

April 2021 – Additional Mental Health Related Articles from Around the Nation *(from MindSpring)*

Virus's Toll on Mental Health

[Des Moines Register \(newsmemory.com\)](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/health/2021/02/15/unemployment-mental-health-toll-covid-leaves-emotional-financial-scars/6711305002/)

'I'm literally breaking inside': As COVID-19 leaves millions jobless and struggling, the mental health toll rises
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2021/02/15/unemployment-mental-health-toll-covid-leaves-emotional-financial-scars/6711305002/>

Mental health professionals are the ones taking care of us: Who's taking care of them?

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/life/health-wellness/2021/02/11/covid-pandemic-mental-health-professionals-struggling-burnout/4134511001/>

The pandemic is taking a toll on Americans' mental health. A new CDC study shows who we need to worry about most. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/08/13/covid-19-takes-mental-toll-youth-minorities-essential-workers/3365719001/>

'A culmination of crises': America is in turmoil, and a mental health crisis looms next

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/06/20/covid-racism-recession-mental-health-impacts-may-long-lasting/3211464001/>

Job insecurity, child care: Moms reporting psychological distress amid coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/08/07/coronavirus-pandemic-leads-explosion-depression-anxiety-women-trans/3309916001/>

Your body is trying to tell you something

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/health-wellness/2021/02/01/physical-symptoms-stress-warning-sign-mental-health-issues/4307318001/>

Amid coronavirus pandemic, teachers' mental health suffers in ways they've never experienced

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2021/01/04/covid-19-teachers-mental-health-suffering-during-pandemic/4091864001/>

'Feels like the world is against you': Young people struggle with finding mental health support amid COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/08/08/covid-19-support-youth-programs-describe-anxiety-depression-increase/5429213002/>

Seasonal depression could be amplified in 2020, experts say. Here's how to handle it.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/10/21/seasonal-depression-amid-coronavirus-pandemic-symptoms-treatment/5981751002/>

CDC Urged To Prioritize COVID-19 Vaccines For People With Developmental Disabilities - With access to COVID-19 vaccines varying dramatically for people with developmental disabilities, advocates want the CDC to update its plan to account for the high risk this population faces. [Read More >](#)

With Disabilities 'Rarely' Seen, Netflix Commits \$100 Million Toward Inclusion - Netflix is pledging to do more after a report finds that representation of people with disabilities and other groups is lacking in its original films and television shows. [Read More >](#)

In Group Homes, Pandemic Has Canceled Plans, Ushered In A 'New Normal' - Roughly a year into the coronavirus pandemic, many group home residents have adapted to life with limited visits, fewer outside activities and other precautions. [Read More >](#)

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Parents Wait Or Drive Across State For Autism Therapy - Lawmakers in one state are moving to eliminate a barrier to behavioral health care, a change that backers say would greatly improve access to therapy for children with autism. [Read More >](#)

One pandemic positive: Suicides in Florida actually plummeted. Experts worry it won't last. The coronavirus pandemic has clearly stressed out countless Americans. But in Florida at least, one mental health barometer actually improved — fewer ... [Read more on miamiherald.com](#)

[Suicide deaths in N.J. likely fell in 2020, defying fears amid the coronavirus pandemic](#)

[Make Space, Listen, Offer Hope: How To Help A Child At Risk Of Suicide](#)

[American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Stuart Winborne on Good Day Atlanta](#)

[How to Help When Adolescents Have Suicidal Thoughts](#)

[How to Deal With Grief After Suffering a Painful Loss, According to Mental Health Experts](#)

[‘People were afraid to talk to me’: Chicago woman wants to promote conversations for those who lose someone to suicide.](#)

Congress Weighs Stimulus Checks For Those With Disabilities, Funds For Services - A \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan in the U.S. Senate includes a major investment in home- and community-based services and stimulus payments for more people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Zoom Commits To Improving Accessibility Zoom says it is enhancing its service in order to be more accessible to users with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Lack Of Virus Data On People With Intellectual Disabilities 'Comes With A Body Count' - People with IDD are more vulnerable to COVID-19. But a lack of federal tracking means no one knows how many of these individuals in group housing have fallen ill or died from the virus. [Read More >](#)

World Remade By Pandemic Poses New Challenges For Individuals With Visual Impairment - Those with visual impairment have long faced challenges with social isolation, mobility limitations and classroom dynamics that are less than ideal, but the pandemic has exacerbated them. [Read More >](#)

ADA Concerns Raised Over COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

Federal authorities are being asked to step in amid concerns that sensory sensitivities, physical access and other barriers may be keeping people with disabilities from COVID-19 vaccines. [Read More >](#)

Lawmakers Want Investigation Into Effects Of School Closures On Kids With Disabilities

Nearly a year after schools shuttered due to the coronavirus pandemic, some members of Congress are calling for an investigation into the impact of the closures on students with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Actress With Autism Set To Return In TV Comedy

New episodes of a television comedy starring an actress with autism are on the way. [Read More >](#)

Push Is On For States To Ban Organ Transplant Discrimination

States are passing laws that would prevent people with Down syndrome, autism and other disabilities from being denied transplants solely because of their conditions. [Read More >](#)

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[Pandemic takes toll on children's mental health](#) November 28, 2020, *NPR*

[Pandemic worsens child mental health crisis](#) January 18, 2021, *NPR*

Biden Signs Stimulus Bill Sending Funds To Disability Community - President Joe Biden signed a massive pandemic relief package sending billions to special ed and home- and community-based services and providing stimulus payments for many with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Intellectual Disability Among Greatest COVID-19 Risk Factors, Study Finds - New research suggests that people with intellectual disability are about six times more likely to die if they contract COVID-19, a higher risk than almost anyone else. [Read More >](#)

Rallying Behind Britney Spears, Congressmen Want To Rethink Conservatorships - Two Republican congressmen are calling on the House Judiciary Committee to hold a hearing on conservatorships, which are often used for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Lawsuit: Officers Handcuffed, Jailed 11-Year-Old With Autism For Scratching Classmate - School resource officers allegedly left a boy with autism in a patrol car for two hours and booked him in jail for scratching a classmate with a pencil. His parents had to post a \$25,000 bond. [Read More >](#)

Newton police must shift from 'warrior' to 'guardian' mind-set, report says - Two months after Newton officers shot and killed a resident, a task force is recommending greater civilian oversight of police, improved training on issues such as mental health, and measures to help diversify the department, according to a report. [Continue reading →](#)

Feds Propose Changes To Disability Employment Rules - The Biden administration is reconsidering what should qualify as competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Disability Rights Film 'Crip Camp' Nominated For Oscar - A documentary about the emergence of the disability rights movement produced by former President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama is up for an Academy Award. [Read More >](#)

For Medically Vulnerable, Vaccine Brings Relief After Search For Access - As vaccine access has expanded for medically vulnerable people, many have expressed hope and relief for a more normal life after what they described as an often frustrating search for shots. [Read More >](#)

Paris Hilton Calls For End To Restraining Children And Teens - The one-time reality TV star and now activist is backing efforts to regulate the use of restraint at residential facilities serving those with developmental disabilities and others. [Read More >](#)

Stimulus Payments Headed To Adult Dependents With Disabilities - For the first time since the start of the pandemic, stimulus checks are going out to many people with disabilities regardless of whether they're considered dependents. [Read More >](#)

COVID-19 Cases Plummet Among Those With IDD Who Are Offered Vaccines - New data suggests that COVID-19 infections among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the staff who serve them drop dramatically once they are eligible for vaccines. [Read More >](#)

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Special Education Advocates Press Biden Administration For Funding Boost - Some see the shift in control of the White House as an opportunity to boost support for kids with special needs and their families while easing pressure on state and local education budgets. [Read More >](#)

Boston Marathon Icon Known For Pushing His Son's Wheelchair Dies At 80 - Dick Hoyt — who pushed his son with cerebral palsy in more than 1,200 distance races and inspired people around the world to include those with disabilities in athletics — has died. [Read More >](#)

Police reform is not enough. We need to rethink public safety. We should think about public safety the way we think about public health. **Reimagine Safety** • By the Editorial Board • [Read more »](#)

Dragging state prisons into the 21st century - Criminal “justice” shouldn’t end when the cell door closes for those with mental illness. [Continue reading →](#)

A Legacy of Distrust: The Racial Disparities That Mean Many Can Be Reluctant to Seek Help - *Cincinnati Enquirer*—Kentucky and Ohio

A Wisconsin Teen's Death behind Bars Reveals How Children Get Trapped in the Justice System—and How We Can Stop the Cycle - *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*—National

Arizona Courts, Prisons Work to Help Veterans Who Land in Legal System - *Arizona Republic*—Arizona

Biden’s Criminal Justice Reform Plan in Line with Connecticut Practices - *The Day*—Connecticut

Public Defenders Suffer from the ‘Stress of Injustice’: Study - *The Crime Report*—National

