



### [Reports Indicate that China Has Been Underreporting Coronavirus Data](#)

The American intelligence community submitted a classified document to the White House that confirmed China has been falsifying its statistics on the impact of the coronavirus in the country. The document, first reported by Bloomberg News, had testimony from three intelligence officials, and included proof that China was underreporting the number of cases of, and deaths caused by, COVID-19. China's public reporting has been intentionally incomplete, and of the incomplete data, some of the numbers included were fake. China had publicly reported about 82,000 cases and 3,300 deaths, but both of those values are now thought to be much higher. The intelligence community's report comes shortly after China ordered the departure of foreign journalists from the country after intentionally misconstruing a Wall Street Journal report on the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic as racist.

In the intelligence report, officials wrote that the Chinese initially excluded asymptomatic people from counting toward the number of positive cases and only revised this information this week. China has declared just over 82,000 cases, whereas the United States is currently reporting 190,000 cases, and the global total stands at just over 885,000. However, officials now believe that the number of cases in China are far more than the reported number, which would skew the global total as well.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 began in China's Hubei province, there have been suspicions that China has been misreporting its data to mislead observers into believing the government has handled the crisis well. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is one individual who has publicly accused China of covering up the true statistics and being slow to report the full impact of the virus on the country. Pompeo urged China to come clean during a news conference on Tuesday, saying "do your best to collect the data, and do your best to share that information." Deborah Birx, an immunologist from the State Department who is on President Trump's coronavirus task force, said that the medical community had been led astray from the start due to China's duplicity. Birx said that China's response to the outbreak led the world to believe that the virus was serious, but contained. She also said that the outbreaks in Italy and Spain showed the world the true devastation the virus can cause, and those countries were unprepared due to China's failure to be truthful.

China has also pursued a campaign of disinformation, accusing the United States of developing the virus in a lab and releasing it in China. A spokesman for China's foreign ministry, Zhao Lijian, posted a link on his Twitter to an article that falsely described the coronavirus as having originated in the United States. This tweet was engaged with by over a dozen Chinese embassies around the world, pointing to a larger tactic to spread this information worldwide. Experts have warned that Iran, Russia, and North Korea could all join China in pursuing disinformation campaigns designed to hurt the United States, and possibly influence the presidential election this fall.