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Healthcare Costs: How Much Could a Hospital Make on Outlier Patients in Montana?

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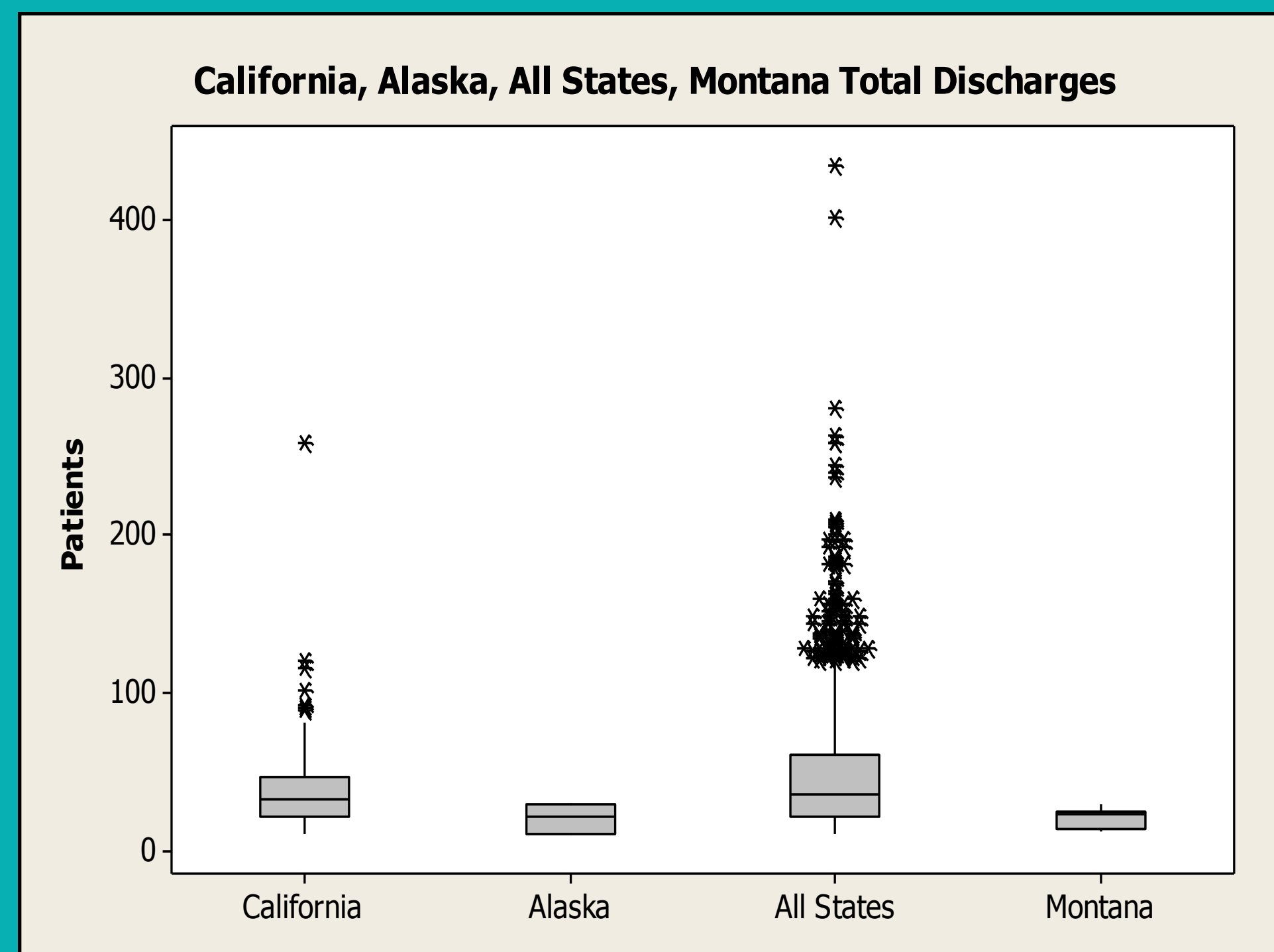


