

Vaccine Exemptions –Evidence-base for a less restrictive option

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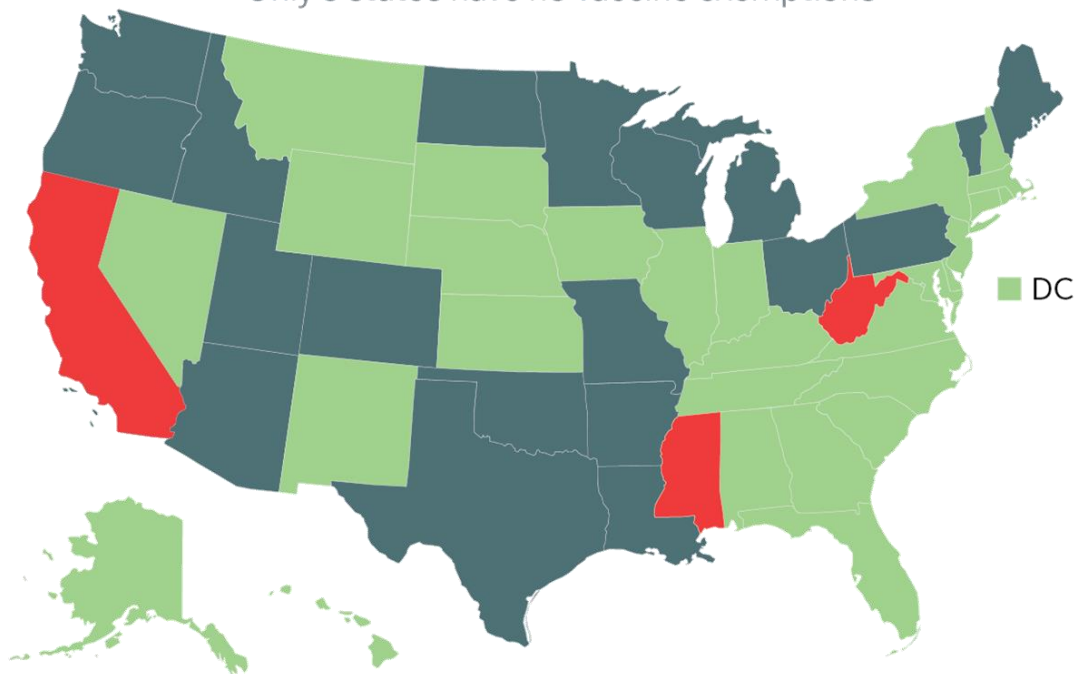
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School Immunization Requirements

- State laws (not federal)
- Major role in low rates of vaccine preventable diseases
- Exemptions
 - Medical
 - Religious
 - Personal belief (philosophical) exemptions

School vaccine exemptions by state

Only 3 states have no vaccine exemptions



■ No exemptions **■ Only religious exemptions** **■ Both religious and philosophical exemptions allowed**

