



IMMUNIZATION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

CDC protects all Americans from disease, disability, and death through immunization and by controlling respiratory and other preventable diseases. Vaccination is one of public health's most successful tools for saving lives and protecting people. CDC provides domestic and international leadership in seasonal and novel influenza control, as well as laboratory and epidemiology expertise to respond to bacterial and viral disease threats.



7.2 MILLION

Flu vaccination prevented an estimated 7.2 million flu-related illnesses and 3.1 million medical visits last flu season.



93%

As many as 93% of cervical cancers could be prevented by screening and HPV vaccination (human papillomavirus).



Vaccination saves lives and protects Americans from deadly diseases.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Detected the first cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the U.S. Increased awareness of the disease and helped state and local partners stop MERS from spreading.
- Helped state and local public health departments identify and respond to an Enterovirus-D68 outbreak that caused widespread respiratory illness in the U.S. and was linked to paralysis in some children.
- Helped state and local health departments protect U.S. communities against measles, for which the highest number of cases was reported in the U.S. since 1994.
- Vaccinated more than 63 million people with MenAfriVac, an inexpensive vaccine tailored for Africa that protects against meningitis A. More than 217 million have been vaccinated for meningitis A in 15 countries since the vaccine program launched in 2010.



668 MEASLES CASES

In 2014, 668 people in the U.S. were reported as having measles; most were not vaccinated or didn't know if they were vaccinated.



90,000

Vaccination prevented an estimated 90,000 flu hospitalizations.

CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS COULD PREVENT MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A BILLION ILLNESSES

2014 marked the 20th anniversary of Vaccines for Children (VFC)—vaccines may have prevented more than 300 million illnesses and 700,000 deaths in those born since the program began.

VFC is a federally funded program that provides free vaccines to uninsured children in the U.S. The program was a response to a deadly resurgence of measles in the late 1980s and early 1990s that resulted in 55,000 illnesses and more than 100 deaths. The measles epidemic was largely caused by widespread failure to vaccinate uninsured children—a stark reminder of the lifesaving impact of childhood vaccination.

According to CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, U.S. childhood immunizations (VFC-eligible and non-VFC-eligible) will prevent about 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations, and 732,000 deaths in children born between 1994 and 2013 over their lifetime. The net financial savings of this prevention is huge, estimated to prevent \$295 billion in direct costs and \$1.38 trillion in societal costs.

As VFC has strengthened the U.S. immunization program and vaccine coverage has improved, recent outbreaks of measles remind us that our work is not done. It is critical to maintain high immunization rates to protect the health of children in our communities.