

Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) - National vaccine objection (conscientious objection) data

This page provides a table of historical national conscientious objection by calendar year, 1999 to 2015.

Conscientious objection statistics are given as at a point in time, not a total number recorded each year. Children continually come onto the AIR when they are registered and removed when they are over seven years of age.

Since 1 January 2016, conscientious objection has been removed as a valid reason for a vaccination exemption. Families can only receive family assistance payments linked to immunisation status such as childcare assistance and Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement if they:

- fully immunise their children
- are on a recognised immunisation catch- up schedule
- have an approved medical exemption.

The Department of Human services has further details about [immunisation requirements and immunisation medical objections](#).

| As at date | Total children | Number children with conscientious objection recorded | % children with conscientious objection recorded |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 31 December 1999 | 1,863,427 | 4,271 | 0.23% |
| 31 December 2000 | 1,846,431 | 7,624 | 0.41% |
| 31 December 2001 | 1,808,231 | 9,987 | 0.55% |
| 31 December 2002 | 1,790,992 | 12,042 | 0.67% |
| 31 December 2003 | 1,785,336 | 13,790 | 0.77% |
| 31 December 2004 | 1,790,014 | 15,479 | 0.86% |

| As at date | Total children | Number children with conscientious objection recorded | % children with conscientious objection recorded |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 31 December 2005 | 1,808,420 | 16,922 | 0.94% |
| 31 December 2006 | 1,842,829 | 18,899 | 1.03% |
| 31 December 2007 | 1,885,004 | 20,737 | 1.10% |
| 31 December 2008 | 1,933,014 | 23,123 | 1.20% |
| 31 December 2009 | 1,976,134 | 25,706 | 1.30% |
| 31 December 2010 | 2,082,263 | 28,306 | 1.36% |
| 31 December 2011 | 2,127,489 | 29,968 | 1.41% |
| 31 December 2012 | 2,176,279 | 31,800 | 1.46% |
| 31 December 2013 | 2,215,825 | 35,698 | 1.61% |
| 31 December 2014 | 2,231,205 | 39,523 | 1.77% |
| 31 December 2015 | 2,242,925 | 30,092 | 1.34% |