



2023-24

School Immunization Audit Report

Public Health
IOWA HHS

Protecting and improving the health and resiliency of individuals, families, and communities.

**Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis
Division of Public Health,
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
January 29, 2024**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES.....	i
BACKGROUND.....	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	2
SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION AUDIT DATA - KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12th GRADE.....	3
Kindergarten - 12th Grade – Under- and Un-Immunized Students	4
Kindergarten - 12th Grade – Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type	5
Kindergarten - 12th Grade – Individual Grades	6
Kindergarten - 12th Grade – By School Type.....	7
SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION AUDIT DATA - KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS.....	8
Kindergarten Students – Under- and Un-Immunized Students	9
Kindergarten Students – Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type	10
Kindergarten Students – By School Type	11
SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION AUDIT DATA – 7th GRADE STUDENTS.....	12
7th Grade Students – Under- and Un-Immunized Students.....	13
7th Grade Students – Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type.....	14
SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION AUDIT DATA – 12th GRADE STUDENTS.....	15
12th Grade Students – Under- and Un-Immunized Students	16
12th Grade Students – Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type	17
SUMMARY	18
APPENDIX A – SUPPLEMENTAL MAPS	19

LIST OF TABLES:

Table 1. State Immunization Summary by Year, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2014-15 to 2023-24 School Year	3
Table 2. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year	4
Table 3. State Immunization Summary by Grade, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2023-24 School Year	6
Table 4. Kindergarten-12th Grade Immunization Summary by School Type, Iowa, 2023-24 School Year	7
Table 5. State Immunization Summary by Year, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2014-15 to 2023-24 School Year	8
Table 6. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year	9
Table 7. Kindergarten Immunization Summary by School Type, Iowa, 2023-24 School Year	11
Table 8. State Certificate of Immunization Summary by Year, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	12
Table 9. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year	13
Table 10. State Immunization Summary by Year, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	15
Table 11. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year	16
Table 12. Immunization Summary and Exemptions in Iowa and United States, 2022-23 and 2023-24 School Year	18

LIST OF FIGURES:

Figure 1. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, K - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2014-15 to 2023-24 School Year	3
Figure 2. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	4
Figure 3. Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type, Kindergarten to 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	4
Figures 4-7. Under-and Un-Immunized by Certificate Type, Kindergarten-12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	5
Figure 8. Percent of Kindergarten - 12th Grade Students by Immunization Certificate and School Type, 2023-24 School Year	7
Figure 9. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	8
Figure 10. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	9
Figure 11. Number of Under- and Un-immunized Students by Certificate Type, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	9
Figures 12-15. Under-and Un-Immunized by Certificate Type, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	10
Figure 16. Percent of Kindergarten Students by Immunization Certificate and School Type, 2023-24 School Year	11
Figure 17. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	12
Figure 18. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	13
Figure 19. Number of Under- and Un-immunized Students by Certificate Type, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	13
Figures 20-23. Under-and Un-Immunized by Certificate Type, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	14
Figure 24. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	15
Figure 25. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 12th Grade Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	16
Figure 26. Number of Under- and Un-immunized Students by Certificate Type, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	16
Figures 27-30. Under-and Un-Immunized by Certificate Type, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year	17

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Immunization Program releases school audit reports. LPHAs conduct audits of immunization records for children enrolled in public, private and parochial students in kindergarten through 12th grade each year. Assessments are conducted to ensure attendees receive the required immunizations and have a valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization. Iowa Code, Chapter 139a.8(6) and Iowa Administrative Code, 641-7.7(139) outline immunization requirements to attend elementary or secondary schools. To attend school, the student needs to present a valid Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, or Certificate of Immunization Exemption (Medical or Religious) to the admitting official. A brief explanation of each certificate is included below.

CERTIFICATE TYPES

- **Certificate of Immunization** - Issued when the applicant has a record of age-appropriate immunizations that meet the requirement for school enrollment.
- **Provisional Certificate of Immunization** - Issued when the applicant has received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines but has not completed all required immunizations or is a transfer student from another U.S. school system.
- **Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Medical** - Iowa law allows for medical exemption to immunization when the required immunizations would be injurious to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household or the required vaccine would violate minimum interval spacing.
- **Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Religious** - Iowa law allows for religious exemption to immunization when immunizations conflict with a genuine and sincere religious belief, and is not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal or medical opposition to immunizations.

Data files contained in this report are available on the Immunization Program webpage at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/immunization>. In 2019, the Immunization Program began to collaborate with the Iowa Public Health Tracking Program to include immunization data for childhood, adolescent, adult, human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza and school and child care audits on the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal. These data are available at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-public-health-tracking-portal/health/immunization>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the Immunization Program releases school immunization audit reports. Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) conduct audits of immunization records for students enrolled in public, private and parochial students in kindergarten through 12th grade each year. Assessments are conducted to ensure attendees receive required immunizations and have a valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization.

School Immunization Audit Highlights - 2023-24 School Year

Total Enrolled:	Records from 524,961 students attending Iowa schools were analyzed to calculate statewide vaccination coverage levels.
Valid Immunization Certificates:	98.9% of students attending Iowa schools had valid immunization certificates, indicating 519,428 records of Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization complied with Iowa law.
Certificates of Immunization:	93.6% of students attending Iowa schools had valid Certificates of Immunization, indicating 491,124 records met age-appropriate immunization requirements. The percent of students with Certificates of Immunization decreased from 94.2% in the 2022-23 school year to 93.6% in the 2023-24 school year.
Provisional Certificates of Immunization:	2.2% of students attending Iowa schools had provisional Certificates of Immunization, indicating 11,295 students received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines but did not complete all required immunizations or have transferred from another U.S. school system. The percent of students with provisional Certificates of Immunization increased from 1.8% in the 2022-23 school year to 2.2% in the 2023-24 school year, which is an increase of 1,836 records.
Medical Exemptions:	0.2% of students attending Iowa schools had medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption, representing 1,106 students. The percent of students with medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption remained the same as the 2022-23 school year at 0.2%.
Religious Exemptions:	3.0% of students attending Iowa schools had religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption, representing 15,903 students. The percent of students with religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption increased from 2.6% in the 2022-23 school year to 3.0% in the 2023-24 school year, which is an increase of 2,142 records.
Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization:	1.1% of students attending Iowa schools had invalid or no immunization certificates, representing 5,533 students. The percent of students with invalid or no Certificate of Immunization remained the same as the 2022-23 school year at 1.1%.
Under and Un-Immunized:	6.4% of students attending Iowa schools were under- or un-immunized, representing 33,837 (students with a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization). The percent of under- or un-immunized students increased from 5.8% in the 2022-23 school year to 6.4% in the 2023-24 school year, which is an increase of 3,659 records.

School Immunization Audit Data KINDERGARTEN - 12TH GRADE

Local Public Health Agencies conducted audits of immunization records for 524,961 students enrolled in 1,567 of Iowa's public, private and parochial schools during the 2023-24 school year. The audit data were analyzed to calculate statewide vaccination coverage levels.

For students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2023-24 school year:

- 98.9% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization and were compliant with Iowa law (519,428 records).
- 93.6% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization and received all required vaccines (491,124 records).
- 6.4% of students were under- or un-immunized (33,837 records).
- 0.2% of students had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption (1,106 records).
- 3.0% of students had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption (15,903 records).
- 2.2% of students had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization (11,295 records).
- 1.1% of students had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization (5,533 records).

Table I. State Immunization Summary by Year, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2014-15 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrolled	Immunization Certificates		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificates		Total Valid Certificates		Under- and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
2014-15	515,168	492,611	95.6%	8,501	1.7%	2,096	0.4%	5,941	1.2%	6,019	1.2%	509,149	98.8%	22,557	4.4%
2015-16	519,596	495,792	95.4%	8,746	1.7%	1,996	0.4%	6,737	1.3%	6,325	1.2%	513,172	98.8%	23,804	4.6%
2016-17	521,337	497,812	95.5%	7,951	1.5%	1,891	0.4%	7,465	1.4%	6,218	1.2%	515,119	98.8%	23,525	4.5%
2017-18	521,029	497,864	95.6%	6,439	1.2%	1,852	0.4%	8,740	1.7%	6,134	1.2%	514,895	98.8%	23,165	4.4%
2018-19	525,515	502,286	95.6%	6,136	1.2%	1,723	0.3%	9,851	1.9%	5,519	1.1%	519,996	98.9%	23,229	4.4%
2019-20	526,129	501,828	95.4%	6,843	1.3%	1,662	0.3%	10,713	2.0%	5,083	1.0%	521,046	99.0%	24,301	4.6%
2020-21	519,159	496,246	95.6%	6,137	1.2%	1,570	0.3%	10,593	2.0%	4,613	0.9%	514,546	99.1%	22,913	4.4%
2021-22	522,476	492,826	94.3%	10,078	1.9%	1,425	0.3%	11,982	2.3%	6,165	1.2%	516,311	98.8%	29,650	5.7%
2022-23	523,155	492,977	94.2%	9,459	1.8%	1,281	0.2%	13,761	2.6%	5,677	1.1%	517,478	98.9%	30,178	5.8%
2023-24	524,961	491,124	93.6%	11,295	2.2%	1,106	0.2%	15,903	3.0%	5,533	1.1%	519,428	98.9%	33,837	6.4%

Figure I. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2014-15 to 2023-24 School Year

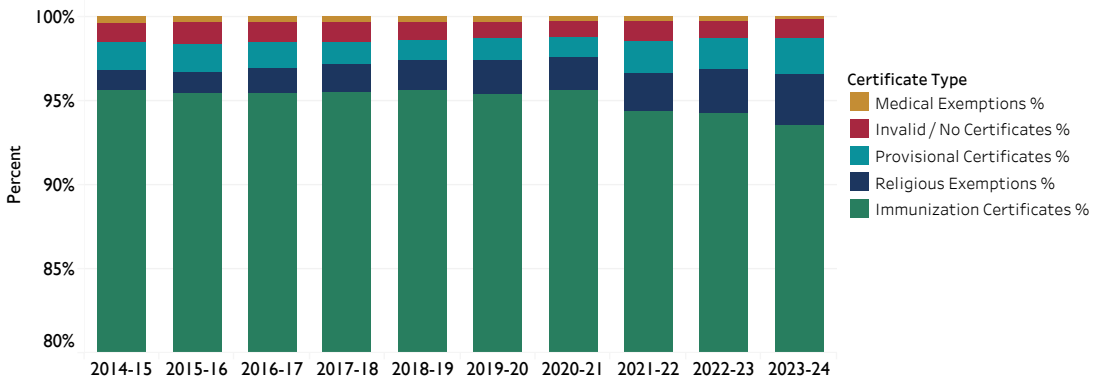


Figure Note: Vertical axis begins at 80%.

KINDERGARTEN - 12TH GRADE Under- and Un-Immunized Students

During the 2023-24 school year, 6.4% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade were under- or un-immunized. This includes children who have an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption, and religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption (33,837 records) (Figure 2,3).

The number of under- and un-immunized students increased 12.1% from the previous year, which is an increase of 3,659 records (Table 2). A percent increase in under- and un-immunized students was observed in the number of religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption (15.6%) and Provisional Certificates of Immunization (19.4%). Percent decreases in the number of under- and un-immunized students were observed for medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption (-13.7%) and invalid or no Certificates of Immunization (-2.5%).

