



National Policy and Practice Trends in Vaccines

Elizabeth Hudgins, MPP, Exec Director NC Pediatric Society

The NC Pediatric Society

- ▶ Membership organization - 2000+ pediatricians and other child health professionals across NC
- ▶ State chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, incorporated in NC
- ▶ Mission: Empower pediatricians and our partners to foster the physical, social and emotional well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults

Our Members Really Value Vaccines



- ▶ Vaccines protect against disease, disability and death
- ▶ Vaccines are safe and effective
- ▶ One of the most cost-effective public health strategies
- ▶ Even helps people who don't get vaccines

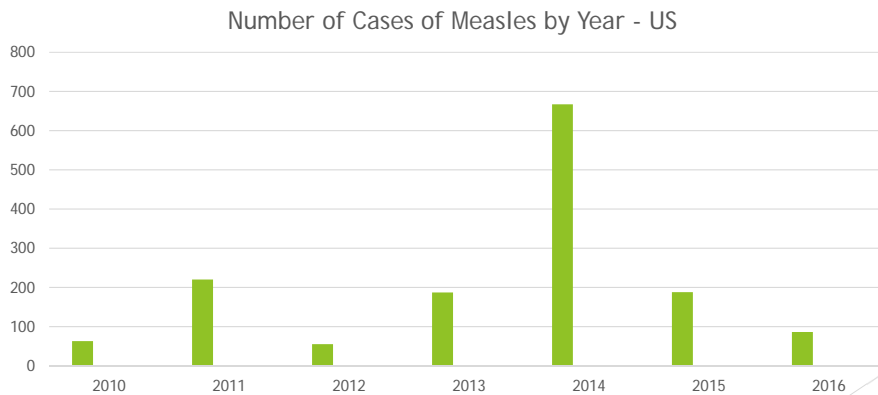
Herd Immunity

Disease	R0	Threshold (%)
Mumps	4-7	75-86
Polio	5-7	80-86
Smallpox	5-7	80-85
Diphtheria	6-7	85
Rubella	6-7	83-85
Pertussis	12-17	92-94
Measles	12-18	83-94

Photo credit: © Tangled Bank Studios; data from Epidemiologic Reviews 1993.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/herd-immunity.html>

Measles Trends in US



Source: CDC, Measles Cases and Outbreaks, 2-18
<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>

Reasons for Vaccine Exemptions

- ▶ Medical
- ▶ Religious
- ▶ Philosophical
- ▶ All states but three allow religious and/or philosophical exemptions
 - ▶ California
 - ▶ Mississippi
 - ▶ West Virginia
- ▶ States vary in how hard it is to claim the exemption
- ▶ NC - Religious but not philosophical
Statute: N.C. Gen. Stat. 130A-155, 156, 157

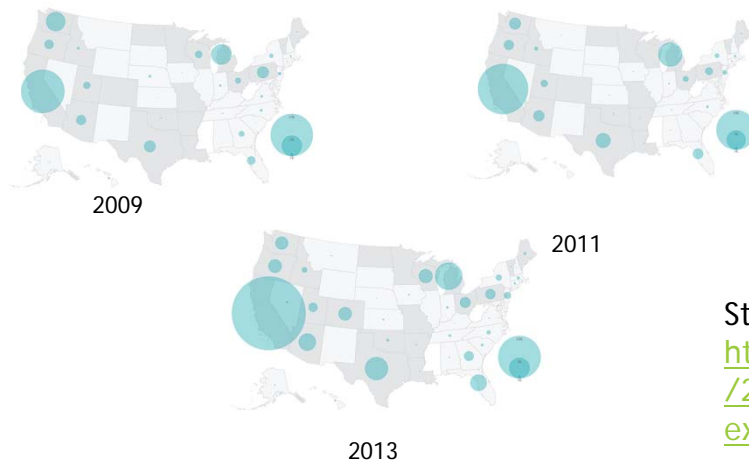


Dbennenn (talk | contribs)



By Didier Descouens - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17959279>

Non-medical exemptions going up in some states



Stat News, Jan 2017
<https://www.statnews.com/2017/01/20/vaccine-exemptions-states/>

Rise now spreading to some other states (even without policy changes)

“But in a number of other states, nonmedical exemptions have continued to rise. In 11 states — Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Virginia — the number of kids not being vaccinated for nonmedical reasons is higher than at any point in the past five years. (With the caveat, however, that CDC data for the 2010-2011 school year is unavailable.)”

