



Forum: World Health Organization

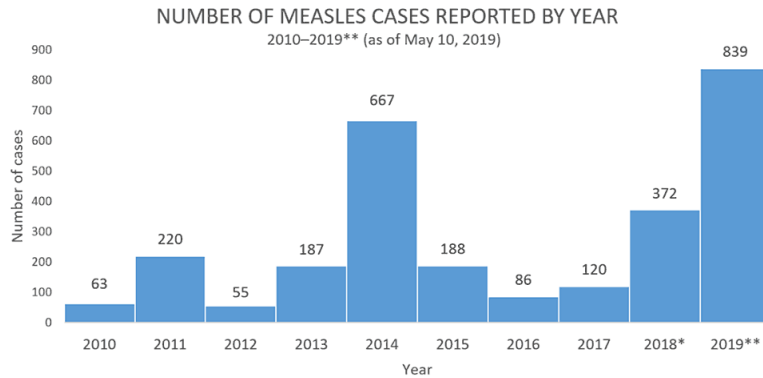
Issue: Reviewing Global Immunization Policy

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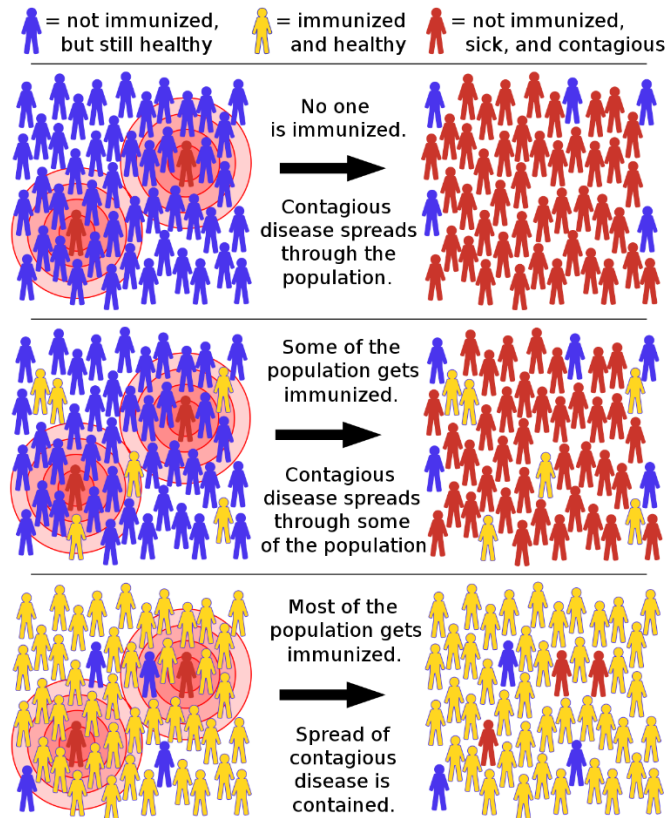
Overview

Immunization is the process by which an individual is immune or resistant to an infectious disease, this is usually done through the application of vaccines. The vaccine works through activating our body's own immune system to protect the patient from future infection or disease. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a proven strategy to control, eliminate diseases and is estimated to prevent 2 to 3 million deaths each year. The vaccination policy aims to produce immunity to preventable diseases, not only can it prevent individuals from getting ill, but it can also help others, through herd immunity. Vaccination policy also aims to eradicate disease, such as measles, mumps and rubella have been eliminated through vaccination in Finland. Vaccination is essential for countries to use to prevent illness and stop further diseases.

However, not all children in countries get vaccinated and this is due to various reasons. Firstly, developing countries usually lack political commitment and have weak health service which tends to lead to less access to do services and a narrower range of vaccines. There are also some religious people that are extreme, according to Jehovah's Witnesses, the major religious believes are Christianity. Many of the extreme Christians including some of the theologists do not believe in medications, instead, they believe that a devout pray will cure them. This year, during August, A New York State Supreme Court Judge has upheld a law passed in June that ended religious exemptions to vaccinations, passed in the wake of the largest measles outbreak in nearly three decades, this caused a crowd of anti-vaccination protesters, protested outside the courthouse in Albany. According to WHO-UNICEF, it is estimated in 2005, there are at least 28 million infants that did not receive three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine, despite global coverage of 78%. Although developed countries have much more access to immunization services comparing to developing countries, there are still many people that refuse to be vaccinated in developed countries, the report appears this to be mainly happening in the United States, the eastern Mediterranean region and Europe. Parents refused to let their kids get vaccinated because they felt it wasn't safe or necessary, but is mainly due to the lack of knowledge parents had on the vaccine and some decide not to vaccinate their children because of extreme religious beliefs, this focused mainly in the US.



