



School Immunization Requirements

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Objectives

1. Understand the immunization requirements in Minnesota and best practices for enforcing these requirements.
2. Learn about recent findings from a survey of MN school nurses.
3. Learn about resources available for schools to help with immunization requirements.



Minnesota Immunization Requirements

MN Immunization Requirements

- Statute 121A.15 and Administrative Rule 4604.
- Requires documentation of immunizations or legal exemptions for all K-12 students.
- All K-12 schools required to complete Annual Immunization Status Report for their students by December 1 each year.



MN Immunization Requirements (cont.)

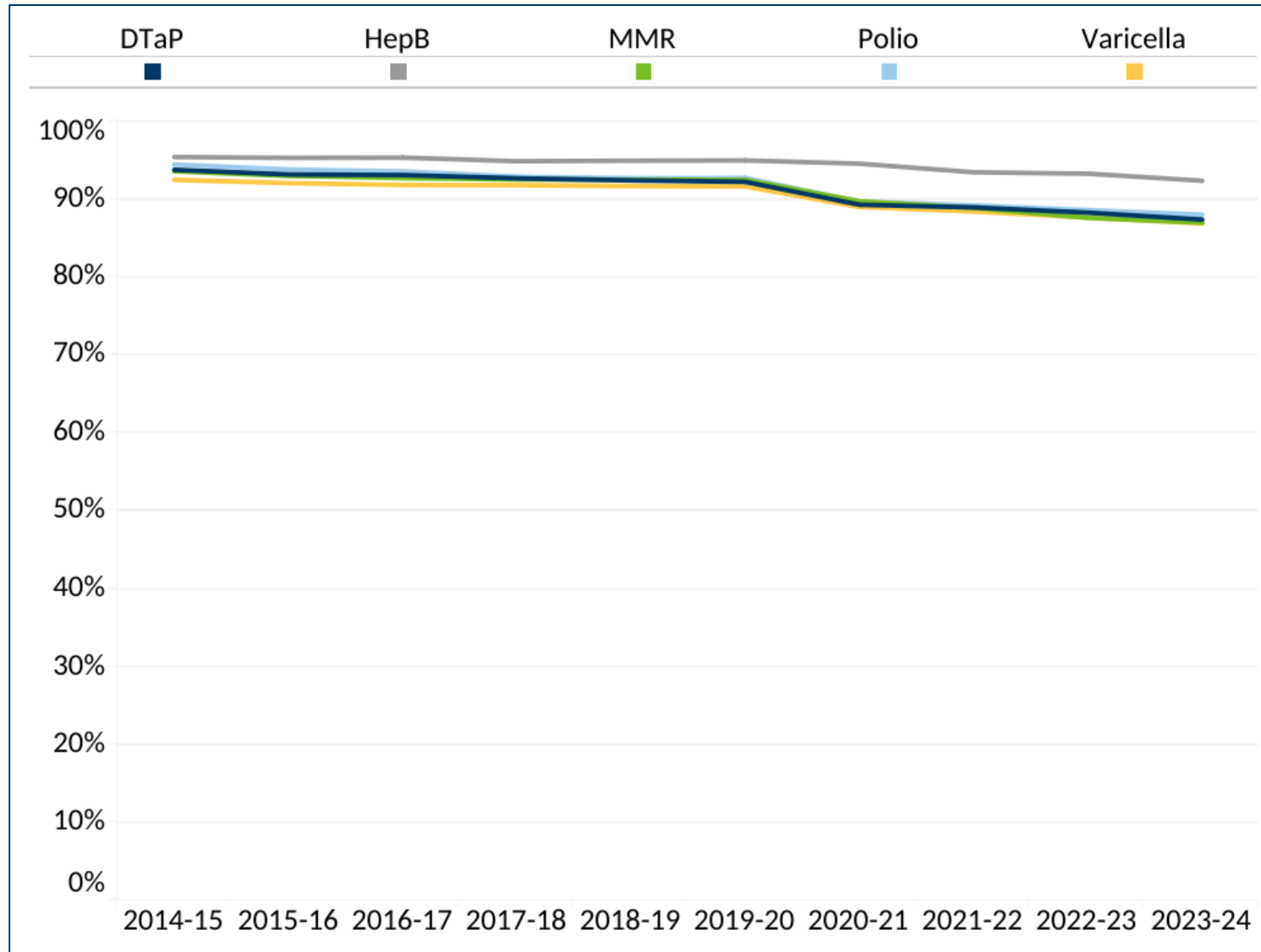
- Kindergarten through sixth grade:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP)
- Polio
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)

