

SECTION 317 FUNDS ARE KEY TO SAVING AMERICAN LIVES AND MONEY



Support Increased
Funding



Vaccine-preventable diseases are deadly and expensive.

Vaccines have been recognized as one of the most important public health interventions in the 20th century, second only to clean water. Since 1994, childhood vaccines have prevented more than 1.1 million early deaths and 508 million illnesses, and saved more than \$2.7 trillion in societal costs. [i]

But we still have work to do. Across the country, we are seeing outbreaks of childhood vaccine-preventable diseases, in addition to seasonal respiratory viruses. In 2025, the U.S. had the [most measles cases in three decades](#), and the 2024-25 flu season caused the most pediatric flu deaths on record. [ii, iii] Additionally, cases of pertussis were [six times higher](#) in 2024 than 2023. [iv]

Aside from the horrible human toll, vaccine-preventable diseases can create a significant economic burden. Responding to outbreaks is costly, with estimates that it costs over [\\$43,000 to treat a single case](#) of measles during an outbreak. [v] But it's not just outbreaks. The cost of [treating four adult vaccine-preventable diseases are over \\$26.5 billion annually](#). [vi]

Investing in immunization saves lives and money.

To increase vaccination rates and alleviate both the emotional and economic toll of vaccine-preventable diseases, Congress created the Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Known as the [Section 317 Immunization Program](#) after the section of the Public Health Service Act that created it, the program awards funds to 66 grantees across the United States and territories.

Grantees use funds to:



- Coordinate and implement the delivery of vaccines to children
- Purchase and administer vaccines to uninsured adults
- Respond to public health emergencies
- Staff vaccination clinics
- Conduct education and outreach campaigns tailored to their communities
- Monitor and contain disease outbreaks

**PREVENT INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS AND PROTECT OUR
COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES BY FUNDING THE SECTION 317
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AT \$782 MILLION.**

Section 317 is vital to protecting our country, but it is grossly underfunded.

While Congress has provided minor increases to Section 317 funding [vii], it is simply not enough. Responding to ongoing outbreaks while maintaining routine services and incorporating new vaccines is straining already tight budgets.



FROM 2004-2024, THE COST OF VACCINATING ADULTS INCREASED 1023% BUT SECTION 317 FUNDING ONLY INCREASED 45%. [VIII]

VACCINATION HAS HIGH RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI), WITH AN ESTIMATED \$11 ROI ON EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN CHILDHOOD VACCINATION [I] AND UP TO 19 TIMES ROI FOR ADULT VACCINATION. [IX]



66 immunization jurisdictions, including all 50 states, large cities, and territories depend on Section 317 funding.

Vaccination coverage rates across the nation are decreasing [x], putting communities at risk of more outbreaks, and health departments must be equipped with the resources to protect our nation's health. During the 2024-25 school year, the nation's kindergarten vaccination coverage rates decreased for all reported diseases. [x]

State and local public health departments need these funds now more than ever. With lower vaccination rates, health departments may need to direct more resources to outbreak detection, vaccine education and outreach, and vaccine acquisition and administration. These activities are made possible because of the support of Section 317 grants.

TO IMPROVE VACCINE ACCESS AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM DEADLY DISEASES, CONGRESS MUST INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE SECTION 317 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM TO \$782 MILLION.

Ways to Support Immunization Access and Uptake:

1

Increase Section 317 during the annual appropriations processes

2

Ensure continued increases to Section 317 funding match increasing costs and account for new vaccines

3

Invest in immunization programs to save lives and money

References

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- [x] CDC. (2025). Vaccination Coverage and Exemptions among Kindergarteners. Accessed on August 20, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html>