**COVID-19 Response and Impacts of the Pandemic** Presentation to the 2022 Dakota Conference

Dr. Nizar Wehbi, ND State Health Officer

NORTH Health Be Legendary.™

June 9, 2022

#### **AGENDA**

- Introduction
- COVID-19 response summary
- 3 Moving toward an endemic state | Looking forward
- 4 Public health concerns
- 5 ND immunization rates and data

## ND DOH COVID-19 response summary over a 29-month period (March 2020 – June 2022)



#### **Collaboration**

- Partnered with 28 ND state agencies
- Hired over 900 temporary employees
- Partnered with 677 different locations to provide COVID-19 testing



#### **Vaccines and treatment**

- 1.08M COVID-19 vaccine doses administered
- 293 MAB-antiviral missions completed
- 2,198 DoH vaccine events held, plus support to 389 non-DoH vaccine events



#### **Testing**

- 7,243 testing missions completed
- 5,634 courier missions completed
- 1,727,857 PCR tests completed by the DoH public health lab
- 650,000 over-the-counter/home COVID-19 tests distributed to community distribution sites

## The pandemic response strengthened our collaboration and highlighted new opportunities

- Held regular meetings with hospitals (CMO/CNO).
- Established **VP3 task force** to focus on vulnerable populations.
- Strengthened communication and partnerships with local public health.
- Established Tribal Health Directors meetings; added four tribal liaisons to the DoH.
- Developed connections with **Universities** for research and support (e.g.: Campus ambassador program).
- Enhanced health equity emphasis, with expanded access to education and care.



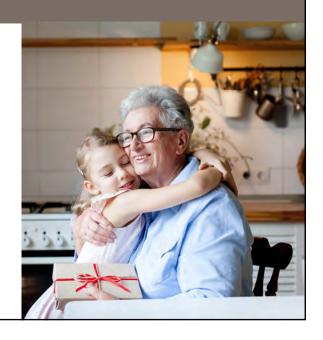
onnections with **Universities** for research and

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic in 2020. A pandemic occurs when there is an increase in cases of a disease across the globe.

**An endemic occurs** when the disease is present but there are no large shifts in case counts and the patterns of infection become more stable.

#### What is different now?

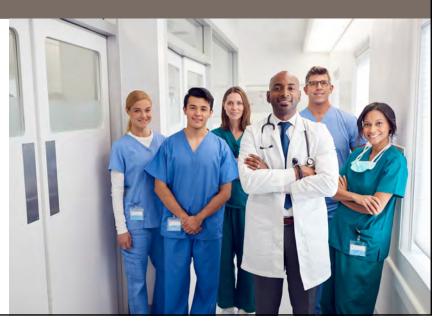
- More research, we know more
- Availability of vaccines; protect the most vulnerable
- Access to monoclonal antibodies and antivirals
- Distribution of at-home test kits



5

#### COVID-19: Looking forward

- Empower people to have information and resources to make informed decisions.
- Learn from this response and prepare for future public health emergencies.
- Maintain operational readiness to respond.
- **Sustain** capacity and capabilities.



# Throughout the COVID-19 response period, there has been a decline in other public health areas

#### • Increase in tobacco use

- Increase in estimated prevalence of cigarette use and smokeless tobacco in ND from BRFSS from 2019 to 2020.
- · Decline in routine checkups with provider
  - BRFSS respondents in ND who had visited a provider in the last year declined in 2020.
- Significant increase in North Dakotans reporting being overweight from 35.7% to 37.6% in 2019 and 2020, respectively.
- **Decrease in utilization of oral healthcare** and dentist visits among North Dakotans.
- · Increase in intentional self-harm
- Increase in substance abuse
- Increase in STI and reduced STD screening rates

