



## 2022년 전국 어린이 예방접종률 현황

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### 초 록

예방접종은 예방접종대상 감염병 예방을 위한 가장 비용효과적인 방법으로 우리나라는 95% 이상의 접종률을 목표로 2014년부터 국가에서 필수예방접종을 전액 지원하고 있다. 예방접종률은 예방접종 감염병 관리계획 수립 등에 매우 유용한 지표로 질병관리청은 2015년부터 국가승인통계인 전국 어린이 예방접종률을 매년 공표하고 있다. 이 글에서는 2023년 7월 공표한 “2022년 전국 어린이 예방접종률 현황”에 대한 주요 결과를 소개하고자 한다. 출생 연도별 완전접종률은 1세(2021년생) 96.1%, 2세(2020년생) 93.5%, 3세(2019년생) 89.7%, 6세(2016년생) 88.6%로 나타났고, 지역별 예방접종률도 소개하였다. 우리나라의 예방접종률은 평균 96.5%로 접종률 현황을 공개하고 있는 미국(86.6%), 호주(94.7%), 영국(91.3%) 등과 비교해 접종률이 2-10%p 높은 것으로 나타났다. 우리나라는 높은 수준의 예방접종률을 유지하고는 있으나 일부 백신 간 또는 지역별 접종률 차이 등이 있다. 이러한 차이를 줄이기 위해 미접종 그룹(백신 거부, 취약계층 등)에 대한 분석 등을 통해 예방접종률 향상을 위한 전략 마련 등이 이루어져야 할 것이다.

**주요 검색어:** 국가예방접종; 예방접종통합관리시스템; 예방접종률

### 서 론

예방접종은 예방접종 대상 감염병 예방을 위한 가장 비용효과적인 방법으로 투자 대비 약 16배의 비용효과가 생기는 감염병 예방관리 전략이다[1]. 우리나라는 「감염병의 예방 및 관리에 관한 법률」 제24조 및 제25조에 의하여 예방접종 대상 감염병 예방을 위한 국가예방접종사업을 1954년부터 시작하였고, 홍역 등 필수예방접종률을 감염병 예방을 위한 집단면역 달성 수준인 95% 이상의 접종률[2]을 달성하기 위하여 2014년부터 국가예방접종을 위탁의료기관까지 확대하여 전

액 무료로 실시하고 있다. 이를 통해 국민의 접종 비용에 대한 부담을 낮추고接种의 편의성을 향상시켰으며, 2023년 3월부터는 약 20-30만원 가량의 “로타바이러스 백신” 예방접종도 역시 무료로 실시하는 등 총 18종의 백신 접종에 대해 국가에서 지원을 하고 있다. 또한 예방접종 미접종자 및 예방접종 기록의 효과적 관리를 위해 예방접종통합관리시스템을 구축·운영하고 있으며, 시스템에 수집된 자료를 바탕으로 개인별 접종 정보 및 접종 일정 안내, 지연접종알림 등을 통해 미접종자를 지속적으로 관리하였고, 수집된 등록 자료의 품질 관리도 지속적으로 수행하고 있다. 질병관리청은 예방접종 등록

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KDCA

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**핵심요약**

① 이전에 알려진 내용은?

예방접종은 예방접종대상 감염병 예방을 위한 가장 비용효과적인 방법이고, 이에 질병관리청은 2015년부터 어린이 예방접종률을 공표하고 있다.

② 새로이 알게 된 내용은?

2022년 전국 어린이 예방접종률에서 1-3세 연령별 완전접종률은 코로나바이러스감염증이 유행한 직전 3년(2020-2022) 동안 소폭 감소하거나 비슷한 수준으로 나타났고, 6세 완전접종률은 동 기간 5.1%p 증가하였다.

③ 시사점은?

예방접종률은 연령대가 증가할수록 낮아지는 경향을 확인하였고, 이런 장애 요인을 해결하기 위해서는 미접종 그룹에 대한 분석 및 정확한 정보 제공이 이루어져야 할 것이다.

자료의 인적 정보, 접종 정보의 중복 데이터, 누락 데이터 등의 오류 데이터 현황을 파악·개선을 통하여 예방접종 정보의 정확성을 향상시키고 있다.

승인 통계는 국가예방접종사업의 성과를 알 수 있는 중요한 지표로, 이 지표를 이용하여 예방접종으로 예방 가능한 감염병 예방을 위한 정책 수립을 할 수 있으며 접종률에 따라 대응 전략을 마련할 수 있다.

본 글에서는 2022년 1-3세, 6세 어린이 예방접종률에 대한 자료 수집, 산출 및 분석 방법과 결과, 예방접종률 산출의

한계 및 예방접종률을 높이기 위한 발전 방향에 대해 기술하고자 한다.

