

CO1.4: Childhood vaccination

Definitions and methodology

Childhood vaccination is captured here through two measures that reflect whether children have received relevant vaccinations within the recommended timeframe:

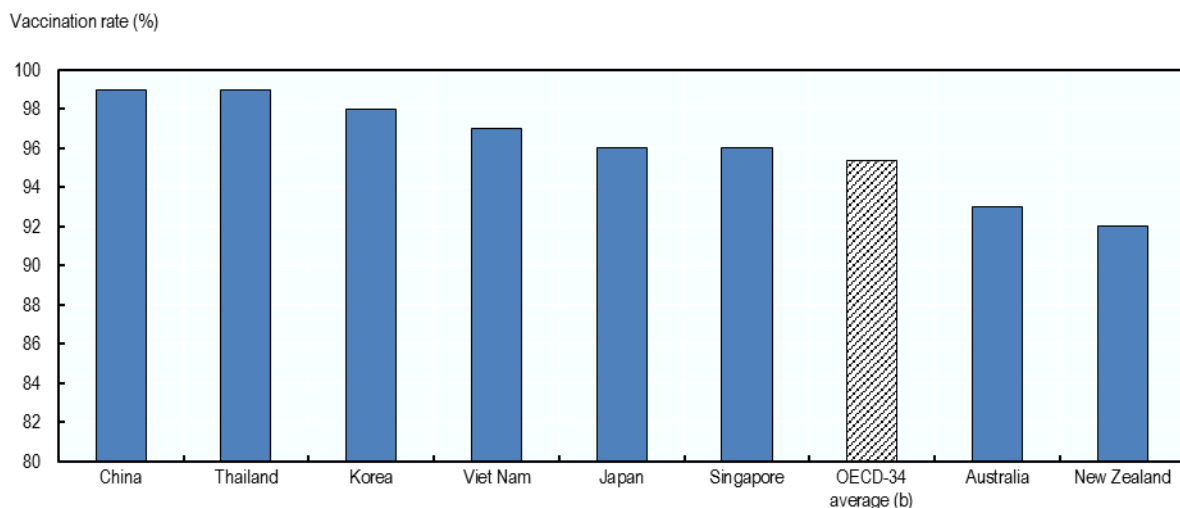
- The proportion (%) of one-year-olds who have received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine
- The proportion (%) of children under one year old who have received at least one dose of measles-containing vaccine.

Key findings

Rates of vaccination for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis are generally fairly high in Asia/Pacific countries, though there is some cross-country variation (Chart CO1.4.A). Vaccination rates for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis are higher than 90% in all of the covered Asia/Pacific countries with available data, with rates in most of the covered countries higher than the average for OECD countries (95.4%). The highest vaccination rates among the covered Asia/Pacific countries are in China, Korea and Thailand, where rates reach 98-99%. The lowest are in Australia (93%) and New Zealand (92%).

Chart CO1.4.A. **Vaccination rates for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, 2015 or latest available^a**

Proportion (%) of one-year-olds who have received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine in the given year



a) The OECD-34 average refers to 2014 (or nearest/latest available)

