# Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Data

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6/13/2022

## Background

As part of the response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, research institutions around the world have collected and published data online related to the spread of the virus. Johns Hopkins provides one such set of data, publishing US and global case and death counts to a GitHub repository that is free to access.

We will investigate these data to answer some questions, including: 1. How well do the COVID-19 cases correlate to deaths? 2. Have death rates remained the same through the spread of the Delta and Omicron variants? 3. How has the state of North Carolina fared in the pandemic, compared to the rest of the country?

#### Load and Standardize

First, we load the data by URL and perform some simple transformations to make them easier to work with.

```
url_in <- "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/master/csse_covid_19_data/csse_cov
file_names <- c("time_series_covid19_confirmed_global.csv",</pre>
               "time_series_covid19_deaths_global.csv",
               "time_series_covid19_confirmed_US.csv",
               "time_series_covid19_deaths_US.csv")
urls <- str_c(url_in, file_names)</pre>
global_cases <- read_csv(urls[1])</pre>
## Rows: 285 Columns: 878
## -- Column specification ------
## Delimiter: ","
        (2): Province/State, Country/Region
## dbl (876): Lat, Long, 1/22/20, 1/23/20, 1/24/20, 1/25/20, 1/26/20, 1/27/20, ...
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
global_deaths <- read_csv(urls[2])</pre>
## Rows: 285 Columns: 878
## -- Column specification --------
## Delimiter: ","
## chr
        (2): Province/State, Country/Region
```

```
## dbl (876): Lat, Long, 1/22/20, 1/23/20, 1/24/20, 1/25/20, 1/26/20, 1/27/20, ...
##
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
US cases <- read csv(urls[3])
## Rows: 3342 Columns: 885
## -- Column specification ----
## Delimiter: ","
        (6): iso2, iso3, Admin2, Province_State, Country_Region, Combined_Key
## dbl (879): UID, code3, FIPS, Lat, Long_, 1/22/20, 1/23/20, 1/24/20, 1/25/20,...
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
US_deaths <- read_csv(urls[4])</pre>
## Rows: 3342 Columns: 886
## -- Column specification ------
## Delimiter: ","
        (6): iso2, iso3, Admin2, Province_State, Country_Region, Combined_Key
## dbl (880): UID, code3, FIPS, Lat, Long_, Population, 1/22/20, 1/23/20, 1/24/...
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
```

The data come as a single row per political unit (country, state/province, county, etc) with columns for each date.

Let's use pivot\_longer to transform the data such that we have a unique row per political unit per date. This will dramatically increase the number of rows in the data, but likewise dramatically decrease the number of columns in the data.

```
global_cases <- global_cases %>%
 pivot longer(
   cols = -c(`Province/State`, `Country/Region`, Lat, Long),
   names_to = "date",
   values to = "cases"
  ) %>%
  select(-c (Lat, Long))
global_deaths <- global_deaths %>%
  pivot_longer(
   cols = -c(`Province/State`, `Country/Region`, Lat, Long),
   names_to = "date",
   values_to = "deaths"
  ) %>%
  select(-c (Lat, Long))
US_cases <- US_cases %>%
 pivot longer(
 cols = -(UID:Combined_Key),
```

```
names_to = "date",
    values_to = "cases"
) %>%
select(Admin2:cases) %>%
mutate(date = mdy(date)) %>%
select(-c (Lat, Long_))

US_deaths <- US_deaths %>%
pivot_longer(
    cols = -c(UID:Combined_Key, Population),
    names_to = "date",
    values_to = "deaths"
) %>%
select(Admin2:deaths) %>%
mutate(date = mdy(date)) %>%
select(-c (Lat, Long_))
```

Note that global and US data are each separated into datasets for the number of cases and the number of deaths. Let's use the join functions to put those together.

After this step, there should be one row per political unit per date, with each row having both the case count and the death count.

Next, we'll add a Combined\_Key field to the global data. Then we'll load a separate dataset with more country-specific information and join it to our global data by state/province and country.

