

Summary

In Quarter 4-2004, national immunisation uptake rates in children 12 months of age remained unchanged from the previous quarter (84%). BCG and MenC₃ were exceptions, both increased by 1%. Uptake rates of 93% and 84% were reported, respectively.

At 24 months, national uptake rates increased by 1% for D₃, P₃, T₃, Hib₃ and MenC₃ when compared with the previous quarter. Uptake rates for Polio₃ remained unchanged. MMR₁ uptake rates increased by 2%.

Uptake rates at 24 months for D₃ and T₃ were 91%, while those for P₃, Hib₃, and Polio₃ were 90%. MenC₃ uptake was 89%. MMR₁ uptake was 83%. This is the highest MMR₁ uptake seen in Ireland since Q4-2000, when 83% uptake was also reported.

Trends at 12 months

Figure 1 presents the national uptake rates at 12 months for each vaccine from Q3-2000 to Q4-2004. National uptake rates for all antigens at 12 months in Q4-2004 remained unchanged when compared to the previous quarter with the exception of BCG and MenC₃ where uptake increased by 1%. ERHA, MWHB and WHB reported 2% increases in uptake rates for all vaccines at 12 months. SHB reported a 1-2 % increase and NEHB a 1% increase. There was no change in uptake levels in MHB. In NWHB and SEHB a decline in uptake rates was observed in this quarter, falling by 3% and 1%, respectively.

Internationally

Vaccination coverage statistics for children 12 months of age in Quarter 4-2004 were 94-95% in Northern Ireland and 90-91% for the United Kingdom as a whole¹.

Introduction

The immunisation uptake statistics presented in this report relate to children 12 and 24 months of age in Quarter 4-2004 and who have received three doses of vaccines against diphtheria (D₃), pertussis (P₃), tetanus (T₃), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib₃), polio (Polio₃), meningococcal group C (MenC₃), one dose of vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR₁; uptake at 24 months only) and one dose of BCG vaccine (BCG; uptake at 12 months only). These statistics therefore relate to uptake in the cohorts born between 01/10/2003 & 31/12/2003 and 01/10/2002 & 31/12/2002.

Immunisation uptake at 12 months

Immunisation uptake rates in children 12 months of age in Q4-2004 are presented (Table 1). National uptake rates for D₃, T₃, P₃, Hib₃, Polio₃ and MenC₃ were 84%. The highest uptake rates for these vaccines at 12 months were reported by the MHB (91%), while the lowest rates were reported in the ERHA (81%).

Quarter 4-2004 is the sixth quarter where uptake statistics for BCG vaccination are presented. Data are available for five of the eight health boards (data from SHB relates to Kerry CCA only). These areas cover only a third of the Q4-2004 birth cohort. Where data were available, national uptake was 93% for the BCG vaccination. This represents an increase of 1% on the figure reported in Q3-2004. The target rate of 95% uptake was reached in the SEHB in Q4-2004.

Table 1. Immunisation uptake (%) at 12 months in cohort born 01/10/2003–31/12/2003

Health Board	No. in cohort	BCG	D ₃	P ₃	T ₃	Hib ₃	Polio ₃	MenC ₃
ERHA	5421	na	81	81	81	81	81	80
MHB	911	88	91	91	91	91	91	91
MWHB	1236	93	86	86	86	86	86	85
NEHB	1478	na	88	88	88	88	88	87
NWHB	801	90	88	88	88	88	88	87
SEHB	1691	96	86	86	86	86	86	86
SHB	2107	89 [†]	85	85	85	85	85	84*
WHB	1405	na	85	84	85	85	85	82
Ireland	15060[‡]	93	84	84	84	84	84	84

[†]SHB - part coverage of neonatal BCG (i.e. Kerry only)

[‡]number in cohort for BCG vaccination = 5017

* SHB – number in cohort for MenC₃ = 2124

na = not available at this time

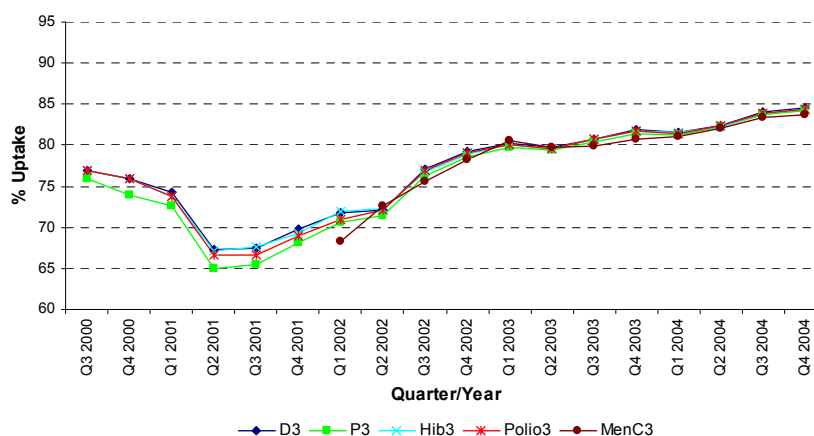


Figure 1. National quarterly immunisation uptake rates at 12 months

Immunisation uptake at 24 months

Immunisation uptake rates in children 24 months of age in Quarter 4-2004 are presented (Table 2). National uptake rates were 91% for D₃ and T₃, 90% for P₃, Hib₃ and Polio₃ and 89% for and MenC₃. Uptake rates for these vaccines ranged from 85-87% in the ERHA to 93-95% in the MHB and NWHB (Table 2). The target uptake rate of 95% was reached for D₃, T₃, Hib₃ and Polio₃ in both the MHB and NWHB. The target rate of 95% uptake was also reached in the NWHB for P₃ and in the MHB for MenC₃. MMR₁ uptake was 83% nationally, ranging from 78% in the ERHA to 92% in the MHB (Table 2).

