



Healthy ND: A Quarterly Health Snapshot

APRIL 2024 REPORT



FOUNDATION
for a Healthy North Dakota



INTRODUCTION

The [Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota](#) (FHND) is a newly established non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote health and wellness by empowering communities, families, and individuals to build a healthier North Dakota.

Our primary goal is to build a statewide coalition focused on working with local communities in order to achieve positive health outcomes in three key areas: [children's health](#), [hunger](#), and [wellness vaccines](#). This report focuses on wellness vaccines, children's health factors, and social vulnerability levels.

To kick off our work, we have partnered with [Odd Duck](#), a storytelling for change consultancy, who are helping us to conduct community listening sessions, lead interviews, and collect stories about health in North Dakota.

We hope that through this storytelling project, a great deal of insight will be gained to assist and inform communities in planning, decision-making, policy development, and the pursuit of resources related to maintaining or improving vaccine confidence as well as child health and social vulnerability concerns.

The people who live in a community know best what it needs to thrive. By sharing your stories with us, you'll help co-create solutions around health and shape our approach to community health across North Dakota. Your investment in your community will be the start of positive change. Any toolkits or content developed with the community belong to the community.

With that, we offer you this data analysis so you can assess the current state of routine wellness and influenza vaccine coverage rates, children's well-being, and the social vulnerability level in our state.



OVERVIEW

This snapshot aims to summarize coverage rates for routine wellness vaccinations and the annual influenza vaccine across all age groups in North Dakota for the most recent quarter of 2023 for which data is available. The data changes each and every quarter, and we will continue updating this document to reflect those changes.

We're using the [Healthy People 2020](#) and [2030](#) public health objectives, an ambitious set of goals established by the federal government, as our targets. Please note, these are goals we are working toward in this decade. It is not expected that your county meet the [Healthy People 2030](#) goals today.

We understand you may be seeking a more incremental change in vaccine uptake rates. Progress over time will be reflected in a quarter-over-quarter analysis, which we will provide in the future. This is merely a starting place. We know that people working in public health all over our state are working diligently, and we aim to support that work through collaboration.

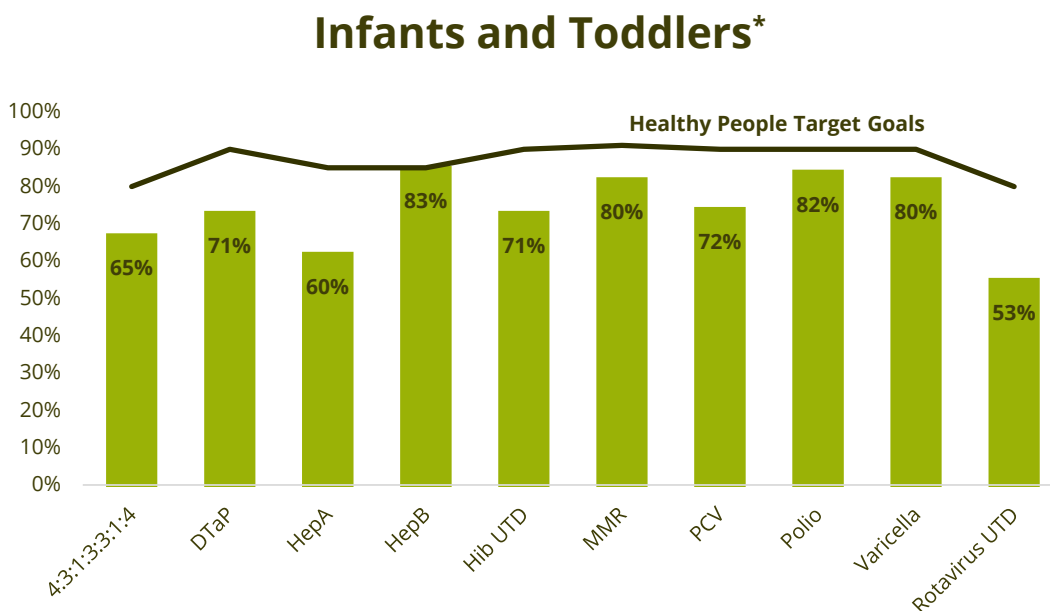
This overview summarizes selected child health factors tracked by North Dakota KIDS COUNT, which is a statewide resource for data on the well-being of children in North Dakota.

Lastly, this report provides content related to the social vulnerability status of the state. Further information on social vulnerability and its factors will be provided in the overview of this particular focus.

