

Quarterly Issues Programs List

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Stations: KWWK, KDCZ, KROC-FM, KYBA

January 1st, 2022 through March 31st, 2022

SECTION I. Issues

A) COVID-19 – Minnesota Public Health Officials continued to educate the public on the importance and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. Governor Walz introduced incentive programs to get kids vaccinated at the beginning of the year. Cases of COVID’s omicron variant spiked across the state in late January and February.

B) Drug & Alcohol Abuse – Drug overdose deaths spiked 38% in Minnesota from April 2020 to 2021, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

C) Traffic Safety– - Minnesota had 497 traffic deaths in 2021. This is the highest amount the state has seen since 2007 when there were 510 traffic deaths

D) Mental Health – According to a recent study conducted by BlueCross BlueShield, Minnesota is ranked as the 4th most-depressed state in the nation. The Minnesota Department of Health says the number of suicides in Minnesota rose by 4% in 2021

E) Food Insecurity –393,000 Minnesotans including 1 in 10 Minnesota kids live in households that can’t afford enough food. The Salvation Army of Minnesota says they have seen an 8-10x increase in demand for food help.

SECTION II – RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA MATTERS is a weekly locally produced public affairs program that discusses matters of importance to Minnesotans. Minnesota Matters runs every Sunday morning on KFNL and KDOC-FM between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. and from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. on KFIL-AM and KFIL-FM.

January 2nd, 2022 - Issues Discussed: Food Insecurity, Drug & Alcohol Abuse

This week: The hosts discuss drug and alcohol addiction with Lydia Burr from Hazelden Betty Ford Clinic. She spoke about a drastic increase in overdose deaths in 2021 and explained ways that people can get help in 2022.

Nearly 400,000 Minnesotans struggled to put food on the table in 2021. Joel Berg from Hunger Free America joined the program to talk about food insecurity and how the pandemic is making the problem worse for people. Berg share’s info on the SNAP food program and says not enough Minnesotans are taking advantage of the program.

January 9th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: COVID-19 & Traffic Safety

This week: The hosts are joined by the Dept. of Public Safety's Mike Hansen who said MN reached its highest number of traffic deaths since 2007 in 2021. Hansen discussed the troubling trend and reminded motorists of safe driving tips.

Coronavirus cases spiked after the holiday break. Denise Speck from the MN Teacher's Union joined the program to encourage safe schooling by reminding people of the CDC guidelines.

January 16th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: COVID-19

This week: The hosts are joined by Senator Tina Smith. Smith discusses ways she is urging the Biden administration to provide more rapid tests for Minnesotans. The hosts also discuss the recent spike of omicron variant and how Governor Walz has requested federal aid to bring outside nurses into the state to help hospitals.

January 23rd, 2022 - Issues Discussed: Food Insecurity

This week: The hosts discuss hunger relief efforts in Minnesota. Allison O'Toole from Second Harvest, the state's largest food bank, joined the program to talk about 2022 projections and how she anticipates the level of demand to continue to be near record levels. Allison talks about working with the federal and state government to provide stability for Minnesotans in need.

January 30th, 2022 Issues Discussed: COVID-19

This week: The hosts talk about state legislature's discussions on mask mandates in schools. Other topics included in this program are Governor Walz's efforts to legalize recreational marijuana and a preview of the Minnesotans who will be participating in the winter Olympics.

February 6th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: Mental Health

This week: The host discuss a tragic school shooting in Richfield. Christine Castillo from Moms Demand Action joined the show to talk about Mental Health issues. She discusses how students and teachers should have more recourses to identify and care for mental health issues.

February 13th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: COVID-19

This week: The hosts are joined by Lauren McGinty from Explore Minnesota who provides a look back at how the tourism industry has lost \$12-billion since the start of the pandemic. She talks about common issues that these businesses are facing because of COVID-19, but expects travel and big events to continue to increase this year. She explains the workforce shortage has hurt these businesses but see positive signs of progress.

February 20th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Abuse

This week: The hosts are joined Carrie Bates from Hazelden Betty Ford Clinic. Carrie talks about the mental health and substance abuse issues that Olympic athletes deal with. She credits these well-known

people for talking about their issues and encourages everyday people to talk about mental health and substance abuse to break the stigma and normalize conversations.

February 27th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: COVID-19

This week: The hosts discuss the debate going on at the State Capitol about how to pay out COVID bonuses to front-line workers in Minnesota. Other topics included a proposal for an electric vehicle tax and a local's perspective on the situation in Ukraine.

March 6th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: Charity, Politics

This week: The hosts discuss President Biden's state of the union address and Goldy's Run which is a fundraising event for a children's hospital.

March 13th, 2022 Issues Discussed: COVID-19, Food Insecurity

This week: The hosts discuss a COVID stalemate at the state capitol. Democrats are pushing for a bigger COVID bonus for front-line workers, Republicans are pushing to replenish a COVID unemployment insurance fund. Dan Fury from the Minnesota Salvation Army was also on the show to talk about food insecurity in Minnesota and says the Salvation Army has seen 8-10x more demand for food during the pandemic. Fury explains how people can donate.

March 20th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: War, Taxes

This week: Senator Amy Klobuchar joins the show to discuss the situation in Ukraine. The hosts also discuss tax rebate checks that are being proposed with Minnesota's tax surplus.

March 27th, 2022 - Issues Discussed: COVID-19

This week: The hosts are joined by Ben Wogsland from Hospitality Minnesota to discuss the challenges faced during the pandemic. Wogsland says the industry is down 30,000 workers and business owners are concerned about the upcoming travel season because of that, inflation, gas prices, and consumer habits due to the ongoing pandemic. He talks about working with the legislature to provide relief to these Minnesota businesses.