



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

July 31, 2024

Lindsay Hale
Acting Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 Southeast, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Edward Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk
17 West Main, Suite 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Hale and Mr. Blazel:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the enclosed report as required by Chapter 252, Wisconsin Statutes. The report describes the success of the statewide Immunization Program during calendar year 2023. The statewide Immunization Program produced all required reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirsten Johnson".

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary-designee

Enclosure



Report on the Success of the Statewide Immunization Program during CY 2023
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Wisconsin Statute § 252.04 (11) directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the success of the statewide immunization program.

School immunization rates

Chapter DHS 144 requires students to receive a minimum number of immunizations, be in the process of receiving those immunizations, or have a signed waiver in order to attend school and be in compliance with the law. Every fall, schools are required to report the aggregate number of students who have met the minimum immunization requirements, are in the process of meeting the requirements, are behind schedule, have a waiver, or have no immunization record or waiver on file.

For the 2023–24 school year, 2,795 schools reported information on 909,347 students.

- During the 2023–24 school year, 89.2% of students met the minimum immunization requirements.
- The percentage of students with a waiver (personal conviction, religious, or medical) for one or more immunizations was 6.1% during the 2023–24 school year.
 - The percentage of students with religious and medical waivers have remained relatively constant; the percentage of students with a personal conviction waiver was 5.2% during the 2023–24 school year.
- During the 2023–24 school year, 1.9% of students were behind schedule.
- 1.9% of students had waived all immunizations during the 2023–24 school year.

Preschool-age children immunization estimates

Estimates of immunization levels among Wisconsin preschool-age children (24 months of age) are determined using the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). A child's primary immunization series includes: 4 DTaP; 3 polio; 1 MMR; ≥ 3 *Haemophilus influenzae* Type B; 3 hepatitis B; 1 varicella; and 4 pneumococcal conjugate vaccine doses.

- The percentage of preschool-age children who completed the primary series for 2023 (4:3:1:3:3:1:4) was 68.76%, compared to 68.97% during 2022.

Adolescent immunization estimates

CY23 immunization activities also included those specific to adolescents aged 13 through 18 years. The adolescent vaccine platform includes HPV, MCV4, Tdap, and MenB.

The following represent coverage rates for adolescents using WIR data[†]:

- ≥ 1 HPV 65.2%, HPV Complete* 53.04%
- ≥ 1 MCV4 76.59%, MCV4 up to date** 51.24%

- ≥ 1 Tdap 81.89%
- ≥ 1 MenB 21.66%, MenB up to date*** 11.85%

*HPV Complete: Represents either a two- or three-dose series depending on age at vaccine series initiation.

**MCV4 up to date: Includes only clients 17–18 years old. Clients are considered up to date (UTD) if they have received a meningococcal ACWY dose prior to age 16 years and a booster dose at or after 16 years or if they received one meningococcal ACWY dose at or after age 16 years.

***MenB up to date: Includes two or more doses of meningococcal B vaccine for clients prior to age 19 years. Meningococcal B vaccine is administered based on clinical decision-making and clients may receive either a two- or three-dose series.

†Due to a change in methodology, 2023 data is not comparable to previous years. Before 2023, individuals who were reported with a non-Wisconsin address and deceased individuals were excluded from our calculation of coverage rates. Starting in 2023, the exclusion criteria was expanded to provide a more accurate population denominator by removing individuals whose records have not had activity for an extended period of time and therefore may no longer reside in Wisconsin. The additional excluded records were clients at least 11 years old, whose records were not updated in at least 10 years, and not queried in at least 5 years.

Vaccine-preventable disease response

COVID-19

In 2023, the Bridge Access Program (BAP) was implemented to offer free COVID-19 vaccine among uninsured and underinsured adults post-commercialization. BAP COVID-19 vaccine is currently available through many Vaccines for Adults (VFA) sites, community health centers, and pharmacy locations. Wisconsinites may use Vaccines.gov to search for a location participating in BAP. More than 3,100 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered among Wisconsin adults through BAP as of May 2024. The BAP program will end August 2024.

Measles

During 2023 there was one case of measles in an adult resident of Milwaukee County. No secondary transmission occurred as a result of this case.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Two new vaccines were licensed for the prevention of RSV among adults aged 60 and above (Arexvy and Abrysvo) and pregnant persons (Abrysvo). Nirsevimab (Beyfortus) is a monoclonal antibody licensed for the prevention of RSV among newborns and infants. Demand for nirsevimab was far greater than anticipated and therefore supply constraints were an issue among pediatric care providers. RSV vaccine and nirsevimab were first recommended for the 2023–24 RSV season. During this time 15% of birthing persons received Abrysvo and 19% of infants received nirsevimab.

Administrative rules

Proposed updates to DHS 144, which relates to the minimum immunization requirements for entry into Wisconsin schools and child care centers, were submitted to the legislature in 2019. The proposed modifications to DHS 144 sought to bring Wisconsin school immunization requirements in line with surrounding Midwestern states and with guidance from the CDC.

2021 AB 12 and 2021 SB 35, which sought to prohibit promulgation of portions of the new rule, failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1. Therefore, on February 2, 2023, the proposed changes to DHS 144 were promulgated by DHS. Subsequently, in response to a complaint, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Review (JCRAR) held a public

hearing on March 7, 2023, and on March 9, 2023, issued a suspension of parts of the newly promulgated rule. JCRAR then introduced 2023 AB 229 and 2023 SB 228 to prohibit promulgation of several portions of the new rule; the remainder of the new rule was not objected to and was implemented in the 2023–2024 school year.

Wisconsin Immunization Registry

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) is an internet database that tracks vaccine records for Wisconsin children and adults. It helps providers track patients who visit multiple clinics, forecasts what immunizations a patient needs, and can run reports that measure a clinic's vaccine rates. It also allows patients, parents, and child guardians to view their vaccine record and keep track of their vaccines.

- **Number of records:** WIR contains more than 10.5 million client records with 145.3 million associated immunizations in the system. Each day, approximately 17,200 vaccine administration records are added to WIR.
- **Active users:** WIR currently has 16,396 active users. The count of active users does not include those who enter the system through an electronic health record (EHR) or electronic medical record (EMR) with a real-time interface with WIR.
- **School users:** WIR has 2,667 schools and school districts, all of which can enter data directly into WIR. There is also ~1,935 schools, that can query (look-up) their students immunization records electronically from their student information system (SIS). This is done using the integration between DPI and DHS (WIR).
- **Utilization of consumer access:** There was an average of 111,632 instances per month of individuals accessing their (or their children's) immunization record during 2023. There was a peak of 169,567 instances per month of individuals accessing their (or their children's) immunization record during May 2023.
- **Utilization by providers:** On average, 142,600 times a day providers request and receive vaccine recommendations and immunization history to use in assessing their patients immunization history.
- **COVID-19 Response:** During 2023, WIR was updated with the COVID-19 2023–2024 Formula vaccines, and the schedules were updated to the new ACIP recommendations., continuing to provide vaccine immunizers the tools needed for accurate COVID-19 immunization assessment.