Data in this paper was obtained from the [North Dakota Immunization Information System](#) (NDIIS), [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Social Vulnerability Index](#) (CDC ATSDR SVI), [North Dakota KIDS COUNT](#), and [Feeding America](#).

INFANT/TODDLER VACCINES

For the 19- 35-month-old age group, North Dakota achieved the following uptake rates for the fourth quarter of 2023 (targets noted as the top line for context).

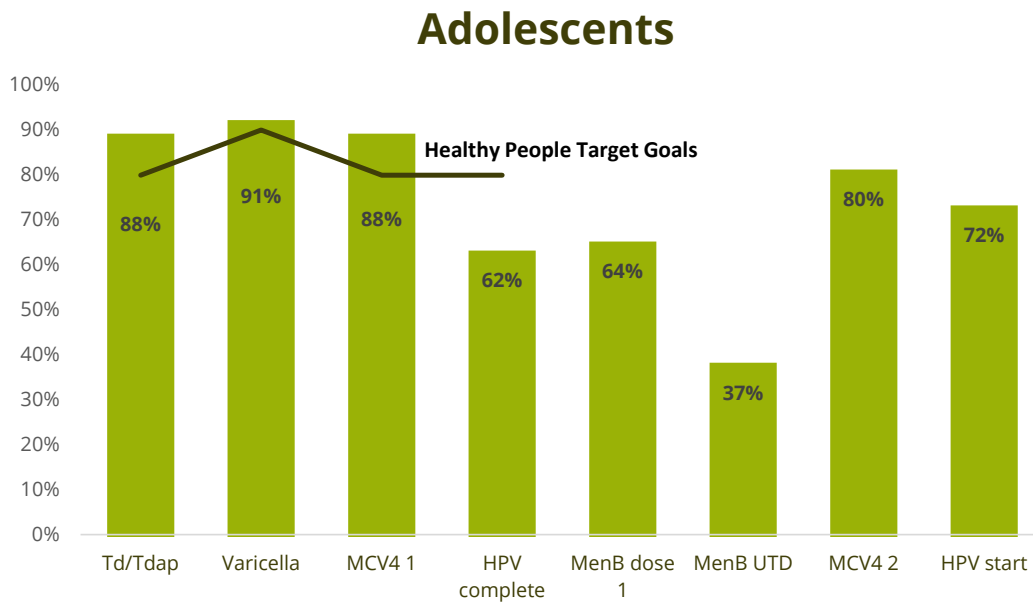


* Immunized Children 19-35mo Full Series for ND: 4+DTaP, 3+Polio, 1+MMR, 3+Hib, 3+HepB, 1+Varicella, 4+PCV

ADOLESCENT VACCINES

For the adolescent age group in quarter four of 2023, North Dakota met the targets for the Td/Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) vaccine, the Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, and MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate) dose 1 vaccine.

The newest [Healthy People 2030](#) recommendations raised the target rates for HPV (human papillomavirus) significantly, to 80%. North Dakota achieved a 62% rate of uptake for the HPV vaccine in the fourth quarter of 2023.



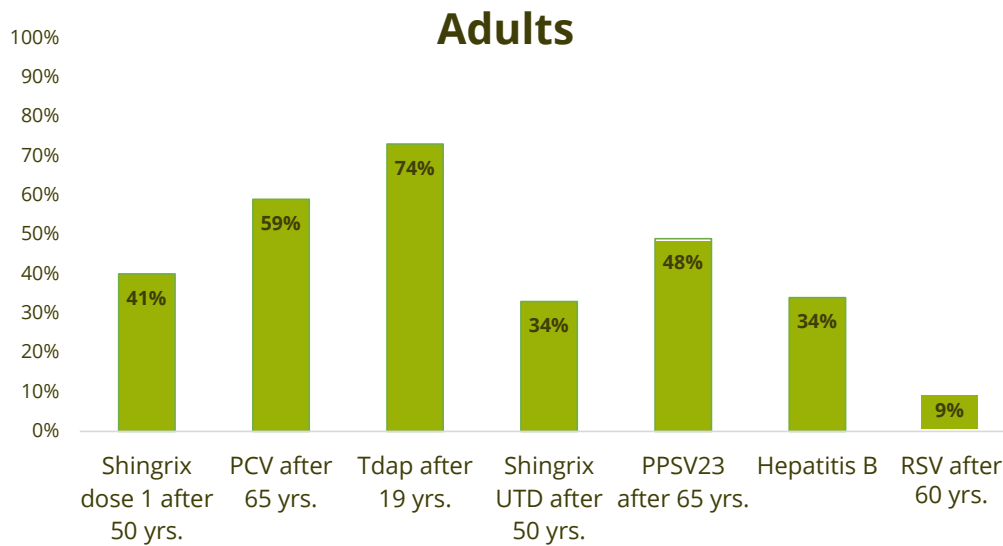
Presently, there are no measurable objectives set for the second dose of the MCV4 vaccine, nor for the first and second doses of MenB (meningococcal B). The most recent estimate of coverage rates for these vaccines, which help to protect against different types of meningococcal diseases, are listed in the figure above.



