

CD Summary

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CENTER FOR DISEASE PREVENTION & EPIDEMIOLOGY • OREGON HEALTH DIVISION

MORE ADO ABOUT THE HEALTH DIVISION WEB SITE

SPRING IS IN the air and so are efforts to raise the health consciousness of all Americans. May showers us with a plenitude of national health observances. Twenty monthly, 9 weekly and 6 daily observances fill the calendar for this month. May has 'awareness' observances for: allergies, asthma, childhood depression, Hepatitis, Huntington's disease, digestive diseases, stroke, stuttering, suicide, trauma, and tuberous sclerosis. As a busy clinician, it's easy to lose track. What's the answer?

A great place to start is the Web. Fire up your browser and head for your favorite search engine (e.g., www.google.com). Don't want to wade through thousands of search results? Information about a particular observance of the month (week or day) is available from the sponsoring organizations and can range from a single flier to packets of promotional/educational materials. For information that is more specific to Oregon, the Oregon Health Division's web site is often a good place to begin (www.oshd.org).

AN EPIDEMIC OF NATIONAL OBSERVANCES

According to the National Health Information Center (NHIC), this year the US will have 159 national health observances.¹ Health observances are days, weeks, or months devoted to promoting particular health concerns. Health professionals, teachers, community groups, and others can use these special times to sponsor health promotion events, stimulate awareness of health risks, or focus on disease prevention.

This year will see 87 different monthly, 49 weekly, 17 daily and 6 multi-day observances. Interestingly, May is the most popular month for this nonsense, with 35 Big Events; October is next with 32. Topics cover a wide gamut of diseases; general health and safety categories; injury prevention, environmental and mental health concerns.

OHD WEB SITE

The Health Division's web site can be found at www.healthoregon.org, www.oshd.org, or at its original memorable URL www.ohd.hr.state.or.us. We tried to get www.ohd.org, but someone was squatting on it. We offer disease-specific incidence and prevalence data, fact sheets, statutes and administrative rules for Oregon, as well as vital statistics and risk behavior data, reports, brochures and other educational materials on a variety of health-related issues. Need information about Oregon's Death with Dignity or Medical Marijuana laws; immunization schedules or vaccine information; what diseases are reportable; the direction public health is going; or what's trendy in baby names? It's all there—and more.

Spring cleaning madness is over and our web site has a new look. With over 6,000 pages currently available online, it is a good source of Oregon-specific information, and also has many links to the outside world. Most files are simple web pages or graphics, but a growing number (over 1,170 at last count) are posted as Acrobat (PDF)* files, enabling you to get genuine facsimiles of the original documents, with all formatting and graphics intact.

New content is added all the time, and old stuff is occasionally discarded like worn brake pads. Bookmark our site and visit it frequently. Questions, comments, or suggestions about the site or the material posted there, can be directed to the Health Division's webmaster (rocke.p.klockner@state.or.us).

The table (*verso*) lists some of the information currently on our web site.

REFERENCES

1. <http://nhic-nt.health.org/pubs/2000healthobserv/nho.htm> on April 28, 2000.

* Acrobat files can be read by anyone using either the commercial Acrobat program or the free Acrobat Reader software. The latter can be downloaded from Adobe's web site (www.adobe.com) in flavors for Mac, Windows, UNIX, etc.

Le Roi est Mort; Vive le Roi

STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST David W. Fleming, MD, is leaving the Health Division for the apparently greener pastures of Atlanta. In June, Fleming will become the Deputy Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with overall responsibility for science and public health initiatives. The CDC will be gaining a strong administrator with a clear vision of where public health practice should be headed.

Dave has been State Epidemiologist and manager of the Center for Disease Prevention and Epidemiology at the Health Division since 1992. From 1986 to 1992, he served as Deputy State Epidemiologist under the late Larry Foster. During that tenure, and not entirely as a coincidence, Oregon's epidemiology program has become recognized nationally as a leader in the areas of communicable diseases and AIDS, tobacco control, and physician-assisted suicide. Fleming has authored or co-authored so many publications that it would be embarrassing to list them all.[†]

Far from a newcomer at CDC, Fleming is returning to his roots in public health, albeit at a higher pay grade. After completing his residency in Internal Medicine at OHSU, Dave joined the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer in 1984. His now legendary exploits during his 2-year tenure as an EIS officer included tracking an outbreak of listeriosis to pasteurized milk, assessing the importance of *Haemophilus influenzae* infections in day care kids, and saving Brazil from a



[†] except on a CV; copies available on request.

