



## **Annual Report of Immunization Status of Students 2022-2023 School Year DSHS Immunization Section**

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Information on reported reasons kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are not vaccinated was also collected. Additionally, the number of all kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (K-12) with a conscientious exemption affidavit on file was collected. 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 requirements).

### **Methods**

In September 2022, instructions for the Annual Report of Immunization Status were distributed to 1,187 public school districts and 950 accredited private schools in Texas. The survey was conducted online and 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. Aggregated data by type of vaccine is also collected for kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Reports are prepared and submitted by staff at each public school district and accredited private school.

## **Results**

Out of the 6,029 schools sent the survey, 92.28% of the schools or districts surveyed responded. Among the 5,316,643 K-12 students reported, 100,028 (1.88 percent) had a conscientious exemption for at least one vaccine on file at students' respective schools.

Tables 1 and 2 show aggregated statewide results from the Fall of 2022 for kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade respectively. The percentage of completely immunized and the reported reason for lack of compliance are shown for each vaccine. Immunization coverage was above 95% for only one vaccine in Kindergarten: Hepatitis B. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, immunization coverage was above 95% for all vaccines except for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal MCWY (MCV4) vaccines. Reasons for not completing each vaccine series were also reported.

Tables 3 and 4 represent students who were completely vaccinated for each vaccine by Department of State Health Services (DSHS) public health region and grade level. Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of reported kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2021-2022 school year, kindergarten students had similar coverage rates while 7<sup>th</sup> grade students had slightly higher coverage rates (approximately 1.0 percentage point) in Tdap and MCV4.

Rates for conscientious exemptions increased by 0.5% for most vaccines and are now between 2.5% and 3.0%. Delinquency rates in kindergarten students decreased with all vaccines now having below 2.5%. For 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, conscientious exemption rates increased by about 0.5% compared to the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, Tdap and MCV4 delinquency rates decreased slightly by about 1.5% for both, with all vaccines now having below 5.0% delinquency rates.

Delinquency rates are still declining from the unusual increase seen since 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 vaccination coverage overall.

**Table 1. Texas Kindergarten Annual Report of Immunization Status,  
School Year 2022-2023**

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> )	93.83%	3.03%	0.10%	0.60%	2.45%
Hepatitis A	94.47%	2.84%	0.09%	1.03%	1.57%
Hepatitis B	95.79%	2.71%	0.07%	0.22%	1.20%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	94.20%	3.04%	0.13%	0.23%	2.41%
Polio	94.07%	3.01%	0.09%	0.40%	2.43%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	93.72%	3.04%	0.14%	0.53%	2.57%

\* An additional 0.17% of kindergarten students met school entry requirements through reported history of varicella (chickenpox) disease.

**Table 2. Texas 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Annual Report of Immunization Status,  
School Year 2022-2023**

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> )	93.24%	2.03%	0.07%	0.21%	4.45%
Hepatitis A	97.35%	1.35%	0.05%	0.41%	0.85%
Hepatitis B	97.74%	1.31%	0.04%	0.11%	0.79%
MCV4 ( <i>Meningococcal conjugate</i> )	92.92%	2.05%	0.06%	0.13%	4.84%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	97.87%	1.28%	0.06%	0.06%	0.74%
Polio	97.58%	1.35%	0.05%	0.15%	0.87%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	96.50%	1.39%	0.11%	0.17%	1.84%

\* An additional 0.81% of 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2022-2023**

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
DTaP ( <i>Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis</i> )	93.63%	93.29%	93.48%	93.94%	92.94%	93.21%	95.31%	96.40%
Hepatitis A	94.28%	93.62%	93.94%	94.54%	94.05%	94.10%	95.62%	97.54%
Hepatitis B	95.78%	95.23%	95.28%	95.45%	95.36%	95.53%	97.33%	98.55%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	94.28%	93.76%	94.17%	93.99%	93.51%	93.55%	95.98%	96.58%
Polio	94.09%	93.69%	93.91%	93.81%	93.24%	93.45%	96.09%	96.48%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	93.57%	93.18%	93.78%	93.54%	92.97%	93.15%	95.39%	96.44%

\* 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 2022-2023**

Vaccine	Public Health Region							
	1	2/3	4/5N	6/5S	7	8	9/10	11
Tdap ( <i>Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis</i> )	94.30%	93.45%	95.99%	91.27%	92.42%	92.37%	94.45%	96.65%
Hepatitis A	98.13%	97.25%	97.87%	96.58%	96.86%	97.39%	97.97%	99.14%
Hepatitis B	98.40%	97.73%	98.13%	96.77%	97.36%	98.04%	98.64%	99.41%
MCV4 ( <i>Meningococcal conjugate</i> )	94.53%	93.59%	95.89%	89.93%	92.50%	92.04%	94.38%	96.62%
MMR ( <i>Measles, mumps, and rubella</i> )	98.63%	97.87%	98.21%	96.83%	97.87%	98.01%	98.73%	99.40%
Polio	98.21%	97.57%	98.02%	96.56%	97.20%	97.86%	98.47%	99.32%
Varicella* ( <i>Chickenpox</i> )	98.18%	97.41%	97.93%	92.62%	97.04%	97.77%	98.26%	99.11%

\* This percentage does not reflect 7<sup>th</sup> 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, School Year 2022-2023**