Figure 2. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

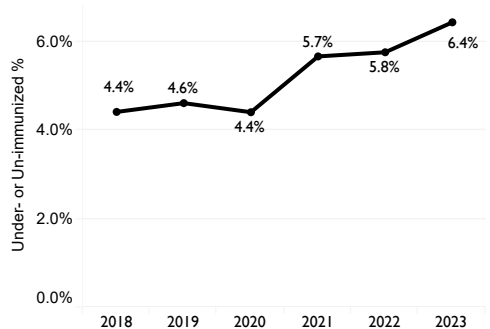


Figure 3. Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

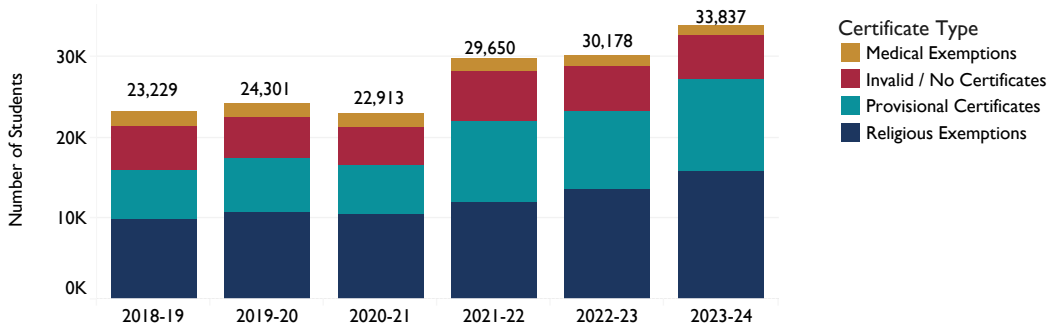


Table 2. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrollment			Provisional Certificates			Medical Exemptions			Religious Exemptions			Invalid/No Certificates			Under- and Un-Immunized		
	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.
2019-20	526,129	614	0.1%	6,843	707	11.5%	1,662	-61	-3.5%	10,713	862	8.8%	5,083	-436	-7.9%	24,301	1,072	4.6%
2020-21	519,159	-6,970	-1.3%	6,137	-706	-10.3%	1,570	-92	-5.5%	10,593	-120	-1.1%	4,613	-470	-9.2%	22,913	-1,388	-5.7%
2021-22	522,476	3,317	0.6%	10,078	3,941	64.2%	1,425	-145	-9.2%	11,982	1,389	13.1%	6,165	1,552	33.6%	29,650	6,737	29.4%
2022-23	523,155	679	0.1%	9,459	-619	-6.1%	1,281	-144	-10.1%	13,761	1,779	14.8%	5,677	-488	-7.9%	30,178	528	1.8%
2023-24	524,961	1,806	0.3%	11,295	1,836	19.4%	1,106	-175	-13.7%	15,903	2,142	15.6%	5,533	-144	-2.5%	33,837	3,659	12.1%

*Diff = Difference

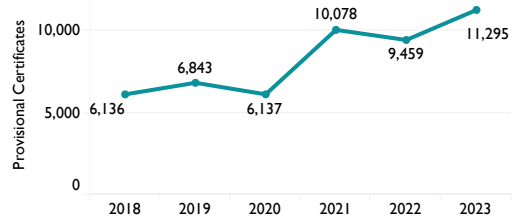
KINDERGARTEN - 12TH GRADE

Under and Un-Immunized By Certificate Type

Provisional Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 2.2% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, representing 11,295 records. This is an increase of 1,836 records compared to the previous school year.

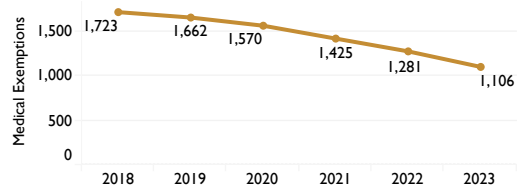
Figure 4. Number of Students in K-12th Grade with a Provisional Certificate, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Medical

During the 2023-24 school year, 0.2% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 1,106 records. This is a decrease of 175 records compared to the previous school year.

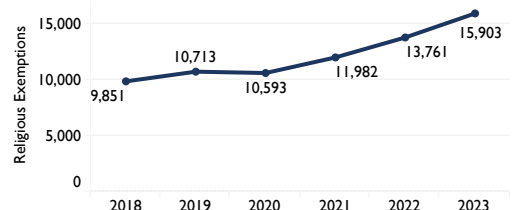
Figure 5. Number of Students in K-12th Grade with a Medical Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Religious

During the 2023-24 school year, 3.0% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 15,903 records. This is an increase of 2,142 records compared to the previous school year.

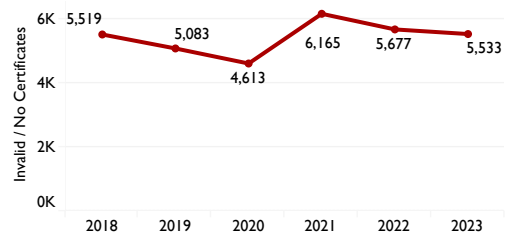
Figure 6. Number of Students in K-12th Grade with a Religious Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 1.1% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization, representing 5,533 records. This is a decrease of 144 records compared to the previous school year.

Figure 7. Number of Students in K-12th Grade with an Invalid or No Immunization Certificate, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



KINDERGARTEN - 12TH GRADE Immunization Certificates by Individual Grades

Table 3. State Immunization Summary by Grade, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2023-24 School Year

Grade	Total Enrolled	Immunization Certificates		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificates		Total Valid Certificates		Under- and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
HS	3,638	2,475	68.0%	163	4.5%	29	0.8%	754	20.7%	217	6.0%	3,421	94.0%	1,163	32.0%
K	38,611	34,388	89.1%	2,279	5.9%	64	0.2%	1,243	3.2%	637	1.6%	37,974	98.4%	4,223	10.9%
1	38,677	36,322	93.9%	581	1.5%	66	0.2%	1,326	3.4%	382	1.0%	38,295	99.0%	2,355	6.1%
2	39,563	37,467	94.7%	516	1.3%	56	0.1%	1,202	3.0%	322	0.8%	39,241	99.2%	2,096	5.3%
3	39,396	37,608	95.5%	343	0.9%	54	0.1%	1,136	2.9%	255	0.6%	39,141	99.4%	1,788	4.5%
4	39,820	38,131	95.8%	296	0.7%	51	0.1%	1,096	2.8%	246	0.6%	39,574	99.4%	1,689	4.2%
5	39,698	38,034	95.8%	310	0.8%	68	0.2%	1,058	2.7%	228	0.6%	39,470	99.4%	1,664	4.2%
6	39,281	37,733	96.1%	305	0.8%	71	0.2%	940	2.4%	232	0.6%	39,049	99.4%	1,548	3.9%
7	39,431	36,120	91.6%	927	2.4%	67	0.2%	1,417	3.6%	900	2.3%	38,531	97.7%	3,311	8.4%
8	40,529	38,138	94.1%	466	1.1%	92	0.2%	1,387	3.4%	446	1.1%	40,083	98.9%	2,391	5.9%
9	41,996	39,878	95.0%	489	1.2%	106	0.3%	1,169	2.8%	354	0.8%	41,642	99.2%	2,118	5.0%
10	42,403	40,487	95.5%	441	1.0%	106	0.2%	1,077	2.5%	292	0.7%	42,111	99.3%	1,916	4.5%
11	41,429	39,765	96.0%	332	0.8%	134	0.3%	914	2.2%	284	0.7%	41,145	99.3%	1,664	4.0%
12	40,489	34,578	85.4%	3,847	9.5%	142	0.4%	1,184	2.9%	738	1.8%	39,751	98.2%	5,911	14.6%
K-12	524,961	491,124	93.6%	11,295	2.2%	1,106	0.2%	15,903	3.0%	5,533	1.1%	519,428	98.9%	33,837	6.4%

Note: HS represents home school students. Aggregate home school student records are excluded from the table due to representing multiple grades.

High and low percent of certificate type by grade, Kindergarten - 12th Grade, Iowa, 2023-24:

Valid Immunization Certificates: 3rd-6th grade had the highest percent of students with valid Immunization Certificates (99.4%) while 7th grade students had the lowest percent (97.7%).

Certificates of Immunization: 6th grade had the highest percent of students with Certificates of Immunization (96.1%) while 12th grade students had the lowest percent (85.4%).

Provisional Certificate of Immunization: 4th grade had the lowest percent of students with provisional Certificates of Immunization (0.7%) while 12th grade students had the highest percent (9.5%).

Medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption: 2nd-4th grade had the lowest percent of students with medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption (0.1%) while 12th grade students had the highest percent (0.4%).

Religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption: 11th grade had the lowest percent of students with religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption (2.2%) while 7th grade students had the highest percent (3.6%).

Invalid or No Certificate: 4-6th grade had the lowest percent of students with invalid or no Certificates of Immunization (0.6%) while 7th grade students had the highest percent (2.3%).

Under- and Un-Immunized Students: 6th grade had the lowest percent of under- and un-immunized students (3.9%) while 12th grade students had the highest percent (14.6%).

KINDERGARTEN - 12TH GRADE By School Type

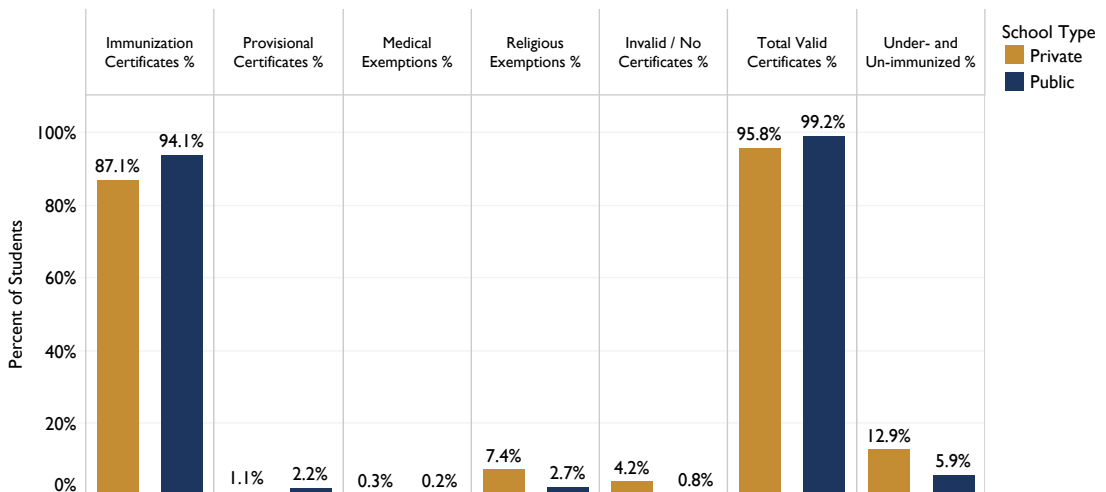
Kindergarten - 12th Grade Students - Immunization Certificates by School Type:

- During the 2023-24 school year, students in kindergarten through 12th grade enrolled in public schools had a higher percentage of Certificates of Immunization and Provisional Certificates of Immunization, and lower percentage of invalid or no Certificates of Immunization and religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption compared to their peers enrolled in private schools.
- The statewide coverage levels for all vaccinations required at school entry in private and public schools was 95.8% and 99.2%, respectively, as represented by valid Certificates of Immunization.
- During the 2023-24 school year, 7.4% of kindergarten through 12th grade students enrolled in private schools reported an exemption compared to 2.7% enrolled in public schools.
- During the 2023-24 school year, 12.9% of students enrolled in private schools were under- or un-immunized compared to 5.9% enrolled in public schools (Table 4).

Table 4. Kindergarten-12th Grade Immunization Summary by School Type, Iowa, 2023-24 School Year

School Type	Total Enrolled	Certificates of Immunization		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificate		Total Valid Certificates		Under- and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Private	37,936	33,027	87.1%	423	1.1%	105	0.3%	2,804	7.4%	1,577	4.2%	36,359	95.8%	4,909	12.9%
Public	487,025	458,097	94.1%	10,872	2.2%	1,001	0.2%	13,099	2.7%	3,956	0.8%	483,069	99.2%	28,928	5.9%
Total	524,961	491,124	93.6%	11,295	2.2%	1,106	0.2%	15,903	3.0%	5,533	1.1%	519,428	98.9%	33,837	6.4%

Figure 8. Percent of Kindergarten - 12th Grade Students by Immunization Certificate and School Type, 2023-24 School Year



School Immunization Audit Data KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Iowa Kindergarten School Requirements:

In order to attend school in Iowa, students entering kindergarten are required to receive the following vaccines: DTaP, Polio, Measles/Rubella, Hepatitis B, and Varicella.

