





# Huge measles epidemic in Europe – blame the style="white-space: nowrap">anti-vaccine liars and fools (/stories/2018/8/22/1790207/-Huge-measles-epidemic-in-Europe-blame-the-anti-vaccine-liars-and-fools)

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Wednesday August 22, 2018 · 5:44 PM EDT

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Maybe some of you haven't been following the reports about the European measles epidemic, but it's scary news. The *BBC News* reported (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-45246049>) that more than 41,000 people have contracted measles in the first six months of 2018. Worse yet, 37 of those people have died of that virus.

Let me be blunt – nearly every one of those 41,000 cases and 37 deaths could have been prevented by the MMR vaccine (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/public/>) (for measles (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/child/measles.html>), mumps (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/child/mumps.html>), and rubella (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/child/rubella.html>)). Period. Full stop. End of story.

In case I wasn't clear, let me repeat myself – indulge me, we're talking about children dying of an entirely preventable disease. Every single case of measles could have been prevented. Every single death could have been prevented. This isn't a complicated story.

Maybe you think that Europe is a big area with over a half billion people, so this might be expected. That would be incorrect. Measles was almost extinct in much of the developed world. In 2016, there were just 5,273 measles cases for the whole year. In

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2008, there were only 3,575 cases and one death (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5806a3.htm). Measles was almost eliminated.

Let's take a look at how this happened, and place blame right where it belongs – in the misinformation, pseudoscience, and outright lies of the anti-vaccine religion (https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/anti-vaccine-religion-explain/).

## What is measles?

Measles (https://medlineplus.gov/measles.html), also known as rubeola (and not to be confused with rubella) is an infectious disease caused by the measles virus. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Measles\_virus) It is extremely contagious, easily passing from one individual to another.

Despite the claims of the anti-vaxxers and anecdotes from adults, the disease is dangerous. According to the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/index.html), the complications from measles can be mild, such as diarrhea. However, more serious complications include:

- Pneumonia that requires hospitalization
- Acute brain inflammation
- Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), a progressive brain inflammation that requires a lifetime of medications for treatment if caught early enough. About 1 in 609 children less than 12 months old who contract measles develop SSPE (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28387784).
- About 1 in 1000 will develop acute encephalitis which leads to permanent brain damage.
- About 1-2 out every 1000 children who contract measles will die.

Furthermore, measles can suppress the immune systems for months, and this can contribute to chronic bacterial infections like otitis media and bacterial pneumonia. Measles is not a trivial disease despite the ridiculous claims of the anti-vaxxers – it can cause serious long-term neurological damage and death. And it all can be prevented with a simple vaccine.

## Placing the blame for this measles epidemic

Up until 1998, the MMR vaccine was uncontroversial. It was considered a critical part of our children's health, reducing the risk of a dangerous and, often deadly, disease.

Then that cunning fraud, Andrew Wakefield (https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/andrew-wakefield-fraud-extraordinaire/), published his fraudulent

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9500320>) and ultimately retracted (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20137807>) study that falsely claimed a connection between the MMR vaccine and autism spectrum disorder (<https://medlineplus.gov/autismspectrumdisorder.html>) (ASD). Despite Wakefield's own malfeasance, he had serious competing financial conflicts of interests while involved with his fraudulent research, the autism myth remains.

Let me be blunt again. Robust scientific evidence (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/vaccines-and-autism-science-unrelated/>) has established that the MMR vaccine, or any vaccine, is not linked to autism. Period. Full stop. End of story.

The lack of a link between vaccines and ASD is settled science. This has been established by systematic and meta-reviews, clinical trials, and huge cohort and case-control epidemiological studies. This lack of a link is represented by an overwhelming scientific consensus (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/scientific-consensus-collective-opinion-scientists/>).

Although Wakefield's research has been thoroughly and repeatedly discredited by hundreds of peer-reviewed articles, he continues to push the myth. As a result of his own self-promotion, such as the fraudumentary *Vaxxed* (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/vaxxed-guide-wakefield-fraudulent-film/>), and his continued misinformation broadcast all over the internet, parents are frequently triggered by the worry that the MMR vaccine causes autism. And this has led to lower vaccine uptake in some areas.

But there are other fools who have put children of the world at risk of serious harm, including death, by pushing misinformation and dangerous lies to parents trying to find reasonable information about vaccines.

There's Ginger Taylor (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/ginger-taylor-writes-letter-vaccines-will-interesting/>), who pushes pseudoscience and cherry-picked nonsense to claim that vaccines do harm. There's Del Bigtree (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/vaxxed-producer-del-bigtree-credible-vaccines/>), producer of the *Vaxxed* fraudumentary, who is clueless about vaccines. Then there's Robert F Kennedy, Jr (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/anti-vaccine-bullshit-robert-de-niro-rfk-jr/>) who lacks any credibility regarding vaccines (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/rfk-jr-vaccine-beliefs-experienced-journalists/>), while worming himself into Donald Trump's favor (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/donald-trump-meets-vaccine-denier-robert-f-kennedy-jr/>) in trying to create a "vaccine safety commission." There are the multi-retracted "researchers," like Shaw and Tomljenovic (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/christopher-shaw-and->

lucija-tomljenovic-anti-vaccine/), who publish bad science in bad journals trying to link vaccines to anything. All of these people should be held culpable for the European measles epidemic.

Of course, I could spend 10,000 more words listing out all the fools in the anti-vaccine religion that push lies that lead to deaths of children. But to save time, we've created a list of science-denying mouthpieces of the anti-vaxxers (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/anti-vaccine-doctors-naming-names/>).

Despite the fabrications and distortions of the anti-vaccine gang, let's be clear about the safety of the MMR vaccine:

- According to a systematic review, (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25086160>) considered the pinnacle of the hierarchy of biomedical research (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/the-hierarchy-of-scientific-evidence-keys-to-skepticism/>), the incidence of serious adverse events due to MMR vaccine is about 1 in 1,000,000.
- According to another review (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26004568>), the incidence of death due to MMR vaccine is much less than 1 in 10,000,000.

In other words, the risk of lifetime harm or death from measles is 1,000-10,000 times higher than from the MMR vaccine. That is simple math that the loudmouthed vaccine-denying crackpots seem to miss.

No, I am not saying that vaccines are perfectly safe – only the anti-vaccine religion believes that claim. But it's clear that vaccines are orders of magnitude safer than the diseases they prevent.

## **Let's review the facts about this European measles epidemic**

There has been a huge outbreak of measles in Europe during the first half of this year. This included the deaths of 37 children, teens, and adults along with unknown numbers of children with permanent, disabling neurological damage.

Every single one of those cases of measles and every single death could have been prevented by the extremely safe and effective MMR vaccine.

There is simply no robust and viable evidence supporting the belief that vaccines are related to autism. It is foolish and dangerous to put children in harm's way because of ignorance and science denial.

Why would any parent put their children at risk of death from measles by avoiding the MMR vaccine? It doesn't make any sense.

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**bear83 (/user/bear83)** August 22 · 05:49:53 PM (/comments/1790207/71112610#comment\_71112610)

The anti-vax people are indeed crazy. They not only put their own kids at risk, they put everyone who can't get the vaccine for legitimate medical reasons at risk.

I do wonder if any of this recent outbreak could be due to immigrants coming from areas where vaccination is less common or available.

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actually most countries are better at vaccinating than the US

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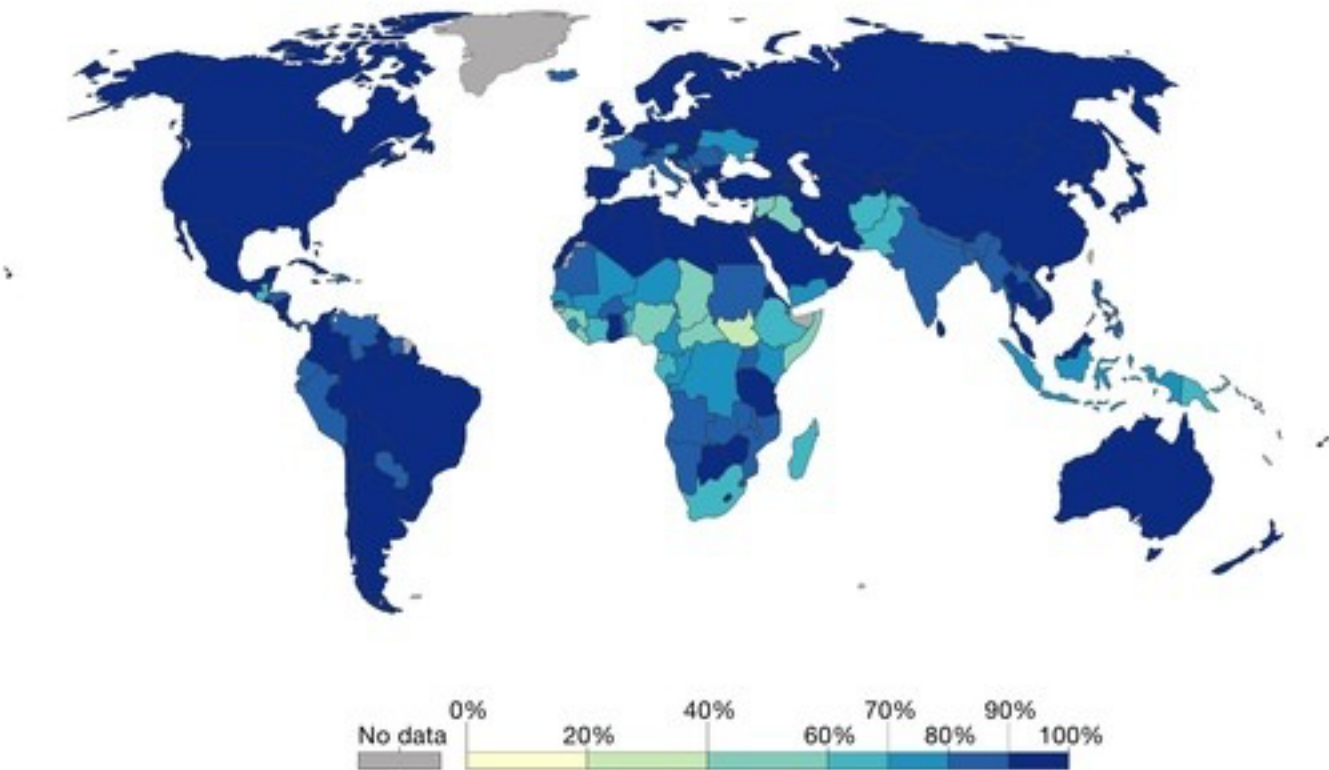


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August 22 · 10:24:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71115044#comment\_71115044)

That's demonstratively false.



Source: Immunization rate against measles (% of children ages 12-23 months) – World Bank (WDI) (2016)  
OurWorldInData.org/vaccination/ • CC BY-SA

ourworldindata.org/... (https://ourworldindata.org/vaccination)

Please do some research before posting Fake Facts.

★ 29 Recommend



(/user/DEMonrat ankle biter)

**DEMonrat ankle biter** (/user/DEMonrat ... ▶ praying manatheist

August 23 · 06:48:35 AM (/comments/1790207/71116899#comment\_71116899)

newrepublic.com/... (https://newrepublic.com/article/122367/why-are-vaccination-rates-dropping-america)

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/praying manatheist)

**praying manatheist** (/user/prayin... ▶ DEMonrat ankle biter

August 23 · 11:04:08 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118822#comment\_71118822)

That article has nothing to do with vaccination rates in the US compared to the rest of the world. It's merely a discussion of attitudes in the US about vaccinations and the effects of the anti-vax movement.

It has one reference, ONE, to vaccination of polio rates being higher in Rawanda than in the US. Using that single statistic of a single vaccine (notice it wasn't even the measles vaccine, only polio) and somehow thinking that justifies your statement;

actually **most** countries are better at vaccinating than the US

Is completely ludicrous. Just in case people think the random vaccine discussion you linked in any way justifies your claim, I thought I'd straighten that out. Usually, you would provide the relevant quote and then the link, not just a link pretending to support your point that you desperatley hope nobody will actually read.

I did.

Please refer to the fact based info-graphic I posted for the facts and stop listening to Alex Jones and posting bullshit, fact free claims.

This is, or was, a fact based community.

★ 5 Recommend



(/user/CinziaLeft)

**CinziaLeft (/user/CinziaLeft) ▶ DEMonrat ankle biter**

August 23 · 11:25:26 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119149#comment\_71119149)

Did you read the article you linked to? It does NOT support your comment above "actually most countries are better at vaccinating than the US".

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Chartreuxe)

**Chartreuxe (/user/Chartreuxe) ▶ DEMonrat ankle biter**

August 23 · 12:39:07 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120052#comment\_71120052)

The new Republic magazine was once a liberal magazine with progressive editors and views. It was sold in 2016. Two thirds of its staff resigned and it now lacks a liberal viewpoint. Ruth Bader Ginsberg gave the toast at the magazine's centennial November 2016. She has since cancelled her subscription.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/praying manatheist)

**praying manatheist (/user/p... ▶ Chartreuxe**

August 23 · 01:01:03 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120329#comment\_71120329)

And the article doesn't say anything about vaccination rates in the US compared to other nations. He just posted the link and hoped nobody would read it.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ bear83**

August 22 · 05:56:46 PM (/comments/1790207/71112676#comment\_71112676)

All cases of measles in the U.S. are from importation or part of minor outbreaks surrounding importation cases. The vast majority of importation cases involve US tourists not immigrants.

★ 31 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ benamery21**

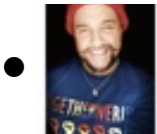
August 22 · 06:03:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71112741#comment\_71112741)



Note that MMR is not 100% effective (which is why we started getting it twice when I was in 6th grade), so some importation cases occur in vaccinated Americans who didn't sero-convert or lost immunity as well as among the unvaccinated. The only way to prevent all individual cases of measles in the U.S. is to eradicate the measles virus globally (via vaccination in countries where it's not eradicated). In the interim maintaining herd immunity via high vaccination levels in the U.S. is critical to minimizing the spread of importation cases.

★ 40 Recommend

[new]



(/user/El Mito)

**El Mito (/user/El Mito) ▶ benamery21**

August 22 · 07:21:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71113402#comment\_71113402)

That is why you immunize the most you can... "Herd Immunity " so those fully immunized protect those who can't be vaccinated for legitimate resin and those in which the vaccine is below 100% effective

★ 70 Recommend



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ El Mito**

August 22 · 07:58:09 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113737#comment\_71113737)

thank you from this public health professional. Perfect summation.

★ 35 Recommend



(/user/El Mito)

**El Mito (/user/El Mito) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 09:49:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118023#comment\_71118023)

This should be thought in school not only in med school or public health.

★ 4 Recommend



(/user/NoMoJoe)

NoMoJoe (/user/NoM... ▶ El Mito

August 23 · 11:30:07 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119214#comment\_71119214)

And taught, as well. ;-)

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

Throw The Bums Out (/user/Throw The ... ▶ benamery21

August 22 · 08:22:42 PM (/comments/1790207/71113991#comment\_71113991)

Requiring all insurance to provide full, no copay coverage of blood antibody titer testing for such diseases would help with that as well. As well as encouraging people to have an extra vial of blood drawn for such testing whenever they have routine blood work done whether as part of their physical or otherwise.

★ 12 Recommend



(/user/randym77)

randym77 (/user/randym77) ▶ benamery21

August 22 · 10:37:43 PM (/comments/1790207/71115164#comment\_71115164)

I got it several times in childhood. My parents got me the usual childhood vaccines at the doctor's. It was given in schools whether you needed it or not back then, plus I traveled overseas a lot and got a lot of vaccines for that.

Nevertheless, a titer done recently found I didn't have any antibodies. I got the vaccine again, in my 50s.

★ 20 Recommend



(/user/G2geek)

G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ randym77

August 23 · 12:16:14 AM

(/comments/1790207/71115978#comment\_71115978)

Good reminder.

I have a routine doctor’s appointment on Friday...

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77)** ▶ **G2geek**

August 23 · 07:44:24 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117088#comment\_71117088)

According to my doctor, it’s not uncommon for immunity to fade over the decades. Which is why she ordered the titer as part of routine bloodwork.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid)** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 09:30:35 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117836#comment\_71117836)

My doctor does the same thing.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Dido)

**Dido (/user/Dido)** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 10:23:51 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118405#comment\_71118405)

I had German measles as a kid and had to re-vaccinate before having my son. AND then he gave me chicken pox for the second time...which I had also had as a kid. So yes, you bet immunity can fade...

★ 2 Recommend



[new]



(/user/xlr8kc)

**xlr8kc (/user/xlr8kc) ▶ benamery21**

August 22 · 11:35:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71115711#comment\_71115711)

My spouse and I got the MMR shot twice as children in the 70s/80s. Upon medical advice, we got it again for a 3rd time a couple of years ago. Per Dr, MMR immunity eventually wears off and many middle aged+ adults are really only being protected by herd immunity. I will get what vaccine I need to do my part to help protect the community. Anything less is selfish. (Unless you are immune compromised etc of course.)

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lucy Montrose)

**Lucy Montrose (/user/Lucy Montr... ▶ xlr8kc**

August 23 · 02:26:14 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116506#comment\_71116506)

I got my childhood MMR and then a booster right before college. That was a quarter century ago. Kaiser said I wouldn't be needing any more... but maybe they only mean, I don't need another shot right now, but I might in the future?

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:01:33 AM (/comments/1790207/71118788#comment\_71118788)

Not everyone can handle standard childhood immunizations. Bone marrow recipients, for instance.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ Ice Blue**

August 23 · 11:36:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119301#comment\_71119301)

Thankfully, given that not everyone can obtain individual immunity, we can provide excellent herd immunity even with less than 100% individual immunity, even for diseases which are as contagious as measles.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:39:11 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119334#comment\_71119334)

Oh, I’m not anti-vaxx. I’m just agreeing, we need herd immunity to protect those who are too weak to handle vaccinations.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ Ice Blue**

August 23 · 11:40:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119353#comment\_71119353)

I’m one of those people who has a bad reaction to everything. But I’ve never had a bad reaction to an immunization.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:03:24 AM (/comments/1790207/71118813#comment\_71118813)

IANAMD but I heard that, even if a child’s shots aren’t 100% effective, they often lessen the severity of the disease.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)  
**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ Ice Blue**  
August 23 · 11:41:36 AM  
(/comments/1790207/71119372#comment\_71119372)  
Neither am I, but that’s true for measles.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Chartreux)

**Chartreux (/user/Chartreux) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 12:45:42 PM (/comments/1790207/71120145#comment\_71120145)

No vaccination works with a single dose. That's why we all get another vaccination against tetanus when we step on a nail in the garden. The immune system forgets and needs a reminder, a booster shot.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ benamery21**

August 22 · 10:42:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71115211#comment\_71115211)

The Somali-American community in Minneapolis begs to differ.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Canid Micturate)

**Canid Micturate (/user/Canid Micturate) ▶ raptavio**

August 22 · 11:28:02 PM (/comments/1790207/71115645#comment\_71115645)

I read the outbreak in MSP was due to Somalis who had visited their homeland and returned infected ( to an unvaccinated cohort of Somalis).

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)



raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ Canid Micturate

August 23 · 07:57:24 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117155#comment\_71117155)

It was not a “minor outbreak.”

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

benamery21 (/user/bename... ▶ raptavio

August 23 · 11:48:37 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119464#comment\_71119464)

On average 3 or 4 million people were infected annually with measles in the years before the vaccine was introduced in the U.S.

All importation outbreaks today are minor by comparison.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ benamery21

August 23 · 11:50:59 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119493#comment\_71119493)

That’s thin gruel, sir.

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed far fewer Japanese than the firebombing of Dresden killed Germans, yet only a prat would call the former event a “minor” military action.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

benamery21 (/user/b... ▶ raptavio

August 23 · 12:13:43 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119768#comment\_71119768)

You can call 79 cases “not a minor outbreak” if you want to. It’s certainly concerning with respect to the breakdown of herd immunity among a small U.S. sub-population which was exposed to anti-vax ideas here in the States and allowed vaccination rates to drop below safe levels after previously having demonstrated high vaccine compliance.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio** (/user/rapta... ▶ **benamery21**

August 23 · 12:16:29 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119798#comment\_71119798)

Exactly. A canary in the coal mine, if you will, except the canary is a population of human beings some of whom will be permanently injured from their measles.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21** (/user/b... ▶ **raptavio**

August 23 · 12:25:49 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119901#comment\_71119901)

Making it about “immigrants” is concerning to me too, especially when all the data we have says that importation by non-immigrant American international travelers is a much bigger phenomenon.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio** (/user/rapta... ▶ **benamery21**

(/comments/1790207/71120221#comment\_71120221)

Many of the population are as American as you or I, born in this country and lived their whole lives here. It's about neither immigrants nor tourists — it's about people being tricked into fearing vaccines.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ raptavio**

August 23 · 12:18:20 AM (/comments/1790207/71115985#comment\_71115985)

For anyone who doesn't know about this: a measles outbreak got going in the Somali community in Minnesota a year or two ago, fueled by Wakefield et.al. going there and making their usual quack propaganda.

Public health scientists contacted the local Muslim clerics, who were more than willing to listen: they mounted a campaign, in their mosques, to get all their kids vaccinated. That brought the outbreak to a halt.

★ 28 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ raptavio**

August 23 · 11:46:12 AM (/comments/1790207/71119436#comment\_71119436)

Differ with what, precisely?

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:49:18 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119469#comment\_71119469)

That it was a “minor outbreak”, and that it wasn't principally due to an unvaccinated population, and that immigrant populations aren't at the core of the issue here. Dozens were

hospitalized. This was a significant outbreak and was not minor.

Undoubtedly they start with someone who brought the disease from outside the US, that much is certain. But they are principally due to a largely unvaccinated population — and the Somali community in Minneapolis was a target of “Dr.” Wakefield himself and were misled into not vaccinating in appallingly high numbers.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/JohnnySacks)

**JohnnySacks (/user/JohnnySacks)** ▶ **raptavio**

August 23 · 01:01:39 PM (/comments/1790207/71120336#comment\_71120336)

What really gets my blood boiling is that in their alleged minds they think vaccine is dangerous. So their plague vector rug rats get a free ride off the rest of us civilized responsible parents who are, again, in their alleged minds, putting our kids at risk.

I wish we could ship them off to a deserted island and cut them off 100% from civilization — good riddance to that human shit and hope they die screaming.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Catte Nappe)

**Catte Nappe (/user/Catte Nappe)** ▶ **bear83**

August 22 · 06:02:07 PM (/comments/1790207/71112723#comment\_71112723)

Heard an interview on NPR the other morning, where the person talking equated it to drunk driving, in that doing so endangered not only the drunk driver but people they might come in contact with. That seemed to me a useful framing of the concept that *might* reach at least some on the fence.

★ 73 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar)** ▶ **Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 07:58:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71113740#comment\_71113740)

that's good!

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DarkPhoenix)

**DarkPhoenix (/user/DarkPhoenix) ▶ Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 08:09:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71113861#comment\_71113861)

It's actually WORSE than drunk driving. At least the idiot deciding to drive home drunk is risking him/herself in the stupid endeavor. Anti-vax parents are more like the guy who convinces his friend to have a bunch of beers and then drive himself home, while making sure he's using another mode of transportation.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Gwennedd)

**Gwennedd (/user/Gwennedd) ▶ DarkPhoenix**

August 22 · 08:49:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71114244#comment\_71114244)

Umm...no. The drunk driver is risking the lives of others who are driving in the same immediate area as him/her, AND any pedestrians on his/her path home. He may also damage property if he/she crashes.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DarkPhoenix)

**DarkPhoenix (/user/DarkPhoenix) ▶ Gwennedd**

August 22 · 10:32:49 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115115#comment\_71115115)

Did everybody completely miss what I was getting at, or something? What I meant was that it's worse than drunk driving, because the person making the decision (the parent) isn't risking him/herself in this situation (beyond the standard risk that every non-involved person has in the situation). Note that almost all anti-vax cases are parents deciding not to get their children vaccinated. As I said, like the "friend" who convinces his buddy to drive drunk, and then uses an alternate

method of transportation so HE’S not specifically at risk.  
Letting someone else take a stupid risk, while dodging responsibility.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Gwennedd)

**Gwennedd (/user/Gwennedd)** ▶ **DarkPhoenix**

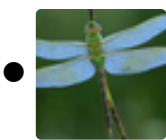
August 23 · 02:37:09 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116533#comment\_71116533)

The part *you* missed was the danger to others a person who won’t vaccinate poses to others, just like a drunk driver poses a risk to others besides himself.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DragonflyInTheSun)

**DragonflyInTheSun (/user/D...** ▶ **DarkPhoenix**

August 23 · 09:02:47 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117602#comment\_71117602)

Jesus, I know that reading comprehension around here sucks, but good god. Your comment wasn't even all that long.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **DarkPhoenix**

August 22 · 09:00:55 PM (/comments/1790207/71114368#comment\_71114368)

Anti-vax parents are risking their children, their children’s friends, everyone around them who isn’t immune — and not everyone is — as well as everyone around them whose immune systems are compromised for whatever reason.

It’s why herd immunity is so effing important.

★ 17 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Catte Nappe)

**Catte Nappe (/user/Catte Nappe) ▶ DarkPhoenix**

August 22 · 09:02:13 PM (/comments/1790207/71114383#comment\_71114383)

How is the anti-vaxxer’s children protected from the illness? They may escape infection...but they may not.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DarkPhoenix)

**DarkPhoenix (/user/DarkPhoenix) ▶ Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 10:32:35 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115111#comment\_71115111)

Did everybody completely miss what I was getting at, or something? What I meant was that it’s worse than drunk driving, because the person making the decision (the parent) isn’t risking him/herself in this situation (beyond the standard risk that every non-involved person has in the situation). Note that almost all anti-vax cases are parents deciding not to get their children vaccinated. As I said, like the “friend” who convinces his buddy to drive drunk, and then uses an alternate method of transporation so HE’S not specifically at risk. Letting someone else take a stupid risk, while dodging responsibility.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Black Knight)

**Black Knight (/user/Black K... ▶ DarkPhoenix**

August 23 · 11:18:04 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119040#comment\_71119040)

I think the reason it went over many people’s heads is because parents typically view a threat to their children as a risk to themselves. People often never get over losing a child and consider it the worst pain they ever experienced; it destroys their lives and their marriages.

So while you’re technically correct that parents aren't risking themselves (unless they are also unvaccinated) by choosing not to have their children vaccinated, to

parents children are in a sense an extension of themselves and so risks to their children’s safety are indeed risks to themselves. The way I heard one parent describe having a child was, “It’s like having your heart walking around outside your body.”

While I think the anti-vaxxers are falling prey to charlatans and badly misunderstanding science, one thing that’s hard to deny is that their motivation is the safety of their children. They truly believe they are keeping their children safe and sadly do not understand that they’re actually putting their kids at greater risk than otherwise.

That’s why you were misread by many, because people generally don’t think of risks to children as not being risks to parents. Caring parents hurt when their kids hurt, they’re destroyed when their children die.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/QuasiTrue)

**QuasiTrue (/user/QuasiTrue) ▶ bear83**

August 22 · 07:09:06 PM (/comments/1790207/71113279#comment\_71113279)

The anti-vax people sound like typical Dirty Don supporters. The epitaphs on their tombstones should read “Truth isn’t truth”.

★ 14 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ QuasiTrue**

August 22 · 09:02:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71114388#comment\_71114388)

Nope. There are plenty of anti-vaxxers on the left, including some who post here.

★ 22 Recommend

[new]



(/user/ptalbert)

**ptalbert (/user/ptalbert) ▶ susans**

August 22 · 09:24:44 PM (/comments/1790207/71114568#comment\_71114568)

I can't back it up with numbers, but my impression is that there are more anti-vaxxers on the left than the right. Along with anti-GMO fanatics. The right has climate change deniers, and i don't even know how to characterize the reality deniers that support Trump. Anti-science is equal opportunity for people set in their beliefs, especially if they believe the medical establishment/big ag/environmental extremists/deep state has taken over the government, and scientists are all in their pocket and can't be trusted.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio)** ▶ ptalbert

August 22 · 10:42:59 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115218#comment\_71115218)

The best data says anti-vax has a slight rightward bias, but only slight.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ ptalbert

August 23 · 12:27:10 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116031#comment\_71116031)

That's due to sampling. You & I & most of us here, are mostly exposed to folks on the left.

We're more likely to run into leftie-nutters than rightie-nutters.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/left sorta)

**left sorta (/user/left sorta)** ▶ ptalbert

August 23 · 12:33:28 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116058#comment\_71116058)

Anti-vaxxers who believe it's all a corporate scam to make money can't do arithmetic or have never bothered to look up vaccine prices. No one's going to get rich.

Gotta admit I wonder if there's some dumb, dangerous thing that could be done with GMO's, but it seems to me we have an awful lot of technology for which that is true.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/northsylvania)

**northsylvania** (/user/norths... ▶ left sorta

August 23 · 07:52:49 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117124#comment\_71117124)

Roundup ready crops qualify. We're all eating Roundup now, whether we want to or not. GMOs aren't bad per se, but how they are modified can be.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/WI Lurker)

**WI Lurker** (/user/WI L... ▶ northsylvania

August 23 · 11:07:24 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118878#comment\_71118878)

Cite or source? GMOs have been heavily studied and proven safe for consumption. Including roundup ready crops.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/sparky81884)

**sparky81884** (/user/sp... ▶ WI Lurker

August 23 · 01:04:09 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120365#comment\_71120365)

It's not the genetic modifications that concern me with GMO's, it's the farming practices they enable.

I'm not super comfortable with ingesting ANY amount of a known carcinogen (glyphosate / aka Roundup) and we know that Roundup Ready crops absorb some portion of the herbicide. It seems likely that our arbitrarily defined herbicide contamination cutoff for food safety isn't really right. After all, we don't actually test this stuff on humans to verify safety.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Khaaannn)

**Khaaannn (/user/Khaaannn)** ▶ ptalbert

August 23 · 10:06:36 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118186#comment\_71118186)

There are actually two general groups of Anti-Vaxxers:

Those on the Left tend to be New-Age-Upper-Class idiots who are convinced they are more intelligent and informed than anyone else so they are always right due to their “enlightened” and morally superior ways.

Those on the Right tend to be Fundie-Religion-Lower-Class who “just know” that God will protect THEM because they are more Pious than everyone else and anyone who gets these diseases do so because they are morally inferior.

Same thing, different sides of the coin.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wasplover)

**wasplover (/user/wasplover)** ▶ Khaaannn

August 23 · 10:35:54 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118518#comment\_71118518)

On the right I would add those who are suspicious of the federal gov't, whether religious or not. You know, the same government that wants to take their guns away. Those are the anti-vaxxers we tend to get here in upstate NY.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/hatrack)

**hatrack (/user/hatrack) ▶ wasplover**

August 23 · 12:03:37 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119634#comment\_71119634)

“Ice cream, Mandrake? Childrens’ ice cream?!?!”

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ susans**

August 23 · 12:23:11 AM (/comments/1790207/71116007#comment\_71116007)

The ones who post here quickly discover that their days of posting here come to an end.

It’s one of the few things that gets instant ban these days.

