

STATUS OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



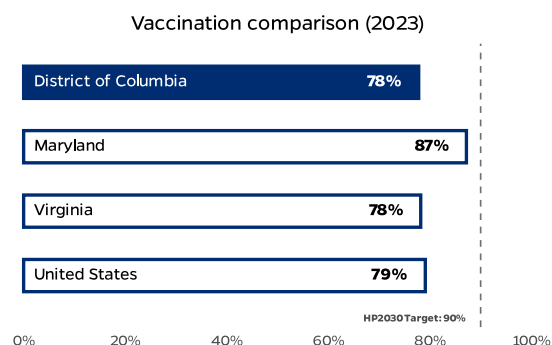
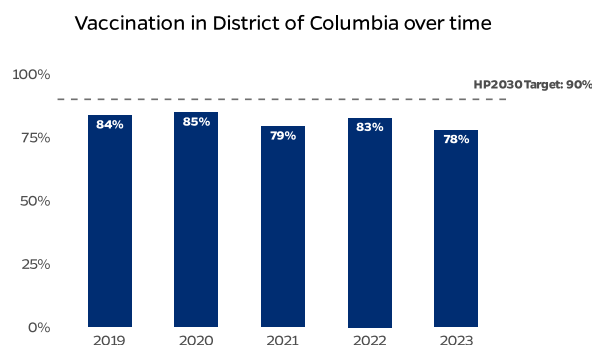
This brief illustrates the current status of childhood immunization in District of Columbia and is intended to inform state-level policy decisions and priorities. Takeaways include:

- State-level immunization coverage in District of Columbia for MMR vaccination is similar to national levels.
- District of Columbia's non-medical exemption rate among kindergartners is lower than the U.S. median.
- State-level per capita public health spending is higher than the national rate.
- District of Columbia has reported 1 case of measles since January 1, 2025.

VACCINATION COVERAGE

Maintaining sufficient vaccination coverage is critical for establishing community protection. The charts below demonstrate how coverage for two critical vaccines has changed over time in District of Columbia and how it compares to neighboring states, national rates, and Healthy People 2030 (HP2030) targets.

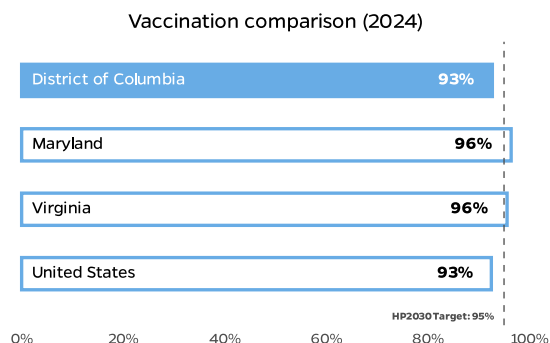
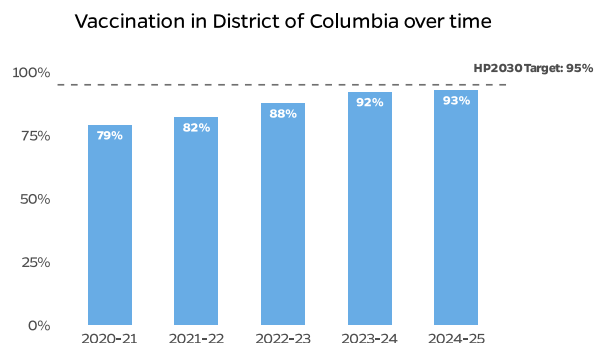
Proportion of 2-year-olds fully protected with DTaP vaccines



In 2023, fewer 2-year-olds were fully vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (received all four doses of DTaP) in District of Columbia compared to the previous year. Coverage in District of Columbia is below the HP2030 target of 90%.

Source: ChildVaxView

Proportion of kindergartners protected with MMR vaccines



In 2024, a higher proportion of kindergartners completed the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine series in District of Columbia compared to the previous year. Coverage in District of Columbia falls short of the HP2030 target of 95%.

Source: SchoolVaxView

VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS

Many states allow children attending public school to receive vaccination exemptions for religious reasons or for personal reasons, sometimes referred to as “philosophical exemptions.” Higher rates of non-medical exemptions have been linked with increased disease transmission.

Allows personal exemptions?	Allows religious exemptions?	Non-medical exemptions — state	Non-medical exemptions — US median
NO	YES	2.5%	4%

District of Columbia's rate of non-medical exemptions among kindergartners during the 2024-25 school year is a slight increase from the state's 2023-24 rate.

