

The Emperor has No Clothes: How to Manipulate Data and Deceive People

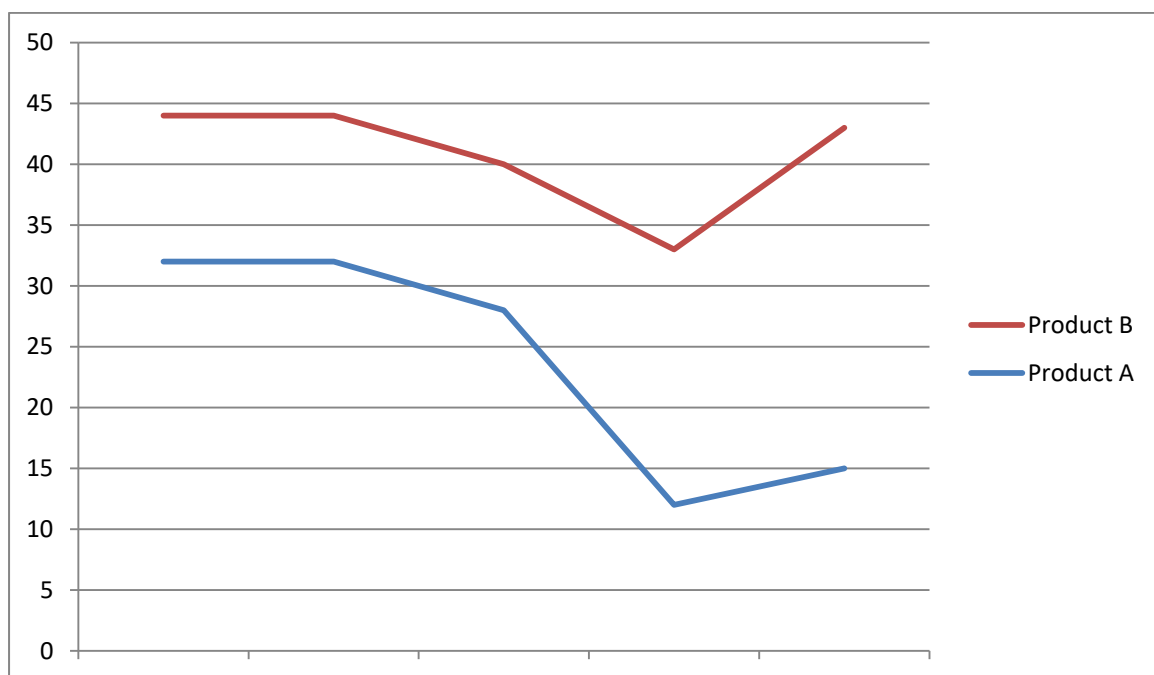
By Joshua Michael



It has been more than 20 years since I last waded into the realm of statistical analysis. The words of my high-school mathematics teacher Dr Mallory are still ringing in my ears even today:

