

Pandemics and Policy

Protecting Liberty through Checking Kansas COVID-19
Government Power

Michael Austin, Kansas Policy Institute



Trade-offs have been with us ever
since the late unpleasantness in the
Garden of Eden.

— *Thomas Sowell* —

AZ QUOTES

Our Conversation Today

- The Economics of COVID
- Government Response
- “Follow the Science”
- COVID Recovery

The Economics of COVID

- The Once-In-A-Lifetime Pandemic
- Created shocks in both demand and supply
- Is fighting COVID an economic policy or a public health one
 - Biological features of the virus: Public Health
 - Government actions: Economic
 - Human Behavior: Economic
- Fighting COVID must consider the role of government & the value of the tradeoff

Government Response

High Economic Tradeoffs

- Lockdowns
- School Closures
- Stay-At-Home Orders
- Outpatient Clinic Closures

Low Economic Tradeoffs

- Mask Promotion
- Ad campaigns
- Increasing Hand Sanitizer Production
- Increasing Flexibility in Work and Consumer Activity

Government

Response: Ignoring Lockdown Tradeoffs

- Suicide hotline calls spiking 600%
- Missed Cancer screenings
- Liquor sales up 300-600%
- Cigarette sales increased
- Family relationships have become frayed
- Child check ups have been missed

A Doctor a Day Letter - Signed

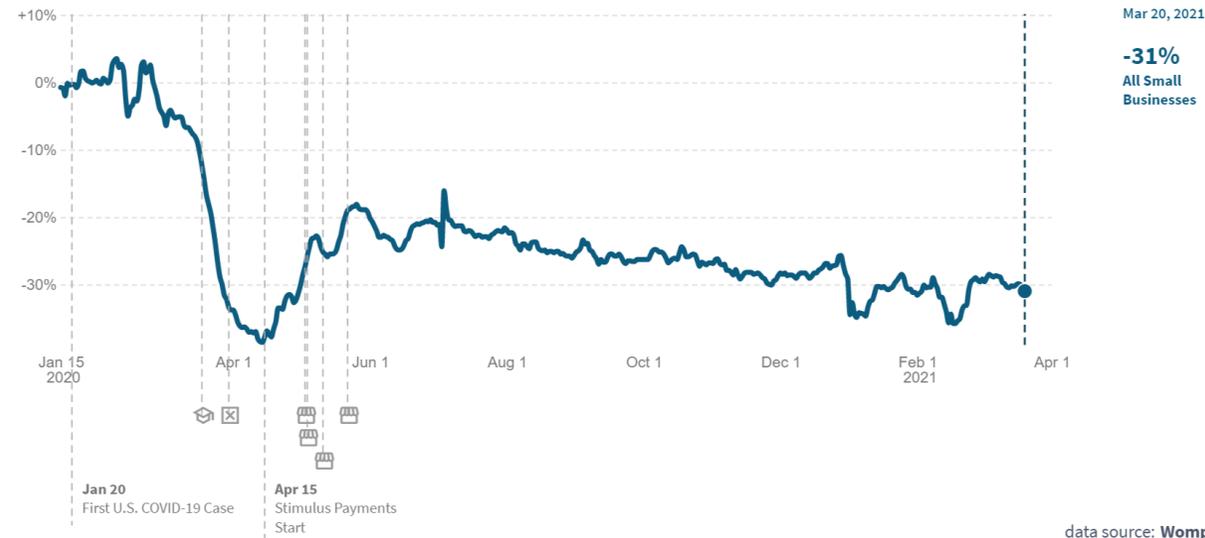
Uploaded by [Fox News](#)

A letter signed by hundreds of doctors warning of adverse health consequences stemming from the coronavirus shutdowns. [Full description](#)

Government Response: KS Businesses Close

Percent Change in Number of Small Businesses Open*

In **Kansas**, as of **March 20 2021**, the number of small businesses open **decreased** by **31%** compared to January 2020.

