

What do CDC data tell us about the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on **Routine Childhood Vaccination?**

After the COVID-19 pandemic started, we saw a concerning drop in childhood routine vaccinations. Provider vaccine orders for children through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program decreased by 14% in 2020 after the national COVID-19 public health emergency was declared.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

Childhood vaccine orders through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and administration have steadily rebounded. As of January 2023, childhood VFC vaccine orders are within 1% or exceed pre-pandemic levels.



Vaccination coverage has remained high and stable overall among young children, with coverage of more than **9 in 10** children for most recommended vaccines nationally

IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

Vaccination coverage among certain groups declined since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and may have not yet recovered.

Combined 7-vaccine series coverage by age 24 months fell 4-5% among children living below poverty or in rural areas.

4 - 5%
point drop



Kindergarten vaccination coverage has steadily declined for all vaccines and in a majority of states over the past 2 school years to lowest levels in a decade.

At least **1/4 Million** children that entered kindergarten during the pandemic are potentially susceptible to vaccine preventable disease.

Disparities in vaccination coverage by race/ethnicity, income, and insurance status that existed prior to the pandemic persisted in 2021 but did not worsen during the pandemic. However disparities worsened for young children living in rural areas.

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

We must act now to catch up children who delayed or missed getting routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Getting routine immunizations back on track is a goal that we can achieve by working together to reduce barriers, increase access, and strengthen vaccine confidence.



Routine Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone | 2022 Data Review

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/routine-immunizations-lets-rise.html
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/childvaxview/index.html
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/schoolvaxview/index.html

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