

Psychosocial Consequences of COVID-19

Ladi Kukoyi MD, MS

DFAPA

Things have changed

- Lots of things have changed since the pandemic began
- Society has changed
- The way we work, play, interact, travel etc has all changed
- Will we ever be the same again?
- Will touch on some of the socioeconomic and psychosocial changes we have seen since the pandemic began

Economic Stress

- Considering all the recent business closures, lost jobs, as well as a shutdown in most public events, the fear of a new economic recession, or even a depression matching that of the 1930s, seems all too real.
- Research studies have long demonstrated that economic downturns are often followed by increased suicides, but the uncertainty surrounding the current downturn, including the sharp drop in stock markets (and a resulting loss in retirement funds, housing foreclosures, and the question of when, or if, people can return to work), will certainly trigger more deaths in the future.

INVESTIGATIONS

Crime rates plummet amid the coronavirus pandemic, but not everyone is safer in their home

Kenny Jacoby, Mike Stucka and Kristine Phillips | USA TODAY

Domestic violence is up

Second police agencies estimated for USA TODAY top just better weeks in 2020. Violence spiked with the pandemic. Police in southern half of state. Growth there. Domestic violence calls. Growth from Feb. 2 through March 26.



Montgomery County, MD



Santa Clara, CA

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**16%
INCREASE**

SEATTLE

**27%
INCREASE**
IN AGGRAVATED
DOMESTIC ASSAULTS
SOURCE: BOSTON POLICE DEPT.

BOSTON

**30%
INCREASE**

SOURCE: NEW YORK STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER
NEW YORK

Social and Media Influences

- Since the pandemic began, we have been regularly besieged with round-the-clock news coverage describing the impact of COVID-19, both nationally and internationally.
- Given the pessimism being conveyed by these news stories, it's hardly surprising that many people are becoming increasingly depressed and angry at the prospect of the pandemic dragging on for years.
- We're heading into the third(yes third)year of this soon.

Firearm Sales

- At the same time, gun sales are also surging in many parts of the country. With access to firearms being a major risk factor in suicides, the number of firearm-related suicides are expected to rise as well.
- Except they haven't!

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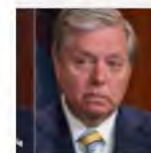
Overall, suicide rates decreased in the US last year -- but not for everyone

By Virginia Langmaid, CNN

🕒 Updated 12:04 AM ET, Wed November 3, 2021



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Suicide rates fall again — but not for young adults and some people of color

November 3, 2021 · 7:06 PM ET



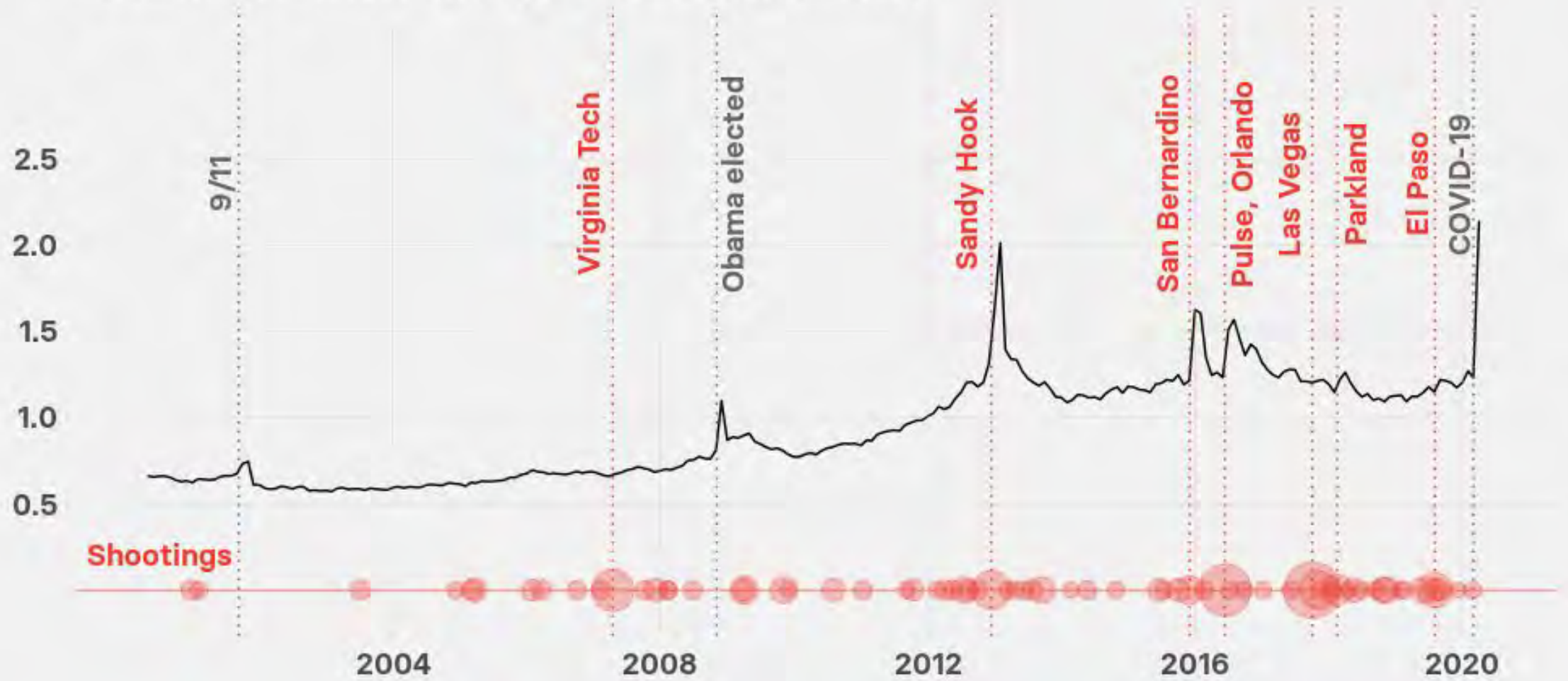
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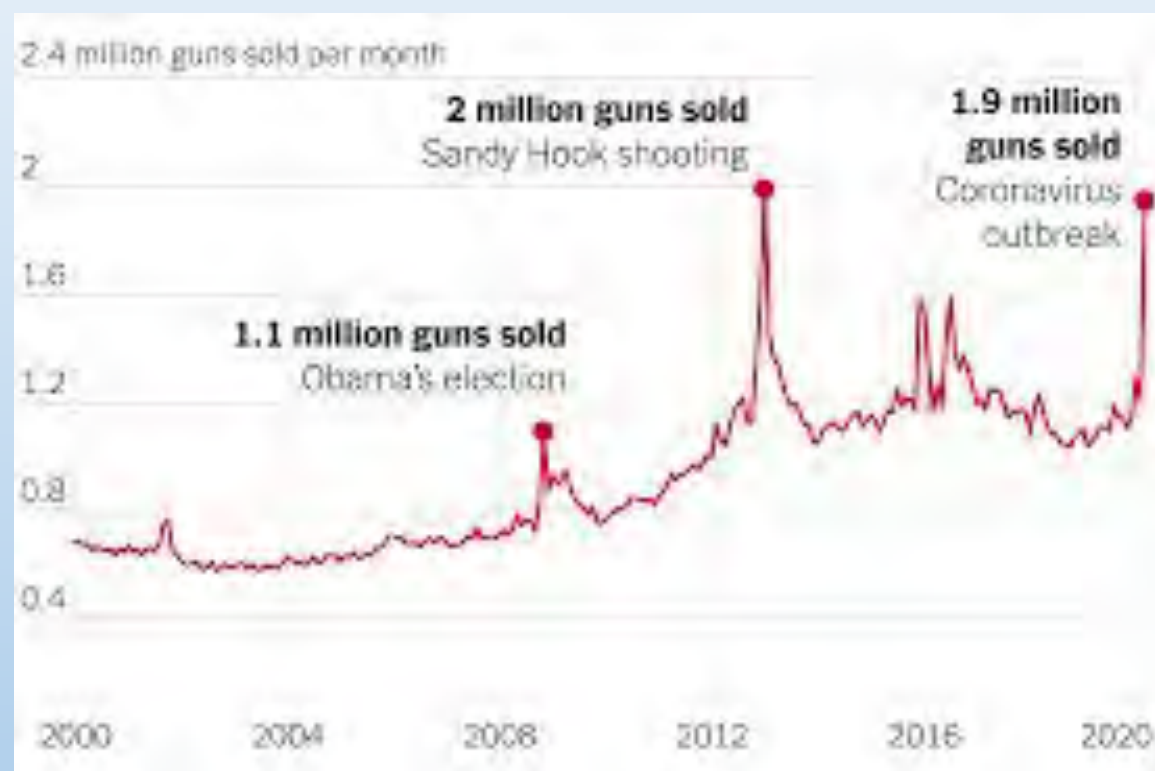


BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama

THE HEALTHCARE PARTNER YOU'VE COUNTED ON FOR DECADES STAYS THE SAME.

Estimated monthly gun sales (millions)

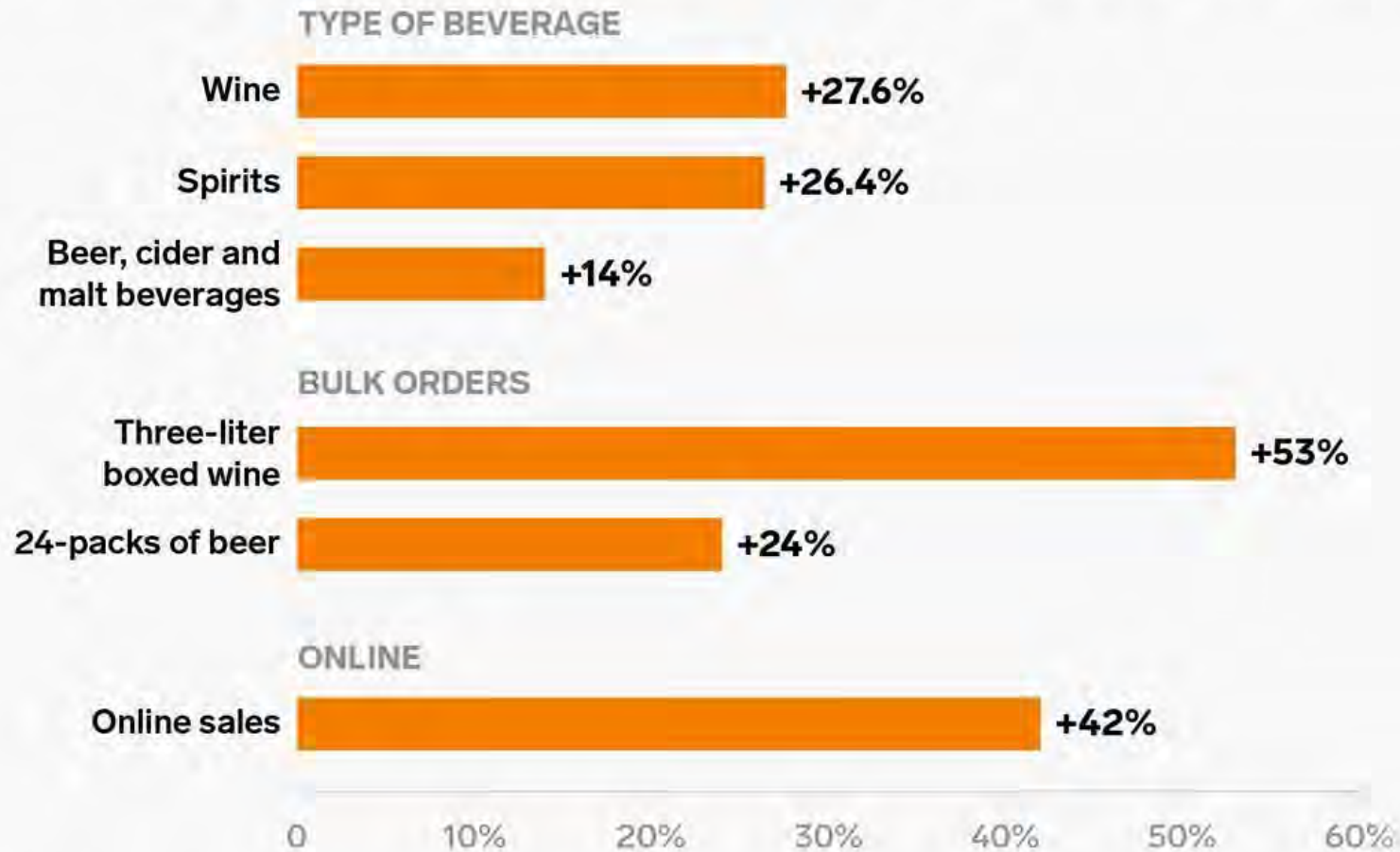




Increase in alcohol use

- Heavy drinking may increase during such times. In fact, in North America, early signs indicate that consumption and sales have recently increased in this part of the world.
- This may be due to alcohol sales being designated as an “essential service”, and existing restrictions on home delivery and carryout have been loosened.
- Given that about 30 to 40% of deaths by suicide involve cases where the victim was under the influence of alcohol to the point of intoxication. the need to increase awareness of this relationship becomes even more apparent during a time when alcohol use may increase.
- Further, long-term heavy use may develop into alcohol use disorders in some individuals. There is a wealth of studies identifying alcohol use disorders as significant risk factors for death by suicide, with a 2.6-fold higher risk among individuals with an alcohol use disorder being reported [4].

Increase in US alcohol sales during COVID-19 pandemic



Health

‘Cries for help’: Drug overdoses are soaring during the coronavirus pandemic

Suspected overdoses nationally jumped 18 percent in March, 29 percent in April and 42 percent in May, data from ambulance teams, hospitals and police shows.



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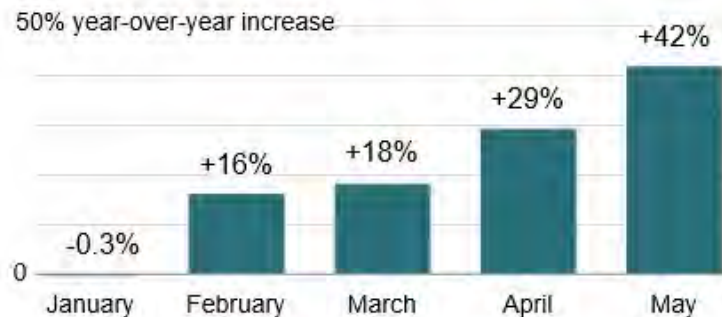
overdoses have increased [more than 50 percent](#).

Monthly overdoses grew dramatically during the pandemic

For every 10 suspected overdoses reported to ODMAP in May 2019, 14 overdoses were reported in May 2020.



