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Do Health ministry figures on Covid-19 really add up?

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

By Nasibo Kabale & Brian Osweta

What you need to know:

Questions raised on veracity of database as discrepancies are recorded.

Source says a new team at the tallying centre could be making mistakes.

Inconsistencies in the Covid-19 numbers reported this past month have raised questions on veracity of the database at the Ministry of Health.

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Nation Newsplex, the data journalism desk of the *Nation*, has noted huge discrepancies in the number of cases recorded, especially over the past few weeks.

The new cases reported by the ministry on April 2 were 1,856. However, the total number of cases reported in counties was 1,778.

Again on April 3, the ministry reported 1,184 new coronavirus infections while the county figures added up to 1,182.

Another anomaly was on April 8, when the Ministry of Health reported 1,698 new Covid-19 patients, while the number in counties added to 1,691, a difference of seven.

On May 19, the Health ministry reported that a total 117,235 people had recovered following 318 new recoveries. The figure was inconsistent with the previous day number, when the total was 113,917. Adding the new number should have brought the total recoveries to 114,235.

The health ministry however corrected the mistake after it was brought to their attention.

“There was an arithmetic error in our reporting yesterday where we had reported that our total recoveries were 117,235 instead of 114,235. We regret the error,” read the statement from MoH.

Don't add up

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The numbers of people aged 58 and above who have been vaccinated against the illness also don't add up.

At one point, the figures rose to more than half a million, then dropped to under 300,000 in the subsequent days.

On May 3, the Health ministry announced that 516,616 people had received the shots but the number dropped to 275,453 the following day.

On May 5, the government said 524,720 people had been vaccinated against Covid-19, only for the number to drop to 278,642 the following day.

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Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe could not be reached for comment, but a source at the ministry, who sought anonymity,

attributed the anomalies to a new team at Emergency Operations Centre of the infectious diseases unit.

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Rodney Agesa · 18 days ago

The bigger thing is that we have been reporting the number of deaths on a daily basis since last year but now we are being treated to this nonsense of late death reports from an audit of hospital records and this figure almost always hovers around 20 deaths.

The number of deaths are given,the number of recoveries are given,the number of those in hospital are known so why doesn't the total of all these figures add up to what is given as the total caseload for the country?

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Steve King · a month ago

Thanks for exposing the rotten ro

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

Dickson Njuguna · a month ago

I looked at the numbers above and the differences are minimal and could be timing. The guys are trying, don't be so negative all the time. These are moving data, this is not a perfect science and there is no marking scheme :)

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

Steve King → **Dickson Njuguna** · a month ago

You damn wrong

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Steve King → **Frank Mutitu** · a month ago

What?? Real science data does wake up pls

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Godfrey Kimega · a month ago

The Ministry is fudging around with data, especially the late deaths reports. If the Ministry is serious about the data, they should tell us the exact dates of those late deaths reports. It is not enough to tell us, "20 deaths reported within 24 hours but 18 are late deaths from the past month."

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

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With 382 more Covid-19 cases from a sample of 3,719, the positivity rate is currently 10.3 per cent.



Kenya records 111 more Covid cases, death toll of 3,073

With 111 new cases from 1,948 samples, the positivity rate is 5.7 per cent.

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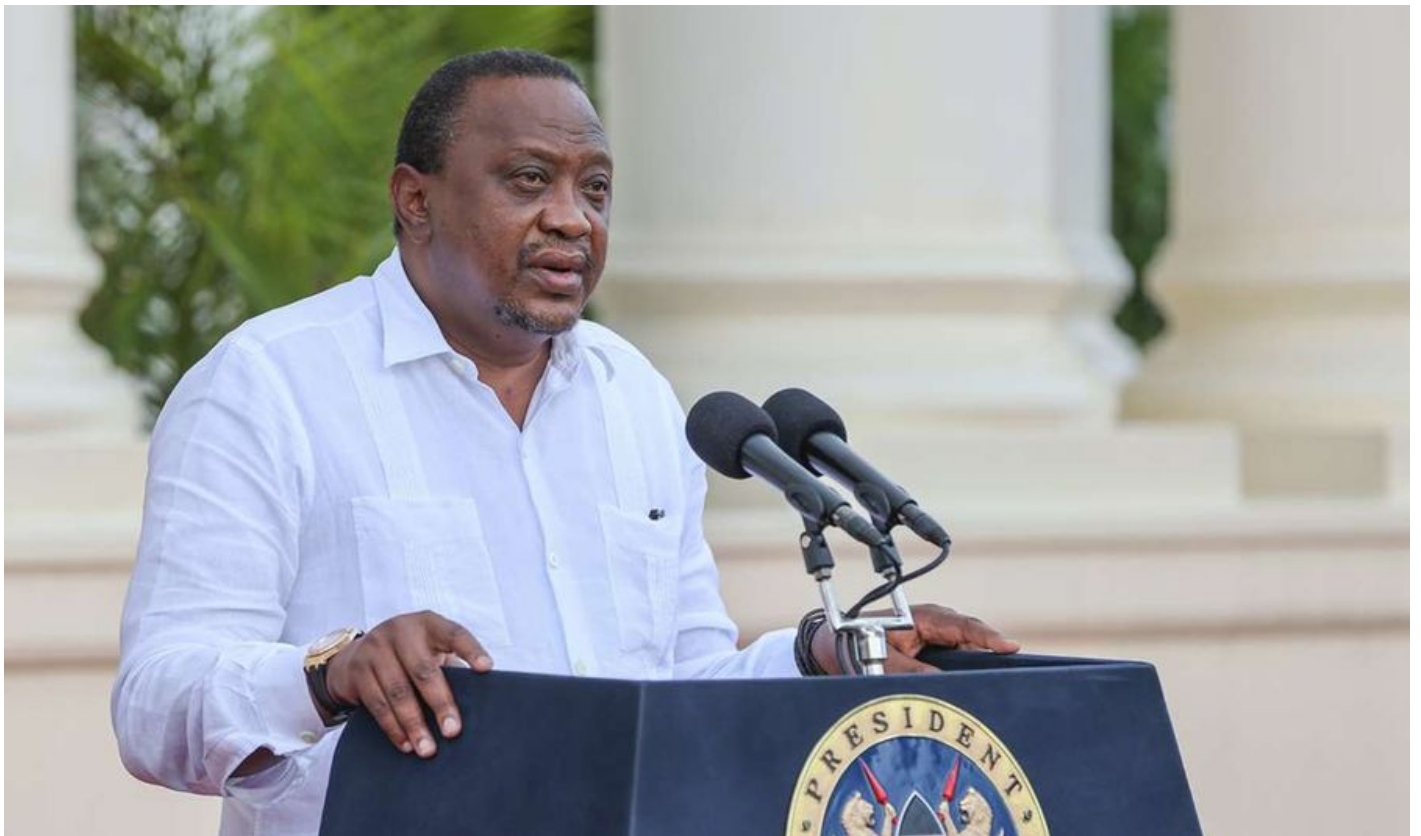
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The addressed the nation on Tuesday regarding the country's Covid-19 status.

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