

# Tracking COVID-19 Cases Across Different Settlement Types in New York State

https:  
//github.com/sgm22/MiltonZouKhalsa\_\_\_ENV872\_EDA\_FinalProject

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2022-11-22

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## 0.1 Rationale and Research Questions

### 0.1.1 Rationale

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus, n.d.). The virus is primarily spread from person to person through respiratory droplets and as such, population density plays a role in the transmission of the virus with many experts suggesting that physical distancing is an effective way to combat its spread (CDCMMWR, 2020; What Is Coronavirus?, 2022). Since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020, there has been a resurgence in COVID-19 infections across the globe as a result of new strains of the virus (CDC, 2020). Policy decisions to protect human health leverages data that such as case numbers, hospitalizations, and death resulting from COVID-19 to project COVID-19 spread (Truelove et al., n.d.). Very few epidemiological COVID-19 models incorporate population density explicitly even though population density is thought to be an important factor (Hamidi et al., 2020; Wong & Li, 2020).

In New York State, since the beginning of the pandemic there has been over 6 million cases of COVID-19. In January 2022, the state recorded the highest number of cases while in April 2020, it recorded the highest record of death (Times, 2020). The density of people in New York State varies drastically across the state with 43% of the state's population living in the five boroughs of New York City (New York State Tracking Program | Tracking | NCEH | CDC, 2019). Of the 62 counties in the State, Kings County is the most populated with over 2 million residents, while Hamilton County is the least populated with about 4,485 residents (New York Population 2022 (Demographics, Maps, Graphs), n.d.). With physical distancing playing an important role in reducing the likelihood of infection, this paper explores how well absolute population and population density predict COVID-19 case numbers in the diversely sized New York State. Further, we explore whether the relationship between absolute population and population density changes among different settlement types.

Settlement types are defined as population centers of humans who have developed a long-term community in a specific area (Settlements Overview & Types | What Are Settlements?, n.d.). In this study, settlement types are classified as rural, micropolitan, and urban. We define rural settlements as counties with a population size of less than 25,000 people, micropolitans as counties with a population size of between 25,000 and 49,999 people, and an urban settlement as a county with more than 50,000 people (adapted from USDA ERS - What Is Rural?, n.d.). We hope that by better understanding the importance of population size and density on COVID-19 prevalence and how that varies across settlement type, we are able to better understand if population density and/or absolute population can be used as a proxy when formulating policy decisions around COVID-19.

### 0.1.2 Research Questions

1. What is the correlation between population density and absolute population and the number of COVID-19 cases across New York State?
2. What is the relationship between the predictor variable: settlement types and the response variable: cumulative COVID-19 cases?
3. What is the correlation between absolute population and population density and the number of COVID-19 tests does done? Does the stronger correlated relationship vary among settlement types?

## Set-up Working Directory, Import and Merge Data sets

In order to answer our research question, we imported data that contains information about New York (NY) state population size and density by county in 2022 from the U.S. Census Bureau. This information was then combined with data regarding number of positive COVID-19 cases, quantity of COVID-19 tests conducted and other relevant information collected by the New York Department of Health from March 1, 2020 to November 22, 2022.

```
##### Set working directory #####
```

```
getwd() #Check working directory
```

```
## [1] "/Users/danleizou/MiltonZouKhalsa__ENV872_EDA_FinalProject3"
```

```
#Load packages
```

```
library(rvest)
library(tidyverse)
library(ggplot2)
library(ggpubr)
library(lubridate)
library(dplyr)
library(sf)
library(leaflet)
library(mapview)
library(AER)
library(corrplot)
library(RColorBrewer)
library(knitr)
library(MASS)
library(kableExtra)
```

```
#Set theme
```

```
my_theme <- theme_bw(base_size = 12) +
  theme(axis.text = element_text(color = "black"),
        legend.position = "top", legend.justification = "center") +
  theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))
theme_set(my_theme)
```

```
#Import NY State county level COVID data (March 1, 2020 to November 22, 2022)
```

```
#from NY Health.
```

```
ny_covid_dat <- read.csv("../Data/Raw_Data/NY_COVID_County_Level.csv")
```

```
ny_covid_dat #View Data
```

##	County	sum_new_positives	sum_cumulative_no_of_positive
## 1	Albany	75450	31527049
## 2	Allegany	10396	4540770
## 3	Bronx	480247	214795050
## 4	Broome	56238	23809846
## 5	Capital Region	273064	109650058
## 6	Cattaraugus	18648	7739886
## 7	Cayuga	19636	8258733
## 8	Central New York	219659	88806060
## 9	Chautauqua	28390	11963811
## 10	Chemung	25750	10781572
## 11	Chenango	11387	4672090
## 12	Clinton	21495	7897140
## 13	Columbia	13108	5333242
## 14	Cortland	12837	5327906
## 15	Delaware	9685	3752771
## 16	Dutchess	79872	34848939
## 17	Erie	259074	110683234
## 18	Essex	7336	2731432
## 19	Finger Lakes	291710	125914355
## 20	Franklin	11662	4435661
## 21	Fulton	15935	6306546
## 22	Genesee	16033	6962833
## 23	Greene	10413	4408700
## 24	Hamilton	1054	432991
## 25	Herkimer	16859	7020942
## 26	Jefferson	25649	9657042
## 27	Kings	860573	362966136
## 28	Lewis	7069	3184476
## 29	Livingston	13875	5860772
## 30	Long Island	1047899	463920471
## 31	Madison	16241	6602449
## 32	Mid-Hudson	732389	333323687
## 33	Mohawk Valley	132784	55129169
## 34	Monroe	184340	81266752
## 35	Montgomery	14485	5881959
## 36	Nassau	515433	225331004
## 37	New York	553801	212308156

## 38	New York City	2908643	1224453265
## 39	Niagara	57583	24783016
## 40	North Country	99779	38597015
## 41	Oneida	66461	28508629
## 42	Onondaga	137709	55993243
## 43	Ontario	25002	10107862
## 44	Orange	131134	58559762
## 45	Orleans	10149	4331454
## 46	Oswego	33236	12623729
## 47	Otsego	12728	4951672
## 48	Putnam	29694	12765002
## 49	Queens	813384	345088691
## 50	Rensselaer	40127	15928044
## 51	Richmond	200638	89295232
## 52	Rockland	112172	53675641
## 53	Saratoga	59019	22929569
## 54	Schenectady	41888	17263319
## 55	Schoharie	6316	2459421
## 56	Schuyler	4209	1680264
## 57	Seneca	7336	2910342
## 58	Southern Tier	170688	68994999
## 59	STATEWIDE	6250706	2668499796
## 60	Steuben	24398	10006178
## 61	St. Lawrence	25514	10258273
## 62	Suffolk	532466	238589467
## 63	Sullivan	23209	9439839
## 64	Tioga	13520	5420118
## 65	Tompkins	25501	8872160
## 66	Ulster	40739	17116464
## 67	Warren	18009	6588480
## 68	Washington	15050	5671655
## 69	Wayne	21009	8496183
## 70	Westchester	315569	146918040
## 71	Western New York	374091	159710717
## 72	Wyoming	9682	4267904
## 73	Yates	4284	1710253
##	sum_total_number_of_tests	sum_cumulative_no_of_tests	median_test_positive
## 1	1402792	718954664	2.43%
## 2	248725	135187844	1.67%
## 3	8847438	4167554932	2.62%
## 4	1183008	600726726	2.85%
## 5	5255122	2645289344	2.42%
## 6	307715	159238111	2.01%
## 7	395524	199795061	2.05%
## 8	4404505	2280257150	2.70%

## 9	529410	284656873	17.24%
## 10	482115	240229506	2.80%
## 11	237180	120749908	2.41%
## 12	405091	204944024	16.67%
## 13	253036	134198616	1.94%
## 14	306593	162613835	2.11%
## 15	200498	101931557	2.24%
## 16	1482191	765609824	2.30%
## 17	4230697	2209228099	2.52%
## 18	165134	82082708	1.87%
## 19	5627645	2925577026	3.11%
## 20	217883	104817335	19.51%
## 21	230615	114053436	1.69%
## 22	274587	141618902	20.54%
## 23	181361	91910867	2.54%
## 24	20261	10356622	0.00%
## 25	325883	165269120	1.80%
## 26	407594	191971766	2.41%
## 27	18713833	8370878686	2.45%
## 28	104111	52934295	17.14%
## 29	285393	152289219	21.57%
## 30	16896935	8450017694	3.21%
## 31	372206	191580055	1.89%
## 32	13407104	6513198457	3.08%
## 33	2740911	1402887769	2.05%
## 34	3656142	1917145805	3.25%
## 35	223329	114646701	17.02%
## 36	8400598	4188172601	2.99%
## 37	14450368	6672796856	2.09%
## 38	60433651	27893288263	2.51%
## 39	904150	468974555	20.69%
## 40	1940611	970267992	2.58%
## 41	1527340	790655393	2.04%
## 42	2797843	1457537033	2.87%
## 43	480819	244314298	2.55%
## 44	1968284	904265527	3.72%
## 45	158360	79497423	19.67%
## 46	532339	268731166	1.81%
## 47	312369	158059656	2.10%
## 48	490627	243060578	2.59%
## 49	14735060	6902671989	2.49%
## 50	875724	447596670	21.30%
## 51	3686952	1779385800	3.25%
## 52	2358136	1029309794	3.01%
## 53	1076644	532008522	2.44%



## 54	837442	420680184	23.60%
## 55	121375	60203463	18.29%
## 56	99602	47465529	1.82%
## 57	139448	69545097	19.57%
## 58	5973213	3285431777	2.02%
## 59	122900394	59623500954	3.05%
## 60	476678	233587858	2.50%
## 61	620537	323161242	2.05%
## 62	8496337	4261845093	3.43%
## 63	377092	162432097	3.13%
## 64	234100	115425950	2.59%
## 65	3060032	1825314743	10.08%
## 66	867586	439724686	2.64%
## 67	339906	161155740	2.31%
## 68	288217	138784081	2.00%
## 69	383003	193346376	2.53%
## 70	5863188	2968795951	2.92%
## 71	6220697	3257285482	2.22%
## 72	158197	82232070	18.97%
## 73	91696	45587836	14.29%

