

# COVID-19 Deaths

## United States versus Other Countries

Ron Gruner  
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Today, President Trump criticized Dr. Deborah Birx for claiming the United States is entering into a new COVID-19 phase and that the virus was extraordinarily widespread. Ranked among 215 nations, the United States ranks tenth in deaths per million. But the United States is a huge country ranging from densely populated states such as New Jersey and Rhode Island to sparsely populated states such as Montana and Wyoming.

Is it fair to compare the United States to smaller countries whose population density is more homogenous? To answer that question, this analysis divides the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and 214 countries into eight groups based on population density. The densest group are those states and countries with 2,000 or more residents per square mile. The sparsest group has less than 50 residents per square mile.

I sorted each group by deaths per million so as to compare U.S. states with countries having similar population densities. Below are the results. The U.S. states and District of Columbia are highlighted in gray.

Based on this analysis, it seems the United States has done a very poor job managing the pandemic. This is true for the densest regions where the District of Columbia death rates greatly exceed any comparable country down to the sparsest regions where the states, unfortunately dominate the higher death rates.

The data are current through July 31, 2020.

population per square mile > 2,000					
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million
state	District of Columbia	11,570	710,000	585	824
country	Channel Islands	2,370	173,863	47	270
country	Bermuda	3,226	62,278	9	145
country	Monaco	68,212	39,242	4	102
country	Bahrain	5,799	1,701,575	147	86
country	Saint Martin	2,428	81,542	3	37
country	Maldives	4,667	540,544	16	30
country	Malta	3,574	441,543	9	20
country	Bangladesh	3,277	164,689,383	3,111	19
country	Palestine	2,195	5,101,414	82	16
country	Singapore	21,646	5,850,342	27	5
country	Hong Kong	18,492	7,496,981	27	4
country	Macao	56,247	649,335	-	-
country	Gibraltar	8,726	33,691	-	-
country	Vatican City	4,715	801	-	-

population per square mile: 1,000 - 2,000					
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million
state	New Jersey	1,208	8,880,000	15,897	1,790
country	San Marino	1,465	33,931	42	1,238
state	Rhode Island	1,025	1,060,000	1,007	950
country	Netherlands	1,316	17,134,872	6,147	359
country	Mayotte	1,884	272,815	39	143
country	Israel	1,036	8,655,535	512	59
country	Aruba	1,536	106,766	3	28
country	India	1,202	1,380,004,385	36,551	26
country	Barbados	1,731	287,375	7	24
country	Haiti	1,072	11,402,528	161	14
country	Lebanon	1,728	6,825,445	61	9
country	Comoros	1,210	869,601	7	8
country	Mauritius	1,623	1,271,768	10	8
country	S. Korea	1,366	51,269,185	301	6
country	Rwanda	1,360	12,952,218	5	0
country	Taiwan	1,742	23,816,775	7	0
country	Burundi	1,199	11,890,784	1	0
country	St. Barth	1,163	9,877	-	-

population per square mile: 500 - 1,000					
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million
state	Massachusetts	884	6,890,000	8,609	1,249
state	Connecticut	737	3,570,000	4,432	1,241
country	Belgium	991	11,589,623	9,840	849
country	UK	727	67,886,011	46,119	679
state	Delaware	500	970,000	585	603
country	Italy	532	60,461,826	35,141	581
state	Maryland	623	6,050,000	3,493	577
country	Switzerland	567	8,654,622	1,981	229
country	Luxembourg	626	625,978	114	182
country	Germany	623	83,783,942	9,224	110
country	Dominican Republic	582	10,847,910	1,160	107
country	Kuwait	621	4,270,571	447	105
country	El Salvador	811	6,486,205	448	69
country	Sao Tome and Principe	591	219,159	15	68
country	Qatar	643	2,881,053	174	60
country	Martinique	917	375,265	15	40
country	Guadeloupe	637	400,124	14	35
country	British Virgin Islands	522	30,231	1	33
country	Antigua and Barbuda	576	97,929	3	31
country	Pakistan	742	220,892,340	5,951	27
country	Liechtenstein	617	38,128	1	26
country	Philippines	952	109,581,078	2,022	18
country	Cayman Islands	709	65,722	1	15
country	Japan	899	126,476,461	1,006	8
country	Curaçao	957	164,093	1	6
country	Malawi	526	19,129,952	114	6
country	Trinidad and Tobago	707	1,399,488	8	6
country	Réunion	928	895,312	4	4
country	Nigeria	586	206,139,589	879	4
country	Gambia	619	2,416,668	9	4
country	Jamaica	708	2,961,167	10	3
country	Nepal	526	29,136,808	56	2
country	Sri Lanka	884	21,413,249	11	1
country	Uganda	593	45,741,007	3	0
country	Vietnam	813	97,338,579	2	0
country	Grenada	857	112,523	-	-
country	Saint Lucia	780	183,627	-	-
country	Seychelles	554	98,347	-	-
country	Saint Kitts and Nevis	530	53,199	-	-

