



## IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE IN WASHINGTON STATE AND BARRIERS AND STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED FROM PROVIDERS

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# Immunization Coverage Update

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- Update on current COVID-19 immunization coverage in Washington
  - [COVID-19 Vaccination Data Dashboard](#)
- Influenza immunization coverage: year to date and trends
  - [Influenza Vaccination Dashboard](#)
- Summary of routine childhood immunization coverage and the impact of COVID-19
  - [WA DOH Immunization Measures by County Dashboard](#)

## Data Source

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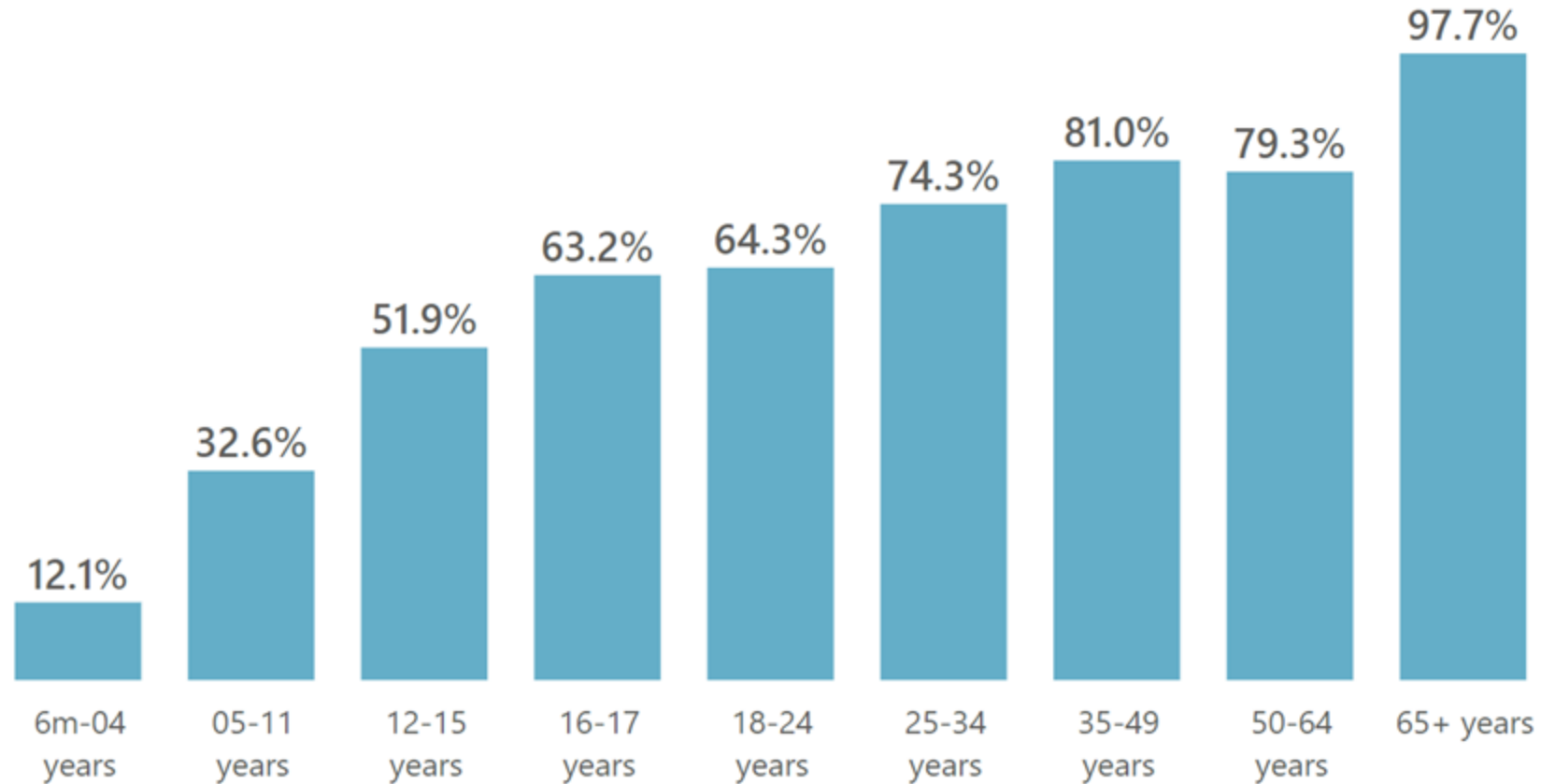
### Washington Immunization Information System (WAIS)

- WADOH routinely uses WAIS to monitor coverage
- A lifetime registry for WA resident immunization data
- Licensed healthcare providers track immunizations
- Considered the most complete and independent source of medically verified immunization data for WA state

# COVID-19 Immunization Coverage

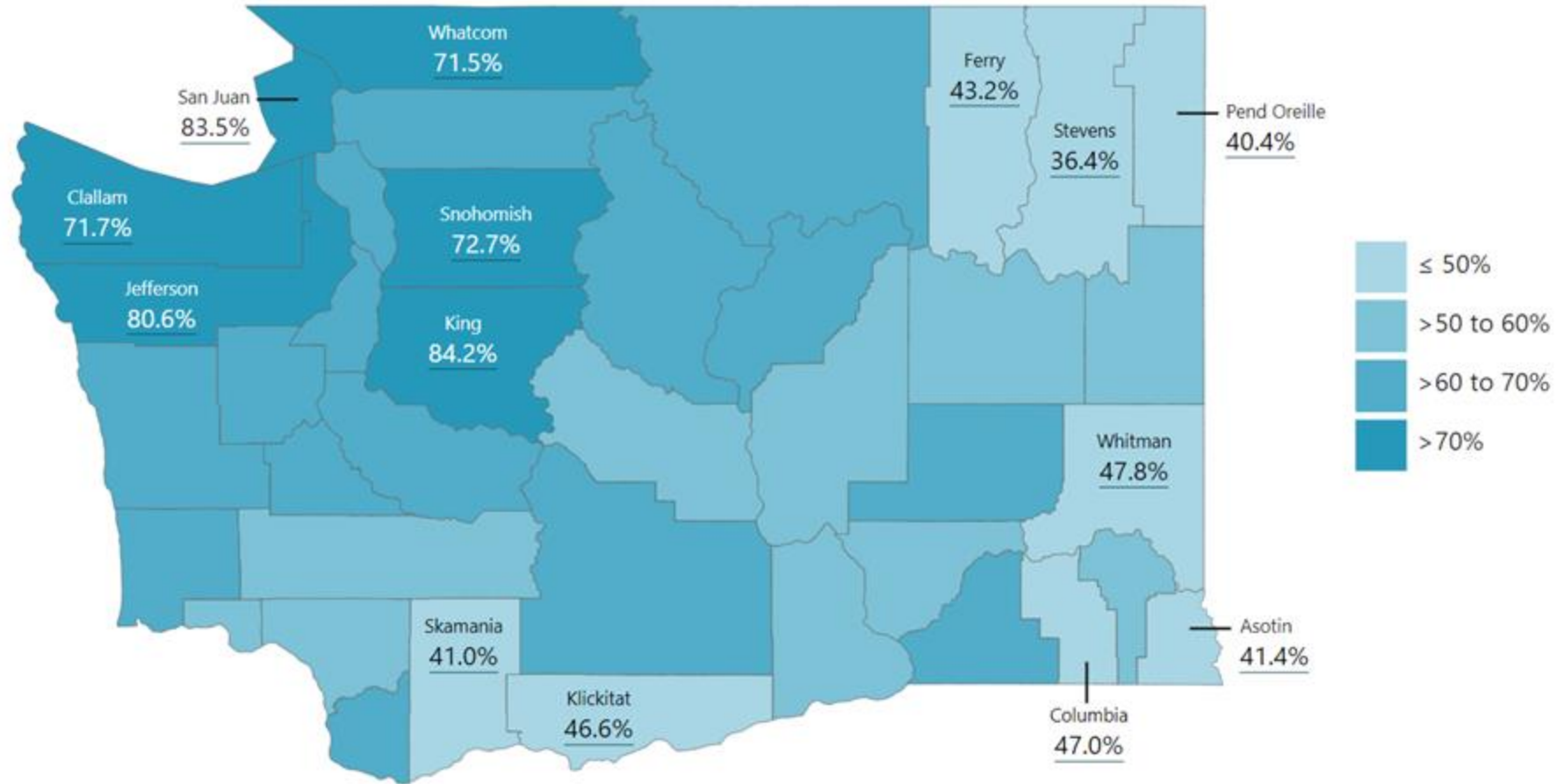
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**70.7%** of the WA population has been vaccinated with a **complete\*** COVID-19 primary series

