

**DO YOU LOVE YOUR CHILDREN AND  
GRANDCHILDREN?**

**Is YOUR child or grandchild worth  
the risk?**

**Compare the risks:     Disease versus Immunization**

**KILL   SB 136**

**BEFORE IT KILLS  
OUR CHILDREN  
AND  
OUR FUTURE!**

Religious and/or philosophic exemptions from immunization endanger not only the health of the unvaccinated individual, but also the health of those in his or her group and the community at large.

The American Medical Association:

- encourages physicians and state and local medical associations to work with public health officials to inform religious groups and others who object to immunizations of the benefits of vaccinations and the risk to their own health and that of the general public if they refuse to accept them, and
- encourages state and local medical associations to work with public health officials to develop contingency plans for controlling outbreaks in exempt populations to intensify efforts to achieve high immunizations rates in communities where groups having religious exemptions from immunizations reside.

Children aged 3 to 18 who had exemptions from vaccination were 22 times more likely to acquire measles and nearly six times more likely to acquire pertussis than immunized children.

In children of day care or primary school age (3-10 years), the risks were more than 60-fold greater for contracting measles and 16-fold greater for pertussis.

The annual incidence rates of measles and pertussis among vaccinated children aged 3 to 18 were significantly associated with frequency of exemptions, with the relative risks of 1.6 and 1.9 respectively.

Polio virus causes acute paralysis that can lead to permanent physical disability and even death. Before polio vaccine was available, 13,000 to 20,000 cases of paralytic polio were reported each year in the US. These annual epidemics of polio often left thousands of victims—MOSTLY CHILDREN—in braces, crutches, wheelchairs, and iron lungs. The effects were life-long. Development of polio vaccines and implementation of polio immunization programs have eliminated paralytic polio caused by wild polio viruses in the US.

Before measles immunization were available, nearly everyone in the US got measles. An average of 450 measles-associated deaths were reported each year between 1953 and 1963. In the US, up to 20% of persons with measles are hospitalized. It is estimated that as many as 1 of every 1,000 persons with measles will die in the US. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases in the world and is frequently imported into the US. If vaccinations were stopped, each year 2.7 million deaths worldwide could be expected.

Before Hib vaccine became available, Hib meningitis killed 600 children each year and left many survivors with deafness, seizures or mental retardation.

Since introduction of conjugate Hib vaccine in December 1987, the incidence of Hib has declined by 98%.

Since the early 1980's, reported pertussis cases have been increasing, with peaks every 3-4 years; however, the number of reported cases remains much lower than levels seen in the pre-vaccine era. Before pertussis immunizations were available, nearly all children developed whooping cough. The newer pertussis vaccine (acellular or DtaP) that has been available for use in the US since 1991 and has been recommended for exclusive use since 1998. These vaccines are effective and associated with fewer mild and moderate adverse reactions when compared with the older (whole-cell DTP) vaccines. A recent study found that in 8 countries where immunization coverage was reduced, incidence rates of pertussis surged to 10 to 100 times the rates in countries where vaccination rates were sustained.

While Rubella (German Measles) is usually mild in children and adults, up to 90% of infants born to mothers infected with rubella during the first trimester of pregnancy will develop congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) resulting in heart defects, cataracts, mental retardation and deafness. If we stopped rubella immunization, immunity to rubella would decline and rubella would once again return, resulting in pregnant women becoming infected with rubella and then giving birth to infants with CRS.

More than 2 billion persons worldwide have been infected with the hepatitis B virus at some time in their lives. Of these, 350 million are life-long carriers of the disease and can transmit the virus to others. One million of these people die each year from liver disease and liver cancer. Approximately 25% of children who become infected with life-long hepatitis B virus would be expected to die of related liver disease as adults.

Diphtheria is a serious disease caused by a bacteria. This germ produces a poisonous substance or toxin which frequently causes heart and nerve problems. The death rate is 5 to 10 percent with higher death rates in the very young and the elderly. In the 1920's, diphtheria was a major cause of illness and death for children in the US. In 1921, a total of 206,000 cases and 15,520 deaths were reported. With vaccine development in 1928, new cases of diphtheria began to fall in the US, until in 2000 when only one case was reported.

Clearly, the critical issue is whether some parents should be allowed to place other people's children at increased risk for disease by refusing immunizations for their own children. Vaccines still remain the most important strategy in the

prevention of infectious diseases in children.

- Make no mistake: The consequences of ignoring safe and effective immunizations are real and can be lethal. The effort to undermine vaccines seeks to capitalize on a distorted perception of risk. Vaccines on rare occasions do cause side effects. But in the final analysis, vaccines represent infinitely far less risk than the diseases they prevent.
  
- As one mother said, "I don't want my child to be the one in 3 million" who has a bad reaction to a vaccine. "But I also don't want mine to be the one in 10 that dies if they get the disease. I'd rather take my chances with the one in 3 million than the one in 10."
  
- Please help protect OUR children and OUR future.
  
- SUPPORT MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS!