

# Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System – VAERS

## **The under-reporting of vaccine injuries and deaths**

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 required that a reporting system, the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) be put in place to monitor vaccine safety.

The 1986 Act also required vaccine providers to report all serious health problems to VAERS and to ensure that any serious health problems which occurred after vaccination be recorded in a child's permanent health record.<sup>1</sup>

Although it has been the law since 1986 for vaccine providers to report serious health problems including hospitalizations, injuries, deaths and serious health problems following vaccination to VAERS, it is estimated that only between 1 and 10 percent are ever reported.<sup>2 3</sup> A Health and Human Services (HHS) funded study by Harvard Medical School tracked reporting to VAERS over a three-year period (12/01/07 – 09/30/10) at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care involving 715,000 patients and found that “fewer than 1% of vaccine adverse events are reported.”<sup>4</sup>

What's worse, is that when study investigators contacted the CDC to ask that the automated reporting system developed at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care be directly linked to VAERS to ensure that adverse events were reported, the CDC refused to cooperate.

*“Unfortunately, there was never an opportunity to perform system performance assessments because the necessary CDC contacts were no longer available and the CDC consultants responsible for receiving data were no longer responsive to our multiple requests to proceed with testing and evaluation.”<sup>5</sup>*

In Wisconsin, as of March 11, 2021, there have been 13,862 adverse events following vaccination reported to VAERS, including 790 hospitalizations and 107 deaths.<sup>6</sup>

If as few as 1% of adverse events are ever reported to VAERS, it is possible that as many as 1,386,200 adverse events following vaccination have occurred in Wisconsin, including 79,000 hospitalizations and 107,000 deaths.

***Vaccine reactions are not being reported and the CDC does not care.***

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Code 42 USC CHAPTER 6A, SUBCHAPTER XIX, Part 2: From Title 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE - CHAPTER 6A—PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SUBCHAPTER XIX—VACCINES (<https://tinyurl.com/y5d4re7v>)

<sup>2</sup> Kessler DA, the Working Group, Natanblut S, et al. [A New Approach to Reporting Medication and Device Adverse Effects and Product Problems](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.293.269.2765). JAMA. 1993;269(21):2765-2768. (<https://tinyurl.com/y6an8wy5>)

<sup>3</sup> Rosenthal S, Chen R. The reporting sensitivities of two passive surveillance systems for vaccine adverse events. Am J Public Health 1995; 85: pp. 1706-9. (<https://tinyurl.com/yx9t5b5q>)

<sup>4</sup> AHRQ [Electronic Support for Public Health—Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(ESP:VAERS\)](https://www.ahrq.gov/evidence/publications/esp/esp-vaers/) Dec 1, 2007-Sep. 30, 2010 (<https://tinyurl.com/lzecs3v>)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System. [Wisconsin VAERS Data as of March 11, 2021](https://www.vaers.hhs.gov/) (Accessed Mar. 20, 2021). (<https://tinyurl.com/y3pbefej>)