

TB Hard To Beat In Oregon Hits Poor Hardest

People of color in Oregon are more severely impacted by tuberculosis than re Whites, according to a newly released report from the Oregon Health Division.

The findings showed that:
 • In 1998, Asian/Pacific Islanders had the highest rate of tuberculosis (TB) at 47.4 cases per 100,000, a rate that is about 22 times higher than the rate for White Oregonians.

• Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans also had substantially higher rates of TB than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts. Rates were 10 times higher for Blacks, six times higher for Hispanics, and five times higher for Native Americans.

"TB is a striking example of the unacceptable racial and ethnic health disparities that exist in the United

States today," says Dr. Mark Loveless, HIV/STD/TB program Director at the Health Division.

TB is also linked to poverty and access to health care. Health Division data gathered from the Burnside area of Portland dramatically illustrated this relationship. The TB case rate for the nine census tracts that make up this low income, urban neighborhood was 91.6 per 100,000 in 1998. This rate is 19 times greater than the rate for the state as a whole.

"It is clear that some groups of people are affected to a greater degree than others by TB. But because this is an airborne communicable disease, it is a potential threat to all of us," Loveless says.

On the positive side, there are effective medicines for TB, accord-

ing to Loveless. "If health care providers are aware of TB and make the proper diagnosis and if patients take their medicine as directed, TB can be cured and Oregon's incidence of TB will decrease."

Overall, Oregon's TB cases and case rates have remained relatively stable for the past 10 years. In 1998, there were 156 cases of active TB, a four percent decrease from 1997. It is estimated that between 12,000 and 37,000 people infected with TB live in Oregon. About 10 percent of these persons will develop active disease at some point in their lives, unless they receive treatment for latent infection.

Copies of the 1998 Oregon tuberculosis Data Summary may be obtained by calling the Oregon Health Division at 503-731-4024.

Seven Keys To A Safe And Sober Summer On The Highway

We see it on the evening news more and more—hundreds of crashes every year in work zones and from alcohol that cost lives, create extended travel delays and cost untold millions of dollars. Each one of these tragedies is preventable and avoidable. All it takes is common sense and personal commitment to safety.

Work Zone Safety

A rising number of vehicles traveling Oregon's roads combined with summer road work, places motorists and highway workers at an increased risk of injury in work zones. Last year in Oregon, more than 450 crashes occurred and 14 people were killed in maintenance, construction and utility work areas. On average, more drivers than construction workers are killed and injured in work zones.

Whether you travel the Sunset Highway, Interstate 5, Oregon 217, I-205 or the Banfield, remember to follow these work zone safety tips:

1. Obey posted construction speed limit signs—they are enforced even when no workers are present or if no construction is occurring at the moment. Hazards may still exist.

2. Expect the unexpected—The roadway may have lost its familiar shape. The number of lanes may change. There may be a detour. You might need to stop for a flagger.

3. Don't tailgate—Maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one ahead to give yourself extra reaction times in case of a problem.

Drivers not paying attention and speeding are the leading cause of traffic-related injury and death in roadway work zones. Studies show that these crashes tend to be more severe and involve more fatalities. The typical crash is a rear-end collision into a line of stopped vehicles or a vehicle drifting onto the shoulder of the road.

If these statistics aren't incentive to slow down, consider this—traffic fines double in work zones. An average of 6,000 hazardous violations have been cited annually in work zones since the 1995 traffic fine law went into effect. The Oregon Department of Transportation will pay more than \$1.2 million during the next two years for law enforcement officers to conduct extra work zone patrols.

Here's another sobering reminder

for motorists. With two major holidays, the summer brings this safety issue to the forefront—drinking and driving. While alcohol is involved in about 42 percent of traffic fatalities on an annual basis in Oregon, the incidence soars on three-day holidays.

ODOT also pays law enforcement to conduct extra patrols during holiday periods to enforce DUI laws on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

Here are some important steps to take to protect yourself, your family and your friends:

4. Take the keys from a friend who's had too much to drink.

5. Always have a designated driver when you go where alcohol will be served.

6. Provide plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages at celebrations you host.

7. Call 1-800-24-DRUNK or 911 if you spot a driver who acts impaired.

Every death and injury from work zone accidents and alcohol abuse is avoidable and preventable. Let's all do our part to have a safe and sober summer on Oregon's highways.

Saltzman Selects New Director

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman has selected David Lane to head the Office of neighborhood involvement (ONI).

The Director of ONI oversees 98 neighborhood associations, seven neighborhood offices and several programs which include Neighborhood Involvement, City Information and Referral, Crime Prevention, Community Outreach Coordination, Refugee/Immigrant Coordination, Metropolitan Human Rights Center, Neighborhood Mediation Center and Social Services Siting.

"Citizen involvement was a very important part of this process", Com-

missioner Saltzman stated. "We had citizen input on the job description and we had a citizen panel from several neighborhoods across the city to interview the applicants who were selected". Saltzman expressed that "It was very important to me that the public be involved in every step of this important decision".

Commissioner Saltzman stated Friday that "We conducted an extensive search and received over 90 applicants from across the country—David brings a wealth of experience in community

outreach and involvement and we are pleased to have found someone who possesses all of the necessary elements for this unique position".

David Lane is currently the Adolescent Health Manager for the Oregon Health Division and Program Director for the STARS (Students Today Are Not Ready For Sex) program. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Florida State University and B.A. in Psychology from St. Olaf College. He will begin his new position in July.

Breast Cancer Study Launched

A new clinical trial for a breast cancer drug has been launched in the Portland area for women at a higher risk of contracting the disease. Tamoxifen -A- has been found to decrease the incidence of breast cancer in at-risk women by up to 50-percent in a preliminary study. One thousand at-risk women in the Portland area will be given the drug and monitored.

Gun Bill Falters

Senator Ginny Burdick of Portland has been the present legislative session's strongest gun control advocate. After working weeks for a new bill requiring background checks for gun purchasers at gun shows, she has withdrawn her support for the bill. She says it does not contain strong enough punishment for sellers who do not make

the checks. The bill calls for a violation like a traffic ticket. The bill moved out of a Senate subcommittee with a do-pass recommendation. Most members of the legislature involved in the bill say it is so carefully worded that any changes would kill it. The full Joint Ways and Means Committee will hear the bill on Friday.

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New Alarm Security Company Moves into N. Portland Neighborhood

Alarm Tracks new office has located in the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver Avenue, Room-107A, Portland, Oregon 97217. The telephone number is 503-288-7716.

Alarm Tracks is an alarm security company with a mission. Alarm Tracks provide efficient affordable security products for residential, small business and nonprofit organizations in the Portland/Vancouver area. Alarm Tracks specialize in wireless alarm systems for family and small business security. They also update and repair old security systems.

Alarm Tracks, owners Harold and Cheryl Brookins are active members in the community. They have worked with the Safehaven Camping program for children, Kwanzaa celebration and other community events in North/Northeast Portland neighborhoods. They are excited to have a business presence in North/Northeast Portland area.

Alarm Tracks is licensed, insured and bonded in Oregon and Washington, OR/CCB #1154473 WA/ELEC #ALARMT*016J3 journeyman Electrician Limited Energy (JLE) Oregon/Washington.

Let us welcome them to the neighborhood.

PEOPLE EXPOSED TO SECONDHAND SMOKE AT WORK ARE 34% MORE LIKELY TO GET LUNG CANCER.



AND YOU THOUGHT THE LONG HOURS WERE KILLING YOU.

Everyone deserves smokefree air!

Our efforts are not about blaming smokers, but are designed to protect the public and employees from secondhand smoke which causes cancer, heart disease, asthma and other preventable health problems. If you are ready to quit smoking contact the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line at 1-877-270-STOP.

Multnomah County Tobacco Prevention Coalition