#### **Summary of Input Data**

Let's take a quick look at the data we have so far.

```
summary(US)
```

```
##
      Admin2
                     Province_State
                                        Country_Region
                                                          Combined_Key
                     Length: 2920908
                                       Length: 2920908
                                                         Length: 2920908
##
   Length:2920908
                     Class :character
                                       Class : character
                                                          Class : character
   Class : character
## Mode :character
                     Mode :character
                                       Mode :character
                                                         Mode :character
##
##
##
##
                                          Population
        date
                           cases
                                                              deaths
## Min.
          :2020-01-22
                      Min. : -3073
                                        Min. :
                                                       0
                                                          Min. : -82.0
## 1st Qu.:2020-08-27
                       1st Qu.:
                                  135
                                        1st Qu.:
                                                    9917
                                                           1st Qu.:
                                                                      1.0
## Median :2021-04-02 Median :
                                  1392
                                        Median :
                                                   24892
                                                          Median :
                                                                     24.0
## Mean :2021-04-02 Mean :
                                  9507
                                        Mean :
                                                   99604
                                                           Mean : 146.2
## 3rd Qu.:2021-11-07
                                                           3rd Qu.:
                       3rd Qu.:
                                  5311
                                        3rd Qu.:
                                                   64979
                                                                     89.0
## Max.
        :2022-06-13
                       Max. :3038588
                                        Max. :10039107
                                                           Max.
                                                                 :32218.0
```

#### summary(global)

## Mean : 11450

```
## Province_State
                      Country_Region
                                             date
                                                                 cases
## Length:229486
                      Length: 229486
                                               :2020-01-22
## Class :character
                      Class : character
                                         1st Qu.:2020-10-02
                                                             1st Qu.:
                                                                          724
                      Mode :character
## Mode :character
                                         Median :2021-04-30
                                                             Median:
                                                                        11316
##
                                         Mean
                                               :2021-04-26
                                                             Mean
                                                                    : 650076
##
                                         3rd Qu.:2021-11-22
                                                             3rd Qu.:
                                                                       161476
##
                                               :2022-06-13
                                         Max.
                                                             Max.
                                                                    :85632808
##
##
       deaths
                       Population
                                         Combined Key
                            :8.090e+02
                                         Length: 229486
  Min.
         :
                 0
                     Min.
                     1st Qu.:8.696e+05
                                         Class : character
## 1st Qu.:
                 6
## Median :
               134
                     Median :7.133e+06
                                         Mode : character
```

Mean :2.928e+07

```
## 3rd Qu.: 2541 3rd Qu.:2.914e+07
## Max. :1011543 Max. :1.380e+09
## NA's :4577
```

We note that there are rows in the US data that have a negative count of cases and deaths. Let's look more closely.

```
US %>% filter(cases < 0)
## # A tibble: 2 x 8
##
     Admin2 Province_State Country_Region Combined_Key date
                                                                     cases Population
                                                                                 <dbl>
##
     <chr>
             <chr>
                             <chr>
                                            <chr>
                                                          <date>
                                                                     <dbl>
## 1 Unassi~ South Carolina US
                                            Unassigned,~ 2022-05-05 -3073
                                                                                     0
## 2 Unassi~ South Carolina US
                                            Unassigned,~ 2022-05-06 -3073
                                                                                     0
## # ... with 1 more variable: deaths <dbl>
US %>% filter(deaths < 0)
## # A tibble: 2 x 8
     Admin2 Province_State Country_Region Combined_Key date
                                                                     cases Population
##
     <chr>>
             <chr>>
                             <chr>
                                            <chr>
                                                          <date>
                                                                     <dbl>
                                                                                 <dbl>
## 1 Unassi~ South Carolina US
                                            Unassigned, ~ 2022-05-05 -3073
                                                                                     0
## 2 Unassi~ South Carolina US
                                            Unassigned,~ 2022-05-06 -3073
                                                                                     0
## # ... with 1 more variable: deaths <dbl>
```

It seems there are two rows from South Carolina with both negative case and death counts. Why could that be?

