

Vaccines Save Lives

ASM Calls on Congress and the Administration To:



Continue investments within and among key US agencies to build on the science and ensure that new and emerging infectious diseases are addressed with evidence-based, preventive measures like vaccines.



Substantially increase investments in education and outreach efforts to provide evidence-based messages on vaccines to the public. Support H.R. 2862, the VACCINES Act, and similar provisions included in S. 1895.



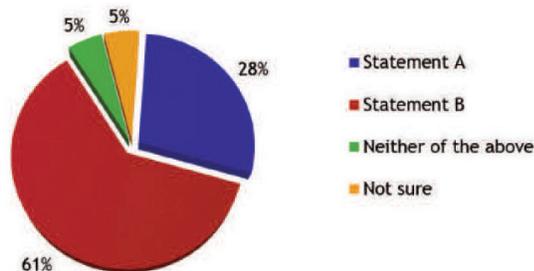
Partner with scientific societies, like ASM, in supporting basic and clinical research and promoting evidence-based policies that support immunization regimens recommended by public health agencies.

Public Perception of Vaccines

The recent reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases is alarming and compromise the health and well-being of those, including infants and those with compromised immune systems, who rely on the majority of a population being vaccinated — a phenomenon otherwise referred to as herd immunity.

Majority Agree Not Vaccinating Puts Children & Communities at Risk

Which statement is closest to your view? Statement A - Some people say parents should have the right to decide whether their children should get vaccinated or not. Statement B - Other people say that when parents decide not to vaccinate it puts their children and their communities at risk.



Source: Research!America survey conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.

Figure 6

Vaccines are Important to Health of Society

Thinking about the common vaccines available today such as polio, tetanus, measles, and flu, how important do you believe vaccines are to the health of our society today?



Source: A Research!America survey conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.

Figure 7

ASM strongly supports the universal application of vaccines to prevent illness and death caused by infectious diseases. Thanks to federal investments in basic and clinical research, there is a sound evidence-based foundation for U.S. immunization strategies. The development and effective use of vaccines for a broad range of life-threatening illnesses has saved countless lives in our nation and around the world.

US Government Role: A Multi-Agency Effort



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensures the safety, effectiveness, and availability of vaccines in the United States. Before the FDA approves a vaccine, it is tested extensively by its manufacturer. FDA scientists and medical professionals carefully evaluate all the available information about the vaccine to determine its safety and effectiveness. Although most common side effects of a vaccine are identified in studies before the vaccine is licensed, rare adverse events may not be detected in these studies. Therefore, the U.S. vaccine safety system continuously monitors for adverse events after a vaccine is licensed.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks vaccine use and educates consumers on vaccines. Education materials are targeted for both domestic and global audiences, with printable fact sheets accessible on CDC's website. CDC's cooperative agreements also support the New Vaccine Surveillance Network (NVSN). The Network includes study sites that focus on population-based surveillance and data collection on the use and impact of vaccines and the effect of vaccine policies.



Researchers at the Department of Defense's (DoD) Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, develop vaccines aimed at saving military and civilian lives. DOD researchers developed the first effective licensed vaccine against meningitis in the 1970s, and have tested vaccines for Ebola and Zika in recent years.



National Institute
of Allergy and
Infectious Diseases

The National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) conducts and supports basic research in areas such as infectious diseases, microbiology, and immunology to generate the knowledge essential for developing safe and effective vaccines. NIAID also supports clinical research on vaccines against bacterial, viral and parasitic microbes in people of all ages and risk categories.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

The Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) at the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for regulating veterinary biologics, including vaccines, that are intended for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of animal diseases.

Most vaccines are generally covered as a preventive service with no cost sharing (such as copays and deductibles) for the beneficiary with private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid.