

# Fundamentals of Ecology

Week 8, Ecology Lecture 7

Cara Brook

February 27, 2025

**Office hours: On ZOOM  
Friday, Feb 28, 2025  
4-5pm  
*I will email out a link!***

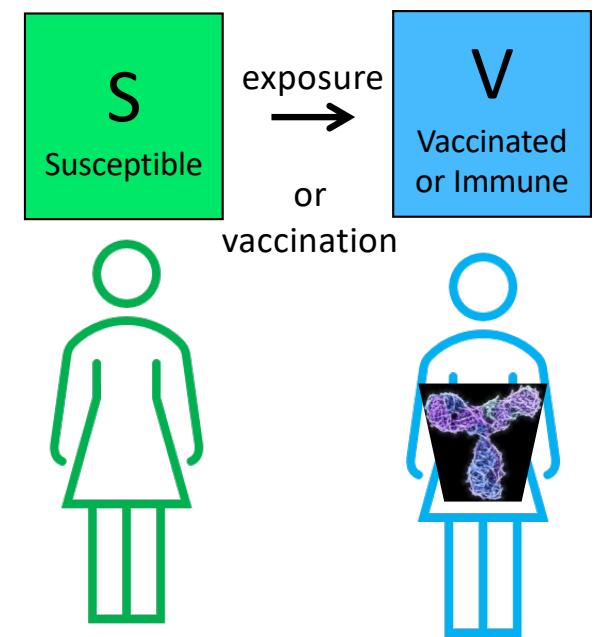
# Learning objectives from Lecture 6

*You should be able to:*

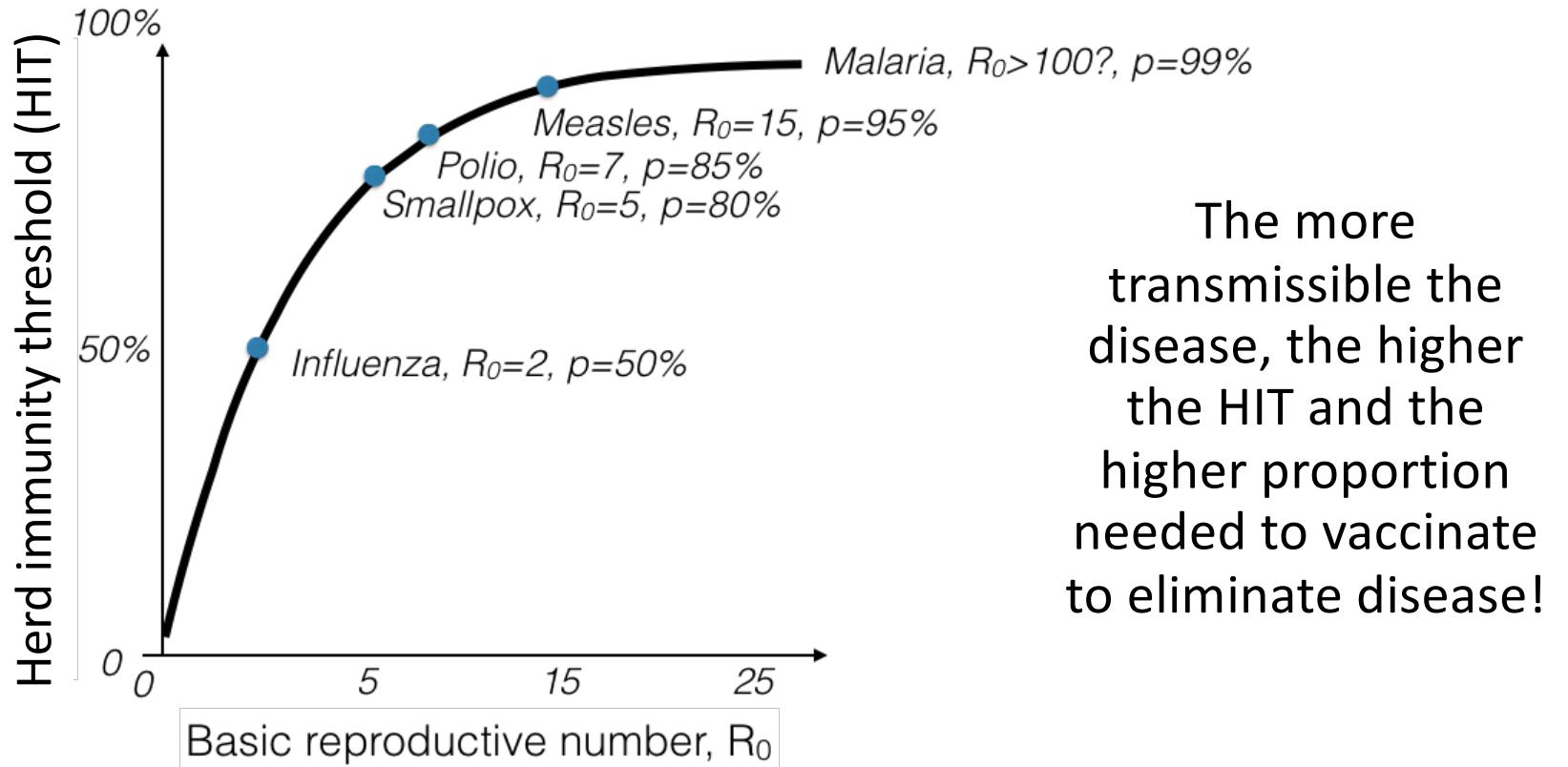
- Recognize that coexistence is rare without spatial structuring or niche partitioning (from competition/coexistence lessons)
- Know the history of disease impacts on human population growth and evolution
- Understand different classes of parasite or pathogen and how they manifest as disease
- Understand the SIR equation and be able to convert between diagrams and equations. Know the processes that connect the different boxes
- Understand the herd immunity concept (also the proportion needed to vaccinate to eradicate disease) and identify on a phase plane graph (from lab)
- Understand the direction of time in a disease epidemic from a phase plane graph (from lab)
- Understand the relationship between  $R_0$  and  $R_t/RE$

# Mathematics of Vaccination

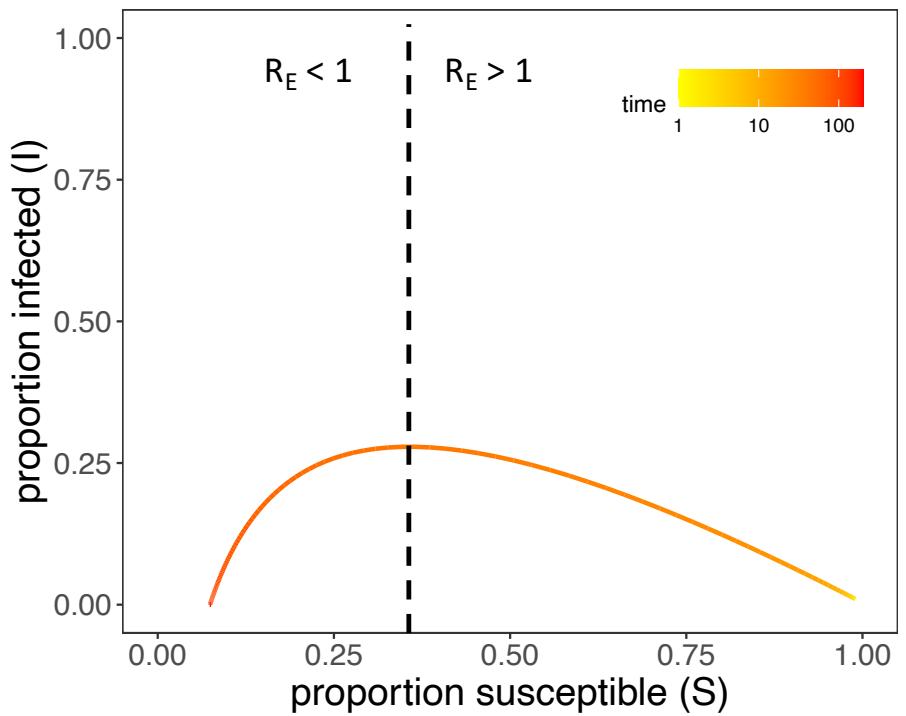
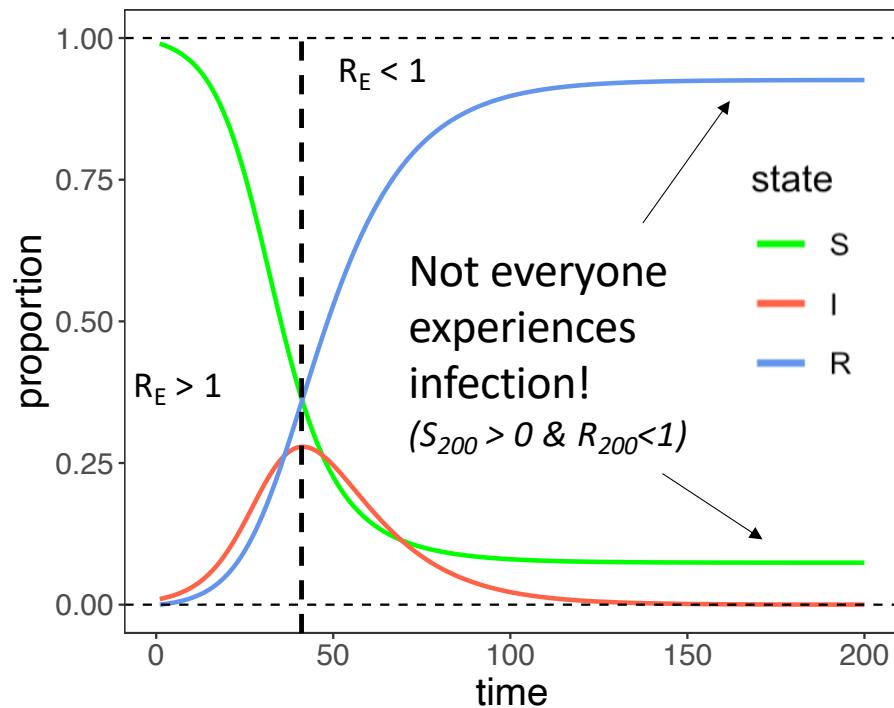
- Goal: **Reduce  $R_E < 1$**  by removing individuals from the susceptible population.
- Because infectious periods tend to be short-lived (*depending on the pathogen!*), we can theoretically divide the population into two classes: S (susceptible) and V (vaccinated, or immune)
- If  $S + V = N$ , then  
Prop. Susceptible + Prop. Vaccinated = 1.
- Remember,  $R_E = R_0 P_S$  or  $R_E = R_0(1 - P_V)$
- $R_E < 1 \approx (1 - P_V)R_0 < 1$
- Rearranging,  $P_V > 1 - \frac{1}{R_0}$
- **This is the herd immunity threshold.**
- **Even susceptibles will not become infected because the disease will not spread ( $R_E < 1$ ).**



