

# School-Entry Vaccine Policies: States' Responses to Federal Recommendations Varied from Swift to Substantially Delayed<sup>1</sup>



## Background

- School-entry immunization requirements in the US are a valuable strategy to reduce the spread of vaccine preventable disease and protect public health<sup>2</sup>
  - There is long standing legal precedent for states to create and enforce vaccination requirements<sup>3</sup>
  - State policies are often preceded by federal-level Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations/guidance<sup>4</sup>
  - State immunization requirements are heterogeneous

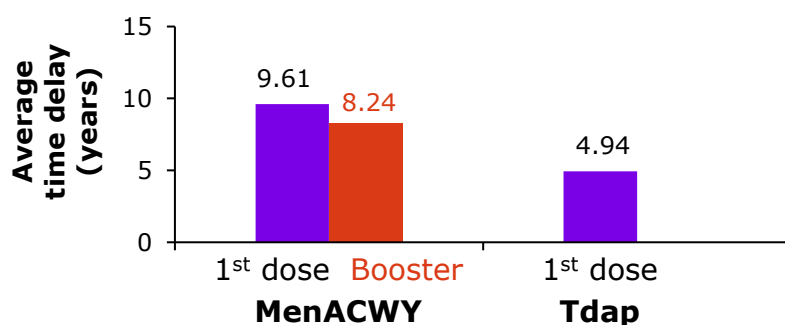


## Methods

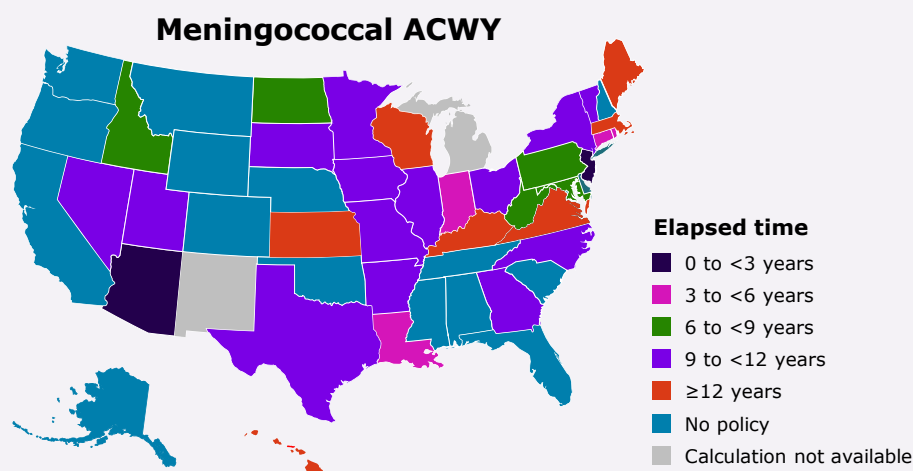
- Authors conducted legal epidemiological review between SEPT 2023 - FEB 2024 to measure the **time intervals** between **issuance of ACIP guidance** and subsequent **state adoption of school-entry requirements** for meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY) and tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccinations<sup>1</sup>
- Policies were analyzed across all fifty-one jurisdictions
- A comparison was made between ACIP vote dates and official state legislative and regulatory resources, state archives, state registers, and Westlaw historical versions of state statutes and regulations

## Study Results

- Substantial delays between vaccine recommendation and policy change for **MenACWY** (9.61 years, first dose; 8.24 years, booster) and **Tdap** (4.94 years)
- State-to-state variation in instituting policy is large; from a few years to eighteen years

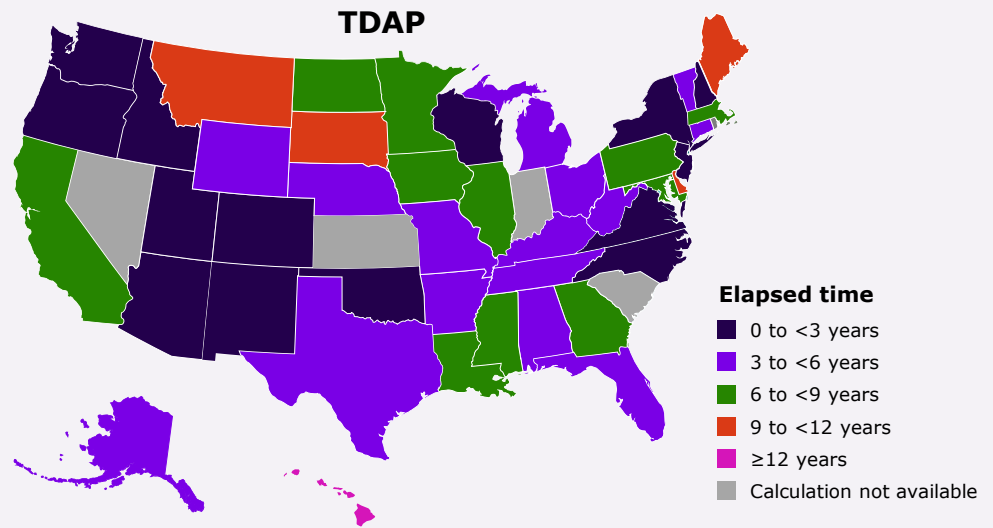


**Figure 1:** Time Delay Between the First Routine ACIP Recommendation for Adolescent MenACWY Immunization and States' School-Entry Policies, By State, As of February 2024



The analysis described in this article was supported, in part, by Sanofi. The authors conducted the analysis herein independently. For use by Medical for scientific exchange and medical discussions only. Do not photograph, copy or distribute.

**Figure 2:** Time Delay Between the First Routine ACIP Recommendation for Adolescent Tdap Immunization and States' School-Entry Policies, By State, As of February 2024



## Limitations



**Vaccines** with **limited adoption** of state level requirement policies (eg. HPV vaccine) **were excluded** from the study



**Factors** that may have **caused delays** in adopting school-entry immunization requirements (eg. state-by-state regulatory idiosyncrasies, political influence, or public opinion) were **not investigated**



Research was **limited** to publicly available state legislative and regulatory history available online or via state archives



**Interplay** between **federal-level immunization recommendations** and **state-level policy changes** is **complex**



**School-entry requirements** may **reduce racial and ethnic disparities** in vaccination coverage<sup>5</sup>; **states with school-entry requirement policies** have **higher vaccination coverage rates**<sup>6</sup>

*Careful consideration of downstream effects on state policies is important before adding, changing, or revoking national vaccine recommendations*

## REFERENCES:

1. Larson A, Minnick DR, Choudhury S, Hughes R 4<sup>th</sup>. School-entry vaccine policies: States' responses to federal recommendations varied from swift to substantially delayed. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2024;43(11):1561-8. 2. Conway, JH, Green TL. Childhood immunization policies and the prevention of communicable disease. *Pediatr Ann*. 2011;40(3):136-43. 3. Jacobson v. Massachusetts, 1905;197 U.S. 11. 4. Smith JC, Hinman AR, Pickering LK. History and evolution of the advisory committee on immunization practices--United States, 1964-2014. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2014;63(42):955-8. 5. Morita JY, Ramirez E, Trick WE. Effect of a school-entry vaccination requirement on racial and ethnic disparities in hepatitis B immunization coverage levels among public school students. *Pediatrics*. 2008;121(3):e547-52. 6. CDC. State vaccination requirements [Internet]. Atlanta (GA): CDC; 2024 Aug 6 [cited 16 JAN 2025] <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/php/requirements-laws/state-vaccination-requirements.html>.



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