



Immunizations in Iowa 2019 Annual Report

Iowa Department of Public Health

Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans



Iowa Immunization Program

Bureau of Immunization and TB

Division of Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response, and Environmental Health (ADPER and EH)

April 10, 2020

Acknowledgements

Iowa Department of Public Health. Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis. *2019 Immunization Annual Report*. Des Moines: Iowa Department of Public Health, 2020.

<http://www.idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization>

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Executive Summary

The mission of the Iowa Immunization Program is to decrease vaccine-preventable diseases through education, advocacy and partnership. The CDC has declared vaccines one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th Century, second only to clean water. Today, the widespread use of vaccines protects all Iowans from once common infectious diseases. For every \$1 spent on each of the 11 vaccines given routinely to children, our country saves \$10.10 in medical costs by averting costs to treat diseases, saving both lives and money. Vaccines have the ability to protect babies, adolescents and adults, including pregnant women, from 27 diseases.

While immunization rates in Iowa are consistent with or exceed national averages, vaccine-preventable diseases still occur. In 2019, two cases of measles and 219 cases of pertussis were reported in the state. While immunization rates remain high, pockets of un-immunized populations leave children and their communities vulnerable to infectious diseases. Health care providers are essential stakeholders in achieving and maintaining high vaccination rates. Studies consistently indicate a health care provider's recommendation is the single strongest predictor of vaccination status. The IDPH Immunization Program provides immunization services throughout the state and includes the following programs: Adolescent Immunization, Adult Immunization, Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS), Vaccines for Children, Perinatal Hepatitis B and Immunization Assessment.

This report provides a summary of the activities and achievements of the IDPH Immunization Program and Iowa health care providers during 2019. It also serves as an annual informational resource for stakeholders, local partners, policy makers and the public. Iowa-specific funding sources and program-specific data appear in tables and maps throughout the report. These tables and maps demonstrate the collaboration and tremendous work done at the local level by public and private health care providers.

List of Acronyms

- ACIP:** Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- BETS:** Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services
- CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- DXC:** Vendor supporting Iowa’s immunization information system
- EMSC:** Emergency Medical Services for Children
- HPV:** Human Papillomavirus
- HRSA:** Health Resources and Services Administration
- IDPH:** Iowa Department of Public Health
- IIS:** Immunization Information System
- IQIP:** Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers
- IRIS:** Immunization Registry Information System
- PPHF:** Federal Prevention and Public Health Funds
- VFC:** Vaccines for Children Program
- WIC:** Women Infants and Children

4-3-1-3-3-1-4 series: 4 doses DTaP, 3 doses Polio, 1 dose MMR, 3 doses Hib, 3 doses Hepatitis B, 1 dose Varicella, and 4 doses PCV by 24 months of age

3-1-2-1-2 series: 3 doses Hepatitis B, 1 dose Meningitis, 2 doses MMR, 1 dose Td or Tdap and 2 doses Varicella vaccine series

List of vaccines and antigens:

DT	HPV
DTaP	IPV
DTaP-IPV (Kinrix)	MMR
DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel)	MMR-Varicella (MMRV)
DTaP-IPV-Hep B (Pediarix)	MCV
Tdap	Men B
Td	PCV 13
Hep A	PPSV
Hep B	Rotavirus
Hep A-Hep B (Twinrix)	Varicella
Hib	Influenza

Immunization Program Funding

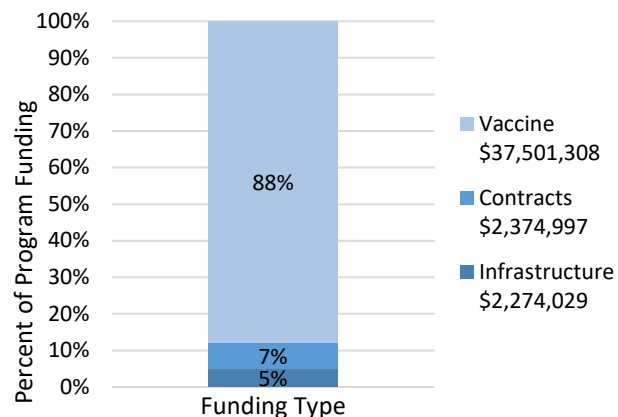
In calendar year 2019, the Immunization Program received funds from the federal Vaccines for Children program (VFC), federal 317 grant program, state funds and Federal Prevention and Public Health Funds (PPHF) totaling \$42,150,334 (Table 1).

