

MISSING VACCINATIONS DURING COVID-19 PUTS OUR CHILDREN & COMMUNITIES AT RISK



Many Americans have delayed or stopped receiving routine and preventive care during the COVID-19 crisis. Unfortunately, this has meant significant drops in critical childhood vaccinations—a development that could affect community protections against serious diseases. To prevent further risk to our children and our communities, it's vital that children receive the recommended vaccinations on time or catch up on vaccinations missed as a result of the pandemic.

DECREASES IN VACCINATIONS

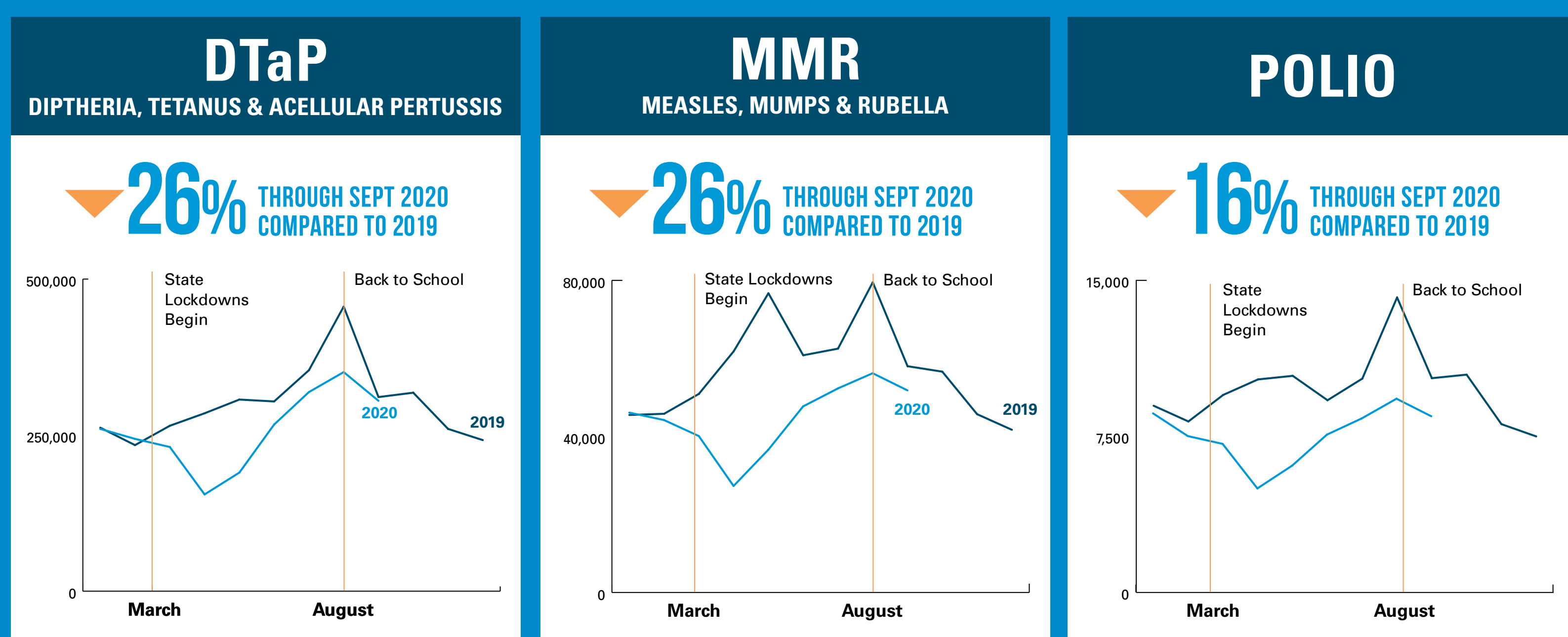
UP TO
26% DROP
FOR MMR, DTaP, & POLIO
VACCINES BETWEEN
JAN-SEPT 2020

AN ESTIMATED
9M DOSES
OF THESE VACCINES
COULD BE MISSED
BY THE END OF 2020

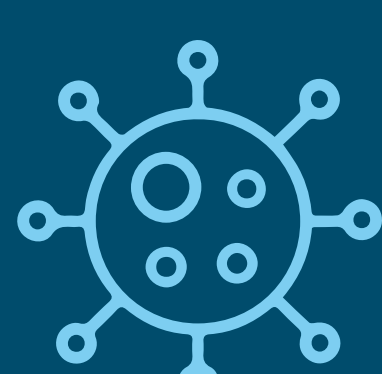
↑ INCREASES
RISK OF MEASLES
& WHOOPING COUGH
OUTBREAKS

↓ LOWERS
CURRENT COMMUNITY
PROTECTIONS AGAINST
THESE DISEASES

DOSES OF VACCINE ADMINISTERED IN 2019 AND 2020



40% OF PARENTS SAY THEIR CHILDREN MISSED VACCINATIONS DUE TO COVID-19



(Source: BCBSA, Childhood & Adolescent Vaccinations Trends, Sept 2020. A survey of 2,000 parents.)

