

3 de Marzo 2022

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

# El Semanario

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**Uncertain Risks**  
*Riesgos Inciertos*

8

**3 de Marzo 2022**  
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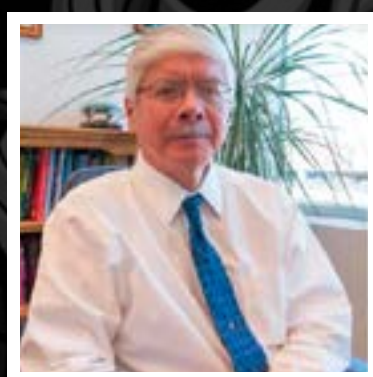
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# THE WEEKLY ISSUE El Semanario

## We Speak Your Language

Our podcast features a series of conversations with local and national influencers who engage with our communities and reflect on our responsibilities.

- Democracy
- Reproductive Justice
- Environment
- Immigration
- Education
- LGBTQ+



### Luis Torres, Ph.D.

A long-time educator and administrator, having taught in higher education since 1972, first as a graduate student and then as English professor. He later became the Professor and Chair of the Department of Chicana/o Studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He became the Deputy Provost for Academic and Student Affairs until retiring in 2017.



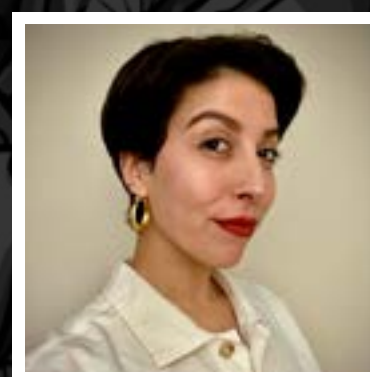
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A Professional Broadcaster residing in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Specializing in English and Spanish Literature with a degree in Tourism. Passion to communicate, inform, express opinions and feelings, and to delve into topics that make us grow every day more.



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# PODCAST

## Commentary/Comentario

### It's Time to Stand Up to the Bully

Ramón Del Castillo, PhD

As one of the founders of the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver, an avid believer of non-violence in achieving social justice, and currently planning for Denver's 21st Annual César Chávez march and celebration, I am personally and profoundly perplexed on the current Russian invasion of Ukraine. I have been devoted to the idea of non-violence—something that I have preached for 40 years and find it difficult as I watch human annihilation, which is antithetical to nonviolence, taking place in the Ukraine. As a journalist and a firm believer in the power of the pen to penetrate and change minds, I am in ethical conflict about commenting on the war—caught in a conundrum with my belief in non-violence and watching human extermination. After examining the theory of the just war and revisiting the work and writing of other nonviolent activists, I hope I have found the common ground to state my case. In my mind, the preservation of human life must always be the ultimate goal.

Ghandi preached that, "My creed of nonviolence is an ex-

tremely active force. It has no room for cowardice or even weakness. There is hope for a violent man to be some day nonviolent, but there is none for a coward. I have therefore said more than once in these pages that if we do not know how to defend ourselves, our [families] and our places of worship by the force of suffering, i.e. nonviolence, we must, if we are men [humans] be at least able to defend all these by fighting" (June 16, 1927).

“

I don't think that sitting idly by and watching death occur is a rational answer. I do believe that believers in nonviolence should never be cowards.

Becoming nonviolent in a violent world is an awesome challenge; something that takes a lifetime. It is fraught with the imperfections that human beings carry as they struggle to find adequate answers to ethical dilemmas.

Let me preface my comments regarding the Russian invasion of

Ukraine by stating that a rebellion has begun; therefore, at this point in time, the use of non-violent methods to address the violent atrocities occurring in Ukraine, are seemingly useless at this point in bringing an end to the war. What we can strive for is non-violent protests. Angry, self-determined nations led by dictators will likely not forfeit their arms; unless, there is a payoff. Self-defense against the Russian aggressors, in order to protect families and children and maintain human dignity, seems to be a rational response and perhaps the only method that can be used. I don't think that sitting idly by and watching death occur is a rational answer. I do believe that believers in nonviolence should never be cowards. Certainly, I hope that authentic peace talks begin soon and that human exploitation ceases—an idea that some may believe is too idealistic.

Protecting a country's ideology by creating a fictitious victim, then provoking and attacking that invisible enemy, is an act of war. Who are Vladimir Putin's real enemies? It is any country that is working towards building a democratic nation. Why pick on a nation whose chance at

being victorious is zilch? It is rather an erroneous method in the long run. Bullies never gain respect except from other bullies, using methods of fear and intimidation as strategies to control. If bullies, assuming they have insight, don't develop a healthy human consciousness, insight, and empathy, they are destined to trek along dismal paths, losing respect from others. Those who follow bullies need to stop being followers. If not, they too, will wear the cloak of being a bully. Bullies in positions of power are dangerous. The destruction they leave behind dawdles on for a long time. Putin is orchestrating such a campaign against Ukraine, but is also attempting to send a message to the rest of the world. What might that message be—I am invincible? His thirst for power is insatiable, able to rationalize the destruction of human life at a whim.

Ukraine is a sovereign democratic nation—a choice their electorate made. If an elected political philosophy is imbalanced in a country, let the populace from that nation put it back in balance through their governance structure. No other nation has the right to force an ideology onto its neighbor or determine if what has been legally voted upon is successful. It is an act of false paternalism—in this case, it is another way for Russia to protect its own political philosophy—one that has failed miserably.

Aggressively mistreating defenseless families and children is a rambunctious way of relating to your neighbors. When a peace-loving people in a democratic nation are suddenly forced to pack up their bags and vamoose from their country because of an invasion—a pitiless act of violence—it bespeaks of totalitarianism ad infinitum. It is dictatorship at its finest. To invade a nation, destroy its political, social and economic infrastructures; then, replace it with an alternative ideology whose history is filled with failure, is a contradiction.

Nations that have consciously decided to become allies for a country under siege should consider more than just giving people food and clothing. That won't cut the mustard. Molotov cocktails is a beginning but is no match for tanks and weaponry. Ukrainians can't take firecrackers to a nuclear battle no matter how much collective spirit they might possess. Supporting nations need to dig deep into their pocketbooks and provide armaments to resolve this merciless assault. The brutal force



Photo: Ramón Del Castillo

against state-of-the-art weapons can only be matched with gallantry and weapons that will match those of the aggressor. Russia's savage assault against the Ukrainians requires international intervention and courage with peace through love as the ultimate outcome. NATO members should use their wherewithal to put a halt to this. Power needs to confront power in a showdown.

In the theory of the just war, one has to justify when it is appropriate to cause harm to others. Saint Augustine tells us that "war [arises] disordered ambitions, but it could be used, in some cases at least, to restrain evil and protect the innocent." Putin's decision to invade Ukraine was an inhumane act resulting in people abandoning their sacred homes, with their children hanging at their sides, bewildered, emotionally fearful of the present, and uncertain of tomorrow. His act did not demonstrate bravery; it was simply an act of cowardice. The sadness that will be elicited when this fiasco is over will hover over the Ukraine for a long time. A peaceful resolution must be sought out, agreed upon by all, and adhered to, following this mass destruction. As Pope John Paul stated, "Peace is not just the absence of war. It involves mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. It involves collaboration and binding agreements. Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently and with unshakeable faith."

The scars of war are everlasting, penetrating the deepest part of the soul. Ukraine has a moral obligation to protect its people from the ravages of war. Countries that seek world peace cannot sit on the sideline and watch this demolition. The bully has to go.

Dr. Ramón Del Castillo is an Independent Journalist. © 2-29-2022 Ramón Del Castillo.

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## Former President and Republicans Rev up their Machinery of Lies

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

In the parallel world in which Republicans live, their central figure—former President Donald Trump, the king of lies and conspiracy theories—is launching a social media platform ironically named TRUTH Social, after being kicked off of the traditional social networks Twitter and Facebook for promoting lies about his defeat in the 2020 general elections.

With this type of cybernetic oxymoron we can see the type of media spawn that the United States is in for and how this platform will turn a lie into the permanently hidden “truth.” And when it comes to immigration, it’s certain that the platform will reproduce each and every one of the attacks the ex-president has launched against undocumented immigrants since he showed up on the U.S. political scene.

Essentially, it will be a space to rejoice for those who ignorantly promote racism and xenophobia, and who prefer to be deceived rather than make an intellectual effort to undo the influence that a person like Trump has had on



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

national history, especially on the issue of migration.

With Trump at the helm, the Republicans have gotten used to torturing the truth to death—even knowing that they, themselves, are the primary victims of this whole tidal wave of lies.

Thus, the terrorists who assaulted the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 in a failed coup attempt to keep Congress from certifying Joe Biden’s electoral win are, according to the Republicans, “patriots” who “peacefully” exercised their right to protest. Trump even said that, upon returning to the White House, he would offer them presidential pardons.



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

That is obvious, and it wouldn’t be crazy to think that one of the first media campaigns on his new platform will be, precisely, promoting the idea that this teeming mob would not only merit a pardon, but even accolades for blindly obeying a false leader.

In this parallel and hypocritical world, the Republicans who dare to confront Trump or question the lies that he and his followers promote become traitors who must be expelled from the collective. Republican congress people Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, for example, were sanctioned by the Republican Party for joining the panel to investigate the January 6 disturbances that the GOP called

the “legitimate exercise of political discourse.” Both congress people actively denounced Trump for falsely declaring that he lost the election because Biden committed electoral “fraud.”

In fact, the Republican House Minority Leader, Kevin McCarthy, is supporting candidate Harriet Hagman against Liz Cheney in the August primary for the district she represents in Wyoming. Hagman is pro-Trump.

The cult of Trump is alive and well. Rick Scott, the Republican Senator from Florida who leads the National Republican Senatorial Committee, announced an eleven point plan to “save” the United States, and one of its sections proposes to finish the border wall and baptize it with the name “Trump.” This is one more example of how the Republican Party continues its immigration demagoguery, even after Trump.

But it is not the only one. We also have Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, who has made shameful use of immigrant children to press for the closure of shelters to house undocumented children who arrive in the United States without their parents. Or the Governor of



The saddest part about this entire situation is that despite their demagoguery and lies, Republicans continue to appeal to a wide group of the electorate.

Texas, Greg Abbott, who right in the middle of his reelection campaign in November has dared to use the same script, once again, blaming undocumented immigration for crime in his state, knowing that in study after study, the opposite is shown. Or even the Attorney General of Arizona, Mark Brnovich, looking for a seat in the U.S. Senate, who has pressured Doug Ducey, his state’s Governor, to respond, with military force, to what he erroneously calls an “invasion” of immigrants at the southern border.

The saddest part about this entire situation is that despite their demagoguery and lies, Republicans continue to appeal to a wide group of the electorate. And that even includes many Latinos, in

See Hastings/Torres on page 16

## El Expresidente y los Republicanos Aceitan su Maquinaria de Mentiras

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

En el mundo paralelo en que viven los republicanos, su figura central —el expresidente Donald Trump, el rey de las mentiras y de las teorías conspiratorias— lanza una plataforma social, irónicamente llamada Verdad (TRUTH Social), tras ser vetado por las tradicionales redes sociales de Twitter y Facebook. Ello, por promover mentiras sobre su derrota en las elecciones generales de 2020.

Con esta especie de oxímoron cibernético ya podemos darnos cuenta de la clase de engendro mediático que le espera a Estados Unidos y de cómo esa plataforma convertirá a la mentira en una “verdad” permanentemente enmascarada. Y en lo que se refiere a inmigración, es seguro que ahí se reproduzcan todos y cada uno de los ataques que ha lanzado el expresidente contra los indocumentados desde que él apareció en el firmamento político estadounidense.



Lo triste de toda esta situación es que a pesar de su demagogia y de sus mentiras, los republicanos siguen apelando a un amplio sector del electorado.

En pocas palabras será un espacio para regocijo, ni más ni menos, de quienes desde la ignorancia que promueven el racismo y la xenofobia prefieren ser engañados a hacer un esfuerzo intelectual para deshacerse del lastre en que se ha convertido un personaje como Trump en la historia nacional, especialmente en el ámbito migratorio.

Es decir, con Trump dirigiendo la orquesta, los republicanos ya se han habituado a torturar la verdad hasta matarla. Incluso a sabiendas de que ellos mismos son

Vea Hastings/Torres/Esp, página 16

ONE COLORADO'S

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## Commentary / Comentario

## We Won't Stop Fighting for Access to Abortion

COLOR AF

On Monday evening, the U.S. Senate voted on the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA). This federal legislation would work towards a future where all of us are free to make personal decisions about our lives, our futures, and our families, without political interference. The vote failed in the Senate 48 to 46, with six abstaining votes.

This is the first pro-active abortion rights legislation being voted on in Congress in nearly 30 years. Representatives DeGette, Neguse, Perlmutter, and Crow have all signed on as WHPA co-sponsors, as have Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet.

“In Colorado, we are urging our legislators to continue to support the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) so that our right to abortion is protected under a statute in the state.”

Christina Soliz, COLOR Action Fund

“Tonight's vote is disappointing, but we won't stop fighting for access to abortion. This is why in Colorado, we are urging our legislators to continue to support the Repro-

ductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) so that our right to abortion is protected under a statute in the state,” stated Christina Soliz, Political Director at COLOR Action Fund.

