

The Right to Health Sovereignty (R2HS)

Ramesh Thakur

Co-Chair, International Health Reform Project

Alex Antic rolls out red carpet for MAGA-aligned WHO haters

[John Buckley](#) June 17, 2026 — 5:00am

‘In an email that triggered eye-rolls among his parliamentary colleagues, Antic announced he’d be rolling out the red carpet for a parliamentary briefing from Professor Ramesh Thakur and Dr David Bell of the International Health Reform Project at Parliament House on June 24’.

Sydney Morning Herald, 17 June 2026,

<https://www.smh.com.au/cbd/alex-antic-rolls-out-red-carpet-for-maga-aligned-who-haters-20260616-p607bt.html>

Letter to Editor – Not Published

Ramesh Thakur <ramesh.thakur@anu.edu.au>
To: "letters@smh.com.au" <letters@smh.com.au>

17 June 2026 at 13:47

I have no idea if John Buckley has a history with Senator Antic that would explain his snarky remarks ("Alex Antic rolls out red carpet for MAGA-aligned WHO haters", 17/6). He might want to read my three-part criticism of Trump's illegal and futile Iran war in Pearls and Irritations on March 24, 25, and 26 - serious case of Trump Infatuation Syndrome, indeed (sarcasm). Meanwhile he showcases his own failings in the attempted smear-by-association with MAGA. Not a single argument is engaged and not a single recommendation assessed on facts or accuracy. The label "WHO haters" would be amusing, if it wasn't on so serious an issue, for a project that explicitly rejects exiting the WHO in favour of substantially reforming it or creating a new international health organisation that returns to the WHO's foundational principles. That said, I must thank Mr Buckley. Often, what I have to say is rejected solely because of my past affiliations with the United Nations and the ANU. His criticism based on alleged tenuous MAGA-links, without bothering to read a word of the report itself, helps to restore the balance and confirm I am an independent analyst. As such, I appreciate the assistance of anyone able and willing to host us in Parliament for an open and inclusive discussion.

Ramesh Thakur

Hostility to UN

The Other Side (Damien Coory), 'Why Iran? Why Now?', 10 April 2026

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOF5gcjqvdg>



@paulmoodie3 2 months ago



Typical UN idiot that has done nothing for anyone in the last two decades. Time to defund the UN, WHO and all other useless global entities. I didn't vote for that idiot so he has no say.



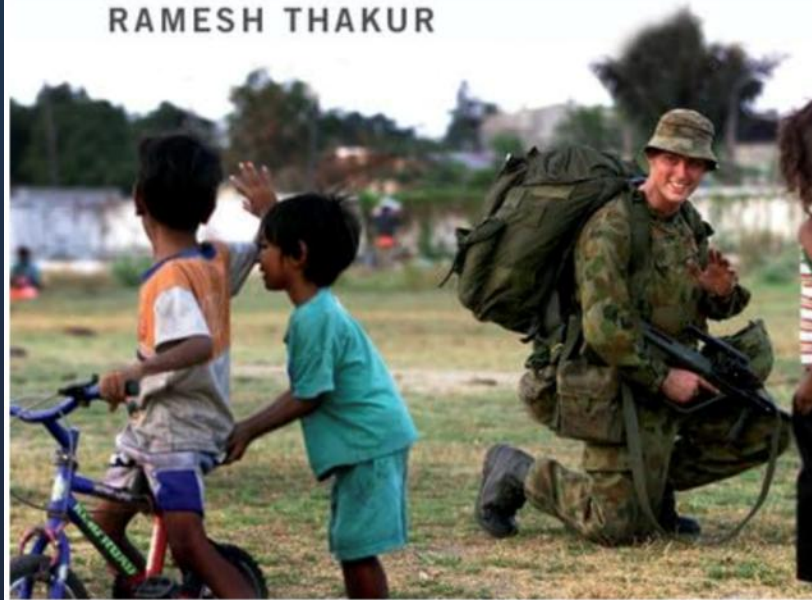
Reply

THE
**UNITED NATIONS,
PEACE AND
SECURITY**

FROM COLLECTIVE SECURITY
TO THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

SECOND EDITION

RAMESH THAKUR



Global Governance: The Imperative

- ‘There is no government for the world. Yet, on any given day, innumerable commercial, professional, diplomatic and personal cross-border activities take place in reasonable expectation of safety and security for the people, groups, firms and governments involved. This immediately raises a puzzle: how is the world governed even in the absence of a world government in order to provide order, stability and predictability and produce norms, codes of conduct and regulatory, surveillance and compliance instruments? The answer is global governance whose content embraces the totality of laws, norms, policies and institutions that define, constitute and mediate relations between citizens, societies, markets and states in the international system... In this global governance architecture, the UN system functions as the inner core of the mandated multilateral machinery’ (p. 29).

Global Governance: Overreach

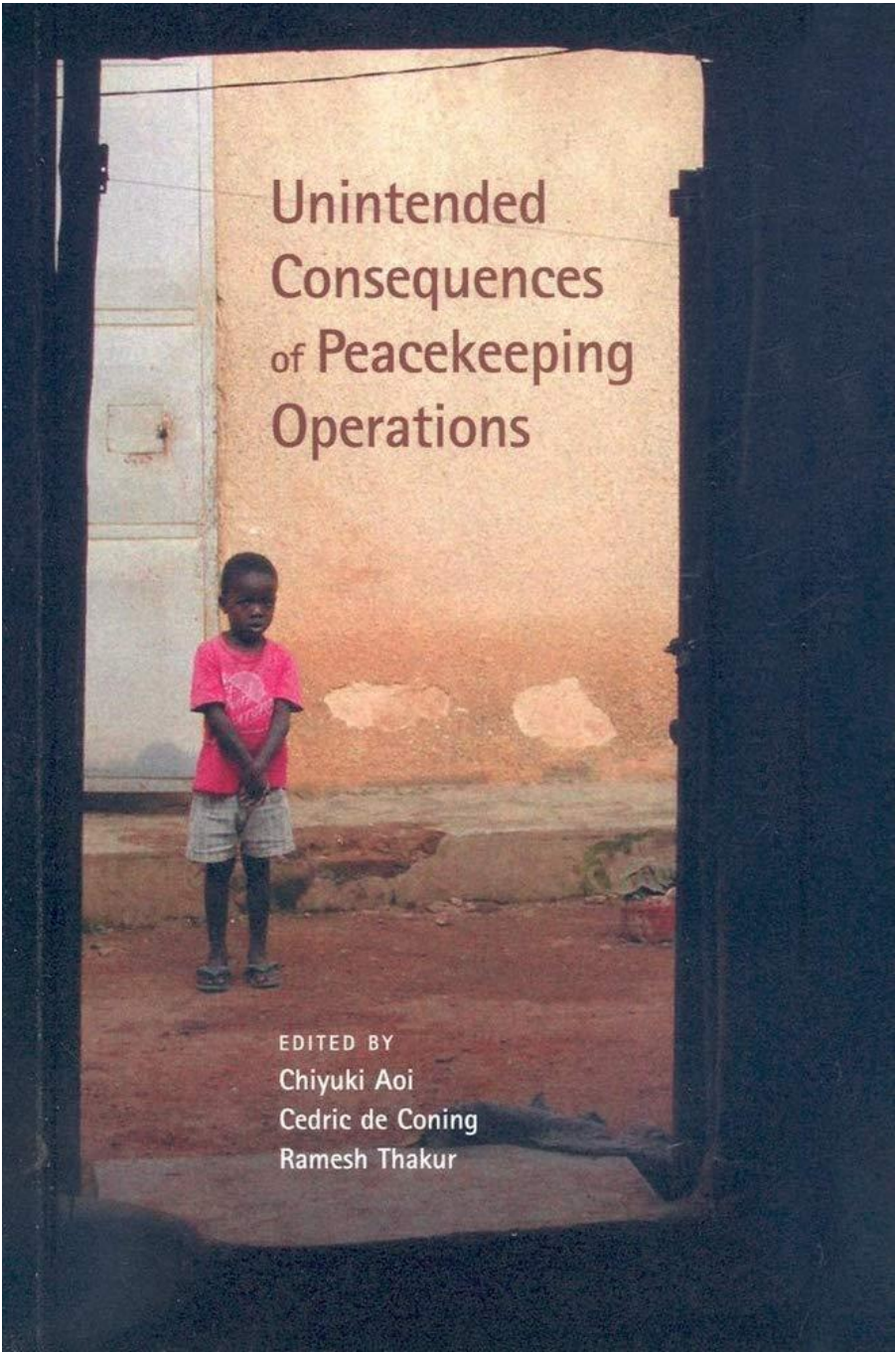
A growing range of UN entities reach deep into the domestic jurisdictions of other states through standards, rules and regulations. Their normative element gives them global reach and transcendental importance.

- The [Security] Council has vastly expanded its powers and reach in recent years, including with respect to the use of military force, coercive economic sanctions, and directing member states on the terms of domestic legislation. (2017, p. 355)
- What is the legitimacy of an international technical experts committee in overruling the social and political policy preferences of a democratic member state that touch on questions of fundamental national identity? This is particularly acute [when] ‘experts’ with an activist agenda who subscribe to the victimhood and grievance industry are favoured appointees on such a committee, instead of a balance between them and people who hold ‘traditional’ values and beliefs. (2017, p. 104).

Global Governance: Overreach - 2

The bases of [the UN's] legitimacy include its credentials for representing the international community, agreed procedures for making decisions on behalf of international society and political impartiality. But sometimes this elides into claims of legitimacy based on the technical identity of the Secretariat as an international civil service, which is quite problematic. For example, when post-war Iraq requested UN assistance for training Iraqi judges and prosecutors who would be trying Saddam Hussein and his senior associates, the response from Kofi Annan was that the organisation would not assist national courts that can impose the death penalty. Similarly, in his [2004] report on transitional justice, Annan again affirmed that the UN would not establish or participate 'in any tribunal for which capital punishment is included among possible sanctions'.

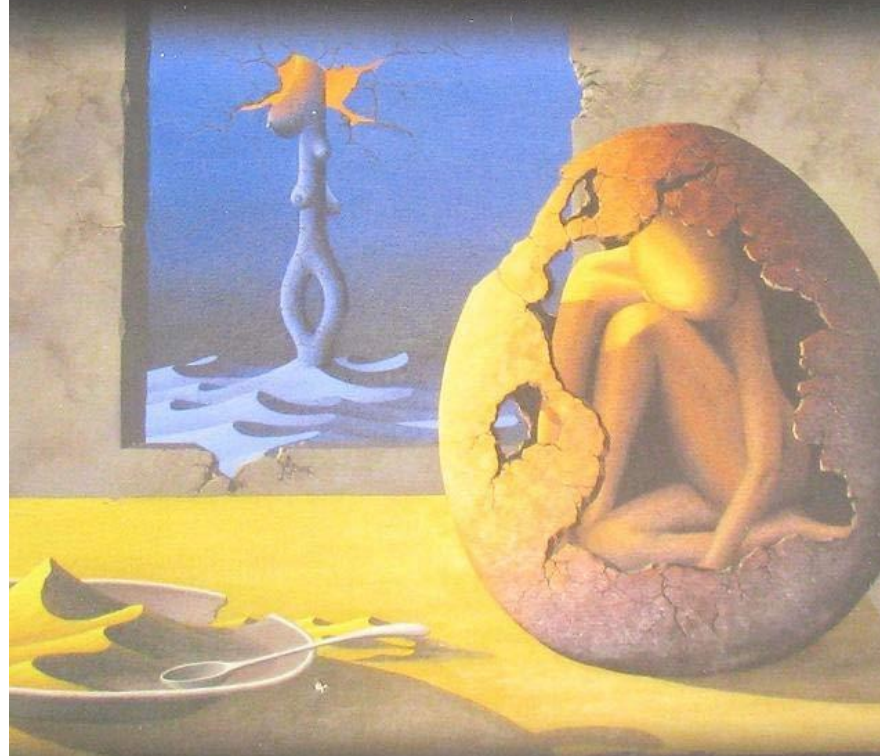
Whose preferred political morality is this? What proportion of the world's people live under governments that have capital punishment on their statutes, including China, India, Indonesia and the USA? Who sets the relevant international standards and benchmarks? Does the UN somehow have a state of grace above its member states? (2006, pp. 349–50; 2017, p. 392)

The book cover features a photograph of a young child standing in a doorway. The child is wearing a bright pink t-shirt and light-colored shorts. The doorway is set into a wall with peeling orange paint. The scene is framed by dark, heavy door frames. The title is printed in a dark, serif font in the upper right, and the editors' names are in a smaller, white, sans-serif font in the lower right.

Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations

EDITED BY
Chiyuki Aoi
Cedric de Coning
Ramesh Thakur

THE DARK SIDE OF GLOBALIZATION



Edited by JORGE HEINE & RAMESH THAKUR

With a Foreword by SASKIA SASSEN

Ramesh Thakur's Google Scholar Citations

☒	Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations C Aoi, C de Coning, R Thakur United Nations University Press	334 *	2007
☐	R2P after Libya and Syria: Engaging emerging powers R Thakur The Washington Quarterly 36 (2), 61-76	317	2013
☐	The group of twenty (G20) AF Cooper, R Thakur Routledge	278	2013
☐	Enhancing global governance through regional integration R Thakur, L Van Langenhove Regionalisation and global governance, 33-58	267	2007
☐	R2P: from idea to norm-and action R Thakur, TG Weiss Global Resp. Protect 1, 22	245	2009
☐	Kosovo and the challenge of humanitarian intervention: selective indignation, collective action, and international citizenship A Schnabel, R Thakur United Nations University Press	237	2000
☐	The responsibility to protect R Thakur Norms, Laws and the Use of Force in	230	2011
☐	Multilateralism under challenge: Power, international order, and structural change E Newman, R Thakur, J Tirman Academic Foundation	210 *	2006
☐	United Nations peacekeeping operations: ad hoc missions, permanent engagement R Thakur, RC Thakur, A Schnabel United Nations University Press	202 *	2001
☐	How representative are BRICS? R Thakur Emerging powers and the UN, 43-60	197	2018
☒	The Dark Side of Globalization J Heine, R Thakur United Nations University Press	193 *	2011

Highly Skewed Health Threats Landscape

According to the *United Nations World Water Development Report 2026*, (<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/united-nations-world-water-development-report-2026>) released on 19 March, as of 2024:

- Around 2.1 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water services;
- 3.4 billion people lack safely managed sanitation; and
- 1.7 billion people lack basic hygiene services at home.

This is obviously the case in poorer countries. Should they really be required to redirect resources from addressing these priorities in their health threats infrastructure in order to help with global pandemic preparedness efforts that is a donors-driven WHO priority?

Lockdown's Cost-Benefit Analysis

Heather L. Taylor, et al., Fairbanks School of Public Health, 'The unintended health effects of US COVID-19 lockdowns: a systematic review', *Health Affairs Scholar*, Nov 2025

- A systematic review of 132 peer-reviewed studies that synthesises the unintended health effects of Covid-19 lockdown policies across the US: shelter-in-place/stay-at-home orders, workplace closures, school closures. Study showed 454 unique outcomes:
- Three overall conclusions
 - 'very low quality evidence' that lockdowns would be effective before they were instituted;
 - 'lack of information' on potential unintended downstream consequences';
 - Yet, decision-makers proceeded anyway, despite the 'serious ethical, economic, health equity, and human rights concerns' resulting from these policies.
- The most important stated goal of lockdowns was Covid-related mortality. On this, the study found that lockdowns had 'little to no effect'.

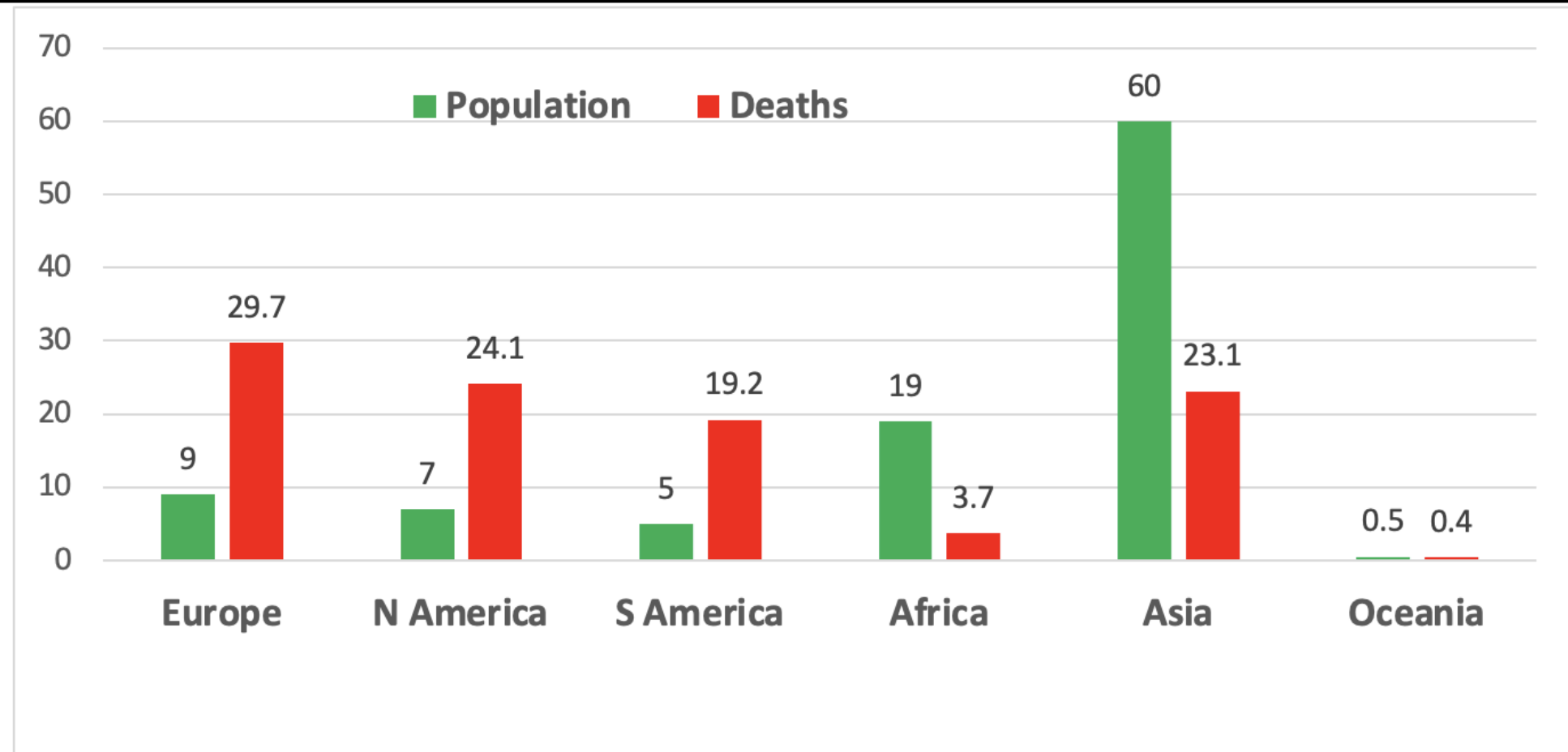
Lockdown CBA - 2

Overwhelming majority of studies did find negative side or unintended effects of lockdown policies:

- Of the 454 unique outcomes, 75% were detrimental, including 93% of mental health outcomes;
- 94% detrimental effects on obesity, which is one of the most harmful physical conditions;
- Delayed healthcare screenings = substantially higher rates of late-stage lung cancer diagnoses;
- In almost 97% of studies, there was significant learning loss and disrupted socialisation among younger demographics. Remember, children and adolescents essentially had zero risk of significant impacts from Covid itself;
- For vulnerable demographic groups (e.g. 'visible minorities' or POC), 100% detrimental outcomes on key metrics like obesity, food access, economic stability.

