

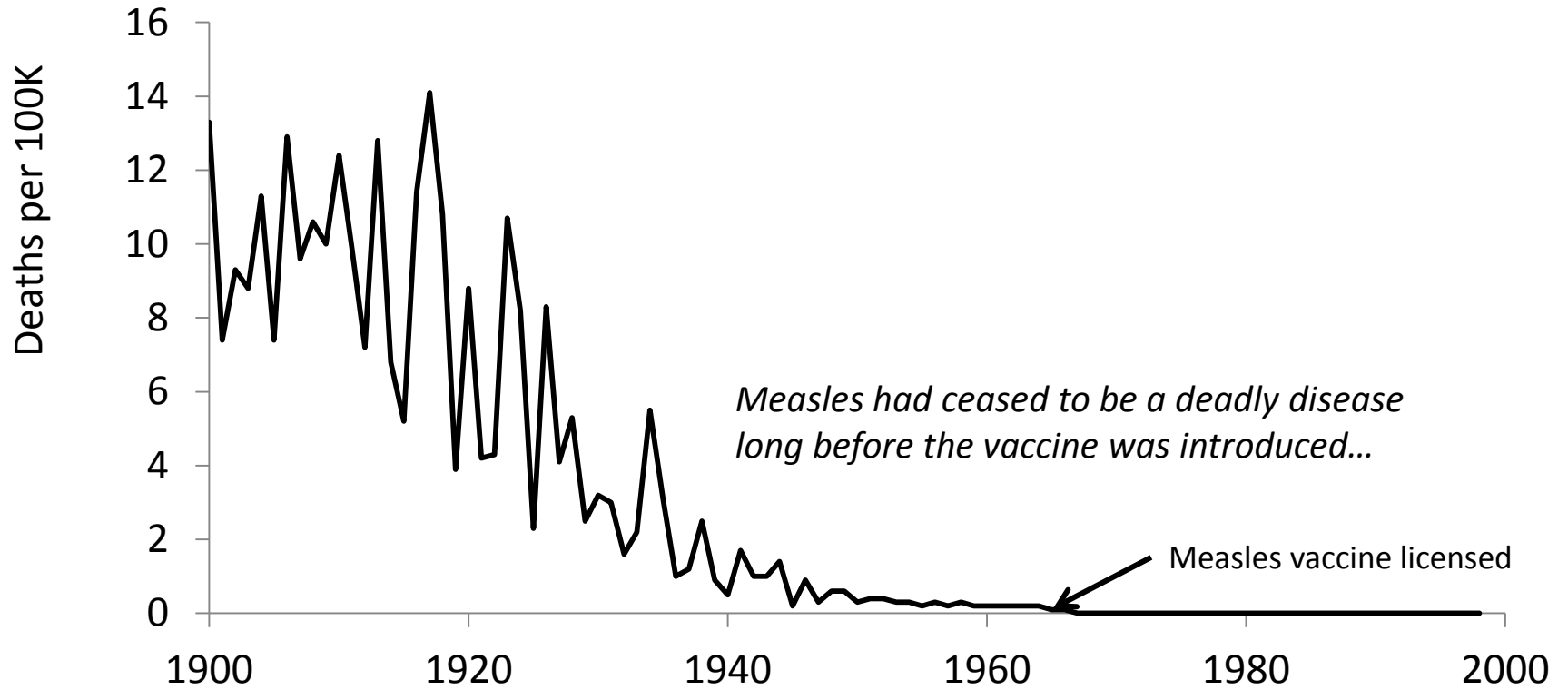
Measles Hysteria: 2015

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Health Choice

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MEASLES MORTALITY IN THE 20TH CENTURY



WHY MEASLES IS NO LONGER A THREAT IN THE U.S.

