

Hepatitis B Birth Dose - Data Brief

Vermont Immunization Registry

Background

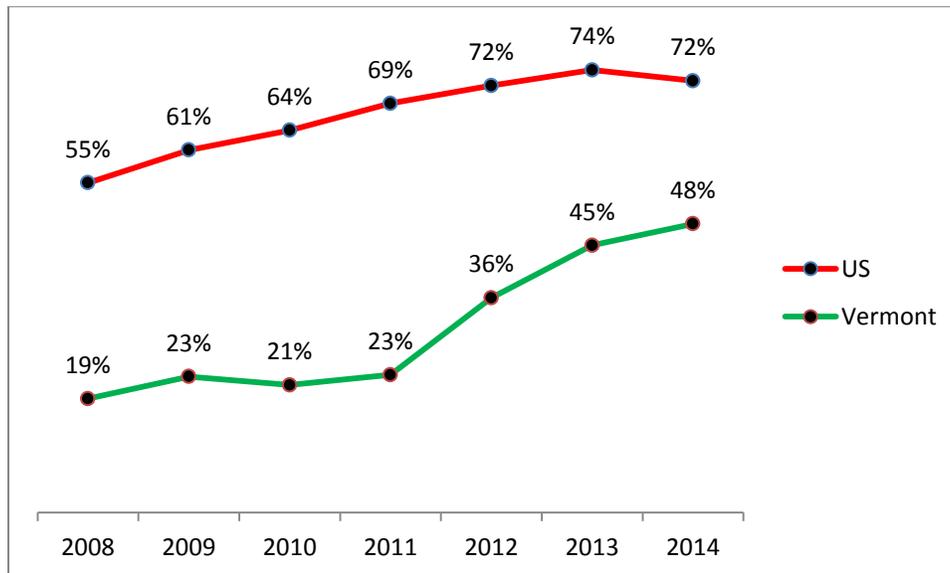
Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease that can be either chronic or acute. It is the result of infection with the Hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis B virus is generally spread when bodily fluid from an infected person enters the body of someone who is not infected. It can also be passed from an infected mother to her baby at birth.¹

In 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended universal Hepatitis B vaccination for children, with the first dose given at birth. With rare exceptions, the first dose of the vaccine should be administered before the infant is discharged from the hospital.² This provides a safety net protecting all children from potential HBV infection. Delaying vaccination until a future visit will be too late to prevent perinatal transmission.³

National Immunization Survey (NIS)

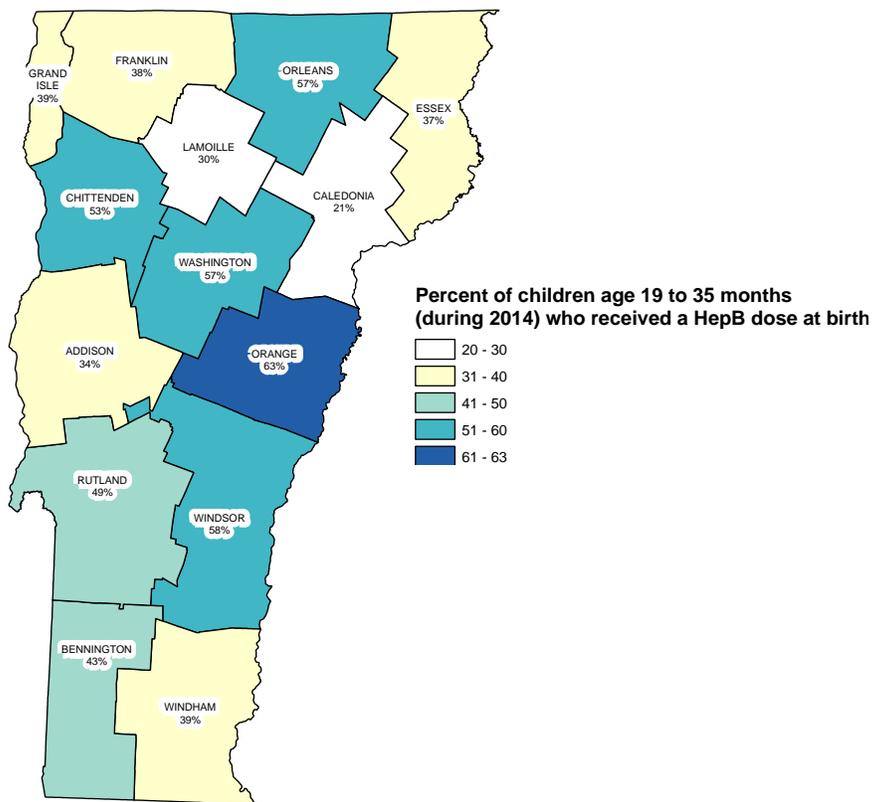
The NIS is a list-assisted random-digit-dialing telephone survey followed by a mailed survey to children's immunization providers to monitor childhood immunization coverage. The NIS began data collection in April 1994.⁴ The child survey constitutes children 19-35 months of age during the given year. In 2008 the CDC began collecting data regarding the birth dosage of HepB. Since then the rates of vaccination have been increasing, both in Vermont and at the national level. Vermont has been consistently behind the national level, and in 2014 the Vermont rate was 48%, compared to the national rate of 72%.

Hepatitis B Birth Dose



Birth Dose Rates at the County Level

The Vermont Immunization Registry (IMR) is a statewide confidential computerized system for maintaining immunization records. It was first made available to providers in July, 2004. The IMR is capable of analyzing data by various geographic regions. For example, in 2014, the percentage of children ages 19-35 months who received a HepB vaccine dose at birth varied widely – from 21% in Caledonia County to 63% in Orange County.



Birth Dose Rates by Hospital

According to the CDC, all hospitals should administer the birth dose of HepB vaccine as part of routine care for medically stable infants.ⁱⁱ For children born during 2014 there is a vast difference when comparing the hospital in which the child was born.

<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Percent Receiving Birth Dose</u>	<u>Total Children</u>
Rutland Regional Medical Center	87.9%	397
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	79.4%	325
Central Vermont Medical Center	79.1%	382
Springfield Hospital	75.7%	173
University of Vermont Medical Center	64.3%	2274
North Country Hospital and Health Center	58.4%	209
Northwestern Medical Center	32.4%	479
Porter Medical Center	15.7%	376
Copley Hospital	15.3%	215
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	15.2%	447
Gifford Medical Center	12.1%	206
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital	4.3%	209

Overall, 52% of children born in Vermont hospitals in 2014 have record of Hepatitis B immunization in the IMR within the first three days of life.

For more information, please contact Bridget Ahrens, Immunization Registry Manager, (802) 951-4094.

¹ Hepatitis B Information for the Public, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/B/index.htm>

² Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 23, 2005, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5416a1.htm>

³ Give the Birth Dose ... Hepatitis B Vaccine at Birth Saves Lives!, Deborah L. Wexler, MD, <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2125.pdf>

⁴ About the National Immunization Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nis/about_nis.htm