

Rotavirus Surveillance and the Vaccine Introduction Experience in the US

Catherine Yen, MD MPH

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

The expansion of World Health Organization-coordinated rotavirus surveillance network in recent years has resulted in a wealth of rotavirus disease burden data from all regions of the world and from areas where disease burden data previously had been sparse. In recognition of the high disease burden, as of June 2015, 78 countries have introduced rotavirus vaccines into their national immunization programs. Many of these countries have documented the beneficial impact of vaccination on diarrheal disease burden. In the United States, where rotavirus vaccination has been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices since 2006, the impact of vaccination to prevent rotavirus disease has been dramatic and sustained. Declines of 55–94% in rotavirus-related diarrhea hospitalizations and 24–50% in all-cause diarrhea hospitalizations have been observed following vaccination introduction. Evidence of indirect protection of unvaccinated populations has also been observed.