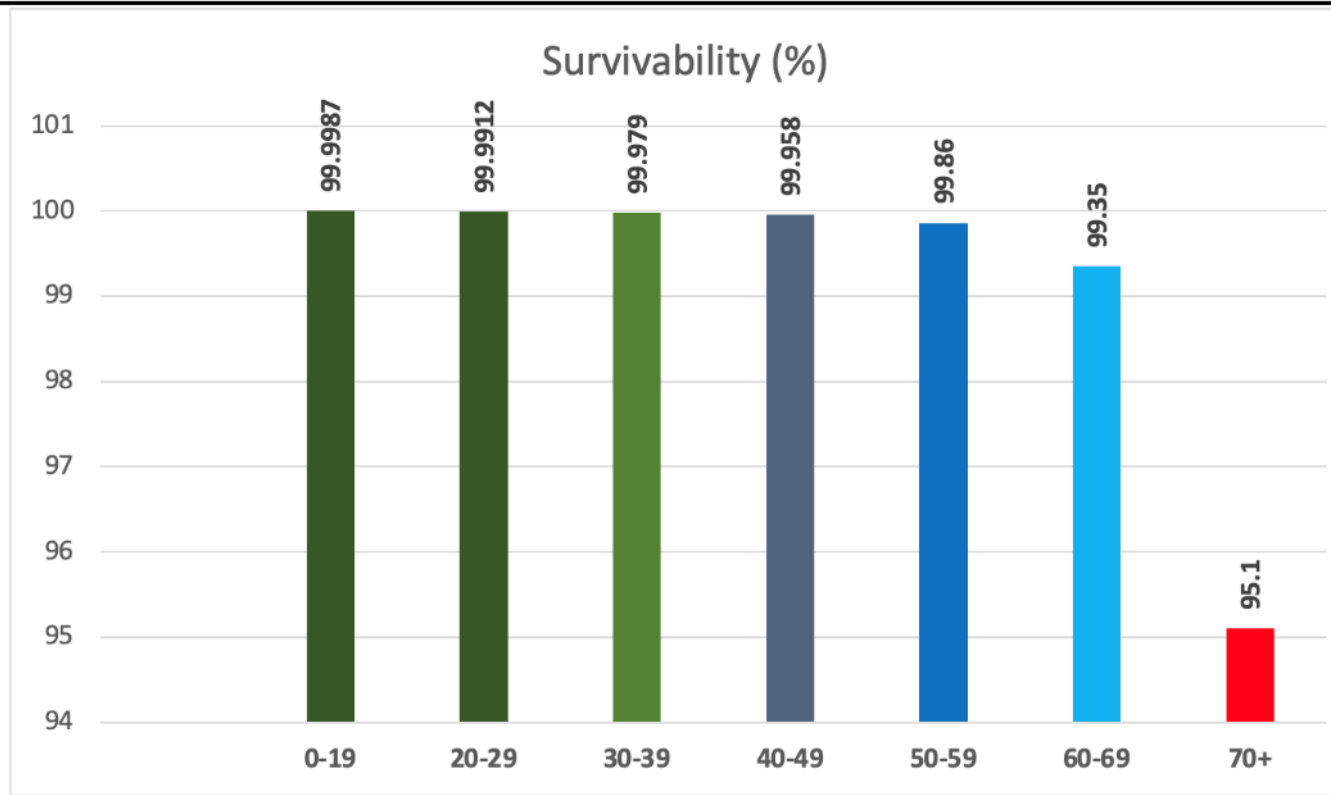
Follow The Science. Do what the experts tell you. Don't mention the consequences. Honour & promote the chief health officers. Mock & vilify critics and dissenters as granny-killing anti-socials. Never admit wrongdoing. Dismiss calls for accountability. Embed the deadly pandemic preparedness and response paradigm in a global treaty.

Figure 6.1: Population size and Covid-19 deaths by continent, as at 7 September 2025 (percentages)



Sources: [*World Population Review*](#) for population and [*Our World in Data*](#) for Covid-19

Figure 2: Age-segregated survivability rates for Covid-19 infection (per cent)



That is, over-70s elderly people 35 times more likely to die from Covid-19 infection than under-50s, and children and adolescents nearly 4,000 times less likely to die from Covid-19 infection than the elderly.

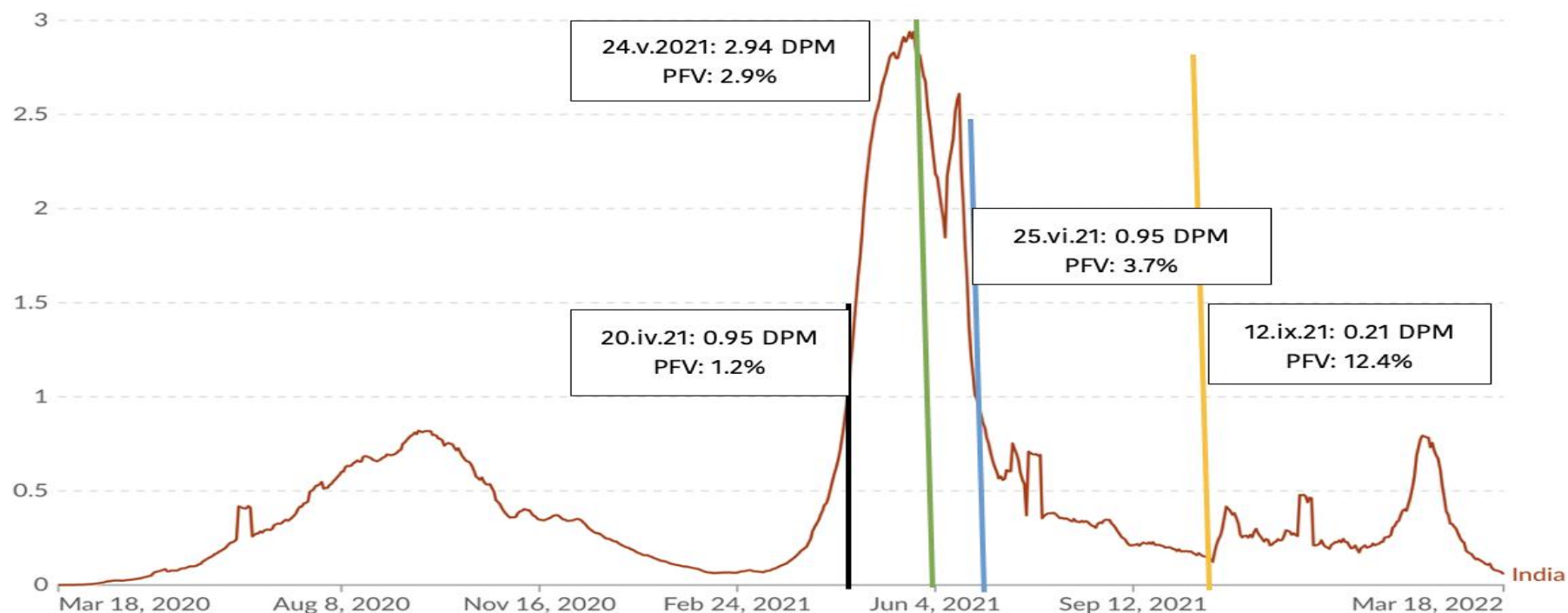
Source: Cathrine Axfors and John PA Ioannidis (Stanford University), Infection fatality rate of COVID-19 in community-dwelling populations with emphasis on the elderly: An overview (medRxiv preprint, 23 December 2021), <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.08.21260210v2.full>. Subsequently published in peer-reviewed *European Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 37 (20 March 2022), pp. 235–59), <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10654-022-00853-w>.

