COVID-19 Research

"Excess Deaths" in America

Excess Deaths = the number of deaths above statistical average, for any and all reasons



Source: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm as of 10/11/2020

Second Wave in UK, Italy, Sweden, US

Testing is up, positive tests are up, deaths are way down, small up-tick in UK, virtually none in Italy, Sweden, declining in US

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Source: <u>https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/</u> as of 10/11/2020

The Second Wave in the UK



What about the Flu?

Governor Newsom concerned about a Flu and Covid-19 "twindemic"



But the PP (percentage positive) influenza test rate dropped close to zero due to lockdowns, social distancing and masks

What about the Flu?

• World Health Organization (WHO)

"In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained record low in comparison with previous seasons."

Scientific American: Flu Season Never Came to the Southern Hemisphere

"coronavirus prevention measures—handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing—are working against flu transmission."

https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/ https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/flu-season-never-came-to-the-southern-hemisphere/

Sources:

Lockdowns Increased Excess Deaths



California and New York had lockdowns. The "Freedom" states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa, Utah had did not have lockdowns and they had lower excess deaths.

Does COVID-19 or Lockdowns cause more deaths?

STATE	RISK LEVEL	AVG. THIS WEEK	PER IOOK	% CHANGE VS. 2 WEEKS AGO	
North Dakota	RED	640 new cases/day	84 per 100K	+60%	
South Dakota	RED	656 new cases/day	74 per 100K	+55%	
Montana	RED	599 new cases/day	56 per 100K	+83%	
Wisconsin	RED	3,053 new cases/day	52 per 100K	+25%	
Nebraska	RED	951 new cases/day	49 per 100K	+74%	

THE HIGHEST-RISK PLACES INCLUDE:

Note: Daily cases are a 7-day average to smooth out day-to-day variations in the data. Risk levels are based on a scale developed by the Harvard Global Health Institute and a collaboration of top scientists at institutions around the country.

Source: Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, Census Bureau 2019 population estimates, 2010 Census (U.S. territories)

State	Highest Average Expected Deaths
California	131%
North Dakota	110%
South Dakota	113%
Montana	123%
Wisconsin	112%
Nebraska	116%

False Positive Tests

- The NFL had 77 positive Covis-19 tests from 11 teams re-examined by a New Jersey lab after false positives, all those tests came back negative.
- The PCR test amplifies genetic matter from the virus in cycles; the fewer cycles required, the greater the amount of virus, or viral load, in the sample.
- This number of amplification cycles needed to find the virus, called the cycle threshold, is never included in the results.
- Most tests set the limit at 40, a few at 37.
- The C.D.C.'s own calculations suggest that it is extremely difficult to detect any live virus in a sample above a threshold of 33 cycles.

Sources:

https://www.cnbc.com/2020/08/24/nfl-has-77-apparently-false-positive-coronavirus-tests-from-lab.html https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/29/health/coronavirus-testing.html

What is a Vaccine?

- A vaccine is a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease.
- A vaccine typically <u>contains an agent that resembles a</u> <u>disease-causing microorganism</u> and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins, or one of its surface proteins

In other words,

some vaccines give you a low dosage of a weakened virus.

Inoculum

 A biological material (like a virus or toxin or immune serum) that is injected into a human to induce or increase immunity to a particular disease.

In other words, receiving low inoculum of the SARS-COV-2 virus <u>could</u> be similar to a vaccination

Source: https://www.biologyonline.com/dictionary/inoculum

Masks Do More Than We Think Dr. Monica Gandhi, UC San Francisco

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8N5oduX1KQ from 4:33 to 8:57

Lethal Dose (LD50) and Inoculum

"it is well known that for viruses, infection and mortality are heavily shaped by exposure dose.

In fact, because of the strong effect of exposure dose on disease outcome, viral virulence has often been characterized across a range of dosages.

