



### Analyst Data Exercise

Ready?

Want to get a flavor of the type of work you might do at RowdMap and give us a sense of your skills, interest, and passion?

RowdMap helps health plans and provider groups use data to make strategic decisions. Many of our data sets come from CMS. One of the datasets CMS publishes addresses the topic of "geographic variation". Geographic variation is the concept that health care practice patterns and spending varies widely from one geography to another.

The exercise is to take a look at the geographic variation data set, tell a story about what is going on and how a health plan (or a hospital or provider group or anyone for that matter) should act based on this information. You don't have to use the entire data set-- you can pick a smaller piece or geography or group, etc. and tell a story about that. And it doesn't have to be complex and complicated-- on the contrary, clearly communicating in straightforward terms and visuals is best.

Go...

1. Do a little research to get your head around the general concepts
2. Look through the data and see if you can formulate a few questions of the data, along the lines of why would this be important and if I knew x, y, or z based on the data, what might I do about it.
3. Choose a subset of the data-- a few columns or a few geographies, play with the data a bit, visualize it and say something about it.
4. Don't make this complex and don't be intimidated-- give it a go.

An introduction to the topic is here: <http://go.cms.gov/2tZl68d>

The file is here: State/County Report All beneficiaries: <http://go.cms.gov/2otueit>

More general background here: <http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/>