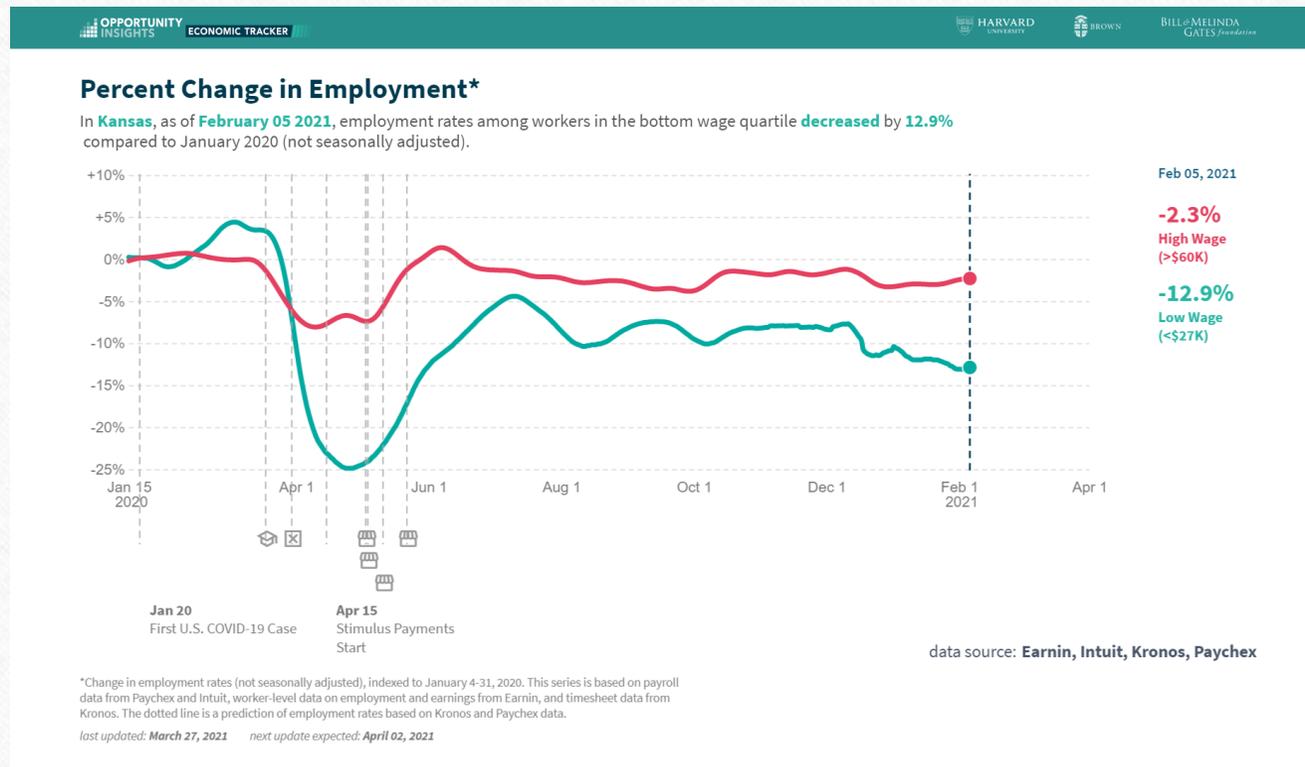


data source: Womply

*Change in small businesses open (defined as having financial transaction activity), indexed to January 4-31 2020 and seasonally adjusted. This series is based on data from Womply.

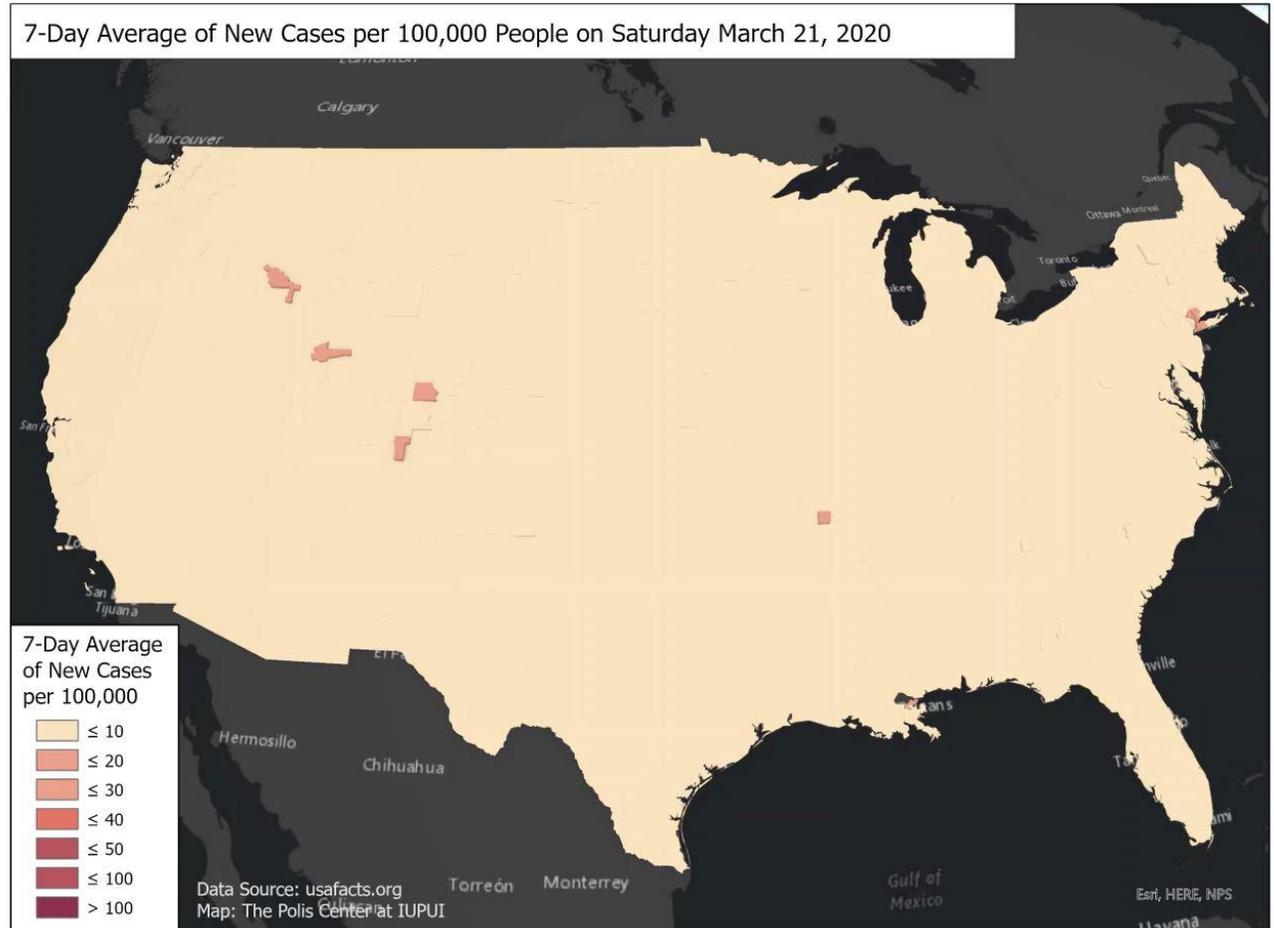
last updated: **March 29, 2021** next update expected: **April 02, 2021**