Even some wink-nudge advocacy of violence (“he deserved that punch in the nose”) doesn’t get banned nearly as quickly.

We’ve got good “herd immunity” to that stuff here.

But yes it’s also true that there are anti-vax nuts on the left. Most of those, are of the “all natural” variety who are paranoid about “chemicals,” even though they’re as much made of chemicals as any other living organism.

★ 17 Recommend

[new]



(/user/IM)

**IM (/user/IM) ▶ susans**

August 23 · 06:46:06 AM (/comments/1790207/71116894#comment\_71116894)

anti-vaxx, in the US as elsewhere, is very much a bipartisan thing.

★ 4 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Ellid)

Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ susans

August 23 · 09:54:11 AM (/comments/1790207/71118072#comment\_71118072)

There is a strong streak of Luddite sentiment on the left — just look at all the “alternative healing” and “bodywork” ads in the average green living magazine, or the chiropractors/Rolfers/reiki masters/herbalists in college towns. The evidence for any of this helping anything beyond easing back pain or sciatica is minimal, but try telling patients that — I had someone tell me that craniosacral massage would take care of a *tumor* on the balance nerve in one ear, and I had to nod up and down and say “thanks” instead of laughing until I cried.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Finnegan05)

Finnegan05 (/user/Finnegan05) ▶ Ellid

August 23 · 11:19:55 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119062#comment\_71119062)

Oh no. I honestly feel my heart breaking a little at that.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ Finnegan05

August 23 · 11:32:34 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119245#comment\_71119245)

It was surreal.

Worse was when I looked up craniosacral massage and saw what it actually was.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Finnegan05)

Finnegan05 (/user/Fin... ▶ Ellid  
August 23 · 11:34:49 AM  
(/comments/1790207/71119276#comment\_71119276)  
Going to look....

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Chartreux)

Chartreux (/user/Chartreux) ▶ Ellid  
August 23 · 01:04:29 PM  
(/comments/1790207/71120369#comment\_71120369)

Craniosacral therapy  
Craniosacral therapy is a form of bodywork or alternative therapy using gentle touch to palpate the synarthrodial joints of the cranium. A practitioner of cranial-sacral therapy may also apply light touches to a patient's spine and pelvic bones. (Wikipedia)

I knew what it was. Just wanted to save others the time and effort.  
  
My sister died from a brain tumor age 18. Radiation and chemo were no help. I know that massage wouldn't have helped her survive. Today thanks to MRI and CT scan there's a 98% survival rate but in 1962 she died but first she went completely blind.  
  
Perhaps massage could've helped her nausea but I doubt it. She suffered for two long years.  
  
Not a day has passed without my thinking of her. I was only 7 when she died.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/jds1978)

jds1978 (/user/jds1978) ▶ QuasiTrue

August 22 · 09:08:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71114439#comment\_71114439)

Anti-vaxxers tend to cluster on the fringe left. I know a few. They are also the only people I personally know who are proud of their vote for Jill Stein. Basically, they are very comfortable nihilists.

★ 14 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ jds1978

August 22 · 09:20:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71114535#comment\_71114535)

not just on the left, there's a ton of apolitical and right wing antivaxxers. we're just more familiar with them because they're in our social circles.

★ 21 Recommend

[new]



(/user/xlr8kc)

xlr8kc (/user/xlr8kc) ▶ jds1978

August 22 · 11:37:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71115728#comment\_71115728)

Oh yes, plenty on the left. It's no coincidence that Boulder CO is a big cluster of anti-vaxxers.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ xlr8kc

August 23 · 09:56:09 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118090#comment\_71118090)

And they'll probably have a nice outbreak of scarlet fever or mumps or something, and then wonder why their sons are sterile and so many of their kids have damaged heart muscles.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/xlr8kc)

**xlr8kc (/user/xlr8kc)** ▶ **Ellid**

August 23 · 10:14:18 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118294#comment\_71118294)

They actually did have a whooping cough outbreak a couple years ago. Boulder's child vaccination rate falls double digit percentage points below the min threshold for herd immunity which is crazy scary.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **jds1978**

August 23 · 12:29:42 AM (/comments/1790207/71116043#comment\_71116043)

Stein is also an anti-vaxer herself, so she attracts the ones on the left. There are anti-vaxer “libertarians” on the right who tend to attract the ones on the right.

Magnets, rusty nails.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/IM)

**IM (/user/IM)** ▶ **G2geek**

August 23 · 06:48:14 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116898#comment\_71116898)

Or at least spouts anti-vaccinism out of opportunism.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Chartreux)

**Chartreux (/user/Chartreux)** ▶ **jds1978**

August 23 · 01:07:07 PM (/comments/1790207/71120404#comment\_71120404)

Ralph Nader still pisses me off. You don't want to know what I think about Jill Stein.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ bear83

August 22 · 09:19:26 PM (/comments/1790207/71114526#comment\_71114526)

the lack of herd immunity is the lake of gasoline. outsiders or tourists or europeans who had traveled abroad bringing disease into that petri dish are the match. can't do anything about the match, but they and we can do something about the lake of gas.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ bear83

August 23 · 12:14:25 AM (/comments/1790207/71115963#comment\_71115963)

That's not the case: most of them are due to American tourists picking up measles elsewhere and bringing it back here.

And, we should be careful about not giving Trumpsters another anti-immigrant meme, especially one that's provably not true.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/bear83)

bear83 (/user/bear83) ▶ G2geek

August 23 · 07:55:46 AM (/comments/1790207/71117142#comment\_71117142)

My note was in reference to the measles outbreak in Europe. A link to American tourists is possible, but unlikely.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Sandy1)

Sandy1 (/user/Sandy1) August 22 · 05:55:28 PM (/comments/1790207/71112665#comment\_71112665)

Your excellent information bares repeating. There is no reason for a child in the United States of America to come down with measles. Fools don't vaccinate their kids and they in turn put vulnerable children who can die from exposure at risk, not to mention pregnant women and their own children. There is no excuse for these irresponsible parents. I grew up during a time when

most children got sick with measles, mumps, and chicken pox. With modern vaccinations children are spared. The dangers of unvaccinated children can not be stressed enough. Thanks for the reminder.

★ 72 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ernest T Bass)

**Ernest T Bass (/user/Ernest T Bass) ▶ Sandy1**

August 22 · 06:08:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71112801#comment\_71112801)

bears

★ 16 Recommend

[new]



(/user/jerseyjoew)

**jerseyjoew (/user/jerseyjoew) ▶ Ernest T Bass**

August 22 · 06:12:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71112829#comment\_71112829)

da bears

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CwV)

**CwV (/user/CwV) ▶ jerseyjoew**

August 22 · 06:24:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71112931#comment\_71112931)

da bulls

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ CwV**

August 22 · 06:46:23 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113116#comment\_71113116)

Rick Mears

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/HoolnFla)

**HoolnFla (/user/HoolnFla) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 23 · 08:26:20 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117360#comment\_71117360)

Rick Roll

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ HoolnFla**

August 23 · 09:56:50 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118095#comment\_71118095)

Polish sausage....

★ 2 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Kate in the desert)

**Kate in the desert (/u... ▶ Ellid**

August 23 · 11:00:38 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118777#comment\_71118777)

Kielbasa?

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ Sandy1**

August 22 · 07:24:28 PM (/comments/1790207/71113428#comment\_71113428)

I also grew up during that time. I had measles & chicken pox, but not mumps (despite repeated exposures), so concluded I had a natural immunity to mumps.





People in those days knew that measles could be dangerous. They especially worried about eye damage, which wasn't mentioned in this diary. My father draped a towel over my bedside lamp to protect my eyes from bright light. The towel caught fire. Fortunately I was awake and started screaming. That was the most dangerous thing that happened as a result of my mumps.

Chicken pox was supposed to be much milder, and was. However, my 6 month old sister caught them from me and was very ill.

On the whole, kids are better off if they get the vaccine. But what about adults? How long does that vaccine last? When just about everyone had these diseases as kids, they got lifelong immunity from them (although being subject to shingles from having had chicken pox). Do we now have a generation of adults who got the vaccine, but it has now worn off? Do we know?

★ 29 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nanoot)


**nanoot (/user/nanoot) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 07:27:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71113452#comment\_71113452)

I remember exposure parties in the Fifties. People would bring their kids together to be exposed to diseases before there were vaccines for them. The good old days!

★ 20 Recommend

[new]



(/user/714day)


**714day (/user/714day) ▶ nanoot**

August 22 · 11:01:16 PM (/comments/1790207/71115401#comment\_71115401)

I never heard of those. But I came from a Catholic family. If one cousin was downed by something virulent, so were we all. There were lots and lots of cousins. Now everybody vaccinates their kids.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

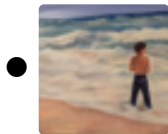
**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ nanoot**

Anti-vaxers still do that. They also meet on the Face Borg where they arrange to send contaminated clothing and partially-eaten lolly pops around between them to get “natural immunity” to chicken pox. Which of course means deliberately infecting their own & each others’ kids.

Mailing biohazardous material is already a federal crime. Deliberately infecting a kid with a disease ought to be prosecutable as child abuse & endangerment.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Andrew F Cockburn)

**Andrew F Cockburn (/user/Andrew F Cockburn) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 07:29:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71113474#comment\_71113474)

Chickenpox is not as dangerous as measles when you first get it. But the virus stays in your nervous system for life. It can later emerge as shingles, which is among the most painful diseases imaginable.

★ 37 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 07:35:15 PM (/comments/1790207/71113518#comment\_71113518)

Actually, it can be quite serious if you get it as an adult. That was one of the reasons that people in the pre-vaccine days tried to make sure their kids got it when they were young.

★ 25 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ T100R**

August 22 · 07:52:17 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113687#comment\_71113687)

Yep. I was mildly surprised when I got chickenpox as a child and I wound up spending **more** time with my best friend Lynn than I normally did. Sure enough, when I got back to school, she was out and with chickenpox.

★ 16 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Diana in NoVa)

**Diana in NoVa (/user/Diana in NoVa) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 08:13:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71113893#comment\_71113893)

(Moaning, oh, my poor elder son. He had it. It was absolutely-bloody-awful.)

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CaffeineInduced)

**CaffeineInduced (/user/CaffeineInduced) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 08:27:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71114039#comment\_71114039)

I had a wicked case of the chickenpox when I was young (6 or 7, I think) They tied gloves on my hands so I couldn't scratch. I still remember that misery so didn't hesitate to get the shingles shot. I've know people with that too, and it's horrible.

★ 24 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ CaffeineInduced**

August 22 · 09:04:22 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114403#comment\_71114403)

I still have chicken pox scars 60 years after I was sick.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/birches)

**birches (/user/birches) ▶ CaffeineInduced**

August 23 · 12:21:09 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116000#comment\_71116000)

My brother and I got chickenpox at the same time and, so we wouldn't scratch, my mom tied socks onto our hands. So we discovered we could get temporary relief if we punched each other's pox instead. No visible scars and it was a memorable week.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lucy Montrose)

**Lucy Montrose (/user/Lucy Montr... ▶ CaffeineInduced**

August 23 · 02:32:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116518#comment\_71116518)

I had chicken pox when I was six and a half. I'd caught it from a classmate who moved to Vancouver; thus it was called "his going-away present" to me. I remember being sick and itchy for about a week, and the neighbor-- a part-time cake decorator-- making me a cake with clowns all over it once I got better.

I didn't feel as sick as I did during the times I got strep throat. When I was nine, I got scarlet fever-- probably the sickest I'd ever been in my life.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ CaffeineInduced**

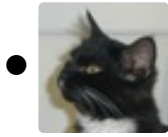
August 23 · 11:08:01 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118889#comment\_71118889)

Calamine lotion and baking soda baths for me. Didn't help.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/neznamo)

**neznamo (/user/neznamo) ▶ CaffeineInduced**

August 23 · 11:44:16 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119406#comment\_71119406)

I read somewhere that the severity of chickenpox has no correlation with risk of getting shingles or the severity of shingles, if you get it.

Also, you can't catch shingles from someone suffering from it, but you CAN catch chickenpox.

If you have had shingles, you should still get the vaccine to reduce the risk of re-occurrence.

My husband got a small patch of shingles on one leg. He fell multiple times because his leg would "go out" on him suddenly. He had to walk with a cane for at least a year.

As for measles (early 60s), my sister and I both recovered without physical complications, but the social fallout was pretty devastating. My father, sister & I boarded with an elderly couple. When we got measles, they immediately kicked us out. My aunt & uncle put us up until we recovered (2 weeks bedrest in a dark room). Then my father had to find us another place to live and a new school to attend.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/splashy)

**splashy (/user/splashy) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 07:54:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71113706#comment\_71113706)

Not everyone got lifelong immunity. I had the measles 4 time! Never could become immune to it. This whole anti-vax stuff could end up hurting me again, by exposing me to it once again.

★ 24 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nchristine)

**nchristine (/user/nchristine) ▶ splashy**

August 22 · 08:21:24 PM (/comments/1790207/71113972#comment\_71113972)

I've had the MMR twice and the Rubella an additional time. I've been told that having the vaccine for rubella again means I'm immune, but I'm not so sure and I'm not going to go out of my way to find out.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/splashy)

**splashy (/user/splashy) ▶ nchristine**

August 22 · 09:40:36 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114720#comment\_71114720)

I'm talking about the diseases, not the vaccines. We used to call them the 3-day, 1 week, and 2 week measles. Not sure which is what.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nchristine)

**nchristine (/user/nchristine) ▶ splashy**

August 22 · 11:12:39 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115518#comment\_71115518)

I understood that. You never developed an immunity to measles, despite contracting the illness, and quite possibly like you, I may never have developed an immunity to rubella, despite being vaccinated 3 times. Thankfully, I don't think I've ever been exposed to rubella and I don't want to test the last vaccine's effectiveness by exposing myself to it. The first vaccination was in the 70's as a child. The second was in the mid 80's when CDC felt that those vaccinated in the early 70's was bad and I was in college with thousands of others that were in the same boat — so the university vaccinated for free. The third vaccination was around 2005 after a second outbreak of mumps in the college community I worked (university hospital) and they wanted proof of vaccination. My childhood vaccination records are in some military warehouse somewhere. When I tried to get the second vaccination records, the university had destroyed all records prior to 1990. So, I got a titer test and it said that I had no immunization to rubella, despite the 2 previous vaccinations, that I knew I had, but couldn't prove. So, like you I may not have developed an immunity despite exposure (vaccine) and I'm very thankful that I've never had it seriously tested.

I was miserable with the mumps and was hospitalized for probable encepholitis (sp??) as a result. Thankfully, I've never been expose to measles and the titer test that I had at the same time as the rubella proved immunization.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nchristine)

**nchristine (/user/nchristine)** ▶ **splashy**

August 22 · 11:13:46 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115530#comment\_71115530)

Maybe I'm saying that even though people have been vaccinated, they may not have developed the immunity and many have had multiple immunizations and still may not have developed immunization.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **splashy**

August 23 · 12:35:23 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116067#comment\_71116067)

Then there was also the "German measles," which sounded "more scary" because it was "foreign."

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Kate in the desert)

**Kate in the desert (/u...** ▶ **G2geek**

August 23 · 11:06:23 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118863#comment\_71118863)

That's a nickname for rubella.

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ splashy**

August 22 · 09:28:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71114607#comment\_71114607)

Didn't you at some point get a vaccination to prevent re-occurrence? If so, did it work or fail to protect you?

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ eric14850**

August 22 · 10:45:06 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115238#comment\_71115238)

The same mechanism that builds immunity from contracting the disease builds immunity from the vaccine. If one fails, the other can fail just as easily.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ raptavio**

August 22 · 11:12:15 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115515#comment\_71115515)

My assumption as well, but I didn't want to go with assumptions if an answer could be had.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 08:03:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71113799#comment\_71113799)

actually, I read an article recently that suggests that you don't necessarily get lifelong immunity from having the disease itself.

And here's something you can get from actually getting chickenpox instead of getting the vaccine: shingles.

Or getting polio rather than the vaccine — Post Polio syndrome.

Both of these awful kinds of reoccurrences of the diseases are pretty damn awful. Shingles is not only very painful but can be seriously debilitating. And Post Polio Syndrome can mean returning to having major mobility problems.

★ 24 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 08:06:23 PM (/comments/1790207/71113820#comment\_71113820)

We had a young guy here at work come down with shingles. He was out for three weeks and even once he came back he was in a world of hurt.

★ 13 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CaffeineInduced)

**CaffeineInduced (/user/CaffeineIn... ▶ T100R**

August 22 · 08:35:49 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114116#comment\_71114116)

Shingles can cause a condition called “herpetic neuropathy”. It is not fun. Neuropathy is damage to the nerves and can be very painful. Since I have it from another cause, I didn’t want any more,

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Busterforte)

**Busterforte (/user/Busterfor... ▶ CaffeineInduced**

August 23 · 07:47:01 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117101#comment\_71117101)

If you are 50 or older GET the shingles vaccine!  
Richard Painter (news commentator and Senate candidate) had singles and has Ramsey Hunt syndrome type 2 which causes symptoms similar to Bell's palsy.

Anyone around infants should be vaccinated for Pertussis (whooping cough). Adults can have it and not even know it.

Most insurance cover these vaccines. You just walk into a pharmacy and ask.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77** (/user/rand... ▶ **Busterforte**

August 23 · 07:54:10 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117133#comment\_71117133)

Check and see if your insurance covers it first. A lot of plans (including mine, which is a pretty good plan) do not cover the shingles vaccine until you are 60 or older.

The justification is that you're not at high risk for shingles until you are 60 or older, and they are worried immunity will fade before you reach the age of greatest vulnerability if you get it too soon.

People younger than 60 do get shingles (my sister in law did), and it still sucks, but supposedly you're at much lower risk for complications.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Busterforte)

**Busterforte** (/user/Bu... ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 08:18:52 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117297#comment\_71117297)

The pharmacy tells you how much it will cost you in no time.

Thanks for the heads up.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CaffeineInduced)

**CaffeineInduced** (/use... ▶ randym77

August 23 · 08:35:37 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117437#comment\_71117437)

I know at the time i got it the cash price was around \$250.00, so good thing I checked. I think I probably wasn't 60 yet, late 50s maybe. I did know a guy who got it in his late 20s/early 30s, and he had a miserable time of it.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77** (/user/rand... ▶ CaffeineInduced

August 23 · 08:45:20 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117492#comment\_71117492)

A couple of people in my office got it (one in his 40s, one in her 50s), and they missed a lot of work. My sister in law is in her 50s, and it affected her eyes; she had a hard time reading for awhile.

So I checked into getting the vaccine, and found out I'm too young.

A new shingles vaccine (Shingrix) came out last year, and it is more effective and, so far, appears less likely to wear off. The CDC recommends it at age 50. But a lot of insurance companies haven't updated their policies. :-P

If you got the old vaccine (Zostavax), you can still get the new, more effective one. Dunno about insurance coverage, though.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Busterforte)

**Busterforte (/user/Bu...** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 11:10:07 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118921#comment\_71118921)

There are no ‘good’ stories about folks who come down with shingles. Anybody I know that had it was just down right miserable — for weeks.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/northbronx)

**northbronx (/user/northbro...** ▶ **CaffeineInduced**

August 23 · 08:26:28 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117362#comment\_71117362)

I had shingles at 32 and for a relatively mild case — I don’t think I missed work — I had pain and sensitivity to touch in the affected area for a year afterwards. I had it on my torso, I can’t imagine getting it in the sciatic or a craniofacial nerve, or the optic nerve which is a very serious condition.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **T100R**

August 22 · 08:58:31 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114341#comment\_71114341)

About two months minimum, to get past the 24-hours-a-day pain stage. (I had shingles the second time three years ago. After recovering, I got the vaccine — via ACA.)

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ceri Cat)

**Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat)** ▶ **Tamar**

August 22 · 08:45:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71114206#comment\_71114206)

mentioned Alan Marshall elsewhere, he was an Australian author, he contracted polio as a 6 year old, he survived but his paralysis got worse as he aged.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/BriarRose)

**BriarRose (/user/BriarRose) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 08:58:02 PM (/comments/1790207/71114336#comment\_71114336)

My two sisters and I had chicken pox together and were very ill. I dont remember as I was an infant. We all three have shingles as adults. I remember that!

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ BriarRose**

August 22 · 08:59:48 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114356#comment\_71114356)

I’m waiting for my pharmacy to have enough of a supply that I can get my second shingles shot (the new vaccination. I had the old one). I really really don’t want to get shingles! I’m sorry you had to go through that.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Kate in the desert)

**Kate in the desert (/user/Ka... ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 11:12:55 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118956#comment\_71118956)

I’ll be going back to my doctor for the 2nd shot around the 3-month mark. Even though with the 1st shot, I had a swollen, painful arm for about 10 days. I’d rather go through the pain of the shot (which was manageable — just don’t touch that arm!) than to come down with shingles.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 09:06:29 PM (/comments/1790207/71114417#comment\_71114417)

Some years ago, I met someone with post-polio syndrome. She told me she was getting increasingly more disabled.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ susans**

August 22 · 09:10:12 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114450#comment\_71114450)

yes, it's terrible. They beat the illness as children only to have it hit them again as adults.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Bradana)

**Bradana (/user/Bradana) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 09:11:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71114459#comment\_71114459)

I had chicken pox when I was 5. I had a very mild case that amounted to 4 pox total. The doctor said I might not have full immunity, but by the time I was in my 20's in the 90's I was exposed during an outbreak at the daycare I worked at. I didn't get it so I figure I'm immune. I got shingles when I was 9 and for about a month I was miserable. The doc seems to think I don't need the shingles vaccine since I had it so young. I hope so, I wouldn't wish shingles on anyone.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ Bradana**

August 22 · 09:14:36 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114483#comment\_71114483)



I had chickenpox twice — once as a young child, once as a teenager. My family doc was not surprised. He had seen this before. But because I had it as a little kid, I had a relatively mild case as a teenager. Apparently if I had never had it, having it later on would have been much worse than it was.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar)** ▶ **Bradana**

August 22 · 09:28:54 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114609#comment\_71114609)

I would check on that (not getting the vaccine) with another doctor if I were you.

If you've had shingles once, you probably won't get it again.

That doesn't mean it can't happen; it's just unlikely. Also called herpes zoster, shingles can come back a second or, rarely, a third time. However, you can take steps to help prevent it, or ease it the next time around.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Bradana)

**Bradana (/user/Bradana)** ▶ **Tamar**

August 23 · 07:23:34 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117006#comment\_71117006)

I see my current GP next week. This just reminded me to talk to him about it.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ Bradana**

August 23 · 01:31:21 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116338#comment\_71116338)

You can be vaccinated against shingles even if you had the disease. It still reduces the chance of another episode.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/OHdog)

**OHdog (/user/OHdog) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 09:51:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71114792#comment\_71114792)

Getting measles not only lowers your immunity for a few months it often wipes out the immunity to other diseases you have had or been vaccinated against. These poor kids after suffering measles become immune newbies again open to all the childhood diseases they already had and can now get again.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ OHdog**

August 23 · 01:31:53 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116340#comment\_71116340)

Citation?

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 11:14:38 AM (/comments/1790207/71118982#comment\_71118982)

I met an elderly woman who said she survived smallpox as a child. She said it was the worst experience of her long life. She was still immunized against it several times afterwards. She also said she saw to it her family was immunized against everything.

And, after she told me that, I spent a day and a half online checking my state’s old health department records. WI had reported smallpox outbreaks as recently as the late 1920s. This woman may well have been telling the truth.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 12:14:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71119782#comment\_71119782)

My friend who had polio when we were kids (shortly before the vaccine was announced) had a light case and was out of the hospital in 3 weeks. But then in her 50’s she started having all sorts of problems, and died in her early 60’s.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/buffie)

**buffie (/user/buffie) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 09:24:49 PM (/comments/1790207/71114570#comment\_71114570)

I had a severe case of the measles when I was 3 years old-and my parents were very worried about possible vision loss. After i recovered they made me wear sunglasses outdoors all year round, Little did they know that i will probably never get macular degeneration because of this-and i wear sunglasses year round still!. As to anti-vaxxers-they are idiots.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DButch)

**DButch (/user/DButch) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 11:06:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71115453#comment\_71115453)

Me too. Measles, Maui — just before end of school year, going into summer. It was miserable. My mother (former Public Health and then Navy nurse) would bring blocks of ice from the supermarket (little 1950’s refrigerator didn’t cut it) and ice me in a tub to control the fever at the high spots. She Included keeping my head iced at the higher points of my fever. I think I survived with my facilities intact (but became a SW engineer — so there might have been some damage. :)

I also found that titer tests showed a few years ago that I had mostly lost immunity. Had to take updates. Had to take a shingles shot too — which wound up giving me a mild and VERY atypical shingles attack. None of the symptoms occurred in the regular order.

My doctor considers me a very “interesting” patient.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Kate in the desert)

**Kate in the desert** (/user/Kate in the des... ▶ DButch

August 23 · 11:17:58 AM (/comments/1790207/71119036#comment\_71119036)

It’s no fun being “interesting” in this respect. I’m thinking you’d probably rather be “boring”.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/xlr8kc)

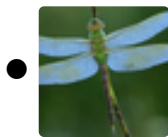
**xlr8kc** (/user/xlr8kc) ▶ Mercy Ormont

August 23 · 12:45:13 AM (/comments/1790207/71116104#comment\_71116104)

Mercy - our family Dr recommended to husband and I that we re-vaxx for MMR, because it does indeed wear off for many adults. We got it ASAP, plus the Hep A, Hep B, and chickenpox vax, none of which existed when we were kids.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DragonflyInTheSun)

**DragonflyInTheSun** (/user/DragonflyInTheSun) ▶ Mercy Ormont

August 23 · 09:08:59 AM (/comments/1790207/71117651#comment\_71117651)

Yeah, I have a very old book upstairs that depicts an entire family (five children) coming down with measles. The protagonist daughter gets a mild case in most ways, but suffers complications to her eyes. She spends months with a cloth tied over her face, forbidden to expose her eyes to light at all. One of her brothers is severely affected by the fever and almost dies. Two siblings have more typical cases and one doesn't catch it. There's a pervasive fear running through the entire story. Granted that the story is set in a time before modern medicine, but it was absolutely NOT seen as a ho-hum childhood illness.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ DragonflyInTheSun**

August 23 · 12:16:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71119799#comment\_71119799)

I'm guessing that book is *The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew*.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 23 · 09:58:18 AM (/comments/1790207/71118111#comment\_71118111)

I had the worst case of chicken pox my doctor had ever seen, and still have some scars from scratching (my parents all but painted me in Caladryl to help, but some of it wore off). It's why my doctor successfully had me approved for the shingles vaccine, and why I'm getting the better version of it in the near future.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77) ▶ Ellid**

August 23 · 10:31:19 AM (/comments/1790207/71118474#comment\_71118474)

I had a terrible case of chicken pox as a child. Much worse than my sister had it. And here I thought that would provide better immunity in the future...

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ randym77**

August 23 · 10:52:58 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118696#comment\_71118696)

To chicken pox, yes. Shingles, not so much.

Also? I know two people who had shingles. Both were in agony from the burning, itching pain, with one so sick and weak it took him nearly a year to recover.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont** (/user/Mercy... ▶ Ellid

August 23 · 12:20:02 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119830#comment\_71119830)

I had it in an unmentionable spot. We were away from home doing an art fair. My husband took a picture of it and sent it to our family friend/dermatologist, who replied “Congratulations! You have shingles. Where is the nearest pharmacy? I’ll send a prescription.” He did, and I improved quickly.

The wonders of modern technology: diagnosed and treated by email.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/left sorta)

**left sorta** (/user/left sorta) ▶ Sandy1

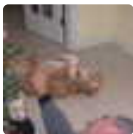
August 23 · 12:41:29 AM (/comments/1790207/71116086#comment\_71116086)

I wonder if, with measles, there isn’t some equivalent to shingles. I had chicken pox as a child, and shingles as an adult. I was lucky, and it was quite minor, but it isn’t always so. My best friend in grade school was basically blind in one eye and deaf in one ear because of encephalitis. I don’t know if it was from measles, mumps, or something else.

I’ve met several people who had polio, and some with post polio syndrome. They had it before widespread vaccination for polio.

I like vaccines.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/absdoggy)

**absdoggy (/user/absdoggy)** August 22 · 05:57:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71112679#comment\_71112679)

Good diary. I would add that recent studies from Finland, where they took blood samples from pregnant women over a 30 year period, and then compared chemicals found in the blood versus resultant health outcomes of the children born to those women, found that the presence of the chemical in DDT was most strongly correlated to autism. Given the findings that Roundup and other pesticides cause cancer and other diseases, I believe more testing needs to be done to determine whether it is these pesticides, the use of which have grown dramatically over the years, are responsible for the increase in autism.

★ 23 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **absdoggy**

August 22 · 06:36:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71113028#comment\_71113028)

[citations needed] - along with not on topic. I have yet to see any evidence that DDT (which is used fairly rarely now) or any other insecticide has anything to do with autism or cancer.

There's little, if any, reliable evidence that Roundup causes cancer or anything else.

The big increase in autism is that it's being diagnosed much more often, and in much milder cases.

★ 19 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 07:06:59 PM (/comments/1790207/71113263#comment\_71113263)

There is one recent study (<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2018.17101129>), dated 16 August 2018 published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry* that claims to show a correlation between blood levels of DDT in pregnant women and the incidence of autism in their children. I haven't read the article, nor do I know anything about that particular journal — I'll let SkepticalRaptor comment on that. There is a summary of the findings in this article (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05994-1#ref-CR1>) from *Nature*.

Of course, this is one study. And as always we have to point out: "Correlation is not Causation".

And yes, this is still off-topic, but you asked for a citation.

★ 15 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ T100R**

August 22 · 08:20:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71113962#comment\_71113962)

and a study I saw a while ago  
(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/autism-risk-linked-to-particulate-air-pollution/>) suggested higher rates of autism in children born to women in areas with higher particulate counts in the air.

And BTW, this is on topic in the sense that we're listing evidence of what might be causing higher rates of autism — knowing that is **not** vaccines.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 08:26:01 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114020#comment\_71114020)

And there was a study about nine years ago (mentioned in Scientific American  
(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/link-between-autism-and-vinyl/>)) which showed a correlation between autism and vinyl flooring. Nothing much ever came of that. Again, not vaccines.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ T100R**

August 22 · 09:23:51 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114563#comment\_71114563)

the big problem is that the \*definition\* of autism has been a moving target. so discussion of historical increases rests upon a weak base of trying to retroactively guess at what might have fit today's definition in the past, back when they didn't consider that autism.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming** (/user/wu m... ▶ **wu ming**

August 22 · 09:24:45 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114569#comment\_71114569)

ditto for ADHD, esp. in girls, which is only now really getting diagnosed because it often doesn't look the same as how it tends to manifest in boys.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid** (/user/Ellid) ▶ **wu ming**

August 23 · 10:07:43 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118201#comment\_71118201)

And then there's overdiagnosis of both, especially via Facebook meme. I know people who are neurotypical and do not have ADHD, but they're absolutely convinced that there's *something* squirrely because they occasionally daydream or procrastinate or have trouble matching names to faces.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming** (/user/wu m... ▶ **Ellid**

August 23 · 11:15:20 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118995#comment\_71118995)

i suspect that there are long tails in the distribution for both spectrum and ADHD, that extend well into the population of people who appear neurotypical (or believe themselves to be neurotypical). the more time you spend around people with those conditions and get clued in to the tells, you'll start to see the patterns pop out in all sorts of random places.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue)** ▶ **wu ming**

August 23 · 11:19:15 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119057#comment\_71119057)

Woman with ADHD here. Mine wasn't officially diagnosed until I was 29. If it was found earlier I likely wouldn't have bombed out of engineering school.

Boys with ADHD are usually holy terrors. Girls are just ditzy.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **Tamar**

August 23 · 12:45:37 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116108#comment\_71116108)

What I find infuriating, is the national obsession with, and paranoia about, autism, as compared to the complete lack of clue & response to Cluster B personality disorders.

Cluster B is a killer.

See also Trump, Newt, Kalanick, etc. etc., a very long list of powerful assholes who are textbook cases.

See also, parents of kids with Cluster B and related diagnoses, are starting to speak up:

[www.theatlantic.com/...](http://www.theatlantic.com/...)

(<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/08/conduct-disorder-parent-support-group/567946/>)

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lucy Montrose)

**Lucy Montrose** (/user/Lucy ... ▶ **G2geek**

August 23 · 02:50:02 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116559#comment\_71116559)

Exactly. The other side of the coin is this all-encompassing fear of autism.

Fear of your child being different in any way, fear of being judged a bad parent. Nothing but fear.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/squarewheel)

**squarewheel** (/user/squarewheel) ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 07:12:42 PM (/comments/1790207/71113320#comment\_71113320)

or cancer.

are you sure, because 30s of web search turned up

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/... (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25337994?dopt=Abstract)

I'll agree with you on autism risk, but saying insecticides have nothing to do with an increased cancer risk doesn't seem reasonable.

★ 13 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nschomer)

**nschomer** (/user/nschomer) ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 07:12:59 PM (/comments/1790207/71113324#comment\_71113324)

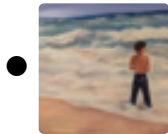
Actually, the DDT one is real:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/... (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30111184)

The glyphosate I'm sure he/she is getting from the fact that somebody just won a lawsuit based on that premise, the science isn't really settled on it though — some studies show a correlation (though weak), and some do not.

★ 18 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Andrew F Cockburn)

**Andrew F Cockburn (/user/Andrew F Cockburn) ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 07:38:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71113546#comment\_71113546)

I would not be surprised to find that organophosphate (OP) insecticides were implicated. Nerve gas agents like sarin are also OPs.

The ones used to kill insects are relatively less toxic to most mammals, but they are still dangerous to use. A colleague once told me that they “do a number on cats”.

★ 7 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 08:56:37 PM (/comments/1790207/71114322#comment\_71114322)

It’s why you’re supposed to read the label and follow instructions. Which, I suspect, a lot of people don’t do.

★ 3 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Bo Realis)

**Bo Realis (/user/Bo Realis) ▶ PJEvans**

August 23 · 04:35:02 AM (/comments/1790207/71116726#comment\_71116726)

[citations needed]

**T100R** has the link.

(<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2018.17101129>)





University of Turku

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Jälkeläisten autisimiriski on suurentunut, kun äidin veressä on raskauden aikana tavallista enemmän kielletyn DDT-hyönteismyrkyn aineenvaihduntatuotetta [#autismi](#) [#DDT](#) [#tutkimusutu.fi/fi/Ajankohtais...](#)

2.19 - 17. elok. 2018



5



Näytä käyttäjän University of Turku muut twiitit



★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank)** ▶ **absdoggy**

August 22 · 06:48:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71113130#comment\_71113130)

Um, Roundup does not contain DDT.

Besides the fact that there is no scientific study which supports your contention.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

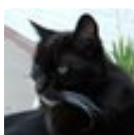
**eric14850 (/user/eric14850)** ▶ **Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 07:59:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71113747#comment\_71113747)

The commenter never suggested there was any relationship of Roundup to DDT. Commenter suggested that if one poison caused autism, might another (my interpretation).

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 22 · 08:15:31 PM (/comments/1790207/71113907#comment\_71113907)

And they need to have a helluva lot better evidence than one maybe-useful study before they start saying what causes autism.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 09:35:29 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114677#comment\_71114677)

There seem to be multiple causes of autism.

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



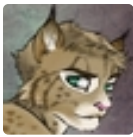
(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank) ▶ eric14850**

August 23 · 02:33:12 AM (/comments/1790207/71116521#comment\_71116521)

Then commenter needs to learn some basic science.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Raucous Indignation)

**Raucous Indignation (/user/Raucous Indignation)**

August 22 · 05:59:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71112701#comment\_71112701)

Prepare for the usual idiots to descend in 3, 2, 1 ...

★ 16 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank) ▶ Raucous Indignation**

August 22 · 06:50:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71113149#comment\_71113149)

Actually, to my immense relief, most of our usual idiots are gone. They either got themselves bojo'd or voluntarily self-exiled over to 99conspiracies.com, where they can pass around all their idiot paranoia in peace.

We only rarely get anti-vaxxers here anymore, and they get slapped immediately.

It makes me very happy. They have no place in a reality-based community.





[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 06:58:24 PM (/comments/1790207/71113209#comment\_71113209)

LMAO! I checked in on them an hour ago and still no mention of Trump’s collusion problems but at least they aren’t currently sneering at the idea.  
  
Progress?

★ 15 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 08:27:17 PM (/comments/1790207/71114037#comment\_71114037)

I dip in about once every 2 months and jump out fast. Yep, full of conspiracy theories.

★ 5 Recommend



[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 01:02:38 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116194#comment\_71116194)

Pardon the mixed metaphor, but, a petri dish of potential guinea pigs for social science experiments, whether they know it or not.

Moo-haa-haaa!

OK, so, what’s the URL?

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/mconvente)



mconvente (/user/mconvente) ▶ Lenny Flank

August 22 · 07:13:40 PM (/comments/1790207/71113328#comment\_71113328)

Yeah, now that you mentioned it, we haven't had to deal with these nutjobs lately. I think the same with the anti-GMO folks as well. We did good, fam!

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ mconvente

August 22 · 07:38:02 PM (/comments/1790207/71113544#comment\_71113544)

On a sadder note, we were infested with a bunch of 911 truthers just the other day.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ MargaretPOA

August 22 · 07:40:50 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113583#comment\_71113583)

Yeah, I saw that. I wonder what rock they crawled out from under?

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

MargaretPOA (/user/Margar... ▶ T100R

August 22 · 07:48:48 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113664#comment\_71113664)

Boring over at C-99 I expect.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ MargaretPOA

August 22 · 08:16:07 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113917#comment\_71113917)

I missed that. Well, I didn't see that diary — not the same thing.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 08:28:58 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114052#comment\_71114052)

I must have missed that. A good thing to have missed.

If we ever get the Sandy Hook Truthers here, there will be blood. I have no patience, no tolerance for people who do such terrible harm to the parents of murdered children.

★ 15 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 01:05:54 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116213#comment\_71116213)

I'm inclined to think that any Sandy Hook Troofers who show up here, will lead to a temporary suspension of the rule whereby telling someone to go F themselves is flaggable, and flagging someone you're arguing with is grounds for getting NR'd.

I sure hope so, because if I ever see any of those, I'm going to flag them and also tell them to go F themselves with frozen cactii.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid) ▶ G2geek**

August 23 · 10:15:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118307#comment\_71118307)



These fine dildo cacti are available for home and office use.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CaffeineInduced)

CaffeineInduced (/user/CaffeineIn... ▶ MargaretPOA

August 22 · 08:44:07 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114200#comment\_71114200)

Hmm I missed that...

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ MargaretPOA

August 23 · 01:04:03 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116204#comment\_71116204)

I noticed that too.

Wonder where they came from?

Possible Russian trolls out to reactivate another long-dormant virus?

I tried arguing rationally with one or two of them before I noticed the pattern (gee, that was dumb!).

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 08:33:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71114100#comment\_71114100)

...

To find the above citation I did this search, “epidemiological studies showing nolink between vaccines and autism”. A third, or more, of thesearch results would be classified on KOS as anti-vaxx. I clicked onthis one<http://www.ageofautism.com/2011/05/vaccines-and-autism-what-do-epidemiological-studies-really-tell-us.html> (<http://www.ageofautism.com/2011/05/vaccines-and-autism-what-do-epidemiological-studies-really-tell-us.html>) and a quick skim indicates a dissatisfaction with studies supportingthe safety of and studies supporting the dangers of vaccines. Thenthere is the question of radically rising rates of autism and thequestion of whether or not the increase is real or an artifact ofreporting standards. Different studies arrive at differentconclusions. This is what people sincerely seeking the truth areconfronted with. A little compassion and patience would be a lotmore effective than vitriol.

What is the truthabout autism? I am not sure. I have seen a lot of information, muchof it conflicting. I am convinced that vaccines are even safer nowthan in the past. There is a lot of information that one encounterswhen trying to find out whether there is any causal effect betweenvaccines and autism, but this meta-study indicates there is not. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/new-meta-analysis-confirms-no-association-between-vaccines-and-autism> And I will leave it at that.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ eric14850**

August 22 · 08:36:15 PM (/comments/1790207/71114124#comment\_71114124)

that’s an anti-vaccine site, not a science-oriented site. Calling themselves scientific does not make them so.

★ 20 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 08:47:45 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114232#comment\_71114232)

But it is what people sincerely seeking information are encountering when they make a sincere effort to inform themselves.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 22 · 08:53:17 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114283#comment\_71114283)

That doesn't make it reliable. That just makes it popular — and that's because search engines find it faster than legitimate sites.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric1...** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 10:54:19 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115326#comment\_71115326)

Not the site, the people encountering the site are sincerely seeking information.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 23 · 01:20:06 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116279#comment\_71116279)

That's why Google is not your friend.

The algorithm feeds people more of what Google's spy-bugs think they "want."

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/nicky)

**nicky (/user/nicky)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 22 · 09:14:41 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114484#comment\_71114484)

Alex Jones is sincere too. Doesn't make him less of a nut job.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 02:36:31 AM (/comments/1790207/71116532#comment\_71116532)

Sorry, I don't get my science information from crackpot anti-vaxx websites.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850)** ▶ **Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 08:43:28 PM (/comments/1790207/71114191#comment\_71114191)

Is autism increasing and if so why?

What I am not convinced about is whether or not real rates of autism are rising vs autism rates are rising because of changes in diagnosis and reporting. There is conflicting research. The fact that rates continue to rise is concerning to me.

One comment to my concerns attributed increased incidence of autism to drug company profit motive to sell drugs to children identified as having autism. (I notice that the comment was not flagged for being a conspiracy theory. It is. But it is reasonable speculation, and I agree should not have been flagged. But just saying...). If true that situation would be highly unethical. It is disturbing that the CDC would report radical, steady, increases in rates of autism from 2000 to 2014 without reporting any reasons for these alarming increases.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html>

Reporting may not be the only reason rates of autism are increasing.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/shift-diagnosis-only-partly-explains-rise-autism-prevalence> (<https://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/shift-diagnosis-only-partly-explains-rise-autism-prevalence>)



Despite studies which indicate the increases in incidence of autism can be explained by changes in diagnosis and reporting. Other studies cause me to remain concerned that there is a real increase in autism rates:

“between 12-13% of ASD among children in multiple U.S. communities was related to being born too early, too small, and/or by Cesarean delivery”. An indication that medical advances and practices have a result of increasing incidences of autism. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/features/keyfindings-risk-factors.html> (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/features/keyfindings-risk-factors.html>)

Most C-sections in the US are unnecessary (yes I can back up that claim) and unethical for that reason alone, but if C-sections are causal, rather than merely associated with autism, it would mean unnecessary C-sections are unconscionable.

"many scientists theorize that other factors may also be responsible for the increasing rates in post-industrial countries. Some claim that about one third of ASD is due to immune dysregulation during pregnancy. That is, anything that causes an inflammatory response in the pregnant mother, such as infection or an immune disorder, may expose the fetal brain to inflammatory signals and disrupt development. For example, mothers with celiac disease have an increased chance of autism by 350 percent, while those with rheumatoid arthritis have an elevated risk of 80 percent<sup>4</sup>."

<https://www.hcs.harvard.edu/hghr/online/autism-on-the-rise-a-global-perspective/> (<https://www.hcs.harvard.edu/hghr/online/autism-on-the-rise-a-global-perspective/>)

Do ultra-sounds increase the likelihood of autism?

A Google search, "ultrasounds and autism", reveals the same sort of conflicting information as a "vaccine and autism" search. Mice studies referenced and cited in this article indicate to me that they may and may otherwise cause harm. <https://midwiferytoday.com/mt-articles/questions-prenatal-ultrasound/>

Please don't denigrate the source unless you have reason to after reading the citation.

Until there are definitive studies, I will continue to advise my daughters to only get an ultrasound when there is no other way to get necessary information, or when ultrasounds are likely to be less risky than an alternative. Eg. ultrasound is probably a safer alternative to get the information amniocentesis provides. If that is desired information, time all ultrasound information gathering to that use of ultrasound. Have strong medical necessity for any other ultrasound(s).

To the degree that research funding is the problem regarding definitive answers to the questions, Republicans are the problem. When “Time”, WebMD, CNN,USA Today and numerous other legitimate sources of information report conflicting information it is understandable the general population is confused about whether or not vaccines are safe, autism rates are rising, or whether ultrasound can cause autism, our country has a problem. It is an analogous problem to the fact that in general Republicans and Democrats do not agree on what the facts are.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ eric14850**

August 22 · 08:54:36 PM (/comments/1790207/71114298#comment\_71114298)

You seem to have an agenda.

It isn't going to go over well on this diary.

★ 14 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 11:06:37 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115454#comment\_71115454)

Scientific answers, truth, wisdom, understanding of complex issues is my agenda.

When I was a kid chemists were claiming everything is chemicals. Artificial was the same as nature grown. Well, we discovered a whole slew of vitamins and other components necessary to health since that claim was made. We have more answers now than then, but we don't yet have them all.

Autism is my field. Only recently have I concluded (it is not settled fact yet) that real rates of autism are rising, rapidly, and the numbers are not an artifact of measuring/identifying autism. It seems to be caused by multiple factors. C-sections is one settled fact cause. That does not explain the rest of the increase documented by the CDC which cites an outrageous increase in autism but offers no explanation for the increase. I believe we need to have an explanation. Call that one of my agendas.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/Margar... ▶ eric14850**

August 23 · 05:58:14 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116825#comment\_71116825)

LMAO!

Scientific answers, truth, wisdom,  
understanding of complex issues is  
my agenda.

If that’s true you’re doing it wrong.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77) ▶ eric14850**

August 23 · 08:17:22 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117282#comment\_71117282)

Correlation is not causation. The C-section/autism  
link has been disproven  
(<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2323630>).

This study confirms previous results that children born by CS are approximately 20% more likely to be diagnosed as having ASD after adjustment for known confounders. However, the lack of association in analyses using sibling controls implies that this association is not causal and therefore is due to unknown genetic or environmental factors.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 23 · 12:12:51 AM

(/comments/1790207/71115955#comment\_71115955)

A more considered answer than my first:

My agenda is science in all its messiness. Settled science is not so settled as might be wanted by people who insist on black or white, either or, yes or no.

Climate deniers use this messiness of science to manufacture doubt about global warming and its consequences, when there is no doubt about the broad strokes, only the details.

KOS has a problem with messiness as well. Snapshot of scientific understanding, "This is fact. There will be no questioning. Questioning is conspiracy theory."

I have a problem with this attitude holding sway on KOS. It serves nothing positive.

I believe there are good reasons for being skeptical of medical practices in the US. US medical outcomes have fallen to third world outcomes. "How do you identify a nurse? Overweight, frazzled, cigarette in one hand, sugar snack in the other." And I have personally been harmed by unethical medical practice. On the other hand I have been saved by anti-biotics, protected

from polio by the then new vaccination, and I am so please with my primary care physician, an internist, I am in love with her.

Life is messy. So is science. And the more complex the issue, the messier. KOS needs to embrace reality. Embrace the reality of science.

Autism is a complex issue. Not only is it a spectrum, it seems certain to me that there are multiple causes. There is no simple answer. There is no virus or bacteria to discover and figure out how to overcome and cure the disease. It frightens parents. It was worth doing the studies to eliminate all question as to whether or not the preservative in anti-biotics causes autism. I seem to remember reading on KOS that meta studies have eliminated concern about when and how many vaccines are given being a possible cause of autism. These studies are worth doing.

Autism rates are rising radically according to the CDC. Why needs to be answered, and quickly.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Brian A)

**Brian A (/user/Brian A)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 08:13:12 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117249#comment\_71117249)

KOS has a problem with messiness as well. Snapshot of scientific understanding, “This is fact. There will be no questioning. Questioning is conspiracy theory.”

I have a problem with this attitude holding sway on KOS. It serves nothing positive.

Not true. SkepticalRaptor and other folks question published science and reviews all the time. Look at some of his previous diaries, including the ones on

marijuana for medical purposes.

The point is this: if you're going to question published science, you need to do so within the realm of the scientific method. That means real and peer-reviewed research and commentary. Pubmed is your friend in this, not websites with Autism in the name.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850** (/user/eric1... ▶ **Brian A**

August 23 · 08:51:48 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117533#comment\_71117533)

Thanks for the Pubmed reference.

If SkepticalRaptor, Lenny and others are sincerely interested in furthering their agenda concerning vaccinations, they would be far more successful were they to be respectful and patient. Neil Tyson is a great example to follow. Unfortunately, SkepticalRaptor's diary and most of the comments are textbook manual for causing entrenchment of anti vax attitudes.

Their glee at getting comments of mine deleted, me a person with great respect for science, a person who is happy to be proved wrong and advance his understanding of the world is pathetic, but not the least bit intimidating.

No reason was given for a comment to a comment I made to Lenny being deleted by the moderator. It was in no way anti-vax, etc, though I expect my label as an anti vaxer is the underlying reason for it and the chain of comments following it being deleted. My comment was vitriolic and that would be a good reason for removing it... if there was a consistent standard for removing vitriol. I would love to have a consistent

implementation of a ban on vitriol that resulted in minimal vitriol on the pages of KOS.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank** (/user/Le... ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 08:55:53 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117555#comment\_71117555)

HRd. Your anti-vaxx bullshit is not wanted here. And nobody cares about your “help help—I’m being repressed!” performance either.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77** (/user/rand... ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 09:01:09 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117593#comment\_71117593)

Are you sure your comments were deleted? A lot of them, and their replies, have been hidden, but that’s a result of being flagged by users, not moderator action.

If you don’t see them, you have either lost trusted user status or your profile settings are set to hide hidden comments.

FWIW, I still see your most “vitriolic” comment, though it’s hidden. If there was one that’s worse, it deserves to be deleted. But the mods usually don’t do that.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)



raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ eric14850

August 23 · 08:17:42 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117286#comment\_71117286)

If you want to talk about the rise in rates of autism, doing it in a diary specifically about anti-vaxxers is putting a framework around your position which carries the appearance of “vaccines cause autism”, when *they fucking don’t*.

Tackling this issue outside of a diary about vaccines might help you find traction instead of pushback.

Hijacking a diary about vaccines to discuss autism will always make people question your motives.

And by the way, a lot of people on the spectrum won’t really cotton well to “Why needs to be answered, and quickly.” Autism isn’t brain damage. It’s just running your PC on a different OS than Windows.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

eric14850 (/user/eric1... ▶ raptavio

August 23 · 08:25:35 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117354#comment\_71117354)

Autism is a major reason for anti vax attitudes. It is relevant to a discussion condemning anti vax attitudes and the problems created.

A rapid and radical increase in the rate of autism documented by the CDC does need an answer sooner than later for the same reason that the rapid increase in average global temperatures needed answers.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ eric14850

August 23 · 08:37:17 AM

Autism is a major reason for anti vax attitudes. It is relevant to a discussion condemning anti vax attitudes and the problems created.

Not if the topic is “what’s causing the increase in autism diagnosis in the US”.

If the topic is “Where is this FUD coming from” then it is.

You’re pushing the former topic, not the latter.

And no, it doesn’t need an answer *for the same reason*. There is no direct measurement for autism — there is for global temperature rates. Autism diagnosis rates can increase due to changing definitions, increased awareness and testing, with no real actual rise. Global temperature increases are not so vague.

Oh, and being on the autism spectrum *isn’t an existential threat to your life*. Global warming is.

Your prejudice is showing.

Autism rates deserve study and examination and the actual cause of the increase in rates should be determined. But the path you’re choosing to broach the topic doesn’t serve that end in any way, and mostly is showing you know little of what you’re talking about.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/BFSkinner)


BFSkinner (/user/BFSk... ▶ eric14850



August 23 · 01:05:49 PM  
(/comments/1790207/71120382#comment\_71120382)  
Wowl, you're still here? I thought you'd be gone with your anti-science views by now.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]




(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio)** ▶ **eric14850**  
August 23 · 08:18:35 AM  
(/comments/1790207/71117296#comment\_71117296)  
Oh, one other thing:  
  
If you claim to be for science, and link to crackpot anti-vax website “Age of Autism” I question your claim.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]




(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming)** ▶ **eric14850**  
August 22 · 09:27:00 PM (/comments/1790207/71114589#comment\_71114589)  
THERE ARE NO DRUGS FOR AUTISM.  
  
you're confusing a BS conspiracy theory about ADHD with autism spectrum disorder.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850)** ▶ **wu ming**  
August 22 · 11:09:17 PM  
(/comments/1790207/71115482#comment\_71115482)  
You are confused. I never implied anything of the sort. ADHD and autism spectrum disorder are not related issues.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 22 · 11:59:32 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115877#comment\_71115877)

you said this was “reasonable speculation”:

One comment to my concerns attributed increased incidence of autism to drug company profit motive to sell drugs to children identified as having autism.

there are no drugs for autism, thus the idea that pharma would be selling drugs to autistic children is laughable bullshit. at least with the similar CT about the rise in ADHD being a pharma plot to sell ritalin, which i suspect this other CT borrows from, there are actually medicines involved with ADHD.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric1...** ▶ **wu ming**

August 23 · 12:38:18 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116077#comment\_71116077)

Agree. According to your quote it was a commenter not me that made the incorrect claims about profit motive. (I was posting copied and pasted comments I been unable to post to a similar earlier diary and I may have screwed up and cause confusion. I hope now clarified.)

Since you brought it up, I have expertise in ADHD. There is no plot, but he inappropriate medication of children is rife in that field. According to the literature (A couple of



decades old since I read it. but I have every reason to believe there has been no change.) students are both over and under medicated. That is children who would benefit are not getting medication and children who do not need medication are being medicated. In the field I know of only one instance in which medication was done “by the book” with behavioral counts by people who did not know when the child was and was not being medicated to get unbiased data about the efficacy of the drug and dosage with a start date, interruption with sugar pills replacing the prescription, and resumption dates unknown to the person counting behaviors. That is how it should be being done. It takes effort and it is seldom if ever done.

I do think, and can prove, that profit motive is a problem in the prescribing of drugs and lots of other ways in the US medical system, but that is another topic all together.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

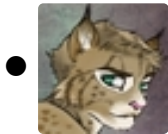
**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 02:37:22 AM (/comments/1790207/71116534#comment\_71116534)

I don't care what you are convinced or not convinced by. Science doesn't give a shit about your opinion. Sorry.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Raucous Indignation)

**Raucous Indignation (/user/Raucous Ind...** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 10:26:11 AM (/comments/1790207/71118433#comment\_71118433)

Autism rates are not rising.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 09:08:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71114434#comment\_71114434)

Interesting that the CDC changed the recommended number and timing of vaccinations in ways that prior to the changes would have caused anyone posting advocacy for those changes on KOS to have their comments deleted (what's it called for doing that?) for being anti-vax by the "science" fundies on KOS. (I put science in quotes because I live in a university town and have high standards regarding science and great respect for the scientists I count as friends and others I regularly encounter in my community.)

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ eric14850**

August 22 · 10:54:16 PM (/comments/1790207/71115325#comment\_71115325)

Dude, you're out on a very stupid limb.

The CDC regularly adjusts vaccine schedules based on recommendations from ACIP for best efficacy. For example, a change to the 2018 vaccine schedule recommends Hep B within 24 hours of birth if the infant is more than 2 kilos and the mother doesn't have the Hep B antigen.

These decisions are made based on the best research and expertise available. Which is everything anti-vax people oppose.

Quit being a walking Dunning-Kruger effect.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/eric14850)

**eric14850 (/user/eric14850) ▶ raptavio**

August 22 · 11:17:03 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115559#comment\_71115559)

Yes. And the CDC and researchers look into things because concerns are raised or things are considered anticipating possible concerns. My point is that here on KOS all concerns

are shut down as anti science. Self congratulatory back patting accomplishes nothing.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 07:55:36 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117140#comment\_71117140)

Your point is false. And stupid. And self-serving.

“Concerns” brought up that are the same tired, debunked, oft-repeated FUD that anti-vaxxers spew every goddamned day get shut down as anti-science because — get this — *they’re actually anti-science.*

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 08:31:02 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117409#comment\_71117409)

There are lots of times pro-vax people say something that’s not true that would sound to the ignorant as “anti-vax” to rebut — such as “VACCINES DON’T SHED.”

Well, they *do* shed, under very specific circumstances, and that shedding has on rare occasion caused or contributed to an outbreak.

It requires A) a live rather than dead vaccine (oral vaccines are typically live but attenuated virus) B) poor sanitation in the region and C) low vaccination rates among the rest of the population.

The vaccine “sheds” into feces of the patient which spreads via contact with the fecal matter to others who aren’t immunized and boom — outbreak.

People who support science aren’t afraid of the truth, and I can say that without fear of getting flagged or sanctioned, because that’s the scientifically supported



truth.

Most people — yourself included, Mr. “Age of Autism” linker — who claim that we’re all “dogma” here are people who are actually posting FUD, tired and overdone anti-vax arguments repackaged, or otherwise stuff which is *not* scientific and getting the pushback all anti-science BS gets.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA)** ▶ **eric14850**

August 23 · 06:01:45 AM (/comments/1790207/71116829#comment\_71116829)

You live in a university town so that gives you a better understanding of science than the rest of us?

Who knew I was a general in the Air Force?

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio)** ▶ **Lenny Flank**

August 23 · 08:19:37 AM (/comments/1790207/71117306#comment\_71117306)

You spoke way too soon, Lenny.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank)** ▶ **Lenny Flank**

August 23 · 08:53:18 AM (/comments/1790207/71117538#comment\_71117538)

Wow, that was an unexpected flood of buffoons that we just got.

But happily, as always, they all got smacked. They have no place in a reality-based community.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid)** ▶ **Lenny Flank**

August 23 · 10:13:47 AM (/comments/1790207/71118287#comment\_71118287)

99 Bottles of Blech on the Wall is still a thing?

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Catte Nappe)

**Catte Nappe (/user/Catte Nappe)** August 22 · 06:04:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71112753#comment\_71112753)

Wow. Anybody thinking this is a nothing issue needs to consider the dramatic shift in the numbers:

More than 41,000 people have been infected in the first six months of 2018....Last year there were 23,927 cases and the year before 5,273.

★ 31 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21)** ▶ **Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 06:19:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71112892#comment\_71112892)

2016 had the lowest number of cases ever in Europe, where endemic measles has yet to be interrupted in 10 countries..

2018 is the worst in recent history, this is mostly about the failure to control the outbreak in Ukraine due to the war there, IMO.

★ 17 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsbor...)** ▶ **benamery21**

August 22 · 08:36:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71114122#comment\_71114122)

I had not considered that.

War has also brought cholera to Yemen. Our tax dollars at work...

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming)** ▶ **Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 09:27:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71114592#comment\_71114592)

looks exponential to me.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **wu ming**

August 23 · 01:23:58 AM (/comments/1790207/71116302#comment\_71116302)

There’s a confounder: war in Ukraine, per Benamery21’s comment above.

It would be interesting to see numbers for all of those years with Ukraine removed from the totals.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/nggh)

**nggh (/user/nggh)** August 22 · 06:09:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71112809#comment\_71112809)

This is very bad news for children. I lost most of my hearing from measles.

★ 41 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar)** ▶ **nggh** August 22 · 08:37:46 PM (/comments/1790207/71114140#comment\_71114140)

I had a colleague/fellow student in my public health doctoral program who also lost ¾ of her hearing due to measles. It’s dangerous in many cases.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio** (/user/raptavio) ▶ **ngh**

August 22 · 10:57:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71115367#comment\_71115367)

My aunt suffered permanent hearing loss (minor) from measles.

I had classmates in high school who were entirely deafened by rubella.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/BriarRose)

**BriarRose** (/user/BriarRose) August 22 · 06:10:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71112814#comment\_71112814)

Terrifying. I am a 63 year old adult who has never had measles or mumps.

★ 14 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans** (/user/susans) ▶ **BriarRose**

August 22 · 06:38:15 PM (/comments/1790207/71113057#comment\_71113057)

Time to get that vaccine.

★ 20 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA** (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ **BriarRose**

August 22 · 06:57:02 PM (/comments/1790207/71113198#comment\_71113198)

Then I don't understand why you haven't gotten it. They aren't expensive. Are you immune compromised?

★ 10 Recommend


[new]



(/user/mungley)  
**mungley (/user/mungley) ▶ MargaretPOA**  
August 22 · 07:12:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71113321#comment\_71113321)  
I imagine he's gotten the vaccine, therefore never had the disease.

★ 3 Recommend


[new]



(/user/BriarRose)  
**BriarRose (/user/BriarRose) ▶ mungley**  
August 22 · 07:19:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71113393#comment\_71113393)  
LOL Of course as well as boosters.

★ 10 Recommend


[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)  
**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ BriarRose**  
August 22 · 07:39:54 PM  
(/comments/1790207/71113568#comment\_71113568)  
Totally my bad! I misread your comment and was convinced that you said “unvaccinated”. I unreservedly apologize.

★ 11 Recommend


[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)  
**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ mungley**  
August 22 · 07:27:15 PM (/comments/1790207/71113448#comment\_71113448)  
If he's 63 he wouldn't have gotten it as a child. But presumably he could get it now. Right?

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)  
**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Mercy Ormont**  
August 22 · 08:05:18 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113813#comment\_71113813)

It would be possible for him to have gotten vaccinated as a child — the vaccines were coming in in the mid-60s.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Gwennedd)

**Gwennedd (/user/Gwennedd)** ▶ **Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 10:23:59 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115037#comment\_71115037)

I'm 64 and have gotten all my vaccines in childhood.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes (/user/socrates shoes)** ▶ **BriarRose**

August 22 · 09:01:16 PM (/comments/1790207/71114371#comment\_71114371)

I'm 55, but had both, despite doing all the vaccines recommended as a child. Then again, I count myself lucky to have not gotten cholera or hepatitis, so there is that.

... .still waiting on a dengue vaccine.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/hissing kitty)

**hissing kitty (/user/hissing kitty)** August 22 · 06:13:11 PM (/comments/1790207/71112836#comment\_71112836)

I'll add two observations.