# $R_0$ and the Herd Immunity Threshold



# $R_0$ and the Herd Immunity Threshold

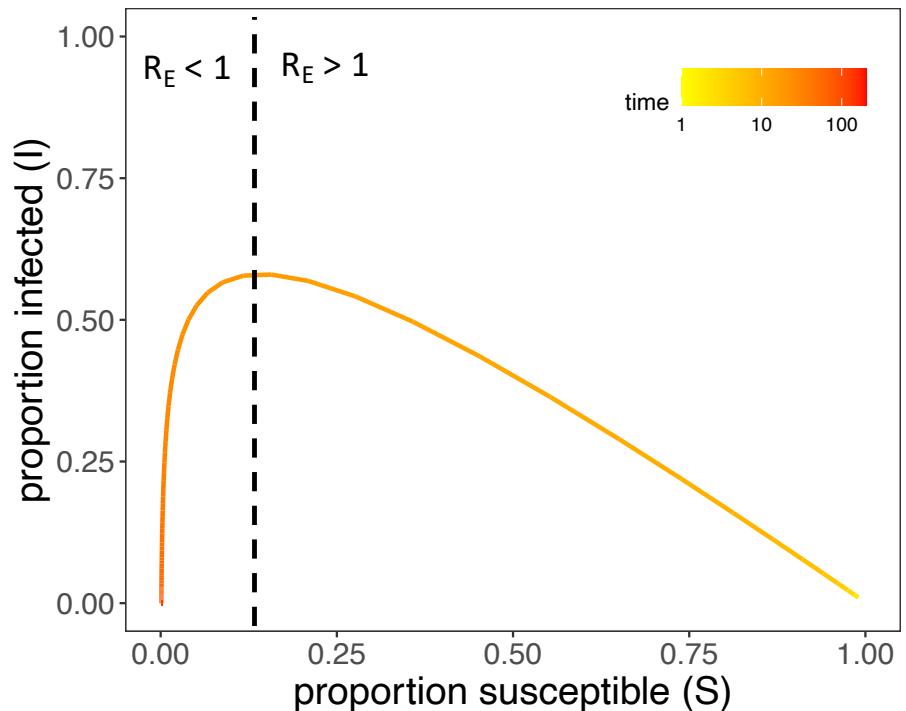
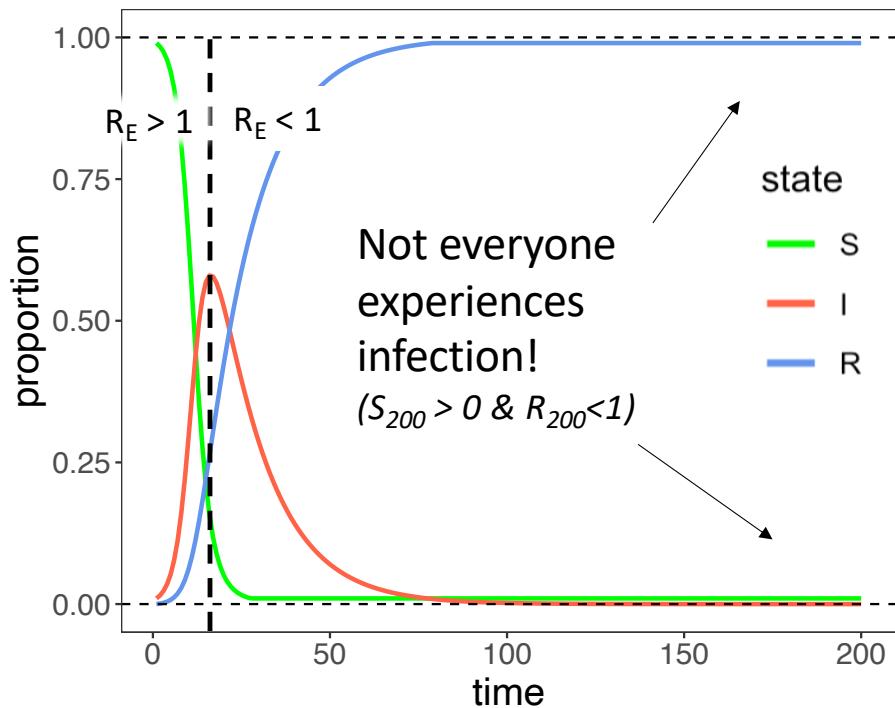


$$R_0 = 2.8$$

$$P_v = 1 - 1/R_0 = 1 - (1/2.8) = 0.64$$

64% need to be immune to stop the disease from spreading.  
That means only 36% remaining susceptibles are permitted!

# $R_0$ and the Herd Immunity Threshold

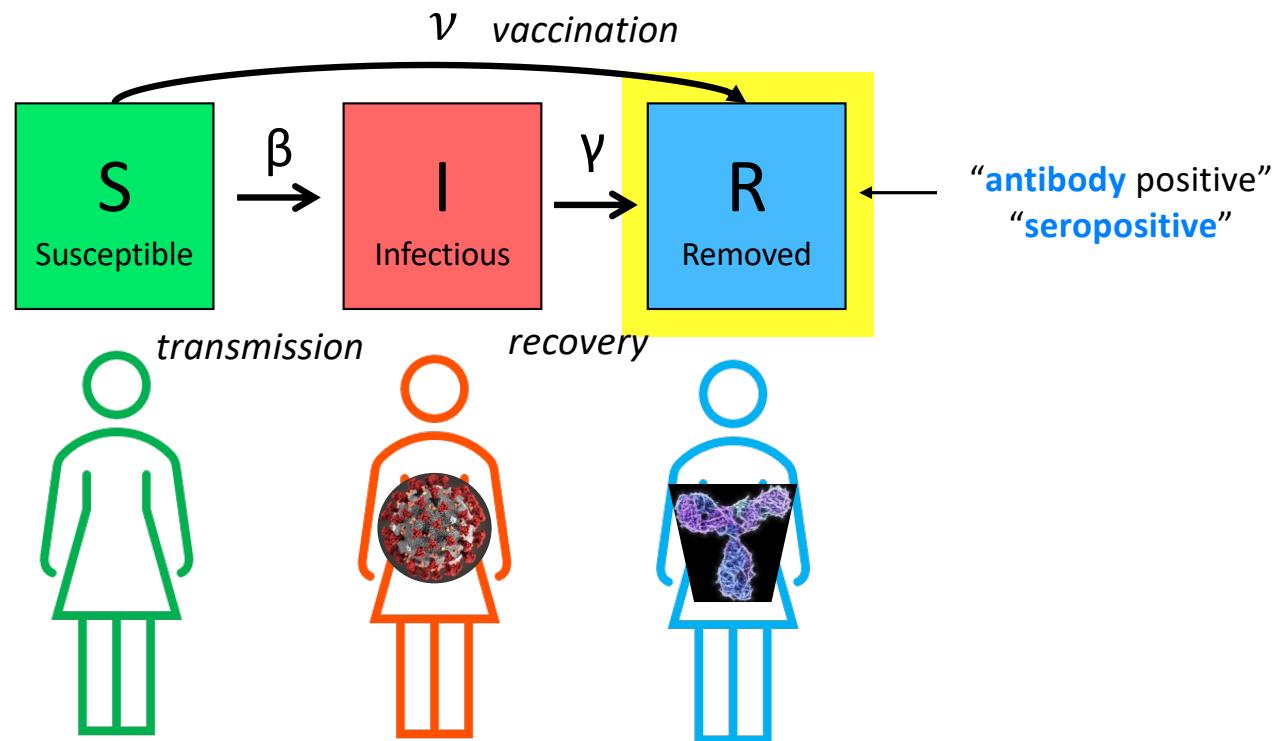


$$R_0 = 7$$

$$P_v = 1 - 1/R_0 = 1 - (1/7) = 0.86$$

86% need to be immune to stop the disease from spreading.  
That means only 14% remaining susceptibles are permitted!

# Vaccination stems from a long history

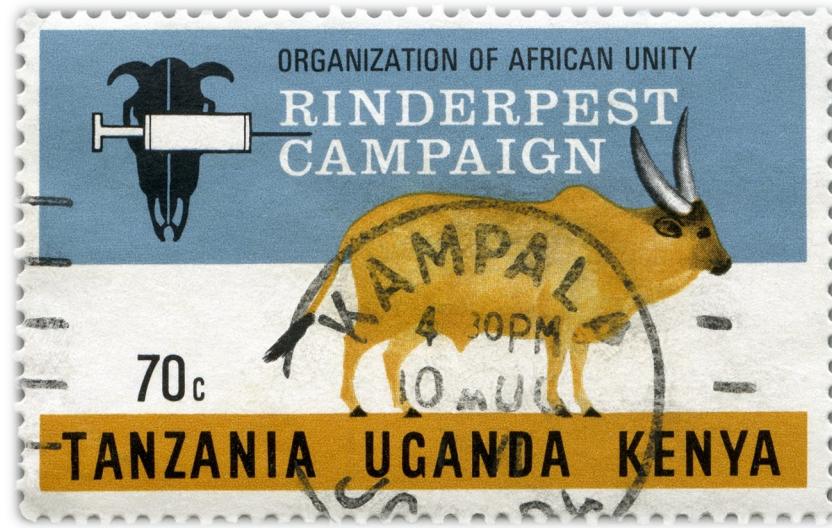


# Vaccination stems from a long history

- Variolation: Early attempts to provide protection against smallpox (*Variola virus*) via inoculation with scab material from a recent patient infected with Variola minor
  - First described in China in the 10<sup>th</sup> century
  - Caused 1% mortality!
- 1789 Edward Jenner used cowpox vesicles to inoculate an 8-year-old boy
  - Later inoculated with smallpox and boy was unaffected
  - The first vaccine, taken from *vacca*, cow in Latin
- Smallpox was globally eradicated in 1977, following a massive international campaign
- Today, we are seeing enhanced transmission of monkeypox partly resulting from a lack of circulating immunity to closely related smallpox



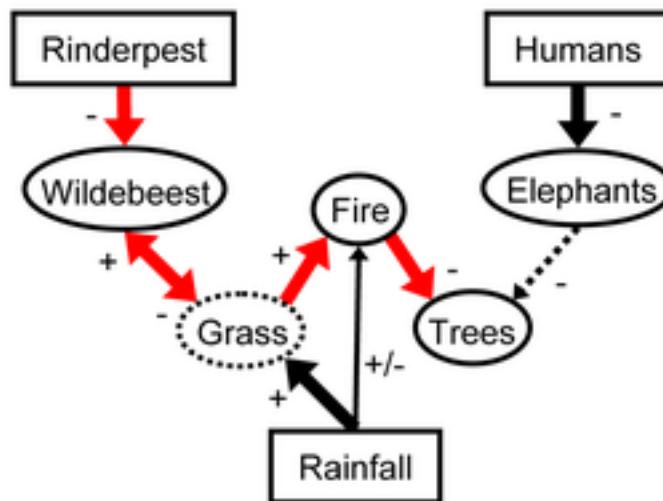
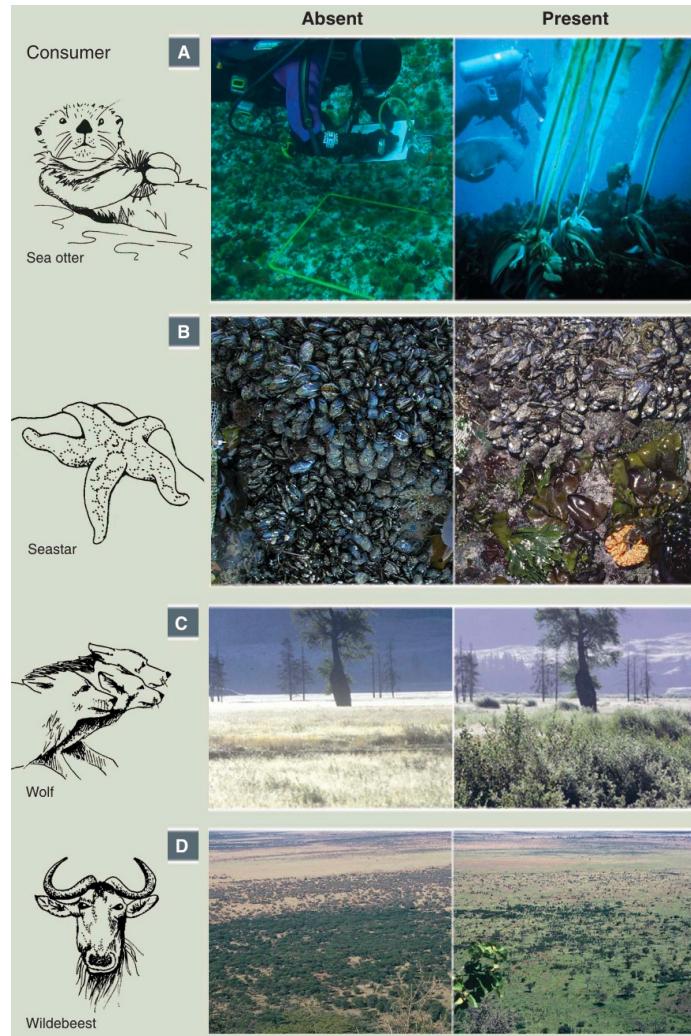
# Only two global vaccination success stories



Rinderpest was globally eradicated in 2011, though inoculation efforts date back to the 1700s!

# Remember those **trophic cascades**...

Estes et al. 2011. *Science*.



