

News release

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Editors note: Photos of LaVeist, Frumkin and Bauer are attached.

Public Health Week focuses on injury and prevention April 4 - 8

"Safety is NO Accident: Prevent Injuries and Violence in Oregon" is Oregon Public Health's focus this year

Oregon Public Health Week's focus on injury and violence prevention offers nationally recognized speakers, physical activities, contests and exhibits. Public health is working to raise awareness about the types of injuries that can be prevented so all Oregonians can live healthier lives. The week runs April 4 through 8.

"Public health is a good investment. It saves lives, helps reduce health care costs, and helps ensure that our kids are ready to learn. There are some exciting events planned for Oregon Public Health Week that celebrate the contribution public health makes," said Mel Kohn, M.D., M.P.H, director of Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division.

The theme of Public Health Week this year is "*Safety is NO Accident: Prevent Injuries and Violence in Oregon.*" Injuries and violence are the leading cause of death for Oregonians between the ages of 1 and 44, and a major cause of suffering for all age groups.

"Many kinds of injuries and violence are preventable but injury prevention is greatly underutilized, so during Public Health Week we hope to highlight the potential for reducing the burden of injuries here in Oregon," said Kohn.

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Oregon is joining health departments across the country in marking Public Health Week with a focus on injury and violence prevention. Some of the highlights of the week here in Oregon include:

- **Thomas A. LaVeist, Ph.D.**, the William C. and Nancy F. Richardson professor in health policy and director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health will speak on “It’s the Skin You’re In: Why African Americans Live Sicker and Die Younger.” African Americans live sicker and die younger than any other ethnic group in the nation. LaVeist will outline this disturbing public health phenomenon and explore what can be done about it. He will speak Thursday, April 7, 3 to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., Rooms F150 and F151. A livestream of the speech will be available. The Oregon Public Health [website](http://www.healthoregon.org/phweek) at www.healthoregon.org/phweek has this information.
- **Howard Frumkin, M.D., Dr.P.H.**, dean of the University of Washington School of Public Health, will speak on “The Future of Public Health,” including major contemporary trends and their effect on future public health efforts. In coming decades, the Pacific Northwest will be buffeted by major changes -- social, political, scientific, technological, environmental and more -- that will set the context for public health. He will speak Monday, April 4, 9 to 10 a.m., Portland State Office Building Room, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, Room 1A. A webinar will also be available for those who cannot attend.

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- **“Not on Our Watch: Preventing Domestic Violence Murder Suicides,”** a panel discussion with Bruce Goldberg, M.D., Oregon Health Authority director; Erin Greenawald, J.D., domestic violence prosecutor, Oregon Department of Justice; Sybil Hebb, J.D., director of Legislative Advocacy, Oregon Law Center; Cynthia Stinson, director, Crime Victims' Services Division, Oregon Department of Justice; and Gabby Santos, program coordinator for underserved communities, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The panel event is planned for Tuesday, April 5, 9 to 10 a.m., Portland State Office Building, Room 1E, 800 NE Oregon St.
- **Ursula Bauer, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, director of CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion will speak on “Putting Health in the People's Hands: The future direction of chronic disease prevention and health promotion.” Bauer sets the strategic direction for the CDC's “winnable battles” including tobacco use prevention, improved nutrition and physical activity, and prevention of unintended and teen pregnancy. The lecture is Friday, April 8, noon to 1 p.m. in Salem at the State Capitol, Hearing Room 50. Live streaming will be available: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/>.
- **Winning photos from the youth photo contest “The Way I See It: a youth perspective on health,”** and the showing of the documentary “Bullied,” will be Wednesday, April 6, 6 to 8 p.m. at Portland State University, 1825 S.W. Broadway, Portland. There will also be a youth panel discussion about bullying during this event.

For more information about these events, go to the Oregon Public Health [website](http://www.healthoregon.org/phweek) at www.healthoregon.org/phweek.

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The Oregon Health Authority is at the forefront of lowering and containing costs, improving quality and increasing access to health care in order to improve the lifelong health of Oregonians.

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