

Lessons from the Past

What can famous nurse/epidemiology pioneer Florence Nightingale teach us about COVID-19?

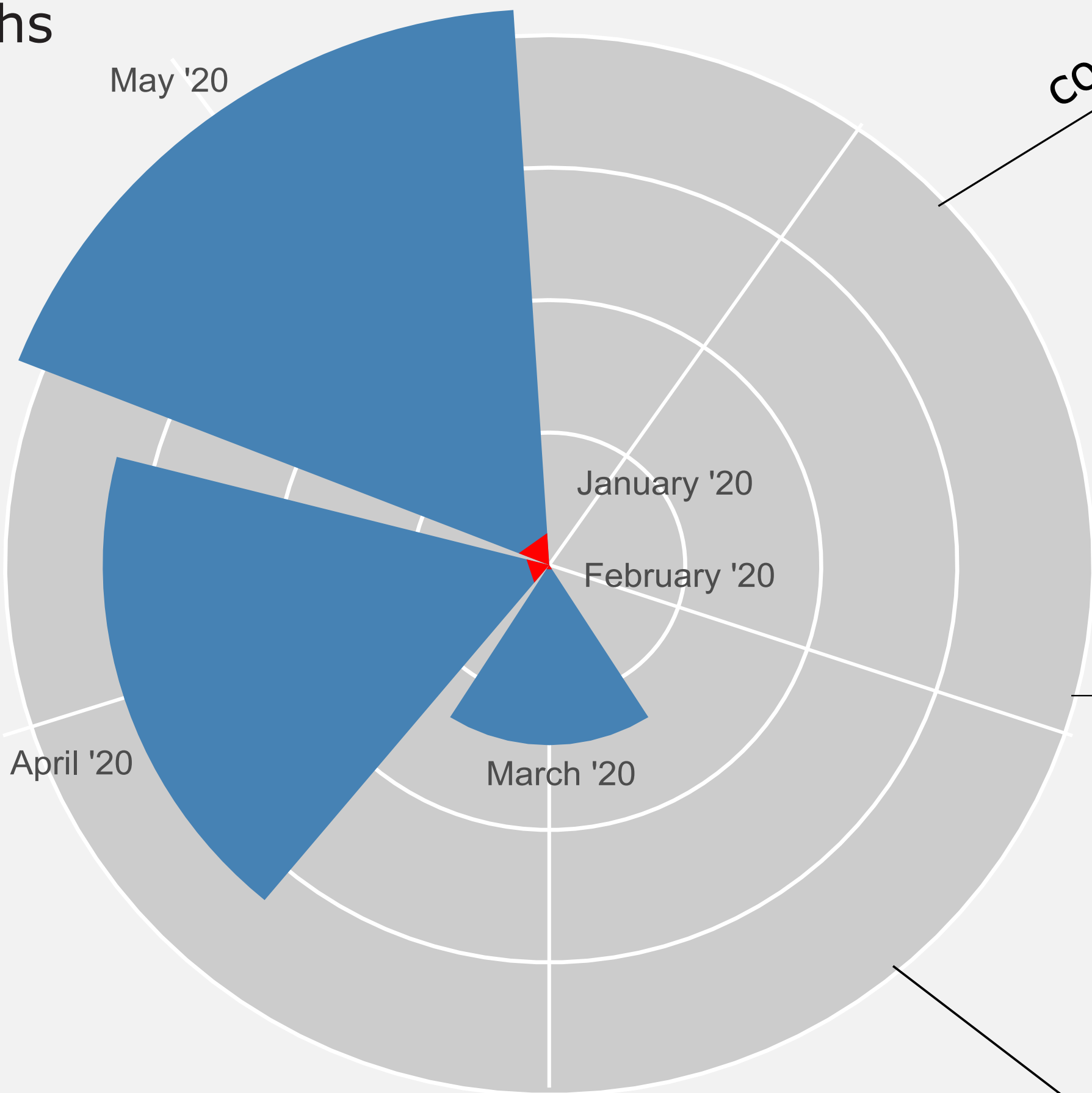
Audience

Historians, Data enthusiasts, those seeking to understand the current crisis.

