

# Vaccine Facts <sup>SM</sup>

## Dear Friends & Colleagues,

2013 marked the 11th year of operation for NHVA. NHVA is committed to improving access to childhood vaccines while reducing health care costs. We are pleased to report dramatic successes on both fronts. Thanks to the efforts of NHVA's key constituents—insurers, providers, and the NH Departments of Insurance and Health & Human Services—NH's universal purchase program has provided a steady vaccine supply to our children and resulted in the state being ranked 2nd in the nation for childhood immunization. The program also produced \$4.5MM dollars in health care cost savings this year\*\*, for a cumulative savings of over \$45MM dollars.

NHVA continues to simplify vaccine financing for payers and providers. Special thanks go out to the NH legislature for revising NHVA's governing statute to ensure that assessments are shared equitably among payers. To implement these revisions, NHVA launched an improved website and created a new assessment tool that will allow payers to submit reports online starting in 2014.

There is also good news for providers. After a federal policy change was announced that would have required providers to keep separate vaccine inventories for publicly and privately insured children, NH DHHS received CDC approval for an alternative plan for tracking inventories, removing that burden from providers. This accomplishment was the result of collaboration among NH DHHS, the Association of Immunization Managers, and the Association of State & Territorial Health Officials. NHVA was proud to support these efforts by providing a reliable funding source for vaccines in NH.

NHVA remains grateful for your continuing support as it works to reduce the occurrence of vaccine preventable disease and to protect the health of NH's children.

*Susan M. Tenney*  
Susan M. Tenney, Board Chair

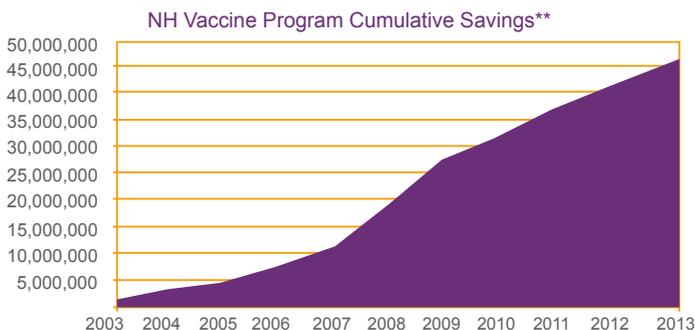
*Fred L. Potter*  
Fred L. Potter, Executive Director

## What is a Universal Purchase Program?

Universal purchase ensures that all children have access to critical vaccines. New Hampshire's program allows the state to purchase vaccines for every resident child, regardless of insurance coverage or income, and to distribute the vaccines to providers free of charge. The New Hampshire Vaccine Association\* funds universal purchase through a cooperative approach involving insurers, health care providers, and the NH Departments of Insurance and Health & Human Services.

## How does the Universal Purchase Program lower health care costs?

As a universal purchase state, New Hampshire is able to purchase vaccines at substantially discounted federal contract rates. State and federal dollars fund vaccines for low-income and other federally-eligible children, while NHVA covers vaccine costs for privately insured children through assessments collected from insurance carriers. This approach allows state health officials to manage the supply of vaccines, thereby lowering providers' administrative costs and ensuring that the state can quickly supply vaccines to vulnerable patient groups during emergencies or vaccine shortages.



Beyond these immediate savings, improved immunization rates produce long-term savings by eliminating both direct costs of extended treatment and indirect societal costs associated with illness such as missed school or work, disability, or even death.

## How does the Universal Purchase Program improve childhood health?

In New Hampshire, every child in every doctor's office has access to life-saving vaccines because the program makes vaccines available to all health care providers. More providers offer immunization services because doctors no longer have to finance the up-front costs of vaccines out of their own pockets or be burdened with complex ordering systems. As a result, New Hampshire has one of the highest immunization rates in the country. A high immunization rate protects vaccinated children, of course, and it also protects the children and adults who are unable to receive vaccinations due to allergies or other health problems. The higher the immunization rate, the lower the odds are that an unvaccinated person will encounter a person carrying a disease.





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**A Message from the Division of Public Health Services**

Twelve years before the phrase “reduce barriers to health care” became the rallying cry for the health reform initiatives of 2014, the New Hampshire state legislators had already created the New Hampshire Vaccine Association (NHVA). Ever since NHVA’s inception, this organization of insurers has continued to invest in the health of New Hampshire’s children, guaranteeing vaccine access for all under the age of nineteen years. As a universal vaccination state, New Hampshire has been a recognized leader in childhood vaccines. In 2012, 80.1% of the children between 19 and 35 months of age were vaccinated with ALL of the recommended vaccines (second only to Hawaii’s 80.2%). The New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan has designated childhood vaccination as a priority for 2013 through 2020 – seeking support from all our strategic partners, including NHVA. We have no doubt that this vital, mission-focused organization will continue to support immunizations, a prevention strategy that has saved millions of dollars and hundreds of lives in the state for over a decade.

José Thier Montero, MD, MHCDS  
Director, Division of Public Health Services  
[www.DHHS.NH.gov/DPHS](http://www.DHHS.NH.gov/DPHS)

[WWW.NHVACCINE.ORG](http://WWW.NHVACCINE.ORG)

**ADMINISTRATOR:**



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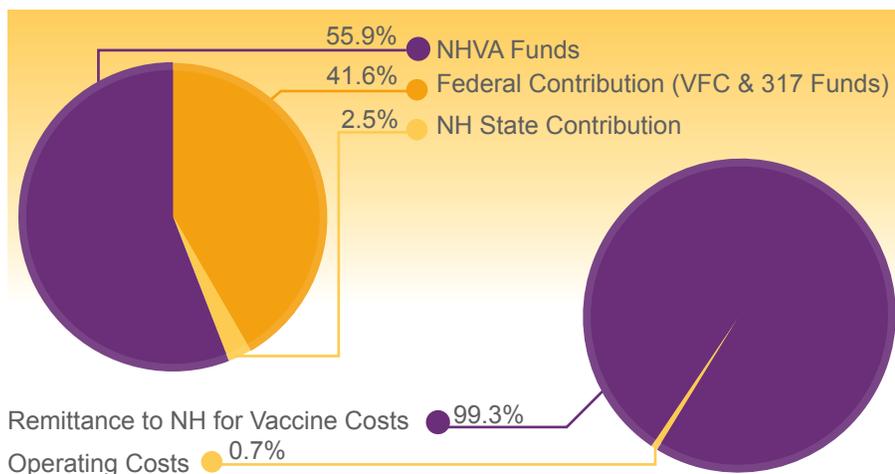
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**FINANCIALS**

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

**Vaccine Funding Sources (Estimated Total: \$19,485,002)**



**NHVA Program Expenditures\*\*\* (Total: \$10,974,716)**



**References:** \* Past and current versions of NHVA’s governing statute, N.H. RSA 126-Q, are available at [www.NHvaccine.org](http://www.NHvaccine.org) under the REFERENCE tab.

\*\* See report of Peter Smith, Financial Analyst, at [www.NHvaccine.org/savings](http://www.NHvaccine.org/savings)

\*\*\* The total expenditure amount does not include a \$3,229,741 reserve increase. These funds are reserved by NHVA for future vaccine purchases and operating costs. Complete audited financial statements are available at [www.NHvaccine.org/audit](http://www.NHvaccine.org/audit)