

Vaccine Media Trends Barometer

January 2014

Geographic Activity January 1-31, 2014

VaccineNews Map



Activity Summary

December Alerts			% of Total
Report Vaccine Sentiment	Negative	105	4
	Neutral	64	2
	Positive	2774	94
Total		2943	



Media with Negative Vaccine Sentiment or High Risk Events Reported

- On January 21, Gunmen killed three health workers taking part in a polio vaccination drive in Karachi, Pakistan. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1081723/three-dead-in-attack-on-polio-team-in-karachis-gayyumabad>
- Chinese health authorities report they have found no link between a hepatitis B vaccine and the deaths of nine children who had received those shots, according to state media On January, 3. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/03/china-vaccine-idUSL3N0KD0Y420140103>
- On January 15, the Chilean legislature passed a bill outlawing the use of thimerosal in vaccines. The bill was vetoed a week later, by the president. <http://www.latercera.com/noticia/nacional/2014/01/680-561816-9-director-de-sociedad-chilena-de-pediatria-por-timerosal-esta-ley-es-un-error.shtml>
- Health workers in Jamrud, Pakistan refuse to participate in a polio vaccination campaign because of security threats. <http://tribune.com.pk/story/657327/vaccinators-refuse-to-join-polio-campaign-in-jamrud/>

VPD Outbreaks

- **Measles** cases in Saskatchewan, **Canada**
- **Measles** outbreak following a hip hop competition in **New Zealand**
- **Measles** epidemic declared in metro Manila, **Philippines**
- First **polio** case of 2014 identified in Karachi, **Pakistan**
- **Polio** cases in **Syria**

Policy

- **India** is declared **polio**-free after seeing no cases for three years
- Widespread **polio** vaccination campaigns in **Pakistan** with a focus on security
- **Measles** vaccination drive in the **Philippines** in response to an outbreak
- **UK** physicians called on Secretary of State for Health to over rule the decision of the JCVI (Joint Commission on Vaccination and Immunizations) to reject providing meningitis vaccine at any cost
- CDC to provide experimental **meningitis** vaccine to **UC Santa Barbara** after four cases reported
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised the Government of India to seek immunization of incoming visitors from polio affected countries six weeks prior to their arrival in India and also to arrange Oral Polio Vaccination (OPV) for Indian citizens travelling to those countries

Delivery/Access

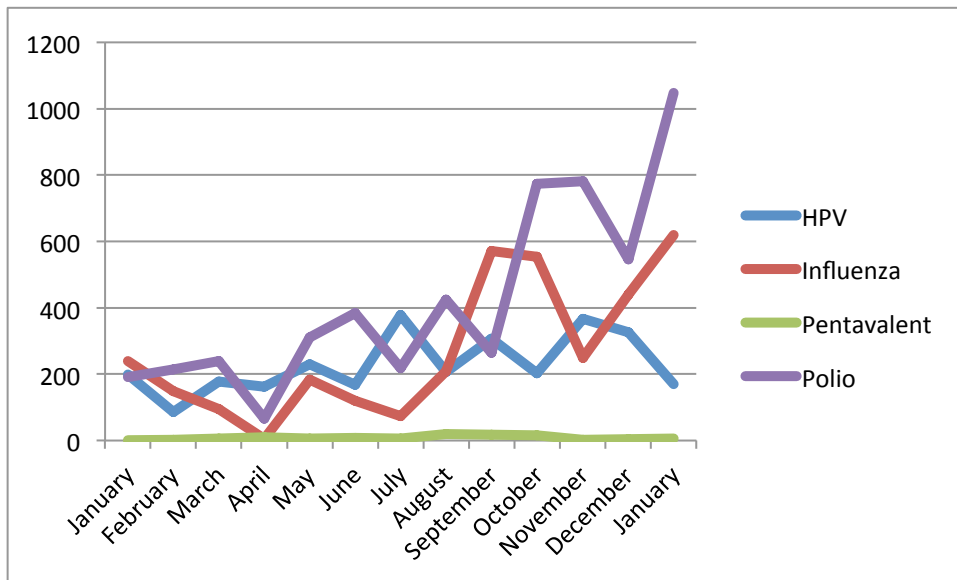
- Alberta, **Canada** health officials confirm there is no **influenza** vaccine shortage despite increased demand following widespread flu activity across the province
- Sporadic reports of temporary **influenza** vaccine shortage in the **US**
- Shortage of human **rabies** vaccine in **Australia**

