

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective and successful public health solutions available, saving the lives of 2 to 3 million children each year.¹ Vaccines are among the safest medical products available.

Immunization Impact

- Global mortality attributed to measles, one of the top five diseases killing children, declined by 79 percent between 2000 and 2015 thanks to expanded immunization, saving an estimated 20.3 million lives.
- A coordinated global immunization campaign has reduced the number of polio cases by more than 99 percent, from 350,000 cases in 1988 to 74 reported cases in 2015.
- For every \$1 that goes to immunizing a child, there is a savings of \$16 across his or her lifetime in reduced treatment costs and greater productivity.²
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance helps low-income countries buy new and underused vaccines. Gavi plans to immunize an additional 300 million children to save an addition 5 to 6 million additional lives by 2020.

Remaining Challenges

- More than 19 million children do not have complete access to life-saving vaccines.³ Their communities often lack resources we take for granted, including the financing to buy vaccines, logistical systems to deliver them and keep them cold, vaccine safety monitoring systems, and a trained health workforce.
- Improved vaccination coverage would save the lives of 1.5 million additional children each year.
- Every 20 seconds, a child dies of a vaccine-preventable disease like pneumonia or diarrhea. Vaccine-preventable diseases account for nearly a third of the deaths of children under five.

U.S. Commitments Make a Difference

- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** has supported the immunization of nearly 580 million children since 2000, preventing more than eight million deaths.
- **The U.S. Agency for International Development** helps countries strengthen logistics systems to transport vaccines safely to clinics where they are needed, helps countries budget their own funds for immunization programs, and trains health workers to target hard-to-reach and under-immunized populations.
- **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** provide countries with technical assistance and disease surveillance support, with a focus on eradicating polio, reducing measles deaths, and strengthening routine vaccine delivery.
- **The United Nations Children's Fund** procures vaccines for the Gavi Alliance and buys the vaccines for all global campaigns not covered by Gavi, including for polio, neonatal and maternal tetanus, and measles.
- In 2012 **the World Health Assembly** approved a Global Vaccine Action Plan, which recognizes immunization as a core component of the human right to health and lays out a roadmap for bringing the full benefits of immunizations to all people by 2020.
- The United States works alongside other dedicated partners through the **Measles & Rubella Initiative**, the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** and the **Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea**.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes the unparalleled value of vaccines and strong immunization systems to advance child health equity.

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AAP Washington Office
601 13th Street NW
Suite 400 North
Washington, DC 20005
202/347-8600



¹ World Health Organization. "Immunization coverage." September 2016, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs378/en/>.

² Ozawa S, et al. "Return on Investment from Childhood Immunization in Low and Middle Income Countries, 2011-20." *Health Affairs* February 2016; 35:2199–2207.

³ World Health Organization. "Global immunization coverage sustained in the past five years." July 15, 2016, http://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/press/immunization_coverage_july_2016/en/.