Table 1: Calendar Year 2019 Total Program Funds

Funding Source	Funds
Immunization Federal	\$2,405,132
State	\$644,214
Federal PPHF Grants	\$1,599,680
VFC Vaccine	\$36,944,471
317 Vaccine	\$550,748
State Vaccine	\$6,089
Total	\$42,150,334

Program expenditures are divided into three main categories: vaccine purchases, contracts with local public health agencies and immunization service providers, and program infrastructure (staff salary and operating expenses). The funding distribution for these three categories is illustrated in Figure 1.

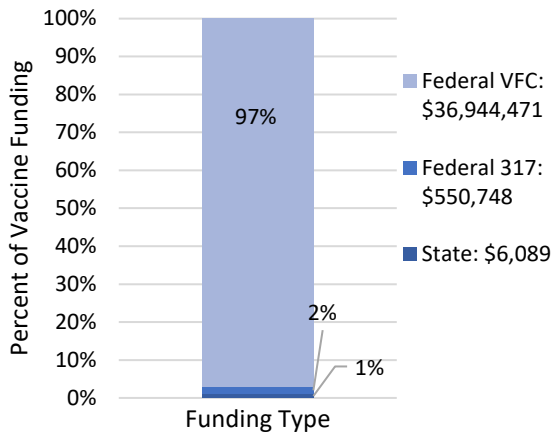
Figure 1: Calendar Year 2019 Immunization Program Funding Distribution



Vaccine Funds

The Immunization Program completes annual population estimates and vaccine forecasting for Iowa’s population, which are used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine vaccine funding for the upcoming year. The Immunization Program received funding for vaccines from the federal VFC program, federal 317 grant vaccine funds and state funds. Figure 2 includes the vaccine funding distribution for calendar year 2019. Of the program’s \$42 million dollar 2019 budget, more than \$37.5 million was spent on vaccines.

Figure 2: Calendar Year 2019 Immunization Program Vaccine Funding Distribution



In 2019, Iowa received \$36,944,471 from the federal VFC program for vaccine. These funds account for 97% of the program’s total vaccine budget. These funds are used to immunize children birth through 18 years of age who meet the following eligibility: Medicaid enrolled, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaskan Native.

In calendar year 2019, Iowa received \$550,748 in 317 grant funds, which comprises 2% of the program’s total vaccine budget. In 2019, Iowa used federal 317 grant funds to vaccinate underinsured children served by local public health agencies. In 2019, the program spent \$6,089 in state funds to purchase vaccine which comprised less than 1% of the program’s total vaccine budget. State funds are used to purchase vaccines for children who do not meet VFC eligibility requirements.

Immunization Education

2019 Immunization Summit

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases - Pink Book Course

Over 650 health care professionals attended the 2019 Immunization Summit held in Altoona on June 19-20, 2019. An *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases-Pink Book* course was held June 19, 2019. Speakers were JoEllen Wolicki RN, BSN - Nurse Educator, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC and Dr. Candice Robinson, MD, MPH - Medical Officer; Education, Information and Partnership Branch, Immunization Services Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC.

The course included a comprehensive overview of the principles of vaccination, general recommendations, immunization strategies for providers, and specific information about vaccine-preventable diseases and the vaccines that prevent them.

Immunization Conference

The 2019 Iowa Immunization Conference was held June 20, 2019. This conference focused on current immunization information and vaccine education for health care providers. Conference speakers included Dr. Nathan Boonstra - Blank Children's Pediatric Clinic; Dr. Stephen Rinderknecht - Unity Point Clinic Pediatrics; Patricia Stinchfield RN, MSN, CPNP, CIC - Children's Minnesota; Rich Greenway - Vaccinate Your Family; Jason Medelsohn - Founder, Superman HPV; HPV Throat Cancer Survivor; JoEllen Wolicki, RN, BSN - Nurse Education, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC; Heather Adams, JD - Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, and Dr. Michael Moore - Chief, Division of Head and Neck Surgery, Indiana University.

Brochures and Print Materials

The Immunization Program offers educational materials for parents and health care providers. Materials include brochures, school/child care audit forms, reminder/recall postcards, temperature logs, posters and VFC program forms. Educational materials can be printed or ordered free of charge. Immunization educational materials may be ordered on the Immunization Program website at <https://idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/order-form>.

