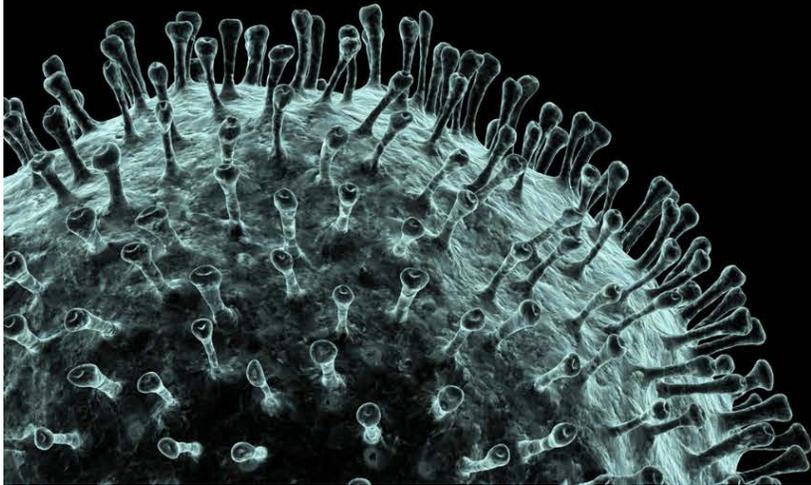


COVID-19 Conversations



Ateev Mehrotra, MD, MPH

Associate Professor, Department of Health Care
Policy, Harvard Medical School
Physician, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



