Putting COVID Numbers and Vaccinations into Context

August 30, 2021
People often have a hard time grappling with large numbers. This exercise is intended to put COVID numbers into a more familiar (and hopefully meaningful) context.

Our Legend:

- = one person

- = 15 people

- = 300 people
On average, how many people are killed by sharks in the US each year?

= less than 1 per year
On average (for the last 10 years), how many people die from lightning strikes in the US each year?

= 25 people
On average (over the last ten years), how many people die from tornadoes in the US each year?

= 94 people
On average, how many people drown in the US each year?

= 3,960 people
On average, how many traffic fatalities in the US each year?

= 38,000 people
(Filling just over 60% of Soldier Field in Chicago, IL)
How many flu deaths in the US (average for last 10 years)?

= 36,000 people
How many COVID deaths in the US (Jan. 2020 – August 18, 2021)?

= 614,531

Deaths from January 2020 – February 2021 (Before vaccines became available) = 433,971

Deaths between February 1 and August 18, 2021 (After vaccines became available) = 181,000

Deaths among vaccinated people (1,400)
What if Vaccinations Didn’t Work?

- Approximately 170,000,000 Americans are vaccinated (leaving around 165,000,000 Americans who are unvaccinated). So, we are nearly split 50/50

- If vaccinations have no effect, the death toll would look nearly identical between the vaccinated and unvaccinated

During the week of August 15-21, 5,564 people in the U.S. died from COVID-19

Here is the split of deaths, among the vaccinated and unvaccinated people, that we would roughly expect, if vaccinations made no difference:
But here are the data we actually see!

- There were 5564 COVID deaths during the week of August 15\textsuperscript{th} to August 21\textsuperscript{st}
- Depending upon the state you are in, the proportion of vaccinated people who die from COVID ranges from 0.1% to 5% of COVID all deaths.

Approximately 5286 unvaccinated people died from COVID during the week of August 15-21

\begin{itemize}
\item Unvaccinated People
\item Vaccinated People
\end{itemize}
Vaccinations Work!

- We hope these illustrations are helpful. We think the data provide a pretty clear picture!
- Be safe. Reduce your risk. Get your vaccine.

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