Conclusions

We found EMS events in which Naloxone was administered to be a strong predictor ($R^2 = 0.95$) of national opioid-related deaths. A study from Australia had found that ambulance calls for opioid overdoses and opioid deaths are correlated (Di Rico 2018). Our project lends further credence to the hypothesis that EMS data can be used as an early indicator of trends in opioid deaths.

Future research could explore the relationship between Naloxone EMS events and opioid deaths in greater depth, or look at whether there are any EMS events that can be effective proxy variables of suicides in the US.

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References