

**Community and Clinical Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: December 19, 2024**

DATE: December 2, 2024

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Lisa Lottritz, RN, MPH
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SUBJECT: Community and Clinical Health Services – Divisional Update – World AIDS Day, Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Injury Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers

1. Divisional Update

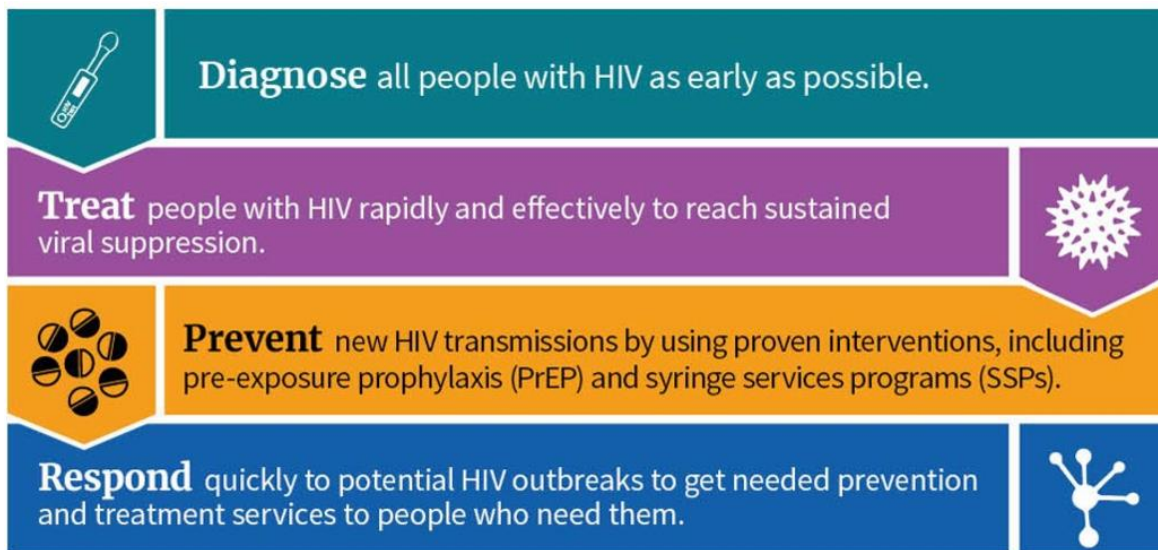
a. World AIDS Day



World AIDS Day, observed annually on December 1st, is a time to honor the lives of people living with HIV and those that have passed away. The observation also provides an opportunity to connect as a community and commit to ending the HIV epidemic locally and globally. The 37th World AIDS Day theme, “Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress” recognizes the extraordinary advances in HIV prevention and care, along with the call to progress efforts to address the disparities driving the epidemic.

Addressing HIV in Washoe County is done through close collaboration with HIV medical care, social/support services, and prevention efforts. Efforts are directed through a statewide community planning process that culminates into an Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan. The Integrated Plan is a requirement of receiving federal HIV funding. In the plan development, priority populations are identified, population needs are assessed, interventions are identified, gaps in services are identified, and a plan is developed to address HIV prevention and care efforts. The 2022 -2026 Nevada HIV Integrated Prevention and Care Plan is available at: <https://endhivnevada.org/integrated-plan/>.

Guided by the Integrated Plan, NNPH's Sexual Health Investigations and Outreach Program activities are grounded by the federally identified four pillars of addressing the HIV epidemic: Diagnose, Prevent, Treat, and Monitor.



To identify new cases of HIV, testing is provided in community and through the NNPH Family Planning and Sexual Health Clinic. Community providers are encouraged to offer testing based on CDC recommendations of testing everyone ages 13-64 at least once in their lifetime and more frequently based on individual behaviors. NNPH's testing efforts are grounded in health equity and addressing the social determinants of health. NNPH supports community providers' efforts through education and advocacy of policies that promote routine, normalized testing and reducing HIV and STD related stigma among the community and providers.

