

Rumor – The COVID death numbers are grossly exaggerated just to scare people. The fear-mongering is out of control! The recent report from the CDC said only 6% of reported COVID deaths were caused *only* by COVID. The other 94% were in people with chronic illnesses....so those shouldn't be counted!

Reality – This sentiment and those like it are so unkind and dismissive to people, particularly older adults, with chronic illnesses. Perhaps the people posting this don't realize it, but their words demonstrate an utter lack of concern or compassion for those unfortunate enough to have things like diabetes, asthma, heart disease, COPD, etc.

The CDC's report simply put numbers to what public health at ALL levels have been saying all along – that those with chronic illness were/are at the highest risk for the worst outcomes from a COVID-19 infection. SCPH is not surprised by the report as it confirms what we've known – and repeatedly stated - from early on in this pandemic.

Public health is tasked with developing programs and policies designed to protect the health of the public- the WHOLE public- even those who already have pre-existing conditions. We are not the "Healthy People's" health department. We are the PUBLIC health department. Our charge to protect and promote the health of our communities is our number one objective.

You may not like us. You may have decided you don't trust us. However, our popularity, or lack thereof, will not deter us from doing the best we can to promote actions and policies that protect the health of our entire population. You have our word on that!