Vaccine Beliefs of Complementary and Alternative Medical Providers in Oregon—Preliminary Findings

Oregon Public Health Association





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Overview

- Vaccines save millions of lives a year
- Oregon parental exemptions
- Vaccine-opposing populations → outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs)
- Health care providers (HCPs) seen as trustworthy

(e.g., Baker et al., 2007; Gangarosa et al., 1998; Kennedy et al., Omer et al., 2008, Atwater et al., 2013—in press)





Vaccines Save Lives

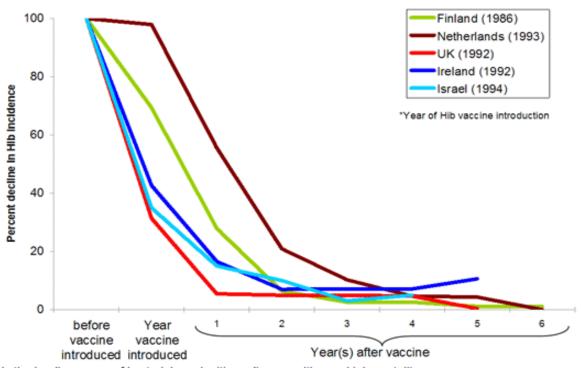
- Smallpox—30% mortality rate
- H.influenza B—before vaccine, 386,000 deaths worldwide
- Polio—U.S. 1952, 21,000 infected; 2012, 0 persons infected—disease eradication achieved, nearly extinct
- Malaria vaccine possible, but still challenging. kills 1M each year. Every minute, a child dies from

malaria.



Importance—Hib

386,000 deaths before the vaccine was introduced



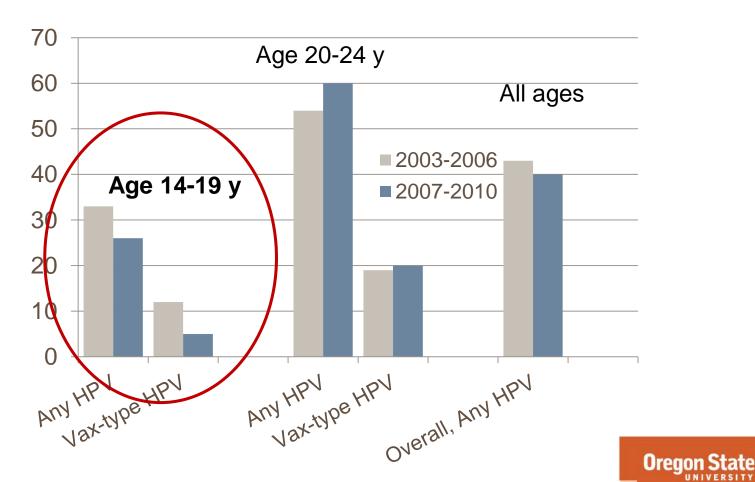
(+)Hib is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis, a disease with very high mortality.

(*) Year country introduced Hib vaccine

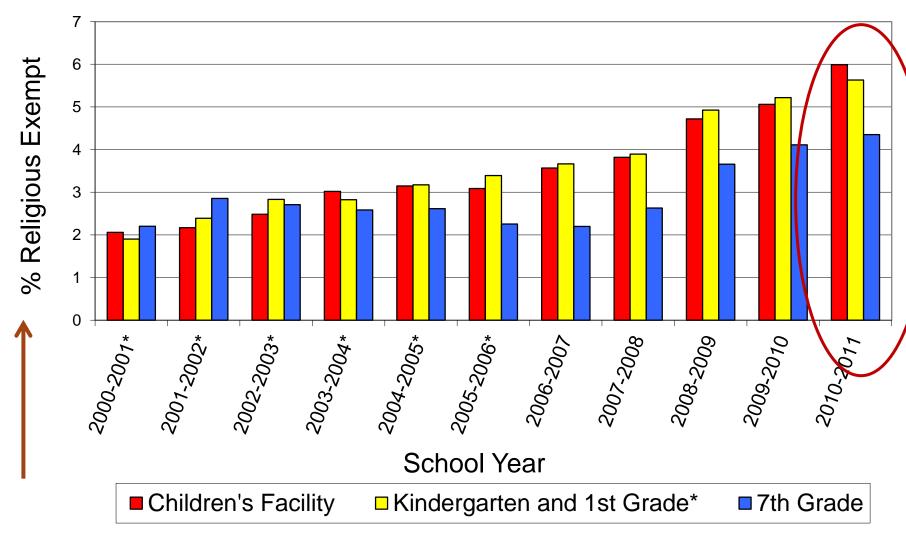
(Source: European Union-IBIS)



