

**Community and Clinical Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: August 22, 2024**

DATE: August 9, 2024

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Lisa Lottritz, RN, MPH
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SUBJECT: Community and Clinical Health Services – Divisional Update – National Immunization Awareness Month; 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. National Immunization Awareness Month



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August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), observed annually to bring awareness to the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to highlight the importance of staying up to date with healthcare appointments and routine vaccinations due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

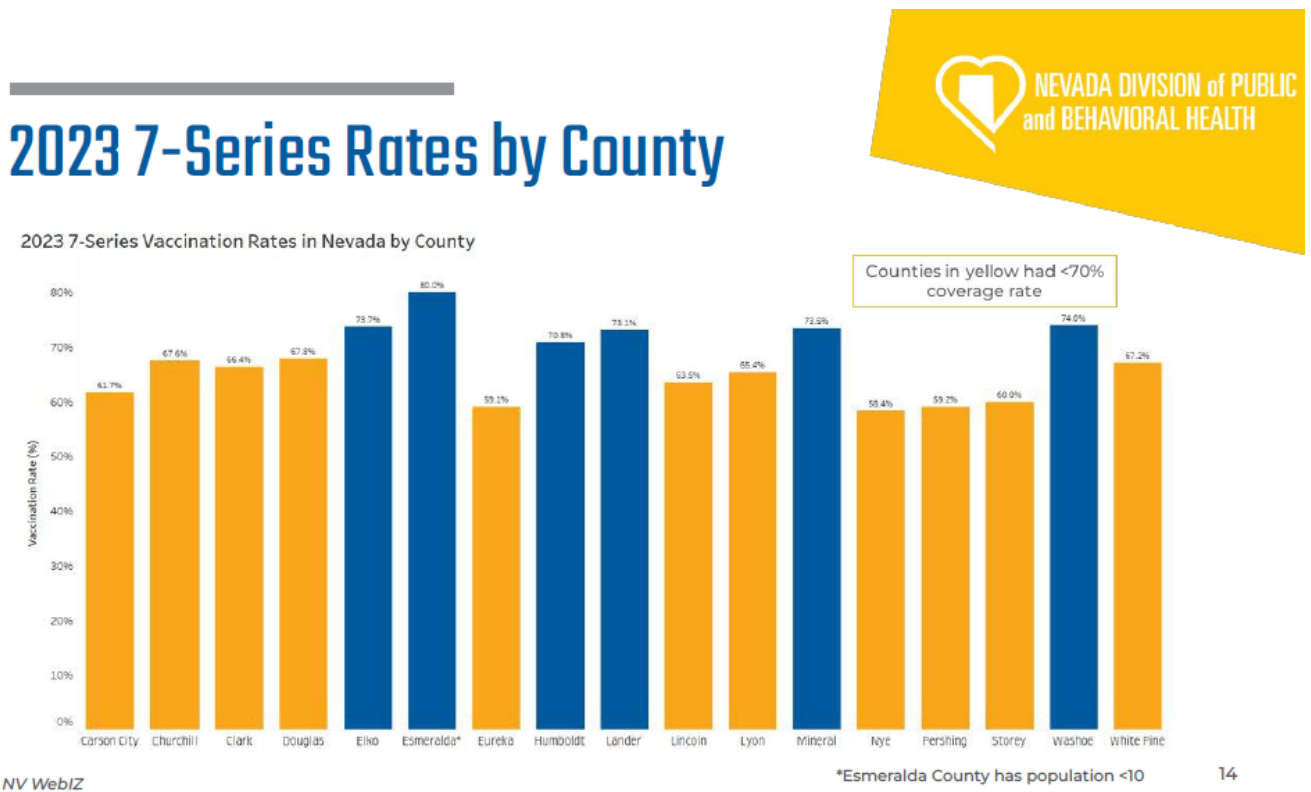
Annually, we highlight the efforts of the Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) in protecting patients of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases with on-time vaccination. NNPH staff have been working diligently to provide citizens with routine vaccinations, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccines. The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

