

Quarterly Report to the Nevada State Board of Health

Reporting Period: July – September 2025

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Executive Summary

This quarterly report summarizes the key activities, accomplishments, performance metrics, challenges, and significant events of Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) for the period from July to September 2025. The report is organized by division and highlights cross-divisional collaboration, interagency coordination, and major public health impacts. The information herein is based on District Board of Health meetings and associated staff reports for the reporting period.

1. Administration & Strategic Planning

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Strategic Plan Implementation:** NNPH's performance management system continues to support strategic and board-approved goals, translating broad objectives into actionable, measurable activities. Over 75% of strategic plan outcomes are on target or in progress, indicating strong alignment with agency priorities and likely achievement of Q4 goals.
- **Community Outreach & Visibility:** Expanded public-facing programs and campaigns, particularly in sexual health testing and air quality awareness, have increased NNPH's reach. Targeted engagement efforts and partnerships have been central to this success.
- **Operational Improvements:** Significant improvement in the on-time rate for staff performance evaluations, supporting accountability and staff development.
- **Quality Improvement (QI):** Continued implementation of the NNPH Quality Improvement plan to foster innovation and continuous improvement. The QI council, with representation from all divisions, is actively advising on QI initiatives.

Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Budget & Financial Management:** The FY26 budget was developed, supporting 22 programs and over 200 FTEs, with a focus on financial stability and long-term commitments to community health.
- **Workforce Development:** Expansion of onboarding programs, including videos and webinars, to ensure all new staff receive essential information and training, even if unable to attend in-person workshops.
- **Performance Management:** The department's performance management system is being used to inform data-driven decision-making and foster a culture of accountability.

- 82% of CHIP activities have been successfully accomplished in collaboration with local stakeholders, focusing on mental health, social determinants, access to care, and preventative health behaviors.

Challenges

- **Staffing Limitations:** Persistent staffing shortages remain a barrier to meeting some targets, despite operational improvements.

2. Environmental Health Division

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Food Safety & Permitting:** Hosted the first-ever community resource fair for food permitting, providing guidance, application assistance, and demonstrations of compliant food trucks/carts. The event was well-attended and supported local food entrepreneurs.
- **Temporary Food Event Season:** Successfully completed inspections for major events, including the rib cook-off, with inspections starting as early as 5:30 AM and extending past midnight to ensure food safety.
- **Waste Management:** Continued partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) resulted in the removal of over 30,000 pounds of trash and 75,000 pounds of green waste from the community.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Assisted the EPA with PFAS sampling and completed the first phase of the Lead and Copper Rule revision, including inventories of all lead lines in public water systems.
- **Vector Control:** Initiated mosquito abatement efforts and hired a seasonal vector control technician.

Challenges

- **Workforce Development:** All inspectors are currently trainees but are progressing well.

3. Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Disease Surveillance & Outbreak Response:** Expanded epidemiology program, providing education in schools and to public health nurses. Noted a slight uptick in COVID-19 cases, but nothing alarming.

- **School Absenteeism Monitoring:** Updated and distributed the School Absenteeism Data Tool to support outbreak detection.
- **Preparedness Exercises:** Led and coordinated several large-scale exercises with community partners, including a chemical full-scale exercise, CHEMPACK exercise, mass casualty incident exercise, and alternate care site tabletop exercise.
- **Homeless Outreach:** Launched a street outreach program in collaboration with a Reno-based company, focusing on daily engagement with the homeless community and cleanup projects to address encampments.
- **Service Delivery:** Completed a total of 52,406 services and requests in vital statistics, including birth and death records

4. Community & Clinical Services Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Immunization Initiatives:** Back-to-school immunization efforts included two Saturday events and daily clinics, resulting in approximately 450 students receiving vaccinations and a total of around 1,000 vaccinations administered. These efforts ensured students were ready to return to school on time.
- **Sexual Health & Maternal/Child Health:** Ongoing targeted outreach and testing campaigns, as well as the promotion of the Count the Kicks program to obstetric providers, supporting maternal and infant health.
- **Syphilis Community Taskforce:** Convened quarterly with healthcare providers and stakeholders to address syphilis, including congenital syphilis, and develop an action plan.

Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Immunization Coverage:** High volume of back-to-school vaccinations.
- **Service Delivery:** Over 52,000 vital statistics services provided.

Challenges

- **Access to Care:** Ongoing efforts to improve access to preventive and clinical services, especially for vulnerable populations.
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5. Air Quality Management

Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Air Quality Monitoring:** Achieved over a 95% average data-capture rate for all parameters at ambient air monitoring stations. Completed a 5-year revision of the Air Monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan and related SOPs.
- **Wildfire Smoke & Heat Research:** Collaborated with the California Nevada Adaptation Program (CNAP) and Desert Research Institute on the Heat & Wildfire Smoke Research Project, focusing on residents without air conditioning and their health during hazardous air events. The first round of participation was successful, and the expertise of CNAP has been invaluable.
- **Burn Code Program:** Continued public education and enforcement of the Green, Yellow, Red Burn Code to reduce harmful emissions from wood burning, with compliance efforts and public reporting mechanisms in place.

Challenges

- Ongoing issues with wildfire smoke, vehicle emissions, and particulate matter, especially impacting vulnerable populations.

6. Cross-Divisional Collaboration & Interagency Coordination

- **Strategic Plan & CHIP:** Many successes, such as the high rate of CHIP activity completion and strategic plan progress, are attributed to cross-divisional and interagency collaboration with local stakeholders, healthcare providers, and community organizations.
- **Public Health Preparedness:** Exercises and outreach efforts involved coordination with regional partners, including hospitals, emergency services, and local government agencies.
- **Equity & Language Access:** Efforts to improve language accessibility and equity in service delivery, including translation of vital documents and the rollout of new translation/interpretation services.

7. Major Public Health Impacts

- **Increased Community Engagement:** Expanded outreach and targeted campaigns have improved public awareness and access to services, particularly in sexual health, immunizations, and air quality.

- **Environmental Health Improvements:** Waste reduction, safe drinking water initiatives, and food safety programs have had measurable impacts on community health and safety.
 - **Preparedness & Resilience:** Enhanced preparedness through exercises and QI initiatives has strengthened NNPH's ability to respond to public health threats.
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8. Challenges & Lessons Learned

- **Staffing Shortages:** Ongoing limitations in staffing continue to impact the ability to meet all targets and deliver services at optimal levels.
 - **Emerging Threats:** Continued vigilance is required to address misinformation, politicization of public health, and the need for real-time surveillance systems.
 - Cross-divisional and interagency collaboration is essential for achieving public health goals.
 - Continuous improvement in performance management and QI processes supports organizational resilience.
 - Addressing staffing limitations and investing in workforce development remain critical.
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9. Upcoming Priorities (Next Quarter)

- Continue to address staffing challenges and invest in workforce development.
 - Advance strategic plan and CHIP implementation, with a focus on equity and access.
 - Enhance real-time surveillance and preparedness for emerging public health threats.
 - Maintain and expand partnerships to address air quality, environmental health, and community engagement.
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Conclusion

During the third quarter of 2025, despite ongoing staffing and funding challenges, the organization remains committed to its mission of enhancing and protecting the community's quality of life and expanding equitable opportunities for improved health. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming quarter.