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## BACKGROUND:

The Coronavirus pandemic has killed close to one million people in the United States, and over six million worldwide. Americans have many unanswered questions as to how and why the pandemic got as tragic as it did. My research is meant to highlight the importance of federal leadership during pandemics, and how a failure of leadership will inevitably lead to chaos and failure.

## CENTRAL QUESTIONS

-What specific failures went wrong at the federal level?

-Based on the actions of the Former President, how can pandemic preparedness be reformed in the future to better serve national and global public health needs?

## METHODS

- Examination of policy and rhetoric employed by Trump between 2019-2020.
- Analysis of scholarship: White House Coronavirus Response Coordinators (Deborah Bir, Anthony Fauci, etc.), medical experts, guidance by the CDC and WHO.
- Comprehensive literature review that compiles a variety of unique sources and opinions.
- Examination of national coronavirus cases in response to particular actions taken by the Former President.
- Quantitative analysis through a concept known as PAR (Population Attributable Risk): Statistical examination of COVID-19 cases attributable to Trump.

# The Trump Administration and the Coronavirus: Examining the Past to Improve the Future

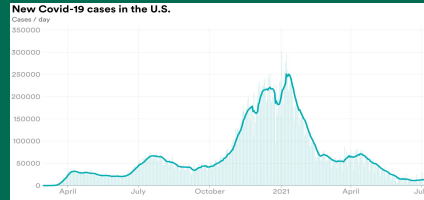
Former President Trump *Deliberately Downplayed* and *Misinformed* the Public on Coronavirus

### Trump's Actions at the Start of the Pandemic:

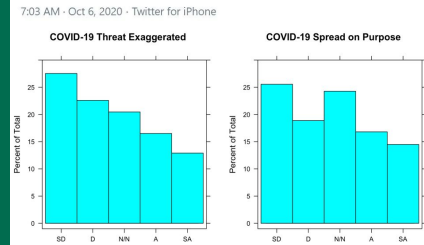
- Before pandemic: cut funding to WHO, ended Obama era programme PREDICT (identifies viruses with pandemic potential), disbanded Obama's global health security office.
- Did not heed initial warnings of the WHO and CDC. Told the public that the virus was going to disappear like "...a miracle."
- Praised untested drugs and treatments (disinfectant, hydroxychloroquine, UV disinfection lamps, questioned efficacy of mask use/social distancing)
- Repeatedly downplayed severity, likened COVID to the seasonal flu. Refers to COVID as the Democrats' "new hoax." Used Twitter to echo similar false claims.
- Limited supply of ventilators to 'blue' states, forced Governors to fend for life saving equipment.
- Bob Woodward Interview: Trump knew from the start that coronavirus was lethal. Told Woodward that he "...wanted to always play it down."
- Suppressed scientists: Forced Nancy Messonnier (senior CDC official who rose alarm about coronavirus to resign).

### How Trump's Actions Directly Impacted American Lives:

- Those who support Trump have a higher predisposition to not follow mask mandate/social distancing orders.
- Survey of U.S adults fielded in March 2020: 29% of respondents believe that COVID has been exaggerated to damage, at the time, President Trump.
- 31% believe the virus was purposefully spread.
- Counties that have a higher number of Trump voters are less likely to search information regarding COVID. They are more likely to defy social distancing and mask wearing.
- Calls for the 'liberation'/reopening of states that have been locked down (i.e Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania).
- Rally's regarded as 'super-spreader' events
- 17.1% of American public over the age of 18 either rarely or never wore a mask in public settings.
- Trump's promotion of untested drugs led to death: A study of 368 patients in a veterans hospital found that the use of hydroxychloroquine was undoubtedly responsible for an increased death rate.



Flu season is coming up! Many people every year, sometimes over 100,000, and despite the Vaccine, die from the Flu. Are we going to close down our Country? No, we have learned to live with it, just like we are learning to live with Covid, in most populations far less lethal!!!



## CONCLUSION

Dr. Deborah Birx (White House Coronavirus Task Force) believes that fatalities could have been reduced by 30-40% if the President had clearly advocated for mask wearing and social distancing rule. Additionally, she argues that 100,000 deaths were unavoidable, but that the rest could have been "...mitigated substantially." This, in part, proves the significant and damaging impact of Trump on the spread of coronavirus in America.



## SUMMARY

Trump directly impacted the unsuccessful operations of the U.S government through:

- Ending programs necessary for preventing future pandemics.
- Forcing Governors to fight for ventilators: the fight was fought on a state-by-state level, proving that there was no consolidated national response to COVID.
- Downplaying the severity: those who believe their President chose to ignore scientific steps proven to stop the spread.
- Clearly and deliberately going against the scientific community: citizens lose confidence in science (i.e Anthony Fauci as a scapegoat).
- Promoting untested drugs and treatments
- Going against early pronouncements made by WHO and CDC.

## REFERENCES

Scan QR Code with a mobile device for "Works Cited."

