

## Childhood Immunizations

Increase the percent of children aged 19-35 months who receive recommended vaccinations from 76.3% in 2014 to 80% by 2020

South Dakota Percent	South Dakota 2020 Target	U.S. Percent
70.4% (2016)	80.0%	70.7% (2016)

### Significance:

Vaccination is one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, resulting in dramatic declines in morbidity and mortality for many infectious diseases. Childhood vaccination in particular is considered among the most cost-effective preventive services available as it can prevent a potential lifetime lost to death and disability. Sustaining vaccination rates requires a constant effort to reach new children. The U.S. experienced a decline in childhood immunization rates from 72.7% in 2015 to 70.7% in 2016.

South Dakota has achieved high immunization coverage rates for many childhood vaccines with at least a 96% coverage rate for DTaP, MMR, Polio, and Varicella in the 2016-2017 kindergarten survey. For younger children 19-35 months of age however, South Dakota falls short in immunizing children for the 4<sup>th</sup> dose of DTaP, 4<sup>th</sup> dose of Pneumococcal, and the full series of Hib vaccines. Some parents either refuse to vaccinate, delay vaccination or use an alternate vaccination schedule for their children due to anxiety about adverse effects. Other parents don't perceive vaccination to be a high priority, partly because vaccine-preventable diseases are relatively uncommon. This puts their children and others vulnerable individuals not able to be vaccinated because of a medical condition at risk for getting a vaccine-preventable disease.

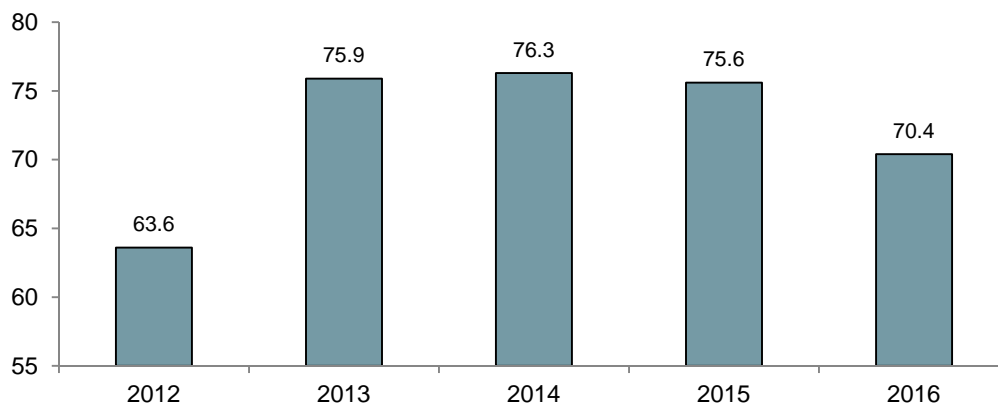
Serious reactions to childhood vaccination are extremely rare. A person is far more likely to be seriously injured by a vaccine-preventable disease than by a vaccine. As the measles outbreak in late 2014/early 2015 shows, continued vigilance is needed to maintain the state's immunization coverage rate. In order to reach the South Dakota target of 80% of children aged 19-35 months who received the recommended vaccinations, the DOH will continue to work with parents, healthcare providers, and childcare providers to increase the coverage rate for childhood vaccinations utilizing evidence based practices. Effective November 1, 2016, the requirements for children in licensed/registered childcare settings were enhanced based on recommendations from CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Definition:** Percent of children, ages 19-35 months that completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 (4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 3 or 4 Hib (depends on vaccine type), 3 Hep B, 1 Varicella, 4 Pneumococcal) combined series of vaccines

**Data Source:** National Immunization Survey

### Statistical Trend:

**Percent of children aged 19-35 months who receive recommended vaccinations, 2012-2016**



**Date Last Updated:** 06/29/2018