Overdoses increased up to 42% per month during the pandemic, as compared to the same months in 2019.



Note: Percent growth references the 1,201 agencies reporting to ODMAP by January

Source: ODMAP

ALYSSA FOWERS/THE WASHINGTON PO

When the pandemic hit, some authorities hoped it might lead to a decrease in overdoses by disrupting [drug traffic as borders closed](#) and cities shut

Inside the Houston surge

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Coronavirus pandemic

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US overdose deaths hit record 100,000 in a year, driven by fentanyl use and the coronavirus pandemic

- Many drug users were left socially isolated and unable to get treatment or other support as Covid-19 spread across the country
- Drug overdose fatalities now surpass deaths from car crashes, guns and even flu and pneumonia

Associated Press + FOLLOW
Published: 1:21am, 18 Nov, 2021

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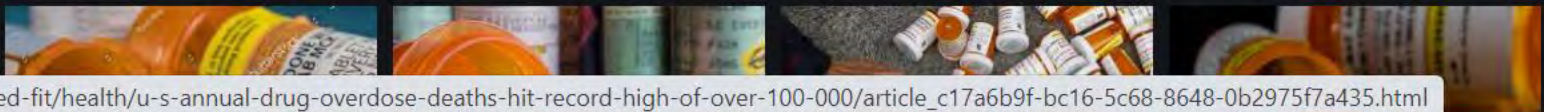
U.S. annual drug overdose deaths hit record high of over 100,000 | Health | stltoday.com

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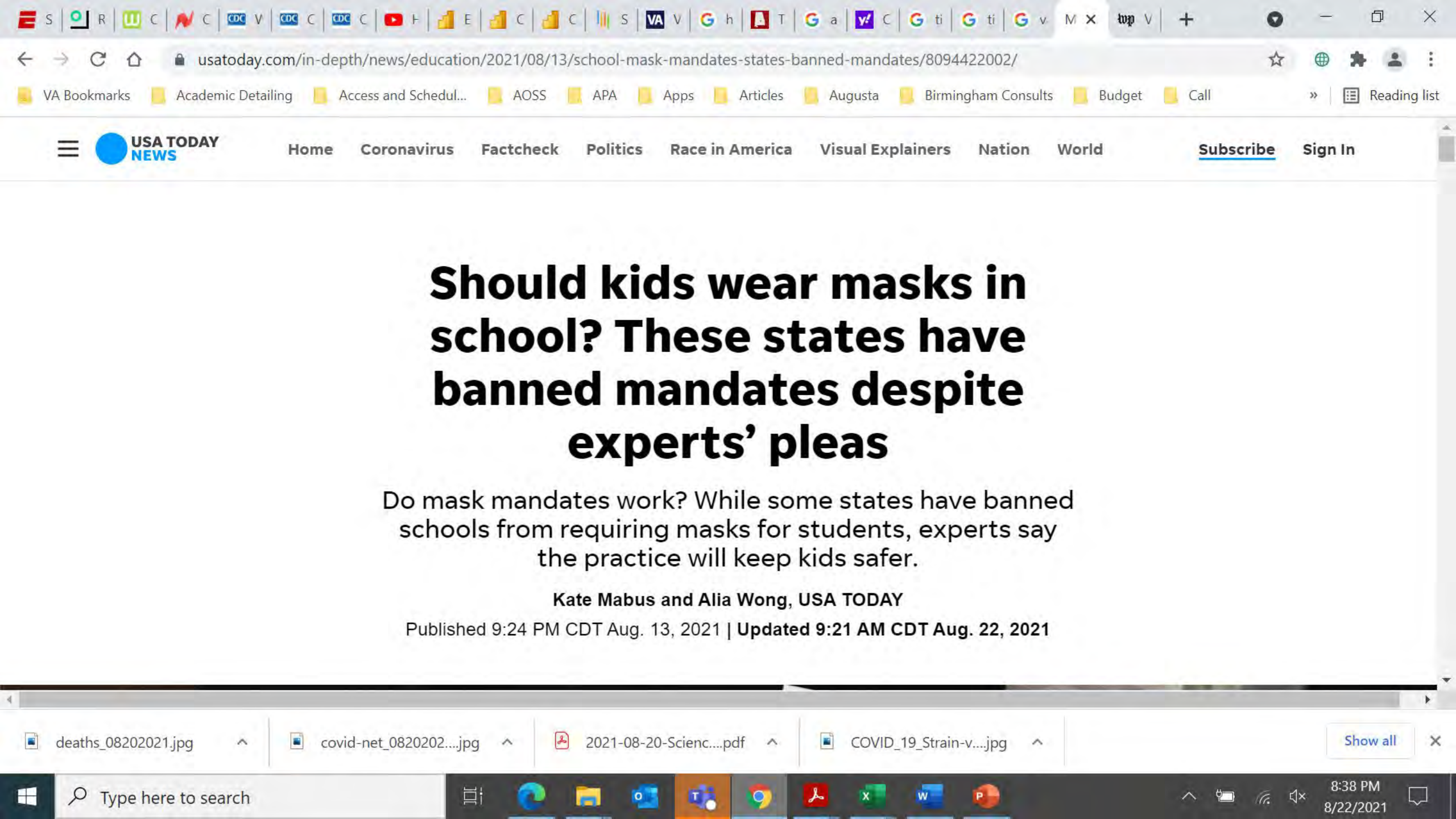


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Why are OD's increasing?

- Traditional supply lines disrupted, leading to seeking out new suppliers and substances, increasing the risk of OD and death
- Synthetic drugs showing up more in autopsies
- Social distancing leads to taking drugs alone so no one to call 911 or administer Narcan
- Treatment centers, drug courts, etc forced to shut down or scale back so no availability of treatment
- Funding collapse- govt allocated only \$425 million of \$2.5 trillion on MH and substance abuse- about 0.001%

