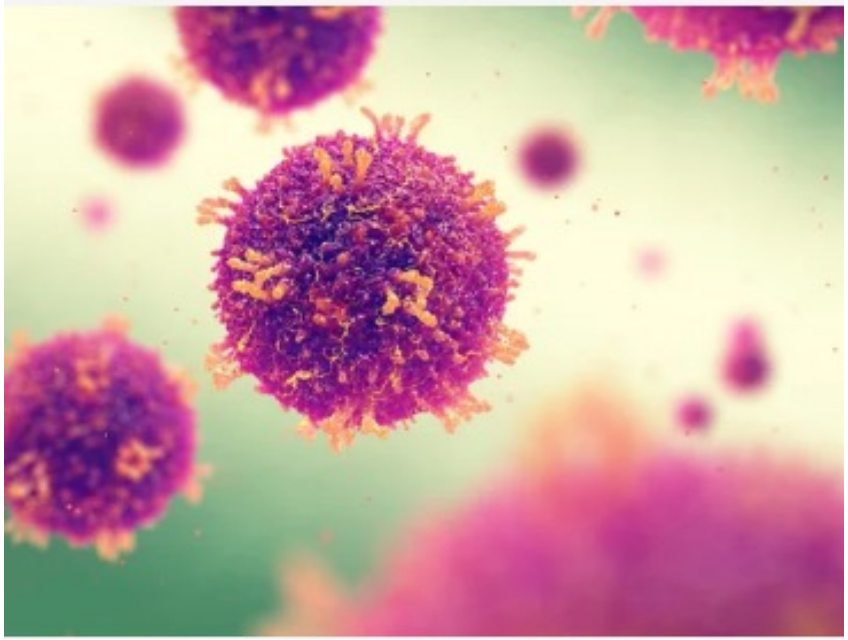
GPNI webinar 29.02.24

Measles awareness session





Public Health Agency

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing

Dr Heather Livingston

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Content

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- Key messages
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- Uptake figures
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- Resources
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Key messages

- Measles is not just a childhood disease; adults can become seriously unwell.
- Measles in pregnancy is serious and can cause stillbirth, premature labour and miscarriage.
- One in 15 measles cases can have complications such as meningitis, sepsis and blindness.
- The MMR vaccine is also available in a non-porcine version.
- Measles is one of the world's most infectious diseases, with one infected person giving it to approximately 15 other unvaccinated people.

Key messages

- One in five children will require a hospital visit if they become unwell with measles (source).
- The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and has been used since 1988.
- There is no medical treatment for measles; MMR vaccination is the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.
- MMR vaccination is free through HSCNI:
  - First dose at 12 months
  - Second doses at 3 years and 4 months old
- This provides long lasting protection against measles, mumps and rubella.
- No link between MMR vaccine and autism.

Drop in childhood vaccine uptake

- There has been a drop in uptake of **all** childhood vaccines across Northern Ireland since 2017/18.

- In order to achieve WHO targets of 95% and over, it is critical that children in Northern Ireland receive their vaccines at the appropriate age, as recommended by the Joint Committee for Vaccines and Immunisation (JCVI).

Measles surveillance

- Increased cases across all regions of England, ROI confirmed case who subsequently passed away, smaller number of cases in Scotland and Wales.

- Over 30,000 measles cases were reported by 40 of the 53 countries in the WHO European region between January and October 2023 (A 30-fold rise of measles cases in 2023 in the WHO European Region warrants urgent action and Measles on the rise in the EU/EEA - 16 February 2024 (europa.eu)).

- The WHO European Region provided a warning earlier in 2023 regarding a possible resurgence of measles across Europe and for countries to actively plan to catch up on vaccinations to prevent large scale outbreaks.

