

How to Access Data from CDC's VAERS WONDER System

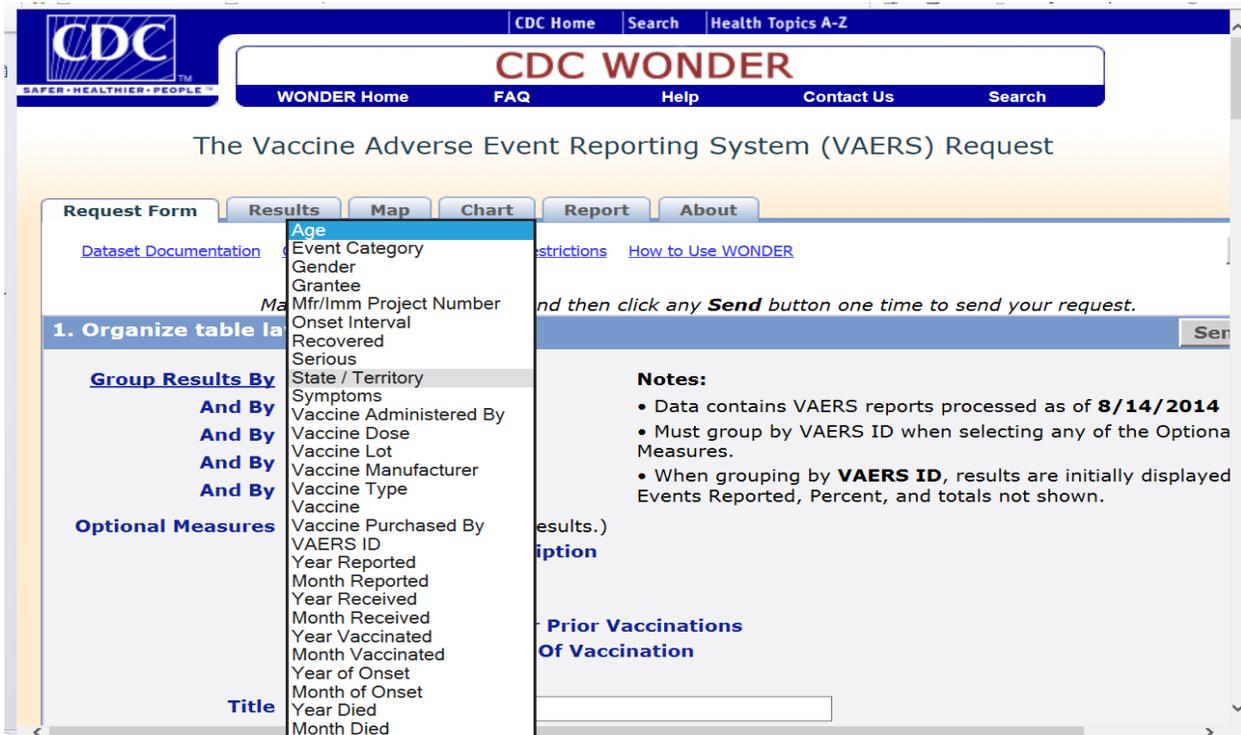
Step 1: Go to wonder.CDC.gov/VAERS.html. Click on the **VAERS Data Search** box to start your search.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with 'CDC Home', 'Search', and 'Health Topics A-Z'. Below is the 'CDC WONDER' header with 'WONDER Home', 'FAQ', 'Help', 'Contact Us', and 'Search' links. The main heading is 'About The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)'. A navigation menu includes 'Request Form', 'Results', 'Map', 'Chart', 'Report', and 'About'. There are links for 'Dataset Documentation', 'Data Use Restrictions', and 'How to Use WONDER'. A note states: 'Any use of these data implies consent to abide by the terms of the data use restrictions.' The section 'The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)' explains that the database contains information on unverified reports of adverse events following immunization with US-licensed vaccines. A 'Search Current VAERS Data' section provides details on search criteria and a disclaimer. A red arrow points to the 'VAERS Data Search' button, with 'VAERS Report Details*' below it. A footer note says '* This allows you to search for details on a specific VAERS report by the VAERS ID number.' A disclaimer at the bottom states: 'Please note that VAERS staff follow-up on all serious and other selected adverse event reports to obtain additional medical, laboratory, and/or autopsy records to help understand the health concern raised. However, in general, coding terms in VAERS do not change based on the information received during the follow-up process. VAERS data on WONDER should be used with caution as numbers and conditions do not reflect data collected during follow-up. Note that information included in the VAERS data does not mean that the vaccine caused the adverse event. Review cautions in the interpretation of this data: [More information](#).' A link to 'Dataset Documentation' is provided for complete information about the dataset.

