

Data & Statistics

The United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in history. In the majority of cases, vaccines cause no side effects, however they can occur, as with any medication—but most are mild. Very rarely, people experience more serious side effects, like allergic reactions. In those instances, the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) allows individuals to file a petition for compensation.

What does it mean to be awarded compensation?

Being awarded compensation for a petition does not necessarily mean that the vaccine caused the alleged injury. In fact:

- Approximately 70 percent of all compensation awarded by the VICP comes as result of a negotiated settlement between the parties in which HHS has not concluded, based upon review of the evidence, that the alleged vaccine(s) caused the alleged injury.
- Attorneys are eligible for reasonable attorneys' fees, whether or not the petitioner is awarded compensation by the Court, if certain minimal requirements are met. In those circumstances, attorneys are paid by the VICP directly. By statute, attorneys may not charge any other fee, including a contingency fee, for his or her services in representing a petitioner in the VICP.

What reasons might a petition result in a negotiated settlement?

- Consideration of prior U.S. Court of Federal Claims decisions, both parties decide to minimize risk of loss through settlement
- A desire to minimize the time and expense of litigating a case
- The desire to resolve a petition quickly

How many petitions have been awarded compensation?

According to the CDC, from 2006 to 2018 over 3.7 billion doses of covered vaccines were distributed in the U.S. For petitions filed in this time period, 7,482 petitions were adjudicated by the Court, and of those 5,233 were compensated. This means for every 1 million doses of vaccine that were distributed, approximately 1 individual was compensated.

Since 1988, over 22,272 petitions have been filed with the VICP. Over that 30-year time period, 19,282 petitions have been adjudicated, with 7,611 of those determined to be compensable, while 11,671 were dismissed. Total compensation paid over the life of the program is approximately \$4.4 billion.

This information reflects the current thinking of the United States Department of Health and Human Services on the topics addressed. This information is not legal advice and does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind the Department or the public. The ultimate decision about the scope of the statutes authorizing the VICP is within the authority of the United States Court of Federal Claims, which is responsible for resolving petitions for compensation under the VICP.

VICP Adjudication Categories, by Alleged Vaccine for Petitions Filed Since the Inclusion of Influenza as an Eligible Vaccine for Filings 01/01/2006 through 12/31/2018

Name of Vaccine Listed First in a Petition (other vaccines may be alleged or basis for compensation)	Number of Doses Distributed in the U.S., 01/01/2006 through 12/31/2018 (Source: CDC)	Compensable Concession	Compensable Court Decision	Compensable Settlement	Compensable Total	Dismissed/Non-Compensable Total	Grand Total
DT	794,777	1	0	5	6	4	10
DTaP	105,474,077	22	24	111	157	124	281
DTaP-Hep B-IPV	74,255,807	5	7	28	40	57	97
DTaP-HIB	1,135,474	0	1	2	3	2	5
DTaP-IPV	27,884,804	0	0	5	5	3	8
DTap-IPV-HIB	68,409,736	4	3	9	16	38	54
DTP	0	1	1	3	5	2	7
DTP-HIB	0	1	0	2	3	1	4
Hep A-Hep B	16,923,878	2	1	15	18	7	25
Hep B-HIB	4,787,457	1	1	2	4	1	5
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	189,707,214	8	6	45	59	34	93
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	198,868,169	10	12	69	91	86	177
HIB	128,789,396	2	1	9	12	10	22
HPV	121,642,555	16	15	112	143	201	344
Influenza	1,672,400,000	906	209	2,577	3,693	643	4,336
IPV	75,537,282	0	0	4	4	5	9
Measles	135,660	0	0	1	1	0	1
Meningococcal	106,233,254	3	5	42	50	14	64
MMR	108,389,441	23	14	91	128	131	259

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Name of Vaccine Listed First in a Petition (other vaccines may be alleged or basis for compensation)	Number of Doses Distributed in the U.S., 01/01/2006 through 12/31/2018 (Source: CDC)	Compensable Concession	Compensable Court Decision	Compensable Settlement	Compensable Total	Dismissed/Non-Compensable Total	Grand Total
MMR-Varicella	28,376,497	10	0	13	23	16	39
Mumps	110,749	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonqualified	0	0	0	3	3	38	41
OPV	0	1	0	0	1	5	6
Pneumococcal Conjugate	250,151,136	27	3	43	73	52	125
Rotavirus	116,651,363	19	4	23	46	17	63
Rubella	422,548	0	1	1	2	0	2
Td	68,120,632	11	6	63	80	28	108
Tdap	270,851,285	117	20	317	454	95	549
Tetanus	3,836,052	12	2	45	59	21	80
Unspecified	0	1	1	4	6	592	598
Varicella	121,855,108	9	7	32	48	22	70
Grand Total	3,761,744,351	1,212	344	3,676	5,233	2,249	7,482

Notes on the Adjudication Categories Table

The date range of 01/01/2006 through 12/31/2018 was selected to reflect petitions filed since the inclusion of influenza vaccine in July 2005. Influenza vaccine now is named in the majority of all VICP petitions.

