

Southern Nevada Health District

REPORT

to the Community

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Board of Health



CHAIRMAN
Councilwoman Stephanie Smith
North Las Vegas Representative

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Message from the Chairman

As a 9-year member of the board of health I have experienced first hand the renewed focus on public health issues that has occurred over the past several years.

Public health has long been recognized for providing vital services such as childhood immunizations and restaurant inspections. However, there is now a greater awareness of the diverse role a local public health agency plays in protecting and promoting the health of the community it serves.

We work in partnership with law enforcement and public safety agencies to plan for potential terrorist attacks and widespread disasters. Public health officials are at the forefront of the movement to place a greater emphasis on preventive health care activities as the long-term solution to stemming rising health care costs. We continue to review and update our policies and regulations to meet the changing needs of the industries and organizations we regulate, and to ensure they are crafted in the interest of promoting public health.

We are committed to improving the health status of our community and the recent name change of the district and the board to the Southern Nevada Health District and Southern Nevada District Board of Health reflects our commitment to best serve the public health needs of the residents and visitors we are sworn to protect.

The *Southern Nevada District Board of Health*

is the public health policy board representing the entities of Boulder City,
Clark County, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite and North Las Vegas.

- 2005 -

Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members



BOARD OF HEALTH (L to R): Councilwoman Donna Fairchild, Vice Chairman, Mesquite Representative; Councilman Steven Kirk, Secretary, Henderson Representative; Commissioner Lynette Boggs-McDonald, Clark County Representative; Councilwoman Karla Burton, Boulder City Representative; Jim Christensen, MD, Physician-at-Large; Commissioner Tom Collins, Clark County Representative; Susan Crowley, Henderson Representative; Councilman Robert Eliason, North Las Vegas Representative; Assemblyman Joseph Hardy, MD, Boulder City Representative; Mary Jo Mattocks, RN, Mesquite Representative; Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese, Las Vegas Representative; Councilman Lawrence Weekly, Las Vegas Representative.

Chief Health Officer



CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER
Donald S. Kwalick, MD, MPH

T Message from the Chief Health Officer

errorism and emerging infections have increased demands placed on public health agencies. In recent years we have focused our efforts on a wide range of priorities, including potential bioterrorism from anthrax and smallpox, to new diseases such as SARS and now the threat of an influenza pandemic.

We have managed to effectively address these priorities without neglecting the ongoing public health needs of our community. Our initiatives and programs have had an enormous impact on the health of the visitors and residents in Southern Nevada. These include:

- Decreasing new cases of tuberculosis through directly observed therapy, case follow up and treatment completion once therapy is initiated.
- Implementing hepatitis A immunization requirements for food handlers, day care attendees and attendants; thereby, decreasing the number of reported cases county-wide from more than 200 in 1998 to less than 10 in 2005.

- Constructing and developing the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory on our campus. Prior to the construction of the laboratory, Las Vegas was the only metropolitan area without public health laboratory capabilities within 100 miles.
- Partnering with the Southern Nevada Health Access Consortium to implement a primary care clinic at the Cambridge Community Health Center with Nevada Health Centers, which ultimately led to the development of a network of primary care sites to improve access-to-care for the under- and uninsured.
- Implementing a youth oriented tobacco control program that contributed to a decrease in adolescent smoking from more than 25 percent in 2001 to less than 20 percent. Reducing smoking rates leads to a decrease in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer in adulthood.
- Partnering with stakeholders to implement educational and outreach activities for fluoridation of Clark County's water supply in March 2000, in order to improve oral health and decrease decayed, missing, filled (DMF) rates in kindergartners and first graders.
- Developing and establishing School Based Health Centers (SBHC) to provide health and health education services on a menu-driven, voluntary, parental-permission basis in the Clark County School District. Three SBHCs were successfully established and transitioned to Nevada Health Centers.
- Expanding our surveillance and environmental control activities to prevent hantavirus, plague, West Nile virus infections and other potential outbreaks.
- Strengthening our inspection, education and regulatory functions over food establishments and hotels, motels, public swimming pools, and solid waste disposal to protect the public.

I'm proud of these accomplishments due to the efforts of our dedicated public health staff and our partners in the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Services

Administrative Services

The operations of the health cards, vital records and finance sections fall under the umbrella of the Administrative Services Division. Support services are provided by the human resources, information technology and facilities sections.

Finance

Approximately 42 percent of health district funding is from fees and other revenues, 38 percent is from local taxes and 16 percent from federal grants. Less than 4 percent of the health district budget consists of state funding and, with the exclusion of special purpose tobacco settlement grant programs and the tire tax that is earmarked for solid waste management services, only 0.71 percent of the district's budget derives from the state general fund.

REVENUES 2004-2005		
	General Fund	Health Capital Improvement
Federal Funds distributed by State	\$ 8,764,344	
Federal Grants	6,486,650	
State Funding	2,176,201	
Fee for Service	4,997,395	
Regulatory Revenue	15,404,706	
Program Contract Services	717,826	
County Tax Revenue	18,670,000	
General Receipts	805,758	
Interest	347,603	10,973
Total	\$58,370,483	\$10,973

EXPENDITURES 2004-2005		
	General Fund	Health Capital Improvement
Nursing	\$21,942,229	
Environmental Health	9,376,173	
Administration	19,861,149	
Capital Improvements		2,014,306
TOTAL	\$51,179,551	\$2,014,306

ENDING FUND BALANCE 2004-2005		
	General Fund	Health Capital Improvement
Ending Fund Balance	\$15,184,240	\$558,149

Health Cards

A health card is required of anyone working as a food handler, child or adult group care attendant, tattoo, body piercing and permanent makeup artist, reflexologist, massage therapist or in a profession that requires tuberculosis screening prior to employment. Food handlers receive a three-year health card; health cards issued to child care and adult group care providers must be renewed every two years.