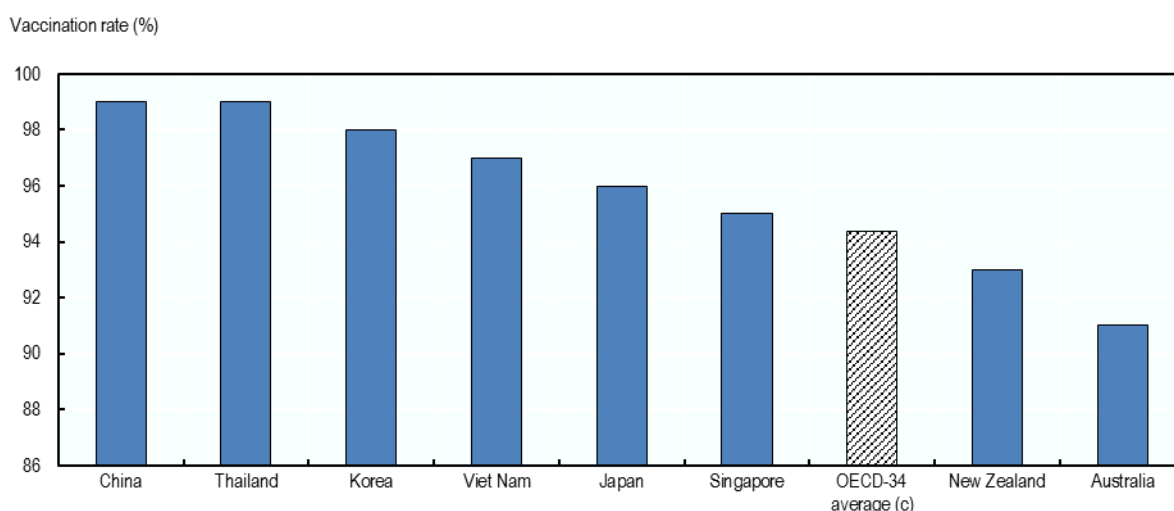
b) The OECD-34 average refers to the unweighted average across the 34 OECD member countries with available and comparable data. See OECD Family Database Indicator CO1.4 (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm>) for more detail.

Sources: [Australia, China, Korea, Japan and New Zealand: OECD Health Statistics](#); [OECD-34 average: OECD Family Database Indicator CO1.4](#); [Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam: World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Data Repository](#)

Other relevant indicators: SF2.1 Fertility rates; CO1.1 Infant mortality; CO1.2 Life expectancy at birth; CO1.3 Low birth weight

The picture for vaccinations against measles is largely similar to that for vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (Chart CO1.4.B). In all of the covered countries rates of vaccination against measles exceed 90%, and in most rates are higher than the average for OECD countries (94.4%). Once again, the highest vaccination rates can be found in China, Korea and Thailand, where 98-99% of children receive the measles vaccine in the recommended timeframe, and the lowest are in Australia (91%) and New Zealand (93%).

Chart CO1.4.B. Vaccination rates for measles, 2015 or latest available^a
Proportion (%) of children under one year old who have received at least one dose of measles-containing vaccine in the given year^b



a) The OECD-34 average refers to 2014 (or nearest/latest available)

b) For countries recommending the first dose of measles vaccine in children over 12 months of age (e.g. New Zealand, which recommends the first dose of measles vaccine at 15 months of age), the indicator is calculated as the proportion of children aged 12-23 months of age receiving one dose of measles-containing vaccine. See OECD Health Statistics (<http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm>) and the World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Data Repository (<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.home>) for more detail.

c) The OECD-34 average refers to the unweighted average across the 34 OECD member countries with available and comparable data. See OECD Family Database Indicator CO1.4 (<http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm>) for more detail.

Sources: [Australia, China, Korea, Japan and New Zealand: OECD Health Statistics](#); [OECD-34 average: OECD Family Database Indicator CO1.4](#); [Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam: World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Data Repository](#)

Comparability and data issues

The data used in this indicator come either from the World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Data Repository or from OECD Health Statistics, who themselves take their data from the World Health Organization Global Health Observatory Data Repository. The original data come either from administrative data or from household surveys. Detailed information on the methods used by the World Health Organization to measure and/or estimate immunisation rates can be found [here](#), alongside a detailed discussion of limitations and exclusions.

One issue of particular importance here is that childhood vaccination policies and schedules differ across countries, which can obviously affect the likelihood of a child receiving the required vaccine at/by a given age. For the data on vaccinations against

measles – which under the standard definition use children under one year of age as the denominator – when a given country recommends the first dose of measles vaccine in children over 12 months of age (such as in New Zealand, which recommends the first dose of measles vaccine at 15 months of age), the indicator is calculated alternatively as the proportion of children aged 12-23 months of age receiving one dose of measles-containing vaccine.

Sources and further reading: OECD Health Statistics, <http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/health-data.htm>, World Health Organization Global Health Observatory, <http://www.who.int/gho/en/>; OECD/WHO (2016), *Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2016: Measuring Progress towards Universal Health Coverage*, OECD Publishing, Paris. http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health_glance_ap-2016-en