In addition to the first vaccine alleged by a petitioner, which is the vaccine listed in this table, a VICP petition may allege other vaccines, which may form the basis of compensation.

Vaccine doses are self-reported distribution data provided by US-licensed vaccine manufacturers. The data provide an estimate of the annual national distribution and do not represent vaccine administration. In order to maintain confidentiality of an individual manufacturer or brand, the data are presented in an aggregate format by vaccine type. Flu doses are derived from CDC's FluFinder tracking system, which includes data provided to CDC by US-licensed influenza vaccine manufacturers as well as their first line distributors.

"Unspecified" means insufficient information was submitted to make an initial determination. The conceded "unspecified" petition was for multiple unidentified vaccines that caused abscess formation at the vaccination site(s), and the "unspecified" settlements were for multiple vaccines later identified in the Special Masters' decisions

Definitions

Compensable – The injured person who filed a petition was paid money by the VICP. Compensation can be achieved through a concession by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a decision on the merits of the petition by a special master or a judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims (Court), or a settlement between the parties.

- **Concession:** HHS concludes that a petition should be compensated based on a thorough review and analysis of the evidence, including medical records and the scientific and medical literature. The HHS review concludes that the petitioner is entitled to compensation, including a determination either that it is more likely than not that the vaccine caused the injury or the evidence supports fulfillment of the criteria of the Vaccine Injury Table. The Court also determines that the petition should be compensated.
- **Court Decision:** A special master or the court, within the United States Court of Federal Claims, issues a legal decision after weighing the evidence presented by both sides. HHS abides by the ultimate Court decision even if it maintains its position that the petitioner was not entitled to compensation (e.g., that the injury was not caused by the vaccine).
For injury petitions, compensable court decisions are based in part on one of the following determinations by the court:
 1. The evidence is legally sufficient to show that the vaccine more likely than not caused (or significantly aggravated) the injury; or
 2. The injury is listed on, and meets all of the requirements of, the Vaccine Injury Table, and HHS has not proven that a factor unrelated to the vaccine more likely than not caused or significantly aggravated the injury. An injury listed on the Table and meeting all Table requirements is given the legal presumption of causation. It should be noted that conditions are placed on the Table for both scientific and policy reasons.
- **Settlement:** The petition is resolved via a negotiated settlement between the parties. This settlement is not an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the vaccine caused the petitioner's alleged injuries, and, in settled cases, the Court does not determine that the vaccine caused the injury. A settlement therefore cannot be characterized as a decision by HHS or by the Court that the vaccine caused an injury. Petitions may be resolved by settlement for many reasons, including consideration of prior court decisions; a recognition by both parties that there is a risk of loss in proceeding to a decision by the Court making the certainty of settlement more desirable; a desire by both parties to minimize the time and expense associated with litigating a case to conclusion; and a desire by both parties to resolve a case quickly and efficiently.
- **Non-compensable/Dismissed:** The injured person who filed a petition was ultimately not paid money. Non-compensable Court decisions include the following:
 1. The Court determines that the person who filed the petition did not demonstrate that the injury was caused (or significantly aggravated) by a covered vaccine or meet the requirements of the Table (for injuries listed on the Table).
 2. The petition was dismissed for not meeting other statutory requirements (such as not meeting the filing deadline, not receiving a covered vaccine, and not meeting the statute's severity requirement).
 3. The injured person voluntarily withdrew his or her petition.

Petitions Filed, Compensated and Dismissed, by Alleged Vaccine, Since the Beginning of VICP, 10/01/1988 through 09/01/2020

Vaccines	Filed Injury	Filed Death	Filed Grand Total	Compensated	Dismissed
DTaP-IPV	15	0	15	5	3
DT	69	9	78	26	52
DTP	3,287	696	3,983	1,273	2,709
DTP-HIB	20	8	28	7	21
DTaP	468	85	553	240	263
DTaP-Hep B-IPV	94	38	132	42	62
DTaP-HIB	11	1	12	7	4
DTaP-IPV-HIB	47	21	68	16	37
Td	224	3	227	126	79
Tdap	844	8	852	470	96
Tetanus	152	3	155	82	48
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	119	7	126	59	35
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	715	61	776	282	435
Hep A-Hep B	37	0	37	18	8
Hep B-HIB	8	0	8	5	3
HIB	46	3	49	19	20
HPV	451	17	468	142	202
Influenza	6,365	189	6,554	3,774	648
IPV	269	14	283	8	271
OPV	282	28	310	158	152
Measles	145	19	164	55	107
Meningococcal	103	3	106	53	14
MMR	1,004	62	1,066	411	591
MMR-Varicella	55	2	57	24	16
MR	15	0	15	6	9
Mumps	10	0	10	1	9
Pertussis	4	3	7	2	5
Pneumococcal Conjugate	243	20	263	80	68
Rotavirus	104	6	110	68	28
Rubella	190	4	194	71	123
Varicella	107	9	116	68	31
Nonqualified1	106	9	115	3	109
Unspecified2	5,426	9	5,435	10	5,413
Grand Total	21,035	1,337	22,372	7,611	11,671

