



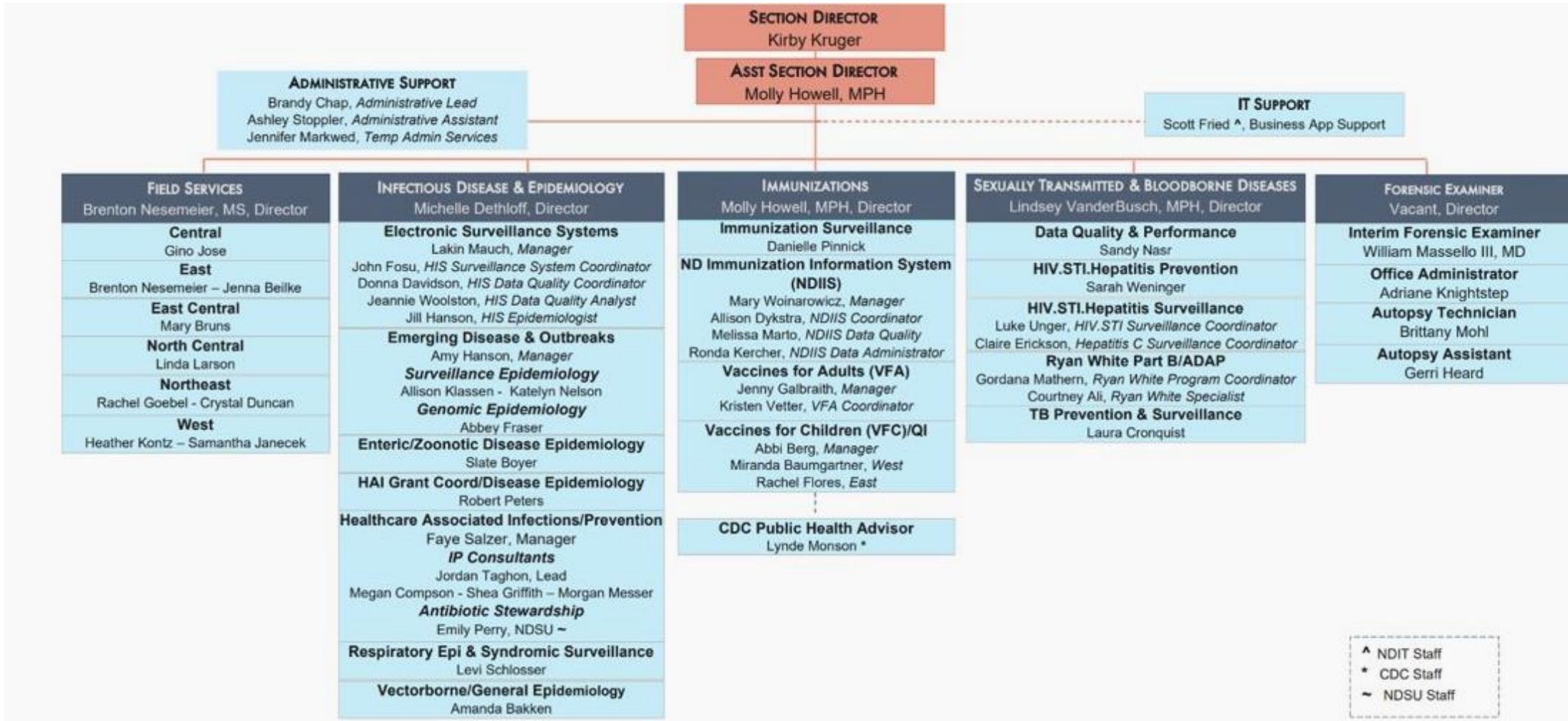
HB1012 Disease Control and Forensic Pathology Detail

Kirby Kruger, Director of Disease Control and Forensic Pathology
March 11, 2025

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.

