

Impact of Vaccine Hesitancy and Strategies to Increase Immunization

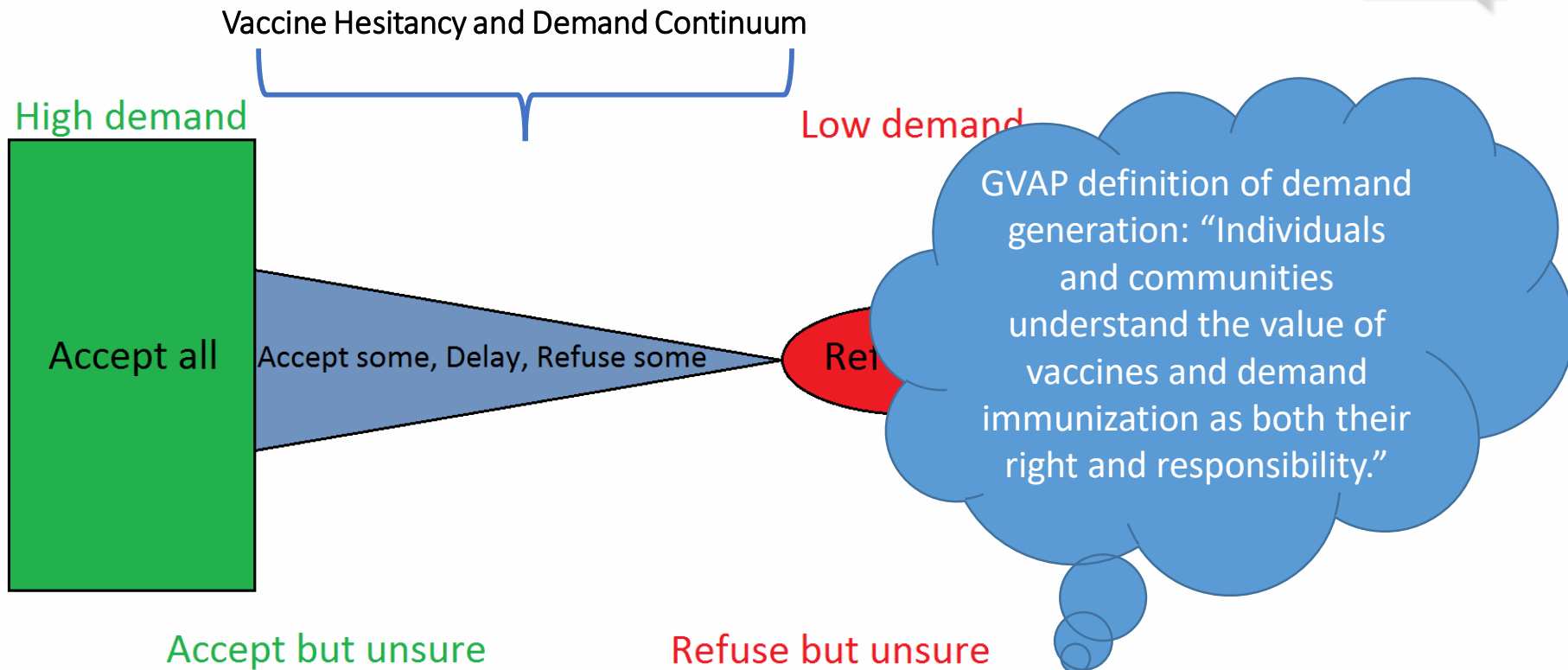
Saad B. Omer, MBBS MPH PhD

William H. Foege Professor of Global Health

Professor of Epidemiology & Pediatrics



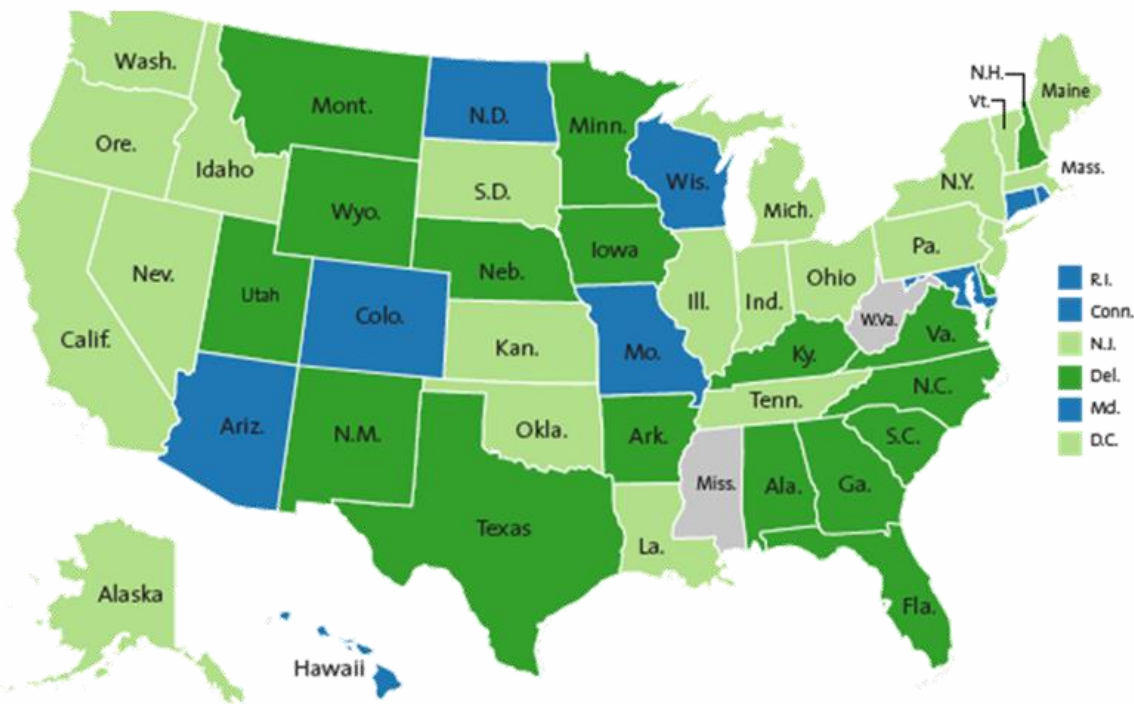
EMORY UNIVERSITY



Impact of Vaccine Hesitancy

Ease of Obtaining Vaccine Exemptions –by State

■ Easy ■ Medium ■ Difficult ■ No data available



Exemption Policies & Whooping Cough Incidence, 1986-2004

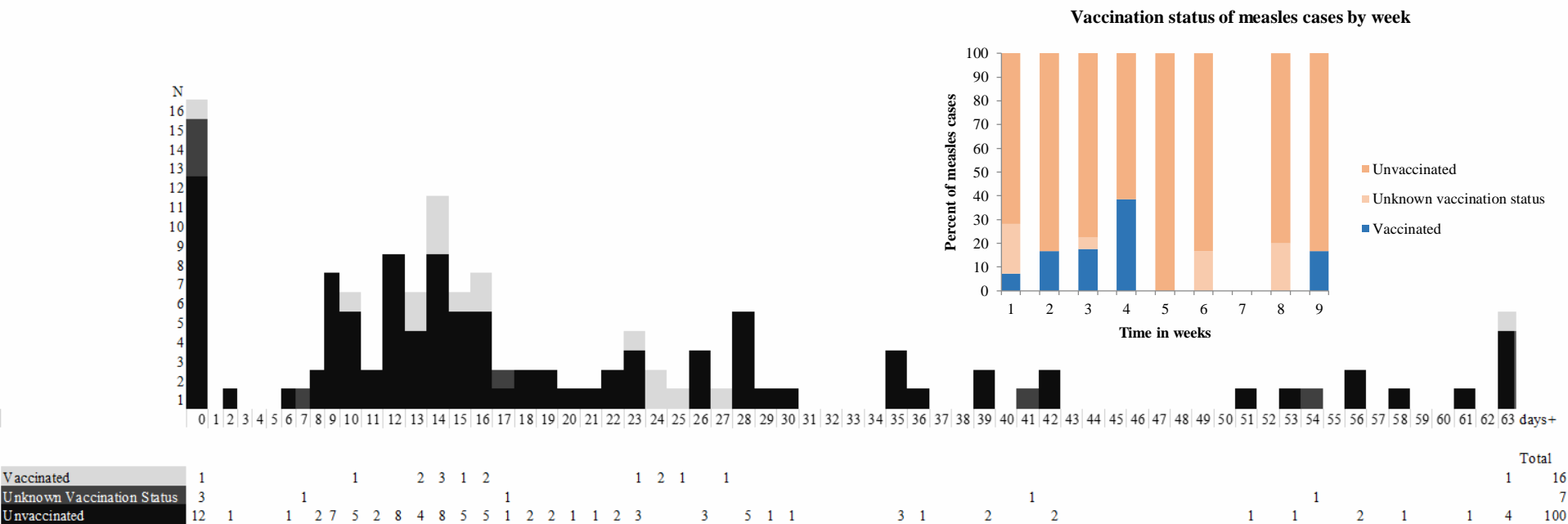
| Exemption ease | Incidence Rate Ratio |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Difficult | Reference |
| Medium | 1.35 (0.96-1.91) |
| Easy | 1.53 (1.10-2.14) |

Omer et al., JAMA, 2006

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

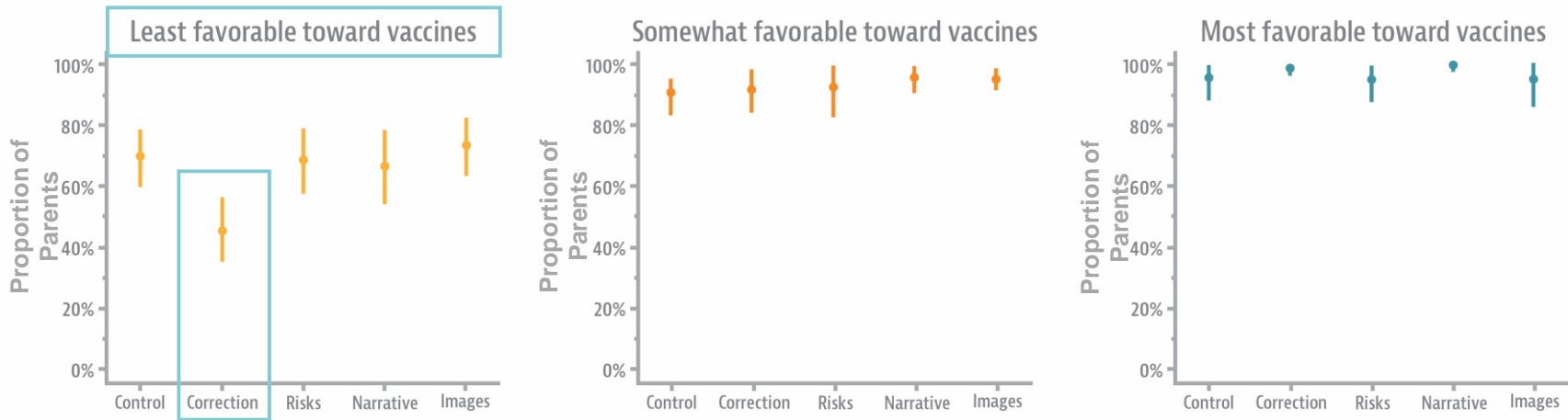
Figure (with updated 2013 data) created by Mother Jones

Cumulative Epidemic Curve of 16 Measles Outbreaks 2000 - 2015, United States



**Correct misinformation
regarding vaccine safety?**

Correcting MMR Vaccine Myths



Main points: 1) Outcome persisted even when knowledge scores increased

2) Misperceptions may not be overcome with knowledge alone

4. Nyhan & Reifler, 2015

Evidence-based Strategies

- 1 Behavioral economics
- 2 Clinical psychology
- 3 Heuristics

Affect vs. Cognition

BMW AG
1.5L TURBOCHARGED
DOHC I-3

Displacement:

1,499 cc

Block / head material:

aluminum / aluminum

Horsepower (SAE net):

134 @ 4,500-6,000 rpm

Torque:

162 lb.-ft. (220 Nm)
@ 1,250 rpm

Specific output:

89 hp/L

Bore x stroke:

82 x 94.6 mm

Compression ratio:

11.0:1

EPA city / highway:

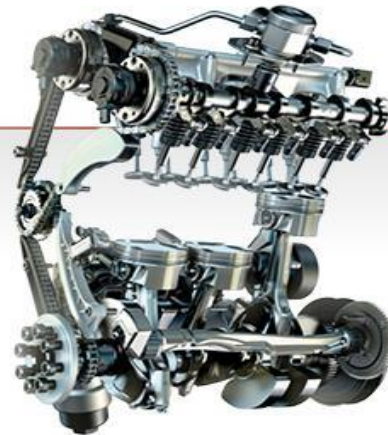
29 / 40 mpg


Assembly site:

Hams Hall,
Warwickshire, U.K.

