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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## U.S warns Cubans away from sea crossings amid protests, but most cross on land

NEW YORK, July 13 (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on Monday told any migrants fleeing unrest in Cuba: “Let me be clear: If you take to the sea, you will not come to the United States.”

But Cuban migrants are largely flocking to the U.S.-Mexico land border, not the U.S. coast. And in a sharp break from his predecessor Donald Trump, President Joe Biden has been letting most in pending the outcome of their asylum applications, according to government data. Since Biden took office in late January, the number of Cubans arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border has risen sharply. This fiscal year through May, which began in October, border officials encountered more than 22,000 Cubans, the highest level in more than a decade.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection data shows vividly the sharp contrast between the approaches of the Trump and Biden administration toward Cuban migrants.

In December 2020 - the last full month of Trump’s presidency - nearly two-thirds of all Cubans caught crossing the border were expelled to Mexico under a pandemic-related health order known as Title 42. By May of this year, the last month data is available, around 96% of Cubans

only for unaccompanied minors and most families.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Cuba in 2016 because of his involvement in an opposition political party, encountered the stark difference between Trump and Biden policies on his journey to the United States.

Ruiz first escaped to Brazil, then discovered he could try for U.S. asylum and headed to the U.S.-Mexico border in 2019. But when he tried to cross, border agents sent him back to Mexico under a different Trump-era policy, known as the Migrant Protection Protocols, that forced migrants to wait in Mexico for U.S. court hearings.

Ruiz was stuck in a shelter in the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez for two years until Biden reversed the policy soon after he took office this year. Ruiz was finally allowed across the border in March to start a new life with his family in Miami while pursuing his asylum case.

“The only thing that Biden did was restore internationally protected asylum laws that Trump had violated,” said Ruiz in a phone interview. “That was the only change.”

In Cuba, thousands have joined recent protests in cities across the nation amid frustrations with widespread shortages of basic goods including medicine, power outages, rising prices and a surge in COVID-19 cases. Some demonstrators also called for a change in political change. The Cuban government has blamed the shortages on U.S. sanctions and says the United States has backed the opposition. read more

It is not yet clear whether the unrest could lead to even more people trying to flee the island.

were allowed into the United States to reunite with U.S.-based family members and seek legal status in immigration court.

The majority of Cuban migrants being allowed in are single adults, a notable development because Biden has continued to expel the vast majority of individual adults arriving from Central America and Mexico. He has made exceptions

at U.S. shores. Rubio, a Cuban-American representing Florida, raised the specter of the iconic Mariel boatlift in the 1980s and a 1994 surge in rafts leaving the island, saying on Twitter that the Cuban government could use the protests as an excuse to lift travel restrictions and spark another crisis at sea.

Pedro Ruiz, 51, who said he had to flee

U.S. Republican Senator Marco Rubio voiced concerns this week an explosion in anti-government protests in Cuba could spark a return to the era of massive boatlifts of Cubans seeking refuge



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

07/13/2021



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# Delta Variant Outbreak Around The World

Six fully vaccinated people who attended a wedding party in Houston, Texas, came down with COVID-19. The study said it was suspected that the Delta variant was introduced at the wedding party by two people who had traveled from India and tested negative before their flight, but later developed symptoms in the U.S.

While in Australia, the COVID-19 cases have been surging in recent weeks. The government has tightened up

the largest cities with a no-touch rule, limiting of outdoor gatherings, exercise and shopping.

As the Delta variant rapidly spreads, an expert warns that a surprising amount of death from the COVID-19 could soon follow. The United States is averaging about 19,000 new cases in the past week, a 47% increase from the week before. These came mostly from Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Nevada.

Pfizer's scientists met with top U.S. health officials on Monday to discuss the drug maker's request for federal authorization of third doses of its COVID-19 vaccines saying that booster shots will be needed.

Dr. Antony Fauci didn't rule out the possibility, but said it was too soon for the government to recommend



another shot.

Just as millions of us begin to feel life is coming back to normal, this Delta variant emergence has put us back in the struggle against the pandemic.

We are urging all the people to be vaccinated, not just to protect yourself, but also to protect others.

We really cannot understand

why the people don't believe in the science and want to risk their lives to not vaccinate.

The world has become more chaotic. Because of what happened in Haiti, the conflict in the Asia Pacific region, the political situation in Afghanistan and all the other unstable situations around the globe—we all have reason to worry.