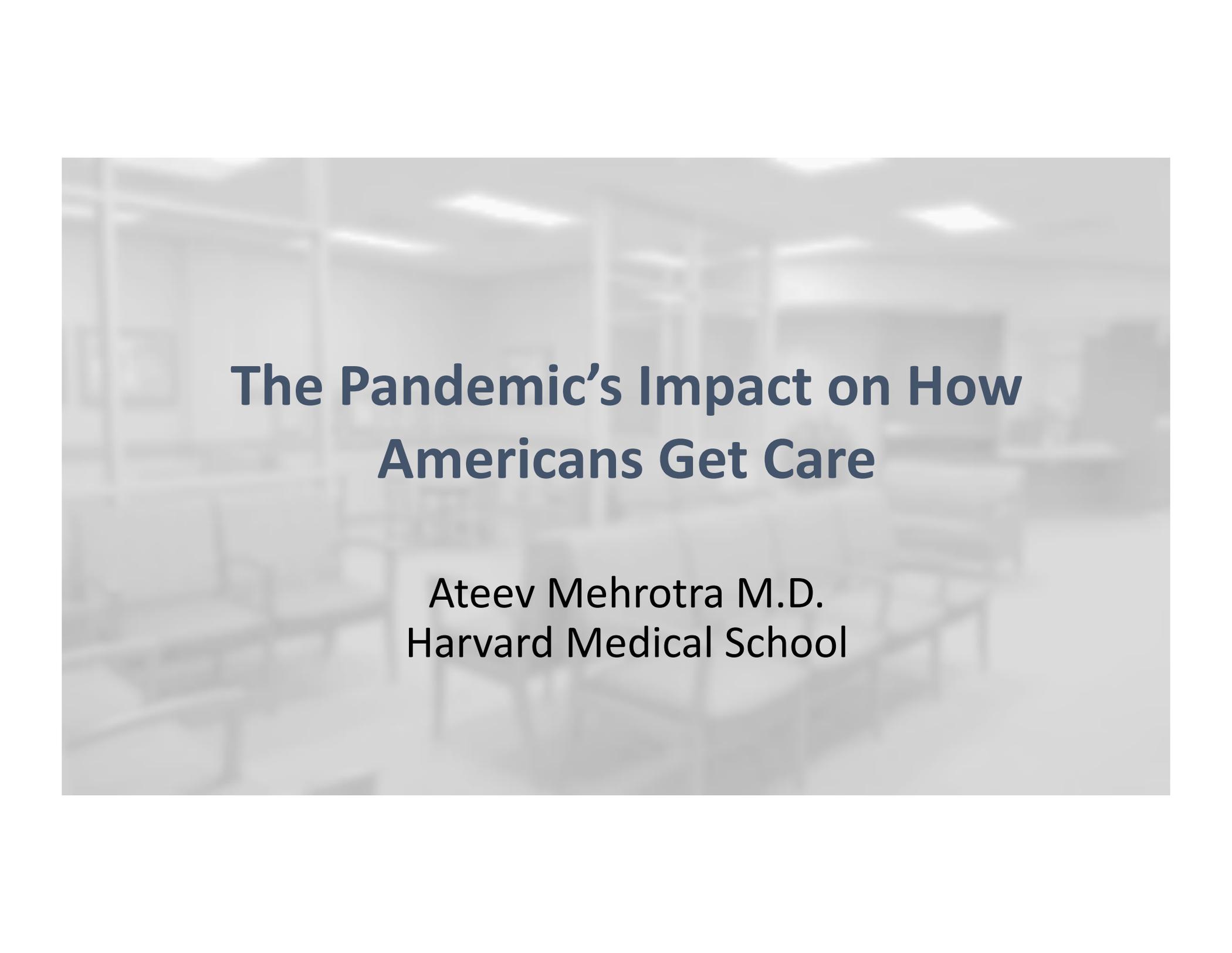
COVID19Conversations.org

[#COVID19Conversations](https://twitter.com/COVID19Conversations)



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The