




**DATE:** March 27, 2025

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer 

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

---

### **The Obodo Collective**

To combat food insecurity and provide healthy food alternatives, the Southern Nevada Health District and The Obodo Collective partnered to open a new greengrocer (produce store) in Las Vegas' Historic Westside. The Obodo Greengrocer, located in the heart of the Historic Westside, offers fresh, local fruits and vegetables along with other essential goods. The store accepts SNAP benefits to improve access to healthy food for residents in the underserved area.

The Obodo Greengrocer grand opening celebration was Saturday, February 22, at 1300 C St., Las Vegas, NV. The event featured a U-pick market, garden planting demonstrations and community resource booths.

In 2023, roughly 50 million people across the U.S. lived in food-insecure households, meaning they did not have consistent access to nutritious foods to support their overall health and well-being. The rate of food insecurity continues to rise in the U.S.—13.5% of households in 2023, up from 12.8% in 2022. Single-parent households led by women were disproportionately affected, with more than one-third reporting food insecurity. Black and Latino households also faced significantly higher rates than white households. In 2022, an estimated 331,420 people in Clark County—nearly 15% of the population—were food insecure.

Located on the same property as the store, the Obodo Urban Farm supplies the store with locally grown produce while promoting sustainable farming practices to increase food accessibility and affordability. The farm cultivates fruits, vegetables, medicinal herbs, and native desert plants. The Obodo Collective—a Black woman-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization — focuses on food sovereignty, housing justice and early childhood education. The organization works to address multi-generational poverty through community-driven solutions and partnerships with other local nonprofits, helping connect families to essential resources.

For more information, visit [ObodoCollective.org](https://ObodoCollective.org). For more information about Health District nutrition programs and resources, go to [GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](https://GetHealthyClarkCounty.org).

### **HIMSS 2025 Conference**

Several members of the Health District team attended the HIMSS (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society) 2025 conference on March 3-6. As one of the premier global conferences for health care technology and innovation, HIMSS provided an invaluable opportunity

to connect with industry leaders, explore cutting-edge solutions and engage in discussions shaping the future of health IT. Health District representatives from Primary and Preventive Care, FQHC, IT and Informatics attended the conference. Team members met with several existing and potential vendors to discuss the Health District's needs and explore new offerings, including meeting with OCHIN and eClinicalWorks (eCW).

### OCHIN

OCHIN, formerly the Oregon Community Health Information Network, supports community health centers and safety-net providers across the United States. Discussions focused on how leveraging EPIC through OCHIN can enhance efficiency, support data-driven care and improve patient outcomes while reducing administrative overhead. Their suite of services is designed to optimize EHR usage, revenue cycle management, interoperability and analytics for health care organizations.

### eClinicalWorks

Representatives met with the CEO and founder of eClinical Works, the Health District's current Electronic Health Record (EHR) provider. Information was presented on the company's new AI-driven capabilities aimed at enhancing provider workflows, improving documentation accuracy and ensuring optimized insurance billing. Also discussed were upcoming enhancements to eCW's user interface for improved efficiency, along with new patient engagement features designed to enhance accessibility and interaction.

HIMSS 2025 was a valuable experience for the Health District team, allowing for productive engagements with key industry representatives and gaining insights into the future of health IT.

### **County Health Rankings and Roadmaps**

The Health District hosted a briefing on the 2025 Health Rankings on March 19. The County Health Rankings are released by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and provide a snapshot of local health data. The data provided allow each state to compare county health on a range of health outcomes and factors, including access to health and mental health care, the physical environment, social and economic factors, smoking, access to healthy food and more.

Presenters include representatives from the Health District and partners. Topics include the County Health Rankings Data and Interpretations: an update on the Health District Community Health Improvement Plan; Smoke-Free Policies in Multi-Unit Housing; Increasing Access to Healthier Foods for Low-Income Seniors; Expanding Access to Care—Implementing Integrated Behavioral Health at the Southern Nevada Community Health Center; and New Tools for Change—Introducing the Health District's Health and Equity and Substance Use Dashboards.

NOTE: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is ending funding for the County Health Rankings in 2026.

### **Influenza Surveillance**

Influenza surveillance for Clark County, Nevada includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. In Clark County, as of March 1, 2025, for the 2024-2025 influenza season, 1,587 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported. Currently, there have been 69 deaths associated with influenza reported for the season. The percentage of emergency department and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (fever plus cough or sore throat) decreased from 4.6% during week 8 to 4.3% during week 9. Currently, Influenza A has been the predominant strain detected within the region. During week 9, 4.9% of outpatient visits

reported nationally through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to respiratory illness. This percentage exceeds the national baseline of 3.0%. Among 55 states/jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in the state of Nevada is low.

The Southern Nevada Health District will continue to update the public on the progression of the influenza season and encourage influenza vaccination for all people 6 months of age and older without contraindications. Weekly flu surveillance updates are available on the Health District website at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/statistics-surveillance-reports/influenza-surveillance/).

### **Community Meetings**

#### Week ending 03/02:

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Black, Scott Nielson, Councilwoman Brune, Bobbette Bond, Councilwoman Larson, Mayor Pro Tem Gallo, and Councilwoman Summers-Armstrong
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting
- Participated in the Local Health Official Monthly Engagement meeting facilitated by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Member Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services meeting

#### Week ending 02/23:

N/A

#### Week ending 02/16:

N/A

#### Week ending 02/09:

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Presented at the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting on the Southern Nevada Health District programs and services

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Dr. Kelly Morgan, Dr. Christian Young, Jessica Leduc, Dr. Jerad Eldred and EMS/Trauma System staff regarding a Buprenorphine Pilot Program

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “The Race to 2030 HCV Elimination Progress” webinar

#### Week ending 02/02:

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Participated in the HRSA Operational Site Visit (OSV) pre-visit call with the review team