Following an HIV test result, interventions are available for those who test negative for HIV. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is medication that will prevent HIV with 99% efficacy for prevention via sexual transmission and 74% efficacy of prevention through sharing of needles.

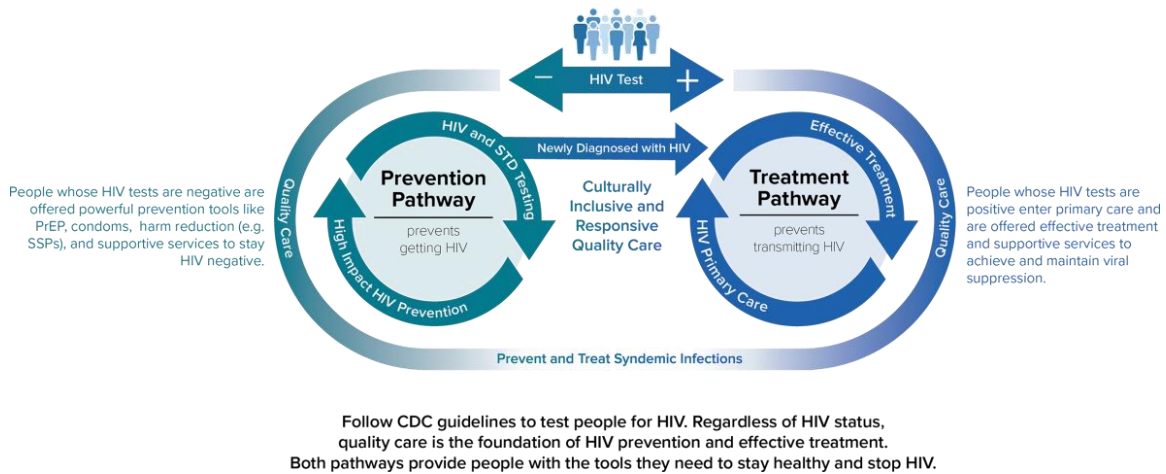
Those testing positive for HIV, are linked to HIV care services and followed for the first year after diagnosis to support retention in care services. People living with HIV are supported with the goal of

achieving viral suppression. When viral suppression is achieved and maintained, a person will not transmit HIV through sexual contact, known as the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). As the collective viral load of a community decreases, it decreases the opportunity for HIV transmission to occur throughout a community.

Sexual Health Investigation staff, along with clinic staff and community health workers, work together to support testing, treatment of STIs, PrEP, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and rapid start of HIV medication at the time of diagnosis through the clinic. Community based testing is also supported through the CCHS infrastructure. These interventions are required and/or highly recommended through the federal HIV prevention and surveillance funds received by the program.

NNPH also provides free condoms to the community through a strategic distribution plan. Referrals are made to the local syringe service program and other community services that support the HIV prevention efforts of individuals.

