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2025-2026 Maine School Immunization Assessment Report

Uniform vaccination requirements for school entry protect children and communities against vaccine preventable diseases. Each school year, Federally-funded immunization programs collect and report kindergarten vaccination data to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Federally-funded immunization programs in all 50 states partner with their Departments of Education (DOE) to assess vaccination coverage and exemption status of children enrolled in public and private kindergartens. In addition to kindergartens, in order to assess compliance with state requirements, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Immunization Program (MIP) – a program within the Maine CDC – also collects coverage and exemption data for both seventh and twelfth grade students. This information is collected through an annual immunization assessment survey of all State of Maine elementary, middle, and high schools.

Maine rules pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 6352-6358 require any pre-K-12 student enrolled in a designated public or private elementary, secondary, or special education facility which operates for children of school age to show proof of immunization with the following vaccines or documented immunity against the following vaccines:

- Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus: Five doses of any DTP, DT or DTaP vaccine, a fifth dose is not needed if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday. One dose of Tdap is required for seventh grade entry;
- Poliomyelitis: Four doses of OPV or IPV vaccine, a fourth dose is not needed if the third dose was given on or after the fourth birthday;
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella: Two doses of MMR vaccine;
- Varicella: Two doses of varicella vaccine (VAR); and,
- Meningococcal Meningitis: One dose of quadrivalent meningococcal meningitis vaccine (MenACWY) is required for seventh grade entry and two doses of MenACWY are required for twelfth grade entry.

A student who does not meet the immunization/immunity requirements above may be enrolled in school under the following circumstances:

- The parent, guardian, or student provides the school with written assurance that the student will be immunized within ninety days of enrolling. This is a one-time provisional 90-day grace period.
- The parent, guardian, or student presents to the school a written statement from a Maine licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable (medical exemption in annual survey).
- Students that have an IEP on or before September 1, 2021 and previously selected a philosophical or religious exemption may continue to claim this exemption. The parent, guardian, or student must provide to the school a statement from a Maine licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician

assistant that after consultation the parent, guardian, or student has been made aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

The Docket® for Schools (DFS) platform, which was piloted in Spring of 2025 for the purpose of reporting students' immunization status, went live in September 2025. This new tool was designed to support school nurses in identifying immunization gaps and ensuring uniform compliance with Maine school vaccination laws.

DFS was used to conduct the 2025-2026 Maine School Age Immunization Assessment Survey, and aggregate results for kindergarten students were reported to the U.S. CDC on April 30, 2026. The following tables (Tables 1-3) list the aggregate results gathered from the 2025-2026 Maine Annual School Age Immunization Survey.

Table 1: 2025-2026 MIP School Exemption and Immunization Rates, Kindergarten

2025-2026 School Exemption and Immunization Rates By Individual Vaccine, Kindergarten									
Vaccine	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Missing Records	Missing Records Rates	Number of Exempt (Medical & IEP)	Exempt Rates	Number of 90 Day Exempt	90 Day Exempt Rates	Number of Students Immune	Vaccine Rates
DTaP	10981	197	1.8%	66	0.6%	17	0.2%	10701	97.5%
Polio	10981	154	1.4%	55	0.5%	13	0.1%	10759	98.0%
MMR	10981	144	1.3%	54	0.5%	11	0.1%	10772	98.1%
VAR	10981	165	1.5%	61	0.6%	12	0.1%	10743	97.8%

Table 2: 2025-2026 MIP School Exemption and Immunization Rates, Seventh Grade

2025-2026 School Exemption and Immunization Rates By Individual Vaccine, Seventh									
Vaccine	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Missing Records	Missing Records Rates	Number of Exempt (Medical & IEP)	Exempt Rates	Number of 90 Day Exempt	90 Day Exempt Rates	Number of Students Immune	Vaccine Rates
Tdap	12906	243	1.9%	59	0.5%	22	0.2%	12582	97.5%
Polio	12906	95	0.7%	48	0.4%	17	0.1%	12746	98.8%
MMR	12906	80	0.6%	45	0.3%	9	0.0%	12772	99.0%
VAR	12906	100	0.8%	59	0.5%	16	0.1%	12731	98.6%
MenACWY	12906	254	2.0%	65	0.5%	30	0.2%	12557	97.3%

