

Does Data Support the Biden Administration's Extension of the COVID-19 'Medical Emergency?'



Senator Rand Paul has accused Dr. Fauci and the White House (which is captured by the HHS Administrative State) of “emotionalism and sensationalism” leading up to the renewal of the [determination of a continuing medical emergency](#) attributable to COVID-19 disease and SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Is this medical emergency justified, or does it reflect yet more mis- dis- and mal-information from the HHS Administrative state acting in coordination with corporate media to propagate Fearporn to justify the continuing suspension of medical ethics, normal regulatory process, censorship, and war profiteering by the medical-pharmaceutical industrial complex?

Per Epoch Times reporting:

“After White House adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci and Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra issued warnings about a new COVID-19 subvariant, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said they are not providing key facts about the latest strain.

“How come the flu vaccine changes every year and they’re not willing to change this vaccine?” Paul told [Fox News](#) on Tuesday. “Now, you might have me with an argument. I’ll listen to you if you tell me, ‘We’ve got a new vaccine that actually has something to do with the current virus,’” he said.

It came after Fauci, who has given hundreds of media interviews since the start of the pandemic, [told](#) CNN this week that the Omicron subvariant BA.5 is concerning due to its high transmissibility. People infected in the first COVID-19 waves “really don’t have a lot of good protection” against the latest subvariant, Fauci also said at a White House briefing several days ago.

But Paul, himself a doctor, told Fox that Omicron “was about 90 percent less likely to put you in the hospital than the first variant,” saying that Americans should “discount” what both Fauci and Becerra are saying about the latest subvariant.

“So if no one’s telling you any information, how can you make any judgment other than the emotionalism and the sensationalism of the government?” he asked.”

Let’s look at the data using the slide format that so many seem to find useful. Minimal interpretation, mainly just data. I give you the tools, you make your own assessment and determination. What do **you** think is going on here?

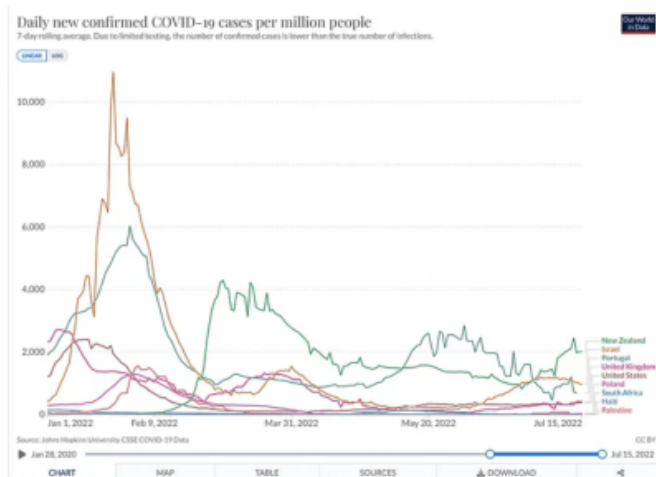
Slide 1

Key considerations when reviewing these data

- Data Source- Our World in Data (data aggregator website)
 - For details of the structure and data sources, see <https://ourworldindata.org/about>
 - For COVID-19 data, see <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus#explore-the-global-situation>
- Remember that “Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases” is very much biased by regional testing policies and activities.
 - More testing, more cases.
 - More fearporn, more testing.
 - See how that works?
- “Daily confirmed COVID-19 deaths” also has strong regional bias.
 - To illustrate, in USA we have a strong overcounting bias due to perverse financial incentives by USG to count as a death due to COVID (or COVID associated) anyone who dies and can be claimed to have been infected roughly around time of death.
 - So to be honest with ourselves, the horrid mortality rate in USA relative to other countries is falsely elevated due to this overcounting bias.
 - Unintended blowback of HHS policies, I suspect.
- This makes country by country comparison a very crude way of assessing the COVID-19/Omicron situation.
 - Quick, but dirty.
 - Consider this form of data review a first approximation, useful for signal detection and hypothesis development
- Trend analysis from January 2022 to present is a crude but reasonable way to assess the overall trends in Omicron and associated variants.
 - Keep in mind that the variants have moved/are moving through different geographic populations at different points in time.
 - Looking for trends across different countries over time can help reduce effects of sort term statistical noise and noise due to regional artifacts

