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Weekly Public Affairs Program

**QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT, JANUARY-MARCH, 2024**

Show # 2024-01

Date aired:   1/7/24   Time Aired:   6:00 am  

**Steve Elek**, Senior Automotive Data Analyst at Consumer Reports

Mr. Elek shared results of Consumer Reports' newly-released annual car reliability survey, which found that electric vehicle owners continue to report far more problems with their vehicles than owners of conventional cars or hybrids. He said that on average, EVs from the past three model years had 79 percent more problems than cars powered by internal combustion engines. He outlined the most common problems cited by EV owners, and the potential reasons behind this trend.

**Issues covered:**  
**Electric Vehicles**  
**Consumer Matters**

**Length: 8:44**

**Mariah M. Kalmin, PhD**, epidemiologist, Health Policy Researcher at RAND, a nonprofit research organization

Dr. Kalmin was the lead author of a Rand study that found that spending on mental health services for children and adolescents has risen by more than one-quarter since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to rise even as the use of telehealth services plateaued. She explained why telehealth care for mental health filled a critical need for pediatric patients, but added that it may not be appropriate in some cases.

**Issues covered:**  
**Mental Health**  
**Telehealth**  
**Youth Issues**

**Length: 8:41**

Show # 2024-02

Date aired:   1/14/2024   Time Aired:   6:00 am  

**Annie Grace**, recovering alcoholic, author of "*This Naked Mind*," founder of the This Naked Mind community

Ms. Grace shared her personal experience of overcoming alcohol addiction by asking herself why she drank so much and doing research on the effects of alcohol. She explained how alcohol affects the body and the brain, and how quitting alcohol can restore the natural pleasure system. She also advised people who want to quit alcohol to be compassionate with themselves, and to treat drinking as a habit that can be changed with the right approach.

**Issues covered:**  
**Alcoholism**

**Length: 8:48**

**Nusrat Jung, D.Sc.**, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University

Prof. Jung led a study of Americans' typical morning grooming routines and found that several volatile chemicals are released when common hair care products are heated with flat irons or hair dryers. She said the chemicals linger in the air after use and may have dangerous effects on health. She recommends the use of a bathroom exhaust fan when using hair care products, and using the products less frequently.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 8:39**

**Personal Health  
Environment  
Consumer Matters**

Show # 2024-03

**Date aired: 1/21/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am**

**Jared Walczak**, Vice President of State Projects, Tax Foundation

More and more homeowners are struggling as property values across the nation are rising rapidly, and property taxes are following suit. Mr. Walczak said typical property valuations have risen 30% to 40% over the past three years. He explained that at least some homeowners who are already grappling with high inflation may get a brief reprieve, because property taxes typically take one to three years to catch up to home prices.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 8:54**

**Property Taxes  
Inflation  
Home Ownership**

**Satchin Panda, PhD**, Professor in the Regulatory Biology Laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies

When and what we eat for dinner makes a significant difference in how we sleep. Prof. Panda explained how to determine the optimal time to have dinner. He said the most important factor in the dinnertime calculus is melatonin, the hormone that signals it's time to sleep. He also talked about the effect that highly processed food and carbohydrates have on sleep quality.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 8:29**

**Personal Health  
Nutrition**

Show # 2024-04

**Date aired: 1/28/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am**

**Vijay Boyapati**, Bitcoin expert, author of "*The Bullish Case for Bitcoin*"

Mr. Boyapati explained the basics of what bitcoin is and why many investors have an interest in it. He explained the recent government approval that allows ordinary investors to purchase bitcoin through spot bitcoin exchange traded funds and why it will expose bitcoin to a much bigger retail audience. He also outlined the most common misconceptions about the digital currency.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 8:58**

**Digital Currencies  
Personal Finance**

**Laura Stack**, founder of Johnny's Ambassadors, a Colorado-based organization that aims to educate teens, parents, and communities about the dangers of today's high-THC marijuana

Mrs. Stack why she founded Johnny's Ambassadors, after her 19-year-old son Johnny died by suicide after he became psychotic from using dabs, which are a potent marijuana concentrate. She explained how today's marijuana and THC products are drastically different than that of years ago. She says parents need to cast aside what they think they know about the drug and recognize that marijuana causes brain damage and mental health issues in ways that other substances do not.

**Issues covered:**  
Substance Abuse  
Parenting

**Length: 8:15**

Show # 2024-05

**Date aired:** 2/4/2024 **Time Aired:** 6:00 am

**Rachel Slade**, author of "*Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A. (And How It Got That Way)*"

The US has fallen from the top spot, to now the 10th largest manufacturing economy in the world. Ms. Slade discussed how America can revive manufacturing and why is it so important. She explained why manufacturing is vital for the country's independence, economy and innovation. She also talked about the impact of the great resignation, the resurging role of unions, and the new priority for a work-life balance among workers.

