

1 Predictive model of COVID-19 incidence and socioeconomic description of  
2 municipalities in Brazil

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4 Extended Title (or short abstract):

5 The present study aims to describe the demographic and socioeconomic  
6 characteristics of cities with cases of COVID-19 in Brazil, as well as to  
7 determine a predictive model for the number of cases. We analyzed data from  
8 672 cities where 73.1% of the Brazilian population lives. Our model predicts, if  
9 the conditions are maintained, 2,358,703 (2,172,930 to 2,544,477) cumulative  
10 cases on July 25, 2020.

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35 ABSTRACT:

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37 Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses that can cause respiratory,  
38 gastrointestinal, hepatic, and neurological diseases. In December 2019, a new  
39 highly contagious coronavirus termed severe acute respiratory syndrome  
40 coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) emerged in China. SARS-CoV-2 causes a  
41 potentially lethal human respiratory infection, COVID-19, that is associated with  
42 fever and cough and can progress to pneumonia and dyspnea in severe cases.  
43 Since the virus emerged, it has spread rapidly, reaching all continents around  
44 the world. A previous study has shown that, despite being the best alternative in  
45 the current pandemic context, social distancing measures alone may not be  
46 sufficient to prevent COVID-19 spread, and the overall impact of the virus is of  
47 great concern. The present study aims to describe the demographic and  
48 socioeconomic characteristics of 672 cities with cases of COVID-19, as well as  
49 to determine a predictive model for the number of cases. We analyzed data  
50 from cities with at least 1 reported case of COVID-19 until June 26, 2020. It was  
51 observed that cities with confirmed cases of the disease are present in all  
52 Brazilian states, affecting 36.5% of the municipalities in Rio de Janeiro State.  
53 The inhabitants in cities with reported cases of COVID-19 represent more than  
54 73.1% of the Brazilian population. Stratifying the age groups of the inhabitants  
55 and accounting for the percentage of women and men does not affect COVID-  
56 19 incidence (confirmed cases/100,000 inhabitants). The demographic density,  
57 the MHDl and the per capita income of the municipalities with cases of COVID-  
58 19 do not affect disease incidence. In addition, if conditions are maintained, our  
59 model predicts 2,358,703 (2,172,930 to 2,544,477) cumulative cases on July  
60 25, 2020.

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67 Keywords: COVID-19, COVID-19 in Brazil, Exploratory data analysis, ARIMA,  
68 computational model.

69 INTRODUCTION:

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71 A pandemic is defined as any epidemic disease widely distributed  
72 geographically that affects different regions simultaneously. Over the years,  
73 humanity has faced many instances when health and science are put to the test  
74 and need to present answers. The Spanish flu ravaged the whole world and  
75 was often confused with several other diseases, such as cholera, dengue, and  
76 typhus (GOULART, 2005). At the end of the pandemic, approximately 50 million  
77 people had died. In 2009, a novel influenza A (H1N1) virus emerged in Mexico,  
78 where the transmission remained geographically contained for at least one  
79 month. Migratory events and population movement caused the virus to spread  
80 to other countries, leading the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare  
81 H1N1 a global pandemic (LIPSITCH et al., 2011). In official WHO records, the  
82 H1N1 pandemic resulted in the deaths of 18,500 people around the world.

83 On March 11, 2020, after a declaration by the WHO, the world population  
84 again lived under a shadow of fear of a new pandemic, this time caused by a  
85 coronavirus. Coronaviruses (CoV) are enveloped viruses that are part of a large  
86 family of single-stranded RNA viruses with a positive-sense genome and can  
87 cause respiratory, gastrointestinal, hepatic, and neurological diseases. CoV can  
88 infect many animal species, including birds, cows, pigs, and humans, causing  
89 acute and chronic diseases (Chang et al., 2012; Weiss, 2011). Most infections  
90 caused by viruses from the family *Coronaviridae* induce a mild form of the  
91 disease in humans, usually causing flu-like symptoms. However, after the  
92 discovery of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), a greater contagion  
93 capacity and lethality potential of this viral family was evidenced (Weiss et al.,  
94 2011). The etiological agent of SARS, SARS-CoV, was identified in mid-2003  
95 after an outbreak of the disease in November 2002 in Guangdong Province,  
96 China, where 8,700 cases and 774 deaths were confirmed (Contini et al., 2020).  
97 The so-called novel CoV, initially referred to as 2019-nCoV, was first described  
98 when a group of patients reported symptoms of pneumonia of unknown cause  
99 in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019 (ZHU, 2020).

100 On February 11, 2020, after phylogenetic and pathophysiological  
101 analyses, 2019-nCoV was officially named SARS-CoV-2 due to its similarity to  
102 SARS-CoV, as announced by the Coronavirus Study Group (CSG) of the

103 International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV), according to the 2015  
104 WHO nomenclature guidelines (Gorbalenya et al., 2020). The pathology caused  
105 by SARS-CoV-2 infection was termed COVID-19, characterized by a flu-like  
106 condition associated with fever and cough that can progress to pneumonia and  
107 dyspnea in more severe cases (CHAN et al., 2020). The incubation period of  
108 the disease varies from 2 to 14 days, and in approximately 80% of cases,  
109 infected individuals remain asymptomatic. However, unlike patients with  
110 influenza, viral transmission from asymptomatic individuals is possible (Contini  
111 et al., 2020). In addition, according to Contini (2020), the mechanism of  
112 contagion is direct, that is, through contact with respiratory fomites of infected  
113 people. Other studies show that SARS-CoV-2 can survive in the air for more  
114 than 3 hours and on surfaces such as plastics and metals for up to 3 days (Van  
115 Doremalen et al., 2020). Currently, there are no vaccines to prevent the  
116 disease, reinforcing the need for prophylactic measures, namely, correct hand,  
117 environment and surface hygiene and social distancing.

118 A previous study has shown that social distancing and other preventive  
119 measures alone may not be sufficient to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and  
120 the overall impact of the virus is of great concern (Sohrabi et al., 2020). It is also  
121 noteworthy that additional research is needed to help define the exact rates and  
122 mechanisms of person-to-person transmission, as well as to determine  
123 additional factors that can guide containment actions.

124 The internal and external logistic and transitory movements, as well as  
125 several other socioeconomic factors, can not only contribute to the  
126 understanding of viral spread but also assist in surveillance measures and  
127 competent decision-making for regional health systems, where such analysis  
128 can (and should) be implemented to reduce the exponential growth rate of  
129 positive cases. Different approaches are being used to better understand the  
130 transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 to inform pandemic prevention and  
131 control measures. In this context, the present study aims to analyze the  
132 demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of cities with COVID-19 cases,  
133 as well as to adjust a predictive model for the cumulative number of disease  
134 cases thus expanding the possibilities of decision-making at the micro- and  
135 macroregional levels.

136

## 137 MATERIALS AND METHODS:

138

139 In the present work, an ecological study design was used; this method of  
140 epidemiological study helped us to generate hypotheses about possible  
141 associations between socioeconomic characteristics of the Brazilian  
142 municipalities and the COVID-19 incidence and fatality rate.

143 For the exploratory data analysis (EDA) and the predictive model  
144 adjustment, the Python programming language was used with several libraries  
145 specifically for this purpose. Along with Python, it was necessary to import  
146 different packages and libraries, the most used ones being pandas, NumPy and  
147 SciPy, with the function of organizing and structuring the data. For statistical  
148 calculations, the statsmodels package was imported to analyze the time series  
149 and the autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model for the  
150 forecasts. The purpose of these methods is to fit the model to the data as well  
151 as possible. Matplotlib and Seaborn were used to generate two-dimensional  
152 (2D) graphics. The project can be accessed through the GitHub page,  
153 <https://github.com/gfsilveira/covid>. The analyzed database contains data from  
154 672 municipalities (12,1% of the cities in Brazil) in the 26 states of the  
155 federation plus the Federal District.

156 The records of COVID-19 cases at the municipal level were obtained  
157 through daily updates from the Health Departments of the Federative Units  
158 compiled by Álvaro Justen and his collaborators until June 26, 2020, available  
159 at <https://brasil.io/dataset/covid19/caso>. Demographic and socioeconomic  
160 characteristics publicly available at the municipal level, such as population  
161 density, Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI), total area in km<sup>2</sup> and per  
162 capita income, were obtained from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and  
163 Statistics (IBGE) from the demographic census conducted in 2010. Data on the  
164 age range and sex distribution of the population were obtained from the 2015  
165 census.