The Immunization Program continues to be integral to COVID-19 vaccination in our community. On September 12, 2023, all COVID-19 vaccines were commercialized. The federal government supplemented 317 Immunization Programs with a newly funded Bridge Program with the sole purpose of purchasing COVID-19 vaccines for 317 providers. This allowed NNPH to continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured or under insured adults. At the same time COVID-19 vaccines became available in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program. In the last year the team has pivoted from mass COVID-19 vaccinations to targeted events that eliminate barriers for individuals who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. With commercialization NNPH quickly noticed there was a gap in the community as pharmacists were unable to provide COVID-19 vaccines to those under 5 years old, and many providers did not purchase the COVID-19 vaccine due to the expense. NNPH shifted efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccines to individuals 6 months to 5 years old, and to those who are uninsured or under insured.

Immunization Program staff are responsible for carrying out various grant-related activities. Staff conduct 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. In April of this year, the program received additional funding to conduct 317/Bridge Program activities for enrolled providers to receive publicly funded vaccines for uninsured or under insured adults. 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.

Staff completed their first year of case managing Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program activities for the Washoe County jurisdiction. 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 continue to develop skills and strategies as training becomes available and caseloads increase.

Staff continues to provide Mpox vaccines. Staff maintain and report proper inventory accordingly as the jurisdictional depot and contribute to community events or requests for vaccine provision to minimize the spread of Mpox infections. Staff administered over 103 Jynneos doses last year at both offsite events and in the clinic.



The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health provides updated infant 7-series vaccine statistics that are based on the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for infants 0 – 24 months. The 7-series includes ≥ 4 doses DTaP (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) and PCV (Pneumococcal), ≥ 3 doses Hepatitis B/ Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)/ Poliovirus, and ≥ 1 dose MMR (Measles- Mumps- Rubella) and VAR (Varicella). In 2023, Nevada’s 7-series infant completion rates rebounded but remained lower than pre-pandemic levels. Notably, the Washoe County region has the second highest 2023 completion rate compared to statewide counties, at 74.0%.

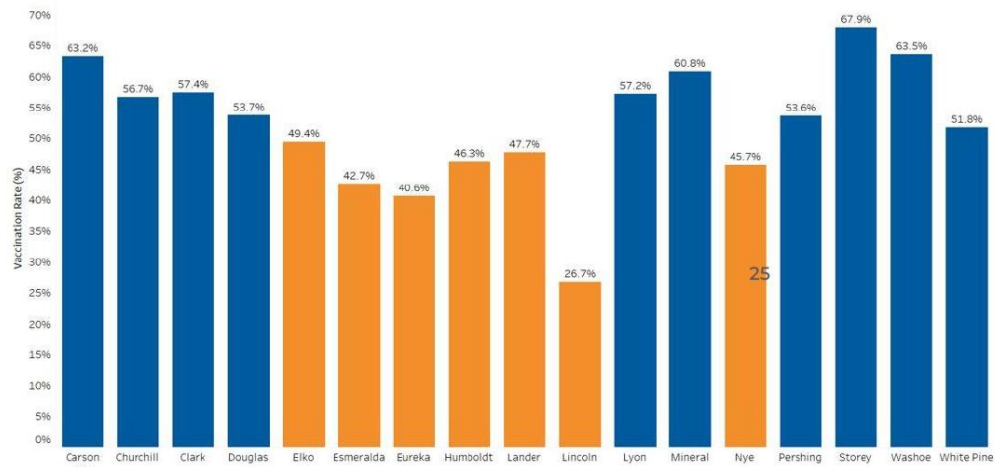
Clients continue to seek services from the NNPH to meet their immunization needs for employment, education, travel, immigration, or general health maintenance. The immunization clinic served 4,613 people and administered 11,076 vaccine doses in FY 2023-24. Of these vaccinations, 1,412 individuals received the influenza vaccines and 1,230 received COVID-19 vaccines.