**Issues covered:**  
Manufacturing  
Economy  
Government

**Length: 8:43**

**Gary Taubes**, journalist, author of "*Rethinking Diabetes: What Science Reveals About Diet, Insulin, and Successful Treatments*"

Diabetes affects one out of every nine Americans. Mr. Taubes believes that treatment approaches to diabetes need to change, with renewed focus on diet—particularly, fewer carbohydrates and more fat—over a reliance on insulin. He also criticized the role of the food industry in promoting unhealthy foods and influencing diabetes research. He said that the current diabetes epidemic is driven by overeating and obesity, and that the best way to prevent and treat diabetes is to avoid the poison, not take the antidote.

**Issues covered:**  
Personal Health  
Science

**Length: 8:37**

Show # 2024-06

**Date aired:** 2/11/2024 **Time Aired:** 6:00 am

**Mariel Buqué, PhD**, psychologist, author of "*Break the Cycle: A Guide to Healing Intergenerational Trauma*"

Many Americans are living with the effects of trauma and long-term stress. Dr. Buqué discussed scientific research that suggests that if trauma is not addressed, it can be genetically passed down from generation to generation, and even be transmitted to entire communities. She said most forms of abuse typically begin in childhood. She talked about therapeutic practices than can pass down strength instead of pain, thereby breaking the cycle.

**Issues covered:**

**Mental Health  
Child Abuse**

**Length: 8:41**

**Greg Hammer, PhD**, recently retired professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, pediatric intensive care physician, pediatric anesthesiologist, author of "*GAIN Without Pain*"

Despite the pandemic, US life expectancy has increased slightly in the past 20 years. Dr. Hammer discussed what he terms the tripod of health: sleep, exercise and nutrition, and the latest science behind all three. He also talked about recent research into the longevity effects of intermittent fasting, dietary supplements and mindfulness and meditation.

**Issues covered:**

**Personal Health  
Longevity**

**Length: 8:35**

Show # 2024-07

**Date aired: 2/18/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am**

**Bridget Freisthler, PhD**, Professor in the College of Social Work at Ohio State University

Child abuse and neglect cases have been on the rise since the pandemic and its aftermath. Prof. Freisthler led a study of an alcohol control project in Sacramento. The program's purpose was to reduce alcohol-related problems in two neighborhoods in the city, but it discovered an unexpected byproduct: in one of the neighborhoods, total entries into foster care were reduced by nearly 12%. She discussed factors behind child abuse and why she believes additional research is needed before trying to duplicate the program elsewhere.

**Issues covered:**

**Child Abuse & Neglect  
Alcohol Abuse  
Foster Care**

**Length: 9:27**

**Megan Henly, PhD**, Research Assistant Professor in the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire

Older Americans, low-income workers, and people with disabilities are over-represented in rural parts of the US. But enrollment in federal and state programs in these regions tends to be low. Prof. Henly discussed the numerous barriers to getting information about, and enrolling in, programs like Social Security disability and retirement benefits, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Medicaid health insurance program, and what can be done to reduce the problem.

**Issues covered:**

**Government Assistance  
Disabilities  
Rural Concerns  
Aging**

**Length: 7:46**

Show # 2024-08

**Date aired: 2/25/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am**

**Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH**, founder of the nonprofit Foundation for Art & Healing, author of "*Project UnLonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection*"

Dr. Nobel said loneliness has increased dramatically since the pandemic. He outlined the three types of loneliness. He also discussed the negative health consequences—both mental and physical—of loneliness or isolation. He said the answer to loneliness is connection through activities like creative expression and serving other people. He believes it all begins with being aware of loneliness and having the courage to address it.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 9:33**

**Mental Health  
Personal Health**

**Elizabeth Comen, MD**, Medical Oncologist specializing in breast cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, author of "*All in Her Head: The Truth and Lies Early Medicine Taught Us About Women's Bodies and Why It Matters Today*"

Dr. Comen said centuries of medical care often dismissed women's health problems as hysteria, but the term used today is anxiety. She said 80% of autoimmune diseases are found in women but the illnesses are often not properly diagnosed, and research in the area is woefully lacking. She also said concussions or even strangulations are often not recognized as domestic abuse by emergency room physicians. She offered three tips for women to advocate for themselves.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 7:47**

**Women's Health  
Domestic Abuse  
Mental Health**

Show # 2024-09

**Date aired:** 3/3/2024 **Time Aired:** 6:00 am

**James E. Rogers, PhD**, Director of Food Safety Research and Testing, Acting Head of Product Safety Testing at Consumer Reports

Plasticizers--used to make plastic more flexible and more durable--are so widely used that today, they show up inside almost every American's body. Dr. Rogers talked about Consumer Reports' recent tests, which found that nearly all foods contain phthalates and bisphenols, often at very high levels. He talked about the potential health consequences, and offered steps for consumers to try to reduce their exposure.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 8:14**

**Food Safety  
Personal Health  
Consumer Matters**

**Harvey Miller, PhD**, Professor of Geography at Ohio State University

Prof. Miller led a recent study that examined the circumstances behind who is found at fault when cars hit pedestrians in an urban area. He found that pedestrians were more likely to be blamed when they were crossing busy highways where crosswalks were few and far between. In congested downtown areas, where there were more marked intersections with pedestrian crossings, drivers were more likely to be found at fault. He believes that street and highway designs should be re-imagined, to put a greater emphasis pedestrian safety.