166 A data structure containing different age groups between 0 and 80+  
167 years old from the IBGE 2015 census database was used. The age of residents  
168 in Brazilian municipalities was separated into groups of young (0 to 29 years),  
169 adults (30 to 64 years) and seniors (65+ years). This distribution grouped ages  
170 according to low risk (young), comorbidities risk (adults) and complications risk

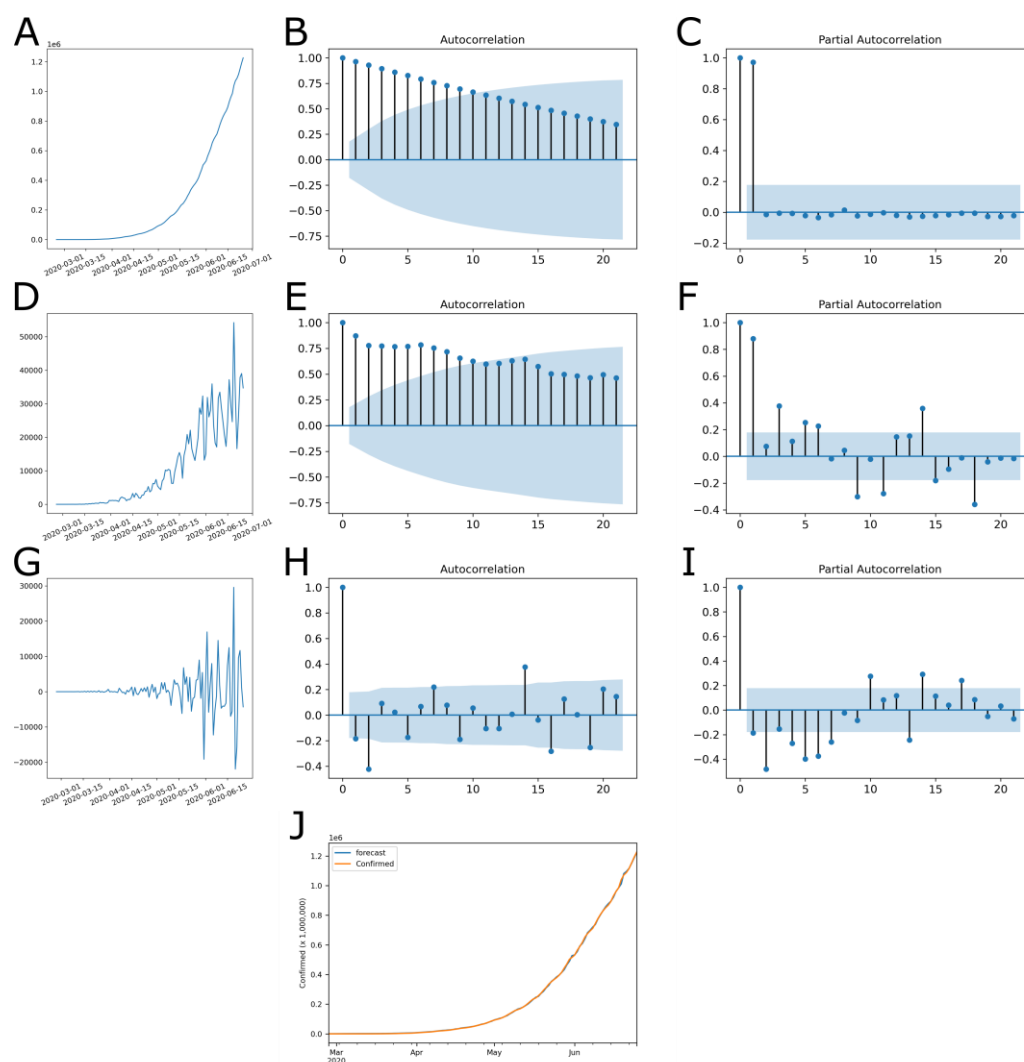
171 (seniors) from SARS-CoV-2. The percentage of declared sex data  
172 (female/male) was also analyzed in cities with cases of COVID-19. In addition to  
173 data from the population, the number of cities with COVID-19 cases within each  
174 state was analyzed by the percentage of Brazilian municipalities/states with  
175 confirmed cases until June 26, 2020.

176 Incidence (cases per 100,000 inhabitants) was analyzed according to  
177 demographic density (inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>), Municipal Human Development Index  
178 (MHDI), socioeconomic data (per capita income), age groups and sex ratios.

179 For the development of the predictive model, we used the ARIMA model  
180 proposed by Box & Jenkins (1970), which consists of developing and adjusting  
181 stationary or nonstationary linear models relative to an observed time series.  
182 The autoregressive (AR) component indicates that the variable of the time  
183 series is regressed on its own lagged values. The I (for "integrated") indicates  
184 that the data values have been replaced with the difference between  $n+1$  and  $n$   
185 values, performed more than once. The moving average (MA) is a calculation of  
186 data points by creating a series of averages of different subsets of full data. In  
187 the moving average, the regression error is a linear combination of various  
188 times in the past and error terms whose values occurred contemporaneously.  
189 The construction of the model was based on daily COVID-19 cases. To analyze  
190 the stationary condition of the time series in different orders, the augmented  
191 Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test was used. The null hypothesis of the ADF test is that  
192 the time series is nonstationary. The p-value of the test was 0.000234, on the  
193 order of differentiation 2, less than the significance level (0.05), rejecting the null  
194 hypothesis and indicating that the time series is indeed stationary (Figure 1G).  
195 To determine which predictive model to use, the autocorrelation function (ACF)  
196 (Figure 1B, E, H) and partial autocorrelation function (PACF) (Figure 1C, F, I)  
197 were analyzed to determine the ARIMA  $p$ ,  $d$ , and  $q$  parameters. The ACF is the  
198 correlation of a variable with itself at differing time lags, and the PACF partial  
199 autocorrelation at lag 1 is very high (it equals the ACF at lag 1), but the other  
200 values are correlated when lag  $> 1$ . The PACF does not include any value for  
201 lag 0 because it is impossible to remove any intermediate autocorrelation  
202 between  $t$  and  $t-k$  when  $k=0$ , and therefore the PACF does not exist at lag 0.  
203 The ACF for an AR( $p$ ) process approaches zero very slowly, but the PACF goes  
204 to zero for values of lag  $> p$ . The ACF for an MA( $q$ ) process goes to zero for

205 values of lag  $> q$ , but the PACF approaches zero very slowly. As defined by the  
206 ADF test,  $d = 2$  was a second order of differentiation, making the series  
207 stationary (Figure 1G). In the second order of differentiation, the PACF with lag  
208 2 is already below significance (Figure 1I),  $p = 1$ . The same occurs in the ACF  
209 in the second order, where lag 2 is below significance (Figure 1H). Then, the  
210 parameters were tested by the minor Akaike Information Criteria (AIC), four  
211 ARIMA models, (1,2,0), (1,2,1), (2,2,0), (2,2,1) and (2,2,2). With these data, the  
212 ARIMA parameters (2,2,1) showed the best adjustment (Figure 1J).

213



**Figure 1. ACF and PACF plots for determination of model parameters.** (A-C) Original series, (D-F) 1<sup>st</sup>-order differencing and (G-I) 2<sup>nd</sup>-order differencing. (A, D and G) Time series, with number of cases by date; (B, E and H) autocorrelation function; and (C, F and I) partial autocorrelation function. With this data, a model ARIMA ( $p=1$ ,  $d=2$ ,  $q=1$ ) was determined. (J) Adjustment of forecast data with observed outcome data.

214 RESULTS:

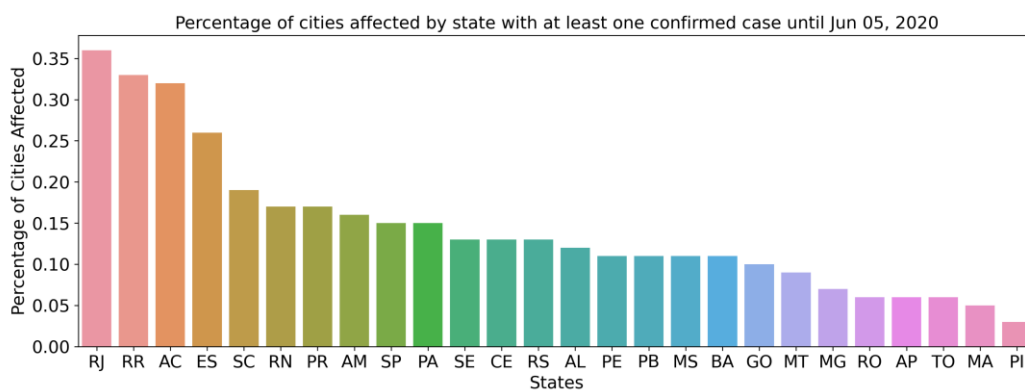
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216 1) A total of 73.1% of the Brazilian population lives in cities with confirmed  
217 cases of COVID-19

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219 Since COVID-19 is a pathology caused by SARS-CoV-2 that is transmitted  
220 directly from person to person, in the present work, we seek to observe the  
221 characteristics of the affected cities. The analyzed database contains data from  
222 672 municipalities (12,1% of the 5,570 cities in Brazil) from the 26 states of the  
223 federation, plus the Federal District (Figure 2), which had at least 1 confirmed  
224 infection as of June 26, 2020, totaling 1,225,993 (0.58% of the Brazilian  
225 population) cases of COVID-19, which resulted in 54,918 deaths. The most  
226 affected state was Rio de Janeiro, reaching 36.5% of the municipalities reported  
227 cases of COVID-19. Until the last analyzed date, we observed an incidence rate  
228 of 63.31/100,000 inhabitants and a mortality rate of 2575 (per 100,000  
229 inhabitants). The data analyzed in this work have been updated daily since  
230 February 25, 2020. The first 100 cases had been confirmed by March 14, and  
231 after one week, on March 21, there were already 1,000 confirmed cases. Brazil  
232 reached 10,000 and 100,000 confirmed cases on April 4 and May 3,  
233 respectively. As of Jun 19, the number of confirmed cases reached 1,039,339.

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**Figure 2. All Brazilian states have confirmed cases of COVID-19.** Distribution of confirmed cases of COVID-19 by state. Percentage of cities with at least 1 case of positive infection.