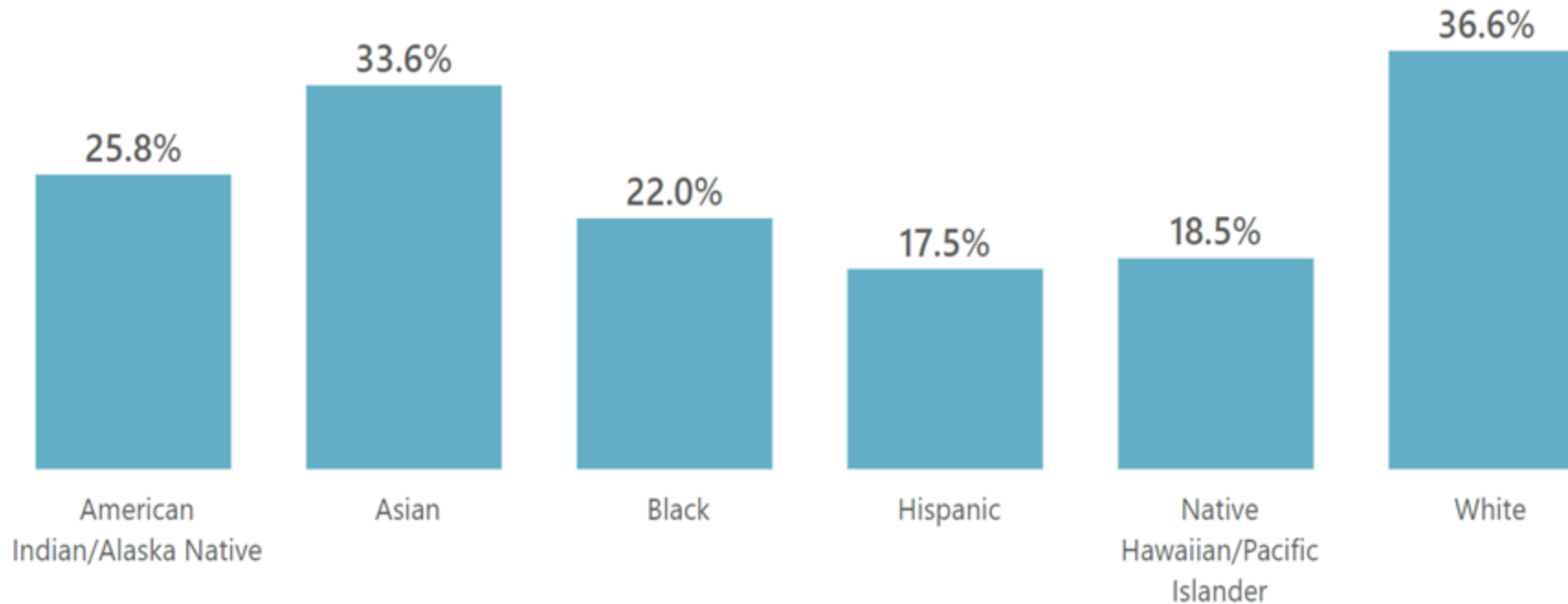


\* This includes anyone 6 months of age or older who have received all required doses of a primary vaccine series

# Percent of the population vaccinated with a complete COVID-19 primary series varies by county



# 31.5% of the eligible WA population\* has been vaccinated with a COVID-19 bivalent booster dose



\* The eligible population includes anyone 6 months of age or older who has completed their primary series and is 2 or more months past receiving any dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Individuals with multiple, other, or unknown races and ethnicities are not shown.

Race and ethnicity are based on provider reporting and are not available for all individuals.

## Statement on Race and Ethnicity Data

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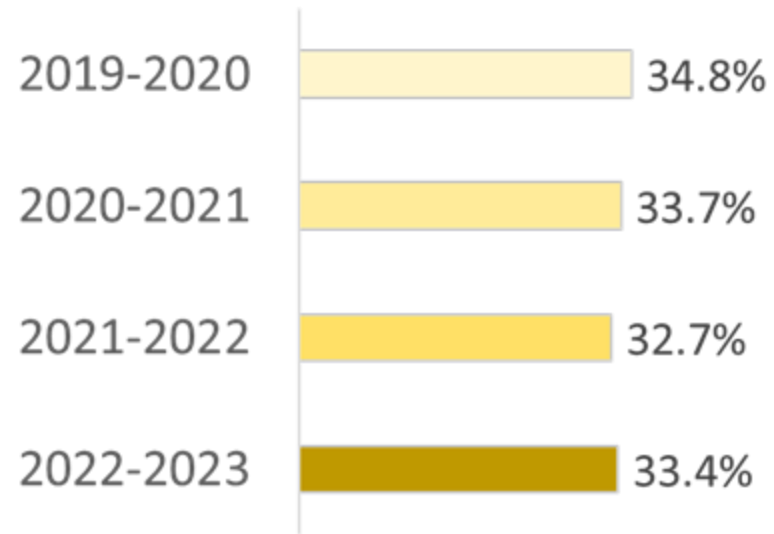
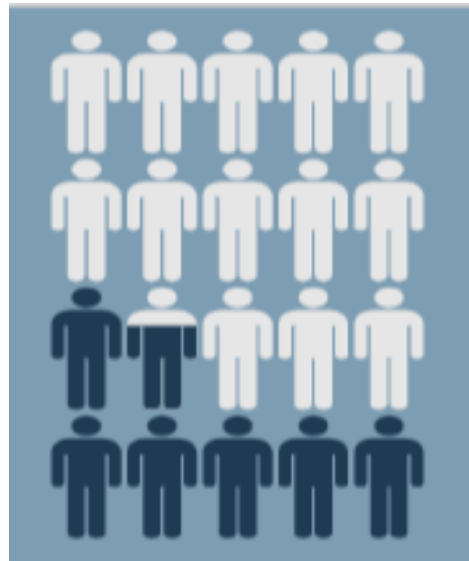
*“The Washington State Department of Health is committed to honoring Tribal and Indigenous data sovereignty in all of our data products. We understand current data collection and analytic practices are not always inclusive or the best representation for people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, including American Indians and Alaska Natives. We are committed to working on improving data collection, management, and reporting with Tribes and community partners in the future. We continue to engage partners and work as an Agency to improve both our data systems to capture more accurate data, and our data analyses practices to be more representative and inclusive of all groups.”*



