

How do we sustain acceptance in societies with mandates:

The situation in Germany

Sabine Reiter, Federal Ministry of Health
Les Pensières, 25-27 September 2017

Structure of german health care system



- 82.7 million inhabitants
- 16 federal states (Länder)
- 402 administrative districts (pop.: 35.000-1.7 mill.)
- 1 public health department per district
- highly decentralized health care system

Immunisation system in Germany (I)

- 90% of vaccines given by private physicians: **key role**
- Advocacy of immunisation is a public health task (Protection against Infection Act § 3)
- All recommended vaccines are free of charge
- German Standing Committee on Vaccinations (STIKO) makes recommendation for vaccinations since 1972
- Federal Supreme Court: recommendations of STIKO are state of medical knowledge.

Immunisation system in Germany (II)

- West Germany: smallpox vaccination was mandatory till 1982
- East Germany (former GDR) all vaccinations were mandatory till 1990.

 since 1990 vaccination on a voluntary basis

- Protection against Infection Act: focus still on individual responsibility and prevention through education.
- In case of an emergency mandatory vaccination possible
- No school or day care requirements regarding immunisation

Debates about mandates in german media



Impfpflicht

Wer die Eltern entscheiden lässt, riskiert Menschenleben

Das Impfgesetz wird verschärft, doch das reicht nicht. Auch wenn die meisten ihre Kinder impfen: Der fehlende Zwang ist eine Gefahr für alle.

Ein Kommentar von **Sven Stockrahm**

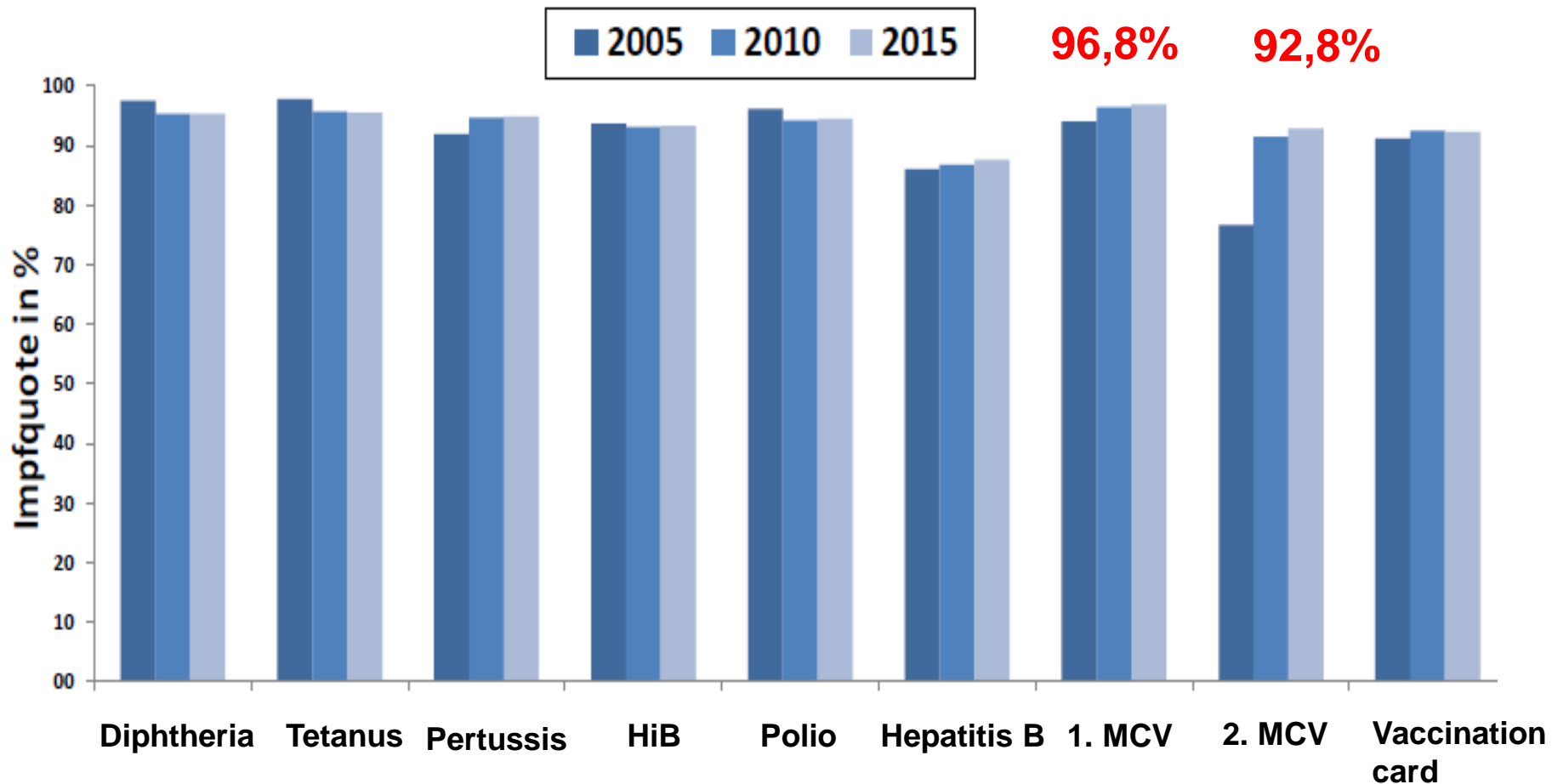
1. Juni 2017, 14:31 Uhr / 812 Kommentare



