



2022-23 Child Care Immunization Audit Report

Public Health
IOWA HHS

Protecting and improving the health and resiliency of individuals, families, and communities.

**Bureau of Immunization and TB
Division of Public Health,
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services
April 28, 2023**

Acknowledgements

Suggested Citation:

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS). Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis. *2022-23 School Immunization Audit*. Des Moines: Iowa HHS, 2023. Web.
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/immtb/immunization/audits>. Access date – day month year.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, the Iowa Immunization Program releases school and child care immunization audit reports. Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) conduct audits of immunization records for students enrolled in licensed child care centers. Assessments are conducted to ensure attendees receive required immunizations and have a valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization.

Child Care Immunization Audit Highlights - 2022-23 School Year

- **Total Enrollment:** Records from 93,161 children enrolled in child care were analyzed to calculate statewide vaccination coverage levels, which is a 3.1% increase from the previous year.
- **Valid Immunization Certificates:** 96.5% of children attending licensed child care centers had valid immunization certificates, indicating 89,869 children had Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization in compliance with Iowa law.
 - **Certificates of Immunization:** 93.2% of children attending licensed child care centers had valid Certificates of Immunization, indicating 86,790 children met age-appropriate immunization requirements.
 - **Provisional Certificates of Immunization:** 1.4% of children attending licensed child care centers had Provisional Certificates of Immunization, indicating 1,332 children received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines but did not complete all required immunizations.
 - **Certificates of Immunization Exemption – Medical:** 0.1% of children attending licensed child care centers had a medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption, representing 94 children.
 - **Certificates of Immunization Exemption – Religious:** 1.8% of children attending licensed child care centers had a religious Certificates of Immunization Exemption, representing 1,653 children.
- **Invalid or No Immunization Certificates:** 3.5% of children attending licensed child care centers had invalid or no immunization certificates, representing 3,292 children.
- **Under or Un-immunized:** 6.8% of children attending licensed child care centers were under or un-immunized, representing 6,371 children with a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or an invalid or no certificate.

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Immunization Program releases school and child care audit reports. LPHAs conduct audits of immunization records for children enrolled in licensed child care. Assessments are conducted to ensure attendees receive the required immunizations and have a valid Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization. Iowa Code, Chapter 139a.8(6) and Iowa Administrative Code, 641-7.7(139) outline immunization requirements to attend licensed child care centers and elementary or secondary schools. To attend school or licensed child care, the child needs to present a valid Certificate of Immunization, Provisional Certificate of Immunization, or Certificate of Immunization Exemption (Medical or Religious) to the admitting official. A brief explanation of each certificate is included below.

- **Certificate of Immunization** - Issued when the applicant has a record of age-appropriate immunizations that meet the requirement for licensed child care or school enrollment.
- **Provisional Certificate of Immunization** - Issued when the applicant has received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines but has not completed all required immunizations or is a transfer student from another U.S. school system.
- **Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Medical** - Iowa law allows for medical exemption to immunization when the required immunizations would be injurious to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household or the required vaccine would violate minimum interval spacing.
- **Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Religious** - Iowa law allows for religious exemption to immunization when immunizations conflict with a genuine and sincere religious belief, and is not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal or medical opposition to immunizations.

Data files contained in this report are available on the Immunization Program webpage at <http://hhs.iowa.gov/immtdb/immunization/audits>. In 2019, the Immunization Program began to collaborate with the Iowa Public Health Tracking Program to include immunization data for childhood, adolescent, human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza and school and child care audits on the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal. These data are available at <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Immunization>.

CHILD CARE - IMMUNIZATION AUDIT DATA

Local Public Health Agencies conducted audits of immunization records for 93,161 children enrolled in Iowa’s licensed child care centers during the 2022-23 school year, which is a 3.1% increase in audited records from the previous year. For children enrolled in licensed child care centers in 2022-23:

- 96.5% of children had valid Certificates of Immunization, Certificates of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificates of Immunization and were compliant with Iowa law (89,869 records).
- 93.2% of children had valid Certificates of Immunization and received all required vaccines to attend child care (86,790 records).
- 6.8% of children were under or un-immunized (6,371 records).
- 3.5% of children had invalid or no certificates (3,292 records) (Figure I and Table I).

