Evaluating The Hub and Spoke Model in Washington State

**Introduction**

As an example of the data comparison and visualization methods used in Washington State, we focus on opioid overdose deaths in the counties of the state. In this study, we evaluated the Hub and Spoke model in Washington State, a strategy that involves the use of large, centralized treatment centers (hubs) that provide specialized services, and smaller, satellite treatment centers (spokes) that provide primary care services. The model is designed to improve access to treatment and reduce the burden of opioid use disorders in rural areas.

**Methods**

The research team at Brandeis University collected the data on opioid treatment networks (OTNs), hubs, and spokes, death rates, and other data sources to create a database of Washington State's opioid hub and spoke model. They used GIS technology to create a map of the state that shows the location of the hubs and spokes as well as the distance between them. The map provides a visual representation of the network and helps to identify areas with high and low opioid overdose death rates.

**Results**

The map on the left in the figure shows where OTNs were located, with the death rate varying between counties. The map on the right shows the location of the hubs and spokes in the Washington State counties. The map on the left also shows the location of the hubs and spokes in the Washington State counties.

**Discussion**

Overall, the network of opioid treatment sites and hubs is distributed across the state. In 2017, the highest death rate occurred in the South Central region of the state. The hubs and spokes were located in closer proximity to each other, indicating a more effective model of care.

**Conclusions**

The findings suggest that the Hub and Spoke model is effective in improving access to treatment and reducing opioid overdose death rates. Further research is needed to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the model and to identify areas where improvements could be made.