HOW GOOD OR BAD WERE THE COVID-19 CASE PREDICTIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM?

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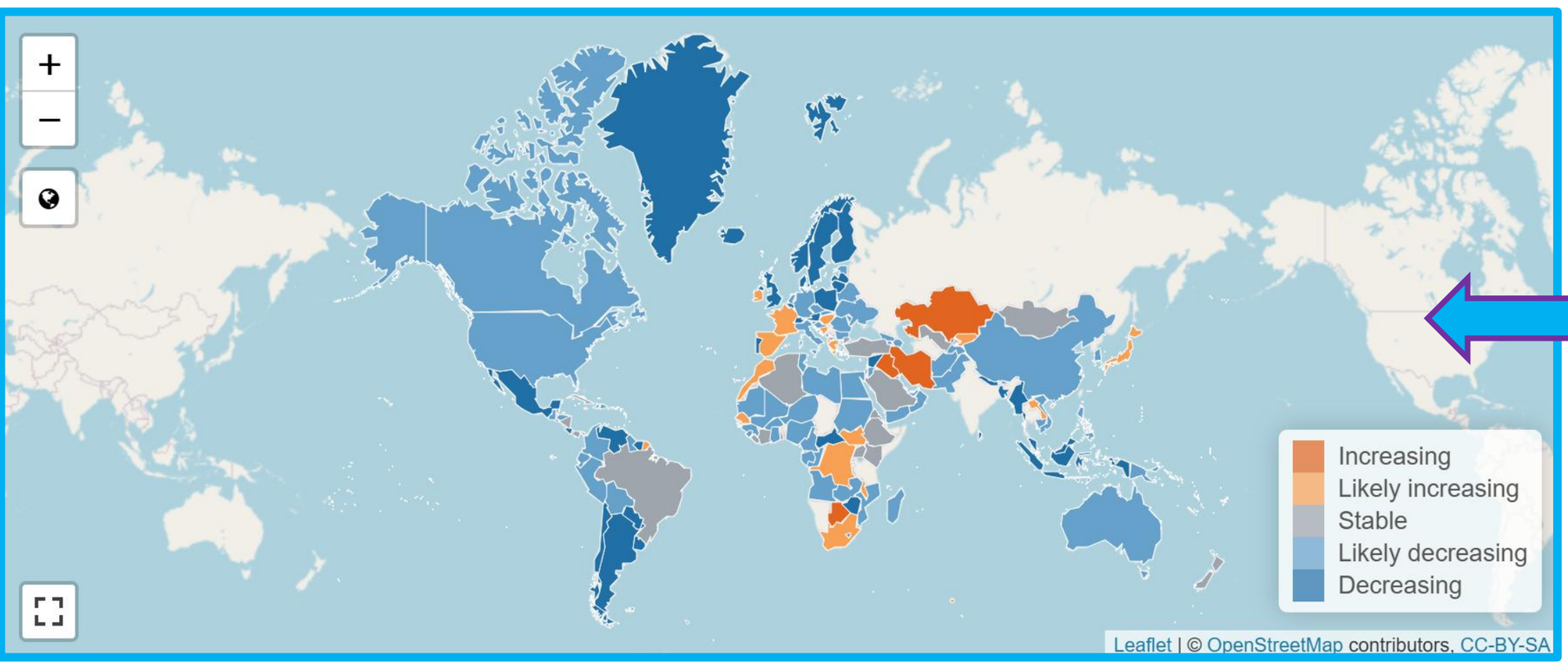


BACKGROUND

- **During the pandemic, real-time forecasts of UK COVID-19 cases were created.**
- **These forecasts were shared visually as dashboards with no measurement of how good their predictions were.**
- **This dashboard was created using the forecast data and updated regularly to track changes over time.**

WHAT'S AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE FORECAST?

- **Think of a weather forecast, but for diseases.**
- **Data and computer models make estimates.**
- **They predict the future spread of a disease.**
- **They help health providers plan and take action.**

HOW DO WE USE THEM DURING AN OUTBREAK?

