

Date: November 16, 2023
To: State Board of Health Members
From: Kevin Dick
Northern Nevada Public Health Officer
Subject: December 2023 Northern Nevada Public Health Officer Report

Office of the District Health Officer

District Board of Health Strategic Planning Retreat - On November 9, the District Board of Health held a planning retreat to discuss Information and Governance, Financial Outlook, and Workforce Capacity and Investment. The information and dialogue will be used to inform the District's budget process for FY25.

The Strategic Plan will be presented to the District Board of Health at the December Board Meeting.

Retirement Plans – I have announced my plans to retire in the Spring of 2024. The District Board of Health discussed recruitment of a new District Health Officer during their October 26 meeting. They authorized Board Chairman Dahir to work with Washoe County Human Resources to select an executive search firm to conduct a national search. My plan is to continue to serve as the District Health Officer until March 31, 2024, and to be available during the months of April and May to assist with the new Health Officer onboarding during that period.

NNPH Communications Update - The team conducted media outreach for subjects such as our Healthy Corner Store initiative, the burn code, a drive-through flu shot clinic and more. The Reno Gazette-Journal began posting failed restaurant inspections based on information publicly released on our WashoeEats mobile app and we were informed the articles are among the most read on RGJ.com. We also worked with local organizations to promote the Prescription Drug Take Back Event, which was held on Oct. 21.

COVID-19 Documentary - A documentary showcasing the COVID-19 response in Washoe County was selected and confirmed for screening at the American Public Health Association's 2023 Public Health Film Festival in Atlanta.

The documentary, which can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5Re8FhMqhw, gives a behind-the-scenes look at the COVID-19 regional response that was led by Northern Nevada Public Health (formerly Washoe County Health District), with support from the City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, Nevada National Guard, REMSA Health, Reno Fire, Sparks Fire, Truckee Meadows Fire, Medical Reserve Corp and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers, area hospitals, and many more organizations.

Public Health Accreditation Board – NNPH is up for reaccreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2024. We are required to demonstrate that we have completed 50% of the process to be on track by December 31 of 2023 and are on track to meet that milestone. The district has established an accreditation committee to work on the documentation and evidence necessary to meet each of the Standards and Measures. As one of our PHAB requirements, the district has implemented a robust

performance management system and is able to provide the District Board of Health and the community quarterly reports with of our progress toward strategic plan goals.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - We continue to collaborate with our community to implement just under 30 initiatives in our Community Health Improvement Plan to achieve goals identified in four focus areas – Social Determinants of Health, Mental Health, Preventative Health Behaviors, and Access to Health Care. The first year of the CHIP will wrap up at the end of this calendar year. We are working with our partners to identify which initiatives will continue into year two and any new initiatives that may be added. CHIP focus area committees are scheduled to meet in December to provide direction for year two of the plans. Almost 30 partner organizations are identified as leads on the CHIP initiatives.

Health Equity – Our health equity team continues to advance several initiatives including work on an initial language access plan for the health district, efforts to translate more of our materials into multiple languages, additional training for staff including offering more Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Cultural Competency three-hour foundation trainings session as well as rolling out a new series of shorter session on specific topics including workforce microaggressions, unconscious bias, and diversity vs. inclusion which will be offered after the first of the year. The team is also working to complete the build of the asynchronous cultural competency training in partnership with the Larson Institute with rollout expected after the first of the year. Finally, the team is close to finalizing a contract with Salesforce and an IT consultant to build a system to better manage our relationships with external partners.

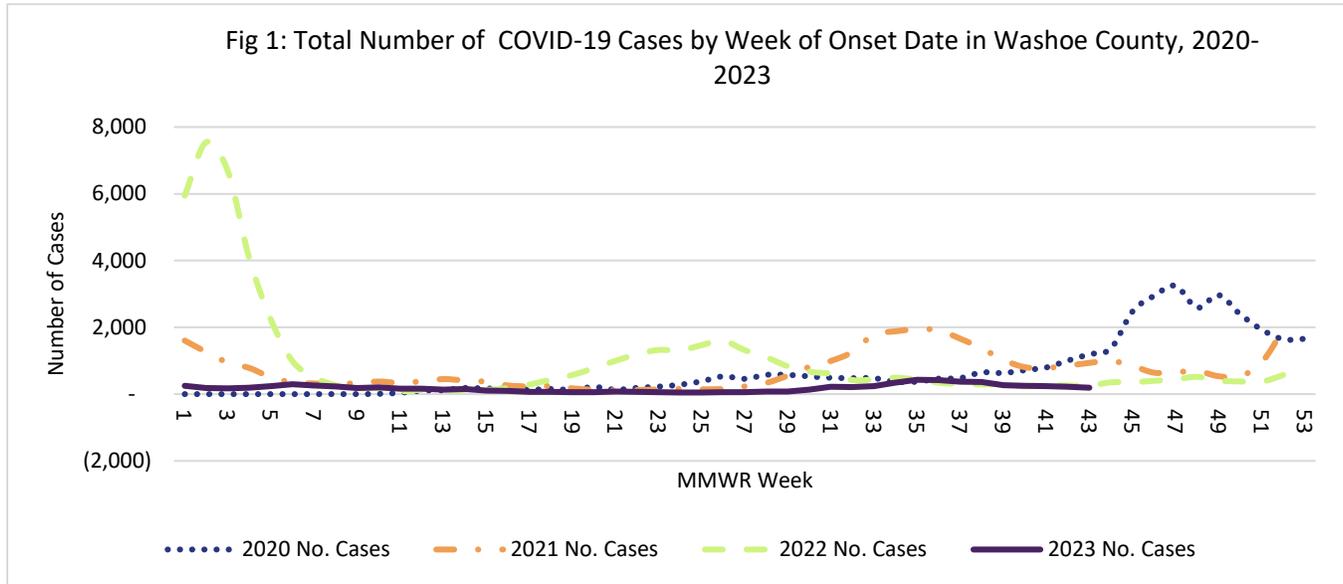
Family Health Festival – We held our third and final Family Health Festival of the year on October 5 at O’Brien Middle School. Highlights include 317 attendees with 63 community resource partners participating. Attendees were able to access vision screenings, dental screenings, mobile harvest, and vaccinations among other resources during the event.

Epidemiology Program and COVID Epidemiology Branch

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) – During October 1,121 new COVID-19 cases were reported among Washoe County residents, representing 14% of total cases reported in 2023 [Table 1].