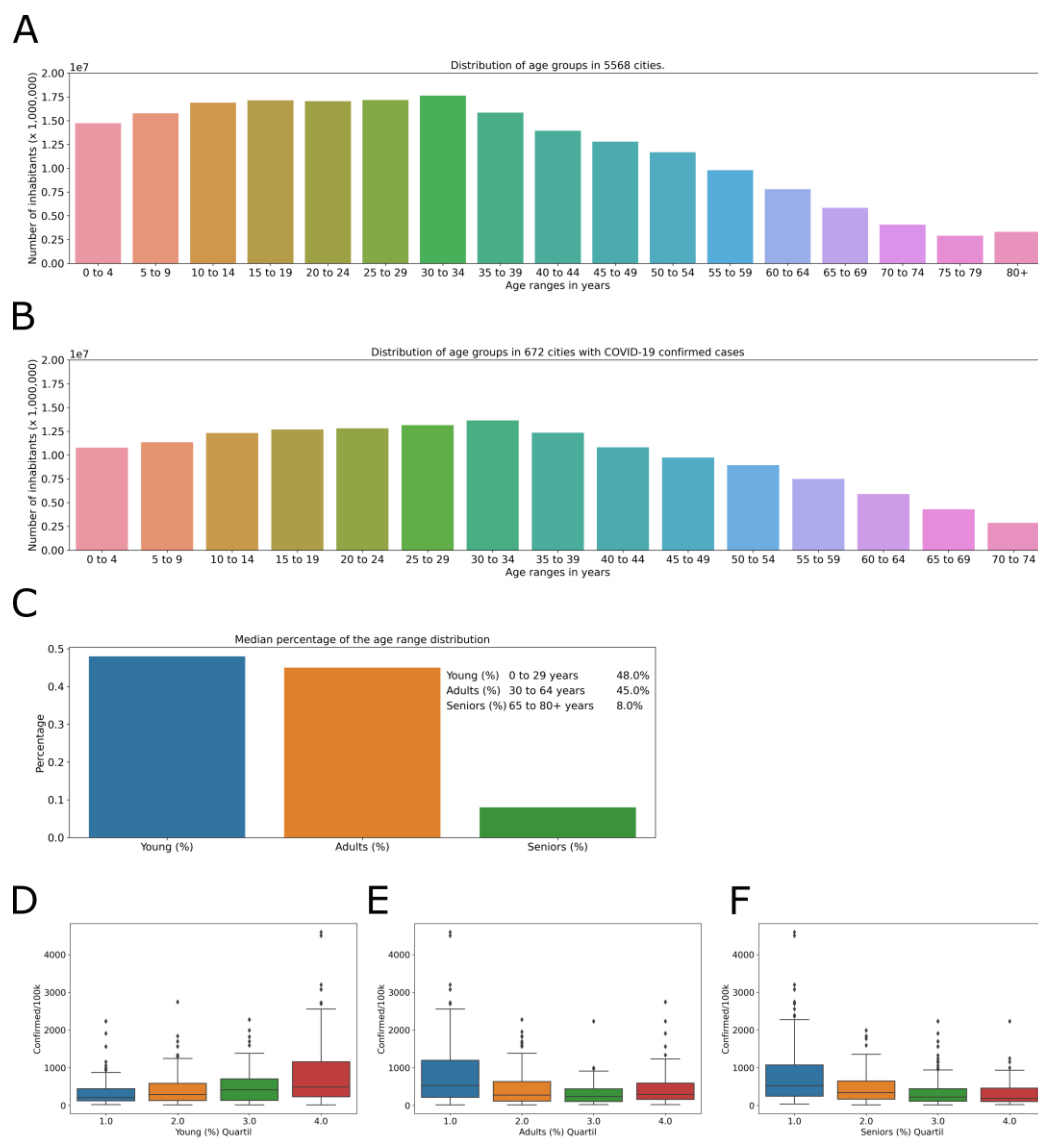
235

236 The population of Brazil in 2018 (last available data) was 210,147,125  
237 inhabitants, with the largest number of inhabitants between 10 and 34 years old



238 (Figure 3A). The cities where cases of COVID-19 were observed have  
239 153,528,953 inhabitants, representing 73.1% of the Brazilian population, and as  
240 expected, the distribution of age groups is the same as the general distribution  
241 in Brazil (Figure 3B). In the present study, the age ranges of the population in  
242 the affected cities were grouped into seniors over age 65, with a higher risk;  
243 adults between 30 and 64 with a greater likelihood of comorbidity; and the  
244 young, aged 0 to 29, with lower risk. The percentage of inhabitants in each age  
245 group (Figure 3C) was used for the analysis in relation to COVID-19  
246 incidence. The city with the greatest incidence, Santo Antônio do Içá  
247 (Amazonas) (4592.17 cases/100,000 inhabitants), has 70% of inhabitants in the  
248 young group (0-29 years old), 27% in the adult group (30-64 years old) and 3%  
249 in the seniors group (65+ years old). In contrast, the city of Utinga (Bahia), with  
250 a lower COVID-19 incidence in the database (15,64 cases/100,000 inhabitants),  
251 has 55% of inhabitants in the young group (0-29 years old), 38% in the adult  
252 group (30-64 years old) and 7% in the seniors group (65+ years old). The  
253 quartiles of the percentage of inhabitants in each age group were analyzed to  
254 determine if cities with a large percentage of senior, adult or young people have  
255 a greater incidence. For the young group, the percentage of inhabitants was  
256 divided into 34 – 44% (Figure 3D, blue), 45 – 48% (Figure 3D, orange), 49 –  
257 51% (Figure 3D, green), and 52 – 71% (Figure 3D, red) of the total population.  
258 The adult group composed 26 – 41% (Figure 3E, blue), 42 – 45% (Figure 3E,  
259 orange), 46% (Figure 3E, green), and 47 – 52% (Figure 3E, red) of the total  
260 population. The senior group included 2 – 6% (Figure 3F, blue), 7 – 8% (Figure  
261 3F, orange), 9 – 10% (Figure 3F, green), and 11 – 16% (Figure 3F, red) of the  
262 total population. These groups were analyzed against the incidence of COVID-  
263 19 (Figure 3D-F). In conclusion, in the affected cities, the age groups do not  
264 show a relationship with the incidence of the disease. Municipalities with a  
265 greater or lesser percentage of inhabitants in the young, adult, or senior age  
266 groups do not have a greater or lesser incidence of COVID-19.

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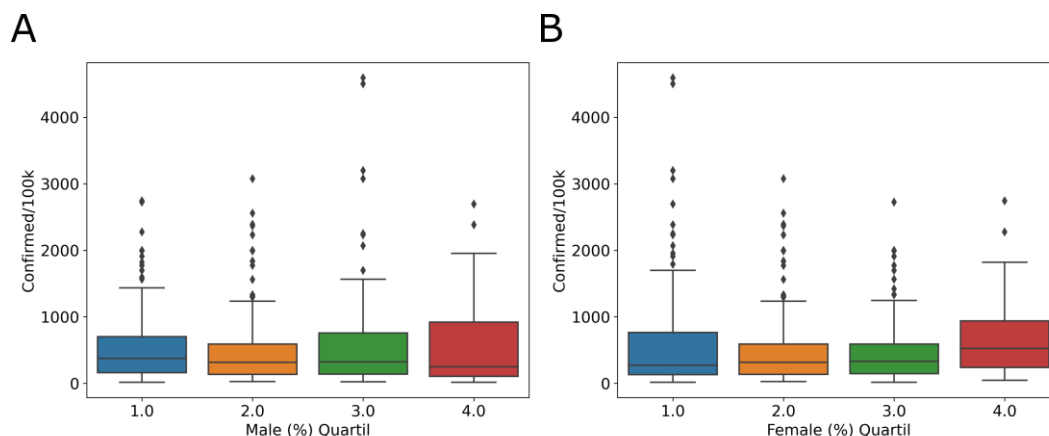


**Figure 3. Age distribution in cities with cases of COVID-19.** (A) Number of inhabitants by age group (increments of 5 years) in Brazil. (B) Number of inhabitants by age group in cities with cases of COVID-19. Stratification of age groups by age in the municipalities studied, represented by the percentage of the number of inhabitants for each city (C). Distribution of quartiles of the number of inhabitants per age groups of (D) young, (E) adults, (F) seniors, in relation to the COVID-19 incidence, in the affected cities.

268

269 Another demographic factor analyzed was the declared sex of the  
 270 inhabitants. In Brazil, the population distribution percentage is 51.7% for women  
 271 and 48.3% for men. We observed a similar distribution, with 50.11% (2,979,950)  
 272 women and 49.89% (2,965,800) men, in cities with COVID-19 cases. The  
 273 quartiles of the number of women and men inhabitants in the affected cities do  
 274 not show a relationship with the incidence of the disease. For the male group,  
 275 46 – 49% (Figure 4A, blue), 50% (Figure 4A orange), 51% (Figure 4A green),

276 and 52 – 69% (Figure 4A red) of the total population were included. For the  
277 female group, the percentage of inhabitants was divided into 31 – 49% (Figure  
278 4B, blue), 50% (Figure 4B, orange), 51% (Figure 4B, green), and 52 – 54%  
279 (Figure 4B, red) of the total population. Municipalities with a greater or lesser  
280 number of men (Figure 4A) or women (Figure 4B) inhabitants do not have a  
281 greater or lesser incidence.  
282



