

# KNOW BEFORE YOU KNOCK

Every child and family has unique aspects of their situation, experience, and diagnosis. This page is intended to provide a general overview, but is not attempting to represent every situation or child you encounter. Every family deserves your expertise to assess and adapt your prior knowledge. This resource is best viewed electronically.



## VACCINE HESITANCY

### DEFINITION

[The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) currently recommends routine vaccination against 15 potentially serious illnesses for children by age 24 months. [\(1\)](#)

“Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services.” [\(2\)](#)

### NATIONAL/STATE ORGS

[Vaccines & Immunizations | CDC](#)

The Center for Disease Control monitors current recommendations for vaccine schedules and has many great resources to support safe vaccination decisions.

### TOP RESOURCES

- [Vaccine Hesitancy: Resources & Information | Immunize.org](#)
- [Talking to Parents About Infant Vaccines](#)
- [The MMR vaccine and autism: Sensation, refutation, retraction, and fraud - PMC](#) - Learn about the inherent flaws of the original article published in 1998 that launched the anti-vax movement
- [Childhood vaccines: Tough questions, straight answers - Mayo Clinic](#)

### PREVALENCE

- 33.1% of children in the US do not complete the 7 vaccine series by age 24 months [\(3\)](#)
- “Globally, 1 in 5 children still do not receive routine life-saving immunizations, and an estimated 1.5 million children still die each year of diseases that could be prevented by vaccines that already exist.” [\(4\)](#)
- Vaccination coverage is lower among Black, Hispanic, and AI/AN children, those insured by Medicaid or other non-private insurance, children who are uninsured, children living in more rural areas, and children in families with incomes below the federal poverty level [\(3\)](#)

### CONSIDERATIONS

#### THAT MAY IMPACT SERVICES

- Parent's prior experiences with vaccines
- Increased cancellations/caution for home visiting when outbreaks of preventable diseases occur
- Pressure from extended family around vaccine decisions
- Sources of information- there are many opinion pieces and articles promoting vaccine hesitancy that do not have research to support their claims

### DIFFERENCES

#### THAT MAY BE PRESENT

- “Without vaccines, (a) child is at risk of becoming seriously ill or even dying from childhood diseases such as measles and whooping cough.” [\(5\)](#)
- Getting vaccinated is not associated with any developmental delays, including autism [\(6\)](#)

### LANGUAGE

#### TO USE/AVOID

Avoid: Shots

Use: Jabs, pokes, vaccines, immunization [\(7\)](#)