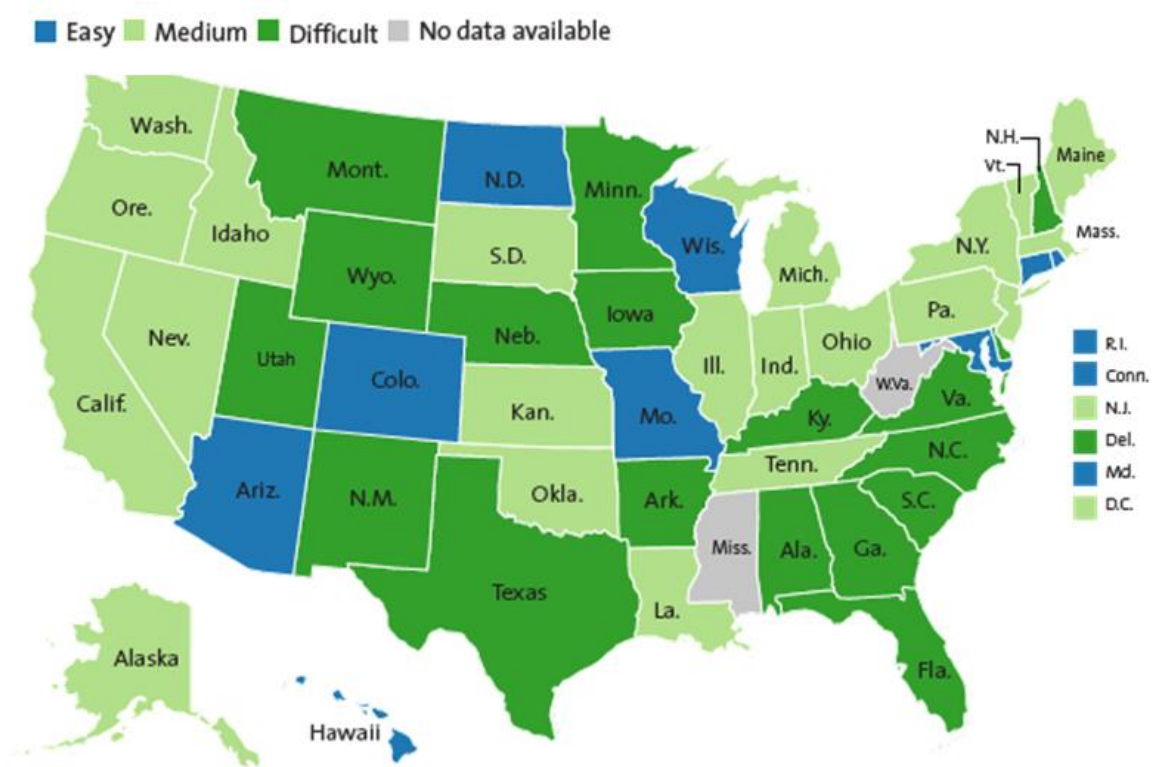


All states have medical exemptions.

Missouri's philosophical exemption only applies to daycare, preschool and nursery school.

SOURCE: National Conference of State Legislatures

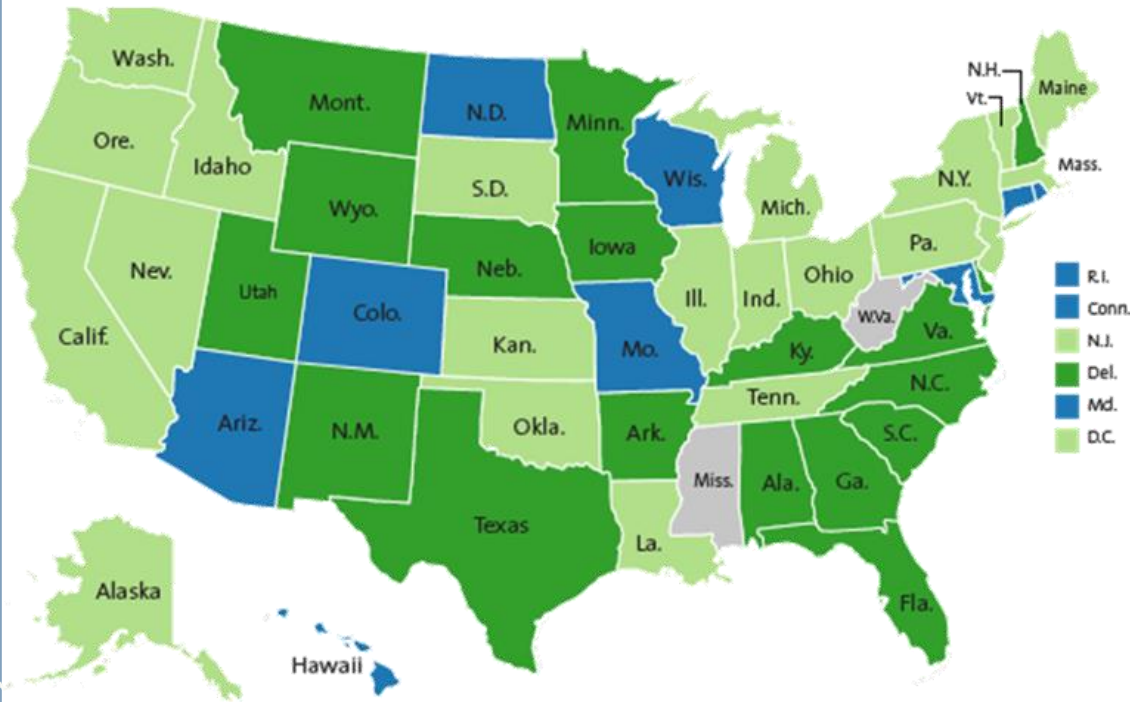
Ease of Obtaining Vaccine Exemptions –by State



