



2008

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

*Southern Nevada Health District*



2008

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COMMUNITY**

*Southern Nevada Health District*

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*(This report includes information from 2008 and FY 2008-2009.)*

*Harvard Public Health Review,  
2000, "Future of Public Health"*

Public health deals with the **health and well being** of the population as a whole. It is best distinguished from clinical medicine by its emphasis on **preventing disease** rather than curing it and its focus on **populations and communities**, rather than the individual patient.

# 10

## The Ten Essential Public Health Services

The Ten Essential Public Health Services were first defined by representatives from U.S. Public Health Service agencies and other major public health organizations. The Essential Services describe the fundamental framework for developing public health programs and activities that should be undertaken in all communities.

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

*fact: public health is not  
publicly funded medical care*

# *board of health*

**T**HE SOUTHERN  
NEVADA DISTRICT  
BOARD OF HEALTH IS  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
POLICY BOARD  
REPRESENTING ALL  
THE ENTITIES IN  
CLARK COUNTY.

*officers*



OFFICERS: Chris Giunchigliani, Chair, Clark County Commissioner; Steven Kirk, Vice Chair, City of Henderson Councilman; Ricki Barlow, Secretary, City of Las Vegas Councilman.

BOARD MEMBERS: Jim Christensen, MD, Physician Member at Large; Susan Crowley, Environmental Health Member at Large; Robert Eliason, City of North Las Vegas Councilman; Assemblyman Joe Hardy, MD, Physician Member at Large; Tim Jones, Business/Industry Member at Large; Mary Jo Mattocks, RN, PhD, Registered Nurse Member at Large; David W. Steinman, City of Las Vegas Councilman; R. "Bubba" Smith, City of Mesquite Councilman; Linda Strickland, Boulder City Councilwoman; Lawrence Weekly, Clark County Commissioner.

BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATIVES: Travis Chandler, Boulder City Councilman; Tom Collins, Clark County Commissioner; Lonnie Empey, Environmental Health Member at Large; Frank Nemecek, MD, Physician Member at Large; John Onyema, MD, CPE, Physician Member at Large; Steven Ross, City of Las Vegas Councilman; Barbara Ruscigno, RN, Registered Nurse Member at Large; Gerri Schroder, City of Henderson Councilwoman; Stephanie Smith, City of North Las Vegas Councilwoman; Jimmy Vigilante, Business/Industry Member at Large.

*members*



*alternates*



# *chief health officer's message*



LAWRENCE K. SANDS, DO, MPH  
Chief Health Officer

## **T**HE SCOPE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IS BROAD AND DIVERSE, AND CONSTANTLY

**CHANGING.** As a result, the Southern Nevada Health District is challenged with responding and adapting accordingly. While we maintain preventive and routine services, such as immunizations and restaurant inspections, we are also prepared to respond to the unexpected.

In early 2008, we found ourselves in the middle of the largest hepatitis C notification in United States history. While the health implications for the affected individuals are life-altering, we have seen positive policy changes as a result of the issues and challenges we identified during the investigation.

Warm weather and the decline of the housing market resulted in a record number of green pool complaints, an increase of 75 percent over the previous year. We identified West Nile positive mosquitoes and sadly, reported one death from the virus. On a positive note, staff implemented an environmentally friendly process to treat pools using fish instead chemicals.



We also responded to new state regulations for preteen vaccination and new child care requirements by offering clinics on weekends and on site at schools and child care centers. Staff initiated public outreach events to raise awareness of sexually transmitted diseases, women's health issues, chronic diseases, healthy lifestyles and childhood immunizations.

Additionally, we exercised emergency preparedness procedures for administering vaccinations at a flu shot clinic for the homeless at Catholic Charities. Staff prepared and distributed the first-ever Clark County Regional Trauma System Report, which compares local, state and national trauma-related statistics.

As always, our commitment to protect and promote the health, the environment and the well-being of this unique, high-profile community remains our top priority as we address the many new challenges we face. These challenges include responding to emerging diseases like the novel H1N1 influenza virus and ensuring our fiscal responsibility during these tough economic times when our constituents rely more than ever on the services we provide.

## VISION

*Healthy people in a healthy Southern Nevada*

## MISSION

*To protect and promote the health, the environment and the well-being of Southern Nevada residents and visitors.*

## GOALS

- *To assure the health district and/or the public health system has the capacity and infrastructure to provide essential services.*
- *To promote, protect and improve health status and reduce health disparities.*
- *To gather and interpret data to guide public health action.*
- *To improve internal and external communications and collaboration.*



# ADMINISTRATION



# administration

**T**HE OPERATIONS OF THE HEALTH CARDS AND VITAL RECORDS SECTIONS FALL UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION. Support services are provided by the Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Facilities sections, as well as the Public Information Office, which includes the Community Outreach program.

## Finance

Approximately 49 percent of health district funding is from fees and other revenues, 37 percent is from local taxes and 12 percent from federal grants. State funding accounts for approximately 2 percent of the health district's budget. The state funds include special purpose tobacco settlement grant programs and the tire tax that is earmarked for solid waste management services.

## REVENUES

	Actual 2006-07	Actual 2007-08	Budgeted 2008-09
Federal Funds distributed by State	7,879,797	8,630,562	7,154,749
Federal Grants	1,590,603	1,651,603	1,595,989
State Funding	1,879,920	1,678,292	1,602,512
Fee for Service	6,717,878	7,340,981	8,280,979
Regulatory Revenue	16,793,854	22,009,800	24,480,894
Program Contract Services	1,618,959	2,652,518	1,666,550
County Tax Revenue	22,450,600	25,473,000	27,510,840
General Receipts	15,882	58,333	10,200
Interest	968,436	1,497,698	1,200,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>59,915,929</b>	<b>70,992,787</b>	<b>73,502,713</b>
<b>Total Capital Improvements</b>	<b>22,674</b>	<b>35,421</b>	<b>38,000</b>

## EXPENDITURES

Clinics & Nursing Services	18,917,693	19,221,694	22,757,896
Environmental Health	11,989,911	13,572,009	14,945,943
Community Health	7,706,454	8,091,703	7,206,344
Administration	16,272,804	18,808,328	26,649,032
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>54,886,862</b>	<b>59,693,734</b>	<b>71,559,215</b>
<b>Total Capital Improvements</b>	<b>1,580,900</b>	<b>946,771</b>	<b>4,014,000</b>

## ENDING FUND BALANCE

Ending General Fund Balance	21,595,624	28,231,570	9,674,008
Capital Improvements	(62,251)	1,424,833	113,710

### Award-winning Financial Report

The Southern Nevada Health District received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year ending 2008 from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report. It is the highest recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which include demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals.

## 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. In 2008, 122,914 health cards were issued.

*17,300 volunteer hours*

## Vital Records

The Vital Records section 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. In 2008, staff processed 24,940 birth records and 11,824 death certificates.

## Community Outreach

The Southern Nevada Health District's commitment to the health of the community is enhanced by the contributions of community partners. Volunteer opportunities at the health district vary for people who wish to contribute their time, talent and skills in an effort to promote public health.

*36,764 birth and  
death certificates*

In 2008, volunteers provided approximately 17,300 hours of service, which equates to a savings of more than \$337,523 in paid labor.

