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Vaccine causes big drop in cases of invasive pneumococcal disease

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) protects against seven common strains of pneumococcal disease and was introduced into the routine childhood immunisation programme in September 2008.

Already the positive impact is evident - with a decline in invasive pneumococcal disease caused by serotypes contained in the vaccine. There was an 82% decline in children under two years of age and 33% reduction among those over two years of age.

The vaccine is administered routinely at 2, 6 and 12 months. A catch-up programme for children less than two years of age was also implemented at the same time.

On-going vigilance against invasive pneumococcal disease is required.

Preliminary analysis and slides are now available [here](#).