ADULT VACCINES

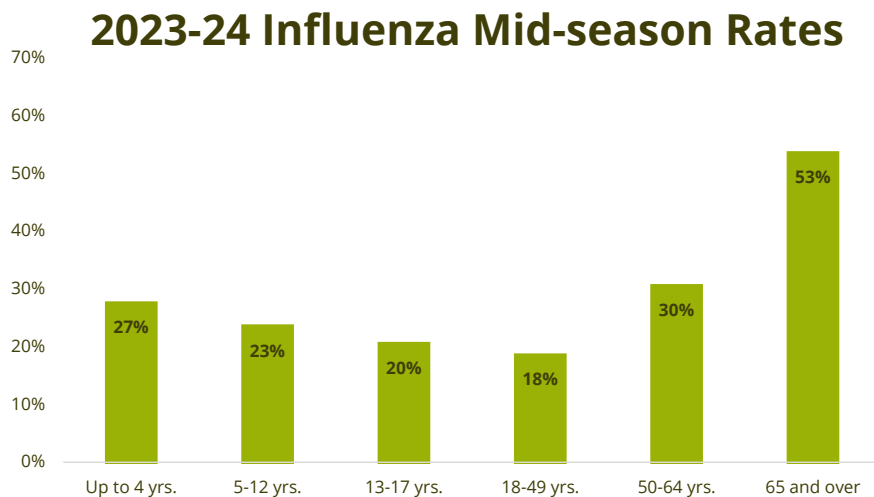
Adults are recommended to receive a Tdap vaccination every 10 years. The coverage rate for the fourth quarter of 2023 was 74%. For the up-to-date (UTD) status of the Shingrix vaccine, the target set for the [Healthy People 2020](#) initiative was 30%; North Dakota met this goal at 34% coverage.

A goal of 90% was set for the PCV (pneumococcal conjugate vaccines) or PPSV23 (pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine). These vaccines are administered in varying sequences and timing with attention to pneumococcal vaccine history, health status, or which pneumococcal-type vaccine people received as a first adult dose. For our state's most recent quarter, PCV was at a 59% coverage rate, and PPSV23 was at 48%. The UTD status for the hepatitis B vaccine for adults reached 34% last quarter. The newly tracked RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) reached an uptake of 9%.



ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINE ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS

In the most recent [Healthy People 2030](#) initiative, the target for the annual influenza vaccine is 70% of all people ages 6 months or older receiving their influenza immunization for protection during the current flu season. The coverage rates for the state for the mid-season outlook of 2023-24 are listed in the figure below. The age group closest to reaching the 70% benchmark were those 65 and over, with a coverage rate of 53%.