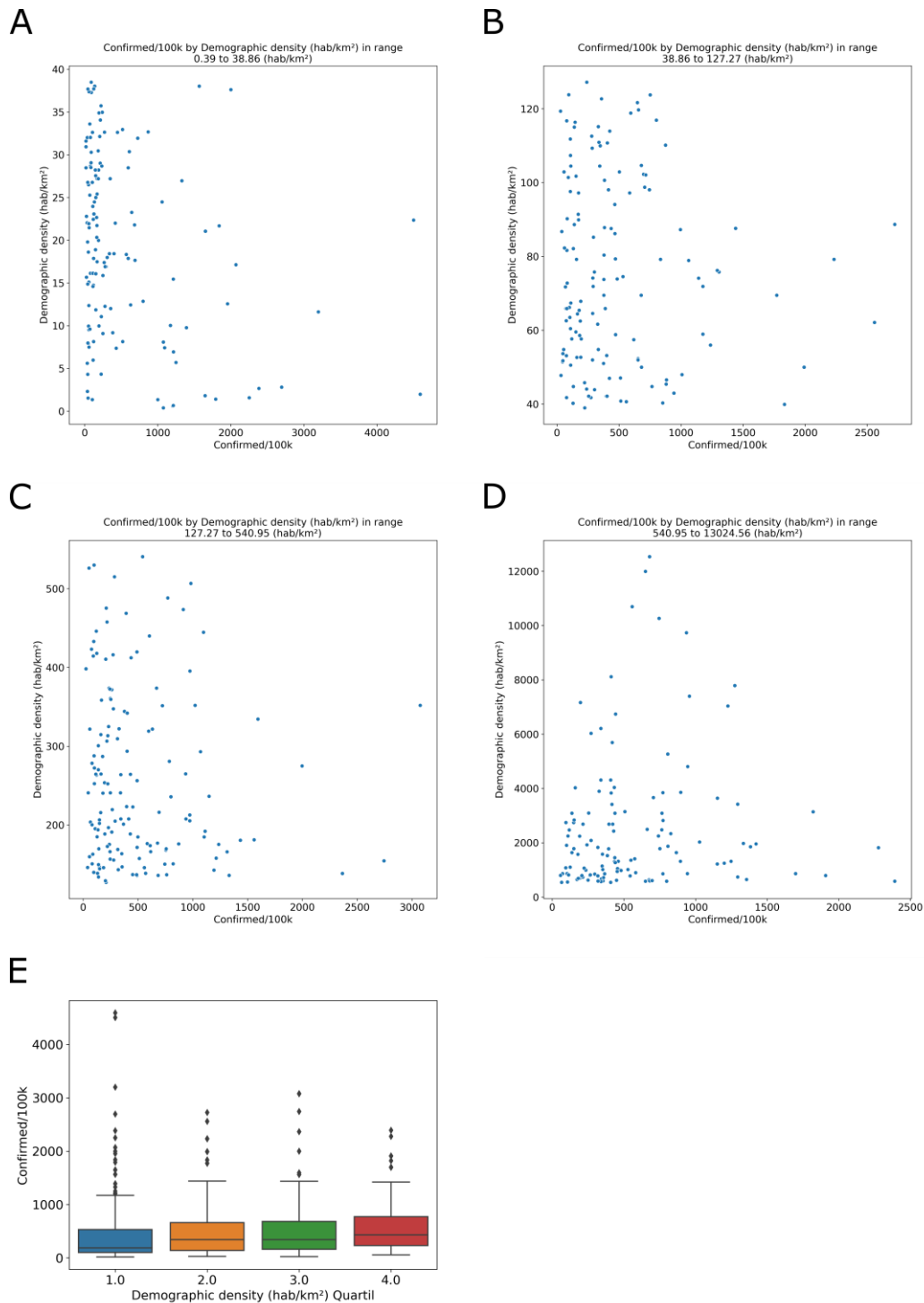
**Figure 4. Declared sex of inhabitants in cities with cases of COVID-19.**  
Distribution of quartiles of the percentage of (A) male and (B) female  
inhabitants, in relation to the COVID-19 incidence, in the affected cities.

283

284 Since SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted from person to person, we describe  
285 characteristics, such as demographic density (inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>), of the  
286 dispersion and agglomeration of people in the municipalities. Of the 672 cities  
287 analyzed, 577 (86%) are more densely populated than the national average  
288 density, 23.9 hab/km<sup>2</sup>. In the database, the mean population density was  
289 683.76 hab/km<sup>2</sup> in all cities with COVID-19 cases. The city with the lowest  
290 demographic density was Novo Airão (Amazonas), with 0.39 hab/km<sup>2</sup> and  
291 1074.33 cases/100,000 inhabitants. The highest demographic density was in  
292 São João de Meriti (Rio de Janeiro), with 13024.6 hab/km<sup>2</sup> and 334.881  
293 cases/100,000 inhabitants. These apparent differences have no significance in  
294 the grouped data. The COVID-19 incidence was observed for the demographic  
295 density (hab/km<sup>2</sup>) quantiles, (Figure 5A) 0.39 to 38.86; (Figure 5B) 38.86 to  
296 127.27; (Figure 5C) 127.27 to 540.95; and (Figure 5D) 540.95 to 13024.56. The  
297 analyses of the quartiles of demographic density show no relation with COVID-

298 19 incidence (Figure 5E). Municipalities with a greater or lesser demographic  
299 density do not have a greater or lesser incidence of COVID-19.

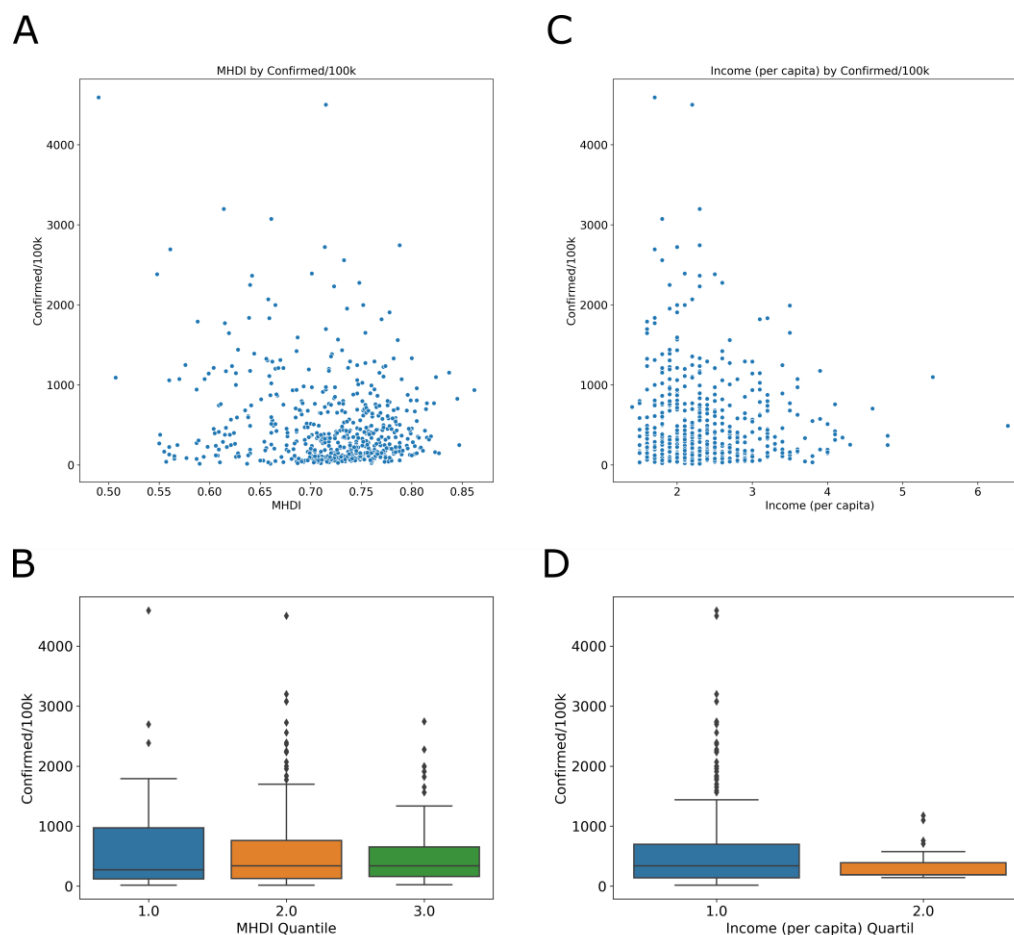
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**Figure 5. The demographic density in cities with cases of COVID-19.** Number of inhabitants (population) by area (km<sup>2</sup>) resulting in demographic density (hab/km<sup>2</sup>) in four quartiles, (A) 0.39 to 38.86; (B) 38.86 to 127.27; (C) 127.27 to 540.95; and (D) 540.95 to 13024.56. (E) The relationship between the demographic density quartiles and COVID-19 incidence.

301

302 The Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI) is related to life  
303 expectancy, educational level and income distribution. The global Brazilian HDI  
304 for 2013 was 0.744, the 79th position in the world, ranking among the 187  
305 countries and territories recognized by the United Nations. In the Global HDI for  
306 HDR 2014, the three dimensions have the same weight, and the human  
307 development ranges are fixed as follows: low human development, less than  
308 0.550; average, between 0.550 and 0.699; high, between 0.700 and 0.799; and  
309 very high, above 0.800. In Brazil, the per capita income was 1.48 (R\$ 1,443.10)  
310 for 2017 (last year with available data). In this context, the MHDI (Figure 6A)  
311 and per capita income (Figure 6B) were compared with COVID-19 incidence.  
312



**Figure 6. The Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI) and per capita income in cities with cases of COVID-19.** (A) MHDI and (C) income (number of times the minimum wage [R\$ 975.00] is earned per month for formal workers) in cities with cases of COVID-19. (B) The relationship between the MHDI-low 0.49 to 0.613 (blue), MHDI-mean 0.614 to 0.737 (orange) and MHDI-high 0.738 to 0.862 (green) groups. (D) The income was divided into low 1.4 to 3.8 (blue) and high 3.9 to 6.4 (orange).