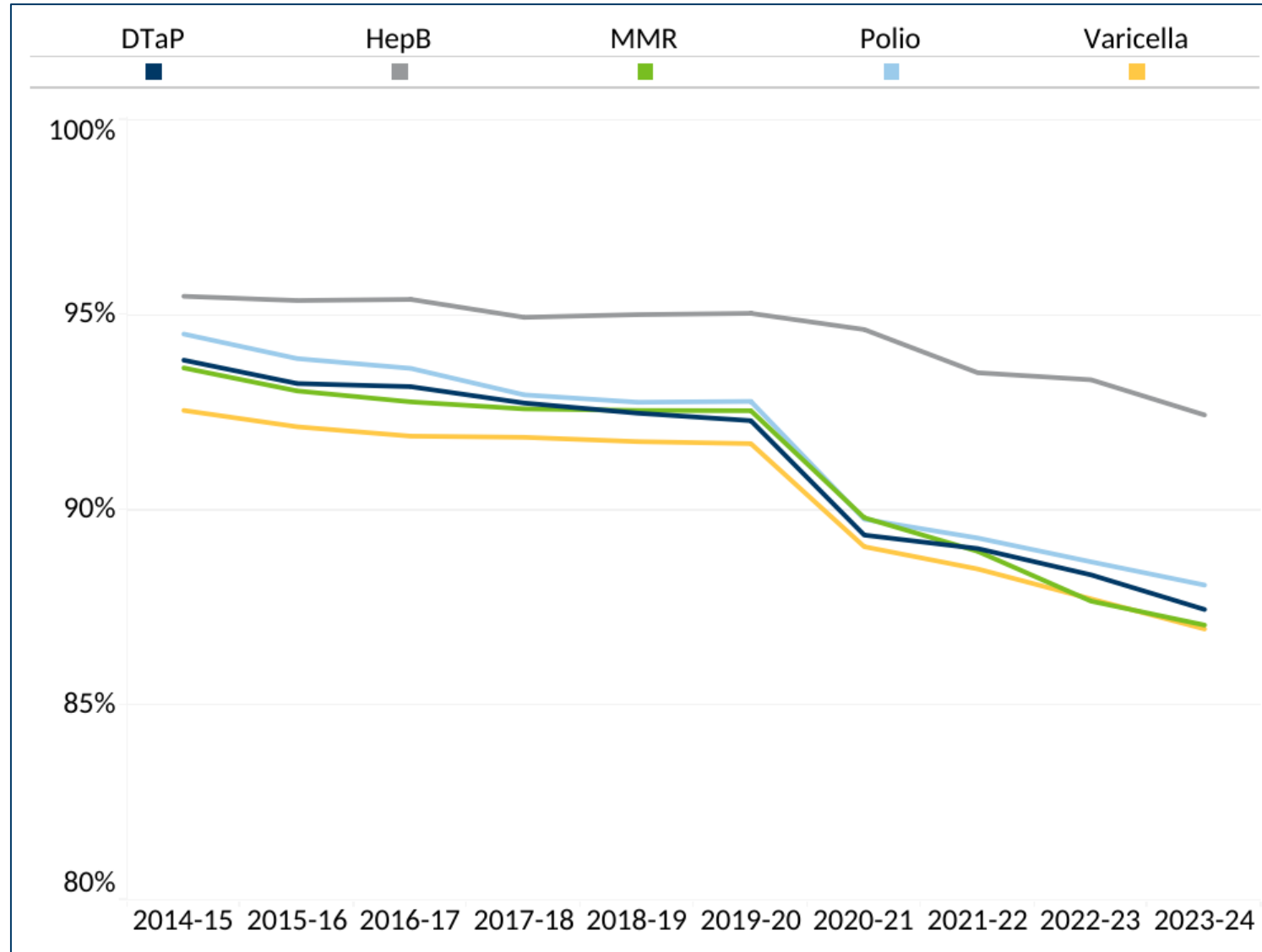
- Seventh through twelfth grade:

- DTaP
- Polio
- MMR
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)
- Meningococcal ACWY