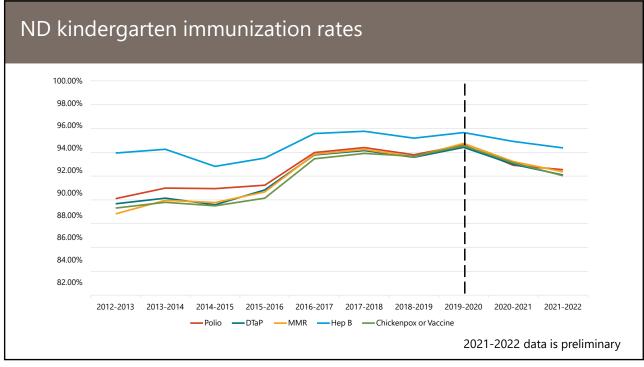


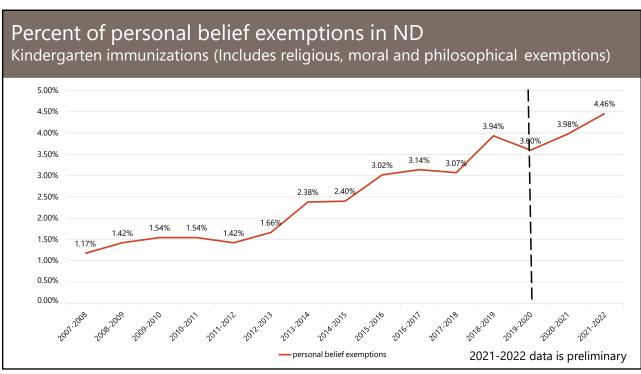
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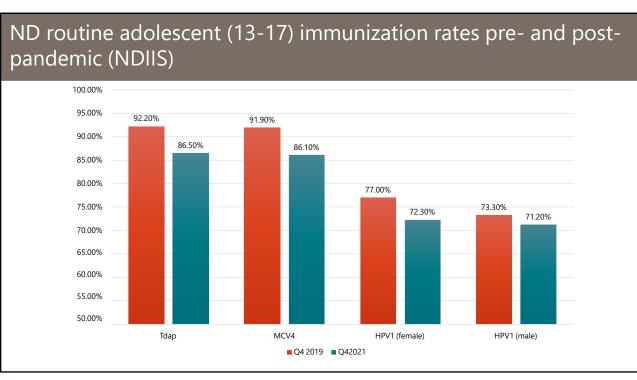
#### Decline in routine wellness vaccines

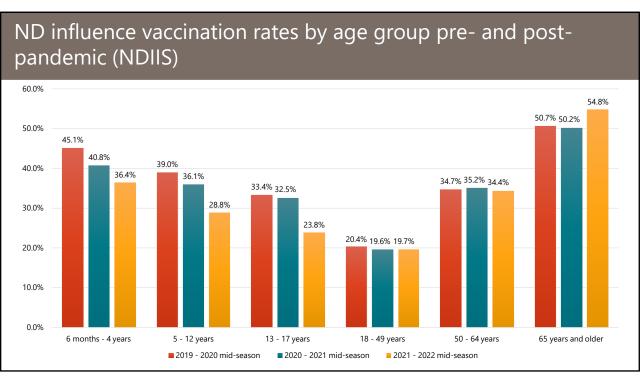
- Infant MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccination rates declined more than 6%.
- Adolescent Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) also declined 6%.
- Pediatric influenza vaccination rates have also declined.
- Declines in rates are not due to hesitancy.
- Health care providers and local public health should implement best practices to increase immunization rates now.