Research

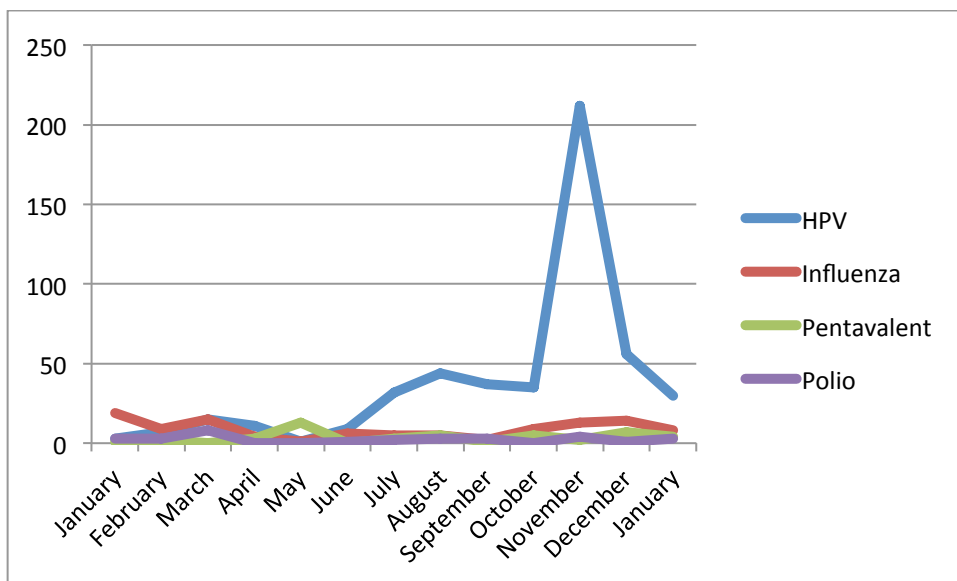
- In a Phase I trial in **Sweden**, a nasal **Pertussis** vaccine shows promising results
- Two articles published in the New England Journal of Medicine confirm a small increased risk of intussusception associated with two available **rotavirus** vaccines but the **US** researchers declare the benefit of rotavirus prevention outweigh these risks
- Public health researchers in **New York City** report that text messaging reminders improved **influenza** vaccination rates in pregnant women in a study published in the American Journal of Public Health.

Number of Reports that Mention Vaccines by Month and Sentiment

Positive Sentiment January 2013 – January 2014



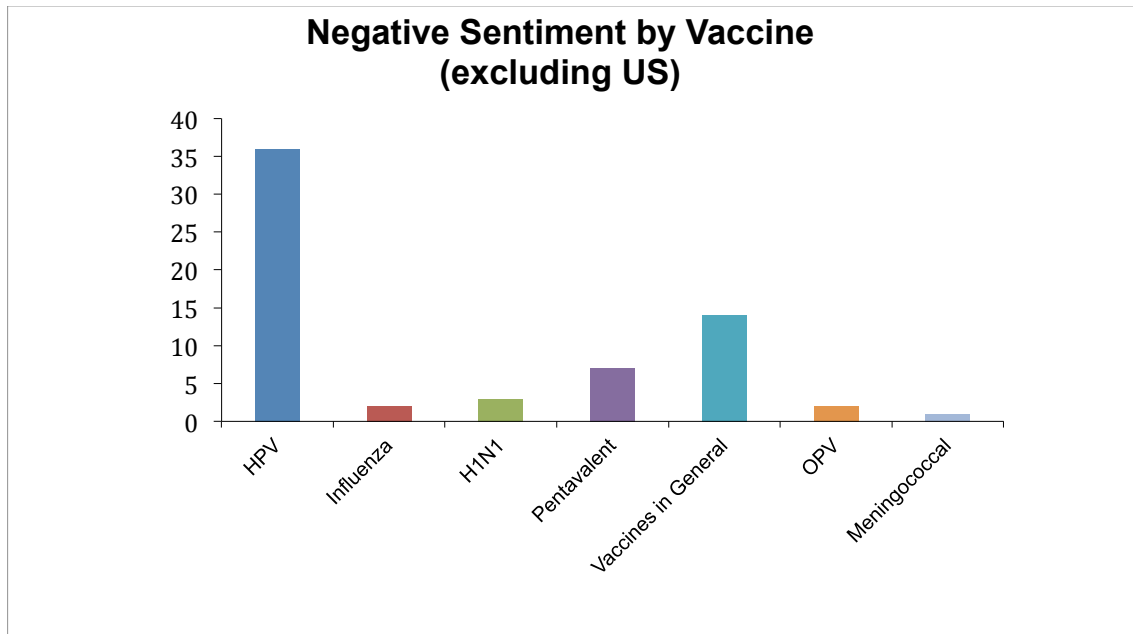
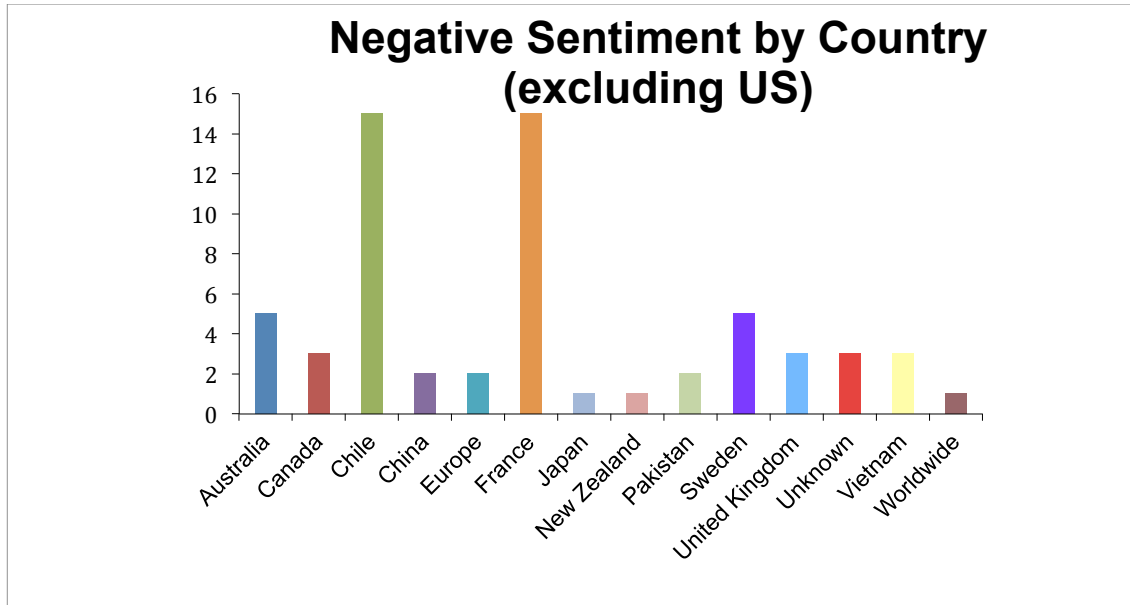
Negative Sentiment January 2013 – January 2014