Slide 2

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people, selected example countries, Jan 01 to Jul 15 2022 (linear scale, absolute numbers)

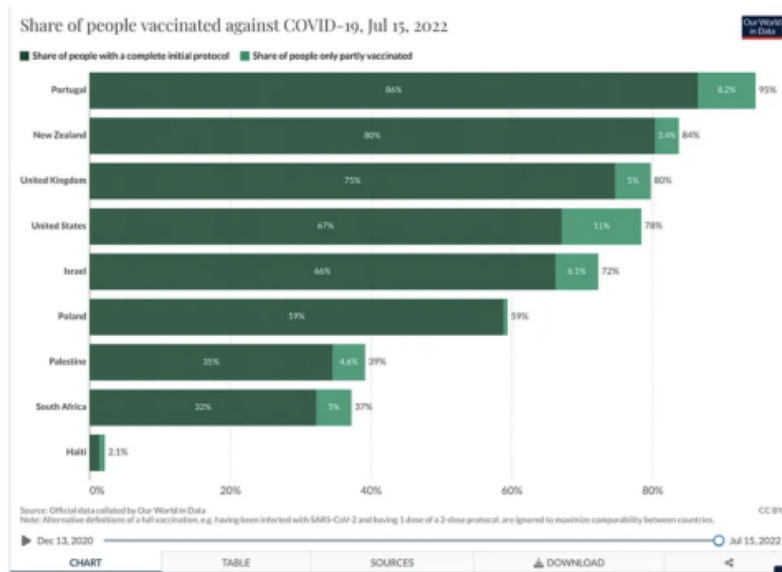


Notes-

- New Zealand kept virus out for long time, little “natural immunity”, highly vaxxed, Omicron now surging
- Israel is highly vaxxed, big Omicron surge in January, modest recent surge is already dropping. Low Vaxxed Palestine is a control for Israel, very low incidence may reflect testing differences.
- Portugal- highly vaxxed, similar pattern to Israel, earlier second Omicron wave now receding
- Highly vaxxed UK, USA (more than Israel!), no strong sign of current Omicron surge
- Poland has dropped further vaxination, returned doses
- Low vaxxed South Africa no major Omicron surge at present
- Haiti surprisingly among lowest in world – may reflect chronic chloroquine for malaria

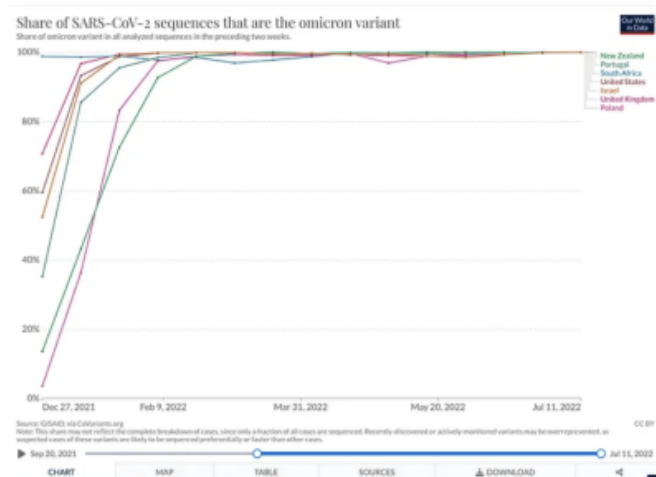
Slide 3

Vaccine uptake summary by selected country



Slide 4

When did Omicron variants come to dominate in the selected countries?



