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A Content Analysis of Media Coverage of Telehealth in Mississippi

By

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A thesis submitted to the faculty of The University of Mississippi in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College

Oxford

May 2023

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ABSTRACT

Telehealth's utilization within healthcare has expanded and changed areas of healthcare delivery. In rural states like Mississippi barriers to accessing healthcare services exist due to demographic factors, socioeconomic factors, or geographic distance. This study was meant to look at the literature related to telehealth that was being disseminated to Mississippians through online news sources. It was noted whether these articles viewed telehealth utilization in a positive or negative way. Utilizing a cross-sectional media analysis, the news articles were screened using a coding form that acknowledged different themes in the literature. Frequency analyses were conducted to aid in interpreting the common themes from the literature. We feel that we were able to understand and convey how telehealth is being perceived in Mississippi and in what ways telehealth can be harmful or beneficial.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend an immense amount of gratitude to my thesis advisor Dr. Erin Holmes who made this work possible. She was enthusiastic about the project from the beginning and willing to work through my areas of interest related to healthcare delivery in my home state. I am also grateful for my thesis committee consisting of Dr. Sujith Ramachandran and Dr. Jessica Omoregie. My education through the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi is something that I will always cherish. The standard of a solid education leaves the student with the feeling that they were not taught what to think but how to think.

Without the support of my family and friends, I would be unable to complete this project. No amount of thanks can suffice.

Proverbs 19:21

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BACKGROUND

Healthcare Delivery in Mississippi

In 2021, there were 2.95 million people living in the state of Mississippi spread over 82 counties. 59% of the population is white with the next largest category being African Americans accounting for 38%. Healthcare in Mississippi is consistently poorly ranked, and the overall wellness of the population is marginal as well. According to the 2020 scorecard on State Health System Performance published by the Commonwealth Fund, Mississippi was ranked negatively in several categories including quality of care, healthcare utilization, cost of care, health outcomes, and income-based healthcare disparities (Striar et al.). Poverty and healthcare access issues also worsen healthcare outcomes within the state.

In 2018, 41.3% of Mississippi residents had an income below 200% of the federal poverty level; the U.S. average is 30.4%. The number of uninsured non-elderly residents hovers around 420,000 people or roughly 14.3% of the population. In 2019, the state had the 5th-highest uninsured rate in America (Striar et al.). Medicaid spending in 2019 was estimated to be 5.5 billion dollars; 632,427 people were enrolled in CHIP or Medicaid (Kaiser). In 2018, 43.4% of the population of Mississippians with health insurance were covered through employer-sponsored plans.

Chronic illness impacts healthcare outcomes in the state of Mississippi. KFF found, “Among adults ages 18 and older in Mississippi, 23.6% reported that their health was fair or poor in 2019, higher than the U.S. percentage (18.8%)” (Kaiser, 2020). Hypertension (high blood pressure) increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes. In 2021, 709 Mississippians died from hypertension-related conditions; the highest number of deaths over the span of the past nine years (2012-2021). In 2017, the CDC found that Mississippi ranked first in the nation for the

highest number of deaths related to kidney disease, Alzheimer's disease, and heart disease. The state also fell within the top five for deaths related to septicemia, flu/pneumonia complications, diabetes, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease, and cancer.

Over half of Mississippians live in non-metropolitan areas. CMS has designated 32 critical access hospitals (CAH) to serve the state's healthcare needs. Eligible hospitals must meet the following criteria to qualify for the status: 25 or fewer acute inpatient beds, located over 35 miles from another hospital, maintain an average length of stay of 96 hours or less and provide emergency services (RHIhub). The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program within the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 supports rural hospitals' reimbursements/financials and provides funding opportunities. The Mississippi State Office of Rural Health (MORH) defines rural in the Mississippi State Rural Health Plan as 1) a Mississippi county that has a population of fewer than 50,000 individuals, 2) an area that has less than 500 residents per square mile, or/and 3) a municipality of fewer than 15,000 people. MORH distributes resources to serve geographically distanced patients including three federal grants.

Healthcare facilities, especially rural hospitals, are in crisis in Mississippi. Dr. Daniel Edney, the state health officer, spoke to Mississippi legislators in mid-November about the increased financial pressures being applied to rural hospitals. 54% of the state's rural hospitals are anticipated to suffer in the face of rising healthcare costs. (2022) "That is a situation that is intolerable from an economic standpoint — to lose 54% of our hospitals in the state — much less from an access to care perspective," Edney said. Geographic distance between facilities requires creative solutions to the healthcare disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Telehealth has been proposed as a potential solution for failing hospitals that are faced with bankruptcy.

COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Healthcare in Mississippi

The COVID-19 pandemic forced changes across every industry and institution, but healthcare was directly impacted by the spread of the virus in the U.S. The Commonwealth Fund found that the primary care system in the United States was underprepared for the strain created by COVID-19. This has led to “drops in visit volume, decreased revenue, challenges with rapidly adapting to telehealth, and provider burnout” (Horstman & Lewis, 2022).

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) serves as the primary federal agency for improving health care for populations who are geographically isolated and economically vulnerable. The agency received 9.4 billion in 2021 to be allocated towards COVID-19 relief in Mississippi as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The breakdown of spending shows \$3.9 million was allocated toward telehealth measures. These funds provided direct clinical services and telehealth research in Mississippi.

Defining Telehealth

“The Health Resources Services Administration defines telehealth as the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications. Telehealth is different from telemedicine because it refers to a *broader scope of remote healthcare services* than telemedicine. While telemedicine refers specifically to remote clinical services, telehealth can refer to remote non-clinical services, such as provider training, administrative meetings, and continuing medical education, in addition to clinical services” (What is Telehealth, 2019). Offering convenience as a benefit, most telehealth services do not require patients to leave their homes. This can be

beneficial for the elderly, the disabled, or geographically isolated populations. Hospitals are using the same strategy to provide access to clinical specialists through a screen. In many rural hospitals, specialists are rare and are not consistently available. Through telecommunication channels, specialists do not have to be physically located in the hospital but can still see patients through a screen. Telehealth services are also helpful in preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

Telehealth's Expansion in Mississippi

Telehealth services and their usage rapidly expanded due to emergency utilization and reimbursement rates outlined by CMS. Still, Mississippi was already on its way to creating a robust telehealth network prior to the pandemic. Serving as a Telehealth Center of Excellence, the University of Mississippi Medical Center is located in the capital city of Jackson. This designation is awarded by the federal government. In 2016, UMMC incorporated a telemedicine program to serve the state's rural population. Much of the use has been dedicated to mental health (Whitehead, 2021), but the Mississippi Insurance Department enabled large-scale utilization, and the Mississippi Department of Human Services and CMS came together to issue emergency guidelines for health practitioners to be paid for audio and video services. Across the nation, there was some provider skepticism related to the rise of an underdeveloped telehealth network; "In early 2020, a primary care provider polled in a weekly survey conducted by the Larry A. Green Center, a nonprofit research institute focused on primary care in the United States, said, "We are setting up telehealth as quickly as possible with no idea how much or if we will get paid. By the summer of 2021, primary care providers began to recover financially, owing to an influx of federal funding and expanded telehealth reimbursements. Yet many primary care practices, especially small and independent ones, still experienced substantial financial burdens.

A third (32%) of these providers polled by the Larry A. Green Center reported that as of September 2021, their practices had not recovered financially” (Horstman & Lewis, 2022).

Research Objectives

The role of telehealth in healthcare administration in Mississippi continues to evolve, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Concomitantly, the communications literature notes the importance of news media on “the dissemination and impact of health-related issues and policies” (Moshrefzadeh et al., Brodie et al., Clegg et al., Collins et al.). We examined online news reports concerning the development and implementation of telehealth in Mississippi. Our objective was to assess media coverage and content before and after declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to understand the role local media may have played in portraying telehealth to the Mississippi public.

METHODS

Design

Researchers utilized a content analysis approach to meet research objectives. Specifically, a cross-sectional media analysis of newspaper coverage of telehealth in Mississippi adopted from Moshrefzadeh et al. was conducted.

Selection of Content

This content analysis involved analyzing published articles in Mississippi news media. The top ten Mississippi newspapers by circulation were identified by Agility PR Solutions, an international company that generates and monitors media coverage. Per Agility PR Solutions, this list is updated as of July 2022. Additionally, a search was done to identify online-exclusive Mississippi news media. The final list of news media sources used for content analysis procedures in this study are listed in Table 1 below. Due to limited articles generally available on this subject, an exhaustive search of all telehealth articles was conducted using the search word, “telehealth”, “telemedicine”, “telepharmacy”, “telemental” in each of these media sites. Additionally, given the few number of articles expected, date restrictions were not utilized in the article search process.

