

Immunization Exemptions in your Community:

Exemption rates for public school students entering kindergarten, 2017-18

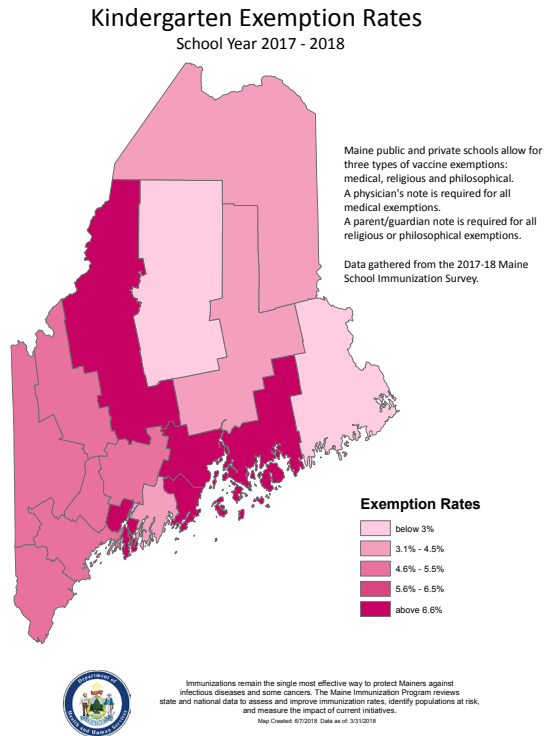
High Exemption Rates = Higher Risk of Outbreak

The map to the right shows the rates of kindergarten exemption rates across Maine, including medical, religious and philosophical.¹

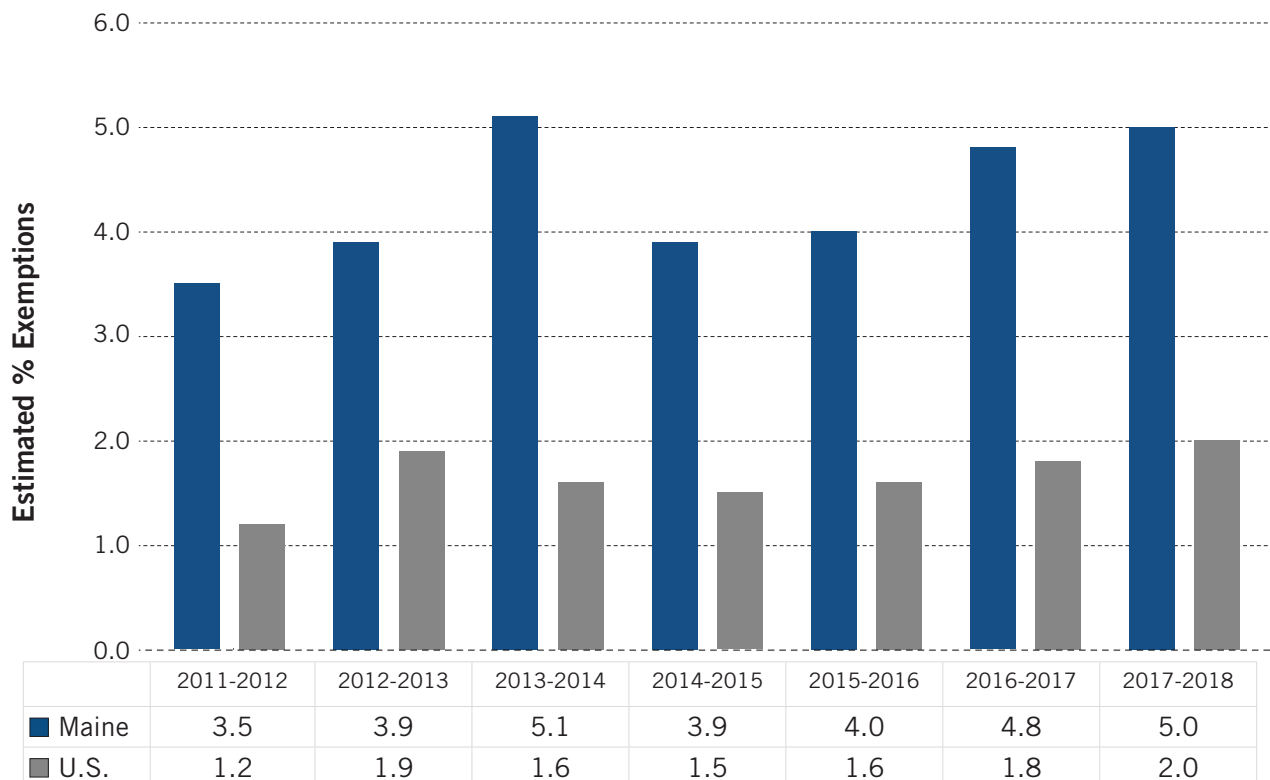
Maine's overall exemption rate for kindergarten is 5.3%, higher than the U.S. average of 2.2%.