Volunteers assist at the five public health centers primarily through two key programs:

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Community volunteers support numerous programs and projects to enhance the health district's public service. The volunteer program consists of students, AARP/Catholic Charities seniors, residents and retirees.

### SALUD EN ACCIÓN

Salud en Acción provides Medicare advocacy to the Hispanic community including one-on-one counseling, eligibility referrals and assistance with the appeal process. The goal of the program is to provide the participants with accurate information they can use to make informed choices about their health care. In 2008, Salud en Acción volunteers assisted 250 Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries, placed 4,305 confirmation calls to family planning clients and attended 12 community outreach events.

### ONLINE SERVICES

- Order birth and death certificates.
- Access public notices.
- Find out how to apply or renew health cards.
- View health card movie schedules and locations.
- Check out volunteer opportunities.
- Access Board of Health agendas and minutes.
- Find out about job opportunities and apply online.
- View current and past budget reports.





# CLINIC & NURSING SERVICES



# *clinic & nursing services*

**T**HE CLINIC AND NURSING SERVICES DIVISION PROVIDES SERVICES TO MORE THAN 400,000 CLIENTS IN ITS PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS EACH YEAR. Services are provided regardless of a client's ability to pay and include immunizations for infants, children and adults, sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and treatment, tuberculosis (TB) treatment and control, family planning services, well-baby checkups, HIV/AIDS case management and home visitation.

Nursing services and clinics are available at the Ravenholt Public Health Center in central Las Vegas and several locations throughout the Valley. Additionally, the health district partners with community agencies to provide testing, immunizations and outreach at various neighborhood locations and special events throughout the year.

## Family Planning Services

The Family Planning Program is funded by a federal Title X grant and assures access to family planning services and promotes healthy pregnancies and the prevention of unintended pregnancies.

The program provides education, information, contraception, pregnancy testing and counseling to Clark County residents. In 2008, the clinic and its delegate agencies served approximately 30,000 clients, 18,000 of which were served by health district staff.

Staff recruits agencies and providers to participate in the family planning program in order to increase client access to services. The health district develops training, guidelines, protocols and procedures for the provision of services provided by staff, partner agencies and providers.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH CONNECTION

Family planning clinics are service providers for the Women's Health Connection, a breast and cervical cancer early detection program. The program is free for eligible women who reside in Nevada, and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Women age 40 and older are eligible to receive:

- Annual pelvic exams and pap smears
- Clinical breast exams
- Some diagnostic services

Women age 50 and older are eligible to receive program services and an annual mammogram.

## HIV/AIDS/STD Surveillance

The Office of HIV/AIDS provides ongoing prevention and awareness programs throughout the community. The health district has provided testing, counseling and case management services for HIV-positive individuals for more than 20 years. The office distributes educational and prevention materials, makes medical and community service referrals, and partners with other organizations to offer testing and education in non-traditional settings such as prisons, homeless shelters, nightclubs and street outreach events.

### EARLY INTERVENTION CLINIC

The staff introduces newly diagnosed HIV patients to the medical care system. Clients receive education about their individualized treatment plans and doctor visit schedules. This program is funded by the Ryan White Part A federal grant.

### HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE

Over the past 25 years in Clark County, 3,496 people have been diagnosed with HIV and 5,110 people have been diagnosed with AIDS. Of those diagnosed with AIDS, 48 percent have died.

The Office of HIV/AIDS receives more than 500 HIV-related leads from laboratories and health care providers a month, which require investigation by staff to track the epidemic.

### HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING

In 2008, staff administered 18,665 HIV tests, of which 252 were positive. Of the tests administered, 4,892 were rapid HIV tests, which use oral fluids instead of blood. Rapid tests improve access in both clinical and non-clinical settings, helping to increase the number of people who learn their HIV status.



### NURSING CASE MANAGEMENT

Case managers receive referrals from medical providers and HIV community-based organizations to facilitate the delivery of coordinated medical care for severely ill clients. In 2008, case management staff made 9,801 client contacts. This program is funded by the Ryan White Part A federal grant.

### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

STD surveillance provides interviews and investigative services for the diagnosis of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia. Staff also provides partner/contact follow-up. In 2008, there were 1,933 cases of gonorrhea and 7,787 cases of chlamydia in Clark County.

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT AGENCY (SAPTA)

The health district administers the SAPTA program, which provides essential services to 15 SAPTA-funded substance abuse agencies in Clark County. Through this outreach program, staff regularly provide HIV testing and counseling, TB testing and/or chest X-rays, disease and transmission education, and referrals to community agencies. In 2008, staff administered 1,362 HIV tests, of which 10 were positive.

*18,665 HIV tests*

*3,181 Healthy Kids exams*

*19,113 STD clients*

*134 student interns*

#### SYPHILIS ELIMINATION PROGRAM

This program specifically addresses the current syphilis outbreak in Clark County. The program prioritizes and targets interventions and testing to populations at greatest risk. In 2008, there were 72 primary and secondary syphilis cases, and 167 early latent syphilis cases. The Office of HIV/AIDS partners with the Gay & Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada to provide an onsite clinic that offers rapid HIV testing, testing and treatment for syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia, and vaccination for hepatitis A and B. In 2008, there were 11 congenital syphilis cases.

#### Community Health Nursing/Home Visitation

The Community Health Nursing/Home Visitation program consists of the Maternal Child Health Program, a liaison nurse with Child Protective Services, the newly opened Nurse Family Partnership Program, the Lead Case Management Program and the new Refugee Health Program.

#### MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

The Maternal Child Health Program provides case management services to families upon referrals from Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Child Protective Services. The majority of the clients have cognitive and emotional issues or a child who demonstrates delayed growth and development. Nurses provide education, physical assessments and referrals to other services when appropriate, and monitor the child's growth and development.

Nurses also conduct Healthy Kids exams in congregate settings located throughout the community and at health district public health centers. During 2008, staff performed 3,181 examinations.

### THE NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Nurse Family Partnership Program began on Sept. 1, 2008. This national program provides education, guidance and life coaching to low-income, high-risk first-time mothers. Women are enrolled within the first 28 weeks of pregnancy and home visitation continues until the child reaches the age of two. This evidence-based program has documented success in reducing incidences of child abuse, neglect, childhood injuries and hospitalizations. It also has been successful at encouraging young women to return to school to finish their education and to join the work force. During the last quarter of 2008, the program enrolled 40 clients.

### LEAD CASE MANAGEMENT

Nursing staff works with the health district's Office of Epidemiology and Environmental Health Division to eliminate childhood lead exposure as a significant health risk in Clark County. The nurse assigned to this program receives referrals for children with elevated blood lead levels to ensure they receive appropriate medical intervention and the source of their lead exposure is eliminated.

### REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

This program was developed in the latter half of 2008 to respond to the growing number of refugees entering the community with numerous unmet health care needs. These clients face many language and cultural barriers to accessing the health care system. Without proper case management, this can ultimately have an adverse impact on the health of the whole community. The Refugee Health Program is a joint partnership with Catholic Charities. The program officially began operation on Jan. 1, 2009.

## Immunization Program

The Immunization Program is designed to prevent illness, disability and death from vaccine preventable diseases. All recommended childhood, adolescent and adult immunizations including influenza vaccine are available at the health district. Nursing staff administered 317,331 immunizations in 2008, and staff provides consultation to private providers who enroll in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program. The assessment and feedback of private providers is required by the CDC to ensure all program guidelines are followed and children are being properly immunized in a timely manner.

### ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

The Adolescent Immunization Program was initiated this past year in response to the new state mandate requiring students to have a booster of Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) before entering seventh grade. (See sidebar on page 25.) This is a joint partnership between all public and private schools in Clark County to provide the vaccinations in the school setting. A 95 percent compliance rate was achieved for the booster dose in 2008.

### DAY CARE VACCINATION PROGRAM

The Day Care Program is also a new initiative. Children attending day care must be up to date on all vaccinations required for their age by state statute. Staff insures all children have a record on file, audit the record for completeness, and vaccinate children who need additional immunizations or refer them to their private provider and then re-audit the program in 90 days. Significant deficiencies in the immunization of children in the day care population have been identified through this program. Staff has 500 licensed day care centers on file to be audited.



### NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

In 2008, the Nevada State Board of Health enacted new immunization regulations that require children entering seventh grade to be immunized against *Bordetella pertussis*, commonly known as “whooping cough,” with the vaccine Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis).

In addition, college freshmen younger than 24 years who reside in on-campus housing at a Nevada college or university are required to receive the immunization against *Neisseria meningitidis* (Meningococcus). Both requirements were implemented for the 2008-09 academic year.

The health district hosted several Saturday immunization clinics offering the Tdap and meningitis vaccines, as well as other childhood and teen immunizations.

Most parents do not realize that immunizations can wane over time, which puts children at risk for potential exposure to illnesses.

### ADULT/WORKPLACE VACCINATION PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to promote vaccine awareness and prevention of disease through vaccination. Staff members focus their educational outreach efforts on businesses, community organizations, group homes and acute and long-term care facilities. In 2008, 1,362 clients were served.

### HEALTH CARD CLINIC

The Health Card Clinic provides hepatitis A vaccination and tuberculosis screening for clients obtaining a health card. A health card is required for food handlers, massage therapists, child care workers, reflexologists, aestheticians, adult group care workers, barbers and tattoo artists. The Health Card Clinic also offers TB skin testing for the general public. In 2008, there were 79,191 hepatitis A vaccines given and 15,548 tuberculosis skin tests administered.

### PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PROGRAM

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program is a national program that provides follow-up services for infants and household contacts of women infected with hepatitis B. Babies born to infected mothers receive vaccine to prevent transmission of the disease. In 2008, staff provided case management services to approximately 342 newborns, expectant mothers and household contacts.

## VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

The Vaccines for Children Program, which began Oct. 1, 1994, represents an unprecedented approach to improving vaccine availability nationwide by providing vaccine at no cost to VFC-eligible children through enrolled public and private health care providers.

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinical Services

The Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic provides testing, counseling, treatment, follow-up services and partner notification for clients seeking services for sexually transmitted infections. The program works to reduce the incidence of disease by early intervention in the disease process. STD clinic staff provided services to more than 19,113 unduplicated clients and laboratory staff processed 53,490 tests in 2008.

The STD laboratory staff continues to provide onsite services while outsourcing chlamydia and gonorrhea tests to the State Public Health Laboratory in Long Beach, Calif., and syphilis tests to the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory.

## Tuberculosis Surveillance and Clinical Services

The Tuberculosis Treatment & Control Clinic integrates clinic services, field services, case management, directly observed therapy, surveillance and educational outreach activities to rapidly identify and diagnose TB disease, treat active cases and conduct contact investigations.

In 2008, there were 91 cases of active TB reported in Clark County. Of these cases, five clients are being treated for multi-drug resistant TB. A total of 109 contact investigations were conducted and one was identified as an outbreak and required additional resources from the CDC. The successful identification of disease, along with completion of therapy, is necessary to prevent further spread of TB and to curb drug-resistant strains.

## Nursing Development/Community Outreach

This program provides nursing staff with educational opportunities presented in various formats, such as satellite broadcasts and speakers. Continuing education units are available for many of the programs. In 2008, approximately 193 educational opportunities were offered.

Staff also provides local nursing, medical and pediatric students with a variety of experiences to introduce them to the concepts of public health. In 2008, approximately 134 students rotated through the Clinic & Nursing Services Division.

In addition to providing educational opportunities, staff participates in community outreach to promote health district services.

*fact: Chlamydia is the most common STD in Nevada.*

### ONLINE SERVICES

- Learn what to expect when visiting the STD, TB and Family Planning clinics.
- Download immunization forms and vaccine information sheets.
- Get immunization schedules developed by CDC.
- Check dates and locations of specialty clinics, such as HIV, immunization and lead screening.
- Local medical service providers for the uninsured and underinsured.
- View monthly disease statistics.



# COMMUNITY HEALTH



# *community health*

**T**HE COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION ENCOMPASSES PROGRAMS THAT MONITOR AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS, ASSURE READINESS AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND PROMOTE HEALTHY BEHAVIORS.

## **Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion**

The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion educates residents about healthy choices, promotes behaviors that lead to improved health, and develops community partnerships to encourage healthy lifestyles. The programs, administered by professionally trained health educators, encourage people to get moving, be safe, eat better, and live smoke-free.

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Chronic diseases, which include cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes, are now among the most prevalent and costly of health problems. Most are preventable by changing risk behaviors, such as tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor dietary choices. The nationally recognized efforts of the Chronic Disease Prevention Program include campaigns at schools, worksites and community venues to promote healthy eating, increase levels of physical activity and awareness of chronic disease risk factors. Programs are tailored to meet the needs of at-risk communities to reduce health disparities. (See sidebar on page 33.)

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Chronic Disease Prevention Program promotes increased levels of physical activity through the Walk Around Nevada online program, TV Turn Off Week, social marketing campaigns and worksite wellness tool kits. More than 5,000 individuals have registered for Walk Around Nevada.

## NUTRITION

The program also advocates improved dietary choices through the Nutrition Challenge online program and social marketing campaigns. More than 2,300 people have registered for the Nutrition Challenge.

Program staff supports and participates in community coalitions including:

- Community Partners for Better Health—a community coalition promoting healthy lifestyles within communities of color

## ONLINE SERVICES

- Join the Nutrition Challenge.
- Get information about smoking cessation.
- Participate in the Walk Around Nevada program.
- Check out the Get Healthy Clark County campaign.
- Access the community calendar of healthy events for adults and children.
- Check out the blog and send in your questions.

- Clark County Diabetes Group—a coalition promoting awareness and early diagnosis of diabetes
- Partners for a Healthy Nevada—a Clark County coalition addressing obesity
- Regional Open Space Work Group—a Clark County partnership addressing open space and trails

### INJURY PREVENTION

The Injury Prevention Program focuses on three areas of prevention: drowning, falls among seniors and suicide.

#### 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; the use of barriers such as isolation fencing, door alarms, and electrically operated pool covers; CPR training and proper rescue equipment. In 2008, there were 54 submersion incidents and nine drownings recorded among children 14 years and under. All of the drownings involved children less than 4 years of age. These

numbers are similar to 2007 totals and much lower than those prior to initiating the annual campaign in 2004.

The campaign has been conducted for the past nine years and is supported by a combination of funding from the health district, Clark County Safe Kids, an Outside Agency Grant from Clark County and local businesses.

