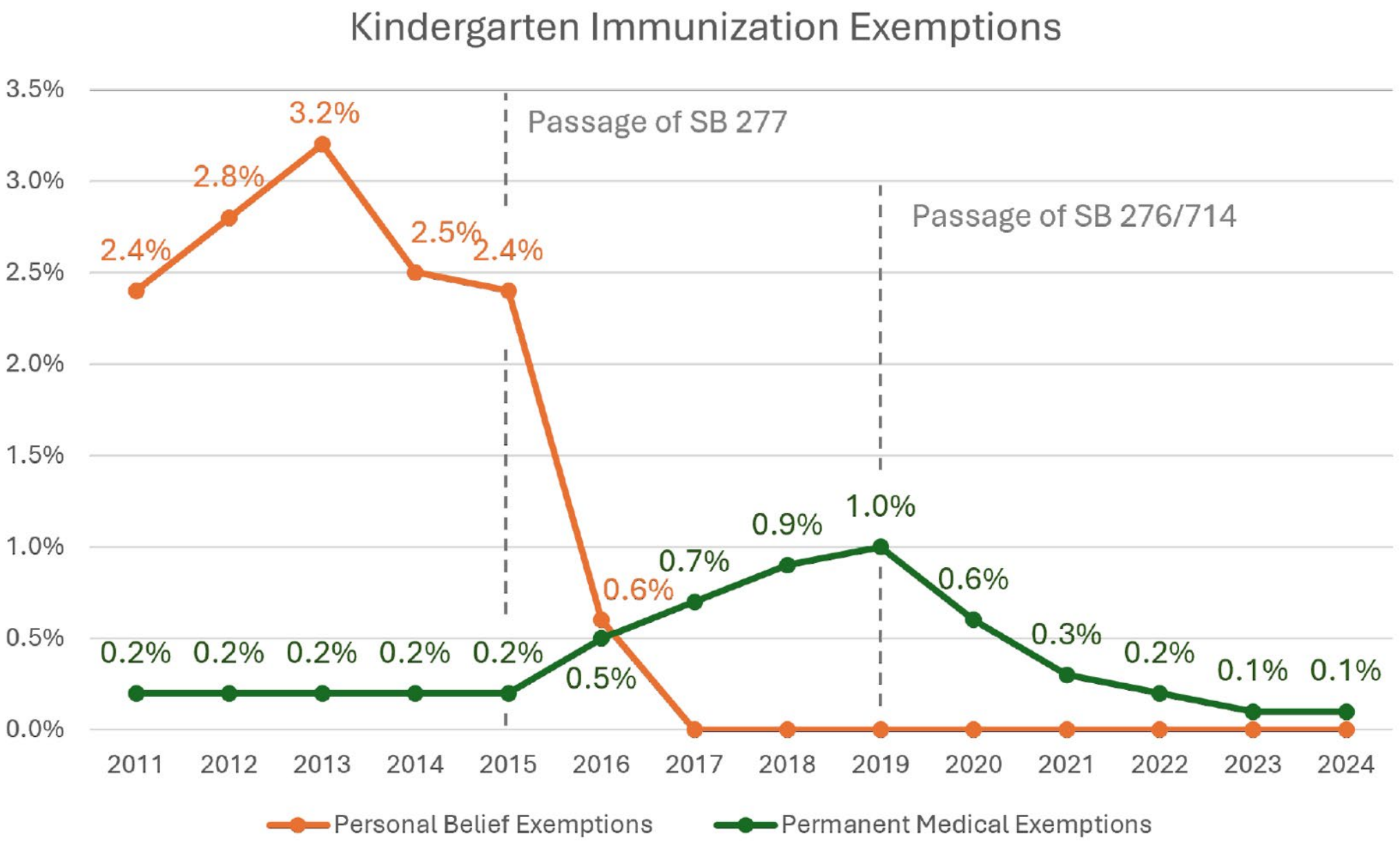