Every day without congressional action means that more and more people are being denied their constitutional right to abortion—and we know that this disproportionately harms people who already face discriminatory obstacles to accessing health care, particularly Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, those working to make ends meet, women, young people, people with disabilities, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

See **COLOR** on page 17



Photo: TCF/The Weekly Issue/El Semanario

## No Dejaremos de Luchar por el Acceso al Aborto

COLOR AF

El lunes por la noche, el Senado de Estados Unidos votó la Ley de Protección de la Salud de la Mujer (WHPA). Esta legislación federal trabajaría por un futuro en el que todos seamos libres de tomar decisiones personales sobre nuestras vidas, nuestro futuro y nuestras familias, sin interferencias políticas. La votación fracasó en el Senado

por 48 a 46, con seis votos de abstención.

Se trata de la primera legislación a favor del derecho al aborto que se vota en el Congreso en casi 30 años. Los representantes DeGette, Neguse, Perlmutter y Crow han firmado como copatrocinadores de la AMPS, al igual que los senadores Hickenlooper y Bennet.

“La votación de esta noche es decepcionante, pero no dejaremos

de luchar por el acceso al aborto. Por eso, en Colorado, estamos instando a nuestros legisladores a que sigan apoyando la Ley de Equidad en la Salud Reproductiva (AESR) para que nuestro derecho al aborto esté protegido por un estatuto en el estado”, declaró Christina Soliz, Directora Política del Fondo de Acción COLOR.

Cada día que pasa sin que el Congreso actúe significa que a más y más personas se les niega su

derecho constitucional al aborto, y sabemos que esto perjudica desproporcionadamente a las personas que ya se enfrentan a obstáculos discriminatorios para acceder a la atención sanitaria, en particular a las personas negras, indígenas y otras personas de color, a las que trabajan para llegar a fin de mes, a las mujeres, a los jóvenes, a las personas con discapacidad, a los

Vea **COLOR/Esp**, página 15

“En Colorado, estamos instando a nuestros legisladores a que sigan apoyando la Ley de Equidad en la Salud Reproductiva (AESR) para que nuestro derecho al aborto esté protegido por un estatuto en el estado”. Christina Soliz, Fondo de Acción COLOR

## Solidarity with Journalists in México

Gabriel Lerner

Six journalists have been killed in México this year: José Luis Gamboa from Veracruz, on January 10; Margarito Martínez Esquivel, from Tijuana, on the 17th; Lourdes Maldonado, also from Tijuana, on the 23rd; Roberto Toledo from Zitácuaro, Michoacán, on the 31st; Ernesto Islas Flores from Tijuana, on February 6 and Héber López from

Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, on February 10. And on February 22, Michelle Pérez Tadeo, en Ciudad de México.

In comparison, in all of 2021, there were nine murders. And 147 since the beginning of the year 2000.

The situation worsens. And our Mexican colleagues are not only killed: since 2000, there have been more than 20 unsolved disappearances of journalists.

The beatings, the theft of work materials, the phone calls with threats, number in the thousands.

The criminalization of the victim by those who are responsible for clarifying the facts, due to inaction, ineptitude or indifference has become a common process. Investigations are artificially delayed. Data is often leaked to re-victimize targeted reporters.

As if the life of a journalist has absolutely no worth whatsoever.

Consequently, the guilty are rarely identified, arrested, charged or punished.

Exercising the journalistic profession in México today is almost like placing a target on one's back, where assassins can aim and shoot. It's like working in a country at war.

Danger lies in wait for them both from the underworld and from circles of power uncomfortable with the truths that our colleagues uncover.

When journalists and their editors, out of fear, stop informing the community, the situation becomes even more urgent.

They don't want the truths journalists are seeking to come to light.

See **Lerner** on page 17

## Solidaridad con los Periodistas en México

Gabriel Lerner

Siete periodistas han sido asesinados en México este año: José Luis Gamboa Arenas de Veracruz, el 10 de enero; Margarito Martínez Esquivel, de Tijuana, el 17; Lourdes Maldonado también de Tijuana, el 23; Roberto Toledo de Zitácuaro, Michoacán, el 31; Ernesto Islas Flores de Tijuana, el 6 de febre-

ro y Héber López de Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, el 10. Y este 22 de febrero, Michelle Pérez Tadeo, en Ciudad de México.

En comparación, en todo 2021, hubo nueve asesinatos. Y 147 desde comienzos del año 2000.

La situación empeora. A nuestros colegas mexicanos no solamente los matan: Desde 2000, se acumularon más de 20 desapariciones de periodistas sin es-

clarecer. Los ataques a golpes, el robo de materiales de trabajo, las llamadas telefónicas con amenazas, son miles.

La criminalización de las víctimas por los responsables de esclarecer los crímenes es ya común. Investigaciones se dilatan artificialmente. Datos que se para revictimizar a los atacados.

Como si la vida de un periodista no valiera nada.

Los culpables son raramente identificados, arrestados, acusados o castigados.

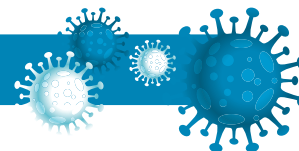
Ejercer la profesión periodística en México es hoy casi como dibujarse un blanco en la espalda, donde los asesinos puedan apuntar. Es como vivir en un país en guerra.

El peligro acecha tanto desde el hampa como desde círculos del poder incómodos con las

Cuando los periodistas y sus editores, por temor, dejan de informar a la comunidad, la situación es urgente.

verdades que destapan nuestros colegas.

Vea **Lerner/Esp**, página 20



## Teen Traveled Out of State to Get Vaccinated Against His Parents' Wishes

By Nina Feldman

**H**igh school junior Nicolas Montero stays busy. He runs track, works night and weekend shifts at Burger King, and keeps on top of his schoolwork at Neshaminy High School in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

But Nicolas' packed schedule is also strategic: It's a way to stay out of the house.

Nicolas and his parents are separated by a widening political and cultural rift: His parents are a part of a small but vocal minority who oppose covid-19 vaccinations and have refused to let him get the shots.

"The thing about these beliefs is that they alternate by the day," said Nicolas, who is 16. "It's not one solid thing that they're going with, so it's just really baseless. It's like one thing they see on Facebook, and then they completely believe it."

The impasse eventually led to an act of quiet defiance: Nicolas traveled to Philadelphia, where a little-known regulation permits children 11 and older to be vaccinated without parental consent.

Not all states require parental consent for vaccination. In Oregon, teens 15 and up can consent to their own medical care, including inoculations. Rhode Island and South Carolina allow 16-year-olds to get COVID-19 vaccinations on their own. In Delaware, you need to be only 12 to get vaccines related to sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

That's the case as well in California, for those 12 or older who would like to get vaccines for STIs. But now California state lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow those minors to consent to all Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccines, including the covid vaccines.

In Alabama, the law tightened during the pandemic. Though the age of consent for all other medical care is 14, a new law says Alabama youths under 19 need parental consent for covid vaccines.

A November 2021 KFF poll found that 30% of parents with 12- to 17-year-olds said they will defi-

nately not get their children vaccinated. In light of this, two National Institutes of Health scholars wrote a piece in The New England Journal of Medicine advocating for states to expand their statutes to include covid vaccines as a medical treatment to which minors can consent.



"I try to explain to them that the vaccines are safe. They're effective, I try to explain that we know people that have been vaccinated, even our own family members who've been vaccinated for months and experienced no side effects. But nothing seems to get through to them."

Nicolas Montero

### A House Divided

Nicolas said he thinks most of his parents' beliefs about the vaccine come from social media.

"I try to explain to them that the vaccines are safe. They're effective," Nicolas said. "I try to explain that we know people that have been vaccinated, even our own family members who've been vaccinated for months and experienced no side effects. But nothing seems to get through to them."

Nicolas' parents did not respond to multiple attempts by WHY News to speak to them for this article.

Though he found a way to change his own situation, Nicolas worried about teens who can't travel to a place where the laws are different. "I know that this is something that teenagers all across the country are experiencing right now," Nicolas said.

So he penned an op-ed in his high school paper, The Playwickian, advocating for the age of consent for vaccines in Pennsylvania to be lowered to 14.

Last summer, after school let out, he didn't need to be in the

suburbs to go to class, so he asked his aunts if he could visit them in Philadelphia.

"He gets to roam the city, get the city life. He loves that," said Nicolas' aunt Brittany Kissling, who lives in Philly's Port Richmond neighborhood. "The kid did not want to leave."

A week turned into the entire summer.

While Nicolas was staying in Philadelphia, bouncing between his two aunts' houses, his friends were getting their first covid shots. He was worried he might get sick. Worse, he was concerned he might transmit a coronavirus infection to his elderly grandmother.

"My *abuela*, she's completely vaccinated, boosted and everything," said Nicolas. But he said he was still worried he could transmit a breakthrough infection.

So, he started doing some research. And he found the handful of states that allow teens to get vaccines without parental consent.

To his surprise, Nicolas discovered that a bill to change the law in Pennsylvania had been introduced in the state House of Representatives. If the measure were to become law, it would mean that anyone 14 and older could give informed consent to be vaccinated for any vaccine recommended by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

As his research deepened, he learned that not only was it possible for minors to get vaccinated without parental consent in other states, it was legal in Philadelphia.

In 2007, the city's Board of Health passed a regulation that allows any minor who's at least 11 to get vaccinated without a parent, provided the young person can give informed consent.

Philadelphia Health Commissioner Cheryl Bettigole said the regulation is designed to remove any additional barriers to vaccination.

"It can be very difficult, especially for lower-income parents, to get time off work to go to those appointments," Bettigole said. "These are low-risk interventions. It



Sixteen-year-old Nico Montero wrote an op-ed about getting vaccinated for his school's newspaper.

Photo: Kimberly Paynter/WHYY

just makes it easier for parents and families to be able to make sure their kids are vaccinated."

The regulation took effect the year after the FDA approved a three-shot regimen of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for young people, recommended in the years before they become sexually active.

It is common for states and municipalities to create specific legislation for minors with the aim of increasing access to vaccines that prevent sexually transmitted infections, said Brian Dean Abramson, an author and adjunct professor of vaccine law at Florida International University College of Law.

"The rationale behind this was that you may have children who are being abused and don't want their parents necessarily to be informed of the fact they're seeking medical interventions for that, or children who may be sexually active and are afraid that their parents will react very negatively to that if they seek some kind of medical treatment," Abramson said.

In turn, said Abramson, those policies have laid the groundwork for children to get vaccinated in the event of a disagreement like the one between Nicolas and his parents.

### Practicing Self-Care

Nicolas was thrilled to learn of Philadelphia's regulation. One summer afternoon while his aunt was at work, Nicolas found a Philadelphia pop-up clinic offering vaccines. He

was anxious on his bus ride there — not about needles or side effects, but that his parents would somehow catch him and prevent him from getting his second shot.

He knew his aunts would support his being vaccinated — both of them had been, and Kissling manages a pediatrics office. But he was worried that if his aunts knew, word would get back to his parents. So, he didn't tell them ahead of time.

He returned to Bucks County for the start of the school year and arranged for a weekend visit in early September to see his aunts and grandmother again. He planned the trip just in time for his second dose.

"I did feel really liberated when I got my second shot," Nicolas said. "I felt like I was protected."

After that second shot, Nicolas told his aunts he had gotten vaccinated; they were amazed.

"He was so proud," recalled Kissling. "He had his card, and we were like, 'Wait, when did this happen? How did this happen?'"

Just before Thanksgiving, Nicolas' parents found out. They reacted the way Nicolas and his aunts worried they would: Kissling said Nicolas' mother accused her sisters of influencing him and of being neglectful enough to allow him to get vaccinated. The tension has grown to the point where Nicolas says he can't even speak to his parents.

See [Montero](#) on page 16

Provided to you by:



# Pregnant People Were Left Behind in COVID-19 Vaccine Trials

By Liz Szabo

**K**ia Slade was seven months pregnant, unvaccinated, and fighting for breath, her oxygen levels plummeting, when her son came into the world last May.

A severe case of covid pneumonia had left Slade delirious. When the intensive care team tried to place an oxygen mask on her face, she snatched it away, she recalled. Her baby's heart rate began to drop.

Slade's doctor performed an emergency cesarean section at her bedside in the intensive care unit, delivering baby Tristan 10 weeks early. He weighed just 2 pounds, 14 ounces, about half the size of small full-term baby.

But Slade wouldn't meet him until July. She was on a ventilator in a medically induced coma for eight weeks, and she developed a serious infection and blood clot while unconscious. It was only after a perilous 2½ months in the hospital, during which her heart stopped twice, that Slade was vaccinated against covid-19.

"I wish I had gotten the vaccine earlier," said Slade, 42, who remains too sick to return to work as a spe-

cial education teacher in Baltimore. Doctors "kept pushing me to get vaccinated, but there just wasn't enough information out there for me to do it."

A year ago, there was little to no vaccine safety data for pregnant people like Slade, because they had been excluded from clinical trials run by Pfizer, Moderna, and other vaccine makers.

“

Women and their unborn fetuses are dying of covid infection. Our failure as a society to vaccinate women in pregnancy will be remembered by the children and families who lost their mothers to this disease.”

Dr. Jane Van Dis,  
University of Rochester  
Medical Center

Lacking data, health experts were unsure and divided about how to advise expectant parents. Although U.S. health officials per-



Like many babies born prematurely, Tristan, now nearly 9 months old and crawling, receives physical therapy to strengthen his muscles. / Como muchos bebés nacidos prematuramente, Tristan, que ahora tiene casi 9 meses y gatea, recibe fisioterapia para fortalecer sus músculos.

mitted pregnant people to be vaccinated, the World Health Organization in January 2021 actually discouraged them from doing so; it later reversed that recommendation.

The uncertainty led many women to delay vaccination, and only

about two-thirds of the pregnant people who have been tracked by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were fully vaccinated as of Feb. 5, leaving many expectant moms at a high risk of infection and life-threatening complications.

