



**Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

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2017-2018 Maine School Immunization Assessment Report

State-mandated 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Federally funded immunization programs in all 50 states partner with their Department of Education (DOE) to assess vaccination coverage and exemption status of children enrolled in public and private kindergartens. In addition to kindergartens, the Maine Immunization Program (MIP) also collects coverage and exemption data for both first grade students and seventh grade students. This information is collected through an annual immunization assessment survey of all State of Maine elementary and middle Schools.

Although each state mandate is different, Maine rules pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 6359 requires any 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. Beginning September 2017, one dose of Tdap is required for seventh grade entry;
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella: Two doses of MMR vaccine;
- Poliomyelitis: Four doses of OPV or IPV vaccine, a fourth doses is not needed if the third dose was given on or after the fourth birthday; and,
- Varicella: One dose of varicella (VAR) vaccine.

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

- The parent provides the school with written assurance that the child will be immunized within ninety days of enrolling. This is a one-time provisional 90 day grace period (these are counted as incomplete records in the MIP annual survey tables on the next page).
- The parent (or child) presents to the school each year a physician's written statement that immunization against one of more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable (medical exemption in annual survey).
- The parent states in writing each year an opposition to immunization because of a sincere religious belief or for philosophical reasons (religious or philosophical exemption in survey).

The 2017-18 Maine Annual School Age Immunization Survey was conducted online from October to December 31, 2017 and aggregate results for kindergarten students were reported to the CDC in April 2018. The Vaccination Coverage for Selected Vaccines, Exemption Rates, and Provisional Enrollment Among Children in Kindergarten – United States, 2017-18 School Year report was released October 12, 2018. This report includes coverage and exemption rates from all 50 states including some U.S. territories. Immunization rates are shown for MMR, DTaP and Varicella vaccines only. A second dose varicella is reported as well, however, Maine does not require two doses of varicella. The exemption numbers and rates reported are for any vaccines required in a state including those not listed above (Maine’s exemption numbers include Polio vaccine). The following tables (Tables 1-3) list the aggregate results gathered from the 2017-18 Maine Annual School Age Immunization Survey.

The annual immunization and exemption rates for each individual reporting school in Maine can be found on our website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/publications/index.shtml>

Table 1: 2017-18 MIP School Exemption and Immunization Rates, Kindergarten

2017-18 School Exemption and Immunization Rates By Individual Vaccine, Kindergarten						
Vaccine	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Missing Records	Total Exemptions (Medical, Religious & Philosophical)	Total Exemption Rates	Total Students Vaccinated/Laboratory Evidence of Immunity	Total Vaccination Rates
DTaP	12527	101	488	3.9%	11938	95.3%
MMR	12527	150	559	4.5%	11818	94.3%
Polio	12527	89	503	4.0%	11935	95.3%
Varicella	12527	42	423	3.4%	12062	96.3%

Table 2: 2017-18 MIP School Exemption and Immunization Rates, First Grade

2017-18 School Exemption and Immunization Rates By Individual Vaccine, First Grade						
Vaccine	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Missing Records	Total Exemptions (Medical, Religious & Philosophical)	Total Exemption Rates	Total Students Vaccinated/Laboratory Evidence of Immunity	Total Vaccination Rates
DTaP	12464	53	370	3.0%	12041	96.6%
MMR	12464	74	408	3.3%	11982	96.1%
Polio	12464	43	394	3.2%	12027	96.5%
Varicella	12464	29	332	2.7%	12103	97.1%

Table 3: 2017-18 MIP School Exemption and Immunization Rates, Seventh Grade

2017-18 School Exemption and Immunization Rates By Individual Vaccine, Seventh Grade						
Vaccine	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Missing Records	Total Exemptions (Medical, Religious & Philosophical)	Total Exemption Rates	Total Students Vaccinated/Laboratory Evidence of Immunity	Total Vaccination Rates
Tdap	14015	322	518	3.7%	13175	94.0%
MMR	14015	27	290	2.1%	13698	97.7%
Polio	14015	32	294	2.1%	13689	97.7%
Varicella	14015	22	219	1.6%	13774	98.3%