SOCIAL DIVISION

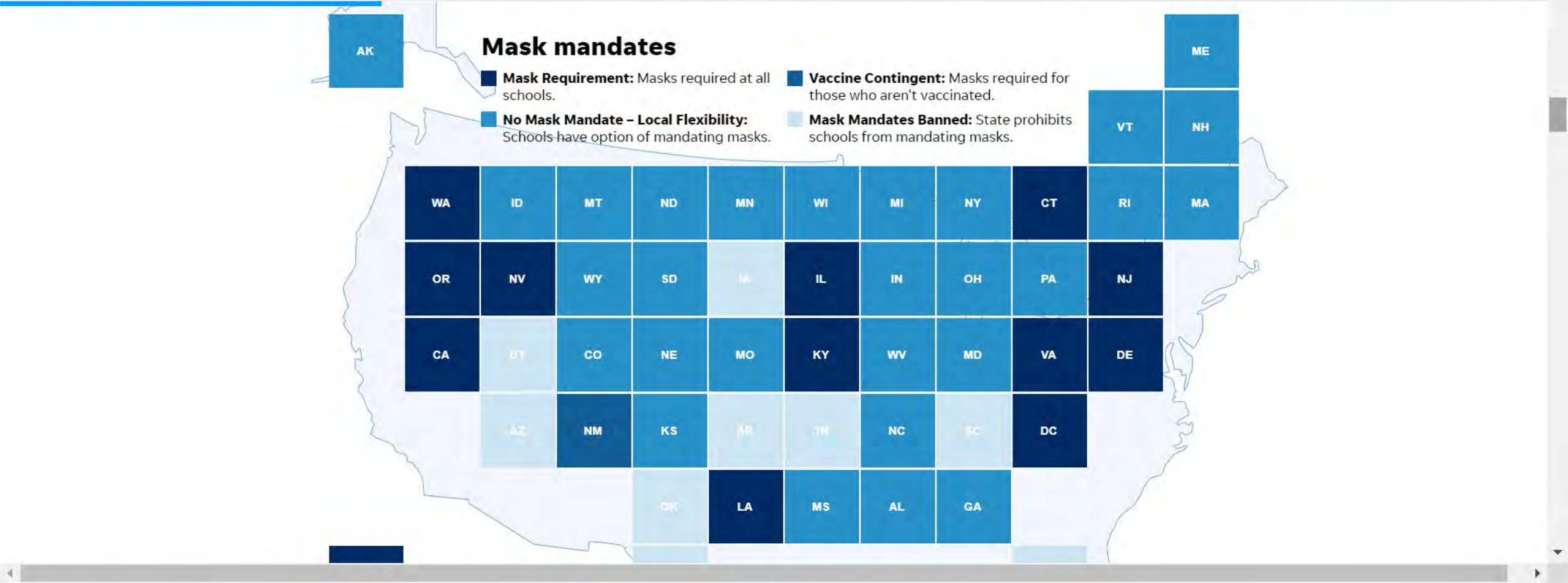


Should kids wear masks in school? These states have banned mandates despite experts' pleas

Do mask mandates work? While some states have banned schools from requiring masks for students, experts say the practice will keep kids safer.

Kate Mabus and Alia Wong, USA TODAY

Published 9:24 PM CDT Aug. 13, 2021 | Updated 9:21 AM CDT Aug. 22, 2021

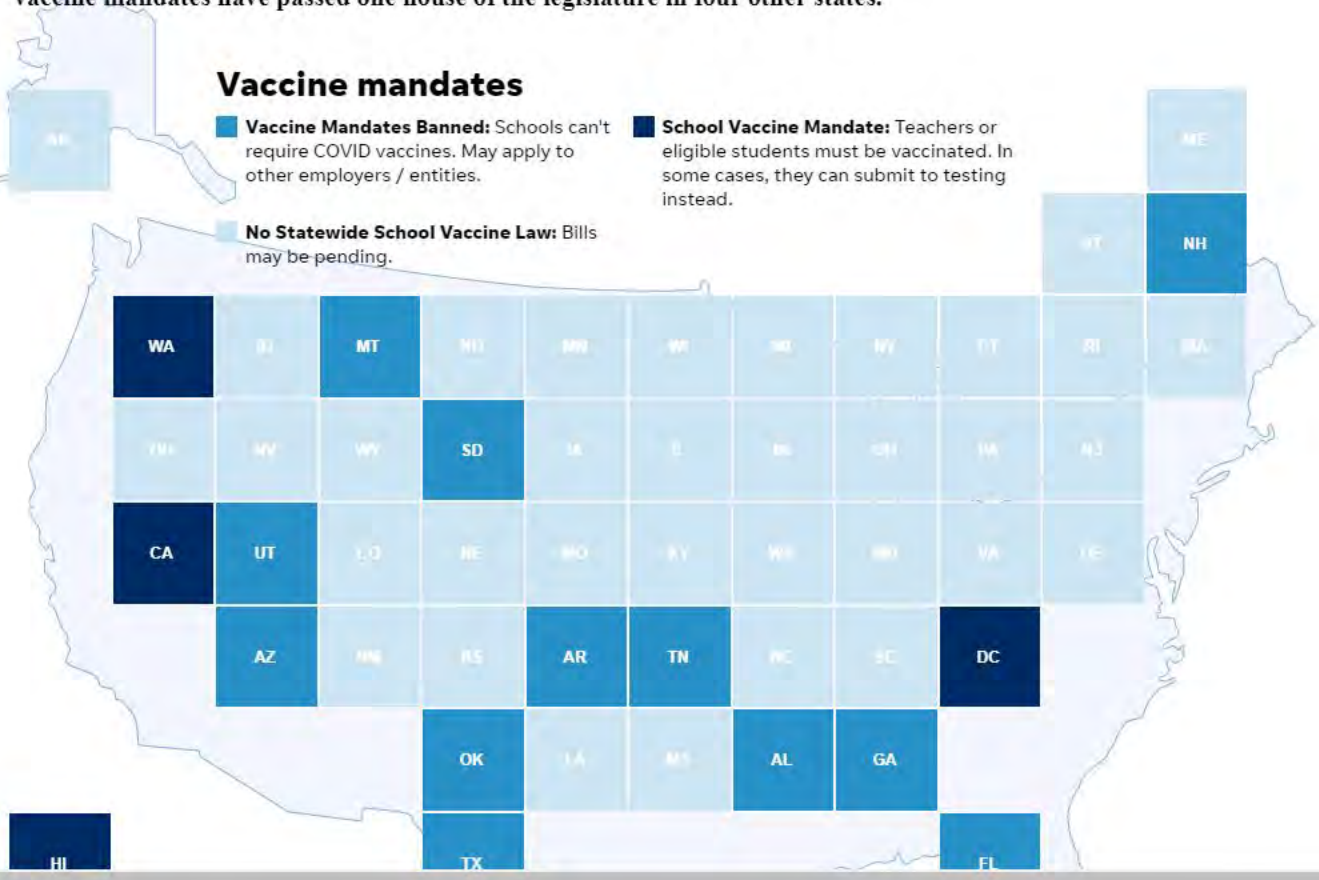




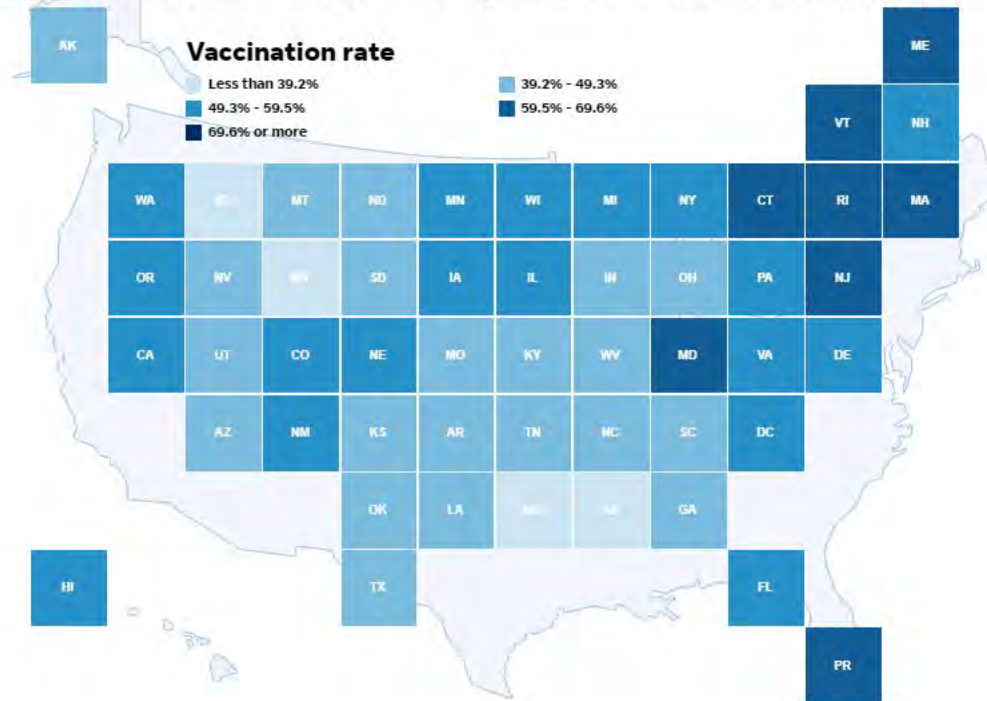
Roughly a dozen states have banned schools or employers from requiring vaccines. Bills seeking to restrict vaccine mandates have passed one house of the legislature in four other states.

