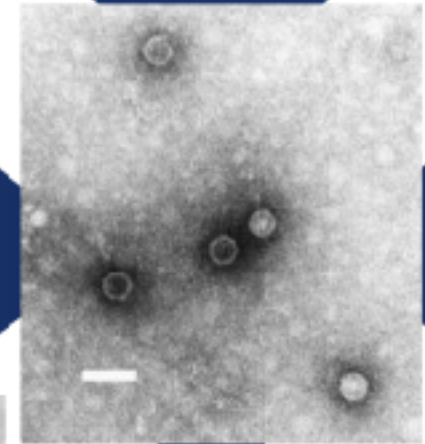
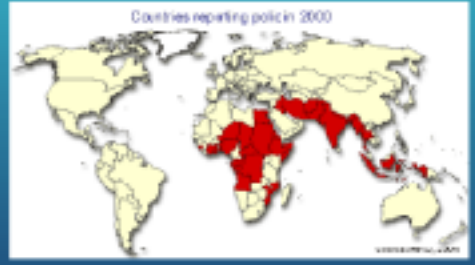


Whatever Happened to Polio?

Polio (poliomyelitis, "polio"), or *infantile paralysis*, is a viral paralytic disease. The causative agent, a virus called *poliovirus* (PV), enters the body orally, infecting the intestinal lining. It may proceed to the blood stream and into the central nervous system, causing muscle weakness and often paralysis.

Polio History Timeline

- 1841 - The first major polio epidemic reported in the US occurs in Vermont. 122 total cases reported.
- 1892 - Polio becomes reportable disease. Polio virus is identified.
- 1900 - Massachusetts begins counting polio cases.
- 1916 - Nine thousand cases reported in New York City.
- 1921 - Franklin D. Roosevelt contracts polio.
- 1925 - Iron lung is developed - a large metal tank equipped with a pump that assists respiration.
- 1928 - FDR is elected president of the United States.
- 1934 - Major outbreak of polio in Los Angeles - nearly 2500 cases from May - November.
- 1935 - Sister Elizabeth Kenny travels to the US from Australia to present her unique procedures to treat polio patients.
- 1937 - The Sister Kenny Foundation is formed, and her procedures become one standard treatment for polio patients.
- 1942 - 1950s - Two large epidemics of polio in the US occur immediately, with an average of more than 20,000 cases a year from 1945 to 1948.
- 1952 - Jonas Salk accepts position in new Pittsburgh medical laboratory.
- 1952 - Salk's laboratory awarded research grant for polio virus typing project.
- 1954 - Field tests of the Salk vaccine (using killed virus and injected) are sponsored by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.
- 1955 - Masses of successful vaccine trials announced. Nationwide vaccination program started.
- 1956 & 1958 - Salk oral vaccine (using live, weakened virus, and administered orally) proven to be effective and easier to use.
- 1959 - Last (wild) polio transmission of wild polio virus occurs in the US. All future cases are vaccine-related or imported.
- 1968 - The World Health Organization passes resolution to eradicate polio by the year 1980.
- 1974 - China launches its first National Immunization Days, immunizing 10 million children.
- 1980 - India launches Operation Smile and organizes its first National Immunization Days, and more than 87 million children are immunized.
- 1980 - Wars, natural disasters, and poverty in about 35 Asian and African nations prevent the complete eradication of polio. First target state for worldwide eradication of 2000 is set by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
- 1981 - 125 million children are vaccinated in 104 countries.
- 2001 - Ministers of Health from the six remaining polio-endemic countries meet and agree to take final steps toward polio eradication.



Famous Survivors of polio



At one time, Polio was thought to be all but erased, but continues to plague Nigeria, Sudan, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Niger, Cameroon, and now Yemen

Nigeria (endemic)	77
Sudan (re-established transmission)	24
Yemen (importation)	22
India (endemic)	14
Pakistan (endemic)	7
Ethiopia (importation)	5
Indonesia (importation)	4
Niger (endemic)	1
Cameroon (importation)	1

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