

# The Power of Prevention to Protect Your Bottom Line: VAX and Immune Fitness

Presented by  
Marianne Fazen, PhD

# High Cost of Employer-Sponsored Healthcare

- Nearly 153 million Americans have job-based health insurance, the largest source of coverage by far, according to KFF.
- In 2023, Employees paid an average \$6,575 for their share of the [nearly \\$24,000 annual family premium](#) and >\$1,400 for their share of the \$8,435 annual cost of single coverage.
- AON prediction: Employer healthcare costs will increase 8.7% in 2024—nearly double the 2023 increase.
- Higher healthcare prices account for more than half the increase.

# DFWBGH VAX Survey Highlights

(July 2023 - 29 Employers)

100% Agree on importance of vaccinations in overall employee health

96% Agree on importance of vaccinations in overall prevention strategies

## **Strategies to encourage timely vaccines:**

- 53% Communications campaigns
- 35% Time off to get vaccines
- 82% Eliminate or reduce OOP expense
- 56% Support family members to get vaccinated

# DFWBGH VAX Survey Highlights

(July 2023 - 29 Employers)

## Main Barriers to Vaccinations

- 94% Vaccine hesitancy
- 86% Misinformation
- 81% SDOH
- 75% Religious or cultural barriers
- 44% Lack of time off

## Support Preventive Vaccinations

- 71% Confident in vaccine safety & efficacy
- 29% Somewhat confident
- 59% Currently seek information on role of vaccines in prevention
- 82% Review vaccination claims data annually, or more, or less often

# Burden of Adult Vaccine-Preventable Disease

## ■ **Streptococcus pneumoniae**<sup>1</sup>

- Pneumococcal Pneumonia ~ 400,000 hospitalizations per year
- Up to 36% of adult community-acquired pneumonias
- Pneumococcal Bacteremia ~ 12,000 cases per year
- Pneumococcal Meningitis ~ 3,000–6,000 cases per year

## ■ **Pertussis**<sup>2</sup>

- 19,000 total reported cases 2019
- 4,400 among adults 20 years of age & older

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/pneumo.html>.
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/downloads/pertuss-surv-report-2019.pdf> .

# Burden of Adult Vaccine-Preventable Disease

- **Hepatitis B<sup>1</sup>**

- 20,700 estimated new infections in 2019
- 80% among adults 30-59 years of age

- **Zoster<sup>2</sup>**

- 1 million cases per year - lifetime risk 32%

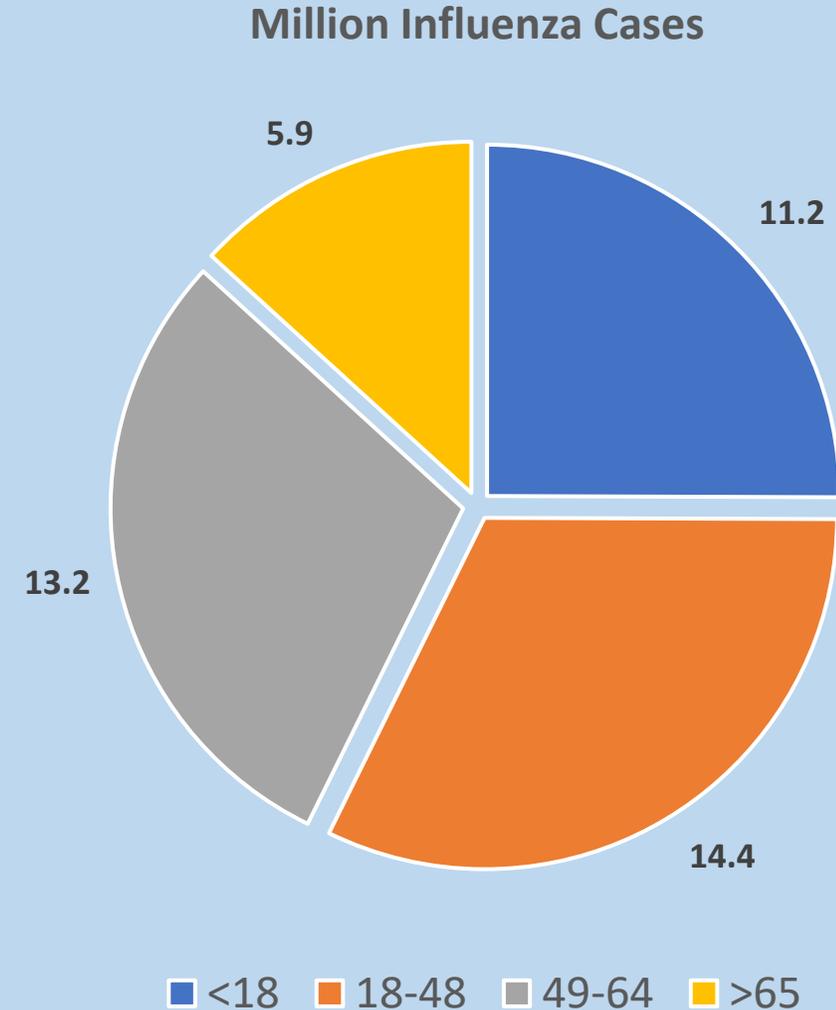
- **Measles<sup>3</sup>**

- California/multi-state 2015 outbreak: 55% of infections were in adults 20 years of age and older