Vaccine mandates

- Vaccine Mandates Banned:** Schools can't require COVID vaccines. May apply to other employers / entities.
- School Vaccine Mandate:** Teachers or eligible students must be vaccinated. In some cases, they can submit to testing instead.
- No Statewide School Vaccine Law:** Bills may be pending.



Half of all Americans are fully vaccinated, CDC data show, but the percentage is much higher in some states – and much lower in others.

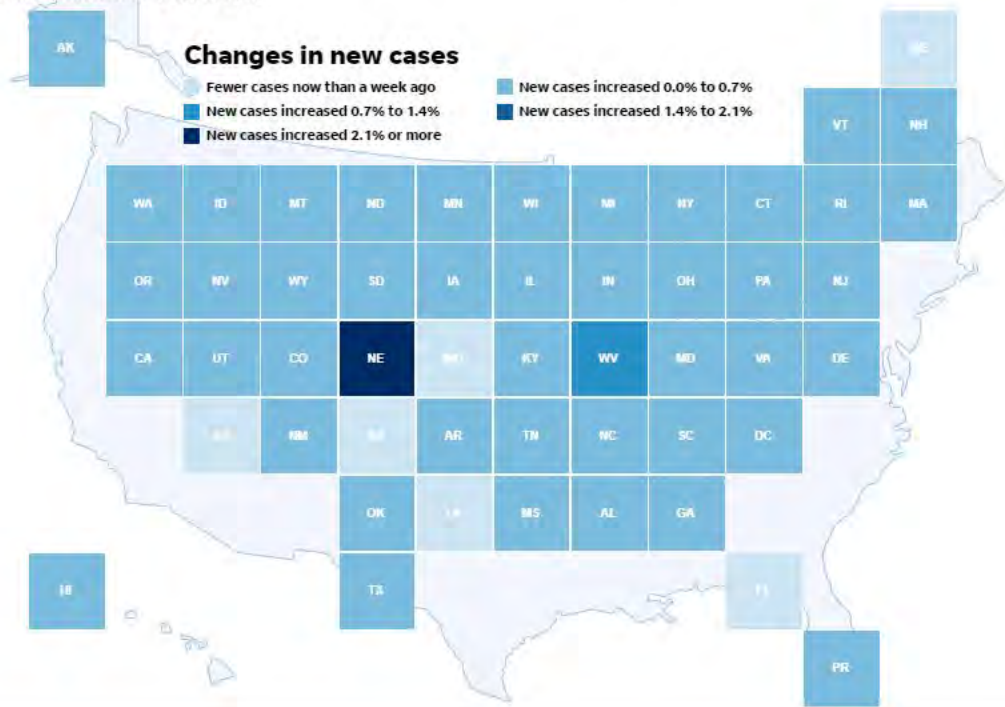


Is it safe to send kids to school – in masks or without?

Is it safe to send kids to school – in masks or without?

The pandemic has made it clear children learn best in classrooms, so public health experts recommend schools do everything they can to hold in-person classes.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is likely to spread more easily in schools when a community has high transmission, the CDC says – and much of the country has returned to those levels.





anti mask mandates



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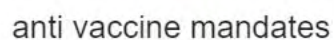
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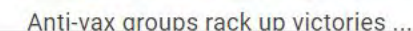
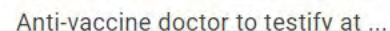
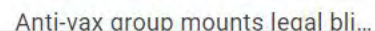
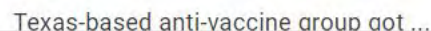
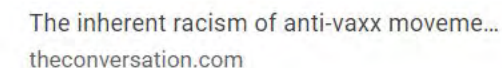
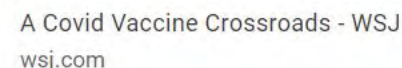
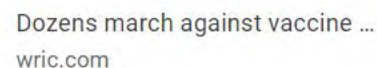
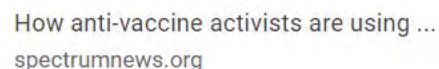
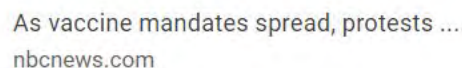
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COMPASSION FATIGUE

Compassion Fatigue

- Doctors around the country are sharing their frustration as more unvaccinated people show up in emergency rooms with COVID-19 while a safe and effective vaccine is available.
- One doctor went viral for saying he would no longer treat patients who didn't get the shot starting in October.
- A California doctor shared an op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times* expressing compassion fatigue, echoing how COVID is a terrible way to die when there's a vaccine that can save your life.

Healthcare Exhaustion

- This recent surge is pushing healthcare workers beyond what they experienced before, stretching resources that are already strained as doctors and nurses care for COVID and non-COVID-related emergencies at the same time.
- "So when you know that there's something that can be done to prevent all of those complications, all of that heart shift and all of that suffering, it's just that that's where people start to get frustrated, not necessarily with an individual, but just because there's something that can be done," said Dr. Nishant Anand, the chief medical officer at BayCare Health System.

- Dr. Anand said the sense of frustration is human nature because healthcare workers are emotionally and physically drained after going nonstop for 18 months during the pandemic. But he said that does not mean providers aren't doing everything they can to help.
- Some people who refuse the shot for a variety of reasons are also the same people getting treated with experimental antibodies and other drugs that are FDA approved for emergency use just like the vaccine. BayCare's CMO said people should understand the shot really helps.



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An Alabama doctor watched patients reject the coronavirus vaccine. Now he's refusing to treat them.



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Updated: Aug. 20, 2021, 11:14 a.m. | Published: Aug. 19, 2021, 11:25 p.m.



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CORONAVIRUS

Alabama governor says 'it's time to start blaming the unvaccinated folks' as pandemic worsens

"I can't make you take care of yourself," Republican Kay Ivey said of her state's residents who have yet to receive their shots.



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Pandemic leads to compassion fatigue, burnout for health care workers

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After the horrors that health-care workers have endured during the pandemic, many are struggling to sympathize with people who won't protect themselves.

By Chavi Eve Karkowsky

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1) I was on CNN International with Michael Holmes last night:

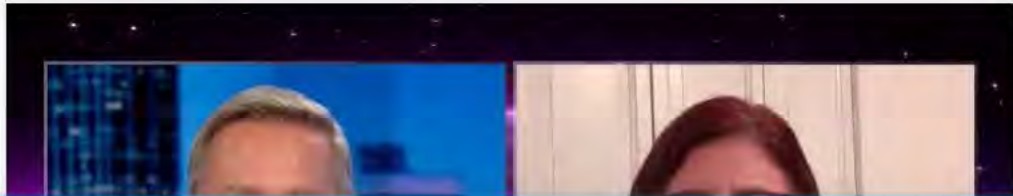
twitter.com/holmesenn/stat...

1/x



Michael Holmes @holmesenn · Aug 15

The current #COVID19 wave is worse for healthcare workers than the first "because it is avoidable. Optional. A choice," says Dr @ChaviKar. Workers are angry, going "through a traumatic experience and then being asked to do it again" - because people chose not to get vaccinated.



