




**DATE:** May 22, 2025

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

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

**SUBJECT:** District Health Officer Report

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### **2025 Community Health Assessment**

The Southern Nevada Health District, in collaboration with community partners, has released the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA), a comprehensive evaluation of Clark County's health needs, strengths and available resources. The assessment is available on the [Healthy Southern Nevada website](#).

As part of the prioritization process, the Health District and community members met on April 30 to review key health indicators and collectively identify the most pressing public health issues in Clark County. Based on this collaborative assessment, the top three health priorities selected are:

1. Access to Care
2. Chronic Disease
3. Public Health Funding

Additional community meetings are planned this summer to continue the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which will guide future public health strategies.

The CHA serves as a foundational element of public health by supporting its three core functions: assessment, policy development, and assurance. It serves as a vital tool for identifying health challenges and assets, informing policy and evaluating public health efforts. The overarching goal is to achieve health equity by identifying urgent health issues in the community and aligning resources to support healthier outcomes.

During the assessment process, common themes emerged from the feedback provided by the community participants, including:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Access to Care
- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease
- Public Health Funding
- Environmental Factors
- Substance Use
- Infectious Disease

The assessment process incorporates three key evaluations: the Community Partner Assessment, the Community Context Assessment and the Community Status Assessment. This work was conducted using the Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. MAPP is a community-driven strategic process that encourages collaboration and data-informed decision-making.

The 2025 CHA is designed to inform the public, stakeholders and organizations about the current health status of Clark County residents. Its findings will help to identify strategic priorities and the development of a CHIP, which will direct health initiatives and interventions for the next three to five years.

For more information on the CHA and CHIP process, go to [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\) – NACCHO](#). Additional information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [Community Planning for Health Assessment: CHA & CHIP | Public Health Gateway | CDC](#).

### **Foodborne Illness Investigation**

On May 6, the Health District announced it was investigating cases of acute gastrointestinal illnesses linked to the consumption of certain frozen half-shell oysters from South Korea. At that time, five Clark County residents had reported becoming ill after consuming oysters associated with the investigation. Since the Health District's announcement, additional reports of illness have been received, and the investigation is ongoing.

The Health District is working with the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Food and Drug Administration in connection with the investigation. Additionally, the California Department of Public Health has been notified, as the oysters were imported through California ports of entry.

People who were ill experienced symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and stomach pain. Other symptoms can include fever, chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue.

The oysters in question were not shipped to grocery stores. The product was available to restaurants and can be identified as follows:

Processor Name: JBR (KR-15-SP)  
Harvest Location: Designated Area No. 1, Republic of Korea  
Harvest Date: Jan. 6, 2025  
Best Before: Jan. 6, 2027  
Lot Code: B250106

People who ate oysters during April and experienced acute gastrointestinal illness can complete the foodborne illness complaint form at [www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/foodborne-illness-complaint-form/](http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/foodborne-illness-complaint-form/) or call (702) 759-1300. Those who are currently ill are urged to contact their health care provider. To prevent spread to others, the Health District encourages thorough hand washing with soap and water, plus cleaning and disinfecting contaminated surfaces using a bleach-based household cleaner.

### **Walk Around Nevada Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary**

The Health District is celebrating the 20th anniversary of Walk Around Nevada, a free, interactive program that has had more than 12,000 participants since its launch in 2005. The Walk Around Nevada program has been recognized as a Model Practice Program by the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

The web-based program, available at [GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](https://www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org) and as a mobile app, allows users to log their miles or steps and track their progress as they virtually “walk” across the state. An activity conversion chart also helps participants turn various physical activities into miles or steps — so no matter how a person moves, they are always making progress.

As participants make their way through the program, they reach virtual geographic milestones that unlock pop-up windows with historical facts, destination stories and tips to help build healthy habits. Participants who complete the virtual 1,442 mile trek around the Silver State are eligible for a free t-shirt and recognition in the Walk Around Nevada Hall of Fame on the [GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](https://www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org) website. To date, about 300 participants have each walked at least 1,442 miles, collectively logging more than one million miles.

For more information about the Walk Around Nevada program, or to access all the programs and resources offered by the Health District’s Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, go to [www.GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](https://www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org).

### **Soda Free Summer Challenge**

The Southern Nevada Health District’s Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has launched its annual Soda Free Summer Challenge, now underway through August 31. The campaign encourages everyone to choose healthier beverages in favor of soda and other sugary drinks.

Sugar-sweetened beverages—including popular choices like sodas, energy drinks, fruit drinks, and sweetened coffees and teas—are a leading source of added sugars in the American diet. A standard 12-ounce soda can contain up to 10 teaspoons of sugar. Added sugars contribute to issues such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and tooth decay.

