

Clark County Health District
625 Shadow Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106
(702) 385-1291

News Release

Contact: Jennifer Sizemore
(702) 383-1225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Health District Reacts to Surgeon General's Report on Smoking

(March 29, 2001) – In response to “Women and Smoking – A Report of the Surgeon General,” the Clark County Health District is calling for stronger local support to curb smoking rates in Nevada. The state ranks first in the nation for rates of tobacco use and 30.3 percent of adult women in Nevada smoke. The local rate for girls (grades 9-12) who smoke cigarettes is 32.5 percent.

One of the recommendations in the report is a call for public health policymakers, educators, medical professionals, and women’s organizations to work for policies and programs that deglamorize and discourage tobacco use.

“This recommendation is especially timely for the residents of Clark County,” said Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the Clark County Health District. “At this time Nevada has some of the weakest laws on the books regarding tobacco control at the local level of government. Statistics show that states with the weakest laws have some of the highest rates of tobacco use. Its time we start addressing this issue from the standpoint of public health.”

The report states that women now account for 39 percent of all smoking-related deaths each year in the United States, a rate that has doubled since 1965. Summarized in the report are patterns of tobacco use among women, factors associated with starting and continuing to smoke, the health consequences of smoking, tobacco marketing aimed at women, and cessation and prevention interventions.

For more information regarding local tobacco control programs call the Clark County Health District at 383-1217.

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