

Chill !!

March 24, 2020

PREFIX to this paper: I'm just an engineer, I go by numbers. By data. And I have a disturbing nature of thinking for myself and asking questions. Probably this is why I didn't go to be a politician, a reporter at MSNBC, or working on Nancy Pelosi's staff.

So, -before you read it- here are some "prefix" type points.

**I truly don't judge anyone how any individual handles this crisis, How anyone approaches it; because it is everyone's personal business; therefore I don't care

**As me as a "person", have my way to approach it. Send me reply only if you have data-based analysis, diverging from mine. Otherwise don't bother, because I truly don't care.

**There was an interview with Dan Patrick, Lt. Governor of Texas on March 23rd. The Lt. Governor said a lot of things in a roughly 6 min. interview; it goes without saying, YouTube brought just a small portion of it (about 40 sec.) and various vicious, idiotic liberal commentaries after that. One of these "anything but Oscar" performances is in this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4BlkfrAggg>

However, the Lt. Governor said this (in the 40 sec. YouTube allowed): *"...Are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren. And if that's the exchange, I'm all in...."* Throughout the interview Lt. Governor Patrick (70 years old, works 15h a day, small business owner, grandpa of six grandchildren) –in a nutshell- said: we cannot sacrifice the entire US economy on a relatively low number of cases, even with higher case numbers. Let's get back to work. He also said: if this goes for another two months, there will be no economy to go back to. 62% of US workers go to work for a small company today. If they are gone, there will be nothing left.

That got me thinking.

As of March 24, 2:42PM CDT, there are 51,163 cases in the US with 658 deaths. There was a daily briefing by New York Governor Cuomo today where he declared: *"Although 98% of the population will not be effected, we do care about the 2%"*. It's noble. It's truly good. I respect the Governor and –I've never thought I will ever say this- I've begun to like him as a person. He must be a good guy, with some terrible ideas when he runs N.Y. in normal times. I though his statement should be merged with Lt. Governor Patrick's; many conclusions can be drawn.

CHILL

The US population was 329,450,000 at the end of 2019. Let's round it to 330M. While I respect Gov. Cuomo's approach, I must say this:

- 1% of 330M = 3.3M
- 0.1% of the 330M = 330,000, while
- 0.01% of the population amounts to 33,000.
- The number of cases today in our USA is less than 2 hundreds of 1%

Governor Cuomo is talking about (at minimum) 3.3 million people (at "1%", while real data shows 51,163 cases. It is roughly 1/60th of the Governor's "best" estimate ("we care about the 1%"). Not to mention that 50% of the total US cases are in N.Y. so the center is known.

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At the same time, global statistics (“numbers”, “data” !!) show this:

	POPULATION	COVID-19 Cases 3/22/20	%	
Spain	47,007,000	28,572	0.0608%	608 of 10,000
Germany	82,900,000	23,921	0.0289%	289 of 10,000
US	329,450,000	26,675	0.0081%	81 of 10,000
Italy	60,550,000	53,578	0.0885%	885 of 10,000
France	66,990,000	14,485	0.0216%	216 of 10,000
S. Korea	51,257,000	8,897	0.0174%	174 of 10,000
Switzerland	8,570,000	7,104	0.0829%	829 of 10,000
UK	66,870,000	5,071	0.0076%	76 of 10,000
Netherland	17,424,000	4,216	0.0242%	242 of 10,000
Texas	28,700,000	620	0.0022%	22 of 10,000
N.Y.	8,623,000	3,260	0.0378%	378 of 10,000

So there are a few questions (just from the top of my head) I need to ask:

- I get the idea of “don’t infect grandma, (just like when you have a severe flu, a viral pneumonia, etc. You don’t kiss grandma) but shouldn’t this be personal responsibility?
- As I wrote before, there are some 32,000 deaths by flu and 50,000 by pneumonia in the US alone. Every single year. The number of infected in those cases is in the tens of millions. Why exactly did we shut down the entire US economy over Corona?
- The today’s “cases & deaths” numbers (above) show a roughly 1.28% ratio. We have been putting S. Korea on the pedestal in “this is how we should handle it but never will”, while we have been trashing the Trump government. Yet, the “case/death” ratio in S. Korea is 1.1% This begs the question: ***is the 0.18% difference is the difference between “stellar” and “oh boy!”?***
- I understand the worry about the 1/60th of the 1%, but should not we be worried about the 99%? Which “99%” accidentally consists probably one million times more grandma and grandpa than the 1%?
- Is there anyone out there (aside of Sen. Kennedy of Louisiana, Lt. Patrick and several others) who understands how this economy can collapse in a far worse way than 1929 if we go to i.e. 40% unemployment? Don’t kid yourself the today’s data stands at 28%.

Yes, --there is a bug out there

Yes, --the mortality rate of this bug stands 12x higher than a normal flu, so we must be careful

Yes, --people will die from it. Vast majority from the 70+ year of age with one more serious illness. However, the **Edinburgh University Global Health Society published this on December 9, 2019:**

Until recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated the annual mortality burden of influenza to be 250 000 to 500 000 all-cause deaths globally; however, a 2017 study indicated a substantially higher mortality burden, at 290 000-650 000 influenza-associated deaths from respiratory causes alone, and a 2019 study estimated 99 000-200 000 deaths from lower respiratory tract infections directly caused by influenza. Here we revisit global and regional estimates of influenza mortality burden and explore mortality trends over time and geography.

(Ref: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6815659/>)

We haven’t heard any of this, we didn’t shut down the global economy because of this, and we didn’t raise the US unemployment from 3.2% to 28% over this.

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Yes --we need to make sure the “endangered segment” of our population (pregnant moms, people with cancer, with respiratory illness...) stays inside and safe.

But, --precisely because this targets the elderly population (the one that doesn't go to work every day) it should be a personal responsibility to take care of Aunt Mildred by asking her to stay inside.

But --the rest of us (Hey! I'm only 66!) will handle it.

But --I could be wrong...