MEASLES MORTALITY IN THE UNITED STATES, 1890–2016: WHY DID DEATHS DECLINE BEFORE THE VACCINE?

The U.S. measles mortality decline pre-dated the first vaccine use in Winter 1963–64, but accelerated after 1963 with the reduction of cases associated with immunization. Focusing on 1933–63, the period with complete (nationwide) mortality statistics, illustrates some puzzles of historical measles epidemiology in the U.S. and elsewhere.