
**Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Ref: FOI - 2402-2068681
NHSE:0796334**

1 message

FOICRM (NHS ENGLAND - X24) <england.foicrm@nhs.net>

Thu, Feb 22, 2024 at 9:56 AM

To: Leo Benedictus [REDACTED]

Dear Leo Benedictus

We refer to your email of 06 February 2024 in which you requested information under the FOI Act from NHS England.

Your request

You made the following request:

Please send me in electronic format any documents you hold that include details of how the figure of 3.4 million unprotected children being targeted for the MMR catch up campaign was calculated, as announced in this press release.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/01/nhs-launches-catch-up-campaign-for-missed-mmr-vaccines/>

I would like to see the number of children under 16 eligible for an MMR dose who have not yet received it, by year of age.

Decision

NHS England holds the information you have requested and has decided to release all of the information that it holds.

Q1: 'documents you hold that include details of how the figure of 3.4 million unprotected children being targeted for the MMR catch up campaign was calculated, as announced in this press release'

The 3.4 million estimate was taken from a live data position as part of the planning process for national MMR programme activities including MMR call and recall. The cohort represented is of children aged 1 year to 16 years who we identified as potentially requiring a NHS MMR vaccination reminder. It does not include reminders to children. The figure was taken from a live IT system at a point in time during the planning period for national MMR call and recall. In terms of the data pathway from which the data was sourced, the pathway steps are as follows:

- MMR vaccination data for operational planning purposes is extracted from the GP record and mapped to a national specification by GPIT suppliers, see published technical specification for GPIT suppliers : [Vaccination - NHS Digital](#).
- The GPIT supplier uploads vaccine event data to the NHS Data Processing Service (DPS), there is further processing along the data pathway.
- To identify potential invitees, the first step was to establish those children who have not received a dose. This involved comparing MMR vaccination data for those known to have received a dose against the master patient index, and returned those that did not generate a match.

- The second step was to establish those who have received one, but not 2 doses. This used MMR vaccination data only, identifying those where only one dose was recorded. There was no need to compare to any patient list as all of these children were eligible for a second dose.
- The calculations were performed and the results reported via the NHSE data platform, Foundry. Foundry data is used for operational planning purposes.

Estimated cohort data is available for planning purposes from both the DPS part of the data pathway and Foundry. Cohort sizes available to NHSE for operational purposes are drawn from several sources and as such are higher than population statistics reported elsewhere. The 3.4 million estimate is not an official statistical position on the number of children unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. It represents the number of children we may contact directly to encourage a check of their immunisation status, update of their vaccination record and if clinically appropriate vaccination.

Q2: I would like to see the number of children under 16 eligible for an MMR dose who have not yet received it, by year of age'

As for question 1, we cannot replicate the live 3.4 million estimate, we can however provide an estimate of the current number of children aged 1 to up to 16 that have either no doses or only one dose. This is currently over 3.13m. This data represents an operational estimate based on data held at a point in time, and does not reflect an official statistic.

This breaks down as:

No doses (unvaccinated): 1.96m

One dose (under-vaccinated): 1.17m

This is based on operational data extracted on 15 February 2024. This figure changes on a daily basis, as both the number of eligible children and the number of those vaccinated changes daily. Eligibility for second doses starts at the age of 3 years 4 months, as set out in the current routine vaccination schedule. Ages are estimated and calculated within one month tolerance.

The age year breakdown is as follows:

	Received no doses	Received one dose only	Total un / under vaccinated
1-2	177,150		177,150
2-3	97,610		97,610
3-4	92,947	127,416	220,363
4-5	89,604	101,768	191,372
5-6	97,030	80,358	177,388
6-7	104,392	75,915	180,307
7-8	113,243	76,464	189,707
8-9	122,889	81,964	204,853
9-10	126,550	85,986	212,536
10-11	130,655	90,232	220,887
11-12	142,265	94,427	236,692
12-13	151,631	95,910	247,541
13-14	162,582	95,909	258,491
14-15	171,515	88,551	260,066
15-16	180,436	79,654	260,090
Total	1,960,499	1,174,554	3,135,053

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If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of any internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether your request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the FOI Act.

A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to england.contactus@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information
NHS England**

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