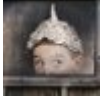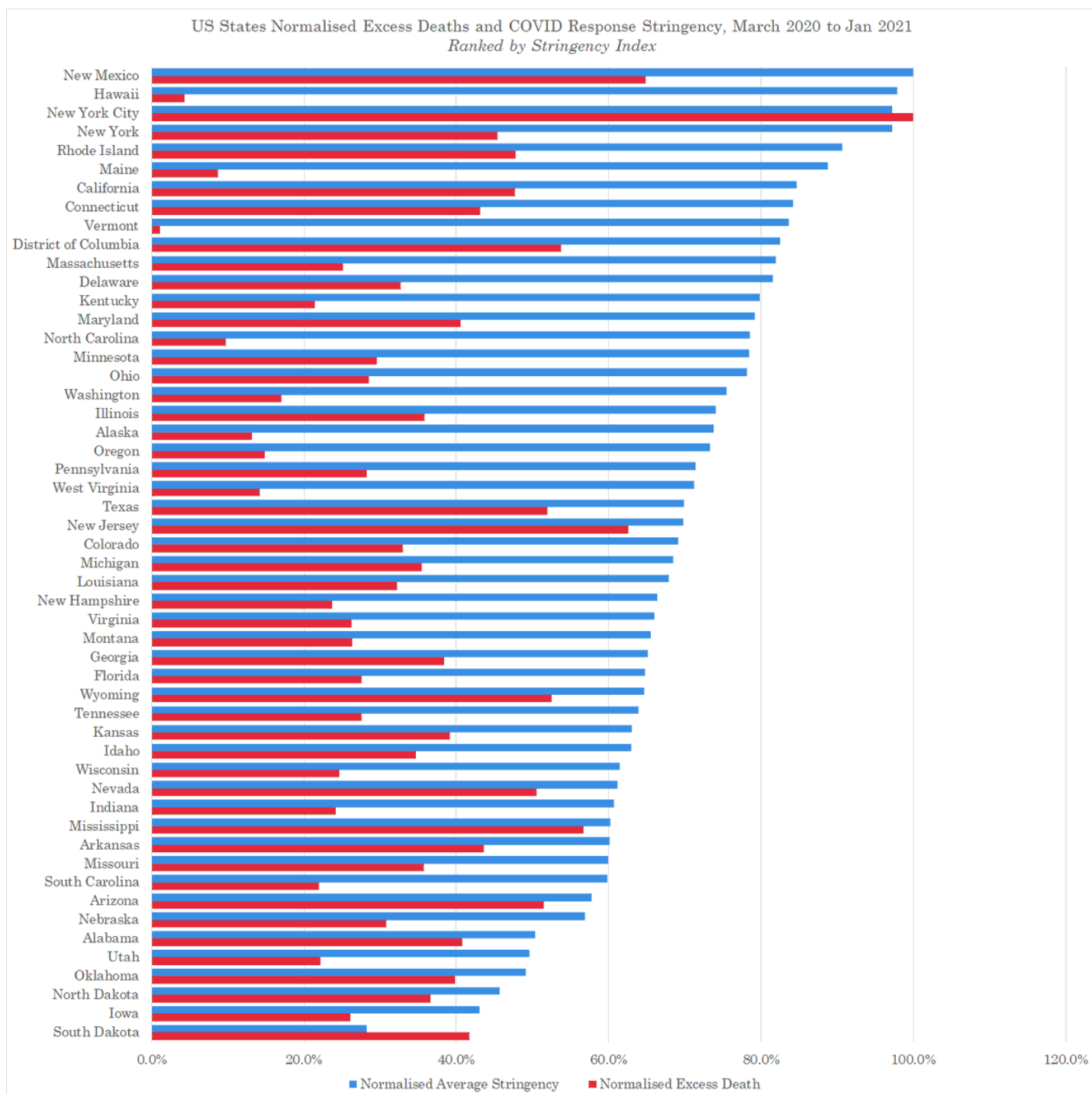# Twitter Thread by **Joel Smalley**

Joel Smalley
@RealJoelSmalley

I've done a study on US states now that there is almost a decent amount of data to analyse. I find no correlation whatsoever between average stringency of COVID response and normalised excess deaths.

US States Normalised Excess Deaths and COVID Response Stringency, March 2020 to Jan 2021
Ranked by Stringency Index

■ Normalised Average Stringency   ■ Normalised Excess Death

In fact, I'll challenge anyone to find me one state that demonstrates a clear negative correlation between stringency and excess mortality, or indeed any evident unnatural inflections in the mortality distributions.

Alabama

Alabama
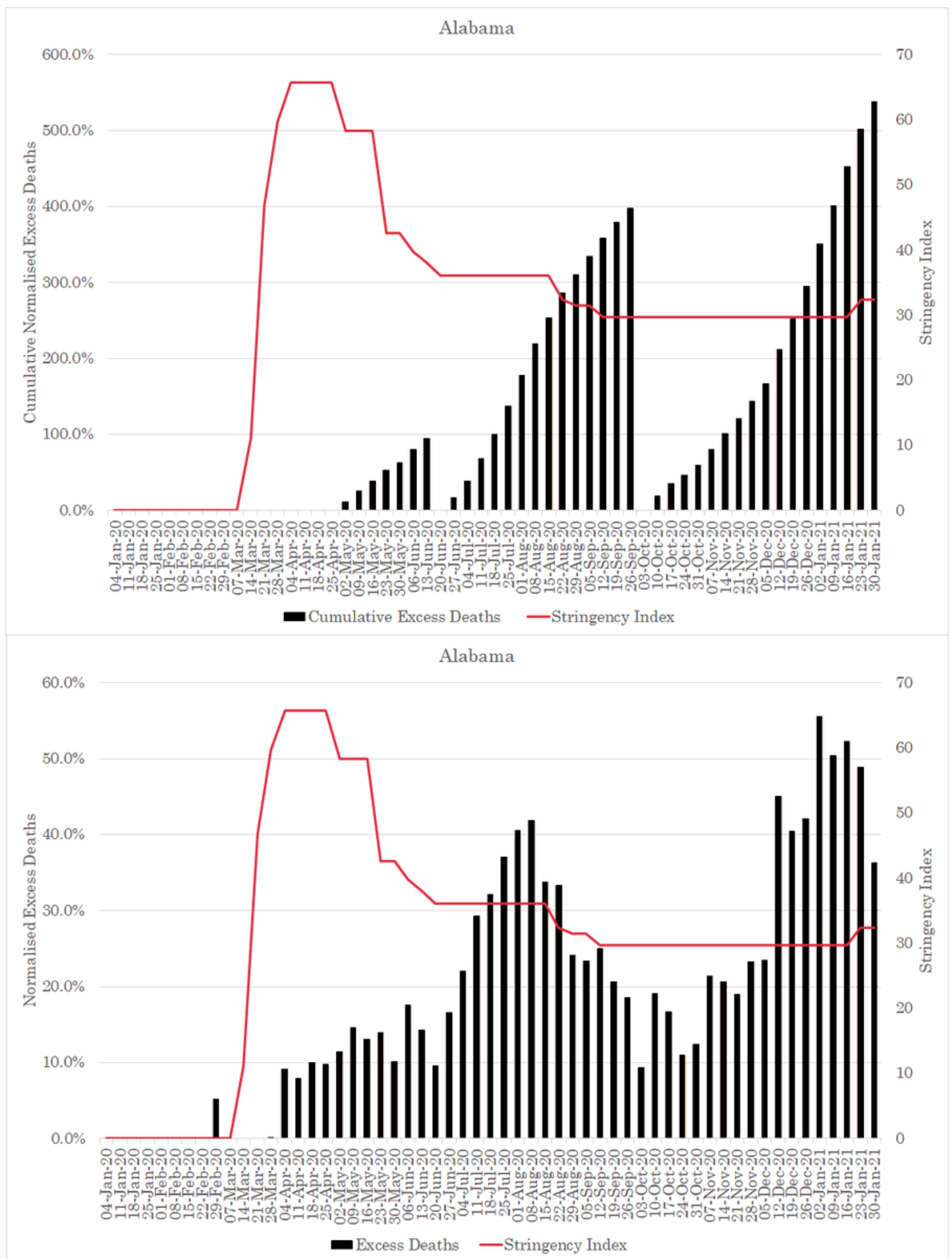
What I see here is a virus naturally spreading across the country according to physical and natural geographical constraints, i.e. population density, seasonality, and herd immunity. All the things that were unchallenged theories prior to 2019.

