

# COVID Death Rate Tabulations: 1) Recent Week's Progression; 2) International Comparisons and Rankings; and 3) Regional Comparisons Within the USA

5 Slide Series, Volume 88-b

August 17, 2020

**The Menges Group**

Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

# Introduction and Overview

- This edition shows that the USA's COVID deaths during the recent week (August 9 – 15) remain at more than 1,000 per day. Average weekly deaths during the first half of August are well above the rates the country experienced during June and through most of July.
- We also rank COVID deaths per 100,000 population and population density in the United States and other Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) countries.
- Lastly, we tabulated COVID deaths (and population density) for each of the four major USA regions: Midwest, Northeast, Southern, and Western
  - The Northeast region has by far the highest number of COVID deaths per 100,000 population -- but also has by far the nation's highest population density.

# The USA's COVID Deaths Have Averaged Above 1,000 Per Day Throughout the Past Three Weeks

| Week (Sun - Sat) | New COVID Deaths | Percent Change versus Prior Week |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jun 21 - Jun 27  | 3,809            |                                  |
| Jun 28 - Jul 4   | 3,499            | -8.1%                            |
| Jul 5 - Jul 11   | 4,660            | 33.2%                            |
| Jul 12 - Jul 18  | 5,167            | 10.9%                            |
| Jul 19 - Jul 25  | 6,352            | 22.9%                            |
| Jul 26 - Aug 1   | 7,596            | 19.6%                            |
| Aug 2 - Aug 8    | 7,291            | -4.0%                            |
| Aug 9 - Aug 15   | 7,468            | 2.4%                             |

- COVID deaths in the USA over the past week (Aug 9 – Aug 15) were roughly double the weekly level the country was experiencing in late June and well above the USA's death rate during most of July.
- Despite our being approximately six months into the pandemic, more than 1,000 daily COVID deaths have occurred in the USA during the first half of August.

Source: Above data tabulated using information on COVID Tracking Project's Website: <https://covidtracking.com/data/charts/us-daily-deaths>

# International Comparisons of COVID Death Rates and Population Density

- The ensuing slide conveys data on death rates and population per square mile for each of the 37 OECD member nations.
- COVID death rates are reasonably correlated with population density. For example, the two OECD countries with the highest death rates (Belgium and the United Kingdom) are both among the six most densely populated OECD countries.
- Among the OECD nations, the USA has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest death rate but ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in population density. Thus, the USA's death rate among OECD countries is extremely high given its "advantage" of having relatively low population density. (Note that the USA's rankings would not change if Alaska were excluded, which we assessed given the expansive geographic area of this state and its relatively small population.) Other countries exhibiting this pattern include Canada, Chile, Spain, and Sweden.
- South Korea is also a notable exception to the general pattern of COVID deaths being directly correlated with population density -- but in a favorable direction. This country has the highest population density among OECD countries but has the *third-lowest* death rate.

# OECD Nations' COVID Death Rate Ranking as of August 8, as Contrasted With Population Density

| Country   | Deaths per 100,000 Population as of August 8 | Rank, Deaths per 100,000 Population as of August 8 | Population per Square Mile | Rank, Population per Square Mile |
|-----------|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Australia | 1.4  | 33   | 8                          | 37                               |
| Austria   | 8.2  | 19   | 273                        | 16                               |
| Belgium   | 86.7   | 1  | 964                        | 4                                |
| Canada    | 24.4   | 13   | 10                         | 35                               |
| Chile     | 54.5   | 6  | 64                         | 30                               |
| Colombia  | 27.9   | 12   | 113                        | 25                               |
| Czechia   | 3.7  | 28   | 349                        | 12                               |
| Denmark   | 10.7   | 18   | 350                        | 11                               |
| Estonia   | 4.8  | 27   | 76                         | 29                               |
| Finland   | 6.0  | 24   | 42                         | 33                               |
| France    | 45.3   | 8  | 269                        | 19                               |
| Germany   | 11.1   | 17   | 601                        | 8                                |
| Greece    | 2.0  | 31   | 211                        | 22                               |
| Hungary   | 6.2  | 23   | 272                        | 18                               |
| Iceland   | 2.8  | 30   | 9                          | 36                               |
| Ireland   | 36.5   | 10   | 149                        | 24                               |
| Israel    | 7.2  | 20   | 1,040                      | 3                                |
| Italy     | 58.3   | 4  | 519                        | 10                               |