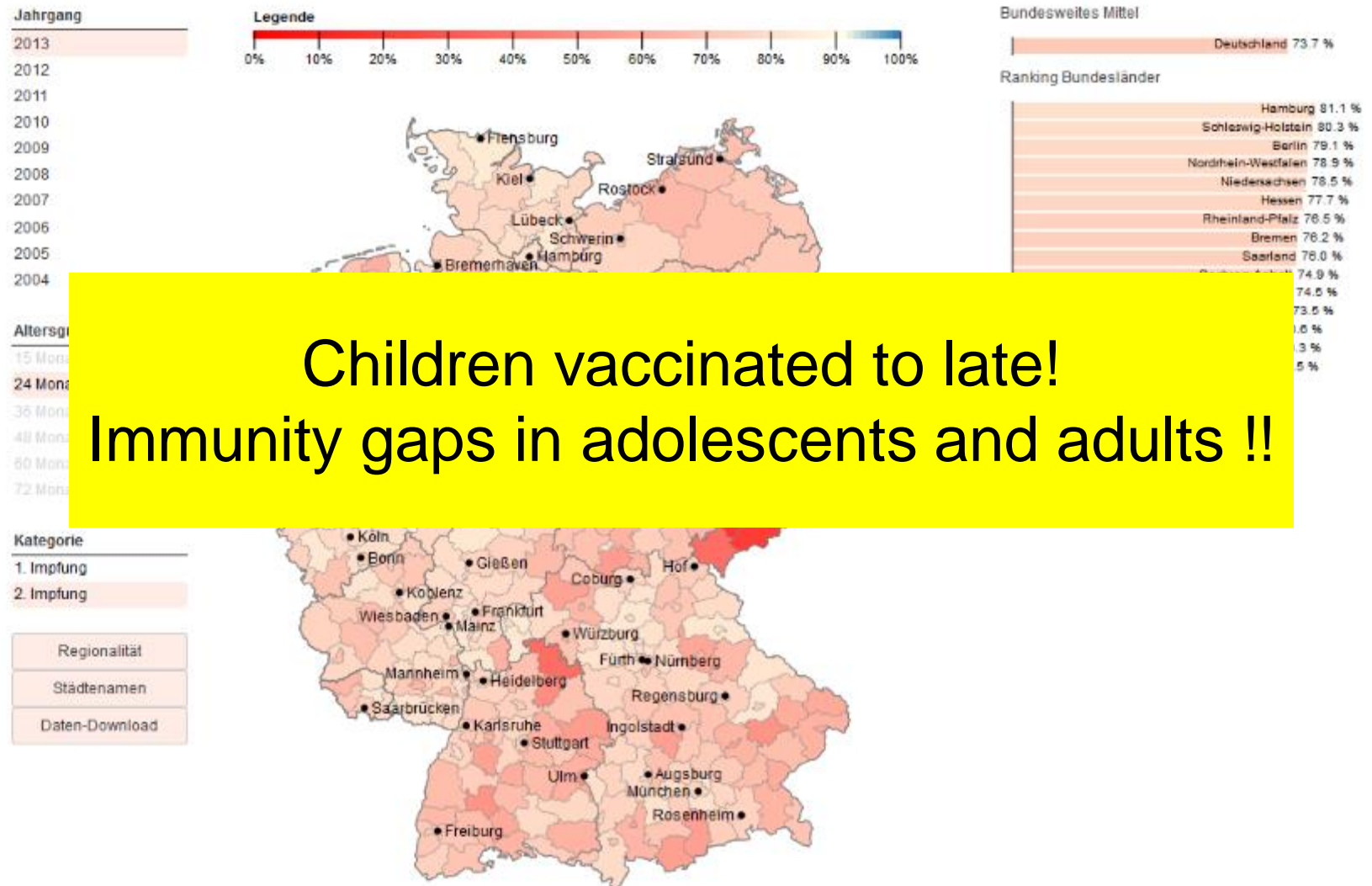
Vaccination: leaving the decision to parents is a danger for human life!!

