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Health

CORONAVIRUS

Model predicts more than 150,000 deaths in Europe and 81,000 in the US from coronavirus

The Institute for Health Metrics and Assessment released its new covid-19 forecasts for Europe and the UK in which they estimate 150,000 deaths will occur by early August. The forecast for the United States indicates that 81,000 people could die.

JORGE MACÍAS

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Medical technicians conducting coronavirus screening tests in Colorado.
Credit: David Zalubowski / AP

New forecasts published by the Institute for Health Assessment and Metrics (IHME) at the University of Washington School of Medicine indicate that approximately **151,000 people will die in Europe**

and the UK during the first wave of the pandemic.
The projection for the US is **81,000 deaths.**

"Those numbers **are not the most aggressive or the most catastrophic, but they are also not the most optimistic** ," Dr. Ilan Shapiro, medical director of health and wellness education at AltaMed Health Services in Los Angeles, California, told Univision News. "They are the average of what could happen, and for this reason we have to do everything in our power to make those numbers drop by staying home and reflecting on the fact that we have to help to get society ahead."

Improvement in Italy and Spain

The IHME announcement on Europe reveals that most regions of Italy and Spain have exceeded their spikes in the number of deaths, while other nations are approaching their spikes and others will still face maximum mortality in late April.

Countries that are nearing their peak or fast approaching the peak in this wave of the epidemic include **the Netherlands, Ireland, Austria and Luxembourg** . The **Czech Republic and Romania** are half of their expected trajectories.

Replay

The report indicates that other nations such as the **United Kingdom, Germany, Norway and Greece** are still at an early stage in their trajectory and will experience a rapid increase in the death rate between the second and third week of April.

"It is unequivocally evident that social distancing can, when well implemented and maintained, control the epidemic, leading to declining death rates," Murray said in the brief.

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"From the beginning, those nations vigorously implemented the distancing orders and may have left the worst of them behind, as they are seeing significant progress in reducing their death rates. The trajectory of each nation will change, and will be dramatically worse, if people relax in social distancing or relax other precautions, "he added.

Murray cautioned that relaxing precautions too early during "the first wave" of the pandemic **could lead to new rounds of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.**

The risk of the second wave

"To decrease the risk of a second wave in places where the first wave is controlled by strong social estrangement, governments should consider conducting mass testing, contact tracing and quarantine for those infected until a vaccine is available, produced en masse and widely distributed. "Murray said.

The IHME began making projections of the impact of the pandemic in the US, state by state, since March 26. The recent announcement is the first set of predictions for European nations and is based on modeling the spike in death rates and hospital use in the city of **Wuhan in China, where the virus was first discovered** , as well as data from seven European locations.

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The analysis is based on a wide range of sources of information and data, including local governments,

national governments and the World Health Organization, government actions on the implementation of social distancing policies, as well as data on specific mortality rates. by age of China, Italy, South Korea and the USA.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health told Univision News that the IHME numbers are based on informational models that put data on reference cases, the ability of virus transmission and "probably demographic information".

"But they are just models," he said. "Therefore, we need laboratory tests; We need good reliable data, and in this case, the important thing is to know: who has the virus, who does not; who has immunity and who does not ".

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The prediction for the USA

• **For the US,** the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates a total of 81,000 deaths, and states that the country will need more than 29,000 beds in intensive care units (ICU) during the peak of the crisis, compared to 16,323 beds.

"Every time there are more fatalities due to this virus, one has to be prepared for the worst and remember that the recommendations for social isolation are not jokes, and they will be crucial so that the infection curve is not so high and the number decreases of deaths, "Dr. Mariana Glusman, a pediatrician at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, told Univision News.

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