More than 29,000 pregnant people have been hospitalized with covid and 274 have died, according to the CDC.

"There were surely women who were hospitalized because there wasn't information available to them," said Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Vaccine developers say that pregnant people — who have special health needs and risks — were excluded from clinical trials to protect them from potential side effects of novel technologies, including the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and formulations made with cold viruses, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

But a Kaiser Health News (KHN) analysis also shows that pregnant people were left behind because including them in vaccine studies would have complicated and potentially delayed the delivery of covid vaccines to the broader population.

A growing number of women's health researchers and advocates say that excluding pregnant people — and the months-long delay in recommending that they be immunized — helped fuel widespread vaccine hesitancy in this vulnerable group.

"Women and their unborn fetuses are dying of covid infection," said Dr. Jane Van Dis, an OB-GYN at the University of Rochester Medical Center who has treated many patients like Slade. "Our failure as

Photo/Foto: Rosen Morton for KHN

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## Las Embarazadas se Quedaron Atrás en los Ensayos de la Vacuna COVID-19



Photo/Foto: Resem Morton for KHN

Kia Slade estaba embarazada de siete meses cuando sufrió un caso grave de neumonía por covid, la pasada primavera. /Kia Slade was seven months pregnant when she was stricken with a severe case of covid pneumonia last spring.

By Liz Szabo

Cuando su hijo vino al mundo, el pasado mes de mayo, Kia Slade estaba embarazada de siete meses, no vacunada, y luchaba por respirar mientras sus niveles de oxígeno caían en picada.

“

Las mujeres y sus fetos mueren por la infección de covid. Nuestro fracaso como sociedad a la hora de vacunar a las mujeres durante el embarazo será recordado por hijos e hijas, y familias que perdieron a sus madres por esta enfermedad”.

Dra. Jane Van Dis,  
Centro Médico de la  
Universidad de Rochester

Un caso grave de neumonía por covid había dejado a Slade delirando. Recordó que cuando el equipo de terapia intensiva trató de colocarle una máscara de oxígeno, se la arrancó. El ritmo cardíaco de su bebé empezó a bajar.

Slade tuvo una cesárea de urgencia en la unidad de cuidados intensivos (UCI), y Tristan nació 10 semanas antes de lo previsto. Solo pesaba 2 libras y 14 onzas, aproximadamente la mitad del tamaño de un bebé normal.

Pero Slade no lo conocería hasta julio. Estuvo conectada a un respirador, en coma inducido, du-

rante ocho semanas, y desarrolló una grave infección y un coágulo de sangre mientras estaba inconsciente. Después de más de dos peligrosos meses en el hospital, durante los cuales su corazón se detuvo dos veces, Slade se vacunó contra covid-19.

“Ojalá me hubiera vacunado antes”, dijo Slade, de 42 años, que sigue demasiado enferma para volver a trabajar como profesora de educación especial en Baltimore. Los médicos “no dejaban de presionarme para que me vacunara, pero sentí que no había suficiente información para hacerlo”.

Hace un año, apenas había datos sobre la seguridad de las vacunas para las embarazadas como Slade, porque habían sido excluidas de los ensayos clínicos realizados por Pfizer, Moderna y otros fabricantes.

Ante la falta de datos, los expertos en salud dudaban y no habían llegado a un consenso sobre cómo aconsejar a las futuras madres. Aunque las autoridades sanitarias estadounidenses permitían la vacunación de las embarazadas, hacia enero de 2021 la Organización Mundial de la Salud la desaconsejaba; aunque más tarde revirtió esa recomendación.

La incertidumbre llevó a muchas mujeres a retrasar la vacunación, y solo alrededor de dos tercios de las embarazadas estaban completamente vacunadas el 5 de febrero, según el monitoreo de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) dejando a muchas futuras mamás en un alto riesgo de infección y

complicaciones potencialmente mortales.

Según los CDC, más de 29,000 embarazadas han sido hospitalizadas con covid y 274 han muerto.

“Seguramente hubo mujeres que terminaron en el hospital porque no había información disponible para ellas”, señaló el doctor Paul Offit, director del Centro de Educación sobre Vacunas del Hospital Infantil de Philadelphia.

Los desarrolladores de vacunas dicen que las embarazadas —que tienen necesidades y riesgos de salud especiales— fueron excluidas de los ensayos clínicos para protegerlas de los posibles efectos secundarios de las nuevas vacunas de ARNm de Pfizer y Moderna, y las fórmulas elaboradas a partir del virus del resfriado, como la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson.

Pero un análisis de Kaiser Health News (KHN) también muestra que se dejó de lado a las embarazadas porque incluirlas en los estudios habría complicado y retrasado, potencialmente, el suministro de vacunas contra covid a la población general.

Un número cada vez mayor de investigadores sobre la salud de la mujer afirma que la exclusión de las embarazadas —y el retraso de meses en recomendar su vacunación— contribuyó a alimentar las dudas sobre la vacuna en este grupo vulnerable.

“Las mujeres y sus fetos mueren por la infección de covid”, afirmó la doctora Jane Van Dis, ginecóloga-obstetra del Centro Médico de la Universidad de Rochester que ha tratado a

muchas pacientes como Slade. “Nuestro fracaso como sociedad a la hora de vacunar a las mujeres durante el embarazo será recordado por hijos e hijas, y familias que perdieron a sus madres por esta enfermedad”.

### Nueva tecnología, riesgos inciertos

Cuando se desarrollaron las vacunas contra covid, los científicos tenían muy poca experiencia en el uso de vacunas de ARNm en embarazadas apuntó la doctora Jacqueline Miller, vicepresidenta de

investigación de vacunas en Moderna.

“Cuando se estudia cualquier cosa en embarazadas, se tienen dos pacientes, la madre y el feto”, dijo Miller. “Hasta que no contáramos con más datos de seguridad, no queríamos llevarlo a cabo”.

Pero Offit señaló que las vacunas tienen un sólido historial de seguridad en el embarazo y no ve ninguna razón para haber excluido a las embarazadas. Ninguna de

Vea Ensayos, página 19

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## State News / Noticias del Estado

# Colorado Restaurant Takes Lead on Mental Health of Employees

### COLORADO

By John Daley

Restaurant jobs have always been difficult, but the mental stress has gotten worse during the pandemic as restaurants closed or cut hours — or became ground zero for the fight over mask-wearing.

"It is totally nerve-wracking sometimes because all of my tables I'm interacting with aren't wearing their masks," said Nikki Perri, a server at French 75, a restaurant in downtown Denver. "I am within 6 feet of people who are maskless."

Perri is 23, a DJ, and a music producer. And she's not just worrying about her own health.

"I'm more nervous about my partner. He's disabled. He doesn't have the greatest immune system," she said.

After the initial shutdown, French 75 was having problems finding employees when it reopened. So were other restaurants.

"We put a Survey Monkey out and pay was No. 3," said chef and owner Frank Bonanno. "Mental health was No. 1. Employees want-

ed security, and mental health, and then pay."

His company, Bonanno Concepts, runs 10 Denver restaurants including French 75, Mizuna, and Denver Milk Market. The survey went out to employees of all 10. Bonanno said these jobs offer competitive pay and good health insurance, but the mental health benefits aren't very good.



"Not only is there help, but it's literally 5 feet away from you and it's free and it's confidential. And it's only for you."

Qiana Torres Flores,  
Counselor

"Most such psychologists and psychiatrists are out-of-pocket for people to go to. And we were looking for a way to make our employees happy," he said.

That, according to his wife and co-owner, Jacqueline, was when they had a revelation: Let's hire a full-time mental health clinician.

"I know of no other restaurants

that are doing this, groups or individual restaurants," she said. "It's a pretty big leap of faith."

It took a little while to figure out what exactly employees wanted and what would be most helpful. Focus groups began in summer 2021 and they made a hire in October 2021.

Qiana Torres Flores, a licensed professional counselor, took on the new and unusual role. Her title is "wellness director." She'd previously worked one-on-one with clients and in community mental health. She said she jumped at the chance to carve out a profession within the restaurant world.

"Especially in the restaurant and hospitality industry, that stress bucket is really full a lot of the time. So I think having someone in this kind of capacity, just accessible and approachable, can be really useful," she said.

Traveling among the 10 restaurants, Flores has led group sessions and mediated conflicts between employees. She has taught the company's 400 employees techniques to cope with stress, and put on Santa's Mental Health Workshop to help with holiday-related sadness and grief. She has



Qiana Torres Flores is the wellness director for the Bonanno Concepts restaurant group. /Qiana Torres Flores es la directora de bienestar del grupo de restaurantes Bonanno Concepts.

done one-on-one counseling and referred some employees to more specific types of therapy.

"Not only is there help, but it's literally 5 feet away from you and it's free and it's confidential. And it's only for you," Flores said.

The owners say her presence gives them a competitive advantage and hope it helps them retain their employees.

Restaurant staff members often work difficult hours and can be prone to substance use issues — a grind-it-out mentality is part of the job culture. Many workers either don't ask for help or don't always see mental self-care as important.

"It has been a really important option and a resource for our team right now," said Abby Hoffman, general manager of French 75. "I was just overjoyed when I found out that this program was starting."

She gives the effort high marks, and said it builds on earlier efforts to recognize the psychological toll of restaurant jobs.

"I think the conversation really started around the death of Anthony Bourdain, knowing how important mental health and caring for ourselves was," Hoffman said.

The death by suicide of the charismatic Bourdain, a celebrity chef who openly struggled with addiction and mental illness, resonated with many restaurant workers.

Bourdain died in mid-2018. Then, Hoffman said, came the pandemic, which helped relaunch tough conversations about the psychological impacts of their jobs: "We were, again, able to say, 'This is so stressful and scary, and we need to be able to talk about this.'"

Voicing these concerns, she speaks for an entire industry. The Colorado Restaurant Association recently conducted a survey, and a spokesperson says more than 80% of its members reported an increase in the stress levels of their

staff over the past year. A third of the restaurants fielded requests for mental health services or resources from employees in the past year. More than 3 in 4 restaurants reported a rise in customer aggression toward staff members.

Denise Mickelsen, a spokesperson for Colorado's restaurant association, said she's unaware of other restaurants or groups hiring a full-time staffer dedicated to health and wellness.

"It's fair to call what they're doing fairly unique and/or innovative," said Vanessa Sink, director of media relations for the National Restaurant Association. "It's something that some of the larger chains have been trying but is not widespread."

Other projects in a similar vein are springing up. One is called Fair Kitchens. It describes itself as a "movement fighting for a more resilient and sustainable foodservice and hospitality industry, calling for change by showing that a healthier culture makes for a healthier business." It cited research by Britain-based Unilever Food Solutions that found most chefs were "sleep deprived to the point of exhaustion" and "felt depressed."

Back in Denver, the server Perri said she's grateful her employers see workers as more than anonymous, interchangeable vessels

See Health on page 24

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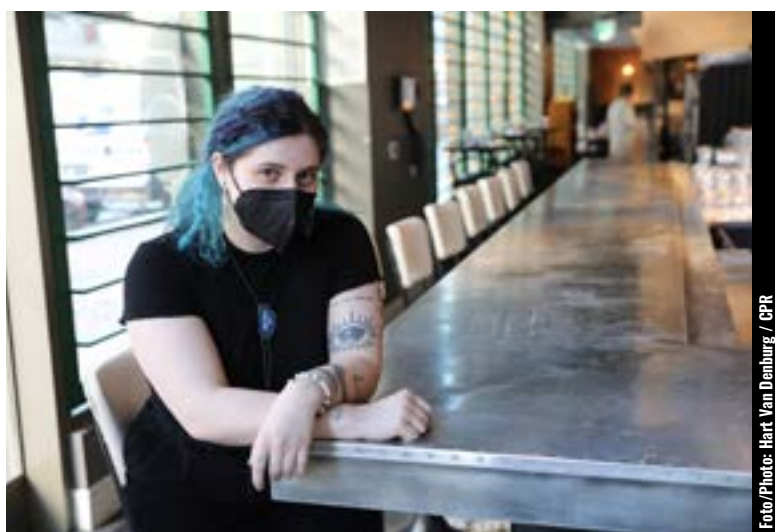
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## El Restaurante Toma la Delantera en la Salud Mental de los Empleados



Foto/Photo: Hart Van Denburg / CPR

Nikki Perri es mesera en el restaurante French 75 en Denver. Los trabajadores como Perri han estado experimentando incertidumbre económica, trabajo estresante e interacciones con todo tipo de personas durante la pandemia. /Nikki Perri is a server at French 75 in Denver. Restaurant workers like Perri have been experiencing economic uncertainty, stressful work, and interactions with all kinds of people throughout the pandemic.

### COLORADO

Por John Daley

Los trabajos en restaurantes siempre han sido difíciles, pero el estrés mental empeoró durante la pandemia cuando muchos cerraron o redujeron horarios, o se convirtieron en el campo de batalla del uso de máscaras.

"A veces es totalmente estresante porque todas mis mesas con las que estoy interactuando no usan sus máscaras", dijo Nikki Perri, mesera en French 75, un restaurante en el centro de Denver, Colorado. "Estoy a menos de 6 pies de personas que no tienen cubrebocas".

Perri tiene 23 años, es DJ y productora musical. Y no solo se preocupa por su propia salud.

"Estoy más nerviosa por mi pareja. Está discapacitado. No tiene el mejor sistema inmune", dijo.

Después de la primera orden de aislamiento, French 75 tuvo problemas para encontrar empleados cuando reabrió. También otros restaurantes.