In 2023, the Washoe County area increased the initiation of the HPV series to 63.5% while the State of Nevada rate remained at 57.8%. Vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) is recommended to prevent new HPV infections and HPV-associated diseases, including some cancers. ACIP routinely recommends HPV vaccination at age 11 or 12 years. It is important to note that ACIP updated the recommendations for HPV to a 2-dose schedule in December 2016 for girls and boys who initiated the vaccination series at ages 9 through 14 years. The three-dose series remains recommended for persons who initiate the vaccination series at ages 15 through 26 years and for immunocompromised persons.

2023 HPV Rates, 15-18 Years by Region



One Dose HPV Vaccination Rates in 15-18 Year Olds in Nevada by County, 2023



Source: NV WebIZ

In an effort to increase vaccination series completion rates for HPV and Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccines in adolescents, the Immunization Program conducted an Immunization Quality Improvement Project (IQIP), spanning a 12-month period from May of 2023 through May of 2024. This project consisted of enhanced efforts to provide take-home product information to eligible clients in all funding sources, staff training opportunities, increased social media presence, and ensuring next-dose scheduling took place routinely with reminders. These vaccines historically carry marginal reception, and uptake has remained consistent year-over-year when evaluating the results of this project. Staff

continue to provide brochures and information on HPV and MenB to eligible clients detected during appointment preparation (forecasting), supplementing standard strong vaccine recommendations. This project prompted meaningful conversations around capacity for quality improvement, aligning efforts with clerical teams, and collaborating with media for vaccine messaging.