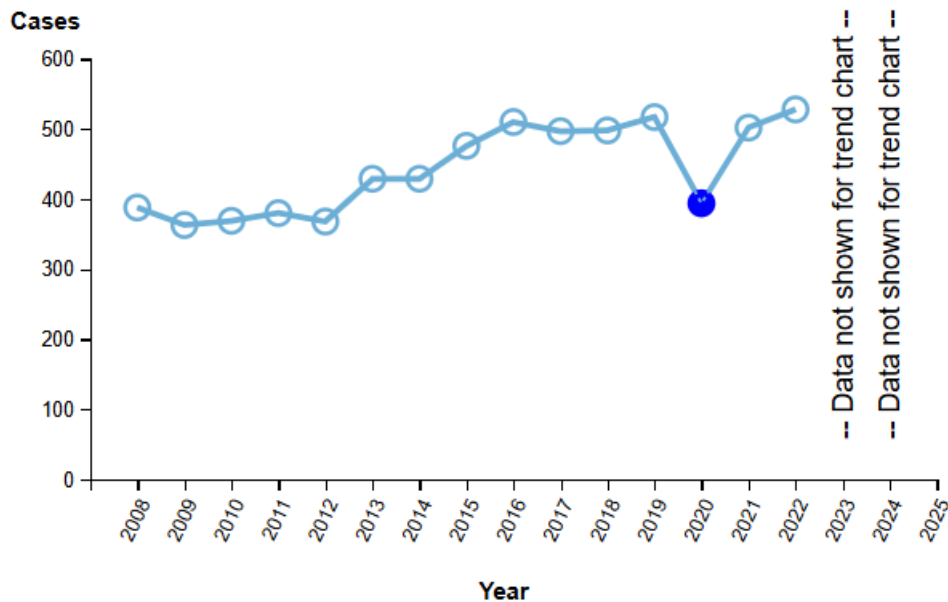
Status Neutral HIV Prevention and Care



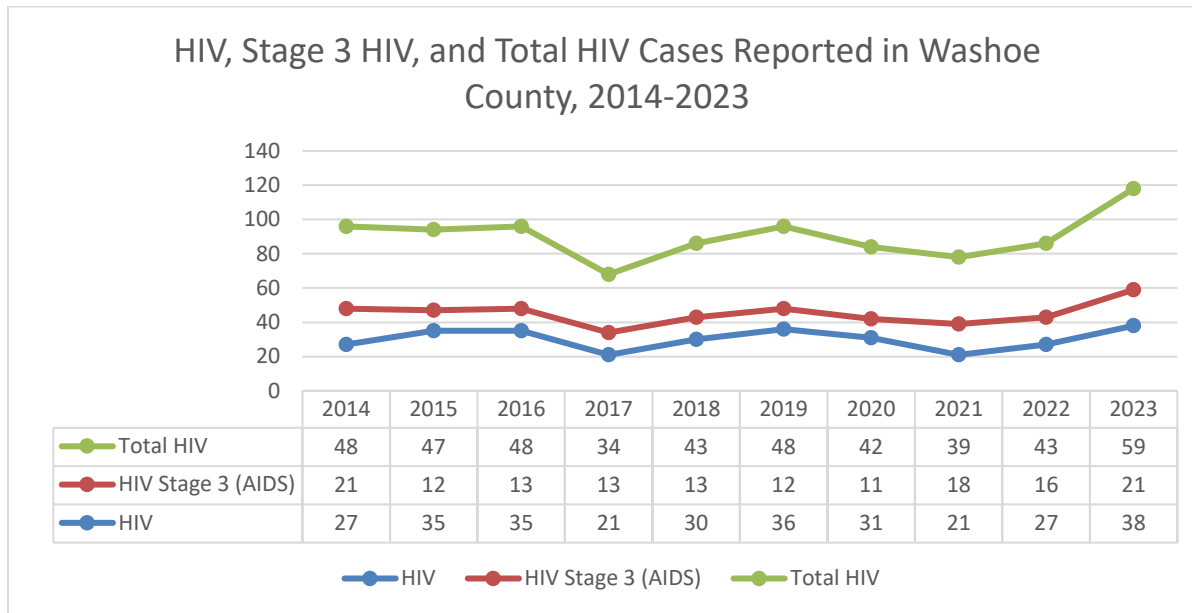
Through the monitor pillar, surveillance activities take place to identify or support prevention efforts in the community based on disease activity. There has been an identified increase in cases among females, noted by surveillance work done in tandem with the state Office of HIV. In addition, cases among older, Hispanic males are often diagnosed late in their infection, sometimes resulting in death soon after their diagnosis because of their advanced disease state. Of note, the term AIDS is being replaced with Advanced HIV disease or Stage 3 HIV infection, in efforts to reduce stigma associated with AIDS. Also, if a person is successful with their medication, they may never progress to advanced HIV disease.

Nevada ranks fifth in the nation in new HIV diagnoses, the highest rate in the western half of the U.S. Washoe County cases have increased past pre COVID case numbers. Cases reported to NNPH in 2024, through November 16, 2024, are at 49. Three years or more of an increase of reported cases indicate a trend. A weekly assessment of case counts is also conducted, along with other surveillance activities, to identify clusters or potential outbreaks.

