The spread of COVID-19 has been accompanied by a barrage of numbers and statistics that are intended to help the public make some quantitative sense of what is happening. However, we know that the general public doesn’t always know how to interpret this type of information. To address this issue, our team has created an application that puts COVID-19 into perspective by comparing it to several causes of mortality that are generally more familiar.

Using data from:

… we have constructed an application that shows, for each state in the US, the mortality rate for various causes of death, including COVID-19. We have also calculated a Risk Value for each state that combines several factors to determine the risk level that a state is at relative to the other states. This risk value combines general wellness data about the population of each state with the spread of the virus in that state. States with more vulnerable populations and higher infection rates are shaded darker on the map.