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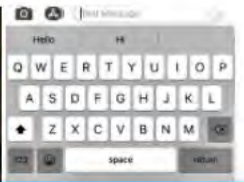
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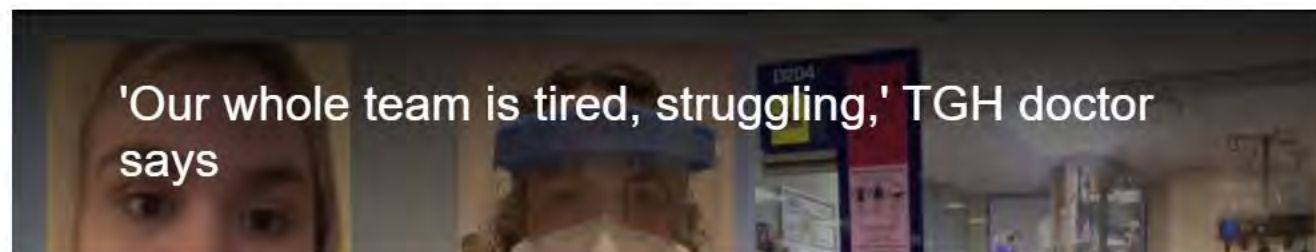


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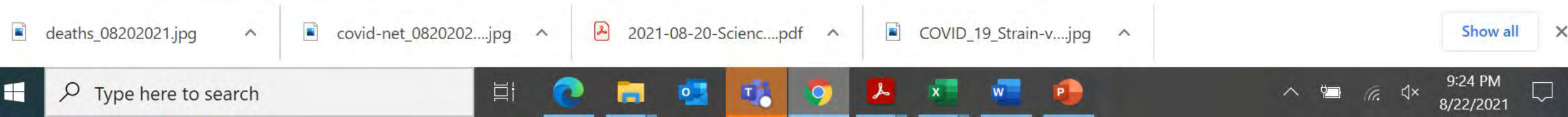
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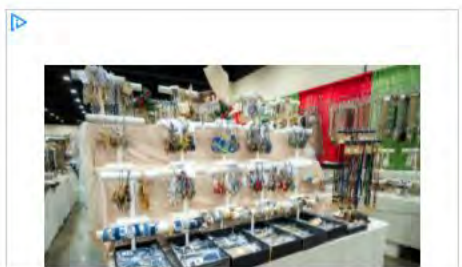
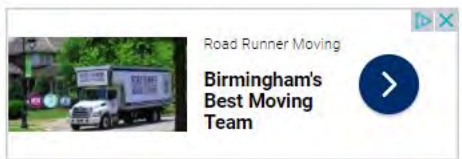
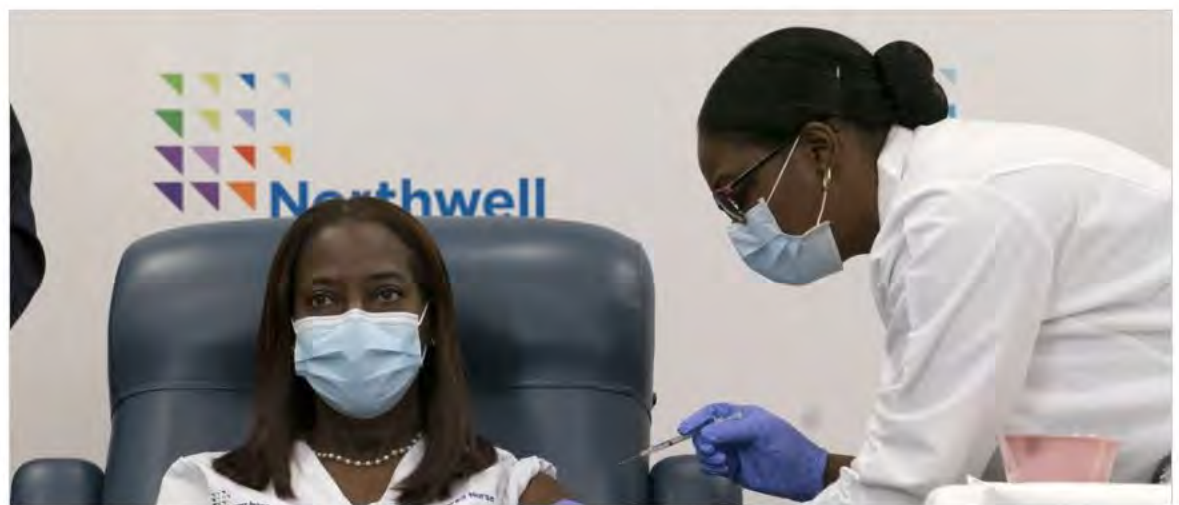
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First Americans Administered Pfizer's Coronavirus Vaccine

The long-awaited kickoff of the historic inoculation campaign comes the same day the U.S. death toll from the virus is expected to surpass 300,000.

By [Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder](#) | Dec. 14, 2020, at 10:23 a.m.



CORONAVIRUS

Dec. 14 Coronavirus updates: First federally approved vaccine administered

An estimated 2.9 million doses will be distributed within the first week.



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Moderna COVID vaccine becomes second to get US authorization

Two RNA vaccines will be useful as US infections surge, but the speedy authorizations complicate clinical trials.

Heidi Ledford

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Coronavirus pandemic



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US news

Full FDA approval of Pfizer Covid shot will enable vaccine requirements

- FDA is trying to finish licensing process as soon as Monday
- Radio host who criticised vaccine efforts dies of Covid-19

Alexandra Villarreal

Sun 22 Aug 2021 13.55 EDT





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Full Covid-19 vaccine approval won't just boost confidence. It'll likely lead to new business requirements, surgeon general says

By Travis Caldwell and [Holly Yan](#), CNN
⌚ Updated 4:28 PM ET, Sun August 22, 2021



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FDA grants full approval to Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine



 US Food and Drug Administration

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P Politico

FDA approves Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, making way for more vaccine mandates

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By **NANCY DILLON**
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | MAY 03, 2021 AT 7:12 PM



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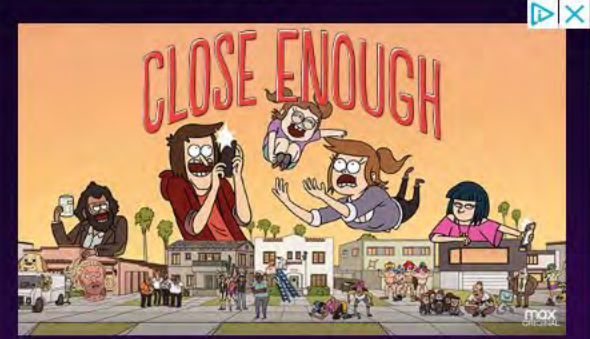
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FAA chief says alarming increase in unruly passengers should concern everyone