*Omer et al., New England Journal of Medicine . 2012
Figure (with updated 2013 data) created by Mother Jones*

Ease of Obtaining Vaccine Exemptions –by State

■ Easy ■ Medium ■ Difficult ■ No data available



Exemption Policies & Whooping Cough Incidence, 1986-2004

Exemption ease

Incidence Rate

Difficult

Reference

Medium

35% higher

Easy

53% higher

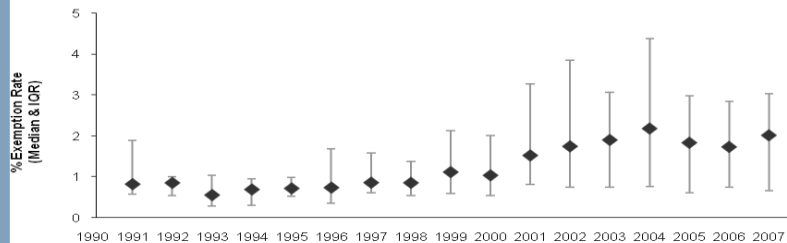
Omer et al., JAMA, 2006

Omer et al., New England Journal of Medicine . 2012

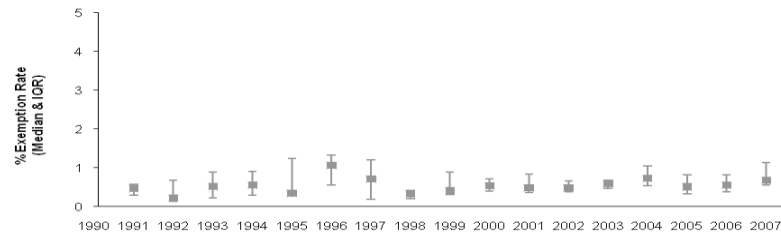
Figure (with updated 2013 data) created by Mother Jones