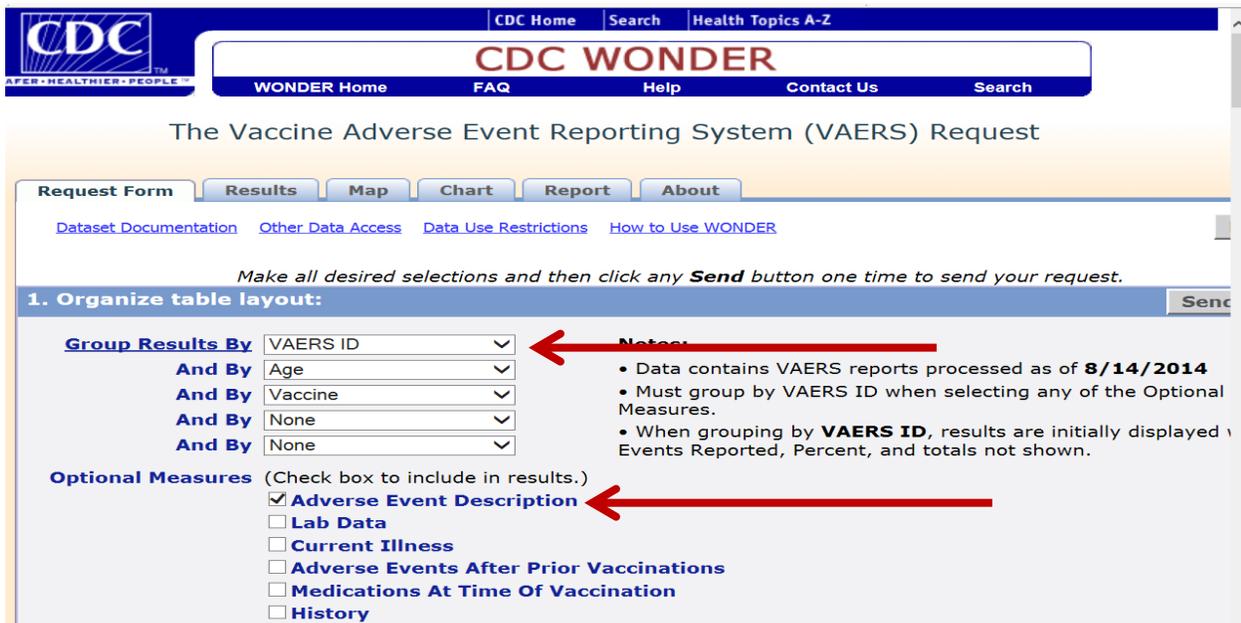
You will be taken to the page where you can start your search.

The screenshot shows the 'Request Form' page for the VAERS WONDER system. The navigation bar is identical to the previous screenshot. The main heading is 'The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) Request'. A navigation menu includes 'Request Form', 'Results', 'Map', 'Chart', 'Report', and 'About'. There are links for 'Dataset Documentation', 'Other Data Access', 'Data Use Restrictions', and 'How to Use WONDER'. A 'Reset' button is in the top right. A note says: 'Make all desired selections and then click any **Send** button one time to send your request.' The section '1. Organize table layout:' has a 'Send' button. Under 'Group Results By', there are four dropdown menus, all set to 'Age'. Under 'And By', there are four dropdown menus, all set to 'None'. A 'Notes:' section contains three bullet points: 'Data contains VAERS reports processed as of 12/14/2014', 'Must group by VAERS ID when selecting any of the Optional Measures.', and 'When grouping by VAERS ID, results are initially displayed with Events Reported, Percent, and totals not shown.' Under 'Optional Measures (Check box to include in results.)', there are five checkboxes: 'Adverse Event Description' (checked), 'Lab Data', 'Current Illness', 'Adverse Events After Prior Vaccinations', and 'Medications At Time Of Vaccination'. A 'History' checkbox is also present. A 'Title' field is at the bottom.

Step 2: Choose which variables you want to see in your results. Clicking the down arrow to the right of the **Group Results By** drop-down list will show all the options.



Step 3: To see the description of the adverse event as it was reported on the VAERS form, select **VAERS ID** in the first box under **Group Results By** and select **Adverse Event Description** under **Optional Measures**.



Step 4: If you want to give your search printout a title, enter it in the **Title** box. If you don't want a title, you can leave the box blank.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) Request

Request Form | **Results** | **Map** | **Chart** | **Report** | **About**

[Dataset Documentation](#) | [Other Data Access](#) | [Data Use Restrictions](#) | [How to Use WONDER](#) | Reset

*Make all desired selections and then click any **Send** button one time to send your request.*

1. Organize table layout: Send

<p>Group Results By VAERS ID ▼</p> <p>And By Age ▼</p> <p>And By None ▼</p> <p>And By Vaccine ▼</p> <p>And By None ▼</p> <p>Optional Measures (Check box to include in results.)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adverse Event Description</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lab Data</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current Illness</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adverse Events After Prior Vaccinations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Medications At Time Of Vaccination</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> History</p> <p>Title Fainting</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Data contains VAERS reports processed as of 12/14/2014Must group by VAERS ID when selecting any of the Optional Measures.When grouping by VAERS ID, results are initially displayed with Events Reported, Percent, and totals not shown.
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Step 5: Scroll down to **Select Symptoms** where you can choose symptoms to search for. To search for terms, click on the **Search** tab. Select the terms you want to use for your search. As you highlight a term, it is moved to the **Currently Selected** box on the right side of the screen. To select more than one term, hold down the Control key. To select a range of terms, hold down the Shift key.

