

State Policy Landscape for Rotavirus Vaccination Laws for Childcare Entry

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Background and Objectives

Rotavirus Vaccine Coverage & CDC Recommendations

- Rotavirus gastroenteritis (RGE) is a diarrheal disease that predominantly affects children < 5 years.¹ In the US, vaccination against Rotavirus in infants younger than 8 months was recommended by CDC ACIP since 2006.²
- Despite the success in reducing RGE and related adverse health outcomes, childhood vaccine coverage rates (VCR) for rotavirus have lagged that of other childhood vaccinations.³ For example, VCR for DTaP was 94.0% in 2017, while rotavirus vaccination was 73.2%.³
- It is possible that state policy for daycare and school requirements could have a positive impact on VCR. We sought to understand and describe the current landscape of state policy for rotavirus vaccination laws for childcare entry

State Policy

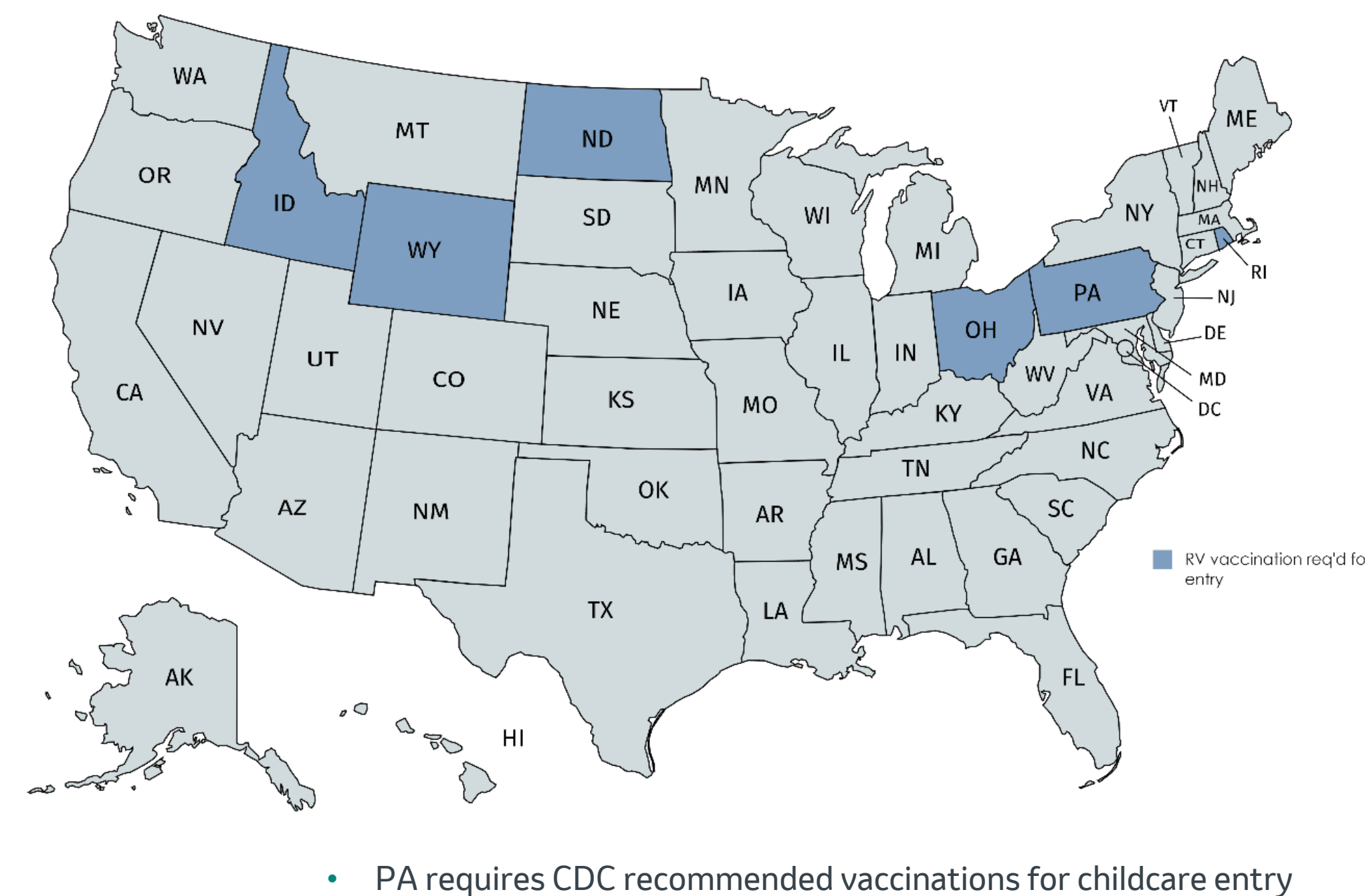
- Three aspects of state childcare laws were assessed:
 - **Rotavirus vaccination requirement:** All states require vaccination for childcare attendance with varying type of vaccines required across states.⁴
 - **Exemption:** State laws may allow children to attend childcare/school without required vaccinations by presenting a valid medical exemption or non-medical exemption, (e.g. philosophical or religious) or a combination of those.⁴
 - the ease of attaining an exemption varies across states from most lenient requiring only parental signature to less lenient requiring parents to complete an enhanced educational module requiring health department approval
 - **Diarrhea exclusion policies:** States may require children presenting symptoms of diarrhea be excluded from childcare attendance.

