

Washoe County District Health Department 2002/2003 Report to the Community

ACCESS YOUR DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1001 East 9th Street, Bldg. B, Reno, NV 89520

General Information (775 Area Code for all numbers)..... 328-2400
Internet Address: www.co.washoe.nv.us/health

Administrative Health Services (AHS)

AHS General Information 328-2410
AHS Fax 328-2279
Emergency Medical Services 328-2411
Public Health Emergency Preparedness 328-6130
Vital Statistics (Birth & Death Certificates) 328-2456

Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) 401 Ryland, Reno

AQMD General Information 784-7200
AQMD Fax 784-7225
Air Quality Index 785-4110
Public Information Officer 784-7203

Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS)

CCHS General Information 328-2441
CCHS Fax 328-3750

Clinic Appointments for the following services:

Family Planning 328-2470
Immunization 328-2470
Podiatry 328-2470
Sexually Transmitted Diseases 328-2470
Teen Health Mall 328-2470
Tuberculosis 785-4785
Clinic Fax 328-3751
Communicable Disease Control 328-2447
Health Education and Promotion 328-2459
HIV Prevention 328-3647
Immunization 328-3724
Public Health Nursing 328-2628
Tobacco Prevention and Control 328-2442
Tuberculosis Control (10 Kirman Avenue, Reno)..... 785-4785
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) 328-2299
WIC Marketing 328-2448

Environmental Health Services (EHS)

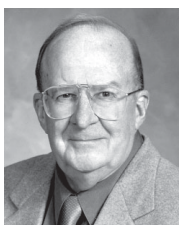
EHS General Information 328-2434
EHS Fax 328-6176
After Hours Emergency Hotline 328-2436
Environmental Engineering/Safe Drinking Water Act 328-2429
Food/Environmental Facility Construction Inspection 328-2612
Food Facility Inspection 328-3737
Food Service Education 328-2615
Hazardous Materials 328-2423
Liquid Waste 328-2429
Public Information Officer 328-6140
Solid Waste Management 328-2423
Temporary Food Permits and Inspection 328-2620
Vector-Borne Disease Control Field Station 785-4599



Created by an interlocal agreement executed by Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County in 1972, the Washoe County District Health Department is a regional agency governed by a seven member, policy-making board. The District Board of Health is comprised of two representatives appointed by each of the two cities and the County, and a physician appointed by the Board.

This report to the community describes just a few examples of how the Washoe County District Health Department carried out its mission to promote health, prevent disease and protect the environment for residents and visitors in fiscal year 2002/2003.

The District Health Department's work reflects the Washoe County District Board of Health's strategic plan and the core functions of public health: assessment, policy development and assurance. This document highlights a few of our activities in each of these areas. To learn more about the District Health Department and its programs, visit our website at www.co.washoe.nv.us/health. Please email your comments and suggestions to us at jsmith@mail.co.washoe.nv.us.



"We are committed to the diagnosis and investigation of health problems in our community."

George Furman, MD
Washoe County Appointee



"By working together as a community, we can achieve our public health vision of optimal human and environmental health."

Barbara Lee Hunt, RN, MPA
Washoe County District Health Officer

Assessment: gathering and using information to identify local public health problems, set goals and objectives and monitor progress.

New and Emerging Diseases

- A continuous system of surveillance monitors communicable disease transmission in the community. Year-round surveillance for influenza was started this year. Other important new projects included surveillance for SARS, antibiotic-resistant invasive streptococcal disease, community-associated methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and hepatitis C.
- To prepare for the likely spread of West Nile Virus to Nevada, the Vector-Borne Disease Program intensified surveillance by strategically placing and testing sentinel chicken flocks; capturing, identifying and testing mosquitoes; and assisting other agencies to test wild birds and horses. No evidence of West Nile Virus was found in Washoe County this year.

Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke

- With a grant from the Trust Fund for Public Health, a cardiovascular disease risk assessment was done for Washoe County residents. Professional Research Consultants, Inc., contracted to perform the telephone survey that included questions about weight, physical activity, tobacco use, eating habits, neighborhood issues and opinions on public initiatives to improve community health. The full report of the survey findings are on our website at www.co.washoe.nv.us/health. See Reports & Surveillance, Community Cardiovascular Risk Survey.

Diabetes

- The “Defeat Diabetes” screening project evaluated nearly 300 persons of Hispanic ethnicity for the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Persons were referred to collaborating health care providers or their own physicians when tests indicated a need for further medical evaluation.

Air Quality Standards

- The Air Quality Management Division was selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to operate and maintain the only chemical speciation site in Nevada. These special measurements of air quality will contribute reliable data to a long-term record of toxic air pollutants across the United States.

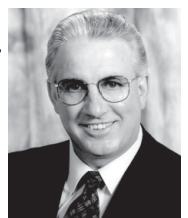
HEALTH FUND

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Transfer from Washoe County- 44%	\$6,916,000	Salaries - 63%	\$9,740,703
Licenses & Permits - 11%	\$1,754,652	Benefits - 19%	\$2,910,788
Charges for Services - 9%	\$1,461,213	Operating - 17%	\$2,666,060
Federal Grants - 27%	\$4,320,090	Capital Outlay - 1%	\$55,363
State Grants - 7%	\$1,161,866	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$15,372,914
Other Intergovernmental Revenues - 1%	\$198,982		
Health Aid to Counties - 1%	\$89,832		
Other - 0%	\$5,007		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,907,642		



“With nearly 360,000 residents and six million yearly visitors to Washoe County, it is imperative that we maintain the highest standards of public health and safety.”

*Jim Shaw, Chairman
Washoe County Commissioner*



“I am proud to represent the City of Sparks on the District Board of Health. I encourage all citizens to support the District Health Department’s valuable public health programs, designed to promote health, prevent disease and protect the environment.”

*Phillip Salerno, Vice Chairman
Sparks City Councilman*

Policy Development: the result of interactions among public and private organizations and individuals to examine information, set priorities, choose a course of action and allocate resources.

Tobacco and Second-Hand Smoke

- The District Board of Health placed two advisory questions on tobacco on the November 2002 Washoe County ballot. The questions asked 1) Should the District Board of Health have the authority to regulate tobacco in Washoe County? and 2) Should statewide restrictions on second-hand smoke in places frequented by children be strengthened? Voters supported both questions by 59% and 68%, respectively. The District Health Department worked with local and statewide partners to develop and support tobacco control legislation during the 2003 Nevada Legislature. Unfortunately, legislation was not passed to allow local control of tobacco or to strengthen statewide restrictions on tobacco.

Water Fluoridation

- The District Health Department collaborated with the Northern Nevada Coalition for Underserved Populations to place an advisory question on water fluoridation on the November 2002 Washoe County ballot. Because 62% of voters opposed fluoridation of the local public water supply, the District Board of Health decided not to pursue the issue.

Public Health Emergency Powers Legislation

- The District Health Department worked with the Nevada State Health Division, the Clark County Health District and the 2003 Nevada Legislature on the passage of SB 82. This legislation expands the authority of public health agencies to quarantine persons who “are sick with or exposed to any contagious or infectious disease which is dangerous to the public health.” The new statute also provides for due process and the legal rights of quarantined persons.

Cleaner Air

- The Air Quality Management Division assisted Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to implement the District Board of Health’s new regulations for street sweeping and street sanding. Studies have shown a significant link between dust and particulate pollution – also known as PM₁₀ – and asthma, chronic bronchitis, impaired lung function and premature death.
- The Air Quality Management Division worked with local and regional motor vehicle fleets to increase the use of alternative fuels that burn more cleanly, including compressed natural gas and bio-diesel fuel.

Food Safety

- The District Board of Health made extensive revisions to its regulations on food establishments and temporary food events. The new regulations reflect scientific progress and improve the District Health Department’s ability to ensure a safe dining experience in Washoe County.



“The rapid growth of our community, in the fastest growing state in the nation, makes even more important the District Board of Health’s and District Health Department staff’s efforts to assure our community is a safe and healthy place to live.”

*Matt Smith
City of Reno Appointee*



“The District Health Department is very important to the health and well being of the community. Its programs and clinical services have a positive impact on everyone regardless of age, occupation, ethnic background or income.”

*Denis Humphreys, OD
City of Sparks Appointee*

Assurance: ensuring conditions exist and services are accessible that enable the public to be healthy.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- A grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention enabled the District Health Department to improve its ability to respond to public health emergencies. The funds provided for an emergency preparedness coordinator and administrative support. A physician will join the staff in 2004 to expand surveillance expertise and emergency response capacity.
- Emergency preparedness funds were used to equip the District Health Department's auditorium to become an emergency operations center; receive and broadcast videoconferences; and hold training and education programs for up to 150 persons.
- A training video about smallpox was produced and distributed to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service agencies. Staff trained health care providers and developed plans for rapid community vaccination. Six staff members were vaccinated against smallpox to provide a rapid response team to smallpox in the community.

Access to Health Care

- The District Health Department led the "Access to Health Care Washoe County" project by convening a community forum of 72 agencies to address access to health care services for the uninsured and underinsured. The resulting strategic plan supports expanding existing community health care services and reducing barriers to health care in Washoe County.
- The District Health Department helped the Children's Cabinet of Incline Village provide access to health care services for the underserved by locating clinic space, obtaining federal funds to pay rent and offering assistance and expertise in clinic operations.

Outbreak Control

- The Health District experienced several outbreaks of Norovirus gastroenteritis resulting in over 400 reports of illness. Staff interviewed ill patrons and met with food, beverage and maintenance staff of several businesses to investigate the outbreaks; develop plans to prevent further spread of the disease; and educated the community on food safety and hygiene.

Recycling

- The Solid Waste Management Program has worked to make Washoe County the state's leader in recycling. The award-winning program was recognized by the EPA as a "Wastewise Program Champion" in 2003. Recycling in Washoe County has reduced the amount of waste arriving at the landfill by almost one-fourth.

Air Pollution Prevention

- To assure compliance with federal asbestos and dust regulations, the District Health Department initiated regular construction site workshops and seminars developed especially for the construction industry.

Through its programs and services, the Washoe County District Health Department pursues the public health mission of health promotion, disease prevention and environmental protection to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County, Nevada.



"Public health workers are the unsung heroes who protect the community."

***Robert Myles, MD
District Board of Health Appointee***

"Public health impacts everyone's daily life, from the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, to protecting us from outbreaks of communicable diseases."

***Dwight Dortch
Reno City Councilman***