Nationally, 63% of youth and 49% of adults report having sugary drinks once daily or more. On average, children consume more than 30 gallons of sugary drinks per year, enough to fill an entire bathtub. The average American consumes approximately 17 teaspoons of added sugar each day. Adolescents (12-19 years old) are the highest consumers of sugar-sweetened beverages. In Clark County, 13.2% of adolescents drank one can, bottle or glass of soda at least once per day during 2023, up from 11.4% in 2019.

According to the American Heart Association, men should consume no more than 9 teaspoons of added sugar per day. For women, the recommended daily maximum is 6 teaspoons. Adults and children are encouraged to limit sugary drinks and opt for healthier alternatives including water, unsweetened tea and plain milk.

Consumers are advised to read nutrition labels to determine how much added sugar is included in their drinks. For more information on sugary drinks and the Soda Free Summer Challenge visit [www.GetHealthyClarkCounty.org](https://www.gethealthyclarkcounty.org) or [www.VivaSaludable.org](https://www.vivasaludable.org).

### **Diabetes Classes**

The Health District continues to offer free diabetes self-management, education, and support classes in both English and Spanish, available in person and online. These classes are provided year-round by the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Main Public Health Center, located at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Led by trained health educators, the classes help participants learn how to manage their blood sugar, stay active, and make healthier food choices.

Registration is now open for upcoming in-person classes. English-language classes will be held on Thursdays, May 15 and 22, from 10 a.m. to noon. Spanish-language classes are scheduled for Tuesdays, April 15 and 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., and Mondays, May 12 and 19, from 10 a.m. to noon.

To register, call (702) 759-1270, email [getthehealthy@snhd.org](mailto:getthehealthy@snhd.org) or complete the [Diabetes Self-Management Interest Form](#). Registration for Spanish-language classes is available at the [Viva Saludable](#) website.

To learn more about diabetes resources in Southern Nevada, go to [Get Healthy Clark County | Local Diabetes Resources](#) or [Viva Saludable | Recursos locales para la diabetes](#). For information about additional classes, events and programs offered by the Health District, visit the [Get Healthy Clark County Community Calendar](#).

### **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 April 26, 2025, for the 2024-2025 influenza season, 1,826 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported. Currently, there have been 99 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) increased from 2.9% during week 16 to 3.0% during week 17. Currently, Influenza A has been the predominant strain detected within the region. During week 17, 2.2% of outpatient visits reported nationally through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to respiratory illness. This percentage is below the national baseline of 3.0%. Among 55 states/jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in the state of Nevada is minimal.

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 05/04:**

##### **Monthly:**

- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officials (NALHO) meeting
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Foundation Board of Directors meeting

##### **Quarterly:**

- Participated in the Nevada Primary Care Association Policy Committee meeting

##### **Ad-hoc Meetings:**

- Attended a meeting with Julia Peek, Melissa Bullock, Kyle Devine and SNHD staff regarding Healthcare Associated Infections
- Attended a meeting with Debra Solt from Vegas PBS to discuss their programs and services
- Attended a meeting with Rosemary Brock from EISC Lab Data Automation to discuss their services
- Attended a meeting with Diego Trujillo from Las Vegas HEALS
- Attended a meeting with Paniz Rahmani from GT Molecular regarding wastewater surveillance and testing

**Week ending 04/27:**

Monthly:

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

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Melissa Jones from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) regarding their national membership
- Attended a meeting with Attorney General Ford and executive directors of FQHCs in Nevada
- Attended a meeting with Erik Enke from Myers and Stauffer regarding the Prospective Payment Systems (PPS) rate for the Southern Nevada Community Health Center

**Week ending 04/20:**

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) Board of Trustees meeting
- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick

Quarterly:

- Participated in the Public Health Advisory Board meeting
- Attended the Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Senator Cortez Masto

**Week ending 04/13:**

Biweekly:

- Attended the CDC Response All-STLT Update call

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the HRSA Operational Site Visit – Entrance Conference
- Attended the HRSA Operational Site Visit – Scope of Services Session
- Attended the HRSA Operational Site Visit – Clinical Staffing Session
- Attended the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services –SB423
- Attended the HRSA Operational Site Visit – Bylaws Review and Board Authority Session

- Attended the HRSA Operational Site Visit – Contracts and Subawards Session
- Attended the HRSA Operational Site Visit – Exit Conference

**Week ending 04/06:**

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition Legal Discussion
- Attended a meeting with Congressman Steven Horsford to discuss public health programs and public health infrastructure