From: Alexander, Paul (HHS/ASPA) (VOL)

Sent: 5/17/2020 10:52:00 PM

To: Paul Elias Alexander [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: COVID Lockdown - SUICIDE Impact

Dr. Paul E. Alexander, PhD
Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary
For COVID-19 Pandemic Policy
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs (ASPA)
US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Washington, DC
Tel: [REDACTED] (Office)
Tel: [REDACTED] (Cellular)
Email: [REDACTED]

From: Alexander, Paul (HHS/ASPA) (VOL)
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Caputo, Michael (HHS/ASPA) [REDACTED] Traverse, Brad (HHS/ASPA) [REDACTED]
Subject: COVID Lockdown - SUICIDE Impact

300,000 additional deaths for 2020 based on the lockdown and deaths of despair due to COVID-19; this is 90.1 deaths per 100,000 US population

Michael, I have given Patrick stuff he is using for Peter Navvaro e.g. 40,000 cancer deaths for 2020 etc.; do I give him this too or do you want this for the President?

Below is the modeling approach for the suicide deaths for 2020 (additional deaths of despair).

Paul
Researchers warn the COVID-19 lockdown will take its own toll on health:


References:


We are modelling deaths of despair as a consequence of COVID-19 and based on drugs, alcohol, and suicidal causes

- I am modelling based on 1% increase in unemployment yields 1.6% deaths of despair/suicide (Phillips and Nugent, 2014); note WBT models based on this assumption of 1%:1.6%
- We are modelling due to COVID-19
- We are modelling due to the effects of lockdown and isolation/uncertainty and the resulting uptick in deaths of despair
- Based on that and accepting a "medium" recovery rate of economy (this is based on the exceptional impact the President's policies had pre-COVID-19 lockdown getting the economy to 3.5% unemployment; note that we could have modeled as due to a 'slow' recovery or 'fast' but we handicapped and chose the middle group)

- We will use a US 2018 population of 327,167,434, and so rounded to 330,000,000
- Therefore, for 2020, for a medium rate of recovery, there are 15,000 deaths projected per 1.6% increase in deaths of despair (WBT based model)
- Therefore, assuming the employment rate was 4% when lockdown started (but it was 3.5%), then as of May 17, 2020, the unemployment rate hovers at around 15%
- Therefore, this means an 11% point increase
- Some suggest it will get to 20%, some to 32%
- We will split the difference of 19% - 32% = 17% / 2 = 8.5%
- 11% (present rise from 4% unemployment before COVID-19 lockdown) + 8.5% = approx 20%
- Thus with a 20 point increase, and based on a 1.6% increase or 15K deaths per point increase
- Therefore 20 x 15,000 = 60,000 additional deaths for 2020 based on the lockdown and deaths of despair due to COVID-19; this is 90.1 deaths per 100,000 US population