Para averiguar por qué "pusimos una encuesta en Survey Monkey y el pago fue la razón número 3", dijo su chef y propietario Frank Bonanno. "La salud mental fue la número 1. Los empleados querían seguridad y salud mental, y luego el pago".

Su empresa, Bonanno Concepts, administra 10 restaurantes en Denver, incluidos French 75, Mizuna y Denver Milk Market. La encuesta se envió a los empleados de los 10. Bonanno dijo que estos trabajos ofrecen salarios competitivos y un buen seguro de salud,

pero los beneficios de salud mental no son muy buenos.

"La gente debe pagar de su bolsillo para visitar a la mayoría de estos psicólogos y psiquiatras. Y estábamos buscando una manera de hacer felices a nuestros empleados", dijo Bonanno.

Según su esposa y copropietaria, Jacqueline, esa información hizo que tuvieran una revelación: contratar a un especialista salud mental de tiempo completo.

"No conozco ningún otro restaurante que esté haciendo esto, grupos o restaurantes individuales", dijo. "Es un gran gesto de fe".

Tomó un poco de tiempo averiguar qué querían exactamente los empleados y qué sería más útil. Los grupos focales comenzaron en el verano de 2021 y realizaron una contratación en octubre de 2021.

La licenciada Qiana Torres Flores, consejera profesional, asumió el nuevo e inusual papel. Su título es "directora de bienestar". Anteriormente había trabajado de manera individual con clientes y en salud mental comunitaria. Dijo que aprovechó la oportunidad de desarrollar una profesión dentro del mundo de los restaurantes.

"Especialmente en la industria de servicios, este espacio de estrés está realmente lleno la mayor parte del tiempo. Así que creo que tener a alguien con este tipo de capacidad, simplemente accesible, puede ser realmente útil", dijo.

En los 10 restaurantes, Flores ha dirigido sesiones grupales y mediado en conflictos entre empleados. Ha enseñado a los 400 empleados de la compañía técnicas para lidiar con el estrés y ha organizado el Taller de Salud Mental de Santa para ayudar con la triste-

za y el duelo relacionados con las fiestas. También ha brindado asesoramiento individual y referido a algunos empleados a tipos de terapia más específicas.

"No solo hay ayuda, sino que está literalmente a cinco pies de distancia y es gratis y confidencial. Y es solo para ti", dijo Flores.

Los propietarios dicen que su presencia les da una ventaja competitiva y esperan que les ayude a retener a sus empleados.

El personal del restaurante a menudo trabaja horas difíciles y pueden ser propensos a problemas de adicciones: una mentalidad de trabajo duro es parte de la cultura laboral. Muchos trabajadores no piden ayuda o no siempre consideran importante el autocuidado mental.

"Ha sido una opción realmente importante y un recurso para nuestro equipo en este momento", dijo Abby Hoffman, gerente general de French 75. "Me llenó de alegría cuando me enteré que estaba comenzado este programa".

Le da una excelente calificación a este esfuerzo y dijo que se basa en esfuerzos anteriores para reconocer el costo psicológico de los trabajos en restaurantes.

"Creo que la conversación realmente comenzó en torno a la muerte de Anthony Bourdain, sabiendo lo importante que era la salud mental y el cuidado de nosotros mismos", dijo Hoffman.

La muerte por suicidio del chef Bourdain, que luchó abiertamente contra la adicción y la enfermedad mental, impactó a muchos trabajadores de restaurantes.

Bourdain murió a mediados de 2018. Luego, dijo Hoffman, vino la pandemia, que ayudó a relanzar conversaciones difíciles sobre el impacto psicológico de sus trabajos: "Pudimos, nuevamente, decir: 'Esto es tan estresante y aterrador, y necesitamos poder hablarlo'".

Al expresar estas preocupaciones, habla en nombre de toda una industria. La Asociación de Restaurantes de Colorado realizó recientemente una encuesta y un vocero dijo que más del 80 % de sus miembros informaron un aumento en los niveles de estrés de su personal durante el último año. Un tercio de los restaurantes recibieron solicitudes de servicios o recursos de salud mental en 2021. Más de 3 de cada 4 restaurantes informaron un aumento en



"No solo hay ayuda, sino que está literalmente a cinco pies de distancia y es gratis y confidencial. Y es solo para ti".

Qiana Torres Flores,  
Consejera

la agresión de los clientes hacia los miembros del personal.

Denise Mickelsen, vocera de la asociación, dijo que no tiene conocimiento de otros restaurantes o grupos que contraten a un miembro del personal de tiempo completo dedicado a la salud y el bienestar.

"Es justo llamar a lo que están haciendo único e innovador", dijo Vanessa Sink, directora de relaciones con los medios de la Asociación Nacional de Restaurantes. "Es algo que algunas de las cadenas más grandes han estado intentando pero que no está muy extendido".

Ahora están surgiendo otros proyectos en la misma línea. Uno se llama Fair Kitchens. Se describe

Vea Salud, página 17



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## Amidst Growing Conflict, Immigration Justice is More Important Than Ever

### COLORADO

President Biden's state of the union address to the nation came amidst the biggest crisis in Europe since World War II. The President praised the courage of the Ukrainian people and laid out the dire situation following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis that has unfolded. Already, 660,000 refugees have fled the country and thousands more have been displaced within Ukraine.

"We are very concerned with the situation in Ukraine, and we know as the violence grows, even more people will be forced to migrate. Now is a critical moment for us to live up to our values of welcoming and inclusion. The United States must be prepared to welcome and resettle as many Ukrainian refugees into the coun-

try as possible, and the Biden Administration must grant immediate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation to all Ukrainian nationals in the United States. Unprecedented Russian aggression has brought total war to Ukraine and returning to the country is not an option," said Gladis Ibarra, Deputy Director of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition. "We expect him to step up."

Ukraine has joined the growing list of states around the world that have seen huge community displacement as a result of violence recently. Extreme gang and cartel violence continue to plague Central América and México. Natural disasters and political and gang violence have created a humanitarian crisis in Haiti. Growing instability and violence is leading to a worsening humanitarian situation in Cameroon. Despite these cri-

ses, the Biden Administration has deported thousands of people back to dangerous situations and has turned away asylum seekers fleeing violence.

"Despite promises of a more humane immigration system, under this administration we have witnessed people deported en masse back to Haiti, despite an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe there. We have witnessed Cameroonians detained and deported by ICE back to a crisis that puts their lives at stake. We have witnessed Central American, Mexican, and Haitian asylum seekers turned away at the border, and we have seen migrants murdered when they have been deported back to the countries they fled from. The Biden administration continues to weaponize Title 42 to turn away asylum seekers, in violation of US and international

“

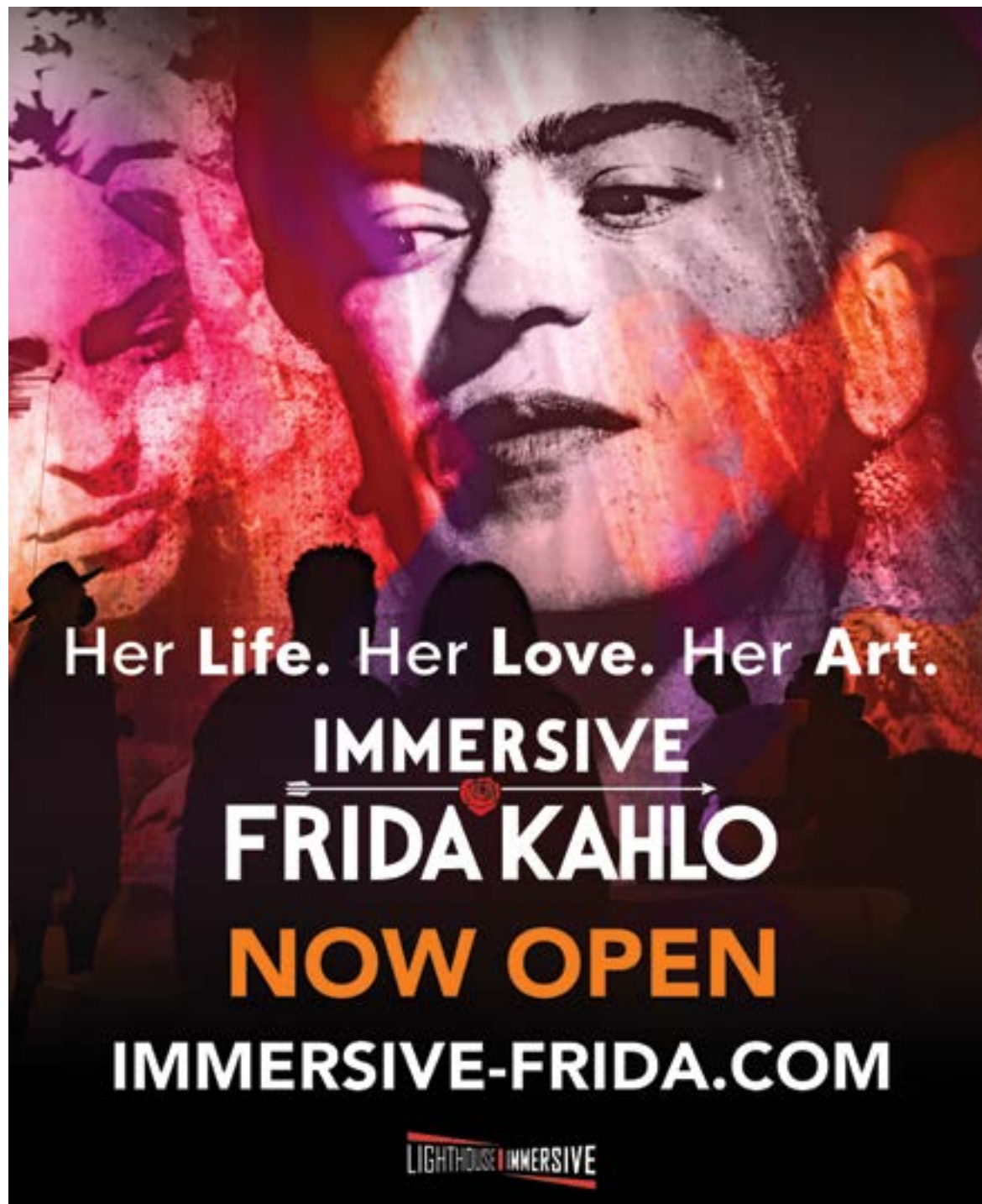
"If the President does offer protection for Ukrainians, why is he not offering the same protections to other vulnerable groups who need asylum as much as anyone?"

Gladis Ibarra, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition Ibarra

expulsion of Ukrainians back to a dangerous war zone? And if the President does offer protection for Ukrainians, why is he not offering the same protections to other vulnerable groups who need asylum as much as anyone?" said Ibarra.

"As the world grows more dangerous, we must step up for Ukraine and for every country that is experiencing extreme violence and danger to those there. This begins with ending the use of Title 42 and allowing asylum seekers to claim asylum in the country, stopping deportations especially to countries that, like Ukraine, are experiencing humanitarian disasters, and opening the door of welcoming for everyone around the world coming here to seek peace and safety," added Ibarra.

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## La Justicia de Inmigración es Más Importante que Nunca

El discurso sobre el estado de la unión del presidente Biden a la nación se produjo en medio de la mayor crisis en Europa desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial. El presidente elogió el coraje del pueblo ucraniano y habló de la terrible situación tras la invasión de Rusia a Ucrania y la crisis humanitaria que ha ocurrido. Ya, 660.000 refugiados han huido del país y miles más han sido desplazados dentro de Ucrania.

"Estamos muy preocupados por la situación en Ucrania y sabemos que a medida que crece la violencia, más personas se verán obligadas a migrar. Ahora es un momento crítico para que estemos a la altura de nuestros valores de acogida e inclusión. Estados Unidos debe estar preparado para recibir y reubicar a tantos refugiados ucranianos en el país como sea posible, y la Administración Biden debe otorgar la designación inmediata de Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS) a todos los ciudadanos ucranianos en los Estados Unidos. La agresión rusa sin precedentes ha traído una guerra total a Ucrania y regresar al país no es una opción", dijo Gladis Ibarra, subdirectora de la Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition. "Esperamos que haga algo pronto."

Ucrania se ha unido a la creciente lista de países de todo el mundo que recientemente han visto grandes desplazamientos comunitarios como resultado de

“

"Si el presidente ofrece protección a los ucranianos, ¿por qué no ofrece la misma protección a otros grupos vulnerables que necesitan asilo tanto como cualquiera?"

Gladis Ibarra, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

la violencia. La violencia extrema de las pandillas y los cárteles continúa plagando Centroamérica y México. Los desastres naturales y la violencia política y de pandillas han creado una crisis humanitaria en Haití. La creciente inestabilidad y violencia está provocando un empeoramiento de la situación humanitaria en Camerún. A pesar de estas crisis, la Administración Biden ha deportado a miles de personas a situaciones peligrosas y ha rechazado a solicitantes de asilo que huyen de la violencia.

"A pesar de las promesas de un sistema de inmigración más humano, con esta administración hemos visto personas deportadas en masa a Haití, a pesar de una catástrofe humanitaria sin precedentes allí. Hemos sido testigos

## A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a white top, kissing a young girl on the cheek. The girl has long dark hair and is wearing a pink patterned dress. She is holding her hands near her mouth. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The photo is credited to AdobeStock.

Photo: AdobeStock

TRAIDORA | SOBREVIVIENTE | ÍCONO  
EL LEGADO DE  
**LA MALINCHE**

**Del 6 de febrero al 8 de mayo de 2022**

Explore el legado perdurable de una de las figuras más enigmáticas y fascinantes de la historia de México.