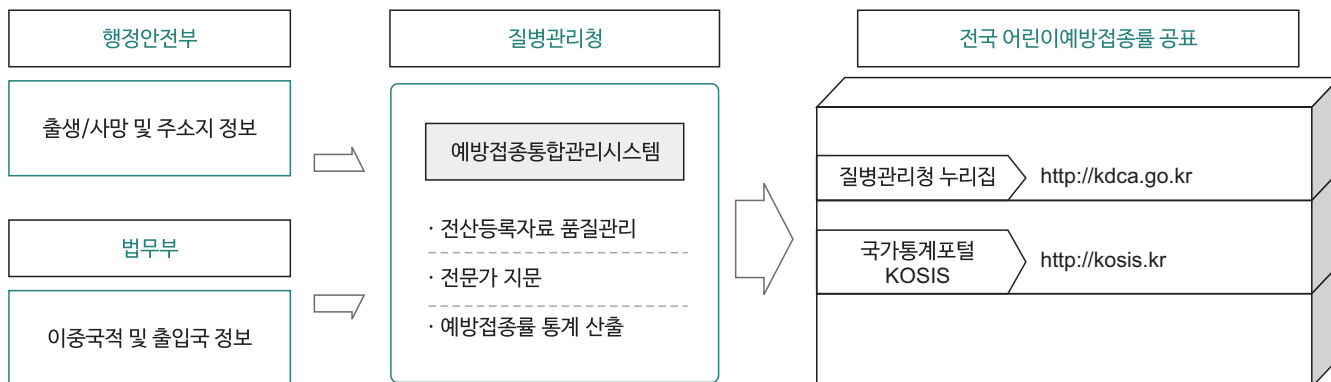
**방 법**

**1. 예방접종 자료의 수집 및 산출 방법**

예방접종 기록은 보건소 및 의료기관에서 예방접종을 실시 후 질병관리청의 예방접종통합관리시스템(Immunization Registry Information System, 전산시스템)에 전산 등록한 자료를 이용하였다. 전산 등록 자료의 정확성을 위하여 행정안전부의 출생·사망 정보 및 주소지 정보 연계, 품질 관리(인적, 접종 오류 검증 및 전산 등록 누락자 및 미접종자 관리 등) 등을 실시하였다. 해당 전산시스템으로 수집된 정보에 대한 품질관리 등 정보의 정확성 검증 후 질병관리청이 분석하였고, 2023년 6월에 실시한 예방접종 통계 분야 전문가 회의의 자문으로 최종 접종률을 확정하였다(그림 1).

전국 어린이 예방접종률 현황은 해당 연도 연말 기준, 대한민국 국적을 보유하고 국내에 거주하는 1-3세, 6세 아동을 대상으로 전산 등록 자료를 이용한 전국 예방접종률 전수 조사 통계 자료이다.

2022년 전국 어린이 예방접종률 분석을 위한 모집단은 2022년 말 기준 국내에 거주하는 대한민국 국적자 중 1-3세, 6세(2016, 2019-2021년생, 접종 대상자)로 정하였으며, 접



**그림 1.** 예방접종률 자료의 수집 및 산출 방법

종 대상자 중 사망자 및 외국에 거주하는 아동은 제외하였다. 연령별 완전접종률은 예방접종 대상자 중 「예방접종 실시기준 및 방법(질병관리청고시 2023-5호)」에 따라, 연령별로 표준 예방접종 일정에 따라 권장하는 예방접종 횟수를 모두 완료한 아동으로 전산시스템에 2023년 6월 말까지 전산 등록된 기록을 기준으로 접종률을 산출하였다.

백신별 접종에서 DTaP-IPV, DTaP-IPV/Hib, DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib 등 혼합백신을 접종한 경우 각각 단독백신(디프테리아/파상풍/백일해[diphtheria-tetanus-acellular-pertussis, DTaP], 폴리오[inactivated polio vaccine, IPV], b형헤모필루스인플루엔자[Haemophilus influenza type b, Hib], B형간염[hepatitis B, HepB]) 접종으로 인정하였으며, 예방접종 실시 기준에서 권장하는 최소 접종 연령, 최소 접종 간격 및 약독화 생백신간 최소 접종 간격(4주)보다 이른 접종을 실시한 기록은 제외하였다. 또한 동일한 예방접종을 중복으로 접종한 경우는 마지막 접종을 인정하였으며, 일부 백신(Hib 백신, 폐렴구균[pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV], DTaP 백신, IPV 백신, 일본뇌염[japanese encephalitis, JE] 불활성화 백신)의 경우 예방접종을 지연한 경우 권장 횟수가 충족되지 않아도 따라잡기 일정을 준수하는 등 「예방접종 실시기준 및 방법(질병관리청고시 2023-5호)」이 정하는 기준을 충족할 경우 접종력을 인정하였다[3].

출생연도별 완전접종률<sup>1)</sup>은 1세(2021년생, 6종 백신, 16회 접종)<sup>2)</sup> 96.1%, 2세(2020년생, 8종 백신, 21회 접종)<sup>3)</sup> 93.5%, 3세(2019년생, 10종 백신, 25-26회 접종)<sup>4)</sup> 89.7%, 6세(2016년생, 10종 백신, 28-30회 접종)<sup>5)</sup> 88.6%로 나타났다(그림 2).

백신별로는 1세, 2세, 3세, 6세 아동의 백신별 예방접종률 91.9-97.8%로 DTaP 백신, JE 백신을 제외하고 모든 백신의 접종률이 95% 이상으로 나타났다. 전체적으로 만 1세 이전에 접종하는 결핵(Bacille Calmette-Guérin, BCG), HepB 백신이나 접종 횟수가 적은 수두(varicella, VAR), 홍역·유행성이하선염·풍진(measles-mumps-rubella, MMR) 백신의 접종률이 97-98%로 높게 나타났다(그림 2).

지역별 예방접종률은 전 연령대의 접종률이 높은 지역은 울산, 세종이었으며, 접종률이 가장 낮은 곳은 서울로 나타났다. 출생 연도별로 1세는 서울을 제외한 모든 지역의 접종률이 95% 이상을 유지하였고, 2세는 서울, 광주, 전북 순으로 접종률이 낮고, 3세는 광주가 가장 낮았으며, 6세는 서울, 제주가 가장 낮은 것으로 나타났다. 개별 백신의 접종률도 전체 접종률과 비슷한 경향을 보인 것으로 나타났다(그림 3).

우리나라의 백신별 완전접종률은 접종률 현황을 공개하고 있는 미국, 영국, 호주 등의 해외 주요 국가와 비교한 결과 동일한 기준이 적용되는 2세 어린이의 DTaP, IPV, MMR,

## 결 과

### 1. 예방접종률 산출 결과

2022년 말 기준, 행정안전부 주민등록 전산센터에 주민등록된 대상자인 2016, 2019-2021년 출생아 126만 명의 성별·연령별 대상자는 다음과 같았다(표 1).