Table 1: Number and Percent of COVID-19 Cases Reported, Washoe County, 2023			
Time Period	Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported	Avg. Number of Cases per Day	Percent of Cumulative Cases
January	897	29	11%
February	1000	36	13%
March	743	24	9%
April	440	15	6%
May	308	10	4%
June	264	9	3%
July	338	11	4%
August	1142	37	15%
September	1596	53	20%
October	1121	36	14%

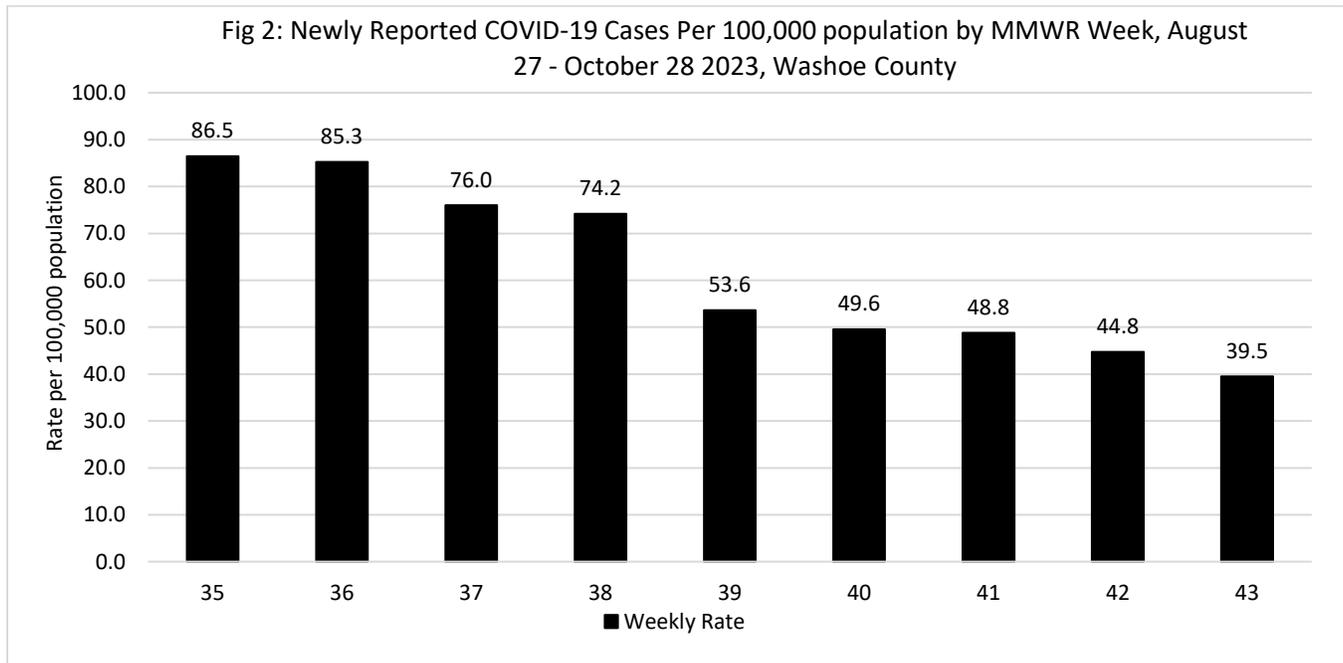
Figure 1 provides an overview of the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported to Washoe County to date by MMWR week from 2020 through the end of October 2023.



Note: there is no MMWR week 53 in 2021

*If illness onset date is missing or unknown, specimen collection date is used

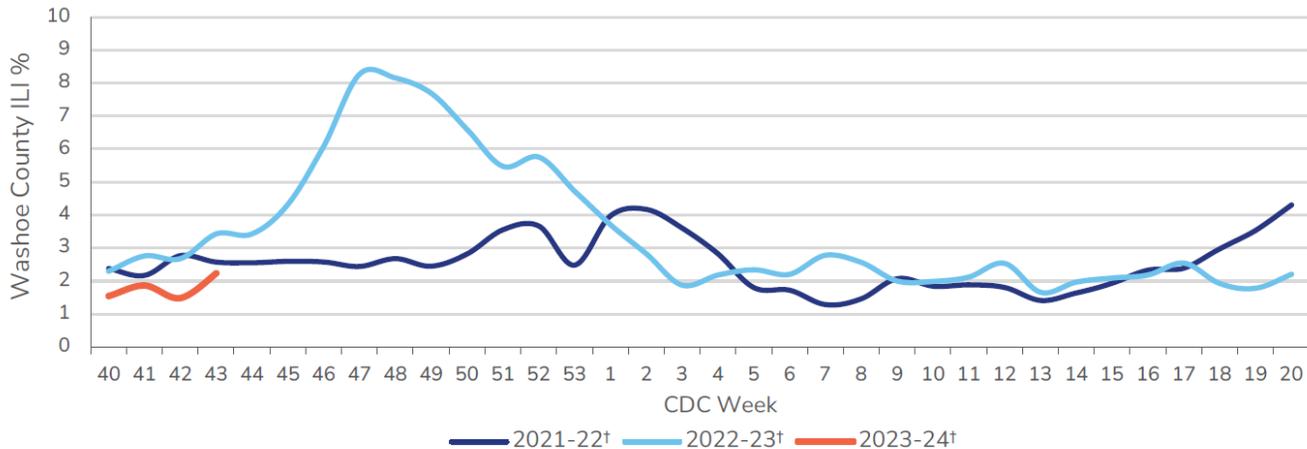
Figure 2 illustrates the number of new cases by either illness onset or specimen collection date (if onset date is unknown or case was asymptomatic) per 100,000 population over the course of a nine-week period, from the last week in August through the end of October 2023. As of MMWR week 43, Washoe County was at 39.5 new cases per 100,000 population.



*If illness onset date is missing or unknown, specimen collection date is used

Influenza-like Illness – Influenza season officially began in MMWR week 40, October 1, 2023. Figure 3 provides a snapshot of the percent of patients presenting to sentinel surveillance providers with influenza-like illness (ILI) defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C]) and cough and/or sore throat.

Fig 3. ILI Activity Reported by Sentinel Providers, Washoe County, 2021-2023 Seasons†



† Does not have a week 53, so the week 53 value is an average of week 52 and week 1.

Outbreaks – There were four (4) newly declared outbreaks in October 2023. There were two (2) COVID-19 confirmed, one (1) gastrointestinal, and one (1) influenza confirmed outbreak.

Table 2: Number of Outbreaks Declared by Type and Month, 2023

Type	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gastrointestinal Illness	1	5	5	7	8	1	2	3	2	1		
Respiratory Illness	0	2	2	4	6	0	0	3	1	0		
Influenza Confirmed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
COVID Confirmed	2	1	0	7	2	0	2	2	5	2		
Rash Illness	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	1	1	0		
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
Total	4	8	7	21	18	4	4	9	9	4	0	0

Epi News – Epi News is a brief (1-3 page) newsletter that has been produced and disseminated by the Epidemiology Program since 1997. Epi News publications are emailed and faxed to 700-800 subscribers, are topic dependent, and are available at <https://www.nnph.org/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/epi-news/index.php>

In October, there were four (4) Epi News newsletters published:

- **Nevada DHHS Technical Bulletin Hepatitis C Testing:** This issue was initially published by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and serves as a notice of CDC’s updates to recommendations for testing for hepatitis C virus infection. If an HCV antibody test comes back reactive an RNA test should then be performed, otherwise the testing is considered incomplete, and a potential HCV infection may be missed. Proper testing strategies the should be performed in a single visit include:

1. From one single venipuncture, two specimens are collected in separate tubes: one tube for initial HCV antibody testing, and a second tube for HCV RNA testing if the HCV antibody test is reactive.
 2. The same sample of venipuncture blood is used for initial HCV antibody testing that, if reactive, is reflexed for HCV RNA testing without another blood draw.
 3. A separate blood sample is submitted for HCV RNA testing if the initial HCV antibody test used finger-stick blood.
- **Childhood Lead:** this issue highlights risk factors for exposure to lead, impacts of lead exposure, ways to prevent or reduce lead exposure for children, and testing for lead in children.
 - **Quarterly Communicable Disease Reporting and Statistics - 2023 Q3:** This Epi News issue is designed to illustrate the change in top reported infectious diseases by providing a ratio of the 2023 Q3 total compared to the mean of the Q3 totals from the previous five years. The only increase during Q3 was syphilis (late latent/duration unknown) and the largest decreases occurred for COVID-19, elevated blood lead level in adults, and RSV.
 - **Nevada DHHS Technical Bulletin Hantavirus:** This issue was initially published by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and serves as an epidemiologic summary of the four (4) total cases of hantavirus to date this year, three (3) of which were residents of Washoe County. Humans acquire infection through direct contact with infected rodents, rodent droppings, or rodent nests or through the inhalation of aerosolized virus particles from rodent urine, droppings, or saliva. It may take up to 6 to 8 weeks for symptoms to appear once exposed and mortality rates are between 35% and 50%. This publication notes as reminder to physicians who may be treating patients presenting with hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS):

In areas where HPS is known to occur, use of a 5-point peripheral blood screen has aided in the early detection of patients with HPS. Elements of the screen are:

1. hemoglobin elevated for gender/age;
2. left shift of granulocytic series;
3. absence of toxic changes;
4. thrombocytopenia; and
5. immunoblasts and plasma cells >10% of lymphocytes.

For cases fulfilling 4 of 5 criteria, the positive predictive value of the 5-point screen is >90%.

Serologic testing remains the method of choice for diagnosis. Immunoglobulin class M (IgM) and immunoglobulin class G antibodies (IgG) (detectable by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, or ELISA) often are present at the onset of clinical disease. The Nevada State Public Health Laboratory can perform the hantavirus (Sin Nombre virus) IgG and IgM ELISA on serum or blood clot specimens as well as lung tissue from autopsy (<https://med.unr.edu/public-health-lab/about/clinical-analysis/hantavirus-igg-and-igm>).

Other Reports

- The monthly COVID Report was published on October 6 and the report includes data for COVID cases reported over the past month including case counts by demographic variables, vaccination status, hospitalizations, and deaths among Washoe County residents.
- The 2023 Quarter 3 Carbapenem Resistant Organism (CPO) Surveillance report was posted in October and can be found here <https://nnph.org/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/healthcare-professionals/CPO.php>

General Communicable Diseases – During September 2022, a mass migration from one data system, NBS, to another data system, EpiTrax, occurred at the state level. This has been an over 2-year endeavor on behalf of the state and local health epidemiologists and information systems staff to bring on this new reporting system. The Epidemiology Program Manager attends a weekly meeting with state partners for the implementation of EpiTrax as challenges are addressed. Several validation processes are in place to verify reporting is accurate. During the month of September, there were 165 positive labs reported, with 51% resulting in a confirmed, probable, or suspect case.

Epidemiology Program Cross Divisional Projects

Environmental Health Services – The Epidemiology Program is building a database to detect and track foodborne, waterborne, and other enteric illnesses. This database will house both lab-confirmed cases received and interviewed by epidemiologists as well as food-establishment complaints received by the Environmental Health Services Division staff. The multiple data inputs into a single database should assist in earlier detection of potential outbreaks and trends in enteric conditions and illness. Due to complex coding requirements, Epidemiology Program staff have been working with the CDC to help design and implement the database.

Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

The NNPH Fall Flu POD, led by PHP and CCHS, was held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, with 61 cars going through and 124 vaccinated. The numbers were lower this year due to a variety of reasons, but it was an excellent opportunity to exercise mass dispensing and ICS with partners, including Reno and Sparks Fire, Unitek Nursing School, IZ Nevada, CERT and MRC. An after-action report/improvement plan (AAR/IP) was conducted on October 25, 2023, to review the performance of the POD for better planning and execution next time.

PHP staff participated in the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management 2023 Eastern Nevada Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) from October 10-12, 2023. This annual workshop seeks to identify threats (human-caused) and hazards (natural and technological accidents), define current capability and future targets and identify gaps and priorities.

A PHEP staff participated in the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) Super Bowl Anthrax exercise from October 12 to the 14. The exercise was part of the SNHD City Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant

program. The exercise focused on the rapid provision of emergency medical countermeasures following an anthrax attack. PHEP staff evaluated SNHD’s Incident Command System (ICS) response structure as well as the dispensing process. The PHEP staff had the opportunity during the exercise to evaluate the use of a dispensing software program that SNHD had built in-house that tracks medication dispensing in real time.

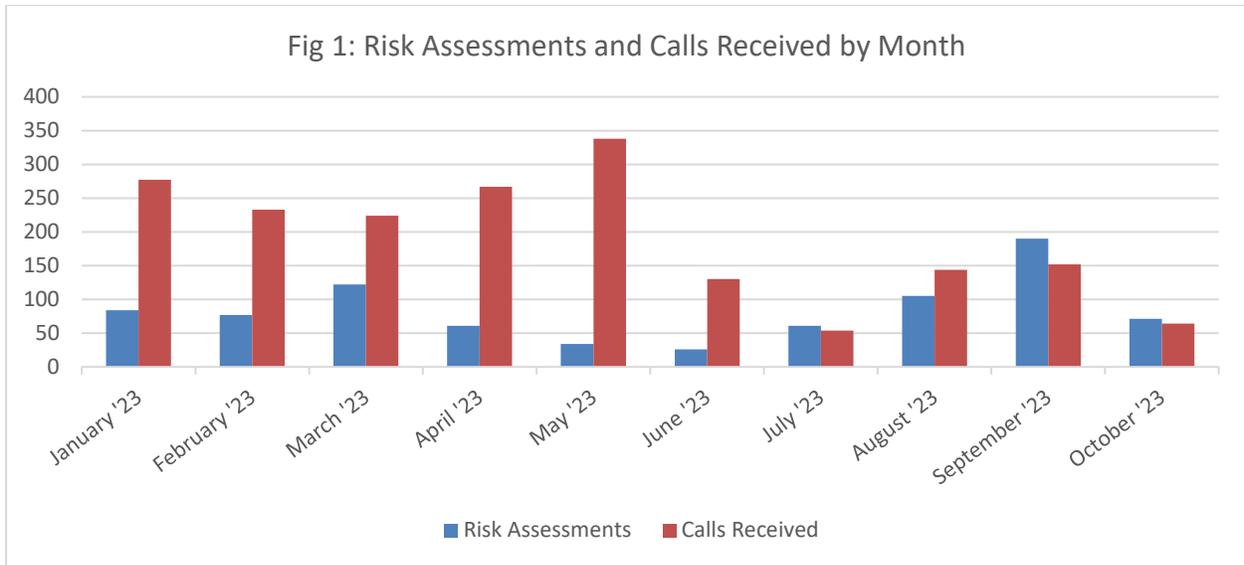
Naloxone Training was offered to Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers on October 12, 2023. Other partners were invited and a total of 11 individuals from NNPH, Red Cross, CERT, and MRC were in attendance.

The PHEP program continues to coordinate with Washoe County schools (public, private and charter) to assist in developing emergency planning processes for their Emergency Operations Plans based on Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388.241. To provide additional resources to the schools, PHEP coordinated with local emergency response partners including Washoe County Sheriff, Washoe County Emergency Management, Reno and Sparks Police, and Reno Fire to include their contact information in the quarterly email sent to schools. The email was sent to schools on October 20, 2023.

COVID-19 Response

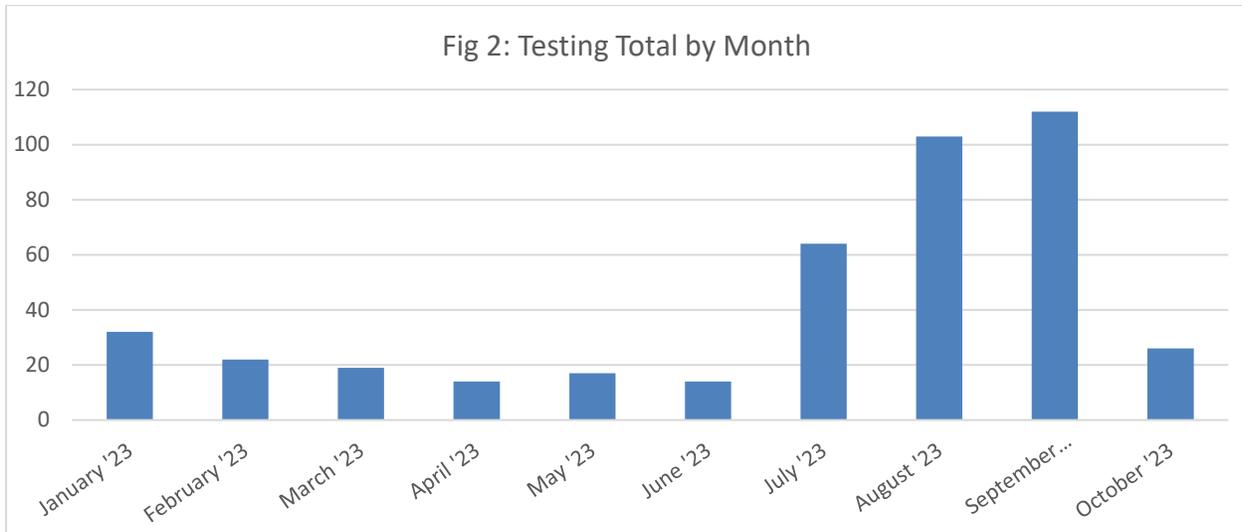
Call Center and Tests Performed –The COVID-19 Call Center received 71 Risk Assessments in October, a decrease of 63% from September. Some Risk Assessments were entered by end-users through the web portal, and others were entered by the Call Center staff. During the month of October, the Call Center received 64 calls, a decrease of 58% over September. Table 1 summarizes Risk Assessments and Calls Received by the COVID Call Center since the beginning of 2021, while Figure 1 graphs the data since January 2023.

Table 1. Total Risk Assessments and Calls				
Month Reported	Risk Assessments	Inc/Dec	Calls Received	Inc/Dec
2021 Totals	55,371		75,174	
2022 Totals	26,871		22,726	
January 2023	84	-66%	277	-40%
February 2023	77	-8%	233	-16%
March 2023	122	58%	224	-4%
April 2023	61	-50%	267	19%
May 2023	34	-44%	338	27%
June 2023	26	-24%	130	-62%
July 2023	61	135%	54	-58%
August 2023	105	72%	144	167%
September 2023	190	81%	152	6%
October 2023	71	-63%	64	-58%



Testing continued two days per week via home visits. A total of 26 home tests were conducted in October, a decrease of 77% over September. Table 2 summarizes the number of tests performed to date since the beginning of 2021, while Figure 2 graphs the data since January 2023.

Month Reported	Tests Performed	Inc/Dec
2021 Totals	30,996	
2022 Totals	7,892	
January 2023	32	-66%
February 2023	22	-31%
March 2023	19	-14%
April 2023	14	-26%
May 2023	17	21%
June 2023	14	-18%
July 2023	64	357%
August 2023	103	61%
September 2023	112	9%
October 2023	26	-77%



Healthcare Preparedness Planning (HPP)/Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC) –

HPP staff developed surveys assessing members’ resources and gaps due to new Hospital Preparedness Program capabilities added. These surveys were emailed to coalition members at the end of October along with the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) to evaluate the coalition’s top threats and hazards. The purpose of these surveys is to identify our strengths and weaknesses for future planning to improve community resilience.

During October, workgroups were held with IHCC members to discuss strategies to meet their top priorities. Completion of the identified activities by the workgroups will continue throughout the fiscal year.

As part of a series of meet-and-greets that has been ongoing since April 2023 to reconnect healthcare partners with new staff and build liaison, in the month of October, HPP staff met with End-Stage Renal Disease Network 15, DaVita South Meadows, and Clearwater at Rancharra to foster relationships and discuss collaboration to support the needs of the community.

The HPP Program continues to participate in the weekly Hospital Net, a Ham Radio communications drill among hospitals in Northern Nevada and Eastern California. The purpose of the Net is to improve redundant communications during a disaster.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Program

EMS Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) - The JAC has assigned all relevant Washoe County EMS Strategic Plan 2023-2028 goals. Partners have begun to use the new MS Project tracking tool and many objectives are already underway. In recent meetings, the partners also overviewed and discussed the use of ESSCENE data to analyze trends in the emergency departments data for those transported by EMS.

REMSA Franchise – The Program has begun the collection of documentation for demonstration of FY23 compliance. This will be an ongoing process until the beginning of the next calendar year.

REMSA Exemption Requests

Exemption	System Overload	Status 99	Weather	Other	Approved
July 2023	-	-	-	-	-
August 2023	-	-	-	-	-
September 2023	3	-	-	-	3
October 2023	-	-	-	-	-

REMSA Call Compliance – The franchise area is divided into response zones. The response zones will have response time compliance standards for all Priority 1 calls indicated below. Due to low call volumes in the separately defined response zones B, C and D, REMSA compliance response will be calculated in accordance with the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service dated May 2, 2014, as combined Zones B, C, and D for all Priority 1 calls. Table 2 shows REMSA’s compliance rate starting FY 2021-2022.

- Zone A – REMSA shall ensure that **90%** of all presumptively defined life-threatening calls (Priority 1 Calls) have a response time of eight (8) minutes and 59 seconds or less within the combined Zone A areas.
- Zones B, C, and D – REMSA shall ensure that **90%** of all presumptively defined life-threatening calls (Priority 1 Calls) collectively have a response time of; 15minutes and 59 seconds or less for the combined Zone B areas, 20 minutes and 59 seconds or less for the combined Zone C areas, and 30 minutes and 59 seconds or less for the combined Zone D areas.

Month*	Zone A	Zone B, C, and D
July 2023	92	90
August 2023	91	93
September 2023	91	89
October 2023 ^a	92	93
Monthly Average	91	92
Year-To-Date**	91	92

*Compliance percentage per month is the percentage calculated using the monthly “Chargeable Late Responses” divided by “Compliance Calculate Responses”.

**Year-to-date is the percentage calculated using the sum of all to date “Chargeable Late Responses” divided by “Compliance Calculate Responses”.

^aCompliance percentage for the month are not yet finalized at the time this report is compiled and will be updated in the next month’s report.

Community Services Department (CSD) – Memo Review - The EMS Oversight Program staff reviews and analyzes project applications received from the City of Reno Housing and Neighborhood Development and the Planning and Building Division of the Washoe County Community Services Department and

provides feedback. Program staff reviewed five (5) applications during the month of October and did not have any concerns that would affect EMS response.

Mass Gatherings/Special Events - The EMS Oversight Program did not receive any applications for Mass Gatherings/Special Events in the month of September.

Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics has continued to serve the public through the mail, online and in-person. During the month of October, Vital Statistics staff registered 483 deaths and 504 births; 7 death and 65 birth corrections were made. Program staff also submit weekly records on decedent information for HIV/AIDS and a monthly update to senior services.

Table 1: Number of Processed Death and Birth Records

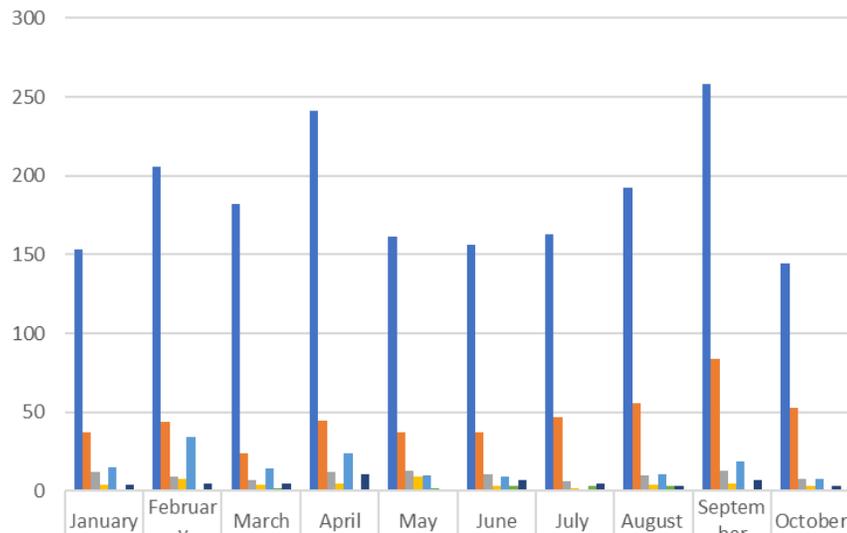
October	In Person	Mail	Online	Total
Death	1376	20	499	1895
Birth	611	18	426	1055
Total	1987	38	925	2950

Community and Clinical Services Division

Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation) – The team continues to train new staff as they progress in their investigations. The recently hired Public Health Investigator II staff are working towards investigating syphilis. The progression to syphilis investigations is around four to five months after starting in the position. Chlamydia treatment verifications and gonorrhea case investigations occur first, to provide a firm foundation for interviewing and becoming acclimated to case management, data entry and management, and workflow.

The following graph provides information on monthly case counts so far in 2023. Chlamydia cases are investigated to verify that appropriate treatment was provided. Starting in September 2023, all gonorrhea cases are being investigated. Prior to that, prioritized cases were investigated, and non-priority cases were verified for treatment. Syphilis and HIV remain the highest priority for investigations. Every method to locate and interview a case will take place. Syphilis cases have been prioritized to provide Bicillin treatment for pregnant women, as there has been a Bicillin shortage in the United States. If Bicillin is not widely available, alternative treatment is provided. For pregnant women, the only treatment available is Bicillin.

Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections, Washoe County,
 January - October 2023

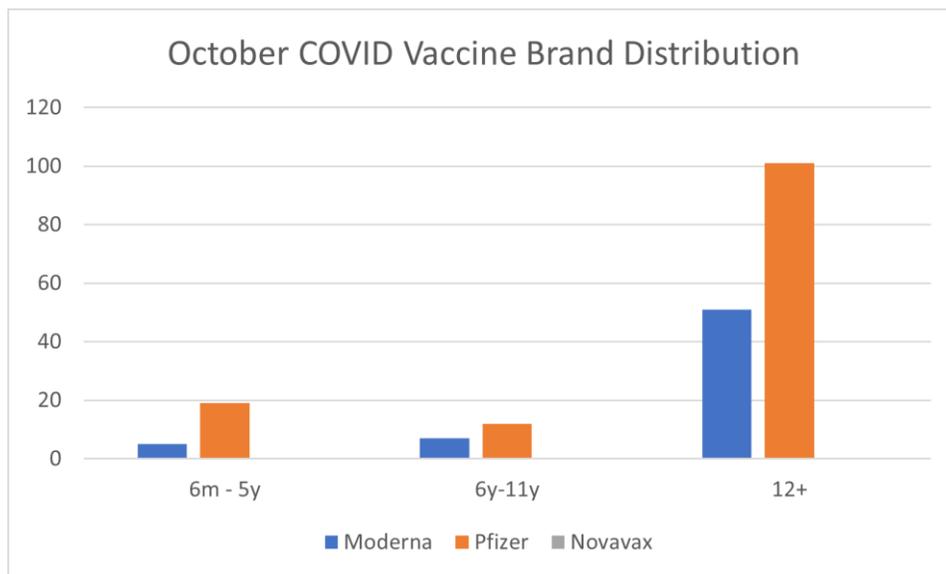
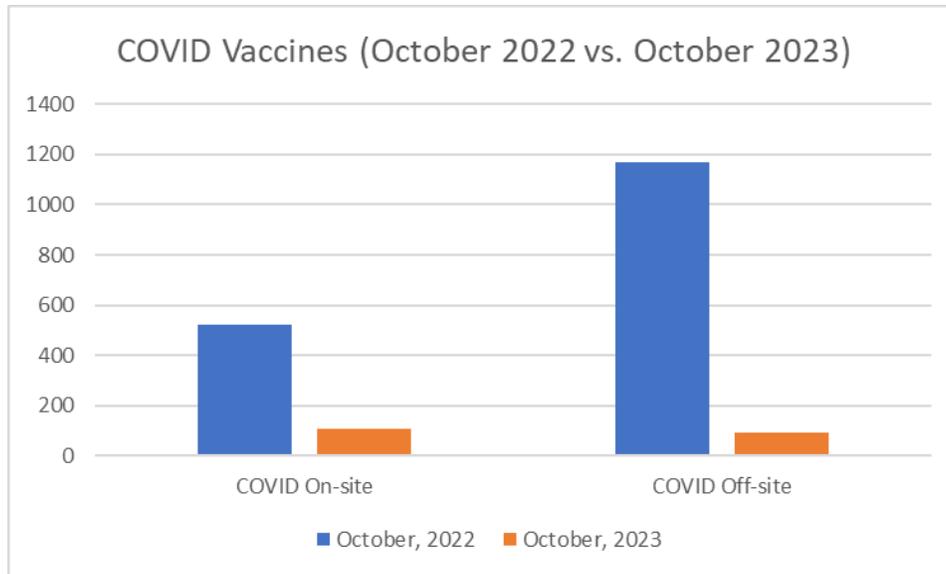


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
■ Chlamydia	153	206	182	241	161	156	163	192	258	144
■ Gonorrhea	37	44	24	45	37	37	47	56	84	53
■ Primary & Secondary Syphilis	12	9	7	12	13	11	6	10	13	8
■ Early Latent Syphilis	4	8	4	5	9	3	2	4	5	3
■ Late Latent Syphilis/Duration Unknown	15	34	14	24	10	9	1	11	19	8
■ Congenital Syphilis	0	1	2	0	2	3	3	3	1	0
■ HIV	4	5	5	11	0	7	5	3	7	3

Immunizations – Staff vaccinated 294 clients and provided 843 routine vaccines during the month of October. There were six community COVID events in October. NNPH worked with four external partners from the community and one internal partner from NNPH to execute these events. Additionally, a total of 195 COVID vaccines were administered, 63 Moderna and 132 Pfizer vaccines were given.

