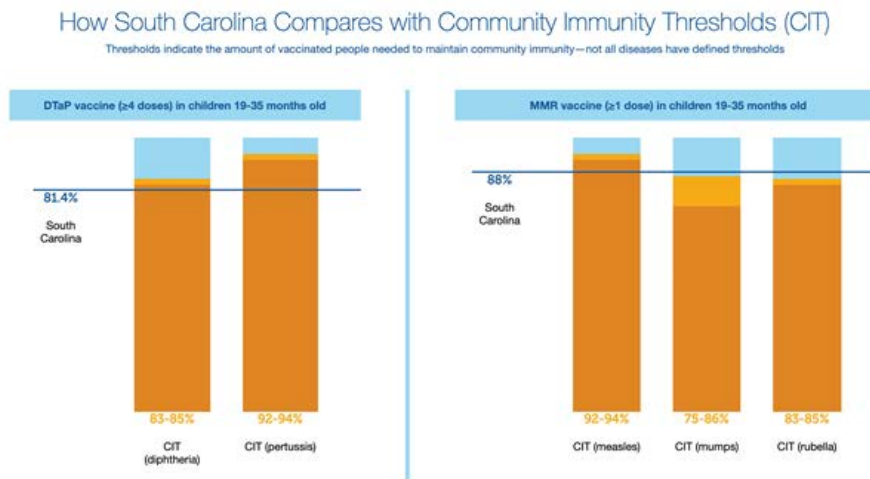


ISSUE BRIEF:

Childhood Vaccinations & Impacts on Herd Immunity

- Ten years, South Carolina was lauded nationally for its high early childhood vaccination rates
- In recent years, the state has fallen below the national averages for early childhood vaccines
- In 2013, DHEC estimated that 73% of children 19-35 months old were up to date on the recommended 7-shot regimen. That fell to 68% in 2016, and is now estimated at 66%.
- The states' vaccination rates for young children (19-35 months) are now below those required to maintain herd immunity for Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Measles.
 - By the time children enroll in kindergarten, more families have 'caught up' on the recommended 7-shots regimen (~93% in 2016), but still at the borderline for herd immunity for Pertussis and Measles



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics

Early Childhood Vaccine Policy for Kindergarten and Day-care

- The state generally requires children receive recommended vaccines prior to enrolling in kindergarten or day care.
- However, a family can enroll in school without vaccines if they file a notarized religious objection form, which does not require the family to detail the nature of the religious objection.
- Approximately 4,000 families filed that type of objection in 2013-14. It has grown steadily more popular since then, with more than 12,700 filed in 2019-2020.