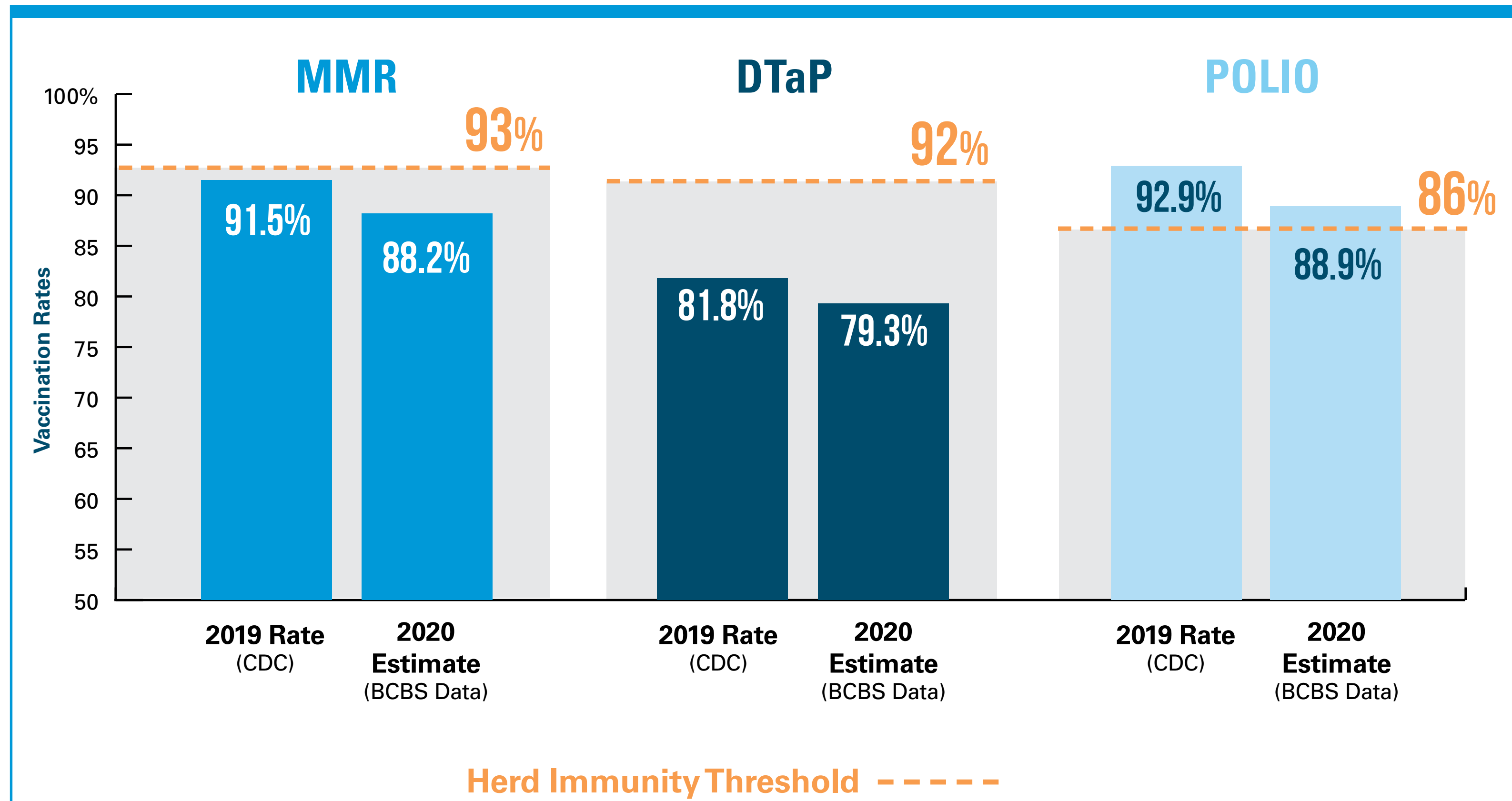
9M MISSED VACCINATIONS

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MISSED VACCINATIONS IN 2020

When we applied the decreases in vaccinations to the national population, we estimate as many as 9 million doses of MMR, DTaP and polio vaccines could be missed by the end of 2020.

REDUCED COMMUNITY PROTECTION FOR OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES AGAINST MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH AND POLIO

2019 AND 2020 (ESTIMATED) VACCINATION RATES FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-10 AND HERD IMMUNITY THRESHOLDS



WHY IT MATTERS

Losing herd immunity could erode protection for children and communities against diseases kept at bay, or nearly eradicated, for decades. Vaccination rates for measles and whooping cough were already trending downward before the pandemic, well below community protection levels. Herd immunity is the resistance of a community, in total, to the invasion and spread of an infectious agent as a result of a large proportion of individuals in the group being immunized.¹

If missed vaccines are not made up soon, our communities are at risk of seeing outbreaks of childhood diseases like measles and whooping cough. In addition, COVID-19 led many children to miss polio vaccinations, a disease that has largely been fully eradicated but could reemerge.

TAKE ACTION

We encourage parents to take their children in for wellness visits and to take measures to catch up on any missed vaccinations. Precautions can be taken to keep you and your child safe from COVID-19 while visiting the doctor. Wear masks, use hand sanitizer and wash hands frequently. In addition, healthcare providers across America are taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of patients who visit their offices.

1. Vaccine epidemiology: A review <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4943153/>
2. The following uses BCBS transactional data to estimate a percent decrease in these 3 childhood vaccinations.