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By Mina Kaji
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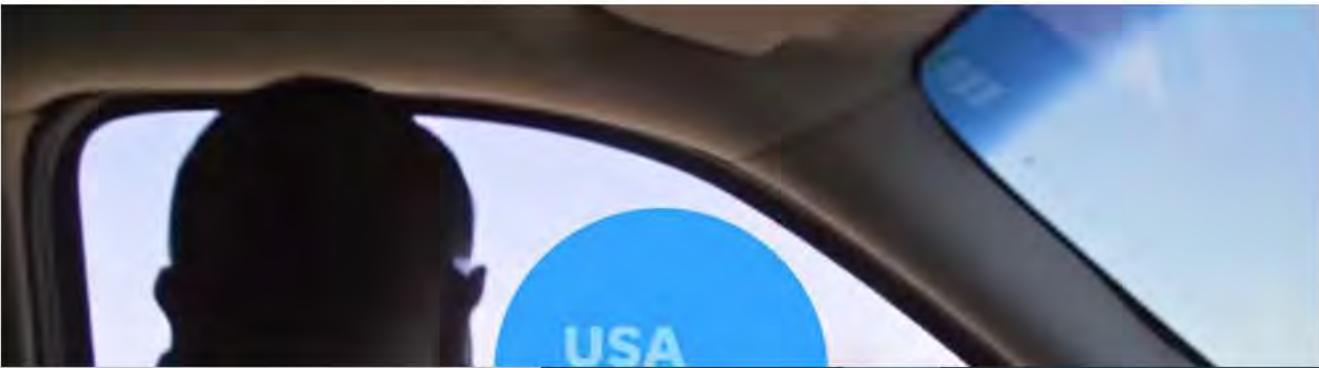
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Associated Press
Published 4:15 p.m. ET Nov. 6, 2021 | Updated 5:40 p.m. ET Nov. 6, 2021



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More Than a Dozen States Sue Biden Over Vaccine Mandate

Kaia Hubbard · 1 day ago



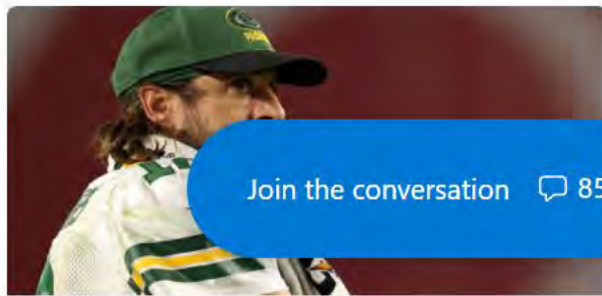
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Leaders in more than a dozen states are pushing back against the Biden administration's announcement detailing the rollout of the highly anticipated vaccine mandate for private companies.



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19 states sue Biden administration over COVID vaccine rule

Nineteen states are now suing to block President Joe Biden's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for federal contractors

By The Associated Press
October 29, 2021, 11:36 PM • 4 min read

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COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Eighteen states filed three separate lawsuits Friday to stop President Joe Biden's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for federal contractors, arguing that the requirement violates federal law.

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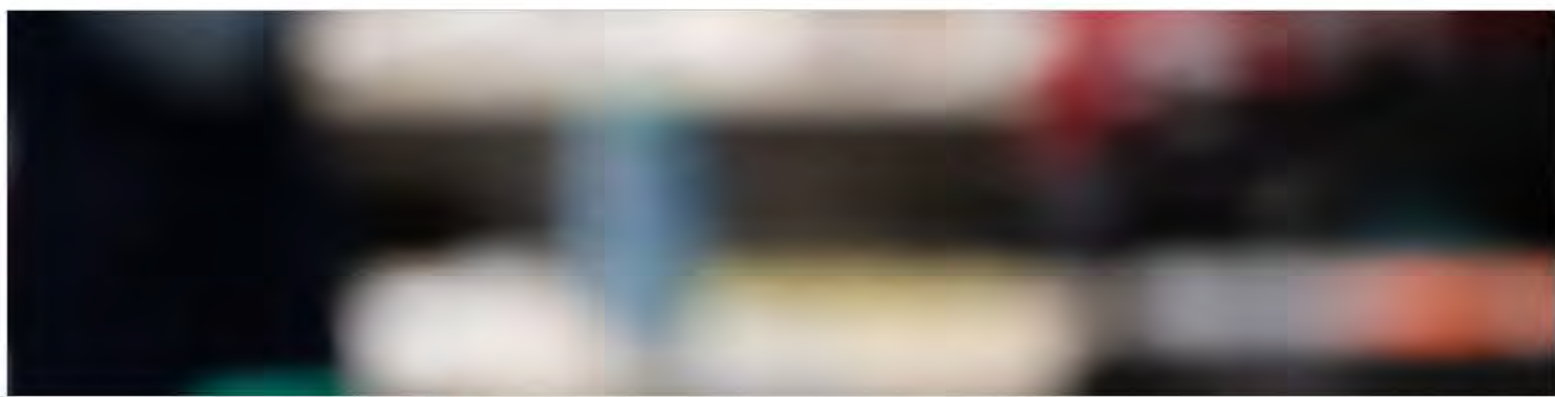
These States Have Banned Vaccine Passports

Several states have now enacted laws that ban certain requirements – such as so-called ‘vaccine passports’ – based on COVID-19 inoculation status.

By [Elliott Davis](#) | June 1, 2021, at 3:13 p.m.

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Updated: Nov. 16, 2021, 10:15 a.m. | Published: Nov. 15, 2021, 8:28 p.m.

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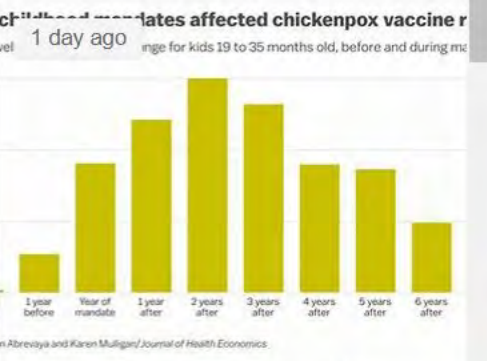
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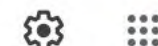
To prohibit certain COVID–19 vaccination mandates for minors, and to
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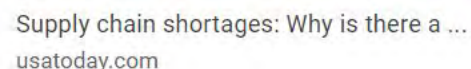
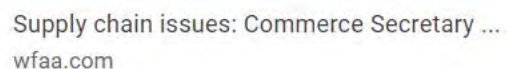
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BY JOAL RYAN
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Why the Pandemic Has Disrupted Supply Chains

JUNE 17, 2021 • ARTICLES

By Susan Helper and Evan Soltas

These are times of rapid transition for the U.S. economy. With the winding down of the worst of the pandemic, businesses have added iobs at a rate of

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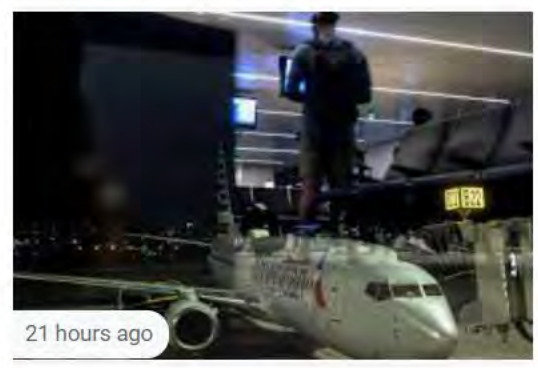
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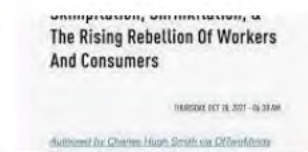
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Inflation just reached a 30-year high, and might be even higher thanks to 'skimpflation'

Skimpflation is a form of inflation where companies skimp on the goods and services they provide.