*#Import NY population data (2022)*

```
ny_pop_dat <- read.csv("../Data/Raw_Data/NY_County_Level_Population_Data.csv"
,stringsAsFactors = TRUE)
```

ny\_pop\_dat

##	County	pop2022	area_milessquared	density_permilessquared
## 1	Kings	2782348	69.8126	39854.5289
## 2	Queens	2440412	108.7681	22436.8367
## 3	New York City	1715927	22.6558	75738.8946
## 4	Suffolk	1532434	911.7219	1680.8130
## 5	Bronx	1490164	42.0506	35437.3653
## 6	Nassau	1407022	284.8100	4940.2121
## 7	Westchester	1015525	430.5160	2358.8553
## 8	Erie	961276	1042.6977	921.9125
## 9	Monroe	762463	657.2105	1160.1504
## 10	Richmond	501151	58.1779	8614.1174
## 11	Onondaga	478414	778.4094	614.6046
## 12	Orange	407010	811.6988	501.4299
## 13	Rockland	343657	173.5039	1980.6877
## 14	Albany	316976	522.8113	606.2914
## 15	Dutchess	295595	795.6356	371.5206

## 16	Saratoga	238689	809.9962	294.6792
## 17	Oneida	231575	1212.4134	191.0033
## 18	Niagara	211906	522.3527	405.6761
## 19	Broome	198299	705.7655	280.9701
## 20	Ulster	181723	1124.2350	161.6415
## 21	Rensselaer	161470	652.4322	247.4893
## 22	Schenectady	158727	204.5787	775.8727
## 23	Chautauqua	126207	1060.2265	119.0378
## 24	Jefferson	116819	1268.6770	92.0794
## 25	Oswego	116609	951.6435	122.5343
## 26	Ontario	113364	644.0640	176.0136
## 27	St. Lawrence	107817	2680.3786	40.2245
## 28	Tompkins	106576	474.6493	224.5363
## 29	Putnam	97260	230.3116	422.2975
## 30	Steuben	92502	1390.5728	66.5208
## 31	Wayne	90785	603.8264	150.3495
## 32	Chemung	83212	407.3527	204.2751
## 33	Clinton	79387	1037.8526	76.4916
## 34	Sullivan	78840	968.1347	81.4349
## 35	Cattaraugus	76386	1308.3601	58.3830
## 36	Cayuga	75492	691.5917	109.1569
## 37	Madison	66930	654.8646	102.2043
## 38	Warren	65743	866.9581	75.8318
## 39	Columbia	61264	634.7275	96.5202
## 40	Livingston	61122	631.7622	96.7484
## 41	Washington	60920	831.1669	73.2945
## 42	Herkimer	59263	1411.5299	41.9849
## 43	Genesee	58050	492.9359	117.7638
## 44	Otsego	57776	1001.7094	57.6774
## 45	Fulton	52882	495.4601	106.7331
## 46	Montgomery	49394	403.1168	122.5302
## 47	Tioga	47921	518.6096	92.4028
## 48	Greene	47673	647.1615	73.6648
## 49	Franklin	46747	1629.0705	28.6955
## 50	Chenango	46568	893.5573	52.1153
## 51	Cortland	46303	498.7729	92.8338
## 52	Allegany	45958	1029.3002	44.6498
## 53	Delaware	43574	1442.4601	30.2081
## 54	Wyoming	40207	592.7513	67.8311
## 55	Orleans	39835	391.2631	101.8113
## 56	Essex	36983	1794.2666	20.6118
## 57	Seneca	33526	323.7095	103.5682
## 58	Schoharie	29106	621.8189	46.8078
## 59	Lewis	26482	1274.6433	20.7760
## 60	Yates	24660	338.1428	72.9278

```
## 61      Schuyler      17810      328.3332      54.2437
## 62      Hamilton      5161      1717.3817      3.0052
```

```
#Merge data sets
```

```
combined_dat_ny_covid_pop <- ny_pop_dat %>%
  left_join(ny_covid_dat, by = "County")
```

```
## Add column for to classify counties into settlement types
```

```
combined_dat_ny_covid_pop <- combined_dat_ny_covid_pop %>%
  mutate(settlement_type = case_when(pop2022<=25000 ~ 'Rural',
                                     25000<=pop2022 & pop2022<50000 ~ 'Micropolitan',
                                     pop2022>= 50000 ~ 'Urban'))
```

```
summary(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop) # Check data for new columns
```

```
##      County      pop2022      area_milessquared density_permissquared
## Length:62      Min.   :   5161      Min.   : 22.66      Min.   :   3.01
## Class :character 1st Qu.: 48289      1st Qu.: 441.55      1st Qu.:  73.02
## Mode  :character Median : 86998      Median : 653.65      Median : 113.46
##              Mean  : 328482      Mean  : 760.09      Mean  : 3279.30
##              3rd Qu.: 236910      3rd Qu.:1022.40      3rd Qu.: 418.14
##              Max.   :2782348      Max.   :2680.38      Max.   :75738.89
## sum_new_positives sum_cumulative_no_of_positive sum_total_number_of_tests
## Min.   :   1054      Min.   :4.330e+05      Min.   :   20261
## 1st Qu.:  12905      1st Qu.:5.329e+06      1st Qu.:  240066
## Median :   23804      Median :9.156e+06      Median :   406342
## Mean   :  138799      Mean   :5.937e+07      Mean   :  2723930
## 3rd Qu.:   64600      3rd Qu.:2.758e+07      3rd Qu.: 1462341
## Max.   :2908643      Max.   :1.224e+09      Max.   :60433651
## sum_cumulative_no_of_tests median_test_positive settlement_type
## Min.   :1.036e+07      Length:62      Length:62
## 1st Qu.:1.241e+08      Class :character  Class :character
## Median :2.024e+08      Mode  :character  Mode  :character
## Mean   :1.304e+09
## 3rd Qu.:7.539e+08
## Max.   :2.789e+10
```

## 0.2 Dataset Information

We acquired our 2020 to 2022 COVID-19 data from the New York Department of Health and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau on November 24th, 2022. County names did not match between the census data and NY Department of Health data. We wrangled our data by removing the word “county” from each county in the census data. In addition to the 62 counties, the NY Health Department broke counties down into smaller sections resulting in more than 62 counties. Since we only want to work with the original counties, we left-merged the NY health data onto the county data on November 24th, 2022. We are using the merged version as our main data source. Additionally on November 24th, 2022, we uploaded the geospatial shape file that was incorporated in class for ENV872. Using the shape file, we selected for counties in New York State. Data types and variable types for the combined data were set on November 27th, 2022.

Data Information: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/new-york-population-change-between-census-decade.html> COVID-19 Variant Data | Department of Health (ny.gov) – (March 1, 2020, to November 22, 2022) cb\_2018\_us\_county\_20m.shp state FIPS code 36

### Keywords

ENV872, COVID-19, COVID, virus, virus spread, New York, New York State

```
##                               Variable
## 1                             County
## 2                             pop2022
## 3                area_milessquared
## 4            density_milessquared
## 5                sum_new_positives
## 6  sum_cumulative_no_of_positives
## 7            sum_total_number_of_tests
## 8            sum_cumulative_no_of_tests
## 9                median_test_positive
## 10                settlement_type
```

```
##
```

```
## 1
```

```
## 2
```

```
## 3
```

```
## 4
```

```
## 5
```

```
## 6
```

```
## 7
```

```
## 8
```

```
## 9  For the dates before 4/4/2022: The median percentage of all COVID tests reported t
```

```
## 10
```

The

Running total for the number

##	Coding	Units	Minimum.Value	Maximum.Value	Missing
## 1	character	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
## 2	integer	N/A	5161	2782348	0
## 3	numeric miles squared		22.6558	2680.379	0
## 4	numeric miles squared		3.0052	75738.89	0
## 5	integer	N/A	1054	2908643	0
## 6	integer	N/A	432991	1224453000	0
## 7	integer	N/A	20261	60433650	0
## 8	integer	N/A	10356620	27893290000	0
## 9	character	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
## 10	character	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

## 0.3 Exploratory Analysis and Data Visualization

The merged data set was exploring for missing values and abnormal values using the R functions, “head”, “summary” and “dim”. Further, to better understand the distribution of the variables that we use in our analysis, we plotted a series of histograms. The graphical exploration of the distribution of the variables showed that the variables, “sum\_cumulative\_no\_of\_positive”, “sum\_cumulative\_no\_of\_tests”, “pop2022” and “density\_permilessquared” are right-skewed. That is, most of the data points were located on the left side of the histograms plotted for each variable. For improved visualization, we log transformed the variables to get their distributions closer to a normal distribution. After each log-transformation, we carried out Shapiro–Wilk tests to check the normality of the transformed distributions. The p-value of each log-transformed distribution was less than 0.05 indicating that the evidence supported the fact that log-transformed distributions were still not normally distributed. We also explored and visualized the distribution of the absolute population and population density across the various settlement types using box plots.

### 0.3.1 Tabular Exploration

```
head(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop)
```

##	County	pop2022	area_milessquared	density_permilessquared
## 1	Kings	2782348	69.8126	39854.529
## 2	Queens	2440412	108.7681	22436.837
## 3	New York City	1715927	22.6558	75738.895
## 4	Suffolk	1532434	911.7219	1680.813
## 5	Bronx	1490164	42.0506	35437.365
## 6	Nassau	1407022	284.8100	4940.212
##	sum_new_positives	sum_cumulative_no_of_positive	sum_total_number_of_tests	
## 1	860573	362966136	18713833	
## 2	813384	345088691	14735060	
## 3	2908643	1224453265	60433651	
## 4	532466	238589467	8496337	
## 5	480247	214795050	8847438	
## 6	515433	225331004	8400598	
##	sum_cumulative_no_of_tests	median_test_positive	settlement_type	
## 1	8370878686	2.45%	Urban	
## 2	6902671989	2.49%	Urban	
## 3	27893288263	2.51%	Urban	
## 4	4261845093	3.43%	Urban	
## 5	4167554932	2.62%	Urban	

```
## 6                4188172601                2.99%                Urban
```

```
summary(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop) #View Data
```

```
##      County                pop2022                area_milessquared density_permilessquared
## Length:62                Min.   :   5161                Min.   :   22.66                Min.   :    3.01
## Class :character          1st Qu.:  48289                1st Qu.: 441.55                1st Qu.:   73.02
## Mode  :character          Median :  86998                Median : 653.65                Median :  113.46
##                                Mean  : 328482                Mean  : 760.09                Mean   : 3279.30
##                                3rd Qu.: 236910                3rd Qu.:1022.40                3rd Qu.:  418.14
##                                Max.   :2782348                Max.   :2680.38                Max.   :75738.89
## sum_new_positives sum_cumulative_no_of_positive sum_total_number_of_tests
## Min.   :   1054                Min.   :4.330e+05                Min.   :   20261
## 1st Qu.:  12905                1st Qu.:5.329e+06                1st Qu.:  240066
## Median :   23804                Median :9.156e+06                Median :   406342
## Mean   :  138799                Mean   :5.937e+07                Mean   :  2723930
## 3rd Qu.:   64600                3rd Qu.:2.758e+07                3rd Qu.: 1462341
## Max.   :2908643                Max.   :1.224e+09                Max.   :60433651
## sum_cumulative_no_of_tests median_test_positive settlement_type
## Min.   :1.036e+07                Length:62                Length:62
## 1st Qu.:1.241e+08                Class :character          Class :character
## Median :2.024e+08                Mode  :character          Mode  :character
## Mean   :1.304e+09
## 3rd Qu.:7.539e+08
## Max.   :2.789e+10
```

```
dim(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop)
```

```
## [1] 62 10
```

```
#View mean COVID cases and mean COVID test conducted by settlement types
```

```
collapsed_dat_settlement_types <- combined_dat_ny_covid_pop %>%
  group_by(settlement_type) %>%
  summarise(Mean_COVID_cases = mean(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive),
            Mean_Tests_Conducted = mean(sum_cumulative_no_of_tests),
            Mean_Absolute_Population = mean(pop2022),
            Mean_Settlement_Density = mean(density_permilessquared))

print(collapsed_dat_settlement_types) #View table
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 5
##   settlement_type Mean_COVID_cases Mean_Tests_Conducted Mean_Absolute_~1 Mean_~2
##   <chr>           <dbl>           <dbl>           <dbl>   <dbl>
## 1 Micropolitan    4166072.         98127075.        41448.    64.2
## 2 Rural           1274503.         34469996.        15877     43.4
## 3 Urban           80411031.        1763706740.       438622.  4495.
## # ... with abbreviated variable names 1: Mean_Absolute_Population,
## #   2: Mean_Settlement_Density
```