Health & Human Services

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	2

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

Forensic Examiner's Office

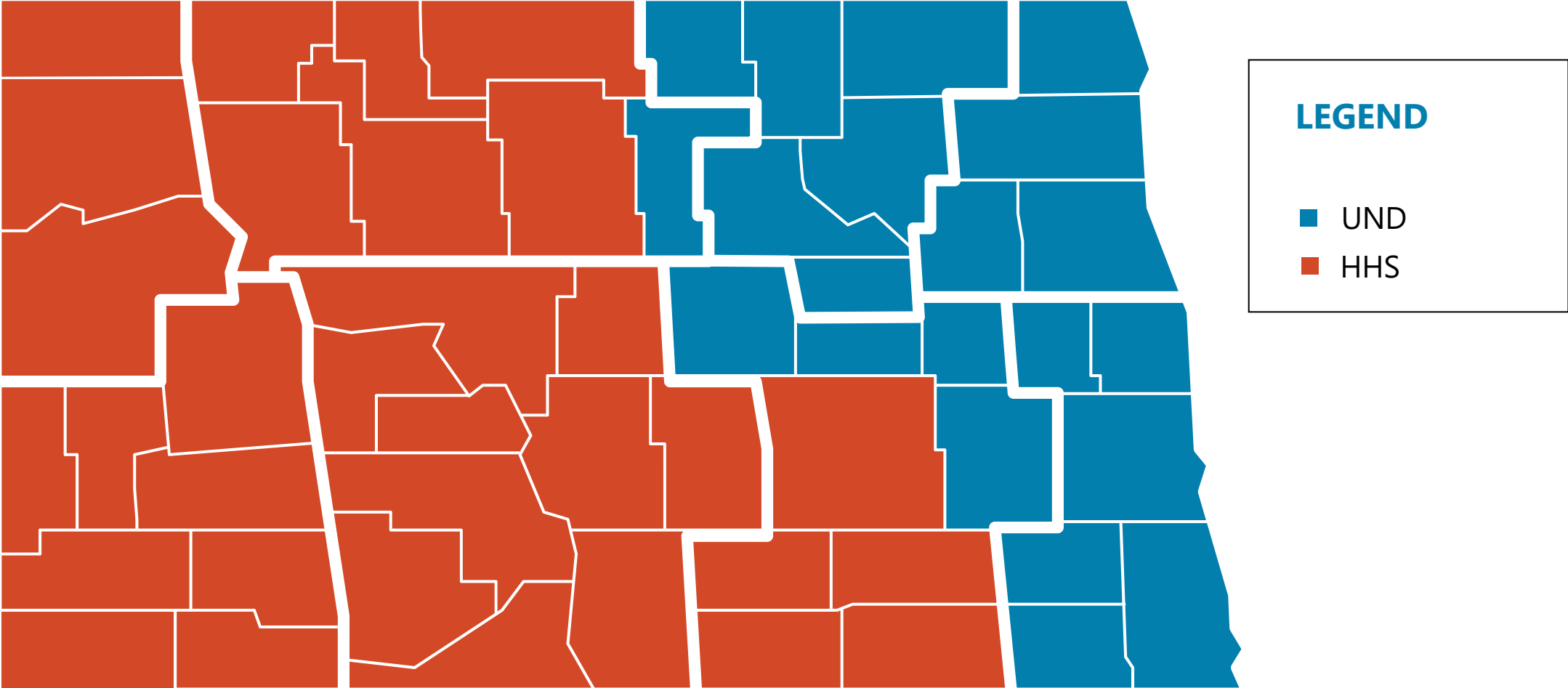
- Determine Cause and Manner of Death
- Non-natural deaths
- Work with county coroners and law enforcement

Autopsies

- 2023 – 188
 - 272 at UND
- 2024 – 122 cases (48 referrals to UND)
 - 372 at UND



State Coverage for Forensic Pathology Services with UND and Health and Human Services

