Mortality rates for measles are found in Statistics Canada tables. VCC created the graphic below from that data. It can be seen that mortality rates declined steadily prior to vaccines having an effect on these rates, just as shown above in the USA and the UK. We have described the reasons for this decline on the chart.

Calculating Risk

For the last 20 years shown on the chart (1990–2009) for the entire population of Canada the number of deaths from measles has been either 0 or 1. This is very unlikely to change.

This means the chances of death by measles for any Canadian is either zero or 1 chance in 33.6 million (the 2009 population). In other words, the risk is infinitesimal. And actually much lower than the risk of serious damage from MMR vaccines.

The highest number of measles deaths ever recorded in Canada was 892 in 1926. By 1967 there were only 45 measles deaths in Canada. This was a decline of 95% in the number of deaths due to measles PRIOR to the licensing of the MMR live virus vaccine for use in Canada in 1969.

Decline from high death rates in the 1920’s & 30’s to the much lower rates in the 1940’s, 50’s and 60’s has been attributed to improved sanitation (homes with running water, sewer systems and clean drinking water) and a higher standard of living leading to better nutrition and medical care.

Quotes from Oct 2018, Globe and Mail article: Stop the hysteria over measles outbreaks by Neil Rau and Richard Schabas

Neil Rau is an infectious-diseases specialist and medical microbiologist based in Oakville, Ont., and an assistant professor at the University of Toronto. Richard Schabas is a former public-health physician and was Ontario’s chief medical officer of health 1987-97.

“At current rates, Canada can expect to see a death from acute measles about once every hundred years or so. The borderline hysteria, fuelled by the media and public health, that greets a few cases is unwarranted…In Ontario, for example, all exemptions (both medical and philosophical) under the school-immunization law have hovered around 2 per cent since legislation was introduced 35 years ago – a small and stable number. Our current levels of immunization are more than adequate to achieve herd immunity, which means that measles cannot spread in a sustained way. This protects everyone, even those who have not been immunized.”