### 0.3.2 Graphical Exploration

```
# Visualizing Distribution of Variables
```

```
##### COVID-19 Cases #####
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive)) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab("Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests") +
  ggtitle("Histogram of Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests")
```

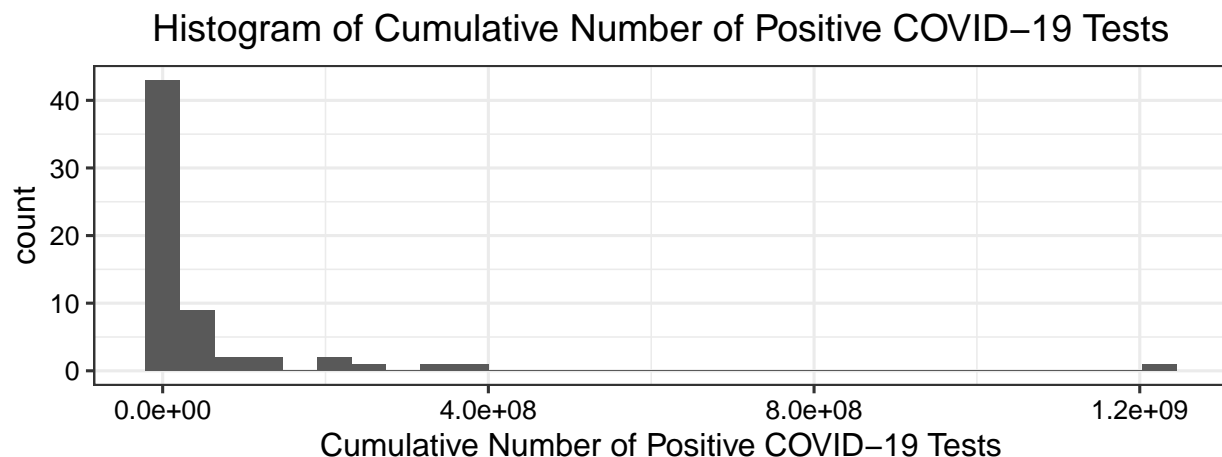


Figure 1: Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests

```
## Log Transform
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop,
  aes(log(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive))) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab("Log of Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests") +
  ggtitle("Histogram of Log of Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests")
```



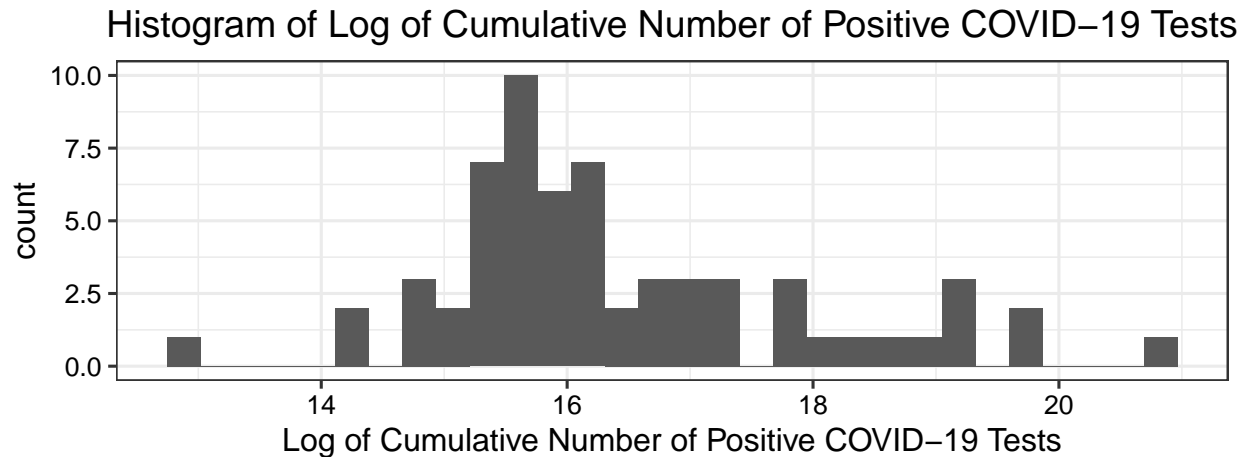


Figure 2: Log of Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests

```
shapiro.test(log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_positive))
```

```
##
##  Shapiro-Wilk normality test
##
## data:  log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_positive)
## W = 0.92854, p-value = 0.001407
```

*#Check normality*

##### Number of COVID Tests Conducted #####

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(sum_cumulative_no_of_tests))+
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab ("Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Tests Conducted") +
  ggtitle("Histogram of Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Tests Conducted")
```

*## Log Transform*

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(log(sum_cumulative_no_of_tests))) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab ("Log of Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Tests Conducted") +
  ggtitle("Histogram of Log of Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Tests Conducted")
```

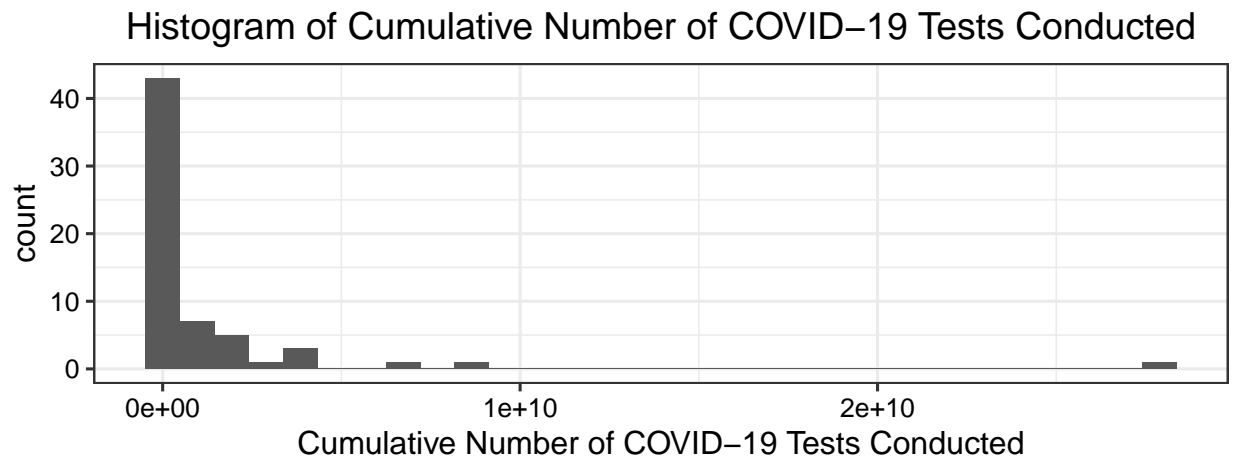


Figure 3: Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Tests Conducted

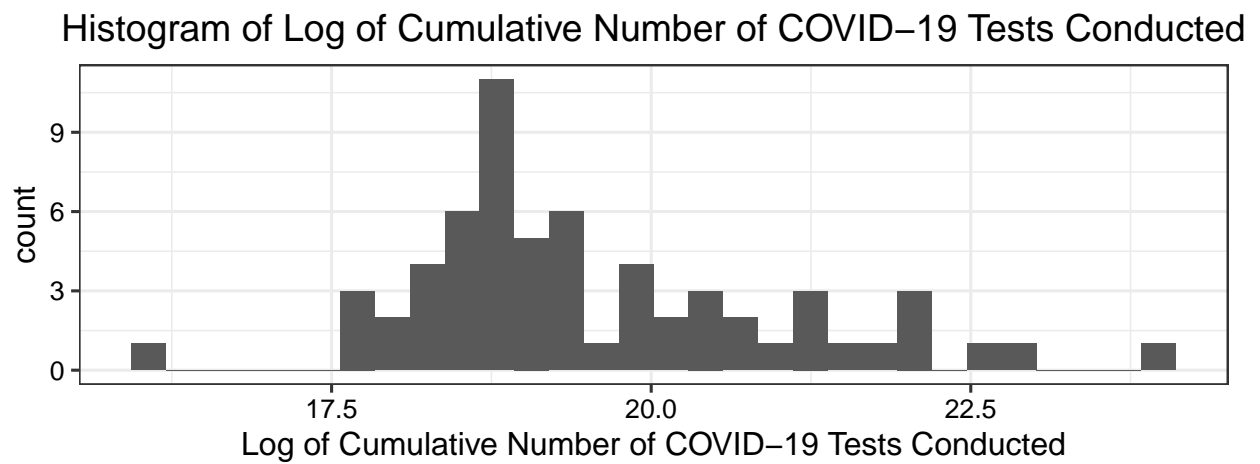


Figure 4: Log of Cumulative Number of Positive COVID-19 Tests Conducted

```
shapiro.test(log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests))
```

```
##
##  Shapiro-Wilk normality test
##
## data:  log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests)
## W = 0.94091, p-value = 0.004985
```

```
#Check normality
```

```
##### County Population #####
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(pop2022)) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab("Absolute Population Size of Counties Across New York State 2022") +
  ggtitle ("Histogram of Population of Counties Across New York State")
```