For students in Kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year:

- 98.4% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization and were compliant with Iowa law (37,974 records).
- 89.1% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization and received all required vaccines (34,388 records).
- 10.9% of students were under- or un-immunized (4,223 records).
- 0.2% of students had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption (64 records).
- 3.2% of students had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption (1,243 records).
- 5.9% of students had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization (2,279 records).
- 1.6% of students had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization (637 records).

Table 5. State Immunization Summary by Year, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2014-15 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrolled	Immunization Certificates		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificates		Total Valid Certificates		Under-and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
2014-15	41,656	38,261	91.8%	1,737	4.2%	138	0.3%	597	1.4%	923	2.2%	40,733	97.8%	3,395	8.2%
2015-16	41,215	37,824	91.8%	1,730	4.2%	119	0.3%	635	1.5%	907	2.2%	40,308	97.8%	3,391	8.2%
2016-17	39,587	36,649	92.6%	1,478	3.7%	79	0.2%	622	1.6%	759	1.9%	38,828	98.1%	2,938	7.4%
2017-18	39,632	36,917	93.1%	1,356	3.4%	93	0.2%	694	1.8%	572	1.4%	39,060	98.6%	2,715	6.9%
2018-19	40,624	37,884	93.3%	1,228	3.0%	87	0.2%	873	2.1%	552	1.4%	40,072	98.6%	2,740	6.7%
2019-20	40,812	38,022	93.2%	1,255	3.1%	68	0.2%	936	2.3%	531	1.3%	40,281	98.7%	2,790	6.8%
2020-21	39,141	36,555	93.4%	1,221	3.1%	64	0.2%	803	2.1%	498	1.3%	38,643	98.7%	2,586	6.6%
2021-22	40,111	36,337	90.6%	2,146	5.4%	49	0.1%	913	2.3%	666	1.7%	39,445	98.3%	3,774	9.4%
2022-23	39,178	35,239	89.9%	2,070	5.3%	68	0.2%	1,105	2.8%	696	1.8%	38,482	98.2%	3,939	10.1%
2023-24	38,611	34,388	89.1%	2,279	5.9%	64	0.2%	1,243	3.2%	637	1.6%	37,974	98.4%	4,223	10.9%

Figure 9. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

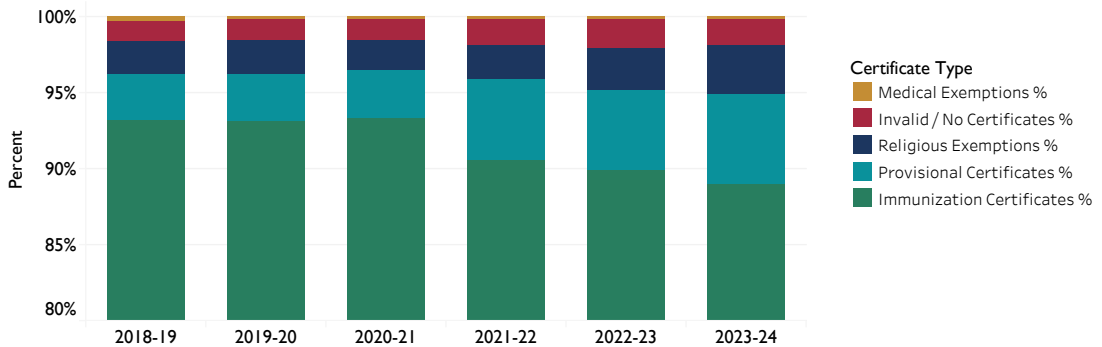


Figure Note: Vertical axis begins at 80%.

KINDERGARTEN Under- and Un-Immunized Students

During the 2023-24 school year, 10.9% of students in kindergarten were under- or un-immunized. This includes children who have an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption (4,223 records) (Figure 10, 11).

The number of under- and un-immunized students increased 7.2% from the previous year, which is an increase of 284 records (Table 6). A percent increase in under- and un-immunized students was observed in the number of religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption (12.5%) and Provisional Certificates of Immunization (10.1%). Percent decreases in the number of under- and un-immunized students were observed for medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption (-5.9%) and invalid or no Certificates of Immunization (-8.5%).

Figure 10. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

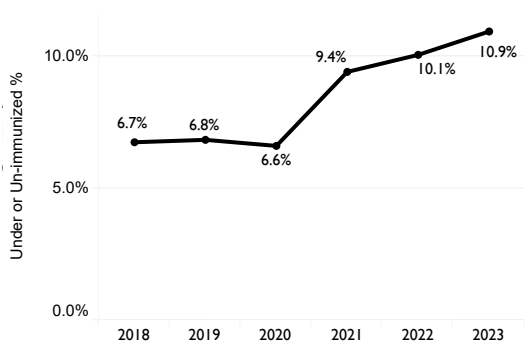


Figure 11. Number of Under- and Un-immunized Students by Certificate Type, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

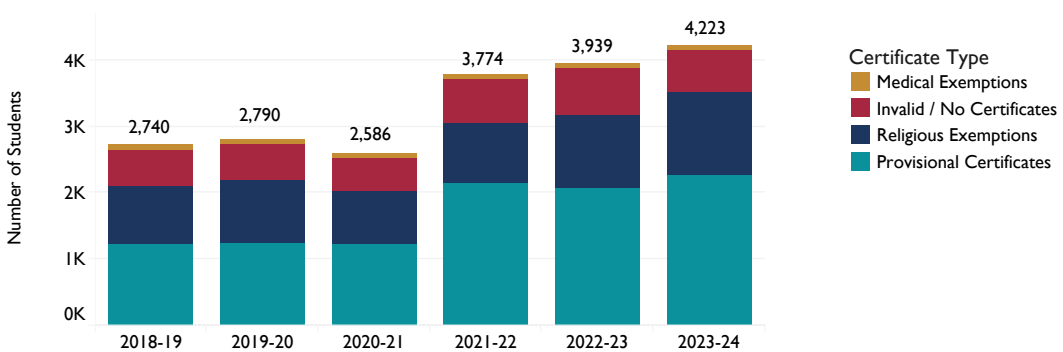


Table 6. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, Kindergarten, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrollment			Provisional Certificates			Medical Exemptions			Religious Exemptions			Invalid/No Certificates			Under- and Un-Immunized		
	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.
2019-20	40,812	188	0.5%	1,255	27	2.2%	68	-19	-21.8%	936	63	7.2%	531	-21	-3.8%	2,790	50	1.8%
2020-21	39,141	-1671	-4.1%	1,221	-34	-2.7%	64	-4	-5.9%	803	-133	-14.2%	498	-33	-6.2%	2,586	-204	-7.3%
2021-22	40,111	970	2.5%	2,146	925	75.8%	49	-15	-23.4%	913	110	13.7%	666	168	33.7%	3,774	1,188	45.9%
2022-23	39,178	-933	-2.3%	2,070	-76	-3.5%	68	19	38.8%	1,105	192	21.0%	696	30	4.5%	3,939	165	4.4%
2023-24	38,611	-567	-1.4%	2,279	209	10.1%	64	-4	-5.9%	1,243	138	12.5%	637	-59	-8.5%	4,223	284	7.2%

*Diff = Difference

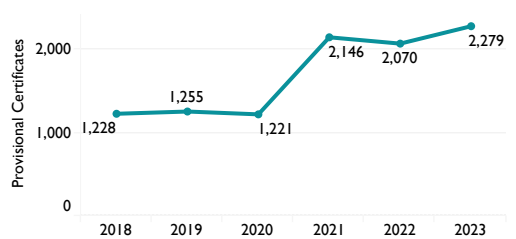
KINDERGARTEN

Under- and Un-Immunized By Certificate Type

Provisional Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 5.9% of students in kindergarten had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, representing 2,279 records. This is an increase of 209 records compared to the previous school year.

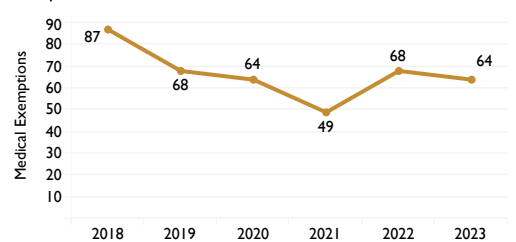
Figure 12. Number of Kindergarten Students with a Provisional Certificate, 2018-2019 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Medical

During the 2023-24 school year, 0.2% of students in kindergarten had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 64 records. This is a decrease of 4 records compared to the previous school year.

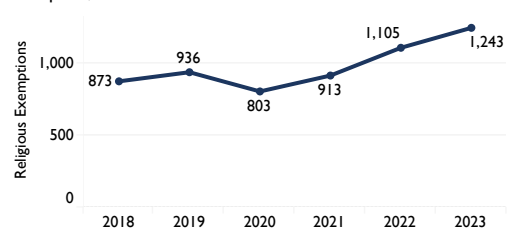
Figure 13. Number of Kindergarten Students with a Medical Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption - Religious

During the 2023-24 school year, 3.2% of students in kindergarten had a religious Certificate of Immunization exemption, representing 1,243 records. This is an increase of 138 records compared to the previous school year.

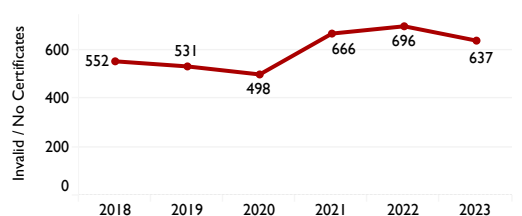
Figure 14. Number of Kindergarten Students with a Religious Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 1.6% of students in kindergarten had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization, representing 637 records. This is a decrease of 59 records compared to the previous school year.

Figure 15. Number of Kindergarten Students with an Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



KINDERGARTEN By School Type

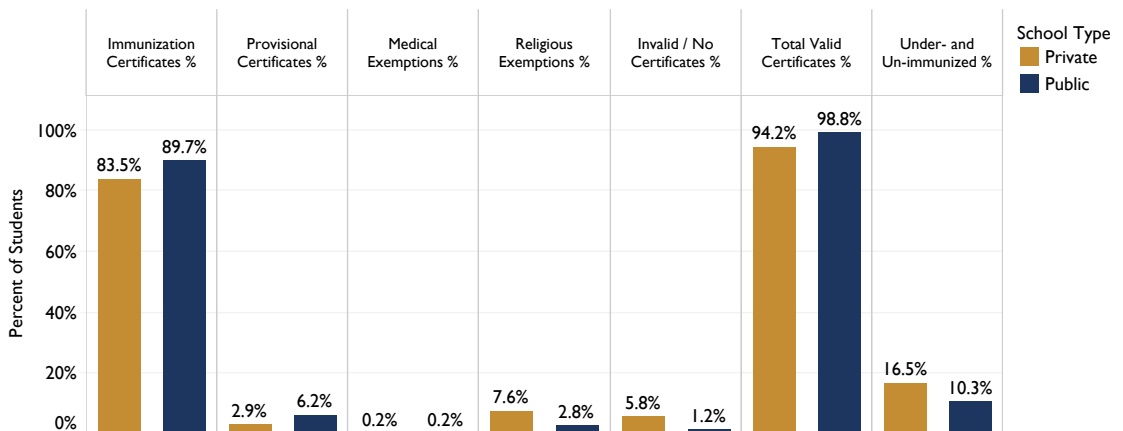
Kindergarten Students - Immunization Certificates by School Type:

- During the 2023-24 school year, students in kindergarten enrolled in public schools had a higher percentage of Certificates of Immunization and Provisional Certificates of Immunization, and lower percentage of invalid or no Certificates of Immunization and religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption compared to their peers enrolled in private schools.
- The statewide coverage levels for all vaccinations required at school entry in private and public schools was 94.2% and 98.8%, respectively, as represented by valid Certificates of Immunization.
- During the 2023-24 school year, 7.8% of kindergarten students enrolled in private schools reported an exemption, compared to 3.0% enrolled in public schools.
- During the 2023-24 school year, 16.5% of kindergarten students enrolled in private schools were under- or un-immunized, compared to 10.3% enrolled in public schools (Table 7, Figure 16).