313

314 The results show that most cities with positive cases for COVID-19 are  
315 above the national average for both MHDl and per capita income. With the goal  
316 to observe the relationships in the data sets in greater detail, we analyzed the  
317 MHDl divided into low 0.49 to 0.613 (Figure 6B, blue), mean 0.614 to 0.737  
318 (Figure 6B, orange) and high 0.738 to 0.862 (Figure 6B, green) groups. The  
319 income was divided into low 1.4 to 3.8 (Figure 6B, blue) and high 3.9 to 6.4  
320 (Figure 6B, orange). The socioeconomic index does not show a relationship  
321 with the incidence of the disease.

322 Once some of the characteristics of the cities with cases of COVID-19 were  
323 described, we sought to determine a model for predicting infection using the  
324 time series of confirmed cases.

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326 2) For July 25, 2020, the evolution model predicts 2,358,703 (2,172,930 to  
327 2,544,477) confirmed cases.

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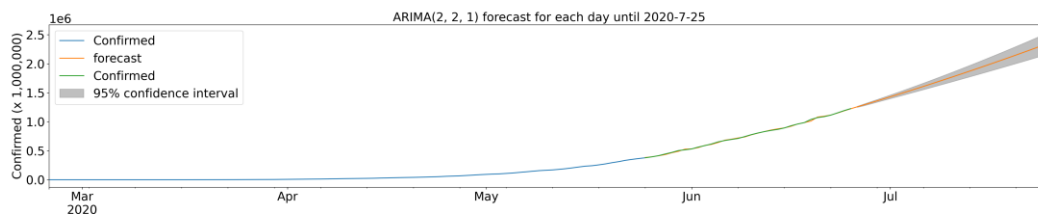
329 Due to the current level of infection in the cities analyzed, the scarcity of  
330 data does not allow the development of a robust predictive model for cases  
331 confirmed at the municipal level. To understand the condition of the infection at  
332 the national level, we analyzed the time series of accumulated data for  
333 confirmed cases. There was a clear upward trend in the number of cases (data  
334 not shown). To suggest a prediction for the evolution of COVID-19 cases in  
335 Brazil, we use computational modeling in the time series. The best adjusted  
336 model for the forecast was ARIMA(2,2,1) using data from the last 30 days,  
337 which forecasts 2,358,703 cumulative cases on July 25, 2020, with a 95%  
338 confidence interval of 2,544,477 to 2,172,930 (Figure 7).

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**Figure 7. Average estimate of 2,358,703 cumulative confirmed cases in 30 days.** ARIMA model of the forecast of confirmed cases until July 25, 2020. Confirmed cases (blue), forecast (orange), model fit analysis (green) and forecast with 95% confidence interval (gray). Up to the end date, between 2,544,477 and 2,172,930 cases are expected.

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344 CONCLUSION:

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346       Altogether, 672 cities, accounting for 73.1% of the Brazilian population, had  
347 at least 1 case of COVID-19 by June 26, 2020. The age distribution of the  
348 inhabitants in those cities, which include the most populous cities of Brazil,  
349 remains the same as the average age distribution of the Brazilian population.  
350 The average distribution of women and men in the cities studied also  
351 corresponds to the national average. The demographic density, the MHDl and  
352 the per capita income of the municipalities with cases of COVID-19 are above  
353 the national average. However, there seems to be no relationship between the  
354 indexes analyzed and the incidence of COVID-19 in these cities, suggesting  
355 that other factors (virulence, immune background) may influence the spread of  
356 the disease. Our model predicts 2,358,703 cumulative cases (2,172,930 to  
357 2,544,477) on July 25, 2020.

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368 DISCUSSION:

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370 In this work, we studied the recent occurrence of COVID-19, a respiratory  
371 disease caused by the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which originated in the city of  
372 Wuhan, China, and analyzed the correlation of transmission and death rates,  
373 through confirmed cases using Brazilian demographic and socioeconomic data.  
374 Knowledge of the demographic distribution and socioeconomic situation of the  
375 population becomes significant when comparing transmission and death rates  
376 across the country.

377 Brazil currently has 5,570 municipalities in 26 states distributed  
378 disproportionately over a total area of 8,511,000 km<sup>2</sup> (IBGE, 2019). As  
379 described in the results section, municipalities with a population larger than  
380 295,955 inhabitants showed a positive correlation between the size of the  
381 population and the number of confirmed cases of the disease. However, of all  
382 the municipalities, only 95 have a population of over 295,955 inhabitants,  
383 including all state capitals and the Federal District. The 95 municipalities most  
384 populous represent 1.71% of the country's total cities, with the majority, 94.22%  
385 (5,245 municipalities), of Brazilian cities having a population less than or equal  
386 to 100,000 inhabitants (IBGE, 2019).

387 Therefore, based on our results, it is possible to assert that the  
388 transmission of the disease is more likely to impact less than 2% of Brazilian  
389 municipalities. However, it is essential to reinforce that the 95 most populous  
390 cities in the country, together, are home to 83,951,535 inhabitants, which  
391 represents 40% of the total population of Brazil, with a current demographic  
392 density of 205.5 million people (IBGE, 2018). Thus, neglecting the  
393 recommendations of the WHO about isolation and social conduct, in a time of a  
394 pandemic, is an attack on public health in Brazil.

395 When analyzing the data in relation to the states of the federation, we  
396 noted similar observations as those obtained in relation to the municipalities.  
397 The state of São Paulo is the most populous in the country and in turn is the  
398 state with the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 11,043  
399 cases confirmed to date, according to the Ministry of Health (2020). It is  
400 important to note that the actual numbers of cases and deaths from the disease  
401 may be different from the official data, taking into account the impact that the



402 delay in reporting has on the estimates and that reported cases depend on  
403 hospitalization (FIOCRUZ, 2020).

404 When we take into account the data obtained, it is possible to show that  
405 social isolation is a valid measure to be applied in municipalities that have a  
406 resident population larger than 295,000 inhabitants. For these municipalities,  
407 the more intense the measures, the flatter the transmission curve becomes;  
408 thus, hospitals and health units can have greater control of the situation under  
409 the demand of patients who require specialized care.

410 However, it is important to mention that it is not possible to conclude the  
411 real importance of social isolation in municipalities with a population below the  
412 aforementioned number; however, according to the results, there is a negative  
413 correlation between demographic density and the number of cases in these  
414 cities, which, in theory, would indicate a lack of connection between these  
415 aspects.

416 According to Hellewell et al. (2012), in a study to evaluate measures to  
417 contain the transmission of the disease, social isolation is insufficient to control  
418 the outbreak, requiring new interventions to achieve control of the transmission  
419 of the disease. However, isolation can contribute to spreading the overall size of  
420 an outbreak over a longer period of time (Hellewell et al., 2012). Taking this into  
421 account, it becomes possible to assess the importance of measures of social  
422 isolation, even for municipalities with a small population, demonstrating the  
423 great importance of such measures that should be intensified in the most  
424 populous cities and not neglected in cities with fewer than 295,000 inhabitants.  
425 Therefore, it is interesting to evaluate the average traffic of the Brazilian  
426 population mainly in the forms of essential workers, e.g., truck drivers, who  
427 supply basic necessities. This supply is primarily carried out in Brazil through  
428 land transportation, often long distance, between the capitals and other  
429 municipalities of the federation. During the month of March, an average of 1000  
430 trucks arrived at the Supply Center of the Federal District every Monday and  
431 Thursday (CEASA, 2020).

432 It would be interesting, as a future perspective, to further these studies in  
433 order to develop a system of equations that could indicate a proportional factor  
434 of the relationship between population and lethality rate to compare the fold-  
435 change in the lethality in a more populous city to that of a less populous city.

436 Perhaps, as the number of inhabitants in a city doubles or triples, lethality does  
437 not necessarily double or triple, indicating that there is no linearity in the cases.

438 Therefore, the information reported in this study allows us to highlight  
439 that cities with a higher number of inhabitants who choose not to comply with  
440 social isolation have a higher risk and probability of infection. However, it is  
441 essential to show that infection with SARS-CoV-2 is not due to the simple fact of  
442 living in a more or less populous city and that there are different regional  
443 characteristics, both geographic and socioeconomic, that can influence  
444 dispersion, not only for SARS-CoV-2 but also for many other pathogens (Mogi  
445 and Spijker, 2020; Dowd et al., 2020).

446 Thus, it is worth emphasizing once again that in the current pandemic  
447 context, without effective prophylactic and therapeutic treatments, social  
448 isolation has proven to be an efficient measure to control outbreaks in the most  
449 populous cities. Therefore, our findings suggest that this approach should  
450 indeed not just be simulated but also applied to reduce transmission and avoid  
451 hospital demands above service capacity, to provide care for all patients at the  
452 micro- and macroregional levels (FIOCRUZ, 2020).

453

#### 454 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

455

456 We would like to thank Hellen Geremias dos Santos, PhD, for the critical  
457 reading of the work. We would like to thank the Creative Commons Attribution  
458 ShareAlike and Álvaro Justen and collaborators from Brazil. We thank IO for the  
459 confirmed case database. We would like to thank the scholarship funding  
460 agencies CAPES and Fiocruz.