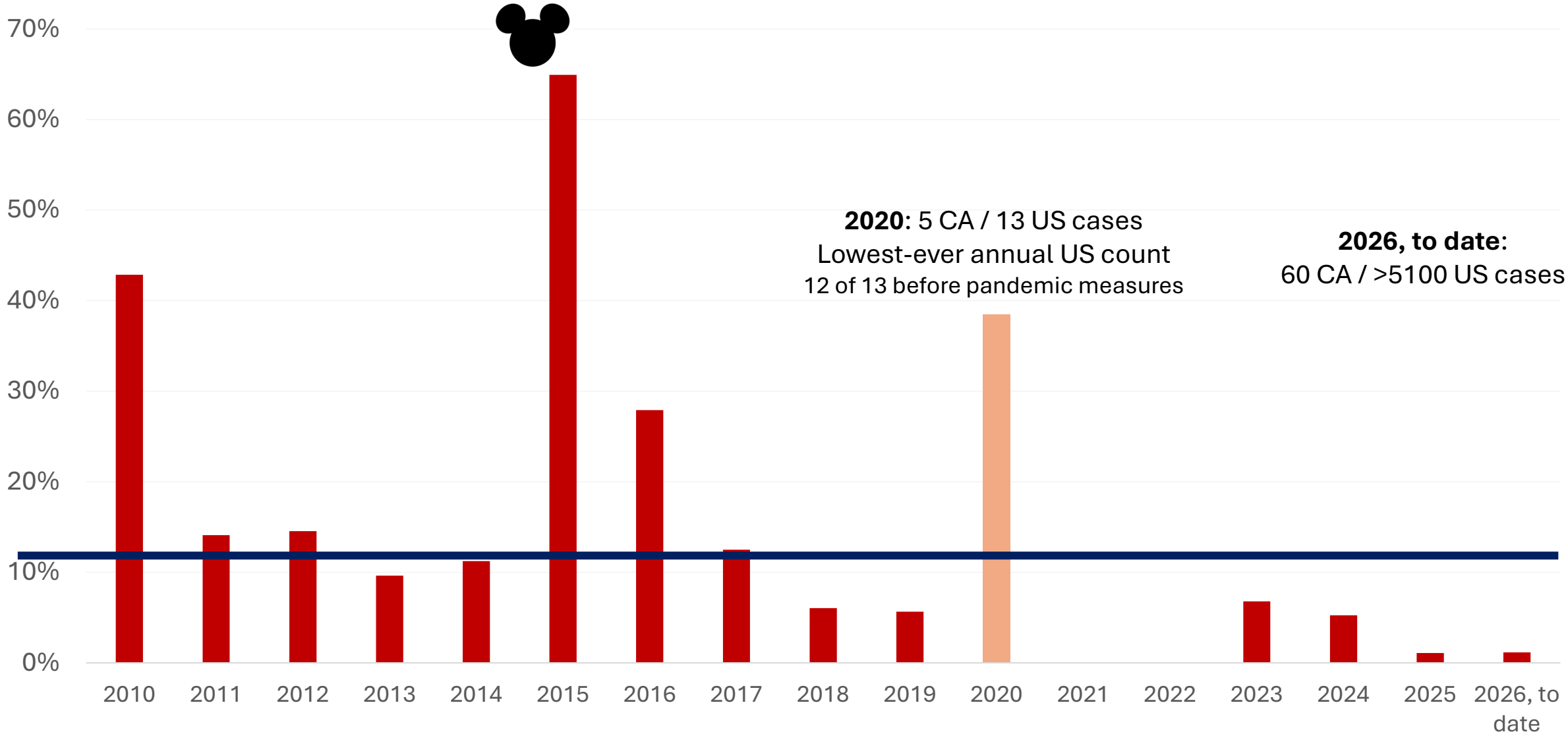

