

FALSE NARRATIVE

Canadian study proves that COVID-19 vaccines killed 17 million people

ENGLISH (CA)

The False Narrative

A Canadian study proves that COVID-19 vaccines cause increased mortality and are responsible for killing 17 million people.

The Facts

This false narrative is based on the inaccurate conclusions of a September 2023 report from the Canadian nonprofit organization Correlation Research in the Public Interest. The report, which has not been peer-reviewed, compared all-cause mortality and vaccination rates in 17 countries in the Southern Hemisphere and claimed that COVID-19 vaccines caused "approximately 1 death per 800 injections, which is reasonably expected to be globally representative."

Websites that advanced this false narrative — including ChildrensHealthDefense.org and TheEpochTimes.com, which have repeatedly published false claims about COVID-19 vaccines — used the report's ratio of COVID-19 vaccines supposedly killing one in 800 recipients to calculate that the vaccines had killed 17 million people worldwide.

However, according to health experts, COVID-19 vaccines do not cause increased mortality, much less 17 million deaths worldwide. The Correlation Research in the Public Interest study's analysis "represent[s] a major distortion of the actual data," Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, told Agence France-Presse in October 2023. "All-cause mortality spikes are likely due to the virus surging during certain periods and have nothing to do with booster campaigns."

Jeffrey Morris, a biostatistician and professor of public health and preventative medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, also said in a Sept. 18, 2023, post on X (formerly Twitter) that the report omitted COVID-19 infection as a contributing factor in the mortality rates. Morris said in the post, "The excess deaths all over the world largely cluster in spikes that happen to correspond to spikes of confirmed Covid cases and Covid-attributed deaths." He added that these excess deaths "don't line up with vaccination rollouts (except in places when vaccination rollouts were done during massive Covid surges)."

In fact, multiple peer-reviewed studies have shown that COVID-19 vaccines are not associated with a greater risk of death from any cause. A January 2023 study published in the journal Vaccine, which included data on 6 million people, found that recipients of the Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines "had lower non-COVID-19 mortality risk" compared to the unvaccinated. The study concluded, "in the context of widespread suggestions on social media that COVID-19 vaccines are unsafe, it is reassuring that we found no evidence of any association of COVID-19 vaccination with increased risk of death."

Where the False Narrative Spread

The false narrative has been spread by sites that NewsGuard has found to repeatedly publish false or egregiously misleading health claims. For example, a Sept. 20, 2023, ChildrensHealthDefense.org article titled, "Definite Causal Link Between COVID Vaccine Rollouts and Peaks In All-Cause Mortality, New Study Finds," said, "A new study of 17 countries found a 'definite causal link' between peaks in all-cause mortality and the rapid rollouts of the COVID-19 vaccines and boosters." The article added, "By that calculation, with 13.5 billion injections given up to Sept. 2, 2023, the researchers estimated there were 17 million COVID-19 vaccination deaths (± 500,000) globally following the vaccine roll-out."

The claim also spread to social media platforms such as X, formerly known as Twitter, and Russian social media platform VK.com. An Oct. 1, 2023, post from X user @VigilantFox, an anonymous account that often advances COVID-19 misinformation, said, "Bombshell Report: COVID Vaccines Causally Linked to Increased Mortality — Resulting in 17 MILLION Deaths!" The post had received 5,509 likes and 3,137 reposts as of Oct. 27, 2023.

The false narrative resurfaced in a Jan. 5, 2024, video, posted on the X account of former Fox News host Tucker Carlson. In a video interview with Carlson, former biology professor and political commentator Bret Weinstein, who has repeatedly advanced false claims about COVID-19, said, "I saw a credible estimate of something like 17 million deaths globally from this technology," referring to the Correlation Research in the Public Interest study mentioned above.

Carlson asked, "17 million deaths from the COVID vax?" Weinstein replied, "Well, when you scale up to billions, it's not hard to reach a number like that with a technology that's dangerous."

As of Jan. 19, 2024, the video has received 80,000 likes and 34,000 reposts. The interview was covered in articles on many sites lowly-rated by NewsGuard, including ZeroHedge.com, SlayNews.com, and InfoWars.com.

Editor's Note: This Misinformation Fingerprint was updated on Jan. 23, 2024, to add another example of the false narrative's spread.

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Examples of this False Narrative

- <https://www.wnd.com/2023/10/covid-shots-tied-17-million-vaccine-deaths/>

"A new study shockingly has linked the mRNA shots, the DNA treatments used as vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic that came out of a Chinese lab working on bat viruses, to millions of sudden deaths."

[17.5/100](#) [wnd.com \(en_US\)](#)

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- <https://vigilantnews.com/post/bombshell-report-covid-vaccines-causally-linked-to-increased-mortality-resulting-in-17-million-deaths>

"A bombshell scientific report claimed that instead of saving lives, the experimental COVID

Risk of Harm

High

Categories

Health
 Vaccines
 COVID-19

Search Terms

(researcher OR study) AND covid AND (vaccine OR jab) AND "17 million" AND deaths
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 "17 million deaths" AND "tucker"
 "COVID vaccines" AND "17 million"

Myth Locations

Canada

Myth Spread Locations

United States
 Japan
 Russia
 Canada
 Serbia

First Appeared

September 17, 2023

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