Figure I. Percent of Immunization Certificates by Type, Child Care, Iowa, 2012-13 to 2022-23

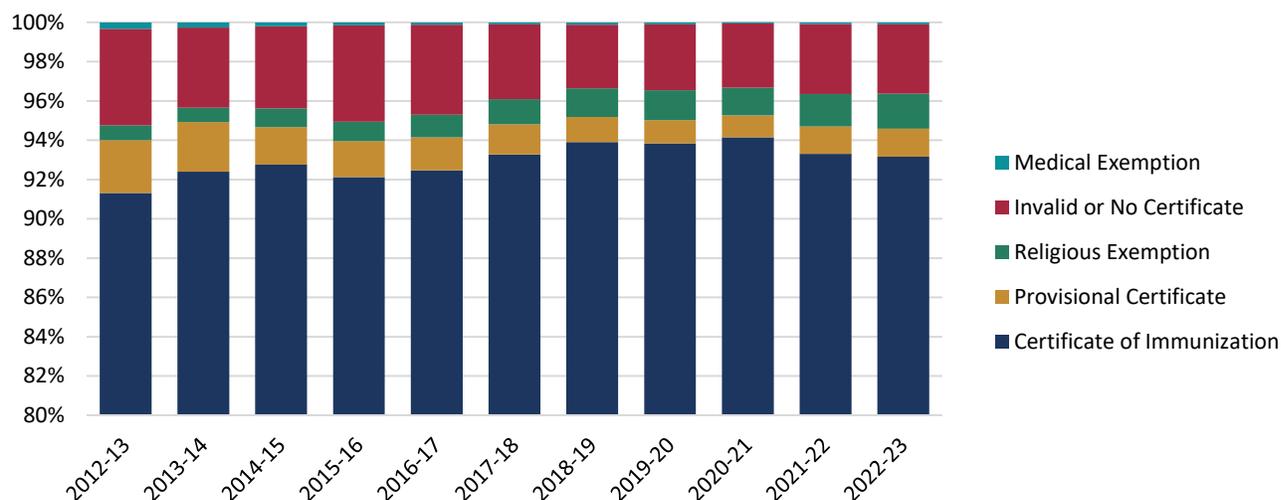


Figure Note: Vertical axis begins at 80%

Table I. State Immunization Summary by Year, Child Care, Iowa, 2012-13 to 2022-23

Year	Immunization Certificates		Provisional Certificates		Exemptions				Invalid / No Certificates		Total Enrolled	Total Valid Certificates		Under and Un-Immunized	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Medical	Religious	Total	%		Total	%	Total	%
2012-13	75,983	91.3	2,235	2.7	269	0.3	636	0.8	4,089	4.9	83,212	79,123	95.1	7,229	8.7
2013-14	74,659	92.4	2,048	2.5	219	0.3	599	0.7	3,286	4.1	80,811	77,525	95.9	6,152	7.6
2014-15	79,415	92.8	1,631	1.9	169	0.2	826	1.0	3,576	4.2	85,617	82,041	95.8	6,202	7.2
2015-16	78,272	92.1	1,551	1.8	140	0.2	845	1.0	4,163	4.9	84,971	80,808	95.1	6,699	7.9
2016-17	86,048	92.5	1,561	1.7	112	0.1	1,067	1.2	4,266	4.6	93,054	88,788	95.4	7,006	7.5
2017-18	89,720	93.3	1,476	1.5	93	0.1	1,231	1.3	3,662	3.8	96,182	92,520	96.2	6,462	6.7
2018-19	91,354	93.9	1,258	1.3	109	0.1	1,415	1.5	3,156	3.2	97,292	94,136	96.8	5,938	6.1
2019-20	91,569	93.8	1,150	1.2	104	0.1	1,486	1.5	3,265	3.3	97,574	94,309	96.7	6,005	6.2
2020-21	75,699	94.1	905	1.1	57	0.1	1,125	1.4	2,628	3.3	80,414	77,786	96.7	4,715	5.9
2021-22	84,300	93.3	1,253	1.4	77	0.1	1,496	1.7	3,219	3.6	90,345	87,126	96.4	6,045	6.7
2022-23	86,790	93.2	1,332	1.4	94	0.1	1,653	1.8	3,292	3.5	93,161	89,869	96.5	6,371	6.8