표 1. 연령별, 성별 예방접종 대상자, 2022년

| 구분         | 전체      | 남자      | 여자      |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1세(2021년생) | 265,294 | 136,045 | 129,249 |
| 2세(2020년생) | 277,680 | 142,054 | 135,626 |
| 3세(2019년생) | 307,625 | 157,968 | 149,657 |
| 6세(2016년생) | 411,511 | 210,499 | 201,012 |

단위: 명.

1) 완전접종률: 연령별로 표준예방접종일정에 따라 백신별 권장 접종 횟수를 모두 접종한 아동의 비율

2) 6종백신: BCG 1회, HepB 3회, DTaP 3회, IPV 3회, Hib 3회, PCV 3회

3) 8종백신: BCG 1회, HepB 3회, DTaP 4회, IPV 3회, Hib 4회, PCV 4회, MMR 1회, VAR 1회

4) 10종백신: BCG 1회, HepB 3회, DTaP 4회, IPV 3회, Hib 4회, PCV 4회, MMR 1회, VAR 1회, HepA 2회 및 JE 불활성화 백신 3회 또는 JE 약독화 생백신 2회

5) 10종백신: BCG 1회, HepB 3회, DTaP 5회, IPV 4회, Hib 4회, PCV 4회, MMR 2회, VAR 1회, HepA 2회 및 JE 불활성화 백신 4회 또는 JE 약독화 생백신 2회

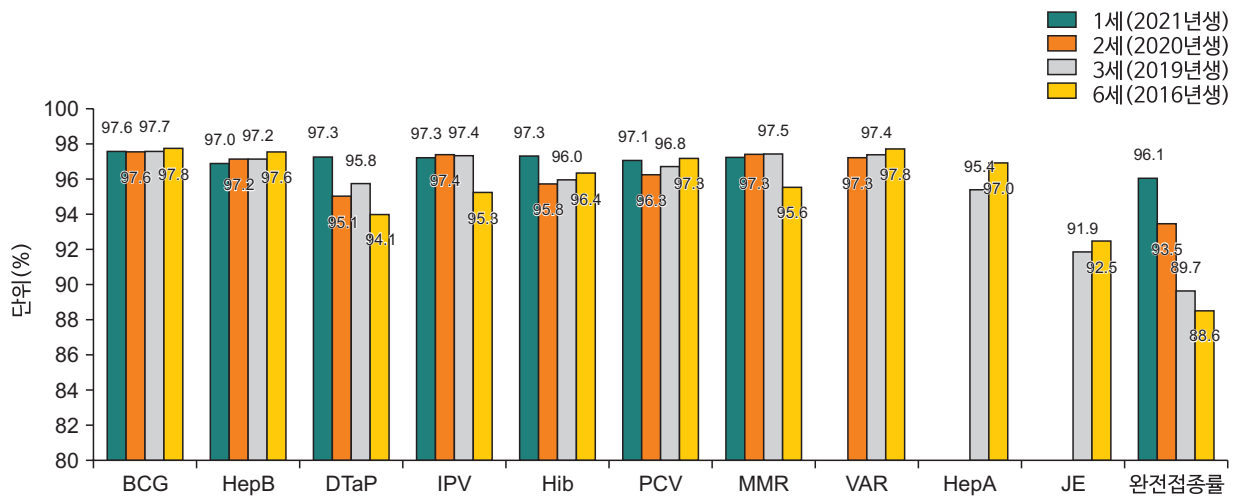


그림 2. 출생 연령별, 백신별/연령시기별 예방접종률, 2022년

BCG=Bacille Calmette-Guérin; HepB=Hepatitis B; DTaP=Diphtheria-Tetanus-acellular-Pertussis; IPV=Inactivated Polio Vaccine; Hib=Haemophilus influenza type b; PCV=Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine; MMR=Measles-Mumps-Rubella; VAR=Varicella; HepA=Hepatitis A; JE=Japanese Encephalitis.



그림 3. 출생 연령별 및 지역별 예방접종률, 2022년

VAR, Hib, PCV 6종 백신의 접종률 평균이 한국 96.5%로 미국 86.6%, 호주 94.7%, 영국 91.3% 등에 비해 2-10%p 높은 것으로 파악되어 세계 최고 수준으로 아이들의 두터운 면역이 가장 잘 유지되고 있는 것으로 나타났다. 백신별 접종률도 완전접종률처럼 동일하게 우리나라가 다른 나라보다 더 높은 것으로 나타났다(그림 4) [4-6].

## 결론

### 1. 예방접종률 산출의 한계

본 통계는 2022년 말 기준, 주민등록상 주소지를 기준으로 집계했기 때문에 현재 지역사회에 거주하는 아동의 예방접종률과 다소 차이가 있을 수 있다. 그리고 외국에 거주하거나 장기 출국이 확인된 아동에 대해서는 예방접종 대상자에서 제외하는 등 확인되지 않은 아동을 포함하고 있어, 이들 아동의 비율이 높은 지역의 경우 실제 지역사회의 접종률보다 낮게 산출되었을 수 있다. 또한, 국가예방접종에 포함되지 않지만 예방접종률 산출에 포함되는 BCG 경피, JE 이모캡 생백신, DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib 접종의 경우 자발적으로 등록된 건만

자료에 포함되기 때문에 전산 등록 누락 등으로 실제 예방접종률보다 낮게 산출될 수 있다.

### 2. 예방접종률 산출 해석 및 발전 방향

예방접종률은 연령대가 증가할수록 접종을 완료해야 하는 백신의 종류와 접종 횟수가 많아져 접종률이 낮아지는 경향을 보였으며, 분석 대상 연령 중 6세의 예방접종률이 가장 낮은 것으로 나타났다. 6세의 경우 접종 횟수가 4-5회로 많은 DTaP 백신의 접종률이 낮았으며, JE 불활성화 백신은 1차 접종 개시 시기(12개월)와 3차 접종(24개월-35개월) 시기, 4차 추가 접종(6세) 접종 시기가 다른 백신의 추가 접종 시기(각 12개월, 4세)보다 늦어지는 점 등으로 접종률이 가장 낮은 것으로 보인다.

