

Department of Research

Putting COVID Numbers and Vaccinations into Context

August 30, 2021

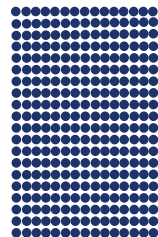


People often have a hard time grappling with large numbers. This exercise is intended to put COVID numbers into a more familiar (and hopefully meaningful) context.

Our Legend:

 = one person

 = 15 people

 = 300 people

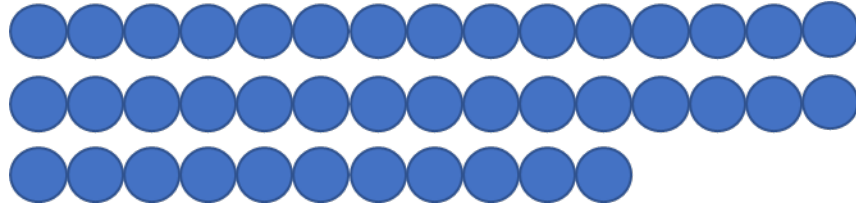
On average, how many people are killed by sharks in the US each year?



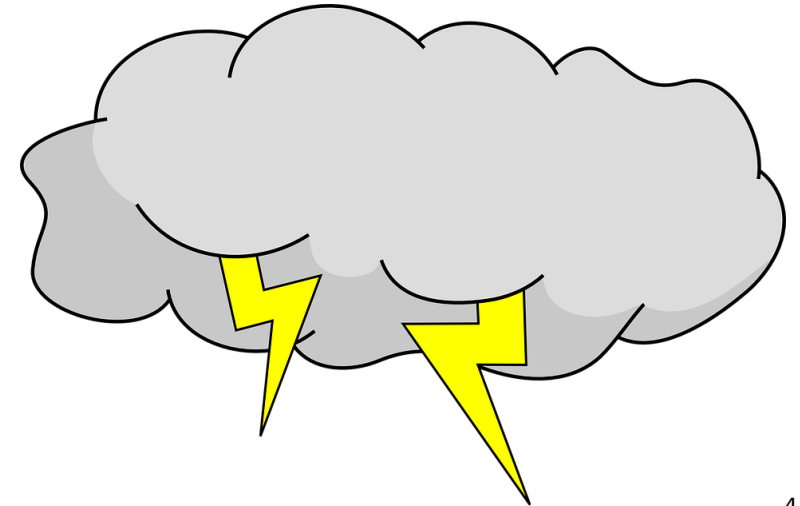
= 0.5 people (16 attacks each year, one fatality every other year)



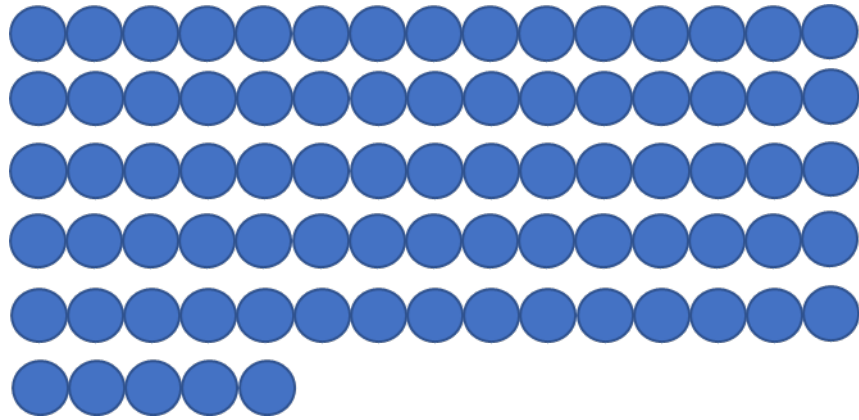
On average, how many people die from lightning strikes in the US each year?