Kindergarten Immunization Exemptions
3.5%
3.0%
2.5%
2.0%
1.5%
1.0%
0.5%
0.0%
Passage of SB 277
Passage of SB 276/714
2.4%
2.8%
3.2%
2.5%
2.4%
0.6%
0.2%
0.2%
0.2%
0.2%
0.2%
0.5%
0.7%
0.9%
1.0%
0.6%
0.3%
0.2%
0.1%
0.1%
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Personal Belief Exemptions
Permanent Medical Exemptions

% of US Measles Cases Reported in California

~12% of US Population Resides in CA



Obtaining a Medical Exemption (ME)

For Immunizations Required for School in California



ME is reviewed if:

- A school vaccination rate is less than 95% or not reported, or
- A physician issues more than 5 medical exemptions in a year, or
- Necessary to protect public health



Review Process

If ME is reviewed:

- Clinicians at California Department of Public Health review information submitted in CAIR-ME.
- Doctor issuing ME may be requested to submit additional information about child.
- ME initially revoked if 2 reviewers find that ME does not meet criteria in California law. (If criteria met, ME remains valid.)

If ME is initially revoked:

- Family may file an appeal within 30 days.
- ME under appeal is reviewed by independent physician panel convened by California Health and Human Services Agency.
- Issuing doctor and family may submit additional documentation to support the appeal.

Child may attend school throughout the review and appeal.

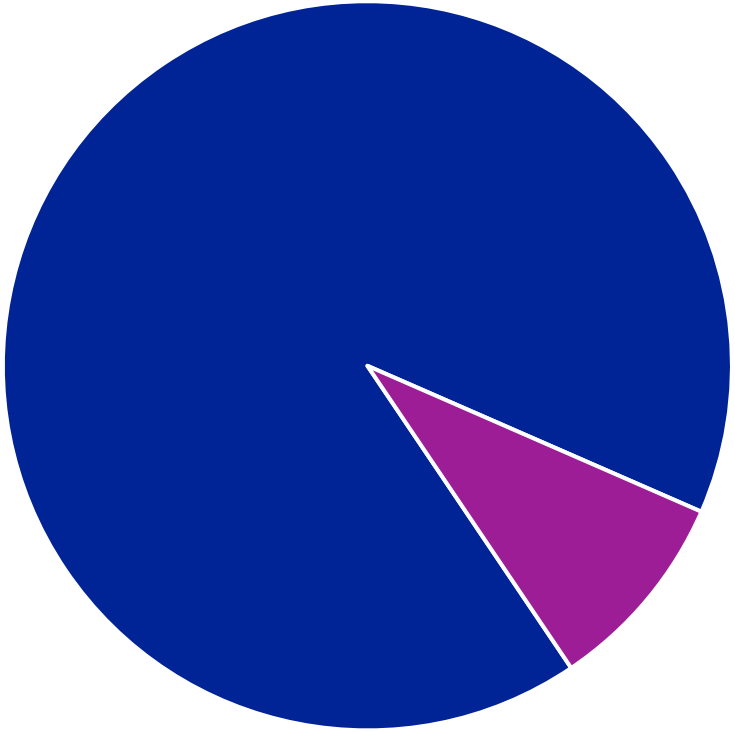
If the appeal is denied or not filed:

- Parents, doctor, and school notified that ME is permanently revoked.
- Child no longer exempt from immunization requirements related to ME.
- Family submits proof within 10 school days that the child is meeting immunization requirements related to ME. (For example, following the conditional immunization schedule for missing doses.)



- If doctor has 5 or more MEs revoked in a year, the Medical Board of California may choose to open an investigation.

Issued MEs - Outcomes



91% valid

91% of issued MEs remain valid, qualifying child for requirements to attend childcare or school

9% revoked

9% of issued MEs permanently revoked; attendance requirements not met by issued ME

Medical Exemptions (MEs) as of 10/31/26

MEs Issued

33,019

MEs have been issued in CAIR-ME by more than 6,000 physicians licensed in California since its launch on January 1, 2021.

Reviewed

21,416 (65%)

MEs have been reviewed by CDPH per statute.

Revoked

3,090 (9%)

MEs have been revoked by CDPH for not being consistent with the standard of care.

Appealed

876 (<3%)

Revoked MEs have been appealed to the CalHHS independent panel, of which:

- 693 were denied
- 132 were upheld
- 20 were withdrawn by the family
- 31 are pending final review

Process for Medical Exemptions (MEs) to Immunizations Required for School in California

Doctor issues an ME online at CAIR-ME and gives ME form to family.

Family submits ME form to school.

School verifies ME and confirms child meets requirements. Child attends school.

ME is reviewed if:

- A school vaccination rate is less than 95% or not reported, or
- A physician issues more than 5 medical exemptions in a year, or
- Necessary to protect public health

If ME is reviewed:

- Clinicians at California Department of Public Health review information submitted in CAIR-ME.
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- Issuing doctor and family may submit additional documentation to support the appeal.

Child may attend school throughout the review and appeal.

If the appeal is denied or no appeal is filed:

- Parents, doctor, and school notified that ME is permanently revoked.
- Child no longer exempt from immunization requirements related to ME.
- Family submits proof within 10 school days that the child is meeting immunization requirements related to ME.
  - For example, child now follows the conditional immunization schedule for missing doses.
- If doctor has 5 or more MEs revoked in a year, the Medical Board of California may choose to open an investigation.

Visit CAIR-ME.cdph.ca.gov for more information.

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California Department of Public Health