Pandemic's Impact on How Americans Get Care

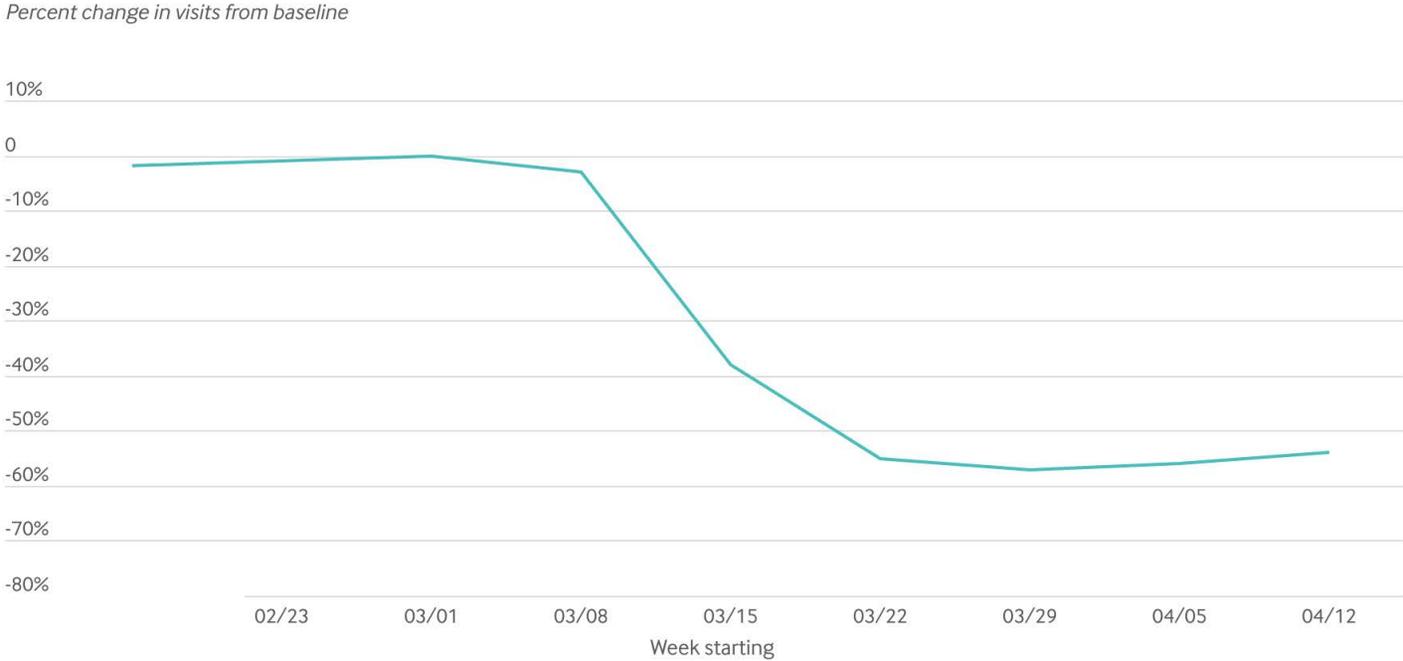
Ateev Mehrotra M.D.
Harvard Medical School

Why do we care about non-COVID related visits?