Table 3: 2025-2026 MIP School Exemption and Immunization Rates, Twelfth Grade

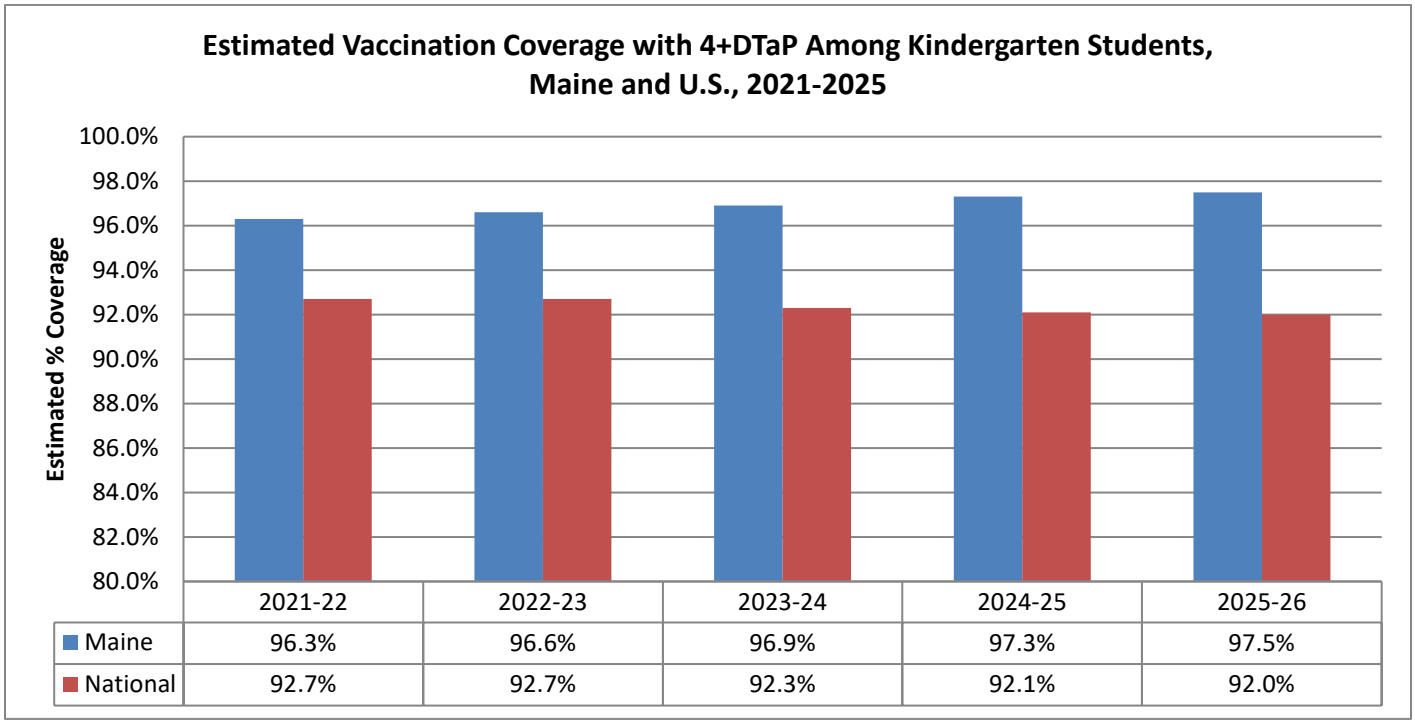
2025-2026 School Exemption and Immunization Rates By Individual Vaccine, Twelfth									
Vaccine	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Missing Records	Missing Records Rates	Number of Exempt (Medical & IEP)	Exempt Rates	Number of 90 Day Exempt	90 Day Exempt Rates	Number of Students Immune	Vaccine Rates
Tdap	14001	292	2.1%	83	0.6%	16	0.1%	13610	97.2%
Polio	14001	285	2.0%	60	0.4%	16	0.1%	13640	97.4%
MMR	14001	228	1.6%	63	0.4%	9	0.0%	13701	97.9%
VAR	14001	303	2.2%	80	0.6%	15	0.1%	13603	97.2%
MenACWY	14001	749	5.3%	116	0.8%	32	0.2%	13104	93.6%

Vaccination is the most effective and efficient way to ensure that students and their family members, particularly those who are immunocompromised, are protected against these vaccine preventable diseases. School vaccination requirements provide an opportunity for children who are behind on early childhood vaccinations to be vaccinated by school entry. School vaccination assessments allow the Maine CDC's MIP to identify schools and communities where focused action could improve vaccination coverage to ensure that more children can benefit from the protection offered by vaccines. MIP and DOE will use this data to monitor incomplete vaccination records, coverage rates and exemptions, and will work with schools to ensure that all students receive all required Maine school age vaccines.

The Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten – United States, 2025-26 School Year report data was released in the fall of 2026. Historical reports were analyzed and graphical representations for each vaccine surveyed show trending comparisons for Maine and national U.S. immunization rates and exemption rates over the past five years (Figures 1-7). Additionally, graphical representations of immunization rates for Maine kindergarten students have been generated to show county-specific rates compared to overall Maine state rates (Figures 8-11).

As always, thank you for your commitment to keeping Maine's children free of vaccine preventable disease.

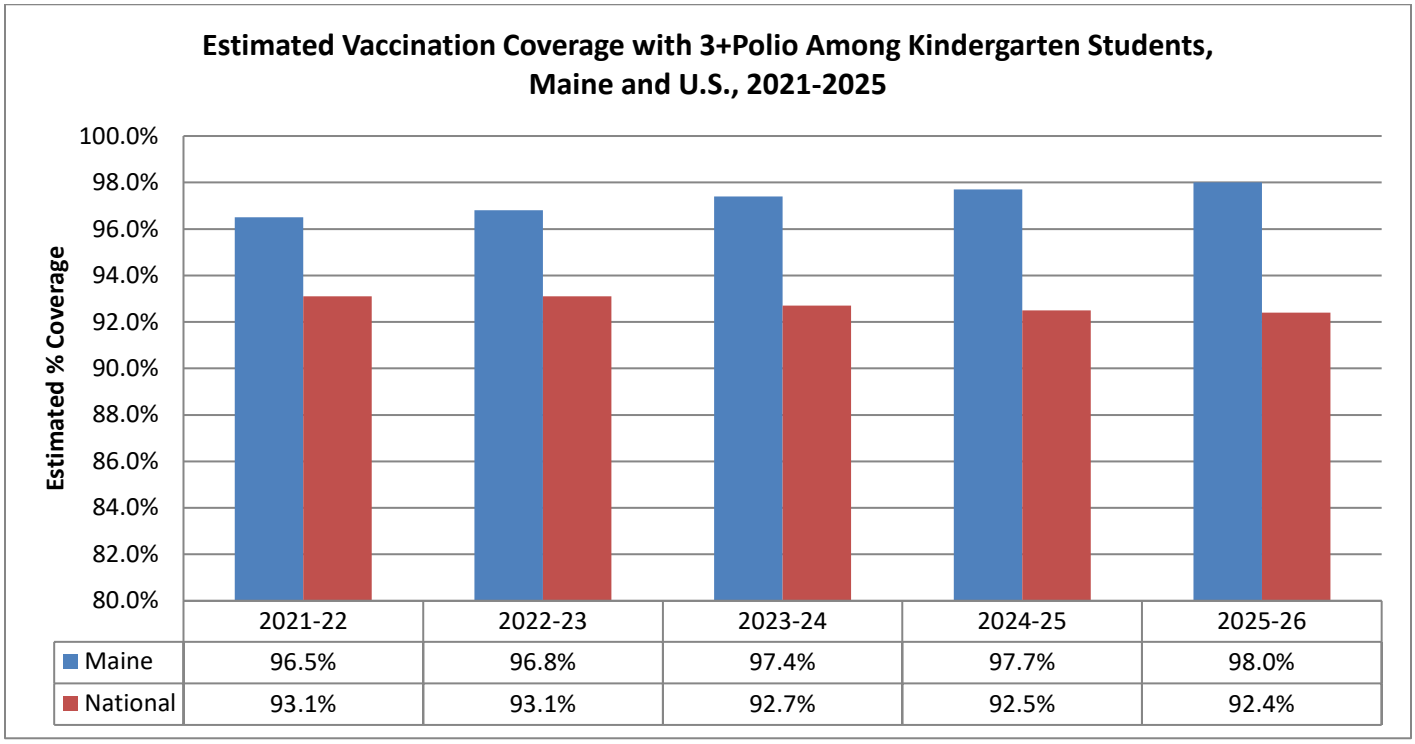
Figure 1: 4+DTaP Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	96.3%	96.6%	96.9%	97.3%	97.5%
National	92.7%	92.7%	92.3%	92.1%	92.0%