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The OHD Web Site: Current Highlights

TOPIC	URL (http://www.oshd.org/...)
Breast cancer diagnostic and follow-up information.....	bcc/welcome.htm
Diabetes information	diabetes/welcome.htm
Population-based guidelines for diabetes mellitus.....	diabetes/gdlnes/home.htm
Asthma: guidelines for diagnosis and treatment.....	asthma/welcome.htm
CD Summary newsletter issues (from 1996).....	cdsum/cdsummry.htm
Death with dignity reports and report forms.....	chs/pas/pas.htm
Disease outbreaks in Oregon.....	acd/outbreak/home.htm
Expanded HIV reporting.....	hiv/expanded/report.htm
Frequently asked questions about the Oregon State Cancer Registry	oscar/docs/faq.htm
Infectious waste information.....	acd/docs/infectw.htm
Laboratory licensing information.....	ll/welcome.htm
Lead poisoning reporting and investigative guidelines	eoel/lead/welcome.htm
Library of Oregon parasite images	phl/imglib/welcome.htm
Medical marijuana program: legislation, information, and forms.....	hcl/mm/welcome.htm
Occupational dermatitis and latex survey	eoel/derm/welcome.htm
Pesticide poisoning: reporting and investigative guidelines.....	eoel/pest/welcome.htm
Reportable diseases; disease fact sheets, outbreak information.....	acd/welcome.htm
Trauma treatment guidelines.....	ems/trauma/statinfo.htm
Vaccine information statements (VIS).....	imm/vpd/vis.htm
Vaccines for children program (VFC) information.....	imm/vfc/welcome.htm
Youth suicide prevention info and guidelines for physicians to share with parents.....	ipe/welcome.htm

FOR HEALTH EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS

Adult Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	chs/brfss.htm
Cancer statistics and annual reports	oscar/welcome.htm
Communicable disease reports (annual, monthly, and weekly).....	acd/welcome.htm
HIV/AIDS: reports, statistics, events, test sites, CHIP/ADAP information	hiv/welcome.htm
Influenza (nformation and statistics.....	acd/docs/influenza.htm
Injury and suicide prevention information and data (e.g., Child Fatality report).....	ipe/welcome.htm
Oregon Health Trends newsletter issues (latest issue: "Oregon Teen Pregnancy").....	chs/oh.t.htm
Oregon Vital Statistics annual reports	chs/annrep.htm
STDs: annual report, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis statistics.....	std/welcome.htm
Teen pregnancy data.....	chs/teenp.htm
Tobacco prevention and education program: reports, facts, workshops	tobacco/welcome.htm
Vital statistics county data (births, deaths, abortions, etc by county).....	chs/cdb.htm
Vital statistics data (births, deaths, abortions, teen pregnancy, etc).....	chs/welcome.htm
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).....	chs/yrbs.htm

OF GENERAL INTEREST

FAQs about ordering vital records (birth, death, marriage, divorce).....	chs/certif/certifaqs.htm
Health Division news and press releases.....	news/press.htm
Oregon baby names.....	chs/babynome/babynome.htm
Oregon Turning Point: "A Plan for Transforming Public Health in Oregon".....	ocs/tp/welcome.htm
Public health: brochures and some general information.....	hei/welcome.htm
WIC income eligibility criteria	wic/99inc.htm

horrifying epidemic of purpuric fever that emerged to kill children with frightening rapidity. Fleming later completed a Preventive Medicine residency with CDC at the New Mexico Department of Health before coming back to Oregon.

While working in Oregon, Fleming has also been an active voice on the national scene, sharing his insights on myriad public health issues. He has served as President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and is a member of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP).

Dave has been a colleague, mentor, and friend to many of us in and out of public health, and his absence will be deeply felt. Of course, he has travelled so much in recent years that we have had a lot of practice getting used to it. Still, it seems different this time. Fleming is officially taking a "leave of absence" from his position as State Epidemiologist for a stint at CDC, and has expressed his intention to return to the world of public health in Oregon. Georgia is a beautiful state, but with its steamy climate, Confederate flags flapping, and a paucity of good skiing and fly fishing, we suspect he will be back. The role of iState Epidemiologist will be filled by Melvin Kohn, MD, the current Deputy. Dr. Kohn is relatively new to Oregon, arriving from Louisiana in 1999. A fluff piece about him will appear in a forthcoming issue.