

Helena Zikov

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Prof. Camp

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Why have some countries had relatively mild outbreaks while others, like the United States, have had severe outbreaks?

The recent coronavirus outbreak has struck many dissenting opinions within the United States. The information within this topic explores the measures that the United States is taking in order to mitigate the coronavirus outbreak and how effective these measures have been to controlling the outbreak. This topic takes a further look into this virus by digging past more surface level concerns and focuses on the political and medical differences among other countries and the United States. Personally, I think that the culture of the United States is different than other cultures in the sense that we are more individualistic than other countries. The values that the US holds tend to pertain towards how certain restrictions/laws will affect the individual person rather than our nation as a whole. This is why we have separate government structures apart from the National Government. I think that these values and this governmental system affected our preparedness for this outbreak because there was a heightened concern and value placed upon the survival of the economy rather than the survival of the citizens. I think similarly to what my personal hypothesis claims, that researchers would agree that a higher emphasis was placed on the survival of the economy. However, there may be claims made about how our healthcare system differs from most countries so that could cause some discrepancies.

The main difference between my hypothesis and my research hypothesis is that my research hypothesis goes into more technical details regarding healthcare and my personal hypothesis is a judgement based on the mindset/culture of the US.

With the spread of the COVID-19 virus, much dissent has been articulated among the world upon the spreading patterns of this virus. Although stemming from Wutan, China, the Coronavirus has made its way rapidly around the world and among those hurt the most is the United States. With little understanding of the complexities of this virus, researchers around the world are working to understand how to effectively prevent the spread of this virus. According to medical research, the spread of this virus is much worse in the United States because of the age and socioeconomic status of our population as well as the healthcare system currently in practice.

The novel Coronavirus outbreak began known to affect mostly the elderly community. Given that this virus affects the respiratory system, the elderly community is at high risk of becoming affected by this outbreak. Following the patterns of where this virus has been affecting countries the most, it's clear to see that the older countries such as Italy are much more prone to becoming strongly affected by COVID-19. One company, Our World In Data, keeps a running statistic on the number of deaths within each country. According to their data, the United States is ranked one of the top countries with the highest confirmed cases of the Coronavirus per capita (Roser, 2020). This data was shown within a map depicting the severity of this outbreak within every country. With the United States showing such high numbers of confirmed cases, it's important to look into the underlying causes of this. According to Science News, an independent journalism company, "Because populations in low-income settings tend to be younger, on average, it's possible that there may be a lower impact in terms of mortality" (Garcia De Jesus,

2020). The United States being one of the wealthiest countries in the world is expected to have a higher percentage of the elderly population than those in lower socioeconomic levels. Given this, the number of people affected and more importantly, the number of deaths caused by this virus are bound to affect wealthier countries containing an older population.

The United States healthcare system does not stem shy of containing many rules and regulations which serve as a harmful barrier for them to be less affected by this virus. As the world scrambles to test as many people as possible in order to mitigate the concerns for this virus, the United States falls short within the testing process for COVID-19. If more data is available containing the actual amount of people affected by this virus, the recovery speed would be much faster. However, within the United States many “clinics were turning away offers of testing from certified academic labs because they didn’t use compatible health-record software, or didn’t have existing contracts with the hospital” (Maxmen, 2020). There are many medical clinics within the United States that have the capability of testes for this virus but are unable to perform such tests due to various logistics preventing them from receiving proper certification. With the structure of the US healthcare system, there are many obstacles to be faced in order for hospitals and research facilities to provide the necessary care needed to mitigate this issue. There have been new tests developed that could provide results of whether someone has the virus within a day of testing. However, the United States continues to perform tests that take much longer to provide results. This is due mostly in part by the rules and regulations set forth from our healthcare system. Now, many research labs are “performing at half capacity or less because of supply shortages or because hospitals won't send them samples” (Maxmen, 2020). This becomes a prevalent concern because the US is capable of testing more people and studying the

samples of this virus more in depth but the healthcare system put in place hinders research facilities from gathering the necessary evidence needed to mitigate this issue.

Given the evidence suggested from research, the United States is getting harder hit by COVID-19 than any other country. Issues concerning the age and socioeconomic status of the US as well as the healthcare system put into place all combined to create a greater issue for the United States.

Works Cited

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