Such studies often calculate the 50% lethal dose (LD50), i.e., the virus dose at which fifty percent of exposed hosts die"

Low Inoculum (dose) <u>appears</u> to result in 95% asymptomatic cases

- "hemodialysis unit in Indiana, where all patients and staff were masked, demonstrated that staff rapidly <u>developed antibodies</u> to SARS-CoV-2 after exposure to a single symptomatic patient with COVID-19. In the setting of masking, however, <u>none of the</u> <u>new infections was symptomatic</u>.
- And in a recent outbreak in a seafood processing plant in Oregon where all workers were issued masks each day at work, the <u>rate of asymptomatic infection among the 124 infected</u> <u>was 95%</u>.
- An outbreak in a Tyson chicken plant in Arkansas with <u>masking</u> <u>also showed a 95% asymptomatic</u> rate of infection."

Mask Wearing

- Masks reduce the number of virus particles shed by infected people
- Masks reduce the number of virus particles (inoculum) breathed in by healthy people
- Small inoculums
 - Asymptomatic cases, builds immunity
- Large inoculums
 - Bad outcomes, including death

CDC Study Finds Vast Majority of Those Infected with COVID-19 'Always' Wore Masks

- In surveying 154 patients who tested positive for the coronavirus, in the previous 14 days before their illness began, 71% reported using either a cloth face covering or a mask "always." Another 14 % said the wore masks "often," which adds up to 85%.
- Only 4% of respondents said they never wore facemasks, and another 4% said they rarely did.

Source: https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/cdc-study-finds-vast-majority-of-those-infected-with-covid-19-always-wore-masks/

LOCKDOWNS don't help Inoculum

 Lockdowns prevent people from receiving small inoculums.

• <u>Perhaps a better approach? Live life as normal but</u> with everyone wearing a mask = inoculums low.

Seroprevalence in Tokyo

- Seroprevalence
 - Positive test for an antibody to the virus
- Study of 1877 healthy volunteers from 11 different locations across Tokyo
- Seroprevalence increased from 5.8 % to 46.8 % over the course of the summer
- During the summer almost half the sampled population was infected with the virus and did not know it

Tokyo Study (con't)

Conclusions and Relevance: COVID-19 infection may have spread widely across the general population of Tokyo despite the very low fatality rate.

Given the temporal correlation between the rise in seropositivity and the decrease in reported COVID-19 cases that occurred without a shut-down, herd immunity may be implicated.



Source: https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/jp

Other Public Health Factors

- Unemployment rose from 4.5% to 14.5%, an increase of 300% (Tuolumne County)
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health show a 300% increase in Psychological Distress.
- Local family counselor: since Covid-19 and the lockdown, suicide attempts among young people here locally is way up. Divorce rate is up, domestic abuse and violence are up extremely high ALL HERE LOCALLY.

Youth Impacts

Depression and Suicide Ideation

- Tuolumne County Kids

(CHKS data summary ending Feb 2020).

"I am most concerned with chronic sadness and suicide ideation. We are responding by offering the Living Works suicide prevention program to all educators in Tuolumne County, connecting more students to mental health services and bringing more social emotional learning to the schools."--

- Rob Egger, Director of Differentiated Assistance and Grant Programs; Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office Suicide and Depression TUOLUMNE COUNTY Youth

CHKS data summary 12-month study ended February 2020. Kids responded, "Strongly agree" or "Very much true."

Mental and Physical Health (Grades 7*, 9, 11, Alt Ed)

	Grade 5	Grade 7	Grade 9	Grade 11	Non Trad.
Experienced Chronic sadness and/or hopelessness	19%	34%	45%	47%	46%
Considered Suicide	N/A	18%	26%	26%	25%

<u>IF you take</u> Johns Hopkins study; 300% increase in Mental Health issues and apply locally <u>today</u>:

	Grade 5	Grade 7	Grade 9	Grade 11	Non Trad.
Experienced Chronic	19%	34%	45%	47%	46%
sadness and/or hopelessness	<mark>57%</mark>	103%	<mark>135%</mark>	<mark>141%</mark>	<mark>138%</mark>
Considered Suicide	N/A	18% <mark>54%</mark>	26% <mark>78%</mark>	26% <mark>78%</mark>	25% <mark>75%</mark>

Downward Shift in Grades



Moving forward

The Great Barrington Declaration

VS.

