<http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2702/3037/>

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Sydney:

Drugs@FDA ( <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/> ) is supposed to have all FDA approved drug products...but it doesn’t. Good place to go for approvals, label changes, reviewer information. Just keep in mind it is incomplete.

There are two arms of the FDA:

* One that approves molecular-based drugs.
* One approves biologic drugs (derived from living cells).

Data Sources:

* Orange Book
* Drugs@FDA
* Adverse Events from FDA website
* Medicare/Medicaid Spending: parts B (given in hospital) and D (prescription given by doctor and drugs picked up at pharmacy)
* Medicaid has a drug price comparison in its National Average Drug Acquisition Cost report. Drug prices are defined in “units,” but someone might need 3,000 units per dose, so unit does not mean dose.
* Cms.gov
* Open Payments: when pharma paid a doc for travel, speaking, dinner, etc. (like ProPublica’s Dollars for Docs)
* IMS Health
* Evaluate Pharma
* GoodRX for drug prices by zip code
* A Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PMB)

Be sure to call analysts/data keepers to make sure you aren’t overlooking quirks in the data (for instance, if a doctor prescribes <10 patients a certain drug that will not be reporter because of HIPPA)

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Mike:

PBP has been covering heroin treatment. “Sober Home” industry is a multi-million dollar industry. People from all over the country come to Florida to get sober.

In 2015 PBP profiled everyone in their county who died over heroin overdose. <http://apps.mypalmbeachpost.com/ourdead/>

Data used:

* Paid for hospital admission dataset.
* Police records
* Medical Examiner’s Spreadsheet given to the PBP recording heroin-related deaths

Analysis:

* Used SQL to analyze datasets
* Used google sheets for master spreadsheets so multiple ppl could edit at once
* DocumentCloud links in the spreadsheet- links for police report, links for medical paperwork so that reporters could check the original paperwork within the spreadsheet.

Can always turn to DART Center for help with the emotional toll of this work. Can also provide help working on stories.