

Building Immunity Together:

Insights and Initiatives from National to Local Levels

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Why Vaccine Monitoring Matters

- Vaccines remain one of the **most effective** and **cost-efficient** public health tools.
- Routine vaccination has nearly **eliminated diseases such as diphtheria, mumps, and rubella.**
- Monitoring vaccination uptake helps **identify coverage gaps** and **populations at increased risk.**
- **Early detection of declining trends** supports timely prevention efforts and promotes equitable access to protection.

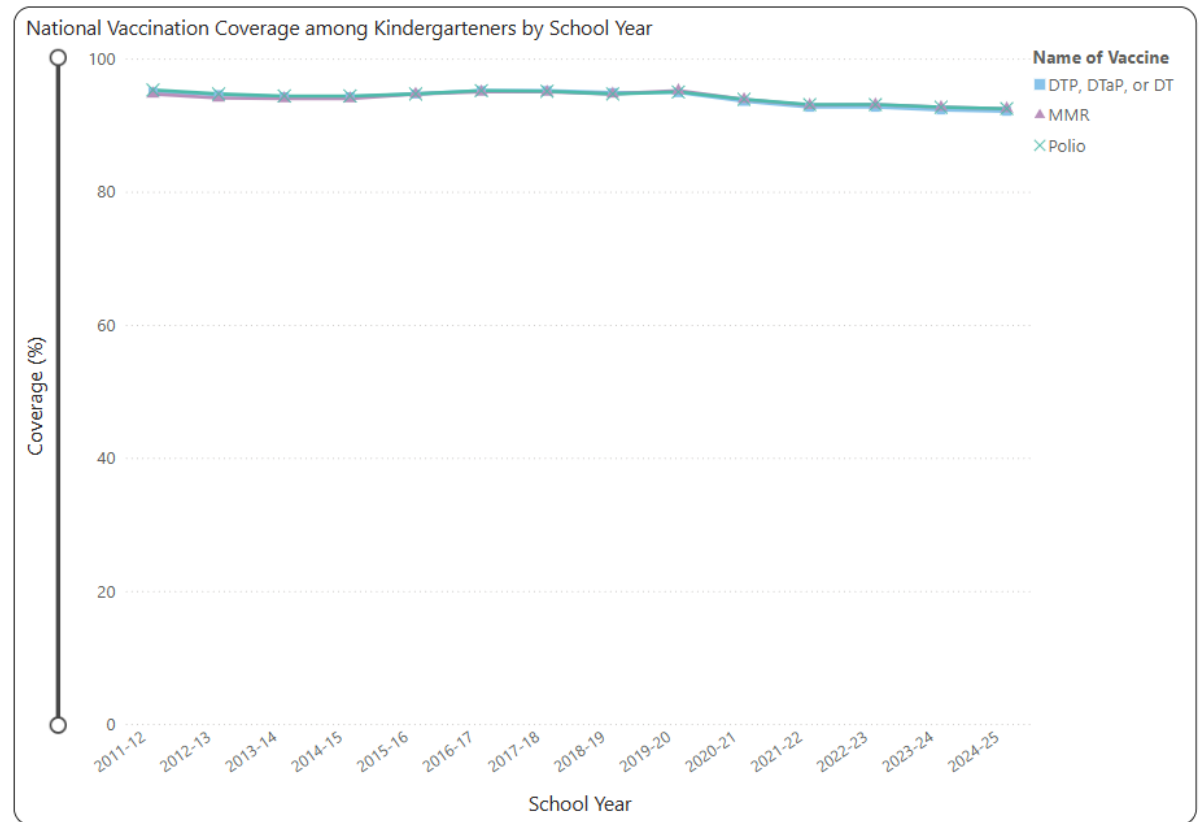
National Vaccination Landscape: Key Trends and Challenges

- **Routine childhood vaccination rates are declining nationwide**, moving further from herd immunity thresholds for several diseases.
- **Adult vaccination coverage remains low**, with persistent gaps for flu, pneumococcal, shingles, tetanus, and COVID-19 vaccines.
- **Vaccination rates vary widely across states, reflecting differences in access, policy, and community confidence.**
- **Key challenges include** vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, inequitable access, and service disruptions related to COVID-19.

