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Re: Are Canadian kids undervaccinated? Or is it that we just don't know?

Does Canada rank lower than Romania, Bulgaria and others in child vaccination rates? It's anyone's guess, really, since Canada has neither a national vaccine registry nor a consistent method for gathering useful vaccination data. If Canada indeed has a serious problem with immunization rates, we couldn't manage the problem because we're not properly measuring efforts and outcomes.

Health-care organizations, including the Canadian Nurses Association, were dismissed last week when we spoke out against cuts to the Health Council of Canada. It should be clear now that Canada needs federal leadership in the health system and a national body actively monitoring and reporting on key targets such as immunization levels. Without such oversight, Canadians are at risk.

Until Canada can consistently collect and report performance data, and until there's national public health infrastructure to unite the efforts of different care providers, we can't be certain that we are adequately protecting our children, nor can we manage our nation's health.

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