



Annual Report of Immunization Status of Students 2023-2024 School Year DSHS Immunization Section

Background

Texas requires public school districts and accredited private schools to submit a report of their students' immunization status every year (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 seventh grade students. The report also includes data on the percentage of reported reasons for not complying with school vaccine requirements. Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) collects the number of all kindergarten through 12th grade students (K-12) with a conscientious exemption affidavit on file. The results of this report assist the Immunization Section in identifying schools, districts, and counties with low immunization coverage rates and those with high rates of non-compliance (i.e., students reported as delinquent in meeting vaccine requirements).

Methods

In September 2023, DSHS distributed instructions for the Annual Report of Immunization Status to 1,186 public school districts and 994 accredited private schools in Texas. Schools completed the survey online between October 27, 2023 and December 8, 2023. 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. The survey also includes aggregated data by type of vaccine for kindergarten and seventh grade students. Staff at each public school district and accredited private school prepare and submit the reports.

Results

Out of the 6,029 schools that were sent the survey, 87.94 percent of the schools or districts responded. Among the 5,120,998 K–12 students reported, 118,572 (2.32 percent) had a conscientious exemption for at least one vaccine on file at students' respective schools.

Table 1 and table 2 show fall 2023 aggregated statewide results for kindergarten and seventh grade, respectively. The tables show the percentage of completely immunized and the percentages for each reported reason of lack of compliance for each vaccine. Immunization coverage was above 95% for only one vaccine in kindergarten: hepatitis B. In seventh grade, immunization coverage was above 95% for all vaccines except for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal MCWY (MCV4) vaccines.

Tables 3 and 4 represent students who were completely vaccinated for each vaccine by DSHS public health region and grade level. Figure 1 shows the percentage of kindergarten through 12th grade students reported 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 2022–2023 school year, kindergarten students had similar coverage rates while seventh grade students had a modest increase in the coverage rate for varicella (approximately 1.0 percentage point).

For kindergarten students, rates for conscientious exemptions increased by 0.3 percent for most vaccines and are now between 3.0 percent and 4.0 percent. Delinquency rates in kindergarten students decreased with all vaccines to below 2.0 percent. DSHS defines delinquency as students that are not up to date on their age's required immunizations and do not have an allowable document of immunity nor a valid exemption on file with the school. For seventh grade students, conscientious exemption rates also increased by about 0.3 percent compared to the 2022–2023 school year. Additionally, delinquency rates also decreased for all vaccines, with all vaccines now having less than 4.5 percent delinquency rates.

Delinquency rates are still declining from the increase of delinquency rates which began during the 2020–2021 school year, but they remain high for most vaccines in kindergarten students, as well as for Tdap and MCV4 in seventh grade students. The Texas DSHS Immunization Section strives to ensure that children receive recommended childhood vaccines on time and to increase overall vaccination coverage.

Table 1. Texas Kindergarten Annual Report of Immunization Status, School Year 2023-2024

Vaccine Category	Percentage 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>	94.04%	3.38%	0.11%	0.62%	1.85%
Hepatitis A	94.36%	3.16%	0.08%	1.17%	1.24%
Hepatitis B	95.78%	3.00%	0.06%	0.24%	0.91%
MMR <i>(Measles, mumps, and rubella)</i>	94.35%	3.44%	0.13%	0.22%	1.85%
Polio	94.27%	3.39%	0.10%	0.42%	1.83%
Varicella* <i>(Chickenpox)</i>	93.78%	3.44%	0.14%	0.66%	1.98%

* An additional 0.16% of kindergarten students met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

Table 2. Texas Seventh Grade Annual Report of Immunization Status, School Year 2023-2024

Vaccine Category	Percentage 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>)	93.48%	2.59%	0.08%	0.22%	3.63%
Hepatitis A	97.09%	1.64%	0.04%	0.51%	0.72%
Hepatitis B	97.49%	1.58%	0.04%	0.15%	0.73%
MCV4 (<i>Meningococcal conjugate</i>)	93.07%	2.62%	0.07%	0.11%	4.13%
MMR (<i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i>)	97.66%	1.57%	0.06%	0.07%	0.64%
Polio	97.33%	1.63%	0.04%	0.21%	0.79%
Varicella* (<i>Chickenpox</i>)	97.17%	1.68%	0.11%	0.23%	0.81%

* An additional 0.79% of seventh 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 2023-2024

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
DTaP (Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis)	93.21%	92.87%	93.65%	94.71%	93.28%	94.48%	94.32%	96.93%
Hepatitis A	93.75%	93.02%	93.70%	95.00%	93.57%	95.07%	94.93%	97.45%
Hepatitis B	95.33%	95.01%	95.01%	95.83%	95.11%	96.18%	97.12%	98.35%
MMR (Measles, mumps, and rubella)	93.88%	93.35%	94.15%	94.50%	93.65%	94.85%	94.95%	97.31%
Polio	93.65%	93.28%	94.06%	94.41%	93.41%	94.87%	95.24%	97.14%
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	93.16%	92.54%	93.63%	94.18%	92.96%	94.30%	94.41%	97.03%

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

Table 4. Percent of Seventh Grade Students Completely Vaccinated by Public Health Region, School Year 2022-2023

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis)	93.86%	93.48%	95.28%	92.56%	91.28%	93.60%	92.19%	97.41%
Hepatitis A	97.37%	96.73%	97.45%	96.66%	96.62%	97.17%	97.49%	98.96%
Hepatitis B	97.89%	97.30%	97.88%	96.82%	97.05%	97.47%	98.31%	99.29%
MCV4 (Meningococ cal conjugate)	93.88%	93.66%	95.44%	90.65%	91.38%	93.55%	91.61%	97.32%
MMR (Measles, mumps, and rubella)	98.09%	97.52%	97.94%	96.87%	97.67%	97.68%	98.16%	99.26%
Polio	97.72%	97.16%	97.72%	96.55%	96.93%	97.54%	97.89%	99.13%
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	97.60%	96.93%	97.62%	96.44%	96.70%	97.52%	97.65%	99.00%

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

Figure 1. Percentage of Students in Kindergarten Through 12th Grade With a Conscientious Exemption on File for at Least One Vaccine, School Year 2023-2024