The U.S population risk of dying from measles has fallen essentially to zero during the 20th century, for one major and one minor reason

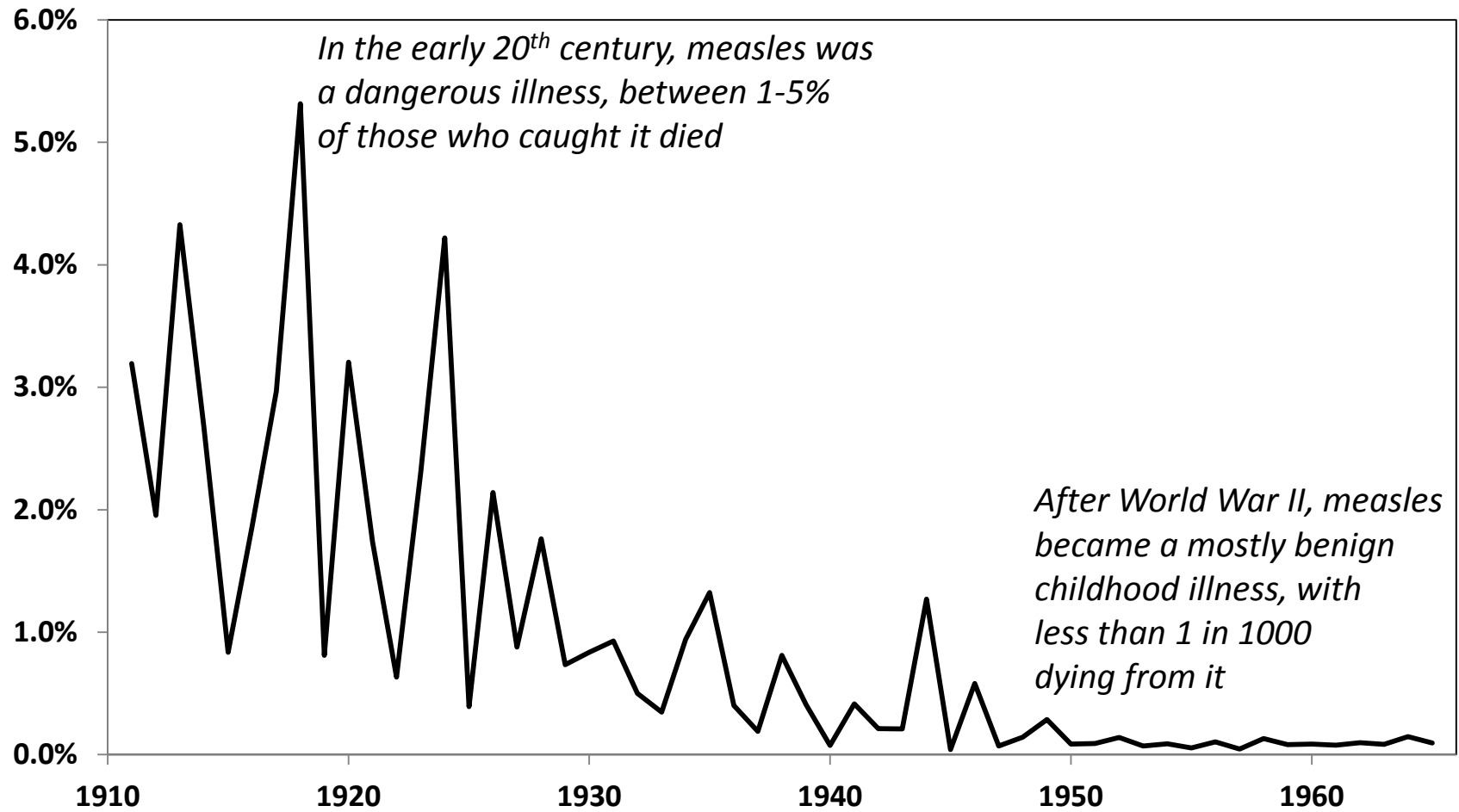
1. Most important, measles long ago became a *“self-limiting infection of short duration, moderate severity, and low fatality.”*¹ Death rates among those infected fell to very low levels
2. Of lesser importance, wild-type measles cases have also fallen to very low levels following the introduction of the live virus measles vaccine