HIV diagnoses | 2008-2024 | Ages 13 years and older | All races/ethnicities | Both sexes | All transmission categories | Nevada

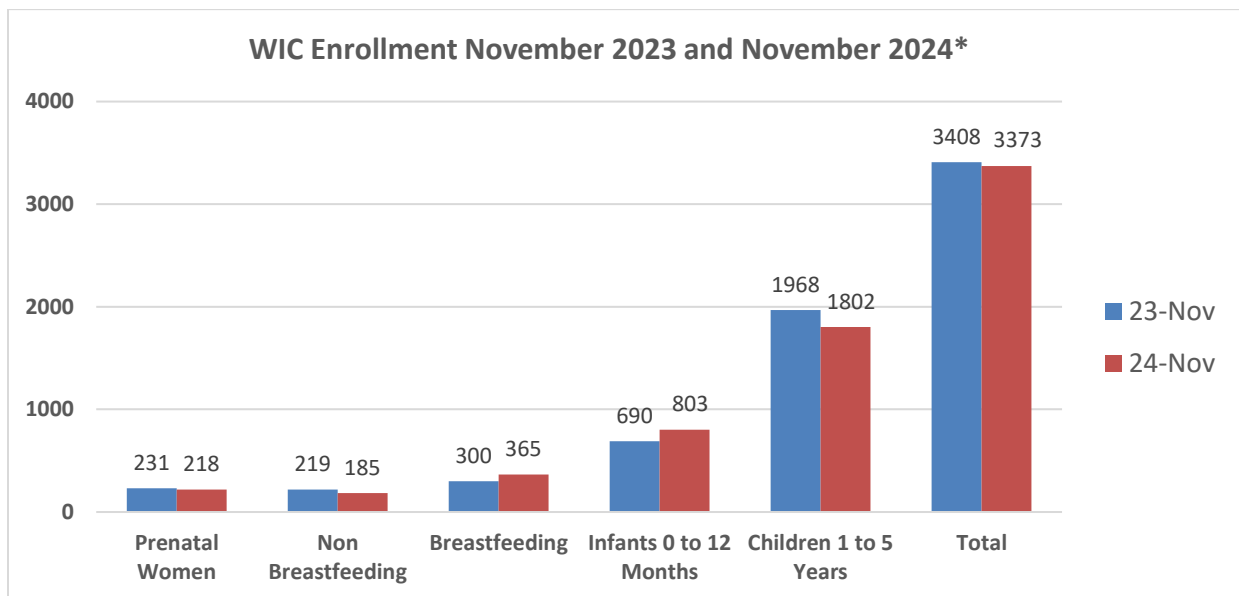
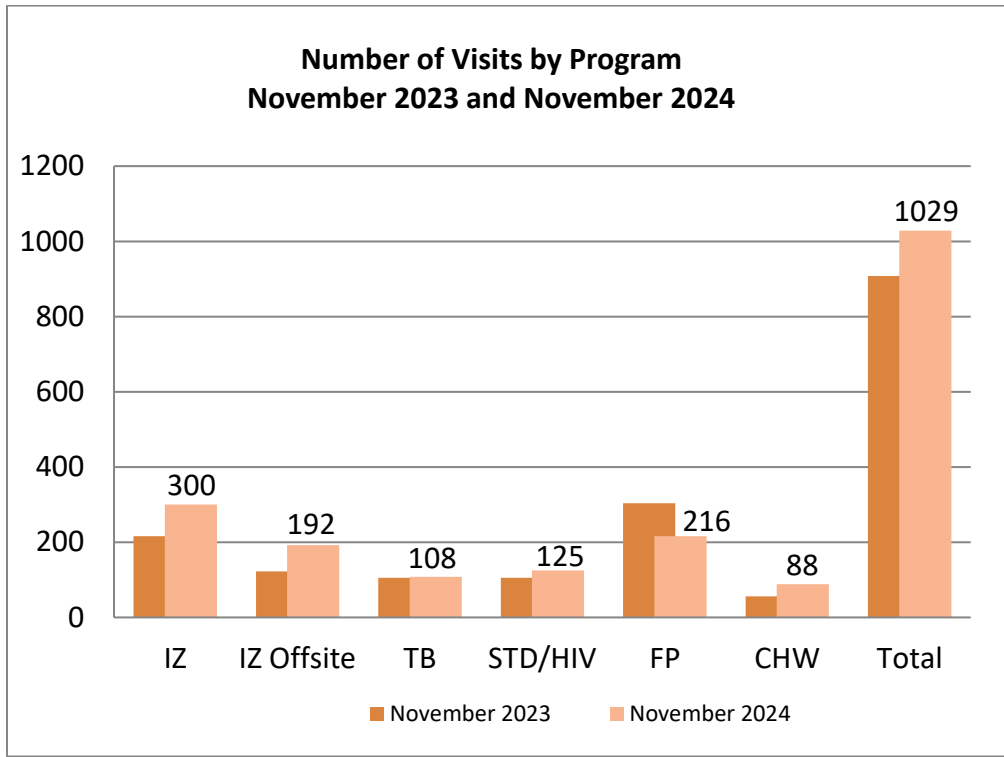


