Swine Flu in Perspective

How serious is swine flu worldwide? Compare the figures for the number of swine flu deaths to some other major causes of death worldwide to see:

As of 27 September 2009, worldwide there have been more than 340,000 laboratory confirmed cases of the pandemic influenza H1N1 (swine flu) and over 4100 deaths reported to The World Health Organisation (WHO) October 2009.

Seasonal Flu epidemics, worldwide result in about three to five million cases of severe illness and about 250,000 to 500,000 deaths. WHO, April 2009.

Half of the world's population is at risk of malaria and an estimated 247 million cases led to nearly 881,000 deaths in 2006. WHO, World Malaria Report, 2008.

The estimated TB (tuberculosis) incidence was 8,811,000 globally with an estimated 1,577,000 deaths in 2005. WHO, March, 2007.

The Commission for Global Road Safety says that road deaths which kill 1.2 million people a year, is a “global epidemic.” Commission for Global Road Safety, 2006.

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