

Health Data Challenge

Hospital Waiting Times by Region

You are working for a healthcare policy team reviewing NHS waiting time performance.

Dataset

Region	Average Waiting Time (Weeks)
North East	12
North West	15
Midlands	18
East of England	14
London	20
South West	13

Step 1: Describe the Data

What does the data show?

Write three observations.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 2: Analyse the Data

Why might waiting times vary between regions?

Possible reasons:

- ☐ Staffing levels
- ☐ Population size

- ☐ Funding differences
- ☐ Service demand
- ☐ Recruitment challenges
- ☐ Other:

Which explanation seems most convincing?

Why?

Step 3: Evaluate the Evidence

What additional information would help?

- ☐ Population data
- ☐ Number of hospitals
- ☐ Staffing levels
- ☐ Funding allocations
- ☐ Patient demographics
- ☐ Historical trends

What conclusions can we NOT make from this dataset?

Step 4: Critical Analysis

A politician states:

"London hospitals are performing poorly."

Does the data support this claim?

Why or why not?

Step 5: Recommendations

What further investigation would you conduct before making policy decisions?

Challenge Question

You discover that London treats significantly more complex cases than other regions.

How does this affect your interpretation of the data?
