



Texas Preventable Disease

NEWS

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TEXAS STATE
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VACCINE COSTS

In 1986, the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Act became law. The purpose of the legislation is to provide financial aid to persons who have an adverse event associated with vaccine/toxoid administration. Some authorities believe the Act will halt the significant price increases of vaccines/toxoids because of the legal aspects of immunizations. These same authorities also predict that vaccine prices will stabilize.

Although the legislation became law in 1986, the Act was not funded until December 1987, when the United States Congress funded the legislation through an excise tax. The vaccines/toxoids increased in price for both the private and public sectors. Diphtheria-tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP) vaccine increased \$4.56 per dose; adult and pediatric diphtheria-tetanus toxoid increased \$0.06 per dose; measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine increased \$4.44 per dose; polio vaccine increased \$0.29 per dose.

Since 1984, the public-sector increase per dose of DTP vaccine was 8,648%. The price of MMR vaccine increased 200% between 1984 and 1988. Figure 1 illustrates the dramatic rise in vaccine/toxoid prices since 1980. This information is based upon a series of 5 doses of DTP, 5 doses of polio vaccine (some areas in Texas continue to administer the optional dose at age 6 months), and 1 dose of MMR.

Editorial Note: For state fiscal years 1988-1989, the Texas Department of Health received increased funds to purchase the required vaccines for public clinics. Increased funding is not the only answer. For those local health departments/districts, public health regions, rural health initiatives, and others who use publicly purchased vaccine, stringent vaccine accounting must be implemented at the local level. Procedures must be ongoing so that accounting of every dose is mandated. Rotating vaccine inventories so that the short-dated vaccine is used first will ensure decreasing amounts of expiring vaccine and vaccine wastage.

In addition, proper storage of vaccines is essential. Replacement of old refrigerators should be done before malfunctions result in losses of vaccine. At the very least, every refrigerator should have a thermometer, and sites with large vaccine inventories should purchase automated/computerized monitoring systems.

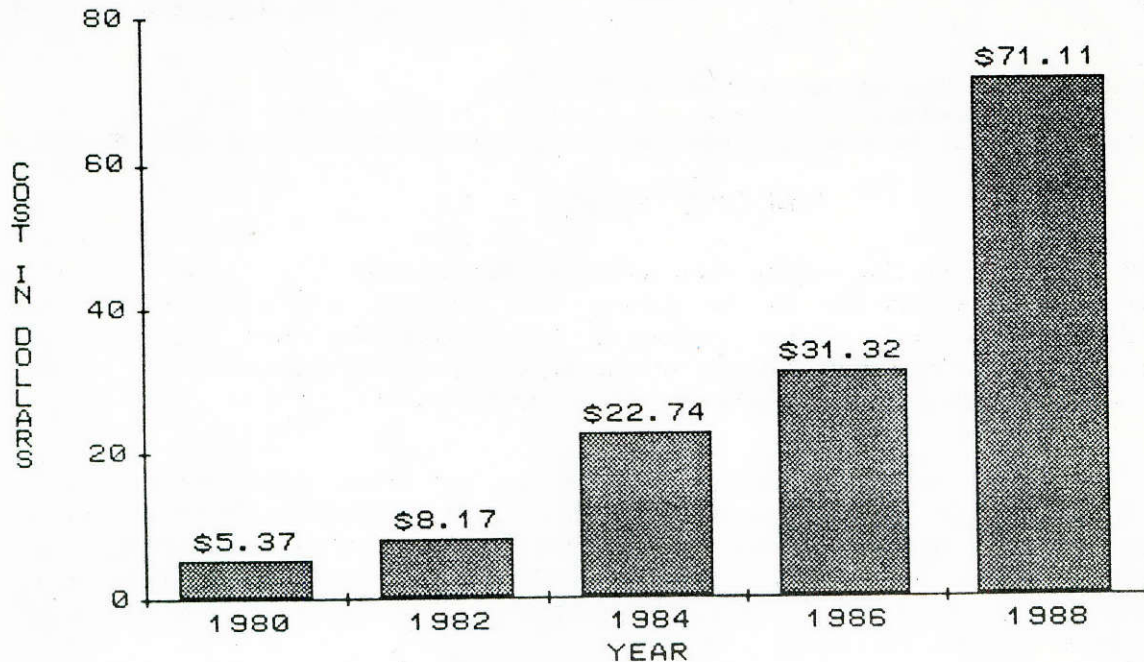
To help assure the continued availability of vaccines required by public clinics, adequate procedures and controls of vaccine inventories should be implemented immediately by all public providers.