- What is the clinical impact of the pandemic?
- What is the economic impact of the pandemic?

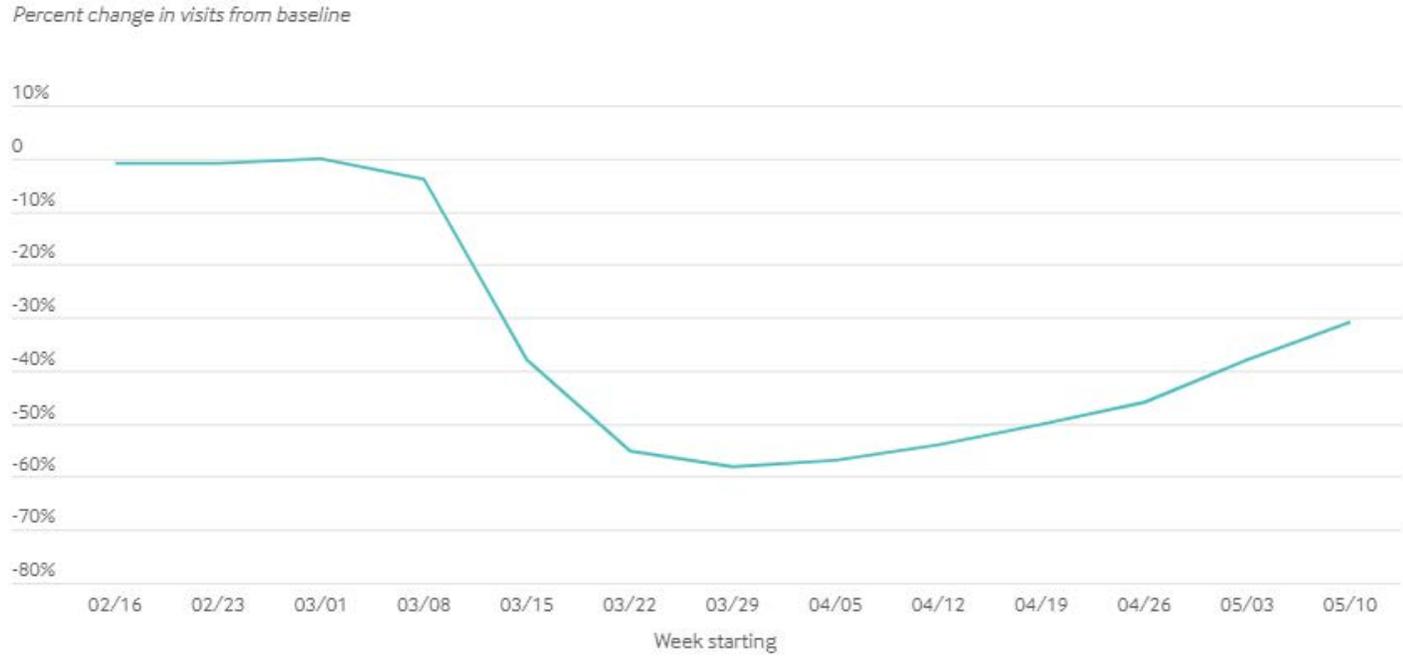
CMWF. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Outpatient Visits: A Rebound Emerges
<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2020/apr/impact-covid-19-outpatient-visits>

In mid-March a rapid and dramatic decline in number of visits in the US



Note: Data are presented as percentage change in number of visits in a given week from the baseline week (March 1–7). Data for week of April 12 are through April 16.

