



Shield Texas Children from Infectious Diseases

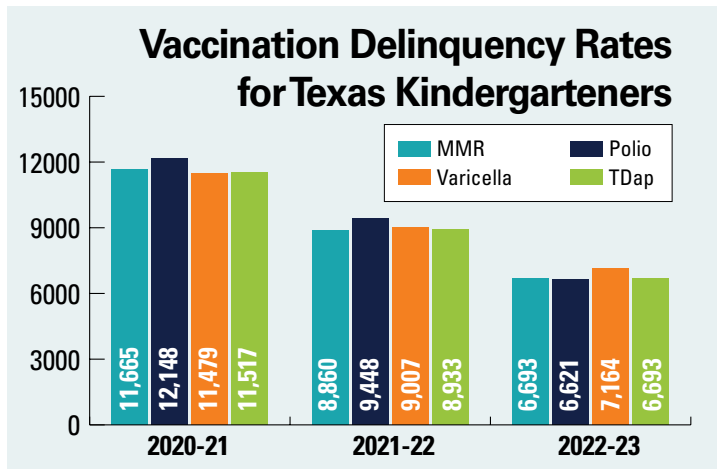
Texas' future generations are at risk. The Texas Legislature has the power to implement measures to defend children from preventable illness and disease.

Keep Kids Healthy and Prepared for School

Children's routine vaccination coverage is essential to maintaining health and safety. Texas' delinquency rates are high for most vaccines, indicating many students attend class despite not having met vaccination requirements.^{1,2}

Texas must help schools continue to prioritize and balance students' education, health, and safety

Children learn and thrive in schools. Vaccines are a crucial public health tool for preventing disease and keeping children healthy and in school.



School Vaccine Requirements Safeguard Communities

Without vaccines, communities are at risk for being exposed to harmful diseases that can lead to severe illness and poor health outcomes among vulnerable people of all ages.

- School-required vaccines are essential to prevent serious illnesses, reduce missed school days, and avoid long-term health issues.
- Communities with unvaccinated children can increase the risk of a resurgence in measles and polio, leading to dangerous outbreaks.^{3,4,5}
- Children without the vaccines required for school pose a greater risk to their own health and the health of their families and communities.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Benefits



SAVES NEARLY

\$2.2 Trillion

due to the prevention of illness



PREVENTS

472 MILLION ILLNESSES

Childhood vaccination has dramatically reduced morbidity, mortality, and disability caused by vaccine-preventable diseases.

Children in Uninsured, Underserved Households are Most Affected

- Texas has the highest children's uninsured rate in the country, more than twice the national average.^{7,8}
- The CDC National Immunization Surveys report lower vaccination rates among uninsured, low-income, and Black and Hispanic children.⁶
- Barriers such as financial challenges, missed vaccination opportunities, low clinician participation in the VFC program, and higher vaccine hesitancy contribute to lower vaccination rates.

To protect all Texans from disease, ensure access to routine vaccinations through improved access to the medical home.

The Texas Public Health Coalition supports defending vaccination policies that have kept our children and communities safe for decades.

SOURCES

- 1 Vaccinations Administered, Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2
- 2 <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/LIDS-Immunizations/pdf/22-23-Annual-Report-of-Immunization-Status-of-Students.pdf>
- 3 <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vaccine-preventable-diseases/vaccine-preventable-disease-conditions/measles-rubeola>
- 4 <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/IDCU/disease/measles/Measles-Cases-and-IR-in-Texas-by-Age-Group-2018-19.pdf>
- 5 <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/the-basics-of-polio-and-why-its-making-a-comeback/>
- 6 National Immunization Survey-Child (NIS-Child)
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Table HIC-5, Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State - Children Under 19: 2008 to 2021
- 8 <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-for-children/about/index.html>
- 9 <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/data/school/coverage>
- 10 https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&_program=adhoc.addispatch
- 11 https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&_program=adhoc.addispatch
- 12 https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&_program=adhoc.addispatch
- 13 https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/LIDS-Immunizations/pdf/2023-2024_Annual_Report_of_Immunization_Status_of_Students.pdf
- 14 <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school/exemptions>
- 15 <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/3/e2021056013/188495/Impact-of-Routine-Childhood-Immunization-in?autologincheck=redirected>



The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

401 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 ■ www.texmed.org/PublicHealthCoalition ■ knowledge@texmed.org

MEMBERS

ALS Association	Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine	Texas Health Institute
Alzheimer's Association	Texas Academy of Family Physicians	Texas Hospital Association
American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network	Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Texas Medical Association
American Heart Association	Texas Academy of Physician Assistants	Texas Nurses Association
American Lung Association	Texas Association of City & County Health Officials	Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Children at Risk	Texas Association of Community Health Centers	Texas Pediatric Society
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services	Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Harris County Public Health	Texas Dental Association	Texas Renal Coalition
Healthier Texas		Texas School Nurses Organization
March of Dimes		The Immunization Partnership
Methodist Healthcare Ministries		United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
CPAN & TCHATT

MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR
HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH
SERVICES

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
TEXAS TOBACCO CONTROL COALITION
TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

UT AUSTIN TOBACCO RESEARCH AND
EVALUATION TEAM
UT MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
ZERO PROSTATE CANCER