Healthcare Costs

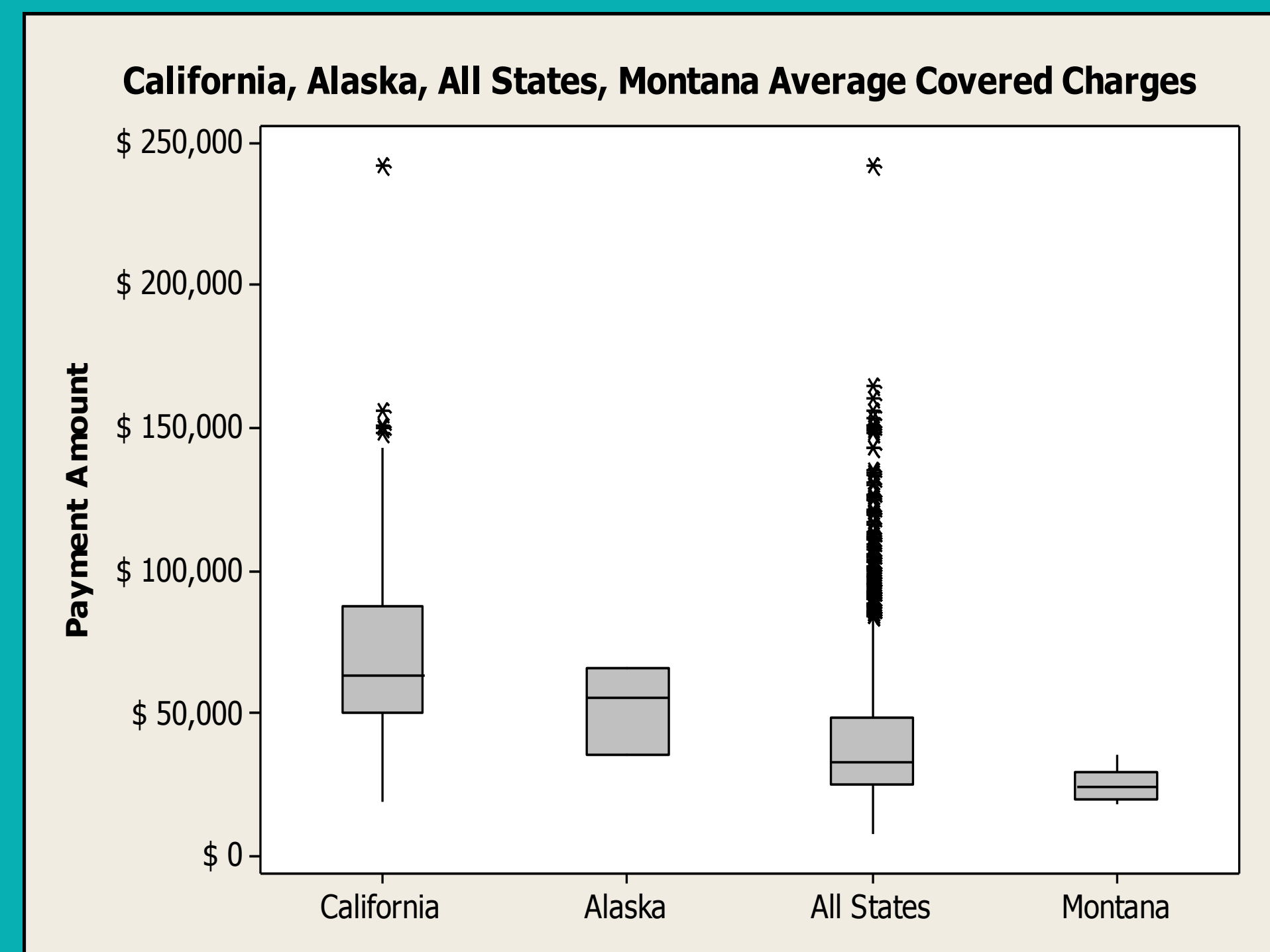
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How much more could a hospital make on outlier patients in Montana?

