

NORTH DAKOTA VITAL SIGNS



North Dakota received one of only four funding opportunities nationwide to help define performance measures important in rural settings. The North Dakota Rural EMS Counts project prioritized five areas for targeted performance improvement initiatives: Cardiac, Stroke, Pain Management, Vital Signs and Safety. In April 2022, the ND Rural EMS Counts Index was released with the statewide baseline performance for all areas. This document dives deep into findings on Vital Signs.

JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2022 TIME PERIOD	54,557 TOTAL RECORDS	40,318 TOTAL 911 RECORDS	34,057 TOTAL 911 RECORDS WITH PATIENT CONTACT
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DOCUMENTED SET OF VITAL SIGNS

A complete set of vital signs includes documentation of each of the following:



**GLASGOW
COMA SCALE
(GCS)**



**PULSE
RATE
(PR)**



**RESPIRATORY
RATE
(RR)**

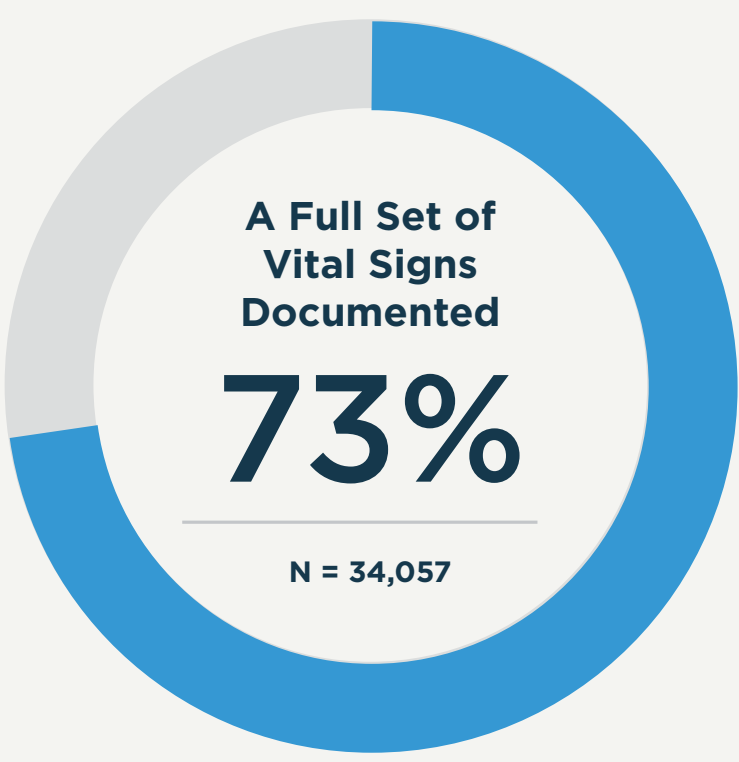


**SYSTOLIC BLOOD
PRESSURE
(SBP)**



**PULSE
OXIMETRY
(SpO2)**

OVERALL



Vitals documented 24,702	Vitals NOT documented 9,327
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PERCENT OF VITAL SIGNS MISSING



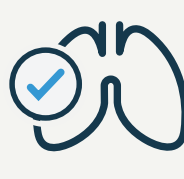


14%	MISSING 1 VITAL SIGN
4%	MISSING 2 VITAL SIGNS
3%	MISSING 3 VITAL SIGNS
1%	MISSING 4 VITAL SIGNS
5%	MISSING all 5 VITAL SIGNS

TOP 5 PRIMARY IMPRESSIONS

Those missing a full set of vitals noted the following primary impressions:

1	NO COMPLAINTS OR INJURY/ILLNESS NOTED	618
2	INJURY	485
3	GENERALIZED WEAKNESS	456
4	BEHAVIORAL/PSYCHIATRIC EPISODE	433
5	ALCOHOL USE	321

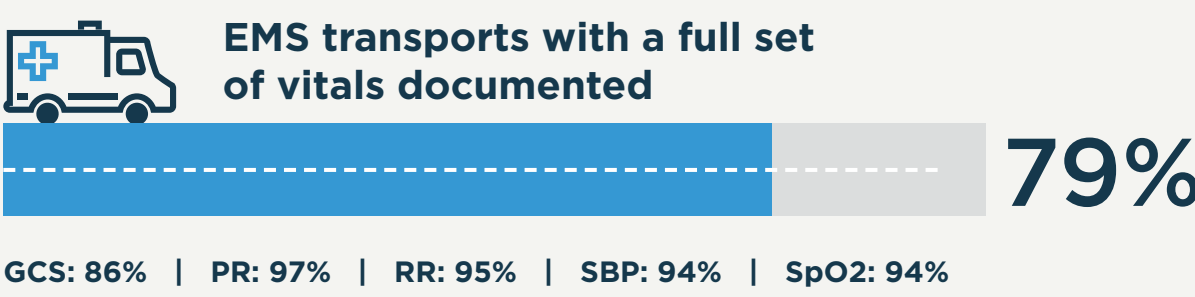
VITAL SIGNS DOCUMENTATION BREAKDOWN

84%	90%	90%	86%	88%
				
GLASGOW COMA SCALE	PULSE RATE	RESPIRATORY RATE	SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE	PULSE OXIMETRY

An additional 9% had the Alert, Voice, Pain, Unresponsive (AVPU) scale documented, while 7% did not have GCS or AVPU documented.

