

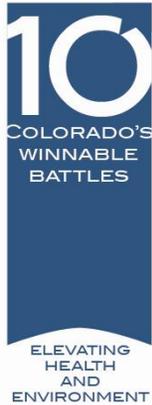


Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2012

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Denver walk with U.S. Surgeon General April 4 to promote National Public Health Week

DENVER – A one-mile walk with U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin April 4 will highlight the annual observance of National Public Health Week, April 2-8. The Colorado Center for Health and Wellness at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is sponsoring the walk. Dr. Benjamin will make opening remarks about the importance of improving health and wellness. The walk begins at 10 a.m. in front of the Colorado Center for Health and Wellness, 12348 E. Montview Blvd. in Aurora, and is open to the public.

The 2012 theme for public health week is “A healthier America begins with strong public health systems across the country.”

Dr. Chris Urbina, executive director and chief medical officer for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said, “We share the vision for a healthier nation and a healthier state. In January we identified 10 Winnable Battles that provide Colorado’s greatest opportunities for ensuring the health of our citizens and visitors – and the improvement and protection of our environment.

“The Winnable Battles are key public health and environmental issues where progress can be made in the next three-five years,” said Dr. Urbina. “Alignment of national, state and local efforts will allow for maximum effectiveness and efficiency. To make a difference, we need our government, business, education, and private and nonprofit organizations to be active participants in the Winnable Battles. With collective efforts, we can make a difference.”

The identified 10 Winnable Battles for public health and the environment are:

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Infectious Disease Prevention
- Injury Prevention
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Obesity

- Oral Health
- Safe Food
- Tobacco
- Unintended Pregnancy

All of Colorado's Winnable Battles align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Winnable Battles or are consistent with the Seven Priorities for EPA's Future.

Dr. Urbina said, "Many public health and environmental health agencies at the local level already have embraced certain of these battles where they will be focusing some of their efforts in the next few years. In addition, we are working with our counterparts at the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to coordinate efforts in these areas."

Many of Colorado's Winnable Battles were identified through current health data measurements. The department will continue to track this data, as well as other important data, as it moves ahead with strategies for improvement. Winnable Battle progress will be tracked by measuring health outcomes and environmental improvements associated with the specific strategies.

For complete background and information on the 10 Winnable Battles, please visit the department's website at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/winnable.html>.

The American Public Health Association serves as the lead organizer of National Public Health Week to help educate the public, policymakers and practitioners about the importance of public health.