4+ DTaP ~ ≥4 doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine.

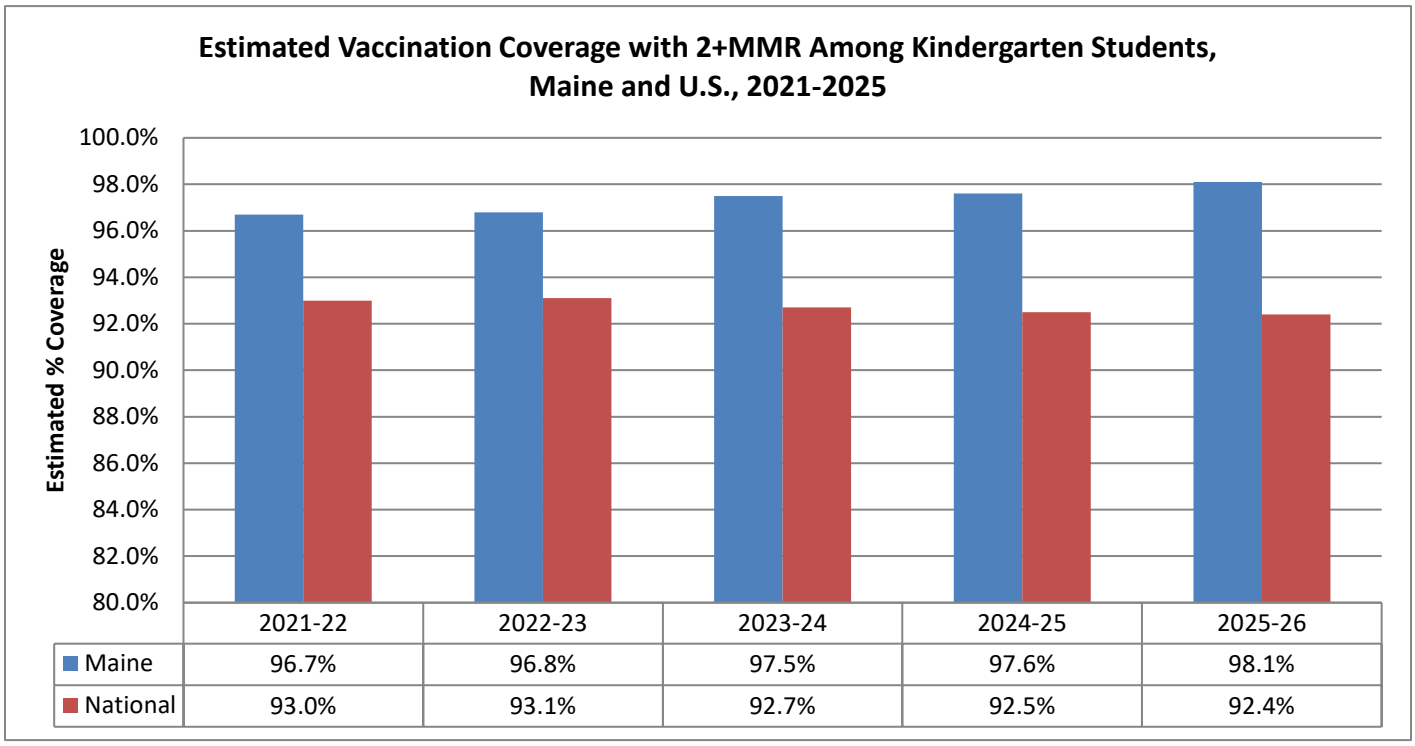
Figure 2: 3+Polio Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	96.5%	96.8%	97.4%	97.7%	98.0%
National	93.1%	93.1%	92.7%	92.5%	92.4%

3+Polio ~ ≥3 dose of any poliovirus (IPV/OPV) vaccine.

