

**Community and Clinical Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: August 28, 2025**

DATE: August 11, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Christina Sheppard, APRN
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SUBJECT: Community and Clinical Health Services – Divisional Update – National Immunization Awareness Month; Data & Metrics; Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers

1. Divisional Update

a. National Immunization Awareness Month



August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), observed annually to bring awareness to the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. The goal is to raise awareness about the critical role vaccines play in preventing serious diseases and protecting public health. During NIAM, healthcare professionals and organizations work together to educate the public about the benefits of immunization. They provide resources, share accurate information, and encourage people to stay up to date on their vaccinations.

This includes promoting vaccines for children, adults, and seniors, as well as addressing common concerns and misconceptions about vaccines. Healthcare professionals, parents, and patients can find resources about immunizations during August and throughout the year at [National Immunization Awareness Month \(NIAM\) | CDC](#).

Maintaining routine immunizations is essential to protect individuals, families, and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. Routine vaccination prevents illnesses that can lead to additional medical visits and hospitalizations, resulting in a further strain on the healthcare system.

Annually, we highlight the efforts of Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) in protecting patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases with on-time vaccination. NNPH staff have been working diligently to provide citizens with routine vaccinations, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccines. The NNPH Immunization clinic remains open for public access five days a week, offering both appointments and walk-in services based on availability.

The Immunization Program remains vital to vaccination efforts in our community. We focus on children and adults who are uninsured, are underinsured, or may face barriers to accessing healthcare. Over the past year, we streamlined our efforts by concentrating on our clinic and outreach to underserved or low-vaccination areas. Many of our clients face challenges such as taking time off work or traveling to clinics. To address these barriers, we partnered with community events and hosted events at schools to alleviate this burden on our community.

Immunization Program staff are responsible for carrying out various grant-related activities. Staff conduct Vaccines For Children (VFC) provider visits to enhance stewardship and accountability for publicly purchased vaccines, work with VFC providers to implement quality improvement (QI) strategies to help increase vaccine uptake and ensure all VFC providers complete annual training requirements. These activities are critical to increasing the rates of fully immunized children in Washoe County ensuring proper use of valuable resources, supporting a competent workforce, and supporting greater access to adult vaccines in vulnerable groups. For fiscal year 2025, twenty-three enrolled providers received compliance visits, whereas fifteen providers participated in quality improvement initiatives. NNPH site visit reviewers also ensured a 97% compliance rate with required provider annual training.

In spring of 2024, NNPH Immunization staff received new Bridge grant funding from NSIP. This award was built to establish training and accountability with providers receiving publicly funded vaccines for adults, at an 80% reach target. Program staff implemented, for the first time, formal and systematic compliance activities for 317/ Bridge providers and completed activities, follow-up, and training with nine of eleven enrolled sites during the FY25 grant year. These visits started in July of 2024.

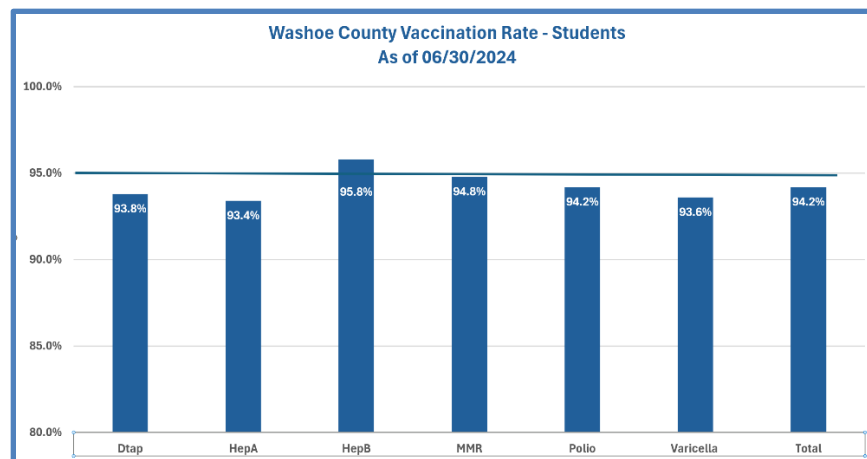
Staff completed their second year of case managing Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program activities for Washoe County. This program ensures persons infected with Hepatitis B virus and their providers receive education, resources, and guidance for completing testing, postexposure immunoprophylaxis, and vaccinations for themselves, close contacts, and the newborn infants as

part of the national strategy to eliminate this disease from the United States. Staff are continuously developing their skills and strategies as new training opportunities arise, and caseloads grow.