2. Select symptoms: Send

Browse or **search** to find items in the Symptoms Finder Tool, then **highlight** the items to use for this request. (The *Currently selected* box displays all current request items.)

[Finder Tool Help](#) | [Advanced Finder Options](#)

Browse | **Search** | **Details**

Symptoms

1000000 (ABDOMINAL COMFORT/STIFFNESS)

10000059 (ABDOMINAL DISCOMFORT)

10000060 (ABDOMINAL DISTENSION)

10053309 (ABDOMINAL EXPLORATION)

10060954 (ABDOMINAL HERNIA)

10060802 (ABDOMINAL HERNIA REPAIR)

10056519 (ABDOMINAL INFECTION)

10060924 (ABDOMINAL INJURY)

10073485 (ABDOMINAL LYMPHADENOPATHY)

10000077 (ABDOMINAL MASS)

10049714 (ABDOMINAL MIGRAINE)

10060925 (ABDOMINAL NEOPLASM)

10061609 (ABDOMINAL OPERATION)

10000001 (ABDOMINAL PAIN)

Currently selected:

All (All Symptoms)

Use Ctrl+Click to multiple select, Shift+Click for a range.

Step 6: Scroll down to **Select Vaccine Characteristics**. When a vaccine is highlighted, it moves to the **Currently Selected** box on the right side of the screen. To search for a specific brand of vaccine, click the **Open** button at the bottom of the section and select the specific brand or brands of vaccine you are interested in.

3. Select vaccine characteristics: Send

NOTE: Flu vaccine brands are no longer separately listed by year. If you want to search for a specific year of a vaccination, please section 6 (Select date vaccinated) and select the year(s) you are interested in searching.

Browse or **search** to find items in the Vaccine Products Finder Tool, then **highlight** the items to use for this request.
(The *Currently selected* box displays all current request items.)

[Finder Tool Help](#) [Advanced Finder Options](#)

Browse **Search** **Details**

Vaccine Products

- + TDAP (TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE (BO
- + TD (TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA TOXOIDS, ADULT)
- + TTOX (TETANUS TOXOID)
- + DTAPH (TETRAMUNE)
- + TBE (TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINE (TBE))
- + TYP (TYPHOID VACCINE)
- + VARCEL (VARIVAX-VARICELLA VIRUS LIVE)
- + YF (YELLOW FEVER VACCINE)
- + VARZOS (ZOSTER VACCINE LIVE)
- + UNK (UNKNOWN VACCINES)

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Open Close Close All

Browse the list by opening and closing items.
Use Ctrl+Click to multiple select, Shift+Click for a range.

Currently selected:

- TDAP (TETANUS AND DIPHT

< >

Step 7: You can also search for vaccine manufacturer, vaccine dose number, and vaccine lot number. If you don't select any, it will default to all manufacturers, all doses, and all lot numbers.

Vaccine Manufacturer

- All Manufacturers
- ACAMBIS, INC.
- AVENTIS PASTEUR
- BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORP.
- BERNA BIOTECH, LTD
- BSI
- BURROUGHS WELLCOME

Vaccine Dose

- All Doses
- 0 Doses
- 1 Doses
- 2 Doses
- 3 Doses
- 4 Doses
- 5 Doses

Vaccine Lot

Enter vaccine lots,
one per line, maximum
15 characters each.
Leave empty for all
lots.

Step 8: Scroll down to **Select Location, Age, and Gender**, which allows you to select specific locations, ages, and genders. If you don't select anything, it will default to all U.S. states and territories, all ages, and all genders.

4. Select location, age, gender: Send

<p>State / Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All LocationsThe United States, Territories, and UnknownAlabamaAlaskaArizonaArkansasCalifornia	<p>Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All Ages< 6 months6-11 months1-2 years3-5 years6-17 years18-29 years	<p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All GendersFemaleMaleUnknown
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Step 9: Scroll down to **Select Other Event Characteristics**, which allows you to select characteristics of the adverse event you're interested in. If you don't select anything, it will default to all adverse events.

