Methodology

The most serious methodological issue in doing this research is understanding and making decisions about data for case and for deaths. Different nations identify new cases in quite different ways, resulting in considerable undercounts from some nations. Deaths are probably manipulated a bit too, but the occurrence of a death is more obvious.

The gives rise to the political issue, raised by Trump, of the lag between an upward swing of new cases and later changes in the death rate as some of those new cases die. Since 23 U.S. states saw sharp upward turn in their case rates in June, I could follow this forward to see what effect this had on deaths. Here I counterpose case and death curves for the nine states that reached 24 cases per day. Their death curves all show an upward inflection, but the average lag between inflection of the case curve and infection of the death curve was twenty-nine days, and for several of the states the point of inflection was only a few days ago.

Here they are, with new cases per 100K in red and deaths per million in black:

















