Excess Mortality associated with Covid-19

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Global death registrations

NEARLY 40% of countries register at least 90% of deaths.

Source: WHO. Notes: High quality is defined as >80% usability. Lower quality is defined as <80% usability.
The official numbers...

Global Situation

500,186,525
confirmed cases

6,190,349
deaths

Dec 31, 2021
Deaths = 5.4 million
Excess mortality is a comprehensive measure

- Excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic is the *difference* between actual deaths from all-causes (for a specific place and time since the pandemic began) and the expected deaths based on historical trends in the absence of COVID-19.

- Accounts for both the *direct* and *indirect* impact of the pandemic making it a more objective measure than reported COVID-19 deaths alone.

- Excess mortality is not a new concept. It is an internationally recognized statistical concept and widely used by international organizations, including WHO, and academics.

- Excess mortality is a more comprehensive measure of the total impact of a crisis as it takes into account deaths that can be directly and indirectly attributed to the crisis.
Excess Mortality associated with Covid-19: data availability
TAG: Impartial, robust statistics

• WHO – UN DESA Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment comprised of world-class demographers, epidemiologists, data and social scientists, and statisticians from a wide range of backgrounds and geographies.

• Globally standardized method established to estimate excess mortality estimates while taking country specificities into account.

• Estimates of excess deaths produced at global, regional, and national levels for a 24-month period (January 2020 to December 2021) by age and sex.
Differing Estimates

- Direct Covid
- Economist
- WHO
- IHME
Why is this important?

• WHO's Global Health Estimates which measures the overall and cause-specific burden of diseases cannot be calculated

• The global health estimates are the foundation for monitoring numerous other health indicators:
  • health-related SDGs (premature mortality due to NCDs; neonatal, child and maternal mortality; mortality due to suicide, road traffic injuries, air pollution, poisoning and WASH)
  • Other indicators (e.g. life expectancy and healthy life expectancy (HALE))

• Global preparedness (what metric of success or failure?)

• Global and regional population estimates