



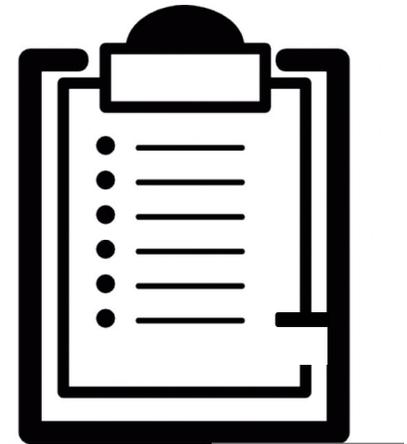
Racism as a Public Health Crisis: From Declaration to Action

May 20, 2021

We will get started shortly. Your lines are muted upon entry. This event will be recorded.

Welcome!

- Today's event is being recorded
- All participants are muted on entry
- Ask questions using the Q&A Box
- Please fill out satisfaction survey



About Oregon Health Forum



- Advancing health policy solutions through meaningful community dialogue
- Affiliate of The Lund Report news source
- Nonprofit supported by donations, sponsorships
- OregonHealthForum.org/make-a-donation

Check out our upcoming events!



Vaccine Confidence: Choosing Messages and Messengers to Bolster Community Immunity

May 25 • 12pm • Zoom Livestream • Free



Next Chapter Series: Strategies to Support Older Adults Post COVID-19

On the Brink: Oregon's Looming Crisis of Housing & Support for Older Adults

June 10 • 10am • Zoom Livestream • Free

Thank you to our annual sponsors!



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Racism as a Public Health Crisis: From Declaration to Action

Moderator:

Izzy Ventura Meda

Executive Director, Familias En Acción

Panelists:

Ebony Sloan Clarke, LCSW, MSW

*Interim Health Department Director,
Multnomah County*

Leslie Gregory, PA

Founder and Executive Director, Right to Health

Danaya Hall, RN

*Chapter President, Alliance of Black Nurses
Association of Oregon*

Rep. Courtney Neron (D)

District 26 (Wilsonville, Sherwood, South Hillsboro)



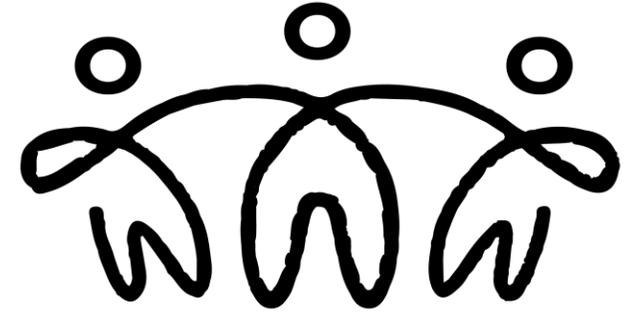
Izzy Ventura Meda

Executive Director,
Familias En Acción





Familias
en Acción



OREGON
HEALTH EQUITY
TASK FORCE

“Together WE Can”

Ebony Sloan Clarke, LCSW, MSW

Interim Health Department Director,
Multnomah County



Resolution: Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

Presenter:

Ebony Clarke, Multnomah County Interim
Health Department Director

May 20, 2021



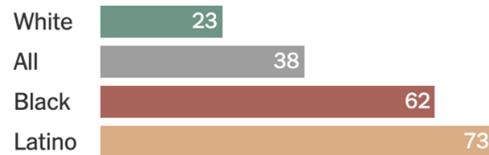
Why Now?



APHA: Jurisdictions that declared Racism a Public Health Crisis

The New York Times

Coronavirus cases per 10,000 people



The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus



What is Racism?

"Racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call "race"), that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and **saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources.**"

-- APHA Past-President Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD



What is a Public Health Approach?

- **Identifying root causes** of disease and disability through community voice and data
- **Uplifting** community strengths, protective factors and solutions to address root causes across policies, systems and environments
- **Working with communities** and across disciplines to develop, implement and evaluate community-wide or population-wide solutions
- Recognizing and addressing systemic **racism as a key driver** for health outcomes



What Is It Resolving?

1. Declaring racism a public health crisis and naming racism as a root cause of health inequities.
2. Recognizing the impacts of racism stretch beyond the harms perpetuated against individuals, and are detrimental to both our local community and entire society.
3. Continuing to lead with race in order to ensure our efforts address the root causes of health inequities.
4. Supporting the application of a public health approach to policy development.
5. Championing critical efforts that center a racial justice and racial equity lens.