Statewide Percent of Kindergarten Students Fully Vaccinated, by School Year

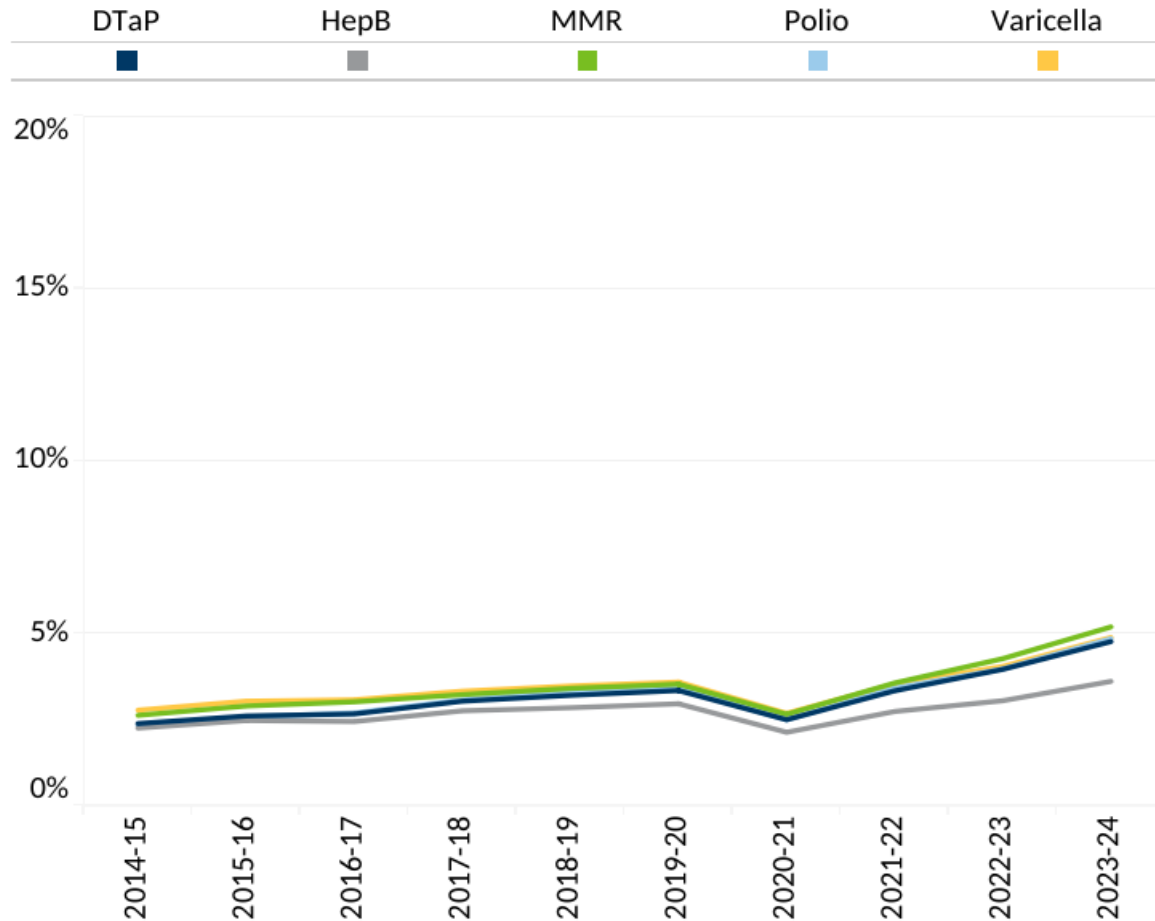


Statewide Percent of Kindergarten Students Fully Vaccinated, by School Year (cont.)

