

March 2021- Mental Health Related Articles from Around the Nation

The psychologist will see everyone now - You're supposed to go to the dentist at least once a year. Why not get mental health checkups too? [Continue reading →](#)

New Standards In The Works For Postsecondary Programs - Work is underway to establish first-ever accreditation standards for the hundreds of postsecondary programs across the nation serving students with intellectual disabilities. [Read More >](#)

White House Doubles Down On Accessibility - Online and in the briefing room, the Biden administration says it is working to prioritize accessibility for people with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Kids Coping With Mental Disorders Spiral As Pandemic Topples Support Systems - Many children with serious emotional or behavioral difficulties depend on schools for vital therapies. When schools and doctors stopped providing in-person services, kids became untethered. [Read More >](#)

Study: Amazon Algorithms Promote Misinformation On Autism, Vaccines - More than 10% of Amazon products returned for search terms like "vaccine," "immunization" and "autism" are misinformative, according to a new study of books and other products on the site. [Read More >](#)

Joint Commission: Burned out healthcare workers need a lifeline - Workers on the front lines are physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted, and systems need to better support them, according to a report from the oversight organization.

— Why is there no place for **serious mental illness** in [campaigns to fight mental-health stigma](#)? (Catapult)

Golden Globe Nominated Autism Movie 'Music' Will Get Warning Label - Under pressure from advocates, changes are in store for a forthcoming movie about a girl with autism that picked up two Golden Globe nominations this week. [Read More >](#)

Nike Unveils Hands-Free Sneakers For Those With Special Needs - With an eye toward making shoes even more accessible to people with disabilities, Nike is introducing a sneaker that can be taken on and off completely hands-free. [Read More >](#)

Lawmakers Make Push To Fully Fund IDEA - Citing a "huge amount of momentum," lawmakers are introducing legislation calling for the federal government to significantly increase its spending on students with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Is The Pandemic A Chance To Reimagine Special Education? - Special education was imperfect before the coronavirus crisis. As districts contend with the fallout from slapdash online classes for kids with disabilities, will the pandemic prompt a reckoning? [Read More >](#)

If we're talking of mental health checkups, focus should be on children and teens - "Psychological issues are powerful impediments to education; indeed, half of mental health conditions start by age 14." [Continue reading →](#)

Doctors Overwhelmingly Harbor Negative Views Of Those With Disabilities, Study Finds - The vast majority of doctors across the nation believe that people with significant disabilities have worse quality of life than others, according to a first-of-its-kind study. [Read More >](#)

NBCUniversal Commits To Audition Actors With Disabilities - A second major entertainment company is pledging to consider actors with disabilities for every one of its film and television projects. [Read More >](#)

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Pandemic Sends A Couple Into Indefinite Long Distance Though Just Miles Apart - Everyone is trying to figure out how relationships work amid COVID-19. That includes a couple who found themselves in a long-distance relationship when their group homes went into lockdown. [Read More >](#)

Airport Adding First-Of-Its-Kind Inclusive Play Area - A new airport terminal is set to be the most inclusive in the world, featuring a play area for kids with mobility and communication challenges and restrooms with changing tables for adults. [Read More >](#)

['A Chance to Choose Life': For Some, Drug Courts Break Cycle of Addiction and Crime](#) - *Sentinel Source*—New Hampshire

[Bucks County Moving Forward with Mental Health Court, Forensic Diversion Center](#) - *Bucks County Courier Times*—Pennsylvania

[Crisis Center Helps People Who Would Otherwise Face Jail, Saves Taxpayer Dollars](#) - *Idaho Press*—Idaho

[In Harris County, Leaders Taking Creative Approach to Pretrial Reform](#) - *Arnold Ventures*—Texas

[Opinion: 'Smart Justice' for Florida Includes Reducing Incarceration, Treating Addiction](#) - *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*—Florida

[Researchers at Case Western Reserve University Evaluating Effectiveness of Ohio's Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice Initiative](#) - *The Daily*—Ohio

[Utah Reports Big Drop in Juvenile Kids Serving Time for Low-Level Crimes](#) - *KSL Radio*—Utah

['We Truly Are Breaking down the Walls to Racial Inequality': CEO Says St. Louis Prison Re-Entry Program Works](#) - *KSDK*—Missouri

Political extremism is not just a national security threat but a mental health emergency - Many extremists experienced childhood abuse or bullying or are suffering from clinical depression or other undiagnosed mental illness. [Continue reading →](#)

Senators Call On Biden To Uphold Promise To Expand Community-Based Services - Dozens of U.S. senators are urging President Joe Biden to make good on his campaign proposal to invest \$450 billion in Medicaid home- and community-based services. [Read More >](#)

Facebook Cracking Down On Posts Linking Autism, Vaccines - Making false claims about autism and vaccines could now get you kicked off Facebook. [Read More >](#)

How A Dancer On The Spectrum Landed A Spot In The Super Bowl Halftime Show - A 23-year-old with autism danced alongside Grammy award-winning singer the Weeknd during the Super Bowl and he's hoping the experience shows what people with disabilities are capable of. [Read More >](#)

COVID-19 Year Is Especially Hard On Students With Special Needs - With school districts eliminating some special education services or offering them virtually, families say the pandemic is setting their children back. [Read More >](#)