For all its overextending itself, the old USSR had good healthcare, particularly for children and infants. Vaccinations were routine and pretty much required, even in the more distant territories. With the breakup of the USSR came a resurgence of things like whooping cough, measles, even polio (or so it was stated). Thankfully, no smallpox. Yet. The old republics are now oligarchical fiefdoms, unfortunately. Healthcare for all is not what it once was.

In some more remote areas of Pakistan and its neighbors, vaccinations can be viewed as Western witchcraft by an uneducated population. If a WHO team knocks on a door and the patriarch closes it in their faces.... that's pretty much that.

★ 24 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ hissing kitty**

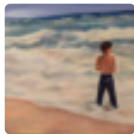
August 22 · 07:29:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71113466#comment\_71113466)

Smallpox is supposed to have been wiped out. However, there are vials of smallpox virus kept for study. Where? No idea. Can “bad guys” get hold of it? Are some trying to? No idea.

★ 9 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Andrew F Cockburn)

**Andrew F Cockburn (/user/Andrew F Cockburn) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 07:43:29 PM (/comments/1790207/71113612#comment\_71113612)

The only acknowledged stocks of smallpox are kept by the CDC in Atlanta and by the Russian government in another safe facility. No research is permitted on it. There were rumors that Saddam had it in Iraq but that appears to have not been true. I would not be surprised to find that one or two other countries had secret stocks but not even the North Koreans would be stupid enough to do anything with it.

★ 10 Recommend



[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 07:47:58 PM (/comments/1790207/71113656#comment\_71113656)

Those “rumors” were scare tactics from the wanking chimp’s administration who were spoiling for a war there before the election.

★ 9 Recommend



[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 23 · 01:27:19 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116319#comment\_71116319)





And I'll admit that I thought that Colin Powell's presentation to the UN about Iraq & nukes, was cover for classified info about Iraq & bioweapons.

Oops.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/hissing kitty)

**hissing kitty (/user/hissing kitty)** ▶ **Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 08:01:33 PM (/comments/1790207/71113769#comment\_71113769)

I had to travel to the transitional Commonwealth of Independent States' (post USSR) in 1992 to cover the gymnastics trials for Barcelona.

My MD re jabbed me for just about everything, including a polio booster. He asked about when I'd had my smallpox vaccination. I explained it was the old mid 60's "scratch" version and he was pleased with that. Apparently, people were getting sick with supposedly eradicated childhood diseases, so he was taking no chances.

Anyone else remember that kind of smallpox protection? I still have a faint scar.

★ 17 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R)** ▶ **hissing kitty**

August 22 · 08:03:57 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113800#comment\_71113800)

My scar is largely invisible now, but I did get that vaccine.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **hissing kitty**

August 22 · 08:05:55 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113815#comment\_71113815)

I got one in 1968, at school. I still remember the days of itching that resulted.



[new]



(/user/swampyankee)

**swampyankee (/user/swampyanke... ▶ hissing kitty**

August 22 · 09:28:30 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114602#comment\_71114602)

not only do I have faintly visible scar,I remember see-ing the scab on my younger cousin's upper arm-I think her's was pre-kindergarten.-we are 62 and 58.

[new]



(/user/hissing kitty)

**hissing kitty (/user/hissing ... ▶ swampyankee**

August 22 · 10:06:41 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114921#comment\_71114921)

Yup, I'm 60. Got mine in kindergarten, polio sugar cubes too.

JFK died the following week, so I'll always remember when.

[new]



(/user/swampyankee)

**swampyankee (/user/... ▶ hissing kitty**

August 22 · 10:57:33 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115364#comment\_71115364)

I got those too,at school-had my picture in the paper-it was a group photo of all us 2nd graders ,milling about-my oldest aunt still has the damn thing-.

JFK was murdered the day after my 8th birthday-I recall our teacher leaving the room,coming back ,telling he had been shot-

then ordering we girls to put our little hats on and hustling us across the street to the church to say a rosary for him.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ hissing kitty**

August 23 · 11:28:45 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119194#comment\_71119194)

I’m one of the rare newborns who got her smallpox shot in her upper thigh. Mom said my diapers kept rubbing against it and it became infected. I have a nasty scar.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/hissing kitty)

**hissing kitty (/user/hissing ... ▶ Ice Blue**

August 23 · 12:07:15 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119673#comment\_71119673)

During my UK sojourn, I took a trip to Cyprus and the Holy Land. I met a delightful couple at my Cyprus hotel, older Brits right out of a WW2 dramance. The husband was career foreign service so they'd lived for decades in Africa. Both had the big, cratered scar of earlier smallpox vaccines. While they teased me (in fun) about my 'flea bite' scar, the stories they told of smallpox outbreaks were horrible. I remember their saying how helpless it made people feel.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormo... ▶ hissing kitty**

August 23 · 12:08:03 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119686#comment\_71119686)

Everyone used to get it at about 12 months old. It left a faint round mark. My mother, who got hers in 1916, still had that mark.

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 23 · 12:14:53 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119784#comment\_71119784)

*The X-Files* created a conspiracy theory storyline around that. The smallpox vaccine scars were supposedly the government cataloging us for the alien apocalypse. :-)

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

**Throw The Bums Out (/user/Throw The ... ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

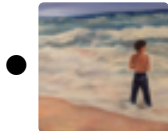
August 22 · 08:31:57 PM (/comments/1790207/71114082#comment\_71114082)

However it's genome is apparently readily available and thus with the right equipment it could probably be synthesized from scratch. Remember the big "3d printed guns" (which are mostly a danger to their user and inferior to a simple zip gun which can easily be made with a few things from walmart) scare? Well "3d printed viruses" are also possible and wouldn't have all the practical limitations a 3d printed gun would have.

★ 3 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Andrew F Cockburn)

**Andrew F Cockburn (/user/Andre... ▶ Throw The Bums Out**

August 22 · 11:17:14 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115561#comment\_71115561)

It wouldn't be hard to synthesize. However, it wouldn't be that great a biological warfare weapon. It isn't particularly infectious compared to measles or flu. It is also easy to recognize once

the pocks start. There have been a couple of accidental infections since it was eradicated and neither led to an outbreak.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

**Throw The Bums Out (/user...** ▶ **Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 11:28:58 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115654#comment\_71115654)

Not to mention one of the few diseases where vaccination is still effective even after being exposed (though it needs to be done very quickly after exposure). There are a few others like that and it looks like Ebola might end up being one of them.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **Throw The Bums Out**

August 23 · 01:38:11 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116362#comment\_71116362)

**What you said.**

This is going to be a big deal.

At some point after the eradication of smallpox, immunization for it was discontinued as “no longer necessary.” That means a generation has grown up with no immunity.

Tinder for a fire.

Also 1917 Flu, the reprise.

I’m going to guess that the first attempt to unleash a plague, will be using a virus that’s well known and widely-feared. But as a result, the vaccines for that virus will already be known and can be used to stop the pandemic within a year.

A few more rounds of this later, and we’ll see an example of a wholly-novel virus unleashed, for which there are no vaccines.

The LDS Church (Mormons) has a doctrine whereby its members are expected to keep a year's worth of provisions on hand at all times in case of disaster. This, likely as a result of the history of Mormon migration to Utah, and early settlement there.

The rest of us would be well-advised to consider taking steps that would enable us to stay home for months at a time for preventive self-quarantine.

This sure as hell isn't the 21st Century our grandparents promised us.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 23 · 11:26:07 AM (/comments/1790207/71119156#comment\_71119156)

See my comment above. The disease itself may have been eradicated but there are still smallpox survivors around.

You do not want to catch smallpox.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Vega)

**Vega (/user/Vega) ▶ hissing kitty**

August 22 · 08:11:04 PM (/comments/1790207/71113875#comment\_71113875)

Smallpox was declared eliminated from the world in 1980. (A great victory for vaccination and public health.) The last person acquiring it naturally was in 1977 although someone died in 1978 by acquiring it in a accidental lab release in England.

Unless the Soviet breakup had caused a release from its research stock in Koltsovo, Russia (or there had been some rogue bioweapons that were unleashed), it wouldn't have resurged. Only military and response teams who might have to deal with bioterrorism have been vaccinated for smallpox in recent years.

Besides Russia, only the CDC in Atlanta has an authorized stock for research. The only reason now to keep stocks for research is for antiviral agent research, there is no need to keep stocks for vaccine research, diagnostics, genomics (many isolates have been sequenced and the virus has very little diversity) or animal models (there are no animal models of smallpox).

(There are actually two different advisory committees to the WHO on this topic, and one doesn't even feel there is a necessity to keep stocks for antiviral agent research.)

There are regulations on distribution of DNA fragments of smallpox, on inserting fragments into other viruses, of synthesis of DNA and encoded proteins.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

**Throw The Bums Out (/user/Throw The Bums ... ▶ Vega**

August 22 · 08:32:58 PM (/comments/1790207/71114093#comment\_71114093)

Eliminated but not entirely gone as long as the full genome information remains available since it is possible to recreate things like viruses and eben bacteria from scratch with modern technology.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ Throw The Bums Out**

August 22 · 10:59:17 PM (/comments/1790207/71115382#comment\_71115382)

There's also a nonzero chance of retreating permafrost releasing old diseases — like smallpox — to infect again. Crazy enough, this seems to be actually a thing.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ raptavio**

August 23 · 01:46:30 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116386#comment\_71116386)

**True.** Climate scientists are increasingly concerned about this. 1917 flu, as well as smallpox, and viruses that humans have not encountered since before the start of medicine as a field of science.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ Vega**

August 23 · 01:42:07 AM (/comments/1790207/71116378#comment\_71116378)

Good information there.

The generation born since 1980 has not been immunized against smallpox, making it a very tempting bioterrorist weapon.

If Putin wanted to use it as an extortion threat against the world, we'd most likely first observe reintroduction of smallpox vaccine in Russia: that would be the warning sign.

But the endemic corruption in Russia raises the possibility of acquisition by nonstate actors there, so all bets are off.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ Vega**

August 23 · 11:33:02 AM (/comments/1790207/71119249#comment\_71119249)

IIRC there are still quasi-smallpox viruses such as monkeypox (<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/>) floating around in the wild. They are, as of yet, milder but they can be passed to humans and they can mutate into a killer disease.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/intruder from Old Europe)

**intruder from Old Europe (/user/intruder from Old E... ▶ hissing kitty**

August 22 · 08:16:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71113920#comment\_71113920)

Reportedly, there is a Taleban campaign out there which says vaccinations have the purpose to make Muslim women infertile. Also, doctors/nurses doing vaccinations must be killed. Also, illness is given by God as punishment for sins, so must not be treated. For example, lepers are traditionally walled in.

★ 3 Recommend



[new]



(/user/hissing kitty)

**hissing kitty (/user/hissing kitty) ▶ intruder from Old Europe**

August 22 · 08:38:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71114150#comment\_71114150)

Actually, there were many articles written about that not too long ago. So much of that region is repressed.

In the late 80's, some rural schools 'bribed' families to allow their girls to attend school.....with cooking/fuel oil. I'm on my phone or else I'd look for the photo of a Pakistani class proudly holding up the containers of oil. I remember (not knowing much of the region then) being surprised that many had fair hair and light eyes. Crossroads of the world, indeed.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ intruder from Old Europe**

August 23 · 01:47:49 AM (/comments/1790207/71116392#comment\_71116392)

Yes, the Taliban have been up to that for well over a decade.

One more reason to eradicate the Taliban, as if there weren't enough reasons already.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ hissing kitty**

August 22 · 09:28:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71114603#comment\_71114603)

which is why the CIA using the cover of intel pretending to be polio vaccination teams to get bin laden was so fucking wrong.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ wu ming**

August 23 · 01:49:09 AM (/comments/1790207/71116398#comment\_71116398)

Whoever came up with that, and whoever approved it, deserves to be prosecuted and sentenced to prison.

The sheer malignant dumbfuckery of that was incalculably huge. Anyone with an IQ higher than room temperature should have known better.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/MmeVoltaire)

**MmeVoltaire (/user/MmeVoltaire)** August 22 · 06:14:17 PM (/comments/1790207/71112852#comment\_71112852)  
Good diary.

★ 15 Recommend



(/user/fcvaguy)

**fcvaguy (/user/fcvaguy)** August 22 · 06:16:53 PM (/comments/1790207/71112875#comment\_71112875)  
I would say its due to ignorance. And I’m sure in a small percentage of cases, it is ignorance. But, I venture to say that in the vast majority of cases, it is willful. Anti-vaxers blindly believe they are protecting their children. Rather, they are putting them at tremendous risk. In almost all cases, regrets are only expressed in the hospital while their children are undergoing emergency treatment. As humans, we need to still empathize. Empathize with the affected children, hope they survive and hope the parents have learned a valuable lesson.

★ 19 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **fcvaguy**  
August 22 · 06:37:00 PM (/comments/1790207/71113040#comment\_71113040)  
They may express regrets — but some still insist that vaccines are evil.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/intruder from Old Europe)

**intruder from Old Europe (/user/intruder from Old E...** ▶ **fcvaguy**  
August 22 · 08:20:57 PM (/comments/1790207/71113966#comment\_71113966)

In some Eastern European countries, the health care systems are in poor shape. People don't necessarily get vaccinated any more unless they pay upfront. At the very least, info campaigns were cancelled to save money.

The anti-vaxxer religion is more of a Western European thing, where young people have no idea what their great-grandparents' siblings miserably died from.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77) ▶ intruder from Old Europe**

August 22 · 10:46:59 PM (/comments/1790207/71115260#comment\_71115260)

Yes. The Guardian said the outbreak in Greece was linked to the Roma community, which doesn't have good access to vaccines there.

But western Europe has the highest rates of vaccine skepticism in the world. Worse than us, apparently.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/intruder from Old Europe)

**intruder from Old Europe (/user/intrude... ▶ randym77**

August 23 · 07:28:41 AM (/comments/1790207/71117023#comment\_71117023)

With the Roma community, there is often also a language problem, and distrust towards anything that comes from the gouvernement.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ intruder from Old Europe**

August 23 · 01:51:05 AM (/comments/1790207/71116405#comment\_71116405)

I wouldn't dignify it by calling it a religion. It's an ideology or a belief, but it has nothing to do with meaning, purpose, or fundamental questions of existence.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ fcvaguy

August 22 · 09:30:18 PM (/comments/1790207/71114624#comment\_71114624)

a decade ago, a significant % of the parents not vaccinating their kids were well meaning but who got conned by the anti-vaxxer propaganda, passed through trusted channels. these days, there has been enough public pushback that it's less defensible. but in the zeroes, a lot of smart educated people i know fell for it, for a brief time. now it's just the stubborn ones who hold onto that lie.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ wu ming

August 23 · 01:52:56 AM (/comments/1790207/71116411#comment\_71116411)

That was understandable at first: a finding published in *The Lancet* can be taken seriously. Once the word started getting out that Wakefield was a malicious fraudster, that should have gotten people to re-think it.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ G2geek

August 23 · 11:11:56 AM (/comments/1790207/71118949#comment\_71118949)

most people weren't getting it from the lancet, more like word of mouth through people they trusted who had also been suckered a bit earlier. the turning point against this was when the diseases started breaking out again in their communities, and a bunch of us used that to jump down their throats about how this is directly connected to lack of vaccination.

ultimately, parents worried for their children's safety and well-being can be easy marks for con artists and rumors, even though the initial sentiment is good and wholesome. see also: the huge pile of childrearing books that manipulate those feelings by claiming "do this or your children will be messed up FOREVER."

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/swampyankee)

**swampyankee (/user/swampyankee)** August 22 · 06:22:44 PM (/comments/1790207/71112913#comment\_71112913)  
tipped and rec'd.excellent diary.

★ 14 Recommend



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywoman)** August 22 · 06:23:03 PM (/comments/1790207/71112915#comment\_71112915)  
Don't forget Bill Maher, who in addition to being a racist and misogynist is also a prominent anti-vaxxer, yet has numerous defenders here who are outraged every time we point out his racism, misogyny, and anti-vaxx nonsense. DK needs to be a zero-tolerance place for anti-science bullshit, whether it's from someone who occasionally makes sane mouth-noises like Maher or not.

★ 24 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank) ▶ allergywoman**  
August 22 · 06:51:40 PM (/comments/1790207/71113157#comment\_71113157)  
RFK Jr also a prominent anti-vaxx crackpot.

★ 19 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywoman) ▶ Lenny Flank**  
August 22 · 07:06:36 PM (/comments/1790207/71113260#comment\_71113260)  
RFK Jr. was already mentioned by Skeptical Raptor. Bill Maher was not, and regularly has "defenders" here that make my stomach turn. That's the difference.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ allergywoman

August 23 · 01:56:11 AM (/comments/1790207/71116424#comment\_71116424)

I'm with you. I call out Maher here every chance I get.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Lenny Flank

August 22 · 07:06:59 PM (/comments/1790207/71113262#comment\_71113262)

Jill Stein pandered to the anti vaxx crowd and even suggested that WiFi signals “may be harming our children” or some such drivel. Anybody who voted for her after that deserves Trump. Too bad the rest of us have to suffer too.

★ 27 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

allergywoman (/user/allergywoman) ▶ MargaretPOA

August 22 · 07:09:14 PM (/comments/1790207/71113282#comment\_71113282)

She poked her head out of her hidey-hole today to advocate for ranked-choice voting on Twitter, rather than being sent to Hell where she belongs.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ allergywoman

August 22 · 08:06:38 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113824#comment\_71113824)

As if that would have gotten her a win....

I doubt that she knows anything about it.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/thebeever)

thebeever (/user/thebeever) ▶ MargaretPOA

August 22 · 08:27:18 PM (/comments/1790207/71114038#comment\_71114038)

I don't know who Jill Stein is but the US Army concluded itself to the dangers of EMF, and have even weaponised it.

Countries like Belgium, Germany, Sweden, China and Russia (can't remember the others) all consider it scientifically proven to be dangerous and impose low levels of EMF emissions, both LF and VHF.

LF-EMF is emitted by the grid and your house wiring / VHF-EMF is radar, cell, wifi, bluetooth etc etc

the issue is that diverse EMF emissions superpose and "densify", low levels of exposure are bearable by the human body, high levels aren't so much and we eventually reach our breaking point. When you get there your in deep trouble.

Currently most urbanised areas have very high levels of exposure

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



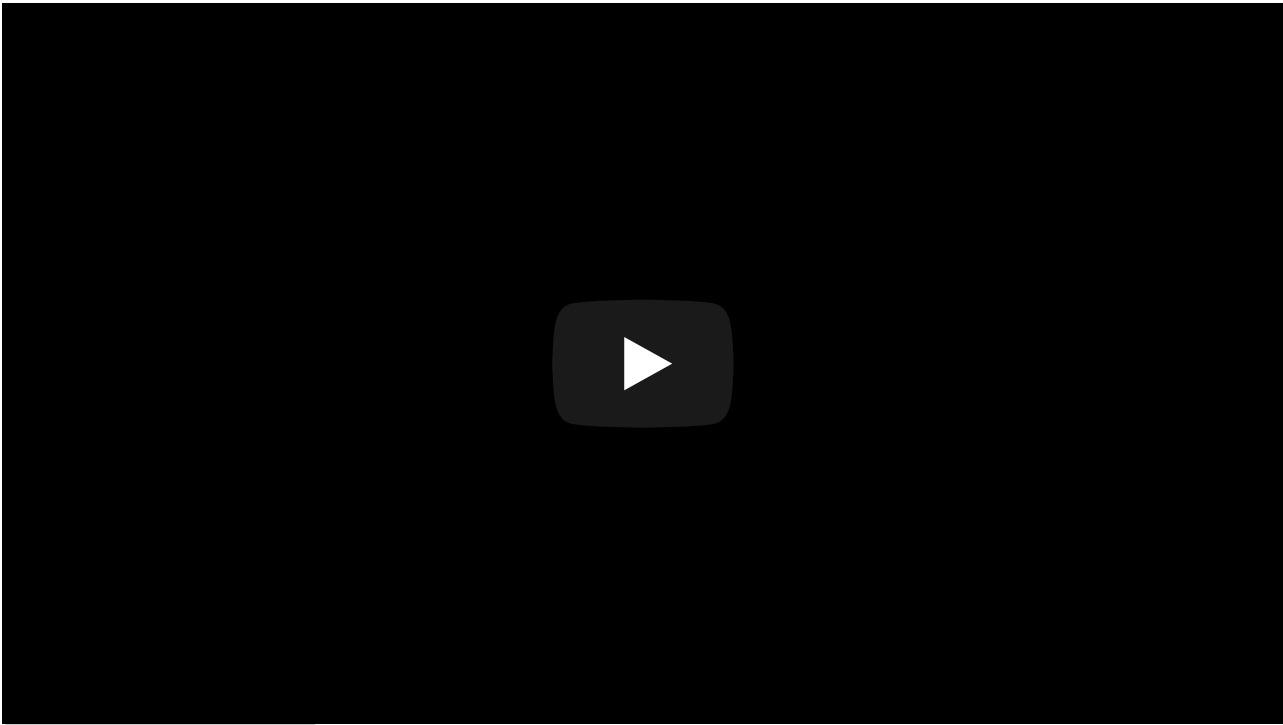
(/user/avatarabbiehoffman)

avatarabbiehoffman (/user/avatar... ▶ thebeever

August 22 · 09:32:32 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114648#comment\_71114648)

That's why they invented tinfoil.



★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ MargaretPOA



Re. WiFi harming our children:

It's true but not the way Stein says.

A hard-wired home network lets parents pull the physical plug when it's time for the kids to go to bed.

A wireless home network is much harder to administer, so the kids are more likely to stay up later using their digital narcotics.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 22 · 07:06:00 PM (/comments/1790207/71113252#comment\_71113252)

The thing I find most interesting about the anti-vaxxers is the odd mix of right and left. The rightwing anti-vaxxers are all about “Big Gubmint can’t tell me what to do!!” while the leftwing anti-vaxxers are all about “Big Pharma conspiracy for profits!!” Normally, they can’t stand each other.

They’re both equally nutty, of course.

★ 23 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywoman)** ▶ **Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 07:08:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71113275#comment\_71113275)

If you want to have fun, try pointing out the huge markups in “natural” supplements and watch them squirm. Hell, I worked for a chiropractor for a while who once tried to prescribe me watered down food coloring. Seriously. He wanted to give me “aqueous chlorophyll” for something.

★ 21 Recommend

[new]



(/user/mmacdDE)

**mmacdDE (/user/mmacdDE)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 22 · 07:37:26 PM (/comments/1790207/71113536#comment\_71113536)

He does realize that all green leaves contain some chlorophyll, right?

Green tea should do the trick.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywom...** ▶ **mmacdDE**

August 22 · 07:42:16 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113599#comment\_71113599)

My husband mocked him for basically prescribing me a liquid salad, when I could just have, you know, had a SALAD. Dumb.

★ 12 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 22 · 08:07:18 PM (/comments/1790207/71113830#comment\_71113830)

Homeopathic medicines, where the “active ingredients” are diluted to the point of being water.

★ 12 Recommend



[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywom...** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 08:09:19 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113855#comment\_71113855)

Yup. And that’s only part of the supplement market.

★ 8 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 22 · 08:12:22 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113883#comment\_71113883)

Ran into that at the radiation people’s office week before last — they gave me a list of things I could use



on my skin, when it gets bad (in a few weeks, as I have started that yet), one of which was “calendula lotion” — some of which have calendula extract “3x” as one of the active ingredients. I’d guess that with that one, the glycerin does more good than the herbal handwaving.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/...** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 08:17:21 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113927#comment\_71113927)

And much less expensive. Supplements have huge markups as well, even when they actually contain their alleged active ingredient (which they don’t, always).

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ahianne)

**Ahianne (/user/Ahianne)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 11:18:10 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115570#comment\_71115570)

My city’s water comes from the Ohio River. We’re downstream of everything between Pittsburgh and Wheelersburg. If there was any truth to homeopathy, my tap water should cure damn near anything.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 23 · 11:36:34 AM (/comments/1790207/71119300#comment\_71119300)

Chlorophyll is likely good for you but it’s prolly not worth what he was trying to charge you.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/lone1c)

**lone1c (/user/lone1c) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 07:10:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71113291#comment\_71113291)

Yeah, the big profit margins Big Pharma is making is why there are new vaccines being introduced.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank) ▶ lone1c**

August 22 · 07:11:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71113302#comment\_71113302)

In reality, the profit margin on vaccines is very very low.

★ 16 Recommend

[new]



(/user/lone1c)

**lone1c (/user/lone1c) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 09:59:54 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114859#comment\_71114859)

Hence the snarky tone of my comment. :-)

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes (/user/socrates shoes) ▶ lone1c**

August 22 · 09:09:13 PM (/comments/1790207/71114443#comment\_71114443)

I'm not at all sure that supporting the ridiculous rent gouging of the pharma industry is significantly more reality based than anti-vaxx nonsense.

Both are ludicrous.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/lone1c)

**lone1c (/user/lone1c) ▶ socrates shoes**

August 22 · 09:57:24 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114843#comment\_71114843)

I don't support their practices. But there's recognizing that if there was significant profit available, Big Pharma would be trying to reap it. The fact that they're not suggests that it's just not worth it to them to develop new or "reformulated" vaccines.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/mconvente)

**mconvente (/user/mconvente) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 07:15:26 PM (/comments/1790207/71113351#comment\_71113351)

Yeah. This is one area where we can't just blame red states and Trump voters. Some red states, like Mississippi, have the most rigorous mandatory vaccine laws in America. At least California joined reality ~2 years ago despite all the Marin county zen garden yahoos protesting otherwise.

★ 16 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ mconvente**

August 22 · 09:32:52 PM (/comments/1790207/71114651#comment\_71114651)

it's pretty prevalent in hard right communities too, though. there are increased pressures in red states to adopt the loopholes for religious or conscience reasons that caused so much trouble in CA.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo) ▶ allergywoman**

August 22 · 07:18:00 PM (/comments/1790207/71113375#comment\_71113375)

Bill Maher is anti-vaccination? I just checked it and the first thing I found is an example of him saying he’s definitely not anti-vax in general but he thinks the flu shot is BS. Which I’m not sure I disagree with (and I certainly wouldn’t consider myself to be anti-vaccination).

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywoman) ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:26:42 PM (/comments/1790207/71113441#comment\_71113441)

Yes, he is.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo) ▶ allergywoman**

August 22 · 07:27:58 PM (/comments/1790207/71113454#comment\_71113454)

I’m onto my second video of Bill Maher and vaccination, and I’m still not hearing that from him.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywom... ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:33:43 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113506#comment\_71113506)

I don’t know why you expect to hear the truth from Maher when it comes to his own anti-vaxx views. “However, Maher's science record is mixed, mostly spotted by his spreading outlandish anti-GMO (https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/GMO) and anti-vaccine (https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Anti-vaccination\_movement) claims. although he is a fervent critic of global warming deniers.<sup>[2]</sup> (https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Bill\_Maher#cite\_note-2) ” rationalwiki.org/... (https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Bill\_Maher)

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo) ▶ allergywoman**

August 22 · 07:44:53 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113628#comment\_71113628)

I just watched two clips of him discussing vaccines. In the second one he sounded like a bit of a crank because of his stance on GMOs particularly, but I would say his stance on vaccines can generally be summed up as that he absolutely accepts that vaccines eradicated smallpox, polio and measles (until the idiots stopped vaccinating their kids), but thinks flu vaccines are a waste of time because people get vaccinated but then end up getting a strain of the flu they weren't vaccinated for. I don't know if that's accurate, but it's a different argument than that he's anti-vaccines in general. (And he's certainly not on the Jenny McCarthy level of loony, i.e. vaccines cause autism.)

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/... ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:56:25 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113719#comment\_71113719)

It's not accurate. Read what I linked to. I've heard him say on his show he thinks vaccines weaken our immune systems, which is bull.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo) ▶ allergywoman**

August 22 · 08:00:31 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113761#comment\_71113761)

What you linked to is a summary of the video I just watched.



★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 22 · 08:09:09 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113852#comment\_71113852)

He has no effing clue how flu vaccines work, then.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/HarryBalzac)

**HarryBalzac (/user/Ha...** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 11:30:12 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115667#comment\_71115667)

For 80% of the folks who took them last year last year, they DIDN'T work.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/The Octopus)

**The Octopus (/user/Th...** ▶ **HarryBalzac**

August 23 · 12:51:48 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120228#comment\_71120228)

That's false. Here's  
(https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6706a2.htm) the CDC study.

Sell your anti-vaxx shit walking.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/BFSkinner)

**BFSkinner (/user/BFSk...** ▶ **HarryBalzac**

August 23 · 01:04:54 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120374#comment\_71120374)

Actually the UFOs take people who get vaccines on their top secret space ships and put in an anal probe guaranteeing that the vaccines will not work. I heard it on the Web so it must be true.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/skohayes)

**skohayes (/user/skoh...** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 22 · 08:09:32 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113858#comment\_71113858)

Since they start preparing to make the flu vaccine a year or so ahead of flu season, they do miss the mark sometimes. But now that there are multi-strain vaccines, that happens less and less often.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

**Throw The Bums Out (...** ▶ **skohayes**

August 22 · 08:35:04 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114109#comment\_71114109)

Not to mention several different groups working on “omnivalent” flu vaccinations which should cover pretty much every strain.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **Throw The Bums Out**

August 22 · 08:51:47 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114264#comment\_71114264)

How many years of testing left on those?

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ Ugmo

August 22 · 08:52:56 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114279#comment\_71114279)

flu vaccines are not 100% effective, but that doesn't mean they're "bullshit."

If the worst ones (in which predictions of what strains would be most common were sadly wrong when they were developing that year's vaccine) protect against only 25%-50% of the strains, that's still 25-50% of the strains of influenza from which you're protected. I'd far rather get one shot and have some protection, then not get a shot and get **no protection at all**. Ten minutes and you are protected against 50% of the flu strains for the year — seems worth it to me!

And they often have much better rates of protection than the low ones I mentioned above.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ Ugmo

August 22 · 11:05:08 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115442#comment\_71115442)

Do you wear seat belts?

Seat belts only offer a 50% improvement in your odds of dying in a car wreck.

Which is worse than the flu vaccine's offer of 60-ish percent chance of being protected from that season's flu, most years (not all).

So if the flu shot is bullshit, do you not wear seat belts because they're similarly bullshit?  
Or does your illogic not extend that far?

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/allergywom...** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:34:33 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113511#comment\_71113511)

More from the same site: “He says he's not against all vaccines but, at the same time, he believes that being vaccinated for any and all illnesses represents a slippery slope and could damage our natural immune systems.”<sup>[25]</sup>  
(https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Bill\_Maher#cite\_note-27)[26]  
(https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Bill\_Maher#cite\_note-28) You can't have both, Maher. On at least one occasion his anti-vaccine  
(https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Anti-vaccine) stances were tracked back to whale.to  
(https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Scopie%27s\_Law).<sup>[27]</sup>  
(https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Bill\_Maher#cite\_note-29)”

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rai...** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 22 · 08:38:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71114142#comment\_71114142)

Can you provide links to prove that?