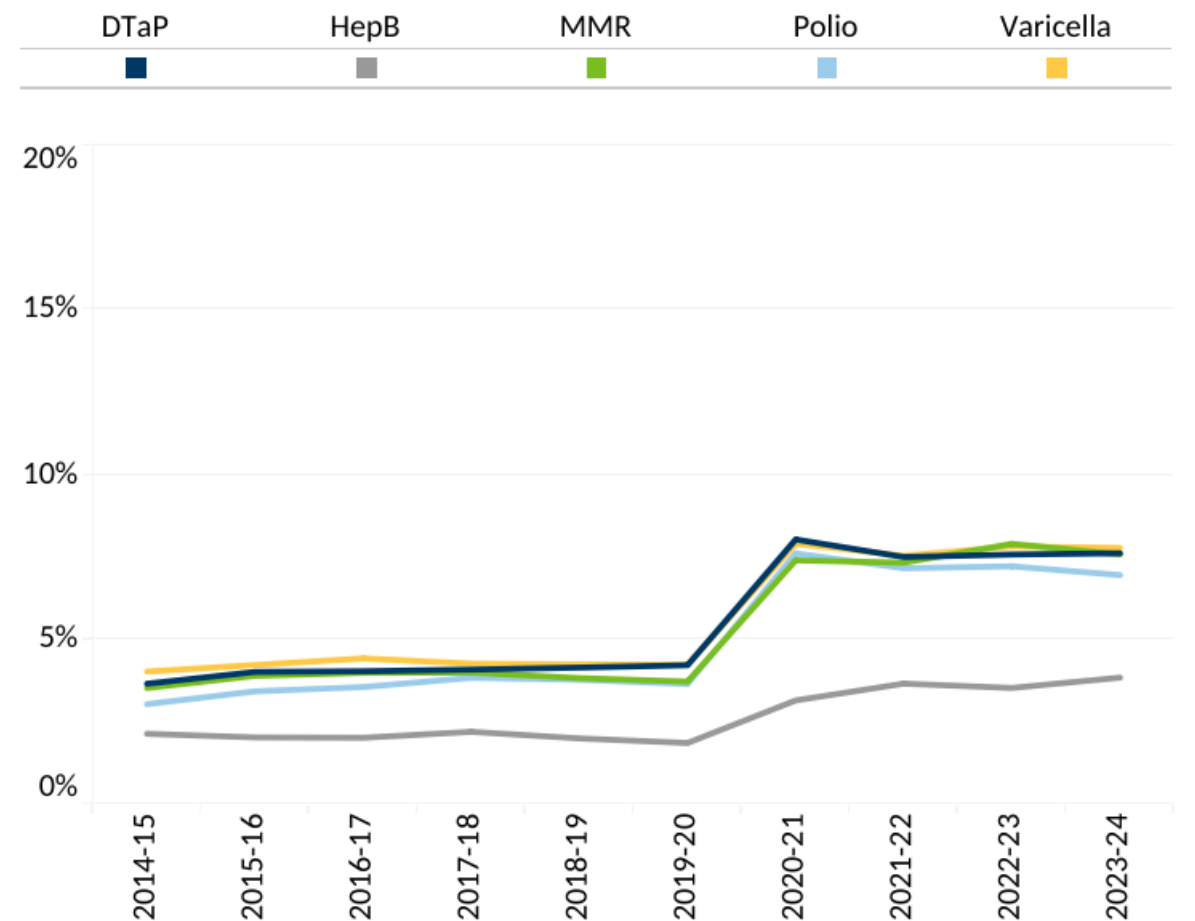


Kindergarten Immunization Data, 2023-24 School Year

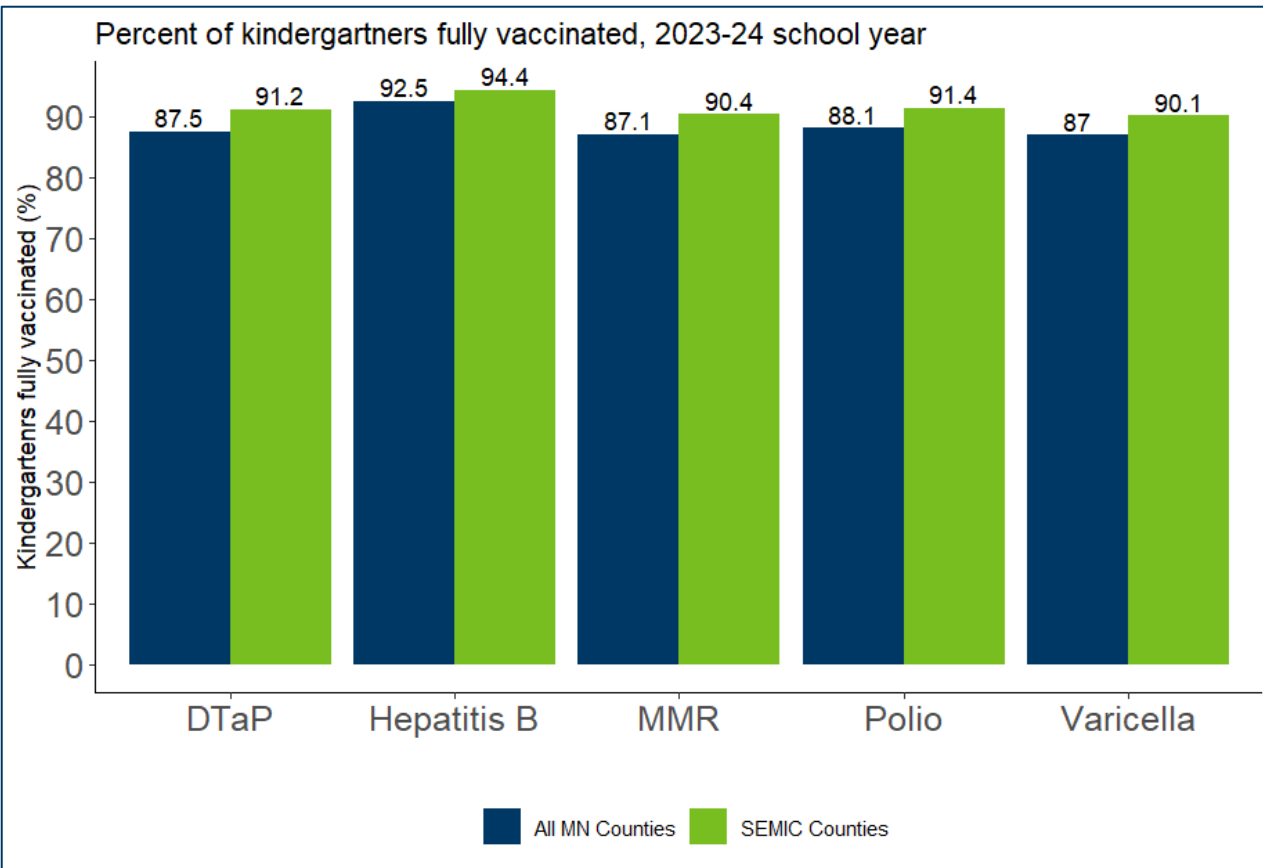
Statewide Percent of Kindergarten Students with Non-Medical Exemptions, by School Year



Statewide Percent of Kindergarten Students In-Progress or Missing Doses, by School Year

