

# COVID-19: The contrasting experiences of different regions

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## Abstract

This article aims to graphically discuss the contrasting global experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically when comparing the developed and the developing world. This is my solution to question 1 of the practical exam.

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## 1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc by inducing a literal standstill on global activity and disrupting families in all corners of our planet. In its wake, the COVID-19 virus reaffirmed that it does not discriminate between its victims, however, it is apparent that different regions of the globe have had divergent experiences. This article graphically contrasts the pandemic's impact on the developed to that of the developing world by considering the total confirmed COVID-19 cases, its attributed deaths, and the total vaccinations administered. Special attention is given to the African continent relative to the rest of the world.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The data used in this article has been kindly provided by OWID (Our World in Data).

## 2. Confirmed Cases

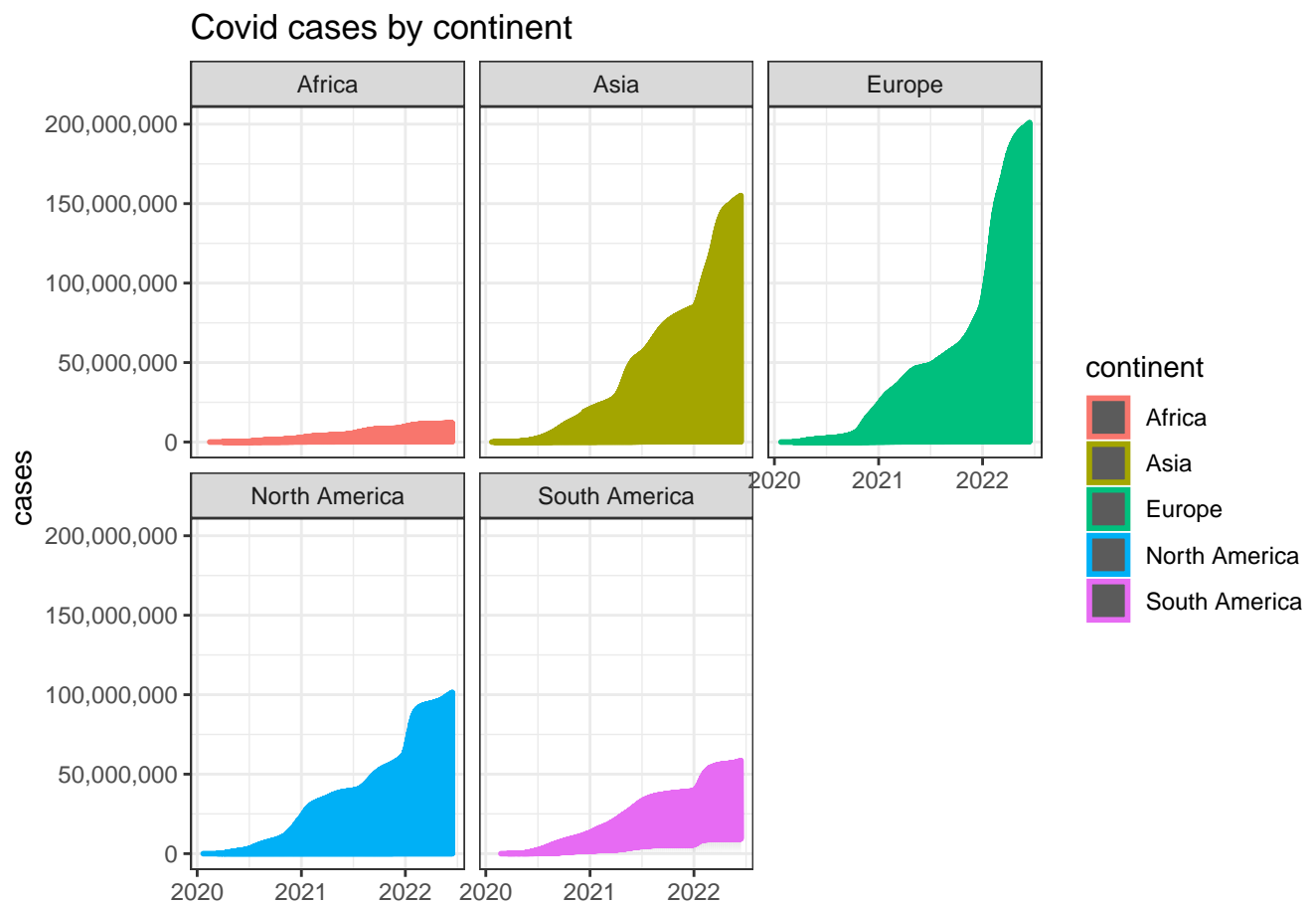


Figure 2.1: Total confirmed cases of COVID-19 per Region.