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris attends a vaccine mobilization event at TCF center in Detroit, Michigan. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook



The Italy team drive through Rome on a open top bus tour after they won Euro 2020. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



Members of the military patrol past looted shops as the country deploys army to quell unrest linked to jailing of former President Jacob Zuma, in Soweto, South Africa. REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko



A guest poses at the screening of the film "BAC Nord" Out of Competition in Cannes. REUTERS/Reinhard Krause



People make their way on a flooded street as Tropical Storm Elsa passes through Hoboken, New Jersey. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz



A Miami-Dade County police boat sits at anchor as emergency workers conduct search and rescue efforts at the site of a partially collapsed residential building in Surfside, near Miami Beach, Florida, June 30. REUTERS/Joe Skipper



## World Economic Forum Launches Coalition To Tackle Harmful Online Content



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The World Economic Forum has announced that it is launching a Global Coalition for Digital Safety which will accelerate public-private cooperation to tackle harmful content online.

It will serve to exchange best practices for new online safety regulations, take coordinated action to reduce the risk of online harms, and drive collaboration on programs to enhance digital media literacy

With the growing challenge of health misinformation, violent extremist and terrorist content, and the exploitation and abuse of children online, there is an urgent need for more deliberate global coordination to improve digital safety.

“The Forum recognizes this problem is only growing in size and complexity. This Coalition serves to bring together leaders in the public and private sector to cooperate globally on solutions that will ultimately reduce the consumption and distribution of material that is causing harm – especially to vulnerable members of our population,” said Cathy Li, Head of Media, Entertainment, and Sport Industries at the Forum.

**Coalition members highlighted the need to act more proactively when it comes to digital safety and the importance of further cooperation:**

“All the processes of the modern world are connected to the internet and information technologies. But at the same time, when we speak about high-tech processes, ‘digitalization’, we always know about the main goal – to create a safe online environment for our citizens. Therefore, the global initiative to create purposeful cooperation between states, organizations and businesses

is extremely relevant.” H.E. Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation, Ukraine

Illegal*	Harmful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pornography</li><li>• Child Pornography</li><li>• Copyright infringement</li><li>• Defamation</li><li>• Grooming</li><li>• Sexual exploitation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Violence</li><li>• Online harassment / bullying</li><li>• Hate speech</li><li>• Racism</li><li>• Bestiality</li><li>• Menacing / offensive</li></ul>

\*The Conceptions of illegality may vary depending on national legislations

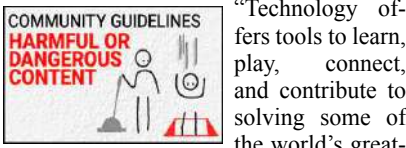
“In order to improve digital safety, it is imperative that we accelerate public-private cooperation. This is an area that the World Economic Forum’s Global Coalition for Digital Safety, as an impartial platform, can look into.”

H.E. Johnny G. Plate, Minister of Communications and Informatics, Indonesia “The significance of national and international collaboration, multistakeholder engagement and investment in holistic solutions to address the proliferation of global online harms has never been more important. I am so pleased to be part of the World Economic Forum’s Digital Content Safety initiative and to have an opportunity to raise awareness about eSafety’s multifaceted approach to helping our citizens have safer, more positive experiences online. Securing harmonization across jurisdictions to avoid a patchwork and fragmentation of online safety legislation, governance arrangements and national online safety measures should be a priority for us all.”

Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner, Australia, “Global online safety is a collective goal that must be addressed by working across borders as well as

by individual nations. We look forward to collaborating with international Coalition members to reduce the risk of on-line harms and build a safer life online for everyone.” Dame Melanie Dawes, Chief Executive, Ofcom, UK

“We believe that everyone should be free to share without harassment or abuse.” Chris Priebe, Executive Chairman, Two Hat Security



“Technology offers tools to learn, play, connect, and contribute to solving some of the world’s greatest challenges. But digital safety harms remain a threat to these possibilities. As the World Economic Forum is uniquely positioned to accelerate the public-private collaboration needed to advance digital safety globally, Microsoft is eager to participate and help build whole-of-society solutions to this whole-of-society problem.” Courtney Gregoire, Chief Digital Safety Officer, Microsoft

A framework proposed in the new report, Advancing Digital Safety, will serve to better protect users online. It is centered on industry standards, which establish a safety baseline, together with regulation to govern enforcement. Coalition members are committed to charting a course that will resolve key tensions in privacy, safety, expression, business incentives and corporate versus public responsibility to effectively minimize the risk of harms encountered online. (Courtesy weforum.org)

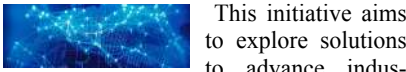
**Related**

### Advancing Global Digital Content Safety Through A Global Coalition

The Global Coalition for Digital Safety aims to accelerate public-private cooperation to tackle harmful content online and will serve to exchange best practices for new online safety regulation, take coordinated action to reduce the risk of online harms, and drive forward collaboration on programs to enhance digital media literacy.

