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Geography of COVID-19 Waves in Georgia

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Walker Tompkins

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Geography of COVID-19 Waves in Georgia

Over the past 2 years everyone on the globe's lives have been changed drastically after the COVID-19 virus spread across the world. This united and divided us more than any other event in most of our lifetimes. The pandemic everyone and now that there are two years of data, it is important to examine impacts at various geographic scales. As such, focusing on the state of Georgia, this project explores how the different variants, public policy, and vaccination of our population has changed the trajectory of the virus and how many deaths it has caused. Spatial analysis for this project includes the creation of maps of COVID-19 cases and deaths through each phase of the pandemic, which will also illustrate the variants and spikes along with data related trends before and after the vaccine was rolled out.

Each variant has had different mortality rates. For instance, when comparing Delta versus Omicron variants, results may reveal Delta will have a much higher spike of deaths in the state due to it being the more deadly variant. Additionally there is a consideration of the vaccine's impact on mortality rates. This research will also yield applied results related to what effects mask mandates and the availability of COVID-19 vaccines have had on the cases and death numbers to better prepare the state's government for what is to come next and what policies work best to better protect the public.