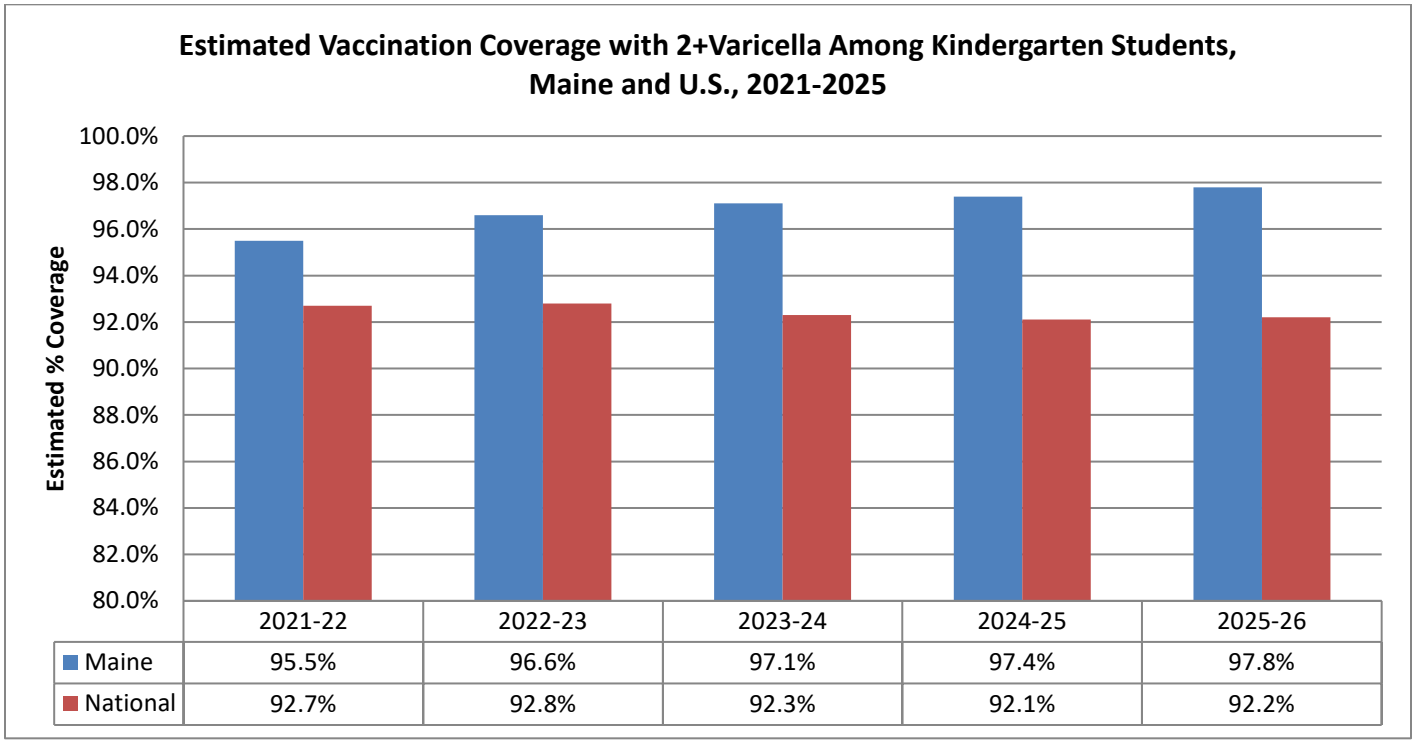
Figure 3: 2+MMR Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	96.7%	96.8%	97.5%	97.6%	98.1%
National	93.0%	93.1%	92.7%	92.5%	92.4%

2+MMR ~ ≥2 doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

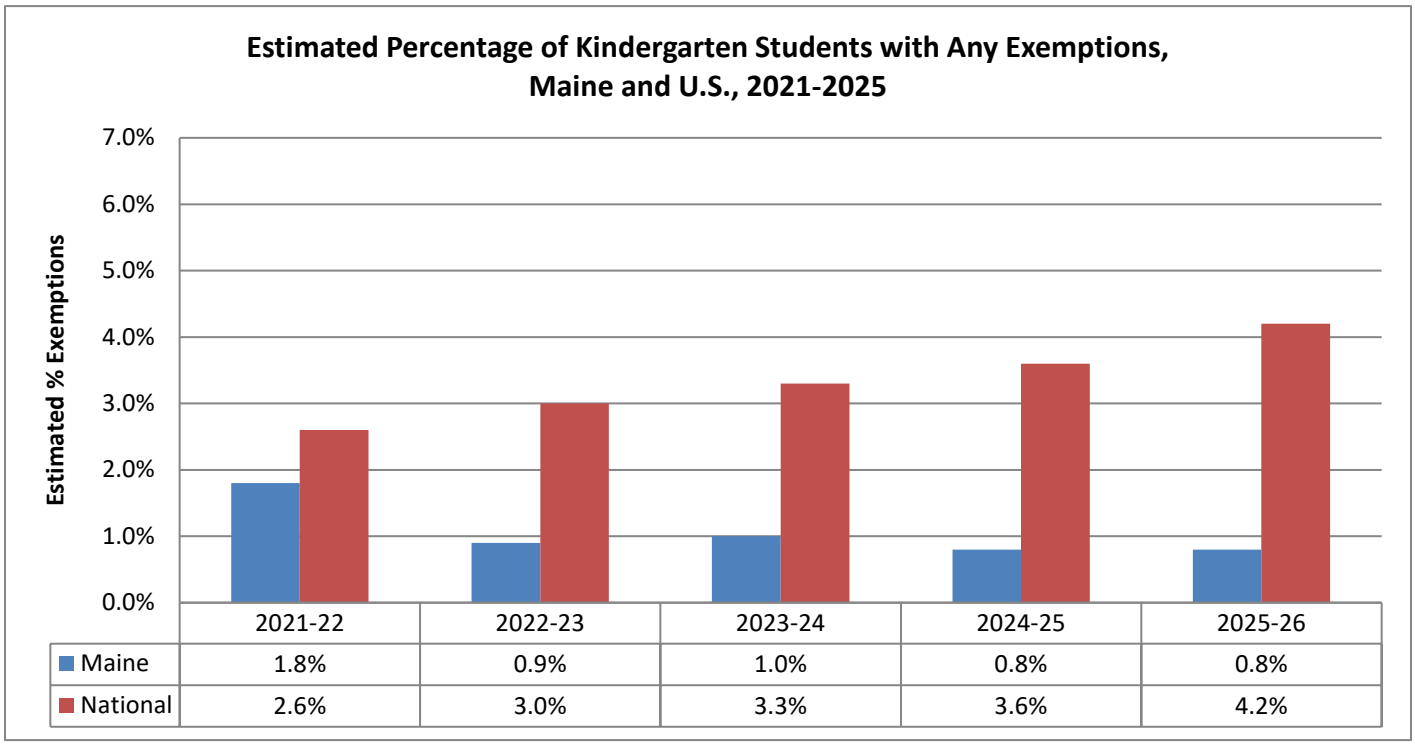
Figure 4: 2+VAR Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	95.5%	96.6%	97.1%	97.4%	97.8%
National	92.7%	92.8%	92.3%	92.1%	92.2%

