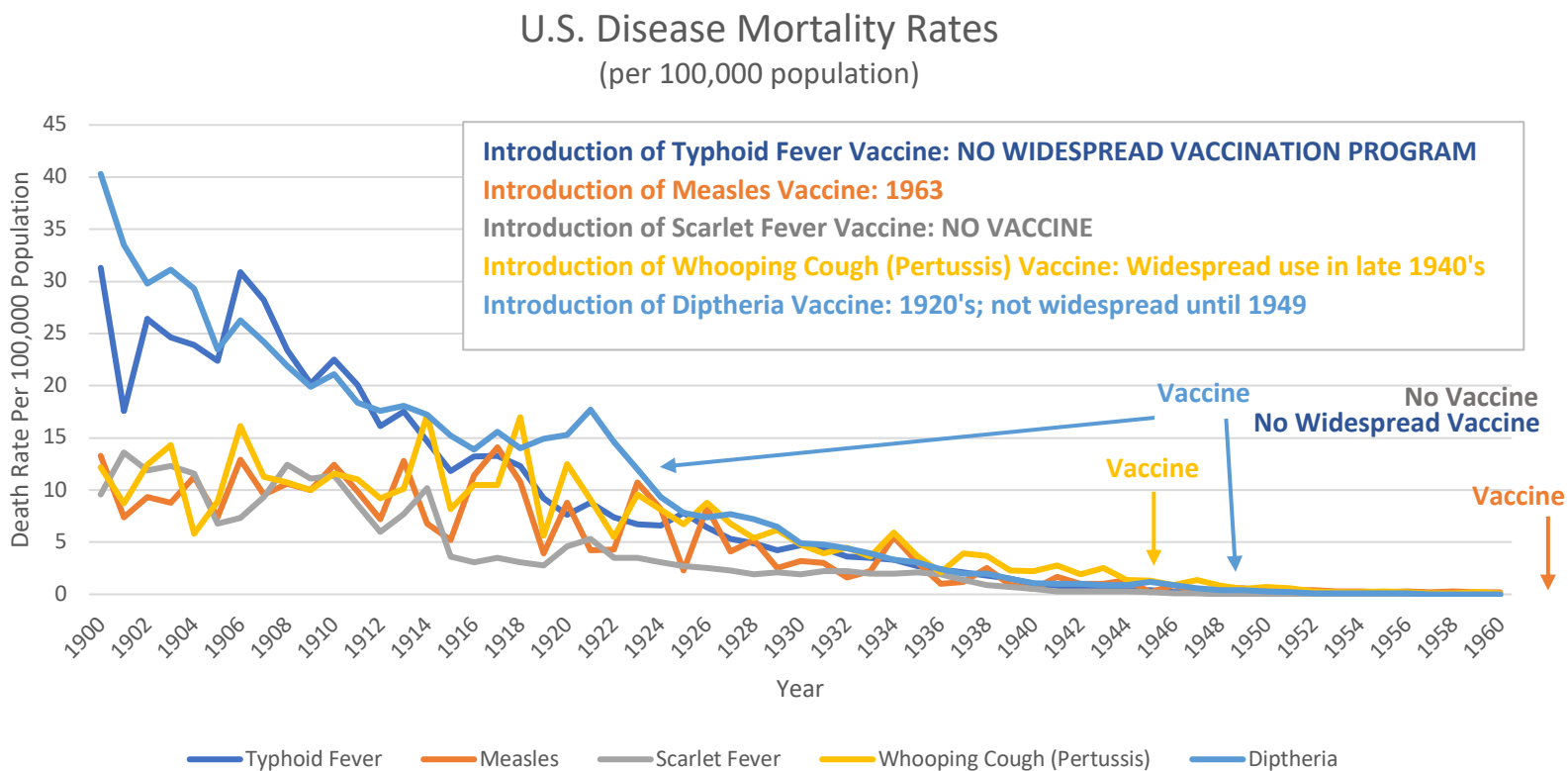




## Did Vaccines Save the Day?

...or was it something else?



Source: Vital Statistics Rates in the United States, 1940-1960, [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsus/vsrates1940\\_60.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsus/vsrates1940_60.pdf)

Historical records show that overall disease mortality declined nearly 90% before the introduction of the U.S. vaccine program. In fact, some of the most prevalent diseases in the early 1900's followed the same decline without the U.S. population ever being vaccinated for them. (see chart)

## If Vaccines Didn't Save the Day, What Did?

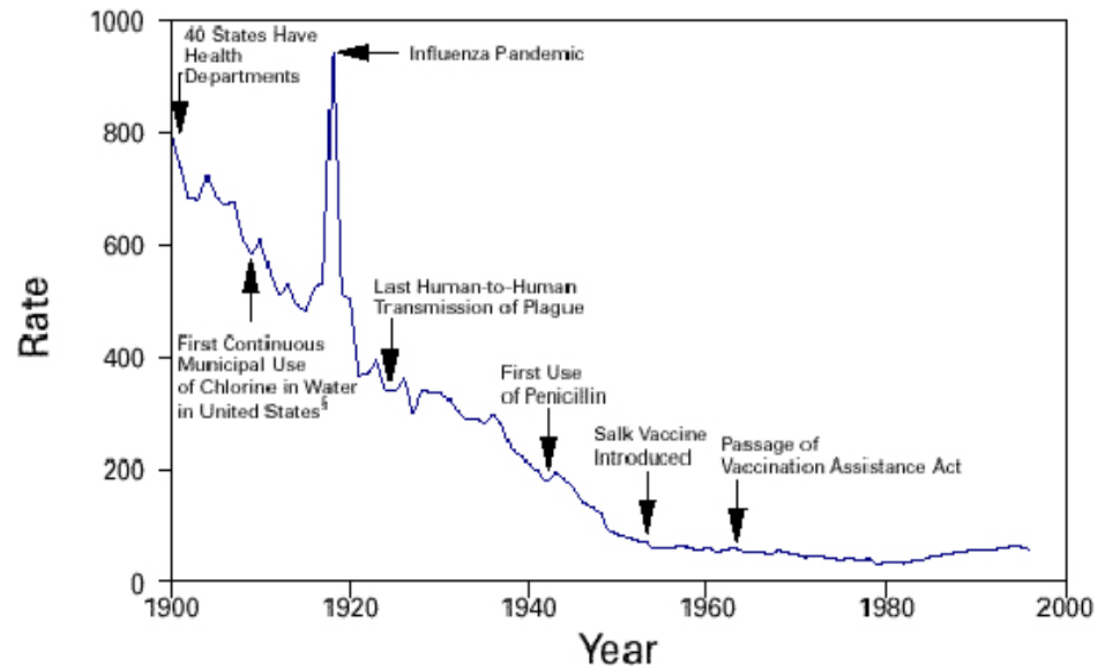


Figure 1. Crude death rate\* for infectious diseases - United States, 1900-1996

According to this CDC report: “In 1908, Jersey City, New Jersey was the first city in the United States to begin routine disinfection of community drinking water. Over the next decade, thousands of cities and towns across the United States followed suit in routinely disinfecting their drinking water, contributing to a dramatic decrease in disease across the country... This decrease in illness is credited to the implementation of drinking water disinfection and treatment, improving the quality of source water, and improvements in sanitation and hygiene.”

Source: CDC – History of Drinking Water Treatment, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/history.html>