

Community Issues Programming for April 1 - June 30, 2022

WCLH has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community this quarter. Following each issue is a list of programs aired addressing that issue.

Issue: COVID-19 Virus: Our community is concerned about the spread of COVID-19 disease as well as the economic impact of "Stay at Home" and other mitigation policies.

Democracy Now! "A Poor People's Pandemic: Report Reveals Poor Died from COVID at Twice the Rate of Wealthy in U.S." The newly released "Poor People's Pandemic Report" shows poor people died from COVID at twice the rate of wealthy Americans and that people of color were more likely to die than white populations. "Our country has gotten used to unnecessary death, especially when it's the death of poor people," says Rev. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign..
Airdate 5 April 2022 8:48 AM Length 11 minutes.

Democracy Now! "Did Blinken Get COVID at What Trevor Noah Called "Nation's Most Distinguished Superspreader Event"?" Secretary of State Antony Blinken has tested positive for the coronavirus. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said Wednesday Blinken would isolate at home according to CDC guidelines. Blinken met Wednesday with Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde shortly before his positive test result. A day earlier, he met with Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard. On Saturday, he joined a crowd of 2,600 celebrities, journalists and Washington elites who packed the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, where few in attendance wore masks. "You guys spent the last two years telling everyone the importance of wearing masks and avoiding large indoor gatherings. Then, the second someone offers you a free dinner, you all turn into Joe Rogan," said comedian Trevor Noah in his address at the event, which has since been linked to a growing number of COVID-19 cases. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization estimates the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the deaths of nearly 15 million people around the world.
Airdate 5 May 2022 8:12 AM Length 2 minutes.

Democracy Now! "Premature "Normalcy" Could Backfire as U.S. COVID Death Toll Passes 1 Million & New Variants Spread". Governments around the world are eagerly returning back to pre-pandemic conditions by relaxing preventative restrictions, lifting mask mandates and pulling back public funding. Dr. Abraar Karan, infectious disease fellow at Stanford University School of Medicine, says these moves are overly optimistic and that the U.S. is not prepared for new variants spreading around the country. "We're trying to say it's over. It's not true," he says. "As time goes on, immunity wanes, and we will begin to see more severe cases."
Airdate 6 May 2022 8:27 AM Length 12 minutes.

Issue: Gun Control: Recent mass shootings have some calling for stricter gun control.

Democracy Now! "End the Filibuster: Senate Can't Pass Gun Control Despite Public Support, 198 Mass Shootings in 2022" The white supremacist who shot 10 people dead in Buffalo, New York, was able to buy an assault rifle months after New York state police took him into custody for making a threat about committing violence. The gun store owner who sold the weapon says a background check showed a clean record. We look at how background checks alone are not enough to prevent gun violence, as both mass shootings and weapons sales have skyrocketed in recent years without more legislation at the federal level. Multiple bills proposing harsher gun restrictions have been blocked by filibusters in Congress. "Our demand is that we renew an assault weapons ban at the federal level and

also that we restrict the production of high-capacity magazines or large-capacity magazines,” says Kris Brown, president of Brady, one of the oldest gun violence prevention organizations in the U.S
Airdate 19 May 2022 8:37 AM Length 12 minutes.

Democracy Now! "Buffalo: India Walton on the Racist Massacre & Community's Need for Gun Control, Good Jobs, Housing" As Buffalo, New York, mourns the loss of the 10 people killed Saturday in a racist rampage at a local grocery store in the heart of the city's African American community, we get an update from longtime community activist and former mayoral candidate India Walton about the lack of attention to the structural issues that made the Black community vulnerable and the ineffectiveness of police. “My question is: What happens when the cameras leave? How do we continue to support the people who have been negatively impacted?” says Walton. “What decreases gun violence, particularly in places like East Buffalo, is going to be good living-wage jobs, affordable housing, a quality education and access to the basic needs that this community has lacked for so long.”
Airdate 20 May 2022 8:24 AM Length 14 minutes.

Democracy Now! "'We Can't Go On Like This': Nineteen children and two teachers were shot dead at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday by an 18-year-old who had earlier shot and critically wounded his grandmother. The gunman was shot and killed by law enforcement. The attack was the deadliest school shooting since the massacre in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, in 2012 and comes just 10 days after an 18-year-old self-described white supremacist attacked a grocery store in the heart of Buffalo's African American community. We go to Austin to speak with Nicole Golden, executive director of Texas Gun Sense, who says Texas lawmakers have widely opposed gun violence prevention legislation supported by the majority of Texas voters. She also denounces Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's recommendation to arm teachers.
Airdate 25 May 2022 8:12 AM Length 14 minutes.

