



DATE: July 23, 2026

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

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SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

Community Health Improvement Plan

After more than a year of collaboration with community members, healthcare partners and local organizations, the Southern Nevada Health District released the 2026-2031 Southern Nevada Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), outlining key priorities and strategies to improve health outcomes in Clark County over the next five years.

The CHIP is available at www.healthysouthernnevada.org and reflects input from nearly 200 community members who participated in the planning process beginning in April 2025. Participants identified four public health priorities for Southern Nevada which include:

Access to Care

Access to care focuses on ensuring people can obtain the health services they need when they need them and without barriers. This includes affordable, timely and culturally appropriate medical, mental health and preventive services.

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Clark County had a lower percentage of adults with health insurance coverage in 2023 (84.3%) compared with Nevada (85.4%) and the United States (89%). Hispanic and Latino adults had the lowest rate of health insurance coverage at 74%, followed by American Indian and Alaska Native adults at 75.8%.
- Access to care is essential for preventing disease, managing chronic conditions and improving overall health outcomes. Without timely and affordable care, people are more likely to experience worsened health, avoidable hospitalizations and increased health disparities, especially in underserved populations.

Chronic Disease

Chronic diseases are long-term health conditions that typically progress slowly and persist over time, often for the rest of a person's life. Common examples include heart disease, diabetes and cancer, many of which are influenced by factors such as diet, physical activity and tobacco use.

- According to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, hypertension prevalence in Clark County was 34.6% in 2023, slightly higher than Nevada overall (34.0%) and the national rate (34%).
- Chronic diseases are a leading cause of death. However, prioritizing prevention, early detection, and management can improve health outcomes and extend life expectancy.

Public Health Funding

Financial support for public health provided by governments, organizations or institutions helps protect and improve the health of communities. It supports programs and services such as disease prevention, health education, emergency preparedness and access to care, all of which aim to reduce health risks and improve population well-being.

- Public health and prevention efforts account for only about 3% of total U.S. health spending, despite chronic and preventable conditions driving many healthcare costs nationwide.
- Sustained investment in public health infrastructure can strengthen emergency preparedness, improve access to care and support healthier communities.

Substance Use

Substance use affects individuals, families and communities. Misuse can lead to serious consequences, including addiction, mental health challenges, chronic disease and overdose. Addressing substance use through prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support can improve public safety, strengthen families, and build healthier, more resilient communities.

- The drug overdose death rate in Clark County increased from 17.5 per 100,000 residents in 2019 to 28.1 in 2023. During the same period, Nevada's statewide rate rose from 15.5 to 29.1 per 100,000 residents. In 2024, Clark County reported 802 confirmed drug overdose deaths, representing a nearly 16% increase compared to 2023. Opioids, both prescription and illicit, were involved in 67.5% of these fatalities.
- Expanding access to behavioral health services, treatment programs and overdose prevention resources can help reduce substance-related harm and connect residents with the support they need before a crisis occurs.

The CHIP serves as a roadmap for collaborative action among public health, healthcare, community organizations and residents to improve health outcomes across Southern Nevada. To learn more, or to be a part of the CHIP initiative's working groups for any public health priority area, email HealthyConnect@SNHD.org.

West Nile virus

The Southern Nevada Health District reported the first mosquito pools of the season to test positive for West Nile virus in late June. As of July 6, 14 mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile virus this season.

The Health District continues its mosquito surveillance efforts throughout Clark County and reminds residents that the presence of West Nile virus in mosquitoes increases the risk for human infection. The first case of West Nile virus in a Clark County resident was reported in early June. The patient, a woman in her 40s, was diagnosed with the neuroinvasive form of the illness and has since recovered.

No human cases of West Nile virus were reported in Clark County in 2025. In 2024, 26 human cases were reported, including 14 neuroinvasive cases.

In addition to West Nile virus, the Health District monitors mosquitoes for St. Louis encephalitis and Western equine encephalitis.

The Health District recommends the following steps to reduce the risk of mosquito bites:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent.

- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Remove standing water around homes and businesses where mosquitoes can breed.
- Ensure window and door screens fit properly to keep mosquitoes outside.

The Health District conducts mosquito surveillance throughout Clark County and works with local partners to implement mosquito control measures when virus activity is detected. Residents can stay informed about local mosquito surveillance activity by visiting the Health District's weekly West Nile virus surveillance reports at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/programs/mosquito-surveillance/arbovirus-update/.

