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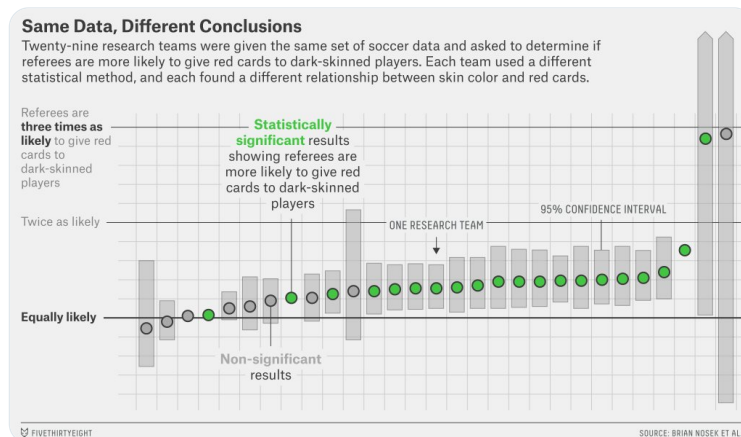
Mar 9 · 11 tweets · [VPrasadMDMPH/status/1501672947911741451](https://twitter.com/VPrasadMDMPH/status/1501672947911741451)

Yrs ago, researchers gave the EXACT same dataset to many teams, asking if dark skinned players got more soccer penalties

There was a huge range of responses from:
no to 3x as much

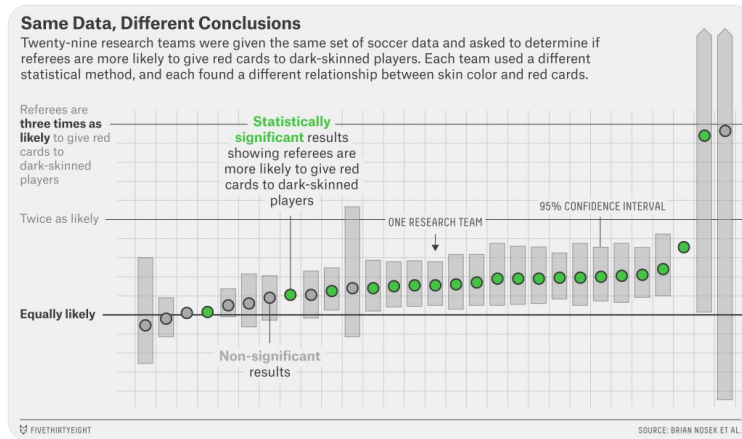
And this was THE SAME EXACT DATASET!

This has a connection to masking kids wait for it...



First, this is the range of analytic flexibility with the same exact data, and skin color was given to the teams and coded in advance

If you allowed each team to build their own dataset, and code skin tone, the range would likely be even more vast!



Second, on this topic, there is a social valence to what acceptable answers might be-- we all have the same intuition about the way the world is unfair...

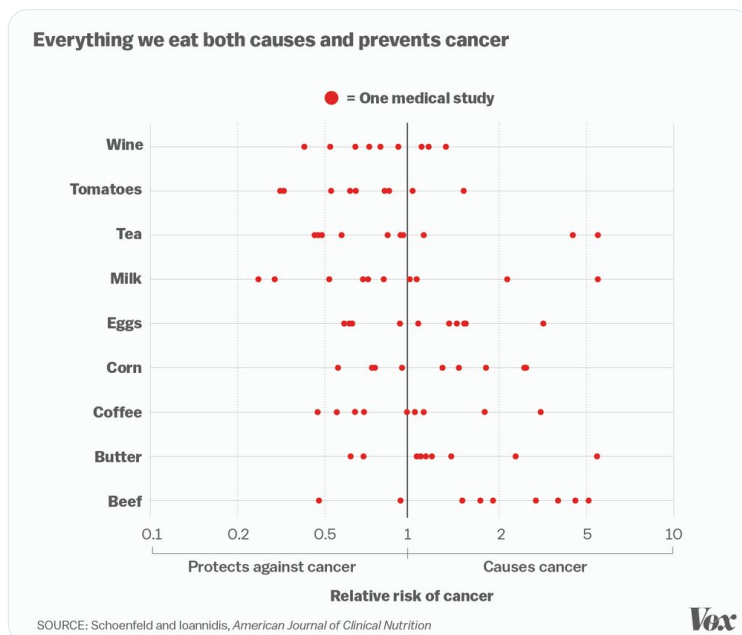
If you pick a different q, where acceptable answers can go in all directions, the range will be EVEN MORE enormous!

Third, a smart guy threw darts at a cookbook, and randomly picked ingredients

Then looked for studies linking to cancer.