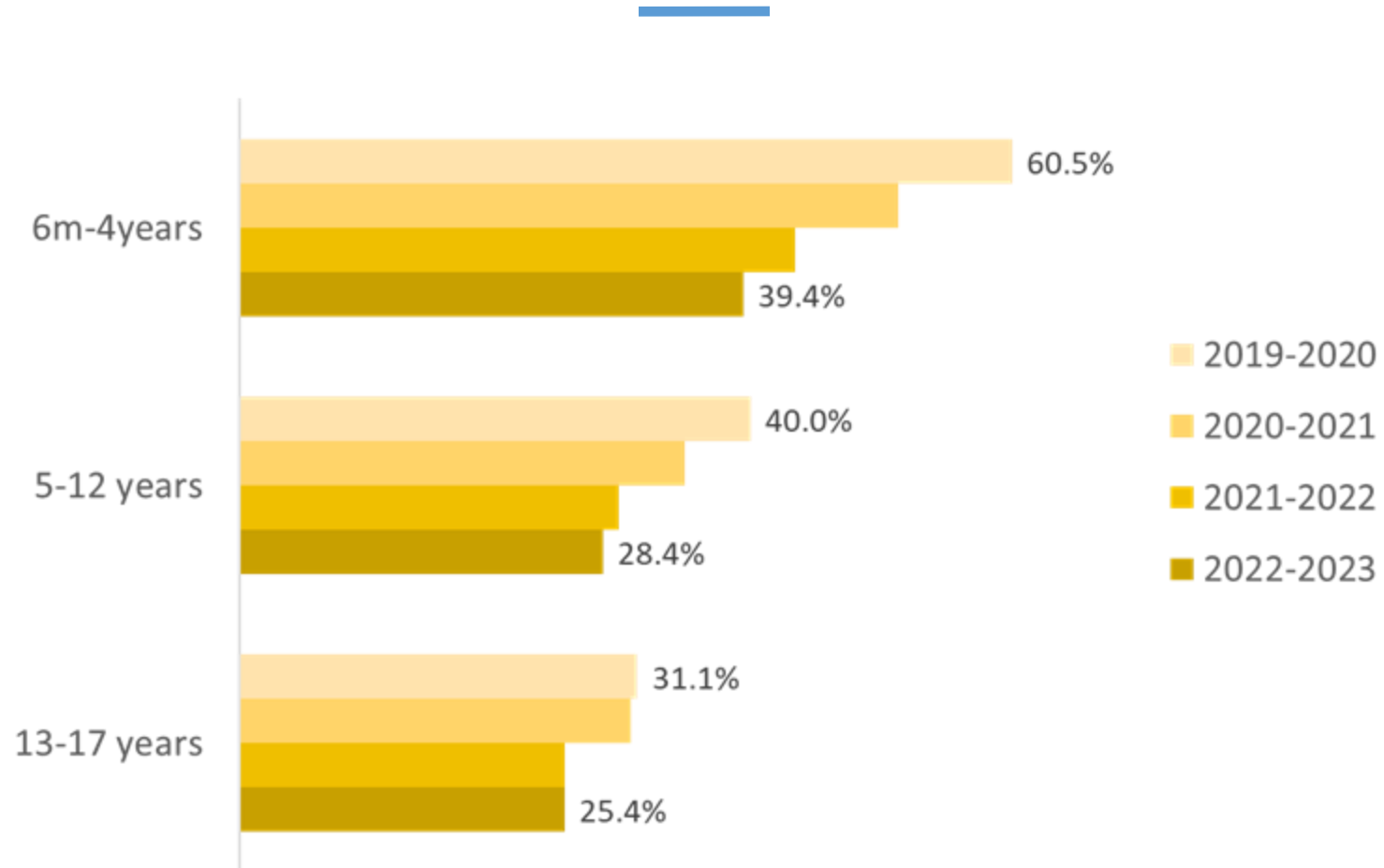
# Influenza Vaccination Coverage

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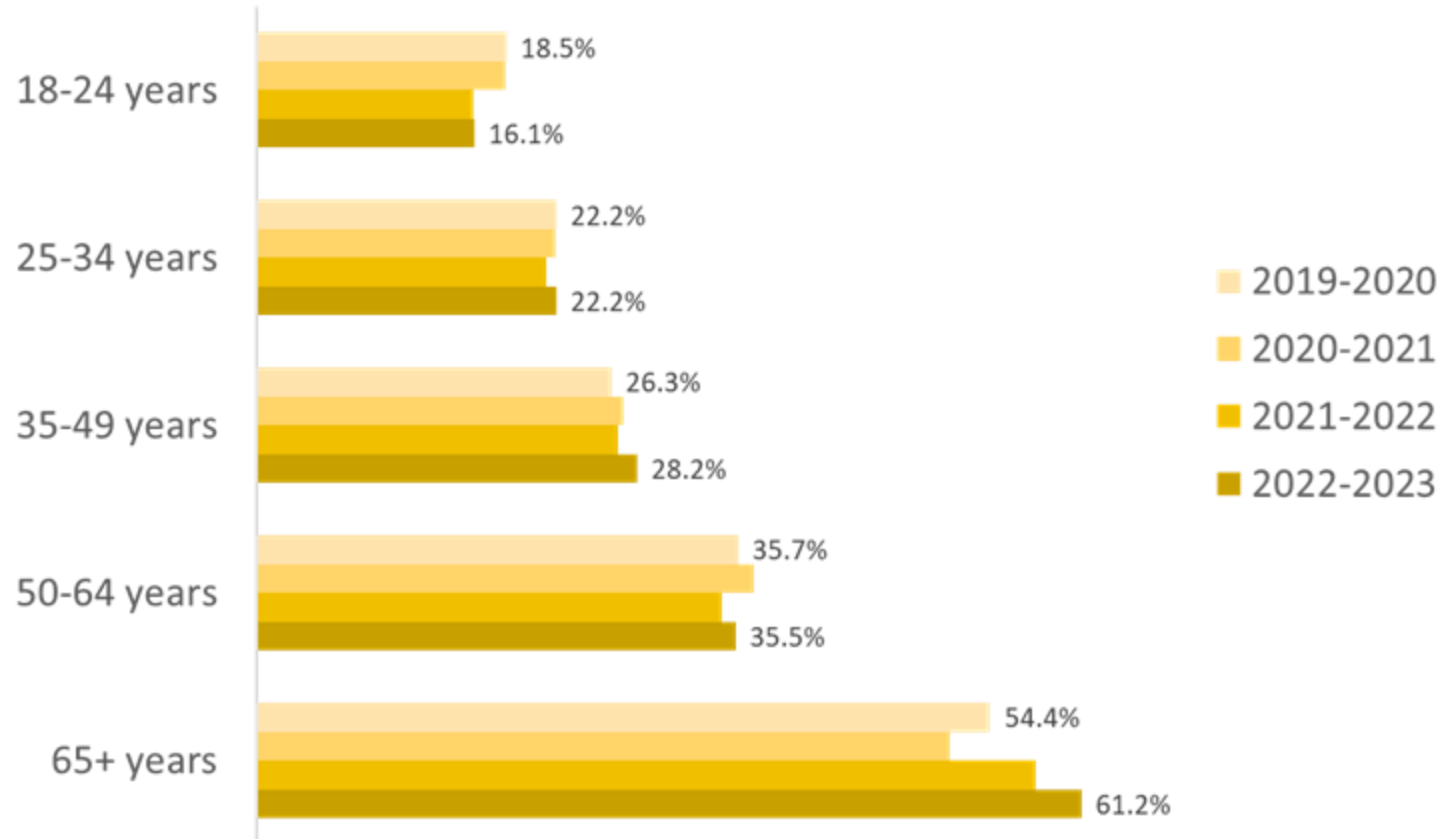
# 33.4% of Washingtonians have received a flu vaccine so far this season