5. Select other event characteristics: Send

<p>Event Category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All EventsDeathLife ThreateningPermanent DisabilityHospitalizedExisting Hospitalization ProlongedEmergency RoomNot Serious	<p>Recovered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All EventsNoYesUnknownMissing <p>Serious</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All EventsYesNo	<p>Onset Interval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All Events0 days1 day2 days3 days4 days5 days
<p>Vaccine Administered By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All EntitiesPublicPrivateOtherMilitaryUnknown	<p>Vaccine Purchased By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All EntitiesPublicPrivateOtherMilitaryUnknown	<p>Grantee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All EventsChicagoHoustonNew York CityPhiladelphiaSan AntonioNon-Grantee
<p>VAERS ID</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Enter full or partial VAERS IDs, one per line. Leave empty for all events.</p>	<p>Mfr/Imm Project Number</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Enter Mfr / Immun project reports, one per line, maximum 25 characters each. Leave empty for all reports.</p>	

Step 10: Scroll down to **Search Text Fields**. In this section, you can search for exact words that appear in each section of the VAERS report.

6. Search text fields: Send

Limit results to events with words or phrases in any of these text fields.
Enter one or more words per line to find events with **all** words found in line. Show More >>

<u>Adverse Event Description</u> <input type="text"/>	<u>Lab Data</u> <input type="text"/>	<u>Current Illness</u> <input type="text"/>
<u>Adverse Events After Prior Vaccinations</u> <input type="text"/>	<u>Medications At Time Of Vaccination</u> <input type="text"/>	<u>History</u> <input type="text"/>

Step 11: Scroll down to **Select Report Completed Dates**, which allows you to search for a specific date that a VAERS report was completed. If you leave this blank, it will default to all dates in VAERS, from 1990 to the present.

7. Select report completed dates: Send

NOTE: Any selection made in this field limits data to only those records that indicate the specified dates. If you want to include records with an unknown date, then use the aggregate finder and include the "unknown" category in your selection.

Click a button to choose reported dates by a range or aggregate dates.
 Date Range **Aggregate Dates**

[Date Report Completed](#)

From: (Start: Before 1990)
Until: (End: Dec., 2014)

Step 12: Scroll down to **Select Report Received Dates**, which allows you to search for specific dates that reports were received by VAERS. If you leave this blank, it will default to all dates in VAERS.

8. Select report received dates: Send

NOTE: Any selection made in this field limits data to only those records that indicate the specified dates. If you want to include records with an unknown date, then use the aggregate finder and include the "unknown" category in your selection.

Click a button to choose received dates by a range or aggregate dates.
Date Range **Aggregate Dates**

Date Report Received

From: Jan ▼ 2013 ▼ (Start: Jul., 1990)
Until: Dec ▼ 2013 ▼ (End: Dec., 2014)

Step 13: Scroll down to **Select Vaccination Dates**, which allows you to search for specific dates when persons were vaccinated. If you leave this blank, it will default to all dates in VAERS.

9. Select vaccination dates: Send

NOTE: Any selection made in this field limits data to only those records that indicate the specified dates. If you want to include records with an unknown date, then use the aggregate finder and include the "unknown" category in your selection.

Click a button to choose vaccination dates by a range or aggregate dates.
Date Range **Aggregate Dates**

Date Vaccinated

From: Jan ▼ 2013 ▼ (Start: Before 1980)
Until: Dec ▼ 2013 ▼ (End: Dec., 2014)

Step 14: Scroll down to **Select Adverse Event Onset Dates**, which allows you to search for specific dates when an adverse event occurred. If you leave this blank, it will default to all dates in VAERS.

10. Select adverse event onset dates: Send

NOTE: Any selection made in this field limits data to only those records that indicate the specified dates. If you want to include records with an unknown date, then use the aggregate finder and include the "unknown" category in your selection.

Click a button to choose onset dates by a range or aggregate dates.
Date Range **Aggregate Dates**

Date of Onset

From: Jan 2013 (Start: Before 1980)
Until: Dec 2013 (End: Dec., 2014)

Step 15: Scroll down to **Select Death Dates**, which allows you to search for a specific date when a death occurred.

11. Select death dates: Send

NOTE: Any selection made in this field limits data to only those records that indicate the specified dates. If you want to include records with an unknown date of death or no indication of death, then use the aggregate finder and include the "unknown" and "no death" categories in your selection.

Click a button to choose death dates by a range or aggregate dates.
Date Range **Aggregate Dates**

Date Died

From: Before 1980 Before 1980 (Start: Before 1980)
Until: Dec 2014 (End: Dec., 2014)

Step 16: Other Options allows you to choose how your results will appear.

12. Other options: Send

Export Results (Check box to download results to a file)

Show Totals

Show Zero Values

Precision **decimal places**

Data Access Timeout **minutes**

Send Reset

Step 17: Press any of the **Send** buttons on the page. Your search results will appear on the screen. Use the scroll bar on the right side of the screen to view the full page of results.