또한, 지역별 예방접종률 차이는 이중국적 및 국외 장기체류 등으로 국외에 거주하는 비율이 높은 지역의 접종률이 낮게 나타나는 경향을 보이며[7], 미접종자 개별 우편 및 문자 안내 등의 홍보 방법이나 빈도 등 지자체의 접종률 관리 노력에 의해서도 차이가 날 것으로 추정되었다.

올해 예방접종률은 1-3세의 경우 코로나바이러스감염증

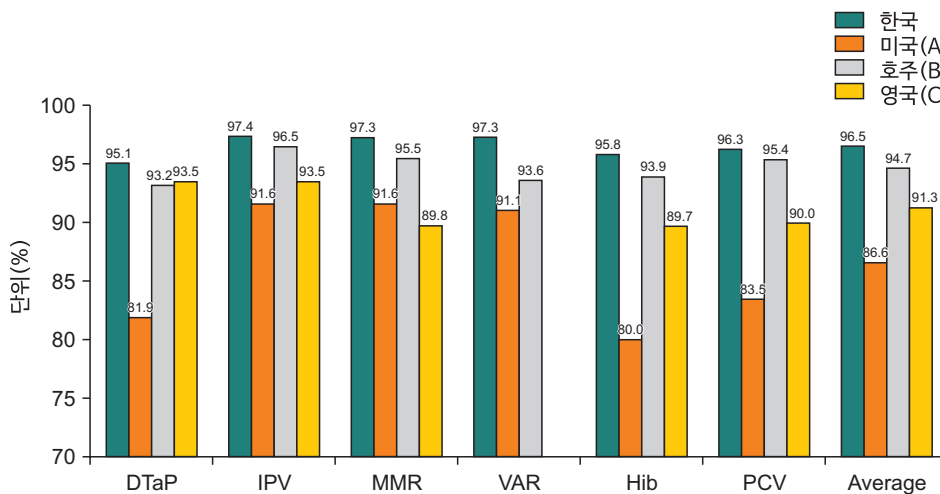


그림 4. 국가별, 백신별 예방접종률

(A) 2018-2019년 출생아의 24개월 국가예방접종률 현황(미국). (B) 2021-2022년 국가예방접종률 현황(영국). (C) 2021년 국가예방접종률 현황(호주). DTaP=diphtheria-tetanus-acellular-pertussis; IPV=inactivated polio vaccine; MMR=measles-mumps-rubella; VAR=varicella; Hib=Haemophilus influenza type b; PCV=pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

(코로나19)이 유행한 직전 3년(2020-2022) 동안 소폭 감소하거나 비슷한 수준으로 나타났고, 6세 완전접종률은 동 기간 5.1%p 증가(20년 83.5%→21년 86.1%→22년 88.6%)하였다. 코로나19 유행 중에도 높은 접종률 유지는 감염병 예방을 위한 범국민적인 적극적인 참여와 함께 교육부와 함께 추진하는 초등학교 입학생 예방접종 확인사업<sup>6)</sup> 재실시가 주요 요인으로 판단된다[8]. 그러나 1-3세의 예방접종률의 경우 소폭 감소한 경향이 나타나 6세 대상자들처럼 1-3세 대상자들에 맞는 접종 전략을 고민할 필요가 있다고 판단된다. 특히 초등학교 입학생 예방접종 확인 사업의 성과를 고려하면 1-3세 어린이들이 주로 생활하는 어린이집이나 기타시설 등과 예방접종 정보를 연계하고, 예방접종 홍보 등을 강화할 필요가 있다.

예방접종이 감염병 예방, 관리의 가장 효과적인 방법임을 감안할 때 예방접종률은 감염병 관리 계획 수립 등에 매우 유용한 지표이다. 예방접종률은 국가예방접종사업의 성과를 파악할 수 있는 중요한 지표로, 접종률 결과에 따라 사업의 문제점을 발견하여 시·군·구별 자체적으로 대응 방안을 마련할 수 있다. 그리고 완전접종률이 갖춰져 있다는 것은 단체 생활에 의한 감염병의 유행을 막을 수 있는 수준의 집단면역 보호 체계를 갖췄다는 의미이기에 예방접종률을 관리하는 일은 매우 중요하다.

우리나라가 다른 나라와 비교하여 높은 수준의 예방접종률을 유지하고는 있으나 일부 백신 또는 지역별 접종률 차이 등이 존재한다. 이를 해결하기 위해서는 미접종 그룹에 대한 분석으로 예방접종률 향상을 위한 차별화된 홍보 전략 마련, 예방접종에 대한 정확한 정보 제공이 이루어져야 할 것이다.

## Declarations

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization: JYL, SLK, HML. Data curation: JYL. Formal analysis: JYL, SLK, HML. Investigation: JYL. Methodology: JYL, SLK, HML. Project administration: SLK, HML. Resources: JYL. Software: JYL. Supervision: SLK, HML. Validation: JYL, SLK, HML. Visualization: JYL, SLK, HML. Writing – original draft: JYL, SLK, HML. Writing – review & editing: SLK, HML.

## Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data are available online.

