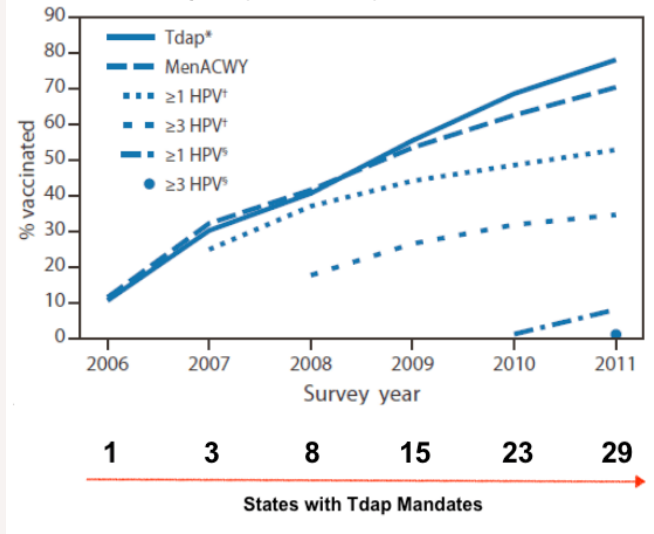


Many diseases can be spread very easily and the best way to prevent getting infected is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are among the most effective tools available for preventing infectious diseases and the complications that accompany them. Vaccines are made from very small and safe amounts of weakened or killed viruses/bacteria that allow your immune system to be exposed and to learn to recognize and attack the infection. Once exposed again, your body will be able to kill the disease due to its antibodies and vaccines are used to prevent diseases rather than fight or treat them. In the last century, vaccination has been the most effective medical intervention to reduce death and morbidity caused by infectious diseases and is believed that vaccines save about 2-3 million lives per year worldwide.

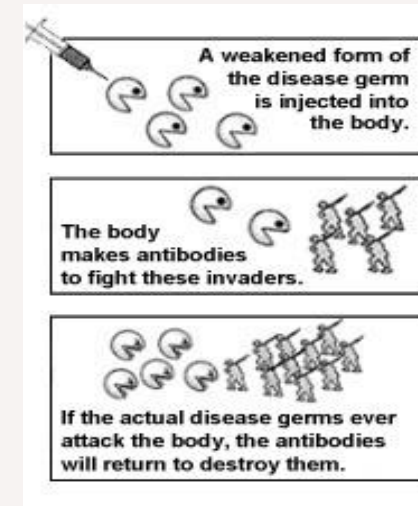


Vaccines are beneficial to immunizing the person receiving the immunization, but it also has a positive impact on the public's health. Because of this reason, many schools, jobs, and even countries mandate vaccines to prevent people from getting and spreading diseases that could sometimes be fatal. In the United States, for example, proof of immunization or exemption documentation is required before children can go to school, and studies have shown that making a vaccination a requirement for enrollment in childcare and school can help to increase rates of vaccinations. By starting to vaccinate children at a young age when their immune systems are still developing, they may come in contact with an infectious disease and if they're vaccinated against it, they won't contract it and even better, they won't spread it saving a lot of people from potential harm.

FIGURE. Estimated vaccination coverage with selected vaccines and doses among adolescents aged 13–17 years, by survey year — National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2006–2011



Vaccines are also proven quite effective. Measles is one of the most transmissible viruses known to infect humans and before the vaccine, it infected over 95% of all children and was responsible for over 4 million deaths each year. Measles was eliminated from the US in 2000, but there has been a re-outbreak which now made many states mandate the Measles vaccine. Another disease is HPV which is the most common STI and can cause many different problems including different cancers. Since there isn't a cure for HPV and as many as 80% of people in the US will contract it sometime in their lives, it is best to be vaccinated against it, so you don't get it and you don't spread it.



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Mandating vaccines for the greater good

By: Morgan Bryant, Nursing Major overseen by Dr. Mark Jareb and Dr. Amanda Moras