



HB1012 Disease Control and Forensic Pathology Detail

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NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.

Health & Human Services

Our Vision

North Dakota is the healthiest state in the nation.

Our Mission

HHS fosters positive, comprehensive outcomes by promoting economic, behavioral and physical health, ensuring a holistic approach to individual and community well-being.

Disease Control and Forensic Pathology Section Overview



Who we are

- Public Health
- Program and subject matter specialist
- Epidemiologists
- Investigators



Our role

- Better understand causes of disease and death
- Primary prevention
- Secondary and tertiary prevention



Services

- Autopsies
- Prevention measures and programs
- Disease patterns, data and reports



Partners | Providers

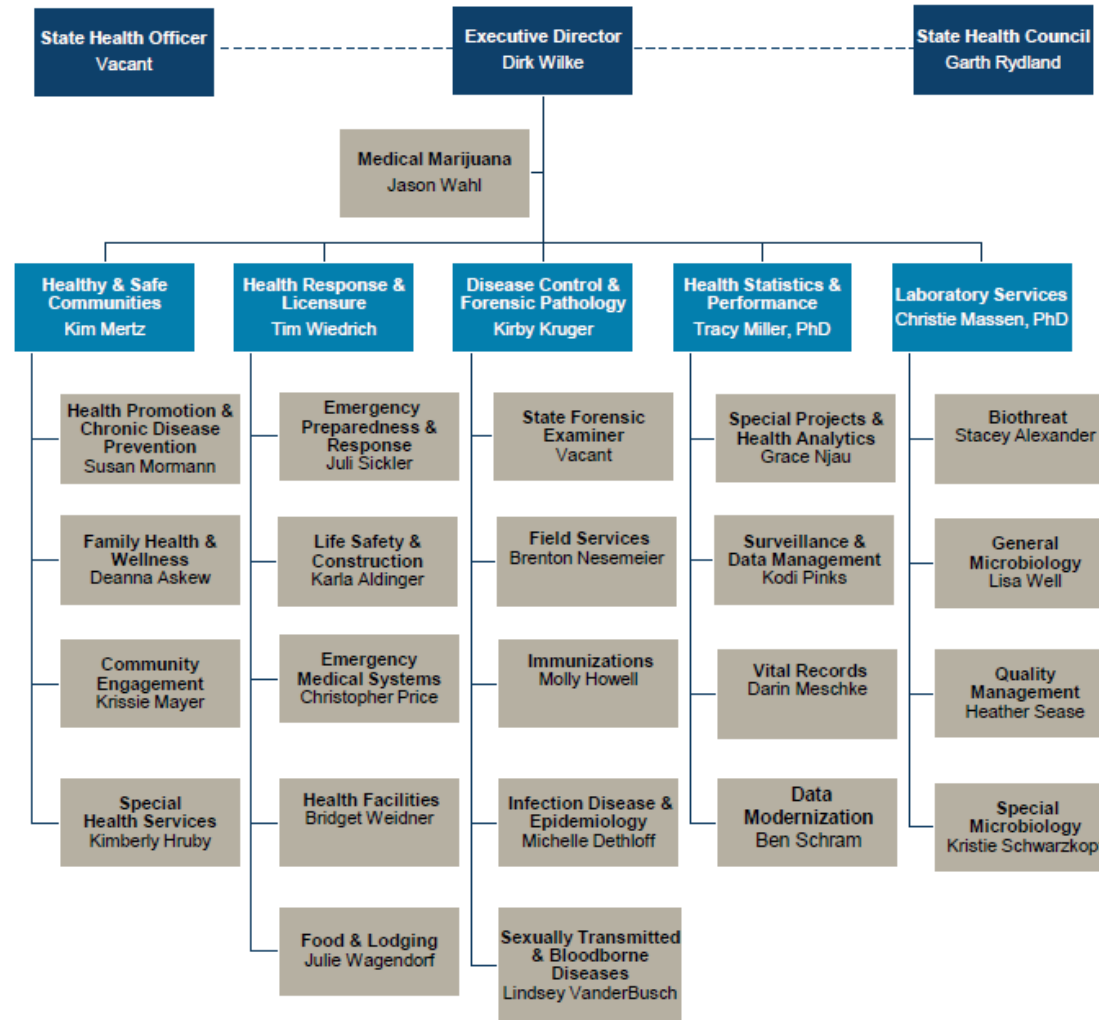
- County coroners
- Law enforcement
- Local public health
- Tribal Health
- Health care providers
- Other state agencies
- Schools, childcare

