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Stanford doctor: Coronavirus fatality rate for people under 45 'almost 0%'

by Dominick Mastrangelo, Social Media Producer | | July 02, 2020 03:04 PM

Stanford University's disease prevention chairman slammed using statewide lockdown measures as a response to the coronavirus, saying they were implemented based on bad data and inaccurate modeling.

"There are already more than 50 studies that have presented results on how many people in different countries and locations have developed antibodies to the virus," Dr. John Ioannidis said [during a recent interview](#) with *Greek Reporter*. "Of course, none of these studies are perfect, but cumulatively, they provide useful composite evidence. A very crude estimate might suggest that about 150-300 million or more people have already been infected around the world, far more than the 10 million documented cases."

Ioannidis pointed out the mortality rate is low among young people who have contracted the virus.

"The death rate in a given country depends a lot on the age structure, who are the people infected, and how they are managed," Ioannidis said. "For people younger than 45, the infection fatality rate is almost 0%. For 45 to 70, it is probably about 0.05%-0.3%. For those above 70, it escalates substantially."

Since the pandemic began in February, [more than 2.6 million people](#) in the United States have contracted the virus, and 128,000 have died.

Several states have [seen spikes in cases](#), especially in the southeastern part of the country, where lockdown measures were lifted earlier than in other states.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert, said last month that the increases in cases are partially due to an expanded national testing capacity and the phased reopening of local economies.

"If you test more, you will likely pick up more infections," Fauci said. "Once you see that the percentage is higher, then you've really got to be careful — because then, you really are seeing additional infections that you weren't seeing before."

Ioannidis questioned whether the rate of infection and mortality rate were worth shutting down the U.S. economy for months.

"Major consequences on the economy, society, and mental health have already occurred," he said. "I hope they are reversible, and this depends to a large extent on whether we can avoid prolonging the draconian lockdowns and manage to deal with COVID-19 in a smart, precision-risk targeted approach rather than blindly shutting down everything."