= 41 people



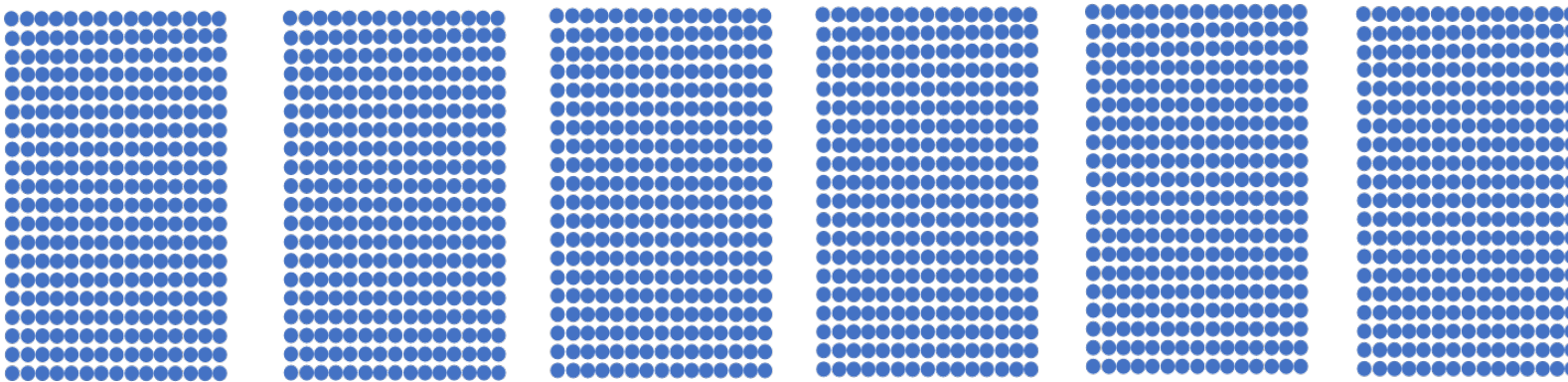
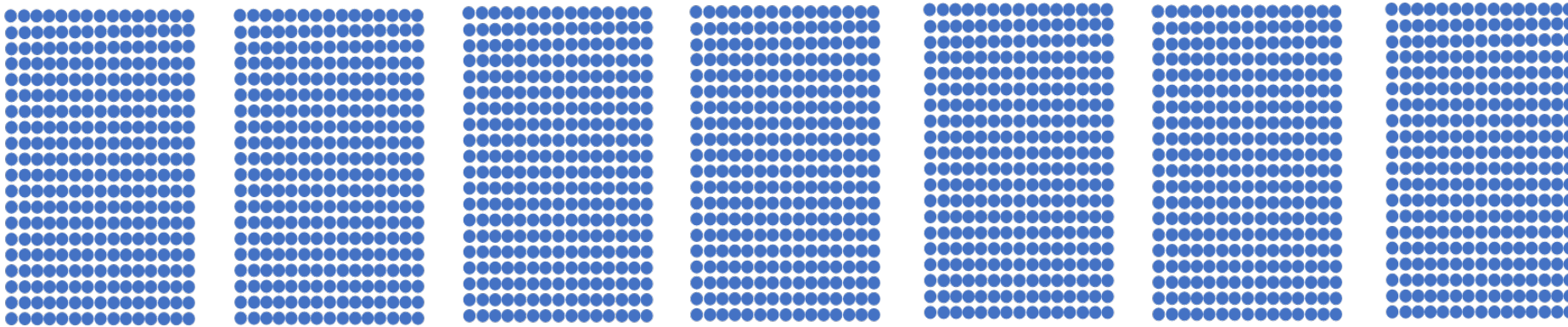
On average, how many people die from tornadoes in the US each year?



= 80 people



On average, how many people drown in the US each year?



= 3,960 people



On average, how many traffic fatalities in the US each year?



= 38,000 people



On average, how many gun deaths in the US each year?



= 39,707 people
(14,861 homicides)



How many flu deaths in the US (average for last 10 years)?



= 36,000 people



How many COVID deaths in the US (January 2020 – August 18, 2021)?