The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health reports on the immunization rates each year for Nevada students in kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grades. The 95% threshold is the percentage of individuals who need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. Below are the vaccination rates for DTaP (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis); Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella), Poliovirus, and VAR (Varicella). As of June 30, 2024, Washoe County had the fourth highest vaccination rate at 94.2% but the second largest population sample.

County	Dtap	HepA	HepB	MMR	Polio	VAR	Total
Lincoln	63.3%	91.7%	78.3%	63.3%	65.0%	61.7%	67.2%
Nye	83.5%	84.5%	84.5%	83.7%	84.0%	84.3%	84.1%
White Pine	83.0%	88.3%	93.6%	93.0%	83.0%	80.9%	85.3%
Pershing	86.4%	88.6%	93.2%	88.6%	84.1%	84.1%	87.5%
Douglas	87.5%	87.9%	90.8%	86.2%	87.9%	87.2%	87.9%
Lander	86.4%	89.8%	94.9%	88.1%	89.8%	86.4%	89.3%
Mineral	92.9%	89.3%	89.3%	89.3%	89.3%	87.5%	89.6%
Clark	90.6%	91.1%	92.9%	91.5%	91.1%	90.9%	91.4%
Carson City	91.0%	92.0%	93.6%	91.8%	91.6%	91.2%	91.9%
Humboldt	91.5%	93.4%	96.7%	93.0%	93.0%	91.5%	93.2%
Churchill	93.1%	92.8%	94.4%	93.1%	94.1%	92.5%	93.4%
Lyon	92.1%	93.7%	95.3%	93.9%	93.3%	93.5%	93.6%
Washoe	93.8%	93.4%	95.8%	94.8%	94.2%	93.6%	94.2%
Eureka	91.7%	100.0%	91.7%	91.7%	91.7%	100.0%	94.4%
Elko	94.2%	94.8%	95.8%	94.8%	94.9%	94.6%	94.9%
Storey	95.8%	95.8%	100.0%	95.8%	100.0%	95.8%	97.2%
Total	91.1%	91.5%	93.4%	91.9%	91.5%	91.2%	91.8%

Below is a breakdown of the vaccination rates for the students as of June 30, 2024:



Additional state data provided regarding the **Seven Series Vaccination Coverage Rates by 24 Months:**

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Analytics
Seven Series Vaccination Coverage Rates by 24 Months
Nevada Residents, 2024
Data as of 6/13/2024. Immunization data is dynamic and subject to change.

County	Complete Series	Population	Coverage
Carson City	662	1,143	57.9%
Churchill	393	635	61.9%
Clark	32,971	50,216	65.7%
Douglas	402	664	60.5%
Elko	1,052	1,441	73.0%
Esmeralda	4	6	66.7%
Eureka	17	37	45.9%
Humboldt	297	434	68.4%
Lander	90	133	67.7%
Lincoln	55	102	53.9%
Lyon	859	1,357	63.3%
Mineral	40	79	50.6%
Nye	436	729	59.8%
Pershing	57	90	63.3%
Storey	33	49	67.3%
Washoe	7,406	10,169	72.8%
White Pine	102	178	57.3%
Total	44,876	67,462	66.5%

Seven series vaccinations include 4 Dtap, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, 4 PCV.