HEALTH CARDS 2004-2005			
	2004	2005	Increase
Health Cards	138,383	122,774	-12%

Vital Records

The vital records department is the repository for all birth and death records in Clark County. Records are available at the health district for births since 1973 and for deaths since 1988. Nevada records prior to these dates can be obtained from the State Office of Vital Records in Carson City.

VITAL RECORDS 2004-2005			
	2004	2005	Increase
Birth Records	26,248	27,988	6.6%
Death Records	12,744	13,647	7%
Birth Certificates Issued	48,149	53,132	10.3%
Death Certificates Issued	88,352	92,838	5%

CLINIC

& Nursing Services

Clinic & Nursing Services

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Covering Kids Coalition

The Covering Kids Coalition is a national health access initiative for uninsured children from low-income households. The Southern Nevada Health District serves as the fiscal agent for Covering Kids of Southern Nevada. A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant, along with funding from the State of Nevada's Department of Health Care Finance and Policy, provide additional support for the program. The Nevada Check-up program allows eligible, uninsured children to access health care and medical-payment services, throughout the State Children's Health Insurance Plan and Medicaid. Fiscal responsibility for Covering Kids will be transferred to Health Insight in 2006. The agency will assume statewide responsibility for the program.

Family Planning

Access to quality contraceptive services continues to be an important factor in promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing unintended pregnancies. Public education and information about family planning is a key component of an effective program.

The Family Planning clinic provides education, information, contraception, pregnancy testing and counseling on a sliding fee scale to Clark County residents. All new clients receive a pregnancy test, a Pap test and a breast exam. The clinic and its delegate agencies served approximately 35,654 clients in 2005.

FACT | Family planning services are now offered five days a week in each of the outlying public health centers, one day a week at the Spring Valley location and monthly in Laughlin. Available clinic hours increased more than 60 percent to better serve health district clients.

HIV/AIDS

The Office of HIV/AIDS provides ongoing prevention and awareness programs throughout the community. For 20 years, the health district has tested and counseled clients, as well as offered case management services for HIV-positive individuals. Additionally, the office provided HIV/AIDS education and prevention materials, and partnered with other organizations to provide HIV testing and education in non-traditional settings such as prisons, homeless shelters, nightclubs and various street outreach events. Staff also utilizes these outreach opportunities to make medical and community referrals for HIV-positive clients.

By the end of 2005, there were 3,025 people living with HIV in Clark County. The number of individuals diagnosed with AIDS is 4,331, of which 46 percent have died.

Immunization Clinic

The goal of the immunization program is to prevent disease, disability and death from infectious diseases including vaccine-preventable diseases.

The health district provides all recommended childhood, adolescent and adult immunizations. The health district also works with private providers enrolled in the vaccine for children program to increase immunization rates in their clientele. In 2005 the program served 169 providers. More than 300,000 vaccinations were given to children and adults in 2005. During the 2004-2005 flu season, 35,000 doses of flu vaccine were given compared to 26,000 in 2003-2004.

Currently the childhood immunization rate in Nevada is 69 percent. The health district is working closely with community partners to reach the Healthy People 2010 goal of 90 percent.



ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Maternal Child Health (MCH) staff has the primary responsibility for administering the health district's oral health program. Oral health is an essential component of good health. However, tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease of childhood. Access to primary prevention and early intervention services are essential to improving the oral health of children in Clark County.

In keeping with the overarching goals of the program, staff works to prevent and control oral disease and injuries, and improve access to care by working with parents of children 0-3 years of age who access health district immunization clinics, well baby clinics and WIC programs. In 2005, MCH nursing staff applied 750 fluoride varnish applications.

Maternal Child Health

The Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program helps ensure children in the county and outlying areas are born healthy, immunized against preventable infectious diseases and receive good nutrition to achieve optimum health. Additionally, the program strives to involve family members in the child's health care and educate them about maintaining preventive care. Referrals come from hospitals, agencies and private individuals for infants born to mothers 16 years old or younger, drop-in births, Child Protective Services cases, infants requiring neo-natal intensive care or other medical care.

In 2005, public health nurses made over 9,000 home visits and administered 1,227 healthy kids and well baby exams. Maternal child health staff also provided age-appropriate immunizations to nearly 8,000 children.

