

April 2022

# Länderbericht



Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.

## April Corona Update: Aktuelle Studien, Analysen und Kommentare

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Zusammengestellt von: Dirk Hegen

Die Corona-Krise hat über die erheblichen gesundheitlichen Risiken und Folgen hinaus weitreichende Auswirkungen auf die Wirtschaft, Sicherheit, Forschung, Innen- und Außenpolitik sowie das gesellschaftliche Leben in den Vereinigten Staaten. Namhafte US-amerikanische Think Tanks und Experten setzen sich intensiv mit den unterschiedlichen Aspekten und Herausforderungen dieser in ihrem Umfang und ihrer Schnelligkeit beispiellosen Krise auseinander. Für einen Überblick über den aktuellen Stand der Diskussion stellt das KAS-Auslandsbüro USA mit Sitz in Washington D.C. monatlich eine Auswahl an Studien, Analysen und Kommentaren jeweils mit Links zu den Beiträgen zusammen. Die bisherigen Ausgaben des Corona Update: USA finden Sie [hier](#).

### “War amid a Pandemic: The Public Health Consequences of Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine”

Quelle: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (April 22, 2022)

Michaela Simoneau, Research Associate, Global Health Policy Center; Humzah Khan, Program Coordinator, Global Health Policy Center

According to this [analysis](#), Russia's invasion has inflicted extreme physical and psychological trauma inside Ukraine. The authors point out that as a renewed Russian assault against Ukraine's southeast begins, Ukrainians are likely to face persistent and intensifying public health challenges as a direct result of the conflict, compounding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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### “Two years in: Assessing US and Euro area’s pandemic fiscal responses”

Quelle: Atlantic Council (April 21, 2022)

Jeff Goldstein, Contributor, Atlantic Council's Geo-Economics Center

Due to COVID-19, the global economy dramatically contracted, but in the Euro Area (EA) and United States (US), the recovery has in many ways exceeded expectations. According to the author, both provided more support to workers than in recent recessions, but their approaches differed. Most EA countries relied on furlough schemes that kept workers attached to their employers and paid them not to work, while the US government gave direct income support through expanded unemployment insurance (UI) and stimulus checks. This [article](#) shows that each approach had its pros and cons.

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### “Despair and resilience in the US: Did the COVID pandemic worsen mental health outcomes?”

Quelle: Brookings Institution (April 4, 2022)

Carol Graham, Leo Pasvolsky Senior Fellow and Research Director, Global Economy and Development; Emily Dobson, Ph.D. Student, University of Maryland; Tim Hua, Student, Middlebury College, Former Intern, Global Economy and Development; Sergio Pinto, Doctoral Student, University of Maryland

This [report](#) analyzes several data sets to explore trends in well- and ill-being before and after the onset of the COVID pandemic. According to the authors, two main findings stand out: (1) Researchers investigating mental health trends must be cautious about relying too heavily on a single dataset; (2) On some measures, high rates of depression and anxiety are correlated with high levels of suicide and OD years later. The authors conclude that once we have consistent data, identifying high levels of poor mental health may serve as an effective warning sign and enable communities to address needs before depression and anxiety result in a crisis of deaths of despair.

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### **“A Risk Assessment of National Critical Functions During COVID-19 - Challenges and Opportunities”**

Quelle: RAND Corporation (April 26, 2022)

Andrew Lauland, Senior International/Defense Researcher; Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School; Benjamin Lee Preston, Director, Community Health and Environmental Policy Program; Senior Policy Researcher; Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School; Aaron Strong, Economist; Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School, et al.

This [report](#) presents insights into best practices in risk assessment and challenges in the implementation of the National Critical Function (NCF) risk assessment framework to characterize risk to critical infrastructure associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also provides recommendations for improving the framework and suggestions for further characterization of NCFs' interdependence, vulnerability, and geographic variation that could improve risk assessment processes.

