COVID-19 Data Analysis

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Overview

In this project I will be analyzing COVID-19 time series data from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. The data set contains daily time series summary tables, including confirmed, deaths and recovered.

My goal is to better understand the COVID-19 pandemic and what factors contributed to deaths in the United States.

On March 10, 2023, the Johns Hopkins Corona Virus Resource Center ceased its collecting and reporting of global COVID-19 data.

Import COVID-19 Data

```
# Read time series data from Johns Hopkins University GitHub repository

# Raw base URL

url_base <-

"https://raw.githubusercontent.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/master/csse_covid_19_data/csse_covid_19_file_names <- c("time_series_covid19_confirmed_US.csv",

"time_series_covid19_deaths_US.csv")

urls <- str_c(url_base, file_names)

us_cases <- read_csv(urls[1], show_col_types = FALSE)

us_deaths <- read_csv(urls[2], show_col_types = FALSE)
```

Tidy and Transform Data

Examine Our Data

Here's our raw data:

```
# Display our raw COVID-19 data
head(us_cases)

## # A tibble: 6 x 1,154

## UID iso2 iso3 code3 FIPS Admin2 Province_State Country_Region Lat
## <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl> <chr> <chr> <chr> <chr> <dbl> ## 1 84001001 US USA 840 1001 Autauga Alabama US 32.5
```

```
## 2 84001003 US
                    USA
                            840 1003 Baldwin Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                              30.7
## 3 84001005 US
                    USA
                            840 1005 Barbour Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                              31.9
## 4 84001007 US
                    USA
                            840 1007 Bibb
                                              Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                              33.0
                                                             US
## 5 84001009 US
                    USA
                            840 1009 Blount Alabama
                                                                              34.0
## 6 84001011 US
                    USA
                            840 1011 Bullock Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                              32.1
## # i 1,145 more variables: Long_ <dbl>, Combined_Key <chr>, `1/22/20` <dbl>,
      `1/23/20` <dbl>, `1/24/20` <dbl>, `1/25/20` <dbl>, `1/26/20` <dbl>,
       `1/27/20` <dbl>, `1/28/20` <dbl>, `1/29/20` <dbl>, `1/30/20` <dbl>,
## #
       `1/31/20` <dbl>, `2/1/20` <dbl>, `2/2/20` <dbl>, `2/3/20` <dbl>,
## #
       `2/4/20` <dbl>, `2/5/20` <dbl>, `2/6/20` <dbl>, `2/7/20` <dbl>,
## #
      `2/8/20` <dbl>, `2/9/20` <dbl>, `2/10/20` <dbl>, `2/11/20` <dbl>,
      `2/12/20` <dbl>, `2/13/20` <dbl>, `2/14/20` <dbl>, `2/15/20` <dbl>, ...
## #
```

head(us_deaths)

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 1,155
         UID iso2 iso3 code3 FIPS Admin2 Province_State Country_Region
##
                                                                              Lat
##
        <dbl> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <chr>
                                                             <chr>>
                                              <chr>
                                                                            <dbl>
## 1 84001001 US
                    USA
                            840 1001 Autauga Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                             32.5
                                                             US
## 2 84001003 US
                    USA
                            840 1003 Baldwin Alabama
                                                                             30.7
## 3 84001005 US
                   USA
                            840 1005 Barbour Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                             31.9
## 4 84001007 US
                   USA
                            840 1007 Bibb
                                              Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                             33.0
## 5 84001009 US
                   USA
                            840 1009 Blount Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                             34.0
## 6 84001011 US
                   USA
                            840 1011 Bullock Alabama
                                                             US
                                                                             32.1
## # i 1,146 more variables: Long_ <dbl>, Combined_Key <chr>, Population <dbl>,
      `1/22/20` <dbl>, `1/23/20` <dbl>, `1/24/20` <dbl>, `1/25/20` <dbl>,
       `1/26/20` <dbl>, `1/27/20` <dbl>, `1/28/20` <dbl>, `1/29/20` <dbl>,
## #
       `1/30/20` <dbl>, `1/31/20` <dbl>, `2/1/20` <dbl>, `2/2/20` <dbl>,
## #
## #
      `2/3/20` <dbl>, `2/4/20` <dbl>, `2/5/20` <dbl>, `2/6/20` <dbl>,
      `2/7/20` <dbl>, `2/8/20` <dbl>, `2/9/20` <dbl>, `2/10/20` <dbl>,
      `2/11/20` <dbl>, `2/12/20` <dbl>, `2/13/20` <dbl>, `2/14/20` <dbl>, ...
## #
```

Lets continue with looking at our US data.

A tibble: 6 x 6

