

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY 05/05/2021



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# Horrible Enslavement Story



per week. Edwards was taking advantage of Smith's intellectual disability and keeping him isolated from his family and threatened to have him arrested and routinely verbally abused him.

Local NAACP charter president Abdullah Mustafa said, "We are talking about enslavement here."

This is really a big joke that this should happen in our modern society. It is really unbelievable. This is America. This is also very shameful. Local politicians did not speak out.

When we are talking about the civil rights around the world, where are the rights for the people at the bottom of our society?

A restaurant manager named Bobby Edwards forced a black man, John Smith, to work for over 100 hours every week for years without pay. The South Carolina court ruled that the man should receive more than \$546,000 in restitution after his former manager pleaded guilty.

in failing to include liquidated damages that this falls under the Fair Labor Standards Act and that the amount owed and to be paid to Smith needs to be doubled.

A U.S. District Court Judge in 2019 ordered Edwards who is white to pay Smith around \$273,000 in restitution which represented Smith's unpaid wages and overtime. But the court said

Smith started working at the cafeteria as a part-time dishwasher. For his first nineteen years, he was paid for his work. But when Edwards took over the restaurant in 2009, Smith was moved into an apartment next to the restaurant and forced to work more than 100 hours



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## Editor's Choice



Su-25 jet fighters release smoke in the colours of the Russian state flag over Red Square during a flypast rehearsal ahead of a parade on Victory Day, which marks the anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, in Moscow, Russia. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



Family members wearing protective suits stand next to the body of their relative, who died from the coronavirus, before her cremation at a crematorium ground in New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Danish Siddiqui



A general view of the damage caused after a railway overpass and train collapsed onto a road in Mexico City. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso



Relatives sit next to the body of a man, who died due to the coronavirus, as they wait for a grave to be prepared for his burial at a graveyard on the outskirts of Srinagar. REUTERS/Danish Ismail



Asylum-seeking migrants' families disembark from an inflatable raft after crossing the Rio Grande river into the United States from Mexico in Roma, Texas. REUTERS/Go Nakamura



The family of New York Police Department (NYPD) officer Anastasios Tsakos, who was killed in the line of duty on April 27, by an impaired driver while responding to a high-way crash, reacts as his casket is carried from his funeral service in Greenlawn, New York. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

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BUSINESS

Are Mass Shootings Now An American Epidemic?



Police stand near the scene where multiple people were shot at the FedEx Ground facility on April 16, 2021, in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

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

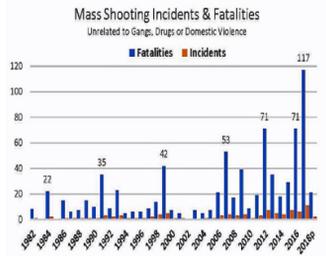
The U.S. has suffered yet another mass shooting, with a deadly attack in a FedEx facility in Indianapolis. This was the fifth mass shooting in five weeks, including a shooting at a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado that took the lives of 10 people on March 22 and just days earlier, eight people were killed in a series of shootings at spas in Atlanta, Georgia. Public outcry about gun violence, gun rights and racism and what to do about these issues is high. As a criminal justice researcher, I study gun purchasing and mass shootings, and it's clear to me that these events are traumatic for victims, families, communities and the nation as a whole. But despite the despair about their slightly growing frequency, they are actually uncommon incidents that account for just 0.2% of firearm deaths in the U.S. each year. Mass shootings are rare Killings are not the only kind of gun violence, and are in fact a relative rarity when

compared with other forms of gun violence in the U.S. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 470,840 people were victims of crimes that involved a firearm in 2018, and 481,950 in 2019. Each person is counted separately, even if several of them were part of the same incident, and this tally does not require the gun to be fired or anyone to be killed. When it comes to people killed by firearms, police data reported to the FBI estimates that guns were used in 10,258 of the 13,927 homicides that occurred in 2019. That's much higher than even the uppermost count of mass shootings in 2019, the 417 recorded by the Gun Violence Archive. That group counts all incidents in which at least four people are shot, excluding the shooter, regardless of whether the shooter is killed or injured. It also includes events that involve gang

violence or armed robbery, as well as shootings that occurred in public or in private homes, as many domestic violence shootings do.

A Mother Jones magazine database that defines mass shootings more restrictively lists only 10 for 2019.

Even the FBI's own data — which uses yet another set of criteria focused on people who continue to shoot more people over the course of an incident — records just 28 active shooter incidents in 2019.