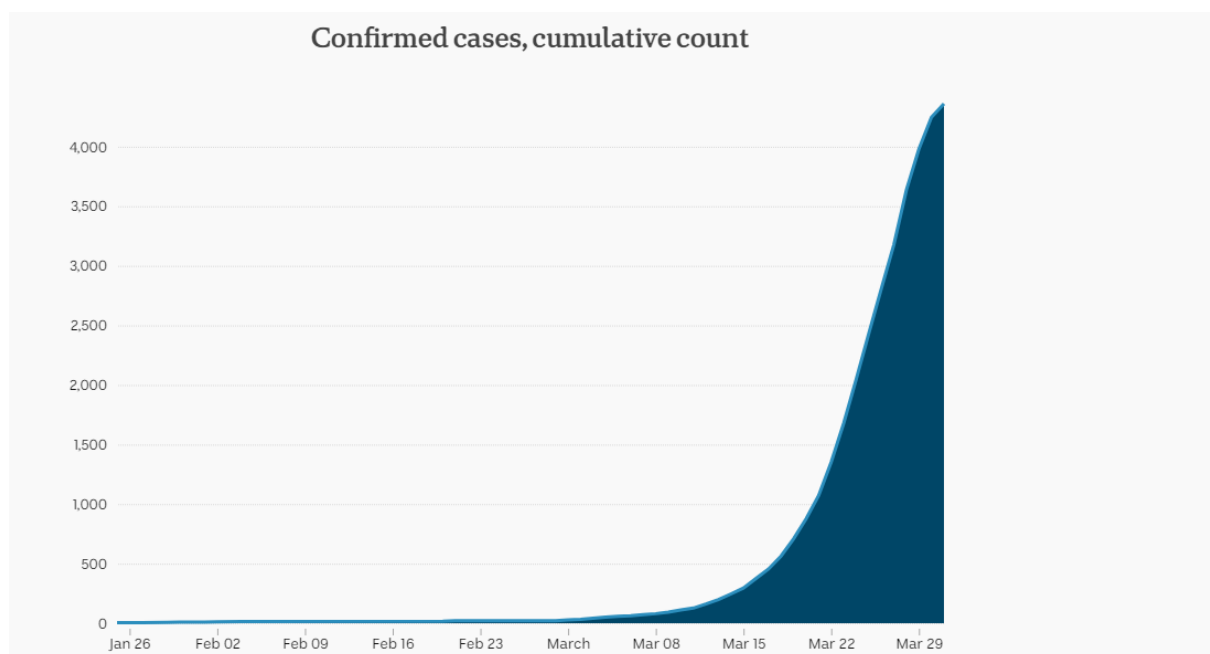
"Statistics are easily misrepresented."

Dr. Mallory explained to us back then that statistics, and the graphs and charts manufactured from them, are easily manipulated for advantage. "Take advertising," he would say. "How many of you have ever seen a chart like this accompanying some product on the television?"



“The first warning sign is a lack of scale,” he would say. Notice the x axis, or horizontal, has no scale: no units of measurement and no indication of what is actually being measured. The y axis, or vertical, has no measure of unit, even if it is indicated by a handful of numbers. This is a common feature in charts abused by advertising. There is no way for the consumer to actually understand what is being compared. And yet advertisers will throw such graphics at us in an attempt to hoodwink the unwary consumer to purchase a product.

Let us now turn our attention to the COVID-19 crisis. The viral pandemic has created an opportunity for mainstream media to unleash a slew of charts, tables and graphics explaining the crisis in a visual manner. Most of these actually represent correct statistics. For example, when ABC Australia reported a 19% daily increase in cases, this statistic is correct.¹ Let’s have a look at their chart for Australia’s infection rate:



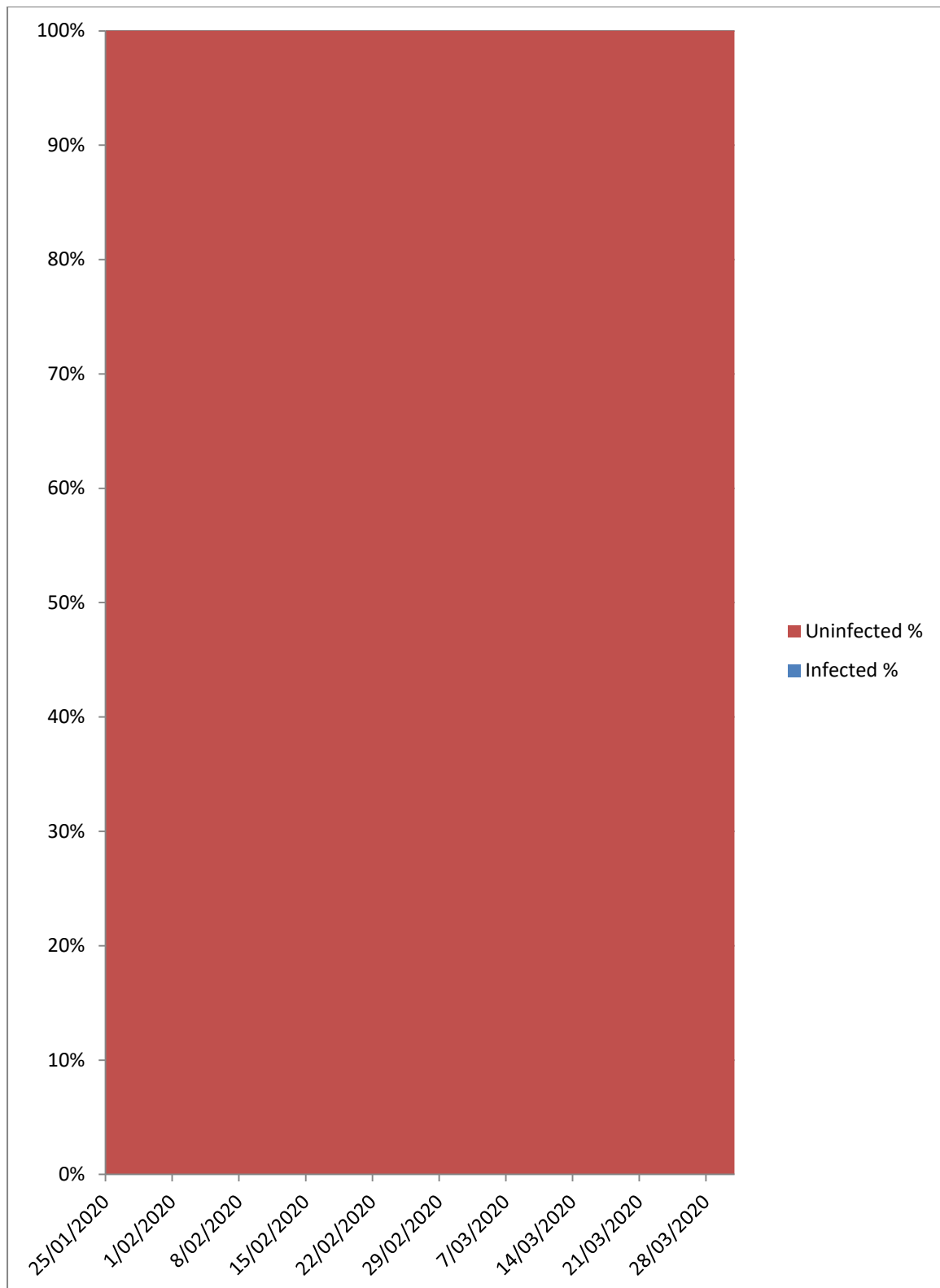
It starts at 0, progresses barely for a good 2 months and then around the 15th March ‘utterly skyrockets’ into the stratosphere with cases. And yes, this is the kind of adverb and adjective you will read constantly in media reports of COVID-19. And indeed, coronavirus did increase by 19% per day for more than a few days during this ‘whopping’ increase in infections.

But I want you to notice the scale on the left-hand side. It is a scale of 0-4000. This dataset, represented according to that specific scale, gives a picture of an immense increase in cases, a horrendous ‘curve’ to be ‘flattened’, as the media puts it. Notice also that the x axis has

¹ “Charting the COVID-19 Spread in Australia,” ABC News Australia. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-17/coronavirus-cases-data-reveals-how-covid-19-spreads-in-australia/12060704> [Accessed 31/03/2020. This chart has changed since I first accessed it.]

irregularities in its scale, being grossly expanded from Jan-March 1st, and then tightly condensed from March 1st onwards.

But what happens if we change the scale to a percentage of the overall population? What would the chart look like? What would happen if we charted the daily data and whole population increase?



