

Immunization Coverage Prior to Grade 1 Entry – 2022-23

Population

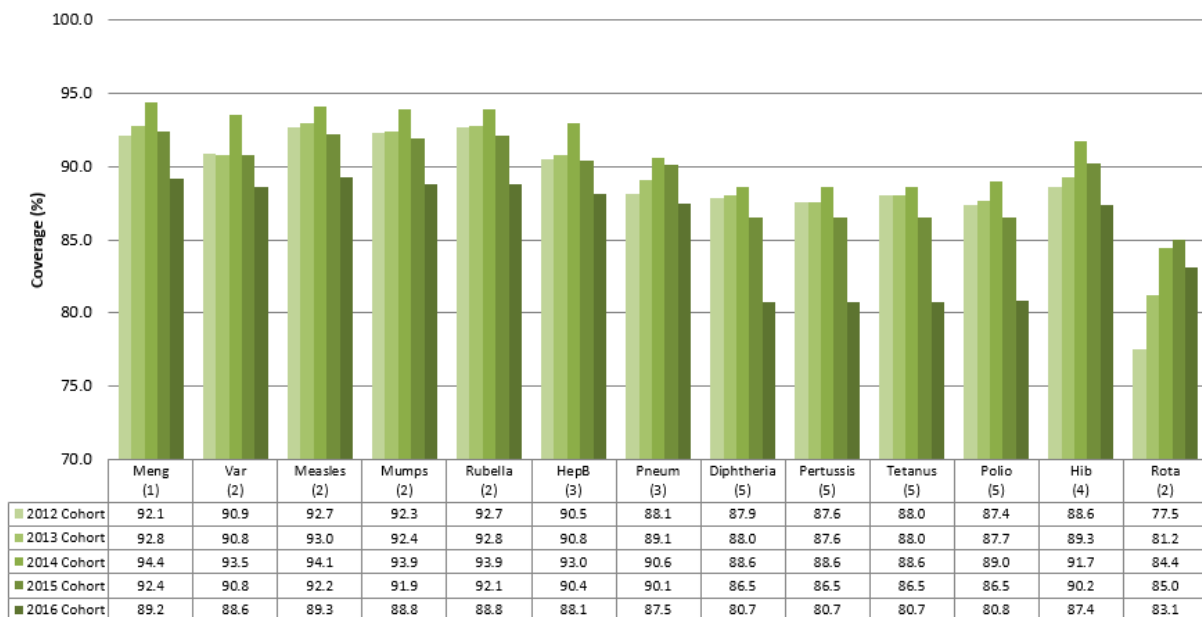
The children included in these analyses are those who were registered in Grade 1 in the 2022-23 school year in PEI. This group is referred to as the “2016 cohort.”

PEI Guidelines

The [PEI immunization guidelines](#) for the 2016 cohort recommend the following vaccination coverage prior to Grade 1 entry: diphtheria (5 doses), tetanus (5 doses), pertussis (5 doses), polio (5 doses), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (4 doses), hepatitis B (3 doses), measles (2 doses), mumps (2 doses), rubella (2 doses), varicella (2 doses), pneumococcal (3 doses), meningococcal C (1 dose), and rotavirus (2 doses).¹

Immunization coverage prior to Grade 1 entry is shown by antigen below. Coverage in the 2016 cohort ranged from 80.7% (5 doses of diphtheria, pertussis or tetanus) to 89.3% (2 doses of measles). Immunization coverage by antigen has varied between the 2014 to 2016 cohorts. Compared to the 2014 and 2015 cohorts, coverage within the 2016 cohort was significantly lower statistically for all antigens.

Immunization Coverage by Antigen Prior to Grade 1 Entry, PEI Guidelines, 2012 - 2016 Cohorts