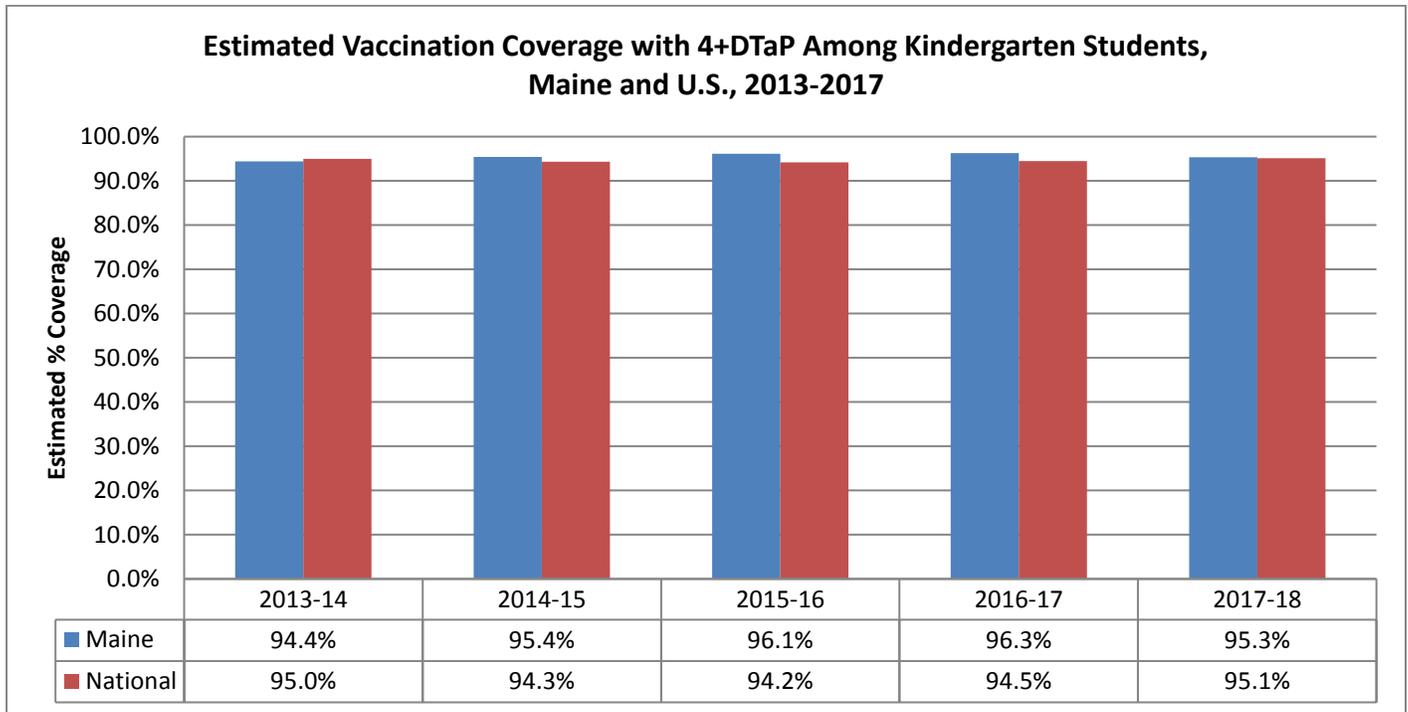
School vaccination requirements provide an opportunity for children who are behind on early childhood vaccinations to be vaccinated by school entry. School vaccination assessments allow MIP to identify schools and communities where focused action could improve vaccination coverage to ensure that more 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 work with schools to ensure that all students receive all required Maine State school age vaccines.

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. This is perhaps one of the most important reasons why it would be advantageous for Maine State educational institutions to meet all requirements of the Immunization Requirements for School Children state law and to help reach the goal of the Maine Immunization Program to bring the State vaccine coverage rate average for each of these vaccines to 100%.

The Vaccination Coverage Among Children in Kindergarten – United States, 2017-18 School Year report data was analyzed and graphical representations for each vaccine surveyed show trending comparisons for immunization rates and exemption rates over the past 5 years (Figures 1-7). Please be aware that data from these reports has been adjusted for nonresponse and weighted for sampling where appropriate.

