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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Top Senate Republican blasts sweeping U.S. election reform bill as 'power grab'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The top Republican in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday blasted a sweeping election reform bill passed by the Democrat-led House of Representatives earlier this month as a "partisan power grab."

FILE PHOTO: Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell listens to a fellow U.S. Senator speak to reporters after the Republican lunch on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., March 23, 2021. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque Democrats say the bill, which updates voting procedures and requires states to turn over the redrawing of congressional district lines to independent commissions, is needed to overcome Republican efforts to make voting across the country harder.

"This is clearly an effort by one party to rewrite the rules of the political system," Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said at the start of a rules committee hearing. "We should be finding ways to rebuild trust, not destroy it further. That's exactly what a partisan power grab would guarantee."

Many Republican-controlled state legislatures are exploring steps that voting-rights advocates say would reduce turnout after record-setting participation in the November 2020 general election.

One of the losers in November was former President Donald Trump, who falsely claimed that his defeat was the result of widespread voter fraud. Courts largely rejected the claims and state and federal reviews found no evidence to support them.

The House-passed bill faces an uphill battle in the 50-50 Senate, where Democrats hold the majority by virtue of Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris' tie-breaking vote, but most legislation needs 60 votes to pass.

With Republicans vowing to fight the bill, some Senate Democrats argue that it is time to eliminate or pare back the 60-vote rule - known as the filibuster - to allow legislation to pass with a simple majority, as it is in the House.

One independent senator who caucuses with Democrats, Angus King of Maine, signaled on Wednesday



that he would back changing the filibuster if Republicans block the voting rights legislation.

"All-out opposition to reasonable voting rights protections cannot be enabled by the filibuster," King wrote in the Washington Post. "If forced to choose between a Senate rule and democracy itself, I know where I will come down."

But other Democrats, including Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, say they oppose changing the filibuster rule. Manchin is also the only Senate Democrat who has not co-sponsored the election reform bill. He told CNN on Wednesday he wanted to see changes before he can support it.

Senate Republicans said they were ready to filibuster the bill, which they say would "federalize" elections instead of leaving them to states and localities.

"There is no amount of time that I will not dedicate on the Senate floor to stop the Democrats from passing this kind of radical legislation," said Senator Tom Cotton.

But Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Republican efforts to restrict voting smacked of "Jim Crow" era laws adopted by some states designed to disenfranchise blacks, which remained on the books until the mid-20th century.

One proposal currently under consideration in Arizona would require every absentee ballot to be notarized, putting the poor at a disadvantage, he said. Another in Georgia would eliminate early voting on Sunday, when many African-Americans traditionally cast their ballots.

"Instead of doing what they should be doing when you lose an election in a democracy - attempting to win over those voters in the next election - Republicans instead are trying to disenfranchise those voters," Schumer said.

## U.S. COVID-19 cases top 30 million as states race to vaccinate

(Reuters) - The United States crossed 30 million coronavirus cases on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally, as states accelerate the vaccination process by lowering age limits.

Health authorities are racing to vaccinate in the face of the first uptick in new cases on a weekly basis since January. Against the advice of health experts, several states have lifted mask mandates and more infectious variants have also spread across the nation.

Although cases are trending higher in 30 out of 50 states compared with the previous week, health officials hope the vaccinations will prevent a rise in deaths. The United States has lost a total of 544,000 lives to the virus. (Graphic: tmsnrt.rs/2WTOZDR)

New York on Monday joined Florida and a handful of other states that have made vaccines available to people who are at least 50 years old.

In the past two weeks, many states including Alaska, Arizona and Texas have lowered down their eligibility age for coronavirus vaccines.

Arizona lowered the eligibility age to 16 at state-run vaccination sites in three populous southern counties, effective Wednesday. Three other counties already have eligibility at 16, but most are at 55.