Importance—HPV in females % prevalence HPV change pre-vax to post-vax



Oregon Religious Exemption Rates 2000 – 2011



Role of HCPs



- Parents trust HCPs, who influence health decisions.
- HCPs → whether a parent will agree to vaccinate her children
- The public is increasingly turning to complementary and alternative medical (CAM) providers, who are less likely to recommend vaccination

(Downey et al., 2010; Gust et al., 2009, Kennedy et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2005; Moseley et al., 2001; Tindle et al., 2005)

CAM Providers



- CAM providers influence vaccine decisions
- CAM modalities are popular in Oregon—14% higher than U.S. average
- E.g., in Oregon, midwife-attended births



- 9% in 1990 to **16% in 2009**, up 89%
- Top 10 percent of states w/midwife-attended vaginal births.

Background



- CAM providers are more likely than allopathic practitioners to oppose vaccination (e.g., Downey et al., 2010)
- They are likely to doubt vaccine benefit or efficacy (e.g., Abhyankar et al., 2008)
- Many believe vaccines cause illness (e.g., Busse et al., 2005)
- Prefer infection-driven immunity—"natural is best" (e.g., Russell et al., 2004)
- Many distrust government agencies and scientific research (e.g. Salmon et al., 2005)



CAM Provider Beliefs



- Questions :
 - Do CAM personal and professional beliefs affect their vaccination views and recommendations?
 - Do CAM views about the immune system affect their vaccination views and recommendations?





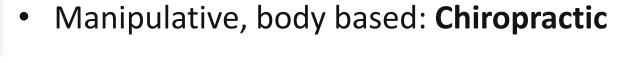
CAM populations studied (NCCAM domains/modalities)



Alternative medical system: Homeopathy



• AMS, natural-product based: Naturopathy





- AMS, energy-based: Acupuncture
- Evolutionary biologically adaptive, ancient practice: Midwifery







The Rise of Vaccine Opposition

- Vaccine resistance in Oregon
- Factors in opposition
- Mainstream medical (MM) providers
- CAM providers



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Vaccine Avoidance

- Outbreaks of pertussis and measles are linked to low vaccination rates, decline in efficacy over time, vaccine avoidance
- Pertussis is a scary disease for parents; it lasts for months, can be fatal, and is preventable! It is also underdiagnosed
- Here's what whooping cough sounds like—

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIV460AQUWk

Herd Immunity

Importance of the 6%

Estimated Herd Immunity Thresholds for Seven Vaccine-preventable Diseases

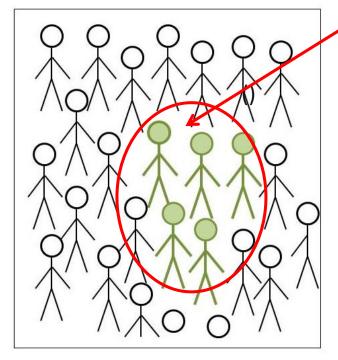
Disease	Transmission	\mathbf{R}_0	Herd immunity threshold
Diphtheria	Saliva	6-7	85%
Measles	Airborne	12-18	83 - 94%
<u>Mumps</u>	Airborne droplet	4-7	75 - 86%
<u>Pertussis</u>	Airborne droplet	12-17	92 - 94%
<u>Polio</u>	Fecal-oral route	5-7	80 - 86%
<u>Rubella</u>	Airborne droplet	5-7	80 - 85%
Smallpox	Social contact	6-7	83 - 85%

R₀ is the <u>basic reproduction number</u>, or the average number of secondary infectious cases produced by a single <u>index case</u> in completely susceptible population.