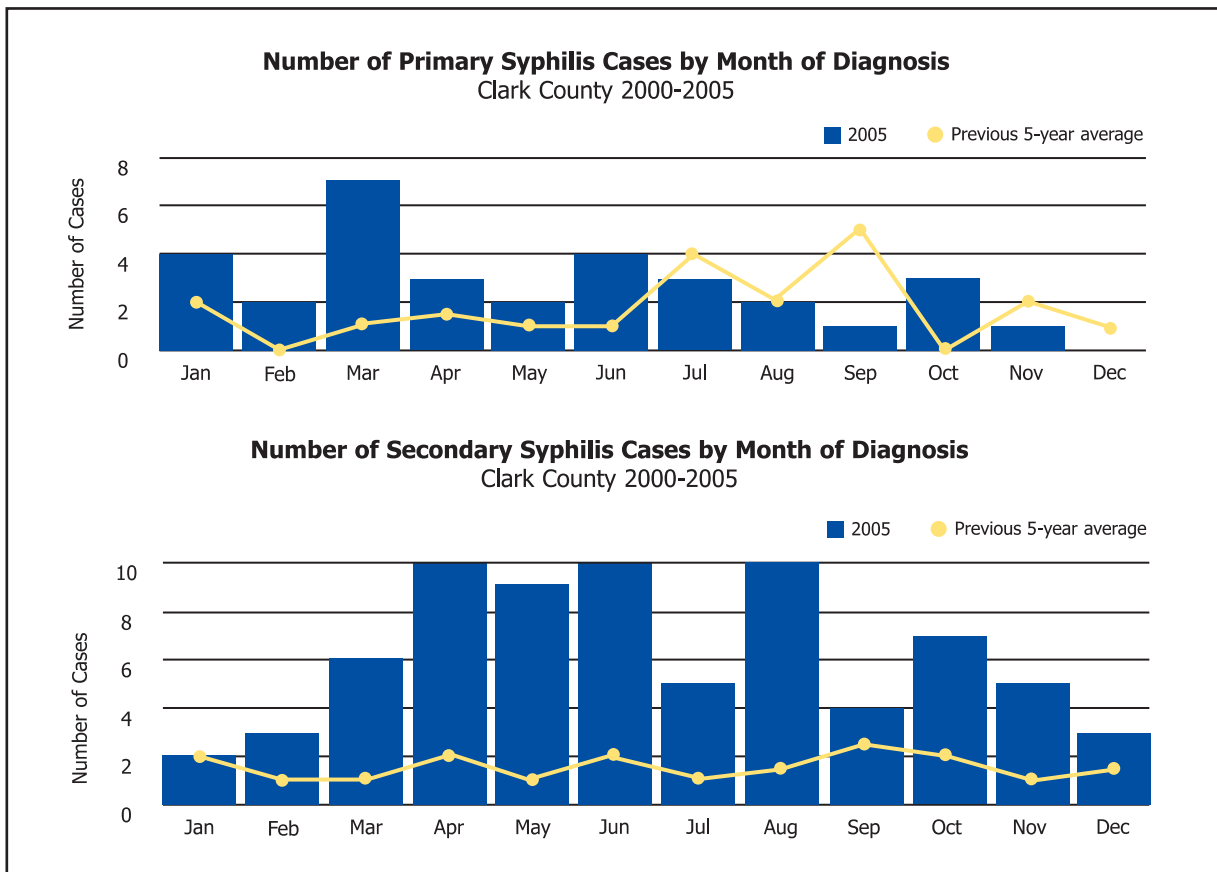
Senior Foot Clinic

The Senior Foot Care Program was developed by the health district to help the senior population maintain and enhance their mobility. The clinic offers senior citizens education about proper foot care, footwear evaluation and low-cost toe nail trimming. In the past year, the program served approximately 5,400 clients. The program will transition to the Nevada Health Centers in 2006.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinic works to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted disease by early detection, treatment and educational outreach.

The STD clinic provided services to more than 12,000 clients in 2005. In addition, STD disease investigation and intervention specialists provided educational outreach and testing to more than 1,000 youths at the Clark County Detention Center in partnership with the office of HIV/AIDS.



Transitional Care

The Transitional Care Program offers case management services to patients and families living with serious illness such as HIV/AIDS and congestive heart failure. Case management is a collaborative process between the client, case manager, physician and community that considers a client's health needs and the resources available to help manage his or her disease. The goal of the program is to keep clients in care and connected with their health providers.

HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2005, 107 new clients were admitted to the HIV/AIDS case management program, which maintained an average monthly census of 126 clients. Case managers made over 2,926 home visits and 3,333 telephone calls. The hospital re-admission rate for HIV/AIDS clients in 2005 was 4 percent and emergency room utilization was 2 percent.

CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE CASE MANAGEMENT

The congestive heart failure (CHF) case management program maintained an average monthly census of 40 clients in 2005. Program personnel conducted more than 426 home visits and 801 telephone

**IT'S
BACK
BABY!**

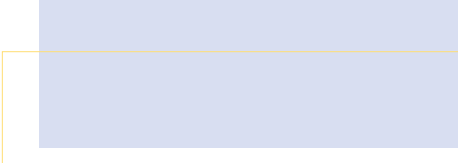
SYPHILIS – EZ 2 GET. EZ 2 GET RID OF. GET TESTED.

Clark County experienced a significant increase in the number of primary and secondary syphilis cases in 2005.

As part of the effort to curtail the spread of syphilis in the community, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sent a pre-deployment Rapid Response team to Clark County.

Increases in syphilis were being reported nationwide. However, the outbreak in Clark County was unique, as there was no identifiable at-risk population.

Response activities included the development of novel approaches for distributing information and catch phrases. Cocktail napkins, hand towels, condom covers and other items were distributed in bars and adult venues.



interventions. The hospital re-admission rate for CHF clients was 8 percent. The emergency room utilization rate for clients was 3 percent.

ADULT CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

The Adult Crisis Intervention Team (AICT), is a newly formed program that works to assist adults in the community who often fall through the cracks of the traditional health care system. Clients of this program often require short term interventions. This program is a collaborative effort of the nursing and environmental health divisions. During the last 6 months of 2005, the program served more than 124 clients.

Tuberculosis Treatment & Control

The Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment & Control Clinic is multi-dimensional—integrating clinic services, field services, case management, directly observed therapy, surveillance and educational outreach activities.

It is extremely important to complete treatment once therapy is begun for TB in order to prevent infections. In 2005, the TB clinic surpassed the national 90 percent completion rate objective for the fourth straight year, with full treatment completed in more than 93 percent of TB cases.

Volunteer Programs

The Southern Nevada Health District's commitment to the overall health of the community is enhanced by the contributions of community partners. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities at the health district for people who wish to contribute their time, talent and skills in an effort to promote public health. In 2005, volunteers provided approximately 12,000 hours of service to the health district.

FACT | The health district immunization program ensures that babies born to mothers who are hepatitis B carriers receive the necessary vaccine and follow-up through the Perinatal Hepatitis B program. The program served 168 individuals in 2005.