Table 7. Kindergarten Immunization Summary by School Type, Iowa, 2023-24 School Year

School Type	Total Enrolled	Certificates of Immunization		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificate		Total Valid Certificates		Under- and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Private	3,701	3,091	83.5%	109	2.9%	6	0.2%	281	7.6%	214	5.8%	3,487	94.2%	610	16.5%
Public	34,910	31,297	89.7%	2,170	6.2%	58	0.2%	962	2.8%	423	1.2%	34,487	98.8%	3,613	10.3%
Total	38,611	34,388	89.1%	2,279	5.9%	64	0.2%	1,243	3.2%	637	1.6%	37,974	98.4%	4,223	10.9%

Figure 16. Percent of Kindergarten Students by Immunization Certificate and School Type, 2023-24 School Year



School Immunization Audit Data 7th GRADE STUDENTS

Iowa 7th Grade School Requirements:

Iowa currently has two additional immunization requirements for all students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade.

- All students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade require proof of an adolescent tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) booster immunization (Tdap) for school enrollment.
- All students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade and born after September 15, 2004, require proof of one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY).

For students in 7th grade during the 2023-24 school year:

- 97.7% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization and were compliant with Iowa law (38,531 records).
- 91.6% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization and received all required vaccines (36,120 records).
- 8.4% of students were under- or un-immunized (3,311 records).
- 0.2% of students had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption (67 records).
- 3.6% of students had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption (1,417 records).
- 2.4% of students had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization (927 records).
- 2.3% of students had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization (900 records).

Table 8. State Certificate of Immunization Summary by Year, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrolled	Immunization Certificates		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificates		Total Valid Certificates		Under and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
2018-19	41,550	39,262	94.5%	537	1.3%	152	0.4%	850	2.0%	749	1.8%	40,801	98.2%	2,288	5.5%
2019-20	42,057	39,782	94.6%	621	1.5%	151	0.4%	896	2.1%	607	1.4%	41,450	98.6%	2,275	5.4%
2020-21	41,718	38,997	93.5%	825	2.0%	150	0.4%	957	2.3%	789	1.9%	40,929	98.1%	2,721	6.5%
2021-22	40,381	37,169	92.0%	954	2.4%	107	0.3%	1,104	2.7%	1,047	2.6%	39,334	97.4%	3,212	8.0%
2022-23	39,962	36,800	92.1%	836	2.1%	104	0.3%	1,266	3.2%	956	2.4%	39,006	97.6%	3,162	7.9%
2023-24	39,431	36,120	91.6%	927	2.4%	67	0.2%	1,417	3.6%	900	2.3%	38,531	97.7%	3,311	8.4%

Figure 17. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

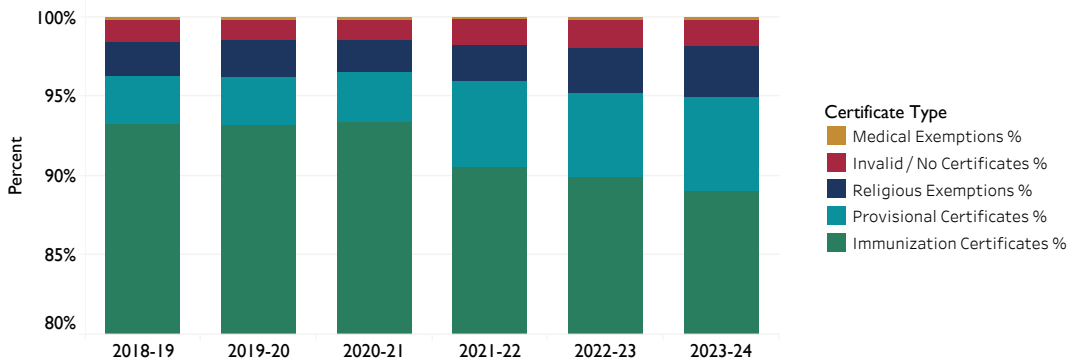


Figure Note: Vertical axis begins at 80%.

7th GRADE Under- and Un-Immunized Students

During the 2023-24 school year, 8.4% of students in 7th grade were under- or un-immunized. This includes children who have an invalid or no certificate, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption (3,311 records) (Figure 18,19).

The number of under- and un-immunized students increased 4.7% from the previous year, which is an increase of 149 records (Table 9). A percent increase in under- and un-immunized students was observed in the number of religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption (11.9%) and Provisional Certificates of Immunization (10.9%). Percent decreases in the number of under- and un-immunized students were observed for medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption (-35.6%) and invalid or no Certificates of Immunization (-5.9%).

Figure 18. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

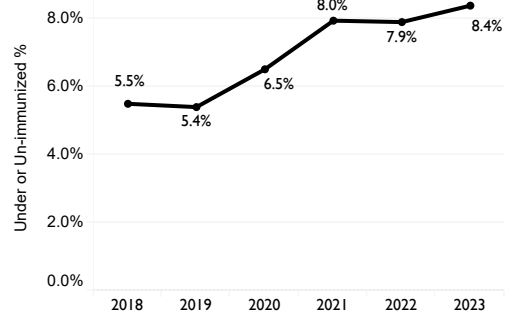


Figure 19. Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

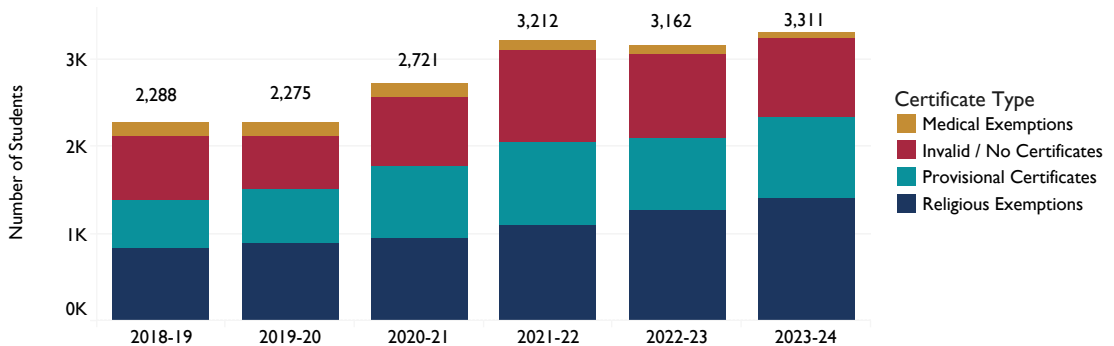


Table 9. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 7th Grade, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrollment			Provisional Certificates			Medical Exemptions			Religious Exemptions			Invalid/No Certificates			Under- and Un-Immunized		
	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.
2019-20	42,057	507	1.2%	621	84	15.6%	151	-1	-0.7%	896	46	5.4%	607	-142	-19.0%	2,275	-13	-0.6%
2020-21	41,718	-339	-0.8%	825	204	32.9%	150	-1	-0.7%	957	61	6.8%	789	182	30.0%	2,721	446	19.6%
2021-22	40,381	-1,337	-3.2%	954	129	15.6%	107	-43	-28.7%	1,104	147	15.4%	1,047	258	32.7%	3,212	491	18.0%
2022-23	39,962	-419	-1.0%	836	-118	-12.4%	104	-3	-2.8%	1,266	162	14.7%	956	-91	-8.7%	3,162	-50	-1.6%
2023-24	39,431	-531	-1.3%	927	91	10.9%	67	-37	-35.6%	1,417	151	11.9%	900	-56	-5.9%	3,311	149	4.7%

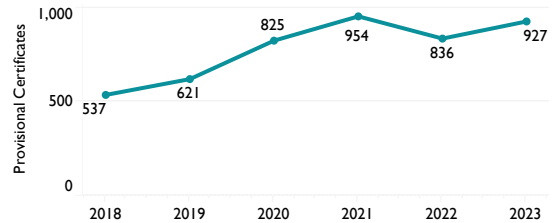
*Diff = Difference

7th GRADE Under- and Un-Immunized By Certificate Type

Provisional Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 2.4% of students in 7th grade had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, representing 927 records. This is an increase of 91 records compared to the previous school year.

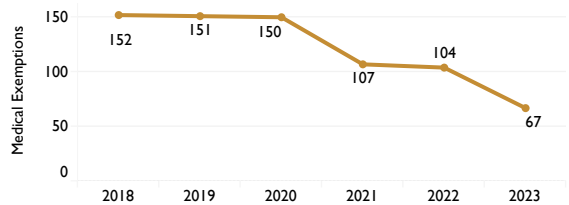
Figure 20. Number of 7th Grade Students with a Provisional Certificate, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption: Medical

During the 2023-24 school year, 0.2% of students in 7th grade had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 67 records. This is a decrease of 37 records compared to the previous school year.

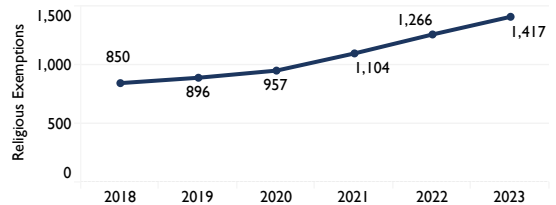
Figure 21. Number of 7th Grade Students with a Medical Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption: Religious

During the 2023-24 school year, 3.6% of students in 7th grade had a religious Certificate of Immunization exemption, representing 1,417 records. This is an increase of 151 records compared to the previous school year.

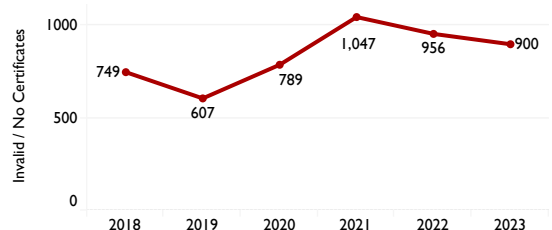
Figure 22. Number of 7th Grade Students with a Religious Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 2.3% of students in 7th grade had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization, representing 900 records. This is a decrease of 56 records compared to the previous school year.

Figure 23. Number of 7th Grade Students with an Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



School Immunization Audit Data 12th GRADE STUDENTS

Iowa 12th Grade School Requirements:

Iowa has an additional vaccine requirement for students enrolling in 12th grade. All students entering, advancing or transferring into 12th grade and born after September 15, 1999 need proof of two doses of meningococcal (ACWY) vaccine (one dose received on or after 16 years of age); or one dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

For students in 12th grade during the 2023-24 school year:

- 98.2% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization and were compliant with Iowa law (39,751 records).
- 85.4% of students had valid Certificates of Immunization and received all required vaccines (34,578 records).
- 14.6% of students were under- or un-immunized (5,911 records).
- 0.4% of students had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption (142 records).
- 2.9% of students had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption (1,184 records).
- 9.5% of students had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization (3,847 records).
- 1.8% of students had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization (738 records).