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# National Childhood Vaccination Coverage among Aged 1–3 and 6 Years in the Republic of Korea, 2022

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## ABSTRACT

The most cost-effective way to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases is to set and maintain vaccination coverage level above the herd immunity threshold for disease transmission prevention. In the Republic of Korea (ROK), the government is implementing policies to achieve immunization coverage of over 95% through routine immunization guidelines and activities, such as the National Immunization Program (NIP) for free since 2014. The national vaccination coverage serves as an important indicator of the NIP's effectiveness. Since 2015, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency has been publicly reporting the national vaccination coverage levels. This report presents the main results of the national childhood vaccination coverage rate for 2022, which includes 1.2 million records of children aged 12 months (born in 2021), 24 months (born in 2020), 36 months (born in 2019), 72 months (born in 2016). The overall vaccination coverage rates for respective age groups in 2022 were 96.1%, 93.5%, 89.7% and 88.6%. Additionally, this report provides sub-national results of vaccination coverage rates and suggests future directions. The ROK's vaccination coverage exceeds that of many advanced and developed countries. Although the ROK has been maintaining a high-level vaccination coverage rates, there are differences in vaccination coverage rates by region or some vaccines. Thus, further investment and research are required to address issues such as vaccine hesitancy, vaccine refusal, the anti-vaccine movement, and vulnerable social group.

**Key words:** Immunization; Immunization registry information system; Vaccination coverage

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## Introduction

Vaccination is the most cost-effective strategy for the prevention of infectious diseases in targeted populations, yielding effectiveness of approximately 16 times greater than the investment in disease prevention [1]. In the Republic of Korea (ROK), the National Immunization Program (NIP) for the prevention of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases was launched

in 1954, in accordance with Article 24 and Article 25 of the Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Act. To achieve herd immunity through an immunization rate of 95% or higher for mandatory vaccinations, such as measles [2], the NIP has been expanded to include public health centers to provide free vaccinations from 2014. This has reduced the financial burden on citizens with respect to vaccination costs and improved the convenience of vaccination. Since March 2023, free rotavirus



### Key messages

① What is known previously?

The most cost-benefit effective way to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases is to goal and maintain vaccination coverage. Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency is publicly reporting the national vaccination coverage since 2015.

② What new information is presented?

The complete vaccination coverage of children aged 1–3 years decreased slightly or remained by comparing vaccination coverages in 2020 and 2022; however, the children aged 6 years was 88.6%, increase of 5.1%p from 2020.

③ What are implications?

From the results, the older the children got, the lower their vaccination rate. Thus, to increase vaccination coverage, more investment and research are needed to identify vaccine hesitancy and vulnerable social group.

vaccinations, which cost approximately 200,000 to 300,000 KRW, have been offered at no cost. Through this program, the government offers free vaccinations for 18 vaccines. In addition, Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) has been established to effectively manage non-vaccinated individuals and vaccination records. The system provides individualized vaccination information and vaccination schedules, as well as delayed vaccination notifications based on the collected data to continuously manage non-vaccinated individuals, and the quality of the collected data is continuously monitored. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) is working on the enhancement of the accuracy of vaccination information by identifying and improving the status of erroneous data in the vaccination registration data, including personal information and duplicate or missing vaccination information.

Approved statistics serve as a crucial metric for assessing the effectiveness of the NIP. Policies to prevent vaccine-preventable infectious diseases are developed based on these data, and the response strategies are devised according to the immunization rate.

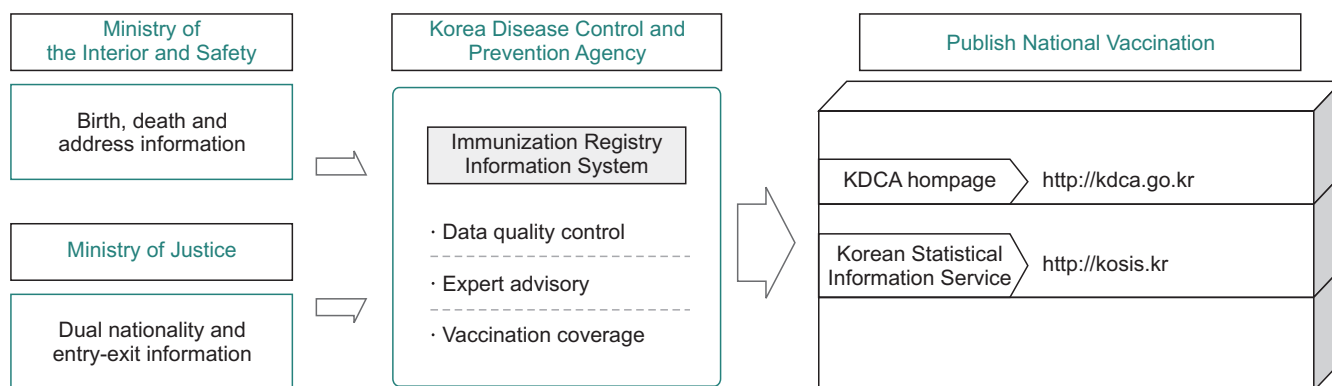
In this article, we aim to describe the data collection, computation, and analysis methods and results for immunization rates among children aged 1–3 years and 6 years in 2022. Additionally, we will discuss the limitations of calculating the vaccination rates and outline the directions for improving the rates of vaccination.

## Method

### 1. Vaccination Data Collection and Computation

The vaccination records were obtained from IRIS, a KDCA system onto which public health centers and private medical institutions record vaccination data. To ensure the accuracy of electronically registered data, various measures were implemented, including linking of the data with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety's birth, death, and address information, as well as performing quality control, including the verification of personal information, checking for vaccination errors, management of cases of missing registrations, and tracking of non-vaccinated individuals. After conducting quality control checks and ensuring the accuracy of the information collected through the system, the KDCA analyzed the data. The final immunization rates were confirmed based on the advice of a panel of vaccination statistics experts during a consultation held in June 2023 (Figure 1).

The nationwide immunization rate in children is based on comprehensive survey statistics derived from the electronic



**Figure 1.** Flow of vaccination coverage data collection and analysis  
KDCA=The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

registry data from IRIS for Korean citizens aged 1–3 years and 6 years as of the end of the respective year.

