



Contact: Nick De Leeuw (517) 575-9564
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Michigan Physicians, Nurses on State’s New Kindergarten Immunization Rates

State remains high on list of states of parents not vaccinating their children
LANSING, MI—Following today’s release of new national immunization data and rankings finding that Michigan ranks 4th nationally with 5.4% - up .1% from last year – of parents choosing not to vaccinate their children against preventable, potentially deadly diseases, a broad coalition of health care providers issue the following joint statement:

“We are extremely disappointed to learn that despite ongoing and increased education and outreach efforts, too many Michigan parents continue to make potentially dangerous choices for their children and our communities. Childhood immunizations protect our kids from dangerous infectious diseases such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, but more and more Michigan kids are at risk as non-medical exemption rates rise and immunization rates fall.

“Because of their developing immune systems and exposure in settings like school and daycare, children and infants are especially vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. Infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated are not protected from many preventable diseases making it critical to protect the entire family, especially school-aged children, through immunizations.

“We know—and science shows—that immunizations are safe and effective. Vaccines are thoroughly tested before being approved, and public health officials continually monitor their safety and effectiveness. If you have questions about immunizations, talk with your physician.”

Michigan’s health care providers including the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians, Michigan State Medical Society, Michigan Osteopathic Association, Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Michigan Association of School Nurses, the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Health Plans are united in their effort to better educate parents about the importance of childhood immunizations.

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Change in Nonmedical Exemptions at the State-Level

State	2009-10 (%)	2011-12 (%)	2012-13 (%)	2013-14 (%)	Difference from 2012-13 to 2013-14 (%)
Alabama	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.1
Alaska	3.8	5.7	4.0	4.1	0.1
Arizona	2.8	3.5	3.9	4.7	0.6
Arkansas	0.5	3.4	1.0	1.1	0.1
California	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.1	0.3
Colorado	NA	--- § †	4.0	4.6	0.6
Connecticut	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.6	0.2
Delaware	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.2
District of Columbia	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.1
Florida	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	0.3
Georgia	1.0	1.2	2.2	1.7	-0.5
Hawaii	3.5	3.8	2.2	3.2	1.0
Idaho	3.5	5.1	5.5	6.1	0.6
Illinois	3.4	4.5	4.8	N/A	N/A
Indiana	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	-0.1
Iowa	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.0
Kansas	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.9	1.0
Kentucky	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.1
Louisiana	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.2
Maine	3.0	3.5	3.9	5.2	1.3
Maryland	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.0
Massachusetts	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.0
Michigan	3.8	4.9	5.3	5.4	0.1
Minnesota	NA	1.5	1.6	N/A	N/A
Mississippi	--- § †	--- § †	--- § †	--- § †	
Missouri	0.8	1.8	1.5	N/A	N/A
Montana	2.2	2.6	3.0	3.3	0.3
Nebraska	2.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.0

State	2009-10 (%)	2011-12 (%)	2012-13 (%)	2013-14 (%)	Difference from 2012-13 to 2013-14 (%)
Nevada	1.0	1.5	1.8	2.0	0.2
New Hampshire	NA	1.9	2.3	2.5	0.2
New Jersey	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.4	0.2
New Mexico	0.7	2.0	0.2	0.9	0.7
New York	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.0
North Carolina	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.2
North Dakota	0.8	1.0	1.8	2.3	0.5
Ohio	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.8	0.2
Oklahoma	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.2
Oregon	5.2	5.8	6.4	7.0	0.6
Pennsylvania	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.7	0.2
Rhode Island	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	-0.1
South Carolina	0.6	1.0	N/A	1.2	N/A
South Dakota	0.7	1.0	1.5	1.6	0.1
Tennessee	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.0	-0.1
Texas	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.2
Utah	3.6	3.6	N/A	4.2	N/A
Vermont	5.3	5.4	5.7	6.1	0.4
Virginia	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0
Washington	5.7	4.2	3.5	3.6	0.1
West Virginia	--- § †	--- § †	--- § †	--- § †	
Wisconsin	3.1	4.1	4.0	4.8	0.8
Wyoming	NA	NA	1.9	N/A	N/A

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Abbreviation: NA = not available.

† Exemptions for philosophical reasons are not allowed.

§ Exemptions for religious reasons are not allowed.

** Exemptions for religious reasons are allowed but are not reported separately from exemptions for philosophical reasons