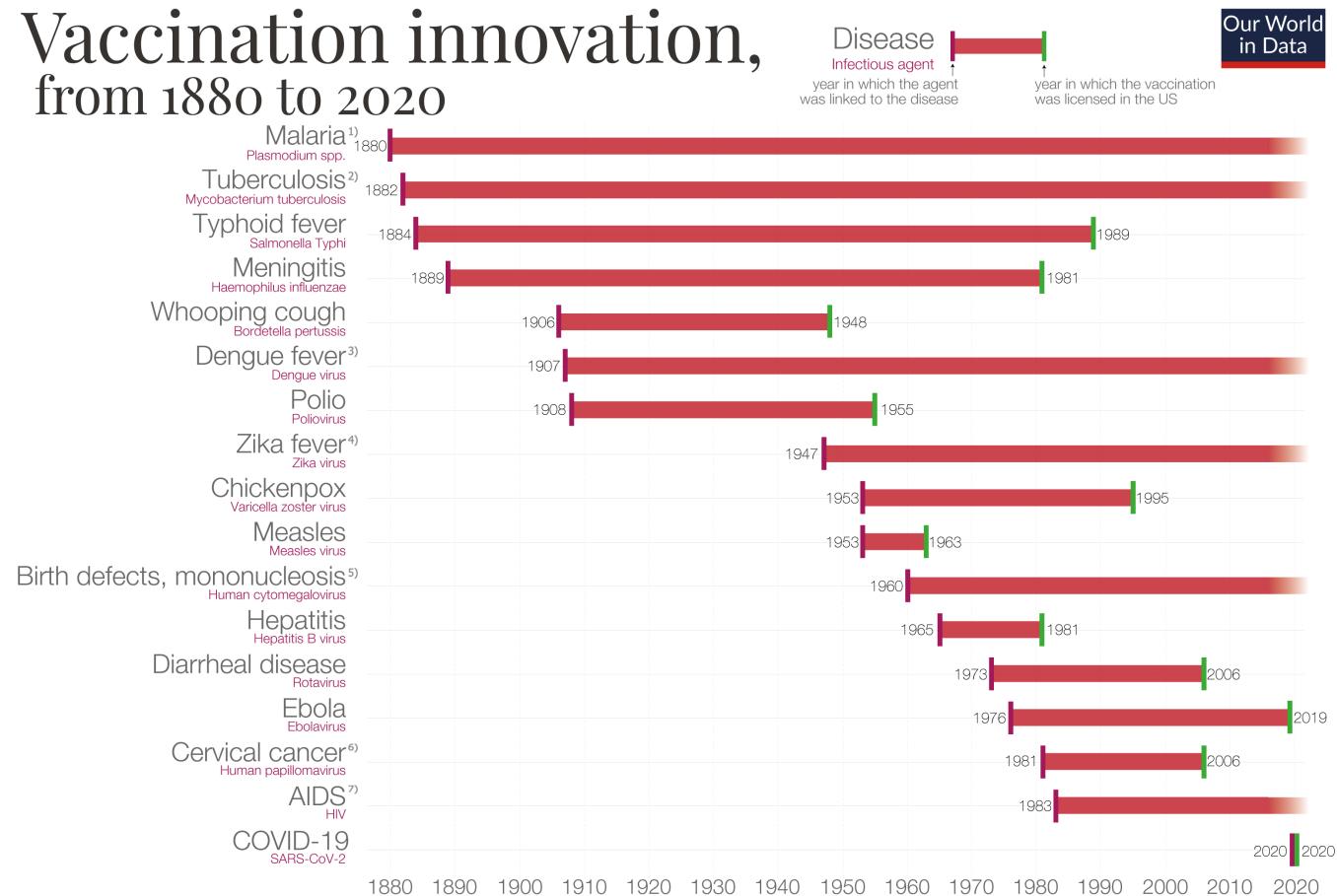
1. ↓ rinderpest
2. ↑ wildebeest
3. ↓ grass
4. ↓ fire
5. ↑ trees

Rinderpest eradication releases wildebeest populations that control savanna, limit fire, and promote tree regrowth

Holdo et al. 2009. *PLoS Biology*

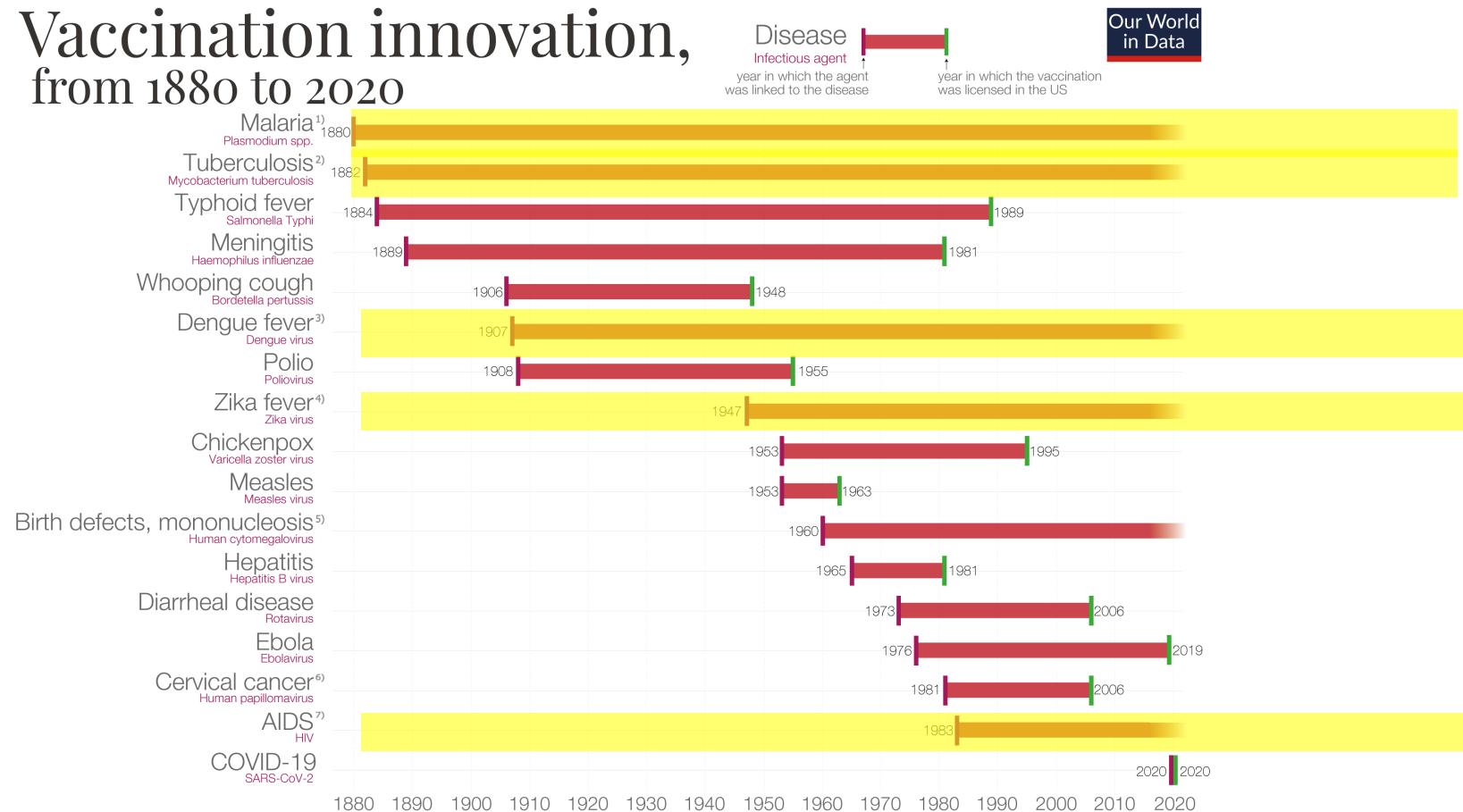
# The pace of vaccine development has accelerated drastically

## Vaccination innovation, from 1880 to 2020



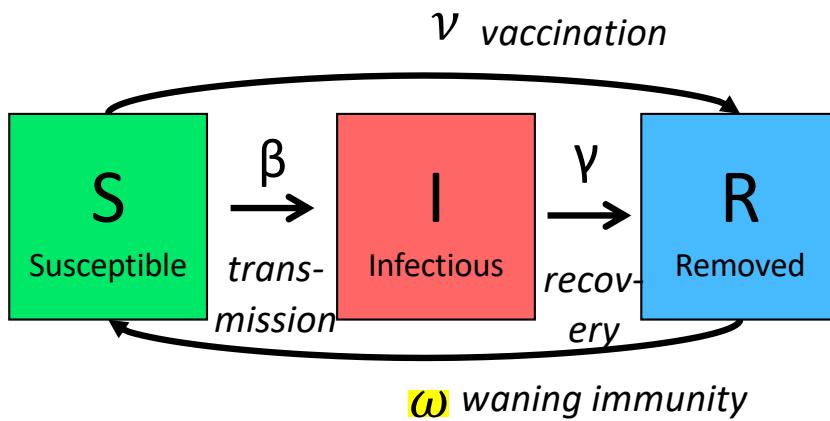
# But we still lack vaccines for several important diseases.