The target population for the analysis of the nationwide immunization rate in children in 2022 was defined as Korean nationals residing in the ROK who were aged 1–3 and 6 years old (born in 2016, 2019–2021 subject to vaccination), and children who had passed away or resided abroad were excluded. The full immunization rate was calculated from children who are subject to vaccination and have completed all recommended doses for their ages per the standard vaccination schedule in accordance with the Immunization Guidelines and Methods (KDCA Bulletin 2023–5). The rate was calculated based on the records updated in the system until the end of June 2023.

Vaccines given as combination vaccines, such as DTaP-IPV, DTaP-IPV/Hib, DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib, each vaccine included in the combination (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular-pertussis [DTaP], inactivated polio vaccine [IPV], Haemophilus influenzae type b [Hib], hepatitis B [HepB]) was considered separately. The records of vaccinations administered earlier than the minimum vaccination age, minimum interval between vaccinations, or the minimum interval between live attenuated

vaccines (4 weeks) recommended in the Immunization Guidelines were excluded. In cases of duplicate administration of the same vaccination, only the latest vaccination was used. For certain vaccines (Hib, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine [PCV], DTaP, IPV, Japanese encephalitis [JE] inactivated vaccine), vaccinations were recognized even when the recommended doses were not fully completed with delayed vaccination if the criteria set forth in the “Immunization Guidelines and Methods” (KDCA notice 2023-5) were met, such as adhering to the catch-up schedules [3].

## Results

### 1. Immunization Rate

As of the end of 2022, the sex- and age-specific immunization rates for 1.26 million children born in 2016 and 2019–2021 registered on the Ministry of the Interior and Safety resident registration system are shown below (Table 1).

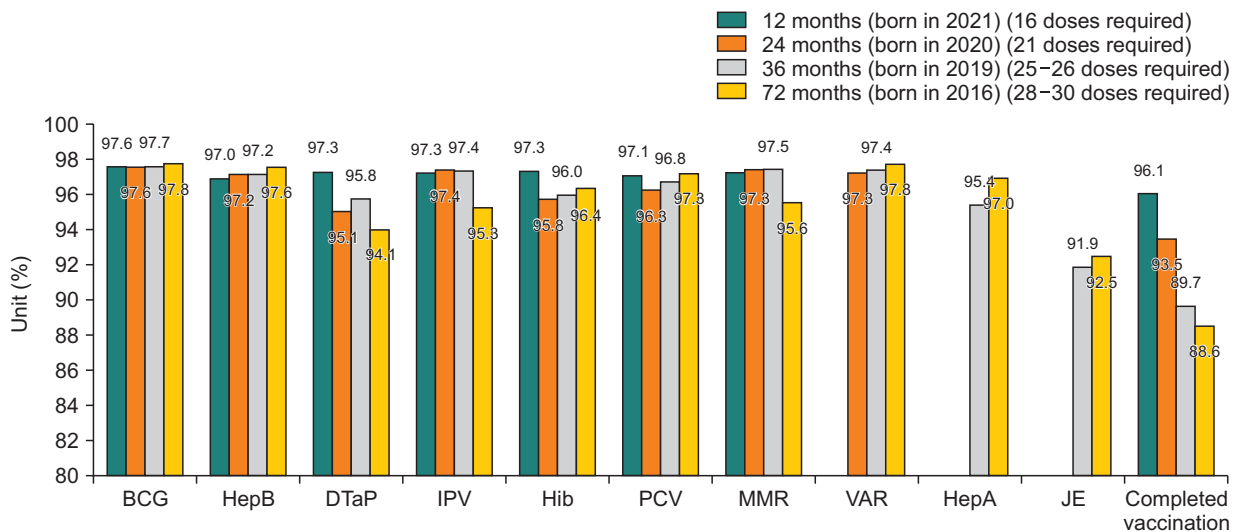
By birth year, the full immunization rate<sup>1)</sup> was 96.1% for 1-year-old (born in 2021, 6 vaccines, 16 doses)<sup>2)</sup>, 93.5% for 2-year-old (born in 2020, 8 vaccines, 21 doses)<sup>3)</sup>, 89.7% for

1) Full immunization rate: Percentage of children who have received all recommended vaccine doses according to age-specific vaccination schedules.  
2) 6 vaccines: BCG 1 dose, HepB 3 doses, DTaP 3 doses, IPV 3 doses, Hib 3 doses, and PCV 3 doses.

**Table 1.** Subjects of birth cohorts used as denominator, 2022

|                                 | Total number of children | Male    | Female  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| 12 months of age (born in 2021) | 330,836                  | 169,753 | 161,083 |
| 24 months of age (born in 2020) | 362,592                  | 186,676 | 175,916 |
| 36 months of age (born in 2019) | 411,665                  | 210,643 | 201,022 |
| 72 months of age (born in 2016) | 440,762                  | 225,781 | 214,981 |

Unit: n.



**Figure 2.** Vaccination coverage by 12, 24, 36 and 72 months of age

BCG=Bacille Calmette-Guérin; HepB=Hepatitis B; DTaP=Diphtheria-Tetanus-acellular-Pertussis; IPV=Inactivated Polio Vaccine; Hib=Haemophilus influenza type b; PCV=Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine; MMR=Measles-Mumps-Rubella; VAR=Varicella; HepA=Hepatitis A; JE=Japanese Encephalitis.

3-year-old (born in 2019, 10 vaccines, 25–26 doses)<sup>4)</sup>, and 88.6% for 6-year-old (born in 2016, 10 vaccines, 28–30 doses)<sup>5)</sup> (Figure 2).

By vaccine, the immunization rate for ages 1, 2, 3, and 6 years ranged from 91.9% to 97.8%. The immunization rate was 95% or higher for all types of vaccines, with the exception of DTaP and JE. Overall, the immunization rates were high for vaccines administered before the age of 1 year, such as Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) and HepB, as well as vaccines with

few dose frequencies, such as varicella (VAR) and Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), ranging from 97% to 98% (Figure 2).