StatNews, January 2017

<https://www.statnews.com/2017/01/20/vaccine-exemptions-states>

Vaccine issues can be complex

- ▶ Vaccines for Children (receiving Medicaid)
 - ▶ pediatricians supplied the product: get paid for administration
 - ▶ Product must be kept separately (i.e., two fridges)
 - ▶ Timing doesn't always synch
- ▶ Health Choice
 - ▶ Product reimbursed but at less than cost until (scheduled) April 2018 (NC specific)
- ▶ Pediatricians' patients include newborns and medically fragile patients
- ▶ New vaccines and recommendations frequent (ACIP)
- ▶ Some parents may have more concerns about some vaccines than other vaccines



Vaccine exemptions can be funny

- ▶ Samantha Bee: <https://www.thewrap.com/samantha-bee/>
- ▶ Jimmy Fallon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqpfNScEd3M>
- ▶ Penn and Teller <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfdZTZQvuCo>
- ▶ Larry Wilmore <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/j8qj0j/the-nightly-show-with-larry-wilmore-vaccines>

List is not exhaustive. Note some language may be offensive.

Vaccines are a major topic of conversation among pediatricians - 30% of top AAP member selected priorities in past 3 years

- ▶ 2016 - 2 of the top 10 national AAP leadership resolutions focused on vaccines
 - ▶ Elimination of non-medical exemptions
 - ▶ AAP support for both pediatricians who decide to discharge patients after reasonable efforts to work with parents who refuse to immunize their children, and pediatricians who continue to serve families with unvaccinated children
- ▶ 2018 - 1 of top 10 resolutions focused on immunization
 - ▶ Universal access

AAP Statement on non-medical exemptions

"The AAP views nonmedical exemptions to school-required immunizations as inappropriate for individual, public health, and ethical reasons and advocates for their elimination."

- ▶ <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/3/e20162145>
- ▶ September 2016 *Pediatrics*

Some states are reducing available exemptions

- ▶ California eliminated personal belief exemption in 2015
- ▶ Vermont eliminated philosophical exemptions in 2015



Supporting Pediatricians Who Discharge Families Who Refuse or Delay Vaccines

Work with Families Who Delay or Refuse Vaccines

- ▶ Want to build trust
- ▶ Hope to persuade over time
- ▶ Only health care provider in region

Discharge Families Who Delay or Refuse Vaccines

- ▶ Concerned about other patients, especially those who cannot be vaccinated (such as newborns)
- ▶ May not be a good match for the family
- ▶ Administratively burdensome

Improved education reduces vaccine hesitancy

WASHINGTON STATE LAW REQUIRING PARENTAL COUNSELING LED TO DECREASE IN EXEMPTIONS FROM IMMUNIZATIONS

After the state of Washington enacted a law that requires parental counseling for obtaining vaccine exemptions by health care providers, the statewide exemption rate declined significantly, according to a study published in the January 2018 issue of *Pediatrics*. The study, "Exemptions from Mandatory Immunization after Legally Mandated Parental Counseling" (published online Dec. 18) examined the effect of Senate Bill 5005, implemented in 2011. The law requires parents seeking an exemption for a child's immunizations to submit a "Certificate of Exemption" signed by a Washington-licensed health care provider that documents that the parent had discussed the "benefits and risks of immunizations" with the provider. [The authors found a 40.2-percent decrease in exemption rates in Washington after the law was enforced.](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/Washington-State-Law-Requiring-Parental-Counseling-Led-to-Decrease-in-Exemptions-from-Immunizations.aspx) The absolute statewide reduction in vaccine exemptions declined by 2.9 percentage points. The authors conclude that more states and jurisdictions in other countries should consider adding parental counseling as a requirement for obtaining exemptions to vaccination requirements.

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/Washington-State-Law-Requiring-Parental-Counseling-Led-to-Decrease-in-Exemptions-from-Immunizations.aspx>

January 2018, *Pediatrics*

Questions?



Contact Information

Elizabeth Hudgins
NC Pediatric Society
elizabeth@ncpeds.org
919-839-1156 x104

