

Overview

Childhood immunization data for Washington state are available primarily from three* sources: the Washington Immunization Information System (WA IIS), school immunization requirement reports, and the National Immunization Survey (NIS) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

These sources are not directly comparable. The Department of Health uses all of them for different reasons. No one source on immunizations is complete by itself. Each is applicable to certain situations.

WA IIS: Lifetime registry that tracks immunization records for people in Washington state

- WA IIS contains over 80 million vaccination records for over 8 million unique individuals. Over 4 million new records are entered per year.
- Voluntary system used by more than 2,100 organizations, such as medical offices, hospitals, and pharmacies.
- Of children age 4 months to 5 years, 97% have at least 2 immunizations recorded in the IIS.
- Rates are calculated using active patients and valid vaccine doses.
- Gives point-in-time estimates and real-time medical record data.
- Has potential to underestimate rates.
- Used to compare vaccination coverage within the state, including small areas.

How well is the WA IIS used?

95% of CVP** providers report to the IIS

98.6% of CVP vaccine doses distributed for children are recorded in the IIS

School Reports: Allow the state and the public to track immunization rates by school, district, and more

- Counts public and private school students by immunization status in kindergarten, 6th grade and K-12 as reported by December 31 of each school year.
- About 95% of schools in Washington report to the system in most years.
- Student immunization status is based on parent reports to schools and may not be verified by a healthcare provider. The department cannot make any claims about the accuracy of the data as reported by schools.
- Summary data are not weighted and do not account for schools that did not report. (Note: Some schools did report, but reported zero kindergartners, e.g. middle and high schools).

CDC NIS: Survey that allows states to compare themselves with the national average

- Sample-based survey (random digit-dialed, confirmed with medical records).
- Uses all vaccine doses administered (whether considered valid or not).
- Annual estimates only; not timely; small sample size.
- National, state, and regional estimates can be used only for national comparisons.
- Has potential to overestimate and under-represent true vaccination coverage rates.

Important to Note

- These 3 data sources cannot be compared with each other. They also cannot be compared with other sources, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
- The CDC is working to shift the methodology of the NIS surveys so in future years they can be compared with state IIS data.

Resources

- **More about WA IIS:**
www.doh.wa.gov/waiis
- **WA school reports:**
www.doh.wa.gov/schoolreports
- **More about the NIS:**
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/nis

*Other sources of data cover adult vaccination rates and seasonal flu vaccination, which are not included here.
**CVP is the state Childhood Vaccine Program, which provides vaccine to all children in the state at no cost.