Application tested:

'15 Mini Cooper Hardtop





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* Acceleration claim based on BMW AG test results. Figures based on 23 mpg city/33 mpg hwy for 328i Automatic Transmission. May change as a result of EPA testing. †Whichever comes first. For full details on BMW Ultimate Service® visit bmwusa.com/ultimateservice.
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Intervention 1: Cognitively-Based iPad App

Vaccines for a Healthy Pregnancy

EMORY
ROLLINS
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

- I.I Introduction to Tutorial
- I.II About Flu and Whooping Cough
- I.III Getting Vaccinated During Pregnancy: The Flu and Whooping Cough Shots
- I.IV Vaccine Safety During



2 What shots should I get and when?

For the Flu:
To protect against flu, pregnant women should get the **inactivated flu shot**, not the nasal spray form of the vaccine. The sooner you get the shot, the better. CDC recommends that the flu shot can be given at any point during pregnancy. The flu season in the United States runs from September – May. Flu shots are often available by September, and in some cases even in August. Whether you are pregnant at any point during flu season, or are planning to have your baby during flu season, it is important to get your vaccine.

For Whooping Cough:
The **Tdap shot** is the vaccine which protects you from whooping cough. While it's safe to get Tdap any time during pregnancy, it's best to wait until your second or third trimester (20 weeks or later) to make sure your fetus gets the most antibodies it can right before birth.

Can I get both shots at the same visit?
Yes! It is safe to both you and your fetus to get both shots at once.



1 What are flu and whooping cough, and how do they affect pregnant women?



Kevin A. Ault, MD
Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics
Emory University School of Medicine

Both Flu and whooping cough:

- Are highly contagious
- Affect your lungs, throat, nose and sinuses
- Flu can be more serious during pregnancy due to changes in your body and immune system

4 How do I know the benefits of getting these shots outweigh the risks?

For my baby?
Studies have shown that getting vaccinated for flu during pregnancy can reduce the likelihood that your baby will be born prematurely or of low birth weight. By protecting yourself from getting sick, you increase the chances your baby stays healthy and is born on time.

Protective antibodies that you produce to the shots have been shown to pass from your blood to the baby through your placenta or umbilical cord. Antibodies also pass through breastmilk which is extremely important for protecting your newborn before they are able to get shots themselves. Babies cannot receive their first whooping cough vaccine until they are 2 months old, and they cannot receive a flu vaccine until they are at least 6 months old. **Protecting yourself through vaccination is the best way to protect your baby during their most vulnerable few months.**

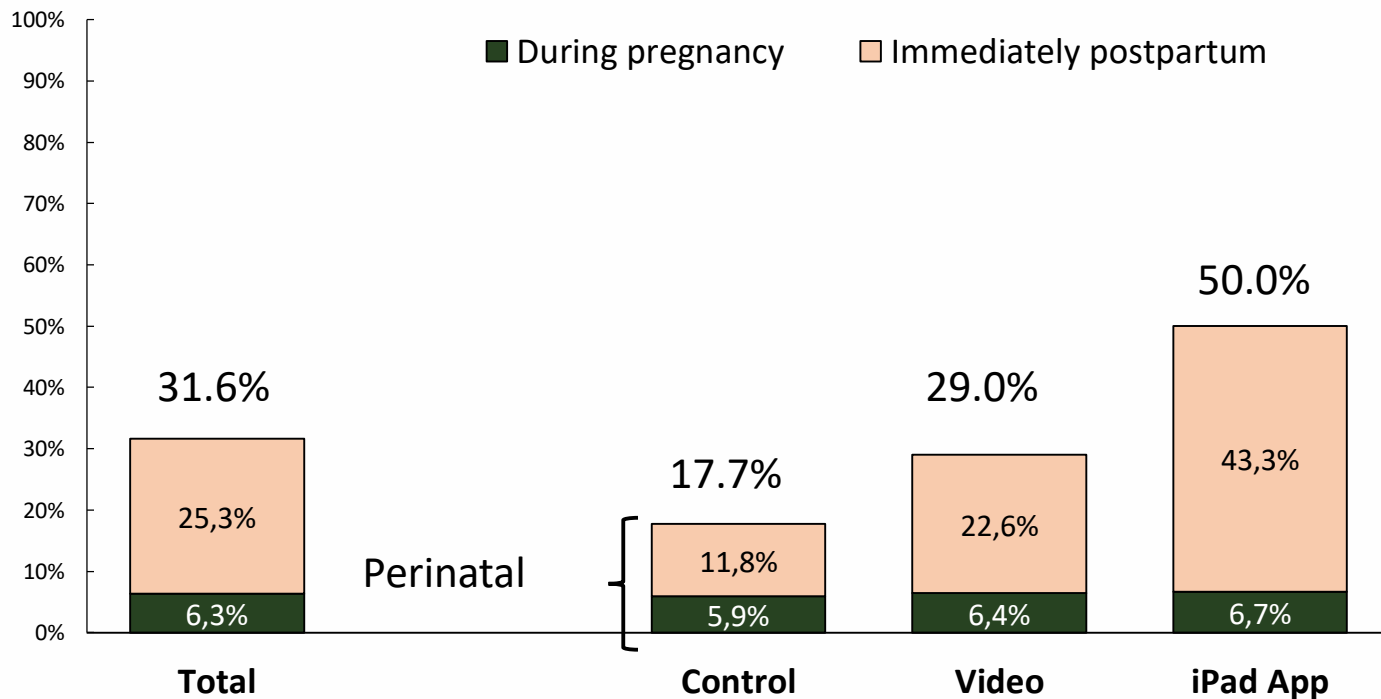
Seeing a baby suffer from whooping cough is terrible. The babies struggle to breathe through bouts of terrible coughing. Doing whatever you can to prevent your newborn from getting sick with whooping cough is important.