Footnotes: Data for 2023 and 2024 are considered preliminary (subject to a 12-month reporting delay). Inclusion of preliminary data in trend assessments is discouraged. Numbers less than 12, and rates and percentages based on these numbers, should be interpreted with caution. HIV diagnoses and PrEP data for the year 2020, which coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, should be interpreted with caution due to the impact of the pandemic on access to HIV testing, PrEP prescriptions, and care-related services. Data by transmission category presented based on sex assigned at birth and are adjusted for missing transmission category. See Technical notes for more details on data availability and stratifications.
 NA - Not Applicable.



Ending the HIV epidemic is within reach if the commitment and resources are made available to support the four pillars with a robust health equity focus. Through an integrated approach with our clinic and the community, with a focus on a syndemic approach of addressing HIV, STIs, substance use, we will be able to leverage resources to move the needle on the burden of disease in Washoe County. Sexual and substance use history assessments, routine testing of HIV/STIs, PrEP and PEP need to be offered by community providers for a wider uptake of these proven interventions. NNPH continues to offer and support education to the community and providers on the advances of HIV prevention and care, to support the goal of no new HIV infections.

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 Past 12 months		
Month	Enrollment	Participation w/ Benefits
Nov 2023	3408	3031
Dec 2023	3415	2908
January 2024	3357	3076
Feb 2024	3328	3103
March 2024	3342	3114
April 2024	3342	3114
May 2024	3395	3152
June 2024	3335	3091
July 2024	3342	3117
Aug 2024	3395	3179
Sept 2024	3399	3139
Oct 2024	3389	3124
Nov 2024	3373	3061
Monthly avg	3368	3098
% change Nov 2023 / Nov 2024	-1.03%	0.99%

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. **Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation)** – See Divisional Update
- b. **Immunizations** – The immunization team focuses on providing vaccines to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured and unable to receive vaccines elsewhere. Walk-ins are accepted daily in addition to established appointments. In November, staff vaccinated a total of 292 clients with 737 vaccination doses. To reflect the continuance of respiratory season, the program provided seasonal 24-25 influenza and COVID-19 vaccines and the RSV product for infants; 137 influenza, 99 COVID, and 8 RSV doses were administered. The team noted a continued increase in appointments and clients, requiring the addition of several clinic shifts. Staff serve as community vaccine experts for provider education regarding vaccine storage and handling, vaccine inventory, and address special medical and employee vaccine cases. In November, the program continued to immunize NNPH employees to meet routine job requirements and to accommodate seasonal influenza and COVID workforce protections, with 8 doses given to 6 staff.

In November, there were four outreach vaccine events in which staff provided 371 vaccines to 193 clients. Of note 104 COVID and 138 Influenza vaccines were provided during these outreach events. NNPH partnered with Mobile Harvest, Gerlach Community Center, ACDC Heath Fair, Neil Road Community Center, and Washoe County School District at Sparks Middle School. The school event provided an opportunity for families to not only receive their Flu and COVID vaccinations, but to receive missed or needed vaccines in what is called a Catch-up event.