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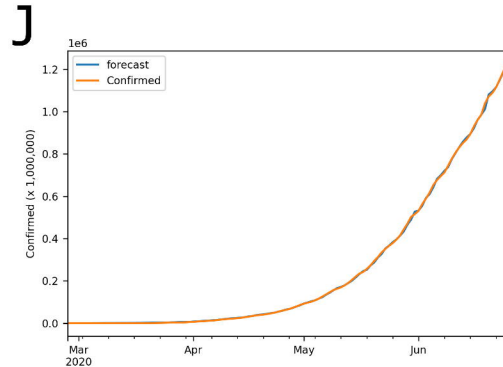
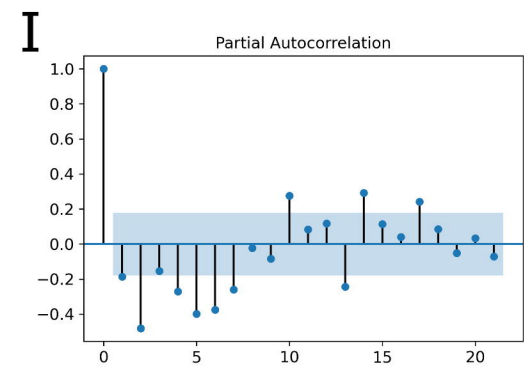
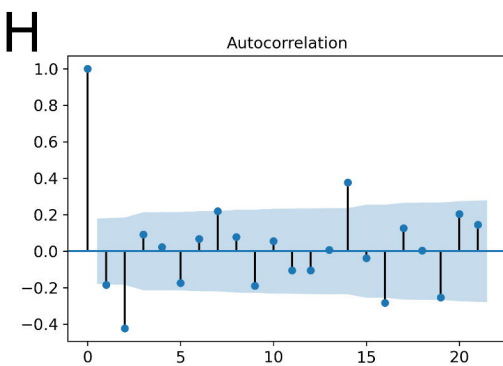
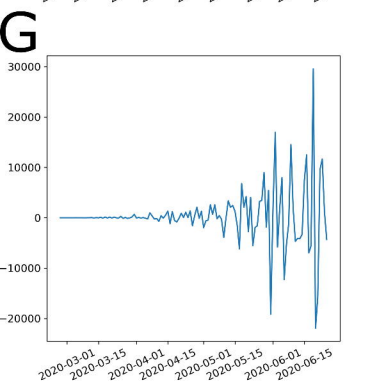
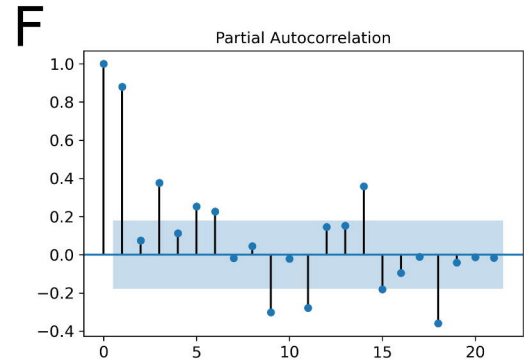
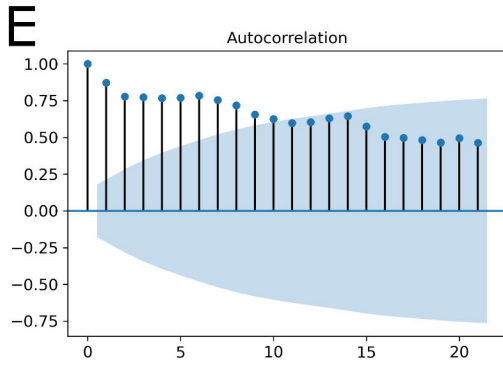
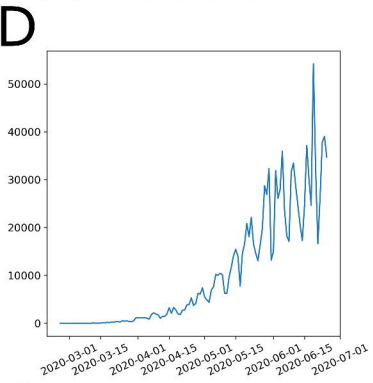
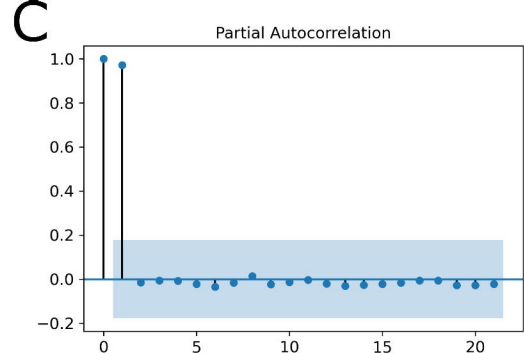
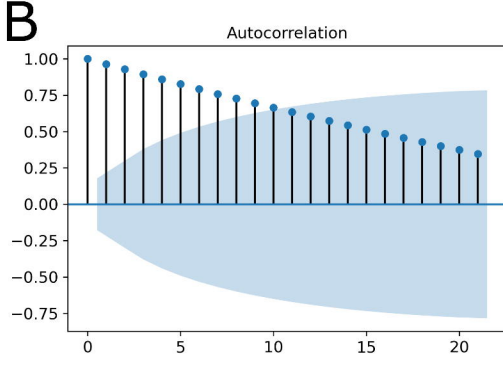
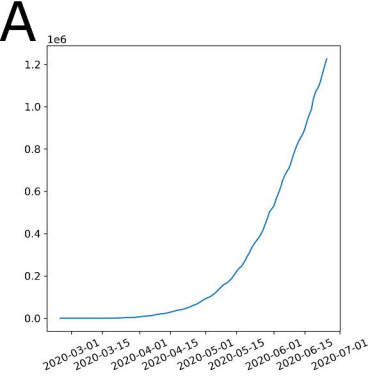
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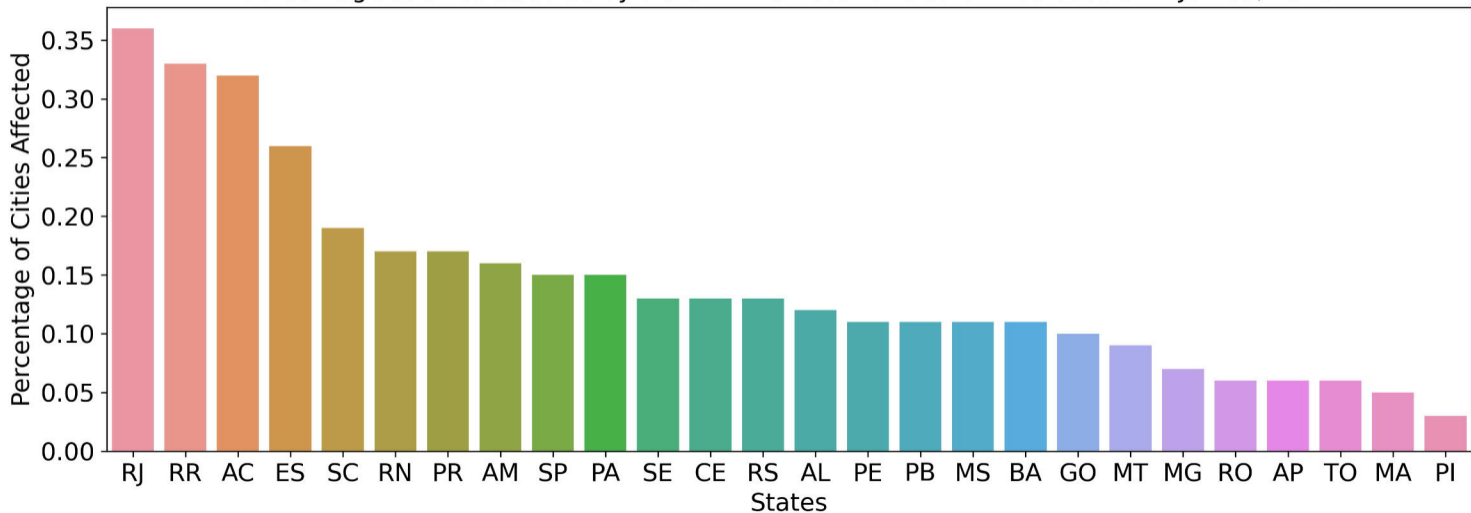
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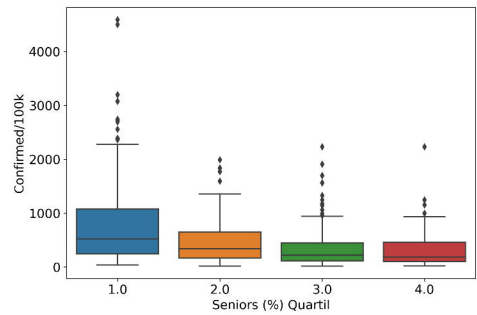
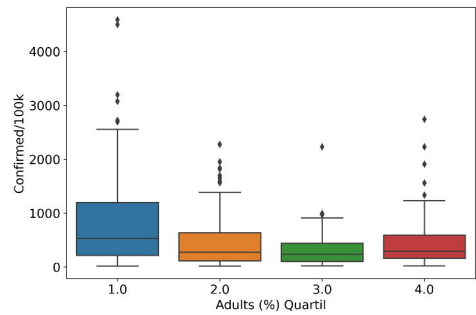
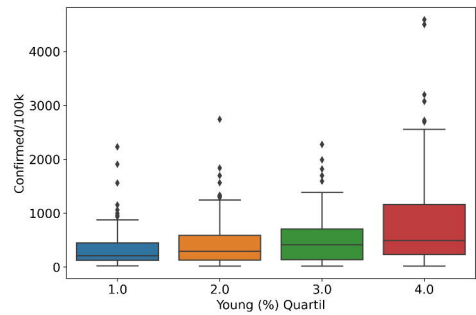
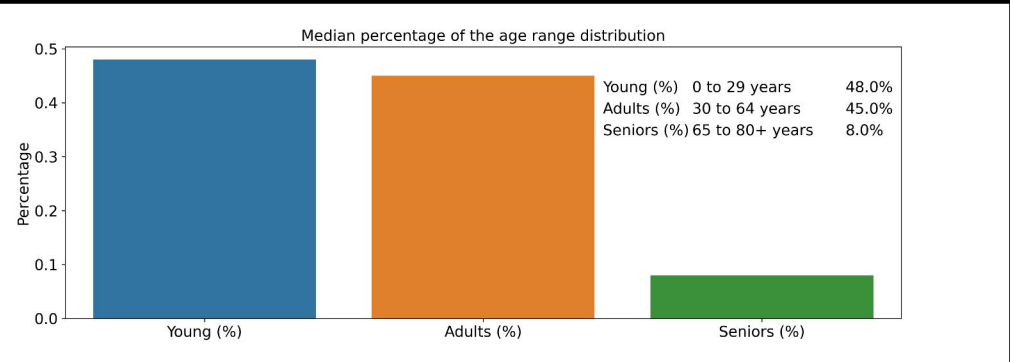
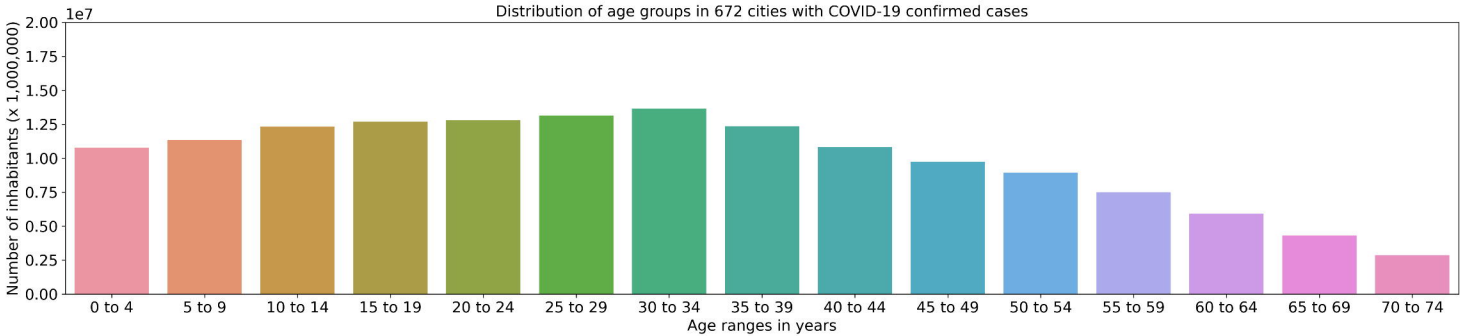
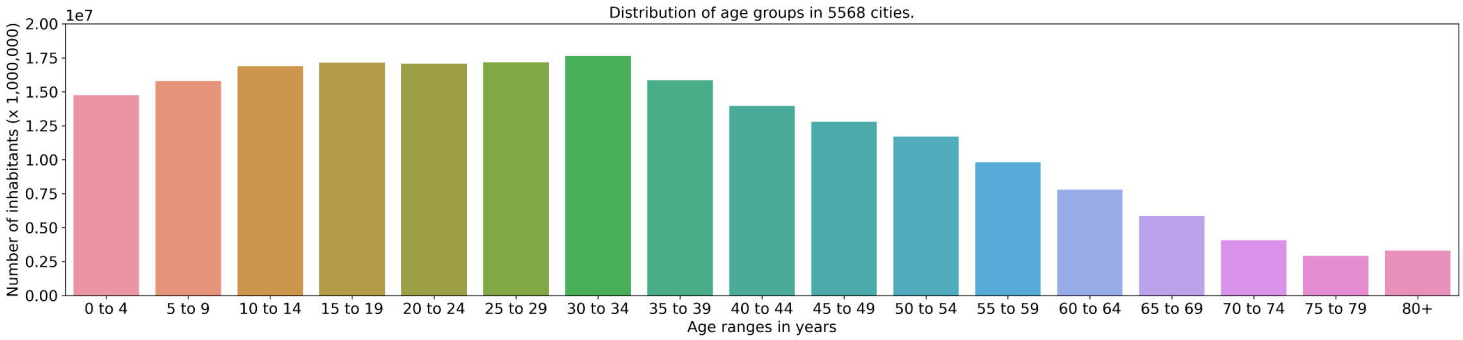
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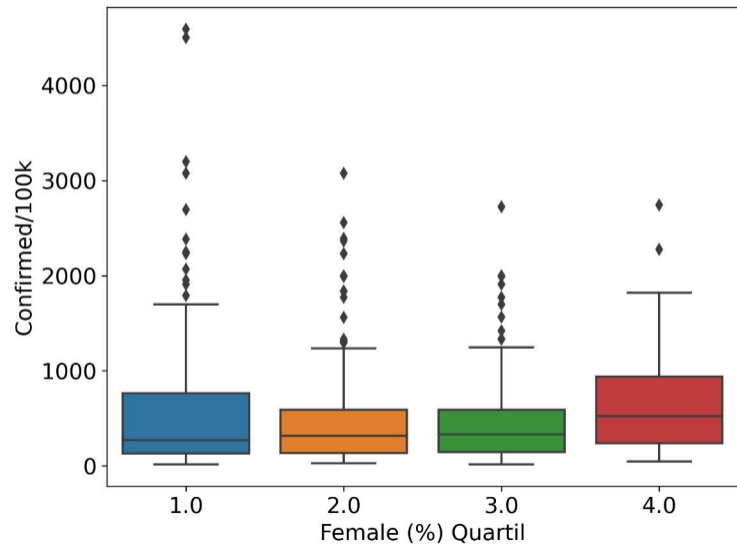
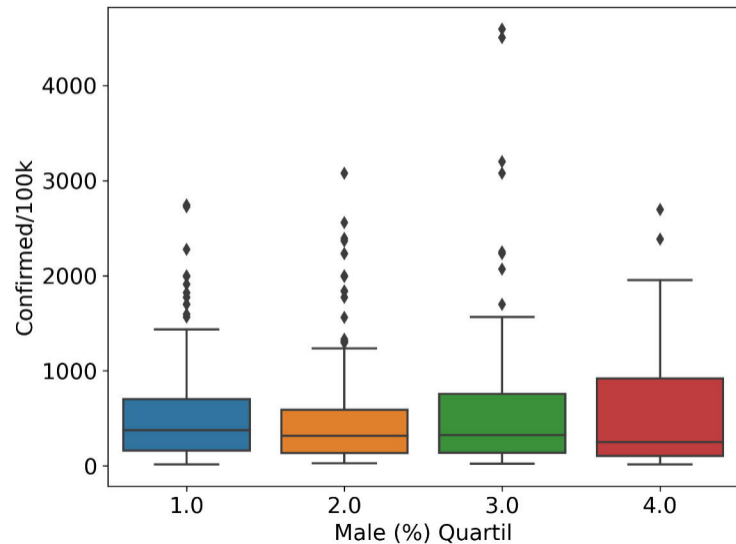


