

Washington State Department of Health



School Immunization Status Report

Notes on the use and interpretation of the data

Data Sources

These data are submitted by all public and private schools, daycares and preschools by November 1 of each school year in accordance with RCW28A.210-110 and WAC 246-105-060. Once submitted, data are converted into an electronically readable form and assessed for accuracy and completeness. In no case is any data imputed or changed by the Department of Health. Where obviously erroneous data is submitted, schools are asked to re-submit their data or are counted as non-reporters. Other than that, all data summarized is as directly reported to the Department of health.

Each report requires school nurses or administrative staff to count information received from parents attesting to the student's immunization status. For a complete description of the forms, status and immunization requirements please see our immunization nursing FAQ.

Vaccine Definitions

Diphtheria/Tetanus For Kindergarten and 6th grade, the number of students who are "incomplete" and K-12 students the number who have a completed COE exempting them from immunization requirements against diphtheria and tetanus disease.

Pertussis For Kindergarten and 6th grade, the number of students who are "incomplete" and K-12 students the number who have a completed COE exempting them from immunization requirements against whooping cough.

Polio For Kindergarten and 6th grade, the number of students who are "incomplete" and K-12 students the number who have a completed COE exempting them from immunization requirements against polio.

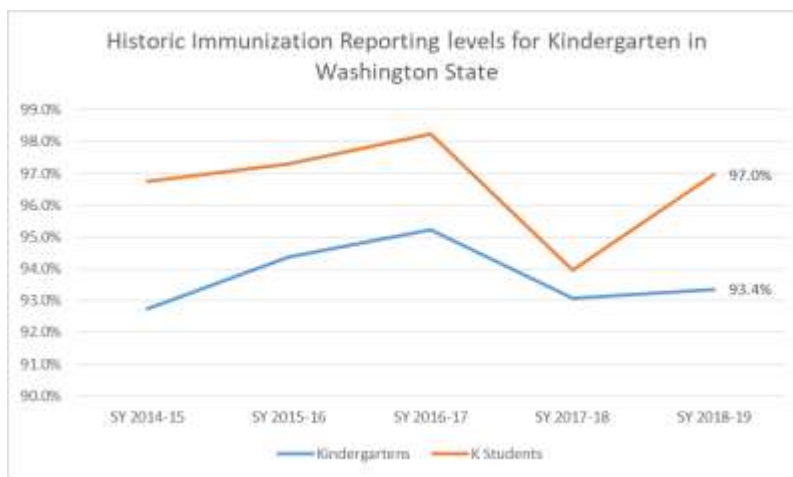
Hepatitis B For Kindergarten and 6th grade, the number of students who are "incomplete" and K-12 students the number who have a completed COE exempting them from immunization requirements against hepatitis B.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella For Kindergarten and 6th grade, the number of students who are "incomplete" and K-12 students the number who have a completed COE exempting them from immunization requirements against measles, mumps and rubella diseases.

Varicella For Kindergarten and 6th grade, the number of students who are "incomplete" and K-12 students the number who have a completed COE exempting them from immunization requirements against chicken pox.

Caveats

- There are a number of schools that are not required to report such as online schools, prison-based schools and tribal schools. Where these schools have submitted reports despite the fact that they aren't required to, they are summarized here. In addition, several schools fail to report for various reasons and several schools not yet registered with the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) may also submit reports. This variance in the total number of schools and total enrollment from official OSPI data should be noted and considered when comparing these data.
- The percentage of schools that report varies each year. This variance has not been studied to determine if specific sub-groups of schools are under- or over-represented by this variance. Although the average percentage is above 90%, the users of this data should be aware of missing data in the summaries.



- Each year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend changes to the required doses for immunizations. When these changes affect vaccines required for admission to school, they may affect parent's ability to respond before November 1st. In addition, legislative and rule changes may affect the forms and required signatures for each form. Each of these affects the comparability of these reports from year-to-year.

Notable changes include:

- Separate Certificate of Exemption required in SY 2008-09
- Healthcare provider signature required on Certificate of Exemption in SY 2012-13
- Changes in Varicella requirements in SY 2013-14
- Personal Exemptions for MMR no longer accepted in SY 2019-20

Statistics

Percentages in this report are calculated using the count of students divided by the student enrollment. The convention of using an arithmetic average provides an unbiased estimate of how well the population of students are immunized. These reports however are required of, and reported by school. Because school percentage rates are characterized by outliers using this average may be a biased estimator of how well *schools* are immunized.

The Confidence intervals of “Upper” and “Lower” are provided along with each percentage to provide the reader with an appropriate caution or uncertainty of how “average” the metric is.