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¹ Nonqualified petitions are those filed for vaccines not covered under the VICP.

² Unspecified petitions are those submitted with insufficient information to make a determination.

Petitions Filed

Fiscal Year	Total
FY 1988	24
FY 1989	148
FY 1990	1,492
FY 1991	2,718
FY 1992	189
FY 1993	140
FY 1994	107
FY 1995	180
FY 1996	84
FY 1997	104
FY 1998	120
FY 1999	411
FY 2000	164
FY 2001	215
FY 2002	958
FY 2003	2,592
FY 2004	1,214
FY 2005	735
FY 2006	325
FY 2007	410
FY 2008	417
FY 2009	397
FY 2010	448
FY 2011	386
FY 2012	401
FY 2013	504
FY 2014	633
FY 2015	803
FY 2016	1,120
FY 2017	1,243
FY 2018	1,238
FY 2019	1,282
FY 2020	1,170
Total	22,372

Adjudications

Generally, petitions are not adjudicated in the same fiscal year as filed. On average, it takes 2 to 3 years to adjudicate a petition after it is filed.

Fiscal Year	Compensable	Dismissed	Total
FY 1989	9	12	21
FY 1990	100	33	133
FY 1991	141	447	588
FY 1992	166	487	653
FY 1993	125	588	713
FY 1994	162	446	608
FY 1995	160	575	735
FY 1996	162	408	570
FY 1997	189	198	387
FY 1998	144	181	325
FY 1999	98	139	237
FY 2000	125	104	229
FY 2001	86	88	174
FY 2002	104	104	208
FY 2003	56	100	156
FY 2004	62	247	309
FY 2005	60	229	289
FY 2006	69	193	262
FY 2007	82	136	218
FY 2008	147	151	298
FY 2009	134	257	391
FY 2010	180	330	510
FY 2011	266	1,742	2,008
FY 2012	265	2,533	2,798
FY 2013	369	650	1,019
FY 2014	370	193	563
FY 2015	519	142	661
FY 2016	698	185	883
FY 2017	696	202	898
FY 2018	544	199	743
FY 2019	641	181	822
FY 2020	682	191	873
Total	7,611	11,671	19,282