**DENVER**  
**art**  
**MUSEUM**

Imagen: Alfreida Ramos Martínez, *La Malinche* (Malinche de Tehuá, Denver), 1948. Óleo sobre lienzo; 30 x 40 (76 x 101) cm. Phoenix Art Museum. Adquisición del museo con fondos proporcionados por Amigos del Arte Mexicano, 1979.84. ©Proyecto de Investigación Alfreida Ramos Martínez, reproducción autorizada.

Tehuá, sobreviviente, Icono: El legado de la Malinche fue organizado por el Denver Art Museum. La exposición también puede ser parte gratuita o una subvención del National Endowment for the Humanities. La democracia sigue solidaria. Asimismo, recibe el apoyo de Perichem, un programa del Fondo J.M. Rappaport, University of Denver, College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, así como del donador y compañero beneficiario Samuel Fund/La Familia Campesina y otros residentes que brindan su apoyo al Instituto de Investigaciones Científicas y Culturales (IIC), por sus siglas en inglés. Apoyo promocional proporcionado por SMO (Región) y CSDA. Un agradecimiento especial al Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia y al Secretario de Cultura de México.

Cualquier opinión, resultado, conclusión o recomendación expresada en esta exposición no representa necesariamente los del National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## State News / Noticias del Estado

# Lawmakers Decline to Give Needed Funds for Oil and Gas Regulation

### NEW MEXICO

By Lindsay Fendt

A boom in the oil and gas industry helped deliver a record-breaking \$8.5 billion budget to New México this year. Despite the windfall, lawmakers declined to give needed funds to the agencies responsible for regulating the increased pollution that such booms create.

The state's two primary environmental agencies, the New México Environment Department and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, will both receive modest bumps to their budgets from the state's general fund, but these will still fall about \$9 million short of the amounts the agen-

cies and the governor requested in the [Executive Budget Recommendation](#).

“

“It has a chronic impact on our ability to hold polluters accountable. We cannot protect all communities in New México with our budget, so there is inequity built into this.”

James Kenney, NMED

Both environment agencies are responsible for a growing amount of oversight, from enforcing pollution restrictions and food safety

to mitigating wildfires and curbing impacts from climate change. Despite the increasing duties, the proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2023 calls for NMED's budget to be nearly 5 percent lower when adjusted for inflation than it was in 2008; EMNRD's budget is almost 13 percent lower.

“New Mexicans won't see us making as great of strides on climate as we wanted,” said NMED Secretary James Kenney. “I'm extremely tired and frustrated after the session.”

In recent years, legislators have routinely declined to put the excess cash brought in during oil booms toward enforcing environmental regulations and mitigating the industry's environmental impacts. Even as the second-largest



An oil processing facility flares excess natural gas south of Carlsbad, New México. / Una instalación de procesamiento de petróleo quema el exceso de gas natural al sur de Carlsbad, Nuevo México.

oil producing state, New México has [much fewer field inspectors](#) than other extractive states.

The new budget does little to address this disparity. The Oil Conservation Division, an office within the EMNRD that monitors oil and gas activity, will only be able to hire five new staff members. It had requested funding for 25 people, primarily for compliance and remediation.

### Profits and pollution

While oil and gas revenues can deliver windfalls to New México's

budget, upticks in production carry a number of costs. The industry is the [largest source](#) of greenhouse gases in the state and industry leaders routinely lobby against regulation and pollution controls. A lobbyist for the New México Oil and Gas Association, for example, spent \$256,500 on ads during the 2022 legislative session to help defeat the [Clean Future Act](#), a bill that would have placed statutory limits on greenhouse gas emissions, requiring industries to reduce their

See [Regulation](#) on page 18

## Los Legisladores No Logran Financiar las Regulaciones

### NEW MEXICO

Por Lindsay Fendt

El auge de la industria del petróleo y el gas ayudó a que el presupuesto de Nuevo México de este año batiera el récord de 8,500 millones de dólares. A pesar de la ganancia inesperada, los legisladores se negaron a dar los fondos necesarios a las agencias responsables de regular el aumento de la contaminación que tales auge crean.

Las dos principales agencias medioambientales del estado, el Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Nuevo México y el Departamento de Energía, Minerales y Recursos Naturales, recibirán modestos aumentos en sus presupuestos con cargo al fondo general del estado, pero éstos seguirán siendo inferiores en unos 9 millones de dólares a las cantidades que las agencias y el gobernador solicitaron en la Recomendación del Presupuesto Ejecutivo.

Ambas agencias de medio ambiente son responsables de una cantidad cada vez mayor de su-

pervisión, desde la aplicación de restricciones a la contaminación y la seguridad alimentaria hasta la mitigación de los incendios forestales y el control de los impactos del cambio climático.

“

“Tiene un impacto crónico en nuestra capacidad de exigir responsabilidades a los contaminadores. No podemos proteger a todas las comunidades de Nuevo México con nuestro presupuesto, así que hay una inequidad incorporada.”

James Kenney, NMED

“Los habitantes de Nuevo México no verán que avancemos tanto en materia de clima como queríamos”, dijo el secretario del NMED,

Vea [Regulación](#), página 23

ONE  
ALBUQUERQUE



## Early Childhood Career Event

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | [WEBINAR](#)

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- How to Receive Funding for Your Education and Supplement Your Income

[Click here to register](#)



## State Spends \$100 Million on Rent Assistance, with \$200 Million More To Go

### NEW MEXICO

By Patrick Lohmann

A state agency announced last week that it had spent \$100 million on rental and utility assistance for state residents, helping to stave off mass evictions during a pandemic.

New México officials called the big, round number a "historic milestone" and said hundreds of millions more are on the way to help renters and landlords. Still, advocates are raising fresh concerns about whether money from the Emergency Rent Assistance Program is reaching people who need it most, now that the nation's last statewide eviction ban is on its way out.

Funds got out to nearly 30,000 households across the state, according to the department — an average of \$4,000 per household went toward rent and another \$750 toward utilities.

New México received a total of \$352 million through two federal spending bills passed since December 2020 for rental and utility assistance, though some of that money goes for administering the fund and to housing-related programs. Officials say \$200 million is left to spend directly on rent assistance and utilities, plus other housing programs, between now and September 2025.

On Tuesday, Chainbreaker Collective, a Santa Fe-based group of tenant advocates, hosted a news conference about the state's new

housing policies, including that "rental assistance support has been slow to get into the hands of people who need it most," according to a news release.

The collective, lawmakers and housing experts criticized the state's handling of the program last year for delays, hurdles and confusing instructions, specifically for people who speak primarily Spanish.

Recently, however, New México Rep. Andrea Romero (D-Santa Fe) told a Senate panel that the state's program represented a "gold standard" in the country, saying it now has built the capacity to get funds out to tenants.

That money will become increasingly necessary as the statewide ban on non-payment evictions disappears across the state sometime in the coming month. The exact date has not been determined, a court spokesperson said Monday.

In early February, the ban first disappeared in a rural eastern part of the state, which also became a testing ground for a new court program aimed at softening the blow.

Under the pilot court program, judges in Curry and Roosevelt Counties were directed to try to get landlords to wait 60 days before throwing someone out, and to connect them with the rent assistance fund.

The first week of the court's pilot program showed mixed results among the handful of tenants who were brought before a

judge in the rural part of the state, according to a review by Source New Mexico.

Housing advocates in the past have pointed to a couple of reasons landlords might not want emergency money and choose to evict anyway: Re-renting a home at a higher rate in a hot housing market could be more lucrative, and they might prefer to avoid some taxes.

Plus, renters facing eviction there, in interviews, said they didn't know the rent assistance fund was available. Neither did a Clovis housing official nor the person who runs the only shelter in the city.

Program administrators did not do specific outreach in the rural region where renters would be first up for eviction before the ban was lifted there, spokesperson Henry Valdez told Source New Mexico.

But tenants and landlords in the two counties received about 2,000 payments totaling about \$3.5 million in rent assistance since the program began, he said.

Slightly less than half of the \$100 million paid to tenants so far has gone to tenants in Albuquerque, the state's largest city, which



Photo: Patrick Lohmann / Source New Mexico

A landlord told a Clovis magistrate judge last week he intended to sell this home, making it unnecessary for him to enroll in a new eviction diversion program.

has 44% of the state's rental units, Valdez said. Officials use application data to determine where to step up outreach, given how many renters they know to live in a certain area, he said.

Public records requested by Source New México unearthed a survey early on in the program's existence showing a lack of awareness among renters. Follow up research hasn't yet been done to show whether the state moved the needle on that problem, and

what parts of New México may still be in the dark, according to Valdez.

Find help for rent or utilities at [renthelpnm.org](http://renthelpnm.org) or 1-833-485-1334.

**Patrick Lohmann is a Reporter with Source New México.**

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### COLOR/Esp

inmigrantes y a los miembros de la comunidad LGBTQ+.

"En vísperas del sexto mes de la prohibición del aborto de seis semanas en Texas, conocida como SB8, nunca ha sido más importante codificar el derecho constitucional y reforzar el acceso a la atención sanitaria para todas las personas", dijo la presidenta del Fondo COLOR Action, Dusti Gurule. "La Ley de Protección de la Salud de la Mujer habría sido un voto histórico para garantizar nuestro derecho a acceder al aborto libre de restricciones y prohibiciones médicamente innecesarias".

El aborto es una atención sanitaria esencial. Y elogiamos a los senadores estadounidenses, especialmente al senador Bennet y al senador Hickenlooper, los propios campeones de la justicia

reproductiva de Colorado, que han votado hoy [28 de febrero] a favor de la Ley de Protección de la Salud de la Mujer, reconociendo que todos debemos proteger los derechos de cada persona a tomar decisiones sobre su salud, su vida y su futuro.

Usted puede aprender más acerca de la Ley de Protección de la Salud de la Mujer [aquí](#).

**Fondo de Acción de la Organización de Colorado para las Oportunidades de las Latinas y los Derechos Reproductivos (COLOR AF).**

**Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.**

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## Community Planning Open House

### Thursday, March 10

### 5:30-7pm

How can we improve the  
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Kissling said her family rarely discussed politics until recently. Now, she said, it's hard for the whole family to spend time together. She has left in the middle of dinners to drive home to Philadelphia because the discussion got so heated. She's not expecting a resolution anytime soon — her family is one that's more likely to sweep conflict under the rug than resolve it, she said.

"Now, there's a divide," said Kissling. "It's sad because, at the end of the day, family should be family."



"My abuela, she's completely vaccinated, boosted and everything."

Nicolas Montero

To cope with the tension at home, Nicolas has doubled down on his extracurriculars: He's learning to pole-vault for the track team. He joined the school paper, on top of taking part in environmental and language clubs.

Each evening after school, he lays claim to one of the private rooms at the public library, where

he spreads out his books across a small desk and diligently does his homework. Recently, he was working on a paper about the history of U.S. involvement in Puerto Rico, where his grandmother is from. He was thumbing through a thick book on the Puerto Rican independence movement, marked with dozens of sticky notes every few pages.

"When I started reading this book, like almost every single page, my mouth is just wide open," Nicolas said. "Like, I couldn't believe that these things happened to my people."

He hopes to visit the island one day, and his grandmother is teaching him to cook Puerto Rican dishes in the meantime. They can now spend time together without him worrying as much that he might infect her.

Nicolas has ambitions to go to college in Washington, D.C. From there, he said, he wants to go to law school.

Kissling said she's inspired by her nephew's independence. But she knows he's still a kid who needs support and guidance. That's why she tries to stay in touch with him every day: texting, joking, asking him what he wanted for Christmas. (She expected AirPods or Amazon gift cards. Instead, he sent her a wish list of more history books about Puerto Rico.)

"He plays it off with a smile, and he laughs about it, and he said, 'Aunt Britt, it's just giving me more motivation to do what I need to do and get where I want to get,'" Kissling said of her nephew's fraught relationship with his parents. "But, deep down, I know it has to affect him. I'm 34. It would affect me."

*Nina Feldman is a reporter with WHYY. This story is part of a partnership that includes WHYY, NPR and Kaiser Health News.*

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las víctimas primarias de todo este maremágnum de mentiras.

De este modo, los terroristas que asaltaron el Capitolio federal el 6 de enero de 2021 en un fallido intento de golpe de Estado para impedir que el Congreso certificara el triunfo electoral de Joe Biden, son, ante los republicanos, "patriotas" que ejercieron "pacíficamente" su derecho a protestar. Trump incluso dijo que, de volver a la Casa Blanca, les concedería perdones presidenciales.

Eso es obvio, y no sería descabellado pensar que una de sus primeras campañas mediáticas a través de su nueva plataforma sería, precisamente, promover la idea de que dicha turba de zánganos merece no solo perdón, sino incluso condecoraciones por obedecer ciegamente a un falso líder.

En ese mundo paralelo e hipócrita, los republicanos que se atreven a enfrentar a Trump o a cuestionar las mentiras que él y sus seguidores promuevan, se convertirán en traidores que deben ser expulsados de la colectividad. Los congresistas republicanos Liz Cheney y Adam Kinzinger, por ejemplo, fueron sancionados por el Partido Republicano por integrarse al panel que investiga los disturbios del 6 de enero que esa colectividad catalogó de "ejercicio legítimo de discurso político". Ambos congresistas denunciaron activamente a Trump por declarar falsamente que perdió la reelección porque Biden cometió "fraude" electoral.

De hecho, el líder de la minoría republicana de la Cámara Baja, Kevin McCarthy, está apoyando a la candidata Harriet Hagman que se enfrenta a Liz Cheney en la primaria en agosto por el distrito que representa en Wyoming. Hagman es pro Trump.