Herd Immunity Erosion

 An un-immune cluster can dramatically increase the probability of disease outbreak

c. Un-immune cluster

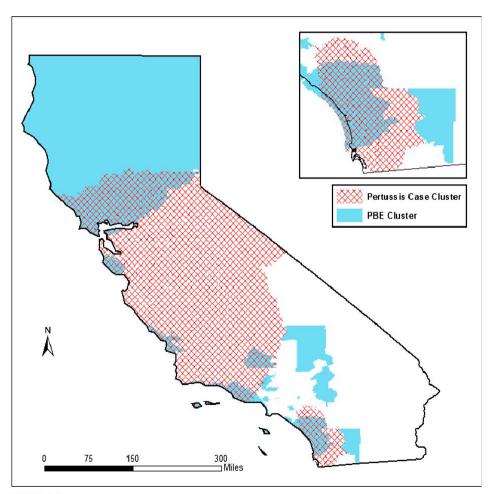


In fact, opinion or belief clusters can result in clusters of unvaccinated persons

(See May and Silverman, 2003; Salathé and Bonhoeffer, 2008, also Atwater et al., 2013)



Herd Immunity Erosion



Researchers reporting in the journal *Pediatrics* looked at nonmedical exemptions (NMEs) for children entering kindergarten in California 2005 – 2010 and pertussis cases with onset in 2010. Census tracts within an **exemption cluster were 2.5 times more likely to be in a pertussis cluster** (OR = 2.47, 95% CE: 2.22-2.75

FIGURE 1

Relative locations of pertussis space-time clusters and personal beliefs exemption (PBE) clusters from 2005—2006 to 2009—2010. The inset in the top right corner shows the relative locations of pertussis space-time clusters and PBE spatial clusters in San Diego County.



Dissertation Research Significance

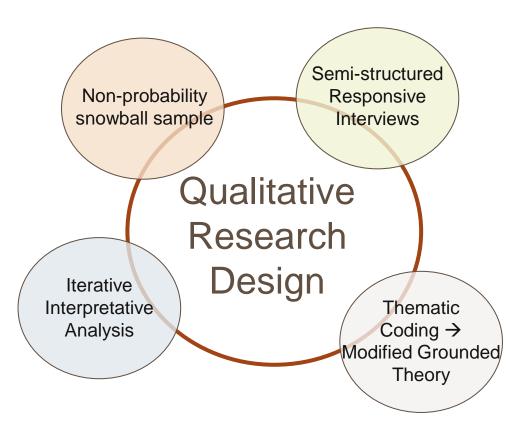
- Innovation
- CAM modalities for this study



Photo courtesy ⊚ U.S Baha'i Media Bank



Qualitative Research Design





Study Innovation



- No similar study of 5 CAM provider populations
- Provides new insights into the influences on CAM career choices, vaccine beliefs, norms, and decision-making.



CAM Participants



- 36 participants—some dual modalities
 - 11 naturopaths
 - 10 acupuncturists
 - 8 chiropractors
 - 6 homeopaths
 - 7 midwives



CAM Participants



- Vaccine position
 - Conditional support: 18 (50%)
 - Opposition: 11 (30%)
 - Support: 7 (20%)



Oppose

Support





Research Questions

- Why are CAM providers likely to doubt vaccine benefit or efficacy?
- Why do CAM providers believe vaccines cause illness?
- Why do these providers prefer infection-driven immunity, when it can be so risky?
- Why do so many CAM providers distrust government agencies and scientific research?





