

# Overview of the U.S. Vaccine Safety Surveillance Systems & Ongoing Scientific Activities to Monitor Maternal Vaccine Safety

Dr. Karin Bok  
September 9, 2014



# Overview: National Vaccine Safety System

Assistant Secretary  
for Health



National Vaccine Program Office

NVAC

ISTF

Discovery and  
Development

Licensure

Post-Marketing  
Surveillance

NIH

Nat'l Institutes of Health

FDA

Food and Drug Administration



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention



Department of Defense



Dept. of Veteran Affairs



Indian Health Service

# Pre-Licensure Vaccine Safety Activities

Leading Institution	Vaccine Safety Scientific Activity
NIH	<i>Identification and development of vaccine candidates</i>
NIH	<i>Design of novel vaccine strategies</i>
NIH	<i>Investigate the variability in human immune responses</i>
NIH	<i>Improve vaccine immunomodulators, administration, and formulations</i>
FDA	<i>Vaccine development</i>
FDA	<i>Study of pathogenicity</i>

# Why We Monitor Vaccine Safety After Licensure

- High safety standards expected for vaccines
  - Vaccines generally healthy (vs. ill for drugs)
  - Dual role of vaccinations
    - Individual protection
    - Societal protection (some vaccinations universally recommended or mandated)
- Pre-licensure trials are often too small to detect rare events and special populations may not be adequately represented