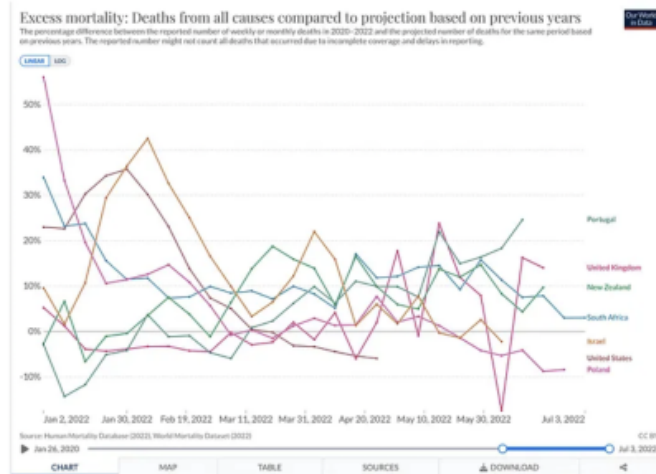
Notes-

Clearly by the second week in February, 2022, Omicron including variants had come to dominate the viral populations in each selected country.

Therefore, selecting the time window from 01 January to present captures the Omicron waves

Slide 5

All cause mortality, selected countries



Notes-

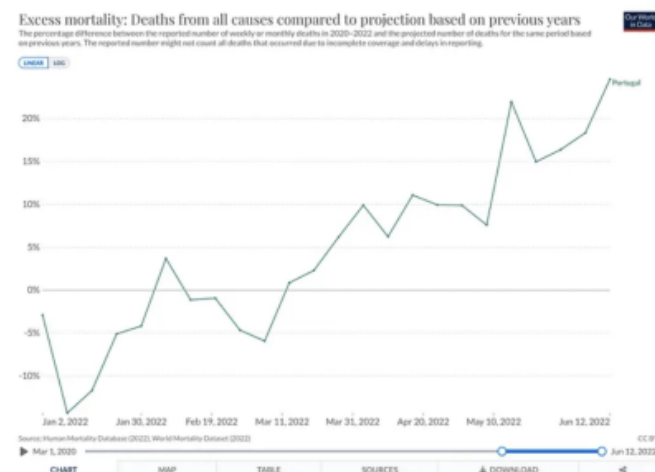
As Omicron displaced Delta in USA (Feb second week) all cause mortality in USA dropped.

All cause mortality is a lagging indicator, as deaths from Delta take time to accrue after initial infection.

Highly vaccine/boosting compliant Portugal seeing worrisome steady upward trend in all cause mortality

Slide 6

All cause mortality, Portugal



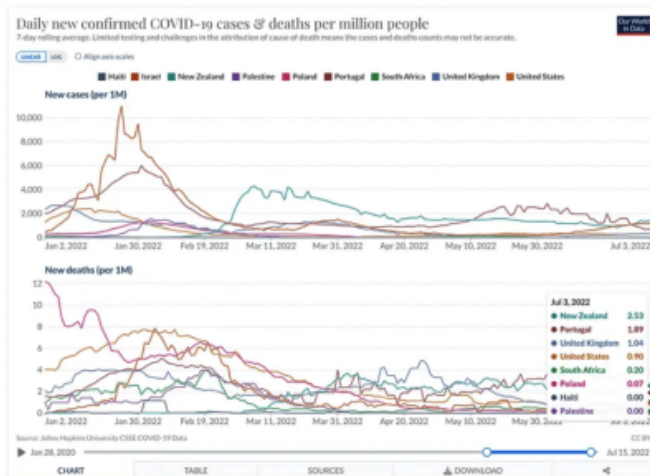
Notes-

Worrisome All Cause Mortality trend in highly Vaccine/booster compliant Portugal

Consistent with worldwide data suggesting that majority of observed COVID hospitalizations and deaths during period of Omicron dominance are in highly inoculated populations

Slide 7

Population adjusted COVID-19 cases and deaths, selected countries



Notes-

Poland is no longer boosting, and has low recent Omicron-associated mortality

New Zealand mortality began to climb in March and has been at a steady plateau since that time

Despite ongoing climb in all cause mortality in Portugal, mortality attributed to Omicron has been gradually declining since initial March Bump, and new cases of COVID disease have been gradually falling since a peak in mid May

