

What do CDC data tell us about the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on **Routine Childhood Vaccination?**

After the COVID-19 pandemic started, we saw a concerning drop in childhood routine vaccinations. Provider vaccine orders for children through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program decreased by 14% in 2020 after the national COVID-19 public health emergency was declared.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

Childhood vaccine orders through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and administration have steadily rebounded. As of Spring 2023, childhood VFC vaccine orders are similar to or exceed pre-pandemic levels.



Vaccination coverage has remained high and stable overall among young children, with coverage of more than **9 in 10** children for most recommended vaccines nationally

IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

Vaccination coverage among certain groups declined since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and may have not yet recovered.

Pandemic declines of 4-5 percentage points in combined 7-vaccine series coverage among 24 month old children living below poverty or in rural areas continued in 2022.

4 - 5%
point drop



Vaccination exemptions have increased during the pandemic to 3% during the 2022/23 school year— the highest vaccination exemption rate ever reported in the United States.

At least **1/4 Million** children that entered kindergarten during the pandemic are potentially susceptible to vaccine preventable disease.

Disparities in coverage that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic continue but did not worsen with the exception of children living below the poverty line as compared to those living at or above the poverty line, which has widened since 2020.

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

We must act now to catch up children who delayed or missed getting routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Getting routine immunizations back on track is a goal that we can achieve by working together to reduce barriers, increase access, and strengthen vaccine confidence.



Routine Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone | 2023 Data Review

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html
www.cdc.gov/childvaxview/
www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/

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