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont)** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:31:28 PM (/comments/1790207/71113491#comment\_71113491)

The flu shot has problems but is better than nothing; that’s my personal experience.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 08:08:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71113847#comment\_71113847)

They have to guess a year in advance which strains will be common, so they miss sometimes.

★ 10 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

**Throw The Bums Out (/user/Thro... ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 08:35:26 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114114#comment\_71114114)

Not for too much longer.

★ 3 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Throw The Bums Out**

August 22 · 08:51:19 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114259#comment\_71114259)

???

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu m... ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 09:33:53 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114661#comment\_71114661)

there is research being done on a flu vaccine that'll work for all strains. just not done yet.

★ 3 Recommend



[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:34:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71113509#comment\_71113509)

Just another example of Maher making a irresponsible pronouncement based solely on his opinion. He does that a lot on a great number of topics. Like when he claimed Yiannopoulos had a “fair point” when that transparently dishonest troll claimed that he was anti trans in order to protect little girls in the bathroom. You know, right before it came out that Milo was a predator of little boys in the bathroom.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 07:48:00 PM (/comments/1790207/71113658#comment\_71113658)

My major disagreement with Bill Maher is his bizarre obsession with political correctness, which he seems to think is the number one threat facing America. That leads him to give a soapbox to all kinds of assholes with his show, your Milo example being a good one.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 07:57:10 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113727#comment\_71113727)

Either way, now Milo’s stupid claim about transwomen predators of little girls has been given a platform and legitimacy by Maher and if I have to explain why that’s dangerous, then I doubt any explanation I can provide will suffice.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 08:02:27 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113783#comment\_71113783)

Well my counterargument to that is that whatever “dangerous” behavior he engages in is cancelled out by his tireless advocacy on behalf of dozens of other issues you and I would agree with. He certainly isn’t perfect, but he’s an important voice of reason on numerous matters.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 08:10:02 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113863#comment\_71113863)

Doesn’t matter. Being an a-hole is bad.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/... ▶ Ugmo**

August 22 · 08:10:56 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113871#comment\_71113871)

Disagreed. His obvious racism, sexism, Islamophobia and anti-vax nonsense cancel out any good he’s ever done, if any.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ allergywoman**

August 22 · 08:54:33 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114296#comment\_71114296)



He occasionally says something funny and good. But it's not enough to make up for the rest.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 23 · 04:32:19 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116718#comment\_71116718)

obvious racism, sexism,  
Islamophobia and anti-vax

No, no, kind of, no.

It sounds like none of you have ever watched his show, and have developed an opinion of it from some outrage about him you read on the Internet somewhere.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/...** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 22 · 08:22:27 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113983#comment\_71113983)

Really? You have a “counterargument” for Maher helping spread bigotry and intolerance?

And maybe it’s “cancelled out” for you but if my state finally succeeds in passing its anti trans law, I’m going to be the one who is unemployable. But hey, thanks for cisplaining to me how foolish I am for wanting Maher to do better.

I thought better of you than this.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/allergywoman)

**allergywoman (/user/...** ▶ **MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 08:53:05 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114280#comment\_71114280)

Apparently any non-white non-man non-cisgender person who objects to racism/sexism/transphobia from people some white men like are supposed to sit down and shut up.

★ 8 Recommend



[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/...** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 22 · 08:59:40 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114352#comment\_71114352)

Yep. Same old story. We shouldn't be focusing on "identity politics" because what's a little bigotry when that white guy over there is "on our side"? This is what happens when otherwise reasonable, fair minded, intelligent people attempt to defend the indefensible.

★ 6 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 23 · 04:30:56 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116711#comment\_71116711)

I'm telling you to "shit down and hut up"... what the hell? Can you point to where I said or implied that?

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Ugmo)

**Ugmo (/user/Ugmo)** ▶ **MargaretPOA**

August 23 · 04:29:56 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116709#comment\_71116709)

I thought better of you than this.

You can stop condescending to me any time now. Your posts make it sound like you don't even watch his show. Bigotry? Intolerance? What the... ?

It sounds like you're confusing him with someone else.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/...** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 23 · 05:45:01 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116800#comment\_71116800)

Condescending? No. I was being quite sincere. If you can't see that Maher is a bigoted asshole then that's your failure, not mine. I used to watch Maher and I own "Religulous" but he finally went too far for me. It doesn't matter how many wonderful things that he says because I draw the line at bigotry and he is straight up a sexist, anti Muslim, and now anti trans asshole. But I'm sure the knowledge that you enjoy his comedy will be a source of great comfort for me when I'm on the street because I can't use the bathroom at work.

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 23 · 02:09:01 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116462#comment\_71116462)

When a stopped clock is right twice a day, that produces a temptation for people to believe it's right more often than that.

The stuff Maher gets right, doesn't give him a pass for misleading people on the stuff he gets so terribly wrong.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 22 · 08:07:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71113839#comment\_71113839)

the flu shot works...even if Maher doesn't know it.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid)** ▶ **Ugmo**

August 23 · 11:44:20 AM (/comments/1790207/71119409#comment\_71119409)

The flu shot isn't 100% effective in certain years because the influenza virus mutates like woa. It's absolutely worth getting, especially if you have — yes, really! — a compromised immune system.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **allergywoman**

August 23 · 01:54:56 AM (/comments/1790207/71116422#comment\_71116422)

**What you said.** Every time I see anyone here quoting Maher or endorsing him, I chirp up with a reply that Maher is an anti-vax nut as well as a misogynist and Islamophobe.

IMHO we should treat Maher the same way we treat 9/11 Troofers.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/CwV)

**CwV (/user/CwV)** August 22 · 06:28:01 PM (/comments/1790207/71112961#comment\_71112961)

I got my immunity the old fashioned way, by getting mumps and measles in elementary school.

The autism, I don't know where that came from, but the fact that they are now tying it to DDT seems credible.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Dieslrae)

**Dieslrae (/user/Dieslrae)** ▶ **CwV**

August 22 · 06:36:18 PM (/comments/1790207/71113032#comment\_71113032)

That claim seemed a bit thin to me — one study and it was equivocal. I'd like to see more research on DDT.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **Dieslrae**

August 22 · 06:37:58 PM (/comments/1790207/71113050#comment\_71113050)

Especially since DDT isn't the dominant insecticide it was in the 50s and 60s.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CwV)

**CwV (/user/CwV)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 06:46:04 PM (/comments/1790207/71113110#comment\_71113110)

I fit that timeframe, but the real bulge in autism came long after DDT was phased out.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **CwV**

August 22 · 08:17:27 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113929#comment\_71113929)

I think that “bulge” is better and earlier diagnosis.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CwV)

**CwV (/user/CwV)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 09:26:07 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114580#comment\_71114580)

Could well be.

I’m at the mild end of the spectrum and went undiagnosed until I was in my mid fifties.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/birches)

**birches (/user/birches)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 06:57:26 PM (/comments/1790207/71113200#comment\_71113200)

Not sure about that, at least in Africa. I know that it was coming back into wide use there earlier in the decade  
(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/141150-african-countries-adopt-controversial-deadly-chemical-ddt-for-malaria-treatment.html>).  
Oh, apparently it’s in use much more widely than just in Africa  
(<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/is-ddt-still-being-used.html>).

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/squarewheel)

**squarewheel (/user/squarewheel)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 22 · 07:14:09 PM (/comments/1790207/71113332#comment\_71113332)

yes, but it’s extremely persistent in the environment.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ DiesIrae**

August 22 · 07:10:33 PM (/comments/1790207/71113296#comment\_71113296)

I commented above citing the study that I think CwV is referring to. Note that it is a *very* recent study, published a week ago, so there hasn't really been any time to vet it, or to duplicate it. A grain of salt is called for until further research is done.

★ 5 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank) ▶ CwV**

August 22 · 06:52:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71113161#comment\_71113161)

That would be the DDT that hasn't been used in the US since the 60s, right?

★ 11 Recommend



[new]



(/user/asterion)

**asterion (/user/asterion) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 07:20:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71113401#comment\_71113401)

If that was the case, you'd expect to see a lot more autism in the Gen X and early Millennial population, followed by a drop as the Gen X and Millennials have kids. One confounding factor, of course, is whether the greater identification of autism these days is actually just greater identification of a population that has remained constant.

★ 7 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Brian A)

**Brian A (/user/Brian A) ▶ asterion**

August 23 · 08:24:06 AM (/comments/1790207/71117340#comment\_71117340)





Don't forget about epigenetic changes that can manifest in future generations. At least in rodents, studies of BPA have demonstrated these sorts of effects. Pubmed Central Article (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4113893/)

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Rich in PA)

**Rich in PA (/user/Rich in PA) ▶ CwV**

August 22 · 07:17:05 PM (/comments/1790207/71113364#comment\_71113364)

I always thought that Greg Easterbrook's speculation that autism was tied to seizure-inducing early-childhood TV was work a further look.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ CwV** August 23 · 04:12:47 AM (/comments/1790207/71116688#comment\_71116688)

DDT was banned in the USA decades ago.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Bo Realis)

**Bo Realis (/user/Bo Realis) ▶ G2geek**

August 23 · 04:52:44 AM (/comments/1790207/71116748#comment\_71116748)

Although DDTs and PCBs have been banned in Finland decades ago, the population is still exposed to them. These chemicals are still in the food chain because their degradation is very slow. Chemicals pass through the placenta at higher concentrations than they are in the mother's blood.

*Association of Maternal Insecticide Levels With Autism in Offspring From a National Birth Cohort*  
(<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/appi.ajp.2018.17101129>)

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/6412093)

**6412093 (/user/6412093)** August 22 · 06:28:49 PM (/comments/1790207/71112971#comment\_71112971)

I and every child I knew had measles. You got sick as a dog for a week or so. I'm horrified to find out it could have been so serious.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **6412093**

August 22 · 06:38:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71113060#comment\_71113060)

Somewhere I have the report cards that list how many days I was out each quarter of school. I know for chicken pox it was about three weeks, and I think for measles it was at least two.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Unicornsparklefarts)

**Unicornsparklefarts (/user/Unicornsparklefarts)** ▶ **6412093**

August 22 · 06:39:29 PM (/comments/1790207/71113065#comment\_71113065)

I had the mumps in my mid teens and the measles and chicken pox in my late teens. In all three cases I was so sick I had to be hospitalised. Childhood diseases in adulthood is no joke, and can cause serious damage.

★ 13 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ 6412093**

August 22 · 07:33:14 PM (/comments/1790207/71113504#comment\_71113504)

I recall it as 2 weeks. That’s without any complications.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/mmacdDE)

**mmacdDE (/user/mmacdDE) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

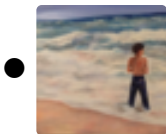
August 22 · 07:40:55 PM (/comments/1790207/71113585#comment\_71113585)

I was in bed for a week, IIRC. Weak for another week or so.

And I was a seriously healthy kid, who rarely got sick.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Andrew F Cockburn)

**Andrew F Cockburn (/user/Andrew F Cockburn) ▶ 6412093**

August 22 · 07:49:51 PM (/comments/1790207/71113671#comment\_71113671)

I had measles, mumps, rubella. We knew then that they could cause blindness, deafness, sterilization, and death. My parents were terrified when we came down with them.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 07:53:09 PM (/comments/1790207/71113692#comment\_71113692)

I've argued for a long time that the problem with vaccines is that they've done their job too well: We now have several generations of people who don't remember those days. I remember polio panics when I was a kid. When the vaccine came out, my mother ran me down to the doctor's so fast it made my head spin.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ T100R**

August 22 · 08:57:15 PM (/comments/1790207/71114328#comment\_71114328)

we lined up in school for our shots. I don't know of a single child whose parents tried to prevent them from getting the polio shots. Parents were incredibly relieved and thankful.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 22 · 08:18:39 PM (/comments/1790207/71113940#comment\_71113940)

I don't think I ever had rubella. But I certainly had measles, mumps, and chicken pox.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 08:58:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71114345#comment\_71114345)

I had rubella — I know because before my last pregnancy, I got tested for everything to make sure it would be safe. We already had a severely disabled child and I wanted to do everything I could to avoid having another. I found I hadn't ever had toxoplasmosis so I avoided cats and undercooked lamb throughout my pregnancy. (we don't have cats ourselves and actually, I rarely eat lamb).

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA)** August 22 · 06:37:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71113045#comment\_71113045)

Let's mention the pandering politicians who have allowed too many exemptions based on factors like religion and "freedom". By allowing exemptions, they have not just endangered the exempted children but all of society. Herd immunity only works if as much of the herd as possible is immune. Imagine if the smallpox or the polio vaccines had come along at roughly the same time as the MMR vaccine. Imagine the place we'd be right now had those diseases not been eradicated prior to corrupted, self serving "researchers", uninformed and hysterical celebrities and those who live inside paranoid delusions gaining influence among pandering politicians who grant legitimacy to ridiculous theories in exchange for a vote. They'd be staging a comeback and we'd once again have to create places like polio wards.



attribution: USFDA Public Domain

If your absurd religion forbids you to be vaccinated or to vaccinate your children, then it's time for a new religion. Only a fool would adhere to pointless religious tenets that require you to let your children suffer and/or die of preventable disease. If you're too paranoid to get vaccinated because something-something big pharma, then you are a danger to the rest of us and yes, you should be *forcibly* vaccinated. Just like people sometimes have to be forced into prison because they are a danger to society. You do not have the right to endanger the rest of us by being stupid, paranoid and obstinate.

★ 22 Recommend





[new]



(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 06:50:17 PM (/comments/1790207/71113147#comment\_71113147)

I have family members and friends who are immuno-compromised. And I have friends with infants that are too young to be vaccinated. These assholes are a danger to all of them.

★ 16 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

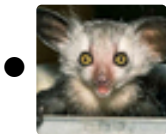
**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ T100R**

August 22 · 06:55:49 PM (/comments/1790207/71113191#comment\_71113191)

Precisely! Herd immunity only works for people unable to be vaccinated if the rest of us are vaccinated.

★ 13 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes (/user/socrates shoes) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 09:19:19 PM (/comments/1790207/71114519#comment\_71114519)

Yeah, um:no. I'm an atheist, a firm supporter of science and agree that the anti- vaxxers are nuts. But the FSM and Cthuhlu will be ice skating in Mecca under a sky filled with winged pigs before I would ever support violating even a crazy person's freedom of conscience and bodily integrity in such a way.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ socrates shoes**

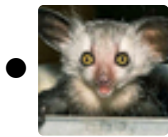
August 22 · 09:48:52 PM (/comments/1790207/71114776#comment\_71114776)

Yeah... Your dedication to “freedom of conscience” doesn’t include the freedom to kill immune compromised people with disease enabling principles. Fuck that. Irresponsible people don't just get to say that *they* believe in idiocy so they get to endanger everybody else. Maybe we should let people drive down the highway at 70mph with one hand on the wheel and the other hand and both eyes on their fucking phones while they text. That “freedom of conscience" is going to violate

somebody else’s bodily integrity if it goes on long enough. What about their victim’s right to live? Does that become irrelevant because somebody else doesn’t want to get a shot?

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes (/user/socrates shoes) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 09:52:05 PM (/comments/1790207/71114799#comment\_71114799)

Be careful what you wish for. Giving the government power to override bodily autonomy .and freedom of conscience in cases you approve of .WILL. as sure as night follows day give rise to the government using it in cases you DON'T approve of.

Consider carefully if this is the hill on which you are willing to sacrifice the very notion of freedom.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ socrates shoes**

August 22 · 10:00:54 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114872#comment\_71114872)

I considered every word. In the 60s and 70s kids got vaccinated or they weren’t allowed to attend school and freedom didn’t end thereby. There was no legitimate excuse for allowing so many exemptions, based on nothing more than usually misguided principles. If you can’t get vaccinated due to health reasons, that’s one thing, if you won’t get vaccinated because (insert stupid excuse here), then your stupidity is endangering lives.

I don’t want the hill that I die on to be a hill a bunch of idiotic conspiracy theorists have planted their flag. I don’t want to die a preventable death because somebody demands the right to act like a colossal, uncaring ass.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]





(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes (/user/socrat... ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 10:06:33 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114920#comment\_71114920)

In no case of which I'm aware he's the government claimed the power to force an individual to undergo a medical procedure. If it ever does come to that, one is, pretty much by definition, a mere chattel of the government. That's the kind of proposition that leads people to say, "Nah, Fuck That".

Not allowing unvaccinated children into public schools: I could probably walk a ways down that path. Forcing people to undergo a medical procedure against their will? Yeah,... no. That's just plain evil.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ socrates shoes**

August 22 · 11:08:23 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115473#comment\_71115473)

You know what's evil?

Dying of pertussis before the age of one month.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes (/user/... ▶ raptavio**

August 22 · 11:18:04 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115569#comment\_71115569)

Yeah, that's evil... too. How many rights and lives are you willing to shitcan to save that one month old?

The right to bodily autonomy? Not that it matters to a 55 year old male, but I understand there are some folk that is keenly important to. And if you override it, for .any. reason, then it is gone. That's why one

defends rights, even for idiots and even for one's enemies... because that's the only defense of one's own.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/tommymet)

**tommymet** (/user/to... ▶ **socrates shoes**

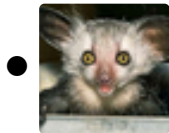
August 22 · 11:26:29 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115629#comment\_71115629)

Whose life is getting shitcanned?

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

**socrates shoes** (/user/... ▶ **tommymet**

August 22 · 11:29:47 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115663#comment\_71115663)

If you give the government the power to force or deny any medical procedure they approve of or disapprove of? Eventually that's pretty much all of us.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio** (/user/rapta... ▶ **socrates shoes**

August 23 · 07:56:08 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117146#comment\_71117146)

The “slippery slope” fallacy at work.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

socrates shoes (/user/... ▶ raptavio

August 23 · 09:45:11 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117978#comment\_71117978)

It is not always a fallacy. Not nearly always.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ socrates shoes

August 23 · 09:58:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118116#comment\_71118116)

Yes, this is true.

In this case, however, it is.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/socrates shoes)

socrates shoes (/user/... ▶ raptavio

August 22 · 11:25:27 PM

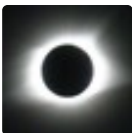
(/comments/1790207/71115623#comment\_71115623)

Just to add: you .know. I have no patience for anti-vaxxer fucking idiots. In fact, you gave me a ton of shit for calling the Somalis in MN conned by Wakefield idiotic fucking morons (which they were).

The argument isn't about what is the correct thing to do, but about what the government can rightly .force. one to do.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ socrates shoes

August 23 · 07:56:32 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117148#comment\_71117148)

I'll give you a second ton of shit for it too.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▸ socrates shoes**

August 23 · 06:49:42 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116904#comment\_71116904)

Would you have supported the military draft in WW2?

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▸ socrates shoes**

August 23 · 06:48:49 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116901#comment\_71116901)

Everything has an exception.

Freedom of speech does not include the right to scream “there he is, kill him now!”

Freedom of religion does not include the right to practice human sacrifice.

Etc.

What most of the legal profession, and most civil libertarians, don’t get, are statistically-predictable but individually-unpredictable (stochastic) effects:

For example speech that says “find someone who (whatever) and kill them now!”

For example “wherever he is, kill him soon!”

For example religious beliefs against providing medical treatment to children (“Christian Science”), where kids suffer and die because parents willfully deny care that is otherwise universally available.

Parents refusing to vaccinate their kids, are effectively practicing human sacrifice on the stochastic installment plan: predictable in the aggregate but unpredictable as to whose kid is going to get sick or become disabled, or die.

We may as well support a "freedom" to have unsanitary restaurants or give away unsanitary food to the homeless.

That stuff isn't freedom, it's "freedumb."

So while I hold that the individual's body, including their brain and the signals it produces, are inviolable, not only by government power but by employers and other corporate powers, there are a couple of exceptions:

One, DNA identification testing of suspects for violent crimes.

Two, mandatory vaccination of the entire public (with legit medical exceptions only), to protect the lives of innocent people.

Slippery slope arguments against mandatory vaccination, are of the same type as the NRA's slippery slope arguments against sensible firearms regulation.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **socrates shoes**

August 23 · 05:47:47 AM (/comments/1790207/71116806#comment\_71116806)

Would you have supported having a draft in WW2?

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **MargaretPOA**

August 23 · 06:08:31 AM (/comments/1790207/71116832#comment\_71116832)

I'm with you on this.

Time was, we had the military draft. X percent of draftees were killed or wounded in action. The draft and the casualties were considered an acceptable cost for protecting us against foreign foes. The idea being that the random sacrifice of a few for the sake of protecting the rest, was a morally acceptable tradeoff.

The phrase was used then, and still is now for members of our all-volunteer military, "they died to protect our freedom."

That word “freedom” does not mean what anti-vaxers think it does. (And we use the word “freedumb” for anti-vaxers’ misuse of the word.)

So YES, mandatory vaccination, **including the yearly flu shot**, with legit medical exemptions as with the draft. Involuntary quarantine for anyone else who refuses or dodges, and charges of child endangerment for parents who refuse to get their kids immunized. Enough was enough long ago.

If there’s an occasional one-in-a-million case of a vaccine reaction that kills someone, that has got to be seen as an acceptable cost for protecting us from the deaths and disabilities that result from vaccine-preventable diseases. Those casualties should be compensated in a manner equivalent to military casualties.

Solved.

And it won't be the only instance where people have died or been disabled in the course of protecting public health. Sanitation workers have a higher death rate on the job than police officers or firefighters. Water treatment and sewage treatment workers are occasionally killed on the job. Plumbers who work on wastewater systems are occasionally killed on the job. Nurses and doctors occasionally suffer needle sticks from used needles, that can give them dangerous or fatal diseases. All of these workers’ deaths and disabilities can be considered the result of “voluntary” risks of their choices of occupations, but none the less, they occurred for the sake of protecting the public health.

And while we’re at it:

There’s another form of “freedumb” that kills and maims even more innocent people than any vaccine-preventable disease except the yearly flu. That would be *hate speech*. For which reason hate speech should also be banned as well, with prison terms for instances where it is linked to violent crimes.

“Freedumb” demeans and degrades freedom: reduces it to “the right to be an asshole at the expense of others.” That is not an acceptable tradeoff, it’s an insult to the lives of our service members, and, as the Russian attacks on our elections have shown, it’s a setup for the entire loss of the values on which our nation was founded.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/murrayewv)

**murrayewv (/user/murrayewv)** August 22 · 06:38:04 PM (/comments/1790207/71113052#comment\_71113052)

Well done. I didn’t know of this outbreak but concur with your assessment.

★ 13 Recommend



(/user/Blue York)

**Blue York (/user/Blue York)** August 22 · 06:38:14 PM (/comments/1790207/71113056#comment\_71113056)

Great Diary. This entire movement is based on a discredited study. The physician (can't recall his name at the moment) admitted his study was bullshit and was stripped of his license. Tell them that and they don't believe you.

★ 14 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Blue York**

August 22 · 06:45:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71113109#comment\_71113109)

Andrew Wakefield. It's in the diary.

Then that cunning fraud, **Andrew Wakefield** (<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/andrew-wakefield-fraud-extraordinaire/>), published his fraudulent (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9500320>)and ultimately retracted (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20137807>)study that falsely claimed a connection between the MMR vaccine and autism spectrum disorder (<https://medlineplus.gov/autismspectrumdisorder.html>)(ASD). Despite **Wakefield's** own malfeasance, he had serious competing financial conflicts of interests while involved with his fraudulent research, the autism myth remains.

★ 19 Recommend

[new]



(/user/lone1c)

**lone1c (/user/lone1c) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 07:13:25 PM (/comments/1790207/71113326#comment\_71113326)

Wakefield's competing interest was that he wanted to introduce his own decoupled measles vaccine on the market but couldn't compete with the MMR combo on a level playing field.

★ 10 Recommend





(/user/slow)

**slow (/user/slow)** August 22 · 06:43:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71113089#comment\_71113089)

My 2 brothers and I would swap diseases around all the time in elementary school (roughly 1966 — 1974). As a result, we all cycled through rubella (“red measles”), rubeola (“German measles”), chicken pox, and the mumps. It was a common phenomenon among the families we knew. Plus the occasional run of bronchitis, ear and sinus infections, etc. No known long-term complications from any of it, as yet.

Guess we were lucky. But risks were either less known or evaluated very differently: in 1959, at the age of 3 months, I made the drive from the west coast to MI, sitting in my mother’s lap.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont)** ▶ **slow**

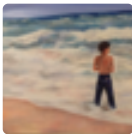
August 22 · 07:40:55 PM (/comments/1790207/71113586#comment\_71113586)

It’s just a guess that kids miss less school these days due to illness. Does anyone have any figures?

It’s not just the absence of these major diseases, but I suspect there is less “stomach flu” now. We had it frequently. It generally lasted one day. I’m sure some of it really was a communicable disease, but my gut feeling is that a lot of it was actually food poisoning, related to people not taking the precautions they take now. Among other things, we carried our lunch to school in a paper bag, where it sat at room temperature until lunchtime. That would mean at least 3 hours between being made and being eaten. These days that would be horrifying.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Andrew F Cockburn)

**Andrew F Cockburn (/user/Andrew F Cockburn)** ▶ **Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 07:56:31 PM (/comments/1790207/71113721#comment\_71113721)

Stomach flu is probably a norovirus (the cruise ship disease). It is extremely contagious. We had it in our college dorm and half of us ended up with diarrhea.

The housekeepers stopped stocking the toilets with paper because they thought we were stockpiling it for a prank (normally a reasonable assumption).

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ Andrew F Cockburn**

August 23 · 12:04:57 PM (/comments/1790207/71119653#comment\_71119653)

There are definitely viruses that cause those symptoms. But in my experience (as in the instance you cite) it's contagious and many people will have it at once. Most of what I'm remembering was not like that. It was more that this or that person would have it for one day. I've more recently had a few cases that were definitely food poisoning, which struck me as quite similar.

I don't know if anyone sends these to you, but from time to time someone will send me a litany of how things were better in the "old days". One of them is usually something like "our mothers chopped salad and meat on the same board, without washing it, and nobody got sick." I contend that we often DID get sick. We just didn't recognize the cause.

It seems to have been much worse before refrigeration. If you read early accounts, soldiers were constantly getting off their horses and running into the bushes due to severe diarrhea. Sometimes it changed the course of battles. They accepted it as normal.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 09:32:35 PM (/comments/1790207/71114650#comment\_71114650)

It's not just you. I remember that I (and probably my siblings) had many more bouts of gastrointestinal distress when we were younger. I suspect it was for the same reasons.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/slow)

**slow (/user/slow) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 09:37:03 PM (/comments/1790207/71114691#comment\_71114691)

Sitting in the locker for 3 hrs never seemed to cause problems. But once in jr. high school (early 70s), I forgot my lunch, left it in the locker and ate it the next day. *Big* mistake: it was a ham sandwich. Things got, um, interesting that evening.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/ruscle)

**ruscle (/user/ruscle)** ▶ **slow** August 22 · 07:51:06 PM (/comments/1790207/71113680#comment\_71113680)

What doesn't kill us, makes us...  
available for something else to kill us further down the line.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **slow** August 22 · 08:19:29 PM (/comments/1790207/71113950#comment\_71113950)

German measles is rubella. Red measles is rubeola.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar)** ▶ **PJEvans**  
August 22 · 09:02:26 PM (/comments/1790207/71114385#comment\_71114385)  
thanks — I was going to correct that. You beat me to it.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/slow)

**slow (/user/slow)** ▶ **Tamar**  
August 22 · 09:32:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71114645#comment\_71114645)  
Thanks to both of you. Dunno how I got those switched around.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/DButch)

**DButch (/user/DButch)** August 22 · 06:44:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71113101#comment\_71113101)

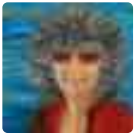
Scientific American published an article in 2017 (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-real-reasons-autism-rates-are-up-in-the-u-s/>) on ASD diagnosis and issues with consistency of diagnosis in the US and changes in the diagnostic criteria over time that have led to more children falling into the ASD criteria. It's worth a read to get a better understanding of the history of ASD.

ASD was first defined 75 years ago as “infantile autism”. Researchers researchers estimated (in 1966) that 1 in 2,500 children had autism. Autism made it into the DSM in 1980. Subsequent DSM revisions basically broadened the definition and age and therefore the number of children being diagnosed. Prior to autism being defined and tested for some children were simply listed as having an intellectual disability. In 1991 the Department of Education ruled that a diagnosis of autism qualifies a child for special education services, which may have encouraged parents to get a formal diagnosis — thus bringing out a lot of previously invisible cases.

Like I say, well worth the read.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/GlastoSara)

**GlastoSara (/user/GlastoSara)** ▶ **DButch**

August 22 · 07:07:04 PM (/comments/1790207/71113264#comment\_71113264)

And, it bears repeating — Autism Spectrum is not a disease, you don't catch it, and it's not necessarily disabling. It's genetic, a difference in brain structure — and many of us on the spectrum are extremely high-function! E.g.





★ 14 Recommend

[new]



(/user/skohayes)

**skohayes (/user/skohayes)** ▶ **GlastoSara**

August 22 · 08:17:31 PM (/comments/1790207/71113931#comment\_71113931)

I thought this quote from Steve Silberman was a perfect description:



“One way to understand NEURODIVERSITY: is to think in terms of human operating systems- just because a PC is not running Windows doesn’t mean it’s broken.”

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/GlastoSara)

**GlastoSara (/user/GlastoSara) ▶ skohayes**

August 23 · 03:56:00 AM (/comments/1790207/71116668#comment\_71116668)

YES! Just what I say — a Mac isn’t a dysfunctional PC. They require different software, but both can do most of the same things, some better than others, depending on what apps are loaded.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ GlastoSara**

August 22 · 09:09:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71114445#comment\_71114445)

it’s a huge range. And to some extent, because of that, calling it all autism seems pretty inaccurate.

Recently (I’m trying to remember where this was) I had a great conversation and interaction with someone who I was later told was “on the spectrum.” If that person, who seemed perfectly socially adept, had social/communication issues, they were pretty much undetectable. So what does “on the spectrum” mean for someone like that?

And then there was the son of friends who was diagnosed as a young child as being “on the spectrum” because he couldn’t speak. He understood everyone perfectly, he interacted appropriately and figured out how to communicate to some extent without speech (eventually learning some sign language), he learned to read at age 4 or 5, he just had trouble with speech.

I think that some of the diagnoses are made because they don’t know what else to call it.



★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DButch)

**DButch (/user/DButch) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 10:03:59 PM (/comments/1790207/71114903#comment\_71114903)

Yeah, from the article, I got the impression is that autism has become a bit of a “catch-all” of “catch-all”s. It’s simple to take a lot of vaguely defined “abnormal” behaviors and dump them in a bucket. A lot harder to do the detail research to split things up into specific sub-causes.

Almost like the way IQ went from a set of tests (long ago in France) designed to identify students needing extra help (but never intended to be a fixed measure), to a test intended to assign a single rating to a very complex set of capabilities. Then in the 60s I remember taking the first tests that started splitting things up into “aptitudes”. I was, for instance, really good at the spacial visualization tests (what form does this unfolded paper/cardboard cut out fold to form) — I aced those. My wife was helpless on those visualizations, but did far better than me in anything involving music.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/GlastoSara)

**GlastoSara (/user/GlastoSara) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 04:07:05 AM (/comments/1790207/71116681#comment\_71116681)

Diagnoses are crude, but I’ve read that it’s a fundamental difference in brain structure — proportion of grey & white cells. I forget which is which, but basically dominance of one is AS, the other is ADD, and “normal” is the neurotypical majority (normopathy (<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/normopathy>) in the extreme).

