

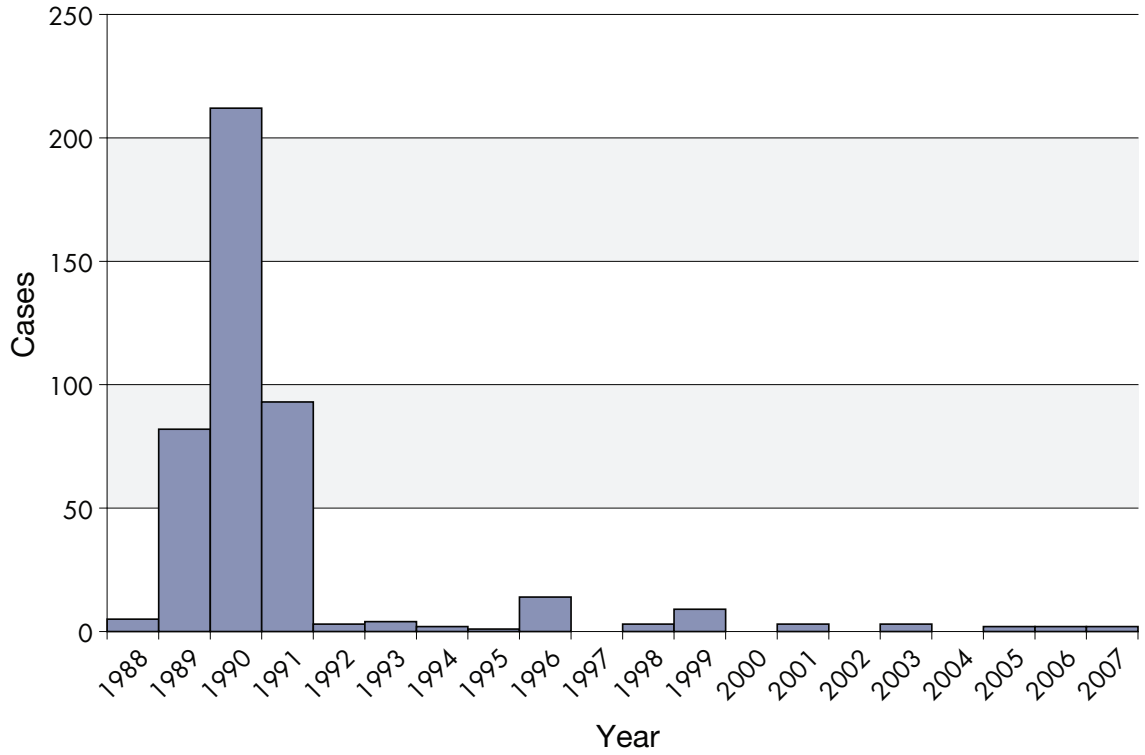
Measles

Measles is an acute, highly communicable viral illness known for its red, blotchy rash that starts on the face and then becomes generalized. The rash is preceded by a febrile prodrome that includes cough, coryza and conjunctivitis, and sometimes photophobia and Koplik spots. Diagnosis is confirmed by the presence of serum IgM antibodies (in a patient who has not recently been immunized).

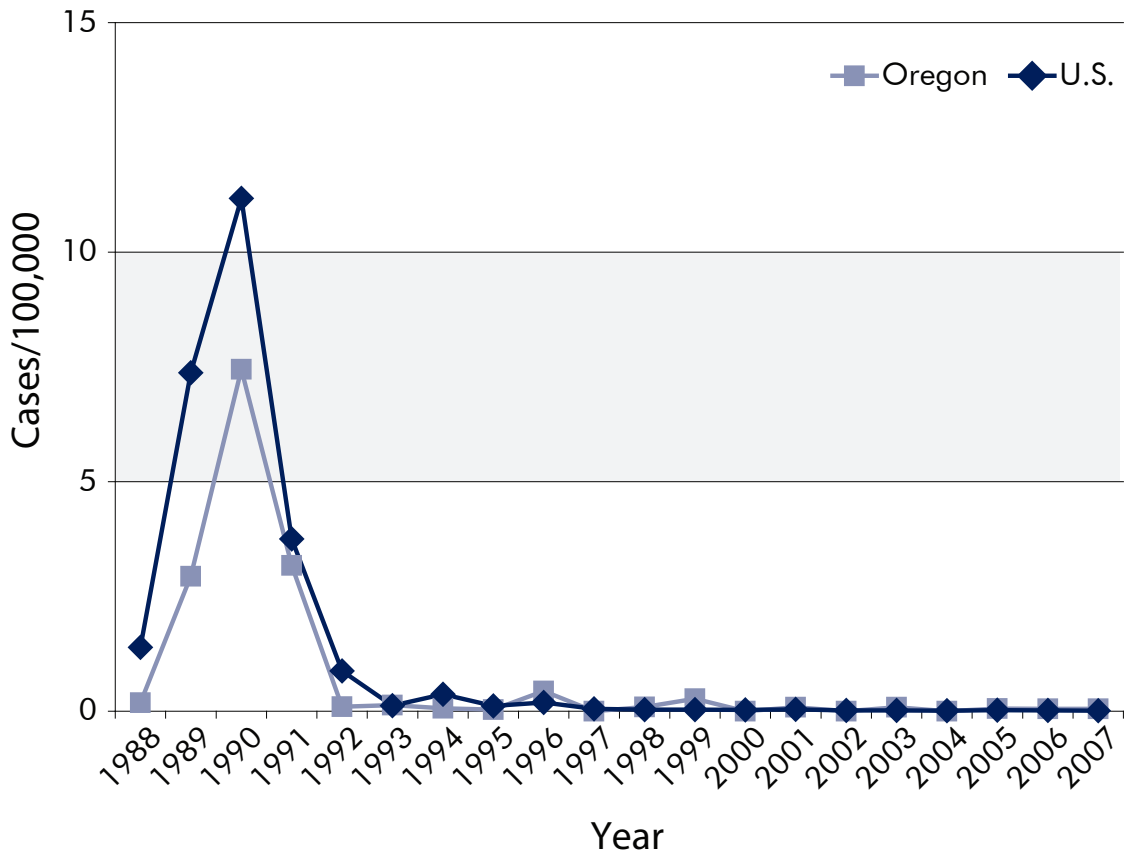
During 1989–1991, a major resurgence of measles occurred in the United States. More than 55,000 cases and greater than 120 measles-related deaths were reported. The resurgence was characterized by an increasing proportion of cases among unvaccinated preschool-aged children. A focus on increasing vaccination among preschool children by following the 1989 recommendation for two doses of MMR vaccine resulted in a dramatic reduction in illness.

Measles is no longer endemic in the United States. However, cases are occasionally imported; in 2007, a case was diagnosed in a person who traveled to Japan. A close contact of this case resulted in an indigenous case. Though measles is highly infectious, the risk of exposure to measles in Oregon remains low. Sustaining high levels of vaccination is important to limit the spread of measles from imported cases and to prevent it from becoming re-established as an endemic disease in the United States.

Measles by year: Oregon, 1988–2007



Incidence of measles: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1988–2007



Measles by country of importation: 1998–2007