1. CDC. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance United States.  
[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2016surveillance/pdfs/2016hepsurveillancerpt.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2016surveillance/pdfs/2016hepsurveillancerpt.pdf)
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/downloads/pertuss-surv-report-2019.pdf>.
3. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. April 17, 2015 / 64(14);373-376

# Burden of Influenza in Working Age Adults

- 88% of influenza economic burden was attributable to indirect costs
- 75% of overall direct costs were attributable to hospitalizations
- Total Annual Influenza Costs:
  - Direct medical costs estimated to be \$3.2B
  - Indirect costs estimated to be \$8.0B – 67% \$5.3B from the 18-64 age group



# Top Reasons for Not Being Up-to-Date

## **Preventive Screening**

1. Not necessary “because I’m young and healthy”
2. Cost/can’t afford
3. Don’t have time
4. Don’t have Insurance or Can’t find a provider who will accept my insurance
5. Appointment: “no appointments” or “booking too far out

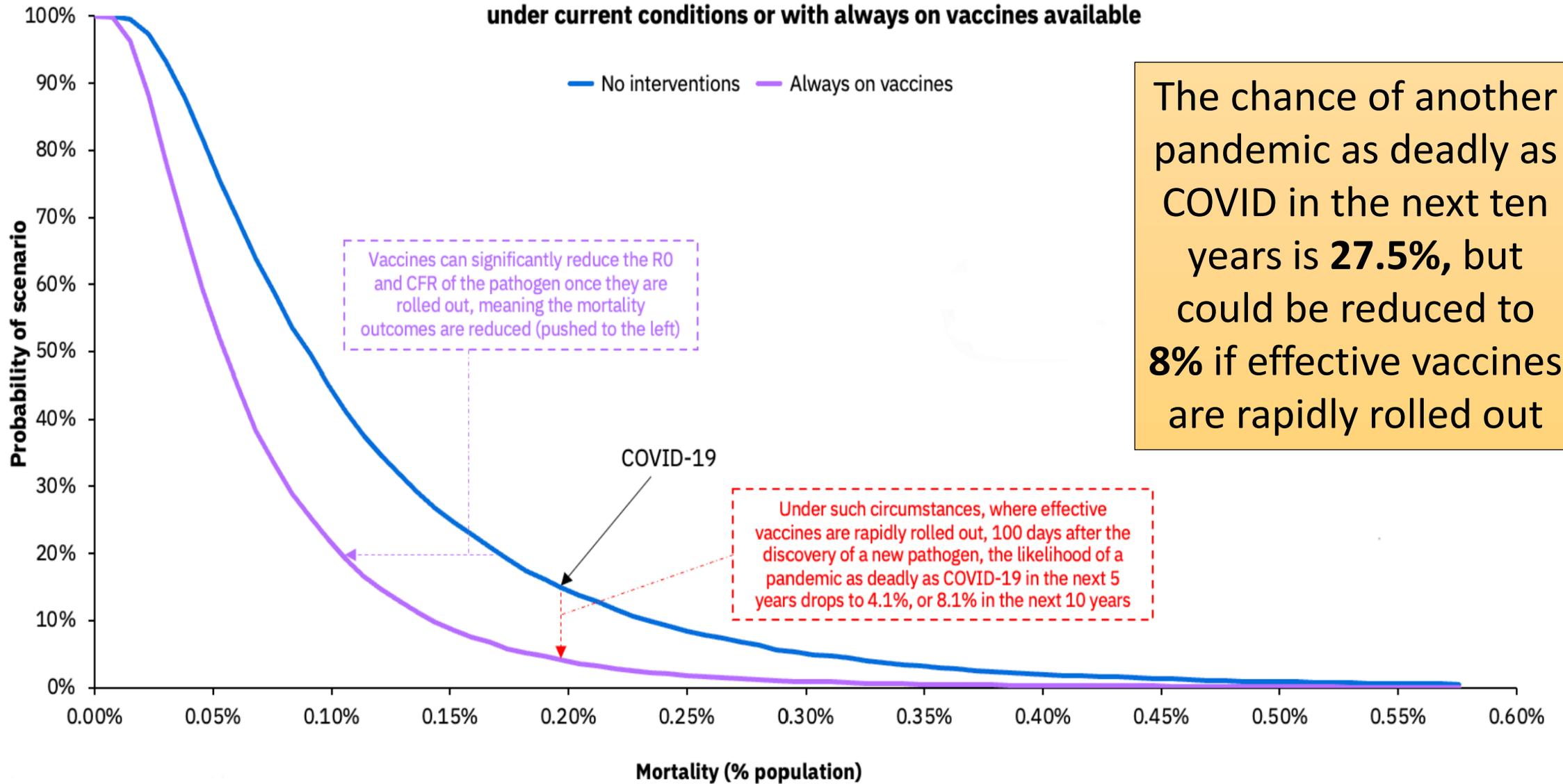
## **Adult Immunizations**

1. Don’t like shots/Don’t want them/Don’t trust them
2. Not necessary “I have a strong immune system”
3. Don’t have time
4. Cost

## **Child Immunizations**

1. Don’t like them/Don’t want them/Don’t trust them
2. Fear “They are not safe” “Might hurt them”
3. Religious/anti-vaccine
4. Side effects

### Risk of different pathogen X outbreaks within the next 5 years under current conditions or with always on vaccines available



The chance of another pandemic as deadly as COVID in the next ten years is **27.5%**, but could be reduced to **8%** if effective vaccines are rapidly rolled out