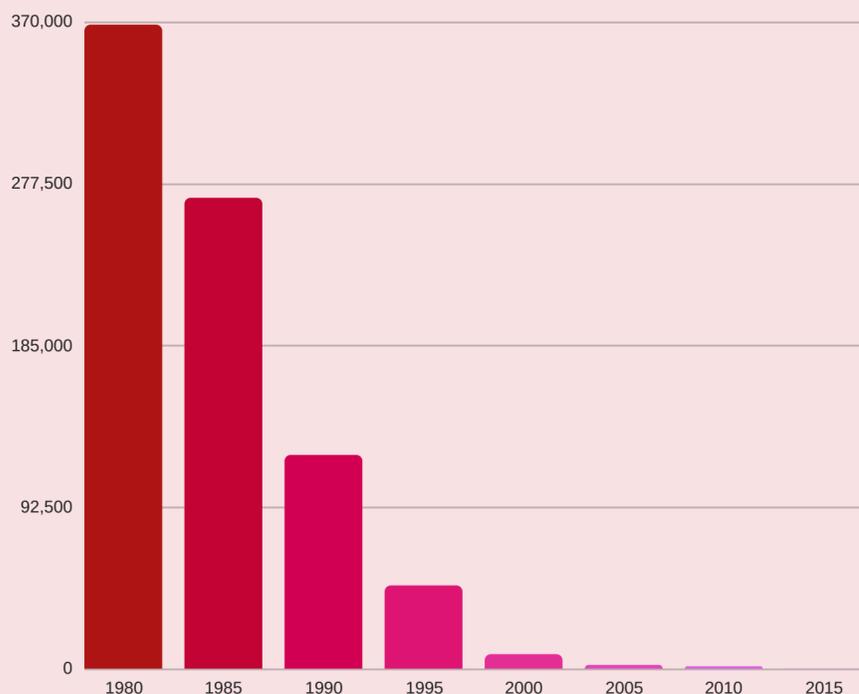


Bold Steps to End Polio

Polio cases through the decades



 The number of cases of polio has fallen by 99.9% since the vaccine was introduced in 1988



In 1988 the wild polio virus was endemic in 125 countries.

In 2018 wild polio virus exists in JUST 3 countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.



Unless we eradicate polio, within 10 years we could see as many as 200,000 new cases a year.



Immunisation has prevented more than 17 million from people from developing disabilities as a result of the virus



With the help of countless health workers who made sure every last child was vaccinated against polio, India was declared polio-free in 2014.



Polio is close to being the 2nd human disease eradicated from the planet.

Prevention



Polio can infect a person of any age, but children five and under are especially vulnerable and make up roughly 50% of polio victims.



Polio virus is typically spread through contaminated water.



There is no cure for polio, but there is a safe and effective vaccine.



Polio is an infection caused by a virus that affects the entire body, including muscles and nerves.



In last two months, Australia committed an additional \$10 million to increase access to vaccination in PNG, and a further \$6 million for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to combat the polio outbreak in PNG.



PNG was declared polio-free in 2000, but 14 new cases of vaccine-derived polio have been identified in Papua New Guinea since June 2018.



Australia has invested a significant amount in the polio eradication effort, committing \$104 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 2011.



Vaccine-derived polio is a naturally-altered form of the weakened virus in the oral polio vaccine. The risk factors are low immunisation rates, poor sanitation, and high population densities.



In addition to continuing to fund polio eradication work directly, countries such as Australia also need to increase support for national health and immunisation systems to ensure that the eradication of polio is achieved.

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info@results.org.au

www.results.org.au

1300 713 037