

## DESCRIPTION

While it is important for people of all ages to receive recommended vaccines, it is especially important for children, because diseases that can be prevented by vaccines are often more serious in children. Vaccinating children not only protects a child from disease, but it also protects the community by reducing the spread of a disease outbreak. When all vaccine-eligible children are fully immunized, it helps protect those who can't be vaccinated or are too young to receive vaccine.<sup>1</sup>

## HOW WE ARE DOING

In 2016 in Minnesota, 60.1 percent of children ages 24-35 months were up-to-date on recommended vaccines, which compares to Ramsey County's rate of 54.2 percent. These rates do not meet the Healthy People target of 80 percent. When looking at specific vaccine types, the Varicella (chickenpox) vaccination has the highest percentage (80 percent) of children who received it on time, while the Hepatitis A vaccination was the lowest at 35 percent. The most common reasons for a child being counted as "not up to date" on vaccinations were: the child received all vaccinations but not by 24 months (10 percent), or the child was still due for immunizations (34 percent).<sup>2</sup> Compared to other metro counties, Ramsey's percentage for children getting the full-series of immunizations on the recommended schedule was the third lowest in the seven-county metro area.<sup>3</sup>

## BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020<sup>4</sup>: Increase the percentage of children aged 19 to 35 months who receive the recommended doses of DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).

U.S. Target: 80 Percent of children aged 19 to 35 months.

## DISPARITIES

Minnesota children with at least one foreign-born parent were less likely to be up to date on recommended immunizations at ages 2, 6, 18, and 36 months than were children with two U.S.-born parents. Vaccination coverage at age 36 months varied by mother's region of origin, ranging from 77.5 percent among children born to mothers from Central and South America and the Caribbean to 44.2 percent among children born to mothers from Somalia.<sup>5</sup>

## RISK FACTORS

In very special situations, children shouldn't be vaccinated. For example, some vaccines shouldn't be given to children who have certain types of cancer or certain diseases, or who are taking drugs that lower the body's ability to resist infection.<sup>6</sup>

## WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health encourages childhood and adult immunizations as the most effective means to decrease the prevalence and spread of vaccine-preventable diseases. Public Health offers appointment based immunization clinics at 555 Cedar Street on three days each week. While people are encouraged to obtain their immunizations at their medical home, public health immunizations are available for people who do not have

## Information to note

- Ramsey County children are less likely than other Minnesota children to be up to date on their immunizations.
- Minnesota children with at least one foreign-born parent were less likely to be up to date on recommended immunizations at ages 2, 6, 18, and 36 months than were children with two U.S.-born parents.

<sup>1</sup> Immunizations. Minnesota Department of Health. <https://data.web.health.state.mn.us/immunization>. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>2</sup> ImmuLink. Hennepin County Public Health. <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/health-medical/clinics-services#get-immunizations>. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Childhood immunizations (2017). Minnesota Department of Health. <https://apps.health.state.mn.us/mndata/webmap/immunizations.html>. Accessed July 2018.

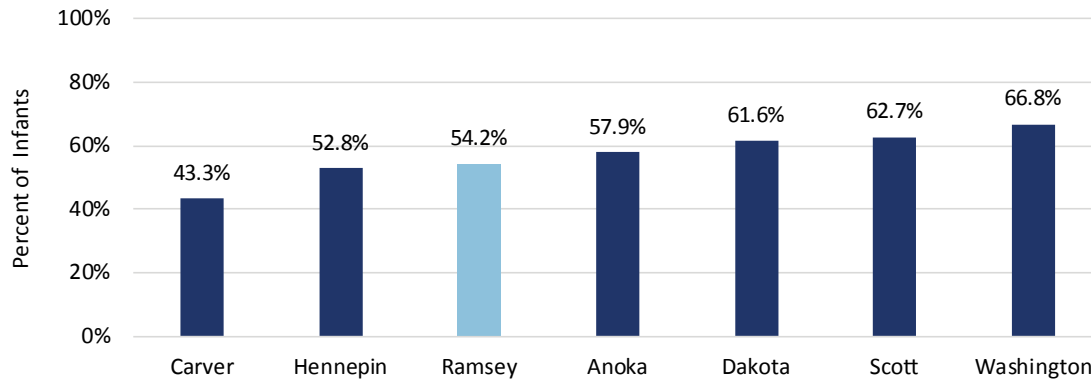
<sup>4</sup> Immunization and Infectious Diseases. Healthy People 2020. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/immunization-and-infectious-diseases/objectives>. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Leads M, Halstead Muscoplat M. Timeliness of receipt of early childhood vaccinations among children of immigrants — Minnesota, 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2017;66:1125–1129. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6642a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6642a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6642a1.htm?s_cid=mm6642a1_w). Published July 2018. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Childhood vaccines: what they are and why your child needs them. Familydoctor.Org. <https://familydoctor.org/childhood-vaccines-what-they-are-and-why-your-child-needs-them/>. Accessed July 2018.

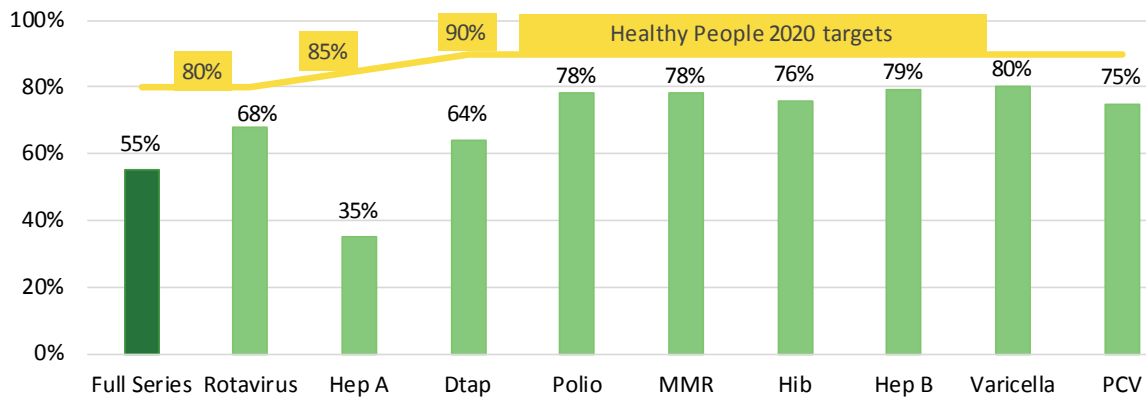
a medical home or are unable to access services in a timely manner. Additionally, Ramsey County provides funding to five Ramsey County community clinics to help off-set the cost of services, including immunizations, provided to uninsured and underinsured clients. Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health maintains a disease surveillance role, monitoring the prevalence of vaccine-preventable disease in Ramsey County.

Up-to-Date on Full-Series Vaccinations,  
Infants Aged 24-35 Months, Metro Counties, 2016



Source: Childhood Immunizations. Minnesota Department of Public Health.<sup>7</sup>

Up-to-Date on Immunizations, Children at 2 Years, Ramsey County, 2017



Source: ImmuLink. Hennepin County Public Health.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Childhood Immunizations. Minnesota Department of Public Health Web site. <https://apps.health.state.mn.us/mndata/webmap/immunizations.html>. Accessed July 2018.

<sup>8</sup> ImmuLink. Hennepin County Public Health. <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/health-medical/clinics-services#get-immunizations>. Accessed July 2018.