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15

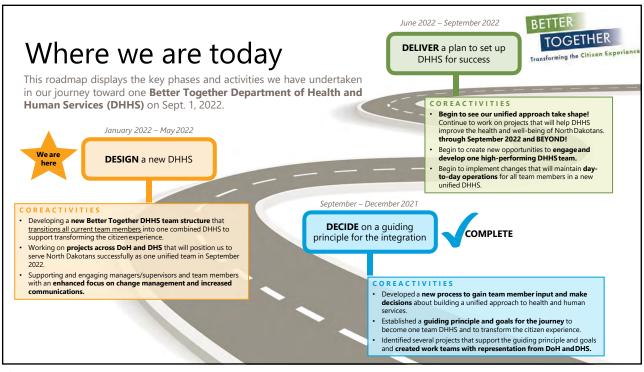


**DHHS Integration Update**Presentation to the 2022 Dakota Conference

Chris Jones, Executive Director - DHS June 9, 2022







#### Guiding our Better Together journey toward One Team DHHS

#### **Guiding Principle**

North Dakota becomes the healthiest state in the nation by reinforcing the foundations of well-being

#### **Integration Goals**

- 1. Deliver **one streamlined path** to quality and equitable programs and services
- 2. Continue to improve **quality, effective and efficient** health and human services
- Create career growth and development opportunities for team members and build a new one-team culture

#### **Example Objectives**

- Simplify the customer journey to DHHS programs
- Improve timeliness and access to services
  - Define an agreed-upon culture; create the foundation for a workplace that honors autonomy and empowers individuals to contribute

Over the coming months, we will work together to develop a vision for a unified DHHS.

19

#### Integration workstreams

Six workstreams are supporting more than **50 projects** identified to be accomplished as part of the integration.



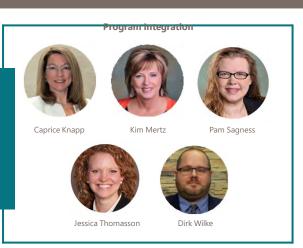








The program integration workstream is developing a high-level roadmap and timeline, and identifying high-priority projects for the program integration initiatives.



21

# **Our approach** to designing the future DHHS organizational structure



- √ Transform health and human services for North Dakotans.
- ✓ Follow our guiding principle to become the healthiest state in the nation by reinforcing the foundations of well-being.
- ✓ Ensure every team member has a role in the new organization.

### The new Division of Behavioral Health will **build on our existing foundation of progress** to transform services for North Dakotans

- Drive innovation and transform services to support the growing need for behavioral health care services.
- Incorporate health care industry best practices into our work on behalf of North Dakotans.
- Identify additional areas where we can proactively improve processes.





Thank you

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25



#### **Behavioral Health Update**

Presentation to the 2022 Dakota Conference

Pamela Sagness, Behavioral Health Executive Director June 9, 2022



Behavioral Health

# AGENDA 1 Behavioral Health Basics 2 Key Behavioral Health Initiatives 3 New Behavioral Health Legislative Action

Foundations of Well-being

27

4

# What is Behavioral Health? A state of mental/emotional being and/or choices and actions that affect WELLNESS. Preventing and reating substance depression and anxiety Promoting overall well-being Supporting recovery Creating healthy communities Promoting overall well-being Promoting overall well-being Promoting overall well-being Promoting overall well-being



#### Why is Behavioral Health Important?

**-**\\

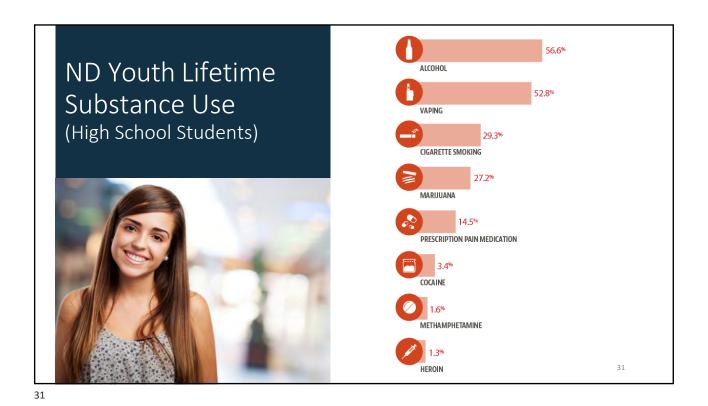
Persons with behavioral health disorders die, on average, about 5 years earlier than persons without these disorders.