A Rose of Death

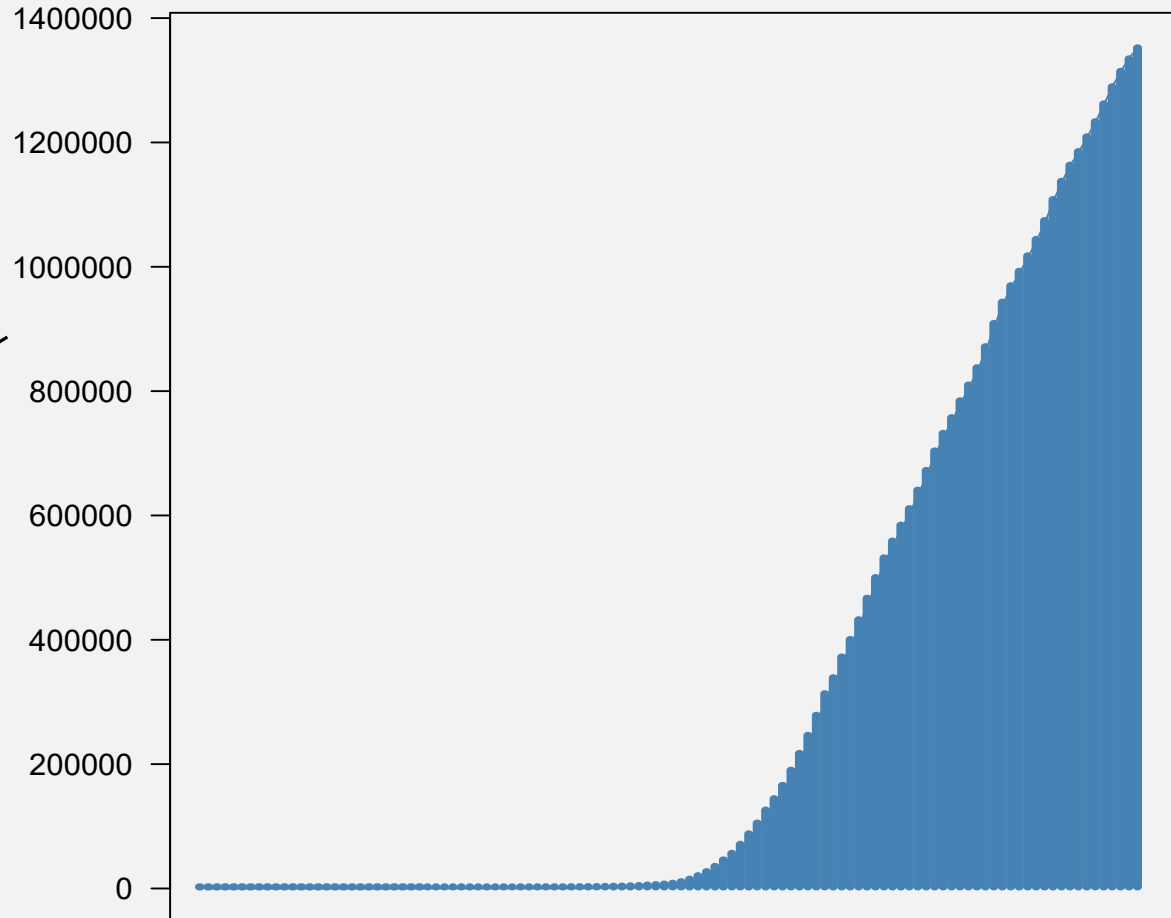
- Nightingale used a coxcomb diagram like this to show how unsanitary conditions caused unnecessary deaths in the Crimean War