Government Response: Worsening Inequality

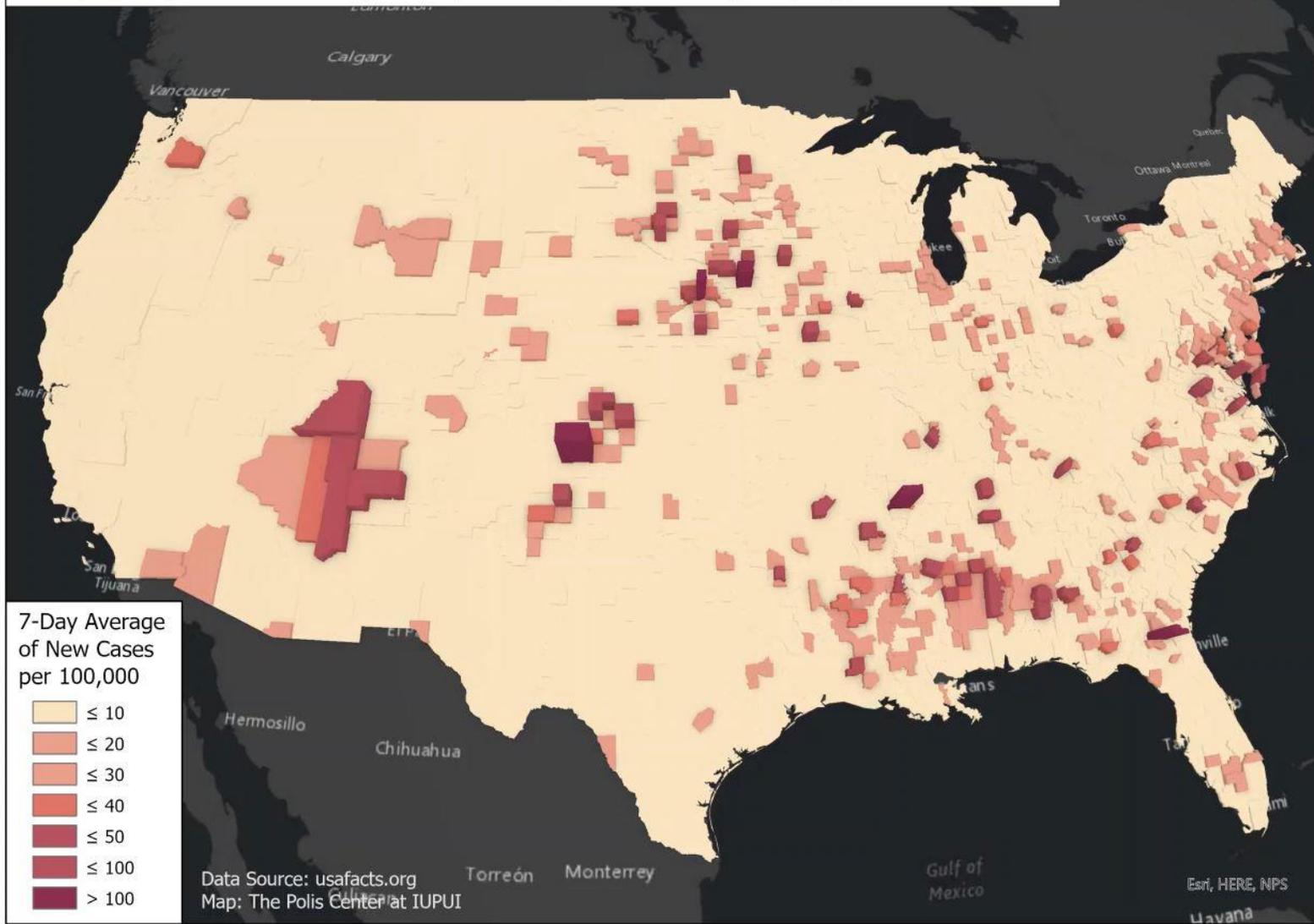


“Follow the Science”

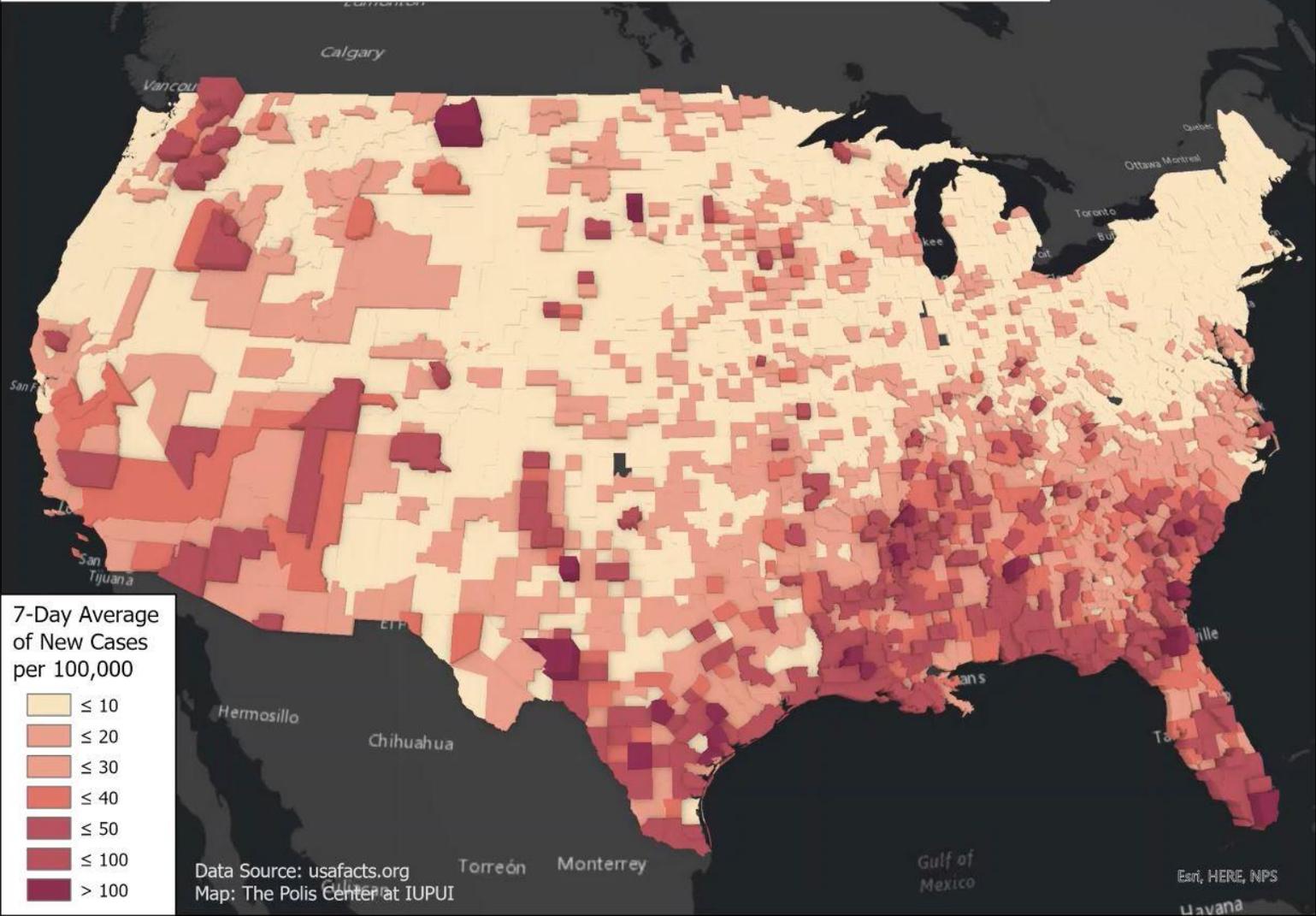
- Heat-map of COVID in the United States
- Will show how COVID spread across the country over time.
- Look for areas of the country that are outliers



