



## Oregon School Immunization Law Summary, 2022<sup>1</sup>

## **Background**

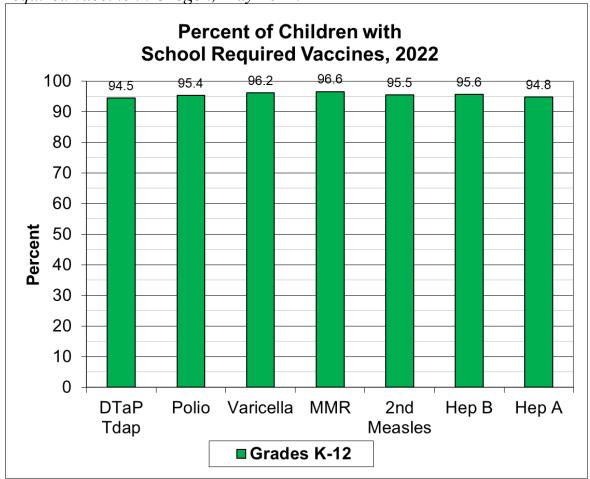
Oregon's immunization law helps ensure that children can go to school in a safe and healthy environment free of vaccine-preventable diseases. The law covers over 600,000 children and students in public and private schools, preschools, Head Starts, and certified child care programs. School immunization mandates are an evidence-based best practice for increasing immunization rates and decreasing vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.<sup>2</sup>

## **Oregon School Immunization Rates**

The vast majority of Oregon parents choose to fully immunize their children. Figure 1 shows the percent of students complete for each vaccine required for school attendance kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2022.

Figure 1. Percent of children in kindergarten through 12th grade complete for each school-

required vaccine in Oregon, May 2022.



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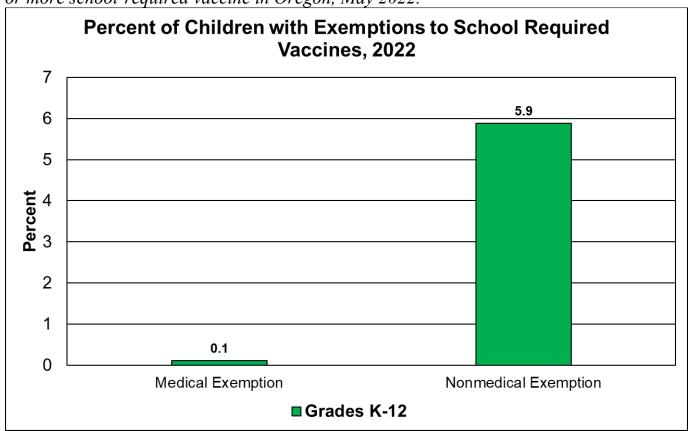
Statewide, 93% of students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade were complete for all required vaccines in 2022. At the county level, the percent of students complete for all required vaccines ranged from 98% in Morrow County and Wheeler County to 87% in Grant County and Josephine County. Of 1695 schools in Oregon with 10 or more students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 75 schools (4.4%) reported all students complete for all required vaccines. Twenty schools (1.2%) reported fewer than half of students complete for all required vaccines.

Immunization rates for individual schools and child care programs with 10 or more students and county rates are available on the Oregon Immunization Program school data webpage at <a href="www.healthoregon.org/immdatamap">www.healthoregon.org/immdatamap</a> (school year 2021-2022 data anticipated to be available in July 2022).

## **Oregon School Exemption Rates**

Figure 2 shows the percent of students with exemptions to one or more required vaccines. In 2022, 5.9% of students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade had a nonmedical exemption, and 0.1% of students had a medical exemption.

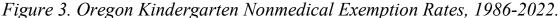
Figure 2. Percent of children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade with exemptions for one or more school-required vaccine in Oregon, May 2022.

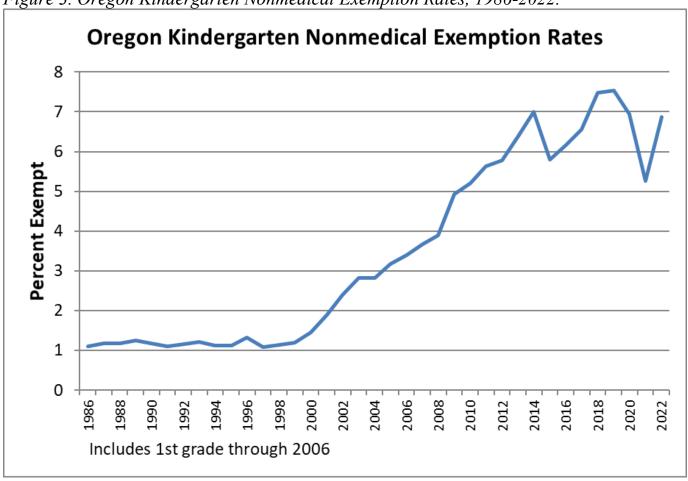


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County nonmedical exemption rates for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade ranged from 1% in Morrow County to 12% in Josephine County in 2022. There were 105 schools (6.2%) with 10 or more students that had zero nonmedical exemptions. In 16 schools (0.9%), more than half of students had a nonmedical exemption.

Since 2015, Oregon's kindergarten nonmedical exemption rates have cycled up and down several times, ranging from 7.5% in 2018 and 2019 to 5.3% in 2021. In 2021, students were in virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and fewer immunizations and exemptions were reported. The nonmedical exemption rate increased to 6.9% in 2022. Figure 3 shows kindergarten nonmedical exemption rates over time.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data source: Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Immunization Program, May 2022

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/vaccination-programs-requirements-child-care-school-and-collegeattendance