每週三更新  
敬請專注我們的YOUTUBE 頻道  
STV 15.3 Houston

越式+美式+墨西哥風情是一種怎樣的體驗？  
本期節目，我們的體驗員們來到了位於Westheimer Road上的

**Hiccups & Churroholics**

在這裡你可以一同體驗美式，越式，泰式以及墨西哥風情大餐  
各式奶茶，咖啡，冰激凌甜點也是應有盡有！  
不要忘了嘗試網紅“美式油條” Churros哦！

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY 03/24/2021



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### Our Society Is Sick

The shooting in Boulder, Colorado, left 10 people dead, including a store manager and a police officer. The shooting suspect, 21-year-old Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, is accused of opening fire Monday afternoon at the King Scoopers store in Boulder killing people ranging in age from 20 to 65.

The motive of the killer isn't immediately known, but police believe he was the only perpetrator.

In the last week alone the United States has seen at least seven shootings in which at least four people were injured or killed.

President Biden said he was



devastated by the killing of the 10 people and urged action on gun control. Congress has tried to address

these problems before. The House passed two gun bills on March 11th, less than two weeks ago. The bills would expand background checks on all commercial gun sales.

the fundamental issue of education and economic conditions, especially in the difficult time of this pandemic. Many people are out of a job and many people are still suffering.



This is very sad in our country that with easy access to guns there will be mass shootings. These shootings will cost lives in red states or blue states, cities or suburbs.

We need to take immediate action as a national emergency issue from community to Congress to find ways to prevent these mass shootings as soon as possible.

This tragedy comes back to



### Southern DAILY Make Today Different

### Editor's Choice



Flood affected areas are seen from a helicopter in the Windsor area near Sydney, Australia. Lukas Coch/Pool



Veronica Hebert places flowers on the car of Officer Eric Talley, who was killed yesterday during a mass shooting in King Soopers grocery store, at Boulder Police Department, in Boulder, Colorado. REUTERS/Alyson McClaran



Hospital staff observe a minute's silence as part of a day of reflection to mark the anniversary of Britain's first coronavirus lockdown, outside the Aintree University Hospital in Liverpool, Britain. REUTERS/Phil Noble



Men daubed in colours throw coloured powder at each other during Lathmar Holi celebrations in the town of Nandgaon, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India. REUTERS/K. K. Arora



A family receives medical attention after the Marine Rescue boat that rescued them from rising floodwaters capsized in strong currents, as the state of New South Wales experiences widespread flooding and severe weather, in the suburb of Sackville North in Sydney, Australia. REUTERS/Loren Elliott



Ashes from the Pacaya volcano cover a plane on the tarmac of La Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City, Guatemala. REUTERS/Luis Echeverria

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

COVID-19 U.S. Death Toll: Imagining What 500,000 Lost Lives Look Like

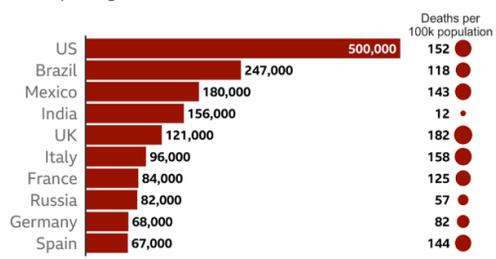


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The US has topped over 500,000 deaths in the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be the latest grim milestone for a country that has by far the highest death toll in the world from the virus. The US has seen more than twice as many deaths as the next hardest-hit country, Brazil. But it is also one of the most populous countries. In terms of deaths per 100,000 population, it ranks ninth, behind countries like the UK, Czech Republic, Italy and Portugal, according to Johns Hopkins University.



