

# IMMUNIZATION: 2018 FACTS AND FIGURES

## Colorado House District 21



COLORADO CHILDREN'S  
IMMUNIZATION COALITION

### Overview

Vaccines are a safe and effective way to prevent the spread of disease and keep children healthy as they grow. Each year in the US, vaccines save approximately 33,000 lives, prevent 14 million cases of disease, and save \$9.9 billion in direct care costs.<sup>1</sup>

Although the majority of parents vaccinate their children, newly-available data show there are gaps in vaccination coverage across the state of Colorado, putting our children and communities at risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. High vaccination coverage levels and coordinated efforts are critical to protecting public health.

### Vaccine Exemptions in Colorado

Colorado is one of 18 states that allow parents to exempt their children from vaccines required for school or child care for philosophical reasons.

Compared with other states, Colorado has a relatively easy exemption process and one of the highest exemption rates. Research shows that states with lenient exemption policies have higher exemption rates, which can lead to increased risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

### Quick Facts



**95 PERCENT** of vaccine exemptions in Colorado are claimed for non-medical reasons.



**50<sup>th</sup>** Colorado ranks last in the Nation for kindergarten vaccination rates.<sup>2</sup>

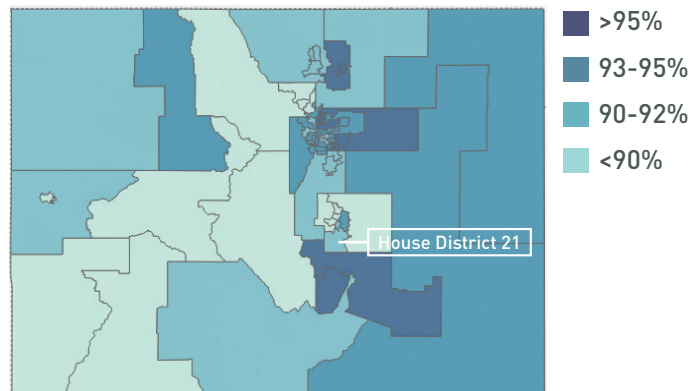


**4,719 COLORADO CHILDREN** were hospitalized or went to an emergency room with vaccine-preventable diseases in 2015.<sup>3</sup>



**\$35 MILLION** There were more than \$35 million in hospital and emergency department charges for treating Colorado children for vaccine-preventable diseases in 2015.<sup>3</sup>

### Up-to-Date Vaccination Rates by House District, 2016-17 School Year\*



### House Districts with the Highest and Lowest Up-to-Date Vaccination Rates\*

House District 50	97.7%	House District 61	86.5%
House District 37	97.1%	House District 59	86.3%
House District 56	96.9%	House District 60	85.7%
House District 48	96.8%	House District 12	84.9%
House District 31	96.9%	House District 10	79.3%

\*District-level immunization data has been made possible through the passage of HB14-1288 and subsequent rulemaking which requires schools and licensed child care centers to annually report immunization and exemption rates to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). To access the data, visit [www.cohealthdata.dphe.state.co.us](http://www.cohealthdata.dphe.state.co.us) and search for school and child care immunization data.

### TAKE ACTION

1. Support public policies that maintain and strengthen Colorado's exemption process.
2. Ensure appropriate funding of vaccine systems, such as the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS).
3. Support transparency of depersonalized immunization data to inform the public about vaccination coverage and community protection from disease.
4. Support policies that increase access to vaccines.

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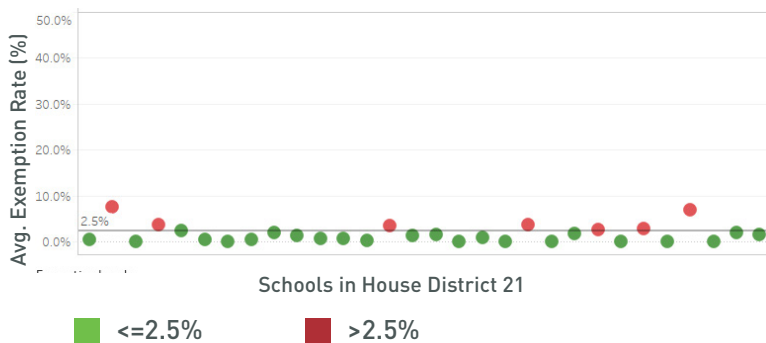


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### How Is My District Doing?

- With an overall average up-to-date (UTD) vaccination rate of **90.3%**, House District 21 ranks **50th out of 65 districts**.
- In House District 21, **7 of 30 schools** have exemption rates **greater than 2.5%** and **77% of schools** have an exemption rate **lower than 2.5%**.

### Exemption Rates by School, House District 21, 2016-2017 School Year



### What Does This Mean?

Vaccination is not just an individual choice. It takes an entire community to protect against serious disease. When enough people in a geographic area are immunized, they make it unlikely that a disease can spread in their community. Achieving a high enough level of vaccination coverage also provides protection for those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons or because they are still too young to receive vaccines. This is known as herd immunity or community protection. The federal government's Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020) goals take community protection into account when setting target levels.

While some school-level data reflect high vaccination rates, this is not consistent across Colorado. Pockets of un- and under-immunized children exist statewide, in both rural and urban areas, leaving these communities at risk for dangerous and costly diseases.

In addition to the health burden, the cost to investigate and prevent the spread of disease from just two Colorado measles cases in 2016 totaled \$68,192 in public funding.<sup>4</sup> High vaccination rates protect Colorado's public health and save public dollars.

### House District 21 Up-to-Date Rates by Vaccine, 2016-17 School Year

Disease/Vaccine	UTD Rate	HP 2020 Goals for Community Protection <sup>1</sup>
Measles MMR	92%	95%
Mumps MMR	92%	95%
Rubella MMR	92%	95%
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) DTaP	93%	95%
Diphtheria DTaP	93%	95%
Polio IPV	92%	95%
Varicella (Chickenpox) VAR	88%	95%

- Low Risk of Outbreak
- Moderate Risk of Outbreak
- High Risk of Outbreak

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/immunization-and-infectious-diseases>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6640a3.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.childrensimmunization.org/resource-library/2016-vaccine-preventable-diseases-in-colorados-children-report>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6646a3.htm>

For more information, visit [childrensimmunization.org](http://childrensimmunization.org)