



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
PUBLIC HEALTH

Childhood Immunization Report – 2022

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Introduction

The County of Santa Cruz Public Health Immunization Program in collaboration with the Population Health Unit analyzed data on routine immunization rates. Historically, local immunization data for Santa Cruz County have been difficult to gather. The only glimpse into county-wide immunization information for children has been during Annual School Reporting.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requires that all public and private schools report immunization information for students entering Transitional Kindergarten/ Kindergarten (TK/K), and 7th Grade. Schools do not share personally identifiable information. This report will look at Annual School Reporting and California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) data for children in Santa Cruz County.

Childhood Immunization Schedule

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended immunization schedule is safe and effective at protecting children from 14 diseases. The schedule is based on how a child's immune system responds to vaccines at various ages, and how likely a child is to be exposed to a particular disease. On-time vaccination protects children from serious disease outcomes at the time that they need it most. There is no data to support that spacing out vaccines offers safe or effective protection from these diseases.

Immunization Resources

- [CDC Recommended Schedule Education “Why Vaccinate”](#)
- [ACIP Childhood Immunization Schedule: English | Spanish](#)
- [AB1797 Legislation FAQ](#)
- [California School Immunization Law](#)
- [Santa Cruz County Immunization Website](#)



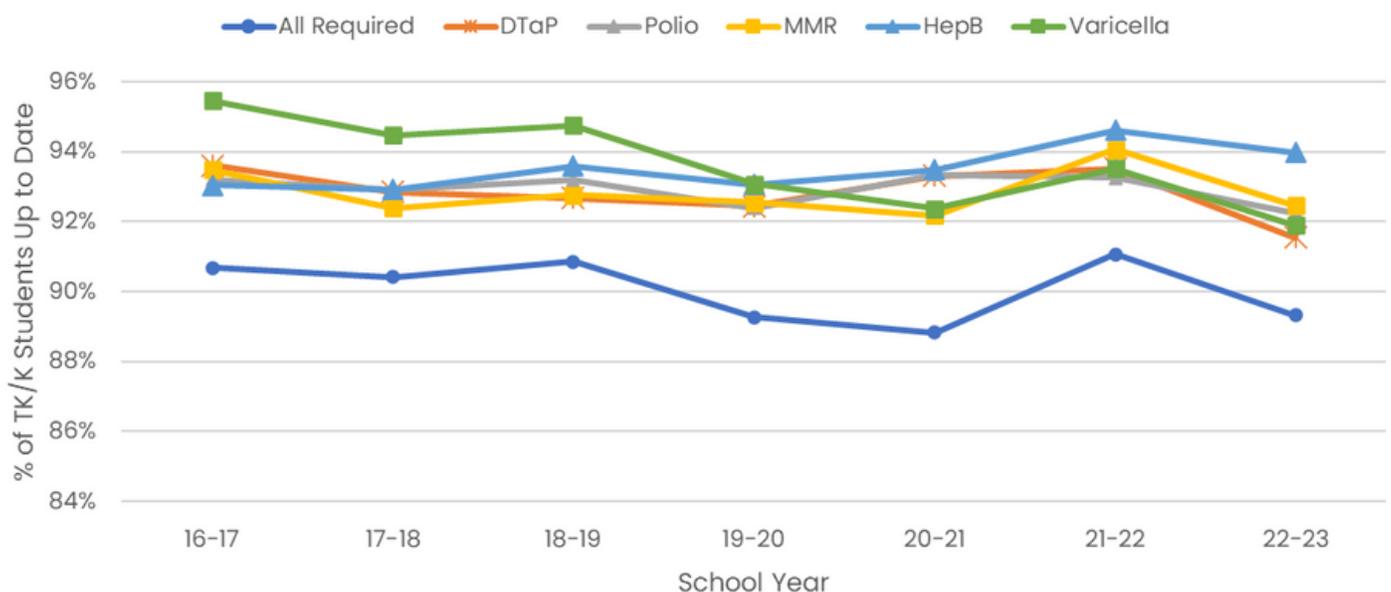
This report was completed by the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Immunization Program, a team that includes public health nurses, health educators, administrators, and epidemiologists. It is intended to increase community awareness of childhood routine immunizations which are a health indicator for children in Santa Cruz County. This report will be released in Spanish.

Santa Cruz County Immunization Rates for Kindergarten Students

Data Source: Santa Cruz County Annual School Reporting

Annual School Reporting relies on staff to track, gather, and interpret immunization records and complex school immunization laws. As a result, schools may misinterpret immunizations that are missing or due which could lead to inaccurate reporting. Despite possible inaccuracies, the trend provides valuable information on immunization rates in Santa Cruz County.

% of TK / K Students in Santa Cruz County Up to Date on Immunizations



Findings

According to Annual School Reporting for 2022-2023, 89% of TK/K students in Santa Cruz County had all required vaccinations. In 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, immunization rates decreased.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a community-level impact beginning in March 2020, and Annual School Reporting was completed before that time. It's likely that the low rates in 2019-2020 were not impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, whereas the 2020-2021 rates show the impact from COVID-19. In 2022-2023, the percent of TK/K students who received all required vaccines appears to have returned to 2019-2020 rates.

How's My School Doing?

