# lab8 2024 v1

## April 11, 2024

# 1 Lab 8: Bias in Algorithms

1.1 Methods/concepts: algorithmic bias; choice of "labels" vs. "predictors"

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#### LAB DESCRIPTION

In this lab, we will dive deeper into bias in algorithms, following Obermeyer, Powers, Vogeli, and Mullainathan (2019). We will train several prediction algorithms, some including the patient's race and others explicitly leaving out the patient's race. We will see how the choice of "label" – either patient costs or patient health – affects the performance of the models. Finally, we will examine the racial composition of patients predicted to have high risk according to the algorithms. For more details on the variables included in these data, see Table 1.

A list and description of each of the R commands needed for questions 6 through 9 on this lab are contained in Table 2.

### 1.2 QUESTIONS

1. Start by randomly splitting the 48,748 patients included in the **health.dta** data set into a 10% training data set and a 90% test data set. Table 1 describes the data. There are two reasons we are using such a small fraction of the data to train the models. First, estimating random forests on a larger fraction of the data would be prohibitively time consuming. Second, we require a large number of observations in the test data set so that we can study differences in risk score by race.

```
[1]: # # The following program starts by loading in the health data and dividing it # # into a 10% training sample and a 90% test sample. It then estimates # # four random forests models that differ in the predictor variables includes # # and the "label" or outcome variable that the models predict. The next part # of the code computes RMSPEs for the four models. The last part of the code # # exports the predictions of the four models for the test sample as "lab8_2024_results.dta"
```

```
# #
# # You will analyze the resulting "lab8 2024 results.dta" data set to answer
\hookrightarrow questions
# # 6-9 on the lab. The starter code helps out for questions 1-5.
# #
# # The code may have some typos -- please be on the look out for them -- and
\hookrightarrowto
# # receive credit for the lab you have to make edits to estimate your own
# # random forests. These are simply examples of what you might
# # want to do in your analysis, but you are expected to make an effort to
# # understand what you are doing with the code.
# # Inputs: health.dta (download from canvas)
# #
             randomForest to estimate random forest models
             tidyverse library for data manipulations
# #
             haven library to load stata data sets into R
# #
# #
# # Outputs: mod1_importance.png
# #
            mod2_importance.png
# #
            mod3_importance.png
# #
            mod4_importance.png
# #
             lab8_2024_results.dta
# # Question 1 example code
# rm(list=ls()) # removes all objects from the environment
# # Install packages (if necessary) and load required libraries
# if (!require(haven)) install.packages("haven"); library(haven)
\# if (!require(randomForest)) install.packages("randomForest");
→ library(randomForest)
# if (!require(tidyverse)) install.packages("tidyverse"); library(tidyverse)
# #Set seed for cross validation and random forests
# HUID <- 31575036 #Replace with your HUID
# set.seed(HUID)
 ⇔#-----
# # Data set up
#__
# #Open stata data set
# download.file("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ekassos/ec50_s24/main/health.
\hookrightarrow dta'', "health.dta", mode = "wb")
# dat <- read dta("health.dta")</pre>
```

```
# head(dat)
     # \#Store\ health\ variables\ from\ time\ t-1\ which\ all\ end\ with\ tm
     # all_predictors <- colnames(dat[, grep("^[tm1]", names(dat))])</pre>
     # #all_predictors
     # #Store predictor variables which all start with P *, but EXCLUDE race
     # race <- c("tm1_dem_black")</pre>
     # exclude race <- setdiff(all predictors, race)</pre>
     # #exclude race
     # #Define training and test data sets
     # #Use a uniformly distributed random number between 0 and 1
     # dat$random_number <- runif(length(dat$patient_id))</pre>
     # ## Generate a training flag for 10% of the sample
     # dat$train_flag <- ifelse(dat$random_number<= 0.1, 1, 0)
     # #Report number of observations in training and test samples
     # sum(dat$train_flag)
     # sum(1-dat$train_flag)
     # ## Create some data frames that just contain the training and test data
     # #Data frame with training data (randomly selected 10% of the data)
     # training <- subset(dat, train flag == 1)</pre>
     # summary(training)
     # #Data frame with test data (remaining 90% of the data)
     # test <- subset(dat, train_flag == 0)</pre>
     # summary(test)
[2]: ## YOUR QUESTION 1 CODE GOES HERE
     # Remove all existing objects from the workspace for a clean start
     rm(list = ls())
     # Load required packages, installing them if they are not already installed
     if (!require("haven")) install.packages("haven")
     library(haven)
```

```
## YOUR QUESTION 1 CODE GOES HERE

# Remove all existing objects from the workspace for a clean start

rm(list = ls())

# Load required packages, installing them if they are not already installed

if (!require("haven")) install.packages("haven")

library(haven)

if (!require("randomForest")) install.packages("randomForest")

library(randomForest)

if (!require("dplyr")) install.packages("dplyr")

library(dplyr)

if (!require("ggplot2")) install.packages("ggplot2")

library(ggplot2)

# Set a seed for reproducibility
```

```
set.seed(31575036) # Use your HUID or any unique ID
# Load the dataset
download.file("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ekassos/ec50 s24/main/health.

dta", "health.dta", mode = "wb")

health data <- read dta("health.dta")</pre>
# Divide data into a 10% training sample and a 90% test sample
health_data$random_number <- runif(n = nrow(health_data))</pre>
train_flag <- ifelse(health_data$random_number <= 0.1, TRUE, FALSE)</pre>
training_data <- health_data[train_flag, ]</pre>
test_data <- health_data[!train_flag, ]</pre>
# Identify predictor variables excluding patient's race
exclude_race <- names(health_data)[grepl("^tm1", names(health_data)) & !</pre>

¬grepl("tm1_dem_black", names(health_data))]
all_predictors <- names(health_data)[grepl("^tm1", names(health_data))]
# Define outcome variable
outcome_var <- "cost_t" # For models predicting costs</pre>
health_outcome_var <- "gagne_sum_t" # For models predicting health
Loading required package: haven
Loading required package: randomForest
randomForest 4.7-1.1
Type rfNews() to see new features/changes/bug fixes.
Loading required package: dplyr
Attaching package: 'dplyr'
The following object is masked from 'package:randomForest':
    combine
The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
    filter, lag
The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
```

```
intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
Loading required package: ggplot2
Attaching package: 'ggplot2'
The following object is masked from 'package:randomForest':
    margin
```

## Question 1 Answer

Example code commented out and modified code given above.