Measles surveillance

UK

Notifiable diseases: weekly reports for 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- Week ending 18/02/24: 1728 notifications in 2024 (compared to 111 for same weeks in 2023)

National Measles Standard Incident - measles epidemiology (from October 2023) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- 581 laboratory confirmed cases in England since 1st October 2023 with
- 169 confirmed cases since 1st January 2024 (updated 22nd February 2024)

Measles surveillance

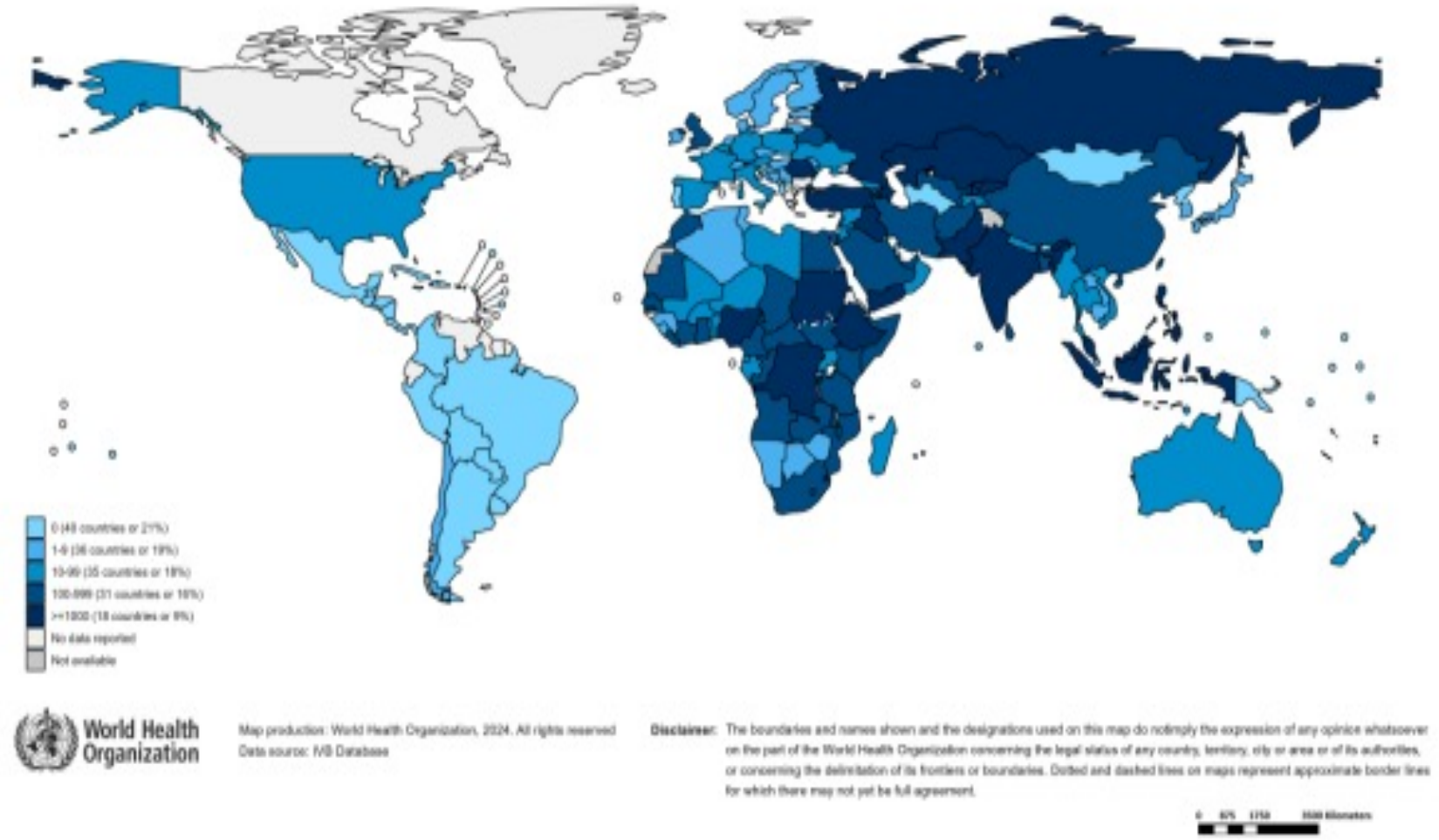
Northern Ireland

Measles | HSC Public Health Agency (hscni.net) (updated 22nd February 2024 and every Thursday)