## Vaccination innovation, from 1880 to 2020



# Challenges to Vaccination

- Imperfect immunity, especially with non-viral pathogens

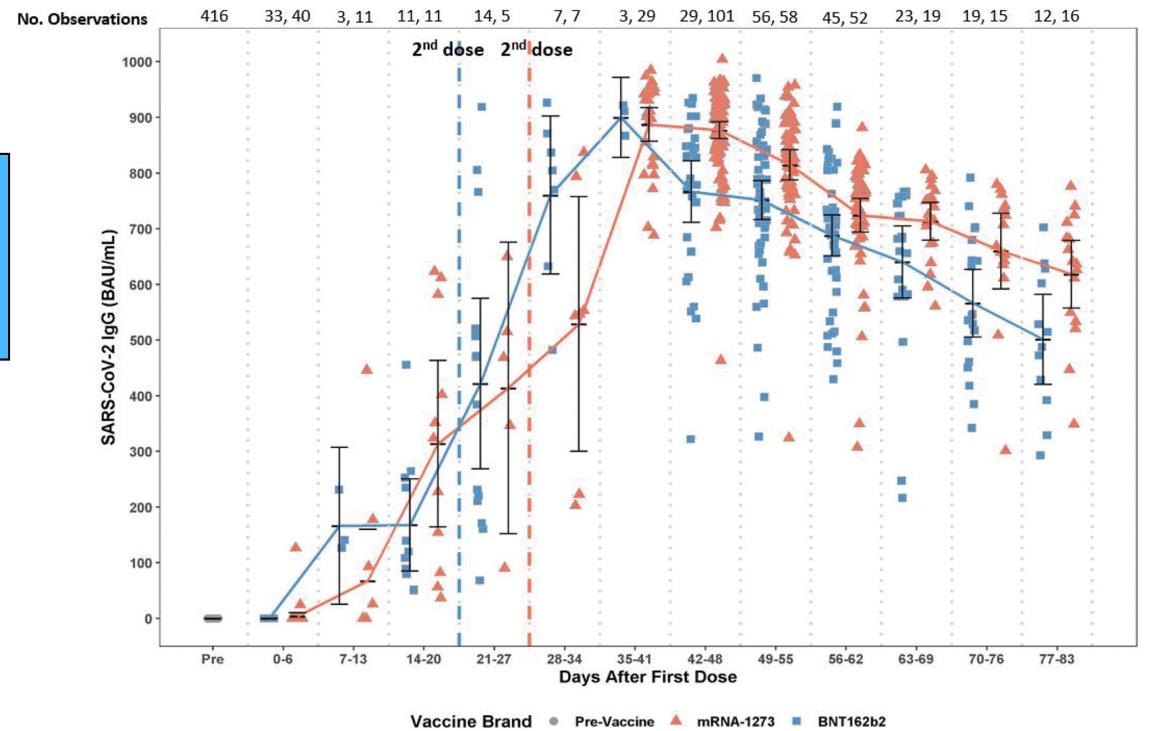


$\beta$  = transmission rate

$\gamma$  = recovery rate

$\nu$  = vaccination rate

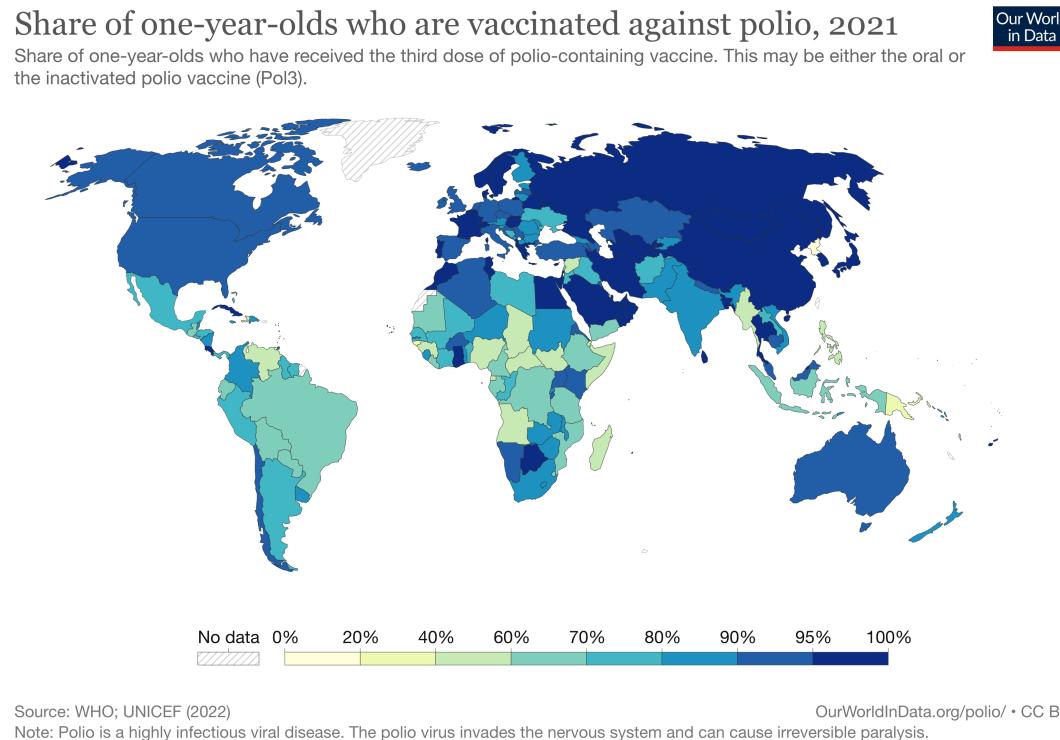
$\omega$  = rate waning immunity



Montoya et al. 2021 *Microbiology Spectrum*

# Challenges to Vaccination

- Imperfect immunity, especially with non-viral pathogens
- Geographic differences in public health policy and access



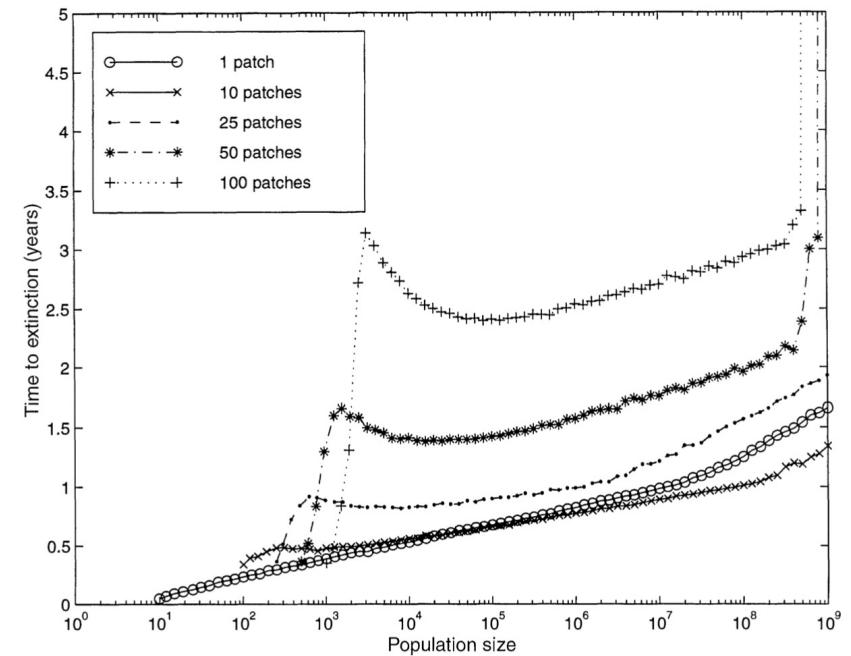
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- Continuous births
- Animal reservoirs



# Challenges to Vaccination

- Imperfect immunity, especially with non-viral pathogens
- Geographic differences in public health policy and access
- Continuous births
- Animal reservoirs
- Spatial structure (metapopulation rescue)



Swinton et al. 1998  
Bartlett 1957

# Challenges to Vaccination

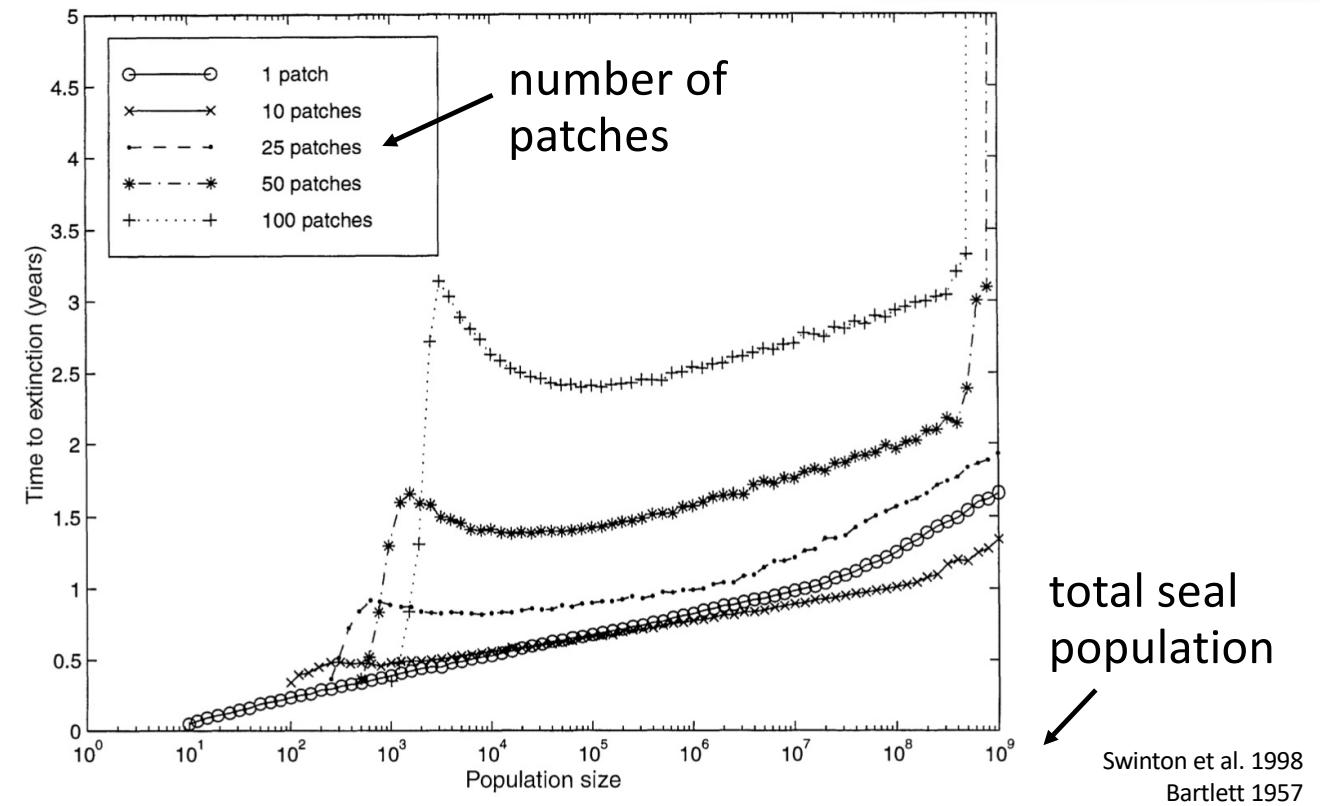
- Spatial structure (**metapopulation rescue**)



time until all patches go extinct (remember metapopulations!)

All else equal, **increasing the number of patches** will slow the time to extinction.

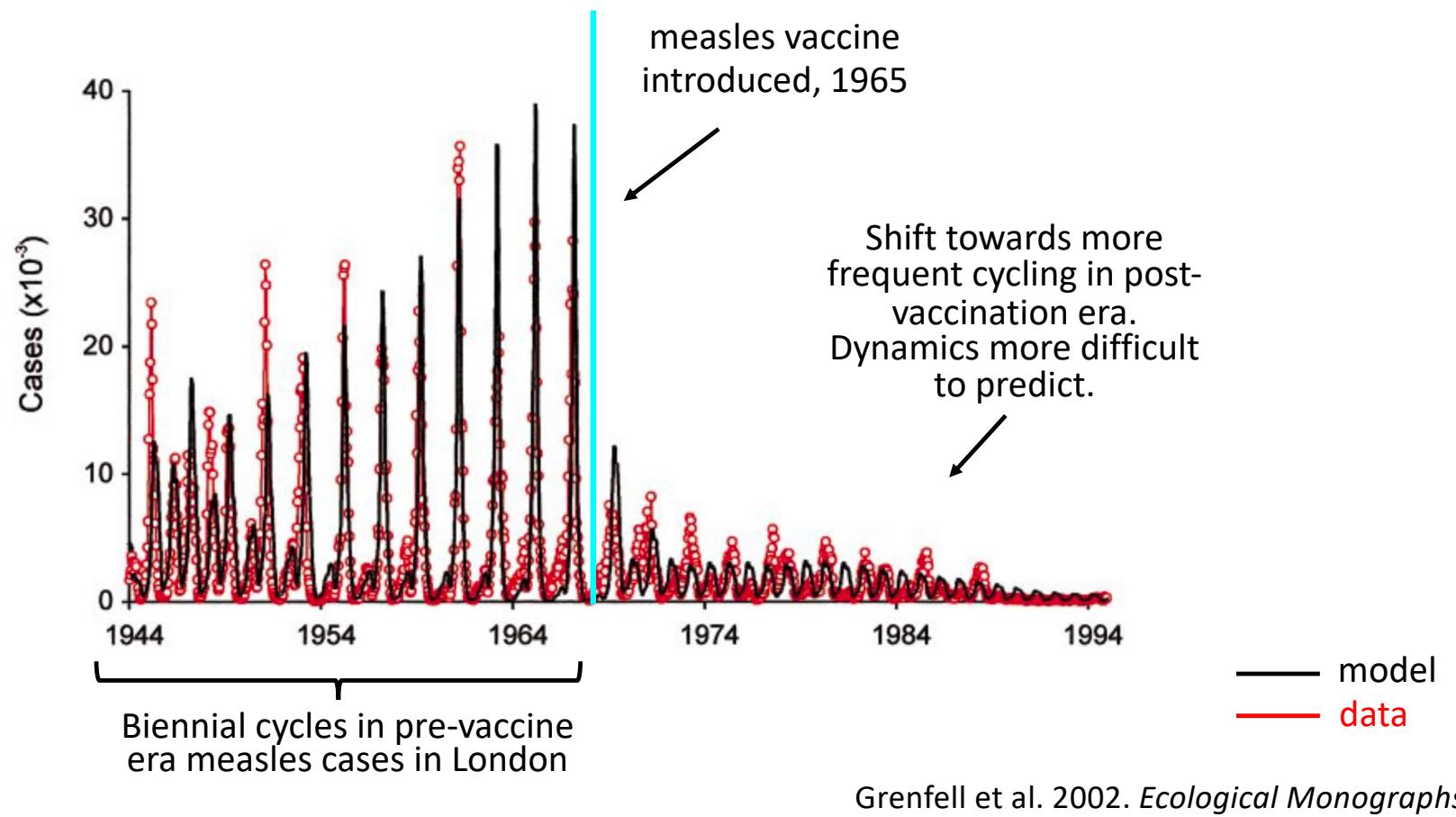
...though remember **source-sink** dynamics!



