

Did closing schools cost lives?

Killing people? Because of several months of Zoom school? How could that be?

Well, there is a well-documented association between educational attainment and life expectancy. By young adulthood, according to [one study](#), Americans with a college degree can look forward to a decade more of life compared to people who don't have a high school diploma.

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It can [take years to recover](#) from just a few months of lost learning, and some never do. Already, NPR has reported college enrollment [plummeted this past fall](#).

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Taking these well-established patterns into account, [\[pediatrician Dimitri\] Christakis' paper](#) calculates that we are very likely losing more years of life by keeping schools closed, than we would have lost to COVID-19 if we had kept schools open.

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