

## About the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986

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NVIC's co-founders worked with Congress to secure vaccine safety informing, recording, and reporting provisions in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, which created the federal vaccine injury compensation program (VICP) as an alternative to a civil lawsuit against vaccine manufacturers and doctors. By August 2022, nearly 4.5 billion had been awarded for vaccine injuries and deaths suffered by more than 8,500 children and adults.

This historic law acknowledged that vaccine injuries and deaths are real; that the vaccine injured and their families should be financially compensated; and that vaccine safety and informed consent protections were needed in the mass vaccination system.

The 1986 law required vaccine providers to provide parents of minor children and adults with written Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) before vaccination; keep written records of vaccine manufacturer names and lot numbers for each vaccine given; enter serious health problems following vaccination into the permanent medical record; and report serious health problems following vaccination to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS).

After decades of weakening congressional amendments and federal agency rule-making, the 1986 law's safety provisions and the VICP have been severely compromised.

Visit [www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org) for more information on vaccine reactions and how to meet deadlines for filing a compensation claim in the VICP.

## About Us

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) is a charitable non-profit organization founded in 1982 by parents of vaccine-injured children. NVIC is dedicated to preventing vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and to securing and defending informed consent protections in U.S. vaccine policies and laws.

NVIC does not make vaccine use recommendations or give legal or medical advice. We support the availability of all preventive health care options and the legal right of consumers to make educated, voluntary health care decisions, including vaccine decisions, without being coerced or sanctioned.

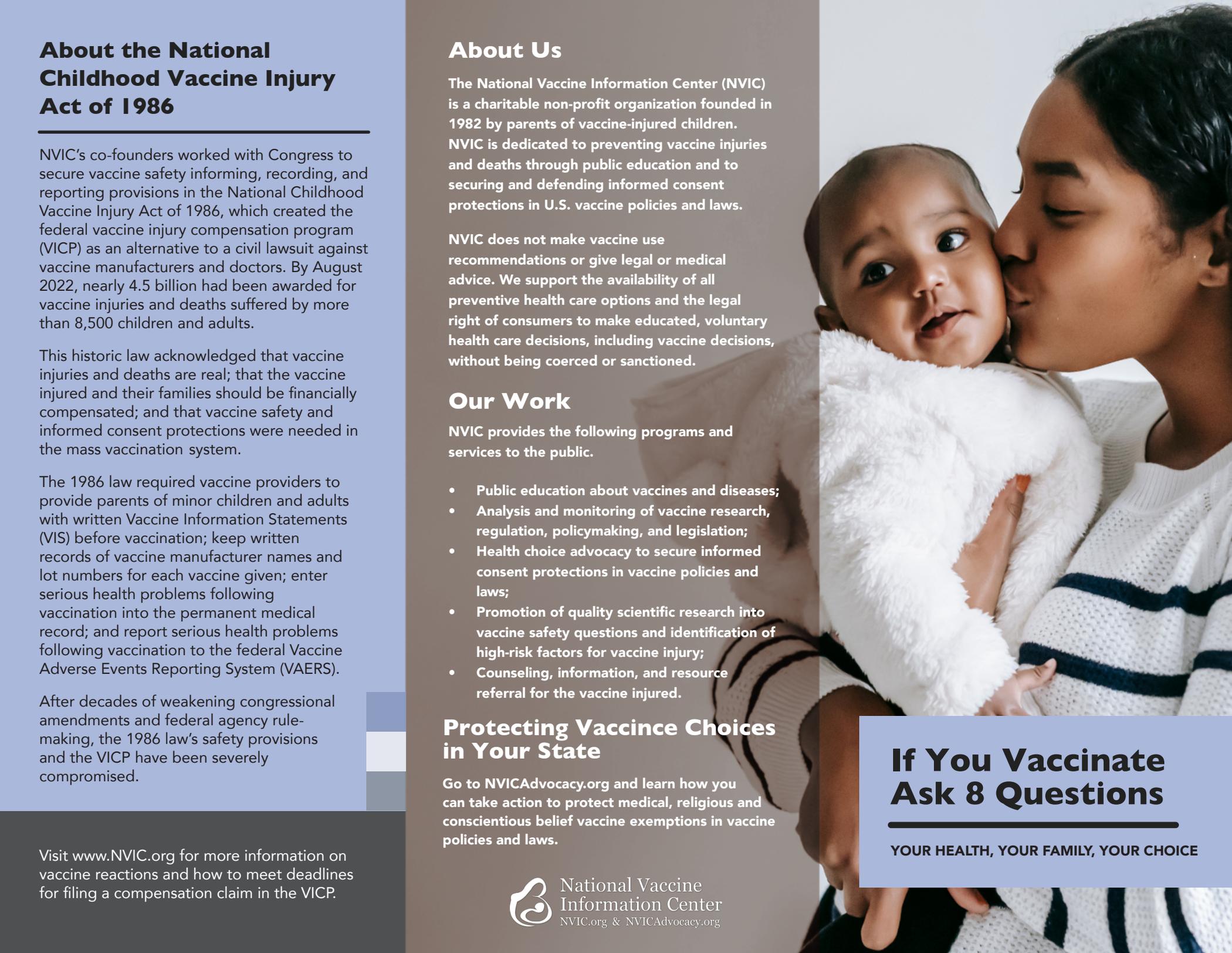
## Our Work

NVIC provides the following programs and services to the public.