# Child and Adolescent Influenza Coverage



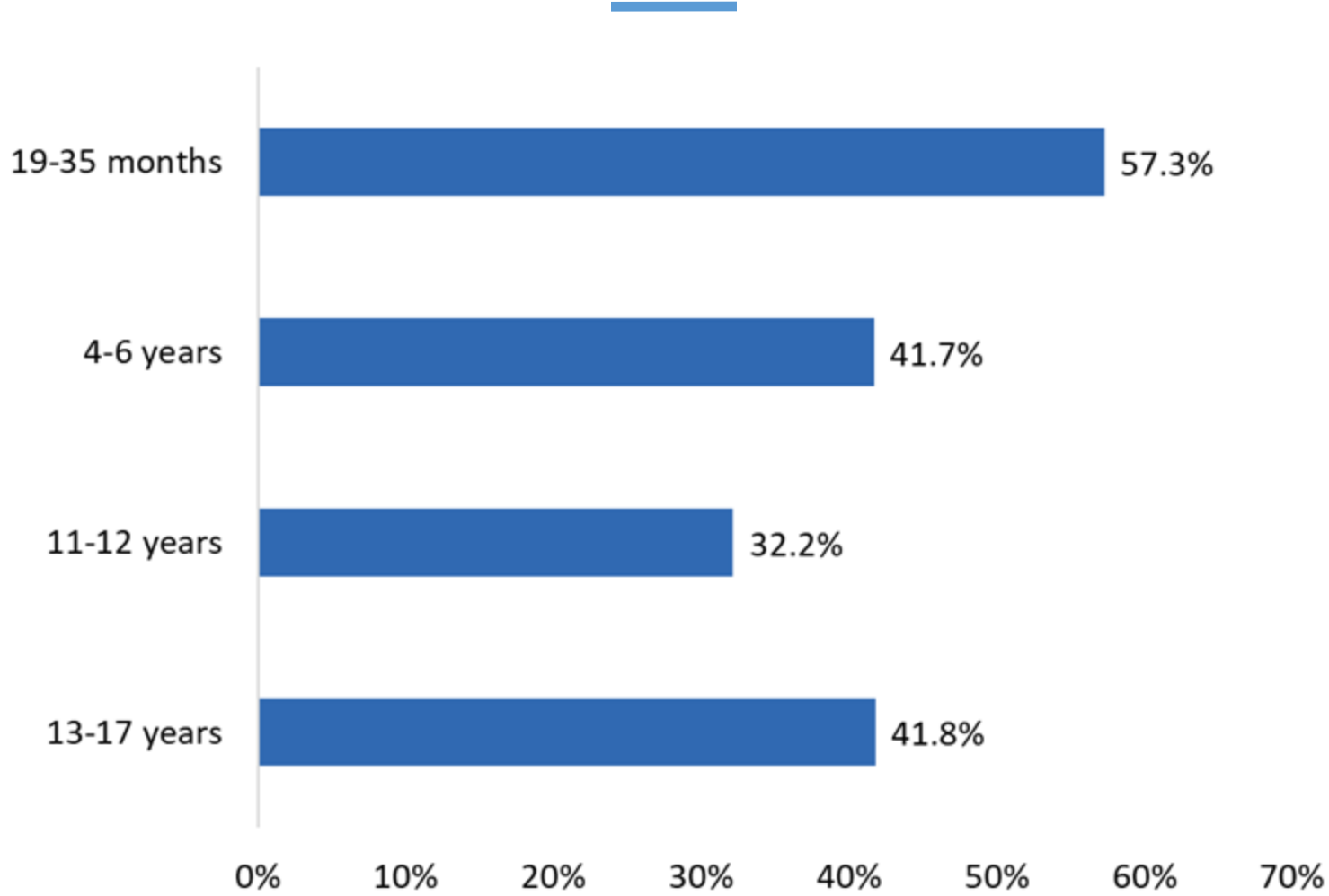
# Adult Influenza Coverage



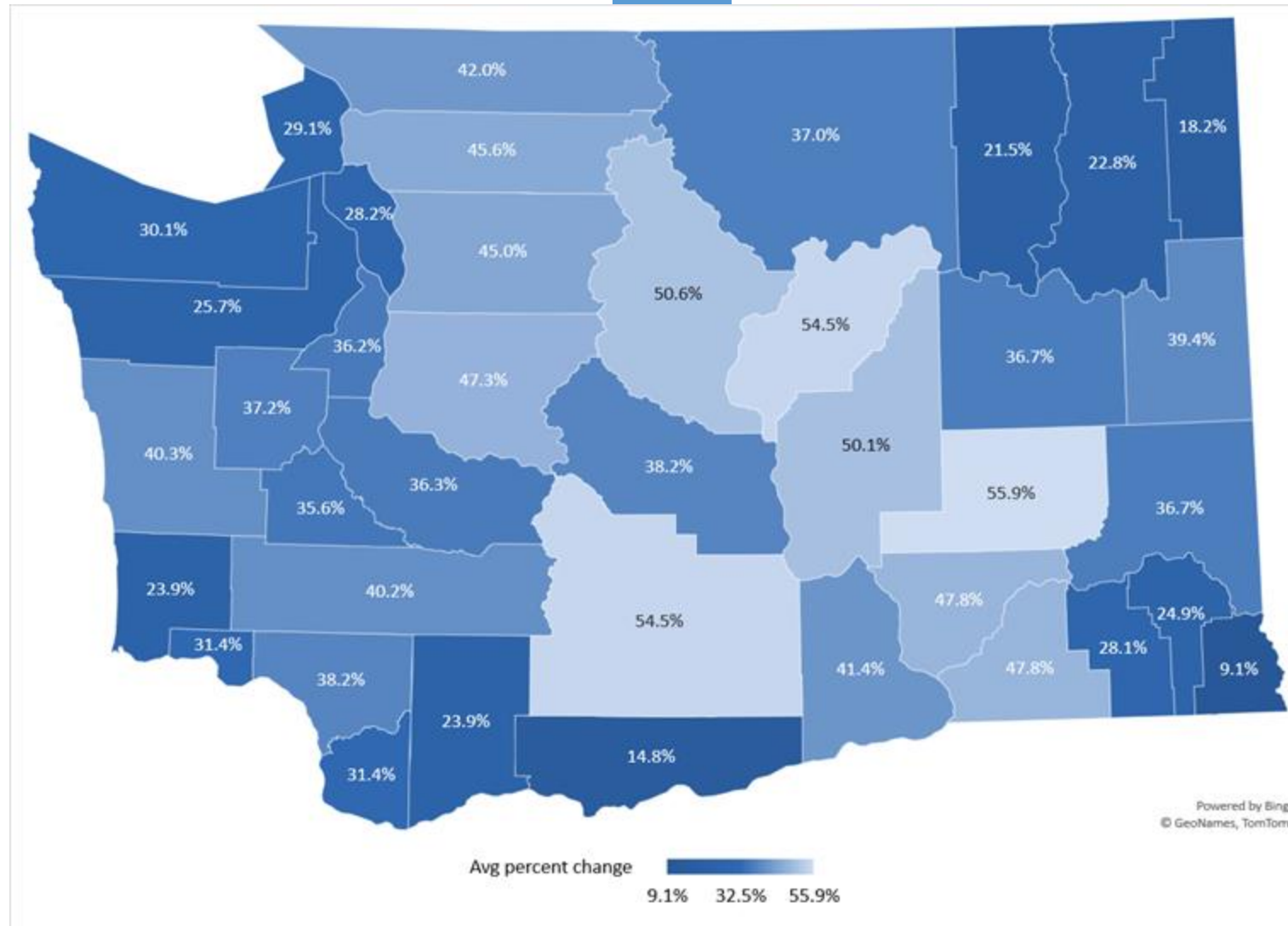
# Childhood Vaccination Coverage

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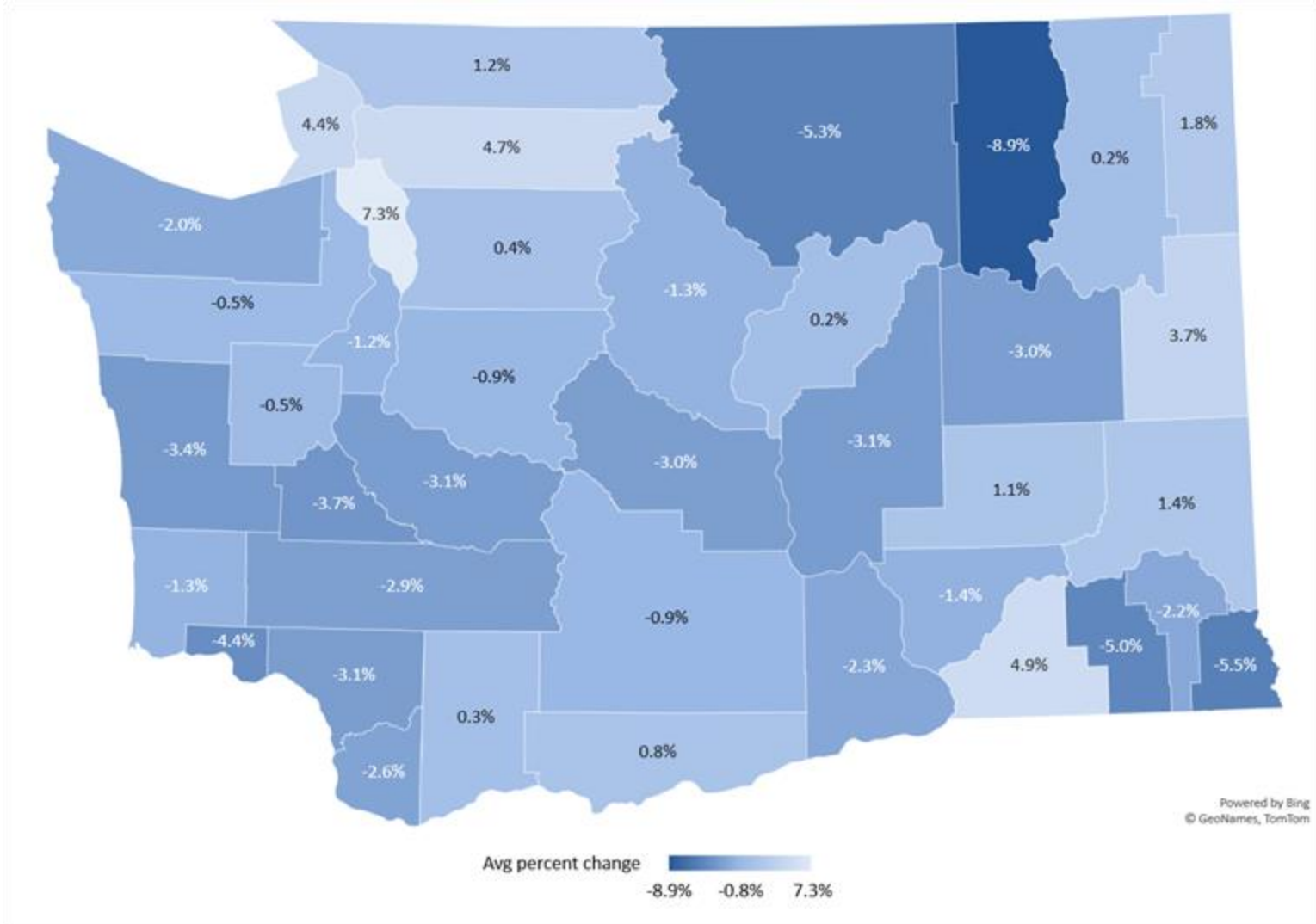
# Percent of fully vaccinated children by milestone age groups, December 2022



