DDATA: Delaware's Prescription Monitoring Program

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Problem – Prescription Drug Epidemic

- Prescription Drug Abuse the use of a medication without a prescription, in a way other than prescribed, or for specific experiences or feelings.
- Drug overdoses have increased 118% from 1999-2011.
- 40,000 drug overdose deaths per year
 Half from prescription drugs.
- 1.4 Million yearly emergency department visits related to prescription drug use.





Delaware Prescription Monitoring Program (DE PMP)

- Collects information from pharmacies and prescribers on all controlled substance (Schedules II-V) prescriptions.
 - Ex: OxyContin, Ritalin, Adderall, morphine, Xanax, etc
 - All Delaware licensed dispensers required to report controlled substance dispensing to PMP as of March 15, 2012





DE PMP Update

- 2013 Professional Mental Health counselors and Chemical Dependency counselors were given access to PMP database. Provide better client referral and treatment plans.
- Jan 1st, 2014- Mandatory PMP registration of all holders of a controlled substances registration.
- PMP Interconnect- sharing PMP data with neighboring states.
- Collaborative relationship for PMP research with UD's CDHS.







Previous Literature - NMPDU

- Geographically
 - Rural Areas
 - College Campuses
- Populations
 - Adolescents
 - College Students
 - Probationer/Incarcerated
 - Pharmacists
- Specific Drugs
 - Oxycontin, Ritalin, Adderall





Delaware Census Tract Map









Previous Literature – Gaps

- Existing studies use self-reported data rather than official counts of NMPDU.
- At the neighborhood level, there is little research on the intersection of crime, poverty, income, race, and health indicators with patterns of nonmedical prescription drug use.





Research Questions

- How is prescription drug use patterned across neighborhoods?
- More specifically, how are prescription drug patterns related to neighborhood demographics and disadvantage, health and healthcare status, crime and disorder?





Research Purpose/Objectives

- Linking census tract data to DE PMP data via geocoding.
- Link Delaware "Big Data" (DELJIS, DHIN, US Census) sources to include Delaware PMP data.
- Investigate social trends and variations over time.
- Identify geographical areas for intervention.





Geocoding and Census Tracts

- Geocoding –coding the Earth by providing geographic reference information that can be used for computer mapping.
- Census Tracts small, neighborhood level subdivisions measured in each decennial census.
 - Smaller than zip codes, larger than census blocks
 - Census Tracts: 2,500 8000 people





Methodology

- Geocoding data by census tract
- 140,000 (approximate) monthly prescriptions
- Merging DE PMP data with Census tract data:
 - Ex: Median Income, Percent Impoverished, Race





Project's Significance and Impact

- State
 - Identify and combat Schedule II-V controlled drug use and abuse in Delaware
 - Improve policy decisions related to prescription drug abuse on a neighborhood level
- National
 - A model for State's linking PMP and neighborhood level factors.





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