For now, let's just remove those rows as possible errors, though we should later investigate to see if they're attempting to model a correction in previous numbers, or similar.

```
US <- US %>% filter(cases >= 0)
summary(US)
```

Country\_Region

Combined\_Key

```
Length:2920906
                                            Length: 2920906
##
    Length:2920906
                        Length: 2920906
                        Class :character
                                                                Class : character
##
    Class :character
                                            Class : character
##
    Mode :character
                        Mode :character
                                            Mode :character
                                                                Mode : character
##
##
##
##
         date
                                               Population
                                                                      deaths
                              cases
##
           :2020-01-22
                                             Min.
                                                                              0.0
                          Min.
                                                                 Min.
   1st Qu.:2020-08-27
                                       135
##
                          1st Qu.:
                                             1st Qu.:
                                                          9917
                                                                 1st Qu.:
                                                                              1.0
   Median :2021-04-02
                          Median:
                                      1392
                                             Median :
                                                         24909
                                                                 Median:
                                                                             24.0
           :2021-04-02
                                                         99604
##
   Mean
                                      9507
                                                                           146.2
                          Mean
                                             Mean
                                                                 Mean
    3rd Qu.:2021-11-07
                          3rd Qu.:
                                      5311
                                             3rd Qu.:
                                                         64979
                                                                 3rd Qu.:
                                                                             89.0
    Max.
           :2022-06-13
                          Max.
                                  :3038588
                                             Max.
                                                     :10039107
                                                                 Max.
                                                                         :32218.0
```

Now all of our data have nonnegative case and death counts.

Province\_State

##

Admin2

### Normalize Counts per Capita

To compare US states with large populations against those with small populations, we need to look at a per capita case and death rate. We will do this by calculating the number of cases and deaths per million.

First, we summarize all of the counties within a state. This US\_by\_state dataset will have one row per state per date.

## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'Province\_State', 'Country\_Region'. You can
## override using the '.groups' argument.

```
US_by_state
```

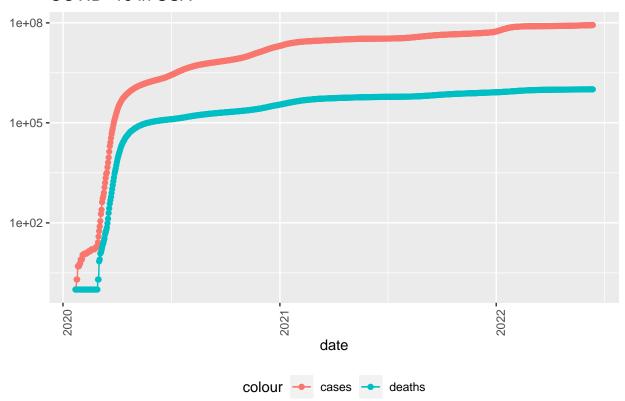
```
## # A tibble: 50,692 x 7
##
      Province_State Country_Region date
                                                 cases deaths deaths_per_mill
##
      <chr>
                      <chr>>
                                      <date>
                                                 <dbl>
                                                        <dbl>
                                                                         <dbl>
                      US
                                                     0
                                                             0
                                                                             0
##
   1 Alabama
                                     2020-01-22
## 2 Alabama
                      US
                                     2020-01-23
                                                     0
                                                             0
                                                                             0
## 3 Alabama
                      US
                                     2020-01-24
                                                     0
                                                                             0
                                                             0
## 4 Alabama
                                     2020-01-25
                      US
                                                     0
                                                             0
                      US
                                                             0
## 5 Alabama
                                     2020-01-26
                                                     0
                                                                             0
## 6 Alabama
                      US
                                      2020-01-27
                                                     0
                                                             0
                                                                             0
## 7 Alabama
                      US
                                                             0
                                                                             0
                                     2020-01-28
                                                     0
## 8 Alabama
                      US
                                     2020-01-29
                                                     0
                                                             0
                                                                             0
                                                             0
## 9 Alabama
                      US
                                     2020-01-30
                                                     0
                                                                             0
## 10 Alabama
                      US
                                     2020-01-31
                                                     0
                                                                              0
## # ... with 50,682 more rows, and 1 more variable: Population <dbl>
```

Our US\_totals will summarize across the states. The resulting dataset will have one row per date, showing the number of total cases and deaths nationwide by that date.

```
## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'Country_Region'. You can override using
## the '.groups' argument.
```