Seven Series Coverage Rate

Numerator: Completed seven series as defined by:

[Child Immunization Schedule Notes | Vaccines & Immunizations | CDC](#)

Denominator: Age 2 years NV residents who have at least three records in WebIZ (active status)

Clients continue to seek services from the NNPH to meet their immunization needs for employment, education, travel, immigration, or general health maintenance. The immunization clinic served 5,213 individuals and administered 12,144 vaccine doses in FY 25. Of these vaccinations, 1,723 were influenza and 1,343 were COVID-19 vaccines. The remaining doses administered consisted of both routine required and recommended immunizations.

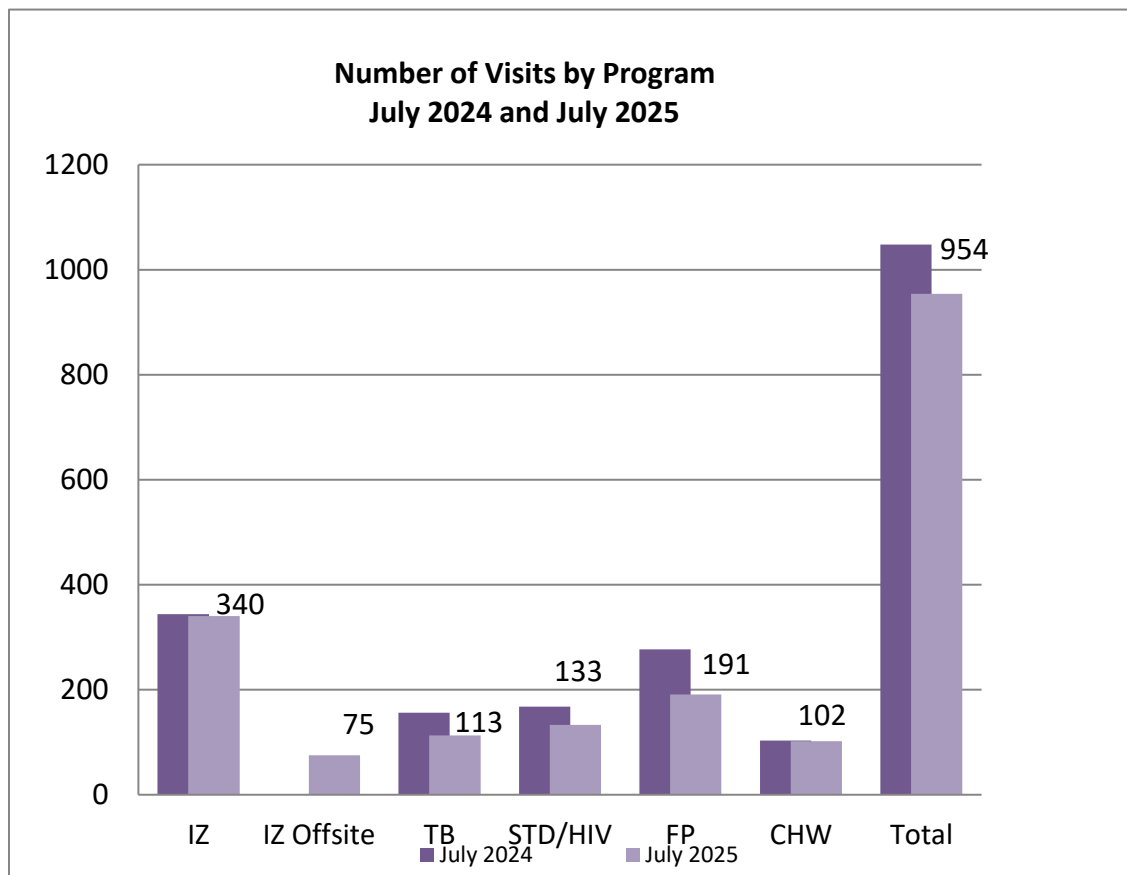
Robust community partnerships are essential to increasing immunization rates in Washoe County. Collaborations are valuable to reach vulnerable populations and to prepare the community for delivering new vaccinations as they become available. NNPH staff worked diligently to provide routine and recommended vaccines to persons of all ages. In Fiscal Year 2025, the team participated in various outreach events, focusing on back-to-School or catch-up clinics, as well as Community/Employee/Point-Of- Dispensing (POD) Influenza clinics. The influenza PODs provided an opportunity for the community to receive the annual influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.