Table 10. State Immunization Summary by Year, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrolled	Immunization Certificates		Provisional Certificates		Medical Exemptions		Religious Exemptions		Invalid/No Certificates		Total Valid Certificates		Under- and Un-Immunized	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
2018-19	38,779	35,540	91.6%	1,355	3.5%	148	0.4%	660	1.7%	1,076	2.8%	37,703	97.2%	3,239	8.4%
2019-20	38,984	35,435	90.9%	1,627	4.2%	156	0.4%	655	1.7%	1,111	2.8%	37,873	97.2%	3,549	9.1%
2020-21	38,882	35,415	91.1%	1,671	4.3%	165	0.4%	683	1.8%	948	2.4%	37,934	97.6%	3,467	8.9%
2021-22	39,484	33,948	86.0%	3,335	8.4%	211	0.5%	844	2.1%	1,146	2.9%	38,338	97.1%	5,536	14.0%
2022-23	39,880	34,753	87.1%	2,995	7.5%	182	0.5%	1,004	2.5%	946	2.4%	38,934	97.6%	5,127	12.9%
2023-24	40,489	34,578	85.4%	3,847	9.5%	142	0.4%	1,184	2.9%	738	1.8%	39,751	98.2%	5,911	14.6%

Figure 24. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

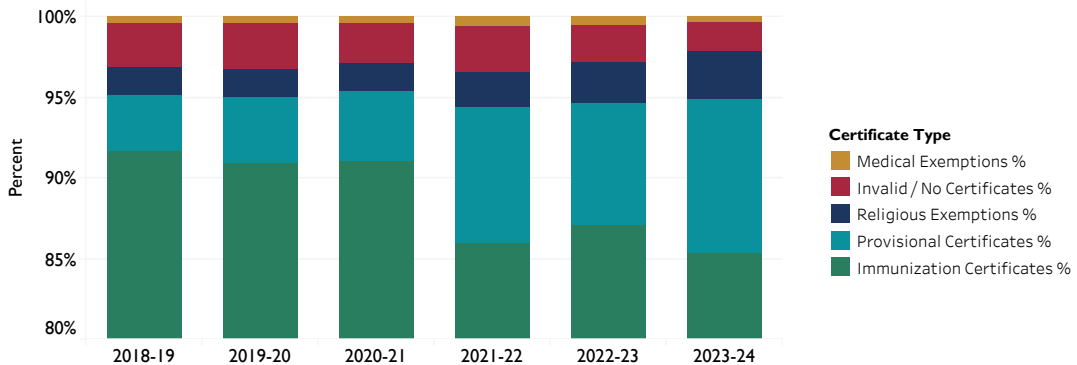


Figure Note: Vertical axis begins at 80%.

12th GRADE Under- and Un-Immunized Students

During the 2023-24 school year, 14.6% of students in 12th grade were under- or un-immunized. This includes children who have an invalid or no certificate, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption (5,911 records) (Figure 25, 26).

The number of under- and un-immunized students increased 15.3% from the previous year, which is an increase of 784 records (Table 11). A percent increase in under- and un-immunized students was observed in the number of religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption (17.9%) and Provisional Certificates of Immunization (28.4%). Percent decreases in the number of under- and un-immunized students were observed for medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption (-22.0%) and invalid or no Certificates of Immunization (-22.0%).

Figure 25. Percent of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

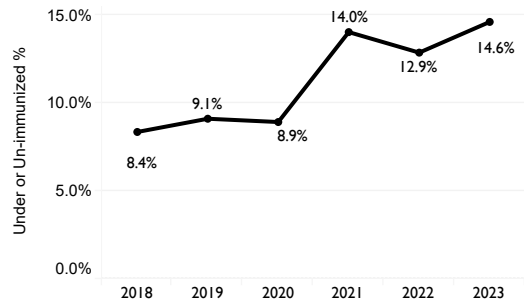


Figure 26. Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students by Certificate Type, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year

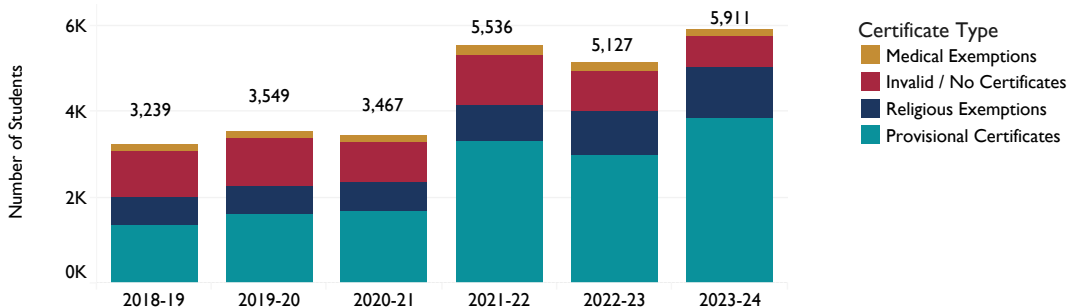


Table 11. Count Difference and Percent Change in the Number of Under- and Un-Immunized Students, 12th Grade, Iowa, 2019-20 to 2023-24 School Year

School Year	Total Enrollment			Provisional Certificates			Medical Exemptions			Religious Exemptions			Invalid/No Certificates			Under- and Un-Immunized		
	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.	Total	Count Diff.	% Diff.
2019-20	38,984	205	0.5%	1,627	272	20.1%	156	8	5.4%	655	-5	-0.8%	1,111	35	3.3%	3,549	310	9.6%
2020-21	38,882	-102	-0.3%	1,671	44	2.7%	165	9	5.8%	683	28	4.3%	948	-163	-14.7%	3,467	-82	-2.3%
2021-22	39,484	602	1.5%	3,335	1,664	99.6%	211	46	27.9%	844	161	23.6%	1,146	198	20.9%	5,536	2,069	59.7%
2022-23	39,880	396	1.0%	2,995	-340	-10.2%	182	-29	-13.7%	1,004	160	19.0%	946	-200	-17.5%	5,127	-409	-7.4%
2023-24	40,489	609	1.5%	3,847	852	28.4%	142	-40	-22.0%	1,184	180	17.9%	738	-208	-22.0%	5,911	784	15.3%

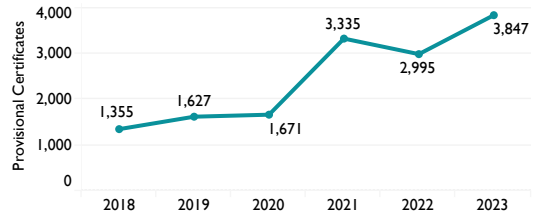
*Diff = Difference

12th Grade Under- and Un-Immunized By Certificate Type

Provisional Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 9.5% of students in 12th grade had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, representing 3,847 records. This is an increase of 852 records compared to the previous school year.

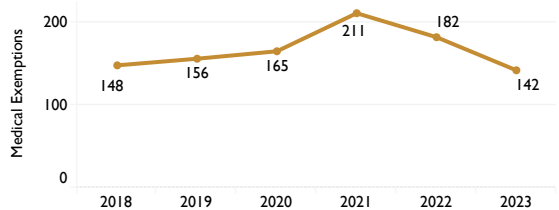
Figure 27. Number of 12th Grade Students with Provisional Certificates, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption: Medical

During the 2023-24 school year, 0.4% of students in 12th grade had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 142 records. This is a decrease of 40 records compared to the previous school year.

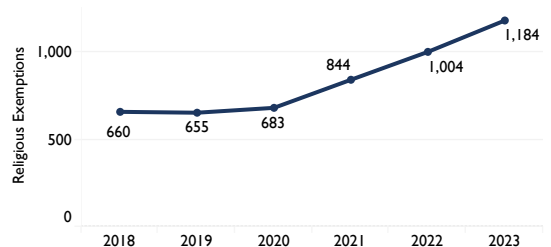
Figure 28. Number of 12th Grade Students with a Medical Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Certificate of Immunization Exemption: Religious

During the 2023-24 school year, 2.9% of students in 12th grade had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 1,184 records. This is an increase of 180 records compared to the previous school year.

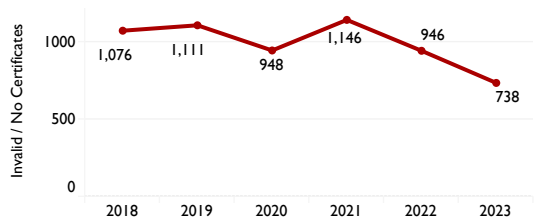
Figure 29. Number of 12th Students with a Religious Exemption, 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization

During the 2023-24 school year, 1.8% of students in 12th grade had an invalid or no Certificate of Immunization, representing 738 records. This is a decrease of 208 records compared to the previous school year.

Figure 30. Number of 12th Grade Students with an Invalid or No Certificate of Immunization 2018-19 to 2023-24 School Year



SUMMARY

State vaccination requirements for school entry are **important tools for maintaining high vaccination coverage rates** and in turn, lower rates of vaccine-preventable diseases. While immunization rates in Iowa are consistent with or exceed national averages, pockets of under- and un-immunized children leave themselves and their communities vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. While the data in this report demonstrate trends, school audit data do not provide a full picture of all children’s immunization history. Vaccination and exemption status reflects the child’s status at the time of the audit. Some children may be in the process of receiving required vaccines and final vaccination or exemption status may change after completion of the audit (Provisional Certificates, Medical Exemptions and invalid records). In addition, some students with Religious Exemptions may have received some of the required vaccines.

All states allow for medical exemptions, five states do not allow religious exemptions and four states (California, Mississippi, New York and West Virginia) do not allow exemptions for religious or philosophical reasons. Iowa law allows for medical and religious exemptions. Iowa’s 2023-24 exemption rates for kindergarten students are comparable to available national data from the 2022-23 school year for Certificates of Immunization Exemptions but higher than the national average for Provisional Certificates of Immunization (Table 12).

Table 12. Immunization Summary and Exemptions in Iowa and United States, 2022-23 and 2023-24

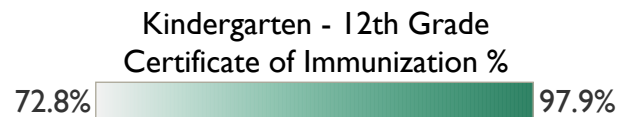
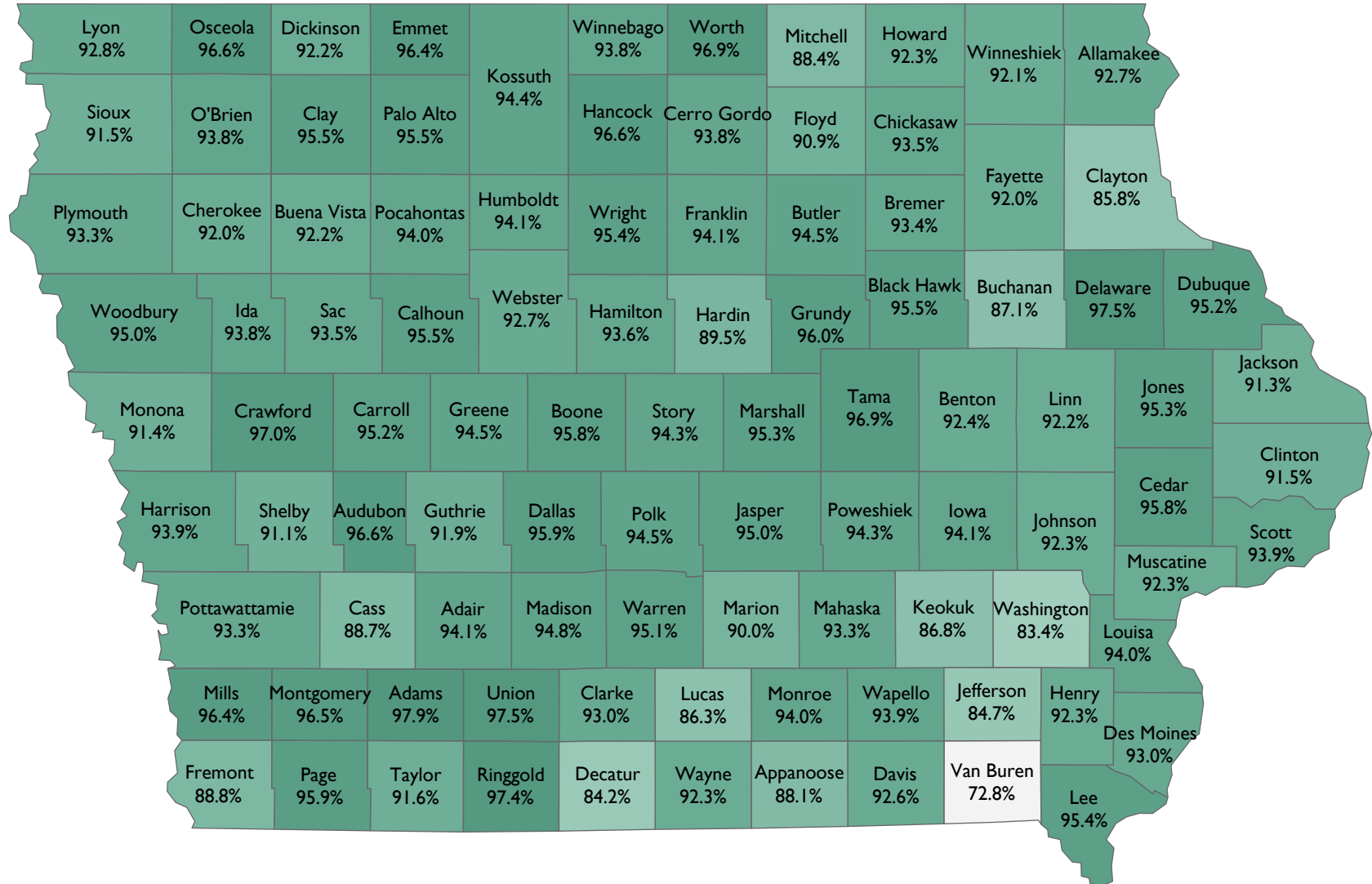
Certificate type	Iowa Kindergarten-12th (2023-24)	Iowa Kindergarten (2023-24)	National Kindergarten (2022-23)
Percent Valid Certificates	98.9%	98.4%	
Certificate of Immunization	93.6%	89.1%	
Provisional Certificates	2.2%	5.9%	2.5%
Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Medical	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Religious	3.0%	3.2%	3.0%

