

CDC History Timeline (Part 3)

Take a minute to read through a timeline of This Week in CDC History which spans from 1989 through 2004. You might just learn a few things about CDC that you did not know before!

May 31, 1989: Members of the World Health Organization resolved May 31 would be World No Tobacco Day. This declaration was to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it caused and to encourage people who use tobacco to quit for at least 24 hours. Free resources on quitting smoking are available on cdc.gov.

June 23, 1989: *MMWR* reported outbreaks of staphylococcal foodborne disease were associated with consumption of canned mushrooms from the People's Republic of China (PRC). These outbreaks prompted multistate recalls of certain PRC mushrooms and an FDA prohibition. From 1982 to 1987, 75 confirmed cases of staphylococcal outbreaks were reported to CDC's national foodborne surveillance system.

August 1989: CDC analysis of data from the [Atlanta Birth Defects Case-Control Study](#) (ABDCCS) revealed that risk for urinary tract anomalies was greater in infants born to mothers who reported using cocaine early in pregnancy. ABDCCS was the first population-based case-control study to examine the association of maternal cocaine use with congenital urogenital anomalies.

September 22, 1989: The *MMWR* announced a new series called *Health Objectives for the Nation*, which focused on efforts by health agencies to meet the national objectives for *Healthy People 2000*. It also focused on efforts by the public and private sectors to develop and implement similar [prevention and health promotion objectives](#).

January 11, 1990: An automatic misting machine in a Louisiana supermarket caused a major outbreak of [Legionnaires' disease](#). As a precaution, supermarket chains across the nation voluntarily halted use of similar machines used to keep produce fresh.

April 27, 1990: CDC [reported](#) on the [viral agents of gastroenteritis](#), which causes diarrhea. Before 1990, severe diarrhea was a serious public health threat causing five to ten million deaths worldwide. Identifying viral agents as the cause of gastroenteritis enabled CDC to determine the necessary measures to prevent and manage outbreaks of severe diarrhea.

June 8, 1990: CDC reported a lengthy [multidrug-resistant tuberculosis](#) outbreak that created large public health and economic burdens across Texas, California, and Pennsylvania. Hospitalization of affected persons was estimated at \$950,433. As a result, the Forth Worth/Tarrant County Health Department now uses supervised therapy with initial regimen of four drugs for all patients with active TB.



CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program encourages yearly mammograms to help control and prevent the onset of breast cancer. *Photo from PHIL*

November 4, 1990: The Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act of 1990 ([Public Law 101-354](#)) established [CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program](#). The program provides breast and cervical cancer screening support to underserved women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 US territories, and 12 American Indian/Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations.

December 4, 1990: Chronic fatigue syndrome affects 1 million Americans. Marking the seriousness of the illness, *The New York Times* reported on CDC's comprehensive investigation to develop a reliable test to distinguish the syndrome from many other conditions with which it is confused. Recently, CDC launched the first national [public awareness campaign](#) on chronic fatigue syndrome.

June 25, 1992: CDC establishes the [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#) to increase awareness of unintentional injury as the leading killer of Americans in the first four decades of life. CDC recently launched the [Choose Respect](#) initiative to raise awareness of adolescent dating abuse and to promote healthy relationships.

October 30, 1992: CDC added [Prevention](#) to its title. William L. Roper, MD, MPH, former CDC director, said, "Since we are the Nation's prevention agency, we think it only appropriate that our formal title carry that message." Because of worldwide recognition, the agency was asked by Congress to continue using the initials CDC.

June 11, 1993: The *MMWR* reports on an outbreak of a mysterious illness in the southwestern US. Later recognized as [Hantavirus](#) infection, the



Appealing ads like this one from the New York State Tobacco Control Program are helping reduce smoking rates among both adults and youth. *Photo from PHIL*

deadly virus is transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings, and saliva. CDC responds by developing prevention and information materials on the disease.

June 18, 1993: NCIPC reported in the *MMWR* the [economic impact of motor vehicle crashes in 1990](#)—approximately 2.5 percent of the US gross domestic product. Injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for persons aged 6 to 33 at this time.

November 5, 1993: China took a giant step in the effort toward global eradication of polio by launching a series of [National Immunization Days](#). Approximately 100 million children were targeted to receive oral polio vaccine in each of two rounds of vaccination. According to the [MMWR article](#) at the time, this initiative was the largest public health event of its kind to date.

April 20, 1994: The last full week in April was declared National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). NIIW is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities. This year's dates are April 19–26.

May 1994: Since 1972, the American Lung Association has sponsored Clean Air Week each May to educate the public about the relation between clean air and respiratory health. In 1994, the week was extended to Clean Air Month. CDC.gov offers tips on how to contribute to cleaner air.

October 1, 1994: HHS implemented the [Vaccines for Children Program \(VFC\)](#), which provides free vaccine to doctors who serve eligible children. Eligible children include those on Medicaid, those who are without insurance or underinsured, and American Indians/Alaska Natives. VFC is administered by CDC through NCIRD.

December 2, 1994: According to the *MMWR*, a diagnosed case of [Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome \(HPS\)](#) in a 61-year-old man was reportedly the first known case of HPS in the mid-Atlantic states. The man's infection was acquired along the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. HPS was first recognized in June 1993 in the southwestern US.

January 18, 1995: According to a study by the World Health Organization and the CDC, [tuberculosis](#) is increasing in most regions of the world and may kill as many as 30 million people. The report blamed the spread of TB in part on AIDS, which leaves patients susceptible to such infections.

March 27, 1995: A new meningococcal vaccine in an African trial study conducted by CDC showed promise toward effectively ending [epidemic meningitis](#) in Africa. A sustainable vaccine program coupled with affordable medication is needed to prevent future epidemics in Africa. The vaccine would provide the possibility of generating protective immunity from infancy and ending epidemic disease.

April 1995: President Clinton declared the first full week in April as National Public Health Week. Each year since then, the public health community has focused on an issue that is important to improving public health. The American Public Health Association serves as the lead organizers for this health observance.

May 8, 1995: The US became the 41st country to make hepatitis A vaccine available, according to a *New York Times* article. Children have the highest rate of reported hepatitis A. According to recent [ACIP recommendations](#), routine vaccination of children is the only way to significantly reduce the incidence of hepatitis A nationwide.

May 19, 1995: CDC reported on the [Ebola](#) outbreak in Zaire in the *MMWR*. Although outbreaks had occurred before, each new outbreak heightened the level of public fear. CDC was critical in the investigation to control spread of the virus and alleviate the public's concerns about the disease.

July 7, 1995: In an effort to decrease [prenatal HIV transmission](#), and following the successful results of the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group, CDC recommended HIV counseling and voluntary testing for pregnant women. Emphasis continues to be placed on early diagnosis of HIV infection for the health of both mothers and their infants.

September 1995: CDC developed a new skin test to help track the deadly [Ebola](#) infection that occurs in remote areas of Africa. This skin biopsy kit allows Ebola virus to be detected in fatal cases using immunohistochemistry. The skin-test findings have led to studies exploring use of the staining method to detect other viral diseases.

May 31, 1996: CDC issued recommendations for preventing perinatal [group B streptococcal disease](#), one of the leading infectious causes of infant morbidity and mortality. Since then, 40,000 cases of the disease



This Navajo Nation tribal member collects specimens from trapped rodents in a hantavirus field study. Photo from PHIL



During a 1995 Ebola outbreak, these CDC and Zairian scientists took samples from animals collected near Kikwit, Zaire, based on evidence that the Ebola virus is zoonotic and maintained in an animal host native to Africa. Photo from PHIL