Coronavirus Could Be More Widespread than Current Numbers Indicate, New Stanford Study Says

A new study from Stanford University has suggested that CoVID-19 is 50 to 85 times more common than the official numbers have shown. At the time the study was conducted, Santa Clara County had 1,094 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 50 deaths. This study posits that the number of people with the virus was from 48,000 to 81,000, based on the count of participants in the study who had antibodies for the virus.

> *This has implications for learning how far we are in the course of the epidemic…It has implications for epidemic models that are being used to design policies and estimate what it means for our healthcare system."*
>
> *Eran Bendavid, associate professor of medicine at Stanford University and study lead author*

This is the first large-scale of this kind in the U.S., and it has yet to be peer-reviewed. Participants representative of nationwide demographics and geography were recruited through targeted Facebook ads and researchers administered a finger prick test to test for antibodies. If the study's results are valid, that would indicate that the death rate from CoVID-19 is closer to 0.2 percent than the currently estimated rate of 4.1 percent.

> *It is absolutely critical that similar studies be done all around the country…It's very clear that the virus is more prevalent in some areas than in others, and understanding the prevalence of viruses in each region is a critical step*

> *forward to making some policy.”*
>
> *Jayanta Bhattacharya, a professor at Stanford and author on the study.*

Other large scale studies are being conducted on healthy individuals. Both the National Institute of Health and UC Berkeley are in the process of testing 10,000 and 5,000 people, respectively.

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