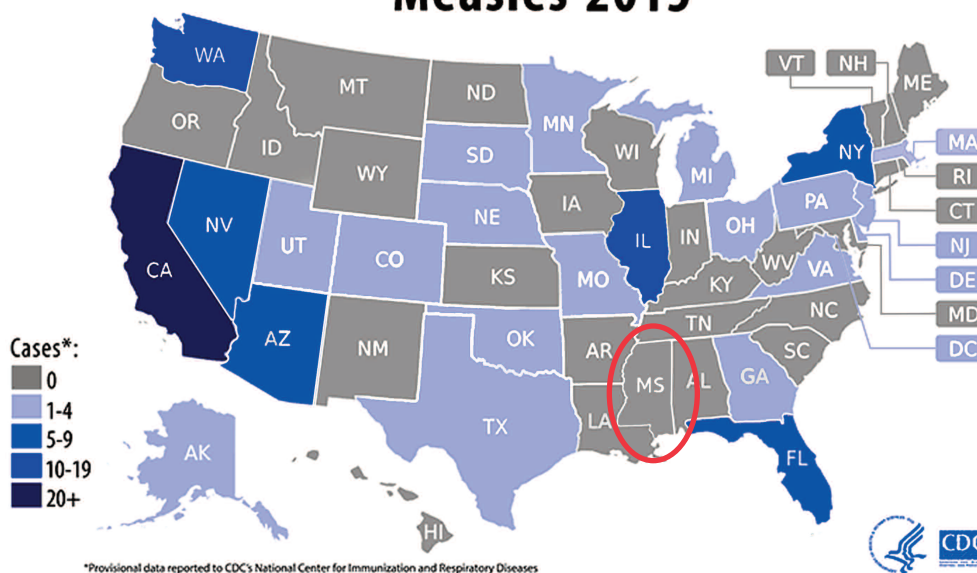


Protecting Mississippi Children from Vaccine Preventable Illnesses

Diseases Still a Threat

- Measles outbreak in Disneyland Park led to a nationwide outbreak in 2015, but not in Mississippi.
- 32,971 “Whooping Cough” cases were reported in the U.S. in 2014, with 68 cases in Mississippi.

Measles 2015



Immunizations Protect Our Children

- Immunizations protect the individual, the community and those unprotected due to medical conditions.
- For U.S. children born between 1994 and 2013, immunizations will prevent over 300 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations, and 732,000 deaths.
- Every dollar used for immunizations saves \$5 in direct medical costs and \$11 in total expenses.

Mississippi: the National Leader in Childhood Immunizations

- Mississippi ranks 1st in the country for school-age children.
- In 2015 Mississippi was awarded for the most rapid increase in “Whooping Cough” immunization among adolescents by CDC, with more than 70% coverage in 2014.
- Mississippi serves as a model for other states. California and Vermont followed our lead and removed philosophical exemptions in 2015.

Immunization Exemptions in Mississippi

- Like 32 other states, Mississippi does not allow for philosophical exemptions from immunization for school entry (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/school-immunization-exemption-state-laws.aspx>).
- The Mississippi Supreme Court deemed religious exemptions unconstitutional in 1979.
- The Mississippi State Department of Health grants every medical exemption requested by pediatricians, family practitioners or internists licensed to practice in Mississippi.

