3 Charts Show How Vaccines Have Impacted 20th Century Diseases

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Despite the few very loud voices still claiming vaccines are dangerous (and getting a lot of attention in the process), there is overwhelming evidence that they make the world a much safer place. Take the seven interactive heat maps created by Tynan DeBold and Dov Friedman for the Wall Street Journal. Each of the three examples we’ve featured here show the number of cases before and after a vaccine was introduced. Striking isn’t it?

Measles

Each square on these charts represents the number of cases per 100,000 people. For highly infectious diseases like polio, measles and rubella, the thousands of people infected each year often had life changing, if not life-ending consequences. However, after the introduction of each vaccine (represented by the black line on the chart) cases quickly dwindled away, leaving us as we are today – with faint memories of the suffering in a world without vaccines.
See the impact vaccines had on hepatitis A, mumps, whooping cough and smallpox, at the Wall Street Journal.
Rubella

Vaccine Introduced

[Diagram showing data distribution over time and across states or regions.]