# Average percent of fully vaccinated milestone-age children by county, December 2022

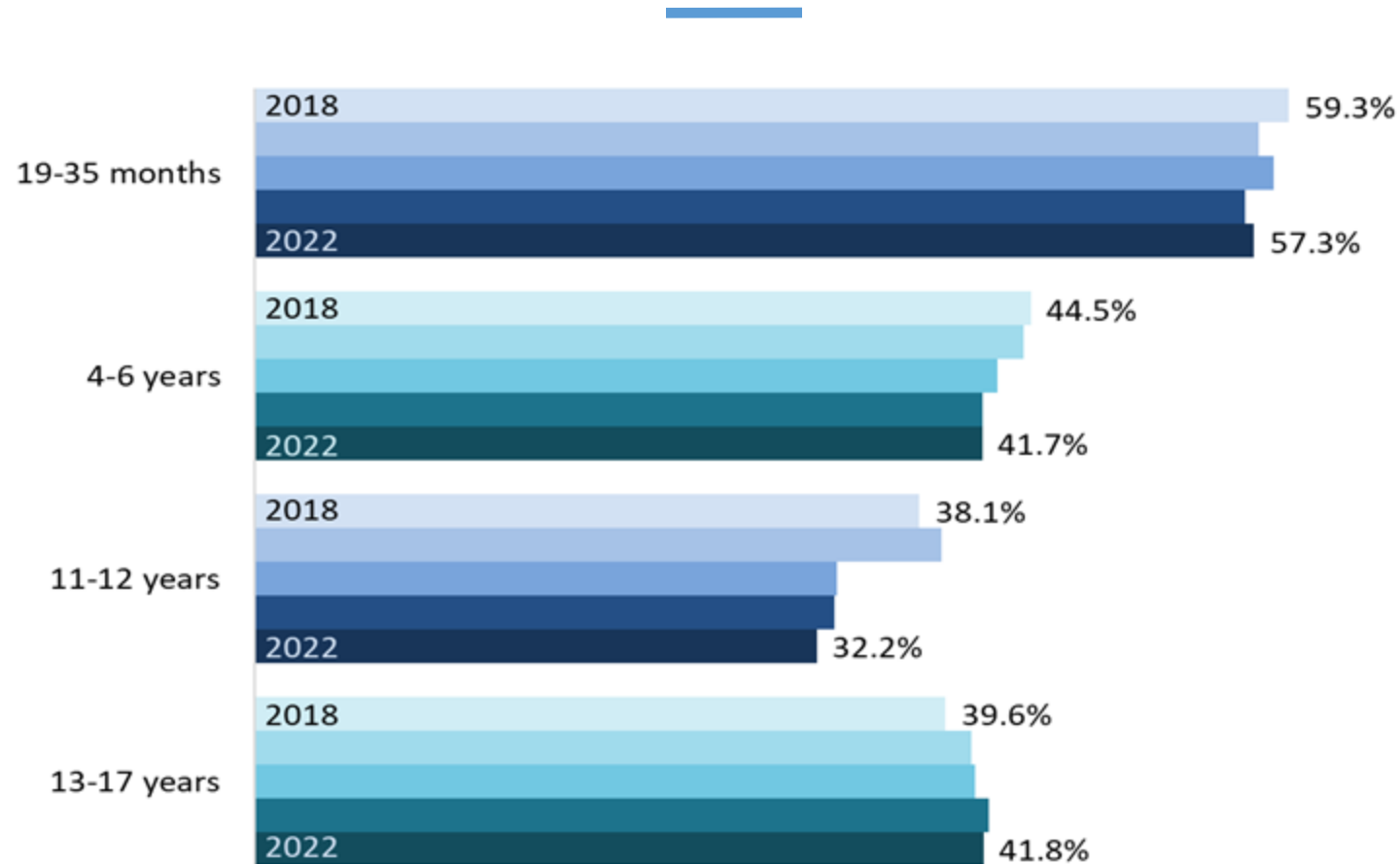


# Absolute percent change of fully vaccinated milestone-age children by county, December 2022

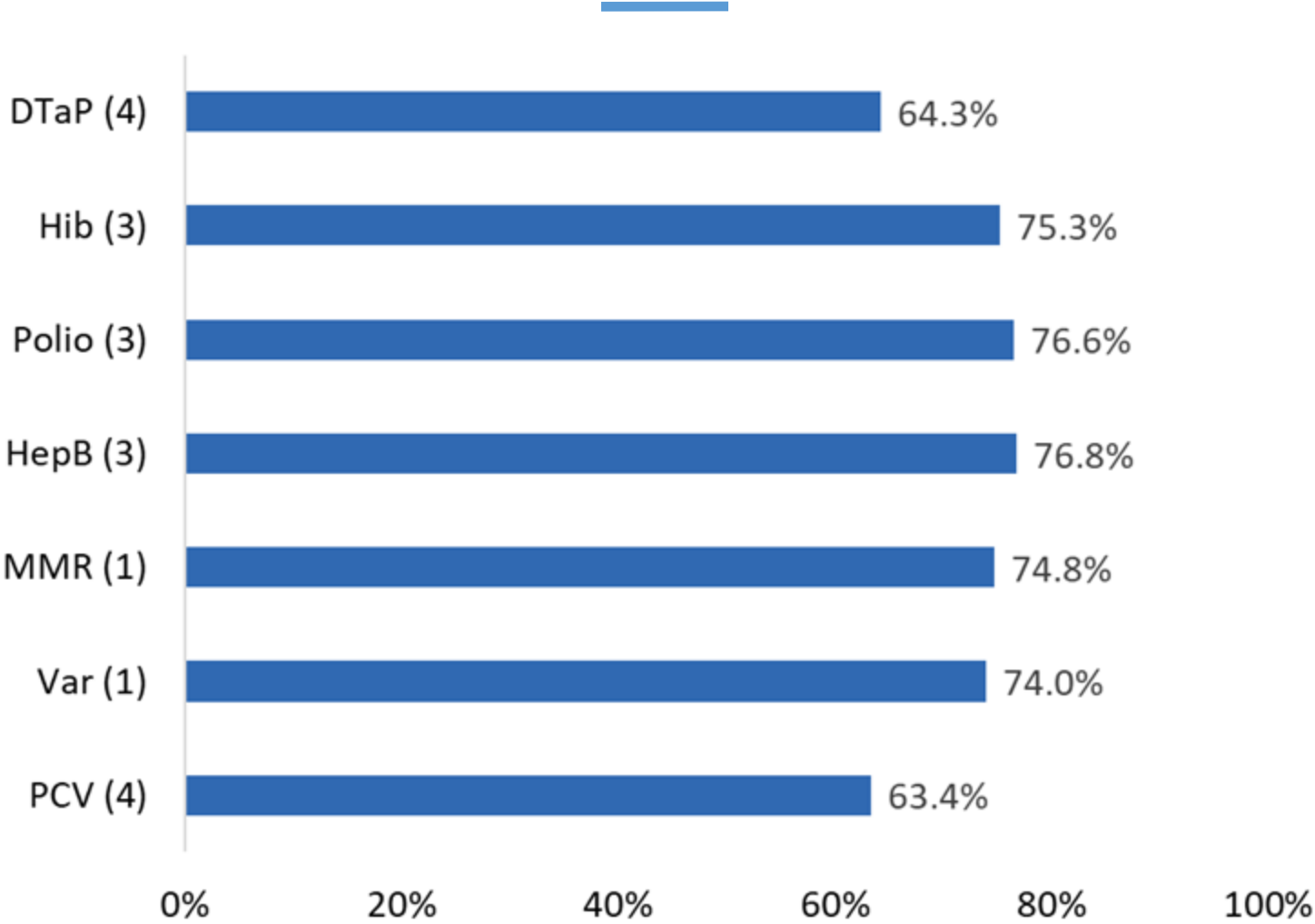




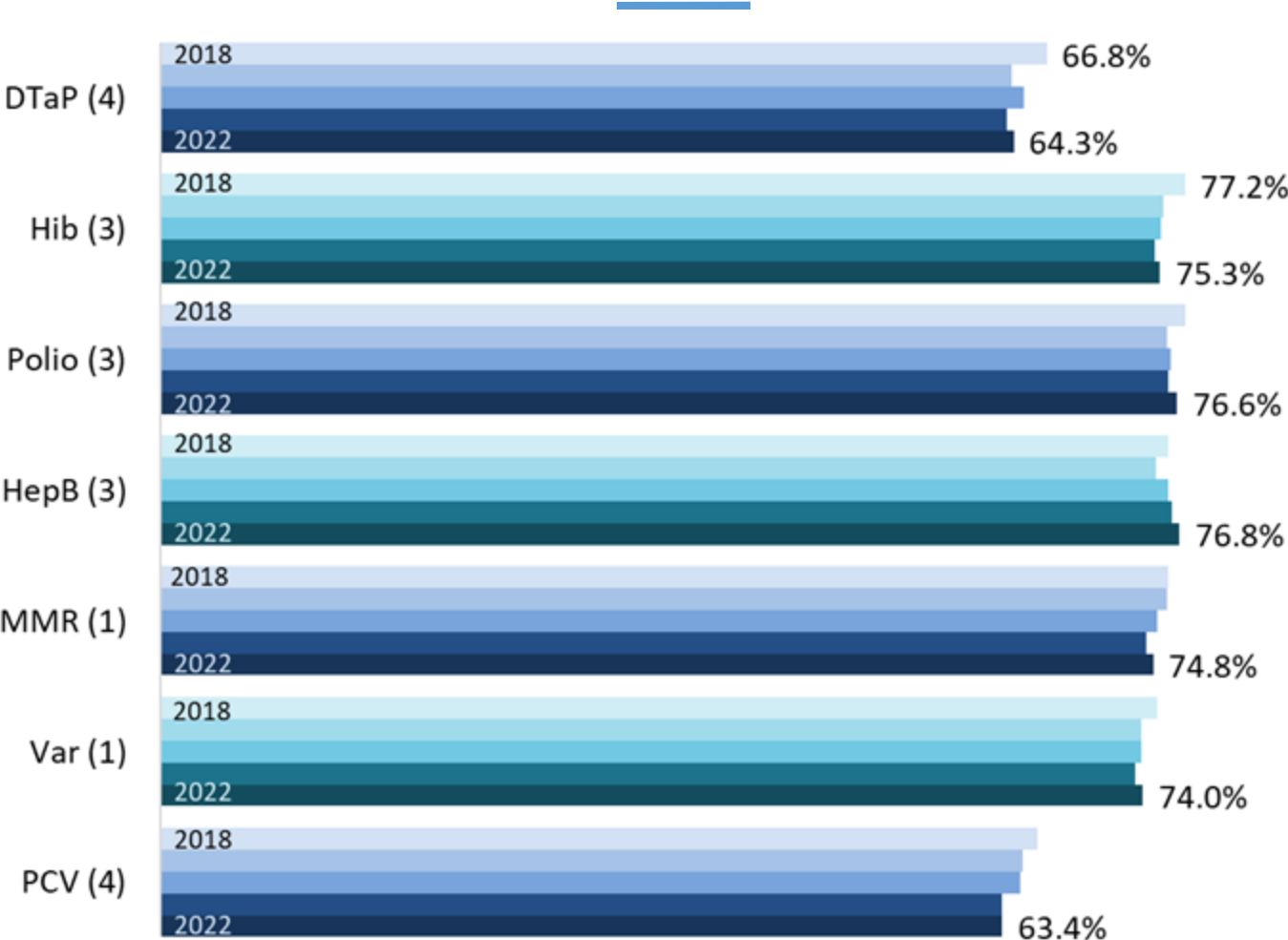
# Percent of fully vaccinated children by milestone age groups, December 2018-2022



