

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

September 2015 Topics

- **West Nile Virus Death – Laura Cronquist**
- **2014-2015 Flu Summary – Jill Baber**
- **National Immunization Survey Rates Now Available! – Amy Schwartz**
- **Save the Date! December 3 -4, 2015: Online Disease 101 Conference – Sarah Weninger**
- **New Disease Control Employee!**



West Nile Virus Death

On September 18, 2015, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) announced the state's first West Nile virus-related human death in 2015. Dancia Jackson, a 23-year-old woman from St. Michael, N.D., died on August 19, 2015, as a result of a neurological infection due to West Nile Virus (WNV). The NDDoH does not normally release information that could potentially identify a case, but members of Dancia's family requested that such information be made public in an effort to raise awareness about the seriousness of WNV. Dancia's mother, Darcie Delorme, and two of Dancia's aunts, Jennifer Black and Lonna Jackson, joined NDDoH staff and members of the press on September 21, 2015, for a news conference on WNV. Darcie recounted painful details about the rapid decline in her daughter's health just prior to her death, and emphasized that the most effective means of preventing WNV infection is protecting oneself against mosquito bites. The NDDoH is greatly appreciative of Dancia's family members' willingness to share their story in hopes that other North Dakotans will take precautions to protect themselves and their family members against WNV.

Twenty cases of WNV infection from 12 counties have been reported to the NDDoH as of October 15, 2015. Seven of those cases required hospitalization. In addition, three equine WNV cases have been reported from three counties in North Dakota. Mosquito pools from three other counties also tested positive for WNV. For more information about WNV in North Dakota, including current statistics and mosquito surveillance program information, please visit www.ndhealth.gov/wnv.

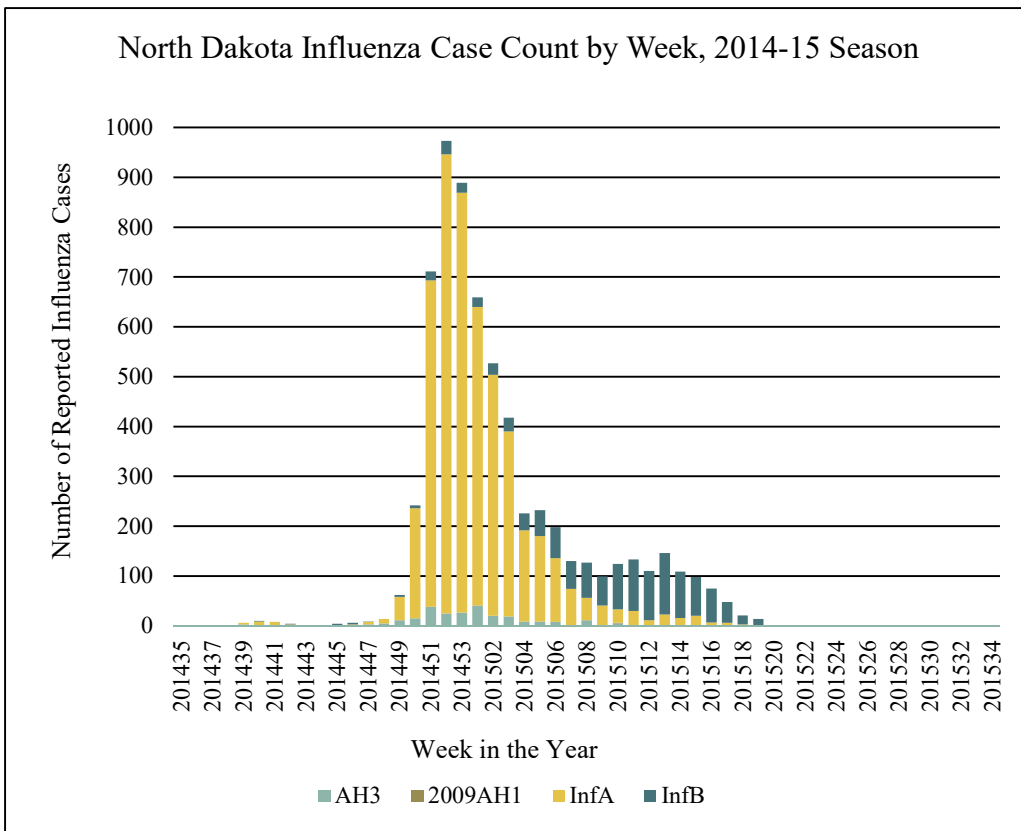
Nationwide, 1,332 cases of WNV have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of October 13, 2015. For more information on WNV in the United States, please visit www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html.



2014-15 Influenza Season Summary

The NDDoH received reports of **6,443 cases** of laboratory-identified influenza from September 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015, which was a larger case count than an average season. The predominant strain for this season was influenza A H3N2, and a majority of the A H3N2 strains that circulated were poorly matched to the A H3N2 vaccine component. This poor vaccine match likely contributed to the high number of reported influenza cases, in addition to the fact that A H3N2-prominent seasons tend to be generally more severe. The 2014-15 season was an early season, peaking the 52nd week of 2014 (the week of December 21st). Cases persisted through May of 2015, making the 2014-15 season a longer than average season.

The NDDoH also receives reports of influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths, although laboratory-identified influenza cases are required to be reported, hospitalizations and influenza deaths are not specifically required to be reported to the NDDoH. A total of **275 hospitalizations** and **54 deaths** related to influenza were identified by or reported to NDDoH. In addition, **40 influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities** were reported, a higher than average number compared to past influenza seasons. For more information about the 2014-15 season, visit www.ndflu.com.

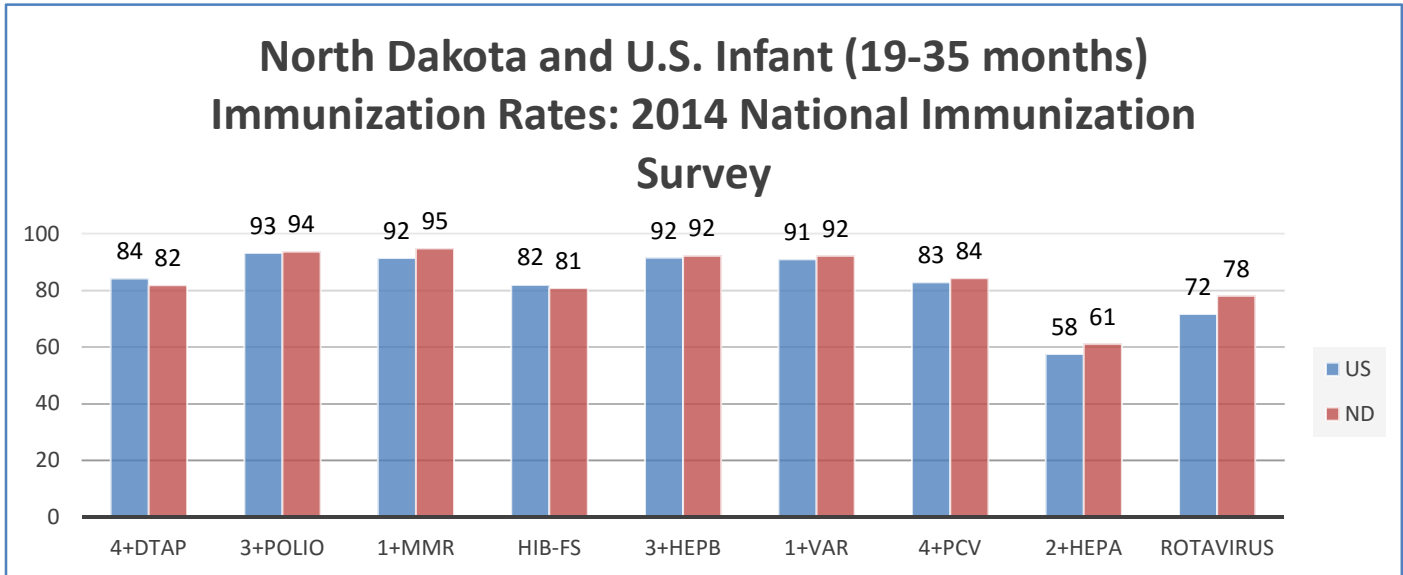


| Influenza Cases by Category | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Circulating strains | |
| A unspecified | 4908 |
| A H3N2 | 314 |
| 2009 A H1N1 | 2 |
| B unspecified | 1115 |
| B Yamagata | 60 |
| B Victoria | 44 |
| Age Breakdown | |
| <1 | 243 |
| 1-5 | 1059 |
| 6-10 | 847 |
| 11-19 | 780 |
| 20-24 | 298 |
| 25-34 | 624 |
| 35-44 | 511 |
| 45-54 | 474 |
| 55-64 | 507 |
| 65+ | 1100 |
| Gender Breakdown | |
| Male | 3105 |
| Female | 3338 |