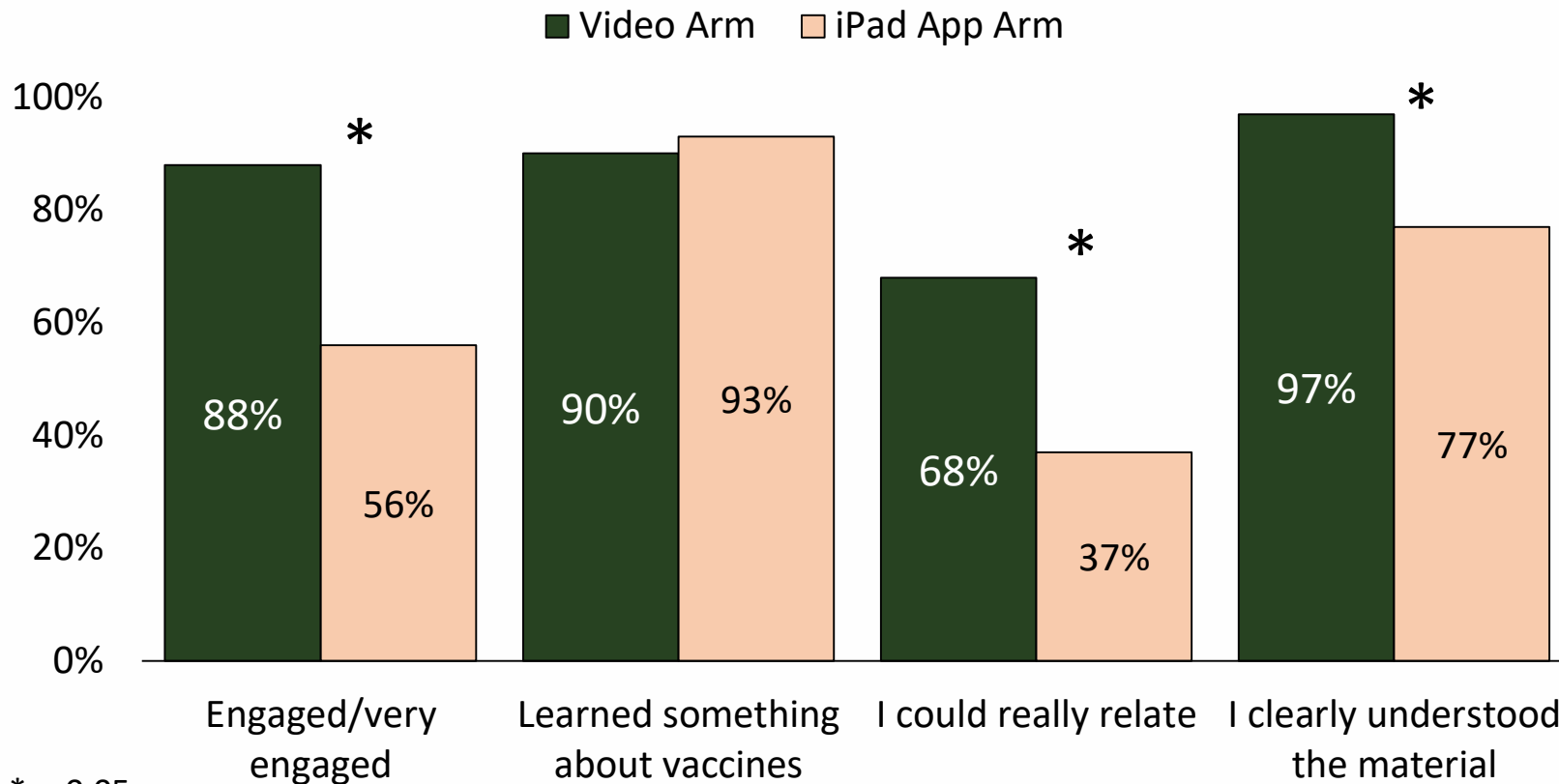
Intervention 2: Affectively-Based Video



Tdap Vaccination During Pregnancy and Postpartum



Engagement with the Interventions



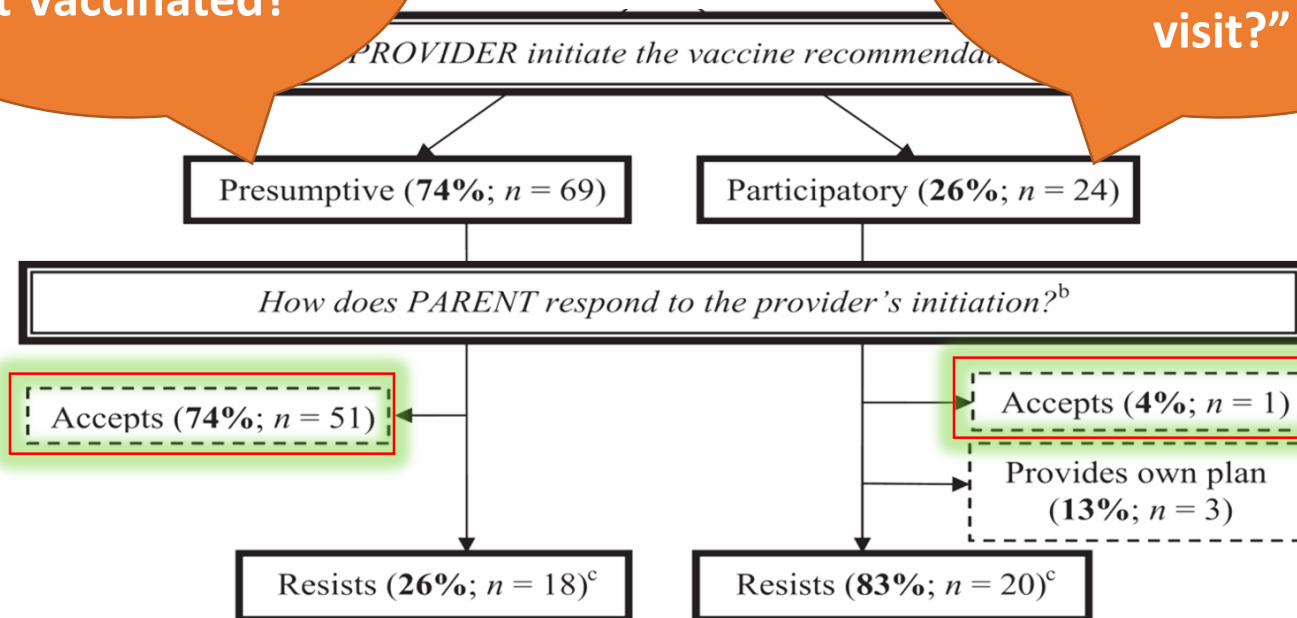
*p<0.05

How can we leverage power of defaults?

The Architecture of Provider-Parent Vaccine Discussions

"It's time for little Johnny to get Vaccinated?"

"Should little Johnny get vaccinated at this visit?"

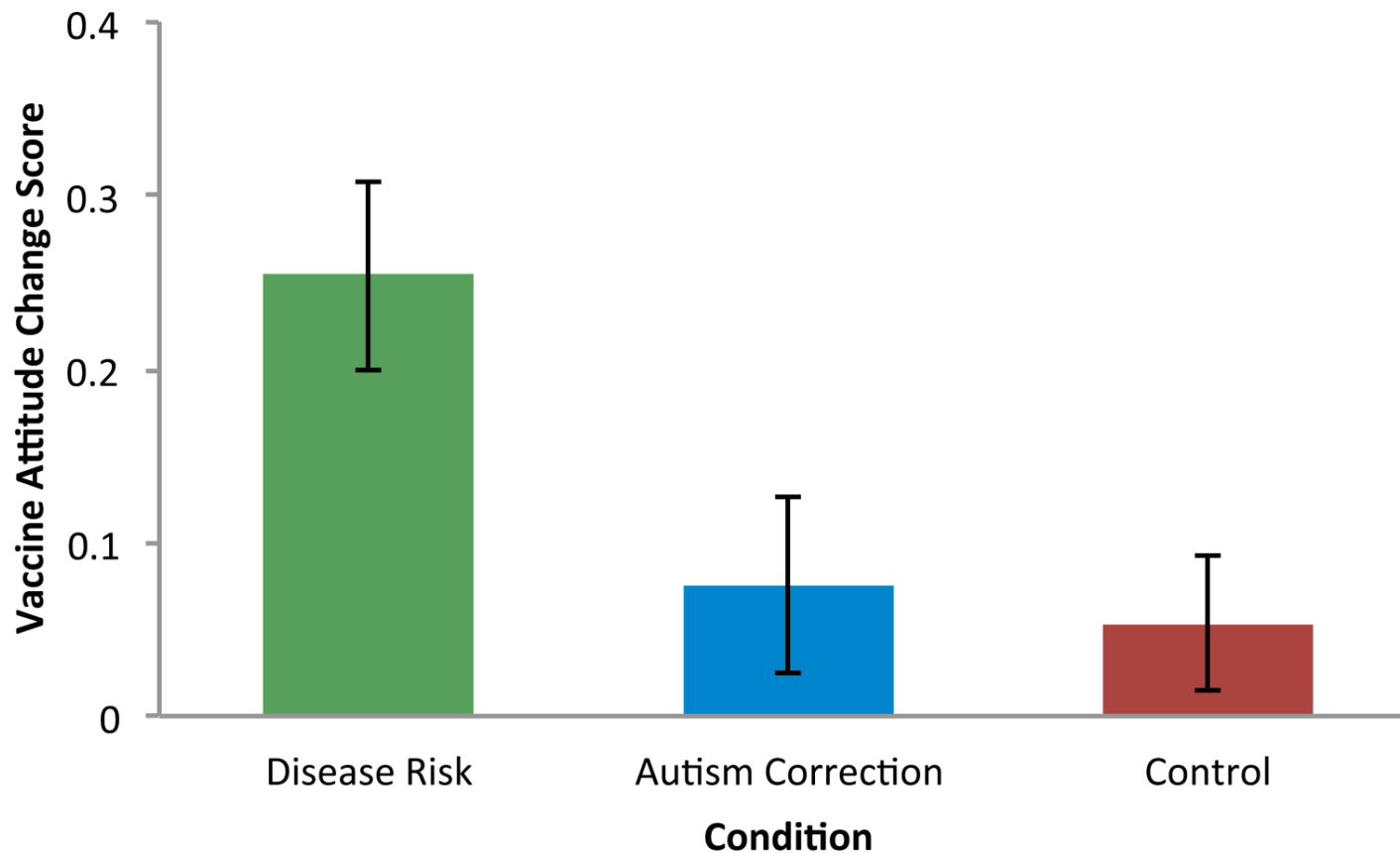


Talk about the disease

Disease Risk Salience

- Can backfire
- Do not shock
 - Could induce behavioral paralysis + dismissal of subsequent information
- Always include a solution
 - ↑Self Efficacy
 - ↑Response Efficacy
- Use sparingly & Ethically





Framing

Ending with Self-Efficacy



After you inform parents of disease risks, do not leave them hanging



Provide parents with actions they can take to protect themselves (self-efficacy^{8,9})



Now you should address the vaccination again
The single best way to protect yourself AND your baby