Table 1: Resources Used for Content Analysis

1. The Commercial Dispatch

<http://www.cdispatch.com>

Daily newspaper and website covering Columbus, Starkville, Mississippi's Golden Triangle, and portions of western Alabama.

2. Hattiesburg American

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/>

Hattiesburg, Pine Belt news, information, sports, features.

3. The Meridian Star

<http://meridianstar.com/>

East Mississippi's daily newspaper of record since 1898.

4. The Clarion-Ledger

<http://www.clarionledger.com>

The Clarion-Ledger's mission is to serve Mississippians in the Jackson metro area and beyond by providing news that informs, educates and entertains through our daily and nondaily print and digital publications.

5. The Sun Herald

<http://www.sunherald.com>

The Sun Herald is a McClatchy-owned media company serving Coastal Mississippi, focusing on local news online and in a daily newspaper.

6. The Vicksburg Post

<http://www.vicksburgpost.com>

Since 1883.

7. Enterprise-Journal

<http://www.enterprise-journal.com>

The one newspaper in the world most interested in this community.

8. Starkville Daily News

<http://www.starkvilledailynews.com>

Serve the residents of Oktibbeha County with the best local news available daily

9. The Natchez Democrat

<http://www.natchezdemocrat.com>

Mississippi's best community daily newspaper.

10. The Oxford Eagle

<https://www.oxfordeagle.com/>

Serving Oxford, Lafayette County and the University of Mississippi.

11. Online Source: Mississippi Today

<https://mississippitoday.org/>

Founded in 2016 as the state's first nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom, Mississippi Today's roots in Capitol coverage have grown to encompass a myriad of beats...

12. Online Source: Magnolia Tribune

<https://magnoliatribune.com/>

Magnolia tribune is dedicated to serving the public with reliable news, unique business and culture coverage, and insightful commentary.

13. Online Source: Mississippi Free Press

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/>

Mississippi Journalism and Education Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit media organization (EIN 85-1403937) for the state, devoted to going beyond partisanship and publishing solutions journalism for the Magnolia State and all of its people.

Coding strategy

Mississippi newspaper articles and online Mississippi source articles were analyzed with a coding sheet designed specifically for the study (Appendix). The coding table was modeled after the codebook from Moshrefzadeh et al. Articles mentioning “telehealth” “telehealth”, “telemedicine”, “telepharmacy”, “telemental” were retained for data collection, regardless of the frequency of keywords within the article.

In addition to capturing article identification items such as article title, article number (self-assigned), coder initials, publication date, name of publication, and date of analysis, coding table variables included 1) the article's slant towards telehealth (positive, negative, neutral), 2) whether or not the article address health insurance coverage (yes [Medicare, Medicaid, Military or Veterans, Private Insurance, Other], no), 3) whether the article addressed costs (yes, no), 4) geographic focus (North Mississippi, Central Mississippi, South Mississippi, East Mississippi, Delta Region of Mississippi, Entire State of Mississippi, Outside of Mississippi, Indeterminate, None), 5) description of rurality (urban, rural, urban and rural, indeterminate), 6) type of articles (news story, human interest, opinion, letter to the editor, other), and 7) whether COVID was addressed (yes, no). Finally, a specific coding table was designed to collect whether specific

areas of healthcare were addressed (e.g., chronic disease, mental health, telepharmacy, etc.) and whether a positive, negative, or neutral slant was evident. Areas of healthcare included in the coding form were identified from the literature. Rows of the coding tables were left blank to fill in additional areas of healthcare not initially provided in the form. Additionally, space was provided to describe the theme of the article including why the article was published, and the main topic of the article (Appendix 1).

Data Management

Articles chosen for the study were saved as PDFs to cloud storage. The investigator used hard copies of the coding form to code articles identified using methods described above. The coding table data was then compiled into an Excel spreadsheet. Each category utilized for the coding form was present on the spreadsheet.

Data Analysis

Frequency analysis was conducted by tabulating frequencies of the levels of each of the seven variables including 1) article slant, 2) insurance, 3) cost, 4) geography 5) rurality, 6) article type, and, 7) COVID. Frequency analyses were also conducted for areas of healthcare addressed and any slants posted in their presentation.