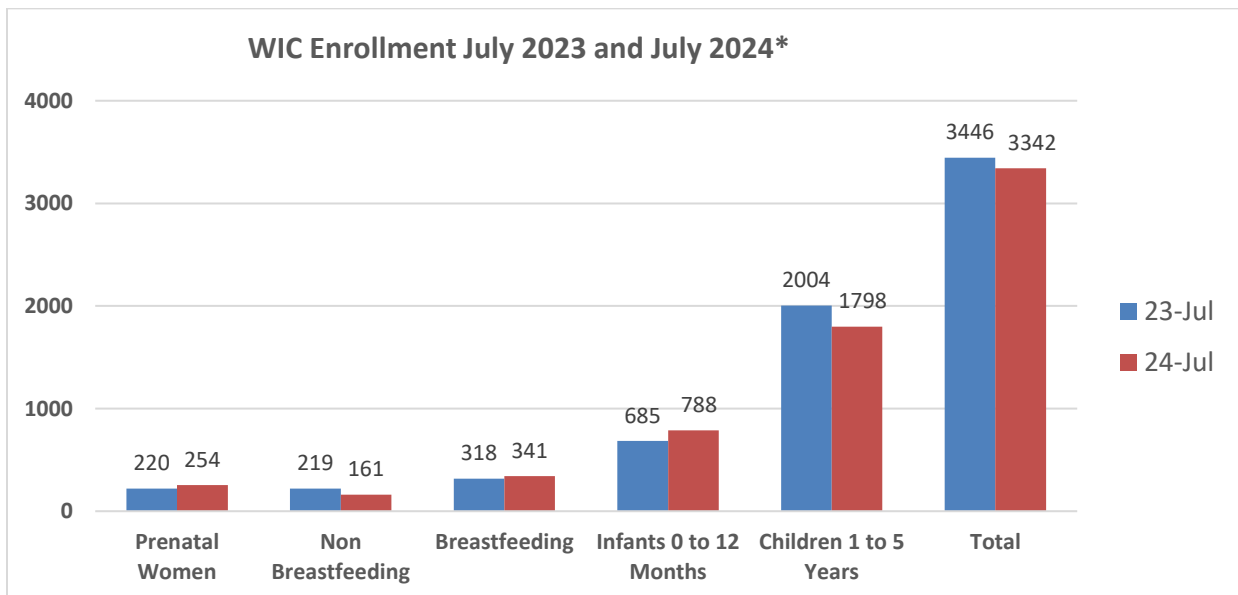
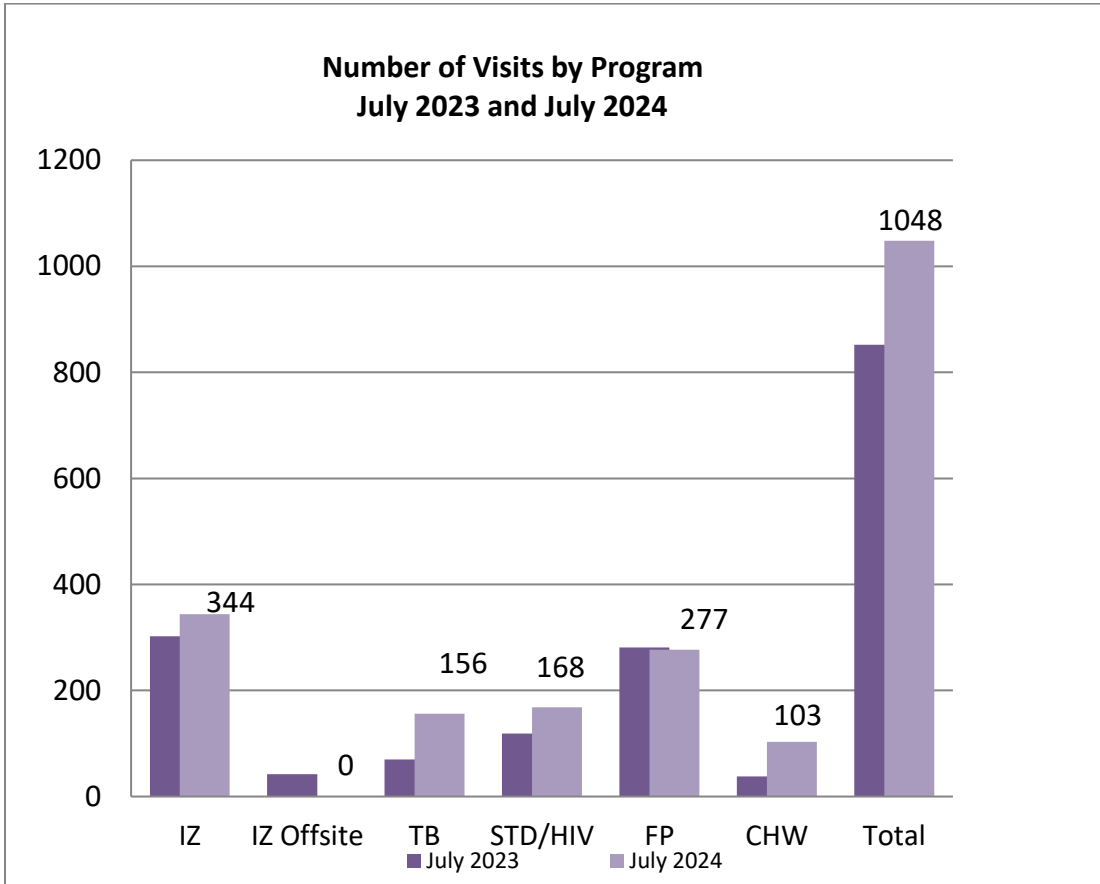
Robust community partnerships are essential to increasing immunization rates in Washoe County. Collaborations are valuable to reach vulnerable populations and to prepare the community for delivering new vaccinations as they become available. NNPH staff worked diligently to provide routine and recommended vaccines to persons of all ages. In 2023, the team participated in multiple outreach events with seven Back-to-School clinics, and 47 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.

In 2023, immunization staff conducted weekend Back-to-School events and participated in the Family Health Festival. All events were in collaboration with Community Health Alliance and Immunize Nevada. NNPH staff vaccinated 330 children and administered 858 individual vaccines.

Staff participated in the Back-to-School Family Health Festival at Hug High School on August 3, 2024. NNPH will host two Saturday Back-to-School events for kids aged 4-18 years old on August 10th and August 17th. The Back-to-School events will be held at the 9th and Wells Avenue location in partnership with Community Health Alliance.