Colorado

Colorado
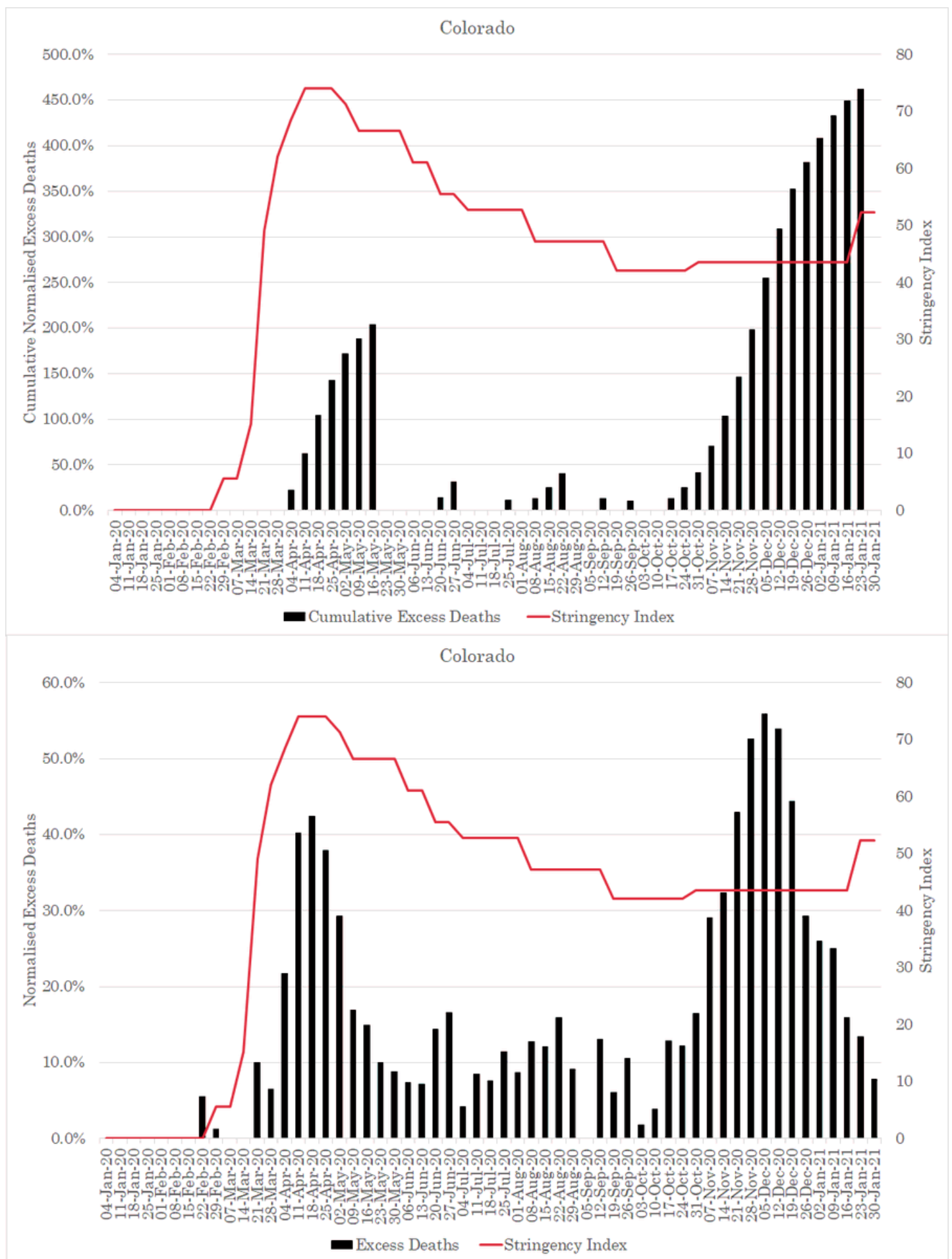
Where is the effect of lockdowns, social distincing and community mask-wearing? If these interventions were meaningful, it should not be problematic to identify their impact on the data.