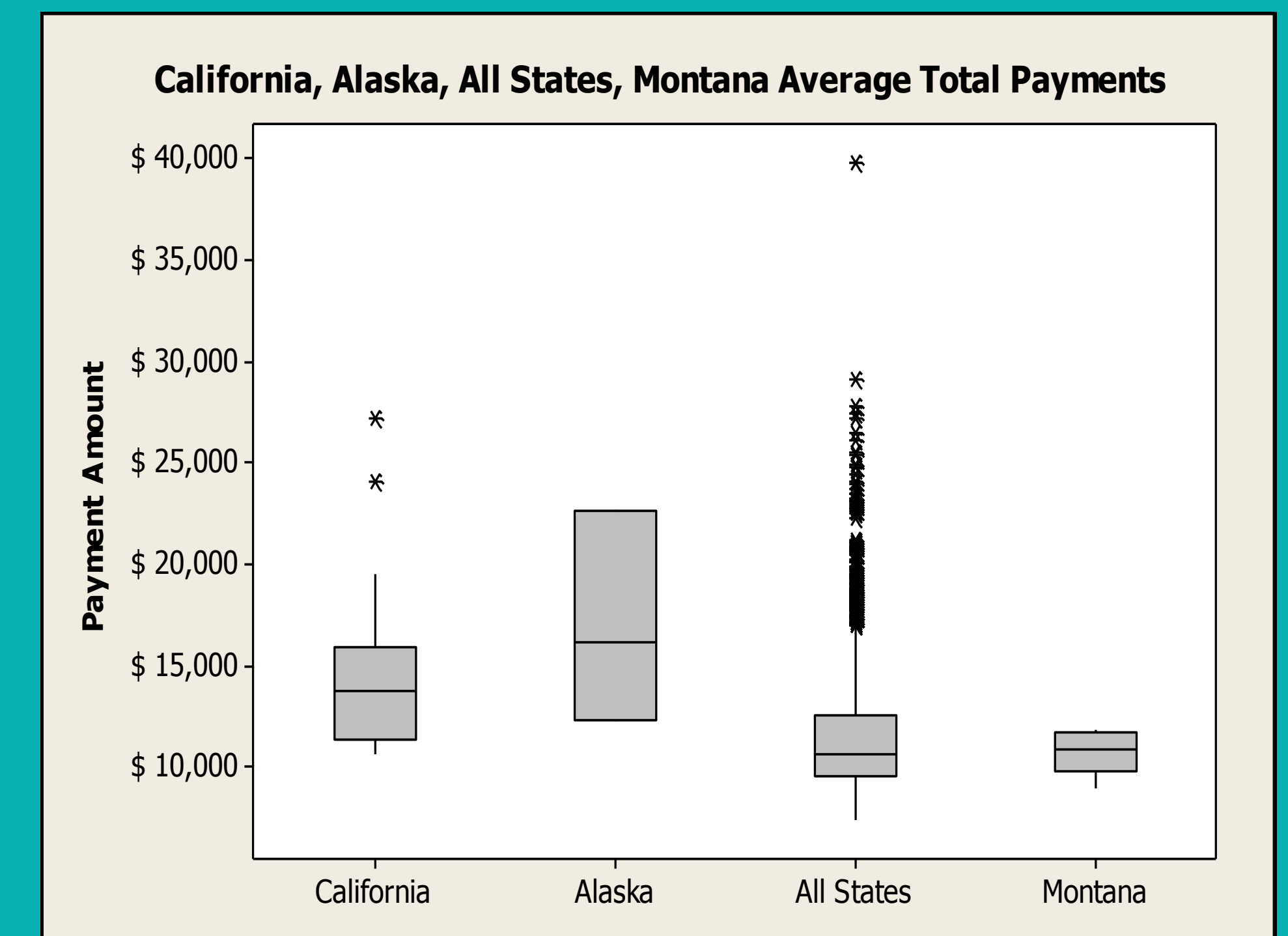
Data on Renal Failure Patients



Montana has less outlier patients than most other states, due to population. This therefore means that there are less discharges and profit made because of the lack of people.



Hospitals in Montana charge less than other states for renal failure.



Medicare pays for some, but not all of the covered charges. As a whole, Montana receives smaller Medicare payments per patient than California, Alaska and the whole nation.

Alaska has approximately the same amount of discharges that Montana has. The median charge in Alaska \$56,015 and the median charge in Montana is \$24,420. Consequently, hospitals in Montana would make more money by charging \$41,000. Medicare pays 80% of the covered charges for outlier patients, which is more than they pay for other patients. The hospital would make \$32,800 for each of the outlier patients, who count for 5% of the total discharges (approximately six patients in Montana). For a profit, the hospital would make an additional \$23,174 for each of the outlier patients, and \$139,044 all together.