I reckon (purely subjectively) that neurotypicals make up about 60-65% of the population, and the rest of us are pretty evenly divided between AS & ADD. There are of course nuances — it’s not a continuum but (to oversimplify) it’s sort of a triangle and people can be anywhere within that.

In the extreme, normopaths brand anything that’s not like them as “defective” (which looks a bit like normo-fascism).

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/JoanNJTN)

**JoanNJTN (/user/JoanNJTN) ▶ GlastoSara**

August 22 · 11:46:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71115788#comment\_71115788)

I am glad you said that. I have a great niece (12 now) who falls in the Autism Spectrum. They had a test done a number of years ago, which showed a chromosome out of whack. I don't remember which one. She is somewhat developmentally delayed (a year or so behind socially), but can read rings around a lot of people. She is a funny, sweet, child, who is curious about so many things. We know she will make her way in life!

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mercy Ormont)

**Mercy Ormont (/user/Mercy Ormont) ▶ DButch**

August 22 · 07:43:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71113608#comment\_71113608)

I remember certain kids in my classes—all boys—who were considered “trouble-makers”, or “weird”. These days I expect they'd be considered autistic in some way.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/JoanNJTN)

**JoanNJTN (/user/JoanNJTN) ▶ Mercy Ormont**

August 22 · 11:48:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71115802#comment\_71115802)

That or perhaps having ADD, attention deficit disorder, or ADHA (.....hyperactive), which has been often over used.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsborough)**

August 22 · 06:46:19 PM (/comments/1790207/71113115#comment\_71113115)

Yes, anti-vaxers are nuts.

But you did not provide **proof** that anti-vaccination movement is responsible for the recent surge in measles cases.

The anti-vax movement began in 1998.

As late as 2008, by your figures, measles was a low threat.

Between 2016 and 2018, we went from 5,273 to 41,000 cases.

That timeline does not prove that anti-vax movement is responsible. Are there data about declining vaccination rates in Europe?

So, what happened between 2015 and 2018?

[en.wikipedia.org/... \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_migrant\\_crisis\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis)

The European migrant crisis, or the European refugee crisis, is a term given to a period beginning in 2015 when rising numbers of people arrived in the European Union (EU), travelling across the Mediterranean Sea or overland through Southeast Europe. It is part of a pattern of increased immigration to Europe from other continents which began in the late 20th century and which has encountered resistance in many European countries.

Many of those people came from places where, because of war or poverty, medical services were irregular.

There are reports from reliable sources that the migrant camps were full of un-vaccinated people. Good folks in Europe have rushed to vaccinate as many as possible. But the challenges these health workers face are staggering.

[www.ft.com/... \(https://www.ft.com/content/d498adbc-0630-11e6-9b51-0fb5e65703ce\)](https://www.ft.com/content/d498adbc-0630-11e6-9b51-0fb5e65703ce)

[www.vaccinestoday.eu/... \(https://www.vaccinestoday.eu/stories/will-migration-crisis-become-public-health-disaster/\)](https://www.vaccinestoday.eu/stories/will-migration-crisis-become-public-health-disaster/)

[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/... \(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4741262/\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4741262/)

So, it looks as though this measles crisis is not caused by anti-vaccination lunatics. It was caused by war, poverty, and neglect.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Rich in PA)

**Rich in PA (/user/Rich in PA) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 07:14:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71113340#comment\_71113340)



Exactly, and better stated than what I wrote below before seeing your comment. I think it's ideological blinders on our part to say anti-vaxxers are the main factor, when there's a credible alternative explanation, just one that we don't happen to like.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsbor... ▶ Rich in PA**

August 22 · 07:25:18 PM (/comments/1790207/71113433#comment\_71113433)

And then there is Whooping Cough...

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsbor... ▶ Rich in PA**

August 22 · 09:27:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71114594#comment\_71114594)

It seems that anti-vax sentiment or the simple reluctance to get vaccinated is very high in France. So, we have an stressed and vaccinated population entering a nation that has lost its herd immunity. This is awful.

There is also rising resistance to vaccination in places such as Pakistan and Malaysia.

www.sciencedirect.com/...  
(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235239641630398X)

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rai... ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 09:28:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71114600#comment\_71114600)

...stressed and unvaccinated population...

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 09:35:49 PM (/comments/1790207/71114680#comment\_71114680)

But when more people are vaccinated, those diseases are less likely to spread into the rest of the population.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsbor... ▶ susans**

August 22 · 10:19:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71115010#comment\_71115010)

Yes, exactly. Germany has lots of refugees, but few cases of measles.

But the proximate cause of the sudden rise in measles cases is the refugee crisis. Places like France and Italy were losing herd immunity over a span of many years. The dramatic rise in measles cases began with the influx of refugees.

This survey below, published with pre-2016 data, shows that anti-vax sentiment was high in France. So, anti-vax sentiment was on the rise well before 2015. In 2015, the number of cases was low. After the refugees arrived, the rate shot up. To have an epidemic, you need a vulnerable population AND a vector. Consider, for example, Mexico after the Spanish arrived.

[www.sciencedirect.com/...](http://www.sciencedirect.com/...)

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235239641630398X>)

Perhaps it will become a pandemic. Then, perhaps, governments will act forcefully to vaccinate the idiots.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 09:39:17 PM (/comments/1790207/71114704#comment\_71114704)

Europe has seen rapidly declining vaccination rates, for the same reasons as in liberal American urban or college town communities.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough** (/user/Colonel Rainsbor... ▶ **wu ming**

August 22 · 10:35:11 PM (/comments/1790207/71115139#comment\_71115139)

People are losing trust in government and the professional class of healthcare providers. Governments lie and manipulate people. Our healthcare system is predatory. Big Pharma has been guilty of outrageous greed and malfeasance.

In Pakistan, a public health doctor collected DNA samples from people as he was inoculating them. The doctor was employed by the CIA in a project to locate Osama bin Laden. When the news broke, millions of people became suspicious of vaccines and the people administering them.

[www.theguardian.com/...](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jul/11/cia-fake-vaccinations-osama-bin-ladens-dna) (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jul/11/cia-fake-vaccinations-osama-bin-ladens-dna)

Trust is easy to lose. We should not allow our government to deceive people. The risk of unintended consequences is very great.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming** (/user/wu ming) ▶ **Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 10:54:58 PM (/comments/1790207/71115335#comment\_71115335)

agreed. also worth remembering that this is not just a reaction to pharma being awful, but also decades of alternative remedy industry types actively preaching a gullible sort of “skepticism” as a way to gin up money for what they’re selling.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/white blitz)

**white blitz** (/user/white blitz) ▶ **Colonel Rainsborough**

August 23 · 09:13:31 AM (/comments/1790207/71117689#comment\_71117689)

I’m so glad you mentioned this. If you hadn’t, I would have.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank** (/user/Lenny Flank) August 22 · 06:46:31 PM (/comments/1790207/71113118#comment\_71113118)

Well, it's not often that Europe proves to be more actively stupid than the US. I thought we had more or less cornered the global "dumbfuck" market.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Lenny Flank**

August 22 · 06:54:01 PM (/comments/1790207/71113174#comment\_71113174)

Oh, there has been a very scary rise of fascism in Europe in the last decade or two. I guess too many of them believe that the devastation of the continent by WWII is a fairy tale now. They have their fair share of white supremacy, white nationalism and dumbfuckery.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lenny Flank)

**Lenny Flank (/user/Lenny Flank) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 07:09:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71113281#comment\_71113281)

It does seem that know-nothingism and fascism have a lifecycle of about 75 years —just about long enough for those who last experienced it to die out.  
  
So yeh, we're due.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 09:39:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71114713#comment\_71114713)

every time a generation that experienced something awful dies out, their descendants stupidly recreate the crisis.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Caj)

**Caj (/user/Caj)** August 22 · 06:54:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71113181#comment\_71113181)

*“Measles (<https://medlineplus.gov/measles.html>), also known as rubeola”*

That is stunningly prescient, now that outbreaks are basically caused by rubes.

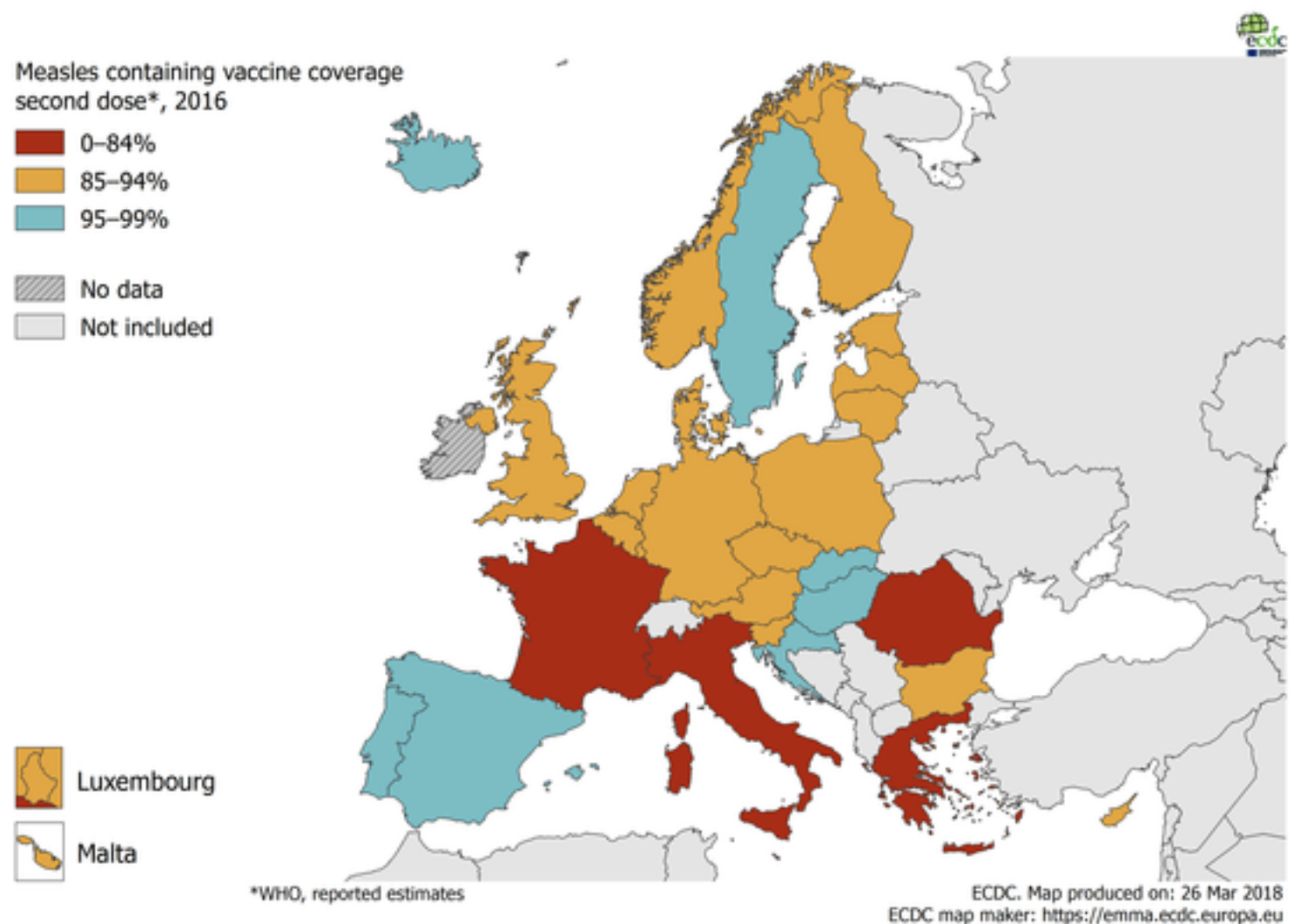
★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Caj)

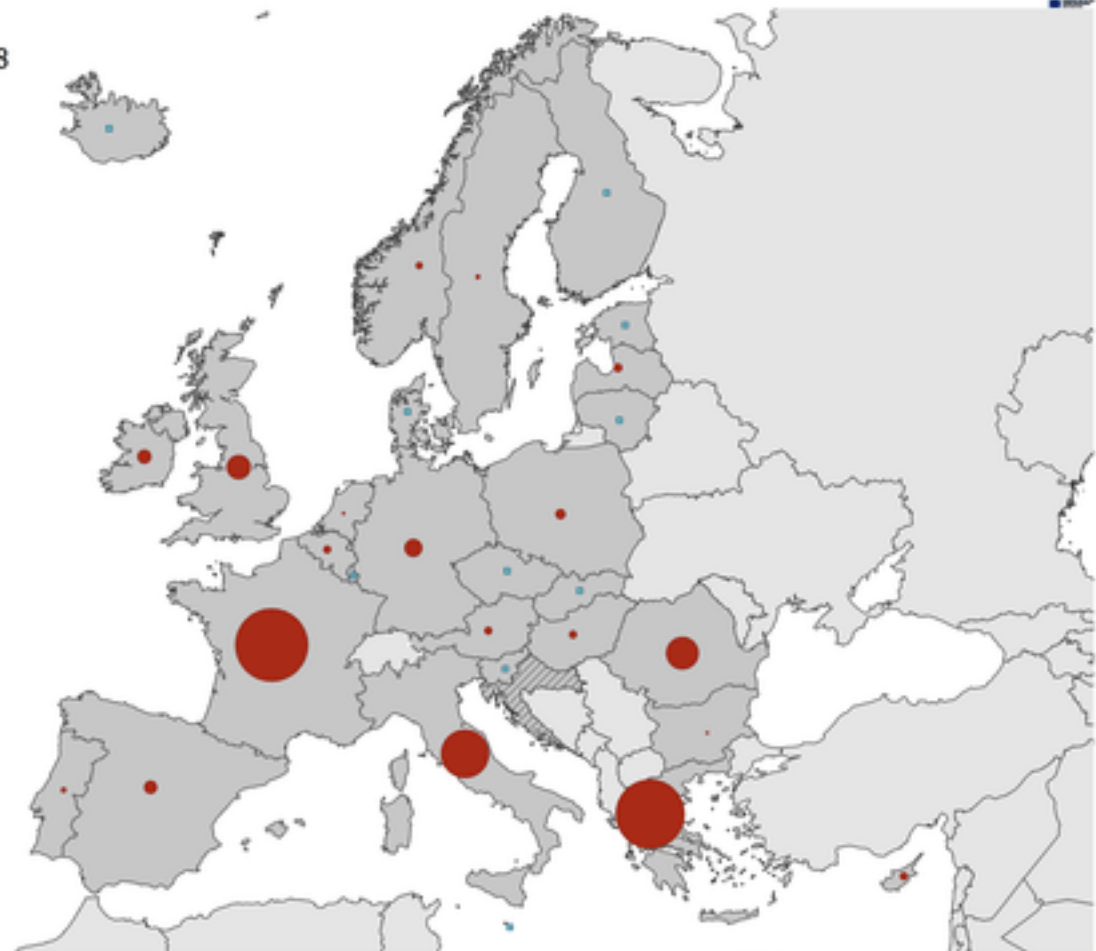
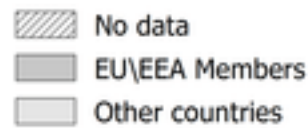
**Caj (/user/Caj)** August 22 · 07:09:39 PM (/comments/1790207/71113288#comment\_71113288)

Also, these maps, side-by-side, are astounding. From vaccinestoday.eu:





Number of measles cases reported during February 2018



ECDC. Map produced on: 26 Mar 2018  
ECDC map maker: <https://emma.ecdc.europa.eu>

★ 13 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ Caj**

August 22 · 07:14:37 PM (/comments/1790207/71113338#comment\_71113338)

Perfect correlation.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsborough) ▶ Caj**

August 22 · 07:47:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71113655#comment\_71113655)

What the map shown does not explain is **why** there was low vaccination rates in Greece, Italy, France, and Romania. Is the low rate due to anti-vax activism or the influx of unvaccinated people? Or just bad public health services?

Since a lot of the refugees ended up in countries such as France, Italy, and Greece, might not the low coverage (0-84%) be attributed to the influx of refugees? **And** the neglect of governments to seriously manage the influx. Perhaps the Germans are doing a better job than the French at vaccinating the people entering the country.

There is no evidence that anti-vax activism is responsible for the outbreak. There are numerous official reports, however, of refugees lacking basic medical services.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 08:22:15 PM (/comments/1790207/71113980#comment\_71113980)

Given the populations of France and Italy, it's more likely to be failure to get that second dose than it is refugees.

★ 0 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rai... ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 08:25:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71114019#comment\_71114019)

But France has a good health care system. Why are people neglecting their vaccinations in France? Is there any data to show that people are resisting vaccinations in France due to anti-vax activism or ignorance.

The more probable cause of the outbreaks are due to government neglect and institutional indifference in the EU.

Blaming the anti-vaxers lets the EU off the hook.

★ 2 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 08:49:45 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114246#comment\_71114246)

Those aren't mutually exclusive.

★ 2 Recommend



[new]



(/user/susans)



susans (/user/susans) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough

August 22 · 09:40:27 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114718#comment\_71114718)

www.sciencedirect.com/...

(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X18302949)

It seems that there has been, for whatever reasons, a reluctance in France for vaccination. And now getting the shots will be mandatory as a result of the rate of illness because of that.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

Colonel Rainsborough (/user... ▶ susans

August 22 · 09:51:32 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114790#comment\_71114790)

This video talks about why folks are not getting vaccinated.



★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

wu ming (/user/wu ming) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough

August 22 · 09:40:57 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114724#comment\_71114724)

there are stupid anti-vaxxer people in europe too.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user... ▶ wu ming**

August 22 · 09:48:57 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114777#comment\_71114777)

The internet goes everywhere.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu m... ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 22 · 10:53:21 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115316#comment\_71115316)

there are also parallels with the success of previous generations having mostly eradicated a lot of these diseases, leading to a false sense of security. back a couple decades ago, some of my anti-vaxxer friends used the existence of european anti-vax sentiment as proof that it was right-minded and progressive to do so.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/SneakySnu)

**SneakySnu (/user/SneakySnu) ▶ Colonel Rainsborough**

August 23 · 02:10:07 AM (/comments/1790207/71116465#comment\_71116465)

In Italy, where I live, I can tell you that it is 100% because of anti-vax activism. Such people—and they make up a considerable percentage of the public--argue that they are best protected by “natural immunity” and buy into the idea that Big Pharma is out to kill them through vaccines. Last year, in order to reverse the sharp increase in measles cases, the government wisely reinforced a law saying that parents must provide proof of vaccination before they are allowed to have their children attend public preschool and elementary school. There was loud public outcry against this affront (!), so much so that the demagogues in the

Movimento 5 Stelle party have sought to relax the rule once again, stating that parents only have to provide “self-certification” that the children have been vaccinated. So, parents can lie about having their children vaccinated through a written declaration and introduce them to public schools.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Camussie)

**Camussie (/user/Camussie) ▶ Caj**

August 22 · 08:24:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71114006#comment\_71114006)

This map also is a pretty close correlation to the countries experiencing an influx of refugees. Many of whom are not vaccinated. That would be a much clearer causation than the 20 year old anti-vaxxer movement.

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Camussie**

August 22 · 08:49:23 PM (/comments/1790207/71114242#comment\_71114242)

got a cite on that “unvaccinated immigrants” claim that’s suddenly all over this diary?

★ 4 Recommend



[new]



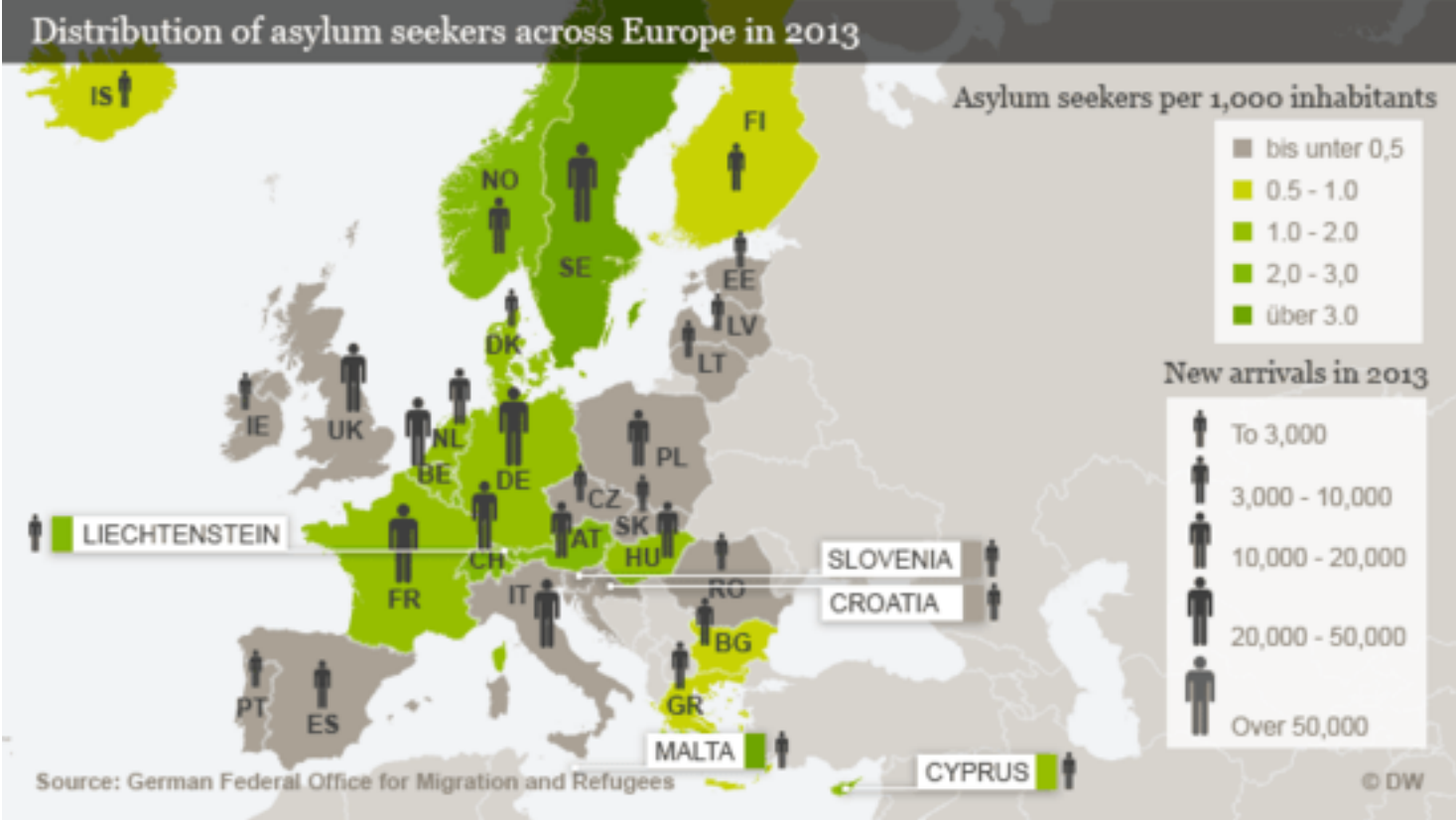
(/user/Ronin83)

**Ronin83 (/user/Ronin83) ▶ Camussie**

August 22 · 11:08:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71115471#comment\_71115471)

You talk about the antivax movement as if it was a discrete event; in fact, the anti-vax movement is as old as vaccines themselves, and its still going strong. And, of course, a lot of the kids whose parents refused to vaccinate them 20 years ago are still unvaccinated, so the effects of the Wakefield hysteria live on. Out of curiosity, I looked up the number of refugees European countries are accepting and found this:





As you can see if you compare this graph with the one a couple of comments up, the measles outbreaks correlate much more closely to vaccination rates than acceptance of refugees.

As an aside, it took me about 30 seconds on Google to find this info — is it really too much trouble to check the facts *before* advancing a speculation with so much potential to arouse anti-refugee sentiment?

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/yuriwho)

**yuriwho (/user/yuriwho)** August 22 · 07:11:24 PM (/comments/1790207/71113303#comment\_71113303)

Andrew Wakefield is guilty of murder

★ 7 Recommend



(/user/jjamele)

**jjamele (/user/jjamele)** August 22 · 07:11:24 PM (/comments/1790207/71113304#comment\_71113304)

Anti-Vaxxers are Flat-Earthers who are determined to do real harm and not just harbor a nutty conspiracy theory that most people laugh at.

★ 5 Recommend






(/user/Kluger2)

**Kluger2 (/user/Kluger2)** August 22 · 07:12:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71113319#comment\_71113319)

After a recent outbreak in Minnesota got nationwide attention, several other states changed their rules to make opting out of vaccinations more difficult if people wanted to enroll their kids in public schools. I'd like to see that take hold everywhere!

★ 8 Recommend

[new]




(/user/T100R)

**T100R (/user/T100R) ▶ Kluger2** August 22 · 07:18:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71113379#comment\_71113379)

Surprisingly, Mississippi has the strongest vaccination requirements for children entering school. Supposedly, it's very difficult to get an exemption there.

★ 6 Recommend




(/user/Rich in PA)

**Rich in PA (/user/Rich in PA)** August 22 · 07:12:52 PM (/comments/1790207/71113322#comment\_71113322)

Are they sure it's not in part because of the influx of people from countries that don't have as-effective vaccination, or as-pervasic expectations of families that newborns should be vaccinated? I don't see how anti-vaxxers would be more of a factor now than 5 or 10 years ago, when if anything they had more exposure.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nanoot)

**nanoot (/user/nanoot) ▶ Rich in PA**

August 22 · 07:35:02 PM (/comments/1790207/71113516#comment\_71113516)

IIRC, the situation in Minnesota was exacerbated by anti-vaxxers who were on a deliberate campaign to spread fear and misinformation among the Somali immigrant population.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ nanoot**

August 22 · 09:13:14 PM (/comments/1790207/71114470#comment\_71114470)

they did terrible harm to that community. IIRC, the Somali immigrant community



regrouped and started making sure they were getting vaccinations.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/nanoot)

**nanoot (/user/nanoot) ▶ Tamar**

August 22 · 09:16:31 PM (/comments/1790207/71114501#comment\_71114501)

Yes, fortunately they’ve got some awesome community leaders.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Rich in PA**

August 22 · 08:22:45 PM (/comments/1790207/71113992#comment\_71113992)

Why are you determined to blame it on immigrants?

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Camussie)

**Camussie (/user/Camussie) ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 09:00:33 PM (/comments/1790207/71114363#comment\_71114363)

Acknowledging the reality that migrants don’t have access to needed vaccinations is not blaming them.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Rich in PA)

**Rich in PA (/user/Rich in PA) ▶ PJEvans**

August 22 · 09:10:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71114454#comment\_71114454)

I won’t dignify your stupid comment with a reply, except for this one.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans)** ▶ **Rich in PA**

August 22 · 09:41:46 PM (/comments/1790207/71114729#comment\_71114729)

Newborns are not vaccinated, which is why herd immunity is so important.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/wilbur)

**wilbur (/user/wilbur)** August 22 · 07:17:05 PM (/comments/1790207/71113363#comment\_71113363)

Exactly how many more people are not vaccinated now than in 2016? Much of the fear of vaccination has passed (it was much bigger around 2000. But even then, even though some did not vaccinate their children there never seemed to be any hard numbers. The need to be judgmental and right my be obscuring something important going on (and maybe make the whole pointing fingers thing as bad as the people not vaccinating). There may be a new strain of the virus. I don't know how dynamic the measles virus is and whether it is going through some type of change. This is may be something we should be worried about and I worry that it will be obscured by self-righteousness. I know this is happening with other viruses. So until you have at least some numbers where there is a dramatic rise in people not vaccinated it might be better to hold your fire.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** ▶ **wilbur**

August 22 · 08:23:24 PM (/comments/1790207/71113997#comment\_71113997)

Measles isn't like flu, which mutates frequently.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/wilbur)

**wilbur (/user/wilbur)** ▶ **PJEvans**

August 23 · 09:42:13 AM (/comments/1790207/71117942#comment\_71117942)

Of course it's not the flu. But recently a number of viruses are mutating to become resistant to treatments. Viruses nobody thought this was possible with. It is pure Darwin, any organism is going to adapt.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/lynn47)

**lynn47 (/user/lynn47)** August 22 · 07:17:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71113374#comment\_71113374)

Not just Europe. Charter Schools in Oregon:

[www.oregonlive.com/...](http://www.oregonlive.com/)

([https://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2018/02/low\\_vaccination\\_rates\\_put\\_oreg.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2018/02/low_vaccination_rates_put_oreg.html))

An analysis by The Oregonian/OregonLive shows that nearly 65 percent of the state's public charter schools lack what scientists call herd immunity against measles, meaning not enough children are immunized to prevent the disease from sweeping through their immediate community.

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



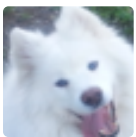
(/user/wu ming)

**wu ming (/user/wu ming)** ▶ **lynn47**

August 22 · 09:42:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71114734#comment\_71114734)

waldorf schools and fundie academies tend to have the lowest vaccination rates.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/Laurel in CA)

**Laurel in CA (/user/Laurel in CA)** August 22 · 07:19:37 PM (/comments/1790207/71113389#comment\_71113389)

A couple of recent papers from EuroSurveillance provide more information on risks and outbreaks. This one (<https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2018.23.17.18-00165>) attributes much of the recent Greek outbreak to very low vaccination rates (under 50%) among the Greek Roma. Another one (

7917.ES.2018.23.25.1700796) notes that immunity does wane, and that not only the unvaccinated, but also incompletely vaccinated are at risk, as well, potentially, as those whose exposure or vaccination was many years ago.

Andrew Wakefield's name should go down in the annals of medicine as a truly horrible person who caused, and still is causing, untold damage, without any sign of repentance. Taking his advice is sort of like going to Bernie Madoff to invest your life savings. After the trial.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar)** ▶ **Laurel in CA**

August 22 · 09:15:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71114492#comment\_71114492)

I love and adore your last 2 sentences!

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Neckcraner)

**Neckcraner (/user/Neckcraner)** August 22 · 07:29:40 PM (/comments/1790207/71113471#comment\_71113471)

Autism is a genetic disorder. It's a different brain wiring and like brown eyes comes from DNA. You can't "catch" it.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/decisivemoment)

**decisivemoment (/user/decisivemoment)** ▶ **Neckcraner**

August 22 · 07:40:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71113582#comment\_71113582)

That statement is almost as contestable as the idea that MMR vaccine causes autism. (<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/321566.php>) Seriously (<http://foundationalmedicinereview.com/blog/how-autism-linked-gut-bacteria-and-what-it-means-for-the-future-of-autism-treatment/>), look around a little (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3564498/>). The causes of autism are still not clear. We only really know that a) there's a lot of correlation between autism and gut problems and b) none (<https://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/no-mmr-autism-link-large-study-vaccinated-vs-unvaccinated-kids>) between MMR vaccines and autism.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Neckcraner)

**Neckcraner (/user/Neckcraner) ▶ decisivemoment**

August 22 · 07:48:16 PM (/comments/1790207/71113660#comment\_71113660)

Almost. Chromosome 22. Your turn to look around,

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Neckcraner**

August 22 · 08:48:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71114237#comment\_71114237)

Citation? Because last I heard they hadn't shown a definite correlation with anything.