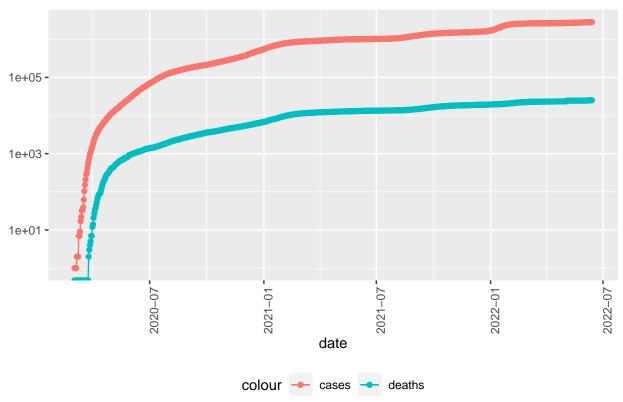
```
## # A tibble: 874 x 6
##
      Country_Region date
                                 cases deaths deaths_per_mill Population
##
      <chr>
                      <date>
                                 <dbl>
                                        <dbl>
                                                         <dbl>
                                                                     <dbl>
##
    1 US
                      2020-01-22
                                     1
                                            1
                                                       0.00300
                                                                 332875137
    2 US
##
                      2020-01-23
                                             1
                                                       0.00300
                                                                 332875137
                                     1
##
    3 US
                      2020-01-24
                                     2
                                             1
                                                       0.00300
                                                                 332875137
##
    4 US
                                     2
                      2020-01-25
                                             1
                                                       0.00300 332875137
##
   5 US
                      2020-01-26
                                     5
                                             1
                                                       0.00300 332875137
##
                      2020-01-27
                                     5
                                                       0.00300 332875137
   6 US
                                             1
##
   7 US
                      2020-01-28
                                     5
                                            1
                                                       0.00300 332875137
##
   8 US
                      2020-01-29
                                     6
                                             1
                                                       0.00300 332875137
## 9 US
                      2020-01-30
                                     6
                                             1
                                                       0.00300
                                                                332875137
## 10 US
                      2020-01-31
                                     8
                                             1
                                                       0.00300
                                                                332875137
## # ... with 864 more rows
```

Let's quickly visualize the overall number of cases and deaths within the USA and the state of North Carolina. We'll use a logarithmic scale so early ups and downs aren't obscured by wilder variation later in the pandemic.

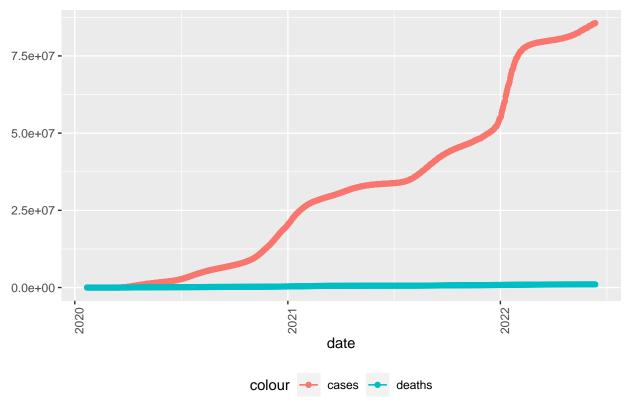


## Warning: Transformation introduced infinite values in continuous y-axis
## Transformation introduced infinite values in continuous y-axis

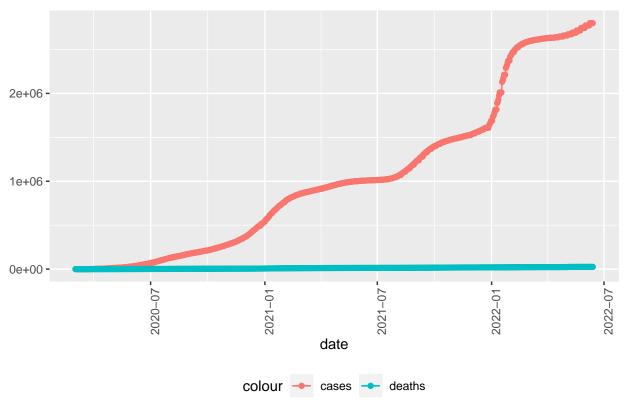
#### COVID-19 in North Carolina



These are interesting, but they really obscure the surges from the Delta and Omicron variants that occurred in late 2021 and early 2022. Let's take off the logarithmic scale and regenerate the graphs.