612 comments

Vaccination coverage at school entry 2005/2010/2015

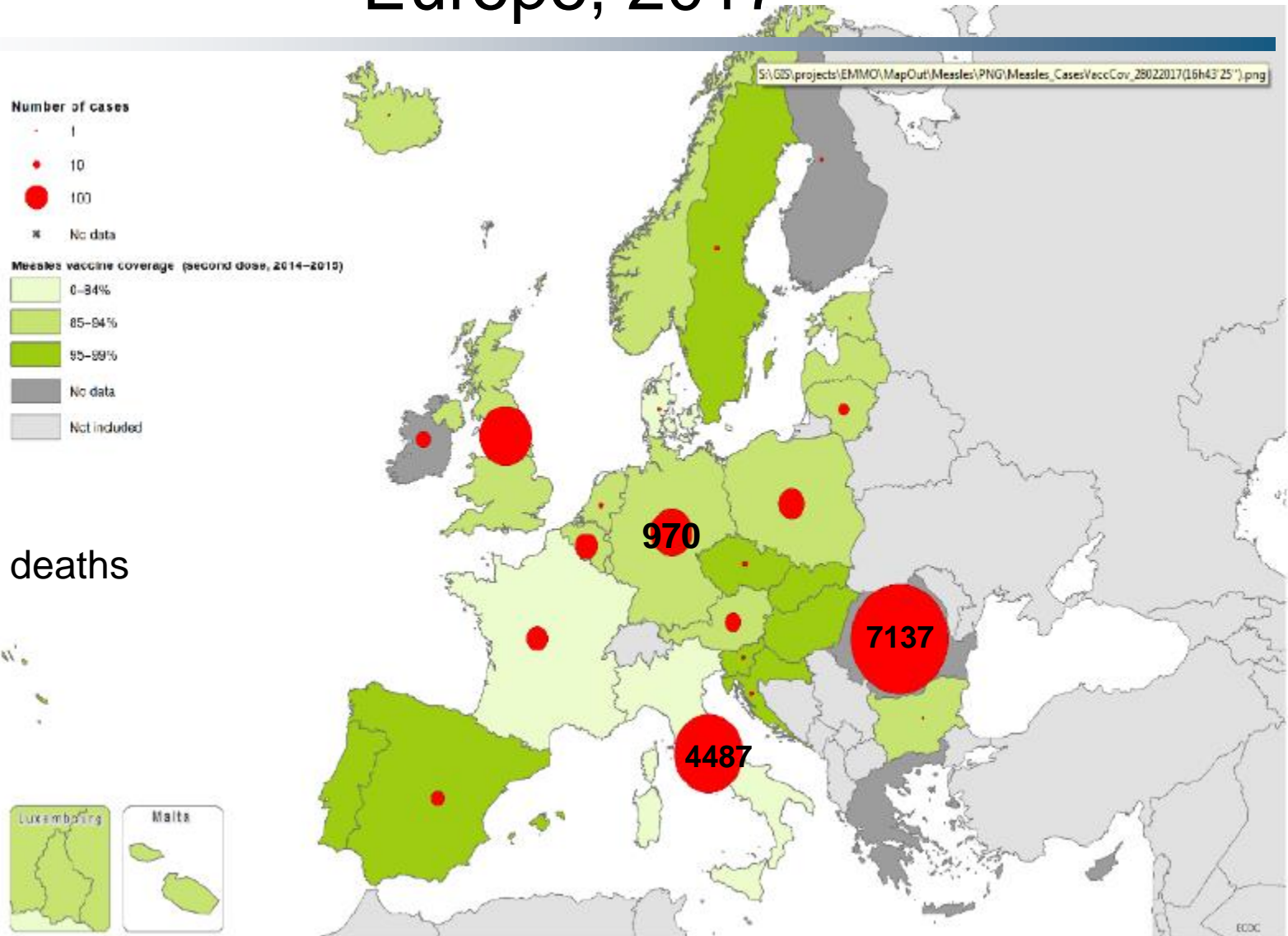


Vaccination coverage with 24 months 2. dose of MCV

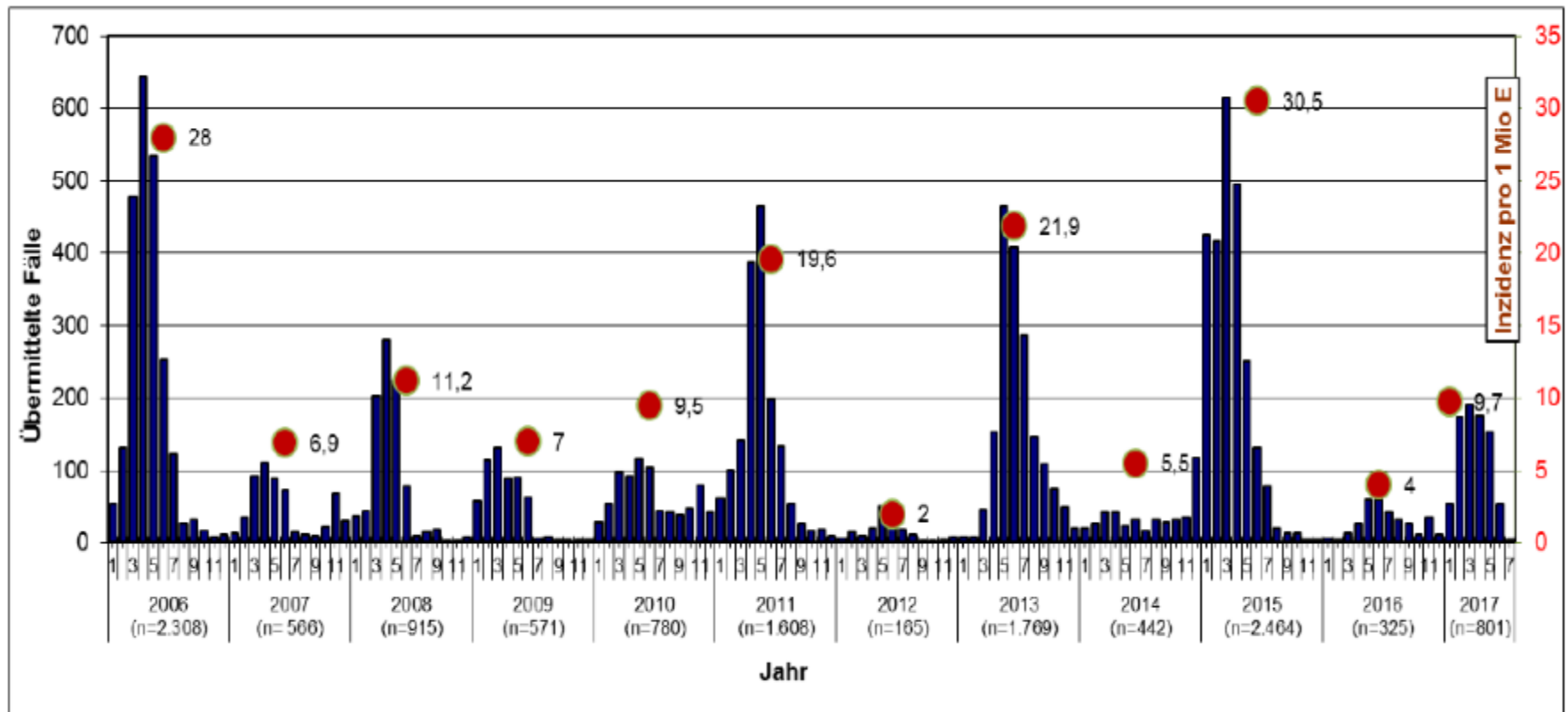


Measles cases and vaccination coverage in Europe, 2017