Consultation and Program Updates

The Iowa Immunization Program staff is available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for consultation regarding program activities, IRIS and immunization-related questions. A directory of immunization staff can be found in Appendix A.

IRIS



Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) is a secure, confidential, computerized repository of individual immunization records from participating public and private health care providers. IRIS contains patient records from all ages and is used to keep patients on schedule for their recommended immunizations by storing immunization records, documenting vaccine contraindications and reactions, validating immunization history, providing vaccine recommendations, producing patient reminder and recall notices, and managing vaccine inventory.

IRIS Trainings

IRIS staff provided 25 webinar trainings throughout 2019. Training opportunities included monthly question and answer sessions in which common questions and specific topics were covered, as well as entry of school and child care audit data. Almost 700 IRIS users participated in these trainings.

IRIS Users and Organizations

Enrollment in IRIS is available to all health care providers in Iowa administering immunizations. In 2019, 160 new organizations enrolled in IRIS for a total of 3,192 participating organizations. Enrolled organizations include private health care clinics, local public health agencies, rural health clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, long-term care centers and schools.

Interoperability with IRIS

Iowa has supported data exchange, or interoperability, between IRIS and electronic health records systems since 2013. As of December 31, 2019, the Immunization Program supported 1,302 organizations exchanging electronic immunization data with IRIS. Of these, 1,031 are bidirectional, meaning these organizations query for patients' immunization histories as well as submit patients' immunization records to IRIS.

IRIS Quick Stats

- Total number of immunizations in IRIS: **47,484,941**
- Total number of clients/patients in IRIS: **4,110,596**
- Number of organizations enrolled in IRIS: **3,192**
- Total number of active and distinct users: **14,195**
- Total number of organizations sending immunizations or querying IRIS: **1,302**
- Total number of real-time transactions through IRIS: **22,767,111**
(An increase of 13% from 2018 or an additional 2.7 million transactions)

IRIS Enhancements

The Immunization Program continuously identifies areas for improvement to IRIS. In 2019, there were 14 releases, which included enhancements to the benchmark reports, benchmark report cards, new vaccines/vaccine codes, schedule/evaluator updates, data exchange enhancements and flu prebook functionality.

IRIS Records

The volume of patients in IRIS with immunizations recorded continues to increase among all age groups, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of Patient Records in IRIS by Year and Age Group

Patients in IRIS by Year*			
Year	Patients in IRIS ages 4 months through 5 years with two or more immunizations	Patients in IRIS ages 11 years through 17 years with 2 or more immunizations	Patients in IRIS over the age of 19 years with 1 or more immunization
2012	211,258	159,968	1,141,659
2013	211,714	176,308	1,171,201
2014	212,487	188,126	1,496,633
2015	215,678	200,446	1,672,148
2016	224,567	216,841	1,682,147
2017	229,861	236,996	2,021,869
2018	232,160	252,109	2,175,194
2019	230,673	263,225	2,270,403

**Data as reported in the Immunization Information Systems Annual Report*

Vaccines for Children Program

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federally funded program established in 1994 to provide vaccines at no cost to eligible children from birth through 18 years of age. Since its establishment, the VFC program has significantly impacted the health of U.S. children:

- Prevented 419 million illnesses
- Helped avoid 936,000 deaths
- Saved nearly \$1.9 trillion in total societal cost (includes \$406 billion in direct costs)



Table 3: 2019 VFC Vaccine Doses Distributed

Vaccine Distribution

The VFC program provides vaccine for approximately 47%, or 362,451 of Iowa's children from birth through 18 years of age. Eligible children include those who are enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaskan Native. In 2019, the Iowa VFC program distributed 641,497 doses of vaccine (Table 3), valued at more than \$36 million, to VFC-enrolled health care providers. These vaccines protect Iowa's children from 16 vaccine-preventable diseases.