■ cases
■ deaths



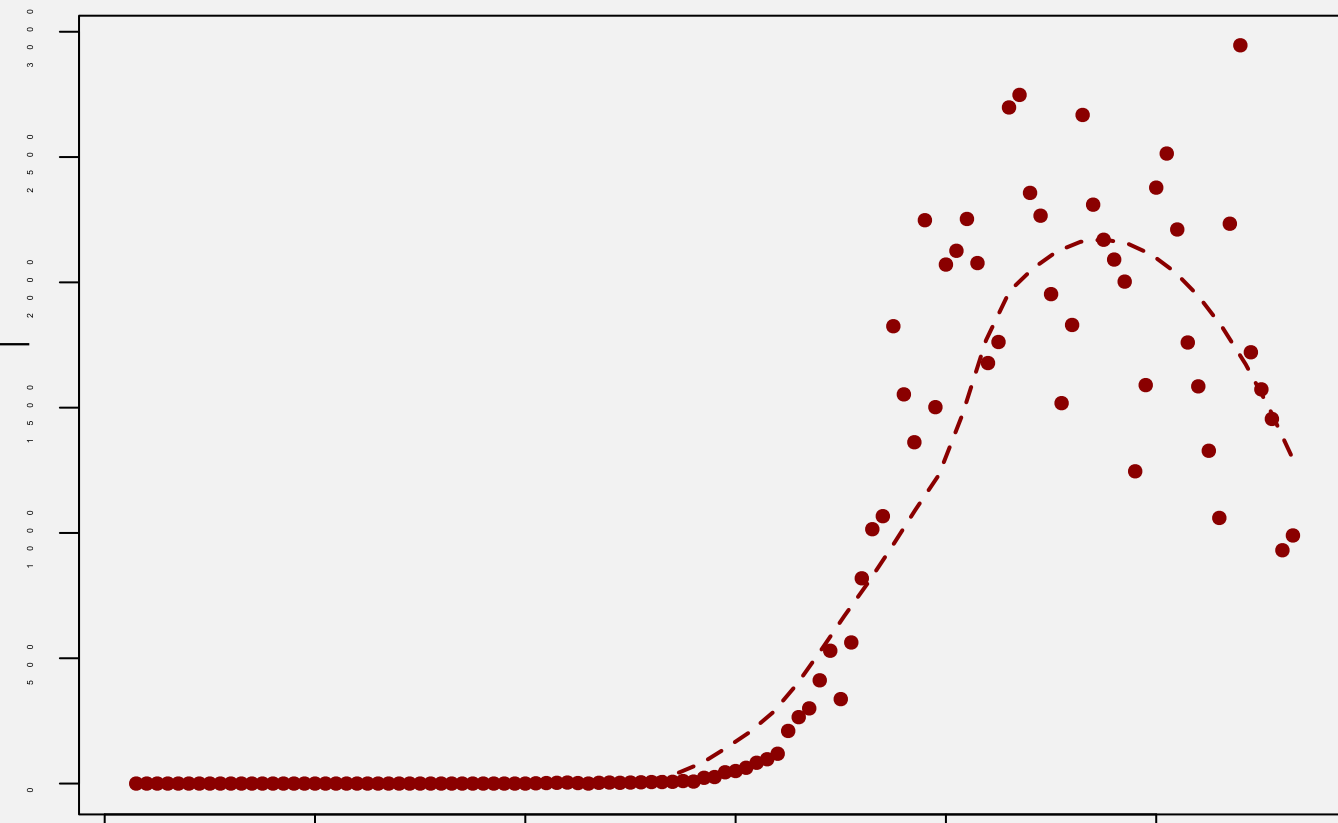
Time

The number of cases has risen exponentially since January.



