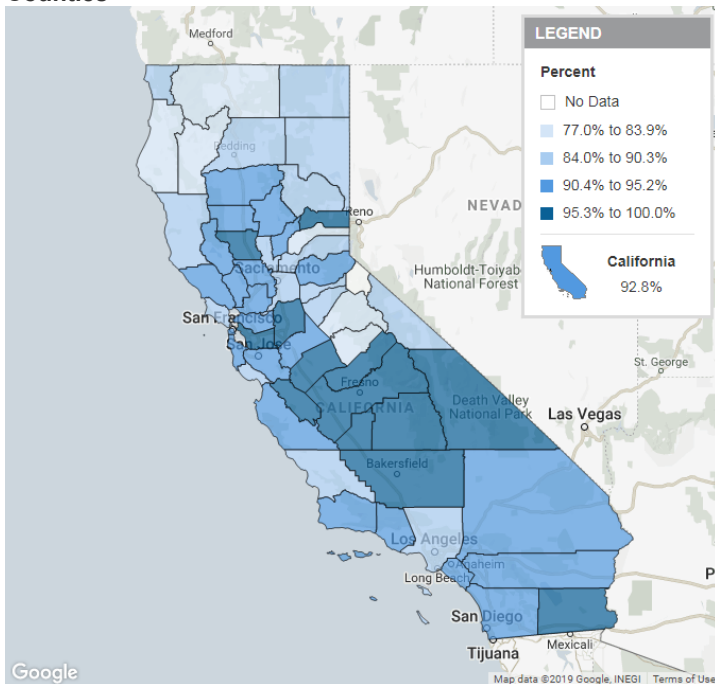


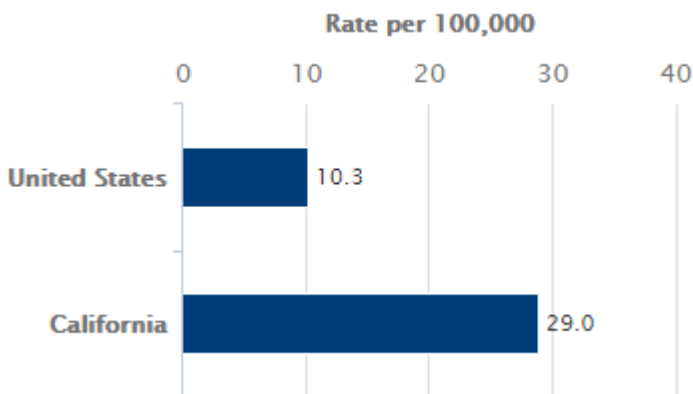
Immunizations in California

Kindergartners with All Required Immunizations: 2016; Showing Counties



Definition: Percentage of children in kindergarten with all required immunizations.
Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Immunization Branch, [Kindergarten Assessment Results](#) (Feb. 2016).

Cases of Pertussis per 100,000 People in California and the United States: 2014



Definition: Number of reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, by disease, per 100,000 population.

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, [Vaccine-preventable Disease Surveillance](#) (Mar. 2016); U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports](#) (Mar. 2016); California Dept. of Finance, California County Population Estimates and Components of Change by Year (Mar. 2016); U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Estimates, Vintage 2014 (Mar. 2016).

What It Is

On kidsdata.org, immunizations are measured by the number and percentage of kindergartners who received all required immunizations by the time they started school. In California, children receive five different vaccines, many with multiple doses, between birth and kindergarten. When children enter school, proof of immunizations is required. Data also are available for the number and percentage of kindergartners who received immunization exemptions, by type of exemption.