Federal COVID grant funding is not allowed to be used to purchase the vaccines that have now been commercialized. The COVID vaccines NNPH receives through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and 317 programs are not allowed to be administered to people that are insured. As a result, NNPH’s COVID vaccination focus is limited to vaccinating those that are uninsured or underinsured. Others are encouraged to use www.vaccines.gov to find vaccines that are readily available to those that are insured through pharmacies and providers in the area.

VFC Compliance and IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) visits continued. Staff completed follow-up visits for outstanding items and integrated COVID compliance visits into routine operations site visits per CDC to include three compliance and two IQIP visits in October. In addition, staff are actively managing four Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program cases.



Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program – The NNPH TB Program is currently managing six active pulmonary TB cases. The program has also treated over 50 LTBI cases for the year. In addition to active and latent TB cases, the program has seen over 30 individuals this past year that were evaluated and determined to not have TB.

Reproductive and Sexual Health Services – The Family Planning and Sexual Health Program is approaching the one-year anniversary of initiating Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services. Over the past year PrEP services have been initiated on 18 clients. PrEP medications are also available on-site for dispensing with the goal of the client being able to start PrEP the same day they present for care. Clinic staff and PrEP navigators have learned many lessons over the past year related to navigating various insurance company benefits and prior authorizations. Staff look forward to increasing the number of clients receiving PrEP services over the next year.

Staff training and validation testing has begun for a point of care chlamydia/gonorrhea test. Staff will complete validation testing on 20 clients to ensure results from the point of care instrument are consistent with results received from the State Lab. Once validation testing is completed staff expect an audit from the State to approve point of care chlamydia/gonorrhea testing.

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program – Staff performed outreach at the City of Sparks – Senior Resource Event on October 24, 2023, 40 local seniors received CDIP program information and resources.

Staff coordinated the first Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance (WSPA) advisory group meeting on October 23, 2023, which included local and state mental health professionals, a gun shop manager/owner, and city councilman. This Advisory Group will provide important input and direction for the Alliance. In addition, staff presented an overview of the WSPA initiative to DBOH on October 26, 2023.

Staff presented to the Optimist Club of Reno on October 17, 2023, and shared information about 5210 Healthy Washoe and ways to support the messaging of healthy eating and active living with youth.

Staff met with the Washoe County School District and community partners to strategize on addressing issues including the vaping epidemic in our schools.

Staff participated in the annual strategic planning meeting for the statewide Nevada Tobacco Control and Smoke-free Coalition.

KUNR did an interview on the Healthy Corner Store Program Initiative highlighting the partnership with Reno Food Systems and the offering of fresh produce at two stores, Vassar market and Reno Food and Discount Liquor. <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1f937205-fb3f-40b9-a64a-fb845af71762>

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) –Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health activities include Lead Screening, Newborn Screening, Cribs for Kids, and the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR).

The NNPH Lead team works with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Lead Program Specialist Enrique Llamas. The lead team received its second round of EpiTrax training on October 26, 2023, from the State of Nevada. The team is working to enter lead cases into EpiTrax. The NNPH Lead team is currently following nine open cases. National Lead Poisoning Prevention week was October 22-28th. NNPH posted a series of social media posts reminding the public of the hazards of childhood lead poisoning.

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

Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) CHW's continue to hold Cribs for Kids classes. CHWs are also Baby and Me Tobacco Free facilitators and promote PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), Nevada 211 and Nevada Medical Home Portal. CHWs have been promoting Cribs for Kids classes at the monthly Mobile Harvest – Food Bank event held on site at the NNPH. CHWs participated in the Biggest Little Baby Shower on October 18, 2023, for expectant parents and new families.

Participants in Cribs for Kids classes are also connected to REMSA for Point of Impact events for free car seats and installation by certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. CHWs have been trained in basic car seat installation to provide transport to clients with children. CHWs held Cribs for Kids classes on October 12th and 24th.

The Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board (FIMR) meets monthly, except for June and December. The FIMR Board met on October 19, 2023, and reviewed four cases. FIMR staff interviewed candidates in October and November to fill the open FIMR co-coordinator position. The team hopes to have a new co-coordinator in December. The FIMR staff is currently working on a grant application through the National Center for Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Prevention to invigorate the program due to the recent medical leave of one of the co-coordinators and the vacancy left by the promotion of Maricruz Schaefer the program has been running with one coordinator since June of 2023. With this grant the team hopes to obtain funds for training of the new co-coordinator and time and training of per diem staff to help with backlog of case entry due to the vacancy. Staff attended the “Five Coaching Conversations” training on October 18th and 19th.

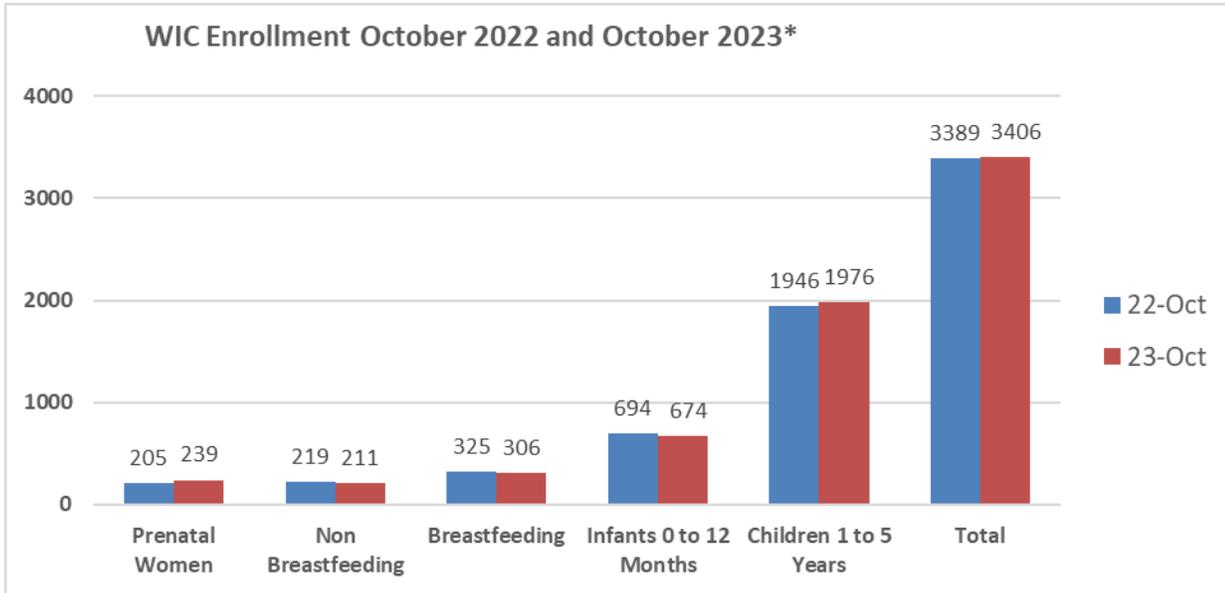
Staff continue to give updates on fetal or infant deaths at the Washoe County Community Child Death Review as requested. The last Child Death Review meeting was held on October 6, 2023.

