

Behold Barack "Antoinette" Obama-Opinion

BY VBL

Oped by Maureen Dowd of the NYT

OBaMa BiRTHDaY VaRiANT...

BY WILLIAMBANZAI7

Slime once exposed has no refuge but in audacity.-- Tacitus

Full Fiat Foolery for 50 Years

BY JHANDERS

Observing mass inequity the full fiat Federal Reserve note regime has brought us, for now, five decades complete.

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Yet Again, The Media's COVID Narrative Doesn't Add Up



BY TYLER DURDEN FRIDAY, AUG 13, 2021 - 07:50 PM

[Authored by Ryan McMaken via The Mises Institute.](#)

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On a long enough timeline the survival rate for everyone drops to zero.

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EXPAND

hospitals, overwhelmed medical personnel, and predictions of people dying in parking lots waiting for medical care. The news articles generally quote a staffer of some kind at various hospitals and then leave it at that.



It's difficult to know what to make of these stories. After all, we heard very much the same thing during March, April, and May of 2020. Local

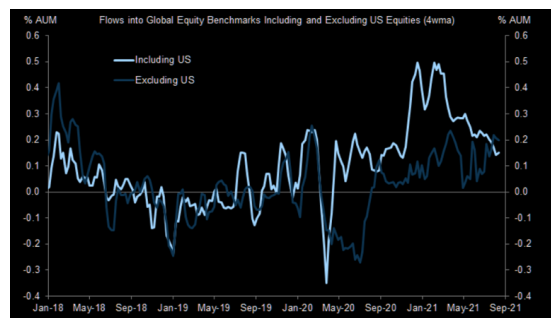
TODAY'S TOP STORIES



HOT TAKES

COURTESY OF THE MARKET EAR

THE RETURN OF THE BID...



Source: EPFR

Net flows into global equity funds picked up in the week ending August 11 (to +\$16bn from +\$5bn), primarily on strong flows into global benchmarks and US

2d ago at 10:00

UPGRADE TO PREMIUM

governments were building makeshift hospitals in convention centers—yet they went unused. [Memphis's overflow hospital was closed down](#) after an entire year of never housing a single patient. In late 2020, after months of media reports that New York hospitals were utterly overwhelmed, Andrew Cuomo announced New York hospitals “[were never overwhelmed.](#)” Colorado built a twenty-two hundred-patient overflow hospital. [It was never used.](#) Last spring, a \$17 million overflow facility in Houston [was dismantled without ever being used.](#)

Now we're being told that *this* time, they really mean it and hospitals are on the verge of overflowing.

Yet according to data from Johns Hopkins, most of these cases may be overstated. In Texas, for example, whose hospitals have been the subject of

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countless recent stories about overflowing ICUs, the [state is a long way from reaching its earlier peaks](#) of 2020. Moreover, Texas is now staffing fewer ICU beds overall. The story is [the same in Georgia](#), that supposed home of an “[experiment in human sacrifice](#),” where officials were among the first to end stay-at-home orders in 2020. Indeed, it’s clear most of the country—regardless of the state’s use of mask mandates or stay-at-home orders—remains well behind previous peak levels.

One outlier in terms of hospitalizations, however, is the state of Florida. Numbers in Florida do appear to be closer to previous peaks than in most other states, and ICU usage is now larger than what it was during the summer of 2020.

Why is this?

According to many reports from the corporate media, this must be because the

state's governor is Ron DeSantis. Because of his connection to the Trump movement, the media has predictably focused on DeSantis and his policies as alleged drivers of rising covid cases in Florida. The preponderance of media articles about Florida are careful to mention that the state's governor, Ron DeSantis, has opposed mask mandates, vaccine passports, and stay-at-home orders.

The implication, of course, is that DeSantis's opposition to these measures has somehow caused today's rising number of hospitalizations.

This connection is so tenuous, however, that even Philip Bump at the Washington Post—who clearly is no fan of DeSantis—admits it's unclear what's behind Florida's rising numbers. Florida may be an outlier in terms of new hospitalizations, but it's not an outlier in terms of policy. States that have been

relatively laissez-faire on covid, like Georgia, Texas, South Dakota, and Nebraska have not seen trends similar to Florida's.

Moreover, Bump notes that Florida has *higher* vaccination rates than many states with both fewer hospitalizations and fewer new covid deaths. Florida isn't an outlier in terms of vaccinations. [Nearly 50 percent of the population is fully vaccinated in Florida](#) — California is at 53 percent. Floridians are vaccinated at higher rates than is the case in Utah, Texas, Indiana, Ohio, and South Dakota. Yet these other states all have fewer cases of new deaths and hospitalizations, per capita:

Something makes Florida exceptional here: These numbers are hazy enough (thanks to

reporting
periods and
the lags in
case and
death
counts) that
one can
certainly
cobble
together a
case that
there's
some other
factor at
play than
indifference
from state
leadership.
And, in
fact,
something
else *may* be
the
problem.
It's hard to
say.

Moreover, even with the
current surge in
hospitalization in
Florida, the state
may *still* never catch up
with states like New
York, New Jersey, and
Massachusetts in terms
of total covid deaths
per million. As of
August 11, Florida is
still twenty-sixth in the
nation in terms of total
deaths per million,

at 1,870. New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts still top the list, with 3,003, 2,797, and 2,629 [deaths per million, respectively](#). There is also [evidence](#) that the current increase in covid cases—and the “delta surge” in general—has already peaked.

**So here we go again
—the narrative
doesn't lend itself to
easy explanations.**

States with long-lasting lockdowns, covid restrictions, and even mounting vaccine “incentives” have *still* been hit harder than more laissez-faire states in many cases, even after the virus has had eighteen months to spread well beyond the borders of the initial hot spots.

**But for anyone who
can remember the
media narrative
eighteen months ago,
the current story will
seem quite familiar.**

Hospitals are overflowing. But if we heed the diktats of the

regime's technocrats,
we're told, things will
markedly improve.
Those places that
refuse to take orders
from Washington will
have many times more
death, illness, and
economic destruction.

**The facts never
backed up this story
in 2020. Twenty
twenty-one isn't
shaping up to be
much different.**

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