2+Varicella ~ ≥ 2 doses of varicella (VAR) vaccine, adjusted to include history of varicella disease

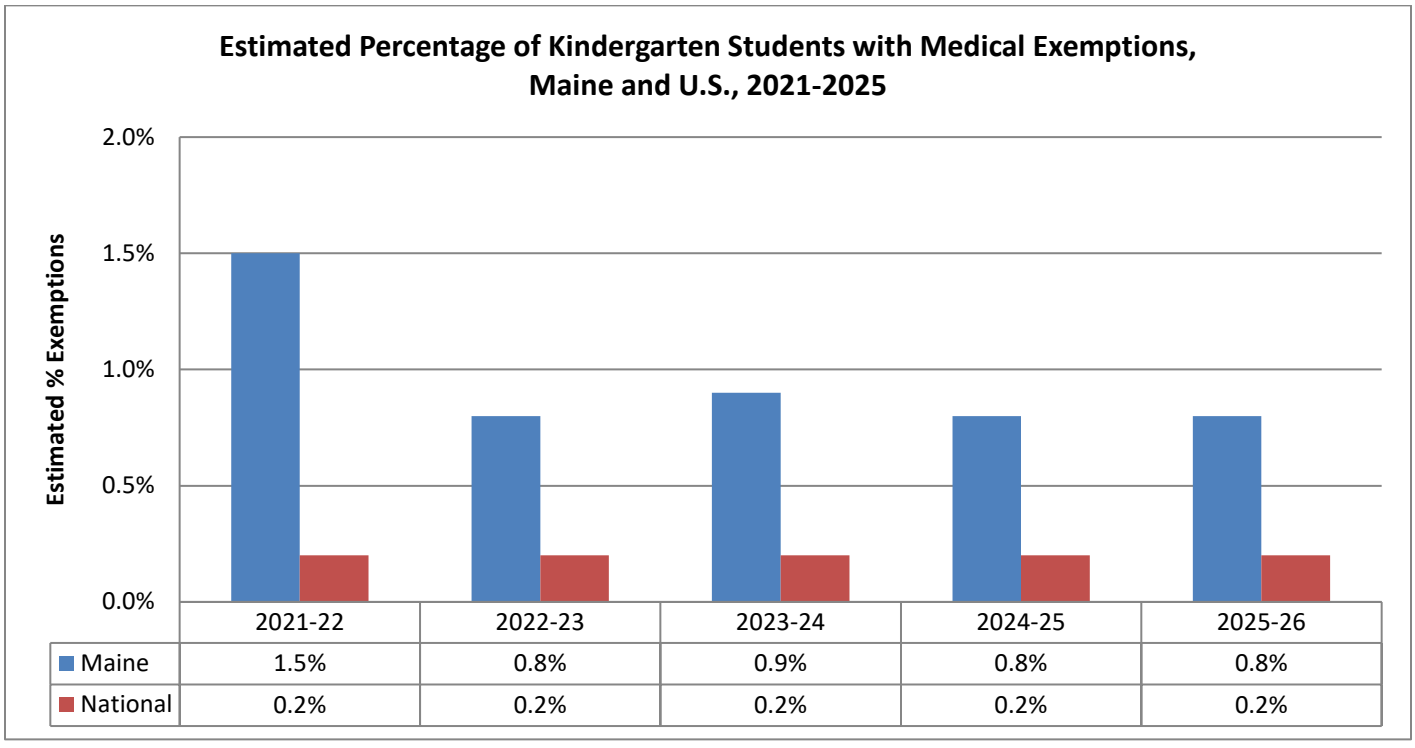
Figure 5: Any Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	1.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%
National	2.6%	3.0%	3.3%	3.6%	4.2%

Any Exemption ~ Includes medical, religious and philosophical exemptions for all school vaccines in Maine.