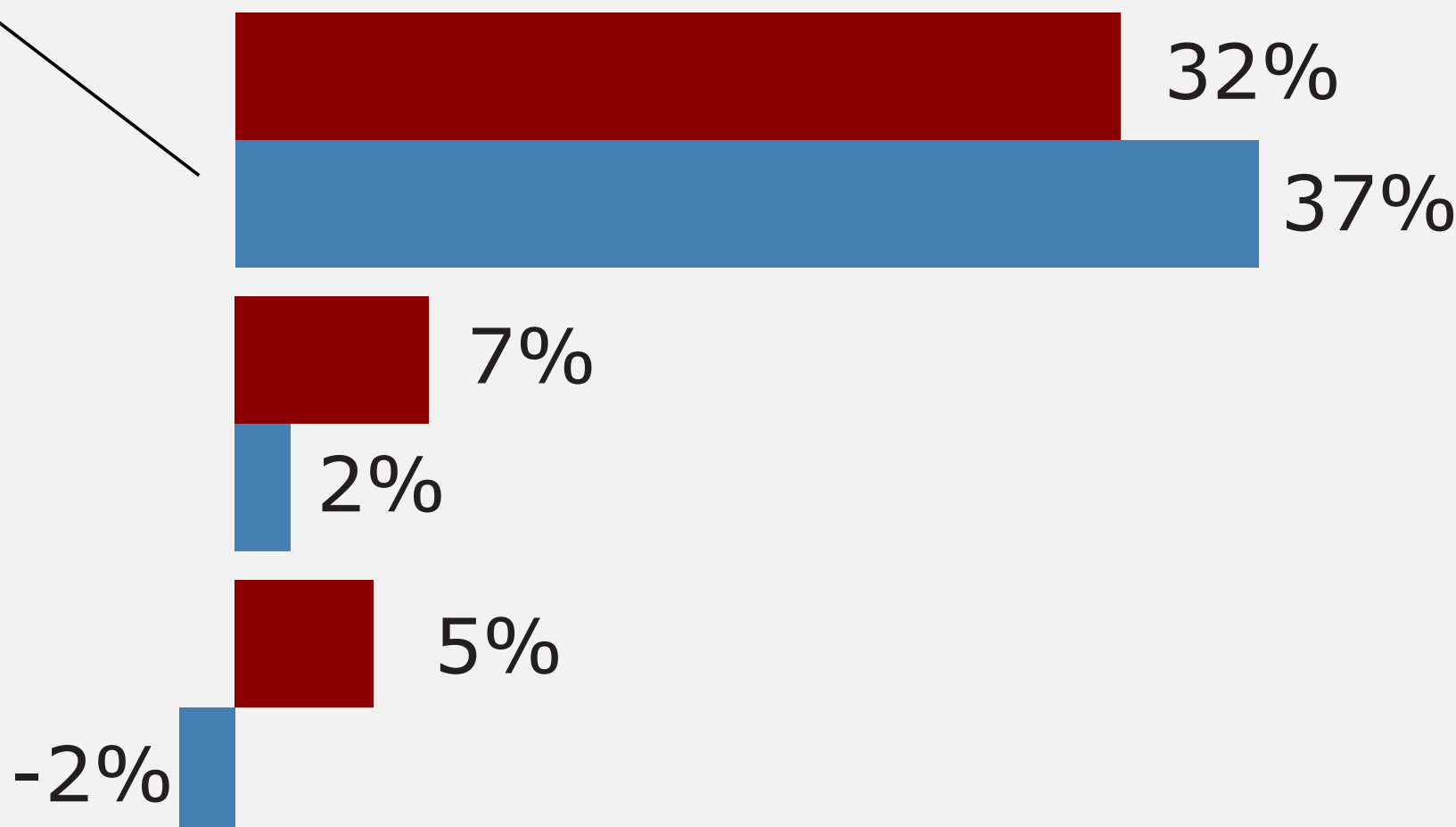
Impact

New Deaths may have peaked since April



Change

The daily rate of new cases decreased in May, but reported deaths continue to rise

