

# 19% of all new US virus cases linked to South Dakota motorcycle rally

by Ny Magee | THE GRIO

**New study says the annual gathering in Sturgis was a 'super-spreader' event.**



kotatv.com

(GRIO) - More than 260,000 coronavirus cases in the U.S. have been linked to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota.

According to new research from San Diego State University's Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies, these new cases have been diagnosed since Aug. 2, with the authors noting that the rally was "the perfect storm" for COVID-19 spread, Insider.com reports.

"If you look at the month between August 2 and September 2, based on our estimates, Sturgis is responsible for 19% of the cases in the United States," said Andrew Friedson, one of the authors of the paper and an economics professor at the University

of Colorado.

What's more, the researchers estimated that it cost over \$12 billion in public health costs. That figure does not include any costs associated with any deaths that might have been tied to the event.

Around 350,000 people from around the U.S. reportedly descended upon Sturgis for its annual motorcycle rally last month. Hundreds of them visited bars, restaurants and attended outdoor concerts. Many returned home to various states and nearby counties bringing with them new COVID-19 infections.

In a report published by the IZA Institute of Labor Economics in Bonn, Germany, researchers used

anonymized cell phone data to track rally-goers and their movements between Aug. 2 and Sept. 2. Local health records and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were also used to conclude that hundreds of thousands of new coronavirus cases

could be linked to the rally.

"The only large factors working to prevent the spread of infection was the outdoor venue, and low population density in the state of South Dakota," the economists wrote.

"We find that the Sturgis Rally caused

spread of COVID-19 cases both locally and in the home counties of those who traveled to the Sturgis Rally and returned home," they added.

The Sturgis rally is exactly the kind of event the CDC had previously warned could be a hub for a mass spreader of

the potentially deadly COVID-19.

"Thousands of people attended that event, and so it's very likely that we will see more transmission," said Kris Ehresmann, Minnesota's director of infectious diseases, according to the Star Tribune.

# Lou Brock, First HBCU Alum to Win World Series, Passes

by John Harris Jr. | VILLAGER Sports Columnist



**Lou Brock**

(Photo/Tabercil)

(VILLAGER) - Lou Brock, who passed away recently at age 81, was known for many great accomplishments on the baseball diamond.

Brock, a first ballot Hall of Famer and two-time World Series champion with the St. Louis Cardinals, was a six-time All-Star with over 3,000 career hits who reached legendary status when he surpassed Ty Cobb's stolen base record in 1977. Cobb's mark of 892 career steals was considered to be unattainable according to baseball aficionados, similar to Babe Ruth's home run record ultimately

broken by Hank Aaron. Brock, who finished with 938 career steals, held the record until it was broken by Rickey Henderson 14 years later. Brock also held the single-season stolen base record at 118 until Henderson surpassed that total.

As a result of Brock's proclivity for stealing bases, the National League announced the Lou Brock Award to honor the annual leader in stolen bases, making Brock the first active player to have an award named after him.

Brock, who hit .300 eight times in his career,

compiled four seasons with 200 or more hits and became the first player with 50 steals and 20 homers in the same season, amassed a .391 career World Series batting average - the highest average for anyone who played more than 20 World Series games. Brock's 14 career stolen bases is also a World Series record. In 1979, St. Louis retired Brock's No. 20, an honor previously awarded to only three other Cardinals players.

Little-known fact: Brock was the first HBCU baseball player to win a World Series championship.

Before joining the Majors, Brock starred at Southern University. As a junior, Brock batted .500 and helped the Jaguars win the 1959 NAIA national championship in becoming the first Black college to earn such a title. He was selected for the United States baseball team to compete in the 1959 Pan American Games.

Brock's stellar play at

Southern caught the attention of former Negro League star Buck O'Neil, who worked as a scout for the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs signed Brock as an amateur free agent.

Brock spent his first

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three Major League seasons with the Cubs before being traded to St. Louis in 1964. At the time of the trade, the Cardinals were in eighth place in the National League. Brock helped St. Louis win the National League pennant on the last day of the season. The Cardinals went on to win the 1964 World Series over the favored

New York Yankees in seven games as Brock received National League MVP consideration.

In the 1967 World Series, Brock hit .414, scored eight runs and set a World Series record with seven stolen bases as St. Louis defeated the Boston Red Sox in seven games.

After losing his starting outfielder's job at age 39, Brock dug down deep into the Fountain of Youth to reclaim his starting status the following year. Not only did a 40-year-old Brock hit .304, his performance was so impressive that he was named Comeback Player of the Year to become the first Major League player to receive the award in his final season.

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