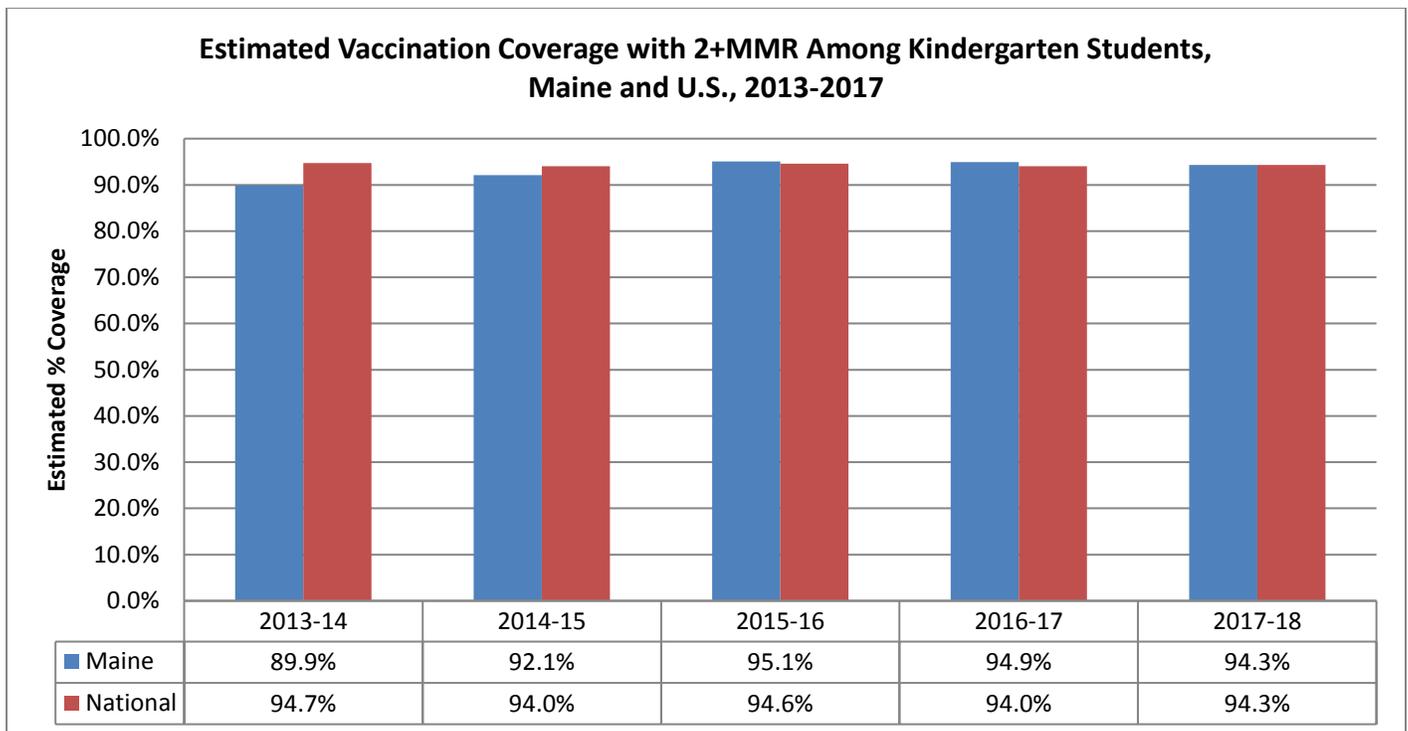
As always, thank you for your commitment to keeping Maine’s children free of vaccine preventable disease.

