

Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance Summary

Varicella (Chickenpox)

Varicella continues to affect persons of all ages in Wisconsin and the United States. It is important to prevent varicella because varicella can result in serious complications, especially for infants, adolescents, adults, pregnant people, and immunocompromised persons. In addition, varicella-zoster virus – the virus that causes chicken pox – can remain dormant (inactive) in the body, and be reactivated later in life, causing shingles. Vaccination with varicella vaccine prevents most varicella cases and complications.

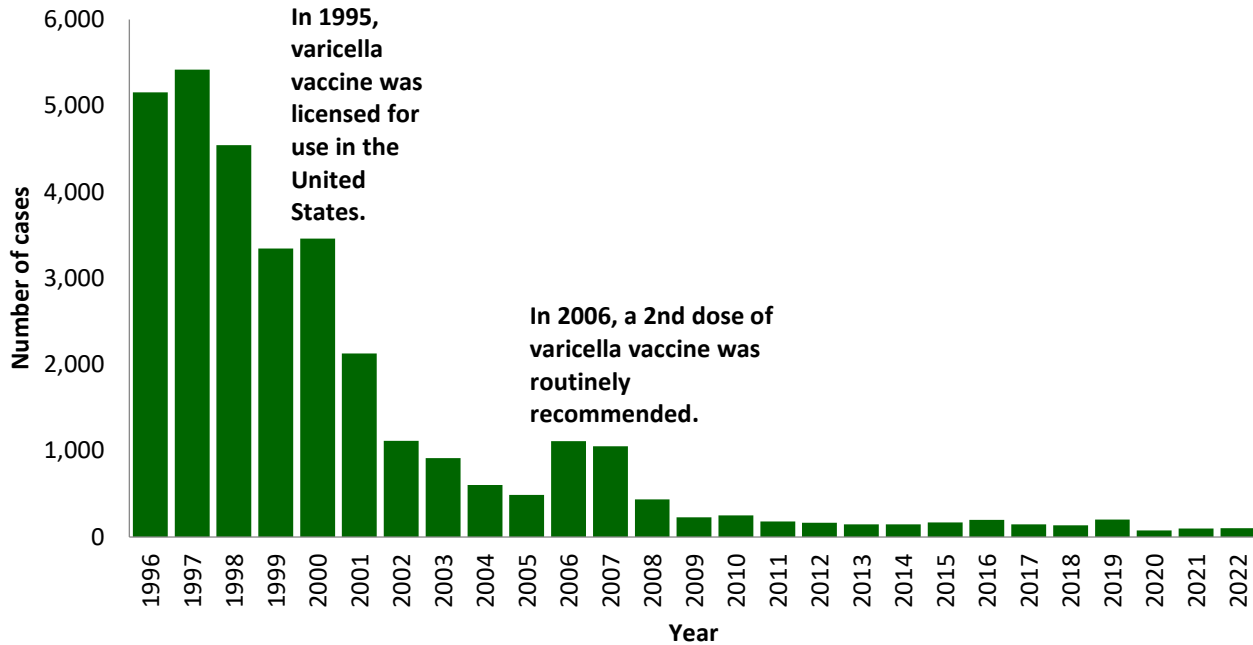


Figure 1: Number of reported confirmed Varicella cases, by year, in Wisconsin, 1996-2022. Data from Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS).

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis continues to affect people of all ages in Wisconsin and the United States. Large and small outbreaks continue to occur. Infants too young to be fully vaccinated are at highest risk of pertussis and its serious complications, including death. Routine vaccination with pertussis vaccine is the most effective method for preventing pertussis.