8. Witte, 1992 9. Barnett, et al., 2009

**We are excellent linguists but
poor statisticians**

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY 5, 207–232

“people judge the probability of events by the ease in which instances could be brought to mind”

psychologyandsociety.com

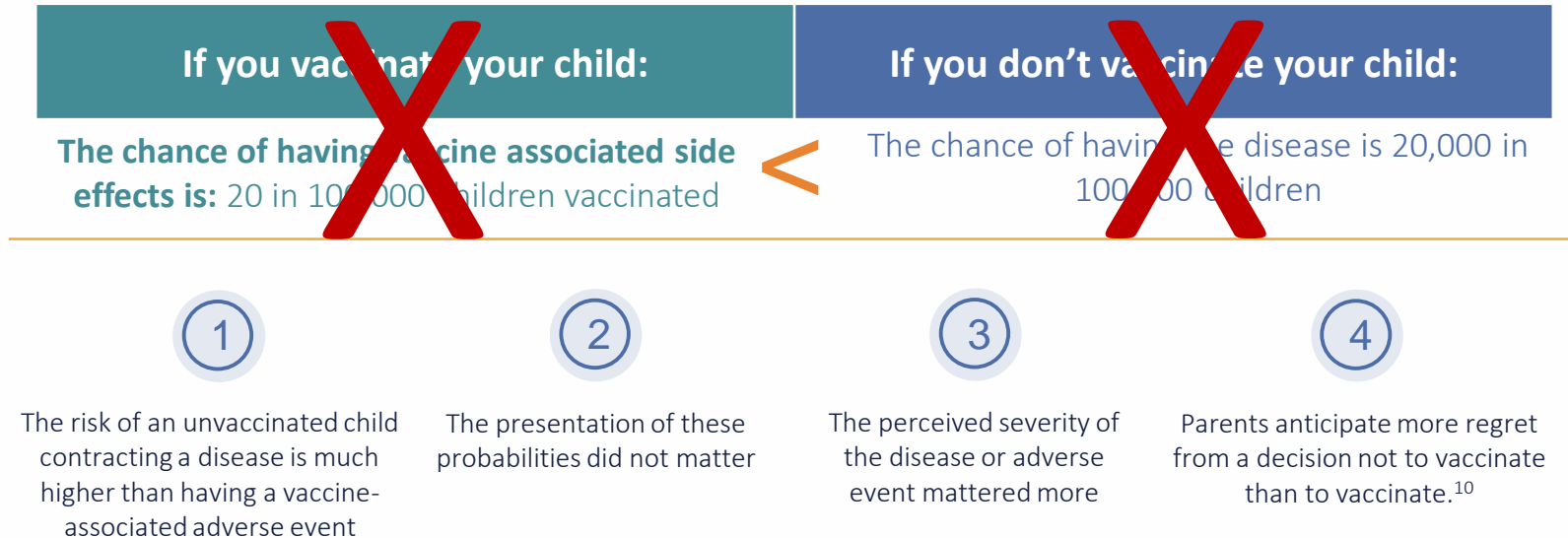
Availability: A Heuristic for Frequency and Probability

AMOS TVERSKY AND DANIEL KAHNEMAN

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Oregon Research Institute

Content

What Matters to Parents?



Main point: Perceived disease severity resonates more than statistical probabilities



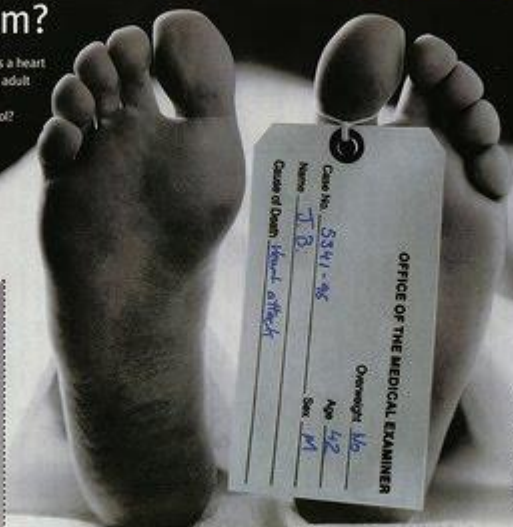
Which would you rather have, a **cholesterol** test or a final exam?

For many, the first sign of heart disease is a heart attack. Did you know that one out of two adult Canadians is at risk of developing heart disease because they have high cholesterol? And that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Canada?

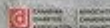
High cholesterol is a major risk factor for heart disease but managing your cholesterol can be quite simple.

If any of these apply to you, cut this screening test out and ask your doctor about getting your cholesterol tested:

- Woman 50 years or older
- Man 40 years or older
- Heart disease (angina, heart attack, coronary bypass, stroke, angioplasty)
- Diabetes
- Family history (mother, father, sister, brother or grandparent) of heart disease or high cholesterol
- Two or more of the following:
 - Overweight
 - Physically inactive
 - Smoker
 - High blood pressure



Call toll free at
1-877-4-LOW-LDL
(1-877-456-9535) or visit
www.makingtheconnection.ca
and you will receive this
free booklet describing the
connection between cholesterol
and heart disease.



The Canadian Diabetes Association has provided the "Making the Connection" program to its member and affiliate members. The Canadian Lipid Institute does not endorse the program or any of the products or services mentioned in the program.



**What to do when you cannot
get out of correcting a myth?**

Framing

Addressing a Myth

Sometimes addressing a myth is unavoidable – what should you do?