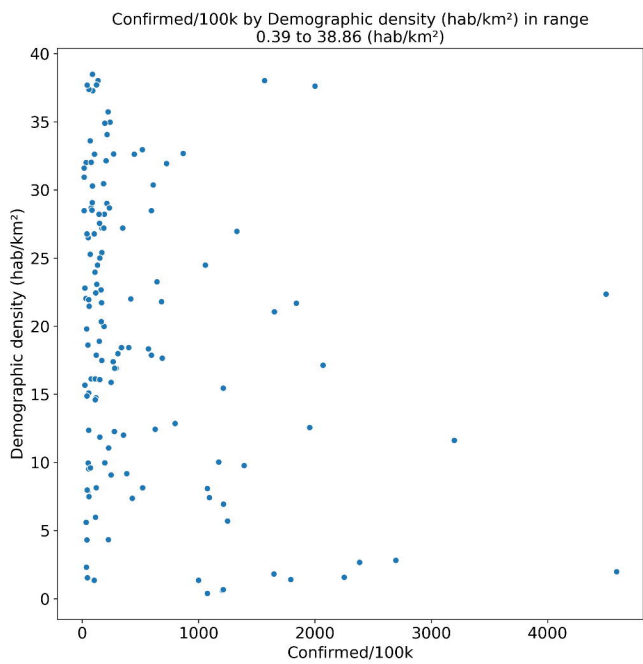
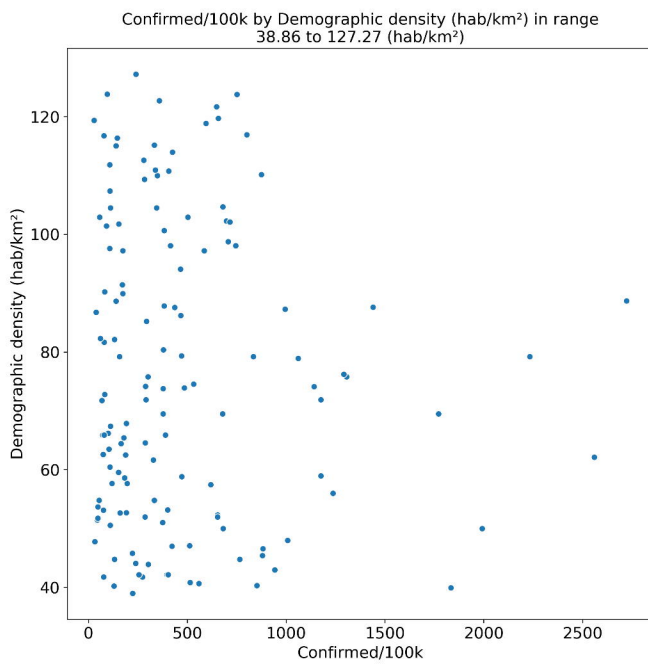
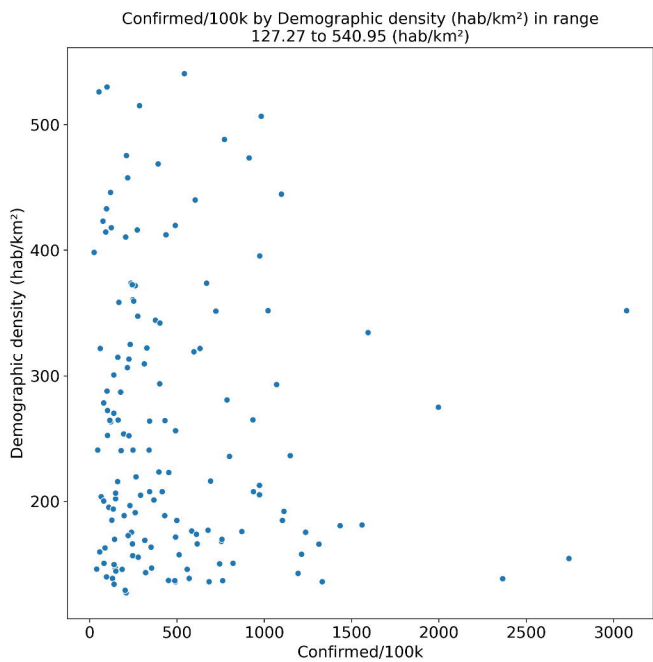
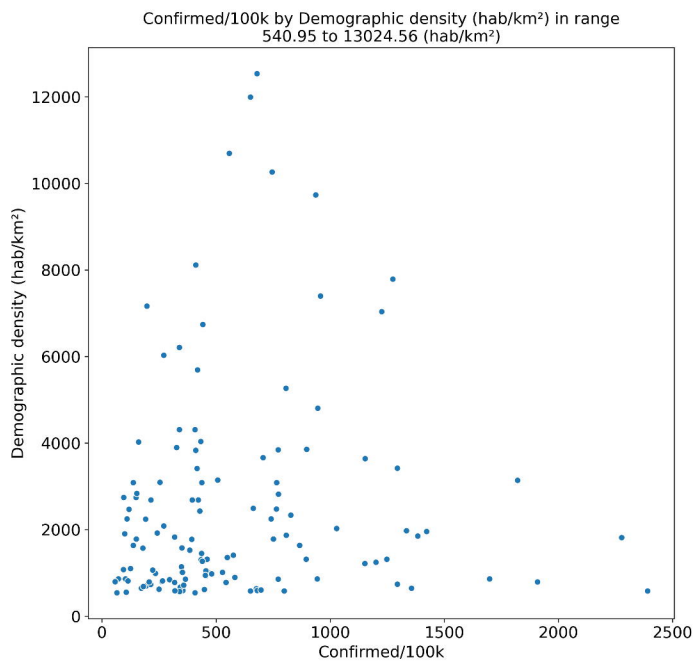
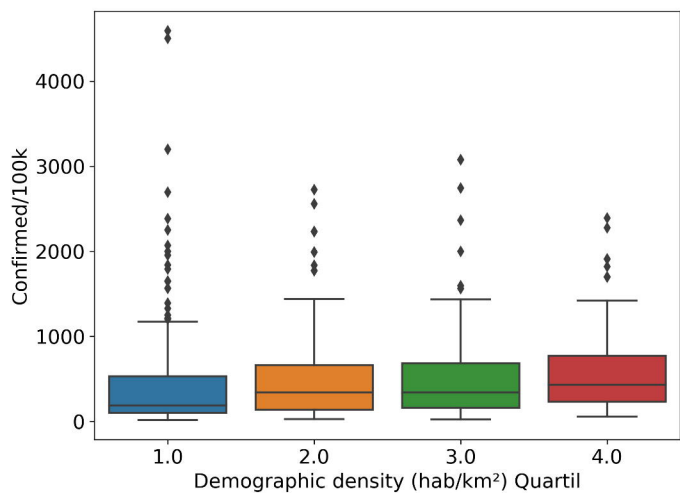
Percentage of cities affected by state with at least one confirmed case until Jun 05, 2020