The Northern Nevada Maternal Child Health Coalition (NNMCHC) met on October 12, 2023. The Coalition is currently chaired by FIMR staff member Rebecca Gonzales. The NNMCHC and FIMR staff assembled 40 New Mama Care Kits and distributed 25 at the meeting. These kits are to help support women during the post-partum period and to encourage post-partum care for women in need in Northern Nevada.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – WIC Cash Value Benefit (CVB) is the dollar amount that WIC clients can use on fruits and vegetables each month. The fiscal year 2024 amounts were approved at the increased rate (as compared to pre-Covid) with a \$1 inflation adjusted amount. The new CVB amounts are the following:

- \$26 for child participants,
- \$47 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and
- \$52 for fully and partially breastfeeding participants.

Staff received the lists of clients whose CVB had to be reissued on October 19, 2023, and by the end of October staff were able to reissue benefits at the higher amount to nearly 2500 clients.



*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
Oct 2022	3389	3005
Nov 2022	3329	2939
Dec 2022	3300	2935
January 2023	3318	2896
Feb 2023	3343	2902
March 2023	3340	2923
April 2023	3395	2913
May 2023	3415	3003
June 2023	3388	3042
July 2023	3446	3075
Aug 2023	3493	3095
Sept 2023	3449	3040
Oct 2023	3406	3020
Monthly avg	3385	2982
% change Oct 2022 / Oct 2023	0.50%	0.50%

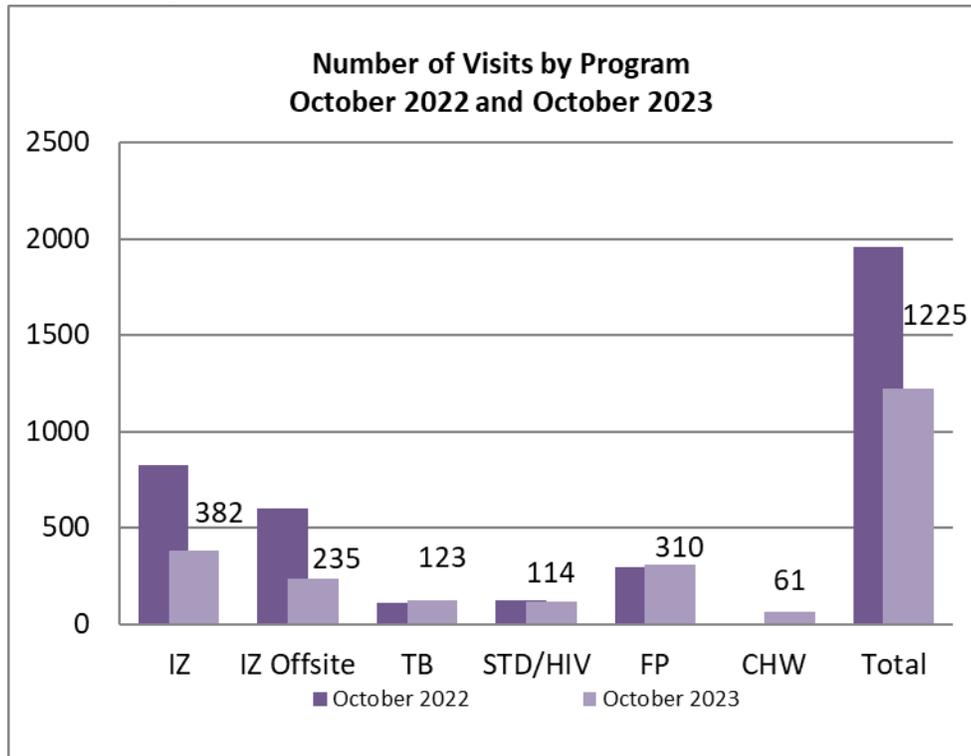
WIC participation numbers
Enrollment: All those enrolled in WIC: (women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or post-partum; infants; and children up through age 5)
Participation with Benefits: All enrolled WIC participants receive food benefits except
 - Infants that are exclusively breastfed
 - Breastfeeding mothers whose infants receive more than 4 cans of formula per month

Community Health Workers (CHWs) - The Community Health Workers provided individual client services to 61 clients in October and conducted 3 outreach activities. The increase in clients provided services is largely due to having a fully staffed Community Health Worker program as our two newest Community Health Workers have begun working with clients.

In addition to ongoing community outreach, the CHWs attended the Biggest Little Baby Shower hosted by Anthem where they provided information about resources at NNPH including family planning, immunizations,

WIC, Tobacco Quitline, and Cribs 4 Kids. The CHWs are currently working on implementing distribution of naloxone and fentanyl strips as a harm reduction measure. Staff are working with JTNN and Wake UP NV to obtain supplies and training.

Clinical Programs Data



Food/Food Safety – Three staff members attended the Pacific Region FDA Retail Food Seminar. This annual seminar provides an opportunity for the FDA, state, local, tribal, and territorial regulators to discuss current and emerging issues related to food safety. This year’s seminar focused on food additives, dietary supplements, specialist food processing including fermentation, and information on process authorities.

Additionally, NNPH staff participated in a panel discussion on the benefits of long-term compliance methods in retail food establishments during which our Active Managerial Control (AMC) program was highlighted.

Food Safety Plan Review – The team has been busy with change of ownerships, plan review, predevelopment meetings with potential operators, and construction inspections for food establishments and mobile units.

The team has been finding and dealing with complex vending machines that are able to reheat TCS foods for example, pizza, cakes, & sandwiches these machines were found at the airport during a change of ownership inspection. The inspector contacted the person who was responsible for the machines and informed them that the company did not have valid health permits for vending. As of right now the company has obtained the vending machine health permits and has been educated on DBOH food

requirements (Proper labeling, temp logs, & date marking) and opening inspections will be conducted the 2nd week of November.

The team has been working & educating West Coast Trailers, a local company that builds food mobile carts & portable trailers, on how to meet DBOH food regulations and make opening inspections easier for all involved.

The Nugget Casino will be undergoing a change of ownership for all food permits. The team will be busy conducting change of ownership inspections in November to make sure all food establishments meet DBOH food regulations.

Temp Foods / Special Events – The team worked the Italian Festival this month, which had 65 temporary food establishment permits. Our team conducted at least one inspection for each of the permits. October also had many smaller events, such as the Day of the Dead Festival and several pumpkin patch and fall festivals.

Foodborne Illnesses – NNPH staff saw a higher-than-average number of recalled food products and food product advisories in October. Only 2 of these food products were confirmed to have been shipped to Washoe County. We are unaware of any adverse reactions from these products.

Staff became aware of higher levels of Vibrio than normal in some of the waters around British Columbia where oysters are harvested, thanks to an FDA advisory. Staff took measures to ensure seafood wholesalers in Washoe County were aware of the advisory and had exact product descriptions to watch for. NNPH also issued a press-release regarding the oysters from this area and supplier. At this time, it does not appear that any affected oysters came to Washoe County

Epidemiology	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020
Foodborne Disease Complaints	3	7	38	3	25	5	3	5	5	2	96	51	98	130
Foodborne Disease Interviews	3	7	38	3	25	4	3	5	5	1	94	47	59	66
Foodborne Disease Investigations	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	12	7
CD Referrals Reviewed	2	6	6	3	2	2	3	1	2	2	29	81	178	82
Product Recalls Reviewed	17	18	22	26	24	23	22	19	10	32	213	250	251	61

Commercial Plans / Development Reviews – The Senior REHS position for Commercial Plans and Permitted Facilities has been posted and will be available for 3 weeks. This recruitment is advertised on the NEHA website as well for greater exposure.

Commercial plans continue to increase year over year (YOY).