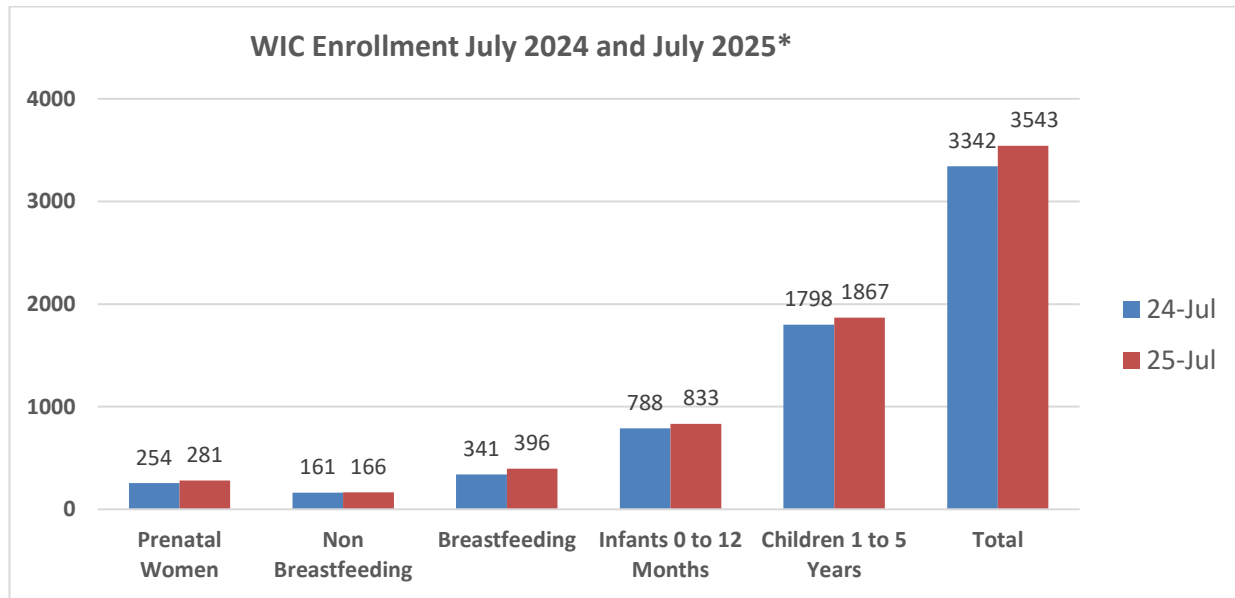
During the previous year, immunization staff conducted a total of 37 offsite events, including 12 planned school-located events focused on 21 individual schools, and 3 Family Health Festivals. Additionally, two weekend Back-to-School events were held in August 2024. All school events were in collaboration with the Washoe County School District. NNPH staff vaccinated a total of 1,831 individuals and administered 3,692 vaccines.

Staff participated in the Back-to-School Family Health Festival at Hug High School on July 26, 2025. NNPH will host two Saturday Back-to-School events for kids aged 4-18 years old on August 9th and August 16th. The Back-to-School events will be held at the 9th and Wells Avenue location in partnership with Catholic Charities, Molina, United Healthcare, Washoe County School District, and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Staff are preparing for the upcoming respiratory season and have plans to promote influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) protection for infants.

b. Data/Metrics





*Changes in data can be attributed to several factors including fluctuations in community demand, changes in staffing and changes in scope of work/grant deliverables

WIC Participation Numbers in the Past Year		
Month	Enrollment	Participation w/ Benefits
July 2024	3342	3117
Aug 2024	3395	3179
Sept 2024	3399	3139
Oct 2024	3389	3124
Nov 2024	3373	3061
Dec 2024	3380	3088
January 2025	3411	3114
Feb 2025	3428	3107
March 2025	3454	3101
April 2025	3461	3144
May 2025	3461	3150
June 2025	3466	3125
July 2025	3543	3172
Monthly avg	3423	3125
% change Jul 2024 / Jul 2025	6.01%	1.76%