Figure 2.1 above shows the evolution of total reported COVID cases for each continent. Evidently, Africa has significantly less reported cases than the other continents, with Europe and Asia accounting for the majority. South America also showcases substantially lower cases, hinting that the developing world was less vulnerable with regards to the virus. However, importantly, a lower level of reported cases in third-world continents is very likely a result of a lack of COVID testing.

### 3. Deaths Attributed to COVID-19

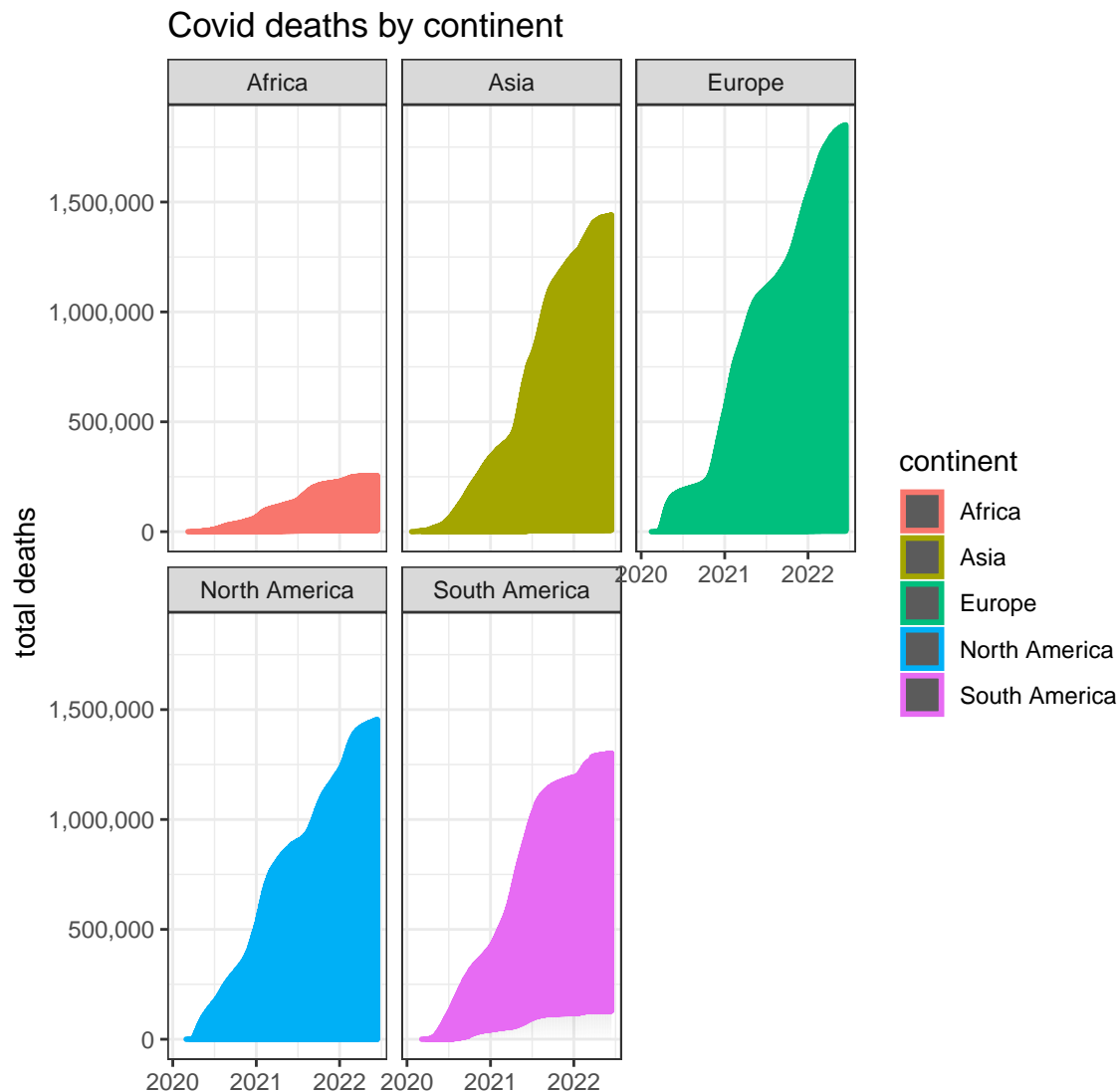


Figure 3.1: Total Deaths Attributed to COVID-19 per Region.

