

Press Release by the Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC) Group

27 May, 2020

Update on deaths averted and estimates of infected

How many deaths have been averted due to the lockdown? This has been uppermost on everybody's mind. Using a detailed epidemiological model, the ISRC modelling team has obtained optimal fits to the nationally reported data on cumulative mortality arising from CoViD-19 in India, during the period April 3 to May 24. We use the mortality data since it is expected to be better documented than the number of infections. We incorporate both lockdown measures and the quarantine-testing regime imposed during that period into our model.

Following up on the Niti Aayog press release of May 22, we estimate that *approximately 8000 to 32000 fatalities have been averted*, till May 15, compared to a "do nothing" scenario. In comparison, the Niti Aayog press release provides numbers in the range 37000 to 210000 for fatalities averted, citing various models, but does not indicate how these were obtained. Our estimates are more conservative, but explicitly documented. Our analysis estimates that a large number of infected cases have remained undetected.

We urge that governmental agencies provide details of their analysis while making projections or estimates related to the epidemic spread.

ISRC Modelling

<https://indscicov.in/daily-dashboard/>

<https://indscicov.in/indscisim> (version 1.2)

<https://indscicov.in/explaining-models/>