Themes

- Immunology beliefs
- Personal experience
- Professional group norms
- Belief that profit motive drives vaccine promotion, collusion between gov't agencies and Big Pharma





Group Norms: Naturopathy

- Official position is that "Safer, more effective vaccinations should be developed"¹
- Emphasizes parental informed consent (i.e., consent to accept supposed vaccine risks and dangers)



¹American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, 1991





Group Norms: Naturopathy

- Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) consider themselves
 more humane than mainstream medical (MM)
 doctors
- "Natural is best"





Immunology Beliefs: Naturopathy

 Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) consider themselves more humane than mainstream medical (MM) doctors

"Natural is best" Fevers ... clean the system and keep people from getting cancer.





Immunology Beliefs: Naturopathy

 Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) consider themselves more humane than mainstream medical (MM) doctors

• "Natural is best" The body has an inherent ability to heal, so the physicians' role is to try understand obstacles to healing and ... remove what's stopping the body from doing what it's wanting to do.

Oregon State



Naturopathy

 No naturopath supported vaccination. Most recommended a delayed schedule, and several mistakenly believed that vaccines compromise the infant's immune system.





Naturopathy

 No naturopath supported vaccination. Most recommended a delayed schedule, and several mistakenly believed that vaccines compromise the infant's immune system. (Hold that thought)





Group Norms: Chiropractic

 Strong influence from peers who oppose vaccines and from CE course content that questions vaccines or emphasizes risks over benefits

In the company I keep...
there are plenty of individuals that
are extremely active in fighting
the concept of vaccination.





Group Norms: Chiropractic

 Strong influence from peers who oppose vaccines and from CE course content that questions vaccines or emphasizes risks over benefits

[We were] taught that vaccines are completely legitimate and helpful. It was afterwards that I started reading about... the relationship between vaccines and autism.

Oregon State



Group Norms: Midwifery

- Foundational trust that a mother can give birth without technology, and often at home (i.e., Certified Professional MWs and Direct-entry MWs)
- "Natural is best"





Personal Experience: Midwifery

Vaccine beliefs vary from support to opposition

Everybody else that I know of has followed ... an alternate vaccine schedule – I think I'm kind of out there by myself on [opposing vaccines]. Most all [midwives I know] have vaccinated their kids and I look at them and go – have you noticed that your child's health hasn't been as good since you've been doing that?





Personal Experience: Midwifery

Vaccine beliefs vary from support to opposition

My mother, for some reason, didn't sign me up for the polio experiment that was happening early on. She thought that it could wait a while. And I'm glad, because I think those folks [who were vaccinated] got some contaminant viruses that are shown to cause cancer.





ome reason,

Group Norms: Midwifery

Vaccine beliefs vary from support to opposition

I don't know that I
necessarily had any opinions about ening early vaccines before I did my training. d wait a When my daughter got fully e I think vaccinated ... Some of that, looking cinated] back in hindsight, I probably it viruses would not have done.

cancer.

Oregon State



Immunology Beliefs: Acupuncture

- "If it's old, it must be better"—Chinese medicine vs. modern, mainstream medicine
- Vaccines act like a pathogen in the body, diminish the body's natural energy (zero-sum, only so much energy; it can be depleted)





Group Norms: Acupuncture

• "If it's old, it must be better"

I heard [an acupuncturist] say, "In Western medicine they poison people with their drugs and they cut them with their surgeries, and they burn them with chemotherapy." And I remember thinking, "Well, we stick needles in them, give them herbs, and ... burn them with moxa."





Immunology Beliefs: Acupuncture

Vaccines deplete the body's core energy, or

wei qi.

that I trained with were against vaccination, because they feel that it can have a negative effect on the [body], that it's unnecessary, and it's actually good for our body to fight pathogens that we're exposed to.





Immunology Beliefs: Homeopathy

- All disease is innate, we need to express disease, not "fight" it
- Tailor treatment to the person







Profit Motive: Homeopathy

 Profit drives U.S. health care; homeopathic remedies are inexpensive

Come fall, get your flu vaccine...

