

CONTAGIOUS COMMENTS

Department of Epidemiology

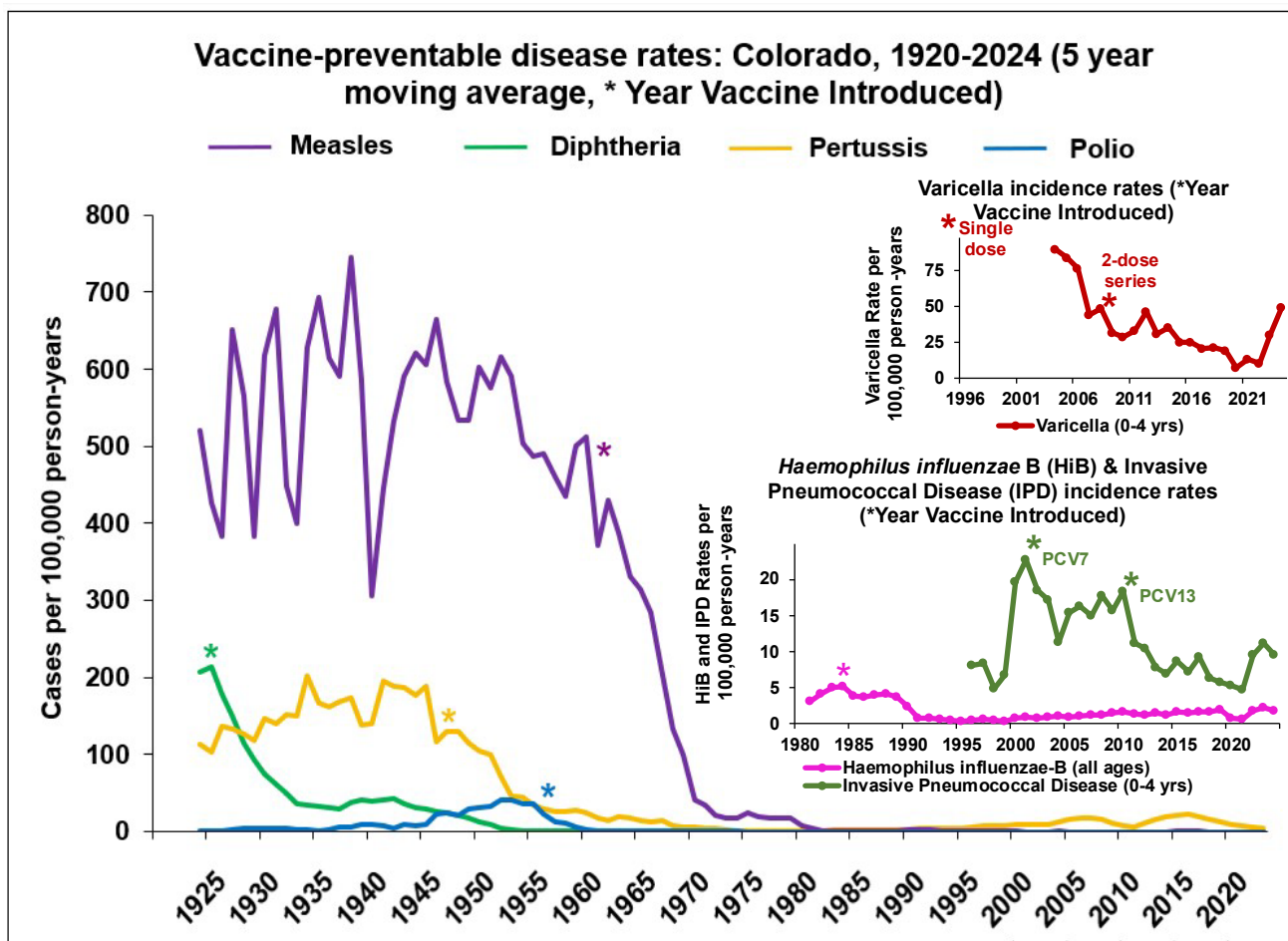


Keeping the Successful Legacy of Vaccination Alive

Jessica R Cataldi MD, Carl Armon PhD, Paul Mitchell MD, James K Todd MD, Edwin J Asturias MD

Vaccines Work:

Over the past one hundred years the introduction of new vaccines has led to dramatic reductions in the rates of deadly and impactful diseases here in Colorado. This graph shows the effect and power of older and more recent vaccines and is a reminder of just how common these contagious diseases were in the past.



Measles, diphtheria, polio, pertussis, and Haemophilus influenzae B (HiB) cases among all age groups as well as varicella and invasive pneumococcal disease cases for children 0-4 years are from CDPHE data for these reportable diseases.

In the News:

Resurgence of measles and other VPDs: The year is not yet over, and the US has already had the highest number of measles cases since the early 1990s. In Colorado, we have had multiple measles cases related to international travel and some cases without identified travel exposures. Pertussis cases have remained elevated across many states in 2024 and 2025. A June 2025 publication in the New England Journal of Medicine described the emergence of diphtheria cases across ten European countries in recent years (<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2311981>). To keep you prepared, we plan to publish several Contagious Comments highlighting specific vaccine-preventable diseases in the coming months. These will be short reports including data and tips on responding to diseases like measles, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, and varicella.

Local vaccination data: For the 2024-25 school year, only 88% of Colorado kindergarteners were fully vaccinated with MMR. Colorado fell below the national average, leaving many children and communities vulnerable to outbreaks. Find more Colorado school vaccination data here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization/school-and-child-care-data> and more about MMR and measles here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/diseases-a-to-z/measles/2025-case-information>.

For the 2024-25 season, 65% of Colorado infants under 8 months of age received nirsevimab to protect them from RSV. Data for influenza, COVID, and RSV immunization can be found here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/respiratory-virus-immunization-data>

Reliable Immunization Information Sources: In August 2025 the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published their independent evidence-based immunization schedule. Amidst recent changes to the composition of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the previously transparent, rigorous processes supporting the FDA's and CDC's decisions about vaccination, many families and clinicians have wondered where to find reliable information about vaccinations. The AAP remains committed to the health of all children and will continue their long history of providing evidence-based vaccine guidance.

Reliable Immunization Websites	
AAP Vaccine Schedule	https://publications.aap.org/redbook/resources/15585/AAP-Immunization-Schedule
For parents	https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Recommended-Immunization-Schedules.aspx
CHOP Vaccine Education Center	https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center
Immunize.org	Immunize.org
Immunize for Good	https://immunizeforgood.com/ https://vacunalosporsubien.com/
History of Vaccines	https://historyofvaccines.org/
Voices for Vaccines	https://www.voicesforvaccines.org/
Immunize Colorado	https://www.immunizecolorado.org/

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Thank you for your interest in our publication.