Since 2006,

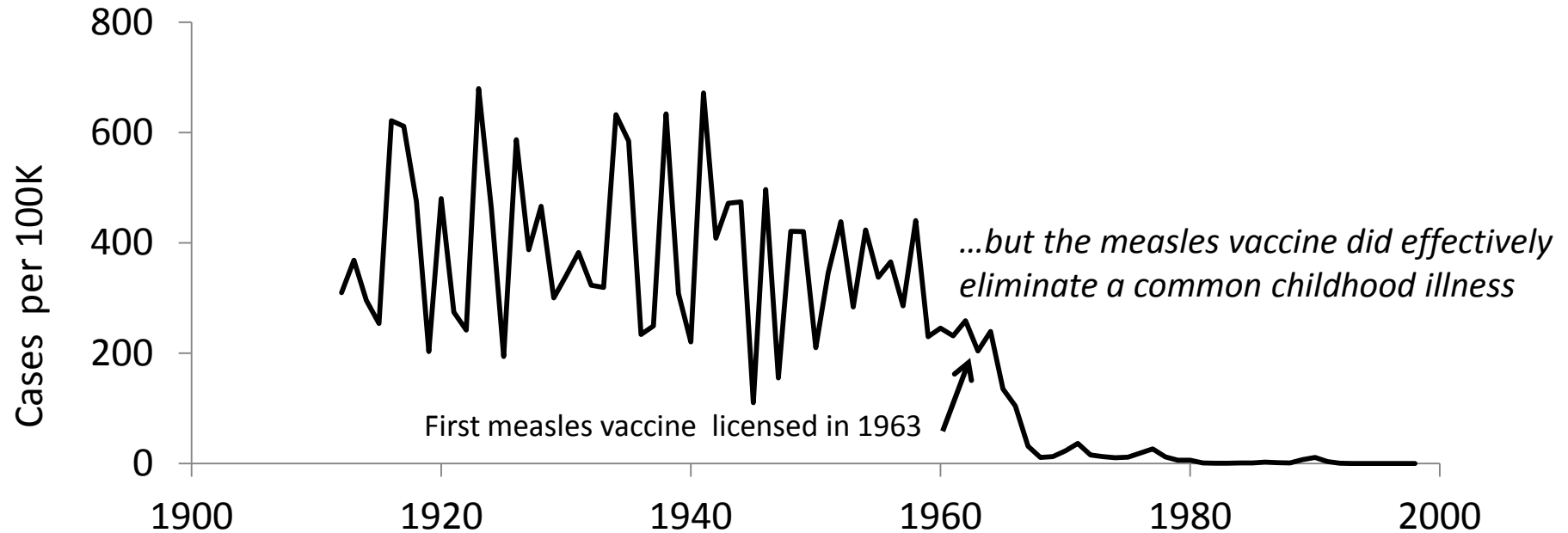
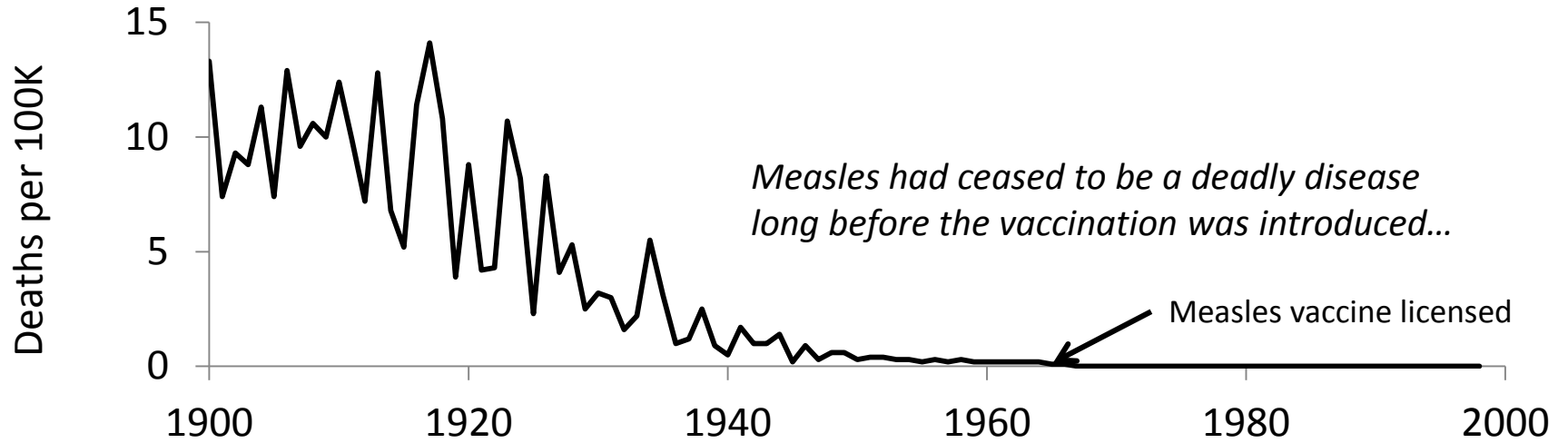
- There have been over 1500 cases of wild-type measles in the U.S.
- There have been zero deaths from wild-type measles (the last in 2003)²
- Over 80 cases of deaths related to measles containing vaccines have been reported to VAERS³