### FALL PREVENTION

Falls and fall-related injuries impose an enormous burden on individuals, society and the nation's health care systems. One-third of adults over the age of 65 fall each year. In response, the health district is working with community partners to replicate an evidence-based senior fall prevention education program in Clark County.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION

By collaborating with community partners, the injury prevention staff strives to reduce the suicide rate in Clark County. In addition to supporting the creation of a statewide suicide prevention program, staff coordinated a public information campaign to increase awareness and reduce the stigma associated with suicide.



### MUEVETE BAILANDO

The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion partners with the Nevada Alliance Against Diabetes and Princess II Salón de Fiestas to host free monthly support groups in Spanish for diabetics, their families and those at high risk of developing diabetes. But these aren't your typical support group meetings: there's a twist. Literally.

The "Muevete Bailando" program (translated into English means "Moving and Dancing") was developed two years ago to integrate a physical activity component to the support group in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way. It also encourages participants to improve their health by increasing their physical activity.

Each support group offers 30 minutes of Latin dance instruction, followed by a 15 minute presentation on the importance of a healthy diet or physical activity in managing (or preventing) diabetes. Over 30 people, on average, attend the monthly support group.

### 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 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.

The program is guided by the CDC's "Best Practices" document. Staff has expanded programming to diverse communities disproportionately affected by tobacco use and helped to increase public awareness of the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke. Since the program's inception in 1999, smoking rates among adults have declined from 30 percent to 21.5 percent and among children have declined from 30 percent to 13.6 percent.

The Tobacco Control Program supports and develops community coalitions including:

- CIAA (Clean Indoor Air Alliance)
- XPOZ—a youth tobacco prevention organization
- Urban Fuel—a young adult tobacco prevention coalition
- CRUSH—a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender tobacco prevention brand

## Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System

The Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System (EMSTS) Office coordinates emergency medical services by providing medical direction and protocols for the county's emergency response system. Additionally, the office has the authority to plan, implement and monitor the Clark County trauma care system.

### CERTIFICATION, LICENSING AND PERMITTING

The 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.

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

The cornerstone of the trauma system performance improvement process is the Trauma Medical Audit Committee (TMAC). The TMAC is a multidisciplinary medical review committee that meets regularly to review and evaluate trauma care in the system, monitor trends in system performance and make recommendations for system improvements.

#### 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. Membership consists of one medical director and one operations director for each permitted agency.

#### REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD

The Clark County Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) supports the chief 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.

*fact: Trauma is the leading cause of death and disability for U.S. residents ages 1-44.*

#### 2008 CERTIFICATION STATUS REPORT

Applications received for certification via reciprocity	109
Applications received for certification via challenge	16
EMS training courses completed	48
New certifications issued	274
Renewal certifications issued	1,331
Total certifications issued	1,605

#### 2008 ACTIVE CERTIFICATIONS REPORT

First Responder	21
EMT-Basic	921
EMT-Intermediate	1,359
EMT-Paramedic	958
EMS Instructors	394

#### 2008 LICENSURE STATUS REPORT

New licenses issued	259
Renewal licenses issued	1,189
Paid full-time fire departments	6
Volunteer fire departments	11
Private ambulance services	2
Special purpose stand-by ambulance services	3
Helicopter ambulance services	1
Fixed-wing air ambulance services	2

### 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

As of Dec. 31, 2008, RTAB members include: Mary Ellen Britt, Southern Nevada Health District; John Fildes, MD, University Medical Center; Gregg Fusto, RN, University Medical Center; Michael Metzler, MD, Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center; Melinda Hursh, RN, Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center; Sean Dort, MD, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals-Siena Campus; Kim Dokken, RN, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals-Siena Campus; Allen Marino, MD; Larry Johnson, MedicWest Ambulance; Brian Rogers, Henderson Fire Department; Scott Cassano, United Healthcare; Deborah Kreun, ThinkFirst-Nevada; William Wagnon, MountainView Hospital; and Susan Hilger.



## Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the basic science of public health, studying and describing the patterns of disease in the community and determining the reason for those patterns. The Office of Epidemiology works with a broad range of diseases from anthrax to zoster, infectious to non-infectious and acute to chronic. The office conducts disease surveillance, investigates individual cases and disease outbreaks, and analyzes population-level disease data to understand and facilitate control of the diseases and conditions that are most important to the health and well being of Southern Nevada residents and visitors. Staff is also involved with educating health care providers, agency partners and the general public about diseases of public health concern.

### SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS

#### **Reportable Disease Investigation and Surveillance**

State and local laws require health care providers, medical laboratories, blood banks, veterinarians, school authorities, college administrators, child care and nursing home directors, and correctional facilities to report more than 60 different diseases and conditions to the health district. The Office of Epidemiology conducts surveillance and investigates all reportable diseases with the exception of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis, which are investigated by Clinic & Nursing Services staff. Disease surveillance is used to detect outbreaks of infectious disease.

In 2008, the Office of Epidemiology received 153,662 disease reports, 1,595 of which required further investigation by staff prior to reporting to the Nevada State Health Division.

#### **Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance**

In 2008, the Office of Epidemiology staff worked to update the guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities in accordance with updated guidelines from the CDC.

In conjunction with Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness, staff enlisted the cooperation of commercial and hospital laboratory personnel to participate in a countywide antimicrobial resistance surveillance project. In 2008, the countywide antibiogram was updated to include three years of data (2005-2007), additional organisms and the updated antimicrobial agents to reflect those recommended by Clinical and Laboratories Standards Institute in January 2008. There are separate versions of the antibiogram for organisms isolated from adult and pediatric patients.

Surveillance on drug-resistant invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is also conducted to identify emerging antimicrobial resistance, to evaluate the impact of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccines on disease burden, to evaluate prevention of illness among the elderly and to provide information on current resistance patterns to health care providers.

### **Chronic Disease Surveillance**

This program tracks various chronic disease indicators at the county level, including physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, asthma, diabetes, obesity/overweight, cancer and tobacco use. Survey data is assessed to determine health disparities by sex and race-ethnic groups and to determine preventable risk behaviors that can lead to chronic disease. Development of a stroke registry, in coordination with other

public health agencies, to track the quality of care of stroke patients is underway.

### **Foodborne Illness Surveillance**

An important function of the Office of Epidemiology is to receive and investigate complaints from the public regarding possible foodborne illness. Staff monitors the complaints to detect foodborne outbreaks and works with Environmental Health staff to conduct investigations. In 2008, the health district documented 618 complaints and investigated 14 outbreaks of gastroenteritis.

### **Influenza Surveillance**

This program tracks the spread of influenza in the community throughout the year, providing insight into a disease that significantly impacts individual health and the medical system each winter. In addition to tracking laboratory-confirmed cases, influenza activity and trends are tracked through sentinel sites and death certificate surveillance. This data is forwarded to the CDC for regional and national statistics of influenza.

### **Childhood Lead Surveillance**

Staff conducts surveillance of pediatric blood lead levels, and works with Clinic & Nursing Services and Environmental Health

staff to identify and manage lead poisoning among children. During 2008, staff received 13,465 reports for children under the age of 18 years, of which 25 percent showed an exposure to lead.