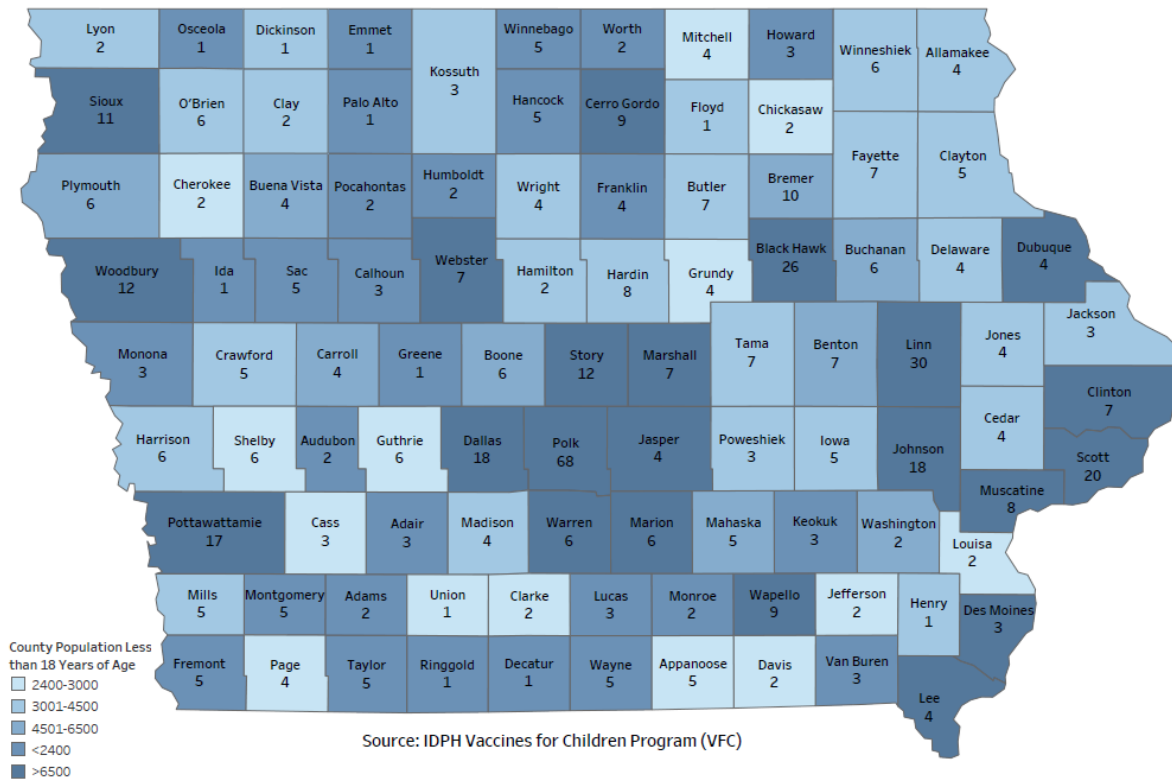
VFC Provider Enrollment

As of December 31, 2019, the Iowa VFC program included 592 participating providers. Enrolled providers include local public health agencies, Indian Health Services, Women Infants and Children (WIC) clinics, private health care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, rural health clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Vaccine	Doses Distributed
DT	37
DTaP	18,110
DTaP-IPV (Kinrix)	17,300
DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel)	12,590
DTaP-IPV-Hep B (Pediarix)	45,960
Tdap	20,870
Td	714
Hep A	46,100
Hep B	27,860
Hep A-Hep B (Twinrix)	450
Hib	50,055
HPV	31,680
IPV	7,740
MMR	22,880
MMR-Varicella (MMRV)	19,630
MCV	30,950
Men B	14,721
PCV 13	71,810
PPSV	41
Rotavirus	47,430
Varicella	23,610
Influenza	122,260
Total Doses Distributed	641,497

Each of Iowa's 99 counties has at least one VFC program provider serving eligible children. Figure 3 includes the number of VFC providers by county and the population of children 18 years of age and younger. The number of participating VFC program providers and the county population of children less than 18 years of age are directly related.