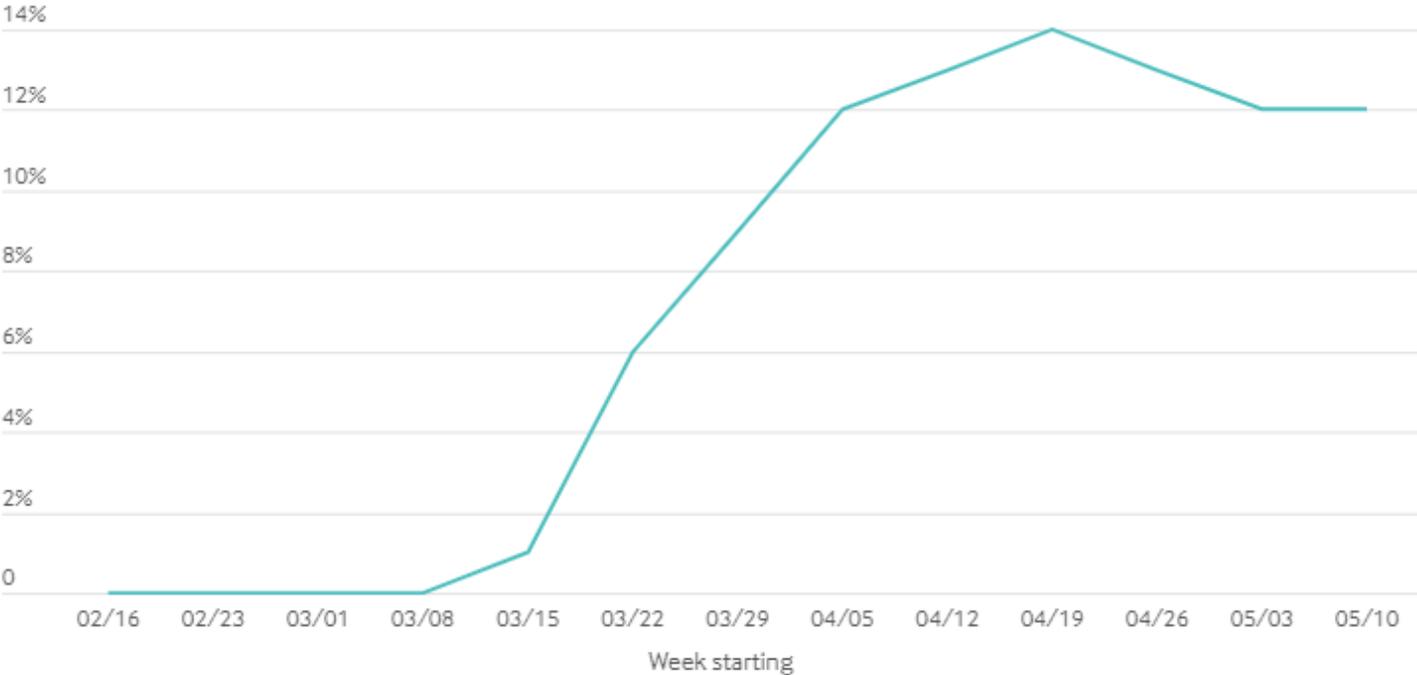
Through mid-May, a bit of a rebound



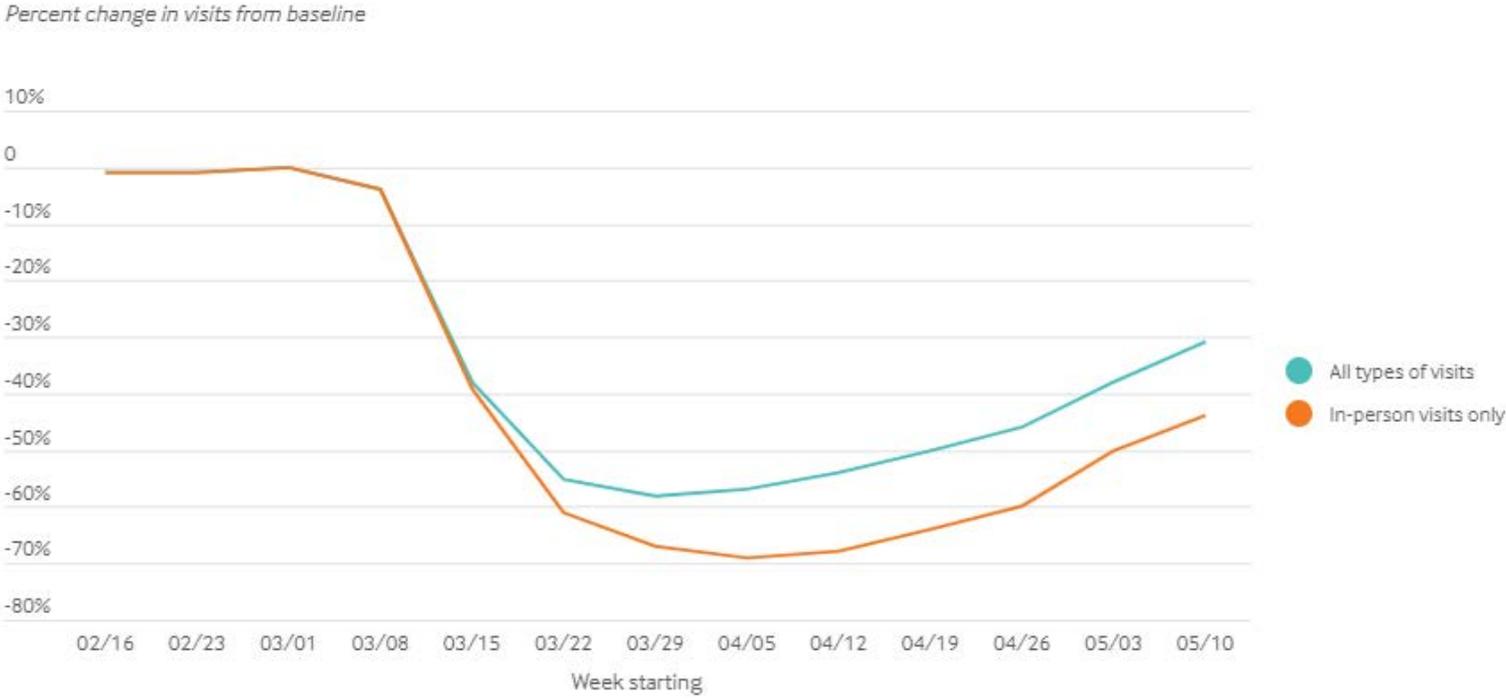
Note: Data are presented as percentage change in number of visits in a given week from the baseline week (March 1–7).

Telemedicine has become a common way of getting care

Number of telehealth visits in a given week as a percent of baseline total visits

