



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 070320



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[\*Denver Doctor Starts a Portrait Series to Honor Black and Women of Color Physicians\*](#) is a CPR story by Claire Cleveland about Dr. Sarah Rowan, an infectious disease specialist at Denver Health and an artist, who launched a project and collaborated with other artists to features women of color during this epidemic



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*The COVID-19 Pandemic: Reopening and Public Health\*](#) is a coronavirus update from the Colorado School of Public Health, and how the epidemic's course here in Colorado over the summer months will define our lives for the rest of 2020.

[\*Providers and Patients Find 'Silver Lining' in Rapid COVID-Era\*](#) is a story on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus site by Debra Melani about how this pandemic created the momentum that telemedicine promoters have long wished for, forcing doctors' visits from the office to the computer screen.

[\*Blood cell damage may explain low oxygen levels; two vaccines show promise in early testing\*](#) is a summary on *Reuters* by Nancy Lapid of the latest scientific studies on the coronavirus, and efforts to find treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

[\*El Paso County led state in suicides, including self-inflicted firearms deaths in 2019\*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* by Debbie Kelley that includes recent statistics that emphasize that when people are in crisis, access to a firearm is a major contributor to a completed suicide.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*As an Overhaul of California's Mental health Spending Gets Shelved, One Mother Pushes for Reform\*](#) is a California Public Radio story by Sammy Caiola and Emily Zentner about how before the COVID-19 pandemic has sunk California into a \$54 billion deficit, Gov. Newsom had plans to overhaul the Mental Health Services Act. Plans to fix a broken system are now on hold.

[\*People in mental health crises need help, not handcuffs\*](#) is an opinion piece in *Stat News* by Bill Carruthers and Dan Gillison, CEO of NAMI, about out neglected mental health system that provides too little help too late, and change needed for the most vulnerable in our society.

[\*Portman, Whitehouse Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Increase Access to Telehealth Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment\*](#) is a story on Senator Rob Portman's (R-OH) website about how he and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced the Telehealth response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services (TREATS) Act to support the expansion of telehealth services for substance use disorder treatment.

[\*Congress aims to address gaps in mental health access laid bare by COVID-19\*](#) is a story on *The CT Mirror* by Ana Radelat about the recent testimonies from mental health experts before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee who said the social isolation, job loss and even the coronavirus' attacks on the human brain has led to a surge of suicides, depression, anxiety and other mental health ills. Nearly two dozen bills are being considered that aim to address gaps in our mental health system.

[\*As suicide, addiction death projections soar amid COVID-19, treatment centers struggle to stay alive too\*](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Jayne O'Donnell about how nearly 30 mental health and substance abuse groups representing everyone from addiction psychiatrists to family therapists sent a letter to HHS deputy secretary Eric Hargan this week asking for a separate distribution of money because they've been blocked from getting "desperately needed relief funds."

[\*Employer-Based Health Care, Meet Massive Unemployment\*](#) is another opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Janeen Interlandi about how the pandemic is exposing a central flaw in America's health care system.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey, Series 15\*](#) was conducted last week among 735 clinicians from 49 states. Thirty states indicated a summer surge of

COVID-19 cases, and 35% report they are not ready to address the increased patient need. Check out other survey options [here](#) for those interested.

[\*Colorado Primary Care Response: COVID-19 Report #6\*](#) a survey conducted mid-June with an n of 102. Most indicate they plan to continue using this type of visit, most report that financial impact of the pandemic remains a major issue, and three-quarters or working with local public health offices.

[\*Study Shows Many Parents Still Don't Trust Routine Childhood Vaccines\*](#) is a story in *The Bump* by Nehal Aggarwal about a national study led by Dr. Ally Kempe and published in *Pediatrics* of 2,176 parents, and only 26% agreed that flu vaccines were effective.

[\*It's not just coronavirus: America repeatedly fails at public health\*](#) is a story in the *LA Times* by Naom N. Levey about how America is more willing to put money toward treating something than preventing it, a mindset that helps explain the nation's more than \$3.6 trillion annual healthcare tab and the mere 5-7% of total healthcare spending on primary care.

[\*Contributions of U.S. Medical Schools to Primary Care \(2003-2014\)"\*](#)  
[\*Determining and Predicting Who Really Goes into Primary Care\*](#) is an article in *Family Medicine* by Dr. Mark Deutchman and colleagues about a project designed to determine the magnitude by which primary care output is overestimated by commonly used metrics, and to identify a more accurate method for predicting actual primary care output.

[\*Excess Deaths from COVID-19 and Other Causes, March-April 2020\*](#) is a research letter by Dr Steven H. Woolf and colleagues about their study that found that publicly reported deaths explain only two-thirds of the deaths caused by the pandemic.

[\*Hollowed-Out Public Health System Faces More Cuts Amid Virus\*](#) is a post on the Kaiser Health News site by Lauren Weber and colleagues about how the U.S. public health system has been starved for decades and lacks the resources necessary to confront the worst health crisis in a century.

[\*Cognitive Bias and Public Health Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic\*](#) is an opinion piece on *JAMA Network* by Dr. Scott D. Halpern and colleagues who talk about how COVID-19 has revealed the biases that cloud effective policy making and communication. A legacy could be that future governments implement policies that reduce morbidity and mortality under worst-case rather than best-case scenarios, consider future harms as readily as present ones; and attend as strongly to hidden deaths as to visible lives.



[\*8 Things Every Medical-Legal Partnership Can Do Right Now to Respond to COVID-19\*](#) is a tip sheet from the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership

for things MLPs can do now.

[\*Upstreamist in Action: In a Texas Clinic, Lawyers Are Health Care Providers\*](#) is a blog post from last year on *Health Begins* about changemakers that are pioneering practices to improve health by blending medical and social care.

---



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

[SUBSCRIBE TO FRIDAY'S FEATURES](#)