Awards Paid

Fiscal Year	Number of Compensated Awards	Petitioners' Award Amount	Attorneys' Fees/Costs Payments	Number of Payments to Attorneys (Dismissed Cases)	Attorneys' Fees/Costs Payments (Dismissed Cases)	Number of Payments to Interim Attorneys'	Interim Attorneys' Fees/Costs Payments	Total Outlays
FY 1989	6	\$1,317,654.78	\$54,107.14	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,371,761.92
FY 1990	88	\$53,252,510.46	\$1,379,005.79	4	\$57,699.48	0	\$0.00	\$54,689,215.73
FY 1991	114	\$95,980,493.16	\$2,364,758.91	30	\$496,809.21	0	\$0.00	\$98,842,061.28
FY 1992	130	\$94,538,071.30	\$3,001,927.97	118	\$1,212,677.14	0	\$0.00	\$98,752,676.41
FY 1993	162	\$119,693,267.87	\$3,262,453.06	272	\$2,447,273.05	0	\$0.00	\$125,402,993.98
FY 1994	158	\$98,151,900.08	\$3,571,179.67	335	\$3,166,527.38	0	\$0.00	\$104,889,607.13
FY 1995	169	\$104,085,265.72	\$3,652,770.57	221	\$2,276,136.32	0	\$0.00	\$110,014,172.61
FY 1996	163	\$100,425,325.22	\$3,096,231.96	216	\$2,364,122.71	0	\$0.00	\$105,885,679.89
FY 1997	179	\$113,620,171.68	\$3,898,284.77	142	\$1,879,418.14	0	\$0.00	\$119,397,874.59
FY 1998	165	\$127,546,009.19	\$4,002,278.55	121	\$1,936,065.50	0	\$0.00	\$133,484,353.24
FY 1999	96	\$95,917,680.51	\$2,799,910.85	117	\$2,306,957.40	0	\$0.00	\$101,024,548.76
FY 2000	136	\$125,945,195.64	\$4,112,369.02	80	\$1,724,451.08	0	\$0.00	\$131,782,015.74
FY 2001	97	\$105,878,632.57	\$3,373,865.88	57	\$2,066,224.67	0	\$0.00	\$111,318,723.12
FY 2002	80	\$59,799,604.39	\$2,653,598.89	50	\$656,244.79	0	\$0.00	\$63,109,448.07
FY 2003	65	\$82,816,240.07	\$3,147,755.12	69	\$1,545,654.87	0	\$0.00	\$87,509,650.06
FY 2004	57	\$61,933,764.20	\$3,079,328.55	69	\$1,198,615.96	0	\$0.00	\$66,211,708.71
FY 2005	64	\$55,065,797.01	\$2,694,664.03	71	\$1,790,587.29	0	\$0.00	\$59,551,048.33
FY 2006	68	\$48,746,162.74	\$2,441,199.02	54	\$1,353,632.61	0	\$0.00	\$52,540,994.37
FY 2007	82	\$91,449,433.89	\$4,034,154.37	61	\$1,692,020.25	0	\$0.00	\$97,175,608.51
FY 2008	141	\$75,716,552.06	\$5,191,770.83	74	\$2,531,394.20	2	\$117,265.31	\$83,556,982.40
FY 2009	131	\$74,142,490.58	\$5,404,711.98	36	\$1,557,139.53	28	\$4,241,362.55	\$85,345,704.64
FY 2010	173	\$179,387,341.30	\$5,961,744.40	59	\$1,933,550.09	22	\$1,978,803.88	\$189,261,439.67
FY 2011	251	\$216,319,428.47	\$9,572,042.87	403	\$5,589,417.19	28	\$2,001,770.91	\$233,482,659.44
FY 2012	249	\$163,491,998.82	\$9,241,427.33	1,020	\$8,649,676.56	37	\$5,420,257.99	\$186,803,360.70
FY 2013	375	\$254,666,326.70	\$13,543,099.70	704	\$7,012,615.42	50	\$1,454,851.74	\$276,676,893.56
FY 2014	365	\$202,084,196.12	\$12,161,422.64	508	\$6,824,566.68	38	\$2,493,460.73	\$223,563,646.17
FY 2015	508	\$204,137,880.22	\$14,445,776.29	118	\$3,546,785.14	50	\$3,089,497.68	\$225,219,939.33

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Fiscal Year	Number of Compensated Awards	Petitioners' Award Amount	Attorneys' Fees/Costs Payments	Number of Payments to Attorneys (Dismissed Cases)	Attorneys' Fees/Costs Payments (Dismissed Cases)	Number of Payments to Interim Attorneys'	Interim Attorneys' Fees/Costs Payments	Total Outlays
FY 2016	689	\$230,140,251.20	\$16,225,881.12	99	\$2,741,830.10	59	\$3,502,709.91	\$252,610,672.33
FY 2017	706	\$252,245,932.78	\$22,045,785.00	132	\$4,444,124.32	52	\$3,363,464.24	\$282,099,306.34
FY 2018	521	\$199,588,007.04	\$16,658,440.14	112	\$5,106,382.65	58	\$5,151,148.78	\$226,503,978.61
FY 2019	653	\$196,217,707.64	\$18,991,247.55	102	\$4,791,157.52	65	\$5,457,545.23	\$225,457,657.94
FY 2020	734	\$186,885,677.55	\$20,217,550.29	112	\$5,650,058.54	76	\$5,178,786.23	\$217,932,072.61
Total	7,575	\$4,071,186,970.96	\$226,280,744.26	5,566	\$90,549,815.79	565	\$43,450,925.18	\$4,431,468,456.19

NOTE: Some previous fiscal year data has been updated as a result of the receipt and entry of data from documents issued by the Court and system updates which included petitioners' costs reimbursements in outlay totals,

"Compensated" are petitions that have been paid as a result of a settlement between parties or a decision made by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims (Court). The # of awards is the number of petitioner awards paid, including the attorneys' fees/costs payments, if made during a fiscal year. However, petitioners' awards and attorneys' fees/costs are not necessarily paid in the same fiscal year as when the petitions/petitions are determined compensable. "Dismissed" includes the # of payments to attorneys and the total amount of payments for attorneys' fees/costs per fiscal year. The VICP will pay attorneys' fees/costs related to the petition, whether or not the petition/petition is awarded compensation by the Court, if certain minimal requirements are met. "Total Outlays" are the total amount of funds expended for compensation and attorneys' fees/costs from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund by fiscal year.

Since influenza vaccines (vaccines administered to large numbers of adults each year) were added to the VICP in 2005, many adult petitions related to that vaccine have been filed, thus changing the proportion of children to adults receiving compensation.