Outreach events continue throughout December to be held at our static onsite Mobile Harvest, St. Peters Church in Sun Valley, Northern Nevada Muslim Center, as well as at Spanish Springs High School. The event at the high school is another planned Catch-up event and invitations were sent by the school district to both feeding middle schools Shaw and Sky Ranch to sign up for the event. Advertising and social media reels were developed to emphasize the importance of annual COVID and influenza vaccinations and will continue through 2024.

The team is actively involved with Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) required activities for 2024-2025 VFC (Vaccines for Children) and 317 Provider Compliance, as well as IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers). The team underwent an annual Site Visit with NSIP grantors; there were no findings during this visit and state staff expressed much appreciation to the success of this program for 23-24. The team looks forward to the final evaluation notice expected in December.

Program staff continue the development, case management, and reporting activities for the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) with 13 cases currently under management.

As a reminder December 2nd – 6th, 2024 is National Influenza Vaccination Week. As long as flu viruses are circulating, it is not too late to get vaccinated.

- c. **Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program** – The TB program recently acquired two pulmonary cases of TB and as a result is now managing four cases of active TB disease. An additional case of active disease was reported, unfortunately, the person is deceased due to complications from TB. Contact investigations are currently under way for the three new cases. In addition to the active disease cases, the program is also managing/evaluating 46 clients for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI).

In November 2024, the program completed 11 evaluations for LTBI, conducted 15 case reviews with the consulting physician, performed 64 instances of directly observed therapy, and started 9 clients on LTBI treatment.

Dr. Charles Krasner, the medical consultant for the NNPH TB Program was brought on as an independent contractor due to his retirement from Renown.

- d. **Reproductive and Sexual Health Services** – The Family Planning Sexual Health Program (FPSHP) continues to offer walk-in and scheduled appointments for sexual and reproductive health services. The walk-in appointment rate has been hovering around 50% for the past several months. Additionally, walk-in appointments are now available during night clinic and are a convenient option for clients that work during regular business hours. Intermittent hourly RNs are currently cross training to assist with rooming clients when a Clinic Assistant is not available. The goal is to have cross training completed by the end of December.

The FPSHP has been working with the Communications Team to put together a public service campaign highlighting some of the low-cost services offered in the clinic including walk-in appointments, PrEP/PEP for HIV prevention, STI testing, and Doxy PEP. Program staff have been working with an outside media company to create digital materials that will be posted on dating sites, Instagram, and Facebook.

Program staff are working on the Non-Compete Continuation application for Title X. Program staff attended a webinar on the updated guidelines for Quality Family Planning services as Title X expects these updated guidelines to be included in the next project year. Staff have also submitted an amendment to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health to add rapid syphilis testing to the lab license and the mobile van as a testing site. Program staff would like to use the mobile van for more comprehensive offsite services.

- e. **Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program** – Staff commemorated the Great American Smoke Out on November 21st, by encouraging Washoe County residents to quit tobacco products including cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine pouches - even for just the one day. Activities included distributing educational tobacco quit kits to youth and young adults at TMCC, Our Center, and Black Wall Street, and collaborating with the NNPH Communications Team to distribute a press release to media outlets.

Staff worked with the NNPH Communications Team to promote lung cancer screening through placing signage at the County complex and included education in the NNPH Buzz employee newsletter.

The school-based program, Power Up Kids, has started in eight elementary school classrooms at Echo Loder and Lois Allen. Implementation is also taking place at Desert Skies middle school with the 6th grade PE class. Staff is leading direct education in the classrooms using the curricula Pick A Better Snack and Choose Health: Food, Fun, Fitness.

Staff attended the WCSD Mental Health Summit for teachers and staff on November 5th at Hug High School to network with community providers and provide outreach to WCSD school staff on youth vaping prevention and parent education resources. In addition, staff selected a youth vaping prevention media vendor through an RFP selection process to design and implement a media campaign for youth and parents beginning in early 2025.

- f. **Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH)** —Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health activities include Lead Screening, Newborn Screening, Cribs for Kids, and Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR).