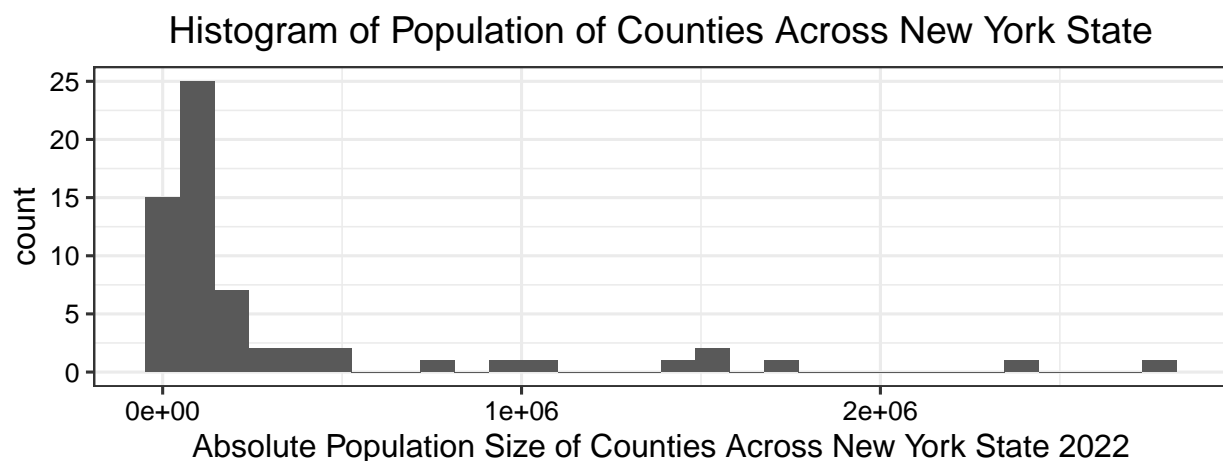


Figure 5: Population of Counties Across New York State

```
## Log Transform
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(log(pop2022))) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab("Log of Absolute Population of Counties Across New York State 2022 ") +
  ggtitle ("Log of Histogram of Population of Counties Across New York State")
```

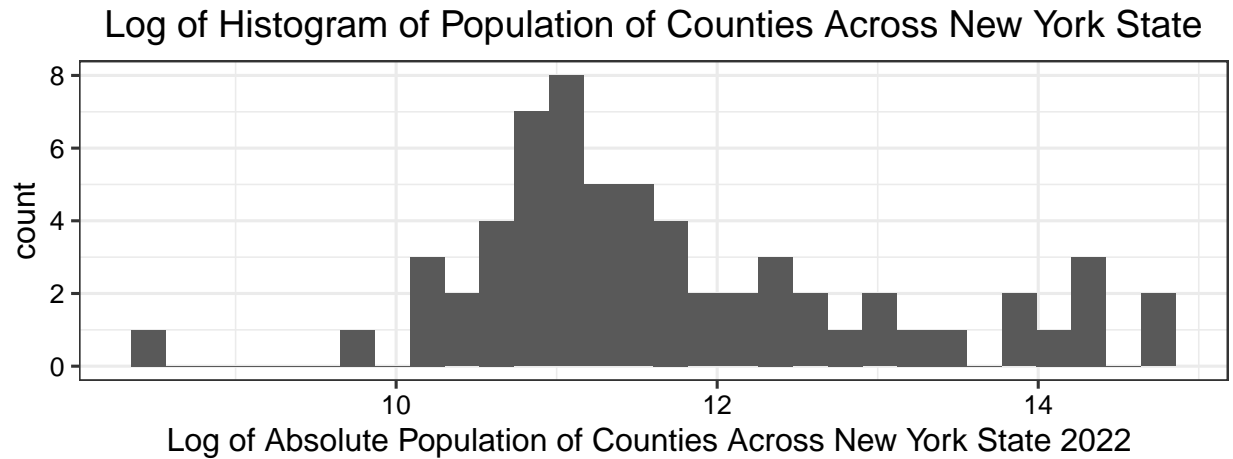


Figure 6: Log of Population of Counties Across New York State

```
shapiro.test(log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$pop2022)) #Check normality
```

```
##
##  Shapiro-Wilk normality test
##
## data:  log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$pop2022)
## W = 0.93542, p-value = 0.002814
```

```
##### County Density #####
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(density_permilessquared)) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab("Density of Counties Across New York State") +
  ggtitle (" Histogram of Density of Counties Across New York State")
```

```
## Log Transform
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(log(density_permilessquared))) +
  geom_histogram() +
  xlab("Log of Density of Counties Across New York State") +
  ggtitle (" Log of Histogram of Density of Counties Across New York State")
```

```
shapiro.test(log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$density_permilessquared))
```

```
##
```

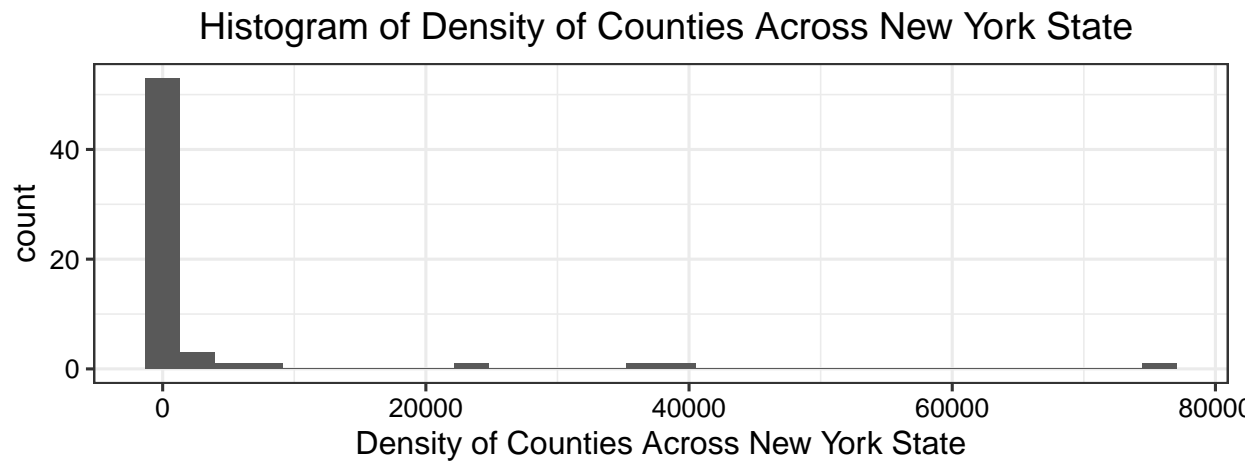


Figure 7: Density of Counties Across New York State

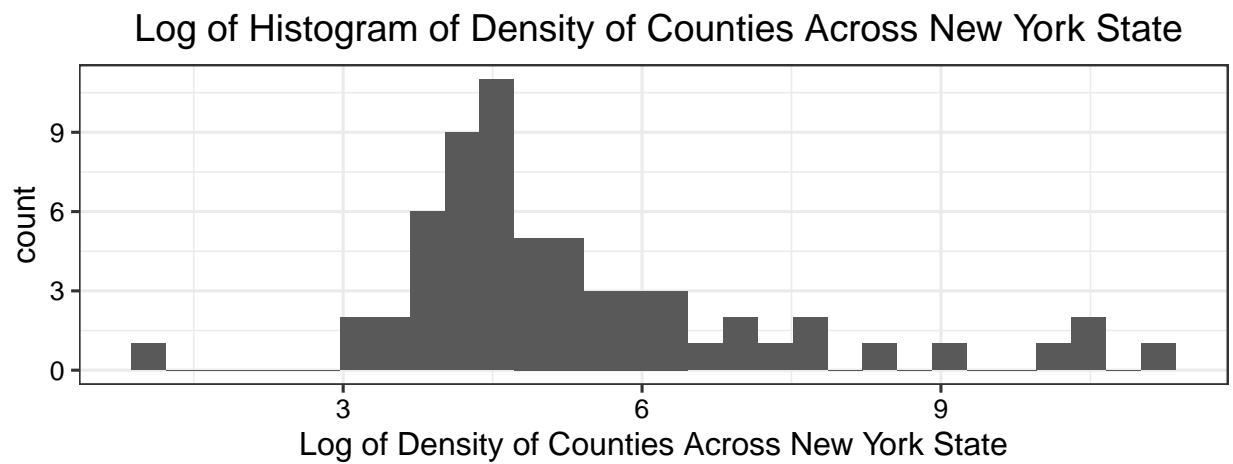


Figure 8: Log of Density of Counties Across New York State

```
## Shapiro-Wilk normality test
##
## data:  log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$density_permilessquared)
## W = 0.87808, p-value = 1.73e-05
```

```
#Check normality
```

```
##### Visualize Distribution of Predictor Variables by Settlement Type
```

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(x= settlement_type,
                                              y= log(density_permilessquared),
                                              fill = settlement_type))+

geom_boxplot() +
ggtitle ("Log of Absolute Population Size of Counties by Settlement Type") +
xlab("Settlement Types") +
ylab("Log of Absolute Population Size 2022")
```

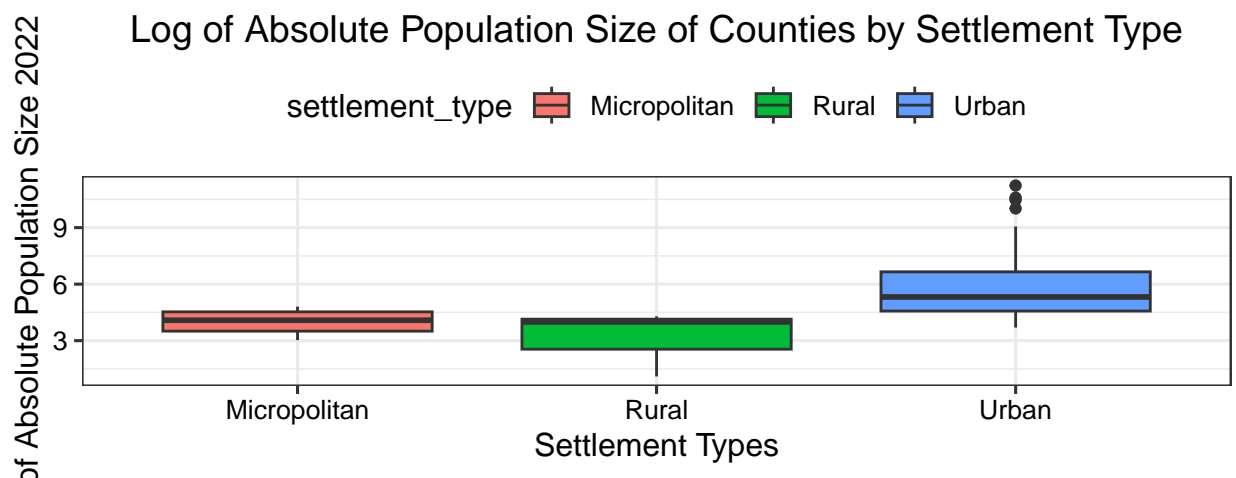


Figure 9: Log of Absolute Population Size of Counties by Settlement Type