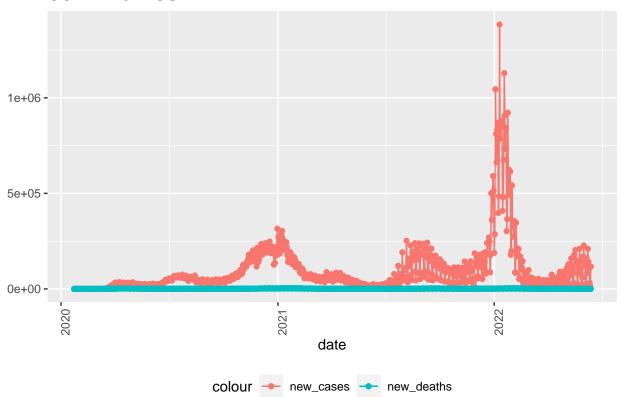
#### COVID-19 in North Carolina



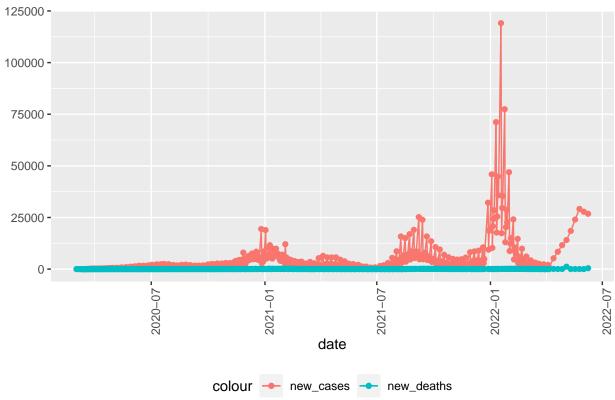
These clearly show the COVID-19 case count in the USA and in North Carolina increasing through early 2021, at which point vaccinations became available. The total case counts started to flatten until the Delta variant became prominent starting in the fall of 2021, then flattened again briefly before an enormous spike from the Omicron variant in the beginning of 2022.

We can visualize this even more clearly if we only look at the incremental number of new cases and deaths per date (rather than the totals of each). To do this, we'll add new\_cases and new\_deaths columns to the datasets, which we can then plot.

```
## Warning: Removed 1 row(s) containing missing values (geom_path).
## Warning: Removed 1 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
## Warning: Removed 1 row(s) containing missing values (geom_path).
## Warning: Removed 1 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
```



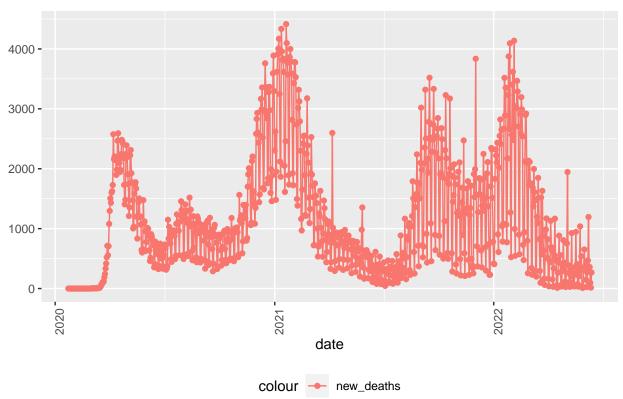




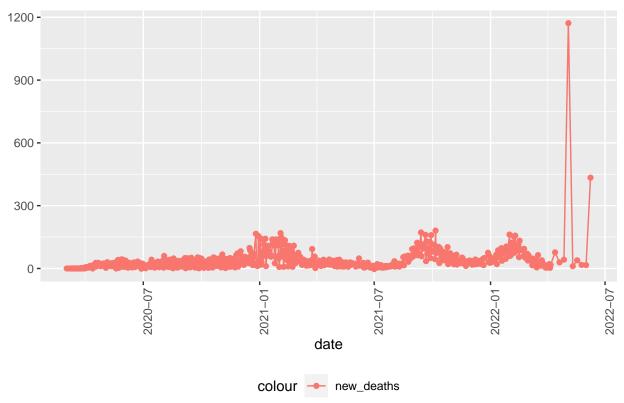
These plots clearly show the spikes for the Delta and Omicron variants, though the death counts are buried at the bottom of the graph since their numbers are so much lower than the case counts. Let's look at just the death numbers to see if we find the same spikes.