- 2. Estimate the following statistical models using the training data set:
  - 1. Random forest to predict the "label" of patient costs (cost\_t) using the full set of predictors consisting of all variables starting with tm1\_, but excluding the patient's race
  - 2. Random forest to predict the "label" of patient costs (cost\_t) using the full predictor set, now *including* the patient's race
  - 3. Random forest to predict the "label" of patient health (gagne\_sum\_t) using the full predictor set, excluding the patient's race
  - 4. Random forest to predict the "label" of patient health (gagne\_sum\_t) using the full predictor set, *including* the patient's race

Note that random forests with lots of observations and predictors (150) will take a long time to run. You should therefore only use around 100 trees in your forests.

```
# #Tuning parameters are ntree and mtry
# #ntree is number of trees in your forest
# #mtry is the number of predictors considered at each split (default is number_
⇔of predictors divided by 3)
# ### Try changing mtry and ntree
# mod1 #Review the Random Forest Results
# ### generate predictions for all observations in test and training samples
# y_test_predictions_mod1 <- predict(mod1, newdata=test)</pre>
# y_train_predictions_mod1 <- predict(mod1, newdata=training)</pre>
# #Variable importance
# importance(mod1)
# varImpPlot(mod1, type=1) #Plot the Random Forest Results
# dev.copy(png, 'mod1_importance.png')
# dev.off()
          is either 1 or 2, specifying the type of importance measure
# #type
# #(1=mean decrease in accuracy, 2=mean decrease in node impurity)
#__
# # Model 2: Random forest trained to predict costs, using all predictors,
# # INCLUDING patient's race
#
# #Reformulate allows us to write yvar ~ xvar1 + xvar2 + ... using a list of all
# #the xvar1, xvar2, etc. variables without actually writing them out
# mod2 <- randomForest(reformulate(all_predictors, "cost_t"),</pre>
#
                      ntree=100,
#
                       mtry=150,
                       importance=TRUE, ## add importance=TRUE so that we store
→ the variable importance information
                       data=training)
# #Tuning parameters are ntree and mtry
# #ntree is number of trees in your forest
# #mtry is the number of predictors considered at each split (default is number
⇔of predictors divided by 3)
```

```
# ### Try changing mtry and ntree
# mod2 #Review the Random Forest Results
# ### generate predictions for all observations in test and training samples
# y_train_predictions_mod2 <- predict(mod2, newdata=training)</pre>
# y_test_predictions_mod2 <- predict(mod2, newdata=test)</pre>
# #Variable importance
# importance(mod2)
# varImpPlot(mod2, type=1) #Plot the Random Forest Results
# dev.copy(png, 'mod2_importance.png')
# dev.off()
# #tupe
             is either 1 or 2, specifying the type of importance measure
# #(1=mean decrease in accuracy, 2=mean decrease in node impurity)
#
                         _____
# # Model 3: Random forest trained to predict health, using all predictors,
# # EXCLUDING patient's race
#
 <u>_</u>#----
# #Reformulate allows us to write yvar ~ xvar1 + xvar2 + ... using a list of all
# #the xvar1, xvar2, etc. variables without actually writing them out
# mod3 <- randomForest(reformulate(exclude_race, "gagne_sum_t"),</pre>
                         ntree=100,
                          mtry=149,
                          importance=TRUE, ## add importance=TRUE so that we_
store the variable importance information
                          data=training)
# #Tuning parameters are ntree and mtry
# #ntree is number of trees in your forest
# #mtry is the number of predictors considered at each split (default is number_
⇔of predictors divided by 3)
# ### Try changing mtry and ntree
# mod3 #Review the Random Forest Results
# ### generate predictions for all observations in test and training samples
# y_test_predictions_mod3 <- predict(mod3, newdata=test)</pre>
# y_train_predictions_mod3 <- predict(mod3, newdata=training)</pre>
```

```
# #Variable importance
# importance(mod3)
# varImpPlot(mod3, type=1) #Plot the Random Forest Results
# dev.copy(png, 'mod3_importance.png')
# dev.off()
# #type is either 1 or 2, specifying the type of importance measure
# #(1=mean decrease in accuracy, 2=mean decrease in node impurity)
#
# # Model 4: Random forest trained to predict health, using all predictors,
# # INCLUDING patient's race
 ⇔#----
                            _____
# #Reformulate allows us to write yvar ~ xvar1 + xvar2 + ... using a list of all
# #the xvar1, xvar2, etc. variables without actually writing them out
# mod4 <- randomForest(reformulate(all_predictors, "gagne_sum_t"),</pre>
                      ntree=100.
#
                      mtry=150,
                       importance=TRUE, ## add importance=TRUE so that we store
→ the variable importance information
                      data=training)
# #Tuning parameters are ntree and mtry
# #ntree is number of trees in your forest
# #mtry is the number of predictors considered at each split (default is number
⇔of predictors divided by 3)
# ### Try changing mtry and ntree
# mod4 #Review the Random Forest Results
# ### generate predictions for all observations in test and training samples
# y_train_predictions_mod4 <- predict(mod4, newdata=training)</pre>
# y_test_predictions_mod4 <- predict(mod4, newdata=test)</pre>
# #Variable importance
# importance(mod4)
# varImpPlot(mod4, type=1) #Plot the Random Forest Results
# dev.copy(png,'mod4_importance.png')
# dev.off()
# #type
             is either 1 or 2, specifying the type of importance measure
```

```
[4]: ## YOUR QUESTION 2 CODE GOES HERE
     # Model 1: Predicting costs excluding race
     mod1 <- randomForest(as.formula(paste(outcome_var, "~", paste(exclude_race,__
      ⇔collapse="+"))), data=training_data, ntree=100,⊔
      mtry=round(length(exclude_race)/3), importance=TRUE)
     # Model 2: Predicting costs including race
     mod2 <- randomForest(as.formula(paste(outcome_var, "~", paste(all_predictors, __
      ⇔collapse="+"))), data=training_data, ntree=100,⊔

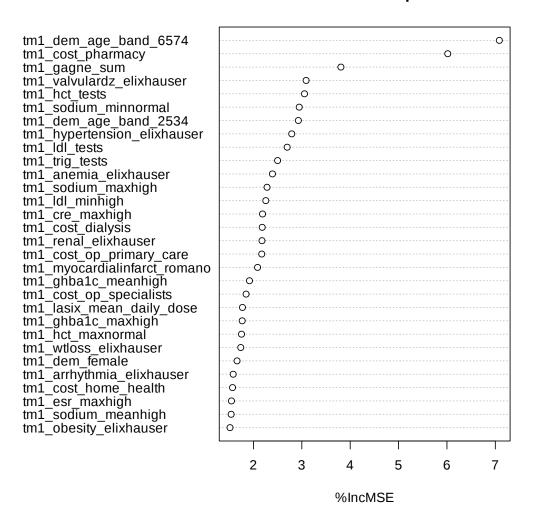
mtry=round(length(all_predictors)/3), importance=TRUE)
     # Model 3: Predicting health excluding race
     mod3 <- randomForest(as.formula(paste(health_outcome_var, "~", __</pre>
      →paste(exclude race, collapse="+"))), data=training data, ntree=100, 
      mtry=round(length(exclude_race)/3), importance=TRUE)
     # Model 4: Predicting health including race
     mod4 <- randomForest(as.formula(paste(health_outcome_var, "~",_</pre>
      →paste(all_predictors, collapse="+"))), data=training_data, ntree=100, __
      amtry=round(length(all_predictors)/3), importance=TRUE)
     # Variable importance plots
     varImpPlot(mod1, type=1, main="Model 1 Variable Importance")
     ggsave("mod1_importance.png")
     varImpPlot(mod2, type=1, main="Model 2 Variable Importance")
     ggsave("mod2_importance.png")
     varImpPlot(mod3, type=1, main="Model 3 Variable Importance")
     ggsave("mod3_importance.png")
     varImpPlot(mod4, type=1, main="Model 4 Variable Importance")
     ggsave("mod4_importance.png")
     # Export predictions for the train and test sample
     y_train_predictions_mod1 <- predict(mod1, newdata=training_data)</pre>
     y_test_predictions_mod1 <- predict(mod1, newdata=test_data)</pre>
     y_train_predictions_mod2 <- predict(mod2, newdata=training_data)</pre>
     y_test_predictions_mod2 <- predict(mod2, newdata=test_data)</pre>
     y_train_predictions_mod3 <- predict(mod3, newdata=training_data)</pre>
     y_test_predictions_mod3 <- predict(mod3, newdata=test_data)</pre>
     y_train_predictions_mod4 <- predict(mod4, newdata=training_data)</pre>
```

```
y_test_predictions_mod4 <- predict(mod4, newdata=test_data)

# Save the results
write_dta(test_data, "lab8_2024_results.dta")</pre>
```

