Vaccination and Screening Rates of Hepatitis B among Newborns

Trends 2021 - 2025 **June 2026**

Hepatitis B is a highly infectious disease of the liver that is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Serious to life-threatening illnesses, such as liver disease or liver cancer, can occur with infection.

HBV is transmitted through contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. It's well known that mother-to-newborn infection can occur during childbirth, but anyone can be infected. The best way to prevent HBV is to be vaccinated, this includes vaccination for infants.

Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all infants.

More than half of people with hepatitis B are unaware of their infection status, and between 50%–70% of people with acute hepatitis B are asymptomatic[1]. Without testing, people with HBV infection can unknowingly transmit the virus to others. It is recommended all pregnant women are screened for HBV.

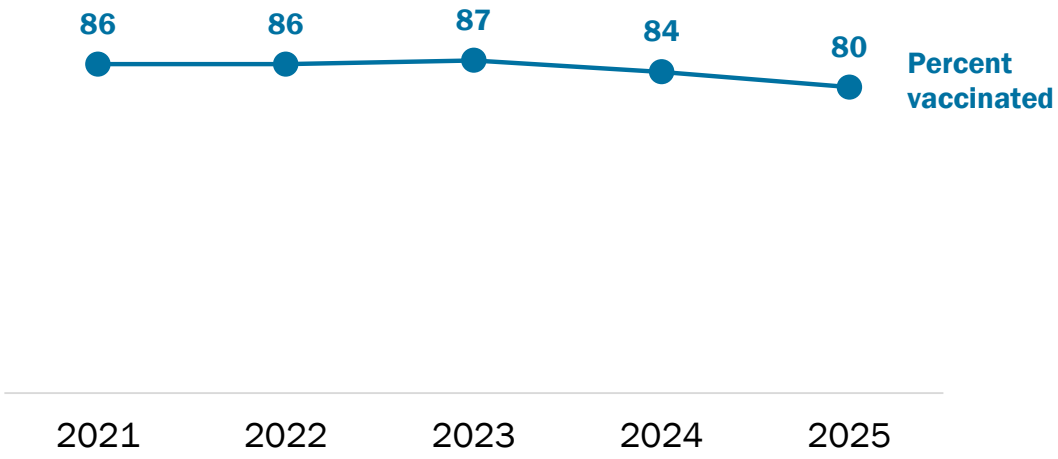
If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact imr@vermont.gov.

Hepatitis B Immunization Coverage Among Vermont Infants

- Immunity lasts for at least 30 years in healthy people who receive the hepatitis B vaccine when they are 6 months of age or younger.
- In Vermont, the percentage of infants who received the vaccine within the first three days of life increased from 47% in 2013 to 87% in 2023.
- However, in the past two years, this percentage has dropped to 80%.

- National data reflects similar trends, with the percentage of infants receiving the hepatitis B vaccine peaking at 83% in 2023 and declining to 73% in 2025[2].

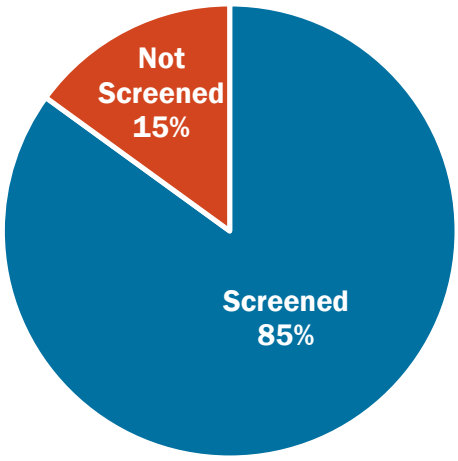
In Vermont, the percent of infants receiving the hepatitis B vaccine in the first three days of life declined in 2024 and 2025.



Hepatitis B Screening

- CDC recommends HBV screening for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) for all pregnant women during each pregnancy, preferably in the first trimester, regardless of vaccination status or history of testing.
- In Vermont, 85% of pregnant people between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2025 were screened for HBV.

In the first six months of 2025, 85% of women were screened for HBV.



Source: Vermont Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System, 2026

Notes:

- Vermont Immunization Registry may be missing some immunization doses administered out of the state.
- The HBV screening rate may not be representative of all Vermonters as it is estimated that VHCURES is missing about 40% of covered lives from the commercial market.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- All analyses, conclusions, and recommendations provided here from VHCURES are solely those of the Department of Health and not necessarily those of the Green Mountain Care Board.

Sources:

Vermont Immunization Registry, April 2026

Vermont Vital Statistics birth files, 2021-2025 data

Vermont Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System, March 2026

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[1]Kodani M, Schillie SF. Chapter 4: Hepatitis B. In: Roush S, Baldy LM, Kirkconnell Hall MA, eds. Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 2020.

[2]Rothman JM, Kwan B, Longhurst CA, Jena AB. US Newborn Hepatitis B Virus Vaccination Rates. JAMA. 2026;335(12):1086–1087. doi:10.1001/jama.2026.0866