

Volunteers In Medicine Southern Nevada

Dear Friends,

As a young child I was the beneficiary of a truly benevolent and caring spirit and have experienced first hand how lives can be changed through a culture of caring. During the past few months I've been working closely with a remarkable group of local health care providers and community leaders to establish a local Volunteers in Medicine Institute Clinic.

Volunteers in Medicine Southern Nevada (VMSN) will be staffed entirely with volunteer medical staff and will function to provide access to health care for the medically uninsured in our community.

It is my hope that you will take the time to read through this compelling document and think deeply about how you can help us inspire a culture of caring in southern Nevada. It will come as no surprise to many of you that there are approximately 300,000 medically uninsured individuals in our community, many among the working poor. The uninsured are our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family members. Lack of access to vital medical care is linked to many social, economic, and public health outcomes that have far reaching consequences for all southern Nevada residents. It is my hope that VMSN will help bridge the growing gap between our working uninsured and access to vital health care services.

I will continue to reach out to you and other community leaders as our clinic planning efforts continue. There are many exciting advances and our hard work would not be possible without the support of local volunteers who are dedicated to improving the lives of those less fortunate. I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Florence Jameson
Volunteers in Medicine Southern Nevada



A CULTURE OF CARING

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE SOUTHERN NEVADA

Access to health care services among the uninsured is an issue of critical concern in Clark County. The uninsured are unable to access care when needed, resulting in very real consequences on their physical and financial health. Volunteers in Medicine Southern Nevada recognizes that lack of health insurance is linked to many social, economic, and public health outcomes that have far reaching consequences for all southern Nevada residents. It is our hope that Volunteers in Medicine Southern Nevada will help bridge the growing gap between our working uninsured and access to vital health care services.

PHILOSOPHY

Volunteers in Medicine Southern Nevada will work to alleviate the social injustice of deprivation to access for quality medical care by establishing a clinic fostering a “culture of caring” by providing free medical services for the medically and financially disadvantaged community of Clark County, Nevada.

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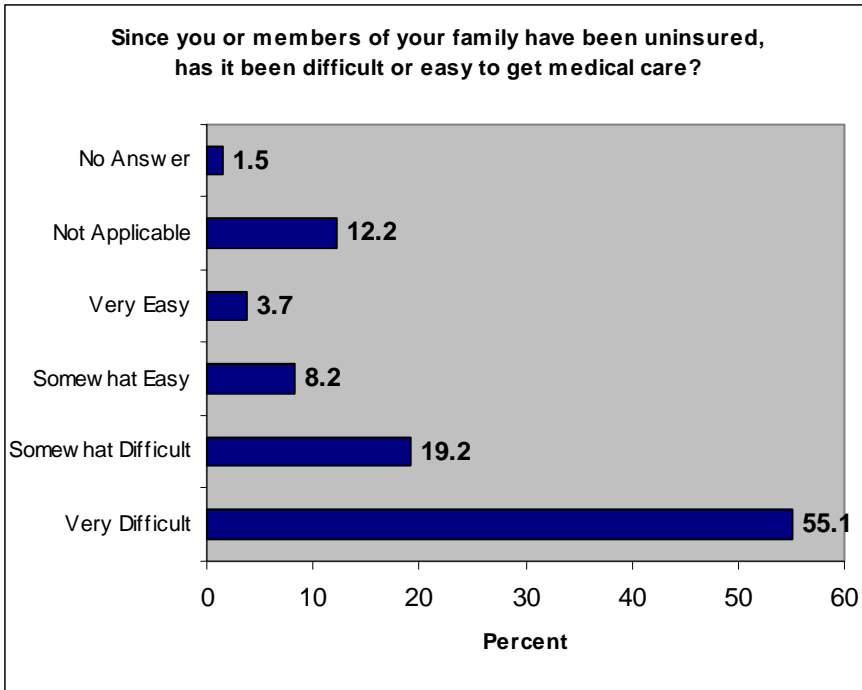
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Who Are The Uninsured?

Age Estimates	Number	% of Group
0 to 4	31,331	20.2%
5 to 9	30,489	19.4%
10 to 14	24,993	17.6%
15 to 18	16,904	15.5%
19	3,737	15.2%
20 to 24	41,604	35.8%
25 to 34	48,825	24.3%
35 to 44	50,554	24.3%
45 to 54	43,180	15.6%
55 to 64	30,832	14.9%
65 to 74	2,626	2%
75 to 84	1,616	2%
85 and over	503	2%
Total	327,194	17.3%
Sex Estimates		
Female	159,469	16.9%
Male	167,725	17.7%
Total	327,194	17.3%
Race Estimates		
Caucasian	275,469	17.4%
African American	32,179	16%
Native American, Eskimo, Aleutian	4,279	20.2%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	15,395	17.5%
Total	327,194	17.3%
Hispanicity	114,859	31.9%

•Great Basin Primary Care Association•



A GROWING TREND

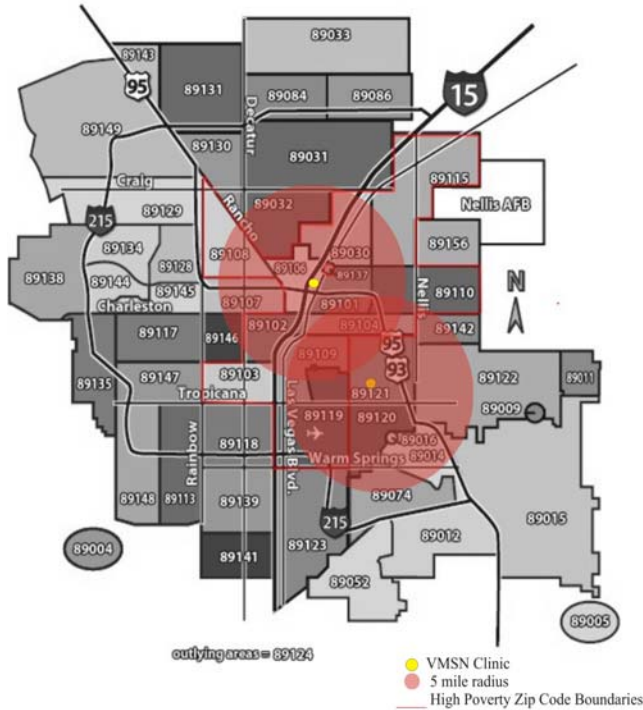
- ☑ Approximately one of every five Nevadans lacks health insurance - an increase of 31% during the past six years
- ☑ One of every three Hispanics does not have health insurance
- ☑ 29.2% of Nevadans spend in excess of ten percent of their pre-tax income on medical care services
- ☑ UMC, the only public hospital in our region, operates 19% of all available beds in Clark County - yet treats 50% of all uninsured and underinsured patients who need medical services
- ☑ More than five working age Nevadans die each week due to a lack of health care coverage
- ☑ 171,000 Nevadans at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are uninsured

A HARSH REALITY

VMSN conducted two surveys in Clark County that provided many striking yet informative findings. Of those surveyed who currently lack health insurance, 45.9% have not had health insurance for two years or longer and 25% have never had health insurance. 74.3% of survey respondents indicated it was either somewhat or very difficult to access medical services since they have been uninsured. Alarming, 59.9% communicated there was a time during the past twelve months when they or a family member needed to see a doctor but did not because they lack health insurance.

Of medical professionals surveyed, 43.5% were very concerned and 54.3% were somewhat concerned about the medically uninsured. A majority of those surveyed believe we will have more uninsured residents five years from now than we do today. The survey also found deep support for a VMSN clinic as 82.6% respondents indicated they believe the clinic will have a positive impact on care for the uninsured in our community. 91.3% of those surveyed communicated they somewhat or strongly support the VMSN clinic.

5 Mile Radius From VMSN Locations and High Poverty Zip Codes



WHERE ARE THE UNINSURED?

- ☑ The eleven zip codes with the greatest prevalence of residents living in poverty are a contiguous bloc at the core of the Las Vegas Valley
- ☑ These eleven zip codes are among the top twelve zip codes for origin of county indigent referral patients to Valley Health Systems medical facilities
- ☑ The two proposed VMSN clinic sites are within five miles of the eleven zip codes with the greatest prevalence of residents living in poverty
- ☑ The two proposed VMSN clinic sites are in proximity to existing medical infrastructure, employment corridors, and major public transit routes

WHY VMSN?

Volunteers in Medicine Southern Nevada (VMSN) continues to proactively engage community leaders, prospective supporters, and future volunteers through a shared desire to provide vital health care services to those most in need. Our clinics will be staffed by both active and retired health care professionals and administrators through generous contributions of time and resources. VMSN comes at a critical time as our community and the rate of the uninsured continues to grow. Our uncertain economic times underscore the need for urgent action.

It is anticipated that our centrally located inaugural clinic will staff 200 to 300 volunteers who will serve approximately 25,000 to 50,000 patients annually. Our efforts will initially focus on adult and pediatric primary care, acute and preventative care, prenatal care, physicals and immunizations, social services, and a pharmacy component. Additional medical services and programs may be added to clinic operations as VMSN becomes an established and recognized partner within the broader health care community.

Please consider supporting our efforts to bring uninsured Nevadans into a stable and caring health care environment. The uninsured are less likely to have a source of care outside of emergency rooms, often go without screenings and preventative care, often delay or forego needed medical care, tend to be in poorer health and die earlier than those with health insurance, and face a higher cost burdens for the health care they do receive. This harsh reality can be fought only through a strong, enduring culture of caring.