



HoosierVax Health: Vaccine Insights for Clinicians

July 2024

Spotlight

Immunization Data Dashboards: Empowering Informed Decisions

In our ongoing commitment to maintaining the health and safety of all Hoosiers, the Immunization Data Team aims to empower the public with information made available through immunization data dashboards. The state's website has a section dedicated to dashboards showcasing coverage rates for different demographics and specific vaccines. These publicly available dashboards provide invaluable insight into vaccination rates, assisting everyone in making informed decisions about our health.

School Immunization Data Dashboard

The school immunization data dashboard has been a significant part of our public facing dashboards throughout the years. Currently, this dashboard is updated annually by the immunization data team and equips parents, educators, and public health practitioners with up-to-date information on the coverage of school required vaccines. Significant modifications to the existing dashboard have been made to enhance data accessibility. The dashboard now offers comprehensive information about vaccination coverage among school-aged children by geography, allowing individual counties to examine where they stand compared to the state's coverage rates. The dashboard breaks down immunization rates across schools by districts for grade-specific (kindergarten, first, sixth, seventh, and 12th) school required vaccines. By visualizing this data, one can gain a clearer understanding of vaccination trends, enabling them to identify areas for improvement and implement targeted interventions.

Through continued efforts, the Immunization data team is working hard to create new and update existing immunization data dashboards. For more information, please contact us at idohtdatarequests@health.in.gov.

Immunization Insights

Updates and Best Practices for a Well-Informed Community

Immunizations are a cornerstone of public health, crucial for stopping the spread of infectious diseases, and they prevent 3.5 to 5 million deaths each year. Core tools for these efforts are the Immunization Information System (IIS) and, in the United States, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which are essential to ensuring that vaccines reach all children, who need them most.

The Immunization Information System (IIS)

The IIS is a comprehensive, population-based system that collects and consolidates vaccination data. It serves as a vital tool for healthcare providers, public health officials, and families, ensuring accurate record-keeping and effective and timely vaccine administration.

Key features of IIS:

- Centralized data: IIS centralizes vaccination records, making it easier for healthcare providers to access and update information
- Reminder recall systems: Reminders to help stay on top of children's vaccination schedules
- Inventory management system: Reduces waste and ensures vaccine availability
- Disease surveillance: Identifies vaccine coverage gaps and respond to disease outbreaks

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The VFC program is a federally funded initiative that provides vaccines at no cost to eligible children, including those who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, or American Indian/Alaska Native. The program ensures that children who might not otherwise be vaccinated due to financial constraints receive the immunizations they so desperately need.

Key elements of the VFC program:

- Eligibility: Includes children who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, or American Indian/Alaska Native
- Provider support: Training and resources for proper vaccine storage, handling, and administration
- Equity focus: Efforts to address disparities in vaccination rates among different demographic groups, ensuring that all children have equal access to vaccines



Best Practices for IIS and VFC Programs

For healthcare providers:

- Accurate data entry: Ensure timely and accurate entry of vaccination data into the IIS to maintain up-to-date records
- Patient education: Educate parents and guardians about the importance of vaccinations and the role of the VFC program in providing access to free vaccines
- Follow-up: Utilize reminder recall systems to ensure that children complete their vaccination schedules

For public health officials:

- Collaboration: Partner with schools and organizations to promote vaccination
- Data analysis: Identify and address low vaccination rates

For parents and guardians:

- Keep records: Make sure to maintain personal copies of your child(ren)s vaccination records
- Stay informed: Be aware of the recommended vaccination schedule and the benefits of each vaccine
- Ask questions: Don't hesitate to ask healthcare providers about the VFC program and how it can benefit your child

COVID-19 and RSV Updates

VFC providers are required to carry all ACIP-recommended vaccines in both public and private stock. Due to the high cost of the Covid-19 and RSV vaccines, providers will not be required to stock privately purchased doses of these vaccines until Aug. 31, 2025. They will, however, be required to keep COVID-19 vaccines and RSV vaccines during RSV season (October to March) in their VFC stock.

Upcoming Events

User Group Meetings

- 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., July 16, 17, and 18 in Hamilton County
- 11 a.m. to Noon, Aug. 21—virtual web training
- 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sept. 17, 18, and 19—North A District, St. Catherine's Hospital

Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) Meetings

- **Central Flu Summit**
8:30 a.m. to Noon, July 22 at Ritz Charles, 12156 N Meridian St., Carmel
- **Northern Flu Summit**
8:30 a.m. to Noon, July 23 at Swan Lake Resort Conference Center, 5203 Plymouth Laporte Trail, Plymouth
- **Southern Flu Summit**
8:30 a.m. to Noon, July 25 at Ivy Tech Community College, Ogle Hall, Room 181, 8204 Hwy 311, Sellersburg
- **Northern Membership Meeting**
Noon to 4 p.m., Sept. 12 at Swan Lake Resort Conference Center, 5203 Plymouth Laporte Trail, Plymouth

Conferences

- **Labor of Love Summit**
July 23 and 24 at JW Marriott Indianapolis, Floor 3, 10 S. West St, Indianapolis
For more information, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

2 North Meridian Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • 317-233-1325 • health.in.gov