Figure 1: 4+DTaP Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



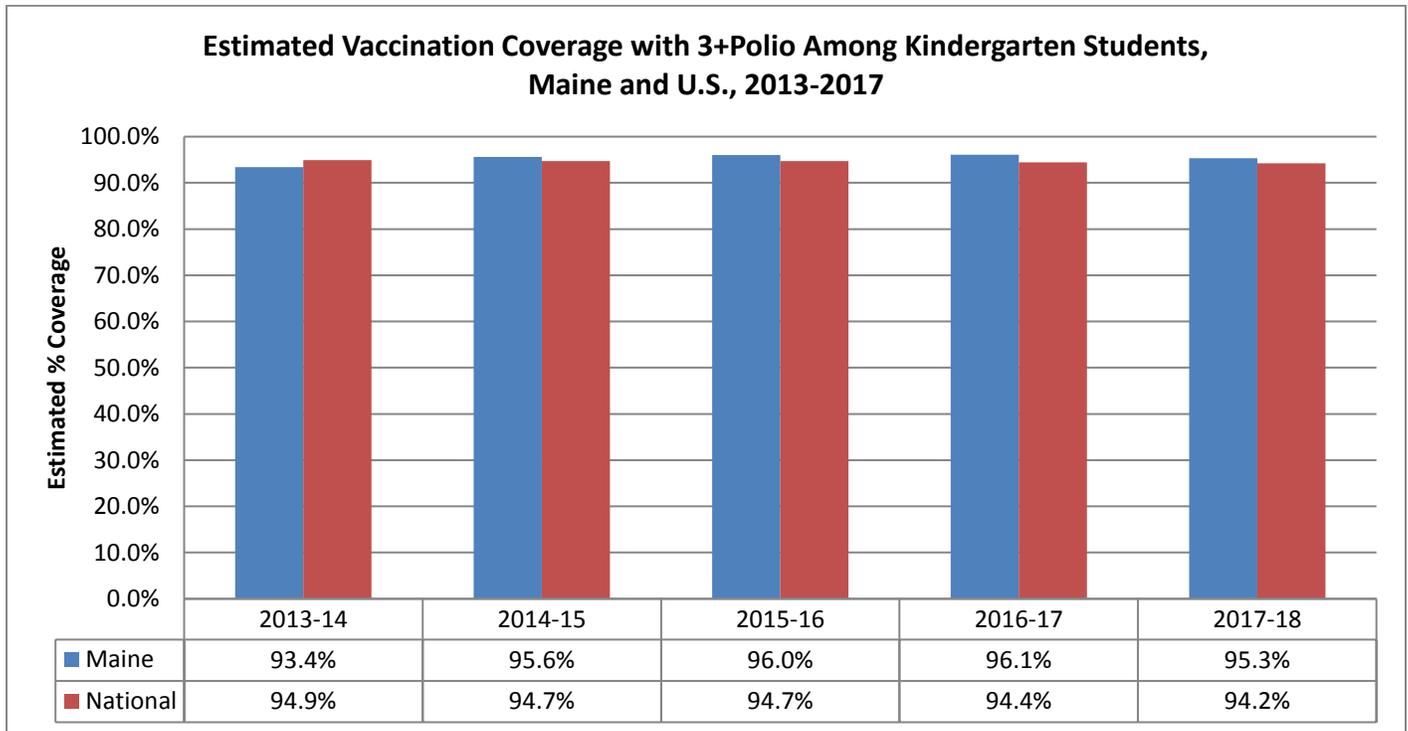
4+ DTaP ~ ≥4 doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine.