By region, the immunization rates were high in Ulsan and Sejong and lowest in Seoul in all age groups. By birth year, the immunization rate for 1-year-olds was 95% or above in all regions, except Seoul. The immunization rate was the lowest in Seoul, followed by Gwangju and Jeonbuk in 2-year-olds, lowest in Gwangju in 3-year-olds, and lowest in Seoul and Jeju in 6-year-olds. The individual vaccination rates also showed

3) 8 vaccines: BCG 1 dose, HepB 3 doses, DTaP 4 doses, IPV 3 doses, Hib 4 doses, PCV 4 doses, MMR 1 dose, and VAR 1 dose.

4) 10 vaccines: BCG 1 dose, HepB 3 doses, DTaP 4 doses, IPV 3 doses, Hib 4 doses, PCV 4 doses, MMR 1 dose, VAR 1 dose, HepA 2 doses, and JE inactivated vaccine 3 doses or JE live attenuated vaccine 2 doses.

5) 10 vaccines: BCG 1 dose, HepB 3 doses, DTaP 5 doses, IPV 4 doses, Hib 4 doses, PCV 4 doses, MMR 2 doses, VAR 1 dose, HepA 2 doses, and JE inactivated vaccine 4 doses or JE live attenuated vaccine 2 doses.

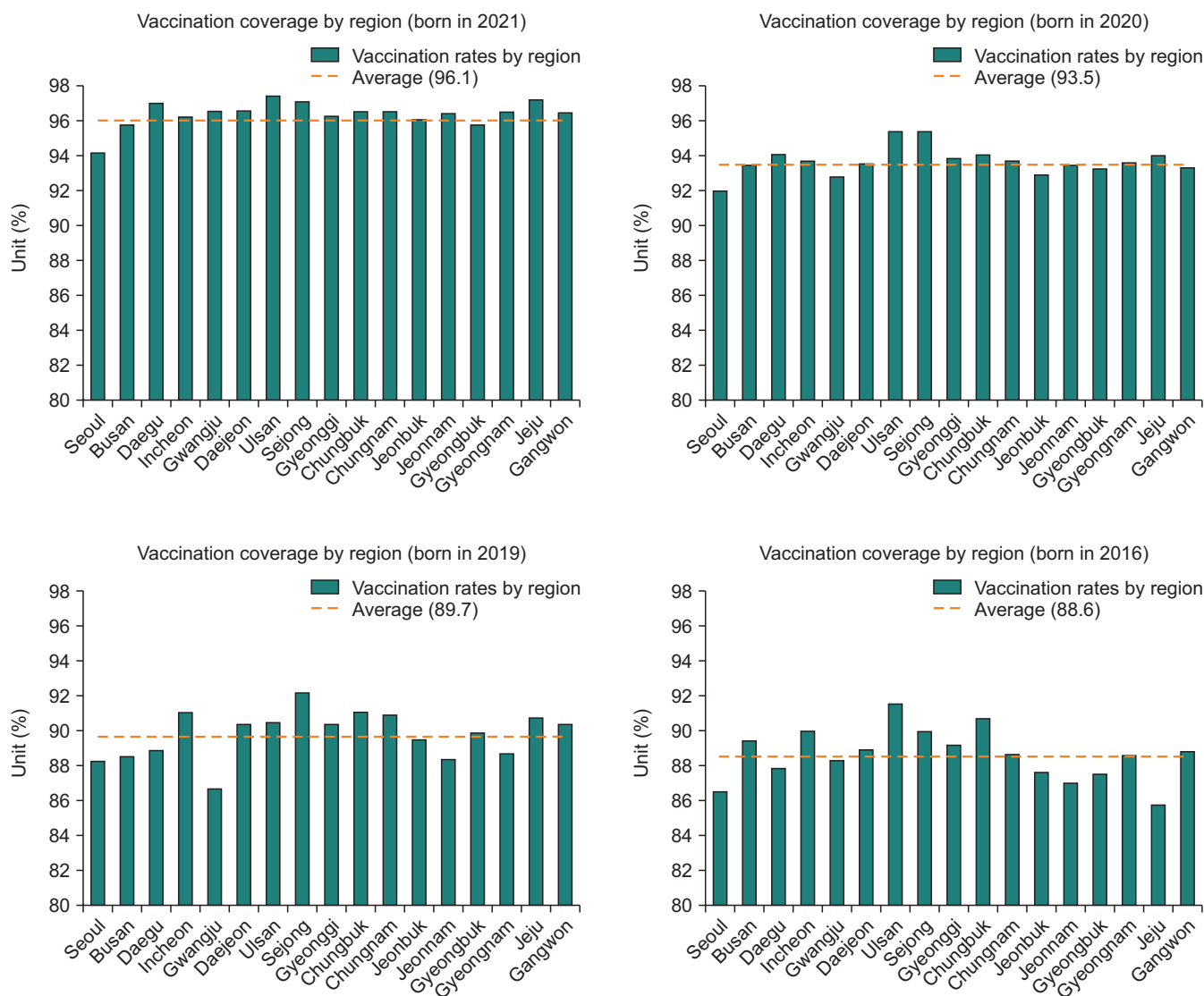


Figure 3. Vaccination coverage by age and region 2022

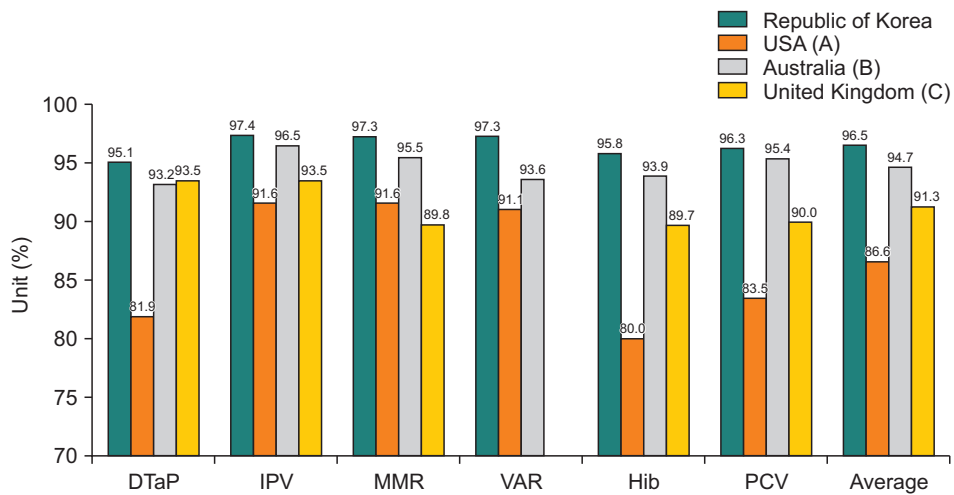
similar trends as the overall immunization rate (Figure 3).

