



Immunization

Why are immunizations important to Iowans?

Vaccines are one of the greatest public health success stories of the 20th Century, second only to clean water. The widespread use of vaccines protects all Iowans from infectious diseases that were once common, allowing Iowans the opportunity to enjoy healthy lives in healthy communities.

Immunizations save money. For every \$1 spent on each of the 11 vaccines given routinely to children, our country saves \$10.10 in medical costs by averting costs to treat diseases.

We cannot rest on our past achievements and success but must remain diligent to increase and maintain high immunization levels to protect from vaccine preventable diseases.

In 2019, 38% of adolescents 13-15 years of age received a complete series of HPV vaccine (national goal is 80%).

In 2019, the 2-year-old county immunization rate for the 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, 4 PCV series by 24 months of age ranged from 49-88%, with an average immunization rate of 74% for the state (national goal is 90%).
(cont.)

Did you know?

Vaccine-preventable diseases still threaten the health of Iowans. In 2016, 732 cases of mumps were reported.

A focus on health equity

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines for underserved populations with the intent of barrier-free access to immunization services. Fifty-one percent of Iowa children from birth through 18 years of age are eligible to receive VFC vaccine. Eligible children include those who are enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaskan Native.

What does the department do?

- Purchases and distributes vaccine to public and private health care providers through the [VFC program](#). The Iowa VFC program includes approximately 600 participating health care providers with at least one provider in each of Iowa's 99 counties.
- The VFC program provides vaccine for approximately 47%, or 362,451 of Iowa's children and distributes more than 641,000 doses of vaccine annually to eligible children.
- Provides consultation education to health care professionals and the public about vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits of immunization.
- Provides funding to all 99 local public health agencies to conduct immunization clinics and remove barriers to access vaccines.
- Manages the statewide Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS), which maintains immunization records for all Iowans, helping to prevent individuals from being under- and over-immunized.



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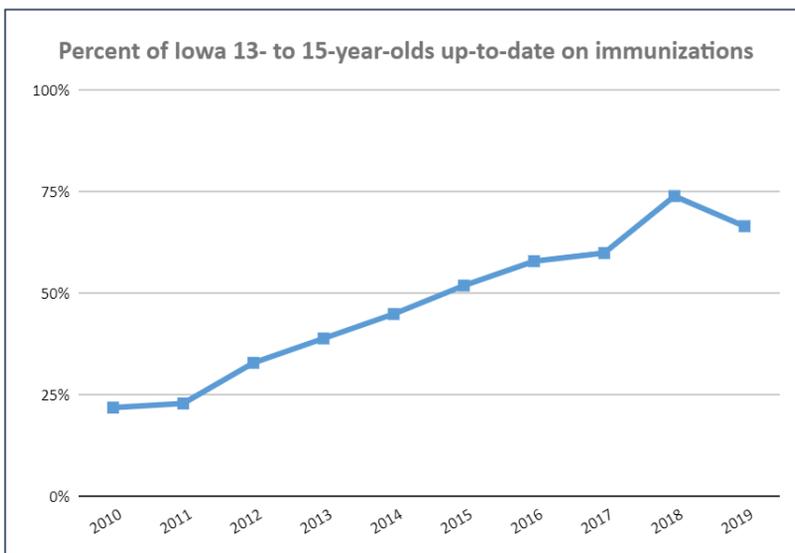
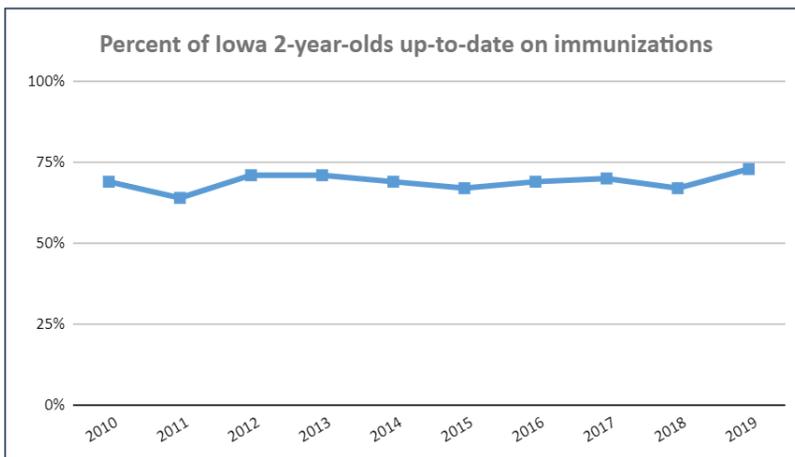
Why are immunizations important to Iowans? (cont.)

In 2019, the adolescent (13- to 15-year-olds) county immunization rate for the 3-1-2-1-2 (3 Hep B, 1 Meningococcal, 2 MMR, 1 Td or Tdap, 2 Varicella) series ranged from 44-84%, with an average state immunization rate of 67% (national goal is 90%).

What can Iowans do to help?

- Receive vaccines according to the recommended childhood, adolescent and adult immunization schedules.
- Keep track of and maintain immunization records for you and your family. For a handy immunization card, go to <https://idph.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization>.
- Health care professionals can promote the need for and the benefits of immunization.
- Health care professionals should routinely give immunizations according to the recommended childhood, adolescent and adult schedules. Recommended schedules can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>.

How do we measure our progress?



Resources	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Actual	SFY 2021 Estimate
State Funds	\$622,702	\$603,018	\$603,018
Federal Funds	\$3,703,430	\$4,227,879	\$4,401,506
Total Funds	\$4,326,132	\$4,830,897	\$5,004,524
FTEs	16.11	15.08	14.25