Data Note: Source of national kindergarten data available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/schoolvaxview/pubs-resources.html>

Studies have found individuals claiming exemptions from immunization are at a greater risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases. States with lower immunization rates have higher rates of vaccine-preventable diseases. The HHS Immunization Program continues to monitor immunization exemption rates, identify clusters of un-immunized children and provide education and information to address vaccine safety concerns. Vaccines prevent diseases and save lives.

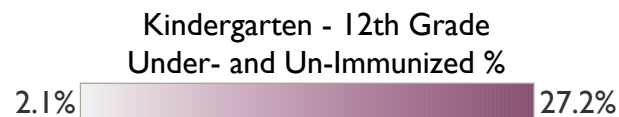
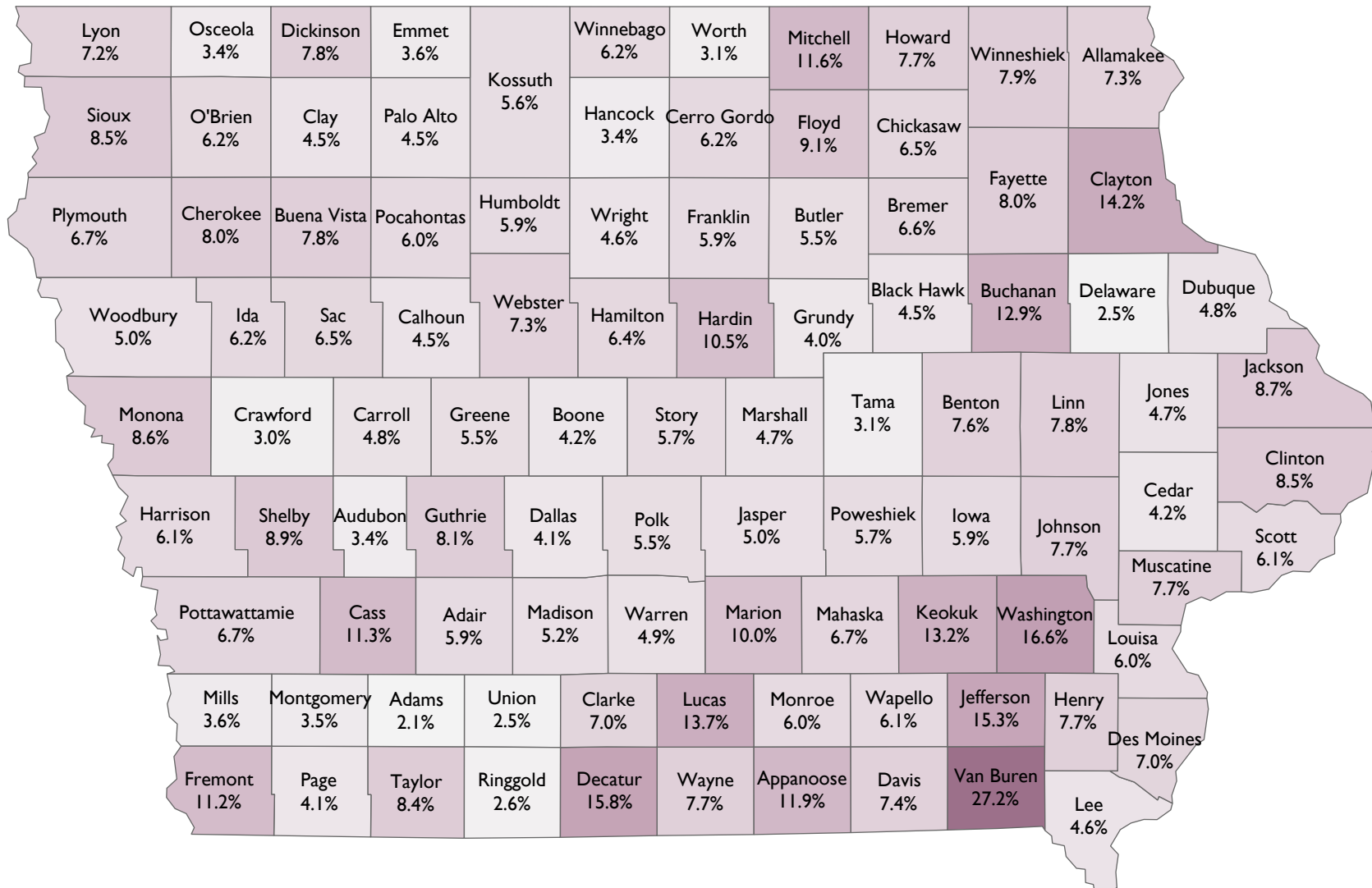
Appendix A - Supplemental Maps

Appendix I. Percent of Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade with a Certificate of Immunization by County, Iowa
2023-24 School Year

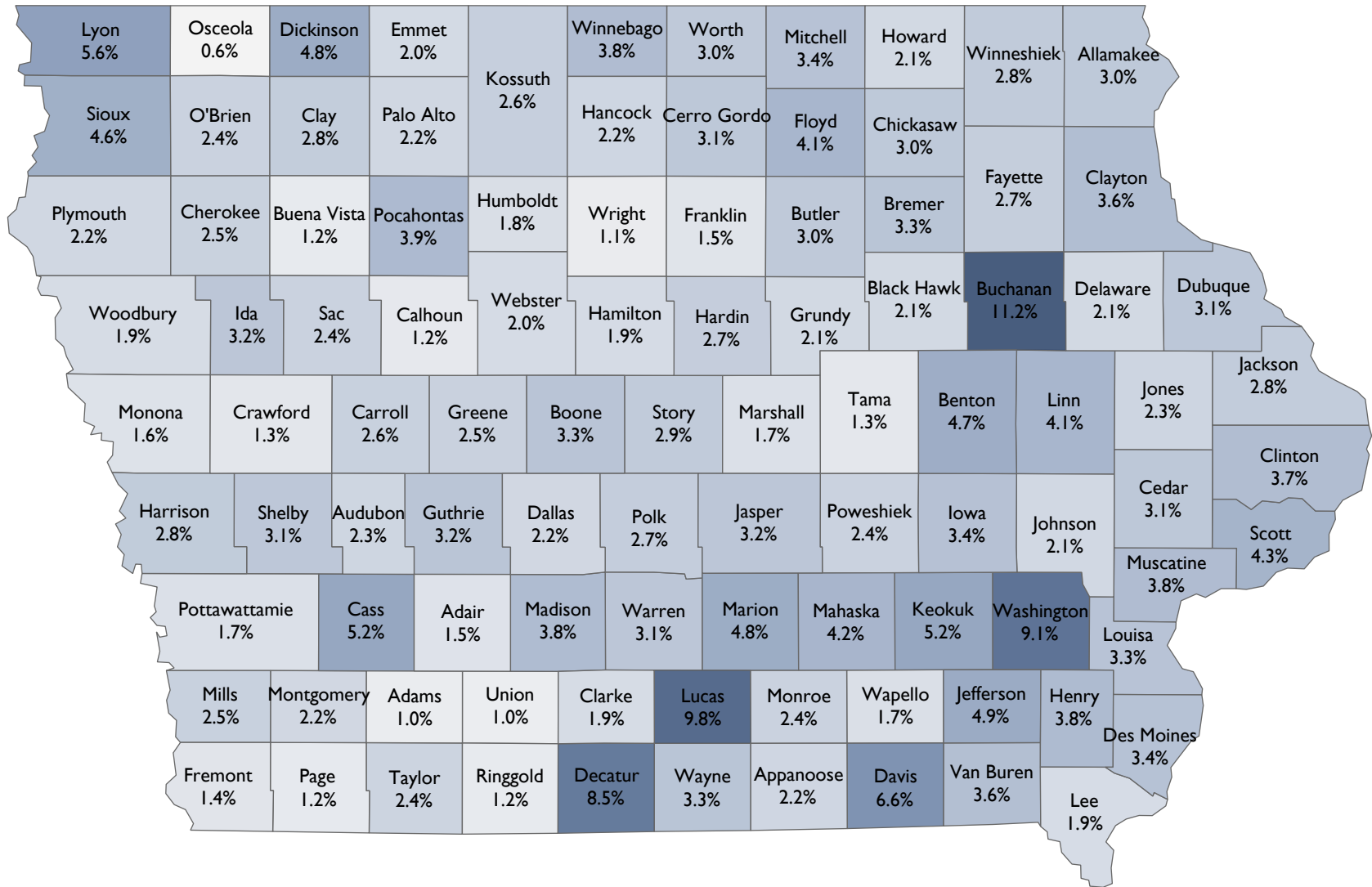


Appendix 2. Percent of Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade who are Under- or Un-immunized by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year

Students with a Certificate of Religious or Medical Exemption, Provisional Certificate, or Invalid/No Certificate of Immunization