Next Steps

- Provide a complete update on most current health data
- Continue to support community-wide efforts for COVID recovery to build a more just and equitable community
- Re-engage on most impactful policy, systems and environment solutions to address leading causes of death and years of life lost and address systems, policies and practices that cause harm
- Leverage and support initiatives that address systemic racism across county-wide and community efforts
- Continue to leverage the CHIP framework for COVID response and recovery



Leslie Gregory, PA

Founder and Executive Director,
Right to Health



Red Cross 2014 “Aquatics Centennial Campaign” Poster



The Racist Roots of Gynecology: Is the Black Woman's Womb Safe?



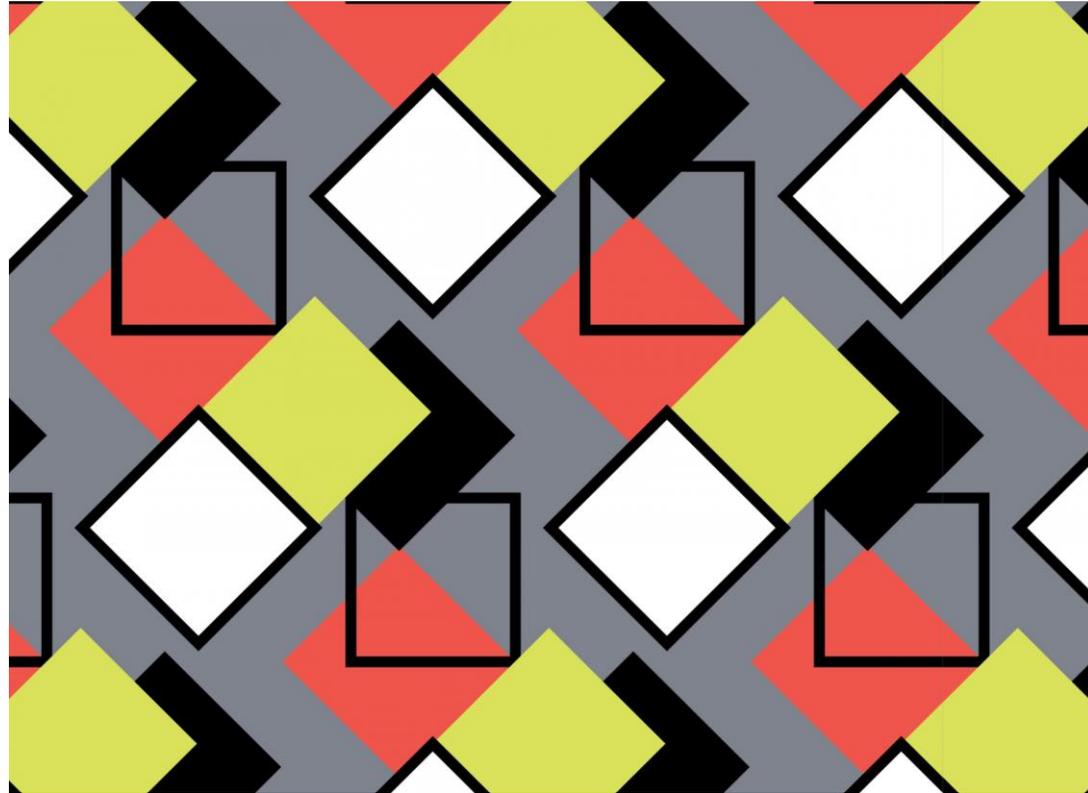
Danaya Hall, RN

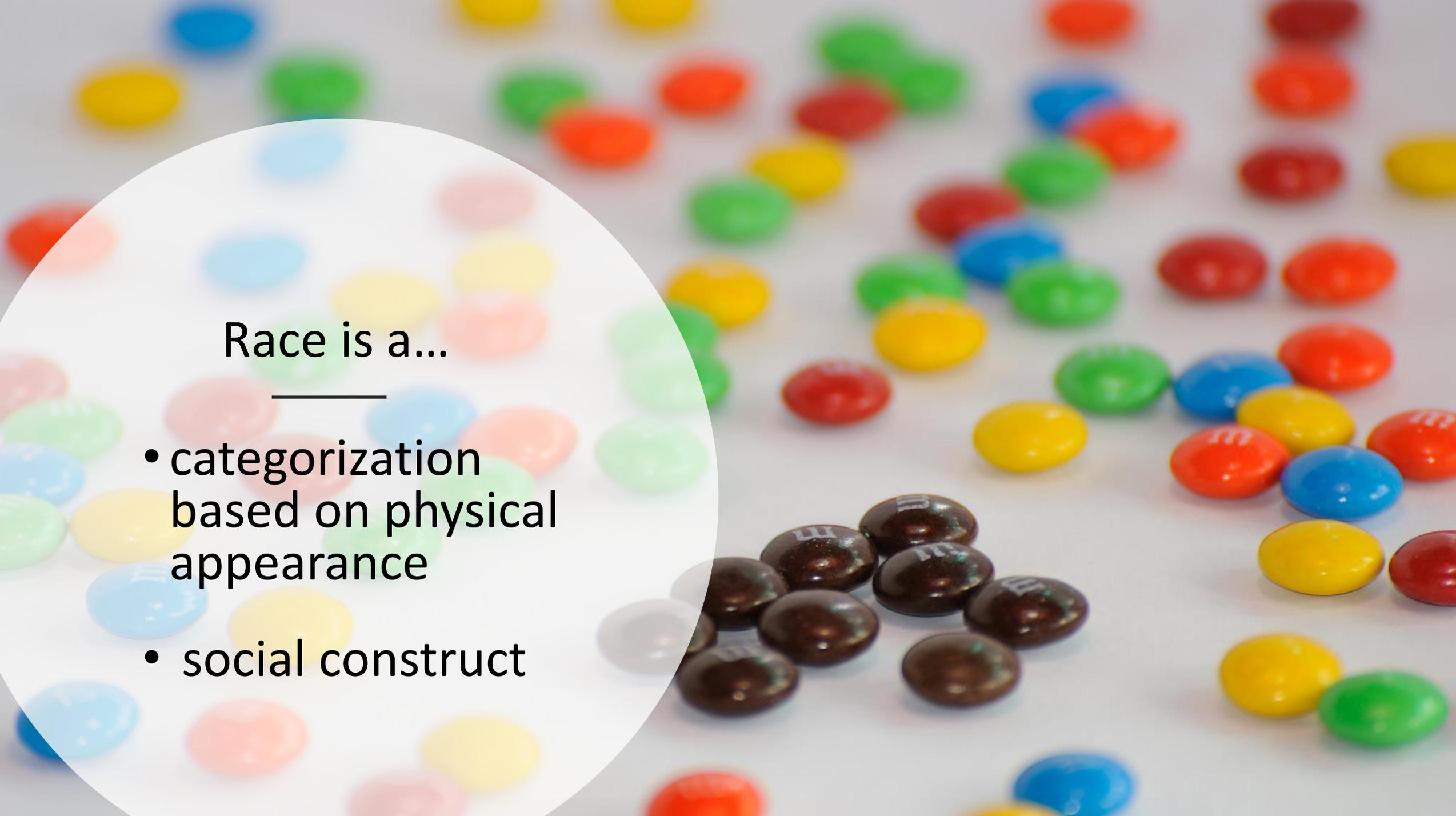
Chapter President,
Alliance of Black Nurses Association of Oregon



“Thinking
outside
the box is
exactly
how
boxes
think.”