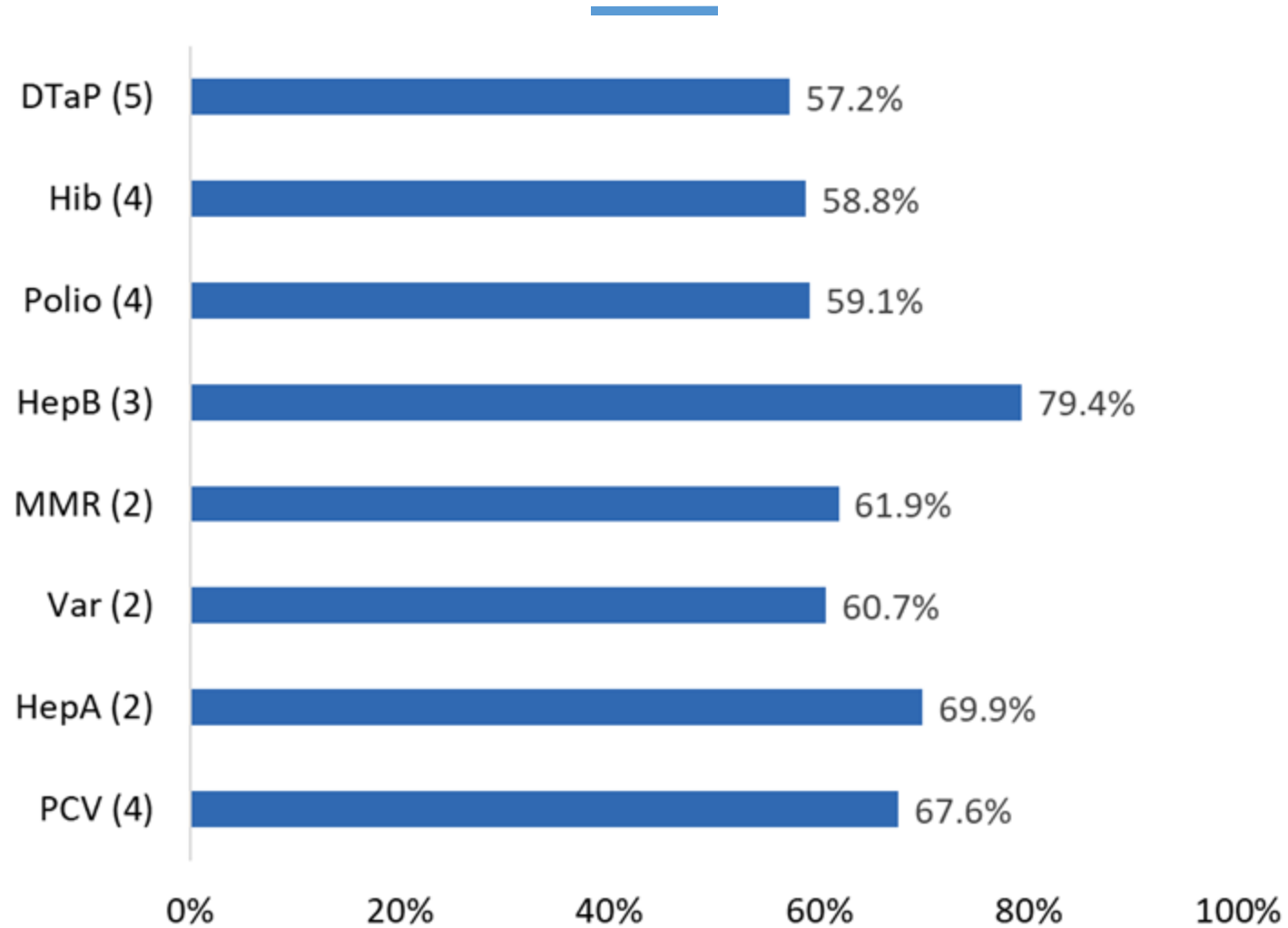
# Coverage rates for 19-35 month-olds by vaccine, December 2022



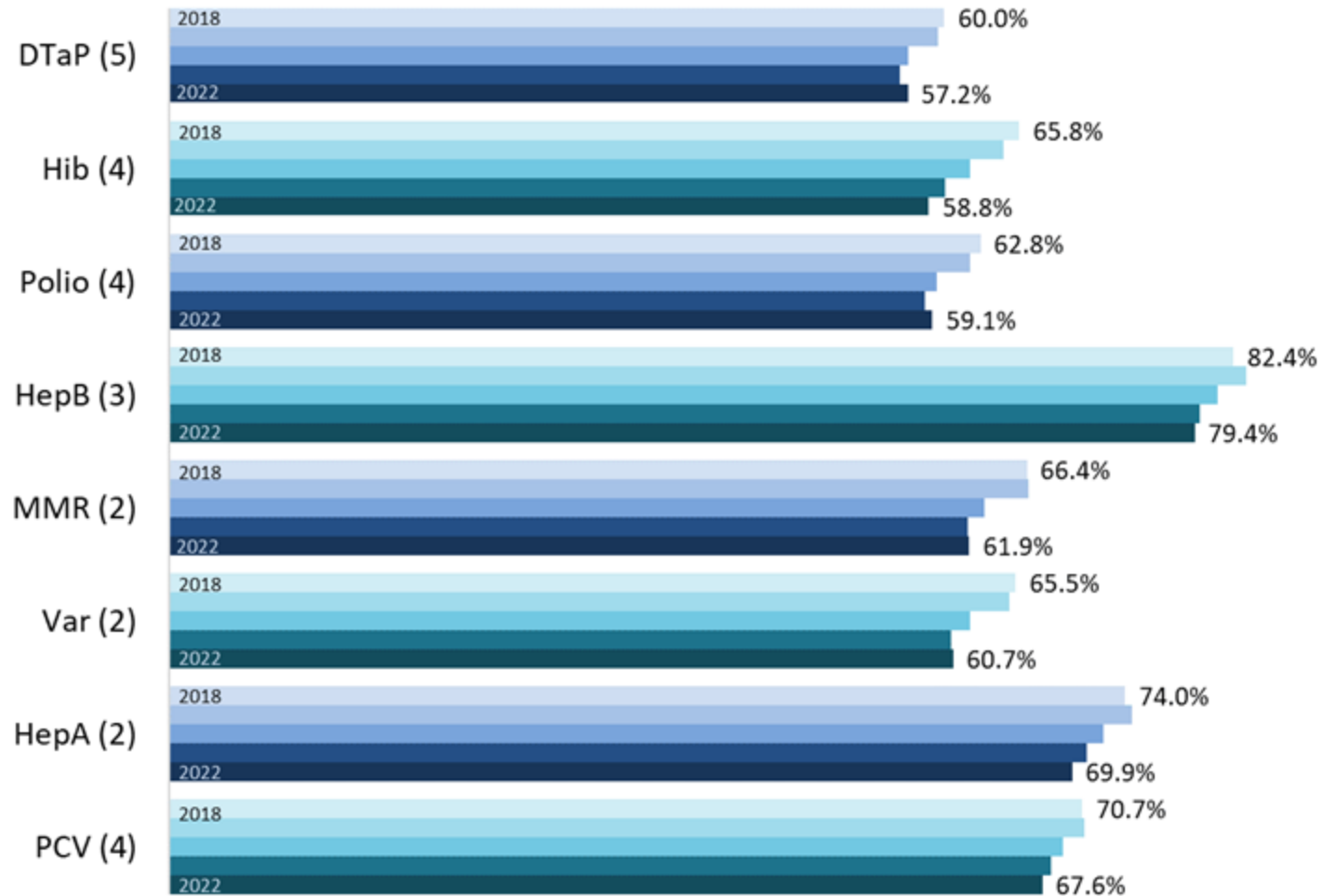
# Coverage rates for 19-35 month-olds by vaccine, December 2018-2022