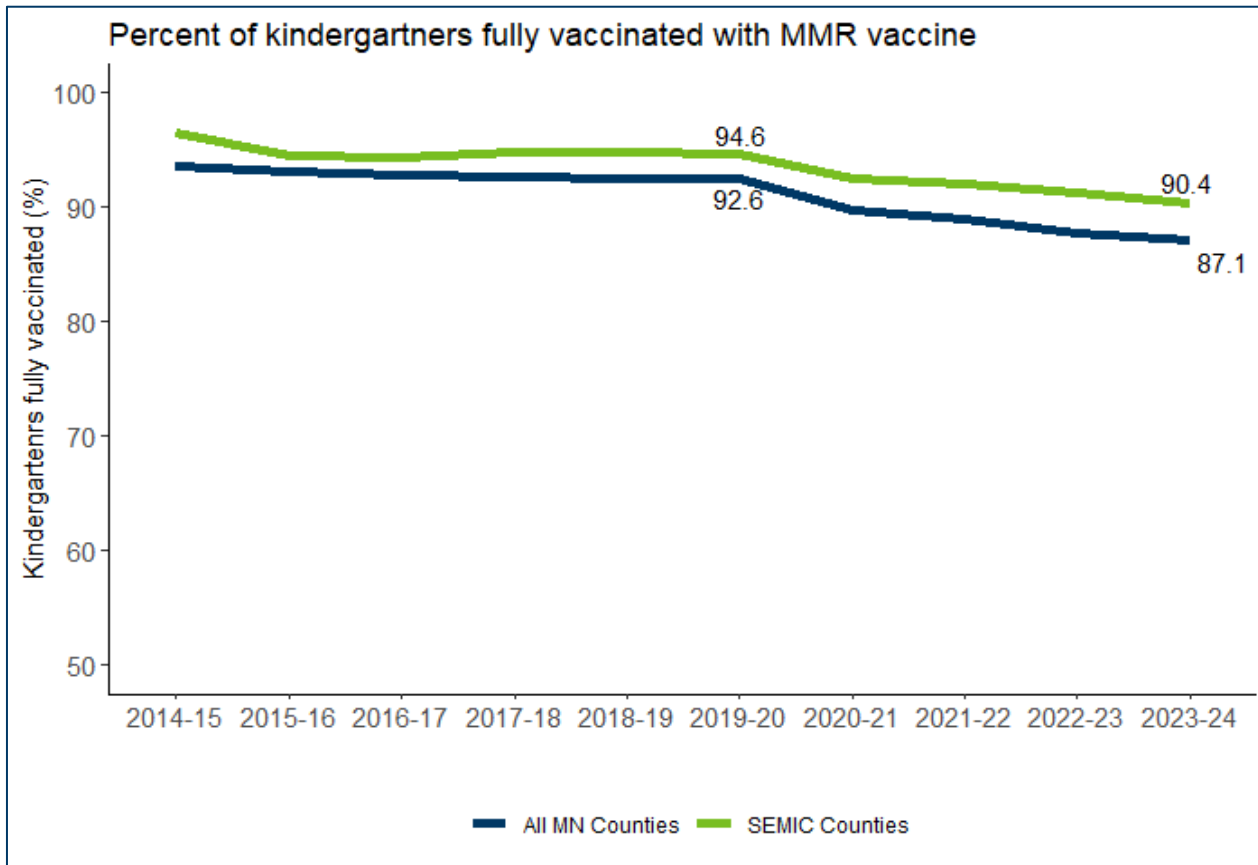


SEMIC Kindergarten Vaccination Rates



- SEMIC counties have higher vaccination coverage.
- 2-3 percentage points higher depending on the vaccine.