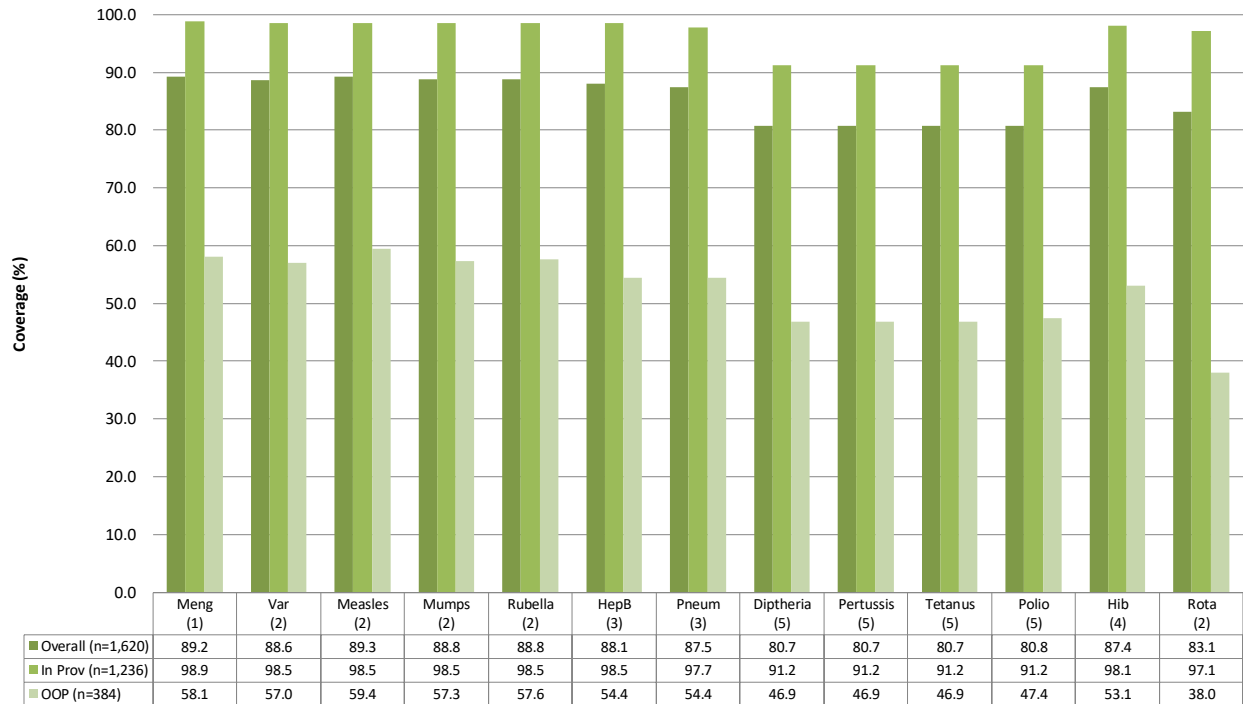


(#) Denotes the doses needed

Sub-group analyses were performed to facilitate comparison between children who resided in PEI since birth and those who had resided out of province (OOP) prior to Grade 1 entry. Immunization coverage for the 2016 cohort by antigen and residency prior to Grade 1 entry is shown below. Immunization coverage for children who resided in PEI since birth ranged from 91.2% (5 doses of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus or polio) to 98.9% (1 dose of meningococcal C). For all antigens, immunization coverage was substantially higher for children who resided in PEI since birth compared to those who had resided OOP.

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Immunization Coverage by Antigen and Residency Prior to Grade 1 Entry, PEI Guidelines, 2016 Cohort



(#) Denotes the doses needed

Children who resided in PEI since birth had the opportunity to receive all immunizations according to the PEI immunization guidelines; whereas children who resided OOP may have received immunizations according to the schedules and guidelines of their previous jurisdiction(s) of residence. Upon arrival in PEI, immunization coverage for children should be assessed and recorded by Health PEI Public Health Nursing (PHN). If children require immunizations to meet the recommendations in the PEI guidelines, a plan should be created with PHN to administer immunizations to catch the children up to the PEI guidelines. Immigration and Refugee Services Association PEI, a local settlement agency, directs families that register with them to PHN for immunization services.² Children who resided OOP whose previous immunizations are not recorded by PHN will appear to be un- or under-immunized, even though they may have adequate immunization coverage. **In the 2016 cohort, 134 children who moved to PEI did not have their immunization coverage assessed or recorded by PHN.** A process is being developed to help establish immunization services with PHN for children who move to PEI. A mailout will be sent to families receiving PEI Health Cards, including those who are new to PEI, offering PHN immunization services.

National Vaccination Coverage Goals

The national vaccination coverage goals outlined in the National Immunization Strategy are used as the benchmark by which PEI immunization coverage prior to Grade 1 entry is judged. The national goals indicate that by 2025, 95% of children should have the following vaccination coverage by their 7th birthday: diphtheria (5 doses), tetanus (5 doses), pertussis (5 doses), polio (4 doses), *Haemophilus influenzae* type

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b (4 doses), hepatitis B (3 doses), measles (2 doses), mumps (2 doses), rubella (2 doses), varicella (1 dose), pneumococcal (3 doses), and meningococcal C (1 dose). There are no recommendations for rotavirus in the national goals.³ **The immunization schedule in the PEI guidelines meets or exceeds the national goals for all antigens.**

Based on the national vaccination coverage goals, immunization coverage prior to Grade 1 entry for the 2016 cohort is shown by antigen below. **Coverage overall ranged from 80.7% (5 doses of diphtheria, pertussis or tetanus) to 90.1% (1 dose of varicella). Immunization coverage fell below the national target of 95% for all antigens.**

Immunization Coverage by Antigen and Residency Prior to Grade 1 Entry, National Coverage Goals, 2016 Cohort



(#) Denotes the doses needed

Sub-group analyses were performed to facilitate comparison between children who resided in PEI since birth and those who had resided OOP, based on the national vaccination coverage goals. Immunization coverage for the 2016 cohort by antigen and residency prior to Grade 1 entry is shown above. **Of the children who resided in PEI since birth, immunization coverage met or exceeded the national vaccination coverage goals of 95% for all antigens except diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus. Immunization coverage by antigen was substantially higher for children who resided in PEI since birth compared to those who had resided OOP.**

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References

1. PEI Department of Health and Wellness. Childhood Immunizations. (2016). Available at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/childhood-immunization-pei>. (Accessed: 4th May 2018)
2. Immigration & Refugee Services Association Prince Edward Island. Online Guide for Newcomers to Prince Edward Island, Canada - Other Health Care Services - Immunization. Available at: <https://www.irsapei.ca/en/1203-other-health-care-services#immunization> (Accessed: 4th October 2023)
3. Canada, P. H. A. of. Vaccination Coverage Goals and Vaccine Preventable Disease Reduction Targets by 2025. *aem* (2017). Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization-vaccine-priorities/national-immunization-strategy/vaccination-coverage-goals-vaccine-preventable-diseases-reduction-targets-2025.html>. (Accessed: 4th May 2018)