**Issues covered:**

**Length: 8:54**

**Traffic Fatalities  
Government**

Show # 2024-10

Date aired: 3/10/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am

**Angela Fagerlin, Ph.D.**, Chair of Population Health Sciences at University of Utah Health, Research Scientist with the VA Salt Lake City Health System's Informatics Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center for Innovation

Dr. Fagerlin was the senior author of a study that found that 60 to 80 percent of people surveyed are not honest with their doctors about information that could be relevant to their health. She explained why people are sometimes reluctant to be truthful with their doctors, and why that can be a dangerous practice.

Issues covered:  
Personal Health

Length: 7:29

**Teresa Gil, PhD**, psychotherapist, author of "*Women Who Were Sexually Abused As Children: Mothering, Resilience and Protecting the Next Generation*"

Dr. Gil estimates that there are approximately 21 million mothers in America who experienced childhood sexual abuse. She discussed how that trauma may affect their own parenting. She talked about the value of strong mother-daughter relationships, spiritual beliefs, and therapy in coping.

Issues covered:  
Sexual Abuse  
Parenting  
Mental Health

Length: 9:40

Show # 2024-11

Date aired: 3/17/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am

**David Rein, PhD**, Senior Fellow at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

Dr. Rein led a recent study of hearing loss rates, and found that where a person lives and their occupation have a surprisingly large impact. He found that that the occupations most associated with hearing loss besides mining were in retail and restaurant settings. Rates of hearing loss are higher among men, non-Hispanic whites, and residents of rural areas, and increases significantly starting at age 35. He talked about the reasons behind the study's findings, along with the societal stigma of wearing hearing aids.

Issues covered:  
Personal Health  
Aging

Length: 8:50

**Christy Faith**, author of "*Homeschool Rising: Shattering Myths, Finding Courage, and Opting Out of the School System*"

Ms. Faith is a work-from-home mom who also homeschools her children. She discussed the rapid growth of homeschooling in the aftermath of the pandemic, and the reasons families choose to do it. She talked about the wide array of private and public resources available to homeschoolers, and the biggest challenges families face. She also addressed concerns about socialization for children who are homeschooled.

Issues covered:  
Education  
Parenting

Length: 8:31

Show # 2024-12

Date aired: 3/24/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am

**Michael Redlener, MD**, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine of Mount Sinai

Dr. Redlener led a study that found that emergency medical service (EMS) systems are not consistently providing optimal care, based on new national standards of quality, for patients who call 911. He explained the significant differences in EMS care he found in comparing urban, suburban, and rural services. He explained why the unnecessary use of lights and sirens, which he found is common in rural areas, is a dangerous practice.

**Issues covered:**  
Emergency Services  
Public Health

**Length: 8:12**

**Chelsey Goodan**, academic tutor and mentor, author of "*Underestimated: The Wisdom and Power of Teenage Girls*"

Teenage girls struggle with a wide variety of issues. Ms. Goodan outlined the most common things that concern teenage girls, and why they are reluctant to share them with their parents. She offered advice to parents to improve dialogue with their daughters, through listening and asking non-judgmental questions. She also talked about the value of sports in helping girls find their voices.

**Issues covered:**  
Teenager Concerns  
Parenting  
Mental Health

**Length: 9:12**

Show # 2024-13

Date aired: 3/31/2024 Time Aired: 6:00 am

**Charles L. Marohn Jr**, land-use planner, municipal engineer, author of "*Escaping the Housing Trap: The Strong Towns Response to the Housing Crisis*"

Housing costs have risen dramatically in the past few years. Mr. Marohn talked about the tension between housing as a financial product versus basic shelter. He advocated for a new approach that can rapidly produce housing on a local scale in response to local needs. He said that regulations, financial incentives, and cultural expectations often undermine organic efforts of urban renewal.

**Issues covered:**  
Housing  
Community Development  
Government

**Length: 8:53**

**Sanja Jelic, MD**, critical care medicine specialist and sleep researcher at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Obstructive sleep apnea affects about 25% of adults, and it often goes untreated. Dr. Jelic discussed the condition and the most common treatment, CPAP machines. She has led several studies that have determined that, contrary to long-held medical beliefs, the machines do not lower a patient's risk of heart disease, which is about two to three times higher than average.

**Issues covered:**  
Personal Health

**Length: 8:30**

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