Top 10 countries by coronavirus deaths

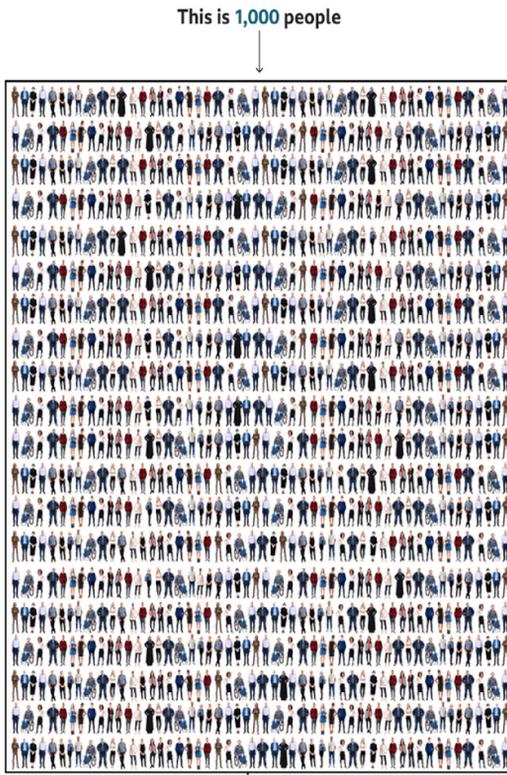


Note: Country death totals have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Source: Johns Hopkins University, 22 February

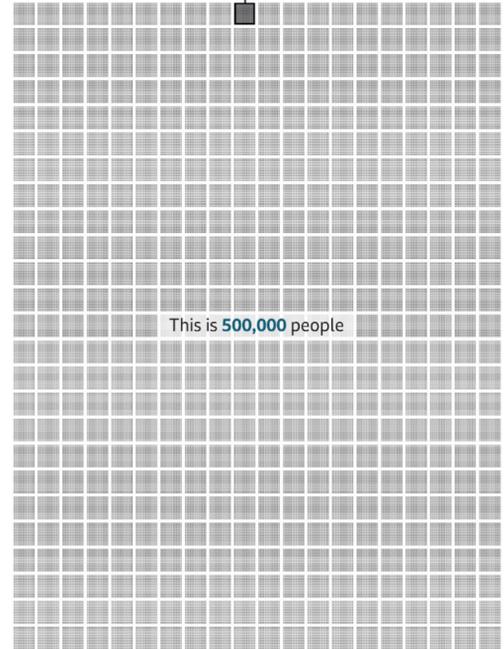
The first known US death from the virus came on 6 February 2020

That means that over one-half million lives have been lost in just over one year, more than the US death tolls from World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War combined.

What does 500,000 people look like?



Imagine each of these squares is 1,000 people



To put that into perspective...

- If every death came from the city of Atlanta, nearly its entire population would be wiped out.
- If you held a minute's silence consecutively for every person who has died from Covid in the US, it would take 347 days, almost a full year, to honour them all.
- The death toll equals the total crowd from four days of the Coachella Music Festival, one of the biggest annual music gatherings in the US.
- And it is nearly five times the attendance at the most highly attended Super Bowl ever - at the Rose Bowl in California, in 1977 (103,985)

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COVID-19 U.S. Death Toll: Imagining What 500,000 Lost Lives Look Like

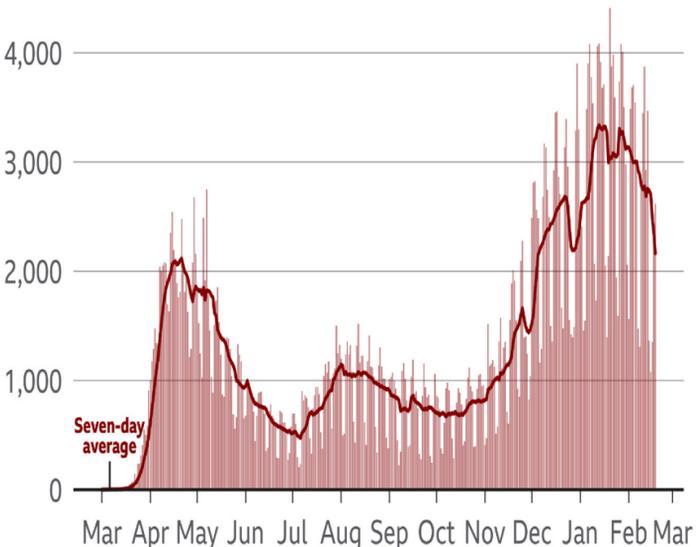
Death Came In Three Waves

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The first wave in the spring began as most of the country went into lockdown and was followed by a second albeit less severe wave in the period from late summer to early autumn. A devastating third surge over the past three months had communities reeling over the holidays.