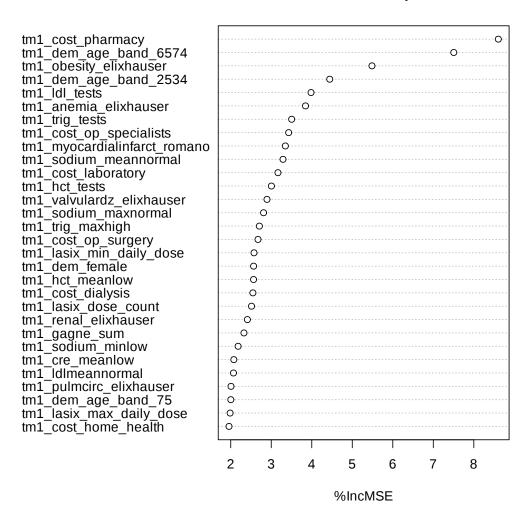
Saving  $6.67 \times 6.67$  in image

# **Model 1 Variable Importance**



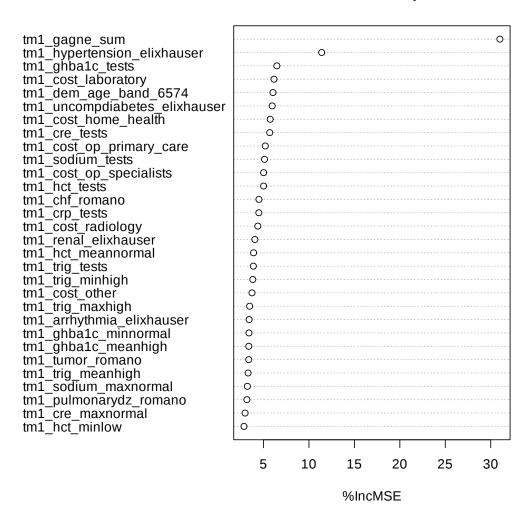
Saving  $6.67 \times 6.67$  in image

# **Model 2 Variable Importance**



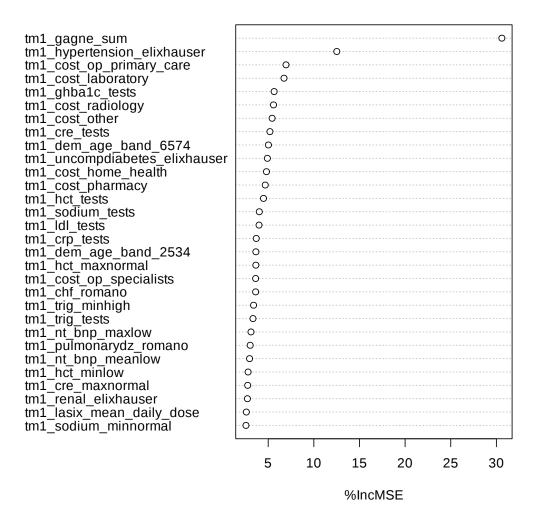
Saving  $6.67 \times 6.67$  in image

# **Model 3 Variable Importance**



Saving  $6.67 \times 6.67$  in image

# **Model 4 Variable Importance**



### Question 2 Answer

Example code commented out and modified code given above.

3. Calculate and compare the root mean squared prediction error for your models that include patient race vs. those that exclude patient race in the **training sample**.

```
# Compare RMSE for models 1-4
#-----
# Calculate and compare the mean squared error in the training sample:
#-----
```

```
## Root mean squared prediction error in the training sample.
p <- 4
RMSPE <- matrix(0, p, 1)</pre>
## Model 1
RMSPE[1] <- sqrt(mean((training_data$cost_t - y_train_predictions_mod1)^2, na.</pre>
 →rm=TRUE))
## Model 2
RMSPE[2] <- sqrt(mean((training_data$cost_t - y_train_predictions_mod2)^2, na.</pre>
 →rm=TRUE))
## Model 3
RMSPE[3] <- sqrt(mean((training_data$gagne_sum_t - y_train_predictions_mod3)^2,_
→na.rm=TRUE))
## Model 4
RMSPE[4] <- sqrt(mean((training_data$gagne_sum_t - y_train_predictions_mod4)^2,__
 →na.rm=TRUE))
#Display a table of the results
data.frame(algorithm = c("Model 1 - Costs (excl. race) ",
                              "Model 2 - Costs (incl. race) ",
                              "Model 3 - Health (excl. race)",
                              "Model 4 - Health (incl. race)"),
           RMSPE)
```

algorithm	RMSPE
<chr></chr>	<dbl></dbl>
Model 1 - Costs (excl. race)	7884.5601929
Model 2 - Costs (incl. race)	7919.0439181
Model 3 - Health (excl. race)	0.4633335
Model 4 - Health (incl. race)	0.4654095
	<pre><chr> Model 1 - Costs (excl. race) Model 2 - Costs (incl. race)</chr></pre>

## Question 3 Answer

RMSPE given above.

4. Calculate and compare the root mean squared prediction error for your models that include patient race vs. those that exclude patient race in the **test sample**.

```
## Root mean squared prediction error in the test sample.

p <- 4

RMSPE_OOS <- matrix(0, p, 1)
```

```
## Model 1
RMSPE_OOS[1] <- sqrt(mean((test_data$cost_t - y_test_predictions_mod1)^2, na.</pre>
 →rm=TRUE))
## Model 2
RMSPE_OOS[2] <- sqrt(mean((test_data$cost_t - y_test_predictions_mod2)^2, na.
## Model 3
RMSPE_OOS[3] <- sqrt(mean((test_data$gagne_sum_t - y_test_predictions_mod3)^2,__</pre>
 →na.rm=TRUE))
## Model 4
RMSPE_OOS[4] <- sqrt(mean((test_data$gagne_sum_t - y_test_predictions_mod4)^2,__
 →na.rm=TRUE))
#Display a table of the results
data.frame(algorithm = c("Model 1 - Costs (excl. race) ",
                          "Model 2 - Costs (incl. race) ",
                          "Model 3 - Health (excl. race)",
                          "Model 4 - Health (incl. race)"),
           RMSPE_OOS)
```

#### Question 4 Answer

RMPSE given above.

5. Export a data set with **the test data** and your predictions as a .dta file. If you are in a Stata lab, you can exit Python and load this file into Stata for further analysis.

```
# Export test data set with predictions
# Export data set with training data + predictions from the models
lab8 <- test_data

lab8$y_test_predictions_mod1 <- y_test_predictions_mod1
lab8$y_test_predictions_mod2 <- y_test_predictions_mod2
lab8$y_test_predictions_mod3 <- y_test_predictions_mod3
```

```
lab8$y_test_predictions_mod4 <- y_test_predictions_mod4
write_dta(lab8, "lab8_2024_results.dta")</pre>
```

#### Question 5 Answer

(Answer here; include your images if needed.)

