
IV. THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE PLAN

The core of the National Vaccine Plan consists of a set of goals, objectives, and strategies aimed primarily at reducing the incidence of infectious diseases through vaccine development and immunization. These planning elements have been developed by the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) in response to the congressional requirements set forth in title XXI of the Public Health Service Act as amended by P.L. 99-660 (see appendix 1), and taking into account the current vaccine- and immunization-related activities of both the public and private sectors. The plan is intended to integrate all U.S. efforts on vaccine development and immunization, irrespective of whether their short-term focus is domestic or global.

The four goals of the National Vaccine Plan are:

Goal 1: Develop new and improved vaccines.

Goal 2: Ensure the optimal safety and effectiveness of vaccines and immunization.

Goal 3: Better educate the public and members of the health professions on the benefits and risks of immunizations.

Goal 4: Achieve better use of existing vaccines to prevent disease, disability, and death.

For each of the four goals, the NVPO has identified a set of related objectives and the strategies through which these objectives will be pursued. The ordering of goals, objectives, and strategies in this plan corresponds with the mandate of P.L. 99-660 and does not indicate a ranking or imply a chronological sequence. The goals, objectives, and strategies will be pursued in parallel, taking into account interrelationships where they are pertinent. For example, the strategies for goal 3 are designed to elicit the fullest possible participation by health care providers in pursuing goal 4, in that they are a critical interface in vaccination programs between health agencies and the public.

Strategies may be implemented through a number of activities that in turn may be undertaken under the authority of different government agencies. Various activities under each strategy may be pursued on different schedules. Activities will be based on needs and opportunities. For example, the Childhood Immunization Initiative will capitalize on what can be done immediately to prevent diseases through the use of existing vaccines (see appendix 9).

Because more than 70 basic strategies have been developed and each one is likely to entail several activities, this document does not include details on the activities.

Following is a list of the strategies for each of the objectives for the plan's four goals.