Persons with serious mental illness (SMI) are now dying 25 years earlier than the general population

(Druss BG, et al. Understanding Excess Mortality in Persons With Mental Illness: 17-YearFollow Up of a Nationally Representative USSurvey. Medical Care 2011; 49(6), 599–604.)





2011

2013

2015

2017

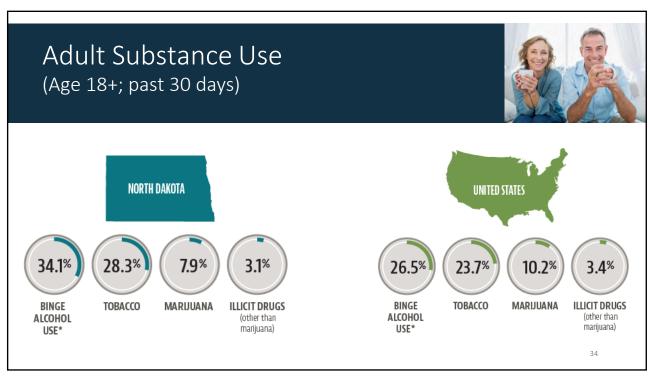
2019

1999

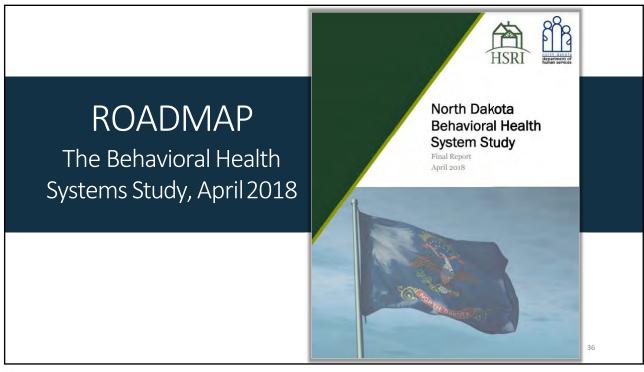
2001

2003

2005







#### North Dakota Behavioral Health System Study RECOMMENDATIONS

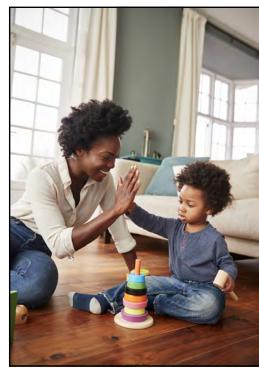
The 250-page report provides more than 65 recommendations in 13 categories.

1. Develop a comprehensive implementation plan

- 2. Invest in prevention and early intervention
- 3. Ensure all North Dakotans have timely access to behavioral health services
- 4. Expand outpatient and community-based service array
- 5. Enhance and streamline system of care for children and youth
- 6. Continue to implement/refine criminal justice strategy
- Engage in targeted efforts to recruit/retain competent behavioral health workforce
- 8. Expand the use of tele-behavioral health
- 9. Ensure the system reflects its values of person-centeredness, cultural competence, trauma-informed approaches
- Encourage and support the efforts of communities to promote high-quality services
- 11. Partner with tribal nations to increase health equity
- 12. Diversify and enhance funding for behavioral health
- 13. Conduct ongoing, system-side data-driven monitoring of needs and access

37

37



#### **KEY INITIATIVES**

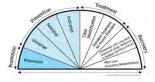
Behavioral Health



Behavioral Health

38

# Keys to Reforming North Dakota's Behavioral Health System



Support the full Continuum of Care



Increase Community-Based Services



Prevent Criminal Justice Involvement for Individuals with a Behavioral Health Condition