Not being vaccinated is a serious issue, since it can bring back previous life-threatening diseases or create new diseases, report cases on vaccination also increased by more than 30% across the globe since 2016. In these few years, many reports showcase popping up all over the United States because of parents refusing to vaccinate their children's. A private school in North Carolina, 36 children's developed chickenpox in a community with extreme religious beliefs which refused vaccination. In New Jersey, approximately 18 people were infected by measles. In Rockland Country (in New York), 87 people received diagnoses with measles and infected nearly 900 people. Measles and smallpox can be brought back by children's that are not vaccinated, and according to New York state health officials, 90% of unvaccinated people exposed to the virus contract it. The World Health Organization has already warned countries that measles spiked in 2017 due to the gaps in vaccination coverage, and estimated 110,00 people died from measles.



Although the US is reported to be the country with the largest population of people not getting vaccinated, there are also other countries that have the same issue. According to Newsela, researchers estimate that there were 6.7 million cases worldwide in 2017, mostly in parts of Africa and Asia, and during 2016 and 2017, report cases surged by 30%.

In 2017, there were 15 times more measles cases in Europe than last year and new outbreaks in South America and parts of Asia. A recent outbreak of the virus in the Philippines could put millions of children at risk. Measles immunization rates in the country have fallen to 60%, down 15% from the previous year. Zsuzsanna Jakab, who works for the World Health Organization, says that not enough people were immunized last year. This lower rate cannot stop measles from spreading.

The Western Pacific region, which includes China, Australia, Pacific islands and large parts of Southeast Asia, is the only part of the world where vaccination rates against measles are on the rise. This is different than the global trend. In many of those places, prior measles outbreaks and the risks are still in parents' minds. They are less likely to resist vaccinations

With all these issues, the World Health Organization and UNICEF developed a Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS). This was launched in 2006 and was the first-ever ten-year framework aimed to control morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases. This also helped other countries to immunize more people.



GIVS has 4 main aims:

1. to immunize more people against more diseases;
2. to introduce a range of newly available vaccines and technologies;
3. to integrate other critical health interventions with immunization; and
4. to manage vaccination programmes within the context of global interdependence.

Key Terms

Disease

A disorder of structure or function in living species (human, animal or plants) which then is associated with harmful symptoms. The disease can cause not only physical injuries but affect our inner health too.

Herd immunity

Herd immunity is a form of immunity that occurs when a large group of the population are immune to infection/disease, thereby providing a certain amount of protection to individuals that are not immune.

Immunization

Immunization is the process by which an individual is immune or resistant to an infectious disease, this is usually done through the application of vaccines.

Measles

An infectious viral disease, which can cause high fever, itchy and painful rashes and even bronchitis, pneumonia, encephalitis or swelling of the brain. Measles can be spread very easily, though sneezing and coughing.

Morbidity

Having a disease, symptoms of a disease or to the amount of disease within a population. Morbidity can also refer to medical problems caused by treatment.

Mortality

Death, mortality rate, death rate. The number of deaths within a population

**Smallpox (variola)**

An infectious disease, caused by one or two variants. For the early symptoms of smallpox, the patient will suffer fever, vomiting and mouth sores. The late symptoms of this disease are fluid-filled blisters which can scab over. Usually, people that suffered from smallpox are left with extensive scars all over them or left blind.

Vaccination

Vaccination is used to help improve our immune system that can develop protection from diseases.

There are 4 main types of vaccines:

1. Live-attenuated vaccines.
2. Inactivated vaccines.
3. Subunit, recombinant, polysaccharide, and conjugate vaccines.
4. Toxoid vaccines.

Important Events/Timelines

Date	Event
1947	Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) established to set global standards and criteria (with a view) to guarantee the quality of vaccines and other biological products.
1974	The World Health Organization launched its Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), which they work together to progress in hygiene and sanitation
1978	Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), was introduced in 1978 to provide free immunization against polio, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and yellow fever to Nigerian children less than 2 years old.
1979	Smallpox eradicated
1999	The Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety was established to respond to vaccine safety issues and potential global importance.



- 2006** Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS) launched,
- 2016** Australia governments decided on 1st January 2016, certain benefits will no longer be available for conscientious objectors of vaccination, this policy was supported by a majority of Australian parents, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and Early Childhood Australia. This helped Australia since, in 2014, approximately 97% of children under 7 were vaccinated.
- 2017** Approximately 5,000 cases of measles were reported in Italy, this increased from 870 cases (during 2016) to 5,000 cases. This caused the government to change its stance during 2018 because of the “measles emergency” decided to uphold the obligation for children up to the age of 16, teachers and health professionals to be vaccinated. A midwife working at a hospital in central Italy was sacked for refusing vaccination
- 2018** Argentina established a new vaccine policy requiring everyone who is medically able, both adults and children, to be vaccinated against specified diseases.

Major Nations/Organizations

World Health Organization (WHO)

A specialised agency of the United States established on 7th April 1948. WHO is an organization apart of the United Nations that deals with major health issues around the world. WHO also sets standards for disease control, health care, and medicines; conducts education and research programs; and publishes scientific papers and reports.

In these recent years, WHO has taken many actions on global immunization issues, such as the 2011-2020 Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). This was a framework WHO has to prevent millions of death by 2020, and this plan was endorsed by the 194 Member States of the World Health Assembly in May 2012. WHO also works with other committees and experts on this issue.

Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) was established by the Director-General of the World Health Organization in 1999 to provide guidance on the work of WHO. SAGE is the principal advisory group to WHO for vaccines and immunization. It is charged with advising WHO on overall



global policies and strategies, ranging from vaccines and technology, research and development, to delivery of immunization and its linkages with other health interventions. Since the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) started, SAGE released an assessment report of the GVAP each year. The report had lots of information, statistics and graphs on vaccinations all over the world. The report also showed upcoming emerging issues, progress, development and future recommendations for countries.

Along with SAGE, WHO established the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) in 1999 and GACVS mainly focused on vaccine safety issues. WHO also established the Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) in 1947 to provide detailed recommendations and guidelines for the manufacturing, licensing, and control of blood products, cell regulators, vaccines and related in vitro diagnostic tests.

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

A governmental organization established on July 1, 1946, in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. The purpose of this organization was for conducting and supporting health promotion prevention and preparedness activities in the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health.

Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)

Established in 1947 to develop and expand immunization programmes throughout the world and to ensure that infants/children and mothers had access to vaccination. In 1977, the goal was set to make immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles and tuberculosis available to every child in the world by 1990

Global Alliance on Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI)

Gavi is a Swiss Foundation with international institution status in Switzerland and public charity status in the United States. A global health partnership that helps to improve childhood immunization in poor countries and to accelerate access to new vaccines.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

A committee within the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that provides advice and guidance on effective control of vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S. civilian population.



Important Documents/Passed Solutions

RES 19 C-3/17 – subject on State Adult Immunization Registries, Resolution No.19

The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP)

Plan of Action on Immunization (Document CD54/7, Rev. 2)

CD54/7, Rev.2 Agenda item 4.4 (<https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2015/CD54-7-e.pdf>)

CD54.R8 (<https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2015/CD54-R8-e.pdf>)

VFC-ACIP Vaccine Resolutions

6/19-1 Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis

6/19-2 Haemophilus, influenzae type b

6/19-6 Hepatitis A (6/19-3 Hepatitis B)

10/16-2 Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

06/94-16 Outbreak controls

02/12-1 Pneumococcal

Possible Solutions

To effectively tackle this issue, the delegate must ensure they have a comprehensive understanding of this issue. The delegate must know the reasons of lack in vaccination. The first reason is that developing countries are lack of the funding's and resources to give better access to vaccination toward the public. For more developed countries, the case is that people are refusing to take vaccination due to religious beliefs and people lacking the knowledge of the vitalness of vaccination.

To tackle those issues, we encourage that those developed countries shall take measures on those people that refuse to accept vaccination and to focus more on the SAGE Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP), which ensure that each year, the number of disease rate and death rate due to infections are decreasing. We further suggest that all countries shall cooperate with NGO's or other governmental organizations to increase vaccine access, progress and opportunities to improve vaccination coverage rates; For example, the "World Immunization Week". The members of the United Nations also need to show their willingness to collaborate and solve immunization issues, this includes that nation accepts vaccination programs and raise funds on vaccination development. It is ideal to foster



collaborations between developing countries and those developed to ensure a better accessing rate for their public



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