### **Mortality and Injury Surveillance**

Mortality and Injury Surveillance works to enhance the understanding of the risk factors and causes of deaths and injuries experienced by the Clark County community. The overarching goal of the program is to collect appropriate data to support a strategy for the reduction in the mortality and injury rates. Some objectives of the program include the following:

- Collect and maintain data on the mortality and injury experiences in Clark County
- Perform appropriate statistical analyses for displaying mortality and injury data and comparison with U.S. rates
- Provide a summary and narrative report for inclusion in the health district's annual Health Status Report
- Provide support to other health district programs in an effort to reduce mortality and injury rates in Clark County

In addition, mortality and injury data are compiled and maintained specifically to support the development of appropriate, data driven, public education and outreach programs.

### **OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH EVENT RESPONSE**

The Office of Epidemiology investigates and implements interventions to control outbreaks and unusual occurrences of disease, including foodborne illness, vaccine-preventable diseases, and health care-acquired infections. In 2008, staff responded to over 30 incidents, working with other health district divisions and partner agencies to prevent and control the transmission of disease in the community. In November, the Office of Epidemiology was named the "Public Health Program of the Year" by the Nevada Public Health Association for its role in leading an investigation and responding to the largest outbreak of health care-acquired hepatitis C reported in United States history.

## CLARK COUNTY REPORTABLE DISEASE STATISTICS\*

Disease	2007	2008
<b>VACCINE PREVENTABLE</b>		
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZA (INVASIVE)	8	14
HEPATITIS A	5	10
HEPATITIS B (ACUTE)	34	33
INFLUENZA	79	280
MEASLES	<5	<5
MUMPS	9	32
PERTUSSIS	9	19
RUBELLA	<5	0
<b>SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED</b>		
CHLAMYDIA	7,312	7,731
GONORRHEA	2,110	1,918
SYPHILIS (CONGENITAL)	8	11
SYPHILIS (EARLY LATENT)	169	167
SYPHILIS (PRIMARY & SECONDARY)	102	72
<b>ENTERICS</b>		
AMEBIASIS	13	11
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	134	108
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	18	<5
GIARDIA	99	87
ROTAVIRUS	278	283
SALMONELLOSIS	167	183
SHIGA-TOXIN PRODUCING E. COLI	16	10
SHIGELLOSIS	71	218
VIBRIO (NON-CHOLERA)	<5	<5
YERSINIOSIS	<5	<5

Disease	2007	2008
<b>OTHER</b>		
BRUCELLOSIS	<5	<5
COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS	65	47
ENCEPHALITIS	<5	5
HEMOLYTIC UREMIC SYNDROME (HUS)	0	<5
HEPATITIS C (ACUTE)	6	16
INVASIVE GROUP A STREP:##	20	21
INVASIVE STREP. PNEUMONIAE#	<5	6
LEGIONELLOSIS	8	12
LEPROSY (HANSEN'S DISEASE)	<5	0
LISTERIOSIS	7	<5
LYME DISEASE	9	<5
MALARIA	0	<5
MENINGITIS, ASEPTIC/VIRAL	61	56
MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL	19	17
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE	<5	<5
Q FEVER	<5	<5
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER	0	<5
RSV (RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS)	1,315	1,034
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE (drug-resistant, invasive)#	25	39
TOXIC SHOCK SYN	0	<5
TOXIC SHOCK SYN (STREPTOCOCCAL)	<5	<5
UNUSUAL ILLNESS	<5	<5
WEST NILE VIRUS (ENCEPHALITIS)	<5	10
WEST NILE VIRUS (FEVER)	<5	<5

\*Numbers include confirmed, probable and suspect cases.

#Reported since Sept. 2005. Children <5 years with S. pneumo invasive disease are reported under Invasive S. pneumo if not drug resistant.

##Reported since March 2007.



## HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

The Office of Epidemiology distributes timely health related information to the medical community through its Health Alert Network using broadcast fax, e-mail and a web-based system that allows providers to choose how they prefer to receive critical information. The office also provides information to the public and health care providers through newsletters, notices and alerts. In 2008, 41 alerts, technical bulletins and newsletters were distributed, reaching 45,226 health care providers.

### Health Data Analysis and Reporting

The Office of Epidemiology collects local health data from public health partners to monitor and measure both communicable and chronic diseases/conditions among county residents. Statistics on notifiable diseases and conditions are compiled and distributed monthly to partners and the public.

### Health Status Reports

The series of Clark County Health Status Reports consolidates available local and national data from various sources to provide data and observations on the occurrence, prevalence, patterns and trends of selected measures of health and well-being of county residents. The first report was released in 2007 and is updated annually. The reports provide practical information that can support informed decisions, actions and planning aimed at improving the health of our population. In addition to providing the standard reports, the office responds to requests for information and data analysis from community partners and residents.

## ONLINE SERVICES

- Check dates and locations for EMS training opportunities in Clark County.
- Download EMS regulations, manuals and forms.
- View the *Clark County Health Status Reports*.
- Access the antibiogram newsletter.
- Access the “Invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Surveillance in Clark County” newsletter.
- Get emergency preparedness planning and kit information.
- View health district preparedness plans.
- View monthly disease statistics.

## Public Health Preparedness

The Office of Public Health Preparedness works with other health district programs to prepare for and respond to the consequences of manmade and naturally occurring emergencies including infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism events and other public health threats.

The office is funded from several federal grant sources from the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) which includes the CDC. Funds are intended to upgrade local public health jurisdictions' preparedness and response to bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious diseases, and other public health threats and emergencies. The grants include:

- **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** – Provides for the development of incident management, internal communication, crisis and emergency risk communication, exercise design, performance and improvement of health district plans, as well as funding for increased laboratory capabilities for the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory.
- **CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE (CRI)** – A CDC-sponsored program that enables cities to provide preventive medications to their entire populations within 48 hours of a public health emergency. In 2008, the health district's Mass Prophylaxis Plan was updated, increasing the health district's ability to respond to an event requiring medication dispensing. The health district continues to work with law enforcement, the Clark County Office of Emergency Management, the Clark County School District, and other community partners to enhance CRI planning activities. The health district has initiated partnerships with the resort community and other local businesses to develop a project to provide medications to their staff, families and visitors during an emergency.
- **ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE** – Helps health care systems prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. Program priorities include interoperable communication systems, bed tracking, personnel management, fatality management planning and hospital evacuation planning.

## PLANNING

The following federal directives have been completed by the Office of Public Health Preparedness or are in development:

- Southern Nevada Health District Emergency Operations Plan
- CRI Mass Prophylaxis Annex; the Automated Detection System Annex with the United States Postal Service
- Highly Infectious Respiratory Disease Annex
- Respiratory Protection Annex for employees and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers
- Medical Surge Annex
- Isolation and Quarantine Annex

The directives are integrated into current response plans and exercises are held to test the plans in order to ensure staff and citizens of Clark County the plans are operational and effective. Plans are also implemented and evaluated during real world events.

## TRAINING

The office has ensured 99 percent of health district staff are trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the nationally recognized system of disaster management.

The training staff provides educational opportunities in public health preparedness to the entire health district. Training staff participates in health and wellness fairs and materials are available and distributed on various topics including hand washing, flu prevention, emergency preparedness, and pet preparedness. Materials are available in English and Spanish as well as in Braille and audio tapes for the blind. The training staff has also developed a four-hour course on the Medical Consequences of an Act of Terrorism that is required by the State of Nevada to relicense. The staff has presented this course to over 2,000 health care professionals in Las Vegas.

### PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS NURSE

*19 reported pertussis cases*

The Public Health Preparedness Nurse administers programs designed to protect the health of staff if called to support disaster services. Programs include providing immunizations to employees and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, annually fit-testing employees with respirators through a respiratory protection program and providing bloodborne pathogen training.

*5,343 lab transports*

### MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

The Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Nevada (MRC) is sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General with the mission to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers. The local MRC supports this national mission and is housed in the Office of Public Health Preparedness. The local unit consists of 286 registered volunteers.

*600 isolates analyzed*

In 2008, the MRC assisted the health district during back-to-school immunization clinics and with the hepatitis C outbreak response. In October, volunteers administered flu vaccine to homeless individuals at Catholic Charities as part of a statewide exercise. Volunteers also attended community outreach events to promote emergency preparedness for families and pets, and provided weight and blood pressure screenings at local health fairs. They also provided first aid support at numerous community and sporting events including the Komen Race for the Cure, Special Olympics, Silverman Triathlon and the Las Vegas Marathon.

*286 MRC volunteers*

## Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory

The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory is jointly operated by the Southern Nevada Health District and the University of Nevada School of Medicine. The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory and the Nevada State 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.

The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory is licensed by the State of Nevada to perform moderate and high complexity clinical testing and is registered with the Laboratory Response Network (LRN). The LRN was formed in 1999 by the CDC, the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the FBI to aid laboratories in preparing and responding to acts of bioterrorism.

The laboratory has an in-house courier system for transporting reportable disease isolates from local laboratories and clinics. It provided 5,343 courier services in 2008.

The reportable disease isolates received at the laboratory are further characterized with additional testing. Results are then reported to the CDC through the Public Health Laboratory Information System. In 2008, staff analyzed and reported 600 isolates and participated in more than 100 epidemiological investigations—an increase over the 500 isolates analyzed and 42 investigations conducted in 2007. The increase resulted from outreach by staff to local laboratories, as well as staff participation in the health district's outbreak investigation team.

Activities included performing confirmatory testing on the ricin sample found in February 2008 by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and providing assistance during the 2008 hepatitis C outbreak investigation with sample collection and transport, technical advice on laboratory testing, and acting as a liaison to local laboratories. In addition, staff conducts 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.



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# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



# *environmental health*

**T**HE PROGRAMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION ARE DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND SUSTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS THAT PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH. They ensure proper sanitation, safe food, proper disposal of waste and toxic materials, and the management of public health hazards in the environment. As the county's Solid Waste Management Authority, the health district provides regulatory oversight of all permitted solid waste disposal facilities and recycling centers.

## Inspection and Plan Review Programs

### CHILD CARE AND NURSERY FACILITIES

The 528 permitted child care facilities are regularly inspected to ensure compliance with health, sanitation and safety regulations.

- Routine child care inspections: 949
- Complaint-driven inspections: 77



- Child care plan reviews, preliminary, status checks, letters, revised plans: 45
- Child care site inspections under construction: 54
- Existing facility equipment and construction evaluations: 26
- New child care permits issued or amended (includes change of ownership): 73

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

Environmental health specialists inspect the county's approximate 16,392 permitted food establishments a minimum of once a year as required by state law.

- Routine inspections: 25,934
- Special event inspections: 3,597
- Complaint-driven inspections: 2,302
- Mobile vendor inspections: 727

Plans for new construction and remodeling of food establishments are submitted for approval to the Environmental Health Division.

- Food establishment plan reviews, preliminary, status checks, letters, revised plans: 2,258
- Food establishment site visits under construction: 4,091
- Existing facility equipment and construction evaluations: 1,148
- New food establishment permits issued or amended (includes change of ownership): 3,029

## INSTITUTIONS

The Institutional Inspection Program inspects more than 462 permitted facilities, which include public, private and charter schools, local correctional facilities, summer camps and children's homes.

- Routine school inspections: 875
- Complaint-driven inspections: 42
- School plan reviews, preliminary, status checks, letters, revised plans: 45
- School site inspections under construction: 58
- Existing facility equipment and construction evaluations: 1
- New school permits issued or amended: 31
- Routine correctional facility inspections: 10
- Correctional facility plan reviews, preliminary, status checks, letters, revised plans: 2
- Site inspections under construction: 1
- New correctional facility permits issued or amended: 0
- Routine summer camps and children's home inspections: 14

## GET THE LEAD OUT!

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program combines the efforts of the Office of Epidemiology, Environmental Health Division, Clinic and Nursing Services Division, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and many other partners to help families, health care providers and the community organizations by:

- providing information on lead exposure prevention and educating the public about common sources of lead in Southern Nevada, such as imported candies, clay pots and dishes, dust, dirt, home remedies, toys, jewelry and keys
- tracking children who have high levels of lead in their blood, investigating to find out how they may have been exposed to lead and providing case management
- administering lead blood tests
- working with families and doctors of children who are affected
- inspecting houses built before 1978
- testing potential lead sources

## PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS AND DRY CAMPING FACILITIES

Hotels and motels are inspected at least once a year 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 2008, there were 351 permitted hotels and motels in Clark County, with a total of 152,330 rental rooms. Additionally, there were 159 permitted mobile home and RV parks with a total of 23,947 rental spaces.

- Routine hotel and motel inspections: 372
- Complaint-driven inspections: 281
- Public accommodation facility plan reviews, preliminary, status checks, letters, revised plans: 21
- Public accommodation site inspections under construction: 42
- Existing facility equipment and construction evaluations: 18
- New public accommodation facility permits issued or amended (includes change of ownership): 33
- Routine mobile home and RV park inspections: 175

*152,330 rental  
rooms in Clark County*

*9 permitted land fills*

## PUBLIC BATHING PLACES

State law requires the 4,394 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.

- Routine pool and spa inspections: 5,429
- Complaint-driven inspections: 353

*1,982 illegal dumping complaints*

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 companies, operators, technicians and technician apprentices.

- Public bathing facility plan reviews, preliminary, status checks, letters, revised plans: 466
- Public bathing site inspections under construction: 797
- Existing facility equipment and construction evaluations: 190
- New public bathing facility permits issued or amended (includes change of ownership): 611

### SEPTIC SYSTEMS

In areas where public sewers are not available, individual sewage disposal systems 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: 142
- Septic systems permitted: 146
- Loan certificates issued: 35
- Liquid waste pumping/hauling companies permitted: 37
- Pumping/hauling trucks permitted: 140

*fact: One quart of motor oil that is disposed of improperly can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of fresh water.*

## PERMITTED SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

The Permitted Disposal Facilities program staff conducts inspections with varying frequencies each calendar year on all permitted disposal sites in Clark County. In addition, staff investigates unpermitted solid waste handling facilities, follow-up on rejected load reports and issue waste asbestos transport permits.

