



THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR VACCINES

VACCINES ARE AMONG THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS TO PREVENT DISEASE.

Vaccines have direct and indirect economic and societal benefits.



- The U.S. spends nearly \$27 billion annually to treat four vaccine preventable illnesses in adults over the age of 50 – flu, pertussis, pneumococcal, and shingles. [i]
- For each \$1 invested in the U.S. childhood immunization program, there are nearly \$3 in direct medical savings and nearly \$11 of societal savings. [ii]
- The vaccination of children born between 1994-2023 will save \$540 billion in direct costs and \$2.7 trillion in societal costs. [ii]

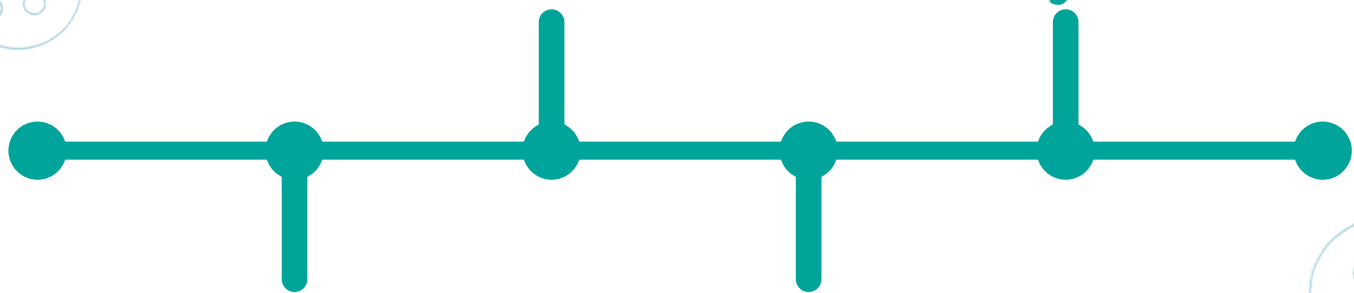
The Cost of Outbreaks

- San Diego County, CA spent nearly \$12.5 million to respond to a major Hepatitis A outbreak. [iii]
- Minnesota experienced a measles outbreak that cost state and local health departments \$1.3 million. [iv]

Measles outbreaks resulted in over 1,000 cases. One outbreak in Washington State required a \$2.3 million public health response, while New York City spent \$8.4 million to respond to its measles outbreak. [v, vi]

2017: Hepatitis A and Measles

2019: Measles



2011: Measles

The economic burden on U.S. public health institutions to respond to 16 measles outbreaks in 2011 was estimated to be between \$2.7 million and \$5.3 million. [vii]

2018: Flu

The 2017-18 flu season was particularly bad, resulting in 52,000 deaths. Flu costs the U.S. an estimated \$3.2 billion in direct medical costs and another \$8 billion in indirect costs. [viii]

IN 2025 OUTBREAKS OF MEASLES, PERTUSSIS, AND A HARSH FLU SEASON HAVE CONTINUED TO TAX STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES.

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, KINDERGARTEN VACCINATION COVERAGE RATES ARE DECREASING. [IX]

The Future Costs of Declining Vaccine Coverage Rates.

- A systematic review [x] of measles outbreaks in 18 states from 2000-2025 estimates that:
 - The average cost per case of measles was \$43,000, ranging from \$7,000 to over \$243,000.
 - The large range depended on the number of contacts, the location of the outbreak, and the number of cases per outbreak.
 - An outbreak of 50 cases of measles is estimated to cost \$1.05 million.
 - As of October 2025, five states have already had outbreaks of more than 50 measles cases in 2025 alone. [xi]
- The NIH estimates that a 5% decline in measles vaccine coverage would lead to an estimated threefold increase in measles cases among children aged 2 to 11 years old and an additional \$2.1 million in costs per year. [xii]
- The IMF estimates that the expected yearly cost of pandemic influenza is approximately \$500 billion (0.6 percent of global income), including both lost income and the intrinsic cost of elevated mortality. [ix]



Vaccination Across the Lifespan Is Cost Effective and Has Widespread Economic Benefits.

IN 2025, THE U.S. HAS HAD THE MOST MEASLES CASES IN THREE DECADES AND THE MOST DEADLY FLU SEASON (2024-25) FOR CHILDREN IN A NON-PANDEMIC YEAR [X, XI]

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- [v] Pike, J., Melnick, A., Gastañaduy, P. A., Kay, M., Harbison, J., Leidner, A. J., Rice, S., Asato, K., Schwartz, L., & DeBolt, C. (2021). Societal Costs of a Measles Outbreak. *Pediatrics*,147(4). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-027037>
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- [viii] Courville, C., Cadarette, S. M., Wissinger, E., & Alvarez, F. P. (2022). The economic burden of influenza among adults aged 18 to 64: A systematic literature review. *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*,16(3), 376–385.<https://doi.org/10.1111/irv.12963>
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- [xi] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025). Measles Cases and Outbreaks. Accessed on October 29, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>
- [xii] Hayman DTS. Measles vaccination in an increasingly immunized and developed world. *Hum Vaccin Immunother.* 2019;15(1):28-33. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2018.1517074. Epub 2018 Sep 19. PMID: 30156949; PMCID: PMC6363159.
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