

Vaccine Hesitancy vs. Science and Ethics

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WHO definition of vaccine hesitancy

- Delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccine services
- Complex and context specific varying across time, place and vaccines
- Influenced by factors such as confidence, complacency, and convenience

Reasons why people oppose vaccination (19th Century)

People's perception

- Competition with traditional treatments
- Vaccination is not safe
- Religious and philosophical concerns
- Vaccination is ineffective
- Resistance to compulsory vaccination

Principles not well understood

- Broader distrust due to ‘infodemics’
- Stronger rights-based, “right to know” environment - growing civil society demands access to information
- The public is increasingly challenging “quality” and “safety” of commodities
- Increased and more rapid communication channels, more global media - Internet, satellite TV

CURRENT Global Environment

MMR

(1998..2011..ongoing..)

BMJ PLUS Ultrasound of adnexal masses
Easily missed: febrile neutropenia
Managing juvenile idiopathic arthritis
Don't cut my "new to follow-up" ratios
SAVE THE CHILDREN: BMJ APPEAL

342-59-114 No 7788 Clinical research ISSN 0959-8138
8 January 2011 | bmj.com

HOW
THE
CASE
AGAINST
THE
VACCINE
WAS
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BMJ Lambastes Autism Vaccine Study, Brands It 'Fraud'

Posted by GPSN on January 7, 2011

0 Comment



The British Medical Journal (BMJ) yesterday (January 8) labelled as "an elaborate fraud" the study that created a major health scare by linking autism to the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine for children. The study's senior author was Andrew Wakefield and it was published in 1998. Last year The Lancet retracted the study that has led to hundreds of thousands of children in Britain being unshielded against these three diseases. In 2008, measles was declared endemic, or present in the wider population much like chicken pox, in England and Wales. After a long-running hearing by the General Medical Council, Wakefield was barred from medical practice last year for **conflict of interest** and the unethical treatment of patients involved in

the research. The BMJ, meanwhile, yesterday branded the study a crafted attempt to deceive, among the

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Perceptions of
risk can have
serious impacts

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- In **1998, Andrew Wakefield's** publication linking MMR vaccine to bowel disease and autism caused public confidence to plummet.
- **MMR coverage rates in England dropped from 91.5% in 1997 to 79.9% in 2003-4.**
- Historic confidence breakdown in MMR vaccine still contribute to vaccine refusals and disease outbreaks in the UK, USA and globally.

Tetanus (1995, 2014)

Rapid communication via the Internet:

- Human Life International (Catholic pro-life group) was able to convince their members in >60 countries that **tetanus vaccine was** contaminated with abortive and sterilising substance

Impacts:

- In the **Philippines**, fears that **tetanus vaccines contained abortifacients** led to a **45% drop in coverage in tetanus vaccinations between 1994 and 1995**

That perception also spread among the Catholic bishops in Kenya

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Tetanus (2014)



PRESS STATEMENT BY THE CATHOLIC HEALTH COMMISSION OF KENYA – KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON THE ONGOING NATIONAL TETANUS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN 60 DISTRICTS IN KENYA

Clarification

“The Catholic Church acknowledges that maternal and neonatal care is imperative in prevention of death; the Church therefore maintains that adequate and clear information is provided to the general public to avoid misinformation and propaganda in regard to the vaccine.”

Covid-19 Vaccination

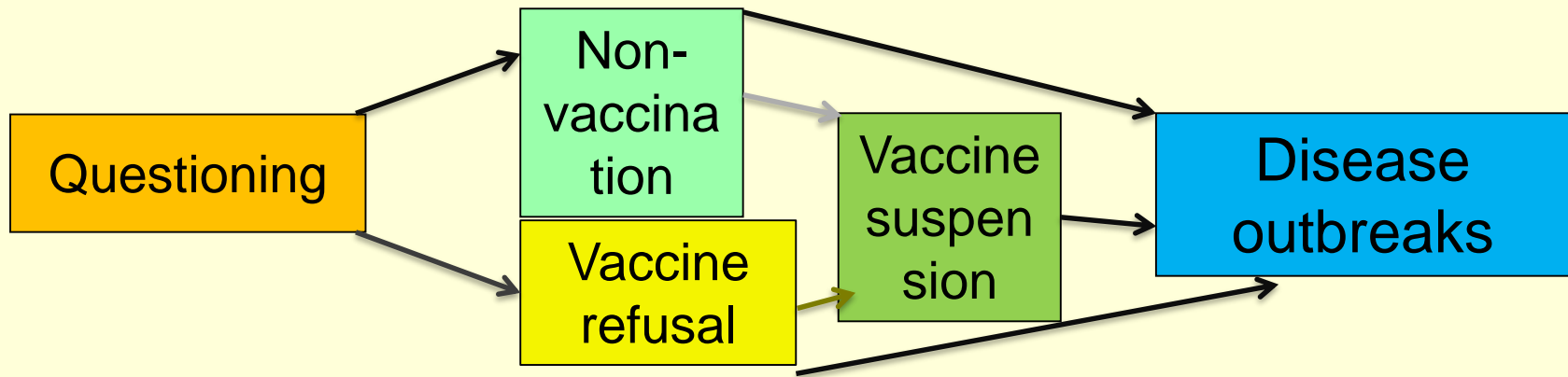
Medical experts estimate between 70–90 percent of the population need to be vaccinated to reach “herd immunity”.

People who are refusing to get a COVID-19 vaccine increase risk of contracting and transmitting the virus.

They could also be potentially prolonging the pandemic, contributing to spikes in cases and giving the virus more opportunities to mutate

Epidemiologists have said from the beginning that a vaccine is the only way to eventually restore our economy and our normal lives

Lack of trust: Impacts of a questioning public



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Lack of trust

Religious:
pork or fetus
in vaccines

Political: pro
or anti
Duterte or
Trump

Experiential:
Bad
experience
with vaccine

Distrust of
commercial
interests

**EUA:
SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH
NEEDED FOR
LONG TERM
EFFECTS OF
COVID
VACCINATION**

- As more people get vaccinated against the coronavirus, research continues to show the shots are safe and effective in preventing severe cases and deaths of COVID-19 patients

What **What can be done?** done?

1

Monitor public confidence in Covid vaccine

2

Investigate reasons for vaccine hesitancy

3

Improve communication to address issues

In God and



THANK YOU