

Polio

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Polio is an infectious disease, contracted predominantly by children, that can lead to the permanent paralysis of various body parts and can ultimately cause death by immobilizing the patient's breathing muscles.

No cure exists for the symptoms, but in the 1950s effective vaccines were developed and have been used around the world since then. This allowed some richer countries to eliminate the disease entirely in the 1960s and 70s. But large outbreaks continued around the world and in the 1980s the estimated global number of paralytic cases was over 350,000 per year and the disease was still prevalent in 125 countries. As a response the “Global Polio Eradication Initiative” (GPEI) was founded in 1988 to fight the virus's spread and disease burden with a global vaccination campaign. Since then the world has made rapid progress against the disease and until 2016 the number of paralytic cases was reduced by 99.99% with 42 cases in that year worldwide. The latest data on the number of polio cases is always up-to-date [here](#).

As of 2021 the virus has been found to circulate in only two countries in the world – Afghanistan and Pakistan – and it is hoped that the disease will soon be eradicated globally.

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- [Estimated cases of paralytic polio by world region](#)
- [Polio: Rate of cases vs vaccination coverage](#)
- [Prevalence of Polio Rates in the United States](#)
- [Progress towards polio eradication](#)
- [Reported cases of paralytic polio](#)
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- [The decade of the last recorded wild paralytic polio case](#)