6. As in Lab 1 and Lab 2, convert the predictions in the test sample from each of your prediction algorithms into percentile ranks, normalized so that the top rank is equal to 100. The percentile rank is the "risk score" from the algorithm.

```
[8]: # QUESTION 6 Code
     # Calculate percentile ranks for predictions from each model and normalize so_{\sqcup}
      ⇔top rank equals 100
     test_data <- test_data %>%
      mutate(
         prediction_mod1_rank = ntile(-y_test_predictions_mod1, 100), # Use__
      ⇔negative to rank highest prediction as 100
         prediction_mod2_rank = ntile(-y_test_predictions_mod2, 100),
         prediction_mod3_rank = ntile(-y_test_predictions_mod3, 100),
         prediction_mod4_rank = ntile(-y_test_predictions_mod4, 100)
       )
     # Since ntile ranks from 1 to 100 (with 1 being the lowest), to make 100 the
      ⇔highest score, we subtract each rank from 101
     test_data <- test_data %>%
      mutate(
         prediction_mod1_rank = 101 - prediction_mod1_rank,
         prediction_mod2_rank = 101 - prediction_mod2_rank,
         prediction_mod3_rank = 101 - prediction_mod3_rank,
         prediction_mod4_rank = 101 - prediction_mod4_rank
     # View the first few rows to confirm the changes
     head(test data)
     summary(test_data$prediction_mod1_rank)
     summary(test_data$prediction_mod2_rank)
     summary(test_data$prediction_mod3_rank)
     summary(test_data$prediction_mod4_rank)
```

	patient_id	$gagne\_sum\_t$	$\operatorname{cost}$ _t	cost_avoidable_t	race	$ m tm1\_dem\_black$	$tm1\_c$
A tibble: $6 \times 160$	<dbl $>$	<dbl $>$	<dbl $>$	<dbl></dbl>	<chr $>$	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>
	100001	0	1200	0	white	0	0
	100002	3	2600	0	white	0	1
	100004	0	1300	0	white	0	1
	100005	1	1100	0	white	0	1
	100006	1	123700	0	white	0	1
	100007	1	12900	0	white	0	1

```
Median
Min. 1st Qu.
                         Mean 3rd Qu.
                                           Max.
1.00
                51.00
       26.00
                        50.53
                                 76.00
                                        100.00
Min. 1st Qu.
              Median
                         Mean 3rd Qu.
                                           Max.
1.00
       26.00
                51.00
                        50.53
                                 76.00
                                        100.00
Min. 1st Qu.
               Median
                         Mean 3rd Qu.
                                           Max.
1.00
       26.00
                51.00
                        50.53
                                 76.00
                                        100.00
Min. 1st Qu.
              Median
                         Mean 3rd Qu.
                                          Max.
1.00
       26.00
                51.00
                        50.53
                                 76.00
                                        100.00
```

### Question 6 Answer

Code given above.

- 7. Now consider a program that makes patients eligible for extra resources if their "risk score" is above the 55th percentile. (This corresponds to the top 45 percent of risk scores).
  - 1. As on lab 1 and 2, start by defining four new indicator variables corresponding to whether the risk score from each model is strictly greater than 55.
  - 2. What fraction of all Black patients would be eligible for the program using each of the four algorithms? To answer this question, report the means of the indicator variables you created in (a) after subsetting the data to Black patients (i.e., tm1\_dem\_black == 1).
  - 3. Among patients eligible for the program, what fraction are Black? To answer this question, report the mean of the indicator variable tm1\_dem\_black after subseting the data to patients eligible for the program for model 1. Then repeat for models 2, 3, and 4.

 $1. \ 0.131616161616162 \ 2. \ 0.134040404040404 \ 3. \ 0.14979797979798 \ 4. \ 0.156767676767677$ 

### Question 7 Answer

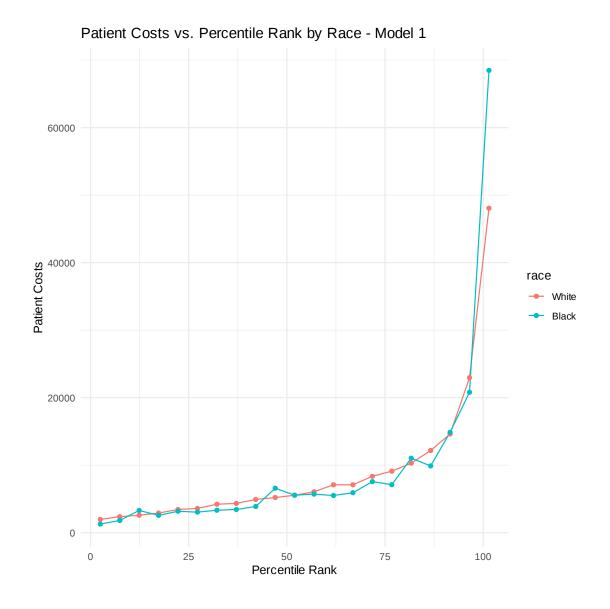
- A. Code given above.
- B. Share of eligible black patients as given: Model 1: 0.517 Model 2: 0.526 Model 3: 0.588 Model 4: 0.616
- C. Fraction of eligible that are black as given: Model 1: 0.131 Model 2: 0.134 Model 3: 0.149 Model 4: 0.156
  - 8. Now we will replicate the key figures from Obermeyer, Powers, Vogeli, and Mullainathan (2019). Produce binned scatter plots of patient costs and patient health vs. the percentile rank "risk score" from each algorithm, with White and Black patients plotted separately. This is a total of 8 graphs: 4 models x 2 outcomes.

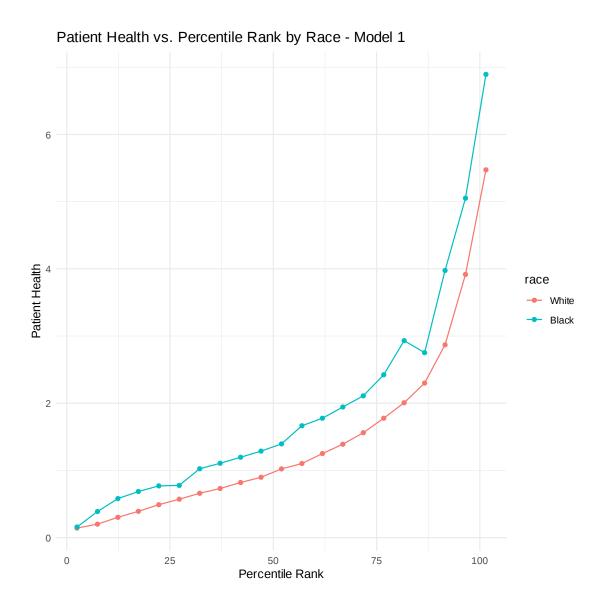
In R, you could do the same in ggplot by using the geom="line" option and geom="point" option in stat\_binmean from the statar package, and set the color option to the race variable to plot Black and White patients separately:

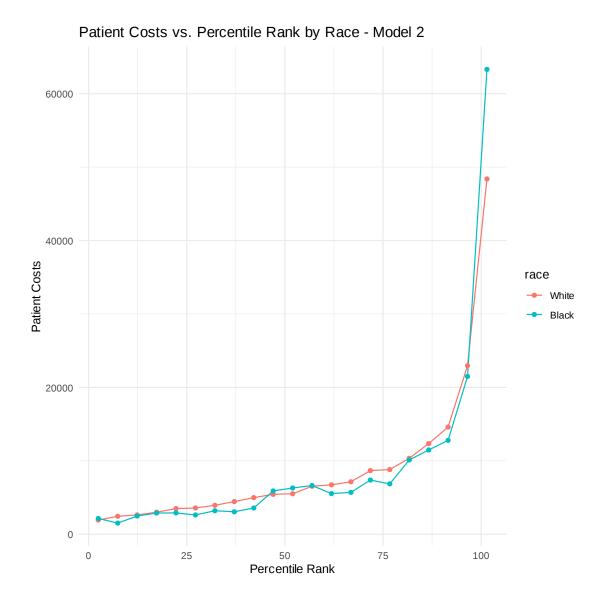
```
ggplot(dat, aes(x = percentile_rank , y = outcome_variable, color = race)) +
stat_binmean(n = 20, geom = "line") +
stat_binmean(n = 20, geom = "point")
```

```
[10]: # QUESTION 8 Code
      # Convert the race variable to a factor with descriptive labels in test_data
      test data$race <- factor(test data$tm1 dem black, labels = c("White", "Black"))</pre>
      # Plot for Model 1 - Patient Costs
      ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod1_rank, y = cost_t, color = race)) +
        stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
        stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
        labs(title = "Patient Costs vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 1",
             x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Costs") +
        theme_minimal()
      # Plot for Model 1 - Patient Health
      ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod1_rank, y = gagne_sum_t, color = race))_u
        stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
        stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
        labs(title = "Patient Health vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 1",
             x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Health") +
        theme_minimal()
      # Plot for Model 2 - Patient Costs
      ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod2_rank, y = cost_t, color = race)) +
        stat summary bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
        stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
        labs(title = "Patient Costs vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 2",
```

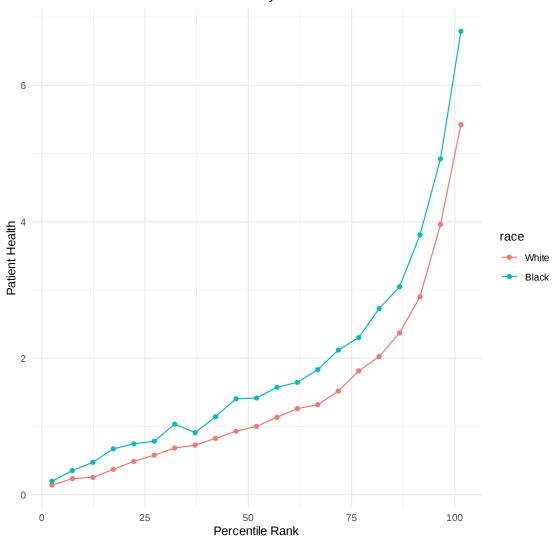
```
x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Costs") +
 theme_minimal()
# Plot for Model 2 - Patient Health
ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod2_rank, y = gagne_sum_t, color = race))_u
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
 stat summary bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
 labs(title = "Patient Health vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 2",
       x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Health") +
 theme_minimal()
# Plot for Model 3 - Patient Costs
ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod3_rank, y = cost_t, color = race)) +
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
 labs(title = "Patient Costs vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 3",
       x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Costs") +
 theme minimal()
# Plot for Model 3 - Patient Health
ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod3_rank, y = gagne_sum_t, color = race))_u
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
 labs(title = "Patient Health vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 3",
       x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Health") +
 theme minimal()
# Plot for Model 4 - Patient Costs
ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod4_rank, y = cost_t, color = race)) +
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
 labs(title = "Patient Costs vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 4",
       x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Costs") +
 theme minimal()
# Plot for Model 4 - Patient Health
ggplot(test_data, aes(x = prediction_mod4_rank, y = gagne_sum_t, color = race))_u
 →+
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "line") +
 stat_summary_bin(fun = "mean", bins = 20, geom = "point") +
 labs(title = "Patient Health vs. Percentile Rank by Race - Model 4",
       x = "Percentile Rank", y = "Patient Health") +
 theme_minimal()
```