| Country        | Deaths per 100,000 Population as of August 8 | Rank, Deaths per 100,000 Population as of August 8 | Population per Square Mile | Rank, Population per Square Mile |
|----------------|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Japan          | 0.8  | 34   | 862                        | 5                                |
| Latvia         | 1.7  | 32   | 77                         | 28                               |
| Lithuania      | 2.9  | 29   | 111                        | 26                               |
| Luxembourg     | 20.1   | 15   | 609                        | 7                                |
| Mexico         | 43.3   | 9  | 166                        | 23                               |
| Netherlands    | 35.9   | 11   | 1,074                      | 2                                |
| New Zealand    | 0.5  | 37   | 47                         | 32                               |
| Norway         | 4.8  | 26   | 36                         | 34                               |
| Poland         | 4.8  | 25   | 314                        | 13                               |
| Portugal       | 17.2   | 16   | 289                        | 15                               |
| Slovakia       | 0.6  | 36   | 290                        | 14                               |
| Slovenia       | 6.2  | 22   | 264                        | 20                               |
| South Korea    | 0.6  | 35   | 1,328                      | 1                                |
| Spain          | 61.2   | 3  | 239                        | 21                               |
| Sweden         | 56.7   | 5  | 59                         | 31                               |
| Switzerland    | 23.4   | 14   | 534                        | 9                                |
| Turkey         | 7.2  | 21   | 272                        | 17                               |
| United Kingdom | 70.4   | 2  | 710                        | 6                                |
| USA Overall    | 49.2   | 7  | 93                         | 27                               |

Yellow highlighting denotes a top 10 ranking in each measure, and green highlighting denotes a bottom 10 ranking.

**The Menges Group**

# Comparison of COVID Deaths and Population Density by Region Within USA

- COVID death rates in the Northeast are 3.75 times above the average across the remainder of the country. However, population per square mile is 3.69 times higher in the Northeast than in the remainder of the country. In this context, the Northeast's COVID death rate is not out of line with the rest of the nation. Rather, it is our nation that is out of line with most of the rest of the developed world.
- Comparing this table with the previous slide's international data, all four USA regions – if they were their own countries – would rank far higher among the OECD countries with regard to their COVID death rate than they would rank in terms of population density.

| Country                      | Deaths per 100,000<br>Population as of<br>August 8 | Population per<br>Square Mile |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Midwest Region               | 39.3   | 92                            |
| Northeast Region             | 125.7  | 346                           |
| Southern Region              | 34.6   | 145                           |
| Western Region (w/o Alaska)  | 26.7   | 66                            |
| Western Region (with Alaska) | 26.5   | 45                            |
| USA Overall (w/o Alaska)     | 49.3   | 111                           |
| USA Overall (with Alaska)    | 49.2   | 93                            |

- For example, if the Northeast region of the USA were a country it would have by far the highest COVID death rate (45% above Belgium's) and the 13<sup>th</sup> highest population density among OECD countries.

# 5 Slide Series Overview

Our 5 Slide Series is a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements. The Menges Group has a variety of datasets that we use to support our 5 Slide Series and client projects.

To be added to our list to receive these as they are published (or to be removed), please email us at [pcall@themengesgroup.com](mailto:pcall@themengesgroup.com).

If you have questions about the content or data sources we have available, please email us at [jmenges@themengesgroup.com](mailto:jmenges@themengesgroup.com) or call 571-312-2360.

Address: 4001 9th Street N., Suite 227, Arlington, VA 22203

Website: [www.themengesgroup.com](http://www.themengesgroup.com)

**The Menges Group**