2017: 39 deaths



Measles cases in Germany 2006-2017



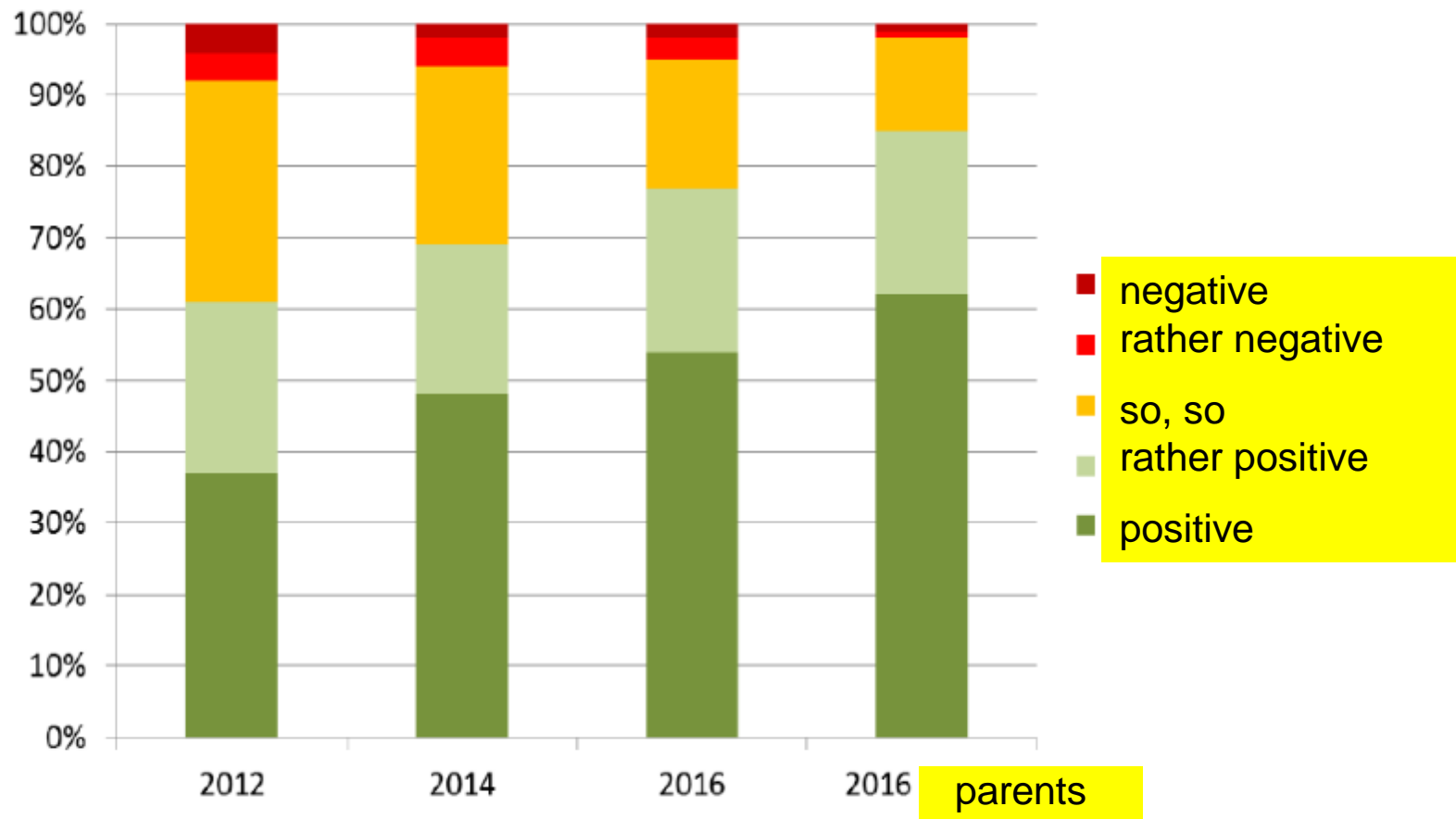
Measles outbreak in Duisburg

- Since January 2017: 332 cases
- >70% of cases amongst migrants from Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey
- 19% of cases < 1 year
national level: 2017 11,6%
- 95% coverage in resident population
- **hard to reach group:**
80% with no health insurance,
short stay in Germany
no contact to health system

