

## Immunization Levels of 2 Year Olds

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**Objective:** *Increase the basic immunization series among children aged 2 years to at least 90%.*

More than 90,000 children are born each year in Virginia. The vast majority of these babies (80-90%) receive one or more vaccines and virtually all children are immunized by age 6. However, only about three out of every four children (74%) complete the basic vaccination series by two years of age, a critical period for childhood disease prevention. This is noteworthy because even though childhood vaccine-preventable diseases (diphtheria, hepatitis B, *Hemophilus influenzae-type B*, measles, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, and tetanus) have declined dramatically, they remain problems among certain high-risk, under-immunized groups. Vaccines are among the safest and most effective measures for the prevention of infectious and communicable diseases. For every dollar spent on immunizations, a savings of \$10 to \$14 is realized in later health care costs. To reach our objective in Virginia, we must routinely assess the immunization status of our young children and assure that those needing vaccines receive them from their health care provider.