When considering the total deaths attributed to COVID per region in figure 3.1 above, some interesting results arise; Notwithstanding South America's significantly lower levels of cases in figure 2.1, the continent displays similar death rates to that of North America and Asia. On the one hand, this result makes sense as infected individuals in developing nations do not have similar accessibility to health care. However, on the other hand, when comparing South American death numbers to that of Africa's, the health-care argument loses its power. Maybe in considering the total number of vaccines administered in figure 4.1 below a clearer explanation will reveal itself.

#### 4. Vaccinations Administered

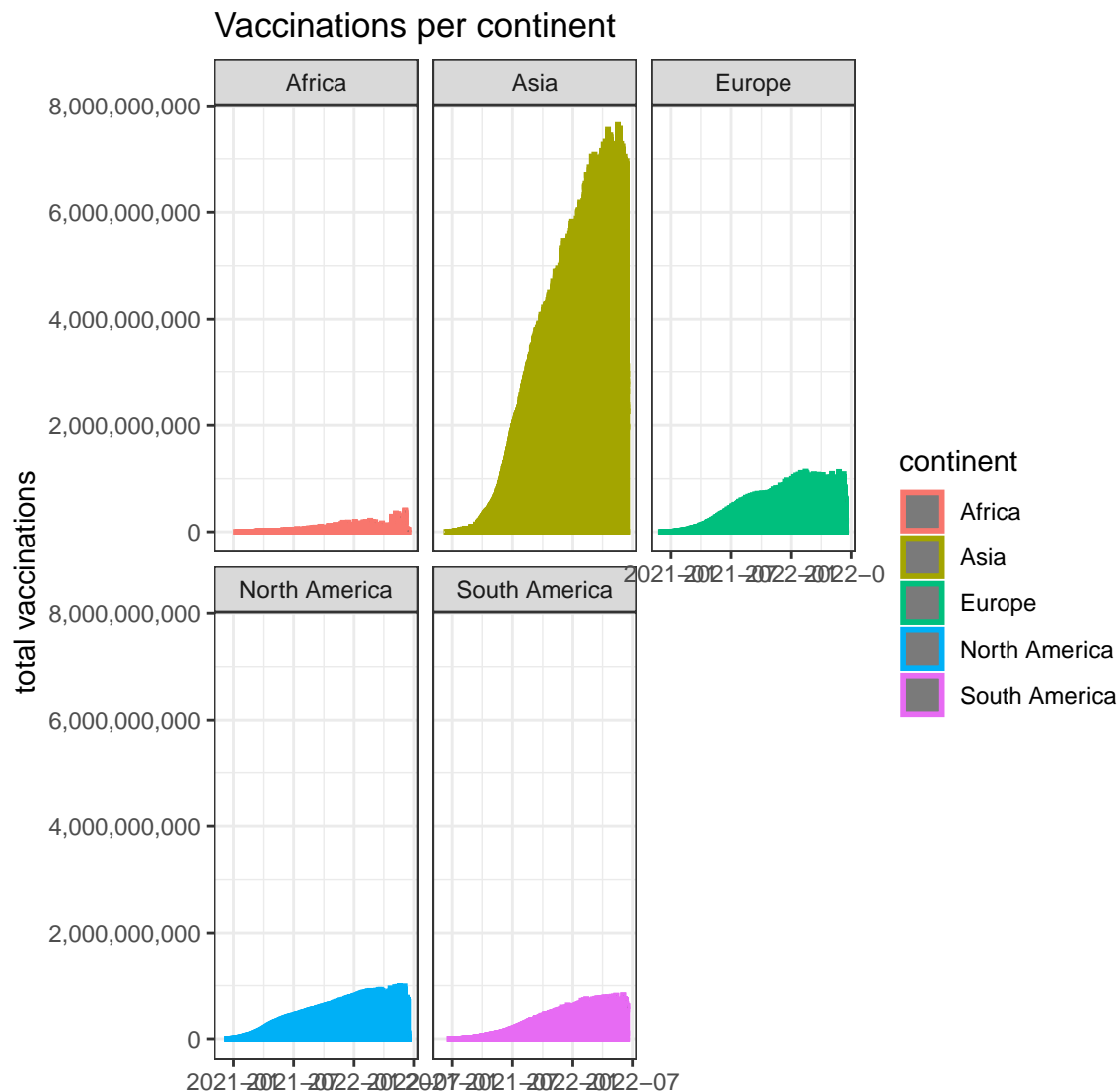


Figure 4.1: Total number of COVID-19 vaccination doses administered per Region.

One might prematurely assume that the total vaccinations administered in each continent can explain the skewed observations in figures 2.1 and 3.1, however, the figure 4.1 below paints a different picture. At least visually, it seems unlikely that vaccinations account for the widely different experiences between continents, especially between the developed and developing world. However, it will be wise to refrain from drawing conclusions based on the admittedly non-robust data analysis conducted here. Further econometric analysis needs to be conducted.