RESULTS

Data collection occurred from March 10, 2023 to April 16, 2023. Forty-six articles were identified using search terms. Article titles are provided in Table 1. The World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020 and thus was used for pre-post evaluation.

Table 1: Article Titles

CHEST Foundation focuses on lung disease Jackson first stop on virtual listening tour
Telemental health counseling grows amid pandemic, but technology brings own stress
Mississippi Health Insurers to cover telehealth visits at same rate as in-person
Senator Wicker Wants to expand telehealth services
State medical board loosened telemedicine rules- then quietly changed them back
Telemedical Drone Project Takes Off
Telemental health visits soar pandemic or roadmap for the future?
UMMC receives 2.6 million telehealth grant
Mississippi launches telehealth teletherapy pilot in schools as "a way to keep kids learning"
Singing River Health Care Workforce Academy allows participants to work while advancing their careers
Feds give Greenville grant for primary care clinic as Delta faces loss of health care services
Free Telehealth Services Coming to MS Public Schools this fall
Telehealth company aims to expand access to contraception in MS
BEAM wants your help with broadband map
Telemedicine to grow in MS Healthcare providers say
USM offering telehealth services on Gulf Park campus
Forrest General Hospital named 2017 Most Wired
Pearl River County Hospital & Nursing Home has new hi-tech stroke diagnosing tool
Wicker, Hyde-Smith, Guest Call for Medicare telehealth benefits extension
UMMC announces \$17.6 million grant to expand telehealth to MS students
MS Legislators welcome \$1.9 million in grants for distance education telemedicine programs
MCPP: Expanding telemedicine in Mississippi
Jackson Jambalaya takes on Big Medicine with public records search over telemedicine stance #msleg
Dobbs takes helm at Population Health
State Board of Education votes to award \$17.6 million grant to UMMC to provide telehealth services to K-12 students
New Program provides insurance for volunteer firefighters, dependents
UM Student-led mental health services reopening
Health Brief: NMHS upgrades wired, wireless networks
In response to Covid-19, MSU Psychology Clinic now offers telehealth services
The doctor will see you now via webcam, smartphone
Wyatt Emmerich: Uber & teladoc: freedom vs. gov reg
Weems Community Mental Health Center uses telehealth to adapt to pandemic
Telehealth becomes vital tool during Covid-19 pandemic, connecting patients to doctors
Rush officially becomes Ochsner Rush Health
Video conferencing takes next leap to connect colleagues
T.K Martin turns to telehealth due to coronavirus
Extension nets grant funds for teleconferencing equipment
Op-Ed: How to make the most of your Medicare plan
Lawmakers could expand access to telemedicine in MS
A Quantum Leap': MSDH Launches HIV Prevention Telehealth Program for Undeserved Mississippians
Mississippi Hospital Crisis Proposals Include \$80 Million In Aid, No Medicaid Expansion
Mailing Abortion Pills Punishable by Five Years In Prison, Mississippi AG Argues
With Pink House Gone, Group Promotes Self-Managed Abortion- With Caution
Lack of Internet Access Has Limited Vaccine Availability For Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Time Runs Out On Blue Cross, UMMC Grace Period
Everybody's Issue': Mississippi Students Respond to State Plan for Federal Digital Funds

Coding Results

Table 2 details coding results. Of all publications evaluated, the online news source, Mississippi Today had the greatest number of telehealth-related publications. Additionally, an uptick in telehealth-related publications was anecdotally evident in 2020, 2021, and 2022, presumably as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic and increased demand for the service. Most articles presented telehealth in a positive manner. Most articles addressed neither insurance or cost. For those articles that addressed insurance, most (n = 11) addressed public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid versus private and employee sponsored programs (n = 3). Most articles addressing telehealth were not region-specific and addressed telehealth services for the state of Mississippi at large, or did not address locations at all. Additionally, most articles did not distinguish whether telehealth was being offered in the context of rural spaces. Most articles were news articles, and only half address COVID, specifically.

Table 2: Overview of Articles

Publication Name	Number of Articles (%)
Clarion-Ledger	3 (6.5)
Mississippi Today	11 (23.9)
Commercial Dispatch	4 (8.7)
Hattiesburg American	4 (8.7)
Oxford Eagle	2 (4.3)
Mississippi Free Press	7 (15.2)
Magnolia Tribune	7 (15.2)
Starkville Daily News	2 (4.3)
Meridian Star	3 (6.5)
Vicksburg Post	1 (2.2)
Enterprise-Journal	2 (4.3)
Year Published	Number of Articles (%)
2012	1 (2.2)
2014	1 (2.2)
2015	2 (4.3)
2016	2 (4.3)
2017	3 (6.5)
2018	2 (4.3)
2019	2 (4.3)
2020	12 (26)
2021	7 (15.2)
2022	11 (23.9)
2023	3 (6.5)
Article Slant	Number of Articles (%)
Positive	37 (80.4)
Negative	7 (15.2)
Neutral	7 (15.2)
Addressing Insurance	Number of Articles (%)
Yes	14 (30)
No	32 (70)
Addressing Costs	Number of Article (%)
Yes	11 (23.9)
No	35 (76.1)
Geographic Setting	Number of Articles (%)

North	2 (4.3)
East	3 (6.5)
Central	2 (4.3)
South	5 (10.9)
Delta	1 (2.2)
Entire	22 (48.0)
Outside	0 (0)
Indeterminate	10 (21.7)
None	1 (2.2)
Rurality Addressed	Number of Articles (%)
Urban	0
Rural	4
Both	10
Indeterminate	32
Type of Article	Number of Articles (%)
News	43
Human	0
Opinion	3
Letter to Editor	0
Other	0
COVID Addressed	Number of Articles (%)
Yes	23 (50)
No	23 (50)

Themes Related to Telehealth Delivery

Table 3 outlines themes related to healthcare delivery. Additional themes were identified as data was collected. Within the realm of telehealth, many sub-areas were expected to emerge within the literature. Table 3 lists the main themes related to telehealth and telemedicine that were expected to be identified. Mental health services related to telehealth involve the use of telecommunications technology to deliver psychological services; the literature often described virtual counseling and teletherapy. Pediatric health services encompassed healthcare related to the physical and mental well-being of children under the age of 18. Rural Community Telehealth is defined as any healthcare delivery to underserved or disadvantaged areas due to their geographic location or lack of access to healthcare providers/facilities. Reproductive healthcare within the literature encompassed access to contraception and abortion resources. Telepharmacy services are a way of delivering pharmaceuticals through telecommunication technology; this can include remote drug therapy monitoring and authorization of refills. Environmental-related health issues are issues that are related to the socioeconomic or physical characteristics of a geographic region. The social determinants of health served as a guide for environmental-related health issues: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context. Evaluation of equity in telehealth distribution is related to accessibility and the barriers that exist between patients and telehealth services. Monetary implications were considered when screening the literature; mentions of health insurance coverage were noted. Monetary implications also included cost considerations. Telehealth providers were mentioned within the literature; providers ranged from primary care providers to pharmacists. Chronic disease considerations involve diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and obesity; the disease's effects are long-lasting and require

ongoing medical treatment. Acute illness/disease involves infectious diseases as well as diseases that have a short duration. COVID-19 was classified as an acute illness in the research. Many of the areas of classification often overlapped (ex. Telecommunication for child counseling in schools).

Unique themes were identified after screening the literature. Remote pulmonary health care services related to illnesses of the respiratory tract were noted in the literature. Geriatric care for elderly citizens addressed distanced care. Disaster relief and emergency services have been impacted by the growth of telehealth and medical drone technology. Dermatology services were included as part of the UMMC 2.6 million dollar telehealth grant. Multiple articles considered telehealth's implications for specialist consulting. Behavioral therapies including nutrition education and proper hygiene webinars fell within the scope of telehealth measures in the literature. Family therapy was also implemented through telecounseling services. For individuals with special needs, telecommunication technology was utilized during the pandemic to meet their wellness needs. The Mississippi Department of Health developed a telehealth application to serve Mississippians diagnosed with HIV and those who may be at risk of developing HIV; the virtual services include educational resources and access to preventive drugs and contraception products. Remote stroke monitoring technology is being utilized in rural hospitals.

Table 3: Themes Related to Healthcare Delivery

Theme Related to Telehealth Delivery	Number of Articles (%)
Mental Health Services	15 (32.6)
Pediatric Health Services	6 (13)
Rural Community Telehealth	14 (30.4)
Reproductive Healthcare	3 (6.5)
Telepharmacy Services	1 (2.2)
Environmental Related Health Issues	0 (0)
Equity of Measures	3 (6.5)
Telehealth Monetary Implications/ Insurance Coverage	10 (21.7)
Telehealth Providers/Workforce	13 (28.3)
Chronic Disease	5 (10.9)
Infectious Disease/Acute Disease	10 (21.7)

DISCUSSION

Interpretation of Results

This project was undertaken to understand the role local media has portrayed telehealth to the public in Mississippi. Several findings were not surprising to investigators. The sharp increase in telehealth articles published in leading Mississippi news outlets may likely be due to the increased salience and demand for telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar salience and demand may explain the positivity with which the article information was presented. More surprising to investigators was less emphasis on cost or insurance in discussions of telehealth. Perhaps the urgency of telehealth needs negated much attention or debate over cost or coverage. Lack of region-specificity in news articles may be a function of the nature of telehealth itself, and its lack of boundaries.

In terms of disease states addressed by telehealth news articles, mental health was the most prominent. Perhaps driven by need, combined with the ease with which mental health services can be provided via telehealth drove this trend. Second behind mental health was infectious disease/acute care, which may be logistically more difficult to implement, but may have been driven by need during the pandemic.

Other observations were that articles were more informative, and certainly not controversial. This may be because the majority of articles identified for the study were categorized as news articles versus opinion pieces. That being said, our publications certainly could be argued to have political leanings, but those biases were not necessarily reflected in the news stories, themselves. Likewise, issues of internet access, disparities, equity, funding allocation and cost effectiveness, generational issues, privacy, cybersecurity, wearable technology. In part, these may be stories more appropriate for human interest opinion articles in

contrast to news articles. Alternatively, the practice of telehealth may have progressed enough to surpass many of these issues.

Future research

Given the subjective nature data collection via content analysis, more sophisticated analyses techniques are called for. For example, utilizing two impartial judges who have been adequately been trained on the coding form and who have engaged in pilot testing may help lend more credibility to our findings. Subsequently, calculating interrater reliability among them and resolving coding conflicts through consensus would also enhance the validity of results.

Given what has been revealed in this study about news coverage of telehealth in Mississippi news outlets in recent years, aligning these results with public perceptions of telehealth or utilization of telehealth would be a logical next step to understand the importance of local news media on the dissemination of health-related issues and policies.

Limitations

Given the methods of our study, results should be interpreted with caution. Findings were limited to only major news outlets in Mississippi, and did not include all news outlets in the state. Although, as news outlets become smaller, the likelihood of those outlets receiving syndicated content from larger sources increases. Additionally, future research that extends of these results is limited, given that literacy and accessibility to the content we evaluated is not accessible to all populations potentially using or accessing telehealth.

Conclusions

Overall, telehealth articles published in leading Mississippi news outlets were presented in a positive manner. It appeared that COVID-19 was related to sharp increase in news attention

attributed to telehealth. Lack of controversial content regarding telehealth in Mississippi may have been related to the urgency of telehealth provisions amid a pandemic. Future research may explore how public perceptions demonstrate alignment (or lack of alignment) with what has been found to better understand the impact of news media on dissemination of telehealth policy.

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APPENDIX: Coding Form
Telehealth Media Content Analysis Study Coding Form

Article Title:

Article number:

Coder Initials:

Publication Date:

Name of Publication:

Today's Date:

Article Slant towards Telehealth:

- Positive
 - Negative
 - Neutral
-

Article Addresses Insurance:

- Yes
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid
 - Military or Veterans
 - Private insurance
 - Other _____
 - No
-

Article Address Costs:

- Yes
 - No
-

Geographic Focus:

- North Mississippi
 - Central Mississippi
 - South Mississippi
 - East Mississippi
 - Delta Region on Mississippi
 - Entire State of Mississippi
 - Outside of Mississippi
 - Indeterminate
 - None
-

Rurality Addressed:

- Urban
 - Rural
 - Both rural and urban
 - Indeterminate
-

Type of Article:

- News story
 - Human Interest
 - Opinion
 - Letter to the editor
 - Other _____
-

COVID Addressed:

- Yes
 - No
-

Theme of the article (why was the article published; main idea)

Health Topics Addressed:

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	N/A
Mental Health Services				
Pediatric Health Services				
Rural Community Telehealth				
Reproductive/ Contraception Services				
Telepharmacy Services				
Environmental Related Health Issues				
Equity of Measures				
Telehealth Monetary Implications/ Insurance Coverage				
Telehealth Providers/ Workforce				
Chronic Disease				
Infectious Disease/Acute Disease				
Other:				
Other:				

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