

People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



Know the Facts: Childhood Immunizations

DID YOU KNOW?

- There has not been a case of naturally occurring smallpox in the world since 1977, and polio has been eradicated from the Western hemisphere - both due mostly to immunization.
- Among children born in the United States from 1994 to 2013, vaccination will prevent an estimated 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes, at a net savings of \$295 billion in direct costs and \$1.38 trillion in total societal costs.
- Vaccinations are required for entry into school.
- California law requires students in 7th grade to provide documentation of either having received a booster immunization against pertussis or a signed medical exemption from a physician. The pertussis booster immunization recommended for adolescents is known as 'Tdap.'
- California Senate Bill 277 passed on February 19, 2015, eliminates the exemption from immunization based upon personal beliefs.

WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

In Shasta County, 80.4% of children entering child care centers and 87.6% of those entering kindergarten were fully immunized in 1998.

WHERE WE ARE:

In Shasta County, 85.2% of children entering child care centers and 77.2% of those entering kindergarten were fully immunized in 2013.

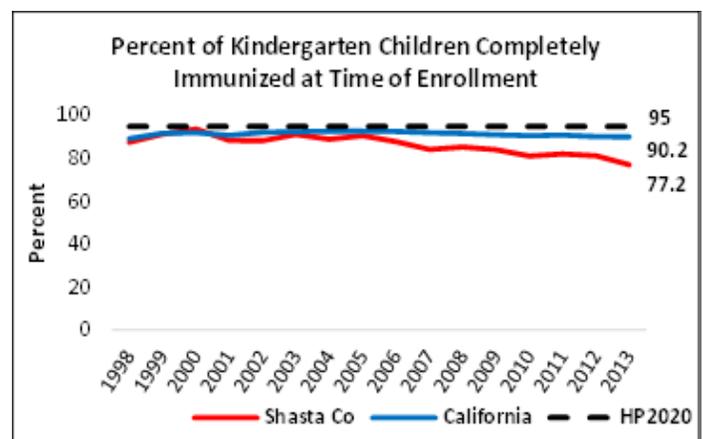
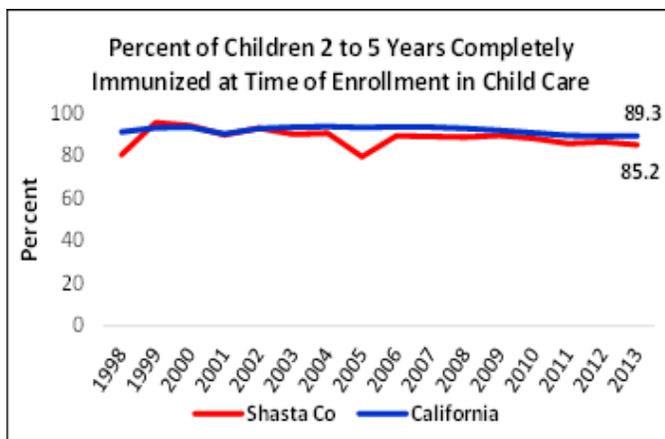
WHERE WE ARE AIMING:

The Healthy People 2020 goal is to maintain vaccination coverage for children in kindergarten at 95%.

DEFINITION:

Percentage of kindergarten children in Shasta County who are completely immunized* at the time of enrollment.

*Based on the recommended immunizations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.



Contributing Staff: Ali Abadi and Stephanie Taylor. Last updated: April 2016.

Find more health information at www.shastahhsa.net. Click on "Health and Safety," then "Current Health Concerns." Questions? Email shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us

KEY POINTS:

- Among 7th grade children in 2012-2013, 97.2% were vaccinated with Tdap in the state of California, compared with 91.2% in Shasta County. During 2011-2012, the rates were 97.6% and 92.9% for California and Shasta County, respectively.
- Children who were completely immunized when they enrolled in child care or kindergarten in Shasta County has been lower than the state level for the last decade.
- Kindergartners completely immunized at the time of enrollment in Shasta County was 77.2% in 2013.
- California vaccination coverage rates among child care, kindergarten and seventh-graders in recent years meets the Healthy People 2020 goal.

PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Use text, postcard or telephone reminders to keep children on the proper immunization schedule.
- Encourage more medical providers to offer immunizations.
- Use all opportunities to vaccinate children when they visit healthcare providers.
- Encourage parents to always bring their child's yellow immunization card to any doctor or clinic visit and to regard the card as a vital document to be saved throughout childhood.
- Continue to provide low-cost vaccines to qualifying children at Shasta County Public Health, Community Health Centers, Native American health services and other local providers.
- Encourage further development of combination vaccines and alternate delivery routes (e.g. nasal sprays or food) to decrease the number of shots needed.
- Visit www.shastashots.com for more information about immunizations, including recommended immunization schedules.

From the Desk of Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH

*Shasta County
Public Health Officer*



Immunization has eliminated dangerous diseases like smallpox at the global level and polio from the western hemisphere. However, vaccine-preventable diseases are still a very real threat to our children, and immunizing them is the best way to keep them safe and healthy.

Please be sure to work with your healthcare provider to ensure that your child receives his or her immunizations as recommended.

When you vaccinate your children, you help protect their friends and classmates, too.

You can learn more about this at www.shastashots.com.

To your health!