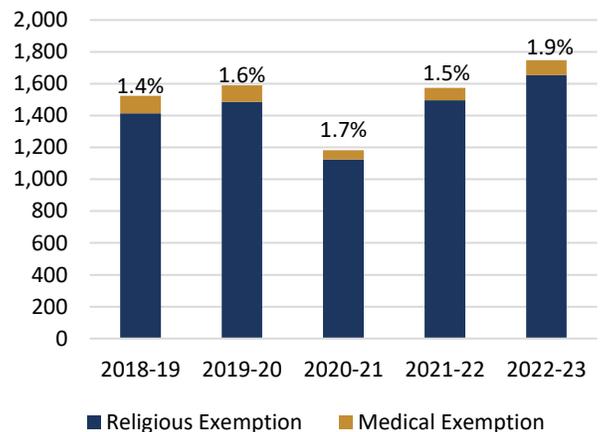
Provisional Certificate of Immunization

- During the 2022-23 school year, 1.4% of children in child care had a Provisional Certificate of Immunization, representing 1,332 children.
- The number of Provisional Certificates of Immunization increased 6.3% from the previous year, and has increased 5.9% since the 2018-19 school year.

Certificates of Immunization Exemption

- During the 2022-23 school year, 1.9% of children in child care had a Certificate of Immunization Exemption (1,747 records) (Figure 2).
- Of the 1,747 exemptions, 94.6% (1,653 records) were categorized as religious and 5.4% (94 records) were categorized as medical.
- The number of Certificates of Immunization Exemptions increased 11.1% (174 records) from the previous year and 14.6% (223 records) since the 2018-19 school year.

Figure 2. Number and Percent of Exemptions by Type, Child Care, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2022-23



Medical Exemptions:

- During the 2022-23 school year, 0.1% of children enrolled in licensed child care had a medical Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 94 children.
- The number of medical Certificates of Immunization Exemption increased 22.1% (17 records) from the previous year but has decreased 13.8% (15 records) since the 2018-19 school year.

Religious Exemptions:

- During the 2022-23 school year, 1.8% of children enrolled in licensed child care had a religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption, representing 1,653 children.
- The number of religious Certificates of Immunization Exemptions increased 10.5% (157 records) from the previous year and 16.8% (238 records) since the 2018-19 school year.