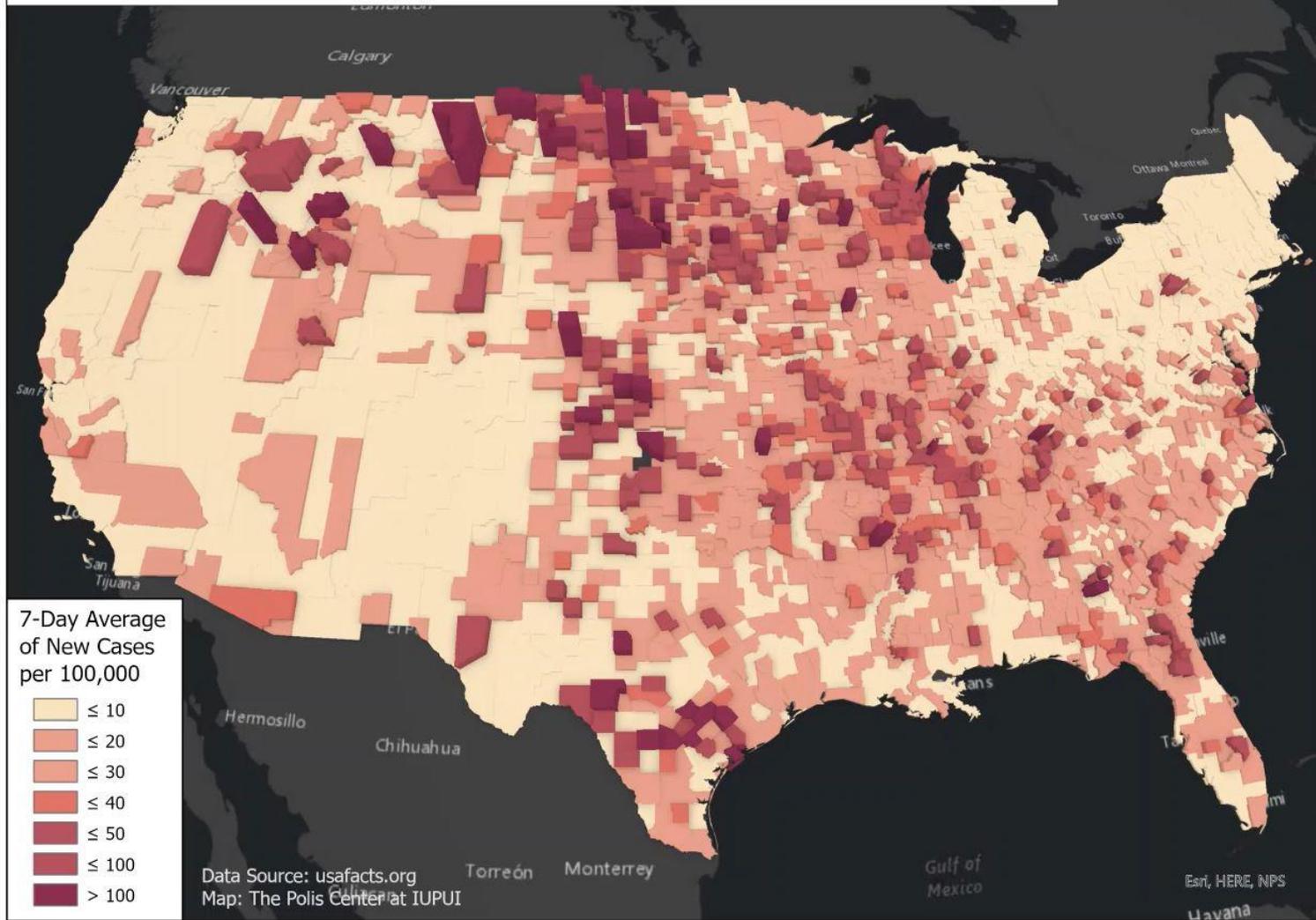
7-Day Average of New Cases per 100,000 People on Thursday May 21, 2020