Young people's despair deepens as COVID-19 crisis drags on - With curfews, closures, and lockdowns in European countries set to drag into the spring or even the summer, mental health professionals are growing increasingly alarmed about the deteriorating mental state of young people, who they say have been among the most badly affected by a world with a foreshortened sense of the future. [Continue reading →](#)

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CDC, Ed Department Issue Guidance On Reopening Schools To Students With Disabilities - Federal officials are laying out a roadmap for safely reopening schools to in-person learning complete with details on how to serve students with disabilities. [Read More >](#)

Virtual Training May Help Young People With Autism Land Jobs - Practicing job interview skills using a virtual simulator could significantly increase the odds that young adults with autism find employment, new research suggests. [Read More >](#)

Inclusive Apartment Complex Offers Opportunity For Independence - From the outside, Bear Woods looks much like any other newly built apartment complex, but backers believe it's a model that could transform housing for those with developmental disabilities. [Read More >](#)

University Program Aims To Mint More Adaptive PE Teachers - Public schools are federally mandated to offer developmental physical education to students with disabilities, but teachers aren't required to be licensed in that area in order to teach it. [Read More >](#)

[Biden admin begins plan to rescind Medicaid work mandates in win for providers](#) - The policies threatened to lower hospitals' Medicaid revenues as enrollees lost coverage, raising uncompensated care costs. But lawsuits and the pandemic have kept states from implementing the controversial Trump-era requirements.

Despite High Risk, Access To COVID-19 Vaccines Uneven For Those With IDD - People with developmental disabilities are at significantly greater risk of dying from COVID-19, but whether or not individuals have access to vaccines is coming down to where they live. [Read More >](#)

People With Disabilities Report Fewer Voting Troubles - The most recent election brought some good news for people with disabilities: far fewer problems casting their ballots. [Read More >](#)

Thousands Sign Petition Condemning Sia's 'Music' After Outcry From Autism Community - A petition demanding the Hollywood Foreign Press Association rescind its Golden Globe nominations for Sia's film, "Music," has amassed more than 45,000 signatures. [Read More >](#)

Braille Is Everywhere, But Most Kids Who Are Blind Can't Read It - Decades ago more than half of students with blindness could read and write tactile script. Today, less than 10% of Americans with visual disabilities do, but a competition aims to change that. [Read More >](#)

Federal Autism Committee Remains Defunct

A federal committee charged with guiding the nation's priorities on autism remains in disarray nearly a year and a half after Congress reauthorized it. [Read More >](#)

Ed Department: Schools Serving More Students Under IDEA

An increasing number of American schoolchildren are receiving special education services and nearly all of them spend at least some of their day in class with their typically-developing peers. [Read More >](#)

Group Homes Left To Fend For Themselves In Quest For Vaccines

The leaders of some group homes have made hundreds of phone calls, sent staff driving hours and cut deals with anybody they could to secure COVID-19 vaccines for their staff and clients. [Read More >](#)

Walmart Violated ADA When It Refused To Give Worker A Set Schedule, Lawsuit Says

Walmart is being sued in federal court for refusing to allow an employee with an intellectual disability to have a set weekly schedule. [Read More >](#)

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What Black History Month Means to Me - "We are perceived as strong for we are tenacious, but strength and resilience should not be built solely through suffering."

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Understanding the Symptoms of BPD - "It is imperative that we rewrite the script and understand the abuse, neglect and abandonment that many people with BPD have experienced." [READ MORE »](#)

The Many Impacts of Self-Stigma - It can be incredibly damaging to internalize the negative stereotypes often associated with mental illness. Therefore, understanding and addressing self-stigma is an essential part of healing and recovering from mental illness. [READ MORE »](#)

Overcoming Low Self-Worth with Anxiety, Depression and ADHD - "In the past, I've let you down. I sacrificed who I am and the love I deserve. I promise to honor you, care for you and celebrate you. This time, I promise to start loving you first." [READ MORE »](#)

My Experience with a Catatonic-like State - "No one believed my mind had paralyzed me, even in a hospital where I had come for help." [READ MORE »](#)

Reopening schools will help, but won't end Mass. child mental health crisis, experts say - Experts say the state's mental health care system for youth has long been overtaxed. The challenges are deep-seated — and will likely persist long after students return to classrooms. [Continue reading →](#)

Institutions Serving Those With IDD Get New COVID-19 Guidance - Nearly a year after institutions serving people with developmental disabilities locked down, federal officials are spelling out how and when these facilities should reopen to visitors. [Read More >](#)

Biobank Poised To Transform Down Syndrome Research - A first-of-its-kind effort is underway to collect biological samples from people with Down syndrome in a bid to improve care and outcomes for those with chromosomal disorder. [Read More >](#)

IT Company Has One Goal: Hiring People On The Spectrum - Many adults with autism struggle with employment despite having skill sets that can excel in the workplace. One IT consulting company wants to change that. [Read More >](#)

Friendship House Pairs Young Professionals, Adults With Special Needs - The young professionals who are roommates with adults with special needs are not their caregivers but rather are friends who encourage them to develop skills to be able to live independently. [Read More >](#)