Así, el culto a Trump sigue vivo. El senador republicano de Florida, Rick Scott, quien preside el Comité Senatorial Republicano Nacional, anunció el Plan de 11 puntos para el "rescate" de Estados Unidos, y una de las secciones propone terminar el muro fronterizo y bautizarlo con el nombre de "Trump". Es un ejemplo más de cómo el Partido Republicano sigue recurriendo a la demagogia en el tema migratorio aún después de Trump.

Pero no es el único. Ahí tenemos al gobernador Ron DeSantis, quien ha hecho un vergonzoso uso político de los menores inmigrantes al presionar por el cierre de albergues que acogen a menores sin documentos que arriban a Estados Unidos sin sus padres. O al gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, quien en plena campaña

por su reelección en noviembre se ha atrevido nuevamente a usar la misma cantaleta de culpar a la inmigración indocumentada de la delincuencia en su estado, a sabiendas de que en estudio tras estudio se demuestra lo contrario. O incluso el fiscal general de Arizona, Mark Brnovich, quien busca una curul en el Senado federal, ha presionado por que el gobernador de ese estado, Doug Ducey, responda con una fuerza militar contra lo que él llama erróneamente una "invasión" de inmigrantes por la frontera sur.

Lo triste de toda esta situación es que a pesar de su demagogia y de sus mentiras, los republicanos siguen apelando a un amplio sector del electorado. Y eso incluye a muchos latinos en estados y distritos clave en las próximas elecciones de medio término este año y en las generales de 2024.

Independientemente de quién sea la figura republicana que emerja, sobre todo para los comicios de 2024 —sea Trump, De Santis o cualquier otro—, el reto para los demócratas es enorme no solo por sus divisiones internas, sino porque enfrentan una verdadera maquinaria de mentiras republicanas en diversos rubros, incluyendo inmigración, que, sin embargo, gozan de aceptación entre un amplio grupo de electores.

*Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice. David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.*

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Hastings/Torres

states and districts that are key to the upcoming midterm elections and the 2024 elections.

No matter which Republican is the one to emerge, particularly in the 2024 primaries—whether it be Trump, DeSantis, or someone else—the Democrats' challenge is enormous, not only because of their internal divisions, but also because they are facing off against a veritable machinery of Republican lies on multiple fronts, including immigration; one which, however, is accepted by a wide swath of the electorate.

*Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice. David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.*

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DENVERGOV.ORG/VAX

Sintonice un evento en vivo en Facebook mientras nuestro socio Vision Pura conversa con un empresario local sobre la importancia de vacunarse.

Cuando: Febrero 22, 2022

Hora: 1:00 PM.

Dónde: <https://www.facebook.com/vision-pura-104431338743183>

If they are drug traffickers, because their profits are in danger; if they are politicians, because freedom of expression is their enemy and the right of citizens to be informed, their greatest threat.

In México, as in other Latin American countries, violence seems unstoppable: a hundred people die from violence every day.

Almost all crimes go unpunished. And every crime uninvestigated is an invitation to the next.

Last week at his morning press conference of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), the handful of journalists who attended the event in Tijuana refused to ask the president any more questions, in protest of these murders.

AMLO differentiated between ordinary journalists and street reporters and the "media elite" against whom he has an ongoing feud and insisted on denouncing.

But then a local colleague tearfully read the names of those killed. They all said "PRESENTE," after each name was read.

They also protested in México's two houses of government.

"We work under the shadow of being killed and our crimes are never solved," they said.

Last month, journalists protest-

ed in at least 30 cities demanding a stop to the killings.

"We want to stay alive," they said.

They carried signs that read: "Stop the murders of journalists, Justice Now!", "Let's defend freedom of expression", "The job insecurity of journalists is also violence", "The truth cannot be killed", "Hugs to drug traffickers, bullets to journalists", with photos of colleagues whose lives were violently cut short.

Journalists and their allies react; they organize mobilizations and protests, they appeal to the executive power. But the attacks continue, because the system of impunity requires that injustice be followed by silence.

And the result is self-censorship. Multiple local Mexican media are limited to reporting on entertainment and general neighborhood happenings.

In several states, they almost no longer report shootings, or corpses, not even on social media. Zones of silence multiply.

When journalists and their editors, out of fear, stop informing the community, the situation becomes even more urgent.

To the Mexican journalists who are mobilizing, we express our

deep solidarity with your situation. We fully support your demands to the executive powers for protection, clarification and justice.

If there is no change in priorities, our neighboring country, México will become a news desert, and crime and corruption will reign from the shadows. And there will be no one left to unmask them.

**Gabriel Lerner, Editor Emeritus for La Opinión. Reproduced with permission by Ethnic Media Services.**

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"On the eve of the six-month anniversary of the Texas six-week abortion ban known as SB8, it has never been more important to codify the constitutional right and to strengthen health care access for all people," said COLOR Action Fund's President, Dusti Gurule. "The Women's Health Protection Act would have been a historic vote in order to ensure our right to access abortion free from medically unnecessary restrictions and bans on abortion to abortion."

Abortion is essential health care. And we commend the U.S. Senators, especially Sen. Bennet and Sen. Hickenlooper, Colorado's own Reproductive Justice Champions, who voted yes on the Women's Health Protection Act today [Feb. 28] - recognizing that we all must protect the rights of every person to make decisions about their health, their lives, and their futures.

You can learn more about the Women's Health Protection Act [here](#).

**Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights Action Fund (COLOR AF).**

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a sí mismo como un "movimiento que lucha por una industria hotelera y de servicios de alimentos más resistente y sostenible, que pide un cambio al mostrar que una cultura más saludable genera un negocio más saludable". Citó una investigación de Unilever Food Solutions, con sede en Gran Bretaña, que encontró que la mayoría de los chefs estaban "privados de sueño hasta el agotamiento" y "se sentían deprimidos".

De regreso en Denver, la mesera Perri dijo que está agradecida de que sus empleadores vean a los trabajadores como algo más que recipientes anónimos e intercambiables que traen la comida y las bebidas "y en realidad se preocupan por nosotros y nos ven como humanos. Creo que eso es genial. Y creo que otros lugares deberían seguir este ejemplo".

Y si eso sucede, dijo, podría ser un legado positivo de algo que ha sido un momento difícil.

**John Daley es reportero de Colorado Public Radio. Esta historia es parte de una alianza que incluye Colorado Public Radio, NPR and Kaiser Health News.**

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## How to avoid spinning your wheels when shopping for a used car

Used cars have gotten more expensive during the pandemic. It pays to do some work upfront, so you'll feel better driving out. In fact, start by researching the price of cars you're interested in. Then, before you shop for the car, shop for financing. Check with banks, credit unions, and finance companies — you don't have to finance a car through the dealer.



When you think you've found the car you want:



- **Call the dealer.** Make sure the car is really on the lot and get the out-the-door price in writing, before you head to the dealership.



- **Get a vehicle history report and check the Buyer's Guide.** The report will tell you that car's history, and the Guide will tell you if has a warranty or is being sold "as is."



- **Discuss the out-the-door price first if you want to talk financing with the dealer.** That means the total price, before financing, including taxes and fees.



- **It's ok to say no to add-ons, or at least ask the price.** Add-ons are extra things dealers offer along with the car, like extended warranties and service contracts. Make sure you know what they are, how much they cost, and how they'll change your monthly payment.



- **Review the terms before you sign for the purchase and financing.** Make sure everything you agreed to is in writing. Spoken promises are hard to enforce.



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To learn more, visit [ftc.gov/usedcars](https://ftc.gov/usedcars). If you spot a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov).

Regulation

emissions by 50 percent of 2005 levels by 2030 and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

"They're contributing to the economy, but they're also profiting hand over fist on publicly held goods, while externalizing their harm to all of us," Camilla Fiebelman, director of the Sierra Club's Rio Grande chapter, said of oil and gas producers.

The budget shortfalls might also threaten work within NMED and the Oil Conservation Division to usher in regulations. Even as the amount of wells to monitor is growing, the agencies are in the process of rolling out new rules that will increase the amount of data to monitor and will, eventually, require oil and gas operations to decrease their emissions. The data will be self-reported by the industry. Though it is required that the data be auditable, it's unclear how well these rules can be enforced without regular inspections.

### A history of shortfalls

The state's environment departments were particularly hoping to see increased funding for the coming fiscal year, having endured steep budget shortfalls for more than a decade. The first, modest, cuts came in 2009 during the recession and then deepened under Gov. Susana Martinez, who slashed environmental budgets between 20 and 30 percent. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has made attempts to restore funding to the departments, but her budget recommendations have been repeatedly cut by the legislature.

The latest budget shortfall comes as the state government grapples with its strong associations to the oil and gas industry while also trying to address climate change. According to [an analysis](#)

by the New México Tax Research Institute, tax revenue from the oil and gas industry made up 33 percent of the state's revenue in the last fiscal year. The group's reports reveal an increasing reliance on oil and gas funds in recent years, a trend that began more than a decade ago after changes to the tax structure.

Adrienne Sandoval, the director of the Oil Conservation Division, said the office will do its best to handle the increased workloads, despite having 20 fewer staffers than requested. "We've reorganized the division to help us get the most efficiency out of the staff that we do have," she said.

Both Sandoval and Kenney said they hope to use new technology to make up for the staff shortages. Things like remote monitoring and online reporting can allow the agencies to do more with less. But technology can't fix everything.

Kenney said his agency sometimes struggles to equip staff with computers. In recent years his agency has closed field offices after being unable to staff them and has canceled field work in remote parts of the state because of an inability to pay for a hotel stay.

"It has a chronic impact on our ability to hold polluters accountable," Kenney said of the budget. "We cannot protect all communities in New México with our budget, so there is inequity built into this."

*Lindsay Fendt is a Staff Writer with [Searchlight New Mexico](#) is a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New México.*

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El hijo de Slade, Tristan, nació 10 semanas antes de lo previsto el 22 de mayo de 2021. / Slade's son, Tristan, was born 10 weeks early on May 22, 2021.

las vacunas que se utilizan actualmente —incluidas las de la varicela y la rubéola, que contienen virus vivos— ha demostrado ser perjudicial para el feto, según afirmó Offit.

Los médicos recomiendan habitualmente que las embarazadas se vacunen contra la tos ferina y la gripe.

Offit, coinventor de una vacuna contra el rotavirus, dijo que algunas preocupaciones sobre las vacunas provienen de intereses comerciales, no médicos. Las farmacéuticas no quieren arriesgarse a que se culpe a su producto de cualquier problema que surja en las embarazadas, aunque sea fortuito.

"Estas empresas no quieren malas noticias", aseguró Offit.

En los Estados Unidos, las autoridades sanitarias normalmente habrían recomendado a las futuras madres que no recibieran una vacuna no probada durante el embarazo, señaló Offit, también miembro de un comité que asesora a la FDA sobre vacunas.

Pero debido a la urgencia de la pandemia, las agencias sanitarias permitieron que las embarazadas tomaran sus propias decisiones sobre las vacunas sin hacer ninguna recomendación.

A las asociaciones médicas de mujeres también les afectó la falta de datos. El Colegio Estadounidense de Obstetras y Ginecólogos y la Sociedad de Medicina Materno-Fetal no animaron activamente a las embarazadas a vacunarse hasta el 30 de julio, después de que se publicaran los primeros estudios sobre vacunas en el mundo real. Los CDC hicieron lo propio en agosto.

"Si hubiéramos tenido estos datos al principio, habríamos podido

vacunar a más mujeres", expresó la doctora Kelli Burroughs, directora del departamento de obstetricia y ginecología del Hospital Memorial Hermann Sugar Land, cerca de Houston.

Sin embargo, los grupos anti-vacunas se apresuraron a crear temor entre las embarazadas, inundando las redes sociales con información errónea sobre el deterioro de la fertilidad y el daño al feto.

Durante los primeros meses tras la aprobación de las vacunas, algunos médicos se mostraron ambivalentes a la hora de recomendarlas, y otros siguen desaconsejando la vacunación a las pacientes embarazadas.

Se calcula que el 67% de las embarazadas están totalmente vacunadas, en comparación con el 89% de las personas mayores de 65 años, otro grupo de alto riesgo, y el 65% de los estadounidenses en general. Las tasas de vacunación son más bajas entre las minorías, ya que el 65% de las futuras madres hispanas y el 53% de las afroamericanas embarazadas están totalmente vacunadas, según los CDC.

La vacunación es especialmente importante durante el embarazo, debido a los mayores riesgos de hospitalización, ingreso en la UCI y ventilación mecánica, dijo Burroughs. Un estudio publicado en febrero por los Institutos Nacionales de Salud (NIH) descubrió que las embarazadas con covid, de moderado a grave, también tenían más probabilidades de sufrir una cesárea, dar a luz antes de tiempo o desarrollar una hemorragia posparto.

Madres afroamericanas como Slade ya corrían un mayor riesgo de mortalidad materna e infan-

til antes de la pandemia, debido a los mayores riesgos subyacentes, la desigualdad de acceso a la atención y otros factores. Covid no ha hecho más que aumentar esos riesgos, indicó Burroughs, que ha persuadido a algunos pacientes contándoles que ella tuvo un embarazo y un hijo sanos después de vacunarse.

Slade aseguró que nunca se ha opuesto a las vacunas y que no dudó en ponerse otras vacunas durante el embarazo. Pero dijo que "simplemente no me sentía cómoda" con las vacunas contra covid.