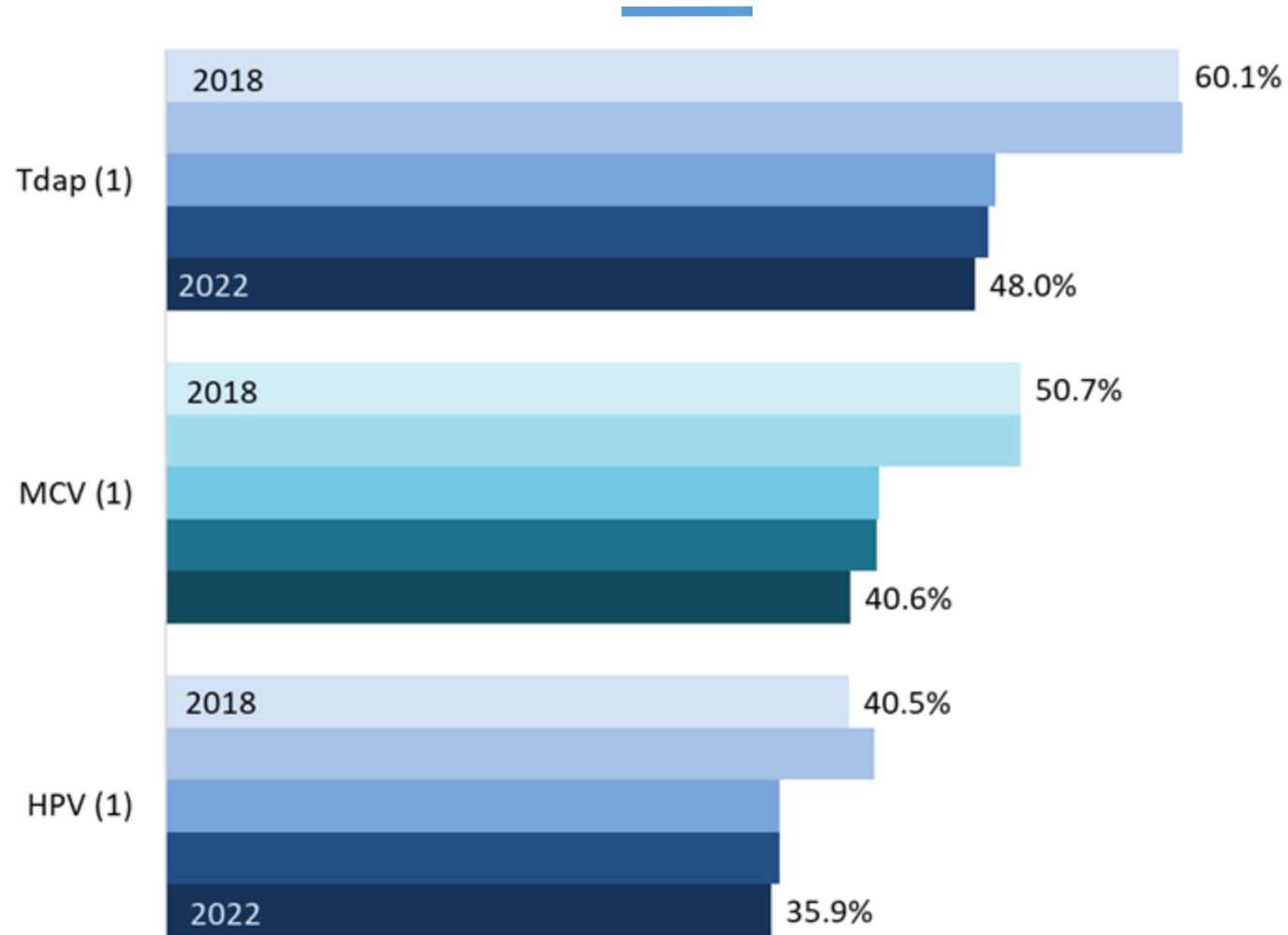
## Coverage rates for 4-6 year-olds by vaccine, December 2022



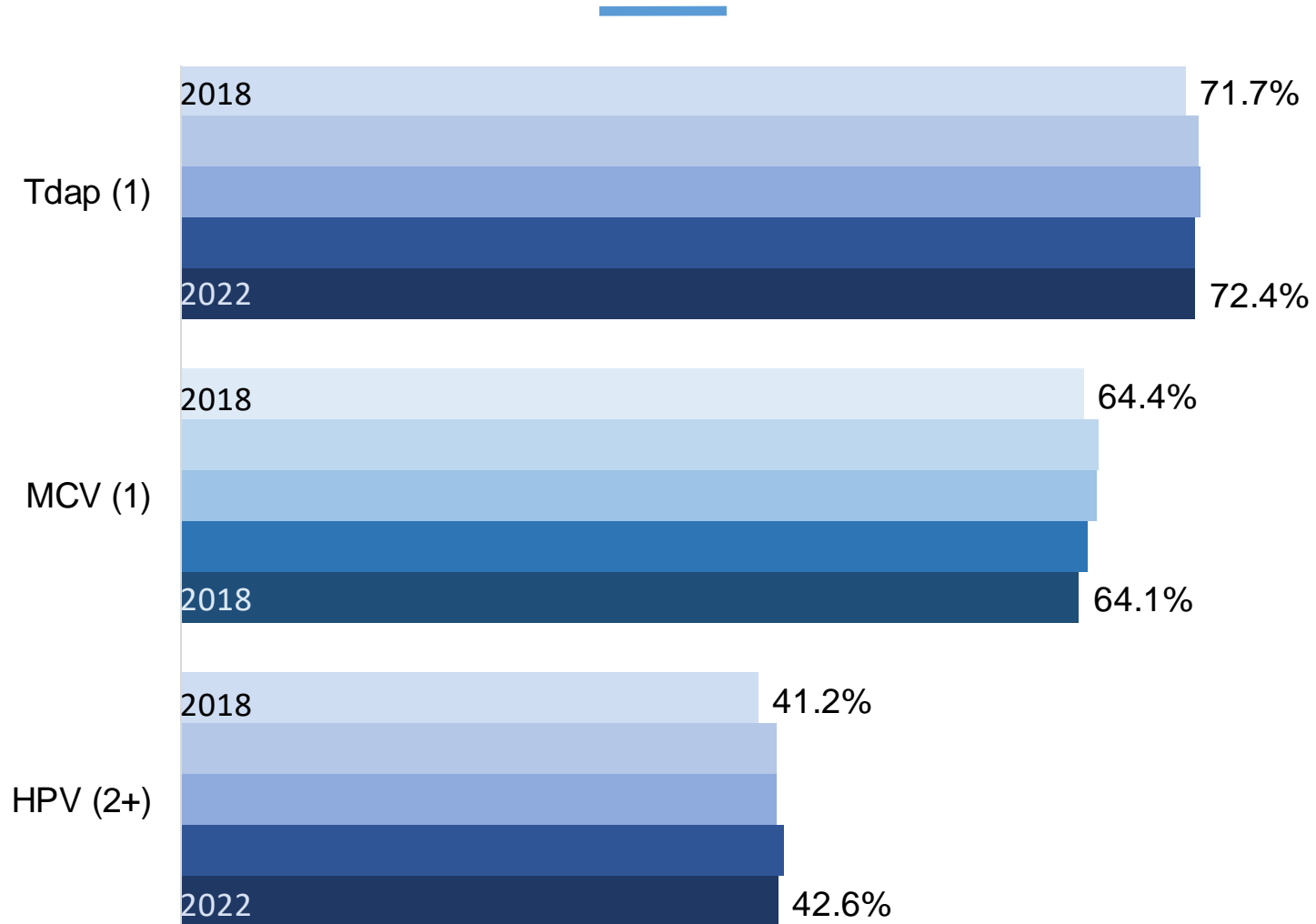
## Coverage rates for 4-6 year-olds by vaccine, December 2018-2022



## Coverage rates for 11-12 year-olds by vaccine, December 2018-2022



## Coverage rates for 13-17 year-olds by vaccine, December 2018-2022



## Evolving Goals



- Increase the proportion of:
  - Individuals (Women) who get the Tdap vaccine during pregnancy
  - Adolescents who get recommended doses of the HPV vaccine
  - People who get the flu vaccine every year
- Increase the coverage level of 4 doses of the DTaP vaccine in children by age 2 years
- Reduce the proportion of children who get no recommended vaccines by age 2 years
- Maintain the vaccination coverage level of:
  - 1 dose of MMR vaccine in children by age 2 years
  - 2 doses of the MMR vaccine for children in kindergarten
- Other vaccine related goals reducing infectious diseases

Source: [Vaccination - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](https://www.health.gov/ourpriorities/vaccination)



## Key Takeaways

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- Over 70% of our population has received a complete COVID-19 vaccine series and more than 30% of the eligible population has received a bivalent booster dose. Coverage rates vary by age, county, and race/ethnicity.
- Overall flu coverage rates are holding steady, though there are differences by age group.
- Absolute changes in childhood vaccination coverage rates from Dec 2018-2022 were most noticeable for the 11- to 12-year-olds.
- Since December 2021, childhood vaccination coverage rates have started to stabilize, with some vaccines showing small increases.
- Rates for all vaccines in the 11-12 year-old series (Tdap, HPV, MCV) and in HPV in the 13-17 year olds remain the lowest. Future efforts should be targeted to these areas.

