



Letter to editor

Fetal Deaths due to Covid-19

Leonard Evans*

Science Serving Society, Bloomfield Hills, USA

The more than 800,000 total deaths [1] from Covid-19 do not include another category of victim. Namely, unborn babies. The data used here covers the slightly more than 2-year period from 2020-01-01 to 2022-01-08. To calculate the number of fetuses killed I assume that if a female of childbearing age dies, her fetus also dies. While an approximation, I consider it adequate for the present calculations. A second assumption is that the probability of contracting covid-19 is the same for pregnant and non-pregnant women. I assume that the number of live births [2] in a year is an approximation for the number of women who are pregnant in that year times a factor of 9/12 to reflect that the duration of the pregnancy is 9 months compared to the 12-month data collection unit. The method of my estimate of the number of fetus deaths caused by maternal deaths (Table 1) parallels very closely our earlier estimate of the number of fetuses killed in US traffic crashes [3]. The calculation in table 1 estimates that Covid-19 has killed 471 fetuses.

A Female age (years)	B Probability that woman gives birth [2]	C Covid-19 deaths [1]	D Col B x Col C	E Fetus deaths Col D x [3]
10-14	0.0002	60	0.01	0.01
15-17	0.0063	100	0.63	0.47
18-19	0.0288	127	3.66	2.74
20-24	0.0628	647	40.63	30.47
25-29	0.09	1,214	109.26	81.95
30-34	0.0948	2,310	218.99	164.24
35-39	0.0517	3,378	174.64	130.98
40-44	0.0118	5,298	62.52	46.89
45-54	0.0009	19,852	17.87	13.40
		Totals	628.21	471.15

Table 1: Female Covid-19 deaths and calculated fetus deaths.

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*Corresponding author: Leonard Evans, Science Serving Society, 973 Satterlee Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, USA, E-mail: levanssss@gmail.com

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