

A Brief History of Vaccines in the U.S.

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Knowledge of medical history is becoming almost as important as knowledge of American History in understanding today's world. The way that organized medicine, drug companies, and medical institutions developed and grew and formed partnerships with government agencies is both interesting and informative. And it provides invaluable insight into our current circumstances.

This is certainly the case with vaccines. Today, drug companies are some of the most profitable in the world, and vaccines account for a significant percentage of these profits. COVID vaccines have provided unprecedented income. For example, Pfizer reported a 92% growth in revenue in 2021, almost doubling from \$41.7 billion in 2020 to \$81.3 billion in 2021. Earnings per share rose from \$1.63 in 2020 to \$3.85 in 2021. This growth and profit is largely due to sales of COVID-19 vaccines.¹

Vaccines were not always so profitable, however. In fact, in 1985, less than one quarter of one percent of drug company sales were derived from vaccines.² Pharmaceutical companies were actually losing money on them at that time.³ As a result, over half of vaccine makers closed. By 1980 only ten manufacturers remained in business, and many of them had reduced the number of vaccines they marketed.

It might be hard to believe based on what we see today, but in the 1980s the public was not enthusiastic about vaccines, leading Alan Davies, head of a money-losing vaccine maker to say, "People are willing to pay more for a bottle of headache tablets than they are for a vaccine that will protect them for many years."⁴

Additionally, there were a growing number of lawsuits against vaccine makers, making it difficult for drug companies to justify remaining in the vaccine business. For example, in the 1980s, Lederle was the only U.S. manufacturer making the DTP vaccine, and its projected liability from lawsuits was estimated to be 200 times higher than its then annual sales.⁵

So, what changed? The U.S. government got involved. First, health authorities decided that vaccines could eradicate disease, which would then lower healthcare costs. There was no evidence to support this, but government and health authorities do not usually let little facts like this influence the decisions they make.

Second, the government decided that the only way to get Big Pharma to agree to invest in the vaccine business again would be to grant immunity to the companies for harm caused by the products they made. Thus, the passing of the landmark, and one might say regrettable, 1986 law that stated that manufacturers would not be liable for injuries or deaths resulting from vaccines administered after October 1, 1988.

Third, the government decided to address public hesitation. Research showed that Americans did not have confidence in vaccines due to negative media coverage of injuries, general ignorance of patients and doctors, and the fact that people did not understand that vaccinations were not just about protecting the person who received the vaccine, but also about protecting society as a whole.⁶ The solution – more and more and more mandated vaccines.

What a windfall for drug companies – vaccines were quickly transformed from products they could not afford to make to one of the most profitable consumer products of all time – and with absolutely no accountability for harm.

According to an article in *Epoch Times* that covered this issue, without government intervention, the free market would have eliminated vaccines due to lack of consumer interest.⁷

So as you can see, nothing today is new – just more of what has been taking place for decades. Government and health officials make decisions counter to the facts, and against the will of the people for whom they are supposed to be working. Government partners with private industry to accomplish its goals that are often counter to what the public wants. The partnership benefits government officials and private industry. Government officials who facilitate these arrangements get lucrative positions in private industry when they leave their government jobs. Private industry makes billions of dollars. And if members of the public do not like or voluntarily go along with the plan, government simply forces them to do it.

¹ https://s28.q4cdn.com/781576035/files/doc_financials/2021/q4/Q4-2021-PFE-Earnings-Release.pdf

² Pauly MV, Sepe SJ, Sing M, Willian MK. *Supplying Vaccines: An Economic Analysis of Critical Issues* p 19 IOS Pr Inc 1996

³ Paul Wilde, Grant Robertson. How vaccines became big business. *The Globe and Mail* December 29 2009

⁴ IBID

⁵ Hall MA, Orentlicher D, Bobinski MA, Bagley N. *Healthcare Law and Ethics* p 362 Aspen Publishing, 9th edition, Feb 27 2018

⁶ National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, Division of Health Promotion and Disease. Vaccine Supply and Innovation. 1985. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine.

⁷ Patricia Adams, Lawrence Solomon. Meet the World's Most Powerful Anti-Vaxxers: Big Pharma. *Epoch Times* June 14 2022