Methods

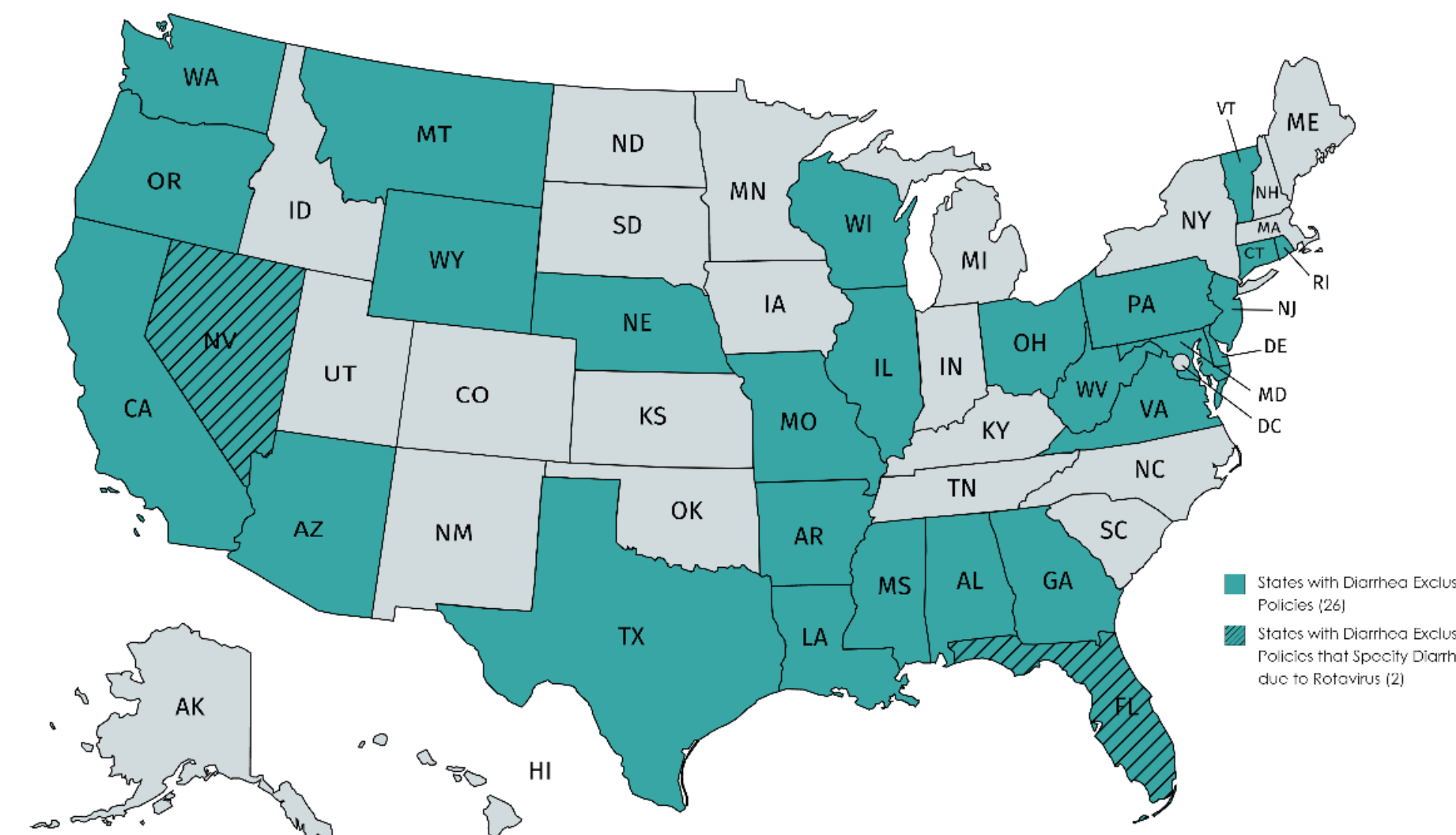
- Legal epidemiological methods were utilized to systematically assess all 50 US states and the District of Columbia's rotavirus vaccination requirements and non-medical exemption requirements for childcare entry, using Westlaw legal database.
- The following attributes of the law were catalogued:
 - Effective date; number of rotavirus vaccine doses required; age/grade requirement
- The same methodology was utilized to assess state diarrhea childcare exclusion policies.