Figure 3: Number of VFC Providers in Iowa by County and Population Less than 18 Years of Age

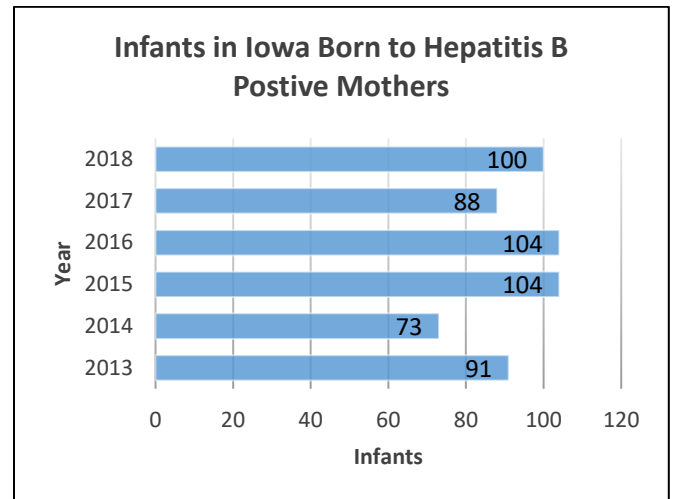


Hepatitis B Program

Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV), which can be transmitted from an infected mother to her infant at birth. IDPH’s Perinatal Hepatitis B Program works to prevent transmission of hepatitis B infection from mothers to infants by conducting parent and health care provider education, case management of mothers and babies, distribution of hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG), and laboratory testing. In 2018, there were 100 reported infants born to hepatitis B infected mothers (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Iowa Infants Born to Hepatitis B Positive Mothers



Universal Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose Program

The Immunization Program provides hospitals hepatitis B vaccine to administer the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns regardless of insurance coverage. In 2018, 28 of the 69 birthing hospitals in Iowa were enrolled in the Universal Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose Program.

In 2019, CDC transitioned to reporting National Immunization Survey (NIS)-Child data by birth year rather than survey year. The National Immunization Survey (NIS) for hepatitis B vaccine among infants birth to 3 days of age, born in 2015-2016, indicated Iowa has a hepatitis B birth dose rate of 82.3%, well above the national average of 75%. The program continues initiatives to increase the number of Iowa infants who receive a birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine. These efforts include the Universal Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose Program, promoting birthing hospitals’ enrollment in the VFC program, and encouraging birthing hospitals to enroll in the Immunization Action Coalition’s (IAC) Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll.

High-Risk Adult Hepatitis Program

The Immunization Program collaborates with the IDPH Hepatitis Program to provide hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines for high-risk patients seen at eight Counseling, Testing and Referral (CTR) sites throughout the state. High-risk patients include injection drug users, men who have sex with men, persons with a current sexually transmitted disease diagnosis, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis C, and sexual partners of persons infected with HIV, hepatitis A or hepatitis B. In 2019, the Immunization Program distributed 450 doses of adult hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccine (Twinrix) to CTR sites; 472 doses were administered to clients. One hundred forty doses of adult hepatitis A vaccine was distributed to CTR sites; 138 doses were administered. The difference in the number of doses administered versus doses distributed is a result of doses distributed in the previous year, but not administered until 2019.

Public Health Tracking Portal

The Iowa Immunization Program uses data from the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) to calculate county and state immunization rates for specific populations, including 2-year-old children and adolescents, and for specific vaccines, including HPV and influenza. The program also uses assessment data of children attending licensed child care centers, elementary and secondary school to ensure attendees have received the required immunizations and have an appropriate Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization.

The purpose of Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal is to compile important health and environmental information and data in one place that is easily accessible to stakeholders. Immunization and assessment data give Iowa health care providers, and state and local partners valuable data to track progress toward goals, improve immunization practices and guide strategies to improve immunization service delivery and policies regarding immunizations. The Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal provides stakeholders with information and data to formulate and enact efficient public health decisions.

Immunization Data on the Tracking Portal

Children: Immunization Data for 2-Year-Old - Child immunization data includes the percent of children that received the recommended series of 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella and 4 PCV vaccines by age 24 months.

Adolescent Immunization Data - Adolescent immunization data includes the percent of 13-15 year olds that received the recommended series of 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Meningococcal, 2 MMR, 1 Td/Tdap, and 2 Varicella vaccines.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Data - Includes HPV vaccine series completion data for adolescents age 13-15 years (the percent of adolescents with a complete HPV vaccine series based upon age, either 2 or 3 dose series).

Influenza Vaccine Data - Seasonal influenza vaccination data includes the number of doses reported to the Iowa Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS). Report includes influenza doses administered by age groups and month of receipt.

School Immunization Audits Data - Assessments of children attending elementary and secondary school are conducted annually to ensure students have received the required immunizations. Data includes the number of students with a Certificate of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption and Provisional Certificates of Immunization.