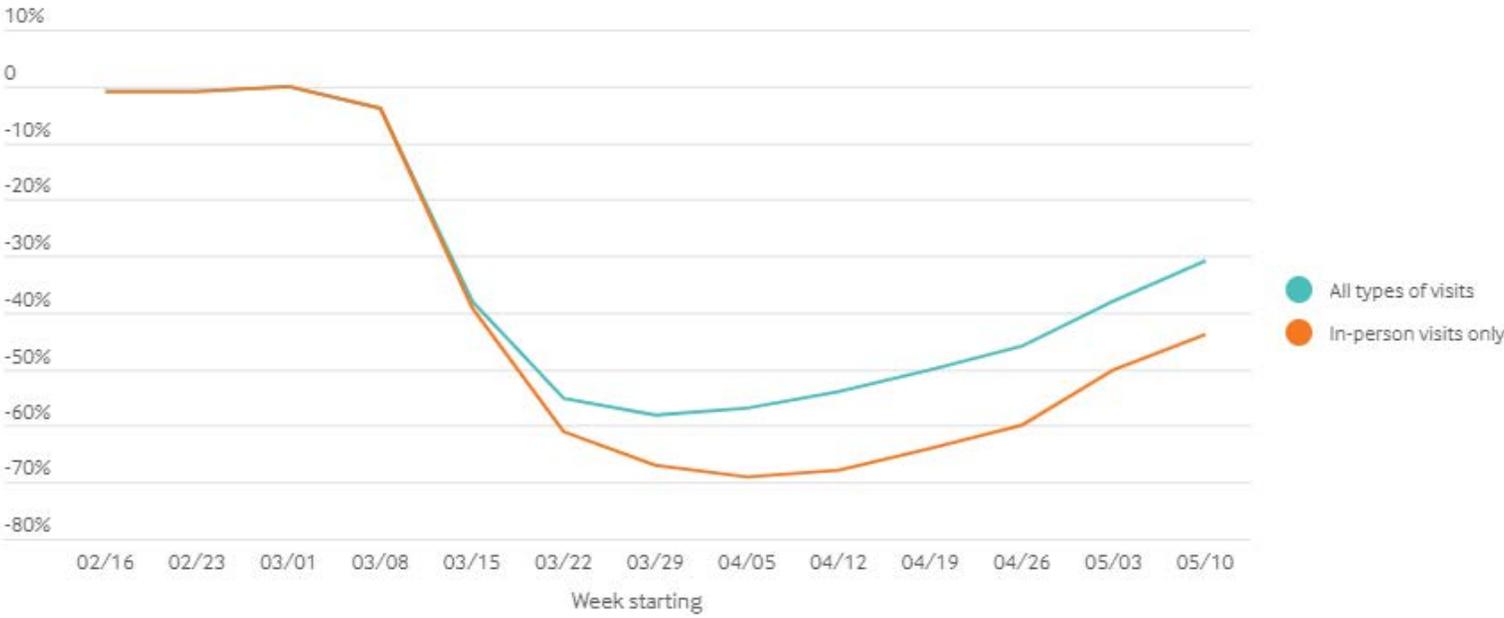


Increase in telehealth only partially offsets the drop seen among in-person visits



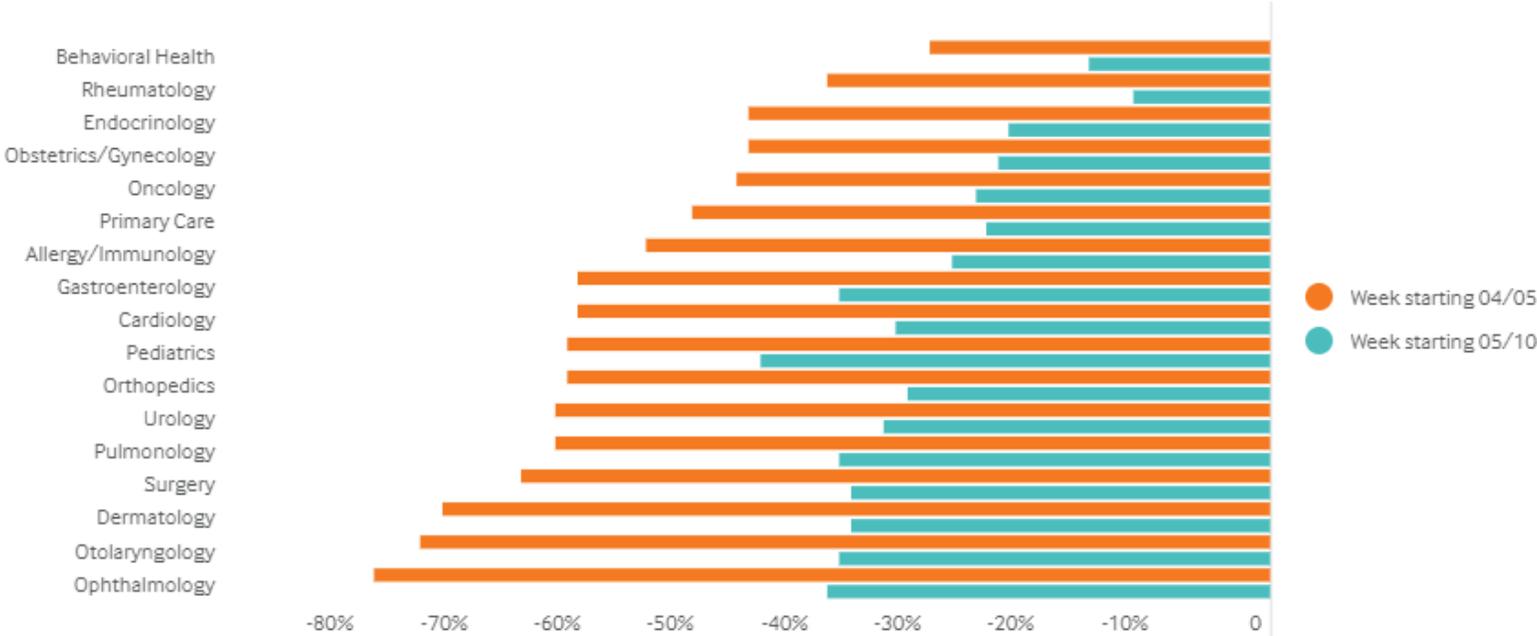
Increase in telehealth only partially offsets the drop seen among in-person visits

