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Is COVID-19 Less Deadly Than Initially Believed?

Federal officials often give numbers for COVID-19 deaths and cases confirmed by testing. But this makes the disease seem deadlier than it is. Case in point, two California studies found the number of infected people to be much higher than the official count of confirmed cases. For example, one study says 50 to 85 times higher.

This means the disease is less deadly than we’ve been led to believe. One physician in an interview says the lethality of COVID-19 is determined by dividing the number of deaths by the number of people infected, not the number of people testing positive. No one knows how many are infected. But the good news is we now know lots of people had it and didn’t know it, perhaps since late last year.

“More people may have been infected by coronavirus in one California county, study estimates,” Michael Nedelman, CNN, April 20, 2020: https://cnn.it/3eR5eto

“Questioning Conventional Wisdom in the COVID-19 Crisis, With Dr. Jay Bhattacharya,” Hoover Institution, March 31, 2020: https://hvr.co/2VQiC8E