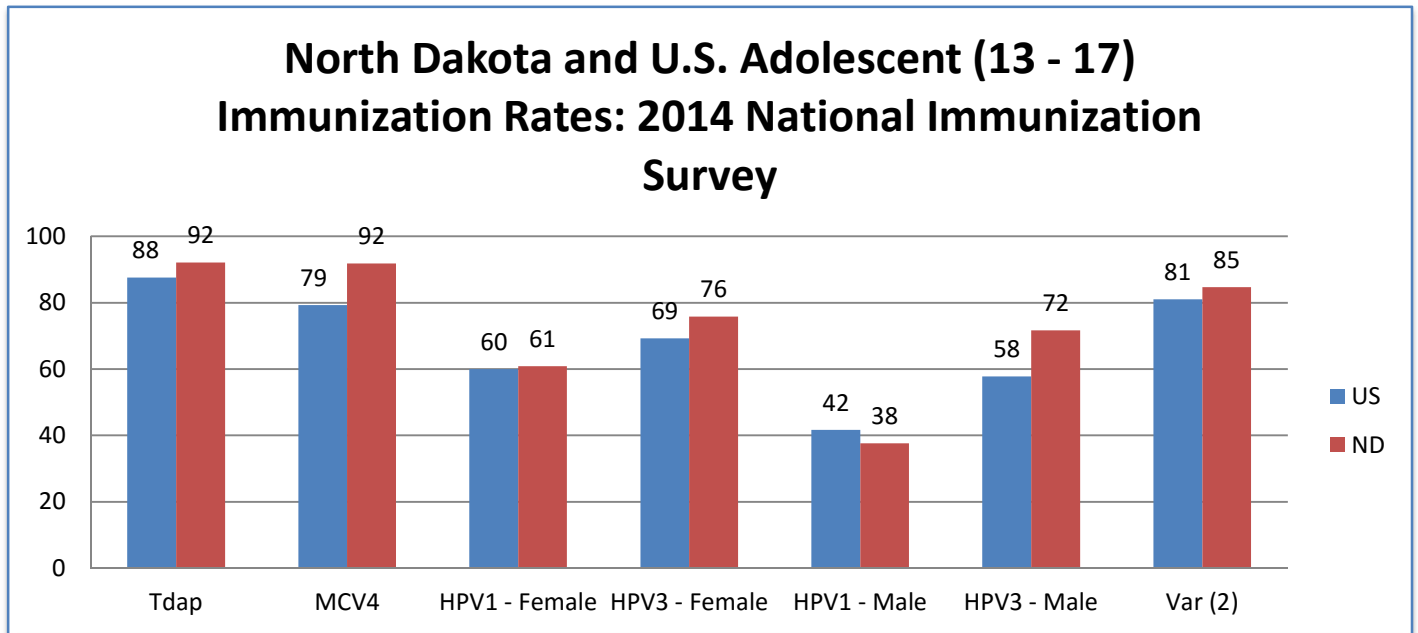


National Immunization Survey Rates Now Available!

The National Immunization Survey (NIS) is conducted annually to determine immunization coverage rates among infants and adolescents in the United States. The NIS is conducted by interviewing households via random digit dialing. According to the NIS, North Dakota had slightly higher coverage rates than the rest of the United States for most infant immunizations in 2014. However, when looking at the fourth dose of DTaP vaccine and the full HIB series, North Dakota has lower than average rates compared to the rest of the United States. Additionally, North Dakota fails to meet the Health People 2020 coverage goal of 90% for many infant immunizations.



According to the NIS adolescent coverage rates for 2014, North Dakota has higher than average coverage rates compared to the rest of the nation. North Dakota falls below the national average coverage rates for the first dose of HPV vaccine in males.





Save the Date! December 3 -4, 2015: Online Disease 101 Conference

The Division of Disease Control is excited to host the first online Disease 101 Conference!

When: December 3, 2015: *8 am to 5 pm
December 4 2015: *9am to 12 pm
*Tentative Schedule

Where: Online. Webex will be used for all presentations. No registration will be required and all presentations will be recorded and archived.

Continuing Education: Pending approval from North Dakota Board of Nursing.

This online conference will be one and half days of communicable disease 101 and MPH student projects reports. Topics will include vectorborne diseases, healthcare associated infections, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, enterics, tuberculosis, vaccine preventable diseases, rabies and emerging topics. For the different conditions and topics being presented, subject areas such as prevention, testing, treatment, vaccination, contact investigation, symptomology and transmission will be discussed. Continuing education credits are being requested from the North Dakota Board of Nursing. For a more detailed tentative agenda and other information, please visit: www.ndhealth.gov/disease/conference. A final agenda will be available at this website at least two weeks prior to the conference. All presentations will be recorded and archived. Individuals will be able to view these recorded presentations and earn continuing education credit. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Weninger at 701.328.2366 or sweninger@nd.gov.



New Disease Control Employee!

★**Name:** Kelsie Howes

Title: Administrative Assistant – Immunization Program

Education Background: I graduated from Bismarck State College in May 2013 with an AA Degree. I was the editor for the award winning “Figments of Imagination” student literary publication, and was also the editor for the Bismarck State College newspaper, “The Mystician”.

Past Experience: I have been working in the Administrative field for the past eight years. I also worked as a drill team dance coach for four years!

Family/Hobbies: I live in Bismarck with my husband, Montana, who is employed as an electrician with Apple Creek Electric. Outside of work, I enjoy reading, watching movies, and practicing yoga. Dance has also been a huge part of my life, having traveled to countless state and national competitions throughout high school, college, and my coaching career.



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Kirby Kruger, Director, Division of Disease Control; Chief Medical Services Section
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