Since 1st January 2024:

- 2 confirmed cases
- 34 notifications

Figure 1. Number of reported measles cases from July to December 2023, WHO [1]



MMR1 and MMR2 vaccination coverage

Health Protection Vaccine Surveillance Team

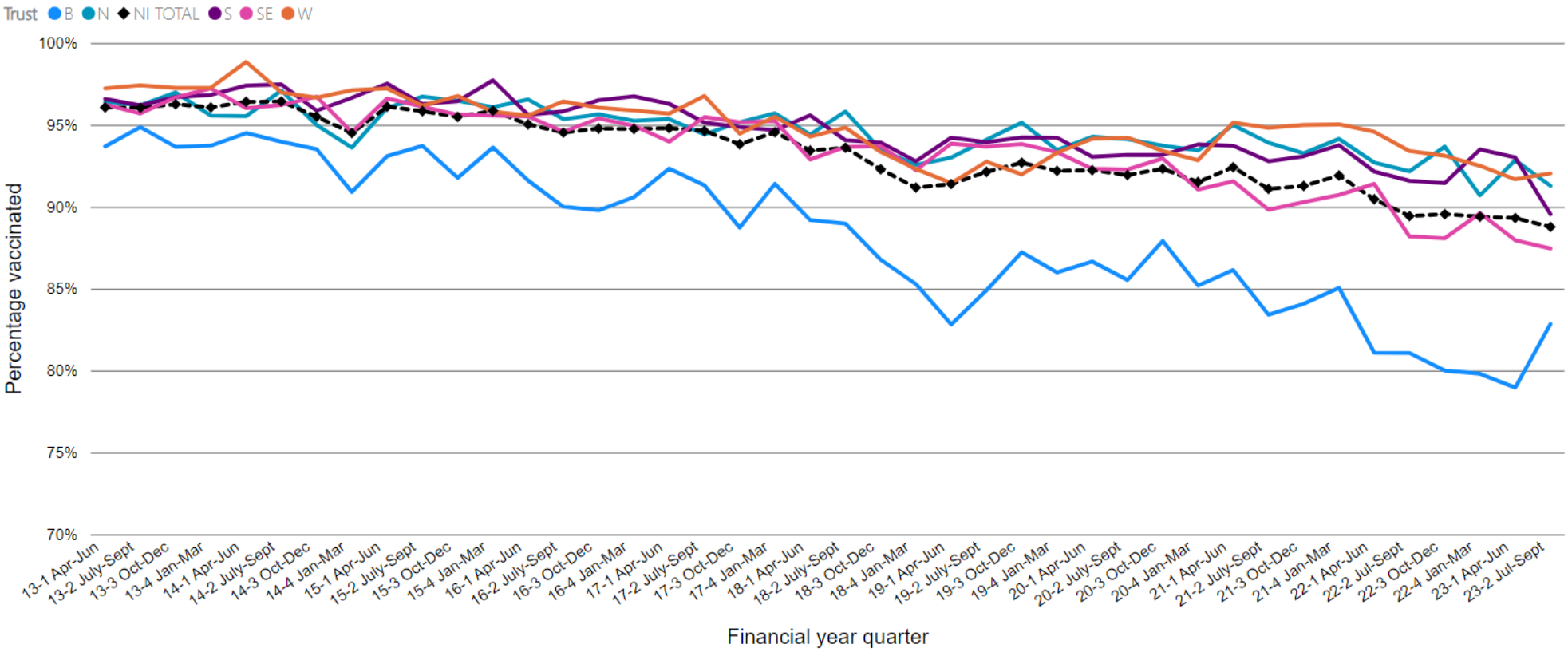
November 2023

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MMR1 at 24 months, by trust

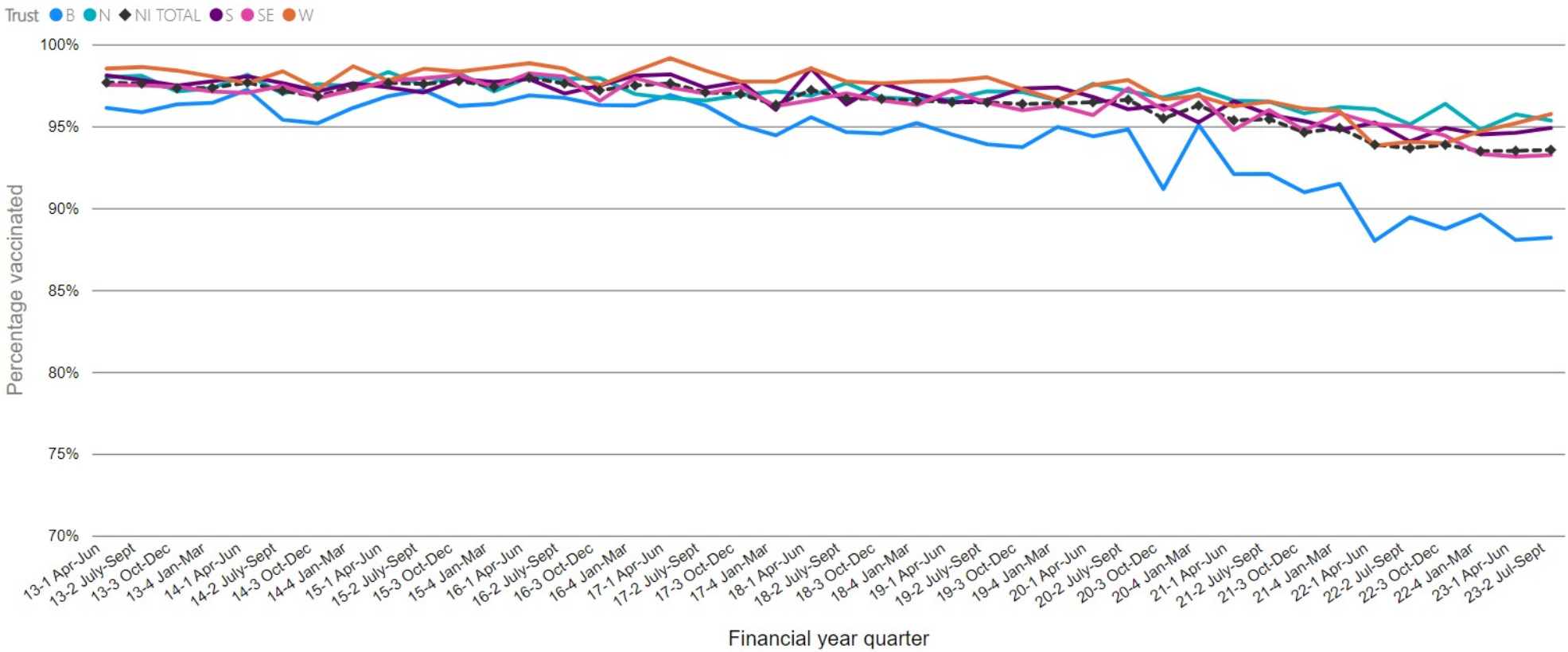


Vaccination uptake at 24 months of age, by trust, Northern Ireland

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MMR1 at 5 years, by trust

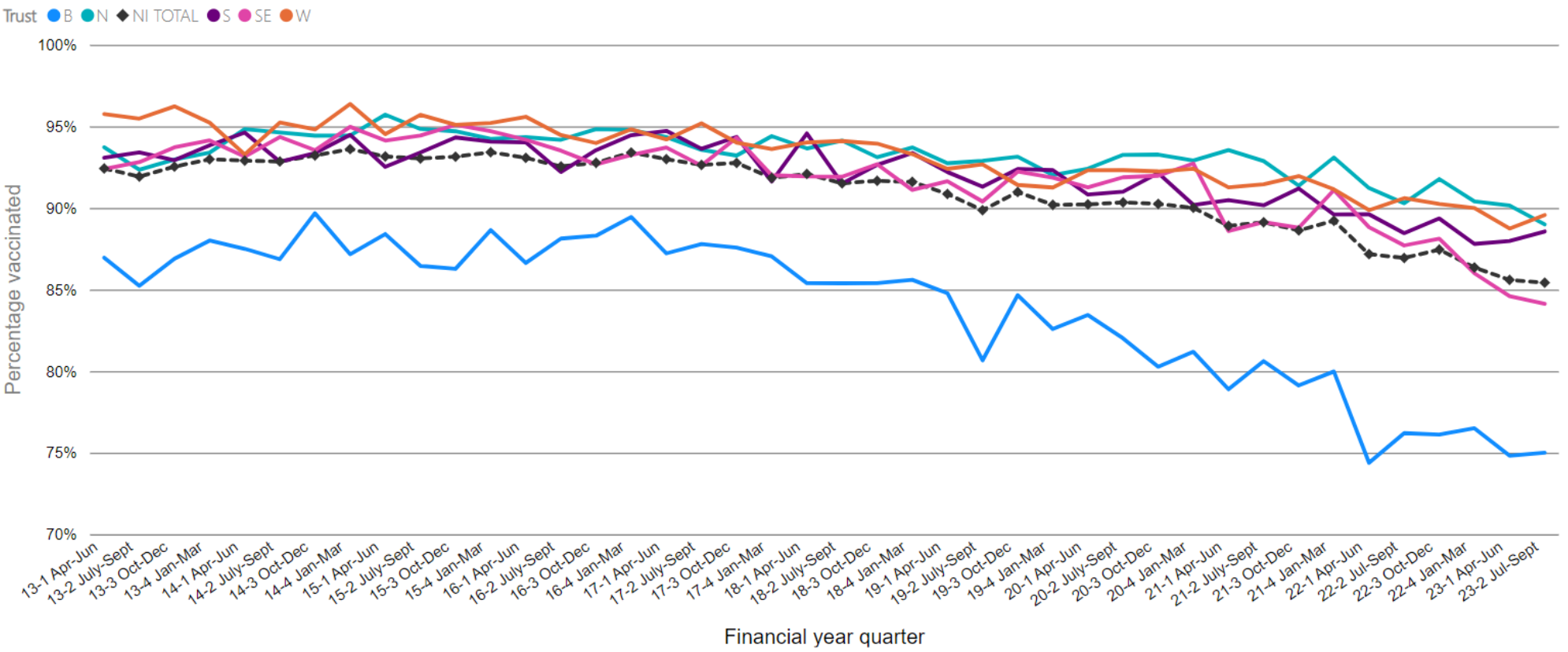


Vaccination uptake at 5 years of age, by trust, Northern Ireland

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MMR2 at 5 years, by trust



Vaccination uptake at 5 years of age, by trust, Northern Ireland

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MMR catch-up campaign 2024

Mixed model:

- GPs for 12 months to 5 years
- HSC Trusts for 6 years up to and including 25 years

- GPs will invite their patients and facilitate vaccination clinics.
- Runners lists have been sent to GPs according to CHS data of children outstanding 1 or 2 doses of MMR.
- It is important that the runner list is populated to reflect GP clinical systems on MMR vaccination status.
- For those 6 to 25 years inclusive, CHS have identified this cohort and a letter has been sent by PHA to come forward for vaccination.

Public communications

- Mass media campaign through radio and outdoor advertising
- Advertising through local news, social media and awareness raising through relevant community groups and charities
- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) | nidirect
- Northern Ireland MMR catch-up campaign | nidirect

Child Health System

- The Regional NI Child Health System (CHS) is used by all 5 HSC Trusts and GPs to record and manage the information needed to plan, oversee and deliver Child Health services to the children and young adults for whom they have responsibility.