Volunteers assist the health district at its area public health centers and through the following key programs:

SALUD EN ACCIÓN

Salud En Acción is a community based health promotion program that provides information, referral and Medicare advocacy to the Hispanic community. This includes one-on-one counseling, eligibility and assistance with the appeal process. The goal of Salud En Acción is to provide the Hispanic community with accurate information so they can make informed choices about their own health care.

RAFAEL RIVERA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Rafael Rivera community outreach program was created in late 2003 as a collaborative effort with the City of Las Vegas and a variety of community non-profit organizations. Working through the Rafael Rivera Community Center, the program hopes to establish a “one-stop shop” targeting the underserved Hispanic community with needed healthcare services.

WIC

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic is part of a federally funded program that serves 36,000 individuals per year. WIC provides food and nutrition services for low-income pregnant women and to infants and children up to age 5 with nutritional risks. Education is a key part of the program, with participants learning how to shop for healthy, affordable foods, store food safely, prepare and eat healthy food during pregnancy and prepare nutritious snacks for children. Vouchers are given for the purchase of items such as milk, cheese, eggs, cereal and juice.

Workplace Vaccination Program

To comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations regarding workplace safety, various employers contract with the health district to provide hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines, and to test employees for tuberculosis.

Health district staff members work with corporations, casinos, fire and police departments, dental offices and other agencies to provide information and vaccines for people who may come in contact with blood and bodily fluids.

In 2005, staff administered 101,431 hepatitis A vaccinations to health card applicants, an increase of 13 percent over the previous year. Health district staff members also administered hepatitis B vaccinations and tuberculosis skin tests.



HEALTH DISTRICT RESPONDS TO THREAT OF HEPATITIS A EXPOSURE AT EXPO

In September 2005, the Southern Nevada Health District learned about a possible exposure of hepatitis A at the Global Gaming Expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The infected individual, who was exposed to hepatitis A at an unrelated event, worked at a food service booth and handed out samples of ice cream.

In response, the health district notified approximately 20,000 expo attendees who might have come into contact with the infected individual to offer preventive treatment at two specialized clinics. Over a four-day period, a total of 390 people received an immune globulin injection, which is used to prevent symptoms, and a hepatitis A vaccination.

COMMUNITY

Health Services

Community Health Services

Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion

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he Office of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion works to improve the health of the community by mobilizing residents to respond to health issues, and by working collaboratively to educate and motivate people to maintain healthy lifestyles.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

The goals for the chronic disease prevention program are to reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity levels and improve dietary habits of youth and adults. These programs seek to reduce the incidence of chronic disease and enhance the quality of life of those living with a chronic illness. The program uses evidence-based strategies such as multimedia campaigns, outreach programs, and support and development of public policy to achieve goals and objectives that affect positive behavioral changes and lead to the improved health status of the community.

INJURY PREVENTION

The health district injury prevention program focuses on three areas: drowning prevention, fall prevention and suicide prevention.

Drowning Prevention

Health promotion and emergency medical services staff work with community partners to conduct an annual drowning prevention awareness and education campaign. The campaign emphasizes constant adult supervision; barriers such as isolation fencing, door alarms, electrically operated pool covers; CPR training and proper rescue equipment.

In 2005, the number of reported submersion incidents among children 14 and younger was 48, six of which resulted in drowning. All six drowning victims were children 4 years old or younger. The drowning death rate for Clark County was 4.6 per 100,000.

Fall Prevention

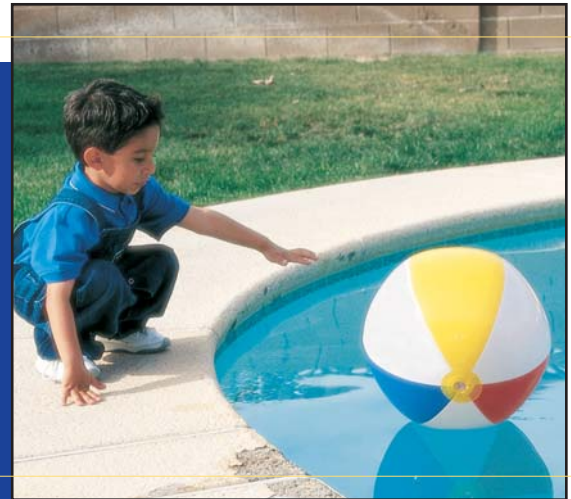
Falls and fall-related injuries impose an enormous burden on individuals, society and the nation's health care systems. Seniors are at particular risk for falls, and in response the health district has convened the Clark County Senior Fall Prevention Task Force.

Suicide Prevention

Working with the community to reduce the suicide rate in Clark County is a priority for the health district. Health promotion staff has collaborated with community partners to support the creation of a statewide suicide prevention program. The Southern Nevada Health District is developing public information campaigns to increase awareness of the issue and to help reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment.

TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

The tobacco control program has four major goals: prevent youth initiation of smoking; promote smoking cessation among youth and adults; eliminate secondhand smoke exposure and eliminate



THE ABC AND Ds OF DROWNING PREVENTION

A is for **ADULT SUPERVISION**

B is for **BARRIERS** (for your pool)

C is for **CLASSES** (swim lessons and CPR)

D is for **DEVICES** (personal floatation devices, life jackets and rescue tools)

Drowning is a quick and silent killer. In the time it takes to:

- Get a towel—(10 seconds) a child can become submerged
- Answer the phone—(2 minutes) a child can lose consciousness
- Answer the front door—(4-6 minutes) a submerged child can sustain permanent brain damage or die

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE TIPS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GETHEALTHYCLARKCOUNTY.ORG.

health disparities among diverse populations. Tobacco use in Clark County has been on a steady decline largely in part to efforts of the health district program and other tobacco control programs funded by the Taskforce for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada.

