Dubious CDC Count of Deaths from Influenza

Should you trust CDC numbers? Look at the flu. CDC uses a “mathematical model” to estimate illnesses and deaths. The CDC infers flu deaths from death certificates even though influenza is not listed as a cause of death. The CDC believes they would greatly underestimate deaths from flu if they only counted deaths where influenza was recorded. But the fact is they have no idea.

The CDC calls these “influenza-associated deaths.” So, did these people die from the flu or with the flu? One physician wants the CDC to change how it reports flu deaths. He also says the agency should not overestimate influenza deaths simply to encourage people to be vaccinated for the flu.

“How CDC Estimates the Burden of Seasonal Influenza in the U.S.,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last reviewed November 22, 2019: https://bit.ly/3ikzhe0