Florida

Florida
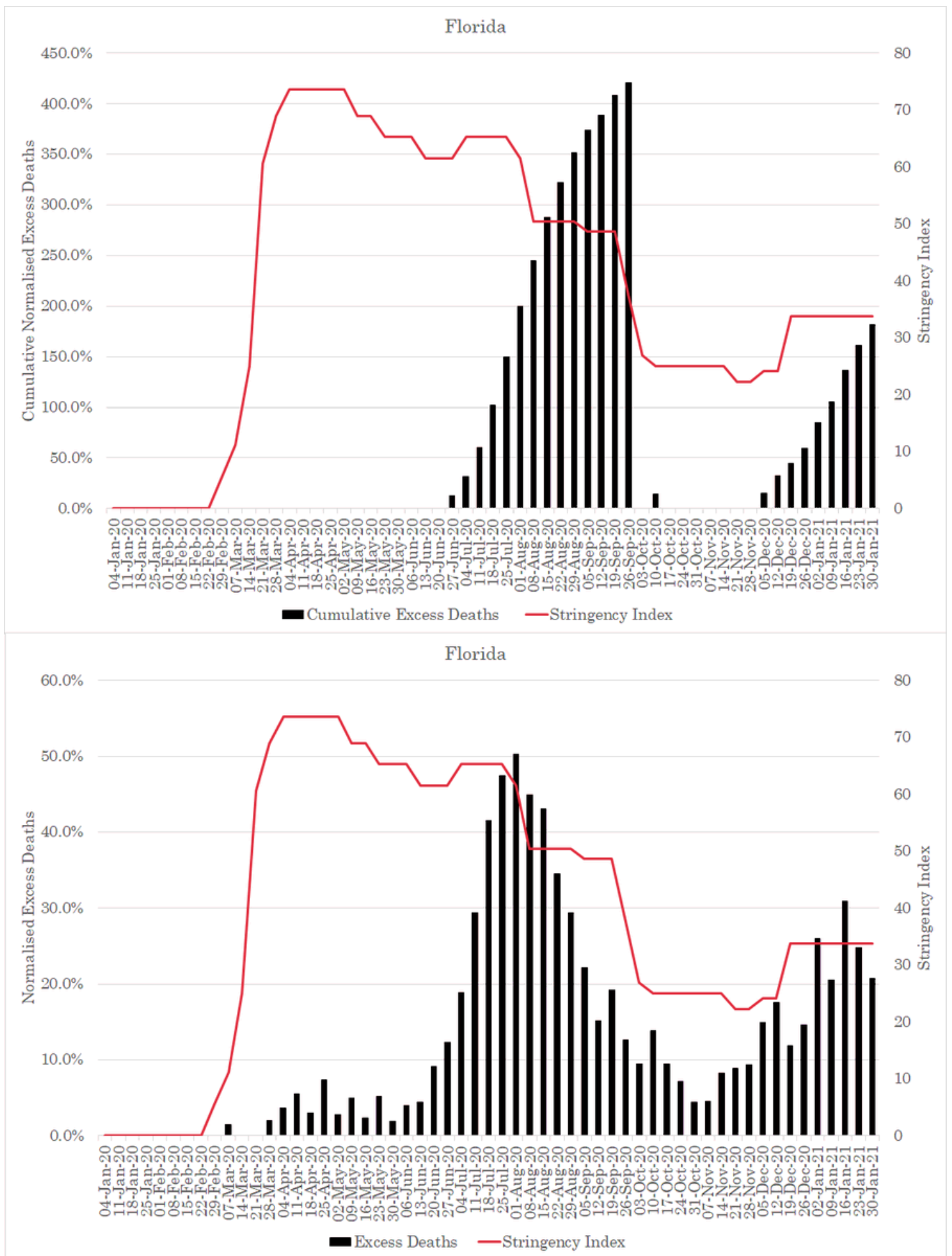
It is reasonable to attribute the virtual complete absence of excess death in NYC and Massachusetts, for example, to herd immunity. That's Occam's razor because for it to be interventions, you have to explain the incredible change in effectiveness