Nonmedical Exemptions by Ease of Exemption 1991 - 2007

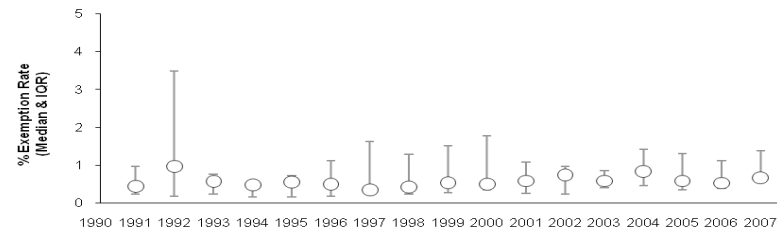
Easy Exemption Policy



Medium Exemption Policy



Difficult Exemption Policy



Omer et al., Journal of American Medical Association, 2006

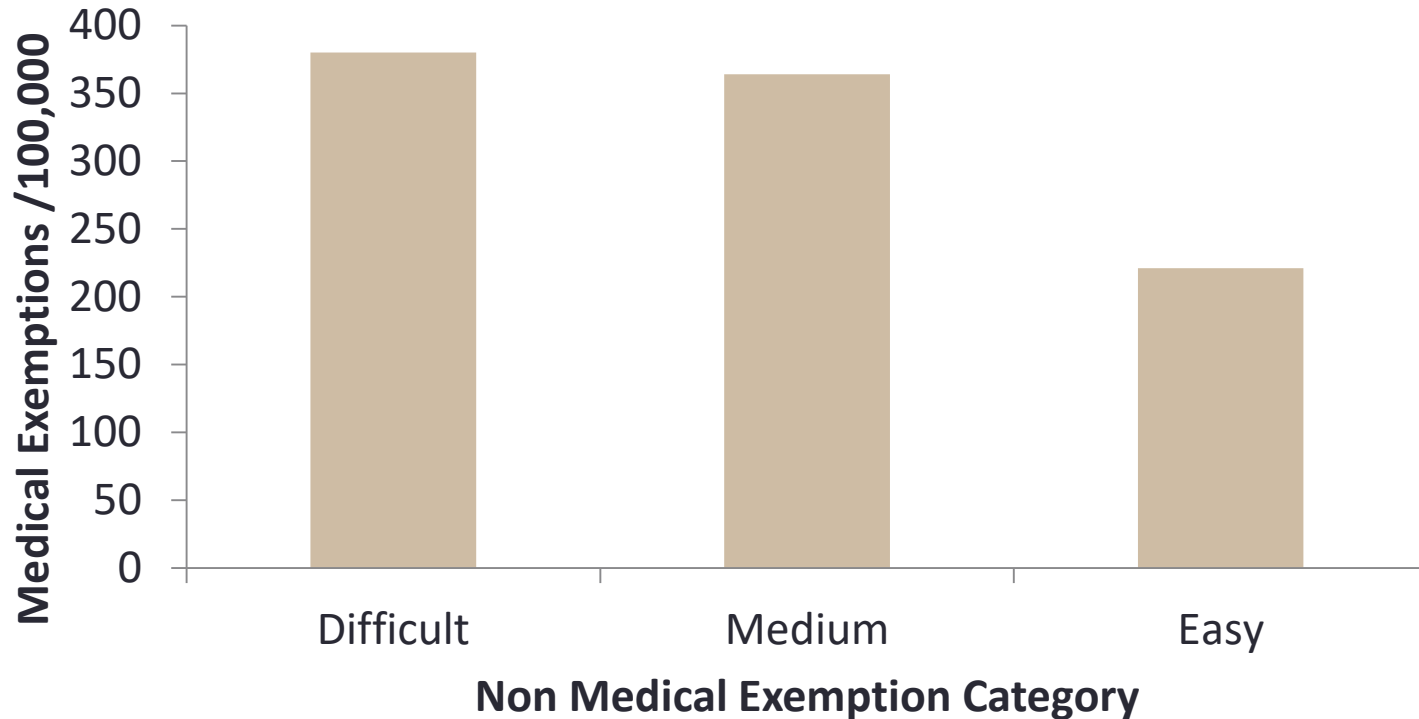
Data updated

Legislation Related to School Immunization Mandates, 2009-2012

- 36 immunization bills introduced
 - Restricting exemptions: 5
 - 3 passed
 - Expanding exemptions: 31
 - 0 passed