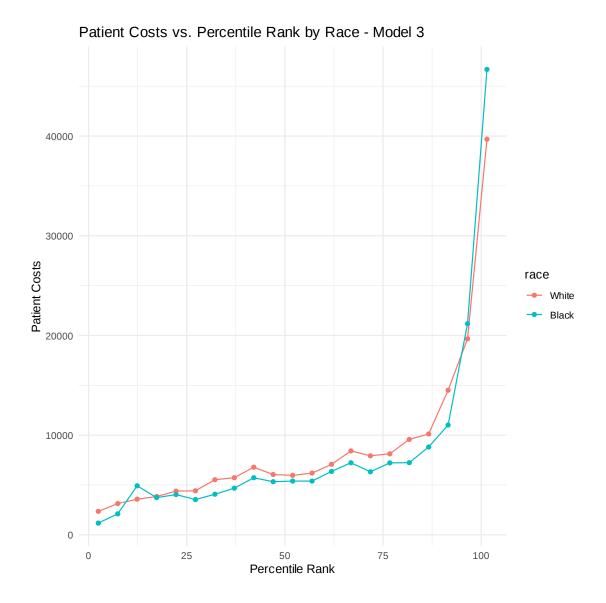


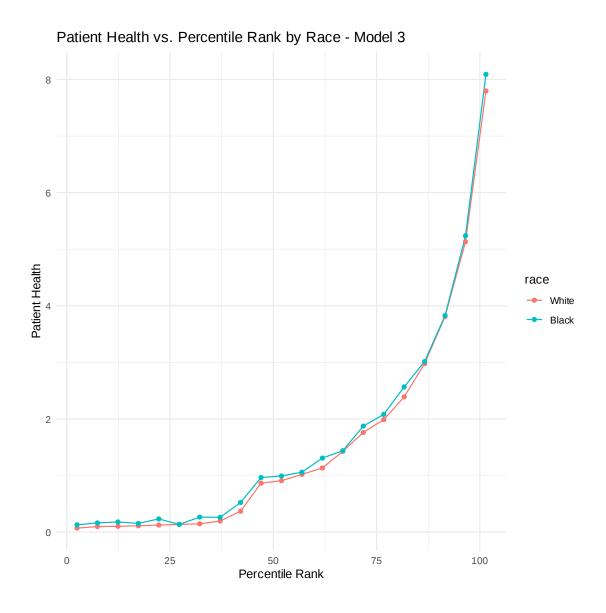


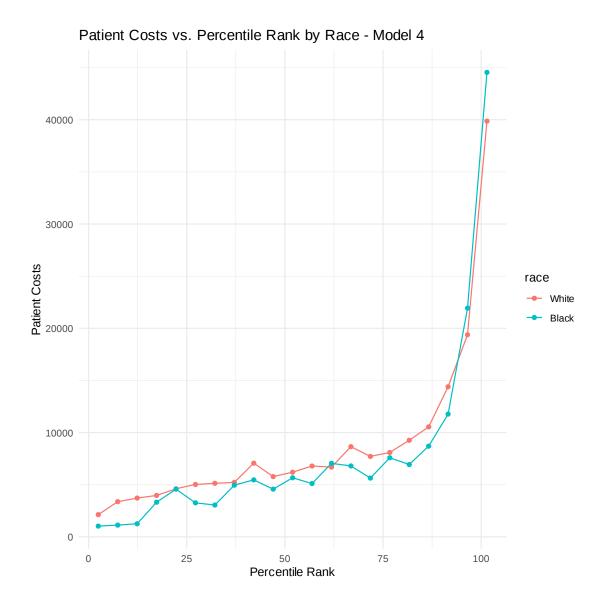


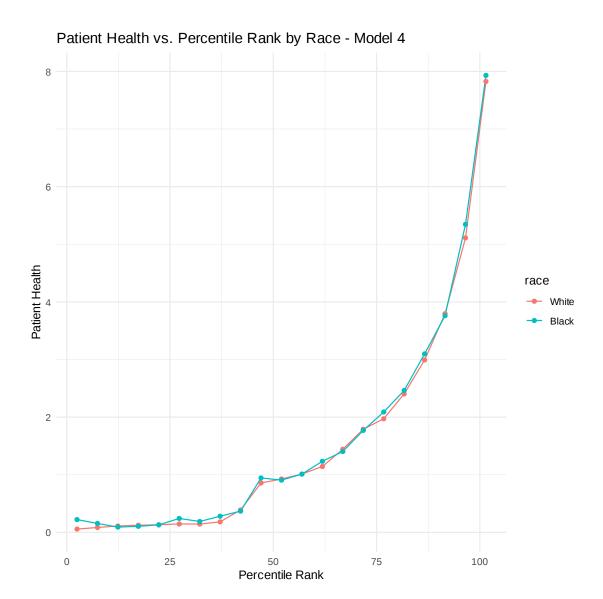












## Question 8 Answer

(Answer here; include your images if needed.)

9. In the pre-recorded video for this lab, Professor Ziad Obermeyer said that it is the left-hand side variable (i.e., the "label" or target parameter) that is the source of bias in algorithms, not the right-hand side variables (i.e., the predictors). Explain what he meant, and evaluate whether you agree with him using your binned scatters above.

### [11]: # QUESTION 9 Code

## Question 9 Answer

Professor Obermeyer is referring to the idea that bias in predictive algorithms often stems from the target variable used in the model, rather than the predictors. In other words, if the outcome being predicted is itself a result of biased processes or decisions, then the algorithm, even if it uses unbiased predictors, will perpetuate or even amplify that bias.

From the binned scatter plots above, we can examine this concept. If the outcome variable, such as patient cost or health, has historically been influenced by biased treatment decisions, measurement methods, or systematic inequalities, then models trained to predict these outcomes will reflect those biases. This can happen even if the predictors do not directly include race or other sensitive attributes because the outcome variable effectively "encodes" the bias. In the graphs shown, if there's a consistent discrepancy between the risk scores and actual costs or health outcomes for Black and White patients, especially at similar percentile ranks, this might suggest that the model is reflecting biases in the target parameter.

For instance, if we see that at the same percentile rank, Black patients consistently have higher costs or worse health outcomes compared to White patients, this might indicate that the health outcomes or costs have been influenced by external biased factors which are now being captured by the model. While this holds in some plots (for instance, patient health in model 2), it is not always the case and would require further investigation I think.

10. Create an annotated/commented do-file, .ipynb Jupyter Notebook, or .R file that can replicate all your analyses above. This will be the final code that you submit on Gradescope. The motivation for using do-files and .R files is described on page 4, which has been adapted from training materials used by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

#### Final Submission Checklist for Lab 8

If you're working with R

If you're working with Stata

Lab 8 Write-Up:

PDF of your answers. For graphs, you must save them as images (e.g., .png files) and insert them into the document.

Lab 8 Code:

.R script file, well-annotated replicating all your analyses;OR

.ipynb file and a .PDF version of this file.

Lab 8 Write-Up:

PDF of your answers. For graphs, you must save them as images (e.g., .png files) and insert them into the document.

Lab 8 Code:

do-file, well-annotated replicating all your analyses; AND

log-file, not a .smcl file, with the log showing the output generated by your final do-file.

#### If you're working with an .ipynb notebook

It is likely that your .ipynb file will be greater than 1 MB in size. Therefore, for this assignment please submit both your well-annotated .ipynb file and a .PDF version of this file. The notebook should replicate all your analyses for Lab 5 (with enough comments that a principal

investigator on a research project would be able to follow and understand what each step of the code is doing).

## 1.3 How to submit your assignment

Step 1 Access the lab assignment under the

"Assignments" tab on Canvas

Step 2 Access Gradescope from Canvas

Step 3 Access the lab assignment on

Gradescope

Step 4 Upload your files Check What files to

submit to confirm what files you need to submit.

 ${\bf Step~5}~{\bf What~you'll~see~after~submitting~your}$ 

lab assignment

Step 6 Check your submitted files

Step 7 You'll receive an email confirmation as

well

#### 1.4 What files to submit

If you're using Python Notebook to write your R code, and a document editor to write your answers
If you're using a Python Notebook to write your R code AND to write your answers

#### 1.5 WHAT ARE DO-FILES AND .R. FILES AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

Let's imagine the following situation - you just found out you have to present your results to a partner—all the averages you produced and comparisons you made. Suppose you also found out that the data you had used to produce all these results was not completely clean, and have only just fixed it. You now have incorrect numbers and need to re-do everything.

How would you go about it? Would you reproduce everything you did for Lab 1 from scratch? Can you do it? How long would it take you to do? Just re-typing all those commands into Stata or R in order and checking them would take an hour.

An important feature of any good research project is that the results should be reproducible. For Stata and R the easiest way to do this is to create a text file that lists all your commands in order, so anyone can re-run all your Stata or R work on a project anytime. Such text files that are produced within Stata or linked to Stata are called do-files, because they have an extension .do (like intro\_exercise.do). Similarly, in R, these files are called .R files because they have an extension of .R. These files feed commands directly into Stata or R without you having to type or copy them into the command window.

An added bonus is that having do-files and .R files makes it very easy to fix your typos, re-order commands, and create more complicated chains of commands that wouldn't work otherwise. You can now quickly reproduce your work, correct it, adjust it, and build on it.

Finally, do-files and .R files make it possible for multiple people to work on a project, which is necessary for collaborating with others or when you hand off a project to someone else.

# 1.6 DATA DESCRIPTION, FILE: health.dta

The data consist of 48,784 patient records. Variables that start with tm1 were measured in the prior year (time t-1). Variable that end with \_t are measured in the current year. For more details on the construction of the variables included in this data set, please see Obermeyer, Powers, Vogeli, and Mullainathan (2019).