The program supports and develops community coalitions including:

- LUCES (Latinos Unidos Celebrando Salud)—an organization promoting healthy lifestyles within the Hispanic community
- CIAA (Clean Indoor Air Alliance)
- XPOZ—A youth tobacco prevention organization
- Urban Fuel—A young adult tobacco prevention coalition

Emergency Medical Services

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office coordinates emergency medical services by providing medical direction and protocols for the county's emergency response system.

CERTIFICATION, LICENSING AND PERMITTING

The EMS office, in compliance with applicable regulations, determines an individual's qualifications to be certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT). The office also oversees the reinstatement of expired EMT certificates and grants reciprocity to EMTs who have been certified in other counties or states meeting the requirements of Clark County.

Additionally, ambulance and firefighter attendants are issued licenses by the health district. All ambulance services, air ambulance services and fire-fighting agencies providing emergency medical care are permitted through the health district.

2005 Certification Status Report

Applications received for certification via reciprocity	107
Applications received for certification via challenge	53
EMS training courses completed.....	32
New certifications issued.....	586
Renewal certifications issued	1,931
Total certifications issued.....	2,517

2005 Active Certifications Report

First Responder	81
EMT-Basic	1,318
EMT-Intermediate	1,490
EMT-Paramedic	851
EMS Instructors.....	301

2005 Licensure Status Report

New licenses issued.....	264
Renewal licenses issued	1,274
Paid full-time fire departments	6
Volunteer fire departments.....	11
Private ambulance services.....	2
Special purpose stand-by ambulance services.....	4
Helicopter ambulance services	1
Fixed-wing air ambulance services.....	1

FACT | Over a 12-month period, emergency departments in Southern Nevada had more than 553,000 visits. Emergency medical service providers were responsible for transporting about 142,000 of those visits, approximately 25 percent of the total volume.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS

All certified and licensed medical attendants aboard ambulances or other medical rescue vehicles, such as fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, must complete training and continuing education classes conducted by a public or private agency approved by the health district.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The EMS office provides quality improvement (QI) oversight within the EMS system. The office oversees QI projects and reviews patient complaints when they are received. District EMS regulations require each permitted (private and fire department) ambulance service to have a QI director to ensure compliance with EMS regulations and protocols regarding patient care.

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Southern Nevada Health District Medical Advisory Board (MAB) provides emergency medicine recommendations to the chief health officer. The MAB makes recommendations and assists in the ongoing design, operation, evaluation and revision of the EMS system.

REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD

The Clark County Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) supports the health officer's role to ensure a quality system of patient care for the victims of trauma within Clark County by assisting in the ongoing design, operation, evaluation and revision of the trauma system.

Regional Trauma Advisory Board Membership

- A trauma surgeon from each trauma center
- An administrator from each trauma center
- Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board

- One administrator from a non-trauma hospital
- One person representing the public providers of advanced emergency care
- One person representing the private providers of advanced emergency care
- One person representing health education and prevention services
- One person representing the payors of medical benefits for the victims of trauma
- One person representing the general public

Epidemiology

The Office of Epidemiology conducts surveillance of various communicable and chronic diseases in Clark County, investigates case reports and communicable disease outbreaks and implements control measures designed to curb the spread of disease and prevent the development of chronic disease.

SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS

Disease surveillance programs function as the health district's eyes and ears, allowing for the rapid identification of unusual illness patterns or trends and clusters of disease. Should illness or disease outbreaks be identified, the health district uses surveillance systems to track the effectiveness of control measures and ensure the situation has been resolved.



RESPONDERS OF THE YEAR

In recognition of National Emergency Medical Services Week, Responder of the Year awards were presented to representatives of the nine licensed EMS agencies in Clark County. Recipients were recognized for their demonstration of excellent patient care, clinical skills, exemplary professionalism and for their exceptional contributions and commitment to the success and advancement of EMS:

- Brian Arboreen, Henderson Fire Dept.
- Troy Cabral, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue
- Brent Hall, Clark County Fire Dept.
- Roy Keefer, American Medical Response
- James Kindel, Mesquite Fire and Rescue
- James Parsons, Boulder City Fire Dept.
- Robert Rodgers, Mercy Air
- Frank Simone, North Las Vegas Fire Dept.
- Ronald Tucker, Southwest Ambulance

CHRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

This program tracks various chronic disease indicators at the county level, including physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, asthma, diabetes, obesity/overweight, cancer and current tobacco use. Survey data (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) is assessed to determine health disparities by sex and race-ethnic groups and to determine preventable risk behaviors that can lead to chronic disease.

ELECTRONIC SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

This surveillance program tracks overall patient illness levels at area hospitals and clinics, in order to quickly identify outbreaks of communicable disease, including those potentially caused by bioterrorist agents. Data reported by hospitals is analyzed and evaluated automatically each day, enabling rapid identification of clusters of illness. The syndromic surveillance system tracks influenza-like illness, respiratory illness, gastroenteritis, and dermatologic and neurologic complaints.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

This program monitors the percentage of patients seen by health care professionals who meet the criteria for inclusion as a case of influenza-like illness. The influenza-like illness surveillance program is part of a program developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which provides a larger, regional and national view of influenza-like illness.

GASTROENTERITIS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

A combination of systems is used in this program to monitor the percentage of people with diarrhea or vomiting that is not explained by a chronic condition. By monitoring the background levels of gastroenteritis in Clark County, community-wide disease problems can be identified.