- CHS Programme plans, manages, delivers and monitors health appraisals, screening, vaccination and immunisation of children from birth to age of 18 years.

Child Health System

- The Programme ensures that all children - irrespective of where they live or where they opt to receive services - receive the relevant services in accordance with the prescribed schedule. A single record of services due, as well as services given, is central to the running of the Programme.

- The Programme ensures that the record is correct and up to date even for children who receive services in a Trust other than the one in which they live. This is known as “cross boundary flow”.

Appointment methods

1	• Timed appointment on a specified day
2	• Appointments for a specified day between certain hours
3	• Allows the week in which the child is to attend to be specified
4	• Allows for specifying that the appointment is to be on or between certain days of a specified week
5	• Allows for specifying the week of the appointment, and that the clinic be telephoned for an appointment
6	• Leaves times and dates blank. Cards and clinic lists are sent to the GP practice who arrange their own timings and post the cards

Key considerations

Remember:

- **It is important that GP practices review movements in and new births to ensure appropriate clinic slots are made available to reflect population size to prevent excessive queue lists.**
- Consider Reviewing Scheduling method with your local CHS Manager.
- Consider a dedicated phone line or time slot that parents can phone in to book their vaccine appointment, reducing call levels during peak time and morning triage.

Key considerations

- Consider text message reminder service, will aid those when English not there first language and as a reminder to parents.
- Ensure Clinic lists are returned to CHS immediately after vaccination clinics.*
- Update Clinic List of any refusals in the consent section (section B).

Key Considerations

- Consider a practice lead to manage vaccinations within the practice.
- Monitor clinic lists to ensure children are registered with your practice.
- Think about an Alert system on Children's files in your GP Practice, when overdue or missed their vaccination for opportunistic vaccination.
- Make every contact count - Revisit vaccination status , for registration of new patients, when a child becomes looked after or subject to safeguarding or if a child seen at GP practice for a health appointment.

Key Considerations

- Consider access to appointments– What is your attendance rates for Pre-School Vaccination. Suitability of clinic times, are these accessible for parents of children in nursery/primary school (pick up times).
- Queue lists are sent to GPs every 2 weeks to inform them of children requiring vaccination (ask Valerie and Katrina for a screen shot).

Key Considerations

Vaccine Storage

- ensure maintenance of vaccine cold chain storage
- strive for 5oc
- monitor wastage levels,
- avoid drawing up vaccines before clinics
- (FIFO) First In First Out stock rotation,
- review expiry dates.
- avoid over stocking the fridge

Resources

- Promotion of MMR press release information Resources to support the PHA MMR catch up campaign (mailchi.mp)
- GP/Professionals social media/videos, see link for resources including translations videos for the MMR campaign Social media resources for vaccination programmes | HSC Public Health Agency (hscni.net)
- NI Direct Northern Ireland MMR catch-up campaign | nidirect

CHS contact Information

NHSCT

Tel: 028 2563 5433

Email:
childhealth.support@northerntrust.hscni.net

SHSCT

Tracy Thompson

Child Health System Manager

(Direct Line: 028 37561493

*Tracy.thompson@southerntrust.hscni.net

CHS contact Information

BHSCT & SEHSCT

Carol Shannon

Child Health Manager

Carol.shannon@belfasttrust.hscni.net

02895044275

WHSCT

ICT Servicedesk

Tel : 02871 345171 EXT-215555

All calls to do with changes to any vaccination clinics is logged via our ICT Servicedesk. CHS WHSCT do not have a generic email address so PLEASE contact Tel : 02871 345171 EXT-215555 and they will log the call on our ICT Servicedesk for CHS to action.

Further training

- Incomplete vaccination status training - https://vimeo.com/892195376/6df9d90bc4
- Measles training https://community.sharepoint.hscni.net/sites/immVacc/Lists/Training%20Resources/Tiles.aspx
- Further CHS training to follow.

Share the learning.

- If you have any good practice measures to help improve uptake of vaccination within your practice, can you share in the chat or email us on pha.immunisation@hscni.net.



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