The Texas Department of Health Immunization Division supplies a chart to be placed on the refrigerator door to facilitate daily recording of refrigerator temperatures. Also available is a chart which describes the proper storage and handling of vaccines. These can be obtained by contacting the Immunization Division at 1-800-252-9152.

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Figure 1.

TDH costs for
5 DTP, 5 OPV, AND 1 MMR



* * *

TUNING IN TO TORNADES

Here's a tip on how to use your television set or radio to detect tornadoes when such a danger has been broadcast for your area.

Using your television:

First, warm up your set and tune in channel 13. Darken the screen to almost black, using the brightness control. Then, turn to channel 2 and leave the volume down.

Your tornado detection device is now in operation. Lightning will produce momentary white bands of varying widths across the screen (color sets produce color bands). A tornado within 15-20 miles will produce a totally white screen which remains white (or one color on color sets). Should this happen, turn off the television, grab a portable radio and take shelter immediately.

This system was discovered by Newton Weller of West Des Moines, Iowa, after 12 years of study. It works because every television has channel 2 at 55 MHz. Lightning and tornadoes generate a signal near this frequency that overrides the brightness control. Channel 13 is at the high end of the frequency band and is not affected. This is why the darkness must be set on that channel.

Using your radio:

Use a portable radio for emergency instructions and in case of power failure. If the radio is tuned to the 550 kHz band, lightning will cause intermittent static. A tornado will cause steady, continuous static.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF REPORTABLE DISEASES IN TEXAS

(Counties listed below reflect only those with populations of 100,000 or more, based on 1987 population estimates.)

Cumulative through: MAY 1988

County	Amebiasis	Campylobacteriosis	Chickenpox	Encephalitis	H. Influenzae Infections	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis NA-NB	Influenza	Measles	Meningococcal Infections	Aseptic Meningitis	Mumps	Pertussis	Rubella	Salmonella	Shigella
BEXAR	6	18	620	2	23	48	15	4	2041	1	1	16	8	0	0	41	49
BRAZORIA	1	0	11	0	2	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	1
CAMERON	14	0	280	0	1	18	3	0	1004	0	0	0	6	0	0	9	10
COLLIN	0	2	154	0	4	4	5	1	7283	0	0	2	2	0	0	5	2
DALLAS	5	15	1380	2	77	98	59	5	10188	2	10	24	9	0	3	67	58
DENTON	1	1	85	1	4	5	2	0	924	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	8
EL PASO	1	5	764	0	7	102	30	0	67	0	2	0	4	0	0	18	11
FORT BEND	0	4	16	0	4	0	3	0	121	2	0	2	1	0	0	6	7
GALVESTON	0	8	130	0	4	2	12	0	1220	0	1	5	1	0	0	9	16
HARRIS	1	40	2828	1	56	74	44	10	14599	0	3	43	28	0	0	99	63
HIDALGO	3	0	141	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	11	7
JEFFERSON	0	2	196	0	1	3	8	0	1147	0	0	2	13	0	0	12	2
LUBBOCK	0	5	84	0	5	24	6	0	2156	0	1	5	4	0	0	7	5
MCCLENNAN	1	0	219	0	5	18	7	1	348	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	5
MONTGOMERY	2	1	30	0	18	9	8	1	381	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4
MUEDES	0	1	439	0	7	4	13	0	6751	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	2
TARRANT	1	11	866	0	37	43	74	10	3252	0	7	12	6	0	0	30	12
TRAVIS	10	22	8	0	13	14	11	2	111	0	1	7	4	0	0	30	23
All Other Counties	20	30	3685	7	95	231	152	14	22724	0	22	17	31	27	0	175	113
Cumulative TX 1988	66	165	11856	13	363	787	456	48	74320	5	49	136	119	27	3	565	390
Cumulative TX 1987	116	259	19312	41	384	820	592	82	43385	330	75	285	204	30	3	673	426