The full immunization rate for the six vaccines (DTaP, IPV, MMR, VAR, Hib, and PCV) among 2-year-old in the ROK is 96.5%, which is approximately 2–10% higher than that in other major countries that use the same vaccination criteria, such as the United States (86.6%), Australia (94.7%), and United Kingdom (91.3%), showing that ROK maintains a high level of immunity in children globally. Similarly, the immunization rates for each vaccine were higher in the ROK compared to other countries (Figure 4) [4-6].

## Conclusion

### 1. Limitations in the Calculation of Immunization Rate

The statistics were collected based on the residential addresses recorded in the resident registration system as of the end of 2022; therefore, there may be some discrepancies from the immunization rates among children currently residing in the community. Additionally, children who are confirmed to be residing abroad or have been out of the country for long



**Figure 4.** Vaccination coverage by country

(A) Vaccination coverage by age 24 months among children born during 2018–2019; National Immunization Survey-child, United States, 2019–2021. (B) National Statistics. Childhood Vaccination Coverage Statistics, England, 2021–2022, 2022. (C) NSW Annual Immunisation Coverage Report, 2021. DTaP=diphtheria-tetanus-acellular-pertussis; IPV=inactivated polio vaccine; MMR=measles-mumps-rubella; VAR=varicella; Hib=Haemophilus influenza type b; PCV=pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; NSW=New South Wales.

periods of time are excluded from the target population for immunization. However, children with unconfirmed statuses are included, which could result in lower calculated immunization rates in regions where the proportion of such children is high. Furthermore, for certain vaccines that are not included in the NIP, but are included in the calculation of immunization rates, such as BCG (for percutaneous), JE inactivated vaccines, and DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib, the calculation of immunization rates is based on voluntarily reported data. This may lead to an underestimation of the rate due to factors, such as omissions in the computer system.

## 2. Interpretation of Immunization Rate and Directions for Improvement

The immunization rates tended to decrease with advancing age primarily due to the increasing number of vaccines and doses required for completion. Among the analyzed age

groups, 6-year-old had the lowest immunization rates. In this age group, the DTaP immunization rate (requires 4–5 doses) was low, and the JE inactivated immunization rate appears to have been the lowest due to the delayed first dose (12 months), third dose (24–35 months), and fourth booster dose (6 years) compared to other vaccines.

Furthermore, the immunization rates were low in regions with higher percentages of children residing abroad due to reasons, such as dual citizenship and long-term out-of-country stay [7], and the rates are anticipated to differ also according to efforts made by local governments, such as vaccination promotions through mail and text messages and frequencies of promotions.

This year, the immunization rates for children aged 1–3 years remained relatively stable or showed a slight decrease over the 3 years leading up to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (2020–2022). However, the full

6) Elementary school vaccination verification program: this program verifies newly admitted students' booster vaccination status at age 4–6 years within 90 days of elementary school admission (DTaP 5th dose, IPV 4th dose, MMR 2nd dose, JE inactivated vaccine 4th dose, or JE live attenuated vaccine 2nd dose) and encourages vaccination for unvaccinated children to prevent infectious diseases and protect student health.

immunization rate for 6-year-olds increased by 5.1%p during the same period (from 83.5% in 2020 to 88.6% in 2022). Maintaining high immunization rates during the COVID-19 pandemic can be attributed to active participation in disease prevention nationwide and the resumption of the elementary school immunization verification program<sup>6)</sup> in collaboration with the Ministry of Education [8]. Nonetheless, there was a slight downward trend in the immunization rates for ages 1–3 years, calling for vaccination strategies specifically tailored to this age group, similar to the 6-year-old group. Given the success of the elementary school immunization verification program, it is necessary to strengthen the coordination of immunization information with daycare and preschools, where children aged 1–3 years spend most of their time, as well as other facilities and increase the vaccination promotions.

Considering that vaccination is the most effective method for preventing and managing infectious diseases, immunization rates are valuable indicators for infectious disease management planning. Immunization rates serve as crucial metrics for assessing the performance of the NIP, allowing for the identification of issues of the current projects and the development of local response strategies at the si, gun, and gu levels. Additionally, a high full immunization rate suggests that herd immunity has been achieved to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases that spread through group living; thus, the management of immunization rates is extremely important.

While the ROK maintains a high level of immunization rates compared to other countries, disparities exist in the immunization rates for certain vaccines and by region. To address these disparities, it is essential to analyze the unvaccinated population, develop tailored promotional strategies to improve the immunization rates, and provide accurate information about

vaccines.

## Declarations

**Ethics Statement:** Not applicable.

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization: JYL, SLK, HML.

Data curation: JYL. Formal analysis: JYL, SLK, HML.

Investigation: JYL. Methodology: JYL, SLK, HML. Project

administration: SLK, HML. Resources: JYL. Software: JYL.

Supervision: SLK, HML. Validation: JYL, SLK, HML.

Visualization: JYL, SLK, HML. Writing – original draft: JYL,

SLK, HML. Writing – review & editing: SLK, HML.

## Supplementary Materials

Supplementary data are available online.

## References

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