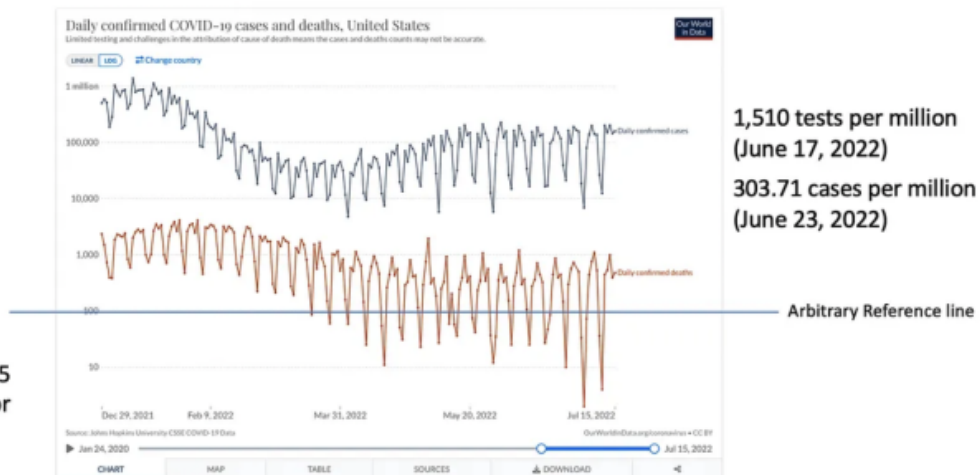
Slide 8

USA data – intermediate vaccine uptake
No clear evidence supporting recent overall Omicron BA.5 surge in death or diagnoses

No clear evidence for USA mortality surge From BA.4 or BA.5

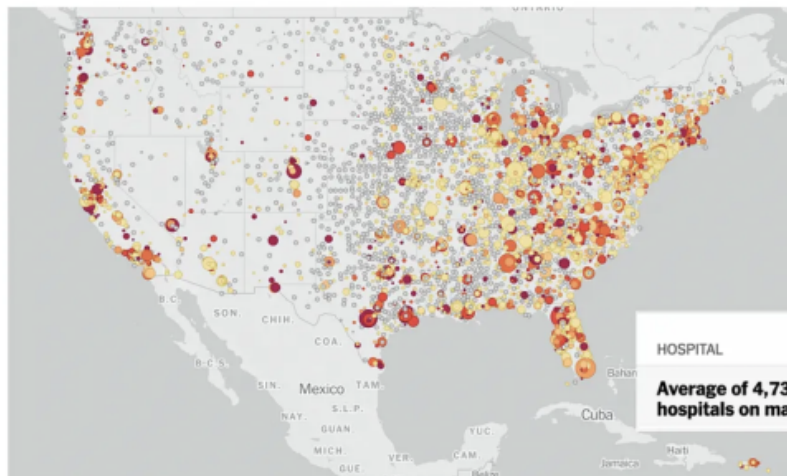
Modest increase in USA daily confirmed Cases since March 31

These data do not suggest major new BA.5 variant surge in cases or deaths



Slide 9

Are hospitals in USA full of COVID-19 cases? No.



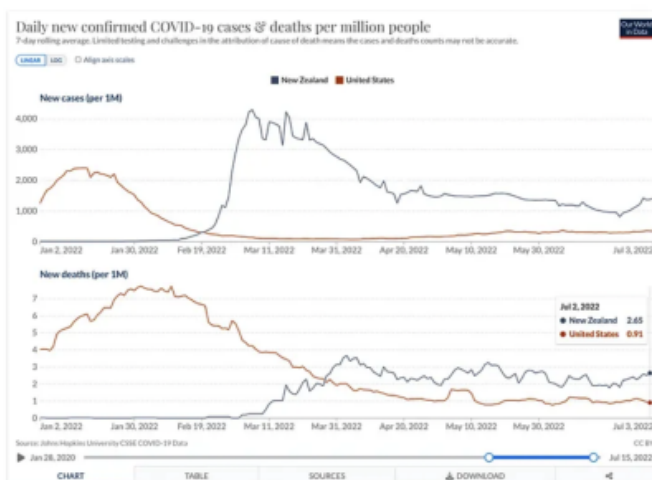
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data. A hospital may not appear if it does not report this data to H.H.S., if its data was reported through a parent hospital or if its location information was not available. Percentages above 100 may occur when hospitals report patients beyond their normal limits. Some patient counts are not available because H.H.S. obscures weekly totals fewer than four. Circle size on the national map view corresponds to the hospital's total I.C.U. capacity.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-hospitals-near-you.html>