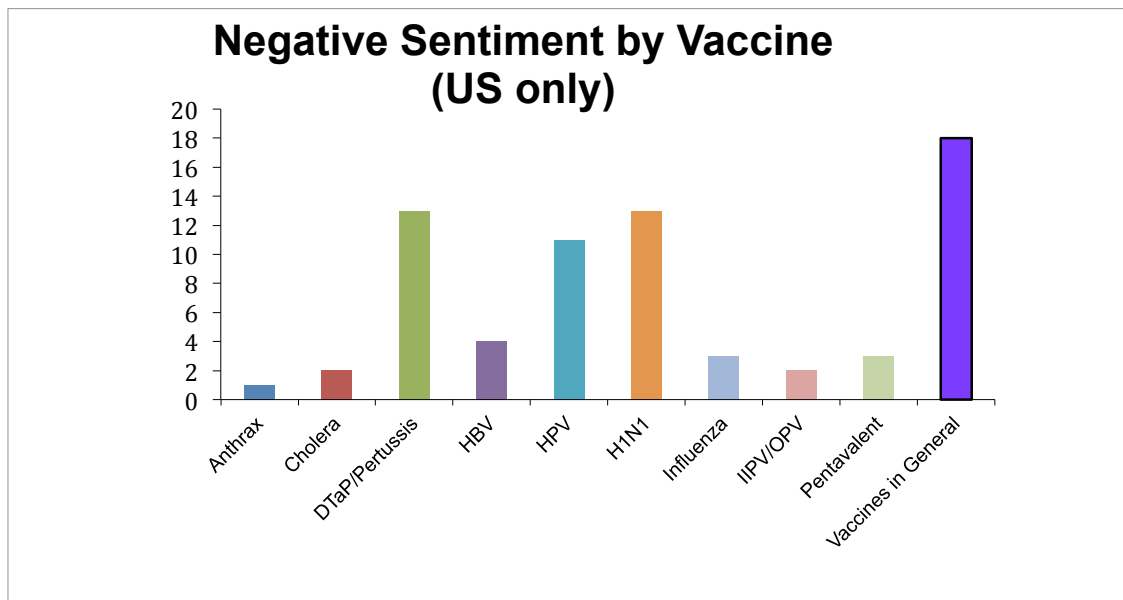


January Negative Vaccine Sentiment* (n= 105 alerts including duplicate reports; 4 % of all reports)

A single report may include more than one country or vaccine/disease.

*Due to the large number of negative sentiment reports relative to other countries in January, US reports by vaccine are detailed separately.





Special Focus on Thimerosal Ban in Chile

On January 15, the Chilean legislature outlawed the use of vaccines containing thimerosal for children under eight, pregnant women and the elderly, based on claims that thimerosal causes autism and neurological damage. A week later, President Sebastián Piñera vetoed the law.

Following the veto, the bill and the president's comments must be returned to the legislature (lower house in this case) within 30 days. If both houses reject the president's comments and pass the bill again by two-thirds of members present in each house, the law must be enacted. If this happens, Chile will become the first country in the world to pass a law banning thimerosal.

Many physicians have been outspoken about this law, including the Director of the Chilean Society for Pediatrics who has openly condemned it. Issues around increased cost and the availability of enough vaccines for children in Chile are being raised as an immediate negative consequence should the bill be enacted. In January, there was extensive coverage on this issue, containing both positive and negative sentiment toward vaccines. The outcome of the law's passage/non-passage warrants close monitoring.