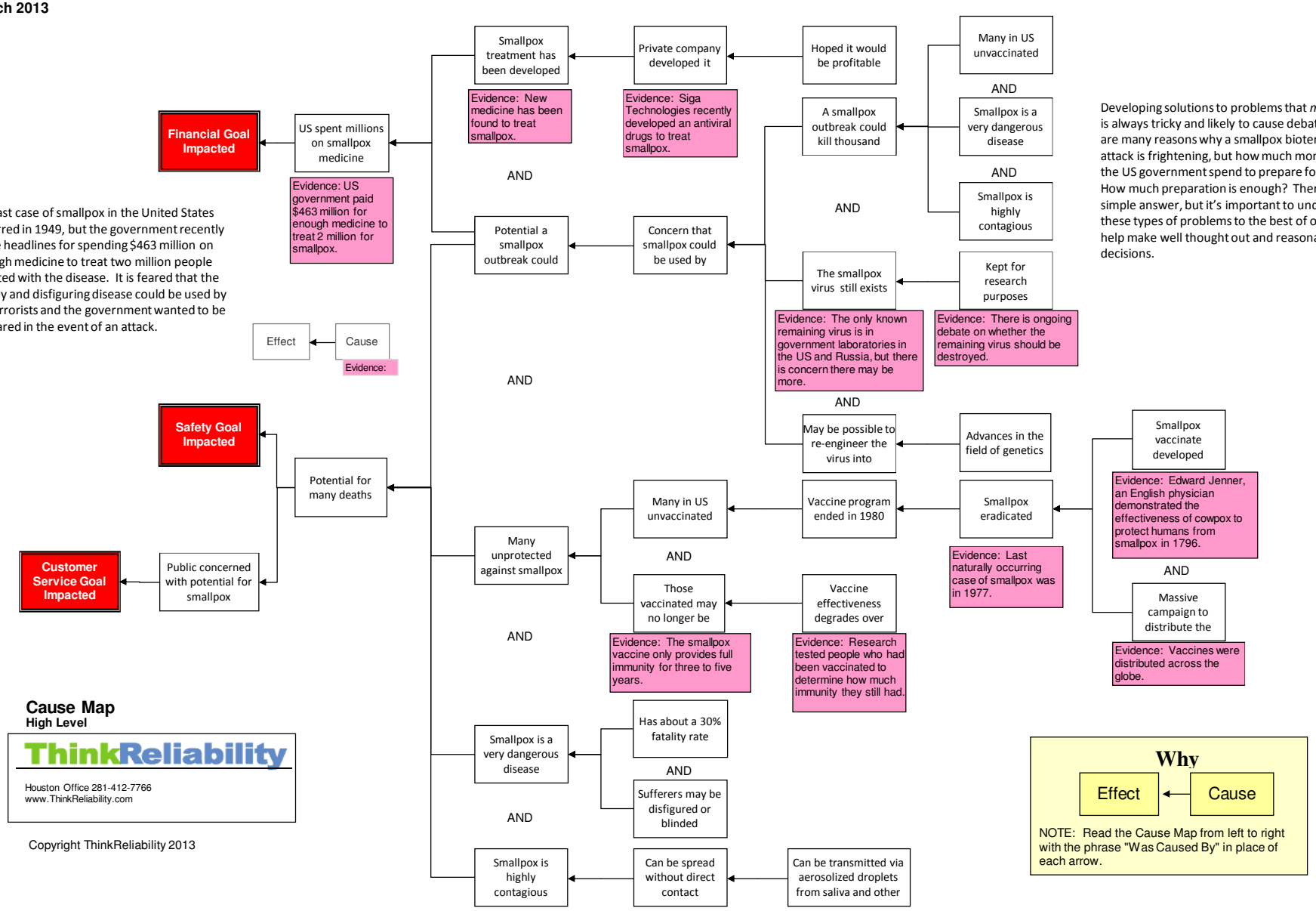
# US Stockpiles Smallpox Medicine, Fear of Bioterrorism

**USA**
**March 2013**

The last case of smallpox in the United States occurred in 1949, but the government recently made headlines for spending $463 million on enough medicine to treat two million people infected with the disease. It is feared that the deadly and disfiguring disease could be used by bioterrorists and the government wanted to be prepared in the event of an attack.

Developing solutions to problems that *might* occur is always tricky and likely to cause debate. There are many reasons why a smallpox bioterrorism attack is frightening, but how much money should the US government spend to prepare for an attack? How much preparation is enough? There is no simple answer, but it's important to understand these types of problems to the best of our ability to help make well thought out and reasonable decisions.




**Cause Map**
**High Level**

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**Why**

Effect ← Cause

NOTE: Read the Cause Map from left to right with the phrase "Was Caused By" in place of each arrow.