WIC participation numbers

Enrollment: All those enrolled in WIC: (women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or post-partum; infants; and children up through age 5)

Participation with Benefits: All enrolled WIC participants receive food benefits except

- Infants that are exclusively breastfed
- Breastfeeding mothers whose infants receive more than 4 cans of formula per month

2. Program Reports – Outcomes and Activities

- a. **Immunizations** – National Immunization Awareness Month
- b. **Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program** – The Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program (TBPCP) continues to operate in alignment with state and federal requirements, with a mission to prevent and control tuberculosis (TB) in Washoe County by reducing morbidity, disability, and premature death due to TB.

Active TB Disease Activities - The TBPCP is managing five active TB cases, three pulmonary, one pulmonary/miliary, and one extrapulmonary. All active cases are managed in close consultation with the program's designated medical consultant to ensure adherence to evidence-based treatment protocols and to support clinical decision-making for complex cases. The TB case managers are responsible for monitoring and completing comprehensive baseline evaluations for each active case to include laboratory, radiological, and clinical assessments. Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) is provided for all active TB cases. In July, 91 DOT sessions were conducted to include 29 that were in the field.

Latent TB Infection (LTBI) Activities - The TB program prioritizes high-risk populations for LTBI screening and treatment, including recent contacts of active TB cases, individuals with immunosuppression, and those from high TB-endemic countries. The TBPCP is currently managing and/or evaluating over 25 clients for latent TB infection (LTBI). Once a client has been identified as high risk and is identified as having LTBI, CDC-recommended LTBI treatment regimens are implemented with client approval. For low-risk individuals, staff will coordinate with the individual's primary care provider to encourage LTBI treatment. In July of 2025, two LTBI evaluations were completed, and four clients initiated LTBI treatment.

Program Coordinator Activities – The program maintains a robust system for documentation and reporting, utilizing the CDC's Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis (RVCT) and the state's EPITRAX system, with all new cases reported within two weeks of notification. And, over the last year, the TB Program Coordinator role has expanded to include a greater focus on LTBI data collection and analysis. Seventy-seven positive lab reports were reported in the month of July.

- c. **Reproductive and Sexual Health Services** – The Family Planning Sexual Health Program (FPSHP) continues to deliver high-quality, accessible reproductive and sexual health care to the community.

In July, the program welcomed Donna Wainscoat to the clinic in a part-time role, allowing the team to reduce reliance on per diem staff and enhance continuity of care. Donna previously worked with the Sexual Health Investigations team.

Larissa Viner, a valued per diem team member, gave her notice in July. She will be transitioning to a new position with the Washoe County School District. The team extends their appreciation for her contributions and wishes her the best in her new role. The clinic does not plan to refill the per diem position currently.

In July 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a significant policy shift affecting access to public benefit programs based on immigration status. This change is detailed in a press statement and a formal notice interpreting the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). Key points in the press statement include:

- HHS has broadened its interpretation of what constitutes a *federal public benefit* under PRWORA and, for the first time, now includes several health and education programs including Title X (Family Planning Program), Head Start, and Community Health Centers/Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- Under the revised interpretation, “unqualified aliens” are not eligible to receive benefits from these programs. (The term "unqualified alien" typically refers to individuals who are not lawful permanent residents or do not hold other specific legal statuses.)

HHS has not yet issued guidance on how programs should implement eligibility verification, whether or how documentation of citizenship or immigration status will be required, or how this may impact program funding or service delivery. Staff attended an informational call on July 16th to learn more, but no formal implementation instructions have been released to date. The program will continue to monitor the changing requirements.

- d. **Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH)** - The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) activities encompass several key initiatives, including Lead Screening, Newborn Screening, Cribs for Kids, and the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR).

