Review of: "A Multi-factor Model of COVID-19 Epidemic in California"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

a multi-factor model of the spread of COVID-19 across the 58 counties of California from March 2020 to June 2023. The model provides estimates of cumulative cases and duration of the epidemic versus 5 independent variables. The independent variables are the following correlated factors: population, population density, family income, Gini coefficient, and land area (size) of each county. The correlation coefficients of these factors are used to reduce the error in models of cumulative cases and duration.

Authors are required to justify the following:

1. What is when infection rate behaves as a random variable. Does the proposed methodology is obsolete in such cases?

2. Justify how this approach is scalable?

3. Multi-factor models cannot predict ultimate outcomes of cumulative cases - How do you justify with reference to your novel model?