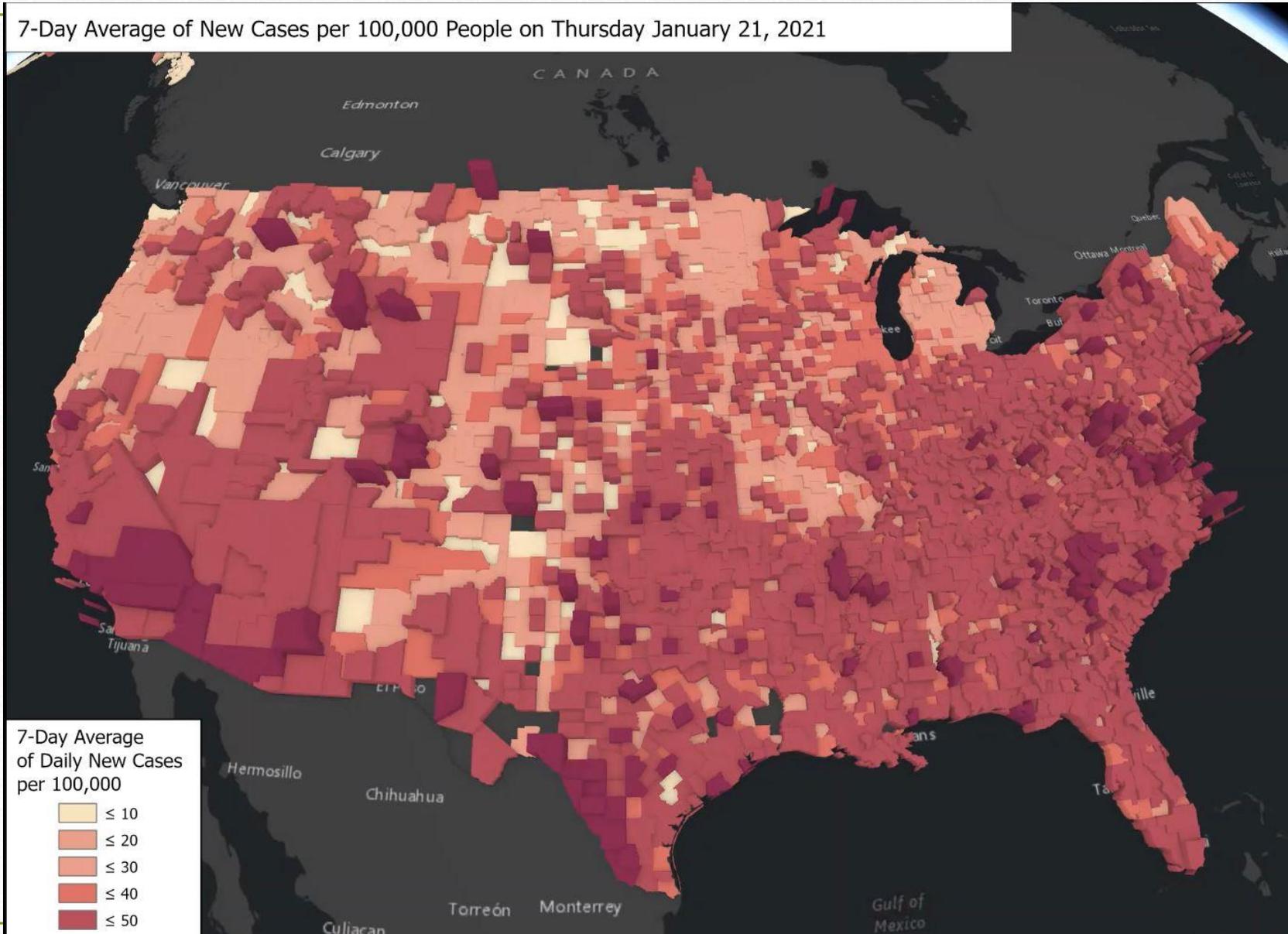
7-Day Average of New Cases per 100,000 People on Tuesday July 21, 2020



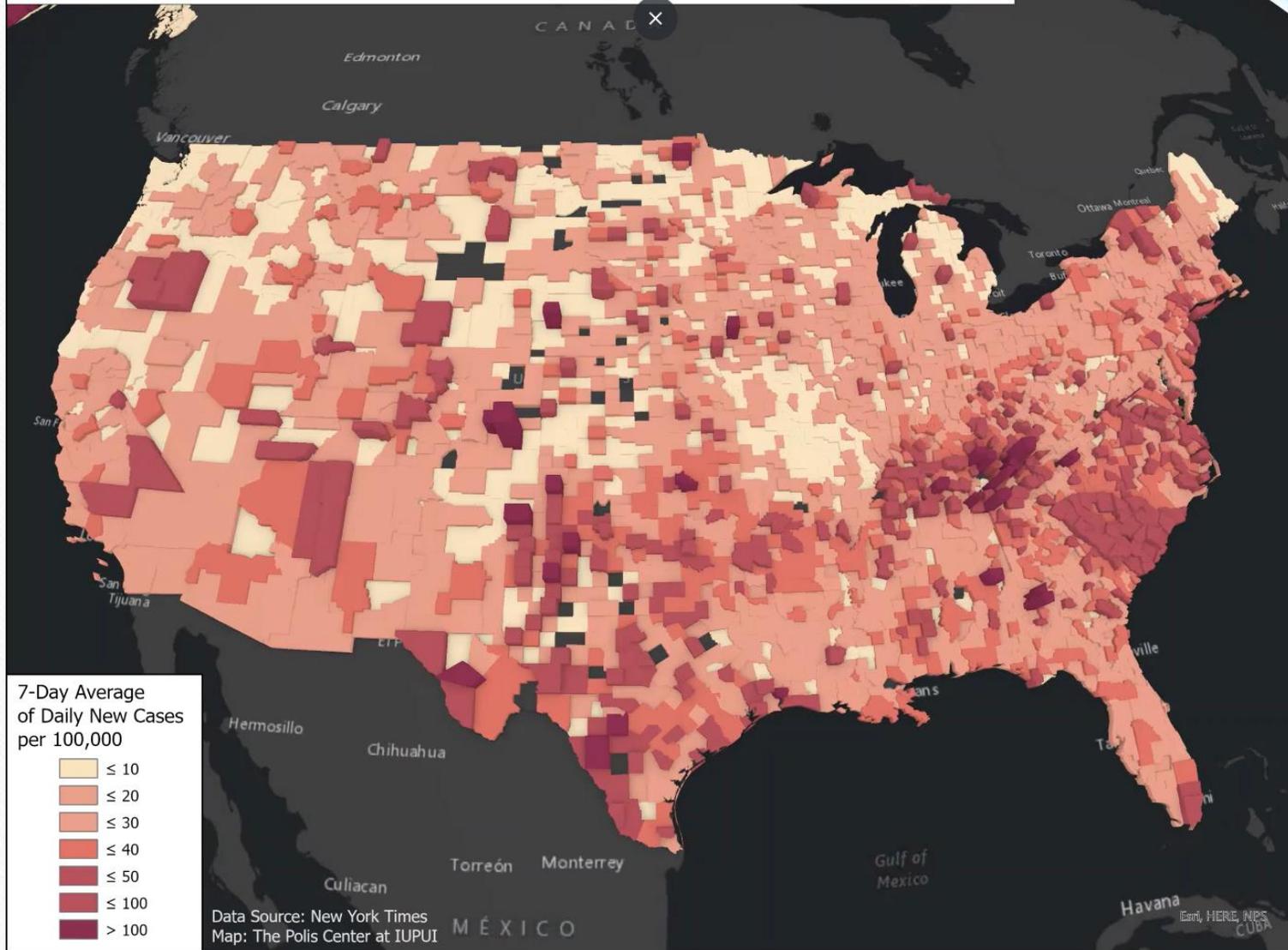
7-Day Average of New Cases per 100,000 People on Monday September 21, 2020



7-Day Average of New Cases per 100,000 People on Thursday January 21, 2021



7-Day Average of Daily New Cases per 100,000 People on Monday February 15, 2021



“Follow the Science”

- COVID followed a seasonal trend
- Contiguous states saw COVID cases rise at the same time, peak at the same time, and fall at the same time
- COVID hit regions mixed with states with a myriad of policy interventions
- Mandated interventions did not pass the “Eye test”
- Nature is more powerful than mandates



Holding Media & Government Accountable.