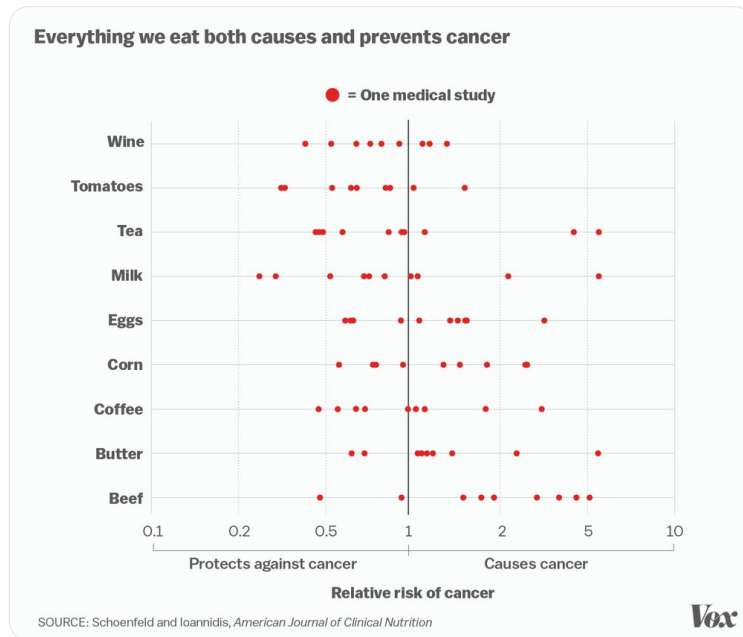
Many had links IN BOTH DIRECTIONS

this is what happens when you have immense analytic flexibility & no "right answer"



Although, as you can see, Beef leans in 1 direction

Maybe because it is truly not good, but also maybe because so many people have been brainwashed in advance to believe it is harmful, and they "prove" that



Masking kids is a controversial arena. But true believers are some real, real zealots, and they have tens of thousands of datasets to choose from, and will regress till their computer overheats

They will surely "prove" benefit

 **Vinay Prasad, MD MPH** @VPrasadMDMPH

In 20 years, there will be 100s of studies showing masking in schools works, and 100s showing it does not work at all.

This is a product of immense analytic flexibility & motivated reasoning

One person saw all this years ago;
A brilliant article 🙌

 jamanetwork.com
The Importance of Potential Studies That Have Not E...
Knowing the complete results of all conducted studies on a question of interest is important to avoid ...

9:15 PM · Mar 9, 2022

103 ❤️ Reply Copy link


Read 5 replies

There are some haters too, don't get me wrong, and they will surely find no benefit, maybe even increased death! (IDK, but I am sure it is not that harmful!)

But better studies will leverage all available data

Like this from Spain

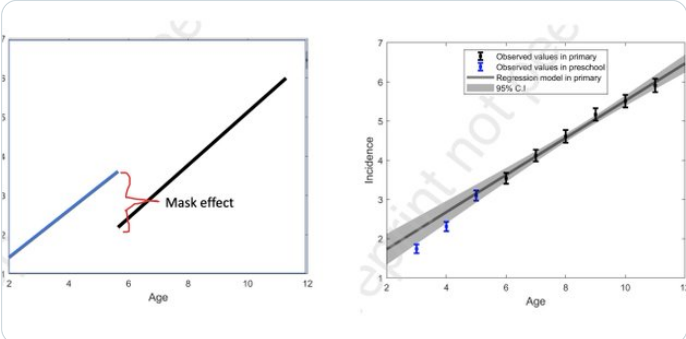
& find no effect

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If masks worked in schools we'd see the left, but the actual result is right

Mask "mandates in schools were not associated with lower SARS-CoV-2 incidence or transmission, suggesting that this intervention was not effective."

[papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cf...](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3948448)



3:22 PM · Mar 8, 2022

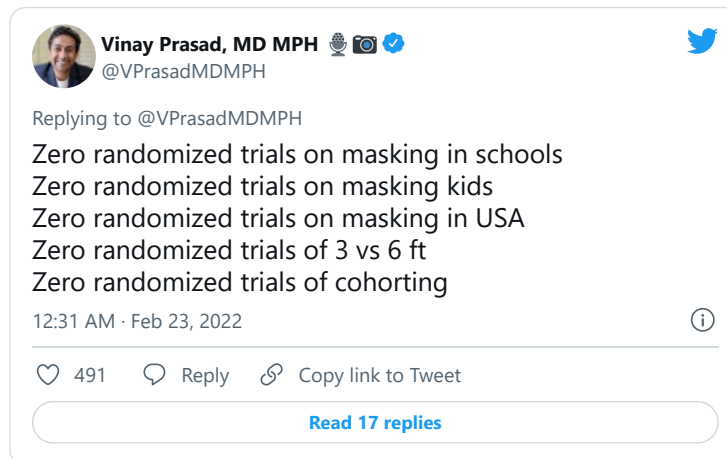
1.9K ⚡ See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

[Read 53 replies](#)

The ANS is RCTs are IMPERATIVE when people have strong opinions, but the science is unclear

This is CDC's greatest failure; not running any

It is truly unforgivable that the USA ran ZERO rcts of masking across the whole country the entire time!!



We will likely be debating this for years to come

But, when we are out of the heat of the moment, when sobriety sinks in, the universal truths of medicine will become apparent...

Behavioral interventions on kids...

At best, Have v. tiny effect sizes

those effects vanish with prolonged time & fatigue

harms add up, including ones you did not see

harms become more apparent

the ludicrousness of the mandate (2 year olds?) becomes clear

defying WHO seems nutso

And the burden of proof is on the zealot who wants to keep doing something unnatural to children, not those who oppose it

With time, it will look very very bad.

Just like school closure now looks horrible, while 12 months ago, many felt otherwise

Now they delete old tweets.

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