25 bucks right here. ... That amount
[of influenza pathogen] that's in one shot
... could serve all of those people if it
were prepared homeopathically.





Profit Motive: Homeopathy

Profit drives U.S. health care; homeopathic

remedies are inex

Pharmaceutical companies ... have one legal obligation. It's not to cure disease. It's not to heal patients. Their one legal obligation as a corporation

is to make money.





"Some people have wondered whether combination vaccines might overwhelm or weaken a child's immune system, but the immune system contains billions of circulating B and T cells capable of responding to millions of different antigens at once. Because the body constantly replenishes these cells, a healthy immune system cannot be 'used up' or weakened by a vaccine. According to one published estimate, infants could easily handle 10,000 vaccines at once."





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- Understanding CAM worldviews opens the door to beginning a dialogue > possible CAM behavior change
- The Homeopathy-Vaccine analogy as a persuasive model
- How do we overcome both false dichotomies
 (us vs. them) and false equivalence ("both sides of the vaccine argument")

Thank you Thank you Thank you





Questions or comments?



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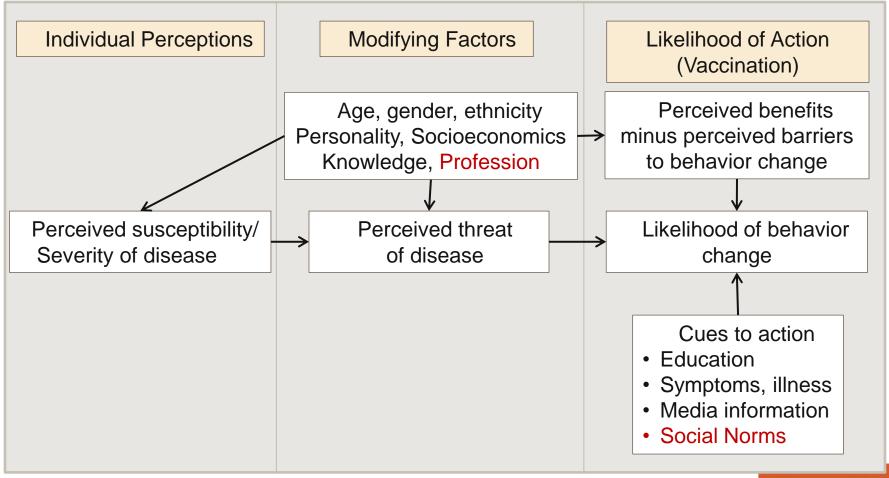


Health Belief Model



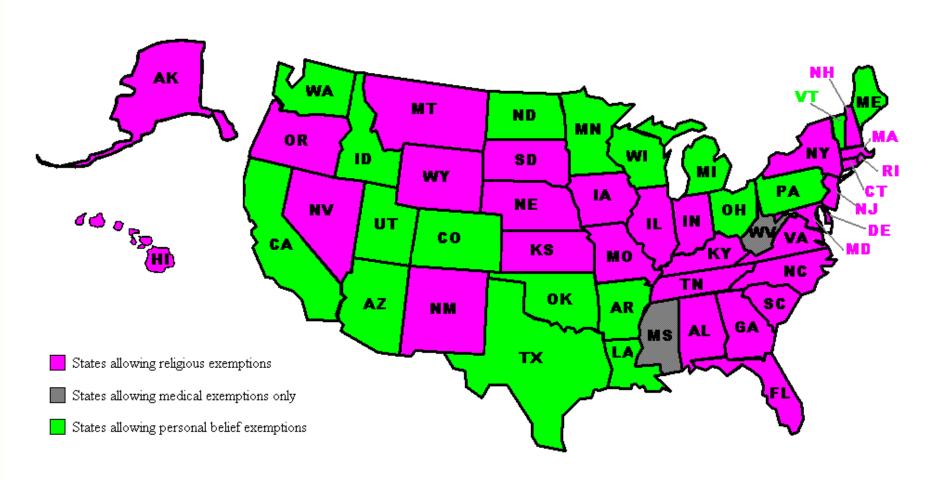
- Three positional categories
 - Vaccine support (MM-trained providers)
 - Conditional vaccine support (support some vaccines, delay all vaccines)
 - Vaccine opposition (no vaccines; exceptions: sometimes IPV vax, almost always tetanus vax)
- Based on perceptions:
 - Vaccine benefits > reduces VPD severity
 - Vaccine risks (illness, disability, death)
 - Vaccine efficacy > reduces disease susceptibility State