COMMUNITY BLOOD/LEAD CONTROL PROGRAM

The Southern Nevada Health District community blood lead control program was established in October 2004. This program is administered by the chronic disease section of the epidemiology office. The program is designed to support the tracking, investigation, evaluation and assessment of elevated blood lead levels including lead-poisoning cases within Clark County. It enlists the joint efforts of the epidemiology office, nursing division and

CLARK COUNTY REPORTABLE DISEASE STATISTICS*

DISEASE	2004	2005	DISEASE	2004	2005
Diphtheria	0	0	Botulism Intoxication	0	0
Haemophilus Influenza—Invasive	7	11	Brucellosis	0	0
Hepatitis A	7	13	Coccidioidomycosis	55	62
Hepatitis B	53	25	Encephalitis (West Nile Virus)	12	5
Influenza	58	182	West Nile Virus (Fever)	11	2
Measles (Rubeola)	0	0	Hantavirus	0	0
Mumps	0	1	Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0
Pertussis	16	30	Hepatitis C	3	0
Polio	0	0	Hepatitis D	0	0
Rubella	0	0	Legionellosis	4	15
Tetanus	0	0	Leprosy (Hansen's Disease)	1	0
Chlamydia	5,052	5,793	Leptospirosis	0	0
Gonorrhea	2,646	2,520	Listeriosis	5	0
Syphilis (Primary/Secondary)	38	100	Lyme Disease	1	0
Syphilis (Early Latent)	12	43	Malaria	5	1
Amebiasis	13	13	Meningitis, Viral/Aseptic	86	80
Botulism-Intestinal (Infant)	0	1	Meningitis, Bacterial	19	15
Campylobacteriosis	101	96	Meningococcal Disease	4	8
Cholera	0	0	Plague	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	2	6	Psittacosis	0	0
E.Coli O157:H7	20	13	Q Fever	0	1
Giardiasis	74	73	Rabies (Human)	0	0
Rotavirus	673	579	Relapsing Fever	0	0
Salmonellosis	129	144	Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	1,195	1,564
Shigellosis	64	54	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	0
Typhoid Fever	1	0	Toxic Shock Syndrome	2	3
Yersiniosis	3	2	Tuberculosis (Cases)	70	90
Anthrax	0	0	Tularemia	0	0

* Numbers include confirmed and probable cases, and have been reconciled from totals published in previous reports. For reportable disease statistics for HIV/AIDS, refer to page 15; tuberculosis, page 19.



CAN IT, SOUTHERN NEVADA

In September 2005, SNHD launched the “Can It” campaign to inform residents about the health district’s preparedness plan, and to urge residents to create a plan of their own. The campaign encourages locals to be prepared for natural or man-made disasters by assembling a kit of essential items to help them survive the initial days of an emergency situation. A new, clean sealable trash can provides a sturdy, water-resistant enclosure for an emergency preparedness kit.

Essential items include:

- Non-perishable food
- Bottled water
- Clothing
- Hygiene items
- Special need items

Emergency Preparedness. It’s in the Can.

environmental health division in the identification, management and control of lead poisoning, especially among children residing in Clark County.

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

The office distributes timely health related information to the medical community through its Health Alert Network using broadcast fax and e-mail. The office also provides information to the public and health care providers through newsletters, notices and alerts.

Public Health Preparedness

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) coordinates efforts to upgrade preparedness for, and response to, infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism and other public health threats and emergencies.

Activities include coordinating the health district’s involvement with emergency training exercises. In July 2005 the health district participated in a large-scale exercise dubbed, “Rotunda Thunda ’05,” which was designed to examine aspects of the National Response Plan and National Incident Management System. Exercises such as these test the health district’s ability to fulfill their public health mission during a disaster and to update and enhance response plans.

2005 PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS GRANTS		
Funding Agency	Description	Amount
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	To maintain a toll-free poison control hotline for Clark County. To develop services that respond to mass casualty events with increased surge capacity.	\$ 410,515
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	To maintain public health all hazards planning, surveillance, laboratory capacity, critical IT and communication infrastructure, public information and training.	\$2,535,533
Cities Readiness Initiative (CDC-CRI)	To improve the system for delivery of medication and vaccines to the entire community within 48 hours.	\$ 831,784
State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)	To provide funding to outfit the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) with a generator to provide 100 percent backup power for 72 hours and provide protective equipment for staff.	\$ 310,000
Nevada State Grant	In conjunction with the SHSP grant, outfit the SNPHL with a generator to provide 100 percent backup.	\$ 250,000

OPHP also oversees the Medical Reserve Corps, a volunteer reserve of practicing and retired health care professionals that can be rapidly mobilized to aid in medical response during large-scale local emergencies.

Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory

The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) is jointly operated by the Southern Nevada Health District and the University of Nevada School of Medicine. SNPHL and the Nevada Public Health Laboratory in Reno make up the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory System. The laboratory enhances the public health surveillance capabilities of the district and its ability to identify potential health hazards.

SNPHL is licensed by the State of Nevada to perform clinical testing and is a member of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN). The LRN was formed in 1999 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the FBI to aid laboratories in preparing and responding to acts of bioterrorism.

In addition to testing activities, lab personnel conduct ongoing training activities and coordination with local first responders regarding the collection of samples for testing of suspected biological agents. Additional training is provided to local laboratories regarding isolation and reporting of pathogenic biological agents.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Health Services

Environmental Health Services

The programs of the Environmental Health Division are designed to identify and sustain environmental conditions that promote public health through proper sanitation, safe food, proper disposal of wastes and toxic materials and the management of public health hazards in the environment.

Inspection Programs

CHILD CARE AND NURSERY FACILITIES

The 582 permitted child care facilities are regularly inspected to ensure compliance with health, sanitation and safety regulations.

- Child care inspections: 1,019

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

Environmental health specialists inspect the county's more than 15,181 permitted food establishments a minimum of once a year as required by state law.

- Routine inspections: 27,122
- Special event inspections: 2,693
- Complaint-driven inspections: 2,551
- Mobile vendor inspections: 924

INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

The institutional inspection program has more than 400 permitted facilities, including facilities such as public, private and charter schools, local correctional facilities, summer camps and children's homes.

- School inspections: 795
- Correctional facility inspections: 11
- Summer camps/children's home inspections: 12

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels and motels are inspected at least annually to ensure rooms are clean, the furniture is in good repair, no insects or vermin are present, rooms are equipped with proper ventilation, fire alarms are present and linens are clean.

In 2005, there were 433 permitted hotels and motels in Clark County, with a total of 145,114 rental rooms. Additionally, there are 177 permitted mobile home and RV parks with a total of 26,785 rental spaces.

- Hotel and motel inspections: 474
- Mobile home and RV park inspections: 224

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

State law requires the 4,491 public swimming pools and spas located at public parks, apartment complexes, hotels, RV parks, homeowner's associations and sports complexes be inspected annually to ensure proper operation.

- Pool and spa inspections: 6,864

TATTOO, PERMANENT MAKEUP AND BODY PIERCING

Health district regulations require operators at tattoo, permanent makeup and body piercing establishments to receive vaccinations for hepatitis B and to complete courses on preventing disease transmission, first aid and CPR. In 2005, 146 establishments were licensed in Clark County.

- Tattoo, permanent make-up and body piercing establishment inspections: 286

FACT | More than 120 hours are spent reviewing the plans for a major strip resort, not including another 320 hours spent on site visits to ensure the plans are followed.

Plan Review

FOOD PLAN REVIEW PROGRAM

Plans for new construction and remodeling of food establishments are submitted for approval to the environmental health division.

- Food establishment plan reviews: 1,742

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS PLAN REVIEW PROGRAM

Plans for public swimming pools and spas are submitted by architects, engineers and contractors for review. Final construction inspections are conducted to ensure adherence to statewide regulations. Preliminary inspections and progress checks are conducted in conjunction with the overall approval process. Additionally, the environmental health division issues new and renewal certifications for pool company, operator, technician and technician apprentice certifications.

- Plan reviews: 337

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

The health district works with the Nevada State Health Division to administer the Safe Drinking Water Program in Clark County. Public water systems are permitted by the state health division, and monitored and inspected locally by health district staff.

- Public ground water systems monitored: 98

SEPTIC SYSTEM PROGRAM

In areas where public sewers are not available, individual sewage disposal systems (ISDS) provide the functions of both sewer collection and treatment plant. Staff provides onsite wastewater system plan reviews, permitting and inspections for these systems.

- Parcel maps reviewed: 344
- Septic systems permitted: 408
- Loan certificates issued: 90
- Liquid waste pumping/hauling companies permitted: 36
- Pumping/hauling trucks permitted: 139

SUBDIVISION REVIEW

Staff maintains a Geographical Information System (GIS) database and reviews every tentative map, final map and improvement plan package submitted for subdivisions. Plans are reviewed with regard to sewage disposal, water pollution, water quality and water supply facilities.

- Maps reviewed: 1,474
- Maps approved: 752
- Units/Lots approved: 575,666



FOR YOUR SAFETY, USE PERMITTED CATERERS AND FOOD VENDORS

The Southern Nevada Health District stresses the importance of using permitted caterers and food vendors. People can become seriously ill by eating food prepared by a non-licensed caterer.

To determine whether a caterer is reputable and permitted, follow these steps:

- Make sure the caterer has a valid health permit issued by the health district, and a valid business license.
- Make sure the food is prepared in a permitted facility.
- Make sure equipment such as cooking fuel, chafing dishes and portable refrigerators are used at the serving site to keep foods at the proper temperature.
- Make sure employees who handle food possess a valid food handler health card issued by the health district.

Solid Waste Management

The health district is the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) for Clark County. In this capacity, the environmental health division provides regulatory oversight including plan review and inspection of all solid waste facilities and recycling centers.

Permitted disposal facilities in Clark County:

- Landfills: 10, with 3 applications
- Transfer stations: 4, with 2 applications
- Convenience centers: 3, with 1 application
- Material recovery facilities: 1*, with 1 application
- Recycling centers: 4, with 15 applications
- Waste tire management facility: 1
- Waste tire hauler: 1
- Compost facility: 1, with 1 application
- Waste asbestos transportation permits issued: 35

ILLEGAL DUMPING INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

The solid waste and compliance section of the environmental health division enforces solid waste management regulations pertaining to proper handling and disposal of solid waste. The section investigates all complaints of illegal dumping in Clark County.

- Illegal dumping complaints received: 1,436
- Cases presented to the Hearing Officer for adjudication: 291
- Penalties assessed for illegal dumping by the Hearing Officer: \$479,754

*Approved by Board of Health but not yet permitted to operate.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AUDITS

Waste management audit inspections ensure area businesses manage waste properly and are protective of public health and the environment. Target Sector Inspections (TSI) are conducted through an interlocal contract with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). The TSI program audits small quantity generators of hazardous waste and specific businesses identified by the NDEP to ensure proper handling and reporting.

- Waste management audits and Target Sector Inspections: 2,070

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Staff conducts annual EPA compliance inspections of underground storage tanks (USTs) for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). This program inspects the installation of USTs, repairs, upgrades and suspected leaks.

- Active UST facilities in Clark County: 757
- New USTs and status changes: 116
- Permanent closures: 10
- Plan reviews and final inspections conducted: 87
- Facilities reported to NDEP for formal enforcement: 0
- Closure inspections and site assessments: 13
- Contaminated sites: 10

Surveillance

In order to detect potential outbreaks in the animal population and prevent the spread of disease, the Southern Nevada Health District conducts routine surveillance programs in the fall and spring of each year. These programs monitor for diseases such as plague, hantavirus and West Nile virus.

PUBLIC *Health Heroes*

Public Health Hero awards are presented each year as a part of the Southern Nevada Health District's celebration of National Public Health Week in order to honor individuals and organizations whose extraordinary contributions protect and promote public health in our community.

