About this Release
Immunisation uptake rates for children in Scotland aged up to six years are published quarterly. This release includes uptake rates for the quarter and year ending 31 March 2013.

Each quarter ISD publish updated tables and charts on the ISD website presenting the latest immunisation uptake rates for children at 12 months, 24 months, 5 years and 6 years of age, by NHS Board and Community Health Partnership (CHP). There is no Publication Report to accompany these quarterly releases which are aligned with the publication of quarterly immunisation uptake rates in the UK by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The HPA publication provides commentary on uptake rates in the UK and the individual member countries. ISD also publish an annual report on childhood immunisation uptake rates in Scotland in March. The annual report presents statistics by calendar year and provides comprehensive commentary including an outline of the UK Childhood Immunisation Schedule, an explanation of trends in uptake rates and information on data accuracy. This release format follows a consultation with users in Autumn 2011 to review the frequency of publication of childhood immunisation statistics.

Due to a copying error, one table in the calendar year report (uptake rates by six years of age by CHP), which was first published on 22 March 2013, has been revised as part of this release. For further information see the ‘revisions relevant to this publication’ section of the metadata document.

Background
Children in Scotland are protected through immunisation against many serious infectious diseases. Vaccination programmes aim both to protect the individual and to prevent the spread of these illnesses within the population. As a public health measure, immunisations have been hugely effective in reducing the burden of disease. It is of public health concern when immunisation rates fall, as this increases the possibility of disease transmission and, hence, complications arising from outbreaks of infectious diseases.
In Scotland the target of the national immunisation programme is for 95% of children to complete courses of the following childhood immunisations by 24 months of age: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), Meningococcal group C (MenC) and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV). An additional national target of 95% uptake of one dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine by five years of age (with a supplementary measure at 24 months) was introduced in 2006 to focus efforts on reducing the number of susceptible children entering primary school.

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**Further Information**

Further information can be found in the latest [quarterly tables](#) and [calendar year report](#), and on the [ISD website](#).