

NPRC Research: Advancing Science, Saving Lives



The National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) are at the heart of making breakthroughs that continue to help save lives worldwide. Through research with animals, NPRC researchers accelerate discoveries, identify disease causes, enable earlier diagnoses, develop preventions and improve treatments, all for the benefit of human health.

The table on the right represents some of the lives saved because of research with nonhuman primates. With each additional prevention determined, vaccine given or treatment started, the number of lives saved increases.

Lives Saved Thanks to Research with Nonhuman Primates

Discovery / Innovation	Estimated Lives Saved*
Measles vaccine	130,000,000
Malaria prevention	37,000,000
HIV discovery and treatment	22,000,000
Hepatitis B vaccine	15,000,000
COVID-19 mRNA vaccine	14,000,000
Whooping cough vaccine	13,000,000
Yellow fever vaccine	1,600,000
Polio vaccine	1,600,000
Total Estimated Lives Saved	234,200,000

Sources include ScienceHeroes.com and Our World in Data.

Saving Lives

The estimated 234 million lives saved to date are a result of the global research community making a commitment to improve human health. Researchers asked hard questions, conducted highly regulated studies with animals and shared their scientific discoveries.

NPRC researchers continue to include nonhuman primates (NHPs) in studies because of the animals' similarities to humans. This biological match is essential for studying complex diseases and the safety and effectiveness of treatments and prevention before clinical trials with humans begin.

Implementing the 3Rs

NPRC researchers have also been incorporating new approach methodologies (NAMs) into studies. This is part of implementing the long-standing 3Rs principles, which include replacing research animals when appropriate, reducing the number of animals involved in research and refining methods to improve animal welfare.

Following Regulations

All NPRCs follow NIH and USDA regulations, and institutional research and animal welfare guidelines, and maintain AAALAC International accreditation, the gold standard in animal care.