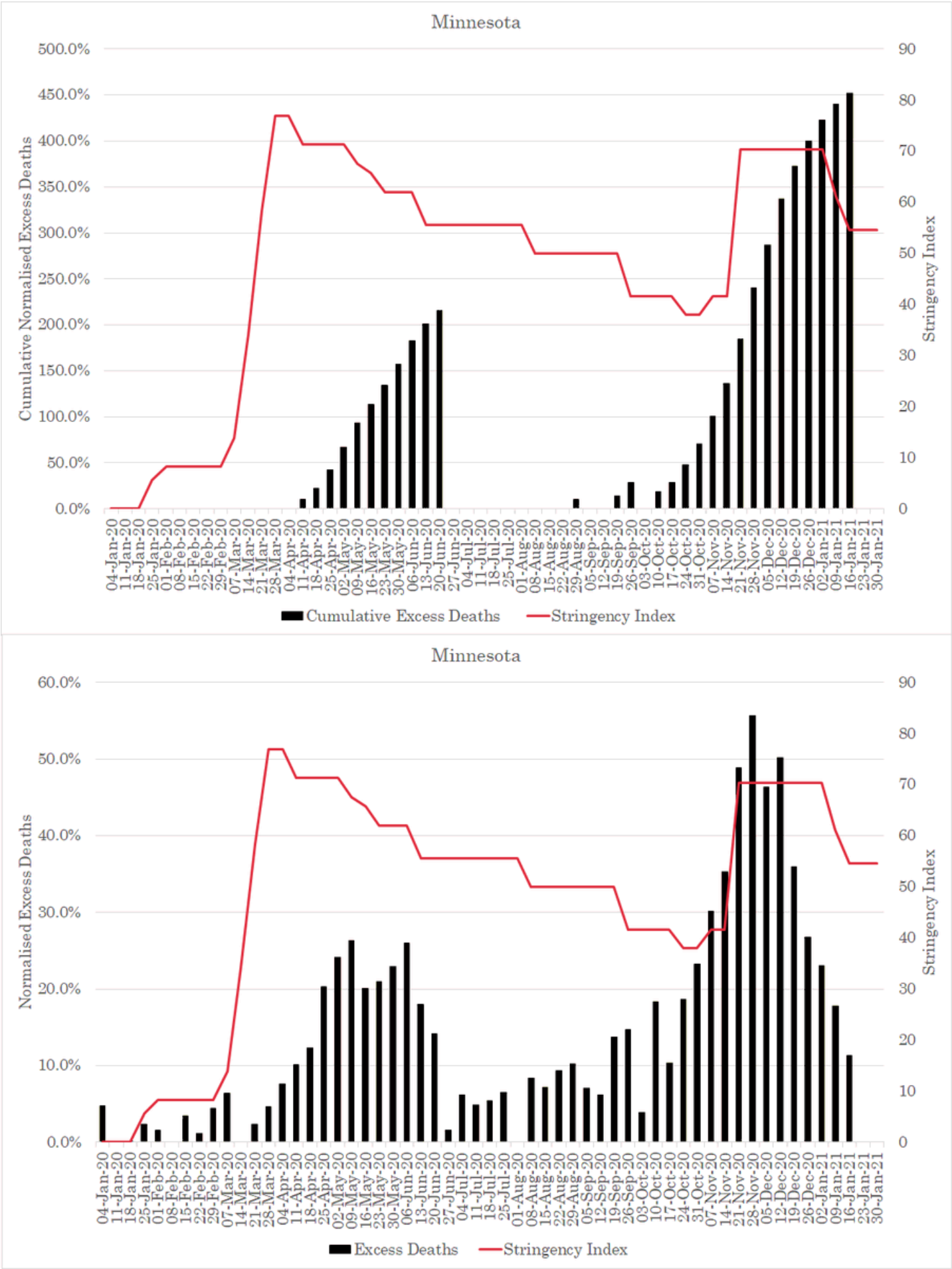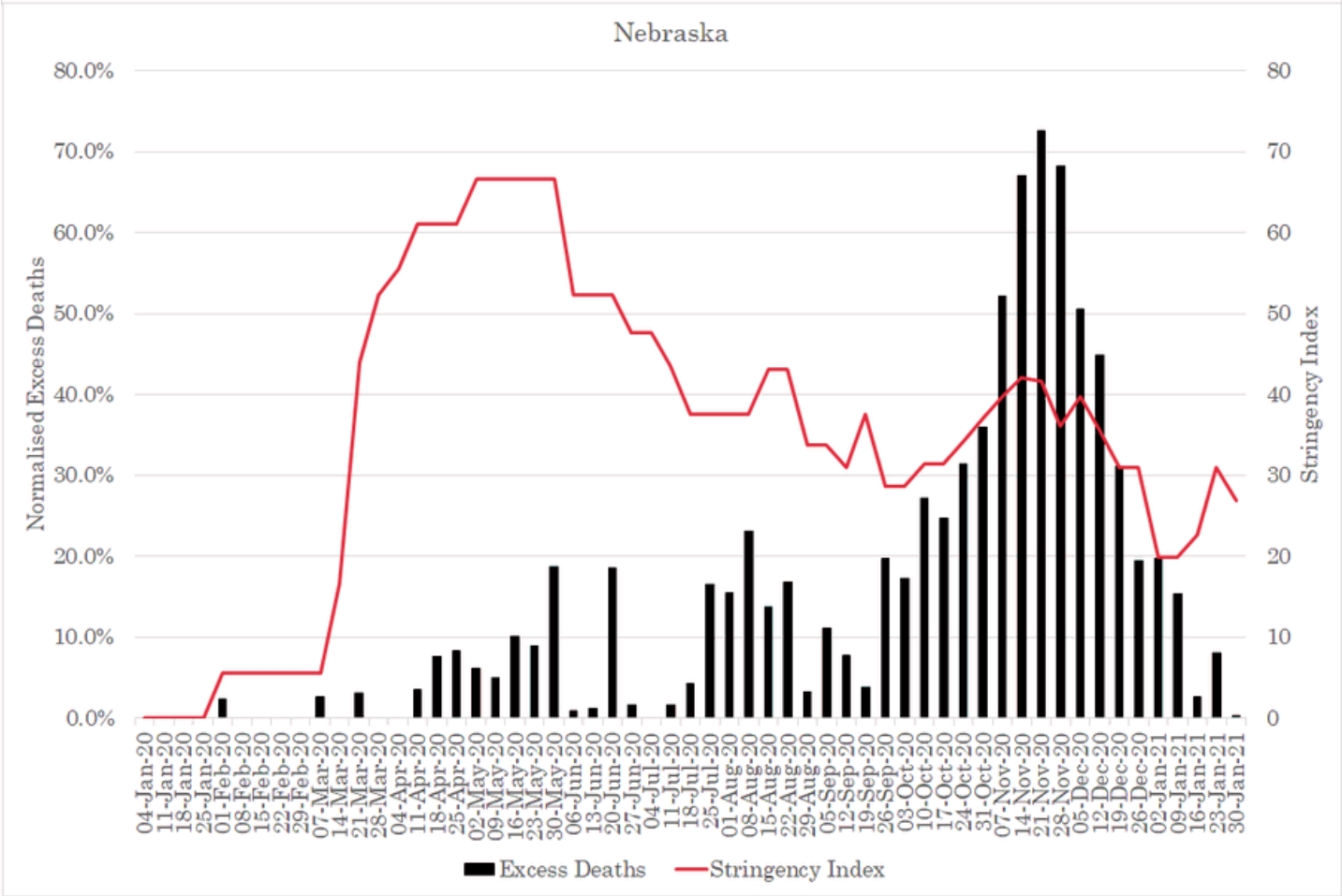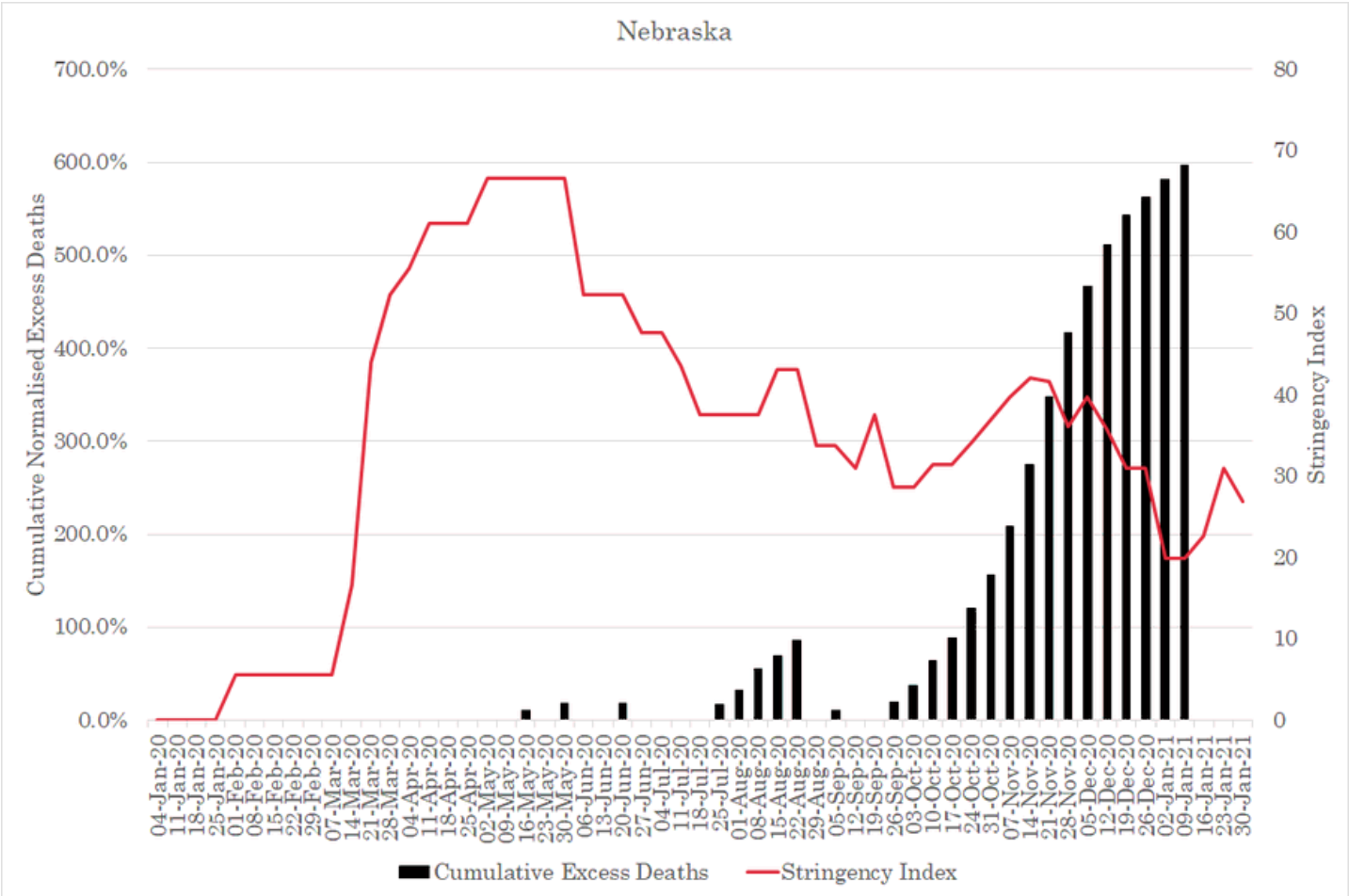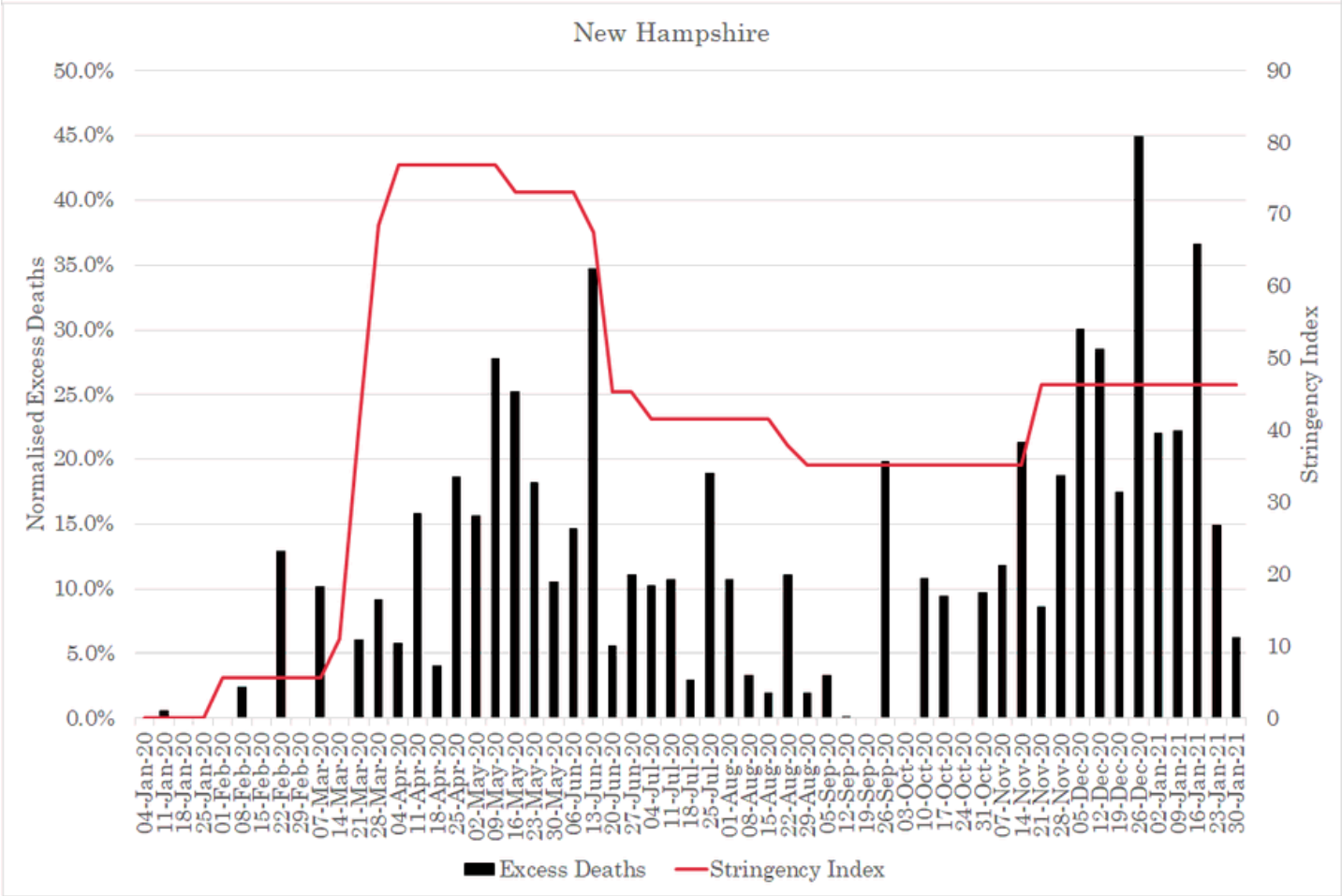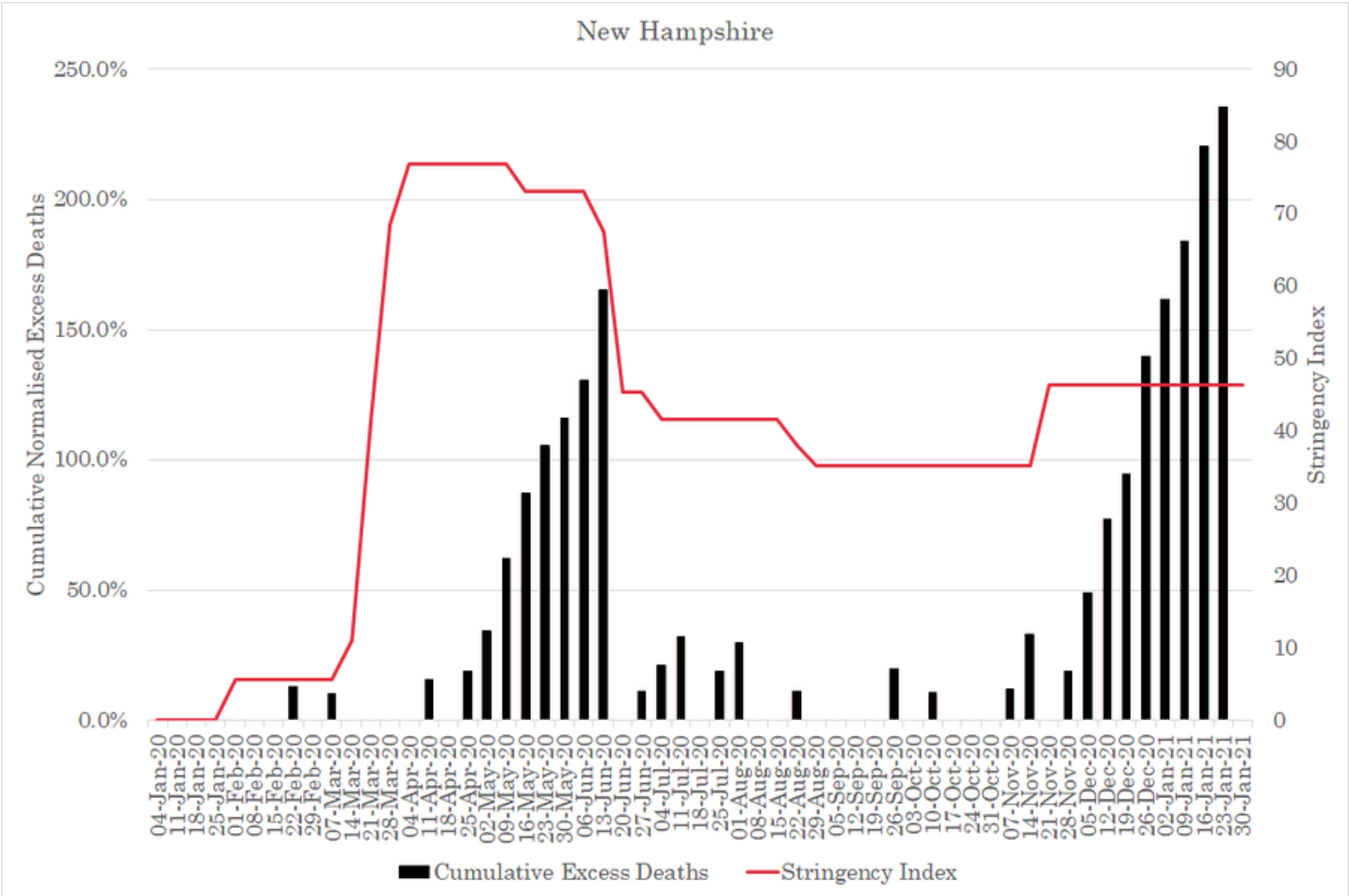
between the two seasons.