By: Rob Litterst | @robbylit

November 1, 2021



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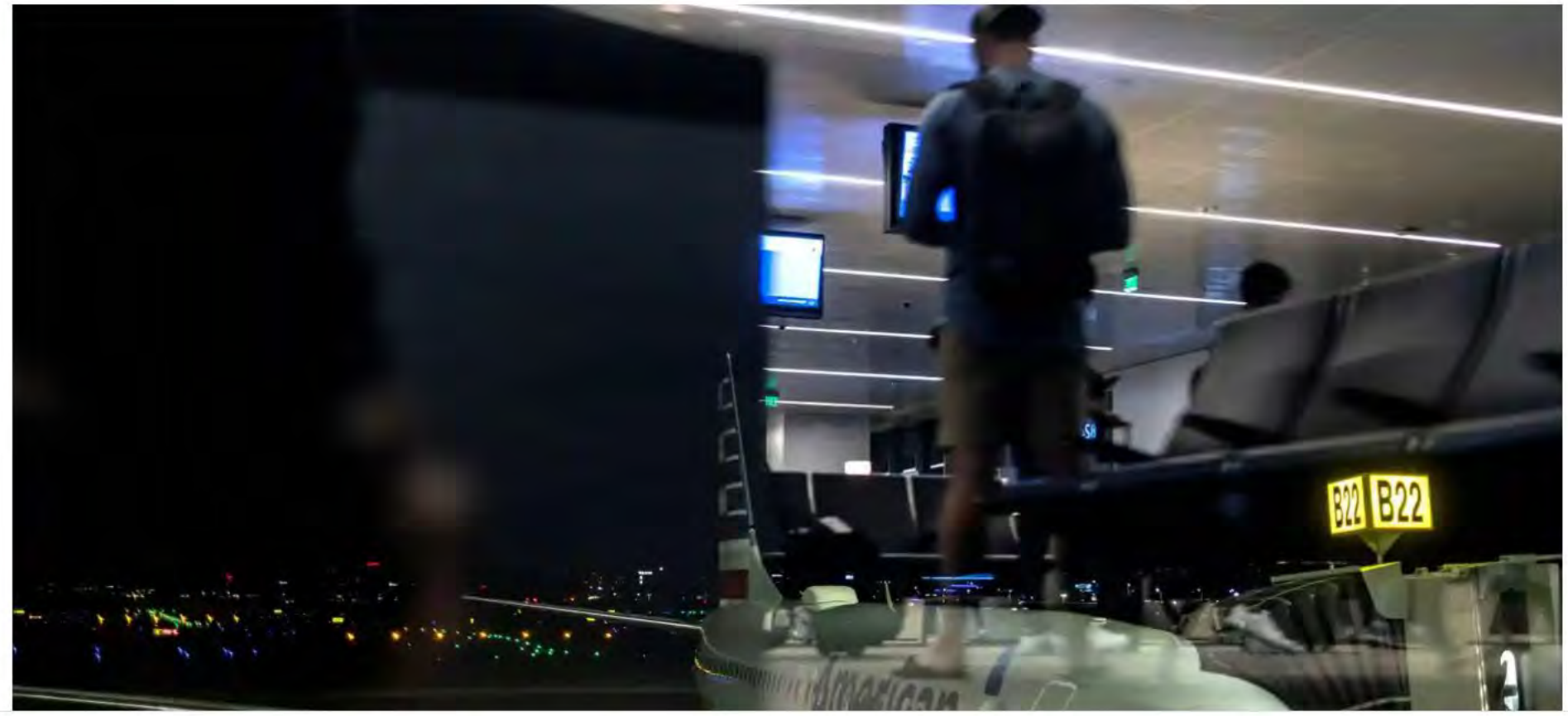
US economy

Edward Helmore

Sat 6 Nov 2021 02.00 EDT



'Skimpflation': frustration as US firms skimp on service as prices rise



A passenger in San Francisco waits to board a flight last weekend. More than 1,400 American Airlines flights over the weekend were cancelled. Photograph: Carlos Barría/Reuters

As labor shortages and supply chain problems bite, consumers have a growing sense they're getting less for their money

"Flight cancelled"; "service temporarily suspended"; "not currently available"; "longer than normal wait times": these are the messages that confront US consumers daily as the economy struggles to find a post pandemic footing. Now the phenomenon has a name: "skimpflation".

It's a simple in concept - struggling with shortages of workers and goods, companies are skimping on what they offer consumers while, in many cases, charging the same price or more for that service.

But skimpflation may have profound consequences, and may even go some way to account for the rising tide consumer of dissatisfaction seen in increasing air rage incidents and even the Biden administration's plummeting poll numbers.

Skimpflation is everywhere. Last weekend, American Airlines cancelled upwards of 2,000 flights, leaving thousands stranded, as a single weather

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Skimpflation is everywhere

If you've noticed the drive-thru taking **longer** than usual lately, you aren't alone. Other examples include:

- **Disney** disabling its tram at Disneyland
- **Domino's** **taking** longer to deliver pizzas
- **Airlines** **leaving** customers on hold for longer than usual

In many cases, the skimping isn't deliberate — some businesses are facing a perfect storm of challenges right now, including:

- Complications stemming from COVID-19
- Supply chain issues increasing the costs of goods
- Labor shortages leaving businesses short-staffed

Shifting services from human to digital can lead to skimping as well

In his newsletter, *Kneeling Bus*, Drew Austin **described** a recent trip to CVS, where he noticed the following cycle:

1. Most items are locked in cases to avoid theft



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'Skimpflation' is here: Longer waits, fewer options and bare-bones customer support hide the true price of inflation as businesses slash services in response to rising costs and labor shortage


- New term 'skimpflation' describes slump in service standards amid labor shortage and rising business costs
- Phenomenon represents pain for consumers that is not captured in the traditional inflation measurements
- Airlines have cancelled flights by the thousands, while Disney World has not brought its tram service back
- Domino's pizza delivery is taking longer because there aren't enough drivers, and hotels cut breakfast buffets
- Customer satisfaction scores are now at their lowest level in 15 years after plunging during the pandemic


By [KEITH GRIFFITH FOR DAILYMAL.COM](#)
PUBLISHED: 15:02 EDT, 6 November 2021 | **UPDATED:** 18:59 EDT, 6 November 2021

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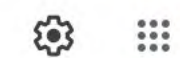
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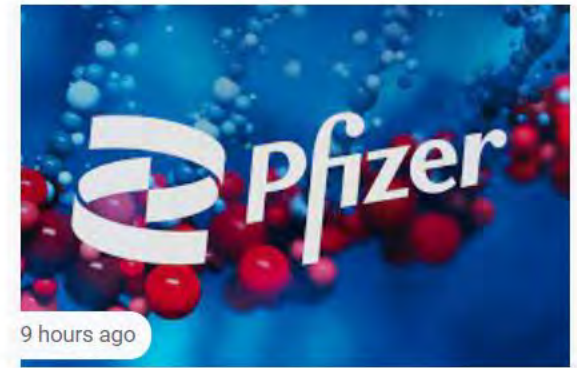
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Pfizer Says COVID-19 Pill Cut Hospital, Death Risk by 90%

Pfizer says its experimental pill for COVID-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by nearly 90% among patients with mild-to-moderate infections.

By [Associated Press](#) | Nov. 5, 2021, at 5:24 p.m.


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Esther Landhuis
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So how does it all end?

- Will we ever be “normal” again?
- Will we ever get along again?
- Will science and medicine ever be trusted again?
- Will the social changes and upheavals settle after the pandemic is gone?
- Will the pandemic ever leave or will we learn to live with an endemic disease with occasional surges like other viruses?
- Who knows

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