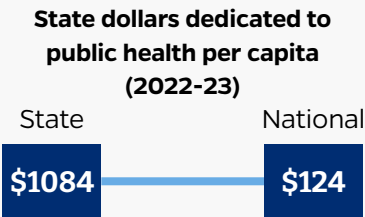
Additional details on exemption requirements:

Personal exemption is allowed for HPV vaccine only.

Source: NCSL, SchoolVaxView

PUBLIC HEALTH SPENDING

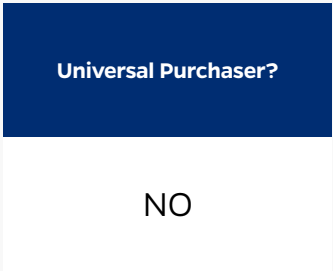
Low levels of public health spending are thought to contribute to suboptimal immunization rates.



Source: America's Health Rankings

UNIVERSAL VACCINE PURCHASING

In states with Universal Purchase programs, the state government purchases all recommended vaccines for all children, regardless of insurance status. These initiatives can help to address disparities in vaccine coverage and support equitable vaccine access.



Source: AIM

SUPPORT FOR IMMUNIZATION

The state legislature recently introduced a bill that would affect statewide childhood vaccination. The arrow below indicates whether the bill would strengthen (↑) or weaken (↓) vaccine safety nets.

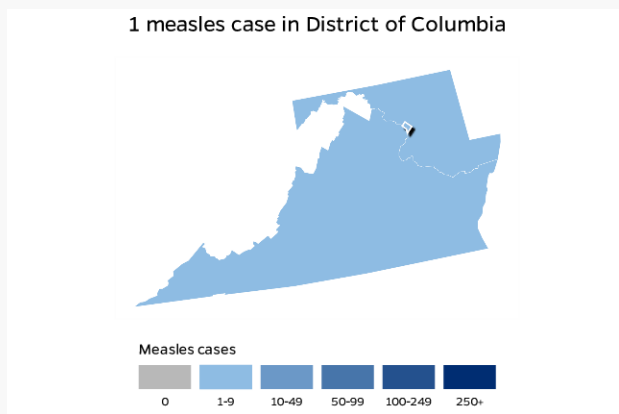


DC B 278 (Enacted) – Requires schools to annually distribute immunization information, including information on how to obtain immunizations, in languages other than English

Source: AIM, LegiScan, NCSL

DISEASE STATUS

Measles outbreaks can indicate insufficient vaccination coverage within a population. Disease may spread across state borders when vaccine coverage is low. The map below visualizes the number of measles cases reported in District of Columbia and neighboring states between January 1, 2025 and September 15, 2025.



Source: U.S. Measles Tracker, IVAC.



Vaccines can help prevent expensive disease outbreaks. A 2018–19 measles outbreak in Washington was estimated to cost **US\$47,479** per case for both direct medical and public health response expenses.

Source: Pike, 2022

DATA SOURCES

Vaccination coverage:

- DTaP: CDC, ChildVaxView Interactive! <https://www.cdc.gov/childvaxview/about/interactive-reports.html>. DTaP, ≥ 4 Doses, States/Local Areas, Birth Years/Cohorts 2017–2021, Age 24 months. Updated Aug 2024.
- MMR: CDC, SchoolVaxView Interactive! <https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html>. MMR, States, School Years 2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24, 2024–25. Updated July 2025.

Vaccination exemptions:

- Status: NCSL, State Non-Medical Exemptions From School Immunization Requirements. <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements>. Updated July 2025. Rates: CDC, SchoolVaxView Interactive! <https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html>. Exemption – Non-Medical Exemption, States, School Years 2023–24 and 2024–25. Updated July 2025.

Public health spending:

- Public Health Funding in United States, America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PH_funding. Accessed July 2025.

Universal vaccine purchasing:

- Association of Immunization Managers, Policy Maps – Universal Vaccine Purchase Program. <https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/resources/aim-policy-maps/>. Updated April 2025.

Support for immunization:

- Association of Immunization Managers, Legislative Round-ups. <https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/resources-toolkits/immunization-program-policy-toolkit/legislative-round-ups/>. LegiScan. <https://legiscan.com/>. Accessed July 2025.
- NCSL State Public Health Legislation Database. <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-public-health-legislation-database>. Accessed Sept 2025.

Disease status:

- International Vaccine Access Center, U.S. Measles Tracker. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/ivac/resources/us-measles-tracker>. Accessed July 22, 2025.

Measles outbreak cost:

- Pike J, Melnick A, Gastañaduy PA, et al. Societal Costs of a Measles Outbreak. *Pediatrics*. 2021;147(4):e2020027037. doi:10.1542/peds.2020-027037

Note: The high-level data included in this report do not reflect statewide variation in vaccination coverage or disease status. Further, state reporting policies may limit data completeness. For any data-related questions, please contact ivac@jh.edu.