Indiana

Indiana
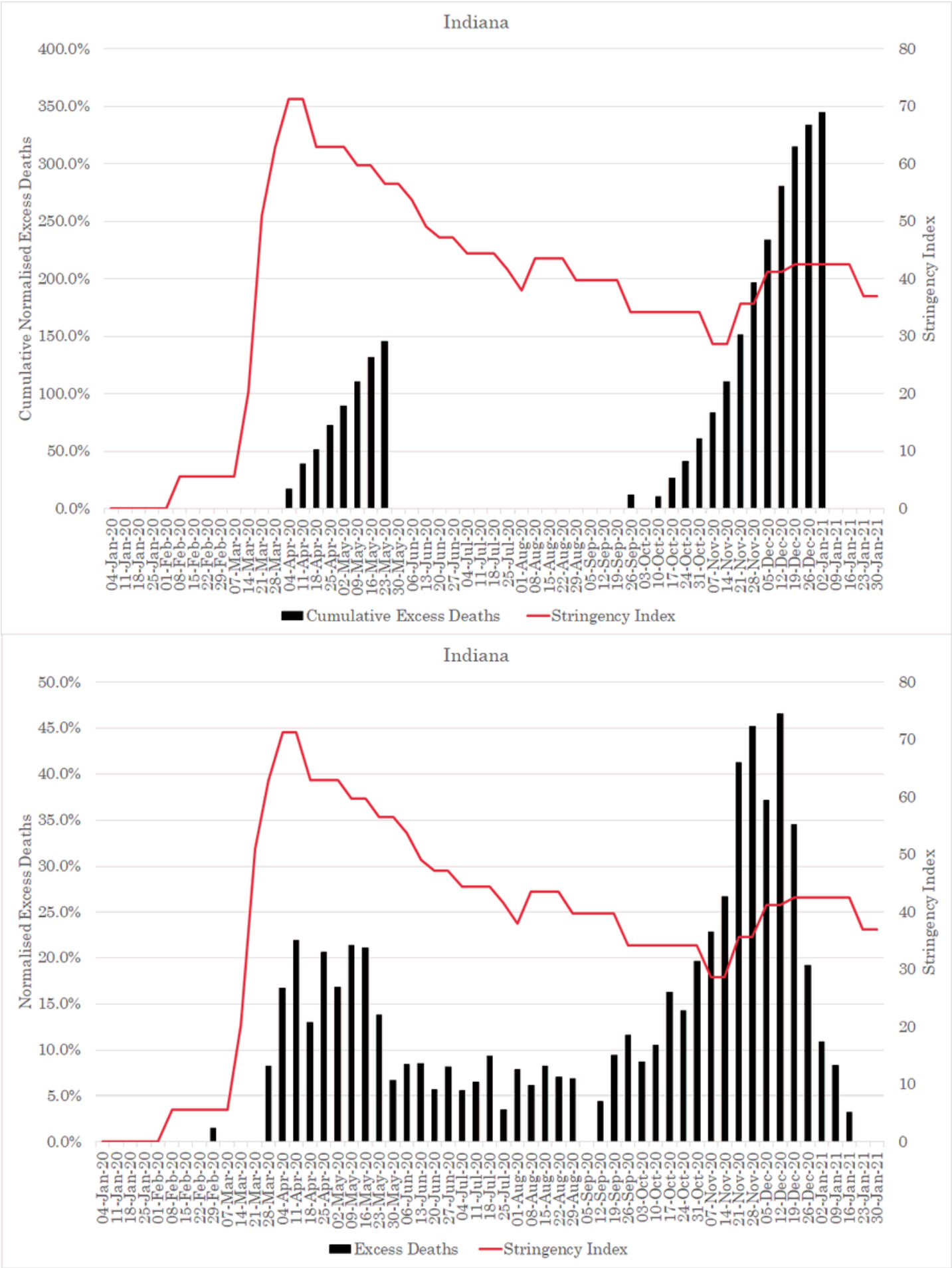
Similarly, how do Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana and Nebraska go from zero excess death to substantial across the two seasons without seasonality being the most plausible explanation?
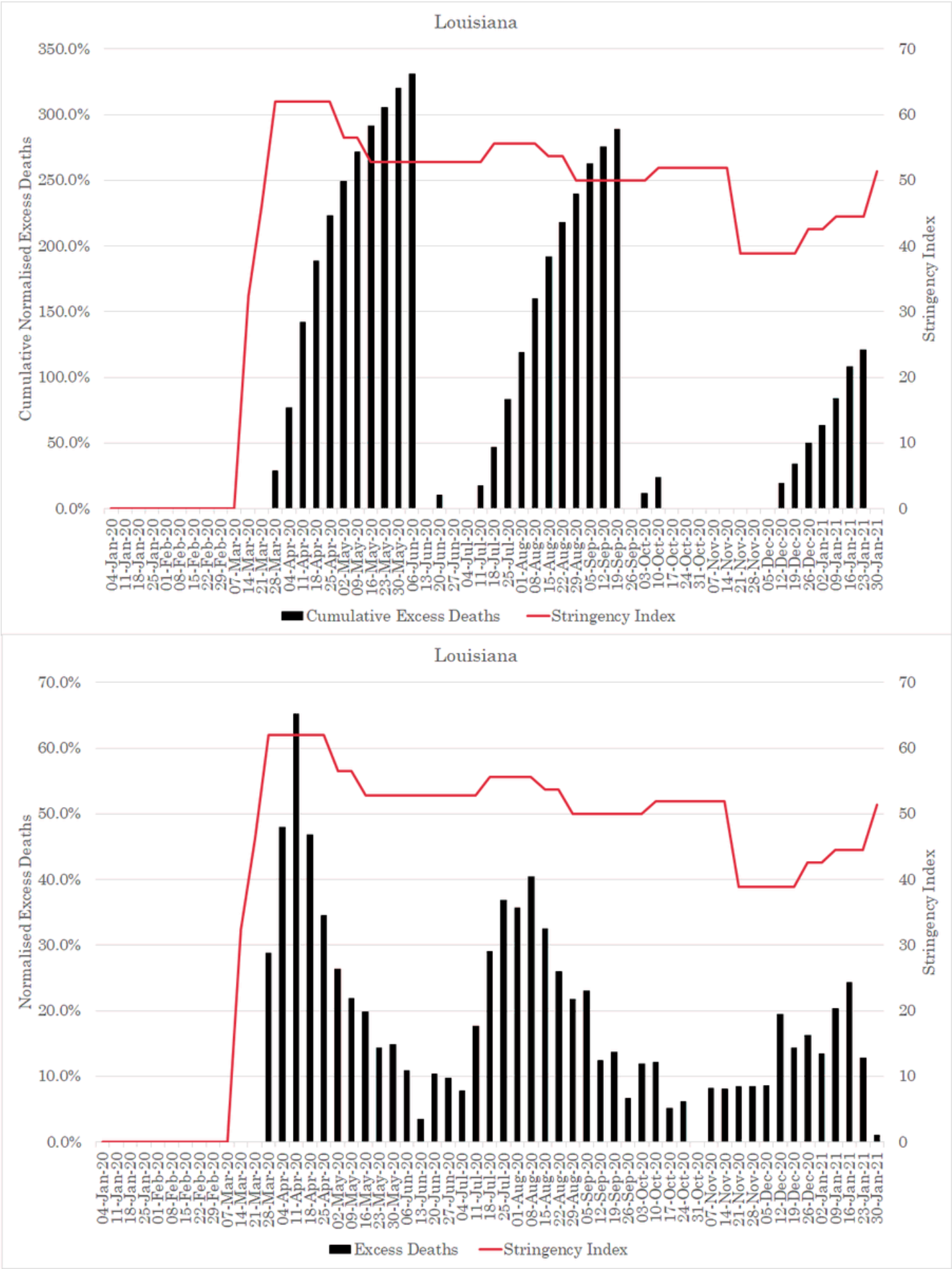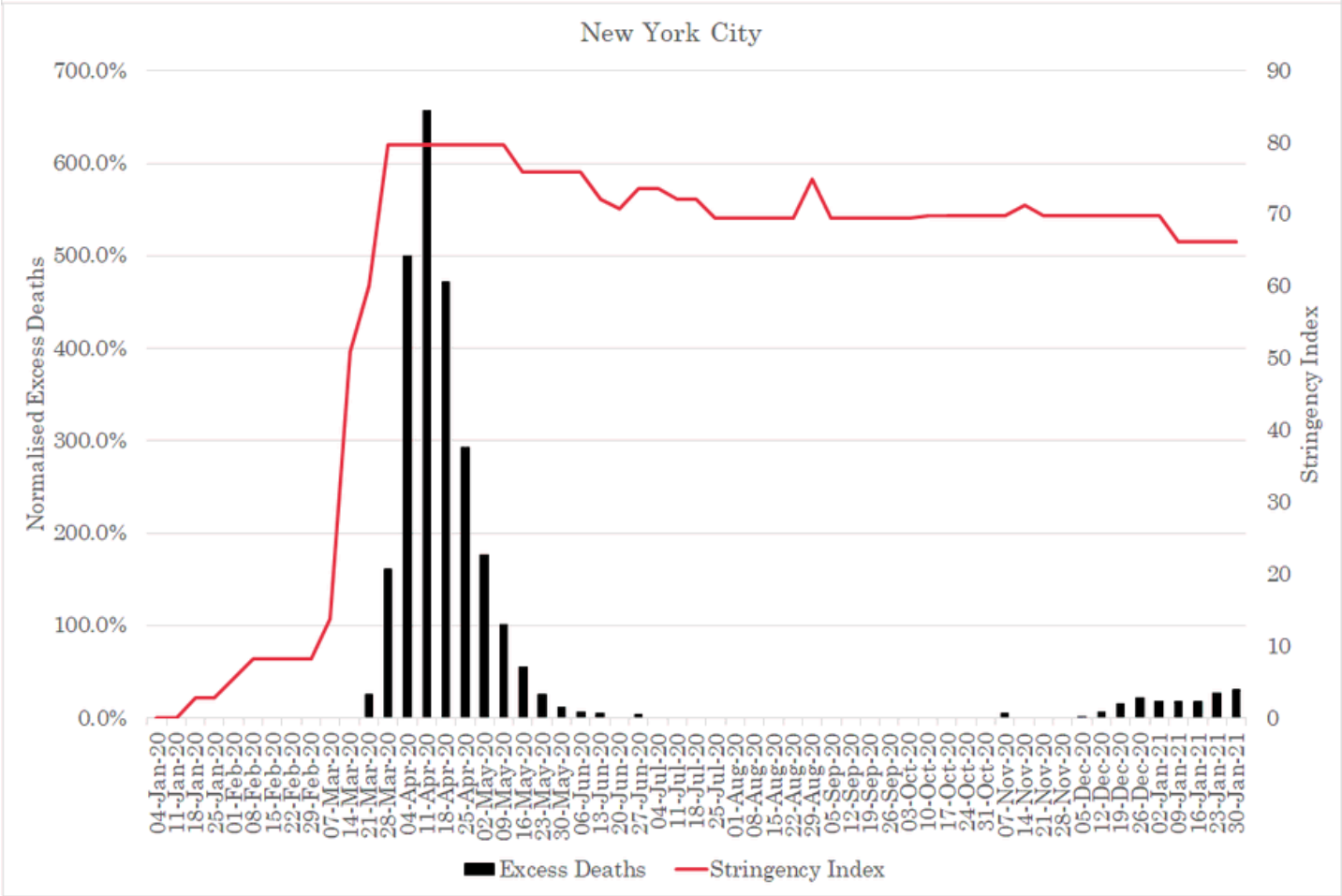