```
Admin2 Province_State Country_Region Combined_Key
                                                                              Cases
                                                                  Date
##
     <chr>>
             <chr>
                             <chr>
                                                                   <date>
                                                                              <dbl>
                                             <chr>
## 1 Autauga Alabama
                             US
                                             Autauga, Alabama, US 2020-01-22
                                                                                  0
                             US
## 2 Autauga Alabama
                                             Autauga, Alabama, US 2020-01-23
                                                                                  0
                                             Autauga, Alabama, US 2020-01-24
## 3 Autauga Alabama
                             US
                                                                                  0
                             US
                                                                                  0
## 4 Autauga Alabama
                                             Autauga, Alabama, US 2020-01-25
## 5 Autauga Alabama
                             US
                                             Autauga, Alabama, US 2020-01-26
                                                                                  0
## 6 Autauga Alabama
                                             Autauga, Alabama, US 2020-01-27
                             US
                                                                                  0
```

head(us_deaths_long)

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 7
##
     Admin2 Province_State Country_Region Combined_Key Population Date
                                                                                 Deaths
     <chr> <chr>
                            <chr>
                                            <chr>
                                                                                  <dbl>
                                                               <dbl> <date>
                            US
## 1 Autau~ Alabama
                                                               55869 2020-01-22
                                                                                      0
                                            Autauga, Al~
## 2 Autau~ Alabama
                            US
                                                               55869 2020-01-23
                                                                                      0
                                            Autauga, Al~
## 3 Autau~ Alabama
                            US
                                            Autauga, Al~
                                                               55869 2020-01-24
                                                                                      0
## 4 Autau~ Alabama
                            US
                                            Autauga, Al~
                                                               55869 2020-01-25
                                                                                      0
                            US
                                                                                      0
## 5 Autau~ Alabama
                                                               55869 2020-01-26
                                            Autauga, Al~
## 6 Autau~ Alabama
                            US
                                            Autauga, Al~
                                                               55869 2020-01-27
                                                                                      0
```

We can combine our US data.

##

Admin2

```
# Combine us cases and deaths data
us_data <- us_cases_long %>%
full_join(us_deaths_long)
```

```
## Joining with `by = join_by(Admin2, Province_State, Country_Region,
## Combined_Key, Date)`
```

Province_State

Lets filter our US data to only include states with cases greater than 0. This will help us with our analysis.

```
# Filter US data where the cases and population are positive
us_data <- us_data %>% filter(Cases > 0) %>% filter(Population > 0)
summary(us_data)
```

Country_Region

Combined_Key

```
##
    Length: 3424407
                        Length: 3424407
                                            Length: 3424407
                                                                Length: 3424407
    Class :character
                        Class : character
                                            Class : character
                                                                Class : character
    Mode :character
                        Mode :character
                                            Mode :character
                                                                Mode : character
##
##
##
##
         Date
                              Cases
                                               Population
                                                                     Deaths
##
           :2020-01-22
                                                            86
                                                                              0.0
    Min.
                          Min.
                                         1
                                             Min.
                                                    :
                                                                 Min.
##
                                       699
                                             1st Qu.:
                                                         11710
                                                                 1st Qu.:
                                                                             10.0
    1st Qu.:2020-12-27
                          1st Qu.:
  Median :2021-09-20
                          Median:
                                      2865
                                             Median :
                                                         26830
                                                                 Median :
                                                                             47.0
## Mean
           :2021-09-19
                          Mean
                                     15559
                                             Mean
                                                       106024
                                                                 Mean
                                                                            204.2
    3rd Qu.:2022-06-15
                          3rd Qu.:
                                      9354
                                             3rd Qu.:
                                                         69830
                                                                 3rd Qu.:
                                                                            138.0
## Max.
           :2023-03-09
                                 :3710586
                                             Max.
                                                    :10039107
                                                                        :35545.0
                          Max.
                                                                 Max.
```

Visualizations and Analysis

Lets start with some visualizations of the US data. We will create a plot to show the trends in cases and deaths over time in the US and then focus in on my home state of California.

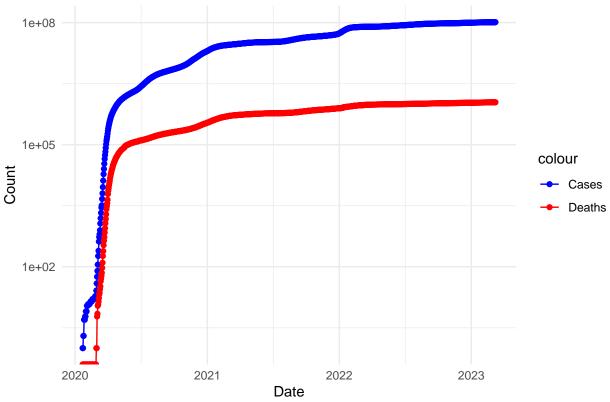
```
# US totals by state
us_by_state <- us_data %>%
  group_by(Province_State, Country_Region, Date) %>%
  summarise(Cases = sum(Cases), Deaths = sum(Deaths), Population = sum(Population)) %>%
  mutate(Deaths_Per_Mil = Deaths * 1000000 / Population,
         Cases_Per_Mil = Cases * 1000000 / Population) %>%
  select (Province State, Country Region, Date, Cases, Deaths, Population, Deaths Per Mil,

→ Cases_Per_Mil) %>%

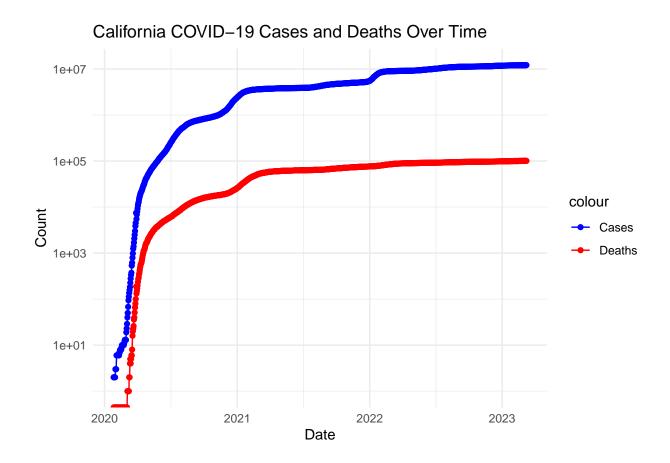
  ungroup()
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'Province_State', 'Country_Region'. You can
## override using the `.groups` argument.
# US totals
us_totals <- us_data %>%
  group_by(Country_Region, Date) %>%
  summarise(Cases = sum(Cases), Deaths = sum(Deaths), Population = sum(Population)) %>%
  mutate(Deaths_Per_Mil = Deaths * 1000000 / Population,
         Cases_Per_Mil = Cases * 1000000 / Population) %>%
  select(Country_Region, Date, Cases, Deaths, Population, Deaths_Per_Mil, Cases_Per_Mil)
  ungroup()
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'Country_Region'. You can override using
## the `.groups` argument.
# Plot US totals for cases and deaths over time and filter to only show cases > 0. Lets
→ also scale Y so we can compare the trends.
us totals %>%
 filter(Cases > 0) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Date, y = Cases)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = Cases, color = "Cases")) +
  geom_point(aes(y = Cases, color = "Cases")) +
  geom line(aes(y = Deaths, color = "Deaths")) +
  geom_point(aes(y = Deaths, color = "Deaths")) +
  scale v log10() +
  labs(title = "US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths Over Time",
      x = "Date",
       y = "Count") +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Cases" = "blue", "Deaths" = "red")) +
  theme_minimal()
```

Warning in scale_y_log10(): log-10 transformation introduced infinite values.
log-10 transformation introduced infinite values.

US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths Over Time



Warning in scale_y_log10(): log-10 transformation introduced infinite values.



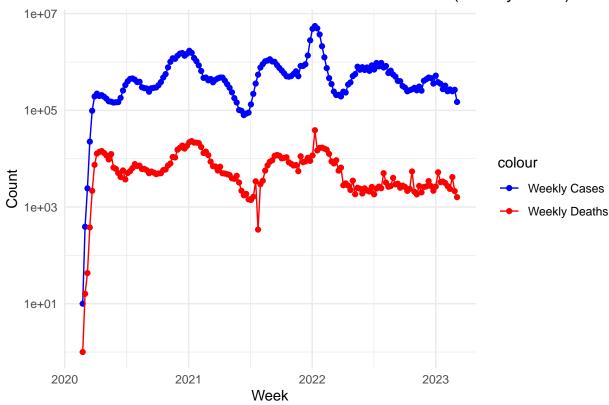
US Analysis

Now lets do some analysis. We will look at the new cases and deaths over time by week.

```
us totals <- us totals %>%
  mutate(New_Cases = Cases - lag(Cases, default = 0),
         New_Deaths = Deaths - lag(Deaths, default = 0))
us_totals_weekly <- us_totals %>%
  mutate(Week = floor_date(Date, "week")) %>%
  group_by(Week) %>%
  summarise(
    Weekly_Cases = sum(New_Cases, na.rm = TRUE),
    Weekly_Deaths = sum(New_Deaths, na.rm = TRUE)
  )
us_totals_weekly %>%
  filter(Weekly_Cases > 0, Weekly_Deaths > 0) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Week, y = Weekly_Cases)) +
  geom_line(aes(color = "Weekly Cases")) +
  geom_point(aes(color = "Weekly Cases")) +
  geom_line(aes(y = Weekly_Deaths, color = "Weekly Deaths")) +
  geom_point(aes(y = Weekly_Deaths, color = "Weekly Deaths")) +
  scale_y_log10() +
  labs(
```

```
title = "US COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths Over Time (Weekly Totals)",
    x = "Week",
    y = "Count"
) +
scale_color_manual(values = c("Weekly Cases" = "blue", "Weekly Deaths" = "red")) +
theme_minimal()
```

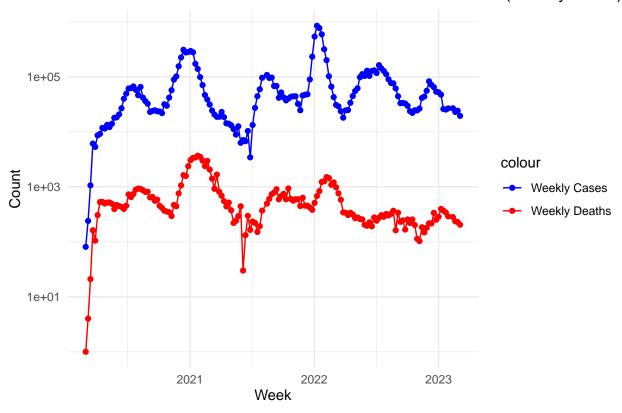
US COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths Over Time (Weekly Totals)



```
us_by_state <- us_by_state %>%
  mutate(New_Cases = Cases - lag(Cases, default = 0),
        New_Deaths = Deaths - lag(Deaths, default = 0))
ca_totals_weekly <- us_by_state %>%
  filter(Province_State == "California") %>%
 mutate(Week = floor_date(Date, "week")) %>%
  group_by(Week) %>%
  summarise(
    Weekly_Cases = sum(New_Cases, na.rm = TRUE),
    Weekly_Deaths = sum(New_Deaths, na.rm = TRUE)
  )
ca_totals_weekly %>%
 filter(Weekly_Cases > 0, Weekly_Deaths > 0) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Week, y = Weekly_Cases)) +
  geom_line(aes(color = "Weekly Cases")) +
 geom_point(aes(color = "Weekly Cases")) +
```

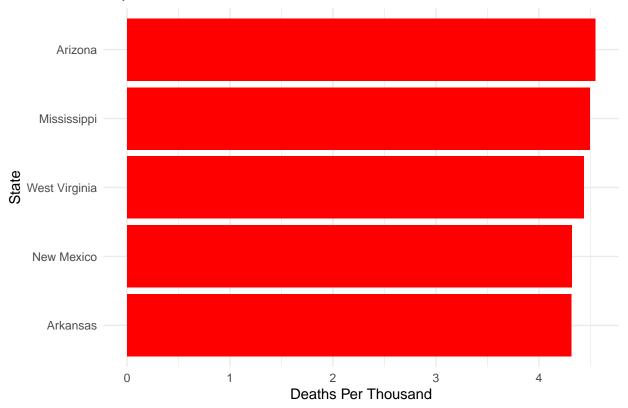
```
geom_line(aes(y = Weekly_Deaths, color = "Weekly Deaths")) +
geom_point(aes(y = Weekly_Deaths, color = "Weekly Deaths")) +
scale_y_log10() +
labs(
   title = "California COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths Over Time (Weekly Totals)",
   x = "Week",
   y = "Count"
) +
scale_color_manual(values = c("Weekly Cases" = "blue", "Weekly Deaths" = "red")) +
theme_minimal()
```

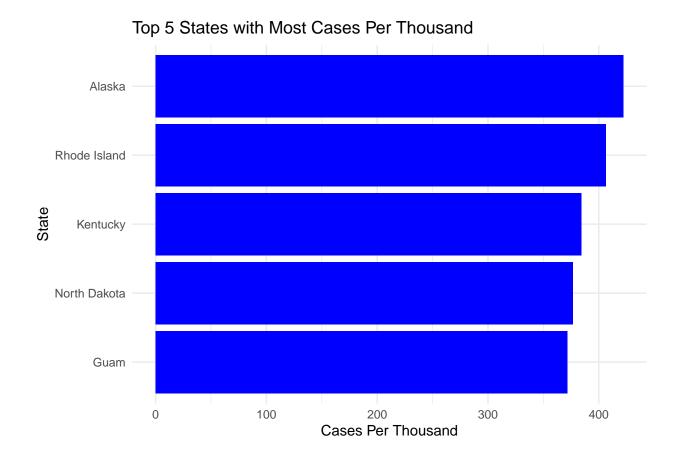
California COVID-19 New Cases and Deaths Over Time (Weekly Totals)



Now lets see which states had the most deaths and cases per thousand.

Top 5 States with Most Deaths Per Thousand





Model

##

Lets train a linear regression model to predict the number of deaths per thousand based on the number of cases per thousand.

Initial Prediction

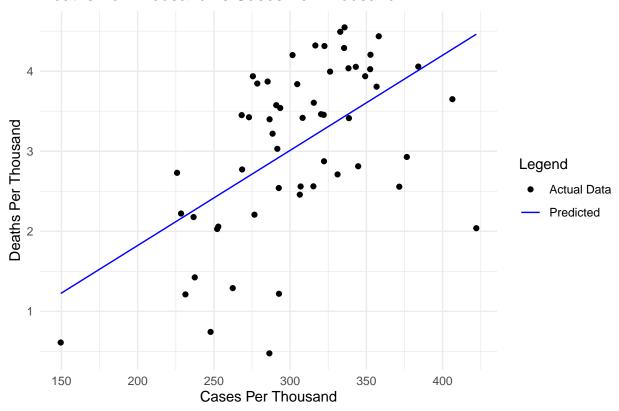
```
# Create a linear regression model to predict deaths per thousand based on cases per
\hookrightarrow thousand
model <- lm(Deaths_Per_Thousand ~ Cases_Per_Thousand, data = us_state_totals)</pre>
summary(model)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = Deaths_Per_Thousand ~ Cases_Per_Thousand, data = us_state_totals)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q Median
                                 3Q
                                         Max
## -2.4231 -0.6158 0.1588 0.6722 1.2157
## Coefficients:
                        Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
```

```
## (Intercept) -0.552774  0.762354 -0.725  0.472
## Cases_Per_Thousand  0.011880  0.002467  4.816 1.23e-05 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.8967 on 54 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.3004, Adjusted R-squared: 0.2875
## F-statistic: 23.19 on 1 and 54 DF, p-value: 1.226e-05
```

```
# Lets add our predicted deaths per thousand to our data as a new column
us_state_totals <- us_state_totals %>%
  mutate(Predicted_Deaths_Per_Thousand = predict(model))

us_state_totals %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Cases_Per_Thousand, y = Deaths_Per_Thousand)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = "Actual Data")) +
  geom_line(aes(y = Predicted_Deaths_Per_Thousand, color = "Predicted")) +
  labs(title = "Deaths Per Thousand vs Cases Per Thousand",
        x = "Cases Per Thousand",
        y = "Deaths Per Thousand",
        color = "Legend") +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("Actual Data" = "black", "Predicted" = "blue")) +
  theme_minimal()
```

Deaths Per Thousand vs Cases Per Thousand



Based on the Multiple R-squared, we can see that our model explains about 30% of the variation in deaths per thousand. This is not a very good model. We can try to improve it by adding more features to our

model.

Additional Features

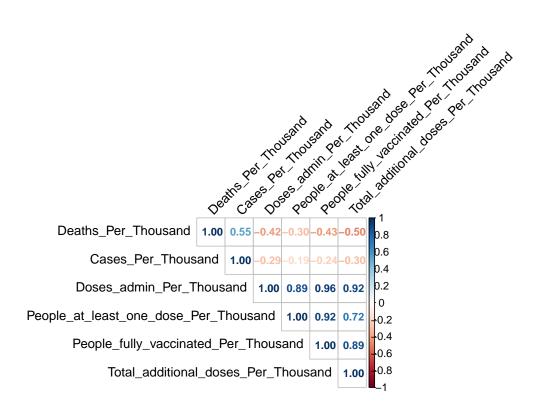
Lets try adding vaccination data to our model and see how that impacts our predictions. We will use the vaccination data from GovEx GitHub repository.

```
# Read vaccination data from GovEx GitHub repository
vaccine_data_url <-</pre>
uhttps://raw.githubusercontent.com/govex/COVID-19/refs/heads/master/data_tables/vaccine_data/us_dat
# Lets add the columns
→ Doses_admin, People_at_least_one_dose, People_fully_vaccinated, Total_additional_doses
vaccine_data <- read_csv(vaccine_data_url, show_col_types = FALSE) %>%
  select(Date, Province_State, Country_Region, Doses_admin, People_at_least_one_dose,
  → People fully vaccinated, Total additional doses)
# Find the latest vaccination totals
us_vaccine_totals <- vaccine_data %>%
  group_by(Province_State) %>%
  summarise(
   Doses_admin = max(Doses_admin, na.rm = TRUE),
   People_at_least_one_dose = max(People_at_least_one_dose, na.rm = TRUE),
   People_fully_vaccinated = max(People_fully_vaccinated, na.rm = TRUE),
   Total_additional_doses = max(Total_additional_doses, na.rm = TRUE)
  )
# Join vaccine data to us state totals data
us_state_totals <- us_state_totals %>%
 left_join(us_vaccine_totals, by = "Province_State")
# Make a per thousand column for the vaccine data
us_state_totals <- us_state_totals %>%
  mutate(
   Doses_admin_Per_Thousand = 1000 * Doses_admin / Population,
   People_at_least_one_dose_Per_Thousand = 1000 * People_at_least_one_dose / Population,
   People_fully_vaccinated_Per_Thousand = 1000 * People_fully_vaccinated / Population,
   Total_additional_doses_Per_Thousand = 1000 * Total_additional_doses / Population
  )
```

Looking at our new vaccination data, we have several features to choose from. They're likely highly correlated. Lets see how they see how they correlate with our deaths per thousand and one another.

```
corrplot(
  correlation_matrix,
  method = "number",  # Show correlation coefficients
  type = "upper",  # Only show the upper half
  tl.col = "black",  # Text label color
  tl.srt = 45,  # Rotate text labels
  title = "Correlation Matrix for Deaths Per Thousand and Vaccination Data",
  mar = c(0, 0, 1, 0),  # Adjust margins (optional)
  number.cex = 0.8  # Control size of the correlation coefficients
)
```

Correlation Matrix for Deaths Per Thousand and Vaccination Data



Additional doses per thousand seems to have the strongest correlation with deaths per thousand. Lets try training a new model and add the additional doses per thousand feature.

```
# Create a linear regression model to predict deaths per thousand based on cases per

thousand and additional doses per thousand

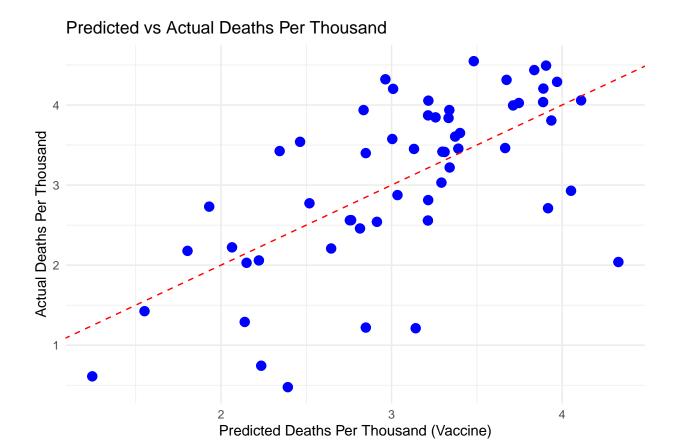
model_vaccine <- lm(Deaths_Per_Thousand ~ Cases_Per_Thousand +

Total_additional_doses_Per_Thousand, data = us_state_totals)

summary(model_vaccine)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = Deaths_Per_Thousand ~ Cases_Per_Thousand + Total_additional_doses_Per_Thousand,
```

```
##
      data = us_state_totals)
##
## Residuals:
##
      Min
               1Q Median
                               3Q
                                      Max
## -2.2908 -0.2854 0.1337 0.5752 1.3575
##
## Coefficients:
                                       Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept)
                                       1.661495
                                                  0.968965
                                                           1.715 0.092241 .
## Cases_Per_Thousand
                                                  0.002379
                                                            3.990 0.000204 ***
                                       0.009493
## Total_additional_doses_Per_Thousand -0.004141
                                                  0.001252 -3.308 0.001693 **
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.8241 on 53 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.4202, Adjusted R-squared: 0.3983
## F-statistic: 19.2 on 2 and 53 DF, p-value: 5.342e-07
# Now lets compare our predicted deaths per thousand to our actual deaths per thousand
us_state_totals <- us_state_totals %>%
 mutate(Predicted_Deaths_Per_Thousand_Vaccine = predict(model_vaccine))
# Now lets plot our Predicted_Deaths_Per_Thousand_Vaccine vs the actual
→ Deaths Per Thousand
ggplot(us_state_totals, aes(x = Predicted_Deaths_Per_Thousand_Vaccine, y =
→ Deaths_Per_Thousand)) +
 geom_point(color = "blue", size = 3) +
 geom_abline(intercept = 0, slope = 1, color = "red", linetype = "dashed") +
 labs(x = "Predicted Deaths Per Thousand (Vaccine)",
      y = "Actual Deaths Per Thousand",
      title = "Predicted vs Actual Deaths Per Thousand") +
 theme_minimal()
```



We're going in the right direction because Multiple R-squared indicates our model explains about 42% of the variation in deaths per thousand. This is a significant improvement over our previous model.

Bias Identification and Conclusion

Regarding bias, it's important to recognize that different states may have different criteria for attributing deaths to COVID-19. Some may report more conservatively, while others more liberally. This could lead to bias in our model and our predictions. Additionally, the data is not perfect and there may be missing or inaccurate data points. This could also lead to bias in our model and our predictions.

In conclusion, we were able to train a model which was able to explain roughly 42% of the variation in deaths per thousand. We were able to do this by adding additional features to our model, specifically vaccination data. This is a significant improvement over our previous model which only explained about 30% of the variation in deaths per thousand.

We can see that the model is not perfect, but it does provide some insight into the relationship between cases per thousand and deaths per thousand.

Session Info

Record our session info for reproducibility.

sessionInfo()

R version 4.4.3 (2025-02-28 ucrt)

```
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64
## Running under: Windows 11 x64 (build 26100)
## Matrix products: default
##
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=English_United States.utf8
## [2] LC_CTYPE=English_United States.utf8
## [3] LC_MONETARY=English_United States.utf8
## [4] LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=English_United States.utf8
## time zone: America/Los_Angeles
## tzcode source: internal
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats
                 graphics grDevices utils
                                               datasets methods
                                                                    base
## other attached packages:
##
  [1] forcats_1.0.0
                        stringr_1.5.1
                                        dplyr_1.1.4
                                                        purrr_1.0.4
   [5] readr 2.1.5
                        tidyr 1.3.1
                                        tibble_3.2.1
                                                        ggplot2_3.5.1
  [9] tidyverse_2.0.0 corrplot_0.95
                                        lubridate_1.9.4
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
                          gtable_0.3.6
## [1] bit 4.6.0
                                            crayon_1.5.3
                                                               compiler_4.4.3
## [5] tidyselect_1.2.1
                         parallel_4.4.3
                                            scales_1.3.0
                                                               yaml_2.3.10
## [9] fastmap_1.2.0
                          R6_2.6.1
                                            labeling_0.4.3
                                                               generics_0.1.3
                                            munsell_0.5.1
## [13] curl_6.2.1
                          knitr_1.49
                                                              pillar_1.10.1
## [17] tzdb_0.4.0
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                                            utf8_1.2.4
                                                               stringi_1.8.4
## [21] xfun_0.51
                          bit64_4.6.0-1
                                            timechange_0.3.0 cli_3.6.4
## [25] withr_3.0.2
                          magrittr_2.0.3
                                            digest_0.6.37
                                                              grid_4.4.3
## [29] vroom_1.6.5
                          rstudioapi_0.17.1 hms_1.1.3
                                                              lifecycle_1.0.4
## [33] vctrs_0.6.5
                          evaluate_1.0.3
                                                               farver_2.1.2
                                            glue_1.8.0
## [37] colorspace_2.1-1 rmarkdown_2.29
                                            tools_4.4.3
                                                              pkgconfig_2.0.3
## [41] htmltools_0.5.8.1
```