



Annual Report of Immunization Status of Students 2020-2021 School Year DSHS Immunization Unit

Background

Texas requires public school districts and accredited private schools to annually submit a report of students' immunization status (Title 25 Health Services, Texas Administrative Code, §§97.61-97.72). The Annual Report of Immunization Status is a self-reported survey created by DSHS to measure immunization coverage among kindergarten and 7th grade students. Information on why kindergarten and 7th grade students are not vaccinated is also collected. Additionally, the number of all kindergarten through 12th grade students (K-12) with a conscientious exemption affidavit on file is collected. The results of this report assist the Immunization Unit in identifying schools, districts, and counties with low immunization coverage rates and those with high rates of non-compliance (i.e. students delinquent for requirements).

Methods

In September 2020, instructions for the Annual Report of Immunization Status were distributed to 1,214 public school districts and 1127 accredited private schools in Texas. The survey is conducted on-line and can be completed between the last Friday in October and the second Friday in December. The survey collects aggregated data on the immunization status of the students, which includes reasons why a child is not vaccinated under Texas school entry requirements, as well as the total number of conscientious exemption affidavit forms filed at the public school district or private school. More detailed information by type of vaccine is collected for Kindergarten and 7th grade students. Reports are prepared and submitted by staff at each public school district and accredited private school.

Results

Over 94.5% of the schools or districts surveyed responded. Among the 5,261,629 K-12 students, 91,026 (1.73 percent) had a conscientious exemption for at least one vaccine on file at student's respective school.

Tables 1 and 2 show aggregated statewide results from the Fall of 2020 for kindergarten and 7th grade respectively. The percent completely immunized are shown for each vaccine. Immunization coverage was above 95% for all vaccines in kindergarten and for all but tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal vaccines in 7th grade. Reasons for not completing each vaccine series are also reported.

Tables 3 and 4 represent students who were completely vaccinated for each vaccine by region and grade level.

Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of reported kindergarten through 12th grade students with a conscientious exemption for one or more vaccines by county.

Conclusion

Texas schools reported high rates of coverage for each vaccine included in the survey. Compared to the 2019-2020 school year, kindergarten students had slightly lower coverage rates (approximately 1.0 percentage point for most vaccines). Rates for conscientious exemptions continue to hover around two percent for kindergarten students while delinquency rates decreased by about a percentage point.

For 7th grade students, vaccination coverage remained stable compared to the 2019-2020 school year except for the Tdap and meningococcal vaccines. Seventh grade conscientious exemption rates for all vaccines increased by about 1.0 percentage point to around 2 percent. Delinquency rates for Tdap and meningococcal delinquency rates increased by 5.71 and 5.60 percentage points, respectively. This increase in delinquency rates could be due to the COVID-19 pandemic and parents delaying childhood immunizations because of safety concerns. Furthermore, since many schools conducted classes virtually, some of these numbers may not reflect the true coverage for the 2020-2021 school year.

Table 1. Texas Kindergarten Annual Report of Immunization Status, School Year 2020-2021

Vaccine Category	Percent Completely Vaccinated	Reported Reasons for Lack of Completion, by Vaccine			
		Conscientious Exemptions	Medical Exemptions	Provisional Enrollment	Delinquent
		%	%	%	%
DTaP (<i>Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis</i>)	95.06%	1.90%	0.09%	0.36%	2.59%
Hepatitis A	95.73%	1.80%	0.08%	0.55%	1.85%
Hepatitis B	96.68%	1.72%	0.06%	0.13%	1.41%
MMR (<i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i>)	95.29%	1.92%	0.12%	0.14%	2.54%
Polio	95.20%	1.90%	0.08%	0.23%	2.59%
Varicella* (<i>Chickenpox</i>)	94.98%	1.93%	0.13%	0.29%	2.67%

* An additional 0.18% of kindergarten students met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

Table 2. Texas 7th Grade Annual Report of Immunization Status, School Year 2020-2021

Vaccine Category	Percent Completely Vaccinated	Reported Reasons for Lack of Completion by Vaccine			
		Conscientious Exemptions	Medical Exemptions	Provisional Enrollment	Delinquent
		%	%	%	%
Tdap (<i>Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis</i>)	91.34%	1.45%	0.07%	0.15%	7.00%
Hepatitis A	98.03%	1.03%	0.04%	0.17%	0.73%
Hepatitis B	98.29%	0.97%	0.03%	0.05%	0.65%
MCV4 (<i>Meningococcal conjugate</i>)	91.15%	1.46%	0.07%	0.13%	7.18%
MMR (<i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i>)	98.41%	0.95%	0.06%	0.04%	0.55%
Polio	98.19%	1.02%	0.04%	0.07%	0.68%
Varicella* (<i>Chickenpox</i>)	98.10%	1.06%	0.10%	0.07%	0.68%

* An additional 0.92% of 7th grade students met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

Table 3. Percent of Kindergarten Students Completely Vaccinated by Public Health Region, School Year 2020-2021

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
DTaP <i>(Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis)</i>	94.91%	94.39%	96.43%	93.72%	95.51%	95.72%	96.42%	97.79%
Hepatitis A	95.90%	95.06%	96.68%	94.49%	96.10%	96.55%	96.98%	98.31%
Hepatitis B	96.87%	96.29%	97.34%	95.37%	96.83%	97.43%	97.94%	99.04%
MMR <i>(Measles, mumps, and rubella)</i>	95.36%	94.69%	96.73%	93.79%	95.66%	96.09%	96.85%	97.87%
Polio	95.27%	94.67%	96.68%	93.63%	95.56%	95.98%	96.59%	97.91%
Varicella* <i>(Chickenpox)</i>	95.01%	94.34%	96.56%	93.38%	95.44%	95.81%	96.41%	97.76%

* This percentage does not reflect kindergarten students who met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

Table 4. Percent of 7th Grade Students Completely Vaccinated by Public Health Region, School Year 2020-2021

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
Tdap (<i>Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis</i>)	94.76%	91.68%	95.46%	87.55%	93.06%	91.93%	91.52%	93.90%
Hepatitis A	98.38%	97.91%	98.55%	97.40%	97.83%	98.51%	98.51%	99.16%
Hepatitis B	98.60%	98.23%	98.72%	97.58%	98.12%	98.74%	98.95%	99.41%
MCV4 (<i>Meningococcal conjugate</i>)	94.79%	91.51%	95.72%	86.96%	93.71%	91.76%	91.31%	93.43%
MMR (<i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i>)	98.71%	98.33%	98.77%	97.79%	98.37%	98.73%	99.08%	99.38%
Polio	98.48%	98.13%	98.61%	97.50%	97.97%	98.64%	98.90%	99.32%
Varicella* (<i>Chickenpox</i>)	98.46%	98.09%	98.60%	97.33%	97.96%	98.59%	98.75%	99.04%

* This percentage does not reflect 7th grade students who met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

Figure 1. Percent of Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade with a Conscientious Exemption on file for at least one vaccine