National Vaccination Trends

- During the 2024–2025 school year, vaccination coverage among U.S. kindergarteners declined for all reported vaccines.
- Coverage ranged from **92.1% for DTaP** to **92.5% for MMR and polio**.
- Over half of states reported decreases in MMR, DTaP, polio, and varicella coverage compared to the previous year.
- **Exemptions increased** nationally to **3.6%**, up from **3.3%** in the prior school year.
- **36 states and D.C.** reported higher exemption rates, with **17 states exceeding 5%**.

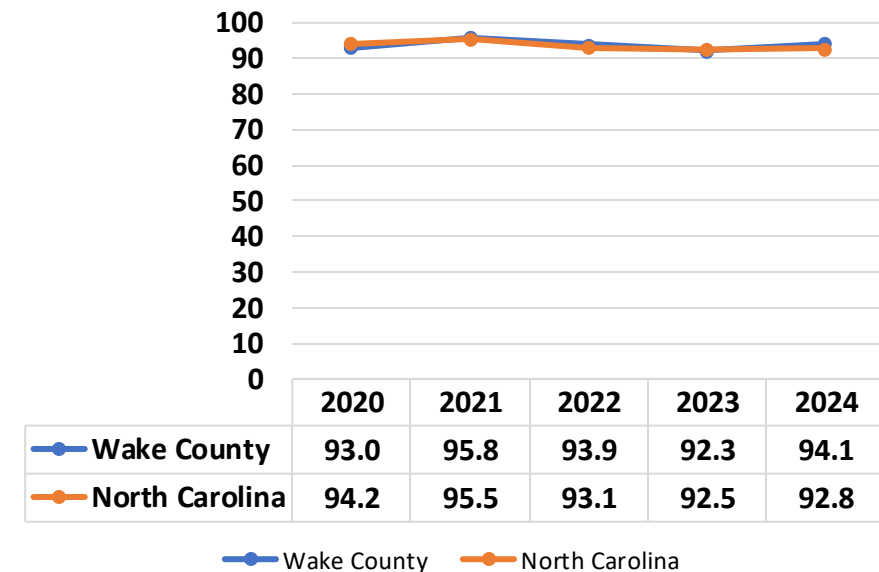
Figure 1: National Vaccination Coverage among Kindergarteners by School Year



North Carolina Vaccination Trends

- Statewide kindergarten **vaccination coverage has improved** in 2024 but remains below the 2021 peak of 95.5%.
- Coverage declined steadily after 2021, reflecting a gradual downward trend across recent years.
- Sustained efforts are needed to **strengthen vaccination coverage and prevent vaccine preventable illness and outbreaks.**
- **Ongoing monitoring of these trends helps inform public health planning and resource allocation.**

Figure 2: Percent of Kindergarten Students Up-to-Date on Required Vaccinations



Wake County Vaccination Trends

In 2024,

- Vaccination coverage **improved**, though the multi-year decline from 2021-2023 highlights the ongoing need to strengthen outreach and sustain high coverage.
- **94.1% of kindergarten students** were up to date on required immunizations (Figure 3)
- **2.4%** had documented **exemptions**, the **majority for religious reasons** (Figure 4)
- **Exemptions have steadily increased** since 2020, with religious exemptions accounting for most requests.