Home > News > Kansas labs set cycle thresholds too high, detect non-contagious virus

News

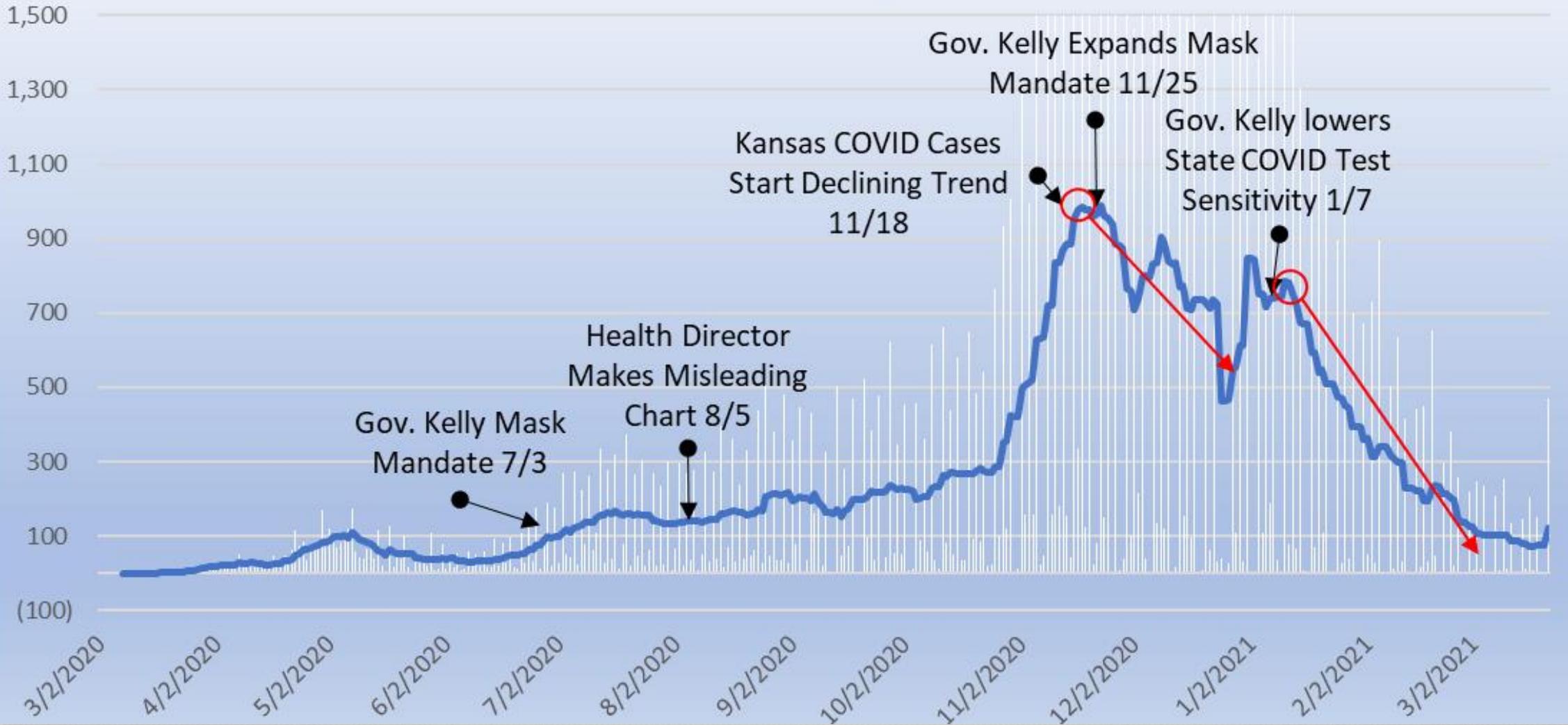
Kansas labs set cycle thresholds too high, detect non-contagious virus

By Danedri Herbert - October 12, 2020 👁 15101

“Follow the Science”

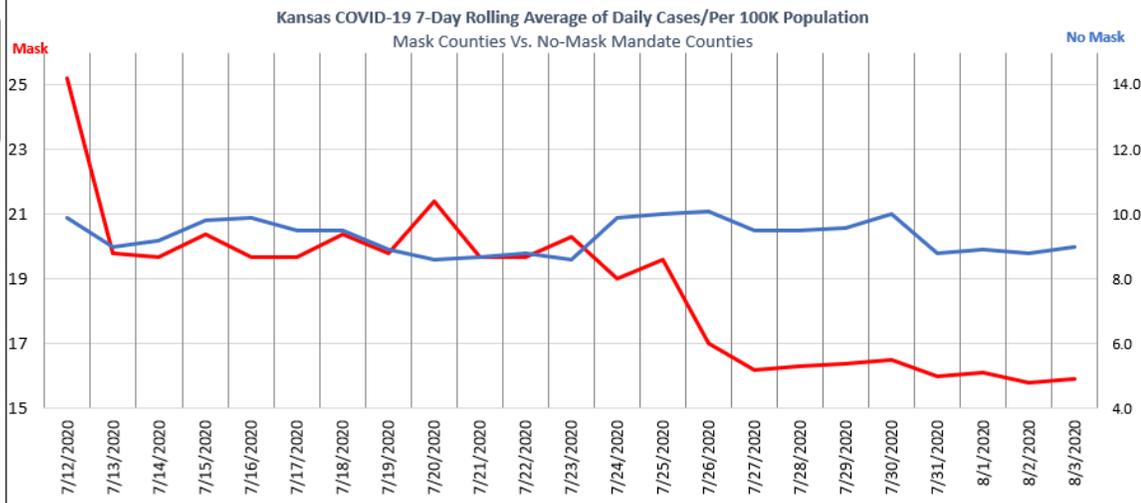
Kansas COVID Tests calibrated too sensitive, and are likely overreporting the number of COVID cases