The NNPH Lead team is currently following 35 open cases on children under six years of age. Currently funded by a grant through University Nevada Las Vegas.

Public Health Nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) continue to follow-up and provide coordination, education, and resources to referrals from the Nevada Newborn Screening Program to ensure all infants receive the second newborn screening.

NNPH Community Health Workers (CHW) assisted six individuals in Cribs for Kids classes in November and held two classes at the Anthem Wellness Center with six attendees. CHWs are Baby and Me Tobacco Free facilitators and promote PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), and Nevada 211.

The Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board (FIMR) meets monthly, except for June and December. Eight cases were received in November. The FIMR Board met on November 21, 2024, and reviewed three cases and Dr. Laura Knight the Chief Medical Examiner of Washoe County presented and answered questions relating to fetal/infant deaths and autopsies at the November meeting.

Staff continue to provide updates on fetal and infant deaths at the Washoe County Community Child Death Review as requested. The last Child Death Review meeting was held on October 4, 2024. Child Death Review meetings are held every other month.

The Northern Nevada Maternal Child Health Coalition (NNMCHC), which is the community action team for the recommendations made by the FIMR team, met on November 14, 2024, and assembled 200 New Mama Care kits. This round of kits included diaper bags, breastfeeding kits, and electric breast pumps in addition to postpartum hygiene supplies. NNMCH is currently co-chaired by two NNPH employees and a third employee acts as treasurer.

The FIMR team is working with Healthy BirthDay to solidify a contract for a “Count the Kicks” live webinar local OB offices to address preventable stillbirth in Nevada. The webinar is being funded by a grant from United Healthcare Health Plan of Nevada.

- g. **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** – Nicole Drisdale filled the vacant Human Services Support Specialist position in WIC at the Moana location. Nicole has a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with a Dietetics specialization. She has worked with the WIC program as an Intermittent Hourly Community Health Aide (CHA) since June and in August earned her Competent Professional Authority certificate from the State WIC program, which allows her to work independently with WIC clients. The WIC program is happy to welcome her as a full-time member of the team.

On November 13th WIC RDs and a Community Health Worker met with HOPES providers and staff to share information about the WIC program, answer questions and strengthen the referral process to the NNPH WIC program. Key information was shared about who qualifies for WIC, who provides WIC services, how clients can apply for WIC, and how infant formula benefits work.

On November 18th the WIC program welcomed Samie Charles to the team. Samie joined WIC as an intermittent hourly CHA and will be seeing WIC clients and helping with coverage as needed. She has previous WIC experience in other states and can offer services in three languages.

- h. **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** – The Community Health Workers (CHWs) provided services to 88 clients in November. Most referrals for CHW services continue to be from the Family Planning Sexual Health Clinic (40 referrals) and the Immunizations Clinic (22 referrals). The CHWs continue to see an increase in referrals from both the WIC and TB programs. The Family Planning Sexual Health Clinic is now referring all clients with a positive pregnancy test or who have already been confirmed as pregnant and are seeking sexual health services to the CHW. The CHW will help newly pregnant clients or clients who don't have prenatal care establish with a prenatal care provider. For pregnant clients who have already established prenatal care, the CHW will assess the need for additional resources, provide a Mama Care Kit, and refer for case management if appropriate. The goal of the automatic referral to the CHW for pregnant clients is to facilitate early access to prenatal care and provide referrals to social service resources as needed.

In addition to client services, CHWs conducted four outreach activities in November. During the Mobile Harvest food distribution 95 families were provided with fresh foods, fruits, and vegetables. The CHWs partnered with Molina Healthcare at the Mobile Harvest event to provide diapers to families in need. Molina Healthcare distributed 68 packs of diapers at the Mobile Harvest event. Two of our CHWs have partnered with the WIC program to provide WIC clients with Grocery Store Tours. During the Grocery Store Tour, WIC families are educated on how to use their WIC benefits while navigating the grocery store. Two Grocery Store Tours have been successfully completed. One occurred at the WinCo in South Reno and the other at Walmart on Kietzke. Grocery Store Tours are held monthly with one in English and one in Spanish.