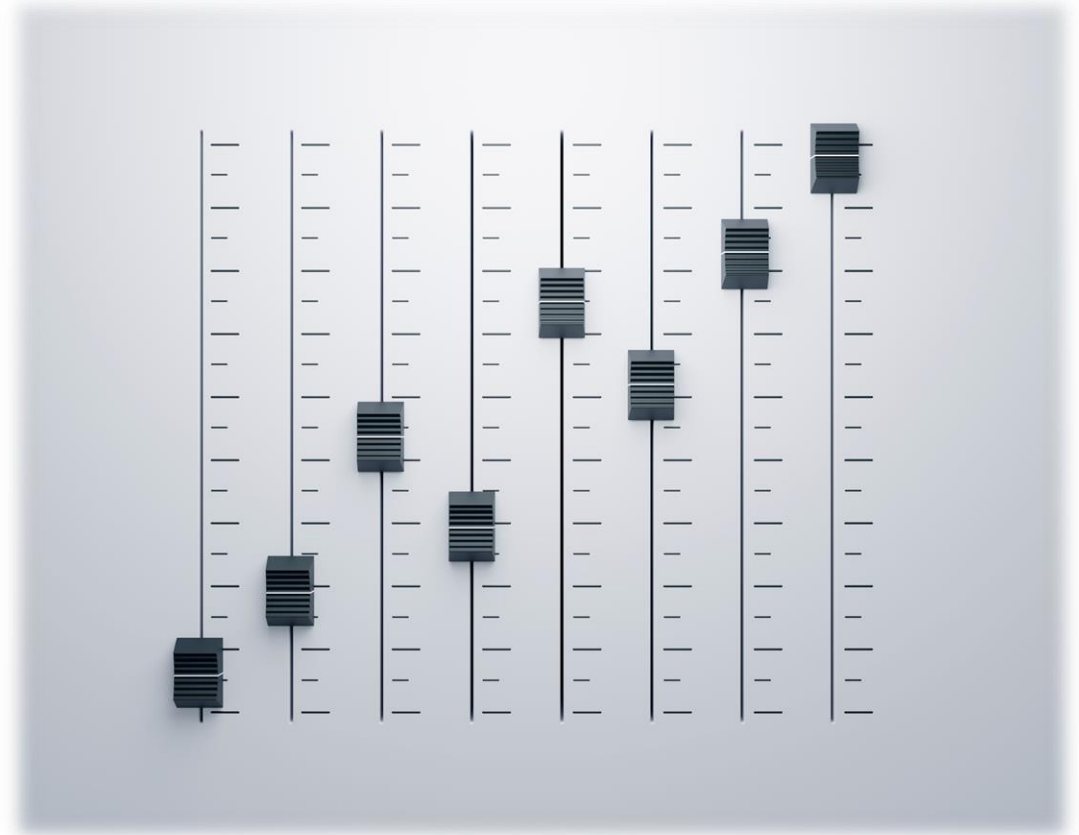
SEMIC Kindergarten MMR Coverage



- Similar declining trend in fully vaccinated rate.
- MMR fully vaccinated rate has dropped roughly 4 percentage points since 2019-20 school year.
- Similar trend for all vaccines and what we are seeing at the state level.

Pockets of Low Vaccination Coverage

- SEMIC Counties:
 - Several charter and private schools with less than 40% MMR coverage among kindergarten students.
 - District MMR kindergarten coverage ranges from 70-100%.
- [School Immunization Data](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/school/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/stats/school/index.html>)



- Ensure families have proper documentation prior to enrollment or before transitioning to the next grade level.
- Use multiple opportunities to communicate with parents (e.g., new student orientation, early childhood screening, school newsletter and websites).
- Inform parents on how and where to get free or low-cost shots for children in partnership with Local Public Health.
- Inform families about the risk of being unvaccinated and the possibility of needing to remain out of school if exposed to a vaccine preventable disease.



School Nurse Survey

School Nurse Survey Objectives

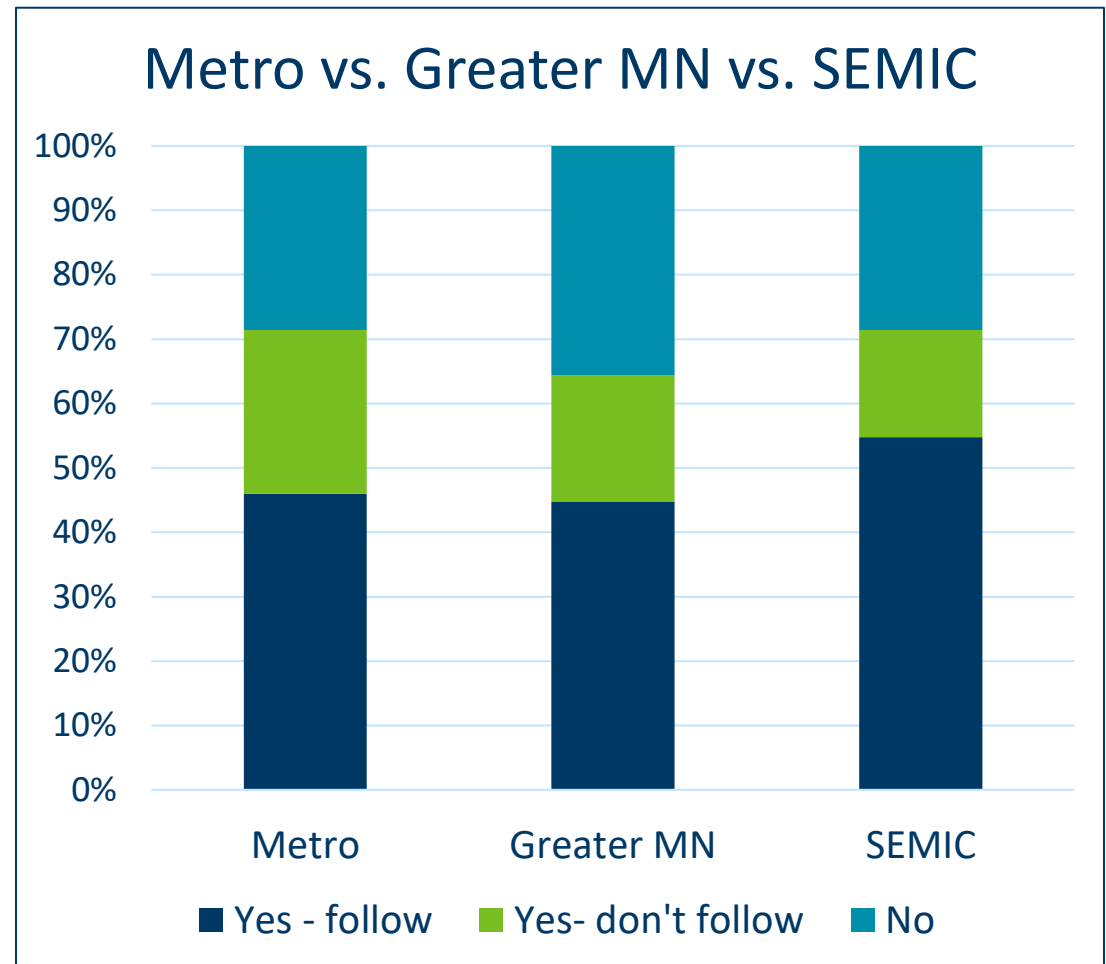
- We created a survey to better understand:
 - How schools and districts implement and enforce the school immunization requirements?
 - What barriers they face to enforce the requirements?
 - What resources they use to implement the requirements?
 - What resources they would find helpful?