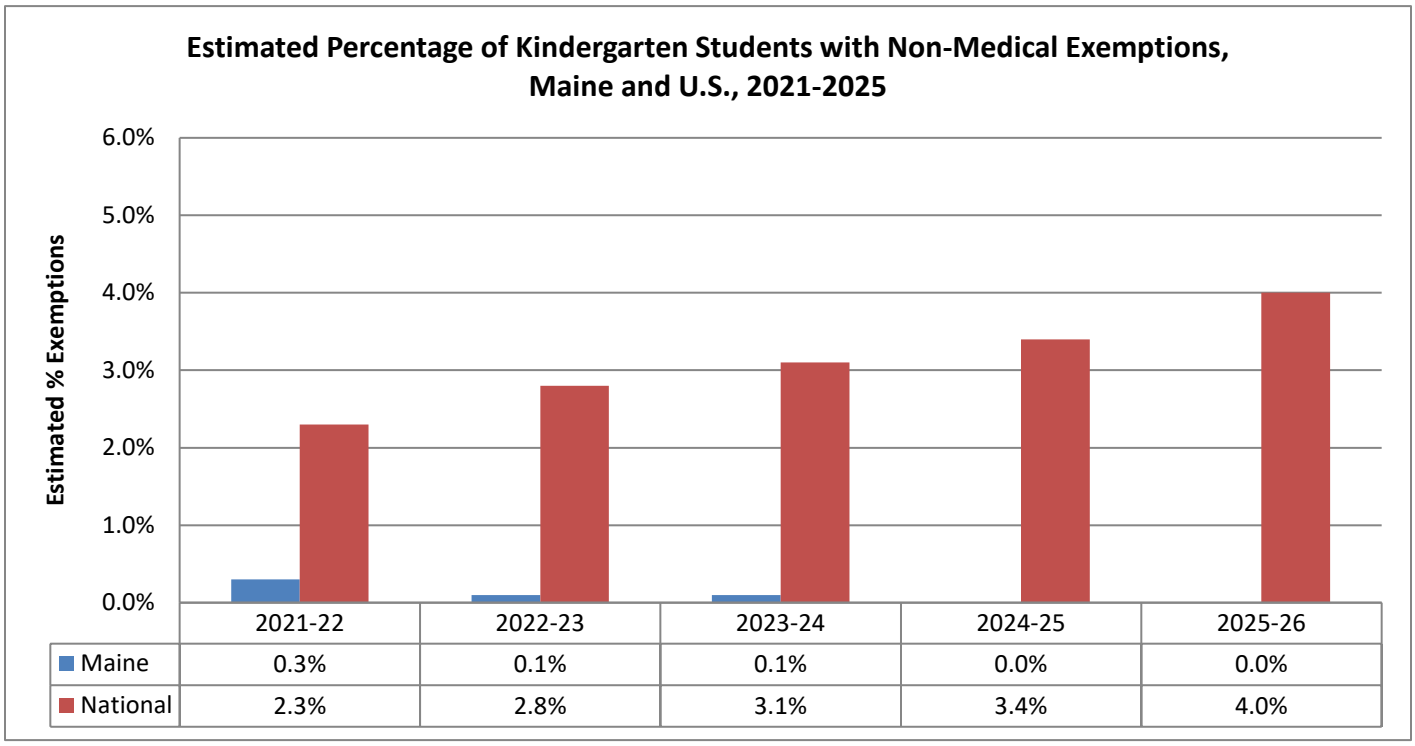
Figure 6: Medical Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	1.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
National	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

Medical Exemption ~ Includes medical exemptions only for all school vaccines in Maine.

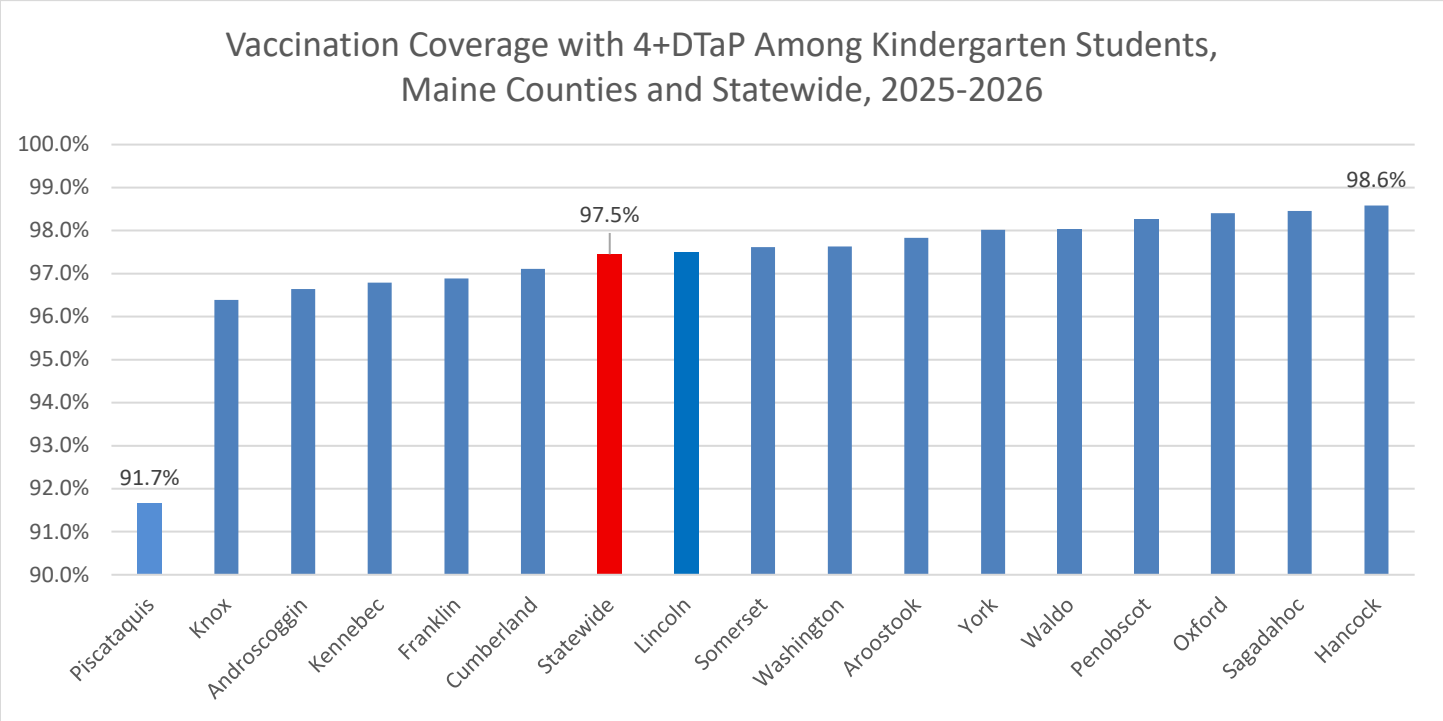
Figure 7: Non-Medical Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2021-2025