39



#### Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher

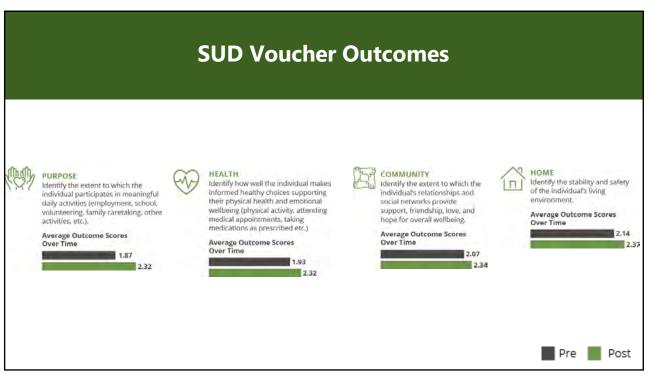
**GOAL:** Improve access to quality services



20+ Substance Use Disorder Treatment
Programs are providing services through
the SUD Voucher.



**5000+ individuals** have been approved since inception of the SUD Voucher program.



#### 1915i State Plan Amendment

2020. (SB 2175)



The amendment allows North Dakota Medicaid to pay for additional home and community-based services to support individuals with behavioral health conditions.

#### **Individual Eligibility**

#### Services

- The individual is age 0+; and
- The individual is currently enrolled in ND Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion; and
- The individual resides in and will receive services in a setting meeting the federal home and community-based setting requirements, and
- The individual has a mental illness, substance use disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis
  - The individual has a functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or substantially limits the ability to function in the family, school or community setting, as evidenced by a complex score of 50 or higher on the WHODAS 2.0.
- Care Coordination
- Training and Supports for Unpaid Caregivers
- Community Transitional Services
- Benefits Planning
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Respite
- Prevocational Training
- Supported Education
- Supported EmploymentHousing Support Services
- Family Peer Support
- Peer Support

#### Outcomes of 1915i Implementation

- Individuals with highest need receive services that are more robust and targeted to their specific needs (person-centered).
- By leveraging other funds, the state is investing less funding yet providing more service to individuals with a behavioral health condition and providing opportunities for providers to expand services.
- Providers are able to bill for the specific services they are providing which allows greater opportunity to expand services and increase revenue.
- Behavioral health on par with health & sustainable.

45

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Since February 2017 has served 4,274 individuals Currently serving 1233 individuals across North Dakota

#### Individual Eligibility

- · 18 years of age or older
- Involved in criminal justice system
- · At risk for future criminal justice involvement
- · Identified behavioral health condition

Since February 2021 has served 2,475 individuals Currently serving 1.494 individuals across North Dakota



#### Individual Eligibility

- · 18 years of age or older
- Have a MH or SUD impacting functionality in domains including housing, employment, parenting, physical health, and community connections
- Priority for parents/caregivers or at risk of homelessness, CPS involvement, utilization of ER/Detox



The ND 66th Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 2012 giving the Behavioral Health Division authority to develop and implement a program for the certification of peer support specialists.

Administrative Rules 75-03-43 were promulgated and outlines the requirements and process for two levels of Peer Support Specialist certification:

- Certified Peer Support Specialist I (CPSS I)
  - 115 CPSS I (as of June 6, 2022)
- Certified Peer Support Specialist II (CPSS II)
  - 21 CPSS II (as of June 6, 2022)

Since 2018 the Behavioral Health Division hosted 27 **trainings** and trained **716 individuals**.

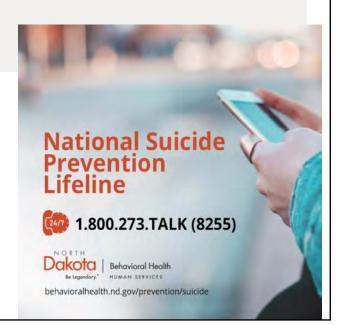
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47



9-8-8

Currently planning for the rollout of 9-8-8, a new, nationwide, three-digit phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline that will launch by the summer of 2022.



