

What would happen if we stopped vaccinations?

Compare the maximum number of U.S. cases of vaccine-preventable diseases in years before there were vaccines with the number of cases in 2003

Disease	Max. cases reported ¹	Year max. reported ¹	Reported cases in 2003 ²	Percent decrease
Diphtheria	175,885	1920–1922	1	99.9%
Pertussis	147,271	1925	11,647	92.1%
Tetanus (lockjaw)	1,314	1926	20	98.5%
Polio (wild virus)	16,316	1951–1954	0	100%
Measles	503,282	1958–1962	56	99.9%
Mumps	152,209	1968	231	99.8%
Rubella	47,745	1968	7	99.9%
Hib	20,000	1985	259	98.7%
Hepatitis B	26,612*	1985	7,526	71.7%
Hepatitis A	59,606	1971	7,653	87.2%

*The estimated mean number of new infections in the 1980s was 259,000, although the reported number of cases is much lower.³

Sources:

1. "Achievements in Public Health, 1900–1999: Impact of Vaccines Universally Recommended for United States, 1900–1998." MMWR 1999, Vol. 48, No. 12.
2. CDC. Summary of Notifiable Diseases, United States, 2003. MMWR 2004, Vol 53, No. 30.
3. National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, CDC, Epidemiology Program Office, as published on http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/resource/PDFs/disease_burden2004.pdf

