



Pan American Health Organization



Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

<http://www.paho.org>

Ensuring Injection Safety during Rubella Immunization Campaigns in the Americas

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2003, 2006 & 2007 Directing Council Resolutions

Call Member States to:

44th DC, September 2003

(g) “eliminate rubella and congenital rubella syndrome from their countries by the year 2010...”

47th DC, September 2006

(a) “implement policies and operational strategies to meet the rubella and CRS elimination target by 2010...”;

59th DC, October 2007

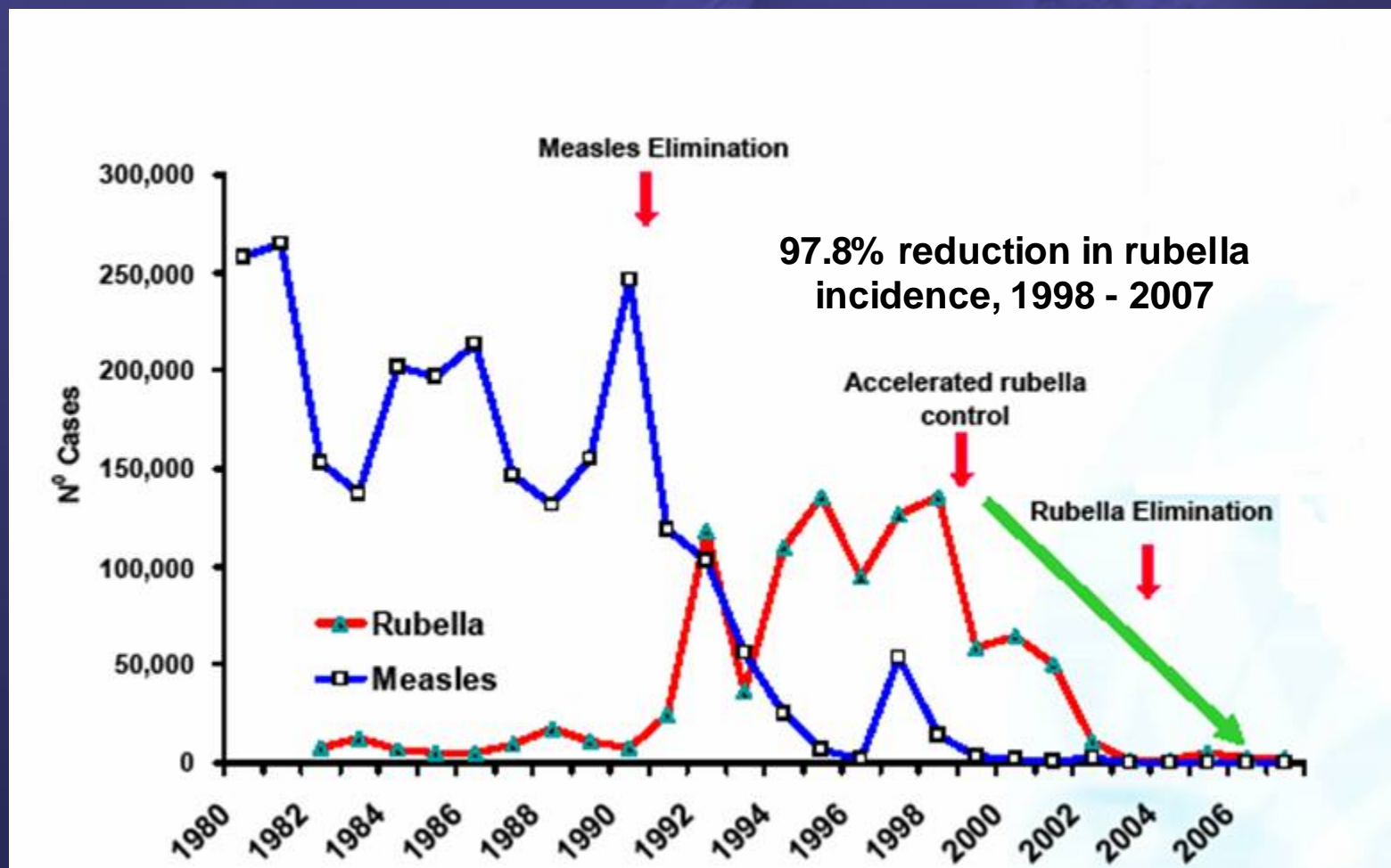
“...congratulates all Member States and their health workers for progress to date, expresses appreciation to all participating and supporting entities, and urges Member States to establish national commissions to document and verify measles, rubella, and CRS elimination, for ultimate review by an expert committee to be formed by PAHO.”

Rubella immunization campaigns in the Americas. 2007-2008

- 2007
- 2008
- Elimination in process
- Eliminated



Impact of Rubella and Measles Elimination Strategies. The Americas 1980 – 2007*



* Includes rubella and measles cases reported to PAHO. Epidemiological week No. 33 / 2007

Source: Country reports

Objectives

- ❑ Evaluate the use of single-use injection equipment
- ❑ Assess the use of safety boxes
- ❑ Analyze waste management

Methods

Evaluation of information gathered through an internet survey responded to by immunization program national managers within the PAHO region.

St Vincent & The Grenadines

Safety

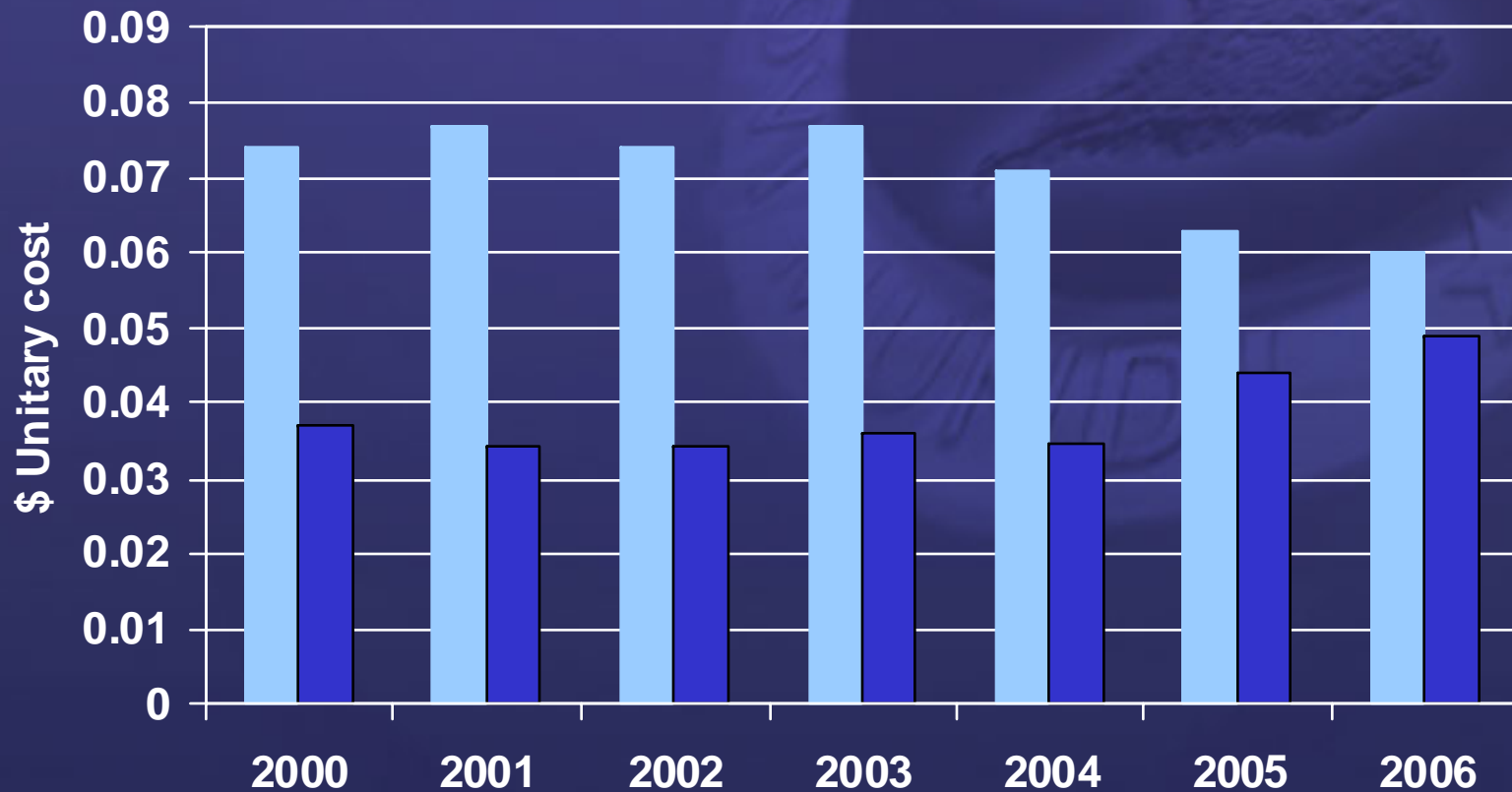
6320	In 2006 was there an activity workplan for:	(a) immunization injection safety?	Yes	
6330		(b) waste management?	<pick one >	
	Injection equipment (excluding reconstitution syringes)	Were they used for routine immunization?	Number of districts using them	
6340	Auto-disable (AD) syringes	Yes	17	
6350	Non-AD disposable syringes	Yes	17	
6360	Sterilizable syringes	No	NONE	
6370	Were safety boxes distributed with all vaccine deliveries to vaccination sites?		Yes	
6380	Was there a national system to monitor ESAVI /adverse events following immunization? (instructions)		Yes	
6390	If yes , how many total ESAVI/adverse events ,including suspected or confirmed, were reported to the national level in 2006?		NONE	
6400	If yes , how many were categorized as "serious" adverse events (instructions)			
6401	Of ESAVIs related to vaccination, how many were due to:	Operational aspects of program:	N/A	
6402		Vaccines:	N/A	
6403		Undetermined:	N/A	
6404	Of all reported ESAVIs , how many occurred in groups of persons?			
6410	What was the national policy or recommended practice for disposal of immunization waste in 2006? Pick "yes" for all that apply.	(instructions)	Incineration	Yes
			Open burning	Yes
			Burial	Yes
			Other	Yes
			No policy	Yes