Clearly state that her assertion is a myth

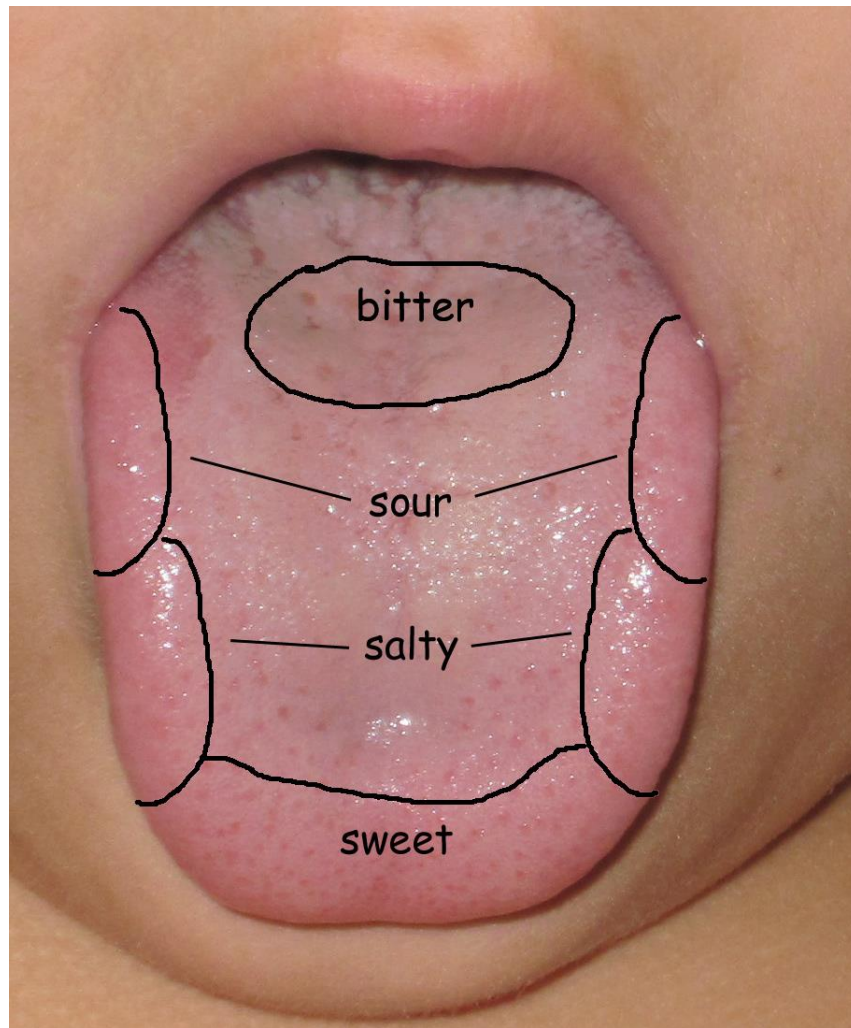
State why the myth is not true

Replace the myth with the best
alternative explanation



Think of it like a blank space where
her belief in the myth used to reside

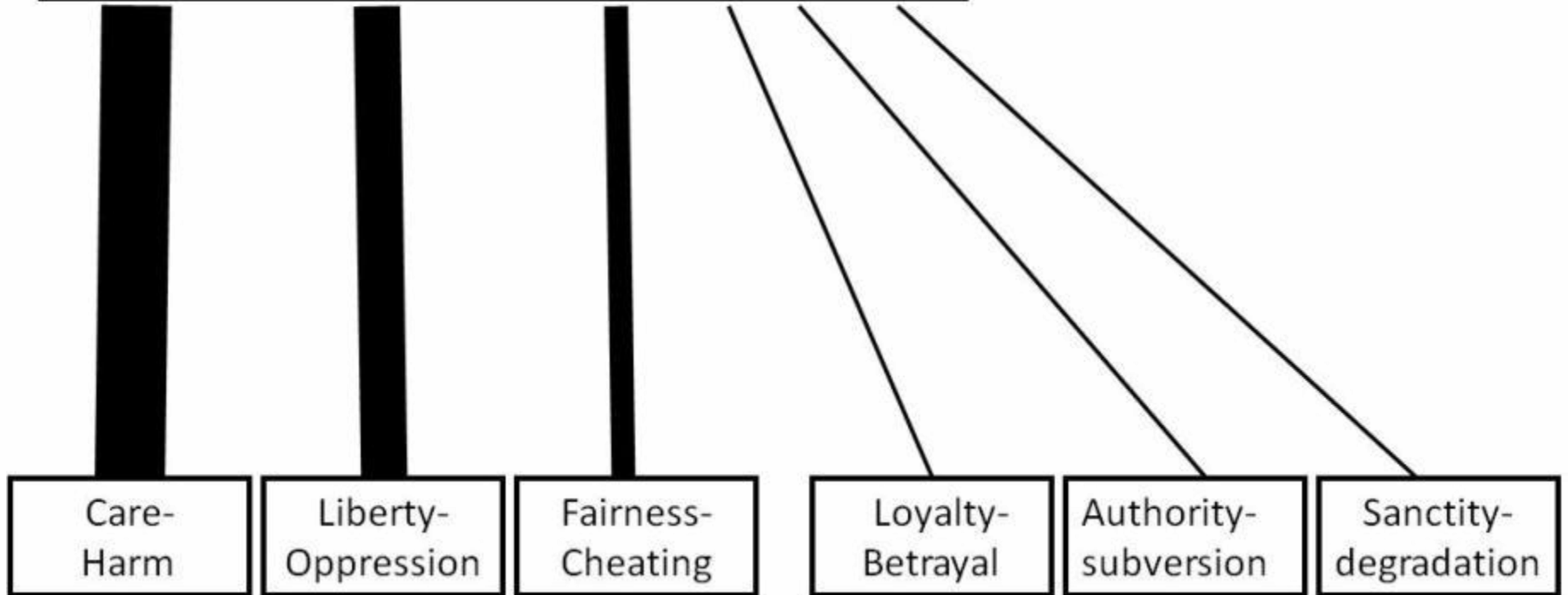
Value the underlying values



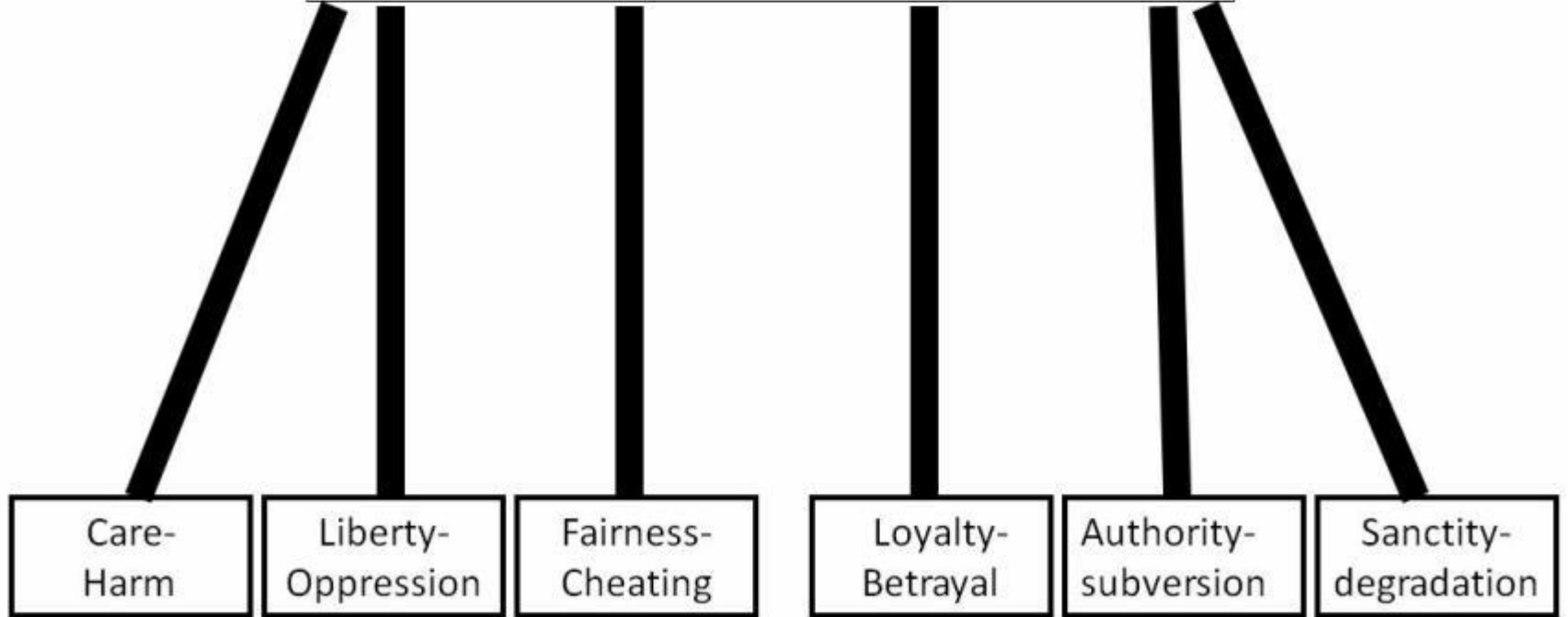


The Liberal Moral Matrix

Most sacred value: care for victims of oppression



The Social-Conservative Moral Matrix
Most sacred value: Preserve the institutions and traditions that sustain a moral community



Disease eradication: walk the last mile first

Go Big and Go Fast — Vaccine Refusal and Disease Eradication

Saad B. Omer, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., Walter A. Orenstein, M.D., and Jeffrey P. Koplan, M.D., M.P.H.

Disease eradication is an attractive public health goal. In addition to eliminating illnesses and deaths, eradication can lead to substantial cost savings. Eradication has been attempted for many human and animal diseases, such as smallpox, malaria, hookworm disease, polio, rinderpest, yaws, dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease), and yellow fever, and many tools have been employed in these efforts. But in the two diseases that were successfully eradicated, smallpox and rinderpest, the main tool was a vaccine. Eradication strategies for polio (a major current focus of global eradication efforts) and measles (whose eradication is being considered) rely on high vaccination coverage through routine and supplementary immunization.

Many factors contribute to the development of clusters of people who refuse vaccines, including changes over time in attitudes toward vaccines. If aggressive control efforts have substantially reduced a disease's incidence, few people in a given community may have direct (or indirect) experience with that disease. Therefore, successive age cohorts have only a vague collective memory of the disease's dangers, whereas people may frequently hear about real and perceived adverse effects of vaccination. Parental perception of risks and benefits associated with vaccines is thus altered, and vaccine refusals often increase.¹ North American and European countries, for example, have seen substantial reductions in the rates of vaccine-prevent-

Empirical studies have validated this model as a predictor of vaccine refusal. In the context of eradication, reduction in disease incidence reduces the perceptions of susceptibility to disease and its complications, diminishing an important motivation for accepting a vaccine.

It is often assumed that this phenomenon does not apply to low-income countries where there is increasing opposition to vaccines, despite the high burden of infectious diseases. This perspective misses an important point: perceptions regarding vaccines are often vaccine-specific and disease-specific. For example, in high-income countries, although many parents have generalized concerns regarding immunization, perceptions of specific vac-

