



Community Health Profile

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites are major causes of death, disability, and social and economic disruption for millions of people worldwide. Nearly 70,000 Americans die each year from infectious diseases. Effective public health interventions, such as immunizations and improved sanitation, have significantly decreased infectious disease deaths in the U.S. since the early 20th century. However, trends since the 1980s, including new and re-emerging infections, antibiotic resistance, and increased global travel, have raised the importance of continued vigilance with respect to infectious diseases.

KEY FACTS

There is increasing concern about the health risk posed by new and re-emerging diseases such as COVID-19.

Many children have fallen behind on routine immunizations since the COVID-19 pandemic, and rates of conscientious objection have increased.

The chlamydia rate has decreased in Dakota County residents.

Tuberculosis (TB) cases and contact investigations have become more complex.

Reportable infectious diseases

- In 2021, 2,480 cases of infectious diseases in Dakota County residents were reported to the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Many infectious diseases are not reportable and some that are reportable, like sexually transmitted infections, may go undetected.

Immunizations

- Fourteen immunization series are currently recommended for children birth -18 years. Seven are required for school entry in Minnesota.
- From 87-94 percent of Dakota County kindergarteners and 86-97 percent of 7th grade students were protected by each of the required immunizations, according to parent report for the 2022-2023 school year. Three - five percent of kindergarteners and two - four percent of 7th graders are not vaccinated with at least one vaccine due to conscientious objection.
- In 2023, 62 percent of Dakota County children aged 24-35 months are up-to-date on all seven required immunizations, slightly below the state (63 percent), and a decrease from 68 percent in 2019.

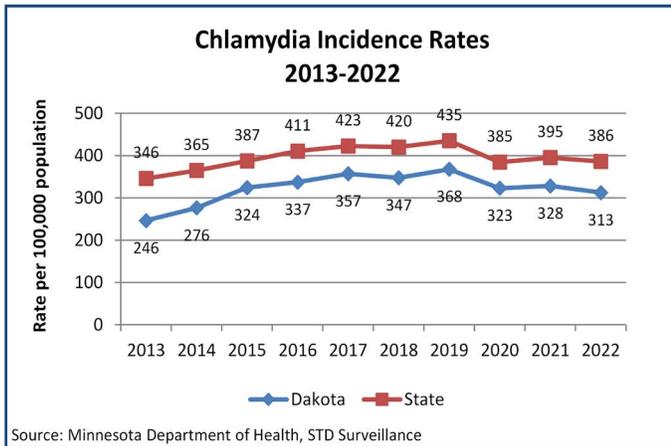
Diseases preventable by immunization

- Pertussis (whooping cough): In 2023, there were two confirmed and probable cases reported in Dakota County residents, three percent of the total cases reported in Minnesota.
- Measles: 22 cases reported in Minnesota from 2019-2023. Minnesota experienced its largest outbreak since 1990 in 2017 (75 cases). There has been one measles case reported in Dakota County since 2013.
- Mumps: eight confirmed and probable cases reported in Dakota County residents from 2017 to 2021.



Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

- In 2021, 1,991 cases of STDs were reported in Dakota County residents, excluding AIDS/HIV.
- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STD, with 1,386 cases reported in Dakota County residents in 2022. The rate increased by 27 percent from 2013 to 2022.
- There were 423 cases of gonorrhea reported in Dakota County residents in 2022. The rate increased by 171 percent since 2013. The largest number of cases ever reported was 116 in 2020.



Cervical cancer

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) can cause changes in cells which increase the risk of cervical cancer. In 2023, 31 percent of Dakota County adolescents aged 13-19 were fully vaccinated for HPV, slightly above the state (29 percent).
- In 2020, 77 percent of Minnesota women aged 21-65 said they had a Pap test to detect cervical cancer in the previous three years, slightly below the national goal of 79 percent and slightly below U.S. overall rate (78 percent).

AIDS/HIV

- In 2022, there were 13 newly diagnosed cases of HIV or AIDS reported in Dakota County residents. The incidence rate was stable from 2018 to 2022 and below the state rate in 2022.
- In 2022, 562 Dakota County residents were living with HIV or AIDS (319 HIV, 243 AIDS). The rate increased from 2018 to 2022, but is below the state in 2022.
- Fourteen Dakota County residents died due to AIDS from 2011 to 2020.

Tuberculosis (TB)

- In 2022, there were 23 cases of active TB and 41 cases of latent TB infection that were managed by Dakota County Public Health.
- In 2021, 11 percent of new culture-confirmed cases in Minnesota residents that were tested were resistant to at least one first-line TB drug.

Seasonal influenza

- On average, 9-41 million people in the U.S. get seasonal influenza every year.
- Seventy-four percent of Minnesota adults 65 and older reported having a flu shot in the previous year (2022), compared to 68 percent nationwide.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 51 percent of Dakota County adults (18 and over) were fully immunized against the seasonal flu in the 2020-21 influenza season.

COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

- In 2019, a new coronavirus was identified as the cause of a severe acute respiratory syndrome that first appeared in China. This novel virus caused the largest global pandemic in over a century.
- As of December 31, 2023, there have been 773.8 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and seven million deaths globally.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared an end to the global public health emergency on May 5, 2023.
- From March 5, 2020 - May 5, 2023, there were 138,427 confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 in Dakota County and 926 deaths (44 percent were people living in long-term care facilities). COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in 2021.
- A total of 6,592 Dakota County residents were hospitalized (916 in the intensive care unit) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Twenty percent of the Dakota County population were up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine series and boosters as of December 19, 2023.

For more information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us
- World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int/en
- American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org

The Dakota County Public Health Department is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, email public.health@co.dakota.mn.us or call 651.554.6100.