Permitted disposal facilities in Clark County:

- Landfills: 9, with 1 application
- Transfer stations: 6, with 3 applications
- Public waste storage bin facilities: 3, with 1 application
- Material recovery facilities: 6, with 4 applications
- Recycling centers: 17, with 6 applications
- Waste tire management facility: 0, with 0 applications
- Waste tire hauler: 1 with 0 applications
- Compost facility: 1, with 1 application
- Construction and demolition waste short-term storage facilities: 0, with 1 application
- Waste asbestos transportation permits issued: 367
- Rejected load reports: 387

## ONLINE SERVICES

- Access NCIAA complaint form.
- Report illegal dumping, illegal vendors, green pools, mosquitoes and stagnant water.
- Access regulations, forms, applications, checklists and fee schedules for regulated businesses and individuals.
- Download zoonotic disease report.
- Learn more about Virginia Graham Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

## 2008 CLARK COUNTY RECYCLING REPORT

(Quantities reported in the number of tons)

RECYCLED MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW)	2008	2007	% Change
Paper <i>Corrugated cardboard, newspaper, office paper, magazines, telephone books, mixed paper, other paper</i>	177,187.58	172,992.59	2.42%
Metals <i>Aluminum containers, tin/steel containers, ferrous scrap metals, non-ferrous scrap metals, appliances, mixed metal</i>	293,868.64	331,014.41	-11.22%
Plastic <i>Plastic (PET), plastic (HDPE), mixed plastic, plastic film, polystyrene, other (PVC, LDPE, PP)</i>	20,762.50	12,339.36	68.26%
Glass <i>Clear, green, amber/brown, mixed glass, other glass</i>	3,258.51	3,372.00	-3.37%
Organic Material <i>Yard debris, food waste, biosolids, restaurant grease, rendered animal matter, pallets/wood</i>	69,720.05	97,140.75	-28.23%
Special Waste <i>Used tires, paint, Fluorescent Bulbs, Lamp Ballasts, Mercury Devices and Waste, Household Hazardous Waste,</i>	4,098.48	3,431.90	19.42%
Textiles <i>Textiles, carpet/carpet pad</i>	1,825.87	1,218.83	49.80%
Other Recycled MSW <i>Toner cartridges, cell phones, filters, transformers and electrical equipment, computer e-waste,</i>	994.68	562.08	76.96%
<b>TOTAL RECYCLED MSW</b>	<b>571,716.31</b>	<b>622,071.92</b>	<b>-8.09%</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION DEBRIS (C &amp; D)</b>	<b>17,287.20</b>	<b>1,620.48</b>	<b>967%</b>
Construction & Demolition Debris <i>Asphalt, Concrete, Carpet, Carpet padding, Drywall, Wood, Plastic buckets</i>			
<b>TOTAL C &amp; D</b>	<b>17,287.20</b>	<b>1,620.48</b>	
<b>RECYCLED MSW AND C &amp; D GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>589,003.52</b>	<b>623,692.40</b>	
Total MSW disposed of in the municipality: *	2,449,878	2,496,672	
Total MSW generated in municipality: **	3,021,594	3,118,744	

\*This number can be found in the spreadsheet at the following link: <http://nevadarecycles.gov/main/forms.htm>

\*\* Total MSW generated is the sum of recycled MSW (tabulated above) plus the quantity of MSW disposed of in a landfill, which was reported as generated in the municipality.

#Two organizations updated their 2007 results. This reflects the revised total.

- Business license applications: 420
- Temporary Solid Waste Disposal Site Permits: 0, with 0 applications

### TATTOO, PERMANENT MAKEUP AND BODY PIERCING

Health district regulations require operators at tattoo, permanent makeup and body piercing establishments to receive vaccinations for hepatitis A and B, and to complete courses on preventing disease transmission, first aid and CPR. In 2008, 138 establishments were licensed in Clark County.

- Tattoo, permanent make-up and body piercing establishment inspections: 320

### UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

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

- Active UST facilities in Clark County: 787, with 9 pending
- New USTs and status changes: 13 new, 29 change of owner

- Permanent closures: 8
- Plan reviews and final inspections conducted: 72
- Facilities reported to NDEP for formal enforcement: 3
- Closure inspections and site assessments: 8
- Contaminated sites: 4

### USED MATTRESSES, BEDDING AND UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

In October 2007, the Southern Nevada District Board of Health passed new regulations governing the sale and disposal of used mattresses, bedding and upholstered furniture.

Insert statistic here.

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The CDC grant funded Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is administered through the Environmental Health Division. The CLPPP is a partnership of several community agencies working to eliminate lead exposure in children. (See sidebar on page 50.)

## Illegal Dumping Investigations and Enforcement

The Solid Waste and Compliance section of the Environmental Health Division enforces 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: 1,982
- Cases presented to the hearing officer for adjudication: 252
- Penalties assessed for illegal dumping by the hearing officer: \$433,005

## 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: 83

## 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: 651
- Maps approved: 185
- Units/lots approved: 8,470

## Target Sector Inspection

Target Sector Inspections (TSI) are conducted through an interlocal contract with NDEP. The TSI program audits small quantity generators of hazardous waste and specific businesses identified by the NDEP to ensure proper handling and reporting.

- Target Sector Inspections: 287

## Vector Control

Vector control staff conducts surveillance, control and public education of animal diseases communicable to humans: rabies, plague, hantavirus, West Nile virus (WNV), Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) and St. Louis Encephalitis (STE). Staff maintains a GIS database on disease distribution and control activities.

- Responses to citizen generated complaints of stagnant swimming pools: 2,854
- Routinely treated natural mosquito breeding areas: 170
- Mosquitoes submitted for WNV, WEE, STE analysis: 14,688; 346 positive for WNV
- Bird samples submitted WNV, WEE, STE analysis: 9; 0 positive
- Animal samples submitted for rabies analysis: 145; 6 bats positive
- Rodent samples submitted for hantavirus analysis: 98; 3 positive
- Rodent samples submitted for plague analysis: 105; 1 positive
- Flea samples submitted for plague analysis: 94; 0 positive

## Waste Management Audits

Waste management audit inspections ensure area businesses manage waste properly to protect public health and the environment.

- Waste management audits: 2,396



# PUBLIC HEALTH HEROES

**P**UBLIC HEALTH HERO AWARDS ARE PRESENTED EACH YEAR AS A PART OF SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT'S CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK IN ORDER TO HONOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.

**GEORGE BOTTA**, a certified pest control operator, alerted health district environmental health specialists about a public health hazard at a food warehouse. The warehouse contracted with the company that employs Botta for pest control services. When Botta responded to the call he noted there was significant roach and rodent infestation. He alerted the health district and provided information regarding the facility. The health district immediately responded and determined the facility did not have a health permit or a business license.

Because of Botta's actions health district staff was able to notify food establishments not to accept any products from the warehouse, supervised the destruction of approximately 22 tons of tainted food products, and witnessed the destruction of compromised food product that had been delivered to other restaurant facilities. Botta's initiative to report the unsanitary conditions at this facility helped to eliminate the potential for food borne illnesses in the community.

**LON KRUGER**, coach of the Runnin' Rebels basketball team, was recognized for his role in the development of The Coach's Challenge, a new program implemented by the health district in 63 elementary schools, including 530 classrooms and more than 14,500 children. The program encourages elementary school children to eat healthy and be physically active.

Kruger attended planning meetings, visited classrooms, wrote letters about the importance of physical activity and nutrition to students who participated in the program, and contributed UNLV resources including 500 tickets to a UNLV game and posters for each of the participating classrooms.



*George Botta and  
Dr. Lawrence Sands*



*Lon Kruger*



*Mike Cushman and  
Dr. Lawrence Sands*



*John Willian and  
Dr. Lawrence Sands*

**MIKE CUSHMAN** has worked to become one of the industry leaders in the prevention and control of norovirus outbreaks in Southern Nevada. Cushman expanded upon health district guidelines for hotels and casinos to prevent and control norovirus outbreaks. His work led to an expansion of the health district guidelines and his recommendations have been adopted as local industry standards.

During a 2007 norovirus outbreak at the Clark County Detention Center, health district staff suggested the detention center contact Cushman for additional guidance on environmental control strategies. In response, Cushman provided guidance but also arrived at the detention center with the equipment needed to conduct a thorough environmental response. He worked along side detention center staff throughout the night until the entire facility had been cleaned.

**JOHN WILLIAN**, safety manager for the Venetian/Venezia and Palazzo, has promoted hepatitis B vaccination for staff members and as a result almost 1,000 of his colleagues have received the vaccine. In addition he has implemented a requirement that members of housekeeping, guest services, priority services and meeting services obtain a health card from the health district, which is now a condition of employment for these positions.

He shares his “real-world” knowledge with engineering students about safety issues at resort properties and how those relate to the field of engineering. He also provides students with information about the role of safety programs and chemical, biological and other emergency situations.



# DIRECTORY & LOCATIONS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Main Number .....	759-1000
Emergency Hotline .....	759-4636 (INFO)
Website .....	<a href="http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org">www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org</a>

## ADMINISTRATION

Administration .....	759-1204
Chief Health Officer .....	759-1201
Community Outreach .....	759-0881
Health Cards .....	759-1099
Human Resources .....	759-1101
Public Information Office .....	759-1390
Salud en Acción .....	759-0846
Vital Records .....	759-1010

## CLINIC & NURSING SERVICES

Administrative Office .....	759-1301
Courthouse Clinic .....	671-4510
East Las Vegas Clinic .....	759-0900
Henderson Clinic .....	759-1040
HIV/AIDS Clinic .....	759-0702
Immunization Program .....	759-0850
Laboratory .....	759-1317
Mesquite* .....	759-1682
North Las Vegas Clinic .....	759-0700
Perinatal Hepatitis B .....	759-0858
STD Clinic .....	759-0708
TB Treatment & Control .....	759-1369
Workplace Vaccination Program .....	759-0878

*\*Services available to the public in August 2009.*



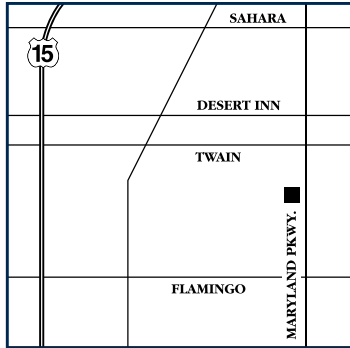
## COMMUNITY HEALTH

Administrative Office .....	759-1364
Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion .....	759-1270
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System.....	759-1050
Epidemiology.....	759-1300
Public Health Preparedness .....	759-1342
Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory.....	759-1020

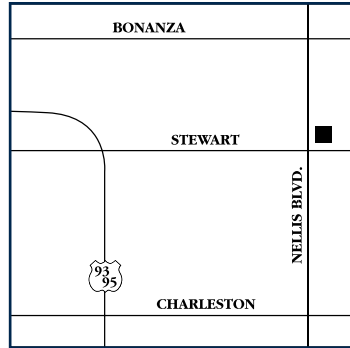
## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Administrative Office .....	759-0588
East Las Vegas .....	759-0620
Engineering .....	759-0661
Henderson.....	759-0501
Information and Complaints.....	759-0588
Mesquite*.....	759-1682
Mosquito Control Hotline.....	759-1220
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.....	759-0677
UST Program .....	759-0603
Water Systems.....	759-0677

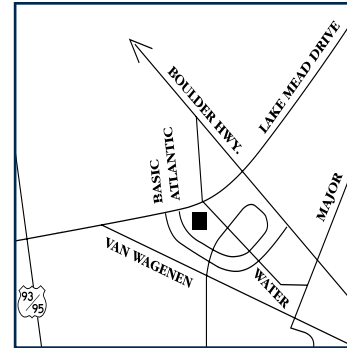
*\*Services available to the public in July 2009.*



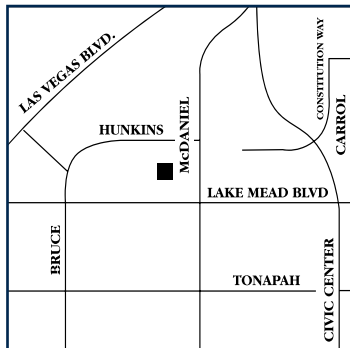
**CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH CENTER**  
3900 Cambridge St., Ste. 104  
Health Cards 732-1781



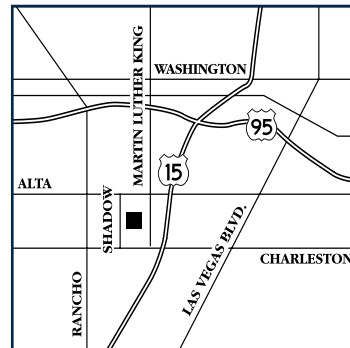
**EAST LAS VEGAS  
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER**  
560 Nellis Blvd., Ste. E-12  
Nursing 759-0900  
Environmental Health 759-0620



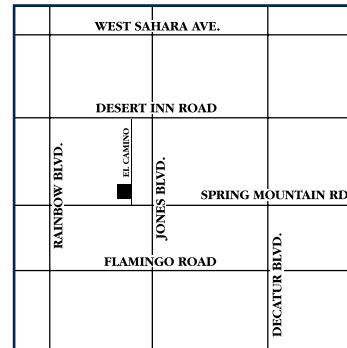
**HENDERSON  
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER**  
520 E. Lake Mead Pkwy.  
Nursing 759-1040  
Environmental Health 759-0501



**NORTH LAS VEGAS  
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER**  
1820 E. Lake Mead Blvd., Ste. F  
Nursing 759-0700  
Environmental Health 759-0502



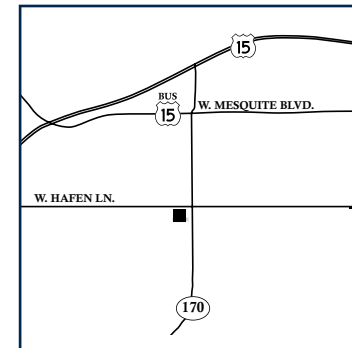
**RAVENHOLT  
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER**  
625 Shadow Ln.  
General Information 759-1000



**SPRING VALLEY  
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER**  
6330 Spring Mountain Rd., Ste. C  
Environmental Health 759-0503

**NEW LOCATION  
IN MESQUITE**

*Services available to the public  
beginning in July 2009*



**MESQUITE  
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER**  
830 Hafen Ln.  
General Information 759-1682



2008 Southern Nevada District Board of Health

Lawrence K. Sands, DO, MPH ~ Chief Health Officer

John Middaugh, MD ~ Director, Community Health

Glenn Savage ~ Director, Environmental Health

Bonnie Sorenson ~ Director, Clinic & Nursing Services

Scott Weiss ~ Director, Administration

P.O. Box 3902, Las Vegas, NV 89127 ~ (702) 759-1000 ~ [www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org](http://www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org)