

Who should we trust for protecting ourselves against covid-19?

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6502/356/tab-e-letters>

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Charles Piller wrote an article entitled “Data secrecy may cripple U.S. attempts to slow pandemic” (1). We know that the guaranteed data consistency is important and all data should be available in public for advancing wholesome scientific investigations. However, some countries may falsify or hide the real covid-19 death numbers (2).

Although worldometer stated the data consistency and the reliable sources of the data, the falsified numbers in worldometer (3) must be corrected (2). In the worldometer, several countries have missing data in total recovered and active cases. The covid-19 death numbers in the worldometer may be debatable according to misinformation study (2).

In US, how covid-19 deaths are counted has become politically divisive, with critics claiming the numbers are inflated and medical experts saying deaths may actually be undercounted (4). Still, the number of deaths is a crucial data point that informs public understanding of the pandemic’s severity and health officials’ response to the crisis (4).

According to misinformation related to the covid-19 pandemic (2), the largest category of misinformation (39%) was "misleading or false claims about the actions or policies of public authorities, including government and international bodies like the WHO or the UN". Who should we trust for protecting ourselves against covid-19?

References:

1. Charles Piller, Data secrecy may cripple U.S. attempts to slow pandemic, Science 24 Jul 2020: Vol. 369, Issue 6502, pp. 356-358
2. Brennen, J. Scott; Simon, Felix; Howard, Philip N.; Nielsen, Rasmus Kleis (7 April 2020). ["Types, sources, and claims of COVID-19 misinformation"](#). Reuters Institute. Retrieved 21 April 2020.

3. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
4. As coronavirus deaths become political flashpoint, Colorado changes how COVID-19 fatalities are publicly reported, <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/05/15/colorado-covid-coronavirus-counting-deaths-fatalities/>