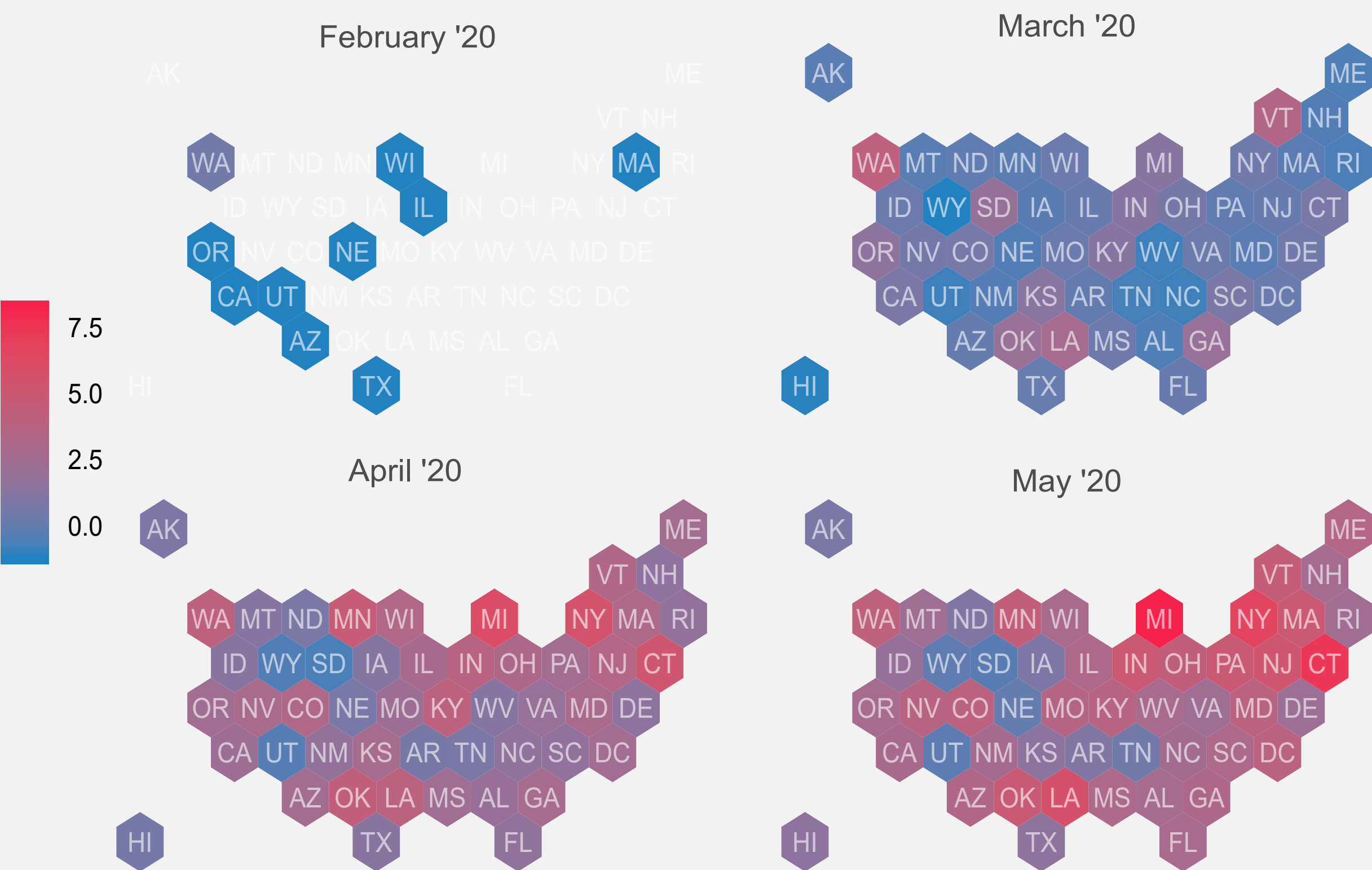


Findings

- Nightingale used data visualization to capture context of time, relative impact of casualties, and change across months.
- Breaking the graphical elements apart, we learn about the pandemic we face today
- Adding Geography to our context, we gain further understanding of the nationwide impact, while remaining true to the elements that made Nightingale's work so effective.

A Modern Approach

- Today we can use the power of more computationally advanced visualization techniques like the Hex map shown here to expand our knowledge - showing how the outbreak has spread over time.



Data:

139,000 rows and 6 columns, aggregated by month or geography as needed.

Source:

Collected by the New York Times from the CDC. Contains confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths associated with the pandemic.

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