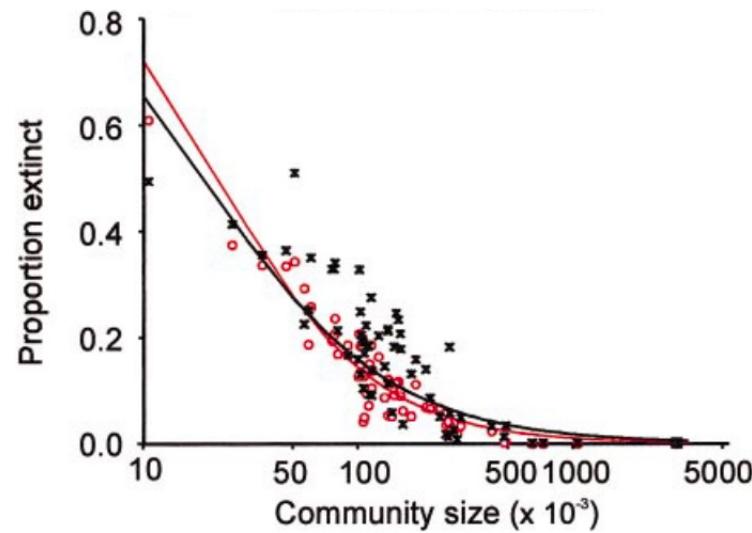
## Challenges to Vaccination

- Imperfect immunity, especially with non-viral pathogens
- Geographic differences in public health policy and access
- Continuous births
- Animal reservoirs
- Spatial structure (metapopulation rescue)
- More complex pathogens!

Much of the mathematical theory underlying vaccination was first developed for measles

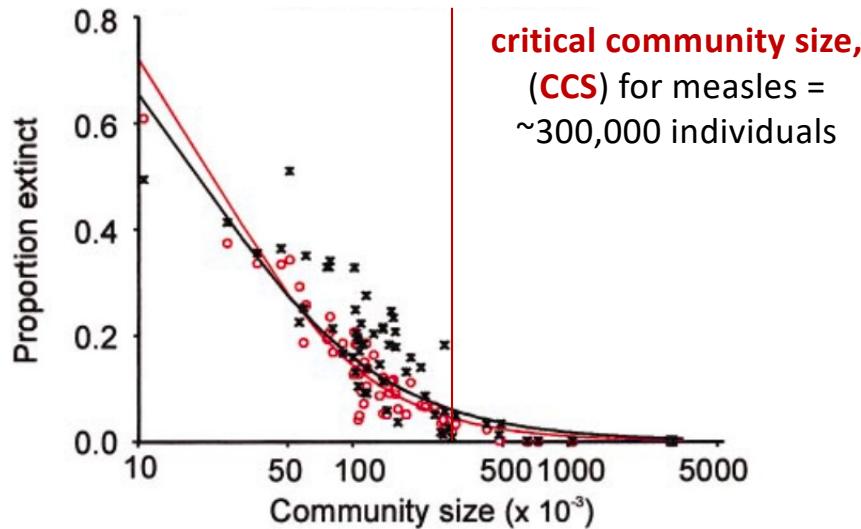


Even for measles, stochastic dynamics mean that predictions become more challenging at smaller population sizes.



Grenfell et al. 2002. *Ecological Monographs*

**CCS** is the **minimum number of hosts** needed to sustain **endemic transmission** of a pathogen indefinitely into the future.



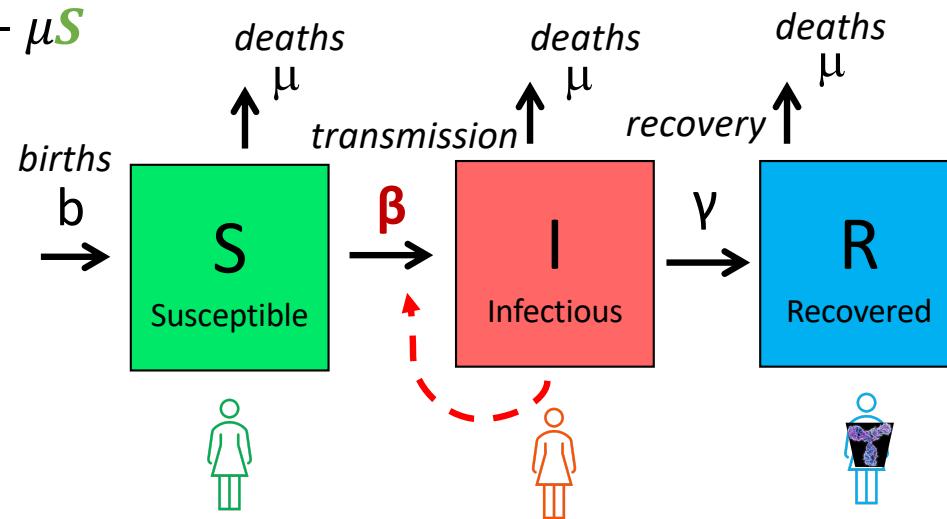
Bartlett 1957. *J of Roy Stat Soc.*  
Grenfell et al. 2002. *Ecological Monographs*.  
Haydon et al. 2002. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

We can adapt the simple SIR model to better match our pathogen of interest and our corresponding data.

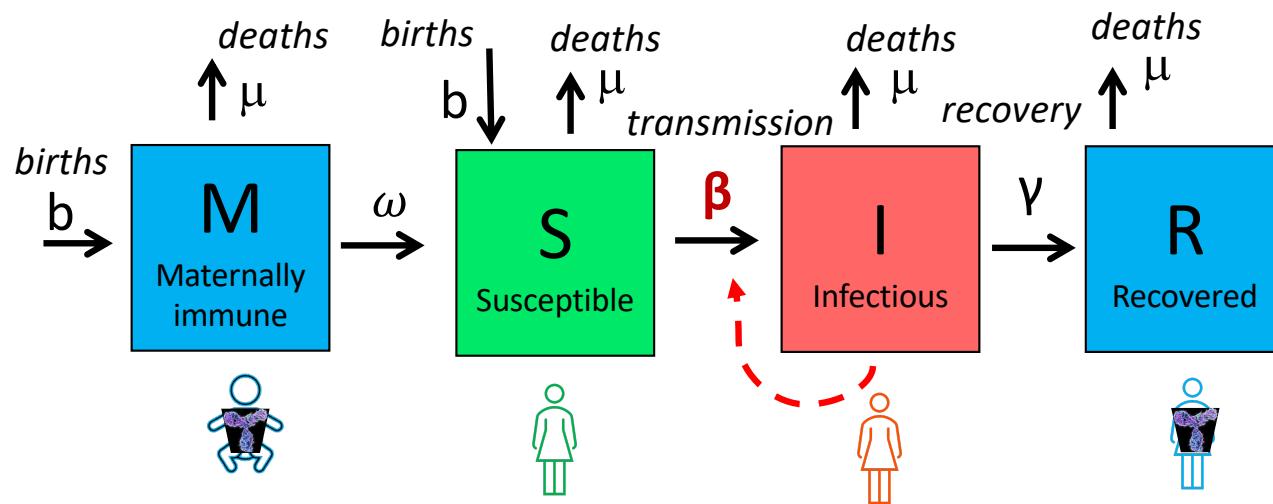
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = b(S + I + R) - \beta SI - \mu S$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I - \mu I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I - \mu R$$



# Incorporating Maternal Immunity



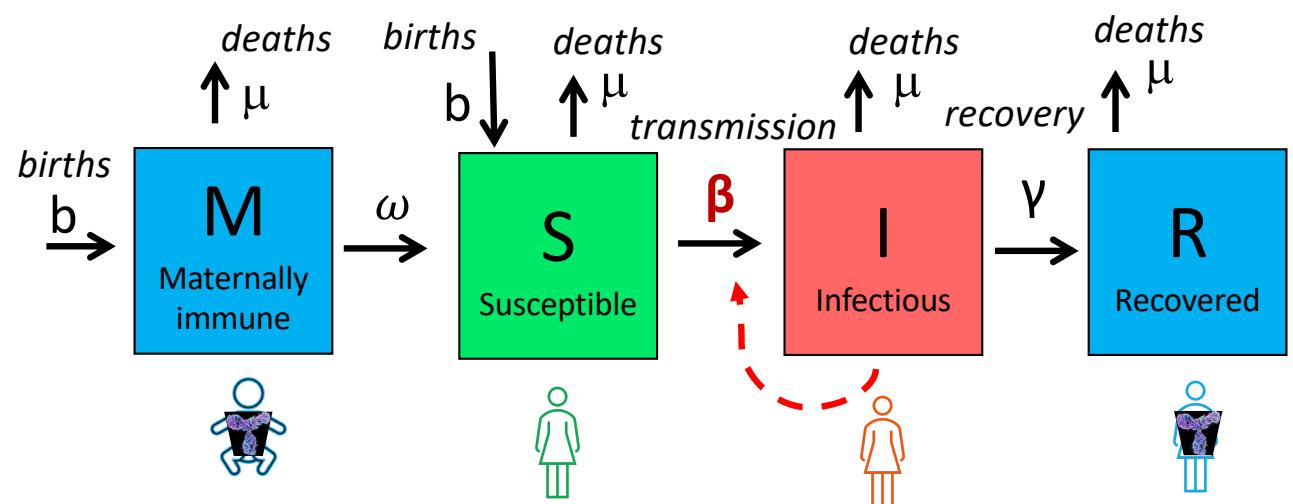
## Incorporating Maternal Immunity

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = bS - \beta SI - \mu S$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I - \mu I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I - \mu R$$

*What does our new equation look like?*



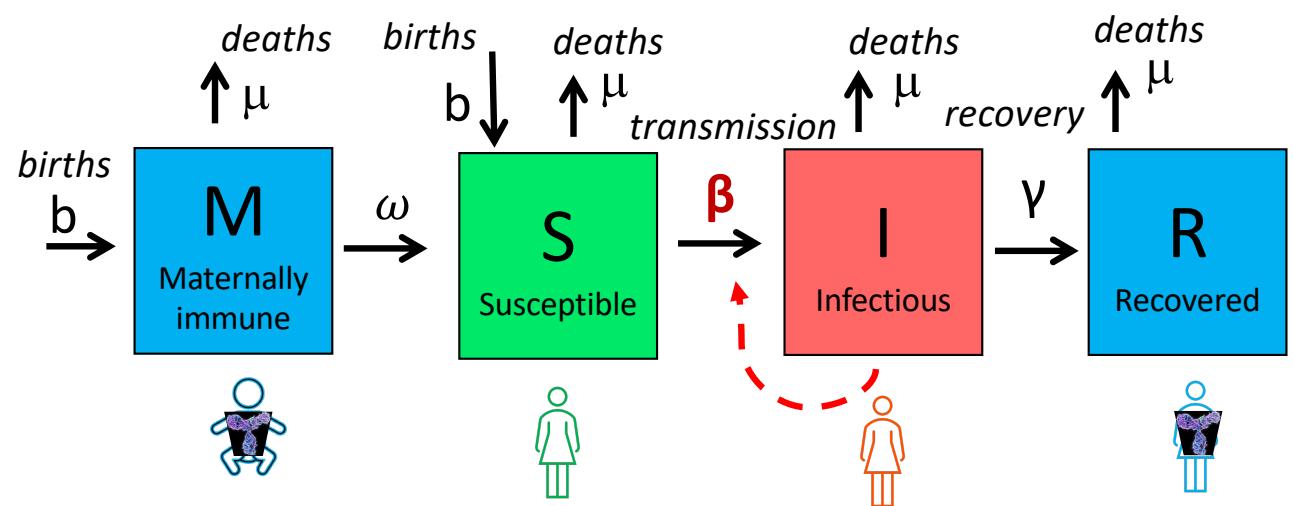
## Incorporating Maternal Immunity

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = b(I + R) - \omega M - \mu M$$

