

# **Thomas LaVeist**

**Dean of Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine at Tulane University**

New Orleans, LA, US

Dean Thomas LaVeist's areas of expertise include U.S. health and social policy and the role of race in health research.

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## **Biography**

Dr. Thomas LaVeist is a leading researcher on the topic of health disparities and the social determinants of health, including areas such as U.S. health and social policy, the role of race in health research, social factors contributing to mortality, longevity, and life expectancy, and the utilization of health services in the United States. He is the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity and dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. LaVeist's research and writing has focused on three broad thematic research questions: 1) The social and behavioral factors that predict the timing of various related health outcomes (e.g. access and utilization of health services, mortality, entrance into nursing home; 2) The social and behavioral factors that explain race differences in health outcomes; and 3) The impact of social policy on the health and quality of life of African Americans.

Dean LaVeist came to Tulane from the Milken Institute of Public Health at George Washington University, where he was the chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management. He also spent 25 years at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where he was the William C. and Nancy F. Richards Professor in Health Policy and the director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions. In addition to being dean at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, he is also the Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity.

He holds a doctorate in medical sociology from the University of Michigan and is an elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. Dr. LaVeist has published more than 130 articles in scientific journals, focusing on the social and behavioral factors that impact health outcomes, and has engaged in these issues through lectures and articles in major media. He was also executive producer of the documentary *The Skin You're In*, which explores the disparities between black and white health in America.

After spending the majority of his career in the northeast, he's excited about the opportunity to be at Tulane where he hopes the school - one of the foundational schools of public health in the country - can make a difference by helping to make both New Orleans and Louisiana healthier places to live.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Coronavirus, COVID-19, Obesity, Demographic Analysis, Sociology, Social Policy, Health Policy, Quantitative Analysis, Social Determinants of Health, Public Health

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## **Affiliations**

National Academy of Medicine

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## **Education**

**University of Michigan**  
Ph.D. Medical Sociology

**University of Michigan**  
M.A. Sociology

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore**  
B.A. Sociology

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## **Accomplishments**

**ICONN Award**  
2014  
Associated Black Charities

**Article of the Year – American Journal of Public Health**  
2012

**Innovation Award**  
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)  
2008

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