

Doubling Times State by State

As of yesterday NJ had the longest doubling time in the country. That's good but it's a bit of a double edged sword. Two things increase doubling time. The first is slow viral spread and of course that's good. The other, however, is a high number of infections. The higher the number the longer it takes to double.

Hawaii is a case in point. It has "only" 1341 positive tests (about 97/100K residents). To compare NJ has 176,783 positive tests (about 1990/100K). Hawaii's R_t is 1.08 with NJ at 1.03 (similar). But because so "few" people in HI have been infected it's doubling time is 33 days.

The point is no one number is sufficient to describe COVID. Some time the news tries to get away with pushing one number. I like CNN for its COVID coverage but everyday they show a US map with states which are getting worse, better, and staying the same. The fact that the states change category day by day is a clue they are looking too closely at only one number.

For comparison, The USA R_t is about 1.2ish with a doubling of about 1 month. That's scary. The World R_t is 1.1ish with a doubling around 40 days.

NJ	443	VA	54	WV	27
CT	381	MN	49	CA	26
NY	372	IA	46	MO	26
MA	307	NM	39	OR	26
RI	177	WA	35	GA	25
NH	153	OH	35	TN	23
DC	143	ND	34	AL	22
ME	126	UT	34	SC	21
VT	111	WY	33	OK	21
IL	100	WI	33	TX	20
SD	95	KY	33	NV	19
DE	92	HI	33	FL	17
PA	84	NC	30	ID	15
MD	81	MS	29	MT	12
MI	77	KS	29	AK	11
NE	69	AR	29		
IN	56	AZ	29		
CO	56	LA	28		

Sources

State numbers - <https://covidtracking.com/data/download>

USA numbers - <https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data>

State R_t - <https://rt.live/>

World numbers - <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>