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BOS 10/20/2020**Item 25 Public Comment**

1 message

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 To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Sun, Oct 18, 2020 at 5:26 PM

To: Honorable Supervisors
 CC: Dr. N. Williams
 From: Ken Zeier, El Dorado Co. resident
 Re: COVID Response--the good, the bad and the ugly

Abstract:

Researchers at the Hoover Institute, Stanford University, have calculated that twice as many man-years of life will be lost due to the response to COVID than to COVID itself. Additionally, data from the California Public Health Department itself does not support the draconian measures taken especially those that lockdown children and young adults. Immediate steps must be taken to bring resume normal activities for millions of Californians.

1. Public Health data.

Link #1: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-Cases-by-Age-Group.aspx>

California posted that as of October 14, 2020, there had been 858,401 COVID cases in this state. That is 2.15 percent of 40 million. By comparison, nationwide, on October 16, the number of cases in the USA was at 8 million (7,988,893) out of a population of 328.2 million, or a rate of 2.43 percent.

Data: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Also by comparison, the CDC estimates that in the 2019-2020 flu season there were 38 million cases of influenza in the USA, or 11.58 percent of the population got the flu.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/2019-2020.html#:~:text=During%20the%202019%2D2020%20influenza,405%2C000%20hospitalizations%2C%20and%2022%2C000%20deaths.>

[The US Census web site estimated in July 2019 that California held 39.5 million people. This analysis assumes 40 million in 2020.]

On March 11, 2020, the USA had approximately 224 total cases of COVID, so for this analysis that date is taken as the start date for COVID cases in California. If we assume a one week (most) infectious period then from March 11 to October 14, there were about 31, one-week periods. If we divide the 858,401 by 31 then on average 27,690 people per week in California were infectious. If we divide this by 40 million persons we arrive at 0.06% of the population infectious during any given week (simplified). This is equivalent to 6 infected people per 10,000 or in other words a person would have had to have met 10,000 people per week to come in contact with 6 infected persons.

The US Census estimates that 22.5% of people in California were under 18 years old in 2019, or about 9,000,000. California Dept. of Health data notes that in the 17 and under group there have been 90,259 cases, or about 1.0 percent. Of these 90,259, there were 2 deaths, or about 0.002% of these cases.

The US Census estimates that 14.8% of the California population is 65 and older, or 5.92 million. This group totaled 92,326 COVID cases from about March to October, or about 1.6%. But in the 65 and older group deaths totaled 12,430, or 2 per 1,000 over 65 population, or 13% of over 65 year old with COVID. While the percent of people catching COVID is similar in the under 17 and over 65 groups, the mortality rate for the over 65 group is vastly above that of the 17 and under group.

Yet the 17 and under group is being locked down and denied sports, social interaction and normal routines and education. For this group, the destructive effects of over regulation and restriction will be felt the most and most detrimental in the long run, I suggest. More on that in section 2.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that life expectancy in the US is 78.6 years. California COVID data states that overall, 41 percent of COVID deaths so far were in the 80+ age group, and 73.6% of deaths from COVID in California were in the 65 and older group.

The young aren't locked down for the flu, but they are being locked down and denied a real life because of COVID, which isn't killing them. The CDC estimates that 434 persons under 18 years old died from flu in the 2019-2020 season providing an estimate of 52 in California in that period based on percent of US population in California. So 52 deaths from flu and 2 from COVID. Yet no lockdown for flu, but lockdown for 18 (or 17) and under age group. The data is available and it says, stop the lockdown for the kids. They might get COVID but if they do they are not likely to die from it.

2. Risks from not returning to normal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biC4nHPYtbA>

Hoover Institute at Stanford University. The Efficacy of Lockdowns. Interview about a study about lockdown impacts.

What are the costs of the lockdown?

1. Economic
2. Deaths of despair
3. Lost life-years, decreased life expectancy, 800,000+ lost life years due lockdown, far surpassing COVID itself
4. Delayed or forgone healthcare (for instance, 1/2 of cancer patients stopped getting treatment)
5. Emergency care not done
6. Due to fear people with heart attacks didn't go in for emergency care for example
7. Immunizations not done
8. Decision makers ignored cost of lockdowns versus benefits, used hypothetical models and stop COVID at all costs attitude
9. Known from the beginning that the more vulnerable to upper respiratory sickness are the elderly and the immunocompromised--but they weren't protected in the beginning
10. Initial lockdown was understandable, but the extension was botched policy
11. Virtually zero risk of death if schools are opened--CDPH data shows this.
12. 99.9% of deaths in people over 24 years old.
13. Children don't even transmit the disease let alone die from it as a general rule
14. Most teachers are under 41 and in low risk group. Don't lockdown for the few older ones who can teach from a distance.
15. Shutting down education has a long-term cost that is huge
16. On-line learning model shows a 30% loss in reading skills already
17. 30% increase in child abuse related to parents in anxiety from losing their jobs

3. Conclusion

Stop the hysteria. Return life as normal to the young. Protect the most vulnerable. Let citizens decide their own acceptable risk levels.