The Middle Path

- **Dr. Martin Kulldorff**, professor of medicine at Harvard University, a biostatistician, and epidemiologist with expertise in detecting and monitoring infectious disease outbreaks and vaccine safety evaluations.
- **Dr. Sunetra Gupta**, professor at Oxford University, an epidemiologist with expertise in immunology, vaccine development, and mathematical modeling of infectious diseases.
- **Dr. Jay Bhattacharya**, professor at Stanford University Medical School, a physician, epidemiologist, health economist, and public health policy expert focusing on infectious diseases and vulnerable populations.
- As of 11 October 2020 the Great Barrington Declaration website reported there were over 340,000 signatories.

VS

The middle path

Dr David Nabarro

Sources: https://gbdeclaration.org/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great Barrington Declaration

As infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection

Current lockdown policies are producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health. The results (to name a few) include lower childhood vaccination rates, worsening cardiovascular disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings and deteriorating mental health – leading to greater excess mortality in years to come, with the working class and younger members of society carrying the heaviest burden. Keeping students out of school is a grave injustice.

"to build up immunity to the virus through <u>natural infection</u>, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this Focused Protection

VS.

The middle path by Dr. Nabarro

A <u>vaccine</u> is more probable for reaching herd immunity.

Adopting measures to protect the vulnerable should be the central aim of public health responses to COVID-19. By way of example, nursing homes should use staff with acquired immunity and perform frequent PCR testing of other staff and all visitors. Staff rotation should be minimized. Retired people living at home should have groceries and other essentials delivered to their home. When possible, they should meet family members outside rather than inside. A comprehensive and detailed list of measures, including approaches to multigenerational households, can be implemented, and is well within the scope and capability of public health professionals.

Mortality per Age Group



Age

Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as normal. Simple hygiene measures, such as hand washing and staying home when sick should be practiced by everyone to reduce the herd immunity threshold. Schools and universities should be open for inperson teaching. Extracurricular activities, such as sports, should be resumed. Young low-risk adults should work normally, rather than from home. Restaurants and other businesses should open. Arts, music, sport and other cultural activities should resume. People who are more at risk may participate if they wish, while society as a whole enjoys the protection conferred upon the vulnerable by those who have built up herd immunity.

A middle Path

- A middle path is needed.... Too many restrictions damage people's livelihoods and provoke resentment. 'Virus run wild' will lead to lots of deaths as well as debilitating long-Covid among younger people.
- Surely a vaccine that will save us all will be available soon? It would be great if that happens. However even if safe and effective vaccines appear in a few months it will take many more months even years to make sure that they are available to all.
- That is why decisions made now are really important for people, societies and economies everywhere.
- <u>https://www.4sd.info/covid-19-narratives/reflections-about-the-middle-path/</u>

WHO warns against COVID-19 lockdowns due to economic damage

- Nabarro: "Lockdowns just have one consequence that you must never ever belittle, and that is making poor people an awful lot poorer,"
- Tedros: "We need to reach a sustainable situation where we have adequate control of this virus without shutting down our lives entirely, or lurching from lockdown to lockdown — which has a hugely detrimental impact on societies,"

Highlights

- WHO now says lockdowns are bad
- Lockdowns stops low inoculum exposure (Tokyo study) and drive multiple lockdown cycles
- States without lockdowns had the lowest excess death rates
- The shutdown may kill more than COVID-19?
- The shutdown cure may be worse than the COVID-19 disease.

Lockdowns Increased Excess Deaths



California and New York had lockdowns. The "Freedom" states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa, Utah had did not have lockdowns and they had lower excess deaths.

Proposal

- Consideration of adopting the <u>message</u> of:
- One: fully reopening the economy
- Two: Strongly encouraging appropriate and safe mitigation measures
- Three: authorizing the presentation of this message to the Governor, State and state associations.