Development reviews are decreasing and are currently 24% below YOY submittals.

Commercial Plans & Development Reviews		JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020
Development Reviews		47	28	42	36	40	44	28	32	51	29	377	494	400	357
Commercial Plan Review Submittals		119	139	174	153	139	173	164	208	159	128	1,557	1,555	1,169	1,059
Total Reviews Conducted		7	201	237	214	219	248	222	267	198	146	1,959			
Review Type Breakdown	Engineering	112	129	162	141	129	160	154	171	128	93	1,379			
	Food	25	29	34	39	46	32	32	43	33	29	342			
	Pool/Spa	4	14	13	7	11	7	10	4	4	4	78			
	Vector	18	20	20	18	24	36	22	23	31	20	232			
	Hotel/Motel	3	3	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	16			
	Environmental	9	6	7	7	7	9	1	16	0	0	62			
	UST / WM	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	6			

Permitted Facilities – School inspections are still the priority as we move towards the end of the school year. Due to creating more specialized inspections, numerous items are being identified and corrected in many facilities. This helps with consistency and ensuring safe places for many of our childcares and schools.

Residential Septic & Well Plan Reviews – The Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation (SWS) Board met during the month and heard a variance request for a reduced setback from a septic system to a drainage channel. The SWS Board recommended approval to the District Board of Health. The District Board of Health upheld the SWS Board’s recommendation and approved the variance request. The applicants have been notified and provided with the appropriate path forward with respect to completing the conditions of the variance.

One team member and the supervisor of the program attended a Soils and Site Evaluation training in Prescott, AZ during October. This training has now been attended by all team members and has been helpful in ensuring consistency across the team with respect to soil profiling for test trench inspections. A meeting with NDEP Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC) was held to explore the best ways to work together as more and more cross department issues are coming up due to continually increasing level of commercial activity. In addition, BWPC staff provided feedback on the draft septic regulations.

Safe Drinking Water – Staff recommended to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) the inactivation of a small Public Water System; Air Base Inn located at 9750 North Virginia Street. The property owner has sold the property and closed the bar and associated food permit.

Team Leadership coordinated with Truckee Meadows Water Authority staff to offer a second tour of the Truckee Canyon Public Water System to all REHS Trainees. A previous tour was offered during May 2023. This is a small PWS located at the Mustang exit and is a good representation of a small groundwater system with two wells, two large storage tanks and a treatment system. Touring this size of system is intended to assist Trainees with their understanding of public water systems as they prepare to test for their Registered Environmental Health Specialist certification. We thank TMWA staff for their willingness to offer these tours.

Four (4) sanitary surveys and three water hauler inspections were conducted in the month of October. Six surveys and one water hauler inspection remain to be conducted over the next two months. The goal is to complete all the sanitary surveys by the end of November.

During one of the sanitary surveys staff toured a new pH adjustment treatment plant and 30,000-gallon storage tank that have been installed at the Mount Rose Bowl Property Owners Water Company PWS. This treatment plant and new tank are approximately ten years in the making and are a result of extensive cooperation between NNPH, NDEP-BSDW and NDEP- Office of Financial Assistance staff. See photos below of the new facilities.



A meeting was held with BSDW and Great Basin Water Company to clarify the expectations for storage capacity for existing systems. Differing opinions had been given at different times and they were seeking clarification. The decision has larger impacts on the water company’s ability to seek SRF funding for different projects.

Vector-Borne Diseases (VBD) - Staff have begun winterizing granular application and mosquito fogging equipment.

The application process has been started for the FAA Certificate of Authorization (COA) for the use of drones for mosquito abatement.

Staff have begun drafting standard operating procedures for drone use for mosquito abatement and surveillance

Vector	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Service Requests	0	0	0	3	35	23	29	7	0	2	99	65	59	135
Mosquito Pools Tested	0	0	0	0	0	220	349	172	190	17	948	506	385	280
Mosquito Surveys and Treatments	0	0	0	8	14	63	64	91	0	2	242	791	821	72

Waste Management (WM)/Underground Storage Tanks (UST) – The UST team inspected 14 sites in October, which included fulfilling our contract obligation with NDEP and conducting a joint inspection with NDEP staff and an EPA Region 9 Grant Officer.

Waste Management program staff issued new permits for an industrial waste generator, a waste tire hauler and two biohazardous waste transporters. Additionally, staff attended the Illegal Dumping Task Force meeting on October 24.

The draft permitted waste management facilities SOP, liquid waste truck inspection SOP, and related electronic inspection forms were sent to the team for evaluation. The team will meet for discussion in a few weeks and then field test everything over the next few months with feedback from field staff. The anticipated rollout of the electronic forms is the beginning of CY 2024.

Inspections:

EHS Inspections	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUN 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020
Child Care	11	9	9	9	12	5	9	16	25	5	110	128	118	142
Food/Exempt Food	291	371	291	338	329	346	248	235	258	242	2,949	4,419	4,958	4,264
Schools/Institutions	13	42	17	40	23	15	0	14	45	47	259	292	291	199
Tattoo/Permanent Make-Up (IBD)	18	12	9	15	4	5	1	3	3	5	75	130	134	112
Temporary IBD Events	2	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	2	0	36	5	0	1
Liquid Waste Trucks	10	26	13	3	18	6	5	1	10	16	108	111	111	110
Mobile Home/RV Parks	7	3	10	8	4	0	3	37	9	8	89	121	117	202
Public Accommodations	10	5	6	6	0	1	4	13	9	6	60	139	151	130
Aquatic Facilities/Pool/Spas	23	27	17	54	287	191	87	30	10	2	728	712	1,128	408
RV Dump Station	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	12	21	19	17
Underground Storage Tanks	17	18	17	16	20	15	14	24	23	14	178	161	4	10
Waste Management	16	24	20	13	5	9	15	11	10	7	130	132	146	211
Temporary Foods/Special Events	22	29	20	57	99	254	159	271	197	144	1,252	1,174	766	48
Complaints	42	60	47	58	108	77	87	73	46	26	624	613	689	911
TOTAL														
EHS Public Record Requests	207	344	470	382	436	434	345	1,060	251	205	4,134	5,703	4,769	3,249

Complaint breakdown	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	YTD
Food	26	27	21	25	34	22	31	32	18	12	248
Permitted Facilities	3	5	4	2	3	4	4	6	4	3	38
General	1	0	0	3	35	23	29	11	2	2	106
Liquid Waste	3	10	6	7	9	5	4	8	9	1	62
Solid Waste	9	18	16	21	27	23	19	16	13	8	170

New Permits/Change of Ownership Inspections:

New Openings*	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023	OCT 2023	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Child Care	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	7	8	8	7	9	5
Food/Exempt Food	31	37	44	61	49	59	37	48	38	62	466	486	479	286	454	452
Schools/Institutions	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	6	3	2	4	4
Tattoo/Permanent	9	6	2	6	2	2	1	2	2	1	33	32	50	21	45	41
Liquid Waste	0	7	4	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	20	17	11	5	0	0
Mobile Home/RV	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	35	1	0	40	8	5	10	7	6
Public	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	13	0	0	17	9	9	10	5	11
Aquatic	0	1	3	16	5	7	4	2	2	1	41	28	41	25	38	29
RV Dump Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0
Waste	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	3	13	8	6	16	8	13
TOTAL	42	52	56	86	59	69	49	107	49	71	640	605	614	382	570	561