

## Pharmacy Description

-----  
The United states have neither Universal Health care coverage nor universal drug coverage. Most individuals are covered by their employer's health coverage, the elderly (>65 years) are covered by a federal program called Medicare, some people buy their own insurance, but others are not insured at all. A patchwork of legislation exists to fill some of the gaps. California has enacted a bill , senate bill 393 (1999) that requires pharmacies participating in the state

Medicaid program (Medi-Cal) to give Medicare beneficiaries the same discounted drug prices that beneficiaries of the Medicaid program enjoy. The Medi-Cal program applies to the poor. The senate bill is an unfunded mandate, meaning that there are no funds to enforce or even monitor whether pharamcies comply with the legislation.

The current data set consists of a random sample of pharmacies in Northern and Southern California. The unit of observation is a pharmacy. Variables like race and income are refer to the average values in the same zipcode. The variable "compliance" indicates whether or not the pharmacy has complied.

The names of the interviewers (and their implied gender) are fictitious.

Income2 (below and above median income) is derived from income

## Interesting facts about the data set

-----  
The sample frame contained one pharmacy that was on the island of Catalina, 26 miles across the sea from Los Angeles. The statistician suggested to the PI to remove the Catalina pharmacy from the sampling frame, because otherwise she would have to risk the chance having to go all the way to Catalina for this one pharmacy. The PI said she would take that chance . The sample was drawn, and contained Catalina. One interviewer took a boat and made a day trip to Catalina.

The study was conducted in LA and naturally, the secret shoppers for the most part were retired actors who treated their pharmacy assignment as just an other acting job. One of the interviewer / secret shoppers had been a guest star on an episode of Seinfeld.

## References:

-----  
Lewis JH, Schonlau M, Muñoz J, Asch SM, Rosen MR, Yang H, Escarce JJ. Pharmacy Compliance With California's Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Beneficiaries. The New England Journal of Medicine. 2002;346(11):830-835.