Health Belief Model Components and Linkages





U.S. Religious Exemptions





U.S. Vaccine Exemptions 2009–2010

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

TABLE 3. Number and percentage of children enrolled in kindergarten who had a reported exemption* to vaccination, by type of exemption and state/area — United States, 2009–10 school year

State/Area	Medical exemptions		Nonmedical exemptions				Total exemptions	
	No.	(%)	Religious	Philosophical	Total	(%)	No.	(%)
Alabama	91	(0.1)	282	t	282	(0.4)	373	(0.5)
Alaska	161	(1.7)	369	+	369	(3.8)	530	(5.5)
Arizona	185	(0.2)	9	2,479	2,479	(2.8)	2,665	(3.0)
Arkansas	28	(0.1)	33	132	165	(0.5)	193	(0.6)
California	998	(0.2)	§	10,280	10,280	(2.0)	11,278	(2.2)
Colorado	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Connecticut	108	(0.2)	387	†	387	(0.8)	495	(1.1)
Delaware	22	(0.2)	65	†	65	(0.6)	87	(0.8)
District of Columbia	46	(0.8)	20	†	20	(0.3)	66	(1.1)
Florida	697	(0.3)	2,100	t	2,100	(1.0)	2,797	(1.3)
Georgia	87	(0.1)	1,478	†	1,478	(1.0)	1,565	(1.1)
Hawaii	16	(0.1)	645	t	645	(3.5)	660	(3.6)
Idaho	66	(0.3)	68	726	794	(3,5)	860	(3.8)
Illinois	1,526	(0.9)	5.629		5.629	(3,4)	7.155	(4.3)
Indiana	236	(0.3)	674	t	674	(0.8)	909	(1.1)
lowa	218	(0.5)	359	t	359	(0.8)	577	(1.4)
Kansas	89	(0.2)	304	t	304	(0.8)	393	(1.0)
Kentucky	170	(0.3)	193	t	193	(0.3)	363	(0.6)
Louisiana	151	(0.3)	32	228	260	(0.5)	411	(0.8)
Maine	48	(0.3)	11	412	423	(3.0)	470	(3.3)
Maryland	236	(0.3)	393		393	(0.5)	629	(0.8)
Massachusetts	298	(0.4)	538	_+	538	(0.7)	836	(1.1)
Michigan	858	(0.7)	751	4,121	4,872	(3.8)	5,730	(4.4)
Minnesota	NA	NA	NA NA	NA	NA	NA	5,730 NA	NA NA
Mississippi	12	(0.0)			19/5	(0.0)	12	(0.0)
Missouri	198	(0.3)	626		626	(0.0)	823	(1.1)
Montana	118	(1.0)	262		262	(2.2)	380	(3.1)
Nebraska	274	(1.0)	802	_ +	802	(2.2)	1,076	(3.1)
Nevada	357	(1.0)	357	;	357	(1.0)	714	(2.0)
	NA	(1.0) NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(2.0) NA
New Hampshire					905			
New Jersey	167 ¶	(0.1) ¶	905			(0.8)	1,072	(1.0)
New Mexico	309		183	_;	183	(0.7)	183	(0.7)
New York State		(0.1)	1,117	_;	1,117	(0.5)	1,426	(0.6)
North Carolina	158 —¶	(0.1) —¶	756		756	(0.7)	914	(0.8)
North Dakota			17	50	67	(0.8)	67	(0.8)
Ohio	284	(0.2)	**	1,515	1,515	(1.2)	1,799	(1.4)
Oklahoma	119	(0.2)	137	319	456	(0.9)	575	(1.1)
Oregon	86	(0.2)	2,330	+	2,330	(5.2)	2,416	(5.4)
Pennsylvania	1,777	(1.2)	**	2,924	2,924	(2.0)	4,701	(3.1)
Rhode Island	34	(0.3)	26	_†	26	(0.2)	60	(0.5)
South Carolina	147	(0.3)	303	t	303	(0.6)	450	(0.8)
South Dakota	38	(0.3)	83	t	83	(0.7)	121	(1.1)
Tennessee	¶	1	421	t	421	(0.5)	421	(0.5)
Texas	2,330	(0.6)	**	2,904	2,904	(0.8)	5,234	(1.4)
Utah	89	(0.2)	22	1,793	1,815	(3.6)	1,904	(3.8)
Vermont	35	(0.5)	13	341	354	(5.3)	389	(5.8)
Virginia	159	(0.2)	751	+	751	(0.7)	911	(0.9)
Washington	331	(0.4)	168	4,515	4,684	(5.7)	5,015	(6.2)
West Virginia	303	(1.3)	9	†	_	(0.0)	303	(1.3)
Wisconsin	391	(0.6)	87	1,782	1,868	(3.1)	2,260	(3.7)
Wyoming	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Abbreviation: NA = not available.