```
ggplot(data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop,
       aes(x= settlement_type, y= log(pop2022), fill = settlement_type))+
geom_boxplot() +
ggtitle ("Log of Population Density of Counties by Settlement Type") +
xlab("Settlement Types") +
ylab("Log of Absolute Population Size 2022")
```

### 0.3.3 Spatial Context of Data

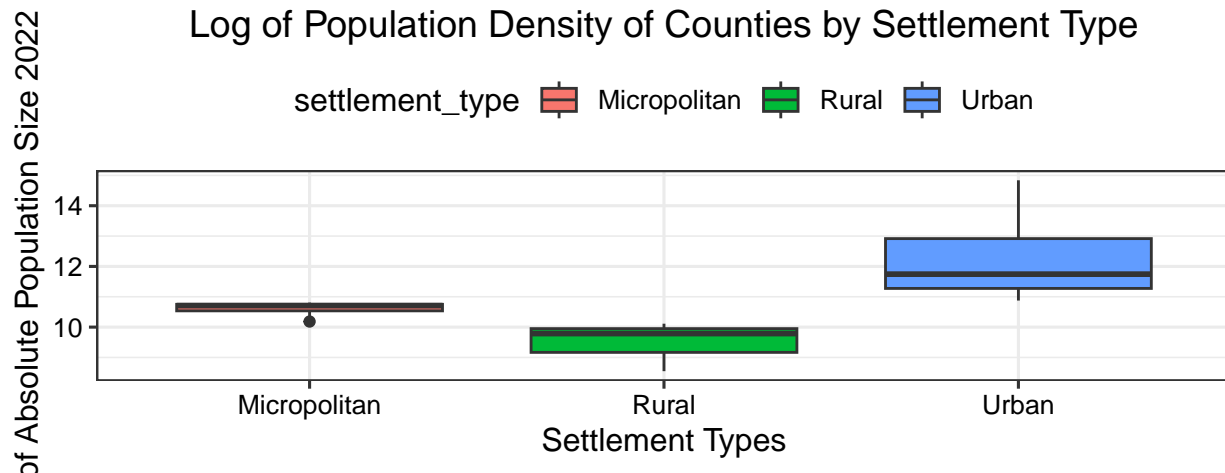


Figure 10: Log of Population Density of Counties by Settlement Type

```
# Map of New York County Population Levels
```

```
# The EPSG code of the New York counties dataset is 4269.
```

```
#This is a geographic coordinate reference system, so it uses
```

```
#angular coordinate units. This CRS (4269) is associated with the datum NAD83.
```

```
uscounty <- st_read('./Data/Spatial_Files/cb_2018_us_county_20m.shp',
                    stringsAsFactors = TRUE) %>%
  filter(STATEFP == 36)
```

```
## Reading layer 'cb_2018_us_county_20m' from data source
```

```
##   '/Users/danleizou/MiltonZouKhalsa_ENV872_EDA_FinalProject3/Data/Spatial_Files/cb_2018_us_county_20m.shp'
```

```
##   using driver 'ESRI Shapefile'
```

```
## Simple feature collection with 3220 features and 9 fields
```

```
## Geometry type: MULTIPOLYGON
```

```
## Dimension:      XY
```

```
## Bounding box:   xmin: -179.1743 ymin: 17.91377 xmax: 179.7739 ymax: 71.35256
```

```
## Geodetic CRS:   NAD83
```

```
# Reveal the names of the columns
```

```
colnames(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop)
```

```
##   [1] "County"                "pop2022"
##   [3] "area_milessquared"    "density_permilesssquared"
##   [5] "sum_new_positives"     "sum_cumulative_no_of_positive"
##   [7] "sum_total_number_of_tests" "sum_cumulative_no_of_tests"
##   [9] "median_test_positive"  "settlement_type"
```

```
# Join the flow data to our NWIS gage location spatial dataframe.
```

```
combined_dat_join <- merge(x = uscounty,  
                           y = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop,  
                           by.x = "NAME",  
                           by.y = "County")
```

```
# Show the column names of the joined dataset.
```

```
colnames(combined_dat_join)
```

```
## [1] "NAME" "STATEFP"  
## [3] "COUNTYFP" "COUNTYNS"  
## [5] "AFFGEOID" "GEOID"  
## [7] "LSAD" "ALAND"  
## [9] "AWATER" "pop2022"  
## [11] "area_milessquared" "density_permissquared"  
## [13] "sum_new_positives" "sum_cumulative_no_of_positive"  
## [15] "sum_total_number_of_tests" "sum_cumulative_no_of_tests"  
## [17] "median_test_positive" "settlement_type"  
## [19] "geometry"
```

```
# Show the dimensions of this joined dataset.
```

```
dim(combined_dat_join)
```

```
## [1] 61 19
```

```
# Map the population of each New York county in 2022.
```

```
ggplot() +  
  geom_sf(data = combined_dat_join, aes(fill = log(pop2022))) +  
  scale_fill_gradientn(colours = terrain.colors(10)) +  
  ggtitle("COVID-19 in New York",  
          subtitle = "Population by County in 2022") +  
  labs(fill = 'Log of Variable')
```

```
# Map the settlement types of each New York county in 2022.
```

```
ggplot() +  
  geom_sf(data = combined_dat_join, aes(fill = settlement_type)) +  
  ggtitle("COVID-19 in New York",  
          subtitle = "Settlement Types by County in 2022") +  
  labs(fill = 'Settlement Types')
```



# COVID-19 in New York Population by County in 2022

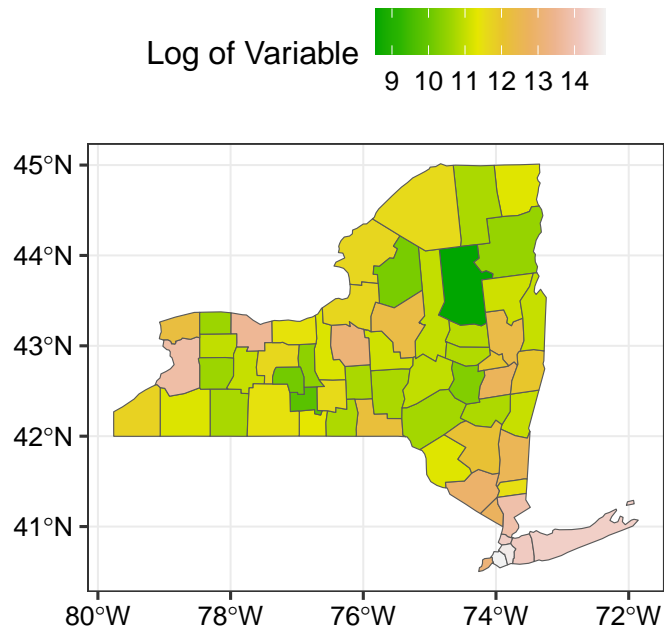


Figure 11: Population of New York Counties

# COVID-19 in New York Settlement Types by County in 2022

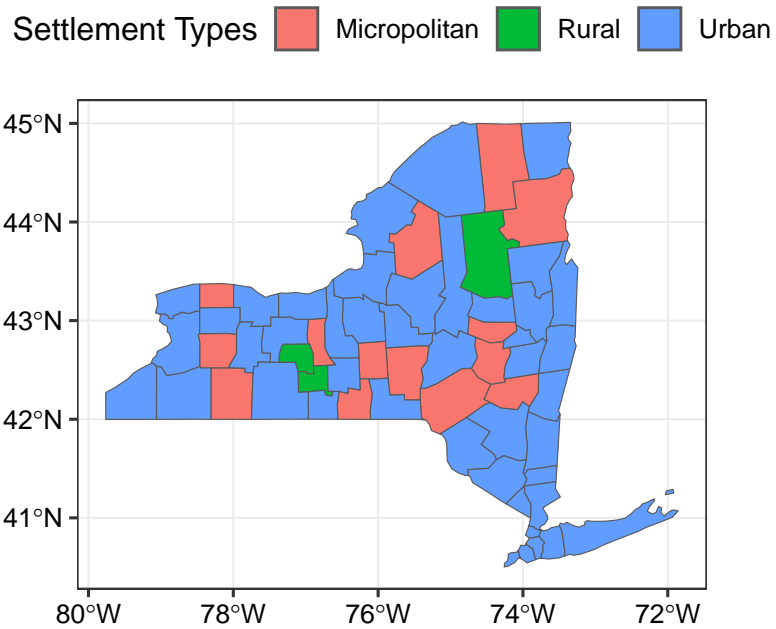


Figure 12: Settlement Types of New York Counties

```
# Map the sum of the cumulative number of tests administered in each  
#New York county in 2022.
```

```
ggplot() +  
  geom_sf(data = combined_dat_join,  
          aes(fill = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_tests))) +  
  scale_fill_gradientn(colours = terrain.colors(10)) +  
  ggtitle("COVID-19 in New York",  
          subtitle = "Cumulative Number of Tests Administered") +  
  labs(fill = 'Log of Variable')
```

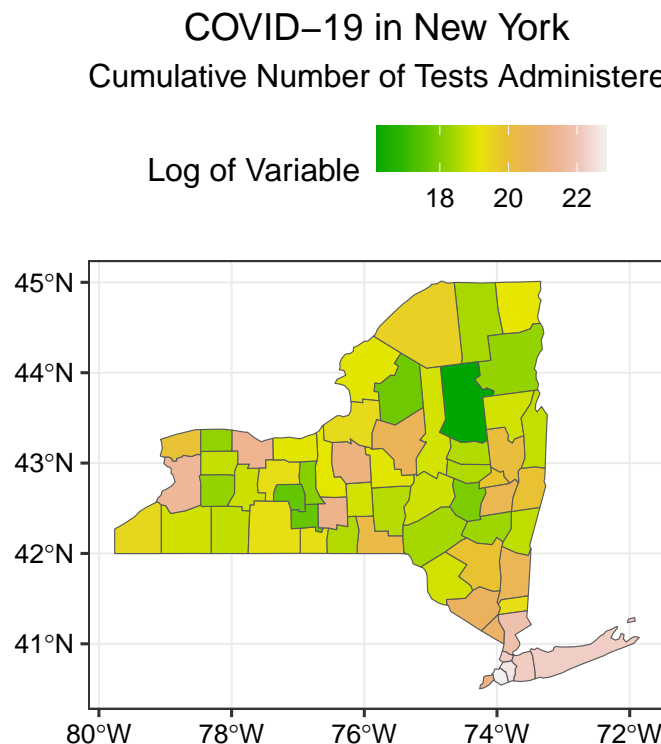


Figure 13: Cumulative Number of Tests Administered in Each New York County

