

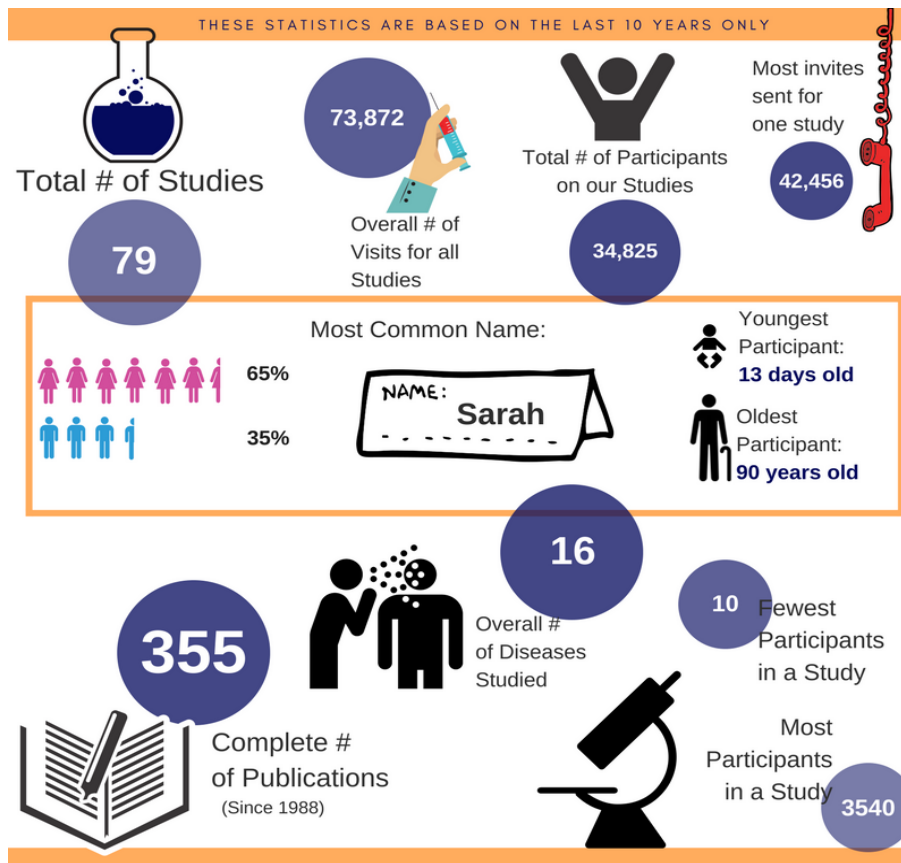
VEC NEWSLETTER

PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY:

THE VEC BY THE NUMBERS

Every year during [National Immunization Awareness Week](#), the VEC prepares an annual newsletter to highlight our vaccine research and raise awareness about the important role of vaccines.

This year marks the **30th anniversary of the VEC!** Below we share a few of the highlights we are most proud of. We couldn't have done it without our volunteers (you!).



PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE STUDY:

Find out if **2 instead of 3 doses of the Pneumococcal vaccine** are enough to provide protection to your baby.

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS VACCINE STUDY:

Do you want to help develop a vaccine to **protect babies** against RSV?

[Click here for more information!](#)



[National Immunization Awareness Week](#) (#NIAW2018) is an annual event to highlight and recognize the importance of immunization. We are celebrating the success of vaccines!

This decade involved many new beginnings in vaccine programs in Canada:

1988-1998

- New "acellular" pertussis vaccines introduced to increase safety; VEC studied various combination products.
- BC was first province (1992) to provide hepatitis B vaccine to school children; VEC confirmed safety of the program.

Vaccines to prevent **Hib meningitis** became available; VEC evaluated 3 competing products in infants and toddlers, with best product selected for provincial programs.

Vaccine safety and preventable disease monitoring improved nationally; VEC provided leadership and data center for **new active surveillance network (IMPACT)** at children's hospitals across Canada.

This decade provided proof that recently introduced vaccines were working well:

1999-2008

- IMPACT surveillance helped to build the case for new vaccines against meningitis and chickenpox; VEC conducted studies of these vaccines in support of provincial programs.
- Increased focus on need for and means of influenza vaccination of infants and children.

IMPACT surveillance confirmed greater safety of new pertussis vaccines and was first to show that **Hib vaccine is rapidly reducing cases in children**. Case numbers fell from nearly 500 per year before vaccine to only 4 cases in 2007, a **99% reduction**.

VEC conducted **nationwide surveys** of prior hepatitis A infections in children and adults, supporting wider use of new vaccines.

Most recently the VEC has remained active on multiple themes:

2009-2017

- Undertook long-term follow-up studies of infants given meningococcal or Hepatitis B vaccines, to assess optimal dosing schedule.
- Established a national system to efficiently monitor vaccine safety in Canada.

Pioneered a reduced dosing schedule (2 rather than 3 doses) for **girls receiving human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, widely copied internationally**. Long term follow-up continues.

Conducted a series of studies with **7- and 13-valent pneumococcal vaccines**.

Undertaking leading edge studies of **how vaccines work at the molecular level**, insights that will allow development of better, longer-lasting vaccines.

2018 ONWARDS

Looking forward our aim is to provide continued support to Canadian vaccine programs while increasing scientific understanding:

- Examining the **acceptability of vaccines** among parents and health care providers
- Continued monitoring of Canada's vaccine programs for **effectiveness and safety**

Assessing the **immune response to Hepatitis B vaccine** to increase **scientific understanding** of how vaccines work to prevent disease

Comparing **immunogenicity of meningococcal vaccines** in adolescents across Canada

Evaluating a reduced dosing schedule of **pneumococcal vaccine in Canadian infants** to assess an optimal dosing schedule.

Drs Manish Sadarangani, Soren Gantt, Julie Bettinger, Tobias Kollman and David Scheifele.

vaccineevaluationcenter.ca

E: VECstudies@bcchr.ubc.ca

T:604.875.2422

950 West 28th Ave, Rm A5-174

Vancouver, BC. V5Z 4H4

To unsubscribe, [click here](#).