^{*} Exemption status might not be mutually exclusive of vaccination status. Children with an exemption who did not receive any vaccinations are indistinguishable from those with an exemption and also up-to-date for a given vaccination.

[†] Exemptions for philosophical reasons are not allowed.

[§] Exemptions for religious reasons are not allowed.

[¶] Exemptions for medical reasons are allowed but were not reported.

^{**} Exemptions for religious reasons are allowed but are not reported separately from exemptions for philosophical reasons.

Kentucky	10vva	210	(0.5)	337		337	(0.0)	377	(1.1)
Name	Kansas	89	(0.2)	304	†	304	(8.0)	393	(1.0)
Marine Marylan U.S. Vaccuse Pox Pox emptions 11 on State Pox emptions 12 on State Pox emptions 13 on State Pox emptions 14 on State Pox emptions 14 on State Pox emptions 16 on State	Kentucky	170	(0.3)	193	†	193	(0.3)	363	(0.6)
Michigan 858 (0.7) 751 4,121 4,872 (3.8) 5,730 (4.4) Minnesota NA 1.0 0.0 <td>Louisiana</td> <td>151</td> <td>(0.3)</td> <td>32</td> <td>228</td> <td>260</td> <td>(0.5)</td> <td>411</td> <td>(8.0)</td>	Louisiana	151	(0.3)	32	228	260	(0.5)	411	(8.0)
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Michigan 858 (0.7) 751 4,121 4,872 (3.8) 5,730 (4.4) Minnesota NA 1.0 0.0 <td>Maryland V</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>B\$B</td> <td>) S-†/. U</td> <td>9₅</td> <td>₹5.5</td> <td>629</td> <td>(0.8)</td>	Maryland V			B\$B) S-†/. U	9₅	₹5.5	6 29	(0.8)
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Montana	Mississippi	12	(0.0)	§			(0.0)	12	(0.0)
Nebraska 274 (1.0) 802 -† 802 (2.8) 1,076 (3.8)	Missouri	198	(0.3)	626		626	(0.8)	823	(1.1)
Nevada 357 (1.0) 357 — d 357 (1.0) 714 (2.0) New Hampshire NA	Montana	118	(1.0)	262		262	(2.2)	380	(3.1)
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New Jersey 167 (0.1) 905 -† 905 (0.8) 1,072 (1.0) New Mexico New York State New York State New York State North Carolina North Dakota 119 (0.2) -** 1,515 1,515 (1.2) 1,799 (1.4) (1.6	Nevada	357	(1.0)	357	†	357	(1.0)	714	(2.0)
New Mexico New York State North Carolina North Ca	New Hampshire	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
North Carolina North Dakota No. (%) Religious Philosophical Total (%) No. No. <td>New Jersey</td> <td>167</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>905</td> <td><u>_</u>t</td> <td>905</td> <td>(0.8)</td> <td>1,072</td> <td>(1.0)</td>	New Jersey	167	(0.1)	905	<u>_</u> t	905	(0.8)	1,072	(1.0)
