



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CARSON CITY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JUNE 6

2025

Quarter 1 Updates

January – March 2025

Presented By:

Jeanne Freeman

Director, PhD, CHES

Prepared in collaboration with CCHHS staff

INDEX

CARSON CITY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Highlights & Department Successes	1
Summary of Significant Division/Program Successes	1
Influenza Severity Report	2-4
Trending Health Topics Update	4
Surveillance, Mitigation, and Prevention.....	4-5
Special Topic Report- Congenital Syphilis	6
Community Outreach.....	6-7
Public Health Infrastructure	8
Community Health Improvement Plan Update.....	8-9

Highlights & Department Successes

Back-to-School Vaccines

Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) will provide walk-in back-to-school vaccine clinics on August 7th, 8th, 11-15th, 18th, and 19th. The Clinic is also available for walk-in vaccines on Thursdays from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm.

Vector Control

CCHHS' Vector Control Technician and Environmental Health Division have been working diligently to address the upcoming mosquito season by updating our laboratory facilities for species identification, tracking geospatial data of case numbers and locale from an online complaint forum, and implementing new evidence-based methods for mitigation. CCHHS will also be engaged in community awareness to increase community knowledge and understanding of how residents can mitigate against mosquitoes.

E-Cornell Cohort

Six CCHHS staff have been selected to participate in Cornell University's Public Health Essentials training course, running from April 30 through August 12, 2025. This opportunity will provide staff with foundational knowledge in key areas of public health practice and policy, strengthening our Department's capacity to serve the community. This course, which typically costs \$3,000 per student, is offered at no cost to the agency. This training also allows staff to collaborate with others in the public health workforce from around the country.

Summary of Significant Division/Program Successes

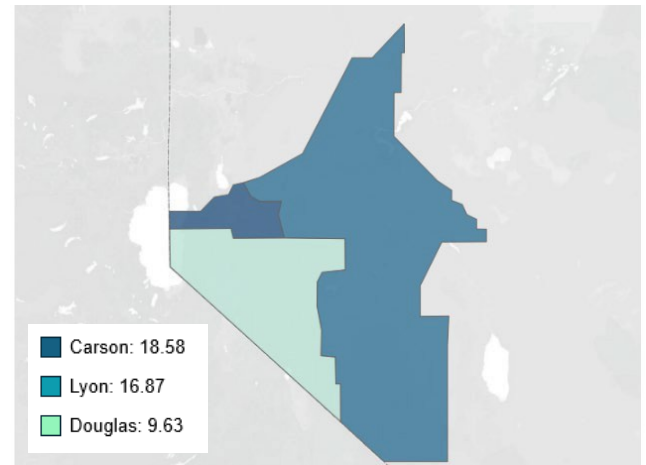
- ❖ The Fiscal Division has received accolades for thoroughness and documentation practices provided during subgrantee site visits. Grantors complimented the Fiscal Division for the accuracy and ease of understanding of the required requests for reimbursements, and the quick response to any corrections or clarifications requested by the grantor. These compliments speak to the level of professionalism and the quality of work done by CCHHS' Fiscal Division.
- ❖ Through Senate Bill (SB) 118 investments, CCHHS has partnered with Carson City Parks, Recreation, Open Space (PROS) to connect Carson City Youth with exciting recreational programming that promotes health and wellness. Through this partnership, we are supporting an innovative swimming lesson program with third-grade students to expose youth to swimming and help prevent drowning. Additionally, the investment is supporting the ski program that gives youth access to an activity where they may otherwise face barriers that prevent participation.

"My daughter says it is really fun going skiing, that she likes the lessons and going with other kids and friends. This program is allowing her to improve her skiing and to ski more times this season than we otherwise could afford. I think it is great for getting kids outside, physically active, and socializing. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation and Health and Human Services Departments for offering this program!"