1. Alexander D. Langmuir et al., *The Importance of Measles as a Health Problem*, 52 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 1, 1 (1962).
2. CDC spokesperson Helen (Amy) Rowland to Health Choice , January 30, 2015
3. Search for measles-containing vaccines, vaccination years 2006-2015 and death
<http://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/index.php>

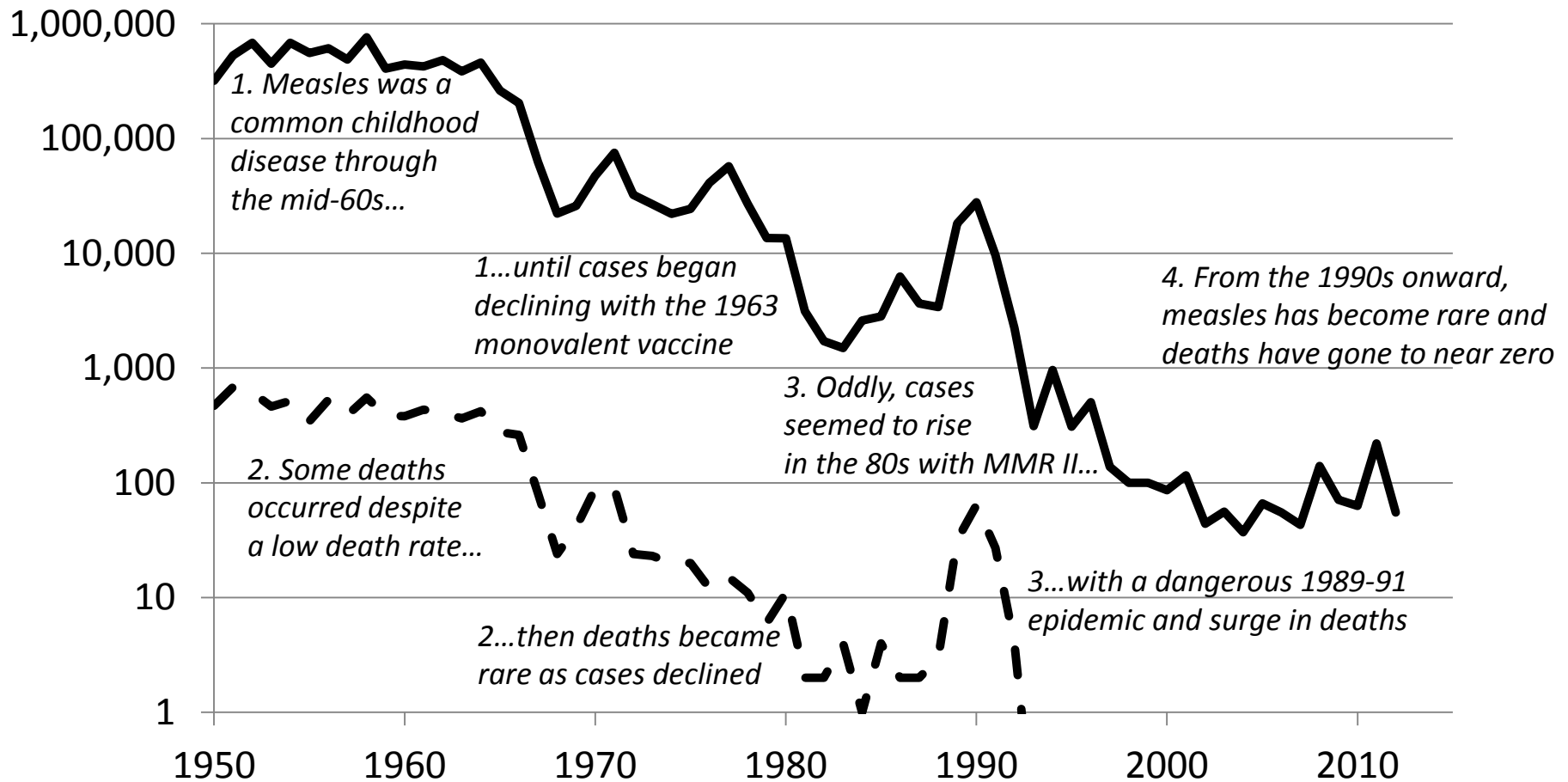
THE CHANGING RISK OF DEATH FROM A MEASLES INFECTION: 1911-1965



MEASLES INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY IN THE 20TH CENTURY



BACKGROUND: POSTWAR MEASLES CASES AND DEATHS IN THE US



THERE IS NOTHING UNUSUAL OR EXTREME ABOUT THE RECENT MEASLES OUTBREAK

	Total	CA	OH	NY	WA	MN	TX	All Other
2009	71	9	1	18	1	1	1	40
2010	63	27	2	8	1	3	0	22
2011	220	31	0	32	4	26	6	122
2012	55	8	1	4	0	0	0	42
2013 through 8/24	159 (187 FY)	15	0	65	1	2	25	66
2014	645	34	382	9	34	0	8	178
2015 through 2/14	141	98	0	2	4	1	1	35

CDC DESCRIPTION OF RECENT OUTBREAKS

MN 2011

- “The largest outbreak occurred among 21 persons in a Minnesota population in which many children were unvaccinated because of **parental concerns** about the safety of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.”

TX 2013

- “In an ongoing outbreak in Texas, 20 confirmed cases have been reported as of August 24 among members of a **church community**.”

NY 2013

- “A total of 58 cases* were identified, including six generations of measles infection in two neighborhoods of the borough of Brooklyn. All cases were in members of the **orthodox Jewish community**. No case was identified in a person who had documented measles vaccination at the time of exposure

OH 2014

- “The U.S. experienced 23 measles outbreaks in 2014, including one large outbreak of 383 cases, occurring primarily among **unvaccinated Amish communities** in Ohio.”

Summary points

- The hysteria over measles is unfounded. Measles is not Ebola
- Measles long since ceased to be a dangerous illness for healthy children. Most adults born before the mid-1960s all acquired measles in childhood and experienced it as a minor inconvenience
- The injection of measles via live virus vaccines has made measles increasingly rare and easier to fear. Measles should not cause panic
- The measles vaccine virus can shed and cause infections in unhealthy children. Measles vaccination is not a civic duty
- Measles-containing vaccines like MMR now cause many more deaths than measles
- The “Disneyland measles” episode is no larger or more serious than other recent outbreaks