

**A strong public health system is crucial for protecting and improving the health of Americans.**

### **Nevada's Public Health**

The population of Nevada increased more than 66 percent between 1990 and 2000, but Nevada has seen no increase in state spending for health promotion and disease prevention since 1992.

Nevada's smoking rates and health problems from tobacco are among the highest in the nation. Yet Nevada is one of the few states that does not allow local governments to regulate tobacco.

At double the national rate, Nevada has the highest proportion of suicides in the nation.

Nevadans report poorer health than the rest of the nation and engage in more risk behaviors that contribute to poor health.

Of Nevada's 17 counties, 15 have no local health department. Nevada has no school of public health to educate new and existing public health workers.

Nevada needs an improved public health system that promotes health and prevents disease.

#### **For more information**

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# **Nevada TurningPoint**

**Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health**

### **What is Nevada Turning Point?**

The national Turning Point Initiative aims to transform and strengthen the public health system in the United States by making it more community based and collaborative. Nevada Turning Point listens to, educates, and mobilizes Nevadans to improve the health of their communities and strengthening the public health system so it can respond to the emerging public health challenges.

### **How is Nevada Turning Point improving public health?**

- Developing a Citizens' Public Health Network to establish connections among Nevadans and their organizations to increase collaboration and success in achieving community improvements
- Joining with the Utah Department of Health to create the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute to develop Nevada's workforce and build leadership among public health professionals and community leaders
- Improving policy and programming related to tobacco use and suicide prevention as priority public health issues
- Collaborating with communities and civic organizations to assess local needs and to develop local public health systems in Nevada's rural counties that will address local health priorities and emerging public health issues
- Offering community education on public health issues and the political process to give Nevadans the information and skills they need to improve their communities' health
- Educating elected officials and government managers about public health issues so they can make decisions that protect the health of their constituents and put scarce resources to best use

### **What can Nevada Turning Point help you do?**

- Mobilize a network of public health organizations and partners throughout the state in order to convey information on health issues and respond to emerging problems
- Engage communities around their unique high priority health issues
- Improve the health of Nevadans through effective health promotion and disease prevention programs and policies
- Strengthen Nevada's state and local public health organizations to improve emergency readiness and accountability

### **Support**

The Turning Point Initiative is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The National Program Office is located at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Contact the National Program Office at 206-616-8410 or visit [www.turningpointprogram.org](http://www.turningpointprogram.org).