- [Pre-K](#)
- [TK/K & 1st](#)
- [7th & 8th Grade](#)

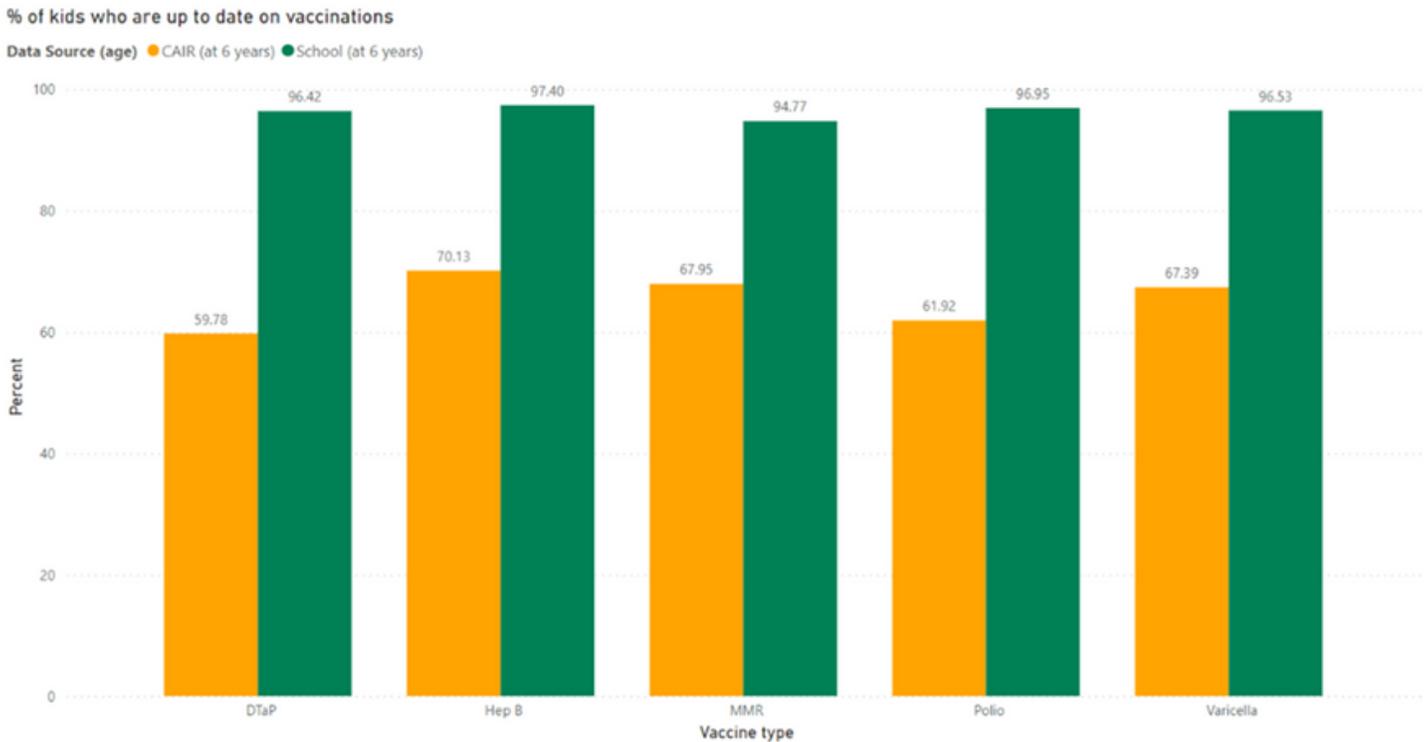
Enter your zip code to get a breakdown of immunization rates by school.

CAIR2 and Annual School Reporting

Data Source: CAIR2 & Santa Cruz County Annual School Reporting 2022–2023

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) is a registry system used across California for tracking the administration of immunizations. Until recently, providers were not required to enter vaccinations administered into CAIR2, resulting in incomplete data. On January 1, 2023, ABI797 went into effect requiring that all immunizations along with race and ethnicity information be entered into CAIR2. This change will hopefully result in more complete immunization data in the future.

The graph below shows CAIR2 vaccination rates for 6-year-olds and the 2022–2023 Annual School Reporting for 1st graders.



The yellow column reflects the number of children with a date of birth between 12/31/2015 – 12/31/2016 who were up to date on each recommended vaccine according to CAIR2 data compared to the ACS 2021 5-year population estimate of 6-year-olds in Santa Cruz County in 2022. The green column reflects 1st graders who were up to date on required vaccines, compared to all 1st graders from 2022/2023 Annual School Reporting.



Data in CAIR2 are incomplete, and therefore CAIR2 immunization rates are lower than Annual School Reporting. A better picture of immunization rates for younger children will be possible in the future with the implementation of ABI797 and resulting improvements in CAIR2.

Future Recommendations

The Annual School Reporting data in this report are valuable as a baseline assessment of the childhood immunization data landscape for Santa Cruz County. The Public Health Immunization Program recommends the following to increase vaccination rates and protect children in our community from vaccine preventable disease.

Parents

Vaccinate children on-time based on the ACIP recommended schedules.

- *Ensure children do not miss routine appointments – routine vaccines are an important part of these appointments.*
- *Address any vaccine questions with your child’s doctor or healthcare staff.*

Healthcare Providers

Continue to improve data entry into CAIR2 and input race and ethnicity data for all immunization entries.

- *Become a CAIR2 provider and enter all immunizations administered.*
- *Check quality of data transmitted to CAIR2.*

Schools and Childcare Centers

Assess and report immunization data correctly during Annual School Reporting.

- *Ensure staff are trained utilizing the new CDPH School Immunization Training Resources.*
- *Complete Annual School Reporting on-time and accurately.*

Public Health

Continue to support the community to access and receive timely vaccinations.

- *Increase the number of attendees to the Immunization Network.*
- *Continue to provide education opportunities for parents, healthcare providers, and schools.*



Santa Cruz County Immunization Program Mission

Support the whole community in accessing timely vaccinations for all eligible individuals.

This report is intended to support the County of Santa Cruz Operational Objective for 2021-2023 (#81).