Sarpy County to Launch Nebraska's First Mental Health Problem-Solving Court - *Omaha World-Herald*—Nebraska

Midland County’s Mental Health Court Aims to Rehabilitate Minor Offenders with Mental Illness - *Catalyst Midland*—Michigan

Study Aims to Break the Chains of Incarceration in African American Males - *Newswise*—National

‘I’m Stronger Now:’ Support Centers For Trauma Survivors Expanding In Illinois - *WBEZ Chicago*—Illinois

Waiting Lists May Be Eliminated For Disability Services Provided By Medicaid - Work is underway on legislation that could fundamentally transform the nation's system of home- and community-based services for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Calls Grow For April To Be Designated 'Autism Acceptance Month' - April has long been known as "Autism Awareness Month," but advocates are pushing this time around for a federal designation of the month focused on acceptance instead. [Read More >](#)

People With Disabilities Left Behind In Push To Overcome Pandemic - Millions of Americans with disabilities are being overlooked during the pandemic recovery, stuck at home without therapy or social programs, and struggling to book COVID-19 vaccinations. [Read More >](#)

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A Video Game Makes Math And English Classes A Full-Body Experience - An online platform created to help kids in special ed combines physical activity with a virtual world featuring bright colors and animated characters to engage even the shyest students. [Read More >](#)

Supreme Court struggles with when police may enter home for safety checks or suicide threats - By Robert Barnes • [Read more »](#)

Ed Department Urged To Direct More COVID-19 Relief Funds To Students With Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education is being asked to tell schools to direct funding toward students with disabilities who have missed out on services they were entitled to during the pandemic. [Read More >](#)

Airbnb Tailoring Experiences To Neurodiverse Guests

Airbnb is introducing a new slate of offerings specifically aimed at neurodiverse individuals, including those with autism. [Read More >](#)

Woman With Developmental Disability Among Victims In Boulder Shooting

Teri Leiker, 51, a longtime employee at the grocery store where the mass shooting occurred, was a member of the intellectual and developmental disabilities community. [Read More >](#)

Virtual Special Olympics Brings Smiles To Students' Faces

While ensuring COVID-safe practices, a team of educators worked together to give special education students the opportunity to participate virtually. [Read More >](#)

— As the pandemic drags on, workers are looking to their employers for **mental health support**. [Many aren't getting it, advocates say.](#)

A psychiatric patient wanted to talk about God. A stranger started a conversation that lasted 14 years. By Justin Wm. Moyer • [Read more »](#)

Delayed Stimulus Payments May Come Soon For Social Security, SSI Beneficiaries

Stimulus checks for people with disabilities who receive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits could start flowing after the payments were held up. [Read More >](#)

'Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood' Adds Character With Autism

A recurring character with autism is coming to the PBS KIDS show "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood" and he's voiced by a teenager on the spectrum. [Read More >](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Designed To Be Sensory Friendly

With luxury boxes repurposed as "quiet spaces" complete with fidget toys and weighted blankets, a visual schedule of events and more, an NFL stadium was transformed into a unique vaccine clinic. [Read More >](#)

Family To Get \$2 Million After Teen With Special Needs Choked To Death At School

His IEP required that he have a dedicated aide, but no one was watching when Kedar Williams choked on a chicken nugget. Now, his memory may help save the lives of others with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

[Youth Detention Facility finds culture of kindness more effective than punishment | PACEsConnection](#)

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A Plea for Compassion as Someone Who Was Arrested During Psychosis

“To bring about meaningful change, the system itself has to be restructured and it starts, quite plainly, with having compassion.”

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Neuroplasticity: How I Survived Psychosis and Jail

“I actively sought recovery on both cognitive and interpersonal levels. I used the concept of neuroplasticity — that my brain could change and heal — as my guide.”

[READ MORE »](#)

Criminal Justice Reform Means Reforming the Mental Health System

Effectively investing in the mental health system is the most logical way to support the diversion of the millions of people with mental illness who are incarcerated every year.

[READ MORE »](#)

The Voices that Caused Me to Lose Everything

“While in the middle of my assessment, the officer came to me, put my hands behind my back and put handcuffs on me. I was in jail for a month until I got bailed out.”

[READ MORE »](#)

Criminal Justice Involvement of People with Serious Mental Illness

Enhancing criminal justice diversion for people with mental illness means implementing community-wide solutions that address risk factors, such as poverty, and provide mental health support.

[READ MORE »](#)

NAMI Releases Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System Resource

NAMI recently released “Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System,” a downloadable infographic citing facts about the criminal justice system and its impact on people with mental illness.

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