



TIMELY TOPICS: 2020 – RETROSPECTIVE ON A CHALLENGING YEAR

December 2020

INTRODUCTION

Telltale roots, thickening midsections, NetFlix hangovers, hoards of Amazon boxes, and ‘zooming’ that doesn’t involve going anywhere – the past 8 months of pandemic life have had an impact on most of us that will be discussed and analyzed for years to come. And what about the issues that have filled our news most recently? What’s new? How have they evolved? To close out 2020, this *Timely Topics* revisits the varied research topics that we covered from April through November with expanded updates and a look at the response to the pandemic across multiple states.

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ACROSS THE NATION

State and local governments have faced monumental challenges in the past 8 months to respond to the effects, cost, and burdens the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed on individuals and systems. States have responded to these shared challenges with differing ways, means and priorities, testing their ability to mobilize resources, impose public safety limitations, maintain an economic equilibrium and plan for a recovery.

- [NCSL Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources for States](#), Oct. 19, 2020.
- [“Lawmakers Deal With Latest COVID Surge: Legislative Watch”](#) *Governing*, Nov. 20, 2020.

APRIL: [TELEHEALTH](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic led to drastic increases in the use of remote access to health care providers, requiring medical professionals to quickly adapt to technology driven services, and legislators to create the legal framework in which to do so.

- [Health Care Access, Telemedicine, and Loss of Work Due to Illness](#) : RANDS during COVID-19, National Center for Health Statistics, last reviewed Oct. 7, 2020.
- [COVID-19 Related State Actions](#), Center for Connected Health Policy, Accessed on Nov. 24, 2020.
- [AMA COVID-19 daily video update: Protecting physicians, hospitals from emerging cyberthreats](#), American Medical Association, Nov. 11, 2020.

MAY: [CONTACT TRACING](#)

Back in April few of us were familiar with the concept of contact tracing, but it has since become part of our everyday vernacular. Given the recent surge in COVID-19 numbers, there are new concerns that contact tracing and the effectiveness of technological solutions to track and stem the spread of infectious disease may not be up to the task.

- ["With COVID everywhere, Michigan contact tracers losing control of spread"](#), *Bridge Michigan*, Nov. 20, 2020
- [State of Michigan and MSU Launch COVID-19 App Pilot for Campus and the Surrounding Community](#), MDHHS Press Release, Oct. 15, 2020
- [MI COVID ALERT APP](#)

JUNE: [ACES \(ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES\)](#)

The ongoing pandemic and limitations placed on normal social mobility and interactions create home situations where children are especially vulnerable to the risk of abuse. ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) provide a way to measure and document that childhood traumatic experiences that can have detrimental impacts on both physical health and social well-being as victims reach adulthood.

- ["Reducing the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences"](#), *LegisBrief*, Aug. 2020
- [Adversity in Early Childhood: The Role of Policy in Creating and Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences](#), Center for American Progress, Aug. 2020
- [Building Resilience, Healing Communities](#), Michigan Ace Initiative, July 2020 Impact Report
- ["COVID-19 and worsening parent-child well-being,"](#), The Brown University Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology Update; Hoboken, Dec. 2020
- Since June, the Library has purchased remote streaming for state employees to three ACEs videos:
 - [Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope](#)
 - [Paper Tigers](#)
 - [Broken Places](#)

JULY: [DECLINING RATES OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS DURING COVID-19](#)

As the threat of a second wave of the COVID-19 virus becomes reality, earlier concerns about the declining statistics in common childhood immunizations during the pandemic show improvement, but the overall outlook is mixed.

- [Rebound in Routine Childhood Vaccine Administration Following Decline During the COVID-19 Pandemic...](#), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Centers for Disease Control, July 31, 2020
- ["DHHS: Pandemic Affecting Non-COVID Services; Numbers Rebounding"](#), *GONGWER*, Nov. 18, 2020.
- ["Deaths from Measles Soared Worldwide in 2019"](#), *New York Times*, Nov. 13, 2020
- [The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Reports Steep Decline in Childhood Vaccinations Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, Putting Community Protection at Risk](#), Blue Cross Blue Shield Association press release, Nov. 18, 2020

SEPTEMBER: [OPERATION WARP SPEED](#)

When Operation Warp Speed was announced by the White House on May 15, 2020, the idea of having a COVID-19 vaccine in place by the start of 2021 seemed a far-fetched goal. As we enter December, the prospects of having not just one but two or more vaccines approved under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by the close of the year is a very real possibility.

- ["In Dr. Fauci's words: Why Americans shouldn't fear a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the FDA"](#), *USA Today*, Nov. 23, 2020
- ["Vaccine czar: First vaccinations hopefully coming by Dec 12"](#) *CNN State of the Union*, Nov. 22, 2020
- ["What you need to know about the Moderna and Pfizer coronavirus vaccines"](#), *Washington Post*, Nov. 20, 2020
- ["Pfizer seeking emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in U.S."](#), *Crain's Detroit*, Nov. 20, 2020
- [One-on-one with Dr. Anthony Fauci on vaccines, Operation Warp Speed](#), *News Nation Now*, Nov. 20, 2020
- ["Local Moderna Vaccine Trial Participant Shares His Experience"](#), *East Lansing Info*, Nov. 19, 2020
- ["New Pfizer Results: Coronavirus Vaccine Is Safe and 95% Effective"](#), *New York Times*, Nov. 18, 2020
- ["What Is Driving the Decline in People's Willingness to Take the COVID-19 Vaccine in the United States?"](#), *JAMA Health Forum*, Nov. 18, 2020
- [The Story of mRNA: How a Once-dismissed Idea Became a Leading Technology in the Covid Vaccine Race](#), *STAT Special Report*, Nov. 10, 2020

NOVEMBER: [EVICTION MORATORIUMS](#)

Concerns over expiring federal, state and local eviction moratoriums continue to develop as the end of CARES Act unemployment benefits approaches. Groups identified as most at risk to be adversely affected are low-income families and minority renters.

- [The Pandemic Has Exacerbated Housing Instability for Renters of Color](#), Center for American Progress, Oct. 30, 2020.
- [Eviction Update](#), National Low Income Housing Coalition, updated Nov. 20, 2020.

NOTE:

If you need assistance accessing any of these resources, please email librarian@michigan.gov.