Figure 2: 2+MMR Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



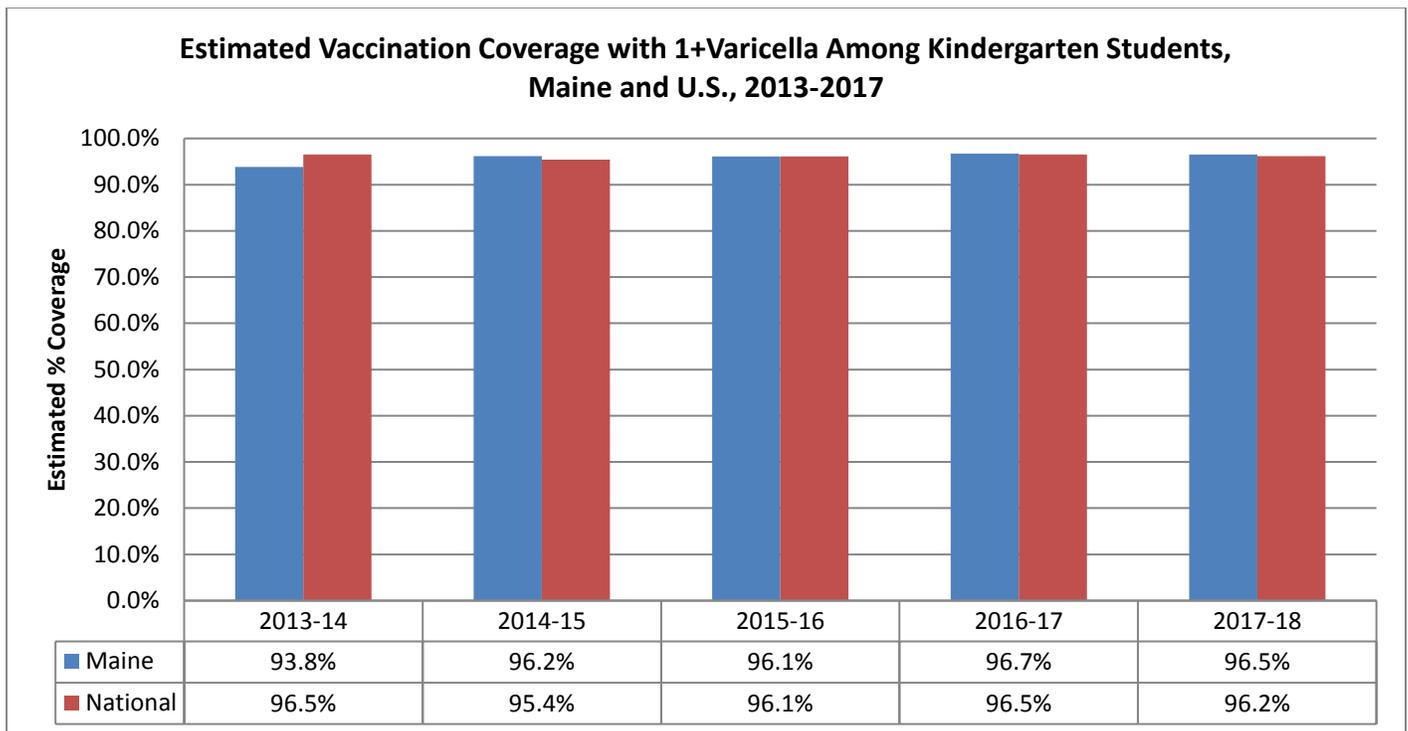
2+MMR ~ ≥2 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Figure 3: 3+Polio Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



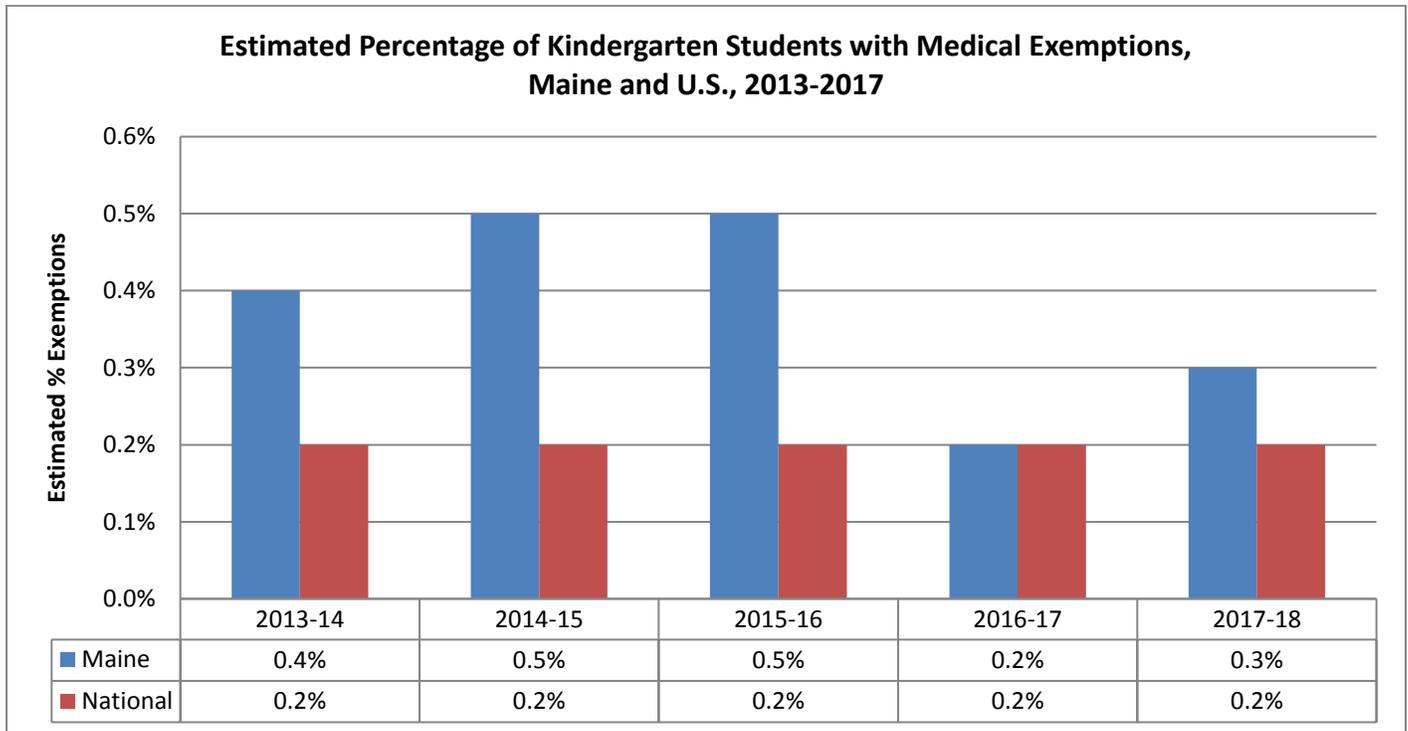
3+ Polio ~ ≥3 doses of any poliovirus (Polio) vaccine.