1988 CUMULATIVE TOTALS FOR OTHER REPORTABLE DISEASES:

Acute Occ. Pesticide Poisoning	5	Coccidioidomycosis	25	Histoplasmosis	23	Psittacosis	0	Toxic Shock Syndrome	10
Anthrax	0	Dengue	0	Legionellosis	0	Q Fever	0	Trichinosis	0
Asbestosis	*	Diphtheria	0	Leptospirosis	0	Rabies	0	Tuberculosis	633
Botulism	1	+ Elevated Blood Lead Levels	378	Listeria Infections	13	Reye Syndrome	1	Tularemia	0
Brucellosis	2	Sonorrhea	17032	Lyme Disease	0	Rocky Mt Spotted Fever	4	Typhoid	4
Chlamydia trachomatis	5388	Hansen's Disease	15	Malaria	16	Silicosis	*	Typhus, Murine	0
Cholera	0	Hepatitis D (Delta Agent)	0	Plague	1	Syphilis (P&S)	1110	Vibrio Infect.	3
		Hepatitis type unspecified	280	Poliomyelitis	0	Tetanus	2	Yellow Fever	0

+ Blood lead level >40ug/dl in persons 15 years of age or older; summarized by date of blood lead test.

* Regular summaries of these reportable occupational diseases will be included as reporting procedures are better established.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 TEXAS AIDS CASES: WEEKLY SURVEILLANCE REPORT
 Case Count by Residence of Onset and Year of Diagnosis
 June 24, 1988

COUNTY *	1980-1985		1986		1987		1988		CUMULATIVE	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Bell	3	3	4	0	2	1	1	0	10	4
Bexar	52	42	43	26	38	8	0	0	133	76
Brazoria	8	8	9	5	8	2	4	1	29	16
Brazos	10	10	5	3	4	3	1	1	20	17
Dallas	247	230	300	210	453	209	137	41	1137	690
Denton	2	2	5	3	16	9	1	0	24	14
Ector	1	1	4	3	3	1	3	0	11	5
El Paso	5	5	9	5	18	4	5	0	37	14
Fort Bend	10	10	10	6	15	4	3	0	38	20
Galveston	11	10	16	11	21	6	9	1	57	28
Harris	604	535	601	424	702	264	168	24	2075	1247
Hays	3	3	4	3	2	1	1	0	10	7
Hidalgo	6	6	0	0	4	2	0	0	10	8

COUNTY	1980-1985		1986		1987		1988		Cumulative	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Jefferson	7	6	8	1	16	6	8	2	39	15
Lubbock	4	4	5	3	6	2	1	0	16	9
McLennan	2	2	5	4	5	1	3	1	15	8
Montgomery	5	5	3	1	9	5	2	0	19	11
Nueces	6	4	11	7	20	6	7	0	44	17
Orange	3	3	4	2	4	1	2	1	13	7
Tarrant	43	34	42	21	108	32	22	3	215	90
Travis	58	50	45	23	87	20	24	3	214	96
Walker **	9	9	17	7	12	5	8	0	46	21
Webb	1	1	4	3	4	1	2	0	11	5
All Others	53	48	73	39	126	48	31	7	283	142

STATEWIDE	1980-1985		1986		1987		1988		CUMULATIVE	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
	1153	1031	1227	810	1683	641	443	85	4506	2567
CFR %		89 CFR%	66 CFR%	38 CFR%	19 CFR%					57

* COUNTIES LISTED INDIVIDUALLY ARE THOSE WITH A CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF 10+
 ** 34 CASES WERE DIAGNOSED WHILE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION INMATES

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