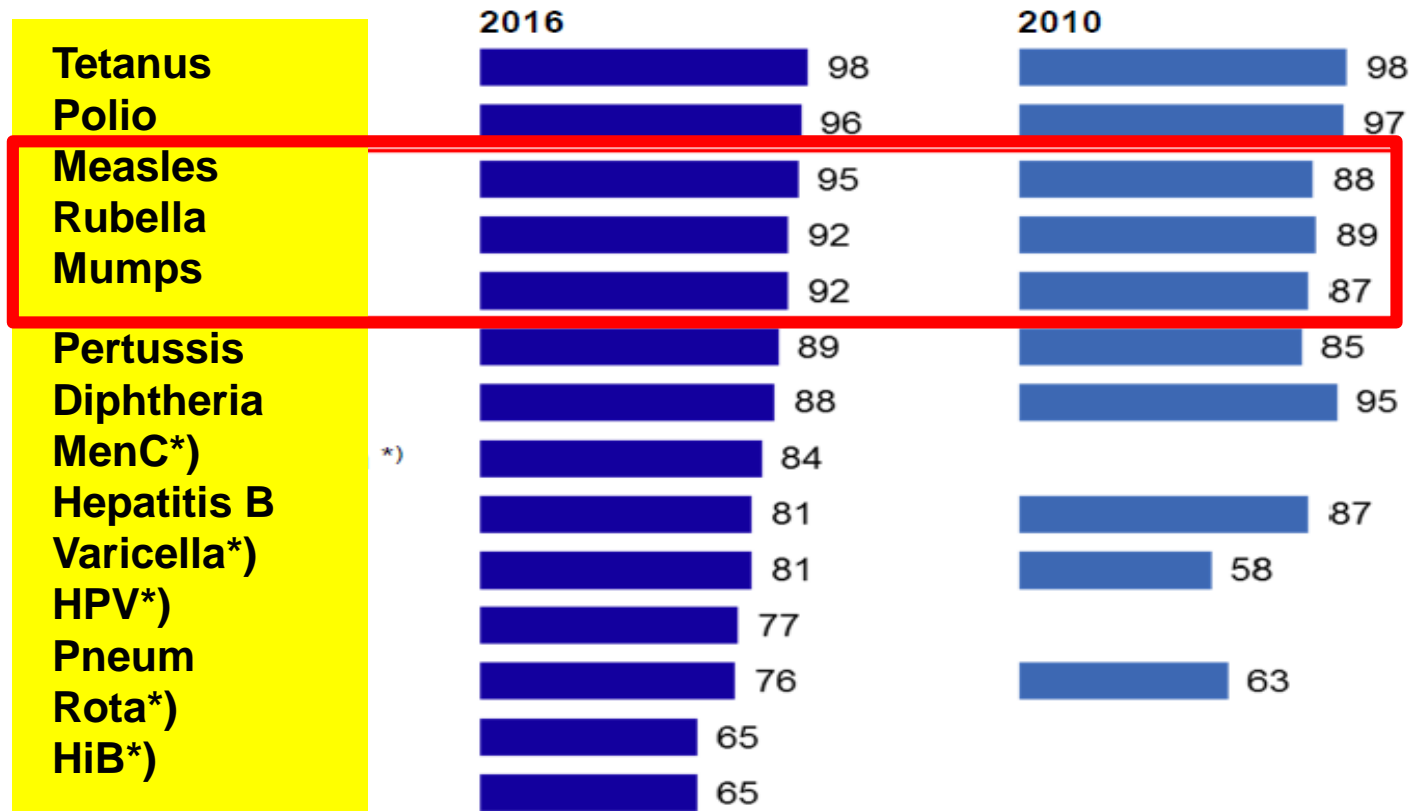
Attitudes towards vaccination

Surveys from 2012, 2014 und 2016

What is your general attitude towards vaccination?



„Against which diseases should your child be vaccinated in any case?“



*) not retrieved 2010

data in percent

Basis: 2016: n=1092 (parents of children aged 0-13 years);
2010: n=3002 (parents of children aged 0-13 years)

Reasons for existing immunity gaps

- inadequate knowledge of benefits and necessity of vaccination
- fear of adverse events
- fear aroused by vaccine sceptics or anti-vaccination groups
- insufficient verification of immunisation status by physicians
- forgetfulness: no systematic recall systems

Recommended strategies:

Raising awareness, continued information, further education, recall systems, catch-up in schools and political commitment

Strategies for increasing confidence and closing immunity gaps (I)

- 2010: recommendation of measles vaccination for susceptible adults born after 1970
- 2015: update, discussion and adoption of **National Measles/Rubella Action Plan**:
 - high political commitment
 - strategic and measurable goals with time frame, responsibilities and evaluation tools
 - Target groups:
 - Children aged 11 to 24 months
 - Adolescents aged 10-17 years
 - Adults born after 1970
 - Health care professionals
 - Hard to reach groups


Strategies for increasing confidence and closing immunity gaps (II)

National Preventive Health Care Act in 2015

- vaccination check during all medical check-ups for all age groups
- exclusion of unimmunised persons from school and kindergarten during measles outbreaks
- increased vaccinations by company doctors