Child Care Immunization Audits Data - Assessments of children attending licensed child care centers are conducted annually to ensure attendees have received the required immunizations. Data includes the number of children with a Certificate of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption and Provisional Certificates of Immunization.

Immunization Data Tracking Portal: <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization>

Immunization Assessments

Immunization data is utilized to determine the percentage of patients age-appropriately vaccinated consistent with the recommended Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) immunization schedule. Immunization assessment data are used to improve health care providers' standard immunization practices and immunization delivery systems, and to guide strategies and policies, which directly impact the overall immunization rates of patients. County and state immunization rates are now available on the [Iowa Department of Public Health Tracking Portal](#).

County and State Immunization Rates

The Immunization Program uses data from IRIS to calculate county and state immunization rates for 2-year-old children and adolescents 13-15 years of age. This data provides immunization rates based upon a standard vaccination series identified by the ACIP and the CDC.

The data includes patients served by both public and private health care providers with a record in IRIS that have a ZIP code and are an "active" patient within a health care provider organization. A patient's status becomes active in an organization when an immunization is administered or when the health care provider selects this status on a patient record. The report for each age group includes the number of records meeting the assessment criteria and the corresponding percentage of records in IRIS.

2-Year-Old Immunization Rates

The 2-year-old county immunization rate for the 4-3-1-3-3-1-4 series (4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, 4 PCV by 24 months of age) ranges from 57 to 91%, with a state immunization rate of 74.9%.

The state immunization rate includes the assessment of 38,806 patient records. The Iowa Immunization Program strives to meet the Healthy People 2020 Goal of 80%. Healthy People 2020 goals for immunization are based on activities and services for the prevention of infectious disease

Adolescent Immunization Rates

The adolescent, 13-15-year-old, county immunization rate for the 3-1-2-1-2 (3 Hep B, 1 Meningococcal, 2 MMR, 1 Td or Tdap, 2 Varicella) series ranges from 43 to 83.5%, with an average state immunization rate of 67%. The state immunization rate includes the assessment of 145,854 patient records.

The county immunization rate for HPV vaccine received by adolescent girls, ages 13-15, ranges from 20 to 73%, with an average state immunization rate of 46%. The county immunization rate for HPV vaccine received by adolescent males, ages 13-15, ranges from 15 to 65%, with an average state immunization rate of 41%. The Iowa Immunization Program strives to meet the Healthy People 2020 Goal of 80%.

Conclusion

The Immunization Program's vision is healthy Iowans in communities free of vaccine-preventable diseases. From influenza to chickenpox, vaccines have the ability to protect Iowans of all ages from deadly infectious diseases. Iowa health care providers are essential to promote vaccines and provide sound science-based immunization education to their patients. The most significant factor in a parent's decisions to vaccinate their child is a strong recommendation by the health care provider. When a provider offers a strong and clear recommendation, patients are 4 to 5 times more likely to be vaccinated.

The IDPH Immunization Program is committed to promoting immunizations through the implementation of strategies to achieve and maintain high vaccination levels. We cannot rest on our past achievements and successes, but must remain diligent to protect and improve the health of Iowans against vaccine-preventable diseases. Recent disease outbreaks across the U.S. illustrate many Americans are not taking advantage of opportunities to protect themselves, their families and their communities from vaccine preventable diseases. Vaccines are essential tools in preventing devastating disease outbreaks. The Iowa Immunization Program remains committed to working with stakeholders to ensure all Iowans are aware of, and have access to, life-saving vaccines. Vaccines prevent diseases and save lives. Immunize for a better life.

Appendix A

Immunization Program Directory

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Phone: 1-800-831-6293	www.idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization		Fax: 1-800-831-6292

Resources and Links

Iowa Immunization Program

- [Iowa Immunization Annual Reports](#)

Iowa Immunization Requirements

- [Iowa Code, Chapter 139a.8\(6\)](#)
- [Iowa Immunization Administrative Codes](#)

School and Child Care Audits

- [School and Child Care Audit Reports](#)
- [School and Child Care Audit Data](#)

Vaccination Rate Data

- [Childhood Immunization Data](#)
- [Adolescent Immunization Data](#)
- [HPV Immunization Data](#)
- [Influenza Data](#)