Figure 4: 1+VAR Vaccine Coverage Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



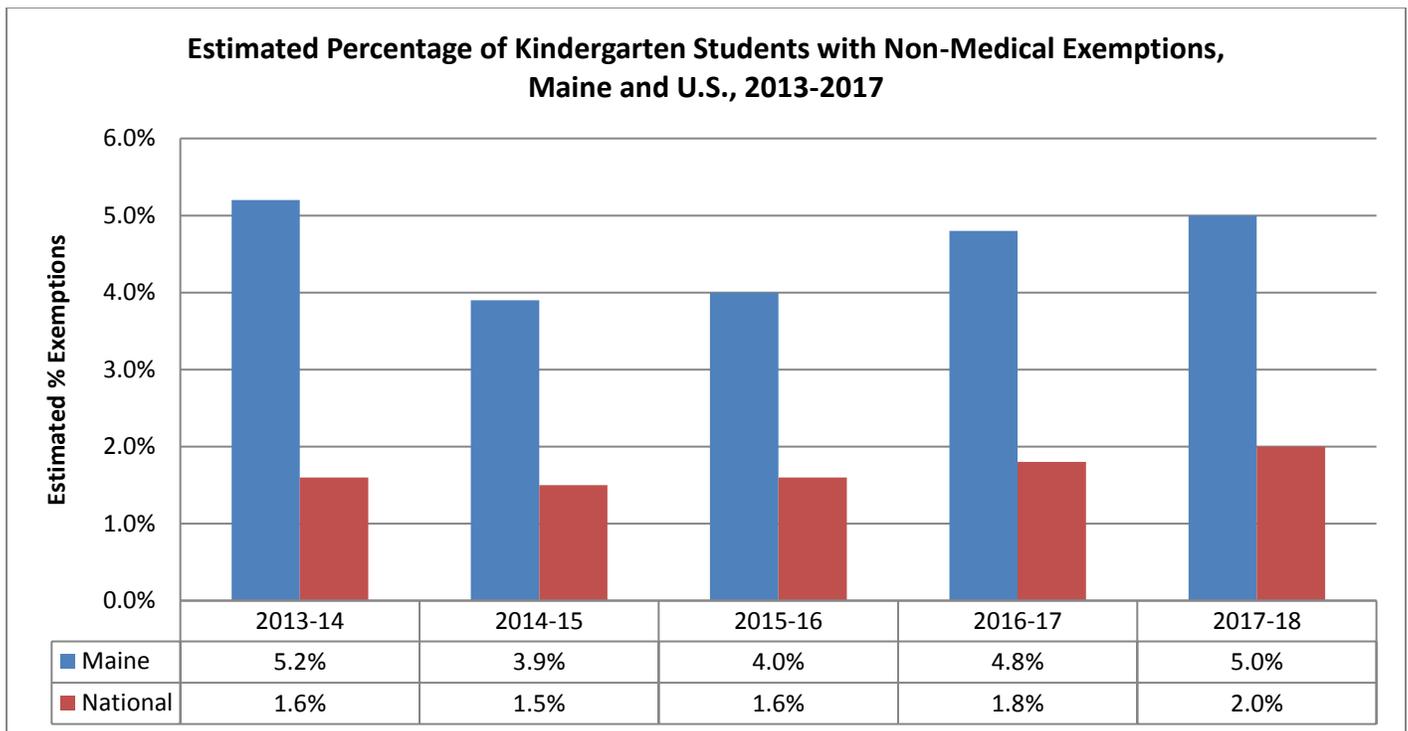
1+Varicella ~ ≥ 1 dose of varicella (VAR) vaccine at or after child's first birthday, adjusted for history of varicella disease

