

**THE IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF SCHOOL-AGE  
CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS  
FOR THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR**

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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## **FOREWORD**

Immunization data are collected annually from Illinois public and nonpublic schools. This report is a compilation of the data on the immunization status of school-age children in Illinois for school year 2000-2001 and was prepared by Diane Baker, Research Division. The interpretations and conclusions expressed herein have been prepared by staff and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

The 2000-2001 immunization status of school-age children in Illinois resulted in a number of positive findings:

- The compliance level for all Illinois students is 97.27%.
- The compliance level for public school students is 97.16%.
- The compliance level for nonpublic school students is 97.95%.
- The data by specific disease category based on the percent of total student enrollment reveal that no more than 1.19% of Illinois students are unprotected and in noncompliance in any of the seven disease categories (polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenza type b—Hib). [However, hepatitis B and Hib percentages are also calculated based on the number of children *required to be immunized*. For hepatitis B, 3.28% of the required Pre-K, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade children are unprotected and in noncompliance. For Hib, 4.32% of the required preschool children are unprotected and in noncompliance.]
- A statewide total of 64,517 students (2.73% of the total student enrollment of 2,362,718) are in noncompliance with immunization and/or health examination mandates on October 15, 2000, or on an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. Of this number, 53,458 children are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 11,059 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only.
- With 100% of Illinois public schools submitting immunization data, only 233 of the 4,102 schools (5.68%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%.
- With 100% of Illinois nonpublic schools submitting immunization data, only 138 of 1,406 nonpublic schools (9.81%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%.

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**BACKGROUND**

As mandated by Section 27-8.1 (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) of the School Code, all children must comply with immunization and health examination requirements established by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). In addition, the School Code requires all public school districts and nonpublic schools to submit completed surveys to the Illinois State Board of Education summarizing compliance status of all children as of October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. This report summarizes the statewide immunization and health examination compliance data.

Every child must provide evidence to school administrators of receiving a health examination within one year prior to: (a) entering school for the first time (this includes nursery or preschool, special education, headstart programs, and students transferring into Illinois from out-of-state or out-of-country); (b) entering kindergarten; (c) entering the fifth-grade; and (d) entering ninth-grade. For every child attending schools where grade levels are not assigned, health examinations must be completed prior to the date of entering and within one year prior to the school year in which the child reaches the ages of 5,10, and 15.

In August 1996, IDPH amended the Health Examination and Immunizations Act to include the hepatitis B and the haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccinations for the 1997-98 school year. *[It should be noted that in August 1997, IDPH announced a delay in the enforcement of the law for the hepatitis B requirement until the 1998-99 school year.]* Therefore, for the current school year (2000-2001), proof of immunity must be provided to school officials against polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and Hib. Verification of having had measles, rubella, mumps, or hepatitis B constitutes proof of immunity to those diseases.

Exceptions to the immunization requirements are permitted for either religious or medical reasons. In order for an exception to be considered, parents or legal guardians, who object to vaccinations and/or a medical examination for their child, must submit a signed statement of objection to the appropriate local school authority detailing the religious grounds for such objection. A medical exception is permitted when the child's physician reports on the health examination form or signed statement that administration of certain immunizing agents is medically contraindicated.

Unless a religious or medical exception is on file with the school, Illinois law requires that every child shall present proof of having had the required health examination and immunizations or of having begun an approved schedule of immunizations by October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school. Any child

failing to meet these requirements must be excluded from school until the requirements are met. A child deficient in any one disease category is classified as being in noncompliance.

Each public school district must have at least 90% of its students in compliance with the law. For any district having less than a 90% compliance level, 10% of each state aid payment made pursuant to Section 18-8 (105 ILCS 5/18-8) of the School Code must be withheld by the regional superintendent until the required compliance level is reached. No compliance level has been established for nonpublic schools nor have any sanctions been specified in statute. Nonpublic schools are, nonetheless, required by law to comply with the reporting regulations.

All of the data are provided to IDPH staff who can then identify those areas where services and resources can most effectively be allocated to prevent disease outbreaks. Along with data concerning compliance levels and protection levels within disease categories, IDPH receives the names of all schools reporting less than a 90% compliance level and the names of all schools from which no data were received.

## **PROCEDURE**

Data collection instruments and procedures used to collect immunization and health examination data are developed by staff of the Illinois State Board of Education in consultation with staff from the Illinois Department of Public Health. In August of each year, a district summary report is sent to each public school district superintendent along with an immunization school survey form (ISBE 70-11) for each public school or attendance center in that district. Immunization school survey forms are also sent to the administrators of the two state-operated charter schools, regional superintendents operating regional programs (i.e., Safe Schools/Alternative Schools), and administrators of all Illinois nonpublic schools.