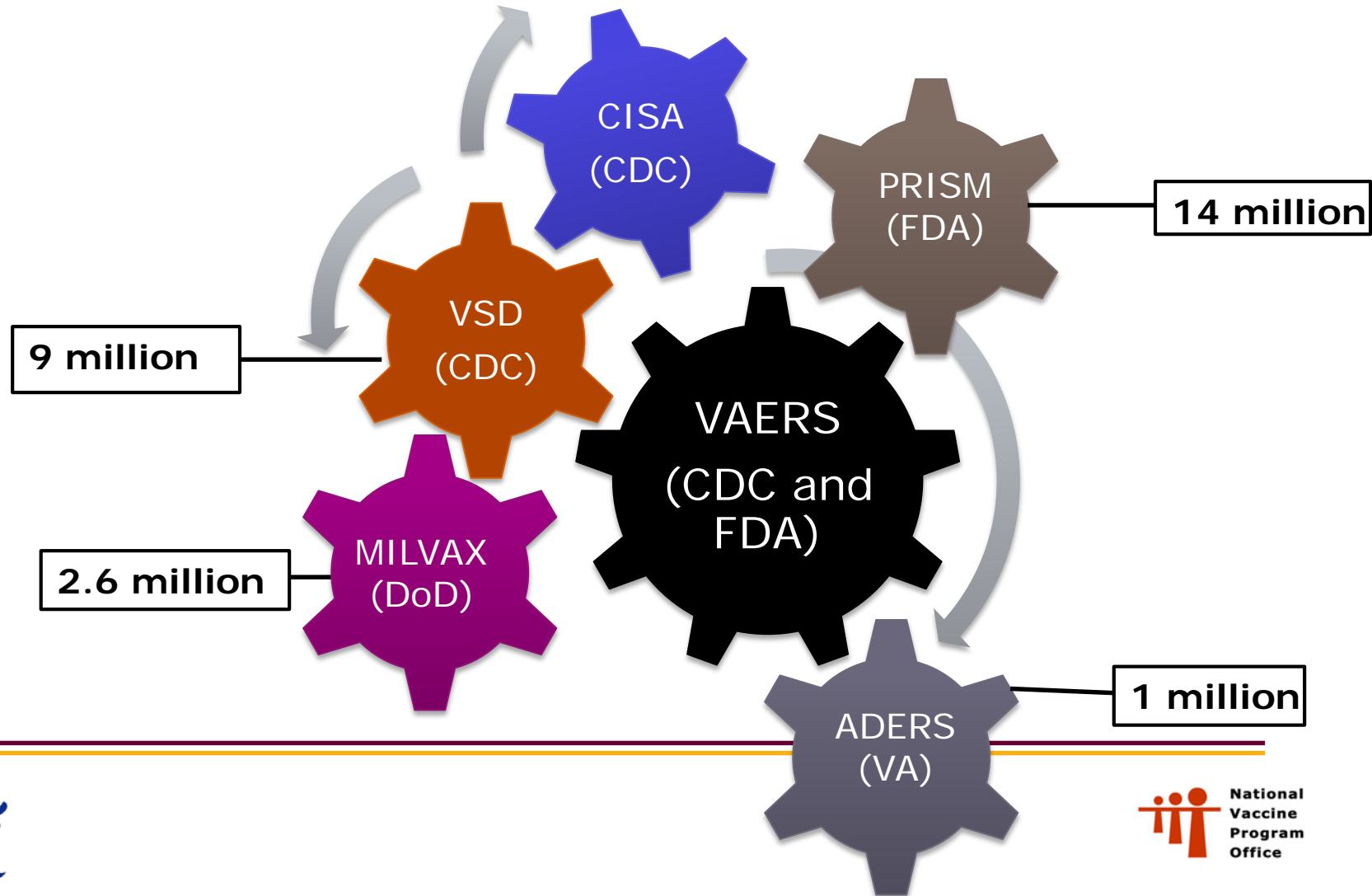


# Post-licensure Vaccine Safety Monitoring Activities

- Rapidly identify new or rare adverse events of clinical importance
- Monitor changes in patterns for known adverse events
- Assess safety in special populations (e.g., pregnant women)
- Determine patient risk factors for particular adverse events
- Assess safety of vaccine lots (FDA)



# Vaccination Safety Systems Working Together to Monitor & Test Maternal Immunization Safety



# Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

- National spontaneous reporting system for adverse events after US-licensed vaccines
  - In recent years, received around 30,000 U.S. reports annually
  - Accepts reports from healthcare providers, manufacturers and the public
  - Signs/symptoms of adverse event coded and entered into database
- Jointly administered by CDC and FDA
- Authorized by National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986



# Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) (co-managed CDC and FDA)<sup>1</sup>

## Strengths

- National data; accepts reports from anyone
- Rapid signal detection; rare adverse events
- Collects information about vaccine, characteristics of vaccine
- Data available to public

## Limitations

- Reporting bias
- Inconsistent data quality and completeness
- Generally cannot assess if vaccine caused an adverse event
- Lack of unvaccinated comparison group
- Pregnancy inconsistently reported



1. VAERS website: <http://vaers.hhs.gov>
2. Some reports have no adverse event





# Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD)

- Established in 1990
- A collaborative project between CDC and 9 integrated healthcare organizations
- Allows for planned vaccine safety studies as well as timely investigations arising from
  - Hypotheses from medical literature and pre-licensure clinical trials
  - Reports to VAERS
  - Changes in immunization schedules, or the introduction of new vaccines



# Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD)

- *Data on over 9 million persons per year (~3% of US pop)*
- *Links vaccination data to health outcome (outpatient, emergency dept., inpatient) and demographic data*

## Strengths

- All medical encounters are available
- Vaccine registry data
- Can calculate rates
- Can review medical records
- Tested algorithm to identify pregnancies
- Annual birth cohort = 100k

## Limitations

- Sample size may be inadequate for very rare events
- Vaccines administered outside of medical home may not be captured
- Potential for lack of socioeconomic diversity
- Data lags



# Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project

- Collaboration between CDC and 7 medical research centers
- Established by CDC to:
  - Serve as a vaccine safety resource for consultation on clinical vaccine safety issues
  - Develop strategies to assess individuals who may be at increased risk for adverse events following immunization (AEFI)
  - Conduct studies to identify risk factors and preventive strategies for AEFI, particularly in special populations



# Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Project: Research

## Strengths

- Can implement prospective, multi-site clinical studies (hundreds of subjects)
- Expertise in vaccine safety and many clinical areas
- Access to special populations receiving vaccines
- Detailed clinical/data on patients
- Can collect biological specimens
- Ability to recruit controls

## Limitations

- Sample size limited to study rare adverse events
- Potential challenges to recruit and retain subjects
- May not have access to vaccine records for vaccines given outside site
- Potential for lack of geographic or race/ethnicity diversity
- Clinical studies may be labor and resource-intensive



# Post-Licensure Rapid Immunization Safety Monitoring (PRISM)

- Established in 2009
- Uses data from National Health Insurance Plans and Immunizations Registries
- Links data between databases, performs epidemiological studies and establishes new statistical methods of analysis
  - Monitors the largest U.S. population cohort
  - Links states by using immunization registries
  - Synergistic with existing federal systems

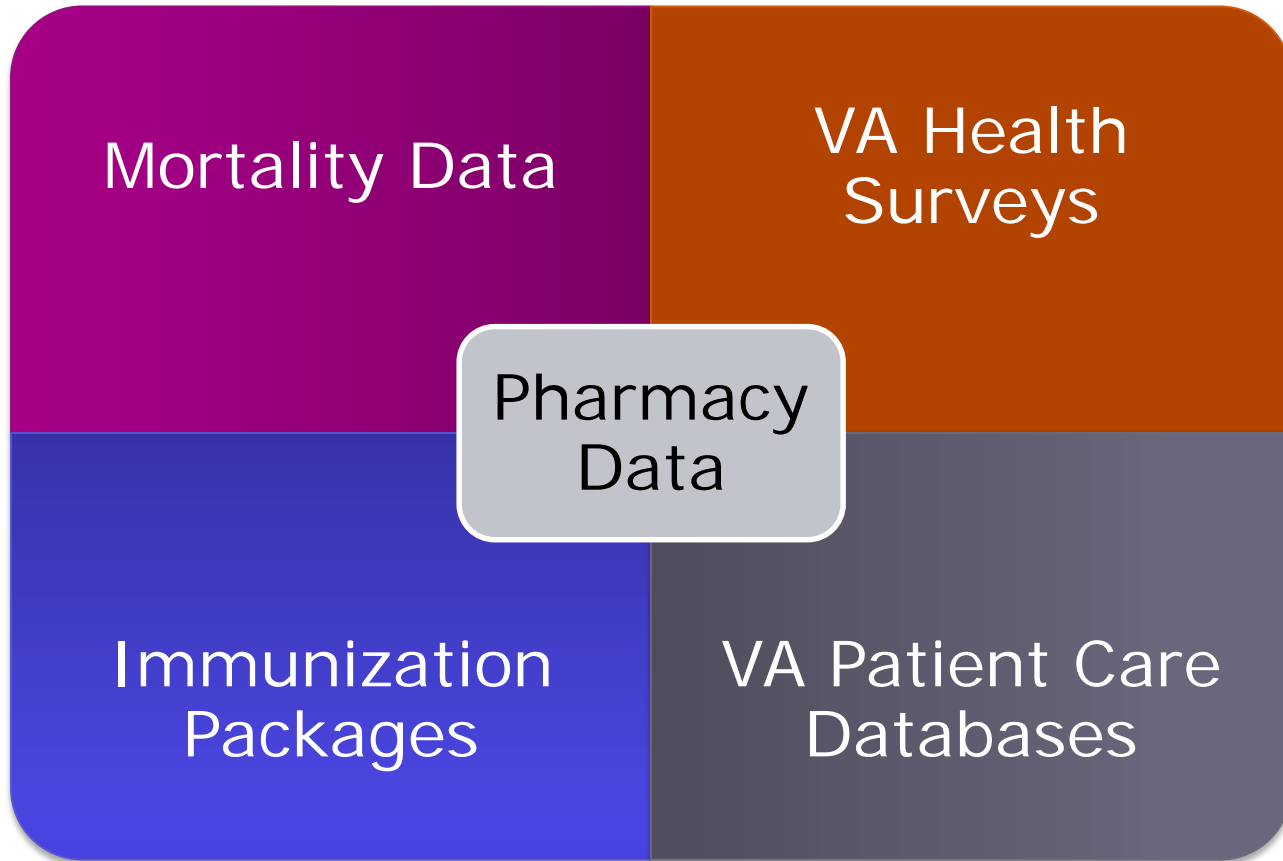


# Adverse Drug Event Reporting System (ADERS)

- VA's, Web based
  - National Program – Initiated March 2007
  - Provider and patient reported AE's
  - Medications and Vaccines
  - Over 400,000 reports
  - Linkage between VA ADERS and VAERS
  - Passive Surveillance: Weekly update identifying number, type, and sites of AE's




# VA ADERS links Medication and Vaccine Data



# Ongoing Scientific Activities to Monitor Maternal Safety

Leading Agency/System	Scientific Activities
CDC	<i>Assessing the Feasibility of Monitoring Influenza Vaccine Safety in Pregnant Women Using Text Messaging</i>
CDC	<i>Immune response to influenza vaccination and effect on reproductive hormones</i>
CDC	<b><i>Clinical Study of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) Safety in Pregnant Women</i></b>
DoD	<i>Support the Vaccines and Medications in Pregnancy Surveillance System (VAMPSS), which is a system to identify as early as possible the circumstances in which a drug or immunization administered during pregnancy may cause harm. (flu and Tdap)</i>
VA	<i>End of Season Analysis for Flu and Outcomes of Interest</i>
FDA	<i>Two population-based studies of pregnancy safety. Further research will identify pregnancy outcomes and analyze rare birth defects.</i>





# CDC-NVPO Study: Clinical Study of Tdap Safety in Pregnant Women



# Study Goals

- Compare the rates of local and systemic reactions following Tdap in pregnant women with non-pregnant women
- Assess rates of preterm and small for gestational age (SGA) births in women who received Tdap during pregnancy
- Explore differences in local and systemic reactions in pregnant women who are receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> Tdap versus those who have received Tdap in the past

# Additional Study Goals

- Assess additional obstetrical and infant outcomes
  - Maternal or fetal death
  - Placental abruption
  - Postpartum hemorrhage
  - Pregnancy related hypertension
  - Gestational diabetes
- Evaluate health outcomes and growth parameters in infants born to women who received Tdap (first 6 months of life)
- Registered in [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) ([NCT02209623](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02209623))



# Maternal Immunization Safety Surveillance Challenges

- Enrolling susceptible populations in clinical trials
- Case-control studies on vaccines currently recommended for pregnant women (Flu and Tdap)
- Large cohorts that will enable studying rare adverse events (birth defects)
- Defining the endpoint of a vaccine safety clinical trial: creating consensus across trials nationally and globally
- Liability concerns when administering vaccines recommended for pregnant women only and/or intended to protect the baby
- Linking health records of pregnant women and infants to enable long-term follow up of infant
- Safety and regulatory requirements to obtain a indication specific for pregnancy



# Maternal Immunizations: Paving the Road for New Vaccine Research and Development

- WHO and Brighton Collaboration: efforts with harmonizing definitions to assess safety of immunization during pregnancy
  - Dr. Flor Muñoz (Baylor College of Medicine)
- Overview of DMID's consultative conferences on enrolling pregnant women in clinical trials of antimicrobials vaccines
  - Dr. Mirjana Nesin (NIH/NIAID/DMID)
- Regulatory issues of maternal immunization
  - Dr. Marion Gruber (FDA)
- Maternal immunization challenges and opportunities: perspective of vaccine developers and manufacturers
  - Ms. Phyllis Arthur (BIO)

