

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 31, 2024

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Immunization Program Annual Report

Dear Mr. Metzler:

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-529, the Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Human Services submits this report on the activities of the statewide Immunization Program. This report covers the time period of November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charity Menefee".

Charity Menefee
Director, Division of Public Health

Attachment

Division of Public Health

Immunization Program Annual Report

December 2024

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-529

Immunization Program Overview

The Immunization Program is funded by federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement and maintain an immunization program for eligible Nebraska children from birth through 18 years of age. Eligible children include those that are Medicaid eligible, uninsured, underinsured (their insurance specifically excludes vaccine coverage), and/or American Indian/Alaska Native children. Program activities include:

- distributing publicly funded vaccines to participating providers (currently numbering approximately 314 public and private clinics)
- providing immunization training on vaccines and vaccine management
- conducting quality assurance procedures with enrolled providers
- maintaining and enhancing the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS)
- conducting surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases
- participating in activities related to perinatal hepatitis B prevention
- assessing immunization coverage levels

In addition, the CDC provides funding to conduct similar program activities as they relate to eligible adults. The Vaccine for Adults (VFA) program currently maintains approximately 38 enrolled public clinics to assist in serving eligible adults. Eligible adults include people 19 years of age or older who are uninsured or underinsured.

Total funding from the CDC to conduct the above activities is approximately \$3.9 million each year. This total does not include previously awarded additional funding from smaller, project-specific grants, and no additional funding of this type was awarded during this report period. In addition to the federal funds, the program has approximately \$272,293 in state general funds that can be used to purchase and distribute vaccines to eligible children. This program specifically utilizes these dollars to secure vaccinations for those newborn babies who are born exposed to Hepatitis B virus.

Immunization Coverage Rates

There are a variety of mechanisms in place to monitor immunization coverage rates at both the national and state level. The National Immunization Survey (NIS) is a survey that monitors vaccination coverage rates of children 19-35 months of age and adolescents 13-17 years of age. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), is facilitated at the national level but administered at the state level and asks survey participants questions regarding health-related preventative services. While BRFSS is not directly conducted by the Immunization Program, it is a respected statistical guide that helps with the identification of effective healthcare education and delivery.

At the state level, the Immunization Program participates in two annual surveys conducted to assess the immunization status of Nebraska's children. The first survey conducted is of licensed childcare facilities within Nebraska, requesting vaccination coverage of the pre-school aged children enrolled in care. The second survey is a school survey, which asks schools to report on enrolled children in kindergarten and seventh grade.

Collectively, these surveys assist public health programs and providers across Nebraska recognize strategies that support healthy outcomes and identify areas for improvement.

The National Immunization Survey (NIS)

In April 1994, the CDC began collecting data to monitor childhood immunization coverage across the country using a standard survey methodology. This survey is conducted through the utilization of a format list-assisted random-digit-dialing telephone calls, which are followed by a mailed packet to children's immunization providers for verification. The data collected from this effort is used to monitor vaccination coverage of Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) among children and teens and evaluate program effectiveness.

Nebraska Child Care Survey (NCCS)

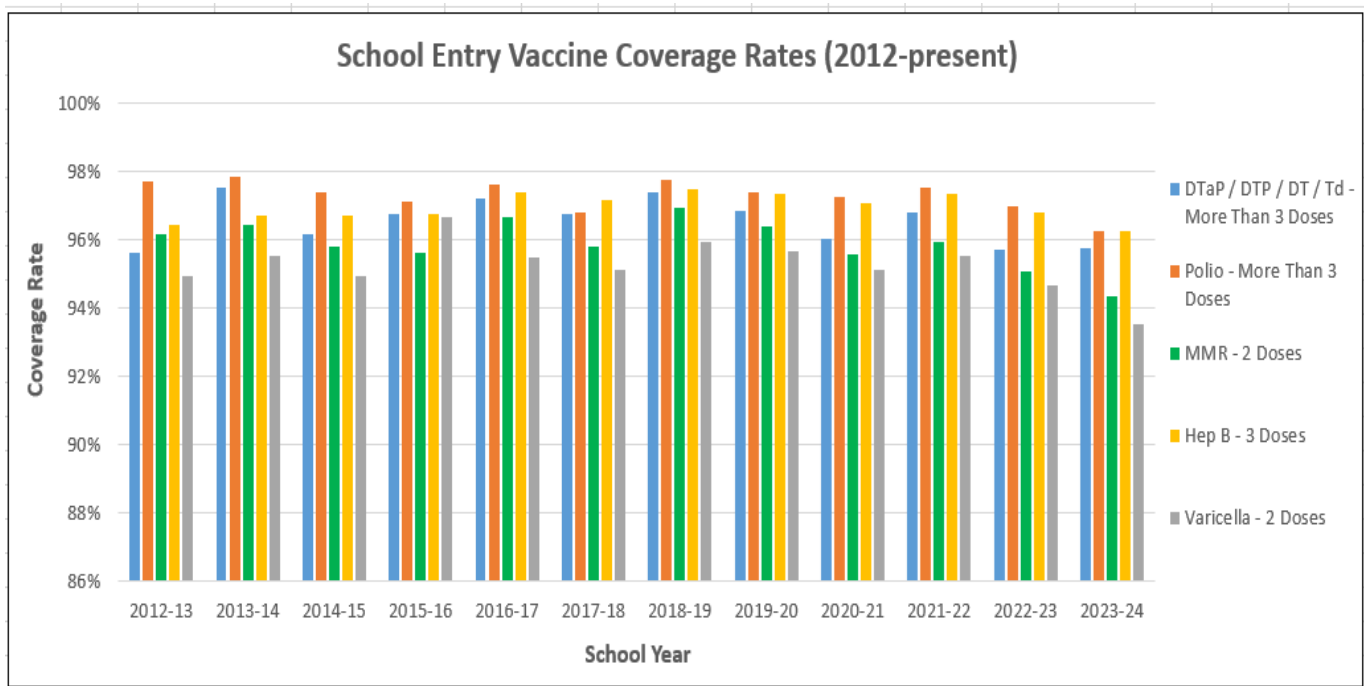
Each year, the Nebraska Immunization Program conducts a survey of licensed childcare programs in Nebraska to obtain the age-appropriate immunization status of children in their care. This survey gathers information on who has been vaccinated for DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella combined), varicella, Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b), hepatitis B, and pneumococcal disease. Survey responses are not numerated, however deidentified immunization rates of Nebraska's childcare age children, can be reviewed a through reporting mechanism found in the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS).