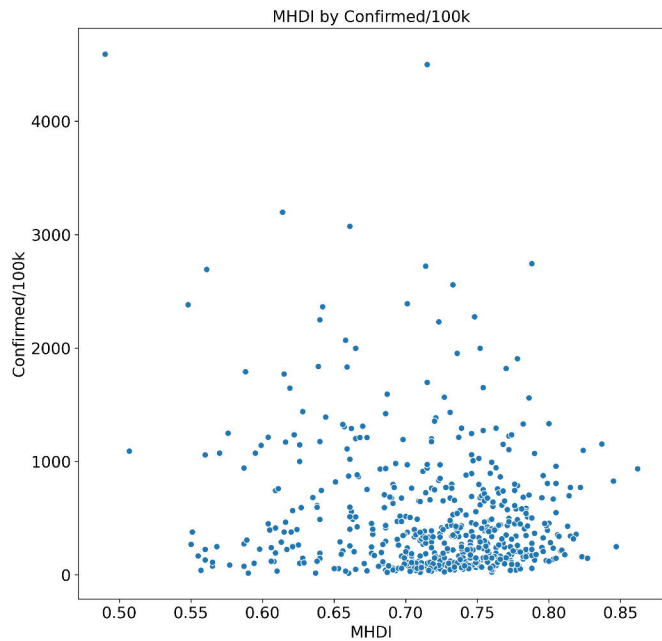




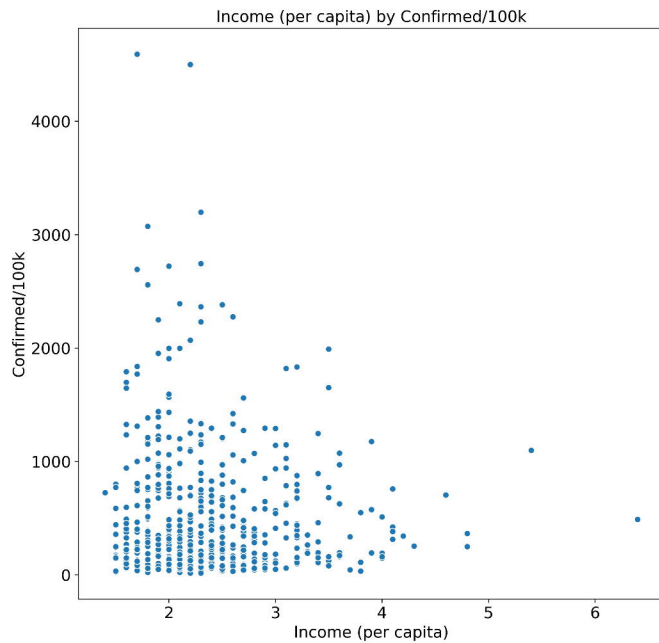


**A****B****C****D****E**

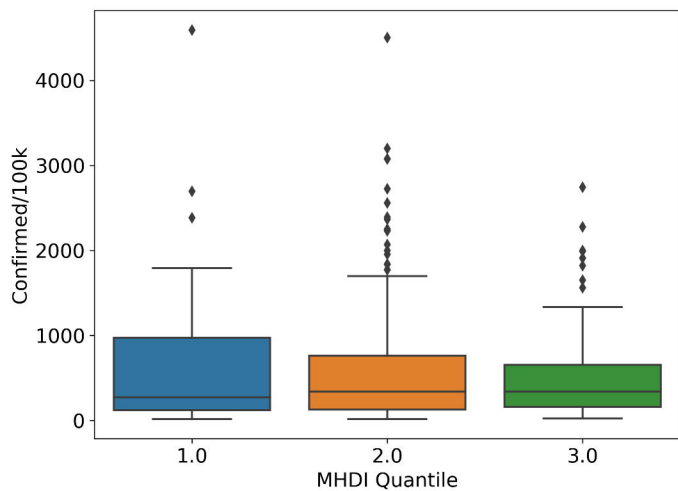
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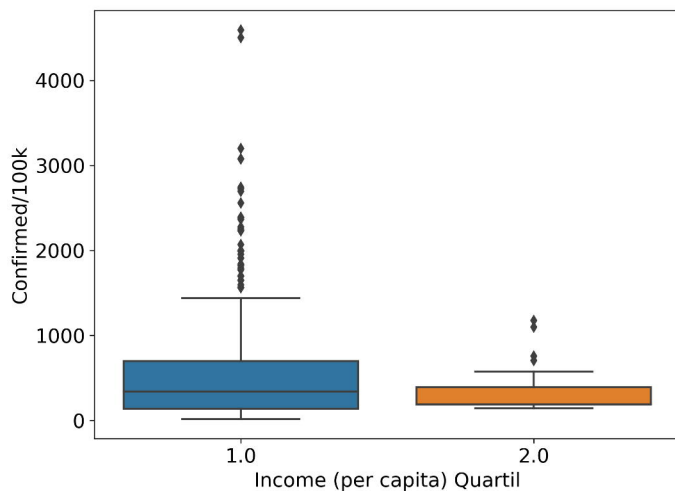
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B



D



ARIMA(2, 2, 1) forecast for each day until 2020-7-25