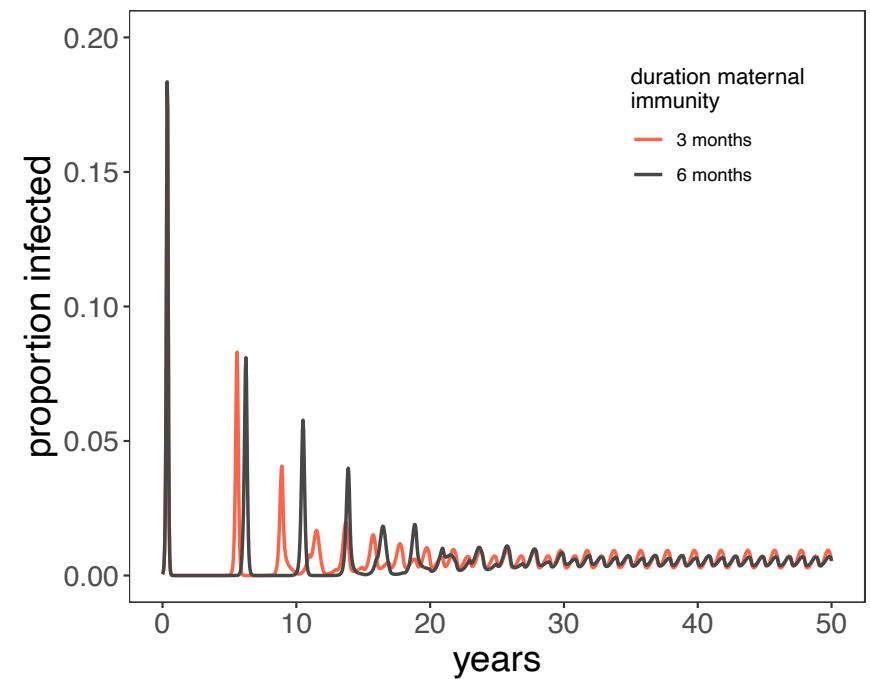
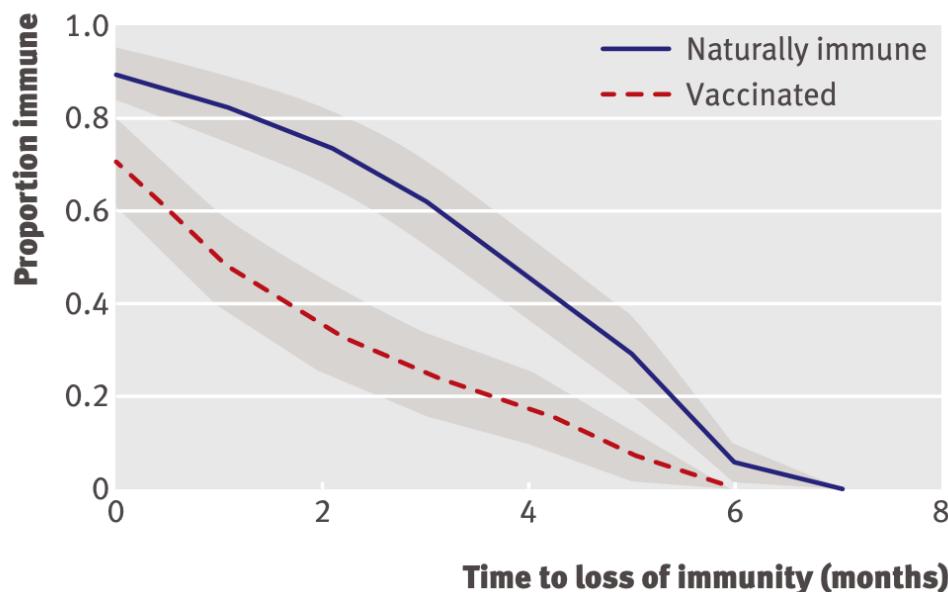
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \omega M + bS - \beta SI - \mu S$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SI - \gamma I - \mu I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I - \mu R$$



## Duration of maternal immunity for measles for naturally infected vs. vaccinated mothers → will impact dynamical predictions!

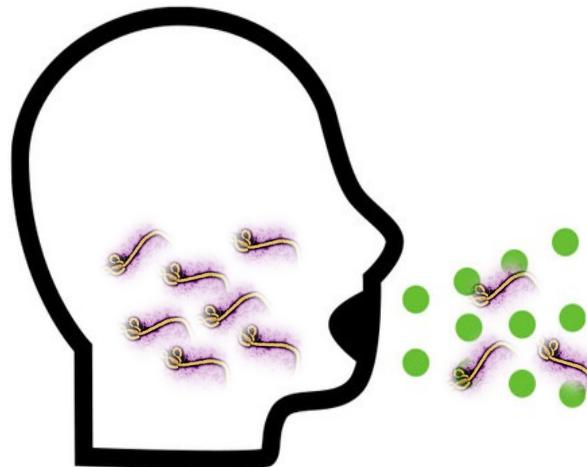
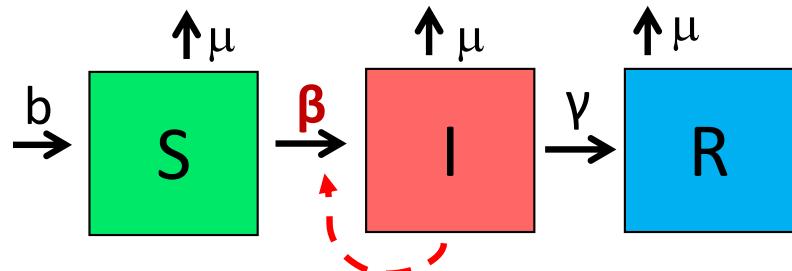


Leuridan et al. 2010. *BMJ*.

*incorporating maternal immunity*

## Pathogens exhibit **diverse transmission mechanisms** that require **tailored modeling structures**

- **Directly-transmitted** diseases are transmitted via exchange of bodily fluids
  - Droplet (> 5 microns) spread or direct contact
  - Includes sexually-transmitted pathogens, though often modeled with a more complex contact network
  - Smallpox (*Variola* spp.), HIV, Mononucleosis (*Epstein Barr virus*)
- **Indirectly-transmitted** diseases are transmitted via droplets retained in air
  - Droplets < 5 microns in diameter
  - Measles, COVID (SARS-CoV-2)



**Modeled  
using the  
classic SIR  
structure!**

## Pathogens exhibit **diverse transmission mechanisms** that require **tailored modeling structures**

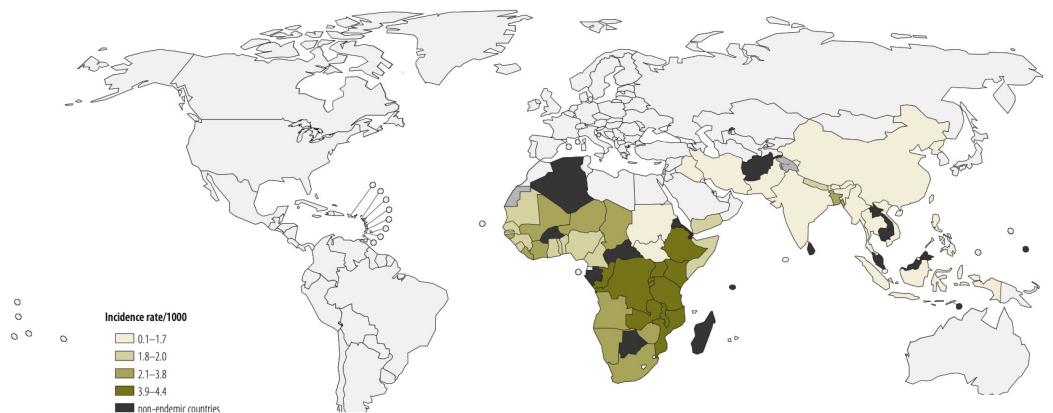
- **Environmentally-transmitted** pathogens are transmitted outside of the host (e.g. water-borne, food-borne)
  - Examples: Cholera (*Vibrio cholerae*), Salmonellosis (*Salmonella* spp. bacteria), White-Nosed Syndrome (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*)

**Modeled with the  
environmental  
reservoir as a  
distinct state  
variable!**

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## Global Burden of Cholera, 2012



*Estimated 2.8 million cases & 95,000 deaths annually*



Ali et al. 2012, WHO Bulletin.

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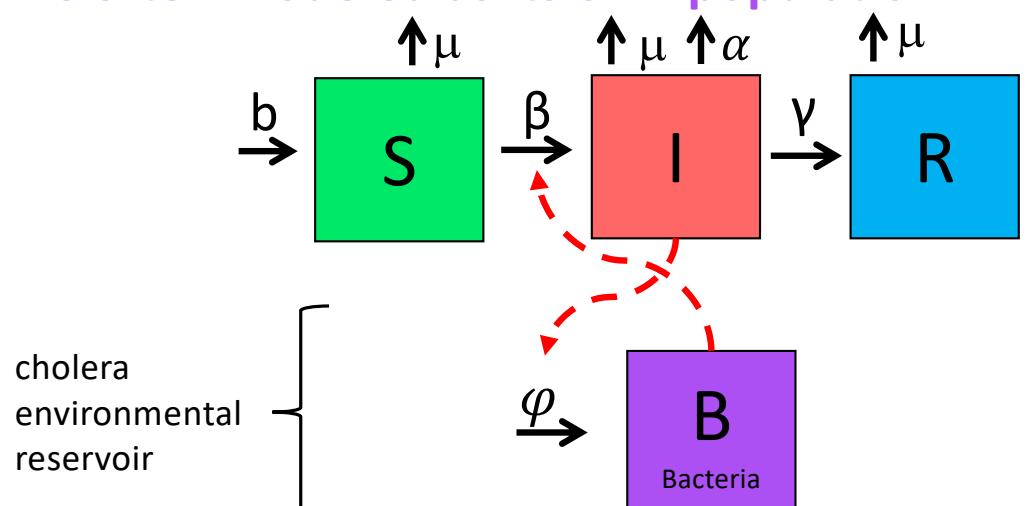
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  - Examples: Cholera (*Vibrio cholerae*), Salmonellosis (*Salmonella* spp. bacteria), White-Nosed Syndrome (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*)
  - **Here, the environmental reservoir is often modeled as its own population**

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = \varphi IB$$

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = b(S + I + R) - \beta SB - \mu S$$

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta SB - \gamma I - \mu I - \alpha I$$

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = \gamma I - \mu R$$



Codeço 2001. *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

## Pathogens exhibit **diverse transmission mechanisms** that require **tailored modeling structures**

- **Vertically-transmitted** pathogens are transmitted mother-to-child *in utero*
  - Examples: HIV, *Herpes simplex virus*, *Cytomegalovirus*, Rubella, Zika



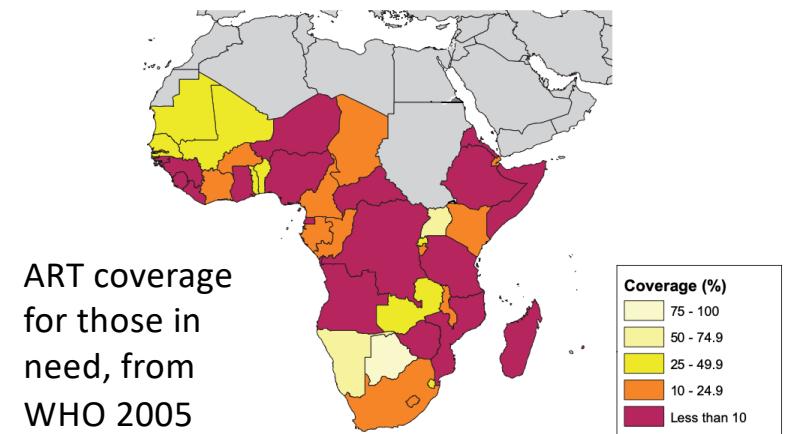
**Modeled with  
inherited infection  
rather than  
through contact!**

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- **Vertically-transmitted** pathogens are transmitted mother-to-child *in utero*
  - Examples: **HIV**, *Herpes simplex virus*, *Cytomegalovirus*, Rubella, Zika



- In untreated HIV+ mothers, rate of vertical transmission for HIV = 15-45%
- Reduced to <1% for those on ART, though global access to ART is geographically heterogeneous



## Pathogens exhibit **diverse transmission mechanisms** that require **tailored modeling structures**

- **Vector-borne** diseases (a type of indirect transmission) are transmitted via blood-feeding arthropod (mosquitoes, ticks, fleas)
  - Euclidean **vector**: a quantity with a magnitude and direction  

  - Epidemiological **vector**: an agent that carries and transmits an infectious patient into another living organism



**Typically  
modeled with  
the vector as a  
distinct state  
variable!**

## Pathogens exhibit **diverse transmission mechanisms** that require **tailored modeling structures**

- **Vector-borne** diseases (a type of indirect transmission) are transmitted via blood-feeding arthropod (mosquitoes, ticks, fleas)
  - Malaria: Mosquito-borne protozoan *Plasmodium spp.*
  - “Arboviruses”: Mosquito-borne viruses, including Dengue, Zika, Yellow fever virus, West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus
  - Sleeping sickness, also known as African trypanosomiasis: tsetse fly vector and protozoan pathogen (trypanosome)
  - Chagas disease: kissing bug vector and trypanosome pathogen
  - Plague: flea vector and bacterial pathogen (*Yersinia pestis*)