★ 4 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Neckcraner)

**Neckcraner (/user/Neckcraner) ▶ PJEvans**

August 23 · 01:42:05 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116377#comment\_71116377)

Maybe I am evangelical about this because of the prevalence of ADS in my family in at least three, maybe four generations and my professional experience doing clinical trials. I find these early stages riveting. Look at Molecular Autism:

molecularautism.biomedcentral.com/...  
(https://molecularautism.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13229-018-0222-8#Sec11)

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/shiobe)

**shiobe (/user/shiobe)** August 22 · 07:35:38 PM (/comments/1790207/71113522#comment\_71113522)



My father almost died from rubella when he was 3 years old, in 1942. He made certain his children were vaccinated because of that experience. When you don't have child after child getting debilitating life-long medical problems from contagious diseases or just dying outright, there isn't enough fear in parents to prompt them to act in the best interest of their children. Sometimes I even wonder if that would be enough. I was a children's librarian, and I listened to parents talk about vaccines. It came up a lot. I even had a nurse come to talk to parents about it. When I look back on the conversations and think about what was said, the parents would talk about how terrible it would be for their child to develop autism, then discuss how awful it would be for them to have to take care of an autistic child for the rest of their lives. And that's where the discussion would mostly be focused, on how caring for an autistic child would ruin the parents' lives. I worked in a well-off smaller town in L.A. county, so maybe it was just part of the culture there, but the primary concern for the parents, time and again, seemed to be how raising a child with disabilities would ruin the parents' lives and that was a far worse outcome than their child contracting measles etc. in the first place. If you took the way they talked about it at face value, they would rather have their child die than ever take the chance of having them develop autism. There is some serious disability hate going on there, and I don't see the anti-vax sentiment going away because of it.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/intruder from Old Europe)

**intruder from Old Europe (/user/intruder from Old E... ▶ shiobe**

August 22 · 08:33:16 PM (/comments/1790207/71114097#comment\_71114097)

They may never have heard about some of the possible disabilities that can result from diseases. Poliomyelitis anyone? Measles can cause brain damage as stated in the diary. But they may not have known.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ceri Cat)

**Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat) ▶ intruder from Old Europe**

August 22 · 08:36:21 PM (/comments/1790207/71114125#comment\_71114125)

I'd happily force them to sit through "I can jump puddles", Alan Marshall was a polio sufferer and his paralysis always comes to mind as a very mild case (though it got worse with age).

★ 5 Recommend

[new]



(/user/PJEvans)

PJEvans (/user/PJEvans) ▶ Ceri Cat

August 22 · 08:47:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71114233#comment\_71114233)

One of my cousins had polio. He’s lucky — no paralysis.

(I was only partially vaccinated until the Sabin (“sugar cube”) vaccine came out.)

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ceri Cat)

Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat) ▶ PJEvans

August 22 · 08:51:18 PM

(/comments/1790207/71114258#comment\_71114258)

If you can find them Marshall’s autobiography trilogy is worth reading, ICJP is the first and deals with his childhood. It was made into a TV series as well.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/blueoregon)

blueoregon (/user/blueoregon) August 22 · 07:37:32 PM (/comments/1790207/71113539#comment\_71113539)

Even as a homeless person living on the streets, when presented with an opportunity to get a free booster, I grabbed it. RWer’s haven’t only shaken people’s trust in government but in science.

★ 10 Recommend



(/user/RealityBased1)

RealityBased1 (/user/RealityBased1) August 22 · 07:43:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71113618#comment\_71113618)

Timely article.

My local “health authority” just did a recent notfication for health providers to be aware of the outbreak, and remind everyone of the symptoms, the infectious precautions to take, how to take the proper swabs and where to report it.

Ironically, most doctors that have graduated in the last few decades have never actually seen a case of measles, just read about it textbooks. Thank you vaccination! Thank you, science!

★ 7 Recommend



[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ RealityBased1**

August 22 · 09:46:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71114763#comment\_71114763)

I had the new shingles vaccine a few months ago and was consequently sick for a few days. I'm still going to get another shot in five years (that is the repeat rate). Much better than getting shingles.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/RealityBased1)

**RealityBased1 (/user/RealityBased1) ▶ susans**

August 23 · 10:31:55 AM (/comments/1790207/71118479#comment\_71118479)

The new vaccine (Shingrix in Canada) is much more effective than the previous one (Zostavax) But you need the 2nd dose about 6 months after the initial, so not sure where you are getting the “5 years” number from.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans) ▶ RealityBased1**

August 23 · 11:41:23 AM (/comments/1790207/71119370#comment\_71119370)

Shingrix is good for five years, after which one gets re-vaccinated. I was sick after the second shot of the two shot series.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77) ▶ susans**

August 23 · 12:05:50 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119663#comment\_71119663)

That’s weird. Everything that I’ve seen says Shingrix is a “one time only” vaccine. (That is, you need two shots, 2-6 months apart, but you’re supposed to set after that.)

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/susans)

**susans (/user/susans)** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 01:11:04 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120462#comment\_71120462)

What I have read in multiple places is that the efficacy of the vaccine cannot be guaranteed after four years and the protection does start to wane, so it may be necessary to re-vaccinate around five years post initial shots.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/rand...)** ▶ **susans**

August 23 · 01:14:40 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120510#comment\_71120510)

It's new, just released last year, so possibly they just don't know.

But one of the advantages of Shingrix is supposed to be that it doesn't wear off like Zostavax does. It provokes a much stronger immune response, which not only offers better protection, it's less likely to fade with time.

Is it Canadian policy to re-vaccinate after 5 years? It definitely is not in the U.S.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/splashy)

**splashy (/user/splashy)** August 22 · 07:51:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71113684#comment\_71113684)

I'm a person that is at risk with them not vaccinating, because I've had the measles **4 times**, which means I can't develop an immunity to it like others can. I asked about getting vaccinated, and it was not recommended due to my history with the disease.

I remember having it, and it was **really** awful. Very high fever, hallucinations, and felt really really badly. Do **not** want to go through that again, just because some people don't get it.

★ 7 Recommend

[new]



(/user/MargaretPOA)

**MargaretPOA (/user/MargaretPOA) ▶ splashy**

August 22 · 07:59:59 PM (/comments/1790207/71113753#comment\_71113753)

I have a coworker who has had measles three times. The Air Force wouldn't let her deploy overseas due to her lack of immunity from measles.

★ 6 Recommend

[new]



(/user/splashy)

**splashy (/user/splashy) ▶ MargaretPOA**

August 22 · 09:43:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71114748#comment\_71114748)

Sounds like the same problem I have. At risk because our bodies can't seem to figure it out.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/CyberLady1)

**CyberLady1 (/user/CyberLady1)** August 22 · 07:59:43 PM (/comments/1790207/71113748#comment\_71113748)

Thank you for sharing this. Here is the report of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/measles-outbreaks-still-ongoing-2018-and-fatalities-reported-four-countries>) on this topic. After reading it through, it seems to me that the main vectors for disease may be unvaccinated adults in specific countries. I suspect that the core of the unvaccinated population may be refugees from countries where the public health system has broken down.

I have family living in the E.U., (Germany) and the children must be vaccinated to be in a school. Homeschooling is not allowed in Germany, according to what I have heard.

Thank you again for presenting this information.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/DFWmom)

**DFWmom (/user/DFWmom)** August 22 · 08:01:57 PM (/comments/1790207/71113778#comment\_71113778)

It can be difficult to place one's trust in a group of people when you've been lied to so many times. My generation was raised on margarine and grains because our government told us that it would make us healthier. Now we are dying of obesity and heart disease. Many of us had disfigurements from thalidomide, which pregnant women were told was perfectly safe.

The medical community blamed "refrigerator moms" for autism, so it should really be no surprise that moms now blame the medical community for autism. You could even argue that, in the war over autism, doctors threw the first punch.

Trust is something that is earned. Wakefield did the medical community no favors. Nor did the Pace trial and, to put a cherry on top, the refusal of medical journals to retract a study that was so terribly flawed. "Functional Medicine", "Pain Management Clinics" and "Medical Child Abuse" so-called experts certainly have not helped build trust between doctors and patients. And, then there is the controversy over whether decades of parents were falsely imprisoned or had their children taken from them for such shady diagnoses as "shaken baby syndrome", "factitious disorder" and "munchausen's by proxy" or whatever they call that situation that occurs when a doctor takes an acute dislike to a parent and decides to throw his weight around as an "medical expert" on matters that have very little to do with science, and more to do with conceit. It's a neat trick to "diagnose" your suspicions, claim they are "science" and thus avoid having to actually *prove* them, if you can get away with that, which doctors seem to do regularly. It seems that you could claim the moon is made of cheese in a court of law, if you have an MD after your name, and get away with it.

Meanwhile, we have allowed money to corrupt the science. The cozy financial relationship between the FDA and the pharmaceutical companies. The overseas studies which pay participants who know which lies to tell. Oh, yeah, it hurts there. No, I'm not in more than one study (fingers crossed behind back) Yes, I feel much better now and I have no side effects (I won't mention that burning pain because they might not pay me). Can I have my money now? The peer reviewed journals who work harder to protect their reputations than to ensure that the studies are properly peer reviewed and corrected or retracted.

We tend to overstretch that concept of "science" to the breaking point and mix it down with utter bullshit and quack psychology and mere opinions that are not founded on any real science, and then react with dismay when people look upon the entire wretched mess and cock an eyebrow and take it all — the real science included -- with a grain of salt. Because they've been burned one too many times, and because it's hard to tell the wheat from the chaff.

Recently, the Mayo Clinic Medical Kidnapping is making the headlines. It's Hotel California. You can check in, but you can never leave. This follows on the high profile case of Justina Pelletier a few years ago, and horrific experiences of Karina Hansen in Denmark that are still ongoing. Believe me, anti-vaxxers see all. Yes, the family in the Mayo case were assholes and maybe abusive. But, people snatching certainly does not build trust in doctors. Or, by extension, vaccinations.

There is a war out there between doctors and parents. Doctors are not innocent in the way that

they have targeted parents and played fast and loose with the concept of “science”.

And, we are seeing the consequences.

You cannot have your cake and eat it too. If you want to be respected for your science, then you need to stick to your science. If you want to be cops, then that’s a different beat. Choosing to become an enforcement arm of the government, reporting gunshot wounds, reporting parents to CPS, “diagnosing” crimes, policing drug use, testifying in court, etc... That has consequences. You cannot blame this all on Wakefield. He was the pivot, but if it had not been him, it would have been another. When doctors seek to practice medicine by exercising their Authority on patients, basically ramming medicine and non-medicine alike, with no real distinction, down their throats — then don’t be surprised when people run in the other direction.

The trust was eroding long before Wakefield.

BTW — I am a believer in vaccines, although it is with eyes wide open and aware that they are *not* free from adverse effects including severe ones (no, not autism) or even deadly ones for the unfortunate few. My children *are* vaccinated. So, when doctors look in the mirror, this is ironically one of the more *flattering* images they might see, from a Believer. It only gets worse from here.

Physician, heal thyself. Anti-vaxxers are a symptom, not a cause.

And, perhaps, part of the problem is that our expectation that *any* philosophy, medicine included, might be adopted by *all* people. I am frankly impressed with how very many people have bought in. It’s downright amazing to get that many cats marching in the same direction. The only way to get 100% buy in is going to be at the metaphorical business end of a gun. A certain percentage of the population goes in a different direction simply because they don’t want to go in the same direction as everyone else. I suspect it is a survival trait. When 95% of the population dies, when then next thalidomide comes out in the form of a vaccination — a few people will survive.

Wakefield did not invent contrariness.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Bob Dobalina)

**Bob Dobalina (/user/Bob Dobalina) ▶ DFWmom**

August 22 · 11:52:55 PM (/comments/1790207/71115835#comment\_71115835)

The rest of the Mayo clinic story is that the mother is a meth user who had lost custody of all of her other children. Mayo was concerned about the serious condition of the young woman, and was (rightfully) concerned about leaving her in the care of a meth user who the state had determined could not care for her other children.



So the problem wasn't the doctors. Its that people are really, really stupid. That people would take the word of an unift parent and meth user over a world-renowned hospital.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DFWmom)

**DFWmom (/user/DFWmom) ▶ Bob Dobalina**

August 23 · 10:16:40 AM (/comments/1790207/71118319#comment\_71118319)

Yes, I said they were assholes and possibly abusive.

However, the reported facts about Mayo's actions still raise many questions. An adult woman has a right to liberty and self determination, which includes a right to return to a situation which you might deem abusive, but which she may not — or which she may deem abusive but which she still wants to return to. Adults have that right.

Mayo went to court to get guardianship and *lost. Twice.* Therefore, the adult woman in question was possessed of all of her legal rights, including the right to leave and go wherever she wanted to go. Legally, she was not held to be incompetent.

It was Mayo itself, who determined, outside of and beyond the court ruling, that they deemed the patient incompetent, a unilateral potentially self-serving action which reports state that other doctors disputed, and which left the need for informed consent (which necessarily includes a right of refusal) from the designated next of kin. But Mayo refused to take informed consent or refusal from the mother. Then, Mayo refused to take informed consent or refusal from the stepfather. Let's stop and count. Mayo is refusing to hold itself accountable to the patient herself, the next of kin, and the next next of kin. With each stop, it becomes less and less credible. There has been no reporting as to what their objection was to the stepfather, to my knowledge. But, clearly, Mayo was refusing to subject themselves to the authority of any of the obvious candidates to hold that authority. Given their loss in court, it was their legal duty to work with these people. Besides, while one may have all kinds of suspicions, one must first prove them before one has a right to interfere with another person's liberty and self determination or kin right.

On top of that, Mayo reportedly failed to inform the patient or family that they were seeking a guardianship, and then confiscated the patient's cell phone, laptop and tablet after the patient participated in activities that could cast Mayo in a negative light, another potentially self serving action. This action hindered the adult patient's ability to communicate with the outside world to do such things as seek legal counsel, or request help in escaping from a situation where she felt she was being held against her will, or even merely talk with her own family.

Putting nurse guards on the door, ejecting the family, refusing to take direction from either the patient or the family, trying to sneak off and get a guardianship granted in secret, confiscating electronic devices in order to hold the patient incommunicado (which raises the question as to how incompetent she was if she was operating those devices), physically grabbing the patient and trying to drag her back into the hospital after she signed an “checking out against medical orders” form... These all *look* very bad for Mayo, even if they are in some way justifiable.

Regardless of Mayo’s good intentions, the mere *appearance* of this very heavy-handed behavior by Mayo raises suspicions in many observers, particularly following on the *appearance* of other medical kidnappings. No one would ever willingly choose to be in the kind of jail-like situation described in the paragraph above. It looks very bad. If you want people to trust doctors and trust vaccinations, you must have the *appearance* of trustworthiness, not just the reality of it. The most trustworthy man in the world might find himself with few or no friends if his name has been dragged through the mud enough.

And, like I said, no matter how trustworthy the medical community were to present themselves to be (there’s a lot of work to be done, there), some people will always be contrary because it is in their nature.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DFWmom)

**DFWmom (/user/DFWmom) ▶ Bob Dobalina**

August 23 · 11:06:38 AM (/comments/1790207/71118867#comment\_71118867)

Also, It is not a question of taking the word of an unfit parent and meth user over a world-renowned hospital. It is a question of taking the word of a world-renowned news organization, which interviewed both the parents and hospital and other sources. People are not “really, really stupid” to believe facts from a professionally vetted news article that have not been effectively disputed by a “world renowned hospital” that has an entire staff available to review and provide corrections to any inaccurate facts. Everyone knows that Mayo could sue CNN if it lied. And, MPR provided Mayo with a chance to tell its side of the story, complete with a writer who had multiple connections to Mayo. They’ve had a chance to set the record straight.

Mayo has not disputed the basic facts as stated in the article. All they have done is to provide some additional facts and *context*. The basic facts, even with the extra information provided by Mayo, are quite disturbing, and raise questions as to human rights violations. If Mayo wants to set the record straight, they need to provide some additional clarification.



Also, one of the facts is that a member of Mayo’s own board said it was handled badly, so people are not “really, really stupid” for taking the word of a member of the board of that very same world-renowned hospital in question.

Also, if you want everyone take vaccinations, then you have to get the really, really stupid people to do it, too. You can deride them and call them names, but t’s not very productive, as it is more likely to move you farther from your goal, rather than closer. I’d guess you could sway some people with bribery.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/Diana in NoVa)

**Diana in NoVa (/user/Diana in NoVa)** August 22 · 08:10:45 PM (/comments/1790207/71113869#comment\_71113869)

Thank Goddess, some good sense at last.

Antivaxxers made me want to throw up.

Thanks for the diary, Skeptical!

★ 10 Recommend



(/user/lucky lizard)

**lucky lizard (/user/lucky lizard)** August 22 · 08:17:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71113933#comment\_71113933)

When I was young (maybe eleven or twelve), the beautiful, bright little sister of a schoolmate got the measles and ended up a nearly helpless, mentally and physically challenged and nearly blind child as a result of encephalitis. It was tragic and affected all of us. She came to church with the family and it was heartbreaking to see her shuffling in, having to be led and told what to do and where to go.

People who don't vaccinate their kids ought to be prosecuted for child abuse or endangering the public health or *something*. This is nuts!

★ 7 Recommend



(/user/Ceri Cat)

**Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat)** ▶ lucky lizard

August 22 · 08:32:16 PM (/comments/1790207/71114086#comment\_71114086)

They were until they stumbled across religious exemptions. Over 30 years ago this sort of behaviour had a friend’s mother made a ward of the state to get medical treatment. GL now...

★ 4 Recommend



(/user/polysci)

**polysci (/user/polysci)** August 22 · 08:20:13 PM (/comments/1790207/71113959#comment\_71113959)

Speaking of vaccinations, I'm sitting (which isn't easy) here recovering from surgery to remove a pre-cancerous spot that showed up on my "lady parts." (That's why sitting isn't easy.) Thank you HPV virus. If I'd had a cervix (hysterectomy years ago), I probably would have gotten cervical cancer.

Now they have a vaccination for HPV. I'm a woman in my late 60s, so there was none available. Get your daughters AND your sons or yourself vaccinated for this. People who resist because my child isn't going to have sex early etc. are just indulging in a form of honor killing. If she does have sex, well, it's ok that she dies later from it. She shouldn't have done it.

Men and boys get cancers from it, too, so I don't know why they just vaccinate girls.

I haven't been with anyone for years. This is a gift from the distant past and participating in the sexual revolution. I was actually much more reserved than most of my friends. However, Mother Nature sees multiple partners — serial or otherwise — as just another opportunity to kill you.

She's not a romantic. Mother Nature — been killing for a billion years at least.

Get vaccinated.

★ 12 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ceri Cat)

**Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat) ▶ polysci**

August 22 · 08:30:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71114072#comment\_71114072)

Males are now on the HPV vaccination schedule, it took a while though.

★ 10 Recommend

[new]



(/user/polysci)

**polysci (/user/polysci) ▶ Ceri Cat**

August 22 · 08:38:41 PM (/comments/1790207/71114149#comment\_71114149)

Very happy to hear that. When I heard what my pre-cancerous spot was from, I got mad at whoever infected me — who knows? — but then realized I probably infected someone else.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ceri Cat)

**Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat) ▶ polysci**

August 22 · 08:40:52 PM (/comments/1790207/71114171#comment\_71114171)

Yeah I ranted for several years about the fact we weren't even allowed to get it by choice here initially in Australia. The last 2 years I took part in a study on HPV in males, not infected but was hoping to give them some more rural data.

★ 5 Recommend



[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ polysci** August 22 · 09:20:30 PM (/comments/1790207/71114529#comment\_71114529)

my daughters have both had the HPV vaccines. They were great about reminding me they needed it.

★ 3 Recommend



[new]



(/user/CaffeineInduced)

**CaffeineInduced (/user/CaffeineInduced) ▶ polysci**

August 22 · 09:30:09 PM (/comments/1790207/71114623#comment\_71114623)

I had cervical cancer in my 20s. I don't know if they even knew about the virus then or not, but I do still have it. It never goes away. I had surgery (not a hysterectomy) and it's never returned. The virus still shows up rarely in my lab work but hasn't been a problem so far. Maybe I should ask about the vaccine? And I'm glad to hear they're checking out males for it also, I did learn early on that they can also get it.

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/polysci)

**polysci (/user/polysci) ▶ CaffeineInduced**

August 22 · 09:54:46 PM (/comments/1790207/71114820#comment\_71114820)



You should ask, but I think once you have the virus, it's like closing the barn door after the horses have gotten out. That's one of the reasons they want 12 & 13 year olds to get it — generally pre-sex. However, the shingles vaccine works even if you already have the virus, so I don't know. I haven't done any research, just saw the thread and thought I'd take a moment to promote getting vaccinated. Especially since there was such a big stink in the past about it.

I, too, will always have to be checked. I obviously have the virus in me. I had no idea. If you have an itchy spot on you tush that either doesn't go away or it goes but comes back, get thee to the gynecologist — or at least a regular doctor.

I'm glad you caught it early, Caffeineinduced. Yeah, it's a sneaky bastard.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/CaffeineInduced)

**CaffeineInduced (/user/CaffeineInduced)** ▶ polysci

August 22 · 10:09:29 PM (/comments/1790207/71114939#comment\_71114939)

Thanks, I didn't catch the cancer at all, a PAP smear did. They tried cryosurgery, which they said worked about 98% of the time, but it didn't on me. So they cut out part of my cervix. They didn't do the whole shebang because I was young and wanted to have children, but I couldn't anyway. I had three miscarriages and they finally realized I could get pregnant, I just couldn't carry.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/polysci)

**polysci (/user/polysci)** ▶ CaffeineInduced

August 22 · 11:03:17 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115418#comment\_71115418)

Having the PAP smear means you caught it early. PAP smears don't show up on their own. You had to go get it.

I don't think anyone catches their cancer without the help of the healthcare establishment.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/xlr8kc)  
**xlr8kc (/user/xlr8kc) ▶ polysci** August 23 · 01:04:58 AM (/comments/1790207/71116206#comment\_71116206)  
My older son got his first round of HPV vax literally the first day possible (9th bday). He's had all 3 rounds now. Younger son will get it as well when he turns 9. Not taking any chances.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mark B)  
**Mark B (/user/Mark B) ▶ polysci**  
August 23 · 01:30:56 AM (/comments/1790207/71116335#comment\_71116335)  
Yeah, my twins (12y.o.) boy and girl both got the HPV series

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/PJEvans)  
**PJEvans (/user/PJEvans)** August 22 · 08:26:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71114023#comment\_71114023)  
They don't vaccinate only girls for HPV. Boys are supposed to get that one also.

★ 5 Recommend



(/user/intruder from Old Europe)  
**intruder from Old Europe (/user/intruder from Old Europe)**  
August 22 · 08:29:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71114063#comment\_71114063)  
  
In other words, the risk of lifetime harm or death from measles is 1,000-10,000 times higher than from the MMR vaccine. That is simple math that the loudmouthed vaccine-denying crackpots seem to miss.

Anti-vaxxers, afaik, often go by the assumption that measles are extinct in the developed world. So, getting vaccinated carries a risk. Not getting vaccinated carries no risk, as long as everybody else are vaccinated, and/or measles are extinct. Selfish, but makes sense.

That failing, some reportedly adhere to an ideology in which the strong will survive and the weak should die. Of course they imagine that their offspring will have that strong immune system to deal with measles.

Still, I think we should more often interview elders who remember the time when there were no vaccines yet. My grandmother sure impressed me with her act of her brother's death rattle from diphtheria. (Imagining too that they both were little children at the time, she sitting at his deathbed, and in danger of catching the disease from him.)

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Ceri Cat)

**Ceri Cat (/user/Ceri Cat)** August 22 · 08:29:25 PM (/comments/1790207/71114065#comment\_71114065)

Minor note we're moving heavily towards the MMRV (adds Varicella) over the MMR because less needles means less chance of a real injury due to vaccination. I think Europe may have largely switched over already. Note when I say real injury I'm speaking of the potential for any injection to go wrong or the complications/reactions that some may have to a particular vaccine, way less significant a chance than death due to an epidemic.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Colonel Rainsborough)

**Colonel Rainsborough (/user/Colonel Rainsborough)**

August 22 · 09:14:17 PM (/comments/1790207/71114480#comment\_71114480)

Here is a survey of anti-vax sentiment in different countries.

[www.sciencedirect.com/... \(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235239641630398X\)](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235239641630398X)

Curiously, the researchers found a higher incidence of anti-vax sentiment in some countries with good healthcare systems and high education. I suppose that could be due to people in those countries had lost the fear of epidemics and pandemics.

Notably, older people and Catholics in France were more likely to trust vaccines than younger folks and non-Catholics.

The causes of this outbreak appears to be a weird combination of ignorance, over-confidence, and global migration.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/elenacarlena)


elenacarlena (/user/elenacarlena)

August 22 · 09:18:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71114512#comment\_71114512)

Why is an American doctor who lost his license so influential in the UK? Has anyone figured out how this handful of quacks are able to influence so many to their detriment?

★ 2 Recommend

[new]

• 

(/user/Tamar)


Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ elenacarlena

August 22 · 09:24:18 PM (/comments/1790207/71114565#comment\_71114565)

If you mean Wakefield, he’s British. I believe he lives in Texas now.

★ 5 Recommend

[new]

• 

(/user/elenacarlena)

elenacarlena (/user/elenacarlena) ▶ Tamar

August 22 · 09:51:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71114795#comment\_71114795)


I did mean Wakefield. I thought he was American. Thanks for the correction. At any rate, I am trying to figure out why these charlatans hold such sway. They remind me of Republicans.

Somehow, the messages from liars and cheats hold more sway with too many people than the messages from truth-tellers and fact promoters. I don’t get it. It’s not like the vaccine controversy erupted yesterday. Everyone should know who these folks are by now. And it’s not just America, apparently.

What are we doing wrong in getting our messages out? How do we fix this?

★ 2 Recommend

[new]

• 

(/user/Tamar)

Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ elenacarlena

August 23 · 12:19:27 AM (/comments/1790207/71115995#comment\_71115995)

I read a study that really depressed me. Basically, giving people facts and evidence does not change their mind.

★ 1 Recommend



[new]



(/user/elenacarlana)

**elenacarlana (/user/elenacarlana)** ▶ Tamar

August 23 · 05:48:18 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116809#comment\_71116809)

It does for some of us, apparently.

But OK, so what does change minds? Because people are being reached. But not by us.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/jusjtim35)

**jusjtim35 (/user/jusjtim35)** August 22 · 09:23:26 PM (/comments/1790207/71114559#comment\_71114559)

So frustrating. I remember having a debate with an anti-vaxxer friend a few years ago. He hasn't had his son vaccinated. He was citing the debunked claims about how many people have died from vaccines. He said it was 10 (IIRC) and then he said no one has died from measles in the same time frame. I replied, "give it time, you'll catch up."

I was merely ceding the argument about deaths due to vaccines as it wasn't worth fighting over at that time. I didn't believe it and have subsequently learned it's been debunked. Even if it were true, sadly now I am also.

Sometimes it sucks to be right.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/guavaboy)

**guavaboy (/user/guavaboy)** August 22 · 09:24:22 PM (/comments/1790207/71114567#comment\_71114567)

The insidious thing specific to measles is that it has the effect of rebooting the immune system. Previously acquired antibodies disappear, and for a period of time after having the illness, the victim is at higher risk of a serious illness from other infectious agents that come along.

([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2908915/>)... This one says the window is a few weeks, but there is also this report from 2015: [blogs.discovermagazine.com/](http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/)... (<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2015/05/07/measles-immune-system/#.W34MC-hKjIU>)

In other words, the effects of this epidemic will reverberate for years. It ain't over even when this phase is over.

★ 5 Recommend



(/user/Assaf)

**Assaf (/user/Assaf)** August 22 · 09:38:21 PM (/comments/1790207/71114698#comment\_71114698)

It should be noted that in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, about 100,000 kids still die every year from measles. The number who can be saved by vaccination may be much greater due to nonspecific effects detected in research including by yours truly.

Over there, people want the vaccine but cannot get it due to poverty-related systemic bottlenecks.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Marckyle64)

**Marckyle64 (/user/Marckyle64)** August 22 · 10:01:28 PM (/comments/1790207/71114877#comment\_71114877)

There will be a spike in childhood Deafness  
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4222184/>) from this. Thanks, idiots! Mine isn't from the measles, it was from my birth mother not getting a Rhogam shot after her first pregnancy and causing me to be born premature with *Neonatal hyperbilirubinemia*. But I studied causes of deafness in grad school, this was the first thing that popped into my head when I saw the diary title.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/JoanNJTN)

**JoanNJTN (/user/JoanNJTN) ▶ Marckyle64**

August 22 · 11:29:48 PM (/comments/1790207/71115664#comment\_71115664)

I am sorry you suffered hearing loss due to ignorance on the part of your birth mother. My husband was born in '55. His Mom was RH-, and he had to have a number of blood transfusions his first year of his life. He was lucky.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Marckyle64)

**Marckyle64 (/user/Marckyle64) ▶ JoanNJTN**

Thank you, Joan. I nearly died. My brother didn't survive. My adoptive mother found scars on my head where they managed to find a vein big enough to transfuse me at birth . Your husband *was* very lucky if he didn't have resulting disabilities, which I'm inferring didn't happen since you mention none.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/kioh)



**kioh (/user/kioh)** August 22 · 11:07:24 PM (/comments/1790207/71115461#comment\_71115461)

After a very severe bout of Measles when I was 8 years old, within weeks after I recovered I suddenly became obese. I grew a huge stomach and fatty hips. I've struggled all my life against this and the ONLY way I can lose weight is to live on no more than 300 calories a day and exercise 1 hour. I've starved myself numerous times only to have it come back the minute I eat anything more than 300 calories. My diet of 300 calories is two eggs.. either poached or hard boiled ½ slice of dry toast and sugarless jello...black coffee or tea and nothing else/ I will lose only one pound a week on this diet so I've lived on it for 5 to 6 months at a time. A few years ago I read of a researcher from U of Va who found a virus that can enter the body with the measles virus that is similar to a virus that dogs can get which does the same thing to canines. What it does is destroy the area of the brain that controls weight. This is REAL folks... it ruined MY life. Totally preventable now but the vaccine was not invented yet when this happened to me. It is unfortunate that this Dr. has not been able to get CDC to do the proper research which would entail a follow up of children who have had severe measles to validate if they had this sudden weight gain without increasing food intake. At any rate I am sharing my experience so that those who refuse to vaccinate their children against measles will know that they could be causing their child a lifetime of emotional and health related problems that could be avoided.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/JoanNJTN)



**JoanNJTN (/user/JoanNJTN)** August 22 · 11:23:28 PM (/comments/1790207/71115609#comment\_71115609)

My Mom had measles when she was expecting me (1953), at that time her doctor asked her if she wanted to continue the pregnancy. Not the thing you'd expect by a doctor at that time. She was lucky as she was in her third trimester at the time. She and my Dad thought hard about it though.