2.4

#### Goals of the **Behavioral Health School Grant**

identifying prevention and early intervention services that have no other funding source

using funds to reimburse clinical or treatment services that are effective but not currently covered services



filling gaps in service coverage for populations that do not qualify for other forms of reimbursement

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Public or private elementary or secondary schools
- Utilized ND State Medicaid reimbursement during the previous school year



HUMAN SERVICES

Look for the 2022-2023 school year applications in late summer 2022!

49

#### Free Online Suicide Prevention Training

Sign up to receive FREE evidence-based, online, role-playing simulation to:

- learn to recognize the signs of distress
- use conversation to approach a student
- and discuss concerns, and if, necessary, refer parents/students to the appropriate resources.

#### How to Access the Simulation





LEARN MORE AT behavioralhealth.nd.gov /education/kognito

Dakota | Behavioral Health



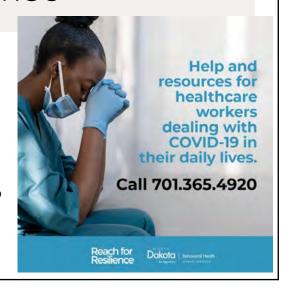
#### Reach for Resilience

Partnership with Sanford Health to respond to pandemic-related stressors for health care workers.

Reach for Resilience was created by healthcare workers for healthcare workers to respond to all of the pandemic-related challenges in our lives.

The service is free, confidential and open to all healthcare workers in North Dakota.

Call 701-365-4920 www.Reach4ResilienceND.com



51



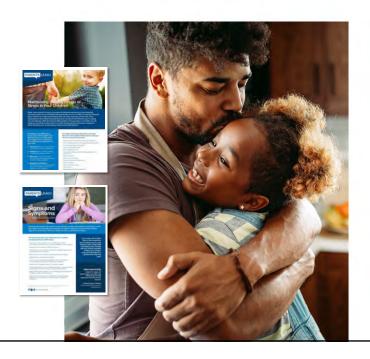
#### Parents Lead

#### Mission

To support parents in promoting the behavioral health of their children.



Find resources to support the behavioral health of children! www.parentslead.org





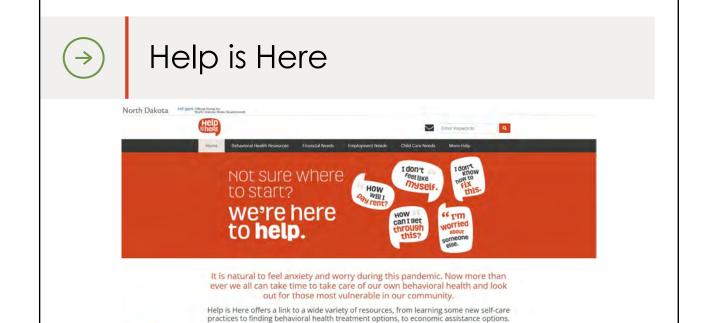
#### Recovery Talk

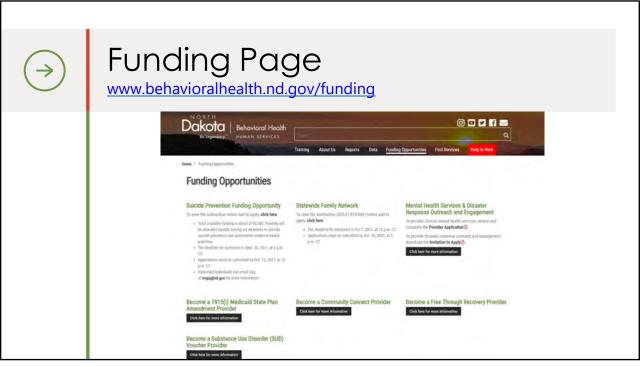
#### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU CONTACT 24/7 RECOVERY TALK

If you don't know where to begin getting help with addiction for yourself or someone you know—start here. **call or <u>text</u>** 701-291-7901 to speak to a trained peer support specialist with lived experience in addiction to chat and receive support.