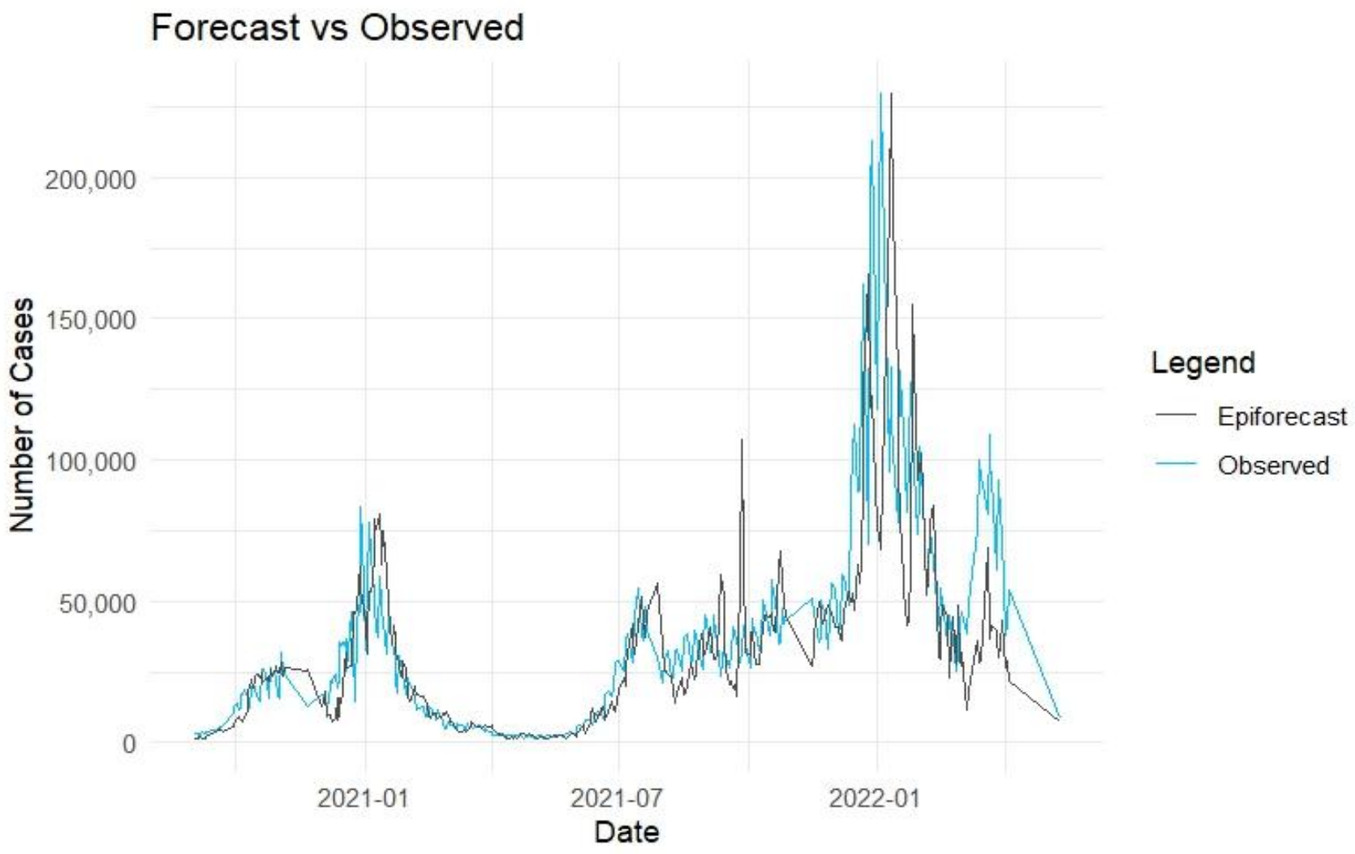
- **Prevents rapid spreading - enables public health officials and healthcare providers to prepare and act quickly to stop outbreaks.**
- **Resource allocation – ensures medical supplies, staff, and funding are available where they are needed the most.**

AIM

- **To check how accurate UK COVID-19 forecasts were by comparing them with the actual number of reported cases.**
- **This helps us to understand how reliable the forecasts were for public health decisions.**

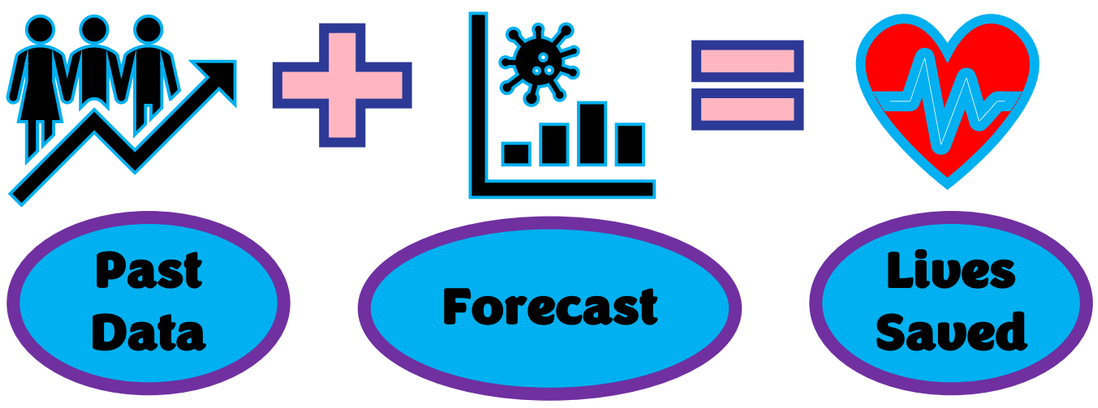
HERE'S WHAT I DID?

I visualised the data & measured how accurate the predictions were compared to the actual number of cases



The predicted data performed relatively well, although there were some slight differences with the observed cases.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE



NEXT STEPS

HEALTH EQUITY

Explore whether forecasts are equally beneficial across different communities and socioeconomic groups, and whether this inclusive approach affects public health decisions.

SKILLS I LEARNED

- ***Project management***
- ***Data collection & cleaning in R***

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Host Org: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
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