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Maine	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
National	2.3%	2.8%	3.1%	3.4%	4.0%

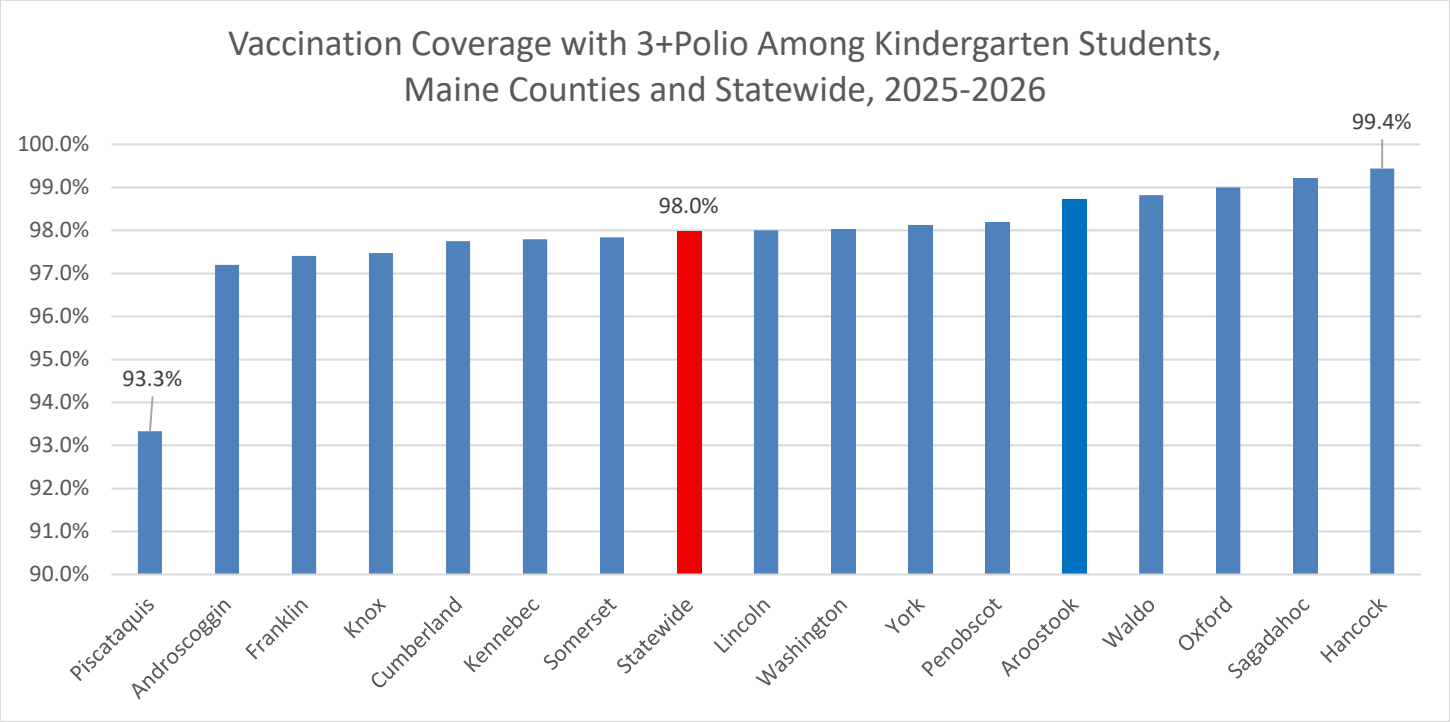
Non-Medical Exemption ~ Includes sincere religious belief and philosophical exemptions for all school vaccines in Maine.

Figure 8: 4+DTaP Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine Counties, 2025-2026