Kansas Daily COVID Cases Per 1M 7-Day Average

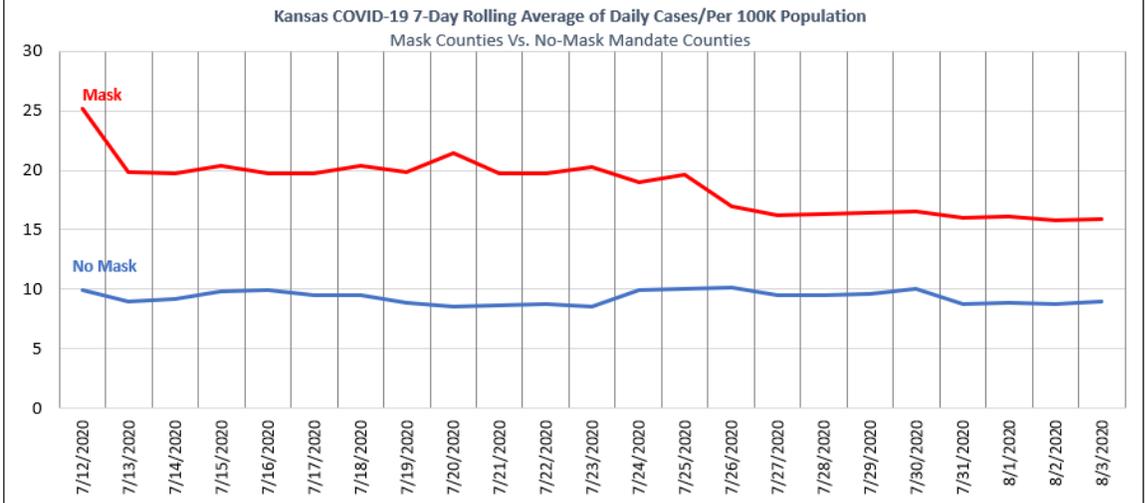


“Trust the Science”: Misleading the Public to Promote Mask Mandates

What Kansas Health Secretary Norman Gave to Media/Public



What Kansas Health Secretary Norman **SHOULD HAVE GIVEN** to Media/Public

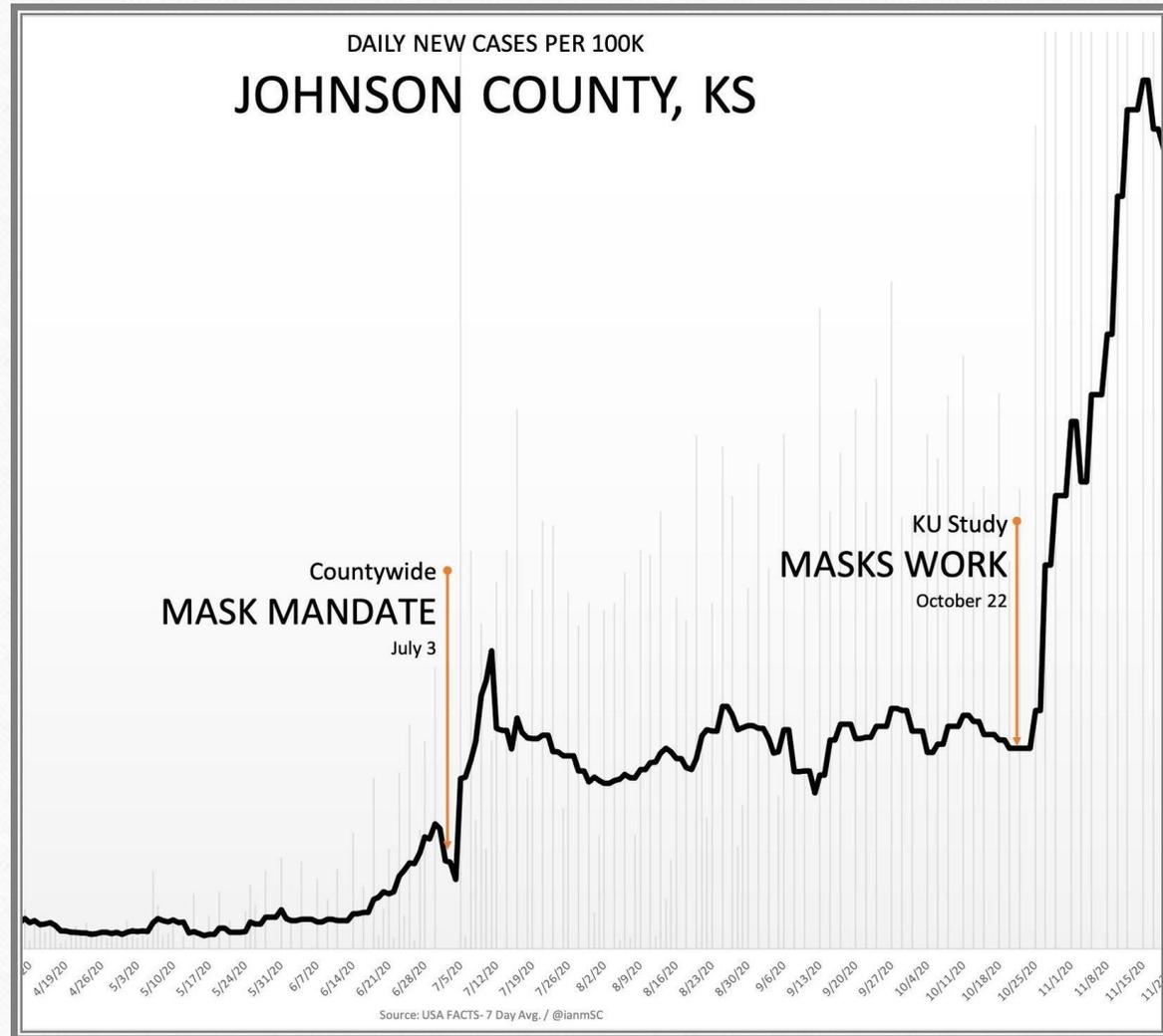


“Trust the Science”: Misleading the Public to Promote Mask Mandates

KU conducts a study proving Mask
Mandates work

- They ignore national and statewide polls claiming high Kansas mask-use BEFORE the mandate. Instead, they assume mask-use before mandates was 0
- “Results are not increasing over time for Johnson County”