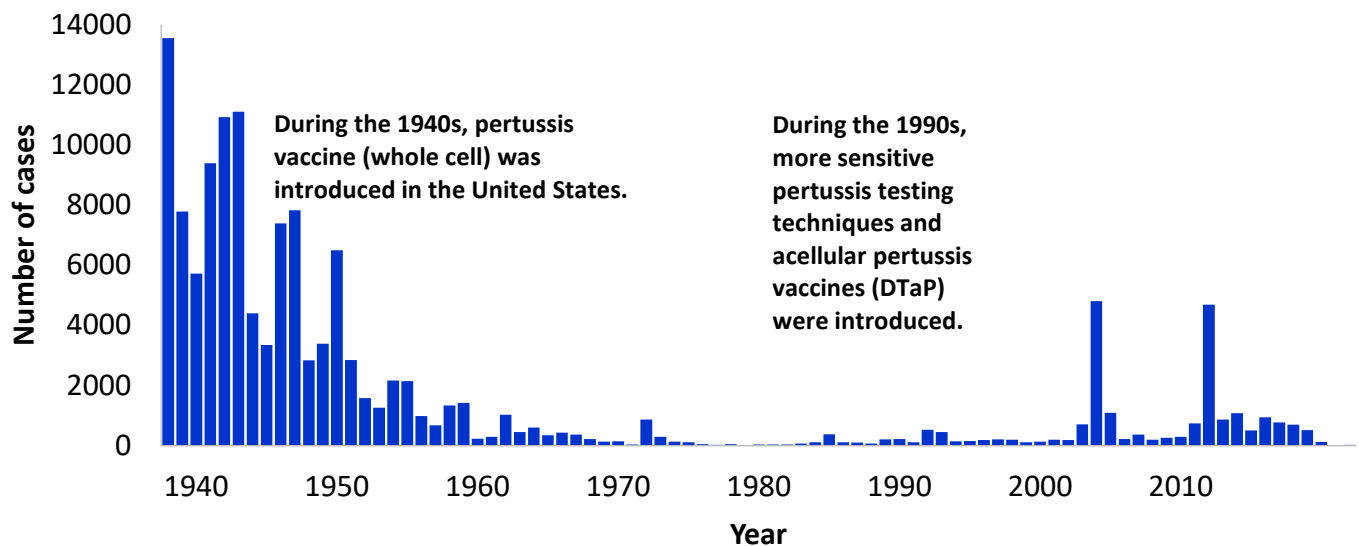


Figure 2: Number of reported confirmed and probable pertussis cases, by year, in Wisconsin, 1938-2022. Data from WEDSS.

Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease continues to affect people of all ages in Wisconsin and the United States. Although rare, even with antibiotic treatment, 10-15% of people infected with meningococcal disease will die and 11-19% will have long-term disabilities, such as loss of limb(s), deafness, nervous system problems, or brain damage.

Annual Meningococcal Disease Cases by Outcome, Wisconsin, 1993–2022 (n=758)

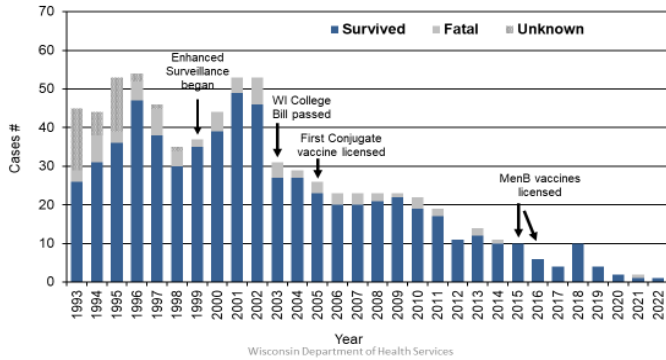


Figure 3 reference: <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/invasive-bacteria/meningococcal-disease.htm>

Measles

Although measles is now rare in Wisconsin, measles is still common in many parts of the world, including some countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Travelers continue to bring measles to the United States and to Wisconsin. In addition, measles outbreaks have occurred recently in US states, such as Ohio and Minnesota. In Ohio, a measles outbreak this winter led to 85 cases among children ages <1 year to 17 years old. Eighty of these cases were unvaccinated, 4 were partially vaccinated, and 1 had unknown vaccination status; none of the cases were fully vaccinated against measles.

