

Covid-19 is Overblown

On March 11th, 2020, The World Health Organization declared SARS Covid-19 a pandemic. Countries all over the world went into complete lockdown, closing stores, restaurants, schools, and more were closed as a result. But was it overblown? People often talk about the mortality rates, specifically how many Covid-19 hospitalizations resulted in death. However, according to many sources, the mortality rate was quite low. For example, by March 1st 79,968 people in China had been infected with Covid-19, and of those 79,968 people, only 2873 people died, indicating that the virus only had about a 3.6% mortality rate (Baude et.al, 2020). Similar cases of mortality rates were found in a study conducted that analyzed mortality rates of victims of Covid-19. In 114 countries, a total of 118,000 people were infected, and out of those people, less than 5000 deaths were reported (Williamson 2020). Although any number of deaths is tragic, a mortality rate of 4.2% is not as detrimental as it may seem. In comparison, the Bubonic Plague resulted in between 75 to 200 million deaths. The two are not even comparable when looking at the grand scheme of things. People also talk about the symptoms and long-lasting complications that can result from Covid-19. The Journal of Microbiology, Immunology, and Infection analyzed the severity of symptoms of Covid patients in a 2021 study. In this study, they found that the majority of people that came down with the illness were asymptomatic or had very mild symptoms (Gao et.al, 2021). This is further supported by a 2020 article that analyzes self-reported symptoms of people suspected to have Covid-19. 64% of people expressed having a loss of taste and smell which again are extremely mild symptoms (Menni 2020). In reality, the most dangerous effect that Covid-19 had was on people's mental health rather than their physical health. In a study done at Northeastern University, researchers found that 45% of participants found themselves rethinking their relationships, questioning themselves socially and spiritually, and losing interpersonal friendships (Todorova 2021). Overall it is seen that Covid-19 was severely blown overboard.

However, the opposing side of this topic is even more compelling. The Covid-19 pandemic had a lot of controversy and misinformation surrounding its true significance. Doctor and writer, David Oliver, debunked the misinformation surrounding the pandemic, specifically the death toll that came about because of it. Although Covid-19 had a relatively low mortality rate, still, in Wales England alone, over 100,000 people died as a result of Covid-19 and Covid-19-related complications (Oliver 2021). Most people cannot conceptualize what 100,000 dead looks like, however, doctors and other healthcare personnel can imagine. The issue of deaths became so prevalent that the United States had to ask FEMA for 100,000 body bags to deal with the mass amounts of deaths. However, by April 26th, only 46 days after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, the United States had already experienced over 200,000 deaths (Entress 2020). This forced hospitals all around the country to resort to more distasteful means of disposing of bodies, such as putting bodies into shipping containers. Along with this, the lasting effects of Covid-19 are also detrimental, and many today are and will always be forced to deal with them. Researchers found that being infected with SARS-Cov-2 can cause neurological deficits in a statistically significant portion of the population of people who have had it (Heneka et.al, 2020). The mutated version of Covid-19 also has an 80% chance of being accompanied by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus because of a mutation that allows the virus to bypass the lipid molecules in our bodies that protect against bacteria (Dawood 2020). All in all, Covid-19 was not overblown and in fact, could have been taken more seriously.

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