Men's Health Month

June was Men's Health Month, and the Health District's Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion encouraged men throughout the community to take a fresh look at their health and well-being. From heart health and self-care to blood pressure screenings and wellness conversations, the month featured free events designed to help men feel stronger, stay healthy and take charge of their long-term wellness.

Featured events included "Shop Talk: Look Good. Feel Good. Live Better," held at the Art of Barbers School and free blood pressure screenings held at barbershop locations throughout Clark County as part of the Health District's Barbershop Health Outreach Project.

Men in the United States continue to experience higher rates of serious health conditions, including heart disease, cancer and diabetes, while also having a shorter average life expectancy than women. Men are also less likely than women to have a regular source of healthcare or seek preventive medical services. In Clark County in 2023, 39.1% of men had hypertension, while 15.9% of men reported being current smokers. Men had a higher prevalence of angina, heart disease or heart attack (6.2%) than women (4.1%).

Early detection through regular screenings for cancer and other health conditions is vital to improving long-term health outcomes. The Health District's Southern Nevada Community Health Center offers a range of services to support men's health, including annual physicals, chronic disease management and sick visits for minor illnesses. These services are available at the following locations:

- 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107: Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 2830 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89104: Open Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Additional wellness resources and free community programs related to heart health, diabetes prevention, smoking cessation and nutrition are available at www.GetHealtyClarkCounty.org and www.HealthySouthernNevada.org.

Credible Mind

The Health District's CredibleMind platform marked two years of connecting Clark County residents to mental health resources. CredibleMind offers free tools and local resources designed to support mental health and wellness.

Available at ClarkCountyThrive.CredibleMind.com, the online platform offers evidence-based information, confidential self-assessments and wellness tools in English and Spanish. Since launching in partnership with CredibleMind and the National Association of County and City Health Officials in 2024, the site has averaged approximately 800 new users each month.

The platform includes more than 200 topics related to depression, anxiety, stress, loneliness, resilience, self-care, parenting, relationships and mindfulness. Users can also complete more than 20 confidential mental health and well-being assessments to help them better understand their mental and emotional health.

In addition to articles, podcasts, videos and apps, the platform features a Learning Lab with curated educational content and a six-module, self-paced course focused on flourishing and emotional wellness. Local community resources are integrated throughout the site, helping connect users directly with organizations and support services including 211, The Children's Mobile Crisis Response Team, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southern Nevada and Get Healthy Clark County.

More than half of registered users are female and between the ages of 13 and 17, reflecting strong engagement among youth in the community. The platform is free and available to everyone in Clark County.

Community Meetings

Week ending 06/28:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports
- Attended the New Hire Orientation
- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Mayor Pro Tem Gallo, Councilwoman Summers-Armstrong, Councilwoman Larson, Scott Nielson, Bobbette Bond, Mayor Hardy
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Finance Committee meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended an internal meeting on Ebola Response Protocols
- Attended a meeting regarding cost allocation
- Attended a meeting regarding Airport Ebola Monitoring Notification

Week ending 06/21:

Biweekly:

- Participated in the Lab Expansion meeting
- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Committee Health Center Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meetings with Commissioner Becker, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Black, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick

Week ending 06/14:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports
- Facilitated the Health Executive Council meeting
- Participated in the EIS Bi-weekly Check-in meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the Monthly Leadership Finance meeting
- Participated in the Public Health Policy Strategy meeting

Monthly:

- Participated in the SNCHC Quality, Credentialing & Risk Management Committee meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Cedars Sinai Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Preparedness Update: Screening, Simulation, and Communication for Region 9 Readiness Network ECHO Program webinar

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in a meeting with Dina Babsky (City of Las Vegas) regarding the lab expansion
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Morgan regarding PSAP Screening Questions
- Facilitated a meeting regarding extreme heat
- Participated in a meeting regarding CredibleMind New Technologies

Week ending 06/07:

Biweekly:

- Facilitated one-on-one meetings with Direct Reports

Monthly:

- Participated in the Disease Surveillance & Control Division leadership meeting
- Participated in the Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Update meeting

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Environmental Health Division leadership meeting
- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Facilitated a meeting regarding SB118 funding spend-down
- Participated in a meeting with Dr. Holtz and Dr. Young regarding preliminary CCFD whole blood pilot presentation