

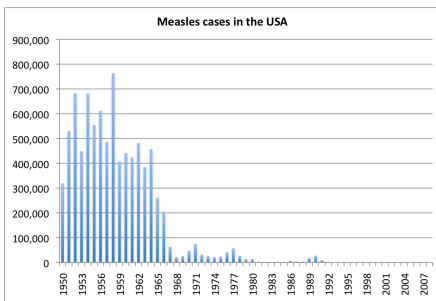


March 5th, 2019

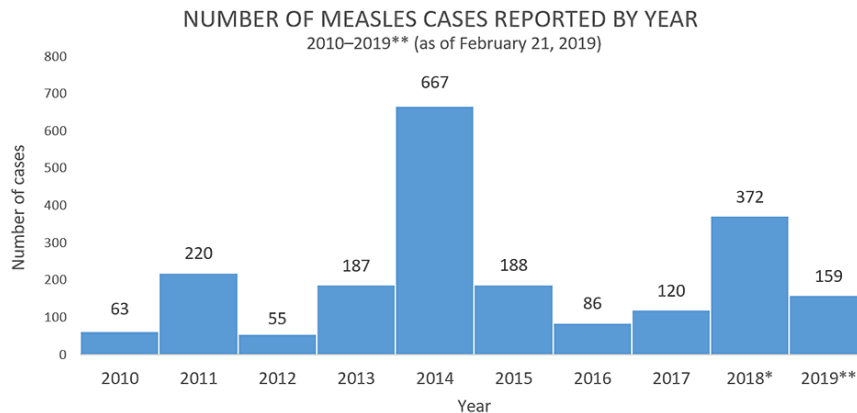
Senate Hearing: Vaccines Save Lives. What is Driving Preventable Disease Outbreaks?

The Myth of New and Unusual Measles Outbreaks

MMR vaccine uptakes are holding steady in the high 90% range depending on the state. CDC data shows there are no significant drops in state vaccination rates.



Historically, measles cases were in the hundreds of thousands annually before the introduction of the vaccine. Today cases are a small fraction of that and deaths are rare. Over the period from 2010-2018, there have only been five deaths from measles in the U.S. This year, from January 1 to February 21, 2019, 159** individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 10 states. This is within historical norms for the last decade.



*Cases as of December 29, 2018. Case count is preliminary and subject to change.

Cases as of February 21, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. **Data are updated weekly.

In 2015, there were 84 cases of measles in January and the media was claiming that it would be a worse year than 2014, which the worst year in a decade. But the final number of cases for 2015 only totaled 188. It is difficult to predict measles cases because many are brought from overseas. Also, the measles vaccine is not 100% effective. In every year a significant percentage of cases occurred in vaccinated patients. The effectiveness of 1 dose of MMR is about 93% and 2 doses are 97% effective in producing antibodies in the recipient.

The measles cases/outbreaks this year are neither new nor unusual.

Further information and full references are available on our website or by contacting CHD.