

Nevada's Cancer Plan: A Policymaker's Guide

Policy Actions for cancer control in Nevada.

Policy success is one of the most effective tools for improving population health, strengthening healthcare infrastructure, and advancing cancer control. Policy change often serves as the foundation for broader systems and environmental improvements—such as implementing 100% smoke-free indoor air laws or expanding insurance coverage for cancer screenings.

Effective cancer policy must consider social determinants of health—including health equity, climate change, housing, and food insecurity—to ensure policies promote health for all Nevadans rather than reinforce disparities. Policies should also account for funding stability, as diversified and sustainable public health funding models are more likely to produce long-term success.

Health is economic development. Strong healthcare systems attract businesses, create jobs, and reduce productivity losses from illness. Making health equitable is efficient, improves outcomes and reduces long-term healthcare costs for all Nevadans.

Opportunities to advance cancer control policies.



Prevention: The best investment.

Every dollar spent on prevention saves future treatment costs and lives. Additionally, many prevention policies support healthier, happier communities.

- Increase HPV vaccination rates by implementing school entry requirements.
- Strengthen evidence-based school wellness policies to improve nutrition and physical activity—such as universal school lunch and stronger physical education requirements.
- Promote community and urban planning that supports active living, reduces UV exposure and climate impacts, and ensures access to healthy foods and healthcare.
- Reduce radon exposure by requiring testing and mitigation during home construction and real estate transactions.
- Adopt 100% smoke-free and vape-free workplace policies.



Early detection, diagnosis, and treatment: Equitable access improves outcomes and save lives.

Access to timely, recommended screenings – regardless of zip code – can help prevent or catch cancer when it's most treatable. Telehealth, navigation, and an adequate healthcare workforce can ensure that once cancer is found, everyone has the care and support needed to fight the disease.

- Expand access to genetic testing and counseling by ensuring insurance coverage and funding in-state training programs for genetic counselors.
- Diversify and increase funding to make recommended cancer screenings accessible for all eligible residents.
- Remove barriers that delay or prevent access to provider-recommended treatments, imaging, lab testing, and essential procedures.
- Implement strategies and incentives to attract and retain healthcare providers throughout Nevada.
- Establish reimbursement policies for patient navigation services, including Principal Illness Navigation (PIN), to guide patients through care.
- Ensure equal reimbursement for telehealth and in-person visits, especially for rare disease and specialty cancer care.
- Close insurance coverage gaps for protocol-driven services and prescribed treatments to improve access to lifesaving therapies.



Surveillance and research: Better data means better policy and more funding opportunities.

Local data informs local action. Enhancing Nevada's cancer data collection and reporting, and increasing clinical research, helps target resources where they're needed most. It also helps lawmakers craft responsive, evidence-based policy.

- Expand state requirements for cancer data collection to include additional detailed, useful information that improves understanding of cancer trends and disparities.
- Allocate funding to help the Nevada Central Cancer Registry meet technology standards, achieve SEER certification, and apply to become a National Cancer Institute SEER funded registry.
- Fund a dedicated cancer surveillance position at a Nevada research institution to strengthen statewide data collection and analysis capacity.

Read the full 2026-2030 Nevada Cancer Plan at
nevadacancercoalition.org/cancer-plan