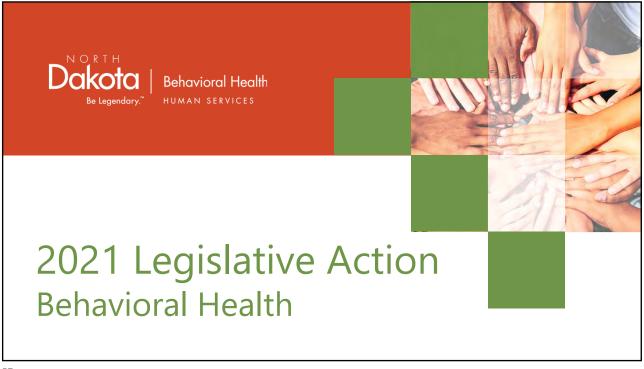


53













#### Section 23. Person-First Language

A new section to chapter 1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

#### Person-first language.

The provisions of this code, unless the context otherwise requires, must be construed in person-first language and any new enactments of this code must be written in person-first language.

59



#### Section 27. Behavioral Health Bed Management

A new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

#### Behavioral health bed management system.

The department shall establish and maintain a behavioral health bed management system to improve utilization of behavioral health bed capacity. Public and private providers of residential or inpatient behavioral health services shall participate in and report daily to the department the information and documentation necessary to maintain the behavioral health bed management system in the form and manner prescribed by the department.





# SB 2161: Creation of Mental Health Program Registry

A new section to chapter 50-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Mental health program registry.

The department shall establish and maintain a registry of mental health programs in the state. A mental health program shall provide the information and documentation necessary to the department at least annually in the form and manner prescribed by the department. The department shall make the registry available to the public on the department's website.

#### REINFORCE THE FOUNDATIONS OF WELL-BEING







Behavioral Health





63

#### THE SCIENCE



Socioecological Model



Risk/Protection Factors



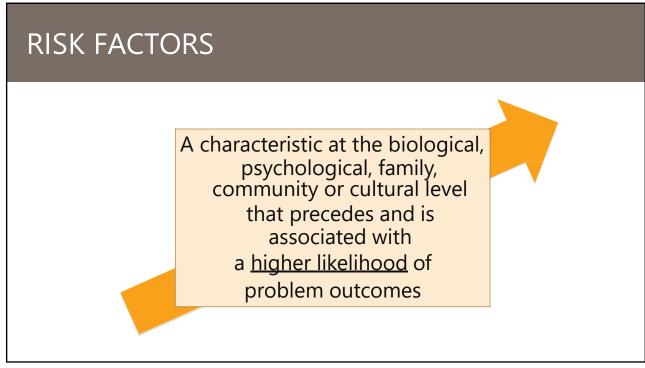
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



