



Overarching NPHA Advocacy and Policy Priorities

The mission of the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) is to serve as the voice for public health in Nevada in order to improve health and achieve health equity in our state. In keeping with our vision of a healthy Nevada, NPHA organizes its advocacy around five overarching advocacy and policy priorities:

- Building public health infrastructure and capacity
- Creating health equity
- Ensuring the right to health and health care
- Promoting evidence-based policymaking
- Advocating for Health in All Policies

As an affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA), NPHA's overarching goals and related advocacy efforts are closely aligned with APHA's advocacy and policy agenda.

2020 NPHA Advocacy Agenda

During 2020 and consistent with NPHA's overarching advocacy and policy goals, NPHA will focus its advocacy efforts on the following issue areas and current policy priorities:

- Advocating for the establishment of the Public Health Improvement Fund and investments in foundational public health infrastructure in Nevada
- Ensuring access to essential clinical and preventive health services for all Nevada residents, including oral health services, substance use treatment, and behavioral health care
- Supporting policies, interventions, and strategies to increase health insurance coverage that minimizes financial barriers to the timely use of necessary health services
- Advocating for policies that mitigate the health impact of climate change, such as accelerating the use of renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and making all communities resilient to the effects climate change
- Advocating for a permanent source of funding for vector control to provide surveillance for and prevention of West Nile Virus, Zika, and other vector-borne diseases
- Advocating for the development and implementation of local boards of health and health districts in rural and frontier counties of Nevada
- Advocating for comprehensive sex education reform in Nevada's public schools

- Advocating and sustaining funding for evidence-based tobacco and e-cigarette prevention and control, such as Tobacco 21 legislation that would raise the minimum legal age for tobacco, e-cigarette, and nicotine sales in Nevada to 21
- Supporting evidence-based gun violence prevention, including advocacy for background checks on all gun purchases, preventing individuals most at risk of violence from purchasing guns, and engaging in research about how to effectively address gun violence
- Promoting healthy lifestyles through the support of nutritious eating and active living, including policy that supports the creation of built environments and complete streets that integrates physical activity into daily life, increases access to healthy foods, and eliminates food deserts
- Protecting and promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health in Nevada, including advocacy for increased access to reproductive services for all females and increased access to immunizations for adolescents (HPV, meningococcal, and Tdap vaccination)
- Supporting evidence-based injury prevention in Nevada, including programs and policies to improve pedestrian safety and reduce transportation-related injuries
- Supporting efforts to mitigate and reduce domestic violence
- Advocating for evidence-based policy and improved surveillance to prevent drug overdoses and drug-related deaths
- Promoting an effective public health framework for regulating legal marijuana sales and use in Nevada, including support for comprehensive smoke free policy, hard-hitting mass media education campaigns on health risks, and tax revenue for prevention programs and research
- Advocating for funding and policy to ensure a competent public and personal health care workforce
- Advocating for policy measures that address health equity and the social determinants of health in Nevada, including investments in Birth-12 education and higher education, support for efforts to establish a living wage for all Nevada workers, advocacy for healthy and affordable housing, and efforts to improve civic engagement

NPHA has the flexibility to educate, inform and act, when appropriate, on other pressing public health issues that may not easily be categorized under the overarching NPHA advocacy and policy goals and our 2020 advocacy agenda and current policy priorities.

NPHA Advocacy and Policy Committee

The NPHA Board of Directors established its Advocacy and Policy Committee (APC) to oversee the development and implementation of the association's advocacy, legislative, and policy activities.

For additional information about the Nevada Public Health Association and the work of the NPHA Advocacy and Policy Committee in 2020, visit www.nphaonline.org or contact NPHA APC Chair, Dr. John Packham at jpackham@med.unr.edu or 775-784-1235.

Approved by the NPHA Board of Directors on December 20, 2019.