Omer et al., Journal of American Medical Association, 2014

Association of State Non-medical Exemption Policies With Medical Exemption Rates



Stadlin, Bednarczyk, Omer JID 2012

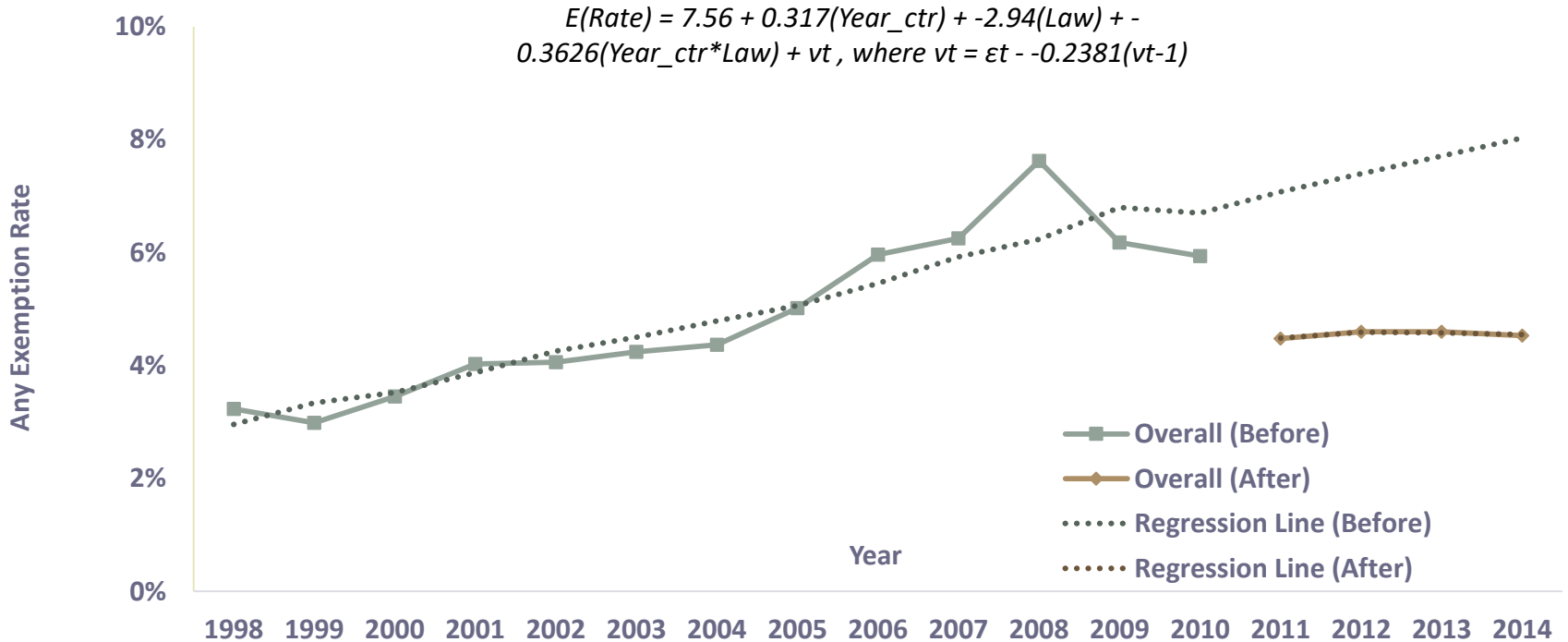
Washington Exemption Law

- SB 5005
 - Educational counseling and signed form from a licensed (in WA) health care provider in order to obtain a nonmedical exemption

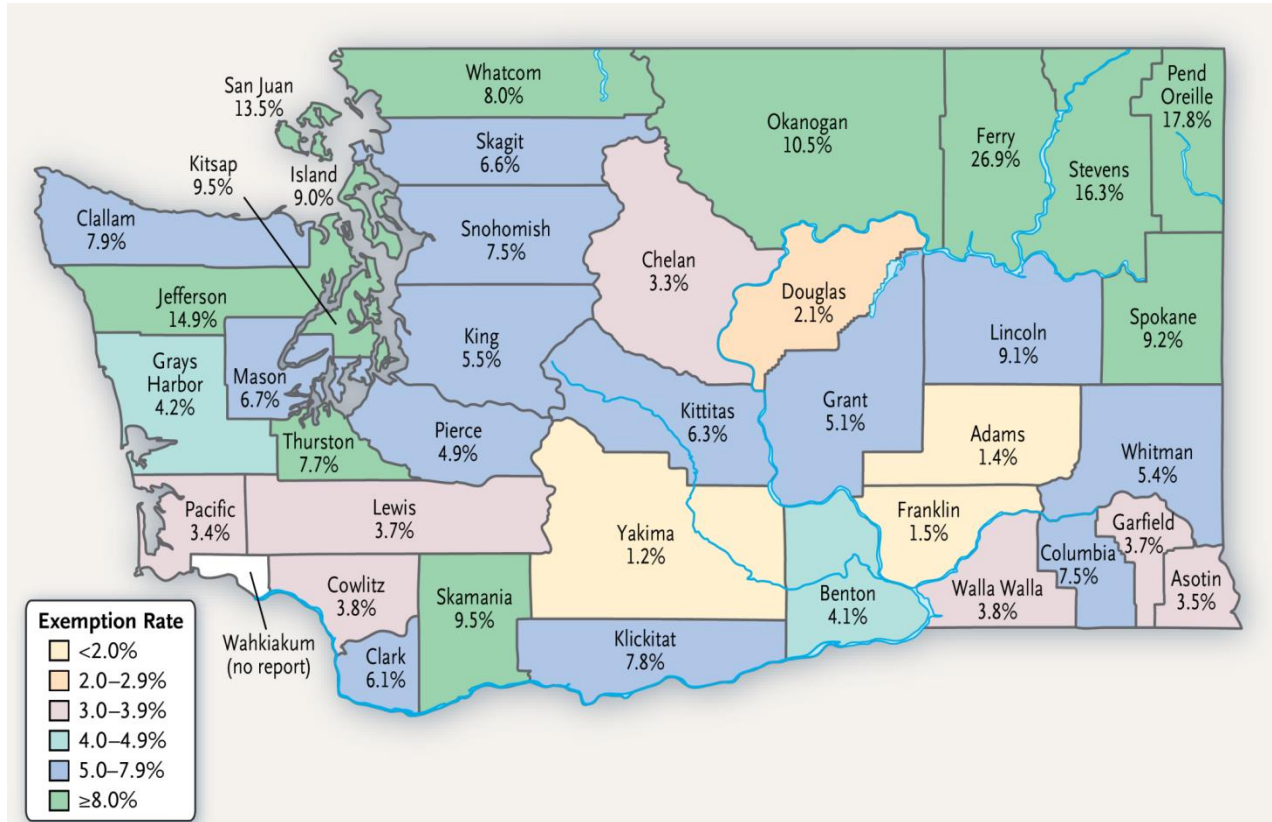
Law in effect
July 22, 2011

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
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Impact of Change in Washington Exemption Law