```
# Map the sum of the cumulative number of positive test results in each  
#New York county in 2022.
```

```
ggplot() +  
  geom_sf(data = combined_dat_join,  
          aes(fill = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive))) +  
  scale_fill_gradientn(colours = terrain.colors(10)) +  
  ggtitle("COVID-19 in New York",  
          subtitle = "Cumulative Number of Positive Test Results in 2022") +  
  labs(fill = 'Log of Variable')
```

## COVID-19 in New York

### Cumulative Number of Positive Test Results in 2022

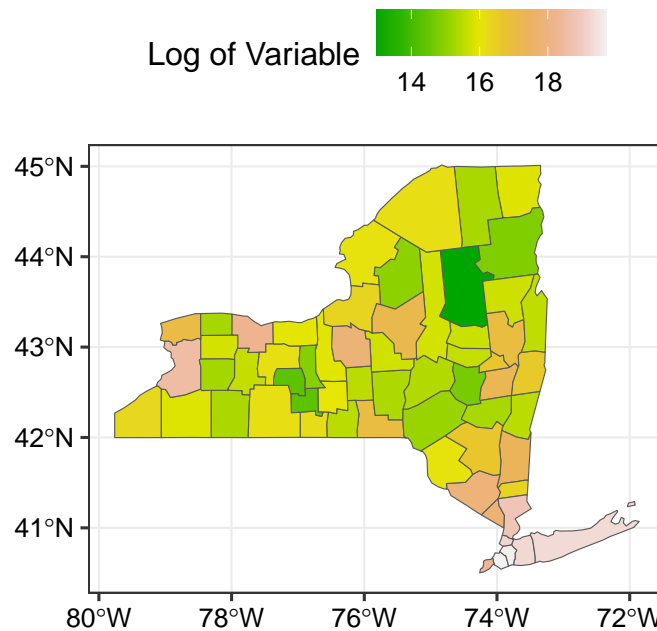


Figure 14: Cumulative Number of Positive Test Results in Each New York County

### Export Processed data

```
getwd() #Check working directory
```

```
## [1] "/Users/danleizou/MiltonZouKhalsa__ENV872_EDA_FinalProject3"
```

```
#Full processed data set
```

```
write.csv2(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop,  
            "./Data/Processed_Data/Combined_NY_COVID_Pop.csv")
```

```
#Collapsed data set
```

```
write.csv2(collapsed_dat_settlement_types,  
            "./Data/Processed_Data/collapsed_dat_settlement_types.csv")
```

## 0.4 Analysis

As a central question of this study is “How well does population density and absolute population predict COVID-19 cases?”, the predictor variables are population density per miles squared and absolute population while the outcome variable is sum cumulative positive number of positive COVID-19 tests which is being used as a proxy for COVID-19 cases. Our unit of analysis is counties and settlement types depending on the primary objective of each sub-question. Settlement types are classified based on our definitions of rural, micropolitan, and urban settlement types. Our hypotheses for each study question is indicated below.

**Question 1: What is the correlation between population density and absolute population and the number of COVID-19 cases (cumulative number of positive tests) across New York State?**

Prior to the correlation analysis, the normality of absolute population, population density, and COVID-19 cases were examined and were determined to not be normally distributed (see exploratory analysis). The variables were log-transformed but were showed to still not be normally distributed after a Shapiro-Wilk test of normality was performed. As such, a Spearman correlation analysis for non-parametric data was carried out. The classification of the strength of the relationship was determined based on the value of  $r$  which ranges from 0 to 1 where  $r = 0$  indicates no association and  $r = -1$  or  $+1$ .

### 0.4.0.1 Absolute Population and COVID-19 Cases *Hypotheses*

Null Hypothesis: As the ranks of absolute population change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 cases do not change.

Alternative Hypothesis: As the ranks of absolute population change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 cases change.

*Assumptions:*

1. The relationship between both variables is monotonic.

*# Spearman rank correlation test as distributions are skewed*

```
correlation_results_absol_pop <-  
  cor.test(x=log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$pop2022),  
           y=log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_positive),  
           method = "spearman")  
correlation_results_absol_pop
```

```
##
## Spearman's rank correlation rho
##
## data: log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$pop2022) and log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_c
## S = 428, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##      rho
## 0.9892221
```

```
# Visualize plot (Log-transformed for better visualization)

ggplot(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(x = log(pop2022),
                                     y = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive)))+
  geom_point() +
  ylab ("Log of COVID-19 Cases") +
  xlab ("Log of Absolute Population Across Counties") +
  ggtitle ("The Correlation Between Absolute Population
           Across Counties and COVID-19 Cases") +
  stat_smooth (method = 'lm') +
  annotate("text",x=9,y=20, label=(paste0("R=0.99")))
```

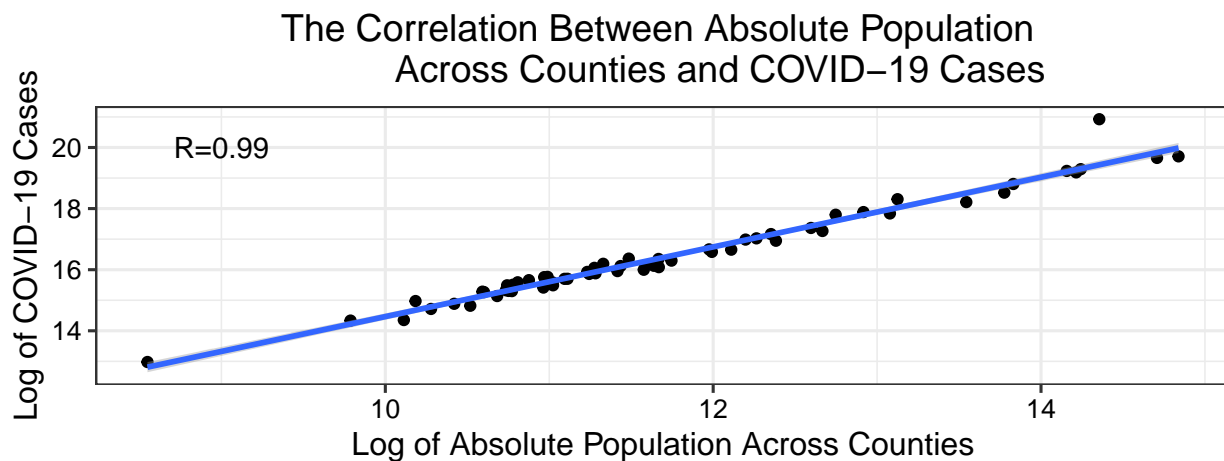


Figure 15: Correlation Between Absolute Population Across Counties and COVID-19 Cases

#### 0.4.1 Population Density and COVID-19 Cases

*Hypotheses:*

Null Hypothesis: As the ranks of population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 cases do not change.

Alternative Hypothesis: As the ranks of population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 cases change.

*Assumptions:*

1. The relationship between both variables is monotonic.

```
# Spearman rank correlation test as distributions are skewed
```

```
correlation_results_pop_density <- cor.test(x=log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$density_per_mile_squared),
      y=log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_positive),
      method = "spearman")
correlation_results_pop_density
```

```
##
## Spearman's rank correlation rho
##
## data: log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$density_per_mile_squared) and log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_positive)
## S = 4522, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##      rho
## 0.8861273
```

```
# Visualize plot (Log-transformed for better visualization)
```

```
ggplot(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(x = log(density_per_mile_squared),
      y = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive)))+
  geom_point() +
  xlab (" Log of Population Density (per miles squared)") +
  ylab ("Log of COVID-19 Cases") +
  ggtitle ("The Correlation Between Population Densities
    Across Counties and COVID-19 Cases") +
  geom_smooth (method = 'lm')+
  annotate("text",x=3,y=20, label=(paste0("R=0.89")))
```

**Question 2:** What is the relationship between the predictor variable: settlement types and the response variable: cumulative COVID-19 cases?

#### 0.4.1.1 Negative Binomial Regression

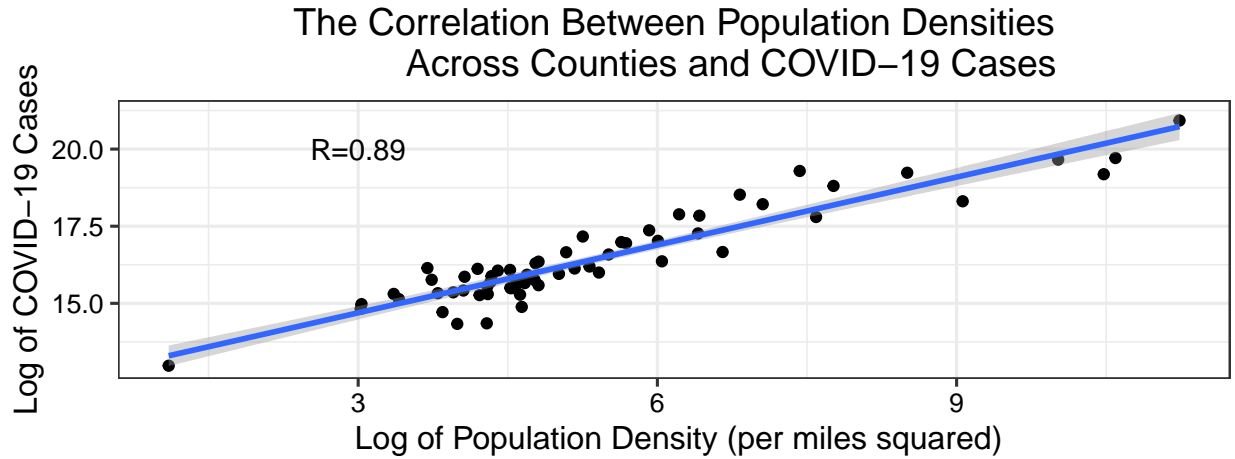


Figure 16: Correlation Between Population Densities Across Counties and COVID-19 Cases

In addition to the correlation analysis, we carried out a negative binomial regression to further understand the relationship between settlements types (determined by levels of absolute population) and cumulative COVID-19 cases. We used a negative binomial regression as based on the exploratory plots, we believed that the outcome variable can be classified as over-dispersed count data. We check our assumption that the outcome variable, “sum\_cumulative\_no\_of\_positive”, was overdispersed by carrying out a Poisson regression and found that the negative binomial regression was a better fit for the data. Further, we carried out a Chi-Square Goodness of Fit test for our negative binomial regression model with residual deviance of 75.355 on 59 degrees of freedom and the p-value obtained was 0.07. This means that the evidence is more supportive of the fact that the model is a good fit.

#### *Hypotheses:*

Null Hypothesis: There is no trend between the predictor variable (settlement types) and outcome variable (cumulative COVID-19 cases).

Alternative Hypothesis: There is a trend between the response (settlement types) and outcome variables (cumulative COVID-19 cases).

#### *Assumptions:*

1. The response variable (COVID cases) is a count variable.
2. Each observation of data is independent of each other.
3. The mean and variance are not equal.

#### **## Negative Binomial Regression**