population per square mile: 250 - 500						
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million	
state	New York	413	19,450,000	32,765	1,685	
country	Andorra	426	77,265	52	673	
state	Pennsylvania	286	12,800,000	7,281	569	
country	France	309	65,273,511	30,265	464	
state	Florida	401	21,480,000	6,843	319	
state	Ohio	286	11,690,000	3,495	299	
country	Isle of Man	386	85,033	24	282	
country	Armenia	270	2,963,243	738	249	
state	California	254	39,510,000	9,194	233	
country	Moldova	318	4,033,963	778	193	
country	Portugal	288	10,196,709	1,735	170	
country	Guatemala	433	17,915,568	1,924	107	
country	Denmark	354	5,792,202	615	106	
country	Austria	283	9,006,398	718	80	
country	Turkey	284	84,339,067	5,691	67	
country	Serbia	259	8,737,371	573	66	
country	Hungary	276	9,660,351	596	62	
country	Slovenia	267	2,078,938	119	57	
country	Albania	272	2,877,797	157	55	
country	Egypt	266	102,334,404	4,805	47	
country	Poland	320	37,846,611	1,716	45	
country	Azerbaijan	318	10,139,177	448	44	
country	Cabo Verde	357	555,987	23	41	
country	Czechia	359	10,708,981	382	36	
country	UAE	306	9,890,402	351	35	
country	Costa Rica	258	5,094,118	150	29	
country	Indonesia	391	273,523,615	5,131	19	
country	Cyprus	338	1,207,359	19	16	
country	Sierra Leone	286	7,976,983	67	8	
country	Cuba	276	11,326,616	87	8	
country	Ghana	354	31,072,940	182	6	
country	Slovakia	294	5,459,642	29	5	
country	Malaysia	255	32,365,999	125	4	
country	China	397	1,439,323,776	4,634	3	
country	Benin	279	12,123,200	36	3	
country	Ethiopia	298	114,963,588	274	2	
country	Togo	394	8,278,724	19	2	
country	Jordan	298	10,203,134	11	1	
country	Thailand	354	69,799,978	58	1	
country	Anguilla	432	15,003	-	-	

population per square mile: 100 - 250					
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million
state	Louisiana	108	4,650,000	3,953	850
state	Michigan	177	9,990,000	6,450	646
country	Spain	243	46,754,778	28,445	608
state	Illinois	228	12,670,000	7,692	607
state	Indiana	188	6,730,000	2,965	441
country	Ireland	186	4,937,786	1,763	357
country	Mexico	172	128,932,753	46,000	357
state	Georgia	185	10,620,000	3,752	353
state	South Carolina	171	5,150,000	1,712	332
country	Panama	150	4,314,767	1,421	329
country	Ecuador	184	17,643,054	5,702	323
state	New Hampshire	152	1,360,000	415	305
state	Virginia	216	8,540,000	2,174	255
state	Texas	111	29,000,000	6,998	241
country	North Macedonia	214	2,083,374	486	233
state	Washington	115	7,610,000	1,573	207
country	Montserrat	129	4,992	1	200
country	Iran	134	83,992,949	16,766	200
country	Colombia	119	50,882,891	10,105	199
state	North Carolina	216	10,490,000	1,952	186
state	Kentucky	113	4,470,000	736	165
state	Wisconsin	108	5,820,000	934	160
state	Tennessee	166	6,830,000	1,060	155
country	South Africa	127	59,308,690	8,005	135
country	Honduras	229	9,904,607	1,312	132
country	Romania	217	19,237,691	2,343	122
country	Iraq	240	40,222,493	4,741	118
country	Bosnia and Herzegovina	167	3,280,819	339	103
country	Montenegro	121	628,066	48	76
country	Equatorial Guinea	130	1,402,985	83	59
country	Belarus	121	9,449,323	559	59
country	Djibouti	110	988,000	58	59
country	Bulgaria	166	6,948,445	383	55
country	Turks and Caicos	106	38,717	2	52
country	Ukraine	196	43,733,762	1,693	39
country	Bahamas	102	393,244	14	36
country	Eswatini	175	1,160,164	41	35
country	Croatia	190	4,105,267	145	35
country	Afghanistan	154	38,928,346	1,272	33
country	Lithuania	113	2,722,289	80	29
country	Greece	209	10,423,054	206	20
state	Hawaii	220	1,420,000	26	18
country	Nicaragua	143	6,624,554	116	18
country	Yemen	146	29,825,964	493	17
country	Liberia	136	5,057,681	75	15
country	Cameroon	145	26,545,863	391	15
country	Guinea-Bissau	181	1,968,001	26	13
country	Senegal	225	16,743,927	205	12
country	Morocco	214	36,910,560	353	10
country	Kenya	245	53,771,296	341	6
country	Tajikistan	177	9,537,645	60	6
country	Lesotho	183	2,142,249	13	6
country	Zimbabwe	100	14,862,924	67	5
country	Georgia	149	3,989,167	17	4
country	Tunisia	197	11,818,619	50	4
country	Uzbekistan	204	33,469,203	141	4
country	Madagascar	123	27,691,018	106	4
country	Guinea	138	13,132,795	46	4
country	Burkina Faso	198	20,903,273	53	3
country	Syria	247	17,500,658	43	2
country	Fiji	127	896,445	1	1
country	Congo	102	89,561,403	54	1
country	Mozambique	103	31,255,435	11	0
country	Tanzania	175	59,734,218	21	0
country	Myanmar	216	54,409,800	6	0
country	Dominica	249	71,986	-	-
country	Cambodia	245	16,718,965	-	-
country	Timor-Leste	230	1,318,445	-	-
country	French Polynesia	199	280,908	-	-

