



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 110620 Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*Colloquium 2020*](#) is a virtual event November 17-19 sponsored by the America's Physician Groups. Included in this 3-day event, will be a session, "Addressing Racism's Role in Health Inequity."

[*Longtime Rep. Jim Ramstad, a champion for addiction help, has died*](#) is an MPR News story by Brian Bakst who reports that former Minnesota Rep. Jim Ramstad, a moderate Republican lawmaker whose own battle with addiction turned him into a legislative champion for those in recovery, died Thursday.

[*Profiles of Rural Medical Educators*](#) is a book by the National Rural Health Association that contains conversations with the nation's experts on reversing rural physician shortages and includes pearls from CU family medicine's Dr. Mark Deutchman. This gem exposes through biography and lived experience the nature of rural health and the skills required of leaders committed to rural community and workforce development.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Getting Our Knees Off Black People's Necks: An Anti-Racist Approach to Medical Care*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Rupinder K. Legha and colleagues who write about how racism and anti-blackness in our country's structures and medical systems are apparent and warrant immediate reform. The authors put forward for consideration, five core components for an anti-racist approach to clinical care.

[*What's Behind South Korea's COVID-19 Exceptionalism?*](#) is a story that was printed in *The Atlantic* last spring by Derek Thompson who spells out just how much leadership matters.

[7 Surprising Breathing Exercises to Instantly Reduce Stress](#) is a story on *Elemental* by Michele DeMarco that discusses how conscious breathing, cellular breathing, and other easy techniques to feel calmer.

[Talking about Mental Health with your Employees – Without Overstepping](#) is a story on *Harvard Business Review* by Deborah Grayson Riegel about how leaders at all levels need to put mental health on the table – to talk about it, invite others to talk about it, and work actively to develop resources and plans for their employees.

['Deaths of despair' are rising. It's time to define despair](#) is a story on *Science News* by Bruce Bower about how scientists investigate whether despair is distinct from mental disorders.

[More Coloradans are dying from Alzheimer's disease during pandemic as social isolation takes its toll](#) is a story in *The Denver Post* by Jessica Seaman who reports on how the rise in Alzheimer's deaths comes as total fatalities in Colorado soared 20% between March and August.

[Americans, Stop Being Ashamed of Weakness](#) is an opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Ian Marcus Corbin who writes about how as human beings, our vulnerability is the source of our strength.



[More than Politics on the Line for Voters with Preexisting Conditions](#) is an NPR story by Will Stone about how public support for the ACA is at an all-time high and how many Republicans still don't view the ACA as synonymous with protections for preexisting conditions. And how Trump's recently signed executive order that asserts protections for preexisting conditions remain in place...has no teeth according to experts.

[Worsening Opioid Crisis Overshadowed in Presidential Race](#) is an *AP News* story by Farnoush Amiri and Geoff Mulvihill about how the deadly opioid crisis has barely registered in this year's presidential campaign.

[Mental Health Advocates Say these Things Need to Change No Matter Who Wins the Election](#) is a *Forbes* story by Graison Dangor who writes about how mental health advocates are gearing up to become a more potent political lobby as the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a surge in people seeking services and flooded an already understaffed system.

[A Public Health Call to Arms](#) is an opinion piece on *Morning Consult* by Brian Castrucci about how the neglect of our health infrastructure is one of the single largest threats to America's long-term prosperity.

[ACP: Falsely Accusing Physicians of Overcounting COVID-19 Deaths for Financial Gain is Reprehensible](#) is a story on the American College of Physicians site that says the statements, including those made by President

Trump, falsely accusing physicians of attributing deaths to COVID-19 for financial gain, represent a reprehensible attack on physicians' ethics and professionalism.

[*UnitedHealth must reprocess thousands of illegally denied mental health claims, judge orders*](#) is a story in *MedCityNews* by Anuja Vaidya who reports how in a trial last year, a federal judge found that a UnitedHealth subsidiary had illegally denied mental health and substance use disorder claims. The same judge has now ordered the payer to reprocess all the claims and reform its guidelines.

[*'Science was on the ballot': How can public health recover from a rebuke at the polls?*](#) Is a post on *Stat News* by Nicholas Florko that talks about how even without a presidential winner, a certainty is that the 2020 election results were a disaster for public health.



[*Voters Want More from Elected Officials on Mental Health Care*](#) is a post on the *Benson Strategy Group* that includes results from a recent survey conducted on behalf of Well Being Trust and ViacomCBS Entertainment & Youth Group. Voters across party lines want their reps in Congress to come together to make mental health care more available and affordable for all Americans as a key part of addressing this pandemic.

[*Medicaid Expansion Increased Preconception Health Counseling, Folic Acid Intake, and Postpartum Contraception*](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Rebecca Myerson and colleagues who report on findings from a recent study that indicate that expanding Medicaid led to detectable improvements on a subset of preconception health measures.

[*Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Data Summary & Trends Report 2009-2019*](#) is a report produced by the CDC that provides the most recent surveillance data on health behaviors and experiences among high school students in the US related to four priority areas associated with sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and unintended teen pregnancy. [*High School YRBS Youth Online*](#) is a CDC site that allows one to analyze national, state, and local Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System data from high school and middle school surveys conducted during 1991-2019 and Global School-based Student Health Survey data from students aged 13 to 17 years conducted during 2003-2015.

[*The State of Mental Health in America*](#) is a comprehensive Mental Health America report, 2021 *The State of Mental Health in America*, that includes current data about disparities faced by individuals with mental health problems.

[*What the data says about Colorado's rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations*](#) is a story by Jennifer Kovaleski for *The Denver Channel* who reports that state data shows coronavirus cases and hospitalizations are increasing rapidly in Colorado, and the experts behind the numbers say the state is at a critical moment.

[Using machine learning to track the pandemic's impact on mental health](#) is a story by Anne Trafton for *MIT News* about how textual analysis of social media posts finds users' anxiety and suicide-risk levels are rising, among other negative trends.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Ashley Maddison RLAW '19 Helps Clients through the Camden Medical-Legal Partnership](#) is a post on the *Rutgers Law School* site about a Rutgers Law graduate who is a fellow in a two-year graduate fellowship through Equal Justice Works, an organization that pairs law students with public interest organizations so they can become public service leaders. Ashley works to integrate complex care principles into her legal work.



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