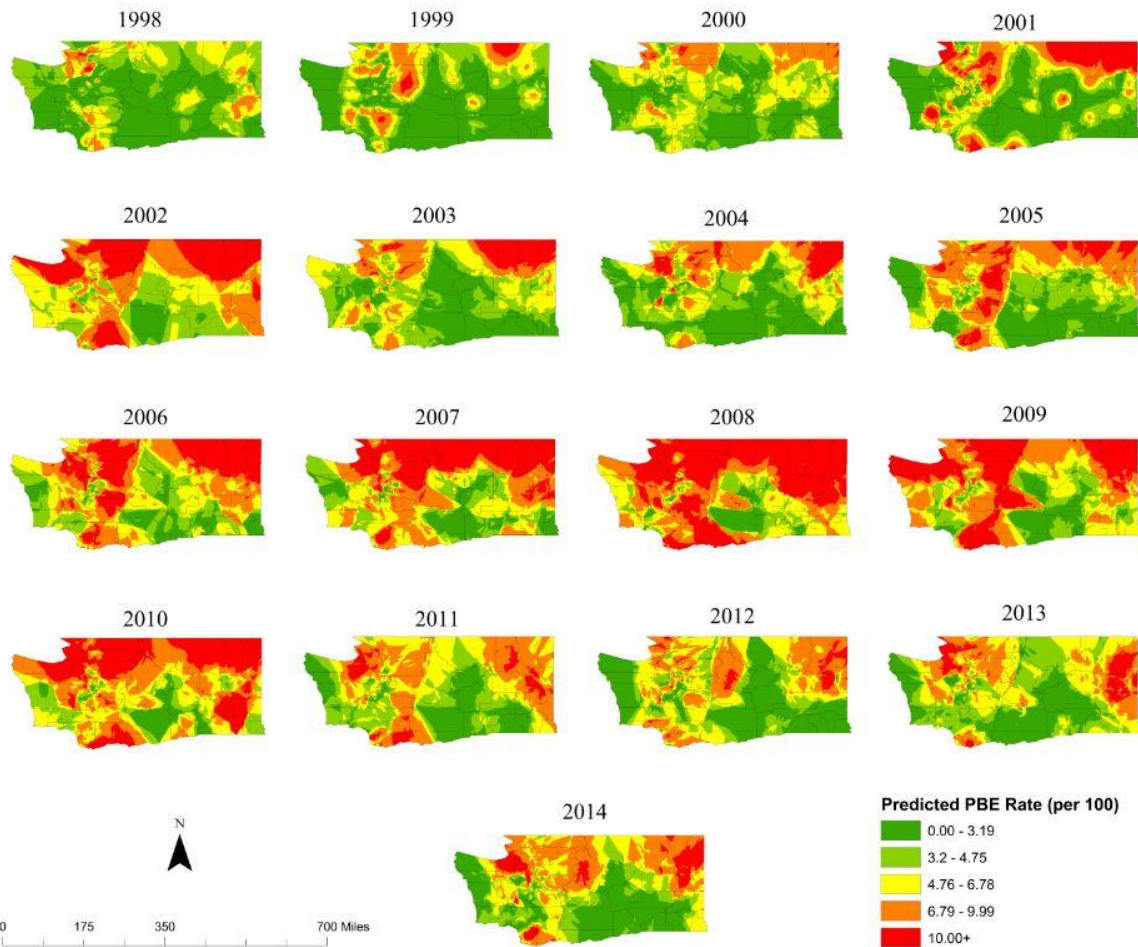


WA State Counties' School Entry Exemption Rates - 2006-2007



Omer et al., *New Eng Journal of Medicine*, 2009

Predicted PBE Rate (per 100), Washington 1998-2014



How to Handle the Vaccine Skeptics

Sign a form that discusses the risks of non-vaccination

Letter elaborating on the reason their child should be exempt

In-person counseling

**Obtain the form by specifically requesting one from the state or
local health department,**

vs. downloading it online

Procedures to review each request for exemption

Annual renewal

Thank You!