population per square mile: 50 - 100					
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million
country	Peru	67	32,971,854	19,217	583
country	Sweden	64	10,099,265	5,743	569
state	Mississippi	63	2,980,000	1,663	558
state	Arizona	64	7,280,000	3,694	507
country	Chile	67	19,116,201	9,457	495
country	USA	94	331,002,651	156,747	474
country	Brazil	66	212,559,417	92,568	435
state	Alabama	97	4,900,000	1,580	322
state	Colorado	56	5,760,000	1,838	319
state	Minnesota	71	5,640,000	1,640	291
state	Iowa	57	3,160,000	867	274
state	Missouri	89	6,140,000	1,305	213
country	Kyrgyzstan	88	6,524,195	1,378	211
state	Arkansas	58	3,020,000	453	150
state	Oklahoma	58	3,960,000	541	137
state	Vermont	68	620,000	57	92
state	West Virginia	75	1,790,000	116	65
country	Estonia	81	1,326,535	69	52
country	Sudan	64	43,849,260	746	17
country	Latvia	79	1,886,198	32	17
country	Uruguay	51	3,473,730	35	10
country	Zambia	64	18,383,955	151	8
country	Somalia	66	15,893,222	93	6
country	Venezuela	84	28,435,940	164	6
country	Angola	68	32,866,272	52	2
country	Papua New Guinea	51	8,947,024	2	0
country	Eritrea	91	3,546,421	-	-
country	Faeroe Islands	91	48,863	-	-
country	Laos	82	7,275,560	-	-
country	Saint Pierre Miquelon	65	5,794	-	-
country	Bhutan	52	771,608	-	-

population per square mile: < 50					
category	region	population per sq mile	population	deaths	deaths per million
state	New Mexico	17	2,100,000	642	306
state	Nevada	28	3,080,000	830	269
country	Bolivia	28	11,673,021	2,894	248
country	Canada	11	37,742,154	8,935	237
state	Nebraska	25	1,930,000	332	172
state	South Dakota	12	880,000	130	148
country	French Guiana	9	298,682	43	144
state	North Dakota	11	760,000	103	136
state	Kansas	36	2,910,000	358	123
state	Idaho	22	1,790,000	189	106
country	Russia	23	145,934,462	13,963	96
state	Utah	39	3,210,000	304	95
state	Maine	44	1,340,000	123	92
country	Oman	43	5,106,626	421	82
country	Saudi Arabia	42	34,813,871	2,866	82
country	Argentina	43	45,195,774	3,543	78
state	Oregon	44	4,220,000	322	76
country	Finland	47	5,540,720	329	59
state	Montana	7	1,070,000	60	56
country	Norway	38	5,421,241	255	47
state	Wyoming	6	580,000	26	45
country	Suriname	10	586,632	26	44
country	Kazakhstan	18	18,776,707	793	42
country	Mauritania	12	4,649,658	157	34
state	Alaska	1	730,000	23	32
country	Iceland	9	341,243	10	29
country	Algeria	48	43,851,044	1,210	28
country	Guyana	10	786,552	20	25
country	Gabon	22	2,225,734	49	22
country	CAR	20	4,829,767	59	12
country	Libya	10	6,871,292	74	11
country	Congo	42	5,518,087	54	10
country	Australia	9	25,499,884	197	8
country	Paraguay	47	7,132,538	49	7
country	Mali	43	20,250,833	124	6
country	Belize	45	397,628	2	5
country	Chad	34	16,425,864	75	5
country	New Zealand	47	4,822,233	22	5
country	South Sudan	47	11,193,725	46	4
country	Namibia	8	2,540,905	10	4
country	Niger	49	24,206,644	69	3
country	Western Sahara	6	597,339	1	2
country	Botswana	11	2,351,627	2	1
country	New Caledonia	40	285,498	-	-
country	Mongolia	5	3,278,290	-	-
country	Falkland Islands	1	3,480	-	-
country	Greenland	0	56,770	-	-