## TABLE 1

Variable Definitions

Variable

Description

mean

 $\operatorname{sd}$ 

min

max

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)

```
patient\_id
Patient identification number
n/a
n/a
n/a
n/a
gagne\_sum\_t
Total number of active chronic illnesses
1.354
1.942
0
17
cost\_t
Total medical expenditures, rounded to the nearest 100
7,660
17,990
0
550,500
cost\_avoidable\_t
Total avoidable (emergency + inpatient) medical expenditures, rounded to nearest
2,435
12,058
0
642,700
race
String variable containing the words "black" and "white"
n/a
n/a
n/a
n/a
tm1\_dem\_black
1 = Black
```

```
0 = White
0.114
0.318
0
1
tm1\_dem\_female
1 = Female
0 = Male
0.631
0.483
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_1824
Indicator for patient age between 18-24
0.0369
0.188
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_2534
Indicator for patient age between 25-34
0.110
0.313
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_3544
Indicator for patient age between 35-44
0.194
0.396
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_4554
Indicator for patient age between 45-54
```

```
0.239
0.427
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_5564
Indicator for patient age between 55-64
0.197
0.397
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_6574
Indicator for patient age between 65-74
0.142
0.349
0
1
tm1\_dem\_age\_band\_75
Indicator for patient age 75+
0.0703
0.256
0
1
tm1\_alcohol\_elixhauser
Indicator for alcohol abuse
0.00892
0.0940
0
tm1_anemia_elixhauser
Indicator for deficiency anemia
0.0636
```

0.244

```
0
1
tm1\_arrhythmia\_elixhauser
Indicator for arrhythmia
0.0922
0.289
0
1
tm1\_arthritis\_elixhauser
Indicator for arthritis
0.0466
0.211
0
1
tm1\_bloodlossanemia\_elixhauser
Indicator for blood loss anemia
0.00246
0.0495
0
1
tm1\_coagulopathy\_elixhauser
Indicator for coagulopathy
0.0115
0.107
0
1
tm1\_compdiabetes\_elixhauser
Indicator for diabetes, complicated
0.0217
0.146
0
```

1

```
tm1\_depression\_elixhauser
Indicator for depression
0.0621
0.241
0
1
tm1\_drugabuse\_elixhauser
Indicator for drug abuse
0.00623
0.0787
0
1
tm1\_electrolytes\_elixhauser
Indicator for electrolyte disorder
0.0329
0.178
0
1
tm1\_hypertension\_elixhauser
Indicator for hypertension
0.332
0.471
0
tm1\_hypothyroid\_elixhauser
Indicator for hypothyroid
0.0938
0.292
0
1
tm1\_liver\_elixhauser
Indicator for liver disease
```

```
0.0159
0.125
0
1
tm1\_neurodegen\_elixhauser
Indicator for neurodegenerative disease
0.0280
0.165
0
1
tm1\_obesity\_elixhauser
Indicator for obesity
0.0929
0.290
0
1
tm1\_paralysis\_elixhauser
Indicator for paralysis
0.000574
0.0240
0
1
tm1\_psychosis\_elixhauser
Indicator for psychoses
0.0325
0.177
0
tm1\_pulmcirc\_elixhauser
Indicator for pulmonary circulation disorders
0.00558
```

0.0745

```
0
1
tm1\_pvd\_elixhauser
Indicator for peripheral vascular disorders
0.0263
0.160
0
1
tm1\_renal\_elixhauser
Indicator for renal failure
0.0367
0.188
0
1
tm1\_uncompdiabetes\_elixhauser
Indicator for diabetes, uncomplicated
0.0987
0.298
0
1
tm1\_valvulardz\_elixhauser
Indicator for valvular disease
0.0315
0.175
0
1
tm1\_wtloss\_elixhauser
Indicator for weight loss
0.00139
0.0373
0
```

1

```
tm1\_cerebrovasculardz\_romano
Indicator for cerebrovascular disease
0.0283
0.166
0
1
tm1\_chf\_romano
Indicator for congestive heart failure
0.0319
0.176
0
1
tm1\_dementia\_romano
Indicator for dementia
0.00949
0.0970
0
1
tm1_hemiplegia_romano
Indicator for hemiplegia
0.00266
0.0516
0
1
tm1_hivaids_romano
Indicator for HIV/AIDS
0.00305
0.0552
0
tm1\_metastatic\_romano
```

Indicator for metastasis

```
0.00613
0.0780
0
1
tm1\_myocardialinfarct\_romano
Indicator for myocardial infarction
0.0169
0.129
0
1
tm1\_pulmonarydz\_romano
Indicator for pulmonary disease
0.102
0.302
0
1
tm1\_tumor\_romano
Indicator for tumor
0.0944
0.292
0
1
tm1\_ulcer\_romano
Indicator for ulcer
0.00480
0.0691
0
tm1\_cost\_dialysis
Total costs for dialysis, rounded to nearest 10
26.72
```

976.6

```
0
63,410
tm1\_cost\_emergency
Total costs for emergency, rounded to nearest 10
423.7
1,572
0
67,090
tm1\_cost\_home\_health
Total costs for home health, rounded to nearest 10
220.5
1,396
0
56,830
tm1\_cost\_ip\_medical
Total costs for inpatient medical, rounded to nearest 10
638.8
4,\!570
0
282,300
tm1\_cost\_ip\_surgical
Total costs for inpatient surgical, rounded to nearest 10
978.5
6,575
0
279,930
tm1_cost_laboratory
Total costs for laboratory, rounded to nearest 10
330.9
949.4
-490
```

62,720

```
tm1_cost_op_primary_care
Total costs for outpatient primary care, rounded to nearest 10
473.9
1,872
0
240,290
tm1_cost_op_specialists
Total costs for outpatient specialists, rounded to nearest 10
866.2
1,546
0
41,720
tm1\_cost\_op\_surgery
Total costs for outpatient surgery, rounded to nearest 10
846.6
2,659
0
75,790
tm1\_cost\_other
Total other costs, rounded to nearest 100
1,569
4,639
0
193,200
tm1_cost_pharmacy
Total costs for pharmacy, rounded to nearest 10
342.5
3,995
-10
153,250
tm1_cost_physical_therapy
Total costs for physical therapy, rounded to nearest 10
```

```
167.2
534.0
0
10,240
tm1\_cost\_radiology
Total costs for radiology, rounded to nearest 10
241.1
580.8
0
20,710
tm1\_lasix\_dose\_count
Number of Lasix doses
0.0182
0.228
0
9
tm1\_lasix\_min\_daily\_dose
Minimum daily dose of Lasix
0.353
4.370
0
200
tm1\_lasix\_mean\_daily\_dose
Mean daily dose of Lasix
0.378
4.535
0
160
tm1_{lasix_max_daily_dose}
Maximum daily dose of Lasix
0.418
```

5.247

```
0
200
tm1\_cre\_tests
Number of c-reatinine tests
1.237
3.396
0
166
tm1\_crp\_tests
Number of c-reactive protein tests
0.000471
0.0226
0
tm1\_esr\_tests
Number of erythrocyte sedimentation rate tests
0.113
0.538
0
13
tm1\_ghba1c\_tests
Number of GHbA1c tests
0.385
0.748
0
9
tm1\_hct\_tests
Number of hematocrit tests
1.089
3.140
0
```

