



health  chats

IMMUNIZATIONS

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.History of Modern Immunization

Variolation against smallpox was documented in China in the 15th century.

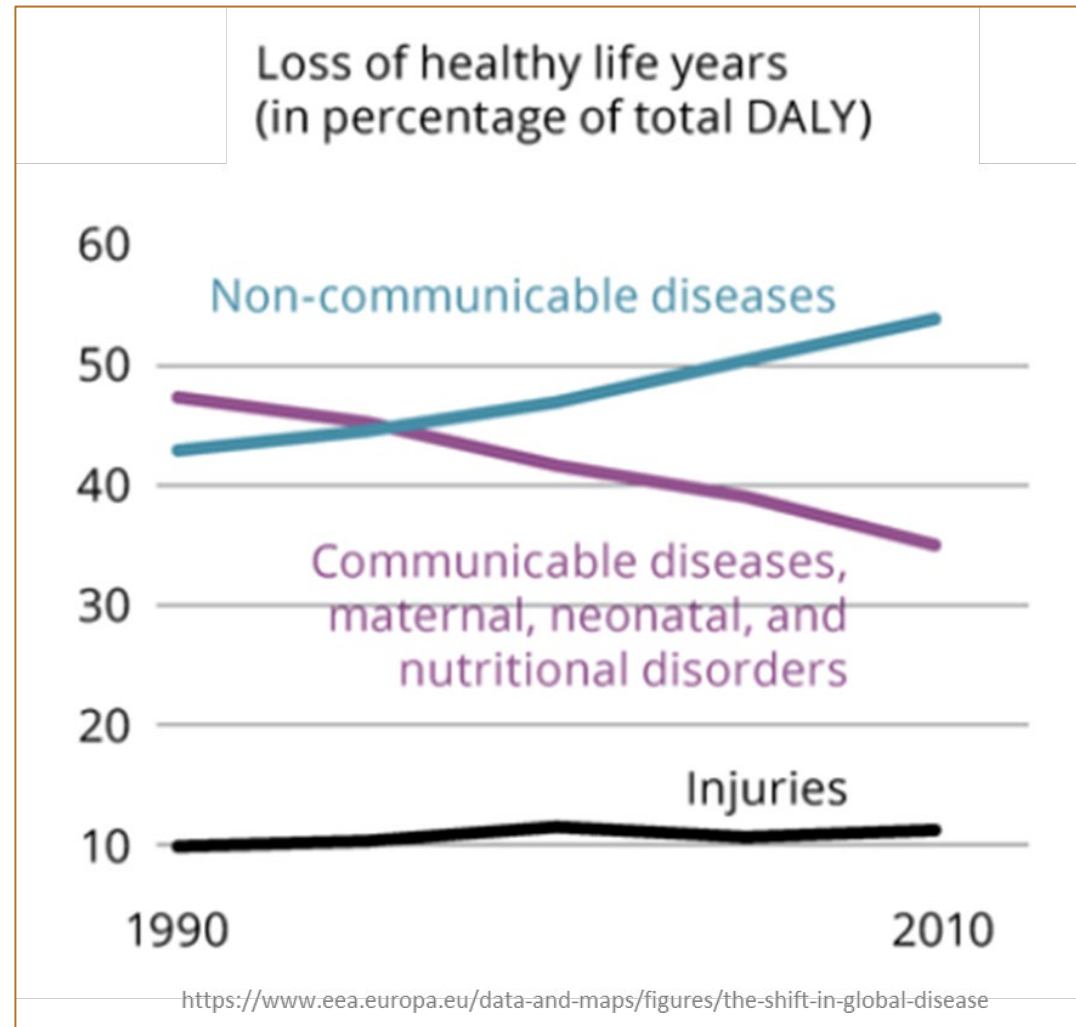
1976 Edward Jenner tested his theory that people who got infected with cowpox would be immune from smallpox.

“Vaccine” comes from the Latin root “vacca”=cow



.Global Health Impact of Vaccines

- Disease burden shifted from communicable diseases to chronic conditions
- Eradication of life-threatening infections
- Saves 4-5 million lives each year
- Life expectancy has increased by decades



.Vaccines



- **Primary components:**
 - Inactivated or weakened pathogen
 - Components or genetic information that encodes components of the pathogen
 - Toxoid (modified version of toxins that pathogens produce)
- Immunity takes a few weeks to develop and can be lifelong



Myth #1

Vaccines are only necessary during childhood

- General adult vaccines include annual influenza, tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap), shingles, pneumococcus
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine if not received in childhood
- Chickenpox vaccine if no prior immunity
- COVID-19

Myth #2

If infection rates are low, we don't need vaccines anymore and are only necessary during childhood

- Need to maintain herd immunity
- There will always be some portion of the population that can't receive vaccines
- We live in a global society



PUBLIC HEALTH

Vaccine Refusals Fueled California's Whooping Cough Epidemic

September 30, 2013 · 9:57 AM ET

Myth #3

Developing immunity through infections is better than getting vaccines

- Natural infection can cause suffering, disability, or death
- Vaccines, especially with COVID -19, don't just protect you, they protect your loved ones and community

Resources

UnitedAg Health & Wellness Centers

Unitedag.org/wellness | 877.877.7981

● [CVS Caremark Pharmacy Network](#)



Questions?

