



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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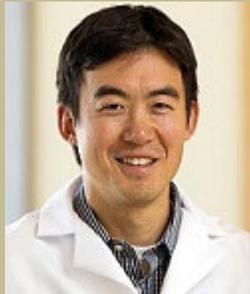
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[Ricochet: An American Trauma – A PBS NewsHour Special Report](#)

**Emmy Betz**, professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine: “I think if we’re going to have a conversation about gun violence or firearm injury and death in this country, I think it has to include suicide. You have to understand the broad picture. And slightly over half of all firearm deaths are suicide.”

*PBS NewsHour, Oct. 5, 2022*



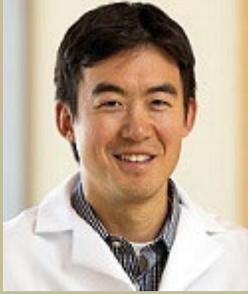
[Overdoses, homicides and suicides drove Colorado’s teen death rate up more than 60% over last decade](#)

**Sam Wang**, a pediatric toxicologist [and associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] who treats kids who’ve been poisoned by any substance, said teens typically overdose when using drugs recreationally or during a suicide attempt. In recent years, fentanyl has crept into the drug supply, sometimes mixed into fake prescription pills. For people who don’t already have a high tolerance to opioids, it can be deadly. “The teenage or adolescent population is not immune to that,” he said.



**Jessica Hawks**, clinical director of the Pediatric Mental Health Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and associate professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine], said many factors are likely involved in the rise in suicide deaths, including reluctance to seek mental health care, and an inability for those who want care to get it because of cost or other barriers. . . . “Our youth experience a level of stress today that is unlike anything experienced by any generation before,” she said.

*Denver Post, Sept. 30, 2022*



### [More children dying from fentanyl poisonings](#)

Fentanyl kills more Coloradans than any other drug. Deaths among children are rising. A doctor at Children's Hospital Colorado [and associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] began noticing an uptick in cases in 2020. "It doesn't take much to have a fatal event," said **Sam Wang**, a medical toxicology physician at Children's Hospital.

*9News, Oct. 3, 2022*



### [New trial will test treatment for meth addiction](#)

9NEWS spoke with a doctor about the trend behind mixing methamphetamine with fentanyl, and a new trial looking at treatment solutions for addiction. **Joe Sakai** is an addiction psychiatrist who teaches in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine Anschutz Medical Campus.

*9News, Oct. 5, 2022*

### [Meth-fentanyl use causing irreversible overdoses](#)

**Joseph Sakai** is an associate psychiatry professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and specializes in substance dependence. Although the drug and opioid crisis is a national public health emergency, Sakai said Colorado is seeing a big increase in meth overdoses and addiction. "Methamphetamine is an overlooked epidemic," Sakai said. "Addiction can be so problematic, so horrific and so hard that ideally, prevention would be possible."

*Fox31, Oct. 5, 2022*



### [Volunteers who help with disasters often suffer mental trauma](#)

"First responders are familiar with and trained for these high stakes, high-intensity operations," said **Ian Stanley**, an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and psychological health lead for the CU Anschutz Center for Combat Medicine and Battlefield (COMBAT) Research.

*CBS Colorado, Sept. 30, 2022*

### [Mental health experts say locals responding to Hurricane Ian need to watch for signs of PTSD](#)

CU Anschutz mental health expert who has treated victims, volunteers and first responders following natural disasters **Ian Stanley** says it's

important to know the signs. With thousands of Colorado first responders and volunteers heading across the country to lend a hand. “First responders’ instinct is going to be to help other people. It’s in their training, it’s in their character, and it’s really important they take stock of their own stress levels and mental health and lean on each other for support,” Stanley said.

*Fox31, Oct. 2, 2022*



### [Surge of respiratory illnesses in children straining some hospitals' capacity](#)

In Colorado **Kevin Messacar**, infectious diseases specialist at Children’s Hospital Colorado and associate professor at University of Colorado School of Medicine, told ABC they’ve been grappling with a significant uptick in enterovirus D68 for about the past two months.

*ABC News, Sept. 30, 2022*

### [Why You Should Think Acute Flaccid Myelitis, Not Just Polio The Signs and Symptoms to Look for](#)

**Kevin Messacar**, a pediatric infectious diseases researcher at Colorado Children’s Hospital and University of Colorado, said the polio case in New York should also alert clinicians to the possibility of AFM in general, which can be caused by multiple viruses, including poliovirus, other enteroviruses, and West Nile virus.

*Neurology Today, Oct. 6, 2022*



### [Experts say vaccines, behavior changes worked as Colorado's monkeypox cases decline](#)

If the virus were to have jumped into a different social network — say, a prison or a child care center — there could have been a new surge in infections, said **Daniel Pastula**, an associate professor of neurology, infectious diseases and epidemiology at the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Public Health.

*Colorado Sun, Oct. 3, 2022*



### [Loneliness may play early role in Alzheimer's, Colorado researcher says](#)

There’s a growing body of research on the negative health impacts of loneliness, said **Rebecca Mullen**, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine. But “what is loneliness doing that may be impacting brain health? (And) is there a

loneliness time frame that matters — does it matter how long someone is lonely for?” Mullen said.

*Fort Lupton Press, Oct. 5, 2022*



### [Opinion | How Farmers in Colorado Are Taking Care of Their Mental Health](#)

In 2014, a group of people concerned about rising rates of suicide and anxiety in their towns reached out to the High Plains Research Network, a public health group affiliated with the University of Colorado School of Medicine, hoping to design a mental health tool that would address both the challenges and strengths of eastern Colorado.

*The New York Times, Oct. 6, 2022*



### [Healthy Colorado: Weight-loss study looking for more participants for non-invasive gastric balloon](#)

“We really want people who have an age range of 22-65. They should have a BMI between 30 and 40,” says **Shelby Sullivan**, director of Gastroenterology Metabolic and Bariatric Program at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “That’s typically about 30-100 pounds overweight depending on if you are a man or woman.”

*KRDO (Colorado Springs), Oct. 5, 2022*



### [Women with breast cancer want more education on sexual health during treatment](#)

“We collected patient-reported outcome surveys in patients with breast cancer since 2019 and noted that of the four domains of quality of life we measure, sexual well-being was the lowest when we first saw women with breast cancer,” **Sarah Tevis**, assistant professor of surgical oncology at University of Colorado School of Medicine, told Healio.

*Healio, Sept. 29, 2022*



### [Challenges to vaccine policy at CU medical campus narrowed](#)

A federal judge has taken a sprawling lawsuit from 17 anonymous staff and students at the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus and pared down the number of legal claims that may go forward challenging the school’s COVID-19 vaccination policy. U.S. District Court Judge Raymond P. Moore previously declined to block

the medical campus' vaccine mandate, indicating it did not appear to burden the plaintiffs' religious exercise in an unconstitutional manner.

*Denver Gazette, Oct. 4, 2022*