HOSPITAL	COVID PATIENTS	AVAILABLE I.C.U. BEDS	▼ I.C.U. OCCUPANCY
Average of 4,731 hospitals on map	11	5	71%

Slide 10

New Zealand - United States Comparison Population adjusted, COVID-19 cases and deaths



Notes-

New Zealand appears to have missed the Delta wave, has become widely infected with Omicron

Surge in Omicron cases and deaths in USA is modest or non-existent.

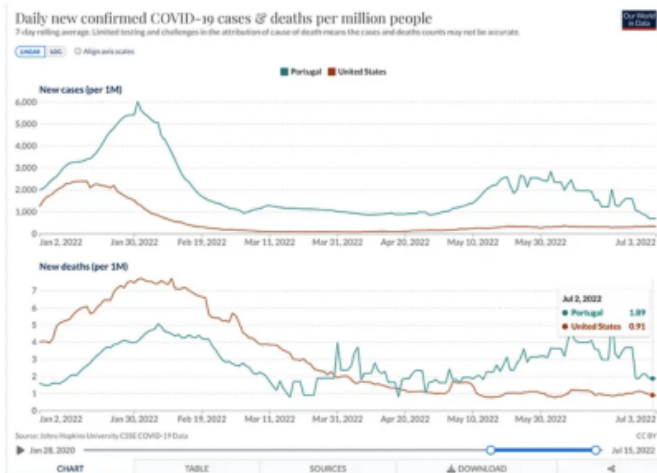
No evidence supporting recent overall surge in Omicron deaths suggesting higher risk in the general population in USA

Clear evidence for surge in deaths in New Zealand following introduction of Omicron.

Possible upward recent trend in mortality still not reaching peak Omicron mortality after March surge does not support BA.5 as increased risk

Slide 11

Portugal - United States Comparison Population adjusted, COVID-19 cases and deaths



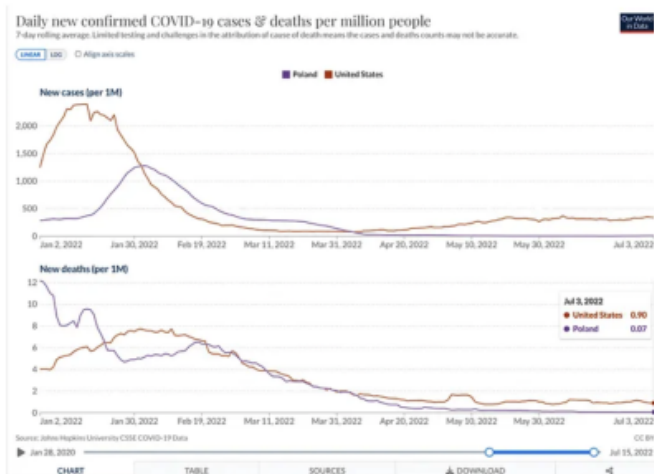
Notes-

Portugal clearly experienced both Delta and Omicron waves, and is now clearing both Omicron-associated COVID-19 cases as well as Omicron-associated COVID-19 Deaths

These data do not indicate that BA.5 is a major health risk in Portugal

Slide 12

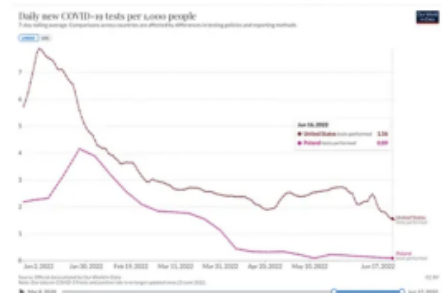
Poland - United States Comparison Population adjusted, COVID-19 cases and deaths