Demographics

- Total responses: 480
- Responses from 265 unique school districts:
 - 213/342 (62%) public school districts
 - 52/181 (29%) charter schools
- Counties: 82/87 (missing Grant, Kittson, Pennington, Rock, and Roseau):
 - 42% Metro respondents
 - 58% Greater MN respondents

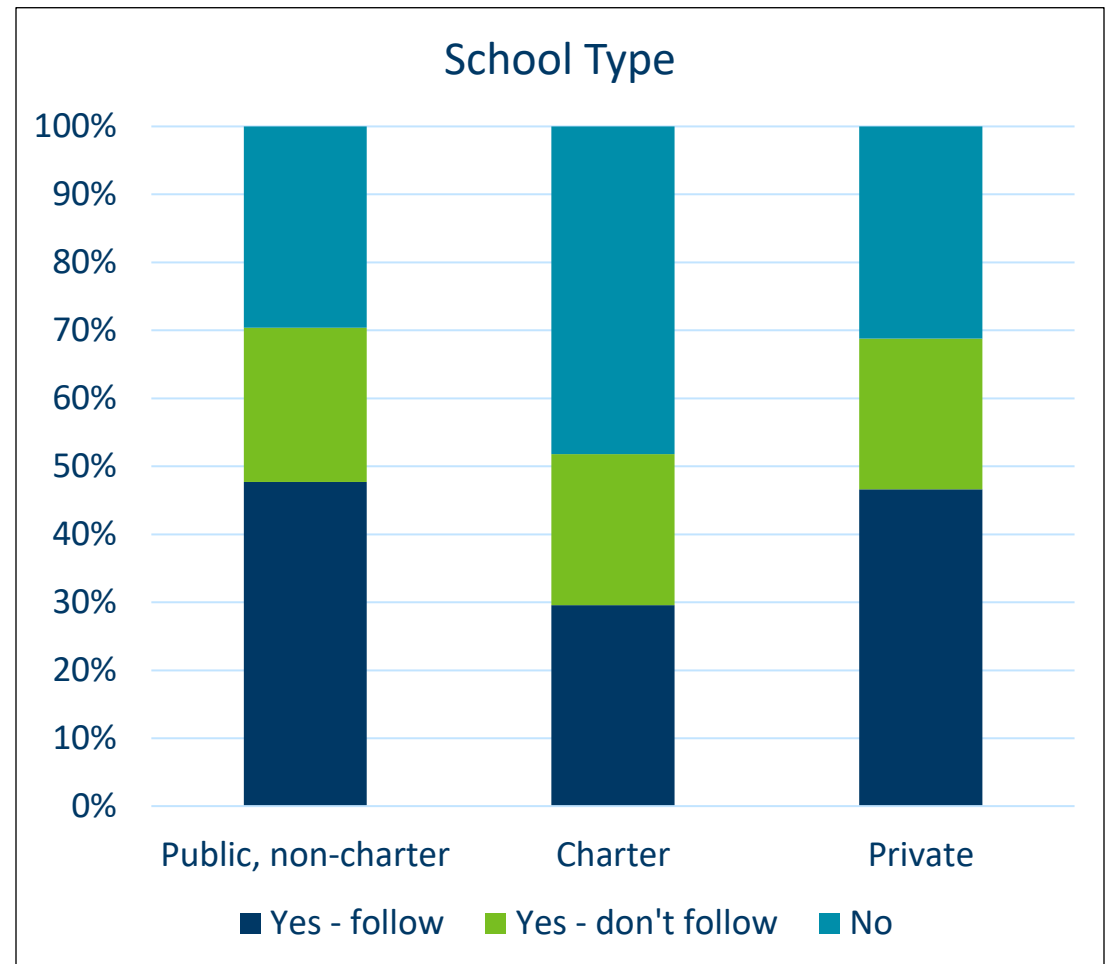
Enforcement of Immunization Requirements

- 99% send reminders to families of non-compliant students.
- 68% of all schools/districts have a policy or procedure to exclude non-compliant students.
 - 33% do not currently operate based on that policy/procedure.