School administrators are required to provide information on the total number of children enrolled, the total number of children in noncompliance, and the number of children in compliance for each of the seven disease categories. All immunization school survey forms are to be completed and returned to the Illinois State Board of Education on or before November 15, 2000.

## RESULTS

### Compliance Data

Compliance and protection levels for students are calculated based upon the information provided by Illinois school officials. Data reported by school officials show overall compliance with the requirements of the student health mandates for both immunizations and health examinations. Students in noncompliance are required to be excluded from school until their health examination and immunization records are in compliance with state law. Protection levels refer only to immunizations and denote the reported immunity against specific communicable diseases.

Students are identified as being in compliance with state law if they present proof of immunizations and health examinations, have exemptions for religious or medical reasons on file with the local school authority, or if they are on an approved schedule for completion of immunizations in a series.

Statewide Compliance. Table 1 in the Appendix contains the 2000-2001 compliance levels for all reported school-age children in Illinois. The compliance level for the total 2,362,718 public and nonpublic children in Illinois is 97.27%, a slight decrease from 97.39% in 1999-2000. The data show 64,517 children (2.73% of the total student enrollment) are in noncompliance with immunization and/or health examination mandates. Of this number, 53,458 children are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 11,059 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. As of October 15, 2000, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school, 23,485 children were excluded from Illinois schools. The number of exclusions continues to be significantly lower than the actual number of children in noncompliance. Part of this can be attributed to transfer students without records. Transfer students cannot be excluded from school, but they must be reported in noncompliance because records are not available to document immunization status.

Public District Compliance. With 100% of the Illinois public school districts reporting immunization data, the compliance level for the total 2,043,670 children is 97.16% (Table 1), a slight decrease from the 1999-2000 compliance level of 97.31%. Of the 57,980 public school children in noncompliance, 47,854 are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 10,126 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. The number of students excluded from school on October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district, increased from 16,486 in 1999-2000 to 22,553 in 2000-2001.

As Illinois law stipulates, all 896 public school districts reported compliance levels of 90% or greater. However, Illinois law does not specify compliance levels for individual schools within public school districts. There were 4,102 public schools in operation and



serving students on October 15, 2000: 3,482 from downstate public schools; 597 from Chicago Public School District 299; 21 regionally-operated programs, i.e., Safe Schools/Alternative Schools, and two state-operated charter schools. Of the 4,102 schools, 233 schools (5.68%) reported compliance levels of less than 90%: 44 from downstate public schools and 189 from Chicago Public School District 299.

Nonpublic School Compliance. There were 1,406 nonpublic schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 2000. All nonpublic schools (100%) reported immunization data to the Illinois State Board of Education by March 23, 2000, with 133 of 1,406 schools (9.45%) reporting compliance levels of less than 90%.

The compliance level for the total 319,048 children attending nonpublic schools is 97.95% (Table 1), a slight increase from 97.91% in 1999-2000. Of the 6,537 children reported to be in noncompliance, 5,604 are in noncompliance with immunization requirements in at least one disease category, while 933 are in noncompliance with the health examination requirement only. The number of students excluded from school on October 15, or an earlier exclusion date established by the nonpublic school, decreased from 1,176 in 1999-2000 to 932 in 2000-2001.

#### Protection Levels

In order to be counted as fully protected, a student must present proof that the immunization series has been completed and/or present verification of immunity. The Illinois Department of Public Health has determined that a 90% protection level against each disease is recommended in order to prevent epidemics.

Statewide Protection. Table 2 in the Appendix displays the numbers and protection level percentages of all reported students who are fully protected against the diseases of polio, DTP/DTaP/Td, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, and Hib.

Hepatitis B and Hib protection level percentages are determined based upon all reported students, and also by the actual number of children *required to be immunized*. Hepatitis B is a requirement for children entering in a program below the kindergarten level and all children entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 1997-98 (all Pre-K, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade children in 2000-2001). Hib is only required for children under 59 months of age entering in a school program below the kindergarten level (all Pre-K).

The 2000-2001 protection level percentages of all reported students are 98.46% for polio, 98.10% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.59% for measles, 98.99% for rubella, and 98.99% for mumps. Compared to last year, statewide protection levels for the disease categories listed above varied minimally. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 88.03% and 94.85% respectively, an increase from 86.11% and 94.77% in 1999-2000.