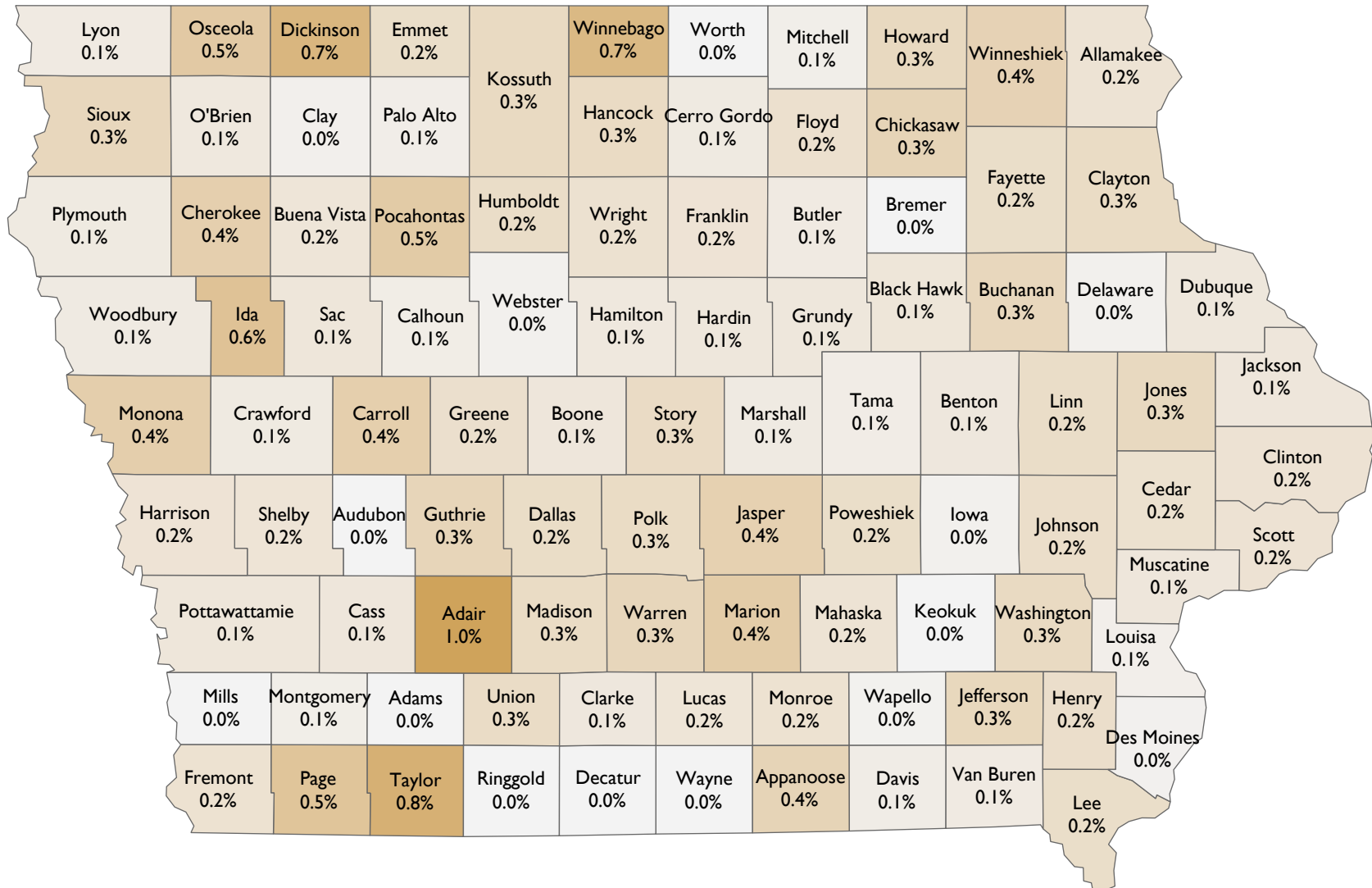


Appendix 3. Percent of Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade with a Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year



Kindergarten - 12th Grade
Religious Exemption %
0.6% — 11.2%

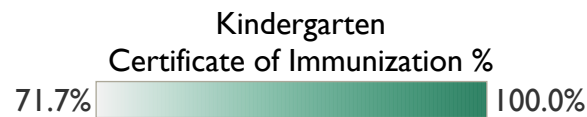
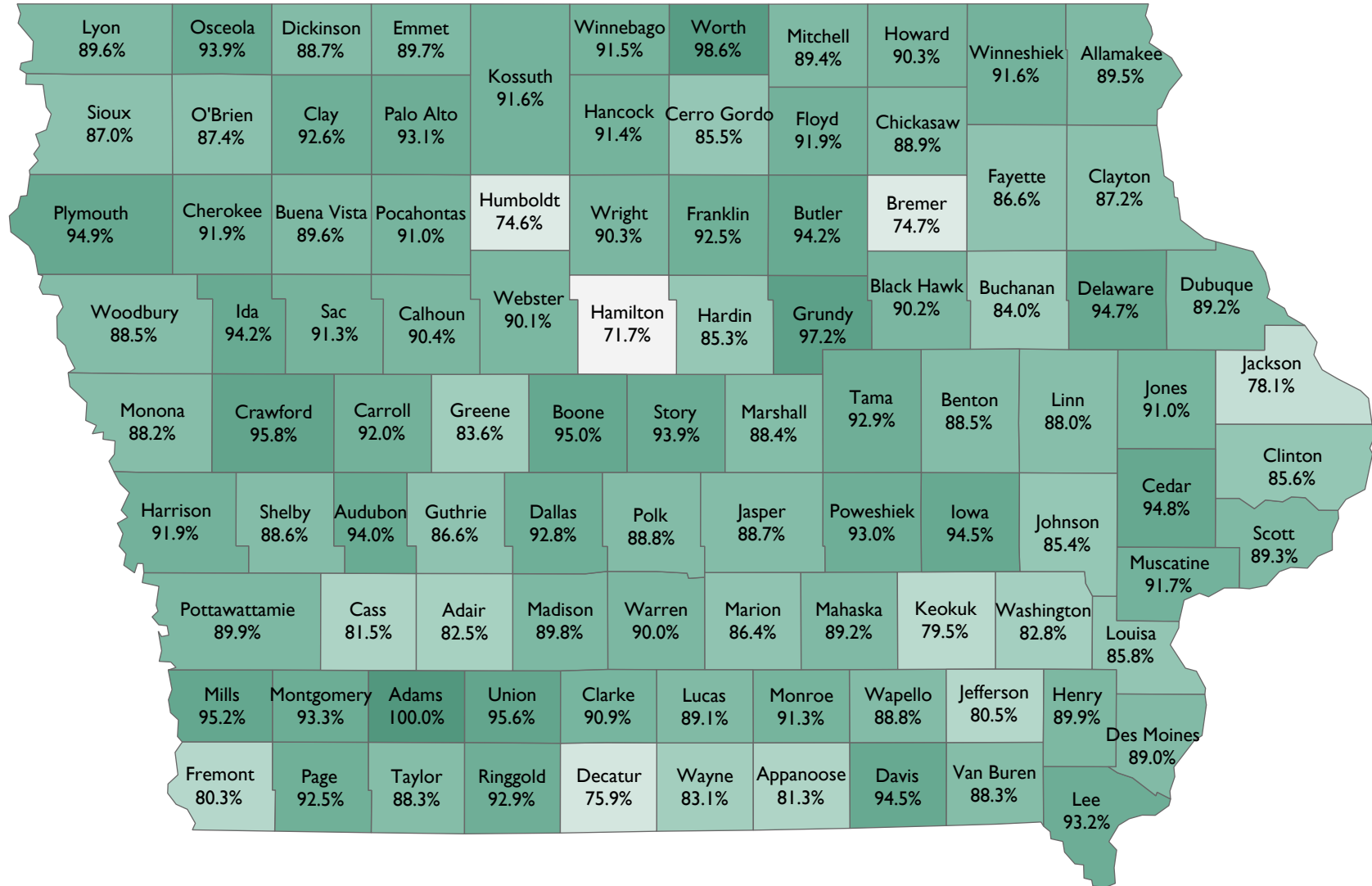
Appendix 4. Percent of in Students Kindergarten through 12th Grade with a Medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year



Kindergarten - 12th Grade
Medical Exemption %

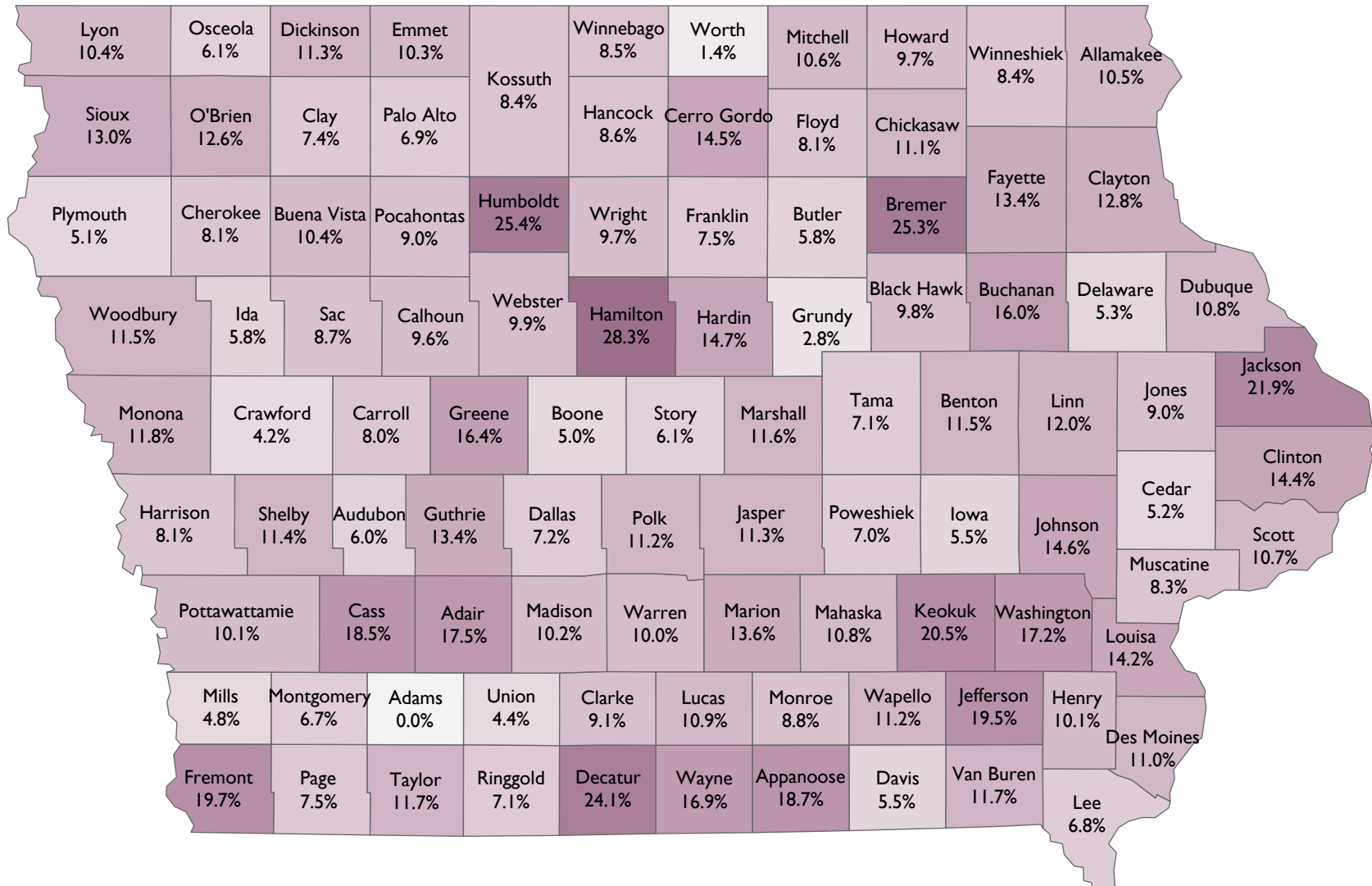
0.0% 1.0%

Appendix 5. Percent of Students in Kindergarten with a Certificate of Immunization by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year