Results

State Rotavirus Vaccination Requirements For Childcare Entry



State Diarrhea Exclusion Requirements For Childcare



Results

- 6 out of the 51 jurisdictions have a childcare rotavirus vaccination entry requirement
 - 2018 in Wyoming, 2015 in Ohio and Rhode Island, 2008 in North Dakota, and 2011 in Idaho. PA has required all ACIP recommended vaccines for childcare entry since 2002. In VA, effective 2021, rotavirus will be a required vaccination for childcare entry
- All 6 states permit non-medical exemption allowing children to be exempt from vaccination.
 - OH, ND, and PA are the most lenient, only requiring parental signature to exempt from vaccination; while Wyoming is the least lenient, requiring a signed notarized official document.
- Childcare diarrhea exclusion policies were found in 28 states with two states (FL and NV) specifically referencing diarrhea due to rotavirus.

Discussion

- To date, a minority of states have implemented RV vaccination policies while more states have diarrhea exclusion policies.
- Limited research has evaluated the impact of childcare vaccination requirements, including rotavirus requirements, on VCRs. One 2005 study evaluated the impact of childcare and school requirements for varicella vaccination found that entry requirements are associated with higher coverage among childcare-age children.⁴
- Rotavirus vaccination policies may play a role in increasing VCR and consequently lower rotavirus gastroenteritis and diarrhea burden. In 2017, the VCR for the full series of RV vaccination was 73.2%. Four of the states that have RV state vaccination policies had higher state-wide vaccination coverages than the national average.³
- Given the concern in reducing diarrhea transmission, as evidenced by the large number of diarrhea exclusion policies, and the potential impact of policies on higher VCR, considerations should be given to implementing such policies in more states.
- Future research exploring the impact of rotavirus vaccination requirements on VCR/RGE and include other components of childcare vaccination laws such as exemption, grace period, provisional enrollment, and enforcement policies is warranted.

References

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