Democracy Now! "Will the Gun Lobby Block New Safety Laws Again? The NRA Is Imploding, But Its Ideology Still Dominates":In the aftermath of the mass shootings in Uvalde and Buffalo, demand for gun control at the state and federal level is mounting. We speak with Frank Smyth, longtime investigative journalist who has been covering the National Rifle Association, about the gun lobby's grip on U.S. lawmakers. He says the Democratic strategy to “find common ground” with conservatives is failing, as the growing gun rights movement refuses to do the same, and discusses how the NRA's history of hypocrisy and corruption has weakened the formal, centralized power of the group. “The NRA is imploding ... but the ideology that they have cooked at the same time they are waning is stronger than ever,” says Smyth.
Airdate 1 June 2022 8:11 AM Length 21 minutes.

Issue: High Gasoline and Fuel Oil Prices : Record breaking gas and oil prices are making it hard for some families in our area to make ends meet.

Democracy Now! "Making a Killing: Big Oil Reaps Record Profits Using Ukraine War as Pretext to Hike Gas Prices" House Democrats grilled CEOs of Big Oil companies, like ExxonMobil, Chevron and Shell, Wednesday about rising gas prices and profiteering from the Ukraine war. We get response from environmentalist Bill McKibben and speak with Ukrainian environmental lawyer Svitlana Romanko about how the war in Ukraine is impacting energy markets around the world. “These are predatory companies that have used every excuse — and this is one of the grossest — to try and increase their profit margins,” says McKibben. “Dismantling and ending Putin's horrific war against Ukraine will dismantle the system that enables this fossil fuel industry to overprofit,” adds Romanko.
Airdate 7 April 2022 8:11 AM Length 9 minutes.

Issue: Abortion : Abortion is a highly controversial issue in our community.

Democracy Now! "Abortion Bans Pass in GOP-Led Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma & Tennessee as SCOTUS Set to Overturn Roe" Republican-led states are enacting a wave of new abortion restrictions, including Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky and Oklahoma just last week. Reproductive rights are under attack as the Supreme Court appears poised to overturn Roe v. Wade, says Caroline Kitchener, who covers reproductive rights for The Washington Post. We also speak with Kitchener about Lizelle Herrera, the Texas woman arrested for disclosing an attempted abortion with her doctors.
Airdate 18 April 2022 8:33 AM Length 15 minutes.

Democracy Now! "The End of Roe v. Wade: Leaked Opinion Shows Supreme Court Is Set to Overturn Abortion Rights" The Supreme Court has voted to overturn Roe v. Wade, according to a leaked draft opinion published by Politico. In it, Justice Samuel Alito writes for the majority that "Roe was egregiously wrong from the start." We speak to two reproductive rights advocates: attorney Kathryn "Kitty" Kolbert, who argued the landmark 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey case, and law professor Michele Goodwin, author of "Policing the Womb." The reproductive rights movement must not only stir public outcry and depend on the courts to protect these rights, but also focus more on state-level elections to vote out anti-abortion politicians, says Kolbert. Where Roe v. Wade didn't go far enough, passing legislation such as the Women's Health Protection Act can enshrine abortion rights, says Goodwin.
Airdate 3 May 2022 8:17 AM Length 23 minutes.

Democracy Now! "Dark Money: How the Supreme Court's 6-3 Anti-Choice, Conservative Majority Was Shaped" What role did dark money play in the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade? We speak with reporter Andrew Perez about how conservative anti-abortion groups and right-wing extremists have funneled millions of dollars into promoting politicians and Supreme Court justices to ultimately curtail reproductive rights. A dark money network led by the Federalist Society's Leonard Leo has spent at least \$10 million promoting each of President Trump's picks for the Supreme Court and another \$10 million blocking Merrick Garland's nomination in 2016, says Perez, senior editor and investigative reporter at The Lever.
Airdate 4 May 2022 8:41 AM Length 4 minutes.

Democracy Now! "'I Was Raped by My Father. Abortion Saved My Life': Prof. Michele Goodwin on SCOTUS & the New Jane Crow" As the Supreme Court is poised to strike down Roe v. Wade, we speak with law professor Michele Goodwin, who has written extensively about how the criminalization of abortion polices motherhood. She discusses how on the eve of the court's oral arguments in the Dobbs case in November, she wrote about how an abortion saved her life. She describes how the U.S. has historically endangered and denied essential health services to Black and Brown women, and calls new abortion restrictions "the new Jane Crow," warning that they will further criminalize reproductive health and encourage medical professionals to breach their patients' confidentiality and report self-administered abortions to law enforcement.
Airdate 6 May 2022 8:39 AM Length 20 minutes.

Democracy Now! "'Overturning Roe: Slavery, Abortion, Maternal Mortality and the Disparate Effect on Women of Color" The conservative-led Supreme Court ruled 6 to 3 on Friday to uphold a Republican-backed Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, while voting 5 to 4 to overturn Roe v. Wade. Chief Justice John Roberts supported upholding the Mississippi law but not overturning Roe. Nine states have already banned abortion since Friday, and 17 more states are

expected to do so soon. We speak with Michele Goodwin, chancellor's professor at University of California, Irvine School of Law, whose new piece for The New York Times is headlined "No, Justice Alito, Reproductive Justice Is in the Constitution."
Airdate 27 June 2022 8:17 AM Length 11 minutes.