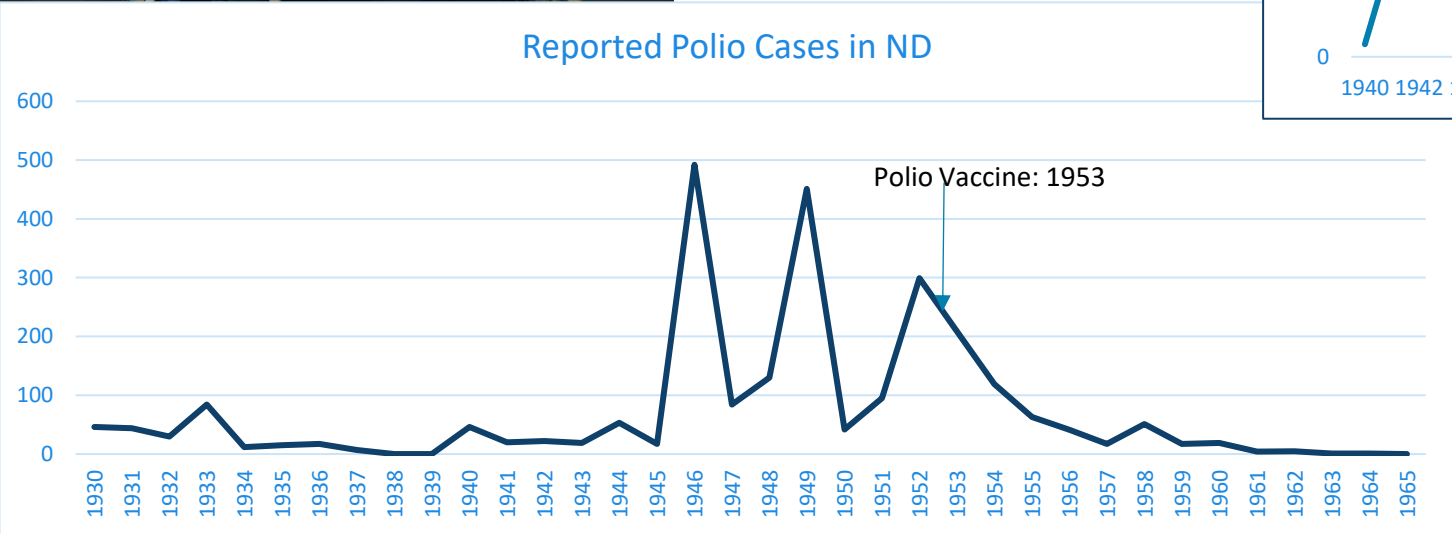
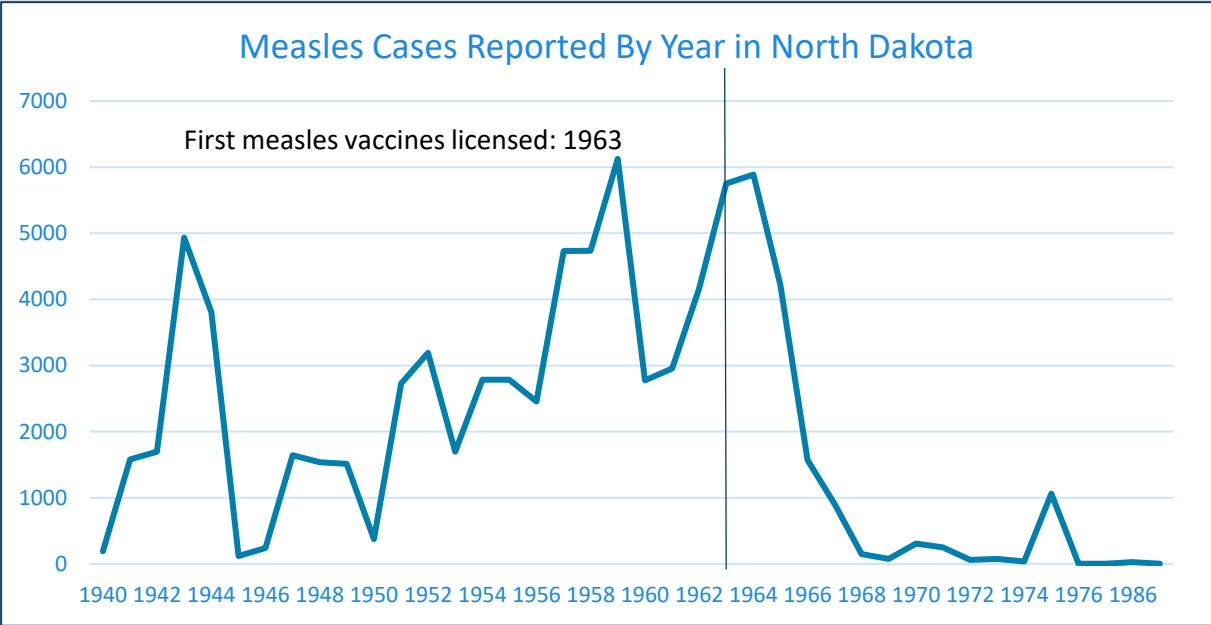




Immunization Unit

- 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

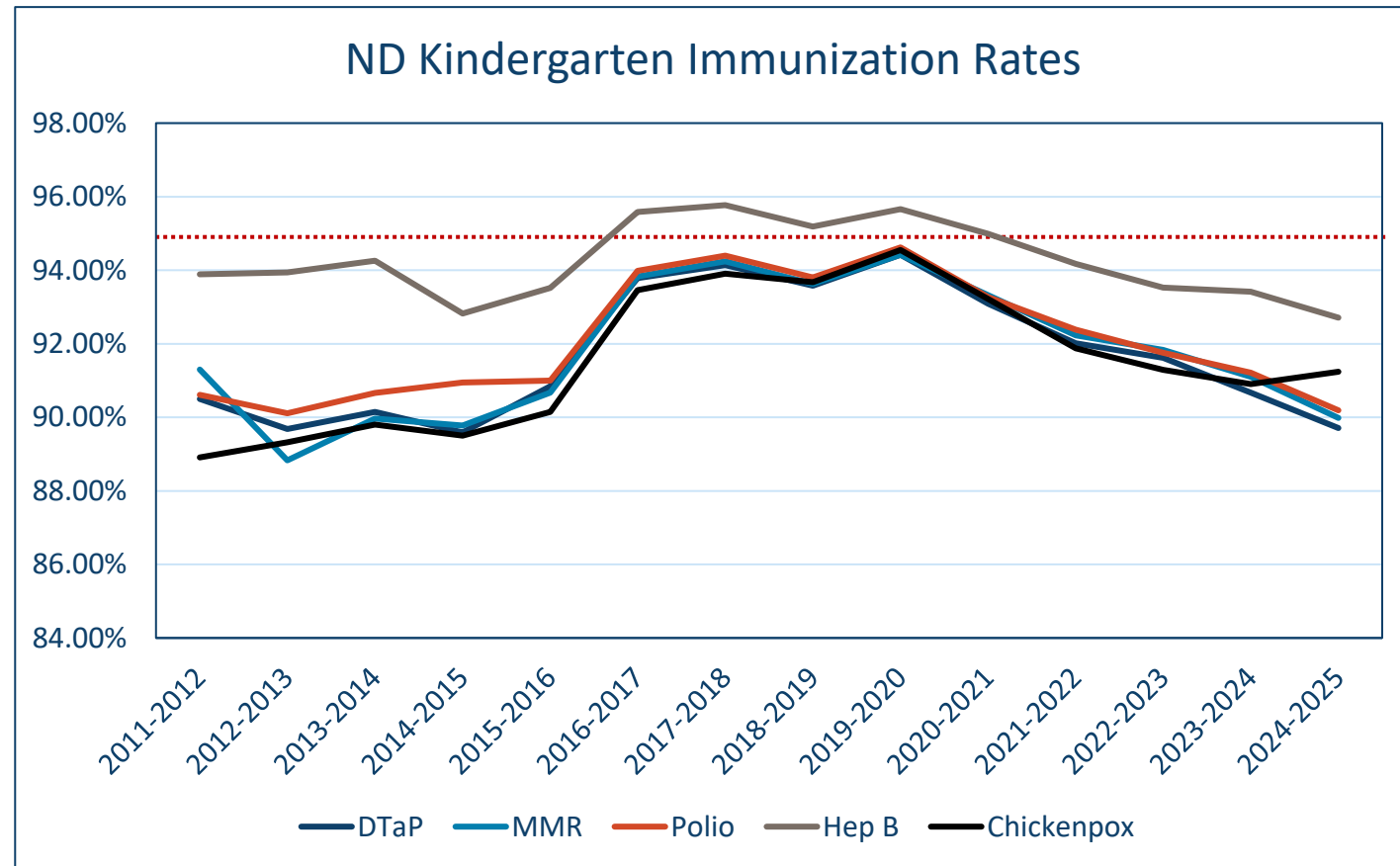
Impacts of Vaccines and Vaccination – Polio



Immunization Unit Challenges

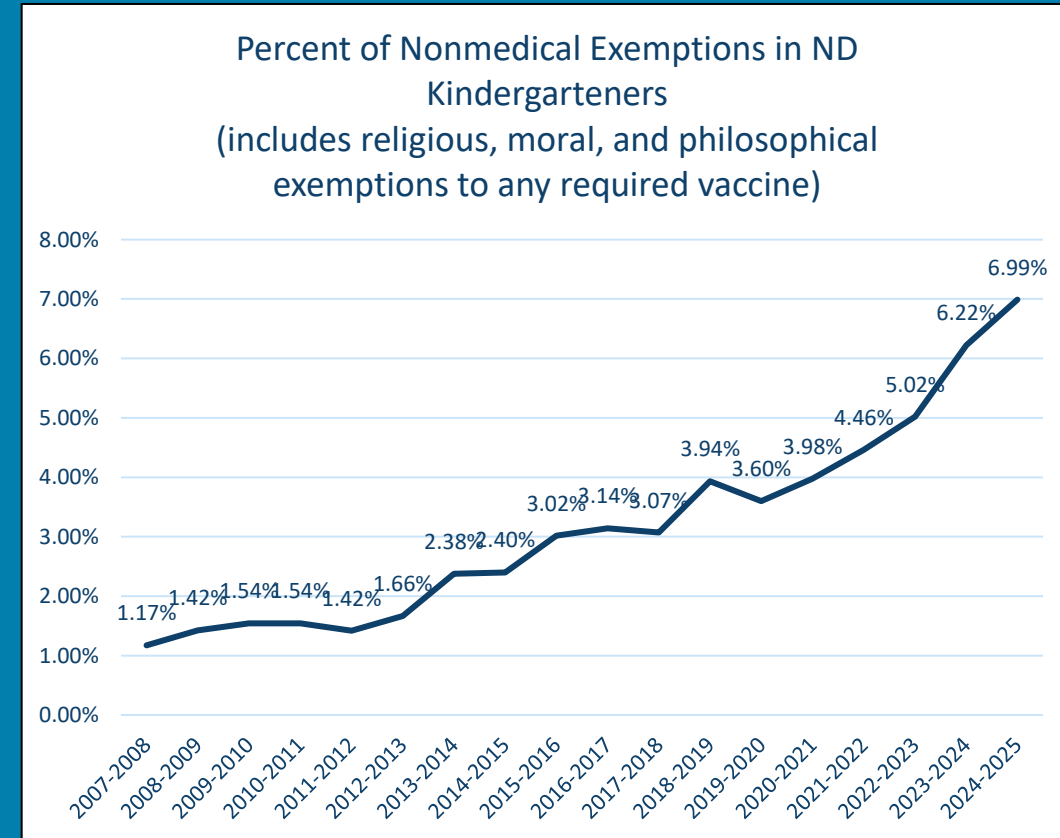
2024-2025 ND Kindergarten Immunization Rates By Vaccine:

DTaP	89.71%
MMR	89.98%
Polio	90.19%
Hep B	92.71%
Chickenpox	91.24%



Immunization Unit: Challenges

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



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

Activities in Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology



Rabies Investigation

- Human case – non-resident
- Other animal bite or exposure situations



Respiratory and Enteric Illnesses

- More than 25,000 reports in 2024
- Try to determine source and spread (DNA sequencing)
- Prevention



Health Care Associated Infections

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



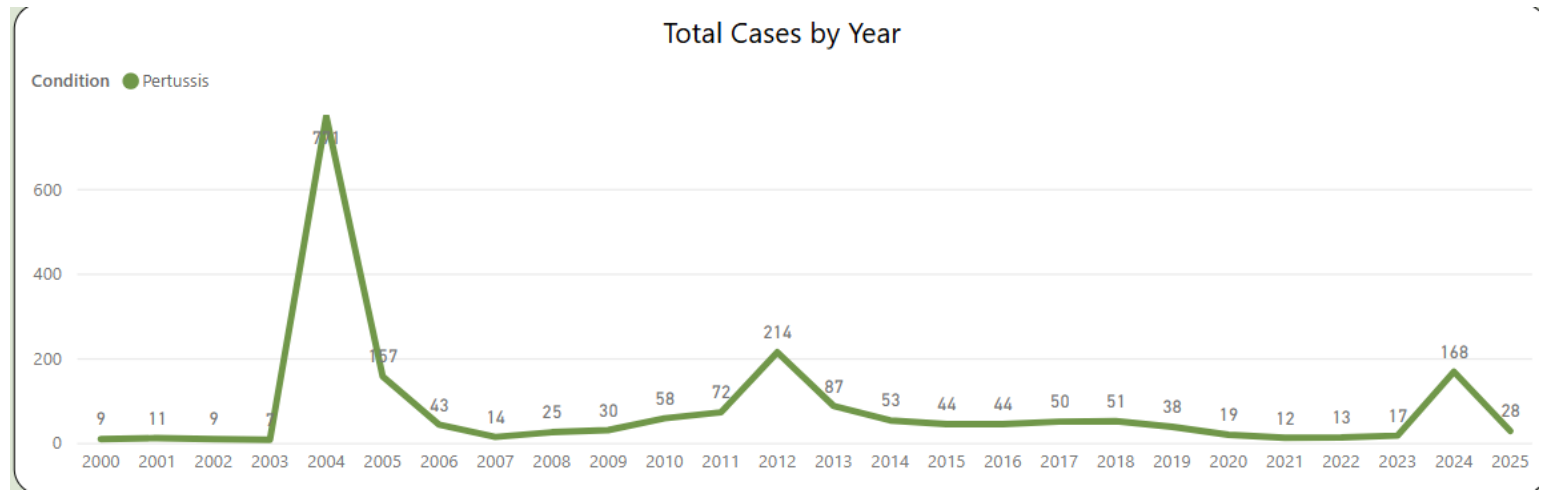
Antibiotic Stewardship

- Monitor prescribing trends
- Promote appropriate antibiotic prescribing



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

- 168 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



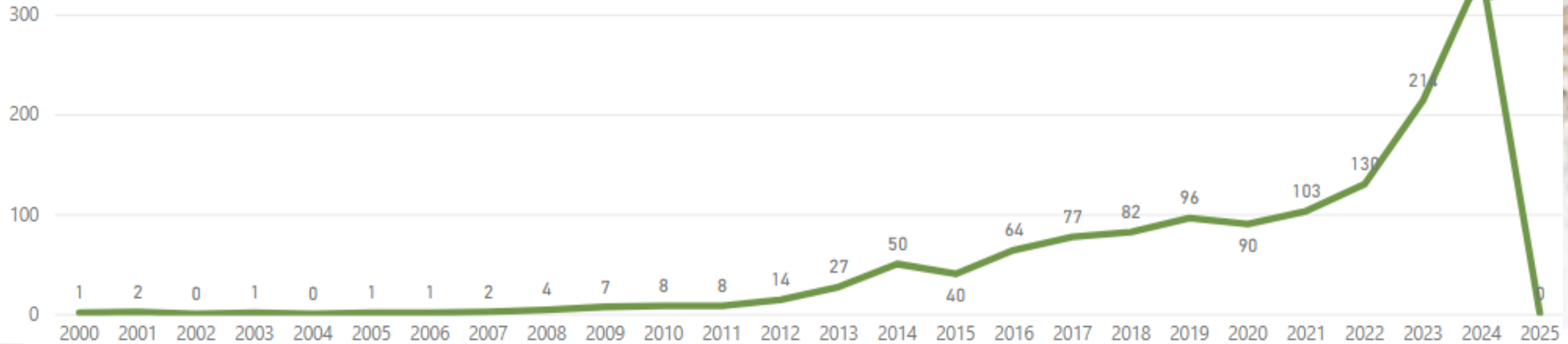
Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Diseases (and TB)

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.

Comparison of budget expenditures and projections

By Program

PROGRAMS	2023-25 LEGISLATIVE BASE	ONE-TIME /CARRYOVER	2023-25 EXPENSES THROUGH DECEMBER	2023-25 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	2025-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	ENGROSSED HB 1012	GENERAL	FEDERAL	OTHER
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM	\$ 23,444,050	\$ -	\$ 13,753,286	\$ 20,365,390	\$ 19,300,733	\$ -	\$ 19,300,733	\$ 565,324	\$ 16,521,479	\$ 2,213,930
INFECTIOUS DISEASE & EPIDEMIOLOGY	19,061,142	-	9,284,101	13,747,577	17,281,461	-	17,281,461	-	17,281,461	-
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED AND BLOODBORNE DISEASES	13,295,000	-	8,702,723	12,886,692	15,590,767	-	15,590,767	751,061	14,839,706	-
FIELD SERVICES	4,264,194	-	1,175,375	3,206,258	2,875,405	(242,965)	2,632,440	2,220,286	412,154	-
FORENSIC EXAMINER	3,767,105	-	2,334,540	3,862,856	6,148,944	(135,000)	6,013,944	5,735,944	-	278,000
TOTAL	\$ 63,831,491	\$ -	\$ 35,250,025	\$ 54,068,773	\$ 61,197,310	\$ (377,965)	\$ 60,819,345	\$ 9,272,615	\$ 49,054,800	\$ 2,491,930

Changes to Base Budget

By Ongoing, One-Time and Funding Source

BASE BUDGET CHANGES	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION		ENGROSSED HB 1012	
		GENERAL	OTHER	GENERAL	OTHER
Coordinated Immunization Access	Coordinated immunization access for Hepatitis B and RSV vaccines for healthcare providers		\$2,213,930 Operating fund		\$2,213,930 Operating fund
Eastern ND Autopsy Contract	Inflationary Increase for University of North Dakota to perform autopsies		\$2,866,156 CHTF	\$2,866,156	
Forensic Examiner Electronic Records System	Purchase of electronic records system to record forensic cases *One-time		\$278,000 CHTF		\$278,000 CHTF
FTE block grant reduction	FTE block grant reduction	-	-	(\$377,965)	

Comparison of budgets and funding

By Major Expense

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 LEGISLATIVE BASE	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	2025-27 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	INCREASE / (DECREASE)	ENGROSSED HB 1012
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 14,446,948	\$ (676,190)	\$ 13,770,758	\$ (377,965)	\$ 13,392,793
Operating	12,248,518	3,450,898	15,699,416	-	15,699,416
IT Services	13,377,225	1,881,563	15,258,788	-	15,258,788
Capital Asset Expense	-	25,000	25,000	-	25,000
Capital Assets	-	278,000	278,000	-	278,000
Grants	23,758,800	(7,593,452)	16,165,348	-	16,165,348
Total	\$ 63,831,491	\$ (2,634,181)	\$ 61,197,310	\$ (377,965)	\$ 60,819,345
General Fund	\$ 6,592,534	\$ 191,890	\$ 6,784,424	\$ 2,488,191	\$ 9,272,615
Federal Funds	56,230,120	(7,175,320)	49,054,800	-	49,054,800
Other Funds	1,008,837	4,349,249	5,358,086	(2,866,156)	2,491,930
Total Funds	\$ 63,831,491	\$ (2,634,181)	\$ 61,197,310	\$ (377,965)	\$ 60,819,345

Disease Control & Forensic Pathology's Budget as % of HHS Budget

- 1.0%

Budget by Funding Source

- 15.3% General
- 80.6% Federal
- 4.1% Other

Budget by Pass Through

- 50.4% Paid to private providers
- 24.0% Admin
- 25.1% IT
- 0.5% Capital Projects

Contact Information

Kirby Kruger
Director, Disease Control and
Forensic Pathology
kkruger@nd.gov