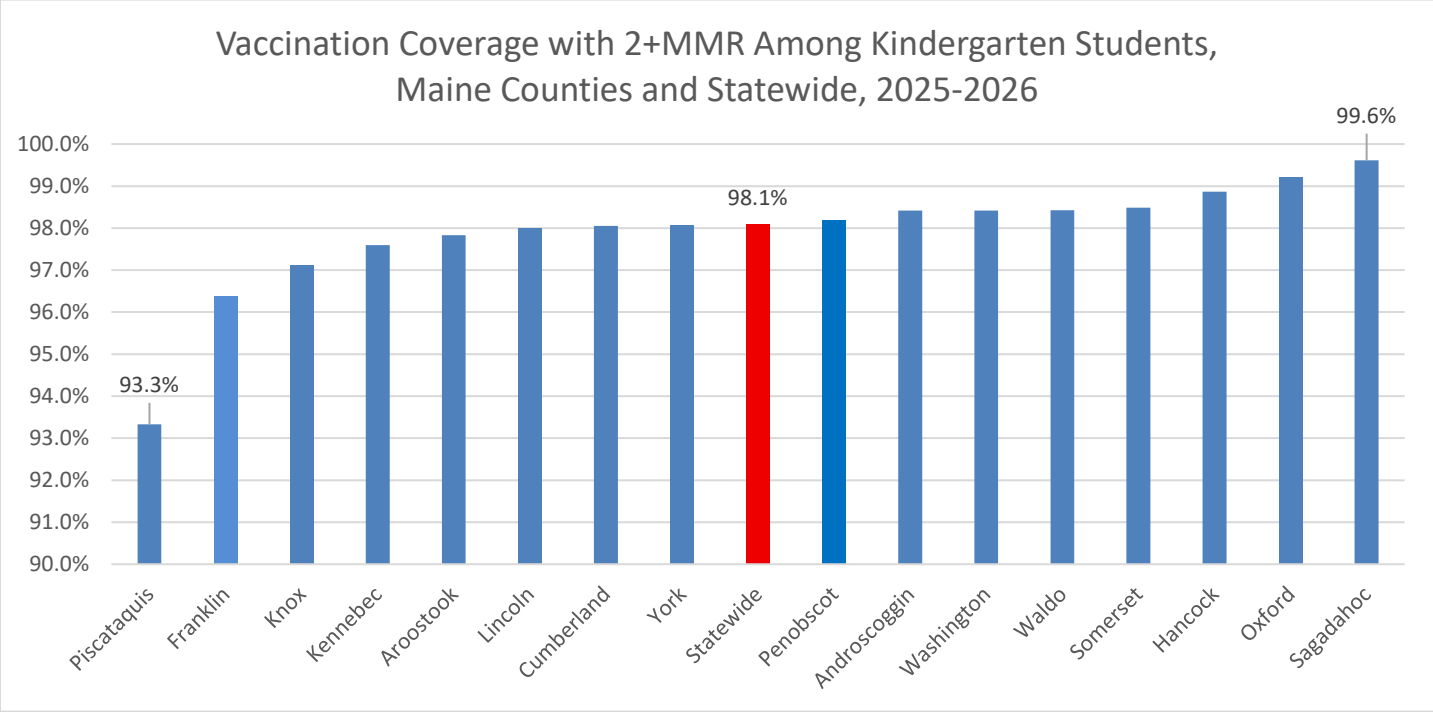
4+ DTaP ~ ≥4 doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine.

Figure 9: 3+Polio Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine Counties, 2025-2026



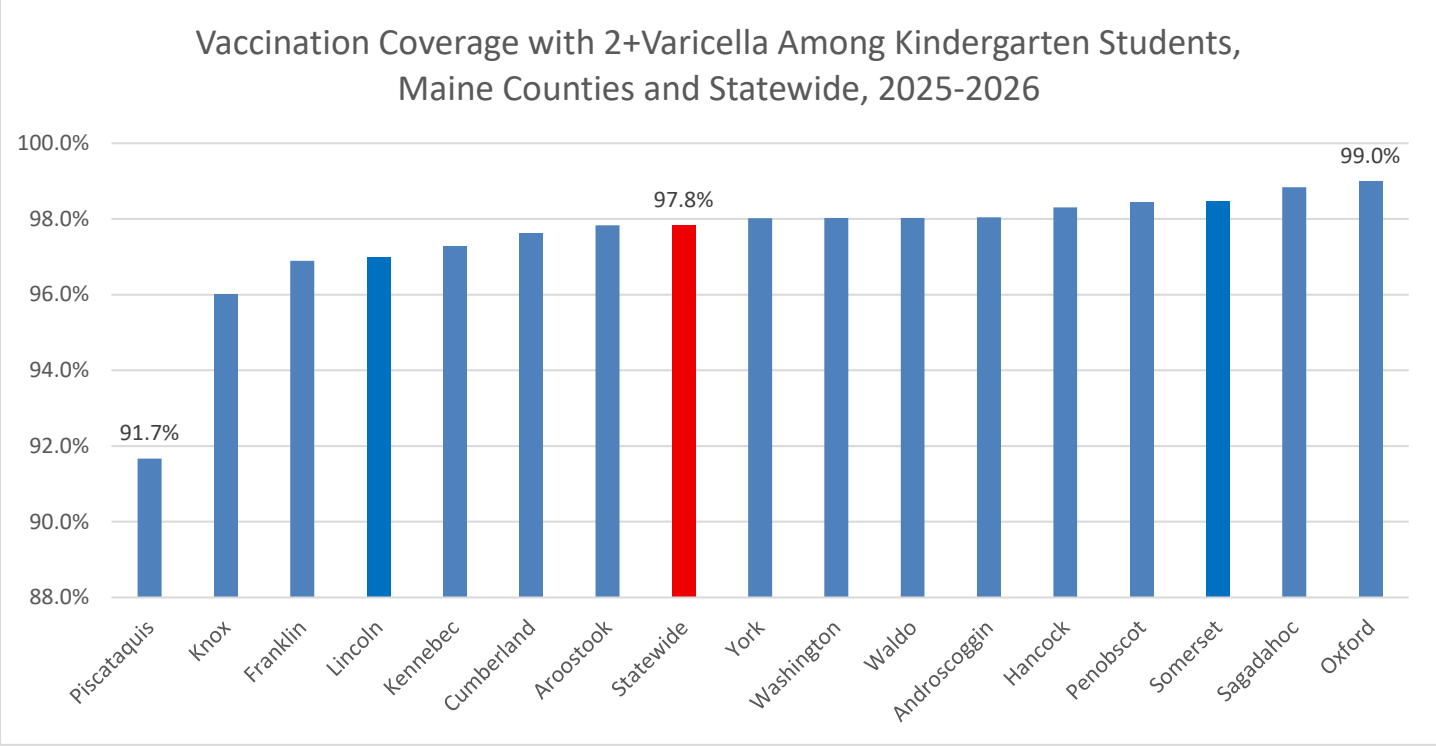
3+Polio~ ≥3 dose of any poliovirus vaccine (IPV/OPV) vaccine.

Figure 10: 2+MMR Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine Counties, 2025-2026



2+ MMR ~ ≥2 doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Figure 11: 2+Varicella Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine Counties, 2025-2026



2+Varicella ~ ≥ 2 dose of varicella (VAR) vaccine, adjusted to include history of varicella disease