## Warning: Removed 1 row(s) containing missing values (geom\_path).

## Warning: Removed 1 rows containing missing values (geom\_point).



#### COVID-19 in North Carolina



We can clearly see the spikes for the Delta and Omicron variants in these plots, but the Omicron death counts are roughly the same as those from Delta, and not much larger as the Omicron case count was compared to the Delta case count.

This supports the common assertion that, although Omicron was much more widespread, it was a 'safer' form of the virus that did not result in as many per capita deaths as the earlier variants.

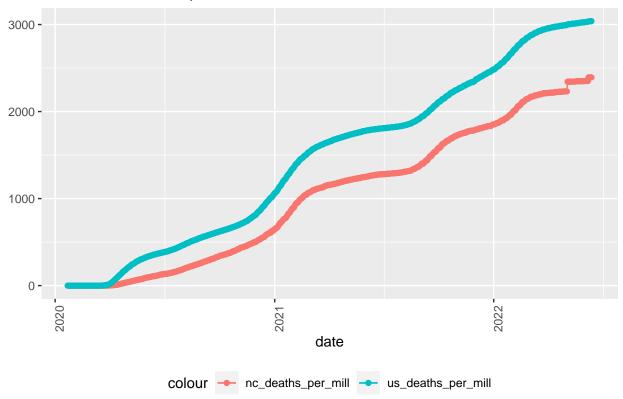
#### North Carolina vs National

How did the state of North Carolina do in comparison to the whole country?

We'll create a new tibble, joining NC data against the US data by date. We'll rename the columns so we can distinguish the NC values from the US values, and then plot them together.

```
## Joining, by = "date"
```

### COVID-19 Deaths per Million in North Carolina vs USA



This seems to indicate that North Carolina has had a lower number of deaths per million residents than the overall nation throughout the pandemic.

# Modeling NC vs US

Let's generate a linear model between NC and US deaths per million residents to see how well the NC rate predicts the US rate.

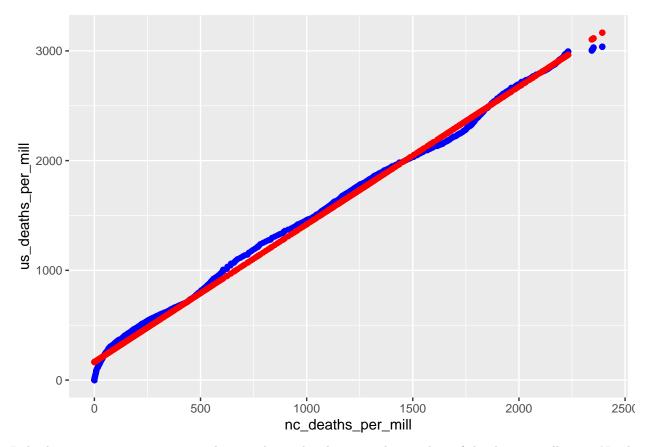
```
mod_nc_us <- lm(us_deaths_per_mill ~ nc_deaths_per_mill, data = NC_vs_US)
summary(mod_nc_us)</pre>
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = us_deaths_per_mill ~ nc_deaths_per_mill, data = NC_vs_US)
##
## Residuals:
##
      Min
               1Q Median
                               3Q
                                      Max
## -164.52 -25.88
                    26.78
                            45.09
                                    93.73
##
## Coefficients:
##
                      Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)
                     1.645e+02 3.802e+00
                                           43.27
                                                    <2e-16 ***
## nc_deaths_per_mill 1.254e+00 2.928e-03 428.38
                                                    <2e-16 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 67.35 on 872 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.9953, Adjusted R-squared: 0.9953
## F-statistic: 1.835e+05 on 1 and 872 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

This shows a very high correlation between the two, with a p-value less than 2.2e-16.

Let's plot the model to see the relationship visually.