North Carolina North Dakota No. (%) Religious Philosophical Total (%) No. No. <td>New Mexico</td> <td>Madiala</td> <td></td> <td>183</td> <td>madiaTayanan</td> <td>183</td> <td>(0.7)</td> <td>T-183</td> <td>(0.7)</td>	New Mexico	Madiala		183	madiaTayanan	183	(0.7)	T-183	(0.7)
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West Virginia 303 (1.3) —§ —† — (0.0) 303 (1.3) Wisconsin 391 (0.6) 87 1,782 1,868 (3.1) 2,260 (3.7)									
Wisconsin 391 (0.6) 87 1,782 1,868 (3.1) 2,260 (3.7)		159	(0.2)						
	Washington	159 331	(0.2) (0.4)	168	4,515		(5.7)	5,015	(6.2)
Wyoming NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA	Washington	159 331 303	(0.2) (0.4) (1.3)	168 §	4,515 †	4,684 —	(5.7) (0.0)	5,015 303	(6.2) (1.3)
	Washington West Virginia	159 331 303	(0.2) (0.4) (1.3)	168 §	4,515 †	4,684 —	(5.7) (0.0)	5,015 303	(6.2) (1.3)

Abbreviation: NA = not available. *Exemption status might not be mutually exclusive of vaccination status. Children with an exemption who did not receive any vaccinations are indistinguishable from those with an exemption and also up-to-date for a given vaccination.

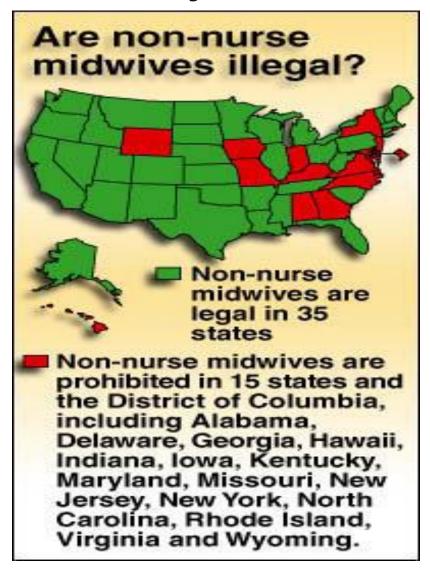
† Exemptions for philosophical reasons are not allowed.

§ Exemptions for religious reasons are not allowed.

¶ Exemptions for medical reasons are allowed but were not reported.

** Exemptions for religious reasons are allowed but are not reported separately from exemptions for philosophical reasons.

Direct-Entry Midwives Illegal







"Combination vaccines reduce visits to the doctor, saving time and money and sparing children extra needlesticks. Without combination vaccines, parents would have to bring their children in for each vaccination and all its boosters, and the chances would be greater that kids would miss their shots. Missed shots put children, as well as their communities, at risk.

"Some people have wondered whether combination vaccines might overwhelm or weaken a child's immune system, but the immune system contains billions of circulating B and T cells capable of responding to millions of different antigens at once. Because the body constantly replenishes these cells, a healthy immune system cannot be "used up" or weakened by a vaccine. According to one published estimate, infants could easily handle 10,000 vaccines at once."