```

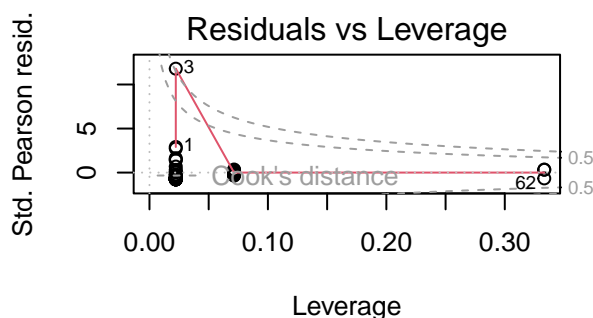
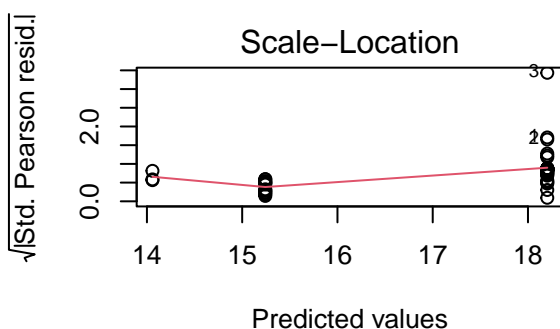
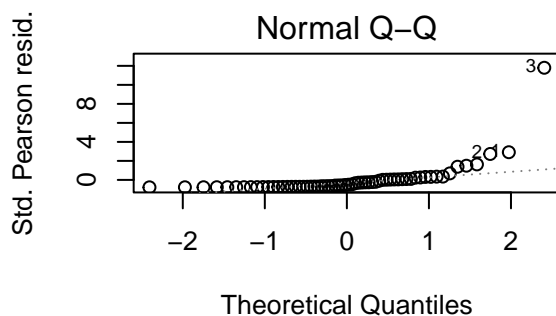
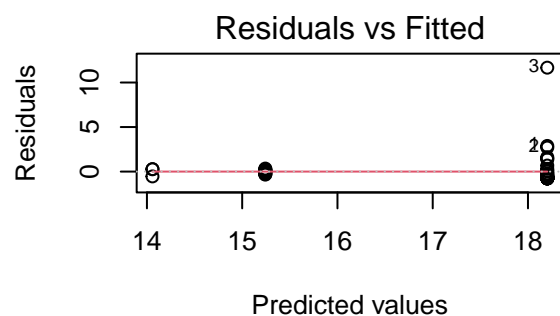
summary (modelnb <-
  glm.nb(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive ~ factor(settlement_type),
    data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop))

##
## Call:
## glm.nb(formula = sum_cumulative_no_of_positive ~ factor(settlement_type),
## data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, init.theta = 0.6722916249,
## link = log)
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -1.5768  -1.2869  -0.6950   0.0667   3.9330
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)      15.2425     0.3260  46.763 < 2e-16 ***
## factor(settlement_type)Rural  -1.1844     0.7759  -1.526   0.127
## factor(settlement_type)Urban   2.9602     0.3732   7.931 2.17e-15 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for Negative Binomial(0.6723) family taken to be 1)
##
##      Null deviance: 122.511  on 61  degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance:  75.366  on 59  degrees of freedom
## AIC: 2273.8
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 3
##
##              Theta:  0.672
##            Std. Err.:  0.102
##
## 2 x log-likelihood:  -2265.783

par (mfrow = c(2,2))
plot(modelnb) #Check fit

```





```
# Test of Fitness
```

```
pchisq(q=modelnb$deviance, df=modelnb$df.residual,
lower.tail=FALSE) #Check model fit
```

```
## [1] 0.0740414
```

```
## Check our assumption that a negative binomial is a better model than the
#poisson model
```

```
summary (modelpoisson <-
  glm(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive ~ factor(settlement_type),
      family = "poisson", data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop))
```

```
##
```

```
## Call:
```

```
## glm(formula = sum_cumulative_no_of_positive ~ factor(settlement_type),
##      family = "poisson", data = combined_dat_ny_covid_pop)
```

```
##
```

```
## Deviance Residuals:
```

```
##      Min      1Q  Median      3Q      Max
## -11105  -10010   -5977    168   66186
##
## Coefficients:
##                      Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)          15.2424841  0.0001309  116408  <2e-16 ***
## factor(settlement_type)Rural -1.1844175  0.0005279   -2244  <2e-16 ***
## factor(settlement_type)Urban  2.9601778  0.0001320   22427  <2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for poisson family taken to be 1)
##
##      Null deviance: 1.0813e+10  on 61  degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 8.9559e+09  on 59  degrees of freedom
## AIC: 8955869537
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 6
```

*## Summary inference: Residual deviance is much larger than degrees of freedom (DF). Negative binomial plot better.*

**Question 3: What is the correlation between absolute population and population density and the number of COVID-19 tests done?**

Similar to question 1, prior to the correlation analysis, the normality of absolute population, population density, and COVID-19 cases were examined and were determined to not be normally distributed (see exploratory analysis). The variables were log-transformed but were showed to still not be normally distributed after a Shapiro-Wilk test of normality was performed. As such, a Spearman correlation analysis for non-parametric data was carried out. The classification of the strength of the relationship was determined based on the value of  $r$  which ranges from 0 to 1 where  $r = 0$  indicates no association and  $r = -1$  or  $+1$ .

#### 0.4.1.2 Absolute Population and COVID-19 Cases *Hypotheses*

Null Hypothesis: As the ranks of absolute population change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted do not change.

Alternative Hypothesis: As the ranks of absolute population change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted change.

#### *Assumptions*

1. The relationship between both variables is monotonic.

```
# Spearman rank correlation test as distributions are skewed
```

```
correlation_results_absol_pop <-  
  cor.test(  
    x = log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$pop2022),  
    y = log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests),  
    method = "spearman")  
correlation_results_absol_pop
```

```
##  
## Spearman's rank correlation rho  
##  
## data: log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$pop2022) and log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_c  
## S = 996, p-value < 2.2e-16  
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0  
## sample estimates:  
## rho  
## 0.9749188
```

```
# Visualize plot (Log-transformed for better visualization)
```

```
ggplot(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop,  
  aes(x = log(pop2022),  
      y = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_tests)))+  
  geom_point() +  
  ylab ("Log of COVID-19 Tests Conducted") +  
  xlab ("Log of Absolute Population Across Counties") +  
  ggtitle ("The Correlation Between Absolute Population  
    Across Counties and COVID-19 Tests Conducted") +  
  stat_smooth (method = 'lm') +  
  annotate("text",x=9,y=22, label=(paste0("R=0.97")))
```

## 0.4.2 Population Density and COVID-19 Cases

*Hypotheses:*

Null Hypothesis: As the ranks of population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted do not change.

Alternative Hypothesis: As the ranks of population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted change.

*Assumptions:*

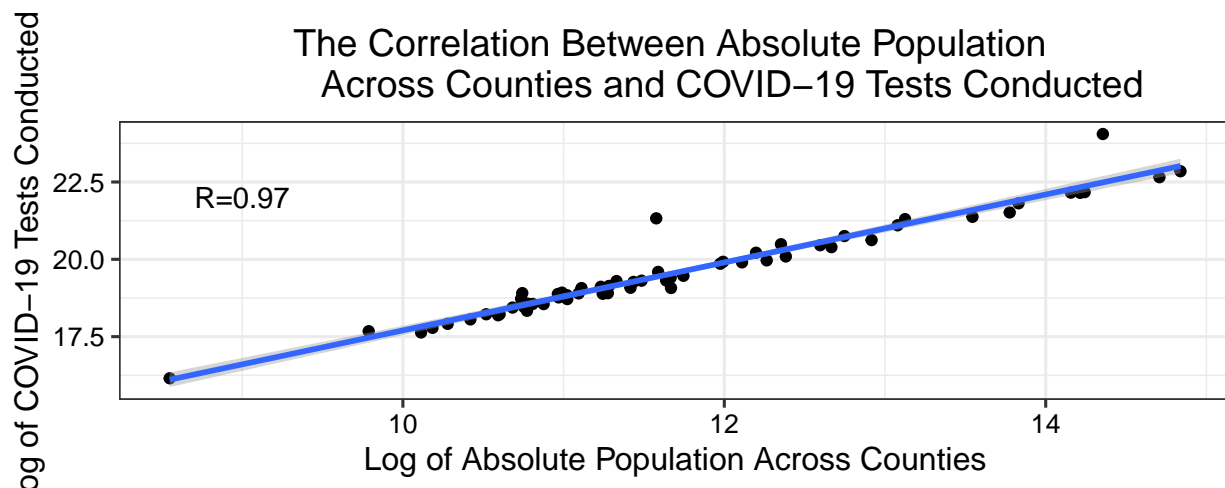


Figure 17: Correlation Between Absolute Population Across Counties and COVID-19 Tests Conducted

1. The relationship between both variables is monotonic.