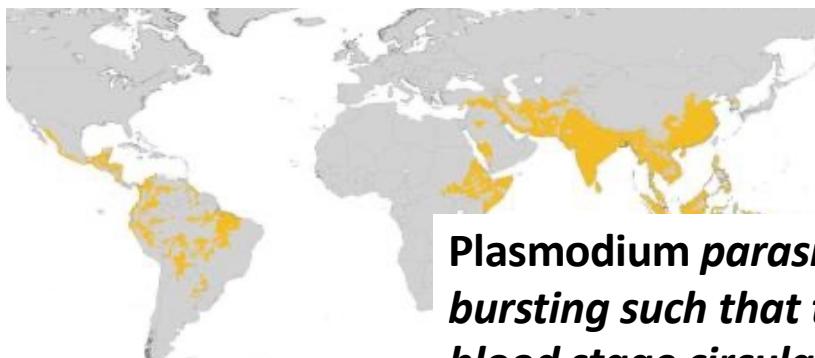
# Malaria

- 4 main human ***Plasmodium* parasites** (*falciparum*, *vivax*, *malariae*, *ovalae*).
- Over 200 *Plasmodium* spp. globally, infecting birds, reptiles, and other mammals (rodents, bats, primates)

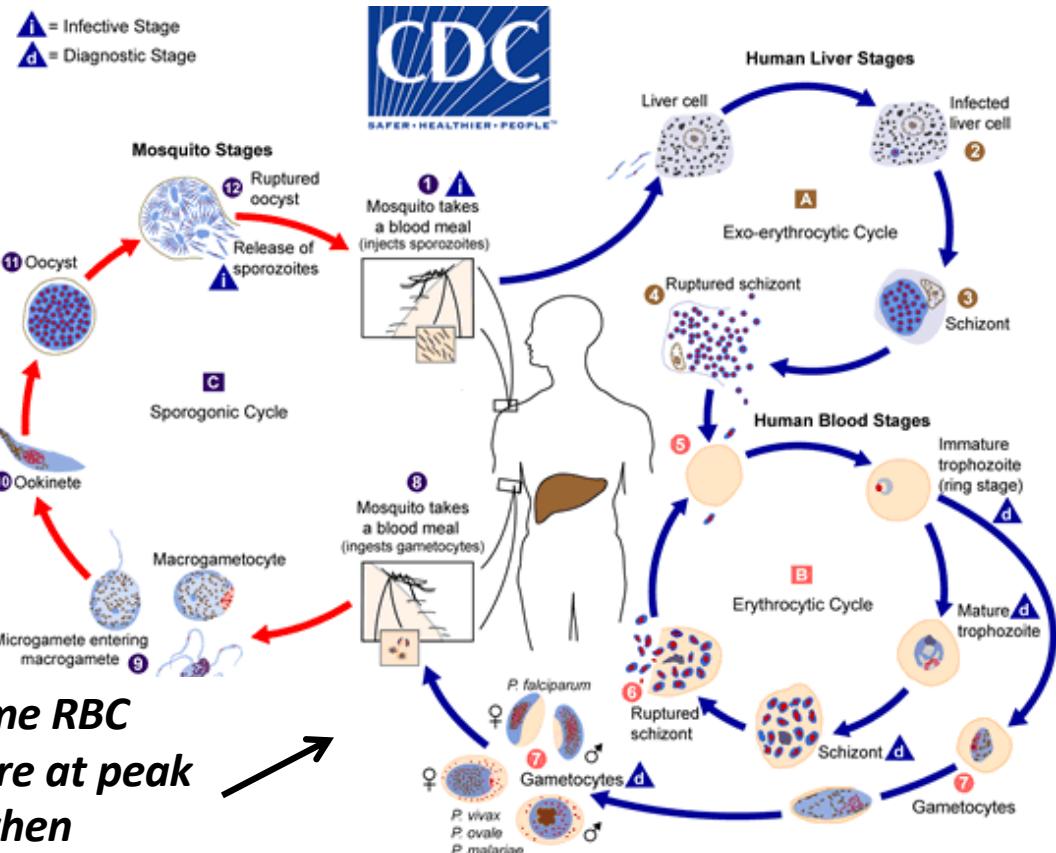
Distribution *Plasmodium falciparum*



Distribution *Plasmodium vivax*



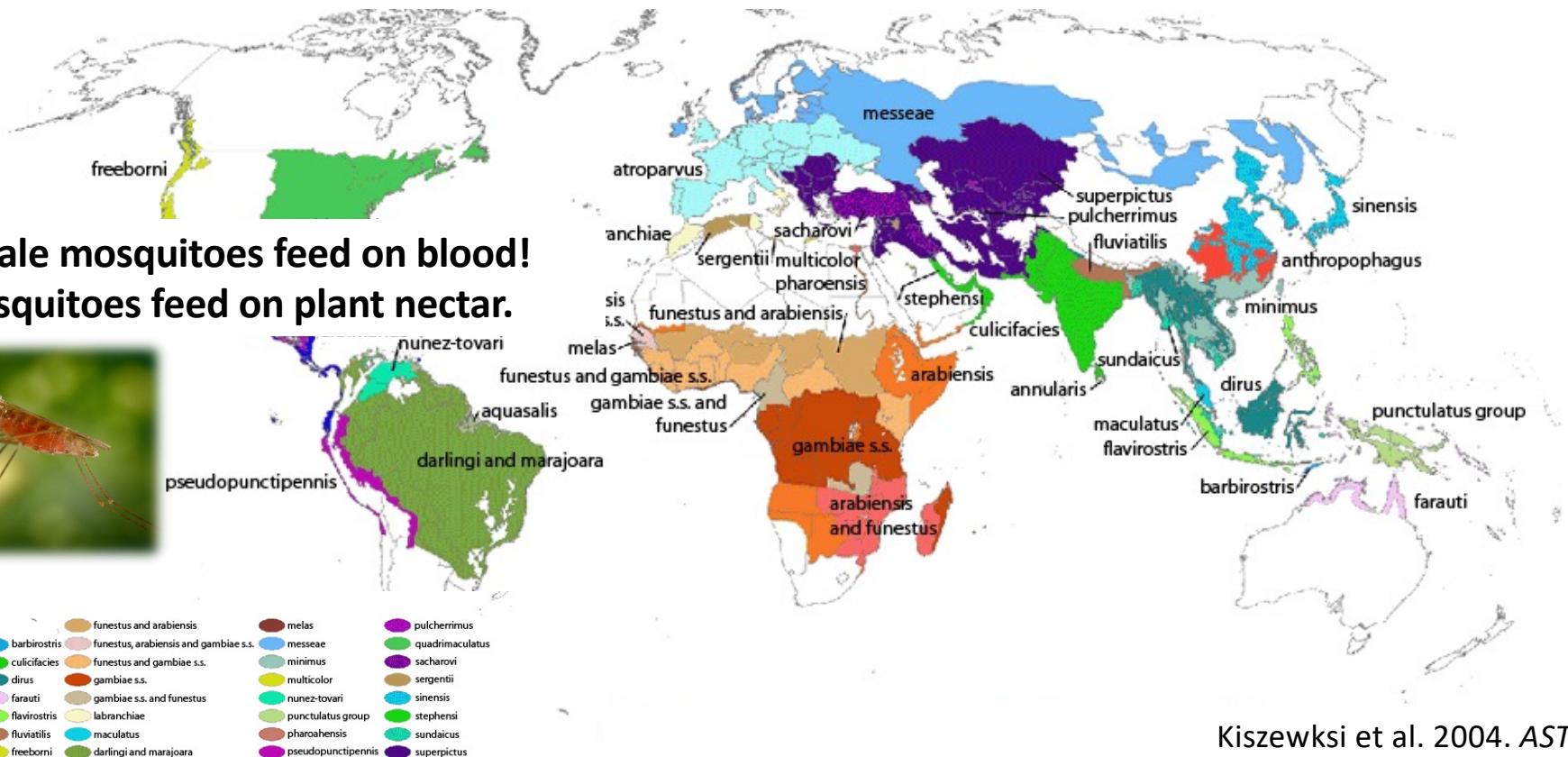
**Plasmodium parasites time RBC bursting such that they are at peak blood stage circulation when mosquito vectors are feeding at dusk!**



Guerra et al. 2006. Trends in *mosquito vectors are feeding at dusk!*

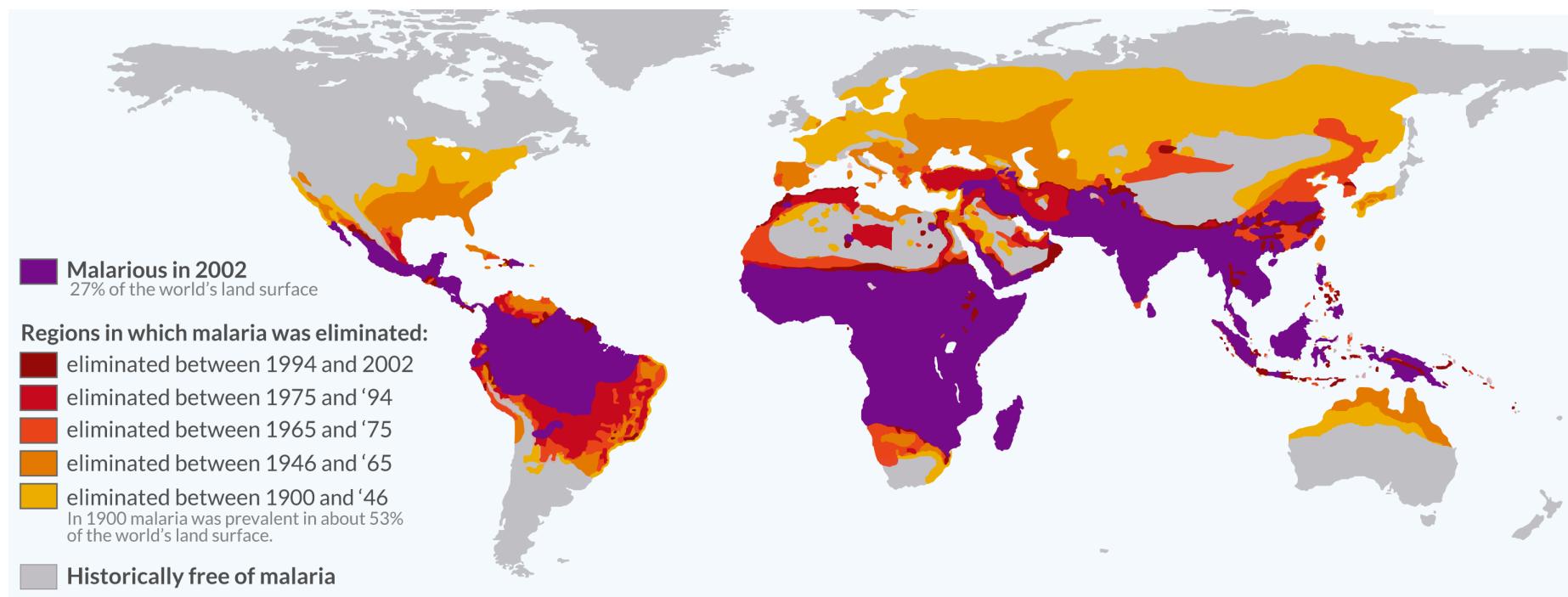
# Malaria

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- Over 200 *Plasmodium* spp. globally, infecting birds, reptiles, and other mammals (rodents, bats, primates)
- >400 global species of ***Anopheles* mosquito**, >100 that can transmit human malaria
- ~30-40 *Anopheles* spp. most commonly implicated in human malaria transmission!



Kiszewksi et al. 2004. *ASTMH*.

Malaria has been eliminated from many regions where it was previously endemic, including the US.



Still one of the leading causes of child mortality globally – responsible for about half a million childhood deaths a year, 80% in Africa.

