

IMMUNIZATIONS

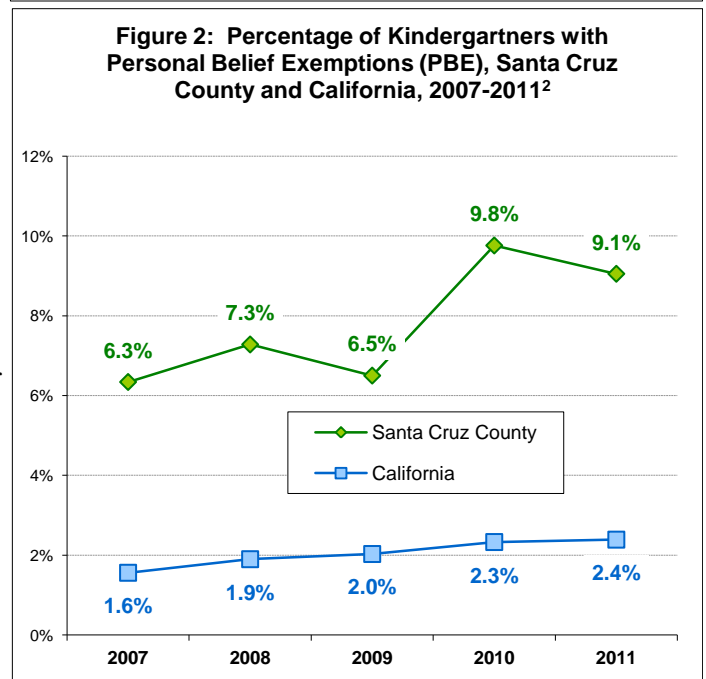
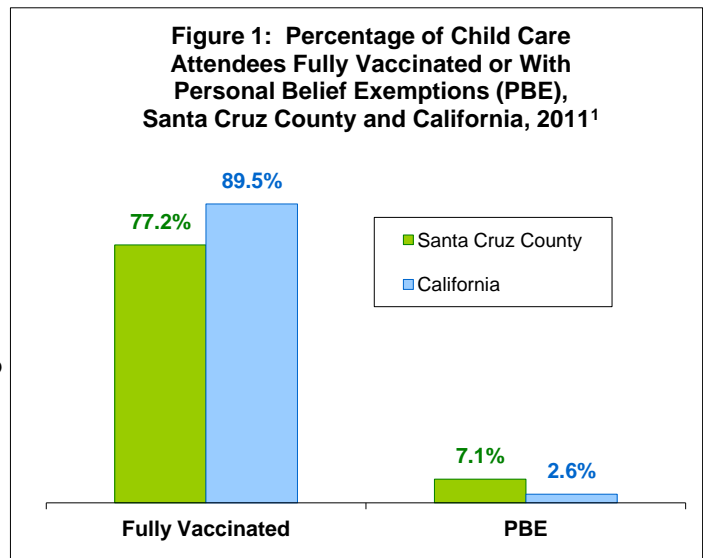
Importance	Disease prevention is the key to public health. It is always better to prevent a disease than to have to treat it. Vaccines prevent disease both directly, in the people who receive them, and indirectly, by reducing the number of infected people who could otherwise transmit infection. Vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country.
Definitions	<p>Fully Immunized: being up-to-date on required vaccinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CHILD CARE ATTENDEE REQUIREMENTS: 4+ DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), 3+ Polio, 1+ MMR (measles, mumps and rubella, or 2+ doses of MMR for kindergartners), 1+ Hib (Haemophilis influenza type B, not required for kindergarten), 3+ Hepatitis B, and 1+ varicella (or physician-documented varicella disease). - KINDERGARTEN ATTENDEE REQUIREMENTS: 4+ DTP, 3+ Polio, 2+ MMR, 3+ Hep B, and 1+ varicella or physician-documented varicella disease). <p>Personal Belief Exemption (PBE): a form that parents can choose to sign upon registering their child in daycare or kindergarten that exempts the child from some or all of the required immunizations for school entry based on personal / philosophical reasons.</p>

VACCINATION COVERAGE

High vaccination coverage in children by age 2 has resulted in historically low levels of most vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States, but coverage must be maintained to reduce the burden of disease further and prevent a resurgence of these diseases, particularly in populations with lower vaccination coverage.

In the fall of 2011, 89.5% of children entering licensed child care in California were fully immunized, compared to 77.2% of Santa Cruz County children ages 2 years to 4 years, 11 months.¹ In Santa Cruz County, 7.1% of attendees were not fully vaccinated because of a personal belief exemption (PBE); the remainder were either conditional entrants or medical condition exemptions. Only one-third of children in this age group are estimated to attend child care centers, so the data may not be representative of the entire population of children in this age group.

Among kindergartners, 91.0% had received all required immunizations statewide in the fall of 2011, compared to 83.5% in Santa Cruz County. The difference is primarily due to higher PBE rates in Santa Cruz County, with 9.1% not being fully vaccinated in 2011 (see Figure 2).² PBE rates in Santa Cruz County vary greatly within the county, with schools in the south part of the county (Watsonville or Freedom) reporting 0.6% PBE in 2011, compared to 15.0% PBE in the rest of the county. Parents considering non-medical exemptions for their children should be aware of the risk for disease both for their children and the public.



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Helpful Websites	County of Santa Cruz, HSA Immunizations and Vaccines	http://www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/cd/3immunize.htm
	CDPH, Immunizations Branch	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/Default.aspx
	CDC, Vaccines	http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/
Sources	(1) California Department of Public Health. Childcare Assessment Results -- California, 2011 - 2012. http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/ChildCareAssessmentReport2011-2012.pdf . (2) California Department of Public Health. Kindergarten Assessment -- California, 2007-2011 http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/ImmunizationLevels.aspx . (pre-2010 data accessed locally)	