

## Update:

Subsequent to publishing this article, more information has become available to shed light on the inflated deaths in New York. Firstly, Recent federal legislation in the US, known as the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)*, has provisions that enable the government to pay more to hospitals specific to the coronavirus pandemic. "*The CARES Act authorized a temporary 20% increase in reimbursements from Medicare for COVID-19 patients to account for both anticipated and unanticipated increases in the cost of care for these medically complex patients,*" explained Dr. Summer McGee, dean of the School of Health Sciences at the University of New Haven. Medicare will pay, for example, \$10,000 for the pneumonia patient who doesn't have COVID-19 and \$12,000 for the patient who does," he surmised. Provisions in the act also allow for hospitals to receive three times more per patient in need of a ventilator (on average \$40,218 for a patient needing ventilator support for longer than 96 hours), as confirmed by a Kaiser Family Foundation (a nonprofit organization focused on American health care issues) analysis.

The United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) also announced that \$10 billion would be set aside for high-impact areas significantly impacted by the coronavirus, emphasizing "*that New York hospitals are expected to receive a large share of the funds*". To qualify for this distribution of funding, each hospital had to submit the number of ICU beds it has and its total COVID-19 admissions as of April 10, 2020. On April 14, it just so happened that New York's overall coronavirus death toll was revised, with a whopping 3,700 fatalities added to their original data, to now include "*people who had never tested positive for the virus but were presumed to have it*". While some states like California and Minnesota document only laboratory-verified COVID19 cases, states like New York also list assumed cases and deaths... It therefore seems reasonable to say New York (which recorded by far the biggest number of "COVID19" deaths compared to other states in the US) should also be regarded as a statistical 'outlier', due to suspicions around the accuracy of collection of data. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]