

## **News Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

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**From:** Dan McMahan

**Subject:** Nebraska Public Health Departments Prevention Pilots Reap Life and Cost Savings

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# **Saving Lives      Saving Money**

## **Public Health Prevention Pilots Reap Life and Cost Savings**

Lincoln, Nebraska-----Nebraskans could see dramatically improved life spans and significant health care cost containment if policy makers listen to the results of Prevention Pilot Projects recently completed by the Public Health Districts in Nebraska. “Public Health Prevention Funding Report 2014” captures nineteen different public health prevention programs funded with \$50,000 onetime funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature to Nebraska’s Local Public Health Departments.

“Each Prevention Project was determined by the unique community needs identified by each Local Public Health Department which is part of their mission. With 86% of health care spending going to chronic diseases these strategies to decrease chronic diseases demonstrate how embracing health care rather than ‘sick care’ Nebraska can improve lives and save money,” said Adi Pour, Director of Douglas County Health Department.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) utilized prevention funding to increase access to care for residents living in communities with no healthcare providers or limited healthcare services. This appropriation was used in part, to provide outreach clinics to four rural areas.

“We were pleased to offer services included immunizations for adults and children,” explained Myra Stoney, SWNPHD Director. “Our immunization program includes free and discounted vaccinations for children and adults. Disease prevention has been identified through strategic planning to be a high priority for southwest Nebraska residents.”

“National data shows that for each additional dollar of public health spending that is used for prevention, \$5.60 is saved on total healthcare expenditures. Within these prevention projects the stage is set for cost savings and in many we see in ‘real time’ the medical cost offset that occurs,” stated South Heartland Health District Public Health Director Michele Bever.

The full Public Health Pilot Prevention 2014 Report is available at [www.swhealth.ne.gov/dataresources](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov/dataresources) .

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. For more information on public health prevention, call Myra Stoney at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, McCook – one block north of Arby’s. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth.

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