Trends at 24 months

Figure 2 presents the national uptake rates at 24 months for each vaccine component from Q1-1999 to Q4-2004. In Q4-2004, national uptake rates increased by 1% for all vaccines at 24 months when compared with the previous quarter. A two percent increase in uptake for vaccines were reported by the MWHB and SEHB.

MMR₁ uptake

In Q4-2004, the national MMR₁ uptake rate at 24 months was 83%, an increase of 2% on the previous quarter. MMR₁ uptake rates increased by 2-3% in the ERHA, NWHB, SEHB and WHB and by 1% in MWHB. The uptake rate for MMR₁ remained unchanged in MHB, NEHB and SHB. As in Q3-2004, the highest uptake rate for MMR₁ uptake was recorded in the MHB (92%).

Internationally

In Q3-2004, vaccination coverage statistics at 24 months for D₃, P₃, T₃, Hib₃, Polio₃ and MenC₃ were 96-97% in Northern Ireland and 93-94% for the United Kingdom as a whole.¹ MMR₁ uptake was 88% in Northern Ireland and 81% in the UK.¹

Conclusions

In Q4-2004, the national MMR₁ uptake rate for the first time reached the high of 83% reported in Q4-2000. However, this still remains 12% below the national target rate of 95% uptake. Uptake rates for all other vaccines remain 4-6% below the national target rates.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. COVER programme: October to December 2004. CDR Weekly 2005: 15(12). Available at: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/cdr/>

Table 2. Immunisation uptake (%) at 24 months in cohort born 01/10/2002 – 30/12/2002

Health Board	No. in cohort	D ₃	P ₃	T ₃	Hib ₃	Polio ₃	MenC ₃	MMR ₁
ERHA	5824	87	87	87	87	87	85	78
MHB	997	95	93	95	95	95	95	92
MWHB	1223	91	90	91	90	91	90	85
NEHB	1513	93	93	93	93	93	92	82
NWHB	756	95	95	95	95	95	93	90
SEHB	1615	93	93	93	93	93	92	88
SHB	2024	91	91	91	91	91	90	85
WHB	1326	91	91	91	91	91	88	81
Ireland	15278	91	90	91	90	90	89	83

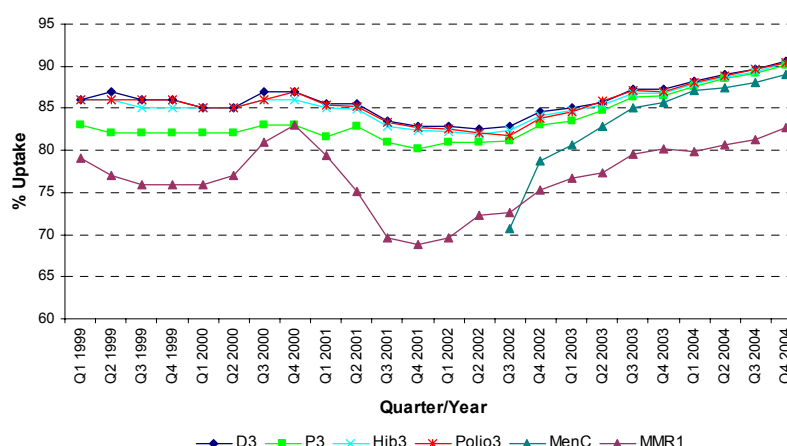


Figure 2. National quarterly immunisation uptake rates at 24 months

Further information

Table 3 presents recent national quarterly immunisation uptake rates at 24 months from Q1-2003 to Q4-2004. A complete listing of national and regional immunisation uptake statistics at 12 and 24 months for each health board are available at the following URL:

www.ndsc.ie/Publications/Immunisation/LatestImmunisationUptakeStatistics/

Table 3. National quarterly immunisation uptake rates at 24 months

Quarter -Year	D ₃	P ₃	T ₃	Hib ₃	Polio ₃	MenC ₃	MMR ₁
Q1-2003	85	84	85	85	85	81	77
Q2-2003	86	85	86	85	86	83	77
Q3-2003	87	86	87	87	87	85	80
Q4-2003	87	86	87	87	87	86	80
Q1-2004	88	88	88	88	88	87	80
Q2-2004	89	88	89	89	89	87	81
Q3-2004	90	89	90	89	90	88	81
Q4-2004	91	90	91	90	90	89	83