TRANSPORTS VS. NON-TRANSPORTS

Non-transport dispositions included: “Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required,” “Patient Treated, Released (AMA),” and “Patient Treated, Released (per Protocol).”

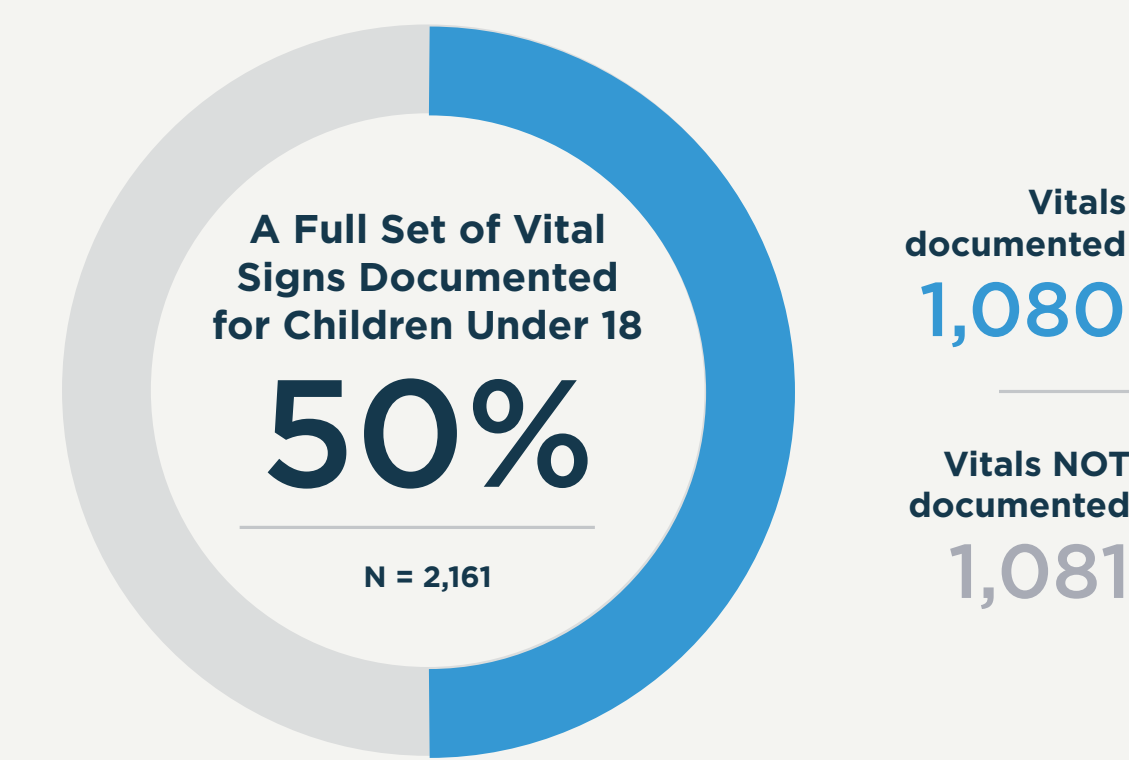


GCS: 86% | PR: 97% | RR: 95% | SBP: 94% | SpO2: 94%



GCS: 84% | PR: 74% | RR: 81% | SBP: 64% | SpO2: 69%

PEDIATRICS



Vitals documented 1,080	Vitals NOT documented 1,081
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<5 YEARS N = 681	5-11 YEARS N = 419	12-17 YEARS N = 1,061
GCS: 76% PR: 77% RR: 79% SBP: 27% SPO2: 69%	GCS: 84% PR: 80% RR: 84% SBP: 61% SPO2: 75%	GCS: 83% PR: 86% RR: 89% SBP: 81% SPO2: 83%

INSIGHTS



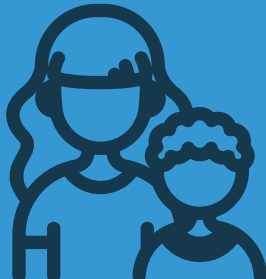
1-IN-5 EMS ENCOUNTERS IS MISSING AT LEAST ONE VITAL SIGN.

Consider training related to the Glasgow Coma Scale score in particular.



VITAL SIGN CAPTURE IS LOWER FOR NON- TRANSPORT PATIENTS.

This capture is key for safely allowing patients to stay in their homes or considering alternative dispositions.



VITAL SIGN CAPTURE IS LOWER AMONG PEDIATRIC PATIENTS.

Agencies should ensure appropriate-sized equipment to assess blood pressure and pulse oximetry.

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