Percent change in visits from baseline



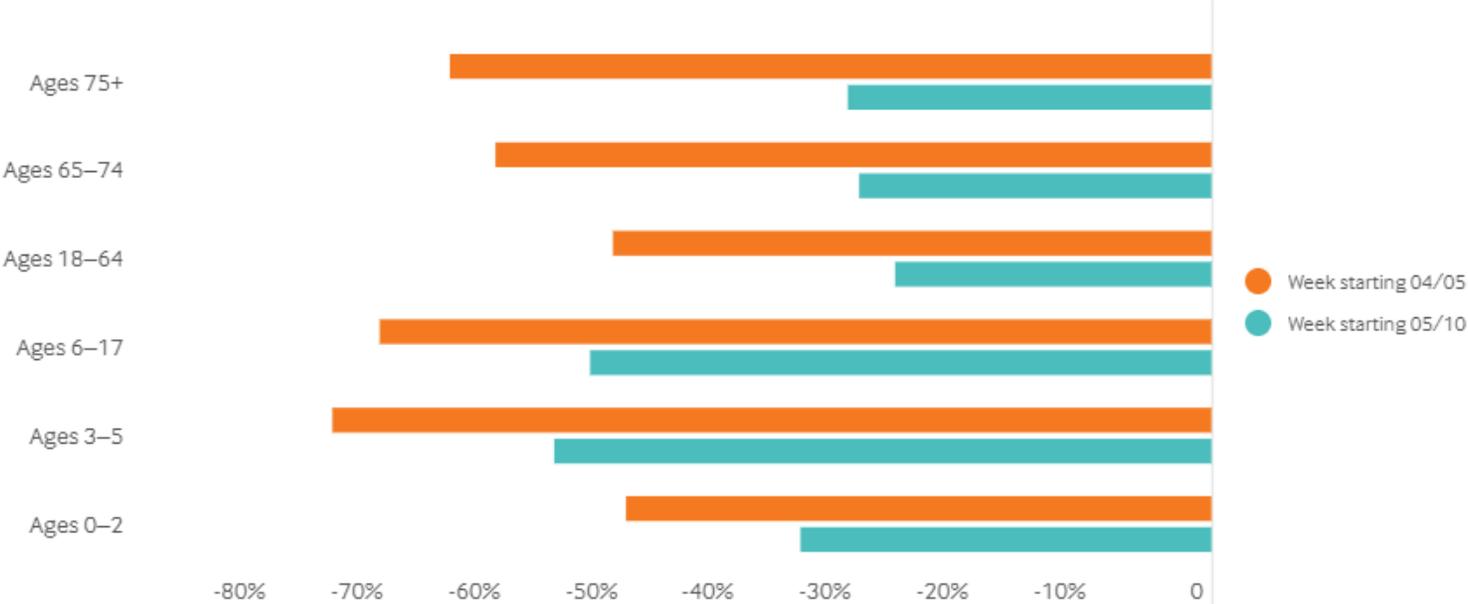
Drop in visits much larger among some specialties

Percent change in visits from baseline



Greatest decline in visits among children, oldest adults

Percent change in visits from baseline



What should we be worried about in the coming months?