Figure 5: Medical Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



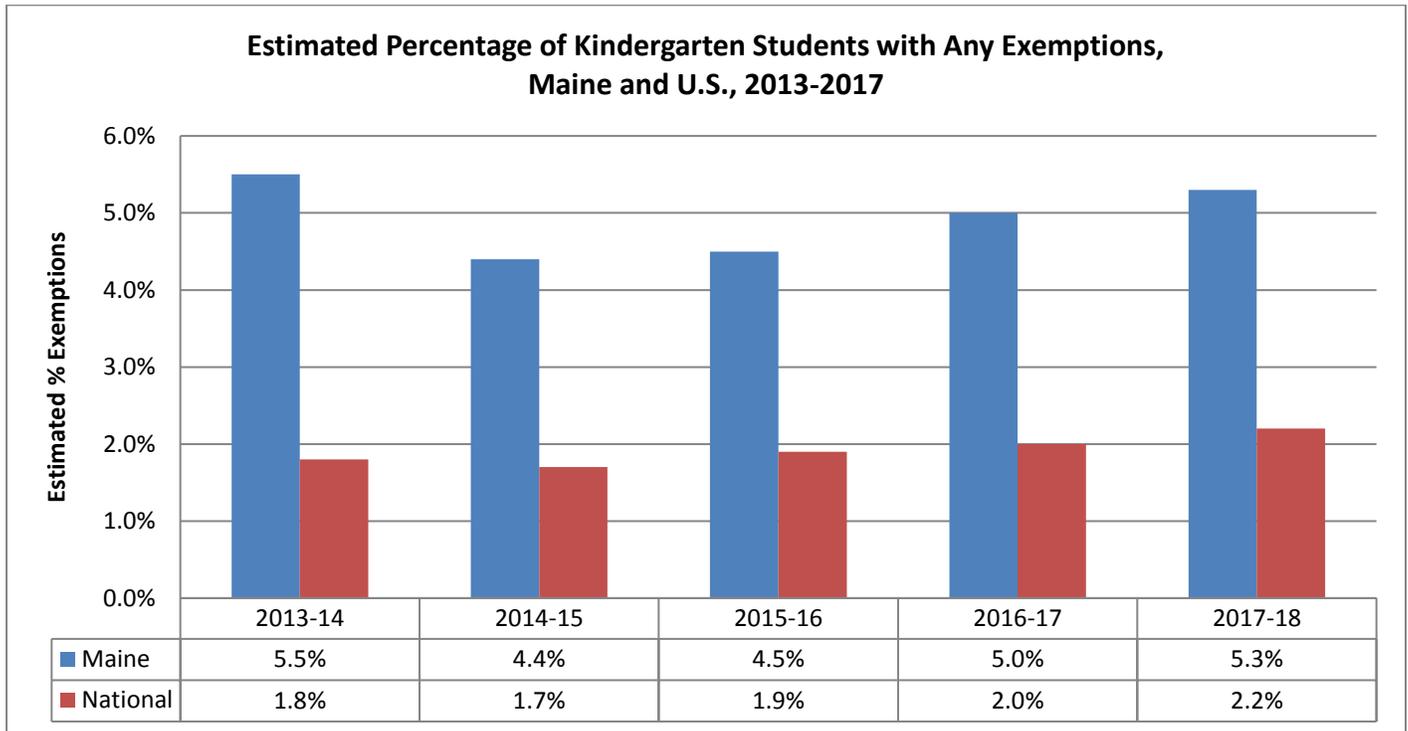
Medical Exemption ~ Includes medical exemptions only for all school vaccines in Maine. A medical note from physician is required annually.

Figure 6: Non-Medical Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



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

Figure 7: Any Exemptions Estimate Among Kindergarten Students, Maine and U.S., 2013-2017



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