



DECREASING VACCINATION RATES: A CALL TO ACTION

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Vaccines can protect against 17 preventable diseases.

MONITORING IOWA ROUTINE VACCINATION RATES

In 2023, **69.6%** of Iowa 2-year-olds completed the recommended series, missing the target of 90% and a decrease from 73.6 % in 2019.

For the 2023-2024 school year:

- **33,837 students** of students were under-or un-immunized The represents 6.4% of students, an increase from **5.8%** in the 2022-2023 school year.
- **There has been a 15% increase** in the number of students with religious Certificates of Immunization Exemptions (an increase of **2,142 records**),

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Decreasing vaccination rates put communities at risk for outbreaks of dangerous and deadly diseases that are easily prevented with safe and effective vaccines.

High rates of community vaccination protects those not able to receive vaccines, like very young children and people with compromised immune systems.

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES ARE EXPENSIVE

- **2004:** One case of measles in Linn County was estimated to cost **\$142,452** for outbreak control activities and vaccination clinics.
- **2012-13:** Pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak in Cerro Gordo County resulted in 166 cases and 2 hospitalizations. This cost the county an estimated **\$240,000** in medical and public health expenses.
- **2015-16:** Mumps outbreak in Johnson County cost an estimated **\$640,000** in standard outbreak control activities and third-dose MMR vaccination.

Note: These estimates do NOT include the patient/ caregiver lost wages or other costs

VACCINES WORK

Through the Vaccines for Children program (VFC), the CDC estimates that vaccinations between 1994 and 2021 saved more than **1 million lives**, prevented **472 million illnesses**, avoided over **29 million hospitalizations** and saved nearly **\$2.2 trillion in total societal costs**.

CALL TO ACTION:

- Promote vaccinations to constituents and friends/family in social media posts, newsletters, and town hall meetings.
- Support pro-immunization legislation.
- Vote against bills that would weaken Iowa's immunization laws or increase vaccine hesitancy.