



SANTA CRUZ COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

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Press Release

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Public Health Officials Cite Impact of Childhood Vaccinations

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and local health officials are encouraging parents to make sure their children are up-to-date with all their immunizations. "Childhood vaccinations protect children when they are most at risk of death or serious complications from these diseases," says Dr. Poki Namkung, Health Officer for the County of Santa Cruz. The table below illustrates the impact of childhood vaccinations.

Year Vaccine Developed &/or Licensed	Disease/Vaccine	Disease Impact Before Introduction of Vaccine (United States)	Impact of Vaccine in U.S.
1796 (not widely used before 1900)	Smallpox	21,064 cases reported in 1900; 894 deaths	Smallpox eradicated in 1977
1923	Diphtheria	147,991 cases reported; 13,170 deaths	1 case reported in 2002
1926	Pertussis	107,473 cases reported in 1922; 5099 deaths	9,771 cases reported in 2002; 18 deaths
1927	Tetanus	An average of 1,314 cases reported per year between 1922-1926	25 cases reported in US in 2002
1955	Polio	Between 1951-1954, an average 16,316 paralytic polio cases reported; 1,879 deaths	Polio caused by wild-type viruses eliminated from the Western Hemisphere in 1991
1963	Measles	Between 1958-1962, an average of 503,282 measles cases reported; 432 deaths	44 Cases reported in 2002
1967	Mumps	212,000 cases reported in 1964	270 cases reported in 2002

Year Vaccine Developed &/or Licensed	Disease/Vaccine	Disease Impact Before Introduction of Vaccine (United States)	Impact of Vaccine in U.S.
1969	Rubella	In 1964-1965, there was an epidemic of rubella that resulted in approximately 20,000 infants born with Congenital Rubella Syndrome, with 2100 neonatal deaths and 11,250 miscarriages	Rubella declared no longer endemic in US in 2005
1982	Hepatitis B	22,177 cases reported in 1982	7,996 cases reported in 2002
1985	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) (bacterial meningitis)	Estimated 20,000 cases reported each year; leading cause of childhood bacterial meningitis and postnatal mental retardation	34 cases of Hib disease reported among children less than 5 years in 2005
1995	Varicella (chicken pox)	120,624 cases reported in 1995; between 1990-1994, an average of 100 deaths per year	22,841 cases reported in 2002; 9 deaths

Source:

<http://search.aap.org/aap/CISPframe.html?url=http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/savelives.html>

Parents should contact their primary care provider for information on immunizations or a local community clinic such as Planned Parenthood or Salud Para la Gente.

The County of Santa Cruz offers an immunization clinic at two sites: 1080 Emeline Ave. in Santa Cruz and 9 Crestview Dr. in Watsonville. Both are open from 8am to 11:30am and 1pm to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. No appointments are necessary. For more information, please call 454-4100 in Santa Cruz and 763-8400 in Watsonville. Parents are also encouraged to visit the Public Health web site at www.santacruzhealth.org. Click on "Public Health", then "Immunizations".