

CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months

November 12 2009, By LAURAN NEERGAARD , AP Medical Writer

(AP) -- Government health officials say swine flu has sickened about 22 million Americans since April.

They say about 4,000 have died, including 540 children.

The startling new figures - about four times higher than previous death estimates - don't mean swine flu has suddenly gotten worse. Instead, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) on Thursday called them a long-awaited better attempt to understand the virus' true toll.

The CDC now believes that about 98,000 people have been hospitalized in the first six months of the nation's [swine flu](#) epidemic, including 36,000 children.

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