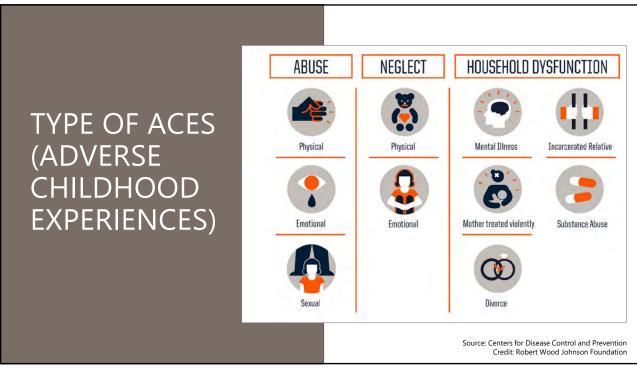
Social Determinants of Health



Resilience



PROTECTIVE FACTORS Risk factors increase the likelihood young people will develop health and social problems. Protective factors help buffer young people with high levels of risk factors from developing health DOMAIN · Low community attachment Risk and protective · Community disorganisation - Opportunities for prosocial involvement in the Community transitions and mobility
 Personal transitions and mobility factors impacting · Recognition of prosocial involvement · Laws and norms favourable to drug use • Exposure to evidence-based programs and · Perceived availability of drugs strategies (some are measured in youth survey) - Economic disadvantage healthy development (not measured in youth survey) · Poor family management and discipline · Attachment and bonding to family of children and · Family conflict - Opportunities for prosocial involvement in the · A family history of antisocial behaviour family · Favourable parental attitudes to the problem - Recognition of prosocial involvement adolescents. · Academic failure (low academic achievement) · Opportunities for prosocial involvement in school · Low commitment to school - Recognition of prosocial involvement - Bullying · Rebelliousness · Early initiation of problem behaviour Impulsiveness · Social skills · Antisocial behaviour · Belief in the moral order · Favourable attitudes toward problem behaviour · Emotional control · Interaction with friends involved in problem - Interaction with prosocial peers - Sensation seeking - Rewards for antisocial involvement



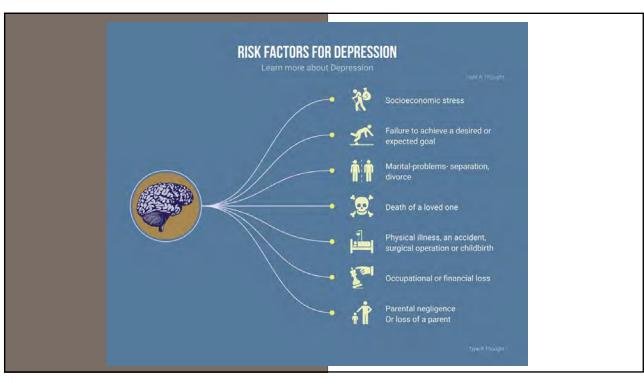
Risk factors	Protective factors
Mental illness Previous suicide attempt Serious physical illness/chronic pain Specific symptoms Family history of mental illness and suicide History of childhood trauma Shame/despair Aggression/impulsivity Triggering event Access to lethal means Suicide exposure Inflexible thinking Genes: stress and mood	Social support Connectedness Strong therapeutic alliance Access to mental health care Positive attitude to mental health treatment Coping skills Problem solving skills Cultural/religious beliefs Biological/psychological resilience

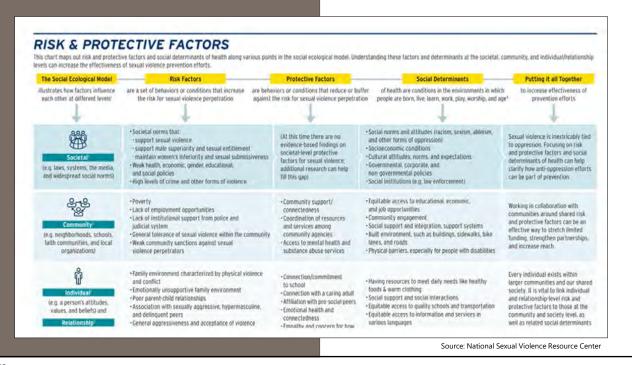
#### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, grow and age, and in which we live and work.



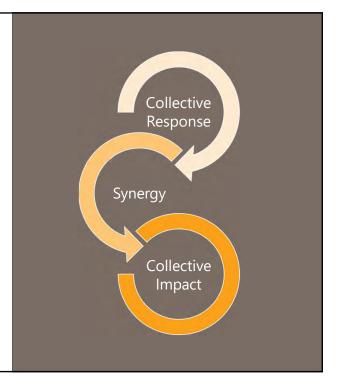
71







By focusing on shared risk factors or shared protective factors, we benefit from a collective response.



75



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