

# HUMAN SUPREMACY & PANDEMICS... THERE IS MUCH WORSE TO COME



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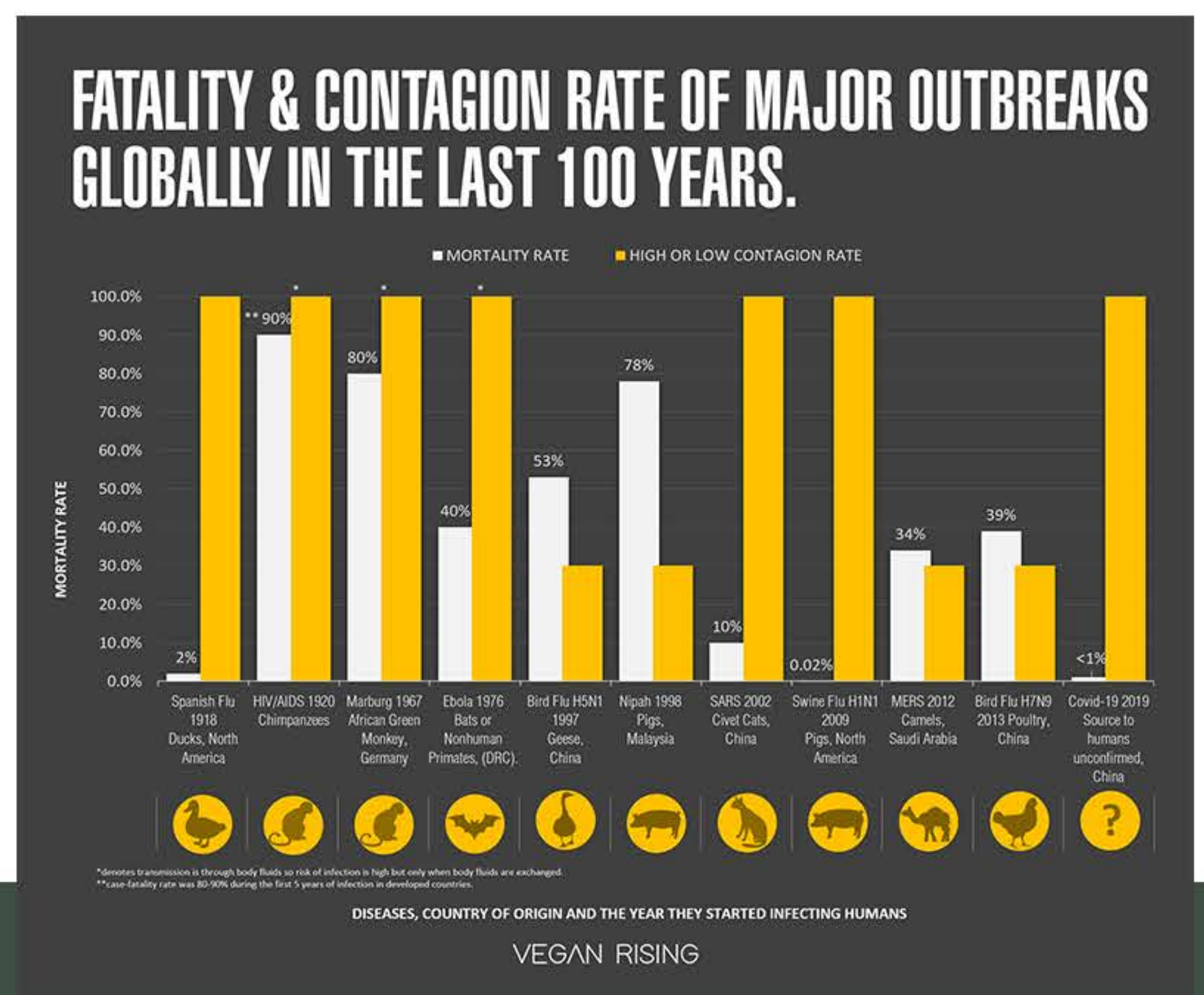
Human supremacy, or anthropocentrism, is the leading cause of mass chronic illness, environmental devastation, antibiotic resistance, violence against animals and, of course, as is now abundantly clear, global pandemics.