- Public education about vaccines and diseases;
- Analysis and monitoring of vaccine research, regulation, policymaking, and legislation;
- Health choice advocacy to secure informed consent protections in vaccine policies and laws;
- Promotion of quality scientific research into vaccine safety questions and identification of high-risk factors for vaccine injury;
- Counseling, information, and resource referral for the vaccine injured.

## Protecting Vaccine Choices in Your State

Go to [NVICAdvocacy.org](http://NVICAdvocacy.org) and learn how you can take action to protect medical, religious and conscientious belief vaccine exemptions in vaccine policies and laws.



**If You Vaccinate  
Ask 8 Questions**

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**YOUR HEALTH, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR CHOICE**

## Did you know...

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Vaccines are pharmaceutical products, which carry risks for injury and death that can be greater for some people than others. NVIC encourages everyone to become fully informed about both the risks and complications of diseases and vaccines before making a vaccine decision.

## Reporting Vaccine Reactions

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Recognizing a vaccine reaction is critical for seeking appropriate medical attention. All vaccine providers are legally required to report serious adverse events, such as hospitalization, injury, or death, that occur after vaccination to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Vaccine providers are also required to record adverse events following vaccination in an individual's permanent medical record. Vaccine recipients may also directly report any serious health problem that occurs after vaccination to VAERS for all vaccines.

For more information on vaccine reaction symptoms and reporting, [www.NVIC.org](http://www.NVIC.org).

## Ask 8 If You Vaccinate

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1. Am I or my child sick right now?
2. Have I or my child had a bad reaction to a vaccination before?
3. Do I or my child have a personal or family history of vaccine reactions, neurological disorders, severe allergies, or immune system problems?
4. Do I know the disease and vaccine risks for myself or my child?
5. Do I have full information about the vaccine's side effects?

## Vaccine Injury

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Not all symptoms that occur following vaccination are caused by the vaccine(s) recently received. However, it cannot be automatically concluded that symptoms which do occur are not caused by a vaccine. There are also many reported vaccine reactions that have not been adequately studied before new vaccines are licensed and given to millions of people.

It is important for your vaccine provider to record ALL serious health problems, symptoms, or dramatic changes in physical, mental, or emotional behavior that occur following vaccination. This information should be recorded in permanent medical records and reported to VAERS.

Until it has been determined that any serious health problem, which developed after vaccination was not causally related to the vaccination(s), further vaccination may significantly increase the risks for more serious health problems.

**Informed consent to medical risk-taking is a human right! Learn more at [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org).**

6. Do I know how to identify and report a vaccine reaction?
7. Do I know I need to keep a written record, including the vaccine manufacturer's name and lot number, for all vaccinations?
8. Do I know I have the right to make an informed choice?

**If you answered yes to questions 1, 2, and 3, or no to questions 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and do not understand the significance of your answers, please visit [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org) to learn about diseases and vaccines and associated risks and benefits.**

## Identifying Vaccine Reactions

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If you or your child experience a severe adverse event in the hours, days, or weeks following vaccination, especially those that result in hospitalization, injury, or death, it should be reported to VAERS. Some vaccine reaction symptoms include:

- Pronounced swelling, redness, heat, or hardness at injection site;
- Body rash or hives;
- Wheezing/difficulty breathing (including asthma);
- Sudden unusually fast or irregular heartbeat;
- Severe pain in the head, chest, joints, or muscles;
- Shock/collapse followed by unresponsiveness, deep sleep;
- High-pitched screaming or hours of persistent crying;
- Changes in sleep/wake pattern; dramatic personality changes;
- High fever (over 103 F);
- Twitching or jerking of the body, arm, leg, or head;
- Weakness/paralysis of any part of the body;
- Crossing of eyes; loss of eye contact, awareness, memory, or speech;
- Loss of ability to roll over, sit up or stand up;
- Loss of taste or smell;
- Disabling fatigue;
- Onset of chronic ear or respiratory infections;
- Severe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea;
- Excessive bruising, bleeding, or anemia;