```
NC_vs_US_w_pred <- NC_vs_US %>% mutate(pred = predict(mod_nc_us))
NC_vs_US_w_pred %>%
ggplot() +
geom_point(
   aes(x = nc_deaths_per_mill, y = us_deaths_per_mill), color = "blue") +
geom_point(aes(x = nc_deaths_per_mill, y = pred), color="red")
```



Indeed, we can see a very strong linear relationship between the number of deaths per million in North Carolina versus in the USA as a whole. The plot winds very tightly back and forth across the linear model.

#### **Potential Bias**

There are many possible sources of bias in this analysis, including:

- 1. COVID-19 numbers are reported via agencies within each state, who may have different procedures for collecting the data within that state. This could obscure the actual relationship between COVID-19 cases and deaths across states.
- 2. We excluded data points with zero or negative numbers of cases and death rates. Why were those there? Were they an attempt to correct errors in data previously reported? This should be investigated.
- 3. As home testing has become more available, fewer people are testing through health care facilities or laboratories. Positive results from home tests are not necessarily reported to relevant state agencies. Therefore, the actual case numbers are likely higher than are reflected in the data for the time periods when home tests are widely used.

# **Session Information**

sessionInfo()

## R version 4.2.0 (2022-04-22)

```
## Platform: x86 64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
## Running under: Ubuntu 20.04.4 LTS
##
## Matrix products: default
           /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/openblas-pthread/libblas.so.3
## LAPACK: /usr/lib/x86 64-linux-gnu/openblas-pthread/liblapack.so.3
## locale:
## [1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC NUMERIC=C
  [3] LC_TIME=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC_COLLATE=en_US.UTF-8
  [5] LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
   [7] LC_PAPER=en_US.UTF-8
                                   LC_NAME=C
##
                                   LC_TELEPHONE=C
##
   [9] LC_ADDRESS=C
## [11] LC_MEASUREMENT=en_US.UTF-8 LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
##
## attached base packages:
                 graphics grDevices utils
## [1] stats
                                               datasets methods
                                                                    base
##
## other attached packages:
  [1] lubridate 1.8.0 forcats 0.5.1
                                        stringr 1.4.0
                                                         dplyr 1.0.9
##
   [5] purrr_0.3.4
                        readr_2.1.2
                                        tidyr_1.2.0
                                                         tibble_3.1.7
  [9] ggplot2_3.3.6
                        tidyverse_1.3.1
##
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] tidyselect 1.1.2 xfun 0.31
                                          haven 2.5.0
                                                            colorspace 2.0-3
## [5] vctrs 0.4.1
                         generics_0.1.2
                                          htmltools 0.5.2
                                                           yaml 2.3.5
## [9] utf8_1.2.2
                         rlang_1.0.2
                                          pillar_1.7.0
                                                            glue_1.6.2
## [13] withr_2.5.0
                         DBI_1.1.2
                                          bit64_4.0.5
                                                            dbplyr_2.2.0
## [17] modelr_0.1.8
                         readxl_1.4.0
                                          lifecycle_1.0.1
                                                            munsell_0.5.0
## [21] gtable_0.3.0
                         cellranger_1.1.0 rvest_1.0.2
                                                            evaluate_0.15
## [25] labeling_0.4.2
                         knitr_1.39
                                          tzdb_0.3.0
                                                            fastmap_1.1.0
## [29] curl_4.3.2
                         parallel_4.2.0
                                          fansi_1.0.3
                                                            highr_0.9
## [33] broom_0.8.0
                         backports_1.4.1
                                          scales_1.2.0
                                                            vroom_1.5.7
## [37] jsonlite_1.8.0
                         farver_2.1.0
                                          bit_4.0.4
                                                            fs_1.5.2
## [41] hms 1.1.1
                         digest 0.6.29
                                           stringi_1.7.6
                                                            grid 4.2.0
## [45] cli_3.3.0
                         tools_4.2.0
                                          magrittr_2.0.3
                                                            crayon_1.5.1
## [49] pkgconfig 2.0.3
                         ellipsis 0.3.2
                                          xml2 1.3.3
                                                            reprex 2.0.1
## [53] assertthat_0.2.1 rmarkdown_2.14
                                          httr_1.4.3
                                                            rstudioapi_0.13
## [57] R6_2.5.1
                         compiler_4.2.0
```