- Patients dying because didn't get care they needed
- 'Second pandemic' of undertreated chronic illness

The New York Times

By Katie Hafner

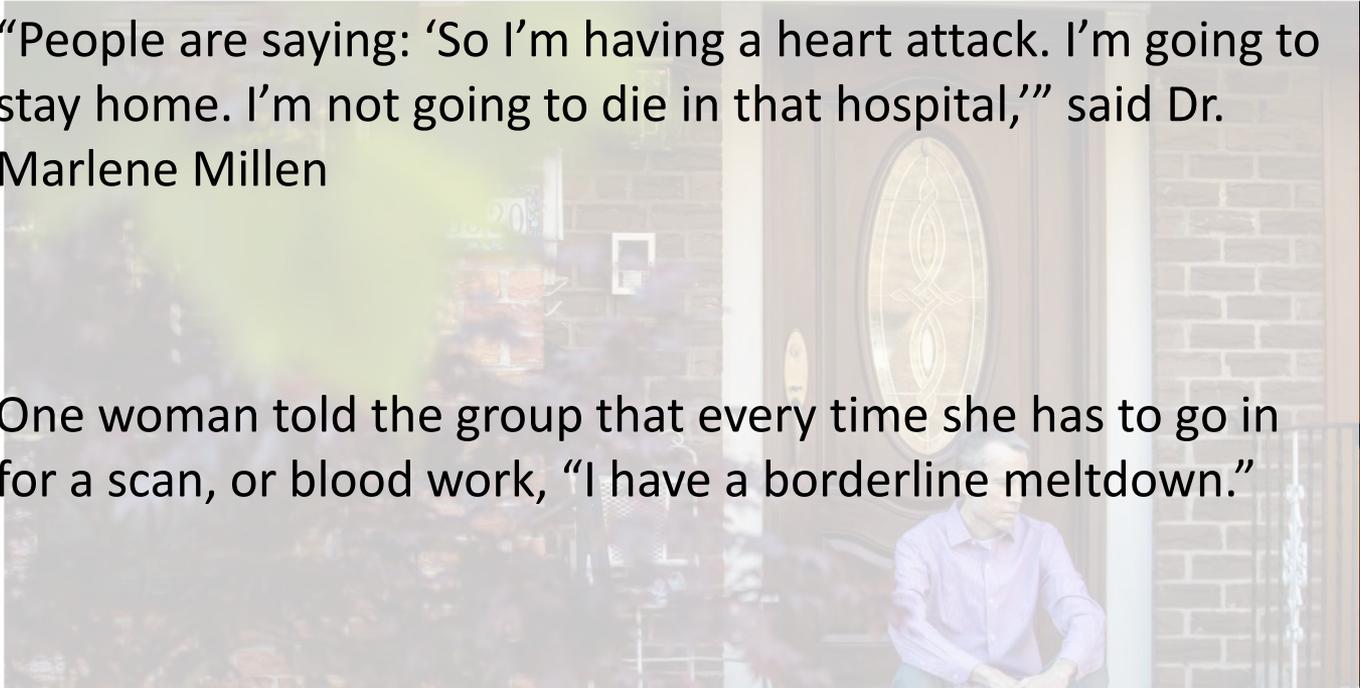
Fear of Covid Leads Other Patients to Decline Critical Treatment

May 25, 2020

Psychologists say anxiety and uncertainty prompt irrational decisions — like turning down a transplant when an organ becomes available.

“People are saying: ‘So I’m having a heart attack. I’m going to stay home. I’m not going to die in that hospital,’” said Dr. Marlene Millen

One woman told the group that every time she has to go in for a scan, or blood work, “I have a borderline meltdown.”



What should we be worried about in the coming months?

- Patients dying because didn't get care they needed
- 'Second pandemic' of undertreated chronic illness
- Increasing preventive care gaps such as fewer immunizations
- Capacity to serve increasing mental illness needs
- Apparent paradox that, despite a global pandemic, many clinics may go out of business