Figure 1: Vaccination coverage and mortality rate for India, March 2020–March 2022

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people, Mar 18, 2020 to Mar 18, 2022

Our World
in Data

7-day rolling average. Due to varying protocols and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death, the number of confirmed deaths may not accurately represent the true number of deaths caused by COVID-19.



Data source: World Health Organization (2026); Population based on various sources (2024)

CC BY

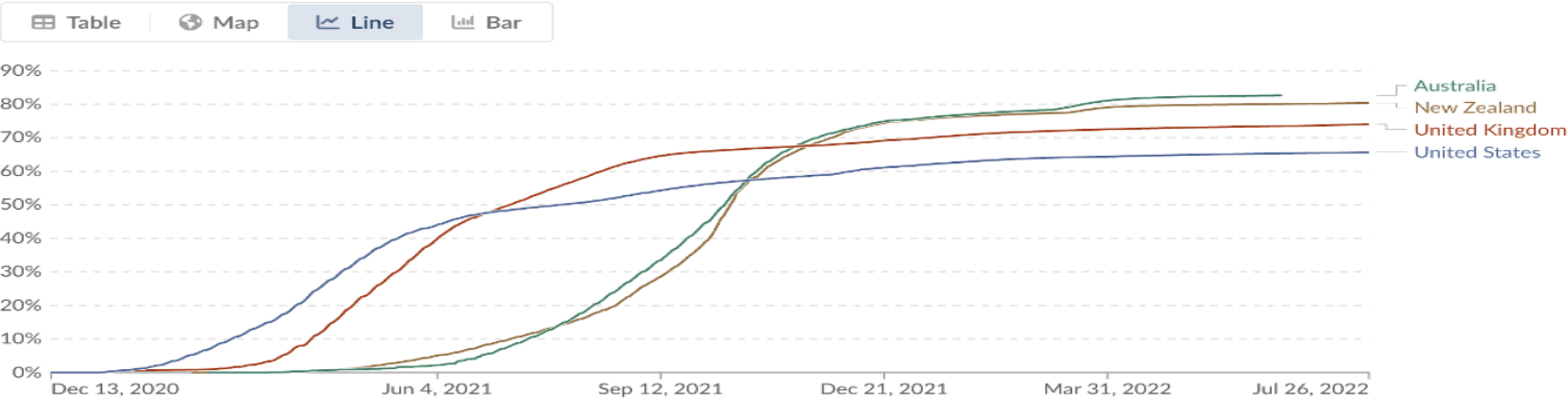
DPM = deaths per million people

PFV = Share of people fully vaccinated

Share of people who completed the initial COVID-19 vaccination protocol, Dec 13, 2020 to Jul 26, 2022

Our World
in Data

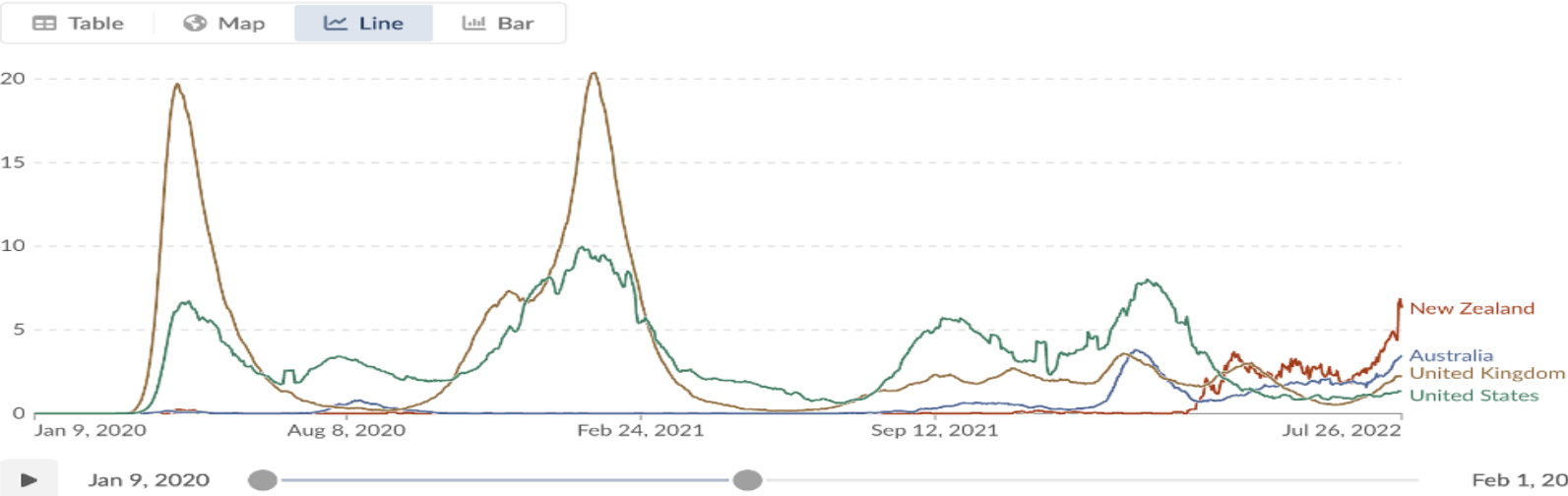
Total number of people who received all doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol, divided by the total population of the country.



Daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people, Jan 9, 2020 to Jul 26, 2022

Our World
in Data

7-day rolling average. Due to varying protocols and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death, the number of confirmed deaths may not accurately represent the true number of deaths caused by COVID-19.



Daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people, Jan 3, 2021 to Jul 26, 2022

7-day rolling average. Due to varying protocols and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death, the number of confirmed deaths may not accurately represent the true number of deaths caused by COVID-19.

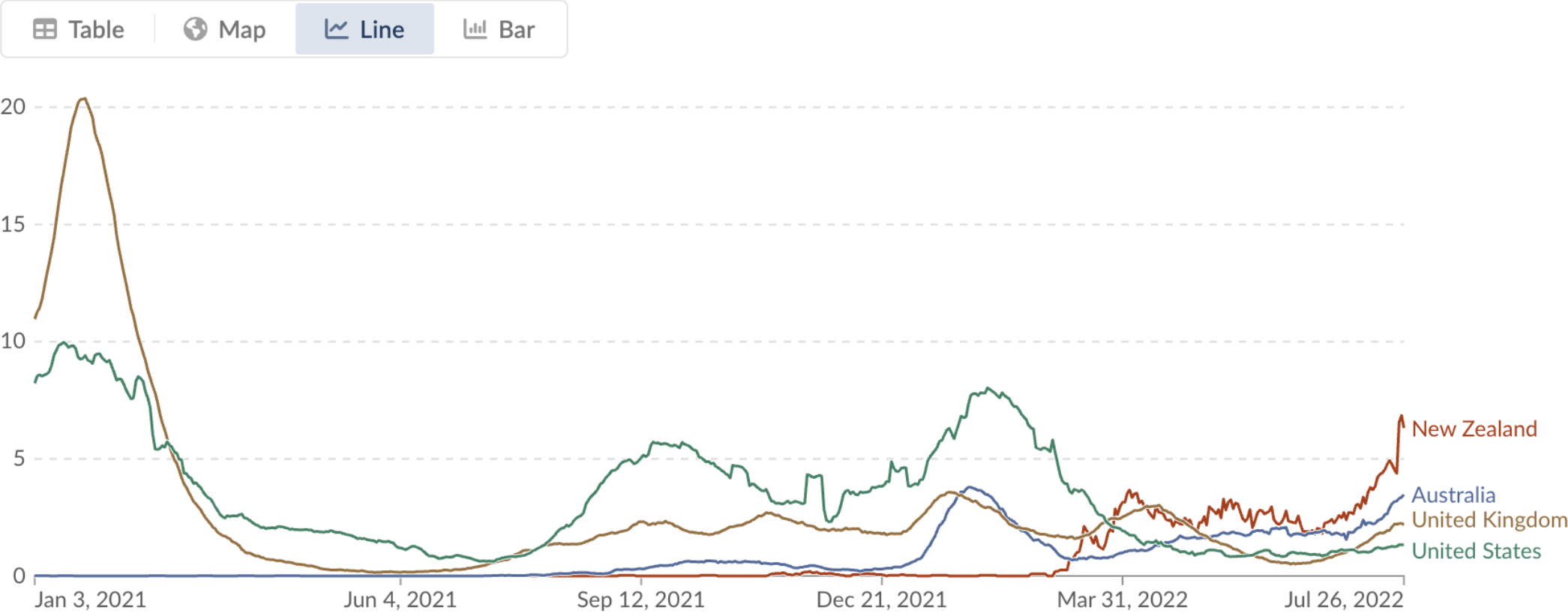
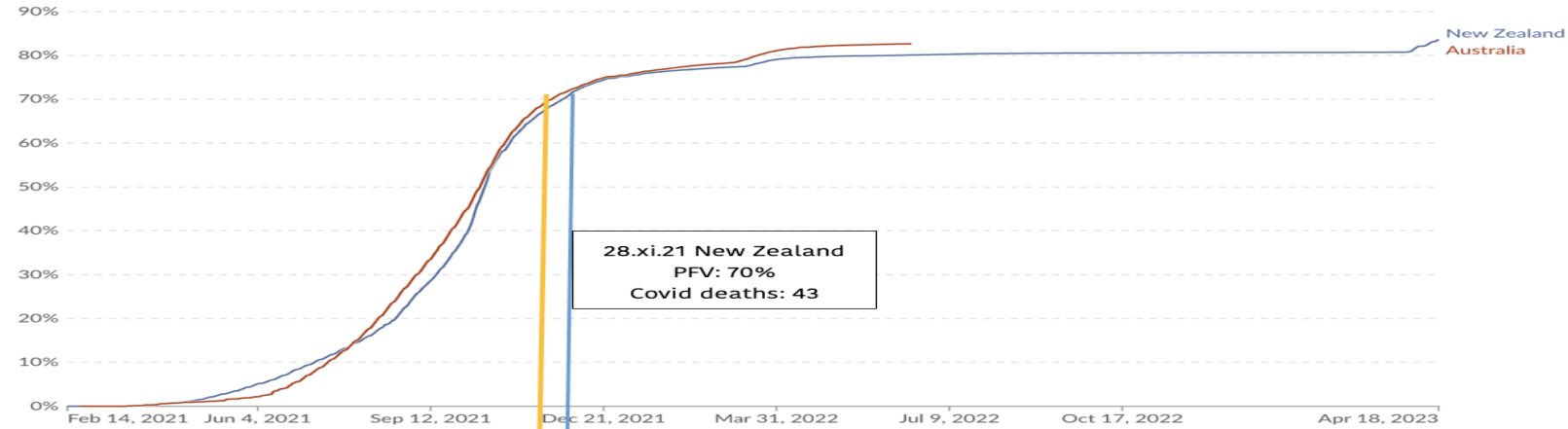
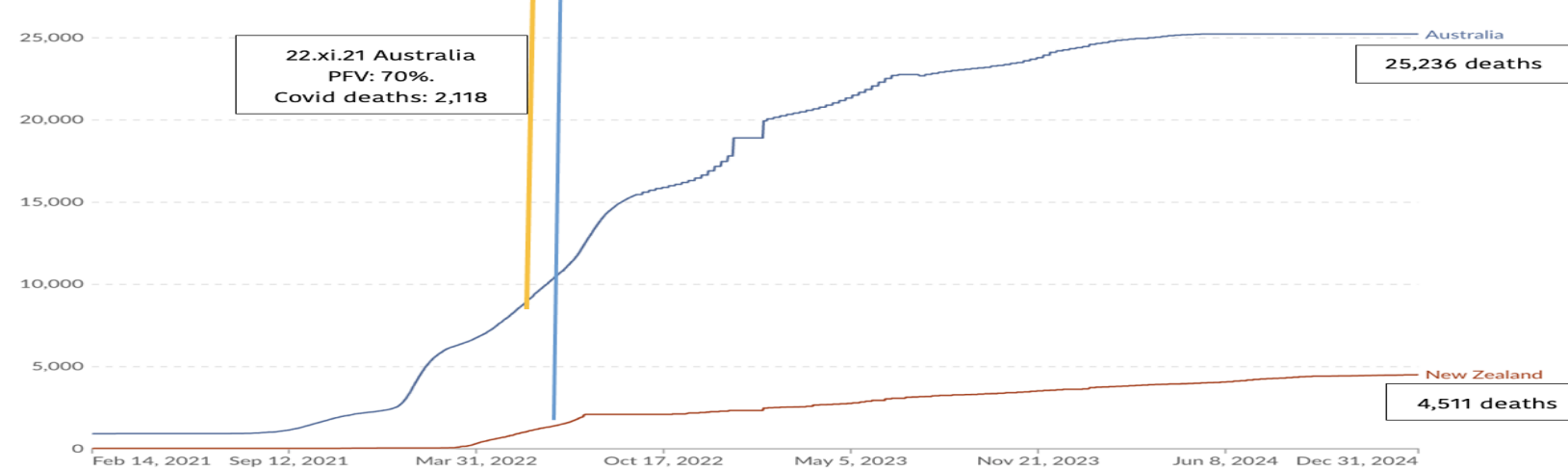