Deaths remain high, but they are falling

Number of daily reported coronavirus deaths in the US



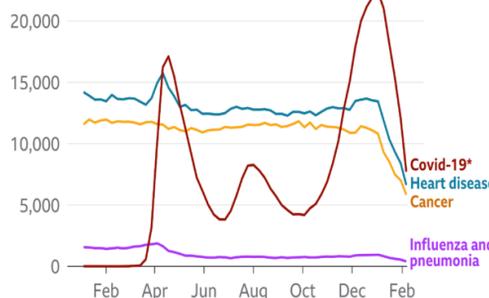
Source: COVID Tracking Project

How does Covid compare with cancer?

It is among the leading causes of death in the US. Last year, it was the third leading cause of death overall, with only heart disease and cancer claiming more US lives. At times, most notably during the third wave of cases, it spiked higher than both heart disease and cancer. The death toll in the US is more than 10 times higher than the number of Americans who died from influenza and pneumonia the year before the pandemic.

Covid has been the leading cause of death in the US in recent months

Number of deaths per week by selected causes, 2020-2021



\*Data for Covid-19 includes deaths where other causes may have also been cited. Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Life expectancy in the US fell by a full year in the first half of 2020, a change experts say was fuelled by the pandemic. The average life expectancy for the entire population dropped to 77.8 years, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control.

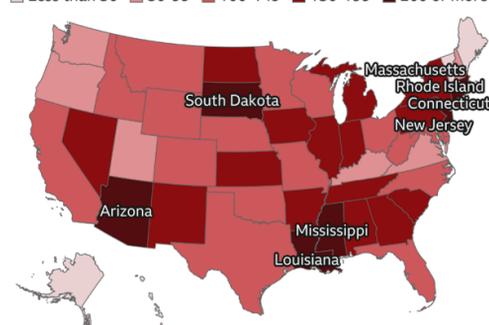
Taking a closer look at the 500,000

Covid-19 spared no part of the country. At the start of the pandemic, it was largely concentrated in a few large cities with diverse communities of colour, like New York and Detroit.

But towards the end of last year, some of the least populated US states - including North and South Dakota - saw some of the worst outbreaks, not just in America, but in the world.

Which states have been hit the hardest?

Total deaths linked to coronavirus per 100,000 people



Source: COVID Tracking Project

Racial Minorities Hit Hard

Racial minorities - except for Asian Americans - were more likely to die of the virus than white Americans. Black people

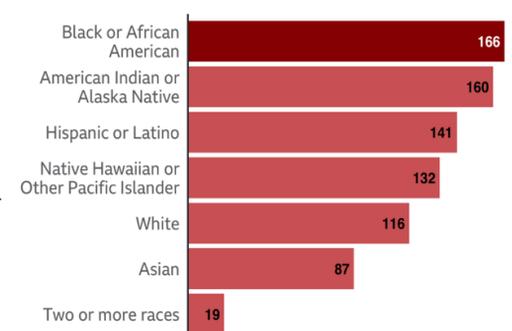
have been dying at 1.4 times the rate of white people. Indigenous communities in particular were the hardest hit per capita.



Data suggests these racial disparities are often informed by community-level social factors, such as a higher likelihood that people of colour may work in essential occupations, rely on public transport and live in crowded housing.

Black people have died at 1.4 times the rate of white people in the US

Deaths per 100,000 people by race or ethnicity, up to 16 Feb



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted and some are underestimated due to lack of data. Source: COVID Tracking Project



U.S. President Joe Biden And Wife Remembering The 500,000 Victims Of The Pandemic.