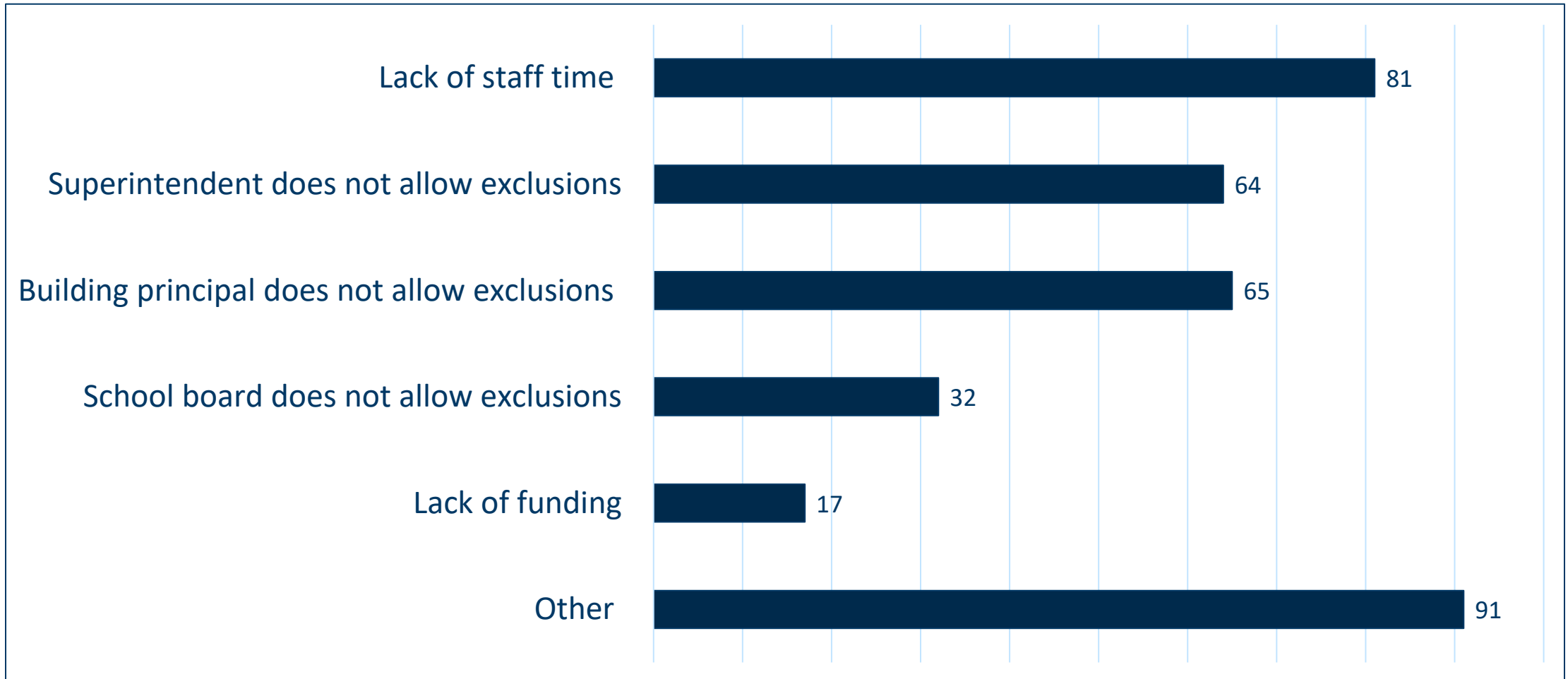


Enforcement of Immunization Requirements (cont.)

- Public and Private schools had similar breakdown in enforcement.
- Charter schools were less likely to have a policy to exclude non-compliant students.



Barriers to Implementation of School Entry Requirements



Explanation from Administration for not Allowing Exclusions

- **Theme 1:** Students need to be in school.

“They do not want students missing more in person time than they already lost due to COVID.”

- **Theme 2:** Equity issues/exclusion is another barrier to school.

“The students who are non-compliant are predominantly either a minority, have barriers to healthcare, non-English speaking, etc. and those are students who need to be in school for a variety of socio-economic reasons. Excluding just puts up one more barrier for them.”

- **Theme 3:** Exclusion punishes students for something outside of their control.

“...we are withholding a required education from a student because a parent is unable or unwilling to comply with the law. We should not be punishing the students for the parent’s lack of responsibility...”

Explanation from Administration for not Allowing Exclusions (cont.)

- **Theme 4:** Losing students = losing funding.

“They don’t want to lose students to other schools if the parents get upset that their child is excluded and transfer their child to a nearby school. It all comes down to money.”

- **Theme 5:** Historically, exclusions haven’t been allowed.

“I’m not entirely sure but it has always been the practice. Excluding students would not be supported by district management, so therefore pointless.”

- **Theme 6:** Not their responsibility.

“Their job is to educate, not be a clinic.”

- 10% said that clinics in their area do NOT routinely offer all required vaccines at appropriate ages and intervals.
 - Don't know immunization schedule and/or catch-up schedule.
 - Give immunizations at incorrect intervals or endorse spacing out vaccines.
 - Tell parents that their child is up to date when they are not.
 - Don't use MIIC and rely on their own system that doesn't update or notify.

- Bulk Query
 - Query MIIC for immunization records based on a list of their students.
 - Output files can be imported into student information systems.
- Free MIIC Texting Program
 - Text messages are sent to students due or overdue for a vaccine. Messages can be viewed in English, Hmong, Spanish, or Somali.
 - For more information, email: health.miictexting@state.mn.us.

Resources for Schools (cont.)

- Translating vaccination records
 - [VaxRef Form \(https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/vaxref\)](https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/vaxref) can be used to translate immunization records to English.
 - [WHO Immunization Data portal - All Data \(https://immunizationdata.who.int/global/?topic=&location=\)](https://immunizationdata.who.int/global/?topic=&location=) offers a tool to lookup the routine vaccination schedule used in different countries throughout the world.
- [School Health Personnel Immunization and Disease Reporting \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/school.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/school.html).

Thank You!

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