- Medical facilities may make the recruitment of employees dependent on the existence of the necessary vaccination coverage and immunity.
- Health insurances can introduce bonus benefits for vaccinations

Strategies for increasing confidence and closing immunity gaps (III)

National Preventive Health Care Act in 2015

- Evidence of vaccination counselling by a doctor before visit of a daycare facility
- Rationale: 90% of parents follow the advice of their physician regarding vaccination.
- In July 2017 tightening of paragraph:
If parents do not present this certificate, the kindergarten has to notify the parent to the public health department.
 consultation or monetary fine
- No mandate, unvaccinated children may still visit a kindergarten.

Examples of nationwide campaigns

Information Campaign of the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians 2015



Measles?! Also among adults?



Bundesministerium
für Gesundheit

What creates trust in vaccine?

- trustworthy, up-to-date and transparent information about safety, necessity and effectiveness of vaccines
- trust in provider
- positive attitude in social networks
- experiences with the disease
- positive experience with vaccinations

•

Summary

- No mandatory vaccination in Germany, but strong recommendations
- Mandates are discussed regularly, at the moment legally not enforceable
- Focus on the implementation of regulations the National National Preventive Health Care Act
- Irrespective of mandatory or voluntary vaccination: Increase trust in vaccination!!!

Thank you very much for your attention!!!

Contact:

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit

Referat 321

Friedrichstraße 108

10117 Berlin

Dr. Sabine Reiter

sabine.reiter@bmg.bund.de

www.bmg.de

Tel. +49 30 18441-3256