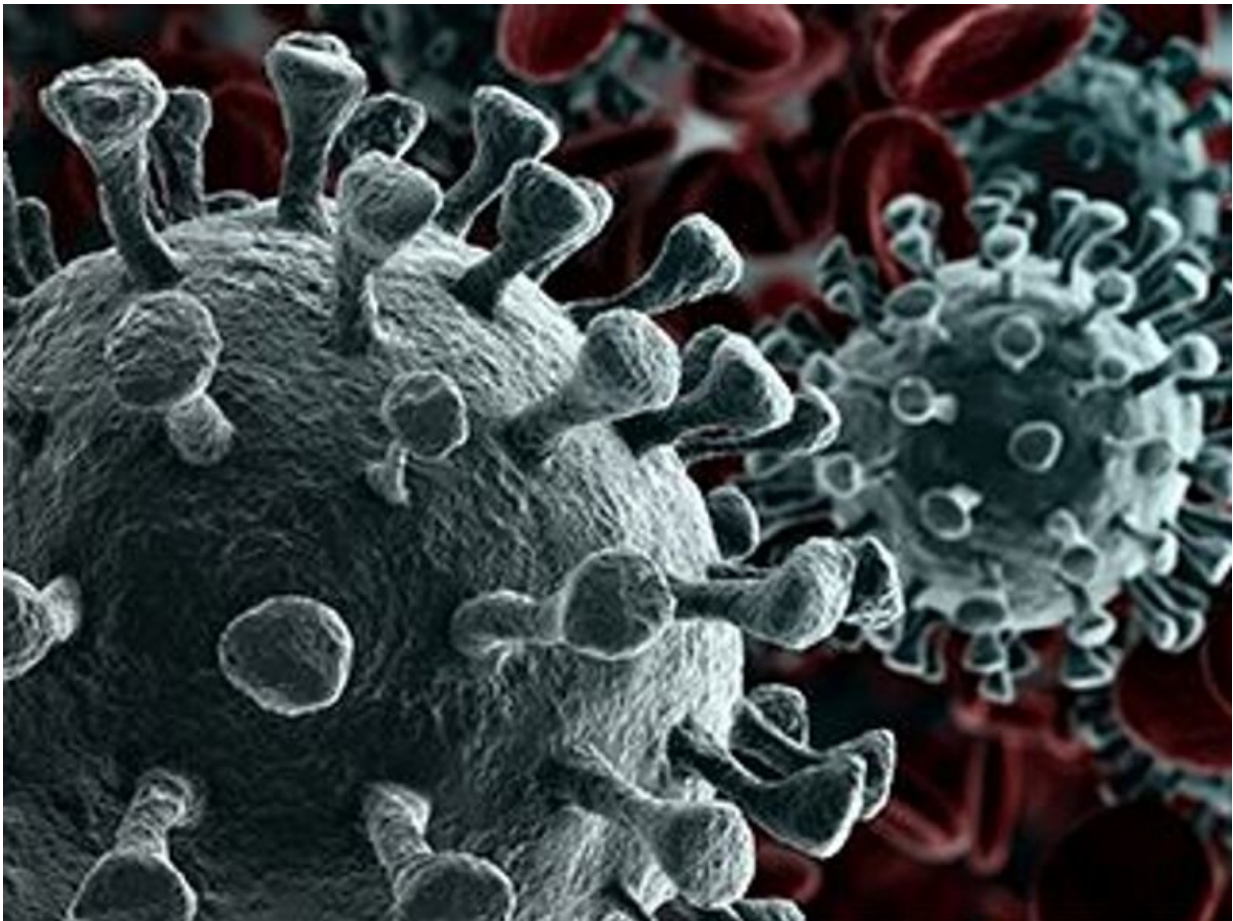


SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence low in U.S. from July to Sept. 2020

December 3 2020



(HealthDay)—Most people in the United States did not have detectable

severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) antibodies as of September 2020, according to a study published online Nov. 24 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Kristina L. Bajema, M.D., from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and colleagues conducted a repeated cross-sectional study across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to estimate the prevalence of persons with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. A total of 177,919 samples were obtained during July 27 to Aug. 13, Aug. 10 to Aug. 27, Aug. 24 to Sept. 10, and Sept. 7 to Sept. 24, 2020. The proportion of people previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 as measured by the presence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 was examined.

The researchers found that over the four collection periods, jurisdiction-level seroprevalence varied from less than 1 percent to 23 percent. Less than 10 percent of people had detectable SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 42 of 49 jurisdictions with sufficient samples to estimate seroprevalence across all periods. There was variation noted in seroprevalence estimates between sexes, across age groups, and between metropolitan/nonmetropolitan areas. In all jurisdictions, the changes from period 1 to 4 were less than 7 percentage points, with variation across sites.

"Our results reinforce the need for continued [public health preventive measures](#), including the use of face masks and social distancing, to limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States," the authors write.

ICF, Quest Diagnostics, and BioReference Laboratories were awarded federal contracts from the CDC for the execution of this project.

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