In 1972 the MMR vaccine had been in use for a year. I remember making a point of getting it, as I didn't want to risk getting sick and passing it on to a relative who was expecting. I was in High School at the time.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/Peaceful On The Mountain)

**Peaceful On The Mountain (/user/Peaceful On The Mounta...**

August 22 · 11:39:35 PM (/comments/1790207/71115745#comment\_71115745)

I contracted the measles in 1954, long before the measles vaccine was available. I was 9 years old.

I am now 73 years old. I have never felt sicker then I did then. I am lucky that I didn't die. I also gave the illness to my three younger siblings. I do not know if I gave the disease to my school mates too.

The anti-vax crowd have no idea at the risk they are taking with the lives of their children and with the lives of the other children that their children may have come in contact with.

Measles can kill and maim.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/Paenumbra)

**Paenumbra (/user/Paenumbra)** August 23 · 12:40:01 AM (/comments/1790207/71116083#comment\_71116083)

Hmmm, I'm living here in Europe- am a news junkie- and I haven't seen any of this anywhere.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Mark B)

**Mark B (/user/Mark B) ▶ Paenumbra**

August 23 · 01:33:00 AM (/comments/1790207/71116346#comment\_71116346)

BBC yesterday

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/SneakySnu)

**SneakySnu (/user/SneakySnu) ▶ Paenumbra**

August 23 · 02:16:24 AM (/comments/1790207/71116488#comment\_71116488)

Then you haven't been living in Italy. It's on the news here all the time.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Paenumbra)

**Paenumbra (/user/Paenumbra)** ▶ SneakySnu

August 23 · 07:37:33 AM (/comments/1790207/71117063#comment\_71117063)

Germany, not a word about Masern.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/brengrrl)

**brengrrl (/user/brengrrl)** August 23 · 01:00:13 AM (/comments/1790207/71116184#comment\_71116184)

While I do believe in the efficacy of vaccinations and have had my daughter vaccinated and have taken the precaution of getting every vaccination necessary for myself, I must also say that some of the vaccine components CAN and DO cause complications for many people and that must be recognized and examined without condemning the legitimate fears of some folks.

Some people are allergic to eggs, neomycin and other vaccine components. I am allergic to neomycin, nickel and cobalt for example. After having repeated bad reactions to vaccines in the past, it was discovered that I am also allergic to thimerosal, which used to be a component of both vaccines and eye medicines in the past. I suffered for YEARS with bad reactions until these things were discovered. Apparently, millions of others also suffered as well until changes to vaccines were made. Some allergic reactions can be severe, even life altering. No one can say with certainty that a very young child suffering a severe allergic reaction to some component of vaccines, will not develop autism. I'm not saying that vaccines WILL cause autism, but if there is a severe allergic reaction, anything is possible.

Having a bad reaction to certain medications is NOT uncommon. Those are called, "side effects". For example, after having the worst episodes of asthma ever, it was determined that I am also allergic to a blood pressure medicine called Lisinopril. Most people have no problems with Lisinopril at all, but for me, it causes a dangerous and life-threatening condition called "Lisinopril Cough," an asthma attack so bad that it sends you to the emergency room with severe shortness of breath, imperiling your life.

One way that parents can protect their kids is INSISTING that the child sit in the doctor's office for at least an hour after vaccines are given. That way, if there is going to be a bad reaction, it will happen right there in the doctor's office so it can be handled immediately. This is what I did with my daughter. Another way is to closely monitor the child at home and take the child back to the doctor or the ER if symptoms show up within 24 hours of a vaccination. People should get their children vaccinated BUT they cannot ever assume that nothing will happen and should be highly vigilant for at least 24 hours after the administration of any vaccine or medication.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio)** ▶ **brensgrrl**

August 23 · 08:09:41 AM (/comments/1790207/71117223#comment\_71117223)

Okay.

No, “millions” of people do not suffer bad reactions to vaccines. The rate of severe reaction to vaccines is less than one per one million doses. Egg allergies are one of the very rare groups for whom some vaccines are contraindicated (and many vaccines are now egg-free or have egg-free options available).

Also — *vaccines don’t fucking cause autism* and even among those who have significant reactions there is no increased incidence of autism. This has been studied extensively, we can say it with authority, so no, not “anything can happen”, and your *argumentem ad ignorantiam* has no place here.

Yes, it’s good to, especially with first vaccines, remain at the doctor for an hour in case of significant — mild or severe — reaction to the ingredients in vaccines. Also, within 24 hours sometimes someone who’s gotten a vaccine will present mild symptoms of the illness which might last a few hours. This isn’t worth a rush back to the hospital, but it can happen.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/domestic goddess)

**domestic goddess (/user/domestic goddess)** ▶ **raptavio**

August 23 · 09:07:19 AM (/comments/1790207/71117634#comment\_71117634)

My daughter would have a very high fever after every DPT vaccination. She had high fevers no matter what — even a sinus infection would send her up to 105 degrees. So while I knew I was going to go home with a very sick baby for three days, she stayed on schedule and received all her vaccinations. I had the measles, mumps and chicken pox. I wouldn’t wish these on anyone. Why would parents let their children go through that when there are safe, effective vaccines?

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)



raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ domestic goddess

August 23 · 09:24:32 AM (/comments/1790207/71117784#comment\_71117784)

Because humans suck at risk assessment and are very prone to confirmation bias.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Damien McLeod)

**Damien McLeod (/user/Damien McLeod)** August 23 · 04:03:53 AM (/comments/1790207/71116676#comment\_71116676)

Excellent article, anti-vaxers are and always have been loony-toons.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Nonpartay)

**Nonpartay (/user/Nonpartay)** August 23 · 05:04:59 AM (/comments/1790207/71116758#comment\_71116758)

Well, to quote my favorite fictional hero, Ross Poldark (see my avatar), shortly after the burial of his daughter who died from diphtheria (or “the putrid throat”) in the 1780s, "There is much in this world which is monstrous." There were no vaccines back then, although smallpox was being developed, but these days we all can have them, and I can’t think anything more monstrous than risking a child’s life by withholding lifesaving vaccines. I would be willing to bet that every one of those parents who made that ridiculous decision had the full complement of vaccines as they were growing up, enabling them to become adults and have those children in the first place. Such a shame they had so little foresight, as well as no apparent hindsight—there is a good chance that if they and their peers in Europe had never had vaccines, quite a few of them would never have survived their childhoods.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/SmartyBoomer)

**SmartyBoomer (/user/SmartyBoomer)** August 23 · 05:25:45 AM (/comments/1790207/71116782#comment\_71116782)

I know that it takes time, effort, skills and integrity to put together a good article. I bow to SkepticalRaptor who also provided citations and to all other writers for their contributions. I followed the anti vaccine movement and had mixed opinions. But I still had the recommended vaccines. After reading this article, I am pro vaccine.

Words from anti-vaxers like Andrew Wakefield are indeed poison. WIKIPEDIA has a article on Wakefield.



★ 3 Recommend



(/user/Things Come Undone)

**Things Come Undone (/user/Things Come Undone)**

August 23 · 07:28:39 AM (/comments/1790207/71117022#comment\_71117022)

How long does childhood immunity last if you catch the disease as a child? Lots of my friends as a kid were always staying home because they got sick from these diseases that I got shots for.

Now I wonder if their parents were early vaccine deniers its not like they could not afford vaccines for their kids.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ Things Come Undone**

August 23 · 08:00:54 AM (/comments/1790207/71117174#comment\_71117174)

Some people don't get vaccinated due to affordability.

However, it depends on when you grew up and where — there have been lots and lots of immunization programs for indigent or otherwise uninsured people to protect their kids.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/domestic goddess)

**domestic goddess (/user/domestic goddess) ▶ raptavio**

August 23 · 09:02:57 AM (/comments/1790207/71117604#comment\_71117604)

County health departments will often vaccinate children free. Many states have health insurance for in low income families. All children should be able to have vaccines.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/domestic goddess)

**domestic goddess (/user/domestic goddess)** August 23 · 09:01:40 AM (/comments/1790207/71117597#comment\_71117597)

My daughter is a NICU nurse. She has to explain to moms of preemies that a vitamin K injection is not the same as a vaccine and that the baby needs it to help the blood clot and prevent brain bleeds. Many of the moms just say no shots. She is constantly explaining to young parents why they then need to vaccinate and why vaccines are helpful not harmful. We need to do a better job in science education in school because people don't understand simple biology.

★ 4 Recommend



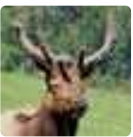
(/user/Sisterskeeper)

**Sisterskeeper (/user/Sisterskeeper)** August 23 · 10:38:30 AM (/comments/1790207/71118553#comment\_71118553)

Interesting post however I wish you would give us more actual information on Europe's outbreak including areas/countries affected rather than using the whole post to scold. I welcome the information as useful.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Anne Elk)

**Anne Elk (/user/Anne Elk)** ▶ **Sisterskeeper**

August 23 · 11:41:57 AM (/comments/1790207/71119379#comment\_71119379)

The diarist included a link to the BBC report.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/jeeprider)

**jeeprider (/user/jeeprider)** August 23 · 11:38:44 AM (/comments/1790207/71119328#comment\_71119328)

I am so glad that my mom didn't believe in that horseshit the anti-vaccine folks spread. Of course, it was the 1960s, but I'm comforted by the fact that I won't get measles, mumps, diphtheria, or smallpox. All because of vaccines.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Anne Elk)

**Anne Elk (/user/Anne Elk)** August 23 · 11:40:49 AM (/comments/1790207/71119357#comment\_71119357)

I, along with my brothers and sisters, was “vaccinated” by the actual virus. You can be vaccinated naturally, which risks your life and is otherwise a very unpleasant experience. Or you can be vaccinated medically, which will avoid such problems.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/MWF)

**MWF (/user/MWF)** August 23 · 12:35:30 PM (/comments/1790207/71120002#comment\_71120002)

They would rather have a dead kid than an autistic kid. Fucking terrible.

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/sst)

**sst (/user/sst)** August 23 · 01:09:01 PM (/comments/1790207/71120434#comment\_71120434)

I know mother's of autistic children who get a bad rap for having vaccinated their children. Get this news out!

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/Vahendren)

**Vahendren (/user/Vahendren)** August 23 · 01:12:50 PM (/comments/1790207/71120492#comment\_71120492)

Every time we hear of a measles outbreak, a conversation with my two grown children ensues. My daughter, who is a critical care R.N. says well we can blame the anti-vaccine people for causing the outbreak. My son, who has much less “book-learnin’” but much more common sense, points out that the kids, and I guess some adults, who get measles are the ones who were not vaccinated. The parents of vaccinated kids have a lot less to worry about. Yes, the unvaccinated kids are the root cause of the outbreak but it will also stay almost 100% confined to them. It isn’t like they are making other kids sick. I side with my son on this one.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/SkepticalRaptor)

**SkepticalRaptor (/user/SkepticalRaptor)** August 22 · 05:44:31 PM (/comments/1790207/71112560#comment\_71112560)

Tip Jar

★ 263 Recommend



(/user/bear83)

**bear83 (/user/bear83)** August 22 · 05:49:53 PM (/comments/1790207/71112610#comment\_71112610)

The anti-vax people are indeed crazy. They not only put their own kids at risk, they put everyone who can't get the vaccine for legitimate medical reasons at risk.

I do wonder if any of this recent outbreak could be due to immigrants coming from areas where vaccination is less common or available.

★ 64 Recommend



(/user/DEMonrat ankle biter)

**DEMonrat ankle biter (/user/DEMonrat ankle biter)** ▶ **bear83**

August 22 · 05:51:00 PM (/comments/1790207/71112621#comment\_71112621)

actually most countries are better at vaccinating than the US

★ 31 Recommend



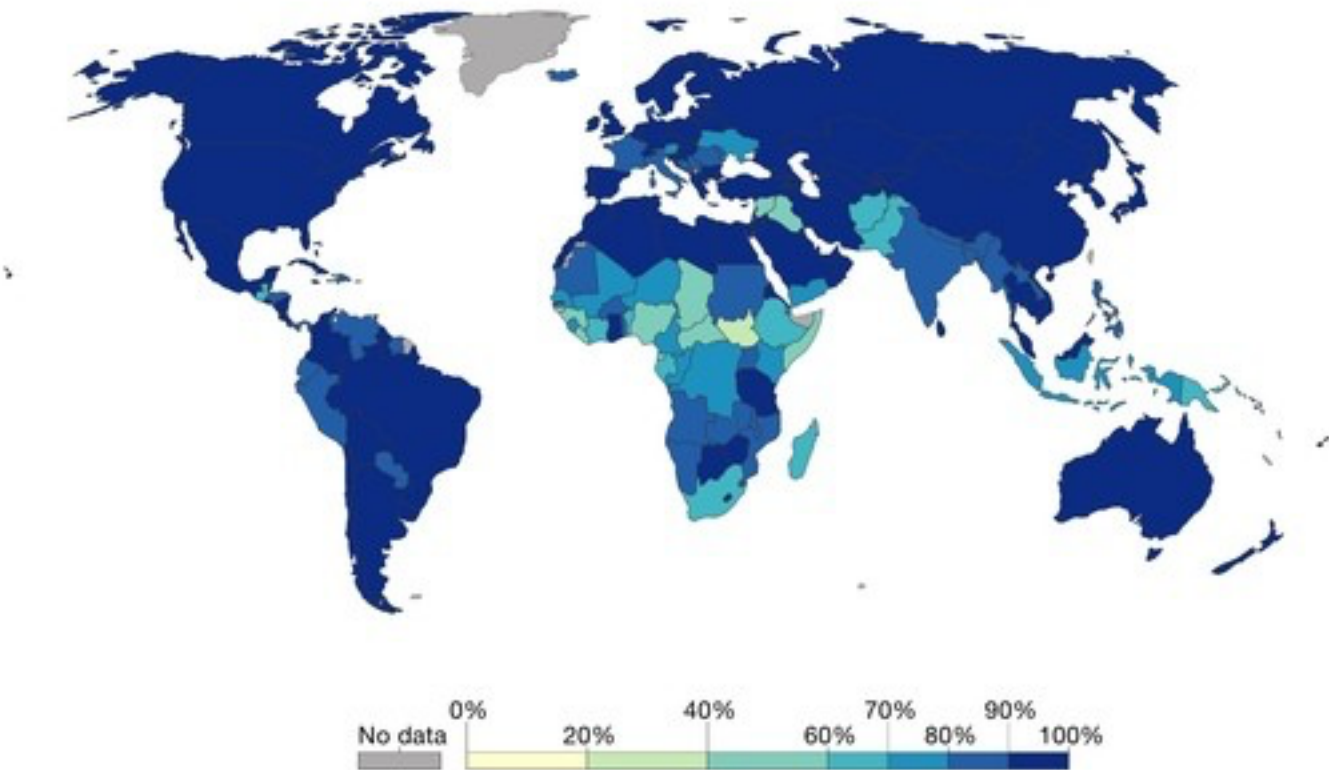
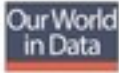
(/user/praying manatheist)

**praying manatheist (/user/praying manatheist)** ▶ **DEMonrat ankle biter**

August 22 · 10:24:56 PM (/comments/1790207/71115044#comment\_71115044)

That's demonstratively false.

Share of children that is vaccinated against measles, 2014  
Vaccination coverage of 12 to 23 month old children.



Source: Immunization rate against measles (% of children ages 12-23 months) – World Bank (WDI) (2016)  
OurWorldInData.org/vaccination/ • CC BY-SA

ourworldindata.org/... (https://ourworldindata.org/vaccination)

Please do some research before posting Fake Facts.

★ 29 Recommend



(/user/DEMonrat ankle biter)

**DEMonrat ankle biter** (/user/DEMonrat ... ▶ **praying manatheist**

August 23 · 06:48:35 AM (/comments/1790207/71116899#comment\_71116899)

[newrepublic.com/...](https://newrepublic.com/article/122367/why-are-vaccination-rates-dropping-america) (https://newrepublic.com/article/122367/why-are-vaccination-rates-dropping-america)

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/praying manatheist)

**praying manatheist** (/user/prayin... ▶ **DEMonrat ankle biter**

August 23 · 11:04:08 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118822#comment\_71118822)

That article has nothing to do with vaccination rates in the US compared to the rest of the world. It's merely a discussion of attitudes in the US about vaccinations and the effects of the anti-vax movement.

It has one reference, ONE, to vaccination of polio rates being higher in Rawanda than in the US. Using that single statistic of a single vaccine (notice it wasn't even the measles vaccine, only polio) and somehow thinking that justifies your statement;

actually **most** countries are better at vaccinating than the US

Is completely ludicrous. Just in case people think the random vaccine discussion you linked in any way justifies your claim, I thought I'd straighten that out. Usually, you would provide the relevant quote and then the link, not just a link pretending to support your point that you desperatley hope nobody will actually read.

I did.

Please refer to the fact based info-graphic I posted for the facts and stop listening to Alex Jones and posting bullshit, fact free claims.

This is, or was, a fact based community.

★ 5 Recommend



(/user/CinziaLeft)

**CinziaLeft (/user/CinziaLeft) ▶ DEMonrat ankle biter**

August 23 · 11:25:26 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119149#comment\_71119149)

Did you read the article you linked to? It does NOT support your comment above "actually most countries are better at vaccinating than the US".

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Chartreuxe)

**Chartreuxe (/user/Chartreuxe) ▶ DEMonrat ankle biter**

August 23 · 12:39:07 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120052#comment\_71120052)

The new Republic magazine was once a liberal magazine with progressive editors and views. It was sold in 2016. Two thirds of its staff resigned and it now lacks a liberal viewpoint. Ruth Bader Ginsberg gave the toast at the magazine's centennial November 2016. She has since cancelled her subscription.

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/praying manatheist)

**praying manatheist (/user/p... ▶ Chartreuxe**

August 23 · 01:01:03 PM

(/comments/1790207/71120329#comment\_71120329)

And the article doesn't say anything about vaccination rates in the US compared to other nations. He just posted the link and hoped nobody would read it.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ bear83**

August 22 · 05:56:46 PM (/comments/1790207/71112676#comment\_71112676)

All cases of measles in the U.S. are from importation or part of minor outbreaks surrounding importation cases. The vast majority of importation cases involve US tourists not immigrants.

★ 31 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ benamery21**

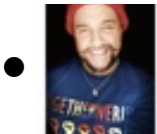
August 22 · 06:03:08 PM (/comments/1790207/71112741#comment\_71112741)



Note that MMR is not 100% effective (which is why we started getting it twice when I was in 6th grade), so some importation cases occur in vaccinated Americans who didn't sero-convert or lost immunity as well as among the unvaccinated. The only way to prevent all individual cases of measles in the U.S. is to eradicate the measles virus globally (via vaccination in countries where it's not eradicated). In the interim maintaining herd immunity via high vaccination levels in the U.S. is critical to minimizing the spread of importation cases.

★ 40 Recommend

[new]



(/user/El Mito)

**El Mito (/user/El Mito) ▶ benamery21**

August 22 · 07:21:20 PM (/comments/1790207/71113402#comment\_71113402)

That is why you immunize the most you can... "Herd Immunity " so those fully immunized protect those who can't be vaccinated for legitimate resin and those in which the vaccine is below 100% effective

★ 70 Recommend



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar) ▶ El Mito**

August 22 · 07:58:09 PM

(/comments/1790207/71113737#comment\_71113737)

thank you from this public health professional. Perfect summation.

★ 35 Recommend



(/user/El Mito)

**El Mito (/user/El Mito) ▶ Tamar**

August 23 · 09:49:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118023#comment\_71118023)

This should be thought in school not only in med school or public health.

★ 4 Recommend



(/user/NoMoJoe)

**NoMoJoe (/user/NoM...** ▶ **El Mito**

August 23 · 11:30:07 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119214#comment\_71119214)

And taught, as well. ;-)

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/Throw The Bums Out)

**Throw The Bums Out (/user/Throw The ...** ▶ **benamery21**

August 22 · 08:22:42 PM (/comments/1790207/71113991#comment\_71113991)

Requiring all insurance to provide full, no copay coverage of blood antibody titer testing for such diseases would help with that as well. As well as encouraging people to have an extra vial of blood drawn for such testing whenever they have routine blood work done whether as part of their physical or otherwise.

★ 12 Recommend



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77)** ▶ **benamery21**

August 22 · 10:37:43 PM (/comments/1790207/71115164#comment\_71115164)

I got it several times in childhood. My parents got me the usual childhood vaccines at the doctor's. It was given in schools whether you needed it or not back then, plus I traveled overseas a lot and got a lot of vaccines for that.

Nevertheless, a titer done recently found I didn't have any antibodies. I got the vaccine again, in my 50s.

★ 20 Recommend



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek)** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 12:16:14 AM

(/comments/1790207/71115978#comment\_71115978)

Good reminder.

I have a routine doctor’s appointment on Friday...

★ 1 Recommend



(/user/randym77)

**randym77 (/user/randym77)** ▶ **G2geek**

August 23 · 07:44:24 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117088#comment\_71117088)

According to my doctor, it’s not uncommon for immunity to fade over the decades. Which is why she ordered the titer as part of routine bloodwork.

★ 3 Recommend



(/user/Ellid)

**Ellid (/user/Ellid)** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 09:30:35 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117836#comment\_71117836)

My doctor does the same thing.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Dido)

**Dido (/user/Dido)** ▶ **randym77**

August 23 · 10:23:51 AM

(/comments/1790207/71118405#comment\_71118405)

I had German measles as a kid and had to re-vaccinate before having my son. AND then he gave me chicken pox for the second time...which I had also had as a kid. So yes, you bet immunity can fade...

★ 2 Recommend



[new]



(/user/xlr8kc)

**xlr8kc (/user/xlr8kc) ▶ benamery21**

August 22 · 11:35:47 PM (/comments/1790207/71115711#comment\_71115711)

My spouse and I got the MMR shot twice as children in the 70s/80s. Upon medical advice, we got it again for a 3rd time a couple of years ago. Per Dr, MMR immunity eventually wears off and many middle aged+ adults are really only being protected by herd immunity. I will get what vaccine I need to do my part to help protect the community. Anything less is selfish. (Unless you are immune compromised etc of course.)

★ 9 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Lucy Montrose)

**Lucy Montrose (/user/Lucy Montr... ▶ xlr8kc**

August 23 · 02:26:14 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116506#comment\_71116506)

I got my childhood MMR and then a booster right before college. That was a quarter century ago. Kaiser said I wouldn't be needing any more... but maybe they only mean, I don't need another shot right now, but I might in the future?

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:01:33 AM (/comments/1790207/71118788#comment\_71118788)

Not everyone can handle standard childhood immunizations. Bone marrow recipients, for instance.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ Ice Blue**

August 23 · 11:36:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119301#comment\_71119301)

Thankfully, given that not everyone can obtain individual immunity, we can provide excellent herd immunity even with less than 100% individual immunity, even for diseases which are as contagious as measles.

★ 2 Recommend



(/user/Ice Blue)

Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ benamery21

August 23 · 11:39:11 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119334#comment\_71119334)

Oh, I'm not anti-vaxx. I'm just agreeing, we need herd immunity to protect those who are too weak to handle vaccinations.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ Ice Blue**

August 23 · 11:40:39 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119353#comment\_71119353)

I'm one of those people who has a bad reaction to everything. But I've never had a bad reaction to an immunization.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/Ice Blue)

**Ice Blue (/user/Ice Blue) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:03:24 AM (/comments/1790207/71118813#comment\_71118813)

IANAMD but I heard that, even if a child's shots aren't 100% effective, they often lessen the severity of the disease.

★ 0 Recommend



(/user/benamery21)  
**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ Ice Blue**  
August 23 · 11:41:36 AM  
(/comments/1790207/71119372#comment\_71119372)  
Neither am I, but that’s true for measles.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Chartreux)

**Chartreux (/user/Chartreux) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 12:45:42 PM (/comments/1790207/71120145#comment\_71120145)

No vaccination works with a single dose. That's why we all get another vaccination against tetanus when we step on a nail in the garden. The immune system forgets and needs a reminder, a booster shot.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ benamery21**

August 22 · 10:42:12 PM (/comments/1790207/71115211#comment\_71115211)

The Somali-American community in Minneapolis begs to differ.

★ 3 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Canid Micturate)

**Canid Micturate (/user/Canid Micturate) ▶ raptavio**

August 22 · 11:28:02 PM (/comments/1790207/71115645#comment\_71115645)

I read the outbreak in MSP was due to Somalis who had visited their homeland and returned infected ( to an unvaccinated cohort of Somalis).

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ Canid Micturate

August 23 · 07:57:24 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117155#comment\_71117155)

It was not a “minor outbreak.”

★ 1 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

benamery21 (/user/bename... ▶ raptavio

August 23 · 11:48:37 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119464#comment\_71119464)

On average 3 or 4 million people were infected annually with measles in the years before the vaccine was introduced in the U.S.

All importation outbreaks today are minor by comparison.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

raptavio (/user/rapta... ▶ benamery21

August 23 · 11:50:59 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119493#comment\_71119493)

That’s thin gruel, sir.

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed far fewer Japanese than the firebombing of Dresden killed Germans, yet only a prat would call the former event a “minor” military action.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

benamery21 (/user/b... ▶ raptavio

August 23 · 12:13:43 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119768#comment\_71119768)



You can call 79 cases “not a minor outbreak” if you want to. It’s certainly concerning with respect to the breakdown of herd immunity among a small U.S. sub-population which was exposed to anti-vax ideas here in the States and allowed vaccination rates to drop below safe levels after previously having demonstrated high vaccine compliance.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio** (/user/rapta... ▶ **benamery21**

August 23 · 12:16:29 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119798#comment\_71119798)

Exactly. A canary in the coal mine, if you will, except the canary is a population of human beings some of whom will be permanently injured from their measles.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21** (/user/b... ▶ **raptavio**

August 23 · 12:25:49 PM

(/comments/1790207/71119901#comment\_71119901)

Making it about “immigrants” is concerning to me too, especially when all the data we have says that importation by non-immigrant American international travelers is a much bigger phenomenon.

★ 2 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio** (/user/rapta... ▶ **benamery21**

(/comments/1790207/71120221#comment\_71120221)

Many of the population are as American as you or I, born in this country and lived their whole lives here. It's about neither immigrants nor tourists — it's about people being tricked into fearing vaccines.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/G2geek)

**G2geek (/user/G2geek) ▶ raptavio**

August 23 · 12:18:20 AM (/comments/1790207/71115985#comment\_71115985)

For anyone who doesn't know about this: a measles outbreak got going in the Somali community in Minnesota a year or two ago, fueled by Wakefield et.al. going there and making their usual quack propaganda.

Public health scientists contacted the local Muslim clerics, who were more than willing to listen: they mounted a campaign, in their mosques, to get all their kids vaccinated. That brought the outbreak to a halt.

★ 28 Recommend

[new]



(/user/benamery21)

**benamery21 (/user/benamery21) ▶ raptavio**

August 23 · 11:46:12 AM (/comments/1790207/71119436#comment\_71119436)

Differ with what, precisely?

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/raptavio)

**raptavio (/user/raptavio) ▶ benamery21**

August 23 · 11:49:18 AM

(/comments/1790207/71119469#comment\_71119469)

That it was a “minor outbreak”, and that it wasn't principally due to an unvaccinated population, and that immigrant populations aren't at the core of the issue here. Dozens were

hospitalized. This was a significant outbreak and was not minor.

Undoubtedly they start with someone who brought the disease from outside the US, that much is certain. But they are principally due to a largely unvaccinated population — and the Somali community in Minneapolis was a target of “Dr.” Wakefield himself and were misled into not vaccinating in appallingly high numbers.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/JohnnySacks)

**JohnnySacks (/user/JohnnySacks)** ▶ **raptavio**

August 23 · 01:01:39 PM (/comments/1790207/71120336#comment\_71120336)

What really gets my blood boiling is that in their alleged minds they think vaccine is dangerous. So their plague vector rug rats get a free ride off the rest of us civilized responsible parents who are, again, in their alleged minds, putting our kids at risk.

I wish we could ship them off to a deserted island and cut them off 100% from civilization — good riddance to that human shit and hope they die screaming.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Catte Nappe)

**Catte Nappe (/user/Catte Nappe)** ▶ **bear83**

August 22 · 06:02:07 PM (/comments/1790207/71112723#comment\_71112723)

Heard an interview on NPR the other morning, where the person talking equated it to drunk driving, in that doing so endangered not only the drunk driver but people they might come in contact with. That seemed to me a useful framing of the concept that *might* reach at least some on the fence.

★ 73 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Tamar)

**Tamar (/user/Tamar)** ▶ **Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 07:58:27 PM (/comments/1790207/71113740#comment\_71113740)

that's good!

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DarkPhoenix)

**DarkPhoenix (/user/DarkPhoenix) ▶ Catte Nappe**

August 22 · 08:09:54 PM (/comments/1790207/71113861#comment\_71113861)

It's actually WORSE than drunk driving. At least the idiot deciding to drive home drunk is risking him/herself in the stupid endeavor. Anti-vax parents are more like the guy who convinces his friend to have a bunch of beers and then drive himself home, while making sure he's using another mode of transportation.

★ 11 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Gwennedd)

**Gwennedd (/user/Gwennedd) ▶ DarkPhoenix**

August 22 · 08:49:34 PM (/comments/1790207/71114244#comment\_71114244)

Umm...no. The drunk driver is risking the lives of others who are driving in the same immediate area as him/her, AND any pedestrians on his/her path home. He may also damage property if he/she crashes.

★ 8 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DarkPhoenix)

**DarkPhoenix (/user/DarkPhoenix) ▶ Gwennedd**

August 22 · 10:32:49 PM

(/comments/1790207/71115115#comment\_71115115)

Did everybody completely miss what I was getting at, or something? What I meant was that it's worse than drunk driving, because the person making the decision (the parent) isn't risking him/herself in this situation (beyond the standard risk that every non-involved person has in the situation). Note that almost all anti-vax cases are parents deciding not to get their children vaccinated. As I said, like the "friend" who convinces his buddy to drive drunk, and then uses an alternate

method of transportation so HE’S not specifically at risk.  
Letting someone else take a stupid risk, while dodging responsibility.

★ 4 Recommend

[new]



(/user/Gwennedd)

**Gwennedd (/user/Gwennedd)** ▶ **DarkPhoenix**

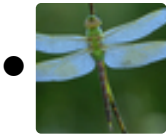
August 23 · 02:37:09 AM

(/comments/1790207/71116533#comment\_71116533)

The part *you* missed was the danger to others a person who won’t vaccinate poses to others, just like a drunk driver poses a risk to others besides himself.

★ 0 Recommend

[new]



(/user/DragonflyInTheSun)

**DragonflyInTheSun (/user/D...** ▶ **DarkPhoenix**

August 23 · 09:02:47 AM

(/comments/1790207/71117602#comment\_71117602)

Jesus, I know that reading comprehension around here sucks, but good god. Your comment wasn't even all that long.

★ 0 Recommend

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Vahendren, randym77