-Abayo Akomolafe

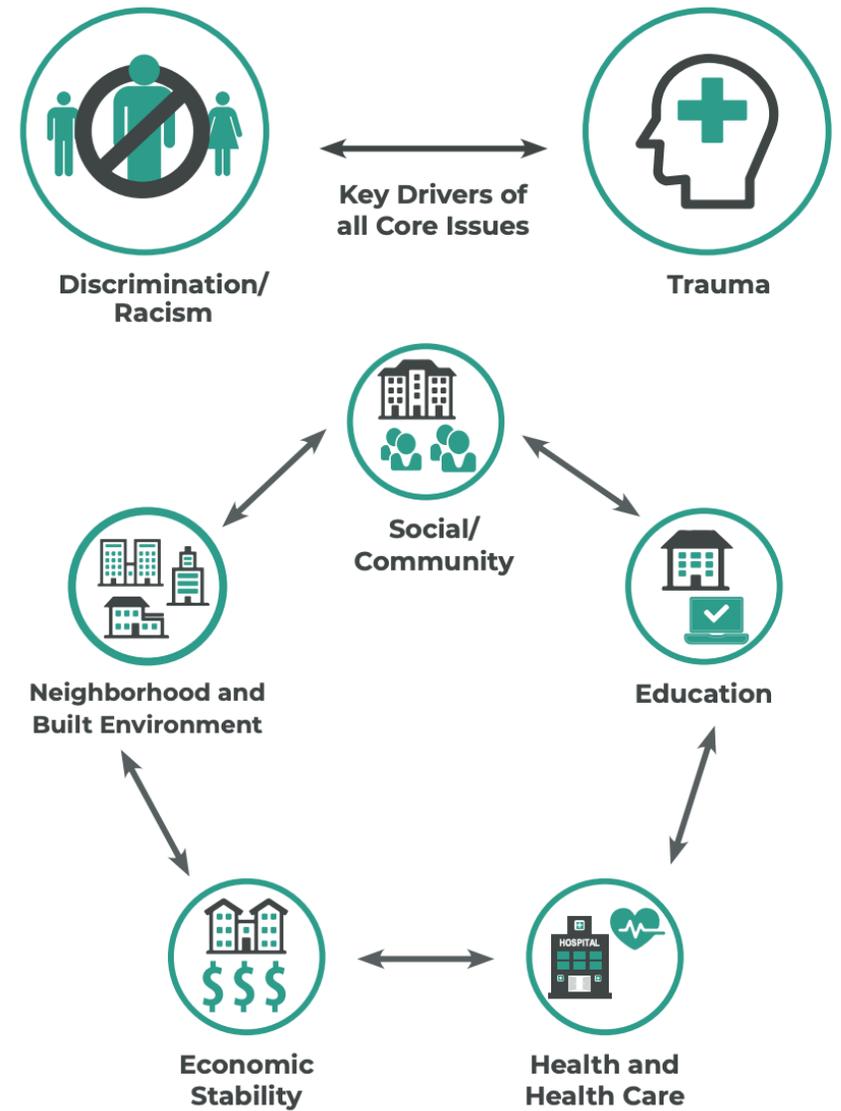




Race is a...

- categorization based on physical appearance
- social construct

Oregon refused ratification of the 14th and 15th U.S. constitutional amendments until the 1960's and 1970's



