The Maternal Serum Screening Lab and Prenatal Diagnosis Center provides comprehensive prenatal screening, genetic counseling, diagnostic procedures, including chorionic villus sampling (CVS), amniocentesis, fetal blood sampling, comprehensive ultrasound, and educational outreach and services to community providers and their patients across the state. The Prenatal Diagnosis Center provides primary core laboratory services for quad screen testing for three of North Carolina’s six perinatal care regions. The lab processes more than 5,000 quad screen samples annually. This number includes virtually all women receiving prenatal care at community health centers and health departments in the eastern half of the state. The population screened is 39.2% Hispanic, 32.0% African-American, 23.5% Caucasian, 1.2% American Indian, 2.7% Southeast Asian, and the remaining 1.4% are either unknown or from another background. Of the quad screens performed, approximately 5.3% screened positive for Down syndrome and 2.4% screened positive for open neural tube defects on initial screen. Many more women with pregnancies complicated by fetal anomalies receive care at UNC as part of a high-risk, tertiary care prenatal referral system and through identification in routine ultrasound services. The Prenatal Diagnosis Center has two locations—one at the Women’s Hospital on the UNC main campus and one at the Rex Women’s Specialty Center—with five Board Certified Genetic Counselors and one Board Certified Clinical Geneticist who provide approximately 3,000 pre-conceptual or prenatal counseling visits annually.

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