Figure 3: Percent of Kindergarten Students Up-to-Date on Required Vaccinations

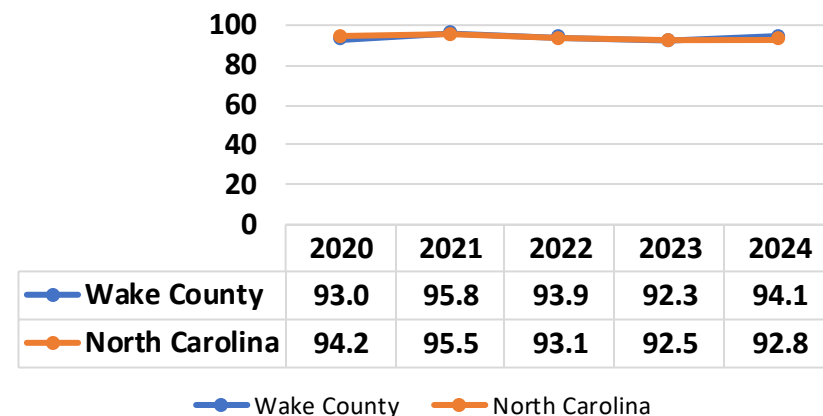
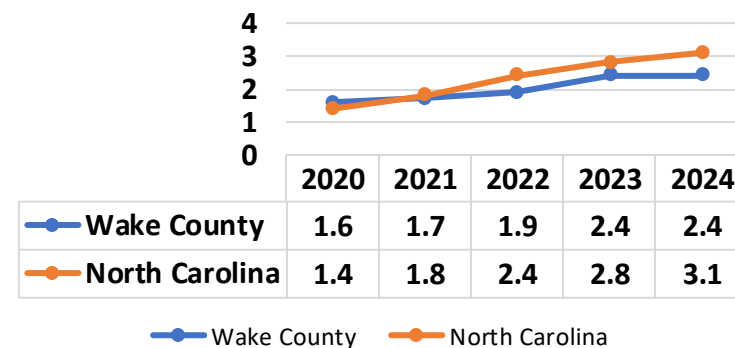


