

<http://thepriceofpanic.com/>

The Price of Panic

“Those who do not weep, do not see.”

— Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

In 2019, the coronavirus family, which has been causing respiratory disease in millions of humans worldwide every year for millennia, welcomed a new member. The disease it causes, COVID-19, proved to be milder than seasonal flu in fairly healthy people under 70, but it was nearly 1,000 times deadlier in older people or those made vulnerable by serious pre-existing conditions.

Rather than focusing protective measures on the people at heightened risk of illness, governments around the world imposed and continue to impose severe restrictions on their entire population. With routine medical care disrupted, businesses shuttered, curfews imposed, travel restricted, socialization criminalized, we are causing a devastating amount of harm.

The negative effects of lockdown are too often dismissed as small sacrifices, necessary to keep a highly deadly disease from spreading. These sacrifices are, in fact, neither necessary nor small, and the disease is only a threat to a minority of the population that can be protected without lockdowns. Sometimes, when major harms become hard to ignore, they are lamented as further damage caused by Covid, even though it is our panic-driven measures that are to blame. This is an effort to bring focus to the magnitude of suffering taking place around us because of lockdowns.

Last updated: October 27, 2020

Hunger & Poverty

AP NEWS

[Virus-linked hunger tied to 10,000 child deaths each month](#)

BRITISH HERALD

[Second Lockdown Forces Myanmar's Slum Dwellers To Hunt For Rats And Reptiles To Stave Off Hunger](#)

UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

JUST ADDED

[UN report finds COVID-19 is reversing decades of progress on poverty, healthcare and education](#)

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

[WFP Chief warns of grave dangers of economic impact of Coronavirus as millions are pushed further into hunger](#)

UN NEWS

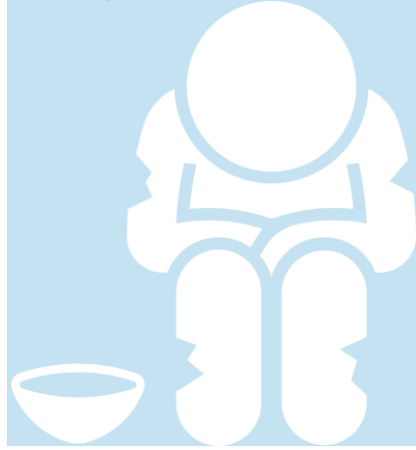
[One in six children living in extreme poverty, with figure set to rise during pandemic](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

[Colombia: Indigenous Kids at Risk of Malnutrition, Death](#)

ABC NEWS

UN expert: Pandemic's worst impacts on poverty yet to come



Death From Other Diseases

NEW YORK TIMES **JUST ADDED**

"The Biggest Monster" Is Spreading. And It's Not the Coronavirus.
Tuberculosis kills 1.5 million people each year. Lockdowns and supply-chain disruptions threaten progress against the disease as well as H.I.V. and malaria.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

At least 80 million children under one at risk of diseases such as diphtheria, measles and polio as COVID-19 disrupts routine vaccination efforts, warn Gavi, WHO and UNICEF

THE DAILY WIRE

New CDC Numbers Show Lockdown's Deadly Toll On Young People

NATURE

Stillbirth rate rises dramatically during pandemic

UN AIDS

The cost of inaction: COVID-19-related service disruptions could cause hundreds of thousands of extra deaths from HIV

THE DAILY MAIL

Lockdown "caused up to 21,000 extra deaths — many due to reduced access to healthcare"

DEVEX

1.8M people could die from tuberculosis in 2020: WHO

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

US overdose deaths appear to rise amid coronavirus pandemic

THE INDEPENDENT

Puerto Rico shuts its only two 911 call centres amid coronavirus outbreak



Harm to Children

MSN

Four newborn babies die in one month at an Australian hospital

BBC

Huge rise in reports of online child abuse images

CNN

The pandemic has created a second crisis in India — the rise of child trafficking

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Alarming failure rates among Texas students fuel calls to get them back into classrooms

UN OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

"Children at risk of lasting psychological distress from coronavirus lockdown":

Save the Children

THE ECONOMIST

Lockdowns could have long-term effects on children's health

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e2.htm>



Anxiety, Depression & Suicides

CNBC

More than 7 in 10 Gen-Zers report symptoms of depression during pandemic, survey finds

FORBES

The Pandemic Has Caused An Increase In Anxiety, Stress, Depression And Suicides

ABC NEWS

Suicides on the rise amid stay-at-home order, Bay Area medical professionals say

THE BALTIMORE SUN

"The lockdown killed my father": Farmer suicides add to India's virus misery

GLOBAL NEWS

Canadians reporting higher levels of anxiety, depression amid the pandemic

USA TODAY

Isolation kills, especially seniors. Community spaces can be a vaccine for COVID loneliness.

OTTAWA SUN

Woman, 100, succumbs not to COVID but to isolation

WALL STREET JOURNAL

What Happens to the Musicians When the Orchestra Music Stops?



Oppression

UNHCR

[IOM, UNHCR announce temporary suspension of resettlement travel for refugees](#)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

[GCC: Flawed laws exploited in pandemic to further crush freedom of expression](#)

THE ECONOMIST

[The pandemic has eroded democracy and respect for human rights](#)

FORBES **JUST ADDED**

[The Covid-19 Crisis Has Wiped Out Nearly Half Of Black Small Businesses](#)

*We do not have to accept the fallacy that this price, in lives and livelihoods, is necessary in order to limit the toll of Covid. To learn more about focused protection measures, please refer to the **Great Barrington Declaration**, a statement by infectious disease and epidemiology experts.*