Experts have been warning us for over a decade that our exploitation of other animals has caused, and will continue to cause, pandemics. These pandemics are predicted to become more contagious and their impacts more severe with one expert, Dr Michael Greger, stating *“COVID-19 is just a dress rehearsal for a real killer plague like influenza.”*

*“70% of the new diseases that have emerged in humans over recent decades are of animal origin and, in part, directly related to the human quest for more animal-sourced food.”*

What Dr Greger means when he says *“COVID-19 is just a dress rehearsal for a real killer plague like influenza.”* is that although COVID-19 is highly contagious and there have been many lives lost, the fatality rate of COVID-19 is significant, but comparatively, relatively low at less than 1%. Past major zoonotic virus outbreaks have had fatality rates of up to 80% but have thankfully (for the most part) had low transmission rates. What experts such as Dr Greger rightly fear and are confident will occur if we continue in our exploitation of other animals, is that the next pandemic will have the even more disastrous combination of a highly contagious strain with a high mortality strain.

For example: A virus with the fatality rate of H5N1 (a bird flu with a fatality rate of over 50%) combines with a highly contagious disease like COVID-19.



Our forced breeding, raising and killing of other animals for food creates a breeding ground for the spread of disease. Tens of thousands of animals crowded together, in filthy conditions under stress which cripples their immune systems, lack of fresh air and sunlight, and ammonia from decomposing waste provides the perfect storm environmentally for the emergence and spread of super strains of influenza.

*“If we want to create global pandemics then we build factory farms” Dr Greger says*

*“Zoonotic diseases are very common, both in the United States and around the world. Scientists estimate that more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals, and 3 out of every 4 new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals.”* Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The American Public Health Association has been calling for a moratorium on so-called factory farms for 20 years now. However, importantly, they are not just calling for the deintensification of the pig and chicken industries but questioned whether we should be eating animals at all.

Additionally, humans encroaching further into land that has been mostly historically reserved for free-living animals is bringing us into close contact with animals who can carry, but be unaffected by, these viruses. This is being driven by mining, logging, human population growth and most predominantly by animal agriculture which currently uses well over half of Australia's land and approximately 45% of land globally.



Source: Planetary Vegan

*“As human populations have risen, so have swine and poultry populations as a means to feed them. This expanded number of hosts provides increased opportunities for novel influenza viruses from birds and pigs to spread, evolve and infect people.”* Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The fact is, the majority of infectious diseases

are caused by our exploitation of other animals, whether that be by subjugating and farming them, pushing further into their territories, engaging in the wildlife trade or eating so-called “bushmeat”. Like all other negative impacts caused by our use and abuse of other animals, the root cause of this and other global pandemics is being ignored.

Veganism will not stop ALL pandemics but it will drastically reduce their frequency and severity. As Dr Michael Greger states “If people stopped eating animals, we dramatically reduce our risk of killer pandemic viruses like the flu.” For a full list of just some of the major virus outbreaks and other ailments caused by our exploitation of other animals visit: [www.veganrising.org.au/human-supremacy-and-pandemics/](http://www.veganrising.org.au/human-supremacy-and-pandemics/)

The human condition that allows us to falsely convince ourselves we are somehow separate and superior to other animals and our shared environment is both entirely self-destructive and morally bankrupt. Enormous benefits will come once we acknowledge our human superiority complex and learn to live in a way that respects and protects all life. Veganism is an essential part of that and goes a long way in addressing our greatest challenges.

A continuation of the same behaviour is guaranteed to cause even greater suffering than so many are already experiencing. Every single day we are faced with a choice – to do our part in making things better, or making things worse. What will you choose?

## TAKE ACTION

Sign our petition at:

[www.change.org/QVMplantbased-Transition](http://www.change.org/QVMplantbased-Transition)  
Melbourne's Iconic Queen Victoria Market to a world-leading, innovative, plant-based mecca  
Become an ethical vegan – find help here [www.veganrising.org.au/become-an-ethical-vegan/](http://www.veganrising.org.au/become-an-ethical-vegan/)