Active shooters are more common now than they used to be

Each year, the FBI releases data on what it classifies as “active shooter incidents” — in which one or more attackers continue to shoot people over time, as opposed to targeting just one victim. Though there is no clear trend, these events are more frequent now than 20 years ago.

A chart showing how many active-shooter events happened in each year

Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND Source: FBI Get the data

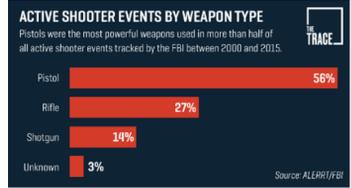
The most recent research on frequency of mass shootings indicates they are becoming more common, though the exact number each year can vary widely.

But not all experts agree. Some argue that mass shootings have not increased and that reports of an increase are due to differences in research methods, such as determining which events are appropriate to count in the first place.

Speaking about school shootings specifically in a 2018 interview, two gun violence researchers said that those events have not become more common — but rather, people have become more aware of them.

The same may be true of mass shootings

more generally. In any case, some researchers have found that mass shootings are becoming more deadly, with more victims in recent attacks.



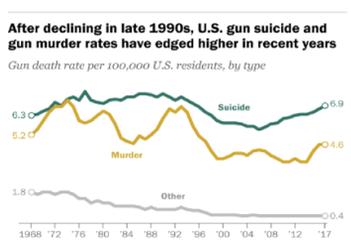
Most firearm deaths are by suicide.

Suicide is the leading form of gun death In 2019, the 417 mass shootings tallied by the Gun Violence Archive resulted in 465 deaths.

By contrast, 14,414 people were killed by someone else with a gun in 2019. And 23,941 people intentionally killed themselves with a gun in 2019, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every year, homicides — one person killing another — make up about 35% of gun deaths. More than 60% of gun deaths are suicides. Mass shootings can get more attention than these other, more common, types of firearm deaths both because of human nature and the news media. People are naturally curious about violent events that appear random, with no clear explanation. Those incidents often spark fears about whether similar things could happen to them, and a resulting desire to know more in an effort to understand.

In addition, cases with higher death counts or unusual characteristics, such as a shooter manifesto or video footage, are more likely to get press attention and extended coverage.

After declining in late 1990s, U.S. gun suicide and gun murder rates have edged higher in recent years



Note: "Other" includes gun deaths that were unintentional, involved law enforcement or had undetermined circumstances. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Americans' opinions are split on whether

mass shootings are isolated incidents or part of a broader societal problem. And Americans are divided about how to reduce their frequency. A 2017 poll found that 47% of adults believed that reducing the number of guns in the U.S. would reduce the number of mass shootings. But a follow-up question revealed that 75% of American adults believe that someone who wants to hurt or kill others will find a way to do it whether they have access to a firearm or not.

With those diverging views, it will be hard to develop solutions that will be effective nationwide. That doesn't mean nothing will change, but it does mean the political debates will likely continue. (Courtesy the conversation.com)



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COMMUNITY

Another Time, Another Vaccine

“Can’t Help Falling In Love” With A Vaccine: ‘50’s Polio Campaign Beat Vaccine Resistance



Elvis Presley got his polio vaccination from Dr. Harold Fuerst and Dr. Leona Baumgartner at CBS' Studio 50 in New York City on Oct. 28, 1956. The chart-topping singer took part in a March of Dimes campaign to convince teens to get vaccinated. (Photo/Seymour Wally/NY Daily News Archive via Getty Images)

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

The mass inoculation of millions of American children against polio in 1955, like the vaccinations of millions of American adults against COVID-19 in 2021, was a triumph of science. But the polio vaccine had overwhelming public acceptance, while stubborn pockets of vaccine hesitancy persist across the U.S. for the COVID-19 vaccine. Why the difference? One reason, historians say, is that in 1955, many Americans had an especially deep respect for science.

“If you had to pick a moment as the high point of respect for scientific discovery, it would have been then,” says David M. Oshinsky, a medical historian at New York University and the author of Polio: An American Story. “After World War II, you had antibiotics rolling off the production line for the first time. People believed infectious disease was [being] conquered. And then this amazing vaccine is announced. People couldn't get it fast enough.”

Today, the unprecedented speed of the COVID-19 vaccines' development, along with a flood of disinformation on the internet about all vaccines, has led to a lingering hesitancy among some Americans to receive the increasingly available COVID-19 shots.



