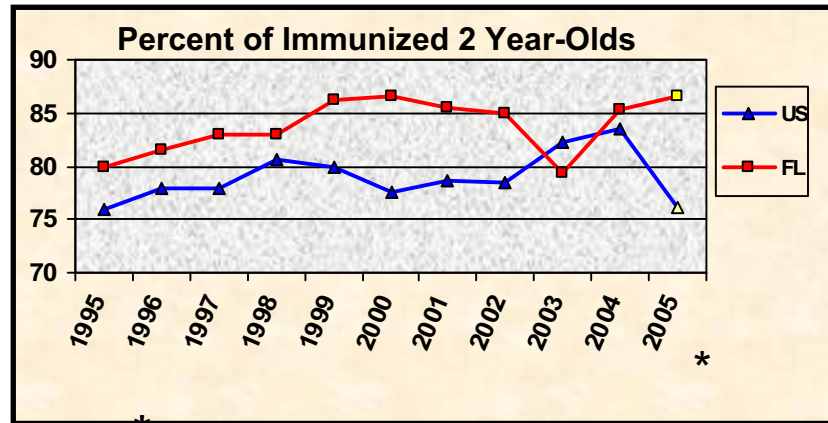


# Immunizations

*Immunizations have proven to be one of the most cost-effective public health interventions. Vaccine-preventable disease levels are at or near record lows. To maintain our progress, Florida must continue to maximize immunizations among all Floridians, particularly young children.*

## Why is this Important?

- Immunization is one of public health's leading health indicators and a primary defense against some of the most deadly and debilitating diseases known. It is particularly important to vaccinate small children to prevent them from contracting serious diseases that can be prevented by immunizations.
- Florida is striving to increase the proportion of two-year-old children that are fully immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, hepatitis B, and varicella (chickenpox) to 90% by 2010 (Healthy People 2010 goal).



\* Immunization series expanded from 4:3:1 to 4:3:1:3:3:1

Year	US	Florida
1995	76	80
1996	78	81.6
1997	77.9	83
1998	80.6	82.9
1999	79.9	86.2
2000	77.6	86.6
2001	78.6	85.5
2002	78.5	85.3
2003	82.2	79.4
2004	83.5	85.3
2005*	76.1	86.6

\* Immunization series expanded from 4 DTaP: 3 Polio: 1 MMR to 4 DTaP: 3 Polio: 1 MMR: 3 Hib: 3 Hep B: 1 Varicella



## Immunization, cont'd

### How is Florida Doing?

- The 2006 statewide survey of two-year-old children indicates that 79% of Florida's two-year-old children have completed the combined immunization series 4:3:1:3:3:1 (4 DTaP – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 polio, 1 MMR – measles, mumps, rubella, 3 Hib – *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, 3 Hep B – hepatitis b, and 1 varicella – chickenpox).
- Prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases: while at an all-time low, pertussis (whooping cough) continues to impact young infants, children, and adults. There were 228 cases of pertussis reported in Florida in 2006.



**Bureau of  
Immunization**

**Mumps**



Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Polio**



Courtesy of The World Health Organization

**Pertussis  
(Whooping cough)**



Courtesy of The World Health Organization

**Varicella  
(Chickenpox)**



Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## *Immunization, cont'd*

### What Influences Immunization?

- Readily available immunization services at a minimal fee or free for all children
- Providing education about immunizations
- Providers administering all immunizations that a child needs at each visit
- Ensuring that immunization records for patients are accurate, complete, and easily accessible

### What is the State's Role?

#### States Can

- Conduct an annual survey of Florida two-year-olds to assess immunization levels.
- Initiate mandatory immunization requirements for children attending childcare facilities and public and private schools.
- Conduct immunization program reviews among private and public immunization providers throughout the state.
- Coordinate immunization initiatives with coalitions and organizations that focus on child health.
- Track immunizations for all children through a statewide immunization registry.
- Provide pediatric vaccine at no cost to eligible children through the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Children eligible for the VFC program are those who are uninsured, underinsured, on Medicaid, American Indian, or Alaskan Native.

### Florida Initiatives

#### **National Infant Immunization Week (Last Week in April)**

National, state, and local partners work together to promote the importance of immunizations.

#### **National Immunization Awareness Month (August)**

National, state, and local partners encourage communities to plan local health screenings or fairs, media events, and other related immunization outreach efforts to promote the benefits of immunizations.

#### **State Immunization Registry**

Florida SHOTS (State Health Online Tracking System) is a statewide immunization database that helps physicians, schools, and parents to keep track of immunization records.