[OurWorldinData.org](http://OurWorldinData.org)

## Malaria models have played a critical role in public health policy for over a century.

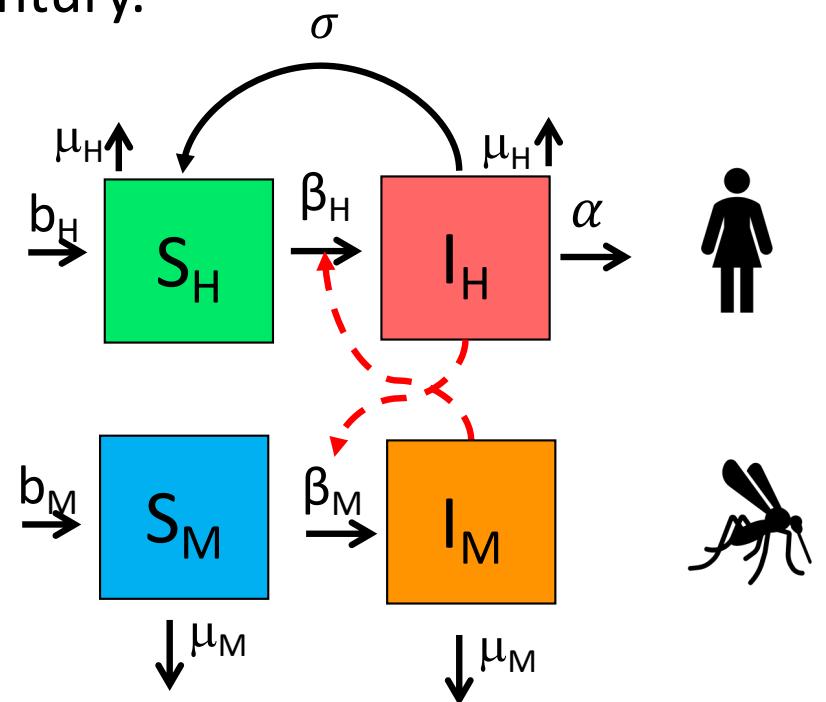
- 1911: British medical Dr. Sir Ronald Ross developed the first model of malaria while working in the Indian Medical Service.
  - He had already won the 1902 Nobel prize in physiology and medicine for discovering the life cycle of avian malaria

$$\frac{dS_H}{dt} = b_H(S_H + I_H) + \sigma I_H - \beta_H S_H I_M - \mu_H S_H$$

$$\frac{dI_H}{dt} = \beta_H S_H I_M - \sigma I_H - \mu_H I_H - \alpha I_H$$

$$\frac{dS_M}{dt} = b_M(S_M + I_M) - \beta_M S_M I_H - \mu_M S_M$$

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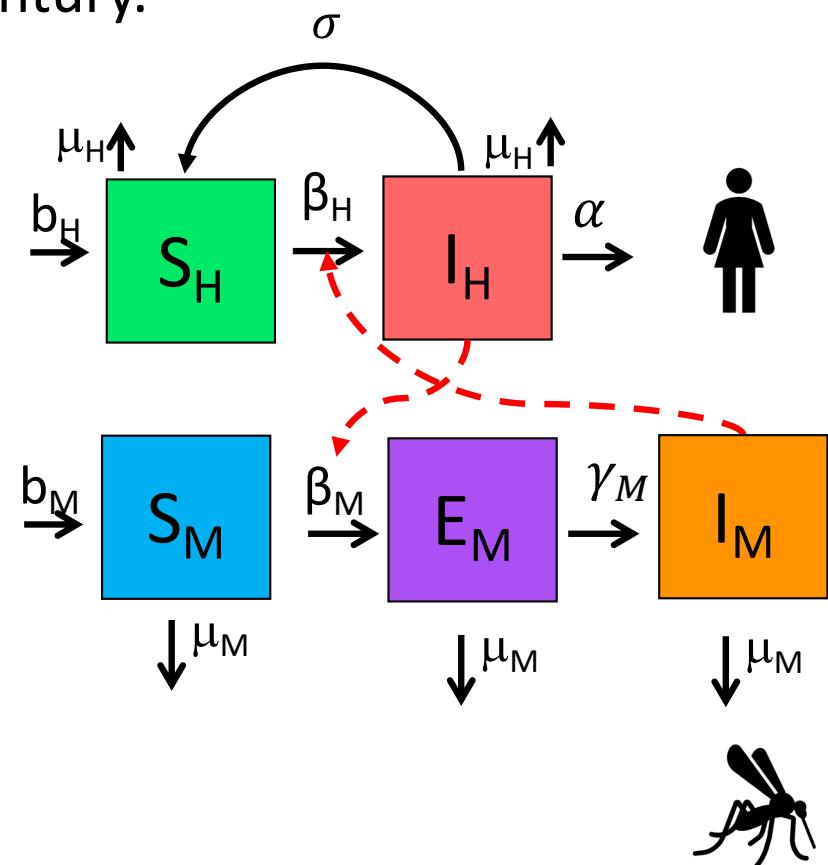
## Malaria models have played a critical role in public health policy for over a century.

- 1911: British medical Dr. Sir Ronald Ross developed the first model of malaria while working in the Indian Medical Service.
- 1957: MacDonald modified this model to include the latent period of the parasite developing in the mosquito.
  - He implicated the survivorship of the female mosquito as the weakest link in the life cycle!

$$\frac{dS_M}{dt} = b_M(S_M + E_M + I_M) - \beta_M S_M I_H - \mu_M S_M$$

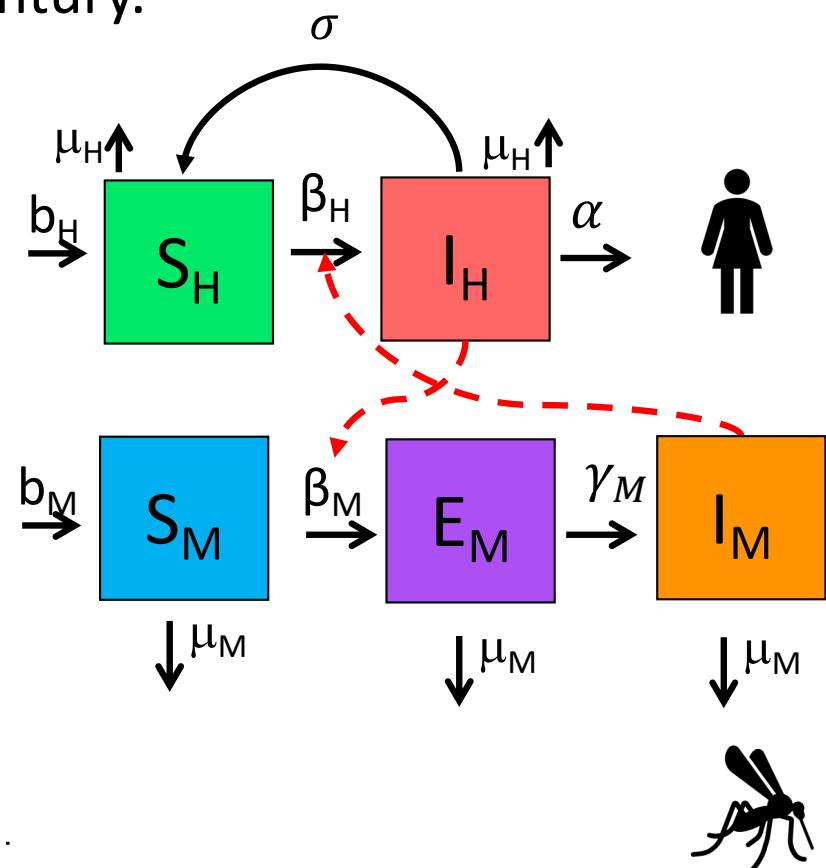
$$\frac{dE_M}{dt} = \beta_M S_M I_H - \mu_M E_M - \gamma_M E_M$$

$$\frac{dI_M}{dt} = \gamma_M E_M - \mu_M I_M$$



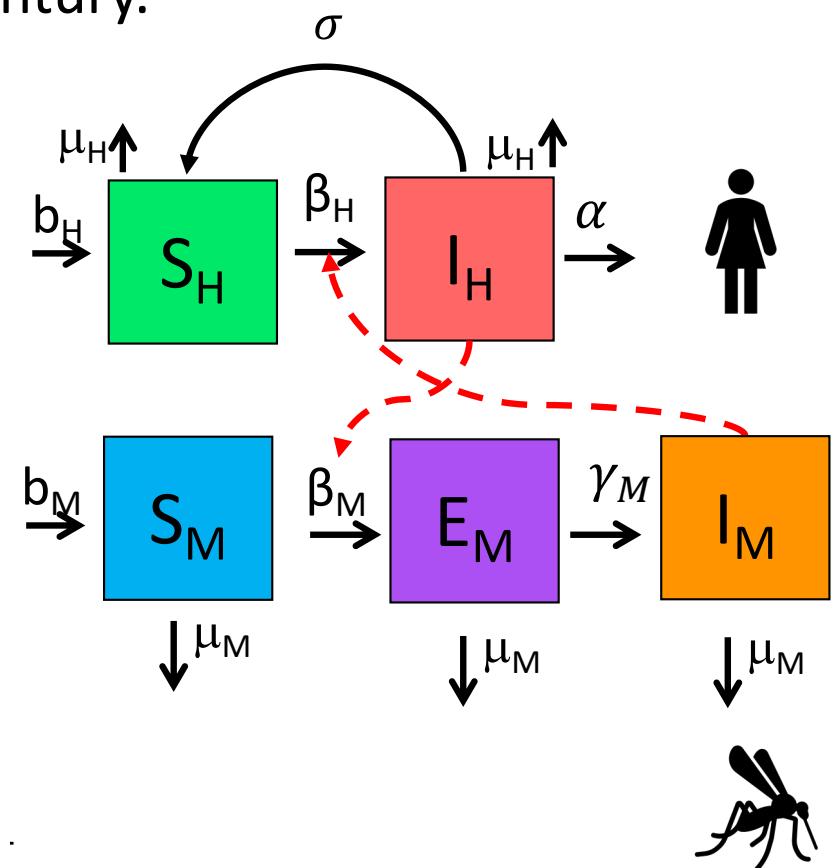
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  - DDT played a major role in eliminating malaria from Europe and North America



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  - DDT played a major role in eliminating malaria from Europe and North America
  - DDT **bioaccumulates** and is carcinogenic – led to development of an environmental backlash in the US, culminating in Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring*

### **Bioaccumulation:**

the gradual accumulation of substances in an organism through time; particularly dangerous for **high trophic level consumers**



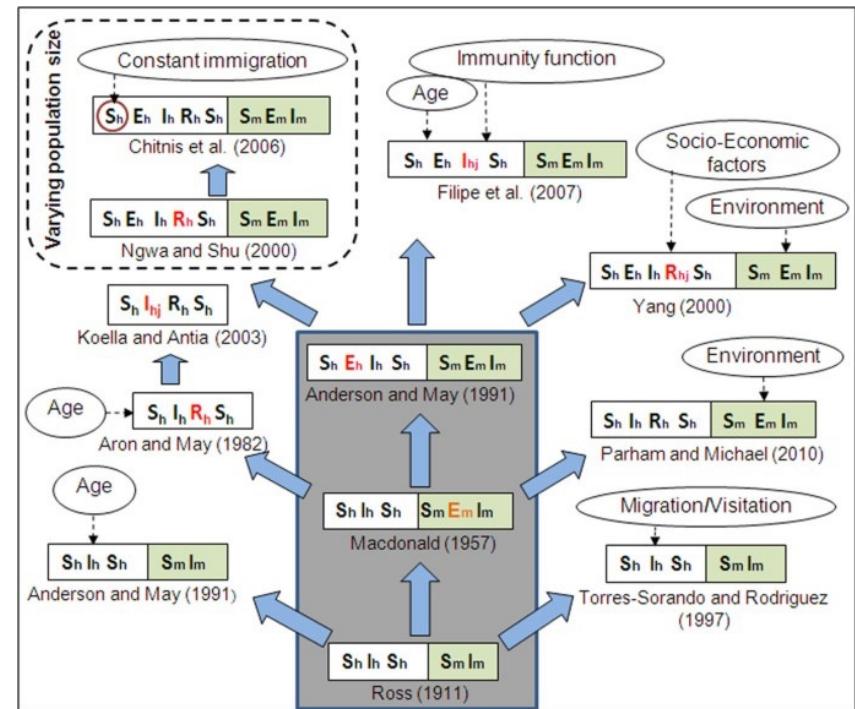
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  - DDT bioaccumulates and is carcinogenic – led to development of an environmental backlash in the US, culminating in Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring*
  - DDT banned globally in 2004, excepting in cases of WHO-recommended indoor residual spraying (IRS) for vector control in malaria-endemic regions



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- 1991: Anderson and May extended model to show latency in the human population.



Mandal et al. 2011. *Malaria Journal*.