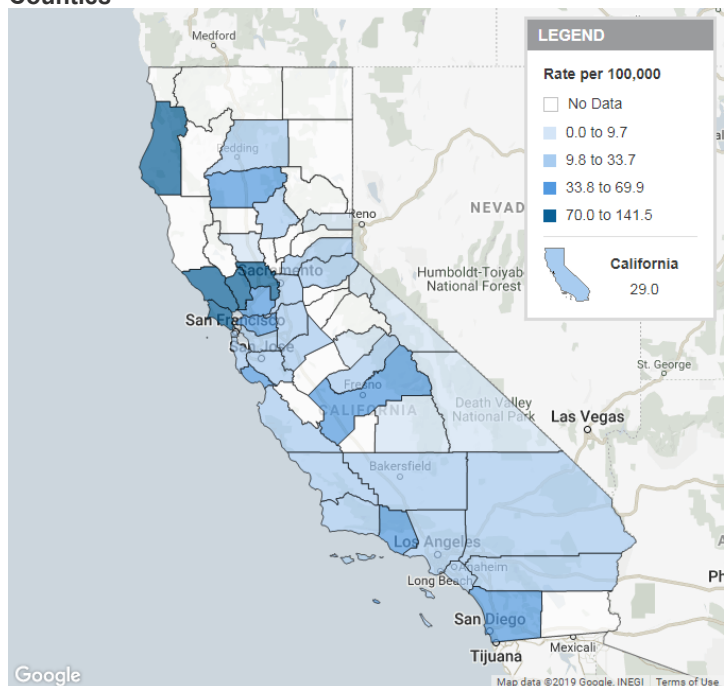
Reported cases of vaccine-preventable childhood diseases also are provided, specifically the number of cases and rates for the 12 vaccine-preventable childhood diseases reported by the California Department of Public Health: diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, meningococcal disease, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubella (German measles), tetanus (lockjaw), and varicella (chickenpox).

Why This Topic Is Important

Immunizations are among the most successful and cost-effective preventive health care interventions, helping millions of children in the U.S. and internationally avoid contracting numerous serious and potentially fatal infectious diseases (1). Current immunization schedules recommend that children and adolescents should be immunized to protect against 16 diseases. These include: polio; diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough; measles, mumps, and rubella; chickenpox; hepatitis A and B; the flu; Haemophilus influenzae type b; pneumococcal and meningococcal diseases; rotavirus; and cervical cancer due to papillomavirus (2). Annual immunization against influenza also is recommended. Immunizations are important for the protection of the individual child as well as for the protection of others with whom an infected child might come in contact; all of these diseases are contagious and most are spread through air or direct contact (3). For each U.S. birth cohort that is vaccinated in a timely manner, it is estimated that 33,000 lives are saved, nationwide, and that direct health care costs to society are reduced by \$9.9 billion (1).

While the data on kidsdata.org reflect the number and percentage of kindergartners who received all required immunizations by the time they started school, a child is considered to have been fully immunized on time only if all

Cases of Pertussis per 100,000 People in California: 2014; Showing Counties



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immunizations were received by age 3 (4).

How Children Are Faring

The California School Immunization Law requires that children receive certain immunizations before entering school. In 2016, 93% of California kindergartners received all state-required immunizations by the time they entered school, a slight increase in comparison to recent years. Among counties with available data in 2016, percentages ranged from 77% to 100%.

Some students are exempt from the immunization requirements. In 2016, 2.4% of California kindergartners were exempt due to their parents' personal beliefs, 0.2% were exempt for medical conditions, and 4.4% were exempt for other reasons. An additional 0.2% were overdue for one or more immunizations. The percentage of children with personal belief exemptions in 2016 ranged widely at the county level, from less than 1% to more than 18%, among counties with available data.

In 2014, the number of cases of pertussis (whooping cough), a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening disease that is vaccine-preventable, peaked in California. That year, 11,213 cases of pertussis were diagnosed, accounting for 34% of all of the cases diagnosed in the U.S. California's 2014 pertussis rate, 29 per 100,000 people, was almost three times the rate nationwide (10.3). There was striking variation at the county level, with rates per 100,000 ranging from 0.0 to more than 100.0 in some Northern California counties. Pertussis accounts for the majority of all vaccine-preventable diseases diagnosed.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/53/immunizations/summary>



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