The percentage of all reported students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 1.19% or less across all seven disease categories. The

reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 3.28% for hepatitis B and 4.32% for Hib.

Public School Protection. As reported in Table 3 (see Appendix), the levels of protection for public school students by disease category are 98.47% for polio, 98.08% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.64% for measles, and 99.08% for both rubella and mumps. Compared to last year, public school protection levels for the disease categories listed above varied minimally. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 87.21% and 93.84% respectively, an increase from 85.08% for hepatitis B, and Hib showing no change at 93.84% in 1999-2000.

The percentage of all reported public school students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 1.21% or less across all seven disease categories. The reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 3.47% for hepatitis B and 5.60% for Hib.

Nonpublic School Protection. The levels of protection for nonpublic school students by disease category, as reported in Table 4 (see Appendix), are 98.37% for polio, 98.25% for DTP/DTaP/Td, 98.27% for measles, 98.40% for rubella, and 98.41% for mumps. The reported levels of protection for hepatitis B and Hib based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 92.57% and 96.45% respectively. Compared to last year, nonpublic school protection levels for all the disease categories varied minimally.

The percentage of nonpublic school students who are unprotected and in noncompliance with immunization requirements is 1.09% or less across all seven disease categories. The reported percentages of students unprotected and in noncompliance based upon the actual number of children *required to be immunized* are 2.22% for hepatitis B and 2.27 for Hib.

## SUMMARY

Findings of a positive nature include:

- The 2000-2001 compliance level for all public and nonpublic children in Illinois was 97.27%.
- Immunization data were received from 100% of all public and nonpublic schools in operation and serving students on October 15, 2000.
- All public school districts (896) reported compliance levels of 90% and over.

The following negative conditions are noteworthy, but overall, the immunization status of all children in Illinois schools is stable:

- The number of Illinois public and nonpublic students reported to be in noncompliance with immunization requirements increased by 3,628 students (from 60,889 in 1999-2000 to 64,517 in 2000-2001).
- The number of students excluded from Illinois schools on October 15, 2000, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school, increased by 5,823 students (from 17,662 in 1999-2000 to 23,485 in 2000-2001).

## **APPENDIX**

**Table 1. 2000-2001 Student Enrollment and Compliance Summary**

State Totals Compliance Status	Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools			All Schools		
	2000 Number of Students	2000 Percent	1999 Percent	2000 Number of Students	2000 Percent	1999 Percent	2000 Number of Students	2000 Percent	1999 Percent
<b>Students in compliance as of October 15, 2000</b>	1,985,690	97.16%	97.31%	312,511	97.95%	97.91%	2,298,201	97.27%	97.39%
<b>Students not in compliance: with immunization requirements with health examination only</b>	47,854	2.34%	2.23%	5,604	1.76%	1.70%	53,458	2.26%	2.16%
	10,126	0.50%	0.46%	933	0.29%	0.39%	11,059	0.47%	0.45%
<b>Student Enrollment as of October 15, 2000</b>	2,043,670	100.00%	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	100.00%
<b>Students excluded from school as of October 15, 2000, or an earlier exclusion date established by the district or nonpublic school</b>	22,553			932			23,485		

**Table 2. 2000-2001 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Students (both Public and Nonpublic) by Disease Category**

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades)			Hib (Pre-K only)		
	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	2,326,235	98.46%	2,317,901	98.10%	2,329,454	98.59%	2,338,899	98.99%	2,338,869	98.99%	708,041	29.97%	88.03%	90,006	3.81%	94.85%
Unprotected and in compliance:																
Religious objection	3,318	0.14%	3,444	0.15%	3,420	0.14%	3,109	0.13%	3,099	0.13%	2,305	0.10%	0.29%	245	0.01%	0.26%
Medical reasons	2,767	0.12%	3,260	0.14%	2,509	0.11%	1,616	0.07%	1,619	0.07%	3,101	0.13%	0.39%	139	0.01%	0.15%
Approved schedule of completion	8,744	0.37%	9,998	0.42%	6,631	0.28%	2,715	0.11%	2,695	0.11%	64,501	2.73%	8.02%	405	0.02%	0.43%
Not required to show proof of immunization											1,558,416	65.96%	804,302 **	2,267,821	95.98%	94,897 ***
Unprotected and in noncompliance	<u>21,654</u>	<u>0.92%</u>	<u>28,115</u>	<u>1.19%</u>	<u>20,704</u>	<u>0.88%</u>	<u>16,379</u>	<u>0.69%</u>	<u>16,436</u>	<u>0.70%</u>	<u>26,354</u>	<u>1.12%</u>	<u>3.28%</u>	<u>4,102</u>	<u>0.17%</u>	<u>4.32%</u>
Total Enrollment	2,362,718	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	100.00%	2,362,718	100.00%	100.00%

\* Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis or diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis or tetanus/diphtheria

\*\* Hepatitis B - Number of children required to be immunized in 2000-2001 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders), Line E minus Line C

\*\*\* Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 2000-2001 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C

**Table 3. 2000-2001 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students by Disease Category**

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades)			Hib (Pre-K only)		
	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	2,012,379	98.47%	2,004,440	98.08%	2,015,915	98.64%	2,024,942	99.08%	2,024,889	99.08%	593,401	29.04%	87.21%	54,773	2.68%	93.84%
Unprotected and in compliance:																
Religious objection	2,438	0.12%	2,548	0.12%	2,493	0.12%	2,219	0.11%	2,212	0.11%	1,505	0.07%	0.22%	68	0.00%	0.12%
Medical reasons	2,490	0.12%	2,838	0.14%	2,105	0.10%	1,209	0.06%	1,218	0.06%	2,716	0.13%	0.40%	80	0.00%	0.14%
Approved schedule of completion	8,052	0.39%	9,195	0.45%	5,820	0.28%	2,058	0.10%	2,046	0.10%	59,225	2.90%	8.70%	175	0.01%	0.30%
Not required to show proof of immunization											1,363,214	66.70%	680,456 **	1,985,303	97.14%	58,367 ***
Unprotected and in noncompliance	<u>18,311</u>	<u>0.90%</u>	<u>24,649</u>	<u>1.21%</u>	<u>17,337</u>	<u>0.85%</u>	<u>13,242</u>	<u>0.65%</u>	<u>13,305</u>	<u>0.65%</u>	<u>23,609</u>	<u>1.16%</u>	<u>3.47%</u>	<u>3,271</u>	<u>0.16%</u>	<u>5.60%</u>
Total Enrollment	2,043,670	100.00%	2,043,670	100.00%	2,043,670	100.00%	2,043,670	100.00%	2,043,670	100.00%	2,043,670	100.00%	100.00%	2,043,670	100.00%	100.00%

\* Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis or diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis or tetanus/diphtheria

\*\* Hepatitis B - Number of children required to be immunized in 2000-2001 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders), Line E minus Line C

\*\*\* Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 2000-2001 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C

**Table 4. 2000-2001 Immunization Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students by Disease Category**

Immunization Status	Polio		DTP/DTaP/Td*		Measles		Rubella		Mumps		Hepatitis B (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades)			Hib (Pre-K only)		
	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized	Number of Students	% of Total Enrollment	% of those required to be immunized
Protected and in compliance	313,856	98.37%	313,461	98.25%	313,539	98.27%	313,957	98.40%	313,980	98.41%	114,640	35.93%	92.57%	35,233	11.04%	96.45%
Unprotected and in compliance:																
Religious objection	880	0.28%	896	0.28%	927	0.29%	890	0.28%	887	0.28%	800	0.25%	0.65%	177	0.06%	0.48%
Medical reasons	277	0.09%	422	0.13%	404	0.13%	407	0.13%	401	0.13%	385	0.12%	0.31%	59	0.02%	0.16%
Approved schedule of completion	692	0.22%	803	0.25%	811	0.25%	657	0.21%	649	0.20%	5,276	1.65%	4.26%	230	0.07%	0.63%
Not required to show proof of immunization											195,202	61.18%	123,846 **	282,518	88.55%	36,530 ***
Unprotected and in noncompliance	<u>3,343</u>	<u>1.05%</u>	<u>3,466</u>	<u>1.09%</u>	<u>3,367</u>	<u>1.06%</u>	<u>3,137</u>	<u>0.98%</u>	<u>3,131</u>	<u>0.98%</u>	<u>2,745</u>	<u>0.86%</u>	<u>2.22%</u>	<u>831</u>	<u>0.26%</u>	<u>2.27%</u>
Total Enrollment	319,048	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	100.00%	319,048	100.00%	100.00%

\* Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis or diphtheria/tetanus/acellular pertussis or tetanus/diphtheria

\*\* Hepatitis B - Number of children required to be immunized in 2000-2001 (Pre-K, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders), Line E minus Line C

\*\*\* Hib - Number of children required to be immunized in 2000-2001 (Pre-K only), Line E minus Line C