Staff are preparing for the upcoming respiratory season and have plans to promote influenza, 2024-2025 COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) 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

Month	Enrollment	Participation w/ Benefits
July 2023	3446	3075
Aug 2023	3493	3095
Sept 2023	3449	3040
Oct 2023	3406	3020
Nov 2023	3408	3031
Dec 2023	3415	2908
Jan 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
Monthly avg	3389	3072
% change Jul 2023 / Jul 2024	-3.02%	1.37%

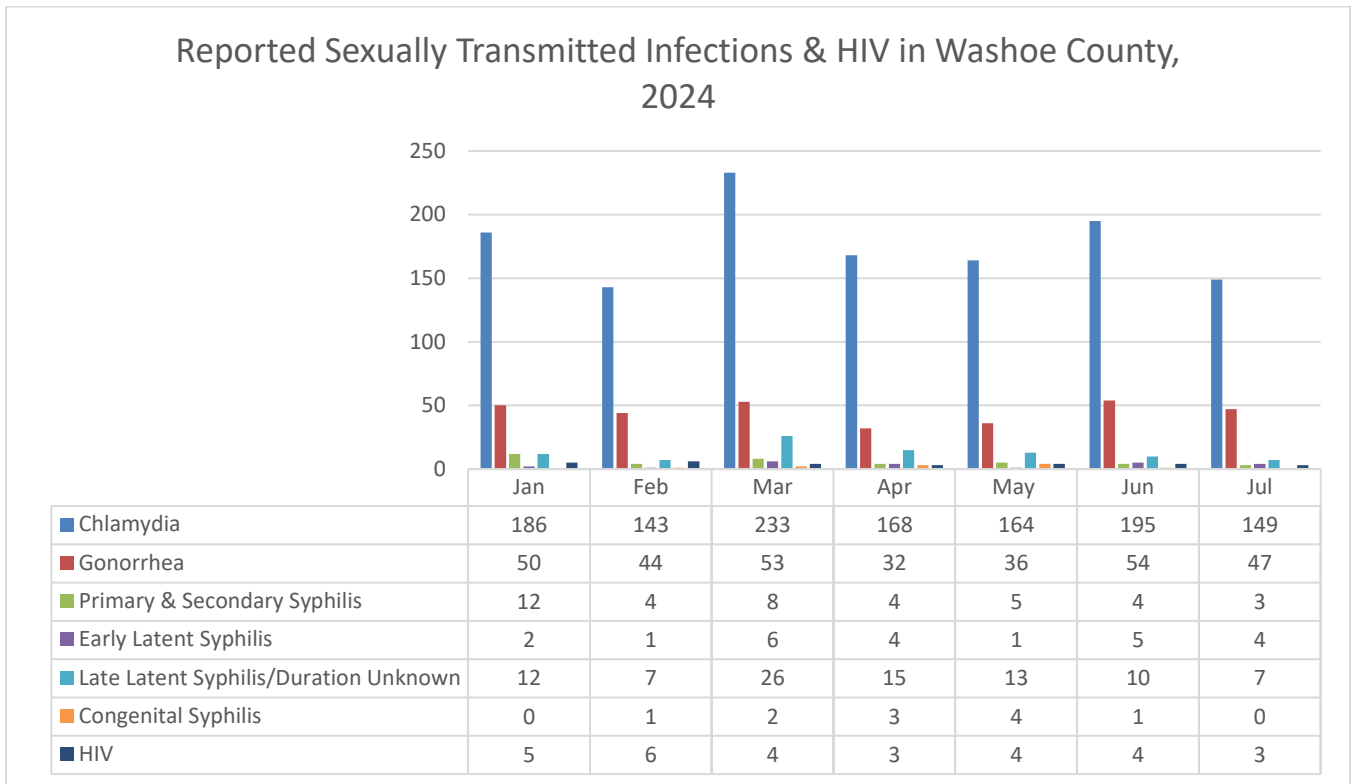
WIC participation numbers
Enrollment: All those enrolled in WIC: (women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or post-partum; infants; and children up through age 5)
Participation with Benefits: All enrolled WIC participants receive food benefits except
 - Infants that are exclusively breastfed
 - Breastfeeding 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)** – By the end of August, all Public Health Investigators (PHIs) will be conducting syphilis investigations, as each staff person has reached the Public Health Investigator (PHI) II level. Staff new to the PHI II level have been training with the Epidemiologist and the program’s Public Health Nurse.

The program is in the planning stages of organizing a Syphilis Taskforce, convening area providers from hospitals, emergency departments, pediatrics, support services for congenital syphilis cases, insurance companies, and other social service agencies and organizations. The purpose will be to disseminate consistent information on syphilis epidemiology, testing, treatment, and follow-up. In addition, a syndemic approach of sexual health issues (HIV, STI, substance use/behavioral health) with an emphasis on health equity, will be the foundation to present the information and facilitate action items for response improvement.

Through July, the following are case counts for all reported chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV cases reported in Washoe County.



b. **Immunizations** – See Division Update

c. **Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program** – The TB program is currently managing four cases of active TB. One of these cases is a newly diagnosed infant less than two years old. Infants and children are more likely than adults to get severe disease and without treatment TB can be fatal. Due to the due diligence of the NNPH PHN Case Manager, the infant was diagnosed in the early stages of TB and started daily treatment that will last for six months. The infant is currently without signs or symptoms.

In addition to the four active disease cases, the program is currently managing/evaluating over 50 clients for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). In July 2024, the program completed six evaluations for LTBI, presented 18 cases to the consulting physician, performed 85 instances of directly observed therapy, and started one client on LTBI treatment.

d. **Reproductive and Sexual Health Services** – Family Planning Sexual Health Program (FPSHP) staff welcomed Stephanie Dominguez-Ayala as an Intermittent Hourly Community Health Aide on July 15th. She will be working to support clinic staff on Mondays and Wednesdays. Staff are hopeful to have her fully trained by mid-September. In July, FPSHP staff saw a significant increase in the number of walk-in appointments. The walk-in rate for appointments to see the APRN was

close to 55%. Staff have been tracking the number of walk-in appointments monthly since March and July has had the most walk-in appointments to date with 180 walk-in appointments.

FPSHP staff are working closely with the EMR vendor Patagonia and the Nevada State Lab to establish a bidirectional connection. With the bidirectional connection, FPSHP will not only receive lab results electronically but will also place lab orders electronically. This project has been ongoing for many years and staff is hopeful for a successful implementation by the end of August. Additionally, staff are in the process of writing a protocol and applying to the state of Nevada for point of care syphilis testing. With the addition of point of care syphilis testing it will be possible for a client to leave their clinic visit knowing the results of all their STI testing (chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, and syphilis). FPSHP staff would also like to demonstrate the ease of implementing point of care syphilis testing to other community providers. The CDC recommends point of care syphilis testing as one strategy to assist in the syphilis epidemic.

- e. **Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program** – The Healthy Corner Store media campaign concluded, and staff received information on the reach. The English and Spanish videos launched on Facebook with a total reach of 40,819. There was a total of 204,676 impressions of the English video, and 152,002 impressions of the Spanish video. In addition, the campaign was shared through YouTube ads, with a total of 538,531 impressions and 223,141 views for both English and Spanish videos.

One staff member attended the 2024 NACCHO conference which was themed: "Heard it Through the Grapevine: Public Health Partnerships, Collaboration, and Innovation." Knowledge gained on best practices was shared with other CDIP team members for exploration and/or implementation in our community.

Staff developed a youth vaping prevention workplan outlining priorities and strategies. Key components include collaborating with WCSD and other youth-focused organizations, parent education sessions, collecting data to help guide the development of outreach activities and media campaign(s). Staff began working on reestablishing partnerships with WCSD and youth-organizations as well as drafting survey instruments for data collection.

