (2,3,4), or both.

Data type & Format: numerical, length 2

Values and Frequencies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value | Description | Unweighted Frequency |
| NA | Not ascertained | 1518 |
| 1 | Only listed indirect sources (1 and 5) | 12536 |
| 2 | Only listed brick-and-mortar (2, 3, and 4) | 301313 |
| 3 | Listed both methods | 15086 |