164

```
tm1\_ldl\_tests
Number of LDL tests
0.520
0.701
0
10
tm1\_nt\_bnp\_tests
Number of BNP tests
0.0305
0.257
0
10
tm1\_sodium\_tests
Number of sodium tests
1.156
3.237
0
122
tm1\_trig\_tests
Number of triglycerides tests
0.483
0.681
0
12
tm1\_cre\_minlow
Indicator for low (< 0.84) minimum creatinine test result
0.222
0.416
0
1
tm1\_cre\_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 1.21) minimum creatinine test result
```

```
0.0391
0.194
0
1
tm1\_cre\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum creatinine test result
0.236
0.424
0
1
tm1\_cre\_meanlow
Indicator for low (< 0.84) mean creatinine test result
0.200
0.400
0
1
tm1\_cre\_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 1.21) mean creatinine test result
0.0512
0.220
0
1
tm1\_cre\_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean creatinine test result
0.245
0.430
0
tm1\_cre\_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 0.84) maximum creatinine test result
0.178
0.383
```

```
0
1
tm1\_cre\_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 1.21) maximum creatinine test result
0.0674
0.251
0
1
tm1\_cre\_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum creatinine test result
0.252
0.434
0
1
tm1\_crp\_minlow
Indicator for low (<1) minimum c-reactive protein test result
0.000164
0.0128
0
1
tm1\_crp\_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 3) minimum c-reactive protein test result
0.000164
0.0128
0
1
tm1\_crp\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum c-reactive protein test result
6.15\mathrm{e}\text{-}05
0.00784
0
1
```

```
tm1\_crp\_meanlow
Indicator for low (< 1) mean c-reactive protein test result
0.000164
0.0128
0
1
tm1\_crp\_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 3) mean c-reactive protein test result
0.000164
0.0128
0
1
tm1\_crp\_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean c-reactive protein test result
6.15e-05
0.00784
0
1
tm1\_crp\_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 1) maximum c-reactive protein test result
0.000164
0.0128
0
1
tm1\_crp\_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 3) maximum c-reactive protein test result
0.000164
0.0128
0
1
tm1_crp_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum c-reactive protein test result
```

```
6.15e-05
0.00784
0
1
tm1_esr_minlow
Indicator for low (< 1) minimum erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0
0
0
0
tm1_esr_minhigh
Indicator for high (>20) minimum erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0.0218
0.146
0
1
tm1\_esr\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0.0514
0.221
0
1
tm1_esr_meanlow
Indicator for low (<1) mean erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0
0
0
0
tm1_esr_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 20) mean erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0.0245
0.155
```

```
0
1
tm1_esr_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0.0487
0.215
0
1
tm1 esr maxlow
Indicator for low (< 1) maximum erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0
0
0
0
tm1_esr_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 20) maximum erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0.0265
0.161
0
1
tm1_esr_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum erythrocyte sedimentation rate test result
0.0470
0.212
0
1
tm1_ghba1c_minlow
Indicator for low (< 4) minimum GHbA1c test result
4.10\mathrm{e}\text{-}05
0.00640
0
1
```

```
tm1\_ghba1c\_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 5.7) minimum GHbA1c test result
0.123
0.329
0
1
tm1\_ghba1c\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum GHbA1c test result
0.146
0.353
0
1
tm1_ghba1c_meanlow
Indicator for low (< 4) mean GHbA1c test result
4.10e-05
0.00640
0
1
tm1\_ghba1c\_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 5.7) mean GHbA1c test result
0.130
0.336
0
1
tm1_ghba1c_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean GHbA1c test result
0.140
0.347
0
1
tm1\_ghba1c\_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 4) maximum GHbA1c test result
```

```
4.10\mathrm{e}\text{-}05
0.00640
0
1
tm1\_ghba1c\_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 5.7) maximum GHbA1c test result
0.133
0.339
0
1
tm1_ghba1c_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum GHbA1c test result
0.137
0.344
0
1
tm1\_hct\_minlow
Indicator for low (< 35.5) minimum hematocrit test result
0.0639
0.245
0
1
tm1\_hct\_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 48.6) minimum hematocrit test result
0.00679
0.0821
0
tm1\_hct\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum hematocrit test result
0.375
0.484
```

```
0
1
tm1\_hct\_meanlow
Indicator for low (<35.5) mean hematocrit test result
0.0424
0.202
0
1
tm1\_hct\_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 48.6) mean hematocrit test result
0.00787
0.0884
0
1
tm1\_hct\_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean hematocrit test result
0.396
0.489
0
1
tm1\_hct\_maxlow
Indicator for low (<35.5) maximum hematocrit test result
0.0242
0.154
0
1
tm1\_hct\_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 48.6) maximum hematocrit test result
0.0119
0.109
0
1
```

```
tm1\_hct\_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum hematocrit test result
0.410
0.492
0
1
tm1_ldl_minlow
Indicator for low (< 50) minimum LDL test result
0.0155
0.124
0
1
tm1\_ldl\_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 99) minimum LDL test result
0.204
0.403
0
1
tm1\_ldl\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum LDL test result
0.198
0.398
0
1
tm1_ldlmeanlow
Indicator for low (< 50) mean LDL test result
0.0127
0.112
0
1
tm1_ldlmeanhigh
Indicator for high (> 99) mean LDL test result
```

```
0.211
0.408
0
1
tm1_ldlmeannormal
Indicator for normal mean LDL test result
0.134
0.340
0
1
tm1\_ldl\_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 50) maximum LDL test result
0.0117
0.108
0
1
tm1\_ldl\_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 99) maximum LDL test result
0.218
0.413
0
1
tm1\_ldl\_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum LDL test result
0.127
0.333
0
1
tm1\_nt\_bnp\_minlow
Indicator for low (< 100) minimum BNP test result
0.00488
0.0697
```

```
0
1
tm1_nt_bnp_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 450) minimum BNP test result
0.00980
0.0985
0
1
tm1\_nt\_bnp\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum BNP test result
0.00543
0.0735
0
1
tm1\_nt\_bnp\_meanlow
Indicator for low (< 100) mean BNP test result
0.00668
0.0815
0
1
tm1_nt_bnp_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 450) mean BNP test result
0.0103
0.101
0
1
tm1\_nt\_bnp\_meannormal
Indicator for normal minimum BNP test result
0.00344
0.0586
0
1
```

```
tm1_nt_bnp_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 100) maximum BNP test result
0.00646
0.0801
0
1
tm1_nt_bnp_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 450) maximum BNP test result
0.0106
0.102
0
1
tm1_nt_bnp_maxnormal
Indicator for normal minimum BNP test result
0.00344
0.0586
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_minlow
Indicator for low (< 135) minimum sodium test result
0.0403
0.197
0
1
tm1_sodium_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 145) minimum sodium test result
0.000615
0.0248
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum sodium test result
```

```
0.438
0.496
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_meanlow
Indicator for low (< 135) mean sodium test result
0.0196
0.139
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 145) mean sodium test result
0.000861
0.0293
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean sodium test result
0.459
0.498
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 135) maximum sodium test result
0.0109
0.104
0
tm1_sodium_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 145) maximum sodium test result
0.00515
0.0715
```

```
0
1
tm1\_sodium\_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum sodium test result
0.464
0.499
0
1
tm1\_trig\_minlow
Indicator for low (<50) minimum trigly
cerides test result
0.0318
0.176
0
1
tm1_trig_minhigh
Indicator for high (> 150) minimum triglycerides test result
0.0901
0.286
0
1
tm1\_trig\_minnormal
Indicator for normal minimum triglycerides test result
0.262
0.440
0
1
tm1\_trig\_meanlow
Indicator for low (<50) mean trigly
cerides test result
0.0289
0.167
0
1
```

```
tm1\_trig\_meanhigh
Indicator for high (> 150) mean triglycerides test result
0.0972
0.296
0
1
tm1\_trig\_meannormal
Indicator for normal mean triglycerides test result
0.256
0.436
0
1
tm1_trig_maxlow
Indicator for low (< 50) maximum triglycerides test result
0.0279
0.165
0
1
tm1_trig_maxhigh
Indicator for high (> 150) maximum triglycerides test result
0.107
0.309
0
1
tm1_trig_maxnormal
Indicator for normal maximum triglycerides test result
0.251
0.434
0
1
tm1\_gagne\_sum
Total number of active illnesses
```

1.443

2.049

0

18

## TABLE 2

R Commands

See assignment PDF.