#### Our Approach To The Problem

Advancing Global Digital Content Safety is an initiative focusing on solutions to tackle the spread of harmful content online. Online content has the power to influence minds, incite action, and shape the fabric of society. What is posted and shared on the internet has proliferated substantially, leading to questions on how to reduce the spread of harmful content, particularly across social networks, search engines, streaming services, and others within a layered internet ecosystem.



This initiative aims to explore solutions to advance industry and regulatory progress in the area of digital content safety. Taking into account and developing further the outcomes of the previous and current initiatives on the topic, the analysis will be centered around three main workstreams:

**1. Content Moderation:** This workstream will look at current practices used by platforms to define harmful content and take action on such content, highlighting best practices for processes of categorizing, detecting, reporting, and governing content, as follows:

- What practices are currently in place to moderate content on major platforms?
- What is the current balance between safety and free expression implied or stated based on content moderation decisions we have seen to date?
- What are the best practices for developing and executing on the necessary tools, processes, governance, and reporting to moderate content effectively?
- For harmful content with a clear definition, how can detection and removal be improved?
- For content with a less clear definition of harm, how can decisions be made more transparently?

**REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT** What independent auditing may be needed and how would this function?

What metrics, if any, should be used to assess performance of content moderation practices?

How can content moderation best practices be harmonized across the media ecosystem to enhance public accountability?

**2. Regulation and Liability:** This workstream will look at current regulation of platforms globally, highlighting various approaches to assigning responsibility / liability for third party content across social networks, search engines, and other internet companies

- What is the responsibility for addressing harmful content across the internet stack?
- How do current liability laws (e-Commerce directive, section 230 of CDA) impact content on platforms?
- How should social platforms be treated when it comes to content liability (on the spectrum of publisher to distributor)?
- Is a two-tiered regulatory approach needed, and how would this function effectively if so?
- Should concept of fiduciary duty be regulated upon platforms?
- Should specific measures / targets (e.g. exposure) be enforced with regulation?
- What are the most effective remedies to

put in place if a company has violated regulations related to content on its platforms?



What should be self-governed vs regulated? Given regulations that improve safety for consumers may sometimes be in conflict with regulation that improve privacy, how should regulation be effectively coordinated to optimize for consumer well-being?

**3. Business Model and Competition:** This workstream will analyze the impact of an engagement-driven business model as well as the role of competition in addressing exposure to harmful content while considering impacts to innovation and growth

What is the role of increased competition in addressing exposure to harmful content?

Would increased competition be effective in reducing (in part) the average exposure to harmful content – how could this be modelled?

How do various consumer well-being goals (price, security, safety from harmful content, choice, privacy, etc.) need to be balanced here?

How do current business model practices – focused on maximizing user engagement to drive advertising revenue - impact the type of content that users see?

Are current business model practices incompatible with long-term goals of gaining user trust and avoiding engaging in controversial content governance decisions? If so, what long-term strategic shifts could be taken by platforms to maintain or grow profits whilst reducing dependence on advertising revenues (reference to Value in Media insights)?



The three workstreams will address harmful content of the following scope:

- Harms with a clear definition (e.g., child sexual exploitation)

- Harms with a less clear definition (e.g., disinformation)

- In light of COVID-19, we will specifically focus on health-related misinformation

The report culminating the findings of this work can be found here: <https://www.weforum.org/whitepapers/advancing-digital-safety-a-framework-to-align-global-action>

This initiative is now focused on driving forward solutions through the work of the Global Coalition for Digital Safety which can be found here: <https://www.weforum.org/global-coalition-for-digital-safety/home> (Courtesy weforum.org)

## Pandemic Brain: Half Of Americans Fear They’ll Never Fully Recover From COVID Pandemic Stress



Illustration by John S. Dykes

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In record numbers, Americans are anxious, worried, sleep-deprived, distracted, and depressed. The Covid-19 pandemic’s triple whammy of an invisible and omnipresent threat (coronavirus infection), profound disruptions in daily life, and uncertainty for the future has thrust many people into a chronic, high-stress state that is, let’s just say, less than optimal for rational thinking or any other sort of higher-order cognitive functioning.

While the Covid-19 pandemic rages on worldwide, the immediate mental health impact of this collective trauma is coming into focus even as the outlook for long-term psychological effects remains considerably fuzzier.

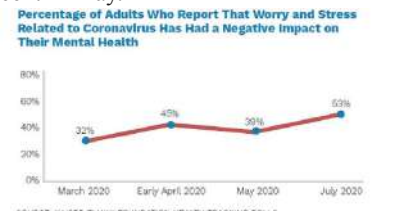
Are we experiencing a pandemic of mental illness? Much has been reported about the ill-termed “mental health pandemic” that seems to be surging through the U.S. and other countries in lockstep with lockdowns and the death, societal disruption, and economic devastation of the viral pandemic. Many experts have sounded the alarm for an approaching tsunami of psychological maladies that could sink an already overburdened mental healthcare system.