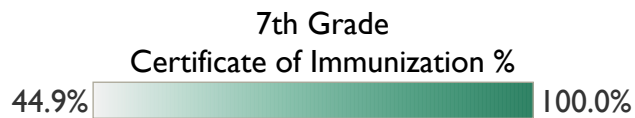
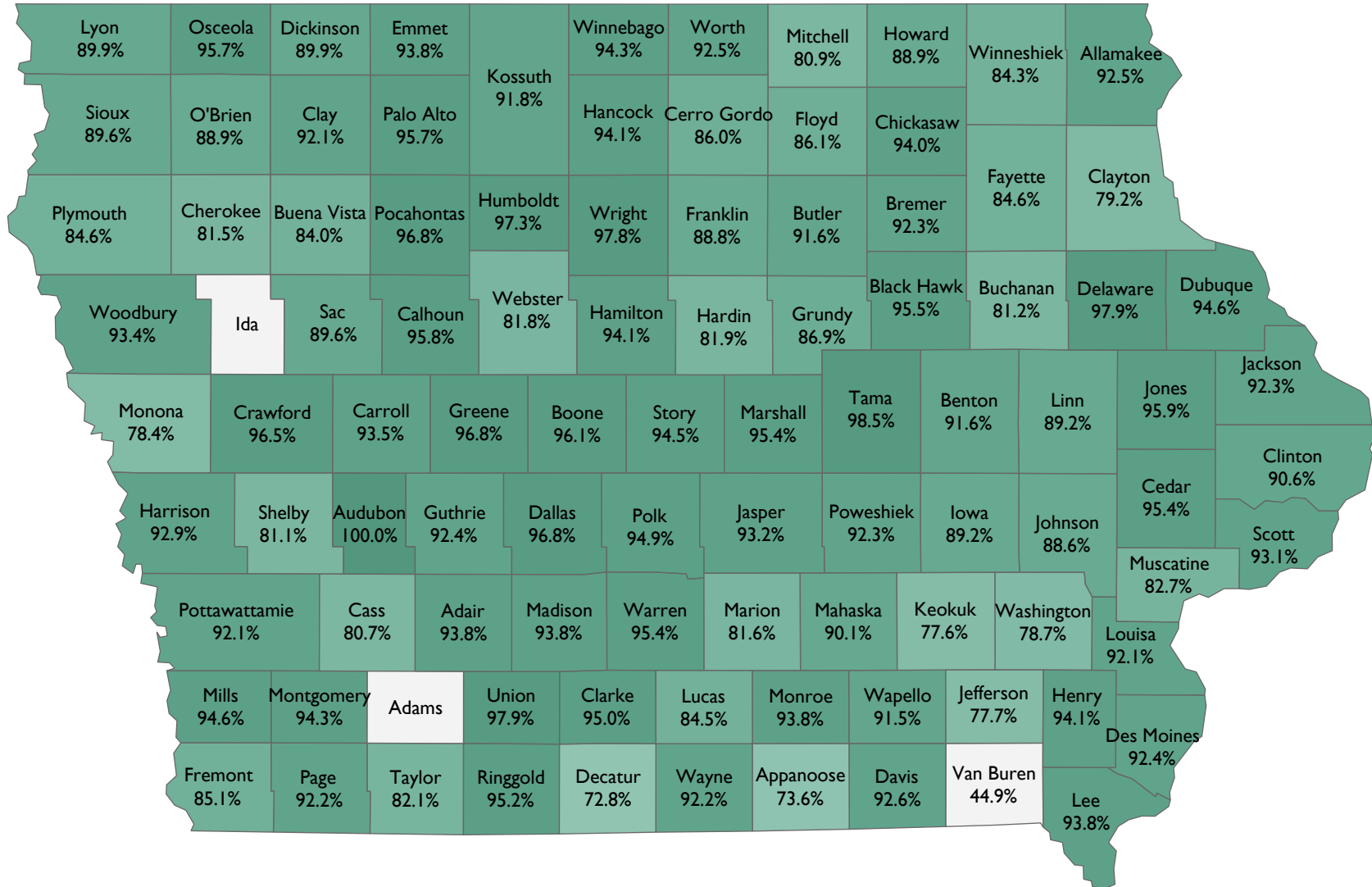
Appendix 6. Percent of Students in Kindergarten who are Under- or Un-immunized by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year

Students with a Certificate of Religious or Medical Exemption, Provisional Certificate, or Invalid/No Certificate



Appendix 7. Percent of Students in 7th Grade with a Certificate of Immunization by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year

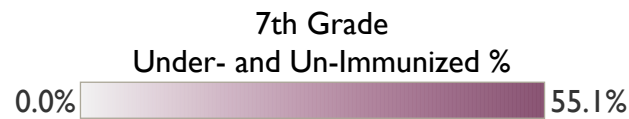
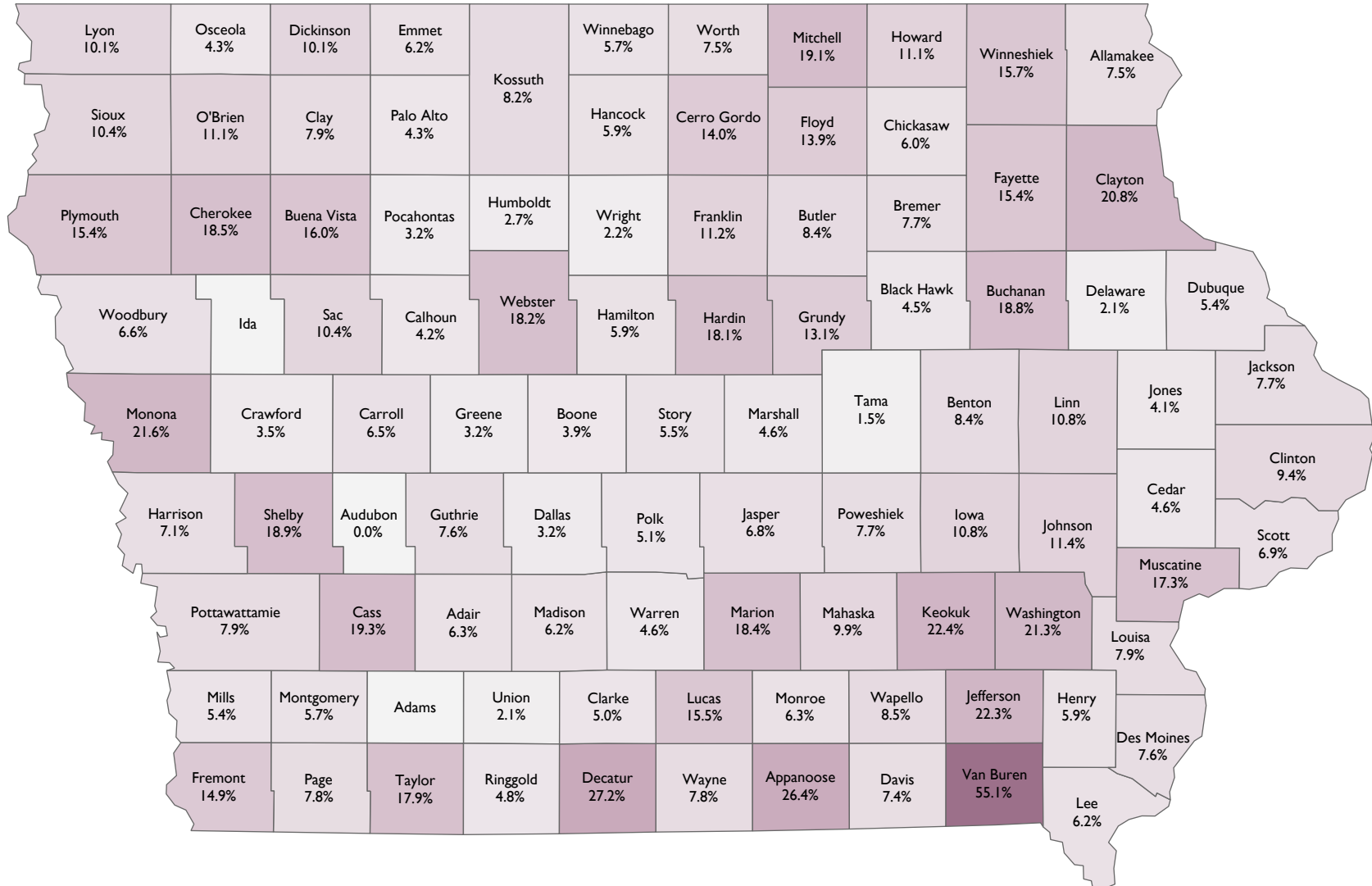
Map Note: Data are collected by location of school, not county of residence of students. Data are suppressed for Ida and Adams county due to either no students or small student counts.



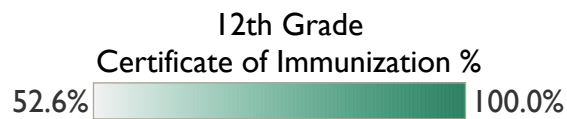
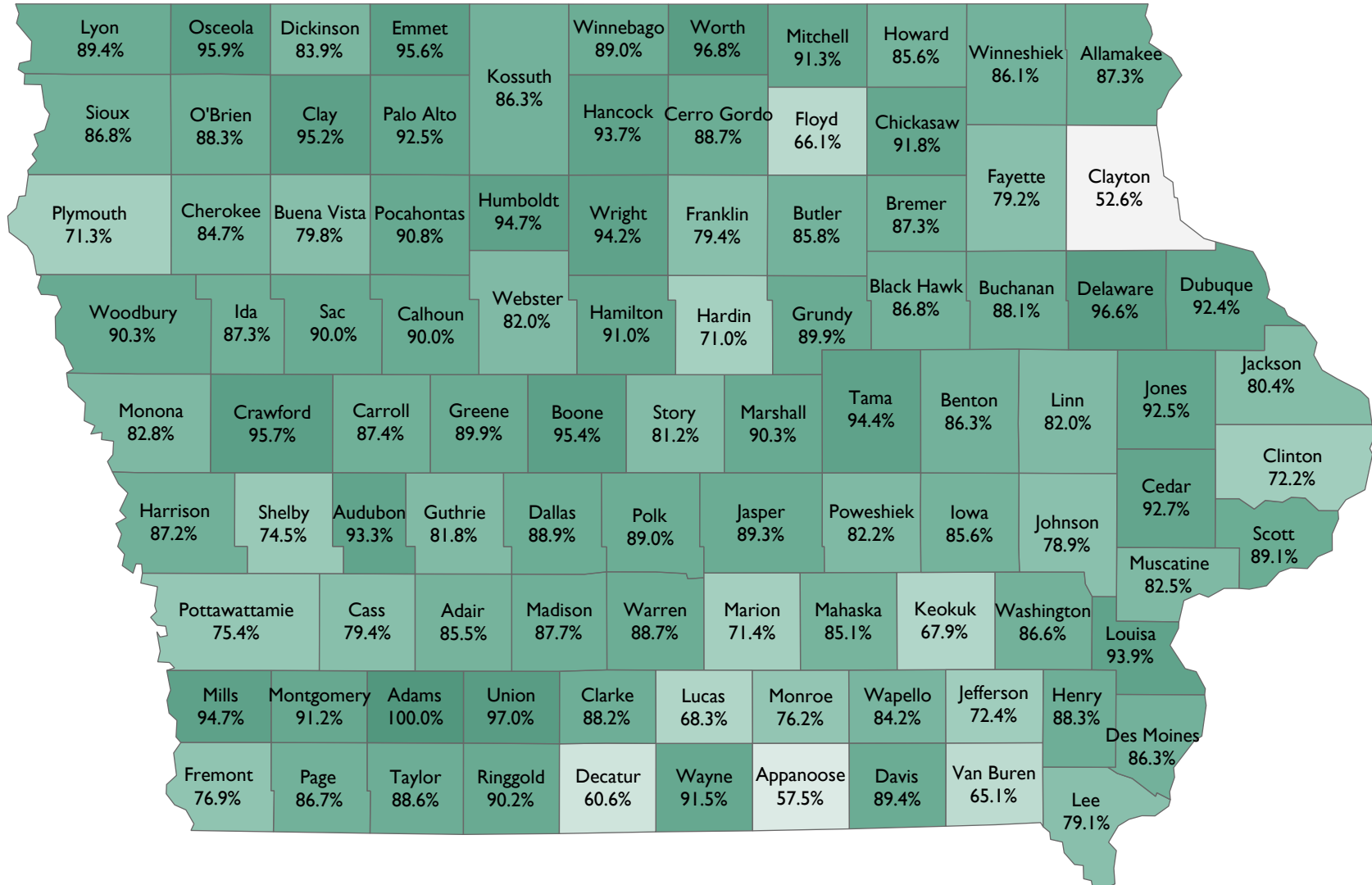
Appendix 8. Percent of Students in 7th Grade who are Under- or Un-immunized by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year

Students with a Certificate of Religious or Medical Exemption, Provisional Certificate, or Invalid/No Certificate

Map Note: Data are collected by location of school, not county of residence of students. Data are suppressed for Ida and Adams county due to either no students or small student counts.



Appendix 9. Percent of Students in 12th Grade with a Certificate of Immunization by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year



Appendix 10. Percent of Students in 12th Grade who are Under- or Un-immunized by County, Iowa 2023-24 School Year

Students with a Certificate of Religious or Medical Exemption, Provisional Certificate, or Invalid/No Certificate