# Provider Interviews and Surveys: Barriers to Childhood Immunizations



## Quality Improvement – Understanding Barriers to Childhood Immunizations

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*Goal: Connect with VFC enrolled providers across Washington to determine impact of the pandemic and strategies to increase rates of childhood vaccinations statewide*

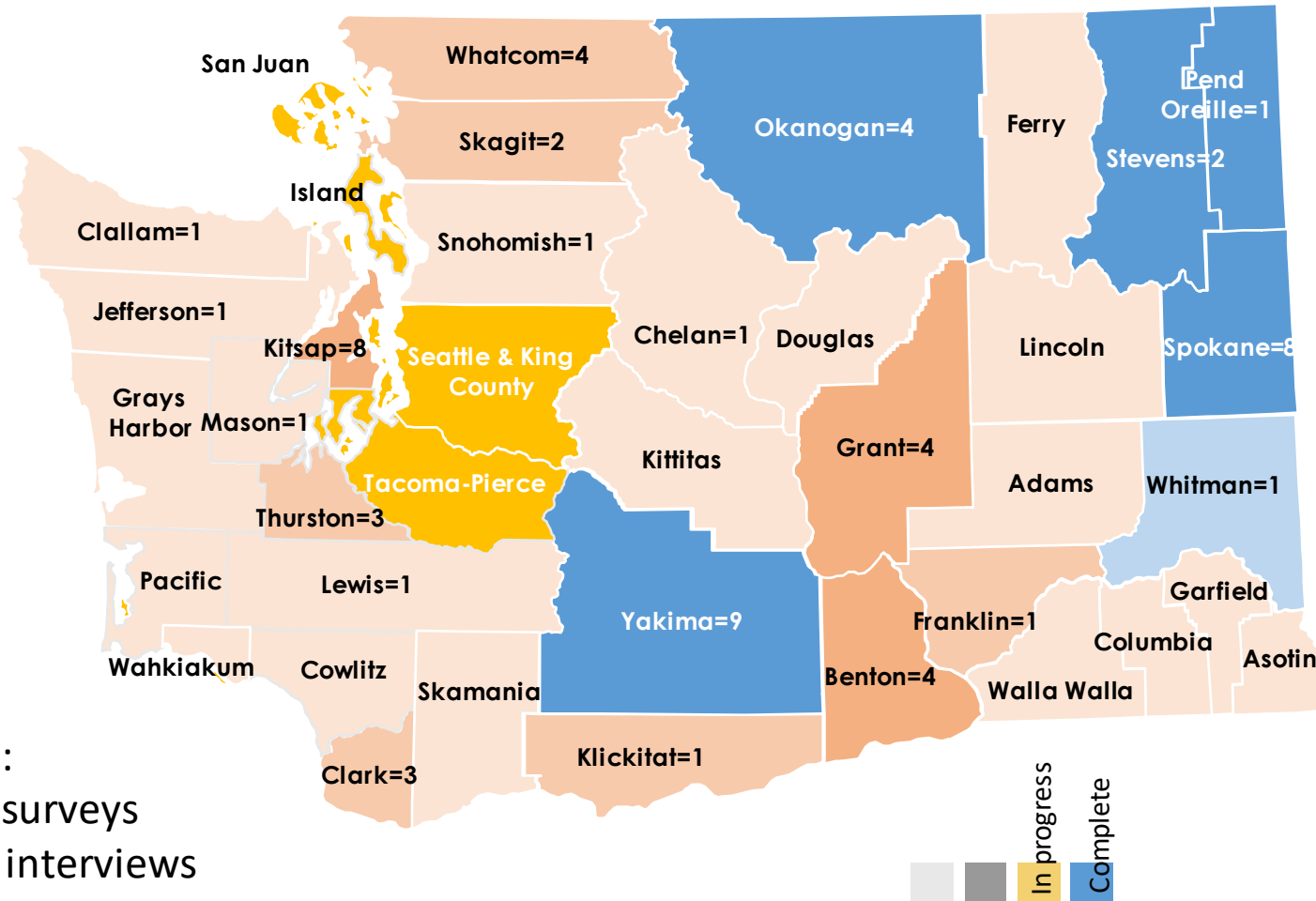
- Joint efforts of Seattle Children’s Hospital residents, DOH nurse mobile team coordinators, and University of Washington DOH intern – December 2022 to present
- Emails, phone calls, and surveys sent to providers
- Survey questions cover:
  - Demographics, enrollment process in VFC, and barriers/challenges/attitudes

## VFC Program

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- The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program: federally funded, provides vaccines at no cost to children
  - Began in 1994
  - Entitlement program (Congress must fund vaccine purchase)
- Every state and US territory has a VFC Program
- WA provides vaccine to ALL children under 19 years of age regardless of insurance status
  - VFC Program is the federally funded portion of Washington State's Childhood Vaccine Program (CVP)
- About 1,000 active clinic offices enrolled
- About 3 million doses of vaccine distributed annually

# VFC Provider Interviews and Surveys



May 2023:  
 22 online surveys  
 41 phone interviews

## Reasons for Decreased Childhood Immunization Rates per Providers

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<b>Themes from provider interviews</b>	<b>Frequency of mentions</b>
Barriers to access	18
Misinformation	11
Distrust/ hesitancy	19
Immunization storage/ system issues	11
Population-specific challenges	13
Outreach challenges	18
Inadequate staffing	4
Other	6

## Provider Perceptions Regarding Vaccine Access

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*What specific challenges do you face when counseling about vaccines?*

- 55% of VFC providers report patients/families have received misinformation about vaccines
- “Misguiding online info presented to the public about vaccines.”
- “Resistance to even discuss vaccines.”
- “Parents who are misinformed about vaccines and adamant that what they believe is correct.”

## Provider Perceptions Regarding Vaccine Access

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*What is your understanding of vaccine attitudes among different demographics in your county?*

- 63% report patient/family hesitancy about vaccines
- “More hesitancy toward flu and COVID in all pediatric age groups and ethnicities. Ready acceptance of COVID booster by most 50+ with a MUCH greater hesitancy among working rural 20-60 y.o.”
- “Parents are frightened. We often have to earn their trust over time.”
- “Most when educated during their clinic visit will take the vaccine for their child.”



## Suggestions From Providers for Increased Rates

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### Providing more information to the public

- Brochures
- Marketing
- Mailing reminders – birthdays, next check-up
- Communication
  - Telephone calls/follow up

### In clinic

- Staffing – to provide more support in clinic
- Posters in facility
- Availability for new patient and walk-ins/same day appts

For Interested Providers

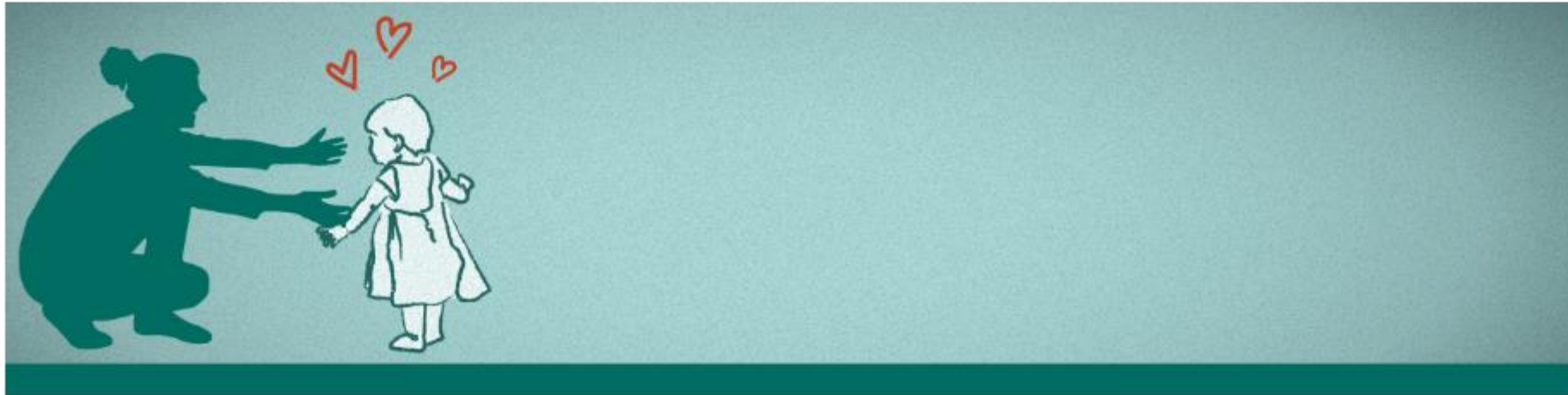
Please scan our QR code to take the survey! Or, stop by the DOH table and scan, or sign up for an interview via Teams, Zoom, or over the phone. We would love to hear from you!



# Resources to Improve Childhood Vaccinations



# Childhood Vaccine Campaign Toolkit



Starting in March 2023, the Department of Health is launching a communication campaign to encourage families to catch up on childhood immunizations. The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for many families to schedule in-person well-child visits and vaccinations. Well-child visits are important to track a child's growth and to prevent serious diseases. Now is the time to catch up!

This web page is a resource for school staff, health care providers, and health professionals to promote vaccination and well-child visits for this campaign.

# Childhood Vaccine Campaign Toolkit

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- Childhood Vaccine Campaign General Flyer 1
  - [8.5x11 PDF](#)
  - [11x17 PDF](#)
- Childhood Vaccine Campaign General Flyer 2
  - [8.5x11 PDF](#)
  - [11x17 PDF](#)
- [Sample Newsletter Articles \(PDF\)](#)
- [Childhood Vaccine Campaign Sample Social Media Posts \(PDF\)](#)



## Additional Resources

### WA DOH Immunization



- [Immunize Washington](#)
  - Recognizes clinics that reach immunization rates of 70 percent or higher
- [Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers \(IQIP\)](#)
  - Provider-level quality improvement strategies
- [Association of Immunization Managers](#)
- Updating resources
  - [Medical assistant training update](#)
  - [Revision of the Plain Talk booklet](#)
- [Care-a-Van](#) piloting routine immunizations in June



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