"Si hubiera habido datos que dijeran que la vacuna contra covid era segura, que no le pasaría nada a mi bebé y que no había riesgo de defectos de nacimiento, me la habría puesto", afirmó Slade, que tiene diabetes de tipo 2 desde hace 12 años.

### Trabajar a la velocidad de la luz

A los científicos del gobierno en los NIH les preocupó, desde el principio, el riesgo que significaba covid para las embarazadas, y sabían que las futuras madres necesitaban las vacunas tanto o más que cualquier otra persona, explicó el doctor Larry Corey, líder de la COVID-19 Prevention Network, que coordinó los ensayos de la vacuna para el gobierno federal.

Pero incluir a embarazadas en los ensayos clínicos más grandes podría haber provocado interrupciones y retrasos, señaló Corey. Los investigadores habrían tenido que inscribir a miles de voluntarias embarazadas para lograr resultados estadísticamente sólidos, añadió.

El embarazo puede acarrear una amplia gama de complica-

ciones: diabetes gestacional, hipertensión, anemia, hemorragias, coágulos de sangre o problemas con la placenta, por ejemplo. Hasta el 20% de las embarazadas tienen abortos espontáneos. Dado que los investigadores se habrían visto obligados a analizar cualquier problema médico para asegurarse de que no era culpa de las vacunas contra covid, incluir a las embarazadas podría haber supuesto tener que poner en pausa esos ensayos, dijo Corey.

Ante el creciente número de muertes por la pandemia, "teníamos la misión de hacer esto lo más rápido y exhaustivo posible", señaló Corey. Hacer que las vacunas estuvieran disponibles en un año "salvó cientos de miles de vidas".

Los primeros datos sobre la seguridad de la vacuna contra covid en el embarazo se publicaron en abril, cuando los CDC anunciaron un análisis de casi 36,000 embarazadas vacunadas que se habían inscrito en un registro llamado V-safe, que permite a los usuarios registrar las fechas de sus vacunas y cualquier síntoma posterior.

Las investigaciones que siguieron demostraron que las vacunas contra covid no estaban asociadas a un mayor riesgo de aborto o parto prematuro.

La doctora Brenna Hughes, especialista en medicina materno-fetal y miembro del grupo de expertos en covid del Colegio Estadounidense de Obstetras y Ginecólogos, está de acuerdo en que sumar a las embarazadas a los ensayos a gran escala de vacunas y fármacos contra covid tal vez era poco práctico. Pero añadió que los investigadores podrían haber lanzado ensayos paralelos con mujeres embarazadas, una vez que los primeros estudios demostraran que las vacunas eran seguras en humanos.

"¿Habría sido difícil? Todo lo relacionado con covid es difícil", afirmó Hughes. "Pero habría sido factible".

La FDA exige que los investigadores realicen estudios adicionales en animales —llamados estudios de toxicidad en el desarrollo y la reproducción— antes de probar las vacunas en embarazadas. Aunque estos estudios son esenciales, tardan entre cinco y seis meses, y no se completaron hasta finales de 2020, al momento que se autorizaron las primeras vacunas para adultos, dijo la doctora Emily Erbeling, directora de microbiología y enfermedades infecciosas del Instituto Nacional de Alergias y Enfermedades Infecciosas, parte de los NIH.

Los estudios sobre el embarazo "llegaron mucho más tarde", indicó la doctora Irina Burd, directora del Centro de Investigación Integrada de Medicina Fetal de Johns Hopkins y profesora de ginecología y obstetricia. "Deberían haberse hecho antes".

Los NIH están llevando a cabo un estudio sobre las embarazadas y las puerperas (que acaban de dar a luz) que decidieron vacunarse por su cuenta, contó Erbeling. El estudio debe estar terminado en julio de 2023.

Janssen y Moderna también llevan a cabo estudios en embarazadas, ambos previstos para 2024.

Los científicos de Pfizer se encontraron con problemas cuando iniciaron un ensayo clínico, que habría asignado aleatoriamente a embarazadas una vacuna o un placebo. Porque una vez que las vacunas estaban ampliamente disponibles, muchas pacientes no querían arriesgarse a no estar vacunadas.

Pfizer ha dejado de reclutar pacientes y no ha dicho si informará públicamente de los datos del ensayo.

Hughes dijo que los desarrolladores de vacunas deben incluir a las embarazadas desde el principio. "Existe la idea de proteger a las embarazadas de la investigación", afirmó. "Pero deberíamos proteger a los pacientes a través de la investigación, no de la investigación".

### Recuperación física y emocional

Slade aún lamenta haberse visto privada de tiempo con sus hijos mientras luchaba contra la enfermedad.

El hecho de estar conectada a un respirador artificial le impidió pasar esas primeras semanas con su recién nacido, o ver a su hija Zoe, de 9 años.

Incluso cuando Slade pudo por fin ver a su hijo, no pudo decirle que lo quería ni cantarle una canción de cuna, un tubo de respiración en la garganta le impedía hablar.

Hoy Slade es una firme defensora de la vacunación contra covid, y les pide a sus amistades y familiares que se vacunen para evitar sufrir lo que ella sufrió.

Slade tuvo que volver a aprender a caminar después de estar postrada en la cama durante semanas. El largo tiempo con un respirador puede haber contribuido a su parálisis estomacal, que a menudo le provoca un intenso dolor, náuseas e incluso vómitos cuando come o bebe. Slade pesa hoy 50 libras menos que antes de quedar

No quieren que las verdades que buscan los periodistas salgan a la luz. Si son narcos, porque peligran sus ganancias; si son políticos, porque la libertad de expresión es su enemigo y el derecho de la ciudadanía a estar informada, su mayor amenaza.

En México, como en otros países latinoamericanos, la violencia parece imparable: un centenar de personas mueren cada día por violencia. Casi todos los crímenes quedan impunes.

Cada crimen que no se investiga es una invitación al próximo.

La semana pasada en la conferencia de prensa matutina del presidente López Obrador los periodistas se negaron a hacerle más preguntas, en protesta por estos asesinatos.

Una colega local leyó entre lágrimas los nombres de los asesinados. Todos dijeron "Presente".

Es que ya no pueden más.

También protestaron en el Senado y la Cámara de Diputados.

"Trabajamos bajo la sombra de ser asesinados y nuestros crímenes no se aclaran", dijeron.

El mes pasado, los periodistas en al menos 30 ciudades exigieron un alto a los asesinatos.

"Nos queremos con vida", dijeron.

Los periodistas y sus aliados reaccionan; organizan movilizaciones y protestas, apelan al poder ejecutivo. Pero los ataques siguen. Siguen, porque el sistema de impunidad requiere que a la injusticia le siga el silencio.

Y el resultado es la autocensura. Múltiples medios locales mexicanos se limitan a informar sobre espectáculos y novedades del vecindario y casi no reportan balaceras, ni cadáveres, ni siquiera en las redes sociales. Pululan las zonas de silencio.

Cuando los periodistas y sus editores, por temor, dejan de informar a la comunidad, la situación es urgente.

A los periodistas mexicanos que se están movilizand

amos nuestra honda solidaridad con su situación. Apoyamos totalmente sus demandas al poder ejecutivo de protección, esclarecimiento y justicia.

Si no obra un cambio en sus prioridades el país vecino será un desierto informático, donde el crimen y el desgobierno reinarán desde las tinieblas. Y no habrá nadie para desenmascararlos.

**Gabriel Lerner, Editor Emeritus, La Opinión. Reproducido con permiso de Ethnic Media Services.**

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embarazada y acude a urgencias cuando el dolor es insoportable. "La mayoría de los días, me siento muy mal", dijo Slade.

Su familia también sufrió. Como muchos bebés nacidos prematuramente, Tristan, que ahora tiene casi 9 meses y gatea, recibe fisioterapia para fortalecer sus músculos. Con 15 libras de peso, está bastante sano, aunque su médico dijo que tiene síntomas de asma.

A Slade le gustaría asistir a una terapia familiar con Zoe, que rara vez se queja y tiende a guardarse sus sentimientos. Sabe que su enfermedad debe haber sido aterradora para su pequeña.

"El otro día estaba hablando conmigo", comentó Slade, "y me dijo: 'Sabes, casi tuve que enterarte'".

**Liz Szabo es corresponsal sénior y reportera empresarial de Kaiser Health News. Esta historia fue producida por Kaiser Health News, un programa editorialmente independiente de la Kaiser Family Foundation que no está relacionado con Kaiser Permanente.**

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## Trials 1

vomiting when she eats or drinks. Slade weighs 50 pounds less today than before she became pregnant and has resorted to going to the emergency room when the pain is unbearable. "Most days, I'm just miserable," Slade said.

Her family suffered, as well. Like many babies born prematurely, Tristan, now nearly 9 months old and crawling, receives physical therapy to strengthen his muscles. At 15 pounds, Tristan is largely healthy, although his doctor said he has symptoms of asthma.

Slade said she would like to attend family counseling with Zoe, who rarely complains and tends to

keep her feelings to herself. Slade knows her illness must have been terrifying for her little girl.

"The other day she was talking to me," Slade said, "and she said, 'You know, I almost had to bury you.'"

*Liz Szabo is a senior correspondent and enterprise reporter with Kaiser Health News, a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.*

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## Health



Frank Bonanno, owner of the Bonanno Concepts restaurant group, in the kitchen at French 75 in downtown Denver. / Frank Bonanno, propietario del grupo de restaurantes Bonanno Concepts, en la cocina de French 75 en el centro de Denver.

who bring the food and drinks "and actually do care about us and see us as humans. I think that's great. And I think other places should catch up and follow on cue here."

And if that happens, she said, it could be a positive legacy from an otherwise tough time.

*John Daley is a health reporter with Colorado Public Radio. This story is part of a partnership that includes Colorado Public Radio, NPR and Kaiser Health News.*

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## Inmigración

de cameruneses detenidos y deportados por ICE de regreso a una crisis que pone en peligro sus vidas. Hemos visto a solicitantes de asilo centroamericanos, mexicanos y haitianos rechazados en la frontera, y hemos visto a migrantes asesinados cuando eran deportados de regreso a los países de los que huyeron. El gobierno de Biden continúa utilizando el Título 42 como arma para rechazar a los solicitantes de asilo, en violación de las leyes estadounidenses e internacionales que les otorgan el derecho a solicitar asilo en los Estados Unidos. Dado este historial, ¿el presidente Biden también expulsará a los ucranianos a una peligrosa zona de guerra? Y si el presidente ofrece protección a los ucranianos, ¿por qué no ofrece la

misma protección a otros grupos vulnerables que necesitan asilo tanto como cualquiera?" dijo Ibarra.

"A medida que el mundo se vuelve más peligroso, debemos actuar para ayudar a Ucrania y a todos los países que están teniendo una violencia extrema y un peligro para los que están allí. Esto comienza con poner fin al uso del Título 42 y permitir que los solicitantes de asilo soliciten asilo en el país, detener las deportaciones, especialmente a países que, como Ucrania, están sufriendo desastres humanitarios, y abrir la puerta de bienvenida para todos en el mundo que vienen aquí en busca de paz y seguridad," dijo Ibarra.

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Photo/Foto: Roseam Morton for KHN

"I wish I had gotten the vaccine earlier," says Kia Slade, who remains too sick to return to work as a special education teacher in Baltimore, Maryland. / "Ojalá me hubiera vacunado antes", dijo Kia Slade, que sigue demasiado enferma para volver a trabajar como profesora de educación especial en Baltimore, Maryland.

a society to vaccinate women in pregnancy will be remembered by the children and families who lost their mothers to this disease."

### New Technology, Uncertain Risks

At the time covid vaccines were being developed, scientists had very little experience using mRNA vaccines in pregnant women, said Dr. Jacqueline Miller, a senior vice president involved in vaccine research at Moderna.

"When you study anything in pregnant women, you have two patients, the mom and the unborn child," Miller said. "Until we had more safety data on the platform, it wasn't something we wanted to undertake."

But Offit notes that vaccines have a strong record of safety in pregnancy and sees no reason to have excluded pregnant people. None of the vaccines currently in use — including the chickenpox and rubella vaccines, which contain live viruses — have been shown to harm fetuses, he said. Doctors routinely recommend that pregnant people receive pertussis and flu vaccinations.

Offit, the co-inventor of a rotavirus vaccine, said that some concerns about vaccines stem from commercial, not medical, interests. Drugmakers don't want to risk that their product will be blamed for any problems occurring in pregnant people, even if coincidental, he said.

"These companies don't want bad news," Offit said.

In the United States, health officials typically would have told expectant mothers not to take a vaccine that was untested during

pregnancy, said Offit, a member of a committee that advises the FDA on vaccines.

Due to the urgency of the pandemic, health agencies instead permitted pregnant people to make up their own minds about vaccines without recommending them.

Women's medical associations were also hampered by the lack of data. Neither the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists nor the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine actively encouraged pregnant people to be vaccinated until July 30, after the first real-world vaccine studies had been published. The CDC followed suit in August.

"If we had had this data in the beginning, we would have been able to vaccinate more women," said Dr. Kelli Burroughs, the department chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital near Houston.

Yet anti-vaccine groups wasted no time in scaring pregnant people, flooding social media with misinformation about impaired fertility and harm to the fetus.

In the first few months after the covid vaccines were approved, some doctors were ambivalent about recommending them, and some still advise pregnant patients against vaccination.

An estimated 67% of pregnant people today are fully vaccinated, compared with about 89% of people 65 and older, another high-risk group, and 65% of Americans overall. Vaccination rates are lower among minorities, with 65% of expectant Hispanic mothers and

53% of pregnant African Americans fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Vaccination is especially important during pregnancy, due to increased risks of hospitalization, ICU admission and mechanical ventilation, Burroughs said. A study released in February from the National Institutes of Health found that pregnant people with a moderate to severe covid infection also were more likely to have a C-section, deliver preterm, or develop a postpartum hemorrhage.