There are two things you need to notice about this chart. Firstly, I've converted the numbers to a percentage of total population, so the scale on the y axis represents the percentage of infected versus uninfected. Secondly, I've had to stretch the y axis of the graph over most of the page in order to try to exaggerate the graphics, but to no avail. It still does not show the blue 'infected' line at all. Compared to the *total population*, there is no curve to be seen. At all.

That's right, folks. When we convert the numbers to percentages, infected and uninfected, factored out of the whole population (in Australia's case, 25 million) and plot them next to one another, the percentage of infected doesn't even show up, even when I deliberately tried to exaggerate the y axis to do so.² The only way these show up is if the scale is drastically reduced, say, to the thousands of cases, in order to demonstrate a visible curve.

Obviously, other countries with higher infected/uninfected ratios, like Italy (currently 0.163% vs. 99.837%) or Switzerland (currently 0.172% vs. 99.828%), would possibly have curves that might, perhaps, make a dent in the population comparison chart above. I just did not have the time to prepare that data, but if anyone reading this wishes to (especially considering most of you all are in lockdown by your governments) all you have to do is convert daily infections into a percentage of population, subtract that percentage from 100 to get the 180° uninfected percentage, chart it over time and there you go. I would encourage especially the American readers to do this with your country's data. Convert it to percentages, chart it over time and see what that graphic looks like. You can even create the graphic in Microsoft Word, like I did for this article. I suspect it will look pretty similar to what I have charted for the Australian population. I have no doubt it will look the same for the *worldwide* population comparison, as my progression spreadsheet for the top 10 infected countries shows.³

Obviously, I am not a medical professional. I understand that in medical emergencies, hospitals should not be factoring for total populations but for their own capacities. In their case, the y axis scale of 5,000 people might be a reasonable chart for them to use as a basis for emergency care preparations. Hospitals are more than justified for modifying their scales to account for capacity.

But what the media is doing is taking these statistics of scale, employing the advanced media graphics teams to print out beautiful charts and graphs, and then parade them before us as the harbingers of the medical apocalypse.

Why am I one of only a handful people in the world who have noticed this discrepancy? And I am by no means a professor in mathematics or statistical analysis; I haven't done much of either for more than 20 years. And also note that I have granted the assumption that the

² Just in case someone thinks this chart is deceptive in itself, I have included the tabulated data in Appendix A. This can easily be calculated for any other country by following the same procedure.

³ <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0yjp0lii8rtxqwp/COVID-19%20Stats.xlsx?dl=0>

statistics produced by Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Map,⁴ the primary source of my data, are reasonable and accurate. There are other experts, scientists, doctors and analysts, who have challenged the reporting of infections and deaths as horribly skewed,⁵ so not even this assumption can be maintained with certainty.

But the mainstream media is not interested in such things. The mainstream media is not interested in population comparisons, because if they were, and if their journalists actually employed critical thinking and questioned the implicit assumptions in their own datasets, charts and graphics, a startling truth emerges. COVID-19 has not even scratched 99.99% of the world population. That is a fact. And I haven't even bothered with the death data in this article because it's a factor of 100 smaller still.⁶ These are numbers so insignificant in the global scale I do not even want to waste my time computing them.

That said, I am not a cold-hearted ogre. Any and every death is a tragedy, let alone those caused by coronavirus, but especially the likely impending suicides from our economic suicide. I merely want to be *realistic* about what is actually happening right now.

This, obviously, leaves other, more pressing implications. What is the media's real agenda if they have no actual interest in quelling fear in populations by sharing the truth that 99.99% of us are going to get through this crisis perfectly fine? What are governments' real agendas if they've chosen to put us all into lockdown because 0.01% of the world is sick? Is it really for our protection? Or is this just the same lie Hitler used when he introduced the Reichstag Fire Decree of 1932, followed quickly by the Enabling Act 1933, all in the wake of the 1929 stock market crash, mind you?

