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Fetal Deaths due to Covid-19

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Introduction

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	B	C	D	E
Female age (years)	Probability that woman gives birth [2]	Covid-19 deaths [1]	Col B x Col C	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.

References

1. [CDC \(2022\) Provisional COVID-19 Death Counts by Age in Years, 2020-2021. Cumulative deaths involving coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) reported to NCHS by sex and age in years, in the United States. CDC, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.](#)
2. [National Vital Statistics System \(2021\) Births: Provisional Data for 2020. National Vital Statistics System, USA.](#)
3. [Evans L, Redelmeier DA \(2015\) Traffic deaths before and after birth. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 194: 258-259.](#)

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