```
# Spearman rank correlation test as distributions are skewed
```

```
correlation_results_pop_density <- cor.test(
  x= log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$density_permilessquared),
  y = log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests),
  method = "spearman")
correlation_results_pop_density
```

```
##
## Spearman's rank correlation rho
##
## data: log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$density_permilessquared) and log(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests)
## S = 5602, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
## rho
## 0.8589308
```

```
# Visualize plot (Log-transformed for better visualization)
```

```
ggplot(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(x = log(density_permilessquared), y = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_tests))) +
  geom_point() +
  xlab (" Log of Population Density (per miles squared)") +
```

```
ylab ("Log of COVID-19 Tests Conducted") +
ggtitle ("The Correlation Between Population Densities
        Across Counties and COVID-19 Tests Conducted") +
geom_smooth (method = 'lm')+
annotate("text",x=3,y=23, label=(paste0("R=0.86")))
```

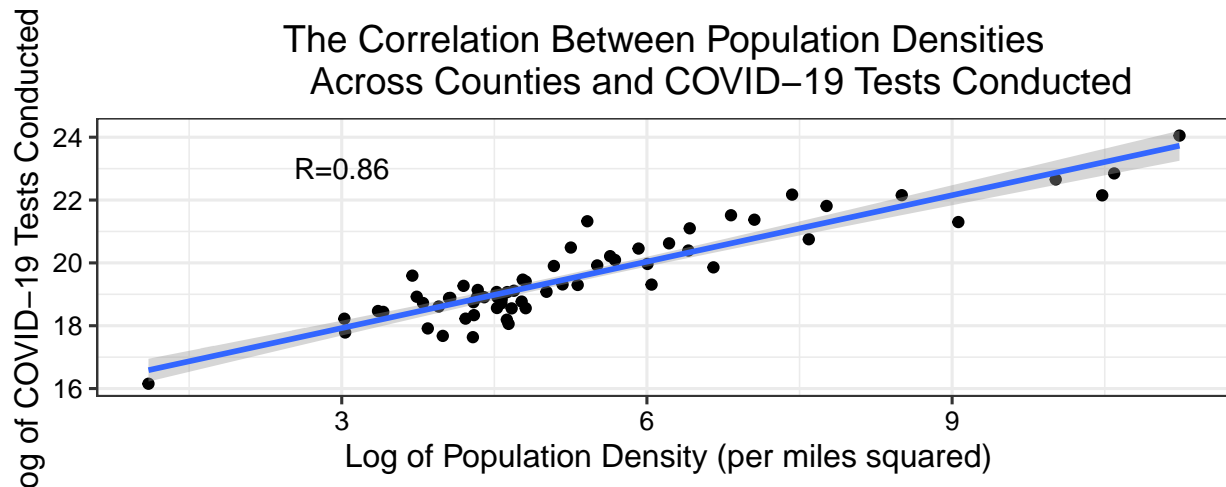


Figure 18: Correlation Between Absolute Population Densities Across Counties and COVID-19 Tests Conducted

**Question 3b:** Does the stronger correlated relationship vary among settlement types?

```
### Correlation Plots by Settlement Type

##Urban

Urban_dat <- combined_dat_ny_covid_pop %>%
  filter(settlement_type=="Urban")

correlation_results_absolute_pop_urban <-
  cor.test(x= log(Urban_dat$pop2022),
           y = log(Urban_dat$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests), method = "spearman")

correlation_results_absolute_pop_urban
```

#### 0.4.2.1 Absolute Population and Settlement Types

```
##
## Spearman's rank correlation rho
##
## data: log(Urban_dat$pop2022) and log(Urban_dat$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests)
## S = 632, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##      rho
## 0.9583663
```

### ## Micropolitan

```
Micropolitan_dat <- combined_dat_ny_covid_pop %>%
  filter(settlement_type=="Micropolitan")

correlation_results_absolute_pop_microp <-
  cor.test(x= log(Micropolitan_dat$pop2022),
           y = log(Micropolitan_dat$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests),
           method = "spearman")

correlation_results_absolute_pop_microp
```

```
##
## Spearman's rank correlation rho
##
## data: log(Micropolitan_dat$pop2022) and log(Micropolitan_dat$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests)
## S = 106, p-value = 0.002105
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
##      rho
## 0.767033
```

### ## Rural

```
Rural_dat <- combined_dat_ny_covid_pop %>%
  filter(settlement_type=="Rural")

correlation_results_absolute_pop_rural <-
  cor.test(x= log(Rural_dat$pop2022),
           y = log(Rural_dat$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests), method = "spearman")

correlation_results_absolute_pop_rural
```

```
##
## Spearman's rank correlation rho
##
## data: log(Rural_dat$pop2022) and log(Rural_dat$sum_cumulative_no_of_tests)
## S = 2, p-value = 1
## alternative hypothesis: true rho is not equal to 0
## sample estimates:
## rho
## 0.5
```

```
ggplot(combined_dat_ny_covid_pop, aes(x = log(pop2022),
                                     y = log(sum_cumulative_no_of_positive)))+
  geom_point() +
  ylab ("Log of Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Cases") +
  xlab ("Absolute Population (2022)") +
  facet_wrap(vars(settlement_type))
```

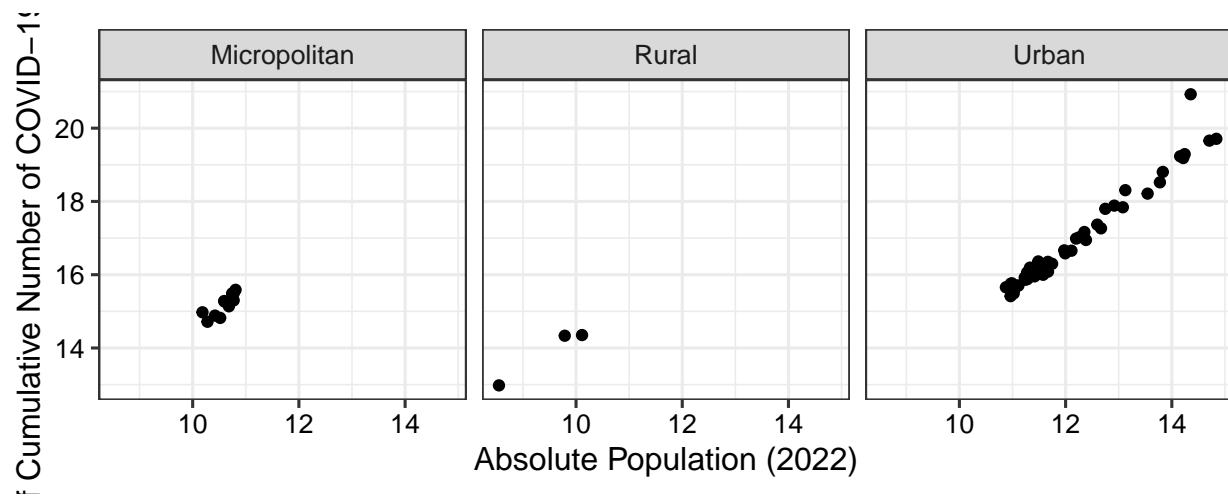


Figure 19: Log of Cumulative COVID-19 Cases Across Settlement Types

#### 0.4.2.2 Visualization of 3b

## 0.5 Summary and Conclusions

### 0.5.0.1 General Overview of Data

The most populous county in New York State according to the information we obtained from the US Census Bureau is Kings County which has a population of over 2.7 million people. Meanwhile, the least populous county was Hamilton county with a little over 5000 residents. Despite Kings County have the most residents in the state, New York City was the most densely populated county - with 75,739 residents per squared miles. In addition to being the least populated county, Hamilton was the least dense of the 62 counties in New York State.

### 0.5.0.2 Correlation between Absolute Population and Population Density with COVID-19 Cases

We set out to answer our central question, “How well absolute population and population density predict COVID-19 case numbers in the diversely sized New York State?” by first examining the correlation between population density and absolute population and the number of COVID-19 cases across New York. In both cases of population density and absolute population, after performing a Spearman correlation for both variables we had a p-value of  $2.2e-16$ , which suggests that the correlated relationship was statistically significant. This means we have sufficient evidence to reject our null hypothesis that as the ranks of absolute population and population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 cases do not change and instead accept our alternative hypothesis that as the ranks of absolute population and population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 cases does change. It is also demonstrated in the visualized plots that there is indeed a positive correlation between the variables as the R-squared value for the population density plot was 0.89 and 0.99 for the absolute population plot. Both show a strong correlation, but it is stronger with absolute population.

### 0.5.0.3 Association between COVID-19 Cases and Settlement Types

In the second question, we examined the relationship between our predictor variable (settlement types) and response variable (cumulative COVID-19 cases). We did not control for potential confounding factors which limits the strength of the conclusions we are able to draw from this analysis. After performing a negative binomial regression, we observed that the variable level, rural, has a coefficient of -1.1844 which is associated with a p-value of 0.127. This means that when compared to the reference settlement level, micropolitan, the difference in the logs of the expected counts is expected to be 1.1844 lower for rural when compared to micropolitan. However, with a p-value of 0.127, the evidence is more supportive of the fact that this relationship is not significant. Meanwhile, we observed that when compared to the reference level, micropolitan, the difference in the logs of



expected counts is expected to be 7.931 higher for urban settlements. The p-value obtained for this association is less than 0.05 indicating that the evidence is more supportive of the fact that this association is statistically significant.

#### **0.5.0.4 Correlation between Absolute Population and Population Density with Number of COVID-19 Tests Conducted**

In our last question, we examined the correlation between absolute population and population density and the number of COVID-19 tests conducted in New York. Similar to the results of our first question, after performing a Spearman rank correlation test with both absolute population and population density we found that both had a p-value of  $2.2e-16$ , indicating that the correlated relationship was statistically significant. Therefore, we have sufficient evidence to reject both null hypotheses that as ranks of absolute population and population density change, the the ranks of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted do not change. Instead, we accept our alternative hypotheses that as ranks of absolute population and population density change, the ranks of the number of COVID-19 tests conducted does change. This is also shown in our visualized plots, with the absolute population plot having an R-squared value of 0.97 and the population density plot having an R-squared value of 0.86. Both show a strong correlation, but it is stronger with absolute population.

After determining that the correlation between absolute population and number of COVID-19 tests conducted is stronger, we examined within those parameters to see if this correlation varies among settlement types. We performed the Spearman rank correlation test on all three settlement types. Urban settlements had a p-value of  $2.2e-16$  and an R-squared value of 0.96, micropolitan settlements had a p-value of 0.002 and an R-squared value of 0.77, and rural settlements had a p-value of 1 and an R-squared value of 0.5. Two of the p-values show that the correlated relationships are significant, and rural didn't have a significant correlated relationship. The correlation is strongest with urban settlements. However, we do acknowledge that the rural settlements only had 3 data points, which is much fewer than the amount of data of micropolitan and urban settlements.

## **0.6 Conclusion**

In conclusion, we do see a strong correlation between both absolute population and population density and the number of COVID-19 cases in New York, as well as the relationship between both absolute population and population density and the number of COVID-19 tests conducted in New York. The absolute population correlation to the number of COVID-19 tests conducted was the stronger relationship. It is important for us to know the correlation between COVID-19 cases and settlement type so we can be better informed about what factors influence the spread of infectious diseases for the future.

## 0.7 References

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