

# The Pump Handle



"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."

John Snow, 1855

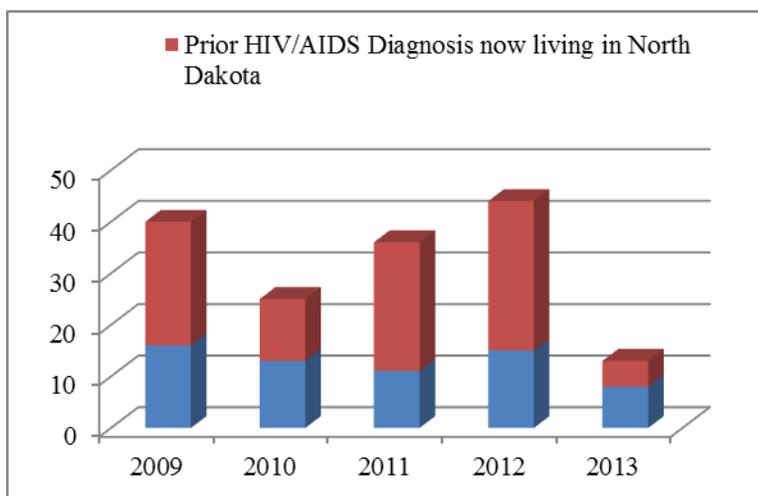
## February 2013 Topics

- 2013 HIV/AIDS in North Dakota
- April is STD Awareness Month
- Influenza Update
- Meaningful Use

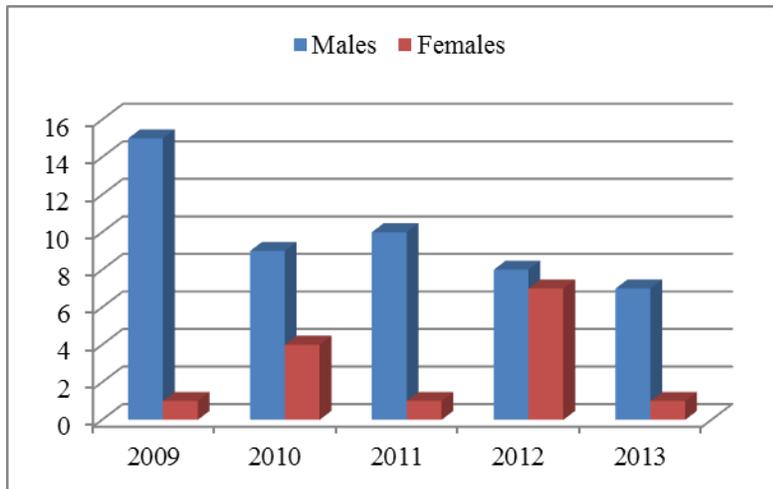


## 2013 HIV/AIDS in North Dakota

Due to North Dakota's low incidence of HIV/AIDS, trends in diagnosis and reporting are difficult to interpret. On average, there are between 10 to 15 cases per year that are diagnosed in North Dakota. In total, 317 HIV/AIDS cases were diagnosed in the state between 1984 and 2012.



North Dakota is seeing an increase in newly diagnosed HIV cases. In 2012, North Dakota saw a total of 15 new HIV/AIDS cases. In the first quarter of 2013, eight cases of HIV/AIDS have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. The cases reported in 2013 are evenly dispersed throughout the state with the majority of the cases (88%) being male.



### **April is STD Awareness Month**

April is National Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Awareness Month, an observance created to increase awareness about STDs, including their transmission, prevention and treatment. STDs continue to be a major health threat in the United States, especially among adolescents and young adults. One in two sexually active people will be infected with an STD by age 25. Each year, one in four teens contracts an STD. If undetected and left untreated, STDs can lead to potentially severe health consequences, including ectopic pregnancy or infertility in females. These severe health consequences underscore the importance of annual chlamydia screening and vaccination for HPV as part of a comprehensive approach to sexual health in young men and women.

In North Dakota, preliminary data indicate 2,913 cases of chlamydia and 338 cases of gonorrhea were reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) in 2012. Of these totals, 71 percent of chlamydia cases and 58 percent of gonorrhea cases occurred among people ages 15 to 24.

Throughout STD Awareness Month in April 2013, MTV and the Kaiser Family Foundation, working with Planned Parenthood Federation of America and other partners nationwide, will launch a new campaign named “It’s Your (Sex) Life” to inform young people about STDs and encourage testing. Messages of the campaign include:

- **Communicate:** Take control of your sex life by talking about it with your partner, your health-care provider and your parents.
- **Delay & Reduce:** Make thoughtful decisions about when is the right time to have sex, and with whom – the first time and every time.
- **Protect:** If you are having sex, learn about and use the tools to protect yourself from STDs and accidental pregnancy: always carry condoms and find a birth control method that works for you.

- **Test:** If you are sexually active, getting tested for HIV and other STDs is a routine part of taking care of your health.

Campaign materials such as brochures and posters and additional information about STDs are available at [www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/](http://www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/). North Dakota STD statistics can be found at [www.ndhealth.gov/STD/Data/STDData.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/STD/Data/STDData.htm).



### **Influenza Update**

As of April 19, 2013, a total of 4,692 laboratory-identified influenza cases have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) from all 53 counties. Of those cases, 3,220 were identified as Influenza A and 1,470 as Influenza B. Two cases were reported to be an unknown subtype of influenza. Of the cases further subtyped at the Division of Laboratory Services, 18 have been subtyped as 2009 H1N1 and 201-H3N2. Currently flu activity has decreased to local activity in the state. Laboratory confirmation of flu appears to have peaked during the week ending December 29, 2012, but outpatient visits for flu like illness are now near baseline at 2.3 percent.

In addition to influenza, RSV activity is still elevated in North Dakota. While the NDDoH does not quantify the number of RSV cases, there are sentinel laboratories in the state that are reporting increased positivity for RSV tests. This is indicative that the majority of influenza-like illness being seen in North Dakota is most likely due to RSV and other respiratory viruses.

The NDDoH influenza website is updated weekly on Fridays with the latest influenza data. For more information about influenza, the surveillance program or to order free educational materials, visit the NDDoH influenza website at [www.ndflu.com](http://www.ndflu.com).



### **Meaningful Use**

The North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Disease Control has the capability to receive electronic messages to help facilities meet the state public health aspects of Meaningful Use. The Meaningful Use menu objectives that could be met with this electronic messaging include:

- Provide electronic submission of reportable laboratory results to the state public health agency for hospitals only.
- Provide electronic syndromic surveillance data to the state public health agency for eligible professionals and hospitals.
- Submit electronic data to immunization registries for eligible professionals and hospitals.

For more information related to submitting any of these types of messages, please fill out the interest form located here: [Meaningful Use Form](#).

More information can be located at [www.ndhealth.gov/disease](http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease) under the Meaningful Use banner.

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*The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website [www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html).*



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