Under and Un-Immunized

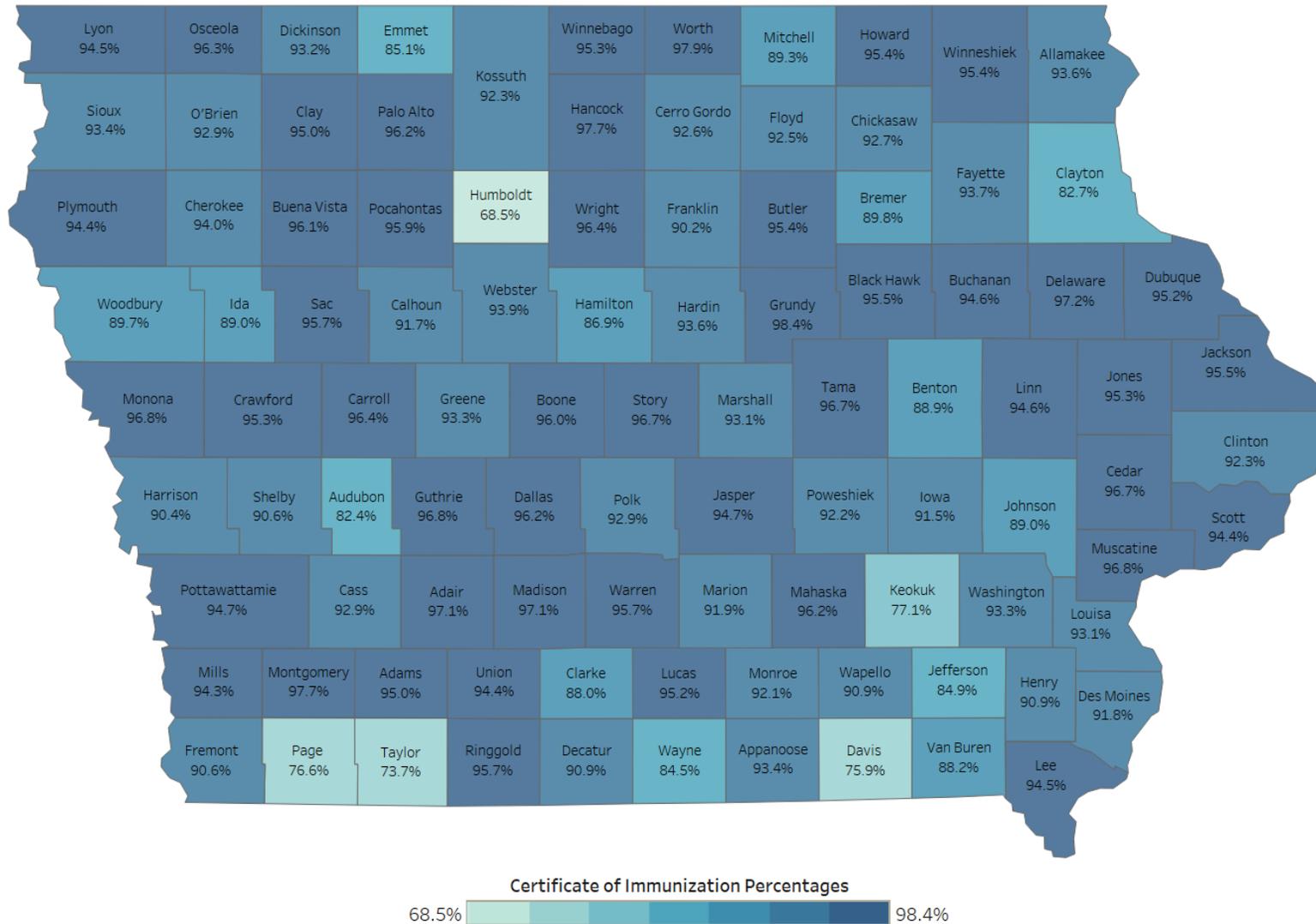
- During the 2022-23 school year, 6.8% of children enrolled in licensed child care were under immunized (6,371 records). During the previous year, 6.7% of children were under immunized.
- The number of under and un-immunized children increased 5.4% from the previous school year. There was a 3.1% increase in records audited compared to the previous year (Table 2).

Table 2. Under-Immunized Children in Child Care, Iowa, 2018-19 to 2022-23

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total Enrollment	97,292	97,574	80,414	90,345	93,161
Percent change in total enrollment	1.2%	0.3%	-17.6%	12.3%	3.1%
Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Medical	109	104	57	77	94
Percent change in number of Medical Exemptions from previous year	17.2%	-4.6%	-45.2%	35.1%	22.1%
Certificate of Immunization Exemption-Religious	1,415	1,486	1,125	1,496	1,653
Percent change in number of Religious Exemptions from previous year	14.9%	5.0%	-24.3%	33.0%	10.5%
Provisional Certificate	1,258	1,150	905	1,253	1,332
Percent change in number of Provisional Exemptions from previous year	-14.8%	-8.6%	-21.3%	38.5%	6.3%
Invalid or No Certificate	3,156	3,265	2,628	3,219	3,292
Percent change in number of Invalid or No Certificate from previous year	-13.8%	3.5%	-19.5%	22.5%	2.3%
Total Under and Un-immunized	5,938	6,005	4,715	6,045	6,371
Percent of Under and Un-immunized Students	6.1%	6.2%	5.9%	6.7%	6.8%
Percent change in number of Under and Un-immunized from previous year	-8.1%	1.1%	-21.5%	28.2%	5.4%

Appendix A - Supplemental Maps

Appendix I. Percent of Child Care Attendees with a Certificate of Immunization by County, Iowa, 2022-23 School Year



Appendix 2. Percent of Child Care Attendees who are Under or Un-immunized by County, Iowa, 2022-23 School Year
Attendees with a Certificate of Religious or Medical Exemption, Provisional Certificate, or Invalid/No Certificate