Figure 4: Percent of Kindergarten Students with Vaccination Exemptions

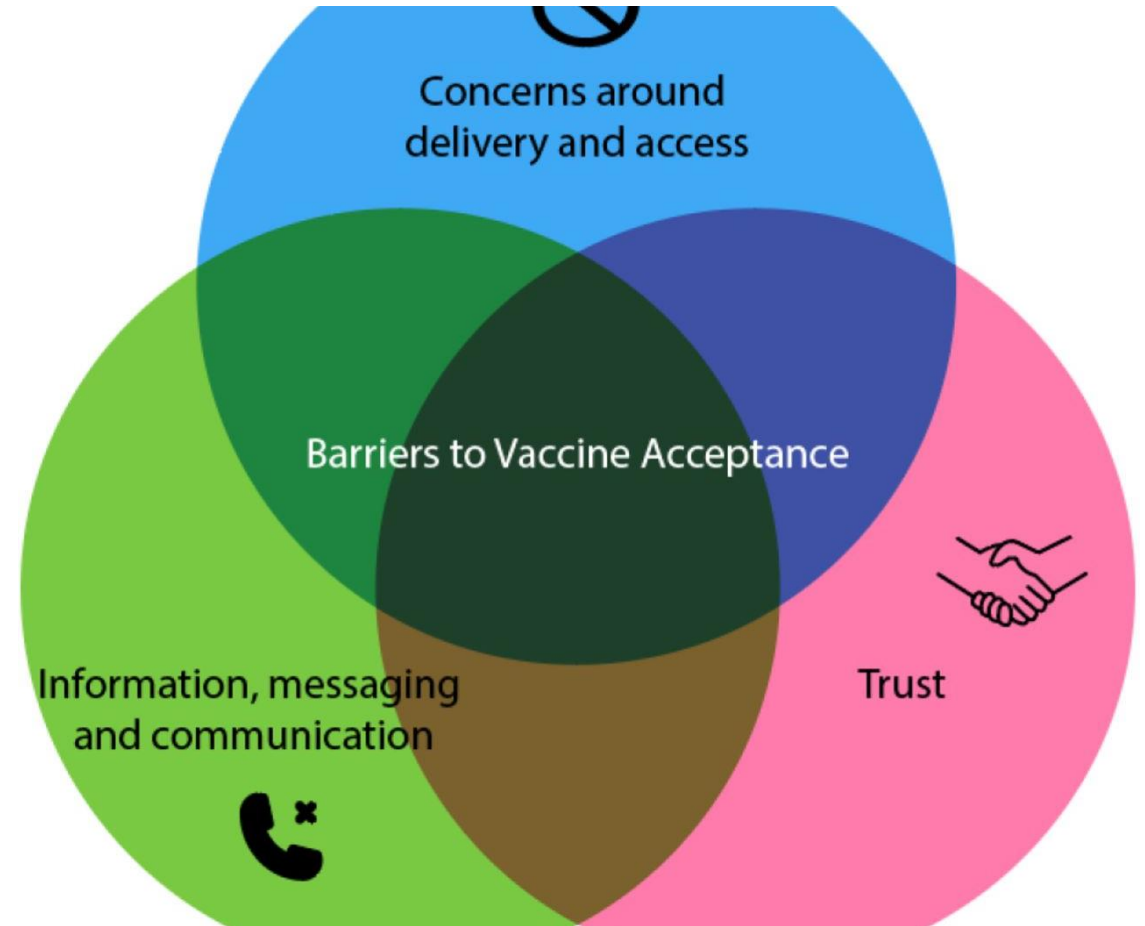


Reducing Barriers to Vaccines

Health literacy: the ability of a person to understand relevance, importance, and outcomes and apply that information to their personal health with maximum benefit.

Accessibility: a person's ability to utilize a service if they desire. Barriers to accessibility include income, transportation, hours of operation, and availability.

Education: to understand and apply information, skills, and training through teaching.



Wake County's Vaccine Availability

- Immunization Clinic is open Monday-Friday from 815a-515p by appointment, with increased availability of appointments from August through September for school appointments.
- Child Health Clinic is open Monday-Friday 800a-500p by appointment.
- Regional Centers, Northern Regional Center (NRC), Eastern Regional Center (ERC), Departure Drive Regional Center (DRC), and Southern Regional Center (SRC) with availability for immunization appointments Monday-Friday 815a-515p

Back-to-School Vaccine Initiative

Goals:

- To increase vaccine compliance for school aged children
- To decrease school exclusion rate due to vaccine noncompliance
- To decrease barriers to accessibility to vaccines

Plan:

- Extend hours for vaccine availability
- Improve accessibility via location selection/proximity to need
- Partner with Wake County Public Schools and media for reach and marketability

NC BACK TO SCHOOL Immunization Requirements

Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements*



DTaP	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
Hib (4-YEAR-OLDS ONLY)	3-4 doses
MMR (or 2 measles, 2 mumps, 1 rubella)	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella	2 doses
Pneumococcal conjugate (4-YEAR-OLDS ONLY)	4 doses

** At all ages and grades, the number of doses required may vary by a child's age and when they were vaccinated.*



North Carolina Back to School Immunization Requirements

Back-to-School Vaccination Outreach Initiatives

Tuesday Clinics 5:30- 7:30:

- **In these clinics, we will offer the vaccines needed for kids entering Kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grade**
- **August 5th @ Southern Regional Center**
- **August 19th @ Northern Regional Center**
- **September 2nd at Eastern Regional Center**
- **September 9th at Departure Drive**
- **September 23rd @ Western Regional Center.**