I cannot answer such questions yet, but it should give us all reason to pause and think. *Why this narrative? Why these government responses? Why now? Why us?*

Obviously, those who have been following Entangled Magazine for the last few years already know most of the answers to these questions. If you still do not, I suggest you dig into the Entangled Archives and refresh your memory.

And yet for all this we have no reason to fear. As it is written,

"In peace I will both lie down and sleep. You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Psalms 4:8

⁴ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

⁵ Such as John Lee, MD, "Manipulated COVID-19 numbers are fuelling Hysteria and Lockdowns," <https://www.sott.net/article/431594-Manipulated-Covid-19-Numbers-Are-Fueling-Hysteria-and-Lock-Downs>; Off Guardian, "COVID-19 yet to Impact Europe's Overall Mortality," <https://www.sott.net/article/431631-Better-Flu-Season-Than-Average-Covid-19-Yet-to-Impact-Europes-Overall-Mortality>; and John Rappoport, "Coronavirus creating the Illusion of a Pandemic through Diagnostic Tests," <https://www.sott.net/article/431632-Coronavirus-Creating-the-illusion-of-a-pandemic-through-diagnostic-tests>

⁶ That data is available for the top 10 COVID-19 'deaths' statistics in footnote 3.

“...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgement.” **2 Peter 2:9**

The Living God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ guide each and every one of us in His truth at this time. It may be that veritas serum (truth serum) may prove to be the ultimate vaccine to COVID-19.

Appendix A – Australia’s COVID-19 infections by Percent Total Population

Date	Cases	Infected %	Uninfected %
25/01/2020	4*	0.000016	99.999984
27/01/2020	5*	0.00002	99.99998
29/01/2020	7*	0.000028	99.999972
30/01/2020	9*	0.000036	99.999964
1/02/2020	10*	0.00004	99.99996
2/02/2020	12*	0.000048	99.999952
4/02/2020	13*	0.000052	99.999948
5/02/2020	14*	0.000056	99.999944
6/02/2020	15*	0.00006	99.99994
20/02/2020	16*	0.000064	99.999936
21/02/2020	20*	0.00008	99.99992
29/02/2020	21*	0.000084	99.999916
1/03/2020	28*	0.000112	99.999888
2/03/2020	33*	0.000132	99.999868
3/03/2020	41*	0.000164	99.999836
4/03/2020	51*	0.000204	99.999796
5/03/2020	59*	0.000236	99.999764
6/03/2020	63*	0.000252	99.999748
7/03/2020	72*	0.000288	99.999712
8/03/2020	80*	0.00032	99.99968
9/03/2020	92*	0.000368	99.999632
10/03/2020	112*	0.000448	99.999552
11/03/2020	127*	0.000508	99.999356
12/03/2020	161*	0.000644	99.999356
13/03/2020	198*	0.000792	99.999208
14/03/2020	246*	0.000984	99.999016
15/03/2020	296*	0.001184	99.998816
16/03/2020	376*	0.001504	99.998496
17/03/2020	455*	0.00182	99.99818
18/03/2020	564*	0.002256	99.997744
19/03/2020	709*	0.002836	99.997164
20/03/2020	877*	0.003508	99.996492
21/03/2020	1071*	0.004284	99.995716
22/03/2020	1353*	0.005412	99.994588
23/03/2020	1681*	0.006724	99.993276
24/03/2020	2051*	0.008204	99.991796
25/03/2020	2434*	0.009736	99.990264
26/03/2020	2810*	0.01124	99.98876
27/03/2020	3179*	0.012716	99.987284
28/03/2020	3639*	0.014556	99.985444
29/03/2020	3983*	0.015932	99.984068
30/03/2020	4249*	0.016996	99.983004
31/03/2020	4562*	0.018248	99.981752

Dataset sourced from footnote 1. Asterix * only to prevent automatic MS Excel date conversion.