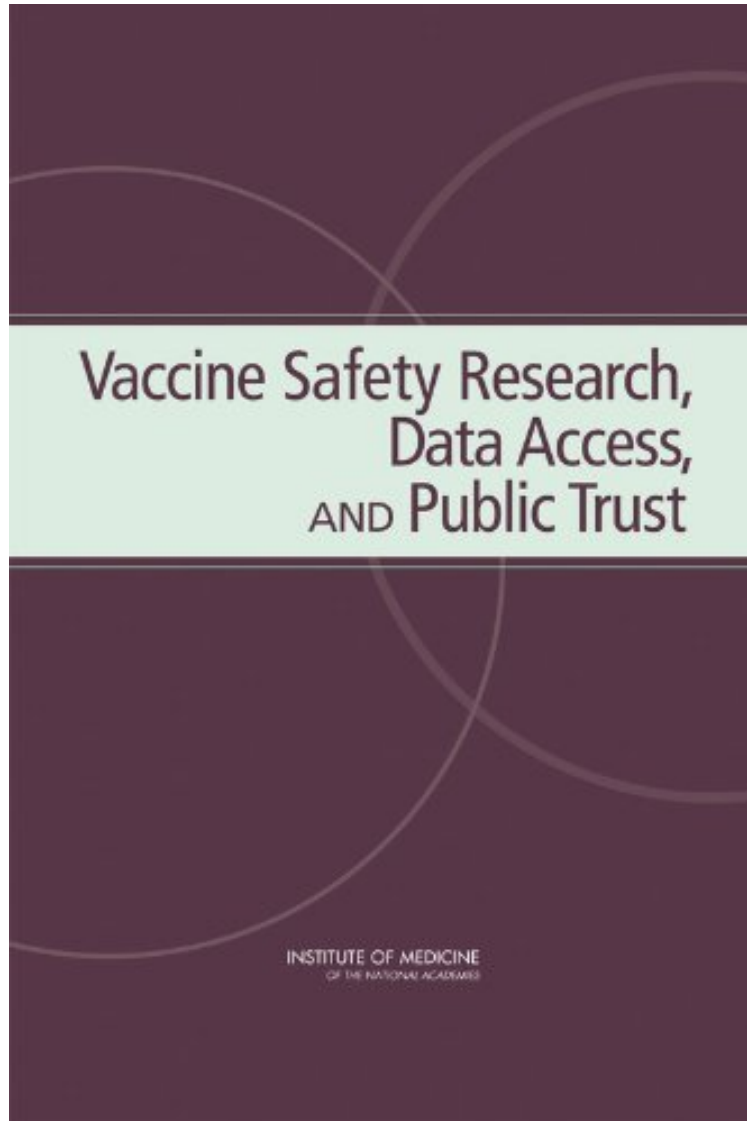


(Free) Vaccine Safety Research, Data Access, and Public Trust

## Vaccine Safety Research, Data Access, and Public Trust

*Institute of Medicine, Board on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Committee on the Review of the National Immunization Program's Research Procedures and Data Sharing Program*  
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The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) is a large, linked database of patient information that was developed jointly by CDC and several private managed care organizations in 1991. It includes data on vaccination histories, health outcomes, and characteristics of more than 7 million patients of eight participating health organizations. Researchers from CDC and the managed care groups have used VSD information to study whether health problems are associated with vaccinations. The subsequent VSD data sharing program was launched in 2002 to allow independent, external researchers access to information in the database. In this report, the committee that was asked to review aspects of this program recommends that two new oversight groups are needed to ensure that the policies and procedures of the VSD and its data sharing program are implemented as fairly and openly as possible.

About the Author Committee on the of the National Immunization Program's Research Procedures and Data Sharing Program