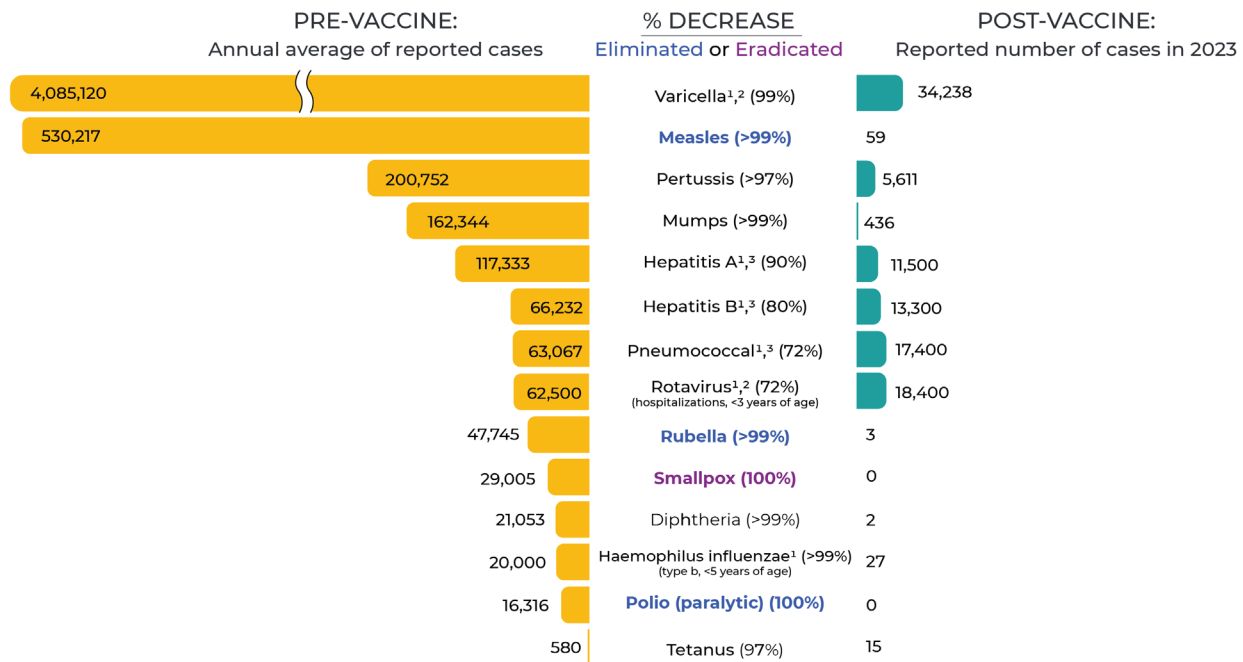


# Immunization HIGHLIGHTS

Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to protect yourself and your family from serious diseases. U.S. investments in vaccines go back almost 70 years with successful national polio eradication efforts. Before the development of vaccines commonly used today, infectious diseases were the most common cause of death, disability, and disease in the United States.

## Vaccines prevent disease and save lives



<sup>1</sup> Annual estimated cases in the pre-vaccine era.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated number of cases in 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated number of cases in 2021.



### Protecting America's Children

30-year program established by Congress in 1994.

Provides over half of all childhood vaccine doses purchased in the United States.

In FY 2023, 76M vaccines were distributed through VFC, which was 54% of all vaccines that went to children for routine vaccines that year.

CDC estimates that childhood vaccinations

Prevented **508 million** illnesses  
(32 million hospitalizations)

Helped avoid **1,129,000** deaths

Saved nearly **\$2.7 trillion** in total societal costs  
(that includes \$540 billion in direct costs)

Updated 2023 analysis using methods from "Benefits from Immunization during the Vaccines for Children Program Era—United States, 1994-2023."



# SPOTLIGHT MEASLES

## Why Does Measles Matter?

Measles is highly contagious – **9 out of 10** unvaccinated people exposed to measles will get infected.

Measles is serious, especially for kids – 1 in 20 get pneumonia, 1 in 1,000 develop encephalitis, and 1 to 3 out of every 1,000 children will die from measles.

## How Do We Protect Against Measles?

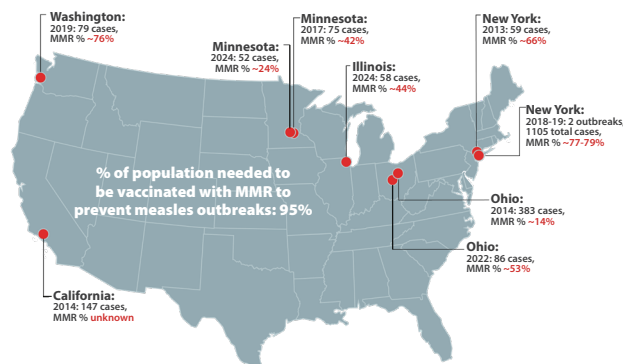
Two doses of MMR vaccine provide 97% protection against measles.

MMR vaccination coverage among kindergartners in the United States is 92.7%. Maintaining **>95% vaccination coverage** helps protect communities. An increase in vaccination coverage from 90% to 95% cuts risk of outbreaks by almost half.

## 2024 Measles Situation:

There were **284 cases** (89% were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status) and **16 measles outbreaks** reported in the United States compared with 59 cases and 4 outbreaks in 2023. Most measles cases and outbreaks occur when infected U.S. residents return from travel abroad. CDC supports partners with active measles case surveillance, educating healthcare providers and the public, and providing vaccine and vaccination strategies, especially for at-risk communities.

Measles outbreaks with 50+ cases and MMR vaccine coverage among affected populations - U.S. 2001-2024  
There have been 10 measles outbreaks with 50+ cases since measles was declared eliminated in 2000, 6 of these outbreaks occurred in the last 5 years



## Immunization Related RESOURCES

### Vaccine Basics

- [Ingredients overview](#)
- [How vaccines work](#)
- [Vaccine schedule for children and adolescents](#)
- [Vaccine schedule for adults](#)

### Why Vaccines are Important

- [Why does my child need routine vaccines?](#)
- [Why does my child need a vaccine for a disease that is rare in the US?](#)
- [Is immunity from vaccines better than “natural” immunity?](#)
- [How does community immunity work?](#)

### Vaccine Safety and Research

- [How do we know a vaccine dose is safe?](#)
- [How do we know new vaccines have been researched enough?](#)
- [Why is there a National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program?](#)
- [About vaccines and autism](#)
- [More about vaccine safety](#)

### For Health Professionals

- [Vaccine-specific recommendations](#)
- [Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases](#) (the “Pink Book”)