Black moms such as Slade were already at higher risk of maternal and infant mortality before the pandemic, due to higher underlying risks, unequal access to health care, and other factors. Covid has only magnified those risks, said Burroughs, who has persuaded reluctant patients by revealing that she had a healthy pregnancy and child after being vaccinated.

Slade said she has never opposed vaccines and had no hesitation about receiving other vaccines while pregnant. But she said she "just wasn't comfortable" with covid shots.

"If there had been data out there saying the covid shot was safe, and that nothing would happen to my baby and there was no risk of birth defects, I would have taken it," said Slade, who has had Type 2 diabetes for 12 years.

### Working at Warp Speed

Government scientists at the NIH were concerned about the risk of covid to pregnant people from the very beginning and knew that expectant moms needed vaccines as much or more than anyone

else, said Dr. Larry Corey, a leader of the COVID-19 Prevention Network, which coordinated covid vaccine trials for the federal government.

But including pregnant volunteers in the larger vaccine trials could have led to interruptions and delays, Corey said. Researchers would have had to enroll thousands of pregnant volunteers to achieve statistically robust results that weren't due to chance, he said.

Pregnancy can bring on a wide range of complications: gestational diabetes, hypertension, anemia, bleeding, blood clots, or problems with the placenta, for example. Up to 20% of people who know they're pregnant miscarry. Because researchers would have been obliged to investigate any medical problem to make sure it wasn't caused by one of the covid vaccines, including pregnant people might have meant having to hit pause on those trials, Corey said.

With death tolls from the pandemic mounting, "we had a mission to do this as quickly and as thoroughly as possible," Corey said. Making covid vaccines available within a year "saved hundreds of thousands of lives."

The first data on covid vaccine safety in pregnancy was published in April, when the CDC released an analysis of nearly 36,000 vaccinated pregnant people who had enrolled in a registry called V-safe, which allows users to log the dates of their vaccinations and any subsequent symptoms.

Later research showed that covid vaccines weren't associated with increased risk of miscarriage or premature delivery.

Dr. Brenna Hughes, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist and member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' covid expert group, agrees that adding pregnant people to large-scale covid vaccine and drug trials may have been impractical. But researchers could have launched parallel trials of pregnant women, once early studies showed the vaccines were safe in humans, she said.

"Would it have been hard? Everything with covid is hard," Hughes said. "But it would have been feasible."

The FDA requires that researchers perform additional animal studies — called developmental and reproductive toxicity studies — before testing vaccines in pregnant people. Although these studies are essential, they take five to six months, and weren't completed until late 2020, around the time the first covid vaccines were au-

thorized for adults, said Dr. Emily Erbelding, director of microbiology and infectious diseases at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of NIH.

Pregnancy studies "were an afterthought," said Dr. Irina Burd, director of Johns Hopkins' Integrated Research Center for Fetal Medicine and a professor of gynecology and obstetrics. "They should have been done sooner."

The NIH is conducting a study of pregnant and postpartum people who decided on their own to be vaccinated, Erbelding said. The study is due to be completed by July 2023.

Janssen and Moderna are also conducting studies in pregnant people, both due to be completed in 2024.

Pfizer scientists encountered problems when they initiated a clinical trial, which would have randomly assigned pregnant people to receive either a vaccine or placebo. Once vaccines were widely available, many patients weren't willing to take a chance on being unvaccinated until after delivery.

Pfizer has stopped recruiting patients and has not said whether it will publicly report any data from the trial.

Hughes said vaccine developers need to include pregnant people from the very beginning.

"There is this notion of protecting pregnant people from research," Hughes said. "But we should be protecting patients through research, not from research."

### Recovering Physically and Emotionally

Slade still regrets being deprived of time with her children while she fought the disease.

Being on a ventilator kept her from spending those early weeks with her newborn, or from seeing her 9-year-old daughter, Zoe.

Even when Slade was finally able to see her son, she wasn't able to tell him she loved him or sing a lullaby, or even talk at all, due to a breathing tube in her throat.

Today, Slade is a strong advocate of covid vaccinations, urging her friends and family to get their shots to avoid suffering the way she has.

Slade had to relearn to walk after being bedridden for weeks. Her many weeks on a ventilator may have contributed to her stomach paralysis, which often causes intense pain, nausea and even



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Regulación

James Kenney. "Estoy muy cansado y frustrado después de la sesión".

En los últimos años, los legisladores se han negado sistemáticamente a destinar el exceso de dinero ingresado durante los auges petrolíferos a la aplicación de la normativa medioambiental y a la mitigación de los impactos ambientales de la industria. Incluso siendo el segundo estado productor de petróleo, Nuevo México tiene muchos menos inspectores de campo que otros estados extractivos.

El nuevo presupuesto hace poco por solucionar esta disparidad. La División de Conservación

del Petróleo, una oficina dentro del EMNRD que supervisa la actividad del petróleo y el gas, sólo podrá contratar a cinco nuevos miembros del personal. Había solicitado financiación para 25 personas, sobre todo para el cumplimiento de la normativa y la reparación.

**Beneficios y contaminación**

Aunque los ingresos del petróleo y el gas pueden aportar ganancias inesperadas al presupuesto de Nuevo México, el aumento de la producción conlleva una serie de costes. La industria es la mayor fuente de gases de efecto invernadero en el estado y los líderes de la industria ejercen habitual-

mente presión contra la regulación y los controles de contaminación. Un cabildero de la Asociación de Petróleo y Gas de Nuevo México, por ejemplo, gastó 256.500 dólares en anuncios durante la sesión legislativa de 2022 para ayudar a derrotar la Ley de Futuro Limpio, un proyecto de ley que habría puesto límites legales a las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, exigiendo a las industrias que reduzcan sus emisiones en un 50 por ciento de los niveles de 2005 para el año 2030 y que alcancen emisiones netas cero para el año 2050.

"Contribuyen a la economía, pero también se benefician a manos llenas de los bienes públicos, mientras externalizan su daño a todos nosotros", dijo Camilla Fiebelman, directora de la sección de Río Grande del Sierra Club, refiriéndose a los productores de petróleo y gas.

La escasez de presupuesto también podría poner en peligro el trabajo de la NMED y de la División de Conservación del Petróleo para introducir reglamentos. Aunque la cantidad de pozos que hay que controlar es cada vez mayor, los organismos están poniendo en marcha nuevas normas que aumentarán la cantidad de datos que hay que controlar y que, en última instancia, exigirán que las explotaciones de petróleo y gas reduzcan sus emisiones. Los datos serán comunicados por el propio sector. Aunque se exige que los datos sean auditables, no está claro que estas normas puedan aplicarse sin inspecciones periódicas.

**Un historial de déficits**

Los departamentos de medio ambiente del Estado esperaban especialmente un aumento de la financiación para el próximo año fiscal, ya que llevan más de una década soportando fuertes déficits presupuestarios. Los primeros recortes, modestos, se produjeron en 2009, durante la recesión, y luego se agravaron bajo el mandato de la gobernadora Susana Martínez, que recortó los presupuestos de medio ambiente entre un 20% y un 30%. La gobernadora Michelle Luján Grisham ha intentado restaurar la financiación de los departamentos, pero sus recomendaciones presupuestarias han sido recortadas repetidamente por la legislatura.

El último recorte presupuestario se produce mientras el gobierno estatal lidia con sus fuertes asociaciones con la industria del petróleo y el gas, a la vez que intenta abordar el cambio climático. Según un análisis del Instituto de Investigación Fiscal de Nuevo México, los ingresos fiscales proce-

dentos de la industria del petróleo y el gas representaron el 33 por ciento de los ingresos del estado en el último año fiscal. Los informes del grupo revelan una creciente dependencia de los fondos del petróleo y el gas en los últimos años, una tendencia que comenzó hace más de una década tras los cambios en la estructura fiscal.

Adrienne Sandoval, directora de la División de Conservación del Petróleo, dijo que la oficina hará todo lo posible para hacer frente al aumento de la carga de trabajo, a pesar de contar con 20 empleados menos de los solicitados. "Hemos reorganizado la división para ayudarnos a obtener la mayor eficiencia del personal que tenemos", dijo.

Tanto Sandoval como Kenney dijeron que esperan utilizar las nuevas tecnologías para compensar la escasez de personal. Cosas como la supervisión a distancia y los informes en línea pueden permitir a las agencias hacer más con menos. Pero la tecnología no puede solucionarlo todo.

Kenney dijo que su agencia a veces tiene dificultades para equipar al personal con ordenadores. En los últimos años, su agencia ha cerrado oficinas de campo al no poder dotarlas de personal y ha cancelado trabajos de campo en zonas remotas del estado por no poder pagar una estancia en un hotel.

"Tiene un impacto crónico en nuestra capacidad de exigir responsabilidades a los contaminadores", dijo Kenney sobre el presupuesto. "No podemos proteger a todas las comunidades de Nuevo México con nuestro presupuesto, así que hay una inequidad incorporada".

*Lindsay Fendt es redactora de Searchlight New Mexico, una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al reportaje de investigación en Nuevo México.*

*Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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to the report. The majority of these children were between the ages of 5 and 13.

Over 185 per 100,000 children between the ages of 14 and 17 in Colorado experienced the death of a caregiver due to COVID in that period, according to the report. The rate for children in Colorado between the ages of 5 and 13 who lost a caregiver due to COVID was almost 140 per 100,000 children. For children 4 years old and younger, the rate was over 90 per 100,000 children.

Across the country, 70% of caregiver loss affected children 13 and younger, according to the report's key findings. The report found that, nationwide, Black and Hispanic children lost caregivers from COVID at almost 2.5 times the rate of white children.

Arizona, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas had the highest rates of caregiver loss from COVID. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Wisconsin had the lowest rates.

"For these children, COVID has done more than hurt their lives; it has ended their world," the report's authors wrote in an open letter to the American people. "Especially early in development, a parent or family caregiver fills a child's entire sky — providing most of his or her stability, confidence and care. The sudden, seemingly unexplainable departure of a caregiver leaves a void of affection and direction that each child will struggle to fill."

#### Mental health crisis

Colorado children and adolescents who lost a primary caregiver are not the only ones struggling. The demand for mental health services for children in Colorado has increased significantly.

Children's Hospital Colorado has seen a 90% increase in demand for behavioral health treatment in the

past two years, according to a May statement.

"What we are seeing is more acute distress and sometimes even mental health issues at younger ages, because of the severity and the toll on the daily lives of children and adolescents," Talmi said.

Things that children and adolescents expect to be doing, like going to school, being able to be with extended family members and being with friends has been profoundly



"I've been in practice for over 20 years in pediatrics and I've never seen anything like the demand for mental health services we've seen at Children's Colorado in the past 15 months."

David Brumbaugh,  
Chief Medical Officer,  
Children's Hospital  
Colorado

changed by the pandemic, and by the necessary safety and health restrictions, Talmi said.

Children's Hospital Colorado declared a state of emergency for pediatric mental health — the first time it was declared in the hospital's system, which started over 110 years ago — in May 2021, according to the statement. "I've been in practice for over 20 years in pediatrics and I've never seen anything like the demand for mental health services we've seen at Children's Colorado in the past 15 months," David Brumbaugh, the chief medical officer for Children's Colorado, said in the statement.

The need for emergency mental health services at Children's

Hospital Colorado surged 73% over the past two years, Brumbaugh said in a November statement. "Unfortunately, six months later, with the continued aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to reverberate throughout Colorado, we are still in a State of Emergency."

When Dawn Boden, a counseling services facilitator at Colorado Springs School District 11, asked school counselors for the top mental health concerns that have arisen during the past two years, concern for students who lost a close family member, either due to COVID or other reasons, was one of the top three concerns mentioned, Boden wrote in an email to Colorado Newsline.

#### The state's response

Last year, Gov. Jared Polis signed a bipartisan bill that established the I Matter program, which gives young people access to free mental health services. The program has provided over 1,300 therapy sessions, with more appointments scheduled, according to a CDHS statement last month. As of Jan. 24, over 650 young Coloradans had participated in at least one therapy session. The program provides young people with three to six behavioral health sessions, free of charge, and reimburses participating providers.

"COVID-19 has fundamentally changed how our youth interact and connect with others," Michelle Barnes, the executive director of CDHS, said in the statement.

The program was in direct response to the mental health stressors that kids and adolescents are experiencing due to the pandemic, such as heightened anxiety and fear, according to the statement.

People ages 18 and under, or 21 or under, if they receive special education services, are eligible to participate.

#### Local efforts to combat mental health crisis

The number of requests for mentors has increased exponentially, said Elycia Cook, the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, a nonprofit that works to create mentoring relationships.

"One of the recognized ways to combat loneliness, or just to help kids, is to have a trusting, caring adult in their lives, who is not a family member," Cook said.

While the need for mentors increased through the pandemic, the number of people applying to become mentors did not. The organization added more group programs to meet the needs of their existing children, as well as the inquiries. "We're currently in need of more volunteers and more mentors, because the calls keep coming in, especially for the 13 to 17 year olds," Cook said.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado is just shy of 900 matches, Cook said, which is down from pre-pandemic numbers.

COVID-19 has killed more than 940,000 people in the United States, including over 12,000 in Colorado.

If you or someone you know is in a crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or contact the Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741. In Colorado, you can contact Colorado Crisis Services at 1-844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255.

*Julia Fennell is a reporter for Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.*

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