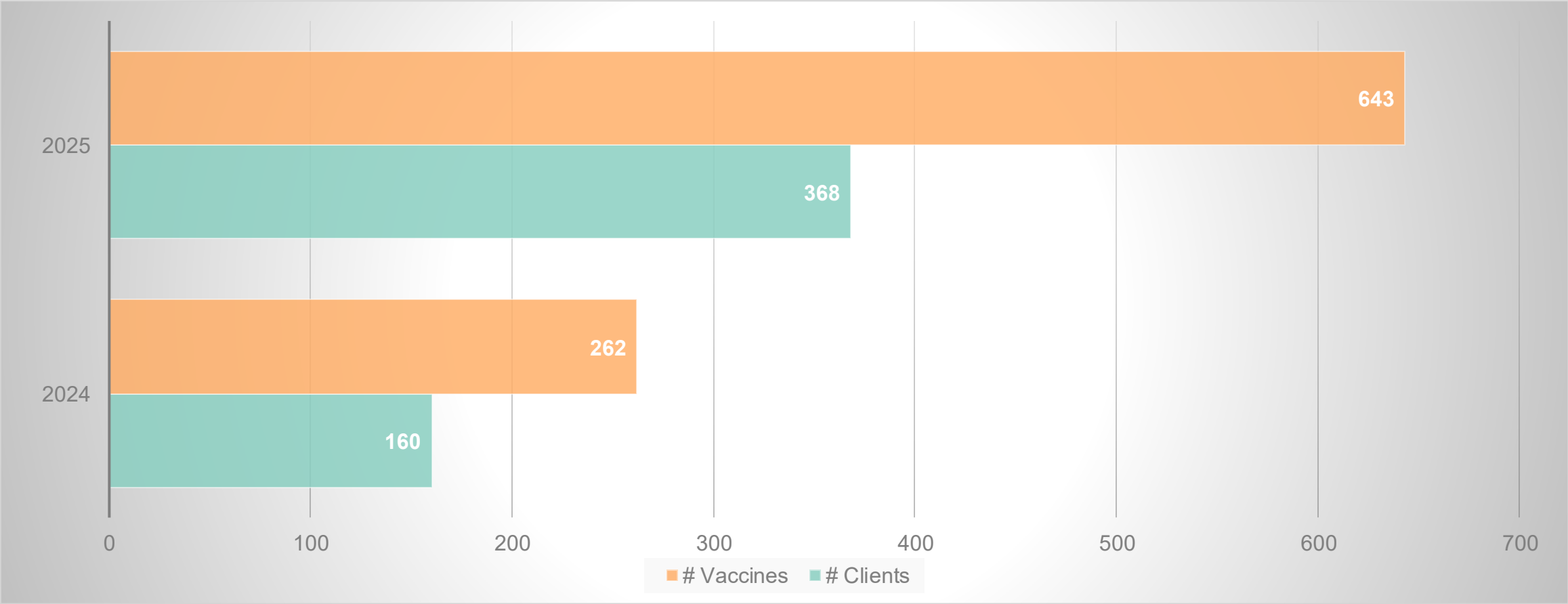
Saturday Clinics – 9 am-2 pm:

- **We will only offer vaccines for 7th and 12th graders during these clinics**
- **August 9th @ Sunnybrook**
- **September 27th @ Sunnybrook**

Back-to-School School Vaccination Data 2025

Back-to-School Vaccine Clinic	Date	# patients seen	# of Vaccines given
SRC	8/5/2025	42	72
Sunnybrook	8/9/2025	50	62
NRC	8/19/2025	52	85
ERC	9/2/2025	28	40
Departure Drive	9/9/2025	36	60
Robert's Park	9/13/2025	27	55
WRC	9/24/2025	64	108
Sunnybrook	9/27/2025	111	161
Total		410	643

Back-to-School Vaccination Initiative



Key Takeaways & Next Steps

- Monitoring vaccine uptake helps ensure strong community protection.
- National, state, and local data together provide a complete picture of vaccination trends and needs.
- Collaboration and clear communication are key to sustaining high coverage.
- Use the NC Kindergarten Vaccination Dashboard to track trends and detailed data by county and school type.
- Collective action = sustained protection for all.
- Now is the time to get routine vaccinations back on track—encourage families to check and see if everyone is up to date on their recommended vaccines and talk with a trusted healthcare provider. Together, we can protect children, families, and communities through routine vaccination.

Resources

- Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule by Age, CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>
- Adult Immunization Schedule by Age, CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/downloads/adult/adult-combined-schedule.pdf>
- NC Kindergarten Immunization Data Dashboard
<https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/epidemiology/immunization/data/ki-ndergarten-dashboard>



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