**US Covid-19 Deaths – Purpose of Project**

1. Ascertain whether Covid-19 deaths are materially underreported, and if so why? If they are, we hypothesize that blue states are less likely to underreport than red states. This kind of partisan difference may represent the parties’ high degree of politicization of how the national government under the control of the Republican Party is and should be handling the pandemic. Otherwise, why on earth are such aspects as mandatory wearing of PPE in public indoor spaces so evidently turned into a political hot potato?
2. Understand more clearly who the losers are?
   1. Race and ethnicity
   2. Prison populations
   3. Maybe even income classes
   4. Rural, suburban, and urban populations
   5. Retirement / nursing facility populations
   6. Prison (and maybe other incarcerated) populations
   7. College and university students and faculty
3. What did the president probably know when he tried to equate Covid-19 with seasonal flu?
4. What might the rough cost in lives of achieving a herd immunity threshold in the US?
5. What are the lesser reported quality-of-life and financial consequences to lives severely impacted by on-going effects even after having survived the initial Covid-19 infection?
6. To what degree can we extrapolate the direct economic consequences of pandemic? Certainly, we can show a big impact on GDP? But what factors mitigated and what factors multiply that impact? E.g., US national debt, corporate debt load, etc.?