Public Health Hero

Brad Burns, Centex Homes

Mr. Burns donated personal funding to build a 1,200 square foot health academy building at Martinez Elementary School, attended by a number of students from disadvantaged families. Mr. Burns has also donated to the school's Clinic on Wheels and Miles for Smiles programs, and has pledged to build a second health academy.



Public Health Hero

John Monzo, "The Center"

Mr. Monzo has volunteered on a full-time basis in support of HIV and AIDS related outreach in Las Vegas, following a distinguished public health career in Chicago. His tireless devotion to public health has connected people with information, counseling, assistance and treatment for more than a decade.



Public Health Hero

Jim Shadrick, City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department

M

r. Shadrick has been instrumental in overcoming obstacles in code enforcement issues that impact public health. Through accomplishments such as developing the Community Multi-Agency Response Team (C-MART), Mr. Shadrick has enabled the health district to mitigate code-related public health issues falling under the direct jurisdiction of other government agencies.



PHONE

Directory

GENERAL INFORMATION

Main Number	759-1000
Emergency Hotline	759-INFO
Website	www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Services	759-1204
Chief Health Officer	759-1201
Health Cards	759-1099
Human Resources.....	759-1101
Public Information Office	759-1390
Vital Records	759-1010

CLINIC & NURSING SERVICES

Administrative Office	759-1301
Airport Clinic	261-5620
Courthouse Clinic	671-4510
East Las Vegas Clinic	759-0900
Henderson Clinic	759-1040
HIV/AIDS	759-0702
Immunizations.....	759-0850
Laboratory	759-0770
North Las Vegas Clinic	759-0700
Salud en Acción	759-0846

Senior Foot Clinic	759-0840
Spring Valley Clinic	759-0709
STD Clinic	759-0771
TB Treatment & Control	759-1369
Universal Hepatitis B	759-0858
Volunteer Program	759-0881
WIC at Spring Valley	759-0709
Workplace Vaccination Program	759-0878

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

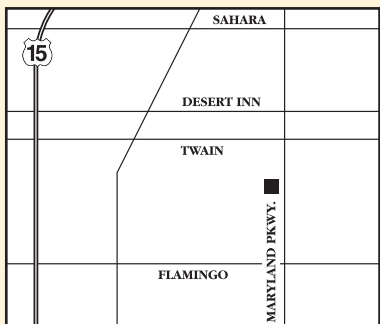
Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion	759-1270
Emergency Medical Services	759-1050
Epidemiology	759-1300
Public Health Preparedness	759-1211
Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory	759-1020

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

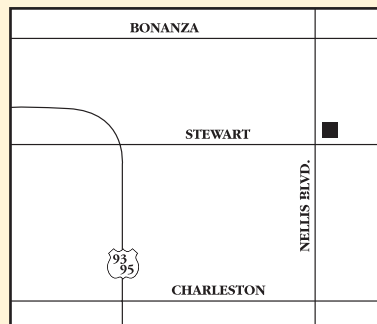
Administrative Office	759-0588
East Las Vegas	759-0620
Engineering	759-0661
Henderson	759-0501
Information and Complaints.....	759-0588
North Las Vegas	759-0502

Plan Review	759-1258
Septic Tanks.....	759-0660
Solid Waste Management	759-0600
Spring Valley	759-0503
Subdivisions.....	759-0661
Swimming Pools.....	759-0571
Tattoo/Body Piercing	759-0678
UST Program	759-0603
Water Systems	759-0608
West Nile Virus Hotline	759-1220

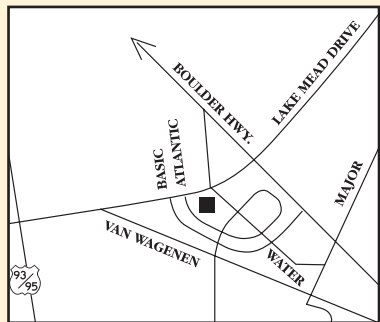
Locations



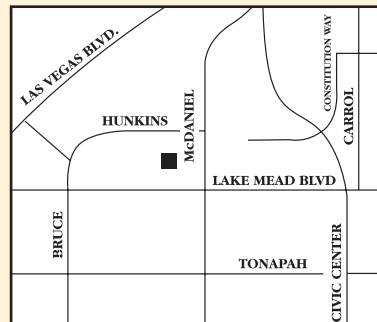
CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER
3900 Cambridge St., Ste. 101 • 732-1781



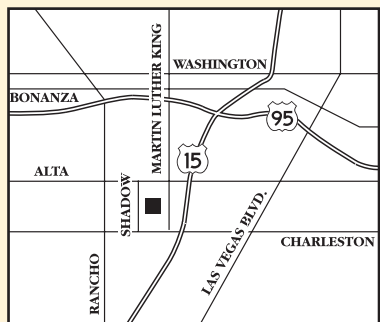
EAST LAS VEGAS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
560 Nellis Blvd., Ste. E-12 • 759-0900



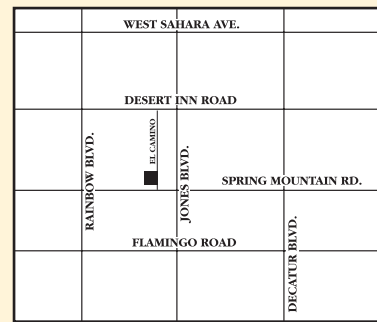
HENDERSON PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
129 W. Lake Mead Pkwy., #10 • 759-1040



NORTH LAS VEGAS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
1820 Lake Mead Blvd., Suite F • 759-1040



RAVENHOLT PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
625 Shadow Ln. • 759-1000



SPRING MOUNTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
6330 Spring Mountain Rd., Ste. F • 759-1000