Out of the 5.3% of immunization exemptions, only 0.3% were chosen for medical reasons.

In 2017-2018, Maine had the 7th highest non-medical vaccine exemption rate in the country, at 5.0%.² As seen in the chart below,³ Maine's kindergarten non-medical exemption rates have increased in the past 7 years from 3.5% to 5.0%.⁴



Estimated Percentage of Kindergarten Students with Non-Medical Exemptions Maine and U.S. 2011-2018



Maine's non-medical exemption rate is double the national average.

Maine's non-medical immunization exemption rates are very high

In order to attend public school in Maine, children must be immunized to prevent the spread of 8 diseases in schools: measles, mumps, rubella, polio, chicken pox, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

The table⁵ below shows the breakdown in your county, of medical, religious and philosophical exemptions. As you can see, children with a medical condition limiting their vaccination make up only 0.3% of the population. These are the students who rely on their classmates and schools to be fully immunized so that they are protected against disease.

County	Kindergarten			
	Percent Exemptions (data as of 5/16/2018)			
	% ALL Exemptions	% Medical	% Religious	% Philosophical
Androscoggin	5.3%	0.2%	0.2%	4.4%
Aroostook	3.9%	0.2%	0.9%	3.1%
Cumberland	4.8%	0.4%	0.3%	4.2%
Franklin	5.1%	0.4%	0.0%	4.6%
Hancock	8.7%	0.0%	0.2%	8.5%
Kennebec	5.2%	0.1%	0.3%	4.8%
Knox	8.6%	0.3%	0.0%	8.3%
Lincoln	3.7%	0.5%	0.9%	2.3%
Oxford	5.4%	0.0%	0.4%	5.1%
Penobscot	4.1%	0.2%	0.8%	3.1%
Piscataquis	3.1%	0.0%	1.2%	1.8%
Sagadahoc	8.3%	0.3%	0.3%	7.8%
Somerset	9.1%	0.4%	0.7%	8.0%
Waldo	6.5%	0.0%	0.6%	5.9%
Washington	1.8%	0.0%	0.4%	1.4%
York	5.0%	0.3%	0.6%	4.1%
TOTAL	5.3%	0.3%	0.4%	4.6%

County	Kindergarten				
	Total	Number of Exemptions (data as of 5/16/2018)			
	# Students	# All Exemptions	# Medical	# Religious	# Philosophical
Androscoggin	1329	70	3	3	58
Aroostook	636	27	1	6	20
Cumberland	2764	134	12	7	115
Franklin	237	12	1	0	11
Hancock	461	40	0	1	39
Kennebec	1210	63	1	4	58
Knox	362	31	1	0	30
Lincoln	214	8	1	2	5
Oxford	552	30	0	2	28
Penobscot	1304	54	3	10	41
Piscataquis	164	5	0	2	3
Sagadahoc	347	29	1	1	27
Somerset	541	49	2	4	43
Waldo	338	22	0	2	20
Washington	283	5	0	1	4
York	1785	90	6	10	74
TOTAL	12527	669	32	55	576

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/documents/counties/2017-18-Exemption-Map.pdf>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Atlanta, GA. October 13, 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6640a3.htm>

³ Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2017-2018 Maine School Immunization Assessment Report. Augusta, ME. 2018. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/publications/2018/2017-School-Immunization-Report.pdf>

⁴ Mellerson JL, Maxwell CB, Knighton CL, Kriss JL, Seither R, Black CL. Vaccination Coverage for Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2017–18 School Year. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2018;67:1115–1122. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6740a3>

⁵ Maine CDC. 2017-2018 school vaccination rates: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/publications/2017-2018-School-Vaccination-Rates.pdf> Accessed 12/28/18