The NNPH Lead team is currently managing 37 open cases involving children under the age of six. These activities are funded through a grant from the CDC, administered by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Lead Team is thrilled to welcome Donna Wainscoat, PHN, to the program. Donna was a Public Health Nurse in the Sexual Health Disease Investigation Program and will now be investigating cases of childhood lead poisoning. One of the program's per diem nurses, Larissa Viner, gave notice in July.

Public Health Nurses, with the assistance of Community Health Workers (CHWs), continue to follow up and provide coordination, education, and resources to those referred from the Nevada Newborn Screening Program to ensure all infants receive the second newborn screening as required.

In July, NNPH Community Health Workers assisted four individuals through the Cribs for Kids program. Two classes were held in Spanish and two in English. CHWs continue to promote initiatives such as the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and Nevada 211.

The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) team convenes monthly, excluding June and December, and typically reviews an average of four cases per meeting. The team met in July and reviewed four cases during the session.

In addition, Rebecca Gonzales, Co-Coordinator of the FIMR team, has been invited to serve on the 2026 Steering Committee for the Community Health Assessment (CHA). This important initiative is co-led by Renown Health and Northern Nevada Public Health and aims to bring together key stakeholders to identify and address critical health needs in Washoe County.

The CHA Steering Committee will focus on:

- Prioritizing key community health indicators
- Interpreting health data and identifying emerging trends
- Providing insight into the lived experiences of diverse populations
- Ensuring the assessment reflects the values, challenges, and opportunities of the local community

Rebecca's involvement ensures that FIMR's perspective contributes to this collaborative effort to improve community health outcomes.

NNPH staff members continue to provide updates on fetal and infant deaths as part of the Washoe County Community Child Death Review process. These meetings are scheduled every other month, with the next meeting scheduled for July 31, 2025.

The Northern Nevada Maternal Child Health Coalition (NNMCHC) serves as the Community Action Team (CAT) responsible for implementing recommendations put forth by the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Case Review Team. There was no meeting held in July.

- e. **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** – WIC staff participated in two outreach events: Mobile Harvest on July 1st and a community baby shower on July 11th. At both events, WIC staff provided information about WIC and assisted those that were interested in applying for WIC.

As of July 1st, the WIC team lost 50% of an Office Specialist (OS) when the OS who worked with WIC and the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Programs moved with CDIP to the newly named Population Health Division. The team is receiving assistance with administrative tasks from other CCHS sources and staff have absorbed some tasks.

NNPH WIC has seen increases in participation rates over the past several months, now that the team is fully staffed and trained. The program saw a 6% increase in enrollment between July 2024 and July 2025. This can be compared to only a 1% increase in enrollment for the state (all WIC programs combined.)

- f. **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** – In July 2024, Community Health Workers (CHWs) provided a range of navigation and outreach services to support low-income families, expecting mothers, and Title I school communities in Washoe County. And, the program continues to expand its reach through recurring partnerships and new outreach activities, with a focus on underserved communities.

Client Navigation Services - In July, CHWs assisted 102 clients with navigation services, including support for health insurance, primary care, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention), housing, and food.

Outreach Events and Community Engagement

- **Mobile Harvest** CHWs participated in a Mobile Harvest event at NNPH, distributing fresh produce and diapers (sponsored by Molina) to 80 families. The event targeted low-income families to improve access to nutritious foods and essential supplies.
- **Centering Families Classes:** Two Centering Families classes were held at the Pregnancy Center on Ryland, focusing on providing expecting mothers with information about WIC and available resources. A total of 6 participants attended these sessions
- **Community Baby Shower:** CHWs hosted a baby shower event at NNPH, bringing together 16 different community organizations to connect families with resources and offer dental screenings. The event had 38 participants and included presentations, resource tables, and raffle prizes.
- **Community in Schools Presentation:** CHWs provided a presentation at the Reno Fire House to inform Community in Schools staff about the services NNPH can offer to Title I families in the Washoe County School District (WCSD). This event served 31 participants and included distribution of program brochures, WIC flyers, immunization appointment cards, and CHW contact information.