

Vaccinating our children is the best way to keep them free of infection when they are exposed to viruses and bacteria that continue to spread in the United States and many parts of the world.ⁱ

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

The U.S. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion considers vaccines among the most cost-effective clinical preventive services and a core component of any preventive services package. “Childhood immunization programs provide a very high return on investment. For example, for each birth cohort vaccinated with the routine immunization schedule (this includes DTaP, Td, Hib, Polio, MMR, Hep B, and varicella vaccines), society:

- Saves 33,000 lives.
- Prevents 14 million cases of disease.
- Reduces direct health care costs by \$9.9 billion.
- Saves \$33.4 billion in indirect costs.ⁱⁱ

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2018 will prevent 419 million illnesses and 26.8 million hospitalizations.ⁱⁱⁱ We know what vaccines have already achieved:

- Beginning in 1955, the creation of poliovirus vaccines led to a stepwise reduction in poliomyelitis, culminating in the unpredicted elimination of wild polioviruses in the United States by 1972.^{iv}
- Since the pneumococcal vaccine was introduced in 2000, it has cut life-threatening diseases related to this type of bacteria—things like meningitis and pneumonia—in children by 99%.
- Before the Hib vaccine, which became available in 1991, about 12,000 children got Hib disease—including meningitis—every year in the U.S.

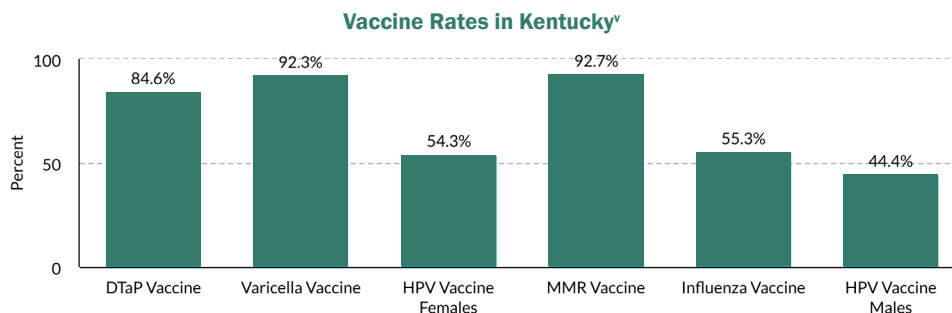


Viruses and bacteria are unpredictable, as we can see from the current coronavirus pandemic.

Vaccines can control these threats. Vaccines strengthen children’s natural immunity.

Used in their smallest but most effective form, vaccines boost a child’s natural defenses against illness. Vaccines train the immune system to identify and fight off dangerous bacteria and viruses that invade the body.

Vaccines also build a protective wall around families and communities. They reduce the spread of disease that cause hospitalizations, surgeries and other invasive procedures that come with them.



For more information on vaccines visit: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/Pages/immunization.aspx>

ⁱ American Academy of Pediatrics. How Vaccines Secure Your Child’s Freedom from Disease.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/How-Vaccines-Secure-Childs-Freedom-Disease.aspx>

ⁱⁱ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2020.

<https://www.healthypeople.gov/node/3527/data-details.%C2%A0Accessed>

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Protecting America’s Children Every Day.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/protecting-children.html>

^{iv} The National Center for Biotechnology Information. From Emergence to Eradication: The Epidemiology of Poliomyelitis Deconstructed.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2991634/#:~:text=Global%20expansion%20of%20polio%20immunization,than%201%2C000%20cases%20in%202000>

^v American Academy of Pediatrics. Child Vaccination Across America.

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Pages/Across-America.aspx>