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### **“A Conversation With Secretary Xavier Becerra”**

Quelle: Council on Foreign Relations (April 21, 2022)

Speaker:

Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Presider:

Tony Coles, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cerevel Therapeutics LLC; Member, Board of Directors, Council on Foreign Relations

During this [online conversation](#), Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra discusses the agency's global footprint, including how COVID-19 exposed systemic disparities in healthcare at home and abroad. The Secretary also highlights plans to prepare for future pandemics, and efforts to restore global partnerships.

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### **“What Happens When COVID-19 Emergency Declarations End? Implications for Coverage, Costs, and Access”**

Quelle: Kaiser Family Foundation (April 8, 2022)

Juliette Cubanski, Deputy Director for Program on Medicare Policy; Dr. Jen Kates, Senior Vice President, Director of Global Health & HIV Policy; Madeline Guth, Policy Analyst, Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured; et al.

According to this [issue brief](#), questions are being raised about when to end the public health emergency declarations made by the federal government, with some advocating for their extension and others calling for their expiration. This brief provides an overview of the major health-related COVID-19 federal emergency declarations that have been made, summarizes the flexibilities triggered by each, and identifies the implications for their ending, in areas such as: coverage, costs, and payment for COVID-19 testing, treatments, and vaccines; Medicaid coverage, as well as federal match rates and telehealth.

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## “A Final Report Card on the States’ Response to COVID-19”

Quelle: National Bureau of Economic Research (April 2022)

Phil Kerpen, Committee to Unleash Prosperity; Stephen Moore, The Heritage Foundation; Casey B. Mulligan, Research Associate, University of Chicago

This [study](#) is a report card of how pandemic health, economy, and policy varied across the 50 states and the District of Columbia. It shows that two years ago COVID-19 spread to the United States and the 50 states made many of their own pandemic policy choices to mitigate the damage from the virus. States learned from one another over time about what policies worked most and least effectively in terms of containing the virus while minimizing the negative effects of lockdown strategies on businesses and children.

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## “COVID-19 Pandemic Pinches Finances of America’s Lower- and Middle-Income Families - Nearly one-in-five middle-income families report receiving unemployment benefits in 2020”

Quelle: Pew Research Center (April 20, 2022)

Rakesh Kochhar, Senior Researcher; Stella Sechopoulos, Research Assistant

This [report](#) focuses on the impact of the pandemic on the financial wellbeing of households in the lower-, middle- and upper-income tiers, with comparisons to the Great Recession era. The analysis relies on the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in March of each year. The research shows that the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 recession in the U.S. were endured mostly by lower- and middle-income families. From 2019 to

2020, the median income of lower-income households decreased by 3.0% and the median income of middle-income households fell by 2.1%.

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## “Preventing Disruptions to Coverage and Care After the Public Health Emergency - Actions for States and the Federal Government”

Quelle: Center for American Progress (April 4, 2022)

Natasha Murphy, Director, Health Policy; Nicole Rapfogel, Research Associate

According to this [article](#), the end of the federal public health emergency does not have to mark the end of expanded access to health coverage and care. State and federal officials can implement a range of policies and strategies to prevent Medicaid coverage losses and preserve access to COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines.

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## “COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake and Intentions Following US Food and Drug Administration Approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine”

Quelle: RAND Corporation (April 11, 2022)

Aaron M. Scherer, PhD, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City; Andrew M. Parker, PhD, RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Courtney A. Gidengil, MD, MPH, RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Division of Infectious Diseases, Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

According to this [research](#), despite the availability of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, 25% of American adults remained partially vaccinated or unvaccinated against COVID-19 at the beginning

of 2022. The authors maintain that a lack of a formally approved COVID-19 vaccine was a common reason given for nonvaccination in polls prior to US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of the biologics license application—also called full approval—for the BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) COVID-19 vaccine. They conclude that understanding the repercussions for vaccination intentions after FDA full approval is important for informing vaccination interventions and policy in future infectious disease outbreaks.

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#### **Für die aktuellen Zahlen zur Coronakrise in den USA:**

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

#### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.**

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