“Some people have never even seen polio, but yet they keep giving us medicine for it,” one Nigerian told a researcher.

“If you look around it is hard to find 2 or 3 people with polio, but it is easy to go to the hospital and find 50 people sick with no money to buy the medicine they need to be treated with. Help them instead, but No! You find a small baby who is well and drop medicine in his mouth, for free!”

In Summary

10 Major Points

1

Presume
vaccination

2

Don't affirm a
misperception

3

Avoid lingering on
a myth

4

Seek permission to
share your knowledge

5

Connect to a
parent's values

In Summary

10 Major Points

6

Pivot to the disease
and focus on severity

7

Follow severity
with self-efficacy

8

Know 1-2
easy-to-remember
facts

9

Continue the
conversation

10

Make vaccination the
norm

Smart investments that improve immunisation equity

Inspirational activities for practitioners, managers and influencers of demand promotion



VIEWPOINT

Communicating About Vaccines in a Fact-Resistant World

JAMA Pediatrics

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The continued success of vaccines, one of the most effective public health interventions, depends on high rates of acceptance. Vaccine refusal in the United States has increased since the late 1990s.¹ This trend has coincided with an increase in vaccine safety concerns. Such concerns result from easy recall of adverse events, misinformation, and human tendency to poorly judge probabilities. When a significant proportion of the US population is impervious to scientific facts, such as belief in human-induced climate change, it is difficult to communicate vaccine-related information to patients.

Parent-physician communication in such conditions is challenging and, if done improperly, may worsen the problem. Although the evidence base for vaccine-related communications is still emerging, we present developments in social and behavioral communication, behavioral economics, social psychology, and persuasion

phenomenon, not only for parents but also for physicians. For example, physicians who graduated from medical school between 1995 and 2002 had relatively less favorable attitudes regarding vaccines compared with those who graduated between 1954 and 1964.⁴

Countering Misinformation and the Boomerang Effect

The instinctive response to vaccine-related misinformation is to provide correct information. However, this information correction-based approach has limitations and can backfire. For many, processing information on controversial topics occurs in a way that preserves pre-existing beliefs. Individuals who receive messages opposing their pre-existing beliefs may not just resist challenges to their views but support their original opinion even more.³ Coined the *boomerang effect* by psycholo-

Thank You



@SaadOmer3