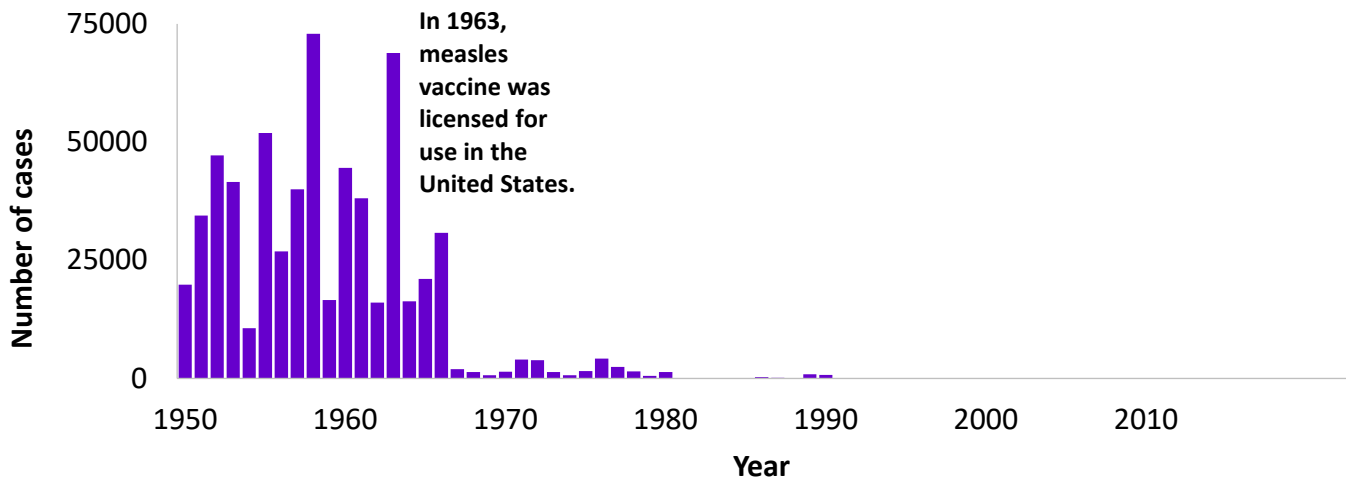


Figure 4: Number of reported confirmed measles cases, by year, in Wisconsin, 1950-2022. Data from WEDSS.

Mumps

Cases and outbreaks of mumps continue to occur in Wisconsin and the United States, often among young adults in close-contact settings. It is important to prevent mumps because mumps can cause serious complications, especially among adults. The mumps vaccine prevents most mumps cases and complications.

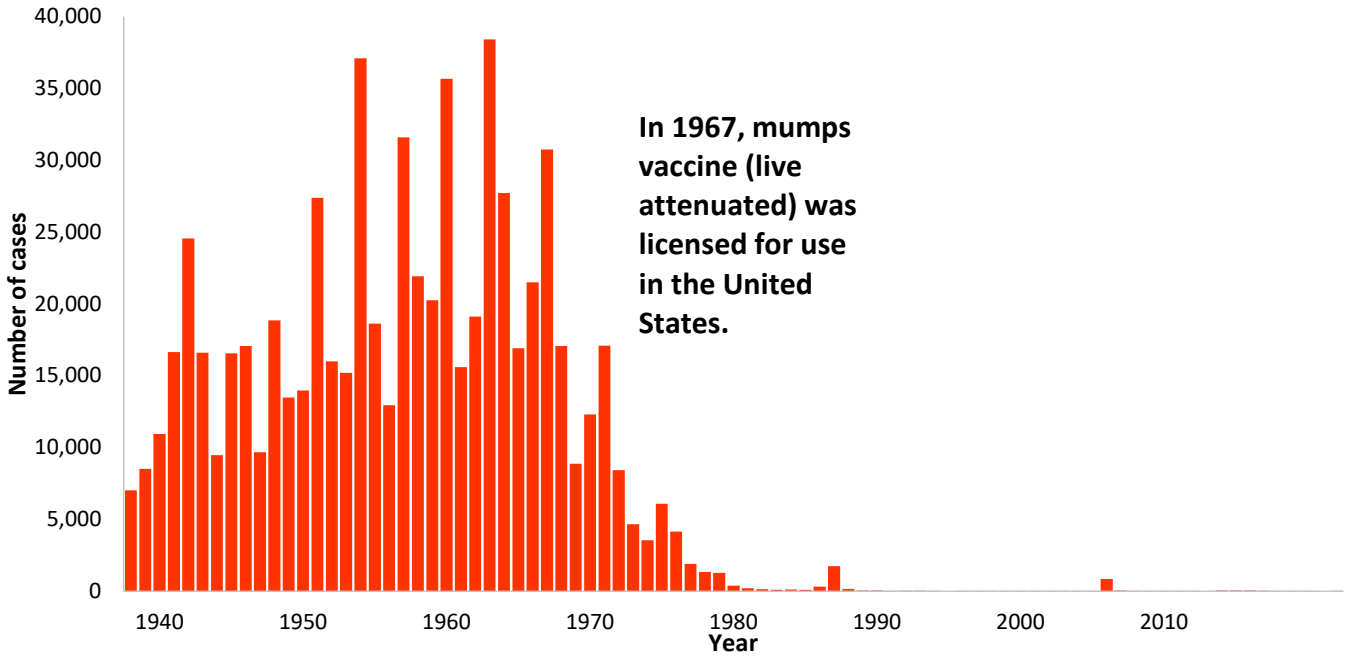


Figure 5: Number of reported confirmed mumps cases, by year, in Wisconsin, 1950-2022. Data from WEDSS.