Dr. Jonas Salk, Developer of the polio vaccine. “In hindsight, Operation Warp Speed wasn't the best name,” says Oshinsky. “It sounds like the project prioritized speed over everything else. They did roll it out quickly, but the FDA and CDC have done an amazing job of testing the vaccines and ensuring their safety and efficacy.” During the late 1940s and early '50s, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, polio disabled an average of 35,000 people a year in the U.S., most of them children. As outbreaks popped up across the country in the hot summer months, people were terrified and voluntarily isolated. Many parents kept their children close to

home and away from community gathering spots like movie theaters, roller rinks and beaches.

“Back then, it affected business and travel,” says Stacey D. Stewart, current president and CEO of the March of Dimes. “People didn't know how the virus was transmitted. They lived in a state of fear. Pools were closed. Businesses were affected because people didn't want to be out in public.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had himself essentially lost the use of his legs after a polio infection in 1921, when he was 39, launched the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, a charitable organization, in the late 1930s. Later renamed the March of Dimes, the foundation took the lead in efforts to fund research at a time when the National Institutes of Health was in its infancy.



“Roosevelt's passion for finding a solution — a cure, a vaccine — made polio a priority coming from the very top leader of this country,” says Stewart. “People across the country felt like they were called to duty. It was a call to action, like the war effort.”

An army of volunteers for the March of Dimes, largely mothers, went door to door, distributing the latest information about polio and the effort to stop it; they also asked for donations. As little as a dime would help, they said. And the dimes and dollars poured in, Oshinsky says, handed to the volunteers, or inserted into cardboard displays at store checkout counters or placed in envelopes sent directly to the White House. Cases of polio may have peaked in the U.S. in 1952 with nearly 60,000 children infected. More than 3,000 died. (By comparison, roughly a year's worth of comparable statistics for the COVID-19 pandemic reveal more than 32 million reported cases in the U.S. so far and more than 573,000 deaths.)

The years-long campaign of information and donations to the polio eradication effort made anxious Americans feel they were invested in a solution, Stewart says. So confident was the public in the research leading up to the polio vaccine that by the time the Salk vaccine was ready for experimental testing in 1954, the parents of 600,000 children volunteered their own offspring as research subjects. When the results of those studies showed the vaccine to be safe and effective in 1955, church bells rang. Loudspeakers in stores, offices and factories blared the news. People crowded around radios. “There was jubilation,” says Stewart. People couldn't wait to sign their kids up for a shot.

Then tragedy struck. One of the six labs manufacturing the vaccine, Cutter Laboratories in Berkeley, Calif., made a terrible mistake. The correct list of ingredients for the Salk vaccine called for polio virus that had been inactivated, but in the Cutter facility, the process of killing the virus proved defective. As a result, batches of the company's vaccine went out that mistakenly contained active polio virus. Of the 200,000 children who received the defective vaccine, 40,000 got polio from it; 200 were left with varying degrees of paralysis, and 10 died.



In April, the U.S. campaign against COVID-19 suffered a blow too. Reports that an extremely rare but serious blood-clotting disorder might have resulted from Johnson & Johnson's vaccine — one of the three authorized for use against COVID-19 in the U.S. — once again raised the question of whether possible harms caused by a vaccine might derail people's confidence in a public health campaign at a crucial time. On April 13, the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration jointly announced that among the 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine administered to date, six cases of a serious blood-clotting issue had been recorded, and one had woman died.

Ten days later, after a careful review of those cases and others, the pause was lifted and immunization with the vaccine resumed, with new guidance for recipients and doctors about what to look for in the way of symptoms and how to treat these extremely rare events.

Polio vaccinations were temporarily halted in 1955 following the Cutter error as well. In both incidents, health officials followed the science. After Cutter's manufacturing error was pinpointed as the problem, vaccinations restarted within weeks, with renewed quality control efforts and minus any involvement from Cutter Laboratories. In 1955, mothers and fathers jumped right back in following the Cutter tragedy, once again signing permission slips and lining their kids up to get their polio shot. It was widely understood and accepted that the risks of polio were a much greater threat than the risks of the vaccine.

“I think back then, people were so personally invested in the vaccine,” Stewart says. “They listened to what happened in the Cutter case, and they understood. They continued to trust.” Because of that trust, the campaign to prevent polio with vaccines — first Jonas Salk's and then also Albert Sabin's — was successful, eventually nearly eliminating the disease from the planet. But that also means,

says Oshinsky, that people born after the mass vaccination effort don't have memories of how bad the disease could be.

“Vaccines have been a job done so well they have obliterated evidence of what the disease can cause: kids on crutches, in wheelchairs, in iron lungs,” Oshinsky says. “I remember seeing the occasional empty desk in school because a child had died. People had seen polio every summer, and they wanted kids vaccinated as soon as possible.”



The polio vaccine effort offers some lessons for today, says Stewart. First, volunteers from local communities are trusted and invaluable in providing education on disease, research and vaccines. To get people's attention, add to that numerous high-profile advocates — individuals recognized and esteemed by various parts of the population. The March of Dimes recruited Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney and Marilyn Monroe to join the fundraising effort to educate people about polio and the value of the vaccine. And in 1956, Elvis Presley was vaccinated backstage at The Ed Sullivan Show.

Vaccine efforts at the time did have to contend with racism. Oshinsky writes, for example, about some areas in the Jim Crow South where Black children lined up for shots on the front lawns of white schools, while white children got their shots indoors. The Black children, he notes, weren't allowed inside those white schools, even to use the bathrooms. Very aware of the prejudices of the times, Stewart says, the March of Dimes knew it would also need to recruit prominent and popular Black performers to promote the polio vaccine. Sammy Davis Jr., Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald joined the campaign. “There was a very early recognition that you couldn't just have white people talking about the vaccine,” Stewart says. In addition to beloved Black celebrities, she says, “the March of Dimes had Black children on the posters to raise awareness in Black communities.”

The strong, consistent message during the polio years was “We're all in this together.” The same message, says Stewart, must come across loud and clear today. (Courtesy npr.com)



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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Thursday, May 06 2021

## U.S. judge throws out pandemic-related moratorium on evicting renters



A "For Rent" sign is posted outside a residential home in Carlsbad, California, U.S. on January 18, 2017. REUTERS/Mike Blake

A federal judge on Wednesday threw out the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's nationwide moratorium on evictions, a setback for the millions of Americans who have fallen behind on rent payments during the coronavirus pandemic.

U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich said that while there was "no doubt" Congress intended to empower the CDC to combat COVID-19 through a range of measures such as quarantines, a moratorium on residential evictions was not among them.

Friedrich cited the "plain language" of a law called the Public Health Service Act, which governs the federal response to the spread of communicable diseases, even while acknowledging the pandemic as "a serious public health crisis that has presented unprecedented challenges for public health officials and the nation."

The government is appealing the decision. The White House has estimated that one in five renters were delinquent on payments by January, while the CDC has said more than 4 million adults who were behind feared imminent eviction. Don't let pests ruin family game night, pizza night, or mom's night alone with a bubble bath. Contact us at Orkin.com. See more

Friedrich's decision provides temporary relief for landlords, many of whom face growing struggles to pay their own bills because they are unable to

collect rent from tenants.

The CDC moratorium began last September and was scheduled to lapse on June 30.

Other courts have been divided over the legality of the moratorium, with some also finding the CDC exceeded its authority.

Friedrich, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, was the first to formally block the eviction ban.

At least 43 states and Washington, D.C., have imposed their own temporary halts on residential or business evictions, though the protections are far from uniform.

A separate eviction and foreclosure moratorium for federally financed housing from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development expires on June 30.

The CDC moratorium was begun during Trump's presidency and was extended three times, most recently in March under his successor Joe Biden. read more

It covered renters who expected to earn less than \$99,000 a year, or \$198,000 for joint filers, or who reported no income, or received stimulus checks. Renters also had to swear they were doing their best to make partial rent payments, and that evictions would likely leave them homeless or force them into "shared" living quarters.

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From managing cash flow to planning for growth, our full-service solutions address your business's challenges and can help you accomplish your goals. Diane Yentel, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition advocacy group, urged the government to defend the moratorium, at least until emergency help from Congress "reaches the renters who need it."

Landlords and real estate groups that challenged the moratorium in court said the CDC lacked the power to impose it, and unlawfully took away their right to deal with delinquent tenants.

The National Association of Realtors welcomed the judge's decision, saying programs to help tenants pay rent, taxes and utility bills are preferable to banning evictions.

"With rental assistance secured, the economy strengthening and unemployment rates falling, there is no need to continue a blanket, nationwide eviction ban," the group said.

The group has estimated that 40 million Americans were behind on rent in January, with \$70 billion of missed payments by the end of 2020.

Congress approved \$25 billion of emergency rental assistance in December and another \$21.5 billion in March.

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