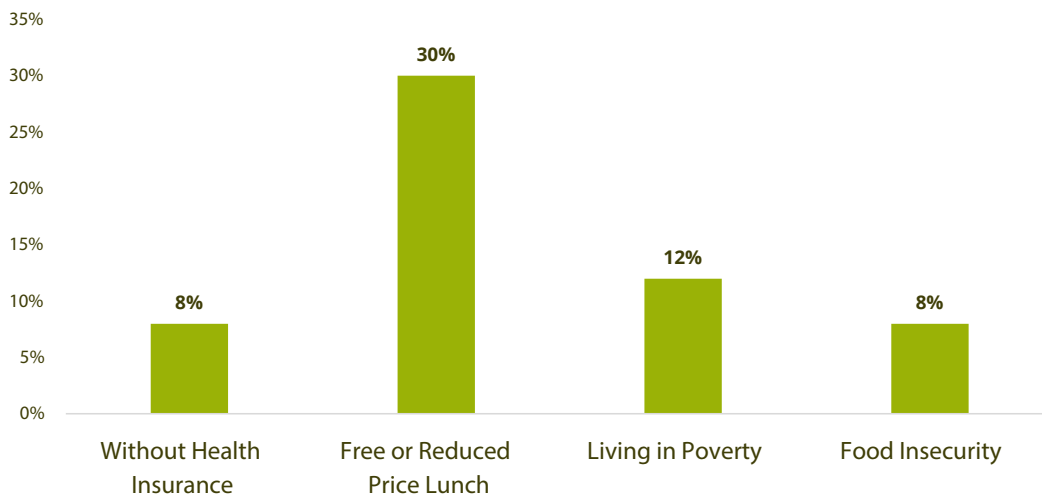
METHODS

This overview is a secondary data outlook reviewing immunization surveillance information from the [NDIIS](#). This system notes a few limitations in its methods. First, health care providers are required to enter children and adolescent information into NDIIS, but entry is not required for adult vaccines. Also, the population denominator can sometimes be skewed due to people moving in and out of different areas, leading to an underestimation of coverage. Finally, Air Force bases in North Dakota are not required to enter immunization information in NDIIS, and any vaccination received out of state is also missed in the NDIIS.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH FACTORS

The North Dakota KIDS COUNT resource provides data on North Dakota children related to health and wellness, early childhood, education, and family economic security. According to the state profile for North Dakota, a total of 182,775 children (meaning under age 18) reside in the state. Around 8% of the children are American Indian/Alaska Native, 5% are Black, 80% are White, and 7% are two or more races or other. The following graph depicts 2021-23 outcomes for some of the key indicators that KIDS COUNT tracks.

2021-23 North Dakota Children's Health Indicators



There are 8%, or nearly 15,000 children in the state without health insurance, around 55,000 of the children participate in the Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program, about 22,000 are living in poverty, and almost 15,000 face food insecurity.

HUNGER FACTS

The national organization Feeding America emphasizes that food insecurity and hunger mean different things. They note that hunger is the feeling someone has when they don't have food, while food insecurity is the consistent lack of food due to economic circumstances. As previously noted, thousands of children in our state face food insecurity and, per Feeding America, 1 in 13 children in our state face hunger. Furthermore, more than 42,000 North Dakotans are facing hunger, with every county in our state being represented in this number.

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY LEVEL

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Social Vulnerability Index (CDC ATSDR SVI) states, "Every community must prepare for and respond to hazardous events and a number of factors, including poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing may weaken a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster."

Per the CDC ATSDR SVI, North Dakota has around 13 counties at a low level of concern for vulnerability. An additional 13 counties are considered at a low-medium vulnerability, 13 others at a medium-high concern, and 14 more with a high level of vulnerability. Further, the SVI themes of socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing type/transportation vary per county and should be monitored to address the overall social vulnerability. These reported levels are based on 2020 data.

WORKING TOGETHER

We know that healthy communities, families, and individuals are vital to the success of our state now and in the future. We believe members of our communities want the best health outcomes for themselves, each other, and all North Dakotans. By promoting informed health decisions and trusting one another and our communities, we can achieve a healthier North Dakota.

Wellness vaccines are an essential part of preventative health care and disease eradication. Keeping up to date with immunizations helps lead all of us to the best possible health outcomes for our state.

Now that you have reviewed detailed information regarding our state's vaccine coverage rates for the latest quarter of 2023, as well as recent data on children's health and well-being and social vulnerability levels, we want to work more closely with you to make progress toward achieving the ambitious goals set forth by the [Healthy People Initiative](#) and addressing concerns related to child health and social vulnerability.

Our first step is our aforementioned storytelling project. Our goal is to collaborate with your community and help build your capacity for public health work by providing you with the knowledge and insight gained through the stories we gather. We also hope to support defining and achieving collective action that will lead to positive health impacts.

JOIN THE COALITION

We are building a [statewide coalition](#) where the local community is at the center of everything we do. We're planning educational opportunities, public health messaging support tailored to your community, additional resources, and our staff and partners' support to spotlight your work toward a healthier North Dakota.

We welcome you to [join the coalition](#) by visiting our website to receive all of the member benefits listed above and more as we continue to build and grow.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We thank you for your consideration and hope we can connect to discuss further how The Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota can support your public health goals.

Please visit our website at foundationnd.org for more information, to join the coalition, and to [contact us](#) with questions.





FOUNDATION
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DATA DISCLAIMER

Data referenced in this report is current through the end of February 2024.