Rubella

Rubella is no longer constantly present in the United States. However, because rubella is still common in many parts of the world, travelers to affected areas can bring rubella to the United States and Wisconsin. It is important to prevent rubella because it can cause serious complications, and pregnant people infected with rubella are at risk for miscarriage, stillbirth, and of having a baby with severe birth defects, a condition known as congenital rubella syndrome. Vaccination with rubella vaccine is the most effective method for preventing rubella.

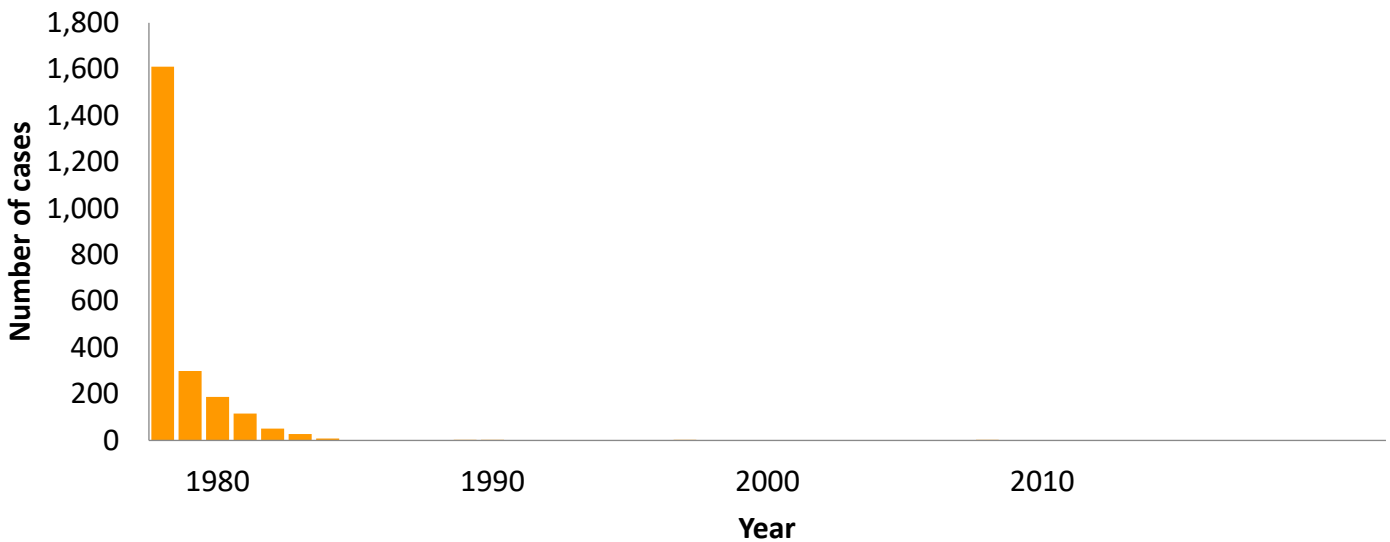


Figure 6: Number of reported confirmed rubella cases, by year, in Wisconsin, 1978-2022. Data from WEDSS.

Notes

References

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: The Pink Book
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>

Measles outbreak in Ohio- November 2022

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/columbus/viz/MeaslesPublicReport/MeaslesPublicReport?publish=yes>

Data Source

The diseases included in this report have significant public health impact and are required by law to be reported to the local health officer when suspected in a Wisconsin resident. This information is collected and reported to DHS through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wiphin/wedss.htm>

More information on disease reporting: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/diseasereporting.htm>

Limitations

Monitoring trends in disease occurrence depends on complete and consistent reporting of diseases to DHS through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System. This report only includes information on the cases that were reported to WDPH. Therefore, to the extent that diseases are underreported or misreported to WDPH, the results depicted in this report might differ from the true burden of these diseases in Wisconsin.