A growing cache of data seems to bear out those fears. One of the most recent, a population survey conducted in April and May, found a three-fold increase in depression since the pandemic began. The researchers examined mental health problems relative to 13 pandemic-specific stressors, including loss of a job, death of someone close to you due to Covid-19, and financial problems (see box for full list). The more stressors people reported, the more likely they were to also report symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Other studies show similar rises. From April to June, the Census Bureau tracked anxiety and depression symptoms among Americans in weekly emergency surveys, finding a sharp rise in both. In a Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Survey conducted in July, more than half of U.S. adults (53 percent) said worry and stress related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on their mental health, up from 39 per-

cent in May.



Half of Americans say that the COVID-19 pandemic has been so stressful they worry they’ll never fully be able to de-stress, even after it’s all over.

A survey of 2,000 Americans finds stress levels have been so bad since 2020 that 25 percent would go as far as escaping to a cabin in the woods by themselves in order to get away from the daily stresses of life. Another 15 percent would need to be even more remote, choosing a desert island as their de-stressing sanctuary. Crucially, respondents add they’d have to be totally alone to truly be able to de-stress. The study, conducted by OnePoll and commissioned by CBDistillery, also finds that for many, getting rid of stress is all about the finer things in life. In fact, 35 percent of respondents think a trip to a luxury resort would do the trick.



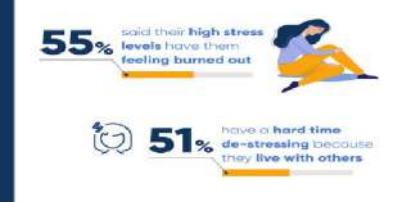
#### De-stressing still takes work

The average American feels they would need 10 days in their ideal location to completely de-stress. This is borne out by the numbers, too; 55 percent admit their current stress levels have left them feeling burnt out.

Researchers also discovered that stress has a major impact on personal relationships. Seven out of 10 Americans say they get upset or frustrated with someone in their household for no reason at least once a week. These spats aren’t surprising though, as 51 percent admit they find it difficult to de-stress because they live with others.

“Sometimes it’s the smallest things that can trigger stress,” says a spokesperson for CBDistillery in a statement. “Our

results found 45 percent of respondents admitted their coping mechanisms for dealing with stress aren’t the healthiest – which can then create a cycle of stress, making these issues worse.”



With all of this in mind, it’s no wonder 46 percent say they’re desperate for a more effective way to handle stress. Nearly three in five respondents believe just having one extra hour of free time to do nothing every day would help their stress levels immensely.

#### Entertainment is the top coping mechanism for pandemic stress

In attempts to find their happy place and find peace, some of the top coping mechanisms Americans use include listening to music (45%), taking a walk (38%), binge-watching TV (33%), and exercising (29%). Other common coping mechanisms include cuddling with a pet, taking deep breaths (both 29%), eating a snack (28%), reading a book (26%), and playing video games (24%).

“It’s clear Americans are desperate to find a solution for their stress,” the spokesperson adds. “Whether it’s grabbing your favorite snack, taking a walk – there are so many things you can try until you find what works for you.”

**Related**

### From The CDC: Coping With Stress

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major effect on our lives. Many of us are facing challenges that can be stressful, overwhelming, and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Public health actions, such as social distancing, are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but they can make us feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. Learning to cope with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and those around you become more resilient.

**Stress can cause the following:**

•Feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration. Changes in appetite, energy, desires, and interests. Difficulty concentrating and making decisions. Difficulty sleeping or nightmares. Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems, and skin rashes. Worsening of chronic health problems. Worsening of mental health conditions. Increased use of tobacco, alcohol, and other substances

It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are ways that you can help yourself, others, and your community manage stress.



#### Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress

•Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including those on social media. It’s good to be informed, but hearing about the pandemic constantly can be upsetting. Consider limiting news to just a couple times a day and disconnecting from phone, tv, and computer screens for a while.

•Take care of your body.

•Take deep breaths, stretch, or . Meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals. Exercise regularly. Get plenty of sleep. Avoid excessive alcohol, tobacco, and substance use. Continue with routine preventive measures (such as vaccinations, cancer screenings, etc.) as recommended by your healthcare provider. Get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine when available.

•Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.

•Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

•Connect with your community- or faith-based organizations. While social distancing measures are in place, try connecting online, through social media, or by phone or mail. (Courtesy <https://www.studyfinds.org/> and [www.cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/))