Two intermittent hourly health educators were identified to assist with the 5210 Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) provider outreach program. 5210 is a reminder of healthy daily living: 5 servings fruits & veggies, no more than 2 hours recreational screen time, 1-hour physical activity and 0 sugary drinks. High impressions and reach results from the 5210 media efforts from April 1 to May 30 were shared in the quarter four grant report to the state:

Platform	Impressions	Reach
Social Media (Hispanic campaign)	486,000 impressions 49,000 video views	135,000 509 reactions
Social Media General market	508,981 impressions 77,000 video views	173,000 1,185 reactions
ABC KOLO TV	459,000	182,535
English Radio	249,200	108,400
Spanish TV	164,000	33,100
Spanish Radio	302,000	18,400
Billboard	1,343,880	N/A

- 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 works with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Lead Program Specialist. The NNPH Lead team is currently following 23 open cases.

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 CHW’s held two Cribs for Kids classes in July at the Anthem Wellness Center with five attendees and conducted three 1-1 classes. CHWs are Baby and Me Tobacco Free facilitators and promote PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), Nevada 211 and Nevada Medical Home Portal.

The Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board (FIMR) meets monthly, except for June and December. The FIMR Board met on July 18, 2024, and reviewed five cases. One parental interview was completed in June. Since the beginning of the 2024 calendar year, six parental interviews have been scheduled, five were completed and there are three more parents willing to participate. FIMR staff attended the Maternal Child Health Listening Session for the Renown Health Community Needs Assessment on July 30, 2024. One family was assisted with resources from a Community Health Worker.

FIMR staff attended the “Features to Improve Data Quality: National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System Version 6.1” webinar on July 10, 2024. There was no Western Region FIMR Support meeting this quarter as the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention is realigning the regions. FIMR staff met with the NNPH Health Equity Team, and one member joined the FIMR CRT to assist with health equity in the case reviews.

Staff continue to provide updates on fetal and infant deaths at the Washoe County Community Child Death Review as requested. The next Child Death Review meeting will be held on August 2, 2024. Child Death Review meetings are held every other month.

The Northern Nevada Maternal Child Health Coalition did not meet in July, the next meeting is August 8, 2024. The Coalition is currently co-chaired by NNPH FIMR staff members Rebecca Gonzales and Kelcie Atkin with Maricruz Schaefer as treasurer. At the next meeting, Molina staff will share information about programs and benefits for members, with a focus on pregnancy-related benefits and incentives. The Maternal and Child Health Coalition will be hosting a virtual and in-person Fall Symposium on September 20, 2024 “Camp Treasure: Navigate the Deep Sea of Maternal and Child Health.” Two FIMR staff members received scholarships to attend the training in-person in Las Vegas.

- g. **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** – Two new HSSS employees will be joining the WIC team in August. They will fill the vacant positions – one at the 9th Street WIC location and the other at the Moana WIC location. WIC began offering evening appointments in July and held two night clinics on July 17th and July 31st. Schedules were full for both night clinics.

The WIC team invited Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN) to their July 24th meeting to present on substance use. The team learned about the common substances that are being used in Washoe County and the impacts to pregnant women, breastfeeding infants, and fetuses.

- h. **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** – The CHWs provided services to 103 clients in July. Most of the referrals continue to be from the Family Planning Sexual Health Clinic (43) and Immunizations (26). The CHW assigned to Disease Investigation/HIV has been accompanying staff on field visits and offering resources to clients as needed. The CHWs have also seen an increase in the number of referrals from the WIC program as they have transitioned to more in-person visits. The CHWs conducted six outreach activities in July including serving 79 families at Mobile Harvest and 100 participants at Anthem's Biggest Little Summer Bash.

The job specification for the Community Health Workers was recently revised and the updated version is now available on the Human Resources website. The job specification further clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the CHW and includes outreach activities. The initial job specification was created in 2021 before the CHWs were hired. An update to the job specification was identified as a need as the role of the CHW has evolved in each CCHS program.