= 614,531

Deaths from January 2020 – February 2021 (Before vaccines became available) = 433,971

Deaths between February 1 and August 18, 2021 (After vaccines became available) = 181,000

Deaths among vaccinated people (1,400)

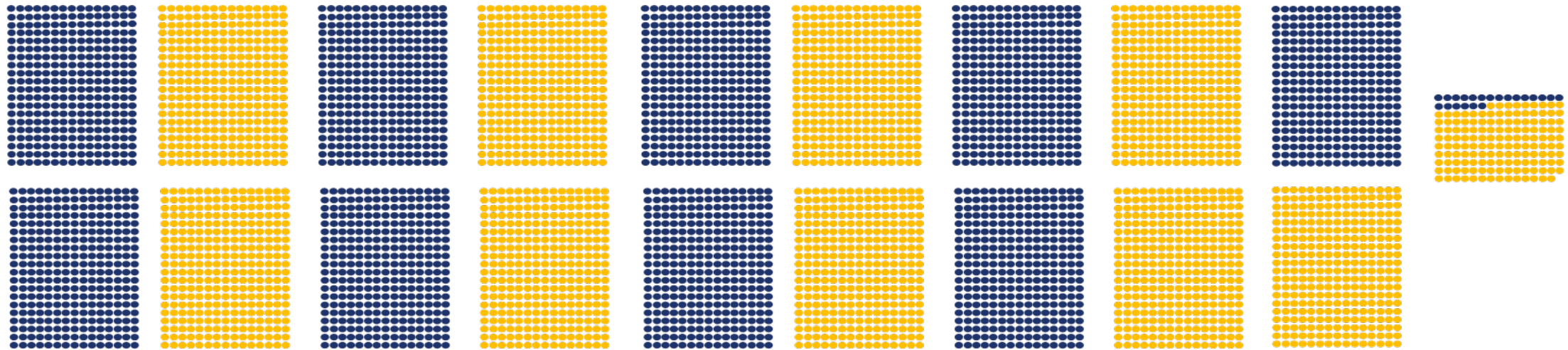


Do Vaccinations Work?

- Approximately 170,000,000 Americans are vaccinated (leaving around 165,000,000 Americans who are unvaccinated). So, we are nearly split 50/50
- If vaccinations have no effect, the death toll would look nearly identical between the vaccinated and unvaccinated

5,564 people died from COVID during the week of August 15-21

Here is the split we would expect, if vaccinations made no difference

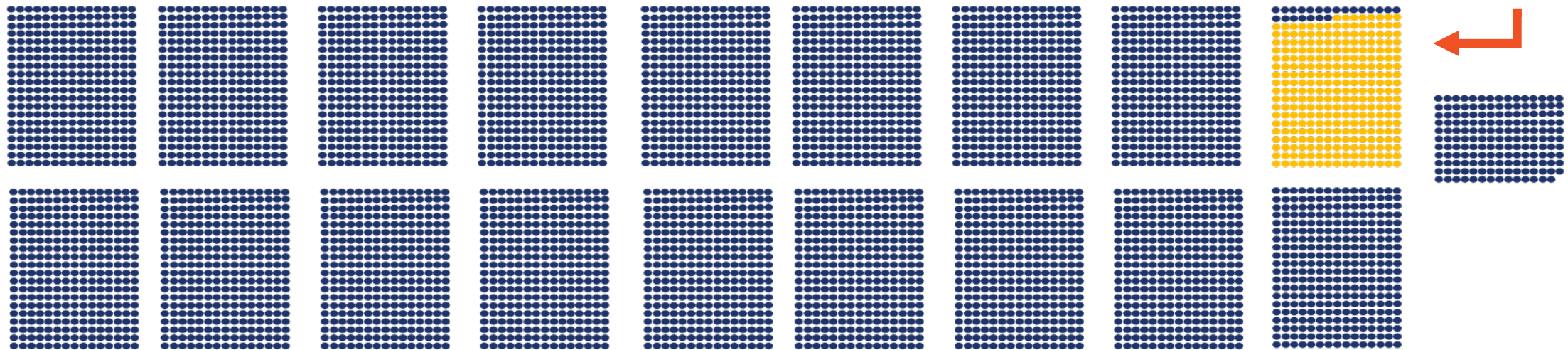


But here are the data we actually see!

- There were 5,564 COVID deaths during the week of August 15th to August 21st
- Depending upon the state you are in, the proportion of vaccinated people who die from COVID ranges from 0.1% to 5% of COVID all deaths.

Approximately 5,286 unvaccinated people died from COVID during the week of August 15-21

And here are the 6 to 278 vaccinated people who died
(you probably heard about breakthrough cases like these on the news)



Vaccinations Work!

- We hope these illustrations are helpful. We think the data provides a pretty clear picture!
- Be safe. Reduce your risk. Get your vaccine.

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