Notes-

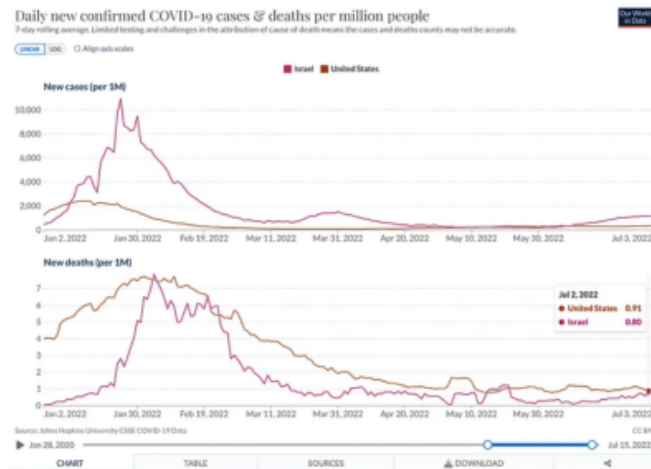
Poland, which has stopped boosters and returned the vaccine doses, shows no signs of an Omicron surge in either cases or deaths

Lack of surge in COVID-19 cases in Poland may reflect bias from reduced testing



Slide 13

Israel - United States Comparison Population adjusted, COVID-19 cases and deaths

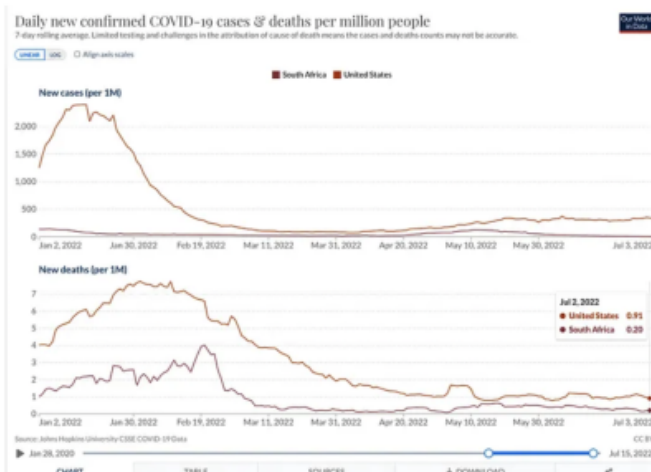


Notes-

Israel- Some evidence supporting a possible recent increase in Omicron-related deaths suggesting a modest BA.5 effect

Slide 14

South Africa - United States Comparison Population adjusted, COVID-19 cases and deaths



Notes-

Some evidence suggesting that South Africa experienced an initial Omicron wave with some recent modest BA.5 increase in mortality which is now resolving.

This low vaccinated country has not seen any major surge clearly attributable to BA.5 mortality.

Slide 15

Overall conclusions NO OMICRON MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN USA



- No evidence observed in these data supporting significant surge in Omicron BA.5 mortality in USA
 - No evidence of current unusual stress on ICU capacity in USA
- There is no evidence in these data supporting current medical emergency in USA due to COVID-19, Omicron, or Omicron variants such as BA.5
- Overall mortality attributable to COVID-19 in USA remains stable and somewhat high, likely reflecting poor hospital management and lack of management via early treatment
- Multiple indicators that highly vaccinated populations have seen more impact from Omicron, including recent modest surges
- Highly vaccinated New Zealand, which missed natural immunity from earlier versions of SARS-CoV-2 is now leading world cases and mortality due to Omicron, but does not show a striking recent increase which could attributed to BA.5 variant
- Highly inoculated Portugal showing worrisome consistent upward trend in excess all cause mortality not associated with COVID-19
- Strikingly low mortality in Palestine and Haiti deserve further investigation

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