Cases rise 350% immediately after KU
publishes their study

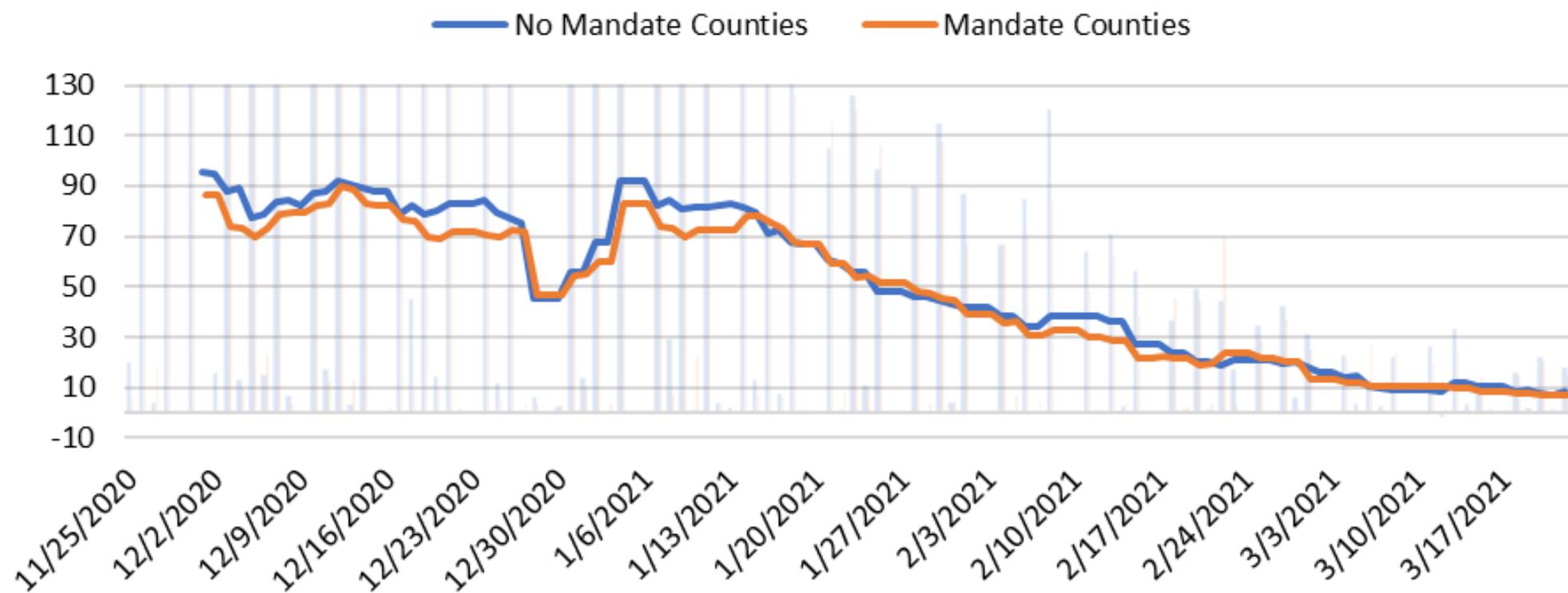


“Trust the Science”: Misleading the Public to Promote Mask Mandates

- The CDC conducts a study proving Mask Mandates work
- They miss the fact that mandate counties are far more likely to be an urban county than a rural one
- Comparing mandate/no-mandate counties of similar population removes this bias, and shows mandates had little effect in stopping COVID

Kansas CDC Study Ignores Urban/Rural Bias				
Metrics	CDC Study		Michael's Calculation	
# of Mandate Counties	24		11	
# of No Mandate Counties	81		11	
Average Pop. in Mandate Counties	77,500		10,401	
Average Pop. In No Mandate Counties	12,198		9,836	
Difference in Population (Number)	65,302		565	
Difference in Population (Percent)	535%		6%	
Daily Cases Per 100,000				
Week	Mandate	No-Mandate	Mandate	No-Mandate
July 3rd - 9th	17	6	4	4
August 17th - 23rd	16	12	25	7
Percent Change	-6%	100%	525%	75%

Kansas Daily COVID Cases Per 100K 7-Day Average



Source: New York Times & Author's Calculations

“Follow the Science”

- The call to “Follow the Science” isn’t a call for society to adapt to new information
- It’s a shield to never openly discuss why government officials are in favor of some outcomes over others
- It’s about maintaining power
- The cure is for government to be honest, humble, and to serve the public

COVID Recovery

- SB 40: Checks and Balances
 - Prevents Governor from issuing another COVID emergency declaration in 2021.
 - Ended all executive orders on March 31, 2021
 - New orders must be approved/rejected by the legislature, or if unavailable the legislative coordinating committee, a purely legislative body.
 - Local public health officers can no longer ORDER but make recommendations for County Commissioners to approve/modify/reject.
 - Extend and make clear due process and habeas corpus from those aggrieved by public health orders

COVID Recovery

- Economic Recovery
 - Regulatory Reform
 - Tax Relief
 - Smaller Government

In Summary

- COVID may be a once in a lifetime event, but too many government officials have used the event to coalesce more power at the expense of our freedom and livelihoods
- Government interventions ignore the boots on the ground, creating unintended tradeoffs and exacerbating Kansans' plight
- They hide data and use their authority as cover to maintain that power
- The best tools we must fight COVID and government coercion with is a proper system of checks and balances and a limit on the size of government

Questions?

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