Type of Syringes Used During Rubella Immunization Campaigns

- Countries using AD Syringes
- Countries using Disposable Syringes
- Countries using Reusable Syringes



Cost of AD Syringes vs. Disposable Syringes





Rubella immunization campaigns in Totonicapán, Guatemala

Rubella immunization campaigns in El Quiche, Guatemala



Rubella immunization campaigns in Huehuetenango, Guatemala



Collection of syringes with needles attached

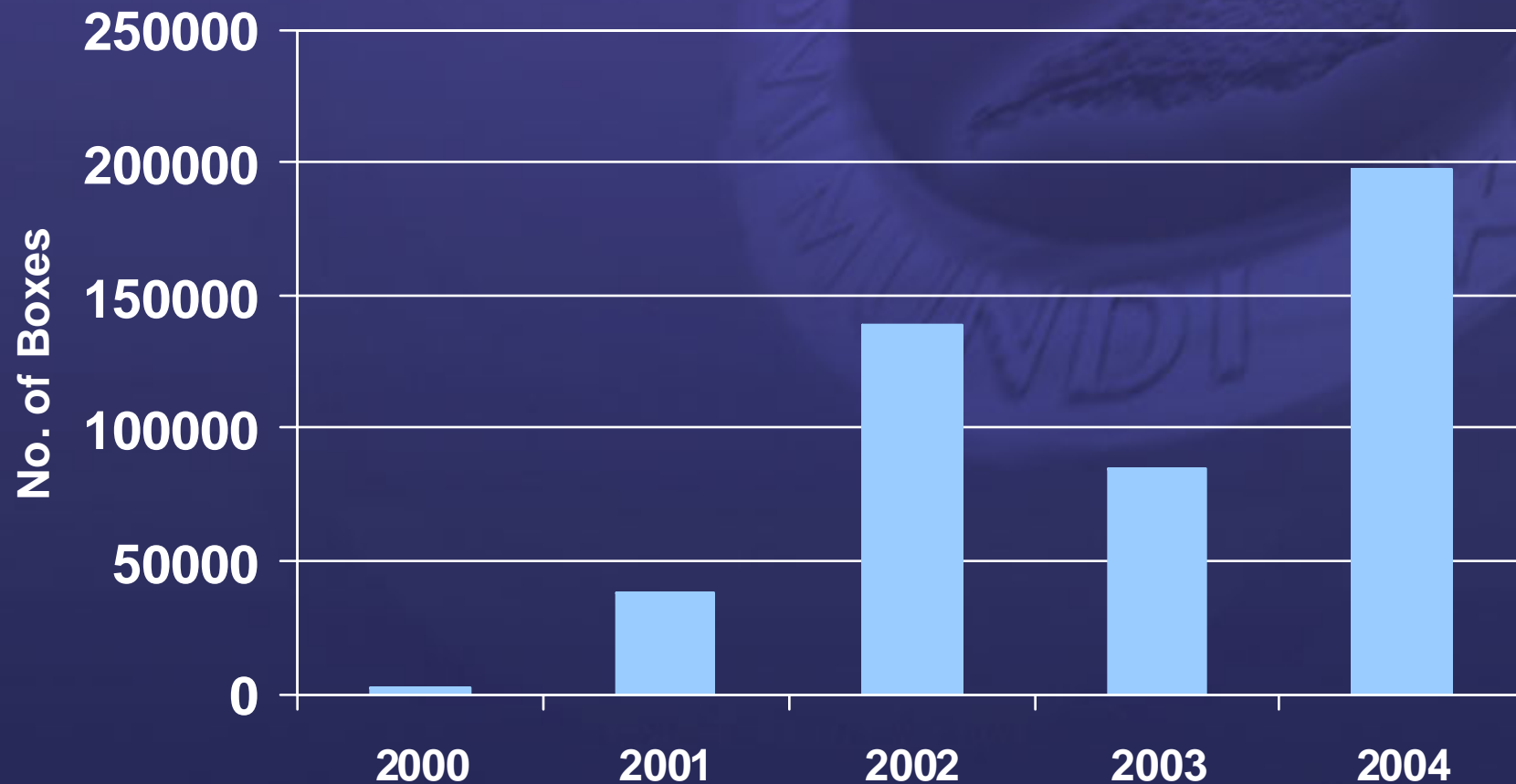
- ❑ WHO – UNICEF cardboard safety boxes
- ❑ Puncture resistant plastic safety boxes
- ❑ Locally available puncture resistant cardboard boxes or plastic bottles



Treatment and disposal options for safety boxes when full

- ❑ On site burial
- ❑ Off-site treatment at a centralized facility
 - ✓ Autoclaving
 - ✓ High temperature incineration

Procurement of Healthy Boxes





Rubella immunization campaigns in Guatemala City at the National stadium

Rubella immunization campaigns in El Quiche, Guatemala inside of the buses during a national strike





Rural area of El Quiche,
Guatemala



Bananera Dole, Retalhueleu Guatemala



Health care workers, Huehuetenango Guatemala





Rubella immunization
campaign.
Dominican Republic

However.....



Unsafe injection practices



Misuse of safety boxes

Managing waste unsafely and inappropriately





Results

- During these campaigns in the Americas, the injection safety policy of WHO was successfully implemented;
- 36 countries used single-use injection equipment.
- The use of auto-disable syringes and safety boxes is increasing.
- During these campaigns some countries provided appropriate medical waste transport. Whether or not there was a waste recollection system in place, acceptable waste treatment methods were used.



Conclusions

The availability of appropriate equipment and supplies has guaranteed the use of sterile devices and safety boxes in vaccine campaigns in the Americas.

However, there is a need to improve waste disposal methods of the waste produced by the Expanded Immunization Program.



Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan, 1897,
Quelle: lcweb2.loc.gov

Deafness is worse than blindness, because while blindness cuts you off from things, deafness cuts you off from people.

Helen Keller



Helen de Bonilla and Alex, 2007. Guatemala. PAHO