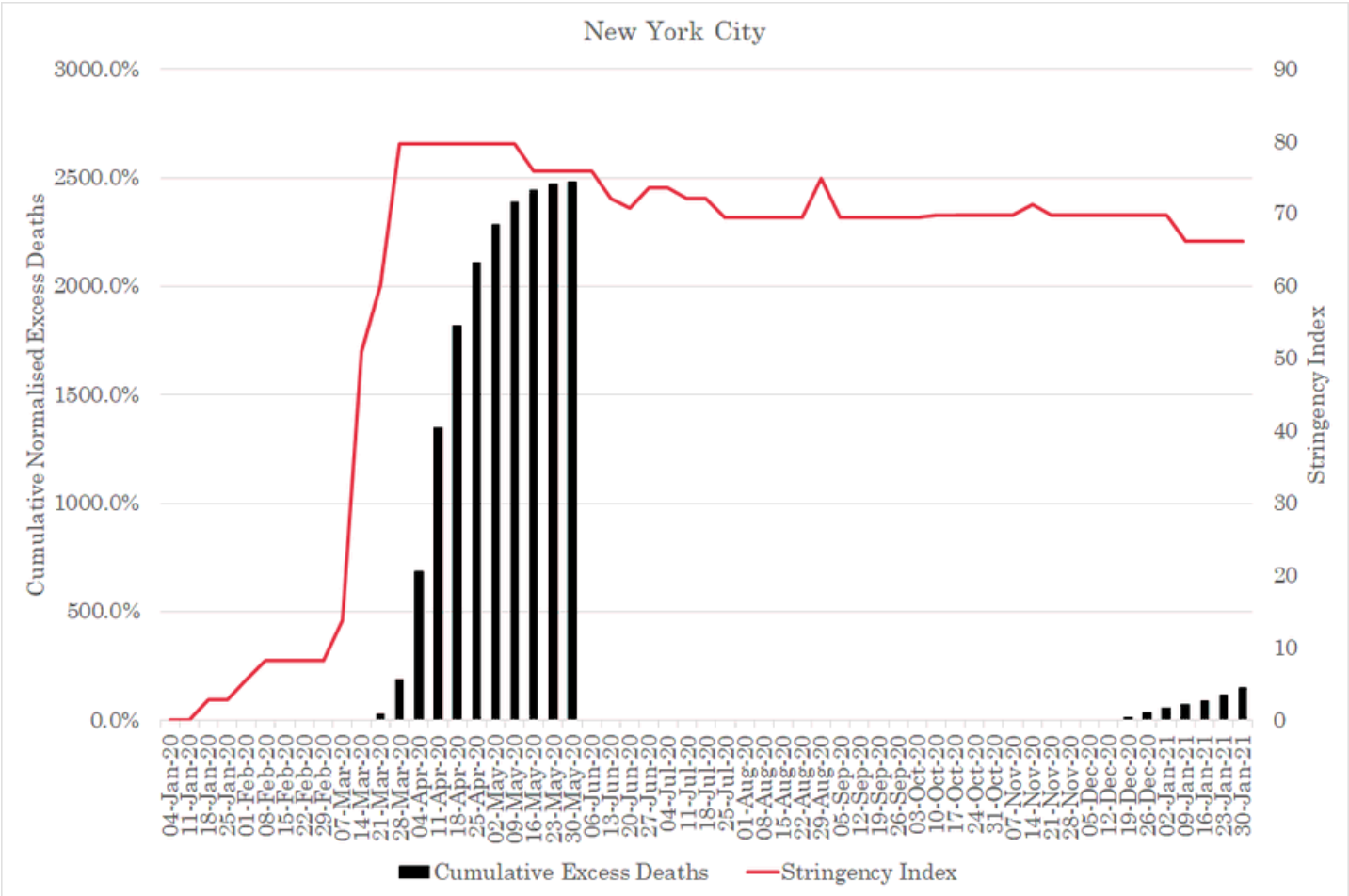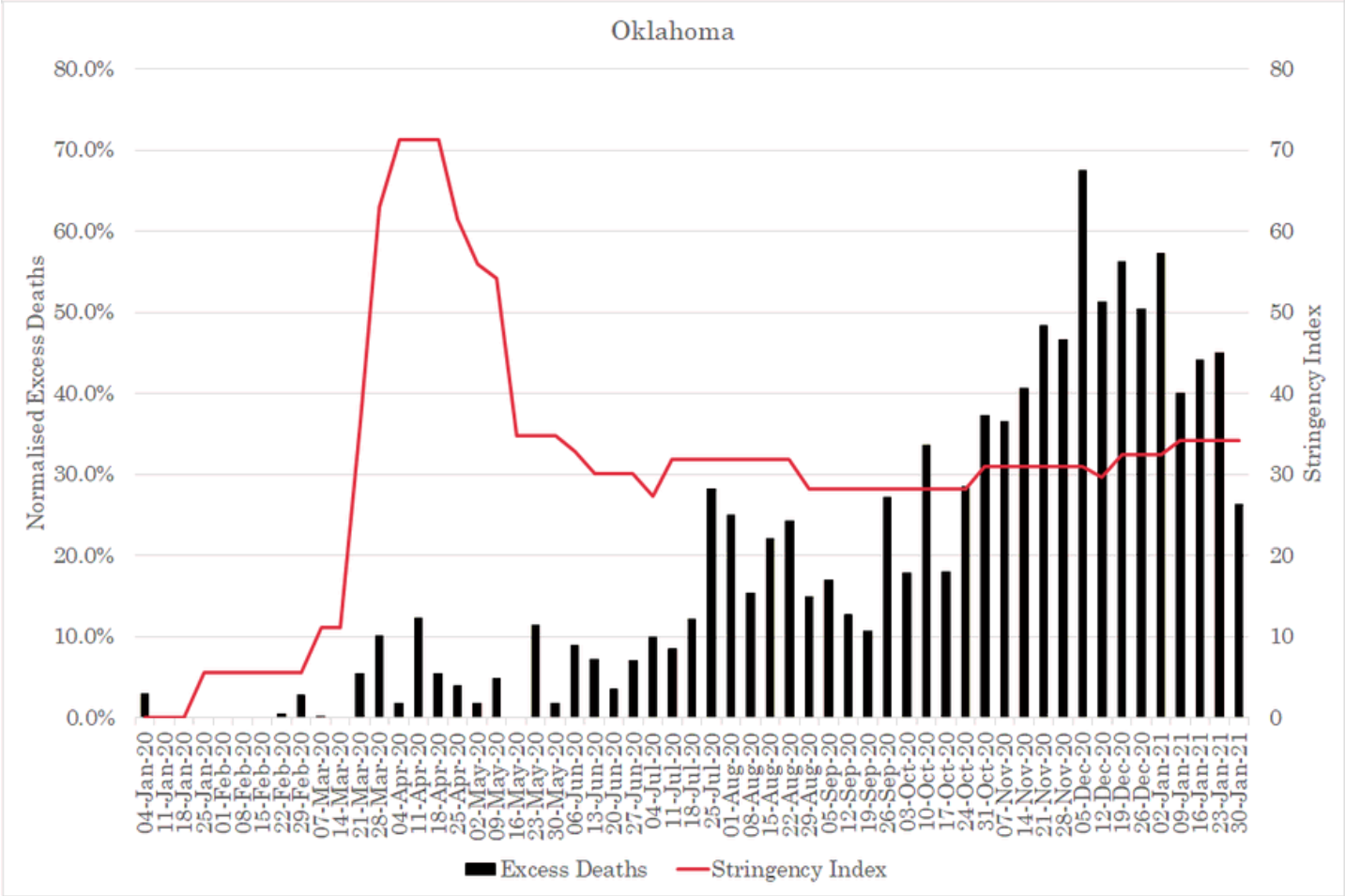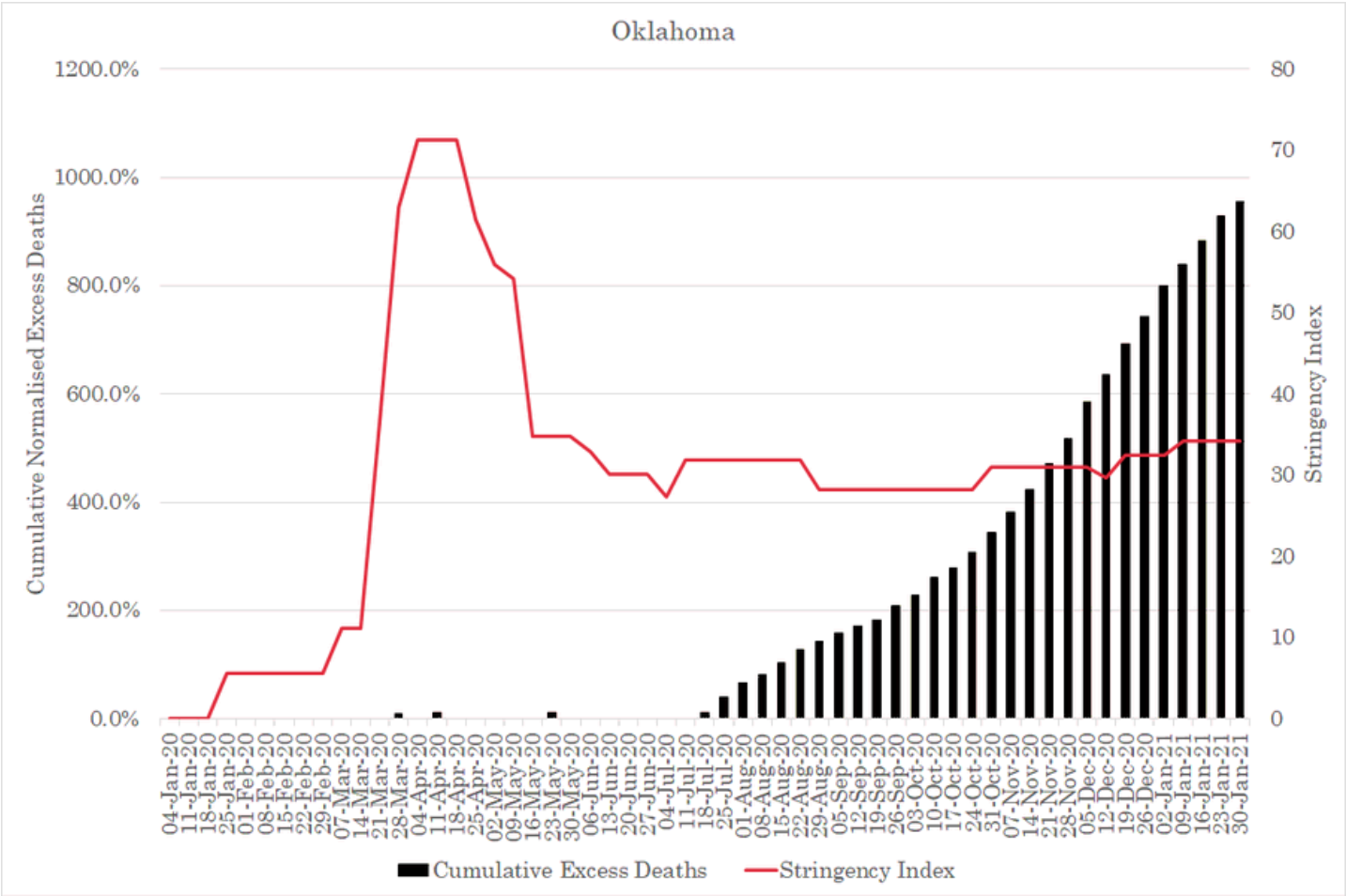
Inevitably, it is impossible to fully explain the vast differences in excess mortality outcomes across each US state but one thing is for sure, human intervention did not play a significant enough part to show up in the data...