Influenza Severity Report

Health Status

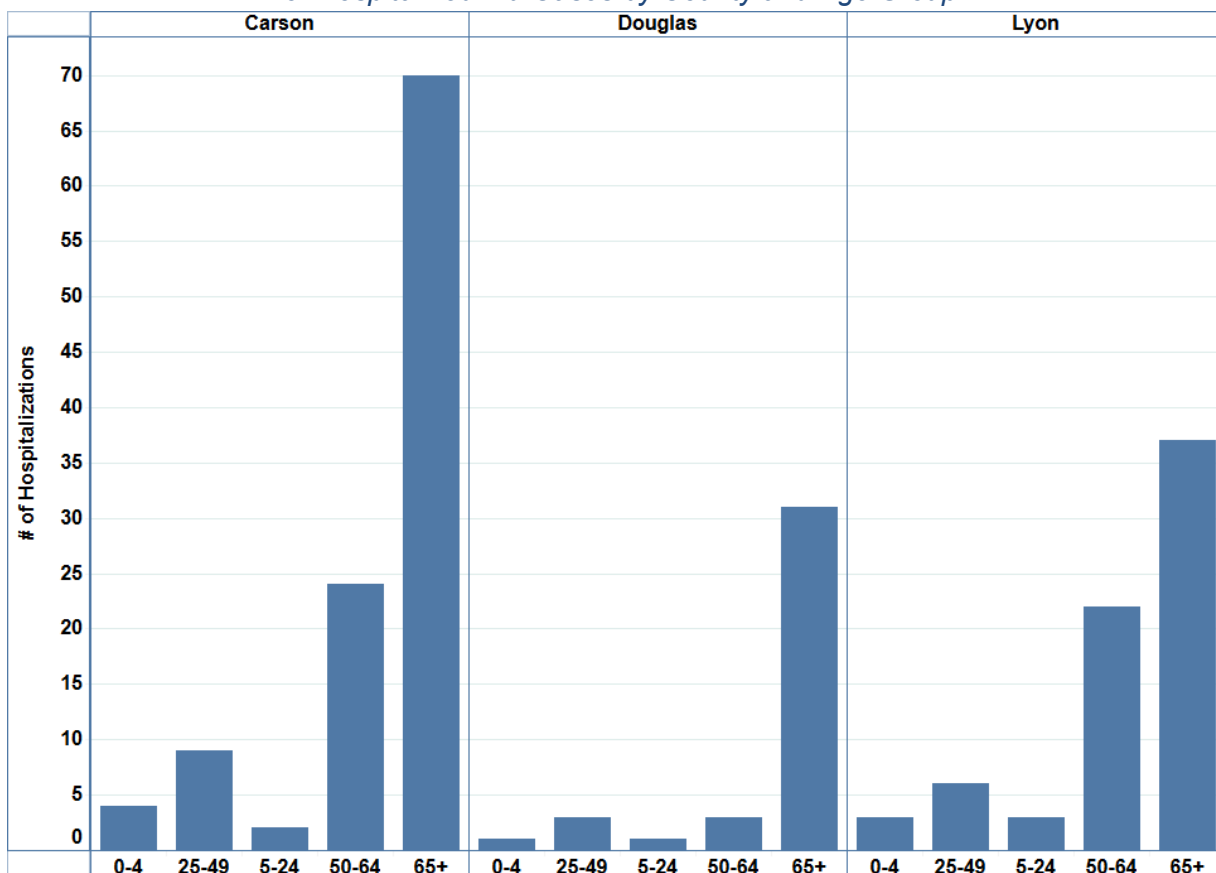
The Epidemiology Division has been conducting enhanced surveillance for Carson City, Lyon, and Douglas Counties during the respiratory illness season, which spans from October to mid-May. Thus far, the 2024-2025 influenza season is the first to be classified as high severity since the 2017-2018 season. This is based on three key indicators: rates of influenza-like illness (ILI), influenza-associated hospitalizations, and influenza-related deaths.



Rate of ILI Cases per 1,000 from Oct 13, 2024 to March 31, 2025

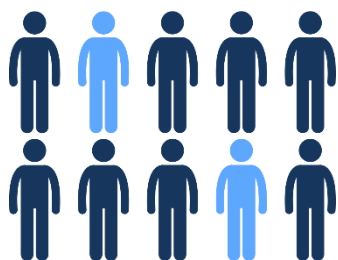
Among the total 2,662 ILI cases in Carson City, Lyon, and Douglas Counties, 2,612 residents tested positive for influenza from October 13, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

of Hospitalized Flu Cases by County and Age Group



Of those with a positive influenza diagnosis from October 13th, 2024, to March 31st, 2025, **219** were hospitalized. This is already a **161% increase** in hospitalizations compared to the previous year's entire respiratory illness season. Additionally, eight out of ten individuals hospitalized so far this season are unvaccinated.

Risk Factors for Influenza

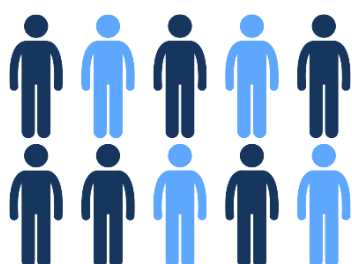
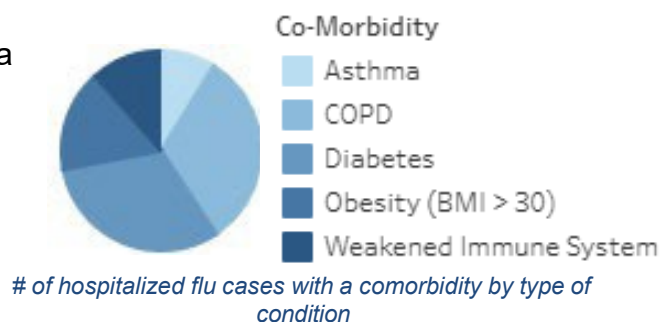


8 out of 10 hospitalized individuals had a comorbidity!

Comorbidities are the biggest contributing factor to hospitalizations so far this respiratory season, where 82% of all hospitalized individuals have an existing comorbidity. The most common comorbidities present were Diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), where individuals hospitalized were two times more likely to have these conditions than others.

If unvaccinated, individuals with a comorbidity are 3.5 times more

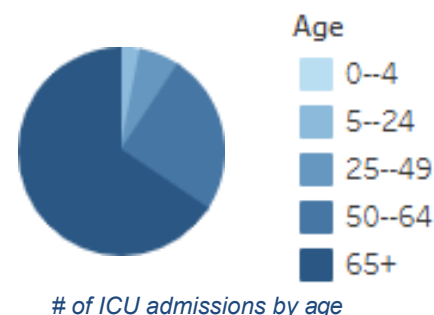
likely to be hospitalized than if they are vaccinated. The likelihood of severe outcomes occurring, such as hospitalization, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) visits, and ventilator use, also significantly increases for those over 50 years of age, who also tend to experience much higher rates of co-morbidities.



6 out of 10 hospitalized individuals were 65+ years old

Age is a risk factor for ILI diagnoses and severe influenza outcomes. Among the 42 vaccinated hospitalized individuals, 85% are 50+ years old. Additionally, ICU admissions and ventilator use occur more often among those 65+ years old. So far this season, the 65+ age group is two times more likely to require a ventilator and 1.5 times more likely to be admitted to the ICU. This specialized care contributes to the costliness of ILI hospitalizations for Carson City residents, thus showing the importance of vaccination

and personal prevention strategies.



Specifically, Carson City hospitalizes one out of every two residents with influenza (50%), which is the highest hospitalization rate in the surveillance region. Carson City also has the lowest vaccination rate this season in the surveillance region compared to previous years. Additionally, low vaccination rates are seen among high-risk individuals, such as those with co-morbidities and those 50+ years old. Age, vaccination status, and comorbidities are impacting hospitalization rates, and outcomes worsen when these factors are compounded.

Community Action and Impact

Flu severity can be reduced with a vaccine. Thus, it is crucial for Carson's vulnerable population to have access to vaccines. CCHHS works in partnership with schools and the Senior Center to create additional access points for vaccination through their community outreach efforts. The CCHHS Clinic offers walk-in vaccination services every Thursday from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm. Additionally, the CCHHS Clinic collaborates with Meals-on-Wheels to provide flu vaccines for homebound Carson City seniors.

With May being the end of the respiratory season, CCHHS will gather complete data and put together

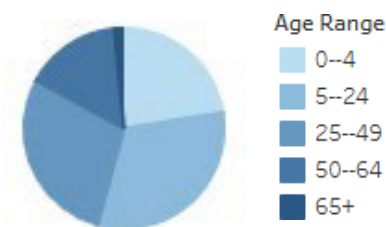
a full respiratory report, to include cost savings and return on investment (ROI) for vaccination, and present the report to the Board of Health at a later meeting. This will help to tailor evidence-based strategies for vaccine implementation and additional prevention strategies.

Trending Health Topics Update

Measles

In response to the recent measles outbreaks and cases in 30 States, CCHHS has launched a public awareness campaign that includes billboard and pre-movie vaccination advertisements. Additionally, we have developed and distributed comprehensive informational materials for both healthcare providers and the public, including fact sheets, measles education, provider guidance, and decision trees to support informed decision-making and early detection.

Due to rising concerns and surveillance efforts, CCHHS is working with the State Office of Analytics to track total measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccination rates in Carson and will continue to implement data-driven interventions as a result.



So far in 2025, CCHHS' Clinic has administered a total of **129** MMR vaccines. We will continue to track our organizational vaccine rates to determine the effectiveness of our awareness campaigns and the agency's contribution to Carson City's vaccinated population.

of CCHHS Clinic-administered MMR vaccines by age group

Surveillance, Mitigation, and Prevention

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT HANTAVIRUS?

EXPOSURE: Hantavirus spreads through rodent urine, droppings, or saliva in dust. Cleaning dusty, rodent-prone areas can expose you.

AVOID: Stay out of dusty, enclosed spaces like sheds or attics where rodents may nest.

PREVENTION: Keep rodents out by sealing holes and cleaning up food spills.

CLEANING UP: Air out spaces, wear a mask, and dampen dust before cleaning to reduce risk.

SYMPTOMS: Hantavirus starts with flu-like symptoms; in severe cases, it can cause kidney failure. See a doctor if symptoms follow dusty rodent exposure.

The infographic features a blue background with white text. At the bottom, there is an illustration of various cleaning supplies (brooms, mops, buckets, spray bottles, gloves) and several mice, symbolizing the need for cleanliness and rodent control.

Hantavirus

People can contract hantavirus from exposure to rodent droppings, urine, and saliva or through bites or scratches. Hantavirus may lead to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), which can cause serious illness or death.

In the U.S., hantavirus is commonly spread by the deer mouse. The risk of hantavirus exposure increases when people are cleaning out areas where rodents have been, like sheds or garages.

As residents are making their spring-cleaning task lists, CCHHS wants to remind all residents to be mindful of potential exposure and know what steps they can take to protect themselves.

Mosquito Abatement Underway

Carson City and northern Nevada are addressing the challenges of the upcoming mosquito and tick season with agility, scientific rigor, and community engagement. CCHHS launched a complaint portal so the Environmental Health and Epidemiology Divisions can track down areas of high activity and target mitigation efforts. As we move into mosquito season, traps have been upgraded and are organized into six rotating zones to efficiently target high-risk areas and balance operational costs. We are actively pursuing federal grants to acquire testing machines and modern microscopes, which will reduce our reliance on external laboratories and cut turnaround time for test results from up to a week to as little as 72 hours. CCHHS's first aerial abatement occurred in mid-May, deploying Altosid granules via helicopter over Anderson Ranch and other open spaces.

The agency is transitioning from call-in reports to an online GIS-enabled system. This will allow us to track human, equine, and avian exposures to monitor trends and rapidly identify positive mosquito pools. Success metrics will shift from complaint volume to confirmed case counts and mosquito pool eliminations. CCHHS has mapped potential mosquito habitats across six management zones in Carson City and is deploying small drones to access dense brush and restricted water bodies.

Over the past quarter, the Environmental Health portion of CCHHS' public health lab has been modernized. While maintaining compliance with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, CCHHS is now able to identify local mosquito and tick species, which guides targeted control measures. CCHHS has also established the first county-level facility in Nevada to conduct chemical testing that is critical for determining optimal pesticide dosage. Finally, the agency has developed a set of in-house protocols to classify species on their level of risk for disease transmission.

Beyond the internal capacity building and preparation, CCHHS is engaged in many collaborative efforts to prepare for mosquito abatement and prevention. CCHHS is collaborating with UNR and Exhale Mushrooms, a Montana-based company that grows CO₂-producing mushrooms, to reduce seasonal carbon dioxide (CO₂) costs by incorporating the specialized mushrooms into trapping zones rather than dry ice. This will reduce costs from approximately \$5,000 to \$500 for mosquito traps. The anticipated completion date of this project is August 2025, and we anticipate that this will inform broader regional deployment of traps.

Additionally, the agency has been working with Carson City PROS and the local sawmill to test



MOSQUITO PREVENTION

Protecting your family and community starts at home. Here's how you can help:

- **Dump standing water from containers around your yard.**
- **Use insect repellent with DEET.**
- **Wear long sleeves and pants, especially during dawn and dusk.**
- **Fix leaky outdoor faucets and take care of swimming pools.**
- **Check and repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.**

mixtures of wood chips and sawdust to fill crevices along walking paths. This will deprive mosquitoes of breeding sites while enhancing biodiversity. This project has a planned pilot date of August 2025.

Special Topic Report: Congenital Syphilis

Congenital syphilis is a disease that occurs when a mother with syphilis passes the infection on to her baby throughout the entire pregnancy or at birth. Nevada ranks as the 6th highest state in the country for babies born with syphilis.¹ Congenital syphilis can be mitigated if someone who tests positive is referred to treatment. Current practice is to check for syphilis through a blood draw, which may take days to weeks for lab results to be returned. This delay in test results can impact a provider’s ability to get someone connected to treatment quickly.

CCHHS is working to systematically address these challenges with an investment from the SB118 funding. The Clinic Services Division is implementing a syphilis point-of-care testing program that will allow the Clinic to run rapid, reliable, and validated tests. The test takes only 10 minutes to complete, providing early detection. All positive tests will require a blood confirmation test to determine if treatment is necessary. Pregnant women who test positive are an exception to this and will be given antibiotics immediately following a positive, rapid test. Treatment implementation for all other patients is being discussed among subject matter experts as to whether this follows rapid testing or blood confirmation testing.

Early detection can help reduce barriers to accessing treatment since patients will be able to receive results while still in the office. CCHHS is committed to taking a holistic approach to addressing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Carson City. CCHHS is committed to utilizing accessible testing methods for all people and reducing the transmission of syphilis in the community.¹

Community Outreach

Karma Box Street Outreach

CCHHS partners with Karma Box to get people off the streets and empower them to become productive members of society by connecting them to services and resources. During quarter one, Street Outreach had 62 encounters, 34 of those being initial encounters.

The three most common resources and services Street Outreach linked individuals to from January 1 to March 31, 2025, are:

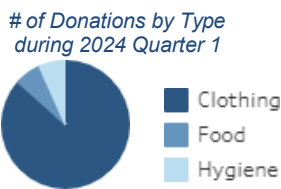
Type of Service	
Transportation	16
In-Kind Donations	15
Behavioral Health	10
Financial	6
Identification Documents	5
Employment	4
Life Skills	4
Mainstream Benefits	2
Medical	1

1. Transportation

Karma Box connects clients with transportation to treatment or other services as needed. This is a crucial service, as Carson City community members reported transportation as unreliable and a barrier to accessing services.

2. Clothing, Food, & Hygiene Resources

In-kind donations are defined as linking clients to services that include clothing, hygiene, or food resources. It is defined as an in-kind service



¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Congenital Syphilis—Reported Cases by State, Ranked by Rates, United States*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2023.

because these resources are provided by community partners. Specifically, Northern Nevada Dream Center is a primary support for these services, and because of them, clients have been provided with coats, hats, and gloves during the winter months, and clothes for job interviews!



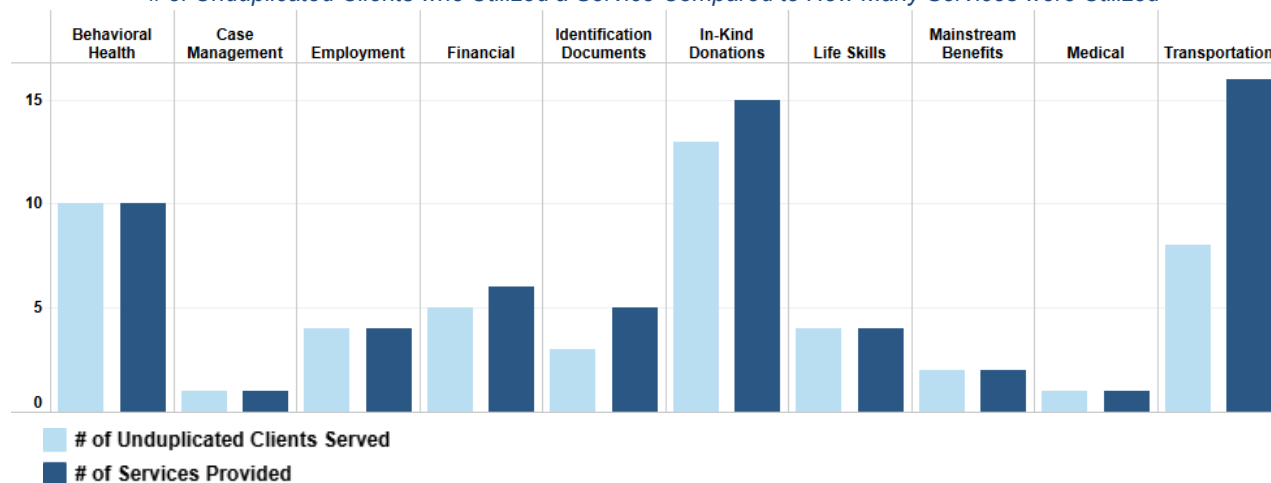
3. Behavioral Health Referrals

Ten clients were provided with substance use and mental health services through referrals made by Street Outreach. Vitality, Community Counseling Center, Carson Tahoe Behavioral Health, and the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST) are among the most common partners CCHHS utilizes for referrals.



Housing struggles are impacted by several factors, including food insecurity, clothing loss, unemployment, and financial insecurity. Therefore, clients often utilize multiple services to gain permanent, sustainable housing. Additionally, clients may need to use a service multiple times to fulfill their needs. Individual clients utilized transportation, financial resources, and food, clothing, or hygiene donations multiple times this quarter, using transportation on average of two times per person!

of Unduplicated Clients who Utilized a Service Compared to How Many Services were Utilized



Providing clients with and connecting them to these wraparound services allows them to get resources for their specific needs. Community testimonials are a great example of how CCHHS' wraparound services contribute to the path of obtaining permanent housing:

A client was working a full-time job, living in his own apartment when he fell ill. Due to his extended hospital stay, he lost his job and eventually his home. After exiting the hospital, he was determined to regain his employment and confidence. However, being unhoused made it difficult for him to maintain regular employment. This cycle resulted in a decline in his mental health and years of living on the street.

This continued until he met a friend who suggested he contact CCHHS for support. Here, he met a case manager who helped him develop realistic goals for himself and provided the necessary support to achieve those. With resources and support services, he began applying for employment again and secured a full-time job within a week! CCHHS then assisted him in buying steel-toe boots, a requirement for his new position, and provided him with emergency shelter while he saved money for a new apartment. CCHHS helped him to contact the apartments he had applied to in the past, and with his new income, he was approved! This client now has a full-time job and permanent housing that he can maintain independently.

Public Health Infrastructure

Senate Bill 118 Expenditure Update

SB118 was passed in the 2023 Legislative Session to invest in Nevada's public health infrastructure. To date, Carson City has received \$262,101 for the biennium and has aligned the investment to priorities outlined in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) completed in 2022 as required by the bill. This ensures the investment in building out public health infrastructure is meeting identified community needs.

Access to Basic Needs

- Connection to experiences for seniors – collaborating with Carson City Senior Center and Carson City PROS.
- Connection to experiences for youth – collaborating with Carson City PROS (ski program increased access; supporting innovative swim lesson program with third-grade students to expose youth to swimming and help prevent drowning).

Access to Health Care

- STI Testing Campaign – STI education campaign for Carson City and rapid point-of-care syphilis testing.
- Transportation to medical care for seniors and those with disabilities – collaborating with non-profit agency, RSVP.

Mental and Emotional Health

- Connecting youth to art – collaborating with Carson City PROS, second-grade students in the Carson City School District get to attend the Community Center Theater to listen to the Reno Philharmonic.
- Connecting seniors to others – collaborating with non-profit agency, RSVP.
- Crisis call center advertising – collaborating with Carson City PROS – Park Rangers.

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

- Youth vaping prevention efforts – community education and outreach via the Chronic Disease Promotion and Health Prevention Division at CCHHS.

Community Health Improvement Plan Update

In 2022, Carson Tahoe Health (CTH) led the Quad-County CHNA and included CCHHS as a partner during development. This identified four priority areas to address in the Quad County Region. In response to the identified priority areas, the 2025-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

was developed and is made up of several measurable strategies. CCHHS staff held 11 meetings with community leaders who are conducting the work outlined in the CHIP strategies to facilitate the collection of county-level data from multiple partners. Data facilitation helps all CHIP partners to measure their success in achieving the strategies their organizations work towards.

The benefit of implementing the CHIP using community-based methods positions Carson City to be a hub for data collection and analysis in the Quad Counties. This will help position governmental and nonprofit partners in Carson City and around the Region be in a more competitive position to apply for grants or other funding. Additionally, data-informed decisions, programs, and interventions can be better tailored to fit a specific health need with multiple partners contributing to and developing a database more representative of Carson City residents.

CHNA Success

The 2022 CHNA identified childcare as being a significant community issue when accessing resources for basic needs. Since the release of the CHNA, the Boys & Girls Club of Western Nevada used the data from this assessment to help secure \$2,460,580.90 in grant funds to support the development of five Smart Start Centers in Carson City and Douglas County. The release of data from the assessment not only informs CCHHS' programs but also greatly benefits nonprofits and community partners.

If you have any questions about this report, please reach out to us at:

- Email: CCHHSinfo@carson.org
- Phone: 775-887-2190
- In-Person: 900 E. Long Street, along JAC bus Route 1 at Long/Health & Human Services