

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



MNAAP 2021 Legislative & Advocacy Priorities

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is the professional association of pediatricians and pediatricians-in-training. Our mission is to advocate on behalf of our patients: Minnesota's newborns, children, and adolescents.

Preserving Medicaid and Other Critical Social Support Programs for Children

MNAAP will strongly advocate to **preserve access to health care and social services** for the state's children and adolescents, particularly those who are underserved, and will vigorously oppose cuts to funding or changes in eligibility. MNAAP supports early education programs that provide early education, nurse home visiting, and other social support services that serve a high proportion of minority and underserved children.

Ensuring Equitable and Statewide Access to Broadband and Telehealth

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of reliable Internet connection. Far too many of Minnesota's children and families lack access to **broadband**, which hinders their ability to receive telehealth services and succeed via remote learning. MNAAP supports efforts to ensure that all children and families have **access to high-speed internet for telehealth services** to support their physical health and mental health, and for education needs. The MNAAP further supports **payment parity** for services delivered via telehealth to a patient in their home, as well as care delivered by telephone only (when clinically appropriate).

Increasing Vaccination Rates

Immunizations have prevented death and disability for tens of millions of people. Yet as recently as 2017, Minnesota saw an outbreak of measles that sickened nearly 100 people, many of whom required care in the ICU. Data indicates there are many pockets of low immunization rates across the state, putting Minnesota at significant risk of another vaccine-preventable disease outbreak.

MNAAP supports the **repeal of the "personal belief exemption"** that allows parents to exempt their children from vaccines required for school. MNAAP urges the Legislature to **fund activities to promote immunizations**, especially in communities with lower rates of vaccinations.

Protecting Children and Youth from Firearm Violence

From 2008 through 2017, 403 young people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Minnesota. In Minneapolis alone in 2020, 113 teens were shot and 14 kids killed before graduating high school. These tragic and violent deaths demand a response from lawmakers. MNAAP supports commonsense gun laws to protect children – including universal background checks and red flag laws – which are supported the majority of Minnesotans.