Minnesota

Minnesota

Nebraska

Nebraska

New Hampshire

Cumulative Normalised Excess Deaths / Stringency Index

■ Cumulative Excess Deaths — Stringency Index

New Hampshire

Normalised Excess Deaths / Stringency Index

■ Excess Deaths — Stringency Index

New York City

New York City

Oklahoma

Oklahoma

South Carolina

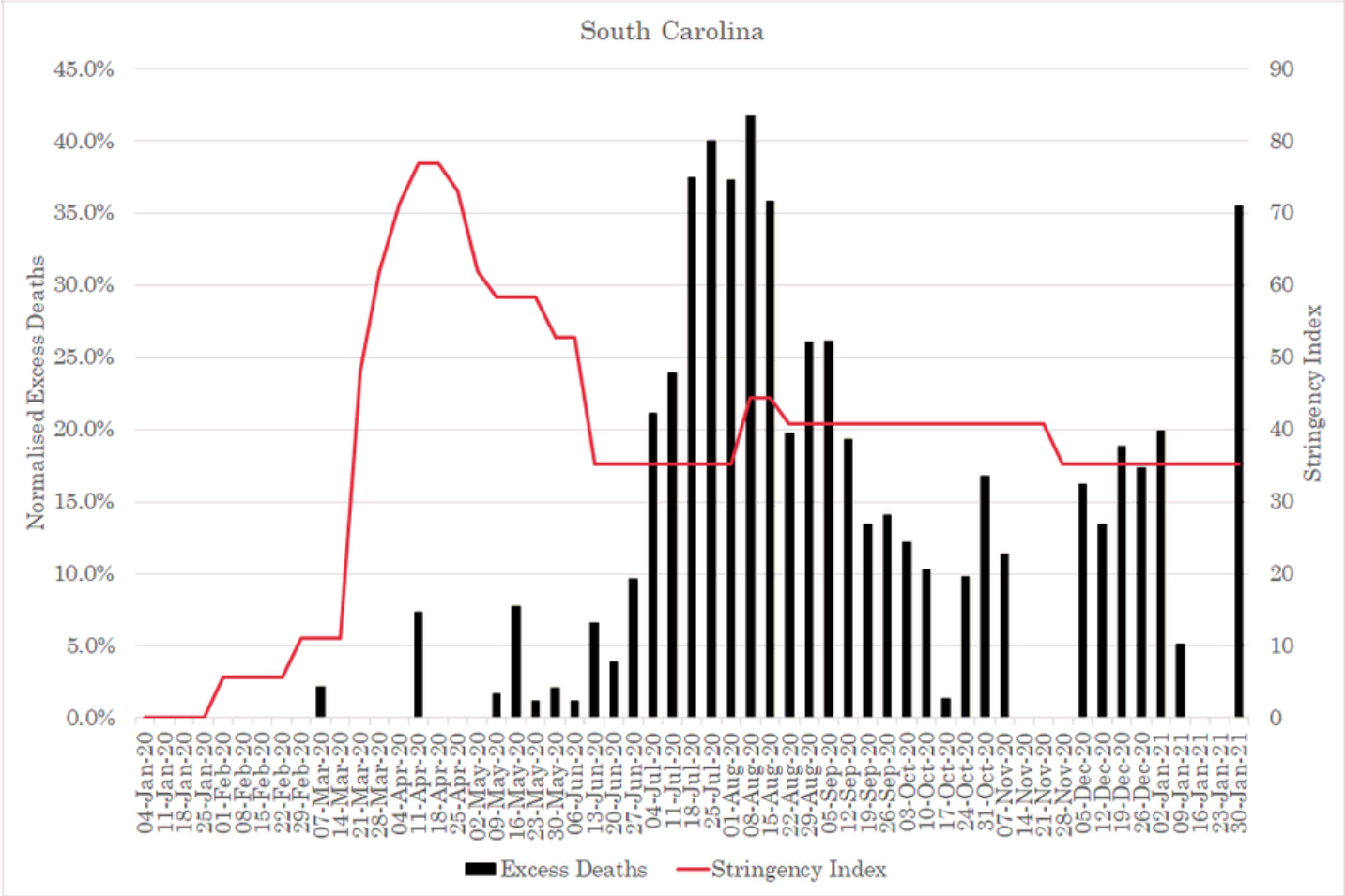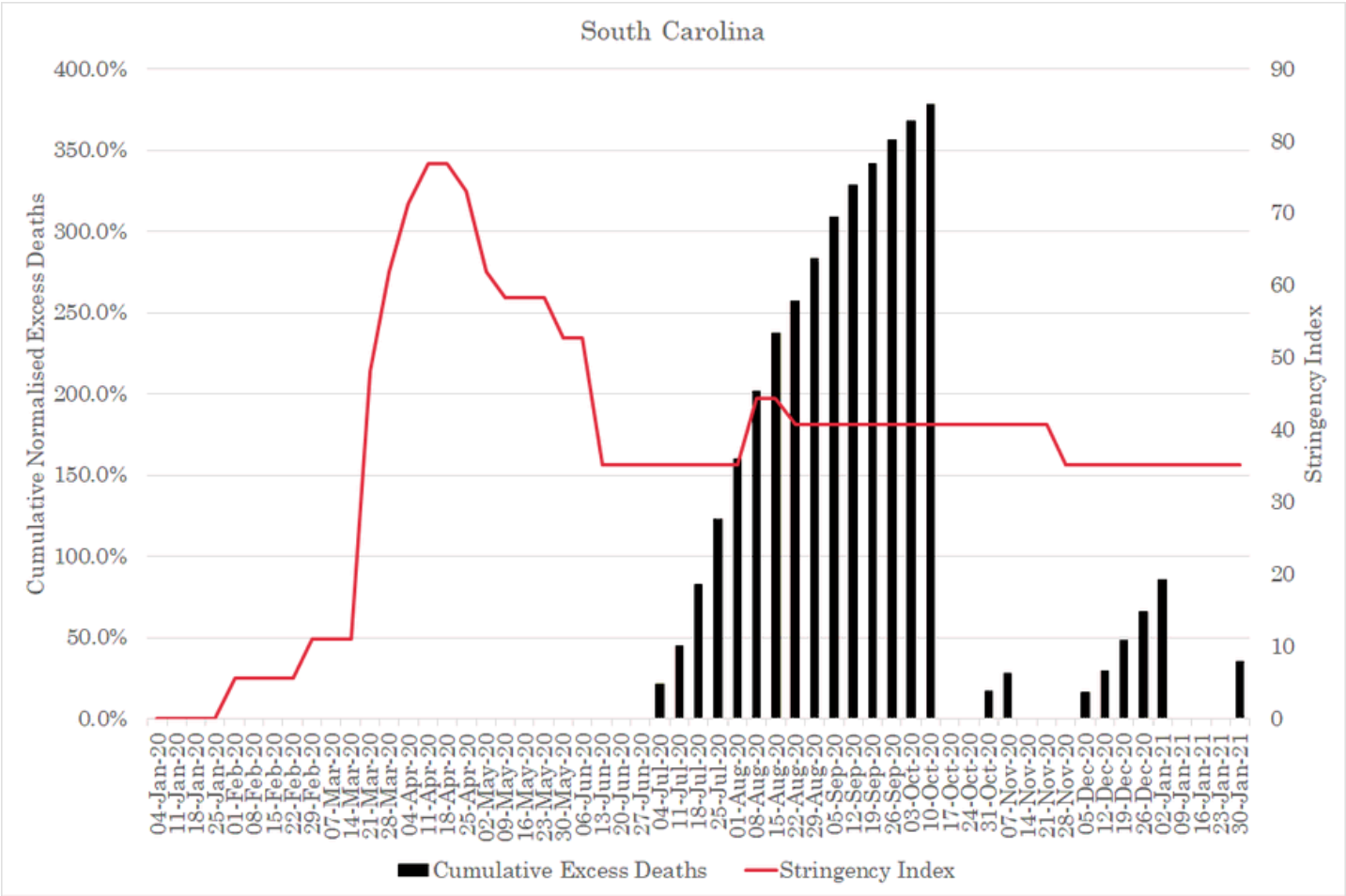South Carolina
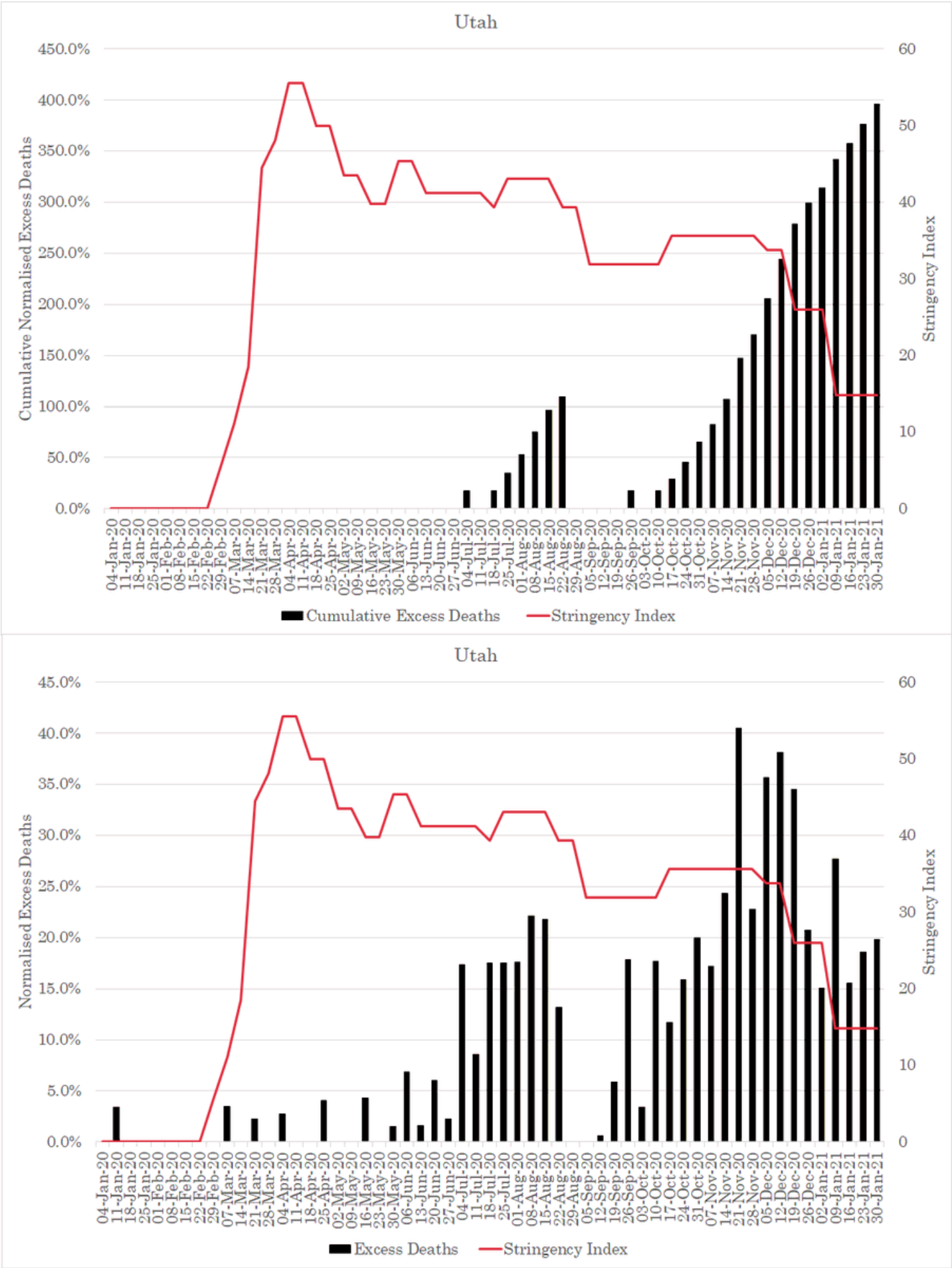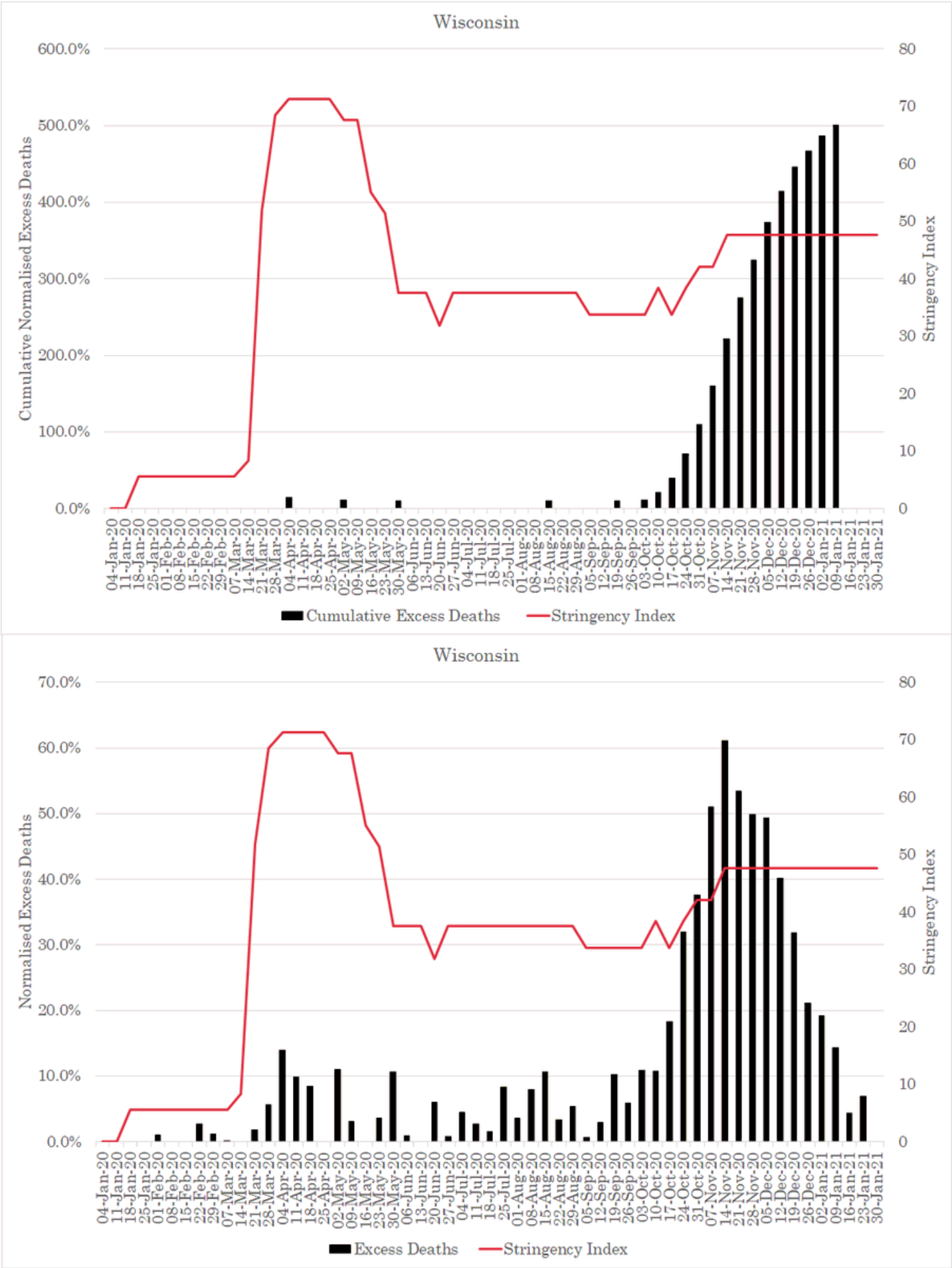
Utah

Utah

Wisconsin

Data sources: CDC and Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. Contact me for methods.