Figure 2: Vaccination coverage and mortality rate, Australia and New Zealand

A: Share of people who fully vaccinated, 14 February 2021–18 April 2023



B: Cumulative confirmed Covid-19 deaths, 14 February 2021–31 December 2024



PFV = Share of people fully vaccinated. Source: Our World in Data.

That is, 92% of Australia's and 99% of New Zealand's cumulative Covid-related deaths occurred *after* they had reached 70% vaccination coverage.

If this is Covid-19 vaccine success, what would failure look like?

Climate Change Minister [Chris Bowen](#) has assembled an army of more 100 bureaucrats to help him with his [COP president](#) mission, and his department has billed taxpayers almost half a million dollars in just four months to send the officials overseas to help Mr Bowen with his global green negotiations. Taxpayers will be slugged almost \$150m for Mr Bowen's role as Climate of the Parties president of negotiations and other COP-related activities, budget estimates revealed.

The Australian, 26 May 2026,

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/chris-bowens-climate-team-bills-taxpayers-almost-500k-for-overseas-cop-trips/news-story/fb7f72ea47be9eb4c62b12581ca38b53>

The WHO Pandemic Accords

- Furthermore, there is to be a Conference of the Parties (COP), with authority to establish subsidiary bodies, that will meet within one year of the treaty's entry into force and every five years thereafter to review and recommend additional measures to strengthen the treaty's implementation. States parties and the WHO secretariat, which will service the treaty, are also required to submit periodic reports to the COP on their implementation measures. States are mandated to maintain or increase PPPR funding ... A Coordinating Financial Mechanism will also be established. The emergency use authorization of Covid vaccines has proven to be enduringly contentious. Yet, the treaty doubles down on this, requiring parties to have the technical capacity, and legal, administrative, and financial frameworks, to support the expedited regulatory review and/or emergency regulatory authorization of pandemic-related health products.
- The accords could also potentially facilitate and underwrite censorship of health information and debate on response measures under the guise of combating “infodemics”.