Nebraska School Survey (NSS)

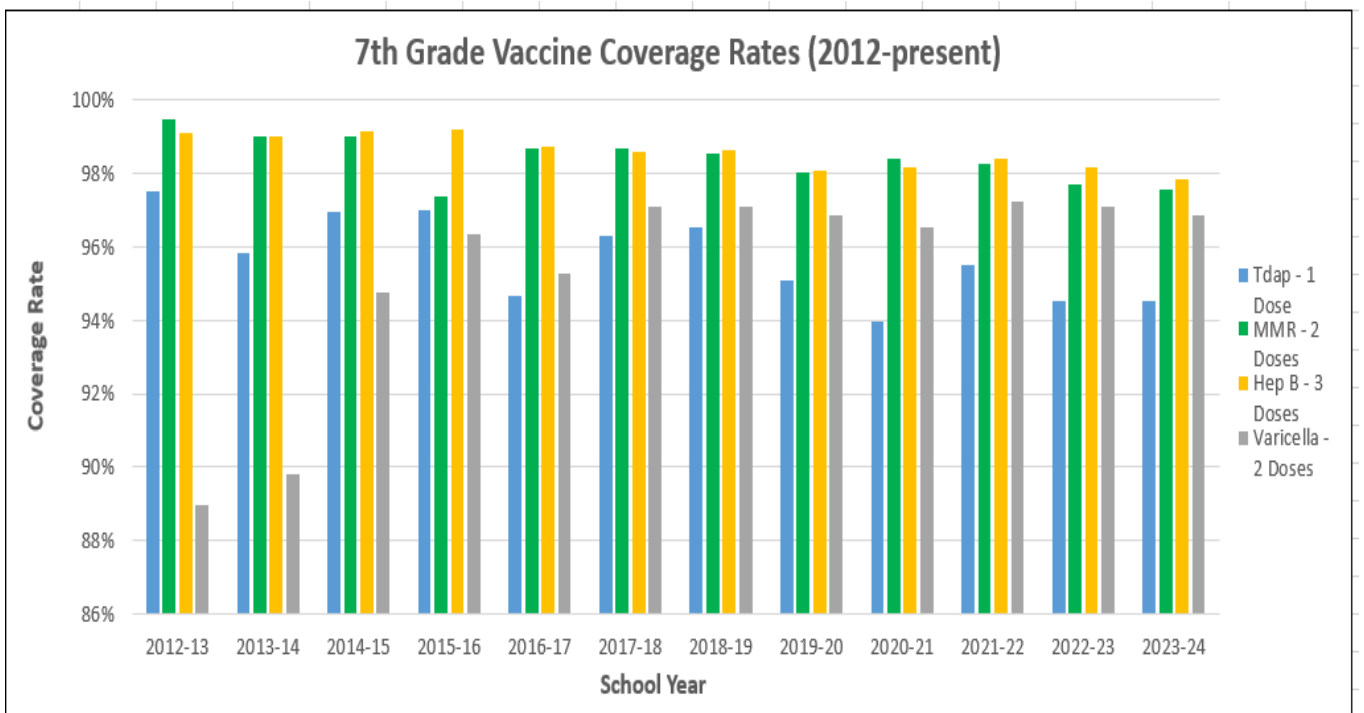
Each year, the DHHS Immunization and Epidemiology Programs conduct a survey of Nebraska schools to obtain summary information related to kindergarten and seventh grade students' immunization status. This survey gathers information on the number of children within a school who have been vaccinated for DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella combined), varicella, and hepatitis B in the case of kindergarten-aged children. School staff must report the number of seventh graders who have been vaccinated for Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), MMR, varicella, and hepatitis B. In addition, schools report the number of children who have medical or religious exemption documentation or are provisionally enrolled while completing vaccination requirements.

The school survey conducted for the 2023-2024 school year shows a 94% or higher coverage rate for both kindergartners and seventh graders for each of the vaccines mentioned above.

Vaccine Coverage Rates since 2012



Vaccine Coverage Rates since 2012



Resources:

Pingali, C., Yankey, D., Elam-Evans, L. D., Markowitz, L. E., Valier, M. R., Fredua, B., Crowe, S. J., Stokley, S., & Singleton, J. A. (2022). National vaccination coverage among adolescents aged 13–17 years — National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2022. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71(35), 1101–1108. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7135a1>