Social Determinants of Health

HIV Diagnosis and Diabetes, Hep C and Suicide Deaths by Race

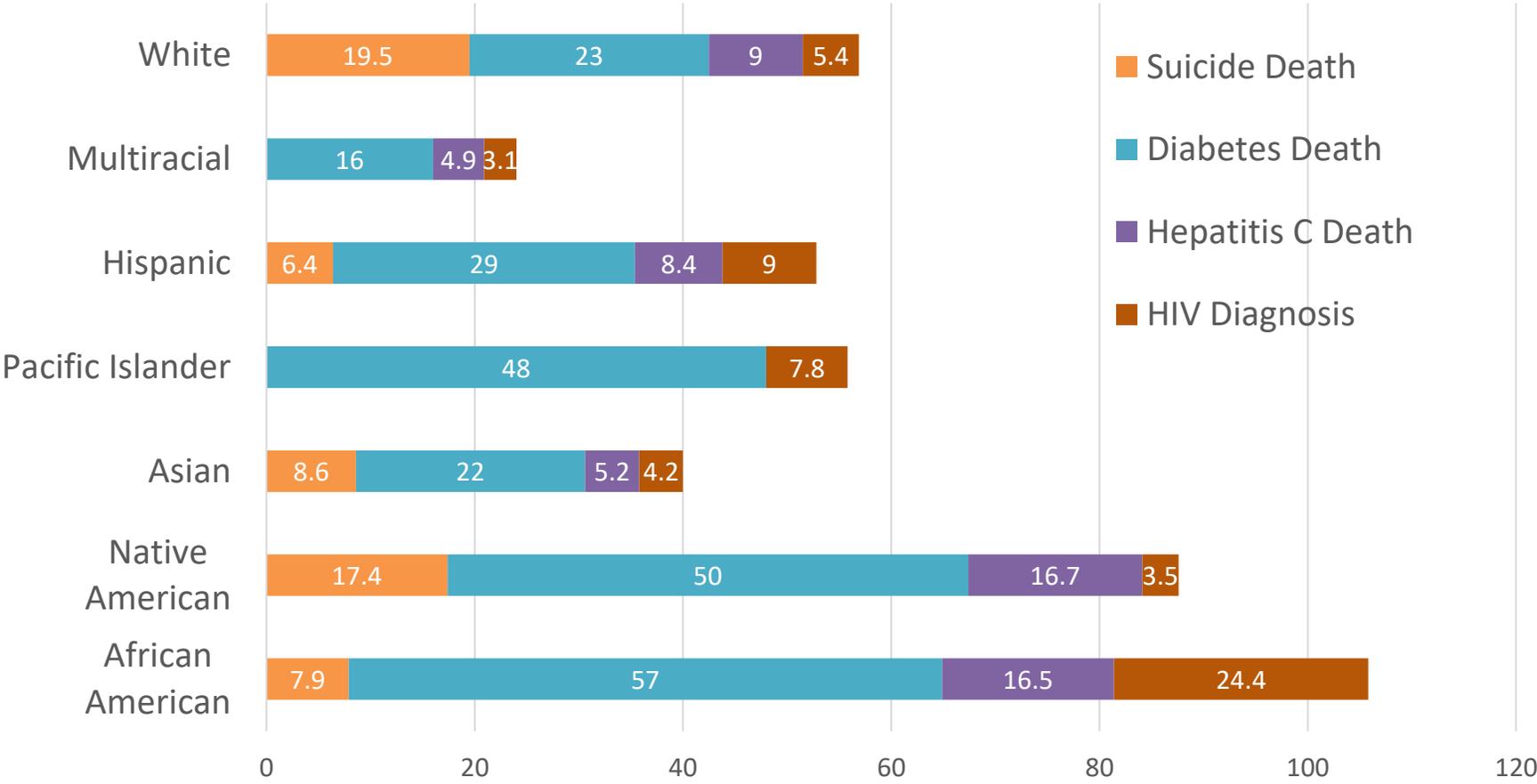


Figure 4. By Race per 100,000. Data from “Oregon State Health Assessment: Suicide deaths, Diabetes deaths, Hep C deaths and HIV diagnosis by race and ethnicity,” by Oregon Health Authority, 2018f; 2018a; 2018c; 2018d (<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Documents/sha/state-health-assessment-full-report.pdf>.) In the public domain.



How do we end this public health crisis?

Rep. Courtney Neron (D)

District 26
Wilsonville, Sherwood, South Hillsboro





HOPE Amendment

- “Rights are a product of wrongs; they come from human experience, particularly experience with injustice.” -- *Former Rep. Mitch Greenlick*
- HOPE Amendment passed yesterday and is on its way to the Governor
- Voters will decide if Healthcare is to be a constitutional right



Racism

- Perpetuates inequities in social determinants of health including housing, access to food, neighborhood safety, education, transportation and involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Disparate health outcomes for maternal mortality and morbidity, COVID-19, vaccine access
- Jessica Nishik Long (ED Oregon Public Health Association) - “Health is determined by where and how we live, work, and play. Race and ethnicity are powerful factors in public health data.”



COVID-19

- Latino/a/x population = 13% of OR population, but at times during pandemic have been 38% of the COVID cases
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations 0.5% of OR population, they are over 15 times more likely to die of COVID than white Oregonians.
- 2013 bill allowed OHA to collect Race Ethnicity Language Disability Data (REL-D Data)



HB 2337-3

- Declares racism as a public health crisis
- Multifaceted approach to addressing disparities (data collection, mobile health)
- Initial investment of \$2 million to begin the work
- Offers a clear declaration of our priorities:
 - Centering equity work in ongoing conversations
 - Committing to long term action,
 - Creating the expectation of investments to mitigate/rectify historical structural racism



Why do we need health equity bills?

- The toxic stress and trauma that people of color experience in America is causing sickness.
- Racism impacts and exacerbates health outcomes for marginalized communities.
- We need this to spur meaningful investment and community engagement
- Access to treatment, ensure the conversation, support the evolution of public health
- HB 2337 will declare and address in one bill:
 - Declarative advocacy must be followed by action to bring change
 - Racism will take lasting commitment to address and require resources.



Health Equity requires Transformation and Healing:

- Build trust in the healthcare system by being culturally responsive, linguistically skilled, assuring access to quality care, and outreaching to communities for feedback and information.
- Structural Racism plagues Oregon's History. We have failed to address health disparities and this bill seeks to remedy this fact.
- HB2337 includes Mobile Health Units:
 - Meeting communities where they are
 - Responsive to known barriers



How to get involved?

- Pursue learning about the issues
- Affinity groups
- Research, articles and books
- Social Media (try typing “Racism Public Health” into a tiktok search)
- If you identify as white, please don’t expect people of color to educate you.
- Reach out to your legislator and local leaders who are ready to engage on the topic
- Find community responsive organizations doing the work and contribute



How to change structures?

- Start with your sphere of influence: Conversations with friends and family, Boards, Coalitions
- Support bold leadership
- Build community support
- Remember this isn't only the legislature who is passing bills, this needs to be a community led social movement.
- Support legislation in line with your values.
 - Learn to use the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS).
 - Sign up for bill alerts
 - Letters/calls/meetings with legislators on the committee
 - Testify (even 2 minutes to share your view can change hearts and minds)
 - Suggest amendments
 - Get involved with lobbying for health equity initiatives
- DON'T GIVE UP. This work takes time.

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Audience Q&A

Thank you for attending!