Disease Control and Forensic Pathology

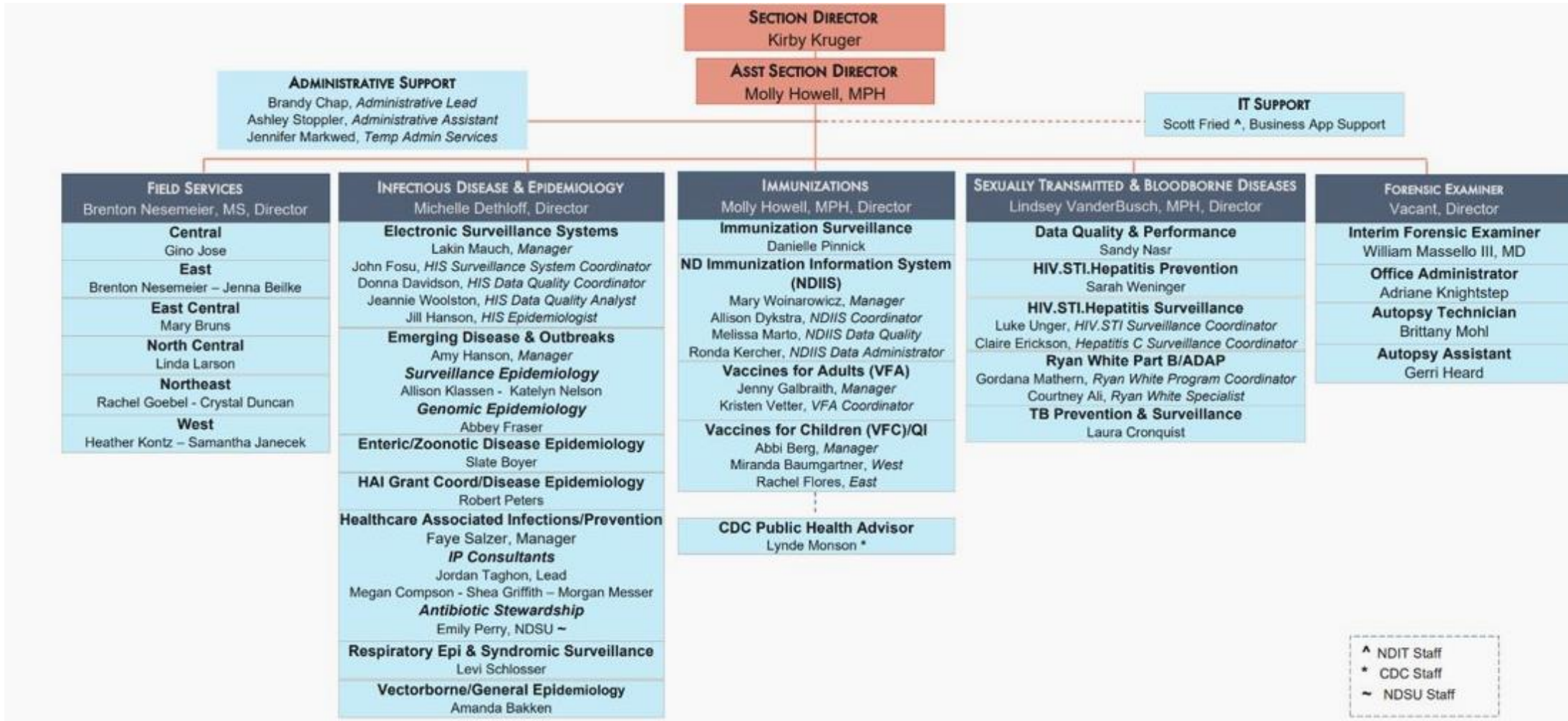


Health & Human Services

Public Health Division



Disease Control and Forensic Pathology



Disease Control and Forensic Pathology

Team Structure and Function

Section Name			
23-25 FTE	25-27 FTE Requested	# of Temporary	# of Vacancies
40	40	19	1

Average Age	39
Avg Years of Service	9
Retirement Risk	2.5%
Turnover 2023	3.0%
Turnover 2024	10.0%

Disease Control and Forensic Pathology Units

Forensic
Examiner's
Office

Immunization
Unit

Field Services
Unit

Infectious
Diseases and
Epidemiology
Unit

Sexually
Transmitted and
Bloodborne
Disease Unit

Forensic Examiner's Office

Determine Cause and Manner of
Death

- Non-natural deaths
- Work with county coroners
- Work with law enforcement
- Work with state's attorneys



Forensic Examiner's Office



Autopsies

- 2023 – 188
 - 272 at UND
- 2024 – 122 cases (48 referrals to UND)
 - 372 at UND
- Continued work with LifeSource on organ/tissue procurement



Building Improvements

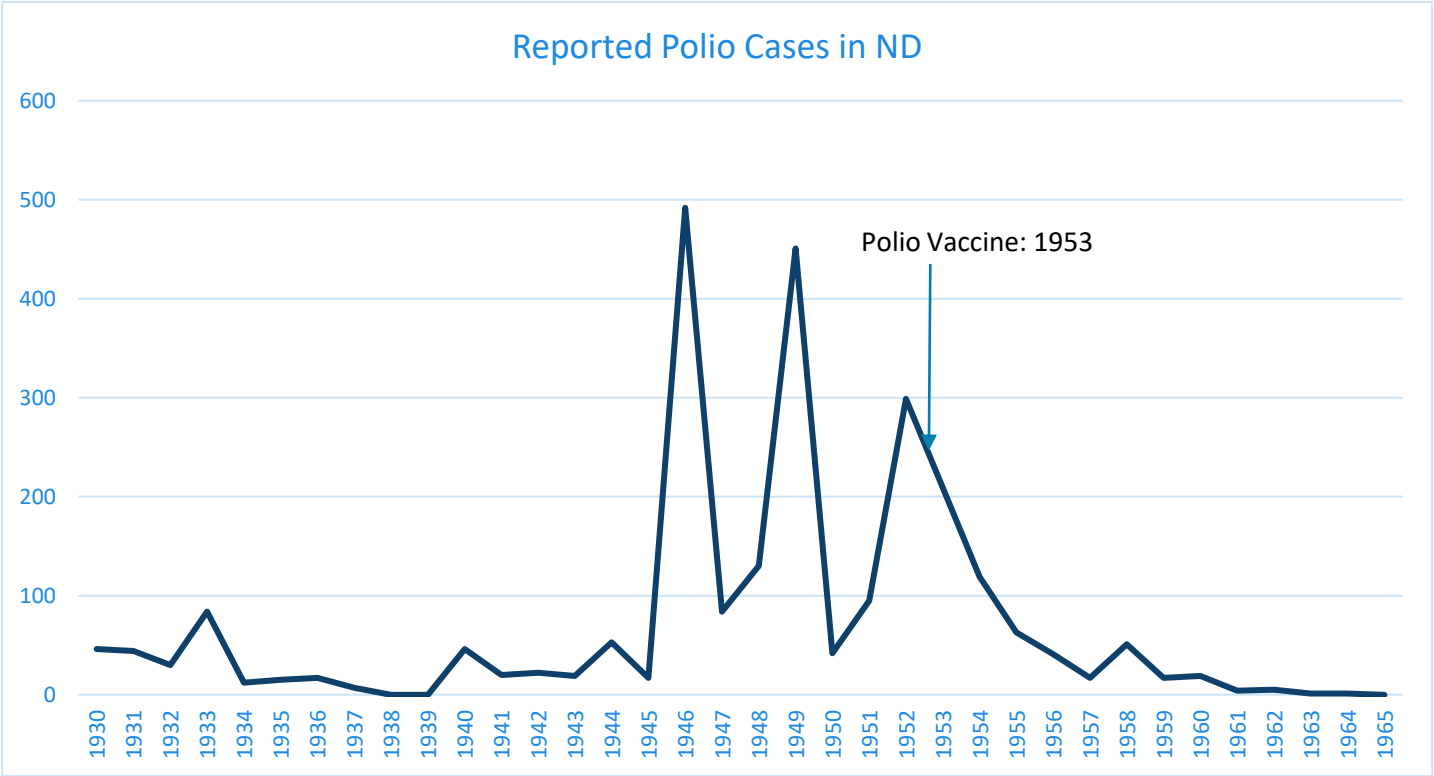
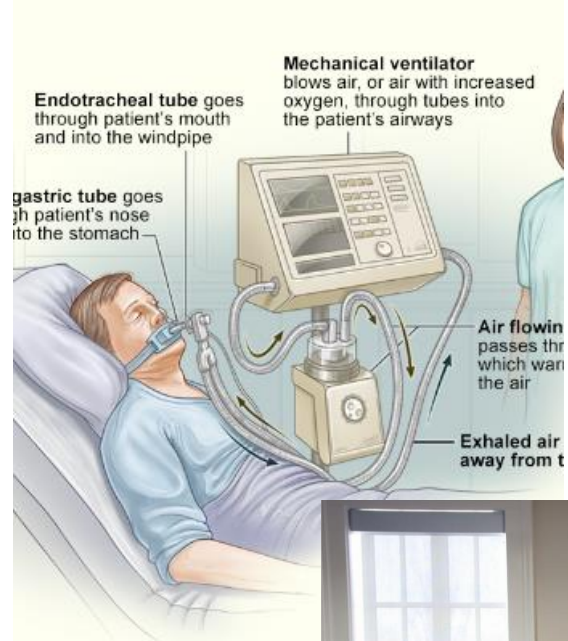
- Updated the heating, ventilation, air conditioning system
- Updated security



Immunization Unit

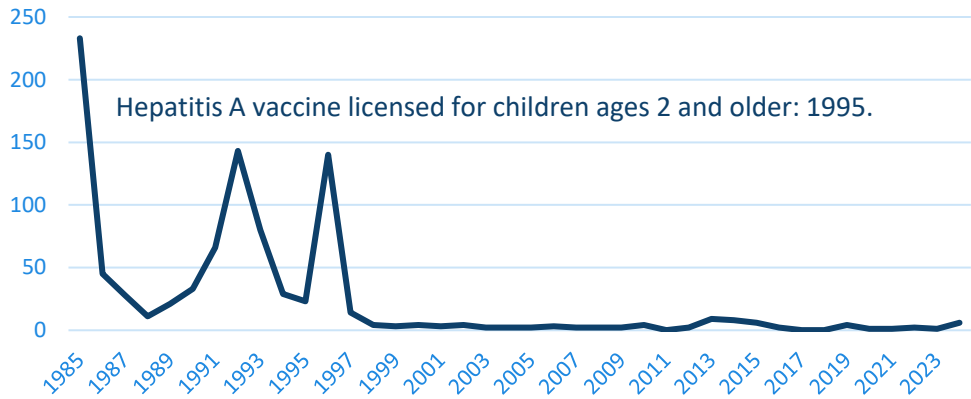
- Working with local public health, health care providers and other key stakeholders to promote the prevention of severe disease and disability through immunizations
- Report immunization coverage rates and assure citizens and healthcare providers have access to immunization records
- Administer the federal Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) for North Dakota
- Provide the most up-to-date information on vaccine recommendations and schedules to citizens and health care providers
- Prevent and respond to vaccine-preventable diseases

Impacts of Vaccines and Vaccination – Polio



Impact of Vaccines and Vaccination

Cases of Hepatitis A in North Dakota By Year



Measles Cases Reported By Year in North Dakota

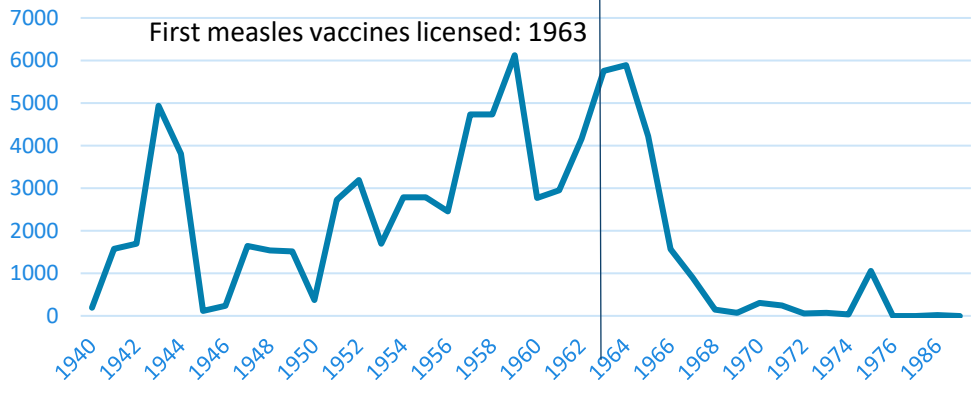
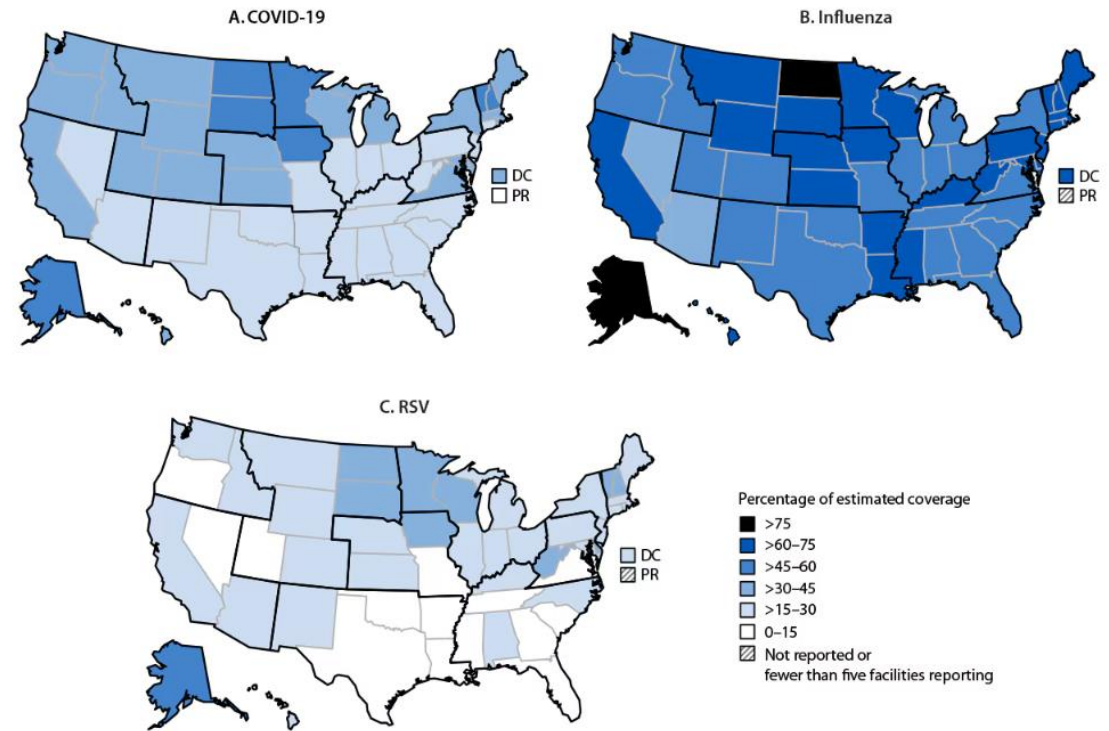
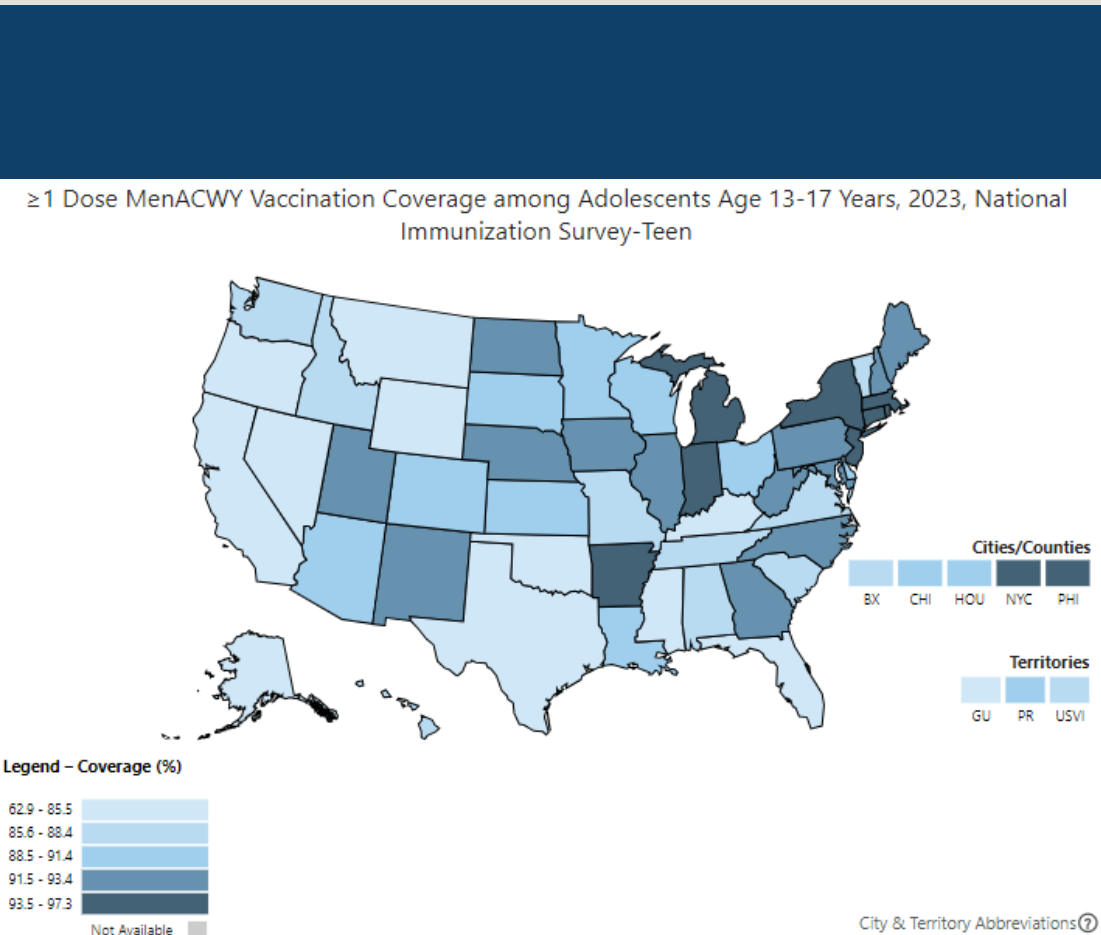


FIGURE. Estimates* of percentage of coverage with 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine (A), influenza vaccine (B), and respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (C) among nursing home residents, by U.S. jurisdiction and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services region¹ — National Healthcare Safety Network, United States, November 2024[§]



Immunization Unit Successes

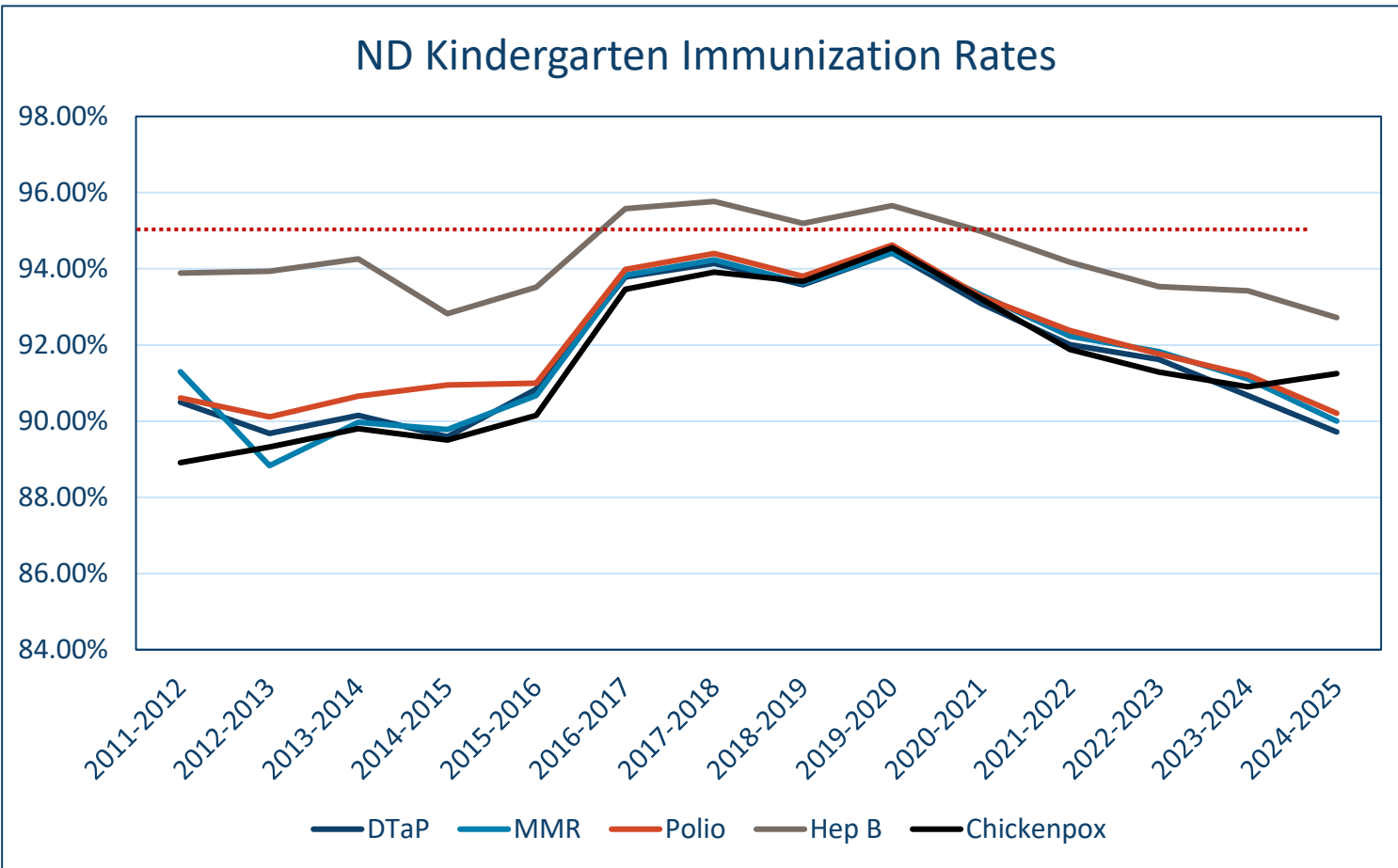


- RSV combined immunization coverage in first year of availability for infants estimated at 55.4%; likely > 70% this year
- 2024 Immunization Conference - 313 attendees
- High adolescent immunization rates
- Fourth in the U.S. for COVID-19 vaccination rates amongst skilled nursing facility residents
- NDIIS Modernization
 - Go-live: November 18, 2024
 - 75 interoperable connections that impact 520 individual sites, 6,015 users and all North Dakotans (provided 761,176 immunization records since July 1, 2023)
 - Improved user experience and modernized security

Immunization Unit Challenges

2024-2025 ND Kindergarten Immunization Rates By Vaccine:

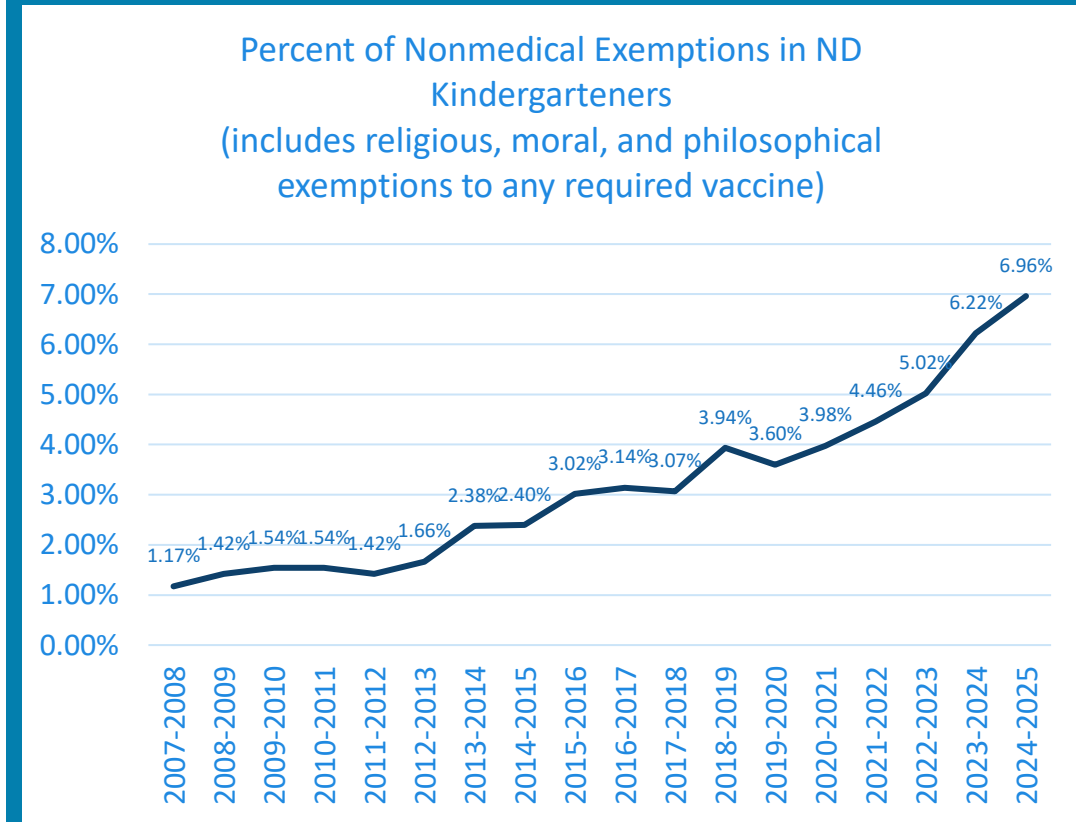
DTaP	89.72%
MMR	90.00%
Polio	90.21%
Hep B	92.72%
Chickenpox	91.25%



Preliminary school immunization survey data

Immunization Unit: Challenges

- Challenges:
 - Declining infant/pediatric immunization rates
 - Vaccine hesitancy/exemption rates
 - RSV immunization access at birthing hospitals
 - Access to all immunizations at medical home
 - Flat funding





Immunization Challenges: VPDs in ND

- Pertussis– 148 cases in 2024
 - 13 infants
 - 8 hospitalizations (max 54 days)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type B in 2023
 - Unvaccinated infant with meningitis
- Hepatitis A – 6 cases in 2024

Immunization Unit Activities to Increase Rates



- Reminder/recall of infants, school-aged children and adolescents who are 30 or more days behind on immunizations
- Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers
- Collaboration to increase rates with key stakeholders: local public health, coalition, NDSU Center for Immunization Research and Education, children's science museum, etc.
- Immunization and motivational interviewing education of healthcare providers and at schools of health
- Get FACTSinated Campaign: A healthy dose of information about immunizations



Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Unit

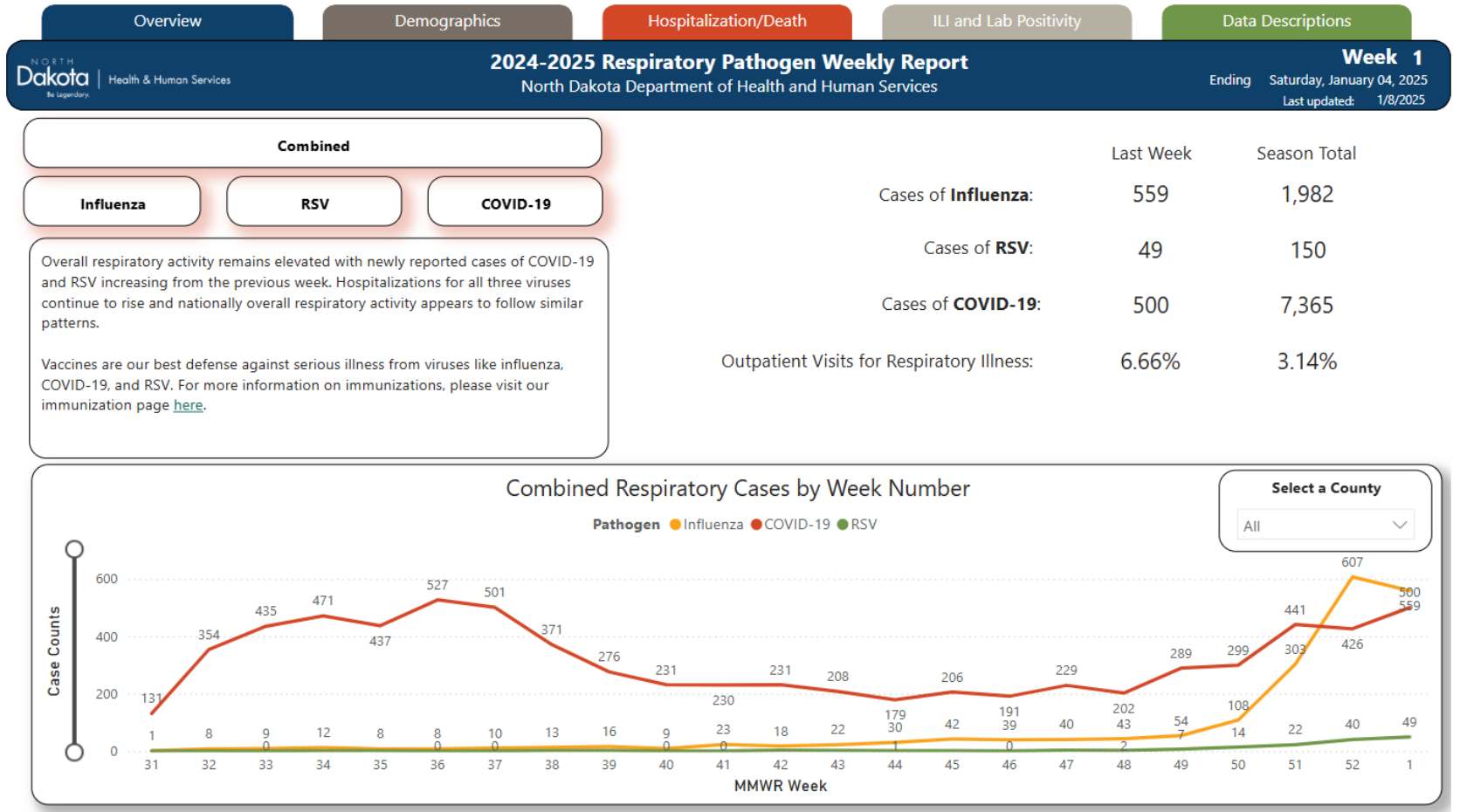
- Monitor disease trends and impacted populations/communities
- Provide technical guidance on reducing health care associated infections
- Promote antimicrobial stewardship
- Investigate sources of illness or outbreaks such as foodborne related infections
- Monitor disease vectors such as ticks, mosquitos and animal rabies cases

Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology Disease Monitoring



Respiratory Dashboard

- Influenza
- RSV
- COVID-19



Other Activities in Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology



Assisting with rabies investigation

- Human case – non-resident
- Health Care worker follow-up



Enteric Illnesses

- More than 500 reports in 2024
- Try to determine source and spread (DNA sequencing)
- Prevention



Health Care Associated Infections

- Work with facilities (ICARS)
- Assist with MDRO investigations



Antibiotic Stewardship

- Monitor prescribing trends
- Promote appropriate antibiotic prescribing

Antibiotic Stewardship Awards, North Dakota

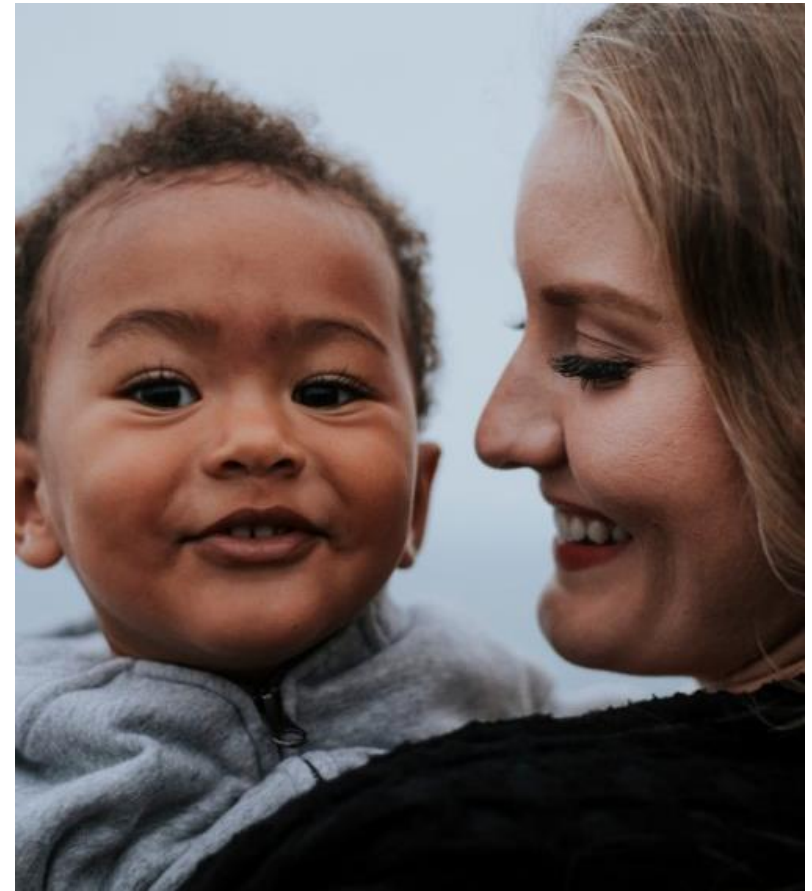


Facility Type	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Hospital	3	2	4	1
Long Term Care	2	2	4	3

Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology Goals

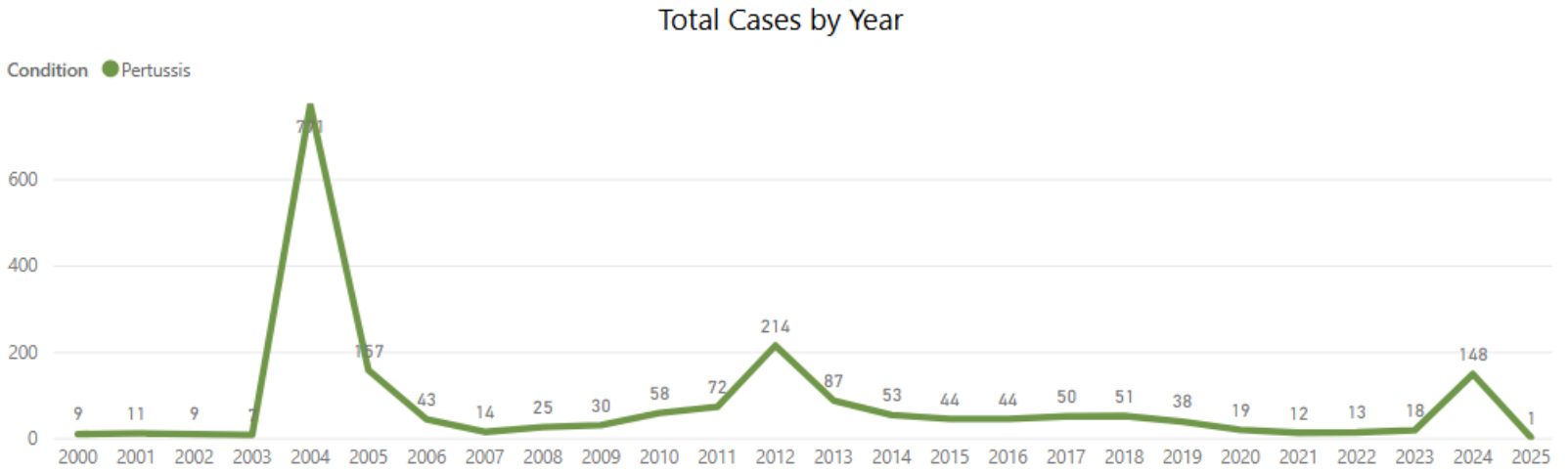


- Modernize EDSS (Electronic Disease Surveillance System)
- Analyze antibiotic prescribing and use data for more targeted stewardship interventions
- Automate enteric sequencing data and metadata from SEDRIC to EDSS
- Finalize internal respiratory and enteric disease surveillance dashboards
- Develop comprehensive multi-year historical dashboard of tick surveillance data by species and county and make publicly available



Field Services

- Verify diagnoses of reportable conditions
- Follow-up with people who have reportable conditions
- Work with people at increased risk for an infectious disease
- Primary, secondary and tertiary disease prevention
- Work with partners and stakeholders



Field Services and Pertussis

- 148 cases of pertussis reported in 2024
- Work closely with the Immunization Unit and local public health
- Interview cases and or family members
- Notify contacts
- Work with schools and childcare facilities

Field Services Goals



- Collaborating with local public health to bring Binx boxes to underserved regions of the state – Increase in testing and availability of testing for citizens
- Continue to work with community partners to prevent syphilis cases – especially cases in pregnant women/babies
- Conduct Field Visits and educate providers on importance of testing/treating



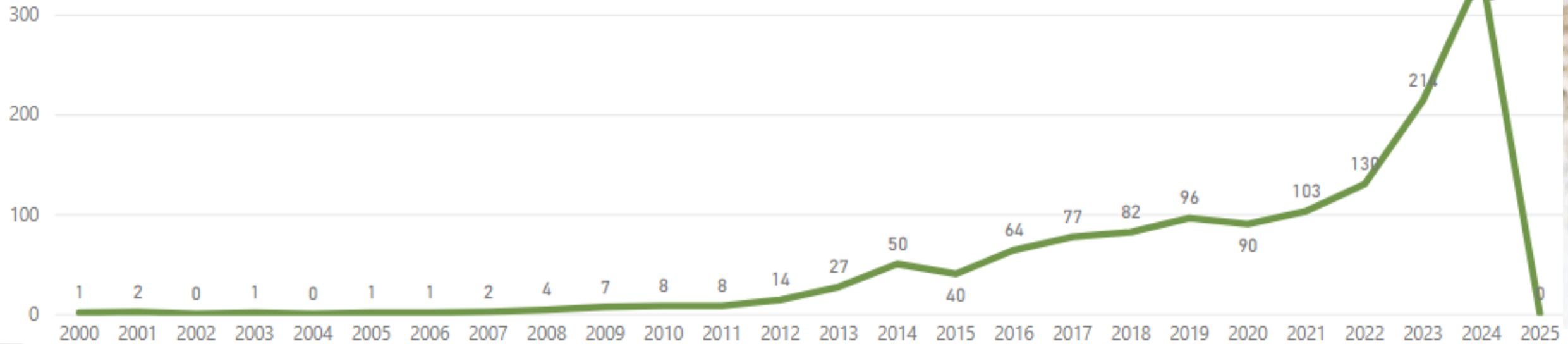
Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Diseases (and TB)

Prevention through early detection and treatment

- Congenital Syphilis
- Late effects of syphilis
- Neonatal infections and infertility secondary to gonorrhea and chlamydia infections
- Reducing viral loads to non-detectable levels
 - Hepatitis C (elimination of hepatitis C infection)
 - HIV
- Working with local harm reduction programs
- Assuring TB cases are treated and contacts are notified and offered testing and treatment

Total Cases by Year

Condition ● Syphilis

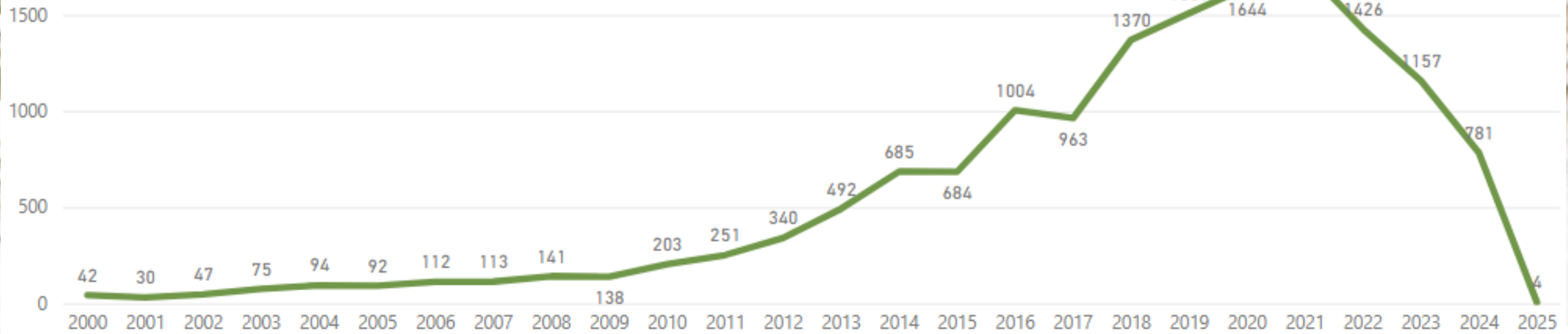


Syphilis In North Dakota

- 343 cases in 2024 up 60% from 2023
- 20% of new cases reported resulted from partner services
- 14/16 pregnant cases successfully treated prior to delivery
 - 2 cases of congenital syphilis in mothers with late or no prenatal care.

Total Cases by Year

Condition ● Gonorrhea



Gonorrhea in North Dakota

- 781 cases in 2024, down 32% from 2023
 - Down 55% from our peak in of 1,738 cases in 2021
 - 18% of cases resulting from partner notification
- Challenges continue with the emergence of strains resistant to main-line antibiotics

Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Disease Goals



- Start Planning for 2026-2031 Integrated HIV Prevention & Care Plan
- Continue to push for community centered approach to syphilis
- Continue fostering collaboration with Community Engagement and Field Services Units

Collaboration with our Internal Partners

- Medicaid
 - Immunizations
 - Ryan White
 - HIV and Hepatitis
 - Sexually Transmitted Infections
 - TB
 - Healthcare Associated Infections
- Child Care Services
 - Across all Disease Control Units
- Behavioral Health
 - Harm Reduction
 - STI and Bloodborne Diseases
 - Field Services



Comparison of budgets and funding

By Major Expense

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 BASE BUDGET	INCREASE/DECREASE	2025-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 14,890,554	\$ (1,119,796)	\$ 13,770,758
Operating	12,248,518	3,450,898	15,699,416
IT Services	13,377,225	1,881,563	15,258,788
Capital Asset Expense	-	25,000	25,000
Capital Assets	-	278,000	278,000
Grants	23,758,800	(7,593,452)	16,165,348
TOTAL	\$ 64,275,097	\$ (3,077,787)	\$ 61,197,310
GENERAL FUND	\$ 6,747,269	\$ 37,155	\$ 6,784,424
FEDERAL FUNDS	56,518,991	(7,464,191)	49,054,800
OTHER FUNDS	1,008,837	4,349,249	5,358,086
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 64,275,097	\$ (3,077,787)	\$ 61,197,310

Decision Package Detail

By Ongoing, One-Time and Funding Source

Coordinated Immunization Access

- Purchasing of Hepatitis B and RSV vaccines for healthcare providers off federal contract
 - \$2,213,930 ongoing Special Funds

Eastern ND Autopsy Contract

- Inflationary increase for University of North Dakota to perform autopsies
 - \$1,866,156 ongoing Special Funds

Forensic Examiner Electronic Records System

- Purchase of electronic records system to record forensic cases
 - \$278,000 one-time Special Funds

Executive Compensation Plan

- \$565,324 ongoing General Fund

Comparison of budgets and funding

By Budget Account Code

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 BASE BUDGET	INCREASE/DECREASE	2025-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION
511x Salaries - Regular	\$ 5,925,303	\$ 517,129	\$ 6,442,432
513x Salaries Temp	6,159,682	(1,883,408)	4,276,274
514x Salaries Overtime	193,770	(193,770)	-
516x Salaries Benefits	2,611,799	440,252	3,052,051
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 14,890,554	\$ (1,119,796)	\$ 13,770,758
52x Travel	431,200	(134,997)	296,203
53x Supply	109,453	(63,377)	46,076
54x Postage & Printing	381,358	72,910	454,268
56x Utilities	84,562	317	84,879
58x Rent/Leases - Bldg/Equip	127,571	6,276	133,847
59x Repairs	110,850	(45,792)	65,058
61x Professional Development	167,480	(64,194)	103,286
62x Fees - Operating & Professional	10,836,044	3,679,755	14,515,799
53x Supplies	51,161	44,906	96,067
60x IT Expenses	13,326,064	1,836,657	15,162,721
68x Land, Building, Other Capital	-	25,000	25,000
69x Equipment Over \$5,000	-	278,000	278,000
71x Grants, Benefits, & Claims	23,758,800	(7,593,452)	16,165,348
TOTAL OPERATING	\$ 49,384,543	\$ (1,957,991)	\$ 47,426,552
TOTAL	\$ 64,275,097	\$ (3,077,787)	\$ 61,197,310

Operating

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 BASE BUDGET	2025-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
Interpreter, disease response, investigation and advertising fees	\$ 40,700	\$ 28,000	\$ (12,700)
Vaccine Storage, Bridge Access Program and Letter of Agreements	106,850	109,022	2,172
Legal Fees	28,500	36,000	7,500
Hepatitis and other outbreaks - Case Management Follow-Up	80,000	80,000	-
Immunization - Purchase of agreements, State Conference and Media Campaign	1,254,000	560,000	(694,000)
HIV - Media Campaign and Prevention Walk	280,000	280,000	-
Sexually Transmitted Infections Education and Quality Management Detailing	250,000	50,000	(200,000)
Tuberculosis Case Management, Contract Pharmacy and Infection Coordinator	262,000	262,000	-
Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE) - Data Cleansing	16,000	16,000	-
Ryan White Community Planning and Evaluation and 340B Consultant	60,000	60,000	-
HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections At Home Test Collection	1,050,000	800,000	(250,000)
Public Health Subject Matter Experts	715,000	527,000	(188,000)
Public Health Conference and Infection Prevention Conference and Training	40,000	30,000	(10,000)
Transportation for deceased	22,000	22,000	-
Toxicology testing, genetic testing, specimen samples and neuropathology	260,076	320,267	60,191
Autopsy contract for eastern ND	1,718,864	3,585,020	1,866,156
Medical Waste	25,729	34,210	8,481
Medical Supplies Forensic Pathology	47,065	19,272	(27,793)
Ryan White Pharmaceutical Payments and Insurance Premiums	4,145,410	5,049,228	903,818
HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis test kits	433,850	433,850	-
Coordinated Immunization access for Hepatitis B and RSV	-	2,213,930	2,213,930
GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,077,234	\$ 1,124,613	\$ 47,379
FEDERAL FUNDS	8,758,810	8,311,100	(447,710)
OTHER FUNDS	1,000,000	5,080,086	4,080,086
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 10,836,044	\$ 14,515,799	\$ 3,679,755

Grants

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 BASE BUDGET	2025-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
Immunization Program - provide assistance with surveillance and reporting vaccine preventable diseases, immunization disparities, and pediatric rates	\$ 7,288,000	\$ 7,110,000	\$ (178,000)
Immunization Education campaign	5,705,000	2,000,000	(3,705,000)
Ryan White Case Management Contracts	2,875,000	3,400,000	525,000
Integrated HIV prevention and care advisory board community based education	100,000	250,000	150,000
State-wide antibiotic resistance prevention and stewardship activities	495,000	504,000	9,000
Tuberculosis Surveillance contracts	80,000	80,000	-
HIV Prevention Counseling Testing & Referral Contracts - patient testing/raid testing	325,000	450,000	125,000
Hepatitis Contracts	180,000	243,000	63,000
Sexually Transmitted Infections - at-home test collection and targeted marketing	480,000	350,000	(130,000)
COVID response and mitigation contracts for Local Public Health, confinement and homeless communities	6,230,000	1,500,000	(4,730,000)
Quantitative Molecular Surveillance of water collected from waste autosampler for analysis	-	200,000	200,000
GENERAL FUND	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
FEDERAL FUNDS	23,708,000	16,037,000	(7,671,000)
OTHER FUNDS			
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 23,758,000	\$ 16,087,000	\$ (7,671,000)

Contact Information

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